

OTTAWA



PC NEWS

The Newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG)

Product review

Intel Pentium Overdrive Processor

by Harald Freise, OPCUG
Chairman

There may be some speed left in that old 486 yet. Some of the problems associated with modern computing is that the computer you just bought are:

- it is out of date
- you paid too much for it

There is a plethora of potions and elixirs that promise more memory and more performance but in reality it boils down to 'Speed is money. How fast do you want to go?'

We already know what the Intel DX2 (internal clock doubling with math coprocessor) and DX4 (internal clock tripling, enhanced on-chip cache, and math coprocessor) chips do to boost performance. Intel has given us another chance to improve our systems without buying yet another motherboard and processor and a whack of 72 pin SIMM memory to go with it.

Intel Pentium Overdrive Processor

The Intel Pentium Overdrive Processor (IPOD) is an upgrade to various existing 486 motherboards that feature a 268-pin socket for the processor. If you have only the smaller 168 CPU

socket then, I'm sorry, you'll have to look elsewhere. The existing 486 chip must be surrounded by an empty row of pins or there must be an additional 268 pin CPU socket to be eligible for an upgrade. It will not fit into the empty Weitek socket beside the existing processor.

What the IPOD adds is:

- an interface to the Intel 486 and its motherboard
- Intel's Superscalar Architecture
- dual-instruction pipelines with dynamic branch prediction
- a larger on-chip cache (16Kb that is capable of write back data caching, if your system allows it)
- a faster math coprocessor
- a power converter from 5 volts to 3.3 volts
- a integral heat sink and a fan (with slowdown detection and thermal protection circuit) to keep it all cool

How to upgrade: RTFM

Take out the old processor and pop in the new one. That's it. It took me less than ten minutes to make the change with most of the time dedicated to unhooking the wires at the back and open-

INSIDE

Coming up

Lotus and Borland together3

Club News

Calendar of meetings3

March winners5

UNEXPO Computer Fair and

Sales7

Book Review

Field Guide to the Internet with

Windows 954

Villeneuve—A Racing Legend.....5

Software Library

February and March Disks6

Paradox SIG

Paradox supports SQL and the

Internet2

DTP SIG

Show & tell in May.....8

ing up the case and putting it all back.

The manual is thorough and explains the proper installation techniques for the chips. Remember: RTFM! (read the fine manual), otherwise, you may make a very costly error! (Computers run on smoke: once all the smoke is let out, you can't get it back in. - anon) A chip-removal tool is included if you need one. The associated software is installed prior to installing the chip. There are demonstrations and diagnostics in-

Continued on page 2

cluded for your edification and to ensure that the processor has been installed and is functioning properly after installation. The software also takes a sampling of performance data that compares system performance before and after the installation of the IPOD chip. There is even a resident program that monitors the fan running on the chip.

Performance gains

The IPOD speeds up any application that is CPU intensive, and it runs 32-bit applications very well. Performance gains are greatest when upgrading from slower systems. The performance enhancement is most evident when upgrading from a i486-33SX to a POD5V83 running internally at 83 MHz. There is less noticeable

speed increase when upgrading a 486DX2-66, although 486DX2-66 machines do benefit from the IPOD when running 32-bit applications.

Where this chip really shines is with the new raft of recompiled and optimised 32-bit software, running in Windows 95, Windows NT or OS/2, regardless from which chip you have upgraded.

What does it cost?

True its not a 'real' 64-bit Pentium processor but there are enough benefits to warrant consideration before you upgrade your motherboard and memory. When calling around for sample pricing (\$389 to \$459 for the 83 MHz and there is a 63 MHz version available for around \$199) there was a host of responses most of which advised me to get a new mother-

board (\$275+), a 75 MHz Pentium (\$189), and 72-pin memory (big \$), and/or 30 pin adapter boards (approx. \$50.00). You do the math. There was even one shop in town which flatly said "They don't work. I haven't seen a motherboard that they work in." (Hmmm, maybe not any of theirs.)

The Intel Pentium Overdrive Processor has worked flawlessly in several systems that have tried them. In certain 486 machines with non-standard, proprietary motherboards this may well be the only performance upgrade available at a reasonable cost. This may be all the speed enhancement that you need right now. The next new generations of processors are, ALWAYS, just on the horizon.

