



Rmug News

April 2005

This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday morning
April 9, 2005 9-11:30 AM

All Mac users, new & old are invited to attend the next RMUG general meeting in the classrooms at:

Little Country Church

873 Canby & Churn Creek Rd.

Redding, California

(RMUG IS NOT CHURCH AFFILIATED)

Coffee and donuts are served during our "Get Acquainted" time, 9am to 10am. There are classes for "Beginners" and "Intermediate" from 9:15am to 10:00am.

Topics this month will include printer setup and software demonstrations and discussion, also related personal creativity projects and issues as well as the usual Q&A.

Contents

RMUG Information	2
Secretary's Notes	3
Old Dogs / New Tricks	4
Ode To iPod	4
Mac Mini Setup	4
Free Stuff	5
Apple Here to Stay	6
Hints and Tips	7
iWork 05 Review	8
Editorial	9
Our Host	10

Rmug Officers

Marcus Harner - President
Jim Pace - Vice President
Charlotte Ruskowitz - Treasurer
Jacquie Martin - Secretary
Dale Josephson - Librarian
Ken Lorenz - Editor
Barbara Benefield,
Louise Zegers,
- Hospitality

President's Letter

Macintoshes are not supposed to break. Until recently, I seem to have been quite fortunate in that every Mac I've owned has dutifully followed this edict. Last week, two days before the March RMUG general meeting, my luck ran out. Turning on my relatively new G5 iMac all I got was a measly little power light to flash on and off...1 flash...I try again...1 flash. Knowing that Macs don't break I try again...1 flash. My wife and I use our Mac for work and school, we needed it back up and healthy quickly. Using the phone we went to find help, to Apple Care of course. We understood that the Apple Store in Sacramento could fix it in about an hour.

Great, off to Sacramento we went, a 5 hour Saturday drive, well worth it if our friend can be revived by Saturday night. Apple stores have generally nice people, the Arden Fair store is no different. Although; Saturday I learned how the repair process works. First, you fill out an online page describing your problem on a laptop that sits about 2 feet from the 'Genius Bar'. The Genius Bar is where you go if you have difficult questions, or sick Macs. The online page puts you into this queue just to step up to the Genius Bar - my wait, about 2 hours. I also learned that if they couldn't fix it there, they ship it off to get repaired. This would take about 12 DAYS. Upon hearing this, some very unprofessional words came out of my mouth that would probably offend the religious, sexual and moral preferences of anyone that heard it. Well, I waited my 2 hours by wandering around the mall - thrilling. Back at the Apple Store, Trevor, the resident genius, opened up the iMac for me. We agreed that it didn't smell 'healthy' and it most likely was the power supply. It was a 12 day'r, the power supply had to be ordered to fix it. But then a ray of hope, Trevor informed me that all of the parts in the G5 iMac are user serviceable without voiding the warranty. Time needed to order a new power supply - about 2 days. Not great, but doable. Our Mac still dead in the trunk, I drove back home to call and order a replacement power supply - not one of my most productive days.

The Apple Care technician, Chris I believe, was extremely helpful. After 20 minutes on the phone pressing internal buttons, listening for beeps and looking for flashing LEDs, it was diagnosed as a bad power supply. Chris then surprised me with

continued on page 3

RMUG Information

Why RMUG? The Redding Macintosh Users' Group was formed to help members and new users obtain maximum enjoyment and performance from their computers. This is accomplished through group activities and our direct affiliation with Apple™.

Resources: RMUG resources include monthly mailings from Apple™ and numerous outside vendors. We have a library of public domain programs, games and shareware software. We have videos and other computer-related guidebooks and information.

Meetings: RMUG meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 to 11:30 AM at Little Country Church, 873 Canby Rd. Room B-6. (we are not church affiliated) The meetings give members and visitors an opportunity to share information, opinions, personal experiences and techniques regarding Macintosh computer systems—hardware & software.

