

# NEWS



# BREAK

## MACINTOSH USERS GROUP, ONEONTA, NEW YORK

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### MUG ONE APRIL MEETING

MUG ONE, the Macintosh User Group of Oneonta, will present "Outstanding Children's Software" on Tuesday, April 6 at 7:30 PM in Hodgdon IRC, lecture hall 1 on the SUNY Oneonta campus. Macintosh consultant Elsa Travisano will demonstrate some of the best recent children's software titles, assisted by 9-year-old guest presenter Emily Travisano.

Come hear the latest news and helpful hints, participate in the raffle and share refreshments with us. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Jay Manning at 607-433-1305 or Terry Helser at 436-3518.

### OLD MACS NEEDED FOR SENIOR GROUP

Alice Barrett has started a seniors citizen's group in the Delhi area. She is looking for old Macintosh computers with which to equip the center. If you have an old SE, Plus, IIsi or other older Mac or any peripherals for Macs, please contact me (Jay) at 433-1305 or [mactech1@dmcom.net](mailto:mactech1@dmcom.net). I will pass along the information to Alice or the equipment, if you want to drop it off with me .

Her only stipulation is please no Apple II equipment. Someone already donated several. They are too hard to find software for.

### MELISSA VIRUS

I have been reading a lot, online, about the Melissa virus. (I wish it wasn't my daughter's namesake.) I'm not yet sure whether this will infect a Macintosh [at this point, it looks unlikely, but not impossible. To be safe, be very cautious about opening attachments. Ed.] It is carried into the computer as a Microsoft Word 97 or Word 2000 attachment to email. The best way of avoiding it is to delete email messages from unknown sources. If your email program won't let you delete without reading the message, don't worry. A computer **cannot** be infected simply by reading an email message. You must run some kind of application and /or load a Macro.

—JAY MANNING

### VISIT MUG ONE'S WEB SITE AT:

<http://beta.homestead.com/MAVRC/mugone.html>

### FROM THE APPLE TECH INFO LIBRARY: "HOT SWAPPING" ADB DEVICES NOT SUPPORTED

*Question:* Is it safe to swap different ADB devices such as the mouse and keyboard when my Macintosh computer is powered on? What are the potential effects of doing so?

*Answer:* Swapping ADB devices (unplugging a device cable and replacing with another device cable) while the computer is on is commonly known as "hot swapping" and is NOT a recommended practice. Doing so may, at the very least, cause erratic behavior such as sluggish or slow performance of the device in question. For instance, mouse movement of the screen pointer may be so slow that it is effectively unusable. At the worst, hot swapping could damage the ADB controller chip on the Logic Board.

Restarting the computer will usually resolve performance issues with an ADB device that has accidentally been hot swapped.

Note: ADB "hot swapping" is not supported, and may void the warranty.

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## MARCH 2, 1999 MEETING

At about 7:30 p.m. we gathered in IRC-1 on the Oneonta State College campus to welcome a new member (Barbara de Romain) and several others (Alice M. Barrett, Lillian Dox, Alice Kane, and Barbara Means) who decided to “re-up” rather than lose those valuable membership privileges. Elsa Travisano reminded us what those privileges are. Look on the back of your card if you have forgotten. Elsa also noted that our very first President, Jordan Tannenbaum, and wife Susan have rejoined MUG ONE. Welcome all!

While Jay Manning tried valiantly to get the video camera/projector to work, Elsa and Simon Stearns fielded a number of questions and problems in our Q&A period. We learned that you can connect your ADB keyboard to the USB port of your iMac using Griffin Technology’s @ \$34.95 iMate. Keyspan offers a serial to USB adaptor for \$80 so you can connect other peripherals to the iMac. BUT, check first the manufacturer’s website to find out exactly WHAT is compatible with any of these adapters.

Q: Can Earthlink use a local phone number? A: Apparently not. Also, Digital Marketplace has not been accepting new clients until Bell connects a new phone line. They promised it “RSN,” which is computer lingo for “real soon now...” as Elsa quipped. (See what you miss if you don't come?)

