



# Rmug News

April 2007

## This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday morning  
April 14, 2007 9-11:30 a.m.

**All Mac users, new & old** are invited to attend the next RMUG general meeting at:  
Yaks Koffee Shop  
3274 Bechelli Lane  
Redding, CA

Coffee and various eats are available during our "Get Acquainted" time, 9am to 10am. There are classes for "Beginners" and "Intermediate" from 9:15 to 10:00 am.

Topics this month will include an Akvis demonstration, personal creativity comments, wisdom and issues as well as the usual Q&A. Be sure and bring those questions..

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## Rmug Officers

*Dale Josephson - President*  
*Jim Pace - Vice President*  
*Charlotte Ruskowitz - Treasurer*  
*Jacque Martin - Secretary*  
*Librarian*  
*Ken Lorenz - Editor*  
*Barbara Benefield,*  
*Louise Zegers,*  
*- Hospitality*

## President's Letter

Spring is here and there are no new Macintosh models anywhere? We Mac enthusiasts are anxiously awaiting the new Mac OS 10.5 Leopard. Since there were no new computer models at MacWorld in January, many of us have a gut feeling there is something tremendous on the horizon and no-I am not speaking of the iPhone. There are rumors of smaller laptops, and what is this new \$299 Apple TV device? And what about Apple's new Airport Extreme Base Station, and why is it in such short supply and is it as good as Apple says it is? Additionally, why has Adobe taken so long to come out with a universal binary for their Creative Suite of products?

I am not very sure on most of the questions I have raised in the first paragraph, but I have finally received 3 of the 6 Airport Extreme Base Stations I ordered in January. This last Thursday my supplier told Kate we should get the other 3 in a week or so. What I can tell you about the new Airport Extreme Base Station is that it does NOT have significantly better range in 2.4GHz or 5.8GHz in my real world tests. Inside of my building we have two Apple Airport Extremes (b & g flying saucer model). One is in my back room and one is inside of Breaking New Grounds Coffee Shop (BNG). Just before I took my b & g flying saucer model off line I tested it from BNG, and I tested BNG's b & g flying saucer model from with-in my office. What I saw was from each end of the building I could get 2 bars in my Airport Status window on my Intel Duo laptop, as well as Kevin's Intel Core 2 Duo laptop. After I replaced my b & g flying saucer model with the new square Apple Airport Extreme (b, g & n model), I could no longer access my network from with-in BNG. I can still access their network from my office as they have not upgraded their Airport. Does this mean that Apple misled us about Airport range? Probably not. I did a second test of two Airport Extreme Base Stations, and this time they were located inside a conventional ranch style home. One was at the south end of the home while the other was at the north end, and they were connected together wirelessly. The homeowner and his trusty sidekick (Whotywho) and I walked into the west forty. With both of our laptops we were able to access both of his Airports from 150 feet away. We were still getting 90% signal strength from each base station. So what this tells me by empirical evidence is that the new Airport Extremes do not do well in fallout shelters or bank buildings

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# RMUG Information

**Why RMUG?** The Redding Macintosh Users' Group was formed to help members and new users obtain maximum enjoyment and performance from their computers. This is accomplished through group activities and our direct affiliation with Apple™.

**Resources:** RMUG resources include monthly mailings from Apple™ and numerous outside vendors. We have a library of public domain programs, games and shareware software. We have videos and other computer-related guidebooks and information.

**Meetings:** RMUG meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 to 11:30 am – contact any club officer for meeting location. The meetings give members and visitors an opportunity to share information, opinions, personal experiences and techniques regarding Macintosh computer systems—hardware & software.

**Membership Information:** We invite you, as a guest, to attend our next monthly meeting. If you decide to join RMUG, your membership fee includes your whole family. We need your help as much as you need ours! Please participate!

**Welcome To Our Meetings:** Call the President, Dale Josephson at 242-1800 or contact other RMUG officers for help. Go to <http://rmug.org/membership.html> for numbers.

