



The

ROSE

BYTER

Apple Blossom Computer Club  
A registered Apple/Macintosh User Group

Feb '09

still only

\$2.00

**Next Meeting**

**Feb 19, 7 PM**

**American Legion Hall  
406 SE Oak Ave**

**Agenda**

1. Meeting starts at 7 P.M.
2. Intro's of members and guests
3. Old business
4. New biz
5. Program: ???  
    B.S. Session ???  
    Complaints for no program ???.
6. Questions & (maybe)Answers

**Tidy-ing Up**

by **Jim McClellan**

**<mcclellan@charter.net>**

I don't know about you, but I keep back copies of The RoseByter. You might ask, why? Well, I had a computer problem and remembered an article that was in one of TRB issues in 2008. I couldn't remember which one, so I opened my copy of Acrobat 7.0 and was able to do a search of back issues.

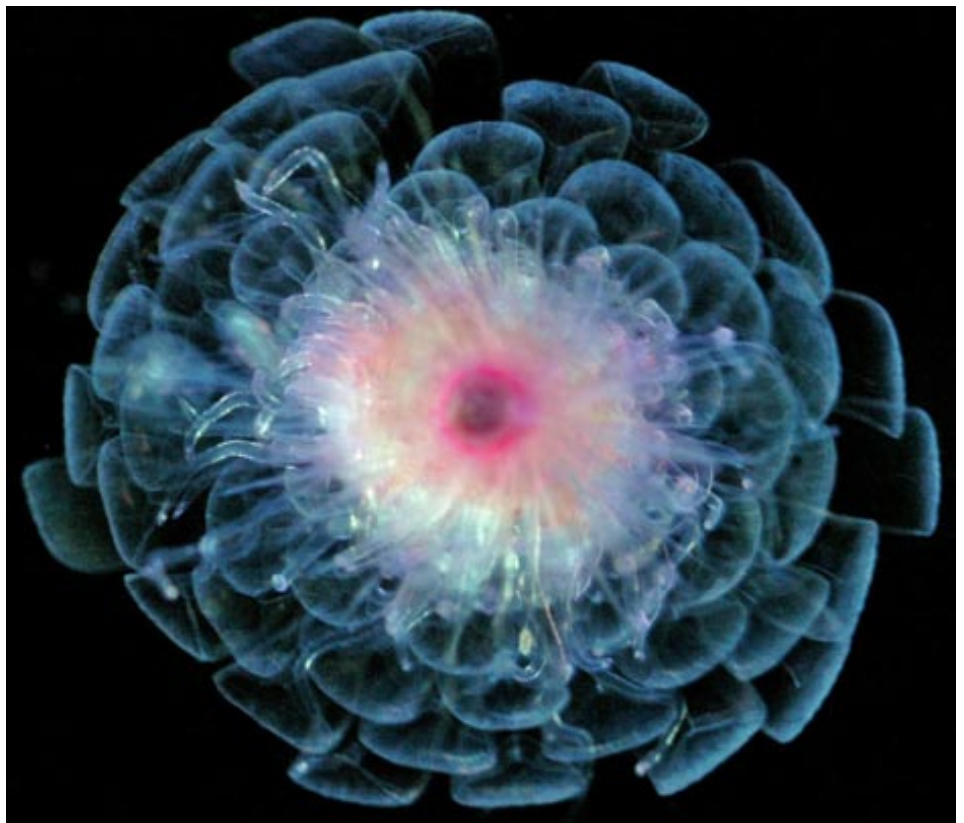
I remembered the article was about an application called Tidy. I found the article in the August issue of the TRB. After re-reading the article, I remembered that I also had a file on my computer with even more information about using Tidy.

This worked great. Prior to using Tidy, I had spent several hours trying to solve the problem with the result of

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**Youtubyster**

by **Dave Archer <dave@davearcher.com>**



Looking like a delicate chrysanthemum flower, the siphonophore *Athorybia rosacea*, a relative of jellyfishes, is actually a carnivorous predator. (Photo by Larry Madin, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution)

**SEND IN THE CLOWNS, QUICK**

I don't know about you, but I'm getting to where I need to laugh a lot more these days. Lucky for me then, everything seems funny. I've never laughed so much as in the past few weeks hanging out with painter friends.

