



Jeff Sorensen
The Clackamas Print

Question: What do airplanes, grandma's house, math class, bus rides, road trips, the Star Wars line and detention all have in common? There's only one way to survive: hand-held games.

It seems like the hand-held gaming market is picking up steam these days, and now that the hottest gaming gadgets are here, the days of bogarting the family TV may be nearing their end.

But gaming on the go wasn't always so easy, and if Sony and Nintendo want to make good on their new pint-sized platforms, it's important they remember where hand-held games came from. Maybe I'm getting a bit nostalgic, but here's a rundown of the portable games that helped me escape my early years.

The first game I took on the road was my LCD version of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles game. The year was 1992, and my parents insisted that it'd be fun to drive the family van down to Disneyland to visit Grandma and Grandpa. Since it was a two-day trip just to get there, I brought along my only hand-held device at the time. The object of the game was to save April O'Neil and kill the bad ninjas.

An average game lasted anywhere from two to five whole minutes, and yet it never seemed to get old. When driving through Northern California farm country and the radio stops working, the only comfort was in that little LCD screen and my eight-pack of AA batteries... an eight-pack that lasted the entire week-long trip.

Now, I don't know what happened to me in high school, but math class started to bore me to death. My teachers felt that repetition was the only way to learn, which means once I developed the concept they were trying to push on us that week, I still had to kill most of Tuesday and then the rest of the week before we could move on to something new.

If I'd ever owned a Game-Boy, I might have been able to lose myself to Tetris in 1989, when Nintendo released it to the American masses. My mother, unfortunately, felt video games were detrimental to my health, citing my addiction to my Sega Genesis as an example (but I could have stopped if I wanted).

So when I discovered my TI-83 calculator could port an exact copy of Tetris from the old Game Boy system, I was in heaven. Sure, I got Bs and Cs on the tests, but I could get to level 12 in 20 minutes. That skill that has served me better than high school geometry ever has. Don't get me wrong... math's important too, but so is my hand-eye coordination, right?

These days, with an iPod and a cell phone in my pocket, and my DS or PSP in my hands, hours of gaming are at my disposal anywhere, at any time. However, it clearly hasn't always been this way, and I don't think I'm the only one who had to fight for my gaming fix.

So I'd like to know what our readers had to go through to scratch that familiar itch in their thumbs back in "the day." Shoot me your story at thedpad@gmail.com and let me know what you guys had to do to survive the early years.

Café displays local artist's work

Kimberly Maier
The Clackamas Print

The Everhart House Internet Café is a place you can view expensive art, drink a decent cup of joe and check your e-mail all in one stop.

Susan Reigel is the local artist who is currently showcasing at the Everhart. Her work can be viewed and purchased at the café, located on Molalla Avenue in Oregon City. Reigel's art consists of small landscape paintings, with an emphasis on realism and mood. She majored in art at Reed College, and graduated in 1997.