**Membership Dues:** \$24 / year. Includes newsletters, access to shareware, monthly workshops, troubleshooting help. Payment of dues can be made at the monthly meetings or send them to: *Charlotte Ruskowitz, 6538 Mossom Ln., Anderson CA 96007* . Please make check payable to: Redding Macintosh Users' Group.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED:

where there are millions of pounds of steel and concrete. The new Airport Extreme does do at least as well or maybe 2% better than the old Airport Extreme, if they are located with-in conventional constructed homes or offices. I guess that is what I get when I locate my office inside an old bank building.

The new Apple TV will get it's personal review in next months RMUG News as long as they are not as back-ordered as the Airport Extreme Base Stations have been.

dalej

## Secretary's Notes:

The March meeting was held at YAKS Koffee Shop. Thirty-five members and guests attended.

New members were: Mike Johnson, Virginia Erickson, Kathy Challe, and Laurie Hallum. Guests were: Tricia Wheeler, Tim Stralan, Mary Rose, and Danielle. Sorry Danielle, we did not get your last name. Welcome to everyone!

Both Dale and Michael were ill, so Jim Pace, our Vice-President, fielded questions from the intermediate group. Byron Van Dyke led the beginner's class. I understand Michael Johnson, Bill Benton and others were also helpful answering questions members asked. (I was ill also, so Charlotte Ruskowitz gave me a few details and names so there would be a record of the meeting.)

For the Program, Marcus Harner demoed 'Second Life.' I understand the presentation was hilarious and much enjoyed by all. Thank you very much, Marcus.

The officers thank all those members who stepped up and made this a very successful meeting.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be Saturday, April 14, 2007, at Yaks Koffee Shop.

Michael will demo Decorator, another Akvis plug-in, Dale will demo web building software, and if time permits, Michael will demo a game. The Board Meeting will immediately follow the general meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Jacque Martin, Secretary

## Skype !:

What's a "Skype"?

OK ... simply put, do you like the idea of making long distance calls for FREE? To anywhere in the world? You can! Computers only apply! The service is called "Skype".

Skype is an Internet based "phone service" (VoIP). In it's basic form, which is computer to computer (Skype to Skype), it's FREE. It's free to anywhere in the world! All that you need to add is the headset/mic.

For the Mac OSX Download, Go To: <http://www.skype.com/intl/en/download/skype/macosex/>

The basic use of Skype is computer to computer via a headset/mic gaming headset (at \$10 to \$15). It includes video calls, group chats and conference calls. This is the version my son (a PC user) and I first tried about a year and a half ago. We picked it over similar programs because it had software for both platforms. It is now a Mac Universal application.

We've been very impressed with the voice clarity and lack of lag; particularly considering that they have over one hundred million world-wide registered users... with up to ten million of them on line at any given time. Distances don't seem to be an issue ... as I had commented during March's meeting ... we had a conference call going between Shingletown, San Jose and Shanghai, China ... all on computers/headsets and the conversation was crystal clear with no lag! By the way, I doubt if China is very happy about Skype ... it's encrypted.

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## SKYPE CONTINUED:

An option (which I use) is to subscribe to the "Skype Out" service. This allows me to call a land-line phone from the computer. So in this case, it's my headset/mic to a land-line phone. It's great for staying in touch with my East Coast family that don't have computers!

The Skype Out subscription for unlimited calls is for the US & Canada and costs \$29.95 a year. Calls to other countries now include a connect charge of .039¢ for each connection plus a charge 2.1¢ per minute to over 30 global destinations. That's still pretty cheap.

As the web site shows, there are other options such as telephone to telephone, mobile phone, SMS and voice mail available at additional cost.

If you want to utilize the service for "telephone to telephone" calls, phones are available to connect to the computer via USB or WiFi. This would be similar to the "Vonage" phone service. Browse through their store for ideas.

The only negative I have is the lack of true tech support. Tech support is via their forum. But hey, the program is free! Free programs tend to rely on forums for tech support. Frankly, after my start-up questions ... I haven't needed tech support!

I haven't tried to use the video component of Skype, but my guess is that you would need a DSL/cable high-speed connection to have it work right.

If you have any questions, I expect to be at the April meeting.

By the way, Skype is now owned by Ebay ... so there is plenty of financial support behind it.

Enjoy!

