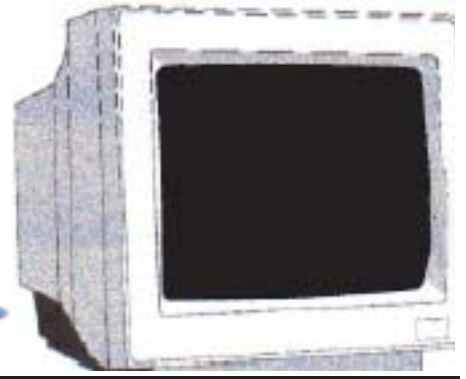


CVAUG Monitor



Cumberland Valley Apple User Group Newsletter WWW.CVAUG.ORG

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HAPPY NEW YEAR



A Word From The President

Welcome to what I can only hope is another great year of the CVAUG's existence. Let's cut to the chase and get onto the articles.



The Macworld Conference & Expo (once again) Draws Near

Once again all eyes in the Apple community are on the Moscone Center in San Francisco, California for the Macworld Expo. (Jan 5th-9th 2004)

This year, like the years before, should be a great place to see the newest hardware and software efforts of the Macintosh community. Steve Jobs is slated to present the Opening Keynote address (Tuesday Jan 6th at 12 noon local time) where he almost always announces

new hardware and software. At press time there was no link to the keynote QuickTime stream, but you should be able to find it closer to the time of the keynote at this address.

As always Apple is not saying anything about what they are planning on releasing, but check the Apple Web site at around 1:45pm local time on Tuesday the 6th to see what was announced. It usually takes over the front page of the

Upgrading to Panther

Bringing up the idea of upgrading to a new version of an Operating System makes most people turn and run the other way. I'd like to talk to you about Panther, Apple's newest version of OS X. Are you still reading this? Okay. We'll continue.

If you are running a Macintosh G4 or higher, there is really no reason, that I know of, for you to still be using an earlier version of OS X or even OS 9. Well, okay.. if you constantly use some software that was written for OS 9, and you know that it does not work in Classic Mode then you have a valid reason for staying with OS 9. However, if you are already using OS X version 10.0-10.2.8 then you owe it to yourself to upgrade to Panther.

Before the CVAUG Annual Winter Pizza Party, member Monte Gearhart got his copy of Panther and he installed it that very night. He reported back that the install went great and it even got some of his audio hardware and software talking to each other again.

It is a very simple install process and the price of the upgrade is well worth the added features such as Exposé, a faster version of the Preview program for opening and viewing PDF files and Fast User Switching, a great feature for households where several people use the same computer.

For those of you with a home network with computers from other manufacturers (a-hem) Panther is much better with networking across platforms.

Halo Finally Released for the Mac

If there is a Macintosh game player in your household then they probably already know about this.

Years ago talk began to circulate about this incredible First Person Shooter game being developed by long time Mac Game maker Bungie Software. It was said that it had the most beautiful graphics and the most realistic physics and the most incredible story line of any computer game, at any time, on any platform. This game was to be called, Halo.

Then Microsoft started developing their game console, the XBox. Microsoft decided they needed a hit game with which to launch their console.

They liked what they saw in Halo so Microsoft bought Bungie and had the Halo developers re-write the game for their XBox.

This tactic worked like a charm. Scores of gamers bought the XBox simply to get their hands on Halo when it was released. Even many hardcore Mac users decided to bite the bullet and buy an XBox. But for the most part the Macintosh gaming community gave in to the idea that they would never get to see the much anticipated game run-

ning on their Mac.

Later, Microsoft announced that Halo would be developed for the Personal Computer markets. Mac Gamers suddenly saw a light at the end of the tunnel. From then on it was a waiting game. Halo for Windows was released in October or November. Mac users were told to sit tight for their turn in early December. The date of December 11th was later announced and pre orders flooded into Macintosh Software vendors.

My copy arrived December 19th and it was well worth the wait.

The campaign part of the game is very involving. The scenery on the



alien world is absolutely beautiful. When you are not getting shot at it is very difficult to not stop and just look around at the

landscape around you.

When you get done with the scripted game you can switch over to Multiplayer mode and take on other owners of the game either on your home network or out on the Internet. Multiplayer mode is cross platform, so you can get Windows and Mac users fighting with and against each other.

All in all, if you have some time to kill or if you just wish to simulate killing some fellow computer gamers Halo is well worth the investment.

Next Meeting:

View an award winning short film.