

We, the staff of Trapezoid, wish to purchase a new computer. We are in need of one due to the fact that our current computers are eighteen years old, which is an age greater than that of most of our editors. A computer bought at the present time would easily last the Trapezoid staff at least five years, but most likely ten, and possibly another eighteen. This would directly benefit anywhere from one hundred to four hundred students, and indirectly benefit all those who read Trapezoid.

The computer that we plan to purchase would allow us to run Adobe PageMaker. This program would allow us to lay out our paper virtually and bring much ease to the currently messy process of laying out. The method that is now in use is to manually paste articles onto large boards that are the shape and size of a newspaper page. It takes a lot of time to coordinate and organize a page in a way that conforms to the various rules of laying out. The use of PageMaker would streamline and reduce stress in this process.

The acquisition of this computer would not only enhance the physical paper that we put out, but the digital paper as well. By this, we mean the Trapezoid web site. Currently, there is not a web site. This computer would facilitate the creation of one. Having a digital copy of all of the articles, and the photographs that go with them, would allow those people on the Trapezoid staff to, with much more ease and efficiency, transfer the current issue into a format that could be used for the web site.

The photography and art departments of Trapezoid would also greatly benefit from the use of a modern computer. Currently, the photo editors must make prints of all of the pictures that go into Trapezoid. This is a very time consuming activity. With the use of this computer and another piece of hardware that the school currently owns, the photo editors could merely scan in the negatives of pictures that are needed instead of going through the lengthy process of printing them. The use of this computer would also add new depth to the photography as well as the art. There are many programs that can be used to digitally retouch images that are scanned onto the computer. The use of such a program would allow the photo and art editors to retouch and add effects to their scanned images.

It can easily be seen how much time and effort is put into the paper. With the use of a new computer, the amount of time and stress that is put into the paper could be greatly reduced. Not only would a new computer bring more ease to the production of Trapezoid, it would bring more depth and dimension as well.

Specifications:

- 350 MHz Intel Pentium II (TM) processor
- Integrated network, sound, and video cards
- 64MB SDRAM
- Speakers, mouse, keyboard
- 14-32X, IDE CD-ROM
- Monitor with a 17.9 inch viewable area
- 6.4GB, LDE hard drive
- Windows 98
- IOMEGA Zip drive with two disks

This system has a total cost of \$1,680.33. One thousand dollars was donated by an alumni and is being held for us by the Brighton Education Fund. We ask the Brighton Education Fund for the difference of \$680.33 so that we may purchase this valuable tool.