

Media Clippings
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Strange sightings at Science 08

Wednesday, 20 August 2008

Science 08 kicked off with a bang last weekend with the three-day science carnival *X-periment!* at Marina Square Central Atrium.

Now, I'm not a science fanatic, but I have to admit that some of the exhibits were pretty bizarre. And with an exciting theme like "Fast Forward: The Science of Speed", which focuses on the dynamics of speed, I found that *X-periment!* wasn't such a boring affair after all.

Blogging in Haiku



Now, I'm sure the idea of having your SMSes appear on public television screens is a bit cliché. It's also unoriginal to say the least (*McDonald's* has such service at every outlet).

But an engineering team from the National University of Singapore (NUS) has put a twist to this bland service. Instead of just directly transmitting your SMS onto the screen, a poetry generator is put in place to transform your own personal message into verses from ancient Japanese poems in the blink of an eye.

I've tried this out and here's my version:

This is my first time writing in (my original SMS)

Poem is about writing a diary

My children,

the clock

Yes, I know the meaning has completely changed. But this **Blog Wall – SMS Poetry Generator** idea is still worth a giggle.

Making music with laser discs

I've never seen a laser disc in years, much less held one. So I was quite surprised at a real live LD, which is part of the interactive music mixing interface **Air-mix**.



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Don't let this simplistic-looking device fool you. It lets the user change sound levels and apply various effects to musical tracks simply by moving a set of printed discs in the air above the table.

It's kind of like a DJ's turntable, but much cheaper. And of course, you have to hold the discs in the air instead of placing them on the table.

Science Circus hits town!



For those who have never heard of **Rhys Thomas' Science Circus**, he uses a rare blend of science and circus arts to teach children (and some clueless adults like myself) about Newtonian physics. Learn more about gravity through juggling a bowling ball and even balancing on a tall bicycle. It's pretty wacky.

But if you've missed *X-periment!*, don't sweat. Singapore's biggest science festival will still be on for the next six weeks, so check out www.sciencemonth.org.sg for more details!