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Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

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THE AVION

A Division of the Student Government Association

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Daytona Beach, Florida

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Apology for inappropriate article

In last week's issue of the *Avion*, an article was published on the Space Technology page that did not belong there. That article was titled, "Introducing a new editor; Space Tech's leadership, Bush's future vision of space."

The article was highly editorialized and did not belong there. In addition, it contained virtually no information regarding space technology. The article belonged on the Opinions page, without question.

I will not go into the specifics of the problem in the office, but I can assure you I did not wish that article to go in the paper. However, I am the Editor-in-Chief, and I am ultimately responsible for any article that makes it into the paper. Therefore, I apologize to you, the reader, for that mistake.

The article in question does not reflect the official stance of the *Avion* Newspaper. The *Avion* does not hold any official position on political issues, as well as campus organizations, such as fraternities and sororities.

Articles in the paper, except opinions, should be written objectively. Any opinions expressed in articles are those from the people quoted, not the writer of the story. Our goal is to report the news, not make it.



Lucas Crouch
Editor-in-Chief

ERAU Alma Mater officially accepted

New school song endorsed by univ. cabinet, ceremony held

Lucas Crouch
Editor in Chief

ERAU's new alma mater was officially recognized by university administration, faculty, and students during a ceremony held Wednesday, Jan. 14 in the Spruance Hall Atrium.

According to Kevin Snyder, Assistant Director of Student Activities, the ceremony was held to announce the alma mater was official. The alma mater was

performed for the first time during commencement last semester.

"This is to announce that it's official. It was endorsed by the university cabinet, the President [Dr. Ebbs], and Chancellor [Dr. Price] were in attendance," said Snyder.

According to an ERAU press release, plans to create the alma mater began last semester when a small group of students and staff members felt that a university song was, "Well overdue."

"Being a part of this planning process is an honor. Not many students can say that they have helped to write the alma mater for Embry-Riddle. My motivation for this project comes from the time I remember the entire University of Florida stadium singing their alma mater at Homecoming last fall," said ERAU student Brian Lutz in an ERAU press release.

According to the press release, after weeks of composing music, critiquing lyrics, and researching common themes from

other university alma maters, the proposal was submitted to Chancellor Price. Price then brought the proposed alma mater to the university cabinet who unanimously agreed to have it performed at the next commencement.

The ERAU press release also states that the current challenge is to introduce the newly created alma mater to all students, faculty, and alumni. Alma maters are traditionally sung at various official university ceremonies, student gatherings, athletic events, and other special activities. In order for it to be sung, people have to know the melody and lyrics. "I'll never forget my graduation from the University of South Carolina. Our graduating class stood up, put our arms around each other's shoulder, and swayed back and forth while singing the alma mater. I will always remember that feeling," said Kevin Snyder, Assistant Director of Student Activities, in an ERAU press release.

Snyder believes it is nice to see another

initiative by students and faculty to get the university more unified with purpose and school spirit. "A challenge goes out to any student to come up with an idea to raise the school spirit," said Snyder.

"Get involved with organizations, athletics, orientation team, or SGA. Find a niche that you are comfortable with and go for it. Then when you graduate and look back while singing the Alma Mater, you will have some great memories."

The authors of the new Alma Mater are Paul Bell, Sally Short, Brian Lutz, Bobby Higgins, Jennifer Daniel, Kira Lake, and Kevin Snyder.

The lyrics to the new ERAU alma mater can be found on page A2.

The alma mater can also be downloaded in a piano version or a vocal version from the following website: <http://www.erau.edu/er/almamater.html>

See **ALMA MATER LYRICS** on A2

Flagler who?



SHYAMAL ADDANKI/AVION

ERAU STUDENTS READ THE *Avion* Newspaper during the introduction of the Flagler basketball team Saturday, Jan. 24 at the ICI Center. After a hard fought game, the final score was ERAU 62 Flagler 75. ERAU fell to 13-9, 0-2 in conference play. ERAU's next opponent is Warner Southern, 7 p.m. Wednesday, at the ICI Center.

Dr. Hudson discusses issue of slave reparations

Professor talks of how reparations could affect American people

Mark Beall
Guest Reporter

Reparation is the act or process of repairing or the condition of being repaired. Dr. Larry E. Hudson Jr. spoke in W-308 at ERAU, and attempted to articulate, what exactly reparation should mean to the American people.

Dr. Hudson is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Rochester. He is author and editor of numerous publications concerning slavery, and was introduced by the Humanities Department as an expert at the top of his field.

Reparation is the source of much controversy in America today, and according to Dr. Hudson, a February 2002 study shows that nine out of ten white Americans, as well as slightly over half (62 percent) of

black Americans oppose the notion. It was clear that he was working hard to change those numbers, and in his opening remarks, he stressed that he wanted to eliminate false impressions and oversimplifications of this complex issue. He pointed out that the idea of reparations first originated just after the Civil War. He went on to say that prominent people throughout American history have urged for reparations, including a Yale professor from the 1970s and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from the early 1990s.

"Only some form of reparations will close the gap between blacks and whites," argued Dr. Hudson, noting that monetary payments to individuals were not necessarily what he wanted. For him, it was more about healing and "Repairment, not repayment."

Hudson mentioned a pendulum swinging as an example of the unfair and unbalanced socioeconomic situation going on in America today, but some are worried that

the pendulum would swing too far back the other way if the reparations were awarded; only to drive a deep and bitter wedge between cultures.

"How do you decide who gets what?" demanded one student. The student went on to question the specifics of the concept by asking how many generations get the reparations, and mentioning that anyone could claim that he or she has African blood.

Dr. Hudson responded, "Only the lucky ones."

The rebuttal was swift and furious by another member of the audience, "Melanie." She stated clearly and passionately her issues, but neglected to answer the question.

Hudson's response was calm and collected, and he seemed genuinely interested in keeping this discussion at an intellectual level, and as he stated time and time again, "... it was about healing, not about money."

... reparations will close the gap between blacks and whites
- DR. HUDSON

His cause, however, needed the money to begin the healing process. Some asked, "Money for what, if not for the individual?" Education seemed to be the overwhelming answer, and relief for the poor. He insisted he did not want to take anything away from anyone, but only to gain what was rightfully his causes. He went on to say, "It would help all Americans."

So where would those billions of dollars come from? An older member of the audience stated Bush's new plan for Mars and NASA's budget, and Hudson reminded everyone of the war in Iraq. There is plenty of money to go around, right? Well, maybe to some, but slamming NASA and the military was something that made some of the Riddle students present shake their heads.

After Dr. Hudson finished with the question and answer session, people were leaving and some offered their opinions. Professor Schlieper of Humanities thought the presentation was, "Excellent researched and convincing," and that it "[sought] to combine, rather than separate."

See **REPARATIONS** on A2

ERAU names new Marketing VP

Jonathan Mettin

News Editor

Gary Hamme will join Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University as its new Vice President of Marketing and Enrollment Management next month.

Hamme, currently Vice President of Enrollment Management at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, will lead the enrollment efforts for both residential campuses.

According to a press release made public last Tuesday, "His responsibilities will include attracting and retaining highly qualified students, increasing undergraduate and graduate enrollments, sharing in the development and approval of budgets for recruitment activities, overseeing career placement services for graduates, and marketing the benefits of Embry-Riddle."

"We are thrilled to have someone of Gary Hamme's talent and proven ability to join our management team," said ERAU President Dr. George Ebbs.

"I am delighted to be involved in this challenging process," Hamme said, referring to his new responsibilities at ERAU.

At Fairleigh Dickinson, Hamme managed a staff of 100 employees. He is credited with increasing the number of applications to the two Fairleigh-Dickinson campuses by 29 percent from 2000 to 2003. In that same time period, the average

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score at Fairleigh Dickinson increased by 20 points.

Before that position, Hamme held several executive positions at Drexel

University in Philadelphia, Pa., and was also Director of Human Resources at Price Waterhouse in Philadelphia and Morristown, N.J.

Hamme earned his MBA and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Management, and Industrial Relations from Drexel.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERAU COMMUNICATIONS
GARY HAMME, FORMER VP of Marketing and Enrollment at Fairleigh Dickinson University will take on the same role here at ERAU.

"We are thrilled to have someone of Gary Hamme's talent and ability"
- DR. GEORGE EBBS "

Rah, Rah, Sis Boom Bah!!



SHYAMAL ADDANKI/AV/03V

THE ICI CENTER WAS nearly filled to capacity this past Saturday as the ERAU Men's Basketball Team battled against Flagler College. Here, the Embry-Riddle cheerleaders attempt to make the crowd go wild. Copies of *The Avion* were distributed to fans to further rub into Flagler's face just who the better university is.

