

NEWS

National and world news in brief

By Patrick Webster
managing editor

Microsoft prepares to release Zune media player

REDMOND, Washington: Microsoft has completed development of its new portable media device, named Zune, and will release it for sale in time for the holiday season.

Zune is intended to be directly in competition with the highly popular Apple iPod, practically matching every respect. The Zune will have the same price, storage capacity, music selection, and general appearance as the iPod. It will also include a few features not available on current iPods: an FM radio tuner, wireless networking to allow users to share music, photos, and video and a much larger 3-inch viewable screen.

By lowering the price to match Apple's product, Microsoft will be losing money on every unit it sells for the holiday season.

"We had to look at what was in the market and offer a competitive price," said Scott Erickson, Microsoft's senior director of product marketing and spokesman for the Zune media system. "We're not going to be profitable this holiday but the Zune project is a multiyear strategy."

Songs will be available for download for 99 cents at the "Zune Marketplace," the same price that Apple currently charges for its music downloads. However, Microsoft will also be offering a monthly subscription service for unlimited music for \$14.99 per month.

While no movies will be available for download at release, each Zune will come with a small array of music and video already installed.

Mitsubishi dealer censured after declaring "jihad"

COLUMBUS, Ohio: A Columbus car dealer retracted his radio and print advertisements after receiving complaints from the Ohio Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations regarding their subject matter and presentation.

The radio commercial from the Dennis Mitsubishi Auto Group, which never aired, purportedly declared "jihad" on dealers of American-made automobiles and promised special deals on "Farwa Fridays." There were also plans to give away free toy swords to children.

Dennis Mitsubishi released a written statement on Tuesday.

"A large number of people have contacted us. Lots of them have seen the humor we were trying to convey, but far too many were clearly bothered by it. This was simply an attempt at humor that fell short," the document read. "We offer a sincere apology to anyone who was offended."

"We appreciate the dealership's constructive reaction to feedback about the proposed advertisements," said Adnan Mirza, director of the American-Islamic Relations group Ohio office. "We accept the apology and hope that it and the decision not to air the spots will bring this incident to a close."

The ad also resulted in negative attention from Mitsubishi Motors of North America.

"We've made it clear to this dealer that this campaign runs contrary to our company values and we strongly urged him not to run the campaign," Mitsubishi Motors said in a company statement released Monday afternoon. "The dealer has agreed not to run it."

The Council on American-Islamic Relations said it may contact the dealership owner to suggest enrollment in some kind of cultural awareness sensitivity training.



Source: CNN.com, Yahoo! News

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People who found pictures in their back yards as well as other places on their property were asked to write the zip code in which they found them, place them in plastic bags, and drop them in the donation box. The pictures were shipped back to Erie where Heintz, Webber, Anderson, and other members of the Picture Project, cleaned and scanned the photos and upload them onto their website.

Once hurricane victims find their pictures they are to contact the Picture Project. "The Picture Project staff," says Heintz, "will then upload those

photos to the Kodak Galleries where the owner can get one free print for each photo and other family members can purchase more copies if they wish."

Heintz and Weber recently made a trip to Biloxi, Mississippi to give a very special picture to a very unique family. David and Carol Rickman were blessed with two boys, James and Mark.

James and Mark were both born with Batten Disease which is fatal. The boys were only supposed to live until the age of eight or nine but miraculously, Mark made it to the age of 12 before succumbing to the disease in

February of 2006. James, is still alive today and is ten years old. Weber and Heintz went to Biloxi, Mississippi to film for an NBC news special on Hurricane Katrina, the day before the anniversary of the horrific day. While there, Heintz and Weber returned all the pictures belonging to the Rickman's but also had a surprise. The only picture left with the two boys playing together while they were still healthy was blown up into an 8 x 10 and framed for the family. "It was so awesome to see their reaction when they got their pictures back," Heintz said, "What a great feeling to be able to do that for them."

Quotes on Civility

"The record of a generous life runs like a vine around the memory of our dead, and every sweet unselfish act is now a perfumed flower."

— Robert G. Ingersoll, American lawyer, politician and public speaker (1833-1899)

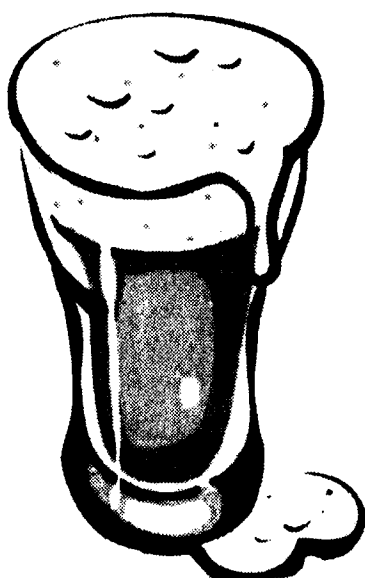
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