Membership Information: We invite you, as a guest, to attend our next monthly meeting. If you decide to join RMUG, your membership fee includes your whole family. We need your help as much as you need ours! Please participate!

Welcome To Our Meetings: Call the President, Marcus Harner at 245-0895 or contact other RMUG officers for help. Go to <http://rmug.org/membership.html> for numbers.

Membership Dues: \$24 / year. Includes newsletters, access to shareware, monthly workshops, troubleshooting help. Payment of dues can be made at the monthly meetings or send them to: *Charlotte Ruskowitz, 6538 Mossom Ln., Anderson CA 96007* . Please make check payable to: Redding Macintosh Users' Group.

PRESIDENTS LETTER CONT:

the most wonderful question, "Where do I ship it?" The power supply was ordered Saturday night, received Tuesday morning and powering the iMac before Tuesday dinner. I guess I should have talked to Chris before wasting a lovely Saturday in the car.

That weekend I learned two things, 1) being at home without Internet access feels lonesome and 2) Macintoshes are not suppose to break.

Marcus

SECRETARY'S NOTES:

MINUTES – RMUG MEETING, MARCH 12, 2005

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2005, WILL BE OUR LAST MEETING AT LITTLE COUNTRY CHURCH.

Little Country Church informed Dale that they would need the rooms we use after April. We are looking for a new meeting place. Anyone who knows of another possible meeting place, please let Dale Josephson know, dale@jett.net. We currently use one room that will hold at least 75 people and a smaller room for no more than 20 people. Current hours are from 9:00 a.m. to noon on the 2nd Saturday of each month, but we would entertain all possibilities.

Tips from Michael Peters:

.Something should be printed with ink jett printers at least once a week, color as well as black, to make sure the tiny nozzles remain open. If nothing else, run a Nozzle Check Pattern.

Should the nozzles clog and not open using the cleaning recommended in your printer's User's Guide, you can purchase a glycerin cartridge specific to your printer from InkforArt.

. Unopened ink cartridges should be stored in an upright position to avoid possible drying of ink in the nozzles.

Weekly and monthly computer maintenance:
Weekly.

1) OS X - Run Disk Warrior (to optimize your directories). OS 9 – Can still use Norton Utilities.
2) Repair Permissions (gives you permission to access files).

Applications – Utilities – Disc Utilities – Select name of Hard Drive – First Aid Tab – Click 'Repair Permissions'.

If you have a second drive, it should be on desktop and on when you repair permissions.
Monthly.

Leave your computer on overnight at end of every month to run monthly maintenance.

System Preferences –

Energy Saver Control Panel – Slide slider to 'Never sleep'.

Reset to preference the next day. OR use Cocktail which can be downloaded free. Run CRON and other tests as needed. Cocktail questions? Ask Michael.

. Use FireWire Target Disc Mode to get information off an old computer (OS9 platform) to new OS X computer.

Both computers must have FireWire. Start old computer holding 'T' key down. Start new computer. Click Hard Drive – Users – Your home icon – make new folder – click on icon for old computer – open using 'Open' (do not double click) – drag folder or files from old computer to new folder – 'Eject' other computer hard drive icon when finished – restart old computer before trying to use.

Barbara Benefield reviewed TurboTax for figuring and filing your Federal taxes. She said the figures you use in Turbo- Tax are only as good as your money management program. She uses Quicken. If you set up the categories to correspond to TurboTax categories, the figures from Quicken can be transferred automatically. State tax forms can be downloaded for free. Both Federal and State taxes can be done on line. Easy to follow help files in video format. Thank you, Barbara, for a very interesting review.

Focus of the April 9th meeting will be Choosing the right printer and all forms of printing.

Jacquie Martin,
Secretary

Old Dogs New Tricks:

LEARNING TO SPEAK COMPUTER

An early advertisement for an automobile read, "It does not bite or kick, it does not get tired on long trips, it only eats when it is running down the road." Today we would laugh at an ad using this type of language. But to sell a car to people who had been raised with horses, this made perfectly good sense.

