

3-9-2004

Avion 2004-03-09

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THE AVION

A Division of the Student Government Association

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Daytona Beach, Florida

TUESDAY
March 9, 2004

www.avionnewspaper.com
Volume CIX • Issue 8

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ERAU students travel to Antarctica

Engineering Physics students calibrate research instruments

Phyllis Salmons
Faculty Reporter

While most people were enjoying turkey during the December 2003 Christmas holiday, Lisandro Martinez and Charles Mutiso, both seniors majoring in Engineering Physics, traveled to the South Pole Station, Antarctica to perform calibration and upgrades of the research instruments operated by ERAU's Space Physics Research Laboratory (SPRL). This trip provided Martinez and Mutiso an extremely valuable and hands on experience with state-of-the-art electro-optical and spectroscopic systems. At the South Pole station, SPRL operates a suite of complex and light sensitive instruments comprising of a CCD spectrometer, a Michelson Interferometer, an Ebert-Fastie and a Filter Wheel Photometer. The four instruments observe very weak light emissions from reactions that occur high in the earth's atmosphere;

the data is processed at SPRL by student research assistants to extract temperature and brightness values that are used by scientists around the world to model the atmosphere and predict variations in chemical and physical parameters of the atmosphere.

The main purpose of the trip was to calibrate these instruments, diagnose and fix any operational problems that might have surfaced during the season. "The calibration process, in layman's terms, involves shining a light source of precise intensity at the instruments in order to determine their response.

"Measuring what the instrument observed, and knowing what it should have seen, we can generate a calibration factor that can be applied to the data collected during the season," explained Mutiso.

"Highlights of the trip to the South Pole Station involved flying in a C-130 Hercules, staying for two days in New Zealand, hiking the Antarctic continent, visiting other Antarctic Bases such as McMurdo (U.S.) and a New Zealand Base, "playing" with penguins, and exploring a C-130 Hercules buried under the ice at South Pole" claimed Martinez.

In addition, Martinez and Mutiso spent Christmas and New Year's Eve at this remote location. They also participated in the annual "race around the world," which consist of a two-mile race around the geographical south pole at an elevation of 9391 ft with a temperature of -50° F.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERAU ENGINEERING PHYSICS

EMBRY-RIDDLE ENGINEERING PHYSICS students Lisandro Martinez and Charles Mutiso stand at the South Pole during their trip to Antarctica in December 2003. They traveled to Antarctica to calibrate research equipment.

This is not the first time the duo traveled far from the SPRL base located on the third floor of Lehman Building. In the summer of 2003, the two traveled to Sondrestromfjord, Greenland and Resolute Bay in the Canadian Arctic in order to work with the CCD spectrometers and a Michelson Interferometers located at each station.

Both Martinez and Mutiso agree the trip to the South Pole is one of the best memories so far. SPRL is always looking for students to get involved in SPRL research activities. Engineering Physics majors are encouraged to seek opportunities at SPRL that might be of interest them. For more information go to www.erau.edu

Spring break ... soon.



SHYAMAL ADDANKI/AVION

SPRING BREAKERS ARE BEGINNING to arrive in Daytona Beach. This week marks the beginning of spring breaks throughout the country. Among the hot spots are Panama City Beach, Miami Beach, Cancun, Jamaica, and Daytona Beach. The Travel Channel ranks Daytona Beach as the sixth hottest spot for spring breakers this year.

Freshmen to register via web in Fall

Kelly Budd

Records & Registration

Starting with preregistration for Fall 2004, freshmen in good standing may use web-based registration. All freshmen are still required to seek advisement for course selection prior to registering; however, after doing so, they are permitted to register on the web.

Prior to advisement, all freshmen will be placed on a registration hold, which may only be released by the advisor during the advisement and course selection meeting. Once the hold is released, freshmen may login to Blackboard (ERAU Online) and enter the web registration portal located under ERAU Student Services on the Online Services tab. Students must use their ID and PIN to access web-based registration.

All holds, such as Health Services and Bursar, must be resolved before access to web-based registration is granted. Students on academic warning and probation are required to register in Records & Registration after obtaining the required signature on a registration form.

In addition to this change for freshmen, another change has been implemented to improve registration and add/drop for the entire student body. Web-based registration will remain open for add/drop through the first three days of each summer term and through the first five days of each spring and fall semester. After that period, web registration will close and all add/drop processing will continue in Records & Registration under the current procedures.

Students who want to register for a course overload – above 18 credit hours during the spring and fall semesters and above nine credit hours during the summer terms – may now do so on the web, provided their GPA is a 3.0 or above, as stated in University policy.

See REGISTRATION on A3

New Aero. Science degree program to be offered

Program will offer more sim. time, 118 fewer flight hours

Jonathan Mettin
News Editor

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University will be offering a new Aeronautical Science (AS) degree program, according to a press release last Thursday.

Starting in the Fall 2004 semester, the program will be offered at both the Daytona Beach and Prescott campuses of the world's largest aviation university.

"We've been watching the airlines for

years," said Tim Brady, Dean of the College of Aviation at Daytona Beach. "We've shaped our Aeronautical Science degree program into one that trains students the same way the airlines train their pilots."

According to the release, the new curriculum will require students to spend an average of 118 fewer flight hours towards their degree, but will now spend 60 hours in the flight simulators.

Brady cited several reasons for this move. Pointing out the safety of using a simulator as opposed to flying an aircraft, students will be able to practice situations they could not safely do in the air, such as spins, stalls, and flying in hazardous weather.

Brady also said for every hour in a flight les-

son, a student pilot will only spend 30 minutes in the air, and that aircraft are only available for about eight hours a day.

With the open-23-hours simulators, AS students will be able to spend the full hour training without the hassle of waiting for aircraft.

Also, the Canadair Regional Jet simulator at Daytona Beach and the Airbus 320 simulator at Prescott allows students to get sim time in planes they will actually fly when working for an airline.

Although the simulators are more expensive to purchase than a new aircraft, it costs less as much to operate and is five times more useful than an actual aircraft, according to the press release. By passing these savings on to students, Brady estimates

the new AS program will cost 30 percent less than the current one.

The FAA has given its top approval rating, Level 6, to the University's simulators, making them the only university flight-training devices in the nation qualified to such a high level.

Knigt Kiplinger, editor-in-chief of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* and *The Kiplinger Letter*, who visited ERAU's Daytona Beach campus last month, said the transition is well-timed.

"After three years of severe financial distress in the commercial aviation industry, a strong recovery is now underway," he said. "This augurs well for pilot employment prospects, especially with many older pilots planning their retirements in the coming few years."

"Looking further out, the demand for pilots should remain very strong, as robust global economic growth stimulates air traffic for both passengers and cargo. Embry-Riddle is wise to be anticipating this growing demand with its new pilot education program."

“Our AS degree program ... the same way the airlines train ...”

- TIM BRADY

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Vietnam: The War that Never Ends

Mark Soppet
Staff Reporter

George C. Herring, an alumni professor of history at the University of Kentucky and author of several books on the Vietnam war, spoke to a packed IC auditorium on Mar. 4 on the subject "Vietnam: The War that Never Seems to Go Away."

Dr. Herring's experience on educating college students about Vietnam is vast. He wrote the most popular collegiate textbook on the subject, *America's Longest War*. He also had the unique experience of traveling to Vietnam with former defense secretary Robert McNamara and meeting with the Vietnamese leadership from during the war, including General Giap. He also had a good understanding of his audience. "If there's extra credit involved, I hope it's a lot and I hope it's worth it," he said.

The focus of Dr. Herring's presentation was the reasons why the Vietnam war has scarred the nation's psyche and what it may take to heal those wounds. He began by discussing how the Vietnam war is affecting the presidential race, and the comparisons between the Vietnam war and the Iraqi insurgency. With these recent developments setting the tone, Dr. Herring began to list the reasons why he feels the Vietnam war is still with us.

Dr. Herring lectured about how Vietnam was the United States' longest war. He detailed the evolving role of the U.S. in Vietnam, from subsidizing the French to nation-building in the south; from serving as "advisors" to the escalation into a shooting war. He quoted George C. Marshall,

saying that "a democracy cannot fight a five-year war."

Other factors in the presentation included the hostile territory, the formless enemy, the limited war aims, and an unfavorable balance of forces against the U.S. Dr. Herring did point out, however, that the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong were not super-warriors; indeed, they "made terrible blunders and lost three million men."

Dr. Herring concluded the presentation with a discussion of the war's divisiveness at home, its outcome, how it forced the United States to confront the American character, how it challenged America's notions of invincibility and ended without settling any major issues. The war, according to Dr. Herring, had a huge effect on popular culture, spawning over 250 films even though "Hollywood refused to touch the subject until the late 70's."

Dr. Herring then asked the audience how "the Vietnam syndrome" has

changed public perceptions. He drew several chuckles from the crowd by holding up a button from 1991 which read, "Iraq is Arabic for Vietnam." Despite the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the Vietnam syndrome will be with us until the Vietnam generation dies away, according to Dr. Herring.

Following his presentation, Dr. Herring took a few questions from the audience. He explained that politicians will not seriously pursue rapid disengagement from Iraq, and challenged notions of poor morale among soldiers fighting in Vietnam. He did admit that there were morale problems during 1969-70, and that racial tensions contributed to the situation, but he did not feel that unit cohesion was disintegrating. Dr. Herring also compared current defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld with Robert McNamara, accusing both men of being too arrogant to accept the advice of military commanders.

