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Volume 22, Issue 6

mini'app'les

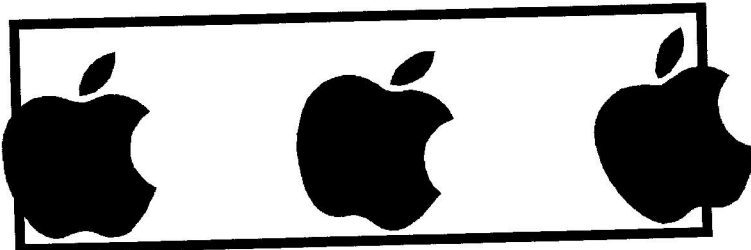
The Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343

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Newsletter Contributions – Please send contributions directly to our Post Office, Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343 or upload them to our BBS at 612-595-9404.

Deadline for material for the next newsletter is the 1st of the month. An article will be printed when space permits and, if in the opinion of the Newsletter Editor or Manager, it constitutes material suitable for publication.

Editor/Publisher: Tom Ostertag 651-488-9979

Newsletter Layout: John Hunkins

mini'app'les BBS – 612-595-9404, (co-located on Twin City Interlink BBS), 24 hrs. Settings: 8-10. Call in with FirstClass® Client software or any text-based terminal program.

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mini'app'les WWW site: <http://www.miniapples.org>

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Moving? Going to be away from home and leaving a forwarding address with the Post Office? Please send us a Change of Address when you are informing others. By using a moment of your time and a few cents to drop us a card, you save the club some money and you get your newsletter delivered promptly to your new address. If you don't inform us, the Post Office puts your newsletter in the trash (they don't forward third class mail) and charges the club for informing us of your new address. Change of Address should be sent to the club's mailing address: mini'app'les, Attn: Membership Director, Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343.

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July 1999 Preview

Here is the tentative calendar of our Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings for July 1999. Please pencil these events on your calendar. As always, when doubtful of a SIG date, time, or location, confirm with one of the following:

- Our BBS, the Calendar Folder in the Conferences Folder
- Our Voice Mail Telephone number: 651-229-6952
- The cognizant SIG Leader

Thursday	July 1	Telecom SIG
Tuesday	July 6	Board of Directors meeting
Wednesday	July 7	AppleWorks nee ClarisWorks SIG
Thursday	July 8	Macintosh Main SIG
Monday	July 12	Apple II/GS Main SIG
Wednesday	July 14	Microsoft Word SIG
Thursday	July 15	Macintosh Consultants
Thursday	July 15	Quicken/Investing SIG
Monday	July 19	Fourth Dimension SIG
Tuesday	July 20	Apple II Novice SIG
Wednesday	July 21	PhotoShop / Digital Imaging SIG
Thursday	July 22	FileMaker Pro SIG
Monday	July 26	Meet Your iMac / Mac SIG, 6:00pm
Monday	July 26	Macintosh Novice SIG, 7:00pm
Wednesday	July 28	ResEdit / Programming SIG

Members Helping Members

Need Help? Have a question the manual doesn't answer? Members Helping Members is a group of volunteers who have generously agreed to help. They are just a phone (or an e-mail) away. Please call only during the appropriate times, if you are a member, and own the software in question.

Apple II / IIGS Software & Hardware	1, 6, 9
ClarisDraw	3
AppleWorks / ClarisWorks	2,8, 9, 10
FileMaker Pro	
FirstClass	2
HyperCard	12
MacWrite Pro	2
Microsoft Excel	3, 6, 7
Microsoft Word	6
MYOB	7
PhotoShop	4
Quicken	3, 7
QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro	7
Mac OS 7	9
Mac OS 8	13
WordPerfect	5

Cross-Platform File Transfer	6
Networks	12
New Users	11, 12
PowerBooks	12
Classic Macs	12
Power PC 601 Power Macs	
iMacs	

