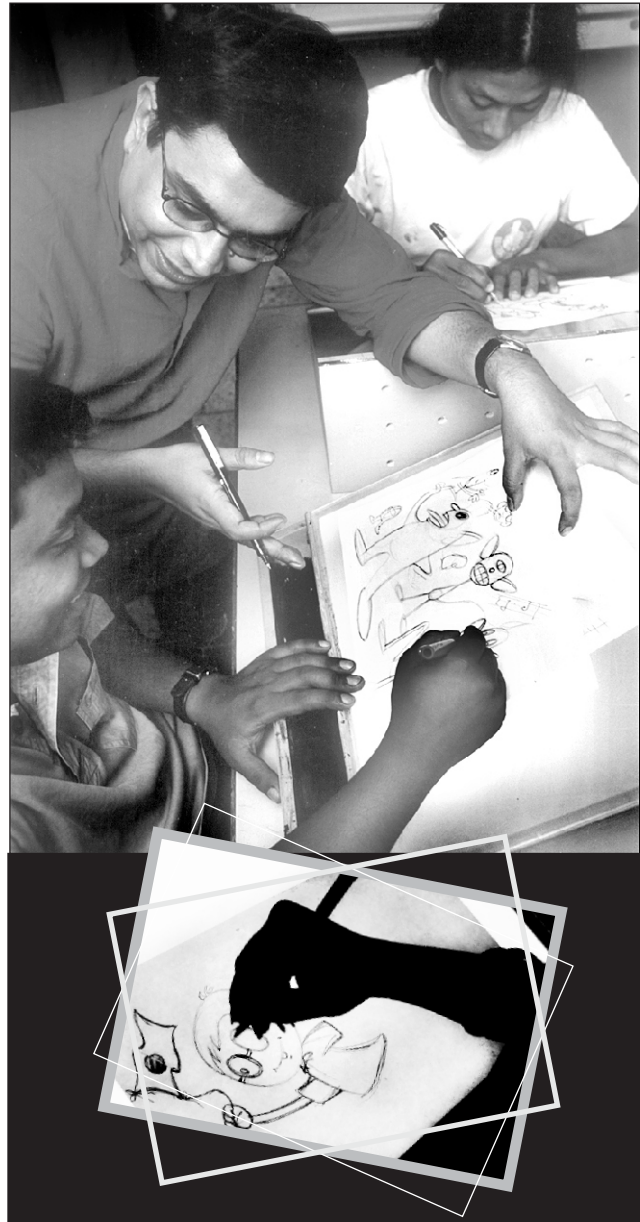


Toon Tech

Purple patch for Greenfield Toons



PHOTOS: GREENFIELD TOONS

Trainers from India give animators hands-on training at Greenfield Toons

WITH a pool of innovative talents always willing to go that extra mile to provide cutting-edge 2D cartoon and 3D animation in Bangladesh, Greenfield Toons is a stylish, diverse venture that has carved its niche and a forerunner in this relatively new field here. Performance animation being its benchmark, Greenfield is a whirlpool of interesting animations with approximately three episodic titles.

Nafid Imran Ahmed of *The Daily Star* (TDS) recently met **Sarwar Alam (SA)**, managing director, *Greenfield Toons*, to check out on the potential of animation in Bangladesh and where Bangladesh's leading 2D animation company is heading for.

Others who joined in the candid conversation are **Moshiur Rahman Rana (MR)**, production supervisor, **Soul Hache (SH)**, assistant production supervisor, **Kamruzzaman Vashkar (KV)**, digital supervisor, and **AFM Shah Nawaz Shudhi (SS)**, layout-in-charge.

Following are the excerpts:

TDS: Could you explain how did it all began?

SA: Greenfield Toons is the animation wing of its parent company, The Decode Limited, which has been involved in 3D animation since its inception in 1996. 2D animation is just a peripheral activity and was launched as an expansion programme in 2001, the year Greenfield came into being.

TDS: Did you have any formal training in animation before you started?

SH: Some of us who are working with Greenfield from the beginning had some 2D animation learning experience

from some animators back in 1998. At present, our animators are formally trained by professional animators from India and other countries.