Student reaction to the presentation

was generally positive. Freshman Jeff Wetmore said, "There was a lot I learned that I didn't know about the war, particularly about the French moving out and us moving in." Senior Phillip Mace felt there was "An excessive amount of questions comparing Vietnam to the war on terrorism," but he appreciated Dr. Herring's points on how not to wage the war on terrorism in the context of Vietnam.

Dr. James Libbey of the humanities department arranged for Dr. Herring to appear at ERAU over a year and a half ago, although the exact topic wasn't finalized until several months ago. Dr. Libbey said that the presentation was "Gearing very well for our audience. He made the point that the Vietnam war is having a long-lasting impact on society. Dr. Herring later said, 'I certainly was impressed with the turnout and the quality of the questions.'" Dr. Herring was the last speaker for ERAU's Arts and Letters series this year.



THIS IMAGE APPEARS ON the cover of George C. Herring's novel "America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950 - 1975." Mr. Herring spoke to students about the Vietnam War last Thursday.

Up 'Til Dawn Pillow Brawl



AT MIDNIGHT SUNDAY MORNING, roughly one-hundred students attending the Up 'Til Dawn Finale event were bashed in the head, beaten senseless and received a faceful of feathers during a huge two-minute long pillow fight. The pillow brawl attempted to break the world record for the most participants in the longest time.

Changes underway on campus Int'l Day

Michael Marano
Managing Editor

Last week *The Avion* published a photograph of the field of trees that were recently leveled in front of O'Connor Hall.

According to SGA President Matt

Collier the reason the trees were leveled is to make room for the new Intramural / Recreation sports fields.

The project is part of Embry-Riddle's Master Plan for the Daytona Beach campus.

According to the Master Plan the new recreational fields will be incor-

porated into an upgrade of Embry-Riddle's athletic programs.

The recreation fields behind the Student Village will remain as they are, but plans are on the table for tennis courts and even a track for track and field events.

In addition to the construction across from O'Connor Hall, there is construction behind the ROTC building in an effort to connect. The Earhart parking lot adjacent to the ICI Center with the Defender parking lot adjacent the former AWS (Airway Science) building.

On the corner of Richard Petty Boulevard and Clyde Morris Boulevard, the former IT (Information Technology) complex is currently undergoing renovation, as it is will house the Department of Health Services.

As you may or may not know, the Student Center is being primed for renovations of its own. During the summer, rooms will be added and redone with an all new student lounge incorporated into its design. Campus Safety, the SGA, WERU, Health Services, the Department of Student Activities and even *The Avion* are currently preparing for our relocation to new office space within the renovated Student Center.

Embry-Riddle is in the midst of major changes. Students who graduated two years ago would most likely not recognize the school. Since the completion of the College of Aviation, Embry-Riddle has been on track to make the "Master Plan" for the future a reality.

Jonathan Mettin

News Editor

ERAU celebrated its multinational student body on Saturday with International Day 2004.

Under the slogan "Oh, the places we'll see," over a dozen countries were represented in the Student Center, including the African nations, France, Germany, the United Arab Emirates and Sri Lanka, among others.

Tables representing each nation were present, with foods native to the country. For a small fee, a visitor could purchase tickets to sample the food, served by students and other representatives, many wearing the traditional clothing of the country. Traditional music was played from large speakers; reggae was played to represent the Caribbean Student's Association, and other nations had their native instrumentals playing at various times at the event, which lasted from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The flight deck was turned into a stage for several demonstrations put on by campus organizations. There were two Indian dance numbers, Tae Kwon Do and Capoeira martial arts demonstrations, the African/Brazilian Maculele (pronounced "mack-oo-lay-lay") dance, and the Sri Lankan King's Dance, called the Chathura Nandalochua.

"It's really a great event," said one parent in attendance. "It gives the students a taste of the world around them."



THE TREES IN FRONT of O'Connor Hall were recently torn down to make way for a new intramural sports field. The new intramural fields are a small portion of Embry-Riddle's Master Plan.

EagleEye team presents design

Dr. Linda H. Straubel
Guest Reporter

What's shiny, hexagonal and flies through space at 17,325 mph?

Embry-Riddle's own EagleEye, a low earth orbit (LEO) satellite being fabricated entirely by ERAU students.

Four teams of students are already working on fabricating a satellite that will, on command, take pictures of the earth and beam them back to anyone with an email address and an authorization code. Amateur radio frequencies will carry communication both to and from the satellite.

One of the project's main purposes is to help NASA with its experiment in migrating ground-to-satellite communication to the internet. Moreover, these students are getting hands-on, practical experience at building a satellite and a command station, with help from the experts. According to former astronaut Ron Parise, "When I was in college, I would have given anything to have a real live hands-on project like EagleEye to be involved in."

Obviously, as with any project this huge, there are grant monies, sponsorships and expert advice involved. Among our generous contributors are: AMSAT (The Amateur Radio and Satellite Corporation), CSC (Computer Science Corporation), ERAU, the Florida Space Grant Consortium, IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc.), Lockheed Martin, Lumenera and of course, NASA.

On Fri. Feb. 27, the EagleEye design team members presented the project.

Some of you may have already noticed that there's a new "tilt-over" tower attached to the Canaveral building. This is for Project EagleEye. By Mar. 8, the tower should include the antennas needed to communicate with the satellite.

How did such a project get started?

As in many such endeavors, personal contacts can be the most crucial first element. When asked who got who involved, Ron Parise, former astronaut/senior scientist, or his son, Nick, project coordinator, Dr. Parise wrote, "Nick called me one night a couple of years ago ... and said that he and his AE friends wanted to build a satellite." Since he was already

involved in projects "looking at the viability of using standard Internet technology for communicating with spacecraft," Dr. Parise suggested that the ERAU team design a flight demo of this technology. Since NASA would be interested in such an experiment, funding would naturally follow. Through a grant proposal, Parise and Parise gathered \$27,000 in seed money from the Florida Space Grant Consortium. Dr. Parise got his company to kick in another \$22,000 in equipment.

According to the EagleEye presentation, the structures team will fabricate a small satellite that can "withstand [the] launch environment while protecting internal components, maintain [its] structural integrity during deployment and function reliably for the duration of the space flight." Aluminum is the obvious material of choice for several reasons: it's relatively easy to work with, it has a high strength-to-weight ratio, it's non-magnetic and it's cheap. Despite generous contributions to this project, economy is one of Project EagleEye's top priorities. In fact, using COTS (commercial off the shelf) products will, in many cases, save the teams time, money and room, all of which are of the essence.

The structural team settled on the hexagon as the most perfect compromise shape, since it maximizes surface area for solar panels and is easier to engineer than an octagon or a cylinder. One of the COTS components will be the gravity-gradient boom, which will help keep the satellite in a "nadir-pointing position" with the camera pointing toward the earth at all times. Here is another exception to the COTS-being-cheaper rule: the boom costs around \$150,000. The team is presently seeking funding for this major expense.

If all goes according to the plan discussed at the presentation, on board the satellite will be a Lumenera LE-100 camera which, at the probable rate of six passes per day, will, at a "500 km image size, provide a complete overlap in two days." The onboard computer block will include "an industry standard PC-104 with a CPU of 133 MHz, 128 megabytes of memory, a synchronous serial clock, two data acquisition cards and a high efficiency switching power supply with battery charging capabilities.

While there is no final launch date

set yet, if all goes according to plan, the teams will be ready to run a full simulation of the complete uplink-satellite-downlink system by January of 2005.

The team did much of their planning based on launching with NASA's Hitchhiker program. With the cancellation of that program, EagleEye is looking for another launch provider. Under consideration, according to Dr. Parise, are a NASA expendable launch vehicle or a commercial vehicle. Others with small satellites to launch have even contacted the Russians, who, rumor has it, charge \$10,000 per kg. They are, however, as always, open to negotiation.

Who we piggy-back with also affects our LEO altitude. The speed cited at the beginning of this article, over 27,700 km/hr, is based on a 350 km orbit, which was, in turn, based on the Hitchhiker launch. "Hitching" a different ride, however, could result in

an orbit as high as 900 km. Believe it or not, that 550 km difference means less Earth-gravity, which means the satellite would slow down to a paltry 26,640 km/hr. The launch will also affect satellite decay and the satellite's life expectancy, as well as the camera's field of view.

Ron Parise summarized it well by stating, "The EagleEye team has done an amazing job of learning and working together to produce the design concepts that they presented to us. During the [presentation] they demonstrated a real understanding of the problems they were encountering and were obviously not just repeating memorized material." They planned and worked and thought, then faced a tough panel of experts and have gone back to planning, working and thinking some more. The audience at that presentation got to see Embry-Riddle students at their best that day.

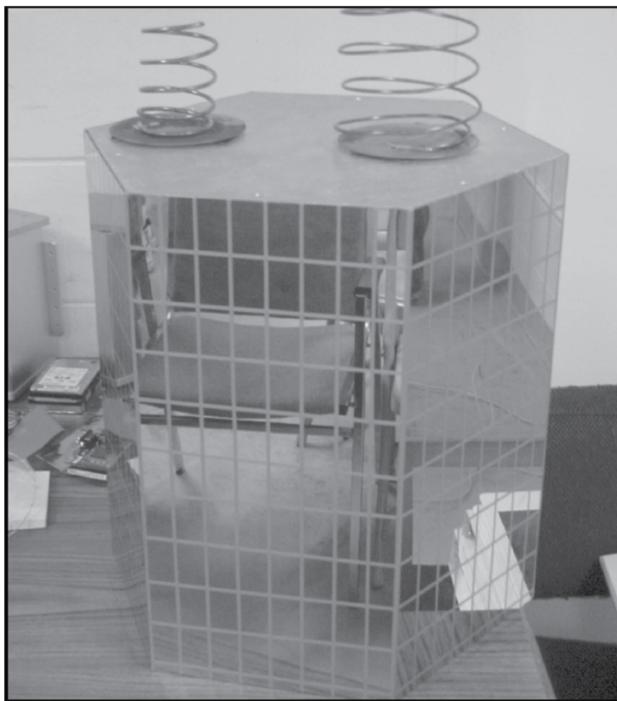


PHOTO COURTESY PROJECT EAGLEEYE

PROJECT EAGLE EYE PRESENTED its design to a select audience on Feb. 27. Here is a scale model of what the proposed satellite will look like. The satellite is to be ready for launch by January 2005.