1. Les Anderson	651-735-3953	DEW
2. Brian Bantz	612-956-9814	DEW
3. Mike Carlson	218-387-2257	D
4. Eric Jacobson	651-645-6264	D
5. Nick Ludwig	612-593-7410	DEW
6. Tom Ostertag	651-488-9979	EW
7. Ardie Predweshny	612-823-6713	DEW
8. Owen Strand	612-427-2868	D
9. Bruce Thompson	612-546-1088	EW
10. Pam Lienke	651-457-6026	EW
11. Tom Lufkin	651-698-6523	EW
12. Ben Stallings	612-870-4584	DEW
13. Chuck Hauge	651-292-9029	D

D: Days, generally 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 E: Evenings, generally 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 W: Weekends, generally 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Please call at reasonable hours, and ask if it is a convenient time for them. By the way, many of these volunteers can also be contacted on our BBS. We appreciate your cooperation.

If you would like to be a Members Helping Member volunteer, please send an e-mail message to John Pruski on our BBS, or call him at 612-938-2818, with your name, telephone number, contact hours, and the software or hardware areas you are willing to help others.

Newsletter Ad Rates

1/12 page 2.25" Width x 2.5" Height \$5	Outside back cover . 7-1/2" Width x 7-1/2" Height . . \$50
1/6 page 2.5" Width x 5" Height \$10	Inside back cover 7-1/2" Width x 10" Height . . . \$60
1/3 page 2.5" Width x 10" Height Vert or 5.5 H. . \$20	
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2/3 page 5" Width x 10" Height (save 7%) . . . \$40	
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Mac eDOM #991- Acrobat Reader 4.0

Copyright © 1999 mini'app'les
May 1999
by Bryan Lienke
Acrobat Reader 4.0

Acrobat Reader 4.0 is an essential tool for anyone who needs to view, navigate, browse, and print Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files.

What makes Acrobat Reader 4.0 better than previous versions?

- Improved integration with Web browsers
- Faster and more reliable printing to both PCL and Adobe PostScript(R) printers

- Better support for longer and more complex documents
- Support for the latest version of the Acrobat file format - Adobe PDF 1.3
- Support for all versions of PostScript, including the new PostScript 3
- Better color handling, including support for ICC profiles
- Compatible with previous versions of Acrobat Reader

Plus, you can download Asian font packs that enable you to view PDF files that contain Chinese, Japanese, and Korean fonts on non-

native systems using Acrobat Reader 4.0.

Acrobat Reader will run on any Power Macintosh computer running system software version 7.1.2 or later and requires 4.5 MB of available RAM (6.5 MB recommended) and 8 MB of available hard-disk space. If you choose to use the Asian fonts then an additional 50 MB of hard drive space is needed.

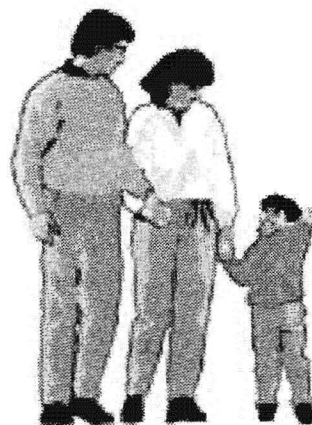
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Results of the Annual Election

by John C. Hunkins, Sr.
past Publications Director

Dear mini'app'les Members,

My last official act as Publications Director is to report to you the results of our Annual Election. There were 30 ballots cast.

The following people were elected:

Lisa Huston was elected President, receiving 30 votes.

Denis Diekhoff was reelected Vice

President receiving 28 votes. John Trottman and Chuck Hauge each received one write-in vote.

Jacqueline Miller and Don Walz were reelected Secretary and Treasurer respectively; each received 30 votes.

John Pruski was elected Publications Director receiving 29 votes. one write-in vote was cast for John Hunkins, Sr.

Brian Bantz and Bert Persson

were reelected Marketing Director and SIG Director respectively; each received 30 votes.

Bruce Thompson automatically succeeds Eric Jacobson as Past President.

Congratulations and thanks to these people who will serve as our Board of Directors for the following year.

AppleWorks/ClarisWorks SIG Meeting Locations

by John C. Hunkins Jr.

I have scheduled the following locations for the AppleWorks / ClarisWorks SIG meetings this June, July and August. The meetings will

start at 7PM.

