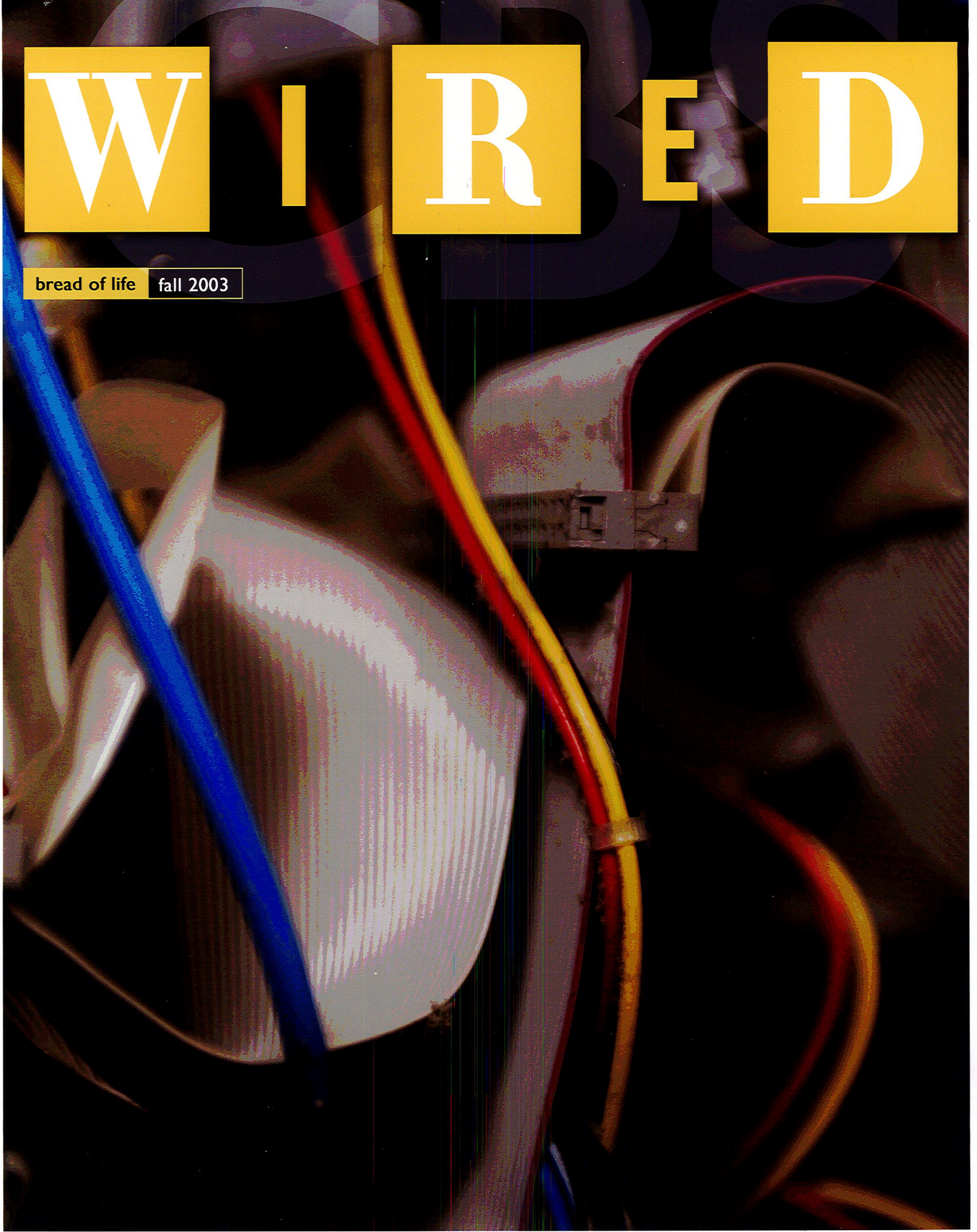


# WIRED

bread of life fall 2003





# Letter

## From the Editor

Dearest BoL Readers,

You may be thinking, "Those BoL people are such dorks. What a nerdy theme." Originally, we wanted to title the magazine "Breadboard of Life," but our wise judgment got the better of us and we decided to go with "CBS Wired."

"*Everyone's* pretending to be a nerd."

"Who's pretending???"

"Fine. *I'm* pretending."

What else would you expect from a staff consisting of two ECE's, a CS, a ChemE, and one solitary English major? ;)

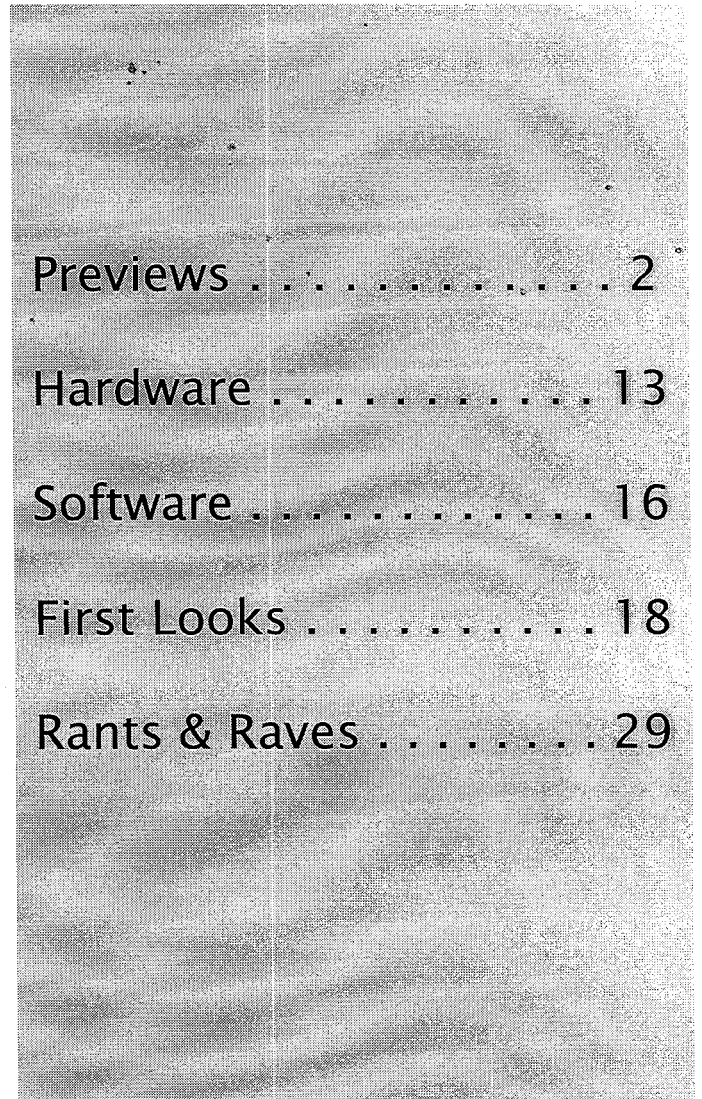
In all seriousness, we wanted to choose a theme that reflects the qualities of CBS that we know and love. All the components of a breadboard, together, make a circuit. All the different parts work together to perform a function, like the body of Christ does.

The different parts of this magazine also come together to serve as an overview of the semester. Consider it as a course evaluation of CBS. We hope that you enjoy reading it, learning new and fun facts about your friends, reviewing what you've learned in Bible study, and being reminded of the visions of the various ministry teams.

Thank you for your contributions and for putting up with our constant emails to the list-serve. Thank you to the staff, for sacrificing much needed sleep. Thank you, Janina, our former editor, for coming back and making a very welcomed guest appearance.

In the words of Janina (from Fall 2002), "Next year, let's start earlier."

In Christ,  
The BoL People



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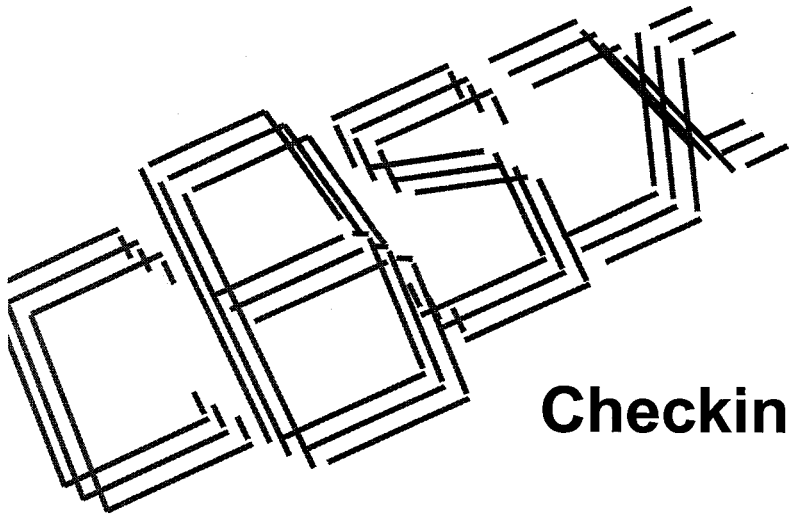
Bread of Life Fall 2003

Editors: Jennifer Lie, Evelyn Ngeow

Layout Editors: Danny Mak, Eric Tai, Janina Wong, Charles Yeh

Cover Design: Jeff Wang

Special Thanks to Will Lee for cheering us on *early* in the morning =)



# PreViews

## Checking out the hot gifts of the season

### FAN

*Reviewed by Charles Yeh*

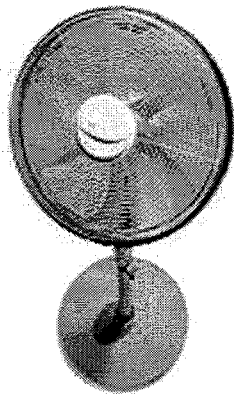
Product ID: Alex Lee  
Status: Freshman  
Division: History

Ithaca, get ready for the hottest gadget from Canada to hit the shelves ever: The Fan. Alex "The Fan" Lee recently arrived at Cornell to study the fine art of "History." When asked why he chose to be "The Fan," and what makes "The Fan" so different from all the other mundane gadgets, he replied confidently that fans impact everyone sitting near them. During his downtime, Alex enjoys hitting the slopes for a day's worth of skiing.

Alex likes to spend his time hanging out at Bear Nasties (he loves his food), studying in the RPU lounge, and chilling and doing QTs in his room. When he finishes with all those things (unimaginable), he unwinds by falling face forward into his bed and crashing for a couple of hours.

"The Fan" has many conditions in which it cannot operate. Be warned. He does not like the homework that Cornell gives him to do, and walking to Malott everyday shorts his circuits. Also, if you live near him, make sure that you lift up the seat when you "number one." "The Fan" does not like waking up to disgusting sights in his bathroom.

Cornell has definitely made an impact in Alex's life. He says that Cornell has taught him to be more self-disciplined in life and to see the bigger picture especially regarding work. "Marks aren't everything." Eh? Cornell has also provided Alex with daily doses of yummy food. "I love the food here." The food loves you too, Alex.



### CANON POWERSHOT

*Reviewed by Evelyn Ngeow*

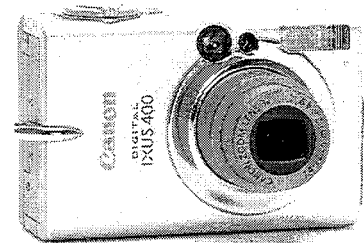
Product ID: Audrey Yang  
Status: Freshman  
Division: Electrical Engineering

Welcome the new face of the Canon PowerShot. Enviably slim and astonishingly compact, PowerShot Audrey makes a splash this season with a powerful optical zoom and stunning resolution. This portable digital masterpiece is on-hand whenever people need her, but don't take too long to focus her lens: she claims she has a "short attention span."

On the upside, this camera packs a world of fun and boasts an impressive battery life. She operates best outdoors in the Arts Quad (in warm weather), in the comfort of her room, or in settings including a wide variety of people. Problems may occur when PowerShot Audrey is exposed to inclement weather and unreasonably demanding courses. Worn-out complaints about work may also aggravate an irritated condition. To troubleshoot, simply let her run outdoors, exercise in the gym, or relax with her friends.

Improvements to this year's model are increased awareness and open-mindedness towards global issues, and 'broadened horizons.' For a camera that does

so much, PowerShot Audrey is surprisingly user-friendly and guaranteed to achieve incredible results with every trial. Her bright disposition and advanced functionality are sure to outstrip the rest.



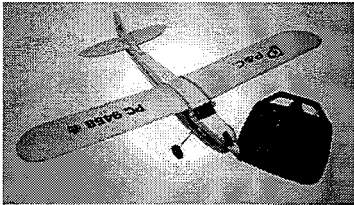
## REMOTE CONTROL AIRPLANE

Reviewed by Jonathan Ng

Product ID: Bernie Peng

Status: M. Eng. '04

Division: Computer Science



Bernie would be a remote control airplane because it can fly. Flying is easier than walking and you get to see things, so its fun. Remote control airplanes are different from other devices because they can fly.

Bernie says his quirk is that he sleeps a lot, which I don't think is a real quirk. Maybe his real quirk is that he keeps everything he ever gets—he is a real pack rat. His special interest of ten years is pro-wrestling because it has cool moves and good stories. Otherwise, he likes to watch TV and violent movies. Since coming to Cornell, Bernie has cooked less and has had more bad Chinese food. He hasn't changed too much though; perhaps it's like that for grad students.

When he's stressed or needs unwinding, sleep, TV, and movies are the most turned to activities. Bernie thinks Cornell is kinda nerdy though and he doesn't like the cold weather too much either. His other dislike about this place is that there is no UPN channel for him to watch wrestling. And finally, his pet peeve is cardboard on the ground. Yeah, a weird one, eh? Apparently, it's very annoying to step on. I believe you.

One thing he likes about Cornell is its relatively large grad program, so he can meet a lot of people and make more friends than if he had stayed at Brown for grad school.

Bernie does look forward to the snow later this year too. He likes to go sledding and to throw snowballs at people. His favorite place to hang out is the computer animation lab, as it is empty, clean and spacious.

## edPod

Reviewed by C. L. Luan

Product ID: Ed Pak

Status: Freshman

Division: Undecided

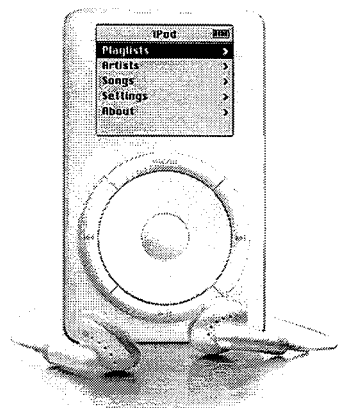
*Apple Computer, Inc., long admired by tech geeks and average consumers alike for its consistent*

*output of original, robust, trend-setting, good-looking, and downright ingenious products, seems to have hit the bulls-eye again with its new limited-edition Ed Pak iPod line. More affectionately known as the edPod, this machine has carved out a nice niche for itself in the mp3 player market ever since its release in late August of this year...*

Using an iPod to describe freshman Ed Pak is rather fitting; as an iPod owner himself, he is very fond of the machine, its capabilities, and its personality. Other than simply being really cool, an iPod stores an obscene amount of music, which suits Ed—an enthusiast of a broad variety of musical styles—just fine.

Ed's interests are as eclectic as his tastes in music. Although undecided in terms of which major to pursue, Ed is pretty sure he wants to be pre-med, *and* pretty sure he does not want to be a bio major; there are just so many other fields, especially in the humanities, that interest him more. As for non-academic interests, Ed not only likes to listen to music, but play it as well (on the violin and the piano—probably not simultaneously). As of this semester, Ed has also been learning taekwondo, and hopes to have a black belt by the time he graduates. Taekwondo in college was preceded by tennis in high school, for which he played varsity.

