THE JOURNAL OF THE HOUSTON AREA APPLE USERS GROUP

FEBRUARY 2002

Apple Barrel

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HAAUG
HOUSTON AREA APPLE USERS GROUP

Apple • Macintosh • iMac
PowerBook • iBook & more

THE COOLEST STUFF AT MACWORD JANUARY 2002

Shiny knobs, customized 'skinz' and OS X backup

BY TIDBITS STAFF
EDITORS@TIDBITS.COM

Although the pre-show hype always centers on Steve Jobs's keynote and Apple's announcements, Macworld Expo offers much more. We spent the rest of the week walking the show floor, talking to vendors and attendees, and generally keeping an eye out for what's exciting in the Mac world. Here's what we found this year.

Everyone at Macworld Expo goes around asking others what they think is cool, and the award for the coolest product of the show has to go to the PowerMate, from Griffin Technologies. Also known as "that shiny knob," the $45 PowerMate is a round brushed aluminum USB device that you can turn (the knob part) and also press down (the button bit, just like a mouse).

What might you do with such a device? Just about anything you can imagine doing with a knob and a button, since you can configure them independently for different applications. In iTunes, for instance, you might turn the knob to adjust the volume and click the button to mute the sound when the phone rings. In iMovie, you could have the knob scrub the playhead left and right and have the button act like a normal mouse click.

The PowerMate is just cool, and the coolness factor is enhanced by LEDs that make the base of the PowerMate glow blue. The software even has a checkbox to pulse the LEDs; when someone asked Griffin's Jason Litchford why it did that, he just grinned and said, "Because we could." (Also falling into the "Because we could" category was Griffin's bit of hacked hardware that plugged into an iPod's headphone jack and turned the iPod into an infrared remote control.) http://www.griffintechnology.com/audio/pwrmate.html

GOT ANY SPARE CHARGE?

A constant undercurrent of every Macworld is power: who has it, who needs it, and where you can get it. I'm not talking about Steve Jobs's here, but the battery life of portable electronics. With the Palm charger forgotten at home and the phone's bulky brick back in my hotel room, I ended up purchasing a $25 combination from ND Dimension, Inc. that included a USB charging cable and interchangeable adapters to feed power to my two devices from my PowerBook's battery. In addition to being a handy thing to carry around, a USB charging cable dramatically cuts down on the bulk of transporting power bricks.

http://www.nd-dimension.com/

AIRPORTS WITHOUT SECURITY

Kudos to the Macworld Expo conference organizers for making it easy to open an iBook or PowerBook in numerous locations and hop on a public wireless network with high speed Internet access. AirPort Base Stations have been present at Macworld Expos before, but never with the near ubiquity of this year. With the light weight of Apple's current portables, carrying a laptop all day at the show isn't the shoulder-breaking task it once was.

None of the wireless networks Jeff and I found from the hotel room allowed access (though one network was gleefully named "Bring beer to room 1162 for password"). Instead, being able to connect to Jeff's MobileStar account using the wireless Internet access at a nearby Starbucks came close to making up for the loss of Metricom's wireless Ricochet network, which we've used at previous shows but which hasn't yet been restarted by Aerie Networks. http://www.mobilestar.com/

NO NEED FOR A PEELER

Perhaps you really liked Apple's bright splashes of color from a few years back and bemoan the current graphite, snow, and silver cases. Well, if you're a Power Mac G3 (Blue & White) or G4 owner, you don't have to look any further than AppleSkinz,

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If you are interested in joining HAAUG, please call the HAAUG Hotline at (713) 522-2179 or sign up via our web site http://www.haaug.org. Annual membership is $45 for new members, $40 for renewing members, $20 for student members and $20 for associate members (out-of-state members who receive the Apple Barrel through e-mail only). The Hotline is also the Mentor line if you need help.

Guests are welcome to attend one or two meetings to get acquainted with HAAUG, but participation in certain presentations and activities may be limited.

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Vendor Coordinator: REX COVINGTON
Volunteer Coordinator: JOE KUDRNA

APPLE BARREL PUBLISHING
The Apple Barrel is produced by a committee including Elizabeth English, Manley Mandel, Janet Marks and Gem Smith, led by George Sroka, on various Macs running PageMaker, among other things. April Enos designed the masthead logo.

