

MSU 'Nintendo-haulics' confess their addictions

By Richard G. Epps
 ■ The State News
 Michigan State U.

Ehren Gonzales is addicted. But mind-altering substances are not his downfall. The business freshman is addicted to his Nintendo video game set. Tired of borrowing his friend's set, Gonzales invested in his own. Life in his dorm room hasn't been the same since.

"I've definitely gotten my money's worth so far," he said. "I've been playing it all the time."

Gonzales, who plays Nintendo four hours a day, said he does not believe his grades have slipped since buying the set. Conversely, he thinks Nintendo helps him with his academic game plan.

"You need a stress reliever sometimes. It's good to play a lot in between studying," he said. "I think it actually helps me get my homework done earlier, because I know when I'm done, I can play Nintendo."

A popular Nintendo game is Punch Out!, a boxing game in which players work up to fight the champ Mike Tyson.

"I might add that Buster Douglas isn't the only one who's beaten Mike Tyson," Gonzales said.

In addition, the game's fanatics are prone to friendly disagreements about who reigns as the Nintendo champion.

"I have conquered every game," Gonzales said. "(My roommate) and I just got into a big argument last night about who won and who's the best."

Freshman Dave Carrier also stakes his claim as the top Nintendo player.

"They think they're the best, but you all know I'm the best," Carrier said, as he introduced rookie Nintendo player Brian Dickinson to a new football game for the system.

"I just started. I guess you could call me an addict," Dickinson admitted. "This is only the third day I've been playing it."

"What time is it now? Three? I thought it was one," he said, discovering his afternoon dwindling away. "Time flies when you play Nintendo. It's just like watching TV, and since you're sitting around doing nothing already, you might as well play Nintendo."

"It's the computer age. As computers have gotten really hot, Nintendo is looked at as a type of computer as well," said Rob Yuergens, manager at Circus World toy store in East Lansing, Mich. "It's a toy in the sense that it is fun to do, but people can get away with playing with it."

But toy or not, Gonzales will continue playing his Nintendo.

"You can get emotional with the game. It's very easy to get addicted to," he said. "It can make you start to lose your mind."

Their other car is an ambulance



BRIAN W. KRATZER, KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN, KANSAS STATE U.

Kansas State U. students Terry Broadbent (left) and Jim Hart, both emergency medical technicians, inventory equipment in one of their ambulances.

Kansas students supplement classes by working as emergency technicians

By Monica Marcotte
 ■ Kansas State Collegian
 Kansas State U.

Jim Hart and Terry Broadbent spend their Friday and Saturday nights trying to get people out of trouble.

Hart and Broadbent are Kansas State U. students who work part time as Emergency Medical Services technicians. They work between 15 and 60 hours a week, in addition to being on call.

Hart, a senior in pre-medicine, completed a six-month EMS course. He said he believes his work with EMS is giving him valuable hands-on training dealing with patients.

Broadbent, a junior in pre-nursing, has been a part-time EMS technician for the past six years but decided he needed to look more to the future.

"I would like to put my emergency training to use in a hospital emergency room, and there is more money in it," Broadbent said.

Both men have seen their share of gruesome sights, including a head-on

collision near Wamego, Kan., in which three people were killed.

"You have to get a little calloused to be able to handle the situations all the time," Broadbent said.

Not all of the job involves tending to gruesome accidents; EMS technicians also stand by at sporting events. "We pretty much get to stand by and watch football games," Broadbent said. "It can get boring at times."

Two people are assigned to each ambulance, with five people remaining at the station at one time, they said. Both men said it was hard to pinpoint any particular time when there was a higher incidence of calls, but they said people tend to be more active when the weather gets warmer. The average number of calls is seven per day, but Hart said he has seen as many as 18 in a day.

When the technicians are not out on a call, they are constantly practicing with their equipment, which includes splints, cervical collars, spine boards, and the "jaws of life," a device used to safely extract victims from wrecked vehicles.

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THE NATIONAL COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

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The deadline for applications is Feb. 11, 1991.

Campus radio station sponsors 'world's largest trivia contest'

By Molly Bernas
 ■ The Pointer
 U. of Wisconsin, Stevens Point

Question: Who recently hosted the world's largest trivia contest? Answer: 90FM, the student-run radio station at the U. of Wisconsin, Stevens Point.

According to Jim Oliva, a coordinator of the annual event, 370 teams and more than 9,000 people from coast to coast participated in "Earth Games Are Easy," the theme of the 1990 trivia showdown.

The competition, in its 21st year, ran for 54 straight hours late in April, beginning on a Friday at 6 p.m. and ending at

midnight on Sunday. The contest contained more than 400 questions asked on the air in between the station's "golden oldies" music.

"Trivia is an enlightening experience," said station volunteer Jennifer Bugni. "Anyone who stays up for 54 hours to play trivia, or to work the contest itself, definitely has to be dedicated or simply crazy."

The team calling themselves "Network" won the contest for the seventh year straight. "Network" is led by Don Chesboro, a legal researcher at Harvard U. and Thom Aylesworth, a high school English teacher.