Features

Safety first
Pages 8-9
At last, State Opera opens its 2005 season with a crowd-pleaser next month. But its reputation rests on edgy fare.

Arts

Put six artists in a room and what do you get?
Pages 12-14
Collectives are more numerous now than at any time since the idealistic ’70s.

Life
cr
cr

Jude, Becks, Shane and that fatal flaw
Page 19
Affairs may have different causes but the result is almost always the same.

Indulgence

Dom Perignon and a doona, thanks
Pages 22-24
A double bed, meals cooked to order, perhaps a massage – and all before you land. How airlines pamper their first-class passengers.

Movies

Straight lines
Pages 33-34
The king of creepiness playing a respectable family man?

The Advertiser Review
Published every Saturday by Advertiser Newspapers Pty Ltd. 127 King William St, Adelaide.
Editor: Simon Wilkinson
Editorial team: Karen Porter, Deborah Bagle, Rachel Hancock
Production: Vincent Rose, Scott Moore, Carolyne Jastinski, Trudy Grant
Designers: Candi Pearson

Need for speed
It’s all in the name when it comes to super computing.

What makes a supercomputer super? Hollywood’s answer is clear: lots of flashing lights on ominious dark towers, accompanied by the whirring of cooling fans. And this picture is not so wrong. The Thinking Machines Corporation (TMC) ‘Connection Machine’ CM-5 was a real supercomputer that featured in Jurassic Park. It was one of the most beautiful supercomputers ever built.
And the performance of the CM-5 was amazing. It represented the pinnacle of an era when supercomputers were built around exotic, specially-designed processing chips connected with advanced network designs. These sent the price of supercomputers into the realm of the super-elite.
Our University of Adelaide owned one, enabling cutting-edge research for the time.
Now, supercomputers are more economical. Once, supercomputers were defined by specialty “vector array” processors designed exclusively for such machines.
Now they use “clusters” of off-the-shelf processors - much like those found in home computers.
As mathematical computation is what supercomputers are all about, the key performance indicator is the number of Floating-point Operations Per Second (flops). What is a flop?
It’s the simple addition, subtraction, multiplication or division of any two numbers.
And they are part of the forthcoming Sony Playstation 3. This home games machine can do 218 giga-flops: 218 billion calculations per second.

In the new and previous number one is DOE’s IBM BlueGene/L system. It can achieve 136.8 TFlop/s.

The Howt computer ranked 500th in June 2005 has the equivalent processing power as all 500 systems ranked as supercomputers when the list was first compiled in June 1993.

The supercomputer ranked 500th in June 2005 has the equivalent processing power as all 500 systems ranked as supercomputers when the list was first compiled in June 1993.

The new and previous number one is DOE’s IBM BlueGene/L system. It can achieve 136.8 TFlop/s.

The answer is to produce semi-conductor wafers holding multiple GPU’s on a single chip.

And vector processors - the very essence of a supercomputer - are making a comeback. Just as multilane superhighways move traffic, vector processors move numerical computations, circumventing traffic jams.

As mathematical computation is what supercomputers are all about, the key performance indicator is the number of Floating-point Operations Per Second (flops). What is a flop?

It’s the simple addition, subtraction, multiplication or division of any two numbers.

And they are part of the forthcoming Sony Playstation 3. This home games machine can do 218 giga-flops: 218 billion calculations per second.

The Advertiser and CARSguide are giving you the chance to win one of ten new Jabra Bluetooth speakers. Featuring digital sound enhancement for improved sound quality, the Jabra SP500 is ideal for use in the car or for holding conference calls in the office or home.

COUPON IN THE ADVERTISER NEXT SATURDAY