

3-23-2004

## Avion 2004-03-23

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

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# THE AVION

BEST PRIVATE COLLEGE NEWSPAPER BY FLORIDA LEADER MAGAZINE

A Division of the Student Government Association

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Daytona Beach, Florida

TUESDAY  
March 23, 2004

www.avionnewspaper.com  
Volume CIX • Issue 9

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## Student Government, Avion best in Fla.

### Florida Leader announces "Best of Florida Schools" winners

Lucas Crouch  
Editor-in-Chief

The Embry-Riddle Student Government Association and *The Avion* received first place in their respective categories in the 15th annual "Best of Florida Schools" awards in a press release on Sunday.

Embry-Riddle's Student Government

Association received first place in the "Best Student Government" category for private colleges, with Flagler College as the runner-up.

*The Avion*, ERAU's student newspaper, won first place in the "Best Newspaper" category for private colleges, with Stetson University's *The Reporter* as the runner-up.

56 Florida Colleges in 115 categories including craziest campus traditions to most unique programs were evaluated by the *Florida Leader Magazine* for the 15th year.

This is the second consecutive year that *The Avion* has won this award.

"I'm thrilled for this. I'm so pleased to be recognized for the services that we've provided for the students at ERAU during this academic year," said Matt Collier, Student Government Association (SGA)

President.

In addition for being recognized as the best student newspaper, *The Avion* is also a division of the SGA.

Highlights of the Current SGA Administration include working to reduce the tuition increase from the original proposed 4.8 percent to 4.0 percent. They have also helped survey the student body about graduation changes, which was one of many deciding factors in reverting to the original graduation policy.

The administration has also worked to provide students with a new student lounge area in the UC.

*The Avion* highlights include sending several staff members to the Associated Collegiate Press conference in Seattle, Wash. and the Colleague Media Advisors conference in New York City.

Major stories covered include the Sallie

Mae loan agency dropping Embry-Riddle tuition being increased 4.0 percent and an Embry-Riddle Cessna being stolen in a daring nighttime raid. Photo spreads included Biketoberfest, Bike Week Daytona 500 and Spring Break.

Other awards to Embry-Riddle included Best Research Experiment (NASA Flights), Best Charity Fund-raiser (Teeter tottering for dollars) and Best Female Enrollment (New majors help boost female enrollment).

The SGA office and *The Avion* are located on the second floor of the UC. The SGA can be reached at 226-6045 and *The Avion* can be contacted at 226-6049.

The Avion Online can be accessed at <http://www.avionnewspaper.com>. You can

Complete results can be found on the Florida Leader website at <http://www.floridaleader.com>.

## Spring break, the beach, the sun ...



MICHAEL MARANO/AVION

**SPRING BREAKERS ENJOYING THE** sun in Daytona Beach. Many students left town for home, others stayed in one of the premier spots in the nation for Spring Breakers and enjoyed the sun. Eight members of *The Avion* staff traveled to New York City to attend the ACP College media conference. Turn to B1 for a pictorial Spring Break summary.

## Many thanks for No. 1 honors

Many people do not realize the amount of work that goes into producing a newspaper each week.

Our staff is completely volunteer and every member has different schedules, interests, skills and personalities. It's a challenge, but also a sincere pleasure to work with everybody on my staff.

I would like to thank the SGA for a very healthy and professional working relationship over the past year.

I would also like to publicly thank all of *The Avion* Staff members from the Fall and Spring for proving that we are able to continue to produce an award winning student newspaper, by students, for students:

**Editors:** Michael Marano, Managing Editor and Campus News Editor; Christopher Cole, Advertising Manager; Shyamal Addanki, Systems Manager; Jonathan Mettin, News Editor and Comics Editor; Bill Campbell, Photo Editor; Steve LaBoon, Jr., Online Editor and Classifieds Editor; Mary Cloutier and Matt Crumrine, Online Staff; Darrin O'Brady, Data Technology Editor, Cody VanMeter, Opinions Editor; Ashley Moore, Student Organizations Editor; Tom Flemming, Sports Editor; Crystal Passman, Student Government Editor; Federico Martinez, Student Life Editor; Mijeong Yoon, Aeronautica Editor; Alex Siderov, Space Technology Editor; Phyllis Salmons, Faculty Reporter, Kyle Draper, Distribution Manager and secretaries Brianne LaPlant and Carlos Nivia. **Reporters/Photographers:** Joe Daniel, Mike McGraw, Christopher Noth, Levi Jordan, Jessica Harmon, Andrew Fama, Elisa McGhee, Jana Eick, David Maroni, Jaya Aswani, Darcy Hume, Tim Hatcher, Terra Murphy, Amanda Emmerling, Lauren Jakobsen, Michael Perstin, Mohammad Ali Siddiqui, Dave Yarwood, Adam Greiber, and Mike Salopek.

I would also like to thank a few people who are no longer on staff who did contribute to this award: Charla Keiser, Ryan Jones, Phil Ciani, Aydin O. Robert Byrne, Tonya Reed, Ryan Campbell, Mariano Rosales, Crystal Schneider, Andrew Kim and Khoi Nguyen.

Special thanks to Dave Wong, Dr. Robert McDonnell and our Faculty Advisor, Dr. Tom Vickers, for their valuable insight.



Lucas Crouch  
Editor-in-Chief

## "Understanding Sex and Love" in IC

### Speaker helps solve relationship problems, divorce rate issues

Michael Marano  
Managing Editor

As many Embry-Riddle students are currently aware of, the school has a poor guy to girl ratio. As a result, many students have trouble finding a date and maintaining a relationship on campus, according to several students.

To help resolve some of our students' relationship inquiries, relationship expert Raneë A. Spina, visited Embry-Riddle to educate the male dominated population on how to build and keep a successful relationship.

On Tuesday, March 9, Raneë Spina held a presentation entitled Understanding Sex and Love in the IC Auditorium. The presentation began around 8 p.m. and the seats in the auditorium were filled to capacity.

Raneë explained to the male audience

the proper way to meet girls. She said that girls were generally very shy around guys that showed interest to them. She said that guys needed to be respectful of women, regardless of how the girl acts. One example she gave is dancing in clubs. She recommended that guys try to shy away from the dirty "grind" dancing and stick to normal dancing. Raneë recommended that both guys and girls allow a second date before making a decision on whether he/she is Mr. or Mrs. Right.

Raneë gave advice on the perfect marriages. She began by explaining to the audience that one in every three marriages ends up in a divorce. Ms. Spina said that the perfect match is based on four requirements. They are: Social Compatibility, Spiritual Compatibility, Financial Status and Sexual Compatibility. She also recommended that couples wed between the ages of 27 and 30 for marriages to stay solid, and that people should "use and abuse their twenties. She also said that those looking for marriage must be "like Goldilocks and not like

Cinderella."

Raneë Spina's presentation was not solely geared towards Embry-Riddle's male population. Many of her demonstrations were directed to the female audience as well. She had the entire female audience walk across the stage area while the male audience watched. She was disappointed at the girls' poise as they walked across. She then coached the men in the audience to sit like "proper gentlemen," and she charged the girls to walk across

without showing any nervousness.

Raneë Spina has been giving sex and relationship advice for more than thirteen years. Her personal goal is to strategically align people, with the right match in order to lower the divorce rate. Ms. Spina explained to the audience that it is not just the men who cause relationship problems, but that women are just as, if not more, responsible. During her career, Raneë Spina has "succeeded in changing the mindset of countless women and is on a mission to give readers and audiences around the world the

distinct advantage when making relationship choices."

"I think women are responsible for getting our insane divorce rate down. I'm tired of women blaming men," said Ms. Spina. "What is obvious to me about relationships isn't obvious to most women, especially those who are making dumb choices. My classes and seminars are a blast, as women realize what they need to start looking at ... and fast!"

Raneë Spina is currently is the Public Profile chair for Women in Technology International. She has served on committees for the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), and the Software Council of Southern California. Raised in Philadelphia, Raneë Spina attended New York University and now lives in Los Angeles where she is a relationship expert on Dick Clark's *The Other Half* and cable show *The Wonders of Women*.

