



MAC FACTS

from

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A Message from Dru

Well, we've come full circle to the end of another year. Let me stop, for just a moment, before we all get too caught up in the spirit (and the hustle and bustle) of the holidays, to say it has been a honor to serve you throughout the years. This year marks the end of our 13th year in business. In this, or any other, economy, businesses that have the staying power to survive for as long as we have are a rare commodity indeed. And it couldn't have happened without all of you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.



It's Party Time! - The Apple Corps of Dallas (the oldest Mac User group in the country!) is having it's annual Holiday Party and SwapFest on Saturday December 13th at the Richardson Civic Center (Hwy 75 & Arapaho). Festivities start at 9 am and go until 12 noon. This is a FREE event and is 'kid safe'. For more info go here - <http://www.acd.org>



December's 'For Your Information' continues our 5year holiday tradition of inspirational stories. Hope you enjoy it as much as I did.



We will be closed on Christmas Day. We'll also be closed Friday December 26th - but not for the usual reasons. On the 26th I'll be participating in a fund raising event for the burn unit of the Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. (For more than 80 years, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children has treated children across the state for orthopedic conditions, certain related neurological disorders and learning differences, without ever charging a patient's family). We're attempting to break a world's record for most candles on a cake. Current record is 12,000 candles. We're shooting for 20,004!!! More info will be coming to you, and if you'd like to be a part of this event, let me know ASAP! • We'll also be closed on Thursday, January 1st (but open for business, as usual, on Friday January 2nd.)



Need help when I'm not around? Try here - MacFixIt - <http://www.macfixit.com/>. Or here - MacOSXHints - <http://www.macosexhints.com/>. But the best place to go is here - Apple Knowledge Base. Over 75,000 articles to help you - <http://kbase.info.apple.com/index.jsp>



Information Please

When I was quite young, my father had one of the first telephones in our neighborhood. I remember well the polished old case fastened to the wall. The shiny receiver hung on the side of the box. I was too little to reach the telephone, but used to listen with fascination when my mother used to talk to it.

Then I discovered that somewhere inside the wonderful device lived an amazing person - her name was "Information Please" and there was nothing she did not know. "Information Please" could supply anybody's number and the correct time.

My first personal experience with this genie-in-the-bottle came one day while my mother was visiting a neighbor. Amusing myself at the tool bench in the basement, I whacked my finger with a hammer.

The pain was terrible, but there didn't seem to be any reason in crying because there was no one home to give sympathy. I walked around the house sucking my throbbing finger, finally arriving at the stairway.

The telephone!

Quickly, I ran for the footstool in the parlor and dragged it to the landing. Climbing up, I unhooked the receiver in the parlor and held it to my ear. "Information Please," I said into the mouthpiece just above my head.

A click or two and a small clear voice spoke into my ear. "Information." "I hurt my finger." I wailed into the phone. The tears came readily enough now that I had an audience. "Isn't your mother home?" came the question. "Nobody's home but me." I blubbered. "Are you bleeding?" "No," I replied. "I hit my finger with the hammer and it hurts." "Can you open your icebox?" she asked. I said I could. "Then chip off a little piece of ice and hold it to your finger," said the voice.

After that, I called "Information Please" for everything. I asked her for help with my geography and she told me where Philadelphia was. She helped me with my math. She told me my pet chipmunk, that I had caught in he park just the day before, would eat fruits and nuts.

Then, there was the time Petey, our pet canary, died. I called "Information Please" and told her the sad story. She listened, then said the usual things grown-ups say to soothe a child. But I was unconsolated. I asked her, "Why is it that birds should sing so beautifully and bring joy to all families, only to end up as a heap of feathers on the bottom of a cage?" She must have sensed my deep concern, for she said quietly, "Paul, always remember that there are other worlds to sing in."

Somehow I felt better.

Another day I was on the telephone. "Information Please." "Information," said the now familiar voice. "How do you spell fix?" I asked.

All this took place in a small town in the Pacific Northwest. When I was 9 years old, we moved across the country to Boston. I missed my friend very much. "Information Please" belonged in that old wooden box back home, and I somehow never thought of trying the tall, shiny new phone that sat on the table in the hall.

As I grew into my teens, the memories of those childhood conversations never really left me. Often, in moments of doubt and perplexity I would recall the serene sense of security I had then. I appreciated now how patient, understanding, and kind she was to have spent her time on a little boy.

