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SGA budget questioned by Eagles FM

Jonathan Mettin
Managing Editor

Eagles FM campus radio, one of the three divisions of the Student Government Association (SGA), is not getting the funding that the SGA announced in *The Avion* last week, according to a more detailed version of the SGA budget obtained by *The Avion*.

According to the detailed budget, which breaks down the broad categories

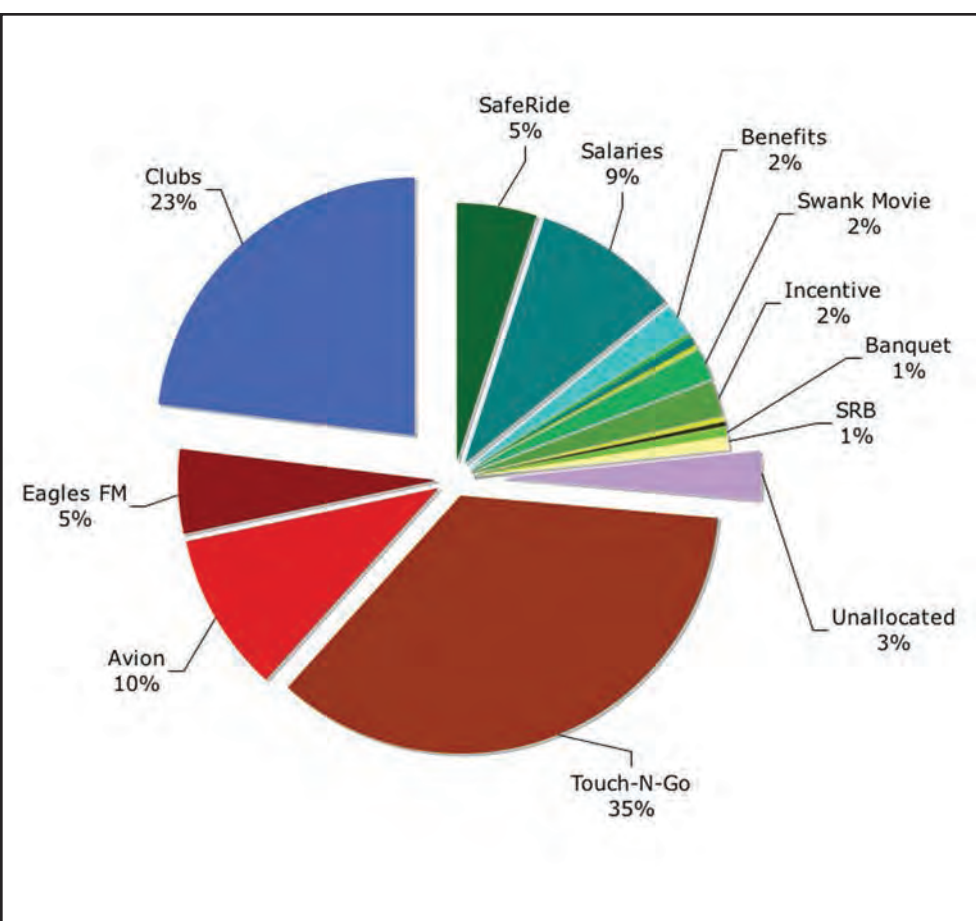
listed in last week's edition into specific expenditures, Eagles FM requested to receive the full 5 percent they were listed as receiving, but were only allocated \$12,500, which amounts to 3.37 percent of the SGA budget and a difference of over \$6,000.

The SGA collects \$85 from each student, which multiplied by 4,363 students gives a revenue of \$370,855, according to SGA Treasurer Ryan Rossi. According to the simplified budget, the

SGA budget breakdown gives half of that money to its three divisions – Touch-N-Go Productions, *The Avion* newspaper and Eagles FM.

The remaining half is divided between operations (such as the SafeRide program), club funding and a small slush fund. Tuition vouchers, which have become a hot topic in recent weeks, do not originate from the SGA fee.

Please see "BUDGET," page A2



MIJEONG YOON/AVION

THE 2006 SGA BUDGET printed in Issue 4 that caused the controversy is depicted above. Its four categories are: Operations, 24 percent (green); Divisions, 50 percent (red); Clubs, 23 percent (blue); and Unallocated, 3 percent (purple).

ERAU baseball wins four games in one week



GREG FRECHETTE/AVION

THE EAGLES OUTSCORED THEIR opponents 34-7 last week, including three victories over their conference rival, the Northwood Seahawks. The Eagles also shut out the Edward Waters Tigers 18-0.

Jonathan Mettin
Managing Editor

Embry-Riddle pitchers held opponents to seven runs spread across four games last week as the third-ranked Eagles improved to 13-3 overall as well as notching their first three conference wins of the season.

The Eagles now share the Florida Sun Conference (FSC) lead with Warner Southern, who also have a 3-0 conference record.

Last Tuesday the Edward Waters Tigers came to Daytona Beach to take on the Eagles. Embry-Riddle's offense exploded, plating 18 runs off of 15 ERAU hits and five Tiger errors.

ERAU pitchers did not give up a single run to complete the 18-0 shutout. Chris Maloney picked up the win in five innings of work, giving up three hits while striking out two. JR Schuhmann and Victor Roldan each saw an inning of work as well, giving up one hit and striking out three between them.

Tiger starter Caleb Capps got the loss, giving up ten earned runs off of ten hits and three walks in just over three innings of work.

First baseman Josh Smith went 3-for-4 with two doubles, three runs and three RBIs to lead the Eagle offense. Infielder Shawn Williams went 3-for-3 with three runs and two walks, while left fielder Amadis Padilla was 2-for-2 with three runs, two RBIs and two walks.

Bernie Hurley hit a three-run homer in the second on his way to lead the team with four RBIs.

The game ended after six and a half innings due to the 10-run rule. Edward Waters fell to 3-5 with the loss.

The Eagles then traveled to West Palm Beach to take on conference rival Northwood, beginning the defense of their conference crown.

Please see "BASEBALL," page A6

Men's basketball dominates



PHIL LARSON/AVION

THE LAST HOME GAME of the season against Flagler drew a large crowd to fill the ICI Center. The intense game started and ended with ERAU leading and Flagler close behind. Please see the Sports page on A6 for more.

"Much Ado About" something

Melanie Pugh
Chief Copy Editor

As part of Embry-Riddle's annual Arts and Letters Series, Shenandoah Shakespeare's Blackfriars Stage Company made a pit-stop to allow a bit of culture to seep into the technical-based Daytona Beach campus. This touring troupe will make 52 stops across the country between September of 2005 and March of 2006, including a two-day stint last week at ERAU.

The "Atomic Fusion Tour," showcasing the talents of 11 primary actors in multiple roles, features a combination of "Much Ado About Nothing," "Richard III" and "Return to the Forbidden Planet." The cast performed Shakespeare's comedy, "Ado," on Feb. 15 to a packed auditorium and received a standing ovation; the tragedy, "Richard," drew a slightly less enthusiastic crowd Feb. 16.

"Ado" tells the story of love, deceit and false appearances in the Italian city of Messina. Prince Don Pedro returns after a victorious battle and the governor, Leonato, invites Don Pedro and his men to stay. Don Pedro poses as one of his men, Claudio, to win Leonato's daughter, Hero, over. Claudio and Hero are arranged to be married, but a night

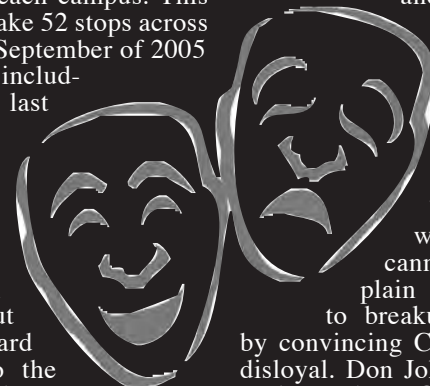
watch must ensue to be sure of the faithfulness of the couple.

Meanwhile, the men of the village convince jester Benedick that Hero's cousin, Beatrice, is madly in love with him; likewise, the women of the village convince Beatrice that Benedick is madly in love with her. Much confusion follows as the duo agrees to disagree, and each claims he or she will "settle" for the other for various reasons. They are to be married alongside Claudio and Hero.

Don Pedro's half-brother, Don John, who said of himself, "I cannot hide what I am... a plain dealing villain," plots to breakup Claudio and Hero by convincing Claudio that his love is disloyal. Don John and his men devise a plan to have Claudio and Don Pedro happen upon Hero's unfaithfulness the night before her wedding, when in fact they are witnessing the arranged meeting of Hero's gentlewoman and Don John's follower.

The night watchmen overhear the follower's confession and arrest the conspirators, but not in time to save Hero from public accusations and embarrassment. Eventually, everything works itself out, and everyone lives happily ever after—except those in jail.

Please see "PLAY," page A2



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Bald Eagle may be removed from endangered list

Industry & Tech., B1

Student says racism still persists

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Gamers more mentally active than non-gamers

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THE AVION

By students, for students.

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Charity chili cook-off cancelled

Risk mgmt. forces SAE to cancel this Sunday's event

Zach Mahone

Diversions Editor

Months of planning ended abruptly when this weekend's planned charity Chili Cook-Off had to be cancelled. The event, sponsored by the Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) fraternity and Touch-N-Go Productions, had to be called off when the organizations could not meet the requirements of the University's risk management office.

In November of last year, SAE began making plans for what was intended to become an annual Chili Cook-Off. They intended to donate all their profits to the Children's Miracle Network, an umbrella charity that channels funds to hospitals that treat children. The designated recipients were Shands Children Hospital and Albert Palmer Hospital for Children. The event was supposed to take place this Sunday from noon to 8 p.m.

Although it was a lot of work, SAE was excited to do something of this scale for the community in affiliation with Embry-Riddle. Within two months, the fraternity had raised \$11,000 with Touch-N-Go Productions and SAE each contributing \$2500 to that total. They had contracted the band 32 Below from Nashville, Tennessee, and even became sanctioned by the International Chili Society (ICS). The ICS is a non-profit organization that sanctions chili cook-offs that raises money for various charities. Chili cook-offs are the largest food contest in the world, with thousands of members worldwide. SAE designed a website, hired a rock climbing wall, face painters and many other fun activities to complete the event.

Several cooks heard about the event and started making plans to attend. Two cooks from Arkansas raised \$2000 for their trip and spent over \$800 in supplies for the 100 gallons of chili they expected to serve. Another professional cook from South Carolina and seven from Florida had made plans to attend.

Upon arriving back to school in January, SAE had all their ducks in row, or so it would seem. Since this event was to be help on campus

they needed to get it cleared by the risk manager, Taryn Wiskirchen. SAE contacted the risk management office through Aaron Clevenger, Director of Greek Life within Student Activities. It was not until February 6, nearly a month after initially contacting Wiskirchen, that SAE had their answer, 20 days before the event was to take place.

Wiskirchen said that SAE needed to purchase medical insurance

to cover to cover the University's liability should somebody become sick off the chili. This was expected by SAE. The other stipulation set by Wiskirchen was that SAE could not charge the anticipated entry fee of seven dollars. Without the entry fee, SAE could no longer raise money for the kids of the Children's Miracle Network, the whole purpose of the event.

SAE called an emergency meeting that night to decide

what they were going to do. Throwing together several sets of numbers, they realized that without charging for admission. They could not come out ahead. They had a vote and decided to cancel the event, but still have the band. However, SAE could not contact the sponsors in time and was forced to cancel the band as well, forfeiting the \$1000 deposit already paid.

The members of SAE are understandably upset. "There was so much support within the community that was unexpected, and now the kids get nothing," said Israel Sandoval, who was in charge of the event. It is undetermined if there will be an attempt for a future chili Cook-Off.

“
There was so much support ... and now the kids get nothing.
”

- ISRAEL SANDOVAL



FILE PHOTO/AVION

COOKS AT THE FIRST Annual Daytona Cubs World Series of Chili Cook-Off and Music Festival in Sept. 2005. Sigma Alpha Epsilon planned a similar event for Sunday to benefit the Children's Miracle Network, but was forced to cancel the event only 20 days before it was planned to occur.

“PLAY” from Front

“Richard,” on the other hand, has an entirely different underlying tone. According to <http://www.americanshakespeare.com>, the play “chronicles the cataclysmic end to England's greatest power struggle, the War of the Roses, which pitted Richard's House of York (the white rose) against Henry VI and the House of Lancaster (the red rose).” Richard, Duke of Gloucester, has a decent amount of England's royal population executed, passes the blame off on others and engages in several soliloquies as he sits back and takes enjoyment in the entire ordeal. Richard is “determined

to prove a villain,” as he not-so-patiently awaits his occupation of the throne. When the time finally comes, his right-hand-man, the Duke of Buckingham, stages a scene of sympathetic Englishmen, in which Richard is “persuaded” to ascend to the throne.

Richard frolics around in a crown, while England begins to fall apart. The Earl of Richmond is the new head of the House of Lancaster. The Duke of Buckingham goes against Richard for the first time, and there is division throughout the country. The Earl and Richard prepare for a battle, and in their sleep, ghosts of Richard's victims visit them. The spirits haunt Richard and offer their hopes of success to the

Earl, who prevails and becomes King Henry VII, uniting the two houses. Not so many people live happily-ever-after, but such is the meaning of tragedy.

Shenandoah Shakespeare aims to reproduce an authentic Shakespearean atmosphere (or as close to authenticity as one can achieve in 2006). There are no set changes, intermissions or extravagant features. As Shakespeare put on productions by sunlight or candlelight, the house lights were kept on in the IC Auditorium. In an effort to replicate gender-swapping roles, but, at the same time, not exclude females, many women took on the roles of men. Most supporting actors and actresses also took on multiple roles throughout

different acts. Cast members also kept audience members involved in old-world style by hiding among and delivering lines from within the crowd.

“Richard” attendee, freshman Meghan Glavin, was impressed by both the cast and content of the play. “It's a nice change of pace from the lectures the University typically attracts; I look forward to the rest of the Arts and Letters series,” Glavin said. She was, however, unimpressed by an unruly audience member who made herself known in the back of the auditorium by inserting constant verbal feedback, adding “...but I'm not going if that woman is there. She really isn't worth the extra credit.”



