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*The home of the puzzles,
poems, inspirations, and
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Vol. 67, No. 4
Circulation 2,200

Elizabeth City, NC
December 12, 2002

The Compass

Elizabeth City State University's award-winning student newspaper

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND CONGRATULATIONS DECEMBER GRADUATES!

LET THE GAMES BEGIN, AGAIN? ECSU SURPLUS STATION

Damion Lewis

No matter what video game system you own, this holiday season has games galore on all major platforms, for all types of gamers.

It's that time again. You know Christmas is coming when you can't turn the television without seeing a new toy commercial, home video release, or better yet video games. The 2002 Holiday season has set the stage for what appears to be an upcoming war between the three top video game systems, Microsoft's X-Box, Nintendo's GameCube, and Sony's Playstation 2. What does this mean for video game fans? It means that we get to enjoy the fruits of their labor, as each system has a host of new games that will be struggling for our cash during the holiday season.

Up first we have Microsoft's X-Box, perhaps the system with the most potential, but lacking any killer applications to set it above the pack. In its second year, X-Box owners have seen a somewhat slow trickle of software but the holiday season has brought more games yet few system exclusives. For the action fan, Konami's Metal Gear Solid 2 Substance is second to none, with over 100 new VR Missions, a new character swap system, and an exclusive Snakes Tale addition, makes the already perfect Metal Gear Solid 2 even more perfect (hence Substance). Even if you've checked out this PS2 blockbuster last year, it's more than worth a second look. For the sports fan all the majors including Madden, Sega's NFL/NBA 2k series are all on X-Box and sport the best (but not significantly better) graphics of the three consoles. Don't forget about the new X-Box Live feature that allows gamers to play various games online, while voice chatting with their opponents. Unfortunately X-Box Live is broadband only and will set you back about \$50. It does allow gamers unlimited playtime for 1 year on all supported games, which really isn't a bad deal. And for platformer fans (Mario, Sonic, etc) check out the revolutionary Blinx the Time Sweeper, a game, which allows players to control time in many inventive and unusual ways. Finally, the X-Box has a few fighting games for fighting fanatics to checkout—don't miss Mortal Kombat Deadly Alliance or the Dreamcast refugee, Marvel vs Capcom 2, as well as the PS2 port of Capcom vs SNK.



Metroid Prime for Nintendo GameCube
Photo Courtesy of <http://gamespot.com>

While Microsoft has gone for style, Nintendo has settled with substance this holiday season. The release of Metroid Prime will probably remind all old school gamers of their playing of the original Metroid on the NES. As a first-person shooter, Metroid rocks. Game play allows total emersions in the environment, the likes of which Goldeneye fans will enjoy. Nintendo is also pushing their highly innovative Super Mario Sunshine, which many consider as the platformer's platformer. Another Gamecube exclusive comes in the form of the new Resident Evil 0 from Capcom. The game, which acts as a prequel to the original offers more of the same survival horror game play while adding a new 2 person control feature, allowing players to control two players simultaneously. For this season it seems that exclusivity is the key for Nintendo fans.

The current king and the mainstream player, Sony, has created a holiday library for any and every type of gamer. The biggest release is the follow-up to last years controversial smash Grand Theft Auto III. Grand Theft Auto Vice City is a new game centered in the 80's, a shades memory of Miami Vice (i.e. Vice City). This free roaming action title allows players total freedom to rob, vandalize, while working to complete missions for the mob, ala the Sopranos. Rockstar games has also included many authentic shades of the 80's including over 30 real songs that play during the game on the various radio stations. Also, on the action track comes Sega's Shinobi, Sony's Ratchet and Clank, Tecmo's Rygar, and Konami's updated classic Contra Shattered Soldier. Don't forget about fighters, because Sony is unsurpassed in this category, with games including Tekken 4, Virtua Fighter 4, Marvel Vs Capcom 2, Mortal Kombat Deadly Alliance, and even X-Men Next Dimension. Sony seems to have everything for every type of gamer, something that can't be said for the competition. Not to be outdone in the online department, Sony has released its own online adapter that allows game play on narrowband (dial-up) or broadband (DSL, Cable) access at no additional cost, you are however required to have your own internet service provider.

This holiday season there's no reason for any gamer to go without and there are games still to come.



Grand Theft Auto Vice City for PlayStation 2
Photo Courtesy of <http://shopping.yahoo.com>

SERVES STUDENTS

Anthony Griffin

This past June, ECSU founded a place to sell and distribute their old and unwanted office equipment. The store is owned by Mr. Hercules Cole. The hours are from 10am to 3pm on Tuesday and Thursday. The store sells surplus office computers, office furniture, keyboards, and computer mice. According to Mr. Cole, the store has quite a few regular customers;

some are students.

"Most of our customers come looking for parts to computers, such as a keyboard, or a mouse," Cole said.

The merchandise is sold at a discount price. The money the store makes is recycled back to the University. According to Mr. Cole, business is growing and the store has even been advertised in the Daily Advance.

NEVER TOO LATE TO START OVER

KerryAnn Cummings
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Even though the elevator is broken in Johnson Hall, Alton Bunch still finds a way to reach to the top. Bunch, a non-traditional student studying Business Administration, is a 53-year-old junior from Ahoskie, North Carolina who plans on graduating fall 2003. He has five sisters and two brothers. During the break, he stays with his mother.

From 1967-1971, Alton Bunch had the opportunity to see the world when he was in the Air Force. He went to three continents: Australia, Europe, and Asia. He also visited eight to ten countries and 25 of the 50 states in the U.S.

"These years were the good times because I got the opportunity to see the world and I will never forget that experience," said Bunch.

In 1974-1976, Bunch attended Fayetteville State University but later dropped out and decided to work. He worked at Bertie County School for one year as a teacher's assistant.

"The reason why I left college was because my friend was the principal and offered me a job there," said Bunch.

During 1981-1983, he worked for Farmer Home Agency for two years being a farm management counselor and he also worked at Red Apple for three years as manager.

Years flew by one day and Alton Bunch woke up asking himself where the years had gone. He then realized that it was time for

him to get back in school.

"Education is very important and without it, you're nothing and you wouldn't be able to reach your potential," said Bunch.

Bunch lives in Mitchell Lewis. He enjoys talking with the students and hanging out in the lobby watching television. Bunch was given the nickname "Old Skool" by some fellow students. "I enjoy the nickname, it makes me feel young," said Bunch. Bunch does not have a roommate and enjoys not having one. It gives him the opportunity to study and to stay focused.

"College is not difficult as long as you study and go to classes and pay attention. It's no problem," said Bunch.

He also has school spirit he is a Viking basketball fan and plans on attending all the home games and away games, if it is possible. During his free time, Bunch enjoys going downtown and also the Water Front to relax.

Overall, he has enjoyed this semester but cannot wait until the Christmas break. He says Christmas has changed from when he was growing up. It was more religion. Now, it is more a festival. Bunch feels Christmas is the birth of Christ, a new beginning for mankind and the beginning of salvation.

One important message Alton Bunch had during this interview is that school is very important for young people and to not take education for granted.

After graduation Bunch plans on teaching. Right now, Alton Bunch is still taking that elevator ride up to his success up to the top.