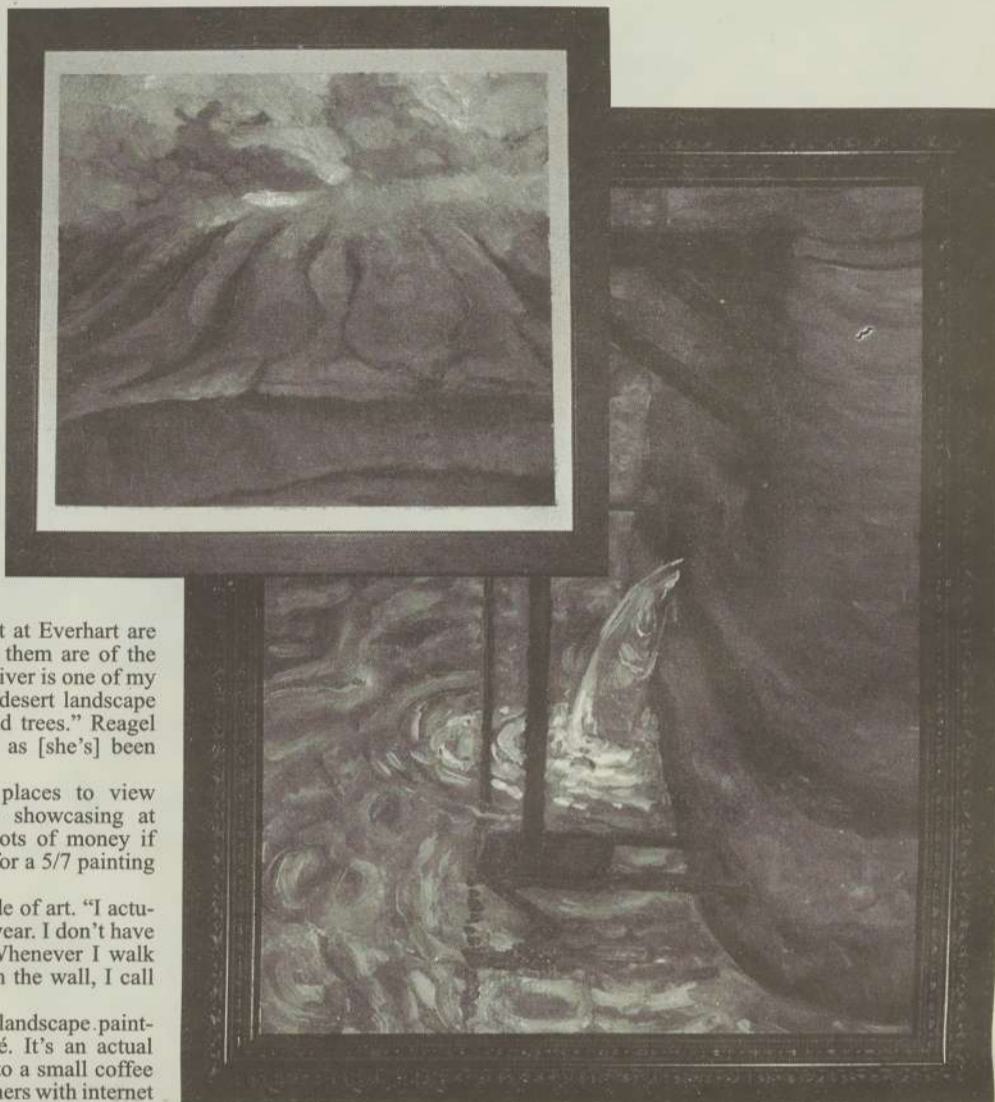
"The style varies from painting to painting," Reigel explained about her art. "Sometimes it's more impressionistic, sometimes more expressionistic."

Most of the paintings on exhibit at Everhart are local Oregon landscapes; many of them are of the Deschutes River. "The Deschutes River is one of my favorite places [to paint.] It has a desert landscape but it also has rivers and rocks and trees," Reigel says she's been painting "as long as [she's] been alive."

If you're interested in other places to view Reigel's work, the artist is also showcasing at Noah's Bagels downtown. Bring lots of money if you're looking to buy, — the price for a 5/7 painting can cost up to \$800.

Reigel is new to the business side of art. "I actually haven't shown much until this year. I don't have it all down yet," she disclosed. "Whenever I walk past a café that I can see has art on the wall, I call them up."

There are about 20 of Reigel's landscape paintings on show at the Everhart Café. It's an actual house that has been transformed into a small coffee hangout that also provides its customers with internet access. The theme is very old fashioned. Big lumpy couches with Afghans — yes Afghans — draped over them. Feels just like Grandma's house!



All Photos By Kimberly Maier Clackamas Print
Paintings by local artist Susan Reigel, who says one of her favorite places to paint is the Deschutes River.

Comedy Sportz provides entertaining antics for entire family

Andy Zehrung
The Clackamas Print

Clad in blue and red, the players at the Comedy Sportz arena gave an entertaining performance that was well worth the ticket price. Games like "Blind Line" and "Five Objects," which called on the audience's participation, made the experience both interactive and fun. The improv-comedy theater is definitely a great place for repeated visits.

The game started off by introducing the players, Red Team versus Blue Team, each with a nickname. This is also when the two types of fouls were explained.

The "Groaner Foul" is when the

audience can't help but groan at a bad joke. The "Brown Bag Foul" is directed at anyone who says something profane, as the shows are family-friendly. Wearing a bag over the offender's head kept the show PG-rated.

They began with games chosen by the teams, and influenced by the audience. A game of new choice had a team engaging in an activity picked by the audience, and the referee blew his whistle to give the team a new line.

Each round ended with a vote. During the first few rounds you see red and blue flyswatters flying into the air, showing support for the team that made one bust one's gut the most. If one doesn't spend two dollars on flyswatters, there is always the audience applause vote.

During the last three rounds, both teams played at the same time. It consisted of freeze-tag or a "Da-Do-Run-Run Round" with the audience playing along. In the "Last Chance" round, reactions really mattered, as points were awarded based on whether or not the joke got laughs or not. This round asked for the audience to do duck calls at particularly bad jokes.

To see the performance, one can call ahead and get advanced tickets for shows on Friday and Saturday nights. Tickets are \$10 reserved, or \$12 at the door. However, the ticket price is \$10 with a donated can of food.



Andy Zehrung Clackamas Print
The "referee" gets involved in a Comedy Sportz scuffle.



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