Those who attended Raneë Spina's presentation were given the opportunity to participate in Speed Dating, an ice-breaking activity currently being developed by the Counseling Center. Speed Dating is planned for later this month. The Counseling Center, the SGA, ERAU Housing and the Social Issues Committee sponsored Raneë Spina's presentation.

"I think women are responsible for getting our divorce rate down."

- RANEË SPINA

## Student Government Elections March 25, 26

### Executive tickets, Rep. Board, Finance Board

*Vote this week, on March 25 and 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., for the Student Government for 2004/2005. To cast your vote, simply log on to Blackboard and click on the link listed for the Student Government Elections. There will be voting booths in the Student Center, the AMT building and the Student Village. Once logged on, vote for one of the executive tickets. Then cast your vote for three students to represent the College of Arts and Sciences, seven from the College of Aviation, two for the College of Business, six for the College of Engineering, one for the Resident Life representative and six representatives for the Finance Board.*



#### For Executive Offices:



Janiece Lorey, Dacia Root, and Chris Henry



Matt Collier, Liz Barber, Matt Tarnowski



John Vitolo, Luke Wimmer, Brianne Laplant

#### For the Student Representative Board:



Tiffany Fine for SRB  
College of Aviation



Keith Chapman for SRB  
College of Aviation



Jonathan Carpenter for SRB  
College of Aviation



Kristen Connolly for SRB  
College of Aviation



Shaun Hibshman for SRB  
College of Aviation



Michael Hamlin for SRB  
College of Aviation



Michael O'Neill for SRB  
College of Aviation



Brian Gambino for SRB  
College of Aviation



Matthew Augenstein for SRB  
College of Aviation



Greg Ashworth for SRB  
College of Aviation



Heather Ostdick for SRB  
College of Aviation



Christine Alico for SRB  
College of Aviation



Ryan Mammen for SRB  
College of Aviation



Ellen Leahy for SRB  
College of Business



Chris Denton for SRB  
College of Business



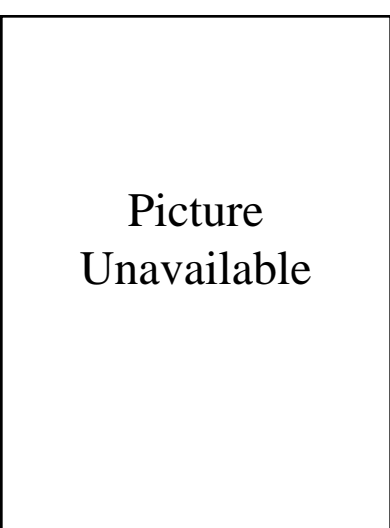
Sarah McCook for SRB  
College of Business



Jason Turner for SRB  
College of Business

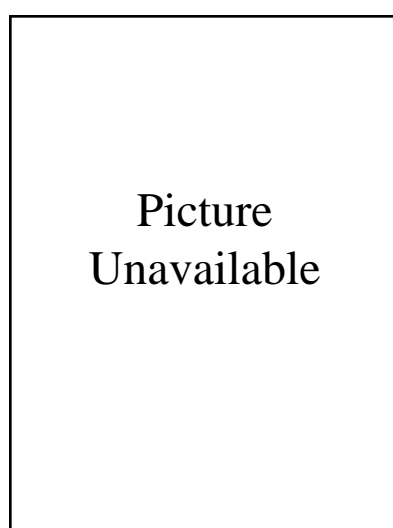


Crystal Passman for SRB  
College of Engineering



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William Bailey for SRB  
College of Engineering



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Matthew DeChellis for SRB  
College of Engineering



Ryan Rossi for SRB  
College of Engineering



Andri Qosja for SRB  
College of Engineering



Phillip Demeter for SRB  
College of Engineering



Kathleen Tagami for SRB  
College of Engineering



Geraldine Torrez for SRB  
College of Engineering



Dave Mills for SRB  
College of Engineering



Thea Nalls for SRB  
College of Engineering



Andre Atkininstall for SRB  
International Students



Matt Fussy for SRB  
Resident Life



Ashley Szasz for SRB  
Resident Life



Jessica Harmon for SRB  
College of Arts & Sciences



Ryan Turner for SRB  
College of Arts & Sciences



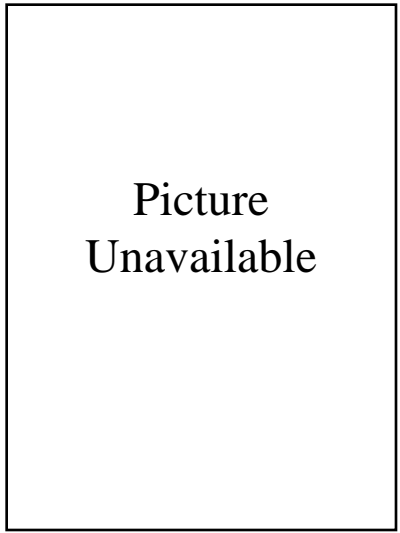
Heather VanAntwerp for SRB  
College of Arts & Sciences



Adam Greiber for SRB  
College of Arts & Sciences



Melanie Rose for SRB  
College of Arts & Sciences



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Thomas Hoeft for SRB  
AMT

## For Finance Board:



Andrew Leech for SFB



Joshua Langlais for SFB



Greg Drobenare for SFB



Kathleen James for SFB



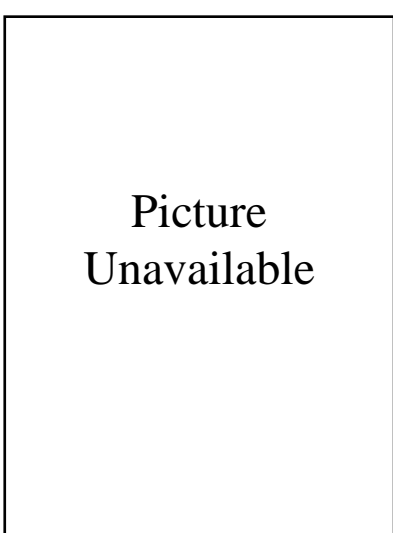
McKenley Andrews for SFB



Virginia Palacios for SFB



Sarah Whitten for SFB

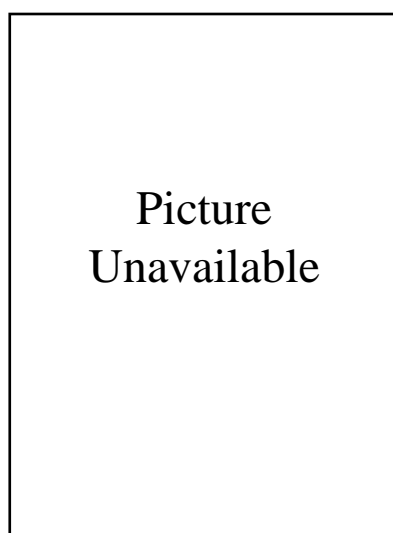


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Zachariah Ponder for SFB



Michael Ninivaggi for SFB



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Elben Hermis for SFB



Sarah Vaneekhoven for SFB



Shane Coulter for SFB

# *Your vote counts!*

## **\*SGA Elections for 2004/2005\***

# **Vote on March 25 & 26 on Blackboard or at a voting booth in the UC, the Student Village or the AMT building between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.**

## Express freedom Let Hubble go

I would like to start by saying that I am a non-smoker. The last two articles I read in *The Avion* about smoking sparked some thoughts in my head. For starters, the article written by Frank Arban was a nasty jab at the smoking community and could have probably been written without such an overtly hostile tone. I do agree with some of the things he said, though. Non-smokers DO have a right to clean air, just as much as smokers have a right to smoke. I also agree with him that smoking should not take place right outside the buildings, if not for health reasons, then just out of simple courtesy.



I also agree with Joey Closson that everyone who chooses to smoke does so of their own will which by no means qualifies them as "stupid," as Frank Arban accuses them of being. While Joey does cite his (and other smokers') right to smoke, he fails to acknowledge the rights of non-smokers. In fact, the only solution he presented was, as was written in Frank Arban's article, "use a different door." In doing this, Joey entirely proved Frank's point that smokers don't seem to care about non-smokers as long as they get to smoke.