MAC AND APPLE SIGS WANTED
Volunteers who have ideas for SIGs, please contact Phil Booth at pcbooth@swbell.net .

ARTICLES NEEDED - ALL FLAVORS
Send to Apple Barrel Drop on HAAUG Heaven or e-mail to apple_barrel_drop@haaug.org.

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING • DEC. 4, 2001

Members in attendance: Rex Covington, Mort Butler, Lyda McGhee, Joe Fournet, Rick Roberts, Randy Herzstein, George Sroka, Elizabeth English, LaMark Johnson, David Jaschke, Clair Jaschke, Joe Kudrna, Patty Winkler, David Trevas, Barbara Long, Jonathan Magnus.

Non-member in attendance: James Warren.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Rex Covington at 7:00 p.m.

REPORTS

Secretary – Lyda McGhee: The minutes were approved as written.

First Vice President: Programs – Rex Covington: Rex will meet Bob LeVitus at the airport at 7:15 a.m. on December 8th and bring him to the general meeting as well as seeing that he gets back to the airport to board his plane. The swap meet will be held January 19th. FileMaker will be here in February. Thursby Software, maker of DAVE, will be here in March and Corel will be here in April.

Second Vice President: Facilities – Jonathan Magnus: We still need to find a place for the January swap meet. Jonathan will contact the UH Hilton.

Treasurer – Elizabeth English: There is a net income of $382.19.

Membership – Mike Lawshae: There are presently 384 members.

Apple Barrel – George Sroka: There will be no December edition of the *Apple Barrel* due to time constraints, but there will be postcard announcing the general meeting on December 8th with Bob LeVitus. HAAUG has purchased a quarter page ad in the *Rice Thresher* this Friday, December 7th announcing the general meeting with Bob LeVitus. Also, there will be a flyer distribution and an email to all members regarding Bob LeVitus, the necessity of wearing membership cards, and the general election of officers.

Apple Barrel Ad Manager – Vacancy: no report was given.

SIG Coordinator – Phil Booth: was not present and no report was given.

Apple Librarian – Mort Butler: The Update CD #3 was available at the November general meeting. Fifty were made and twenty are left. We will make 50 more in the first quarter of 2002. Also, there are two CDs for OS X and we will need 25 of each.

Mentor Program – Jim Oliver: was not present and no report was given.

Volunteer Coordinator – Joe Kudrna was appointed as Volunteer Coordinator.

Publicity Chairman – Joe Fournet and Mike Lawshae: Press releases have already been sent out for Bob LeVitus and the January swap meet. A quarter page ad has been bought for $192 in the December 7th edition of the *Rice Thresher*. We still need volunteers.

Boutique Manager – Amy Denton: We need more shirts but will not have them for the December meeting. A boutique committee was tabled since there were no volunteers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HAAUG Heaven – Randy reports that HH backups are being made on a regular basis with auto expires and auto deletes for lapsed members.

Airport IDs are needed for board members and SIG leaders. Sarah Gonzalez will input these Ids into the Rice system so that we have access to the Rice Airport network. The club's Airport will be used for regular members with no password necessary.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Committee – The allocation for Publicity has been increased from $360 to $1,200. We will print 100 copies of the proposed budget for the December meeting and it will be voted upon by the general membership.

A general election of officers will be held at the December business meeting. The list of nominees is as follows:
President: David Jaschke
VP Programs: Rex Covington
VP Facilities: Lamark Johnson
Treasurer: Barbara Long
Secretary: Lyda McGhee
Directors:
Randy Herzstein
Elizabeth English
Joe Fournet
Patty Winkler
David Trevas
Mike Epstein

NEW BUSINESS

Joe Kudrna was appointed Volunteer Coordinator. Congratulations, Joe!

Volunteers to stand at the doors for the main presentation and helpers for Mike Lawshae are needed.