You may think that, as a practitioner of the martial arts and a former competitive athlete, Ed is aggressive. Well, you are absolutely right. At approximately two hours, forty-seven minutes, and fifty-four seconds into our interview, Ed became frustrated with the silliness and length of my questions and demanded to fight me. Having watched Batman, X-men, and the A-Team growing up, I felt that I was a worthy opponent for anyone who dared to question my interviewing savoir-faire, especially someone who called me—and I quote—"a bad interviewer." I agreed to the contest, whereupon Ed proceeded to pound all traces of silliness and long-windedness out of me, knocking over a few RPCC tables in the process. The innocent bysitters at nearby tables were clearly taken aback by this sudden and utterly unanticipated display of animal ferocity. Within the



# Previews

next half hour, however, they resumed eating and Ed and I resumed our interview.

Actually, the preceding paragraph was just a ploy to see if you were paying attention. In reality, Ed is a peaceful, gentle, and kind person. Like the newest iPods, Ed has “no buttons than can be pushed.” Very few things bother him. The only things he can really call pet peeves are when people are inconsiderate, when people slam doors (especially when they do so in High Rise Five, where he lives), and when pedestrians are oblivious to traffic *and* move slowly. Certain characteristics of Cornell also draw a shudder from Ed. One thing is the oft-unclean Cornell Dining silverware. To avoid having to search through a whole bunch of forks for just one clean one, Ed has resorted to using *only* disposable chopsticks during his short time so far at Cornell. Another thing he doesn't particularly like about Cornell is the large size of intro classes. He finds these classes impersonal and inhibitive of getting to know his professors. He greatly prefers the personalized education of high school, wherein each teacher knows each student. Moreover, high school teachers all spoke English at least comprehensibly, which is not true of the TA's in college. Despite his sympathy for their need for money to pay for living expenses and/or tuition, he would much rather be taught by people who he can understand.

That said, there are plenty of things Ed finds appealing about Cornell. He very much appreciates the natural surroundings of Cornell in Ithaca, which are a huge contrast to the somewhat artificial milieu of the Philly suburbs from whence he came. He loves to wake up early in the morning and sit at his desk before his window, watching the sunrise. Incidentally, this is also the time when and place where Ed does his quiet times. To him, the convergence of communion with God and the awakening of God's creation is simply spectacular. It is no surprise, then, that his room is one of Ed's favorite places on campus. For quiet places to study, however, he prefers Olin library, RPCC's Wendy Purcell Lounge, and Sibley Hall's fine arts library (“one of the best-kept secrets at Cornell,” says the subject of this interview).

After a hard week of schoolwork and studying, Ed likes to relieve tension and unwind with taekwondo. Back at home, he used to relax by playing his violin or his piano. He finds that focusing on his taekwondo, or on teasing music out of the instrument, really helps him to focus away from worries. Of course, sleeping and napping help, too.

“How has Ed changed since coming to Cornell?” you may wonder. Since that was conveniently one of the questions listed by our totally awesome BoL editors, I asked Ed exactly that.

“Well,” he said, “I've gotten a lot more independent in college. My parents were always a presence and influence back home, making sure I fulfill my responsibilities, etc.” Now, he has to monitor himself and make his own decisions. Sometimes these are BIG decisions—for example, leasing an apartment with friends for next year. This is all, of course, just the beginning of a growing process that hopefully will continue through college and in life after college.

*...The edPod can perform decently well between 50 and 90°F. Its optimal performance occurs between 60 and 70°F with a gentle breeze for ventilation. It can handle a couple of bumps because, like every iPod, it is a quality-built machine. I, the reviewer, highly recommend that you check it out.*



## FLASHLIGHT

*Reviewed by Tiffany Pan*

**Product ID:** Jennifer Su

**Status:** Freshman

**Division:** Computer Science

If Jennifer Su were an electronic device, she would be a flashlight because it's useful, simple, easy to manage, and isn't complicated. She is different from other devices of the modern world because she has only two modes: on and off. However, even the simplest things in life have their own quirks. Says Jennifer, “*I am a quirk.*” She is quite active and jumps around the dorm at 4am in lieu of sleeping. She claims that her “off” mode used to be employed much more frequently than it is now. Being on all the time, unfortunately, depletes her energy supply and requires “borrowing” food from the dining halls to compensate for the loss. But this flashlight's life isn't all about hyper-on mode. She takes time out to play tennis and draw cartoons, abstract works, and anything else that comes to mind.

The new “Su” model has been upgraded in several ways. Aside from studying more and sleeping less, she has learned to be more accepting of other people. She feels that she has stepped out of the bubble and been exposed to things and people she's never experienced before. Jennifer ponders whether there is no bubble here, or if the bubble is just a lot bigger. Either way, she is just glad that she can do a lot more things without having to impress colleges. This Cali girl also loves warm clothes and cold weather!

However, even the most energetic flashlight needs respite on occasion. Allow her to sleep, listen to music (anything will do), or talk to people if something is malfunctioning, and let her eat everything, especially junk food. Unless you plan on buying her a gym pass, though, don't ask her to exercise in this weather.

Like anything else, this flashlight shuts down at the thought of classes and non-stop prelims. She may also short circuit when people don't use turn signals, don't apologize when they should, operate on Asian time (i.e. are chronically late), and don't follow through with their words. But really, she doesn't have problems with people in general because she is pretty easy to get along with!

Jennifer states emphatically that she likes "everything!" about Cornell. She raves about dorm life, suitemates, roommates, her floor, being able to eat when she wants (even if it's not good for her), the lovely libraries, CBS, Cornell's campus, the waterfalls, leaves, trees, and snow! Although this flashlight is suitable for use on any part of Cornell's campus, it works best in Kroch Library or in the dorm room.

## COPIER

*Reviewed by Ping Tai*

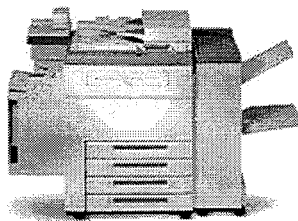
**Product ID:** Jennifer Yoon

**Status:** 2007

**Division:** Mechanical Engineering/BEE

Who that quirky girl who talks like a baby? It's Jennifer Yoon from Queens, New York! A devoted fan of Cornell Dining, Jenn is known to talk like a baby when she gets nervous or happy. Her friends call her a weirdo, in a good way, of course. Whenever she drinks, her pinky instantly goes up!! Indeed, pretty strange, but in a good way. Jenn is going to be a MechE/BEE, and she wants to take as many classes in Korean as she can. She's currently taking Korean and she's a pro at imitating the accents. Hence, when asked what electronic device she wants to be, she said a copier.

Being an engineer does keep Jenn super busy, but she still manages to get lots of sleep. Another cool thing about Jenn is that she has a very extensive collection of shampoos, no wonder why her hair looks



so nice. She intends to cut 12 or 13 inches of her hair in December and plans to donate it to Locks of Love.

When asked where she does her quiet times, Jenn replied in her soft and cute voice, "Everywhere!" She has her homepage on BibleGate.com, and every time she goes on-line she can't resist reading a chapter. Coming to Cornell, has made Jenn realize that she needs to grow more. What will be in store for this quirky girl?? Perhaps she'll realize that ChemE is just as cool as MechE/BEE; or she'll open a hair salon; or maybe she'll go to Korea to start a family. Who knows???? Our God does know and Jenn is definitely listening to Him.

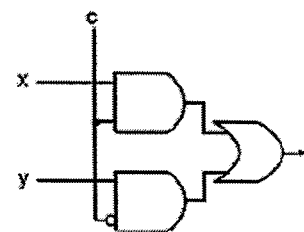
## MULTIPLEXER

*Reviewed by Ray Hsu*

**Product ID:** Ji Lei

**Status:** M. Eng.

**Division:** ECE



So when exactly does a good thing become a bad thing? That question entered my mind when I was eating at the Asian Noodle House with Ji. As the MSG-laden noodles seeped into my brain, circuits were firing like crazy and I couldn't resist devouring the bland pork and noodles in front of me. But what happens on the flip side when a bad thing becomes a good thing? There appears to be this disease called ECE-itis where people have a tendency to expound, in horrific passion, the love of ECE in their daily life. This I discovered today. It is a certain fact that ECE is not something enjoyable to do, but can wanting to be a Multiplexer be healthy? The following report will document, in detail, what being a Multiplexer is like through the life of Ji Lei, an M. Eng student at Cornell.

When meeting up with him I posed a question, "What electronic device would you be? A computer, mp3 player, printer..." He quickly answered, "JK Flip Flop!" But upon careful consideration, he decided he was more of a Multiplexer. While sitting in deep thought (confusion), he began to explain what a Multiplexer was.

As a Multiplexer, Ji is like a controlled filter. He is able to choose from the many inputs in this world and decide what is best for him. In Ji's case, he chooses to eat lemons and to drink Stella's lattés. He enjoys the finer things in life, including all types of music, philosophy, and mystery novels, most recently those of Sherlock Holmes.

He chooses to relax at Stella's and at Libe slope. Yet when doing work, all the required inputs

# Previews

come from Philips Hall, so he must remain there. Other inputs into Ji include Counter Strike, Diablo II, Boston Public and even Sponge Bob once in a while. An output from all of this is his occasional uncontrollable fit of laughter. Cornell has tried to force a lot work onto Ji, seemingly trying to overload him, but he handles it as a quality Multiplexer would. Maybe all this ECE passion can be a good thing.

## PDA

*Reviewed by Wesley Wu*

**Product ID:** Joseph Chang

**Status:** 2007

**Division:** Operations Research AND Materials Science

Joe Chang feels that a PDA is the electronic device that most resembles his life. It keeps things structured and organized, just like he likes to be. This facilitates him doing things really fast, like eating and walking really fast. Also, he needs to be recharged, just like a PDA. Ah, to be a PDA...

Joe has many unique quirks that set him apart. First of all, he does weird things with his hands, which are really stretchy. If you ask him to, he will show you his hand bending skills. Next, to allow him to wake up really early in the morning, he sets TWO alarms, five minutes apart. Now, these alarms aren't set to nice round numbers like 6:30, or even 6:25, but instead, numbers like 6:28. Then he also sets his clocks about 7 minutes ahead. How can he ever know the time?? Some other quirks include his penchant for drinking milk at every meal, his dislike for coconut and papaya, and the fact that all his friends are from Staten Island when he himself is from Queens.

Aside from his quirks, Joe has several interests that he pursues in his spare time. Mostly, he enjoys swimming, singing and talking a lot while hanging out with people. If you ask him to, he'll also show you his amazing talking skills with no hesitation. Since coming to Cornell, he has found that he has learned to DO the best, rather than just try to get the best grade.

To relax and unwind, Joe likes to talk with people, watch movies, swim, shower, and look for LCD deals on Dell.com. He does these things because there are certain things about Cornell he doesn't like too much. First, is the cold. Next, is the walk from North to the engineering quad. Last, is campus food. In

general, he has some pet peeves such as being passed on the road, or drivers who drive really fast, but out of control. He especially hates messy eaters such as people who stick their entire hands into bags of potato chips and grab handfuls of chips instead of just using two fingers.

However, Joe likes many things about Cornell. First of all, he thinks the people are great. Next, he enjoys the natural environment, and the feeling of being in the middle of nowhere. But when he just hangs out, he prefers his room or an apartment in Collegetown. He likes to study in the back of the library in Lincoln Hall and he does his QTs either on his bed at 7AM or outside Teagle before his PE class.

## AIR CONDITIONER

*Reviewed by Will Lin*

**Product ID:** Justin Cheng

**Status:** Freshman

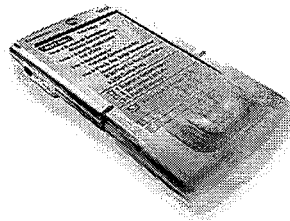
**Division:** Economics

Made by some people in East Brunswick, NJ, this product was dubbed "Justin Cheng of the Economy Major," or "jcthing" (his IM) for short.

This freshman from the East Side (pronounced "Sigh-eeeeed") would be an AC unit because he likes to take the humidity out of everything ... I mean, make everything cooler. That's due to the aura of coolness that surrounds his very presence and the fact that when you take the humidity out of the air in a really hot and humid place (such as the East Coast), the human body is able to evaporate water quicker from your skin and thus you feel cooler (neat, huh?). Of course, everyone needs (and wants) one of these products to cool down their house and their personality ... how did life ever exist without it?

This product (jcthing) does have a few idiosyncrasies that every user should be aware of when trying to implement said device. When trying to talk to jcthing, users might experience what's known as "disorientation" – the front-end of this device tending to wander or oscillate back and forth to take other (visual) input while seemingly not taking the (audio) input given to it by the user. This is normal and should be ignored for the most part. Another idiosyncrasy is the fact that jcthing reminds some users of another, older product – "Hotelie transfer from Econ Major."

This product also has a sister-product (dubbed "Senior Sister Jocelyn") that is known to reside in Collegetown – at whose house jcthing often stays after class for dinner and/or a nap.

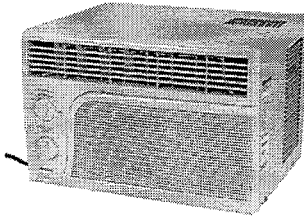


Compact "Slider" Design



# Previews

Warning: jcthing not guaranteed to operate under the following conditions: very bad weather at Cornell University; involving low temperatures and high winds that tend to make this product sick (of the weather AND in terms of health).



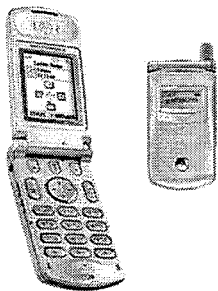
For best operating conditions, rest product often. And when I say often, I mean VERY often. When on "Auto" mode this product will shutdown periodically into a state known as "nap" between class periods. When on "Study" mode this product might shutdown completely into a state known as "sleep" at Uris library. But when in the "Active" mode, jcthing is most likely to be found in Joe Chang's room, just down a few doors from his own Dickson dwelling. The primary (solid and liquid) intake valve and energy processing unit of jcthing liked the change in pace when first brought to Cornell. However, now that it has been more than one week, jcthing tires of the same meal input taken directly off the Cornell output.

One thing jcthing will never tire of is Jesus. Now that jcthing resides at Cornell University, we could upgrade his pipeline chip to run on a faster clock with a larger register; thus jcthing can now manage many class assignments with enough time between clock cycles to spend more time devoted to Jesus. And that is always a good thing.

## CELL PHONE

*Reviewed by Liana Wong*

Product ID: Kriselle Santos  
Status: Freshman  
Division: Biology



They have a new line of cell phone out called the Kriselle Santos. This is the first year Kriselle Santos has provided service to Cornell University. This phone is a particularly smart and peculiar phone. Kriselle Santos specializes in biology. These phones actually like to talk back... actually they talk a lot for that matter and they are very organized. They like to schedule things out.

This phone is not just like any other phone. It is smaller, portable and easier to use. Kriselles are a rather quirky type of phone that likes to take naps and wake up really early in the morning! So you better be an early riser! Kriselles are a rather interactive kind of phones. They can bake desserts, and they like to read odd magazines. (i.e They especially like to read health magazines to contradict it!) Phones don't get any smarter than this!

Special warnings about this phone include cold weather. This phone hates getting bundled up in phone jackets and taking it off. Kriselles also don't like it when it doesn't get its work done— they don't like to procrastinate and users who don't follow through. When the Kriselle phones don't seem to be working properly, one must give it some time to sleep or read (probably some health magazine) in order to recharge it.

These cell phones seem to work best at Cornell. The service reaches a 5 mile radius around campus. A special fact about these phones is that they like working only in small communities. Service is especially good at Olin library in the individual carrels upstairs. This phone likes having alone time.

