

the uo's newsletter for faculty, staff, and graduate teaching fellows

march 14, 2005

featured stories



Blogs at the UO: New Tool Emerges for Effective Teaching and Communications

< An image of connections between hosts on the internet. Image adapted from a larger version by [the Opte Project](#), and made available thanks to and under the terms of a [Creative Commons license](#).

In recent years, "blogs"—the preferred diminutive for weblogs—have evolved from the Internet plaything of techies to perhaps the web's most popular application. These personal hybrid websites and bulletin boards not only influence politics and the removal of TV news anchors, but also are proving to be an efficient means for campus groups and communities to update and keep in touch with each other.

[Full Story...](#)



Blogs at the UO: Background and Advice From a Blog Researcher

< Joel Bloom

I first came across the term "blog" while reading a column by Joe Conason on [Salon.com](#). Conason wrote a daily piece on national politics that was full of links both to stories in mainstream newspapers and magazines, but also to websites I hadn't heard of, some of them run by journalists and hosted by other online magazines such as [Slate](#) (Mickey Kaus' [Kausfiles](#)) and [MSN](#) (Eric Alterman's [Altercation](#)), while others, like Bob Somerby's [Daily Howler](#), and University of Tennessee Law Professor Glenn Reynolds' [Instapundit](#), were just personally hosted websites.

[Full Story...](#)

Blogs at the UO: Resources and Examples

Colleen Bell, library instruction coordinator, offers [a guide to blogs](#) and related communication topics on the UO Libraries website. Bell wrote [this column](#) on library use of blogs especially for *Inside Oregon*.

[Full Story...](#)

potpourri

Featured Author



Children's Book on Mahjong is Computer Expert's First Work

< Ginnie Lo

Virginia (Ginnie) Lo's happy childhood in West Lafayette, Ind., is the basis for *Mahjong All Day Long* (Walker and Company, 2005), a delightful tale tailored for youngsters age 3 to 8.

[Full Story...](#)



The Oregonian Taps UO Sports Marketing Expert in Critical Look at Trailblazers

< Paul Swangard

The March 14 *Oregonian* Sports section featured an in-depth examination of the Portland Trailblazers' continuing lack of fan support. One of the issues explored within that was whether the team's plunge in popularity makes a case for a change in Trailblazer ownership, and Paul Swangard, managing director of the UO's Warsaw Sports Marketing Center, was a primary source favoring change.

[Full Story...](#)

Bargains



Special Price on Travel Books



'UO Day' at the Capitol

Members of the faculty and staff, as well as alumni and other UO supporters, are invited to join university officials March 30 in Salem at "UO Day at the Capitol," a key annual opportunity for volunteers to rally support for the university's legislative priorities and to talk with elected officials.

[Full Story...](#)



Homeland 'In'Security Symposium Examines Post-9/11 Terrain

How the "9/11 moment" changed the United States and the cross-border regions of North America is the focus of a two-day discussion by internationally known scholars, regional activists and community leaders. "Homeland 'In'Security: Race, Immigration and Labor in Post-September 11 North America" takes place Thursday and Friday, March 31 and April 1, in Room 175 at the Knight Law Center, 1515 Agate St.

[Full Story...](#)



Hewlett-Packard Gift Boosts UO's 'Small Science'

Hewlett-Packard has donated a powerful analytical instrument to the University of Oregon that will enable researchers to zero in on particles only a few tens of nanometers in size—ten times smaller than the researchers' existing equipment will allow. The scanning Auger microscope is one of only a handful in Oregon and will be part of the university's Center for Advanced Materials Characterization in Oregon (CAMCOR), a major research facility for the UO's rapidly growing nanoscience program.

[Full Story...](#)



American Chemical Society Lauds 'Coach' of Women Scientists

< Geri Richmond

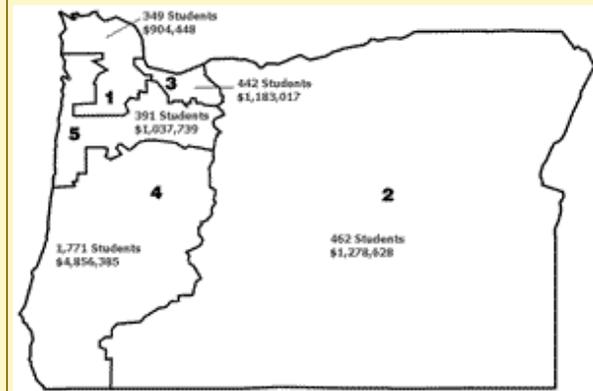
UO chemistry professor Geri Richmond is the 2005 winner

The bargain: Discounts on all UO Bookstore travel books

[Full Story...](#)

UO by the Numbers

Distribution of Federal Pell Grants



Click on the image for a larger version.

In 2003-4, University of Oregon distributed \$9.2 million in Federal Pell Grants to 3,415 of Oregon's most needy students. The map shows how these dollars are split across Oregon's Congressional Districts. The grant is available to students working on their first undergraduate degree and is the largest federal grant program with individual awards ranging from \$400 to \$4,050.

[Full Story...](#)

Were You There?



International Scholars Reception Showcases Research

< Sachiko Kamioka from Japan explains her project to President Dave Frohnmayer.

International scholars conducting research at the UO were the honored guests at a March 7 reception that included President Dave Frohnmayer, research and graduate studies Vice President Richard Linton and international programs Associate Vice President Tom Mills.

[Full Story...](#)

Make a Date



'Bach Night' Kicks off Festival Season of Premieres and Pasi3n

< Performers in rehearsal for the Oregon Bach Festival's La Pasi3n Seg3n San Marcos, coming June 23-24.

The Oregon Bach Festival (June 23-July 10) officially lifts the curtain on its 2005 season during Bach Night at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, in Eugene's Downtown Athletic Club, 999 Willamette St. Audio and video clips will highlight a guided tour of upcoming festival performances and showcase two major premieres. Bach Night is free and open to the public.

of the American Chemical Society's Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences. The award recognizes Richmond for her life-changing work as the founder and chair of COACH (the Committee on the Advancement of Women Chemists), a national organization she started in 1998 with a group of fellow senior women chemistry faculty members determined to address the disparity in hiring and promotion of women in academic chemistry departments.

[▶ Full Story...](#)

Honors and Distinctions



McLucas' Dedication to Music Earns Distinction

< Anne Dhu McLucas

A love for American music inspired Anne Dhu McLucas to make music her career, and her ability to transmit that passion to others recently was honored by the Society for American Music.