It started on the coast of Washington some weeks ago (warned not to brave the weather, we went anyway and had

sunshine) at what we called Coyotel Art Camp, where I got together for five days of communal art making, and feasting with artist friends, working together night and day. Among them, my Native American painter friends who made me an official tribe Elder. It's amazing, but they ask engaging questions about art, then listen intently to my answers. Never had that before in my whole life. **2 -->**

The **Apple Blossom Computer Club** (ABCC) is an Apple Computer Inc., registered Macintosh and Apple ][ family user group. The ABCC publishes *The RoseByter* newsletter monthly which is posted to each paid up member and reciprocating user groups. ABCC participates in user group newsletter content exchange. The ABCC also maintains a WWW site at:

<http://www.abccmug.org>

### Membership

Just \$20/year! Send with your name, snail- & e-mail address & phone to:  
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**Ha. Ha. Ha.**

**←-1 YOUTUBYTER** Quite humbling. When I play ELDER with them now, they demand I be good, my best, or I never hear the end of the razzing. No rest for elderly painters.

People have always called me crazy. True, but come on, everybody's crazy. Google "chromosome 2", conclusive genetic proof accepted worldwide (fairly new) showing a common ancestor with chimpanzees. We're smart-apes. We can design the internal combustion engine ... and not be able to find our car keys. Telling me I'm crazy just makes me laugh more. Comedies are big for me right now. Anyway, I got to poking around on YouTube again and found a gem, which led to other gems. Now I know where to go when I need a good laugh, and can't find one. Just try the first video, where a Belgium TV host can't stop laughing while interviewing guests suffering medical disasters. This has to be the classic, of all classic bloopers so far. It just goes on and on while the host tries in vein to control himself.

Go for it: Belgium TV host can't stop laughing ...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fCYPCtHGs>

--- John Cleese meets Dr. Madan Kataria founder of Laughter Yoga, discovers Laughter Yoga in an Indian jail. If you have never experienced Laughter Yoga, you gotta see this one. Evidently this happens all over India now, and has for some time. We need this at least once a week in a park in Roseburg.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXEfjVnYkqM>

--- This is one of the weirdest old circus films I've ever seen of a German dwarf from some ancient film titled, "Even Dwarfs Started Small" ... who laughs and laughs, which confuses the hell out of a huge camel. The camel, not the dwarf, makes me laugh.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJuaZKBAB00>

--- I first saw San Francisco's "Laffing Sal", when my aunt Dorothy took me as an eight year old boy in the forties, to "Playland at the Beach". Sal was still there in the sixties when I was in North Beach, then Playland was bulldozed for so-called: improvements. Not hardly. Now she lives with original digitally mastered sound track. Her bright red hair, huge towering moving figure and loud boisterous laugh are etched in the mind of every adult who saw her as a child. Most were terrified of her - and many still remember that fear when they see her some 30, 40 or 50 years later. She was built by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company of Germantown, PA in the early 1930's out of paper mache, springs, gears and cams. Laffing Sal and her partner Laffing Sam were a part of almost every funhouse across the United States built in the 1930's and 40's. Laughing Sal can

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The poor man is just so wrong. The same thing happened to me once doing a segment for a Japanese television show called: "How Much For The World?" where a crew from Japan went about the planet interviewing people who did unusual things, then had a guest panel guess how much it would cost to have a particular service or product. All I had to do was hold this stupid paddle with the amount on it in Yen, and say: "And the price is..." and turn the paddle around. I laughed once and couldn't stop. Twenty five takes later they cleared the gallery, tourists, staff, and all production people unnecessary for the shot. It only made it worse. I went for a walk cursing myself for unprofessionalism, came back and did it. Then of course, slinked away as quickly as possible. It seems there is some sort of psychic toggle-switch in the smartape brain, that once thrown, collides with our "other-half" and right there, oh brother, watch out. The very act of trying to stop becomes the trigger. I was lucky. The Belgium TV host was on live.

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# When an Upgrade Isn't

by Dale Nelson  
<dnelson@cmspan.net>

I've been messing around with video since before 1985. Back in those days the only real choice was Beta or VHS, and Beta was already going by the wayside. I chose VHS. Several thousand dollars later I had editing capabilities that very few consumers had.

