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Spring graduation up for discussion



(LEFT) FILE PHOTO/AVION (RIGHT) PHOTO COURTESY WWW.ERAU.EDU

ALTERNATE VENUES FOR GRADUATION are up for discussion. The image on the left shows an indoor IC Auditorium ceremony, while the image on the right shows the outdoor West Lawn ceremony.

Brian Case

Campus News Editor

Graduation is just over two months away on May 6, but that is the extent of the decisions that have been made. The Chancellor, Dr. Tom Connolly, is engaging in discussion with the senior class as to what shape May's commencement will take.

Dr. Connolly assumed the position of Chancellor at the beginning of Feb., and had to act quickly on the upcoming graduation. He initially decided on an indoor ceremony in the ICI Center, safe from the rain but a smaller venue than the West Lawn, used in years past. However, after discussions with the

senior class, Connolly held back making his decision final.

"It seems as though the Senior Class Council wants an outdoor graduation," Matt Collier, Senior Class Council Chairman said.

Collier proposes polling the senior class to determine if they favor an indoor or outdoor ceremony. "The Senior Class Council will support whatever the majority of the graduates want," Collier said.

If Connolly were to decide on an outdoor graduation, a viable rain plan would be necessary. Collier proposes both the ICI Center and West Lawn be set-up for graduation during the week.

Please see "GRADUATION," page A2

" We all want the same thing in the end ... a meaningful graduation ... "

- TOM CONNOLLY "

Student employees shown appreciation in reception

Luke Smith

Managing Editor

ERAU's Student Employment Office held an awards reception Thursday, Feb. 23 in the atrium of Spruance Hall. The ceremony served to honor student employees around campus and to announce this year's winner of the Student Employee of the Year award.

Kathryn Parsons, the Director of Student Employment, opened up the evening welcoming the nominees, their employers and nominators and several special guests, by saying that student employees are "an intricate part of Embry-Riddle's work force."

"To run the University without [their] help would be nearly impossible. We are very fortunate to have such high caliber students on our campus and working with us side by side."

Dr. Thomas Connolly, University Chancellor, said, "Our student employment workforce is an essential part of what we do," during his speech congratulating all of the nominees.

Embry-Riddle employs 22 percent of its Daytona Beach students. Of those 900, 21 were nominated for the award. "They were selected as the best of the best," Parsons said.

The nominees for the award were nominated by their employers and represented a wide range of departments.

Please see "EMPLOYMENT," page A2



GREG FRECHETTE/AVION

KATHRYN PARSONS (LEFT) IS pictured above awarding Nicole Kufa, who won the third place award as the Student Employee of the Year. Other winners included Gonzalo Canseco and Nolan Glorie, taking second and first places, respectively.

Flight mishaps happen

Spencer Conklin

Guest Reporter

Flight students were treated to pizza, soda and a history lesson from their aeronautical science professors last Thursday. Several professors regaled a packed room with flight mishaps from years past.

Tim Plunkett was the lead in a flight of 4 B-52's over Asia when an upper aileron on the aircraft came loose and sent the plane into violent pitch oscillations. He reached forward, meaning to grab the throttle, but accidentally grabbed the speed brake. Surprisingly, this mistake stopped the oscillations. They removed the speed brake, turned to head back, and it started again. The tail gunner managed to identify the aileron was the cause and the crew debated what to do. Deciding

to head back, they encountered severe thunderstorms, flew the approach and then nearly ran into a mountain due to their instrumentation systems failing. Thanks to an assisted radar approach, they managed to land the aircraft safely.

With only 200 hours, Rob Owen decided to go fly fishing with a friend. They rented a Cessna 150, over-packed the aircraft, and took over on a 95 degree day in Arizona. The little 150 barely lifted off using 2,500 feet of runway.

It was so heavy, the aircraft did not want to climb more than 100 feet per minute, so remembering his training, Owen found a thunderstorm and used the outer edge updraft to pull the plane above the highest terrain. Unfortunately, as they were flying, they had thunderstorms ahead and went to divert to their alternate. On the

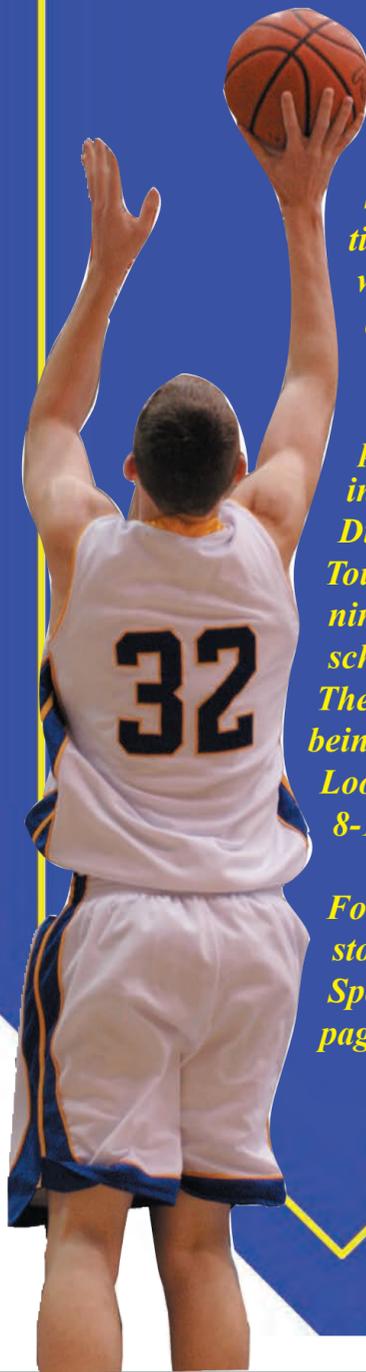
way, they accidentally managed to find the back end of a set of thunderstorms and the downdraft with that back end. The poor aircraft descended rapidly and bounced off a boulder, but Owen managed to keep it flying about five to ten feet off the ground.

Unable to get enough power to climb, they kept going, scraping cacti and pine trees. Narrowly missing telephone poles and a unique Indian ruins site, they plopped down on a dirt road. The only damage to the aircraft was some hail dents that would come from the incoming thunderstorm and a lot of green on the bottom of the plane from the plants.

As he went to take off from the carrier in his F-4, Rick Gallup's fuel tank under the belly was torn open.

Please see "MISHAPS," page A2

ERAU Men's basketball win 2006 Florida Sun Conference



ERAU's men's basketball team won their seventh Florida Sun Conference title this past weekend as they defeated Florida Memorial 65-55. The victory propels the team into the NAIA Division II National Tournament for the ninth time in school history. The tournament is being held in Point Lookout, Mo. March 8-15.

For the full game story, please turn to Sports on page A6.

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THE AVION

By students, for students.

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COA hosts weekend for parents

Ryan Hattan
World News Editor

This past weekend marked the College of Aviation's parent weekend, in which the parents of the COA's students were encouraged to attend the weekend's activities to familiarize themselves with the school, faculty, education and various opportunities offered by Embry-Riddle's aviation college.

As a part of this familiarization of the parents and students, the COA faculty and administration offered an open forum in which Embry-Riddle alumni and COA staff provided insightful information on how to take advantage of the programs offered and answered questions offered by the public. Flight Department Chairman Frank Ayers was on hand and mentioned that the COA had consulted a student retention specialist in the fall and that he had expressed the necessity for a school to connect with its parents as well as students, and that this would be the first attempt of many from the COA to do so, as they plan on continuing parent weekends in the future.

Of the three alumni in attendance, each was a recent graduate of the Aeronautical Science program and current first officer of an airline. First officer Matt Johnson, of Atlantic Southeast Airlines, said that his ability to obtain his current position with ASA was in large part due to the internships that he attended while at ERAU. He said that these opportunities allowed him to get his foot in the door with airlines. Johnson credited the structure of Embry Riddle's flight

program and "how similar it was to the training that I received from the airlines. It really prepared me, more so than many other people I went through training with at ASA." Johnson also noted the CFI path offered by Embry Riddle as an excellent way to build hours to meet the required hours specified by airlines for hiring.

Dan Voss, another first officer for ASA and 2004 graduate of ERAU praised the school's FA 420 CRJ course for his success in attaining a slot flying the Canadair Regional Jet for his airline. He said, "FA 420 is a great course to take because it prepares you for the aircraft that you will likely be flying at a regional airlines, and you will already be familiar with the systems and flight characteristics of the aircraft." Voss also said that having taken the 420 course made much of the ASA training into a refresher course.

The final alumni, Matt Antinori, is a First Officer with Continental Airlines flying both the Boeing 757 and 767. Antinori was a proponent for the flight program's ability to expeditiously attain a pilot certification. He was an AE major up until his junior year and then had a change of heart and decided to switch to AS and was finished with the program by the end of his senior year. Antinori credited much of his success in

being the second youngest of five-thousand pilots flying his aircraft at Continental with his efforts and involvement at Embry-Riddle and in his CFI career at Epic Aviation in New Smyrna. He said, "I must have had nearly every job available at Embry Riddle, and it was so important for me to develop those networking skills and relationship with the connected

people at Riddle." He also stated that his hard work ethic at Epic paid off in the future: "When I wasn't flying with a student I was on the ground sweeping hangars, or picking up cigarette buds, or nailing signs to the building on rickety old ladders, or riding the fuel truck, just everything I could do

to be involved." This work got him noticed by Vintage Aircraft at New Smyrna when they switched to a two pilot configuration flying the Beechcraft 1900. From there it was just a matter of rubbing elbows with the right people in the airlines. Antinori said that now his airline has a single fax machine and secretary devoted strictly to the thirty resumes that come in a week and that "meeting the right people can move your application from the filing cabinet or large stack to the short stack." "You just have to make connections and meet the people who make decisions," Antinori said.

“
FA 420 is a great course to take because it prepares you for the aircraft that you will likely be flying ...
- DAN VOSS

Daytona ATC entertains, informs

Spencer Conklin
Guest Reporter

Daytona Beach International Airport is the third busiest airport in Florida following Sanford and Miami International. With 85 percent of the traffic being general aviation, and 90 percent of that general aviation traffic being training, it is bound to get busy. Safety is essential and good communications between pilots and ATC is also essential. That was the theme for the Controller and Pilot forum put on by Embry-Riddle Flight Team last Wednesday. "Time is our most valuable commodity," Daytona Beach controller Joe Lipinski said. When pilots cannot effectively communicate with ATC, time is lost and safety can be compromised.