Q: Is ordering from APS a problem? A: Some say yes, because of poor customer service since their recent bankruptcy restructuring. But APC, who makes excellent surge protectors, is great. Elsa warned us to beware of added surcharges and restocking fees (15%+ at MacMall now) that many mailorder dealers are quietly instituting. Check the Deal-Mac website at [www.dealmac.com](http://www.dealmac.com) for information on this sort of thing. Finally, one member reported a long saga of frustration with ComputerLand in Albany’s customer service.

Jay started his program by opening up an LC under the projector camera and trying to focus on the battery. Unfortunately the projector guns were not aligned and Jay’s “Which one looks better: this or this?” as he flipped over the projector’s lens elicited knowing laughter from veterans of the optometrist’s chair. We learned the warning signs of a dead battery: trouble booting up; the color monitor displaying black and white; the mouse moving slowly; the printer responding slowly and printing garbage; or most telling, the date resetting to August 27, 1956 (probably the birth date of Jobs?). What has happened is you lost the Parameter Random Access Memory or PRAM.

Jay then took us through the steps of replacing a battery, the specifics of which depend on the Mac model and the kind of battery used. After a battery has been replaced, you need to “zap the PRAM.” To do this you hold down the Option, Apple (command), P and R keys simultaneously after hearing the first tone on starting. Release them after getting a second tone. Then you need to reset all the computer’s parameters. Under

the Apple menu, open Chooser and reset AppleTalk to inactive if you are using an inkjet printer. Also open Control Panels and reset your Date and Time, your Mouse speed and blink rate under General Controls. If you have a G3, some of these may differ.

Jay then tried to show us some of the presentation files in the Apple Kit we got, but nothing new was discovered. They seemed to be sales presentations just bundled together. We saw the dancing iMacs and the opening G3 and the Hal (2001 computer bug) commercials. I LOVE the Hal line that only Macs don’t suffer the Y2K bug.

The presentation evolved into an extended discussion of iMacs (256 Meg RAM is possible; a B after the serial number indicates the upgraded model), the new G3s ( 1 Gig RAM possible), HFS+ and HFS formats for hard drives (+ is better and faster), G3 boards for older Macs, OS 10 now on servers, and Firewire. And finally the lethal Zip disk “click of death.”. The techies lost most of us somewhere along the way, but that is fine. Eventually we begin to understand.

Finally, we discussed whether MUG ONE should buy a CD burner for @ \$400. A CD burner is a CD-ROM drive that can save files onto special CD-ROMs. Members would be able to archive their files, keep all their photos, create a permanent backup CD, or even make a MUG ONE CD for members. We discussed whether a CD burner should be allowed to travel or remain on one host computer, and most agreed it needs to stay fixed. Toast, the software needed to make CDs, must be on one computer (copyright, etc.). I think most favored the purchase but no final decision was made.

With several conversations erupting, we quickly held our first raffle of 1999, with your secretary deservedly winning the CD storage box (already filled BTW, so I’ll need another one next month. ;-}), and other lucky winners taking home a trackpad, Tshirts and the mother of all mouse pads, etc. Oatmeal and chocolate sandwich cookies, applesauce muffins (Thanks, Wanda) and soda quenched our hunger and thirst before all returned to the cold, dark north country for the trip home.

– TERRY L. HELSER, SECRETARY

## BUY OS 8.5, GET TOMB RAIDER FREE!

If you need an extra motivation to upgrade to the latest system software, here it is: buy Mac OS 8.5 with Sherlock between Mar 5 and Apr 30, and Apple will throw in *Tomb Raider II* or *Tomb Raider Gold* with Lara Croft, free.

## STARSHIP TITANIC SAILS FOR THE MAC

AppleMaster Douglas Adams’ critically acclaimed, Codie Award-winning, hilarious and sometimes bizarre game *Starship Titanic* is now available for the Mac. From the author of *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Universe* and all its improbably hilarious sequels, this one title you don’t want to miss.

## PAGEMAKER 6.5: A VERSATILE TOOL FOR DESKTOP AND INTERNET PUBLISHERS

A decade ago, Aldus's – now Adobe's – *PageMaker* helped create a publishing revolution. Dazzling as the current explosion of possibilities offered by the Internet may be, it is easy to forget the impact that this one software program has had on the way people communicate and share ideas.