[▶ More Honors...](#)

Campus Briefs



Governor's Food Drive Exceeds Goal on Campus

UO faculty and staff members and students contributed more than 137,238 pounds of food to the 25th annual Governor's Food Drive, far exceeding the ambitious goal organizers set this year.

[▶ More Campus Briefs...](#)

[▶ Full Story...](#)

Scene on Campus



Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art Serves As A Campus Resource

< Kurt Neugebauer works with art students.

The January reopening of Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art offers a wide range of opportunities for staff, faculty and students. In the photo here, museum exhibition designer, Kurt Neugebauer (foreground) works with this year's nine master of fine arts degree candidates to plan for an upcoming exhibition using a half-inch scale model of the changing exhibitions gallery. Their show opens May 13 and will feature a full range of media including ceramics, fibers, metalsmithing and jewelry, painting, photography and visual design.

[▶ Full Story...](#)

Each issue of Inside Oregon is archived on the web at <http://duckhenge.uoregon.edu/inside/archive.php> .

Inside Oregon is the official newsletter for employees of the University of Oregon and is published biweekly during the academic year and monthly in June, July and August.

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When Kartz Ucci, an assistant professor of art, and 12 UO students leave next week for a spring break trip to New York City, they will post daily images, observations and assorted musings on their "Art and the City" blogs. Colleagues, fellow art students back at the UO—and anyone else interested—can follow each leg of their high intensity sojourn through the city's famous galleries, shows and art projects.

"It's a much more interesting way of learning and sharing," says Ucci, an intermedia artist who has exhibited digital and video streaming projects throughout Canada and the United States. She requires that each student on the New York trip post blog entries daily, both visually and in text. It's not a daunting task considering the proliferation of Internet cafes and libraries with Internet access along the New York itinerary.

Traditionally, Ucci would have assigned group members to write essays upon their return. But she feels that with technology and tools readily available, blogs offer a better, more immediate opportunity to create a rich and lasting archive of the trip in a way that can be easily accessed by others.

"Art students at the UO will be able to study our blogs and learn from the experiences and insights we record next week long after our trip is over," Ucci says.

The trip begins March 19. To follow along, give the entourage a day for their first blogs to get posted and then click on the special [Art and the City](#) website that Ucci created to link to each student blog.

Using blogs for an entirely different purpose is Faye Chadwell, head of collection development and acquisitions (CDA) at the Knight Library. Her blog is an effective method to keep in contact with the 25 librarians who do selection of library materials.

"Our CDA blog allows us to provide information about database trials, budgetary matters,

deadlines for review of policies and procedures, and emerging issues in libraries and scholarly communication," she says. "The blog provides us an easy way to answer an individual librarian's question, post that answer, and then be assured to some degree that a lot of others will have access to the information so we don't have to answer the same question over and over again."

Blogs also play an increasing role at the Center for High Energy Physics where large volumes of data need to be relayed back and forth between student and faculty researchers. Because graduate students are often involved in research off site, they use blogs to touch base and seek feedback from faculty members as well as members of their research groups at remote locations.

Jan Strube, a physics graduate student involved in the BaBar Project, says that blogs are his lifeline. The project includes more than 550 physicists and engineers worldwide. The UO is one of 72 collaborating institutions reconstructing and studying millions of particles and antiparticles to gain insight into the dominance of matter over antimatter in the creation of the universe 10,000 million years ago.

"Blogs make it much easier for us to communicate with each other, no matter where we are, on campus or in another part of the world," he says. "I first used a blog when I was working on a project with another student and found that it was a more convenient way to communicate than e-mail because our adviser was kept in the loop easily without jamming his in-box."

Strube recently set up blog accounts for interested fellow graduate students to use for their own research and field work.

Jon Jablonski, an avid blogger for two years, says it's a great way to keep current in his academic specialty.

"Professional literature in librarianship is 12 to 18 months behind what is actually happening in the trenches," explains Jablonski, the David and Nancy Petrone MAP/GIS librarian. "If a company or the RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America) is attacking copyright, I need to know today, not next year, and this is the way I can keep informed."

"Blogs also helped me to prepare to teach a seminar last spring, titled 'Internet Information and Culture.' I spent about six months intensely looking for trends, finding scholarship that examined online life, using the tools that have changed the way we work, study and live. Blogging and categorizing those experiences helped the syllabus to write itself," Jablonski continues. "When it came time to teach the class, 75 percent of the students chose to turn in weekly papers by simply e-mailing me the URL to their blogs."

He was pleasantly surprised recently when a fellow attendee at a conference introduced herself to him by saying she reads [his blog](#).

"We were able to immediately jump into a substantive conversation," Jablonski adds. "That single experience made the entire enterprise worthwhile."

One of the UO's most prolific bloggers is Mary Harrsch, network and information systems manager for the College of Education. Ancient history buffs at the UO and around the world regularly tap into her numerous blogs on the Roman Empire. Five of those blogs are contained in her online magazine, [Roman Times](#). She also maintains a blog about her travels

to education sites, called [Incredible Journeys](#); a history blog, [Passionate About History](#); and a professional technology blog, [Technology Times](#).

Not blogs as such, but utilizing much of the same technology, are Harrsch's [Virtual Caesar](#) site where she uses an artificial intelligence application to allow viewers to "talk" to Julius Caesar, and an [ancient world image data base](#), with more than 2,000 images of places, people and art objects for which she has granted site visitors a creative commons license for free educational or noncommercial use.

Soon, there will be fresh content on Harrsch's blogs. She leaves for Rome on the ides of March (March 15, the anniversary of Caesar's assassination in 44 B.C.), digital camera in hand, for two weeks of seeking out new images of ancient sites.



[Back to Inside Oregon](#)

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"mapping the internet
in a single day"

home

project history

current status

view & generate
maps

downloads

contacts

links

help Opte!

FAQs

credits

the opte shop

web board

the Opte Project

This project was created to make a visual representation of a space that is very much one-dimensional, a metaphysical universe. The data represented and collected here serves a multitude of purposes: Modeling the Internet, analyzing wasted IP space, IP space distribution, detecting the result of natural disasters, weather, war, and esthetics/art. This project is free and represents a lot of donated time, please enjoy.

Current News

Sunday, January 16, 2005

With the new route code I ran into some limits with the current database design. I'm in the middle of re-writing the client/server code to make the new images look more detailed than anything seen before. Some samples were posted over this last week at 10% and 30% just to give an idea of what the new stuff will look like. More to come!