The first major thing I could do was to "insert edit," which means that when using several cameras, I could mix video together, as opposed to "assemble edit," which meant that the only way a program could be put together was to assemble it at the back end. Some people even planned things, and assembled the program in the camera. This way created a lot of technical and artistic problems that I won't bother to go into, but I started out spoiled, able to do things others could only dream about.

I was using professional equipment, but at the consumer VHS level, while the pro's were shooting using three quarter inch decks. The difference being the amount of information in a frame of video that could be magnetically stored on 3/4 inch tape as compared to 1/2 inch tape, which in real life means that there is no comparison. Along about this time, a new term was coined just for people like me: we were called "Prosumers," and we were shooting weddings, or putting together "how to do it" movies and/or documentaries using consumer equipment rather than the impossibly expensive professional stuff. With the advent of the class of prosumers,

video companies started producing equipment with us in mind. They made higher end cameras, fluid head tripods, and equipment that allowed transitions between cuts along with titling over live video. Was this video that the prosumers were producing on VHS equipment of broadcast quality? Well, in a way, yes. Broadcast quality only meant that the analog signal had to be one volt peak to peak. Anything I put out met that requirement.

The real problem with the finished product was that it was done in VHS, and that along with the fact that we had to deal with the NTSC format, well, to put it bluntly, the signal sucked. TV tech's will tell you that the NTSC signal stands for "never the same color," and the fact that the less than stellar NTSC signal was captured in a VHS format didn't help. In those days, TV sets loved the color blue, but the color red was impossible. Well, let's put it this way, color has temperature; red was way too hot and should be avoided because it was like a kid coloring for the first time – it didn't stay within the lines.

However, as luck would have it, in those days the content of the program was more important than the quality of the picture, and I got away with selling VHS video's for 50 bucks without any complaints. In fact, I got lots of compliments, because the content of the program was what the people that were buying the video wanted to see.

For those who don't know what NTSC

is, it's the signal the US Government demanded TV manufactures use when color TV was first coming on the market, because a black and white TV set was required by law to be able to play a color program. So all of the video information was located in between the peaks of the afore mentioned one-volt, which was where the program information was placed. Which means that in that space there was a sync signal, (the electronic hole that keeps things timed, acting like the hole for the sprocket on movie film) the black and white picture information, and over right next to the peak, a little bitty weak section for color information.

Probably the worst thing about the analog VHS signal was the generation loss experienced by each copy that was made. The further away from the original source tape, the worse the color would bleed out, until by the fourth generation, green grass would look like green pavement and, even with a high dollar lens, the beautiful, sharp video of the first generation would be at best a fuzzy soft focus, kind of like you were using a cheap plastic lens camera. Beyond four generations the quality was so poor it isn't even worth mentioning.

But I didn't give up, and continued to produce and sell videos on various subjects, like tanning buckskin or how to make a stone-age arrow. In between projects I'd set up several cameras and video tape dance recitals or

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## <- 1 Tidy-ing Up

making the problem even worse with each attempt! Ugh!

This was only the latest time that I went to a back issue of the TRB to successfully learn how to do something!



## <- 2 YOUTUBYTER

be seen today, in the new Playland Museum Mechanique at Land's End, in San Francisco.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51oH7Lhm\\_Lk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51oH7Lhm_Lk)

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# Water Blogged Wump

Any trace of organization in these paragraphs is entirely coincidental

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## Spring Cleaning

Over the last few weeks, I've thought of a number of subjects on which I could have annoyed you with my musings but I've been too busy putting out figurative fires to do it and have forgotten them all. So I'll start this month off with a call I got from a former member about what was happening on his Mac. He's a firearms enthusiast; very expert at it, too. He wanted to check the scores from a recent trap shooting event and used Google to access the web site. The search brought up the site he was interested in at the top of the list. He clicked the link, expecting it to work just fine. Instead, he was assailed by a German language **page claiming to provide Antivirus 2009 and doing things that purportedly were scanning his computer for viruses and finding some** - all in German. When he called, I attempted to trace his mouse steps and, lo and behold, got the same thing - but not in German. I suppose, if we'd been using Windows, our computers might have managed to get some sort of cyber-infection. I did some quick research and wrote a couple of emails to people who might be able to deal with the problem. Surprisingly, I got a quick reply from the webmaster of the site pointing out that the problem wasn't theirs, but rather, Google's. He pointed to a web site that was supposed to have some real information about the issue. I looked there and didn't find it all that illuminating. About an hour later - I had something to eat - I tried to look into the problem