GREG FRECHETTE/AVION

BEATRICE (ALYSSA WILMOTH) AND Benedick (Tyler Moss) settle their differences in William Shakespeare's “Much Ado About Nothing.” The play was presented as part of the Arts and Letters Series in the IC Auditorium to a packed house, and received a standing ovation.

“BUDGET” from Front

Rossi said that the published budget was based off of the fall budget and had not been finalized for spring until after it was submitted to *The Avion*. He then presented an updated budget, which showed that the percentage taken from Eagles FM was allocated to an increased club budget (24.5 percent, up from 23 percent), SafeRide (5.4 percent, up from 5 percent).

Breaking down the divisional allocation further, the budget showed Touch-N-Go receiving 35 percent of the total budget (\$123,799.25), with *The Avion* receiving 10 percent (\$37,247.50) and Eagles FM getting 5 percent (\$18,542.75).

Touch-N-Go requested \$130,425, but only received \$130,425, which is slightly more than 35 percent. Over half of that total is set aside for the annual spring show. *The Avion*, currently the only division that generates revenue other than the SGA allocation, requested and received exactly 10 percent of the SGA budget, the entirety of which is slated for printing costs.

The Avion attempted to contact Eagles FM Station Director and Division Chair William Robertson but was unsuccessful.

Touch-N-Go hosts speaker, free casino night

Funny Money offers good times, sound advice

Andrew Kreshock
Staff Reporter

Face it; as college students, our four (or more) years at college leave us essentially broke. How do college graduates handle the huge change from college to being completely on their own? James Cunningham answered this question while getting college students on their feet during his show *Funny Money* last Wednesday, sponsored by Touch-N-Go Productions. He showed the crowd of around 70 students to the realization that they rely strongly on their parents as a source of income. How much do

you really get from them? Cunningham informed students about his three-step method to getting your finances in order, all the while fielding comments from the audience about what they spend their cash on. The first step is writing down all your income, then writing down everything you spend (from your loans to how you will eat tomorrow). Step two is organizing how much you owe and to whom. Cunningham recommends making a pyramid starting with your largest debt at the bottom going to the top (like your roommate who owes you 50 bucks). Finally, write next to the debt who you owe it to and a phone number to call them. When the debt comes due, get to know the people you owe money too by calling them. If you can not pay, they will be a lot more forgiving if they know in advance instead of simply not receiving it at all.

The last step is to pay off the debt a little at a time and invest a little at a time. His suggestion is to purchase a mutual fund and

put \$20 a week into it. If that seems impossible, Cunningham recommends re-evaluating your finances to make it possible. Can you cut out \$20 a week to invest in a mutual fund? The answer is most likely yes, but why a mutual fund and not just the stock market? Well, the stock market is a lot riskier and you end up spending tons of time out of your week checking your stocks every chance you get. With a mutual fund, you know it will go up over time and you do not have to worry about picking those companies that are going up or down. You can let someone else worry about it!

Cunningham ended the evening with four students competing for \$100. The winner was decided by a dance competition. Surprisingly, the girls were outdone in the dance competition by a guy who ended up rubbing his rear end against Cunningham, finishing with his "rob the bank" dance move. The runners up did not go away empty-handed; they got \$5 for their troubles.

Casino Night: \$1,000 in free prizes for students

Brian Case

Business Manager

The prospect of going out during Speed Weeks can be too much to handle. The crowds and increased traffic enticed many campus residents to spend their Friday Night close to home, but not alone. Touch-N-Go Productions presented a free casino night for students, offering \$1,000 in free prizes.

The event kicked off at 7:30 p.m. with free pizza and drinks. After everybody had their fill, it was time to hit the tables. Players had their choice of blackjack, Texas hold 'em poker or roulette. Each player was given \$5,000 in chips and set loose on the teams of volunteer dealers.

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, moving from table to table trying their luck at the different games. Eagles FM kept the beat with the Mobile Sounds division, spinning everything from country to metal.

Two and a half hours after the start, the players took their chips up front and cashed out. The students received tickets based on the number of chips they had, and entered to win several prizes. The prizes ranged from a 20 inch television to a handheld vacuum to a

new Embry-Riddle hat.

Not surprisingly, the television was the first prize to go. Other lucky winners claimed a 128 MB USB jump disk drive and an iPod shuffle. Other prizes included a bean bag chair, several DVDs and a three CD stereo system.

"Touch-N-Go did a really good job, I enjoyed it," said Chris Cole, a student in Aerospace Studies. Touch-N-Go had a similar success at casino night on the same weekend last year, and plans on making it an annual event.



MUJEONG YOON/AVION

STUDENTS ENJOY A GAME of Texas hold 'em poker at Friday's Casino Night. Sponsored by Touch-N-Go Productions, Casino Night enticed students trapped on campus by the Daytona 250. After over two hours of poker, roulette and blackjack, \$1,000 in prizes were raffled off to a handful of lucky students.

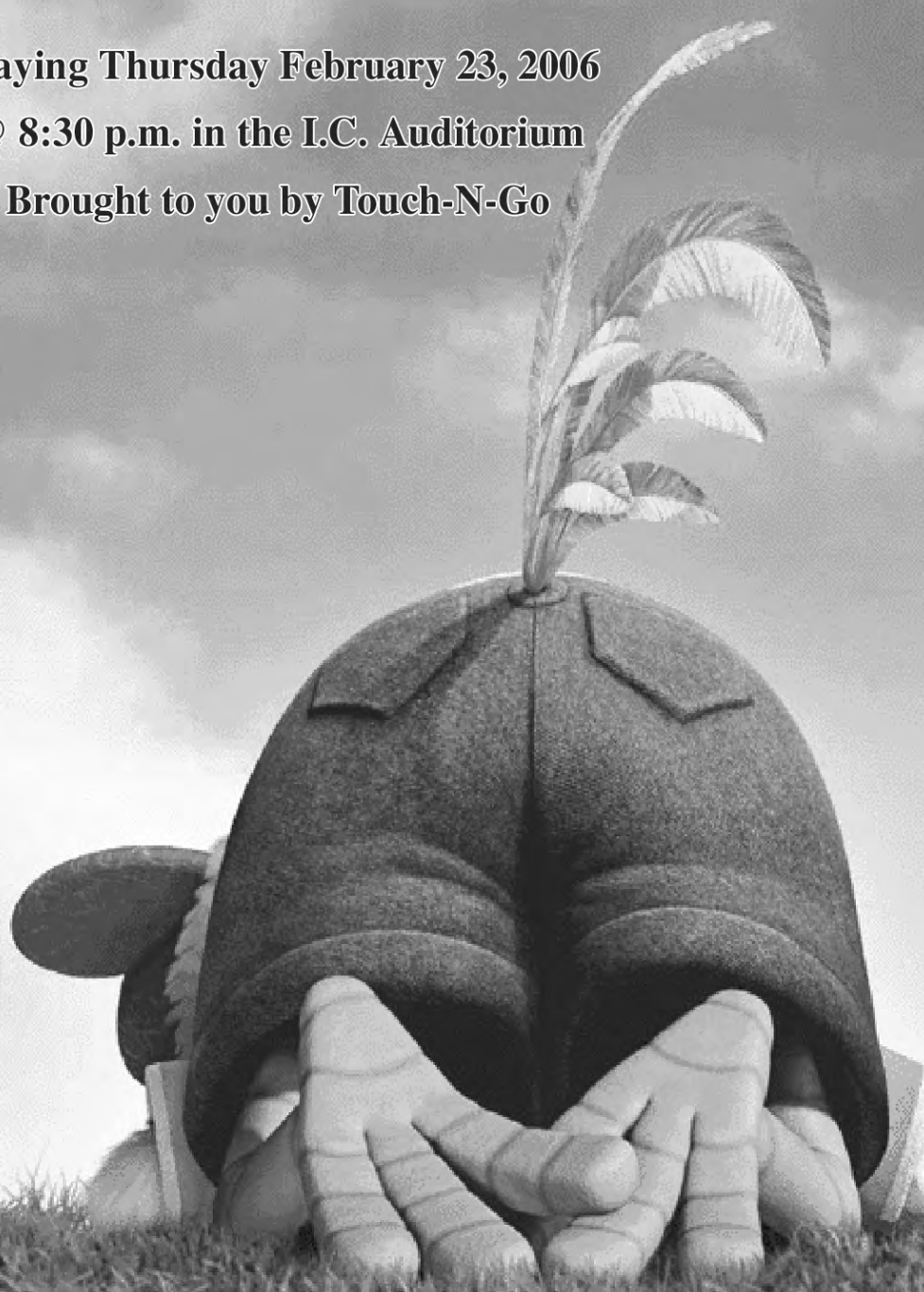
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City looks at property for new police station

David Scotland
Staff Reporter

On Wednesday the City Commission will be asked to approve the purchase of 28 acres of land at the corner of Mason Avenue and Williamson Boulevard for the construction of a new police station. The decision to build the new station out of the center of town on the west side has some wondering if this is still the same matter they voted on. The City of Daytona originally proposed the construction of a \$24 million facility on city-owned land across from the current police station. That proposal was placed on the ballot and approved in 2003. However, the city has decided

that the original site for the project is too wet and not large enough to handle the new station. The city is now planning to sell that parcel of land, where the state driver's license bureau is currently located. The hope is that the site will be purchased for commercial development.

However, statements by acting Police Chief Paul McKittrick seem to refute that hope.

"If it's not stable enough for a police station there, who is it stable for?" McKittrick said to the *Daytona Beach News-Journal*.

Local business owners have said that they are not familiar with a drainage problem in the area. Dennis Harris told the *News-Journal* that in his 17 years on nearby Orange Avenue he can not recall ever

having a flooding problem.

If the city commission approves the purchase of the 28 acre parcel for the construction of the three story, 97,000 square foot facility, it will likely cost new home buyers in Daytona. The city is looking to create a police impact fee to all new home construction in the city in order to pay the \$2 million cost of the land.

Regardless of the outcome of Wednesday's vote by the City Commission, the fate of the current police station and license bureau still remains in question. City leaders have suggested setting up a substation in the current location in order to keep at least some officers closer to the city's center, which would put some residents at ease.

Iranian nuke situation continues to confuse



PHOTO COURTESY WWW.DIGITALGLOBE.COM

IRANIAN NUCLEAR FACILITIES, LIKE this one in Esfahan, continue to cause controversy as the government claims they are for peaceful use, while other parties say they are ready to attack other nations.

Bob Scheid
News Editor

The nuclear situation in Iran has continued to move in several directions over the past week, according to news sources.

Iran released a series of press statements about their negotiations with Russia regarding the enrichment of nuclear fuel for use in power stations. The former has begun to activate its nuclear power plants for small-scale enrichment purposes, a procedure which will also produce byproducts of weapons-grade materials, and as a result Russia has volunteered to enrich the materials in that country instead of Iran.

While no agreement has yet been reached, many groups around the world are anticipating the talks. Iran has already started laying down rules, saying that it will not consider any renegotiation, but has agreed to consider the offer that the Russians are making to enrich the material there. However, they said that they would be more open to the agreement if the fuel could be enriched in both Iran and Russia.

Iran has insisted that it is pursuing a peaceful nuclear energy program and is not looking to stockpile nuclear weapons, but at the same time, other factions within the nation have a different outlook on Iran's nuclear future.

Indian news agencies said on Sunday that Iran's hard-line religious leaders have issued an edict which sanctions the use of nuclear weapons as a countermeasure against other nuclear powers which might threaten that country. One senior cleric said that it was "only natural" to use

the weapons to protect the nation against other such weapons, like the United States, but this is the first time that the traditional religious stance against the weapons has been challenged.

The edict came from a student of one of Iran's most ultra-conservative leaders, Ayatollah Mohammad Taghi Mesbah-Yazdi, who is also

considered by some to be the cleric closest to Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Also on Sunday, a group of Iranians calling themselves the Esteshadion, or Martyrdom Seekers, said that they had already trained more than 1,000 suicide bombers who are "ready to attack the

American and British sensitive points if they attack Iran's nuclear facilities," according to spokesman Mohammad Ali Samadi. They also claimed to have registered 52,000 more who "willingly are ready to defend their country."

During the press release 200 of the students were at the seminar, and Samadi gave an overview of the history of suicide bombings, complete with video clips of Palestinian attacks against Israelis in the Gaza strip. He noted that suicide bombings were one of the most effective tactics used in the confrontation.

" [We are] ready to attack the American and British ...

- THE ESTESHADION "

Cheney's errant shot victim apologizes to Vice President

"Accidents happen," says Whittington

Brian Case
Business Manager

Harry Whittington, victim of a hunting accident involving Vice President Dick Cheney, was released from the hospital Friday. During an interview following Whittington's release, he apologized for the stress his injury caused the Vice President.

"My family and I are deeply sorry for all that Vice President Cheney has had to go through this past week," Whittington said. "We send our love and respect to them as they deal with situations that are much more serious than what we've had this week"

Whittington was struck in the chest, neck and face when he was accidentally shot with a 28-gauge shotgun fired by the Vice President. The 78-year-old Whittington was treated on site by the Vice President's medical team, and then transported to a Corpus Christi hospital by helicopter. He spent several days in intensive care, and suffered a minor heart attack in the middle of the week caused by a shotgun pellet close to his heart.

The accident occurred when

Whittington separated from the group to retrieve his shot birds. He was returning to the group when a second covey of birds was discovered. Cheney shot at the birds, accidentally striking Whittington at a distance of 30 yards. Whittington failed to announce his presence as would be appropriate when returning to the group. All the hunters were wearing the appropriate orange blaze hunting vests.

"We all assume certain risks in whatever we do, whatever activities we pursue. And regardless of how experienced, careful and dedicated we are, accidents do and will happen - and that's what happened last Friday," Whittington said.

Following the accident, the Vice President made no public appearances or statements. Instead of forcing the issue into the history books, Cheney's silence combined with Whittington's heart attack to keep the issue alive in the news. Cheney broke the silence Wednesday, five days after the accident, choosing FOX News for the interview.

"It was not Harry's fault," Cheney said in his interview with FOX News. "You can't blame anybody else. I'm the guy who pulled the trigger and shot my friend."

Cheney had an out-of-state hunting license, but failed to purchase a \$7 stamp for bird hunting, a new requirement. He received an official warning, and sent a check to Texas to

cover the cost of the stamp. No other legal action was taken, or is expected against, the Vice President.

Saddam goes on hunger strike in protest

Andy Kwok
Staff Reporter

Going on a hunger strike was the latest boycott strategy announced by Saddam Hussein and his co-defendants to protest against Chief Judge Raouf Abdel-Rahman last week.