*PageMaker* let professional designers produce camera-ready copy in a fraction of the time it took to lay out a page by hand, and with a plethora of sophisticated effects. But its greatest impact was to put publishing into the hands of businesses, organizations and individuals. A \$500 copy of *PageMaker*, coupled with the newly introduced laser printer, enabled anyone with an idea, the patience to learn the software, and access to a properly equipped computer to produce printed materials that were light years beyond mimeographs or photocopies. A huge range of printed materials could be created and printed without engaging a professional designer or publishing firm. Documents could be revised and the results printed with a turn-around time of minutes, not the days or weeks required by traditional printers. A desktop publisher could print one, twenty-seven, or a thousand copies of a document. Camera-ready copy could be delivered to a printer on a diskette, complete with color separations. The best results were virtually indistinguishable from much more expensive professional printing. Other publishing applications have followed, from the quickly forgotten *Jazz* to heavyweight contender *QuarkXPress*. But *PageMaker* was the first, and for many tasks, it is still the best choice.

*PageMaker* is an enormously versatile tool. Over the years I've used it to design posters, brochures, formal invitations, membership cards, bookmarks, totebags, a book or two, advertisements, programs, many newsletters, even Valentines for various businesses, educational institutions and organizations. *News Break* has been produced in *PageMaker* since Harriett Johnson got her first copy of version 1.0.

The scope of *PageMaker 6.5* has expanded from print to include online publishing and the creation of "portable documents" using Adobe *Acrobat*. The same page designed in *PageMaker 6.5* can be printed, saved in HTML format as a web page, or turned into a Portable Document Format (PDF) document that can be distributed over the Internet or on disk. *PageMaker 6.5* has been designed to integrate with *Photoshop 5* and *Illustrator 8* – a bundled version of the three products is now available as *Adobe GraphicStudio* for a street price of @ \$950. *PageMaker 6.5*'s interface has been substantially enhanced from version 5 and is much more *Photoshop*-like, with folder-tabbed palettes for styles, colors, layers and master pages. Layers allow you to group together graphics and hide them so the screen will redraw more quickly, which is especially nice on a slower Mac. You can also use layers to create multiple versions of a document in a single file.

*PageMaker 6.5* can open more than one document at once, a

feature that by itself is worth upgrading from *PageMaker 5*. Drag and drop between documents and from other applications makes plundering your previous creations easy, and overcomes a shortcoming of earlier versions. The built-in word processor is now robust enough that I now prefer to do my writing and editing directly in *PageMaker 6.5*, rather than writing in *Word* and then placing finished articles into *PageMaker*. The included tutorials and templates are well worth exploring, even for seasoned users.

For those who prefer *Quark's* approach to layout, in which frames are placed in a document and then filled with text or graphics, *PageMaker 6.5* is accommodating, offering frames as an design alternative. To further entice users away from their competitors, Adobe included converter software for *QuarkXPress* and *Microsoft Publisher*, which is popular in the Windows world. Despite the redesign, old *PageMaker* hands should be able to get up to speed quickly, as the basic windowshade text placement, styles and master pages remain the same.

*PageMaker 6.5* is well suited for businesses and for individuals whose needs have gone beyond *Appleworks* and similar suites or home publishing programs. This is a robust program, but it also has a lot to offer to individual users. If you have a home business, or produce publications on a regular basis for organizations like the Scouts, a church or arts group, you should seriously consider purchasing *PageMaker 6.5*. The integrated Internet publishing tools mean that your documents can be web-ready, and you won't need to create multiple versions of the same document for different means of distribution.