John Przypek

## Help Wanted:

Many of us have heard the adage that nothing is free. Well, I am here to testify to the fact, and that time is more expensive than most things. No matter how hard I try, I can't afford anymore. I have run out of time in the day as has Michael Peters. The Redding Macintosh Users Group needs someone with 2 or 3 spare hours per week to help maintain and run the <http://www.rmug.org/> website. If you know of anyone who would like to help please encourage them to step forward. This project can be a collaboration or a solo effort, so whatever someone wants we will try and accommodate.

dalej

## Great Suggestion:

Mike from Red Bluff gave me a good suggestion this last week. He said that the new Parallels for Windows now supported using BootCamp for Windows as the source of the Windows OS. At first I thought what will that help-and then it hit me. BootCamp partition is a piece of your HD away to become a PC partition, and Parallels allows you to share files between Mac & PC without the need to reboot. What a wonderful concept. Now we can have a piece of the HD partitioned away from our safe Mac OS to be used by the potentially dangerous Windoze OS. And Apple has announced support for Vista before official support has come out from the Parallels people. And here is some more good news for those that use Windows. Your Parallels is probably less than 1 year old so you can freely download the update. Thanks for the great suggestion Mike.

dalej

## Thank You:

During the start of March, Michael Peters had asked me if I would cover for him at the Frontier Senior Center in Anderson if he was incapacitated due to surgery recuperation time? Of course I said yes, and then when the time came my staff had booked me into a lawyers

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## THANK YOU CONTINUED:

office in Red Bluff. It was a very time sensitive job for the Barrister, so I asked Jim Pace and Charlotte Ruskowitz, and just to be safe I also asked my girlfriend Dolores. Now I figured we were covered--and we were. When the class arrived I believe there were probably 7 or 8 students with three of the most generous and talented computer instructors in the north state. I think a big round of thanks should go out to Michael Peters for holding the classes and to Jim, Charlotte and Dolores for being so generous with their time.

dalej

## Computer to TV :

### The Race to Bridge the Computer-to-TV Divide

Today in The Times, I reviewed the Apple TV box--and, for context, a couple of its rivals from Microsoft and Netgear. Let me tell you, I haven't worked so hard on a column in a very, very long time.

The first problem was just getting them to work. Solving home-network problems can be tough slogging indeed, and I had passels of 'em with the Netgear and Microsoft products.

The second problem was cramming everything I wanted to say into the space allotted for my column. Fortunately, I have a little bonus space each week: this newsletter. Here, then, for your further infotainment pleasure, is Dave's Spillover Column--bonus notes about the article.

APPLE TV. As I noted in the review in the paper, this sleek little \$300 box attaches to a high-definition TV set and auto-copies all the music, photos and videos from one designated main computer in your house--wirelessly or via Ethernet cables.

I didn't mention, though, that when you

choose the computer whose files you want to copy, a weird thing happens: a 5-digit code appears on the TV screen in huge type. You're supposed to open up iTunes on the designated computer, click Apple TV in the source list at the left side of the screen, and type the same code into the designated boxes.

The idea, Apple says, is piracy prevention. Typing the code confirms that you're in the same house as the Apple TV--to prevent you from sharing your movies and TV shows from across the Internet. ("You mean that's actually possible?" I asked. "I'm not going to get into that," said the Apple rep.)

The Apple TV works with either wired networks or wireless ones, either 802.11g or the new 802.11n variety. It auto-detects your wireless network, and a handy bar graph shows you the signal strength.

Apple TV requires the latest version of iTunes (7.1.1 or later), which comes with the latest version of QuickTime. That's important, because it means that you can now convert any QuickTime-recognizable video format into Apple TV's video format. A new "Apple TV" export option actually appears in the Save As dialog box for QuickTime Player and iMovie.

I wrote that Apple TV can't actually play high-def video, which is weird, considering that it requires a high-def (or "enhanced definition") TV. There's an almost-exception, though: if you have a high-def camcorder like the Canon HV10, using that Apple TV export option can convert it to 720p, 24 frames per second. That's just barely HDTV quality--and Apple TV can play that.

