



May Flowers

Here's Your Chance to Become a Smart Ass.

By Frank Varano

Reuters is reporting that MIT is going to offer courses on line. A lot of schools are now doing that. You can not earn a degree but.... well, just read what was said in the article.

"We started this project because MIT believes that one of the best ways to advance education around the world is through the Internet," said Anne Margulies, head of online curriculum.

Online students will not be able to earn an MIT degree or have contact with faculty at the university, located across the river from Boston in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

MIT launched its "OpenCourseWare" program in 2003 and already offers hundreds of courses online. A small number of other U.S. schools are following suit. Stanford put some classes on line last year and Bryn Mawr plans to do so soon.

Last month, 1.5 million users went to the MIT course site, sampling offerings like Cognitive Robotics, Inventions and Patents, and Superconducting Magnets.

Most users -- 60 percent come from outside the United States -- gravitate toward the subjects MIT is best-known for: computer science, physics and mathematics, Margulies said.

Even MIT students who pay thousands of dollars in tuition fees for each course use the free online service to study for exams or sample what courses they may want to take on campus, Margulies said.

The rest of the words in this article are mine. Now I don't know if this news item belongs in the Newsletter but I offer it to you computer gurus to pick up courses pertaining to computer science. Oh, you think you know all about computers?

HERE'S next column

HERE'S previous column

Well, take a course at MIT in the Internet then hang a shingle outside of your computer room. "I TOOK AN MIT COURSE!" People might remove their hats when entering your Inner Sanctum.

Don't pooh-pooh that idea. I hung my own shingle, my diploma, outside of my own Inner Sanctum. Some men even offered to remove their pants but then backed off when they saw the cacophonous clutter of CDs, floppies, books, papers, notebooks, etc. I had to point out precisely where the computer is. They ask me, "Izzat what you learned at MIT?"

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR COMING

By Current Newsletter Editor

I mentioned last December that I was looking for someone to replace me as the club newsletter editor. Frank Varano agreed to do it starting in the spring.

But alas, Frank developed some serious pace-maker problems which took a few months to resolve. There was an article in the April newsletter about the problem and how it was taken care of.

During the past two years Frank has provided many articles to me for the Newsletters and is experienced in making a newsletter for an organization that he is a member of.

Frank has agreed to prepare our monthly newsletter starting in June.



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Newsletter

E-mail your articles,
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Web Page Address

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*Take a look , there is
a lot of good information
on the Web Site*

Meeting Time and Place

2nd and 4th Tuesday
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Seventh-day Adventist
Church
29885 Bradley Road
Sun City, CA

A Real Quickie Windows Shortcut By Frank Varano

Let's say that you've been working furiously at the keyboard, opening windows left and right, up and down (I have a good imagination) then you notice the computer is really dragging. You glance at the tower and the hard drive thrashing about (also furiously) You realize that AVG suddenly started to scan your computer.

Mamma Mia! You haven't yet saved your Word document and you strongly suspect that the computer is going to crash. It happened before and you didn't learn the lesson" SAVE, SAVE and SAVE! You immediately know that you loaded up that RAM too much and the processor just can keep up with what you are demanding of it.

What to do! Immediately, press Alt+F,S (if you can) to save the document. So what if you didn't name it. It will be Document 1 or Document 2 and you can find that even if it is at the end of the My Documents folder.

Revamp from here on

Next press Windows Key +D which minimizes all the open windows with one big bang. (Except one, I think.) Then let AVG do its thing or kill it. AVG is very brazen. Just when you are doing important things on the computer, without warning, it pops up to scan your computer. But it may be your fault. AVG may be scheduled to run 3 AM ... if the computer is on. But when it can't update and run then it uses up your time on the puter.

If you have a really fast computer (mine is 2.8) you might keep on working but more sluggishly which gives you more time to sip your coffee. (I just move over to another chair and practice on the guitar.) You could have a heart to-heart talk with AVG ... if it had a heart.

If you anticipate real heavy work on the computer and you want to keep tabs on the RAM and Processor I suggest that you press Ctrl+Alt+Del to bring up the Windows Task Manager. Click on the Performance tab. Here you can keep an eye (usually the left eye) on the Processor, especially. (Save the right eye for the monitor.) Put it down on the Task bar so that you can bring it up quickly occasionally. And occasionally you can click on the Process tab to see if some process is gobbling up too much of the RAM. Windword and Outlook use over 30 K each. But a K here and a K there, and before you know it the K becomes KILL.

