

Tempted online

Radiohead tries a new approach to online music sales, attempting to lure listeners away from illegal downloads

Kristin Palarz
Staff Writer

When stores charge \$20 for a CD that can be illegally downloaded online for free, music lovers question what is right and what is fair.

Many people are beginning to buy their music from iTunes or illegally download it through sources like LimeWire and BearShare. Noticing this trend, the band Radiohead decided to try something new.

Their latest album, *In Rainbows*, was released over

the internet to allow customers to buy the album at what they believe is a suitable cost, and it will also be available in stores on Dec. 31. The idea was that if the CD was available online, the music could spread more quickly.

"I think it's a great idea, a great compromise," junior Rich Jackson said.

Although Radiohead's approach seems revolutionary, it isn't new.

"They aren't the first to do this. I know of at least two other bands that only sold their CDs online, but Radiohead is certainly the

first mainstream band to take this new approach," senior Mark Recupido said.

Because of the higher cost of CDs, illegal downloading has become an increasingly popular way to get music.

"You don't have to go to the store or the library to get music. It's more convenient online," sophomore Mikko Moy said.

A common concern about downloading is that it would negatively impact the record sales, but a study done by the University of London casts doubt on the accuracy of this assumption.

Researchers concluded that music file-sharing actually encourages higher CD sales, or at least has a neutral effect on profits from CD purchases.

While many people know it is wrong to download music illegally, they are not afraid because they believe the consequences are rarely enforced.

"Because I was downloading without paying, the copyright holders contacted Comcast twice, who in turn emailed me to explain that they could cancel my service, but they never did," Recupido said.

Contrary to popular belief, downloaders

are being prosecuted for violating copyright law.

Just last month, a 30-year-old Minnesota mother was ordered to pay over \$220,000 in damages after downloading 24 songs on the file-sharing online program Kazaa.

But according to Jackson, illegal downloading will not stop until users are more widely prosecuted and shown that there are consequences.

Jackson says another reason for the high number of illegal downloads may be the restrictions on legally acquired music.

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**A R E
D O W N -
L O A D S
T A K I N G
O V E R?**

Noting the trend of online downloading, bands like Radiohead are spreading their music by making it available online.
Logue photo by Maggie Zhang

"People should definitely pay for their music, but they should be able to use the music how they want," Jackson said. "For example, I don't buy tracks from iTunes because it won't let me put the music on anything but an iPod."

Regardless of the conflicting opinions on downloading, one fact rings true: music distribution is changing with the times.



Logue photo by Nicole Gut

TUG-OF-WAR. Family drama includes parents fighting for brief ownership of their kids during the holidays.

Families torn apart for Thanksgiving

Lisa Koenig
Contributing Writer

Holidays are traditionally known as a time of homecomings. But with family structure and lifestyle rapidly changing, it's getting tough to decide where home is, let alone where to spend Thanksgiving dinner.

With the country's divorce rate near 50 percent, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, more and more kids are being placed in the awkward position of having to choose how—or better yet, with whom—to spend the holidays.

"Sometimes it was tough, but my ex-wife and I always worked out a plan for the holidays so the kids would feel at home no matter where they were," media center coordinator Ken Hester said.

Married families are often just as stressed when it comes to holiday planning.

Whether spent with the mom's side or dad's, families must always explain to agitated relatives why they will not be attending the annual reunion.

In order to avoid this awkward situation, some families opt to celebrate multiple Thanksgivings, which can make for a very busy holiday.

"On Sunday before Thanksgiving, I go to Thanksgiving on my dad's side. On Thanksgiving, we host it for my mom's side. That way we can see both sides of our family," junior Michelle Hand said.

The commute between family parties may include

long hours spent on the road in between get-togethers.

"I'm going to be driving for three hours to visit my dad's side of the family in Galesburg, Ill. We hardly ever see them, so it's a big thing for the whole family," senior Erin Syzdek said.

Traveling can prove especially difficult as families can be dispersed across states or even the entire country.

"I'm spending Thanksgiving with my mom's side. My dad's family lives in Maryland, so it would be really hard to go and see them, especially since we only get two days off," sophomore Tess Dinterman said.

While conflicting schedules and far-off destinations may keep some family members away this Thanksgiving, the most significant of empty chairs will be those once filled by soldiers now serving in Iraq.

"My cousin probably won't even be at Thanksgiving this year. Her boyfriend is in Iraq, and she'll be waiting by the phone for his holiday call home," sophomore Dani OBrill said.

A sense of dislocation seems to apply to modern families. Hester agrees that, for whatever reason, holidays simply are not the same as they used to be.

"I think that families have a tendency to grow up and grow out. When I was a kid, everyone stayed relatively close, but now families are all spread out," Hester said.

"Tradition has gone by the wayside as it used to be all about family, mom and her apple pie, but now it has almost become depressing for some families who are trying to balance everything out."

Save turkeys, eat greens

Shannon Fitzgerald
Contributing Writer

Eating turkey on Thanksgiving dates back to the colonial year of 1621 when the first one was served to Native Americans and Pilgrims to celebrate a bountiful harvest. Fast forward to the 21st century, and things have changed.

Today many people refuse to eat turkey, even if it is a long-established tradition.

What is a Thanksgiving feast without turkey? For some students, it is essentially the same meal, minus the meat.

For some vegetarian families, like that of freshman Becca Pappas, the meal consists solely of traditional side dishes.

"We replace the turkey with side dishes," Pappas explained.

While simple dishes will suffice for many, some students prefer to completely alter their turkey-less Thanksgiving meal with other additions.

"I eat pasta with just regular marinara sauce with an Italian salad. I basically eat some type of noodles and salad," sophomore Shelby Gumz said.

For students in non-vegetarian families, there is often the expected animosity and pressure from relatives who fail to understand why anyone would indulge in a meatless meal.

"My distant family members think it's odd and don't understand," Pappas said.

Instead of discouraging vegetarianism, junior Hannah Simpson's family shows a little compassion. Her relatives compromise each year by making two different versions of their Thanksgiving dishes, one with meat and the other without.

"Instead of having one stuffing, there are two, and same with the gravy, which means we have to cook a little more," Simpson said.

With more and more teens defying holiday tradition and making the transformation from meat-eater to vegetarian, Thanksgiving has a new twist.

But regardless of whether relatives will accept vegetarianism, all family members put aside their differences to enjoy dessert.