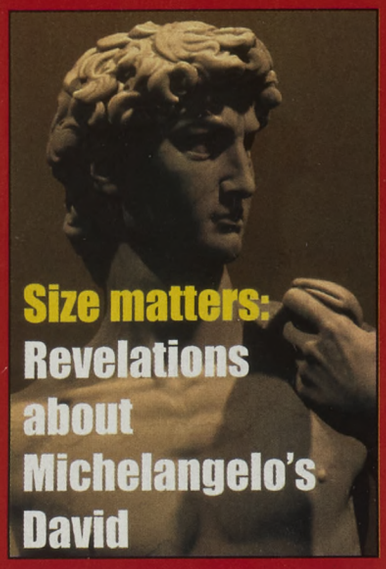
Steamtunnels

October 6, 2000

www.steamtunnels.net

Meet Cate Archer: FPS games go high class

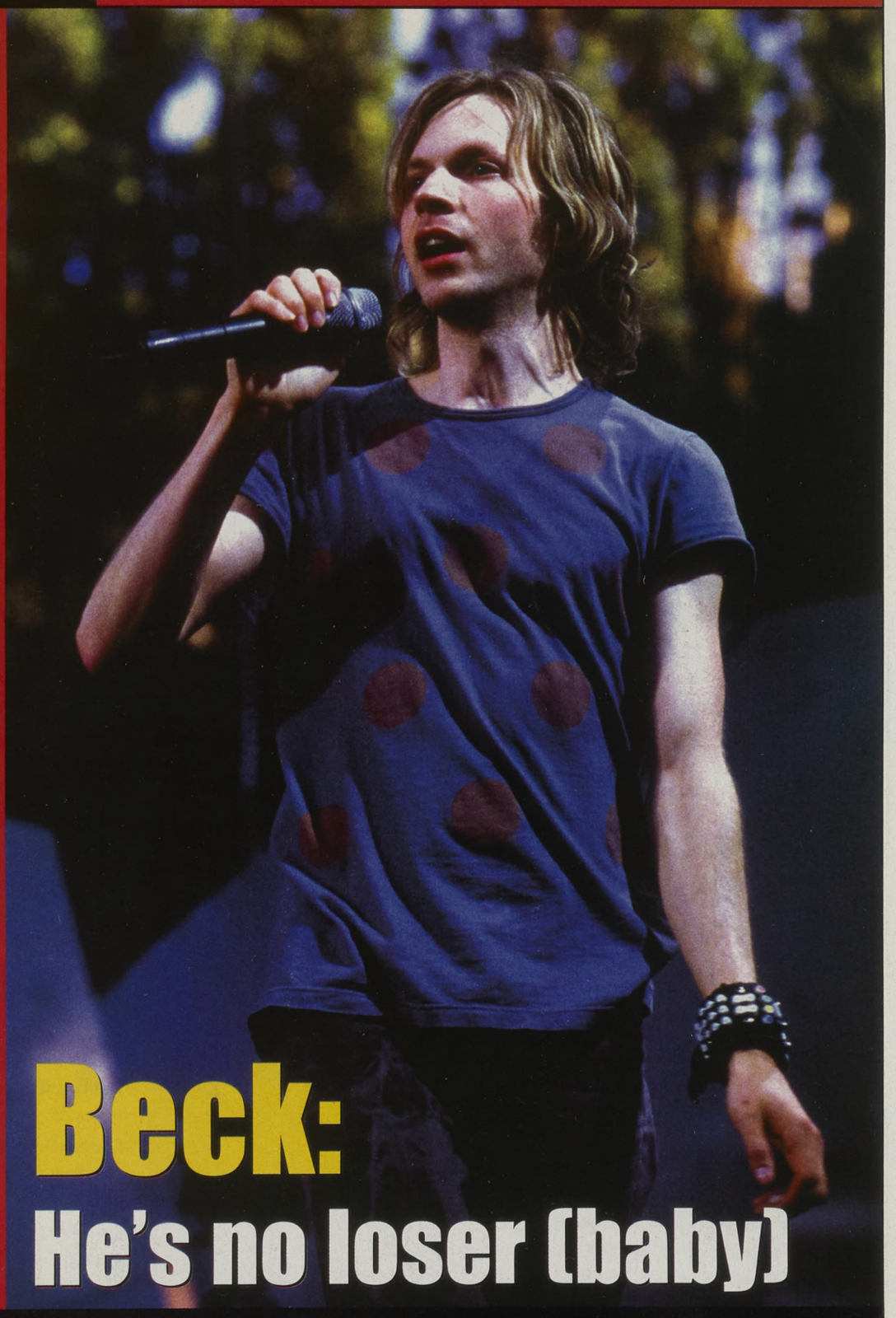




Size matters: Revelations about Michelangelo's David



The digital divide: Bridging the gap



Beck: He's no loser (baby)