While I'm not going to go out on the same limb as Frank Arban, I will say that I think smoking is a nasty habit, and leave it at that. And Joey is right, everyone has the freedom to smoke. But, when Joey goes on to compare smoking to wearing a t-shirt with a band not everyone likes, that's ridiculous. Smoking does affect the people around you. I myself start coughing at the smell of cigarette smoke. Now, as intelligent as he is, I'm sure Joey would agree that wearing a t-shirt or playing music not everyone likes is not the same thing.

Freedom of expression is one thing, but expression causes no

immediate physical harm. What we're talking about is freedom of choice, and smokers seem to remove the choice of non-smokers to breathe clean air by forcing them to walk through smoke or find another way into a building.

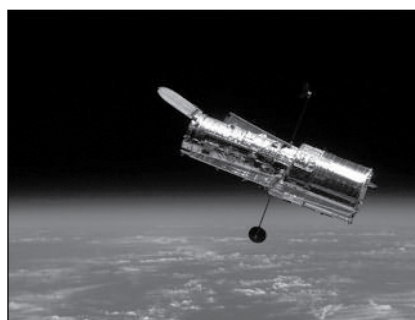
To address Joey's point that there are no ashtrays near the doors, well, I'm sorry but why do we have to suffer because of that? We, as non-smokers, did not put those ashtrays there. That's the school's doing. The school needs to care more about the students and designate smoking areas and non-smoking areas. There were signs at some point that said "No smoking within two feet" but they were largely ignored and now are hardly anywhere to be found. In the meantime, though, why should non-smokers need to find another door to go in to avoid coughing (as I do every time... statistics or not, I can prove this)?

Does that mean that I should go around carrying Lysol? No, of course not. I'm not sure exactly what Frank Arban was out to do in writing his opinion, but I will stick to my personal experiences. Smokers are no less intelligent than non-smokers. Frank and Joey, I don't really see a reason to force people to choose between coughing and going to a different door. Can't we reach some sort of agreement?

Everyone has rights, the right to smoke, the right to not smoke, and (regrettably) the right to bear Lysol. But Joey, please consider our rights to not end up hacking on the way to class. No other "annoying habits" do anyone else any physical harm, permanent or otherwise. And Frank, at least acknowledge smokers rights without calling them all "stupid." They are no less intelligent than you or me. That's just my two cents on the matter.

-Timothy Randolph

Sean O'Keefe, NASA's administrator, announced on Jan. 16 that a Space Shuttle mission to repair the 14-year old Hubble telescope was being cancelled because he (and others within NASA) didn't feel that such a mission could meet the post-Columbia safety requirements. If O'Keefe gets his way, the telescope will break down around 2008, ending the most successful science program in space shuttle history.



The Hubble scientists are refusing to let Hubble die. Like school kids passing notes in class, they've been circulating anonymous documents amongst themselves and their allies in the media which claim that Hubble missions will be safer than the scheduled flights to the International Space Station (in spite of the International Space Station's ability to shelter a crew if its space shuttle is damaged).

The Hubble scientists are releasing new images of the cosmos all the time, and the major news networks are giving these stories disproportionate amounts of air time, trying to build public outrage that Sean O'Keefe would scrap their precious telescope.

Hubble has actually been a great compromise for the astronomical community as a whole. Because the telescope has relied on the shuttle for launch and servicing, its mirror had to be shrunk to fit within the shuttle's payload bay. The telescope's orbit was also made lower than desirable just so a shuttle could

capture Hubble and service it.

Don't get me wrong; Hubble's science returns have been astounding, to say the least. But fixing the telescope via space shuttle means you have to fly that infernal death-rocket one more time. And every time a shuttle flies, seven brave and wonderful people have a two percent chance of death. Is a telescope worth dying for?

If an autonomous spacecraft can dock with Hubble and extend its life, that's awesome. Build it and send it up. Otherwise, we need to look beyond Hubble to the next generation of telescopes. Using foldable optics, we can build them much smaller than Hubble. We could also stick them at the LaGrange points, where they would sit at the same point in space and take pictures.

Current technology allows us to build cheap, throwaway telescopes that provide more science for the dollar than Hubble.

Supporters of Hubble argue that one or two shuttle missions to save the telescope pose much less risk than twenty or so missions to finish ISS. Statistically, this is true, but greater risks are justified by greater returns. ISS and Hubble should be considered separately and both judged by the risk to return ratio.

How much sense does it make to risk seven lives for a 14-year old telescope? I hope it sounds just as asinine to you as it does to me.

-Mark Soppet

**"The Hubble scientists are refusing to let Hubble die."  
- MARK SOPPET**

## THE NOTH FACTOR Elevator respect

Every single weekend I find myself in the elevator in my building wondering "Why?" Why don't people have respect for their own living space? I can't understand why someone would knowingly leave rotting food, spilled fluids, or any other trash in the elevator of the building that is, for all intensive purposes, their home.

Maybe my concerns are selfish. After all, it is the elevator in the building I consider a home, but I just can't understand it. I actually even heard someone say "Well, it's the cleaning people's job, we're just making them earn their keep." I could not be more appalled by such an outrageous statement. The janitorial staff here might not be as hard working as NASA engineers, but they certainly have plenty of work to do; there's no need for the average person to add to their workload.

Try putting yourself on the other side of the desk: imagine what it would be like to be a member of the WFF staff, having to clean up after us. It does not sound fun, nor does it sound easy. If people just put themselves in others' shoes sometimes, people

might not do stupid stuff like leave grapes all over the floor. More importantly, it is certainly not the job of any student to make anyone's job harder, or to "make them earn their keep." If that was the case, it would be virtuous of us to run rampant in the streets and shoot people, to make sure that the police were really working hard and earning their keep. Clearly, this is not the case.

Our janitorial staff has it hard enough; janitorial work is not fun and I certainly don't endeavor to try it. Accordingly, I see no reason to make it any harder than it already is.

An even bigger problem with this logic is that the custodians do not work on the weekends, so food sits in the elevators and rots all weekend long. There is absolutely nothing funny about food that sits for three days inside of a closed room, except that funny smell. Respecting your living space has a lot to do with respecting yourself. Leaving junk in the elevator is a sign of laziness and self-centeredness. I try to respect my living space, because it's mine, but also because it's 500 other people's living space too.



Christopher A. Noth  
Columnist

## Martha's grave mistake in life

<sarcasm> Oh, Martha, how we adore thee. Homemakers worship your patterns, the faithful flock to your white sale. What a tragedy that you were convicted. <sarcasm>

I went to K-mart on Friday to pick up a cheap plastic picture frame and a microwave bowl. I came out empty-handed. Why? Because I am angry.

People have said that Martha Stewart simply made a mistake when a friend tipped her off about his company (which Martha had stock in) and she made a split-second decision to sell before the stock plummeted. It could very well have been a mistake, but since Martha used to be a broker herself, I find that highly dubious. The whole insider trading deal thing aside, that's not what makes me angry.

I'm angry because Martha Stewart lied. She was found guilty on two counts of making false statements to federal investigators, obstruction of justice and conspiracy. Each of those charges carries a prison term of five years.

Normal people like you and me would probably serve ten years or so. Legal experts are saying that she will serve no more than eighteen months.

I also find it extremely funny how all this stuff has happened

over \$50,000 in stock when Martha Stewart is worth what? Half a billion dollars? How much are we willing to risk for money?

And I walk into K-mart and there are no cheap plastic frames because the only ones there are Martha Stewart frames with these cute little names like "Our Wedding" for 4x6 white frames and "Grandma and Grandpa" for this metal 8x10 frames. All I wanted was a cheap, one-dollar plastic frame and all I see are \$15 ripoffs.

I walk into K-mart and there are no cheap microwavable bowls because all I can buy are these \$25 Martha Stewart bowl sets. I don't want "Seven sizes for all my cooking needs," all I want is a damn two-quart bowl so I can cook my rice.

My mother walks into a K-mart back home in Philadelphia to pick up a new set of bedsheets, and all her options have the name of a convicted felon emblazoned on the packaging.

She's facing up to twenty years in prison, her name is making money and people look to her on how to make a proper home.

I'm sorry, I refuse to buy anything from criminals, and I sure as hell won't buy anything from a liar.

-Jonathan Mettin

## Student Forum

**The Avion asks:** "What would you like to see from the next SGA administration?"

- Compiled by Mike Marano



**Fartun Salah**  
Air Traffic Management  
Freshman

"A stress relief day for students."