Two Daytona TRACON personnel headed up the forum, Jim Zeiler and Joe Lipinski. Jim Zeiler is an operations supervisor here at Daytona and a former Embry-Riddle student, graduating in 1980. Since then he controlled at Miami for 11 and one half years before coming here where he has been for the past 11 and one half years. Joe Lipinski has been controlling for 20 years. Both were friendly and answered dozens of questions throughout the entire forum, creating a warm atmosphere for inquiries and suggestions. Mistakes happen by both controllers and pilots, all that can be done is to learn from them and improve procedures.

Surprisingly, a lot of the problems start before aircraft even get in the air. Runway incursions have been a frequent issue. Often times pilots who are taxing on Echo or Whiskey to 7R/25L will miss Sierra and taxi right onto the runway. Or, aircraft will cross a runway having mistaken another call sign for theirs. Both of these situations can be a hazard not only to the aircraft on the ground, but the aircraft on short final. Prompt responses to controller instructions are also essential on the ground. If a pilot is instructed

to cross a runway and ATC gets no response or the aircraft does not begin crossing, ATC assumes the aircraft is still going to be crossing and may send another aircraft on final around because of that pilot's slow response. If pilots are unable or unwilling to promptly execute all they need to do is tell ATC.

Daytona is surrounded by a Class C airspace, meaning that above, below the outer shelf, and just outside the airspace controllers do not have to provide aircraft separation of VFR aircraft. Aircraft advisories are not mandatory and will be provided only if a controller has the time to do so. Pilots need to watch out for other aircraft even if in

contact with ATC.

The Victor 3 airway is the busiest airway in the state of Florida and it runs right over Daytona. Jets are also incoming from the north and descending to 5,000 feet inbound for Orlando right over Daytona. It has been a problem in the past that aircraft will want some NDB training and will climb to 5,000 feet to use TOMOK, the terminal NDB on the ILS RWY 7L. It is not a requirement at 5,000 feet above TOMOK to talk to Daytona ATC, but it could be very dangerous to do. Joe Lipinski said, "Legal to do, yep. Smartest thing to do, heck no!" The same goes for aircraft crossing under the shelf of the Class C

airspace around Daytona. Pilots can legally do it without talking to ATC but it poses a risk to them and other aircraft.

In the end there were some suggestions for pilots to help keep traffic moving smoothly and safely: leave room at an intersection for aircraft behind your aircraft, promptly cross, exit, and depart runways, be patient with clearance at the top of the hour as they are updating the ATIS, listen carefully for your call sign when it is busy, and if you can not do something, say unable as soon as possible. By working together, ATC and pilots can help to keep the ground and air safer for everyone.



JOE DANIEL/EAGLES FLIGHT TEAM

JIM ZEILER, OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR at the Daytona Beach ATC TRACON, speaks to a crowd of pilots in the IC Auditorium last week. Zeiler is a graduate of Embry-Riddle, and presented information on Air Traffic Control operations specifically tailored for Embry-Riddle pilots.

“EMPLOYMENT” from Front

The nominees came from academic departments, such as Humanities/Social Sciences and Aeronautical Science, as well as various other departments, including: the library, Admissions, Information Technology and Athletics. There were also nominees from the Extended Campus office, as well as student tutors in local elementary schools.

Faculty and staff on campus submitted nomination forms to the Student Employment office. Six judges from various departments reviewed those forms. Students were scored on a scale of one to five in five different categories: reliability, quality of work, initiative, professionalism and uniqueness. The scores of each category were added together to form the total score. The student with the highest total score walked away with the Student Employee of the Year award.

“
[Nolan Glore] is a great member of the team.

- LAWRENCE COTRIGHT

“GRADUATION” from Front

The third place award this year went to Nicole Kufa. She works as an America Reads tutor in a nearby elementary school. Kufa is also the recipient of this year's Volusia County Adult Tutor of the Year award, which she received earlier this month.

Second place went to Gonzalo Canseco from the Applied Aviation Department. He has worked in the Meteorology Department since before the new weather center in the College of Aviation building was built.

The winner of the Student Employee of the Year award ultimately went to Nolan Glore. He has been working in the Information Technology Department for just over four years. "He is a great member of the team," said his nominator, Lawrence Cotright, "He will be missed after graduation."

Glore works as a Linux and UNIX administrator and manages the server on campus as well as writing web applications. Two of his more notable projects include People Search and the telecommunications billing site.

“MISHAPS” from Front

A rain call on Friday evening would decide which location received stage and sound, typically left to the day of graduation anyway.

"It's a matter of giving the students what they want," Collier said.

Connolly will meet with the Senior Class Council executives Wednesday to discuss graduation.

"We all want the same thing in the end ... a meaningful graduation ceremony we can all look back on and remember fondly," Connolly said.

Regardless of whether the ceremony is held indoors or outdoors, graduation will be a unified ceremony among all the colleges. The Board of Trustees, according to Connolly, has already made that decision.

For the first time, the Extended Campus graduation and graduate programs will not graduate at the same time. Commencement ceremonies will begin Friday, May 5, with ROTC commissioning in the morning and graduation for the graduate students in the evening. The undergraduate graduation will be held on Saturday morning, and the Extended Campus graduation will be held on Sunday. That frees up additional space for more guests per graduate.

"There's no sense in getting into a conflict here, lets go back and see what we can do," Connolly said.

“MISHAPS” from Front

The fuel inside ignited and surrounded the aircraft. Gallup's back-seater squealed and told him to cut the afterburners, but the aircraft had lost lift and if the afterburners were cut they would end up in the ocean. As it was they were making steam in the water. His back-seater said to slick it, so Gallup did. To "slick it" is to remove all external fuel tanks and weaponry from the aircraft. With effort and talent Gallup managed to get the plane moving and in the air. With no additional equipment he asked control for the only thing he could do in a slicked status, to go supersonic!

Having spent the day at a get-together, Joe Clark climbed in his Cessna 170. All the planes at this event had been just lined up next to the field for the day. It was night, he did his run up, taxied out to the end of the runway, called that he was departing, and started his takeoff roll. As he was accelerating down the runway, another aircraft decided at that moment to cross the runway with no lights on. Clark managed to jerk the aileron's over and get the aircraft climbing. After circling to get his nerves together a few times he returned and landed. The propeller of the other aircraft had gone under the strut of Clark's 170, missing the wing by only six - nine inches.

U.S. port deal delayed pending investigation

Bush threatens use of first veto in port controversy

Ramy Yaacoub
Staff Reporter

In the wake of an out of the ordinary and rather controversial deal in which the Dubai Ports World, DPW, has spent 6.8 Billion dollars to purchase the rights to operate six U.S. ports, DPW bought London-based Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co., P&O, which runs the ports in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Miami, New Orleans, New York and Newark.

President Bush has been shelled from all sides on the issue. It is a measure of the political troubles stirred up by his handling of the controversy over control of key U.S. ports that President Bush's only ally in this fight seems to be former President Carter, usually one of his toughest critics. Undeterred by the President's blunt threat to use his first veto, his party's top congressional leaders and most Republicans in the House and Senate have abandoned him. Republican Senator John McCain of AZ has publicly asked to hear out the President's explanation on the matter.

The White House's stance on the deal has created a looming mixture of bi-partisan unity among several Republicans and Democrats in the Senate and House, threatening to storm this deal. Senator republican leader Bill Frist called for the Bush administration to stop a deal permitting the UAE company from finalizing the deal, saying, "The decision to finalize this deal

should be put on hold until the administration conducts a more extensive review of this matter." "If the administration cannot delay this process, I plan on introducing legislation to ensure that the deal is placed on hold until this decision gets a more thorough review," Frist added.

Republican senator Lindsay Graham of S.C. said on Fox News Sunday that the administration has capitalized on the issues of national security and the war on terror could not possibly be approving this deal that quick, saying that the administration is "unbelievably tone deaf politically," she also added that at least one senate oversight hearing was planned for later this month.

Other critics of the deal have noted that some of the September 11th hijackers used the UAE as an operational and financial base. In addition, they pointed that the UAE was an important transfer point for shipment of smuggled nuclear components sent to Iran, North Korea and Libya by a Pakistani scientist.

The group of Republican and Democratic lawmakers vowed to proceed with legislation to block Dubai Ports World's purchase of U.S. port terminals, brushing aside an offer from the company to delay taking operational control until Congress had reviewed the deal. The suggested compromise would have seen DP World purchase UK port operator P&O next week, as planned, but not take control or manage its five terminals along the U.S. east coast, pending the outcome of discussions on Capitol Hill. Legislators said the plan was little more than a public relations maneuver.

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"This promise isn't worth the paper it is written on. It is a smokescreen that changes none of the underlying facts," said Senator Robert Menendez, a N.J. Democrat who plans to introduce legislation with senators Hillary Clinton and Chuck Schumer of N.Y., and Republicans Norm Coleman, Olympia Snowe, Susan Collins and Tom Coburn.

"The public outcry to the sale of our port operations to a company owned by the United Arab Emirates has been deafening," Teamsters President Jimmy Hoffa wrote in a letter to President Bush. "At a time when we should be beefing up security at our ports, this proposed transaction would potentially leave our port gateways even more exposed and at greater risk of infiltration by those that would cause harm to the United States." The Teamsters is the umbrella union organization whose members include thousands of American port workers.

DPW has been forced to put on hold its purchase of U.S. ports operations, as a result of the political furor in the country. "It is not only unreasonable but also impractical to suggest that the closing of this entire global transaction should be delayed," Dubai Ports said in a statement. The company, owned by the royal family of the United Arab Emirates, was also hit yesterday by additional legal threats. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which oversees one of the ports involved, said it would go to the courts to break the lease that P&O currently holds to operate there. DPW is also being sued in the U.S. to end the P&O concession at the port of Miami by the joint venture partner Eller & Co. Yesterday Eller filed a case in the UK too, at the High Court in London, to block the deal. This delay offers a 45 day period for reevaluation of the deal, in which the lawmakers can block the deal in the next 30 days.

"The decision to finalize this deal should be put on hold."

- BILL FRIST

"This transaction would leave our port gateways even more exposed."

- JIMMY HOFFA



PHOTO COURTESY IAHWORLDPORTS.ORG

SENATORS WISH TO DELAY the takeover of U.S. ports such as New York (above). Other ports include Philadelphia, Baltimore, Miami and New Orleans.

Student finds iron kills anthrax

Nicole Titus
Staff Reporter

Marc Roberge, 17, of Pittsburgh, PA has discovered a way to kill anthrax in the mail by using a simple household method. In Marc's science fair project at Central Catholic High School, Marc shows that use of an iron for a duration of 5 minutes or more may kill the deadly bacteria.

Although, Marc Roberge could not use actual anthrax, another biological agent that scientists utilize to simulate anthrax was put into the envelopes. While ironing

at a temperature of 400 degrees Fahrenheit, the imitation anthrax spores were completely killed.