Also in this issue: Be your own DJ: Online radio | Feature: Live web cast sites | Also reviewed: Movie Mistakes, Novelguide, The Periodic Table of Funk, Resident Assistant, Fade to Black, Lonely Planet, Frommers, Black-Ops

Beck has the best of both worlds

By Mac Randall

You've got to hand it to Beck—he's one of the few young musicians to have emerged in the last decade who's both adored by the media and capable of selling lots of records. This scrawny strawheaded dude with the deep, froggish drawl and funny way of pronouncing his r's has taken a zany collagist approach to making pop music and turned it into an astonishing success. His secret: never forgetting the value of a good hook. For proof of that, look no further than the instantly memorable slacker chorus of his breakout 1993 hit "Loser," the "two turntables and a microphone" mantra that punctuates 1996's "Where It's At," or the punchy payoff line of 1999's "Sexx Laws."

Raised in what cliché-mongers would call "a Bohemian household," Beck Hansen grew up listening to American roots music—blues, folk and country—but absorbed it through the filter of Top 40 radio and his multicultural L.A. neighborhood. He has often said in interviews that as a teenager he could hear an implied hip-hop beat in the songs of old Delta bluesmen like Son House; he'd go on to make that beat explicit in his own work. As he once explained to the British music magazine *Mojo*, "I'm interested in a lot of the disposable music of our time, but I want to try and fuse [it] with things that are a little more substantial and see what kind of friction happens."

Real name: Beck Hansen

Age: 30

DOB: July 8, 1970

Born & raised: Los Angeles, CA

Key projects: Albums *Mellow Gold* (1994), *Odelay* (1996), *Mutations* (1998), and *Midnite Vultures* (1999); touring art exhibition featuring his own work and that of his grandfather Al Hansen, a founder of the avant-garde group Fluxus.

Grammy Awards: Three—two in 1996 (Best Alternative Rock Performance for *Odelay*, and Best Male Rock Vocal for "Where It's At") and one in 1999 (Best Alternative Rock Performance, *Mutations*)

Rumored to be dating: Winona Ryder

Favorite singer: Mississippi John Hurt

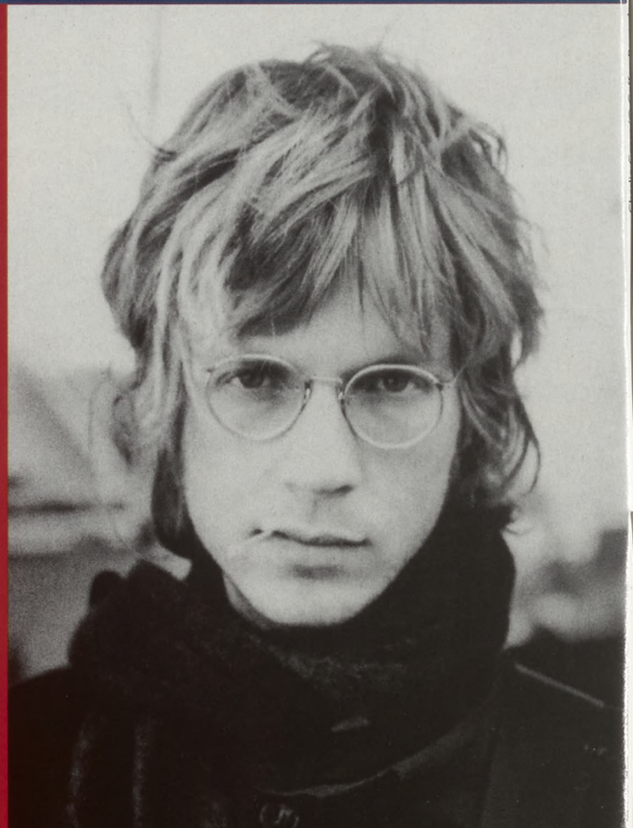
Web site: **Beck.com**

Downtime activity: Painting

Favorite foods: Nicotine and gravy

Interesting fact #1: Beck's father, David Campbell, has been a violist and musical arranger for over 30 years, working with Carole King, Billy Joel, Linda Ronstadt, Bon Jovi, and Alanis Morissette. Although Beck didn't grow up with Campbell, the two obviously share a musical as well as a familial connection—Campbell contributed viola and arrangements to Beck's last two albums.

Interesting fact #2: Beck's mother, Bibbe Hansen (bibbe.com), was a frequenter of Andy Warhol's legendary Factory in the '60s, and starred in one of Warhol's films at age 13. She also ran the Troy Café in Los Angeles, where Beck played many a gig in the early '90s.