The introduction of computers into our everyday life is requiring us to learn a new language. Its components and functions are requiring new words to describe them, or old words are taking on new meaning. This new vocabulary can be frustrating to people being forced to join this alien society.

My brother told his two grandsons, "Maybe I should get a computer or I'll be left behind." They said, "Grandpa, you are already behind."

In my computer classes I attempt to introduce computer technology by everyday comparisons. But you have to start learning the new language somewhere. I invite the class to stop me if I slip and don't explain some computer terminology. After all, computer windows don't have curtains!

My wife's grandfather bought one of the first automobiles that came into McAlester, OK. On his first drive, when he was ready to stop, he yelled, "WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, you _ _ _", and he ran into the building. It was the wrong terminology for the technology.

You can do it. You can learn to speak computer. After all, you have learned to speak automobile, typewriter, telephone, automatic washer, dryer, mixers, toasters, dishwashers, microwave, and on and on.

You can do it.

By Allen Hall

Ode to my iPod:

Oh how do I trifle thee, let me know the ways
You hoard my music and secret stuff
You entertain nightly well past bedtime
Your vast capacity retains my most important
trappings
Oh your battery does die after briefer and briefer
visits
Oh what am I to do?
Oh what to do, to prolong our time together my
precious
Your case so shiny and sleek I see no way to
enter
The new battery comes with pry tools that you
easily defeat
Oh what to do, to prolong our time together my
precious
The new battery comes with pry tools that you
easily defeat twice again
Oh John what kind of pry tools do thee have
Oh John don't force mine eyes to view the
hammers and saws
Oh John what kind of pry tools do thee have
Here Dale is your iPod all shinny and sleek with a
new battery underneath

The moral of our tale:
Take your ailing iPod to John and don't watch as
he gently persuades your iPod to parts and back
to whole again.

dalej

MAC MINI SETUP:

I set up my first Macintosh Mini today, and I will say I was very satisfied. The machine I set up came with a 1.42GHz G4 processor, 80GB HD, 512MB RAM, Airport Extreme, SuperDrive, Bluetooth, Apple wired keyboard and Logitech 2 button & scrool wheel mouse.

This little dynamo really is 6 1/2 X 6 1/2 X 2 and it has a power brick about one third the size of the computer. It is extremely quiet and the speaker was just barely adequate for iTunes. The CD seemed slightly slow burning a 230MB CD of MP3 files, but I am comparing it to one on a \$3,000 laptop and a \$3,000 G5, so it really wasn't that bad. In every other way I loved this

continued on page 5

MAC MINI SETUP CONT:

little G4. The Mac Mini seemed to move just about as fast as my tower 1.25GHz G4s, and the Mini uses laptop drives, so I was quite impressed. I opened and closed Photoshop files and did the 100MBs of updates, and at every step this seemed like a great little machine.

If anyone with a G3 of any flavor is looking for a leap into OS-X with 95% of the whistles and bells for 70% of the price of what a nice 17" iMac G5 would run you, I can highly recommend the little Mac Mini with a third party monitor. Anyone with an old G4 tower they were thinking of upgrading, I would seriously look at the Mac Mini as a viable alternative.

dalej

***** separate ramblings *****

If you wanted to hot rod your Mac Mini and void your warranty, there are a couple of good options. Since the stock 80GB HD is 5400 RPM, you could purchase a server level 7200 RPM HD and replace the stock internal HD with the faster server HD. When you purchase a hard drive, if you look very very closely you will find how many hours per month or year this drive is expected to be spinning at full speed, and server drives - the answer is 100% of the time. This is quite often listed as 720 hours per month. Of course, we ordered our hypothetical hot rod machine with 256MB of RAM to save money. Now that the case is open adding the new HD, lets drop in a high quality 1GB RAM chip as we take the old one out, as there is only one memory slot in a Mac Mini. There are several large corporations that are now using Mac Mini computers with upgraded HDs and external FireWire HDs as their primary mail servers.

