

Heavy backpacks leave students seeking alternatives

Trina Rahman
The Gamecock (U. South Carolina)

(U-WIRE) COLUMBIA, S.C. Campus life can be a heavy burden to carry.

With textbooks and other class essentials constantly in tow, most students shoulder a lot of weight on their way to class each day.

The back-to-school season always brings an influx of new and improved book bag styles to stores.

Students must consider — but no longer have to choose between — form and function when searching for that ideal carry-all pack.

Most students want a bag that is big enough to hold what they need for the day's classes, freeing them from subsequent trips back to the dorm.

An assortment of variations on the traditional backpack is now available to the bag-toting student: the messenger bag, the single-strap backpack, the shoulder tote and the mobile backpack on wheels.

Jerome Green, a third-year hospitality and retail management student at the University of South Carolina, walks across campus from the school's business administration building to the coliseum for class two days a week.

He wanted a tough, dependable backpack that also had a place for his CDs. He eventually decided on carrying a traditionally-style pack.



Special to The Voyager

Having a properly sized, good quality backpack is essential for the bag-toting student.

"I used to carry a backpack on wheels, but it would catch in the

cracks of the sidewalk, and it didn't have pockets," he says.



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No matter what style one chooses, a backpack is not cheap. At the South Carolina bookstore, a classic Jansport bag, featuring three zippered compartments and a water bottle pocket, sells for \$49.98.

Dickies also gotten into the bag business, making a messenger bag that is available in two sizes, the smaller of which seems less roomy than the average-sized messenger. The company describes the bags as "extremely

durable," made of "600 denier polyester with fused PVC rubberized water backing."

Those who have owned a pair of pants by Dickies can attest to the durability of the materials used.

Levi's has also started making bags — a corduroy messenger is available in a variety of colors. The company makes a denim messenger bag, yet, considering its small size, it seems better suited for show than for function.

Jansport makes a messenger bag, not to mention the brand's basic backpack.

Other models in the Jansport line include: the Darkstar, a heavy-duty pack; the Velocity, a multi-colored bag; and the Urban Transit, a combination shoulder bag and backpack.

Heather Martin, a first-year history student at South Carolina, prefers to carry a tote bag, which seems to be a popular style around campus these days. Her bag is made by Vera Bradley.

"I hate it when (a) book bag's strap hits the back of my legs and doesn't allow the back to breathe," she says.

Her friend Michelle Quigly, a first-year nursing student, carries an L.L. Bean book bag on most days but switches to a messenger bag when she only has one class.

She says she doesn't want to carry a traditional book bag "unless I have to."

"The average weight a student should carry on their backs is between 10 to 15 pounds, but a

college student will add 15 to 20 pounds," says Michael Flemming, a buyer for The Backpacker store in Columbia, S.C.

Kelty makes a durable, yet less-expensive brand of bags than its popular competitor, The North Face. North Face bags range in price from \$40 to \$90, and usually sell out quickly, according to Flemming. The North Face's line includes 25 styles in all.

Eddie Bauer also makes book bags. "Guide Series" bags are available in both medium and large sizes. These bags feature pockets for sunglasses and a water bottle, a zippered panel for an organizer and cell phone and a CD portal. They are constructed with both 840 and 1,680 denier nylon.

The higher the nylon count, the higher the quality of the material. Furthermore, the addition of polyester is what makes bags waterproof.

The bags at Eddie Bauer are in fact made with Teflon — a durable coating used in the manufacturing of cooking pans — which causes water to bead up and roll off the bag.

In the end, a book bag can meet a student's needs in both form and function.

A backpack serves not only to carry essentials but to reflect one's personal style.

Finding that ideal bag may take some shopping around, but it will ultimately prove to be a weight off the book-lugging student's shoulders.

MIT names student as alleged infringer

Keith J. Winstein
The Tech (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

(U-WIRE) CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The Massachusetts Institute of Technology answered a subpoena from the record industry Monday night, naming Claudiu A. Prisnel '06 in response to the industry association's request for the name of a network user who, on June 27 from a computer at Theta Delta Chi, allegedly offered hundreds of music recordings over the KaZaA file-trading system, according to Prisnel and James D. Bruce, the vice president for information systems.

Prisnel, a member of Theta Delta Chi, denies that he is the "alleged infringer" identified by the association's subpoena and says he has been wrongly accused.

"Between the dates of May 25, 2003, and Aug. 25, 2003, I have been traveling in Europe," he wrote to MIT attorney Mark DiVincenzo in an Aug. 30 letter to protest the release of his name, according to a copy of the letter he provided The Tech. "In particular, on June 27, at the time of the alleged infringement, I was in Romania."

