

Release of video discs may cause format clash

By Sam Laney
STAFF WRITER

Sony expects its Blu-ray disc player to launch in July, leading the electronics industry and consumers to prepare for a media format clash similar to the release of VHS and Betamax.

Toshiba, who plans on taking on Sony with its HD-DVD players, said it plans to launch two models at \$499 and \$799 later this month. Sony said its first Blu-ray player will retail for \$1,000.

Separate movie studios will back each format, with only Paramount Pictures announcing plans to release movies on both formats so far.

"For the best quality TV or sound system, it'll be just as well to get a regular DVD," said Mike Henning, a UNCA alumnus who works at a local electronics store. "I'm going to keep buying regular stuff. I'll probably see if the prices go down and wait and see which one does better before I commit."

Many DVD fans say they plan on waiting until it becomes clear which format will support the most movies and a dominant format emerges before purchasing new discs. Ken Hanke, local film critic for the Mountain Xpress, said he owns thousands of films, and buying new versions of the same film has simply become comical.

"Most people I know, which is to say reviewers, film historians and collectors, are somewhat less than enthused by the whole thing," Hanke said. "A lot of these folks, myself included, have spent years acquiring things in various formats only to have to replace them with the new and improved one."

For other film collections such as Ramsey Library's, a new medium will only mean making more shelf space.

"We'll definitely wait until we see a clear winner. Eventually we'll buy the new player and start another collection," said Bryan Sinclair, associate librarian for public services at Ramsey Library.

Toshiba, with the help of Warner Home Video, planned on launching the HD-DVD format ahead of Blu-ray later this month.

However, last Friday Warner announced the films would not be ready until mid-April, leaving Toshiba's player without software and costing the company some of its lead over rival Sony.

Paramount and Universal Pictures, the two other studios backing HD-DVD, have not announced any dates for their high-definition films.

No matter how much technology

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Officer joins campus community after Katrina

By Alana Rade
STAFF WRITER

Joining the UNCA Campus Police after protecting his native New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Joe Jones spoke about his experience with the storm and its aftermath.

"When it comes to Hurricane Katrina, there's been so much bad publicity about the police and New Orleans, but there were a lot of police officers there who really did a heroic job and kept a lot of people from losing their lives," said Jones. "There were a lot of civilians down there that really stepped up and lent a hand and saved a lot of people."

Jones said he thinks about Hurricane Katrina often and the situation that he and many others went through, and said that given the same situation he stands by the actions taken.

"I think about it almost every day," Jones said. "I wouldn't change my role down there, I would not have left. Knowing what I know now I'd do it again."

"Most of the individuals in New Orleans, law enforcement, search and rescue, EMS, and individuals who are still down there would do it again. It was just a tragic situation that was made bearable by the job that a lot of folks did down there."

Jones, his wife and daughter moved to Asheville after Hurricane Katrina to start anew and to spend time with Jones's son and his family, who were already living in Asheville when Hurricane Katrina hit.

"It's an opportunity to be with family because I'd only seen my oldest grandson twice before the storm, and he's three."

