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Volume 30, Issue 8

mini'app'les newsletter

the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.

AUGUST 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 6:30	2	3	4
5	6 7:00	7 OS X 7:00	8 7:00	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 7:00	24	25
26	27 Q&A 7:00	28	29	30	31	

1 **AppleWorks SIG**
Augsburg Library **6:30 PM**
7100 Nicollet Ave S, Richfield
John Hunkins, Sr. 651-457-8949
hunkins@mac.com.

6 **Board of Directors**
mini'app'les members welcome
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Tom Gates 612-789-1713

7 **OS X SIG**
Atomic / The Foundation
901 North 3rd street Suite #115
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

8 **Microsoft Word SIG**
Eagles lodge
9152 Old Cedar Ave. Bloomington
Tom Ostertag, E 651-488-9979

16 **Macintosh Consultants SIG**
Perkins **7:00 AM**
6920 Wayzata Blvd
Golden Valley
Bob Demeules, 763-559-1124

23 **FileMaker Pro SIG**
Partners
2250 terminal Road
Roseville, MN
Steve Wilmes 651-458-1513

27 Q&A **Macintosh Q & A SIG**
Questions & Answers
Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul
Les Anderson 651-735-3953

For the latest information please visit **http://www.miniapples.org**

mini'app'les

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

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Advertisers – For information, see Newsletter Ad Rates box within this issue.

Newsletter Contributions – Please send contributions directly to our Post Office, Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343, or tostertag@usfamily.net

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.

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Newsletter Layout: John Pruski 952-938-2818, Bert Persson 612-861-9578

mini´app´les BBS – Internet only access

mini´app´les WWW site: http://www.miniapples.org

mini´app´les e-mail: miniapples@mac.com

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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.

Table of Contents

August 2007 Preview 3
Members Helping Members 4
Configure Two Dozen Macs In An Afternoon 5
Apple Unveils Near Final Mac OS X Leopard 6
Come Test The New mini'app'les Forum! 8
Membership Application 9-10

September 2007 Preview

Here is the tentative calendar of our Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings for September 2007. Please pencil these events on your calendar. As always, when doubtful of a SIG date, time, or location, confirm with one of the following:

- At www.miniapples.org
- The cognizant SIG Leader

Wednesday	September	5	AppleWorks SIG
Tuesday	September	?	OS X SIG
Tuesday	September	?	VectorWorks SIG
Wednesday	September	12	Microsoft Word SIG
Thursday	September	20	Macintosh Consultants
Monday	September	24	Mac Q & A SIG
Thursday	September	27	FileMaker Pro 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, 3, 4
AppleWorks / ClarisWorks-Draw	4, 5
Classic Macs	
Cross-Platform File Transfer	3
FileMaker Pro	
FirstClass	
iMacs	6
iPhoto / iTunes / iMovie	
Mac OS Classic	4, 6
Mac OS X	
MacWrite Pro	
Microsoft Excel	2, 3, 7, 10
Microsoft Word	3, 10
MYOB	7
Networks	9
New Users	1, 6
PhotoShop	
PowerBooks / iBooks	6
Power Macs	
QuarkXPress 10	
Quicken	2, 7
QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro	7
WordPerfect	
VectorWorks	8

1.	Les Anderson	651-735-3953	DEW
2.	Mike Carlson	218-387-2257	D
3.	Tom Ostertag	651-488-9979	EW
4.	Bruce Thompson	763-546-1088	EW
5.	Pam Lienke	651-457-6026	EW
6.	Richard Becker	612-870-0659	EW
7.	Ardie Predweshny	612 978-9774	DEW
8.	Charles Radloff	952-941-1667	D
9.	Chuck Hauge	612-963-5064	DEW
10.	Ron Heck	651-774-9151	DEW

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.

Volunteers needed for members helping Members.

