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ACCENT

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SECTION **C**

Hybrid gadgets getting hotter

Gizmos practically walk and chew gum at the same time

By MAY WONG
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS

Flat-panel televisions with built-in digital video recorders.

Pocketable satellite radio receivers that can bookmark songs for online purchase.

High-definition TVs engineered to play video or display photos from any computer on your home network.

The new offerings from LG Electronics, XM Satellite Radio Holdings and Hewlett-Packard Co. are just a tiny sampling of a feast of gadgetry at this year's International Consumer Electronics Show, an annual showcase of technologies set to soon hit the market.

Spread out over 28 football fields of real estate when the doors opened Thursday were a dizzying array of new products from small startups, dot-com boom retreats and such longtime players as Sony Corp., Toshiba Corp. and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co.'s Panasonic.

Cameras, MP3 players, DVD recorders, giant plasma screens and accessories for all the above; you name it and, chances are it will be on display at the Sin City convention center-turned-electronics mecca.

Portable gadgets will be smaller but have more powerful features. Laptops will boast longer battery lives. TVs will be bigger and sharper but cheaper.

And many devices will have the ability to connect to the Internet, a home computer network or to each other with more ease than their predecessors.

In the home appliance arena, Samsung Electronics Co. will show a refrigerator with four convertible compartments that can switch between being a freezer or a fridge, depending on the user's needs. LG will debut a washer and dryer system that lets users monitor the laundry cycle from a small remote control.

Satellite radio, climbing in popularity, will become more accessible as a growing number of portable and home audio and video devices

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AP PHOTO

A giant replica of LG Electronics' MP3 phone The V is displayed at the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. The five-day showcase features the latest in high-tech gadgets.



Southside residents traveled to Russia on a mission trip through the Boaz Project, a nonprofit organization based in Greenwood. A Russian orphanage administrator, left, poses with a young girl and Boaz volunteer Betty Newman.

Building up children

By ANNETTE JONES
DAILY JOURNAL FEATURES EDITOR
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A 15-year-old Abby Maurer prepared for a trip to deliver Christmas presents to Russian orphans, she knew the experience would leave a lasting impression.

"I expect to come back (feeling) a burden for the children," she said a week before leaving Dec. 10 on a nine-day mission trip to the Vladimir region north of Moscow.

The trip was more heart-rending than past mission trips Maurer has taken, she said after her return home.

"It was very emotionally straining," she says.

On a mission trip in Kenya, Maurer's group took supplies to missionaries, but she didn't interact directly with needy people. During the Russia trip, however, she met children her own age and younger.

"They are kids a lot like me, except they don't have the privileges that I do," she says.

Yet Maurer, a member of Southside Bible Church, felt drawn to God.

"I felt the love he feels for these children," she says.

Abby, her brother, Jon, 12, and their parents, Jenny and David Maurer of Bargersville, traveled with a group of 17 people ages 9 to 69 from six churches on the south side of Indianapolis.

From Dec. 10 to 18, the group visited 11 Russian orphanages.

Each of the missionaries brought the maximum two suitcases allowed. One was filled with their personal belongings. The other contained toys, clothes and other items for the orphans.

About 700 gifts were distributed to the children.

WHY BOAZ?

The Boaz Project takes its name from a biblical figure.

According to the Book of Ruth, Boaz was a wealthy man in Bethlehem.

When he saw Ruth among poor people gleaning leftover barley from his fields, he instructed his harvesters to leave extra grain for her to gather.

Boaz later married Ruth, and they are the great-grandparents of King David.

Boaz means strength.

GET INVOLVED

To help provide for Russian orphans, call 889-7606.

Elves from south side travel closer to North Pole to play Santa



Boaz Project volunteer Roger Newman, a member of Mount Pleasant Christian Church in Greenwood, gives a gift to a Russian boy at an orphanage the group visited in December.

They are kids a lot like me, except they don't have the privileges that I do."

