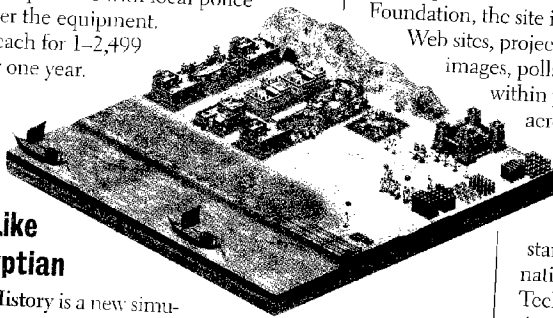
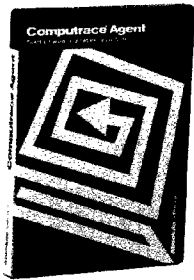


**LoJack for Laptops**

As computers become smaller and more portable, educators are faced with rising theft. To protect this investment, Absolute Software offers **CompuTrace Complete**, a recovery service that facilitates the recovery of stolen laptops. Once installed on your computer, the software links to a monitoring center. So if your laptop is stolen, CompuTrace reports its location. A recovery team then partners with local police to recover the equipment. \$52.99/cach for 1-2,499 units for one year.



**Work Like an Egyptian**

**Virtual History** is a new simulation game series from Knowledge Matters. In the first installment, set in ancient Egypt, students can work through three levels of difficulty, progressing to advanced challenges, such as managing a stone quarry or constructing a pyramid. Whew! A potential item suitable for middle school libraries. \$345 (five-user license); \$795 (lab); \$1,295 (site license). [www.knowledgematters.com](http://www.knowledgematters.com).

**Follett Features Playaway**

Follett Library Resources has signed on to distribute **Playaway**, a self-playing audiobook, directly to K-12 schools and public libraries. Produced by FindawayWorld, the device is the first of its kind, a preloaded digital-format audiobook. (see "The Buzz," July 2006, p. 23). [www.playawaydigital.com](http://www.playawaydigital.com).

*Guest editor Rocco Staino is director of the Keefe Library in the North Salem School District in Westchester County, NY.*

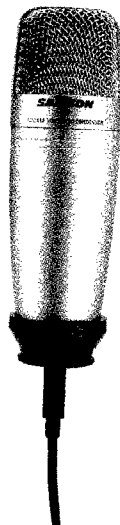
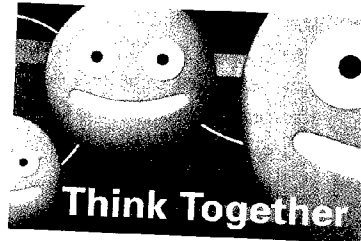


**Shuttle Launch**

As schools embrace the concept of one-to-one computing, librarians are becoming increasingly responsible for the care of laptops. Higher Ground Gear provides protective sleeves to accommodate most laptop computers. The company's K-12 model, the **Shuttle**, is a compact computer sleeve that fits easily into a backpack. \$28-\$42. [www.laptopclassroom.com](http://www.laptopclassroom.com).

**Oracle Sponsors Free Web Site**

The Web site **Think.com** provides a protected online community free of charge to students and teachers. Created by the Oracle Education Foundation, the site is a teacher-mediated space that hosts individual Web sites, project forums, and e-mail. Here, students can post essays, images, polls, and debates. Think.com, which fosters collaboration within your classroom and across the world, has been awarded a Seal of Alignment with national ed-tech standards by the International Society of Technology in Education. [www.think.com](http://www.think.com).



**Now Hear This**

Podcasting was certainly the buzzword at NECC. Still, the necessary hardware might intimidate those who are new to audio recording. Now beginning podcasters have an alternative: the **Samson C01U-USB studio condenser microphone**. The new mic, introduced at NECC, can be plugged into any computer, Mac or PC, with a simple USB cable. "It's the best bang for the buck," says Chris Walsh, digital learning specialist at WestEd, a nonprofit education organization, who cited the mic's ease of use on all platforms and low cost. \$80-90. [www.samsontech.com](http://www.samsontech.com).

[www.slj.com](http://www.slj.com)