Beck links

Beck World
beck4beck.tripod.com

Official Beck site
beck.com

Enchanting Wizard of Rhythm
members.theglobe.com/fishbulb_2/default.html

Planet Beck
geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Club/5444/beck.html

Set lists
geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Towers/9782/beck.html

Cyanide Beck Mint
chez.com/cyanidebeckmint

Steamtunnels
magazine www.steamtunnels.net

Corporate
President & CEO–Robert Desmond
Chief Operating Officer–Joseph Freeman
Chief Financial Officer–Peter Catalino
Vice President of National Advertising–Mark Businski
MIS Director–David Stifter
Office Manager–Jesse Lee

Editorial
Editor-in-Chief–Robert Desmond
Managing Editor–Keith Powers
Creative Director–Audrey Borowski
Senior Editor–Erin Dionne
Events Editor–Molly Delano
Production Coordinator–Thomas Webb
Contributing Designers–Jason Fairchild, Sue Gell
Contributing Writers–Michelle Aguilar, Adam Baldwin, Melanie Farmer, Erica Feick, Gina Fraone, January Gill, Amanda Hill, Dan Johnson, Jason Lowenthal,Tamar Maor, Nick Montfort, Bob Mucci, Mac Randall, Genevieve Rajewski, Genevieve Robertson, Stacey Shackford, Michelle Silver, Jack Teems, John Walker, Karen Zierler

National Advertising
Account Executive–Eli S. Belil
Account Executive–Kay Dendy
Account Executive–Francis J. Fitts
Sales Associate–Lisa Bruckenstein
Sales Associate–Lisa M. Karl

Regional Marketing Managers
Northeast–Andrew Gregory
Southeast–Saul Lookner
Mid-Atlantic–David Mars
Southwest–Peter Maugeri
Midwest–Tony McRoberts
West Coast–Matthew McRoberts

Web Development
Directors of Web Development–Aaron Bell, Lawrence Gentilello, Tuyen Truong
Online Editor–Wendy Marinaccio
Content Manager–Brian Mackle
Graphic Designer–Sanford Arisumi

Editorial Advisory Board
Darryl J. Brehm–University of Illinois, Chicago
Kathryn Lawrence–University of Texas, Austin
Brendan Maher–Soyouwanna.com, Inc.
Stacey Nail–Cal State Long Beach
Laurie-Ann Paliotti, M.Ed.–Brown
Blaise Provitola–Florida State and Florida
Ronald Spielberger–College Media Advisors, Executive Director
Alan Waters–West Virginia

Steamtunnels® is a publication of CollegeWebGuide.com, Inc.
Copyright © 2000
All Rights Reserved

CollegeWebGuide.com, Inc.

Main Office
220 Boylston St., Suite 302
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
tel (617) 964-5060
fax (617) 964-5065
info@steamtunnels.net

Advertising Sales
Empire State Building, Suite 3920
350 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10118
tel (212) 404-7455
fax (212) 404-7460
advertising@steamtunnels.net

Web Development
37A 29th Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
tel (415) 401-1560
fax (415) 206-1409

Email: You can send email to any *Steamtunnels* staff member by typing the person's first initial and last name, followed by @steamtunnels.net.

Steamtunnels editorial

If there are debates Nader and Buchanan should be included

Like many of you, I have not yet decided which presidential candidate to vote for. The Presidential Debates may help me decide. Unfortunately one of the candidates I would like to hear will not be debating–Ralph Nader.

Regardless of the imbroglio this fall between Bush and Gore over presidential debates, the truth is that the entire process is flawed. The debates are organized and hosted by the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD). The CPD (made up of Democrats and Republicans) drafted guidelines that effectively shut out third party candidates. To participate, a party must have a minimum level of 15% support among the general electorate. This unreasonably high barrier effectively denies Ralph Nader and Pat Buchanan any chance of participating. The Green Party and Reform Party each have over 5%.

Broadening debate participation is necessary for an informed electorate and can have dramatic results. In Minnesota in 1998, Jesse Ventura had less than 10% support with the electorate prior to the gubernatorial debates. After taking part in the debates he went on to win the election as a third party candidate.

Ralph Nader is a very serious person and presidential candidate. Every one of us drives a safer car because of him. With his landmark book *Unsafe at Any Speed* he practically launched the consumer advocacy movement in this country single handedly. We are all the beneficiaries of his incredible accomplishments.

While it's reasonable for the CPD to set a minimum level of support to exclude the lunatic fringe, it's not reasonable to set it so high that only the Democrats and Republicans get to debate. The CPD should allow the full spectrum of political parties to participate—Nader and Buchanan both deserve a place at the table.

Let the CPD, the Bush and Gore campaigns know what you think: go to **debates.org**, **bush2000.com** and **algore2000.com** to register your opinions.

Robert Desmond Editor-in-Chief

Steamtunnels' Dorm Decorating Contest!

Is your whole room covered in purple velvet? Does your idea of décor include bar mirrors and twinkly lights? Show us! Send *Steamtunnels* a picture of your decorated dorm and we'll award a prize to the coolest room out of all entries received by October 13, 2000. Email digital pictures to editor@steamtunnels.net or send to Steamtunnels, 220 Boylston St., Ste. 302, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467. Each week we'll post the best entries on our site. Click on **steamtunnels.net** for rules and submission guidelines.

