

Chips for China



Inspired by his grandmother who said she'd never learn how to use a computer, University of Melbourne student, John Leung designed a PC specifically for use in China.

"The concept is a simple and affordable PC, both profitable and 'green', costing just \$99 and requiring just \$1 a day to run. And as powerful as current PCs. I've called it MADE in China," he says.

The design – resembling an Asian-style food platter and controlled by chopstick-like input on a touch screen – won Leung the Chairman's Award at Microsoft's Next-Gen PC Design Competition.

"I can see computing becoming as essential as three meals a day. The ideal solution is that it is of similar cost and accessibility as well," Leung says.

School is in, all year round

The trend towards more winter and summer school timetabling continues to grow.

Their attraction to students is they allow for accelerated degrees. They are also available to the fee-paying public. Unions though say it's a grab for more money.

Swinburne University deputy head of higher education

Margaret Mazzolini was reported in *The Australian* recently saying the institution had trimmed traditional academic semesters to introduce a two-year trial of a winter school.

"We have been doing market research and we found the generation Y students want much more flexibility," she said.

"So we are trialling a more flexible calendar."

Ms Mazzolini said introducing a winter school with HECS-based subjects allowed students to accelerate their courses or spread their subjects across the semesters. She said the university had reduced swot vac but was looking at reinstating part of it.

Cyber killing stays there

Playing violent video games doesn't lead to increased aggression, says Swinburne researcher, Professor Grant Devilly.

His research results were based on a study of 120 students from Years 8 to 10 from ten schools in eastern and southern Melbourne.

Professor Devilly said the research showed that the type of temperament was able to predict people's reactions before

and after game-play with an average 73 per cent accuracy.

This included predicting children whose aggression was lessened by playing the violent games.

"This study differs from previous research in that it demonstrates changes in behaviour after watching a violent video game are mediated by the player's feelings immediately prior to game play

and that an unstable temperament is more predisposed to aggression.

"The results showed that while some people show slight increases or decreases in anger ratings, the majority had no changes in anger ratings," he says.

"While the debate is far from over, findings from this study have moved us one step closer to a unified understanding of the effects of this type of medium."

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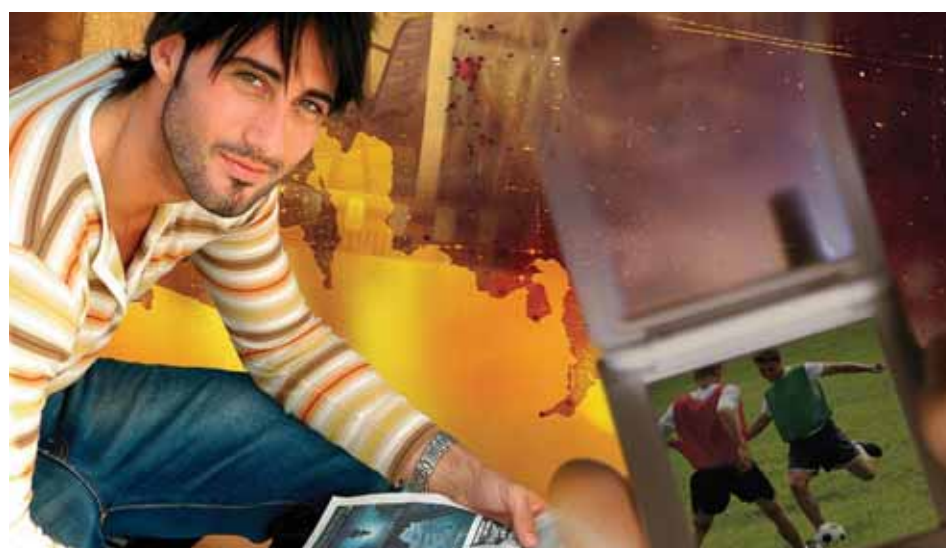
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