Sunday, January 2, 2005

The database is populated with the new route data, I am testing a new color coding system before I release any images. It could take some time to generate the new color database. The database (that lives on this web server) is really busy, so opte page loads may be a little slow. It should be done by the 3rd.

Friday, December 31, 2004

I just published a short Philosophy paper on the project; "Opte is Art", it's online in the [downloads](#) area.

Wednesday, December 29, 2004

We started the Opte 2005 image, it should be online the first week of January!

Sunday, September 5, 2004

Sorry the new image got delayed, I just moved to South Florida directly into the path of the Hurricane. Between bodysurfing in these great hurricane generated waves and fighting the power surges, it has delayed the image. I just started processing the new image, we should have something soon. -Barrett

Saturday, August 21, 2004

We completed the DDoS attack database, when the 2005 image is ready we will post both the DDoS highlighted image and the 2005 image.

Sunday, July 25, 2004

I posted the all of the Opte php source on the [downloads](#) page. Don't use the 03b code, the best code to pay with will be the 02b. -Barrett

Monday, December 8, 2003

Something fun and new, we created a very _simple_ test movie to sample some of the things we can do with the data from the project. Click on [maps](#) and then the link for movie4.mpeg.

Opte in the news

- Jan 1 2004, [The Sacramento Bee](#) "Mapping the Internet"
- Dec 8 2003, [JB Online](#) "Um micro e 24 horas mapeiam a internet" (.br)
- Dec 2 2003, [index.hu](#) "Elk•ült az internet t••"(.hu)
- Dec 1 2003, [Benchmakr.pl](#) "Mapa Internetu" (.pl)
- Dec 1 2003, [Hardwire.no](#) "Lager kart over Internet" (.no)
- Nov 29 2003, [New Scientist](#) "Internet mapping project weaves colourful web"
- Nov 29 2003, [Slashdot.jp](#) "Latest Maps of the Internet"(Japanese)
- Nov 28 2003, [p2pnet](#) "Around the Net in a day"
- Nov 27 2003, [Slashdot.org](#) "Latest Maps of the Internet"
- Nov 21 2003, [LocalAreaSecurity.com](#) article quickly talked about Opte: "There were many different presentations and tools at Comdex that were very interesting but to numerous for me to mention here. For my pick as the 'Coolest Tool' of Comdex 2003 would have to be the one illustrated by Robert Lee of ISECOM. The tool is part of what is being developed for The Opte Project, which intends to map the internet in one day."
- Nov 17 2003, [The Italian Repubblica](#) - "Una mappa di Internet per bloccare i virus" (.it)
- Nov 14 2003, [TaoSecurity](#) - "Mapping the Internet on a Dare"

- Nov 14 2003, [Slashdot](#)
- "Map the Internet... In One Day?"



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ART AND THE CITY

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GALLERY

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Riggio Galleries

Deitch Projects

SPRING BREAK • 8 DAYS • ART 408/508 • 3 CREDITS • MARCH 19-27/05

A riff on Sex and the City, NYC is certainly a hotbed of excitement, diversity and cultural appreciation and like Carrie who ponders New York's romantic edge in her column, "Sex and the City", so too will U of O students produce their own "Art and the City" column as a daily blog at an internet café or local library.

This eight-day trip will incorporate a travelogue with criticality, a keen observant eye, and daily accounts of your experience culminating with a postscript that reflects your own and the collaborative experience of the trip. You will be able to post images, private thoughts, a collection of links; this blog could be your personal soapbox - always with art in mind and always a reflection of your daily experience of the galleries, art museums and public art.

NOT SURE about how to keep a blog or you are not web savvy or you don't own a laptop, NO NEED TO WORRY - blogs are push button publishing, you will be guided through the process and laptops will be organized for those without.

NYC

Growin' Blog

3.14.2005

That's what I'm talking about

There is 1. Count 'em, ONE importer of a Sino-Dutch bike in Newton Mass.

But oh, what a [bike](#). ¶ 4:34 PM 0 comments

3.8.2005

Fietsen

Well, I'm shopping for a bike. Someone nipped mine from the garage last Thursday.

Google Answers [says](#) that companies like [Batavus](#) and [Gazelle](#) don't sell in the States because of product liability laws. There's got to be a better answer out there than that. Are the Dutch just keeping a good thing to themselves?

Having ridden one of these bikes, I can say firsthand that they are much safer than a \$75 piece of shit from Wal-Mart.

If I was more the entrepreneurial type (or: if I had a load of money) I would take on the challenge of an import business to get these bikes in the US. Spend a few minutes searching the web and you'll see there's plenty of demand--there's lots of people that write 'why don't we have these?'



📌 2:19 PM 0 comments

3.4.2005

And now magnolias

Not that we've got any here at What'sGrowin' central, but on campus today, many of the magnolia trees have opened their flowers.

Now we're sure to have an ice storm. 📌 1:39 PM 0 comments

3.2.2005

Dafodils

I noticed today that it is officially dafodil season. It seems awfully early, but I think it's not all that earlier than last year. On my ride home tonight, I also caught a whiff of a great number of cherry blossoms.

I hope [Hantoon](#) went out with cherry blossoms in her nose. She didn't seem to be suffering from her mental illness, but I can't imagine that she enjoyed her life on the street. As I have thought of her today, I thought of the few interactions I had with her and my efforts to keep those short. I actually had been thinking of a plan on how to dis-engage from people like her as I start to work reference in the main library (which has many more characters than my previous branch). Now all I can

think about is all the people I have been short with, all those I've walked by who asked for help, and all those I ignored. It's not very christian of me. ¶ 9:54 PM 0

[comments](#)

2.23.2005

Encyclopedic bloat?

I'm not sure if I'm secretly thrilled or professionally horrified that the Star Wars kid has a [wikipedia entry](#). ¶ 4:32 PM 1 [comments](#)

Extra hanky

So I'm walking around all day, feeling a little fat (as I've been feeling a lot lately). I finally take off my sweater, as it's really warm today, and discover this huge lump on my side. I've been packing around a hankerchief inside of my t-shirt all day.

No wonder people think I'm a nerd. ¶ 2:31 PM 1 [comments](#)

2.16.2005

Not your bubbi's klezmer

Officially celebrated Valentine's tonight. [David Krakauer's](#) Klezmer Explosion.

