

Features

Website of the week

by Angela Rush
staff writer

Have you ever been driving around and wondering where in the world you are? Trying to remember the exact directions on how to get to a relatives or friends house on time can be frustrating especially if you have no idea of where you are and where you are heading.

Now through technology you can get on the net and go to a web page that will create a map and set of directions to go any place in the world. Find the directions from anywhere to your destination by going to <<http://maps.altavista.com/cgi-bin/map.cgi>>. This website

will provide you with information that will make your trip less stressful. All you have to do is type in the street, state, city, and zip code. Hit the "Make a Map" key and a map routing out your course will be made for you.

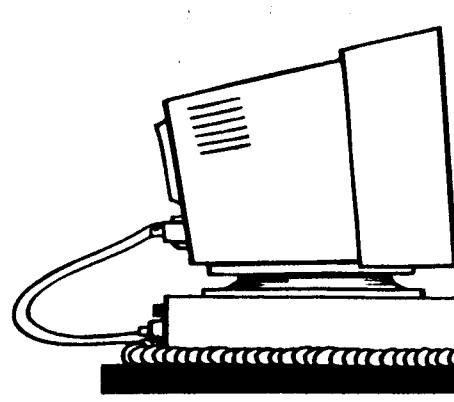
You can also create maps by typing in the phone number of the person/location you are looking for. My friend and I were experimenting with this web page and we found the location of a friend of hers that wishes to remain anonymous. Oops, I guess we know his secret now. The website provides you with the clos-

est location if you only know the phone number.

This web site is very interesting and useful because it seems to be very efficient and accurate in finding a person or location. However, it is also scary because anybody can access this information.

So next time you want to determine where someone lives, go on this route to find the directions to your destination.

The Beacon will be featuring a different website each week.



Roadmaps
on the web

Top ten films of 1998

by Micheal Coursey
staff writer

The most sensible thing for a film reviewer to do as a year-end article would be a Top Ten Films of the Year list. Normally I would have seen three times as many movies, but quite honestly, I was a little low on money this summer. I have never been a fan of the big disaster movies, and this year seemed to have one after another. I didn't see *Armageddon*, *Deep Impact*, or any of the other doomsday-type movies.

I have however compiled a list and short synopsis of the films I did see:

1. *Saving Private Ryan*. This is a Steven Spielberg production about the D-Day invasion starring Tom Hanks. This should earn Hanks a third Academy Award. It has a type of realism in the battle scenes that will make even hardened war veterans wince.

2. *Rounders* is a film starring Matt Damon, John Turturro, and Ed Norton. Matt Damon is a struggling law student who has trouble staying away from the poker table and the easy money he makes there. Ed Norton is the bad influence that almost takes him down.

3. *Something About Mary* is a com-

edy starring Ben Stiller, Cameron Diaz, Matt Dillon and Chris Elliot. This unusual comedy, set in Rhode Island and Miami, is about a High School romance that was cut short by an unfortunate incident on prom night.

The movie flows well, and I was really impressed by Cameron Diaz's genuineness. Chris Elliot really played a strong supporting role as Ben Stiller's buddy.

4. *Primary Colors* is a fictionalized account of President Clinton's Campaign in 1992. Starring John Travolta as the President and Billy Bob Thornton as James Carville, this film shows how Clinton could sell "cotton candy to a diabetic."

5. *The Truman Show* is a surrealistic look at a man whose whole life has been filmed since birth, and spent his entire life on a huge soundstage. This film stars Jim Carrey as Truman and Ed Harris as the controlling mastermind.

6. *The Waterboy*. This film stars Adam Sandler as a waterboy for a Louisiana College football team. It's predictable, but still very funny.

7. *Mask of Zorro* is a movie starring Antonio Banderas as the new and improved Zorro. He has the athletic ability of a gold medal gymnast, the

toughness of Rambo and the craftsmanship of James Bond. Other than that it's a very believable movie. Anthony Hopkins stars as the original Zorro and mentor.

