Black Friday looms in future

Students prepare, scheme for Thanksgiving sales

BY ANNE REBAR

Students sit huddled outside retail stores nationwide, counting down the minutes in the early hours of the morning, hoping to be the first to get their hands on the “it” toy of the holiday season or the newest gadget on sale. The morning of the biggest shopping day of the year, ominously dubbed Black Friday.

Senior Tim Guertin has been one of those people. Huddled outside a Best Buy one year, Guertin said he waited in line for five hours to get the newest game console that was on sale that year. “I was there by 5 a.m., and there were probably at least 50 people ahead of me already,” Guertin said. “There was a limited number, so that’s why everyone got there so early. I was there by 5 a.m., and there were probably at least 50 people ahead of me already.”

Guertin said he didn’t want to do it again, setting up much work and waiting for so long in the cold wasn’t worth it, he said, and he probably won’t do it again. “It was like a race to the XBox display,” Guertin said. “They opened the doors and everyone just went straight to them. My friend and I were the first people in line, so when I knew there was a last chance. It was insane. The cold and the waiting definitely didn’t pay off, and I don’t think I’d ever do it again.”

Junior Courtney Haywood said she has gone shopping on Black Friday for the past few years. The night before, they circle everything in the ads they want to buy and figure out what time stores open. “About 90 percent of the holiday season shopping is done among the five to six stores she and her mom tackle the morning of Black Friday. One year, she and her mom tackled five stores, and then they went on sale for $5, but by the time we got to the foot, they were all gone,” Haywood said. “My mom noticed that one lady had two in her cart, and so we went over and distracted the lady, and I had to go take one out of her cart and slip into the next aisle. It was pretty sneaky.”

Junior Katie Hansen has both worked and shopped on Black Friday. She said that for the past six years, she and her mom have spread out all of the ads on their living room floor the night of Thanksgiving in order to pick out everything they want to buy. They then rank the stores in order of importance based on their Black Friday ads and then start the most important and work their way down for the shopping. “It’s kind of funny to watch the doors open in the morning and see people literally sprinting in all directions. It’s absolute chaos.”

BY KATE HARMON

“I’m actually working at Target, and one year I had my best friend I was going out of town so I could go shopping with my mom on Black Friday,” Hansen said. “But thinking about it now, I probably won’t do it again. It give[s] you kind of a rush, waiting outside for the doors to open and then busting through them to get to what you want to buy.”

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