**Charlie Murphy**  
Aerospace Engineering  
Junior

"Try to develop a stewardess school."



**Rick James**  
Aerospace Engineering  
Senior

"Why engineers have to pay tuition that goes to the flight costs."



**Andrew Slayton**  
Business  
Sophomore

"Make students aware of what they (SGA) do."

# THE AVION

By students, for students.

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## SGA Constitution

Philip Demeter

### SGA

The following are some of the proposed changes to the SGA Constitution.

The Grant of Power will be changed to: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University herby grants the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Student Government Association the right to exist and act on behalf of the student body in its goals to facilitate and promote student life and services, to collect fees from the student body to finance its student services, to maintain offices and operations on campus, and to have a member serve on the board of trustees.

The SGA will remove mention of The Phoenix Yearbook as a division of the SGA.

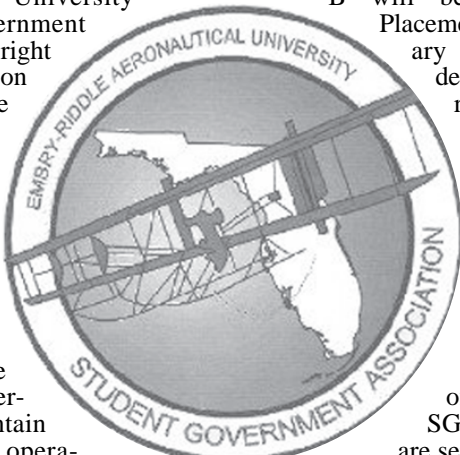
The duties of Assistant Director for the SGA will be changed to:

Perform the duties as directed by the current job description and title on file in the University Department of Human Resources and the SGA. Attend SRB, SFB and Executive Meetings as an ex-officio, non-voting member. If unable to attend, shall notify the SGA President or the appropriate division head or branch official.

Absences and Removal, part B will be changed to:

Placement on disciplinary probation, as defined in the current University Catalog or Student Handbook, will result in immediate removal from an office. The Vice-President will monitor holders of any official SGA to insure none are serving probation.

In addition, there will be changes to the Impeachment process, the election process, the amendment process and other minor articles. A more detailed version will be available for view in the SGA office located on the upper level of the Student Center.



TNG Movie! Thursday @ 8:30



TNG Movie! Thursday

TNG Movie! Thursday @ 8:30



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<http://www.db.erau.edu/campus/student/weru>

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**HUNDREDS OF ANIME LOVERS** traveled across the country and some just across the street to enjoy 62 hours of continuous Anime viewing this past weekend. The Anything Goes Anime Club is now one of the largest clubs on campus with over 70 registered members.

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](mailto:avionnewspaper@hotmail.com)

## Air Force doing well

Cadet 1st Lt. John Vitolo  
**Air Force ROTC**

The Spring semester has been a busy one for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Air Force ROTC Detachment 157. Cadets returned to welcome Nicholas Ervin as the new Cadet Wing Commander.

The 22-year-old Aerospace Engineering senior has wanted the position since freshman year and now that he has taken the seat, he is on a mission.

One of his first orders of business was a Race Week fundraiser sponsored by Eagle Wing, during which cadets volunteered many hours to help Eagle Wing raise the money necessary for this semester's Air Force ROTC agenda.

Another event that took place

this semester was a visit from Retired General Spruance. The former pilot was a guest speaker during Air Force classes. General Spruance spoke to cadets about his experiences as a survivor of a downed aircraft and provided safety techniques.

Not all the events planned for this semester involve all work and no play. One event that the cadets can look forward to this semester is the annual Gala. The formal dinner will be held in April and, as usual, will be an eventful evening.

Meanwhile, many cadets were looking forward to an all-expenses-

paid trip to Washington, D.C., that occurred over Spring Break. The cadets toured our nation's Capitol while receiving some much-needed time off from school.

The cadets that are participating in Field Training Preparation (FTP) had a relaxing Spring Break. The second year cadets are being trained by upper class cadets to better prepare them for Field Training camp this summer.

Although the semester is half way over, there are still many events planned to keep cadets actively involved in Detachment 157. Go Air Force!

“  
One event the cadets can look forward to this semester is the annual Gala  
- JOHN VITOLO”

## Alpha Omicron Alpha presents: First annual Pull-A-Plane

The Pull-A-Plane competition sponsored by Alpha Omicron Alpha and Tab Express Airlines will be held at Deland Municipal Airport in Deland, Florida on Apr. 10, 2004. Teams consisting of no more than five people will pull a 15,000 pound Beechcraft 1900 turbo-prop aircraft. Teams will have two pulls of 50 feet with scoring based on the average time of the two pulls. All proceeds will be donated to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Come on out and support your favorite team!

## Mars Society progresses

Mark J. Soppet  
**Mars Society**

With the planet Mars in the news on a daily basis, there has never been a better time to get involved with planetary exploration and advocacy.

This spring, the Mars Society plans on completing a prototype aircraft for exploring Mars. We're always looking for motivated peo-

ple to share their talents with us in building this unique airplane. After completing flight trials, we hope to test the aircraft at one of the three Mars research stations.

We also want to educate people about Mars and generate enthusiasm for future robotic and manned exploration of Mars. We have several outreach and service events on our agenda.

The Mars Society will also be

sending several students to the National Mars Society convention in Chicago this August.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, Mar. 25 in COA 255 at 7 p.m. Come prepared for lively discussion, pizza and soda. If you can't learn and have a good time at a meeting, it's not worth going to!

For more information contact secretary James Winsley at [winslaa7@erau.edu](mailto:winslaa7@erau.edu).

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## Super-jumbo airliner A380 due in nine months



PHOTO COURTESY WWW.AIRBUS.COM

THE FIRST FULLY ASSEMBLED A380 is due at the end of this year for flight testing and certification process. Airports around the world are paving its runways and taxiways to accommodate this super-jumbo size airliner and plans for terminal operations are underway.

Michael McGraw  
Staff Reporter

Airbus is expecting to roll out its first fully assembled A380 jetliner this December. The super-jumbo airliner is said to be "on track, on time and on budget," according to Airbus. This May, Airbus will complete its huge final assembly facilities in Toulouse, France.

The A380 is expected to have its maiden flight early next year, after which four A380s are expected to participate in the flight testing, route-proving and certification process, which is to be completed in the first quarter of 2006.

Currently, airports around the world are making preparations to accommodate the aircraft. Airbus has made it clear that the A380 will be able to handle 75-foot wide taxiways and 150-foot wide runways, although some taxiway shoulders may need to be "paved"

to accommodate the 262-foot wingspan. Cameras, which will be linked directly to the cockpit, will be placed in the rudder and on the wings to give pilots a better perception of the aircraft position.

Other operational issues being studied include terminal operations, ramp servicing and catering services. A study covering wake-vortex and aircraft separation has been completed, and Airbus says the wake-turbulence off an A380 should be similar to that of a Boeing 747.

The A380 holds a list price of \$260 million per unit, however, the launch customers for the aircraft are believed to have been given significantly discounted offers. The break even point for the program is expected to be hit when Airbus builds the 250th example of the A380.

Currently 11 airlines from around the world have made orders for 129 A380s. The first A380 is due to enter service in just over 24 months.

## New DHS plan to save millions

Joe Daniel  
Staff Reporter

The Department of Homeland Security announced its intent to save the airlines and the government several million dollars each year in the form of a plan to station increased numbers of U.S. security personnel abroad.

The plan, known as an Immigration Security Initiative (ISI), will augment current illegal immigration initiatives and give officers increased authority to monitor passenger lists.

An early similar effort yielded great results as the airlines saved \$9 million and the government \$40 million. Airline savings came as a result of airlines being able to avoid the regular fines that can amount to as much as \$10,000 if they transport a passenger without proper documentation. Government savings

were a result of deferring the cost in detainment and processing of illegal immigrants. Under the program, ineligible passengers will be either denied boarding, or if sought by law enforcement, arrested by local authorities.

In an interview by *Aviation Daily*, Customs commissioner Robert Bonner said the program would be mutual as other countries will be allowed to station security officials in the United States.