Stress Reliever



BILL CAMPBELL/AVION

STUDENTS RELIEVED CLASS RELATED stress this past Thursday and Friday as Alpha Phi Omega provided a junked car for students to smash. Students donated one dollar towards St. Jude's Children's Hospital in order to hit the car.

REGISTRATION From Front

The Fall 2004 Schedule of Courses will be distributed to student mailboxes during Spring Break. Please refer to web-based registration dates, policies and instructions on pages 2-4. Advisement occurs March 22-26. Seniors register March 29-31; juniors reg-

ister April 1-5; sophomores register April 6-8; freshmen register April 9-13.

Records and Registration sincerely hopes these changes are adopted with satisfaction and ease. Your comments about how Records & Registration may better serve you are appreciated; visit the Records web page www.erau.edu/dbrecords and click on the "Web Feedback" link.

~Ranee Spina~
Relationship Expert



8:00pm
Tuesday, March 9
IC-Auditorium

"UNDERSTANDING SEX & LOVE"

Are there actual "rules" to dating?

Issues Discussed:

- Love & Sex
- Dating
- Healthy Relationships
- Marriage
- Self Worth

Attend this presentation to be eligible in:
"SPEED DATING"
late March...it's Coming!

Sponsored By: Counseling Center, Student Government Association, ERAU Housing & the Social Issues Committee

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1 YEAR WARRANTY

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Queen Set \$179.95
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5 YEAR WARRANTY

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Queen Set \$199.95
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ORTHOPEDIC \$89.95 Ea. Pc. *
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*SOLD IN SETS ONLY. MATTRESSES CAN BE SOLD SEPARATELY AT SIMILAR SAVINGS.

The facts to challenge a nonsmoker's thoughts

I think last week's whining of smoking on campus from Frank Arban warrants at least a rebuttal from a member of the "stupid people," as he so called us. He challenged us to "thrill him with [our] logic," and "defy [him] with one good reason" as to why we smokers don't take our cigarettes away from the academic buildings. I'll do him one better. Here's an entire page full.

As opposed to opinion-based ranting and offensive language as my counterpart within *The Avion* elected to use to bring "merit" to his argument, I have chosen to utilize the facts. The strongest argument Arban used in his article was the threat to the health of passive non-smokers. Little question remains in anyone's mind in this day and age as to whether or not smoking is unhealthy. Nevertheless, millions of people across this country elect to light up every day in full knowledge of the risks. As to whether or not this constitutes them as "stupid" I will address later, but for now, focus will remain on the alleged self-wish malice of a smoker enjoying a cigarette on the public campus.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA) a December 1992 study of second hand smoke (SHS) in the workplace,

(defined as a locale with a constant presence of smoke being emitted) a non-smoker working full time inhales carcinogens the equivalent to six cigarettes a year. With the amount of toxins being inherited from each cigarette generally accepted at 0.04 grams per cigarette, this means that a non-smoker working in a smoky environment (and a non-smoking Riddle student if we are liberal enough to classify the occasional passing of a smoker as a "smoky environment") brings on 0.24 grams of poison into their body every year.

At first thought, the idea of a bystander individual taking on these levels of toxins is unacceptable. Exactly how much damage does it actually do though? Let's compare this number to the effects of other daily activities. Warming a home with a gas or propane furnace causes 0.001 grams per hour. Riding in a car brings on .7 - 3.5 grams per hour. Sitting next to a fireplace forces ten grams per hour. Simply riding in a bus comes with the price of 36 grams per hour! So it is easy to see that the emissions inhaled from the casual encounter with SHS are irrelevant in the modern world.

As intelligent collegians every-

one reading this is undoubtedly aware that statistics can be manipulated and I may have just selected the most favorable documentation, even though according to their own objectives the 1992 EPA study was initiated in order to prove the risk of SHS, not the lack thereof.

Let's look at conclusions from some other reports, though. The World Health Organization (WHO) in 1998 attempted to prove the harms of SHS to a spouse. Unexpectedly to them, they were only able to come to the conclusion that the adverse effects of prolonged exposure to SHS to a life partner while existing were not statistically significant. The results from both of these reports were confirmed by the Congressional Research Service, and similar findings have been turned up from independent sources such as the Brownson study, the Fothman study and Oak Ridge National Laboratories, just to name a few.

With the irrelevance of SHS to health explained, the only other argument Frank Arban managed to muster was the unpleasant smell smoking may have for a non-indulger. Yet, Frank Arban fails to concede that he, along with every other non-smoker out there, has at some point played music not to the tastes of every single member of the population, worn a sports team or rock band T-shirt advertising a group not everyone supports or done any number of things that

could be an annoyance to any other person they might come across. Unquestionably, in wake of calling them "stupid," some smokers on campus must sit in class with, pass in the halls and share a lunchroom with Frank Arban—whom they find an annoyance. This, while an annoyance, certainly must be accepted because in a free society we are able to express ourselves in any means we please. Yet, in the end, this amounts to the undeniable, even if annoying to Frank Arban, fact that yes, it is my right to smoke.

It is still just plain rude to light up right outside the buildings though, right? I mean, shouldn't common courtesy say that smokers could at least take their cigarettes away from congested areas? Even if we ignore the fact that no one else is mandated to remove their annoying habits from the crowds, logic, once again prevails over mindless ranting. Classes, work, studying and any other activity a smoker may engage in during the day all take place where? That's right, inside those buildings. So during those few free minutes one may have to relax and enjoy a smoke they will step outside right to where the

ashtrays are. Even if time was had to walk to the middle of the west lawn or field house parking lot, I defy you, frankly, to find just one ashtray away from the buildings. So if our smoking in the designated areas is too much for you to tolerate in the say, five seconds it takes for even me, an unhealthy, unathletic, weak-lunged smoker to walk by, I suggest you use a side door which exists on Lehman, UC, COA, Auditorium and almost every other building on campus and almost never have a smoker around.

Are you as amazed as I am that a "stupid" person has been able to piece so many words together? That is to say, I started smoking in full knowledge of the possible health hazards, so I must be a real moron. I can only wish I was as gifted as Frank Arban whom I'm sure has never eaten a McDonald's hamburger because that might not be the best thing for his body. Nor has he drank a Coke, another unhealthy consumable. Just as you will never find him out partying a little too late, taking a corner a bit fast, playing football or engaging in any other activity that could have negative physical

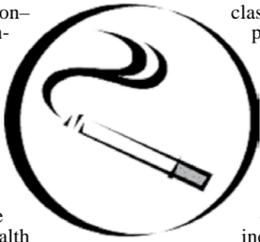
consequences. I think the point has been demonstrated.

Becoming a smoker—as most everyone in 2004 America knows—can have adverse effects on your health. Those who choose to smoke anyway have simply made a calculated risk that for the few minutes of relaxation, social atmosphere or any other pleasure each cigarette might bring, the possible consequences are worth the gamble.

This makes them no "stupider" than any other person who may do any of an endless number of things that while enjoyable might not be the best thing for them physically. I raise the point that publicly and unfoundedly calling a significant portion of the general population being "stupid" might not be the best thing for one's physical health either.

I have admitted that smoking is not the best thing for my health. I have admitted further that not everyone appreciates the smell. Yet with no evidence of harm to the bystanders, or reasonable alternatives offered, I will continue to enjoy the occasional cigarette on campus, because, yes, it is my right. So go ahead Frank Arban, bring your Lysol to school with you. Bring a real argument too. Otherwise, when you point that bottle at me you're going to find it awfully hard to aim after I blow my smoke into your eyes.

—Joey Closson



"It is still just plain rude to light up right outside the buildings though ..."

- JOEY CLOSSON "

American children: fat zombies?

Do video games make kids fat and violent? According to a new study by so-called Swedish experts, violent video games not only make teenage and younger boys aggressive and even criminal, it makes them fat as well. This is not the first time that criticism has been brought upon the \$11 billion industry, the last time there was any real noise about video games was Presidential hopeful Joseph Lieberman bashing Rockstar Games for their wonderfully successful game, *Grand Theft Auto Three*, an excellent way to pickup 20 million teenage votes, I am sure.

The "experts" who are not involved in the industry were quoted on the subject of video games influencing kids by saying, "It's concerning because they (video game players) are rehearsing scripts of behavior that will possibly play themselves out in real life." Michael Rich, a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, was quoted as saying in a documentary entitled "Deadly Game."

After the film was shown, there was a panel debate among the Swedish experts, debating if there were any scientific findings on if video games actually made kids violent. The findings were unsurprisingly scant, however it has been proven that people who watch a lot of TV are known to be violent, according to one study by Frank Lindblad, a child psychiatrist at Sweden's Karolinska Institute.

Since both TV and video games can go hand in hand it is obvious that a link should exist between the two, and the experts decided that if TV makes kids violent then video games must make them even more

violent.

