

1-20-2004

## Avion 2004-01-20

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# THE AVION

A Division of the Student Government Association

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Daytona Beach, Florida

TUESDAY  
January 20, 2004

www.avionnewspaper.com  
Volume CIX • Issue 1

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# Sallie Mae stands up Embry-Riddle

## 914 students left with \$7.9 million in un-awarded financial aid

Jonathan Mettin  
News Editor

The Sallie Mae Corporation has ended its relationship with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Financial Aid Department, affecting 914 students with \$7.9 million in financial aid. "We were terribly surprised," Director of Enrollment Management Michael Novak said.

Embry-Riddle recently decided to join the Federal Family Educational Loan Program (FFELP) rather than direct lending.

According to an e-mail sent by University Director of Financial Aid Maria Shaulis to several high-ranking members of the ERAU administration, including Chancellor Irwin Price and President George Ebbs, "students will have a choice of lenders, repay less money on their loans through FFELP and the University benefits by receiving enhanced technological support that will improve [its] service to students."

"Direct lending really limited institutions, colleges, universities, students, and parents," said Novak. "It has become cumbersome over the past few years. FFELP provided much better service with more opportunities for students."

Sallie Mae had been one of four loan processing institutions competing for ERAU's program, the others being Great

Lakes Higher Education, America Student Assistance Group, and Nelnet. Nelnet was the ultimate winner of the group. Sallie Mae will still do business with ERAU in several other forms, including the campus bookstore's online division.

According to the e-mail, Bill Ayers, the president of the Florida Division of Sallie Mae, left Novak a voicemail on Dec. 5 wishing to discuss the "implications" of the school's decision. When Novak called Ayers back, Ayers "alluded to a threat that Sallie Mae would take actions that could affect student loans."

Shaulis spoke with Ayers on Dec. 17, in which Ayers made it clear that Sallie Mae intended to cancel any outstanding disbursements for the Spring 2004 semester.

According to Novak, Sallie Mae sent him an e-mail at about 8 p.m. Christmas Eve informing him of the final decision.

"When they didn't get the whole enchilada they decided not to play," Novak said. "We were a little bit surprised at the tactics

Sallie Mae took."

In a telephone interview, Shaulis said that Sallie Mae would not take back any aid that had already been disbursed, but cancelled the remainder. She also said that the result was "not as severe" as Sallie Mae's original threat, which was to stop all association with ERAU. As it stands now, Sallie Mae will continue to run its other functions within the University, according to Shaulis.

Nelnet President Michael Dunlap has informed the University that Nelnet will pick up 100 percent of the loans that Sallie Mae cancelled.

Both Shaulis and Novak said that students who were funded through Sallie Mae will not lose any of their financial aid. According to Novak, the situation "caused a little bit of a hiccup for this semester."

Shaulis said that the Financial Aid Department is in the process of identifying the affected students, saying that Sallie Mae did not provide them with a list.

## Giving until it hurts ...



NICK CAMPAGNA GIVES BLOOD during the first blood drive of the semester. The drive benefited the Central Florida Blood Bank. The event took place Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the Fountain Room at the Student Village. About giving blood, Campagna said, "It's not the straw in my arm that hurts, but my pricked finger."

# Eagles flight team takes first

ERAU Flight Team  
Press Release

For the 16th consecutive year, the ERAU Flight Team took first place at the Region IX NIFA SAFECON (National Intercollegiate Flying Association Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference) competition. The annual event was held Nov. 12-15 at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne.

This year, 75 students on five university teams from the Southeastern United States took part in landing and navigation events in the categories of Aircraft Recognition, Computer Accuracy, Instrument Flight, Message Drop, Navigation, Power Off and Short Field Landings, Preflight, and Simulated Comprehensive Aircraft Navigation.

The Eagles Flight Team, made up of 24 students ranging from freshman to senior, used a Cessna 150 for the landing events and Cessna 172s for the navigation events.

A member of the Eagles who did particularly well in the competition was Matt Johnson, an Aeronautical Science senior, who was awarded the Top Pilot Award for an outstanding performance in Navigation, Power Off and Short Field Landings, Simulated Comprehensive Aircraft Navigation, and the Ground Trainer Event.

Placing first in the regional competition allows the Eagles to advance to the national tournament in Tennessee, to be held Apr. 25 to May 1, where they will compete for their second national championship. The Eagles were national NIFA SAFECON champions in 1992.

"This is the best flight team the Daytona Beach campus has had in the past 10 years -- the results loudly proclaim their abilities," said Dr. Richard Theokas, chairman of Embry-Riddle's Flight Training Dept. "The team's performance at the regional competition creates great expectations for the nationals."

# Avion still needs more people

First off, I would like to welcome everyone back from what was hopefully a great holiday break and new year. I'm looking forward to another great semester for everyone, and of course, the Avion newspaper.



Lucas Crouch  
Editor-in-Chief

As most know from reading my editorials from last semester, we produced the newspaper with a limited number of staff. I would like to thank everybody who contributed with their busy schedules to put out a great newspaper.

This semester we are faced with a similar problem. We have enough section editors for layout, but we are short on staff writers and copy editors, especially the latter. We are in great need of dedicated copy editors who can spend a few hours every Sunday up in the office correcting spelling and grammar mistakes.

I encourage students to stop by the office and get involved. Many of us are graduating this semester, and we need new people who are motivated to help out and have a say in the newspaper. I guarantee that if you join the paper, you WILL have a huge opportunity to move up and build your experience. You are the future of this newspaper.

Our meetings are held every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Endeavor Conference Room, upstairs in the Student Center.

# ERAU student to tour country in Cirrus SR20

## Business student on mission to spark youth interest in flight

Careers in Aviation, Inc.  
ERAU Press Release

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Careers in Aviation Inc. will revisit aviation's early days by sponsoring the National DreamLaunch Tour -- a barnstorming tour with a difference.

In 1926, not long after the Wright brothers' first flight, John Paul Riddle, one of the school's founders, was giving aerial joyrides in Jennys and Wacos to drum up business for his fledgling flying business in Cincinnati, Ohio.

On Jan. 24, Jamail Larkins, a 19-year-old aviation business student at Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach, Fla. campus will update that tradition when he begins a 20-city national tour piloting a new Cirrus SR20 aircraft. His mission: get

youngsters in middle schools and high schools along the way thinking about careers in aviation.

Jamail Larkins started flying at age 12. His first flight was with the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Young Eagles Program. Shortly thereafter, he became one of the youngest American pilots after soloing a powered aircraft in Canada in July 1998 at age 14.

Embry-Riddle's partner in the tour is Careers in Aviation, an organization that seeks to raise young people's awareness about opportunities in aviation. Sponsors are Aeroshell, AirShares Elite, Cirrus, Cox Communications, Lift, and Michelin.

"We're very happy to join with Embry-Riddle in bringing this educational opportunity to young people across America," said Shawn Raker, president of Careers in Aviation. "It's a perfect way to spread the news about the many exciting careers in aviation and that the industry needs talented young people."

The national tour officially starts in Lakeland, Fla. Every Thursday, Larkins

will fly the Cirrus plane to a different city, where he will visit schools, make presentations, and discuss aviation with students.

Students in schools included on Larkins' tour will be invited beforehand to write an essay answering the question, "How do you envision the next century of flight?"

Judging will take place prior to each school visit. Winning essayists will be given the opportunity to fly with the Embry-Riddle student in the Cirrus the following Saturday.

Larkins, who is the national spokesperson for Careers in Aviation, will put students who want to learn more about aviation in touch with a Careers in Aviation representative or an EAA Young Eagles coordinator in their area.