It is important to note that while the officers would be U.S. government officials, they will have no legal authority in foreign nations, and final decision making power rests with the airlines whether to let the individuals in question travel. "The officers will act in an advisory capacity and will be experts in document fraud and passenger questioning," the *Aviation Daily* reported earlier this month.

## The GlobalFlyer begins flight tests

Mark Soppet  
Copy Editor

Eighteen years after the first nonstop, unrefueled flight around the world, Burt Rutan's Scaled Composites is attempting to repeat their unprecedented record.

On Mar. 5, Scaled Composites test pilot Jon Karkow took the controls of the Virgin GlobalFlyer, the jet-powered aircraft that will attempt the first solo circumnavigation of the earth by an aircraft. On the test flight, the aircraft reached an altitude of 12,000 feet and a top speed of 110 knots. Karkow reported no problems during the flight.

The GlobalFlyer's unique design is optimized for its daunting mission. It has a 114 foot, high aspect ratio wing. The short fuselage serves only to house the pilot and the powerplant, a Williams FJ-44 ATW. The aircraft's horizontal and vertical stabilizers are mounted on long booms that trail behind the wings. It has a gross weight exceeding 22,000 pounds, yet its dry weight is

a mere 4,000 pounds. The dry mass fraction of GlobalFlyer is still higher than that of Voyager, the aircraft built by Scaled Composites for the successful flight around the world in 1986.

Design of the GlobalFlyer began in 2003 at the request of Sir Richard Branson, founder of Virgin Atlantic Airways. Sir Richard Branson is being joined in the Global Flyer effort by fellow adventurer Steve Fossett. The two men had previously collaborated in an effort to circumnavigate the earth by hot air balloon. Although their attempt failed, Fossett later succeeded in becoming the first person to complete a solo circumnavigation of the earth in 2002.

Although Branson and Fossett have yet to announce a date for their record attempt, some facts about the flight have already been made public. The route, in accordance with Federation Aviation International rules, will be approximately 23,000 miles long. The GlobalFlyer will cruise around 285 miles per hour at 45,000 foot altitudes, completing

the journey in about 80 hours. Steve Fossett has been named as primary pilot for the flight.

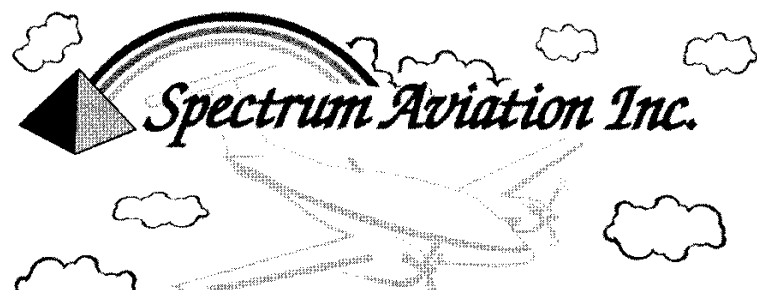
The GlobalFlyer is a production of Scaled Composites, the company founded by Burt Rutan and partially owned by Northrop Grumman.

Scaled Reputations has earned a reputation for advanced and innovative aircraft; their current projects include the Proteus high altitude research aircraft and SpaceShipOne, which aims to become the first civilian spacecraft.



PHOTO COURTESY WWW.GLOBALFLYER.COM

THE GLOBALFLYER'S UNIQUE DESIGN is optimized for its flight around the world. The date of flight attempt is not set yet; however, some facts of flight have been publicized already.



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## Technical vs. Tactical

### Using or abusing technology

DARRIN O'BRADY / AVION

## Gang wars between viruses

Jonathan Mettin  
News Editor

Internet security experts have said the recent rash of viruses and worms may be the work of rival hackers, battling in a sort of turf war for supremacy by pummeling average computer users with increasingly virulent versions of cyber bugs.

"It seems that the virus creators are fighting a war, fighting each other with releasing new viruses all the time," said Mikko Hypoenen, head of F-Secure, a Finnish internet security firm. "It's pretty wild, and in my 15 years in the business I have never seen anything like it."

Between Mar. 1 and Mar. 10, the creators of the most active worm families – Bagle, Mydoom and Netsky – all released new versions of the viruses, some even containing hidden messages.

Bagle.J contained the message, "Hey, NetSky, f#ck off you b#tch,

don't ruine our business, wanna start a war?"

Just afterwards, a version of Netsky was released with the text: "Skynet AntiVirus – Bagle – you are a loser!!!"

Going beyond embedded messages, the recent versions of Netsky – which have been dubbed "harmless" as they do not compromise the machines they infect – actually remove Bagle bugs from contaminated computers.

Experts believe the creators of Bagle are spammers who make money by sending bulk e-mails with unsolicited advertising. Netsky's effect of removing the Bagle virus damages their effort of building up a vast network of infected computer from which to

relay their bogus messages. This is believed to be the cause of the hidden messages.

Hypoenen surmises that Netsky removes the Bagle virus to avoid alerting users to contamination by eliminating any compatibility issues.

He also said that to keep pace with each other, the creators are constantly releasing new versions. When Hypoenen

released his statement on Mar. 7, there were eight versions of Netsky and ten of Mydoom and Bagle. Two new versions of Mydoom were released in one day alone.

"Just in sixty minutes on Wednesday (Mar. 3) morning we received one new version of the three virus families," he said. "If it's continuing like this, they will soon run out of letters."

“It seems that the virus creators are fighting a war, fighting each other with releasing new viruses...”

- MIKKO HYPPOENEN

## New Releases

- Hitman: Contracts
- Final Fantasy XI
- Rainbow Six 3: Raven Shield
- Splinter Cell: Pandora Tomorrow
- All Star Baseball 2005
- Seven Samurai 20XX
- Onimusha: Blade Warriors
- Lineage II

## SenseCam pic-diary

Christopher Cole

Advertising Manager

Microsoft is in the beginning stages of testing on a new video diary device called the SenseCam.

Still in testing phases, this device can record your day-to-day life through a series of pictures in a camera no bigger than your average wallet.

Designed to hang around your neck, it takes pictures through a fish-eyed lens every time a movement, or light change is sensed. Every time you enter a new room,

the camera will recognize the light change and take a picture.

At a rate of 25 frames per second, this little guy can store up to 2,000 images in a 12-hour period on a 128-megabyte FLASH Memory.

Movement, light-levels and temp are also recorded into memory.

One day, Microsoft hopes SenseCam might even respond to other stimuli such as heart rate or skin temperature -- to track medical problems as easily as to record a Hawaiian vacation. They also hope to link it to face recognition technology and possibly reminded users of people they've seen before.

## Ol' Skool Game of the Week: Spy vs. Spy (1984)

Darrin O'Brady

Data Technology Editor

Based on M.A.D. magazine's comic strip, these two crows come to life in the Nintendo game capable of two-player head-to-head action. Spy vs. Spy was published by First Star Software, and appeared on the NES, Apple II, Amiga, Sega master System and Commodore 64.

The object of the game is to find four items (a key, a bag of money, a passport and a plane ticket) and a suitcase and escape the building.

The items are hidden throughout the building within furniture

that you must search. You can only hold one item at a time, unless you have the suitcase. Your goal, then, is to find these items, stop the other spy from getting the items, and escape.



PHOTO COURTESY WWW.VGMUSEUM.COM

## Analysis: FBI DNA database

Christopher Noth

Staff Reporter

The FBI's DNA database has greatly progressed since its development and inception in the late '80s and early '90s. Today, the lab has helped authorities identify suspects in more than 11,000 cases; the lab houses genetic samples, a sort of high-tech version of fingerprints, from prison inmates across the country. The DNA database, the Combined DNA Indexing System (CODIS) helped solve two "cold" murder cases in Kansas, identify two-decade old remains of a missing California child and capture a sexual predator in Houston.

Equally important, police and lawyers say it has freed wrongly

convicted prisoners and helped eliminate some suspects, cutting down on chasing false leads.

"This is basically the fingerprint technology of this century," noted Joseph M. Polisar, the police chief of Garden Grove, California and president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. "The potential for us in the criminal justice field to solve crimes with this technology is boundless." He also added that sharing genetic fingerprints has helped ameliorate relations

between local authorities and the FBI that have long struggled with information sharing.

