

# Untangling the Web

Exploring the World Wide Web opens new doors and helps develop new insights into our world

By Anne Moser-Kornfeld  
Entertainment Editor

The World Wide Web and interactive media exploded in 1995 and with it the advent of the Information Age moves today's generation away from labels such as "Gen X" to the latest, "online generation."

What this means for students at the University is that besides classes available in computer technology and design, the Internet has opened them up to the world. Students can learn a second language or communicate with others whose experiences are completely different from their own.

According to a spokesperson at the Computing Center, student interest in creating personal home pages has risen considerably in the past year. Also for many students, an e-mail directory has become as commonplace as phone and address listings in their daily calendar.

But does this mean the Internet and the World Wide Web are simply a source of entertainment? One computer franchise specializing in computer rentals, Bit by Bit, doesn't want customers to think this.

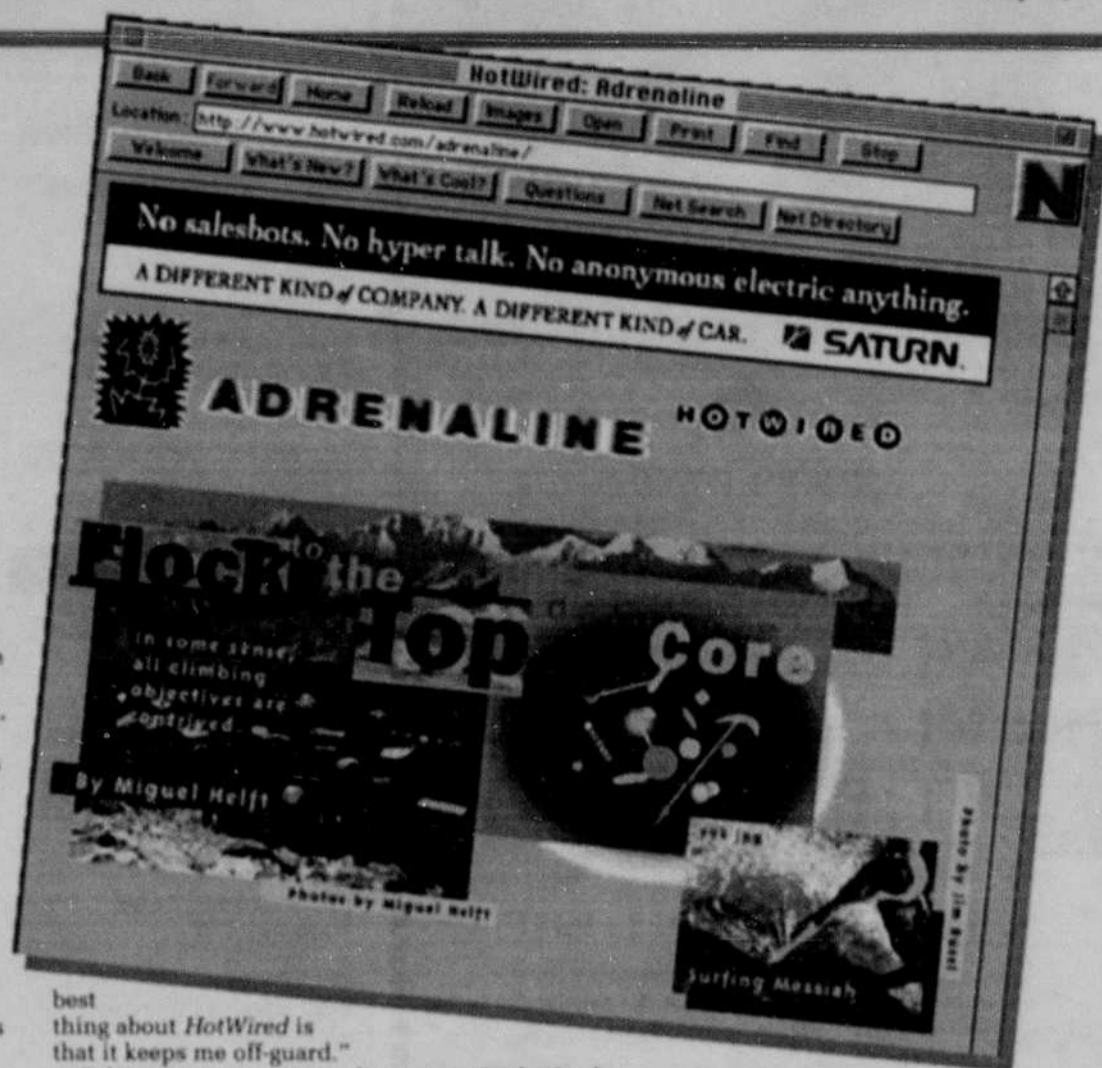
The shop's monthly newsletter includes information about their Super Bowl XXX computer rentals and welcomes customers to view their Web site at <http://www.Bit-by-Bit.com> for updated information.

However, the Internet and the World Wide Web are not just mass markets for companies to advertise their products through a new medium.