On the Cover

Clockwise from top left: "No One Lives Forever" heroine Cate Archer; Beck performs at the Experience Music Project's concert in Seattle, WA, June 2000 (photo © Tim Matsui/Liaison); President Bill Clinton (Photo ©AP/KDB staff); Michelangelo's David (© The Digital Michelangelo Project, Stanford University).

Steamtunnels Poll

Do you believe candidates like Ralph Nader and Pat Buchanan should be included in Presidential debates?

Go to steamtunnels.net and let us know.

In next week's issue

Steamtunnels personality profile: Up-and-coming stars

Web site reviews: An overview of online magazines, dozens more in-depth reviews

Plus: Hackers and Crackers, American Story Project, New Age/Web Age, music from KRS-One and Brenda Russell, lots more

Have fun, earn cash!

Steamtunnels is hiring campus representatives and sales associates at each of our affiliate college newspapers. Check out **steamtunnels.net** for more information.

Email your resume to campusjobs@steamtunnels.net.

MUSIC

DJ Me

Free online programs help you create your own radio station in your dorm room.

By Mac Randall and Aaron Bell

Most music fans know all too well that commercial radio stations are atrocious. Listen to a station for a couple of days and it's possible to predict the next time you'll hear the latest by Matchbox Twenty or Third Eye Blind almost to the minute. The only thing apparently left to chance is which old AC/DC song they're going to play.

It's no surprise, then, that listeners tired of being force-fed the same old slop are turning away from commercial radio in droves and getting their music via the Internet. There are now thousands of online radio stations transmitting from all over the world; click on any search engine and you'll find everything from the largest corporate outfits to dorm-room DJs dropping beats. One good place for Internet radio is Real Audio's site at **real.com** (handy too, since they have Real Player downloads that you'll need in order to listen). But if you think you can do better than what you're hearing—and who knows, you probably can—it's nearly as easy to get your own online station up and running.

Before you start down the digital DJ path, though, you should decide whether you're doing this solely for your own amusement or whether your goal is to edify the general public through your exquisite taste in tunes. In either case, you've got plenty of options. "Music manager" sites like **MP3.com** make it a snap to devise your own radio-style playlists—you can use music taken off the site itself, transfer tracks off other web sites, or digitize your own CDs. Some of these sites are designed so that the files can only be heard by you and can't be broadcast to the rest of the world. (Napster allows you to trade audio files with others but doesn't have the ability to create playlists.)

Closer to radio as we know it are sites like **Live365**, meant for would-be DJs who want to start broadcasting their own music and for people who want to hear streaming music mixed by fellow users. The way Live365 works is typical of most online DJ sites. It offers two different services, LiveCast and EasyCast, both of which require a quick registration and a "Powered by Live365" banner next to their station link. Our own station, at **steamtunnels.net**, is powered by Live365.

With LiveCast, DJs who are already broadcasting from their own computer can send their music stream to the Live365 server, which then rebroadcasts the music over the Internet. This helps deal with potential signal problems and dramatically increases the number of simultaneous listeners to your station. EasyCast, meanwhile, is for people who don't have the ability to be online 24 hours a day; after you sign up for EasyCast, Live365 gives you 100MB of space for the storage of MP3s and then broadcasts your music from its servers.



Click on any search engine and you'll find everything from the largest corporate outfits to dorm-room DJs dropping beats.

Most online radio sites feature a list of broadcasters, grouped by genre, which can be listened to with an MP3 player. Some also compile Top-10 station lists, along with the relevant stations' listenerships, ratings and genres. This is a good way of checking out what other DJs are doing, and the better you know what the competition's up to, the easier it'll be for you to blow 'em all away with your own station.

Now go make some noise. •

Go to **steamtunnels.net** and listen to our own radio station, broadcasting trance and techno 24 hours a day.

Links

live365.com
One of the top radio hubs on the Internet, this site makes online broadcasting a cinch.

shoutcast.com
Similar to Live365, this service is designed to work with the Winamp MP3 player.

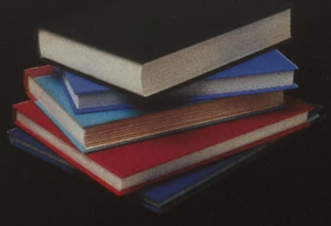
launch.com
Create your own playlist that any user can tune into. LAUNCHcast also plays songs that it thinks you might like based on your previous ratings.

spinner.com
Over 100 stations grouped by genre.

mp3.com
Allows you to put together playlists like a program director, but those playlists can only be heard by you.

myplay.com
Similar to MP3.com, but you can share your playlists with other users.

Save money on these →



So you can buy more of these →



Visit Steamtunnels' online textbook shopper for the best book deals on the web.

www.steamtunnels.net/textbooks

"Best site for undergraduate and graduate students looking for first jobs or internships."

– Forbes Magazine



JOBTRAK.COM™

Visit your Career Center today for more information.