dalej

Stuff for Free:

Epson Stylus Photo 960 Printer

This was a wonderful printer... Until out of date Epson cartridges were used when the ink ran out of the ones in the printer. The cartridges were bought at the same time as the printer. Since the printer has seen very little use, the cartridges went "out of date" and it has not worked correctly since. I helped Larry put several 3rd party cartridges in the printer, even tried one NEW Black Epson brand cartridge, but could not get the printer to come back to life. Maybe if a whole new set of Epson brand cartridges were bought for it, that might work. They are \$12.34 at the Epson store and \$9 and \$10 at Amazon.com.

Larry has decided if anyone wants this printer they can have it for FREE, just pick it up at the next RMUG meeting. If you don't want to wait just e-mail him or me.

E-mail

smalld@charter.net

mj_pete@lycos.com

I do hope someone can rescue this printer. It has many wonderful features and worth the cost and effort of some new cartridges. If I had not just bought a new printer I would be trying to keep it for myself!

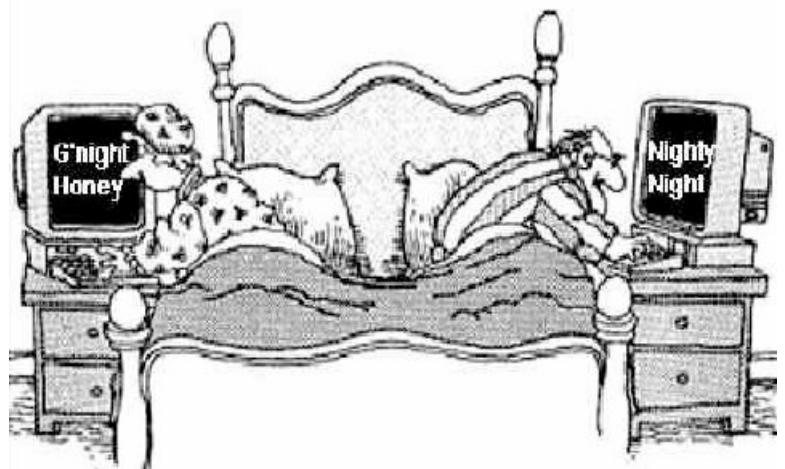
See you at the April meeting.

Michael

CAN YOU USE THIS?

Free!

Macally USB Hub For Mac, 4-Port, powered. I moved to a larger hub. [Jacquie - 547-3568](tel:547-3568)



Charlotte

Apple Here to Stay:

Nearly a decade ago, just a few months after Microsoft shipped Windows 95, I asked Bill Gates (news - web sites) if it was a conscious decision in the development of that product to give Windows more of a Mac look and feel. Of course I knew he'd say it wasn't, but I couldn't resist asking. "There was no goal even to compete with Macintosh (news - web sites)," Gates proclaimed. "We don't even think of Macintosh as a competitor."

That was a crock, so I pressed the issue a little. I asked him how he accounted for the widespread perception that Windows 95 looked a lot like Mac 88, and whether the similarity was just a coincidence. I didn't expect a sobbing confession of mimicry, but I thought it would be cool to see how he'd respond. Surprisingly enough, Gates shifted gears and became more forthcoming.

"Some of the things in Windows 95 the Mac had earlier," he acknowledged, citing long file names, plug-and-play capabilities and built-in peer-to-peer networking. You know that had to be tough for him, so when he proclaimed that "there's a ton of things even in Windows 3.1 that the Mac doesn't have, that someday they'll probably add to their system, too," I didn't have the heart to call him on it when he didn't cite any examples.

That exchange with Gates came to mind after I read the "Giants in Jeopardy" story, part of Computerworld's special report on the future of IT. I found it striking that the IT visionaries who foresee a decline in Microsoft's dominance due to threats like Linux (news - web sites) and Google never mentioned Apple Computer.

