

Franklin Cline's guide for ...

How to be in the techno know

Downtime is digital for Xbox addicts

Video games might seem unimportant to the advancement of technology.

But for overloaded college students, a quick trip to another realm could be the only viable escape.

Freshman Chris Vernaci said he bought his Xbox soon after its initial release, and during the school year he plays about two hours every day.

"It's something different from work," he said. "... It's a nice break from the work."

Vernaci said he plans to purchase the Xbox 360 as soon as it is released in November.

"I don't know if it'll be the day it comes out, but it'll be pretty close," he said. "Maybe two days later."



Podcasts are the new radio

At least that's how freshman Jason Hollowed explains his new hobby and media venture.

Hollowed records his podcasts, under the name TruCast, once or twice a week. Listeners can subscribe to his program on iTunes free of charge, he said.

The system is liberating, he said, because unlike radio, podcasts are not regulated.

"I think it helps to put more power in the hands of the individual," Hollowed said. "I really do think it can be the future of radio once it starts to truly spread."

It's small in size but produces big sound

The iPod has been the center of technology for sophomore Franklin Cline since he obtained his this summer.

"It was honestly the greatest experience I've ever had," he said. "The packaging is really futuristic, and everything is individually wrapped so it's like you get a big Christmas present, and then inside that you get like 10 little Christmas presents as well."

Cline said he enjoys his iPod because of its entertainment value.

"You're never bored when you have one, when you're walking around or reading a book, anything you do you have that music background, and it's not that I have a short attention span," he said. "I just like music."

Cline also said Apple recently has introduced video capabilities for the iPod and the brand-new iPod nano.

"The nanos are impossibly small, so I wish I had one based on that," he said.

Designed by Lisette Metz Grulke, Reported by Sara DeGonia

Technology prescribes communication cure

I'm certainly not in the techno know.

But I am intelligent enough to appreciate the value of daily technological advancements, especially those that directly impact my life and the lives of my peers.

New inventions and modifications constantly are improving the quality of life for people worldwide. And although some debate that we, as humans, are becoming too dependent on technology — specifically computers — to exist successfully, I am confident that most people would agree one aspect of survival undoubtedly benefits from technology: communication.

I am a communication major.

And I've channel-surfed enough times, listened to enough lectures, watched enough movies and read enough books to know that communication is the foundation for any successful relationship — be it social or professional.

So my recent catastrophic communication failure, which tragically altered my previously happy-go-lucky existence, has proved further my already steadfast belief in the power of communication. And although my personal situation didn't occur because of a lack of technology, it potentially could have been avoided had I taken advantage of any number of the technology-based communication tools at my disposal.

For instance, one of my roommates



Sara DeGonia

recently introduced me to a powerful online invention: Skype.

Skype is a large Internet telephone company that allows you to talk to other Skype users completely free of charge. You download their free program and then talk for free, using their free service. All you have to buy is a microphone.

And for people who can't convince their friends, family or the pizza delivery guy to download Skype, the Web site, www.skype.com, offers SkypeOut, which allows you to call landlines and mobile phones at local rates.

But Skype is not the only way I could have improved my communication situation.

After talking with my new friend, freshman Jason Hollowed, I learned podcasting is a fairly new invention that has started to reach thousands of people despite a general ignorance of

the technology. It is comparable to a radio show — at least in that there is a speaker and a listener and pretty much nothing else.

Speaking and listening. It seems so simple. Yet for many of us, there are few things more difficult than talking to a friend or really listening to what a family member has to say.

Podcasts, of course, are used for a variety of reasons such as entertainment, news and educational purposes, similar to radio.

But it's also completely distinct in that it's independent and largely uncensored.

Jason's TruCasts, for example, cover a wide range of topics that fall under his chosen theme: college life.

"I try to give a little lesson, if you will, a little tip on surviving college," he said.

Once or twice a week Jason records his podcasts, using his PowerBook, iTunes and iSight or iPod with iTalk. In other words, he's the poster child for all things Apple.

But despite his collection of gadgets and do-dads, he said recording podcasts, or subscribing and downloading them on iTunes, is actually quite easy.

Easy for sophomore Franklin Cline, on the other hand, is merely hanging out with his iPod in hand — and although Franklin's iPod doesn't allow him to communicate directly with anyone, perhaps the music he loves so

much improves his mood (and therefore his success in communication) or acts as a form of self-communication. He certainly connects with musicians like Rancid, The Pixies and Missy Elliott.

And Franklin said he agrees that technology in general benefits communication.

"Technology is obviously good," he said. "Like people can talk to one another through the Internet, and we get news so much faster."

Franklin also said he thinks the future of the iPod is quite important for communication in our country.

"In the future, when America becomes a communist nation, everyone will have to have iPods because that is how the president will directly address his minions, so really I'm just ahead of the pack," he said.

With new models of seemingly old products exploding into society all the time — i.e. the iPod nano, the iPod with video capabilities and the Xbox 360 — it is practically impossible to be ahead of the pack.