June 2nd - Saint Louis Park Library

July 7th - Southdale Library

August 4th - Washburn Library

Please mark your calendars. Spread the word!

Good Deal on Membership Renewals

by John C. Hunkins, Sr.

The Board of Directors has authorized the following multi-year renewal options:

Two years for \$45, a \$5 savings, and

Three years for \$60, a \$15 savings.

If you wish to take advantage of these savings, please send in your check for the appropriate amount when renewing. The Marketing Director and Membership Coordinator are in the process of revising the appropriate club forms.

Therefore this option will not be on the renewal letter you recently received, or may be receiving shortly. The board intends to offer these renewal options for a year before reevaluating.

Apple II SIG Meetings in June

by Tom Gates

Just a reminder that because of a conflict at the Roseville library, the Apple II Novice meeting will be one week earlier than usual. The Main Apple II/GS meeting remains the

same.

Tuesday June 8 - Apple II Novice Meeting - Roseville Library 7pm

Monday June 14 - Apple II main meeting - Augsburg Park Library 7pm.

At least this way, the two Apple II meetings are not on Monday and Tuesday of the same week!!!



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Apple Needs Microsoft

by Rodney O. Lain

(editor's note: This article was previously published in Rodney's column on TheiMac.com.)

How shoddy is Wintel? Let me count the ways.

My standard sales pitch to iMac customers is really straightforward. I ask the customer what are their biggest problems with or complaints about computers in general. I then answer them accordingly.

Complicated jangle of wires and peripherals, not to mention DOS-infested Operating Systems. To this, I extol the virtues and simplicity of Macintosh hardware, married to the elegance of the Mac OS, contrasting it with Windows 95/98/NT (the Intel rep loves to talk about IRQs, DLLs, and other Windows esoterica).

How do you decide which Pee-Cee to buy? You don't, I tell them. They're all the same, so it makes no difference, Packard Bell notwithstanding.

What about Y2K compliance? 'You haven't heard? Then I play the HAL 9000 commercial. 'Every since 1984, Macs have been able to recognize dates to the year 2040. Newer Macs are good till 29940. I think they can handle the year 2000.'

From there, I launch into the history of the GUI (Graphical User Interface), explaining how the Macintosh developers took a common-sense approach to making an easy-to-use computer. Apple created a computer that could be easily learned and operated via an intuitive human interface which takes into account the way humans process information (people read left to right, top to bottom); Microsoft Windows breaks all of this logic with design inconsistencies. As an example, I use the Apple Menu (top, left of screen) and the Start Menu (bottom of screen). I segue to the fact that the design of the iMac makes the attractiveness complete, a computer that isn't meant to be hidden in the office, but to be shown off in

the living room. I then end with explaining the advances of the PPC vs. the Pentium snail, ending with Apple's 'Snail' and 'Bunnies' commercials.

In jest, I then tell them that the hardest part of buying a Mac nowadays is which color to buy.

I couldn't make my sales without the existence of Intel and Microsoft. Both companies have stagnated in producing advancements to their products. And the public is quickly discovering that both emperors have no clothes. Microsoft is quickly becoming synonymous with shoddy workmanship. The resultant animosity that customers hold towards the Redmond giant is mounting. And arrogant Intel hasn't a clue that AMD is a possible heir to their throne. I wonder if they can breathe with their heads buried so far in the sand,

I like the fact that the Wintel duopoly is not taking much action against Apple, which is learning to fly under the Wintel radar nowadays. Even though criticism is leveled towards Apple from time to time, rarely does anyone seriously examine what Apple is up to, in terms of their next-level products like the AltiVec-enhanced G4, Mac OS X Consumer, and the upcoming P1 consumer portable. In many ways, we should be thankful that people like Mr. Intel Rep gives Macs the short shrift (and we all know that Microsoft has its attention divided between aiming its paranoia-induced efforts against the rising popularity of Linux and dodging the Department of Justice's anti-trust case).

