

For Active
People
Ages 60+



Cyberspace News

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3D Movies—How To Choose

Personal computers are digital devices, and they spawned the digital age.

Some of the entertainment media that have grown out of computer technology are compact disks, DVDs, and digital television. Now comes the latest development: Digital 3D movies, such as “Avatar” and the Disney/Burton “Alice in Wonderland”.

There are three forms of 3D movie currently in use, and “Avatar” has been released in all three (“Alice ...” has been released in two). The one you see will depend on the theater you go to.

IMAX 3D is the oldest of the three forms, and it emphasizes close objects. If you want to see things popping out of the screen at you, *this* is the one to look for. However, there are drawbacks: The image quality is lower than that of the other two forms. Also the effect depends on where you sit, and even on your head position. Furthermore, and perhaps most important, many people find

IMAX 3D tiring after the first little while, and some people even experience nausea and headache.

RealD is a newer technology, and it eliminates much of the seating- and head-position-dependence of IMAX 3D. The stereoscopic effect is also more realistic. RealD is considered generally better, especially for longer movies. It is the form most widely available at present.

Dolby 3D is the newest of the three, and is considered by many experts to provide the best experience, partly because of its superior image quality and color accuracy. However, the difference from RealD is fairly small, and most people probably would not notice the difference.

When you decide to see a 3D movie, you might want to choose the theater at least partly on the basis of which 3D form it offers. GPS (global positioning system).

Thanks to Bill Shapiro for this interesting article!

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Xerox Is Doing Something Cool

George Morris sent in this article and I think it serves as a reminder that you don't have to wait until Thanksgiving to express your thanks.

Go to this website, www.LetsSayThanks.com, pick out a thank you card and Xerox will print it; they'll then send it to a soldier currently serving in Iraq. You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to a member of the armed services.

Wouldn't it be terrific if the soldiers received a bunch of these? Whether you're for or against the war, our soldiers over there need to know we are behind them.

This takes just ten seconds, is free, and it's a wonderful way to say thank you to those who are serving our country.



An HDTV Buying Tip

When choosing an HDTV (high definition television), consider the viewing angle. Most models look great from a spot perpendicular to the center of the screen. Take a few steps to the side as though you're scrapbooking in the dining room or lie down on the floor as your grandkids like to do, and you'll find that many sets' pictures grow noticeably dimmer or change their colors slightly.

LED-backlit LCDs and especially plasmas are typically better at maintaining a consistent off-axis image than regular LCDs, but the only way to be sure of a particular TV is to test it yourself.



Source: www.smartcomputing.com

Kids' Views On Marriage

Here are a few things kid said when answering questions on the topic of marriage:

Question: "How can someone tell if two people are married?"

Answer: "Married people usually look happy to talk to other people." (Eddie, age 6)

Question: "What do you think your mom and dad have in common?"

Answer: "Both don't want no more kids!" (Lori, age 8)

Source: www.butlerwebs.com

Pet Distractions

You've heard or seen public service announcements warning us not to text or talk on a cell phone while driving. Now add another distraction: pets.

Pets left unrestrained inside a moving vehicle pose a major distraction that could be deadly. Oh, and that includes pets on your lap while you're driving.

About two-thirds of dog owners surveyed by the AAA organization said they usually drive while petting or playing with their dogs. Some people even feed their pets or give them water while maneuvering through traffic.

It's a common site to see dogs hanging their heads out of an open car window with their ears flapping in the breeze. It's dangerous not only for the drivers but the pets, too.

An 80-pound canine, unrestrained during a crash at 30 miles per hour exerts 2,400 pounds of force in a vehicle, creating a danger for the dog and anyone in its path. (That number was provided by a company that makes pet travel systems including restraint systems for pets.)

Dogs inside wrecked cars often become territorial and protective of their owners when emergency responders try to rescue injured occupants. It sometimes leaves the authorities with *no other option* than to shoot the animal in order to

help the driver and passengers (according to the Illinois State Police). Again, the authorities do not want to put down a dog who is acting in self-preservation and protecting it's owner, but it can happen.

Most drivers fail to realize that a dog moving around a vehicle or sitting on someone's lap can injure or kill occupants during a crash, especially if air bags deploy. If the dog is sitting between the steering wheel and the driver, an air bag can throw the animal back at the driver with tremendous force. Air bags are designed to catch a 160-pound human; they are not meant to protect Rover.

So if you travel with your pet, invest in a pet restraint system. You could be saving your life...and your pet's.

Source: The Star-Ledger, 8/19/10.



Free And Fun



Come to our Computer Fun Meetings, which are free and open to everyone, whether you're a WACC member or not.

Meetings are held the second and fourth Mondays of each month from 11:30AM to 1PM.

Computer Funnies

Overheard at a bus stop. The person speaking is talking into his cell phone: "That kid is a jehrk! I had to explain what a CPU was. It's a computah. You know, a CPU ...Com PU Tah!"

**Tech support: "What kind of computer do you have?"
Customer: "An original Adidas PC."**

Source:
www.rinkworks.com

A Stuck CD

If your computer's CD drive won't open, try this:

Power down the system, then gently probe the small hole just below the tray (often on the right side) with a straight, sturdy piece of wire, like a straightened paper clip. This should trigger the drive door's opening mechanism, and you'll be able to *slowly* pull it the rest of the way open. Remove the disc, close the drive, and start up your system.

If this problem persists, you may need to look at replacing the drive.



Source:
www.smartcomputing.com

Affectionate Mothers Rule

The stress-reducing effects of affectionate mothering might just very well last into children's mid-30s. That's according to a study reported in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* (and as reported in the 7/27/2010 *Wall Street Journal*). Most studies of the connection between maternal affection and later health have looked backward. They asked adults to rate familial warmth from childhood memories. But the latest study's 482 participants didn't need to rely on memory because when they were 8-month old babies in the 1960s, psychologists rated their mothers' level of affection.

The researchers reconnected with the participants in the late 1990s; they subjects were then 34 years old on average. The vast majority of the participants' mothers, about 85% had displayed normal levels of affection with 10% having dis-

played low affection.

The 5% of the participants who had highly affectionate mothers reported being about 14% less anxious and 9% less distressed than their peers.

Now, it's possible that unmeasured variables, like maternal affection during the teen years or diet, could be responsible for the perceived connection between maternal affection and distress later in life. Too few mothers displayed low levels of affection to determine its effect on their children's well-being later in life.

But isn't it nice to think that being affectionate toward your children does more than just feel good?



Quotes About Grandparents

- "Perfect love sometimes does not come until the first grandchild." ...Welsh Proverb
- "Becoming a grandmother is wonderful. One moment you're just a mother. The next you are all-wise and prehistoric." ...Pam Brown
- "Holding a great-grandchild makes getting old worthwhile." ...Evalyn Ridders
- "Sometimes our grandmas and grandpas are like grand-angels." ...Lexie Sage

Source: www.dailycelebrations.com