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Paradox SIG

Paradox supports SQL and the Internet

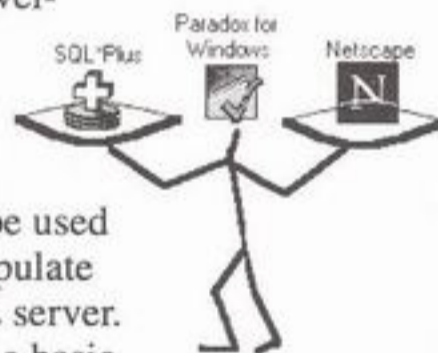
by Larry Chop, OPUG SIG
Coordinator

We have a double header for the April Ottawa Paradox Users Group (OPUG) meeting on Thursday, April 18 at INLY systems, 6:15 p.m. Borland Canada will be visiting and presenting two demonstrations: SQL and the Internet. There will also be door prizes.

The first presentation will demonstrate how SQL can be used in developing a Paradox application, from querying the database to creating forms. Borland will also demonstrate how to set up the link, or an 'alias', between Paradox and Interbase, and thus successfully 'upsized' the application demonstrating how an ap-

plication can be developed in native Paradox and then converted to a corporate SQL server. Paradox will then be used to access and manipulate the data in the SQL server. Time permitting, the basic features of Interbase will be covered.

The second demonstration will show the power of OCX controls. Exploiting the power of OCX, Paradox 7 can serve as the Internet CGI (Common Gateway Interface) for Internet web pages. Paradox can not only act as the WEB Server, but also control the processing of data from HTML forms. This means that one can connect web



users with the organization's data on Windows 95 or Windows NT, and get the full database functionality provided by Paradox through the Web page using Object-PAL in addition to

using Perl and other Unix-based languages on a Unix web server. If the crowd wants to, the Borland representative will dissect the code and build it from scratch to show how simple it is. Looking forward to seeing you there. Larry.

(P.S. You can see this article on the OPUG home page at: <http://magi.com/~chopla/opug.html>)

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Lotus and Borland together

by Julie Dustin

A double-bill feature awaits you at the next OPCUG meeting. Products from both Borland and Lotus will be appearing for our viewing pleasure.

Lotus

Lotus has always been a company that I have held in high esteem for producing products slightly different from, and usually ahead of, the rest of the pack. Maybe the admiration is due to the company producing Lotus 1-2-3, the spreadsheet that popularized the PC. Carla Wright-Edwards, Advisory Systems Engineer for Lotus Corporation, will be showing us more of their well-thought-out products, that make up the SmartSuite package.

The product list includes WordPro, Lotus 1-2-3, Approach, FreeLance, and Organizer. These Windows 95 products come with SmartCentre. This is the name for the row of icons that look like little file drawers at the top of the screen. It's Lotus' way of accessing applications or data files from within another application.

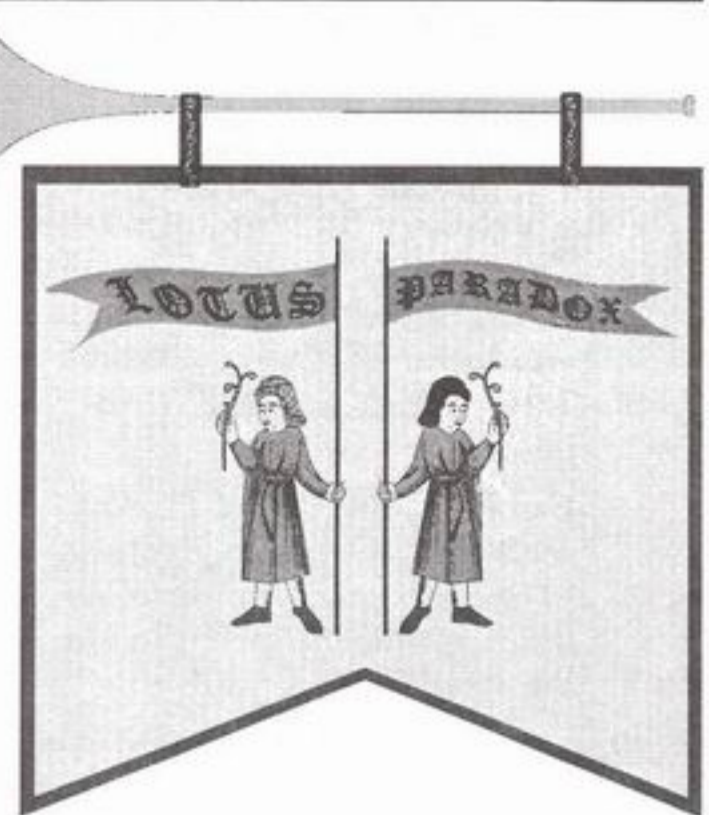
"What I want to show you is the integration of these products working together," Wright-Edwards explains. "For example, you can take information from Approach to Lotus 1-2-3 and then to WordPro easily by dragging the selected information from one application to the other."