Prescott names new Dean of C.O.A.

Dr. Jacqueline Luedtke takes over College of Aviation

Press Release

ERAU Communication

Dr. Jacqueline Luedtke has been named Dean of the College of Aviation at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Prescott, Ariz., campus.

Luedtke joined the university in June 2003 and has served as the interim Dean of the College of Aviation at

Prior to joining Embry-Riddle, Luedtke was an associate professor in the Department of Aviation at Daniel Webster College in Nashua, N.H. Earlier, Luedtke was Director of Operations and taught at the Aviation Department at Utah State University, was assistant professor at the Aviation Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and was with the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State University.

Luedtke holds a doctorate in higher education with an emphasis in Aviation/Aerospace Education from

Oklahoma State University. She also holds an M.B.A. from Wichita State University and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from Wichita State University.

As Dean of the College of Aviation, Luedtke is responsible for the departments of Aeronautical Science, Applied Meteorology, Safety Science, and the Flight Training Center. The College of Aviation enrolls more than 750 students and has 24 full-time faculty. Embry-Riddle's Aeronautical Science degree has the largest enrollment of undergraduates on the campus.

"Dr. Luedtke brings a wealth of experience and has proven to be a great addition to the Embry-Riddle team," Chancellor Dan Carrell said.

Luedtke's research interests include aviation management, effects of marketing in aviation, retention issues, service quality in aviation, and women's contributions to aviation.

Her professional affiliations include the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, the Ninety Nines, the University Aviation Association, the Wichita Aeronautical Historical Association, and Women in Aviation International.

Luedtke's FAA certifications include Certified Flight Instructor, Instrument, Commercial Pilot, Airplane Single and Multi-Engine Land with Instrument, and Advanced Instrument Ground Instructor.

"Dr. Luedtke... has proven to be a great addition to the ERAU team"
- DAN CARRELL "

Embry-Riddle Alma Mater

Verse 1:

Eagles gather near, we lift our voices loud and clear
Soaring high, oh Alma Mater, threads of blue and gold
United we soar, in vast open skies
Embry-Riddle, we hail thee, great memories we'll hold

Refrain:

So here's to you old ERAU
Alma Mater true,
We pledge in love and harmony
Our loyalty to you

Verse 2:

Singing thy praise, remembering the days
Coast to coast, around the world, our bond forever true
Embracing our dreams, with pride far and wide
Embry-Riddle, we hail thee, great memories we'll hold

Refrain:

So here's to you old ERAU
Alma Mater true,
We pledge in love and harmony
Our loyalty to you

Internship Anyone?

Lauren Jakobsen

Staff Reporter

What are YOUR plans this summer? Career Services put on several seminars last week informing students about different summer 2004 internships available for every major.

Career Services Business Program Manager, Sarah Hurguy, spoke to ERAU students about the process of applying for upcoming summer internships. Internships and Co-ops are available to ERAU undergraduate and graduate students who meet minimum GPA and credit hour requirements for their major course of study. Most GPA requirements are 2.5 for undergraduate students

and 3.0 for graduate students.

Internships provide real-world experience, enable students to explore positions within fields of interest, and provide excellent networking opportunities, which will be of great importance after graduation when searching for a full-time position. There is also the opportunity to receive paid internship positions and to receive credit towards open electives.

Before beginning, every student must meet with his or her program manager for an advising session.

If you missed the seminars, DO NOT WORRY! Just head over to Career Services and get started looking for the perfect internship for you!

THE AVION

By students, for students.

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Fartun Salah
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Faculty Advisor

Dr. Tom Vickers, Professor of Humanities

Contact Information

Main Phone: (386) 226-6049

Fax: (386) 226-6083

E-mail: avionnewspaper@hotmail.com

Editor-In-Chief: (386) 226-6079

Advertising Manager: (386) 226-7697

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ERAU Professor Emeritus dies from a heart attack

Dr. Phyllis A. Salmons

ERAU Heritage Project

Dr. Elinor S. Miller, professor emeritus and former chair of the Humanities and Social Sciences Department at Embry-Riddle, died of a heart attack on Sunday, January 19 at the Halifax Hospital. She worked at Embry-Riddle for eight years prior to her 1994 retirement.

Having earned a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan College, she continued her education at the University of Chicago resulting in an M.A. and Ph.D in Romance Languages and Literature. Before coming to Embry-Riddle, she taught at The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, Shimer College, Mount Carroll, Ill., Temple Buell College, Denver, Mary's College, St. Mary's Md., and Rollins College, Winter Park, FL. She served as vice-chancellor for academic affairs at the University of South Carolina-Coastal Carolina College in Conway, SC.

"With her wide academic background, she could carry on conversations that were brilliant fireworks of allusions, snippets of quotes, and literary references," said colleague Reinhold Schlieper, of the HU/SS department. Retired colleague Ann Magaha, the recipient of the 1999 ERAU Outstanding Teaching Award, said, "Elinor Miller was the consummate teacher! She taught my class when she was interviewing-- a lesson on Faulkner. Those students were spellbound! She was the kind of teacher students never forget and she truly loved her kids."

Another HU/SS colleague, Dr. Alan Pratt, gave insight into Miller's academic pursuits. "Her work on Michel Butor, whom she knew personally, is well known." Butor is among the handful of French writers who invented the "New Novel or Nouveau Roman." Miller's "Prisms and Rainbows: Michel Butor's Collaborations With Jacques Monory, Jiri Kolar, and Pierre Alechinsky" was published in December 2003, showing that she continued to be a dedicated and disciplined scholar even after her retirement from Embry-Riddle.

Both Magaha and Schlieper will testify that Elinor Miller was a lover of the arts. "She attended every drama production at Embry-Riddle and was an avid supporter of introducing Embry-Riddle students to the arts," said Magaha. Miller was the driving force behind our current humanities course sequence. Prior to Miller's leadership, the HU course offerings were strictly literature and writing.

Schlieper enjoyed attending the opera with Miller in her latter years. "I know she really got quite a charge out of my asking her to accompany my wife and me to the opera; after all, she was not my boss anymore, so I didn't really have to work at impressing her and could afford sincerity," Schlieper and Miller also enjoyed the classic movies offered at the Cinamatique presentations. "She would never miss a French film being shown there," said Schlieper.

Dr. Robert Brown, Professor in the Physical Sciences Department, was the dean of the College of Engineering and Aviation Sciences when Miller was hired. Brown said, "She was a very professional woman and never backed down when she had a cause. She stood up for her faculty when she thought

they were right – sometimes they never really knew how hard she fought for them. On the other hand, she fought tooth and nail with the HU/SS faculty when she thought they were wrong."

Miller was honored as a Professor Emeritus upon her 1994 retirement from the university. Still considered to be an important part of the university, the Professor Emeritus honor is bestowed upon faculty who have made significant contributions to the university through teaching, research and service.

"Talking to her was a delight," said Schlieper. Magaha added, "Elinor had a great sense of humor. She was witty and funny. She smiled a lot and caused others to do the same."

In retirement, she cared for her husband Warren until his death in 1996, and then devoted the remaining years of her life to her greatest loves, her children and grandchildren, and her cats.

Schlieper sums up the loss of Dr. Elinor Miller by saying "Some people should really live forever because they were such an enrichment to the world we live in; Elinor, I am quite sure was one such person. I shall miss her immensely."



DR. ELINOR S. MILLER (far left) was a Professor Emeritus for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She passed away on Sunday, January 19 due to a fatal heart attack. She will be missed by many.

Scenes from Greek Week



MICHAEL MARANO/AVION



BILL CAMPBELL/AVION



MICHAEL MARANO/AVION



BRANDON GOEBEL/AVION

GREEKS GATHER FOR THE Spring 2004 Rush season. Pi Kappa Alpha, ERAU's newest fraternity gathered for an Italian dinner at Don Giovannis (upper left). The sisters of Theta Phi Alpha held a bonfire party at SunSplash Park (lower left). The brothers of Alpha Phi Delta took their pledgers to a go-kart race (lower right), with each organization looking to expand themselves.