As you can see, the Kriselle Santos cell phones are of a high quality kind of phones. Don't leave Cornell without talking to one!

## TOASTER

*Reviewed by Monica Tung*

Product ID: Lisa Allen  
Status: Freshman  
Division: Computer Science

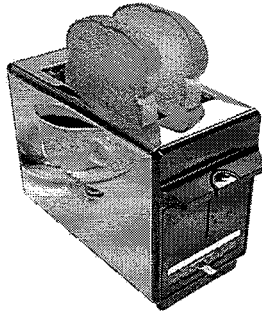
*Lisa Allen, winner of the Toaster Award 'cause she's HOT! \*sizzle\**

So besides being HOT, how did Lisa win this award? How did she beat out all the other awesome toaster candidates? It's all due to her fun-loving, unique personality of course! She's got a huge variety of interests. Besides being in CBS, she was a participant of a performance troupe for the Presidential Inauguration and an avid member of the DDR club, where she gets her groove on every weekend. On top of that, she's a heavy-duty gamer and would love to become a game programmer in the future, which is why she's a CS major! (smart AND hot=) But if that doesn't work out, she wants to be a pilot 'cause she's the daring and adventurous girl that she is. What really sets her apart from her competition though, are the funny little noises that she makes to emphasize what she's saying. You'll have to ask her to explain that to you =)

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Being a native of Syracuse, coming to Cornell this year as a Freshman really wasn't that big of an adjustment for Lisa, but the extreme amounts of walking, and sometimes running, to her 9AM class have been wearing down her toaster-like build. And she admits that sometimes she just doesn't toast well due to interruptions of her beauty rest, like when people run the sink at 5AM every morning. Luckily, she can easily be fixed and renewed to her original bagel-toasting goodness with a couple of hours on a DDR machine or watching action movies and comedies on the weekends with some great friends that she's made from her dorm in Balch.

So far, college has been a great experience for Lisa. Cornell has definitely treated her well, since she finds herself exploring a lot of activities that she would never have gotten an opportunity to try in high school. She has attended the Break Dancing Clubs tutorial session and has now participated in a Toaster competition!! =)



## SIMPLE MACHINE

*Reviewed by Alice Yeh*

**Product ID:** Lordia Fok

**Status:** Freshman

**Division:** Applied Economics and Management

Outside, the clouds hang over Cornell campus in an attempt to block out the sun. The wind blows angrily at the trees. Powerless, they relinquish the last of their leaves to the coming of winter. Inside Libe café, our two characters, seemingly unaware of the tempest raging outside, chatter away happily.

"Alice! Hello! It's so cold outside!" exclaims Lordia, breathless from fighting against the wind to reach the library after her last class.

Surprised, Alice looks up from what she is doing. She hasn't heard Lordia approach. She rises from her seat and searches around the crowded room for a chair for her interviewee. After several minutes, she returns with the only unoccupied piece of furniture she can find, a small table. Lordia makes herself comfortable on the makeshift seat. The interview begins.

Standard questions first.

"Name?"

"Lordia Fok."

"Year?"

"I guess you could say 2007 though I'm not sure if I want to graduate early or not."

"Freshman then?"

"That will be fine."

"Major?"

"AEM."

"Before we start, would you mind telling me about your name?"

"Sure. A lot of people have asked me this already. When I was born, my parents were so happy. They thought that I was a child of God so they decided to include the word, 'Lord,' in my name."

"Oh! That's so interesting!"

"They actually did the same for my siblings' names when they were born."

"What are their names?"

"I have one brother, Lordan, and two sisters, Lordesa and Lordique. Lordique is the oddest of my siblings. Except for Lordique, we were all born on an odd day of the month. We like to say that the 'ique' in her name comes from the word 'unique.'"

"OK, so they gave me this list of questions to ask you. I haven't actually read them over yet, so they'll be a surprise to me too. Let's see what they've given us."

"If you had to choose, which electronic device would you be? Or which would describe you best?"

"Uhh."

"Wait, there's more: 'If you want to, you can specify a specific brand or model and state why.'"

The two laugh in unison.

"Engineers." One word shall suffice to explain their sudden outburst.

Looking around the café, Lordia pauses thoughtfully before giving an answer.

"That's a good question. I don't really know. I suppose something simple would describe me."

The two girls then proceed to observe the current population of characters inhabiting the café in hopes of finding a 'simple' electronic device with which to describe Lordia.

"What exactly is an electronic device?"

"Something that uses electricity?"

Giggles ensue. No particular reason.

"A lightbulb?"

"Does that count?"

"Hmm...What if we said that you weren't an electronic device because electronic devices aren't simple."

"Yeah, that might be good. Electronic devices are too complicated and stressful. They make everything more hurried and complicated."

"Let's call you a simple machine."

# Previews

"OK. That would be good because I do enjoy the simple things in life."

You know, simple machines. Wheel and Axle. Pulley. Inclined plane.

"What makes you different from other devices?"

"Well, since I'm not an electronic device, I don't run on electricity."

"Good answer."

"Any quirks?"

After some thought, Lordia decides upon the quirkiest of quirky answers.

"When I was younger, my parents said that I used to run around the house and randomly throw up on furniture and other household items. My mother says that they were always cleaning up after me."

"That's so random!"

"What are some of your special interests?"

Lordia then proceeds to list of a plethora of interests: "Well....Chinese checkers, basketball, tennis, tennis, soccer, rugby, and kickboxing. Oh and AIM, I'm always on AIM."

"So, tell me. How have you changed since coming to Cornell? What have you discovered about yourself?"

"I think that coming to Cornell has made me realize that I was a lot stronger than I had initially thought."

"What do you mean by that?"

"Well, I actually had never seen Cornell until I arrived here in August. Unlike a lot of freshman, I flew cross country by myself."

"Wow. That's amazing. What was the most difficult part about that journey? And how did you manage to bring all of your belongings over?"

"Packing was a problem. I really had to choose what I needed. Leaving for school was hectic. I barely had the chance to say goodbye to my parents because we were so rushed. I didn't know anything about Ithaca, really. But eventually, I managed to take care of everything that needed to get done."

Alice mulls over what Lordia has just told her. Challenges don't faze her. There is obviously more to this freshman than meets the eye.

"What are your best operating conditions?"

"What?"

"Um, I guess, on any given day, what needs to happen for you to have a good day?"

"I like when it's sunny and warm outside. Also, it always makes my day to run into a few people I know on campus."

"What type of clothing do you bum around in? Or do you bum?"

"I definitely like to walk around in comfortable clothing."

"Anything else?"

"For me to have a good day, I need to not look like an idiot any more than one time during the day."

"Can you expand on that? What's your favorite idiotic memory?"

"In 5<sup>th</sup> grade, I was in science class, and the overhead was on. We were all sitting around a table and the teacher was talking. I was sick that day..."

"Oh, no. I think I know where this is going..."

"Well, all of a sudden, I threw up and it flew clear across the table."

Hysterical laughter erupts from both girls.

"Another barf story! I knew it!"

"Everyone automatically stood up. But the instructor just looked down and said, 'Oh.' And asked two people to take me to the office. On the way to the office, I was passing by a closed door and..."

"Don't tell me! I know what happens! You barfed in front of the door!"

"Yeah! To make things worse, while I was in the nurse's office, I heard an announcement over the intercom system: 'Attention janitors. We need someone to clean up.'"

"That's so embarrassing! Good story!"

An awkward segue into a non vomit-related subject.

"What do you like about Cornell?"

"Not the weather."

Laughing. Who would like the weather here?

"I think the campus is beautiful. My favorite reading spot would have to be indoors in my room. But if I had some free time, I would like to sit on top of the hill by West Campus and have a picnic or something."

"That's a great idea!"

"What do you do to relax or unwind?"

"I would say watch TV, but I don't do that anymore. Not since I came to Cornell. But, I listen to music."

"What type of music?"

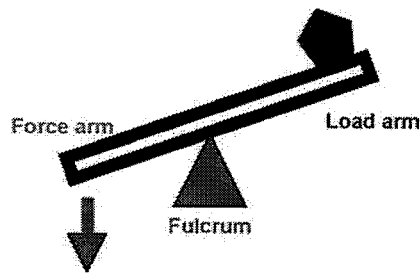
"Christian, R&B, Rap ["whoa!"], Classical. A lot of different things."

"What's playing in your computer right now?"

"The Heart of Worship. A trance remix version."

"Trance remix version?"

"Yeah, but there aren't any words. It's just the melody."



# Previews

"Anything else?"

"A lot of oldies. 'I Can't Help Falling in Love,' by Elvis Presley, 'Every Breath You Take,' by the Police, 'How Deep Is Your Love,' by the Bee Gees, 'Take My Breath Away,' by Berlin, and 'Right Here Waiting,' by Richard Marx."

"Is that it?"

"I also like to sit down and open up a boring text book. That makes you relax right away. It's just so boring that you can't do anything else but relax."

Alice chuckles, "So it's relaxation by default?"

"Yeah. I guess you could call it that."

"Now that we've discussed what you like about Cornell, tell me what you dislike about Cornell?"

"The weather. That's it."

"There's nothing else?"

"Well, I guess the impersonal environment. Everything is just so big here. Also I don't care for walking up hills or in the snow."

"Finally, what are your pet peeves?"

"I dislike when people hack and spit on the side walk, gum under the desk. FOOD FIGHTS, and when people sitting behind you kick your chair, and when people talk loudly on the cell phones in restaurants."

"I agree. Doesn't it make you paranoid when you're walking and you suddenly hear somebody hack a loogie behind you? I always turn around out of fear that they've just spit on me."

"Yeah!"

"Well, that's the end of the questions and our interview. Do you have anything else that you want to say or let people know?"

"Yes. There are a few things. I always wear a jade jackrabbit necklace around my neck. When I was younger, my mother would always tell me about this Chinese myth that said if you wore jade a lot, it would eventually become greener. So I started wearing this necklace. Since coming to Cornell, it has helped keep me grounded and in touch with reality. Wearing it reminds me of everything that my parents have taught me. Although I'm far away from home, I'll always have a memento of them."

"What was the second thing you wanted to share?"

"I told you about how I used to throw up and stuff. I don't do that anymore!"

Lordia uses arm movements similar to those of an air traffic controller to emphasize "anymore."

"I am a very healthy person now."

Afterwards, the two girls continue to talk about life and Cornell in an attempt to postpone the inevitable

## LITE-BRITE: Illuminating the World, One Light Bulb at a time

*Reviewed by Jeff Wang*

Product ID: Mike Zai

Status: Sophomore

Division: Chemical Engineering



No, not a snazzy new cellphone. Not a rockin' iPod. A Lite Brite. That's what sophomore Mike Zai would best describe himself as – the creative design toy that was around when we were young. Aside from lighting the world with pretty designs, he also admits getting a kick out of poking things

with light bulbs!

Mike also admits to being "really really really really...fat" at one point in his life, but soccer and tennis has gotten this Lite Brite back into optimal working condition. Although, unlike most students here, food is actually one of the things he likes about Cornell. Aside from eating though, going for a run late at night is one of Mike's favorite activities to help him unwind, though personally I would suggest that he makes sure to wait at least an hour after eating food from Cornell Dining. Who knows what the Dijon Burger from the Ivy Room can do you in your stomach while it's flopping around as you run!

But beware, this Lite Brite doesn't shine so well under the following conditions: bumping into people who stand in the middle of the door/hall to talk, female drivers, southern accents and the Spice Girls [Another writer's note: don't worry Mike, last time I checked there isn't a Spice Girl to be found at Cornell, though watch out for those female drivers]. Cornell also gets him down sometimes because school tends to be all work and no play.

When he is feeling a little low, Mike turns to God for power to keep on lighting the world. Having learned how to depend on God to help him do well in his classes, he often does quiet times in his room.

Though Cornell does tend to be all work and no play, we all hope that Mike Zai continues to depend on God and that he keeps on providing CBS with his glowing radiance.



## iPod

*Reviewed by Janice Yuen*

**Product ID:** Stephanie Liu

**Status:** Sophomore

**Division:** Hotel Administration

**Device:** If Stephanie could be any electronic device, she would not just be any ordinary one. She would be the i-Pod!! She really likes the look of it and how it's new and different from the rest. This mp3 player does not just play one type of music, but a huge variety. She loves music! Just like her taste in music, her taste in people is eclectic. She knows a little bit of everything and is able to get involved in all kinds of conversations.

What makes her different from other devices: This smart, funny, sporty, multicultural, and adaptable i-Pod is the one and only. She is a compulsive shopper who loves to go on Ebay to find the best deals. She also has a great sense of humor and witty play button! She watches all types of sports and plays on the club team for basketball. She loves to explore, travel, and learn more about other cultures. She's also a prolific writer, who is constantly updating her own personal journal and xanga. Since arriving in Ithaca from LA, she has found herself among different people and constant change. She is open to new styles, experiences, and perspectives. She has become very independent and has made a lot of decisions on her own after transferring here. So far, she has found herself really growing as a person.

**Best operating conditions:** Even though Ms. i-Pod moved all the way from sunny LA to Ithaca, she still really likes it here. Enjoying the beautiful scenery, going to a great school, and just having the experience of being away from home, makes her really like Cornell. She likes to just chill out at the dorm lounge or her friends' rooms. Otherwise, she has a great time going out to eat with her friends, staying in to watch a movie, or attend a cappella concerts. If she's studying, she'd rather stay in her room even though she knows she should be going to the library. Her room is also her favorite place to read God's word and listen to praise music.

**Warning:** This mp3 player does not work well under the following conditions: This i-Pod plays sad songs when she feels cold and depressed from gray skies, or heaviness and pressure from the work load.

And, she would rather skip all those who are ignorant or arrogant know-it-alls.

**Troubleshooting:** When she finds herself running out of batteries, she likes to listen to music, watch TV, sleep, and chat on AIM. She is a friendly and sociable i-Pod, which would chat online all day if she could.

## MASSAGER

*Reviewed by Jessica Liao*

**Product ID:** Vicky Ip

**Status:** Freshman

**Division:** Civil Engineering



With all the new faces in CBS this semester, there's one girl you can't miss. Her hip fashion sense and smiling face make her stand out amongst the crowd. You would think she was a hotelie...but NO, AN ENGINEER (no offense!), civil engineering to be exact! AMAZING! Vicky Ip is one unique frosh that came from NYC to live in the even more exciting town of Ithaca. She enjoys the change of pace in living in a small town, but loves the city as well. As they say, you can take the girl out of NYC, but you can't take the NYC out of the girl! If she had the choice,

she would be one of those hand-held massagers because as they make people relax and provide them happiness, she too likes to provide the same happiness to those around her with the special capability to provide various levels in power.

So what is the girl all about? She loves art and dancing, mostly hip hop. She likes to spend the little free time that she has just chillin' or shopping at Pyramid. Hey, it doesn't beat NYC shopping, but at least it's something to do! You'll most likely find her studying at Lincoln Library, chillin' at Teashop on North, or hanging out at Joe's dorm (esp. on Friday nights to watch movies on his laptop).

Her new life at Cornell? She has enjoyed meeting new people this semester on our beautiful campus, being away from home, and appreciative that Cornell provides so many opportunities. This happy massager dislikes all the work they give at Cornell and the cold and windy weather! Also, she doesn't function properly when people in the dorms are drinking all the time and are loud and rude, even when they see people

# Previews

around them are trying to study! Since coming here, she has been able to hang out with more Christians while at college than in high school, continues to grow in her faith and being fed rather than being a leader at fellowship/church, grown a better relationship with her parents while being away, forced herself to study more now than every before, and has made more diverse acquaintances that she would not have made otherwise. So, the next time you're in need of a shopping buddy or someone to just chill with...think of this cool chick who will definitely be down for anything!