Besides Lakeland, other stops on Larkins' national tour of middle schools are:

Atlanta, Ga.  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Chicago, Ill.  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Dallas, Texas  
Dare County, N.C.  
Denver, Colo.  
Fairfax County, Va.  
Greenville, S.C.  
Houston, Texas  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
Montgomery County, Md.  
Orlando, Fla.  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Phoenix, Ariz.

Embry-Riddle and Careers in Aviation are in discussions with school districts in additional cities to be announced later.

He completed his U.S. solo shortly after his 16th birthday in a Cirrus SR20. He currently flies a high-performance Christen Eagle II aerobatic aircraft on the air show circuit.

See TOUR on A2

## THE AVION

By students, for students.  
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## Fall 2003 Graduation may be last

## Chancellor calls for one graduation per year

Michael Marano

## Managing Editor

On Saturday, Dec. 10, 2003 approximately 500 students attended what could very well be the last Fall graduation ceremony in Embry-Riddle history.

The administration believes that by having only one graduation ceremony per year will give it more tradition and value.

However, many students believe that taking away Fall graduations is not a wise move on behalf of the Chancellor and the administration.

College is different from high school in the fact that classes are taken when we want, and that not many students finish their degree programs in four straight years.

Students may opt to take an internship position instead of taking

classes. In Embry-Riddle, it seems like the norm that not all students are able to finish their flight training, or their engineering degrees in only four years.

This is why the removal of fall graduations will cause nothing but disappointment in students. Students who have worked hard for their degree programs have a chance to graduate in fall.

Without a ceremony, it seemed that to many students, the administration is simply saying, "Here's your diploma, now get the \*\*\*\* out of here."

Students look forward to having their parents present as the school ceremoniously presents them with their diploma.

Graduating from college is a huge milestone in many people's lives. It is a reward for all the hard work, the hours of studying, and having to get up at 5:00 in the morning for a flight so you can succeed.

SGA President Matt Collier is also opposed to the elimination of fall graduations. He comments on this issue in the SGA section, page A6.

The administration needs to rethink its motives behind the ending of fall graduation. If not, students who have worked hard during that extra semester, will be denied the honor they deserve.



ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 the Embry-Riddle Class of 2003 graduated after four plus years of hard work and sacrifice. Many will go on to try to succeed in their professional careers.

## Another Use for Jet Engines



MISS-TA-FIRE MADE AN APPEARANCE at Embry-Riddle in the P Building. Miss-Ta-Fire is a jet dragster driven by a female driver named Elaine Larsen. The presentation was provided by Embry-Riddle's SCAT (Society of Civil Aviation Technicians).

## TOUR

From Front

For details about the Embry-Riddle student's 20-city tour, call (386) 226-6182 or go to [www.erau.edu/dreamlaunch](http://www.erau.edu/dreamlaunch).

Jamail Larkins started flying at age 12. His first flight was with the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Young Eagles Program. Shortly thereafter, he became one of the youngest American pilots after soloing a powered aircraft in Canada in July 1998 at age 14.

On Jan. 17, 2000, Jamail became the national spokesman for the EAA Vision of Eagles Program, a youth education initiative founded by the EAA Aviation Foundation. All EAA education programs, including Young Eagles, EAA Air Academy, and the Science-Math-Technology Program, are included in the Foundation's mission. As the national spokesman, Jamail represented EAA and the Vision of Eagles Program and promoted the possibilities available to aviation enthusiasts of all ages.

In 2002, Jamail became the national spokesman for a second organization, Careers in Aviation. Careers in Aviation is a nonprofit organization based in Atlanta, Ga., that promotes and provides aviation opportunities to young people across the country.

Jamail soloed in the United States on Jan. 31, 2000, the day after his 16th birthday, in a Cirrus SR20, a newly developed single-engine airplane, becoming the first and youngest student pilot ever to solo in this

revolutionary certified aircraft.

He has accumulated more than 510 hours of total flight time in more than 33 types of aircraft and has flown to all parts of the United States and Canada. He has also trained in several types of airline simulators, including the Boeing 777, the Boeing 767, the Boeing 757, and the McDonnell Douglas Super MD-80. In 2003, Jamail performed his first airshow season.

He is currently sponsored by several major companies and organizations in the aviation industry, including AeroShell, Careers in Aviation, Delta Air Lines, Electronics International, Gulf Coast Avionics, and Powerserve International. Jamail makes frequent appearances at airshows, is a popular guest on broadcast programs originating from conventions and other events, and writes columns for numerous aviation publications. He has been the guest speaker for fundraising dinners alongside such notable figures as Chuck Yeager and Cliff Robertson.

During high school, Jamail was an honor student at Evans High School in Augusta, Ga., where he was a member of the track team, the Aerospace Club, Future Business Leaders of America, and the Student Council -- and, he earned a black belt in Taekwondo. Jamail received numerous awards for academic and overall achievement, including Outstanding Student and the Principal's Award, and was recognized for his academic performance in math, science, and foreign language. In addition, he has been recognized as an Outstanding Young Eagle, an Outstanding Camper



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERAU COMMUNICATIONS

JAMAIL JENKINS IS EMBARKING on a mission to spark children into getting involved with the aviation industry as well as ERAU itself.

at Space Camp, and was the recipient of a Certificate of Appreciation from the U.S. Army Signal Center at Fort Gordon in 1996.

Along with his participation in many aviation organizations, such as Careers in Aviation, the EAA Aviation Foundation, and the Experimental Aircraft Association, Jamail frequently gives motivational speeches before businesses, churches, and community and youth groups. He has spoken to the Timmins-Ontario Chamber of Commerce, NASA's youth programs,

the Tuskegee Airmen Reunion, and at several major aviation news conferences.

He will be making appearances at more than 35 airshows, conventions, events, and, of course, the National DreamLaunch Tour stops in 2004. At the same time, he will continue training in the Christen Eagle II aerobatic aircraft.

Jamail currently resides in Daytona Beach, Fla., while attending ERAU. His parents, Sylvester and Renetha, live in Augusta, Ga.

## Tips from Alaska



BILL CAMPBELL/AVION

DAVID PEWITT, VICE PRESIDENT of Alaska Airlines speaks to ERAU flight students about flight safety.

## Briefs &amp; Notices

## Summer Discounts

Students considering attending Summer A term now have more reason to stay after the Chancellor's Office announced in early December that there will be a 10% discount on undergraduate credit hours for the summer 2004 Terms.

## Presentation on Slavery

Upcoming event: Dr. Larry Hudson, Thursday, January 22, 7:00pm, A 102

Dr. Larry E. Hudson, Jr., an Associate Professor of History at the University of Rochester, will

be speaking on "Slavery and Reparations: An American Dilemma."

Dr. Hudson, who completed his doctoral work in England, is a published writer, editor and professor of African-American studies. As such, no one is better equipped than Dr. Hudson to lend some much-needed perspective on this vital and controversial subject. This promises to be a fascinating and stimulating presentation for staff, faculty and students alike.

## Join the Avion

Meetings held every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Endeavour Room.

## ERAU names new Provost James Guyette offers advice

Jonathan Mettin  
News Editor

Dr. John Johnson has been named provost and chief academic officer for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Johnson, formerly provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Texas A & M University - Texarkana, will oversee all academic matters and will report directly to ERAU President Dr. George Ebbs.

"John Johnson is the perfect person to fill one of the most important positions within the university," Ebbs said in a news release.

"I am very pleased with the opportunity to become part of the Embry-Riddle family," Johnson said. "Embry-Riddle is a wonderful institution... I believe that it is a good fit for me and that I can make a difference in helping the university move forward."

Johnson has a diverse academic background. Before being hired by Texas A & M, he served as dean of Health Professions at the Medical University of South Carolina, dean

of Professional Studies at Northern Kentucky University, chairman of the Communications Department at Lamar University, and was also director of the Speech and Hearing Clinic at Bowling Green State University.