The three-hour long court session last Tuesday was once again filled with outbursts that interrupted the trial. At the session, Hussein said that he has not eaten in three days. Three of his co-defendants also declared they are going on a hunger strike.

"We have been on a hunger strike for the past three days in protest of the treatment by you and your masters," Hussein told Judge Abdel-Rahman, according to the *New York Times*.

Shouting and verbal abuse were the most frequently-used tactics employed by Hussein and his co-defendants to protest against court authorities. Abdel-Rahman said that he will end these outbursts and restore order to the trials.

However, Tuesday's session was one of the more silent sessions, with Hussein only shouting, "Long live the holy warriors!" as he entered the courtroom. He remained calm the rest of the day, only smiling and making facial expressions at those in the court including witnesses and co-defendants.



JONATHAN METTINI/AVION

THE CITY COMMISSION WILL vote tomorrow to approve the purchase of land on the corner of Mason and Williamson for a new police facility. This is the current station at the intersection of Orange and Nova.

Court: teens laughed as they beat man to death

David Scotland
Staff Reporter

According to new court documents released and reviewed by the *Daytona Beach News-Journal*, the teens involved in the murder of a homeless man last May laughed while they bludgeoned the victim to death. The 492 page document released by the State Attorney's Office includes recordings of four of the five teens speaking after their arrest about the attack of Michael Roberts in the woods off Nova Road in Holly Hill.

According to the document, 18-year-old Jeffrey Spurgeon was said to be the ringleader of the attacks by one of his accomplices. Spurgeon was also claimed to have laughed

during the three assaults on Roberts that occurred over a two hour period on the night of May 25.

The reasons for the attack are still blurred, however according to statements of one teen, while Roberts was pleading for the teens to stop, one of the members of the group is said to have told Roberts he was "in their territory." Additionally Spurgeon, after admitting to investigators that he punched the man and jumped on a log placed over his ribs, said, "I guess we were too high, and acted stupid. I wasn't trying to kill him, I just wanted to hit him...just beat him up for a little bit."

These confessions of hitting the man as well as the statements of several witnesses helped the State in their case against the teens.

Spurgeon, as well as three other

teens, all pleaded guilty to the charges of second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder during their trial in December. Each will face a life sentence for their actions. A fifth teen, and the only teen that refused to answer questions without an attorney present, is currently out on bail awaiting his trial for aggravated battery.

The sentencing hearing for the four teens charged with murder is scheduled for April 17 and will be heard by Circuit Judge Joseph Will who will determine the fate of the teens. It is clear that the judge will take into account the lack of remorse shown by the teens through their admission following the attacks, that they considered forming a club to beat up the homeless "just for being bums."

Speed Week draws to a close



FILE PHOTO/AVION

WITH THE CHECKERED FLAG waved, Daytona Beach's Speed Week ended with Jimmie Johnson emerging as the Daytona 500 winner. The city now looks forward to March, with Bike Week and Spring Break bringing even more tourists to the area.

aside from the inconsistencies in witnesses' testimonies in earlier sessions. These included the assassinations of a judge and lawyers, the withdrawal of Hussein's legal defense team from the trials and Hussein's absences from the trial sessions. The court appointed substitute defense lawyers for Hussein after his defense attorneys boycotted the proceedings and gave mandates to Hussein and his co-defendants to return to the courtroom.

Abdel-Rahman took over for his predecessor, Kurd Rizgar Mohammed Amin, who resigned last month. Ever since he served as the chief judge, defense attorneys have continuously questioned Abdel-Rahman's qualification because he was given a life sentence in the 1970s for anti-state activity, according to the Associated Press.

ABC News acquired secret tapes which contained a conversation of a voice identified as Hussein talking to his aide about his warnings to the United States before 1990 over potential terrorist threats on American soil.

"I told the Americans a long time before Aug. 2 and told the British as well and that in the future there will be terrorism with weapons of mass destruction," the man in the tape, identified as Hussein, said.

The tapes were recorded during the mid-1990s, according to ABC News.

Barzan Ibrahim, Hussein's half-brother and the former intelligence chief, again dressed in his pajamas to protest against his forced court attendance. He also brought a bottle of water with him and told judge Abdel-Rahman, "I am not your servant."

"According to my information, they had breakfast, while we did not," lead prosecutor Jaafar al-Moussawi told the *Los Angeles Times*.

When asked by the press Iraqi High Tribunal spokesman Raad Juhi did not comment about whether Hussein and his co-defendant were on a hunger strike.

The trial will resume on Feb. 28, when prosecutors will continue to build their case, charging Hussein over his involvement in the execution and imprisonment of about 150 Shiites from Dujail in 1982. Hussein and his seven codefendants could get the death penalty if convicted.

Ibrahim also testified about the incident at Dujail, which he said that he had released about 80 innocent people and apologized to each of them after acknowledging the assassination attempt on Hussein in 1982. A former provincial governor, a secretary to Hussein and an intelligence officer also gave testimonies at last Tuesday's session. They each pledged their ignorance about events that took place after the assassination attempt.

The trial also faced other numerous setbacks

Student suggests that racism persists at ERAU

First of all let me start off by congratulating the Black History Committee on doing such a spectacular job with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's first annual Black History month celebration.

They all did an amazing job in setting up and organizing this event for us to enjoy. It was a great night filled with diversity, culture, and entertainment for every student, professor, and guest speaker that was present in this important month.

Also, Congratulations, and to the Bethune Cookman College choir that was able to attend this event here on our campus and entertain us with their talent.

However, it is a shame that the majority of the people who were present in this event were minorities and we did not even have the support of many Caucasians which Embry-Riddle has.

Now I do have to say that since

this was the first annual Black History event there were not as many announcements or flyers around campus promoting this event, and maybe that's a good reason why the majority of the people who attended were minorities, and not Caucasians.

However, even if there were announcements being made, do I honestly think that more Caucasians would have shown up to support this event?

No, I don't think that many Caucasians would have shown up, and it is a shame that not even our very own SGA President Sara0 McCook did not show up to support Embry-Riddle's first annual Black History month event,

and she is supposed to know mostly everything that goes on with student activities.

For those of you who may feel out of place for being in an event like this, don't be because you will be more than welcome to join and take part of something very interesting. You will find it interesting to learn about different cultures and races, so trust me you won't feel

out of place. As some of you enter through the Lehman Building entrance you will notice a big yellow sign that says Embry-Riddle celebrates Black History month, and in front of the IC Willie Miller Center another one that says

“ I say swallow your white pride and culture yourselves ... - MICHAEL GONZALEZ ”

Embry-Riddle celebrates diversity.

However, in reality the only people that celebrate these are us minorities on campus. Not even our current President, or Chancellor showed up to give a small speech about the first annual Black History Month celebration, and the only one to show up from Spruance Hall was the Diversity Director Dr. Nancy Parker.

I also thank her for her presence at this event because she is one of the few that I think really cares and is intent on making changes to expand diversity and the female ratio on campus.

I don't know if simply Embry-Riddle does not care because even the Avion did not comment, or write anything about the event, and all that was published was a photo. Basically saying Black History Month here is a photo, and that is it.

Finally, again I just want to thank everyone that made this unique event possible that night and to all the students, professors, guest speakers, some of the fraternities that attended, NAVY ROTC, the cooks for providing us with food, and everyone else who was involved in making that night possible.

To say that this was a form of

racism occurring on campus depends on how each of you analyzes the situation, and is there racism at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University? Of course there is, everyday and there will always be racism as long as people do not change all of the negative things they have about different races.

I am not saying this to offend anyone in any way, but this goes out for those of you Caucasians who are racist and you know who you are, I say swallow your white pride and culture yourselves with diversity, you have nothing to lose.

~Michael Anthony Gonzalez

Kennedy offers response

Since my article for last week was only briefly mentioned in Mr. Noth's response, I feel I have been slightly cheated, for there was more to it than just one more retort to another unnecessary negative installation of "The Noth Factor."

In last week's article I took the time to apologize to anyone who may have thought that I came off a bit harsh in my first article. I then continued to explain the creation of "Retro Noth" as a segment used to keep up my promise of a weekly response, even during the weeks where I found Mr. Noth's complaints to be about more than trivial matters and daily nuisances.

This is why I decided to cycle back through old issues of *The Avion* and solve a problem for Mr. Noth, which I didn't take the time to do at the date of publication. However, it seems that my help to fix his past issues (no pun intended) has gone unappreciated. Therefore, I have written in this week to make a new offer.

I propose to write in a response to "The Noth Factor" only when Mr. Noth's complaints are about the inconveniences he experiences in his life and no longer will I cycle back to old problems on the instances when he does not waste his column space.

For, you see, the main purpose for my writing was to point out that there are far more important things in

the world to complain about than the operating hours of stores and messages on candy treats. With all the bad news that frequents the press showing the negative sides of humanity, there is no need for such petty complaints which, although may not add to the problem, do not offer any support to a solution. With that said, onto this past week's article.

In last week's "The Noth Factor: The Rabbit Hole," it would seem that Mr. Noth has taken a too literal approach to the film, "What the Bleep Do We Know?"

Now, I can't blame him; going to an engineering school and being a businessman tends to make one think about the practicality of things and how they can apply to the real world. However, I would just like to point out that philosophies such as the ones found in the movie are not meant to be placed into real world situations.

Thankfully the vast majority of people realize this. Just like you would not be able to close your eyes and rid yourself of a thunderstorm, imagine what a mess would occur if people attempted to "free their mind" and jump off a building after seeing "The Matrix." Therefore, I suggest that Mr. Noth not overanalyze films like these and just enjoy them for the thought-provoking cinema that they are meant to be.

~Terry Kennedy

“ There are far more important things in the world to complain about ... - TERRY KENNEDY ”

Lab instructors gone wild

Report format should reflect the industry standard

Lab instructors are, for the most part, graduate students contracted by academic departments to administer their laboratory courses. It often seems as though lab instructors have not been in a position of power before. They become consumed with this newfound power over the classroom and undergraduate students' grades.

Unfortunately, these lab instructors focus on the format of the lab report rather than the content of the lab report. Grading is based on the general formatting of the report, and students must conform to the whimsical demands of each particular lab instructor.

Thus, the first few lab reports of the semester are harshly graded as students adapt to the particular requirements of a certain instructor or syllabus.

Lab report formats should be standardized across the curriculum to reflect the industry standard. Furthermore, the communications department should develop a course that provides engineering students with the specific skills necessary to author technical

engineering documents beyond what the current technical writing course offers.

This would, in effect, allow students to focus on the engineering-related content of the laboratory rather than the formatting of the lab reports.

If change is not instituted, the students will ultimately suffer from not experiencing the demonstration of engineering principles in the laboratory experiments.

Further, lab instructors need to be more sensitive to the needs of undergraduate students who are close to graduating and may be searching for a job or a graduate program. Last week, a lab instructor told me that I was irresponsible for traveling to California to visit Stanford, UCLA and USC.

He suggested that I visit the schools during the summer break; that is simply preposterous, considering that the admissions process is in the spring.

In the grand context of my life, my trip to visit the admissions offices of these prestigious schools is far more important than writing a lab report. For the sake of principle, I will gladly accept the zero.

Lab instructors need to reflect on their roots and remember that they, too, were once undergraduate students with myriad responsibilities and diverse circumstances.

~Matt Collier

Female rebuts a Greek stereotype

Have we met? You seem to think you know me so well. From one random quote in *The Avion*, which I reluctantly gave off the top of my head saying, "It is the only way to have a good group of girlfriends on campus," you summed me up in a whole page. I can see how you can take that the wrong way, but you blew it way out of proportion.

You said that my view was "a horrendously close-minded way to go through college." I am a junior and just became a sister this semester. I've gone through most of college as a non-Greek with various friends from classes, dorms and clubs. However, none of them formed into a single group to hang out with; I was actually being too diverse.

Being an aerospace engineer with little time and living off campus has decreased my opportunities to make a group of friends.

Therefore, after having people urging me for a few semesters to join a sorority, I reluctantly joined. I had preconceived notions about what being a sorority girl was, but I was open-minded enough to give it a chance.

At least on this campus, they are nothing like the stereotype that you so often pegged them to

be in your response.

You say you are friends with Greek girls to cover your back, yet you bash them by using phrases such as "spirit rock paint fumes affected me" and claiming that I would only talk to people who "wear the same shirt every Friday as [I do], or go to weekly meetings."

As my fellow rocket club member pointed out, pretty much every club has shirts and meets weekly, because that is what groups do.

You said you were worried about how I formed such negative opinions about my fellow classmates. Well, I haven't. I think maybe you have, though. I don't know what this

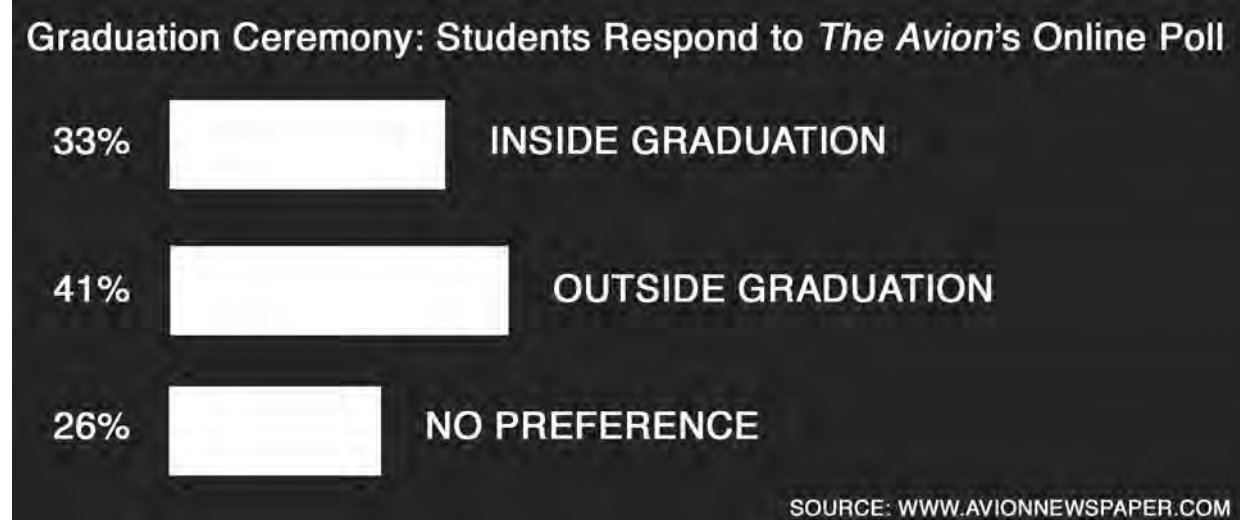
bad reputation ERAU girls have that I'm apparently adding to, nor did I ever say that non-Greeks aren't trustworthy. Many of my closest friends, including my roommate of three years, are not Greek.

