

New column simplifies computer understanding, use

By Zane Binder
Special to Sentinel-Voice

They're everywhere today, the pale glow from their monitors casting faint but penetrating shadows throughout North America's homes and offices.

You've probably guessed what these items are. Computers. The quiet hum of these unassuming boxes masks a technological transformation that rivals the Industrial Revolution.

InFoLinK, a new column, can help you through the computer revolution.

Why this new guide?

Because computers have a darkside: to give their best, and sometimes to even work at, they require knowledge and perseverance. Also, there's little standardization, and what works well with one machine "crashes" with another.

More ominous is the pace technology changes. A 2-year-old computer is obsolete; one twice that age will probably be unable to run the latest software.

InFoLinK provides hands-on tips, deciphers the World Wide Web, reviews software, shareware and games and provides analysis on

the latest computer trends.

Here are some tips.

For Windows 95. When programs install themselves they sometimes create hidden, useless directories that only eat up valuable hard disk space.

To rid yourself of them, open Explorer, then click on the Tools menu. Click Find, then Files or Folders. Type MSCREAT.DIR. where indicated, search for these directories by clicking the appropriate button, then delete them.

Similarly, search for ~MSSETUP*. Dump it too ... but beware, Explorer's search engine

leaves much to be desired. You'll want to manually check your directory structure.

Using the same procedure, search for files with the name *.gid. Then look for *.PRV, *.OLD, *.TMP, *., and .bak. You'll never know or care they're gone.

Consider deleting files with the extension *.TXT, though you'll want to view each first. They contain useful information, but most are best printed out or deleted when hard disk space runs short.

InFoLinK can easily be accessed at opossum@ix.netcom.com

Doc Powell back making musical house calls

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The doctor is back. Fresh from the releasing of his fourth solo album, Grammy Award nominee Doc Powell will make a house call — at the Caesars Palace hotel — beginning Jan. 31, appearing as guest guitarist with Luther Vandross.

Vandross, the soulful crooner, will perform Jan. 31, Feb. 1, Feb. 5 and 8.

After making a name for himself as a session/touring

musician, Powell launched a solo career, belting out four critically acclaimed albums. His most recent project, "Don't Let The Smooth Jazz Fool Ya," debuted in the top 10 on *Billboard's* Contemporary Jazz Chart and has been a staple on NAC radio across the country.

His previous album, "Laid Back," catapulted him to the top of the Contemporary Jazz Chart and was the #2 NAC

album for 1996. "Sunday Morning," the first single from the album, topped the charts for four consecutive weeks and became the first song in NAC history to receive 1,000 spins in a week.

Presently, Powell is one of the most sought after musicians in contemporary and Christian music. He will be a featured performer at the Unity Awards where the West Angeles Community Development

Corporation will be honoring international superstar Stevie Wonder as their "Man of the Year." Powell is scheduled to perform a tribute to Wonder. Powell is in the midst of producing an all star album for JVC Records.

Slated to perform on the disc are such notables as Chuck Mangione, Joe Sample, Take 6, Bobby Lyle.

Powell is also putting the finishing touches on a gospel

album which all of the proceeds are earmarked for West Angeles Church of God in Christ's new \$40 million Crystal Cathedral currently being built in Los Angeles. He is also performing "selected" dates around the country promoting his current album.

"This is a great time for me and my music," Powell said. "I'm blessed to finally be reaping the benefits of the seeds I've sown."

Publisher

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Stories in the Advocate have criticized a number of public officials, including Jackson's new mayor, Harvey Johnson, and City Councilman Louis Armstrong.

"We always handle controversial subjects," Tisdale said of his 7,400-circulation newspaper which has six full-time employees and about 20 part-time workers. "It's hard to tell where attacks come from."

Freda Lewis, a Jackson State University journalism professor who did her master's thesis on the Advocate, said it was founded in 1939 as a news source for black Mississippi residents.

"During the 1960s, it was constantly targeted. In the 1970s, there were various acts of violence. Bricks were thrown through windows. Other tactics were used to intimidate," Lewis said.

Unemployment

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information about employment opportunities.

There is good news though.

"The opportunities are out there," Jones assured. She sees the successes in the people she counsels who are seeking jobs.

Andria Y. Carter writes for the Cincinnati Herald.

Terrabyte

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New Vista Capital's Dr. Frank Greene said there is money to finance such ventures through investors such as his \$40 million pool targeted to minority and women-owned companies.

Carl McCarden, a vice president of Centerex Corp., also said foreign companies are a good way to raise money for technology ventures through strategic alliances.

Major investments in education spending can drive new ventures. Lamont Woodyard, dean of instructional technology for the California Community Colleges, said his plan is to connect every classroom and every seat in the 106 campuses across California.

"It's the only way we can meet the expected

increase of 350,000 students," Woodyard said. "We'd need eight new campuses at \$2 billion each. Technology is even more critical at the K-12 level."

The federal government has issued a program to pay for up to 90 percent of the telecommunications costs for all libraries and schools that complete a technology plan by mid-March. That includes conventional technologies like telephones and new communications like cellular, wireless and satellite communications.

Pioneers like Greene, Ahmad-Taylor and Marsh are the new heroes we should hold in front of young people.

John William Templeton is executive editor of *Griot*.

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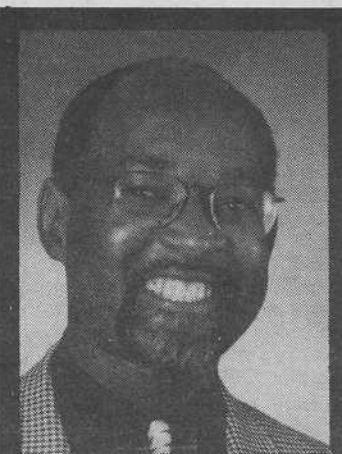
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