## MP3 PLAYER

By Alan Yu

**Product ID:** William OuYang  
**Status:** First Year Seminary  
**Division:** Masters of Ministry  
In Pastoral Studies

Bill drove me home one Sunday after Church at FICCC. He knew that I was very busy that weekend so when I told him about the interview he firmly offered to type his own responses. "I type really fast," he told me. So he sat down at my desk and I on a nearby stool. I watched him as he intently keyed in his entries, occasionally pausing, occasionally erasing. I had a good laugh reading his responses as he typed. I think you will, too.

The fact is, though, that instead of just that Sunday afternoon, I've had the entire semester to "interview" Bill. He is not a student here at Cornell, but a seminary student at Piedmont Theological Seminary. He came to Cornell this semester as a seminary intern at FICCC to teach English Adult Sunday School on the book of Genesis. Those in CBS should know that Bill attends every single Collegetown Prayer meeting on Saturday mornings, without fail. He is a great resource to those who know him.

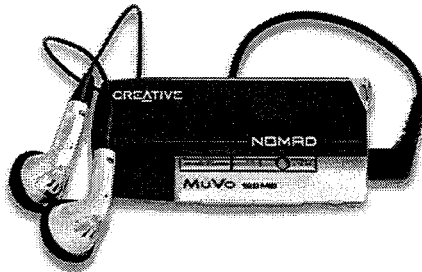
I have personally gotten to know Bill a lot better through working with him for church, and it has been very pleasant. One thing Bill likes to do that you cannot help but admire is the fact that he keeps a working stack of picture flash cards for every person he has a picture of. On the back of those cards he places a lot of pertinent information, some of which it wouldn't even cross my mind to ask. And he really uses them! He even uses them to help others learn about individuals' details. He is constantly asking for feedback about his effectiveness in service, and he is most kind in actively offering rides to people. I am

sure many people know exactly what I mean. These are only some of the details about Bill. I encourage many of you to talk to Bill and work with him more closely to find out the rest in person.

Here are Bill's responses.

**Features:**

I am an mp3 player. There are two types of people in this world—those who are talkers and those who are listeners. My wife is a listener and I am a talker. MP3 Player. (Advise: when you pick a spouse do not pick one who is the same as you. i.e. if you are a talker don't marry another talker, if you are a listener don't marry another listener.



**Do you have any quirks?**  
I am an older model.

**What are some of your special interests?**  
I like to play cards (Hearts and Spades) and I like to play board games.

**How have you changed since coming to Cornell?**  
Yes, I always used to go to sleep at

11, but not any more.

**Warning:**

What do you dislike about Cornell?

They should have grade inflation here, like they do at Brown and at Harvard.

**What are your pet peeves?**

When my wife moves my daily cup off the center of the kitchen table and moves it to the sink. I have to get another one when I am trying to save her work from having to wash too many cups in the first place.

**Troubleshooting:**

What do you do to relax or unwind?

I invest in the stock market.

**Best operating conditions:**

What do you like about Cornell?

Food is good at RPC.

**What are your favorite places to hang out or study or do quiet times (if applicable)?**

In the house of joy (building owned by FICCC next door to FICCC).



# Hardware

## --The "Mini" Team--

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### Evangelism

*By Liana Wong*

It is time to mobilize and revive the need for evangelism in our fellowship. Our vision for EV this year is to bring in the AAA for evangelism—Attitude, Accountability and Awareness. Attitude includes the issues within ourselves. Sharing the gospel with those around us must come from the heart. We must be honest as we share our lives with our friends, motivated by our love and compassion for them. Accountability includes interactions with our fellow brothers and sisters. Accountability means that we must support one another, keep each other honest before God, and ensure that we are all spreading the gospel Biblically and truthfully. Awareness includes our interactions with the world. We must be aware of the world around us and not ignorant to the needs and struggles of those outside of our Christian circles.

This past semester, members in CBS have participated in community service events on campus as a way to increase awareness and love for the community we live in and serve. The highlight of evangelism team this semester has been FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE! (a.k.a. FNL). The purpose of Friday Night Live is to have a CBS that was catered towards our non-

**“We must be honest as we share our lives with our friends, motivated by our love and compassion for them.”**

Christian friends. This included having Emcees to explain the purpose of CBS, worship team explaining why we worship—none of which may be clear to an unbeliever at a regular CBS meeting. Although its intent was to be a CBS designed for seekers and since there were a great number of unbelievers, it would not be just another CBS. Therefore, we also had a much needed prayer chain in the back, praying against the spiritual battles, praying for God to move through the night and in the hearts of our friends.

We saw many of our prayers answered as there were many who responded in the contact cards about how they wanted to know more, wanted to talk to someone, and many who said that this event has gotten them to think more about Christianity. We are currently in the critical stages of following up with those who responded. It was encouraging to see the fellowship mobilize for this event as many had good attitudes serving,

praying, and keeping one another accountable to bringing a friend. Hopefully we will see more FNL's in the future and more of our friends come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. There is an evangelism team in CBS!!! =D

# Hardware

## InReach

By Kelly Chen

If you were to ask me what the In-Reach Ministry is about, I wouldn't hesitate to answer that it's all about making cookies... the best cookies... And by this, I'm not talking about making them for care-packages. You would understand this if you attended some of our last meetings. Here, I'll provide just a glimpse of it in case you're curious: Will Hsu brings in a plate of his and Jon Ng's chocolate chip cookies (which are square, by the way). Everyone reaches out to try them out, but Dave Chiu *mistakenly* says, "Hmmm... these are SO much better than Jenn's [Lie]". Ouch!! Now you think she would leave it at that? No! So, the Cookie

Challenge is officially established (the results of which are yet to come) and we've wasted half of our meeting. This makes me wonder how we've gotten things done this semester. It must have been God's grace that allowed us to put together ACEs, care-packages, service marketplace, felly dinner, tabling, angel/mortal, etc, etc.

As a ministry, we try to promote intra-fellowship bonding. Christ-centered relationships are an important part of Christian life and help to keep ourselves focused on Him. Our In-Reach phrase for this year is, "Who is my neighbor?" The whole premise behind this vision is to start loving the people of the world by first loving the people in our fellowship."

"The whole premise behind this vision is to start loving the people of the world by first loving the people in our fellowship."



## Prayer Ministry

By Charles Yeh

The prayer ministry has seen many ups and downs this semester, but through every little ordeal and trial, I realize more and more just how powerless we are and how powerful God is. Despite all our shortcomings and failures, God is still willing to sit there and listen to our prayers. And not only does He just listen, He answers too. Reread the last two sentences. Let them sink in for a moment before reading on.

This year, the prayer ministry has pushed the vision of Faith, Honesty, and Love. The terms are pretty self-explanatory, but their meanings go much deeper than what words can describe.

"Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1)." It is believing in your heart and your mind that God will answer your prayer in the way that He thinks is best. Prayer is useless without faith. "Without faith, it is

**"Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1)."**

impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek Him (Hebrews

11:6)." Approach God with the firm belief that He will provide for you in all situations and circumstances.

We must also make sure to be honest before God and others. God wants to hear what is in our hearts. We should not be afraid to be totally and completely honest with Him (it's not like He's not going to know anyways). When I am in trouble and just need somebody to talk to, God is always there to listen. He will not betray my thoughts or my words. He welcomes me to be totally open with Him. Speak from your heart, because He wants to listen.

Love ties everything together. Think back to the sentences you "re-read" earlier. God listens to our prayers because He loves us. When we pray, do we do it because we also love God? Do we wish to spend time with Him because we love Him? God commands us to love Him (Matthew 22:37). Prayer should be a consequence of our love for God. God also commands us to love others (Matthew 22:39). When we pray for others, it reflects the love that we have for them. It has been said that you cannot pray for someone if you do not love him or her. Therefore, prayer is a result of our love for God and for others.



## Praise Ministry

By Kuan Leu

Well, it's been a semester and God has been truly blessing the team. As you should know, our vision for the year is Live Out Loud (or Pee Everywhere). It is based on the notion that we don't worship just during large group. Our time of praise on Fridays is only magnified by the worship we do outside of Phillips 101. So the more we live out loud on campus, the more praise pours forth to the glory of God.

So what about the pee part? A little crude, yes, but since worship is a response to the love of God, we cannot hold it in—it must come out and splash everywhere. So our encouragement is to not hold in your worship, but to let it out and live it loud.

For the team, there are ups and downs musically, but I can see how we are growing individually through serving



in this way. We're very human and flawed and are not always uppitty and glowing with "holiness," but worship is coming before God as you are, yet willing to be forgiven and changed.

## Discipleship

By Lisa Chin

In I Thessalonians 2:8, Paul says, "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well..." As the new school year began, the focus of our hearts has been on furthering the relationships of people within CBS. The foundation of these one-on-one relationships is the Word, just as Paul started with sharing the gospel of God. But extended from that is a sacrifice of our own lives for each other (Romans 12:1-2). The goal of the discipleship ministry has been to expand the role of prayer partnerships from just talking and praying together to actually sharing lives with one another and helping each other grow in Christ.

Since the beginning of classes, prayer partners have been meeting with each other; some are continuations from last school year, while others are newly formed pairs. Presently, these partnerships are changing from mere acquaintances to deep relationships where people are comfortable sharing, praying, and holding each other accountable. We pray that the relationships will continue to develop into loving and sacrificing ones.

We challenge YOU in PP relationships to go deeper in your sharing and prayer times. With the coming spring semester, continue pushing each other further in the race towards Christ. Smile!

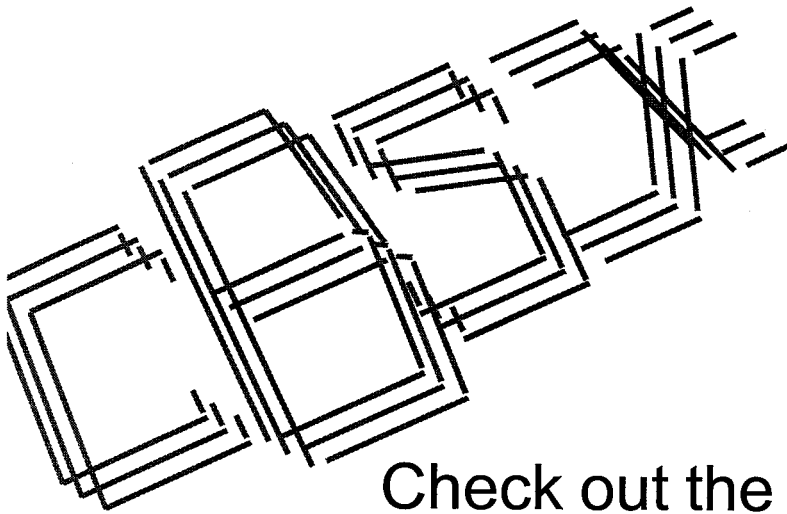
**"So what about the pee part? A little crude, yes, but since worship is a response to the love of God, we cannot hold it in—it must come out and splash everywhere."**



The discipleship vision for this year has been I Thessalonians 2:8, emphasizing the need to live our lives with each other. We as a fellowship all know each other, at least as acquaintances, but to live our lives with each other requires so much more. Think about all the things that we do in our lives, eat, work, sleep, play. Other than sleep, these are all things that we could and should be doing together. Keep in mind that when I say we, it is not exclusive to CBS, but rather includes other Christians and even non-Christian friends.

I must confess that this is much harder to implement than it may seem. On the exterior it seems like it is so easy, simply sharing our time with our friends and people we enjoy being around, but this calling asks more of us. We need to step out and share our lives with those that we might not have things in common or with whom we usually interact. Again, I confess that this past semester I have not done a very good job of applying I Thessalonians 2:8 to my own life and probably have not always been there for people when they may have needed me. Maybe I have had a harder time of it than you have, and for that, I applaud you and press you to continue. But if you also have found that sharing our lives with each other has been difficult then I hope you find encouragement in my situation, knowing that it is not as easy as it sounds.

By Tim Miller



# SoftWare

Check out the latest  
Anti-Virus protection

## Christian Living

By Joe Chang

Someone once said, "Christianity isn't a religion; it's a life." That sure sounds pretty deep to me, but what does it really mean? Can the answer be as simple as, "To be like Jesus - in thought, in word, and in deed"? Strangely enough, that's exactly it; ironic, though, that such a simple answer can be so hard to put into action.

In short, this Bible Study bridges the gap that exists between just knowing what a Christian ought to do and actually carrying it out. Topics ranging from prayer and discipleship, to approaching evangelism and having the right attitudes, this Bible Study has challenged believers to evaluate the way they lead their lives.

This is a reminder for us, as Christians, to go beyond just knowing what the Bible says, and to take those lessons and think about the application it entails. There is more to being a Christian than just knowing what John 3:16 says; it's about caring for those around you, and living a life that points to Him, and Him alone.

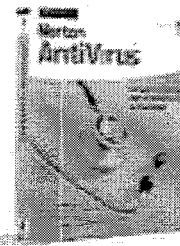
All in all, remember the big picture, but don't forget the details (like who has a fob mark, or who is half Thai!) => God bless.

## Ask About 2003

By Oliver Chow

This semester's Ask About started off with intense study of Biblical authority and why God's Word is reliable and valid. After that was established, we began studying aspects of God's character, the nature of sin, the issue of predestination and other things that are great to ponder in some remote area...like on a mountaintop. Alas, as no mountaintops were available, our group resorted to local coffee shops and

apartment living rooms to hold our meetings. Lessons learned? We must learn to distinguish between the things we can know for certain from God's Word (i.e. His Nature, etc.) and the cannot know (i.e. the we have free others!



A everyone: ourselves to the Bereans "Now the more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."

our sinful state, things that we with certainty extent to which will, etc)...and

message to Let's push be more like in Acts 17:11! Bereans were of

## How Now Shall We Live?

By Greg Huang

Our Wednesday night study focused on readings from *How Now Shall We Live*, a book by Chuck Colson. An Episcopalian by birth, Colson is probably best known for founding Prison Fellowship Ministries as an inmate. He writes here about a Biblical worldview and its significance to Christians today. Using what Colson presented in each chapter to springboard discussion, the group touched on issues from Godly work ethic to modern science to the Fall of Man. Of course, the Bible was constant companion, serving to ground our conversations and offer insight into God's take on how we ought to live. Speaking for myself, the study was both insightful and encouraging: a circle of brothers and sisters, sitting together in Danny's living room, learning from each other what it means to be His hands and His feet, the salt and light for the world.

## Hebrews Bible Study

By Austin Deng

Okay, I'll admit it—at first, I thought the Hebrews Bible study was boring (no offense, Jon and Will). Questions like “What is the ‘therefore’ there for? <laughter>” just seemed too corny. But little did I know that Jon and Will were only feeding us skim milk to prepare us for the 16 oz. steak (actually, we never got steak).

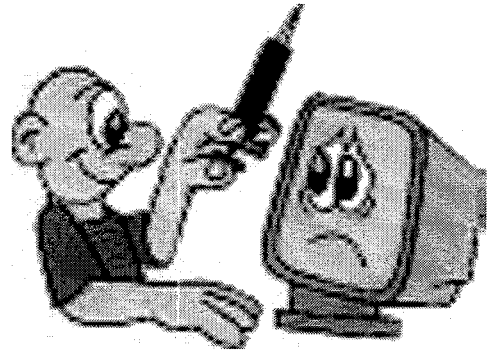
Originally, I wanted to make this blurb humorous so that everyone would read it and laugh. But I don't think that doing so will do justice to the book of Hebrews.

The Hebrews Bible study was very filling. The Old and New Testaments essentially are condensed into this single book consisting of a mere thirteen chapters. The author shows how the Old Testament lays the very foundation for the New Testament (i.e., Christ).