Johnson has taught on both the graduate and undergraduate levels in the speech and hearing sciences, as

well as biology, since 1975, and is widely published.

"He is an experienced faculty member with a strong record of academic leadership," Ebbs said. "I will be looking forward to John to bring the kind of innovative thinking to Embry-Riddle that made him so successful at Texas A & M."



DR. JOHN JOHNSON, FORMERLY of Texas A & M was named as the new provost of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

### Rolls-Royce CEO speaks at graduation

Michael Marano  
Managing Editor

James Guyette, president and chief executive officer of Rolls-Royce North America (RRNA), was the featured speaker at the Fall 2003 Graduation ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 10. Guyette was awarded the University's Distinguished Speaker Award. Guyette spoke to students about their roles in the future of aviation.

Guyette oversees all Rolls-Royce companies and operations in North America, encompassing more than 8,000 employees at 70 facilities in the United States and Canada. In 2002, total RRNA sales exceeded \$2.8 billion.

He is an executive director on the Rolls-Royce North American Holdings Board and serves on the boards of Rolls-Royce PLC and Pembroke. Guyette joined Rolls-Royce in 1997.

Rolls-Royce North America, headquartered in Washington, D.C., manufactures engines for land, sea, and air applications, with more Rolls-Royce engines built in the United States than



JAMES GUYETTE IS THE CEO of Rolls-Royce North America

anywhere else in the world.

Guyette serves on the National Research Council's Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board and is a director of the Private Bank and Trust Co. in Chicago. He is a member of the Board of Governors for

the Aerospace Industries Association, president of the Wings Club, and a founding member and current treasurer of the Aviation Safety Alliance.

Students seemed interested in the advice that James Guyette had to say to them.

### Back To School



BILL CAMPBELL/AVION

IT IS ONLY TWO weeks into the Spring semester, but students are already shifted into high gear. Especially, the cadets of the Air Force ROTC. Here is a squad engaged in some PT training.

## FAA endorses CAPT program

### Certifies MD-90 simulator training

Press Release

ERAU Communications

ERAU has received the Federal Aviation Administration's certification of an MD-90 EFD Level-D full-flight simulator that the university plans to use in its Commercial Airline Pilot Training (CAPT) Program.

The device accurately replicates all of the operational ground and flight functions of the MD-90 EFD (enhanced flight deck) jet, which allows the FAA to consider flight time in this device to be equivalent to flight time logged in the actual aircraft. Level D is the highest fidelity rating given to flight simulators.

After completing their flight training in the simulator, cadets in the CAPT Program will receive a captain's type rating for an MD-90 EFD jet airliner.

"This certification is very important for us," said Paul Woessner, director of the CAPT Program. "No other aviation university except Embry-Riddle

has a Level-D device, and no other is taking students from zero flight experience all the way through type rating for a modern jet airliner."

The simulator's cockpit features an all-glass integrated digital flight deck, incorporating six flat glass displays.

The CAPT Program is an elite program that blends proficiency-based flight training, aeronautical academics, and advanced simulation for individuals who want to become regional airline pilots. For students with zero flight time, the program takes at least 10 to 12 months.

For information about ERAU CAPT program, call 877-577-CAPT, e-mail captinfo@erau.edu, or go to www.erau.edu/capt.



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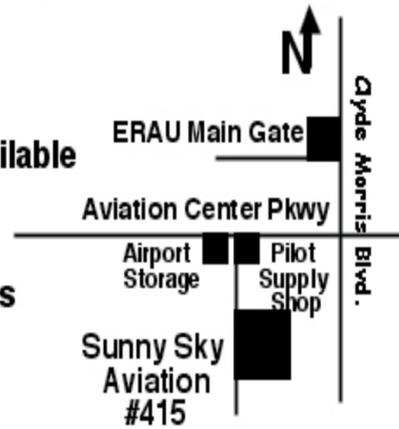
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## SGA brings stress relief Graduation changes

Kurt Ford

### SGA Vice President

Welcome back fellow students. With this first edition of the Avion for the spring semester, I wanted to update you on the progress of your student representative board.

During finals week the SRB held a stress relief day along with an "SGA night" during the final basketball game of the semester. The "SGA night" was a great success.

A contest was held to find out how many students could fit into a safe ride van at one time, the crew team was the glorious winner cramming 30, that's right thirty, members into one safe ride van. Congratulations to the crew team. SGA representatives gave out SGA t-shirts and other paraphernalia.

The Stress Relief day was a project taken on by the Public Relations committee of the SGA, we were able to coordinate with Daytona Beach Community College, school of massage therapy, to offer free massages for students.

There was also a computer smash-

ing section held outside the student center. Information Technology donated the computer towers with the batteries taken out, to insure safety.

Free coffee and candy was available in the SGA office all day. There will be another stress relief day soon, keep an eye open.

Regarding the rest of the semester: I bring good news of great things to come, the student representatives and myself will be working hard with our faculty staff and administrators to successfully deal with student concerns and solve student issues.

Your representatives have not changed and they look forward to

your input and your concerns. The representatives have worked hard for you and you can expect even more concern and involvement from the SGA.

I invite and encourage all students to get to know their representatives if they have not already and to visit and spend time in the SGA office speaking with officials of the SGA about their concerns and about the general state of the university.

Soon enough my friends, the SGA will change hands as the time for elections comes upon us. All students with questions regarding the SGA elections and the process for becoming an official should meet and interview with SGA officials to fully understand the responsibilities and duties of being apart of the SGA.

Myself and the officials of the student representative board are looking forward to another semester full of excitement and achievement.

“ There will be another stress relief day soon, keep an eye out. - KURT FORD ”

Matthew Collier

### SGA President

There are milestones and memories in everyone's life, and for the majority of students, I can assure you that their college graduation is one of paramount importance. On the administrative level, there has been a lot of discussion lately relative to changing the graduation process. The rumor mill is spinning all sorts of wild and crazy tales, while the average student is left wondering where they fit into the grand scheme of things.

As many of you know or have heard, the campus administration has decided to move towards a single graduation to be held in the spring semester. This is to allow for the establishment of tradition, and to improve the quality of our ceremonies. The idea is that if we were to have one graduation, more resources could be allocated to that event to make it a true first-class experience much like many universities across the nation.

On the other hand, there is concern with the fact that students need the flexibility of two graduations for several reasons. For example, ROTC students who graduate in the fall and are commissioned may not be able to return

to campus to participate in the spring ceremonies. For international students, further implications are introduced regarding permitting and visas. And lastly, some students want the semester of their degree completion to coincide with the graduation ceremony.

Here at Embry-Riddle, we serve a unique and diverse group of students - from ROTC to the international student - each with their own set of special needs. It is for that reason that graduation needs to tailor to the needs of an individual student body, not the national standard or trend.

Honor societies and other organizations recognize their members by providing special garments to be worn during the graduation ceremonies. It is a special moment of honor, a token of appreciation for all the sweat equity they've built into that particular organization. At this time, SGA has been informed that this privilege is being taken away.

It has also come to the attention of Student Government that there will be no administratively funded senior class party and there will be no faculty/staff awards for this spring's graduation ceremonies.

The students at Embry-Riddle need to stand up and dictate how they want their graduation ceremonies to be conducted. Be it the party, the actual commencement ceremony, the dates, times, once or twice a year, whatever the case may be, the students who will be subjected to the process ought to have the most input.

Next week, there will be a poll sponsored by SGA on Blackboard to assess the wants and needs of the student body. Please take a few moments to complete this survey to help Student Government determine the necessary course of action that best represents the desires of the student body. Whether you are a first-year student or a super-senior, at some point in time, this will affect you and your friends. Here is your opportunity to have your voice heard.