(I think the reason that the Apple TV can't do high-def video is that Apple's being conservative here. It knows that Apple-holics would never stand for stuttering video caused by a slowish network, for example--so it capped the video data rate to ensure smooth playback always.)

XBOX 360. This is a very slick machine with a million interesting features--and it's getting more interesting all the time.

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### COMPUTER TO TV CONTINUED:

Microsoft's copy-protection schemes drive me crazy, though. In the article, I noted that when you buy movies on the Xbox, they're downloaded directly to the machine. You can't copy them to another machine, play them elsewhere, burn them to disc, and so on.

Moreover, movies are time-crippled in three different ways. First, each movie is available for rental only during a several-week window--then it's gone. Second, you have to start watching the movie within two weeks of downloading it. Third, once you start watching it, you have to finish watching within 24 hours.

In each case, the movie is lost forever if you're tardy.

Apple's movies are available for purchase, not rental, but at least they're not limited in any of those three ways.

It's very cool that some of the Xbox store's TV shows and movies are available in high definition (for 50 percent more)--in fact, Microsoft says that its store is the ONLY online legal source of high-def movies.

But they were balky in my tests. When I tried to rewind or fast forward, the movie bombed out and produced this message: "Can't play this content because it may not be supported. Status code: 69-00-80004005."

Oh, THAT status code!

**NETGEAR DIGITAL ENTERTAINER EVA8000.** As I noted in the column, this box has loads of potential, but was rushed out the door to ride the wave of Apple TV hype. It's loaded with bugs, it's not Windows Vista compatible, and it's aimed at geeks who know their way around a network.

That's too bad, though, because with just a little care and effort, this box could appeal to just as wide an audience as the Apple TV.

Why wouldn't Netgear rather spend a few more weeks polishing things up--and cash in on a ten-times-bigger audience?

One example I noted in the column: During setup, you get a "Failed to detect network" if no Ethernet cable is plugged in. What's crazy is that, considering the two antennas that stick up, most people using this box have wireless networks at home. Why doesn't the box look for a wireless network before announcing failure?

So then you go in and manually change the settings to wireless networking--and now the machine restarts and you have to repeat the whole startup process, including putting in your Zip code again. Why didn't it remember what you'd entered before?

There's just a lot of really badly worded, unpolished software in this box. Netgear's engineers, who spent hours with me troubleshooting, apologetically agreed, and vowed to fix the problems in upcoming software patches.

I do want to note one really impressive thing that the Netgear box does: it lets you play iTunes-bought songs, now residing in iTunes for Windows, on your TV--even though they're copy protected. To my knowledge, this is the very first non-Apple product to make that particular stunt possible.

Also, if your PC has a TV tuner card, the Netgear can control it as though it's a TiVo-ish video recorder. And if you have multiple EVA8000s, you can actually make the music playback follow you from room to room. (I didn't test either of these two features.)

Finally, tons of e-mail has already poured in about my column. Many people are pointing out other ways to get videos and music from your computer to your TV.

HP has a new line of TV sets with this feature built right in. Linksys, D-Link, GoVideo, Hauppauge, Philips and others all have similar boxes on the way. Several companies sell Windows Media

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**COMPUTER TO TV CONTINUED:**

Center PCs in boxes designed to look like VCRs, so that they fit into your entertainment system. (Or, if you have a Media Center PC elsewhere in the house, the Xbox can display its contents right on your TV.)

Clearly, lots of companies are hammering away at what I called the "last 50 feet problem" (getting Internet downloads from the PC to your TV)--or what, as my editor pointed out, would be the "last 15 feet problem" in most New York apartments. Apple's entry may be the most newsworthy, but it's got a lot of company.

David Pogue  
NYT

## Webmaster Sig:

Go to the editorial section of page nine for this article.

Editor



- Your FAST choice for Internet access in the North State
- Macintosh Service and Repair
- Classes on your site or ours
- RAM upgrades always in stock
- CD Authoring
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- Macintosh batteries
- Trained technicians

School POOs gladly accepted  
(530) 242-1800  
<http://jett.net>

## For Sale:

Priced to Sell-Priced to Sell-Priced to Sell !!

