

Treasure hunters find new hobby

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Contributing Writer

Find the cache. Watch out for muggles. Don't forget to log your visit.

As a child, a person fond of being a pirate or treasure hunter, geocaching is her hobby.

Searching for hidden objects using Global Positioning System (GPS) is gaining momentum each year. In Oregon City alone, there are more than 200 caches scattered all over the city, including four right here on the college campus.

Caches are usually boxes filled with small toys, snacks, and a pen and paper to log your visit. When an item is found, the geocacher is expected to leave an item of equal value in place. The geocaching hobby is possible for everyone.

maintenance. Cachers attempt to be discreet while on the hunt, as to not let muggles, or non-geocachers, see what they are doing. It is because of the fear of cache vandalism that makes geocachers try to be private.

According to the Geocaching.com, the hobby began on May 3, 2000, a few days after the U.S. Government disabled a security feature, called Selective Availability (SA) that made GPS units less accurate by creating random errors when used.

After SA was disabled, one theory states that Dave Ulmer, a Beaver Creek resident, placed a five-gallon bucket near his home, and posted the coordinates online. While there are many other theories regarding the birthplace of geocaching, this legend is the most exciting for Oregon residents.

When a person conceals a cache, they log on to geocaching.com and enter the coordinates to their hide. It is then that the cache is open to public viewers of

the Web site. On the site, which lists over 680,000 caches throughout the world, there are often clues to help the seeker find the hidden object.

The deciphered clue to one of the Geocaches here at the campus is, "The cache is at ground level under small pieces of concrete." The cache has had 94 logged visits since being placed in January 2007. Robert Taylor, a local geocacher, believes that campus security has been discouraging the public from entering the area where his cache is hidden.

As geocaching is a covert operation, the name used is a code name. Taylor, or "ORNITH," has been geocaching off and on since the sport began. He also participated with the Clackamas County Tourism Development Commission and placed 22 caches for them, as well as one of the four here at Clackamas.

The funniest thing anyone has left at one of his caches was, "A 30 lb weightlifting weight, a seriously macabre mannequin head - just about anything can be left, but if it doesn't fit in a weatherproof geocache, you can expect serious deterioration in the Oregon weather."

Geocaching can be done any day of the year, in any kind of weather. The only requirements are: an adventurous seeker, Internet access, and transportation.

While a GPS unit can make finding the cache a lot easier, Google maps, from the geocaching.com Web site, is also an option for those who would like to try out the sport without



Geocachers

Lingo

Cache: shortened version of the name geocache.

DNF: Did not find, an acronym used to state that the cacher did not find a cache. Also used to alert cache owners of potential problems with their cache.

GPS: Global Positioning System, a network of satellites that work with a GPS receiver to determine your position on the planet.

Ground zero: This is the point where your GPS unit shows that you are zero feet from the cache.

Muggle: a non-geocacher, or someone who accidentally stumbles upon a cache.

For more information, visit www.geocache.com

the initial investment. A map can be used on some of the simpler caches. GPS units can cost anywhere from around \$90 to several hundreds of dollars.

Caches are located in many countries, on every continent on Earth. There are many in Clackamas County, and can easily be looked up using a zip code on the Web site.

"It is a great activity for young and old. It teaches awareness of your environment. It takes you to places that many people will never see," Taylor said.

Adventure types, as well as computer geeks, get a thrill out of discovering a cache.

There are hundreds of geo-

caches in the Oregon City area. No school for most of the month of December means plenty of free time.

"Try it. You'll like it!" Taylor said.