In Marc Roberge's study, it showed that even though the iron at its highest setting kills the spores the iron does not damage the contents of the envelope or the envelope itself by making it open before the letter is delivered.

Currently there are a few methods in which postal centers can sterilize mail. The most common is the use of ethylene oxide (EO) gases and X-rays. Other methods such as gamma radiation and vaporized hydrogen peroxide have

been tested but do not have as high as a yield for success as the previous ones. Whereas those methods are good for commercial use, the method Marc discussed in his science project will be best used in households if there were to be a breakout of anthrax.

While terrorism is still a key factor in the world today, any form of biological or chemical agents could have a devastating effect on millions. Therefore, there is a need for scientists to create ways that help individuals and their households to prevent deadly biological spore outbreaks.

Search called off

Don Macanlaly
Photo Editor

Just ten days after a mudslide obliterated the remote farming community of Guinsaogon, about 675 kilometers southeast of Manila, officials have called off the search for survivors.

Since the Feb. 17 mudslide, 139 bodies have been recovered, but there remains little hope that many more will be recovered. It is a downward note after an estimated 973 people are still believed to be missing.

About 1.2 million cubic meters of earth fell on the village almost two weeks ago. In some places, the mud is said to have been 40 meters in depth as rescue workers shifted their efforts from rescuing survivors to recovering bodies.

Rescuers, including the United States Marines, had been previously dispatched to focus on the

recovery of children from a buried elementary school.

Times have been tough throughout the rescue and recovery with heavy rains flooding the mud-ravaged area. Yet, search teams will continue to look for bodies over the next two weeks.

They will then shore up the earth, with the bodies of the remaining victims still buried, and create a memorial at the site.

According to *USAToday.com*, an Indonesian team will stay on for one month as a medical mission, while some U.S. forces were still helping with the relocation of around 400 who escaped the deluge and many others who were evacuated from nearby villages.

Last May, officials identified Guinsaogon and its surrounding region as a danger zone for landslides because it lies near the Philippine fault, a crack along the earth's crust, which is susceptible to earthquakes.

Bush fires, rehires

Bob Sheid
News Editor

President Bush reinstated the jobs last Tuesday of 32 workers at a research laboratory, two weeks after budget shortfalls caused those workers to be laid off, it was announced in a White House news release. He reinstated the jobs just before he took a tour of the facility.

The Energy Department includes the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, a facility charged with the mission of developing renewable sources of power for the United States, such as wind, solar, and other types of energy. The layoffs were originally caused by a \$28 million shortfall at the Midwest Research Institute.

To reinstate the jobs of the 32 workers, including eight researchers, Bush's Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman increased the funding to the facility by \$5 million, which covers their return but does little to help the lab itself, according to Philip Clapp, President of the National Environmental Trust.

"The \$5 million stopped the bodies from going out the door," Clapp said, "but it doesn't provide the money for the programs."

Tina Larney, an employee at the lab, also said, "there is technology now, there is the know-how now, [but] what is lacking is leadership on the large scale at the national level."

The tour itself was part of a three-state trip as part of the Advanced Energy Initiative outlined by the president in his State of the Union address. In that speech, Bush announced a 22 percent increase of funding for clean-energy research, the kind investigated by the lab.

Bush also gave speeches at the various sites he visited, stressing the importance of the work going on at the labs. "You're doing great work here," Bush said, speaking at the Midwest Research Institute. "We appreciate what you're doing."

He also spoke of the reliance on foreign oil that America has developed over the past few decades. According to recent numbers, 60 percent of America's oil comes from foreign countries, some of which have "unstable governments or fundamental differences with the United States."

Clapp has since claimed that the President is promoting renewable resources for energy simply as a protection against sagging approval ratings, especially with the cost of heating and gasoline this winter.

Attack destabilizes Muslim unity

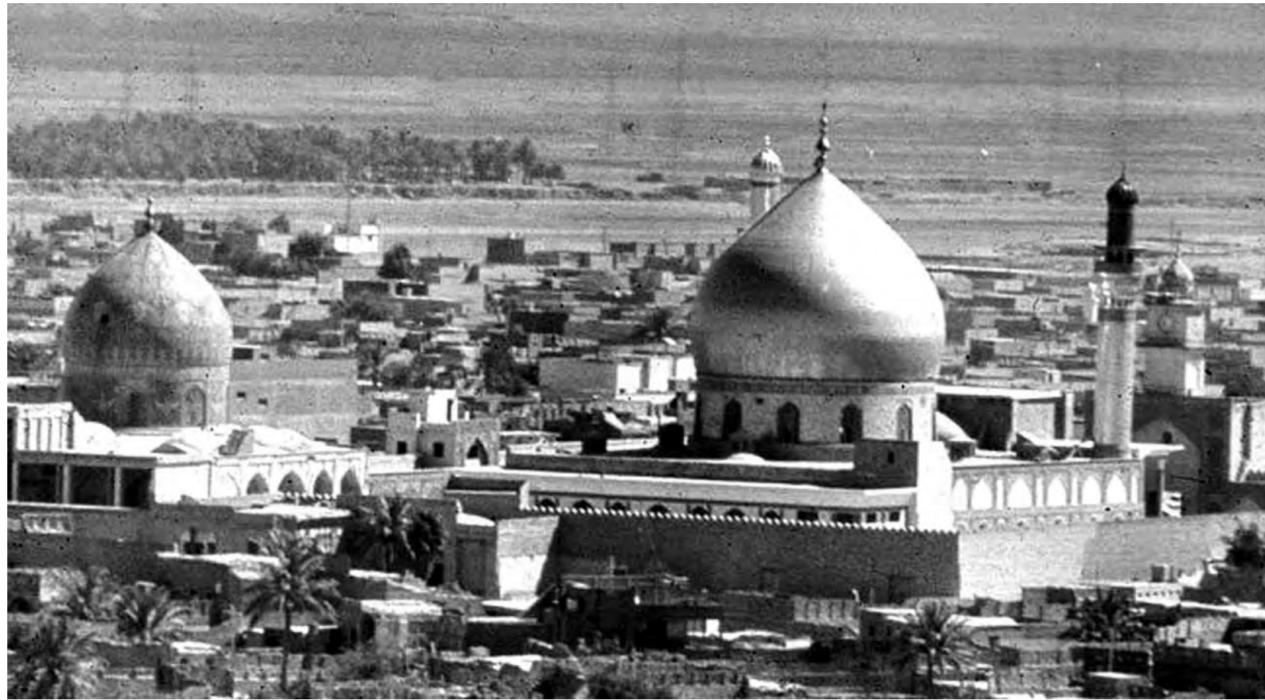


PHOTO COURTESY WWW.GLOBALSECURITY.ORG

THE 1200 YEAR OLD Al-Askariyya Shiite Shrine in Samarra Iraq and nineteen civilians were the bombing victims of violence between the Sunni and Shiite sects of Islam this past week.

Ramy Yaacoub
Staff Reporter

In the latest attack in Iraq on early Wednesday, Feb. 22, terrorists blew up the dome of Al-Askariyya in Samara, one of country's most prominent Shiite religious shrines in Iraq.

Prior to the attack, the terrorists broke into a police station, adjacent to the shrine, said police sources. They tied up five policemen who were inside, and then planted two explosive devices in the shrine. There were no reports of casualties, but extensive damage was caused to the golden dome of the shrine, leaving it in almost complete rumbles.

The shrine contains the tombs of the tenth and eleventh Shiite imams, 'Ali Al-Hadi who died in 868 A.D. (C.E.) and his son Hasan Al-Askariyya who died in 874 A.D. (C.E.) Eyewitnesses say security forces are searched the area surrounding the shrine, looking for the bombers. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. Demonstrations erupted soon after

the explosion. Shiites across Iraq took to the streets. In less than seven hours it was reported that at least five Sunni mosques had been attacked. It is not yet known how many people were injured or killed during these riots.

A U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad says the insurgent bombing of the sacred Golden Mosque in Samara, Iraq was a "heinous crime," speaking to reporters in Baghdad

February 23, Army Major General Rick Lynch said there was no advance warning that any action was planned against the mosque. At the same time, the spokesman said, "We are not seeing civil war igniting in Iraq." Both Iraqi political and religious leaders, Lynch said, have taken steps to help "calm the storm."

Both Sunni and Shiite leaders have called on their followers to remain calm and other prudent

measures have been taken, he said, including canceling leave for all Iraqi security forces and establishing curfews for Samara and Iraq's capital.

Later Wednesday evening, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadi Nejad accused Israel and the United States of being behind the bombing of one of Iraq's most important shrine. In a live broadcast speech, delivered to a crowd of thousands in southwestern Iran, Ahmadi Nejad charged that the bombing was an act "of a group of defeated Zionists and occupiers who intended to hit our emotions."

They "oppose God and justice," added Nejad. On Thursday, Afghan President Hamid Karzai strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the al-Askariyya shrine in Iraq, the office of the spokesman to the president said in a press release.

"Terrorists are trying to drive a wedge between the Sunni and Shiite communities who have lived together in harmony throughout the history of Islam," said Karzai. "The attack on the al-Askariyya shrine was a deliberate attempt by terrorists to damage the unity of Muslims in the world. This barbaric act of terrorism is against Islam and humanity and I condemn it in the strongest terms," he added.

The attack on the shrine is the third in a series of attacks directed towards the Shiite majority of Iraq. One day before the attack on Al-Askariyya, a car bomb went off on a street packed with shoppers in a Shiite corner of a predominantly Sunni part of Baghdad, killing 22 people and injuring 28, making it the deadliest of terrorist attacks in Iraq since Jan. 19th.

Sunni Arabs have accused the Shiite-run Interior Ministry of kidnapping and murdering Sunni civilians, a charge the ministry denies. Shiites and Kurds dominate the army, police and the new parliament, while most of the insurgencies are Sunni Arabs.

Students respond to suggestion of racism at ER

Stop thinking a majority of Caucasians are racist

I, as a Caucasian, would like to bring out my opinion on Michael Gonzalez's article, "Student suggests that racism persists at ERAU." Have you looked at what school we go to? We are attending one of the great-

“
Well, why can't I have pride that I am white, just like you have pride ...
- TJ ZACKMAN

est schools in the country. I think you underestimate the students at this school. The word 'racist' often means that you are stupid, can't think, not educated, and have no values. Well I am sorry, Michael, but that does not spell out any student at this school. You cannot be stupid, have no ability to think, have no education and have no values while attending this school. So to say there are racists at this school is just a stupid comment!