TDS: Could you explain what kind of 'Animation Technology' is in use at Greenfields? Do you use the traditional cel-based animation?

KV: 2D animation has mainly two parts - the manual hand drawing part and the digital part. Cel-based animations were done

painting and character layout, which depends on the background and framing. Then it goes through many layers of work, such as line test or logic test, clean-up section, in-between section and animation check department. When the work goes through all the sections and is finally approved it moves on to the digital section.

TDS: What kind of animation do you like most and what are your favourite shows?

proper equipment such as the software and the scanner we started our work. But we enjoyed doing this five-minute production.

'BugaBuga' came after that. Our first professional studio work, a complete 24 (minutes) X 5 (episodes) cartoon, which is the story of a little ghost kid who becomes close friend of a young boy named Sagar. At present, a 52 X 4 special called 'Night of the Pumpkins' is under production. The first episode will be released this Halloween. And by 2004 all episodes will be completed.

TDS: What out there really strikes you as creative and innovative in Bangladeshi animation?

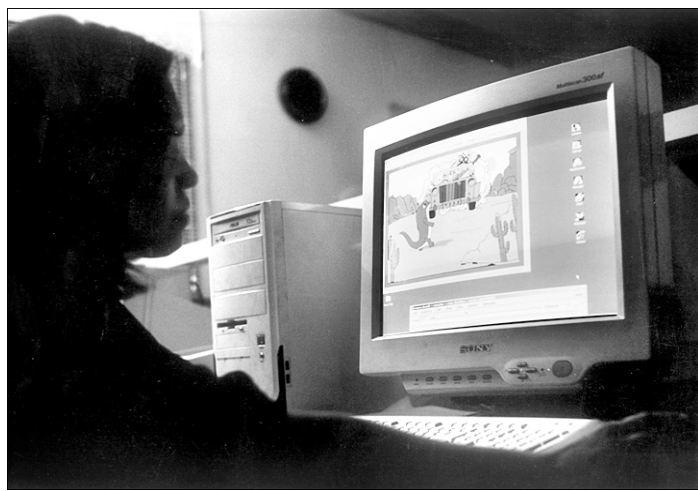
SA: It is too early to say anything on this. Animation is a new and creative field here and definitely we shall do something in the near future.

TDS: What are the biggest differences between the animations done in the US or other countries and the ones in Bangladesh?

SA: What we are doing here is western animation. The module pack and the creative part have already been done. We shall experience the big difference when we develop our own style in animation.

TDS: Did you participate at the Centre International Du Cinema D'Animation (CICA) 2003? What was the output?

SA: Yes, we did participate at the CICA 2003, which took place in the first week of June. We had our own stand there and displayed our products. The results were encouraging. We received very strong response from French Channel 1 & 4, who have shown interest in our products.



The digital world has made the world of animation a lot easier

by hand drawings only, we don't do that anymore. In the digital part, we use a bundle of vector-based software known as 'US Animation'. We also use a special 'Fujiitsu' scanner for the input to the animation software. The output of this software is very impressive.

TDS: Could you explain the manual part?

SS: The layout section is divided into two basic parts background layout, which is mainly hand

SH: In classics, I specially like 'Tom & Jerry' and the Disney's full length animated movies.

TDS: Tell us about 'BugaBuga', 'Ant and the Dove' and any other latest products you are working on.

MR: 'Ant and the Dove' was our very first production. It was done in 2001. Back then we did not have any prior experience. But we wanted to do something, so we created a story board and then worked on it. Without the

Dr. Tech

Dear Dr Tech,
Whenever I defrag my C drive, a message appears during the process that says, "file contents change" after this the whole process starts all over again and the defragmentation never ends. Would you please tell me how to get rid of this problem.
Raiaan

Dear Raiaan
When you "defrag" your hard drive, you are running a programme to optimise the placement of files on your hard drive. Here's what happens. As you use your computer, it writes to the first available spot on the hard drive. Over time, files tend to get rearranged on your hard disk, or fragmented.

If your disk is fragmented, when it tried to load a program, it may have to grab one file from the middle of the hard drive, one towards the outside, then back

to the inside. The net result is that your computer runs slower.