a bit more by using my PowerBook. Curiously, this time I got right to correct site. Thinking this peculiar, I went back to the G5 to see what was different. Unfortunately, retracing the mouse steps there also got me straight to the right site. Firefox still had the address of the infecting page in its history - I brought it up just to check. So, I don't know what to think about who's doing what to whom here. Anyway, if you see something like this happen, don't be alarmed ... unless you're running Windows. If you'd like, you can give me a call or, better, email me the URL that got you into it. [PS: subsequent research indicates that this problem is, indeed, caused by a compromised web server and nothing whatever to do with Google being broken into - my very responsive webmaster was apparently trying to "save face."]

By the time these writings see publication, almost no one on the planet will not be aware of Steve Jobs stepping down as Apple's CEO, so it's somewhat foolish to be prophesying about what this means for the future, since a lot of future will be played out by then. Already there has been a drop in the stock value of Apple. The media is rife with **FUD (Fear, Uncertainty & Doubt)** already, which will likely increase in intensity for a while. It's a great time for Micro\$hapht to be buying the presentation of opinionated speculations. Much of the media is convinced that Mr. Jobs is the solitary driver behind all of Apple's success. Indeed, that very conviction is part of Mr. Jobs' value to Apple. Take him away and what's left? A vacuum? Chaos? I'd not be surprised at these expected behaviors becoming fact - after all, Apple is run by people and people apparently require inspired leadership; something Mr. Jobs is supposed to be providing. Perhaps. In fact, I rather hope that's at least partly true. Take subjects like "code signing," about which I wrote

some last month, for example. Code signing has the potential to once again close the Mac platform. IMHO, this is something that will very likely damage Apple's market in some quarters, at least. It also is just what DRM (Digital Rights Management) lovers have been waiting for. I suspect that Mr. Jobs is a big force behind Apple's adoption of code signing. But the real point of this paragraph is to point out that Apple won't be losing any technical acumen because of Mr. Jobs leaving his lofty perch. Despite what much of the media has come to believe, he's not a technical type and seems to have been both lucky and skillful at allying himself with extraordinarily capable technical people from time to time. Apple needn't sink because of Mr. Jobs' absence. I guess time will tell.

The great god Micro\$hapht's tail is wagging the dog once again. Enter IE8 (Internet Explorer 8), the browser which once again sets the standard against which all mere mortally conceived Web browsers are mere curiosities, despite working well to render web pages based on official, open standards. But **Micro\$hapht is not content to foist yet another proprietary monstrosity off on its unsuspecting user base. That would be too easy**; old hat ... done before ... many times. No, indeed. Micro\$hapht is wont to take over the whole Web browser standards process from the looks of things. For example, they've reportedly submitted 3,221 test cases to just the CSS 2.1 (the stuff of style sheets - they're the unfortunate "improvement" in basic HTML largely responsible for making Web pages like live dancing magazine ads) working group of the World Wide Web Consortium. These tests are not to the well established standards but are supposedly to accomplish two ends: the "correct" definition of what the standard means and the extension to a IE8 "super-standards mode."

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## <--Water Blogged Wump an accident.

Well, after all, what to those rag-tag, independent developers all around the world know, anyway.

