iTunes 7.

A New Face On an Old Friend.

Luke Macdonald
Comics Editor

The first thing most people think about when the Apple Company is mentioned is the now famous iPod and MP3 program, iTunes. Recently, Apple updated the iPod family and their counterpart, iTunes.

iTunes is now in it's seventh version. The updated iTunes now comes with a new interface that is easier to use. The sidebar has been updated to seperate your library, playlists, shared files, and the iTunes store.

With the update of iTunes 6, iTunes began to link to an online database of albums and song tracks. That feature greatly reduced the time it took to copy songs from a CD to your iTunes. Now, as an added bonus to that feature, that same database automatically adds album artwork to your iTunes as well.

With the automatic addition of album artwork, two new listing features are available; on the library portion of the iTunes screen. You don't have to look at all of your music as one giant listing anymore. Now you can browse your music by album with the album artwork next to it. Or if you prefer the nostalgic feeling of a jukebox, you can flip through your entire library with "Cover Flow," which shows the album art in the main portion and with the track listing underneath the album art.

iTunes 7 allows for multiple libraries on different hard drives on your computer. If your computer has more than one hard drive, you can have more than one library. This saves space on your computer, allowing more space and memory to be used for other tasks, like running Microsoft Word, or playing computer games like "World of Warcraft," or "Half Life 2" smoothly. Along with multiple libraries, iTunes now allows you to back up your libraries to CD or DVD automatically. That way you don't have to go through the pain and agony of recopying and recollecting all the music you had in case your computer decides to have a meltdown on you.

The iTunes music store recieved a major update as well. Not only can you purchase music, audiobooks, podcasts, and TV episodes, now you can purchase movies and games for your video iPod.

Along with the updates for iTunes, the iPod connection feature has been revamped. Now you can take a look at the contents of your iPod without guessing how much of it is music, movies, or photos. There's a little handy overview bar at the bottom of the screen that tells you how much space your music is hogging.

Music on iTunes used to have a small gap in between songs, to space them out. That ruined a lot of listening experience when listening to albums like Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon" or Green Day's "American Idiot" that were meant to be listened to track by seamless track. iTunes 7 now features what Apple calls "gapless playback." This feature meshes the songs that were meant to be meshed. Now you can listen to "Dark Side of the Moon" in all of it's one-track feel glory.

The only real problem with iTunes is it's compatibility. Programs like WinAmp and Windows Media Player are compatible with a large number of MP3 players, while iTunes only works with the iPod. The flexibility that WinAmp and Windows Media Player allow with off-brand MP3 players still makes them big contenders with iTunes. Without the versatility that the other MP3 programs have, iTunes will never reach it's fullest potential.

iTunes 7 has made great improvement on what iTunes 6 used to be. iTunes is easily one of the best MP3 player programs on the market at this point and time. With the addition of movies and games to the iTunes store, gapless playback, and "Cover Flow," iTunes is heading in the right direction.

iTunes sells songs from $.99 per song up to $10 per album.

iTunes was introduced January 10th, 2001.

iTunes is freely available for both Macs and PCs.

Due to recent developments, iTunes is now available on cellphones such as the Motorola ROKR, RAZR, and SLVR.

With apple iLife, you can create podcasts and load them onto iTunes to share with your friends.

Nationally Recognized Author Ron Koertge Visits KPL

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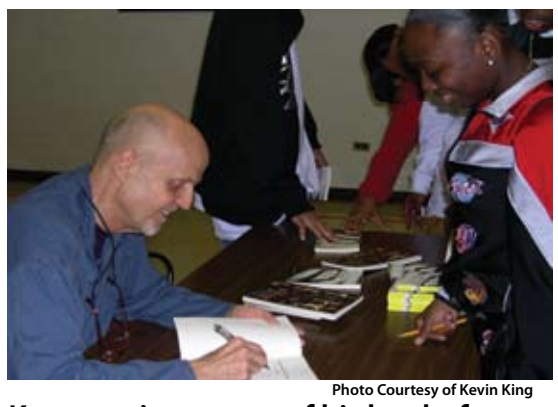

Photo Courtesy of Kevin King

Koertge signs some of his books for students at Pheonix Alternative High School. Koertge also stopped at area middle schools as well.

"If you want to write well, read a lot of poetry, and read it aloud," said Ron Koertge, and considering his success with writing, this is probably some good advice.