When you run a defrag program, it puts the pieces back together, so stuff loads faster. While you defrag, if you work or copy a file or do anything the contents of your hard disk change and thus the message you see appears. So its better to do nothing when it is on.

Be careful when running defrag. First off, it takes a long time (I usually run it at night) to defragment a large hard drive. Also, the defrag program takes files off your hard drive and sticks them into your system RAM while it's reorganizing your disk. If you lose power during a disk defragmentation, it can spell disaster for your computer.

It's probably a good idea for the average user to defrag once every 2-3 months or so. Hope this will solve your problem.
dailystartech@yahoo.com

Tech Toon



"I programmed the computer to say that every five minutes."

Star Tech Quiz 50

Check the box beside the correct answer

1. Which of the following is not a search engine?
 Google Amazon
 Zeal Hotbot

2. Which Linux command sets a files permission?
 attrib chmod
 properties rights

Name: _____ Occupation: _____
 Address: _____
 Contact Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Last week's answers
 1. enable backup 2. Liteon
 Winner: None

Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by August 5, 2003.

Tech News

Napster to get Christmas rebirth

BBC ONLINE

Music download site Napster will relaunch as a fully legitimate service in time for Christmas, its new owner has confirmed.

Napster gained popularity - and notoriety - as the main hub of unauthorised downloading until it was shut by the music industry in 2001.

The following year, it was bought by Roxio, which makes CD-burning software and is

working on relaunching Napster as a legal music site.

The new Napster, called Napster 2.0, is expected to offer the largest authorised online catalogue in the world.

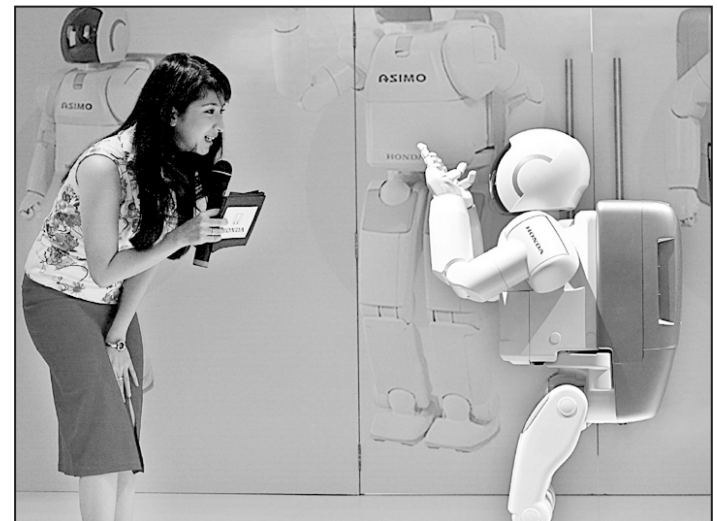
It will have almost 500,000 songs on offer, Roxio chairman and chief executive Chris Gorog said.

Fans will be able to buy music with either a monthly subscription or through one-off purchases. 'Freedom of choice'



Chris Gorog, chairman and CEO of Roxio, Inc., the parent company of Napster, talks during his keynote address at Jupiter's Plug-In conference in New York City on July 28.

Photo Tech



An Indonesian model communicates with humanoid robot, ASIMO (advanced Step in Innovative Mobility) at a motor show in Jakarta on July 18. ASIMO manufactured by Honda Motor Co., is an intelligent humanoid robot which is capable of interpreting postures and gestures of humans and moving independently in response.

Tech News

HP ProLiant Servers top rankings

HP ranked No. 1 in overall customer satisfaction score in the Intel-based server market according to a recent study from industry advisory firm Technology Business Research (TBR), says a press release.

In the Wave 1 Corporate IT Buying Behavior & Customer Satisfaction Studies, North American purchasers were interviewed about their overall satisfaction on a range of characteristics, such as product quality, technology innovation, support response and cost of ownership.

According to the server study, one key element of the growth in customer satisfaction for HP industry-standard servers can be attributed to customers placing more importance and value on server management capabilities. In addition, HP gained strength in out-of-box quality, technical support and ease of installation and configuration, and it maintained a strong reputation for solid hardware reliability.