Although there have been cases where teens that were arrested for criminal behavior have identified themselves with the game heroes, probably because of advice given by a lawyer for the kids who had nothing better to do than sit by a highway and shoot at passing cars, but hey, they were outside instead of sitting inside under artificial light playing those "death games," that gave them a sense of a pseudo-reality.

This, in and of itself seems to be the basis for what causes kids to become violent and have criminal behavior, or is it because every time there is a crime committed by a teenager the media immediately jumps to the conclusion that "death games" have been brain washing that person since the start by jumping on Goombas in Mario Brothers, and later carjacking and shooting at police cars in *Grand Theft Auto*, instead of actually blaming the real problem, lack of parenting.

Parenting is the major source of ethics for growing children. If the parents are not involved with the child, the child will grow up with what they see on TV or play in video games, not with what their parents tell them is right and what is wrong.

I grew up with video games, Mario Brothers, Duck Hunt, Zelda, etc, but I also grew up with games that depicted real combat such as *Warcraft*, *Mechwarrior*, *Doom*, *Wolfenstein* and *Quake*. I grew up playing online against other people who were out to kill me and I was out to kill them. This, however, did not carry over into real life. I knew where the boundary was, where virtual killing ended and real life took back over. This did

not make me excessively violent, it did make me aggressive, but after a few very solid whacks from my parents, I took up weight lifting and playing football to get rid of aggression, instead of going out to pick a fight with someone. I learned how to deal with people instead of breaking their noses because they said something insulting to me. I currently find sarcasm to be a much better way of dealing with their peanut sized brains as well as leaving longer lasting mental scars.

There has only ever been one documented case of video games making kids violent, which I will address now. The experiment was done close to six years ago by a college professor who had some volunteers play *Wolfenstein 3D* for a few hours. The kids did not become violent after several hours of perfecting how to kill each other across a local area connection. After they got the hang of the game, the professor hooked each of them up to a device that would give them a mild electric shock every time that a person died. After a little time, the volunteers started becoming much more violent towards each other, very possibly due to the fact that the person killing them was causing them pain.

Trying to look at this objectively as possible, if this is proof that video games make kids violent then I could prove how intelligent a dog is, because the dog will not do anything bad, because everytime that it does, the dog gets wacked in the nose with a rolled up newspaper. The dog does not do that action again because of the fact that it caused it pain to do so. Same goes with children and a hot stove, they stick that little

hand onto something that is red hot because it was boiling water, they sure will not attempt it again because they remember that it hurt. The same thing also goes for the body's self preservation and the way humans' brains are wired.

But what about making them fat?

Elisabeth Juntila, a mother of six and head of a nationwide association promoting closer ties with homes and schools, says that children become fat because they spend their time sitting around playing video games and eating foods such as chips, pizza, Hot Pockets and soda. Due to the fact they never see sunlight, they don't play any sports besides virtual ones, and since they only eat fried foods and manmade flavors for food, it should be pretty obvious that kids that play lots of video games get fat.

Overall, there is nothing surprising in the press release for how video games make kids fat and violent but I do think that it is more up to the parents to monitor their kids ...

Parents should educate kids on guns, take them out shooting and teach them to properly use a gun. We should teach kids that violence is not the answer to everything, and teach kids respect for one another, because without it, violent crime will always be a reality. This is the reason why kids are violent. It is the easiest way to deal with someone. The media and uneducated parents just blame video games because it is a convenient scapegoat, not because violence hasn't existed since the dawn of time or anything.

—Tim Hatcher

"I do think that it is more up to the parents to monitor their kids ..."

- TIM HATCHER "

THE NOTH FACTOR

Pimp master bling

If I could remove one word from common vernacular, it would be "bling." I absolutely despise the word and everything it stands for. The word is very popular right now, both on *MTV* and *CNN*. I respect everyone's right to free speech, but I can't respect anyone who can say "bling bling" without laughing. I can't imagine anyone saying anything dumber than "Yo, Dawg! Check out my iced-out G-unit bling!" America may have seriously started a downward spiral.

In an effort to remind teens that money and possessions are the meaning of life, *MTV* has introduced a new show called "Pimp my Ride." I was so captivated by a commercial for the show that I immediately dashed to the nearest computer and tried to learn as much about the show as possible. What a learning experience I had. The show centers around "Pimp Master of Ceremonies Xzibit," a rapper turned auto detailer. Xzibit repaints and redesigns older cars into custom works of art.

I'll admit, the show is probably fairly interesting, but the message of the show really rubs me the wrong way. The show promotes the idea that the show's guests become "pimp"—that is to say, more likeable—by having their vehicle repainted. I detest the notion that notoriety and popularity are functions of possessions, but I know that is the direction things are going, and I can accept that. I can't, however, accept the idea that a vehicle is bettered by exterior accessories.

When I see a Honda Civic sitting on 18" six-spoke rims,

with a big exhaust pipe (the equivalent of a whoopee-cushion for cars) and funky taillights, I don't think "Wow, there goes F1 champion Michael Schumacher in his Formula 1 race car," I think "Wow, there goes a Honda Civic." I'm sorry, but no matter if you put on a body kit, get a custom paint job or toss on a three foot spoiler, a Honda Civic is not a Porsche: it just isn't, and it never will be. If you need me to, I can get a sign that says "I have a big wallet and a small %\$&#*" for you. I think people don't realize that placing "bling" on a car is just another way of ignoring reality, another way of being fake.

Consider: does a car ever really need "dubs?" By their nature, things that are considered "bling" are things that have absolutely nothing to do with living, just with showing off. These things don't even provide any joy beyond the basic pride of ownership. Imagine if Beethoven had spent his time gold-plating the keys of his piano like Lil' John's teeth, instead of playing it. Similarly, imagine if all the time, money and effort spent on "bling" was spent on bettering ourselves and our community. We could see new levels of creativity, service and philosophical speculation if half of our obsession with shiny things was turned into self-betterment and self-expression. Unfortunately, life is rooted in reality, not idealist-happy-land. I know people are selfish and I don't expect things to become less focused on individual goods — I expect things will only get "blingier."



Christopher A. Noth
Columnist

Student Forum

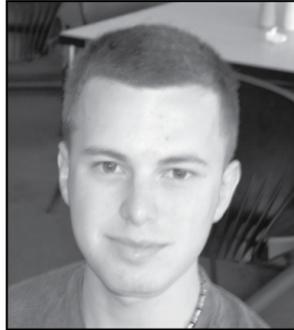
The Avion asks: "What will you be doing for spring break?"

—Compiled by Mike Marano



Will Terza
Aeronautical Science
Junior

"Road trip with my friends to my aunt's private beach house in Jackie Island, NC."



Kenneth Evensen
Aerospace Engineering
Sophomore

"I'm going to the beach, Disney World and D.C."



Steve Geis
Aeronautical Science
Sophomore

"I'll be going to Orlando for a couple days. Other than that, I'll be relaxing on the beach with my girl."



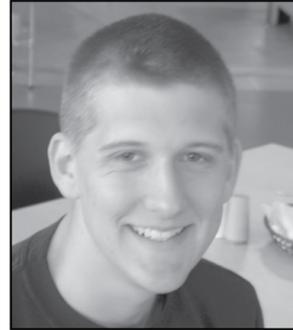
Je'Von Gilpin
Aerospace Studies
Sophomore

"I'll be laying on a beach in the Virgin Islands."



Michael Conyer
Air Traffic Control
Freshman

"Either going to Miami or Panama City beach. Haven't decided yet, but regardless of where I go, I plan on having fun."



Andy Simonitch
Aerospace Engineering
Freshman

"Goin' to Margaritaville with some of my boys."

Student Court in session

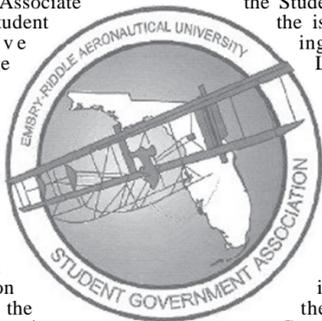
Levi Jordan
Staff Reporter

The Student Government Association's Student Court came together last Wednesday evening for a student hearing and a regularly scheduled meeting in the SGA office. The hearing commenced at 5:30 p.m. and dealt with a recent parking infraction.

The accused party stated their situation and the case worked through the judicial process smoothly. After hearing the accused, the Student Court spent ten minutes deliberating the case before reaching a verdict. In the end a compromise was reached that accommodated every party involved in the court. The verdict was delivered within 20 minutes of the start of the hearing and the accused was found responsible for the infraction, however a reduced

fine was given.

Overseeing the entire judicial process was the SGA's Chief Justice, Jessica Johnson, who also swore in three Associate Justices and a Student Representative from the College of Business. Sheri Hashemi, Carolina De Carvalho and Charmaine Gunasekara were all sworn in as Associate Justices of the Student Court and Chris Denton was sworn in as the Student Representative for the College of Business by Chief Justice Johnson. The attention of the court then shifted to other matters at hand.



Next on the Court's agenda was a review of the previous meeting's minutes as well as applications for future court Justices. After that the Student Court tackled the issue of interpreting Student By-Laws.

The Court spent more than 30 minutes deliberating before the final decision was made the court came to an agreement. After the interpretation of the by-laws, the Court was adjourned until after Spring Break when the Student Court will meet again on March 28 to review any new issues that may have arisen during Spring Break.

Gothika



TNG Movie! Thursday @ 8:30

TNG Movie! Thursday @ 8:30

TNG Movie! Thursday

No Avion Next Week

An Award Winning Newspaper by Students for Students.