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 952-938-2818, 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
1/6 page..... 2.5" Width x 5" Height..... $10
1/3 page.... 2.5" Width x 10" Height Vert or 5.5 H.. $20
1/2 page..... 7.5" Width x 5" Height (save 5%).... $30
2/3 page..... 5" Width x 10" Height (save 7%).... $40
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Outside back cover . 7-1/2" Width x 7-1/2" Height .. $50
Inside back cover .... 7-1/2" Width x 10" Height ... $60

All ads must be prepaid and submitted on electronic media. Ads of $20 and under must run for a minimum of three months.

mini'app'les will accept all ads for publication that do not affect our nonprofit status, or the postal regulations dealing with our nonprofit mailing rates. Examples of ads that will be rejected are; but not limited to, ads that:

1. endorse a political candidate or cause
2. attack a person or cause
3. are in "bad taste" (x rated or similar)
4. expound or demean a religion or practice.

Ads should be for a product or service. Because of our nonprofit mailing rates we must limit ads that are not related to computers.

Mail inquiries to: PO Box 796, Hopkins, MN, 55343
Phone inquiries to: John Pruski, 952-938-2818

Configure Two Dozen Macs In An Afternoon

Submitted by Tom Gates

Recently we had a need to configure more than two dozen iMac G4 Flat Panel and G3 CRT machines for the school in a short period of time. There were two different setups required for the machines. The G4 Flat Panels were to be configured as teacher/staff machines with OS X 10.4 containing various additional pieces of software installed such as Mac MS Office, AppleWorks 6, iLife, multiple internet browsers (Safari, Firefox, Mozilla, etc). The G3 CRT iMacs were to be configured as student workstations with OS X 10.3, MS Office, Internet browsers, etc.

In the past, a standard process was to set up a number of computers along a couple cafeteria tables. Then start the process of loading the first machine with the OS CD and move along to each subsequent machine. When the initial software was loaded then hook them up to the Internet via an Ethernet switch for getting system updates. This could take some time and constant attention to keep the process moving.

This time, due to the number of machines that needed to be configured in a short time frame, it was time to look for alternate methods. At mini'app'les meetings there had been frequent conversations about the Carbon Copy Cloner software from Mike Bombich (www.bombich.com). This sounded intriguing in that we really did want to clone a large number of Macs with the same couple of configurations. The price of the software was also a selling point. The software from this site is "donation ware" and Mike Bombich says that "My heart is in Education and all software that I write shall always be free to education." We were sold.

Carbon Copy Cloner would be able to make a copy of our configurations. The second piece of software we needed was the piece to put those configurations back on to our staff and student machines. That piece turned out to be the NetRestore, also from Bombich Software. NetRestore's stated purpose is "NetRestore can be used to quickly and accurately restore a master disk image to a computer's hard disk while that disk image is hosted locally, on a network via AFP, NFS or multicast, or on the internet via HTTP." That was exactly what we wanted to do. Create the images to an external drive then restore the staff or student image to the various machines.

How to configure the master disk image.

We set up one of the iMac G4 Flat Panel machines and gave it the full load of software that we wanted for a teacher/staff machine. The OS was loaded, the network settings set to default values required on the school's network, some initial tweaking of the software so that the initial registrations were complete for the Office suite, and Apple software updates were applied. Our master teacher machine was ready to clone.

Next we set up one of the iMac G3 CRT machines and went through the same process with that that machine to set it up as a master for a student work station. We were now ready to fire up Carbon Copy Cloner and create our master disk images.

The device that was to hold our master images was a 200GB external Firewire/USB disk drive. This we split into two partitions. The first partition was sized at about 10GB to give us more than enough room to have a very simple standard OS X 10.4 system installed to boot from and a copy of the NetRestore program. The remaining space was assigned for the second partition to be used to hold any of the master disk images we created. This was formatted and we installed a very basic OS X 10.4 system to be able to boot from the Firewire/USB drive.