“The potential for us in the criminal justice field to solve crimes with this technology is boundless.”

- JOSEPH M. POLISAR

The lab's current director, Dwight Adams, has worked to add to the credibility of his organization. The lab was subject to scrutiny over shoddy work and exaggerated or false testimonies in the '90s, but Adams instated a double-check system and a new identification system to ensure that the lab's work is credible and respected in the justice community.



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## Mars had a wet history, Martian UFO seen

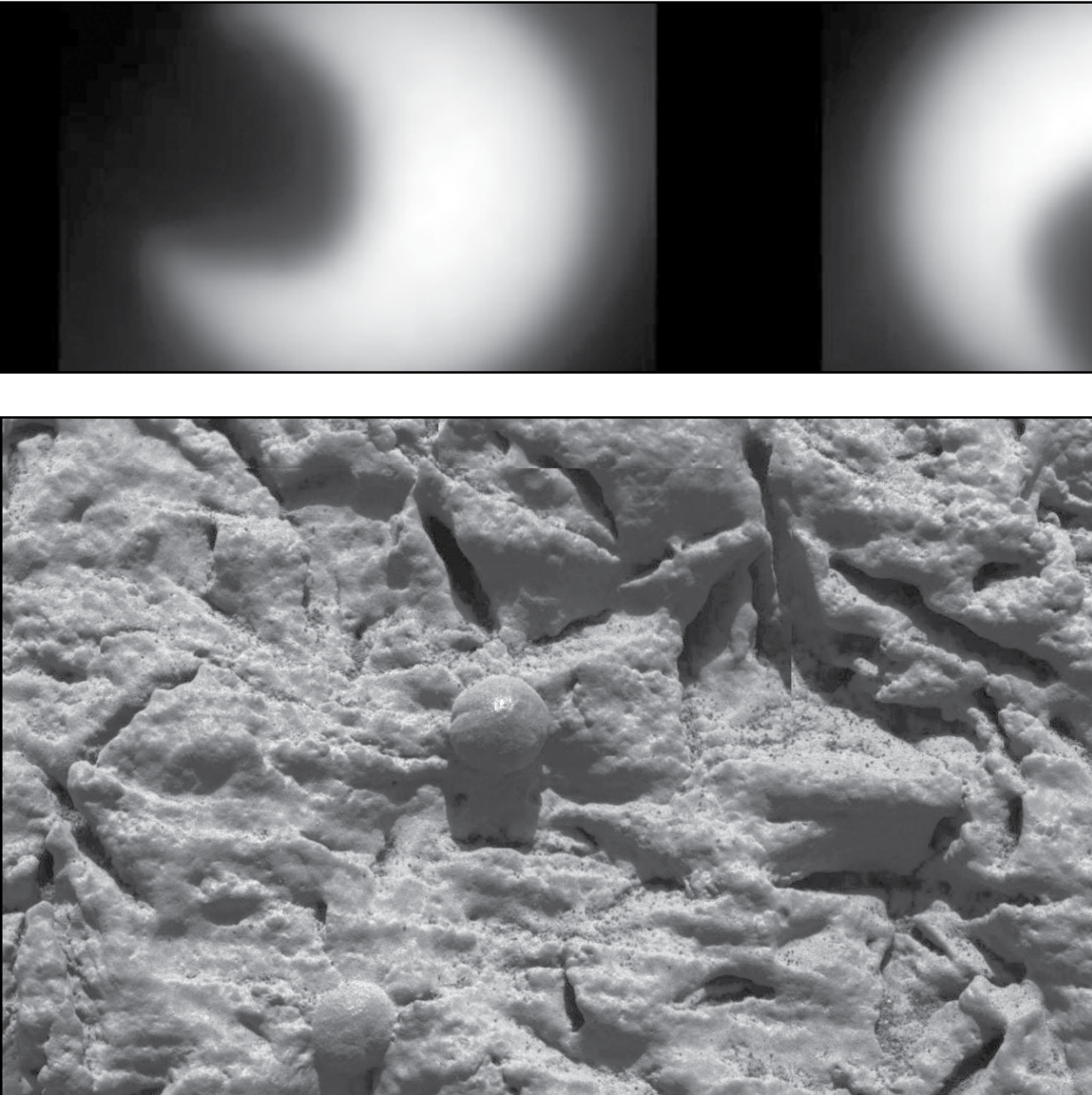


PHOTO COURTESY NASA

Alex Sidorov  
Space Tech Editor

NASA's rovers Spirit and Opportunity may have found evidence of water on Mars, JPL laboratory says. The small bubbles in Martian rocks that were found by the rovers, nicknamed blueberries, indicate signs that water may have existed on the planet.

While Mars may not have had big oceans, scientists say, but the evidence is enough to confirm what people have been suspecting for decades.

According to scientists who studied the blueberry data sent from Mars, the bubbles are actually mineral deposits,

which concreted themselves due to some water action.

Analysis of the rovers' findings also indicates that the rocks are volcanic in origin, but were changed by water. Mars had an active volcanic life in the past, as indicated by the Tharsis Volcanoes, which include the largest volcano in the solar system - Olympus Mons.

Opportunity not only pointed its sensors down, but also up, toward the sky. It saw the first ever lunar eclipse seen on another planet. One of Mars' moons, Deimos, passed between Mars and the Sun. The silhouette showed the moon's asteroid form.

Deimos is the smaller of the two Martian satellites. The satellite is

composed of C-type surface, like the asteroids in the asteroid belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. Astronomers think that both moons were captured by Mars a long time ago.

On the other side of Mars, Spirit is making discoveries of its own. The rover saw a UFO, the first one in an extraterrestrial sky. According to astronomers, the unidentified object is probably one of the Viking orbiters, probably Viking 2. Both of the Viking orbiters have polar orbits and the object did not follow the path of any other old orbiter, such as Russian Mars and Phobos probes or American Mariner 9 or Viking 1.

