

Diversity from page 3

Other reasons why it may be so hard to increase the size of underrepresented groups here at Mont Alto is "Location, Location, Location" says Andrea Christopher, Director of Student Affairs. Christopher expresses why location is a major issue: "Mont Alto prides itself for having such a diverse Resident's Life staff, including our Resident Assistants, Resident Coordinators, as well as our Director of Academic Affairs is a member of an underrepresented group. It's challenging in a rural setting to attract more diverse faculty and

staff. We do try to the best of our abilities to make Mont Alto as diverse as possible, but the area is such a culture shock to prospective employees. We have been successful in creating a diverse student population, and hope it will be a matter of time until the staff and faculty catches up."

To get a better understanding of where Penn State stands on the matter of the achieving diversity goals or strategic planning, go to "A Framework to Fostering Diversity at Penn State" at [www.equity.psu.edu/Framework/](http://www.equity.psu.edu/Framework/).

## Homecoming 2005: Hooray for Hollywood!

Join us for Homecoming 2005 on September 23 and 24. This year's theme is Hooray for Hollywood! Enjoy popcorn vendors, movie soundtracks, and feel like a star throughout the weekend! Following is a tentative schedule for the weekend. If you have questions, call the Office of University Relations at 717-749-6110.

### Friday, September 23

Noon - Penn State Mont Alto Alumni Society Golf Outing at Penn National

(Proceeds will benefit the John Benchoff Trustee Scholarship)

9 p.m. - Homecoming Dance for students and alumni

### Saturday, September 24

9 a.m. - Alumni Society 5K Walk/Run

(Proceeds to benefit John Benchoff Trustee Scholarship)

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Woodsmen's Demonstration

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Student Carnival including the band, "The Holders"

Noon - Penn State Mont Alto Auction in the Multipurpose Activities Center

(Proceeds to benefit the John Benchoff Trustee Scholarship)

3 p.m. - Alumni Soccer Game

3 p.m. - Basket Bingo  
(Proceeds to benefit the John Benchoff Trustee Scholarship)

## Playstation 2 Versus Xbox Gaming Systems: Technical Comparisons for Average Consumer

David Olson

The question has come up on campus many times: "Which game system is better? The Xbox or Playstation 2?" Maybe this article can help you decide. Last summer, Microsoft announced that over 200 new Xbox titles would be available worldwide this holiday season and recently, the new Xbox Live online gaming service has come up. In comparison, Sony already has more than 250 game titles for the PlayStation 2 - but perhaps more importantly, the PS2 can play many of the games designed for the original PlayStation. And now you can also get a Network Adapter from Sony that allows you to compete online using your own ISP. So what's the difference between the two and which one is better?

Both the Xbox and the PlayStation 2 feature the requisite graphics and audio subsystems needed to play today's incredibly realistic 3D action games as well as DVD movies. The XBOX is powered by a 32-bit Intel processor and uses a specially designed nVidia GPU (graphics processing unit)

to achieve dazzling graphics, plus it has 64 MB of fast DDR (dual Data Rate) memory on board.

The PlayStation 2, on the other hand, uses 128-bit processor and includes 32 MB of Rambus memory; the 4 MB Graphics Synthesizer chip handles 3D rendering tasks. Both systems come with a built-in DVD drive for running gaming and movie DVDs, although you'll have to purchase an additional DVD Playback Kit to watch movies on the Xbox. Also, both systems play standard music cds.



The Xbox has four controller ports, and comes with 10 MB hard drive to store saved games

and user profiles. The drive also helps games to load faster, and allows you to store your own music, which can be used to customize your gaming experience. Additionally, it has a built in Ethernet port for console-to-console or broadband internet connectivity. The PS2 has two slots for memory cards and two controller ports, although you can add more controllers if you purchase a Multitap Adapter. As mentioned earlier, you'll have to purchase a Network Adapter for PlayStation 2 to connect to the internet. Sony also plans to release a hard drive kit for the PS2 in the near future.

The Xbox and the PlayStation 2 both support Dolby Digital 5.1 3D surround sound, making them ideal for hooking up to a home theater system. Dolby 5.1 enhances the DVD movie experience, too. If you don't want to make the potentially large investment in a complete home theater system, you can still buy a relatively inexpensive 5.1 speaker system like those

being shipped with today's desktop PC's.



Although both the Xbox and the PS2 come with one game controller, each accepts additional devices. There are several third-party game controllers for the Xbox, such as the FreeStyler board for surfing, skateboarding, and snowboarding games; a NASCAR racing wheel for driving games; and the Top Gun Fox 2 Pro Joystick, all manufactured by Thrustmaster. A new company called Gamester also makes controllers and racing wheels for the Xbox.

For the PlayStation 2, Logitech makes a force feedback driving wheel that vibrates and shudders as you navigate around the track and a wireless controller that gives you

mobility while gaming. There's even an air-cooled controller from NKYO, appropriately named the Airflow Controller, which keeps your hands cool while doing battle against your friends.

There are certain advantages to each gaming system. Sony's PlayStation 2 absolutely has the edge when it comes to sheer number of game titles, and it has the benefit of being backward compatible with an extensive library of games, with more on the way. Microsoft is new to the party, but by some accounts has a slight edge when it comes to graphics. The Intel/nVidia mix may also work to Microsoft's advantage as PC game developers begin writing more games for the Xbox.

Overall, both consoles offer great video and sound quality, which is all-important in the gaming world, so hopefully this can help you understand both of these good points and exactly what you are looking for in a system. Happy Gaming!