JOBTRAK JOBTRAK

From 1501 to 2001:

The Digital Michelangelo Project

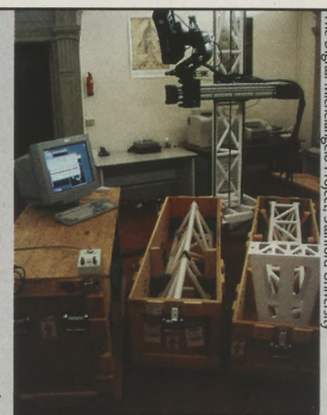
By Jeremy Ginsberg and Laura Jungman

Using high tech equipment to gain insights on ancient masterpieces

Visitors of the Galleria dell'Accademia in Florence frequently depart with postcards or small plastic replicas of its crown jewel—Michelangelo's David. But in 1999, some American students departed the museum each morning with a much different souvenir: a cluster of hard disks containing precise 3D scans of the sculpture. A month later, the students of Stanford University's Digital Michelangelo Project had collected enough scans to produce a high-resolution model of Michelangelo's legendary sculpture.

Professor Marc Levoy conceived the Digital Michelangelo Project **(graphics.stanford.edu/projects/mich)** in 1997 as an application of Stanford's recently developed 3D scanning technology. By creating models of Michelangelo's sculptures, he hoped to push the limits of technology while building the world's first digital archive of sculptures. The Digital Michelangelo team spent two years developing the machines and software needed for the task, including a 24-foot tall scanner that weighs over 1,800 pounds. Using a stripe of laser light, the scanner can see almost every detail on the sculptures.

In January 1999, a team of 30 students and faculty worked nights scanning in the museum for weeks, avoiding the throngs of tourists who descend on Florence to view the David.



The Digital Michelangelo Project, Stanford University

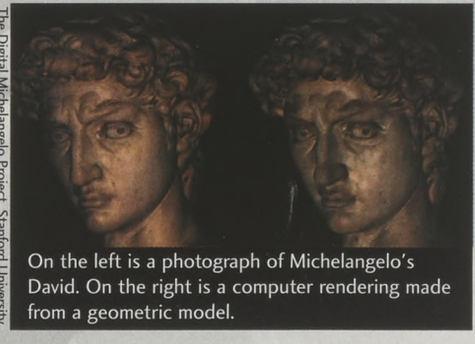
Some components of the 1,800 pound, 24 foot scanner.

The team scanned ten different sculptures and collected 250 gigabytes worth of data. Using these models, art historians can experience Michelangelo's masterpieces anywhere in the world.

The Galleria dell'Accademia plans to install a multimedia viewing center so that tourists can have access to the virtual sculptures. By enhancing the real museum with a "virtual museum", tourists will be able to view the David from angles that would otherwise be impossible in reality.

Now that they're back from Italy, Levoy and the team will take the raw data—some 2 billion polygons and 7,000 color images for the David alone—and build 3D models of the sculptures. •

All photos reprinted courtesy of The Digital Michelangelo Project, Stanford University.



The Digital Michelangelo Project, Stanford University

On the left is a photograph of Michelangelo's David. On the right is a computer rendering made from a geometric model.

It took Michelangelo Buonarroti three years to complete the David, and he started in 1501 **(michelangelo.com)**. It took Levoy about the same amount of time to turn the art world's understanding of the sculpture on its head.

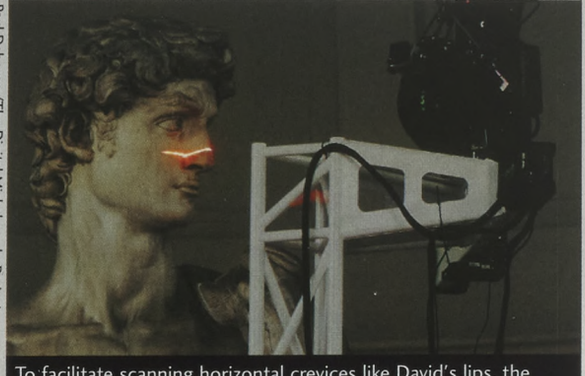
The Digital Michelangelo Project made some new discoveries about the David such as the fact that historians had incorrectly measured the statue's height. It's actually 17 feet tall, a significant difference from the 14 feet that art historians have been quoting for centuries.

It was also revealed that David's eyes don't look in the same direction. Levoy believes that Michelangelo did this intentionally to maximize the effect of the profiles. The right side of David's face looks triumphantly at Goliath, while the left side of his face is a traditional Roman profile.

The Project discovered that the David statue is actually 17 feet tall, a significant difference from the 14 feet that art historians have been quoting for centuries.

Dana Katter, who volunteered for the midnight scanning shift, describes scanning as "the chance of a lifetime." With researcher Unnur Gretarsdottir, she used a smaller, more flexible scanner to access parts of the sculptures that the larger scanner could not reach. Gretarsdottir admits that "scanning was incredibly tedious and time-consuming, but it was a wonderful experience."