Double-speak is alive and well. I just read through an opinion piece in a techno-rag that was all upset about “net neutrality.” Why? Well, because net neutrality is really net regulation ... and, of course, that is just not the American way. Oh, no. What the Internet needs is “deregulation.” Meaning, primarily, that big carriers should be allowed to treat their customer’s any way they choose. Sound reasonable? I sure it does to the dyed-in-the-wool Republican. That’s real freedom, isn’t it? I mean, where the guy who owns all the wires gets to dictate what you can say or see, what you’ll pay to do so and when you’ll be allowed to do it. As someone who grew up with the notion that telephone conversations were considered private without the existence of a court order to obviate it, I find the notion that all your Internet communication should be subject to the quixotic choice of some small number of fat cats disturbing. This is especially vexing as we enter a period where almost all information is carried over packet switched networks, much of it on the Internet. Bad enough that cable companies and third parties are offering replacement for your POTS (Plain Old Telephone Service) device to work directly over the Internet, but even your POTS signals most likely wend part of their way from you to the other end via Internet data packets. Why is demanding that carriers be carriers so terrible? Well, the reason is simple. It “regulates” their efforts to control what you can and can’t do, inhibiting their efforts to increase their profits with their “products.” Of course, many of their products will amount to what AT&T learned to do decades ago — charge you to remove inhibitions in all kinds of twinky functions that cost them nothing to do in the first place. Ever notice the marketing ploy of Internet phone providers - one fee, does “everything.” It’s not

Not being one of those people who fawns all over everything Gatesian, I’ve found mention of Windows 7 little more than a curiosity. Apparently, Windows 7 is likely to be seeing the light of day. I find this a little peculiar, considering that Vista has hardly been the resounding success Micro\$hapht would have liked it to be ... yet. Micro\$hapht has not yet lost it’s de facto monopoly, at least not in the U.S. But things must have changed in the commercial computer world a bit because **the mere release of things Micro\$haphtian no longer seems to create the panic to throw everything out and buy all new stuff.** No wonder the economy is in a tailspin. Thinking about this has brought a simple statistic to my attention: a Mac OS X distribution is around 10 times more data than a Micro\$hapht XP Professional. I can’t speak to the size of a Vista distribution directly but it appears to be about 3-4 times more data than XP. One is practically forced into thinking about how it is that a “little” company like Apple, which is not merely a software company, can produce such a large compendium of well integrated software, whereas a large company which does little else but produce software, makes such a mess of much less material. Now, admittedly, the “universe” of hardware that Windows is supposed to run on and support is a gigantic melange, constantly shifting and growing. Apple’s “universe” is, at the least, smaller if no less nightmarish in concept. One big difference is that hardware add-on manufacturers target Windows as their market, thus producing software for their hardware that fits, whereas people expect hardware on Macs to simply work: plug it in, turn it on, use it. That’s a tall order. It’s one I think Apple should take on anyway. They could simplify things if they did some corporate arm twisting, providing incentive to add-on hardware manufacturers to write drivers for their equipment that not only worked on Windows but also Mac

OS X and more open environments like Linux, NetBSD and FreeBSD. At the very least, they could lobby to have the drivers they write for Windows put into the public domain so open source programmers could do the work of supporting other environments for them.

I’ve been hearing a little about ZFS (the Zettabyte File System) for some time, in both the FreeBSD and Mac OS X camps. ZFS is the creation of the brain trust at Sun Microsystems, originally for their Solaris operating system but now adapted to other platforms like FreeBSD, Linux and (ta-da) Mac OS X. From a number of perspectives, there’s little reason to be interested in ZFS if you’re a nominal personal computer user. For example, the maximum size of a file under ZFS is 16 exabytes, only twice the maximum size of a file under Mac OS X’s HFS+, the file system you most likely use every day. An exabyte is 1,000,000,000,000,000,000 bytes. But there is a difference between HFS+ and ZFS when it comes to files this size. Under HFS+, one would need a “volume” large enough to hold the file. This isn’t impossible: 1,000,000 terabyte drives in a RAID system could do it. Under ZFS, all you need to do is plug those million hard drives into your computer and tell ZFS to save the file (wherever it’s coming from). Put another way, ZFS is designed to manage multiple physical and logical volumes under one guise whereas HFS+ splits the task up amongst older constructs. Another issue is the maximum number of files each file system can handle. ZFS can handle something like 281,474,976,710,656 files; slightly more than HFS+’s mere 4,294,967,296 files. Curiously, ZFS is often cited as something people replace their UFS (Unix File System) with on FreeBSD. I suppose there’s some advantage but it’s not really all that obvious to me. For example, UFS will allow files of 9,444,732,965,739,290,427,392 bytes in size. If you actually need such a file, you can only store one on a UFS **6 -->**

## <--Water Blogged Wump

volume, however, since that's also the maximum volume size allowed. Fortunately for most of us, such considerations are hardly something we need worry about ... today. I most likely won't live to see it, but I think the limitations of these file systems' largess will be challenged and that physical media to hold such data will become commonly available. One of the things I've seen almost my whole life is that **"standards" designed to be more capacious than anyone can imagine needing are eventually outstripped by reality.** This being the case, why don't we start with the next revamping by defining systems that are open ended as to capacity?