With the external drive connected to the iMac G4, we began the process of running Carbon Copy Cloner to create a disk image of that machine to the second partition of the external drive. The process of producing the G4 teacher image took just over an hour. Next we hooked the external drive to the iMac G3 and ran Carbon Copy Cloner to create our G3 image on the external drive. Again the process to create the G3 student image took a bit more than an hour to complete. The process was simple and went very well for both machines.

Let the cloning begin.

Time to see if this bit of magic was going to work for us. We pulled out the first iMac G4 that would be a recipient of a teacher disk image. The external drive was attached to the G4 via the FireWire cable. The G4 was powered on as we held down the "option" key. This provided us with a selection to boot from the internal disk drive or to boot from the first partition of the external drive. We selected the external drive and a minute or two later the G4 was running from the OS X installed on the external drive.

Next we started the NetRestore software. The software asks the usual questions of where the source disk image is located and what will be the target device for the image. We selected our 10.4 teacher image as the source and set the target to be the internal disk drive in the G4. A couple other options were set to erase and reformat the internal drive before installing the image and to have the computer reboot from the new internal disk image after the image install was completed. We clicked the "OK" button to proceed.

Since the creation of the initial image had taken about an hour, we decided this was a good time to take a short break and stretch our legs. About 15 minutes later we came back into the room and saw the computer we were cloning was sitting with the initial logon screen. First thought was darn, something weird happened and we'd need to restart the process and watch to see what was happening. But for whatever reason we decided to log on to the G4 and take a look around. It was running from the internal disk drive! Some more poking around proved to us that this had everything installed on it that we expected. We un-mounted the two partitions of the external drive and unplugged the Firewire cable.

We pulled out the next G4 to be cloned, connected the external drive

via the FireWire cable as before, and did another "option" boot to select the external drive as the boot drive. Again we ran NetRestore and set the source image and target drive, selected the couple other settings for the disk reformat and clicked "OK". This time we sat back and watched. About eight minutes later the NetRestore software quit, the G4 began a reboot process, and we were then greeted with the OS X login screen. Once again we logged on to the G4 and found everything in place and unmounted the two external drive partitions.

Of course reading the users manual to a piece of software can give one great insight. Having been used to the CD-ROM swapping of a manual system setup it was easy to overlook the fact that all NetRestore had to do was copy the drive image block by block from the external drive image to the internal target drive. This didn't involve file by file copying and there were no install programs running here doing all the various setup that they do. That had all been accomplished when we built the initial master drive. Copying this image of about 8GB by FireWire to the internal drive really doesn't take that long. This was kind of our "Duh!" moment as we realized the tool we'd just created for ourselves to image all of the remaining G4 and G3 iMacs.

After about two hours we nearly had more iMac G4 machines setting around on the floor ready to be sent to the various classrooms than we had floor space. We had just done in a couple of hours what we could have only dreamed of doing in a weekend's work configuring the machines the "old fashion way".

For the most part the G3 iMac configurations went as well as the G4's. The difference being that some of the CRT Macs were not FireWire machines and the external drive was connected via the USB port. The USB machine cloning took about 35 minutes per machine. Longer than the G4 process, but very much shorter than the manual method.

Since late summer when we configured this initial group of computers, we had a number of other iMac CRT's and iMac G4 Flat panel machines added to the inventory. This method of cloning these computers from the master image has greatly reduced the time required to set up a computer both in wall time and in a person's busy time spent in front of the machine during configuration.

Not the complete magic bullet.

This process has been extremely useful for the initial base configuration of the machines. But there is still the ongoing work of keeping the machines updated with the Apple Software Updates and any application software that may be added later. For that process we are currently in the early stages of using Apple Remote Desktop (ARD) to push out changes to select groups of computers. As we get more experience under our belt with ARD we'll have to write an update to this process.

