Meet the iGavins: KS Times is online!

By Ima Mac
with help from Ima Peesee
Technology Correspondents

PLYMOUTH, MI – The digital revolution has finally caught up with the Kara-Sean Times. After 11 years of publishing only an “analog” edition on paper, preceded by several years of similarly tree-killing Kara Times editions, this newspaper is going online.

For the first time, you can get your favorite Gavin gossip and follow the gallivanting globetrotters via this web site: www.seankaragavin.com

“We’ve made this move for both environmental and business reasons,” explains Publisher Sean Gavin. “Environmentally, we’ll be able to save thousands of trees each year. Instead, we’ll consume only electrons, which, according to the laws of physics and Al Gore, are an entirely renewable resource.”

Of course, a few paper copies will be made for subscribers who are not yet online.

Gavin also strongly denied allegations that the business motivation behind the move to online publication was a decline in the newspaper’s subscriber base. “Indeed, we hope to reach new audiences with this digital edition, including many readers who otherwise might have been getting their news from less-reputable sources such as the New York Times or the Washington Post,” he sniffed.

Editor-in-chief Kara Gavin added her enthusiastic support for the new format, noting that there are no space constraints or word limits on the World Wide Web. “I can be as verbose as I choose, and I can’t wait to start blogging,” she gushed.

The new publication strategy follows several other 2007 technological advances in the Gavin household, namely:

• The purchase of iPhones, which both Gavins call the most miraculous technology since the automatic coffee maker. Sean was reportedly seen drooling over iPhones as early as March, though he held out until September before buying one. (Another sound business decision, as the price had dropped $200 by then.) Three days later, unable to stand Kara’s acute case of “iPhone envy”, Sean went out and got her one too.

• Tentative steps into the “social networking” world of Facebook, which has given Sean the unsettling experience of being “friended” by his students and allowed Kara to reconnect with old buddies from college and even elementary school.

• Kara’s first audio podcast and live-video webcast, both created as part of her job at the University of Michigan. See the Kara-Sean Times web site for links to these.

What’s next for these wired wonders? Only time will tell. But by next year, you may be receiving the Kara-Sean Times as a brain implant. Willing to help test it? E-mail us!

No “Roman” charges?
At left, Kara and Sean ham it up on Halloween, pretending to be from a pre-digital age in their Centurion and Roman noblewoman costumes. But don’t be fooled: an iPhone is concealed beneath Sean’s tunic.

NEWSFLASH: Jeopardy! dreams delayed

Faithful readers of the Kara Sean Times will recall last year’s news that Kara had been chosen to audition in June 2006 for the TV game show Jeopardy!, hosted by Alex Trebek. It seemed to go well, but as the auditions ended, Kara and her fellow geeks were told, “Don’t call us, we’ll call you.”

By November 2007, Kara says she had all but given up on hearing from the show. Then one day, a phone message from out of the blue: Could she come to Los Angeles on Dec. 12, for a one-day taping of five shows that would air in April 2008?

The next few weeks were a blur: What to wear? Could she cram more useless knowledge into her cranium, such as all the presidents’ birthplaces, and the 1985 Oscar winner for Best Cinematography? Could her co-workers stump her with sports trivia by the water cooler? Which embarrassing anecdotes should she submit, for Alex to discuss during the introductions?

Finally, the fateful week arrived. On Dec. 11, Kara, Sean and Kara’s dad met at the Detroit airport, and got in line to board the flight to LAX. Just moments before their row was called, Kara’s cell phone rang.

It was a Jeopardy! producer. Alex Trebek had suffered a minor heart attack the previous evening, and they had to cancel the taping. With moments to spare, the would-be travelers canceled their flight.

What happens next? Well, the show has assured Kara she will still be called for a taping, perhaps as early as January. Until then, she says she’s trying not to think about it much. But once we know what day her show (or perhaps shows?) will air, a special e-mail update will be sent to all Kara Sean Times subscribers!

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More scenes from a great year...

Poster Boy: Sean was selected to be one of only seven faculty members from his college at Wayne State U. to be featured in a full-page ad in a Detroit business newspaper, about the college’s contributions to society (left). The text next to his picture (top right) calls him a “world leader.”
We say don’t give him any ideas.

Out of breath: Kara kept on blowing her own horn, mainly with the Life Sciences Orchestra that she helps run for members of the U-M science community, but also at a friend’s wedding, where she was part of the short-lived horn quartet, the Four Hornswomen of the Apocalypse.

I love a parade: Kara works out at the local Jazzercise aerobics studio, with a bunch of crazy ladies who decided to march (or rather, dance) in this year’s Plymouth Fourth of July Parade. That’s her in the center, saluting to “In the Navy” along with 23 other Jazzercisers, as they follow their homemade battleship float down Main Street.

Diva moment: On that same Ohio trip, the Gavins heard cousin Helen Lyons sing the lead role of Iphegenie in a fantastic opera.

Space cadet: On a trip to Ohio, Sean lived his dream of sitting in Neil Armstrong’s space capsule at the astronaut’s hometown museum.

Home sweet home: Though the Gavins only ventured as far as Montreal, Vermont, and New York this year, it was always good to get back home (right). Coming up next, though, is a trip to India in February!

Shower scene: For several weeks this summer, the Gavins welcomed a parade of subcontractors who succeeded in transforming their upstairs bathroom.

Check out their web site for more details and possibly a blog!

We wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Peaceful Solstice and a Happy New Year!
If you’re coming anywhere near Michigan in 2008, please let us know so you can stop by at our house, “Casablunka!”
We’re on the Internet at www.seankaragavin.com.
We hope you and yours have a wonderful holiday season, and that the New Year brings you many adventures in the digital and real worlds! - Sean & Kara Gavin