

Nintendo Creates Lifelong Obsession

All semester long I've been sneering at people who own DVD players.

And all semester long I've endured the fuzzy, undefined lines of people and things on my nondigital TV presented by my now archaic hi-fi VCR.

My response when people brag about their DVD players or even their Sega Dreamcasts is simply, "Well, I'm waiting for the Playstation 2, nah, how you like that?"

You see, Playstation 2 features a DVD player and, most incredibly, the capacity to play most old Playstation games. Bless the people at Sony. We've all been suckered when it comes to new game consoles, chucking or trading in all our hard-earned games for ONE brand new one. Well I'm sick of it! Come on Playstation 2, hurry and be released in America, or I'll die of anticipation.

Released in Japan on March 4, Playstation 2 has already been recalled due to overheating and DVD glitches. Sony can go ahead and solve all those problems before shipping over American waters. However, aren't those Playstation 2s I've seen on eBay for \$300 to \$780? Let the Tekken Tag Tourney begin...

So my video game-playing fanaticism can totally be attributed to my older brother, who not only developed my tomboyishness but also gave me a sense of the TRUE old school. Besides video games, there was NWA wrestling, skateboarding, heavy metal, basketball, GI-Joe and Transformer. All those, however, are future columns...



SHINDY CHEN
MY ESPN TOLD ME SO

The excitement of one Christmas morning developed into a lifelong passion. The box was purple and humongous. Peering out of one corner was the Nintendo robot, with the gray, streamlined laser gun. It was sitting there in all its square glory, waiting for immediate play, soon satisfied by Gyromite and Duck Hunt, also packaged inside.

Months passed, and a Nintendo game collection was born. Bro and I went on to have many Double Dribble tournaments, only to end up with him frustrated because he was being defeated by his lil' sis, who couldn't possibly be better than the advanced computer level he had been playing against on his down time. Remember the visually superior halftime routine with about eight identical, faceless cheerleaders moving on what seemed like robot wheels? I'm not trying to bust on this game, because it really was one of my favorites, along with...

Major League Baseball. Wow. I loved when I would hit a homer into the colorful dot matrix crowd. The scoreboard would then display fireworks and replay

me giving love to my teammates.

Remember World Championship Wrestling? My favorite character was Star, the red-bodied drop-kick king. I also had other international faves; recall the Russian Kin Korn Carn, the Amazon man from the Brazilian swamps who would bite heads and the Japanese boxing guy.

My favorite game by far was Contra, the original combat game where you killed ugly alien monsters, destroyed weird spaceships and dodged lasers and man-size claws, only to end up in the belly of the queen monster, shooting her heart until it exploded. The 30-man code (up-up, down-down, left-right...) was in effect, and I know that everyone loved saying the crazy Japanese creators' names during the credits, as well as the game's rocking music. Man, I must have beaten that game as many weeks as I am old. And that's a lot.

Even if Nintendo wasn't a big part of your life growing up, I'm sure that in some way video games have given you pleasure at some point or other during college. That or you're completely dull and uninteresting. I guess what I've been trying to say is "Thanks, bro, for instilling in me my zest for artificial entertainment, as well as the compulsive first-to-get-it disorder. Now I know, and knowing is half the battle."

It's been fun guys, see you this fall! Long live Miami! Say no to virgin hos! Rent porns! Buy good music!

Shindy Chen can be reached at shindy@email.unc.edu.



The Melvins of Aberdeen, Wash., a predecessor of several grunge-era bands, brings the group's heavy brand of rock to the Cat's Cradle on Saturday.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

MUSIC

Cat's Cradle, 300 E. Main St., Carrboro, 967-9053.
Go! Rehearsals Room 4, 100 Brewer Lane, Carrboro, 969-1400.
Local 506, 506 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill, 942-5506.
Skylight Exchange, 405 1/2 W. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, 933-5550.

Thursday, April 27

■ Weekend Excursion w/Dezaray's

Hammer and Jim's Big Ego at Cat's Cradle.

- The Go w/Jucifer at Go! Rehearsals Room 4.
- Cherry Valence w/ Rise at Local 506.
- Kenny Shore at Skylight Exchange.

Friday, April 28

- WXYZ '80s Dance at Cat's Cradle.
- Fin Fang Foom, John Todd, Panzer at Go! Rehearsals Room 4.
- Jennanykind CD release w/ Starpoint Electric and Analogrhythm at Local 506.
- Common Sense and Just Us at Skylight Exchange.