However, Apple should take full advantage of the sporadic criticism and general indifference that is still being leveled against them and their products. Introduce the P1 soon and begin a flurry of updates, ala the iMac revisions. I think Guy Kawasaki calls it churning. Strengthen your relationship with Microsoft (my

opinion is that Apple's bidding their time with Microsoft; when Microsoft is vulnerable from government breakups, etc., Apple will stick a knife in their back. Hey, 'this ain't show friends'; it's show business'. Microsoft lives by the sword.). Lull Microsoft into a false sense of security. Let them think Apple, Inc. has no interest in their markets, all the while work on perfecting Mac OS X, Mac OS X Server, QuickTime, AppleWorks, FileMaker, etc.

And when the axe swings down on Bill Gates's neck for crimes against humanity (Windows 95), Apple can step in as one of several major players (Linux, Java, ATM) that will usher in the computing nirvana that we could only dream of with Bill Gates's company controlling the pace of innovation.

Until that happens, they should encourage the competition to criticize the Mac (run a commercial similar to the 'Snail' commercial every now and then to push the buttons of the Wintel masses), causing them to get angry and to retaliate by pointing out the Mac's flaws; that criticism can be quickly used as springboards for revisions Apple's product line. I do it all the time. I listen to people trash the Mac at CompUSA. I take to heart what they say. I then use that info to strengthen my presentation of the Mac.

It's so easy, that I'm embarrassed to write this. It's an old strategy, given to me by my Grandma: if you want to make yourself look good, stand next to someone who is really ugly.

Speaking of ugly, back to my encounter with the Intel rep.

I listened, from a distance, to as much of his drivel as I could stomach. I then asked the customer I was helping to excuse me for a second. I walked over to the Intel rep and listened some more of his Mac-bashing. Several wisecrack responses raced through my mind:

1) ask him how the anti-trust trial

is faring

2) when are they gonna dump that 25-year-old CISC and develop a real microprocessor (read RISC)

3) how big is that heat sink on the Pentium nowadays

4) man, those Intel 'bunnies' sure can dance — makes me want to buy a PeeCee ;-)

Luckily, Wisdom and Reason prevailed over sophomoric humor. I interrupted the Intel rep and said: 'as soon as you are finished bashing Apple and the Macintosh, come on over (pointing to the Apple SWIAS) and get the Democratic response. You know, the rebuttal.' I tapped the 'Ask me about iMac' button that was fastened to my shirt.

I waited a few seconds, to let my words sink in and to savor the delicious moment of having given a dig-

Evangelist Retires Final Message

By Guy Kawasaki and John Halbig
evangelist@apple.com

Submitted by David M. Peck

In the past two years Apple has experienced a stunning turnaround. This is due to many things including the steadfast loyalty of Apple's customers—and EvangeListas are the most steadfast of the steadfast.

The original purpose of EvangeList was to counteract the negative news about Apple and Macintosh, and I believe that EvangeList has served its purpose—fantastically, as a matter of fact. So after discussing what we should do with EvangeList with the folks at Apple, we've decided to retire the list.

There are now many other sources of Macintosh and Apple information and enthusiasm. Apple itself has a biweekly mail list that covers topics such as new product info, software updates, third-party info, special offers, invitations to seminars & events, and customer stories. You can sign up for this list at: <http://www.apple.com/hotnews/subscribe.html>

If you'd like to keep in touch with what I'm doing, please sign up

nified defense of the Mac. The couple laughed, a knowing laugh. I went back and finished talking to the lady I was helping. I sold her the Compaq package that she wanted and then I hastened back to the black-carpeted haven I lovingly call the Pee-Cee-Free Zone.

A few moments later, the couple escaped the rhetorical maw of the Intel rep. 'You know, we do like the Mac', they said, smiling. They milled around a while, and then wished me farewell before leaving.

If nothing else, it felt like a moral victory. Thanks Intel. Thanks Microsoft. Couldn't have done it without you. My goal is now to sell a Mac to that couple next time they come in. Then I can chalk up another one for The Kid.