You said I must have had a horrible experience in order to say such a thing. I'd really like to know what happened to me, because I have no idea what you are talking about. Enlighten me, please.

You should be the one getting to know someone before jumping to conclusions.

~Jacklyn Duff

“ I'd really like to know what happened to me ... - JACKLYN DUFF ”



THE NOTH FACTOR

When I think "a real American hero," I don't so much think of the cartoon character as the implied personality, an American soldier. For its short history, America's military has always been a proud, polished regiment, recognized for thorough and rigorous training and relentless courage.

Imagine, then, my disappointment in reading a Feb. 15 *Wall Street Journal* article that detailed the U.S. Army's plans and actions in softening boot camp.

As author Greg Jaffe notes, boot camp is best known for its "shark attack," and other events in which drill sergeants sort the weak from the able and "turn psychologically soft civilians into hardened soldiers." Admittedly, this does not sound like fun, but it

does sound appropriate.

Because it has been missing recruiting goals, the Army has been working to lower its boot camp fail rate. By softening its approach, the Army has reduced its fail rate by 7 percent (down from 18 percent to 11 percent). Col. Edward Daly said, "The idea is to get rid of the anxiety and worry."

Sgt. Maj. William McDaniel explains the changes, saying, "Before, our drill sergeants' attitude was, 'You better meet my standard or else.' Now it's 'I am going to do all I can to assist you in meeting the Army standard.'"

According to the article, new recruits get more time to sleep, more food to eat, and more personal time.

Army softens its approach

It seems that in its planning, the Army forgot that it is training **SOLDIERS for WAR**. Personal time and extra sleep is great, unless you're being fired at by enemy combatants and scanning for roadside bombs.

As an American, while I disagree with our war in Iraq, I am still very interested in winning the war.

We cannot soften the requirements for our troops; those that fail fail for a reason - they are not prepared for the battlefield.

Among other changes, the Army has cut the amount of running troops do in boot camp by more than 60 percent in the last three years. Now, privates are doing calisthenics and stretching instead of the running. Army physician

Col. Greg Jolissaint said, "A lot of these kids have never done P.E. or sports. We were injuring too many by running too much."

As someone registered for selective service, I can say definitely, I am not interested, when push comes to shove, serving with someone that cannot handle the physical demands of wartime conflict. The fact that privates enter boot camp unprepared for the Army's needs is precisely why they arrive at boot camp in the first place.

Staff Sgt. Clayton Nagel of Fort Leonard Wood put it best, "If the privates can't handle the stress of a drill sergeant yelling at them, how will they handle the stress of bullets flying over their head?"

~Christopher Noth

Student Forum

The Avion asks: "What do you do to escape the races?"

—Compiled by Don Macanlalay



Jon Rossman
Aerospace Engineering
Junior

"I am working there; I can't."



Juan Salinas
Aerospace Engineering
Freshman

"It is too crowded. I go to Orlando."



Seth Chagnon
A & P
Freshman

"Mardi Gras ..."



Tyler Rodriguez
Aerospace Studies
Junior

"I build a fort with my pillows and blankets."



Daniella Riberio
Aviation Business
Sophomore

"I don't have a car, so I am stuck."



Kateryna Baran
Business Administration
Masters Student

"I head back to Melbourne."

Ridder earns 400th win, Eagles ready for playoffs

Phil Larson
Sports Editor

DAYTONABEACH - When Steve Ridder became Embry-Riddle's men's basketball head coach 17 years ago, no one could have predicted he would win 400 games in his Eagle career. However, after Wednesday night's 76-66 victory over rival Flagler College, Ridder can be proud of something that most of his peers are only able to achieve in their dreams.

The historic game for Ridder, whose career mark is now 400-163 (.710 winning percentage), was special for other reasons. It was senior night as well as the regular-season home finale for the No. 1-ranked NAIA Division II Eagles, who improved their overall record to 28-3.

Before the game, seniors Jake Pickett, Jared Bender, Ben Witherspoon, and Michael Pyle—along with student manager Nate Rhoades—were escorted to center court by their parents as part of senior night ceremonies and were honored by Coach Ridder.

With all the distractions surrounding the contest, it would not have been surprising to see the Eagle's come out flat.

However, it wasn't the distractions early on that ended up worrying the full house of fans, coaches, and players at the ICI Center.

In the opening minutes of the game, three point specialist Ryan Exter left with an ankle injury after stepping on an official's foot. Exter never returned from the injury, but Pyle, as he has done all year, picked up the slack to lead the Eagles to the victory.

The first half was a back and forth battle lacking rhythm from either team. There were several lead changes, but late in the half the Saints went on a scoring run to take a 34-29 lead into the locker room.

Pyle provided the much-needed spark in the second half. The senior forward turned up his game as 16 of his 27 points came after the break.

His second half resurgence helped lead the Eagles to a 15-6 run to retake the lead 44-42. He finished 11-15 from the field with

the majority of his points coming from close range.

Junior guard Denny Joseph, along with Pyle, had nine rebounds.

After exchanging possessions for a while, an 8-0 Eagle run with about 10 minutes remaining put the Eagles on top.

Layups from Joseph, Pyle, and junior center Nick Miller as well as a pair of free throws from senior guard Witherspoon gave the Eagles the lead for good; Flagler never came within four points of the lead for the remainder of the game.

Miller notched the only double-double for the Eagles by controlling the boards all night long, leading both teams with 14 rebounds and also adding 14 points.

After gaining the lead in the second-half, the Eagles fended off many Flagler attempts to cut into the deficit. It was a game defined by scoring runs, seldom materializing for the Saints, but seemingly plentiful for the Eagles.

With about two minutes remaining, a 70-60 Eagles' lead put pressure on Flagler to make a final push to close the scoring gap. However, a plethora of wild three point attempts, disorganized offense, and thoughtless fouls combined with Embry-Riddle's stubborn defense stifled any sort of a Saints comeback.

Pyle showed why he was an All-American last year, and Miller's importance under the basket was essential in the Eagles' victory. Joseph added 12 points off the bench, and senior guard Jake Pickett added 11.

The loss of Exter to injury early in the game was obvious as the Eagles were 1-9 from three-point land in the first half and ended up 3-20 for the entire game.

Now that he has surpassed the 400-win mark, Ridder can focus on preparing his No. 1 ranked squad for the upcoming Florida Sun Conference Tournament which Embry-Riddle will host in the ICI Center.

The semifinals begin at 6 p.m. on Feb. 24 with #2-seed Florida Memorial facing the winner of #3-seed Savannah College of Art and Design vs. #6-seed Flagler which will play on Tuesday, Feb. 21 in Savannah, Ga.



ERAU HEAD BASKETBALL COACH Steve Ridder was honored after Wednesday's victory because it was his 400th career win as the Eagles' coach. Chancellor Tom Connolly (left) speaks after the game as Ridder and his wife look on. Ridder became Embry-Riddle's head basketball coach 17 years ago, and his career mark is now 400-163 (.710 winning percentage).

The second semifinal is at 8 p.m. with the #1-seed Eagles taking on the winner of #4-seed Webber International vs. #5-seed Warner Southern which also play Tuesday, Feb. 21 in Babson Park, Fla.

“BASEBALL” from Front

Williams took to the mound on Friday, pitching a complete nine-inning game for a 9-3 Eagles win. Along the way Williams

struck out nine, walked zero and gave up eight hits.

On the offensive side, right fielder Derrick Pyles went 3-for-5 with three stolen bases, a walk, three runs and two RBIs while second baseman Kevin Ferreiro went 3-for-4 with a walk, a run and two RBIs. Williams walked in four of his five plate appearances, helping the Eagles tie a single-game record with 14 bases on balls during the night. Smith and center fielder Josh Doane each had three walks to their name.

Pitcher Brian Letko stole the show at Saturday's doubleheader, earning the win in both games. In game one, Letko relieved starter David Timm with the score knotted at one with two out in the seventh inning of game one, striking out the batter and sending the game into extra innings (note: each game in a doubleheader is played to seven innings rather than the usual nine). After the Eagles plated a run in the top of the eighth, Letko held the Seahawks scoreless to seal the 2-1 win.

Steven Otterness started the second game, but ran into trouble early, walking three Seahawks. Although the Eagles were up 2-0 thanks to a Pyles solo homer and Padilla driving in Williams with a double, ERAU head coach Greg Guillemin gave Letko the ball one out into the frame, and after giving up an RBI single held Northwood scoreless for four innings, during which the Eagles scored three, thanks in part to a Doane two-run shot over the left-field fence.

The Seahawks tagged Smith, who came to the mound in relief in the sixth, for two runs after Seahawk catcher Adonay Suarez hit a home run with a man on, but Smith managed to close out the game with no further damage to preserve the 5-3 win.

The Eagles return to the diamond Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. to host Thomas in a doubleheader before SCAD comes to Sliwa Stadium on Friday to begin a three-game conference series.



SOPHOMORE PITCHER CHRIS MALONEY delivers to the plate during Tuesday's action versus Edward Waters. Maloney earned his first victory of the season, working five innings and giving up only three hits.

Women's golf grabs top spot at invitational

Press Release

ERAU Sports Info. Dept.

The No. 2 ranked Lady Eagles golf team battled fierce weather to conquer the top spot at the NCAA Division II/NAIA-AASU/SCAD Invitational this past weekend in Savannah, Ga. at the 5,797 yard par 72 Southbridge Golf Course.

Senior and co-captain Sara McCook took second place, falling by one stroke to SCAD's Hallie Cochran. After an hour and a half frost delay, the teams took to the course, battling bitter cold temperatures and fierce wind.

The Eagles finished strong the first day, shooting a 336, with

SCAD closely behind, shooting 339. McCook led the field, shooting a five over par 77, freshman Anna Hollar was in fifth with an 83, Sophomore Autumn Gee shared twelfth with an 87, Senior Natalie Garza tied for eighteenth carding an 89 while Freshmen Jocelyn Dunn recorded a 97.

The second day proved to be a good day for the Eagles. Temperatures were up, and the team was ready to extend their lead. McCook fell short to SCAD's Hallie Cochran by one stroke, posting a 158 (77-81) alongside Armstrong Atlantic's Gretchen McLeod for second place.

The Eagles posted their second win of the 2005-2006 season

beating three NCAA Division II schools with a tournament total of 659. NAIA teams took the 1-2-3 spots with SCAD finishing second with 670 and Northwood posting a 689.

Freshman Anna Hollar finished fifth, shooting a 162 (83-79), and sophomore Autumn Gee carded a 165 (87-78) finished eighth. Senior Natalie Garza finished thirteenth, shooting 89-85 for a 174. Freshman Jocelyn Dunn finished with a 184 (97-87) with a twenty-eighth place ending.

The Eagles will face a tough field this weekend at the Bethune-Cookman Coca-Cola invitational at Indigo Golf Course in Daytona Beach.

Intramural Sports Corner

Softball Results

We Get Lucky 7 vs. Down & Dirty 12
Boozers II 22 vs. Riddle Renegade 9
4 Balls No Can Walk 9 vs. In Rage We Trust 0
(10 forfeits)

Basketball Results

Round Two 37 vs. Whippersnappers 70
Black Knights 62 vs. Capt. 41
Navy 56 vs. Free Ballers (Ryan) 16
Shut Em Down 46 vs. AA 46
Facility Jammers 33 vs. Staff Illustrated 44
Malibu's Most Wanted 31 vs. Let It Rain 58
AHP 43 vs. FDQ 14
SC 45 vs. Skins 64
DBCC-Get Crunk Boys 48 vs. Buckeyes 49
Direct Drive 60 vs. Sr. 20
DBCC-Sir Buckets 70 vs. Freeballers (Claude) 37
(1 forfeit)

Basketball Top Ten Rankings

- 1) Black Knights
- 2) Buckeyes
- 3) AHP
- 4) DBCC-Sir Buckets
- 5) Let It Rain
- 6) AA
- 7) PKA
- 8) Navy
- 9) Shut Em Down
- 10) Sr.

Soccer Top Ten Rankings

- 1) ASA
- 2) Astericos United
- 3) AFRTOC
- 4) NROTC
- 5) SC
- 6) Doolittle Pigeons
- 7) DN
- 8) Internationals
- 9) Player Haters '87
- 10) Scuderia Mckay

Cobb sets two school records

Press Release

ERAU Sports Info. Dept.

CLERMONT - Toshiba Cobb became the first female runner in Embry-Riddle track history to qualify as an individual for the NAIA National Indoor meet, as the Eagle men and women competed at the Winter Sun #2 meet held at the National Training Center in Clermont, Fla. Cobb (pictured right), who set two school records on Saturday, met the NAIA's "A" standard in the 60m dash with a school record 7.90 and set a new school mark in the 200m (22.32).

The men's distance medley relay team also hit the "A" standard, taking first place in 10:23.83.

Seven other Eagle records fell on Saturday, including Drew Moses' 7.05 in the 60m, Owen Omoregie's 22.32 in the 200m, Corey Grafe's 49.49 in the 400m, Bridget Brown's 1:41.67 in the 600m, Beth McCubbin's 3:07.55 in the 1,000m and Audie Meyer's 16'6" in the long jump.

Moses, Omoregie, Grafe, Brown and McCubbin each met the NAIA's "B" standard in their respective events along with the men's 4x400m relay team, which qualified in 4:21.51.



PHOTO COURTESY EMBRYRIDDESPORTS.COM

Huge lightning storm roams Saturn's atmosphere



PHOTO COURTESY LIGHTNINGSAFETY.NOAA.GOV

Eamon Cullen
Guest Reporter

Despite the difficulties of pinning-down exactly what time it will rain tomorrow here on Earth, technology has advanced enough to measure electrical storms on a planet over 800 million miles away.

A massive electrical storm on Saturn, first

spotted Jan. 23, is putting on quite a show for astronomers worldwide.

