



'Do what you love, love what you do, and deliver more than you promise.'

- Harvey McKay

Homecoming 2000 holds interest meeting

Homecoming 2000 will hold a brief informational meeting at 6:30 p.m. today in the Golden Spur. Any group interested in participating should send one representative. For more information, call Carolina Productions at 777-7130.

Beta Alpha Psi offers income tax assistance

Beta Alpha Psi will be offering volunteer income tax assistance from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Russell House through April 13.

Criminal Justice offers study abroad program

The College of Criminal Justice is offering students the opportunity to study criminal justice in Russia for two weeks (May 11-27) at one of Russia's leading criminal justice academies - the Volgograd Law Institute. The application deadline is March 31. For more information, call Rob Rinker at 777-7097 or send an e-mail to asstkah@gwm.sc.edu.

Outstanding Women applications available

Applications for Outstanding Women of the Year are due today. They are available in the Campus Activities Center in the Russell House and in the Office of Women's Studies. For more information, call 777-6688.

Honor stoles available for graduates

Honor stoles are available by the Russell House Information Desk, in Student Life, and in Student Government. The deadline is 5 p.m. Friday.

Group advisement to begin for psychology

Mandatory group advisement for psychology students will be March 29-April 1. All lower division students must attend group advisement before they can register for summer or fall 2000 courses. Those who haven't signed up may do so at Psychology Undergraduate Student Services in Barnwell 208.

Research center seeks volunteers

The Prevention Research Center at the University of South Carolina's School of Public Health is looking for men and women age 18 to 70 for an 11-day, physical-activity study. For more information, call USC's Prevention Research Center at 777-7492.

Phi Beta Kappa to sponsor lecture

Dr. Cornell Fleischer of the University of Chicago will provide one informal talk, "Reflections on the Bosnian Elections," and a formal public lecture entitled "Religion and State are Twins: Mysticism and Prophecy in the Formation of Islamic Modernity." Both events will be March 23. For more information, call 777-0288.

CORRECTIONS

An editorial in *The Gamecock* March 3 should have said USC has six colleges with no deans.

A method to computer madness

BY MACKENZIE CRAVEN
ASSISTANT ET CETERA EDITOR

Shopping for that perfect PC? How many megabytes can be bought for the mighty buck today? Is that camera accessory really something useable on a daily basis?

With so many options available, shopping for a computer can be a nightmare. But, there is a simple solution: Take one step at a time and know exactly what the computer is for and how it needs to be used.

Some students are familiar enough with computers to know that the more memory a computer has and the higher quality of processor, the better the computer. A computer's memory is where it holds data waiting to be processed.

When computers were created, memory was stored as random access memory, or RAM. Today, modern computers store memory as SDRAM, or synchronous dynamic random access memory.

SDRAM divides the RAM into each department, then deposits memory requests to the each department.

While one bank serves up the memory value, the SDRAM sends a command to the other bank. A computer with 100 MHz issues 100 requests per second.

Gateway and Dell systems are similar. The memory of a Gateway computer priced at \$999 has 32 mb of SDRAM. Dell offers a similar system at the same price, but it has twice the memory. However, clients can purchase double the memory for \$45 more.

Gateway clients can negotiate the amount of memory their computer have. Gateway also offers the America Online Internet service, along with its 433 MHz package.

But, if a college student is using an Ethernet card, they don't need the AOL service and can apply the cost of the service to double their memory.

The Compaq Presario 7470 offers the same amount of memory as the Dell - 64 mb at 100 MHz - but it also comes with a Logitech QuickCam in the package.

Another important component is the processor unit, which functions as the brain of the computer. The faster the processor, the faster the computer will be.

But, even though the Compaq processor is 533 MHz and the Dell processor is 550 MHz, for that extra camera, the

consumer might be willing to compromise and get a computer that's a little slower.

A hard drive stores the information needed from session to session. The size of the hard drive should be what the consumer looks for during selection.

Modern computers have the AT Attachment interface, which integrates the controller on the disk drive for faster performance and improved reliability.

CD-ROMs for the Gateway and the Dell are exactly the same. The main purpose for the CD-ROM is to read the drive, so processing for the drive isn't necessary. The Compaq has a CD-RW, which provides CD writing in addition to the reading of the drive.

The Gateway and Compaq both have bigger hard drives than the Dell. But, the Dell has a faster processor. Consumers need to know what components are most important for their purchase.

When deciding between one or two computers, the consumer must look at service and sound systems as deal-breakers.

To save a lot of time and useless energy, here is the long and short of those factors.

