

Economist & Sun/Sun-Tribune

DIVERSIONS

HIGH-TECH HIGHWAY

Cellphones race into future with text messaging, personalized ring tones, video capability



Cheryl Greenspan

Notes on a Napkin

Korean cuisine emphasizes side dishes

SARIWON

7388 Yonge St., Thornhill
(just north of Clark Avenue)

905-881-5103

Specialty: Korean

Entree selection: Authentic and extensive

Price range: Starting at \$9
(most main dishes are around \$15 each)

Korean food, the newest entry in a long list of Asian cuisines to make it into the mainstream, is perhaps the most unique.

First there is the issue of kimchi. Kimchi is present at every meal and is best described as a sweet, sour and slightly spicy cabbage-based dish.

Served at room temperature, kimchi varies from restaurant to restaurant much the way pho — the classic soup of Vietnam, or pad thai is prepared quite differently from place to place.

In fact, depending on the region of Korea, there are up to 160 ways to prepare kimchi.

At Sariwon, the kimchi strongly resembles a classic vinegar-based coleslaw, but kimchi often contains other fermented vegetables such as cucumber or radish.

At Sariwon, the kimchi arrives before you order.

The other unique aspect of dining Korean-style is the vast array of side dishes. These are not ordered, they are simply brought to your table along with your main course.

See SAUCES, page 18.

BY AMY LAZAR
Staff Writer

Julie Banic types as fast as possible using one thumb. Before pressing 'send', the university student looks up from her cellphone to see if she disturbed anyone.

In a flash, the text message — Lets make mac&cheez 4 din c u @ home by 5 — is sent to her roommate's cellphone.

"I'm getting faster at it," Ms Banic said, smiling. "It's great, especially in class, because no one knows I'm talking to someone."

Text messaging has been available as a mode of communication for Canadians for almost three years. In the last year, monthly usage is up 83 per cent.

As of December 2004, Canadians have been sending 2.7 million text messages every day over their cellphones.

The Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association reported 15 million cell phone subscribers in 2004. Marketing researchers have found almost half of all Canadians aged 15 to 19 own a cellphone and that number keeps increasing.

Cellphone technology is changing rapidly and already there are phones on the market with video-recording capabilities.

Ms Banic has had a cellphone for a few years, but it was a Boxing Day sale that encouraged her to upgrade to a Sanyo Smart Camera 8100.

The silver phone is also a camera that lights up when someone calls and flashes the corresponding photo stored in her electronic phone book.

"I like it because I can see the person's face before we talk," she



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Cellphone bling bling, such as multi-coloured faceplates and fuzzy cases, is on the way out, according to Melissa Rose, owner of Super Communications. "Now people want the actual phone to have better features and not just be good-looking," she said.

said. "I also like that even if I don't have a camera with me, I can still capture the moment."

Camera phones aren't cutting edge anymore.

Cellphone technology is changing rapidly and already there are phones on the market with video-recording capabilities.

The Motorola v551 phone has the FotoFun Photo Editor appli-

cation so owners can become movie directors and graphic designers.

Not only does it make movies, but the phone can download a soundtrack, too.

Most phones on the market have the ability to download and store ring tones in an MP3 format.

Cheesy ring tones such as

Jingle Bells and Take Me Out to the Ball Game have been replaced by versions of hit songs such as Drop It Like It's Hot by Snoop Dogg and Lose My Breath by Destiny's Child.

The Nov. 6 issue of Billboard, a music industry publication known for music charts and cutting-edge entertainment stories, included the debut of a new listing: the hot ring tone chart.

Not all tones sound exactly like the radio or album version, but some are right on.

'It's all about personality. It's like a style of clothing, the music defines what your interests are.'

Tunes such as the Hockey Night in Canada theme song or the Super Mario Brothers theme, which is no. 10 on this week's Billboard chart, are touted as sounding just like the original.

The top 20 selling ring tones are compiled every week, primarily based on sales of "real music" ring tones in the United States.

Snoop Dogg has spent 15 weeks at the top of the ring tone chart but that was a surprise to Becky Kekes who just downloaded In Da Club by 50 Cent.

She was also shocked at the number of categories and tunes available on the Internet.

"When I went to the Bell website and saw how many options there were, I browsed through and found one I liked," she said.

The Thornhill resident has five ring tones programmed into her AudioVox 8600 and said they all have a different meaning.

Some make her laugh, one reminds her of a fun time and another is a tune from her childhood.

See CELLPHONES, page 18.

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