Apple Unveils Near Final Mac OS X Leopard

Submitted by John Pruski

WWDC 2007, SAN FRANCISCO—June 11, 2007—Apple® today unveiled a near final version of Mac OS® X Leopard, the sixth major release of the world's most advanced operating system. Scheduled to ship in October, Leopard introduces over 300 new features, including a new Desktop and Dock with Stacks, an intuitive new way to organize files; an updated Finder featuring Cover Flow™ and a new way to easily browse and share files between multiple Macs; Quick Look, a new way to rapidly preview most files without opening an application; Time Machine, a new way to easily and automatically back up and restore lost files or a complete Mac®; Spaces, a powerful new feature to create groups of applications and instantly switch between them; and enhanced iChat and Mail applications, which easily allow users to communicate even more creatively.

"Leopard is the best release of Mac OS X to date, surpassing even Tiger, and will further extend Mac OS X's leadership as the most advanced and innovative operating system in the world," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "We think current and prospective customers are going to love Leopard, and that it will help make the Mac even more popular."

Leopard includes a completely new Dock featuring Stacks, which can help manage a user's desktop clutter caused by browser and email downloads. With the click of a mouse, users can instantly fan out the contents of a stack to easily see each item. Leopard's Finder has been completely redesigned, adding Cover Flow as an innovative way to quickly browse and locate files and applications. Finder's new Sidebar simplifies the organization of files on a Mac, and adds easy access to shared Macs and PCs on a home network. Subscribers to .Mac can also use the new "Back to my Mac" feature to browse and access files on their remote Macs over the Internet. Also new in Leopard is Quick Look, an innovative new way for users to instantly preview almost any file, and even play media files, without opening an application.

With its unique ability to let users travel back in time to find deleted files, applications, photos and other digital media, Time Machine is a revolutionary way to protect your digital life. With just a one-click setup, Time Machine automatically keeps an up-to-date copy of everything on the Mac. In the event a file is lost, users can use Mac OS X's Spotlight™ to search back through time to find and then instantly restore the file. Time Machine can automatically back up a Mac to an external hard drive connected with a FireWire® or USB cable, to a server, or wirelessly to an AirPort Extreme® base station with an attached hard drive.

Leopard also includes three new technologies that take full advantage of the latest developments in processor hardware: full native 64-bit support to enable applications to take complete advantage of 64-bit processing while still running side by side with existing 32-bit Mac OS X applications and dri-

vers; easy multi-core optimization and scheduling to take advantage of the latest Intel hardware; and Core Animation, helping developers easily create animated user experiences as amazing as Leopard's Spaces and Time Machine in their own applications.

Other new features in Leopard include:

* Leopard Mail, offering more ways to customize and add personal style to email than ever before, with more than 30 beautiful stationery designs and layouts that look great on a Mac or Windows PC; Notes, making it as easy to take and organize notes as it is to compose and read emails; To Dos, for creating lists viewed directly in Mail and automatically sync them with iCal®; and data detectors that automatically sense phone numbers, addresses and events so they can be easily added to Address Book or iCal;
* Leopard iChat with iChat Theater, letting users present photos, presentations, videos and files in a video conference; Photo Booth effects, enabling users to transform their iChat video in real time with fun distortion and color effects; and video backdrops that allow users to choose any photo or video that makes them appear to be anywhere in the world, or out of it;
* Leopard iCal, introducing powerful group calendaring features based on the open CalDAV standard that make it easy to organize and coordinate schedules with other people;
* Spaces, giving users a powerful new, clutter-free way to create customized spaces on the desktop with only the applications or files needed for each project, and the ability to quickly switch between them with one click of a mouse or keystroke;
* Web Clip, bringing anything that a user wants from a web page to Dashboard as a live widget;
* Boot Camp, making it possible to run Windows natively on Intel-based Macs*; and
* new development tools, including Xcode® 3 with a next generation editor; an all new Interface Builder for easier integration of advanced animation effects into an application; simpler debugging; and support for Objective-C 2.0; DashCode, a better way to create new Dashboard widgets without writing a line of code; and Xray, a new application for optimizing application performance.

