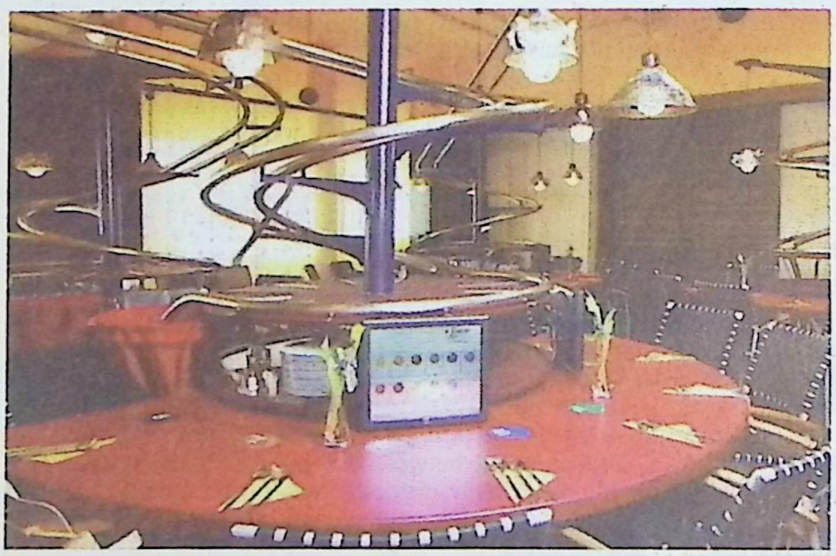


Robot-Staffed Restaurant Launches in Germany

Humans aren't perfect, therefore human waiters aren't perfect as you'll know if you've ever had hot soup spilled on you, or the wrong meal brought out. To err is human, after all. However, diners in Nuremberg, Germany won't have to put up with imperfection anymore because a new restaurant there is staffed entirely by robots.

You select your meal from touch-screens that are installed on every table, and it arrives via a spiral slide a few minutes later. Is it more convenient? Perhaps. But it's only a matter of time before we just arrive at a restaurant and have a drip installed, or pop a food pill. I'll stick with tradition here, I think, and fight the growing trend for ever faster food.



Hands-On with the Sanyo Xacti DMX-HD1000

The world's first 1080p camcorder is more than cute -it seemed like just the right weight, and its two-button design is simple to use. It felt cool and fast, but the experience was not perfect. Overall feeling is, however, plasticky. it would have been nice to touch the cool thrill of metal and get that click-tastic quality feel that you get from top end manufacturers. Still, the Xacti looks pretty easy to use - and it is. Move the slider to record and then press either the video or still button, depending on whatever you want. The Xacti starts and stops quickly, and there's a 10 x zoom.

Nippon Airways Readying Wireless Flight Check-In System

Japan's Nippon Airways are set to implement a wireless check-in system to ease the usually lengthy process. The scheme, dubbed SKIP!, shall be trialed next month and will allow passengers to check in using a microchip, containing personal information, they are issued with before flying. Passengers may book their tickets via the Internet using either a computer or mobile phone. The ticket, once issued, can then be downloaded to either a supplied IC-chip enabled mileage card or a compatible mobile phone. On arrival at the airport the mobile phone, or IC-card, is passed across a scanner and the traveller is then all set for the security line checks. That's it! Getting rid of check-in sounds like an awesome idea, but it seems this system may open up unnecessary security risks. Then again, given there are security measures post check-in anyway, it probably is not that much of an issue. Less waiting around sounds good to us; being out in the open, away from power sockets, is frankly too much for us to handle.

