



The Breeze

James Madison University's Student Newspaper

Green initiative backed by students, page 3

Vol. 84, Issue 51

Monday, April 16, 2007

A whole new

WORLD...

Google Earth takes students miles away with a click of the mouse

BY KIM CHI HA
senior writer

People no longer need a \$1,500 plane ticket to visit the Egyptian pyramids. Google Earth, a virtual globe that provides 3-D satellite images of earth allows a user to virtually travel anywhere in the world.

"It's the greatest software invention of the 21st century," said Steve Anderson, professor of the school in media arts and design. "My wife and I went to Italy last summer and I used Google Earth extensively before to pre-tour areas we would be going."

The satellite image resolutions, all taken within the last three years, are so clear in most large cities that users can usually discern buildings, football fields and cars. As this has raised alarm in several nations concerned about matters of national security, Google Earth has agreed to blur out several locations around the globe.

"I look at places I've never been before, like palaces and monuments in the Middle East or known tourist spots in Europe," senior Jarrod Taylor said. "It has a cool feature that puts markers on important parts of different areas you are looking at and it gives you basic information about it."

John Woody, a professor in the school of media arts and design, also enjoys the program.

"I could spend hours on it flying with a good cup of coffee," he said. Google Earth enables anyone to update "placemarks" around the globe that users can click on to learn about different sites.

"The user contribution feature of Google Earth makes some of the information inaccurate, but the wealth of information is amazing and truly useful," Anderson said.

It also allows users to zoom in on a city to view hotels, apartments, restaurants or metro stations, a feature that can provide practical help for

many users.

"I have been looking for apartments in Reston, Va., and not only can I find their locations and ratings of their complex, but I can also get driving directions from their exact spot," senior Brian Singer said. "You can also find dining locations through the layers, and if I was going up there it shows hotels and their prices."

Woody said the 3-D program has also had an impact in the classroom.

"Last year I was in Chile where I shot a high-definition video on top of a mountain [in] Santiago," Woody said. "I went back and showed my class what I had videotaped, and then through Google Earth, I was able to show them the exact location where my camera had been, a 360 — degree view."

But Google Earth is not just a glorified world map.

The program has a new feature which allows users to type in current international crises such as the Darfur crisis. Users are then virtually flown across the Atlantic Ocean into Sudan where they can see sites and photographs of destroyed villages and read about the problems facing the nation.

"Google Earth helps place the issue in the context of a physical location where one can actually see, in a high-resolution imager, the physical destruction of the land," said Anderson.

"It tends to bring the issue closer to home in an almost experiential way, and it's fairly easy to see how such a tool can be used to raise...social consciousness."



LAUREN PACK/
graphics editor

Craving cookies?

Student starts a sweet new delivery service

BY CAROLINE COURNOYER
contributing writer

Pizza. Chinese. Vending machines. These are the three choices that JMU students are faced with when they desire late-night snacks.

Sophomore computer information sciences major Scott Davidson hopes to broaden students' options with his new delivery service, Craving Cookies, which will begin in fall 2007.

The appeal of Davidson's endeavor is a new choice for students to indulge in when they crave something other than pizza or Chinese food.

"Our top priority is to get it to you fast and fresh and have quality cookies that everybody enjoys," Davidson said.

"I'm not going to stop at cookies. I'm also going to deliver Red Bull because it's not offered to students on campus. What I'm not going to have is sugary products. Rather than Coca-Cola, I will offer green tea and milk."

Davidson plans to operate Craving Cookies from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. every night of the week. He will be hiring a complete staff of people willing to lead his innovative enterprise into a successful first year and beyond.

"When I find something I love to do, there is no stopping me," Davidson said.

"If I see it's doing well by November and December, I'm going to look to expanding the company to other schools in Virginia, then the East Coast, eventually the Mid-Atlantic."

Students as well as members of the Harrisonburg community can order anywhere from a dozen to 200 cookies online at cravingcookies.org through credit cards, PayPal or cash. Davidson encourages organizations to use his simple, online delivery service for various events.