Long before Linux became a thorn in Microsoft's side, Apple was a full-fledged pain in the company's you-know-what. On the one hand, it was in Microsoft's best interest for Apple to be successful, since software for the Mac has long been a huge business for

Microsoft. That, in fact, is why Microsoft invested \$150 million in Apple two years after the launch of Windows 95.

On the other hand, Microsoft had to deal with the abhorrence of being perceived as a technology follower, playing catch-up to the operating-system strides that Apple was making. That the best technology doesn't always win is a truth of life to which Microsoft owes much of its success, and Apple's technology never really bruised much more than the egos of Microsoft's executives. Still, it's interesting that Apple has become so completely marginalized in some quarters that it's no longer even part of the discussion of a future world order in which Microsoft is seen as less dominant.

I'm no IT futurist, but trust me, you need to include Apple in the discussion. If you don't believe it, I urge you to read Mark Hall's story in last week's issue "In Business to Stay." It's a compelling account of how a growing number of your peers are using Apple's technology in corporate environments outside of traditional Mac strongholds like publishing. One of the key attractions, Hall notes, is that the Mac OS X (news - web sites) operating system, with the exception of its user-interface and management tools code, is an open-source version of Unix (news - web sites) that's tuned for open-source offerings like the Apache Web server, MySQL database and JBoss application server.

Combine that open-source carrot with near-bulletproof security, and you begin to understand that we're talking about more than being late to the game with long file names here. The best technology may not always win. But it's not going to go away, either.

Technology - MacCentral
By Don Tennant, Computerworld.com MacCentral

continued on page 7

Hints and Tips:

I found quite a few good tips in this month's edition of Hints & Tips at www.mac-hints-tips.com. Do mosey over there & see if there's some that interest you. Meanwhile here's a few I found especially interesting....

Search Just a Folder

Why search the entire hard drive if you know the item is somewhere in one or two particular folders? Open Find with Command/F. Now drag the folder or folders you wish to search, uncheck all other choices and your search is much faster.

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis, OR

Saving a PDF

Need to send a document to a friend who doesn't have the same application, fonts, or operating system as you do?

OS X 10.3 can create PDFs as easily as it

can print a document. In any application, choose File > Print. At the bottom of the print window, you'll see an option to "Save as PDF." Click it and then save the document to your desktop. You can then transfer this perfect duplicate of your document to anyone with OS X or Adobe Reader (including users with Unix or Windows).

MacHome Journal

Cutting Through the Window Clutter

It's not only arguably the coolest feature in Panther; it's probably the best thing that happened to any OS since icons. It's called Expose, and when you invoke it, it instantly (and I mean instantly) shows you miniature versions (thumbnails) of every open window in the Finder and all open applications. That way you can instantly click and go right to the window you want.

Honestly, there's no way to adequately describe this feature, so go try it once and it will instantly (and I mean instantly) make sense.

Here's how: Open a few Finder windows, then open a couple documents in an application. Then press the F9 key, and every window temporarily miniaturizes. Click on the window you want -- it comes to the front, and everything else returns to normal. Is that slick or what?

TMUG Insider, Pleasanton, CA

Site Hierarchy

Next time you're visiting a Web site and have burrowed down through several pages, hold down the Command key while you click on the page title (at the very top of the Safari window), and you'll see the path that leads from the page you're on back to the home page of that site. (This is very like the path you see when you Command/click a Finder window title.)

This can be very handy if a search engine has landed you in the middle of a site somewhere, and you want to understand where you are within that site.



- Your FAST choice for Internet access in the North State
- Macintosh Service and Repair
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- CD Authoring
- Wide range of SCSI cables
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(530) 242-1800
<http://jett.net>

continued on page 8

HINTS AND TIPS CONTINUED:

Got Red Eye?

Don't grab for the Visine! Just remove it in Photoshop. I learned a little technique that is fast and easy.

