

Byte me

Nothin' but Net

POINT THE EASY CHAIR AWAY FROM THE TV AND toward the computer screen. Put down the remote and pick up the mouse. The future of sports viewing may be shifting from the networks to the Internet.

The genesis of live sports coverage online began Dec. 8, 1994, at the U. of Kansas with the broadcast of a women's basketball game. U. of Oregon followed suit last fall with an audio broadcast of a Ducks football game. More than 2,400 people from 35 countries hit the site during the broadcast.

"We're not trying to replace TV or radio," says Michael Ritchey, director of the Oregon Sports Marketing Center. "We've just created what we think is a new type of interaction between sports and sports fans."

The next logical step, barring any snafus, was taken on Jan. 2, when the U. of Kansas and Cornell U. joined forces to air live video footage of a basketball game between the two schools.

"The technology is not quite there to get a large audience," says Dean Buchan, the KU sports information director. "We can only afford to have about 30 or 50 people tuning in, but it will



Now playing on a computer near you.

be an interesting experiment."

Gary Hawke, general manager of radio station KJHK, which aired KU football games on the Internet, likens the video venture to Alexander Graham Bell's first call. The technology has been there. Someone just needed to put it all together.

"We had all the ingredients but not the recipe," Hawke says.

The link between sports and technology sure has come a long way since that electric vibrating football game we played when we were kids.

Shad Powers, Assistant Editor/Photo courtesy of U. of Kansas sports information.

Bits & Bytes

E-mail jail

E-mail evidence wasn't enough to convict California Institute of Technology grad student Jinsong Hu of sexual harassment. He was acquitted after spending six months in jail. But it was enough to get him expelled. Hu insists he didn't send some of the messages to his ex-girlfriend and that some of what was sent was tampered with.

Zines on screens

In case you haven't noticed, CD-ROM is the latest in magazines. At around \$10 a pop, they may seem pricey, but they feature video interviews, video and music clips and games, as well as text, for hours of fun. Check out *Blender*, *Launch* and *DigitZINE* at book and record stores.

Help!

Dallas-based Personal Security & Safety Systems Inc. will soon offer electronic key chains. In a jam, you can push a button on the chain to alert security. A screen at the security office then shows a digitized image of you and your location. The chains will cost \$100, and the company is currently seeking test-market campuses.

Band on the ROM

CD-ROMs have something for everyone — even band geeks. A team of James Madison U. teachers and students has created a set of CD-ROMs for Warner Bros. to help band directors choose music. Among their features are recordings, score samples and director's notes. We're sure that's marketable, but here's an idea: include the cheerleader routines.



Misogyny Online

It's probably safe to say that Cornell U. freshmen Evan Camps, Rikus Linschoten, Par Sicher and Brian Waldman are about to have a very dateless year.

In October, 1995, they made a list of 75 reasons why "women (bitches) shouldn't have freedom of speech" and e-mailed it to 20 of their friends.

Within two weeks, the message was forwarded to students around the world and placed on electronic bulletin boards where thousands more students could read it. Jacquie Powers, assistant to the vice-president for university relations at Cornell, says the response from angry students was overwhelming — and almost completely electronic.

Powers logged about 100 e-mail complaints a day and the director of information technology at Cornell received at least 1,000 a day.

"There was a great outrage at the offensiveness of the message," Powers says. "Nobody disagrees that this is a very offensive message, particularly to women who have been sexually abused." (Reason No. 38 from the list "If she can't speak, she can't cry rape.")

Courtney Sears, coordinator of EQUAL, James Madison U.'s women's rights group, was impressed with the grass roots organizing involved in reaction to the list.

"It's interesting that they made a list of how great the world would be if women couldn't speak, and women responded because they can speak," Sears says.

Because Cornell does not have a hate speech code, the judicial administration did not find the authors to be in violation of campus policies. According to Powers, the four offered to do 50 hours of community service, attend sensitivity training and apologize to key administrators.

The four authors, following their lawyers' advisement, will not discuss their motivations for creating the list. Powers says the authors don't believe women really shouldn't have the right to free speech. They say the list is merely a compilation of lyrics and lines from rap songs, TV shows and T shirts.

"Nobody acts independently," Sears says. "Everyone is shaped by their environment."

"But that doesn't mean they pulled down rap lyrics directly, and the fact of the matter is that they said those things."

In this case, the keyboard is mightier than the sword.

By Sherri Eisenberg, James Madison U.

Cybersleuths

TWO U. OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, STUDENTS recently brought U.S. National Security to level DEFCON 4 when they simulated a world-wide thermonuclear war on their — whoops, wait a minute. Wrong story. Here we go....

Two U. of California, Berkeley, students recently discovered a serious security flaw on the World-Wide Web — one that could have allowed for millions of dollars in credit fraud.

Computer science grad students Ian Goldberg and Dave Wagner found that the Netscape Navigator — used by more than 8 million people to access information through the Web — had an encryption code that hackers could break easily.

The encryption code protects personal information, such as credit card numbers, while data are being transferred to Web sites on the Internet.

"If you just use Netscape for insecure things, there's no effect," Goldberg says. "If you use it to do your banking — don't."

Netscape reacted immediately, releasing a new version of Navigator with a fixed version of the encryption code a week after the students' discovery. Netscape is also sponsoring a contest that offers cash rewards for users who find further security loopholes.

Wagner says users may not immediately notice any damage done by hackers who break an encryption code.

"You may not even know that they've stolen your credit card number," he says. "When money disappears off your credit card, you may have no clue that this is because you're using your browser."

The idea that Navigator's security program might be vulnerable came to them when a group of

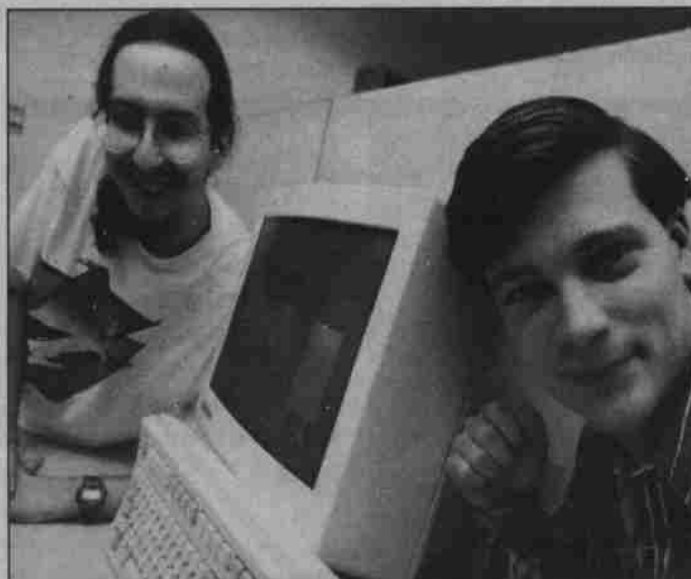
French hackers broke the encryption code of the international version of Navigator.

Ever since Goldberg and Wagner's discovery, the phones in their office have been ringing off the hook.

"Yesterday was just way hectic," Goldberg says. "At one point, I had

Newsweek calling me on the phone while I was sitting in front of a CNN camera crew, and a newspaper photographer standing waiting to get a hold of me."

By Rob Zazueta, U. Of California, Berkeley/Photo by Noah Berger, U. of California, Berkeley



Berkeley grad students Ian Goldberg and Dave Wagner — welcome to the machine.