You suggest that others swallow their white pride and culture themselves, but why can't I have pride in the fact that I am white, just like you have pride in being the color you are? I am sorry but I think that, just like a lot of minorities, you still have the mindset that all whites look down on minorities. This is not true. Why don't you culture yourself with diversity, see our culture and not believe that because we are Caucasians, we are racists.

As for the Chancellor not showing up, maybe he was busy. As for the SGA President, I heard from a direct source that she was there

and was going to write about the event. Next time, before you jump to conclusions, and just about call them racists make sure you have your facts straight.

What makes the Black History Month celebration different then any other event on campus? I understand it is important to you. It celebrates everything African Americans have done in this country throughout history. I am not questioning that, but maybe it isn't that important to other students. Why do I, a Caucasian, have to celebrate Black History month and show up to an event?

I could culture myself with diversity in other ways. You should feel lucky to have a month set aside to celebrate all of the achievements. I don't see any other months set aside for other cultures. For example, the Irish have St. Patrick's

Day. This is one day as opposed to a whole month.

I bet there are a lot of people, though, who would like a whole month where everyday is like St. Patrick's Day! If there was a German history month, and no minorities showed up I wouldn't have a problem with it because I am sure you're not German and have no want or need to celebrate it.

I would not then come out and say that minorities are racist because they didn't show up; that is ridiculous. Finally, I would like to end on this note. This goes out to you, Michael, and all of you who feel the same way as Michael; culture yourselves and stop thinking that a majority of Caucasians are racist just because they don't celebrate Black History Month, you have nothing to lose!

-TJ Zackman

Absence from the event doesn't make me racist

In response to Mr. Gonzales' claim of racism in our school, I am a 40 year old white male who has spent 20 years of my life in the embrace of diversity.

I have worked an entire career in the Navy, side by side with black, white, Asian (including first generation Chinese), and for a period in the 1980's, even with students from Iraq.

I am livid that Mr. Gonzales believes that because I may choose not to attend a celebration that is obviously not intended for me, that I am a racist.

Would Mr. Gonzales attend a celebration for Caucasian-American History Month? I have attended many cultural activities over the years in support of the men and women who have served with me and by far have been well accepted.

But then again, there were

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That is the height of irresponsibility and callousness towards others.
- ANONYMOUS

instances of being scorned for having the "nerve" to show my "white honky face" at their celebration.

A person's history and culture is a very important aspect of their character, but attacking a group of people for not embracing "YOUR" culture is ridiculous.

Tell me that you demand my respect and I will agree. Tell me that you demand equality in your work conditions and I will agree. Tell me that you demand the same opportunities for advancement that I have, and I will agree.

Do NOT, my friend and student colleague, tell me that I must attend your diversity celebration or else I am a racist.

That is the height of irresponsibility and callousness towards others. I respect everyone I meet until they prove themselves unworthy of my respect, regardless of race.

Race is not nor should it be an issue and we should leave our color and culture at the door and concentrate on being the best students we can be, to ensure that this great country has well educated people to preserve its posterity. GO ERAU!!!

-Anonymous

Assumptions incorrectly made about my presence

"The revolution will not be televised;" three readings from a poetry book that Jason Pratt's grandmother gave him when he graduated high school; the background of the Divine Nine historically African American Greek organizations presented by some members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; and the beautiful sound of Bethune Cookman's choir.

These were just a few of the many things I remembered from the first annual Black History Month celebration that I attended at the beginning of the month.

I apologize if I did not stand up and make it known of my attendance at this more than successful event, but I do not feel I need to stand in the spotlight and make announced appearances at events on campus.

I feel it is a shame that such assumptions are made without correctly gaining the facts as to whether or not something is true. The primary

“
I personally enjoyed myself at the Black History event ...
- SARA MCCOOK

reason for the event was to celebrate the history and accomplishments of leaders who defied their time and took chances that I highly doubt any of us would consider taking today.

I make an effort to attend as many events and productions on this campus as possible. Although I may not be able to attend everything I am invited to, I made a point to attend the first annual Black History Month Celebration. I found that I sincerely enjoyed myself by learning more about the history and culture that surrounds us.

An issue that constantly surrounds our campus is the lack of spirit and involvement outside the small percentage of students that are already involved outside of their academics. It is a fact that when a majority of groups host events, only a small percentage of students actually show up, regardless of the hosting group's religion, orientation, or race.

I personally enjoyed myself at the Black History event and went to the event not because I am SGA President but because I as a person wanted to go. I do not think this needed to be turned into a racial issue, but rather a lack of school spirit and involvement dilemma.

-Sara McCook

CFC apologizes to campus community

On Thursday, February 23rd, numerous anti-evolutionist flyers, which were allegedly approved by the Christian Fellowship Club (CFC) of Embry-Riddle, were published and posted conspicuously on bulletin boards across campus. The manner in which these flyers belittled professors who confided in the theory of evolution was quite controversial; I do not even hesitate to say that the statements contained within these flyers were slanderous. In actuality, these flyers were posted illegitimately, at the cost of our reputation, by an outside religious organization who had no respect for our chain of command and masqueraded under our name in order to seek approval. The debate that the flyer alludes to is also not an event that we will be affiliated with. We have issued a cease and desist towards the offending publications of this organization.

Let it be explicitly clear; in no manner do these flyers represent the views of CFC nor any member of CFC. We vehemently oppose the instigation of controversy and do not condone slander in any circumstance. Furthermore, we are not in any place to judge anyone for any of their viewpoints and believe that respect for others is paramount;

anything else would be unethical. CFC is a group that seeks a relationship with God first and focuses on building lasting and spiritually solid relationships between our members. The bible clearly states that self-righteousness is wrong, that we are no better than others. It does not place emphasis on controversy nor the science behind our world, but rather underscores humility and love; we desire to present our faith in meekness and out of love for others. Likewise, it is simply against the nature of CFC to provoke a confrontation on the topic of creation vs. evolution, this is not our mission and we feel that debates such as these would undermine our standing with the students and faculty of this university.

As the president of CFC and in representation of its members and its operating principles, I extend an apology to all students and faculty members who may have been offended or angered by the posting of these flyers. We feel that our reputation has been compromised by these unfortunate sequence of events and desire to make amends to this by extending an assurance of acceptance to all faculty and students notwithstanding our differences.

-Chris Lee

“
We vehemently oppose the instigation of controversy ...
- CHRIS LEE

THE NOTH FACTOR E-mail can be inappropriate

This week has been particularly trying for me. I have been in the application process for several graduate programs for about three months now.

The results are starting to come in, and, unfortunately, they have not been the results I was seeking.

When I received a letter from Northwestern University, I knew that things were not good; a thin envelope is an instant signal for, "We regret to inform you." Still, the letter from Northwestern was, at least, a letter. At the bottom, in handwritten ink, there was a signature.

The University of Chicago did not have such decency. Friday evening, when my computer made that familiar new mail sound Outlook users are so accustomed to, I found something I was not expecting.

When I saw the subject line "Chicago GSB PhD Program Decision," I knew the news was likely bad news.

Unfortunately, I was correct. The e-mail explained that the school had to turn away a number of qualified candidates and other typical rejection mumbo-jumbo.

After the signature line, likely due to some flaw in the automatic e-mail-generator, I found the salutation, "Dear Christopher Noth," repeated.

Considering that I took the time to make a serious application, and furthermore, paid the \$75 application fee, it seems like I at least deserve some decent treatment. It is not as if I applied for giggles; I met all of the

prerequisites for admission.

How could a respected institution convey such important information in an e-mail that included a mis-coded mail-merge tag?

I really hate that e-mail has become widely accepted as a medium for any and all communication. Some things require more personal attention.

If a family member were in the hospital, would it be acceptable for a doctor to write an

e-mail conveying tragic news? I can only imagine the e-mail: "To: Ldyklr6969@yahoo.com From: DrDreismyname@hospital.org Subject Line: FW: FW: Re: FW: Your Aunt Suzie. Message: Your Aunt Suzie has died of lung



Christopher A. Noth
Columnist

Speak the right love language

We broke up because logistically it could not work, but we did not break up because there weren't any feelings. So where do those feelings go? A couple of months passed and life was good. I saw new people, but then suddenly, like rain falling down.

Those emotions and feelings for her came back. This time I saw her in entirely different light. Things had changed since she graduated, got a job, and a new apartment.

The argument here resides with knowing when it's over or whether we should try and salvage a relationship. It's important to be real. What could I have done differently? Well, I would have shrugged it off as life until I read Gary Chapman's book *The Five Love Languages*.

I am not a fruitcake weirdo for reading this book; it was given to me from someone I barely even know who said, "as a guy, you need to know this." It speaks of communicating your love and how different people - couples in particular - have a primary love language and how it is our responsibility to learn the other person's language. The five languages are: words of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, acts

of service, and physical touch.

While each of these love languages are thoroughly explained in the book, the point I am trying to make is simple. Did I misinterpret our relationship? If so, could we make a mistake in ending the relationship before deciphering it?

The moral of this story is simple—men and women alike in dating relationships or in marriage must be able to communicate their love and in doing so completely understand one another.

By better understanding our significant other's primary love language, we are in a better position from which to evaluate the relationship and understand its direction.

Open dialogue and the free flow of information helps to facilitate the love language that is spoken. If you are in a relationship, and you are unsure of its direction, I encourage you to step back, evaluate how you communicate with your partner and gain a better understanding of your partner's perspective. You may save your relationship before it ends prematurely.

-Anonymous

“
I am not a fruitcake weirdo for reading this book ...
- ANONYMOUS

Have an opinion?

Write to The Avion and let your voice be heard by emailing :

avion.newsroom@gmail.com

Student Forum

The Avion asks: "What sport would you add to the winter olympics?"

—Compiled by Don Macanlalay



Audrey Jo Garza
Aerospace Engineering
Junior

"Arctic swimming."



Ethan Mills-grassin
Communications
Senior

"Avalanche starting."



Michael Sevcik
Aeronautical Science
Senior

"Heli-skiing."



Jay Alfred
Aeronautical Science
Sophomore

"Snowman making."



Victor Sverdlin
Mechanical Engineering
Freshman

"Competitive vodka chugging."



Christa Inscoe & Susie Crosbie
Sophomores

"Igloo making."

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THE AVION
TUESDAY
September 27, 2005
Volume 10
Issue 4
www.avionnewspaper.com

Women's soccer beats Florida Tech
Florida Tech's Soccer (3-0-1) overcame a 2-0 lead by the Panthers in a victory over Florida Tech. The Eagles scored the first goal in the 11th minute, but Florida Tech's goalkeeper, Cathy Lesnik, made a crucial save in the 20th minute. The Eagles scored again in the 35th minute, but Florida Tech's goalkeeper, Cathy Lesnik, made another crucial save in the 45th minute. The Eagles scored the winning goal in the 60th minute.