Pricing & Availability
Mac OS X version 10.5 Leopard is scheduled to ship in October and will be available through the Apple Store® (www.apple.com), Apple's retail stores and Apple Authorized Resellers for a suggested retail price of $129 (US) for a single user license. The Mac OS X Leopard Family Pack is a single-residence, five-user license that will be available for a suggested retail price of $199 (US). Volume and maintenance pricing is available from Apple.

*Copy of Windows XP or Vista required.

Apple ignited the personal computer revolution in the 1970s with the Apple II and reinvented the personal computer in the 1980s with the Macintosh. Today, Apple continues to lead the industry in innovation with its award-winning computers, OS X operating system and iLife and professional applications. Apple is also spearheading the digital media revolution with its iPod portable music and video players and iTunes online store, and will enter the mobile phone market this year with its revolutionary iPhone.

Come Test The New mini'app'les Forum!

Submitted by Dave Peck

mini'app'les is testing a new online forum as an alternative to the First Class BBS. It is not unusual to hear of Mac novices having First Class configuration issues. And frankly a minority of mini'app'les members are participating in the First Class BBS. The new mini'app'les forum is a complete modern online forum that runs from your browser of preference. We recommend Safari or Firefox.

We are inviting mini'app'les members to come take a look, sign up, and post some messages.
Head on over to:
http://miniapples.7.forumer.com/index.php

At the top of the page under the mini'app'les Forum banner are several links, the left link is to Register. You can read all of the messages in the public forums, but you will not be able to post a message until you are registered. All that is required to register is to submit your email along with a user name and password. One of the forum administrators will verify your membership and then you'll be notified that your membership has been activated. Very simple and fast.

If you are familiar with online forums, you'll feel right at home. This forum uses phpBB software and is hosted by forumer.com. This company has made a business of providing free bulletin board/forum hosting. The price of free admission are the adds that run across the top of most pages. While mini'app'les does not officially endorse add blockers, if ads really bug you, let it be known that the Firefox browser has add-ons that will prevent these ads from running.

When you arrive at the mini'app'les Forum Index (the top level of the forums) you will see a list of forums. The top section is mini'app'les Central which includes all of the mini'app'les related forums. The Second section is All Things Macintosh including General Apple Topics & News, Hardware, Software, and a Beginner's Corner. The bottom section is the Miscellaneous section which includes a general topic forum called Grab Bag, Buy & Sell, and Apple II.

The first thing to do is click on the mini'app'les News & Newsletter Forum and read the Forumer.com Terms of Use and then browse through the Forum FAQ message. The Forum FAQ has a long list if items that people have had questions about.

Navigation of the forums is easy. Simply look at the Navigation Bar located at the top of each page. If you are currently reading the Forum FAQ, the Navigation Bar will show something like: mini'app'les forum Index >> mini'app'les News & Newsletter >> Forum FAQ. The first item (mini'app'les Forum Index) is the top level of the forum, mini'app'les News & Newsletter is the forum, and Forum FAQ would be the current post you are reading. All of these items are clickable links taking you back to either the Index level or the Forum level.

If you are familiar with First Class, you'll notice some differences. First off messages are better organized in this new forum. If you think about the FC Mac Software section, you'll remember that all of the message topic replies are all mixed together. In this forum each message has it's own section, so when clicking on a post to read, you'll only see replies to that post.

One thing that won't be in the new forum are message flags showing if message as read or unread. If you rely on this, you will have a period of adjustment. However the mini'app'les forum does notify you of forums with new posts by presenting those Forums in Red text. And when you click on the forum, the message with the new reply will also have some red text in it designating it as a new reply since the last time you visited. However note, if you don't look at all of the new messages before logging out, they will turn to the default color. However this is not the only way to see new messages. If looking at a Forum like mini'app'les News & Newsletter, all of the newest posts are listed at the top. In addition to the far right is the Last Post Column, showing the person and date of the last message posted to a thread. Last but not least this forum allows you to subscribe to any post that interests you. What this means is that every time a reply is posted, you will receive email notification.