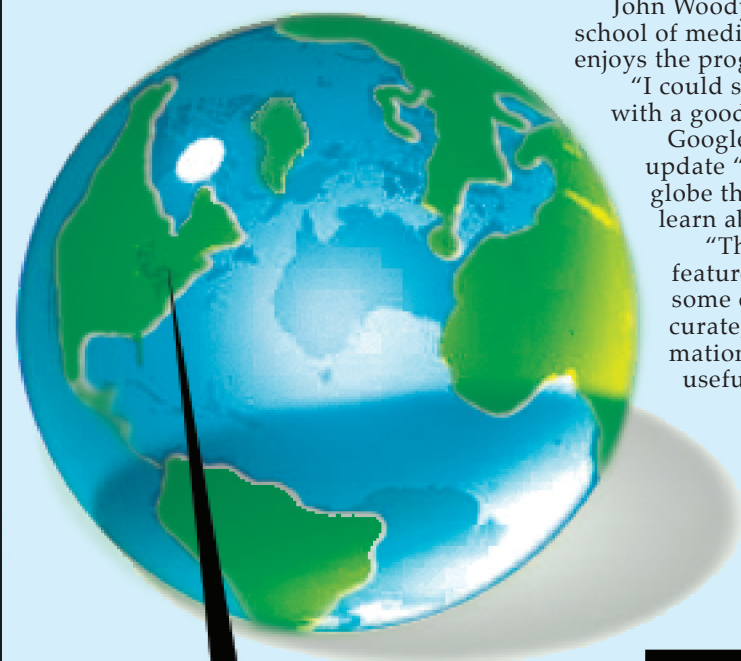
Craving Cookies will offer a promotion during exam week, delivering cookies and coffee to students.

"I think it's a good idea because people will definitely need to stay awake and that will help them," freshman Amy Crockett said.

Davidson said he has found his niche offering alternatives to the usual late-night snacks but said he also takes pride in his plan to maintain a close relationship with his customers.

"The last thing I would want for my company is to lose support from my customers," Davidson said. "So I wouldn't want to be too big where I

see COOKIES, page 5



LAUREN PACK/graphics editor



Holocaust speakers to focus on past, present genocides

Guests to include former Chinese political prisoner, Holocaust survivor and JMU prof

BY ASHLEY HOPKINS
news editor

It's been more than sixty years since more than 9 million people were victim to Nazi persecution during World War II, but their stories still have impact.

Holocaust Remembrance Week kicks off today, with events designed to educate both the JMU and Harrisonburg community about genocide. This year's events will draw parallels between the Holocaust and genocidal activities in present-day Sudan.

"I think it's important for people to think about the Holocaust and genocide in general," said Kevin Apple, a professor in the department of psychology who will present this week. "It will be a week to reflect on what happened during the Holocaust and the genocide going on now."

Three speakers were chosen to address this issue.

Harry Wu, a former political prisoner held in the Chinese prison system in the Laogai for 19 years, will speak today at 7 p.m. in Grafton-Stovall Theatre. Risking his life to document Chinese human rights abuses and violations, Wu witnessed the death of fellow prisoners

from neglect and execution, and went on to testify on what he had seen to various countries, governments and the United Nations.

Mark Strauss, a Holocaust survivor, will speak on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Transitions in Warren Hall. He will discuss his experiences as a teenager during the Holocaust.

Apple will also speak during the week long event. For his presentation on Thursday at 7 p.m. in Moody Hall, room 109, he will lead a discussion on the social psychology of the Holocaust and genocide. He teaches a course on this as well.

The speakers are presented by Hillel with the support of the Center for Multicultural Student Services, the Office of International Programs, the Nelson Institute, the Asian Student Union and Amnesty International.

Matt Wolf, president of Hillel, is optimistic about the program and said that it has drawn large crowds in the past. Two years ago, when Hillel brought Paul Rusesabagina from Hotel Rwanda, they had to turn people away at the door, and Wolf hopes that this year will be as successful.

"[We want to] get people to understand what's going on in the world outside the local community," he said.

A taste of JMU



MINDI WESTHOFF/senior photographer

The Office of Admissions sponsored CHOICES for admitted freshman and their families on Friday. Campus was inundated with future Dukes taking tours of the campus. Hundreds of JMU students volunteered to direct traffic and answer questions throughout the day.