

# Technically SPEAKING

Editor in Chief Tabatha Verbick Assistant Editor Merlin Miller PERT Editor Chris Grandfield

## The End of Analog TV is Near

by Eric Mackey

Welcome back from break. With the new year chiming in, you may wonder what big change will happen in the future of television. Changes like this affect everyone in America. In the early days of 2009, every TV station will be required to switch the way they transmit their programming, leading to many exciting changes for broadcasters, viewers and emergency responders. Starting in February 2009, The Digital Communications Act will require broadcasters to switch from analog to digital, which will allow standard television to be high definition with higher quality audio.

To expand what you already might know, since digital uses fewer airwaves, more analog frequencies will be unused. The same type of transition happened when AM radio was replaced

with FM radio. Analog will still be there, but will be used differently. Digital broadcasting has long been the next step for American broadcasters, radio and television alike. Unused analog airwaves will be returned to the government to be resold and auctioned off to new services and providers.

What does this mean for those of you with an analog television? Check your television to see if it has a digital tuner. If your television has a digital tuner, you are prepared for the change. If you find out your TV only does analog, it's ok. In order to watch digital TV, all you will need is a digital-to-analog converter. To clarify, the converter box will be necessary to

watch TV after February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009, unless you have a digital TV or buy one in the future. The good news is that the U.S. government is aiding analog users for the switch. People can submit a request to receive a \$40 coupon to help defer the cost of the digital-to-analog converters, which are expected to cost between \$50 and \$70. The government plans to mail every requesting household two \$40 coupons. For more information on the change or to request a coupon, go to [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov) or call 888-DTV-2009. The government currently plans to accept coupon applications through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

*"Digital broadcasting has long been the next step for American broadcasters, radio and television alike."*

## PERT Assistance Web Page

With many ways already to contact the PERTs on campus, we just had to add another one. Now an online request assistance web page is specifically directed to the PERTs. The web page offers a great way for anyone on campus to request assistance from the PERTs and also gives residents in the buildings who do not have a PERT a better way to contact a PERT.

When you access the website, simply fill in your name, hall, campus phone number and your email address. Also tell us information about your specific computer including what kind of computer it is

and the operating system it is running. Finally, give a description of what the problem is and how and when you would like to be contacted.

Now you have another great way to contact a PERT. The URL for the PERT assistance web page is [www.nwmissouri.edu/reslife/PERTform.htm](http://www.nwmissouri.edu/reslife/PERTform.htm). However, do not forget about the PERTs' office hours in their residence hall room. Office Hours are a perfect time for anyone to stop by and ask the PERTs questions. Office hours are posted outside each PERT's door.

Chris Grandfield	South Complex	X-5084
Beyza Aydar	Perrin Hall	X-5627
<b>Daman Kapoor</b>	Hudson Hall	X-6206
Nathan Fuller	Phillips Hall	X-6570
Audra Gustin	Millikan Hall	X-5288
Eric Mackey	Dieterich Hall	X-6251

Printed copies of Technically Speaking are available at the Front Desk

<b>Help Desk</b>	<b>x-1634</b>
<b>Help Desk Hours</b>	
M-T	8 am-10 pm
Fri	8 am-5 pm
Sat	11 am-4:45 pm
Sun	1 pm-10 pm

<b>Notebook Support Center Hours</b>	
M-F	8 am-4:30 pm

<b>Library Lab Hours</b>	
M-T	7:30 am-11:45 pm
Fri	7:30 am-4:45 pm
Sat	11 am-4:45 pm
Sun	1 pm-11:45 pm

**Questions?**  
tab@nwmissouri.edu

Technological wonders including dual screen monitors, Macromedia and Adobe

## B.D. Owens Library

CS2 Creative Suites, Microsoft Office, scanners and high-quality printing (black and white, color and photo) can be taken advantage of by any and all students in the Owens Library computer labs. On the first floor of Owens Library, groups can work on four sets of dual-screened computers to make crowding a single monitor obsolete.

When needing to finish a design project, the Owens first-floor lab offers multiple computers located in a circle pod containing the Macromedia and Adobe Suites. Macromedia programs include Contribute 3, Dreamweaver 8, Fireworks 8, Flash 8 and Flash Paper 2.

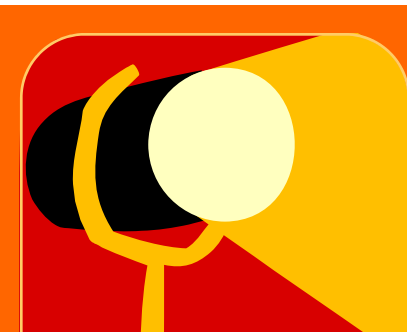
Adobe CS2 Creative Suite contains In-Design, Illustrator, ImageReady, GoLive, Designer, Bridge, Acrobat and everyone's favorite Photoshop.

With well over one hundred computers to choose from with Microsoft Office 2003, you can type up any term papers in Word or finish your graphs in Excel. Also, the Computer Lab Consultants can assist you with your scanning needs using two available scanners.

When you are on the go and need to make a fast print, Owens Library computer labs have the right printer for the job. With multiple high-speed, high-quality printers, no job will be left out.

Anything from printing black and white PowerPoint notes for a certain class to handouts printed in high-quality color can be accomplished quickly. The first-floor lab has a new state-of-the-art Fujifilm photo printer. With the photo printer, you can print out multiple size photos with the same quality as a professional photo center.

All of these technological aspects make the library computer labs home to many students looking for that upper hand in their class work. Keep in mind, all of these programs, devices and tools are available to students, faculty and staff. Go to the Owens Library labs to take full advantage of the services offered.