Angels in the Heart of Florida
The Blue Angels were on the air for the first time in the history of the program. The show was a huge success, and the Blue Angels were praised for their performance.

Hurricane season 2005 to rush Alpha Beta Gamma
Storms to get Greek names if season rages on. The Greek alphabet will be used to name hurricanes if the season is particularly active. The first hurricane of the season is expected to be named Alpha.

ERAU charging students for SkyFest
The school is charging students for the SkyFest event. The school officials claim that the event is a necessary part of the curriculum.

Burnout Revenge & X-Men reviews
E-Gaming, B6

Eagles V-ball takes home four wins
Sports, A10

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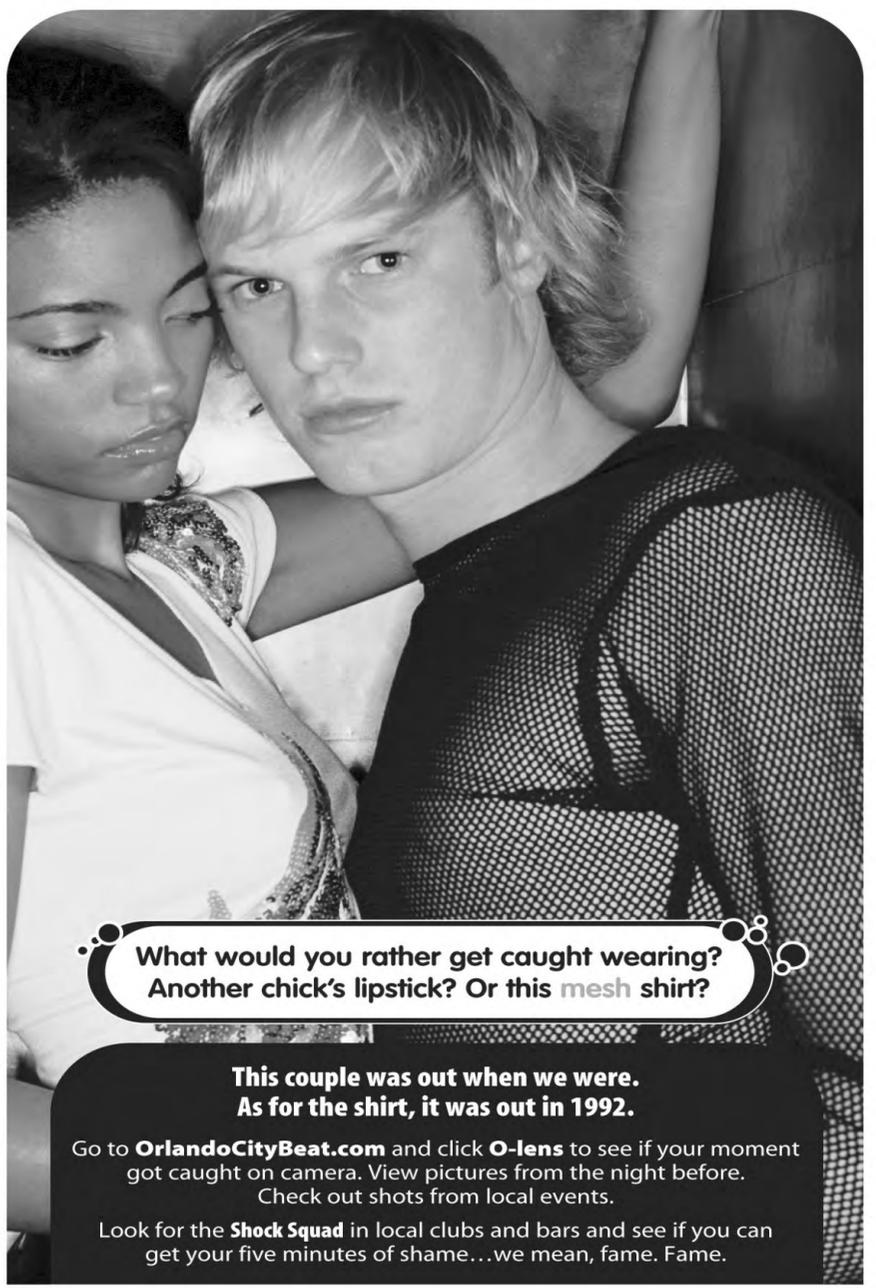
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 - C172SP(s) (G1000) \$ 114
 - C182T (G1000) \$ 144
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As for the shirt, it was out in 1992.

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Embry-Riddle basketball wins FSC title

Press Release

ERAU Sports Info. Dept.

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. - After a lackluster offensive effort in the Florida Sun Conference tournament semi-final game Friday night shooting just 36.5 percent in the contest, the No. 1 Embry-Riddle University men's basketball team was able to prevail behind it's NAIA top-ranked defense (.361).

In their 68-55 championship game victory against Florida Memorial it was the opposite as the Eagle offensive unit was clicking connecting on 46.2 percent of its attempts in the first half, but the defense was not there as Florida Memorial's offense was 14-for-27 from the field in the

opening half (51.9 percent) - leading to a 33-30 FMU advantage at the intermission.

But seventeenth-year ERAU head coach Steve Ridder asked his team to turn up the defensive pressure in the second half and, as championship teams do, they performed.

There was little room to operate as the Eagles swarmed around Florida Memorial. The Blue and Gold limited the Lions to 25.0 percent shooting (7-for-28 and 1-for-10 from three-point land).

The victory gives the Eagles (30-2) their seventh Florida Sun Conference tournament title and their ninth appearance in the NAIA Division II National Tournament which will be held in Point Lookout, Mo. on the

campus of College of the Ozarks March 8-15. However, most fans refer to the trip as "Going to Branson" which is the nearby city where all of the team hotels are located and the tournament banquet is held.

Most importantly, the FMU (18-14) backcourt which scored 60 of the Lions' 78 points in their 78-65 victory against Savannah College of Art and Design, was held to just 28 points on the evening. Senior Ben Witherspoon was a large part of this defensive effort neutralizing FMU's top weapons Sean Banks and Tramaine Stevens to six points apiece after the two registered 27 and 15, respectively in their semifinal win.

Witherspoon earned tournament MVP primarily for his defensive presence forcing misses and

recording three steals, while also contributing 12 points, four assists and two boards in the title game. He added 11 points, five boards, two assists and a steal in the semi-final win.

While the defense took care of business, the offense shot 54.5 percent and were led by Ryan Exter who finished with 14 second-half points and a game-high 19 to collect all-tournament honors along with Michael Pyle (ERAU), Jake Pickett (ERAU), Sean Banks (FMU) and Perry Baggett (FMU).

The Eagles led 46-45 at the 12:42 mark of the second half, but went on a 9-0 run over the next five minutes behind Exter with a jumper and three-pointer, while Tyler DeBord and Witherspoon both hit layups giving ERAU a 55-45 advantage at the 7:15 mark.

This surge proved too much to overcome for Florida Memorial, which is the only NAIA Division II team to defeat the Eagles this season with a 71-68 overtime win at home on Feb. 1 in Opa Locka, Fla. The other Eagle loss was against No. 12 NAIA Division I Lindsey Wilson.

FMU cut the lead to single digits very late in the game with 1:47 to go 61-52, but Embry-Riddle outscored the Lions 7-3 down the stretch primarily from the charity stripe going 7-for-10.



JORDAN CLANCY/AVION

SENIOR GUARD BEN WITHERSPOON played well defensively holding FMU's top scorers to only six points each on Friday night as Embry-Riddle went on to win their seventh FSC tournament title.

ERAU swim club reborn

Spencer Conklin

Guest Reporter

With a dive and a splash, the swim club set off their weekend at the meet in Orlando, Fla. This was their first meet since being re-founded last semester.

The club has recruited twenty people, eight of those people competed this weekend against Rollins College, University of Tampa, Florida Southern College, Saint Leo University and Eckert College.

Due to the Embry-Riddle pool being closed, the club has been training at Daytona Beach Community College for the past year in hopes of competing. This being their first

meet, they were thrilled to have the swim times that were competitive enough to be able to enter the meet. "I'm excited that our club has developed to the point where we can compete" Karynn Lippert, Swim Club President said.

Starting early on Saturday morning, the club entered the preliminary rounds full blast, plowing through eight separate events with little time to rest in between each race. Improving their times across the board, they made it into the finals that night in all but three of the events, the men's 200 yard free, men's 100 yard backstroke, and the women's 200 Individual Medley relay.

Aline Rodrigues, first time competitor, beat her best back-

stroke time by six seconds in the women's 200 IM relay and was disappointed not to make it to finals but happy to be there supporting the team.

Having had the flu all week, Billy Fischer struggled through the meet, giving it his best and managing to come through for the men's 200 IM relay to help bring it to finals.

During consolation finals, Karynn Lippert came in first in the 200 yard free with a time of 2:25.36 with Jennifer Jordan coming in second with a time of 2:41.57, narrowly beating the person in third by mere seconds. Ted Holland had a 1:17.68 in the men's consolation final 100 breast.

During the men's 200 yard IM relay, Tomas Gilmore unfortunately was disqualified for an improper turn, having only a one hand touch instead of the regulatory two handed touch. Karynn Lippert had a time of 1:11.55 in the 100 backstroke coming in third place.

The roar was deafening as Tyler McGuire came in second place in the consolation final for the 100 yard breast with a time of 1:07.17, making it seventh place overall in the 100 yard breast. "I had a good swim," Tyler said as he caught his breath. The team went home exhausted but happy, ready to keep training for their next event.

Golf teams compete at Coca Cola Invite

Chris Cole

Comics Editor

Embry-Riddle's men's golf team finished fourth and the women third in the Bethune Cookman Coca Cola Invitational on Sunday February 26 at Indigo Lakes Country Club in Daytona Beach. Bethune Cookman won the men's division with a 599, and Jacksonville University won the women's.

Richie Schroyer led the men's team on Saturday, posting a two over-par 74. This helped give the team a first day total of 309, which placed them in fourth going into Sunday. Rich Grove posted the lowest two-day total of 76 and 80, which added the final two-day total of 631.

Autumn Gee carried the women's team throughout the two days with a solid nine over-par 81 on Saturday and Sunday to help give the team a total of 340. "Autumn

Gee really hung in there though she felt she struggled most of the day," Embry-Riddle's golf coach, Maria Lopez said.