But reading about new inventions and taking advantage of constant advancements in technology certainly can improve your communication skills and better your life.

And perhaps one of these days technology will fall into my lap. I will conquer my pathetic communication skills and finally consider myself in the techno know.

Horoscopes

Oct. 30 to Nov. 5

By Madame Hughes

ARIES: (March 20 to April 18)

Be advised not to invite people into your life who will cast a negative tone on your efforts. This will undermine all that you have worked so hard to build and put you at a distinct disadvantage. No need to be mean, though. Just be selective.

TAURUS: (April 19 to May 20)

Almost never can you be too complimentary to your mate. We all need to hear that we are appreciated, and it is so easy to neglect saying so to the one who really warrants it the most.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 20)

You could rattle off half a dozen reasons why it bothers you to change directions at this point in time. Take a little further look into why this resistance exists. Is it because you're being irrational or are you actually seeing the whole picture more clearly than the others?

CANCER: (June 21 to July 22)

The plot thickens, as they say. Someone new will enter your life who will cause you to make a close inspection of your priorities. Look

at this as a good thing. A thorough review of your guideposts is long overdue.

LEO: (July 23 to Aug. 22)

Why worry about those capabilities that didn't come your way? None of us was granted every conceivable skill. Think instead of these wise words: "Use what talents you possess. The woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best."

VIRGO: (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

Worried about getting older? You, very likely, already watch your diet and exercise often. What also helps to combat aging is to avoid dull routines. Maybe we could all use a reminder to keep busy with varied, stimulating activities.

LIBRA: (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Resentment has been building to a fever pitch. Without addressing it, you'll soon be dealing with an outburst of volcanic proportions. Chill down that fast-rising lava by adopting a cool, calm and collected attitude.

SCORPIO: (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

White lies do serve a purpose sometimes, such as when you set out to save someone embarrassment. However, caution should be exercised because making a habit of their usage could start you down a dangerous slippery slope.

SAGITTARIUS: (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

No need, you say, to stay bound to traditional conventions. There

isn't one male you know who is a "Mr. Mom," but you would have no hesitation participating in a role reversal if the situation warranted it.

CAPRICORN: (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

Just how many extra burdens can you take on before exhaustion overcomes you? In addition to your family and work obligations, you are assisting with volunteer work. Note to self: The number of hours in a day hasn't changed.

AQUARIUS: (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

With the big-heartedness you show toward your fellow man, it might be easy for someone to

take advantage of you. There exists, therefore, a fine line to be walked between unbridled generosity and a Scrooge-like miserliness.

PISCES: (Feb. 19 to March 19)

There can be nothing more immobilizing than fear. It cripples and weakens us. The stagnation you're experiencing can be attributed to this dread of yours. As Anthony Robbins said, "Let fear be a counselor and not a jailer."

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS NOV. 4: You share your birthday with humorist Will Rogers

and actress Loretta Swit. You are charming, able to easily persuade and rarely depressed.



Campus

New Music Festival

Guest composer Paul Hayden and guest Katherine Kemler, flutist, will perform at the New Music Festival. Concert one will be at 7 p.m. tonight in Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall with performances by the University Wind Symphony, Cantoria and the University Symphony Orchestra. Concert two will be at 1:30 p.m. Friday in Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall, with performances by Kemler and Truman State musicians. The events are free and open to the public.

Geek Week

The Role-Playing Games Club presents Geek Week beginning at 5 p.m. Friday in Violette Hall 1212 for a Magic: The Gathering tournament. Other activities include outdoor games at noon Sunday on the Quad and Halloween Card Games Night at 5 p.m. Monday in the SUB Alumni Room.

Cake Concert

SAB presents Cake at 7 p.m. Friday in Pershing Arena. Cost is \$8 for those with student IDs and \$15 general admission.

Haunted House

The Coalition of African American Women will sponsor a haunted house at 7 p.m. Friday at the Multicultural Affairs Center. Admission is \$2 with a ticket from a Coalition member or \$3 at the door.

Pool Playing

The Student Union, LOBSTER and Student Senate will sponsor a pool tournament Wednesday in the SUB Game Room. Sign-ups are at 9:30 p.m., and tournament play begins at 10 p.m. Prizes will be awarded.

College Bowl

The Center for Student Involvement will sponsor a College Bowl tournament from 6 to 10 p.m. Wednesday on the upper level of the SUB.

Local

Skate Party

Campus Christian Fellowship will host a Halloween Skate Party at 7 p.m. Saturday at Leisure World Skating Rink. Cost is \$5, and prizes will be awarded for best costume and best skate dance.

Concerts

Halloween Bash

Patterson's Halloween Bash will feature Full Day Affair at 9 p.m. Saturday at Patterson's. Only those 21 and older will be admitted.

Costume Party

A Halloween Costume Party featuring Felonious Attempt will be at 9 p.m. Saturday at NEMO Rocks. Admission is free. Only those 21 and older will be admitted.