

You can't judge a book by its keypad

by **Lorena Marincas**
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"If I had a book on my phone, I would probably read more and be more inclined to read," senior Melissa Chin said.

On a similar note, junior Nadia Fiaz said, "I would buy an e-book if it was for school because it is more convenient than carrying a book around with me all day long. It is much easier."

Students and booklovers are considering whether or not the possibility of having a book on their cell phones would improve the quality of their reading or reading habits. Among the many other recent features added to phones, including photo and video cameras, Internet and music players, cell phones are starting to feature electronic books.

According to the *Chicago Tribune*, publishing companies are beginning to offer mobile versions of popular books were available. Some examples of available cell phone books are classics, such as Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. Also, reference and guide books, such as travel guides, will be offered. More available books can be found at www.mobipocket.com.

Asked if they would read books that were available electronically, "It would be really sweet, especially if we had the Bible on our phones, because you can read it wherever you want," junior Jon Gaode said. "I don't know if I would be more inclined to read than I already am. It depends on how bored I am."

Focusing on the convenience of this new feature, freshman Quincy McKinney said, "It would be one less thing that I would have to carry."

However, some students don't have a positive outlook on this feature. "I would not be more inclined to read on my phone. I need a more stable environment," sophomore Monika Singh said. "With your cell phone you are always out and about. How can you concentrate?"

The size of cell phones provides impediments, some suggest.

"Cell phones are too technical and too small," Literacy Center clerk Patricia Ference said. "Sure, it might inspire the young ones to read more but it takes away from the joy of reading a book. There is no joy in pushing a 'down' button on a cell phone while reading small text on a small screen."

Senior Vikky Mrozinski also finds the act of reading from a cell phone physically straining. "First of all, it would take me a day to finish just a chapter because my cell phone screen is very small, and I don't like looking at computerized screens for too long because it hurts my eyes."

Reluctant readers surveyed doubt that cell phone books would encourage them to read more often than they already do. "I would not be more inclined to read on my cell phone because I just don't read books," senior Elliot Chuh said.

For those who do read, the mode is irrelevant. "I would probably read the same amount that I do with printed material," freshman Jaci Moy said. "In fact, I don't buy things for my cell phone. There is a chance that if they sold books for iPods I might buy one, though."

Freshman Tracey Caloncagon agrees that an electronic book will not change her reading habits. "It's still the same material."

McKinney agrees. "A book is a book," she said. "It doesn't matter if it's on your phone or on paper; it's still the same thing. I wouldn't read books any more or less than I do now."

Chin offered a further consideration. "If it costs more than the actual book, it is actually quite a dumb idea."