The two-day event was riddled with high scores that could have been due to the adverse weather conditions that were prevalent on both days, especially on Sunday after the passage of a cold front. "It was a brutal day in the three club wind out there," Lopez said in regards to Sundays round.

"This is a great experience for us to learn for and prepare for Nationals from," Lopez said. "Invariably, we will have cold windy weather like this at Nationals. This shows us where we need to get stronger."

When asked to pick out a key player for the tournament this weekend Lopez said, "It is difficult and I do not like to choose a player standing out over the others. I believe all of them had their moments of brilliance and toughness for the team."



CHRIS COLE/AVION

SOPHOMORE AUTUMN GEE HITS an approach shot on hole 13 during ERAU golf action on Saturday at the Indigo Lakes Golf Course. Gee led the women with a nine over-par 81 on both days.

Meet ERAU's roller hockey club

Christopher Ventre

Special to *The Avion*

For those of you that may be unaware, Embry-Riddle has two hockey teams-ice and roller. The roller hockey team is organized much like ice, but played on an indoor rink.

ERAU is part of the Southeast Collegiate Roller Hockey League (SECRHL) and is given the opportunity to play against other colleges, the majority being NCAA schools.

So far this school year, the team has traveled to tournaments in Atlanta, Tampa, Columbia, S.C., and Savannah; they have played such teams as: UF, UCF, FSU, Western Carolina, Duke, Longwood, UM, University of South Carolina, Emory, Georgia Tech, Georgia State, Elon, UNC, UNC Charlotte, Eckerd and FIU—all pretty big-named schools.

Against these teams, ERAU has posted a 4-3-1 record this semester against some of the best teams in the nation.

So, now you may be asking yourself, "Do I know anyone that plays?" Our starting goalie is Jason Sokoloff. He may be better known for his play-by-play for the ice hockey games, along with hosting his own radio show Tuesday evenings at 10:00 p.m. on 99.1, Eagles FM.

A mid-season addition to the team, Sokoloff filled the position better than anticipated. After a shaky 0-4 start, he has put together a record of 4-3-1 and has a save percentage of .756, very respectable for roller hockey, as it generally has much higher scoring than ice hockey.

This year, the team has had a handful of very valuable sophomores. Leading the team with 31 goals and 20 assists is Team Captain Adam Cohen.

Also lighting the lamp and winning the majority of face-offs is Rob Faiola, who has also excelled in scoring 17 goals and four assists. Winger Matt Kaye has also shined, scored 12 goals and five assists, despite suffering a knee injury and missing the last four games of the season.

The lone junior, winger Chris Ventre has made an incredible

comeback from a shoulder injury to post 14 goals and seven assists.

Senior winger Doug Herold has worked to achieve a career high of ten goals and eight assists this season.

Offense, though, does not always wins games. The roller hockey team also has an outstanding defensive line.

Senior defensemen Jeffrey Cheung and James Neiswender have been minding the blue line very well this season. Cheung has three goals and five assists,

and Neiswender has ten goals and six assists.

Two major defensive additions this season have been freshman Eric Moore and junior Jarrett Tyo.

Both have been filling the net and the penalty box with their crushing defense and have earned a combined 24 penalty minutes. Moore has 14 goals and 13 assists; Tyo has 18 goals and 15 assists.

The team's 7-13-1 record has earned them a bid to SECRHL Regional Championship, held

March 3-5 in Atlanta, Ga.

ERAU's first opponent will be Georgia State, a team that they have previously beaten 11-8.

If successful at regionals, Embry-Riddle will have a chance to make their way onto Nationals in N.C., hosted by the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association (NCRHA). Best of luck, let's go Eagles!

Want to know more about the team, or interested in becoming a member? Visit www.secrhl.org for more information.



PHOTO COURTESY MATTHEW KAYE

ERAU'S ROLLER HOCKEY CLUB is seen here in a team photo. Top row (left to right): Jarrett Tyo, Rob Faiola, Eric Moore. Middle Row: Adam Cohen, Doug Herold, Jeffrey Cheung. Bottom row: Matt Kaye, Chris Ventre, Jim Neiswender, and the goalie is Jason Sokoloff.

NASA says Atlantis will be first shuttle to retire

Curtis Ewbank
Copy Editor

Historically, NASA has boasted an orbiter fleet of four vehicles. However, with the loss of Columbia and the end of the Space Shuttle Program looming, NASA plans to cut the orbiter fleet to two in 2008 by retiring Atlantis.

The decision was announced on February 17 by Space Shuttle Program Manager Wayne Hale. According to Hale, "Atlantis will be due for an Orbiter Maintenance Down Period (OMDP) in the 2008 time frame. We looked at the manifest and laid it out and we believe we can fly the '08, '09, and '10 time frame using only Discovery and Endeavour." It might be expected that Discovery would

be retired first, as it is the oldest orbiter. However, Discovery just came out of OMDP in time for STS-114 last year. Endeavour is the youngest orbiter and also came out of OMDP recently. Since Atlantis would not be due to come out of its next OMDP until 2010, near the estimated time for the end of the Space Shuttle Program, the decision was made not to go into OMDP. However, NASA does not plan on

divesting itself of Atlantis in 2008, even though numerous museums have already called asking to put it on display. NASA will keep Atlantis around to provide spare parts for Discovery and Endeavour as they finish out the Space Shuttle flight manifest and the construction of the International Space Station. Currently, there are 16-18 flights remaining in the Space Shuttle Program.

Atlantis will fly five of those between now and mid-2008.

Atlantis was the fourth orbiter to fly into space. Its first flight was STS-51-J in 1985. It has made 26 flights since then, most notably STS-34, which launched Galileo towards Jupiter, and STS-71, the first flight where an orbiter docked with the Mir space station. Since 2000, Atlantis has made six flights to the International Space Station.



PHOTO COURTESY WWW.NASA.GOV

NASA ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK that the first orbiter to be retired will be OV-104, also known as Atlantis. With the loss of the Orbiters Columbia in 2001 and Challenger in 1986, the current orbiter fleet is left with just three. However, recent analysis at NASA has determined that after 2008, the remaining missions to the International Space Station can be completed using only Endeavour and Discovery. The above photo shows Atlantis' return from the International Space Station during its last mission, STS-112. Atlantis will remain at the Cape to be used for spare parts after its final mission in mid-2008.

Scientists see promising results in HIV cocktails

Bob Scheid
News Editor

Scientists working for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced at a convention in Denver last week that they have developed a promising method for preventing the transmission of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

Dr. Walid Heneine, a team leader of the group, spoke at the annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections about the use of the drug Truvada, which includes elements of the drugs Viread, also called tenofovir, and Emtriva, also known as emtricitabine. Truvada is a common component of what are referred to as "AIDS cocktails," a combination of drugs taken on a daily basis to suppress the effects of HIV.

In the experiment, the researchers administered doses of Truvada to half of a sample of macaque monkeys, and gave nothing to the other half. The monkeys were then exposed to a variant of HIV called SHIV, which is related to both the human and simian versions of the disease and is used to study the effects on lab animals in a way that would give data about the human effects as well.

The method of exposure was intended to closely simulate male homosexual contact

in monkeys, using a "rectal method" and supplemented by daily injections. Treatment continued for four weeks after the last exposure. None of the six monkeys that were given the drug became infected with SHIV; all nine of the monkeys that were not given medication became infected.

Heneine suggested that the current recommended doses would not be enough to prevent the disease in humans, but still thinks that the study was encouraging. The CDC also released a press statement about the results, saying that the authors of the study "believe the findings may be the strongest animal data yet suggesting that potent anti-retrovirals given before HIV exposure may prevent sexual HIV transmission."

Don Baxter, Executive Director of the Australian AIDS Organizations, said the method of stopping exposure was different than what has been researched in the past. "We have gone back to the drawing board with vaccines because the directions that we were working on didn't appear to work, so we needed a new approach," he said, also commenting on how Dr. Heneine's research did seem to be in such a different direction.

The advent of a vaccine for HIV would have the potential to save millions of lives in developing countries, where medication is not readily available.



PHOTO COURTESY WWW.NAL.USDA.GOV

RECENT EXPERIMENTS ON MONKEYS at the U.S. Center for Disease Control have shown promising results in the search for an AIDS vaccine. Certain combinations of already-available 'cocktails' appear to prevent the spread of the virus in monkeys.

A rough week for Mac users

Jonathan Mettin
Managing Editor

Apple computer users were cautioned to upgrade to the latest version of OS X and to check the write privileges on their machines after several viruses and a security hole were announced last week.

The worms Leap-A and Inqtana target the popular iChat instant messaging program and the Bluetooth wireless feature, respectively, both pre-installed on most Macs. The security hole affects the Safari web browser, and although no malicious coding has taken advantage of it as yet, experts warn that it is inevitable that someone will exploit the hole soon.

These three security threats represent the first credible menaces to OS X's integrity from malicious coding, or malware. Although all three issues have relatively easy fixes, antivirus companies say they should serve as a wake-up call to Apple users, who until now have had real threats from viruses and security holes.

Leap-A, considered to be the first worm to specifically target Macintosh platforms, uses iChat to pose as a series of pictures that, when opened, uses a security loophole to plant coding in other programs, potentially every program loaded onto the computer. The file claims to be screenshots of Apple's OS X 10.5 Leopard. Once run, the program attempts to infect everyone on the victim's buddy list as well.

Graham Cluley, from the antivirus company Sophos, said users can easily protect themselves from Leap-A. By simply changing the write privileges on the InputManagers folder to "Read Only" for every user except the system, which would notify the user every time a program tried to access the folder, thus feeding information to a multitude of programs and wreaking havoc if it allowed program code to be rewritten.

"The Leap-A worm isn't in itself a significant threat," Cluley said in an interview with the *Deccan Herald*, "but it should act as a helpful reminder that malware can be written for any computer ... The bad news is that most people think the situation is going to get worse for

Macintosh users, and more threats will be targeted against the Apple community. The good news is that most don't believe it will ever be as big a problem as the one Microsoft Windows faces."

He believes that the recent popularity of Apple's iPod music player could have caused malware coders to focus more on the Macintosh.

On a scale of one to five, with five being the most serious threat, the Symantec security firm rated Leap-A as a one, since it requires the user to trigger it rather than automatically downloading and installing itself.

Sophos also discovered the Inqtana-A and Inqtana-B worms, which exploit a previously known Bluetooth vulnerability to spread. Apple released an update for this security issue in 2005, but Sophos said many Mac users do not download patches regularly because they think viruses only affect Windows operating systems.