HAAUG Heaven – We need to consolidate three post offices into one. The board approved a $500 expenditure for Centricity to help us do this. A motion was made and passed to spend up to $2,500 for a G4 server for HAAUG Heaven.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

FILEMAKER PRO DEMO ON FEB 16 AT 11:15 AM

Boss HAAUG Speaks: *From the Desk of the President*

BY DAVID JASCHKE

I am sitting here contemplating my first Board meeting as the President of HAAUG and thinking about all the challenges coming up this year. We had a great Swap Meet in January with lots of renewals and many new members. Unfortunately, there will be a large number of members who did not renew in January and whose memberships will expire in February. The questions that I have are what did we do right last year that interested them enough to join/renew—and what did we *not* do this year to keep that interest.

I would like to know what you think the Board can do to make HAAUG better for you. What do you like the most about HAAUG and what do you like the least? What can we do to keep you interested in this organization? I would like to know if you use HAAUG Heaven, did you know that HAAUG Heaven could be reached via the Internet with your FirstClass client? Do you attend the meetings or do you just come to the Swap Meets? Do you attend SIGs or do you just come for the main presentation? Do you read and use the *Apple Barrel*?

If you have any ideas or suggestions, I sure want to hear them. Just drop me e-mail on HAAUG Heaven or at djaschke@haaugnet.org. Talk to me at any meeting. I hope that we all can work to help keep members at HAAUG and to increase our membership. I would like to work with you and our Board to make this happen.

Randy Herzstein has been hard at work making HAAUG Heaven a better place. While there will be some outages, the final result will be a better, easier-to-manage HAAUG Heaven. Morton Butler has produced two CDs loaded with the latest OS X system updates, updates for a large number of other applications, and some other interesting things for OS X users. Thanks to both of these and all the other HAAUG volunteers who give their time and efforts for the betterment of all HAAUG members.

On the Apple front, there is a new iMac with a "floating" flat monitor (http://www.apple.com/imac). The best news is that the high-end iMac is a G4 with the new "Super Drive" that can write DVDs. For less than most DVD writers and software, you can get a full computer with monitor and lots of software! There is a new 14-inch iBook (http://www.apple.com/ibook/). iPhoto (http://www.apple.com/iphoto/) rounds out Apple's complete digital solution, which includes iMovie, iDVD and iTunes. Apple's newest dual-CPU system features two 1GHz PowerPC G4 processors (http://www.apple.com/powermac/). Apple's earnings are up again for the last quarter (http://www.apple.com/pr/library/2002/jan/16results.html).

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HAAUG Specialists

Here's the latest version of the HAAUG Specialists List. The list is sorted by software/hardware category with the person or persons who specialize listed below the category followed by their e-mail address. If you'd prefer a phone call, e-mail them a few details on your problem and your phone number. Many thanks to HAAUG Heaven SYSOPS Randy Herzstein for gathering and organizing the information in a FileMaker database. — The Editor

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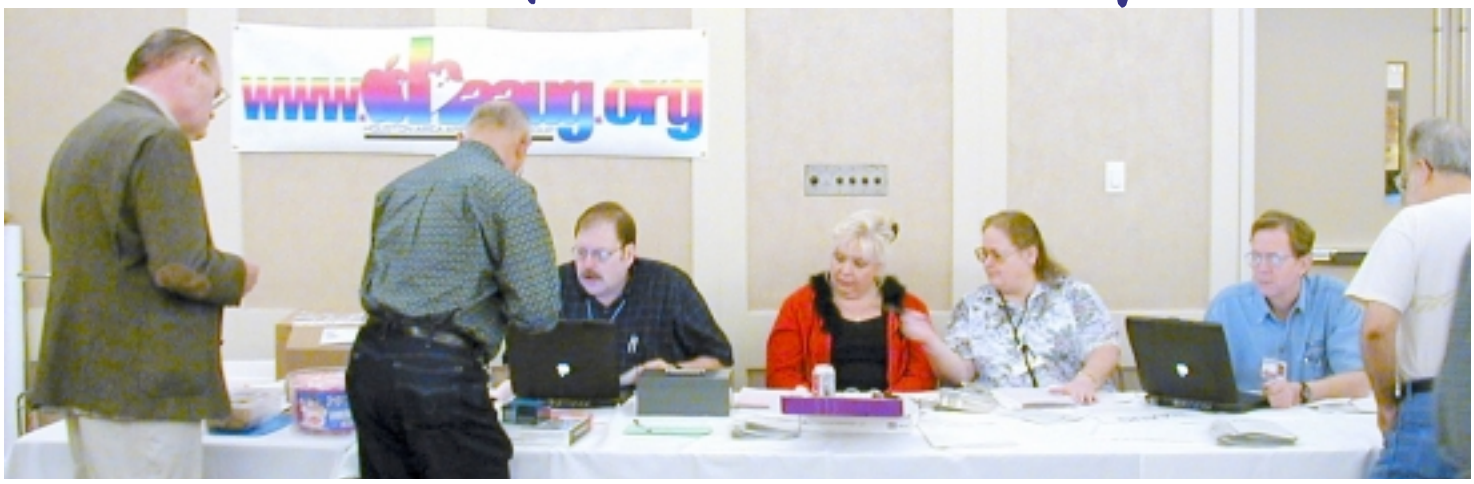
HAAUG Swap Meet January 2002