Larger than the size of the continental United States, the storm is about 2,175 miles wide, and its electrical activity is nearly 1,000 times stronger than the strength of the lightning normally found here on Earth.

Detected using the Cassini spacecraft orbiting Saturn since last year, the

presence of the storm was verified visibly by astronomers on the ground.

The area of electrical activity occurs in a region of the southern hemisphere known to scientists as "storm alley," due to the high level of storms that frequent that location. The latitude of the area of interest is the same as the "Dragon Storm," another storm of similar size and ferocity that took place in 2004.

While it is unclear how the storm originated, it is possible that this storm may be a re-emergence of the "Dragon Storm," or it could be a completely new storm altogether. The cause of this activity could be related to the warm interior of Saturn, but planetary scientists are unsure. In the coming weeks, Cassini will be passing over the area again, and more information about the storm will be available at that time.

Daytona 500 adds a touch of aviation



ADAM WRIGHT/AVION

DAYTONA 500 SPECTATORS AND Embry-Riddle students alike were treated to a flyover of a B-1B Lancer before the season-opening race began. Many students were able to catch the flyby as they "worked" the races, fundraising for clubs and other organizations on campus. The races provide a large amount of funds for many clubs at ERAU. The flyover also included three F-22 Raptors, followed by the National Anthem performed by Fergie of The Black Eyed Peas.

Bald Eagle expected to be removed from endangered species list

Bob Scheid
News Editor

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has begun a series of steps to remove the bald eagle from the federally protected species list after a dramatic recovery in the past few decades.

A species that once had only 417 nesting pairs in 1963, after years of DDT pollution and loss of habitat, now has an estimated 7,066 nesting pairs in the wild. This is largely due to its addition to the Bald Eagle Protection Act, later amended to include golden eagles as well. Now renamed the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA), which, starting in 1940, began laying down laws and raising awareness of the problem.

However, continuing declines in the populations throughout the country caused the birds to be added to the Endangered Species Act in 1967. DDT was banned in 1972, and more efforts in that decade caused the eagle population to rise rapidly.

By 1995, the population had recovered enough to be considered "threatened" instead of "endangered" in most states; before 2000, all five regional recovery plans that were set down for the recovery of the populations have surpassed their criteria for removing the bald eagle from the endangered species list.

In 1999, the Service first opened its plan for removing the bald eagle from the list to public debate, and that debate has been reopened as a precursor to taking action. Also, before the bald eagle can be delisted, some legal terminology must be worked out involving the word "disturb," as in disturbing the mating practices, nests, feeding, sheltering, or other acts of the eagles in their habitat.

After the species is delisted, it will remain under observation by state and federal services to check for any problems with the population, and the Service may opt to recommend it for "Endangered" status again if it appears necessary. Also, the BGEPA and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act will both continue to protect the bald eagle and their eggs and nests without any interruption.



PHOTO COURTESY ALASKA.FWS.GOV

Scientists find surprising motion in distant system

Bob Scheid
News Editor

Recent observations carried out by the Very Large Array (VLA) radio telescope indicate that a forming solar system may have a dust cloud around it that rotates in two directions at once.

Anthony Remijan, of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, and his partner, Jan Hollis of NASA's Goddard Spaceflight Center, worked together to compare new data from the VLA and older data of the same star, which lies in the direction of the constellation Ophiuchus. Past observations have concentrated on the outer part of the star's disk, while the new measurements were taken of the material closer to the star.

The observations concentrated mainly on watching silicon monoxide molecules within the dust cloud and watching their Doppler shift as the disk rotated. Upon analysis, Remijan and Hollis found that the clouds moved in opposing directions.

"This is the first time anyone has seen anything like this, and it means that the process of forming planets is more complex than we previously expected," Remijan said in a news release.

"At the same time," Hollis noted, "this has occurred in many other instances in many size scales. It is not surprising to find counter-rotation in a protostellar disk since the phenomenon has been previously reported in the disks of galaxies."

The location of the star may offer an insight as to why this occurred. The protosystem is in a large stellar-formation area, with many different dust clouds moving in different directions. Remijan suggested, "This system may have gotten material from two clouds instead of just one, and the two were rotating in opposite directions."

Hollis added, "The solar system that likely will be formed around this star will include planets orbiting in two different directions." This is in contrast to our solar system, in which all known planets orbit in a single direction.

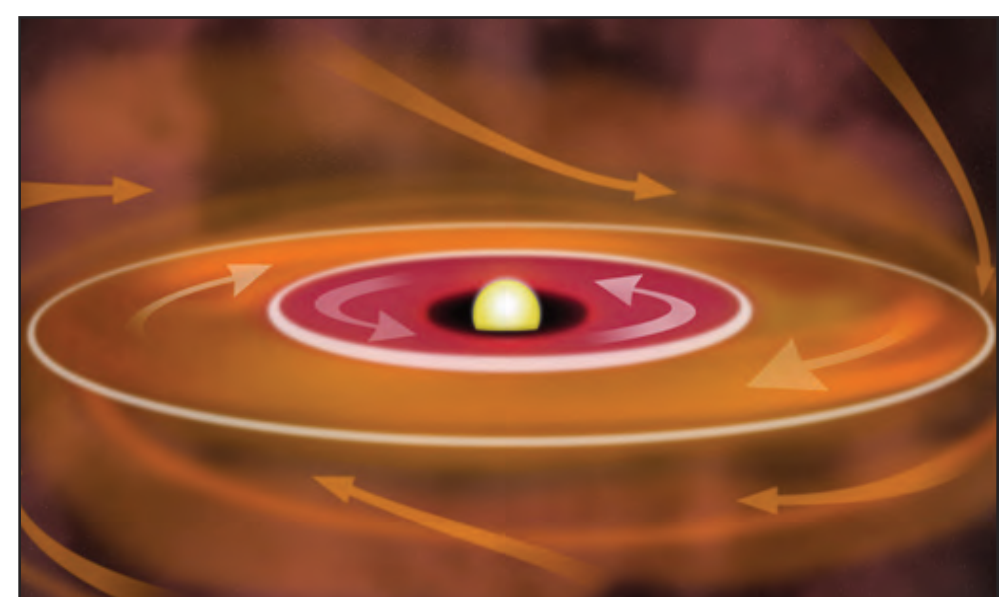


IMAGE COURTESY WWW.NASA.GOV

THE STAR IN A newly-forming solar system was recently discovered to have an accretion disk that rotates in two opposing directions. Planets that form around this star will revolve in different directions, depending on the distance from the star.

First astronaut class for the Vision for Space Exploration

NASA graduates two pilots, nine specialists

Nicole Titus
Staff Reporter

After 18 months of intense training, NASA's 2004 candidates are officially astronauts. In a graduation ceremony last Friday, the class of 11, including three educator astronauts, received their NASA astronaut pins.

This is the first astronaut class to be focused from the beginning on fulfilling the Vision for Space Exploration.

According to Kent Rominger, chief of the Astronaut Office, "This class has done an outstanding job. I look forward to the day when they venture into space as our next

generation of explorers."

This group of astronauts was selected in May 2004. They immediately reported to NASA's Johnson Space Center, Houston to begin training. Most of their training included water and land survival courses, space shuttle systems training, space station training, and T-38 flight instruction. Along with all of this, the class also completed numerous flight evaluations and qualifying exams. Now that they are officially astronauts, they will join the rest of the astronaut corps in supporting space flight in technical roles and pursuing more specialized training for upcoming assignments.

The new class includes nine mission specialists, of which three were selected from teachers across the nation. A shuttle pilot and an "exploration" pilot were also amid the class of 11.

According to the NASA website, the new astronaut class is comprised of two pilots: Randy Bresnik, 36, who was an F/A-18 pilot with the third Marine Aircraft Wing in San

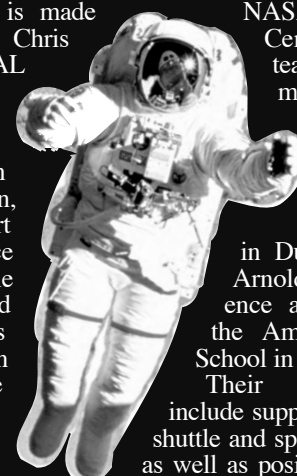
Diego, California; and Jim Dutton, 35, a major in the U.S. Air Force whose most recent assignment was as an F/A-22 test pilot at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

The rest of the class is made up of mission specialists. Chris Cassidy, 34, is a Navy SEAL who has done two tours of duty in Afghanistan. Jose Hernandez, 41, was an engineer at Johnson Space Center in Houston, and helped to support space shuttle and space station missions. Shane Kimbrough, 36, worked for NASA in Houston as an engineer helping to train astronauts how to land the space shuttle. Dr. Tom Marshburn, 43, is a medical doctor and worked at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston as a flight surgeon. Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger, 29, was a science teacher at Hudson's Bay High School in Vancouver, Washington. Bobby Satcher, 38,

was an orthopedic surgeon at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago and also holds a doctorate in chemical engineering. Shannon Walker, 38, formerly worked at NASA's Johnson Space Center managing a team of engineers that monitors the health of the space station.

Joe Acaba, 36, taught seventh and eighth grade science and math in Dunnellon, Fla. Ricky Arnold, 40, taught science and math classes at the American International School in Bucharest, Romania. Their immediate duties include support roles in the space shuttle and space station programs, as well as positions in robotics and spaceflight medicine.

Three Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronauts trained alongside the NASA candidates. They, too, will join the rest of the corps with technical work.



Olympians look to Lunar Alps

Darrin O'Brady
Special to The Avion

Every four years the Winter Olympics is held somewhere on Earth. Cities put in bids for hosting the event usually eight years in advance. Sometime in the future, the Moon may be in the running to host the winter games. A group of U.S. athletes have teamed up with NASA to produce 30-60 second clips that explore the "what-ifs" of hosting competitions like snowboarding and skiing on the Moon.

For example, Olympic gold medalist Eric Bergoust won gold at the 1998 Nagano Olympic games by being one of the first skiers to pull off a quad-twist triple-flip- four twists and three flips in mid-air. On Earth, he has about three seconds to complete that maneuver. On the Moon, his hang time will be jaw-dropping seven seconds.

"I might be able to double my quad-triple," said Bergoust. "Let's see, that would be an octuple-twist sextuple flip." A NASA online article jokes that wiping-out would be so bad since crashes would happen in slow motion. "U.S. Olympic athletes are helping to educate our youth by comparing the physics of sports with the physics of space exploration," said Phil West, NASA's Johnson Space Center acting director of education. "We hope parents and teachers will use the clips to interest teens in math and science, because America will need them to become tomorrow's inventors." Snowboarders Hannah Teter, Kier Dillon, and bobsledder Todd Hays are also featured in their own educational clips.

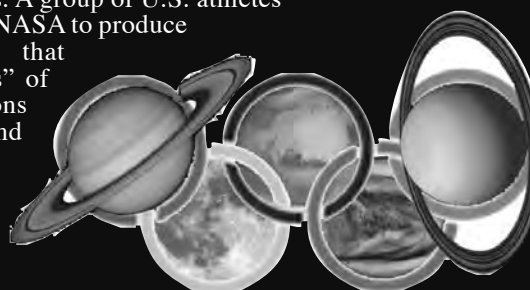
If the Moon was ever actually considered to host the Winter Olympics, there is already a great location picked out. On Earth, since the modern Olympics began in 1896, most of the winter games have been

held in the Alps. So the most likely location would be the Lunar Alps. The perfect spot for the Olympic village would be the crater Plato. According to a NASA online article, "it's flat-bottomed and filled with raw materials for building stadia and habitats."

The main problems with potentially holding the games on the Moon, moon-dust is not soft and slippery like snow. It is composed of fragments of glass and rock from years and years of meteoroids colliding with the moon.

Moon-dust will need to be formed into ramps and kickers (jumps), but it is too dry. Water could not be used to compact the dust because water instantly vaporizes in the vacuum of space. If scientists blast microwaves at the dust, they might melt it and allow Olympic workers to mold it into kickers. Also, when skiers land, it will spray dust upwards, covering their suits, causing the suits to overheat and/or cut into seals causing leaks. Suits might be useless after a single run.

Science@NASA will publish a series of stories exploring the physics of low-gravity Olympics.



Japanese launch observation satellite



PHOTO COURTESY JAXA.JP

JAPAN'S MTSAT-2 EARTH-WATCHING satellite launched into orbit atop an H-2A rocket in a Feb. 18, 2006 take off from Tanegashima Space Center.

EchoStar X sat. launched

Brian Case
Business Manager

It was a great success for Sea Launch Wednesday, when the EchoStar X satellite was launched from the equator in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

Sea Launch is a multi-national coalition of private companies like Boeing formed in 1995 to meet demand for commercial satellite launches. The advantage of Sea Launch's floating launch platform is its position. Sea Launch is

positioned on the equator, providing the shortest distance to the equatorial orbits used by communication satellites. The unique position translates into higher payloads for customers like XM and DirecTV. That higher payload often comes in the form of fuel for maneuvering, extending a satellite's life compared to a traditional land-based launch.

Wednesday's launch was an EchoStar X communication satellite owned by Dish Network, a satellite television company. The nearly five ton spacecraft was

built by Lockheed Martin, and is designed to last past 2020. Ninety minutes later, the satellite was in position right on target.

Last week's success was the seventeenth success for Sea Launch after a high profile failure in 2000. The ICO F-1 communications satellite was only the second commercial launch from the Sea Launch platform. An anomaly in the second stage of the rocket caused the mission to fail. Since then, Sea Launch has had nothing but success, launching four satellites in 2005.

FAA proposes to collect user fees from GA pilots

Michael McGraw
Staff Reporter

General aviation leaders fear that pilots could be seeing user fees tacked on to their receipts after taking a flight if it's under Instrument Flight Rules. The fear stems from an impending Federal Aviation Administration funding proposal that will be sent to Congress some time this spring.

Officials at both the FAA and Department of Transportation have mentioned that a change in the way the FAA is funded is necessary. DOT Secretary Norman Mineta has stated that "a more stable and predictable revenue stream" is needed for the growing aviation system. According to Mineta, this revenue stream should be one that "creates a more direct relationship between revenues collected and services provided."

However, these allusions to user fees are facing stiff criticism from groups such as the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA), the National Business Aircraft Association (NBAA), the National Air Transportation Association (NATA), and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). On the other hand, the Air Transport Association

(ATA), which represents the commercial airlines, has come out in favor of user fees, claiming that general aviation does not pay their fair share into the system.