Be it known that Student Government will work tirelessly towards accomplishing what the student body wants. The results of the poll will be published in the Avion, and the concerns will be brought before the appropriate administrators to see that the problem is rectified. Welcome back, and have a great semester!

**Comedian Will Marfori**  
Coming Jan.26th at 8pm in the IC Auditorium

## SFB goes virtual

Liz Barber

### SGA Treasurer

Well it's that time again, when the cool weather fades away, and the springtime is upon us. It's also the time when Riddle hits the books again.

Up here in SGA, the student finance board and I will also be hitting the books. Spring semester budgets will be due this Thursday, and notification will be Tuesday.

Budget packets will be available in the SGA office or on Blackboard. This allows us to turn the budgets around quicker. The finance board will spend Saturday afternoon evaluating your budgets.

Budgets will be evaluated the same way as last semester. If you have any questions or comments regarding your budget, please come see me in my office or email me at [sgatres@erau.edu](mailto:sgatres@erau.edu).

This is also an opportunity to voice your opinion. I'll be happy to sit down and talk to you. I wish you the best of

luck this semester.

### Directions for Club Budget on Blackboard:

- 1)log onto your blackboard system
- 2)click on the "communities" tap
- 3)click on "student Daytona Beach Campus"
- 4)on the left side click on "Student Government Association"
- 5)Click on "Budget Packets" folder
- 6)Fill out the following forms
  - a.Budget\_packet\_cover\_sheet.doc
  - b.Eventform.doc
  - c.Budget\_Packet.xls
 The others are for examples, and the attached letter.
- 7)Email the three forms to [sgatres@erau.edu](mailto:sgatres@erau.edu). Put your club name in the subject bar.

## School of Rock

TNG Movie! Thursday @ 8:30

TNG Movie! Thursday @ 8:30

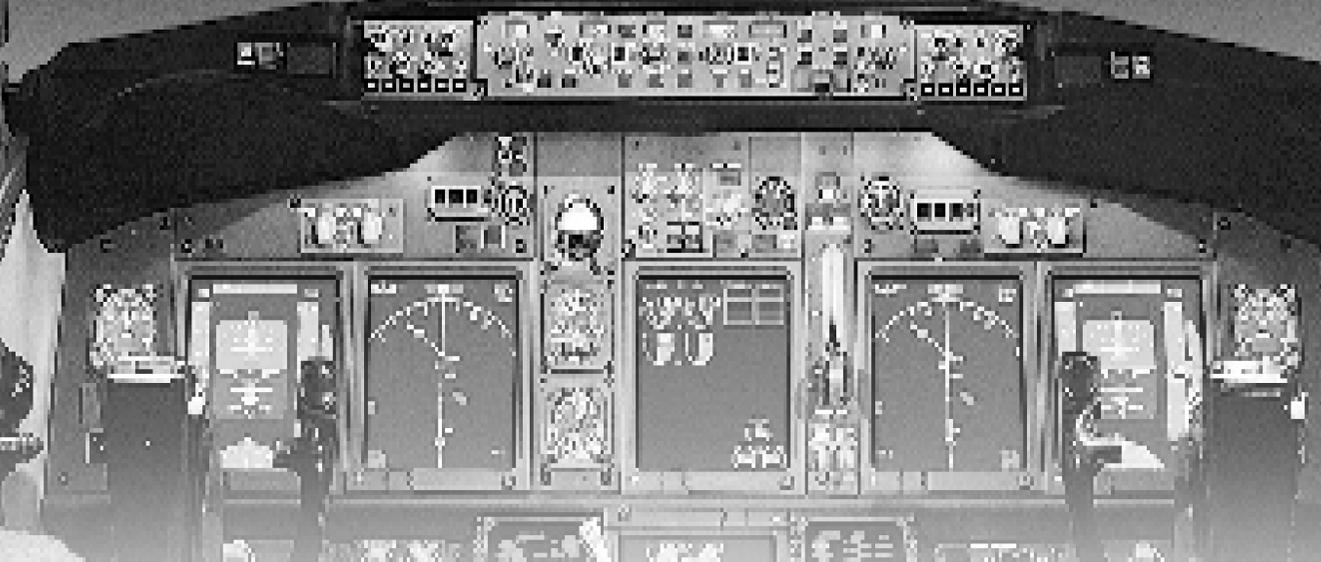
TNG Movie! Thursday

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## Sigma Chi rush underway

Milton  
Sigma Chi

Well I'm sure everyone had a wonderful Christmas break and is excited to get this new semester at Riddle underway. Yes, the one and only Milton is back to entertain you with my weekly report, well most weeks any ways. Rush starts Tuesday, January 20th. If you are thinking of rushing a fraternity/sorority then check us out at Meet the Greeks on the west lawn at 5pm Tuesday. Sigma Chi will be out there in full force and take the Guinness' guys advice, choosing us would be 'BRILLIANT!' Well that's enough of the serious stuff. I was never good at it any ways.

For those of you who braved the 15 degree weather, our Welcome Back party was a great time. Speaking of the house, our pool has apparently turned into a moat and I'm pretty sure there is some form of life growing in the deep end. Thank you to our pool man for a job well done. Hummer has been designated

the new "huggable" guy by Maggie. It's too bad we all aren't as lucky. RIP Hummer's manhood, you tried hard; it was just a losing battle all the way. I'd just like to mention to the Grinch that WD-40 works wonders on those squeaky joints. In fact Moose has already gotten you a year's supply. It seems that our sweetheart Addy and her wonderful boyfriend Todd have decided to do their best impression of Nick and Jessica to promote the new season starting this week. Anyone looking for a new Rolex? I'm just kidding Addy. I'll make it up to you by getting you a Big Mac. Speaking of news at the house, Peanut Butter and Jelly is becoming the new food of choice. Apparently, room 15 has been designated the PB&J capital of the world. And speaking of peanuts, damn Melaina for not picking the Average Joe. It is a tragedy that this was allowed and a blow to all the Average Joe's across America. Duer and I had high hopes, but it was to no avail. Why do the women always have to get rid of the funny

fat guys? We can show some love. Maybe if they put these shows in Alaska instead of on the Equator, we would have a chance. Sun is the fat man's kryptonite. I can hear you now Duer, "And how!" and I totally agree.

Well I might as well get to my story of the week. Peaches, we could have ended this with you ahead, but you pushed the wrong buttons. You almost had the upper hand last week, but alas, it just wasn't meant to be. I'm just full of surprises. I mean, after last chapter, we should just start calling you Lipton since it appears you just adore those tea bags. You know what Smuckers was telling me goes well with tea? Salty nuts. They are high in vitamins. Hopefully none of your girlfriends are reading this or by the time this semester is over, Peaches might be standing for Please End Any Chance I Have Ever Scoring. I know there isn't an I in your name, but you get the gist. And I will end on that note. Thank you everyone, I'll be here all semester.

## SGA Presents Free Movie Thursdays

All Movies Begin at 8:30PM in the UC

School of Rock	01/22
Airplane	01/29
The Matrix Revolutions	02/05
Intolerable Cruelty	02/12
Kill Bill: Volume 1	02/19
Looney Tunes: Back in Action	02/26

## Theta Phi Alpha announces their \*spring recruitment\*

Tuesday January 20- Meet the Greeks!

Wednesday January 21- **Banana Split Party.**  
Meet in the Fountain room at 6:00pm

Thursday Jan. 22- **Bonfire and S mores.**  
Meet in the Student Village circle at 6:00pm

Friday Jan. 23- **Bowling at the Halifax Lanes.**  
Meet in the Student Village circle at 6:00pm

Saturday Jan. 24- Invite only, TBA

**Go Greek! Rush Theta Phi Alpha!**

## Skydive Club members win national championship

Jerry Reitano

### Skydive Club

The 2003 National Collegiate Skydiving Championships were held at the Florida Skydiving Center in Lake Wales Florida from December 26<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. The competition was composed of 77 students representing 17 different colleges across the country.