A couple years ago, a friend told me that every chamber ensemble needs a turntablist. After tonight, I can say that every klezmer band needs a sampler/rapper. Holy cow. I used to think that bluegrass was the most malleable form of music, but now I'm leaning toward klezmer. I've heard bluegrass-klezmer. Tonight I heard crotch-rock--hip-hop--klezmer. With hard-bop improv. And they had a huge range.

I'm a little flabbergasted. ¶ 10:39 PM 0 [comments](#)

2.10.2005

Photographer as criminal: redux

Haven't we talked about [this before](#)?

Come to think of it, this happened to me a few years back taking photos at the McCormick Place Annex. I was pretty sure they were wrong then, and I'm sure they're wrong now. There's all sorts of things you can claim:

- Fair Use: I'm doing it for a non-profit purpose, or I'm going to use it in a piece of criticism or in a parody.
- Public space: the copyright holder has to take some measures to protect the work from abuse--putting it in a park sort of obviates that, doesn't it?
- Economic harm: me taking pictures of the sculpture doesn't economically harm the sculptor unless I'm selling products that he's als selling.

¶ 4:27 PM 0 comments

Gardenin', fishin', bikin', librarianin'.

ARCHIVES

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teeny tiny blog

Friday, March 04, 2005

Chicago school maps

A nice interface for (MrSID? JPEG 2k?) large scans, combined with some compelling content makes this [University of Chicago](#) project very enjoyable. And if you ever had black & white Mac, looking at these maps will show you where Apple stole all of its original textures from. I think they were actually pre-printed Kodalith sheets that would get cut out and assemble into the map. Not sure though.

The interface for the images is handled by Zoomify, which works under Flash.

posted by Jon at 1:33 PM 0 comments

Thursday, February 24, 2005

I'm looking for...

More than any other type of reference I've ever done, the distance between the initial request and what the person is actually looking for is the greatest. Many times, the person isn't looking for a map. Well, even that's not accurate. They're looking for a map, but it might not be one that we have. Or it might be one that's inside of a reference book.

posted by Jon at 2:20 PM 0 comments

Monday, February 07, 2005

Alabama mapa

[These folks](#) have been busy. All html pages too. Think it's all static or is this a data dump?

Unfortunately, it's all mrSID--no georeferencing.

posted by Jon at 10:39 PM 0 comments

Tuesday, February 01, 2005

COs and Maps

I learned this morning that the first map librarian here was a conscientious objector to World War II. How cool is that?

And how weird is it that I'm now doing the job. I haven't given very much thought to the fact that most of my materials come from military projects. At least I'm not using them to drop bombs on people.

posted by Jon at 1:19 PM 0 comments

Saturday, January 22, 2005

Just how big should it be?

I have been starting to form an opinion that the map library could easily double its storage capacity and only achieve 'everything fits comfortably.'

This past week I asked my boss if he knows of a standard for how full a drawer should be. "Oh, I think

that's in that pile of files I gave you. When I found it, I did some calculations and estimated that we'd need 14,000 square feet to meet the standard."

We currently hover just over 5000 square feet.

I never have been able to judge volumes. When putting away leftover soup, I always have about a half cup still in the pot when I'm topping off the tupperware.

posted by Jon at 9:51 PM 0 comments

Friday, January 14, 2005

Looking for blogs in all the wrong places.

Found while searching for map blogs:

- [Glowlab](#)

Conceptual art with a psychogeographic slant.

- [A Texas geocacher](#)

or is that a geocaching Texan?

- [A GIS intern](#)

working for a transit authority in New Zealand. Nice description of what someone working full time in a GIS office might be experiencing.

- [Someone in China\(?\)](#)

who has an interest in maps. But it's mostly about China.

- The author of [Brain Off](#) is active in RSS2+GEO development and pointed me toward a [folksonomy debate](#) that has been taking place recently. I first encountered that term back in November straight from Louis. He seems to have struck a nerve. Brain Off also introduced me to the [National Public Toilet Map of Australia](#).

- [Wardriving and Catchbob](#)

I'm not even sure what this guy is talking about half the time.

- A [planning blog](#)

with a psychogeography slant.

posted by Jon at 3:33 PM 1 comments

Tuesday, January 11, 2005

Archival junkmail

Last evening I threw away discards from 60 years ago. I am now officially practicing forensic librarianship.

If the piles were just a little deeper, I'd call it archeological.

posted by Jon at 3:52 PM 1 comments

Archives

- [12.2004](#)
- [01.2005](#)
- [02.2005](#)
- [03.2005](#)



[Roman coin hoard](#)



[revealed](#): "A collection of 963 Roman denarii, including coins from 270 years of early British history, have been found by hobbyists near Norfolk. Most of the coins were found in a ceramic pot buried 14 inches down.

The earliest coins date from 32BC and feature Cleopatra's consort Marc Anthony. The most recent are from 240AD and the short-lived reign of teenage emperor Gordian III."

• [49 Headless Roman skeletons unearthed](#)

posted on February 28, 2005 03:49:00 pm

[Times Online - Britain](#): "ARCHAEOLOGISTS have unearthed a Roman cemetery in York with the skeletons of 49 beheaded young men.

Experts from the York Archaeological Trust have yet to explain why the men had been decapitated. One of the victims was buried with thick iron rings around his ankles that had been forged on to him while he was alive.

There are also skeletons of seven children, though their bodies were not mutilated. Dr Ottaway believes that the men were beheaded as part of a ritual in order to ensure that they could not haunt the living.

The skulls were removed after death and placed in the grave by their feet, legs or pelvis. Analysis of the bones has suggested that all of the adult skeletons were young men under the age of about 45.

The skeletons date from about AD200, roughly when Emperor Septimius Severus came to York with an army to fight in Scotland."

• [Tomb of Saint Paul Found?](#)

posted on February 22, 2005 02:40:00 pm



[Discovery Channel](#) : "A tomb that may contain the remains of Saint Paul, one of the Christian church's most important leaders and the author of much of the Bible's New Testament, has been unearthed in Rome, according to a Vatican Museums archaeologist.

"The tomb that we discovered is the one that the popes and the Emperor Theodosius (379-

395) saved and presented to the whole world as being the tomb of the

one of history's eight greatest heroes, and bring victory to their nation on the battlefield.

'Stainless Steel Studios is known for creating revolutionary, real-time strategy games that appeal to a worldwide audience,' said David F. Zucker, president and chief executive officer of Midway. 'This relationship and the upcoming launch of Rise & Fall: Civilizations at War will further establish Midway in the premium PC market.'