First open your image in Photoshop. Set the default foreground color to Black (use the "D" key). Then select the Brush Tool ("B"). Look at the info bar across the top for the "Mode" button. Change the mode of the Brush Tool to "Saturation." Select a brush that is slightly larger than the red pupil of the eye. Click with the brush tool over the red eye. Poof -- the red is gone and what is left is the black center of the eye. Repeat for the other eye. That's it! No more red eyes in any of your photos again.

The key to this technique is to have black as the foreground color, and the brush tool set to saturation. --Scott Armstrong

The Finder, Mid-Columbia MUG, Kennewick, WA

Hints & Tips at www.mac-hints-tips.com
Submitted by Charlotte

iWork '05 Review:

iWork '05 includes productivity applications for creating, presenting and publishing your work with style. Pages word processing software and Keynote presentation software allow you to create stylish and attractive documents with ease!

Pages word processing software
Pages word processing software offers more than 40 professionally designed templates including stationery, three-column brochures, newsletters, school reports and invitations. The templates also include multiple page designs to facilitate creating attractive, thematic documents from scratch. Text and image placeholders allow you to simply drag and drop your content without reformatting. Some templates, including Travel Journal and Family Newsletter, are specifically

designed to make use of your iLife content. Pages imports AppleWorks documents, imports and exports Microsoft Word documents, and allows you to create PDF files.

Sponsored Links

Powerful Presentations Easily turn Excel into interactive PowerPoint. "Best of Comdex 2003" www.infommersion.com

Presentation Software Present Online With Screen Sharing Show Your Screen Online in Seconds www.networkstreaming.com

Presentation Software Create multimedia presentations while you present with PowerPoint! www.apreso.com

Keynote presentation software
Keynote presentation software includes cinema-quality transitions, animated text effects and powerful animation controls. Create self-playing demos or running storyboard animations and share them with others by exporting to QuickTime interactive or Macromedia Flash. Keynote includes 20 Apple-designed themes, making it easy to create stylish and professional presentations. Keynote imports AppleWorks presentations, imports and exports Microsoft PowerPoint presentations; and exports PDF, QuickTime and Flash.

iLife Media Browser

The included iLife Media Browser allows you to access and manage your iLife media files and easily add your iLife photos, movies, and music into your presentations.

Conclusion

Whether you're creating flyers, presentations, research papers, slide shows, or any other document, you'll find iWork '05 to be an excellent addition to your publishing toolkit.

From Rachael Smithey,
Your Guide to Focus on Macs
At About.com

Policies

This newsletter is published monthly for the Redding Macintosh Users' Group and is distributed to all club members.

No other individual, group or business may use any portion of this newsletter without prior written permission.

RMUG News welcomes articles and questions relating to Macintosh or Macintosh compatible computers. Articles may be hand written, typed, or submitted on a 3.5" floppy disk (using any popular word processing program).

Submissions must be accompanied by the author's full name, address and telephone number. The submissions become the property of RMUG unless otherwise specified.

If you have a change of address or other questions, please notify the newsletter editor or other RMUG officer as soon as possible.

Deadline for submissions is the last Saturday of each month. E-mail or deliver all material to:

Ken Lorenz

E- mail submissions to:
krlore@cwnet.com

OR

rmug@rmug.org

(stuff files if possible)

Ad Rates

RMUG members are invited to place "Wanted", "For Sale" & "Trade" ads in the newsletter at no charge. Business cards or commercial accounts are welcome at the rates listed above. One of the best reasons for belonging to a user's group is to let other people know about your activities, as well as learning what other people are doing with their computers and software. Please give your business cards or ads to the newsletter editor.

<p>AD Rates</p> <p>\$4 – business card</p> <p>\$6 – quarter page</p> <p>\$9 – half page</p> <p>\$15 – full page</p>
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Advertisements in the RMUG newsletter will not influence reviews or critiques of hardware, software companies or stories.