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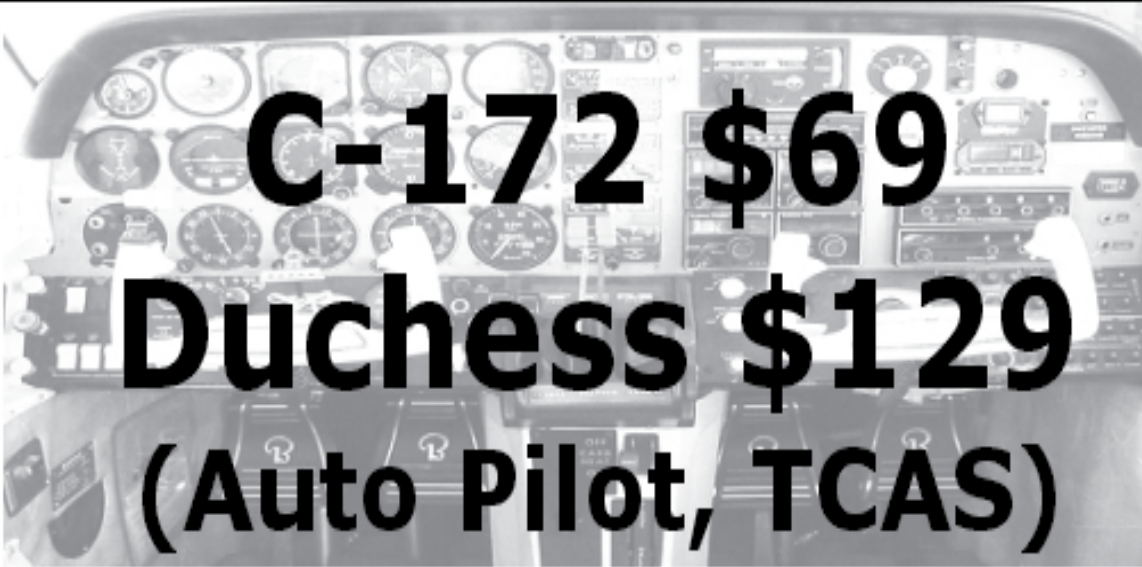
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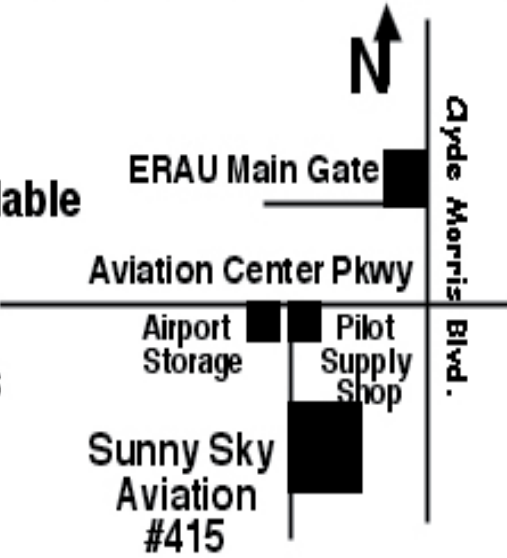
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An informed *rebuttal* about an informed opinion

It is my *informed opinion* that an informed opinion does not start with name calling, followed by unfounded and unsupported statements about the condition of our country.

I would like to point out first that an editorial column does not belong in a news section of a paper; it belongs in the editorial section. It does not matter whether the writer of the editorial is the editor of the said section.

I would also like to question the wisdom of appointing someone with such a negative view of space exploration as the editor of the space and technology section. Does this encourage fair reporting and editing of stories in this section? I don't think so, and I am disappointed that part of my activities funds goes to *The Avion*.

I agree with Ryan Jones that it is his patriotic right to question the government and how it works. I

would, however, like to recommend that he find facts to back up his opinions before spouting off at the mouth like an uneducated person. You don't help the stance of other liberals by sounding like an imbecile.

The article printed in the Jan. 20th issue of *The Avion* was paragraph after paragraph of ridiculous synonyms for a government that has brought our country, quite successfully I might add, through some of the hardest times it has seen. So, Mr. Jones, stop thumbing through the thesaurus for "big, maniacal sounding words" and educate yourself.

We may not be able to win a war against a noun, as Mr. Jones put it, but that is not what we are fighting. This is not a war against an idea or some imaginary foe; this is a war against terrorists who have repeatedly attacked America and its people.

For instance, there was the bombing of the USS Cole on

Oct. 12, 2000. Seventeen sailors were killed and 39 others were injured in this incident. There were the numerous bombings of American embassies.

Consider Aug. 7, 1998, when two American embassies were bombed in Africa, one in Kenya, and one in Tanzania. Approximately 250 people, including Americans, were killed and over 5,000 injured in these bombings.

Then of course, there is Sep. 11, 2001. Almost three thousand people were killed during this attack. Real people organized and funded these attacks, real people carried out these atrocities, and real people can be fought against and defeated.

Remembering these attacks, and others that have happened, I did what the article asked me to do. I, a "Soldier of Riddle", asked myself: Is Crawford, Texas my homeland and where the country should be run from? Do I want my "... family at home to be terrorized by our bastard Prince and the puppet master Rupert Murdoch's pet tarantula *Fox News*?" Frankly, I don't feel that the president spending time at his home in Texas means that he is running the country from there. He is not the first president to visit his home while in office. I think it

is fair to say that the country is run from wherever he may be when a decision needs to be made. Now, do I feel terrorized by our " ... bas-

tard Prince ... "? No, in fact, looking back, our country is better off then it was four years ago. Enemies know that we will no longer cower down when they attack us. Our economy is back on the rise. If Mr. Jones would care to look at the facts, new homes are being built at the fastest rate since 1984, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association. The Association has also stated that its purchase index rose 12.5 percent, which is the highest level since 1990, when the surveys began. The No Child Left Behind Act is encouraging students to learn and take advantage of their opportunities, while requiring teachers to step up to the challenge they have taken on and teach our children. Teenage drug usage has gone down approximately 14

percent. As for *Fox News*, the fact that their competitors (i.e. *ABC*) have to advertise on their network shows that Americans realize the quality of showing balanced opinions. If you want to talk about a news organization terrorizing America bring up *ABC*, *NBC*, *CBS*, and *CNN*.

Perhaps *The Avion* is now taking cues from them.

In closing, Mr. Jones, I pity you for feeling President Bush's announcement to go back to the Moon and to Mars had the purpose of starting a new space race. Perhaps the reason you did not see anyone else showing up at the track is because this is not supposed to be a "race." The most informed and educated people in the space industry realize that we can go further and do more by allying ourselves with other countries. By pooling resources, more can be accomplished, the International Space Station is an example of

this. If Mr. Jones doubts the benefits of space exploration, I would suggest that he does some more research. Here are a few places for him to start:

• http://www.explorerschools.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2003/oct/HQ_03334_spinoff_online.html

• <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/er/seh/spinoff.html>

• <http://aerospacescholars.jsc.nasa.gov/HAS/cirr/ss/3/5.cfm>

Perhaps this will give him a better perspective on future space exploration.

I will venture to speak for the vast majority of this campus in saying that the prospect of a new space mission is thrilling. Not only does it mean that mankind will continue to explore, but it also virtually guarantees jobs for students graduating from Embry-Riddle. So, Mr. Jones, if you are so disappointed by this prospect, I only have one desire: that you do not receive any of the jobs that will be created by this endeavor; as it is obvious that you would not be happy in such a position. After all, could you " ... hug a tree ... " while working for a " ... Nationalistic Glory for the Empire Mission ... "?

—Megan Sip

Is displaying the plane that dropped the bomb on Japan right?

The new Udvar-Hazy Center of the *National Air and Space Museum* has been open for about a month now. The museum houses an extensive collection of aircraft and gliders, including a Concorde. Although there are numerous aircraft to look at, the one that is attracting the most criticism is the *Enola Gay*.

The reason for the amount of criticism that the B-29 is drawing is the label that describes the aircraft as " ... the first atomic weapon used in combat on Hiroshima, Japan." This is correct historically, however there are numerous people who think that this is not descriptive enough to describe the

impact this plane really had. I, however, think that it is fine.

Most grade school children have heard of the *Enola Gay*, they also know this was the plane that dropped the first atomic weapon in history.

There have been numerous books, articles, and video documentaries made about this aircraft. Most children are also smart enough to figure out that the city was not empty when the bomb detonated and killed a vast number of people somewhere between 140,000 and 231,000.

Asking that the label be revised to show its true impact is a slightly ludicrous request, to me at least.

If it should be revised, maybe the *Smithsonian* should put up a marble wall behind it with a huge bronze plaque on it saying something along the following lines; "This is the B-29 bomber *Enola Gay*. It is the single most useful tool of mass murder in the history of the world. This plane was responsible for the deaths of 140,000 to 231,000 civilians, by dropping the first atomic bomb in history and the first one of two ever used in combat.

This is the plane that ushered in the nuclear era. It demands respect for showing the world that a country can hold the rest of the world hostage by threatening to

incinerate a million people with one bomb.

