

# High-tech throne is a royal flush

Technology continues to advance. A new hands-free toilet that's been installed at two Coast casinos and Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport is winning rave reviews from women.

"Whoever invented this is a genius," said Denise Jackson, a housekeeper at Isle of Capri, which put in about 55 of the toilets eight months ago.

Jackson said the hands-free toilets are more sanitary than standard fixtures and make it easier for employees to keep restrooms clean.

Jackson isn't the only fan of the hands-free toilets, developed by Alan Brill of Delray Beach, Fla. Former first lady Barbara Bush used one of the toilets during a 2001 visit to Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. Mrs. Bush was so impressed, airport officials said she told a female Secret Service agent to check it out.

Here's how the high-tech throne works: A plastic sleeve, similar to the bags newspapers come in, covers the seat. Whenever a woman waves her hand in front of a sensor, a fresh section of sleeve slides over the seat. When the seat is running low on new sections of plastic, a green line appears so housekeepers know it's time to change the roll.

Brill said the plastic seat covers eliminate the need for women to tear off sections of toilet paper in order to cover the seat. This reduces the



by Timothy  
Boone  
Casino  
Beat

You may wonder why there's a woman-centered focus on the hands-free toilets.

Brill said there isn't much demand for the toilets in men's rooms, because guys just don't spend as much time in public bathrooms.

"They just run in, use the bathroom with the seat down, because they know they're not at home

and their wives won't hit them, and then head back to the casino floor," he said.

The plastic sleeves reduce the amount of time women spend in bathrooms, leaving them with more time to gamble.

"They installed the hands-free toilets at the Mohegan Sun casino in Connecticut and the slot revenue went up," Brill said.

Rich Westfall, a spokesman for the Isle of Capri, said the hands-free toilets are a perfect fit for casinos. After all, the typical slot player is a woman, and slots account for the overwhelming majority of a casino's gambling revenue.

The hands-free toilet seats are free, but Brill charges \$4 for a roll of plastic sleeves, which are good for 100 bathroom visits.

Misty Daniels, a housekeeper at Isle of Capri, said it takes only a few seconds to change a roll of seat covers.

"This is just so much easier," Daniels said.

The hands-free toilets have been installed all over the Isle



TIMOTHY BOONE/THE SUN HERALD

Alan Brill is president of Brill Hygienic Products and developer of the hands-free toilet.

pick up on the idea.

## Tunica on silver screen?

One of my favorite pastimes is checking out Web sites for movie news and gossip. One site, [aintitcool.com](http://aintitcool.com), has an interview with Elmore Leonard, the best-selling author of crime novels such as "Out of Sight" and "Get Shorty," in which he discusses the status of several movie adaptations.

The main item of interest is that "Tishomingo Blues" appears to be headed for the theaters. The book is about Dennis Lenahan, a high diver who performs at the Tishomingo Lodge, a fictional Tunica County casino. Lenahan witnesses a murder and gets mixed up with the Dixie Mafia, a local drug dealer and Civil War re-enactors. Like all of Leonard's novels, it's a good read with plenty of laughs and

George Clooney and director Steven Soderbergh will produce the movie and actor Don Cheadle will direct.

Plans are to start production right after "Ocean's Twelve" finishes shooting later this year. That's right, a sequel to "Ocean's Eleven" is in the works.

The Internet Movie Database ([imdb.com](http://imdb.com)) says Matthew McConaughey will star in "Tishomingo Blues" along with Cheadle. The site also says the movie will be shot in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Let's hope Cheadle shoots his movie in Tunica County. After all, he's already got a potential location for the Tishomingo Lodge since the Isle of Capri has an empty casino there.

Timothy Boone can be reached