Rodney O. Lain, a former univer-

sity English and journalism instructor, works full-time at a major insurance company and works weekends at a local CompUSA Apple Store Within A Store, and is a member of mini'app'les. Rodney writes a column exclusively for theimac.com., where this article first appeared. His fondest desire is to become an African-American Guy Kawasaki. He awaits the call from Apple Computer at rodneyo@macconnect.com. A self-professed 'workaholic writer', he waxes prolifically about race, religion, and the 'right OS' at 'Free Your Mind & Your Behind Will Follow', his unabashedly pro-Mac website, located at <http://members.mac-connect.com/users/r/rodneyo/index.htm>

for my new mail list. I promise low traffic, interesting messages, and conflicts of interest. :-). It would be great to keep in touch with all 40,000 of you...a 40,000 member list is an extremely powerful thing.

You can sign up at: <http://www.garage.com/resources/maillinglists.shtml> or send an email to: guyslist-on@lists.garage.com

Thanks for your years of support for Apple and Macintosh—and me personally. It's been a great ride and a stunning proof of the power of the people! My best wishes for continued happiness and success.

Sincerely,

Guy Kawasaki, who is and shall remain pure Macintosh

Date: Thu, 15 Apr 1999 13:50:31 -0700

From: The EvangeList Mailing List <evangelist@apple.com>

Subject: Digital Guy Gets the Second to Last Word

This fond farewell is from: The Digital Guy, mailto: evangelist@apple.com

About 5000.

Someday, if they ever release the Alpha Geek edition of Trivial Pursuit,

that would be the answer to "The number of postings by John Halbig, AKA 'The Digital Guy'". Under the category "obscure footnotes", of course.

After that many postings, endless comments, and occasional bouts of foot-in-mouth disease, I get the second to last word on one of the wildest trips I've ever taken, on the Internet or off: The EvangeList. Guy, of course, gets the last word — I get to break the news to you, mere seconds before that message. I have no doubt that by tonight my G3/266 (beige) will melt down under the sudden onslaught of e-mail telling me, Guy, or Apple why shutting down the list is a dumb idea.

The fact is, while I was mentally composing this e-mail, I realized that most of the major reasons for this list's existence had, in one way or another, become moot. For example, here are various subject lines from the some of the most common complaints about Apple's condition over the last 2 years, 4 months:

- - Apple needs a Modern OS.

I was a QA engineer for Copeland, Apple's attempt to create a "Modern" OS. Nearly 3 years of my

life went into that project. The QA team for that project consisted of some of the best, most twisted minds in the testing world...which sometimes made me wonder why *I* was there. :)

When Copeland was killed off, I was seriously depressed. Being put on OpenDoc afterwards, which was also killed, made me even more so. In a way that was what landed me this job — QA was beginning to be less than fulfilling, so I was looking around to see what the Next Thing was.

So Apple bought NeXT (arguably the single most important act of then CEO, Gil Amelio). Now that OS X Server is released, and 8.6 is due in mere weeks, 8.7 soon to follow, and OS X by the end of the year, Apple's OS strategy is finally a compelling story again. Which leads us to...

-- Apple's Leadership Sucks.

So after the NeXT purchase, one of my first comments to fellow Apple employees was something along the lines of "It won't be long until Steve takes over again". They told me I was nuts. Now that Steve has held the CEO position the second time longer than Gil Amelio, and has proven he can make the tough, unpopular decisions in order to keep Apple focused on success, including a complete rework of the board, I think we can check this one off the list.

-- Apple's Advertising is BOR-ing.

Well, yeah, it was. I honestly don't recall much of Apple's old ads. Hiring back Chiat-Day was something a lot of EvangeListas BEGGED Apple to do. When Apple actually did, we (finally!) started seeing ads that people wanted to download as entertainment. My favorite: "Burn, Baby, Burn" with the Toasted Intel Bunny Person, Though it got tough competition from the Super Bowl Ad ("You like your Macintosh better than me, don't you Dave...").

-- All the other complaints...

Apple's consistently making money, sales are up, revenues are up, developers are getting a clue that they should develop for the Mac

again, or new developers are realizing that other's shortsightedness is an opportunity for THEM, and Apple products are "cool" again. Even journalists who were anti-Apple are either admitting they were wrong, keeping their mouths shut...or insisting they were still right, even as Apple proves them wrong (you know who they are!).