The hole in Safari was identified by Heise Online, a German IT portal, and the Danish security firm Secunia. Safari's "open safe files automatically after

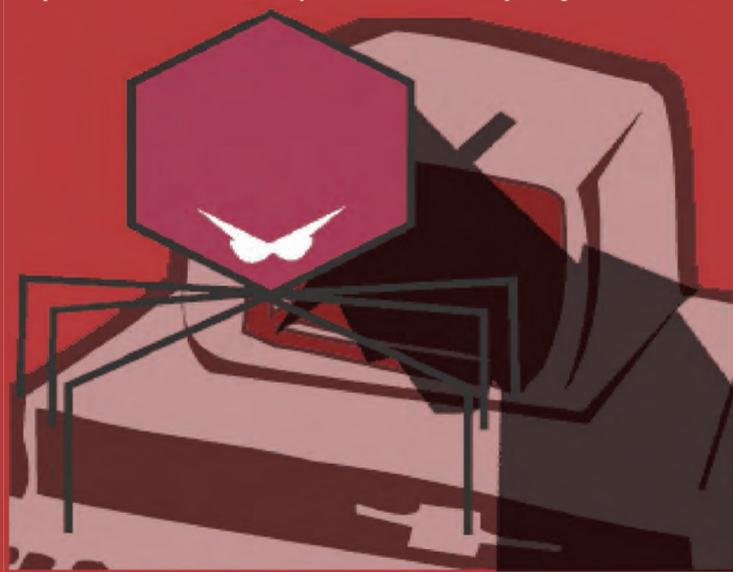
download" feature will open any file labeled as "safe." Should a hacker be able to code that into malware, Safari would still open it.

The solution for users, therefore, is to disable the option and not surf the web on an account with administrator privileges. This vulnerability has been labeled as "extremely critical" by security agencies.

Cluley pointed out that while two viruses have been found that affect Macs, there are over 100,000 for Microsoft operating systems.

"Viruses emerging for the Mac OS X platform is headline news for Apple fans," Cluley said, "but they are currently posing far from the level of threat that Windows users face every day. No one should panic, but this is an indication that hackers are showing an increased interest in targeting the platform."

Last month marked the 20-year anniversary of the discovery of the first computer virus. Brain, which originated in Pakistan, would change the name of the computer's volume label to "(c) brain" or "(c) ashar" depending on the variant.



Discovery hopes for May as ET heads for KSC

Crew practices using flight hardware in KSC visit

Phil Larson
Sports Editor

NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans could have folded and crumbled with the difficulties incurred on its employees and facilities by the devastating Hurricane Katrina.

However, the opposite has happened as they have come through in the clutch this week by shipping the new and improved shuttle external tank that is to be used on NASA's next shuttle mission to Kennedy Space Center ahead of schedule. It's due to arrive there this Friday.

The new tank design that was developed in response to the requirements set by the Columbia Accident Investigation Board failed according to NASA during its STS-114 Return To Flight mission last July. A large piece of foam, the material that impacted Columbia and

eventually caused it to burn up in Earth's atmosphere, were ominously seen falling past Discovery during its ascent into space.

That disappointment caused NASA to send the tank that is to be used in the next shuttle launch, STS-121, back to Michoud for further alterations.

STS-121 is scheduled to launch no earlier than May, but continuous setbacks may cause further delays. External tank wind tunnel tests, ice and debris analysis, and main engine seal leaks and metallic contamination in the shuttle main engines are still problems and tests that need to be done to ensure a safe mission.

The Atlantis orbiter was due to be used for STS-121, but the shuttle fleet was grounded after Discovery's Return To Flight in July, and the manifest has been adjusted for Discovery to be used in the second attempt to successfully and safely return the shuttle to orbit.

Discovery's crew was at the Kennedy Space Center Feb. 17 to inspect the shuttle and practice using the instruments and tools they will be utilizing during their flight.

"The foam problem, obvi-

ously we're working on it," Shuttle commander Steven Lindsey said. "Everybody knows what happened on 114. The PAL ramp foam problem, I think we have solved since we've taken the PAL ramp foam of the tank and it won't be there. The data I've seen ... I'm pretty confident that's the right decision and we're going to be OK on that."

"The program has never advertised that we will never lose any foam. And we'll lose foam on this flight."

Lindsey's five crewmates, pilot Mark Kelly, and Mission Specialists Michael Fossum, Lisa Nowak,

Stephanie Wilson and Piers Sellers, expressed the same confidence in their safe return when discussing their mission with reporters.

The launch window for NASA's second Return To Flight test mission lasts from May 10-23, and if

more delays are realized, the second window from July 1-19 may need to be utilized.

If STS-121's launch is as safe everyone hopes, the following shuttle mission, STS-115, could launch as early as August 28.

“ And we'll lose foam on this flight.”

- STEVEN LINDSEY ”



PHOTO COURTESY KSC.NASA.GOV
THE STS-121 CREW POSES in front of the Vehicle Assembly Building following a press conference at the Kennedy Space Center Feb. 17. The crew was in Florida to practice using the hardware and tools they will use on their mission, planned for launch no earlier than May 10.

For miles and miles... and 35 years



PHOTO COURTESY NASA.GOV

FORE! ASTRONAUTS ON THE International Space Station are hoping to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the first golf shot in space, by Alan Shepard on the Apollo 14 moon mission, by teeing-off during a spacewalk and launching a golf ball into Earth orbit later this summer. Sergei Krikalev is seen above showing off his swing in this photo taken onboard in 2005.

Swift GRO detects a strange new kind of cosmic explosion

Curtis Ewbank
Copy Editor

On Feb. 18, a cosmic explosion similar to a gamma ray burst, yet almost entirely different, was detected using NASA's Swift Gamma-Ray Observatory. The explosion was 440 million light-years away and lasted nearly 2,000 seconds. Typical gamma ray bursts are 25 times farther away and last only a few seconds. This explosion was also dimmer than a typical gamma ray burst. It is speculated that the reduced magnitude could be caused by off-axis viewing of the explosion.

Some speculate the difference in the explosion from a normal

gamma ray burst could be caused by the explosion really being the beginning of a supernova. Nicola Masetti of Italy's Institute for Space Astrophysics and Cosmic Physics said, "We expected to see the typical featureless spectrum of a gamma-ray burst afterglow, but instead we found a mixture between this and the more complex spectrum of a supernova similar to those generally observed weeks after the gamma-ray burst...A supernova must be in the works."

If this gamma ray burst is indeed a supernova, it will be the first astronomers have observed from start to finish. The Swift GRO was built to quickly detect gamma ray bursts and monitor them. Due to the length of this burst, Swift

was able to bring all of its instruments to bear while observing the burst. Further observations are planned with the Chandra X-Ray Observatory and the Hubble Space Telescope.

The afterglow from the burst is brightening in the visual spectrum, lending credence to the idea that the burst is actually a Type Ic supernova.

In a Type Ic supernova a very massive star has collapsed into a black hole and exploded. The debris from the explosion traps visible light, which is freed as the debris settles. Enough light should be emitted so amateur astronomers in dark skies will be able to see the supernova; it is predicted to reach sixteenth magnitude.



PHOTO COURTESY NASA.GOV

A STRANGE EXPLOSION IS seen in this Feb. 18 image from the Swift Gamma-Ray Observatory. On the left is the 'before' image, while the right image shows where the odd explosion occurred.

Japan launches 2nd sat

Nicole titus

Staff Reporter

Japanese scientists, air-traffic controllers and meteorologists have some new tools at their disposal after the successful launches of two spacecraft last week.

The two separate Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) launches included a new infrared telescope and a dual air traffic and weather satellite.

The weather and air traffic satellite, or MTSAT-2, was the second member of Japan's Multi-Functional Transport Satellite fleet. It will be aiding air traffic management and weather forecasting throughout the western Pacific regions and eastern Asia.

MTSAT-2 lifted off from the Yoshinobu launch complex at Tanegashima Space Center on an H-2A rocket.

The 174-foot tall launcher rolled out to the seaside launch pad about twelve hours prior to blastoff. The H-2A rocket, a two-stage vehicle, was used because the

mission needed to deliver the 10,000-pound craft into orbit.

The spacecraft was built by Mitsubishi Electric, and carries Ku-band, Ka-band, and L-band instruments to help make air travel more efficient and safer. It will also provide direct voice and data links from control centers to the cockpits of airliners, which is a great improvement over the previous dependence on ground-based antennas.

The satellites second objective, weather observation, will not be fully in use until around 2010, where it will then serve as a replacement for a previous MTSAT. Its features include an imager with five observation channels, and twice as many imaging cycles compared to previous satellites. It will also have improved ability to detect low-level clouds and fog, and make more precise sea surface temperature estimates at night.

Once the satellite deployed its solar panel and testing was complete, it settled into its parking spot in geostationary orbit over Micronesia in the western Pacific.

The second spacecraft was put into orbit four days after the MTSAT-2 to begin an 18-month mission to conduct a comprehensive all-sky survey that should detect light from up to ten million objects scattered throughout the universe.

The 12-foot tall, 2,100 pound satellite was flown into orbit using a three-stage solid-fueled M-5 rocket that launched from Uchinoura Space Center near Kagoshima, Japan.

The mission was led by the United States, United Kingdom and the Netherlands in an effort to carry out the first comprehensive infrared survey. This will allow scientists to create a group of detailed atlases, improving previous results collected by other observatories. Officials expect an upgrade in resolution, which will paint a better picture of the universe for astronomers.

The successful launch of these two orbital missions, both within four days of each other, gave JAXA three successful launches already in 2006.

Lockheed announces new IR sensors for its aircraft

Bob Scheid

News Editor

Lockheed Martin announced last week they are developing new dual-purpose infrared (IR) sensors for defensive and offensive use on their aircraft.

The new sensors are part of an instrument suite called the Sniper Advanced Targeting Pod. This will include the new IR sensors as well as electro-optical targeting system technology to increase situational awareness around the aircraft.

The "dual-purpose" nature of the sensors is the ability to detect

and track objects in the sky for the aircraft, such as enemy aircraft and incoming missiles, and also to relay information about ground targets to a ground communications link for use by other elements of the armed forces.

Current projects for the United States military include the use of a networked battle capability, which would nearly instantly transmit elements from different elements of all involved branches and groups in an operation to a central point, where commanders can get a clear picture of what is happening at any point in time.

This new sensor is designed

to help provide intelligence about buildings, troop movements, or vehicles from up to 45 miles away and at altitudes of 45,000 feet.

The accuracy of the Sniper pod is supposedly unaffected by the flight operations of the aircraft. The pods can be attached to planes on routine flights, and intelligence can be gathered without any special movement of the airplane.

It is likely that the pod will be installed on C-5, C-17 and C-130 aircraft as part of an upgrade program for their threat-detection systems.