The Avion Newspaper will not be printed next week due to Spring Break. The Avion's next issue will be printed Tuesday, March 23, 2004. Remember to always wear a condom, always drink responsibly, but above all else don't forget your beads.

Have a good Spring Break, we look forward to hearing about it.

WERU 104.7 FM

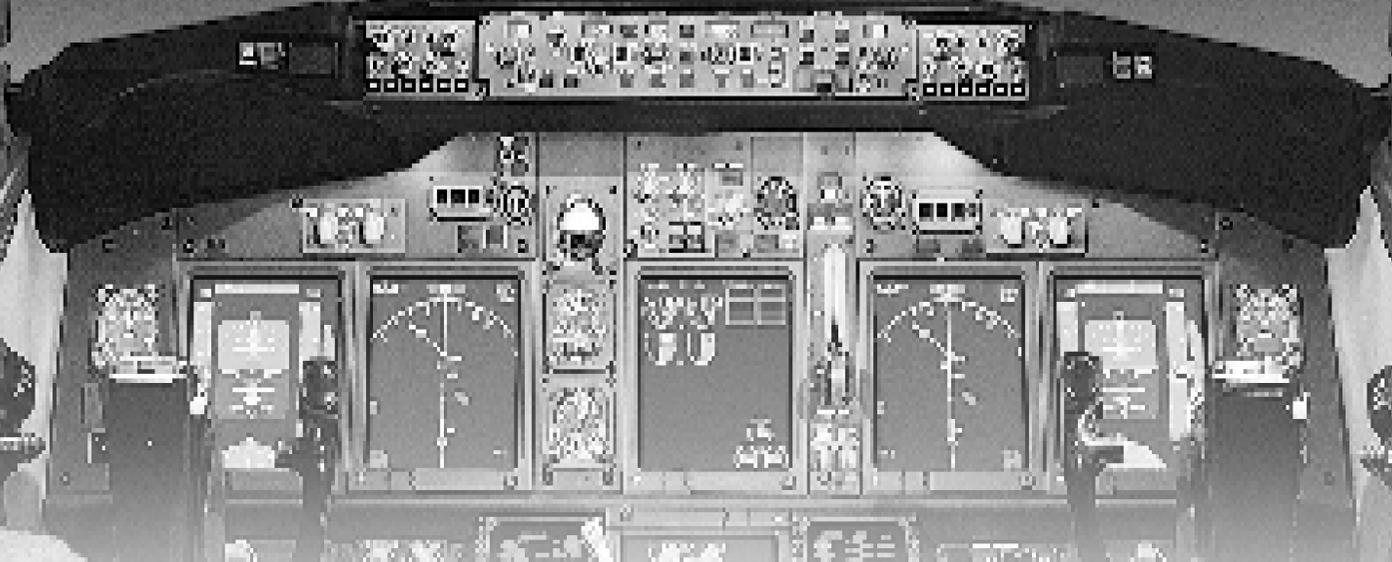
embry-riddle aeronautical university - daytona beach campus radio

ERAU Students - Check Out Our **NEW**

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- J1 - M1 Visas
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Dear Eta Iota Brothers of Sigma Chi

Frenchy and Milton
Members of Sigma Chi

Well I, Milton have been a bit of a slacker lately, so I decided to leave it to one of the brothers from Canada to do my writing for me. He seems to do such a good job. Before I do that, all I will say is Wej, you will never beat me in a beer pong tournament again, so be happy that I had a terrible partner. And finally, how many people sat next to Michael Jordan at a bar last week and got their picture taken with Playboy's 50th anniversary playmate of the month? I didn't think so. With that, I will hand this over to Frenchy. I still hate Canada.

article is written by Frenchy. On behalf of all of us who visited your chapter last week, I'd like to sincerely thank you for your true brotherhood and hospitality. We had an absolute blast with all you guys and we hope you guys feel the same way. Enjoy the Canadian beer in Stalin's room if he hasn't already finished it. I know that half Canadian Gabe might enjoy it. If you guys get sick of Q-tip anytime soon, don't send him back up here. We don't want him either. Cuba might be a good destination for him. And if his red-headed girl wants a real Canadian, you know who to call. Thanks for throwing all our boys into that hit van of a Sig bus. That

piece of crap should be banned from all roads. We've got great pictures of Russ driving that beast—he looks like a natural, as though he'll be driving a bus for a living. Next time you guys have a soccer game count me in. That three goal performance was nothing—Russ was holding me back. Don't worry, you're still number one. And if they told you about the car accident in your parking lot, it was nothing. I barely kissed your spare tire. Paul's car, on the other hand, he's some damage. All you need is some touch up paint. Just send me the bill. I'll pay in Canadian dollars. And sorry about everything at Molly Brown's 2. Derek didn't mean to call that stripper those things. He was just mad at the fact that he inhaled all the exhaust fumes from your hell-hole on wheels. No hard feelings. I still think that shady old man in the elevator set the fire in the hotel. Any suspects yet? And tell Sideburns that douchebag bouncer at Coyote's,

I'll throw more ice at him next time we come down. Hey Feliciano, take it easy on the hair gel, you Filipino pretty boy. You're just watching hockey—you're not playing it. No need for a helmet. Oh, I forgot, you're Irish... McDumbass! I'll see you in the play-offs...Wing Dog. And keep an eye out for Wing Man. I don't want to hear about another incident. If you do Bam Bam Bigelow again, you won't need to jump out the window, because I'll throw you out of one. Hey Brett, thanks for taking all my money in poker—is that how you treat a guest? That'll do Bacon; I let you win. That one's for you Curly. You guys are all welcome in Canada, but tell Screech he won't be able to cross the border if he grows his hair out. Border security will

think he's hiding something under there. I can't wait to see the picture your Dad has of you. Skinny, I'll teach you how to sing "O Canada". And when you boys come up, I'll drive you all around Toronto. If you want me to, I'll hit some cars there too. We'll go to Paramount Canada's Wonderland—it's a larger version of Six Flags. Sorry Stumpy, you won't be able to get on all of the big kid rides—there's a height requirement here too. Sorry man, I don't make the rules. If I had it my way, all four footers would be allowed, too. But if you come up, tell Nick to leave his rifles at home. None of that here. Anyways, I've taken enough of your time. Thanks again and have a good semester!

“ How many people sat next to Michael Jordan at a bar last week? ”
- Milton

Campus organizations available to you:

- Aviation/Aerospace**
 - American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics
 - Eagles Flight Team
 - Future Space Explorers & Developers Society
 - International Society of Air Safety Investigators
 - Mars Society
 - Ninety-Nines, Inc.
 - Society of Civil Aviation Technicians
 - Sport Aviation
 - Women in Aviation, International
- Ethnic/Cultural**
 - Ascendants League
 - Caribbean Students Association
 - Indian Students Association
 - Korean Students Association
 - Latinos Unidos
 - Hawaii & Pacific Ohana
 - African Students Association
 - German Club
- Honor Society**
 - Alpha Omicron Alpha
 - Omicron Delta Kappa
 - Honor Society
 - Sigma Gamma Tau (Aerospace Engineering)
 - Sigma Pi Sigma (Physics)
 - Sigma Tau Delta (English)
- Military**
 - Arnold Air Society
 - Eagle Wing
 - Naval Aviation Club
 - Scabbard and Blade
 - Semper Fidelis Society
 - Veteran's Association
- Professional/Academic**
 - American Association of Airport Executives
 - American Society of Civil Engineers
 - Association for Computing Machinery
 - Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
 - Mathematical Association of America
 - I.E.E.E.
 - National Society of Black Engineers
 - Order of Omega
 - Robotics Association
 - Society of Automotive Engineers
 - Society of Physics Students
 - Society of Women Engineers
- Service**
 - Alpha Phi Omega
 - Circle K International
 - Up till Dawn
- Special Interest**
 - Amateur Radio Association
 - Anything Goes Anime
 - Art Club
 - Culinary Club
 - Embry-Riddle Resident Student Association
 - GALBA (Gay-Straight Alliance)
 - Gamer's Guild
 - The Green Party
 - Model United Nations
 - Muscle Car Association
 - Music Company
 - Pep Band
 - Red Rope
 - Riddle Players
 - Riddle Riders
 - Scuba Diving Club
 - Silver Wings
 - Southern Crosswinds
 - Sport, Compact & Import Car Club
 - Student Alumni Association
 - Study Abroad
 - Vintage Life Club
 - Weather Club
 - Wild Riders
 - Triathlon Club
 - Water Sports Club
 - Wrestling Club
- Religious**
 - Catholic Student Union
 - Christian Fellowship Club
 - Fellowship of Christian Athletes
 - Shelanu Jewish Club
 - Muslim Student
- Sports**
 - Aiki O'Kami Society
 - Baseball
 - Crew Club
 - Diving Eagles Scuba Club
 - Golf Club
 - Ice Hockey Club
 - Inline Hockey Club
 - Iron Eagles Rugby Club
 - Jiu Jitsu Club
 - Karting Club
 - Kickboxing Club
 - Lacrosse Club
 - Rock Climbing Club
 - Skydiving Club
 - Stormriders Surf Club
 - Swim Club
 - Tae Kwon Do Club
 - Triathlon Club
 - Water Sports Club
 - Wrestling Club
- Fraternity/Sorority**
 - Alpha Eta Rho
 - Alpha Phi Alpha
 - Alpha Phi Delta
 - Alpha Xi Delta
 - Delta Chi
 - Delta Sigma Theta
 - Kappa Alpha Psi
 - Lambda Chi Alpha
 - Omega Psi Phi
 - Phi Delta Theta
 - Sigma Alpha Epsilon
 - Sigma Chi
 - Sigma Pi
 - Theta Phi Alpha
 - Panhellenic Association Interfraternity Council
 - Pi Kappa Alpha

Up 'Til Dawn fights for the kids



HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATE in Up 'Til Dawn's attempt to raise money for St. Jude Hospital and create the World's largest pillow fight. Although the World's largest pillow fight was unsuccessful, lots of money was raised for the kids!