## Beagle 2's remains found

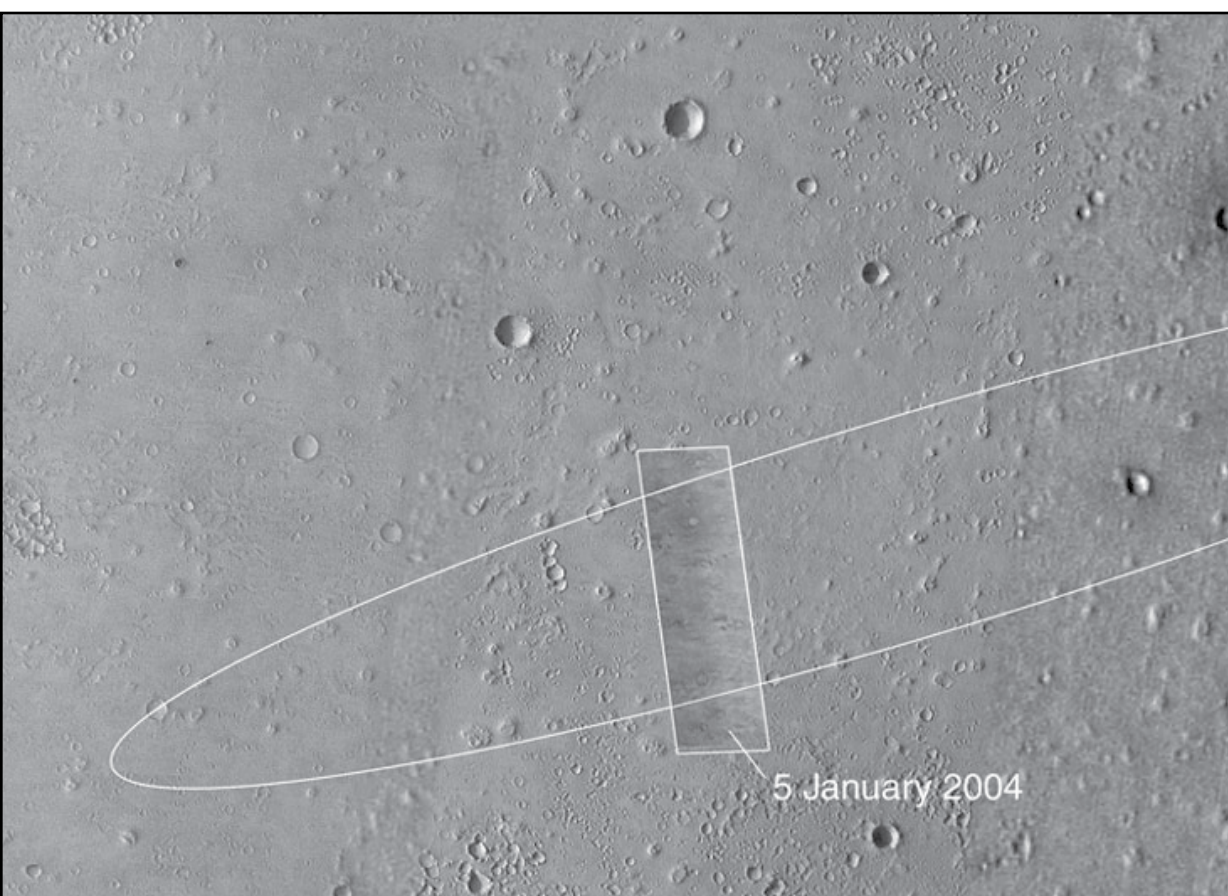


PHOTO COURTESY SPACE.COM

Mark Soppet

Copy Editor

Four months after Beagle's loss, investigators still trying to pinpoint the cause.

The European Space Agency recorded a major success on Christmas 2003 with the successful arrival of the Mars Express probe at the red planet. However, the mission was marred by the loss of Beagle 2, the British hitchhiker lander that could have provided answers to questions about life on Mars.

Four months later, the new question is why Beagle failed to call home.

One promising clue is a photograph taken of the lander shortly after it is separated from Mars Express. An object on the photograph has piqued the curiosity of investigators. The photograph, released by mission manager Mark Sims, reveals

both an object near the lander and a bright blot on a darkened area of the lander, according to a report from the Associated Press. The photograph could represent an object breaking off the spacecraft, or it could merely be a distortion on the photo.

NASA has dispatched the Mars Global Surveyor spacecraft, currently orbiting Mars, to observe the Beagle landing zone. At least one image has revealed a "string of pearls" along the path that Beagle would have taken as it descended towards the Martian surface. But investigators remain skeptical. Many have dismissed the "string of pearls" as an error in processing the imagery.

Mars Express mission scientists have given more weight to a theory that Beagle may have simply crashed, because predictions about Mars's atmospheric density were

higher than the actual conditions on the day of landing. This observation was made by NASA when the rover Spirit landed on Jan. 3, and confirmed by Mars Express. *New Scientist* reports that Beagle may have hit the ground before its airbags were able to inflate.

The loss of Beagle has forced European and British space officials to re-assess their priorities for Mars exploration. Only 49 million euros were spent on the lander, with a substantial part coming from the British government. The British National Audit Office was critical of understated risks during the proposal phase, while proponents of the lander criticized the decision to tie the Beagle mission to Mars Express. Beagle's lead scientist, Professor Colin Pillinger, has been pushing to re-fly the Beagle mission with two probes in the 2007 time frame.

## Atlas 3A launches from Cape



PHOTO BY BEN COOPER

THIS TIME-LAPSE LAUNCH PHOTO shows an Atlas 3A rocket streaking into space Sat., Mar. 13 from Cape Canaveral with the Japan-Korean mobile broadcasting satellite (MBSAT) onboard. Liftoff occurred at 12:40 a.m.

## Glenn opposes Bush's plan

Tom Flemming

Sports Editor

Former astronaut, and space flight pioneer John Glenn stated recently that President Bush's space exploration plan is, "Voluntarily stopping some of the most unique, cutting-edge research in the history of the whole world. Now we're going to let other nations do it and they'll be able to benefit from it. I just don't think that's right. I think that's a mistake. For a few bucks, we could continue this research."

The retired Ohio Democratic Senator said, NASA should not abandon research on the International Space Station (ISS). He went on to question using the Moon as a stepping

stone to Mars saying, "In effect you're making a Cape Canaveral out on the Moon. It would be a smaller one, I'm sure, but it would be enormously complex. It seems to me the direct-to-Mars (route) is the way to go."

Glenn's opposition came during testimony before a presidential commission meeting at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

The plan also calls for a cancellation of all research that have nothing to do with the Moon and Mars program.

Glenn pointed out that cutting the research would only save \$2.5 mil-



John Glenn

Astronaut

lion. "We have projects that are planned or in the queue now, projects that people - academics and laboratories and companies - have spent millions of dollars to get ready.... That pulls the rug out from under our scientists within NASA who devoted years and years to their work."

NASA spokesperson Glenn Malone said, "We're going to do the research important for us to fulfill the president's vision."

Glenn's final comment came in the form of a warning, saying that NASA might, "use up all our money on all our money on the Moon and never get to Mars."

## NASA wants to discard Hubble, astronauts protest

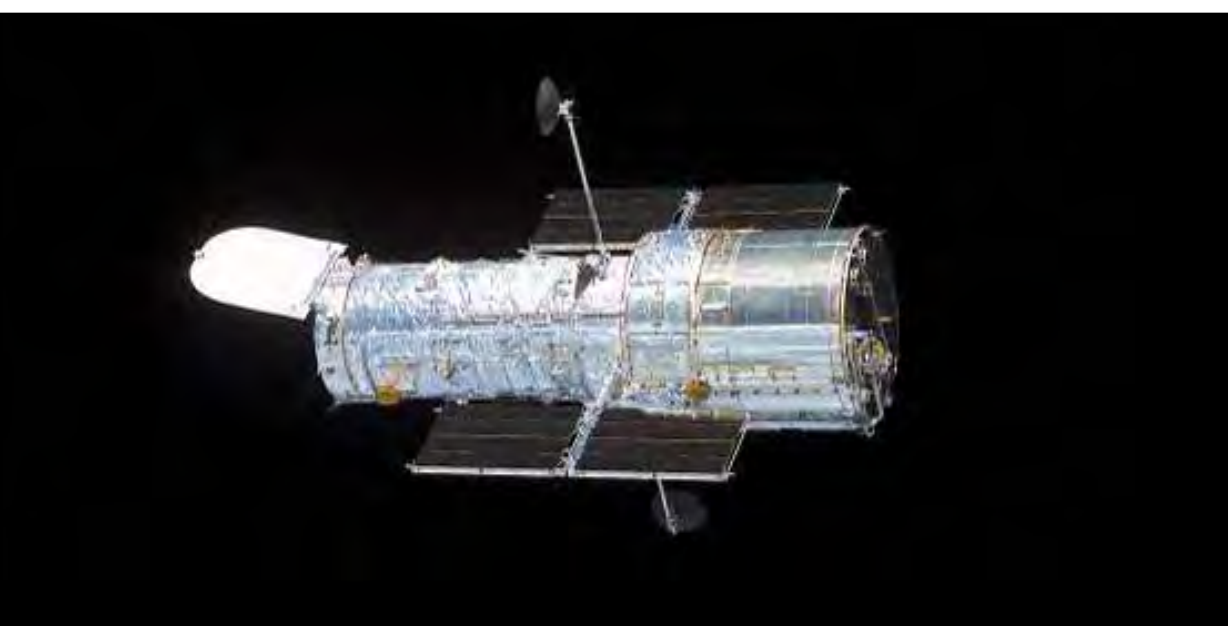


PHOTO COURTESY NASA

Alex Sidorov  
Space Tech Editor

NASA astronaut, past and present, publicly criticized their organization for abandoning the Hubble space telescope.

NASA's administrator Sean O'Keefe announced in January that Hubble will be scrapped. O'Keefe stood by his decision, saying that Hubble's planned life was only 15 years, which will end next spring. But since there were many people opposing the decision, he decided to submit to some demands, such as having the National Academy of Sciences review the decision.

Among the supporters to keep Hubble in space is John Glenn, who criticized President Bush for focusing away from near-Earth stations (like

“ Give me a fast ship for I intend to sail in harm's way ”

- JOHN PAUL JONES

Hubble and ISS). He urged NASA to "get every year's value of that thing."

Hubble's usefulness was proved the week of Mar. 8, when it saw the deepest ends of the universe.