Embry-Riddle sent the team "Cool Runnings" consisting of Tristian Artel and Jerry Reitano to compete in the two-way free fly division. Freely consists of flying belly to earth, sit flying

and flying "head down".

The competition was judged by reviewing a videotape of the jump. On each of the three rounds, the teams were given specific docs they had to perform. For example, in the first round, the jump consisted of both flyers sit flying while docking both feet, then one hand to foot dock, then switch people and do the same dock again. Each successful dock in the right order was awarded a point. All jumps were from 13,500 feet AGL and had to be completed in 35 seconds to be counted by be judges. By the end of the competition, Artel and

Reitano had more points than any other team.

If you wish to experience skydiving or wish to learn more about it, you are welcome to the next skydiving meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004. The club will be welcoming some awesome guest speakers to talk about tandem jumps, AFF, BASE Jumping, Swooping, Birdman Jumps as well as ordering your own fee fly suit. The meeting will be at 7:00PM in IC 103.

Check out the skydiving team's web site at:  
<http://www.db.erau.edu/campus/student/clubs/freefall/>

## Embry-Riddle Greeks attend Impact

Brianne LaPlant

### Staff Reporter

This past weekend, January 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>, approximately seven members from each fraternity and sorority at Embry-Riddle, more than 70 Greek students in total attended a national Greek leadership retreat known as IMPACT. IMPACT goes to only fifteen universities a year in the nation and this year Embry-Riddle was selected. The conference was held in Leesburg, Florida and consisted of an intense curriculum that had each Greek member discuss the core values and importance of inter-fraternal life. IMPACT is a national program that costs over fourteen thousand dollars to send selected Greek members. Facilitators are brought in from various Fraternal Headquarters to lead the conference.

The days were long, going until

late at night, and starting early in the morning. The attendees were put into small "chapters" consisting of members from each fraternity and sorority. Throughout the weekend the Greek members worked together through team building activities, and lectures to recognize problems in the Greek community, and to discuss plans of action to remedy these problems, and to create change among all the fraternities and sororities. Core values such as unity, accountability, and Greek pride were touched upon. "The weekend was essential, and everything mentioned pertained to at least one of the chapters. Issues were settled or at least resolutions were made to bring back to the chapters. The Greek community would have survived without IMPACT, but it would not have survived for long," says Daniel Finein of Alpha Eta Rho. Plans of action were brought back from the

program to put into effect on the Inter Fraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council.

By the end of the weekend, the fraternities and sororities were inter-mixed and were unified. Tension between rivalry fraternities was subdued and hope for a fresh relationship among all Greeks was created. "The weekend was intense. It was amazing to not only see the change in myself from the conference, but to see the changes in everyone else around me," says Larry McDonald of Phi Delta Theta, and IFC President. Each member brought back the motivation to make change in Greek life, and will be presenting it to the rest of their chapters that were unable to attend the conference. "We learned a lot over the weekend, but it is now time to take what we learned and put it into action to make a better Greek community," says Jessica Campfield of Theta Phi Alpha.



## Kappa Alpha Psi reaches out to kids

Jerome Brown

### Kappa Alpha Psi

The brothers of the Xi Beta chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi continue to inspire service in the public interest.

This was evident by our latest community service event, in which we were judges at a science fair for fifth graders at Bonner Elementary School. The original event was supposed to be to read for the children for an hour or so, but this worked out even better. The day started early, as we reported to the school at 8:30 am promptly. An excited Ms. Hazel Witter who helped us put the community service event together greeted us.

The science fair started at 9:00am with the brothers and another community service group that was also present, taking their places as judges. The children then came out to stand by their respected projects and we proceeded to go interact with them. The children were nervous at first but quickly warmed up to us.

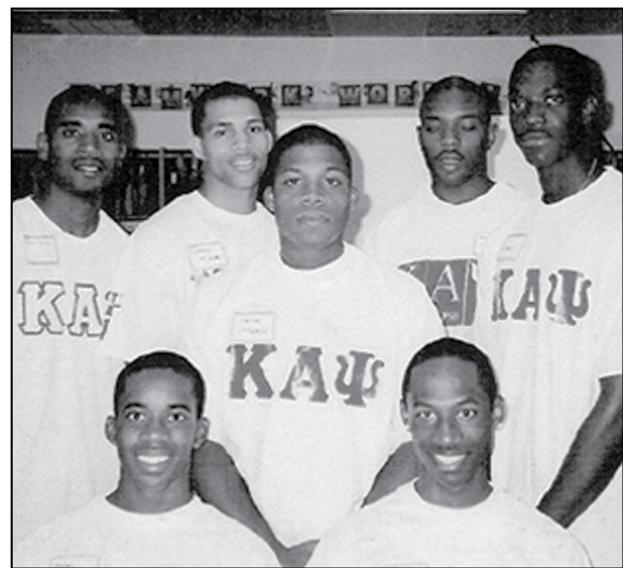
The projects ranged from typical fifth grade work to ones that had our brothers that are in the Aerospace Engineering program here interested.

The children were quite inquisitive on what organization we represented. It was kind of hard at first to explain to them what a fraternity was about, but we got through to them the basic principles. At around 10:30 am or so the event was due to come to an end and we said goodbye to the students and Ms. Witter who thanked us unconditionally we started to walk through the school where we were approached by a teacher who wanted us to come say some words of inspiration to her students.

Speaking to those students was really rewarding. They asked us questions about college and we asked them questions about their classes. We gave them words of inspiration and told them that it takes a lot of work and determination to make it to college. We also preached to them that it was very

important to be nice to each other and their teachers. They were also very curious about what our organization was about, some of them knew who we were because they have family members that are Greek. One Student even knew how to read our letters. What was supposed to be an hour-long event turned into a two plus hours event.

This was a really worthwhile endeavor for our organization. The interaction with the children is just some thing that cannot be duplicated; you have to be there to witness it first hand. The event was also very important because it exposed the new member of the organization with the responsibilities of the fraternity. We are looking forward to doing more events with the children of Bonner Elementary and we the members of the Xi Beta chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity incorporated.



- Athletes
- Shelanu Jewish Club
- Muslim Student Association

### 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

**VISIT STUDENT ACTIVITIES FOR UPDATES ON CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS**

### 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
- African Students Association

#### 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



## “Damned if they ain’t flew” 12 seconds that *changed our lives*

### Witness to the Centennial of Flight at Kitty Hawk, NC

Phyllis A. Salmons  
ERAU Heritage Project

One would think that given 100 years and an explosion of technological advances, that it would be a trivial matter to re-enact the accomplishments of the Wright Brothers.

One hundred years ago, on December 17, 1903, Orville and Wilbur awoke to freezing temperatures, rain puddles covered in ice, and winds gusting up to 27 mph. On that fateful day at 10:35 am, their 12-second flight, stretching only 120 ft, launched the aviation age.

The Flyer required at least 10 but no more than 25 mph of headwind to take off, a prescription that nature refused to provide at the Centennial of Flight Ceremonies in Kitty Hawk on December 17, 2003.

Thousands of people were thrilled to be there, wrapped against the rain and cold. All were willing to suffer intensifying discomfort if only the wind would pick up.

“It was absolutely thrilling to be there,” said Richard Theokas, Chair

of the ERAU Flight Department. “We didn’t need the cold rain to send shivers down our backs.”

Dr. Thomas Connolly, Associate Dean of the College of Aviation said, “Actually the weather just served to emphasize why the Wright Brothers went to Kitty Hawk in the first place.”