'We are very excited to be working with Midway, a publisher who is truly committed to creating the highest quality games in the industry,' said Rick Goodman, president of Stainless Steel Studios. 'With its unprecedented gameplay, historical accuracy and unique elements, Rise & Fall: Civilizations at War will be one of the most ambitious RTS games to date.'

• [Roma Victor nears release](#)

posted on February 22, 2005 09:38:00 am



[Roma Victor for PC at GameSpot](#):

"Formally known as Gladius Online, Roma Victor is a role-playing game set in Europe during the heyday of the Roman Empire."

• [The Settlers: Heritage of Kings to be](#)

[released this month](#)

posted on February 22, 2005 09:28:00 am

[GameSpot](#): "The Settlers: Heritage of Kings will take place in a world that tends more to the medieval than to the mythological, along with a form of 'credible magic'. The maps will incorporate active terrain that includes things like changing weather and seasons as well as smaller environmental details, like forests populated with deer and ranging wolves. Resources that you can collect will include iron (used to help build your military), stone (used to help build towns and important structures), sulfur (used in the art of alchemy, which is akin to magic), and silver. Working serfs will collect resources as well as construct buildings; they'll also carry out other tasks. There will be 70 different kinds of buildings and 40 different kinds of people present in the game. Serfs will indicate their needs, like food and rest, via thought bubbles that will appear above their heads, in addition to making verbal utterances. The closer your workers are to their sources of food and shelter, the more efficiently they will work.



There will be 20 dynamic scenarios in the game, and there will be multiple successful paths you can take to complete your missions, including engaging your enemies in battle. If you've built a barracks, you'll be able to recruit leaders who will, in turn, recruit squads of troops for you. Types of troops will include men who use swords, spears, and bows and cavalry and artillery units. In addition, there will be 'hero' units that possess special abilities. You'll be able to train your troops at your barracks as well, increasing their levels and making them more successful in combat. Certain characters will also have the ability to use alchemy, which can actually be used to predict the weather. Weather will affect troop movement. So, for example, a cold, wintry setting will cause bodies of water, like rivers, to freeze, thus allowing your men to cross them quickly."

apostle," Filippi said, as quoted by the Catholic World News (CWN).

Filippi explained that the tomb was found at the basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome. This basilica was erected in the 4th century on order of Roman emperor Constantine in 386 A.D. Before Constantine's rule, Rome's leaders both shunned and persecuted Christians, who were forced to hide important tombs and relics. Ancient Rome also had a decree that no individual was to be buried within the main city confines.

Archaeologists discovered the sarcophagus on what would have been the ground floor of the 4th century basilica. It was found under the altar next to a marble plaque that reads, "Apostle Paul, martyr."

- [Roman coffin found intact in London](#)

posted on February 10, 2005 10:15:00 am

[Times Online - Britain](#)"A ROMAN wooden coffin has been unearthed in London, the only example of its kind found in Britain.

Archaeologists expressed excitement that it had survived intact, centuries after other examples had disintegrated without trace. In dating from AD120, the new find is an unusually early example of a Roman burial.

It was not until the 3rd century AD that the Roman Britons generally buried their dead. Prior to this they usually favoured cremation. The skeleton belonged to a man over the age of 25, at a time when only 10 per cent lived beyond the age of 45.

The coffin, which went on display yesterday at the Museum of London, was found during building work in Holborn, on a steep side of the River Fleet, one of the many rivers that flow beneath London's streets to the Thames.

Although the coffin was made of re-used old oak and included only a modest wine flagon, it does not necessarily reflect a low status. The skeleton shows a degeneration that tends to indicate a high-calorie diet. "

- [Roman mosaic of naked harvesters is revealed under Trajan's Bath](#)

posted on February 01, 2005 09:52:00 am

[Roman mosaic of naked harvesters is revealed under Trajan's Bath](#)A well-preserved, nearly 2,000-year-old mosaic depicting five frolicking naked men in a grape harvest scene is Rome's latest new, stunning find from digs into layers of history under the city's modern-day surface.

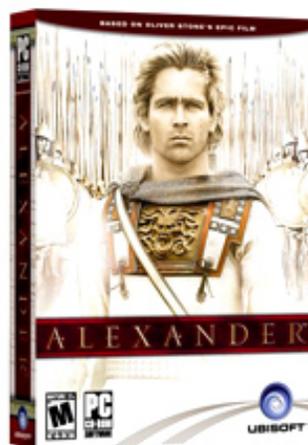
So far, the only ones to come face-to-face with the underground marvel is a team of cave explorers who lowered themselves into a space under the ancient Baths of Trajan, in the bowels of the Oppian Hill, one of the city's seven ancient hills.

"Having found a polychrome mosaic of such a size and quality when we didn't expect to find anything so prestigious is an exceptional thing which gave us indescribable emotions," said Marco Placidi, who lowered himself 42 feet into the earth to inspect the decoration.

The team of speleologists was brought in to get a full look at the 10-foot-long and 6-foot-high mosaic, which was first spied in 1998 by archaeologists who were digging through the subterranean structures of the Baths. They saw only a small detail of it by peeking with a tiny camera through a hole.

- [It's Alexander Madness!](#)

posted on February 22, 2005 09:22:00 am



- [It's Alexander Madness!](#)

Alexander is the officially licensed real-time strategy PC game tied to Oliver Stone's upcoming ? Alexander? movie starring Colin Farrell.

Integrating exclusive footage from the motion picture, the game immerses players in the era of Alexander the Great.

Like Alexander, players will face the challenges of

managing vast resources, a multitude of units, buildings and advancements, while his enemies always seem to have more of everything.

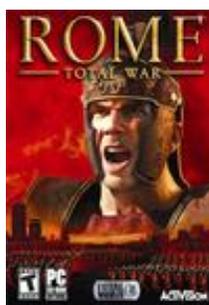
Blood will be spilt on the battlefield and honor will be put to the test, as the courage and cunning of each decision will determine success.

Triumph in epic real-time battles using formations, morale, and authentic battle tactics.

On sale now for only \$9.90

- [Rome Total War Patch provides tool to script and "film" battles](#)

posted on February 04, 2005 10:22:00 am



[DailyGame.net](#): "I notice that the new 1.2 version patch for Activision's *Rome Total War* includes several new developer tools that allow players to create their own battles, script said battles and create custom videos of those battles. This provides a wonderful opportunity for history educators to produce their own versions of battle sequences like those broadcast by the History Channel in their *Decisive Battle* series."