Have you noticed all the advertisements that claim that **you "deserve" whatever they're claiming their product provides?** I have to wonder how many of us come to believe that sort of thing. If we do believe it, why do we believe it?

If the hype can be believed, CERN's LHC (Large Hadron Collider) revolves around very large numbers, very small numbers and extremely tight tolerances. Lots of ten-to-the-power-of stuff. Our leaders didn't have the good sense to build this facility in this country when they had the chance. It probably cost us just as much, if not more, for our share to build the 27km ring located mostly in France but also running through Switzerland. The vacuum in the beam tube is 10 times better than the vacuum on the Moon. Particle collisions (what the thing is all about) at speeds of 99.999999996% of the speed of light create temperatures 100,000 times hotter than those in the Sun ... but this heat is held in check by liquid helium cooled to temperatures lower than outer space. There are about half a BILLION miles of superconducting wire in some of the magnets used. The sensors generate about 20 million gigabytes of data per year, which are essentially photographs, of about 1.5MB each. **That's a**

**lot of hay to be hunting for a needle in;** a description which is probably a gross underestimate of the true nature of the effort. Even if the experiments don't generate much in the way of new physics (seems unlikely), just getting all this stuff to work will be a major learning experience in many ways. Actually, just building has already done that.

I love TV commercials, if only because they're such a rich source of raw truth about much of our society. For example, I just heard that some "wipe" kills 99.9% of germs on "environmental surfaces." Wow! Doesn't that sound great? Consider this: they didn't tell you why it left 0.1% of the germs alive. Consider this: they didn't say what it's doing to those germs to kill such a large fraction of them. Consider this: what's toxic to a large class of cells is most likely toxic to at least some fraction of *your* cells. The latter is just my unsupported surmise, not a fact. Consider this: that 0.1% of bacteria your wipe left behind might be there because they're resistant to the chemicals that do the 99.9% kill job and they are the bacteria starting the next generations of crud on your environmental surfaces. While I have no proof, it seems likely to me that bacteria that can withstand such effective chemicals would stand a good chance of getting by human immune systems too. But let's suppose that's not true. No problem then, right? I dunno.

**Immune systems are pretty complex things.** One thing that seems to be true is that immune systems start with the ability to deal with pretty much what the mother's does and after that, they learn to deal with other things they're exposed to ... or the body dies. There seems to be a correlation between age and malleability of the immune system – what you get exposed to early on, you can fend off later. While I don't suggest wolfing down a glob of mud with every meal, it seems clear that living in an antiseptic environment is not a way to build an immune system that can get by in the big, wide world.

Kids going outside, getting dirty and then simply being washed down – which mechanically reduces the population of bacteria on their surfaces, but doesn't have a major effect on that population's diversity - does a pretty good job most of the time. Extraordinary cleanliness and sterility have their place but I don't think humans were intended to live in a clean room environment. **6**

I was just reading a technical assessment of the state of voting machines in the U.S. It ain't a purty thang. **One might surmise that governments are in league with the Mafia,** intentionally procuring faulty equipment at exorbitant prices with built-in bias for selected candidates and measures. I suppose we can excuse a lot of this to ineptitude on the part of data processing management in various governmental organizations in the country. They all pretty much work in their own vacuums, after all. We actually insist on it – we wouldn't want any collusion, now, would we? The really annoying aspect of this situation from my perspective is that we've long known how to make voting machines and systems that would be extremely reliable and secure. We simply choose not to do it.