The Wright Brothers carefully researched weather conditions and in September 1900 they chose the coast of North Carolina to test their full-size glider. The outer banks typically had strong winds and were equipped with tall sand dunes for launching and wide expanses of sandy beaches for soft landings. Their success in December 1903 represented the culmination of four years of painstaking experimentation.

Centennial activities included a five-day celebration featuring speakers and presenters highlighting past events in aviation and aerospace.

Amanda Wright Lane, the great-grand niece of the Wright Brothers discussed “Uncle Orv” and “Uncle Will” from a stage in the corner of a building with Flyer Simulators available for anyone who was interested in a tryout.

NASA and the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) had stations while static displays noted the contributions of groups like the WASPS and the Tuskegee Airmen.

was a soaking rain and no wind. The first attempt was scrubbed by the time President George W. Bush arrived in the Marine One helicopter.

With water running down his uncovered head, Bush spoke for 13 minutes about the history and heritage of the Wright Brothers, noting the presence in the audience of Apollo astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, astronaut and former senator John Glenn (D-Ohio), and Chuck Yeager, the first pilot to break the sound barrier.

There were several other Republican senators on hand as well. Most of the celebrities crouched somewhat uncomfortably beneath their umbrellas in the first row of seats.

Bush extolled the Wright brothers’ “discipline and persistence, optimism and imagination,” and noted “powered flight has advanced in ways that could not have been imagined on December 17, 1903.”

He recalled the words attributed to teenager Johnny Moore, who saw the original flight and ran down the beach yelling: “They done it, they done it. Damned if they ain’t flew.”

But on December 17, 2003 this could not be said. At about 12:30

pm, the rain briefly stopped and the winds picked up. The replica was wheeled onto the muddy field accompanied by a cheering crowd. This replica had flown successfully twice and crashed once in recent tests.

The engine was started, the plane was released and pilot Kevin Kochersberger, 42, a mechanical engineer at the Rochester Institute of Technology, steered the plane down the launch rail. “She glided down the rail, slowly, while everyone cheered with the same enthusiasm and anticipation that must have existed for the five men who witnessed the flight of Orville and Wilbur 100 years ago,” said Robert Rockett, Dean of ERAU’s Heritage Project.

The engine began to miss, the power faded and the plane rose only a few inches before skidding into the mud. Another attempt planned for a few hours later was aborted when the wind failed to pick up. Rockett concluded, “Many of us thought that if the best engineers and pilots of modern aviation couldn’t make her fly, what a testament to those two bicycle mechanics who achieved what has become a phenomenal success for our industry.”

“I thought it was a wonderful event,” said Dr. Tim Brady, Dean of the College of Aviation. “The miserable weather, rather than detracting from the event, made it more meaningful. It was the kind of conditions that the Wright Brothers would have endured. I was moved by being there and felt thoroughly ‘in touch’ with our wonderful past.”



COURTESY OF JEFF SIKORSKI SPECIAL COLLECTION

John Travolta – movie star, pilot, and aviation aficionado – was the master of ceremonies for the Centennial events.

At 10:35 a.m., when the re-enactment flight was scheduled, there

## On the edge ...

compiled by Phyllis A. Salmons

### Mars Rover Update

• Spirit landed on Mars on January 3

• Spirit is the fourth probe to successfully land on Mars, following in the footsteps of two Viking landers in the 1970s and the Pathfinder mission in 1997

• Spirit rolled off its landing platform on Thursday, January 16

• Spirit’s top speed is two inches per second

• NASA received the first pictures taken by the rover showing a pair of tracks left in the dusty Martian soil

• Spirit’s mission is scheduled for three months, but project managers are considering extending the mission

• Spirit’s twin rover – Opportunity – is scheduled to land on the opposite side of the planet on January 24

• Like Earth, Mars has polar ice caps and clouds in its atmosphere, seasonal weather patterns, volcanoes, canyons and other recognizable features.

• On Mars, we will therefore search for evidence of life in areas where liquid water was once stable, and below the surface where it still might exist today.

• In addition to liquid water, life also needs energy. Therefore, future missions will also be on the lookout for energy sources other than sunlight, since life on the surface of Mars is unlikely given the presence of “superoxides” that break down organic (carbon-based) molecules on which life is based.

• Stay tuned for a Mars feature in next week’s Space Tech!

## Hubble still sees 20/20

Mark Beall  
Guest Reporter

Mankind’s unquenchable drive for knowledge and understanding of the universe was demonstrated last week as an international team of astronomers revealed yet another piece of the cosmos puzzle at the end of the 203rd national meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

The Hubble Space Telescope imaged what scientists are now saying is the largest color picture of the universe to date. This collage – containing more than 10,000 galaxies – looks at a three-dimensional cut of space the apparent

size of a full-moon while gazing nine billion years into the past.

“Galaxies are incredibly diverse creatures,” said Shardha Joge, an astronomer at the Space Telescope Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. “You really need a large sample, otherwise your results get skewed.” These 10,000 specific galaxies in Fornax were chosen because their distances from Earth were already known.

There is speculation that the image could contain up to 60,000 galaxies. Some are fainter than others.

The stated purpose of the astronomers was clear, “... what we’re interested in is the physics of why these galaxies form, not just in the

pretty pictures ...” says Eric Bell, astronomer with Germany’s Max Planck-Institute for Astronomy. It is believed that seventy percent of the galaxies in the present day universe are spiral galaxies like the Milky Way – the galaxy of which our solar system is part, and why studying them is so important.”

The image, a product of the newest camera on the Telescope, is known as GEMS (Galaxy Evolution from Morphology and Spectral energy distribution) and is an ensemble of seventy-eight individual pictures.

When they’re pieced together, the result is 150 times bigger than the Hubble Deep Field Survey and may provide astronomers greater insight.

## Brady’s sacred ground



COURTESY OF DR. TIM BRADY

Dr. Tim Brady, Dean of the College of Aviation, poses “... a stained-glass model of the Wright Flyer in my office that I made a few years ago. While at Kitty Hawk, I scooped up some sand from Kill Devil Hill. That sand is now underneath my model.”

## Introducing a new editor, Space Tech’s leadership, Bush’s future vision of space

I’m going to talk a lot about Bush, because he is talking a lot about Space, and I think you will get to know me a little more as the new editor of space through my random thoughts.

It is my somewhat informed Opinion – I am currently editing Space after my short, 36-issue stint, with Ops – that Dubbya is an idiot who stole the election and is doing his best to whore the country to special interests to ensure reelection.

While I am alienated, especially on this conservative campus, in holding this Opinion, it is my Patriotic right to cast doubt on the questionable actions of this criminal regime. I may be wrong, and certainly liberal politicians still stink, but this is America.

Here, public figures do not have the fat-kid at recess self-esteem issues of totalitarian dictators. And no, I don’t think it’s wrong to disagree with a President during wartime when it is a war he invented.

[“Rarely is the question asked, is our children learning.”] attributed to Bush over and over again.

He doesn’t want citizens to know his dirty BIG secret. He slithers in sheep’s clothing knitted from simple, cowboy-styled words. This wolf has fleeced the American flock! The

Greatest Generation [Dan Rather’s] is conned wholesale just as they are reaching a much-deserved retirement.

The shepherds died two centuries ago and we wander aimlessly without paternal wisdom searching for false, righteous, hypocritical prophets only concerned with profit. We are lost munching on foreign grass. The cows, the camels, the koalas, all furrowing their brow at us and crying, “Empire!” over their lost territory.

The unilateral, jingoist [I love big, maniacal sounding words], global domination imperialist mantra spouted on AM radio is the cynical, black-and-white view of the world consuming us with a hatred of the indefinable “them”. The enemy is within, and no Department of Homeland security can give you True safety from your own selfish ego.