Scanning the sculptures was just the beginning of this ambitious project—the next step is putting the digital images together. Assembling the hundreds of scans is like "trying to solve a jigsaw puzzle in 3D, where none of the pieces fit perfectly" said graphics student Matt Ginzton. He dedicated much of his time on the project to creating software that helps assemble the pieces. The software was designed to piece the scans together using clues such as the chisel marks which remain on the sculptures.



Paul Debevec /The Digital Michelangelo Project

To facilitate scanning horizontal crevices like David's lips, the scanner head can also be rolled 90 degrees, changing the laser line from horizontal (shown here) to vertical.

Piecing together the past

As a side project, Levoy and his team spent 24 hours a day for 3 weeks imaging the Forma Urbis Romae, a marble map of ancient Rome that dates back to approximately 200 AD. The huge map (45 x 60 feet) used to hang on the back wall of the Roman census bureau and showed the infrastructure of ancient Rome in excruciating detail until it fell and was destroyed.

Approximately 15 percent, or 1,163 slabs, of the map has been recovered, and it is in 1,163 pieces. A puzzle since it's discovery in the Renaissance, some fragments are several feet long and weigh up to 150 pounds, not an easy feat to piece it back together.

Levoy hopes that by scanning the fragments, and then subsequently writing the required algorithms, they will be able to use technology to piece it back together.

Worst Cities for Bike Theft*

1. New York, NY
2. Chicago, IL (includes Evanston)
3. Tempe, AZ
4. San Francisco, CA
5. Boston, MA (includes Brookline, Somerville, Cambridge)
6. Austin, TX
7. Washington, DC
8. Philadelphia, PA
9. Tie: Denver, CO, Miami, FL and San Diego, CA

** Results based solely on proprietary data gathered by Kryptonite Corporation during 1999*

Top 15 Job Interview Questions

- Tell me about yourself.
- What do you know about our company?
- Why do you want to work for us?
- What unique qualities or abilities would you bring to this job?
- What are your major strengths and weaknesses?
- Where do you see yourself in five years?
- Tell me about a time that you failed at something, and what you did afterwards.
- Describe a time when you worked on a team project. How could it have been better?
- Why did you choose your school and course of study?
- Think back to a situation in which there was a conflict you had to resolve. Tell me how you resolved that conflict.
- Tell me about a project that you had either at work or school. Describe in detail how you managed it and what was the outcome.
- What do you do in your spare time?
- What salary are you expecting?
- What other types of jobs or companies are you considering?
- Do you have any questions for us?

Source: JobTrak.com

GAMES

Killer Clowns & '60s Babes

FPS fans finally have something to get fired up about.

By Karen Zierler

First person shooter (FPS) fans may have been feeling neglected of late, as role-playing games (RPGs) like Diablo 2 and Icewind Dale have been stealing the show. But a few new exciting FPS titles are recently available. Of note is **Deus Ex**, a crossbreed FPS with strong adventure and RPG themes created by the well-known producer Warren Spector (**Ultima Underworld** and **System Shock**). Spector produced Deus Ex for John Romero's (**Doom** and **Daikatana**) ailing development house, Ion Storm, and the lackluster performance of Romero's Daikatana puts the pressure on Spector to deliver the goods. Deus Ex has received mixed reviews thus far: its appeal lies in addictive conspiracy theory game play (a new recruit to UNATO finds himself in a futuristic equivalent of the *X-Files* crossed with *The Matrix*). It has a strong story line, but somewhat bizarre AI (artificial intelligence). Gamers' opinions are split—some love it, some hate it. (**Deusex.com**, $42.49.)



No One Lives Forever's heroine Cate Archer.



No One Lives Forever (due in late fall) is definitely one to watch for.

Strange as it sounds, killer clowns are on the 3D shooter rampage in Third Law's homage to Todd McFarlane comic books and a '70s glam-rock band—**KISS: Psycho Circus-The Nightmare Child**. A deep story line is not to be had here, but macabre gloomy level designs sprinkled with an intermittent Kiss song create a good shoot-'em-up atmosphere. Featuring modified version of Monolith's licensed LithTech engine (originally debuted in Monolith's own titles—**Shogo: Mobile Armor Division** and **Blood 2**), Kiss: Psycho Circus has shown that there's life in the LithTech yet. The game is hardly a classic, but this first issue from the Gathering of Developers (GoD) publishing house will tide gamers over until the next big title. (**3rdlaw.com/psycho**, $31.49).

From mechanical poodles to poisonous lipsticks to skydiving battles in midair, No One Lives Forever is definitely one to watch for.