Prisnel, who is Romanian, showed a reporter copies of immigration documents and airplane tickets that appear to support his account. His friend Olga Y. Stroilova '06, who traveled with him over the summer, also confirmed his assertions.

Prisnel says he has never owned a computer in the United States, a fact to which 20 other students signed a statement attesting on his behalf. And, Prisnel wrote to DiVincenzo, "I have never used or been affiliated with the user name 'crazyface@KaZaA,'" which was identified by the record industry association, known as the RIAA, as the KaZaA account used.

Citing the federal law of educational privacy, Bruce and DiVincenzo declined to discuss most details of MIT's investigation and response to the subpoena. TDC officers did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

The RIAA Monday night had only limited comment. "Anyone is free to contact us to discuss any personal issues, or they can present their defenses in court," said Jonathan Lamy, a spokesman for the association.

MIT's reply, which was not made public, ends a process that began July 2, when the RIAA first issued to MIT a subpoena requesting the identity of "crazyface."

The reply came on the same day that the record industry announced it would file lawsuits against 261 people named by their Internet service providers in response to RIAA subpoenas in the last several months.

EARLY MARCH REGISTRATION LED TO ID

MIT attorneys have decided the institute is



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The recording industry is cracking down on users who download music from KaZaA and Morpheus.

legally compelled to name Prisnel to the RIAA as the "alleged infringer," Bruce said, despite Prisnel's documentation that he does not own a computer and was out of the country for the months surrounding the alleged infringement.

An MIT investigation found that on March 3, 2003, Prisnel registered for use on MIT's network the same computer that was eventually used four months later for the allegedly illegal conduct, according to a document from the MIT investigation provided by Prisnel.

"We're not trying to screw the guy," Bruce said. "When we respond to the subpoena, we're not asserting that this is the owner of the machine," he said. "We're representing, 'This is the information that was presented at the time the machine was registered.'"

"For example, you might have registered a machine, and given that machine, sold that machine to another MIT student," Bruce said. "Unless that person goes to inordinate lengths to re-register the machine, it's still going to have your registration."

Prisnel said the fact that the computer was registered four months prior in his name does not mean he is the "alleged infringer" whose identity is sought by the RIAA. Because he does not own a computer, he said, he sometimes borrowed computers during the last school year, when Prisnel lived in New House, from his fraternity brothers.

Because of the way MIT's registration process works, a computer that has not yet been registered for use on MIT's network — which includes New House, but does not include TDC — that tries to obtain an Internet address to use the World Wide Web will instead automatically display a registration form asking for an MIT

username and password.

Prisnel said he does not remember if he borrowed a computer in early March, or if he ever completed the registration process, but that it is possible he borrowed a computer from a TDC resident, plugged it in at New House, and completed the registration screen that was displayed when he tried to access a Web page, later returning the computer to its owner.

If not Prisnel, the actual owner of the infringing computer remains unknown.

The computer appears to have been since removed from the TDC network. The MIT network equipment that serves TDC Monday night reported no computers using the address registered by Prisnel.

MIT EXPLAINED DATA RELIABILITY

"MIT's disclosure had damn well better be careful," said Jonathan Zittrain, a professor at Harvard University Law School. "You don't say, 'We have identified the infringer.' You say, 'Our records show the following.'"

Bruce said that MIT's response to the RIAA would include an explanation about whether the information MIT was able to uncover indeed identifies an "alleged infringer."

"There are situations, and we recognize them, where the name we would associate with the particular [computer] ... is incorrect," Bruce said. "What we have said to the RIAA is that all we're doing is saying, 'This is the credential that was presented when this computer was registered on the network.'"

"That, in effect, is all the RIAA has asked us to do," Bruce said. "Even though they use language, like 'alleged infringer,' we can't even come close to closing that gap, although the RIAA would like to be able to cause the ISP to have to," he said.

"There are a number of logs in the system, and so it's conceivable that there may be other data that we have that would be of interest," Bruce said.

MIT's response may include a statement from Prisnel contesting the accuracy of MIT's response. "What Prisnel is trying to do is present evidence that he didn't own a machine at MIT," Bruce said. "My understanding is a student has a right to amend a record about himself or herself, and including a statement that says portions of the record are in error is one way to amend the record."

"I think we're trying to go as far as we possibly can," Bruce said.

Prisnel is the second user MIT's investigation has internally identified as the "alleged infringer." Earlier in the summer, the MIT investigation identified a "young lady from the summer," who was not a student at MIT, living at TDC during an internship program, Bruce said, before focusing on Prisnel.