Pete Bunce, president and CEO of GAMA, has questioned why the Administration would seek to drop a system that is efficient and relatively inexpensive. He has also pointed out safety concerns, citing New Zealand, where pilots have been killed when flying in under visual flight rules in marginal weather conditions. Bunce also argued that the FAA should first determine its long-term needs prior to asking for more money.

The NBAA has also come out against user fees, stating that general aviation has always contributed financially to the national aviation system. They cite the fuel tax that was created with the Airport/Airways Trust Fund, noting that general aviation and corporate aviation pay their federal taxes at the pump. The NBAA claims that this scheme, in which jet fuel is taxed 21.9 cents per gallon and aviation gas is taxed 19.4 cents per gallon, is more efficient because the taxes are transferred directly to the government and do not require a large bureaucracy for collection.

Both NATA and AOPA have also expressed their opposition. James

Coyne, president of NATA, has argued that any change to the funding scheme should not occur until the air traffic control system is overhauled by the government. Coyne also questioned whether a funding crisis really exists, or if the FAA simply needs to get costs under control. AOPA president Phil Boyer has said that he will oppose any proposal that introduces user fees.

James May, president and CEO of the Air Transport Association, supports the implementation of user fees. He claims that the current FAA funding system is obsolete and unpredictable. May states that planning for operational and technological modernization is not efficient because the FAA does not know how much it will receive from the government from one year to the next.

The ATA does, however, support an exemption on general aviation pilots operating under Visual Flight Rules out of uncontrolled fields, considering that they do not use the same air-traffic resources as airlines.

It will still be some time before the actual proposal makes its way into the hands of Congress. Currently it is under review by the Office of Management and Budget, but when it will be released to Congress has yet to be determined.

NASA's public affairs policies scrutinized, revisions on way

Nicole Titus
Staff Reporter

NASA is revising its public affairs policies following the allegations that political appointees tried to suppress the agency's top climatologist, James Hansen, who is known for speaking his mind about global warming.

Despite the resignation of NASA press aide George Deutsch, the 24-year-old who claimed to be a journalism graduate from Texas A&M University, NASA Administrator Mike Griffin said that scrutiny of the agency's communications policies and procedures would continue.

Hansen, the director of the New York-based Goddard Institute for

Space Studies recently claimed to the *New York Times* that administration appointees had tried to get him to tone down his statements about the dangers of global warming.

The newspaper reported that Deutsch has tried to prevent Hansen from giving an interview to National Public Radio, calling it "the most liberal" media outlet in the country.

Deutsch was also connected to a headquarters advisory committee in October that insisted that the word "theory" be added after every reference to the Big Bang.

"There are people other than George Deutsch, both political and career, who had mishandled matters concerning Hansen and perhaps other scientists," David Goldston, NASA's

Science Committee Staff Director said. "But again NASA is not taking a case-closed attitude toward this and they are doing exactly what we would hope and expect. The chairman has spoken directly to the administrator and deputy administrator about this and both of them have the same exact attitude as we do about openness and they're doing exactly what they should be doing."

According to Griffin, "The job of the Office of Public Affairs, at every level in NASA, is to convey the work done at NASA to our stakeholders in an intelligible way. It is not the job of public affairs officers to alter, filter or adjust engineering or scientific material produced by NASA's technical staff."

Street Fighter review Open source develops

Tommy Chen
Staff Reporter

Eight years ago, Capcom brought us "Street Fighter Alpha 3" to the arcades. "Street Fighter Alpha 3" has been arguably one of the best in the series. Street fighter Alpha 3 has stood the test of time and proves 2D games are just as enjoyable a 3D games. It has seen ports on the Playstation, Dreamcast and the Gameboy Advance. Now, it is available on the PSP in an updated portable package.

The game is a perfect port of the original with additions that were found on the PS1 and Dreamcast versions. To be honest, when you first start up the game, it can be a little overwhelming going through the start menu because of the sheer amount of gameplay options you can choose from.

There is the addition of various new gameplay modes and one example is "VS 100 Kumite," where you fight through 100 opponents and try to get as many wins as possible. Also, this version

includes four additional characters from the original roster; Yun (SF3), Eagle and Maki (Capcom Vs. SNK 2) and Ingrid from "Capcom Fighting Evolution."

The game plays just the same as before and runs very smooth; slow-down is practically nonexistent and loading is relatively quick. The six button layout of the PSP's controls are perfect for the game, but the same cannot be said about the d-pad or analog nub used to put in the directional input which can seriously hinder gameplay. The d-pad has poor response so it makes doing the moves that require the dragon punch motion feel very random, and the analog nub feels too awkward even though it makes some of the moves easier to execute.

With the control issues aside, the visual and audio department is where the game really excels. The character sprites look superb on the PSP's screen, nothing looks blurry or scaled down like its GBA counterpart. The animations are as smooth as they were for the arcade/consoles. The soundtrack of the game is simply

awesome; all the character/stage themes are easily recognizable. Every beat is clearly defined on the PSP's small speakers.

Overall, the game is a great remake of the original to those who have never played it before when it was out in arcades. The full potential is limited due to the control issues of the PSP hardware, but that can easily be fixed by modding your PSP. Give the game a chance even with the control problems because if you can get past that it is going to be one of the best 2D fighting games you ever played.

SFA 3 (PSP)

□ Gameplay:	10.0
□ Controls:	7.0
□ Graphics:	9.0
□ Concept:	8.0
□ Overall:	8.5

Charlene Valerio

Science & Technology Editor

Open source gaming, though not prominent in games out in the market, has developed significantly over the past few years.

Open Source (OS) refers to the games and software whose source code is open to the public. One of the advantages to having open source games and software is it helps further the development of the game. Innovations in games usually begin with aspiring developers' efforts to improve an existing open source game with several modifications ("mods") and cheats, or with the creation of a game from scratch. However, a majority of open source games that have developed are poorly done and lack the advanced programming and graphic design typical of professionals who develop games for gaming companies such as Sierra.

The primary reason for this is the fact that games developed by companies are the result of the collaborative efforts of writers, graphic artists, and programmers to name a few. Open source games are usually a one-man effort.

Currently, efforts are underway to have that same team effort available to aspiring open source game creators through the Internet. On the Internet, these people can work together towards a common gaming project via forums where they can share ideas, files, and answer each other's problems when having trouble in the development of a game. Websites such as Linux Game Tome try to cultivate this by assigning a "Game of the Month," where developers attempt to improve a selected open-source game.

Gaming companies are also starting to catch onto the idea of OS gaming, too. Though it would be unlikely that companies would reveal their source code

and gaming engines, most of the games that have been released with the past year have opened themselves up to user-designed modifications and cheats. Companies have seen a plethora of these modifications and cheats created by game users, such as the characters' improvement and development in popular games such as "The Sims," "Counter-Strike," and "Unreal Tournament."

Warren Spector, a leading game developer, states, "For one thing, with schedules getting longer and longer, releasing your tools and letting players create new scenarios and stories for you keeps players interested in your title during the long wait, rather than moving on to some other game."

With the increase in interest for OS gaming and user-defined content from both the corporate side and end-user side of the spectrum, a new generation in gaming lies in the future.

Computer kills arcade star

Andrew Kreshock
Staff Reporter

The arcades of the future are no longer coin-operated machines where you pick up a gun and shoot computer-generated opponents. These big honking machines have been replaced with personal computers specialized for gaming. These gaming centers offer high-speed Internet not offered at home for city kids and are a way of getting out of their parents' hair while in an environment with their peers. With gaming becoming a \$30 billion business, you need a new generation of arcades, one that links with other arcades across the country.

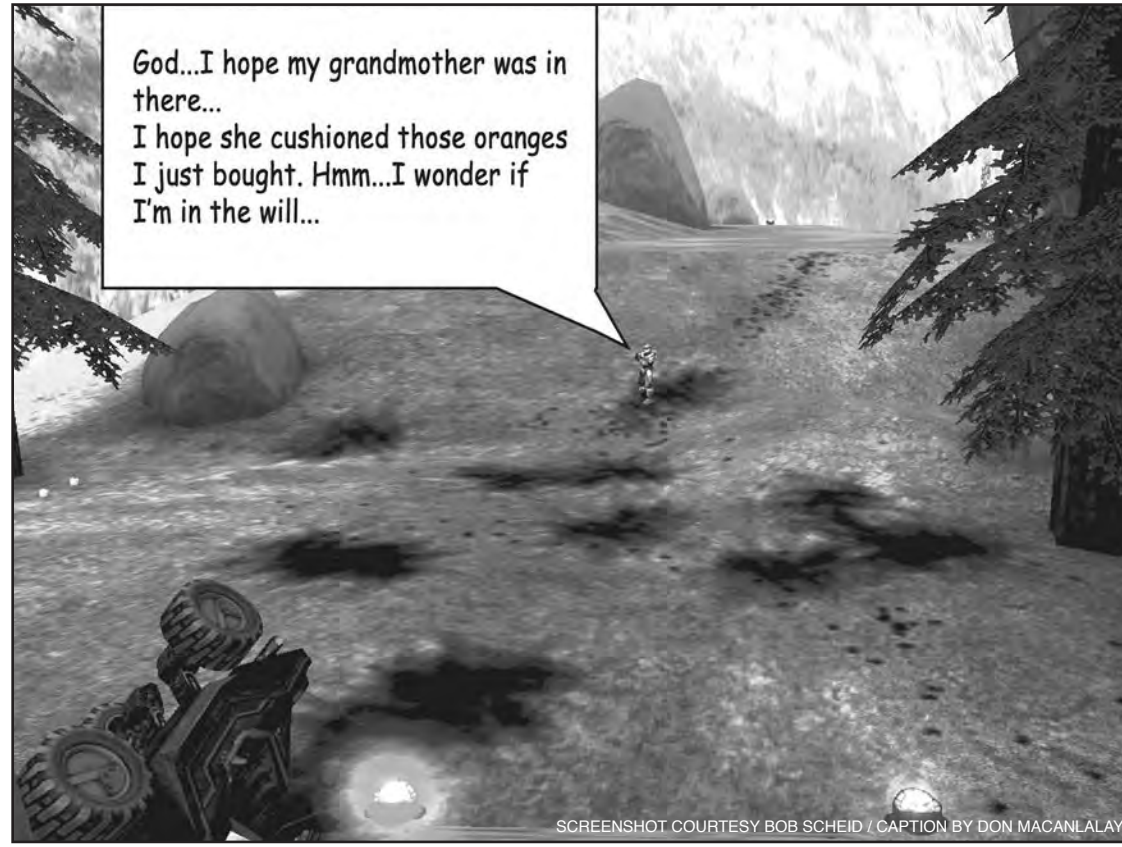
Why not have computer-based arcades with high-speed Internet prices so expensive that it is cheaper to spend your days out of your room and with others? Linked up with a keyboard and mouse, the player enters cyberspace. They enter a new world not like their own, where they alone are the hero and have better characters than others and are able to escape from reality.

Only skilled, elite players can enter this new cyber world with games like "Battlefield 2" and "Counter-Strike," or they get shot down within seconds of entering the game. Another alternative is huge strategy games like Blizzard Entertainment "Warcraft III" and "Starcraft," having tons of key

commands that you need to know in order to take charge. With their own custom mini-games for those who are fanatics about the game, such as defense and pure combat scenarios to avoid all the hassles of normal game play.

The industry has become large with all of its little quirks. People generally pick a game to specialize play in and create a persona around that game. There is no longer all of these coin crunching machines, but a computer that you can be charged by the week. The next generation of game play is here with online games you pay for like "World of Warcraft" and "Diablo II," "Final Fantasy XI," "EverQuest 2," and "Star Wars Galaxies." What will be the next generation of gaming?

E-Gaming Caption of the Week



SCREENSHOT COURTESY BOB SCHEID / CAPTION BY DON MACANLALAY

Have an impressive, funny, or otherwise worthy screenshot of your favorite game? Just e-mail it, along with a brief caption, to avion.newsroom@gmail.com with the subject addressed to E-Gaming by 5 p.m. Saturday and if we like it, we will print it in the next issue of *The Avion!*

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Gamers more mentally active than non-gamers

Darrin O'Brady

Special to *The Avion*

A new study of 100 undergraduates in Toronto has found that video games may help protect against brain decay. In the study, video gamers out performed non-players in a series of mental tests designed to trick the mind.

"The people who were video game players were better and faster performers," said psychologist Ellen Bialystok, a research professor at York University in a globeandmail Insider Edition online article. It's noted that the benefits to playing video games are similar to bilingualism. The online article also highlights people who are fluent in two languages learn to suppress one language while speaking

another. Gamers are able to shut-out distractions to help them multitask more efficiently.

"I grew up with video games, starting with Nintendo and Super Mario... from the age of eight or nine. I know it helps with my dexterity; it's good for coordination and faster reflexes," said Brad Evans, 21, an engineering student at Ryerson University. In the Insider Edition article he says that years of gaming have added valuable dimensions to his thinking. Treating the brain as any other muscle in the body, exercising it will keep you mentally strong. There have been several studies that show people who exercise their brain by doing puzzles and playing games have greater mental alertness, particularly among senior citizens. Brain imaging shows that elderly brains that

are physically incapable of silencing mental noise are prone to distraction and poor multitaskers.

In the online article Dr. Grady also said, "Young people using all these gadgets all the time, at the same time, may actually make a difference when they're old, like bilingualism does. We know that practice changes the brain, as with playing an instrument... Maybe those kids who play video games and who are also bilingual will be the best of older adults at filtering out distractions."

Approximately 20 years ago, professor Bialystok noticed that bilingual children had the ability to block out irrelevant information in a series of grammatical tests. She said, "We have been able to show on a huge range of cognitive tests

that bilinguals are always better at problems with tricky, misleading information." Since monolingual children usually catch up to their bilingual peers, mentally, in about a year, tests such as the ones professor Bialystok performed prove little. Bialystok's York team compared 94 bilinguals and monolinguals between the ages of 30 and 80. Both groups started to show cognitive decline by age 60, but the rate of decline was slower in bilinguals.

On a side note, according to an AIDS survival project article, several studies have shown that people with Alzheimer's disease who regularly work on crossword puzzles progress slower in the neurological disease than people who do not engage in puzzles or similar activities.