Mac enthusiasts bought and sold hardware and software at the biannual HAAUG Swap Meet on Jan. 19 at the Hilton Hotel on the campus of the University of Houston.
— photos by David Scheuer

COOLEST STUFF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which are airbrushed (for now, silk screening coming in the future) plastic panels that fit over the sides of your Power Mac to give it back some color (there's also a clear skin you can paint yourself). Numerous designs are available for $70; prices also vary based on design. The AppleSkinz require no modification of your Power Mac or tape that will mark the original sides. The latch is covered, but it's easy to pull the AppleSkinz cover off to access it when necessary.

http://www.appleskinz.com/

IT'S BACKUP TIME!

This award goes jointly to Apple Computer and Dantz Development for finally making it possible to back up and restore a Mac running Mac OS X. Until Mac OS X 10.1.2 came out, a variety of bugs and limitations in Mac OS X prevented Dantz from releasing a version of Retrospect that could completely restore a Mac OS X-based Mac to a bootable state (the same was reportedly true of the other Mac OS X backup programs, but 10.1.2 made it possible for them to restore completely as well).

Retrospect 5.0 Preview is required — previous versions of Retrospect will never work properly with Mac OS X — but you can download it for free (the final version will be a paid upgrade due by March). Although the Retrospect 5.0 Preview runs only on Mac OS X 10.1.2, the final version will also run under Mac OS 9, so you won't have to upgrade backup servers to Mac OS X.

http://www.dantz.com/

QUICK, EASY BACKUP

The main backup news of the show may have been Dantz's Retrospect 5.0 Preview, but the backup product that demoed best was the Automatic Backup System (ABS) from CMS Peripherals. ABS is a small piece of software that watches your Mac's FireWire bus for the connection of the ABS hardware - essentially a standard 3.5-inch FireWire hard disk. Once the drive is connected, the ABS software kicks in and copies files from the internal hard disk to the ABS drive. You specify which files should be copied, and ABS is smart about copying only changed files, so it runs quickly. Restoration (which is the point of backup, remember) must be done manually in the Finder, although if you're backing up from Mac OS 9, you can also boot from the ABS drive. Restoration in Mac OS X is trickier; user-created files restore fine, but you can't restore an entire Mac OS X disk to a bootable state.

Our take is that the ABS (and the ABSplus, which uses a 2.5-inch laptop hard disk and thus doesn't need external power) would be great for making quick copies of important files on a number of Macs, but they're not really suitable for a complete backup strategy. Prices vary depending on the size of the hard disk you buy, and unfortunately, you can't use the ABS software separately from the ABS drive even though there's no technical reason such a requirement should exist.
http://www.cmsproducts.com/

BIGGEST THREAT TO EXCEL

Mesa, from P & L Systems, is a $50 spreadsheet for Mac OS X, written in Cocoa. It's not a feature- complete clone of Excel, but it does imitate a good-sized chunk of Excel's core, and can import and export Excel documents; it even adds some formula functions that improve upon Excel. Now that Cocoa lets anyone write an application, perhaps we'll see a bit more competition for the ensconced industry behemoths.
http://www.plsys.com/products/mesa/

IS THAT A MOUSE IN YOUR POCKET?

