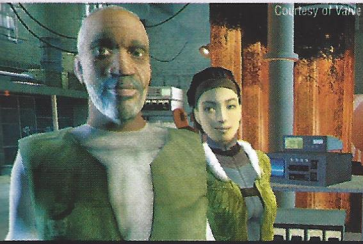
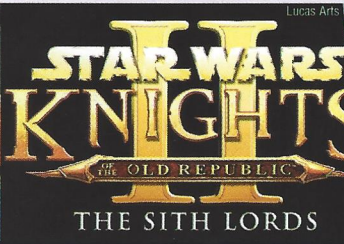


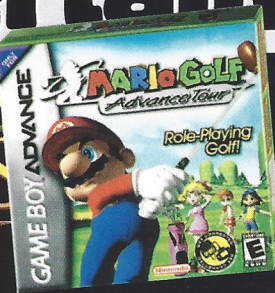
entertainment



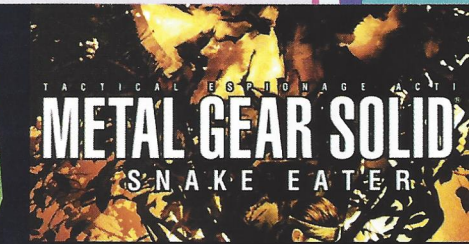
"Half-Life 2"



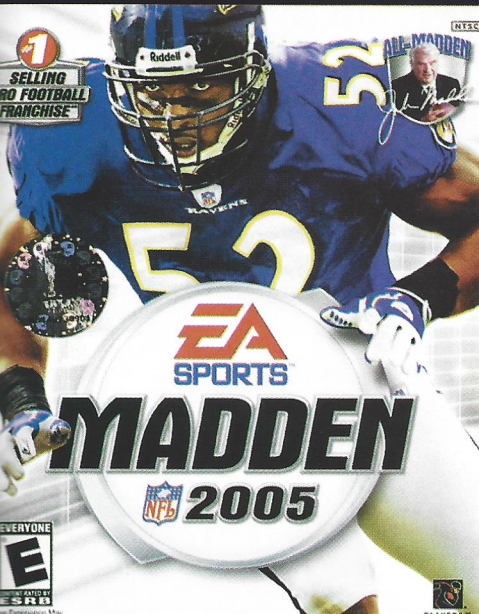
"K.O.T.O.R. II"



"Mario Golf Advance Tour"



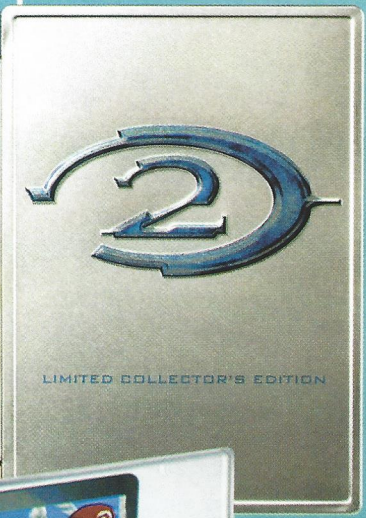
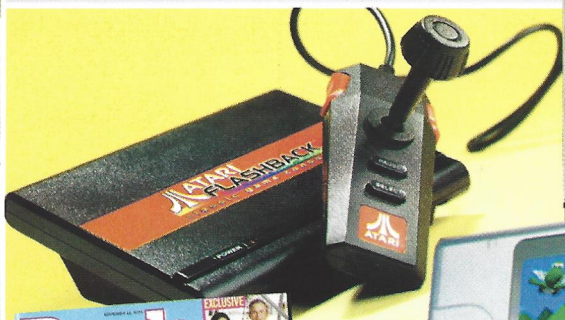
"Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater"



Video game giant Electronic Arts buys exclusive rights to the teams, players and stadiums of the NFL for its popular Madden video game franchise.

After three years, Microsoft and Bungie Studios release the most eagerly anticipated video game sequel, Halo 2. Over 5 million copies of the game sell in the first month.

The newest trend in video games is to go "old school," with plug-and-play systems featuring '80s games from the likes of Atari and Namco.



2004 is the year of celebrities having babies, as Courtney Cox-Arquette, Gwyneth Paltrow, Kate Hudson, Julia Roberts, Liv Tyler and others all become first-time mothers.

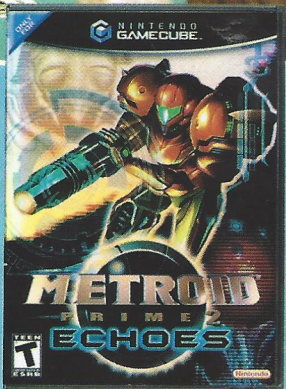
Thousands of young people become avid poker players, a trend sparked by TV shows featuring tournaments for celebrities and professional poker players.

The challenging "Metroid Prime 2: Echoes" takes home the prize as IGN.com's Gamecube Game of the Year.



The hottest "hard-to-get" toy for the holidays is the Nintendo DS handheld gaming system.

Even though it won't reach bookstores until July 16, 2005, preorders in December help J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* top several best-seller lists.



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