Mac G4 Power PC (Tower) (MB877B/A – S/N XB2380A6LKC) In Original Carton – \$750

- Dual 867 MHz Processors
- 2 GB RAM (Standard is 512MB)
- 120GB Hard Drive (Standard is 60GB HD)
- Combo Drive
- DVD/CD Super Drive (Extra)
- 2 FireWire 400, 2 USB 1.1 Ports
- FireWire 800 PCI Card Installed (3 ports) (Extra)
- USB 2.0 PCI Card Installed (3 ports) (Extra)
- OS 10.4.8 Installed (Tiger) Includes Original Disk + Combo Updater Disk
- Original G4 disks included (OS 10.2), plus the Tech Tools disk
- BONUS – Includes Hewlett Packard 4570c Scanner + current driver on disk (Original Carton)
- BONUS – Includes Toast 6
- BONUS – Includes Photoshop Elements 3.0
- BONUS – Includes Disk Warrior Rev 39

Contact John Przypek @ 474-3590 –  
[jprzypek@frontiernet.net](mailto:jprzypek@frontiernet.net)

iBook G4  
933 MHz PowerPC  
1.12 Gig Ram  
Airport Extreme.  
Over one year of Applecare to go.  
It is a great machine that I have been very happy with, just wanted a bigger screen and a little more pop.  
Would make someone a great deal @ \$700 firm.

Ken 530-365-6888  
[krlorerama@gmail.com](mailto:krlorerama@gmail.com)

## Email Hoax:

Without researching the factual claims made in a forwarded email there's no 100 percent sure way to tell if it's a hoax, but here you'll find a list of common signs to watch for...

Here's How:

1. Note whether the text you've received was actually written by the person who sent it. Did anyone sign their name to it? If not, be skeptical.

2. Look for the telltale phrase, 'Forward this to everyone you know!' The more urgent the plea, the more suspect the message.

3. Look for statements like 'This is NOT a hoax' or 'This is NOT an urban legend.' They typically mean the opposite of what they say.

4. Watch for overly emphatic language, as well as frequent use of UPPERCASE LETTERS and multiple exclamation points!!!!!!

5. If the text seems aimed more at persuading than informing the reader, be suspicious. Like propagandists, hoaxers are more interested in pushing people's emotional buttons than communicating accurate information.

6. If the message purports to impart extremely important information that you've never heard of before or read elsewhere in legitimate venues, be very suspicious.

7. Read carefully and think critically about what the message says, looking for logical inconsistencies, violations of common sense and blatantly false claims.

8. Look for subtle or not-so-subtle jokes — indications that the author is pulling your leg.

9. Check for references to outside sources of information. Hoaxes don't typically cite verifiable evidence, nor link to Websites with corroborating information.

10. Check to see if the message has been debunked by Websites that debunk urban legends and Internet hoaxes (see below).

11. Research any factual claims in the text to see if there is published evidence to support them. If you find none, odds are you've been the recipient of an email hoax.

Tips:

1. Virtually any email chain letter you receive (i.e., any message forwarded multiple times before it got to you) is more likely to be false than true. You should automatically be skeptical of chain letters.

2. Hoaxers usually try every means available to make their lies believable -- e.g., mimicking a journalistic style, attributing the text to a 'legitimate' source, or implying that powerful corporate or government interests have tried to keep the information from you.

3. Be especially wary of health-related rumors. Most importantly, never act on 'medical information' forwarded from unknown sources without first verifying its accuracy with a doctor or other reliable source.

David Emery,  
Your Guide to Urban Legends and Folklore.

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Here is a great place to check out those weird things your friends keep sending you.

<http://www.snopes.com/snopes.asp>

Editor.

## Ode to RIAA:

Ever since I phased out my career as a Broadway arranger and conductor, I've tried to keep my toe in the showbiz world in my own peculiar way: I write new, tech-industry lyrics to old melodies. Here's my very latest. It's a special tribute to the R.I.A.A., the Recording Industry Association of America - the organization of the record companies who've decided to fight music piracy by filing lawsuits. It goes to the tune of the Village People song "Y.M.C.A." Ready? Cue the disco drums!

"R.I.A.A."