Universities warned about censorship

A. John Garcia
Daily Lobo (U. New Mexico)

(U-WIRE) ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The U.S. Department of Education issued a letter late last month to universities across the nation reminding them that campus speech regulations should not infringe upon First Amendments rights.

The letter, written by Gerald Reynolds, Office of Civil Rights assistant secretary at the University of New Mexico, outlines how universities should act during on-campus protests or any other time members of the university community are expressing their freedom of speech. It also clarifies and defines the parameters of regulating harassment issues.

"Universities' statutes regarding censorship should be intended to protect students from insidious discrimination, not to regulate the content of free speech," Reynolds wrote in the letter.

"It should be recognized that the offensiveness of a particular expression, standing alone, is not a legally sufficient basis to establish a hostile environment under the statutes enforced by the Office of Civil Rights," he wrote.

Colleges maintain different speech policies, which target protests, demonstrations and literature on campus. Some are designed to protect the rights of those who may be expressing offensive speech, others are in support of those who may be harassed by such ideas.

"The University is committed to tolerate all peaceful activities carried out upon the campus unless those activities destroy or materially damage property, materially disrupt other legitimate University activities, or create a substantial health or safety hazard," according to UNM's Business Policies and Procedures policy 2220, which addresses free speech at the University.

This policy applies to all buildings, grounds, and property owned or controlled by the University.

UNM's policy states that speech activities protected by the policy include speechmaking, praying, the distribution of written materials, picketing, assembling in groups, demonstrating, sidewalk chalking and erecting symbolic structures on campus.

If a person or group wants to stage an activity or event at UNM, that person or group must fill out an activity clearance form and submit it to the Student Activities Center in the SUB basement, said Susan Corban, assistant director of the center.

The center's officials then decide whether the person or group is allowed to demonstrate.

There are also regulations for posting fliers on campus, which can be obtained at the center, Corban said.

Reynolds said in the letter that for a university to censor free speech on its campus, "it must include something beyond the mere expression of views, words, symbols or thought that some person finds offensive."

Officials from the New Mexico Public Interest Research Group say they have not had any trouble with First Amendment violations at UNM.

"It just doesn't seem right that there are any restrictions on free speech or restrictions on the democratic process," said Dorie Bunting, coordinator at the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice.

Don Schroeder, political activist mainstay at UNM, said the University has never infringed upon his First Amendment rights.

"I've never had any problems with UNM," Schroeder said. "I've demonstrated 571 times by myself and they've never impugned on my First Amendment rights."

Eight Democratic presidential candidates debate in New Mexico

Mrowka
U-WIRE (DC BUREAU)

(U-WIRE) WASHINGTON — In the first ever bilingual presidential debate, eight of the nine Democrats running for the party's nomination convened in New Mexico for the first of six debates sponsored by the Democratic National Committee.

The debated was televised on PBS as well as in Spanish on Univision. The debate was hosted by New Mexico Governor, Bill

Richardson as well as the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

The large field of candidates includes former governor Howard Dean, Vermont, Sen. John Kerry, Massachusetts, Sen. Bob Graham, Florida, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, Connecticut, Sen. John Edwards, North Carolina, Rep. Richard Gephardt, Mo., former Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, Ill., Rep. Dennis Kucinich, Ohio, and the Rev. Al Sharpton, who was absent from the debate.

The debate largely centered on the conflict in Iraq, with the candidates focusing

their criticism on President Bush more than each other.

Congressman Gephardt called on president Bush to seek help from international allies and broaden our coalition of forces. "We need our friends," Gephardt said. "We need friends from all over the world now."

Gephardt also criticized the President for the large cost of the conflict, arguing that the United States needs to seek additional funding from the United Nations.

Howard Dean agreed that more international forces are needed in Iraq.

"Reconstruction of Iraq (is needed) with the United Nations, with NATO, and preferably with Muslim troops," the former governor said.

In one of the more memorable moments of the debate, Congressman Gephardt argued, "This president is a miserable failure. He is a miserable failure."

Sen. Kerry also attacked the president, saying "What we know now is that being flown to an aircraft carrier and pronouncing the words 'mission accomplished' does not end a war. And the swagger of a president

who says 'bring them on' does not bring our troops peace or safety."

The economy was another huge focus of debate among the candidates. All of the candidates want to repeal some or all of the President's tax cuts and each outlined their message for boosting the economy and reducing the unemployment rate. "We need to stop corporate welfare and starting doing something for small businesses in this country," Dean said.

The next scheduled debate will be on Sept. 25 in New York City.