8. *Black Dog* stars Patrick Swayze as a truck mechanic who goes on one last run from Atlanta to New York City. Apparently he's the only guy left in the U.S. who can drive a truck. It's little ridiculous, but still fun.

9. *Enemy of The State* stars Will Smith and Gene Hackman. It's a bit of a Tom Clancy knockoff about corruption, graft, murder, extortion, computers and agents in the NSA. It moves about as fast as Rosie O'Donnell down a water slide.

10. *Dead Man on Campus* is a college movie about two roommates who have to keep their grades up to stay in school. It's a good movie to rent if you don't have to do the wash or get a root canal.

The worst movie I saw this year was "Practical Magic" with Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman. This movie never seemed to know if it wanted to be a comedy, a drama or a horror flick. It was very hard to keep up with.

Hopefully next year will have a better crop of movies. Happy Holidays!

Behrend celebrates Kwanzaa

By Danielle Marshall
staff writer

Some families celebrate Christmas, while others celebrate Hanukkah. The Behrend family celebrated Kwanzaa, an event sponsored by the Association of Black Collegians (ABC), on Sunday, December 6, 1998.

Okay, so you know Kwanzaa isn't Christmas, but what is it? Kwanzaa is a non-religious, African-American holiday. In KiSwahili, one of Africa's major languages and the chosen language of the holiday, Kwanzaa means "first fruits."

Celebrated first in 1966 by its creator, Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa is based on African harvest celebrations and the Nguzo Saba, or seven principles.

These principles, a set of ideals, developed by Karenga, are: Unity (Umoja), Self Determination (Kujichagulia), Collective Work and Responsibility (Ujima), Cooperative Economics (Ujamma), Purpose (Nia), Creativity (Kuumba), and Faith (Imani). Each day of Kwanzaa emphasizes a different principle.

One of the symbols of the holiday is a candle holder with seven candles, one lit for each principle. Kwanzaa begins on December 26 and ends on

January 1. Although it can be celebrated together with Christmas, it is really a time to celebrate the past year's successes, to talk about the lessons of African-American history, and to think about how to improve our communities using the seven principles.

Behrend's Kwanzaa celebration began with a poem "Umoja," written by Behrend student Russell Jean-Baptiste, portrayed Umoja's meaning of striving for and maintaining unity in the family, community, and nation. "Although I am harassed by my brother, ridiculed by my sister, and suppressed to my enemies delight, I have recaptured my faith in spite and in it found new sight," stated Jean-Baptiste, 03 MIS. A poetry reading of Maya Angelou's "Phenomenal Woman" was given by Channasa Taylor and Erika Ford, featuring another principle, Kujichagulia, which means self determination.

Lillian Graves topped off the evening with the inspirational song, "My Soul Has Been Anchored In The Lord." Ms. Erica King, the speaker of the evening, discussed the principle of Ujima, meaning collective work and responsibility. Ujima reminds us of our obligation to the past, present, and future, and that we have a role to

play in the community, society, and world. "My program, which is Big Brothers Big Sisters, our collective work would be to teach the children today about our past. If we don't know about our past, we really can't know about our future," stated Ms. King.

The evening concluded with a few words of gratitude from the president of ABC, Ayodele Jones. "The Association of Black Collegians hosts the Kwanzaa celebration to strengthen diversity on campus. Unfortunately, the low turnout of Behrend students made this somewhat of a difficult task. Regardless of this fact, those who did attend, including myself, came away with a message of hope, unity, and faith in each other and our communities. And therefore, the goal of ABC was attained," stated Jones, 05, Political Science. Brandy Whiting, 06 Biology, stated, "I thought it was nice to see minority students come together on campus. I just hope that next semester we get more participation from the other students. Our youth should represent the promise for tomorrow. Umoja is the principle of unity which should guide us through all we do."