A few years later, on my way west to college, my plane put down in Seattle. I had about half an hour or so between planes. I spent 15 minutes or so on the phone with my sister, who lived there now. Then without thinking what I was doing, I dialed my hometown operator and said, "Information, Please". Miraculously, I heard the small, clear voice I knew so well, "Information." I hadn't planned this but I heard myself saying, "Could you please tell me how to spell fix?" There was a long pause. Then came the soft spoken answer, "I guess your finger must have healed by now."

I laughed. "So it's really still you," I said. "I wonder if you have any idea how much you meant to me during that time."

"I wonder", she said, "if you know how much your calls meant to me." "I never had any children, and I used to look forward to your calls. I told her how often I had thought of her over the years and I asked if I could call her again when I came back to visit my sister. "Please do, she said. "Just ask for Sally."

Three months later I was back in Seattle. A different voice answered "Information." I asked for Sally. "Are you a friend?" She said.

"Yes, a very old friend, Paul," I answered.

"I'm sorry to have to tell you this, she said. Sally had been working part-time the last few years because she was sick. She died five weeks ago." Before I could hang up she said, "Wait a minute. Did you say your name was Paul?"

"Yes."

"Well, Sally left a message for you. She wrote it down in case you called. Let me read it to you." The note said, "Tell him I still say there are other worlds to sing in. He'll know what I mean." I thanked her and hung up. I knew what Sally meant.



*Happy Holidays to you and yours -
May all the joys of the season be yours.*



NEWSLINE

Apple's First Retail Store in Japan Opens in Tokyo

Apple's first retail store in Japan opened in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district on Sunday, November 30. The five-floor Apple® Store Ginza is Apple's first retail store outside the U.S.

“Over the last two years, Apple has redefined computer retailing for Mac and PC users in the U.S and now we are bringing the best personal computer buying experience to one of the greatest shopping destinations in the world - the Ginza in Tokyo,” said Ron Johnson, Apple's senior vice president of (Apple) Retail.

Some features of the Apple Store Ginza include:

- five floors where customers can shop for and learn about the latest Apple products and solutions, including dedicated “solution centers” for music, movies and photography;
- a twenty-seven foot long Genius Bar, one of the most popular sections of the Apple retail stores, where visitors can ask a Mac® “Genius” questions or receive product service;
- an 84-seat state-of-the-art-theater, where customers can attend workshops, watch demonstrations of Apple's latest products or attend “Made on a Mac” events;
- more than 400 customer events every month including a Studio Series of hands-on training classes:*
- an Internet cafe where anyone can check email or use Apple's iChat AV and iSight™ digital video conference cameras to video conference with friends and family;
- Mac specialists who speak 10 different languages including Japanese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Thai, Korean, Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese and English;
- a software selection with hundreds of titles for the Mac; and
- a Kids section devoted to educational software and games for the store's youngest visitors

Apple's over 70 retail stores in the U.S. have hosted more than 24 million visitors since the first Apple retail store opened in May 2001.

The hands-on Apple store experience provides visitors access to the latest Mac computer systems including the PowerBook® G4, iMac® and eMac™ running innovative digital lifestyle applications like iPhoto™, iDVD™, iTunes® and iMovie®, as well as Mac OS® X version 10.3 “Panther,” Apple's next generation operating system. At the Apple store, knowledgeable sales people are available to help customers learn about the new ultra-portable iPods and iChat AV and iSight digital video cameras for video conferencing with friends and family. *(FYI -There are 2 Apple Stores in 'Dallas'. The original is located at the north end of the 'Shops at Willow Bend Mall' - Park Lane and the Dallas North Tollway in Plano. The newest Apple Store in Dallas is located at the corner of Knox and McKinney Streets in 'Highland Park' - Ed)*



The Mac Partisan: Why Choose A Mac? Why The Dell Not ...! - A Resource

Helping To Point Out The Obvious Advantages Of The Mac In The Most Biased Way ...

<http://macspeedzone.com/html/hubs/partisan/general.html>



Thanks for taking the time to read this month's newsletter. Hope you enjoyed it. If you have any comments or suggestions for stories (or would even like to write a story - hint, hint, hint), please send them to me at machelpdesk@comcast.net Feel free to share this newsletter with a friend. The newsletter archives are located at <http://www.machelpdesk.com/page6a.html>. Y'all come back now, y'hear.