### PERT SPOTLIGHT Eric Mackey

Eric is a junior from Kansas City, Missouri. He is majoring in Broadcasting and plans on taking his degree into the music business. He was raised on food and water like everybody else.

Eric's hobbies are numerous, but one of the most commonly seen pursued is music. He has spent a few semesters here at Northwest writing for and forming a solo band called "Statepark," which can be found on MySpace and Purevolume. He enjoys reading a lot and attempts to connect the dots for life's bigger questions. He is also a disc jockey for x106 The Source, a filmmaker and a television producer. In the end, he usually goes out and spends time with friends, new and old. Eric is located on the third floor of Dieterich Hall. Stop by his room for assistance with computer questions and problems.



## Online Shopping

by Beyza Aydar



Spring is approaching and with it the time to renew your closet with pretty summer clothes is almost here. Also, taking advantage of the big winter sales to get ready for next winter is a good idea. Maybe some of you need to buy a new computer or a cell phone.

We all love shopping; however, we enjoy it more when we find good deals. You need to find the deals and decide which one is the best offer for you. The internet can help with the answers to these questions. Sometimes famous brands offer sales on their websites before their stores. Check out the website of your favorite brand to catch online discounts. However, you do not have to wait until the sales start to shop.

Online outlets and discount stores not only offer clothes, but also furniture, electronics and any other product you can think of. Check out [www.overstock.com](http://www.overstock.com) to buy various items for cheaper prices. Another awesome online outlet store is [www.bluefly.com](http://www.bluefly.com) — "the ultimate hook-up for the fashion obsessed". Bluefly.com offers designer

clothes, shoes and bags with affordable prices. If you like shopping at Guess, then you should look at [www.guessfactory.com](http://www.guessfactory.com). Before you buy perfume from a store, take a look at [www.scentiments.com](http://www.scentiments.com) — "the most affordable fragrances online".

*"You need to find the deals and decide which one is the best offer for you."*

If you like to shop for computers and electronics products, go to [www.newegg.com](http://www.newegg.com) which offers more than 25,000 computer hardware and software, consumer electronics and communications products at cheaper

prices. You will also find daily deals at [newegg.com](http://newegg.com).

Another website you will find useful is [www.bizrate.com](http://www.bizrate.com). You can compare several products' prices, features and reviews for free at this website to make sure that you find the best deal on the Internet.



Now you know where to find good deals, get on your computer and start shopping!



# Computer Tips

## 4 Tips You Should Know

Hold down the **Ctrl** key while clicking to select more than one file at a time.

# 1

Pressing **Alt + Tab** will switch from one open application to the next.

# 2

Pressing **Alt + Print Screen** takes a screen print of the active window.

# 3

Running **Spybot** weekly will improve your computer's performance.

# 4

## Fun Links

[www.theultimatesteal.com](http://www.theultimatesteal.com)

Buy Office 2007 Ultimate for just \$59.95. Offer ends April 30, 2008.

[www.pricewatch.com](http://www.pricewatch.com)

Find the lowest prices on all kinds of computer hardware.

[www.newegg.com](http://www.newegg.com)

Offers more than 25,000 computer hardware and software solutions.

## Take The Challenge 2008!

by Kim Todd

The Information Systems Department is holding its annual "Take the Challenge" Computer User's Guide to the Electronic Campus Cover Art Contest starting February 1, 2008. The contest, which is held in cooperation with the Fine Arts department and the Center for Information Technology in Education (CITE), is for the front cover of the printed 2008 Computer User's Guide, which has a distribution of 1,700.

The cover art contest has a two-fold mission: first, to draw attention to the Computer User's Guide, which provides students with important information about campus computing resources, guidelines and policies; and second, to give a student a profes-

sional experience in the design field, which they can utilize to enhance their portfolio and resume.

The artist of the winning cover will receive a 4 Gig (or higher capacity) USB PEN [FLASH] drive, a certificate of accomplishment, two cover flats and two finished copies of the User's Guide for their portfolio.

Students can pick up contest guidelines and a submission form from the Client Computing Office on the first floor of Owens Library, the Electronic Campus Support Center, the CITE office on the second floor of Owens Library, the Fine Arts Office in the Olive Deluce Fine Arts Building and the Office of

University Relations in the Administration Building. All entries must be submitted to the Client Computing Office no later than February 29, 2008.

The submissions will be critiqued and voted on by a panel of judges, which will include representatives from the Fine Arts Department, the Information Systems Department and the CITE Office. The winner of the Cover Art Contest will be announced by April 1, 2008.

For more information about the "Take the Challenge" Computer User's Guide Cover Art Contest, please contact the Client Computing-Information Systems Help Desk at 660-562-1634.



## Heard of Sager

by Nathan Fuller

Sager Notebooks is a company that specializes solely in laptop computer manufacturing. Sager's notebooks are very similar to the quality of Alienware, but their brand name is not as well known. The company makes high quality laptops at very favorable prices. Prices of Sager laptops are significantly lower than similar laptops of bigger corporations like Dell. Sager wants a larger market share so they can compete with larger companies; therefore, their prices are much lower. You can save around \$500-\$1000. Money you pay for the technology you get is unrivaled by any other manufacturer in the industry.

Sager is a great deal; however, they have a few drawbacks. Since Sager is a smaller company, they cannot offer

the level of technical support that Dell and other large companies offer. To reduce the amount of technical support needed, Sager ensures their products adhere to high-quality standards. Sager also cannot offer the kind of guarantees their larger competitors provide.

When buying a laptop or any computer, you should always check out all options. Never jump immediately on an advertisement you see on television. Check out not only the large company offerings, but also those of the smaller companies, since they sometimes have the best deals. When searching for a new laptop, check out Sager at [www.sagernotebooks.com](http://www.sagernotebooks.com). If you have any questions about what to look for when buying a computer, feel free