RMUG does not endorse any specific dealer or product, but we do encourage the distribution of information which may assist club members in identifying best buys and services.

Editorial

It looks as though this April's regular RMUG meeting will be the last one at the Little Country Church. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the membership of RMUG to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Little Country Church for letting us use their facilities for the last several years. It has been a great place to meet. We will miss the nice folks we have met there. Thank you again.

Dale has signed us up to meet at Yaks Koffee Shop for the May, June and July meetings. I stopped by Yaks the other day and was quite pleasantly surprised. In fact, I have never seen a coffee shop like it before. The closest thing to it is the coffee bar in Barnes & Noble Book store. The meeting room there looks like it would hold about 50, and they are set up for Wi-Fi. It has great potential for presentations, etc. We are bound to find out. Yaks is located in the old Holiday market strip mall on Bechelli Lane across from Trucks Plus.

The meeting this month should be another fun and inspiring one, with printing everything from text to photos and CD, DVD's. Things are starting to move and shake back in D.C. with respect to fair use rights. The Patriot Act and other issues are particularly germane to our hobby. Maintain your awareness and by all means

continued on page 10

Jet Technologies

www.jett.net

Macintosh parts and service by trained technicians who "Speak MAC"

Internet service using Macintosh Servers

Dial-up and Wireless Internet, 10 MB mail boxes, Personal web sites,

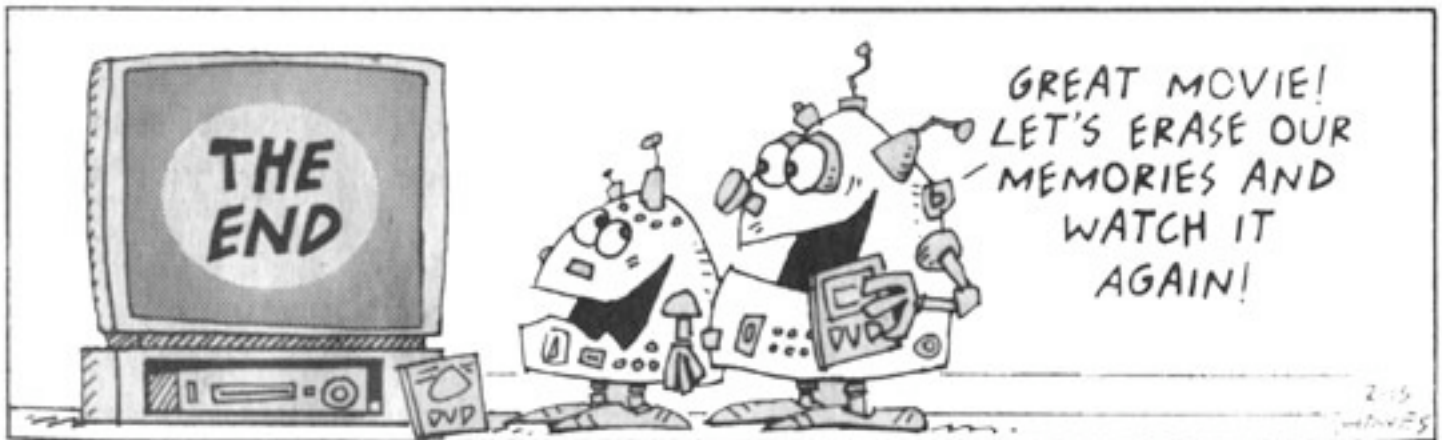
Domain Hoasting, Customized Training, Office Network Intergration.

Repairs and Upgrades are our Specialty !

1320 Yuba St. #214 - Voice (503) 242 - 1800

Redding CA. 96001 - FAX (503) 242 - 5901

Frank and Ernest



Michael

EDITORIAL CONTINUED:

Speak up if you feel that your rights or liberties are being infringed. If we do not look out for ourselves you can bet there are politicians who will gladly take those rights and freedoms and give us back censorship and theocratic dogma along with persecution.

Ken

