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Pay version of Napster debuts

By Alex Veiga
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Nearly a year after the Napster brand was rescued from the ashes of the ruined file-swapping service, a revamped online music store bearing the familiar name debuted Thursday in limited release.

A test version of Napster 2.0 launched with more than a half-million songs from all the major music labels and with individual song and album downloads as well as a subscription service.

Santa Clara, Calif.-based Roxio Inc., which owns the Napster name, shelved its former online music service, Pressplay, and started moving subscribers to Napster.

Napster 2.0 users will see prices in line with what other services charge, which is about \$1 per song and about \$10 for full albums on a monthly subscription.

The service allows users to copy, or "burn," single songs onto CDs an unlimited number of times, but, like other services, users can't burn more than five CDs with the same playlist.

"Our company's passion for what we're doing will really be felt by consumers and I think it's also very consistent with the original vision for Napster," said Chris Gorog, Roxio's chairman and chief executive.

The music industry has seen CD sales plummet over the last three years as illegal music file-sharing exploded, beginning with the original Napster, which established a peer-to-peer network for users to swap music without paying copyright holders. That service was forced to shut down in 2001 after a protracted legal battle with recording companies.

Roxio is betting the Napster brand will help set its new service apart from a bevy of other digital music retailers that have launched since April, when Apple Computer Inc. introduced its iTunes Music Store.

File-sharing over the most popular peer-to-peer networks has declined in recent weeks, coinciding with a lawsuit campaign against downloaders by the recording industry.

Traffic on Kazaa's network, the most popular, dropped 41 percent between the last week of June and mid-September, according to Nielsen NetRatings, which monitors Internet usage.

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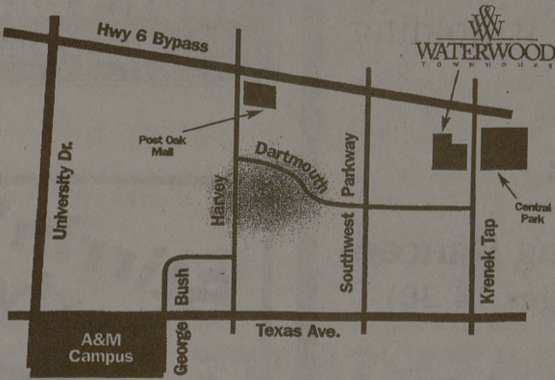
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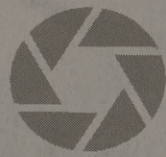
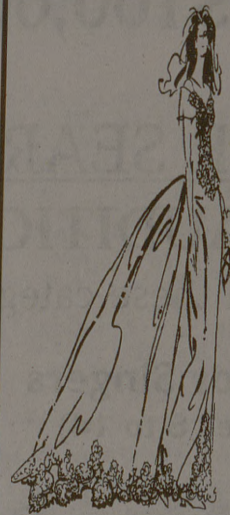
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13. Senior attire: For the yearbook pose, women should wear a favorite top or dress; men should wear a suit or sports jacket and tie. Graduating members of the Corps of Cadets should wear their Midnights. A Texas A&M graduation cap & gown will be provided by the photographer.

Aggieland 2004
Texas A&M University Yearbook

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