Team computing

"Lotus has studied the flow of information in organizations over the years. The company has now identified the concept of team computing. This concept is the key to our products. We know users must first create and edit information. Lotus' products take this information beyond, to the point of sharing, collecting information and consolidating it while involving a number of users. These users analyze, edit and report. The whole process involves constant distribution and sharing of the same files."

Internet publishing

According to Wright-Edwards, both WordPro and FreeLance could be used as publishing tools for the Internet. You can open an existing HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) document then change and save it as HTML. The SmartMaster,



interactive help within each software application, supplies the proper tags and codes for HTML.

Future directions for Lotus' software include improving OCX components. This allows you to see or change one file within another application without fully loading the second software. For example, you could use Lotus 1-2-3 within WordPro to produce a total and an average for a column of figures.

Continued on page 4

Calendar (subject to change)

General Meeting Location: Sir Robert Borden HS
131 Greenbank Road

General Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Date	Topic
Tuesday, 30 April	Lotus and Borland
NO MEETING in May	
Tuesday, 4 June	DVS Communications

Please note the following dates: *last* Tuesday in April, *no meeting* in May, and *first* Tuesday in June.

Borland

The other presenter for the evening is from Borland International, whose Canadian head office is in Markham, Ontario. He will be demonstrating Paradox 7.0 for Windows 95 and Windows NT.

Ben Riga, Manager of Product Marketing at Borland, explains, "The fastest, most powerful database is now the easiest to use. We've added dozens of 'ex-

perts' (help wizards) as well as the ability to export tables and reports. In addition, a user can choose from pre-built database templates for contact management, invoicing or membership lists."

"We released this version in December 1995. It only requires 13 MB of storage for the compact version or 30 MB of storage for the full installation. Its suggested retail price is \$420 or \$140 for a competitive upgrade."

When asked about the Windows 3.11 environment, Riga said that Paradox 5.0 (for Windows 3.11) would be a 16-bit release but would include some of the features from this Win 95 version. A release date for Paradox 5.0 has not been announced.

Come see the double presentation. It wasn't planned but maybe this pairing is a hint of things to come.



Book review

Field Guide to the Internet with Windows 95*

reviewed by Harald Freise,
OPCUG Chairman

One in a series of Field Guides from Microsoft Press described as 'perfect for new users, for experienced users looking for quick answers to their questions', it is written in a 'familiar' style that takes an attempt at being humorous but, often, just doesn't hit the mark. This field guide is broken into four sections.

Environment

The Environment tries to lightly illustrate and explain the Internet terms and concepts. It is very brief and to the point with nice, clear illustrations.

Glossary

It is followed by an alphabetical listing of common terms,

tasks, and procedures. Curiously 'MPEG' is found between the entries 'Megabyte' and 'Microsoft Exchange'. The list seems very self-serving, being focused on primarily Microsoft products and giving only cursory mention to other online providers, products, and services. There is no entry for Netscape whereas Mosaic gets a mention. Some entries raise questions that don't get answered and the quoted additional references do not explain the original. Fortunately the book is fairly well indexed.