I swear that running the computer some times seems like a mouse and cat (or is it cat and mouse) game. I keep my tower (left eye time shares the monitor and tower) next to the monitor. I want to know what the puter is doing at all times. I don't trust it. I don't trust nobody, either.

Treasurer's Report April by Chet Hartley
 Monthly Income and Expenses, Apr 1 thru Apr 30, 2007

Income:	
Contributions*	221.50
Bank Interest	1.10
Shareware/Freeware Sales	10.00
Textbook Sales	180.00
Tuition	720.00

Total Income 1,132.60

Expenses:	
Church Usage	\$200.00
Newsletter Expense	\$11.96

Total Expense 211.96

Income less expenses 920.64

Share Messages With Care

Submitted by Fran from a newspaper article

How many e-mail messages do you get each day, week, month and year? How many of those are from individuals who fear some dire consequence should they not, or expect some miraculous occurrence when they do, forward the e-mail to five or 10 people in their address book? How many times have you received that same message from different people? How many e-mail address inboxes worldwide get those messages? Can the entire system become overloaded by friends sharing with friends?

If you get the impression that I have an aversion to the potential for clogging the system with such messages, you are right. Am I saying that it is never appropriate to forward this sort of communication? No. Not at all. Actually, I enjoy receiving some of those e-mails and, on occasion, even share them with people I think will have a reaction similar to my own. What I am suggesting is using care when these messages are sent on.

Here are some things to consider when sending or receiving forwarded messages, especially those with attachments.

- If you don't know the sender, don't open the attachment.
- Even if you recognize the sender, there could be something unwanted. But, that is why you have anti-virus, firewall and anti-spam protection.
- These things can continue to keep going around for years and you can get them two, three or even more times. If you have seen it before, chances are that just about everybody else has too, with the exception of the e-mail "newbies," maybe. You might ask yourself if it is worth it to forward it.

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 Need Volunteer

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Sign Up for a Class TODAY!
at
Any Computer Club meeting
or the
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Computer Club Class
Room Located at

Cherry Hills Country Club
At the West End of
Cherry Hills Blvd

Southwest User Group Conference

We're on our way to the 14th annual Southwest User Group Conference in San Diego and you are invited to join us.

When: July 13, 14 & 15, 2007

Where: Town and Country Resort & Convention Center (www.towncountry.com)

What: A great chance to see the latest and greatest that vendors have to offer computer users, to meet with vendors and book presentations, as well as to network with user group officers and members and to brainstorm solutions to the problems we all have with our groups. Plus you will have the opportunity to enrich your personal computer experience with the informative workshops provided by vendors.

How: Go to www.swugconf.org, fill in the registration form and mail it with a check for \$50 (early bird special price) by June 22 to the address noted on the form.

We are also having our 2nd Digital Photo Contest and all attendees are invited to participate. Groups who have digital photo contests are eligible to submit their winners to the SW contest if they have members attending the conference. You will find the contest guidelines on the conference website.

Attendees staying at the hotel are eligible for one free night at the hotel.

Welcome Bag, T-shirt, all meals, vendor faire, hospitality suite, Internet Cafe and Fun in the Sun and Computers, too = the Southwest Conference. We hope to see you there,

Judy Taylour & Patricia Hill, Co-chairs

swugconf@socal.rr.com / swugconf@aol.com

www.swugconf.org / <http://swugc.blogspot.com>.

And Don't Forget It!

By Frank Varano

By virtue of the fact all of us have computers, I feel safe in giving you a web address for you to visit. Here it is;

<http://www.snopes.com/glurge/nodesks.asp>

This address was given to me by Andy Johnson, my man who assembles my other paper The Connection on his computer. He thought I would be interested. Yes, I sure am and I think all of you will be interested. Now, what is so unique about this web address?

I am not going to tell you here. Just rest assured that you will be surprised. And note that the URL is that of the Snopes outfit who is always debunking hoaxes. I'll leave you with that last hint. Go there, dammit! It's your homework.

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- A personal note may be appreciated more if you are just looking to stay in touch.
- If you choose to forward the messages to a number of people, use the "Bcc:" line rather than the "To:" line.

That will prevent anyone else who might receive the message from seeing the list of recipients.

Check our website, www.ccmv.net, for an updated list of computer class schedules