

Next Generation Consoles bring new light to gaming

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Entertainment Editor

In the last year, video games have taken a huge step forward, not only graphically, but in terms of intuitive game play as well. Out of the myriad of choices though, the three newest next generation consoles have proved to be fully capable of keeping up the pedigree.

The first of these consoles to be released was the Xbox 360, the heir to Microsoft's gaming juggernaut, the Xbox. Running for about \$400, a 360 comes out of the box with one controller, the system and a built-in hard drive for those who didn't skimp out and buy the cheaper "core" system.

Since its release in late 2005, the 360 has offered dozens of new games alongside quite a few new installments in time honored franchises. One of the most anticipated games for the 360 wasn't released until recently though when on Nov. 7 "Gears of War" was launched.

"Gears" is a unique game, blending both third and first person aspects of the shooter genre. It features amazingly detailed graphics, a twisting story line that only sci-fi can deliver, and



AI opponents so devious you'd swear there was another person playing the game with you. On top of it all, "Gears" has a spectacular multi-player that can support up to eight players.

All in all, the Xbox 360 has been a huge success, having been able to build up its sales over the last year, and with "Halo 3" having

been slated for release later this year, the only place the 360 can go is up.

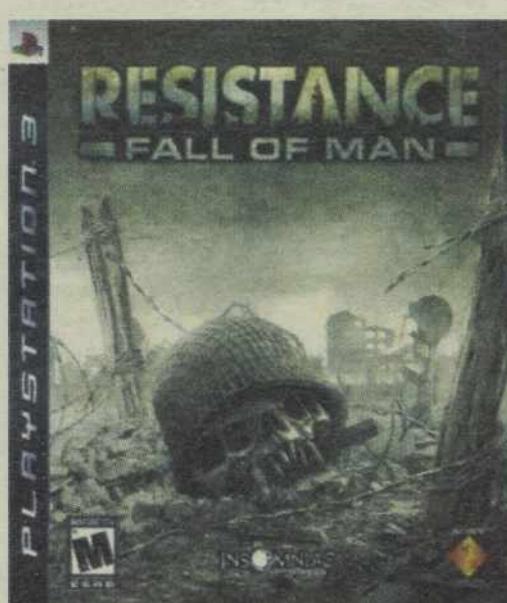
The second of the next generation consoles to be released was Sony's third console in their



capabilities.

Unfortunately, since its release last November the PS3 has been crippled by a line of lack luster launch titles, most of which put pretty graphics ahead of actual game play.

The only gem to be presented by Sony at the moment is the Futuristic sci-fi shooter by Insomniac Games "Resistance: Fall of Man."



This is undoubtedly the PS3's "killer app" and with graphics that are nothing short of breathtaking, this is one of the only early PS3 titles to offer up some real gaming potential. Gobbling up the PS3's graphical prowess, "Resistance" is not only shiny to look at but engaging to play as well. It features a wide assortment of gadgetry for blasting the ever-living-pooch out of anything that stands in your way. This game will make you goggle at its images even as blood is soaking every inch of the screen. Strangely enough, the



PS3's controller is the only one of the three next generation systems to not have a rumble feature. Now, this may not seem like much, but this, on top of the already disappointing launch lineup

and the hefty price of \$600 per console, the PS3 hasn't shared the phenomenal success of its predecessors.