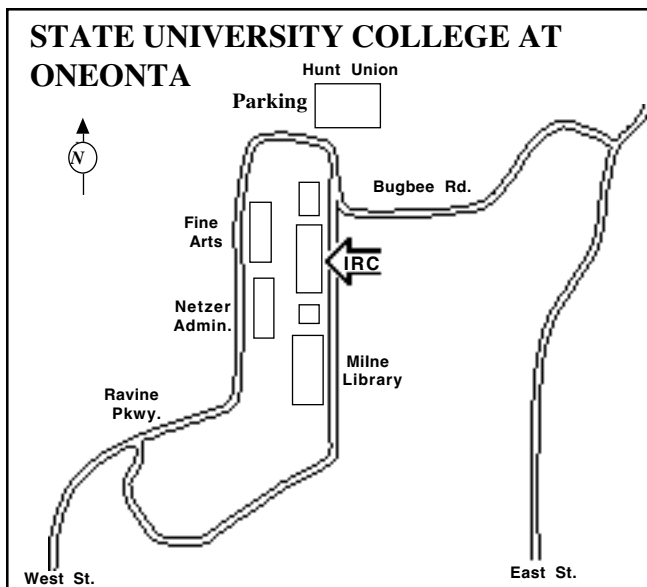
*PageMaker 6.5* should soon be supplanted by *PageMaker 6.5 Plus*, which will include a collection of 4,700 Illustrator-format graphics, hundreds of design templates and 300 high-resolution, CMYK photos; a Getting Started Guide, with design tips by Robin Williams, and a limited edition of *Adobe Photoshop 5.0*. The estimated street price will be \$499 for the full version and \$99 for upgrades. This summer, Adobe plans to introduce a totally new publishing package called *InDesign*, which will be aimed at professional publishers for a predicted street price of \$700. Upgrade paths from *PageMaker* and *Quark* will be available. *PageMaker* will continue to be offered as the program targeted at business users.

– ELSA TRAVISANO

### *Adobe PageMaker 6.5*

Adobe Systems Incorporated, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)

Minimum system requirements: 68030 or greater processor, System 7.1 or later, 9" (PowerBook) or 13" or larger monitor, CD-ROM, 6 MB RAM (non-PPC), 9MB RAM (PowerPC), 26 MB free hard drive space.



## NEWS BREAK

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## NON-DESIGNER'S PRINT AND SCAN BOOK

*The Non-Designer's Scan and Print Book: all you need to know about production and prepress to get great-looking pages*, by Sandee Cohen and Robin Williams. 264 pp., Berkeley: Peachpit Press, 1998. \$24.99

Sandee Cohen and Robin Williams, two seasoned teachers of design and production with close to 40 years of experience between them, serve as your guides on a journey through the often confusing world of producing printed documents. The tone is friendly and accessible, and the book is packed with photographs, illustrations and clear, if brief, explanations of all phases of the production process. The book is best for a beginner or someone with some experience, though even seasoned professionals may learn a thing or two about managing the prepress process.

The first section, entitled "Know Where You're Going," starts with the three questions you need to ask yourself or your client before you embark on a project:

- What kind of project is it? (physical properties of the finished product)
- How much money can you spend?
- When is it due?

These questions lead to a discussion of project basics, including the size, color and kind of paper, what kind of graphics are included, the number of pages, copies, and colors, different kinds of bindings, and what kind of print shop or commercial press to use. The chapter ends with a "Goal list" form to be filled out before starting any project, followed by two chapters that give an excellent short course on the basics of desktop and commercial printing.

The next section, "What is the Computer Doing?" covers computer software, color modes, raster (dots) images and resolutions, vector (lines) images and file formats. The third section, "The World of Color," covers process color printing,

spot colors and duotones, and specifying the number of colors.

"Getting Stuff into the Computer" gives the inside scoop on scanners and scanning, digital cameras and Kodak Photo CD, using stock photographs and clip art, and fonts and outlines. I found myself referring back to this section for tips on how to scan different kinds of originals and how to choose the appropriate scanning resolution.

Finally, in "Getting Your Work Printed" Cohen and Williams discuss high-resolution output, output specifications, trapping, proofing your job, a "preflight checklist" to make sure your job prints correctly, and a final chapter of quizzes and projects, with real-life problems and solutions.

An extensive and well-organized index make finding the information you need unusually easy. This book deserves a place on the reference shelf of anyone who uses a computer to design printed materials..

— ELSA TRAVISANO