More good news for FPS fans: Monolith remains afloat. The company was hit hard by its poor handling of a buggy Blood 2 release, which they abandoned without proper support. Monolith is on the way back, with a new FPS title that looks drop-dead gorgeous on the LithTech 2 engine. In collaboration with FOX Entertainment, Monolith is in the finishing stages of **No One Lives Forever**, a '60s spy story complete with classy heroine, operative Cate Archer. Her background story reads more like Nikita, but the atmosphere, gameplay and level designs are true Austin Powers (or James Bond if you prefer). Having viewed a demonstration of the title this spring, I can tell you it's one of the games I'm most excited about. From mechanical poodles to poisonous lipsticks to skydiving battles in midair, No One Lives Forever is definitely one to watch for. Due in late fall. (**noonelivesforever.com**.) •



Closing in on the Digital Divide

Not everyone has access to the web. Some students and universities are trying to change that.

By Genevieve Robertson

Most of us rely on the Internet for everything from movie times and phone numbers to the weather. But some of the country doesn't even have access to basic Internet technology.

There are still many elementary and secondary schools that don't have computer labs for students to use the web—or even classes on basic software. There is an ever-growing gap between the technology haves and have nots, dubbed the digital divide.

Falling Through the Net

A study by the Commerce Department, entitled "Falling Through the Net" (**ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/digitaldivide**), states that "urban households earning incomes over $75,000 are 20 times more likely to have home Internet access than rural households." The study also shows that this gap widened an additional 29% from 1997 to 1998.

While lack of Internet access has a detrimental effect on student, the digital divide also affects issues like health care, family finances, job hunting and politics.

Bridging the Gap

Software and computer companies like Microsoft are working to bridge the gap, but college students are also getting involved. At Penn, students volunteer for a program called Puente ("bridges") working to close the divide in Third World nations. Rohan Amin, one volunteer, traveled to Ecuador to help children learn how to use the Internet. "It kind of gave me a new outlook," he said, "I understand the digital divide more because I actually experienced it first hand. At first [the children] can't even begin to understand or use [the Internet]. It was like opening a door for them. It was really cool."

In the U.S., colleges and universities are also funding programs to create computer centers in low-income neighborhoods. Last spring, Brown University partnered with WorldCom to give grants to 20 underserved communities to "improve learning through technology by teaching students to learn and thrive in today's technology-rich environment," said Jonathan B. Sallet, WorldCom's chief policy council. The Department of Education also approved $6 million in funding to eight community colleges, to help make Internet technology available to low-income residents across the nation.

Some lower income families that have Internet access cannot find relevant content. This is most obvious when examining the lack of web content directed at minorities. Many new sites, specializing in minority targeted information, are popping up to address this problem.



President Clinton made a three city tour this year to discuss what action the government is taking to bridge the digital divide. Photo ©AP/KDB staff.

College students all over the U.S. are volunteering their time to help close the digital divide—be one of them. To get involved, visit the following links:

General info

digitaldividenetwork.org
Information on what the issue is and how people are working to change it.

digitaldivide.org
Seattle based organization called Digital Partners working to close the gap.

digitaldivide.gov
Government information on what the Clinton Administration is doing about the issue.

Community Resources

ctcnet.org
Resources and information about and for community centers.

playing2win.org
New York–based organization linking people and institutions to work together to provide Internet access.

Minority Web sites

blackgeeks.com
Some of the best Internet sites providing black oriented content, as well as discussions and links to pertinent issues and tech support.

onenetnow.com
Web portal that provides content, chat rooms, message boards, search engines, email, web hosting and tech support for minority users.

dvstreet.com
Multicultural web portal that allows users to personalize their own start page with channels, chat rooms, job information and more.

Digital Divide stats

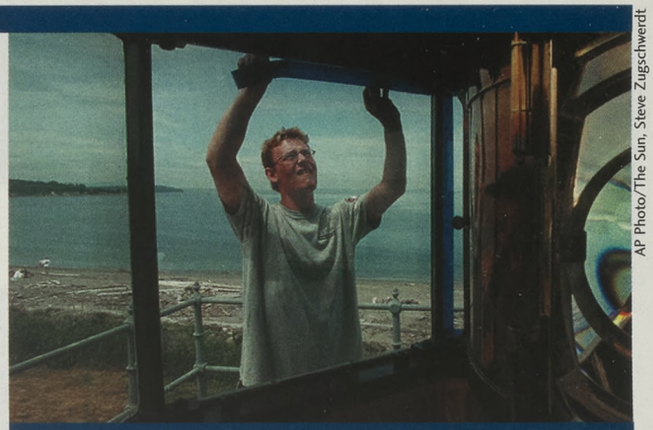
Hispanic households are reported to be half as likely to own a computer and 2.5 times less likely to the use the Internet than white households are.

The gap between white and black households with Internet access grew by 37.7% from 1997 to 1998.

Volunteer a year

Postponing college for a year to do volunteer work could be as valuable as a year of classes.

By Joseph O. Legaspi



AP Photo/The Sun, Steve Zugschwerdt

AmeriCorps member Ryan Weliver of Washington state repairs a lighthouse.

