

## Macintosh Learning Center

--- Shell Weinberg

Laguna Woods Town Centre

Laguna Woods Village Community Center, 3rd floor

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday

### Smart shoppers compare before they buy...

... and I believe nobody does it better than the popular magazine **ConsumerReports**.

Personally, I have been a long time subscriber and rarely make a major, or semi-major for that matter, purchase without consulting my **ConsumerReports** library first. Over the years it has saved me money and also given me the confidence to walk into a retail store with the knowledge that I know as much, or more, about a product than the salesperson/ clerk waiting on me.

Although I speak with enthusiasm about the benefits of reading such comparative studies, I feel uncomfortable acting as a sort of shill. However, my reason for writing this column about the magazine is to bring it to the attention of other computer-using folks that may want to know how their equipment compares with the competition... and maybe they are not aware such information is easily found on a newsstand or at the local library.

When I received the **JUNE 2010** issue the other day, and started reading it, I saw how timely it would be for someone **shopping for a new computer**, or other computer related equipment. And so I mention it for your comparison and consideration.

Beginning on Page 30 you can read about the **119 laptops, desktops, and netbooks** that were tested and then listed in order of their comparative performances.

In addition,, there is a short article on the **“Best and worst for tech support”**, which gives the survey results for: *Problem solved; Phone waits; Phone staff; Online support.*



And, for those who may be interested, the magazine also did some early research and wrote about **“First look: The Apple iPad”**. You will also find a comparison of the best eleven **computer monitors**.

A quick review of some of the topics that have been covered in this issue reflects how diversified the testing and analysis really is.

### Special computer section:

*Social insecurity*

*Security software*

*Best computers*

### Features:

*Best & worst hotels*

*Vacation health*

*8 ways to land a great airfare*

### Lab Tests:

*Blenders      Vacuums      Dishwashers*

*Strollers      Showerheads      Monitors*

*3D TVs      Gas grills      Paints & stains*