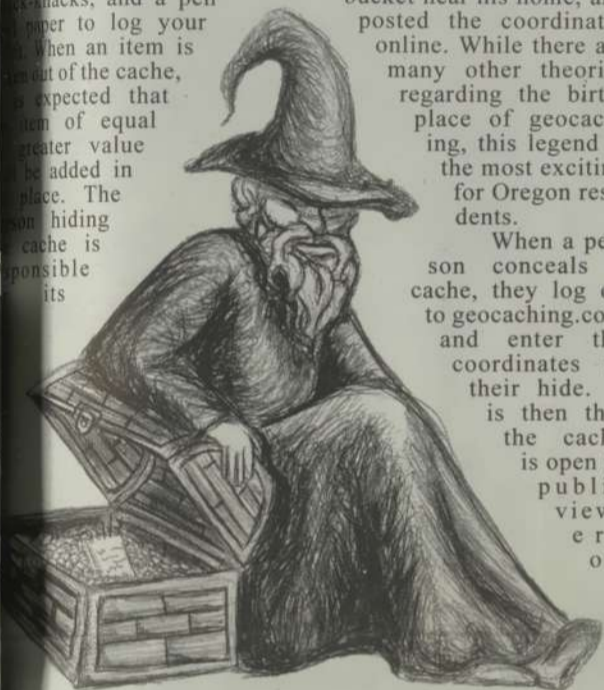


Photo illustration by Kayla Berge Clackamas Print

Students fight exhaustion with energy boosting drinks

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With finals just around the corner, many students are looking for a little legal lift, a boost they need to get through those nights of cramming nine weeks of education on their already exhausted minds.

Coffee, tea, and cola just aren't seem to do the trick anymore, and that has left the door open for a new contender in the energy drink market.

From Red Bull, Rockstar, and 5-Hour Energy, to more recent drinks like Monster and Amp, the energy drink market seems to have a common theme: caffeine.

Deal in the video gamer's market and games that sound like they were made up by, well, over-caffeinated geeks.

In 1997, Red Bull came to the U.S. from Austria and started the energy drink revolution. Red Bull was adapted from a Thai drink called Maeng Daeng that is sup-

posed to help with jet lag. Since the day it hit the shelves, it has continued to dominate and still makes up 50 percent of the energy drink market.

Red Bull contains taurine - from which it gets its name - and about as much caffeine as a cup of coffee. This is now the model which most of the other brands base their own drinks on.

Most of these energy drinks do the same thing - a little B12 here, a dash of taurine or guarana there and the caffeine to fill in the cracks.

Many now come in larger 16 ounce cans rather than the Red Bull model of 10 ounces, but even Red Bull sells larger variations.

All of these have come under fire for the potential health risk, many for marketing toward young teens. A lot of trouble has come from the connection to partying. In the end though, most endure the bad press and do their best not to look too "bad."

But then there was Cocaine.

One can already imagine the trouble an energy named Cocaine has been in. Schools, parents and news anchors all seem appalled at the marketing of this extremely highly caffeinated beverage. The writing on the can is even made to look like lines of true cocaine.

Beyond the drug connection and bad press is even more trouble.

The ingredients in this drink go far beyond the norm for standard energy substance abuse. Where an eight-ounce can of Red Bull has 76 milligrams of caffeine, Cocaine, which is now called No Name, contains an astounding 280 milligrams.

Copypac companies have tried to capitalize on Cocaine's press. Blow began duplicating the marketing concept from the drink, and package their energy powder in vials and even are shipped online in a Styrofoam box made to look like a brick of cocaine and come with a fake credit card and a mirror. The powder is meant to be put into a beverage to give it a kick, not



Photo by Robert Crawford Clackamas Print

Various popular energy drinks are stacked on a shelf at Fred Meyer in Oregon City.

ingested nasally as the packaging may suggest.

Corey Stenhouse goes to Clackamas, and has his share of late nights to power through. He mentions that he has had most every energy drink on the market, even Cocaine.

"That stuff is horrible, I felt like the back of my throat had been burned with hot gravel or something," Stenhouse said.

Another student, Nick Jackson, says he enjoys Red Bull more than the others.

"It isn't so sweet and syrupy; you only need the small

can anyway, the bigger ones just make you feel sick," Jackson said.

Health concerns have always been an issue with these powerful pick-me-ups, but most college students have already given up on worrying about health the second week they got here.

The majority of students know that when you go up, you've got to come down, and the higher you fly the harder you crash. But now and then, a little legal boost helps get the job done.

"That stuff is horrible ... I felt like the back of my throat had been burned with hot gravel or something."

Corey Stenhouse
Student