You got into your first-choice college, and yet there is that nagging feeling in your stomach: Am I ready to commit to four (or more) years of studies? Am I sure about my major? Do I know what I want?

Ben Isaac had that nagging feeling after graduating high school in 1998. Deferring his freshman year at Skidmore, he decided to join City Year (**cityyear.org**), which enables young people between the ages of 17-24 to perform an entire year of full-time volunteer community services. Isaac, along with a team of his peers, facilitated workshops on domestic violence in Boston schools. They also spent afternoons at battered women shelters providing childcare and assistance to the women. "More importantly, we [were] projecting positive male and female role models," he added.

"I am a lot more focused, more mature, with a different mind set in achieving my goals."

This fall, Isaac is an NYU sophomore majoring in religious studies and peace & global studies. He said his experiences with City Year have made him a better student: "I am a lot more focused, more mature, with a different mind set in achieving my goals." Eric J. Furda, Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Columbia University, elaborates. "There is a general perception that students who take time off for substantive reasons have a greater appreciation for the college experience."

Numerous philanthropic organizations welcome the services of young individuals. Championed by President Bill Clinton, AmeriCorps (**americorps.org**) provides young people with opportunities to serve in the areas of education, public safety, human services and the environment. AmeriCorps members' services range from teaching elementary school students to assisting victims of crime and natural disaster. A modest living allowance and health coverage are provided to participants. Upon completion of a service year, members also receive a monetary education award, which can be used to pay off student loans or to finance college.

If you're struck with wanderlust, consider volunteering abroad. It's a great way to integrate with the local culture, and concurrently broaden your horizons. The Peace Corps (**peacecorps.gov**) is the largest organization of its kind. It's a two-year commitment, and participants tend to have degrees, so the competition is fierce. Other options include Global Service Corps (**globalservicecorps.org**), with volunteer opportunities in Costa Rica, Thailand and Kenya, and the AFS (American Field Services) Intercultural Program (**afs.org**), which places individuals in many countries. Both organizations have positions available in education, conservation and agriculture. For someone considering a medical career, the International Medical Volunteers Association (**imva.org**) has an on-line list of volunteer-seeking organizations, and a database of jobs.

But if you haven't decided whether to volunteer, work or study abroad, the following sites are excellent comprehensive resources for students and young nomads: International Study and Travel Center (**istc.umn.edu**), **collegeboard.org**, **councilltravel.com**, **iagora.com** and **studenttraveler.com**. And save travel expenses by logging on to student-discounted sites like **statravel.com** and **travel-store.com**.

If nothing particular tickles your fancy, ride the wind. Missouri, feeling lackadaisical after her second year of college, set off on a road trip, winding up in Espanola, New Mexico, where she worked as a waitress. Then she jetted to Greece and entered an arts program on the island of Paros. Broke from her wanderings, she returned home and interned at an educational start-up web site company. Now, Missouri says, "I'm thrilled to be heading back [to school] to complete the second half of my education with a better focus, a stronger awareness of my goals."

Instead of studying, it may be time to start asking life's larger questions. Don't worry, the school of your dreams will still be there when you return. •

For more information on studying and working abroad, plus links to help you plan your adventure, visit **steamtunnels.net**.

Related Links

For more volunteer opportunities, surf the following web sites: **volunteermatch.org**, U.S. Community Action Network (**getinvolved.net**), and **helping.org**. You can also go to various nonprofit organizations like the American Red Cross (**redcross.org**), United Way (**unitedway.org**), Habitat for Humanity (**habitat.org**), and Green Peace (**greenpeace.org**).

Top all-time video rentals

1. Star Wars (Fox)
2. On Golden Pond (ITC)
3. 48 Hrs. (Paramount)
4. The Karate Kid (Columbia)
5. Romancing the Stone (Fox)
6. An Officer and a Gentleman (Paramount)
7. Flashdance (Paramount)
8. Back to the Future (MCA)
9. Beverly Hills Cop (Paramount)
10. First Blood (Avid)
11. The Terminator (Live)
12. Lethal Weapon (Warner)
13. Dirty Dancing (Vestron)
14. Raiders of the Lost Ark (Paramount)
15. Police Academy (Warner)
16. Poltergeist (MGM)
17. Terms of Endearment (Paramount)
18. Ghost (Paramount)
19. Braveheart (Paramount)
20. The Usual Suspects (PolyGram)

Source: infoplease.com (infoplease.com/ipea/A0152571.html)

M E E T N I C

The only fully-functional Internet computer without a monthly fee!

starting at

$199.99



Perfect for websurfing and email. Sign up for FREE Internet access, or use your current ISP. Ethernet connection and 56k modem included. Think NIC. It's the natural evolution of the computer revolution.

To find out more, check out www.thinknic.com or call toll-free 1.877.WANTNIC, and be one of the first to own the NIC.

nic™

THE NEW INTERNET COMPUTER COMPANY

1.877.WANTNIC

www.thinknic.com

©2000 The New Internet Computer Company