

Cyber-cruising the World Wide Web

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BY KRISTINE BREWER
STAFF WRITER

Still without an e-mail address? Never fear, getting one is quicker and less painful than a trip to the DMV.

All students with a current UNLV ID can establish an e-mail account on campus. The account is set up through the user liaison computer lab on the second floor of the Systems Computing Services building. It takes minimal paper work and one working day for the e-mail account to be opened.

Novice computer users need not be intimidated. All labs on campus have assistants and literature is available to answer questions. Reed Lamoreaux, a senior majoring in biology, works part-time in the user liaison lab and says the best way to learn how to use the system is to just get on the

computer and do it.

Students can also cruise the World Wide Web in the lab on Netscape, which does not require an e-mail account to use. The campus has four computer labs accessible to students of any major. They are located in the library, the Classroom Building Complex, the William D. Carlson Education building and Frank and Estella Beam Hall. Students can access e-mail accounts and the Internet from any of these computers after the original account is created.

Students who have modems can access their E-mail accounts and the World Wide Web from home by tapping into the university system. Two dollars from every credit hour funds this computer service.

One of the most popular sites visited by college students on the web is Virtual Dorm at vdorm.taponline.com. This is a cyber spin-off of MTV's Real World. Four students at an undisclosed (to protect their

privacy) east coast university live in a dorm suite and have their lives broadcast across the Internet 24 hours a day.

Computer users can access Virtual Dorm anytime day or night. Images do not move like on a movie or television screen, but are still-frames updated every 30 seconds.

Ben, Garth, Andy and Abby, Virtual Dorm's stars, enjoy only minimal privacy to take care of nature's demands. Users can view their profiles and select different rooms. Looking at Virtual Dorm is almost virtual voyeurism.

Another place students can test their newly acquired "surfing" skills is at the Cyber City

Cafe in the Target Shopping Center on Maryland Parkway and Flamingo Road. Here students can watch a music video and sip on a smart drink or an iced mocha while checking their e-mail and cruising the net. The cafe requires a one-time set-up fee of \$20 and \$10 a month to maintain an account. Included is four hours a month to surf the Internet or send and receive e-mail. To avoid the set-up fee and monthly charge, a user can pay \$12 per hour or \$6.50 for each half hour to use the cafe's computer terminals.

Owner Joe Kendall says the hourly computer rate appeals to tourists who only need tem-

porary use of a computer. Kendall related a story about a New Zealand tourist who came into the cafe on a Sunday night and read the Monday paper from his town back home before it was even printed, while enjoying a coffee.

Kendall wonders if that is what Nostradamus meant by time travel.

In addition to offering computing services, the cafe is a good place for people to meet and greet, says Kendall. The Cyber City Cafe offers people an alternative to the barscene.

Owning a computer is no longer a pre-requisite to enjoying the benefits of e-mail or net surfing.

Isn't it lovely, romantic?

BY RON HIBBLE
STAFF WRITER

Our fascination with the topic of love knows no bounds. Perhaps, as UNLV anthropologist Dr. William Jankowiak has found, it's because romantic love not only makes the world go 'round, it goes around the world.

Three years ago, Jankowiak solicited support from his editor at Columbia University Press about the idea for a book on the universal nature of romantic love.

"I invited my editor to a session I was organizing on the subject at a conference. She said, 'That's nice, but I have a meeting to go to, so just send me a proposal,'" Jankowiak said. "The idea was 'don't call me, I'll call you!'"

But *The New York Times* science editor, learning of the conference, interviewed Jankowiak and ran the story on the front page of the *Times* living section.

After that, Jankowiak found



William Jankowiak

his own editor, in with reporters from all over the world at the conference, ready to sign a contract for his book, *Romantic Passion: The Universal Experience?*

Magazines including *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Omni*, and *Science*, have written about Jankowiak and he was featured on *Prime Time Live*.

"When *The New York Times* piece hit, it legitimized the story," he says. "When the *Times* said it was important, everyone else immediately had to do the story."

Jankowiak, who has authored books and journal articles on other topics, laughs at all the attention paid to a subject that has been discounted as frivolous by scholars and scientists alike, since before Romeo courted Juliet.

"But in our culture, romantic love has become a formal ideal value," said Jankowiak. "Very few cultures would list romantic love [as an ideal]. It is indeed a universal experience, but it's not a universal value. Here it's a national treasure."

Until recently, anthropologists regarded romance as a mainly western experience, and an emotion too complex for less sophisticated cultures to grasp. Jankowiak said it was assumed that to be moonstruck, you had to have a few centuries of romantic art and literature behind you, and the leisure time for romantic dalliances.

Researchers now see this as a Euro-centric view, and over the past few years have been tuning in love's old, sweet song in remote hamlets and time zones. They are encountering it even in societies where pre-arranged marriage is the rule.

Jankowiak began studying romantic love as an undergraduate in college. "I was always interested in questions of what of human nature is pan-human and what is socially constructed. It's like when you're 18 or 19 years old, you're wondering what is typical, what are the boundaries of humanness," Jankowiak said.

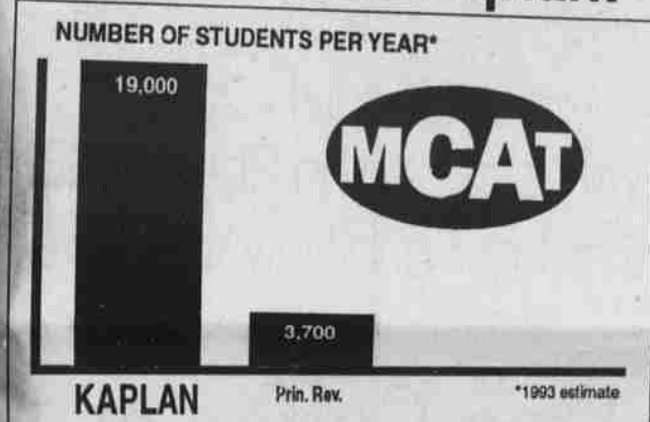
In graduate school at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Jankowiak was invited to study northern urban Chinese culture.

"One of my mentors said, 'How would you like to go to Inner Mongolia to do some field research?' And I said, 'Fine. Where is it?' And with that, I changed my whole career."

In 1993, after spending two and a half years in Huhhot, Inner Mongolia, Jankowiak published his first book, *Sex, Death, and Hierarchy in a Chinese City: An Anthropological Account*.

Both books by Jankowiak are available through the UNLV bookstore.

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