Finally here is a list of Pros for this forum:
- Free
- Full Featured
- Flexible Message Organization
- Easy to Navigate
- Totally Online Solution
- No need for hardware server support (on our end)
- Flexible message editing
- Private forum for BOD
- Avatar uploads and emoticons Smile
- Uses BBCode - Similar to HTML in allowing the formatting of messages.
- Ranks and Titles (such as SIG Leader, BOD)
- Supports Polls
- Email notification of replies
- Uses phpBB
- Requires at least 1 post per month to stay open. (We can handle that!) Shocked
- Signatures.
- Red Text appears for forums and topics with new posts since your last visit.
- Supports high degree of permissions flexibility allowing for the segregation of Guests, privacy where it is needed (such as the BOD Private forum), and Read Only forums (if needed).
- Does not mix all replies in a single forum into one long list.
- Recognizes URLs in posts and turns them into links.
- Supports moving of miss-posted topics.
- Unlimited Bandwidth and storage.
- Allows custom banners.

If you have never participated in the First Class BBS for what ever reason, you'll find that the mini'app'les Forum is a great place to seek and receive answers to all of your Mac questions. There is no software to download and configure so please come on over and take a look! (Posts will be slow at first until we get a majority of members signed on.)

mini'app'les

The Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343-0796

Membership Application, & Renewal Form

Name:_____
Company (if mailed to):_____
Address:_____
_____
City, State, Zip:_____
Phone # (Home):_____
Phone # (Work):_____
Phone # (cel-phone):_____
Occupation (if Applicable):_____
Membership ID # (if Renewal):_____
e-mail:_____

___ Check if OK to contact you by e-mail.
___ Check if this is a change of address notice.
___ Check if you are interested in volunteer opportunities.
___ Check if you want your name added to Members Helping Members List.
___ Check if you want your name withheld from commercial and other non-club mailing lists.
___ Check if you were referred by a club member (if so give members name).
_____

New Members & Renewing Members

Specify your level of support:

___ $25.00 One Year
___ $45.00 Two Year
___ $60.00 Three Year
___ $15.00 Student One Year*(must be a full-time student at an accredited institution)
___ $100.00 Corporate One Year

Please Make
Your Checks Payable to:
mini'app'les

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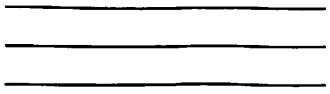
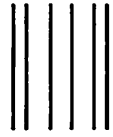
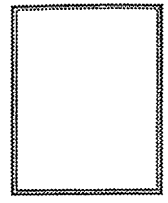
mini'app'les
P.O. Box 796
Hopkins, MN 55343-0796

Thank You for your support!

Last Fold - Seal with Tape







mini'app'les
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Hopkins, MN 55343-0796

3rd fold

1st fold

2nd fold

Dear mini'app'les
Please direct this to the:
☐ Membership Director
☐ Software Director
☐ Other_____

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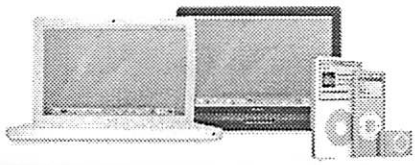

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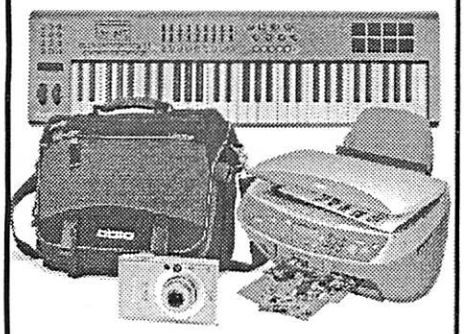

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