

# Personal web pages showcase students

BY SARA FRISCH  
SENIOR WRITER

Forget printing résumés on shaded gray paper. Forget sending pictures of yourself to your friends around the country. And forget about being anonymous. Senior Jason Purdy has, and so have more than 3,700 other people at UNC. They have web pages, and they have fame.

"It's almost like your 15 minutes of glory when you put up your web page," said Purdy, a mathematical sciences major from Burgaw who works for Academic Technology & Networks as the campus webwizard.

Students, staff and faculty have jumped on the Internet bandwagon and taken advantage of the free World Wide Web access to construct their own web pages. Professors put syllabi and assignment information on the Internet, and students showcase everything from their academic departments to their favorite bands.

Lisa Robbins, a senior English major from St. Petersburg, Fla., constructed her web page to keep pace with the changing media landscape. Her page features links to her friends' web pages, her hometown newspaper and a copy of her résumé.

"I put my résumé on the web page because I thought it would be a good way to reach employers," she said. Robbins hasn't received any unsolicited queries yet, but she plans to update her résumé with her new work experience.

Like Purdy, Robbins said she found social value in her creation. She likened photos and personal information of web page authors to the biographies of a video dating network. "It's almost like a dating service for college students," Robbins said.

Lori Sloan, a junior journalism major from Raleigh, agreed that college students have tremendous access to the Web. She constructed her web page for a journalism class assignment but doesn't spend much time surfing the Web. "For the general public, (the Web) is still something that's a little out there," she said.

ATN's active effort to bring the Web home to members of the University community include its online information web page and its computer training center. These resources provide the basic how-to for those who don't have computer savvy but want to try their hand at authoring a personal web page.

Current web users can check out ATN's own web page which gives instructions on how to create a personal web page. The page features University policies and procedures in addition to basic lessons in hypertext markup language, which is used to create web pages.

"It's essentially a way to make an interactive web page without being a programmer," said Purdy about ATN's instructional web site.

For those who want to take it slow and learn by example, the courses offered at the ATN Computer Training Center are free, short and offered monthly. Computer-literate students start with courses on e-mail, the Internet and web browsing before progressing to two courses on web authoring and a final one that demonstrates how to put the page onto the Web.

Anne Carter, assistant manager of the center, said students appreciated the in-class demonstrations and interactivity that allowed for questions. "You see it, you do it and you have immediate feedback," she said.

University Webmaster Judy Hallman also encouraged people to take advantage of the classes. She said she wanted more student organizations to construct web pages to help showcase what the University had to offer.

"I think the web is the University's image to the outside world," Hallman said. "The more good stuff we have up there, the better off we'll be."

The ATN how-to page for web page authoring can be found at <http://www.unc.edu/campus/aboutweb/howto/>. Classes at the ATN Computer Training Center begin next week and run throughout the year. Interested students, faculty and staff need to sign up on the fourth floor of Hanes Hall or call 962-1160.

# Presidential candidates weave their webs on the Internet with informative, amusing sites

JESSICA BANOV  
SITE SEEING

I had never tested the waters of the World Wide Web until an internship two summers ago. It was a standard research type job and one day I lacked the necessary resources. My supervisor suggested I jump on the Web to dig up the information.

And jump I did. Now the Web is my first resource for any type of research, be it for a term paper or answers to a trivia contest.

The Web can be used for practical purposes, or it can be the best method for procrastinating since Sega hit the streets. My friends argue that Web productivity is an oxymoron.

Despite the seemingly useful information out there, the Web is still sometimes disorganized. By aimlessly jumping from link to link, one can get lost in cyberspace. This weekly column will attempt to wade through the Web and weed out some of the winners.

For instance, some partisan groups are already hoping to point out some winners — in the Electoral College, that is.

Politically related pages abound, ranging from the informative, to the self-congratulating, to the mudslinging.

The Democratic National Convention started Monday and to accompany the fanfare there are "official" pages launched by the Democratic National Committee and the Clinton/Gore '96 Primary Committee to keep voters informed.

Jump on the "21st Century Express" at <http://www.cg96.com> to read how Clinton and Gore will meet America's challenges.

The page has some snazzy graphics, including a pseudo-slide show of Clinton and his sidekick campaigning.

But seriously, the site has comprehensive information on the candidates' positions on the issues as well as work their administration has already done.

In the "briefing room," you can look up numerous statistics on how the administration's policies affected each state in terms of economic growth, education policies, family issues and student loans.

A site that is just as graphic but slightly less formal is at <http://www.democrats.org>, a site maintained by the Democratic National Committee. A bonus function of this site is that browsers are given the opportunity to receive the latest convention news via e-mail. Check out the "What's Hot" category for more information.

The site also links to the College Democrats of America page via "James Carville's Top Ten" page, a list of the top civic duties citizens can do to jump into politics.

On the other side of the camp, Dole and Kemp have an online campaign page at <http://www.dole96.com/main/> that gives the standard biographies and political agendas.

With a click of the mouse, browsers can follow the Republicans on their road to the White House and participate in "Dole Interactive," a section devoted to games and trivia about the candidate.

Unlike the other political pages, browsers can view the latest campaign commercials.

This page is not to be confused with <http://www.dole96.org/dole96.html>, a page that claims that Bob Dole is the "ripe man for the job."

"Bob Dole, of course, is the founder of

the Dole Fruit Company," the page reads. "Bob Dole loves tropical fruits, especially slightly overripe bananas."

With a background of Dole banana stickers, the authors of this page take a pro-Dole, pro-fruit stance on the current issues.

The page lists issues like the official pages, but instead of following links to news releases, browsers are led to pages they wouldn't necessarily expect.

For example, Dole's five point plan for the youth of America takes you to the actual Dole Food Co. page at <http://dole5aday.com/> with a section on the fruit nutrition center and information about the company.

Another unpredictable link is listed under Bob Dole's "courageous stand against terrorism." In this case, the link leads you to <http://www.microsnot.com/>, a spoof page promoting Microsoft Corp. President Bill Gates as a presidential candidate.

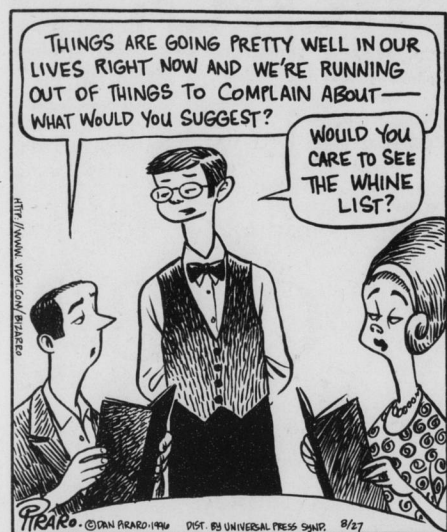
Under the humor category is a page that compares the two Bills — Clinton and Gates — and demands "Which Bill affects YOU more?"

At [http://www.mitchellware.com/mitchell/home/fred/politics/vote\\_for\\_bill.htm](http://www.mitchellware.com/mitchell/home/fred/politics/vote_for_bill.htm), the creators are soliciting votes for president. At last count, Gates was winning 42 percent to 24 percent over Clinton with 34 percent undecided.

See you at the polls.

Have you been procrastinating too? Stumbled upon anything unique or even useful? Send descriptions of Web pages to [jjbanov@email.unc.edu](mailto:jjbanov@email.unc.edu).

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