- [The Eye Of Isis and Mystery of the Mummy on sale](#)

posted on February 03, 2005 09:38:00 am

[GoGamer Madness!](#)GoGamer has been offering quite a few games featuring ancient themes in their 48-hour madness specials lately. Today I received an email notice of two more ancient adventure games offered for less than half price and I haven't even received my shipment of the two others I ordered earlier this week.

This time it's the *Eye of Isis* and *Mystery of the Mummy*, both titles are adventure games published by Dreamcatcher.



"Curse is a game that will take you from grim Victorian London, to the inside of an ancient Egyptian pyramid. And everywhere in between.

On the way, the very objects around you will make attempts on your life, and only you, with help from your friend and cohort Victoria Sutton, the beautiful clairvoyant, can

Archaeologists said Friday that the mosaic is believed to date between A.D. 64 and A.D. 100 and is likely part of the wall decoration of what was a large hall beneath the ruins of the hill, part of the sprawling grounds where Emperor Nero built his fabled Golden Palace, or "Domus Aurea."

"For its particular subject and quality, we believe this mosaic has set a model for other similar artworks" of the ancient past, said Giovanni Caruso, an archaeologist who supervised the excavation.

One of the five men depicted in the mosaic is picking bunches of grapes from a vine while another, portrayed from behind, is playing a double flute. The other three men, wearing leafy crowns, dance on harvested grapes in a rectangular vat.

Experts theorized that the mosaic decorated part of the extensive urban structures that were built in the area during the reigns of the seven emperors who came between Nero's rule (A.D. 54-68) and Trajan's (A.D. 98-117).

- [Give us back our chariot, Umbrian villagers tell the Metropolitan Museum](#)

posted on January 31, 2005 12:31:00 pm

[Telegraph](#) : "A tiny Umbrian village is taking on the mighty Metropolitan Museum in New York, claiming that one of its most exalted exhibits, an Etruscan chariot, was illegally exported from Italy 100 years ago.



The sixth-century bronze and ivory chariot, the pride of the museum's Etruscan collection, was originally sold to two Frenchmen by a farmer who dug it up in a field at Monteleone di Spoleto, near Perugia, in 1902.

According to family lore, the farmer received two cows in exchange. The local mayor, Nando Durastanti, believes that he actually swapped the chariot, one of the world's greatest antiquities, for 30 terracotta tiles. It was later dismantled and illegally exported from Italy, concealed in a grain shipment.

Said to be the only Etruscan chariot ever found intact, the 14ft by 4ft vehicle, showing scenes from the life of Achilles in relief, was part of a burial treasure.

It was found with the remains of two humans still sitting inside, along with two drinking cups, which helped date it to 530BC. The farmer, Isidoro Vannozi, is said to have stumbled across it while digging a wine cellar. He hid the treasure in his barn, fearing that the authorities would confiscate it."

- [The Scotsman - International - New broom to make togas the Roman way](#)

posted on January 31, 2005 12:26:00 pm

[The Scotsman - International - New broom to make togas the Roman way](#): "RESEARCHERS in the ancient Roman town of Pompeii are attempting to revive 2,000-year-old traditions to

return the statuette and stop the evil.

But not all of humanity welcomes your intervention. Ruthless henchmen, led by the vicious Mullins, have their own plans for the statuette and are a dangerous complication in an already highly perilous mission.

Hordes of living dead inhabit the game, all reanimated in horrific ways by the awesome power of the Curse, and their hideous monster masters are screaming for their chance to destroy you.

And, if these foes aren't enough to deter you, the Curse itself has a surprise in store... "



In *Mystery of the Mummy*, you "become Sherlock Holmes as you embark on a remarkable adventure. Investigate a mysterious case, full of suspense, of the disappearance of a famous archaeologist and a valuable Egyptian Mummy, in turn-of-the-century England.

What begins as a simple case quickly becomes a web of intrigue, robbery, priceless artifacts, and potentially, a murder.

Inspired by the writings and characters of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. An involving storyline in true Sherlock Holmes style.

Wonderfully appointed, atmospheric and graphically detailed mansion. 5 different levels of gameplay.

Many rooms to search, all uniquely decorated and furnished. Numerous interesting objects to search for, collect and use during gameplay.

Exceptional puzzles of differing complexity. Interesting characters to interact with."

- [It's Riddle Of The Sphinx 2: Omega Stone now only \\$9.90](#)

posted on February 01, 2005 09:35:00 am

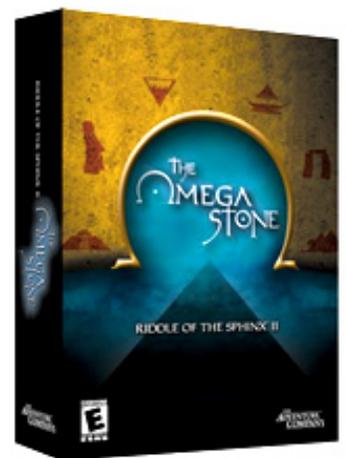
[It's Riddle Of The Sphinx 2: Omega Stone Madness!](#)

After years of digging, noted archaeologist, Sir Gil Blythe Geoffreys uncovered a secret chamber and an ancient papyrus scroll overlooked for centuries that revealed the whereabouts of a treasure sought after throughout the millennia, the Ark of the Covenant.

Further exploration led to the discovery of another prophetic scroll, the contents of which unravels an ominous mystery.

Sir Gil Blythe Geoffreys, calls on you to lead the exploration and examination of the origins of this sacred scroll, whose symbols point to cultures of great intelligence and refined intellects.

Features



reproduce imperial cloth used to make togas and uniforms.

The project follows successful production of Roman wine two years ago using methods that would have been employed in vineyards buried by a devastating eruption from Mount Vesuvius in AD79. Historians at the archaeology department in Pompeii are experimenting with wild broom as the base product to make the textiles.

They will be using the writings of ancient Roman scholars such as Pliny and Columella to make the cloth as well as relying on materials discovered within Pompeii in buried workshops."

- [Ancient Roman Rest Stop Provided Surprisingly Modern Amenities](#)
posted on January 28, 2005 10:56:00 am
[Discovery Channel](#): "Underneath a German bus terminal, archaeologists have found the remains of a 2,000-year-old Roman roadside rest stop that included a chariot service station, gourmet restaurant and hotel with central heating.