PHOTO COURTESY WWW.SPACE.COM

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Hey there swing kid

Fletch LaBarge
Swing Club

Attention all happenin' Cats out there! There's a new club in town! The Swing Dance Club is up and running and, you guessed it, in full swing. This club was founded last spring but fell into obscurity when most of the officers graduated. This semester there has been a revival, and the dancing will continue. Every Monday night at 8 pm, the Swing Club meets on the flight deck for its weekly meeting. It starts off with about 20 minutes of free dance for everyone who knows what they are doing. During that time some of the more experienced dancers will take aside the newer dancers and teach and practice the basics with them. After everyone is caught up to on new business and old news, one of the members shows everyone how to perform a cool new move. After that we open the floor for more dancing. People socialize, discuss swing music, teach each other different dances and styles and moves and generally have fun. We have big plans for the future. Live concerts, movie night and even a kegger are soon to come. To be specific though, that would be a root beer kegger. No prior dance instruction or dance partner needed to show up. Just two legs to dance on and some hips to shake. So next Monday, stop on by the Flight Deck and come Swing with us!

“ Live concerts, movie night and even a kegger are soon to come. ”
- Fletch LaBarge

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Theta Phi Alpha

Kyra Ko
Theta Phi Alpha

The past two weeks have been busy for Theta Phi Alpha. Last Friday we had a rockin' time at Rockin' Ranch learning in-line dancing with the brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha. Sure, the steps were a bit hard to follow, but we tried. The past two Sundays we hosted car washes at Walmart and at Ritter's where we raked in the big bucks. A big shout-out to our advisor, Mr. Bill Kohlruss, for bringing many of his students to the car wash. Thank you so much for your support!

We've been busy writing letters for Up 'Till Dawn. We are also collecting clothes for our Salvation Army Clothing Drive, so if there's that unworn shirt or pants you've been hoarding in your closet for months or years, please kindly consider donating to our cause.

Lastly, Theta Phi Alpha wishes our lovely sister Rachel a happy birthday! Have a fun and safe spring break everyone.

VISIT STUDENT ACTIVITIES FOR UPDATES ON CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

Department of Defense reviews tanker needs

Michael McGraw
Staff Reporter

The U.S. Department of Defense has launched a year-and-a-half long study to assess options for modernizing or replacing the Air Force's aging KC-135 Stratotanker fleet. Currently, the Air Force has about 500 aircraft.

The DOD wants to analyze all its options for the KC-135, and the pros and cons of each. This includes the possibility of modernizing and modifying the existing fleet, or acquiring new and used aircraft to eventually replace the tanker.

A Feb 24 memorandum stated, "The analysis will compare the strengths and weaknesses of the alternatives, particularly with respect to their responsiveness to the [national] defense strategy ..."

replacing the KC-135s with KC-767s, beginning with a lease of 20, followed by a purchase of 80 additional examples. However, some congressional members are questioning whether the Air Force has considered all of its options on the subject, resulting in the study.

Several options are being considered from both military and commercial standpoints. Some military options being explored include re-engineering the KC-135 to a more updated configuration, buying other military aircraft, such as the C-17 or C-130J, or developing a new "manned unmanned" tanker. On the commercial side, options

call for buying new commercial aircraft, which include the B767, B737, B7E7, A310 or A330, and reconfiguring them for military use. Another commercial option is purchasing used B767, B747, DC10, MD11, A310 or A330 aircraft and converting those for military use.

Within two months, the Air Force is expected to submit a plan for the conduct of the survey. It isn't expected that the study be complete until August 2005. However, the 20/80 KC-767 deal is not on hold until the study is complete, but rather, is being considered as a "separate issue."

"The analysis will compare the strengths and weaknesses ..."
- DoD MEMORANDUM



DAVID WONG/AVION

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE is looking to modernize or replace their KC-135 fleet, currently numbered at about 500 aircraft. One aircraft being looked at is the Boeing KC-767.

Gulfstream expands model line AIA asks U.S. to increase funding

Christopher Noth
Staff Reporter

Gulfstream Aerospace plans to expand its line with a variant on its G450 model. During Asian Aerospace 2004 in Singapore, the company announced it will use the G450 basic size and airframe to build the G350, a large-cabin business jet, with a slightly shorter range than the G450. Company officials said the G350 will be "very similar in design to its sister ship, the large-cabin, long-range G450," but will cost customers about \$7 million less.

At \$27.6 million, the shorter range jet will have a 3,800 nautical mile range (500 miles shorter than its sister aircraft) and cruise at Mach .80. The G350 flight deck will incorporate Gulfstream's PlaneView package, which includes Honeywell Primus Epic avionics. The jet will also use Rolls-Royce Tay 611-8C engines, the same engines as the G450. The two aircraft have so much in common that the type rating between the two will be the same; pilots type-rated on one aircraft will be able to fly the other. Both aircraft are slated for FAA certification before the end of 2004 and service delivery by third quarter of 2005.



DAVE WONG/AVION

THE GULFSTREAM AEROSPACE 350 uses the same frame as the 450, but with 500 miles shorter range. The 350 also boasts a price tag that is \$7 million less than its sister ship.

As the air travel industry begins to rise, the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) has called on the US government to reverse declining funds in aeronautics research and development (R&D) funding at the FAA and NASA. The association claims that refueling research programs will help avoid possible negative effects on the U.S. economy and will help preserve U.S. competitiveness within the industry.

Chair of AIA Board of Governors' Initiative on R&D and president of Rockwell Collins, Clayton Jones has called the past two year's downturn in the industry a "temporary reprieve" for modernization efforts. Most analysts expect 4-7 percent growth in air traffic this year; in Asia, air traffic levels have risen above pre-September 11 levels, according to Jones. He pointed out to the press at a briefing in Arlington, VA that "Significant delays in the air

traffic system are going to play out, and that could have a very serious effect on the economy of this country." The FAA's budget will remain fairly constant for FY 2005 under the Bush Administration's budget proposal, but Jones stated that facilities and equipment budgets will be reduced by 14 percent and programs to increase air traffic system capacity will be cut by 35 percent.

The five-year plan for aerospace R&D called for by AIA calls for a \$1.7 billion increase in NASA's aeronautics budget and \$3.8 billion in the FAA aeronautics budget. Jones claims the budget increases are needed "to reverse the steady decline that we've seen in both of these areas over the last two years." Jones also notes: "Clearly, the eroding system capacity that could result from this lack of investment is a very immediate threat to the economy, and a challenge to our balance of trade that we've enjoyed in this area."

Christopher Noth
Staff Reporter

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New Windows XP build

Tim Hatcher
Staff Reporter

Rumors are once again running rampant about a new build of Windows XP, aside from the 2006 expected release of Windows Longhorn and the build of Windows XP 64, due out by the end of this year. Although Microsoft has denied this, the mainstream media cannot help but think another project is underway at the software giant, that has currently been named by the media "Windows XP Reloaded."

Aside from Windows 64 and Windows Longhorn, Microsoft is due to release the second service pack for XP cleverly titled Service Pack Two. Most of the speculation about the new, worked-over version of XP may just be to boost

the stock price of Microsoft; however, it may also be just to keep users happy with upgrades and new features that may be added since there will still be quite a wait before Longhorn is officially released.

What this may mean, however, is that Longhorn will once again be delayed and customers will become increasingly unhappy with the service from Microsoft. In an attempt to keep those who have a Software Maintenance Agreement (SMA) with Microsoft happy before the next release, there will need to be just a little bit of filler.

Although not a new concept, SMA's have been used by numerous companies to keep a revenue stream between major releases. This revenue stream is very important should there be a number of years between releases, such as the six that are expected from the XP release to the Longhorn release.

Essentially, until Microsoft says otherwise, this may just be a marketing ploy to get more customers onboard the SMA agreement and keep the revenue flowing until the end of 2006.

“
... Speculation about Windows XP may be to boost Microsoft's stock prices...
”

- TIMOTHY HATCHER

New HD-DVD format is out

Michael Perstin
Staff Reporter

The group of companies behind the DVD format has approved a new type of rewritable optical disc that is the same size as the existing DVDs, but can hold more than four times more data. The new High Definition and High Density-DVD (HD-DVD) format was approved this week at the DVD Forum general meeting in Tokyo.

The new format will be a 4.7-inch optical disc that can hold up to 20GB on a single-sided disc, compared to the 4.7GB on the existing DVD discs. The new format was developed by the combined efforts of Toshiba and NEC. A 15GB, read-only version of the HD-DVD was approved late last year.

Approval of the new DVD format marks a further step towards a format battle between at least four of the incompatible technologies on the computer storage market. The current format that has the most backers is the Blu-ray Disk. Twelve companies in the DVD Forum support the Blu-ray format, primarily Sony.

Even though the four formats are physically incompatible, they all mark a large jump in data storage due to the blue laser technology they use. Since blue light has a shorter wavelength than the red light that is used in CD and DVD systems, the laser makes a smaller spot on the disk surface.