Oh yea, this plane also spared around 1 million American soldier's lives from having to invade the mainland of Japan, not to mention the amount of civilian and Japanese lives that probably would have ended up the same way as the invading Americans when they blew through the country side and shelled cities and destroyed all the factories and industrial zones on the rest of the island. Keep in mind, though, that this is not the best way to kill large amounts of people. They could have fire bombed Hiroshima like Tokyo. Also keep in mind that

this is the plane that dropped the weapon that sparked an arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union which then led to thirty years of tense relations between the countries and kept the entire world on the brink of a nuclear war which could have then reenacted Nevil Shute's book *On The Beach*. So yea, this plane is important."

Now don't we all prefer my rewritten label for the *Enola Gay* more than the original? I realize that yes, maybe the label should show that the this plane helped spark the arms race between the CCCP and America during the 1950s through the end of the

1980s, how it ushered in a new age of nuclear technology, and how it killed 100,000 people.

I stand by the belief that the Air Force Museum has that it is not a place for mourning those which this plane helped to destroy. If the plaque is going to be changed to encompass this it should also be changed to show how many lives that this plane helped to save by bringing a quick end to the war. I think the label is fine, because once you start making distinctions such as that, you need to please everyone, which can never be done. People need to stop making things so political.

—Tim Hatcher

If I were a republican

It seems to me that the only people still talking about oil in Iraq are Republicans. This leads me to suppose it's a defensive complex they've developed. They're quick to establish more productive ideas to take Iraq's oil besides war. And they're somewhat correct. The problem is no one is labeling this war as blood for oil anymore. Never mind the fact that no-bid contracts have been awarded to Dick Cheney's former company, Haliburton. And never mind Haliburton's audacity to overcharge the department of defense hundreds of millions of dollars. And never mind the irony that Iraqis, who sit on the second largest oil reserve in the world, are faced with the first gas shortage in decades. But oil was not the primary motivation for Bush's war crimes. This war was a smoke screen.

War in Iraq was a shrewd and brilliant political move. It was a way to stifle criticism of Republican policy by labeling dissenters as unpatriotic. It was a way to spend money and provide tax cuts with complete disregard to the future on the basis of stimulating the economy during trying times. Most importantly, it was an opportunity to blackmail a very naïve public into re-electing him. Which sadly will probably happen.

Interestingly, this year's State of the Union Address mentioned

"terrorism" at least 30 times, but "Osama Bin Ladin" 0 times. Bush told us at last year's State of the Union Address that Saddam Hussein had the imminent capacity to use "500 tons of nerve gas, Vx agent, mobile chemical weapons facilities, and 30,000 war heads" capable of delivering such aforementioned weapons of mass destruction. However, this year we were told that Saddam had "evidence of weapons of mass destruction program related activities." In the words of John Stewart, "What the F**K is that?" What's next? He had weapons thinga-majig?

We were told that Saddam was a danger because he possessed WMD capabilities now. Congress didn't authorize war based on a history lesson. No one defends Saddam's past "evil doer status." The liberation of Iraq was not what congress granted to the president. It only became a justification for war when it became apparent weapons would not be found. So stop telling us he gassed his own people; we know he was bad and Iraqis are better off without him. But the U.S. military is not in the business of nation building and liberation.

Unfortunately, most Republicans remain in denial. Weapons have not been found because they weren't there, and I am tired of having political diversity muted in this country, held hostage by the Republican "fear-quotient."

Five Hundred American soldiers are dead. Four Embry-Riddle Alumni are dead. There are zero weapons of mass destruction.

If I were Republican, I'd be somewhat vexed at Bush's policies. On Wednesday Jan. 21st, Republican Senator John McCain said, "These guys are spending money like drunken sailors. I've never met a sailor, drunken or sober that can spend money like Bush. Bush's former Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neil and the Army War College have publicly criticized Bush's Iraq policy. These are honest Republicans with good ideas who don't blindly follow ignorant policy. It just doesn't make sense to spend money you don't have. What happened to the fiscally conservative party? The largest budget deficit in American history is what happened.

The bottom line is our president created a very dangerous worldwide precedent of preemptive attack based on a bad gamble. Re-electing George Bush would be just slightly less immoral than the dynamics of his presidency. He sent five hundred fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, sons, and daughters to their deaths based on lies and misinformation. The best thing he could say to the people murdering my soldiers? "Bring 'em on." Since then, over two hundred more soldiers have died.

—Majid Vasigh

The Noth factor *Are Celebrities political thinkers?*

I am pleased that I am not famous. Each time a celebrity states his or her personal opinion they are scrutinized as if they were teaching business ethics at Harvard. One web site in particular bothers me: (Patriotic Americans Boycotting Anti-American Hollywood) <http://www.pabaah.org>. The site has a list of over 100 celebrities it labels betrayers. Proselytes of the organization refuse the works of actors like Martin Sheen and Dustin Hoffman, while they frequent the works of people like Chuck Norris and Howard Stern. I guess I see PABAAH's point; I mean, after all, a shock-jock radio host whose show focuses on sexual exploitations is a much more appropriate symbol for our nation's children than, say, Casey Kasem. The news media is even guiltier than PABAAH, though. They regularly bring celebrity opinions into our homes.

A celebrity is someone I pay (by going to the movies, paying for satellite, etc.) to perform a service, just like anyone else. When I go to the post office, I don't ask the attendant about his or her political affiliations, why should I care about a celebrity's opin-

ion? Furthermore, why should I feel guilty for watching a stirring drama featuring Edward Norton? Why should I face persecution as being unpatriotic simply because I think that Meat Loaf couldn't carry a tune in a bucket if his next meal depended on it?

The idea of celebrities as political thinkers is ridiculous. Lazy media outlets are the only reason we know about these over-celebrated opinions. Once my favorite television network, *E! Entertainment*, stalks some unsuspecting celebrity for an inappropriate quote, many other networks use the clips to vilify celebrities. I am appalled that after watching a half-hour of *Fox News*, I still know more about Michael Jackson's trial than I do about the president's proposed health care plan. Media coverage of celebrities is completely ludicrous.

Long before Jessica Simpson was allowed to confuse *Chicken of the Sea* brand Tuna for actual chicken, the light bulb should have gone off in some executive's head. If one celebrity is this dumb, why wouldn't others be just as lost? Most celebrities do not abound in education, and

many who have formal training are trained in the arts of acting (an art I equate with lying.) Why, then, do people accuse Alec Baldwin of being all but guilty of treason, for saying that he would move to Canada if President Bush actually became president. If I were chatting with some of my friends and said "If Al Gore wins this 2000 election, I might have to move to Canada," everyone would know that I wasn't really going to move to Canada when our president took his oath of office.

I think the media and its myriad of experts needs to start listening to people that matter. Instead of telling the public what Vanilla Ice thinks about proposed tax cuts, why not talk to, say, John McCain and Tom Daschle. With those two, we would receive commentary from two well informed people, qualified to discuss the issues, while offering different ideas and solutions. That is definitely not what is happening in our media. When I feel like I can get a better feel for the democratic primaries from *Comedy Central's The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* than from *CNN*, there is a clear and distinct problem.

—Christopher A. Noth

Student Forum

The *Avion* asks: "Who's going to win the Super Bowl?"

—Compiled by Jonathan Mettin



Zach Cox
Aeronautical Science
Freshman

"Wing House."



Alex Dombi
Aerospace Engineering
Sophomore

"I don't even know who's playing."



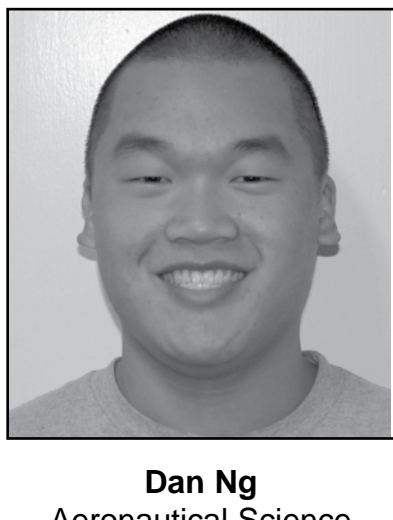
Matt Lowe
Aerospace Engineering
Junior

"I don't much care because the Dolphins aren't playing."



Samantha Dumont
Aeronautical Science
Freshman

"Hells gonna freeze over – the Patriots are going to win."



Dan Ng
Aeronautical Science
Freshman

"What's football?"



Lei Morales
Aeronautical Science
Freshman

"I don't even understand football – I hate it."

Take the online graduation poll

Tell the university how you feel about graduation issues.

You do NOT have to be a senior to take the poll.

Login to your ERAU Blackboard account.

Under announcements, click on “Graduation poll.”

