

**SPORTS**  
Apollo girls  
grab key victory  
over Tide • B1

**PEOPLE**  
5,000 Santas  
and counting  
• A7

**CHILDREN  
WRITE TO  
SANTA  
INSIDE**

7005

B E A V

# VALLEY TIMES

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## Program adds flash to students' work

By **RAY PITZ**  
Of the Times

BEAVERTON — A new joint venture helped at-risk students whip up some dazzling computer graphics.

Last week, five students completed Tech Corps, a Saturday Academy/Westside Police Activities League class that taught the finer points of Macromedia Flash.

Flash is the industry-standard program that creates animated graphics — such as snowflakes or elves — that prance across computer screens on various Web sites.

"Flash has just come into its own as a premiere animation program," said Jim Zaleski, the Saturday Academy teacher who leaches the class. "Not only is it the defacto program of professionals but it can be used at all levels."

Working in the Intel Computer Clubhouse at Westside PAL, Zaleski said he tries to teach students the basics, beginning with something as simple as learning the origins of animation.

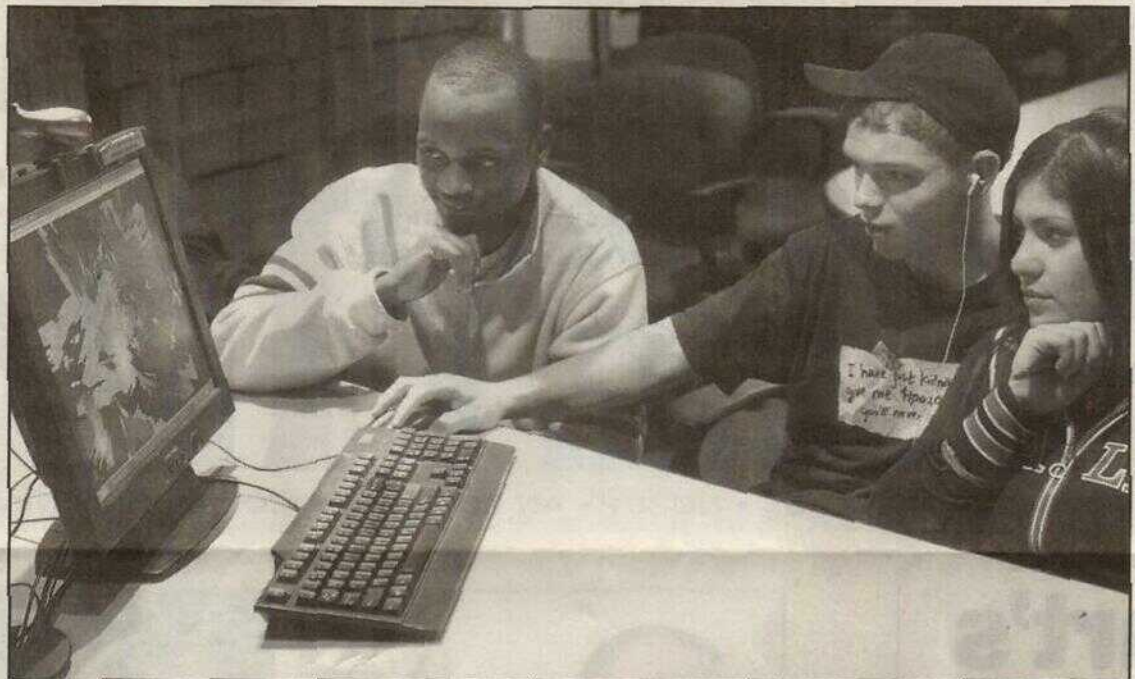
Later, when the students have mastered the concept of Flash, he turns them loose to create graphics that could be incorporated into Web pages.

"They're only limited by their imaginations," said Zaleski, who has taught at Saturday Academy for the past six years and the Flash class for four. "Flash makes animators out of people who don't even know how to draw."

### 'A marvelous job'

On the last day of the class last week, Brad Nikolaisen, a junior at Southridge who is transferring to Merlo Station, said he was impressed with what he was able to accomplish with the program.

"There was no end to it," said Nikolaisen. "You could make anything you wanted."



RAY PITZ / The Times

**FLASHY STUFF** — Students Nur Semboga, left, Brad Nikolaisen and Shannon Dibene look at one of their creations involving Flash animation graphics. The class was the first joint effort between Saturday Academy and the Westside Police Activities League.

Nikolaisen used the program to have one image morph into another, downloading bits of music for effect. He credited Zaleski for making the class such a success.

"It's all because of Mr. Z. You got to give him credit," said Nikolaisen. "It was good because he was able to answer any questions I had."

C.J. Herrera, a senior at Merlo Station, said he made an animated stick figure who flips on his skateboard. He's said he's still working to finish the graphic.

Both Jose Velazquez, a freshman at Beaverton High School, and Nur Semboga, a junior at Beaverton High School, used a photo from the Internet and a computer mouse to draw an orange fish and orange and yellow bird flying around.

"That was a great collaboration between the two of them," said Zaleski. "They mentored each other."

Shannon Dibene, a Beaverton High

School sophomore, used the Flash program along with her poem, "When I first..." Using a cursive font, she made it so each line turns into the next line.

John Mashek, the computer clubhouse director, said he was pleased with how the first joint venture turned out.

"I think it was really outstanding," Mashek said. "Everyone in the class learned a lot."

As 3 result, a February class featuring the ins and outs of Adobe Photoshop has been planned.

Meanwhile, Zaleski said he was proud of what his students had accomplished.

"They've done a marvelous job," he said. "They've come so far. They were remarkably successful in a pilot project."

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