You may know that Tim Chuey was "let go" by Fischer Broadcasting. After all, Tim is an old man, doesn't speak Murkin in a high voice and, I suspect, doesn't wear a brassiere. Being old and long an employee at Fischer, he was undoubtedly considered too expensive to keep on the payroll. The official word is that they decided to take the weather presentation "in another direction." I guess that's their prerogative. But it's my opinion that the media is divesting itself of people who might be able to help minimize the truly silly and possibly actionable statements made by their personnel. For example, I just heard that at 11 p.m. KEZI would have the story of how a nurse was beaten to death on their program. That is, of course, not a quote and I feel **7 -->**

## <-3 Upgrade Not

weddings. All the money from tape sales, which for awhile amounted to between \$50 to \$250 every day that the post office was open, was spent on new equipment, better stuff, upgrades and advertising. I purchased additional and better editing equipment, more and better cameras, copying equipment, tape decks, on and on *ad nauseam*, with no end in sight. All the while my first purchased high dollar editing equipment was wearing out, along with loosing its value hand over fist to the point that it was worth pennies on the dollar. In fact, to make a long sad story short, some of the very expensive stuff that I'd first purchased ended up in the dump, because it wasn't worth the money it would take to ship it somewhere. VHS was replaced with either 8MM, or Super VHS. Both required that I start completely over with all new machinery, and I wasn't willing to do that, so as video sales started falling off. I ended up going out of the video business.

But I didn't loose my interest in video. When my brother David moved to Roseburg, I saw the iMovie program on his MAC and my interest came back to life. With the VHS system, I'd been doing every video in real time. There was no way to hurry up any part of the editing process. The scene had to be watched in real time, the insert

**<--Water Blogged Wump** certain was not their intended meaning. It is, however, what they said. I know that such work is often done with severe time constraints but **I have to wonder whether anyone is there to review the material before it's aired?** It's not a panacea, though I suspect it might help quite a lot ... if that person were not part of the Murkin Language movement. Having some alternate cute, recently graduated, Valley Girl reviewing the writing of their newscaster peers doesn't strike me as the right move. Another example: an actual commercial to tell us not to say, "That's so

and exit points established, the button pushed, the tape backed up, and the edit was then done in real time, and any playback to check out how the cut turned out was done in real time, so it was labor intensive and very time consuming. But iMovie – now that's a different story. At least iMovie 3 is, I don't know about the later ones. Using iMovie, the scenes can be inserted or removed or switched around in blocks. Transitions are just a matter of dragging it between two scenes and letting it do it's magic. It's a very simple, easy to learn and easy to use program. There are three lines of audio, where I only had two on VHS. There are lots of great advantages to using iMovie, not the least of which is it's digital.

Back in my VHS days, I had a three-tube camera with a \$6000 lens. A lens – by the way – that was only good on that camera. It would be nice if a person could take that lens and use it on a digital camera body. No way, they're too smart for that. There are hundreds of video cameras, and as far as I know now, only Canon has some with interchangeable lenses. Anyhow, the final VHS product from the expensive lens as displayed or viewed on a TV set doesn't hold a candle to what I get using a \$400 digital camera, editing in iMovie, with the final product burned onto a DVD.

By now I bet you're wondering

gay." Why? What the hell is wrong with being gay? I like to be gay. Smiling, laughing; finding humor in all manner of things: being gay! Why go around being dour all the time? If these "correct" people want us to be so correct, how about telling us not to use the well established word "gay" as a euphemism for "homosexual"? Ach! Too many sounds, er, ... syllables, I think they're called. Can't tolerate that in Murkin.

Today, all over the world, millions of men have taken Cialis. **Sounds like serious threat to me.** These millions may just be practicing but as their numbers grow, one day they'll all

"Where is this guy going with all this rambling?" Well, I'm almost there. It seems like I'd be tickled to death with the ease and quality of video making using iMovie. Well, I would be, except now days, here comes HDTV and Blue Ray or Blueray or what ever it is, I refuse to even find out, because I'm no longer falling for all of this "new and improved." I've had it – the end of my patience has come about because of yet another upgrade.

Apple, or someone closely connected to Apple, came up with it. They had to supposedly upgrade iMovie – actually in my case it's to iMovie 4. The upgrades are way beyond 4 now, but trust me, in my opinion they aren't upgrades unless they stabilized something that was crashing, which hadn't been a problem with my version of 3. If you have iMovie 3 or 4, I suggest that you don't change, they didn't make it better, I've been told that they took a lot of good stuff away. But that's not the problem I'm sniveling about. iMovie 4 still has everything I had on 3. It's the fact that the upgrade changed something that the book said I needed to do to burn a DVD, and then didn't tell me it did it. At least not in a way that the average person would think about it.