Scroll down until you see the graduation poll announcement.

Follow the link from there.

SGA

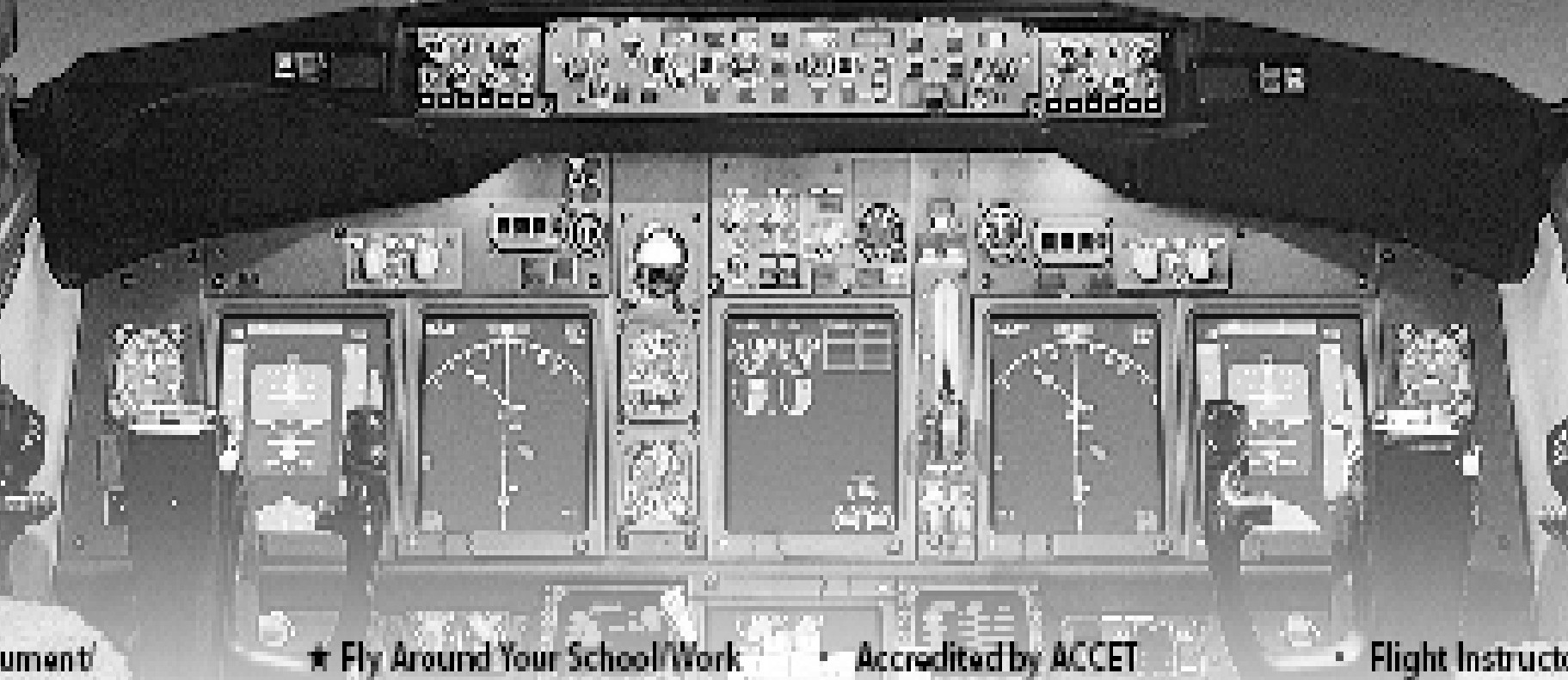
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Private Basic Course = \$2,499 ME/Comm/Inst 141 Course w/50 hrs ME = \$18,587



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- 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

O-Team time

Matt Fisher
O-Team Member

Interested in meeting new people? Would you like to give back to the Embry-Riddle Community while having a good time? If so, the perfect opportunity has arisen. The 2004 Embry Riddle Orientation Team is looking for new members. Becoming an Orientation Leader will give you the opportunity to meet many incoming freshmen as well as network with fellow O-Team Leaders and faculty. Working for the O-Team will give you the opportunity to make life long friends while serving the Embry-Riddle Community. As an Orientation Leader you will help incoming freshmen and transfer students adjust to collegiate life here

at Embry-Riddle. Job requirements include conducting group sessions where students get acquainted, serving as a panelist for question and answer sessions, and most importantly taking questions from students and parents about issues ranging from student life to academic planning. Applications are due no later than Feb. 6th and can be picked up at the Counseling Center. If you are friendly and motivated, please pick-up an application and become an O-Team Leader.



ERAU College Democrats

Do you find yourself politically out of place on campus? The new ERAU College Democrats asks you to please meet up Thursday, January 29th for an informal information session. The meeting will be held in front of the library at 5:00 PM. You don't need to be a Democrat to join and

we encourage any party interested in innovative, progressive political ideas to come out and help establish a new way to diversify our campus. Step out of the closet, it's OK to be liberal at ERAU. There will be free food. For more information email ERAUDems@yahoo.com.

Delta Chi catch-up

Although this is late in coming, Delta Chi would like to congratulate its newly initiated brothers. We know that these men will be excellent leaders and gentlemen both in fraternity life and throughout their lives. Hopefully, with the influence that will be pressed upon them by their new brothers, the initiates will be steered forward and in a straight path. Congratulations Beta Tau, and as always, good luck and rock on. From January 16th to January 18th representatives from every fraternity and sorority on campus attended a conference

called IMPACT. At IMPACT we reviewed the fraternal system here on the Embry-Riddle Campus and discovered its major faults. In turn, we found many areas in which we could improve both our fraternities and more importantly, the Greek system as a whole. Many friends were made at the IMPACT conference and hopefully this will act as the first step to reforming the Greek system and making us a more complete whole instead of a system currently imbued with senseless arguing and little forward progression.

Skydive Club

It is a common sight at Embry-Riddle to see students look upward as planes go overhead, but at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 21st, it was not the familiar shape of a fuselage they saw as they lifted their eyes to the heavens. ERAU Students Tamer Baker (600 jumps), Tristan Artel (250 jumps), and Jerry Reitano (250 jumps) parachuted onto campus along with Bob Crossman, Nat, and Paxton from Skydive Deland. This demonstration was cour-

tesy of the ERAU Skydive Club, which meets at 7:30 p.m. every two weeks in ICI 103. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 27 and will feature many guest speakers from the skydiving industry. The club receives discounts through Skydive Deland for activities ranging from tandem jumps to skydiving lessons and even fun jumps, so membership is a must for any ERAU student contemplating jumping from an airplane.

ERAU Lacrosse

Who: ERAU vs. Palm

Beach Atlantic University

When: Saturday, January

31st @ 1 p.m.

Where: Richard Petty Field

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



AcaFella auditions

Kevin Snyder
AcaFella

Audition to be in Embry-Riddle's only male a cappella singing group, the AcaFellas! Auditions are being held this Tuesday, January 27th. Auditions begin at 5 p.m. in the counseling/Orientation Services Office. The AcaFellas started only two years ago here at Embry-Riddle and have been asked to sing at

numerous special events around campus and within the community. Just some of their performances include: Every graduations ceremony since Fall 2002, Convocation, the Student Activities Banquet, Homecoming Talent Night 2002 & 2003, opening up the Wings & Waves air show, various National Anthems all over the community and Embry-Riddle, Christmas parties, the ERAU Housing Banquet, and many more

special events! Some of their repertoire includes: Brown Eyed Girl, Stand By Me, Breakfast at Tiffany's, In the Still of the Night, It's All Right, What I Got (Sublime), Let's Get it on (Marvin Gaye), Faith, Make Me Lose Control, National Anthem, Alma Mater, and many more!! For additional audition information, please contact Bill Ekstrom at wautopilot@aol.com or 871-0537.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

- ☞ Are you wondering what we are?
- ☞ Did you go to FCA in high school?
- ☞ Have you come to FCA once or twice, but have not been in a long time?

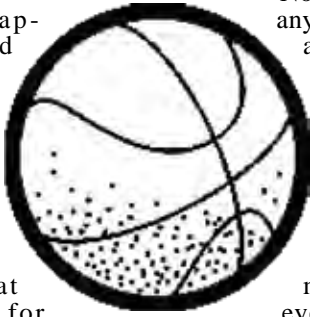
We meet every Tuesday night at 8 p.m. in the chapel. We have games, music, and a message for the night. After everything is done, we hang out for a bit and socialize over some oh-so healthy pizza. We hope you are there tonight and may you be blessed!