Bush is perceived as cute when he misspeaks and gives an *awe-shucks* look to the camera, but when he calls for a, “Crusade against terrorism,” believing he is mentally challenged becomes all the more believable. We pay attention to the *innocent* mistake and not the ignorance that prompted it.

Bush’s actions say – a man who pulled strings to get a stint with the Texas National Guard to defend

against Cuba – he believes that we should sacrifice Patriots and fire patriot missiles to secure the gas flowing from the Middle East’s petroleum teat. She is a junkie mother, and the milk is toxic.

It’s all part of the con. The plastic, Texas-Big-Oil, handshake gives you your land with a smile, but pimps the value beneath the surface to line their fat, gilded pockets and buy more greasy bacon for their corporate sponsors.

Why are we *really* fighting this war on terrorism? Michael Moore makes the point that you cannot win a war against a noun whether it is

“With an uppercut, the entire world ends in hot fire, then cold ice, forever.”  
- The Zengineer

Soldiers of Riddle, you are willing to sacrifice your life for a great cause, ask yourself if Crawford, Texas is your Homeland and where the country should be run from. Ask yourself if you want your family at Home to be terrorized by our bastard Prince and the Puppet Master Rupert Murdoch’s pet tarantula Fox News. The voice of Jabba the Hut himself.

This is fast-food capitalism at its worst, gorging on an extra-value

meal of hydrogenated materialism, corporate sponsored fear mongering and the creative marketing of a Karl Rovanian reality.

Hug a tree and know that you are connected to this Earth and ask if you still are afraid of the big, bad Bush!

When Kennedy made his announcement that we were going to the moon to beat the communists, he was fighting for the hearts, minds and souls of the entire world. Bush’s recent pronouncement

that we would be going to Mars, the moon, and God knows where else he thinks we can find oil.

The Great President’s memory and the Great Generation now passing on the torch are dishonored. Bush is starting another war to win an election by speaking like Corky from Life Goes On, and carrying a big space stick [he’d probably buy one if Cheney mentioned it, whatever it means].

The Bush regime is getting desperate, as True Americans will only swallow so much corporate-corrupted, toxic municipal before he is

lynched like Clinton. The latter had his cigar way with an intern; Bush is screwing the whole planet.

America projects the most powerful military in the world, uncontested. At Embry-Riddle, we are a center for developing this powerful fist that like a Scout is always prepared and capable of going anywhere ready to rock-n-roll.

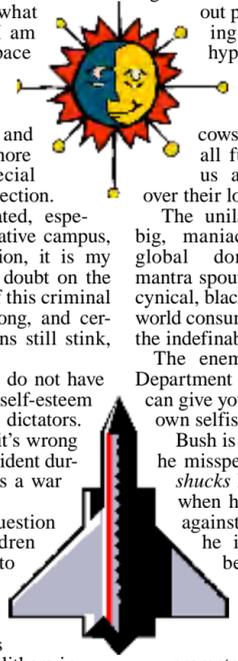
With a lightning jab, a foreign regime will collapse. With an uppercut, the world may end in hot fire, then cold ice, forever.

This awesome responsibility is a jagged pill to swallow, but it is the roll the United States is sequestered to perform admirably throughout its history.

Bush has indeed started another space race, but no one else is showing up to the track. They are not intimidated by Bush’s 100-grand-of-plastic-under-the-hood, *riced-out*, Kia Rio; they think it’s sad that we are turning NASA, the Embry-Riddle of aeronautics and astronautically research, from its benevolent, science mission, to a Nationalistic Glory for the Empire mission.

Bush is trying to get as far away as possible from Iraq before November 2005. Open your heart. Open your mind. Keep reaching for the stars. Embrace all the beauty that is both rational and romantic thought.

- Ryan Thomas Jones



## Branson sponsors solo flight around the globe

Federico Martinez  
Student Life Editor

Sir Richard Branson and Steve Fossett recently unveiled their Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer. It is an airplane that Fossett plans to pilot in order to become the first man to fly around the world solo without refueling. Virgin Atlantic is sponsoring the venture and Branson is the backup pilot.

The aircraft has a wingspan of 114 feet. It is powered by a single Williams FJ44-3 ATW Turbofan engine that will make the aircraft achieve a cruising speed of just over 250 knots.

The GlobalFlyer is being built by Burt Rutan's Scaled Composites. It will have a gross takeoff weight of

22,000 pounds, 18,000 of which are for fuel. It will require a 12,000 ft. runway for takeoff.

The flight will span a total of 25,000 miles and will take about 80 hours to complete. It will originate somewhere in the central United States because the team wants to be able to track the initial progress over land, and because they want to make sure they have somewhere to land in the latter stages (when there is the risk of running out of fuel).

Fossett and Branson both attempted in the past to be the first to fly around the globe in a balloon. They lost their bid to a Swiss team in 1999. In 2002, Steve Fossett became the first person to circumnavigate the world in a solo balloon flight



STEVE FOSSETT AND SIR Richard Branson (left and right, respectively) pose in front of their GlobalFlyer aircraft during a recent meeting with the press. The aircraft will take only one of them on a 25,000 mile flight that will last approximately 80 hours.

## Banned airlines fly from UK

Shyamal Addanki  
Systems Manager

European airline passengers now have one more concern when flying: whether or not the airline has been banned from other airports.

Two airlines that were banned in at least one country in 2002 were still flying from the UK in 2003. However, international confusion

“  
*As no major problems were revealed...we do not feel it's appropriate to name them*  
”

- UK DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

killing all 141 people on board. The passengers had no way of knowing that the airline had been banned.

The two airlines still flying are now revealed to be part of six that have been banned or placed under restriction somewhere in Europe in 2002.

A UK Department of Transportation spokeswoman said that one of the two airlines had been through an inspection in late 2002 and no major problems were revealed.

The UK insists that it will not name the airlines, leaving that up to the countries that imposed the restrictions.

“As no major problems were revealed concerning these airlines in subsequent inspections, we do not feel it's appropriate to name them,” the spokeswoman added.

However, the raise in concerns initiated immediate demands for the airlines to be named. According

to the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC), the names of the six restricted airlines are not confidential. National governments can choose whether or not to name the airlines, but the names of these airlines have proved difficult to trace.

Airlines get banned from countries as the most severe penalty for having major safety failings and if the necessary improvements have not been taken.

UK Transport Secretary Alistair Darling announced that a list of airlines that have been banned by the UK would be revealed. The five other airlines that were banned outside the UK will remain unknown.

Switzerland confirmed that 23 planes are currently banned, but claims that confidentiality laws and “gentleman's” agreements are preventing it from naming them.

“Its very worrying.” UK conservative MP David Wilshire told

BBC, “If a government has prohibited the use of its airspace by an airline, that implies there is something inherently wrong with the airline.”

“And if I was a passenger, I'd like to know if that was the case - I mean, wouldn't you want to know if an airline you were just about to step on had been banned in another country?”

European MPs who have been campaigning for public access to all airline safety records way that the Flash Airlines crash has brought the issue to a sharp focus.

An inquiry by the BBC revealed that the Flash Airlines Boeing 737, which crashed into the Red Sea, had failed a Swiss safety test in Oct 2002 but did pass a French test in 2003.

Flash Airlines insist that they were unfairly banned by Switzerland and say their planes are in good order.

“  
*...wouldn't you want to know if an airline you were just about to step on had been banned in another country?*  
”

- DAVID WILSHIRE

## Downing of gov't for TWA flt. 800

Christopher Noth  
Staff Reporter

Retired United Airlines pilot and former Airline Pilots' Association (ALPA) Safety chairman Ray Lahr is suing the NTSB, CIA, and Boeing for access to calculations used in the formulation final conclusions about TWA flight 800.

Lahr has been conducting independent research into what he claims to be a cover up.