In short, all the fun things I used to do on the 'List to counter a lot of these complaints just aren't relevant anymore. The risk here is that we look just as silly as some of these analysts and journalists who keep harping on the idea that Apple is REALLY dead, and why won't Apple just DIE already?

The last thing the EvangeList was good for was a source of Mac information. When it first started, mailing lists were hard to start, maintain, or find. Now, with places like OneList, <http://www.onelist.com>, literally anyone can start a Mac related list on any niche they'd like. Do a search on "Macintosh", and 65 lists are returned. Pull out the lists that deal with cross platform issues, and you still have over 50...and that's only the lists run out of OneList.

Also, there's already some people stepping up to the plate to give EvangeListas a new place for general list mail. They were kind enough to whip up, with literally no advance notice, the following announcement:

"Do not despair as this last issue of Evangelist goes to press. For all members of the Evangelist there is great news! One of the leading names in the Macintosh community has agreed to pick up the banner and continue the valuable service provided by Evangelist over the past years. We welcome existing members to join the new list by sending a message to: john@privlex.com

"We expect to keep all that is good about the Evangelist while adding features that will make it an even more valuable place for Mac users to gather. Please be assured that we respect your privacy and the names from this list will be used

solely for distribution of information to list members.

"Welcome to the new Evangelisters!

"Please check the web site in about a week (it is in the process of being set up, but is not quite ready yet) at: <http://www.evangelisters.com> "for the latest news, including the names of some of the people who will be moderating the list."

[I'll probably be popping up there myself, so you can still have plenty of opportunities to bend my ears.]

MacSurfer, <http://www.macsurfer.com> and the Ultimate Macintosh, <http://www.ultimatemac.com> are great examples of how much the pro-mac press and resources have grown in the last couple of years.

So in a weird way, we're a victim of our own success — there's no way you can satisfy the needs of so many subscribers over the long term. The result is that a lot of people went out and started more focused lists, websites, and other resources. There's a saying about being a jack of all trades, but master of none — since our primary purpose was to sound the rallying cry, and we accomplished this, the only thing to do is to go out on top.

I'll miss this list, and everything about it. Even the complaints about my abuse of the English language were well taken (I've taken better care of my "its" and "it's" and spelling, if only because I would get a dozen e-mails haranguing me if I goofed. :). All of you have been great, and your enthusiasm and passion is perhaps the single most important element of Apple's current success.

There's a bizarre Irish toast I heard once that doesn't seem to be a blessing until you really think about it.

"May the best things in your life become the worst things in your life."

'Nuff said.
John Halbig
The Digital Guy
April 15, 1999

Friendly Fire

How We Mac Users Sometimes Hurt 'The Cause' More Than Help It

by Rodney O. Lain

(editor's note: Rodney O. Lain is a member of mini'app'les, and among other endeavours, works in the Apple Store Within a Store at a local CompUSA. This article appeared, in part, in Rodney's column on TheiMac.com.)

I think Gandhi said it best: 'what I like most about Christianity are Christians; what I hate most about Christianity are... Christians.' Since I've been selling Macs, first at Best Buy and now at CompUSA, I can understand the implied message in his words. It's easy to draw religious parallels to the Macintosh community, especially when praising ourselves. Unfortunately, religious analogies can be easily applied when pointing out our weaknesses, too. In this case, the religious parallel here is that when it comes to evangelizing the Mac, we are sometimes our own worst enemy.

In the New Testament portion of the Bible, the early Christian church is chronicled as a movement that seemed to be fraught with problems, many of its own creation. Many can be traced to overzealousness. I know whereof I speak, as we all have seen in my previous column. There are those of us who know that the Macintosh is the best computer out there — better than the Wintel PeeCee, anyway. And in our desire to spread this message to others, we often turn people off with our half-cocked attempts and with our misdirected desire to 'preach' to them. I've seen Mac enthusiasts do and say things that, in the appropriate context, can be taken as harmless, but many times they portray Mac users as the lunatic fringe that many believe us to be. This isn't intended to offend people, but to show that every now and then when we feel the urge to preach, we may opt to take a chill pill instead of overwhelming others with our Mac-centric world view.

