

April 2003

# VITALNews

Virginia Initiative for Technology and Administrative Leadership



*Just for Fun*

## VITAL Celebrates April Fools' Day!

Here at VITAL, one of our favorite holidays is April Fools' Day. Why? Because we are "fools" for



### Gentle Pastimes

Need a quick afternoon break? Try some of the pleasant little games at [Orisinal](#). I usually don't like computer games. Everything moves too fast, and the game is usually over before I even figure out how to make my rocket turn. However, the games at Orisinal are different. The music is pleasant, the graphics are easy on the eye, and playing the game becomes more like a meditation.

Writing poetry is another way to disengage and the [Magnetic Poetry Kit](#) online lets you choose which set of words you want to use. Find the poet in yourself! And be sure to share this one with the English teachers on your faculty.

technology! OK, stop groaning! Mostly, we are using April Fools' Day as an excuse to just have some fun. So...with the exception of a few reminders (things from the last newsletter that you meant to get around, too, but never did), this edition of the *VITALNews* is all about having fun on the web. Close your office door, tell your secretary to hold the calls because "Surf's Up!"

#### [The Flash Mind Reader](#)

How does it do it? Enjoy the fun of it before figuring out the math concept that makes it work. Hmm...fun and learning at the same time. Is that possible?

*From Bob Hanny*

#### [The Tower of Hanoi](#)

More math fun with this strategy game. You can choose the number of disks and try to match the minimum number of moves.

*From Diane Reed*

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### [The Museum of Hoaxes:](#)

For the history and mystery of hoaxes, this is a must-see spot on the web. Includes quizzes, pranks, photos, and "hoaxology." And, of course, they have an [April Fools' Day Gallery](#), too, so if you let this April 1<sup>st</sup> get by without a good joke or two, start preparing for next year! Here's a college prank involving [technology and McDonald's](#) that shows students really applying some critical thinking skills. The picture at the left is the famous "Brown Lady" of Raynham Hall, supposedly the ghost of Lady Townshend who was imprisoned in the Hall by her husband.

### **So you want to be a surgeon?**

Electric Heart is the companion website to the Public Broadcasting series of the same name. Loaded with lots of information, this site even lets you [try open heart surgery](#). Of course, heart surgery is serious, complicated business, but this site shows how the actual process is fairly straightforward. The online surgeon is beside you the whole way!

### [Let it Snow!](#)

This interactive weather maker explains how changes in temperature and humidity create precipitation. Bury the house in a blizzard or treat the town to a sunny day.

### [Watch the Flamingos at the Zoo](#)

Webcams can bring any place in the world right onto your computer screen. In honor of International Migratory Bird Day, April 26, why not visit the flamingos at the National Zoo.

## **Reminders...**

Don't forget to visit the VITALNews blog. I've added a few more serious sites:

<http://vitalnews.blogspot.com/>.

It's not too late to be part of the online professional development program for principals working to improve student achievement in mathematics and science. (Is there ANYONE who isn't doing this?) The workshops are sponsored by the Annenberg/CPB project. [Visit the website](#) for more information.

## **Create Your Own Fireworks!**

Need some excitement in your life? Make your own fireworks! Choose different cities for the backdrop and then put together your own combination of colors and sizes. Click [here](#) to add a little spark to your life.