Saturday, April 29

- Melvins at Cat's Cradle.
- Evil weiner w/ The Phobes and Velvetens at Local 506.
- US Bombs w/Union 13 and The Pushers at Go Rehearsals Room 4.
- Dana Robinson at the Skylight Exchange.

Sunday, April 30

- US Bombs w/Union 13 and The Pushers at Go Rehearsals Room 4
- Lud w/ The Glands at Local 506.
- Mamasutra at Skylight Exchange.

Monday, May 1

- Kevin Kinney w/ Gibb Droll at Go! Rehearsals Room 4.
- Open Mic Night at Skylight Exchange.

Tuesday, May 2

- King Sunny Ade at Cat's Cradle.
- Roger Manning at Go! Rehearsals Room 4.
- Jay Cartwright & Zack Gresham at Skylight Exchange.

Wednesday, May 3

- Mick Taylor at Cat's Cradle.
- Jennifer Needles (from Soul Miner's Daughter) at Go! Rehearsals Room 4.
- Open Mic Night at Skylight Exchange.

ART

■ "New Currents in Contemporary Art." Through May 28. Ackland Art Museum, UNC campus. 966-5736.

THEATER

■ "Hay Fever." PlayMakers Repertory Company. Through May 7. Paul Greene Theatre, UNC campus. 962-PLAY.
■ "Cabaret." UNC Pauper Players. April 28 to April 30. Student Union Cabaret, UNC campus. \$5 for students, \$7 for gala performance Friday.
■ "Waiting for Godot." Studio 1. Through May 2. Elizabeth Price Kenan Theater, UNC campus. 962-PLAY.

FILM

■ "Mallrats." 9 p.m. Friday. Carolina Union Auditorium.
■ "Clerks." 7:30 p.m. Friday. Carolina Union Auditorium.
■ "Dogma." 9:30 p.m. Friday and 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Carolina Union Auditorium.
■ "Chasing Amy." 10 p.m. Saturday. Carolina Union Auditorium.

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CAT'S CRADLE



967-9053
300 E. Main Street - Carrboro

APRIL
27 TH WEEKEND EXCURSION, Dezaray's Hammer, Jim's Big Ego
28 FR WXYZ 80's DANCE (\$5)
29 SA MELVINS** (\$10)
30 SU SUNDAY SHOWCASE (8 BANDS, \$2)

MAY
2 TU KING SUNNY ADE** (\$13)
4 TH STEEP CANYON RANGERS, Platinum Heavyweights
5 FR JAZZ BUTCHER
6 SA BIO RITMO** (\$8)
7 SU TRAVIS** (\$8)
8 MO BRUCE COCKBURN** (\$20)
9 TU HIM w/ Five Style and Dylan Group
10 WE Rustic Overtones
12 FR HOBEX
17 WE Rev. Horton Heat, Los Straitjackets
18 TH MAN OR ASTRO-MAN** (\$10)
19 FR Bad Checks, Accelerators
20 SA DONNA THE BUFFALO** (\$10/\$12)
25 TH Modest Mouse** (\$10)
26 FR SLEATER-KINNEY** (\$8)
27 SA TOM MAXWELL
28 SU DAEMON RECORDS SHOWCASE (Danielle Howie, Amy Ray, Butchies)
30 TU THE TOASTERS w/ Step Lively
31 WE Del Tha Funky Homosapien, Blackalicious

JUNE
1 TH Nields
3 SA Boss Hog
4 SU DARK STAR ORCHESTRA
29 TH Gran Torino

SHOWS @ GO! Rehearsal Room 4:
4/27 THE GO w/ Jucifer
4/28 Fin Fang Foom, John Todd
4/29 & 4/30 US BOMBS, Union 13 & Pushers
5/1 KEVIN KINNEY w/ Gibb Droll (Acoustic)
5/2 Roger Manning
5/4 Gold Sparkle
5/6 Pan American, Ivanovich
@ THE RITZ
5/10 ELLIOTT SMITH** (\$12)
5/18 LEFTOVER SALMON** (\$15)
5/20 WEN** (\$13)
6/24 SONIC YOUTH and STEREO LAB** (\$17)
@ The Arts Center:
MAY 8: NEGATIVLAND
@ Carolina Theatre (Durham):
5/2 MEDESKI MARTIN AND WOOD (Acoustic)** (\$21)
5/9 ME'SHELL NDEGECELO (S26)
**Advance ticket sales at SchoolKids (in Chapel Hill, Durham and Raleigh) For Credit Card orders CALL 919-967-9053
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