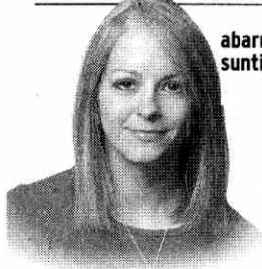


## AROUND THE HOUSE

## BBQ Pit, for nice, leisurely cooking

AMANDA BARRETT

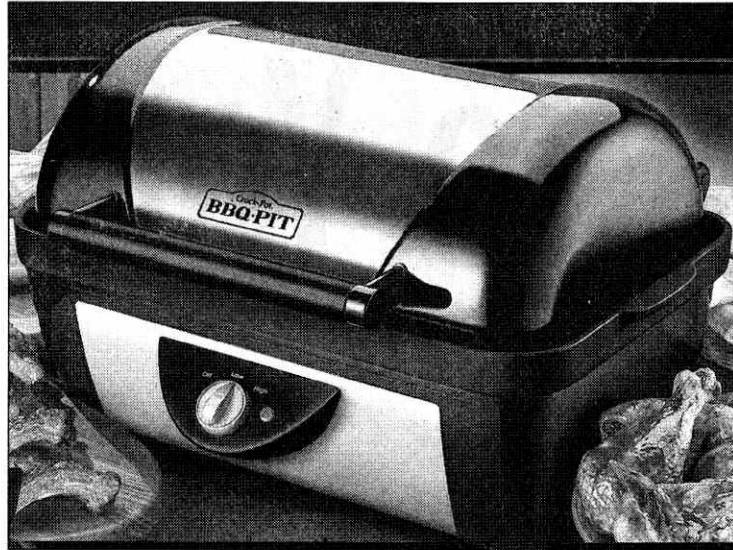


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suntimes.com

The first item up for review is a slow-roaster from Rival called the **BBQ Pit**. My co-worker Miriam Di Nunzio was intrigued by the product, so let's hear her take:

The key word in the name of this product is "slow-roaster." Let's put it another way, a roasted chicken over 4 hours of cooking time. That's not a turkey, but a premium whole chicken, unstuffed. But I'm getting ahead of myself. But then, as the instruction manual points out, true slow cooking means just that — your food can take all day to cook, which may or may not be to your liking. The roaster is compact, fairly lightweight and comes with a nice handle for easy carrying.

The 2-position rack conveniently stores inside the unit. The nonstick stoneware pan is a joy and it was very easy to clean. The cookbook that comes along with the cooker is easy to use, the recipes and rubs are very simple, even for a non-chef like me. I opted for the whole chicken with lemon, thyme and garlic. The directions call for 3 to 4 hours cooking time on high, which I followed to the letter. The results: it took 4½ hours of cooking time for the 4-pound chicken. The taste: it was quite moist, and there was some lovely browning of the skin. The verdict: I think it's a nice novelty, but I wouldn't make a habit of using it simply because of the long cooking time involved. If a recipe calls for the "low" or true



Rival's BBQ Pit browns meat nicely and slowly, and is available for \$89.99.

slow-roasting setting, plan on 5 to 7 hours of cooking time. Great for getting a headstart on your dinner when you leave for work in

the morning. The instruction manual recommends basting only in the last half-hour of cooking time, to insure you don't let the roaster's interior temperature drop by constantly opening the lid for basting or sneaking a peek at your meal.

(Sells for \$89.99 at Wal-Mart, Target and other stores.)

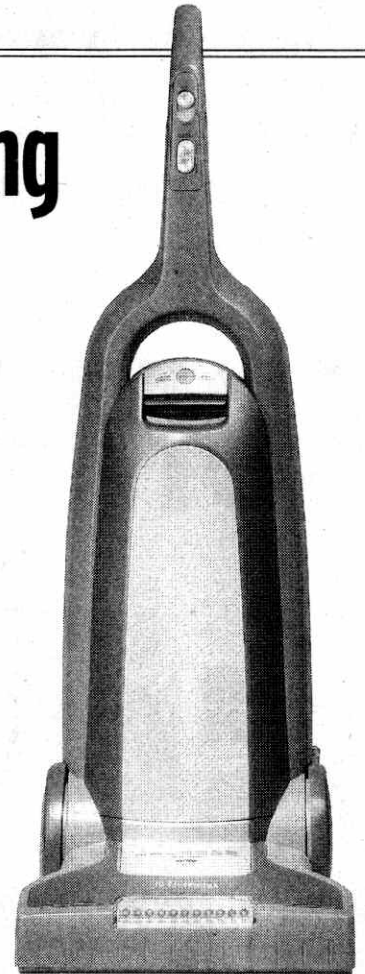


Keurig's single-cup brewing system is simple to use, and tastes great, too.

Finally, a single-cup coffee brewer that every one in the office agreed was terrific — **Keurig's Special Edition B60 Gourmet Single Cup Home Brewing System** (\$199 at Marshall Field's, Bloomingdales and others).

The set-up time took less than 15 minutes; and the brewing is simplicity itself — place the "K-cup" of coffee in the brewer, pick your cup size and push the corresponding button. Fresh coffee in less than 30 seconds, and it's great-tasting too.

The "cups" of coffee are available in more than 100 varieties at [www.keurig.com](http://www.keurig.com). (A 25-pack is \$13.95.)



Electrolux's Oxygen3 vacuum cleaner adjusts for different surfaces.

◆◆◆  
Electrolux recently unveiled its snappy-looking (and performing) **Oxygen3** vacuum cleaner.

This one is a standout for its ability to switch from plush carpeting to bare floors by just hitting a button. It also has a setting for adjusting the brushroll, which can be used on thick, bushy carpet or low-pile carpets.

There's a hose attachment for cleaning upholstery, and other tools for easy cleaning. Other features: the cord snaps right back into place (which sounds silly, but I've always tangled my vacuum cords), and it's quiet enough so that your pets won't go nuts when it runs.

Sells for \$499.99. Visit [www.electroluxusa.com](http://www.electroluxusa.com) for a store near you.

Amanda Barrett is *HomeLife* Editor.