DON MACANLALAY/AVION

VIDEO AND COMPUTER GAMING has been shown to decrease mental aging, according to research done in Toronto. This helps prevent mental diseases such as Alzheimer's Disease, among others.

Churches around nation celebrate 'evolution Sunday'

Christian churches acknowledge Charles Darwin

Nicole Titus

Staff Reporter

Last Sunday, on the 197th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birthday, hundreds of Christian Churches from all over the country, of various denominations, came together to proclaim that science and religion are two very different, but complimentary forms of truth.

More than 10,000 Christian clergy of 365 congregations in 49 states have signed the Clergy Letter, opening their arms and embracing the theory of evolution. To many people, the move comes as a surprise due to the past conflicts between science and

religion, specifically creationism versus evolution.

"The goal is to make it clear that religion and science are not adversaries," Michael Zimmerman, dean of College of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh said. "There is nothing in Christianity that precludes modern science."

Creation science has been the main subject of debate for Zimmerman for the last 25 years. He has often been called upon to defend the teaching of evolution in public schools.

"Evolution is central to science and to all of biology, but it has become such a nasty word, people are afraid to use it," Zimmerman said.

When a school board in Grantsburg, Wis. passed a policy requiring that "all theories of origin" be taught in district schools, Zimmerman immediately recognized this as an attempt to insert identification into the science curriculum.

Zimmerman then drafted an open letter to the school board in support of evolution, which

had signatures of more than 40 deans from the University of Wisconsin. In an effort to show an even broader range of support for evolution, he gathered about 400 endorsements from middle and high school teachers.

Quickly after Zimmerman drafted his letter to the Grantsburg School Board, the policies were retracted. Meanwhile similar controversies were developing in communities across the nation. So Zimmerman set a goal to collect 10,000 signatures from clergy across the country, starting the Clergy Letter Project.

There is a growing desire among certain Christian communities to publicly affirm evolutionary principles. Even the Roman Catholic Church recently moved to endorse and illuminate its approval of evolution as legitimate science.

Reverend Ricky Hoyt, a Unitarian Universalist, says that "Science does what it does well, but as a religious people, we care about why we are here, and science doesn't have the tools for those types of questions. The God I am talking about is one that science would ever discover."

Toxoplasma parasites exert mind-control capability

Parasites found in cats could control minds of humans

Karem Miller

Guest Reporter

The parasite is known as *Toxoplasma gondii*, and is found in the guts of our furry feline friends. How the parasite travels to cats and can become a potential threat to children is an interesting, yet frightening, exodus.

First, this parasite is a survivor. Cats will not eat dead rats, therefore the parasite must keep its host healthy, which it does with little effort. The difference between a rat with *Toxoplasma* and a healthy rat is that rats without *Toxoplasma* will prudently avoid cat urine, while an infected rat actually seems to gravitate

toward urine, making it easy prey for its hunter.

This led Oxford scientists to conclude that *Toxoplasma* has some form mind altering effect on the rats. They furthermore proved this by inducing the healthy rats into a "neurochemical panic" with a whiff of cat urine, and then tested some anti-anxiety drugs on rats. The infected rats, however, showed no consternation or panic that their most feared predator may be around. In fact, they were seen returning to the cat's urine over and over.

The cats then eat the infected rats, and the parasites have succeeded in getting to the one place they can reproduce. Cats excrete ten million *Toxoplasma* eggs daily, and as a result, pregnant women are urged not to change a cat's litter box as it is suspected the parasite could travel to the unborn child. Though the *Toxoplasma* is more prominent in cats, the parasite is present in about half of the world's three billion human population.

The pregnant women fight off the parasite easily, but her unborn

may not be so lucky. While not concrete, *Toxoplasma* is reputed to have an association with schizophrenia, mental retardation and growth failure. While the last two have yet to be proven, the damages done by the parasite to astrocytes, glial cells that surround and support neurons are similar to schizophrenia, which is also associated with damages to astrocytes.

The similarities were then further revealed when the drug Haloperidol, was used to restore the infected rats fear of cat urine, causing them to avoid the test area. Haloperidol, incidentally, is an antipsychotic drug used to treat schizophrenia. Haloperidol and other antipsychotic drugs used, were as effective as the drug, pyrimethamine, which is used to eliminate *Toxoplasma*.

Whether or not *Toxoplasma* can alter human behavior is still under question. Not all mind controlling parasites negatively effect the hosts. In fact, few exert positive effects into their hosts such as tapeworm that helps humans from being obese. Further research on *Toxoplasma* is planned in the near future.

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The Avion, February 21, 2006

Tomoka State Park

Natural Beauty in Eastern Florida

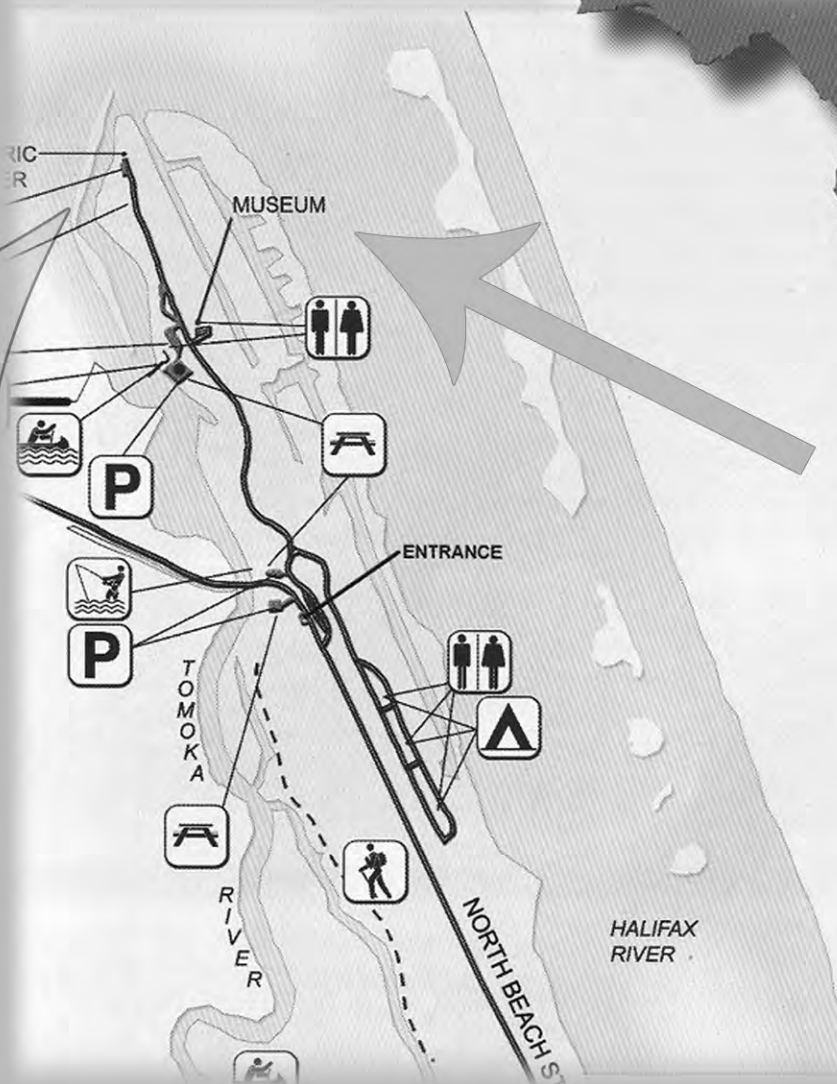


Fairchild Oak



FAIRCHILD OAK
 THIS LIVE OAK HAS WITHSTOOD HURRICANE WINDS, FIRES, DROUGHTS, WARS AND THE FOLLIES OF MANKIND FOR CENTURIES. PLEASE HELP US TO PROTECT THIS MAGNIFICENT TREE BY NOT CLIMBING ON ITS ANCIENT LIMBS. THANK YOU FLORIDA PARK SERVICE

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 OPEN 8:00 AM UNTIL SUNSET
 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
 DIVISION OF RECREATION AND PARKS



Museum



The museum houses artworks by artist Fred Dana Marsh, wildlife displays, Native American artifacts and exhibits about Florida's history.



Chief Tomokie 1955

This state park boasts a 40-foot statue depicting Chief Tomokie defending a sacred golden cup. This brightly colored statue is impressive, but Chief Tomokie apparently never existed. The Fred Dana Marsh statue is based mostly on the artist's imagination.

Colonel Thomas H. Dummett Sugar and Rum Processing Factory Ruins circa 1825

During the second Seminole War in 1835-36, most of the sugar mills were destroyed. However, remains of the Colonel Thomas H. Dummett Sugar and Rum Processing Factory, which dates back to 1825, are still standing.



Tomoka Park is located in Ormond Beach, North of Granada



Lots of fun is to be had at Tomoka State park

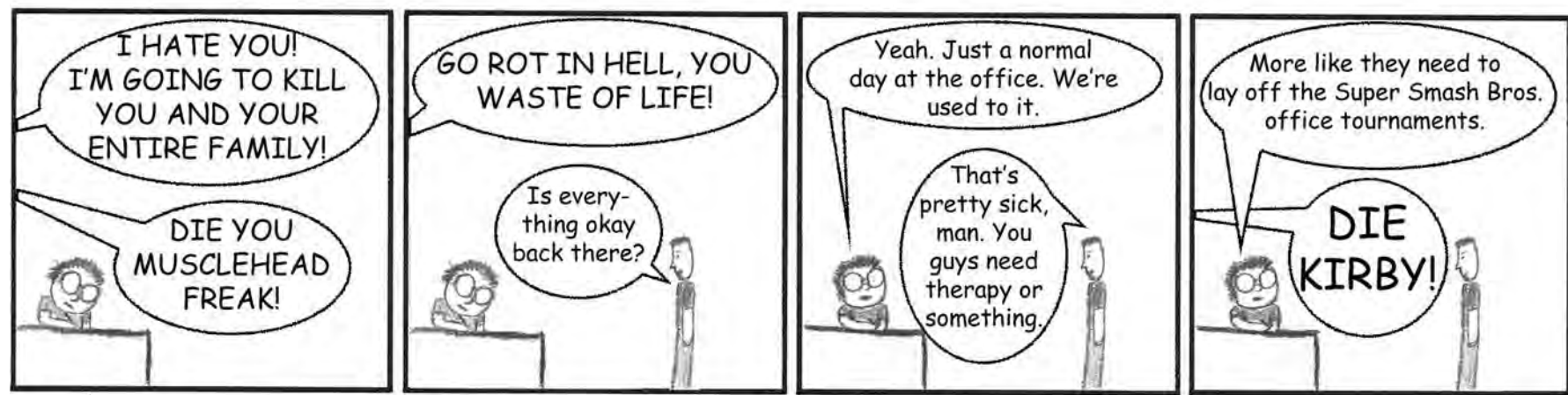
- Boat-** A boat ramp provides access to the Tomoka River. All of the water is designated manatee sanctuary.
- Canoeing-** Canoe rentals are available in the park. The marshes and tidal creeks offer a beautiful place to observe bird and marine life along a 13-mile canoe trail.
- Fishing-** Ninety different species of fish have been identified in the Tomoka River, including redfish, lack drum, sheepshead, spotted seatrout, snook, and tarpon.
- Picnicking -** Picnic area with covered pavilions and grills are in five locations.
- Camping-** The campground is in a shady hammock. Total vehicle length is limited to 34 feet and height to 11 feet because of low-hanging trees and narrow roads.