Troubleshooting

The troubleshooting section is brief and deals with new user type of problems and solutions. I don't know why they extol the virtues using ZModem in their dial-up program, HyperTerminal, but it is



listed there as a faster way to download files.

Command reference

The last section is a command reference and is very useful if you are using Microsoft Explorer.

This is the point of the Field Guide to the Internet with Windows 95. If you are going to use Microsoft Explorer, and the rich connectivity that is built into Windows 95, then this might just be the handy reference you have been looking for. Otherwise, I'd look elsewhere.



* by Stephen L. Nelson. 195 pages. Published by Microsoft Press \$12.95 cover price

Villeneuve—A Racing Legend*

reviewed by Harald Freise,
OPCUG Chairman

It isn't often that I get enthused over a new CD-ROM. First, you have to understand that I'm a 'motor-head' from early childhood. I just plain like cars and anything that deals with them.

When I loaded the CD-ROM that is included with the handsome 10" x 16" coffee-table book detailing the life, and times, of Gilles Villeneuve I found it to be much more than what I had expected. There is a lush chronicle of the Formula One world during the time that Gilles was preparing to enter the F1 arena as well as the story of Gilles Villeneuve's preparatory years. The two separate stories merge in 1977 when Villeneuve's first Formula One ride takes place.

While winning only 6 of his 67 (66 with Ferrari) races, this Canadian racing driver brought his unique and exciting style to Formula One racing. Allan de la Plante started taking a series of pictures in the 1970s. It is these pictures that bring the book and CD-ROM to life. Allan is regarded to be one of the finest professional F1 photographers in the business. Many of his pictures have been published here for the first time and some are truly spectacular. The vintage racing footage (AVI files) show Villeneuve winning his very first

Grand Prix at Montreal in 1978 and his outrageous, legendary, battle for second place with Rene Arnoux at the 79 French Grand Prix. It also shows that fateful day in May of 1982, where he lost his life in a qualifying session for the Belgian Grand Prix.

The CD-ROM also includes World Driver Championship standings for the year, individual track circuit diagrams, and all the starting grids for all Formula One races between 1970 and 1982. The information included in the starting grid information is the date, starting position, driver, manufacturer, qualifying time, and race results. Race results include fastest lap, finishing position with laps completed, and total race time. While not the friendliest data source to use, it does convey a comprehensive chunk of information in a useable format.

Allan told me that he was collaborating with Gilles in 1982 on a book. After Gilles' death, 'Villeneuve' the 1982 version of this book, was not the tribute Allan had intended to write of his friend. With the benefit of time and technology and total artistic control, Allan's account of a period in history with one brilliant Canadian's unrelenting march to the pinnacle of motor racing has come to life for the select few to view. All the principal players and events are de-

*by Allan de la Plante, published by Turn Five, 1995, hard cover, 222 pages with CD-ROM.

Turn Five, 20 Lynn Street, Aylmer, Quebec, J9H 5K6. Phone: (819)682-6142. Fax: (819)682-5792. Email: Shooter@worldlink.ca.

BOOK REVIEW

tailed, in text, and illustrated with lavish pictures. The men, the machines' and the F1 politics are chronicled. This publication and CD-ROM are really first rate and would make an excellent addition to anyone's library.

After his death, it was driver Jodie Scheckter who said "Gilles was the fastest driver the world has ever seen." Truly, Gilles Villeneuve—A Racing Legend.

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Club News

March winners

by Mark Cayer, Membership
Chairman

Thanks to Microsoft for their generosity in donating the following door prizes at the March general meeting.

- Keith Campbell won a copy of Microsoft Bookshelf.
- Irving Huss chose a copy of Microsoft Fury 3.
- Don Maidment received a copy of the Microsoft 500 Nations software.
- Christopher Studholme got a copy of the Microsoft Wine Guide.
- And lastly, Stan Cherkas took home a copy of Microsoft BOB.