Young man,  
You were surfing along,  
And then, young man,  
You downloaded a song,  
And then, dumb man,

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## Policies

This newsletter is published monthly for the Redding Macintosh Users' Group and is distributed to all club members.

No other individual, group or business may use any portion of this newsletter without prior written permission.

RMUG News welcomes articles and questions relating to Macintosh or Macintosh compatible computers. Articles should be pasted into the body of an eMail, or links to articles submitted. It is important that full credit be given to the author.

If you have a change of address or other questions, please notify the newsletter editor or other RMUG officer as soon as possible.

Deadline for submissions is the last Saturday of each month. E-mail or deliver all material to:

Ken Lorenz  
E- mail submissions to:  
*krlore@cwnet.com*

OR

*rmug@rmug.org*  
(stuff files if possible)

## Ad Rates

RMUG members are invited to place "Wanted", "For Sale" & "Trade" ads in the newsletter at no charge. Business cards or commercial accounts are welcome at the rates listed above. One of the best reasons for belonging to a user's group is to let other people know about your activities, as well as learning what other people are doing with their computers and software. Please give your business cards or ads to the newsletter editor.

|  |
|--|
| <p><b>AD Rates</b></p> <p><b>\$4-business card</b></p> <p><b>\$6-quarter page</b></p> <p><b>\$9-half page</b></p> <p><b>\$15-full page</b></p> |
|--|

Advertisements in the RMUG newsletter will not influence reviews or critiques of hardware, software companies or stories.

RMUG does not endorse any specific dealer or product, but we do encourage the distribution of information which may assist club members in identifying best buys and services.

## Editorial

The Redding Macintosh Users Group (RMUG) at present does not have an active web master. I am thinking of forming a special interest group (SIG) to work on the web page. We have Freeway Pro to work with, but I am open to using anything. I know nothing about setting up a web page, so it will be a learn from scratch SIG. If anyone wants to be web master, they are welcome to volunteer, with or without having a SIG.

James L. (Jim) Pace  
2847 Balaton Ave.  
Redding CA 96001  
(530) 241-8885  
*jimpace@jett.net*

Remember that the meeting on the 14th will include the raffle of an iPod. All that is required is that you be a member and buy a ticket. Be there or be square..

There should be something in this issue for everyone.

Thank you to those who submitted articles, we all benefit from your effort.

Ken



# Jett's April 07 Mac Classes:

Hi Everyone,

I have set my schedule for April. I am continuing the schedule from last month - where I teach Basic OSX on Tuesday afternoons at 2 pm and iLife Series on Thursday mornings at 10 am.

Basic OSX - Tuesday the 10th, 17th and 24th at 2 pm

iLife Series - Thursday the 5th, 12th and 19th at 10 am

Anyone interested in a specialized class should contact me as I am open to scheduling a class on Thursday the 26th.

Kate  
kate@jett.net

## ODE TO RIAA CONTINUED:

Copied it to your 'Pod,  
Then a phone call came to tell you:

You've just been sued by the R.I.A.A.!  
You've just been sued by the R.I.A.A.!  
Their attorneys say, you committed a crime,  
And there'd better not be a next time!

They've lost their minds at the R.I.A.A.!  
Justice is blind at the R.I.A.A....  
"You're depriving the bands! You are learning to steal,  
You can't do whatever you feel!"

Know what?  
They're a lawsuit machine.  
They say so what  
If you're only thirteen?  
And you know what?  
They were equally mean  
To an 80-year-old grandma!

CD  
Sales have dropped every year,  
They're not greedy-

They're just quaking with fear,  
Yes, indeedy-  
What if their end is near,  
And we download all our music?

They'd all freak out at the R.I.A.A.-  
No plastic discs from the R.I.A.A.!  
What a way to make friends! It's a plan that  
can't fail:  
Haul your customers off to jail!

And who'll be next for the R.I.A.A.?  
What else is vexing the R.I.A.A.?  
Maybe whistling a tune? Maybe humming  
along?  
Maybe mocking them in a song-!

(The sound of jackboots bursting into the  
room...handcuffs...muffled cries...a  
columnist being dragged away... repeat and  
fade.)

From the Desk of David Pogue  
DavidPogue.com.