That means each bit of data takes less space on the disk, thus more data can be stored on the DVD.

While the DVD encountered a major victory in Tokyo, in the United States the situation was different. On Feb. 20, California District Judge Susan Illston ordered 321 Studio Inc. the makers of the famous "DVD X Copy" program to remove a part of the program that allows the user to bypass the DVD

Days of Protest," in which consumers will be asked, through the 321 supported www.protectfairuse.org, to write, call, e-mail or fax newspaper editors, Hollywood studios and federal lawmakers on the company's behalf.

"It's to let these people know we're law-abiding citizens, not a bunch of pirates," said Robert Moore, 321's president and founder. "This [software] is for making fair use of legally acquired digital property, for doing what we want to do with our own stuff. Apparently, that message has not gotten across."

“
If you buy a DVD you have a copy. If you want a backup copy, you buy another one.
”

- JACK VALENTI

Windows code leaked

Michael Perstin
Staff Reporter

About a month ago, Microsoft was hit by the most powerful blow it has ever experienced. The source code for Windows 2000 and Windows NT 4.0 was leaked to the internet.

Even though it is still unknown if this is the real code or just broken parts of it, if it is proven this is the real deal, it will Microsoft.

If the rumors are true and this is the real code, anyone possessing the code, from a professional programmer to the average Computer Science student will be able to gain unauthorized access to almost any system running Windows 2000 or

NT 4.0 by going through the code and finding different unpatched holes and exploits.

The code, however, seems to be too small to be the source code for the whole Windows operating system. Thus the code might be just the source code for a feature in Windows NT.

Since Windows is the most popular operating system, installed in over ninety percent of the computers in the world, a good hacker will have a very large selection of computers to access if he or she finds a few good exploits or holes.

The code itself started to appear on some peer-to-peer networks and is now starting to make its appearance on IRC. Rumors say the code

is headed to some of the main warez websites.

Even though it is unknown how the code got to the internet in the first place, some people have different ideas of the purpose of the code. Some people even say the code is just a hoax by Microsoft, trying to scare people to switch to the new Windows operating systems.

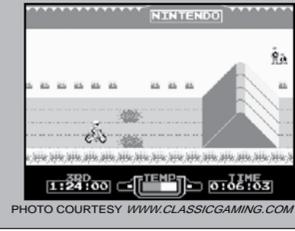
Whether it is true or not, the best way to protect yourself for the time being, is to make sure your system is fully updated and protected by a firewall. Of course the best way to protect yourself right now is to close any system that you have running Windows 2000 or NT 4.0, but that option is not applicable to many people and companies.

OSGW: Excitebike
Darrin O'Brady
Data Technology Editor

In honor of Bike Week, this weeks ol' skool game is Excitebike

for NES. Back in 1985, this "exciting" motorcycle racer provided a race against time or CPUs, but unfortunately not second player.

However, many were addicted to Excitebike because you were able to design your own course with different obstacles and jumps. The various ways in which you can crash your bike made crashing as much fun as racing.



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MARS STORY

Last week, scientists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced that the Mars rovers had accomplished their mission – concrete and unmistakable evidence of large quantities of liquid water in Martian history.

The announcement was as predictable as it was historic. “We have concluded the rocks here were once soaked in liquid water,” said Steve Squyres of Cornell University, the principal investigator for the science instruments on Opportunity and its twin rover, Spirit.

Squyres and other NASA officials made the historic announcement at NASA headquarters in Washington D.C., after several days of hints and rumors that something significant had been discovered. “Three and a half years ago, in July 2000, we were on stage here to talk about sending two rovers to get evidence of past water. NASA and its international partners have turned those dreams to reality,” said Ed Weiler, NASA associate administrator for space science.

With the use of instruments on board the golf cart-sized rovers, scientists studied the composition of

the rocks and soil on the planet. The physical appearance of the rocks, plus the detection of sulfates, clearly indicates a history full of water, and more important, an environment that could have been hospitable to life.

There are two scenarios that could explain the finding, said Squyres –

- o Volcanic eruptions generated layers of ash with lots of pore space. Subsurface water then percolated through the pores.

- o Or there was a salty sea of water with currents and waves. As the water evaporated, salt settled out along with other sediments and built the layers.

Both scenarios would have provided an environment suitable to microbial life. While some scientists are leaning toward the sea idea, Squyres said he would not commit to either theory. Nor would he speculate on when the water existed or how long it lasted. “Both are fundamentally possible,” said Squyres. “But we may never know.”

Spirit and Opportunity were sent to opposite sides of the planet with

the possibility of investigating different types of terrain. Spirit, the first rover to arrive on January 3, landed near the Gusev Crater, which may once have held a lake. Opportunity, which landed three weeks later, landed inside a small crater in the Meridiani Planum, one of the flattest places on the planet.

Since its landing January 25, Opportunity has used the same tools as a human field geologist would to determine the chemical contents of the rocks. Using an alpha particle X-ray spectrometer, scientists have identified a high concentration of sulfur in the bedrock. Another instrument on board, a Moessbauer spectrometer, has detected an iron sulfate mineral known as jarosite.

From their knowledge of rocks on earth, scientists say rocks with as much salt as these rocks either formed in water, or had a long exposure to water after they were formed. The scientists say these rocks could have formed in an acidic lake or even a hot springs.

The theory of a watery past is further strengthened by the pictures taken by the rovers’ panoramic cameras and its microscopic imager. One

target rock, named “El Capitan,” is filled with random pockmarks. Geologists say a texture like that comes from sites where salt crystals have formed in rocks that have sat in salt water. Scientists say they have gained other clues from the physical appearance of the rocks. They see a pattern called “cross bedding,” which is often the result of wind or water moving across the rock’s surface.

Future Mars missions will entail miniaturizing equipment, and landing equipment that would help prepare for the eventual landings of humans. That might include tests for toxins in the soil, and to determine if there are any materials that humans might find valuable when they do arrive. “It’s clear we have to do a sample return, both for the scientific side and in preparation for human landing,” said Weiler.

The two rover missions have come with a price tag of about \$820 million. Each rover is expected to function and communicate with the use of solar panels and lithium-ion battery systems aboard for about 90 Mars days, known as ‘sols’ or 92 earth days.

CAPITALIZE AND BOLD THE first four words of your caption. It should be three lines long and use an active voice. Remember that many times people read the caption before the article.

Far away Galaxy

this story doesnt have to

Scientists in the French Pyrenees and Swiss Alps announced this past week that they had detected a galaxy 13.23 billion light-years away, making it the most distant galaxy known to date. The discovery of the galaxy known as *Abell 1835 IR1916* also represents a very important and historic leap in time and space beyond the previous record holder, since its distance would mean that it was formed when the universe was a mere 470 million years old.

Put simply, if the universe were represented by an 80-year-old person, then previously, the earliest known photographs of that person would have been when they were 4 years old. However with the discovery of *Abell 1835 IR1916*, astronomers have just discovered a photograph of that 80-year-old person when they were only 2 1/2 years old.

“This discovery opens the way to future explorations of the first stars and galaxies in the universe,”

said Daniel Schaerer, the co-leader of the team that made the discovery from the Geneva Observatory and University in Switzerland. The newfound galaxy was discovered using the European Southern Observatory’s Very Large Telescope in Chile.

The galaxy was discovered using the Redshift scale. When visible light from an object is emitted and travels a long distance through space, its wavelength is gradually shifted from blue to red, towards invisible infrared light. Scientists measure this shift with a scale they call the Redshift scale.

The scale is similar to a logarithmic one, meaning that the difference between Redshift values of 1 and 2 translates to billions of years, whereas the difference between Redshift values of 6 and 7 is only a few hundred million years.

Previously the most distant galaxy known was discovered just four weeks ago and had a value between

Aurora: myth or reality?

Joseph Fedorchik and Joseph Balliro

Guest Reporters

Does the United States government have a new secret spyplane capable of Mach 6? Some skeptics believe that the United States government has been concealing such an aircraft since the late 1980’s, and is undeniably using it in operational status today. According to Dark Eagles (Peebles, 1995) the original 1990 Aviation Week & Space Technology articles were illustrated with artist conceptions of a “rounded” delta design.

In early 1988, there were several articles on the alleged Aurora. On January 10, The New York Times reported that the Air Force was developing an aircraft capable of reaching Mach 5 (38,000 mph) & altitudes of over 100,000 ft. That same month, The Armed Forces Journal published a financial analysis that indicated Lockheed’s income far exceeded that which could be explained by any of their aircraft. It was suggested that Lockheed was building a “super stealth” replacing for the SR-71.

In 1989, an eyewitness came forward to claim that he had seen the Aurora up close while working at Groom Lake. He described it as fueled by liquid methane & requiring the entire three-mile runway at Groom Lake to take off. He later claimed that the Aurora was able to reach speeds of Mach 10 & altitudes of 250,000 ft.

According to Popular Science (Sweetman, 1993) the United States government had two main reasons for going ahead with the Aurora.

The First: improved Soviet surface-to-air missile systems poised a threat to 80,000 ft. By 1980, two potent new Soviet anti-aircraft weapons: the SA-10 Grumble & the SA-12 Gladiator were under development. Both have a maximum altitude of 100,000 ft. & feature advanced tracking & guidance systems. The Second reason for building the Aurora was that satellites alone are not the best solution for reconnaissance requirements because they follow fixed, predictable orbits,

which make their appearance no surprise to the shrewd adversary.

Eyewitness reports have claimed that Aurora has been seen piggybacking atop the SR-75. The aircraft was described as having a large delta wing & a long forward fuselage. The wingtips were upturned to form fins. The edges of the wing & fins had a black tile covering, while the rest of the fuselage was white.