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by Jorgen Rasmussen, Software Librarian

Disk Of the Month

119 - FEBRUARY 1996

CyberCom V1.1.0.0P

CyberCom is a direct replacement for the standard Windows Communications Driver (COMM.DRV) — transfer at up to 115,200 kB with a 16550 serial port chip — great for V.FAST and voice modems that require 57,600 kB — more reliable Transfer with less overhead on your system - better background operation — fewer (if any) over/under runs — requires Windows 3.1, Enhanced Mode, and a 16550 UART

Dinosaver

This is a module from the Dinosaver screen saver. It is run using the Windows desktop screensaver accessed from the control panel. A dinosaur runs across your screen and repeatedly leaps up, claws the screen, and slides down, leaving a 'rip' that eventually clears the screen.

HTML Notepad v1.19

(Cranial Software) HTML Notepad is a Windows program which subsumes the simple Notepad editor with the ability to produce HTML coding for World Wide Web pages. Simple and fast it comes with full explanation on how to create professional pages.

Parallel Port Information Utility

This is a simple utility that displays the configuration of the parallel ports (LPT ports) in your system. Parallel is useful for configuring parallel port software such as Windows printer connections, parallel port device drivers, and print spoolers.

Phantom of the Catacombs

(Shining Star Software) Make your way past the skeletons to capture the

key from the phantom in the cemetery. Enter the mausoleum and see if you can survive the plunge through the deep abyss. Find the treasure or rescue the victim if you can survive the creatures that await you in the catacombs.

Query

This little DOS program checks your system and tells you which part your system is using each port.

S.O.S. Personal Edition v1.1

(Tay-Jee Software) Customizable graphic screen saver for Windows. Displays four user-definable bitmaps (.BMPs) in slide-show fashion. Expandable and upgradeable, it contains information on incorporating other formats such as .GIF, .PCX, .TIF, .JPG, etc.

Tech Net

This application features lots of fun echos! Use the enclosed application to join.

UU 4.1 utility

UU 4.1 is a uudecoder, which means it decodes files that have been encoded using the uuencoding standard. UU 4.1 is specifically designed for MS-DOS systems (either real or emulated). UU 4.1 is claimed to be the smartest available for DOS.

VPIC Viewer

VPIC is a very easy to use but powerful file viewer and converter. It shows pictures in EGA, MCGA, VGA, or SuperVGA video modes on most of the popular display adapter cards, and uses a plain text configuration file to tell VPIC which VGA chip your display card uses and what video modes it can do.

Disk Of the Month

120 - MARCH 1996

35SEC v1.30

Floppy cache accelerator reads/writes a 1.44 MB diskette in 35 seconds, in the background.

Cigtime.exe

Want to QUIT? Tried before and FAILED? Try THIS! WARNING- This program may be FATAL to your habit. Requirements: 1/PC /1 SMOKER /1 DESIRE TO QUIT.

OSSave CMOSRest CMOSChk 2.5

This DOS utility restores damaged CMOS from backup and checks that CMOS has not been tampered with. MASM/OPTASM source available with registration. By Roedy Green of Canadian Mind Products.

Confound v.1.32

A strategic Windows shareware game. In order to win, you move one of your pegs into the computer's home square before it gets to yours. To stop the computer from reaching your square, you set up walls to block it.

Fab Four 2.2

A Beatles trivia game. Includes questions about the music, the people, and the history of the most popular musicians in the world. Version 2.2 allows varying number of questions for each game and play with or without the point spinner.

F/Cut

A very flexible file-splitting program. Cut any part of file with any size you want. Both 32-bit OS/2 and DOS executables.

Mr. Ed

A fully functional shareware text editor for OS/2 PM: syntax-highlighting, compiler support, multiwindowed, toolbar, window monitor, multithreaded, EA support, C/C++ support, printing, sorting, multilevel undo/redo, configurable keyboard...

NitroChat! V1.0

Split-screen chat PPE with word wrap and a VIP list. Different? Well, if the guy you're chatting with starts to get on your nerves, you can toss bombs on him and blow up his text! It's a blast!

PARSE-O-MATIC 3.40A

Programmable file modifier. Use it for importing, exporting, auto-editing, text extraction, data conversion, table lookup, retabbing, info weeding, selective copying, binary-file to text, report reformatting, text folding, batch creation, tab removal, filtering, recasing, column switching, properizing.

The Seed Program v1.1

Track garden seed origin and age, generate planting schedules, and merge with accompanying data on vegetable and herb planting, care, pest management, harvest and storage.