This Bible study can be summarized in one word: Jesus. You know how people who don't know the answer to a question usually respond, “Jesus”? Well, actually, that doesn't usually happen—usually, there's a long silence. *But* assuming there is someone who does this, he would be right if he were in this Bible study. From the first verse of Hebrews to the last, the focus was on Jesus. In fact, we don't even know the author—he remains anonymous in order to focus our attention on Jesus. This is the heart of Hebrews: that Jesus was the perfect and final sacrifice.

But why did we need a sacrifice in the first place? To restore our inheritance of a personal relationship with God after Adam lost it.

The Hebrews Bible study was a book study which delved deeply into the Word. Although I thought I knew it all, once again I see how much there is to learn. As my first Bible study, it has set a high standard for my future Bible studies.



## Revelations: Let's Review Again

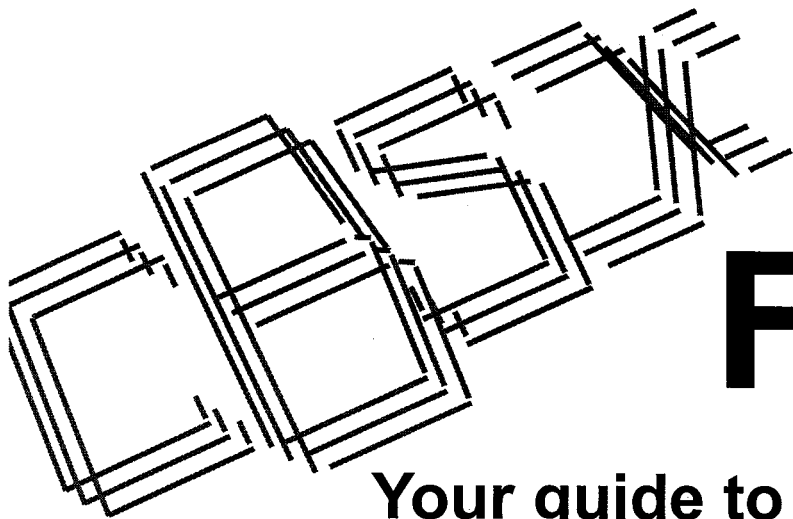
By Ray Hsu

Do you want to know what Revelation is about? Everyone in our Bible study should know, that is, if Joanna and Ivana did a good job. You know what was the most fun about our Bible study? Review Time! Review Time was always an adventure for us—we never knew whether it would last for 1 minute or if it would last the whole Bible Study. The variety in Review Time strategies contributed to this uncertainty. Sometimes 1 person would summarize everything or we would circle around with each person giving a single sentence until all was covered.

We have reviewed Revelations using hangman, memory (the game), and by building summary sentences: Each person would give one word, and the next person in line would progressively build the sentence by appending words. Since our Bible Study has had so many chances to review, we should all be able to recite what we have learned. So go ahead and ask any of us to review for you. The list of attendees in the Revelation Bible Study includes, Jon Wang, Tiffany Pan, Tim Miller, Eric Tai, Charles Yeh, and Jacob Chang.

Key words to look for in the review:

John, Patmos, Vision, Jesus, 7 Churches, Worship, God, Lamb, 7 Seals; 144,000; 7 Trumpets, The Mystery of God, Two Witnesses, The Dragon, The Beasts, The Harvest, 7 Angels, 7 Bowls, Woman on the Beast, The Fall of Babylon, Hallelujah, The Rider on the White Horse



# First Looks

## Your guide to new arrivals

### Laptop

*Reviewed by Jeremy Chow*

Product ID: Austin Deng  
Status: Freshman  
Division: Materials Science

#### Features:

If you had to choose, which electronic device would you be?

"I would be a computer because I'm systematic in my thinking. But it would have to be a laptop because they're light and portable. People used to call me 'Austin 2.0' because I'm able to follow directions and do what people say."

What makes you different from other devices?

"My appearance and personality make me unique. I have a personality that makes me one of a kind."

Do you have any quirks?

"I like to make comments and respond to people using a tune or melody. I also make a lot of random comments and enjoy making people laugh and smile. In fact, smiling is my natural demeanor."

What are some of your special interests?

"I like playing basketball, ultimate Frisbee, table tennis, and volleyball. Basically, I like sports!"

How have you changed since coming to Cornell?

"I don't feel I've changed a whole lot since coming here, but I am beginning to understand what I have to change. I know I can't be the same person I was in high school, and a lot of habits (such as

procrastination) that have carried over need to be changed. Growing spiritually has been slow, just because it takes a while to meet people and get completely integrated into a fellowship."



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#### Warnings:

What are your pet peeves?

"I really dislike obnoxiously loud music"

What are your favorite places to hang out or study or do quiet times (if applicable)?

"I always enjoy hanging out with other people in their rooms. It's a great way to pass time. I like studying in the fishbowl at Uris, and I always do quiet times in my own room."

What do you dislike about Cornell?

"I dislike the physical distance between freshman and upperclassmen. Upperclassmen

are so far away in Collegetown and we're all the way up on North campus. Plus, they don't have meal plan, so it's even harder to meet up."

#### Troubleshooting:

What do you do to relax or unwind?

"The best way to relax is to hang out with friends. This involves eating with them, watching movies, or simply talking. I also use sports to unwind."

#### Best operating conditions:

"I like the large amount of Christian influences. Besides Friday night large group, there's plenty of other activities—Bible studies, prayer meetings, etc.—throughout the week to keep me busy."

## Pacemaker

*Reviewed by Christina Ling*

**Product ID:** Cheryl Chan  
**Status:** Freshman  
**Division:** Science of Earth Systems

### Features:

If you had to choose, which electronics device would you be?

Pacemaker: people depend on them to keep on living; it keeps their heart going. A pacemaker is reliable. She likes old people too, and sometimes she wishes she could be a pacemaker and never stop working.

### What makes you different from other devices?

Set apart from the rest: Cheryl is very afraid of people putting things (i.e. contact lenses) in their eyes, and she cries at every graduation (even if they're not hers).

### What are some of your special interests?

She has a special interest in Chinese instruments, and has taken lessons in Guzheng (so cool!). She desires to jump off waterfalls, enjoys hiking and the outdoors. She really enjoys driving with her windows down and going to the beach at night. How have you changed since coming to Cornell?

In the time she's been at Cornell, she's learned the importance (and urgency!) of sharing the gospel with people she knows. Her roommate has taught her to realize that when it seems like it's the end of the world, it's not. Someone else out there has it a lot worse than you and is still living on just fine. Cheryl has learned to be grateful for many things, and is finding the importance of growing closer to her family, especially her mom. She has learned how to walk from the Eco House to Uris library in 12 minutes! As a result of the large number of brothers here that offer to walk her home from Bible study and stuff all the time, she's learned a bit more of how to not be so polite and let others bless her and in turn, to bless others too.

### Warnings:

#### What are your pet peeves?

Cheryl dislikes the nasty wintry weather here, and she is also growing tired of the dining hall food. She now knows better than to have long days that go from 9:05am to 4:30pm.

It really bothers her when guys borrow toilets and don't put the seat back down. Wrinkled papers, as well as fingerprints on glass and windows bother her.

### Troubleshooting:

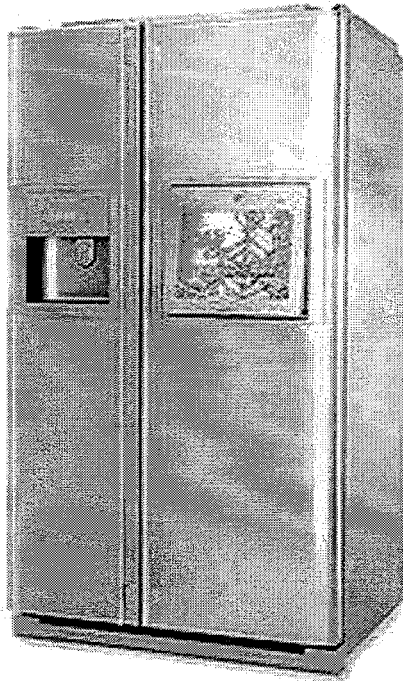
#### What do you do to relax or unwind?

After a tough exam, Cheryl: goes to Bear Necessities, orders a warm ranch chicken wrap (with yummy bacon!), a kiwi Snapple, and sits in the lounge and watches TV, completely tranquil and just relaxes, "spending time frivolously," as she puts it.

### Best Operating Conditions:

Cheryl loves the diversity at Cornell, and the people at Cornell. It's a blend of all kinds of different people. She also loves the summer weather in Ithaca.

She enjoys doing a lot of journal writing, QTs, and praying on her bed. She is really attracted to the beauty of the Arts quad and Libe Slope, anywhere with nice grass and trees.



## BIG REFRIGERATOR ("cuz it's cool and has food")

*Reviewed by Joanna Chu*

**Product ID:** Faith Chan  
**Status:** Freshman  
**Division:** Biology

### Features:

What makes you different from other devices?

You can hang pictures on me. I'm BIG, magnetic, interactive (like those refrigerators that hook on to the internet and can update you when you are low on certain foods). And, I keep food from spoiling. I have a purpose and it's important! Do you have any quirks?

# First Looks

I eat fish filets in circles, so that the last bite is the best...just the right amount of bun and fish!

I *must* put on my mittens first, and then my jacket. I can tolerate messiness when I'm not idling in it, but if I have free hands and time, I like to clean (even when it's not my own mess). I second guess myself when I talk, thus the multiple "wait, no's" that I say.

**What are some of your special interests?**

I like to eat, and I like Michael Vartan...I mean, Alias. =D (three cheers for Vaughn!)

**How have you changed since coming to Cornell?**

I gained weight but then lost it again. I now drink coffee. I'm realizing more and more how I am surrounded by God's blessings (friends, fellowships, church). I'm learning about God's abundant grace and that our only response to God's radical love is to love Him and others in return. I'm learning that God is our sustainer, the one who gives us guidance and all provisions which in turn makes me have a more thankful attitude.

**Warnings:**

**What do you dislike about Cornell?**

Walking when it's cold.

**What are your pet peeves?**

When you hear people leave the bathroom without washing their hands! Nasty. especially in the dorms because you know they live near you and they make the place dirty! When people wake me up without a good reason. Loud breathing. Dirty feet on my pillow, shoes on my rug, and just dirtiness in general. When people steal my stuffed animals and put them up for ransom!! Or getting them dirty.

**Troubleshooting:**

**What do you do to relax or unwind?**

I eat, bum around, "marinate and chillax." I watch stand up comedians.

**Best Operating Conditions:**

**What do you like about Cornell?**

Being able to see the sky (don't see much of it in NYC). The clean air. The people.

**What are your favorite places to hang out or study or do quiet times?**

Hang out spots: Bubble Tea on North, Olin, Joe Chang's room/dorm. Study spots: "Olin, Asian room/conference room is the place to be if you're RTD!" (For the non-ganstas out there, RTD = rough, tough and dangerous.)

## Manhattan Chase ATM

*Reviewed by Chih-Chen Luke Luan*

**Product ID:** Felix Lee

**Status:** Freshman

**Division:** Applied Engineering Physics (AEP)

**If you had to choose, which electronic device would you be?**

FL: Hmm...I would be a Manhattan Chase ATM.

**What makes you different from other devices?**

FL: Well, because people are dependent on ATMs, so I want to be the source, the Architect, and someone people can depend on.

CL: Why Manhattan Chase?

FL: Because, it's the biggest bank!

CL: So then, what makes you different from other devices, other than the fact that you're the Architect?

FL: I need swiping, card access.

**Do you have any quirks?**

FL: Oh definitely, I'm an authentic time waster. Like I'll sit around and do nothing, I'm the real deal.

**What are some of your special interests?**

FL: Besides wasting time? Hmm...sleeping 10 hours a day so that I'll grow more.



**Warnings:**

**What are your pet peeves?**

FL: Oh yeah, I don't really like it when people don't shower.

CL: Haha, yeah I'm not a big fan of that either.

FL: Also, I don't like having shoes in my room and I like clean bathrooms.

**What are your favorite places to hang out or study or do quiet times?**

CL: What are your favorite places to hang out or study?

FL: I have a lot, Clark Hall because nobody goes there, the Fishbowl in Uris, the lounge in Clark, oh and of course Cascadilla!

CL: Wow, you're at the library a lot, so then what do you do to relax?

FL: Sleep, play basketball, chat online, cook, play pool, play foosball, and fantasy basketball.

**What do you dislike about Cornell?**

CL: What do you dislike about Cornell?

FL: It's HUGE! This school's too big for me, plus Cornell makes you pay for everything. I don't really like the weather here too. Besides that, there's this cat that comes into my townhouse and sleeps on my bed.

CL: Wait, why do you have a cat who sleeps on your bed?

FL: Oh well, my roommate buys food for it, so it comes in and eats and sleeps on my bed!

### Best Operating Conditions:

FL: What do I work best under? After my 10 hours of sleep, I need a mocha Frappuccino from Starbucks, a morning shower, and 30 minutes of nothing before I start my day. Oh, having cookies and cream chocolates and gelling my hair helps too. But if you're talking about test taking conditions, I don't eat before tests and always need to go to the bathroom before it.

CL: I hear ya. Alright, that's just about it, anything else?

FL: Nope.

CL: Ok, thanks Felix!

## Mini-Disc Player

*Reviewed by Christina Sun*

Product ID: Fennie Chow

Status: Sophomore

Division: Design and Environmental Analysis

### Features:

Fennie Chow is an amazing, high-quality mini-disc player. This device is different in that she is small and compact. Mini-disc players are not common, and you will be drawn to the awesome qualities once you familiarize yourself with this device. Her uniqueness comes from her ability to make people around her very comfortable. This mini-disc player is so cool and so easy-going!

Our mini-disc player, Fennie, has an interesting quirk, she twitches her toes. Not something you might notice right away, but if you stare at her toes long enough, her toes twitch!

Fennie Chow loves music and loves to sing. And the athletic side of her shows because she loves lacrosse.

Because her presence at Cornell has not been so long, her potential changes are still unknown.

### Warnings:

Caution: This device does not work well when she finds herself in the middle of nowhere.

To prevent any future problems, do not wake Fennie up early in the morning! Or else, she might not function properly.

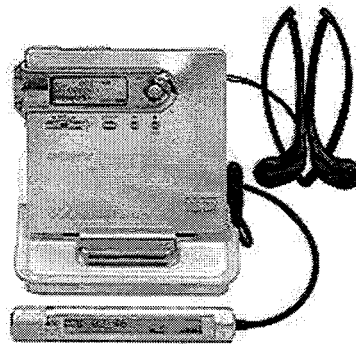
### Troubleshooting:

Every mechanical device needs rest. To unwind, Fennie loves listening to music.

### Best operating conditions:

Fennie Chow, the mini-disc player, best operates in a good atmosphere. If you put her where there's a beautiful landscape, fun classes, and lots of Christian devices around, she will work optimally.

You can usually find this mini-disc player at the studio or at the Terrace. You will also find her charging up and doing QT in her room.



## Digital Camera/MP3 Player – Fujifilm

*Reviewed by Kuan Leu*

Product ID: Gigi Tang

Status: Sophomore (Transfer from USC)

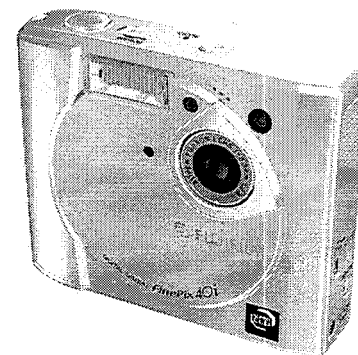
Division: ILR

### Features:

I'd be my new Fujifilm digital camera because it also works as an mp3 player. I like to multitask and be efficient.