Upon arrival, travelers would have entered a forecourt, where mechanics stood by at a chariot service station. Hay and water troughs would have given the horses a nibble and a drink while their owners dined on a variety of foods, including ethnic cuisine.

"We haven't found any brown sauce sachets, but we have uncovered many ceramic plates, pots, and pans," Sabine Sauer, an archaeologist for the city of Neuss, told the Telegraph newspaper in London. "We have found the rubbish tips - and although much of the organic waste has long since rotted away, we have clues as to what they ate from discarded pottery. There were spice jars containing garum sauces from North Africa, similar to what one might find in a Thai restaurant today."

She added, "We know from the bones that they ate a lot of meat - chicken and pork - as well as bread, rice, lentils and fruit. There were desserts of sweet cakes, cooked with sesame seeds and almonds. There must have been a flourishing trade; there were many fragments of wine amphora and broken plates."

After the big nosh, travelers would have had the option of staying for the night at the hotel, which was made of slate and bricked with narrow joints.

The foundation was raised to allow for a wood-fueled furnace at the bottom of the structure. Hot air from the fire would have risen naturally to fill chimneys located within the guest rooms. The hot air also warmed the walls, which were made of partially hollowed-out bricks.

Sauer said the complex was energy efficient, since the forests around Neuss already had been mostly depleted before the inn's heyday. In addition to the underground heating system, a slate roof on the building captured the sun's heat, somewhat comparable to how solar panels operate today."

- [Augsburg: Roman, Medieval and Rich](#)
posted on January 28, 2005 10:38:00 am

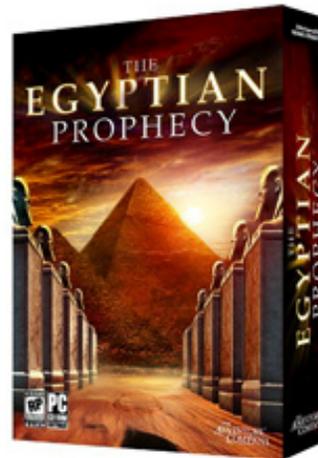
Stunningly realistic 3D replications of the world's most mysterious sites including Chichen Itza, Stonehenge, Easter Island, Devil's Triangle including Bimini, and the ruins of Atlantis.

Unrestricted access and exploration of archaeological sites currently off limits to tourists. A haunting original score evoking the unique but primitively similar spirit of each environment.

Real-time environmental effects.. rain, sun, water, with full 360° environment exploration. Over 50 hours of immersive gameplay with puzzles and challenges throughout.

Uncompromising graphical details. Breathtaking underwater dive scenes and exploration. Historically and archaeologically accurate reference material at each location.

- [Egyptian Prophecy now only \\$9.90](#)
posted on February 01, 2005 09:32:00 am



[It's Egyptian Prophecy Madness!](#): "Ramses II is dying and with him the glory of Egypt shall fall. Amon-Ra, the Sun-God, promises to extend his life in exchange for the most magnificent temple ever built.

Trouble is not far away as the building site for the temple is affected by a number of sinister incidents.

Maia, a young priestess, must solve the mystery behind these events and save the life of the Pharaoh.

Features

Travel along the Nile and explore magnificent locations and monuments such as Karnak, Memphis, and the labyrinth of Ptah.

Interact with various characters and encounter Egyptian gods, including Osiris, Seth, Isis and Ptah.

Decipher an array of intriguing 3D real-time puzzles set in breathtaking environments.

Easily concoct sacred potions and perform ancient Egyptian rituals using the customized game interface and inventory.

Scour the in-game encyclopedia for historically accurate information on rituals, ancient monuments and artifacts, and Egyptian mythology."

- [Hadrian's Wall model](#)
posted on January 11, 2005 11:33:00 am

[Deutsche Welle:](#) "

Augsburg, Germany was shaped by the trade in salt and silver in Roman and medieval times. The ancient Roman Empire has left its traces in many parts of Augsburg, and its legacy is a continual source of amazement. Urban construction projects, for instance, often end up becoming more like archaeological digs since the most remarkable things turn up like a stone from a grave showing a wine transport.



Of course, historical artifacts are fairly common to Augsburg which was situated along the 'Via Claudia,' the road leading from Germania to Rome. Over the centuries, the route developed into a main trading route linking several major cities. "

- [Roman work tossed in Athens stream](#)

posted on September 22, 2004 03:41:00 pm

[ekathimerini.com](#): "A first-century-AD work that is a Roman copy of a fourth-century-BC classical original and possibly represents Apollo Lykeios has been found in a stream in Athens. Yiorgos Steinhauer, head of the Culture Ministry's local antiquities department said the statue could have been recently discovered by builders during construction work, and dumped in the streambed for fear archaeologists might stop the works if alerted to the find."

- [Malls pioneered by rich Romans](#)

posted on January 21, 2005 05:19:00 pm

[Telegraph](#): "The luxury housing estate and out-of-town shopping centre may need to be added to the long list of what the Romans did for Britain.

Work in Bath suggests that rich Romans were so keen to live close to city centre attractions that they abandoned the empire's traditional habit of building lavish villas in the countryside, well away from the neighbours and commerce within the city walls.

Excavations in Bath reveal that at least half a dozen elegant homes existed near each other and within easy reach of leisure areas. One villa was found while sprinkler pipes were being laid across a golf course. A second villa with mosaic floors was found a few hundred feet away."

- [Large Mosaic discovered in Domus Aurea excavation](#)

posted on January 21, 2005 02:44:00 pm

[MSNBC](#)"A large mosaic, more than 9 by 6 feet, showing naked men harvesting grapes and making wine, a typical illustration for a Roman palace of the time has been unearthed by continuing excavations of the Emperor Nero's "Golden House" in Rome. Three of the men are stomping on grapes in a vat. One plays a double flute. They all seem to be having fun.

The mosaic adorns a giant arch buried in Colle Oppio, the hill on which Nero's palace stood. The mosaics were found more than 40 feet below the ruins of the Trajan Baths, a large structure built over the Golden House more than half a century after Nero's death by suicide. Experts are split over whether these artworks were part of Nero's estate or dated from an earlier building that he knocked down to make way for his mansion.

[Hadrian's Wall](#): Geoblox offers a free download of a section of Hadrian's wall.