Photos taken by Zach Mahone

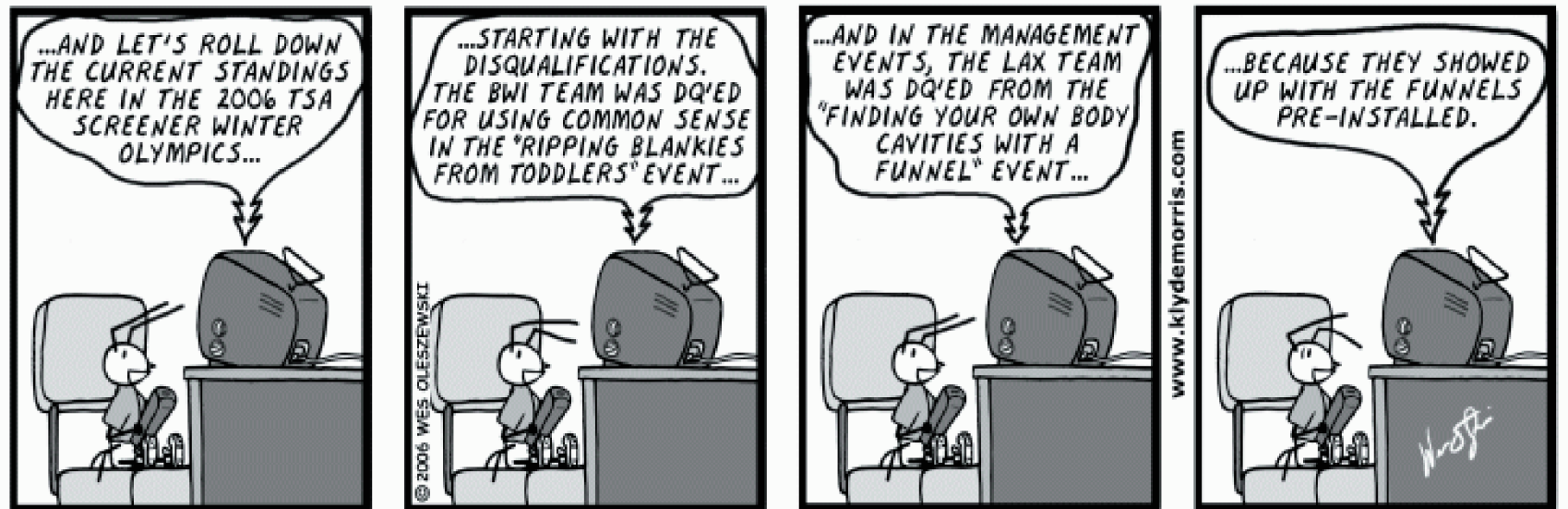
The Riddle of Life

By Jonathan Mettin

Besides "Sunday Bloody Sunday," the other leading cause of stress in the office



by Wes Oleszewski



Why Riddle Students Hate Fundraising

By Chris Cole

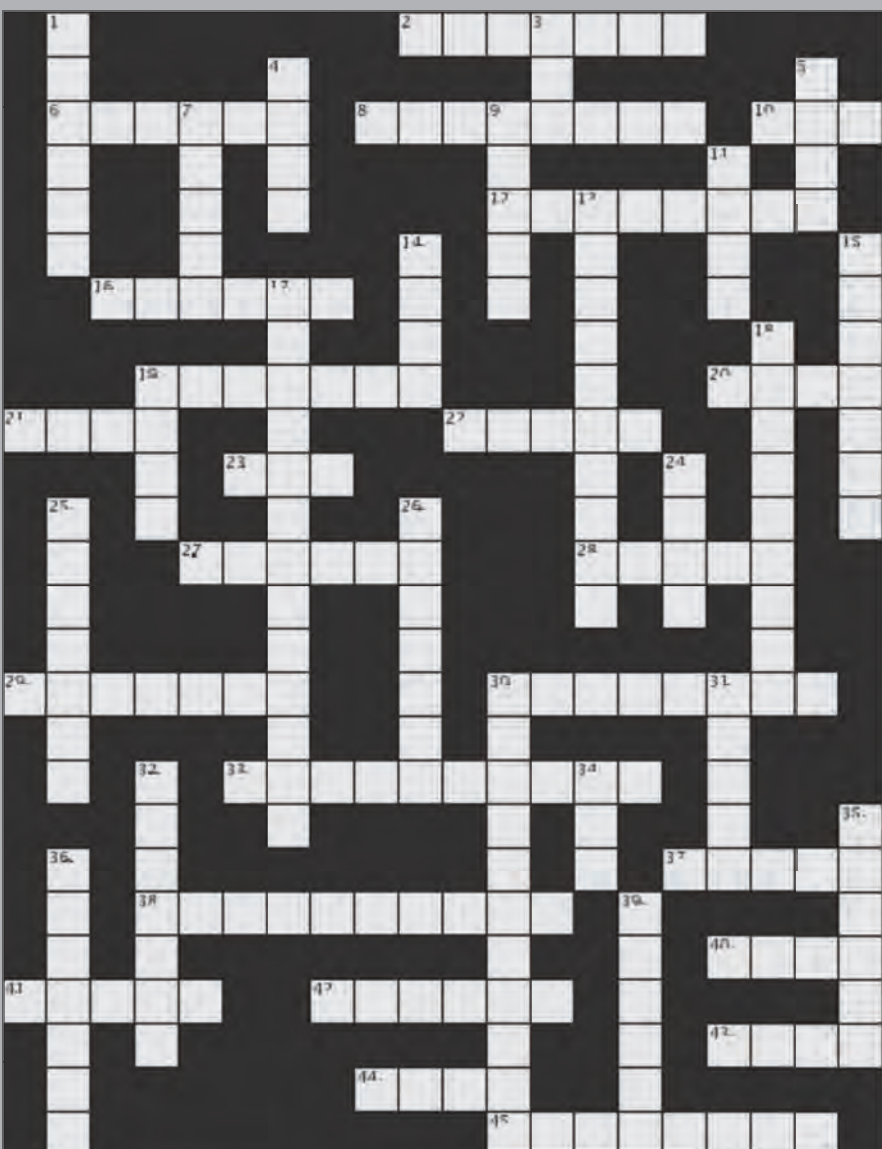


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2. "Thousands of possibilities. Get yours."
6. "___ for Cocoa Puffs."
8. "It's in the game."
10. "Choosy mothers choose ___."
12. "Breakfast of champions"
16. "Lost another one to ___."
19. "A ___ is forever."
20. "Got ___?"
21. "Just do it."
22. "See what ___ can do for you."
23. "I think therefore ___."
27. "It's ___ time!"
28. "When it ____, it pours."
29. "Let your ___ do the walking."
30. "You're in good hands with ___."
33. "Have it your way."
37. "The milk chocolate ___ in your mouth, not in your hand."
38. "Drivers Wanted."
40. "Can't you ___ me now?"
41. "7 Varieties."
42. "The quicker picker upper."
43. "Buy it. Sell it. Love it."
44. "Don't leave ___ without it."
45. "Taste the ___."

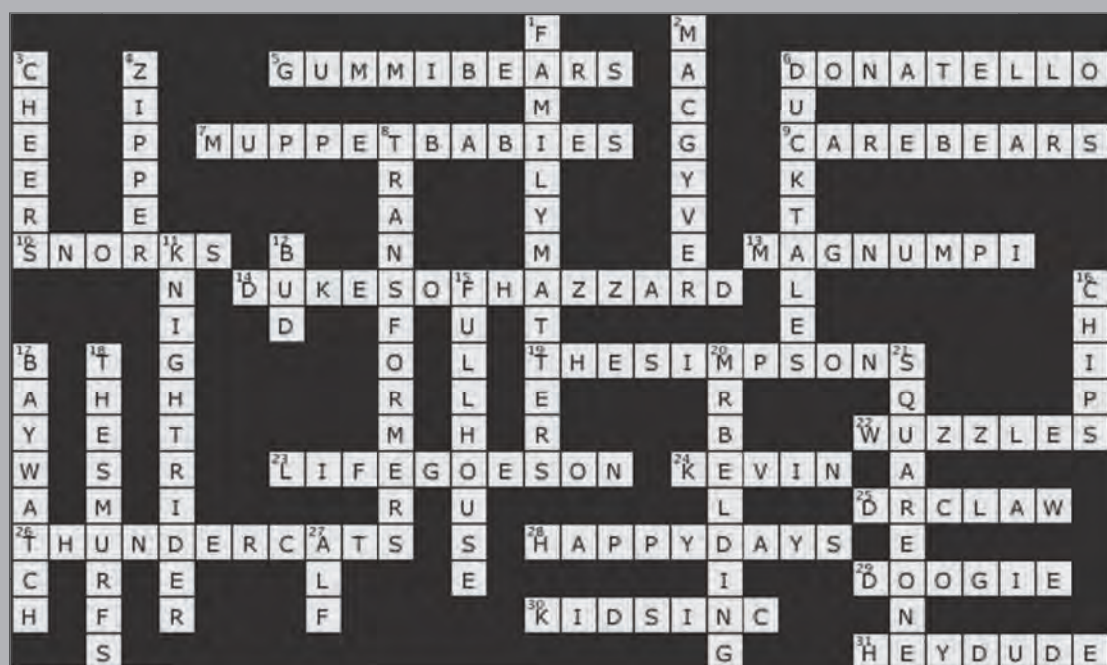
DOWN

1. "The best seat in the house."
3. "___ for me, none of you."
4. "Gotta have my ___."
5. "Every ___ begins with Kay."
7. "American spells cheese, ___."
9. "Now you're playing with ___!"
11. "___ is for kids."
13. "It's ___ you want to be."
14. "___ to the last drop."
15. "It takes a ___ and keeps on ticking."
17. "M'mm M'mm! Good!"
18. "Where do you want to go today?"
19. "Dude, your gettin' a ___."
24. "We try harder."

DOWN

25. "Get more."
26. "Snap! ___! Pop!"
30. "Plop, plop, fizz, fizz, oh what a relief it is."
31. "Think Different."
32. "Leave the ___ to us."
34. "Sometimes you feel like a ____, sometimes you don't."
35. "Bee all you can be."
36. "The Uncola."
39. "I've ___ and I can't get up."

80's TV Shows



Sigma Chi's annual beach clean-up



PHOTO COURTESY SIGMA CHI

RIGHT BEFORE RACE WEEK reached its peak, brothers from the Sigma Chi fraternity made sure that the beach was clean and safe for others during their annual "beach clean-up." Before the end of the semester, Sigma Chi will also be volunteering at the Salvation Army.

Philip Holloway
Sigma Chi Chapter Editor

Fast cars, dirt, beer and Confederate flags... Race Week is in full swing. Before the grunt of race week set in, we managed to do our annual "beach clean-up." We wanted our stretch of the beach to look clean and safe for our visitors. We will also be volunteering our services at the Salvation Army before the end of the semester. Thanks to the school and our need for extra funds, we were also one of the 18 organizations to participate in the parking program at the old Richard Petty field. In addition to parking cars, about half of the brothers pull all-nighters, 7 p.m.-7 a.m., for nine days straight to

provide security within the Daytona Racetrack. If you have never been inside the racetrack at 3:30 a.m. on a Thursday Race Night, you will be in for a treat if you ever get to go. Our loyal brotherhood chair has provided us with entertainment on every end of the spectrum. From the Rolex 24, Poker Tournaments, the camping trip, s'mores night, the Orlando bus trip, and even planning our Spring Break, we have definitely not been wasting our weekends. This semester we will also be celebrating our thirty-fifth Birthday here at Embry-Riddle. We should be bringing in alumni from all over the country to attend our events. We are definitely looking forward to finishing the semester with the best intentions for the school and Sigma Chi.



Retraction

Due to an editing error, a quote in the Student Life submission by SGA President Sara McCook was incorrect. The quote, referring to a consultant hired by the Board of Trustees, should have read "just a high paid person," not "just a high paid S.O.B." The error appeared in the February 14 edition of *The Avion*. *The Avion* deeply regrets the error.



Sara McCook responds

Sara McCook
SGA President

Last week's article caused a little more chatter than I initially anticipated. However, such a controversial issue should be exposed to the student body. I am not sorry for writing the article though I am sorry for some of the context that was depicted in a manner unintentional. The search for a new president is one of the most crucial tasks this university is about to undertake this semester. And the whole point and idea behind my last article was to

emphasize the importance of finding the right president, one who understands and can embody the uniqueness and special aura this university holds to many people, past and present. I have trust that the Board of Trustees selected a consultant who they feel has the ability to listen and interpret what the people who make this university so special are truly saying. This past week SGA packets became available to the student body for the upcoming elections. This is a great opportunity to get involved and make a difference. Student Government has been one of the best experi-

ences I have had while a student. Being a member of SGA has taught me many life lessons, increased networking and developed relationships with people who have taught me more about leadership than I thought possible. I have developed relationships with many individuals that will last beyond the college years. Over the years, SGA has increased its awareness and gained immeasurable amounts of respect, not only on campus but within the community. Much of that respect comes from the administration that the SGA as the voice to the student body and takes into account what the students are saying, whether or not it is evident at the time. Become a part of an organization that makes a difference on campus, in one way or another if through the representative board or in one of the fine divisions.

Ladies' Night

February 22nd @ 7 PM
QL Auditorium
\$3.00 at the door

Chocolate Tasting - Jewelry Presentation
Self Defense Lessons - Massages
Brought to you by: Up 'Til Dawn.
All proceeds to benefit St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital

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Senior Class Council



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Full Name: Robb Hicks
DJ Name: DJ Robbio Robbio
Show Time: 5:00 to 6:00 on Monday & Wednesday and 5:00 to 7:00 on Friday

Hey, I'm Robb Hicks, a.k.a. DJ Robbio Robbio. You may also know me from some of my other duties as Eagles FM's Mobile Sounds Manager. I'm a business major here at Riddle, so technically I guess that means I have a lot of free time, most of which is occupied by my duties as Mobile Sounds Manager. As you might [not] have guessed I am the host of the tri-weekly 5 O'Clock Wreck every Monday, Wednesday, from 5 to 6 p.m., and on Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. on 99.1 WIKD-LP, Eagles FM. I play mostly rap, hip-hop, and R&B, and I'm always open for requests. You never know just WHO might step in the studio when I'm there, so catch me live in the mix on Mondays and Wednesdays, and my all request show on Friday.

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Weight Bench for Sale
Bench including bench press bar, two dumbbells, and about 100 pounds of standard weights, all in great condition! Asking only \$100! Call Lukas at (917) 405-4796.

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Price reduced to \$80. One set of (4) 255/45 ZR 17 inch. Also, set of (2) of same for \$40. Contact Sally. 226-6058 or 761-8600.

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ITEMS FOR SALE

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Pool Table 8 Foot American Heritage near perfect condition. Burgundy felt, 6 cues, + normal acc. \$825. Port Orange. Jenkie06@erau.edu for pics.

Pool Table for sale

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Beginning January 2006

"No Passport Required" International Day 2006

Saturday, February 25th
1:00—5:00 p.m.

J. Paul Riddle Student Center

In Addition

NEW: International Aviation will be the focus of a special event, Friday, February 24th:

Singapore International Aerospace Association (SIAA) sponsors "INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE DAY", 10 a.m.—3 p.m., Flight Deck, Student Center—at least 9 countries will be represented in this static display.

Then, Feb. 25th brings music, culture, dance, and food to ERAU.

Free Admission
Food tickets- 4 for \$1.00

Remember, you don't have to stand in long lines, have your bags checked, take off your shoes or go overseas. NO PASSPORT REQUIRED—just come & have fun. For further information, please contact International Student Services - your International Day Sponsor, at (386) 226-6579 or 226-6114.



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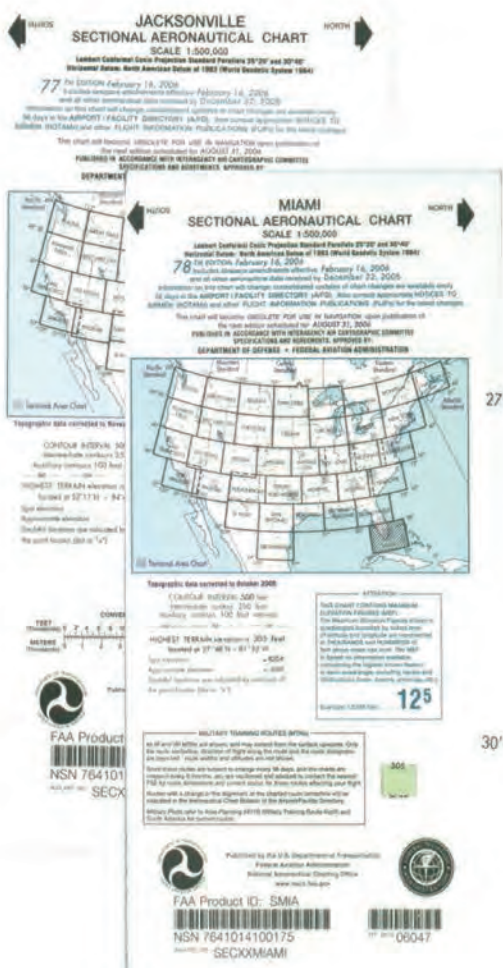
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