### What makes you different from other devices?

I'm from Hawaii and I'm a dog lover. My dog's name is Happy. =)



### What are some of your special interests?

I like to paint, but only with oil. I also like to scuba dive.

How have you changed since coming to Cornell? I've become less sheltered and naive.

# First Looks

You get to see many things when you live in a dorm (Transfer Center).

I've also become more like a country bumpkin since coming to Cornell.

I'm used to being on the beach (I live in Hawaii) or in the city (I transferred from USC).

## Warnings:

What do you dislike about Cornell?

There's nothing to do. There seems to be no social life because everybody is always busy. Drinking is even crazier here than it is at USC.

What are your pet peeves?

I cannot stand people who take dumps in the communal kitchen trash can. I cannot stand them even more when they take out the bag and show everyone. This actually happened at the Transfer Center.

## Troubleshooting:

What do you do to relax or unwind?

I like to shop. Too bad Pyramid mall is hardly a mall. So most of the time I sleep or watch movies for fun.

## Best operating conditions:

What do you like about Cornell?

It seems like people are more accepting and are nicer here than they are at USC.

People are more focused on their work.

What are your favorite places to hang out or study or do quiet times (if applicable)?

I work in Olin and I like to study in the Asian Library.

I like the Hong Kong magazines that they have there.

They help me keep in touch with my HK side.

## PowerMac G5

*Reviewed by Dave Chiu*

Product ID: Gregory "2 Cool 4 U" Huang

Status: Freshman

Division: Biology- Arts & Sciences

What do you think of when you think of Greg Huang? Many adjectives come to mind but the first is definitely "hardworking" and then shortly following it would probably be "ridiculously cool." So the question lies, what kind of electronic device is really hardworking? I'll give you a hint, it quietly hums as we slave through the endless piles of homework, it distracts us, yet at the same time helps us to do our homework; why, it is none other than the computer. The fact that he is stylish and just so ridiculously cool means that he can only be one type of computer, the PowerMac G5.

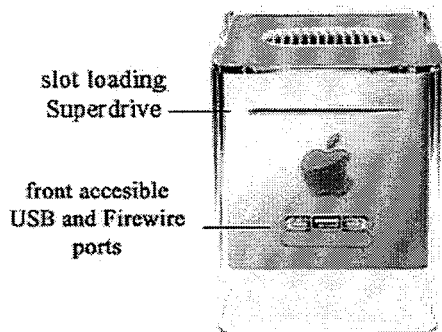
## Features:

The fact that he works hard separates him only from about half the people here. People like David Chiu, Jennifer Lie, and all the other freshmen work 24/7. But it is the fact that "he looks good while he works," that makes him stand out from among the crowd. Greg's RAM is failing and thus he is unable to respond to an inquiry about any possible quirks. Hopefully, before this article goes to print, he will have uncorrupted his RAM, but his hard drive is still fully functional and thus he remembers that he had a whole variety of special interests, one of which is music. This extends further into the portrayal of Greg as a PowerMac G5, as his workstation self is equipped with a G2 iPod with 30 gig of memory. He loves music, especially jazz; and in rain or shine, you'll see him gladly walking his way to Lincoln for some quality time with the piano.

I'll let Greg speak for himself on how he feels he has changed since coming to Cornell. So just imagine the little mechanical voice that we all played with in 'Simple Text', that could read out anything typed in it. "My perspective on things has become a lot broader. I mean more than just the superficial, 'I know more people.' I have begun to see more of where a solid Christian life can go with consistent Christian habits. We always had to deal with finding good Christian role models in our age group, and as high school seniors it was always hard, but now as college freshmen, it is not as hard to find peer role models (other than Christ)."

## Warning:

## Reintroducing



With a G5 processor, it's the fastest computer on the market. Don't miss out on this great come back.

## G5 Cube



Do not store in 30 degree weather. Do not put your feet on his pillow, be loud without reason, or cut your nails in his presence.

## Troubleshooting:

If device is not working properly, simply have his neighbor, Matt bellow out Clay Aiken songs from his room, down the hall.

## Best operating conditions:

Store in 40–80 degrees Fahrenheit, preferably sunny, but snow is okay as well. Keep in the presence of “amazing” people and absolutely great friends. Also let work at own pace and do not be as restrictive and limiting in academic freedom as compared to high school.

When hanging out: store in someone’s room or in a dining hall.

When doing Quiet Times or studying: store in his room for optimal performance.

## Telephone

*Reviewed by Linda Chen*

Product ID: Hannah Kim

Status: Freshman

Division: Fine Arts

## Features:

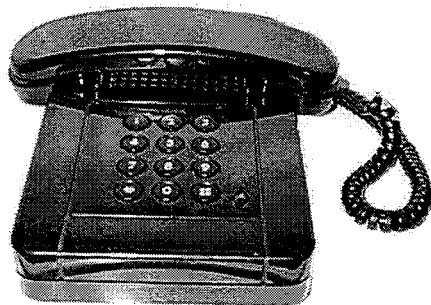
Hannah would be a telephone, because she would help to bring people together to improve communications. She is quirky in that she sometimes would say weird things. She also has a hyper extended elbow.

Hannah likes art, and she sometimes attempts to play the guitar.

Hannah has grown spiritually since coming to Cornell. She is especially moved by the passion of the various fellowships here on campus. One thing she has learned is the faithfulness of God. In terms of academics, she has learned to survive with very little sleep.

## Warnings:

Hannah doesn’t like the racial self-segregation here, and how big drinking is at Cornell.



When the person before you takes all the hot water from the shower, and when people don’t do what they said they would do.

## Troubleshooting:

Hannah likes listening to various kinds of music, in particular, Switch Foot. She also like going to musicals and plays.

## Best Operating Conditions:

She likes the surrounding area and the campus environment, when the weather is nice. She enjoys being close to nature. She also likes the fact that Cornell is a big school, so she can always meet new people. She likes to sit on the Libe slope to watch the sunset, but Uris Library is her spot when she needs to do intensive studying.

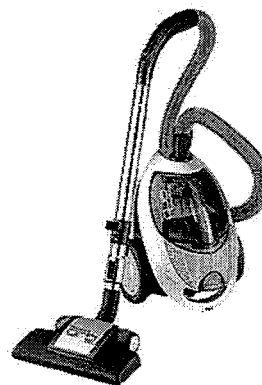
## Vacuum Cleaner

*Reviewed by Dave Lin*

Product ID: Jason Kwong

Status: Freshman

Division: Bio



**Features**  
a vacuum cleaner just because i think it would be fun  
i love lint – a great and helpful characteristic of any good cleaner  
interested in almost anything that won’t kill me – the same old me –

haven’t changed since coming to Cornell

## Warning

the slippery sidewalks (ice-skating against my will on the icy bridge the other day)  
for carpet only, NOT ceramic tiles  
the most user friendly vacuum out there!

## Troubleshooting

sleep – like most appliances, I need my rest

## Best operating conditions

friends, not the education  
Uris Library and RPU lounge

# First Looks

## 3 in 1 Printer, Scanner, Copying Machine

*Reviewed by Lisa Chin*

Product ID: Jianshu Jean Tang

Status: 2007

Division: Undecided (A&S)

### Features:

If you had to choose, which electronic device would you be?

3 in 1 Printer, Scanner, Copying Machine. She's sort of spread out in her interests. She's a very visual person and prints out images. She is not as complicated as a device as a laptop, computer, or cell phone.

**What are some of your special interests?**

She likes music and plays classical piano. She listens to Japanese music, even when she doesn't understand the lyrics. She likes to compose the classical way and play around with Midisoft on the computer. She's interested in the Japanese language. She likes to make things—drawings and crafts. She'd like to learn to make costumes in the future.

**Do you have any quirks?**

She takes multiple naps during the day and must have food all the time. She has set routines: eating, spaces off while sitting at a desk, stares at the wall or bookshelf, spaces out for hours over time.

**How have you changed since coming to Cornell?**

She's been just doing more in general because back home on a regular school day, she'd go to school, come home, practice piano, have dinner, do hw, and go to sleep. Now at school, she has to walk to class, go to meetings, and do other things that she didn't do at home, like eating dinner with friends. Back home, she would have a crazy schedule and would rarely see her friends at school.

She's also become slightly more independent. She has no bedtime and here at college, she doesn't sleep very much.

### Warnings:

**What are your pet peeves?**

People complaining about how they got a B+ or A- on a prelim, and need to study for 3 weeks straight for the next prelim to get the A, because for

her, although she tries really hard to at least pass all her classes, she is aiming for a B average. She thinks there are things more important than grades. She wouldn't like to study all the time.

She doesn't like going downstairs to take showers in the girls' bathroom.

At a movie, people asking what's going to happen, when they're watching the movie at the same time.

She doesn't like being asked questions she has no way of knowing the answers to.

**What do you dislike about Cornell?**

She doesn't like it how it's cold when it snows, nor does she like the wetness of the rain. She prefers to stay inside when it's raining and doesn't like having to walk to classes in the rain. The changing indoor/outdoor temperature was not good for her. It's shocking all the time and makes it easy to get sick. Her workload is heavy, but manageable. She doesn't like the high ceilings and rooms without enough lighting.

### Troubleshooting:

**What do you do to relax or unwind?**

She sleeps, takes naps and occasionally, calls friends from back home to see what they're doing. She will listen to music and practice piano in Dickson if she finds time. She also likes to visit friends in different dorms.

**Best operating conditions:**

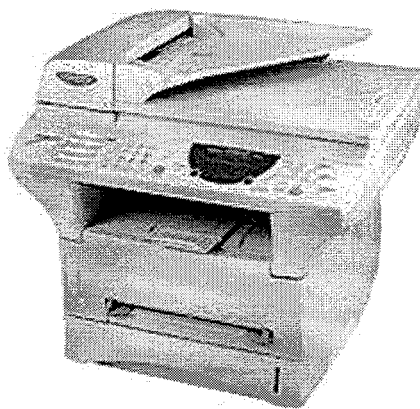
**What do you like about Cornell?**

It is convenient because she can buy food at RPCC, walk to most of the classes in 15 minutes from North Campus. It's not that bad so far. The weather is starting to get cold, but it's still okay for her. She is challenged to think ahead in managing here time to fit everything in, i.e. homework, meetings, etc. She likes her roommate and the people she meets here, who are friendly. She enjoys her dorm, the DINING ROOM FOOD—Chinese food at Appel.

**What are your favorite places to hang out or study or do quiet times (if applicable)?**

She likes to hang out at Appel during meals. She likes to study occasionally in RPCC study lounge, but mostly in her room. She does her QT's in the room.

She gets along really well with her roommate, but her desk is set up in a way that it's almost like a cubicle, so gets a lot of quiet space.



## Flashlight

*Reviewed by Tiffany Pan*

**Product ID:** Jennifer Su

**Status:** Freshman

**Division:** CS

### Features:

If Jennifer Su were an electronic device, she would be a flashlight because it's useful, simple, easy to manage, and isn't complicated. She is different from other devices of the modern world because she has only two modes: on and off. However, even the simplest things in life have their own quirks. Says Jennifer, "*I am a quirk.*" She is quite active and jumps around the dorm at 4am in lieu of sleeping. She claims that her "off" mode used to be employed much more frequently than it is now. Being on all the time, unfortunately, depletes her energy supply and requires "borrowing" food from the dining halls to compensate for the loss. But this flashlight's life isn't all about hyper-on mode. She takes time out to play tennis and draw cartoons, abstract works, and anything else that comes to mind.

The new "Su" model has been upgraded in several ways. Aside from studying more and sleeping less, she has learned to be more accepting of other people. She feels that she has stepped out of the bubble and been exposed to things and people she's never experienced before. Jennifer ponders whether there is no bubble here, or if the bubble is just a lot bigger. Either way, she is just glad that she can do a lot more things without having to impress colleges. This Cali girl also loves warm clothes and cold weather!

### Warnings:

Like anything else, this flashlight shuts down at the thought of classes and non-stop prelims. She may also short circuit when people don't use turn signals, don't apologize when they should, operate on Asian time (i.e. are chronically late), and don't follow through with their words. But really, she doesn't have problems with people in general because she is pretty easy to get along with!

Jennifer states emphatically that she likes "everything!" about Cornell. She raves about dorm life, suitemates, roommates, her floor, being able to eat when she wants (even if it's not good for her), the lovely libraries, CBS, Cornell's campus, the waterfalls, leaves, trees, and snow! Although this flashlight is suitable for use on any part of Cornell's campus, it works best in Kroch Library or in the dorm room.

### Troubleshooting:

However, even the most energetic flashlight needs respite on occasion. Allow her to sleep, listen to music (anything will do), or talk to people if something is malfunctioning, and let her eat everything, especially junk food. Unless you plan on buying her a gym pass, though, don't ask her to exercise in this weather.

## Sony VAIO® TR2AP1 Notebook PCG-TR2AP1

*Reviewed by Ivana Chang*

**Product ID:** Jessica Hsieh

**Status:** Freshman

**Division:** Textiles and Apparel- Business Management

### Features:

If you had to choose, which electronic device would you be?

If I could be any electronic device, I would be the Sony VAIO® TR2AP1 Notebook PCG-TR2AP1:

Ta-da!

I would be one because it's so cool! And very light and portable, which means it can travel anywhere around the globe (I love traveling...I just got back from Hong Kong before coming here, and if there is anyplace to see all the newest technology in electronic devices, it's in HK!) Plus, it has a built in camera to see everything and lots of memory to spare (unlike me). =)

What makes you different from other devices?



# First Looks

Possessing all the features of a high-tech notebook but in a stylish and more compact form.

**Do you have any quirks?**

Not sure...

**What are some of your special interests?**

I love to play tennis, to create jewelry, to bake things for other people, to watch Alias, to paint, to play the piano, and to scrapbook.

**How have you changed since coming to Cornell?**

Not dramatically. Physically, I've noticed that my legs are buffer from all the walking, and I tend to take little naps now and then whereas before, I never used to nap. I also drink a lot more coffee, but I'm trying to cut back.

**Warnings:**

This gadget/device does not work well under the following conditions: Cold, windy and rainy.

**What are your pet peeves?**

People who don't chew with their mouths closed! Ewww. And the awful racquet people make when they come back from partying in the wee hours of the morning on the weekends.

**What do you dislike about Cornell?**

The unpredictable weather & the lack of any real shopping areas; I didn't believe what people told me about being in the middle of nowhere until I got here.

**Best operating conditions:**

Warm and Sunny with a hint of breeze.

**What do you like about Cornell?**

Getting to meet all sorts of interesting and different people, experiencing the college life, and no one to take roll for every class.

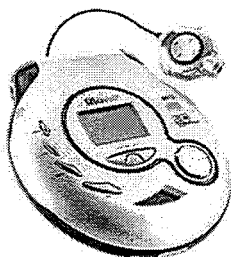
## MP3 Maggie

*Reviewed by Crystal Yu*

**Product ID:** Maggie Tang

**Status:** Freshman

**Division:** Chemistry



**Features:**

With her incredible coolness capacity, 24-hour battery life to handle Cornell workload, petite frame, and industry leading personality, MP3 Maggie has been imported here from NYC to significantly improve the quality of the digital lifestyle at Cornell.

MP3 Maggie sports random outbursts of online silliness. She features the normal capabilities of an MP3 player but favors pop/punk/alternative/emo/

instrumental music. Her digital lifestyle also includes hanging out with friends (playing a little bit of volleyball even). Maggie finds adapting to the Cornell environment new and harder than being back home with old friends and family. Significant improvements to this Cornell model include increased work productivity and a honed ability to make new friends.

**Warnings:**

With many capabilities, MP3 Maggie is here to wow CBS, but would like it better if she weren't always working without down time. She is especially frustrated with liars, long days, and being ignored. However, because of all the Chemistry equations she has to store in her memory, she is not able to remember more things she doesn't like. Nevertheless, this is one MP3 player that is sure to get raving reviews.