Abby Maurer, 15-year-old Bargersville resident on a trip to take supplies to Russian orphans

(SEE CHILDREN, PAGE C6)

Everyone wants to get back at rude and annoying people sometimes

Book heaven for those who just can't take it anymore

By CRISTINA ROUVALIS
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Most days Sean Cannon merely fantasizes about lashing out at the rude and self-absorbed people who are shrieking into their cell phones, slowing up the express aisles with too many items, writing checks for a paltry \$2.

"I wish I had the ability to administer electric shock for people who use their cell phones too loudly on a bus," says Cannon, 41, of Shaler, Pa. "I wish I had the ability to create a trap door for anyone who goes in the express aisle with too many items."

These are the repressed fantasies of a

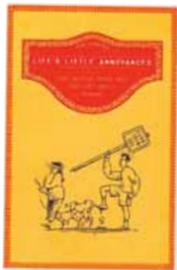
man who doesn't act on them, for fear of landing in jail. But the other day at a restaurant, Cannon just couldn't take it anymore.

He was standing behind a man who was so absorbed in his cell phone conversation that he was walking away from the hostess as the line backed up behind him.

"Maybe you should take your conversation outside and don't mind us," he told Mr. Cell Phone Oblivious. "We are not hungry at all. We will just wait until you are finished. Just keep walking around."

The man didn't flinch and kept right on talking.

Conventional wisdom argues against



"Life's Little Annoyances" by Ian Urbina chronicles creative ways to fight everyday irritants.

such a passive-aggressive zing. Instead, we are taught to turn the other cheek, rise above the fray of bad manners and politely ask someone to consider our wishes, please.

But a new book called "Life's Little Annoyances" by Ian Urbina chronicles "true tales of people who just can't take it anymore" and have come up with creative and often passive-aggressive ways to fight everyday irritants.

"It isn't about revenge," Urbina says. "It is how people handle frustration in clever and creative and sometimes irrational ways and how it is usually cathartic."

A woman is so annoyed at the co-

worker who pilfers cookies off her desk that she replaces them with dog biscuits that look like biscotti.

A junk mail recipient sends back "business reply" envelopes weighed down with sheet metal so the mailer will have to pay the postage. A driver fed up with tailgaters adjusts the nozzle on the rear windshield wiper so it hits the hood of a tailgating car.

Other strategies Urbina collected have no element of retribution, including a man so disgusted with inconsiderate dog walkers that he vents by putting flags in the dog doo, and the rejected job applicant who writes absurd application letters to employers.

Juvenile? Petty? Downright bizarre?

You bet. But Urbina argues that such tactics are also "inspired and deeply

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You can be nerdy yet still look trendy in these loafers from Marshalls.

Trend setters panting for plaid

Style mantra: Embrace your inner bookworm

By MELISSA DAHL
SACRAMENTO (CALIF.) BEE

It's easy to spot a real geek these days.

Just look for the person who isn't dressed like one.

Argyle sweaters, colored tights and big glasses are all styles that a few years ago only the tragically unhip would have donned.

But thanks to pop culture icons such as Napoleon Dynamite and "The O.C.'s" Seth Cohen, many fashion-conscious teenagers are tapping into their inner geek, says Jennifer Debarge-Goonan, a style expert for Marshalls.

The essential pieces of the nerd look include cropped plaid pants, sweater vests, penny loafers and cardigans with oversized buttons, which look almost as if you found them in your grandpa's closet.

The style is meant to look scholastic, and San Francisco boutique owner Stephanie Unger says that some designers are copying the look from school uniforms.

"It's always been cool to be smart," says Unger, who says she's seen plenty of teenagers load up on the style at her store, Dylan's Boutique. "It feels like you're smarter when you're wearing smarter clothes."

Some self-professed geeks, such as Florida-based therapist and author Joshua Estrin, say the best part of the trend is that the clothes are now reflecting the person, flaws and all.

"Fashion is beginning to express who we are (and) who the authentic human being is locked behind these clothes," says Estrin, who

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An argyle shirt and checkered pants are some of the essential items for creating the nerd look.

SCRIPPS HOWARD PHOTOS