

Tech News

Ray Harryhausen

This week, the *SF Chronicle* ran an article on Ray Harryhausen, the stop-action animator responsible for such great movies as *The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad* and *Jason and the Argonauts*. Harryhausen has been the inspiration for thousands of animators (particularly computer animators and claymation animators for the past 50 years).

There is an excellent video pasted together from snippets of Harryhausen's work at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9kmjW73-v4>

You can find this link, along with a lot of information about Harryhausen in the Wikipedia article about him.



Here is Ray Harryhausen's Cyclops from *The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad*.

Downloading videos from Youtube to play on OS X

I wanted to show the video to Tech Club today, without having to rely on an internet connection. It turns out that doing so was trickier than I realized. The first step was to get a copy of the video onto my laptop, an action that youtube does not support.

I ended up using keepvid.com to do the download, which left me with an "flv" (Flash video) file. I then had to find a Mac OS X player that would play flash videos. There are many on the web, but most require a newer version of OS X than I have. One I downloaded crashed on me, but I finally found one that worked: Wimpy FLV player, from

http://www.wimpyplayer.com/products/wimpy_standalone_flv_player.html

Engineering Week

Last week (17–23 Feb 2008) was National Engineering Week, with a lot of different activities around the country celebrating the contributions of engineers and encouraging young people to consider careers in engineering. More information can be found at <http://www.eweek.org/>

I had intended to put this announcement in last week's *Tech News*, but I had too bad a cold last week to put an issue together. My apologies for the lateness of the news.



Darth Vader Hot-air Balloon

A group of *Star Wars* fans in Belgium commissioned a large hot-air balloon in the shape of Darth Vader's helmet (with permission from Lucasfilms). Information about this remarkable fan accomplishment can be found at

<http://www.darthvaderballoon.be>

We will try launching a hot-air balloon today also, though not one in such an interesting shape!