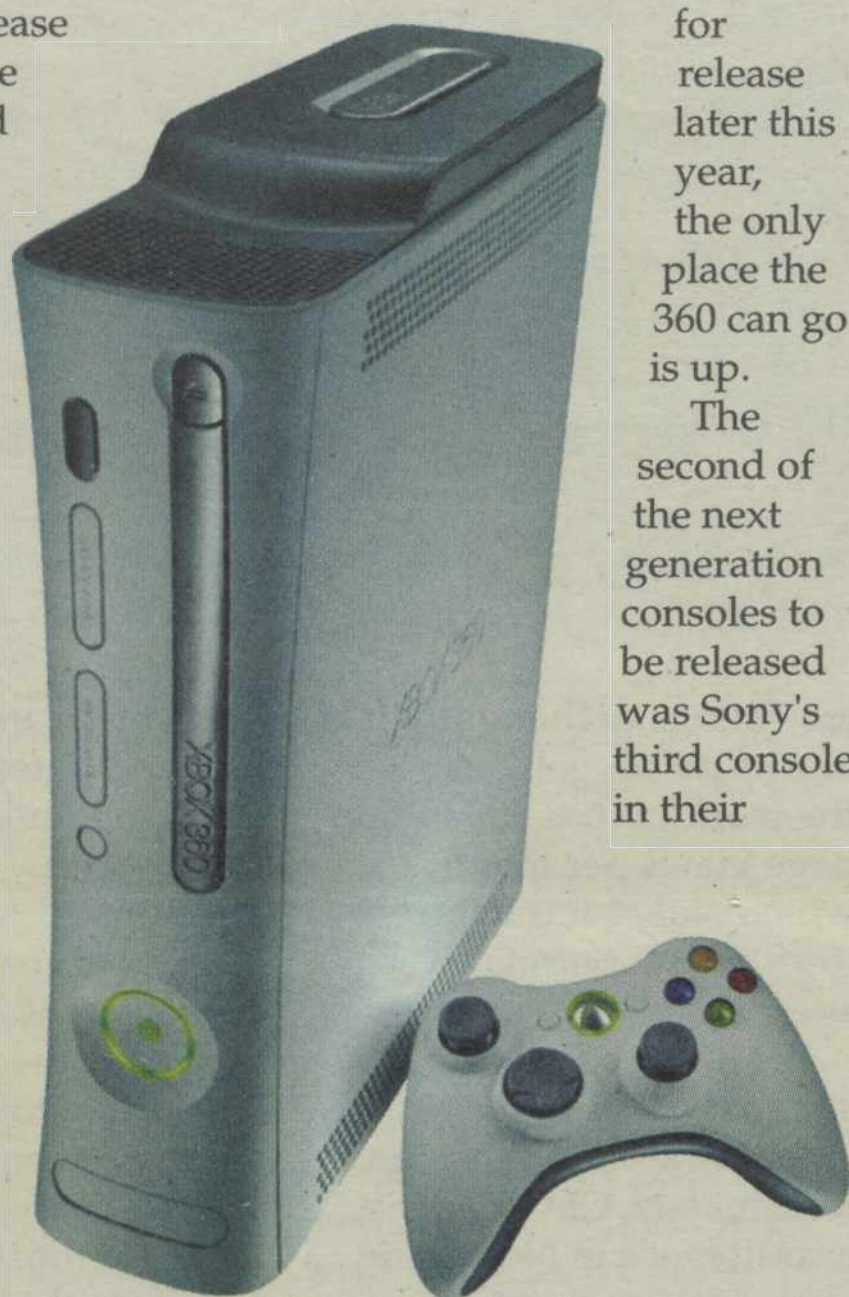
Last, but certainly not least, of last year's new systems was the Nintendo Wii. This oddly named console seems to be the epitome of how many features you can cram into one console. The Wii features a unique "channel" system on its main menu screen. Already, it contains a news channel, a weather channel, a channel for editing pictures, a channel for a downloading retro games from earlier Nintendo consoles and a message board channel that allows users to e-mail friends via an internet connection.

The console features an incredibly innovative control scheme where most games are controlled via the motion sensitive "Wii-mote" and Nunchuck attachment. [See previous issue for more

details.]

The Wii's launch line up has, in all truth, exceeded the expectations of most fans with titles from such venerated franchises such as "Legend of Zelda," "Rayman" and an incredibly fun game based on the NES (Nintendo Entertainment System) classic "Excite Bike." The Wii has dozens of extremely fun games available from the get-go. And with a price of only \$250, the Wii is the most cost effective of the next generation consoles.

In the end though, it's really up to you, the consumer, as to what system you prefer be it the innovative Wii, the established Xbox 360 or the graphical leviathan that is the PS3.



Playstation line, the Playstation 3, PS3 for short.

By far, the PS3 is the most powerful of the new systems when it comes to processing speed and pure graphical

Playlist Spotlight: Ward Lewis

HILLI CIAVARELLO
Staff Reporter

Ward Lewis, English teacher, sings to himself when he's stressed.

"I've been part of choir groups for most of my life, from church choirs to barbershop quartets," Lewis said.

Music is a large part of

his life, whether it's his singing for stress relief or piano playing during class.

"Whenever I clean my house, I'm usually listening to a rock album, and when I grade papers I'm listening to classical. I would much rather be listening to Celtic or folk though," Lewis said of his usual music

schedule.

His choice of tunes range from "Can't You Hear Me Knocking?" by The Rolling Stones to Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. Lewis is in his thirty-first year teaching at West Linn, and his twenty-third year coaching the Boys' Tennis Team.



Vintage games still fun to play

NATHAN FISHER

co-Editor-in-Chief

Nintendo Entertainment System

- Kid Icarus
- Super Mario Brothers / Duck Hunt
- Mega Man

SEGA Genesis

- Sonic the Hedgehog Series
- Aladdin
- Bubsy

Super NES

- Donkey Kong Series
- Zelda: Link to the Past
- Chrono Trigger

Sony Playstation

- Final Fantasy 7 & 8 & 9
- Crash Bandicoot Series
- Spyro The Dragon Series

Nintendo 64

- Mario 64
- Zelda: Ocarina of Time
- Starfox 64

SEGA Dreamcast

- Sonic Adventure
- Soul Caliber
- Phantasy Star Online

Sony Playstation 2

- Jak and Daxter Series
- God of War
- Guitar Hero I & II

Nintendo Gamecube

- Metroid Prime 1 & 2
- Super Smash Bros. Melee
- Resident Evil 4

Xbox

- Halo 1 & 2
- Splinter Cell
- Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic

Multi-Platform

- Prince of Persia: Sands of Time Trilogy
- Grand Theft Auto Series
- Half Life