Hubble's supporters also argue that when the new telescope, the James Webb Telescope, goes up, it might be lost in a launch accident or have design flaws. If that happens, astronomers will be left without a tool to use to watch the heavens.

The next repair mission that was

supposed to take place in 2006, but was cancelled because NASA is afraid of another shuttle accident and is not willing to launch a repair mission until the Columbia Accident Investigation Board has finished reviewing the Columbia accident.

NASA's decision is not final and this week and members of Congress are demanding review of NASA's decision. In addition, O'Keefe was swamped by petitioners' emails, demanding to save the telescope.

Hubble's next mission would have been its fifth and would have been equipped it with two state-of-the-art science instruments, which were already built and worth \$176 million and fresh batteries and a gyroscope.

The mission would extend Hubble's life to 2011 or '12. Otherwise, Hubble's orbit would decay and the jewel would burn in the atmosphere in 2007 or 2008.

## APARTMENTS/ ROOMMATES

**Ormond Beach**  
20 min. from school  
(walk to beach/river) Nice house in residential area:-Private entrance -Fully Furnished -Room w/ private bath-use of computer room -use of Garden -share kitchen -central air and heat All Included \$450.00 (386) 676-5452 (please leave a message)

**Large Furnished Bedroom**  
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Newly redecorated Key West design cottage. Fully furnished 2BR with sunroom. Easy access to ERAU and airport. Large fenced backyard with huge deck. \$825/month. Call Sara - 1-800-525-9396.

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Runs good, no air, some rust. Comes with extra parts, running boards, mag wheels, good tires. \$1000 or best offer. 756-1770.

**1992 Dodge Shadow**  
Red, convertible top, working a/c, awesome stereo/cd, runs great. I must sell. No games. Call Daniel at 761-2185 or 846-3753.

**1988 Ford Taurus**  
Low miles, power everything, new paint and transmission. Runs great! Asking \$975 obo. Call Greg at 871-5364

## CARS/ MOTORCYCLES

**1994 Chevy Camaro**  
Good condition, pwr, cd, \$3400 obo. Call Ryan (814) 833-2966.

## OTHER ITEMS

**Miscellaneous Items**  
4 drawer dresser, exc. condition \$40, matching nightstand \$20. Both have maple finish. Twin bed \$50 OBO. call (386) 274-4056 or e-mail at byrnero@erau.edu.

**Aircraft Rental**  
C-172 - Twin Geronimo - DC-3 call, check our website, or visit to find out why our customers think we are the best deal in town. 767-9464 www.mcflyers.com

**Guitarist Needed**  
Hard rock band is searching for a guitarist. Creativity is a must. If interested, call 299-7527 and ask for Chris.

**Free Cellphone**  
and free first month's service! Need someone to take over cellphone contract ending in June. Five months of service for the price of four. Call Josh for details. 763-0871.

**Motorcycle Jacket**  
Alpine Star XL. Gray and Black with all pads, removable liner. New condition. \$160 obo. Call Tory at 846-3079.

## OTHER ITEMS

**Shoei Helmet**  
Black, large, good condition, clear and tinted visors. \$65 obo. Call Tory at 846-3079.

## THE AVION ONLINE

returns to the World Wide Web. View all the content of *The Avion* newspaper plus a weather page and archives of past issues. Also submit letters to the editor, or request information on placing ads and classifieds. A great way to keep up-to-date with events on campus, even when you are away.

## HELP WANTED

Job postings provided by Embry-Riddle's Student Employment office. Any questions regarding job postings should be directed to Student Employment at 226-6320 or room 112 in Spruance Hall.

Flight Instructors, PT & FT with Epic Aviation at NSB airport. \$15/hour. Call Danny or Frank at (386)409-5583 for an interview. Job ID #2844

Office & Shipping clerk needed by beachwear company on beachside. Office work and packing beachwear for shipment, Computer work, answering phones, etc. Call Sue or Linda Immediately at 255-2690. Job ID #2843

Chemistry Lab Asst for Physical Sci Dept. Call Marlene Coslow x7022

## HELP WANTED

Work mornings, part time, for Mediatech. They are hiring administrative Assistant/Technical Writer. Located in Holly Hill. Need working knowledge of Microsoft Office appl (MS Word, Excel, etc.) in MS Windows environment. \$7.50/hr Call Mr. Riley at 258-9958. Job ID #2838

**Tutor needed**  
MBA grad student needs immediate assistance with BA511/operations research. Tutor must have taken this course and/or have working knowledge of quantitative methods pay for time spent. Call Brock at (386)760-8292.

Local real estate office needs assistant to real estate executive. Must have good computer skills, be organized and have Positive attitude w/good communication skills, experience with digital camera and imaging. Database management, word processing, etc. Job ID #711

Work in an ice cream shop on the beachside. Baskin Robbins hiring part time counter help, flexible hours, will work with Your school schedule and will train. Customer service attitude helpful. Can work afternoons, evenings and/or week-ends. Call Richard at 258-1666. Job ID #2845

Beachside pub needs security workers, some shift work between 7pm and 3am. Several openings. Apply in person to The Oyster Pub, 555 Seabreeze Blvd., or call 255-6348, ask for Kelly. Job ID #881.

## Avion Classifieds

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

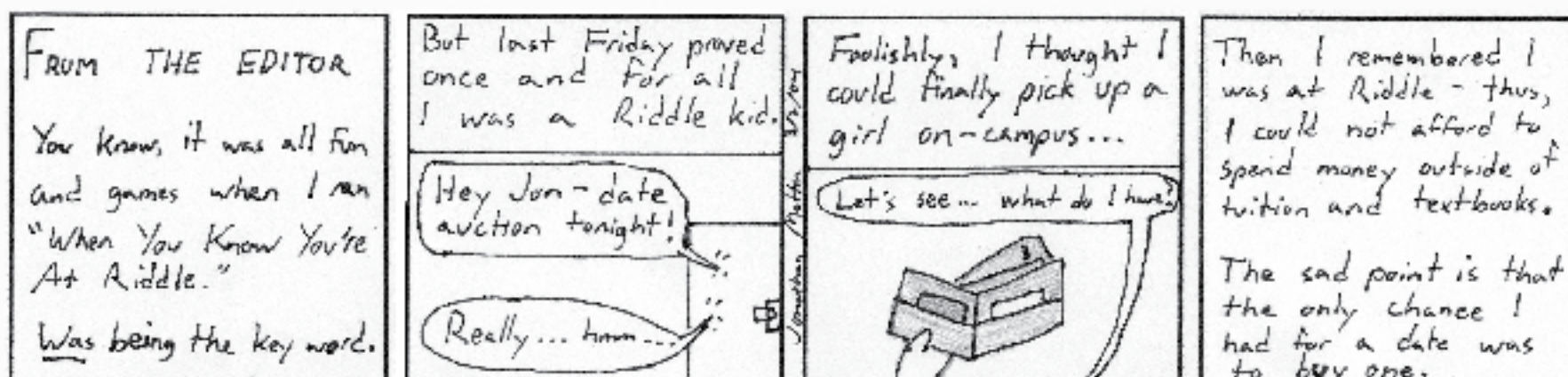
\**The Avion* runs classified ads for 2 weeks. If you would like your ad to run longer, you will need to fill out a classified form again.

\**The Avion* does NOT accept classified advertisements from businesses of any kind!

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

## The Riddle of Life

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



## STRANGE BUT TRUE...

A bus carrying five passengers was hit by a car in St. Louis, but by the time police arrived on the scene, fourteen pedestrians had boarded the bus and had begun to complain of whiplash injuries and back pain.

**Dueling is legal in Paraguay as long as both parties are registered blood donors.**

In the Vietnam War, U.S. soldiers shot an average of over 200,000 bullets for every Viet Cong guerilla they killed. If the cost of an average bullet is ten cents, that comes out to \$20,000 spent per kill. U.S. snipers, on the other hand, shot an average of 1.3 bullets for every soldier they killed, or just under eight kills per dollar.

## YOUR COMIC HERE

I love comics.  
You love comics.  
Comics are cool.  
People like to read comics.  
People also like to be famous.  
If you are in the paper, you will be famous.  
So, draw a comic.



by Wes Oleszewski