Koertge was in Kalamazoo visiting the Kalamazoo Public Library on Thursday, October 19th. He spoke on some of his books and a lot of his poetry. Koertge started as a poet and author for adults, but he did not find his success until his current agent told him that he was the "perfect author" for teens. So he picked up some young adult novels, and said to himself, "I can do better than this. Now Koertge is a nationally acclaimed young adult author who has written a number of award winning books, those of which include "Shakespeare Bats Cleanup," which has won the New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age, "Arizona Kid," which has won the American Library Association Best Books list from 1966 to 1999, and "Margaux With An X," which has won a place on the ALA Best Books for Young Adults.

During the hour session in the Van Deusen Room at the Central branch of the KPL, Koertge read a number of his poems and excerpts to the small group that attended. He also dropped hints about some of his upcoming books, one of which is in the "galley" stage, or the pre-published stage.

Koertge started writing as a teenager for his peers and went through what he calls "periods" of writing. Now in the "craftsman" period, the period where the craftsman searches for new and interesting ways to create his art, Koertge has proven that he is deserving of all the awards that he has received, which include the PEN USA West Literary Award.

"If you're lucky, you get literary art," said Koertge. "You can't get art if you try to make art." In his writing, it is apparent that Koertge does not try to write good books. They just come out of his head, through his hands and onto paper. Look for more extraordinary books from Koertge in a few months.

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AND THE ACADEMY GOES TO THE FRESHMAN
Continued from page 1

middle school. We are not having the sociable experience we should have," said Biljom

With the academy, the freshmen have four of their five blocks together and can have one elective during either their first or fourth block. This therefore limits their interaction with other grade levels and keeps them among their own class for most of the day. When they do attend their elective class, it is not hard to tell who is a freshman, thanks to the all red student IDs. Unlike the rest of the students, the freshmen IDs are completely red, making them stand out even more.

"Yeah I understand they are trying to make us stand out, but I think they should have done what they did with all the other IDs, and just color coded our knight heads," said Biljom.

Although a lot of the freshmen do not like the idea of having their IDs all red, Principal Jeff Boggan assures us that it is not to make fun of the freshmen in any way.

"I didn't know they would be all red. It's a safety issue, we live in a society that presents different challenges. It's not pushing it, it [the IDs] helps to keep students safe. It helps to communicate. Standards should be high for everyone. Times have changed," said Boggan.

The incoming freshmen are not the only ones who view the academy as an unnecessary decision. Many students from various grade levels share this opinion. Chase Mazur, sophomore, finds that the Freshmen Academy complicates things rather then helps them.

"It seems irrelevant and just a big waste of space. I don't think we need the Freshmen Academy to keep the freshmen in line. It's a waste of teachers and space. It hasn't changed anything; it doesn't work," said Mazur.

Although Mazur's class did not have to go through the academy and experience it firsthand, he feels that his class came out of their freshman year fine and instead wonders how many freshman are going to be newly provoked to act out as a result of the academy.

"My class did great without the academy; I haven't met anyone who was held back. And regardless of what every other school in the country is doing, Norrix is different," said Mazur.

Boggan, however, thinks that if the students are going to act up then they are going to act up. That it will not take being in the academy, to make them act out more.

"What you see is what you get. If they are gonna do it, they are gonna do it," said Boggan.Even though some feel the academy is a bad idea, not all feel that way. Some feel that the academy is great after all. Incoming freshman Jessica Randolph, is among those students who see the academy as a good thing.

"I like it because we don't have to worry about getting trampled by the 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. And it is easier to find our classes," said Randolph.

Having the freshmen in the same wings helps them to not be late for class, to be able to find all their classes, not get lost, and to not have to travel far. The students may also feel less tempted to skip school or wonder off due to the fact that they cannot travel very far, and if they do, their IDs will just make them stand out.

A lot of the teachers here at LN have also played a big role in making the Freshmen Academy possible. So many teachers have dedicated time and effort to try and make the academy a success.

> "It seems irrelevant and just a big waste of space. I don't think we need the freshman academy to keep the"

The teachers of the academy were laying groundwork. Because of all the work the freshmen had a place to come into that made sense. What those teachers did helped us get off to a great start," said Boggan

Steve Hicks, a teacher at LN, understands the idea behind having the academy and also feels that the academy teachers put forth a ton of effort.

"There was a tremendous amount of work put in by many teachers to design this. Teaching is more of an art then a business thing. Were hopeful that this program will address those important issues," said Hicks.

Hicks was actually relocated this year to the C-wing due to the academy and happens to be one of the only teachers actually teaching in the academy location without being a part of the academy. Although he is disappointed with having to leave a room which he helped to design, he is not bitter about the switch.

"The room is not mine, it belongs to KPS. It's the administration's right to decide how to best use the resources available," said Hicks.

Boggan hopes that the academy will help to mold and shape our future graduates of 2010.

"The Freshmen are cool," said Boggan.