According to Lahr, “[the] suppression of the obvious prompted a parallel investigation by aroused citizens. James Sanders wrote a book, *The Downing of TWA 800*, for which he and his wife were severely punished by the government.”

In his arguments, Lahr cited various industry experts and high ranking members of the United States government, including a former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Lahr also emphasizes the fact that none of the 270

eyewitnesses deposed by the CIA were allowed to testify at either of the NTSB's two public hearings, even after some eyewitnesses took out a full page advertisement in the Washington Times, asking to be heard.

Lahr's intent is to debunk the CIA-developed “zoom-climb” theory which explained how the airliner split into pieces, causing the illusion of two separate burning masses to viewers on the ground.

In his defense, Lahr also has actual transcripts of Boston ATC, as well as depositions from National Guardsmen who were in the area at the time. Lahr's defense will also likely include his filing Freedom of Information Act requests with the CIA and the NTSB.

At the first court date, Lahr and his attorney, John Clarke, praised the fairness of Judge A. Howard Matz in Los Angeles. Clarke estimates that the trial will be resolved by late spring or early summer.

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# Digital Evolution

## Who and what making waves in the 2004 digital domain.

DARRIN O'BRADY/AVION

### Ol' Skool Game of the Week

Darrin O'Brady

Data Technology Editor



DOWNLOAD-A-SAGO-2K2. GALEON.COM/INTERNET PHOTO

The flip-top feature of Sonic and Knuckles back in 1994 was in a league of its own in the world of cartridge gaming.

Allowing players to play the game as is or put in the Sonic 3 cartridge and complete the Sonic 3 story, Sonic and Knuckles ended the 2-D, 16-bit Sonic era.

The real treat was the ability to attach previous versions of Sonic the Hedgehog and play as Knuckles the Echidna in the old adventures. This game was a must have for Sonic fans.

Sonic and Knuckles new flip-top technology was a jewel that shined brightly in the 16-bit era. What new game technology will take the world by storm in 2004?

### PC for your face

Tom Flemming  
Sports Editor

To call Steve Mann a cyborg would be a bit of a stretch, but not many people could claim to be closer to being mechanically run.

The 41 year-old professor of engineering at the University of Toronto has invented a contraption that allows people to integrate certain functions of a home computer into their regular vision. It is called the "EyeTap."

The device is a small video camera that is placed over the eye. Within the scope of this small digital monocle a person can receive emails and text messages. It can replace certain unwanted images (such as billboards), acting as a virtual reality pop-up blocker.

Mann has been working on gadgets since a very young age at which most kids would be more concerned with staying up a couple minutes longer than their parents would like. In fact, that's exactly what was on his mind in one of his earliest inventions. Mann and his brother wired the house with sensors that would tell them if a parent was coming up stairs, allowing them to pretend to be asleep before the bedroom door was ever opened.

His interest in technology only grew over time, and 15 years ago he started experimenting with the first versions of his current "EyeTap." It began as a large bulky machine that had to be carried in a

large bulky backpack. Over time the "EyeTap" has been reduced to a single eyepiece that raps around one ear, and in addition to that, there are sensors that allow him to detect motion from behind, giving him eyes in the back of his head.

Mann believes that his invention could spark another revolution like that seen for the personal computer. He believes that one day, everyone will want to be more tightly linked with computers, to enhance our memory and connections to other people.

When confronted about the possibility that there might not be a market for his "EyeTap" Mann responds, "Any prediction can turn out to be a combination of codswallop, kerfluffle and flapdoodle...A lot of people try to predict the future, and I guess one question is, why should I listen to them?"

**"Any prediction can turn out to be a combination of codswallop, kerfluffle and flapdoodle..."**

- STEVE MANN



THE "EYE-TAP"

HOME.EARTHLINK.NET/INTERNET PHOTO

Above: Steve Mann sports the new Eye Tap.

Left: (1990s) The Eye Tap in development.

ABOUT.EYETAP.ORG/INTERNET PHOTO

### Xbox Live to reach milestone

Darrin O'Brady  
Data Technology Editor

"It's good to play together," the slogan of Microsoft's Xbox, is what Xbox chief Robbie Bach has envisioned for the future of Xbox Live.

"The subscriber base for Xbox Live will be over a million by June," he said.

Bach delivered this news in a keynote address in the Digital Games Summit, a smaller part of the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

"We are finding a new way for people to have social experiences," said Bach, "we are blazing a trail."

On campus organizations run in-house tournaments on the Xbox, and it attracts over 50 players. Xbox Live gives users the ability to surpass in house games and set their sights on the thousands of potential opponents.

"We have to turn video games from being a solitary experience into a community experience," said Bach.

Microsoft's Xbox is mainly competing with the Sony Playstation

2 for top online gaming by offering a subscription-based service instead of Sony's hands-off approach.

Xbox Live sees an average of 1.5 million sessions a week and estimated a million sessions per day over the five-day Christmas period.

"As the hardware gets faster, the big difference is going to be in the software," said Bach. One big draw for the service will be Halo 2, coming out later this year, boasting full online compatibility.

### Downloading on the decline

Johnathan Mettin  
News Editor

Two studies released earlier this month have stated that unlawful downloads have dropped in the United States since the widely-publicized lawsuits against people who illegally share copyrighted material on peer-to-peer networks.

The Pew Internet & American Life Project polled 1,358 respondents about their activities in file-sharing in the spring of 2003, then surveyed an equal number at year's end.

The study found that the number of respondents who acknowledged that they illegally shared files dropped from 29 percent to 14 percent, with a fifth of those who continued to share claiming

their sharing had dropped since the spring.

For legal reasons, the study did not include minors, although previous surveys have shown the vast majority of minors see nothing wrong with peer-to-peer sharing.

The second study, performed by comScore Media Metrix, monitored the usage of four popular file-sharing programs:

Kazaa (the most popular file-sharing program), Grokster, Bearshare, and WinMX. ComScore reported that from November 2002 to November 2003, Kazaa usage declined 15 percent, Grokster 59 percent, Bearshare 9 percent, and WinMX 25 percent.

"The lawsuits are having a significant effect on behavior

here," said comScore analyst Graham Mudd.

However, this trend does not seem to be global. In 2003, the number of people using major peer-to-peer applications increased by 26 percent. November 2003 was the second-highest month ever for illegal music downloads, with an average of 4.3 million users are sharing at any one time, according to Eric Garland, CEO of BigChampagne.com, which monitors file-sharing globally.

Garland told *The Philadelphia Inquirer* that he expects the trend will reverse when people realize that the lawsuits are only aimed at so-called "mega-users," and that the risk for the average downloader is negligible.

Apple Computer is hoping to sell 100 million songs online by April, which marks the one-year anniversary of its paysite iTunes. According to Garland, about 10 times that number unlawfully are downloaded every week.

**"The lawsuits are having significant effect on behavior here."**

- GRAHAM MUDD

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



by Wes Oleszewski



## The Comic Editor's Campus Comic of the Week

New semester... same old same old...

You know, I had this great idea for a comic where Alex comes back, I ask how his classes are, and he starts ticking off how many hot girls there were...

Jonathan Mettin 1/16/04

Ken, AE major

Zach, AS major

Ken, I still can't get this problem!

For the last time, Zach, multiplication is not that hard, Human Factors, a hand!

I'M NOT HUMAN FACTORS YET!

**EMBRY RIDGLE** 'EAGLES WILL FLY'

This sketch was submitted by Graham S. Force of Extreme Aerospace Art Works in Port Orange. He sends his regards to students flying the 172 and to everyone at ERAU. Thanks for the drawing, Graham!

## I'm tired of coming up with captions...

You know the drill. Draw a comic and submit it by Friday at 1700. It's simple. You're an engineer - you can do it!



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YOU NEVER RETURN MY CALLS!

AND I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR WEEKS!

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X-BOX