Although the trackpad on an iBook or PowerBook is perfectly adequate for manipulating your Mac, sometimes it's easier to use a mouse when you're on the go. For a while I toted Apple's thankfully banished puck-style mouse because it didn't take up much space in my bag. Now, however, I'm looking forward to carrying Kensington's Pocket Mouse Pro. It not only boasts a smaller overall size than most mice, it has two buttons, a scroll wheel, and optical tracking. I'd be happy with that combination, but a retractable USB cable (which fits inside the mouse body for storage) makes the Pocket Mouse Pro an essential addition to my PowerBook's carrying bag. [JLC]

http://www.kensington.com/products/pro_mic_d1453.html

BEST NEW UTILITY

WorkStrip, from Softchaos, is a $40 Control Strip replacement. It's a hierarchical menu that lets you navigate your hard drive, and a launcher which, for any application, lets you access recently opened documents. You can also construct "workspaces," sets of applications and documents to be launched together. WorkStrip is reminiscent of Now Menus and Action Menus, and there's not much here that couldn't be done with OneClick, but WorkStrip will soon do something none of those can do - run on Mac OS X (a preview release is already available). I can't wait.

http://www.softchaos.com/

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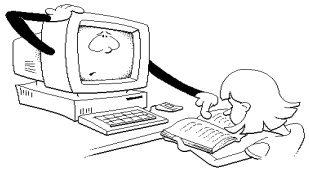

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February SIG Preview:

iPhoto demo at 9 AM, Final Cut Pro in the PM and much more

Get to the meeting early to see a demonstration of iPhoto, Apple's digital photo management software for OS X. The session starts at 9:00 AM in McMurtry Auditorium. iPhoto is the fantastic software that helps you get the most out of the digital camera that you got for Christmas.

In the afternoon, SIG Coordinator Phil Booth will demonstrate Final Cut Pro in the spot normally assigned to the Digital Whatever SIG. Due to commitments at work, Patty Winkler will not be available to co-chair the Digital Whatever SIG for the next few months.

The February meeting also features the OS X SIG, Mac 101, Macintosh Fundamentals, AppleWorks, Spreadsheets, and Cocoa programing. In the Cocoa SIG, David Trevas will discuss Open GL using a article by him recently published by MacTech.

There will also be an area for Mac One on One for help with tough questions. The Main Presentation at 11:15 features a demonstration of FileMaker Pro followed up by the FileMaker SIG.

Pick up the complete SIG schedule at the meeting for the latest information on topics to be covered in all the SIGs. If you have an idea for a SIG, talk to Philip Booth at the meeting or email him at pcbooth@swbell.net.

Opening on HAAUG's Board of Directors

An opening is available on the Board of Directors for a HAAUG member who is willing to serve. Anyone interested in the position should e-mail President David Jaschke at djaschke@haaugnet.org.

Opps! Wrong date on Nov. general meeting

The complete 2002 HAAUG Meeting Schedule published in the previous edition of the Barrel incorrectly lists Nov. 23 for the general meeting. The correct date is the third Saturday, Nov. 16.

If you saved the meeting calendar for reference, correct November's date on your copy or risk missing the meeting that month. Thanks to HAAUG's new treasurer Barbara Long for noticing the error.

Sign up a new member, get an extra month FREE

Current HAAUG members will receive a one-month extension to their membership for every new member that joins between now and the July Swap Meet *and* mentions the current member when signing up.

~ CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS EDITION ~

2002 HAAUG OFFICERS AND BOARD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS; PUBLICITY/ VISION CHAIRMAN JOE FOURNET

1. *HAAUG member since?*
   1993, I think.
2. *Previous office(s)/position(s) held in HAAUG, including SIG leader?*
   Publicity Chair for several years it seems and have now combined that with Vision Cmte. Chair.
3. *Number of years in current and to-be-continued position?*
   3 or 4, I think
4. *First Mac you ever used was?*
   Performa 6100-CD
5. *Current Macintosh you use?*
   G3 PowerBook 400 and G4 Dual 450 Tower
6. *Do you work in a Mac-friendly office or school?*
   Working on one's own tends to help, yes!
7. *Power user of what software program, if any?*
   I use several, but not sure of the "power use" status. I use Outlook Express, Explorer, PageMaker, QuarkExpress, Word, Personal Organizer, Adobe Acrobat and others.