If you know so much about Macs, fill out this CompUSA application

You've probably seen this person before. If not, you will recognize him right away. Imagine you're trying to explain to a family the Macintosh advantages over Wintel. But every other sentence, you are interrupted by some well-meaning guy whose sole purpose in life, it seems, is to one-up you with his breadth of knowledge on things Macintosh:

Me: 'Yes, sir, the iMac used to have an irDa port on the 'Revision B' Model, but...'

Mr. Well-Meaning: 'Did you know that the infrared port transfers data at 4 Mbps? That gives you connectivity to the PalmPilot, the PowerBook, blahblahblahblahblah...'

Mr. Customer (giving Mr. W-M a what-the-HELL-are-you-talking-about? look): Yes, heh heh, that's nice.'

Me (ignoring Mr. W-M): The iMac comes loaded with what's easily \$1000+ worth of software: AppleWorks 5.0, World Book Encyclopedia, Adobe PageMill 3.0, FAXstf, Nanosaur...

W-M: 'Did you know that the Yosemite G3 is the first computer to have a 128-bit graphics card as a standard feature? Dude, that can really smoke the Voodoo 2; why just last night, I read at MacGame-site.com...'

Mrs. Customer (clutching her husband's arm, pulling him away from the SWIAS): 'Maybe the iMac isn't for us...'

Me ('pimp-slapping' the Oaf): 'That's (slap!) the third time today (slap!) that you've (slap, slap!) done that! (slippity-slap!!)'

The above isn't too far from the truth. The only part that I made up was the last sentence. The part that I wish I hadn't made up was that last sentence. Now, I've been very grateful for the Mac users that have helped me out from time to time — like the customer who, on my first day on the job, pointed out that there really is a SCSI-to-USB adapter on the market. That bit of info

helped me make one of my first sells.

Keep it down to a low roar...

'I just want to thank you for hiring me,' I told my CompUSA manager the other night. 'I know we Mac users can be a nuisance, but you know I really wanted to work here to help you guys push more Macs out the door and to make this store a pleasant shopping experience.'

I'd sneaked into the store a couple of days ago (on my night off) to clean up the Apple Store within a Store (SWIAS) section. There were several items without price tags on them. I wanted to correct that problem, as well as move some of the Mac software out of the PeeCee section. I was pleasantly surprised to see the store manager in the Mac section, fixing the two PowerBook demos that hadn't worked in a while (thanks to some smart-guy customer who password-enabled both laptops; we had to call Apple to solve that problem — but that's a story for another day). Anyway, the manager convinced me to punch-in on the timeclock if I insisted on coming in to do what he considered work, but I considered 'just helping The Cause.' As we talked, I saw two guys come in, wanting to look at the PowerBook. As I am wont to do, I struck up a conversation, mainly to let them know that I'm 'one of them.'

The conversation went downhill, kinda. Now, I spend a lot of time in the SWIAS commiserating with Mac users, listening to the many stories of how they are ridiculed by their co-workers, friends, etc. because they've stood by their Mac. But it gets embarrassing when they begin to raise their voices, like this young man did:

'Man, I stood right there (pointing at the Yosemite box) and watched a sales guy talk a customer out of buying a Mac!'

I shared his frustration. Out of the corner of my eye, however, I saw my manager raise his head towards our direction — he was less than 20

feet away. Quickly assessing the situation, I became image-conscious of all Mac users and saw that the three of us may not be putting our best foot forward at the moment, so I decided to steer the conversation toward safer ground: 'Are you sure you heard the whole conversation? I mean, there are times when I've had people come to me who wanted a Mac, and after listening to them describe their needs, I suggested they buy a PC. Some of them bought the PeeCee. Some bought the Mac. And I've had customers wanting to buy a PeeCee, and I convinced them get a Mac... By the way, what do you think about Connectix's Virtual GameStation...'

Oh, I get many of these people. On Monday night, I saw two guys playing with the G3, so I asked them, 'did you guys need to know anything about that Mac?'