Online publications, including *HotWired*, reach audiences in the digital community. Their audiences readily embrace the mixes of hyperlinked text, video and sound.

"*HotWired* is not *Wired* magazine with another name. It's the heartfelt expression of the passion of its creators," Joshua, a *HotWired* team spokesperson, said.

Members, who pay nothing to join *HotWired's* online community, say the best thing about *HotWired* is its innovation. One member said, "The



best thing about *HotWired* is that it keeps me off-guard."

Columns cover topics as diverse as a Web "Surf du Jour" and "TeeVee," which informs audiences that the creators will "watch television so you don't have to."

*HotWired's* site is completely user-friendly focusing on commerce, the arts, industry gossip and communications technology.

Besides countless lists of online magazines, music companies enter the online world everyday to take advantage of the Web's growing presence.

The Rolling Stones and the Grateful Dead, whose members, for example, held an hour-long press conference on Dec. 8 to announce their break-up, and a number of heavy metal groups provide touring information that can be found at various Web sites. (To locate these, use the Web address for the search tool, Yahoo, found in the sidebar.)

No longer are terms as dated as "coach potato" or "computer nerds" relevant when describing computer enthusiasts and it's also no longer possible to categorize users by the platform they use.

Very simply put, as the online editors at *HotWired* said, "the new medium demands new thinking and new content."

## Worth a look . . .

■ [http://www.yahoo.com/Business\\_and\\_Economy/Business\\_Directory/Companies/Media/Newspaper](http://www.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Business_Directory/Companies/Media/Newspaper)  
A great resource for national newspapers online

■ <http://ESPN.SportsZone.com>  
Check out the links to ESPN NHL and College Football

■ <http://www.ws.pipex.com/tis/horoscopes/hora5.htm>  
Internet horoscopes, have some fun.

■ <http://www.yahoo.com/entertainment>  
Yahoo is the best Web crawler and by using you'll find links to Letterman's Top 10 List, Dilbert and even possible employment leads

## 1995 entertainment was terminally stuck in the past

Happy New Year everybody! As we stand at the edge of the springboard preparing to dive head first into 1996, it is good to pause for a moment to reflect on the year gone by in the world of entertainment.

What does 1995 say about western society today, and where it might be going? Which stars are going to burn out and which will suddenly light up the marquee of the world?

Who would have thought the star of the cheese-ball *Naked Gun* films and Hertz car rental commercials, O.J. Simpson, would have captured the attention of millions of Americans with a stunning portrayal of a jealous megalomaniac wrongly accused of slaughtering his wife.

If Simpson doesn't get an Emmy for the scene where he struggles in vain to pull a black glove over his hand in front of the villainous Marcia Clark, then there is no justice in justice.

While O.J. found success in the TV murder mystery market, Michael

### ON THE SCENE



Ted Hinds

Jackson may be a star that is burning out, big time. Just a few years back, this guy started saving the universe at Disneyland.

Now he's trying desperately to save his lifestyle after paying off the family of a boy that claims Jackson

molested him. Sales of Jackson's latest album didn't quite reimburse the reported \$100 million settlement.

Accused child molesters are not the only music superstars of the 1980s trying to survive the 1990s. After breaking alternative giants like Pearl Jam by marketing them through hard music shows, M-TV has turned its back on metal bands that were its bread and butter in the past.

Ozzy Osbourne and Bon Jovi released CDs that failed to dent the charts. However, other more venerable and mainstream artists like Van Halen and AC/DC continued to dominate despite little

attention from MTV.

Nirvana became bigger than ever following the death of Kurt Cobain, who shot himself. Jerry Garcia shot himself a different way for fun, but managed to kill himself as well. The Grateful Dead announced their break-up, though rumors persist that remaining members will tour in the future. Meanwhile, merchandise for Nirvana and the Dead sold very well in 1995.

It was also a year for big comebacks. Robert Plant and Jimmy Page, of Led Zeppelin fame, struck platinum. David Bowie revitalized his career by going on tour with Nine Inch Nails.

The long-awaited Beatles reunion proved that some things are better left in the past as Paul, Ringo, George, and video clips of John Lennon were a relative dud considering the mammoth hype that went into the two new Beatles songs.

The Sex Pistols did not integrate video footage of Syd Vicious into a reunion, but they didn't have to because Green Day and Rancid took care of that

for them. Somehow punk made a comeback and continues to be big business in 1996.

On the big screen, 1970s sex symbol John Travolta took his place at the Oscars along with new stars like Brad Pitt and Jim Carey.

Once again it looks like the 1970s are in and the 1980s are out as big names from ten years past such as Eddie Murphy flopped at the box office. Oliver Stone gave up the 1960s for the 1970s with his latest picture, *Nixon*.

It shouldn't be too hard to spot a new trend developing or notice how it is becoming evident on the local scene as well. In Portland, many of the live music clubs are ripping out their stages and putting up disco balls!

In 1995, the '80s maxim "Death before disco" yielded to the image of '70s disco king, John Travolta, and his antithesis, Johnny Rotten of the Sex Pistols.

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