VICE PRESIDENT PROGRAMS REX COVINGTON

1. *HAAUG member since?*
   8 or 10 years?
2. *Previous office(s)/position(s) held in HAAUG, including SIG leader?*
   VP Programming 1 month
   President 2 years
   VP Facilities 1 Year
3. *Number of years in current and to-be-continued position?*
   VP Programming till ?
4. *First Mac you ever used was?*
   First used a Mac Plus
   First owned Mac SE $3000.00
5. *Current Macintosh you use?*
   Power Book G4
   iMac Ruby
6. *Do you work in a Mac-friendly office or school?*
   Yes, My business
7. *Power user of what software program, if any?*
   Mac OS X, FileMaker, Office 2002, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Golive, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Indesign, Timbuktu Pro, VectorWorks 9.5.0, & AutoCAD

Upcoming Meetings

Come see FileMaker Pro at the February Meeting

FileMaker, Inc. will present the latest information about their award winning relational database software and will demonstrate how to take advantage of this powerful tool on Saturday, Feb. 16, during the Main Presentation at 11:15 AM.

"Dave" demo in March

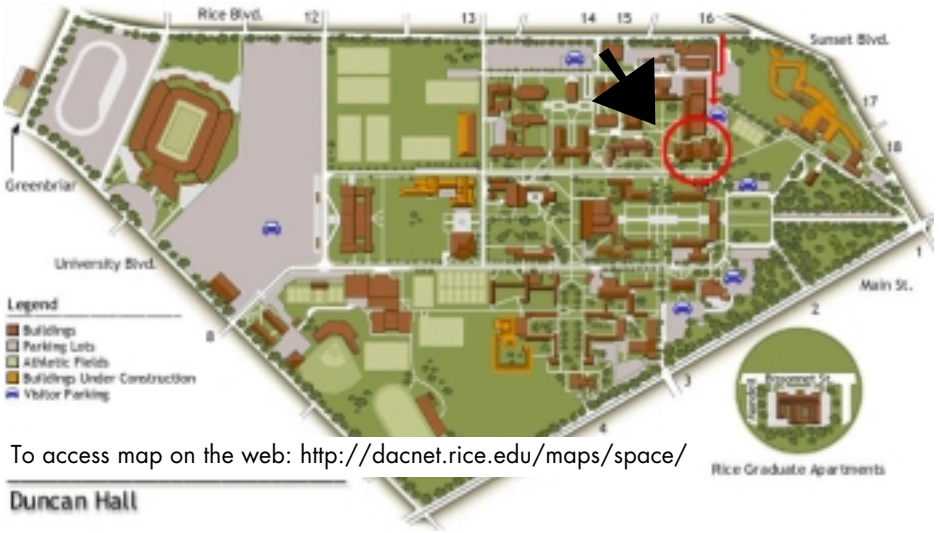
Thursby Software will demonstrate "Dave" during the Main Presentation on March 16. "Dave" is a cross-platform networking solution that uses standard TCP/IP protocol to integrate a Mac/PC network. "Dave" is installed on a Mac and requires no other hardware or software on a PC, to allow sharing between the two platforms.

HAAUG meets at Rice University

HAAUG's meets on the Rice University Campus in Duncan Hall. The meeting space is being donated by Rice, and we're extremely grateful for their generosity. **DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING**:

From US 59/the Southwest Freeway: Exit Greenbriar. Turn South toward the Rice University Campus. Turn East (left) on Rice Blvd. at the light. Look for entrance 16 on the right past Rice Stadium.

From Loop 610/the South Loop: Exit Main Street. Turn North toward the Medical Center. Turn West (left) on Sunset Blvd. Sunset Blvd. and Rice Blvd. split in about 1/2 to 1 block. Bear left on Rice Blvd. Entrance 16 is the first parking lot entrance on the left.



To access map on the web: http://dacnet.rice.edu/maps/space/

Duncan Hall

MAIN PRESENTATIONS

FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
FileMaker Pro Relational Database	*Thursby Software Maker of "Dave"*	*Corel*

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

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