According to TBR, since early 2000 HP is the most improved notebook PC vendor in the study segment. HP customers were unified in their opinions regarding global support, parts availability, repair times, ease of doing business, price/performance, total cost of ownership and volume discounting, all representing strong areas of improvement over past quarters.

Tech Snaps

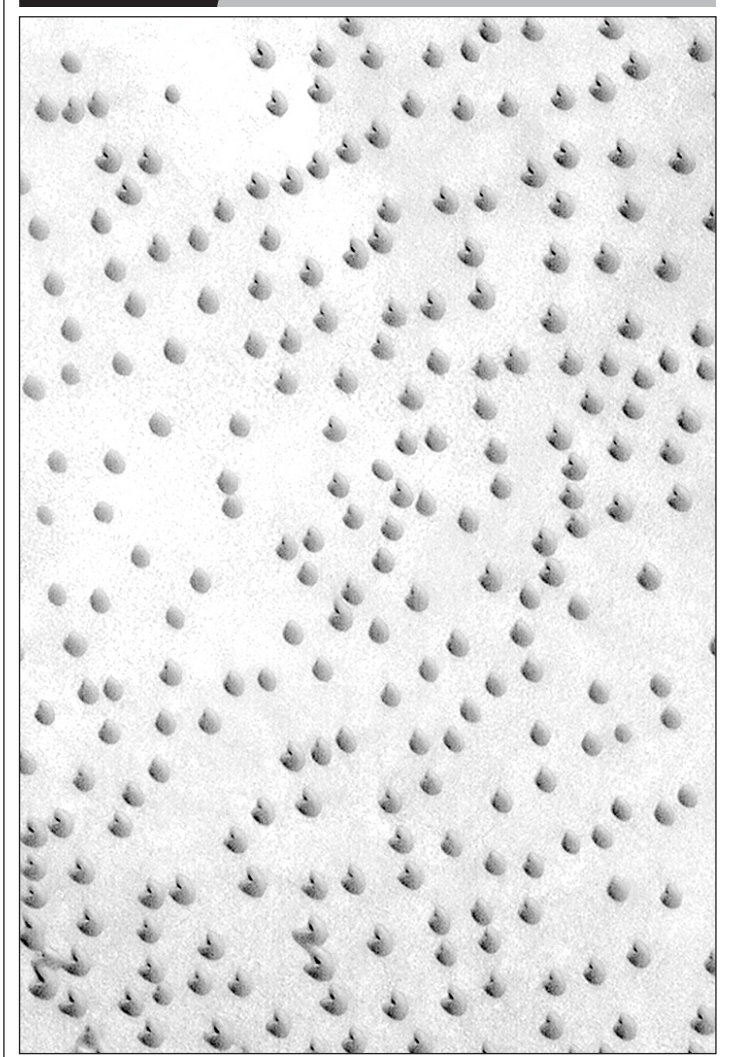
2nd Notre Dame IT Fair-2003

Organised by Notre Dame Science Club the 2nd Notre Dame IT Fair 2003, will be held from the July 31 to the August 2, says a press release. Participants from various educational institutions of Dhaka will take part in several different competitions. The events are:

Programming Contest, Web Page Designing Contest, Digital Poster Designing Contest, Gaming Contest, Digital Drawing Contest (for children), IT Project Display, Software Display, Workshop and IT Seminar.

Moreover, reputed IT institutes will be showcasing their activities, and developments in different sectors of IT. On Friday, a digital drawing contest would be held for children of Play-Group to Class-V. Students of any institution can take part in the Web Page Designing, IT Project Display, Digital Poster Designing and Software Display. Interested persons may contact Imran Hossain Khan (018-247771), Saad Muntarim (0171-563481), Nashid Shariar (011-018636) and Amirul Islam (011-870507). The fair is open for all.

Fortune Cookies



This Mars Global Surveyor (MGS) Mars Orbiter Camera (MOC) image released July 27, shows a field of small barchan sand dunes in the north polar region of Mars. Some of them are shaped like fortune cookies. The message these dunes provide: winds blow through this region from the lower right toward the upper left. The steep slip face slopes of these dunes, which point toward the upper left, indicate the wind direction.

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