

# Webcams allow view of campus on World Wide Web

*The cameras raise slight concerns about privacy but will remain online*

By Tricia Schwennesen  
Oregon Daily Emerald

People interested in the University can get a bird's-eye view of students and the campus — right from the comfort of their own homes.

Anyone can see the University by visiting several Web sites that display real-time images from cameras around campus.

The newest camera peers down on the Lawrence Hall courtyard from a third story window in Allen Hall, relaying images on the journalism school's home page at <http://jcomm.uoregon.edu>.

Josh Hough, a senior journalism

major and Webmaster for the journalism school home page, said the Allen Hall camera is an experiment he plans to develop further.

The webcam has been operating for about a month. This self-proclaimed webcam buff said he got the idea from another University webcam operated by Craig Hickman, associate professor of fine and applied arts.

Hickman's camera, which has been transmitting for nearly five years, faces north over Franklin Boulevard from a second story mezzanine window in Lawrence Hall.

The Lawrence Hall camera shoots one frame per minute in color and is broadcast live on the Internet at <http://camera2.uoregon.edu/webcam/webcam.html>.

Hickman said he liked the idea

of "real time."

"It's kind of like magic to see some place in the world, right now," Hickman said. "It's just the idea that you could see someplace — maybe a non-special place. It gives people the opportunity to see something new."

Every once in a while, the computer network crashes, leaving the camera disabled. Hickman said he once received a phone call from a student's parent in another state. The parent was actually depending on the camera to show a picture of the student as a surprise for his father's birthday.

"All over the world, every few minutes, someone from somewhere is looking at it," Hickman said. "One of the things I wanted with my camera was a high-quality image."

Hough's camera in Allen hall captures one frame per second — which is almost full-motion video compared to other webcams. Movie videos run at 15 to 30 frames per second.

"You can't do that on the Internet yet because there's just not enough speed," Hough said.

According to an article in the

The Oregonian, webcam technology is developing more quickly than online legal regulations or even ethical concerns.

"I don't really think there's anything wrong with it unless people are zooming in on women in their dorms or something," said Selena Brewington, a computer science and information technology major.

Tim Gleason, dean of the journalism school, said the webcam is not an invasion of students' privacy.

"It's simply a camera trained on a public area," Gleason said. "They give you a look at the campus — a real-time look at the University of Oregon."

Gleason said Hough's camera is not being used for surveillance, and there are no means of storing the images.

"It's as if you walked by that window right at that moment," Gleason said.

Hough said most of the people he has talked to think the webcam is neat. Only one person expressed "some slight concern about privacy," he said.

"I don't really agree with that," Hough said. "You can't really see that

much — it's not like you can identify anyone's face as they walk by."

Brewington, Hough and Hickman all agree that the situation would be different if webcam quality was better.

Hickman said he reconsidered his webcam when he moved offices from Lawrence Hall to a ground-level office on the Mill Race. But the webcam stayed behind in his old office.

"As long as I've been looking at it, I've never been able to recognize anyone I knew," Hickman said.

If the camera was placed on the ground level, identifying people who passed by would be easier.

"I'm not sure it would be wrong, it would just be different," Hickman said.

Brewington said he believes webcams are just a novelty for people who like looking at other people.

"The resolution is bad, and you can't really tell who's walking by," Brewington said.

Hough said unless he receives some serious complaints, he will continue with his webcam experiment.



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## Law

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concerned citizens from around the world to share ideas, experience and expertise on an array of environmental issues.

When the conference started in the early 1980s, it was a chance for regional lawyers concerned with the environment to come together and network.

Now, the conference draws participants from more than 40 countries and addresses regional, national and global environmental issues.

This year's theme, "Fierce Green Fire," inspired by the work of nature writer Aldo Leopold, links a broad range of environmental movements.

"It started legal and local, then roamed to something bigger and broader," said Joe Serres, co-director of the conference. "This year's conference has a very diverse line-

up, more than ever before."

While the conference will have several new topics and speakers, a familiar face will open the proceedings.

For the 17th consecutive year, David Brower, former executive director of the Sierra Club and founder of Earth Island Institute and Friends of the Earth, will give the opening keynote address at 7 p.m. tonight in the EMU Ballroom.

"He is the leading inspiration behind the environmental movement in the latter half of the 20th century," said Brett Paben, another conference co-director.

Julia Butterfly Hill, one of Friday's keynote speakers, is a forest activist who has been living for more than a year in an ancient redwood tree near Stafford, Calif. She climbed the redwood in December

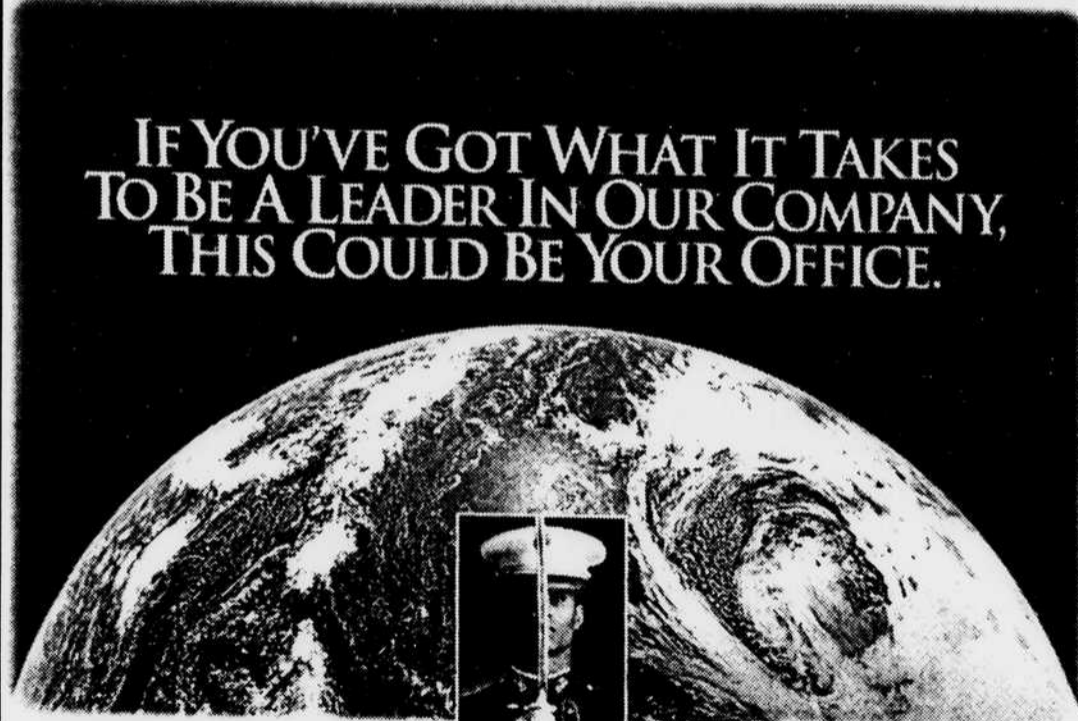
1997 in an effort to save the tree and to bring worldwide attention to the destruction she saw occurring in old-growth forests.

Because Hill won't come down from the tree, she will be giving her speech over the phone. She'll be part of three keynote speeches from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday in the EMU Ballroom.

Controversial issues addressed at the conference will include panels and presentations on the validity of eco-sabotage, the possibilities of optimum population policies, the Y2K problem in nuclear facilities and the Makah whaling controversy.

In addition to the many panels, presentations and speakers at the conference, films, music and nature walks will also be available to participants.

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