JOE JONES
Campus Police Officer

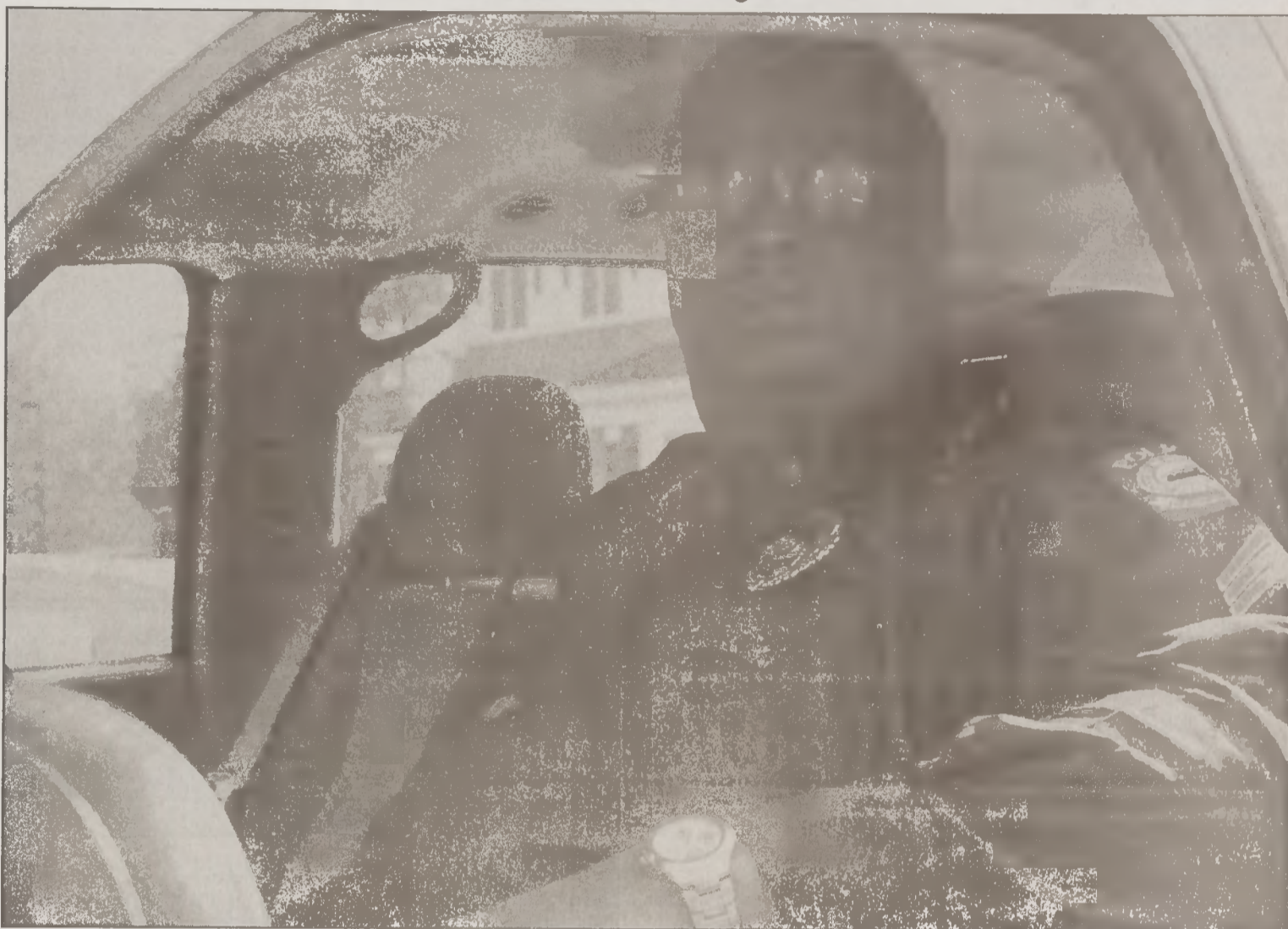
"It's an opportunity to be with family because I'd only seen my oldest grandson twice before the storm, and he's three," Jones said.

Though his family and daughter evacuated before the storm, Jones stayed in New Orleans at Louisiana State University Medical Center where he was a security guard to help keep the campus secure.

"It was a nightmare," Jones said. "I'm sure you heard about the violence and everything that was going on in New Orleans. The LSU Medical Center campus was right in the middle of the city, and we had multi-story buildings so people would try to get into our area."

"We had to keep a constant vigil to try and keep everybody out and keep our people safe. It took about a week before we were able to get the folks evacuated, but everything turned out okay."

Jones who lived in New Orleans



MAGON HAGY - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joe Jones, a native of New Orleans and former security guard at Louisiana State University Medical Center, relocated to Asheville after Hurricane Katrina destroyed much of his hometown last August. He is now a police officer with the UNCA Campus Police.

his entire life except for during his army service, said that he was not surprised by what happened in Louisiana and how the situation was handled.

"New Orleans, to me, has been a time bomb for years," Jones said. "It had been 40 years since a major hurricane hit, and we learned that the city didn't learn anything from the last hurricane. To me, from citizens to the government, everything was mishandled. We didn't have enough citizens evacuate."

Though Jones cares about his hometown, the disaster he experienced during Hurricane Katrina has made him decide to move on from New Orleans.

"Aug. 28, the day before the hurricane hit, my wife and daughter left New Orleans and came to Asheville because my son called and he wanted the family to be with him," Jones said. "I got here on Labor Day, Sept. 7, so it took me a week to get out of New Orleans and get here."

"It was an experience, something I hope I never have to go through again, that's why I'm staying here. I'm not going back."

With Mardi Gras happening about a month ago, Jones said he felt that it was good for the city to get back to at least some sense of normalcy.

"I missed Mardi Gras, I'm a big

"I don't know how appropriate it was this year to have Mardi Gras or not, but the city has to get back to some semblance of being normal."

JOE JONES
Campus Police Officer

kid when it comes to Mardi Gras, and I love it," Jones said. "I don't know how appropriate it was this year to have Mardi Gras or not, but the city has to get back to some semblance of being normal. On one level it may have been a bad idea, but it may have been a good idea for the morale of the city, so I was glad to see it."

Jones said he has enjoyed the transition time, and although New Orleans and Asheville are two culturally different cities, he likes the people of the UNCA community, and the city of Asheville as a whole.

"The tradition of New Orleans is just different than Asheville's," Jones said. "New Orleans is based on just having fun, and when we're through with having fun, let's have some more. Asheville has a lot more traditional values and the people here are a lot friendlier than they are in New Orleans."

In his free time, Jones enjoys



fishing and leaving his way around Asheville, as well as meeting new people and having new experiences.

"Moving to Asheville has been a fantastic experience," Jones said.

"I'm a people person, I love people and I love meeting, so this has been an opportunity to do both. And, if you have any ideas about a good fishing hole, let me know."

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