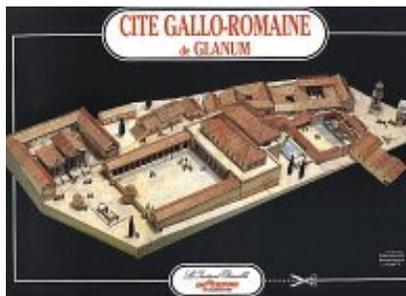


"At this scale, you will need 79 wall segments to make one Roman mile. To build the whole wall you would need 6400 models stretching 6/10 of a mile!" this picture shows one of the turrets although the free download is just the wall.

A book containing the complete wall along with other models from the ancient world for reproduction in the classroom is available for \$26.

- [The Gallo-Roman Town of Glanum: Scale Architectural Paper Model](#)

posted on January 11, 2005 11:19:00 am



[by Jean-Marie Lemaire and Anne-Marie Piaulet](#):

"A precision three-dimensional paper model of the reconstructed town of Glanum, which is unique in the world. The roofs of the baths and that of one of the houses lift off to offer an insight of the interior layouts. An

illustrated text gives historical information and step by step instructions for assembly, in English, French, German and Italian. There are 30 colored sheets to cut-out in order to build the model (scale 1:200, base 17.5 x 39.5 inches, height 6 inches)."

- [Shadow of Rome finally scheduled for release Jan 29](#)

posted on December 22, 2004 11:41:00 am

[PlayStation 2: Shadow of Rome](#): "In the year 44 B.C., during the reign of Julius Caesar, a terrible plot comprised of murder and corruption was secretly brewing. A plot to prevent Caesar's plans for a reformed Rome was executed, resulting in the infamous 'Et tu, Brute' slaying of the beloved leader. The inevitable fallout of such a tragic blow to the Roman Empire results in Uesnius being accused of the crime. In Shadow of Rome you assume the role of an upcoming gladiator, Agrippa, the son of Uesnius. The only way you will be able to save your innocent father's life is to rise through the ranks of the brutal gladiators until you have achieved a level of infamy worthy of recognition by the Roman elite. Only the most unforgiving, triumphant gladiator is given the honor of executing the branded traitor, Uesnius. If you can reach that level of notoriety, maybe, just maybe you'll be able to free your father at the last minute. The fate of your family name rests in your hands!"

Luckily, Agrippa is not alone in his quest for justice. While his portions of Shadow of Rome focus on the visceral, blood-soaked acts of pure animal violence that occur in the gladiatorial arenas of the city, your close friend and ally, Octavius, has a very different task. Octavius must infiltrate the halls of power that control the political and subversive aspects of Roman life in order to uncover the man (or men) who commissioned the incarceration of Uesnius. "

- [New King Arthur DVD worth a look](#)

posted on December 22, 2004 10:45:00 am

● [Falcons Fly to the Rescue of Ancient Herculaneum](#)

posted on January 21, 2005 02:02:00 pm

 [Yahoo! News](#): "After being buried in boiling mud when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD, the ruined ancient city of Herculaneum is now being deluged with acidic pigeon droppings."

The situation has got so bad that archaeologists have called in three falcons to scare away the hundreds of pigeons that have set up home in the once-vibrant Roman town."

● [Chariot Race Track discovered in Colchester](#)

posted on January 06, 2005 10:49:00 am

[ThisisLondon](#): "Historians believe they may have discovered the world's biggest Roman chariot-racing track outside Italy ... in Essex."

The track was unearthed by archaeologists at the site of the Army garrison in Colchester. The 209-acre site was part of the Army base there."



Looking for images for a report on presentation on the ancient world? Check out the [images of the ancient world database!](#) Free for non-commercial, educational use.

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I watched the new "King Arthur" DVD last night and found that the Extended Edition Director's cut was much less choppy than the version that was shown in theaters. The DVD also includes a version with director commentary and an alternate ending that I hope to have time to view this weekend. Hopefully it will dispense with the cheesy "wedding" finale.

When I viewed the film last night I was able to listen more intently to the dialogue as well. Clive Owen was forced to speak such formal stilted passages that it was as if he was given expansive Shakespearean lines that contrasted too starkly with the more pedantic dialogue of the other characters.

The extended edition also emphasized Arthur's admiration for Pelagius as a basis for his world view. I was unfamiliar with the teachings of Pelagius so I did a little research and found some interesting articles at:

<http://www.clive.bates.btinternet.co.uk/palagius.htm>

<http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/Augustine.html>

<http://tinyurl.com/4trs9>

● [King Arthur \(PS2, GC, Xbox\)](#)

posted on November 30, 2004 10:48:00 am



[Review at GameSpot](#): "The whole basis for the movie King Arthur was to try to tell the 'real' story behind the legend. Set 1,000 years ago in Britain (while it was still tenuously under Roman control), the Arthur of the film is a Sarmatian commander who leads a squad of

Sarmatian knights within the Roman army. Arthur's squad is just about to be granted its freedom after 15 years of service, but faster than you can say 'He was only one day away from retirement,' Arthur's unit is sent on one final mission to rescue a Roman priest and his family. All the primary characters from the Arthurian legend are here, including Lancelot, Arthur's right-hand man; Merlin, who is portrayed as the leader of a rebel tribe called the Woods; and Guinevere, who is no longer the damsel in distress or the focus of a bitter love triangle between Arthur, Lancelot, and herself. Rather, she's a feisty, bow-wielding warrior of the Woods. The story is presented through a series of computer-generated and ripped-from-the-film cutscenes, which actually tie together fairly seamlessly. Similarly, the missions the game puts you on are based entirely within the scope of the film's plot, so if you liked the film, you should very much appreciate how the game relates to its source material."

● [God of War \(PS2\)](#)

posted on November 23, 2004 04:38:00 pm

[GameSpot](#): "God of War, casts you in the role of a despondent former Spartan warrior under order from the gods to slay the cruel god Ares (who is--surprise--the Greek god of war). Seems the only way to do this is by unlocking the power of Pandora's box, and the finding of said box will occupy the first part of the game.



After a few minutes playing God of War, we were duly impressed by the frenetic action, interesting puzzle mechanics, and cohesive visual style that the game presents.

Magic will be a powerful ally in the game as well. At the beginning you'll be able to control the thunderbolts of Zeus, which of course can be used to zap enemies. At one point in the demo you end up fighting Medusa, who can turn you to stone. In an interesting twist, once you defeat the beast, you can use her head as a magical weapon to turn enemies to stone as well. The game is scheduled for release in early 2005"

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Last updated: 02/01/2005

by [Mary Harrsch](#)