

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Young Brits, Bowie takes tops

LONDON (AP) — With a knack for inventing himself to suit the times, David Bowie topped the Beatles as the most important music of the past 50 years in a poll of British connoisseurs.



BOWIE

The Boss fights releases in UK

LONDON (AP) — Bruce Springsteen took on a British music company in court Tuesday, seeking to prevent the release of songs from his early years.



SPRINGSTEEN

Springsteen wants an order barring Masquerade Music from putting out the previously unreleased collection he recorded in 1972.

Masquerade said it has rights to the songs through an agreement with a New York company with whom Springsteen previously had a relationship. It wants to release the collection on a CD titled *Before the Fame*.

The rocker's lawyer, Nigel Davis, told the court that Springsteen left

most of the songs behind because they did not meet his standards.

"This was a matter of tremendous importance to Mr. Springsteen, and it matters enormously to him that he should retain control of his artistic output," he said.

Order keeps Flynt from bribing witness

CINCINNATI (AP) — Prosecutors are seeking a judge's order to prevent Larry Flynt from intimidating a key 14-year-old witness in his obscenity case.



FLYNT

The request last week came after a man claiming to represent Flynt allegedly tried to bribe the boy.

Prosecutors say the boy bought pornography at Flynt's Hustler store. The boy is expected to testify.

Dvd

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In September, Circuit City and a Los Angeles law firm announced the release of their Divx format, Digital Video Express, which requires connection to a phone line to play the disc.

Divx is based on a pay-per-view idea. Viewers who purchase the disk have a 48-hour unlimited viewing period.

But according to Wired magazine, the disc is useless after the 48-hours expires unless a smaller fee is paid for each additional viewing.

In Wired, it is suggested that the format, a 'disposable DVD,' will result in piles of unwanted, unusable disks.

DVD drives are appearing in personal computers as often as they do in entertainment centers. The option of watching high-quality video on a shiny new 21" monitor is an option that many

computer shoppers are taking advantage of according to Mark Hannah, a sophomore general studies major.

Hannah has worked in PC sales, including models featuring DVD-ROM drives, which also read CD-ROMs.

"It's a good selling point for high-end computers," Hannah said. "Instead of animation in games, they're using real movie clips. It's a lot easier with DVD."

Full-screen video is nothing new to personal computer users, but DVD offers higher quality in a smaller package.

The compatibility with computers and the superior features offered by DVD may be the end for VHS.

"I think [VHS] is great, but technology has to change. Everything is going digital," Hannah said.

DVDs made a widespread appearance in Aggieland this semester as Hastings and other chain stores began to carry the

discs for rental and sale.

Hastings manager Harry Golden said sales are going well, but are not affecting VHS sales.

"They are doing quite well, but they haven't put a dent in it yet," Golden said.

"It's because of the players, because they're so expensive."

"You used to be able to buy a VCR for \$500, and now you can get one for \$130. I'm sure that's how DVDs will go," he said.

DVD gives an affordable option to VHS for those hoping to bring home a slightly larger piece of the theater experience.

Throughout all the talk of encoding methods, compression techniques and competing formats, Pickard has clarified what may be the biggest question in the minds of anyone who owns or has considered buying a DVD player of any kind.

"I'm patiently awaiting the DVD release of the *Star Wars* trilogy," she said.

"If DVD has a reason to exist, it's to play this movie."

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