The Dell offers a PCI Sound Blaster system, which is part of the actual computer. On the other hand, the Gateway offers an integrated system that isn't necessarily part of the PC. The Compaq offers the RioPort Audio Manager, a type of software. Don't be fooled by the lingo, though. Basically, all the systems are simple sound systems. If consumers are looking for a unique system, they should plan on upgrading any of these types of systems.

Regarding service, Gateway offers the most help with the PC hands down, and Compaq offers the least. Consumers must decide which factor is most important to them, however.

The best way to find that fantasy computer is to log on to the Internet. Nearly every computer company has a site where pros and cons of different types can be viewed and computer users can decide exactly what they want.

After a quick telephone call, a client can find the packages to be very flexible.

Computer comparisons

	Processor	Memory	Hard Drive	CD-Rom	Sound System	Service
Gateway \$999	Intel Celeron 433 MHZ	32 MB SD Ram expandable to 250 MB	10GB 5400 RPM Ultra ATA	17X Min./40X Max	Integrated Audio Pcl 128B	1 year parts and labor; 1 year on-site service, 1 year hardware
Dell \$999	Intel Pentium III Processor at 550 MHZ	64 MB SD Ram at 100 MHZ	4.3 GBx2 Ultra ATA 5400 RPM	17X Min./40X Max	Sound Blaster 64U Pcl.	1 year at home service; 3 year limited warranty
Compaq \$849	533 MHZ AMD K6-2 Processor	64 MB 100 MHZ Sync DRAM	20 GB ATA/ 66 Ultra DMA	CD-RW drive	RioPort Audio manager	Carry-in during warranty; TOLL number for one year.

Miranda LaLonde THE GAMECOCK

Surviving a breakup to find life after love

BY RICKY DELEON
STAFF WRITER

Many cliches describe it, from "all good things must end" to "breaking up is hard to do." There's the question of post-relationship friendship or maybe even future hopes of getting back together. But no matter the outcome, for most people, breaking up is a chore.

"It may be one of the hardest things to do," said music sophomore Chris Lebar. "But it is sometimes necessary."

Jacqueline Hands, a journalism sophomore, said, "Once the seed of doubt is planted, it will grow from small jealousies and other little things."

There are many reasons people break up, with no one reason being easier to swallow than another. But with a broad stretch from "I'm not ready for commitment" to "You make me sick," can you ever be ready to handle the situation?

"Sometimes, people just outgrow one another," Lebar added.

A couple usually outgrow one another, when they grow up. For example, a "perfect couple" can make it through high school and break up when they get to college just because they grew up and they changed.

Valeria Marisio, a public relations sophomore, said, "Sometimes you start dating someone and you realize that this person is nothing of what they seemed. Somehow, things change, and things change them."

Another reason can, of course, be distance. Again, the perfect high school couple go to different colleges, and the distance is just too much for them. They break up because neither can deal with a long-distance relationship.

So, then the question moves from "Why?" to "How?" The method used to break the news will have a strong effect on the former significant other.

There are many ways to break up with someone - the phone, an e-mail or in person. There are pros and cons to each of these, but of

course none of them are easy.

Breaking up through e-mail is just cruel; the computer is not personal at all. So between the phone call and in-person breakup, the phone call is the lesser of two evils.

"A phone call is not that bad of an idea. That way, if one starts to get emotional, the other won't necessarily see it and start a chain reaction," Lebar said.

"E-mails are harsh, while a phone call is better. But breaking up face-to-face shows a lot about your character and how much you care for that person," Marisio said.

And finally, there is the question of post-breakup friendship. In an ideal world, it would exist.

"You may hope for friendship, but, in reality, that rarely ever happens," Lebar said.

If the foundation of the relationship is solid, friendship can last after the breakup.

However, if the foundation of the relationship is unstable, the breakup will put a crack in it and a friendship probably won't last.

"Honestly?" Hands asked. "[After the breakup, the relationship] will never be the same."

"Breaking up has become a ritual for society," a correspondent from DrDrew.com said. "It almost seems as if you are not normal unless you have experienced the ending of a relationship at least twice. There are all sorts of reasons, ranging from 'you're not the same person' to 'we're moving too fast.' And then you see what your partner is like, whether they tell you face-to-face or send you an e-mail explaining that they just don't like you anymore."

Can there be friendship after a breakup?

"As much as people say they will be friends, only a fraction of those people will continue to be friends," he concluded. "Things will not be the same after breaking up."

Editor's Note: Ann Marie Miani contributed to this article.



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