Flying Albino Chipmunks guarantee victory

This past Thursday, captain meetings were held for the 2004 Spring intramural sports. After taking a look at the competition, perhaps some teams would have been best suited to stay home. Not to say they won't have fun getting taken behind the woodshed and spanked, but they just don't have a chance at winning anything. For instance, we've already locked up the title of the "5-on-5 Basketball Champions." Who are we? We're the Flying Albino Chipmunks, and we don't expect much competition from anyone. That's right, we're the Flying Albino Chipmunks, and we already know we're going to win. We're not cocky; we're not stupid;

we're just confident – and really good.

One team captain was quoted as saying, "If we don't win, I'll be very disappointed. I've seen better talent in casting extras at a recording for 'According to Jim' than I saw here tonight. I expect we'll punish teams hard enough that by the 3rd week of competition, most of them will realize



what we already know, and that is we're the best." Now, we're sorry to disappoint any teams who thought they had a chance at winning, but this is just the way it is. Maybe your team can still enter a shuffleboard competition down at the senior center and compete against the elders, because they appear to be on your talent level. Wait a minute, how did this bull's-eye just get on our back? Oh well, not like it's going to matter! The Avion plans to keep it's viewers updated on the Flying Albino Chipmunk's success this intramural season.

If your Student Organization needs to inform the student body of an upcoming event, type up an article, address it to student organizations, and send it to avionnewspaper@hotmail.com

• 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

Department of Defense reviews tanker needs

Michael McGraw
Staff Reporter

The US 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 examples of the 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 February 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..."

The Air Force is hoping to begin

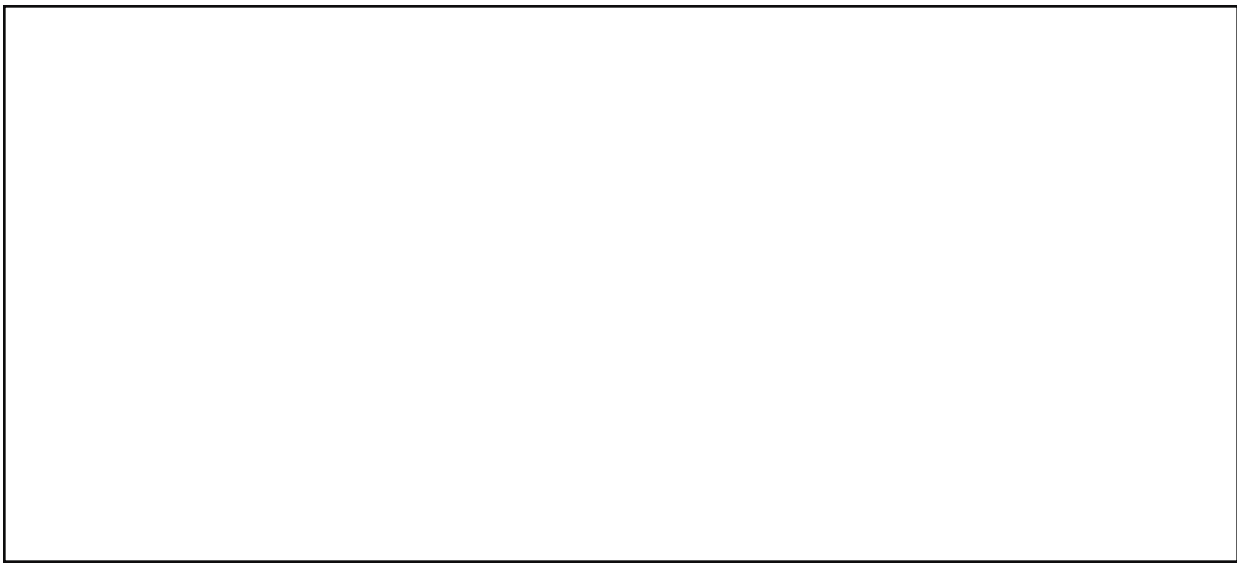
replacing the KC-135s with KC-767s, beginning with a lease of 20, and then followed by a purchase of 80 additional examples. However, some congressional members are questioning whether the Air Force has considered all of its options on the subject, resulting in the study.

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 conduction 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,”



NAME/ORGANIZATION

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.

Gulfstream expands model line AIA requests for increase in funds

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.



NAME/ORGANIZATION

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.

Christopher Noth
Staff Reporter

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 US economy and will help preserve US 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. Jones 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 program 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."

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NASA’s Mission: What doesn’t make headlines

Bush’s Mission: What always make headlines

Courageous engineers avert potential fatal disaster

Levi Jordan

Staff Reporter

An air leak aboard the International Space Station was found and recently fixed, after engineers spent weeks attempting to locate it. The leak was eventually found by astronaut Mike Foale and was attributed to a hole about one-tenth of an inch in

diameter. The pinhead-sized aperture popped open at one end of the metallic hose in late December after one too many astronauts had used it as a makeshift handhold. The hose is located in the U.S. Destiny science module, just above an optically pure, telescope-quality double-paned window. One end of the hose is exposed to the vacuum of space while the other fits into the small area between the window panes to keep it free of cabin air. A replacement hose is scheduled to be delivered to the Space Station by a Russian Progress cargo ship on Thursday. NASA is currently looking at the hose design to predict other locations in the station design where there might be a potential risk for

leaks. At the same time, seven windows in a future U.S. station segment and two windows in the Japanese science module will have the faulty flexible hoses replaced or redesigned. The Space Station crew also said that they will work on improving their emergency drill procedures of dealing with minor leaks in the future. This small incident took more than two weeks to resolve and has prompted a complete review of hardware design and the procedures controllers and the crew members will use in the future. The leak was also fixed just in time for the Expedition 8 milestone of 100 days in space, which was celebrated on Monday.

Levi Jordan

Staff Reporter

President Bush’s plan for the expansion of space exploration by the United States is being views as an attempt to control space for military, economic, and strategic purposes. The idea has always been at the center of a controversial plan to use space to defend the United States against possible aggression. Most likely incoming missiles with possible chemical, biological, or nuclear warheads. The exploration of space was addressed in a 1996 space policy, adopted by former President Clinton, which remains in effect today. The policy states that the United States is committed to the exploration and use of outer space by all nations for peaceful purposes for the benefit or all humanity. The definition of peaceful purposes however, allows for defense and intelligence-related activities in pursuit of national security and other goals. Acting under that definition, the United States continues to develop, operate, and maintain space control capabilities to ensure

freedom of action in space, and if directed, deny such freedom of action to adversaries. In 1999 the United States accounted for as much as 95 percent of global military space spending. With the Pentagon expecting to spend at least \$50 billion over the next five years to develop a multi-layered shield against incoming missiles, it is believed that within 20 years, the idea of space warfare will become a reality. Due to continued missile testing and nuclear weapons development by North Korea, the United States is now beginning to take seriously the idea first put forward by former President Ronald Reagan, for a space-based defense system. However, the recent drive to explore space is not entirely due to security concerns. The new push to explore and control space is also possibly a reaction to China’s historic launch of its first Taikonaut. Since then, China has

announced its bold plans to land a man on the moon by 2020, a date which interestingly enough, is also the U.S. target date for returning to the moon. It appears as though another space race may be in the making. [And imagine that day, someday, when the Apollo 17 flag – still twitting in the desiccant solar wind – is solemnly folded by young, disciplined Chinese and Indian military officers, an un-televised salute is given, and almost fifty years after an American footprint was put on the moon, the triangle of freedom, the pyramid eye on the back of the wrinkled George Washington in your. The eye quotes Virgil, “ANNUIT OCEPTIS/NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, trans. (It [the eye of Providence] has favored our undertakings. The new order of the ages)... Yes, the new era has indeed begun. The honors presented in a mahogany box to Mother America].

“
In 1999, the U.S. accounted for... 95% of global military spending
- LEVI JORDAN
”

Opportunity Knocks, Mars Answers



PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA

MARS IS NO PLACE for the faint-hearted. Arid, rocky, cold and apparently lifeless, the Red Planet offers few hospitalities. Fans of extreme sports can rejoice, however the Red Planet will challenge even the hardest souls among us

Spacehab, Inc. sues NASA for shuttle accident

Spacehab sues for equipment lost in disaster

Levi Jordan

Staff Reporter

Spacehab Inc., maker of living modules for the U.S. space shuttle, has filed an \$87.7 million formal claim against NASA for equipment lost in the Columbia disaster. This is a revised version of an earlier draft filed last July, and incorporates the findings of the Columbia

Accident Investigation Board. The lawsuit cites the findings of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board, which said that NASA officials had missed eight chances to address fears that the shuttle was damaged by falling foam insulation during lift off. That falling foam, which tumbled from the external fuel tanks, was found to be the most likely cause for the breaking apart of the shuttle Columbia over Texas on

February 1 last year. Houston-based Spacehab is currently in “discussions” with NASA and hopes to settle the claim as soon as possible. The company, which also trains astronauts, says that its contract with NASA includes a provision that provides compensation for losses or damages for its flight hardware of up to \$8 million. NASA had no immediate comment on the issue.



