

Fan Bay Excess, Thy Name Is RagE

Yeah, I know what you're thinking: This mod won the September 2001 Rig of the Month contest because it bears such an elaborate paint job. Well, indeed the artwork is certainly incredible. But for the purposes of this chapter, I'm highlighting A. Dale McLean's Tower of RagE mod because it contains no fewer than 23 internal case fans. Let's spell that out for you: twenty-three. And each fan is integrated very well into the Supermicro 750a server tower on which Dale based his project.

When we received the submission, we had to ask the question you're undoubtedly asking yourself now: Does the case truly require that much cooling, or was Dale just having

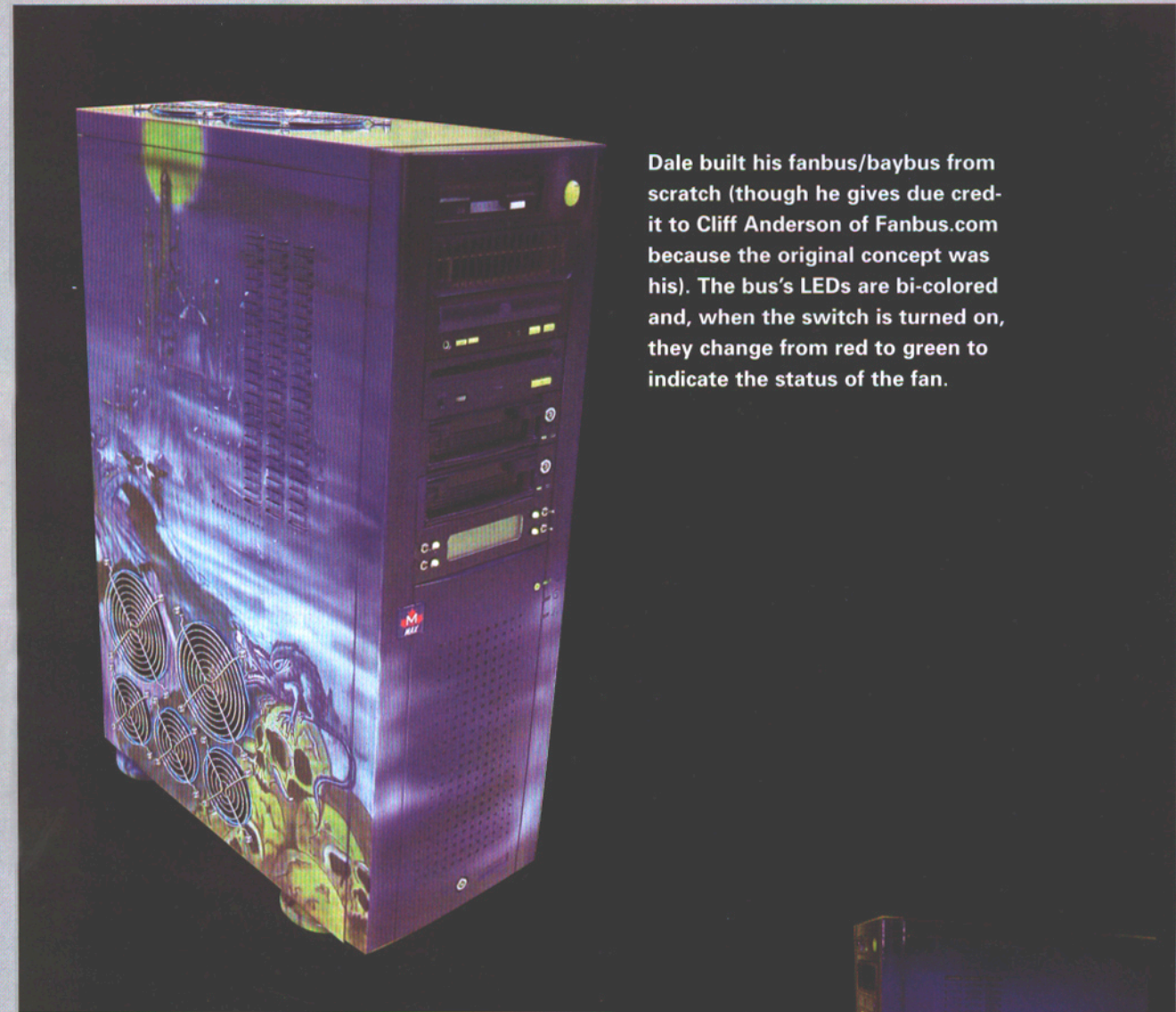
fun? The craftsman (who has a degree in electronics engineering) explains:

"This case was built around everything I'd learned from building the last one—what worked and what didn't. Then I kind of 'amplified' everything that did work. Normally, I run with only my 'primary intakes and exhausts' on. That means that I turn on three 80mm side intakes, four 80mm intakes cooling the drive bays, the front bay blower, and one 120mm YS-Tech that performs exhaust duties in the back. Meanwhile, four of the 120mms and two 80mms are rarely used.

"With only these fans running, my case temps are room temp—even after a full night of fragging. I have a thermal

sensor attached to the wall outside the machine to measure room temp. The only time I find it necessary to run the 'secondary intakes and exhausts' is after I've shut down the other fans for a time—usually in order to talk to my wife. I designed this thing to be the meanest, loudest, air-cranking mofo going."

Cool, dude. And, yes, we do mean *cool*.—J.P.



Dale built his fanbus/baybus from scratch (though he gives due credit to Cliff Anderson of Fanbus.com because the original concept was his). The bus's LEDs are bi-colored and, when the switch is turned on, they change from red to green to indicate the status of the fan.

The tower's artwork was inspired by Nazareth's 1979 *No Mean City* album. As Dale says, "I'd been using the skeleton dude with the straight razors as a logo in OGL for some time."