So here's what I did. A friends daughter got married, and for their wedding present, I told them I'd shoot a **8 -->**

take their Cialis in concert, and rise up, pikes at the ready, and attack! I suggest being on your guard. I have my sword, made from a scythe blade broken from it's original handle by my wife, a hand carved maple handle, some 1/4 inch bolts, a hunk of flat belting from sawmill and a hose clamp. I've literally cut down and dismembered good sized trees with this sword ... which makes me wonder how the devil my wife managed to break it in the first place. I guess she's well prepared for the onslaught of the world's Cialis soldiers when they arise.



## ←--7 Upgrade Not

video of the ceremony, which I did. I took video of the bridal shower, the rehearsal, the wedding itself, and the reception.

Even though iMovie allows blocks of video to be moved around at will, and with assembling and inserts and transitions simply by dragging and dropping, and none of it has to be done in real time, one would think that editing would be down and dirty fast. But all that video ends up being reviewed in real time. In fact it's all reviewed more than once in real time, cuts are trimmed and tightened up, additions and titling, and audio work all require real time reviews. Therefore, even in iMovie, video editing is labor intensive and time consuming. All of my work on the wedding video ended up becoming an edited movie of about an hour and twenty minutes. So far, so good.

There are a gillion transitions in this video, usually soft dissolves from one scene to the next, because it's a wedding, and soft dissolves are romantic and all that sort of stuff. Simple cuts are one thing, and cause no extra burning time, but transitions are another, and the program has to encode each one of those before the DVD can be burned. These transitions in iMovie are called "assets."

At this point in iMovie 3, one clicks on the burn button, which opens a requester that says "create iDVD project," which when clicked launches iDVD. The next step is to click on the motion button, which shuts off the aggravating music. Then click on customize, then status, and wait usually several hours while iDVD encodes assets. When the assets are encoded, the word "done" will appear in place of the blue status bar that was showing what it was accomplishing. When the word "done" appears, then one clicks on burn, and again the wait is on, usually lasting some more hours, until finally a finished DVD pops out.

But – that's for iMovie 3. Remember now, we have the "upgrade." When I'd get to the point that the assets were supposed to encode, they didn't, and even when I waited overnight it did no good, nothing would happen. It looked to me like iMovie needed some serious work done on it.

I go to the book, (iMovie 3) which has a trouble shooting section that tells me what to do when something like this happens, and in-fact tells me precisely what to do and where to go to fix it. I attempt to do what the book says, but alas, the upgrade has removed the items that one should use to fix things, and nowhere can they be found. After screwing around for too many hours over too many days, I gave up and was going to bunch the entire thing. So I sniveled to Walt, who comes riding to the rescue.

Walt messes with the program, and finally says I gotta do things differently, and shows me what I have to do. I point out the book to Walt, who points out it's for version 3 and I have 4. I point out that before I got the book I tried doing it the way he suggests, and it didn't work, that it has to be by the book. He points out that it's the wrong book, I have now upgraded to 4. Finally Walt convinced me to do it his way, and bypass the asset encoding step as outlined in the book, going directly to burn, and then let the program run over night. So I did, checking on things about 10 hours later. What to my wondering eyes should appear -- the iDVD was done, the drawer of the superdrive open, with the burned DVD waiting for me to remove and replace with a blank DVD.

I still didn't think it had worked, but I continued on with a fresh DVD, closed the drawer, and while letting the computer do it's thing, I placed the burned DVD in the player to check and see if it would play on a TV set. iMovie had done it's job, and I reviewed the entire video, only to be happily surprised that the bloody thing actually worked all the way through. So at the very least,

all my hours and fine editing skills on the wedding video were salvaged.



The married couple got their wedding present, Walt gets a gigantic thank you, and you all get a warning to be sure that when you upgrade a program you should know what you are getting. I'm under the impression that the latest version of iMovie has removed a lot of the transitions, among other things, and if that's the case I don't want anything to do with it. I might be a slow learner, but I've been learning the hard way, sometimes upgrades aren't.



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