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Drift into Project Gotham Racing 2

EZ-Ds anger many

Darrin O'Brady

Data Technology Editor

Two years in the making, Bizarre Creations' *Project Gotham Racing 2* is a smashing sequel to the renown Xbox launch title *Project Gotham Racing* that set the standard for racing games on the Xbox. With an abundance of locations from Chicago, Ill. to Sydney, Australia, location specific soundtracks, various cars of different make and model, and optional weather conditions, players are ensured a solid, fun racer with high replay ability.

The first thing you notice about *Project Gotham Racing 2* (PGR 2) is the graphics. Highly realistic colors, lighting, and shadows give PGR 2 a photorealistic appearance. The impressive graphics, complimented by location specific music, make it easier to distinguish between approximately 50 tracks in over 10 cities. Small details may be found in the environments if you can spare an

instant to take your eyes off the road. "The scenery is very dynamic. Leaves on the trees fall, birds chirp, and you can see the reflection of the clouds on the car tops," said junior Dan Leslie.

The cars appear new and shiny (although after a few laps they tend to get a bit dented) and look great nipping around the incredibly realistic courses. PGR 2 separates over 100 cars into classes ranging from the relatively modest compact sports class (featuring the MINI Cooper S and the Honda Civic Type-R), to the sport utility class (with the Mercedes ML55 AMG and its ilk), to the classics class (like the Jaguar E-Type), and all the way up to the ultimate class (featuring the Porsche Carrera GT

and the incomparable Enzo Ferrari). "The cars are very unique. It includes everything from the nicest Ferraris to Mustangs to a Porsche SUV. Plus, having the cars in different classes is also great because you don't have to graduate to every single car like in PGR 1, that was awful," said senior Christopher Glatz.

The career mode is unlike PGR 1 since it allows players to pick which career goal they want to try and achieve. You'll participate in a number of different race types as you make your way through the various series. There's the straight-up Street Race, the One-On-One, the Hot Lap where you'll have to finish a lap within a specified time, the Cone Challenge where you'll drive through cones to earn Kudos (points awarded

for smooth technical driving and slick style) and the Overtake where you have to overtake a number of vehicles in a set period of time. The controls are fairly easy to get used to and the controller's vibration allows the players to feel the bumps and cracks in the road.

The sound in PGR 2 is exceptional. According to several game enthusiasts, the creators actually recorded the way the cars sound, shifting gears, revving up, and even the tire squeal sound is specific to each car. The location specific soundtracks, including the three radio stations for each city, can become boring and a nuisance after a while. However, the game allows you to customize your own soundtrack and roll-out to whatever you desire.

In the end, *Project Gotham Racing 2* is a great racing game for the hardcore racer, or the casual cruiser. Combining dynamic graphics with good sounds and controls makes PGR 2 one of the best, *if not the best* Xbox racing game to date.

Jonathan Mettin

News Editor

The EZ-D, a new disposable DVD technology, has been hailed as a great convenience by its distributor, but denounced by environmentalists as a step backward in designing reusable products.

The EZ-D, introduced last September by Buena Vista Home Entertainment, is being tested in four areas around the country, including Austin, where they are available in stores such as 7-Eleven and Walgreens. Once the package is opened, consumers have two days to watch movies before an oxidation process changes the disc's color and renders it unusable. Each EZ-D sells for \$7, and 35 movies are currently available in the format. They are being touted as a convenient alternative to rentals because no return trip to the video store is necessary.

Local environmentalists have protested outside Austin, Texas stores and have urged shoppers at a 7-Eleven to send postcards to the Walt Disney Co., which owns Buena Vista, to speak out against the EZ-D.

In response to the public outcry, HEB, a local supermarket that sells the EZ-D, has instituted recycling facilities for used EZ-Ds. Austin also has a recycling center for the discs, but has reported that under twenty discs total have been dropped off so far.

"The whole way the product is being marketed as 'no returns' is environmentally irresponsible," said Robin Schneider, executive director for the Texas Campaign for the Environment.

Bob Chapek, president of Buena Vista, disagrees with Schneider's statement that the majority of the public will protest the "wasteful" EZ-Ds. "We believe consumers will enjoy the convenience of a rental alternative that requires no extra trips to return [the] product and no late fees," he said.

GreenDisk, a Seattle-based company that disposes of electronic waste, is handling Buena Vista's recycling program for the disk. Their address is included on the EZ-D, and people are encouraged to send them in with free downloadable mailing labels.

GreenDisk recycles the polycarbonate plastic for the production of other plastic products, such as auto parts and appliances.

7-Eleven shift manager Rafy Hernandez says that shoppers have expressed concerns about the EZ-Ds. His 7-Eleven carries 11 EZ-D titles.

"I haven't really sold any. I would like to sell some so I could get some feedback from people," he said.

Jessica Felter, a customer in the store, said that she generally returns movies on time, making the disposable EZ-D unnecessary.

Ol' Skool Games of the Week:
Rad Racer/Rad Racer 2


Darrin O'Brady


Data Technology Editor

Driving gamers to action in 1987 was Square's Rad Racer. This truly was a game that pioneered new graphics options. One feature of Rad Racer 1 was the amazing possibility of 3D. With special glasses, players could experience the race with the scenery wooshing by

their ears. Unfortunately, the feature didn't work to the everyone's hope. Players had to sit a certain distance away from the TV and the 3-D effect also damaged some incompatible TV screens.

Rad Racer 2 appeared in 1990 and featured semi-custom tracks. It encouraged players to sing themselves. Without the Rad Racer series, racing games today would not be where they are today.





DARRIN O'BRADY/AVION

DARRIN O'BRADY/AVION

Data Technology is looking for eager writers to review new games, and highlight new trends in technology. Visit the Avion Newspaper (2nd floor UC) or our weekly meeting on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Endeavor Room (2nd floor UC)

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Safeguarding your computer MyDoom virus online outbreak

Jonathan Mettin

News Editor

I doubt that you will find someone today that doesn't have at least a broad idea of what a computer virus is. The first thing that comes to mind when you hear the words "computer virus" is a small program that hurts the computer. Even though this is true, not every virus is designed to hurt your computer. A virus is a program that is attached to another file, or sometimes is sent as a standalone, and gains an unauthorized access to a user's computer. Once the user clicks on the infected file, the original file, the one that the virus is attached to, is executed simultaneously with the virus itself. At that moment the virus copies itself to a location on the hard drive, usually the Windows directory. Once there, the virus starts working and doing what it was programmed to do. This normally happens invisibly to the user.

Viruses fall into many different categories. "Malicious Programs", viruses that hurt your computer, are only one out of the many categories that viruses fall into, and are considered by many one of the least feared virus groups. The reason that the malicious viruses are the least feared viruses is because they hurt only the computers that they infect. Usually these files need help to infect more computers by attaching themselves to different files that later are run on another computer. Unless the viruses are located on an unprotected network, in which case they use the network to copy itself into different computers and infect them.

Another group of viruses is the Worm viruses. These are the most spread viruses and are considered by many to be the most feared and powerful viruses. The reason for that is that these viruses usually cause minimal damage to the computer itself, but much more damage to the person that uses it. I know that this sounds a bit confusing. How can a computer virus hurt the user? Easily. The worm viruses, also sometimes referred to as the Trojan Horse viruses, opens a back door in the computer of the user that will allow the creator of the worm, also sometimes called a "cracker" or "hacker", to enter into the computer and do almost whatever he wants. Once inside the computer the cracker can delete, edit and even execute files, find different passwords on the com-

puter. If this isn't enough the cracker can use keylogger functions that will allow the cracker to see everything you type, so if you order something online, the cracker can see your name, address and even your credit card number. The worm viruses are usually sent by e-mail.

Now that you have read all this information about the different viruses out there, I'm sure that you're asking yourself, "Ok, I know about the different types of common viruses out there, but how do I prevent them from getting into my computer?" There are many things you can do to prevent viruses from getting into your computer.