**Troubleshooting:**

She can fast-charge her battery by playing...what else? Music! And of course, to fully recharge, she chats on AIM, edits her Xanga and reads the Bible. Best of all, she even gets to sleep and play Frisbee (when conditions allow), without skipping a beat!

**Best operating conditions:**

With MP3 Maggie, managing and organizing is a breeze when she's with people and the Christian community. She works especially well in her room and her friend's room.

**My personal ranking:** 5 stars!

## Toaster

*Reviewed by Daniel Tsui*

**Product ID:** Matt Wong

**Status:** Freshman

**Division:** Fine arts

**Features:**

If you could choose, which electronic device would you be?

Matt would like to be a toaster because he's hot stuff.

**Do you have any quirks?**

Matt doesn't have very many quirks except for his ability to do Arnold Schwarzenegger impressions.

**What are some of your special interests?**

Matt has a lot of enthusiastic interest in the fine arts and music. In his free time he enjoys playing basketball. Additionally, Matt is a die-hard Clay Aiken fan and has

managed to get all his other freshmen friends hooked on the melodious sounds of Clay Aiken's powerful voice.

**How have you changed since coming to Cornell?**  
Matt feels that since coming to Cornell he has gotten considerably more bitter and lazy. Cornell has not been kind to him as he has managed to lose 15 pounds and gets tired a lot easier. He has also grown more facial hair, being too lazy to shave, and his posture has gotten worse.

**What do you like about Cornell?**

Matt really likes the people at Cornell. The campus is also pretty nice.

**Where do you like to hang out or study?**

Matt can often be found hanging out or "studying" in various libraries across campus including Olin, Uris, and Lincoln. He also likes spending time in dorms, especially in the laundry rooms.

**Troubleshooting:**

**How do you relax or unwind?**

To relax after a long hard day of Cornell, Matt enjoys eating sunflower seeds because, "They're satisfying, like eating craps." While this may seem illogical to most people, he enjoys the hard work it takes to extract one sunflower seed and the feeling he gets when he consumes a whole handful of sunflower seeds that he spent the past thirty minutes working on.

**Warnings:**

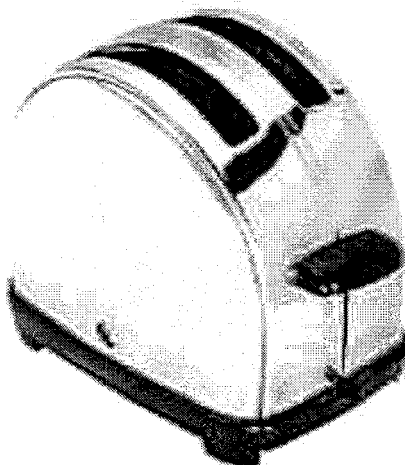
**What do you dislike about Cornell?**

Matt is not too happy about the size of the campus, especially when he has to walk across the big campus in the cold weather. He also dislikes the fine arts program here and is hoping to transfer. However, he is facing many problems with the internal transfer

division. To top it off, he extremely dislikes his writing seminar "Arthurian love."

**What are your pet peeves?**

Matt is annoyed by loud people. This includes people who chew too loudly and whose laughter is irritating.



## PDA

*Reviewed by Jennifer Lie*

**Product ID:** Nancy Chen

**Status:** Junior

**Division:** Biology

**Features:**

Nancy Chen is the most trustworthy personal digital assistant out there. If you need to be reminded about an appointment or an event, she will punctually let you know. She's reliable and she doesn't come with any weird quirks.

In addition, this pda includes a built-in camera who takes *and develops* her own pictures! Can SONY do that? She likes photography because it's fun and she enjoys participating in the entire process from start to finish, from camera and film to the final product.

When she first arrived at Cornell, she realized that there are a lot of Asians. She had never seen so many at one place back home in Denver, Colorado. Additionally, as a result of Cornell's vigorous testing and standards, she's been upgraded and has learned to be more tolerant and respectful of other people's differences. She's not quick to judge and realizes that people come from different backgrounds and experiences. This new technology allows her to be compatible with many systems.

**Best operating conditions:**

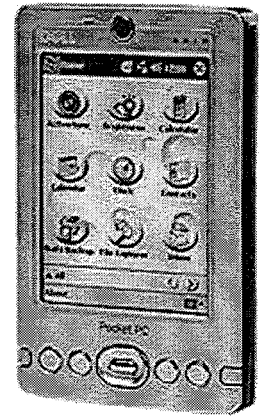
Nancy operates best after having had some of Purity's green tea ice cream (yumm). It's one of the things she likes best about Cornell. Libe Tower Café also provides optimal conditions for studying and just relaxing; the window from the café reveals a fantastic view of Ho Plaza and gently inclining Libe Slope.

**Warning:**

Nancy doesn't like having to walk everywhere because it takes time away from sleep and rest. She also doesn't like to be rushed. She never leaves a door open with a crack and doesn't understand why people can't just close it completely on their way out or leave it alone. It's got to be either fully open or fully closed.

**Troubleshooting:**

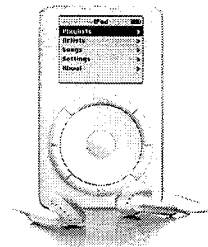
Nancy listens to music, sleeps, and reads the newspaper to recharge. She usually reads The Rocky Mountain News to catch up with the latest information on her home area. This amazing, efficient PDA gains information even while recharging!



# First Looks

## i-Pod

*Reviewed by Janice Yuen*



**Product ID:** Stephanie Liu  
**Status:** Sophomore  
**Division:** Hotel Administration

### Features:

If you could choose, which electronic device would you be? If Stephanie could be any electronic device, she would not just be any

ordinary one. She would be the i-Pod!! She really likes the look of it and how it's new and different from the rest. This mp3 player does not just play one type of music, but a huge variety. She loves music! Just like her taste in music, her taste in people is eclectic. She knows a little bit of everything and is able to get involved in all kinds of conversations.

### What makes her different from other devices?

This smart, funny, sporty, multicultural, and adaptable i-Pod is the one and only. She is a compulsive shopper who loves to go on Ebay to find the best deals. She also has a great sense of humor and witty play button! She watches all types of sports and plays on the club team for basketball. She loves to explore, travel, and learn more about other cultures. She's also a prolific writer, who is constantly updating her own personal journal and xanga. Since arriving in Ithaca from LA, she has found herself among different people and constant change. She is open to new styles, experiences, and perspectives. She has become very independent and has made a lot of decisions on her own after transferring here. So far, she has found herself really growing as a person.

### Best operating conditions:

Even though Ms. i-Pod moved all the way from sunny LA to Ithaca, she still really likes it here. Enjoying the beautiful scenery, going to a great school, and just having the experience of being away from home, makes her really like Cornell. She likes to just chill out at the dorm lounge or her friends' rooms. Otherwise, she has a great time going out to eat with her friends, staying in to watch a movie, or attend a cappella concerts. If she's studying, she'd rather stay in her room even though she knows she should be going to the library. Her room is also her favorite place to read God's word and listen to praise music.

### Warnings:

This mp3 player does not work well under the following conditions:

This i-Pod plays sad songs when she feels cold and depressed from gray skies, or heaviness and pressure from the work load. And, she would rather skip all those who are ignorant or arrogant-know-it-alls.

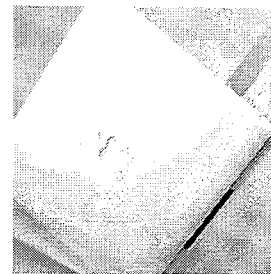
### Troubleshooting:

When she finds herself running out of batteries, she likes to listen to music, watch TV, sleep, and chat on AIM. She is a friendly and sociable i-Pod, which would chat online all day if she could.

## Laptop

*Reviewed by Tammy Ho*

**Product ID:** Yue Pui Chin  
**Status:** Freshman  
**Division:** Biology and Society



**Features:** As one of the best new laptops from CBS, Yue Pui has everything that one could want in a portable PC. Not only is she stylish and dependable, she's also multifunctional! So forget about buying that mp3 player, DVD player or any other electronic device - Yue Pui has it all, and packed into a very convenient size!

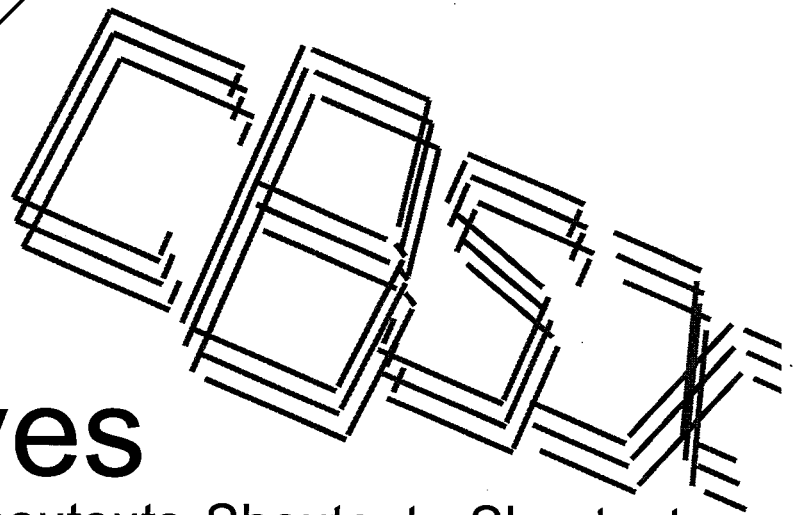
Don't think this is just any ordinary laptop because one of the most interesting features about her is that she enjoys talking to her stuffed animals. What makes Yue Pui even more outstanding are her special interests, which include playing volleyball, listening to all types of music, and playing the piano. In addition to all that, she enjoys getting a good night's rest.

Since coming to Cornell, Yue Pui has learnt to appreciate her family and friends back home. In addition, due to her great ability to multitask, she has learnt how to better handle her work output.

**Warnings:** Sometimes Yue Pui can run into problems here at isolated Cornell; she would prefer to operate in a city. Remember to treat her with care; her biggest pet peeves are selfish and insincere people.

**Best Operating Conditions:** Yue Pui operates best in Cornell's great environment, surrounded by people. She feels that everyone here is very nice and genuine. A good place to find her is at Uris Library in one of the conference rooms, or in the Andrew White Library. In order to make sure that she functions optimally, allow her to draw pictures on fellow freshman Greg Huang's whiteboard.

# Rants & Raves



Shoutouts Shoutouts Shoutouts Shoutouts Shoutouts

“ahhhh!” \*waves hands\*

Dear Fruling,  
You're so funny.  
Will

Dear Justin,  
Thanks for making Friday better than they already are. You've been a great encouragement.  
-Eric Shen

Brooklyn!  
You can give me a ghetto makeover whenever you want to.  
Sincerely,  
Your Ghetto Mid-West Girl.

rosepetal—\*bear hug\* congrats, u stuck out ntres 407! thanks for being such a caring & hug-ful sis, i'm gonna miss u next semester!

Jon Wang is old but cool  
But Ray is Cooler  
I miss you Ray  
-Will

miss u, janina =')

1H was fun wasn't it?

Danny and Wen—  
Keep up the good work!  
-someone who's been there

Pee Team love. Fridays are always a blessing. Stuff doesn't work sometimes, but I still look forward to peeing with you guys. -Kuan aka "Master Pee"

my dear evie,  
this was an awesome semester. have lotsa fun in london. bring back a tasty souvenir, like ... a

delicious, british prince...or something. anyhow, 6A won't be the same without you.  
~L

tingting - drama = bad. It's been an interesting semester to say the least...we'll see what God has in store for us next semester. I miss hearing my pp song =D haha

To Mortal: Hi. From Angel.

Lee (my sis' in America), only six months but God's blessed us with many years worth of lessons and answered prayers! Thanks for putting up with my moods and quirks!  
- l'il bro

Christina, it's amazing to see how our God has led you so far in such a short time! Praise God who has done so much in His wonderful plan for you already!  
- impressed by big toes

my dear b'klynn:  
yeah.... so we survived a semester apart. and it wasn't too bad. thanx for always being there for me. i love you lots.  
~L

Dear Joe,  
Sorry we didn't get to meet up that much. We were both busy, and I know you were also "busy." It's scary, one more semester and then its back to the days when I only see you once every couple of months. Love, Dave

Thanks Oli & Liana for all your hard work!

waze da woof! (aka laze de loofah!)...  
to mah soul sistah maggie,  
thank you for all your bright smiles =)  
and for being a fresh breath of home (^\_^)

808 check check...1-2....check. You boys are lovely.  
Lovely. Lovely. -Kuan aka "double D"

Mike! let's be scarier!  
- from the land of the friendliest

stop beating me up Crystal! haha=)  
your black and blue roommate

Hey there, whatcha doin' for lunch on Sunday? \*wink  
wink\*

Dear InReach Team,  
Uhh...Thanks for being a smashing InReach team.  
Jon

liana—thanks for always managing to understand &  
for being an awesome sis in Christ. i dunno if u  
have the gift of prophecy, but God's def gifted u in  
many other ways, whether u realize it or not. love  
ya. -christine

Dear Ben Mathew,  
Just because you can sneak attack me doesn't mean  
you can beat me up. If you think that, you are  
mistaken. -CBS Linebacker

Hebrews—  
Thanks for the great study! It's really been a  
blessing to see you guys all come out week after  
week and share about what you guys have learned.  
Remember...check out ch. 12&13 on your free time!  
-JDW

Calling all 808ers! We need a house party!!!

Cryst-ah!! your love for the people of the world is  
amazing (and your writing is pretty good too)...but  
seek out the source of Love that actually saves us  
from the ickiness!  
- jacob's backup guitarist

Don't forget the prayer partner contract.

dearest christine and joe,  
thanks for a great Bible study and for challenging me  
to think about what i believe. and for listening to  
my nat resources ramblings ;) i really enjoy talking  
to you both, whether the topic be God, the  
environment, or whatever =)

to jenn & lise~  
thanks for dealing w/ my craziness=)

you'll be getting a whole lot more of it next year!!  
Mon

Hanging w/ the grads this semester has been the  
coolest - pseudoGrad

Why is Danny Mak so cool?

Jon—  
I will beat you in Madden, but you will beat me in  
real football. More football throwing in the 808  
parking lot is needed next semester!  
-Tiffany

Ragin'—  
Why you gotta leave so early you punk? Scared of  
losing in Madden again?  
It's been great knowing you all these years, you've  
really been an inspiration and encouragement...  
hopefully we can both break our streak in not  
keeping in touch with people. -the true SCVRushRay

ivana—you're a 10! hahaha =)

~Eric Tai~  
You are the man for editing shoutouts for BoL  
~Chiuster

"To the girl who lives at 311 Eddy St #7:  
An angel is watching over you."

Hmm, did you get tired of seeing your red body  
flying through the air? - sitting across the field with  
a smoking rocket launcher

to the two InReach coordinators—  
thanks for showing plenty of love to your team,  
and continue striving to "love your neighbor."

Dear Jessica Liao,  
You are super cool x 10,000.  
Tuesday Afternoons are my favorites.  
You've been such an encouragement this semester.  
Thanks so much for everything.

big-head—don't be discouraged...life's a drag  
sometimes, but i know God has an awesome plan for  
u. keep pressin' on! anytime u need an ear, give me  
a ring =)

Dear Papa John,  
Bible Study's cool, you're a cool prayer partner. Too  
bad you can't catch a football.



# Rants & Raves

Kelly and Linda: I'm so glad I know you guys! Kelly, thanks for eating breakfast with me and I'm super sorry for not waking up for some of them...can't wait to eat breakfast with you again next semester! Linda, I'm so encouraged by you! Thank you so much for making dinner for me!! I love you girls!!