Strategies to Reduce College Costs v2.2

Contains concise \$ saving financial aid facts. Estimate and increase aid, play 'what if?' to test aid-increasing scenarios, answer aid form questions. A think ahead self-help electronic book for parents and students.

Tiny Tap

A game that allows very young children to 'tap' safely at the keyboard. Each key produces a different sound, picture, or game.

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Club news

UNEXPO Computer Fair & Sale

We announced in the March issue the forthcoming Ontario Computer Fairs, and we provided a coupon for \$1.00 off the admission price. We regret to announce that Jim Creighton, who operated the Ontario Computer Fairs, has died, and his family are not continuing the show.

UNEXPO has undertaken to continue the fair, and have offered to the Ottawa PC Users' Group to continue the arrangement that we had with the Ontario Computer Fairs: a \$1.00-off coupon, and the payment of our printing and mailing costs.

The \$1.00 off the regular admission coupon for the UNEXPO COMPUTER FAIR & SALE is printed here. For show information, call UNEXPO at (514)630-8929. The Ottawa Computer Users' Group encourages its members to attend the show.

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**UNEXPO
COMPUTER
FAIR & SALE**

\$1 OFF

REGULAR \$6 ADMISSION
(NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER COUPON)

Sat., April 27 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sun., April 28 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission: \$6.00
kids 12 and under FREE

NEPEAN SPORTSPLEX

1701 Woodroffe Ave. (West from Hwy. 16)

This coupon may
be photocopied

SHOW INFORMATION: 1-514-630-8929

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SHOW INFORMATION: 1-514-630-8929

Ottawa PC News

Ottawa PC News is the newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG), and is published monthly except in July. The opinions expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily represent the views of the club or its members. Deadline for submissions is four Sundays before the general meeting.

Group Meetings

OPCUG normally meets on the second Tuesday in the month, except in July at Sir Robert Borden HS, 131 Greenbank Road, Nepean.

Meeting times are 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Fees

Membership: \$25 per year.

Disk-of-the-Month: \$25 for either 5.25-in or 3.5-inch diskettes (10 diskettes).

Mailing Address

3 Thatcher St., Nepean, Ontario, K2G 1S6
Telephone answering machine 723-1329

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Up to 28.8 kbps v.34 228-0665 (6 lines)

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Fox SIG coordinator

Andrew Ross MacNeill (voice/fax) 596-3313

Internet SIG coordinator

David Curling 731-5381

curlingd@loday.com

OS/2 SIG Coordinator

Jocelyn Doire (Mr.) Please contact via PUB

Paradox SIG coordinator

Larry Chop 236-8761 (days)

Windows SIG coordinator

Philip Baker 247-9555



DTP SIG Roundup

Show & tell in May

by Bert Schopf, DTP SIG Coordinator

Our March Desktop Publishing Special Interest Group meeting was a great success! Thanks to Greg Kastelein, General Manager of Micrografx Canada, who demonstrated the ABC Graphics Suite for us. All those who attended and want to take advantage of the \$100 software deal can now call the 1-800 number Greg gave out.

The DTP SIG has been invited to join the Internet SIG for its meeting on April 11 at the RMOC headquarters. Documentation professional Mark Baker will talk about 'the Death of the Document'. This promises to be a very interesting meeting!

On May 7, the DTP SIG will meet at our usual place, Digital Paradise. We encourage all SIG members to participate in our 'Show & Tell' night. Bring in a DTP project

you worked on and share your experiences (good and painful) with the rest of the group (it's a lot cheaper than psychotherapy). Plan on talking for 5-15 minutes on your 'baby' and what you did to make it look the way it does. Please call SIG coordinator Bert Schopf at 838-3492 to confirm your participation, as we will make a demonstration computer available with the software you need to reproduce the job. The Show & Tell is open to anyone who has done anything related to DTP: web page design, newsletters, business cards, etc. The sky's the limit, so c'mon out and show us your stuff!

Because the security doors are locked after hours at 14 Colonade Road (Digital Paradise), please arrive between 7:15 and 7:30 p.m. to enter the building.

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