One of the main things that you can do to prevent your computer from being infected with a virus is not opening e-mails and files that you don't know or unsure who sent them to you. Even though many e-mail providers have filters and firewalls that will prevent people from sending you viruses, hackers have found ways around it. Even though many e-mail providers have filters that don't even allow junk mail by blocking e-mails that have a title containing words like "sex", "porn", "drugs", etc. people find ways around those filters by adding random letters to the title, so you might receive an e-mail that looks like this "dfsdfWatch people having sex-hklui". If you receive an e-mail like this then the e-mail is probably spam and probably might even contain a virus. When opening an e-mail from an unknown source, remember, if something seems too good to be true, it probably is. If you get an e-mail that says that you've won a lot of money, and you have to click on a link, there is a chance that the link can lead you to a page that might download a virus into your computer without you noticing. Even if you just view a picture online, since the picture is downloaded to your computer, into the internet cache, if the picture file is infected, it will infect your computer. If you have a file that you've downloaded and you don't know where it came from, like KaZaa, you must scan the file carefully before you open it.

The next step is to install an anti-virus and/or a firewall on your computer. The anti-virus program will scan your files and try to repair them if they are infected with a virus. The firewall will setup a "barrier" between your computer and the internet. The barrier will stop different types of

attacks on your computer from the internet and also will allow you to monitor which programs connect to the internet so you will be able to restrict internet access to a program that you don't want accessing the web. A very important thing to remember after installing a firewall or an anti-virus is that they must be update often (at least twice a week) and you'll need to scan your computer at least once every two weeks. I recommend leaving the scan for the night before you go to sleep, when you wake up, the scan should be done and the results will be displayed to you.

The final step is to backup your data. Anything important on your computer, especially files you've been working on for a long time, should be backed up. By backing up files I mean, take the files you need and copy them onto CD-R/CD-RW or ZIP disks. If you have small amounts information that you need to keep with you a lot, you might want to use floppy disks.

There are many programs that will help you protect your computer, like spyware searching programs and registry editors. I strongly recommend people NOT to use the registry editors unless they are sure that they know what they're doing, since modifying the windows registry without knowing exactly how to do it can cause programs to crash and stop working, including windows. All of those programs have their own pros and cons. The only way to find the right program for you is to download the trial versions of those programs and try them. If you're computer does get infected by a virus, despite the programs you've used, since no program is perfect, unless you know what to do, just give a call to the desktop support in the IT department, they'll be happy to help you fix it.

Please remember that if you're computer has a virus, it doesn't only hurt you, but it also hurts other students and staff on the network, since many viruses can overload the network and cause crashes.

Darrin O'Brady

Data Technology Editor

On January 24th, 2004 the World Wide Web was hit by the MyDoom virus (also known as the Novarg virus), the biggest mass-mailing virus that has been seen until now. Even though the virus is a worm virus, a virus that opens a way to gain an unauthorized access to the infected computer, many people believe that the virus wasn't created for that purpose.

Once the virus infects a Windows-running PC, as any other worm virus, it installs a program that allows the computer to be controlled remotely. The program forces the infected PC to send data to the SCO Group's Web server, starting Feb. 1st and stopping on Feb. 12. The SCO Group has incurred the wrath of the Linux community for its claims that important pieces of the open-source operating system are covered by SCO's Unix copyrights. IBM, Novell and other Linux backers strongly dispute the claims. The company's Web site was slow to load on Monday afternoon, a SCO spokesperson acknowledged, but the site was still accessible from the World Wide Web. As a response, the SCO group has offered a prize of

\$250,000 for the arrest and conviction of the virus' writer.

The virus itself gains access to an unprotected PC through an infected e-mail. The e-mail usually contains a subject line such as "Mail Delivery System," "Test" or "Mail Transaction Failed." The body of the e-mail contains an executable file and a statement such as: "The message contains Unicode characters and has been sent as a binary attachment." and "The message cannot be represented in 7-bit ASCII encoding and has been sent as a binary attachment."

MessageLabs, a company that filters e-mail for other big companies has reported filtering about 1.5 million infected e-mails which were sent to some of their costumers from unknown sources. According to MessageLabs, every one out of twelve e-mails contained the virus. E-mail servers that are set to filter out executable files, files that have a .exe extension, weren't harmed by the virus as much as the other servers, since even though .exe files are some of the extensions that the virus uses; they are not the only ones.

After infecting the unprotected computer, the virus copies itself to the hard drive and searches for e-mail in files such as Microsoft Outlook files, HTML files and even regular

text files. Once the virus has scanned the PC for e-mail addresses, it starts sending copies of itself to the e-mails it gathered, trying to infect them. The virus also looks for the KaZaa shared folder and copies itself there, using names such as Winamp5, icq2004-final, Activation_Crack, Strip-grill-2.0bdcom_patches, RootkitXP, Officecrack and Nuke2004.

Even though the virus does minimal damage to the infected computer, it hurts the user much more. If the user is on a network, the virus will try to send itself to other users using the network and thus considerably slowing it down. The ERAU IT department is requesting every user that didn't install an Anti-Virus program on his PC, to do so as soon as possible, to prevent the virus from spreading on the network. If you do not know where to get an AV program, the school provides all of its users with a free copy of McAfee Anti-Virus. If you are using an AV program, don't forget to update it and scan your computer as soon as possible (Symantec released an update for Norton Anti Virus on Jan 26).


Ol' Skool Game of the Week:
Tecmo Bowl

Darrin O'Brady

Data Technology Editor


Driving gamers to action in 1987 was Square's Rad Racer. This truly was a game that pioneered new graphics options. One feature of Rad Racer 1 was the amazing possibility of 3D. With special glasses, players could experience the race with the scenery wooshing by their ears. Unfortunately, the feature didn't work to the everyone's hope. Players had to sit a certain distance away from the TV and the 3-D effect also damaged some incompatible TV screens.

Rad Racer 2 appeared in 1990 and featured semi-custom tracks. It encouraged players to sing themselves. Without the Rad Racer series, racing games today would not be where they are today.



DARRIN O'BRADY/AVION


Rad Racer 2 appeared in 1990 and featured semi-custom tracks. It encouraged players to sing themselves. Without the Rad Racer series, racing games today would not be where they are today.





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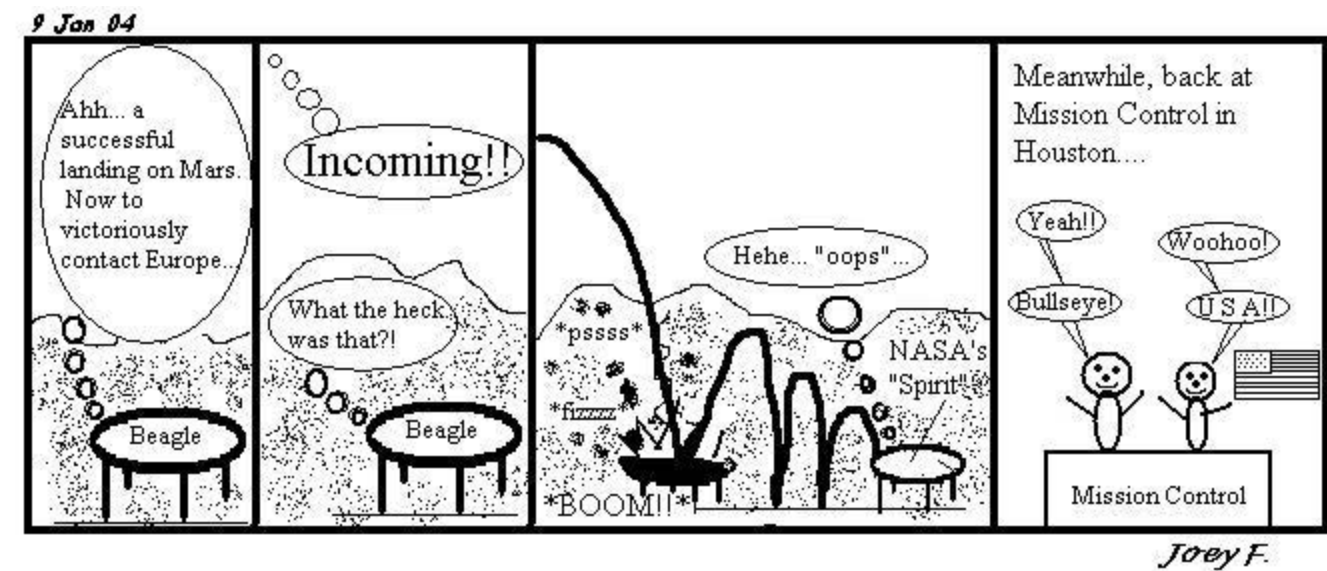
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The Comic Editor's Campus Comic of the Week

When roommates have slight issues with each other...



What really happened to the ESA's "Beagle" Mars Rover



Thanks for all your submissions - more are already in store for next week!