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LAWSUITS and LITIGATION

Technology goes to court

Windows code leaked

Michael Perstin
Guest Reporter

About a month ago, Microsoft was hit by the most powerful blow it has ever experienced. The source code for Windows 2000 and Windows NT 4.0 has leaked to the internet. Even though it is still unknown if this is the real code or just broken parts of it, if it is proven that this is the real deal, it will be a major and very painful hit to Microsoft. If the rumors are true and this is the real code, anyone possessing the code, from a professional programmer to the average Computer Science student will be able to gain unauthorized access to almost any system running Windows 2000 or

NT 4.0, by going through the code and finding different unpatched holes and exploits. The code however, seems to be too small to be the source code for the whole windows operating system. Thus the code might be just the source code for a feature in the Windows NT. Since Windows is the most popular operating system, installed in over ninety percent of the computers in the world, a good hacker will have a very large selection of computers he'll be able to access if he finds a few good exploits or holes.

The code itself started to appear on some peer-to-peer networks and now is starting to make its appearance on IRC. Rumors say that the code is headed to some of the main

warez websites.

Even though it is unknown how the code got to the net in the first place, some people have different ideas of the purpose of the code. Some people even say that the code is just a hoax by Microsoft, trying to scare people to switch to the new Windows operating systems. Whether it is true or not, the best way to protect yourself for the time being is to make sure that your system and fully update and protected by a firewall. Of course the best way to protect yourself right now is to close any system that you have running Windows 2000 or NT 4.0, but that option is not applicable to many people and companies.

New HD-DVD format out

Michael Perstin
Staff Reporter

The group of companies behind the DVD format has approved a new type of rewritable optical disc that is the same size as the existing DVDs but can hold more than four times more data. The new High Definition and High Density-DVD (HD-DVD) format was approved this week at the DVD Forum general meeting in Tokyo.

The new format will be a 4.7-inch optical disc that can hold up to 20GB on a single-sided disk, compared to the 4.7GB on the existing DVD discs. The new format was developed by the combined efforts of Toshiba and NEC. A 15GB, read-only, version of the HD-DVD was approved late last year.

Approval of the new DVD format marks a further step towards format battle between at least four of the incompatible technologies on the computer storage market. The current format that has the most backers is the Blu-ray Disk. Twelve companies in the DVD Forum support the Blu-ray format. Including its prime supporter, Sony.

Even though the four formats are physically incompatible, they all mark a large jump in data storage of the blue laser technology that they use. Since blue light has a shorter wavelength than the red light that is used in CD and DVD systems,

the laser makes a smaller spot on the disk surface. That means each bit of data takes less space on the disk, thus more data can be stored on the DVD.

While the DVD encountered a major victory in Tokyo, in the United States the situation was different. On Feb. 20, a California district judge Susan Illston ordered 321 Studio Inc. the makers of the famous "DVD X COPY" program to remove a part of the program that allows the user to bypass the DVD copy protection and copy commercial DVDs.

The company has said that it has sold over a million copies of the DVD Copy Plus and DVD X Copy programs nationwide and will likely lose hundreds of thousands of dollars destroying the versions with the descrambling tool built in. That's on top of the millions of dollars it spent on legal fees.

The company argued in court that the programs are made to use for legitimate purposes. To backup DVDs and movies that the consumers already bought. Especially those expensive children DVD that can easily get lost or damaged.

As a response to the court order,

321 Studios has arranged the "Five Days of Protest," in which consumers will be asked, through the 321 supported www.protectfairuse.org, to write, call, e-mail or fax newspaper editors, Hollywood studios and federal lawmakers on the company's behalf.

"It's to let these people know we're law-abiding citizens, not a bunch of pirates," said Robert Moore, 321's

"If you buy a DVD you have a copy. If you want a backup copy, you buy another one."

- Jack Valenti

president and founder. "This (software) is for making fair use of legally acquired digital property, for doing what we want to do with our own stuff. Apparently, that message

has not gotten across." Jack Valenti, head of the Motion Picture Association of America, has suggested that consumers have no legitimate need for such software. Since, according to a statement he made to The Associated Press in November, "If you buy a DVD you have a copy. If you want a backup copy you buy another one."

Illston's ruling, however, doesn't affect 321's other software for copying computer games or creating DVDs. It also doesn't affect the DVD-copy

New Windows XP build

Tim Hatcher
Staff reporter

Rumors are once again running rampant about a new build of Windows XP aside from the 2006 expected release of Windows Longhorn and the build of Windows XP 64 due out by the end of this year. Although Microsoft has denied this the mainstream media cannot help to think that another project is underway at the software giant, that has currently been named by the media "Windows XP Reloaded."

Aside from Windows 64 and Windows Longhorn, Microsoft is due to release the second service pack for XP cleverly entitled Service Pack Two. Most of the speculation about the new worked over version of XP may just be to boost the stock price of Microsoft however it may also be

just to keep the user base happy with upgrades and new features that may be added since there still quite a bit of a wait before Longhorn is officially released.

What this may mean however, is that Longhorn will once again be delayed and that customers will become increasingly unhappy with the service from Microsoft, so in an attempt to keep those who have a SMA or software maintenance agreement with Microsoft happy before the next release there will need to be just a little bit of filler.

Although not a new concept SMA's have been used by numerous companies to keep a revenue stream

"...Speculation about Windows XP maybe to boost Microsoft's stock prices..."

- TIM HATCHER

between major releases. This revenue stream is very important should there be a number of years between releases, such as the 6 that are expected from the XP release to the Longhorn release.

Essentially until Microsoft says otherwise this may just be a marketing ploy to get more customers onboard the SMA agreement and keep the revenue flowing until the very far off date of the end of 2006.

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2 roomates needed by April to share a 3BR apartment. Rent is \$300/month which includes utilities. Complex has gym and pool. 7 minutes from school. Call (386)761-3763.

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Gold Wing Aircraft Services is searching for motivated personnel to fill two part-time positions. We are currently hiring for an A & P mechanic and a marketing personnel. Please apply online at www.gwasi.com. Contact Jordan if there are any questions. (866)622-4927.

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*If you do not see your advertisement in this issue, please contact *The Avion* Staff at (386) 226-6049.

**The Avion* runs classified ads for 2 weeks. If you would like your ad to run longer, you will need to fill out a classified form again.

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*To place an ad, visit *The Avion* in the John Paul Riddle Student Center (Suite 280)

On eBay Last week...

A great April Fool's Day present for the junkie in your life... syringe pens! Only \$0.99 for a pack!



More Courtroom Testimony

Q: Sir, what is your IQ?
A: Well, I can see pretty well, I think.

Q: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?
A: The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m.

Q: And Mr. Dennington was dead at the time?
A: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy.

Q: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?

Q: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?
A: No.

Q: Did you check for blood pressure?
A: No.

Q: Did you check for breathing?
A: No.

Q: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?
A: No.

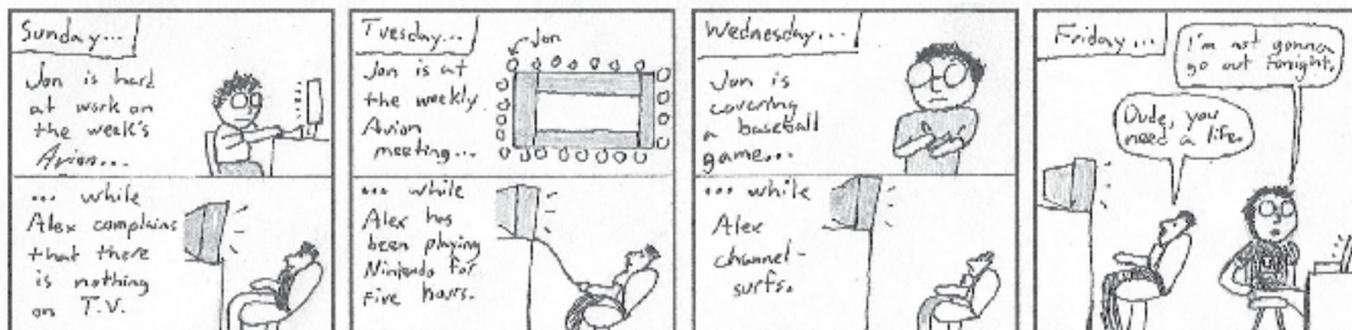
Q: How can you be so sure, Doctor?
A: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

Q: But could the patient have still been alive nevertheless?
A: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law somewhere.

The Riddle of Life

(thanks to Mark Soppet for the catchy new name)

I swear, my roommate can confuse me sometimes...



STRANGE BUT TRUE...

Swedish business consultant Ulf af Trolle labored for 13 years on a book about Swedish economic solutions. He took the 250-page manuscript to be copied, only to have it reduced to 50,000 strips of paper in seconds when a worker confused the copier with the shredder.

When two service station attendants in Ionia, Michigan refused to hand over cash to an intoxicated robber, the man threatened to call the police. They still refused, so the robber called the police and was arrested.

In Lebanon, men are legally allowed to have sex with animals, but the animals must be female. Having sexual relations with a male animal is punishable by death.

Insurance claims...

The following are actual insurance claims that were filed with a well-known insurance company.

- I thought my window was down, but I found out it was up when I put my head through it.
- My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle.
- The pedestrian had no idea which direction to run, so I ran over him.
- I saw a slow-moving, sad-faced old gentleman as he bounded off the roof of my car.



by Wes Oleszewski