'Do you need to know anything about this Mac?' one of them asked me, sarcastically. 'Cuz I know all

there is to know about Macs, man!' Don't get me started. I could tell about this or I could tell you about people like the guy who comes in, breaks open an issue of MacAddict and installs the demo copy of 'Myth II: Soulblighter' onto the Yosemite while I interrupt my conversation in an iMac-owner-to-be...

I wonder if the Packard Bell people have this kind of problem?

In spite of the above, your assistance is invaluable

Now that I've said all of that, I know that I've unwittingly offended the Minnesota guys who visit this site and visit me at CompUSA. That's why I hasten to mention the guys who have supported me without hardly ever knowing me: the guy who ran to the store manager last week and told them they're not paying me enough (Psssst! Go and do that again! I don't think they heard you.). Or, the guy who, after watching me 'work a crowd' of customers, came up to me and gave me a pin-on

button with the five iMacs on it — the one with the caption 'Yum.' There are so many more stories like that easily outweigh my gripes.

I remember when I was hired at CompUSA, someone told me that they really needed a Mac user to sell to Mac users, because he surely didn't understand Mac users. 'They're like a cult,' he said. 'No,' I corrected him, 'Mac users aren't a cult; we are a CULTure. A culture.'

I love my Mac culture. And I understand why we are so zealous and protective of our OS, as well as anything associated with it. That's why we patrol the SWIAS's. That's why we feel it is our obligation to answer any and all questions that are asked, even if there is someone there whose official capacity is to do just that.

My hat is off to guys who preach the gospel day in and day out, either for pay or for nothing. But please... PLEASE... try not to overdo it, 'kay? 'Kay?

Performa/G3 For Sale

By David M. Peck

Mac Performa 6116cd with Sonnet Crescendo G3/225 MHz upgrade card. For sale \$600.

Benchmark Utility readouts using Norton's System Info: This set up registered a System rating of 428. For reference, the iMac (581), and a PM9600/200 (408), PM7600/120 (202). The CPU rating came in 570 versus 632 for an iMac. When playing games (an important endeavor),

this setup produced higher frame rates than my Powerbase 603e/200 MHz machine.

Specs:

- MacOS 8.0
- 24mb ram (8 on motherboard, two slots- 8 mb ram each. Upgrade able to 136mb ram using 2- 64mb chips)
- 512 backside cache
- 2x or 4x CD-ROM (have not been able to confirm)

- 699mb Quantum Hard drive
- EtherNet installed with EtherNet transceiver included
- Keyboard

I recently upgraded to a new computer. Have had no problems with this computer, but no warranty is offered. Questions? Please drop a note on the BBS or call (651)423-5711.


mini'app'les Gaming Group (mGG) Wants You!

by David M. Peck

Intrepid mini'app'les warriors are meeting on a regular basis for fun and socializing. Our interest is networkable Mac games and are always on the lookout for others who would like to participate. Finishing a game solo might make you feel like King of the Hill. But there is nothing as

challenging or fun as human competition. Plus, around here anytime is a perfect time for gaming! :-)

The mGG meets about once a month. If your interested in networkable Mac gaming, feel free to drop a note on the mini'app'les BBS or give me a call at (651)423-5711. We'd look forward to seeing you!



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Tuesday-Friday 9am - 5:30pm
Saturday 9am - Noon
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A free account on the mini'app'les BBS (45 minutes/day)

Communicate with other mini'app'les members plus get up to date information on mini'app'les events and meetings. Get assistance from other members. Download freeware and shareware.

Eligibility for frequent drawings for equipment, software, and books.

Many items were given away free or in raffles this last year; such as Mac OS 8.5, T-shirts, and software from many companies.

Discounts on book orders

40 percent off books from Peachpit Press; renown authors such as Robin Williams and Maria Langer

Periodic special User Group discount offers on equipment and software.

In the past, Apple, Brøderbund, and APC Power Protection (Business Security Products), among others, have offered mini'app'les members significant discounts.

Plus, you're supporting all of mini'app'les' Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings that you attend each month.

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