Hey Jon, I see way too much of you. We will have to reduce the daily Jon Wang dosage next semester.

Hey BoL ppl! Thanks so much for your dedication to this ministry...you make me proud! =D I'm telling you, all-nighters are the best times for bonding. ;) —editor '03

I wanna drive a Diablo!

Patrick, great first semester with you! let's keep challenging each other to understand what we're memorizing and to shine on the campus wherever we are! God definitely got you through this summer for some amazing things in the future!

– a pp in awe of his pp's weird quirk

Ray–

Finally I get someone who drives in the general direction of the Midwest, and you're graduating! Madden was fun and I'll always revel in the one time that I beat you. Good luck with everything and come back to visit! –Tiffany

Lisbot (aka steve urkel, wet-pants saver) you'll never be old news to me! firemen are born not made. lol. thanks for having such a big heart, its been awesome to see how God is growing you and using you. this one's for you: phil. 1:9–10. klammer

Will & Jon: thanks for a great bible study!

Mak daddy, franks much for praying with a crybaby!  
– a crybaby

Terence –

It's been great praying with you so far. Keep seeking Him and He will give you direction. – Jeremy

1H is pretty cool, but I need to get my blanket back at some point in time, and find another place to spend the night.

AVZUF ODX  
YUVP SNZO RR YTM PNTPMBS  
~Dave Chiu

How's them tenor powers?

YEEEAHHH '04! Philippians 1:6 all the way...still. =>

CBS vballers! playin' with all of you was mad fun! let's run lines next semester! w00t!  
– an ugly cheerleader

Lisa—thanks for being such a good dozing off buddy in mind&brain =P

Dear CBS,  
Wo ai ni

Jenn Lie – 4 jars of P.B. + weird piano background music + clean vs. messy wars + dinner and movies + the boy poster + random visitors + naps = the coolest room  
–the “infallible” roommate =D

I'm growing a zoo! Wheee! Except the pig...

Danny & Wen—It's still a lil crazy to me that you guys are the ones “in charge,” but it just shows me all the more that God has His plans and works His will everywhere. May you keep supporting each other and being there for CBS. —email queen

Lise, thank u for all your joyful noises ;) u make life a lot more flavorful ;) i love you, roomie =)

Charles, look forward to working w/you another semester =)

Will Lin–

It's been great leading study with you this semester...your enthusiasm and excitement for God's Word has really been encouraging. You pass!  
–Jon W

senior galz – let's live it up this last semester ok?

Even if the ministry team this year isn't the most vocal, its still the bestest, wouldn't serve with any other team. God continues to be gracious as we come to him for our strength daily.

joe chang = awesome cs partner!

mAd pRopzZ to mah B0Yz in 808, rOcKiN the 1 – 2, kEeP iT rEaL, fO sHo! dang, how do people type like that? its impossible. thanks for a great semester, its

# Rants & Raves

been a blessing! looking forward to the next 3! –eric s.

Keep dreaming Danny, you'll never beat me in Halo.

Joanna, thanks for being such a super prayer partner. You are the BEST!!

I'm gonna miss you when u leave...BUT...we still have 1 more semester to hang out~!! YAY!! Thanks again, Joanna.

Christina – keep challenging yourself! It's been awesome praying with you this semester...we'll pray in China this break too ok? =D I can't wait!

3 Crazy ECE's – We've made it!

Dear InReach,  
Thanks for the awesome dinner.  
–Alice

I like choir...

to the best prayer partner ever! aka ray hsu. thanks for always being there – you are the greatest! don't forget to keep in touch (remember the covenant – not the species from halo)! good luck with your job search! –will

To Ray,  
I love you =>, I really do, and I will miss you. This semester flew by way too quickly.

Linda: sleep more, eat more! Remember, God's constant even though we're not! –your pp

Ray, I can't believe you're not coming to visit me! Oh wow, you're mean! Anyway, I will take your "You work too hard; that's dumb" comments to heart, so at least you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that your commentary actually impacted me. I'll miss you a lot! Take care! – Lordia

lulu – you survived Cornell!! I'm gonna miss you cuz you're leaving Ithaca...for good. I pray that God blesses you in Houston and that you keep growing in Him! – boyfriend #1 (yeah, that's right...no. ONE) =D

to my great b.study (hebrews!) – thanks for being talkative and active and supporting me while i trained under mr jon wang. i will remember our fun times at 5m always. don't forget

everything we learned about .... yep you guessed it – JESUS! –will lin

jan-ICE, perhaps not the ice-queen in the end...less Na = less candy aites? let's hold each other to it!  
– a dork

Danny and Wen–  
Keep up the good work!  
–someone who's been there

hallo helloalice! thanks for the late-nite chats, ns115, doe f., BRB, any-beth, canadian corn-pops...u have the gift of making me laugh =>) u've been an encouragement to me this yr in more ways than u know. i can see how God has gifted u and that He is working through u. keep doing that thang u do!

Christina, thx for being a great older sis and listening to my rambling. Thx for filling up my Monday dinners. Looking forward to next semester.  
–C

Jacob and Faith, don't forget to teach others (and to remember yourselves) the lessons you both learned when you lost your voices at the beginning of this semester! They were a welcome reminder!  
– a bigmouth

YOU ARE OBESE!

Hey Grads, thanks for a great 4.5 years.

dearest kriselle, it's been a pleasure meeting up with you =>) i pray that God continues to bless our prayer partnership... that we'll be shaped into strong and faithful women of God =D

R.I.P  
~in memory of jammy's fishes.

thranos:  
hallo!  
~L

To Joe,  
Hi Joe, it's been fun this semester seeing you grow and challenged, looking forward to next semester!

Double D, Shenric, Tairese, Lineback, JChow,  
Thanks for the craziness. Keep telling those stories.  
–Jon Ng

# Rants & Raves

hallooooo, mon! sending some love from ur fav 3<sup>rd</sup> fl cascadians => ~ lise and jenn

Dear USA,  
You guys are alright  
-Canada, Eh...

to the second half of jenn durz, how u doin? ;) ~the first half

Hey small group it continues to be an encouragement when we meet up, we should be more regular about it, hope we continue to encourage one another and grow in Christ  
-DMak

To KClam  
Best of Luck next semester in NYC. I'll miss our late night talks: Remember to write me on your fobby stationery.  
Sincerely, Alice  
PS: Snaps to KClam

Bernie--  
Get some sleep...  
-Tiffany

Rookah- Hopefully we can meet more next semester. Thanks for the good times even though they were few.

YP, Keep your CHIN up => So glad you're here at Cornell. Looking forward to the next years of fun!  
-TMO

wen—thanks for being such a chill bro. God has def used u to encourage and force me to think, proly more times than u know. -christine

Faitharoo -  
Keep living for your audience of One. Keep smiling and singing and just being you.

Will Lee even if we don't meet up all the time, you are always welcome to give me your prayer requests.

To my \*SUPERpingie\* pp - you've been a \*SUPER\* blessing in my life this past semester. I see God really growing you and stretching you...just keep seeking after Him ok? Ok!

Liana: house dinners are long overdue! We need a wine and cheese...

Hebrews-

Thanks for the great study! It's really been a blessing to see you guys all come out week after week and share about what you guys have learned. Remember...check out ch. 12&13 on your free time!  
-JDW

To: 305 #4 guys

Thank you for putting up with my eccentricities, my neuroticism, and my giggling. You guys are the best. I love you guys, no questions asked. Your neighbor

thanks, danny, for your dedication to BoL and its purpose

To Jeff,

One more semester to go, HW has not been so fun, but much better working last minute with you than alone ;).

Christina-

My prayer partner of 1.5 years! We've come so far since our first meet-up at Trillium and you have seen me eat more than grilled cheese...bring that book next semester! Thanks for always being there to encourage me! -your stressball pp

Let's go to Killington again someday.

If you ever need someone to talk to at 430 in the morning, you know what to do

thanks, dave and jon, for all the hard work you put into InR =>

Lordia says Jon Wang is really awesome.

Dear Monica,

I love your cookies. You can cook here anytime. Always welcome (to cook).  
-Will

Praise continues to be good, especially in Bible study, hope you all have a new song of praise in your hearts as we continue to understand more of what we sing

Dear Canada,

America Rocks eh?  
(Just kidding, I love Canada)

Mak Suk:

ne ho fay! you know, all those 3AM shortstop runs are doing wonders for your obesity...

# Rants & Raves

I see Tiffany standing triumphantly over her three mortal enemies: orgo, fizix, & bonding, armed with a tare panda in one hand, and a bible in the other J God is good, regardless of circumstances! => -your pp

Working Out, 220, Haircuts, The Original 808 #2, Halo, Madden, Friendship....Thanks

Thank you 808 guys for not allowing me to pay for rent.

Tiffany says Lordia is a stalker.

Jo! I Miss you!  
2002-2003 PP

Whoever introduced me to poutine is evil.  
\*coughericshencough\*

Thank you all for coming to Office Hours.

Will Lin-  
It's been great leading study with you this semester...your enthusiasm and excitement for God's Word has really been encouraging. You pass!  
-Jon W

liana,  
thank you for the time you spend with me—praying and talking => i love you more than a gluttonous child loves cake.

Hi Alarm Clock!

Getting to know our relationship to the culture around us has never been more exciting or with a better group, remember the impact that you can have as a Christian on the community and those around you.

808 New School: Fun Times Indeed. Now if only I could get some sleep around here...

Dear Dave,  
Wo ai ni

Thanks Kuan & Eric & PT: Praise is awesome. You guys are a blessing.

joe—thanks for bs this semester... it's been good.  
o\_O

## Redemption

*There is no God.  
Yes, there is. His Son died on the cross for us.  
Believe it, believe it, find God and you will be saved.*

*Mary, Virgin Mary, weeping tears of blood—  
The Day of Judgment is near.  
We are bad, bad, faithless children.  
We will burn in hell.*

The picture on the pamphlet is all in shades of gray, except for the bright red blood streaming down Jesus' formless gray figure nailed to a stark cross. In terrifying letters beneath the picture he laments:

***THIS I DID FOR YOU!***

The man holding the pamphlet out to me is middle-aged and balding. The poster that hangs around his neck is covered with bloody, fiery pictures and the ultimatum "Jesus or Hell" in the center. In his watery gray eyes I see an acid intensity. Scared that his look will burn right into me and see a tainted soul, I look at the ground and hurry on to join the rest of the crowd. Turning quickly, I half-expect to see him in the process of damning me to hell, but instead he's fixed his gaze on another unsuspecting passerby. I've always hated those people, ever since I was little. Scared the willies out of me—they still do.

Someone walking beside me chuckles and says, "Man, I'm thinking bloody pictures really aren't the most effective way to convert people."

"Yeah," I say, staring at the ground. Other copies of that pamphlet litter the pavement. They've been trampled, are marred with gritty footprints.

"You a Christian?" he asks.

The question catches me unaware, and I'm reluctant to answer, surrounded by threats of eternal damnation. "Um...well, I don't really know what I am. My family and I are kind of nothing."

"Oh. You mean like atheist? Good for you."

"Oh, no—no. Just nothing. I don't know what I believe in." The truth is, I'm kind of scared to believe in anything. So many cracks fall through. I look up at his face, expecting to see a young face to match his young voice, but instead I realize the guy I've been talking to is already in his early thirties, wearing a stained, ratty flannel shirt instead of a varsity jacket. Pale blond stubble covers his chin, and he looks like he hasn't showered in days. Nasty. It's beginning to drizzle, so I mumble something about having delicate health, and duck into a coffee shop.

When we were younger, my big sister received a large silver cross on a chain, studded with clear red stones. It was more for decorative purposes than practical ones, but still clearly given by someone who knew little about her religious background: she was an atheist if I ever saw one. As we sat on our beds that night, getting ready to go to sleep, she held it out to me, the silver chain wrapped and tangled around the flesh of her delicate fingers.

# Rants & Raves

"I don't want it. Do you?" she asked. Laughing a little, she joked, "Look at the stones on this thing. It's monstrous."

"Don't say that about the cross!"

She stopped laughing and looked at the shocked expression on my face. "Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't know that you were religious, kiddo. Mom and Dad certainly haven't taken us to church or anything." She smiled.

"I'm not. It's just not nice to say that."

She tossed the cross into my lap.

"Well, you seem more so than me. Keep it."

I knew hardly anything about Christianity, but from what I'd heard of it, I feared for my sister. I spent that night lying wake and stiff in my bed with the cross to my lips, begging God not to punish her. I turned to look at her every now and then to make sure she was still alive.

"She didn't really mean it," I said to my ceiling. "She really didn't."

She woke up the next morning as energetic as ever, but I woke with dark circles under my eyes, tired and nervous.

Now I shake myself and remember I'm holding a cup of coffee, not a cross. My best friend, a devout Protestant, has always worn a small silver one around her neck. Whenever she's got a problem, she'll rub it between her fingers and tell me, "but its ok, God has a plan for me. He'll take care of me, and it'll be all right in the end." And smile with a peaceful expression on her face.

She did that again last week before exams, and I finally blurted out, "But what about me? What if God doesn't have a plan for me?"

She looked surprised. "I thought you didn't believe in it. God has a plan for everyone."

"Well, what if I don't believe in that? What if I can't believe in that?"

Taking my sudden outburst in stride, she leaned back in her chair and thought for a moment. "Well, if you don't believe in it, they you don't. But what I believe is that there's God, and there's man. Man and God are separated by sin, and for a long time there was no connection, but when Jesus came, He was the connection. He died for us on the cross, and if you really believe that, well, then you'll know God, and He'll guide you."

"But I don't know how to believe. How do you know it's true? How do you know there really is a God and there really was a Jesus?"

"Well—I can't really prove it to you. You just have to take it on faith. I know you don't come from a religious family, but—well, you're my best friend and I really care about you. And if you don't believe, then—then you don't..."

"Go to heaven."

"Well...yeah."

"So basically, I'll burn in hell. You'll go to heaven, but even if I'm the nicest person on the face of the planet, I won't be redeemed."

She looked pained.

"It doesn't really seem fair, does it?"

"No, it really doesn't."

"Well, that's why it's important to talk about it to people, to spread the Word. If you have any questions, you can ask me."

Her manner was open and her eyes wide. Probing, almost. I looked down.

"That's just not fair."

\* \* \* \* \*

When I get home from the coffee shop that night, I dig around in the back of my dresser. Under a pile of musty old winter sweaters, I find my sister's forgotten cross. I tug it out of the tangle of sweaters and then sit back cross-legged on the floor, and dangle the cross in front of my face.

"Make me believe," I say to it.

It sways silently before me.

"Send me a sign, lightning or something. Don't you have a plan for me? Don't you want to save me?" I raise my voice. "Go on, redeem me. Cleanse me of my sins! I'm dirty! I'm an awful, awful person! I want to believe! I want to be saved! Redeem me!"

I realize I'm screaming at a chunk of silver on a chain. I fling the cross onto the floor in frustration. I can't do it. I don't know how to believe in anything. I don't want to have to think about religion, not if it's just going to rob me of my life and plunk me down in a big pit of fire.

"You're not going to send me a sign?" I ask the ceiling helplessly. "You don't want to save me?"

I give up and flop onto my bed and run on the radio. A song I've never heard before is on; the voice croons me almost to sleep.

*I know you feel like the walls are closing in on you/  
It's hard to find relief and people can be so cold/  
When darkness is upon your door and you feel like you can't take  
anymore/  
Let me be the one you call/  
If you jump I'll break your fall/  
If you need to crash and burn/  
You're not alone.*

I gaze heavily at the cross on the floor. "Is this your idea of a sign?" I mutter, before falling into a dreamless sleep.

