

STUDENT CLICKS ON INTERNET POP-UP AD

... and gets sucked into a parallel market research universe!

In an odd chain of events last Tuesday, history junior Danny Hicks got sucked into an inter-dimensional cyber prison where he was undressed, probed and implanted with a microchip. The cybernetic incarceration occurred while Hicks was searching the web for a pre-written English term paper.

"I guess it's my own fault—but I'm pretty accepting of what happened," commented Hicks. "Had I written the paper ahead of time I wouldn't have had to get on the Internet. Then I could have ignored the hundreds of pop-ups that came up on my screen, but one of them was so bright and flashy and animated, I couldn't help it. Next thing I know, various Masonic symbols started flashing on my screen, which then slowly morphed into a trans-dimensional vortex that tore me from my seat and into an electronic cage. I was placed on a cool metallic table where several high ranking marketing executives probed me. I heard one of them saying something about 'mapping money-spending regions' of my brain. Then came the chip on my hand—they never really explained that."

Though only in captivity for roughly two to four hours—the typical length of an abduction—many of his friends have described Hicks as

being a bit different since the experience.

"When I first saw him get sucked into the monitor, I was scared. Really scared," said Hicks' roommate, Bill Page. "Needless to say I shit myself and ran out of the room as fast as possible. When I returned with a force of four guys, including the maintenance dude Carl who had a crow bar, we found Danny calmly browsing Amazon.com with this sort of blank look on his face."

In his official report to police, clergy, and permafripped fringe scientists, Hicks describes his experience as "painful but necessary in becoming a productive member of the 21st century." Oddly enough he has also started requesting that he and his friends all go to Burger King to try the new South West Bacon Burger at least five times a day, and he can only go two and a half hours without mentioning that Priceline.com has the best one-way ticket prices on the net.

This change in behavior has started to annoy some of his friends. "Every time we're just sitting around smoking weed or something, he won't stop talking about Starbucks until I go over there and order a Grande Mocha Latte," com-



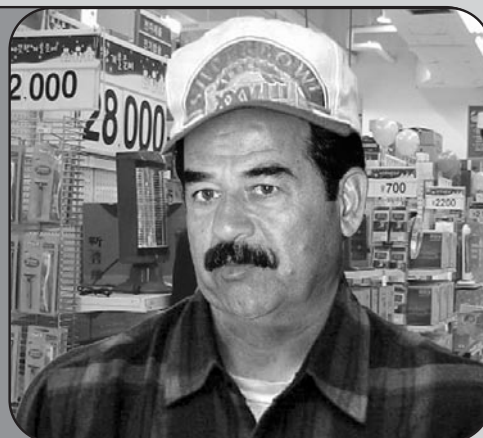
mented his companion, undeclared sophomore Gibby Plant. "Sometimes that's not even enough. Once he didn't shut up until I bought two quarts of gourmet ice cream and three brownies. I swear to God I'll kick his ass soon, but then he might not give me rides anymore. Man, I need a car."

- Greg Donelan

ALTERNATE UNIVERSE: SADDAM HUSSEIN SPOTTED SHOPPING AT WAL-MART!

"I couldn't believe my eyes!" exclaimed Barbara Jenkins, a school teacher in Omaha. "I was shopping for bean bag chairs when I saw Mr. Hussein browsing in the men's apparel department."

Mr. Hussein's alternate-dimensional counterpart reportedly purchased a pair of Wrangler jeans and a can of honey-roasted peanuts. Sources say he will return next week to buy a discounted copy of NOW That's Music vol. 10 on cassette.



(CAPTIVE AUDIENCE)



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