Upcoming Cape launches

Shuttle looks to May; GOES-N being reevaluated

The next launch of a Space Shuttle could occur as early as May 10, though there is no contingency time in the processing schedule and there are still many technical problems to work out. The daylight launch window for Discovery stretches to May 23 before facing a delay to the July 1-19 window. Meanwhile, the following flight of Atlantis is scheduled for no earlier than August 28 as the External Tank needed for that flight will not be ready to support flight any earlier. That launch window stretches to Sept. 14 and is the last lengthy daylight-only launch period in 2006, though there are two short three to four day windows later in the year. NASA currently expects just two Shuttle flights in 2006, but a third is being considered possible if its ET is ready to support it and with hopes that the daylight launch rule is lifted after two foam-loss-free flights.

On the unmanned front, the GOES-N weather satellite was demated from the Delta 4 vehicle last week and is undergoing reevaluation testing at the Astrotech operations facility in Titusville, FL. The satellite has been on top of the rocket since last June, and managers say they wanted to check the satellite's health before its next launch attempt in the April timeframe.

April
Delta 4
NASA/NOAA
GOES-N weather sat.
Launch time: TBD, evening?

April 20
Atlas 5
ASTRA-1K
Television satellite
Launch time: TBD

July 22
Delta 2
NASA's STEREO
Twin solar-monitoring craft
Launch time: 3:30 p.m. EDT

Mid-April
Delta 2
Next GPS satellite
Launch time: TBD

NET May 10
Space Shuttle Discovery
STS-121 / ISS flight
Launch time: 1:08 p.m. EDT
5 min. window

August 28
Space Shuttle Atlantis
STS-115 / ISS flight
Solar Array attachment
Launch time: late afternoon EDT

EDITED BY BEN COOPER

Bird flu in Britain threatens Tower of London

Legend claims missing ravens spells doom for British Tower

Ramy Yaacoub
Staff Reporter

Legend has it that the Tower of London will collapse and the kingdom will fall if all the ravens leave. The 11th century fortress stands on the river Thames and its white tower is home to the ravens. King Charles II decreed in the 17th century that there must always be six ravens at the tower.

"Although we don't like having to bring the Tower ravens inside, we believe it is the safest thing to do for their own protection, given the speed that the virus is moving across

Europe," the Tower's Yeoman raven master, Derrick Coyle, said.

In an attempt to maintain the tradition and in fear of testing the standing legend six ravens, Branwen, Hugine, Mumin, Gwyllum, Thor and Baldrick have been confined to custom-built aviaries. This was all done as "Contingency measures," a spokeswoman for the Tower explained. Plans to take the ravens in the tower have been discussed very shortly after the deadly Bird flu virus started spreading throughout Western Europe.

Seven nations in the E.U. have reported the lethal H5N1 strain of the virus in wild birds. Austria, Germany, Italy and France are among the nations that reported infected wild birds.

On other battlefronts against the virus, Egypt has reported eleven infected chickens in the area. The report has created panic among the Egyptian populace, the government of Egypt has responded to the panicking public, "The public should not panic and the government is tak-

ing all measures to protect them," Prime Minister Ahmed Nazef said in the official government statement

While the virus has been known to scientists for a significant number of years, this epidemic was sparked in Hong Kong in 1997 when cases were reported in both chickens and humans. In 1999 more cases were reported in the same region of the world. Cases were mainly confined to Hong Kong until 2003, when it started spreading in Asia and the rest of the world.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the H5N1 virus has devastated poultry stocks and has claimed the lives of at least 92 people since 2003. While most cases of the disease reported in humans have been linked to direct contact with infected birds, scientists fear a mutation of the virus. If the virus was to mutate, it could potentially form into an easily transmitted disease among humans, sparking a world-wide pandemic.



PHOTO COURTESY WWW.COPYRIGHT-FREE-PHOTOS.ORG.UK
ACCORDING TO LEGEND, THE London Tower will collapse if ravens in London leave. The thinning population of ravens caused by the Bird Flu are causing concern, and Britain will not take the chance to test this legend. Other cases of the Bird Flu in neighboring countries have also been reported.

Planned European U. school to rival MIT

High-tech university to address needs of researchers

Don Macanlalay
Photography Editor

MIT, world renowned for its innovations, is about to meet a challenger, the European Union. The European Union is planning to create a high-tech university to rival that of MIT.

The center, proposed as the European Institute of Technology, is to be presented to government officials next month.

Even though the planned EIT will not be a degree - issuing university or a virtual one, it will address the need of 700,000 skilled researchers needed by 2010.

Most of the world's bright young minds cross the Atlantic to attend MIT, where they usually flourish. Officials said that the creation of the EIT would help prevent those minds from going overseas.

Talent is seemingly spread too thin around the 25-nation European Union, and countries within Europe need to begin creating specialized centers where the continent's top researchers, scientists, students and teachers can concentrate.

French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin has proposed such an institution be created in Paris with a \$360 million starting budget.

Plans for the Institute have

the backing of the European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union - which has said the EIT must act as a magnet for the best minds, ideas and companies from around the world.

Officials believe that Europe needs to better its research, innovation and high-technology or face falling even further behind competitors such as the United States, Japan and even China and India.

However, the creation of the institution still has a long way to go in terms of the planning and construction process. Although the European Commission backs the idea, it has not been said where the institutions will be located. According to USA Today, E.U. lawmakers are pushing for the European Institute of Technology to be set up by 2009.

Pa. student discovers a method to kill anthrax

Anthrax can be destroyed by household methods

Chris Holtwick

Space & Aviation Co-Editor

Marc Roberge, 17, of Pittsburgh, Pa. has discovered a way to kill anthrax in the mail by using a simple household method. In Roberge's science fair project at Central Catholic High School, he showed that use of an iron for a duration of 5 minutes or more may kill the deadly bacteria.

"He's just 17. I was 35 before I had my first publica-

tion," said Raymond Roberge, Marc's father, and an expert on biological agents.

Although, Roberge could not use actual anthrax, another biological agent that scientists utilize to simulate anthrax was put into the envelopes. While ironing at a temperature of 400 degrees Fahrenheit, the imitation anthrax spores were completely killed.

In Roberge's study, it showed that even though the iron at its highest setting kills the spores the iron does not damage the contents of the envelope or the envelope itself by making it open before the letter is delivered.

"When the anthrax attacks happened, I thought, 'There's got to be a way to stop this,'" said Roberge. "I just never thought it would be so easy."

Currently there are a few methods in which postal centers can sterilize

mail. The most common is the use of ethylene oxide (EO) gases and X-rays. Other methods such as gamma radiation and vaporized hydrogen peroxide have been tested but do not have as high a yield for success as the previous ones. Whereas those methods are good for commercial use, the method Roberge discussed in his science project will be best used in households if there were to be a breakout of anthrax. The chances of an anthrax attack is still imminent.

While terrorism is still a key factor in the world today, any form of biological or chemical agents could have a devastating effect on millions since terrorist activities target innocent people in society. Therefore, there is a critical need for scientists to create ways that help individuals and their households to prevent deadly biological spore outbreaks.

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S. Korean gamers to massacre Chinese gamers

A whole new meaning to Electronic Warfare

Jonathan Mettin
Managing Editor

South Korea has declared war on China, but rather than bullets and missiles, Koreans are using swords and magic spells to kill their opponents. Hundreds of thousands of Korean

online gaming subscribers to titles such as "Guild Wars" and "Lineage" have declared open season on Chinese players, claiming they are not following proper etiquette in the gaming world.

"If we don't kill the Chinese they will grow up to harm Korean players," said a "Lineage" user on the game's message board. "They're just logging on to Korean servers to make money."

In the game, players take on the role of a warrior or a magician and battle monsters that, when defeated, drop game currency or items, such as weapons or healing potions.

The more than three million subscribers can then go to online

trading posts, where the items can be exchanged for real money.

There is, however, an unwritten rule to item collecting: although players can interact all they want, they are not supposed to take the items dropped by a monster they did not kill.

Many South Korean gamers claim that the Chinese players are not following this etiquette, and have ganged up to stage a virtual massacre of China.

Sunny Choi, a South Korean gamer, said that some areas of the game have become killing fields.

"Korean players stand there waiting for Chinese players to enter—you can tell they are Chinese because they can't speak Korean—and then they kill them," she said. Kim Shi-

mon, another Korean subscriber to "Lineage," admits to killing a Chinese player. "He stole an item that I just won from a monster," Kim said. "Then I met two players looking for him to kill—they said he was Chinese." The game item market has become so lucrative that there are even reports of Chinese "sweatshops" where gamers play for hours on end to get items and exchange them for cash.

Frequently, these sweatshops use South Korean identities. Almost a quarter of a million South Koreans have had accounts created in "Lineage" without their knowledge, "Lineage" creator NCSoft said last week. The fraud is being investigated by the nation's police cyber terror response team.



VS.



“ He stole an item that I just won from a monster.”
- KIM SHIMON ”

“ You can tell they are Chinese because they can't speak Korean.”
- SUNNY CHOI ”

DON MACANLALAY/AVION

Armored Core: Formula Front (PSP)

Tommy Chen
E-Gaming Editor

Agetec's "Armored Core: Formula Front" is the first game in the Armored Core series for Sony's PSP. It is a tough mech simulation game that is geared towards those who have been fans of the series since the beginning. A few features were added to make it slightly more accessible to newcomers.

The game is set up as a tournament where the player customizes a team of five mechs and very slowly works their way up the ranks. The matches are all one-on-one in various fictitious locales. The matches are relatively short, since they are timed and the players have the choice to let the A.I. control their personalized machine or control it manually. Some of these matches range from hard to insanely frustrating, if the player's mech is not set up correctly.

Even though the game is action oriented, most of the player's time will be spent on the customization and tuning of the player's mechs

for the next match. The player can customize a mech by choosing different head units, bodies, arms, legs, internal systems and weapon load-out.

For the customization, there is a selection of over 200 different parts to utilize for the machine. The selection of weapons has a lot of variety; they range from assault rifles, bazookas, rockets, missiles, laser blades, and laser cannons.

When designing the mechs, one also has to consider its power requirements, defense, cooling, and weight. Each part also has ten tuning points to allocate into different parameters. If the player's machine is a few pounds overweight one can put a few points into weight reduction to bring it back within limits or they can improve performance of the part. The player can also do cosmetic changes, like their machine's color and attach a preset or self-made emblem.

The graphics are close to a first generation PS2 game but it translates pretty well on the PSP's smaller screen. The mech looks nice in motion, but the arenas on the other

hand can seem bland. Players can see moving parts on their mech, like the rotating radar dome or the extension parts activating.

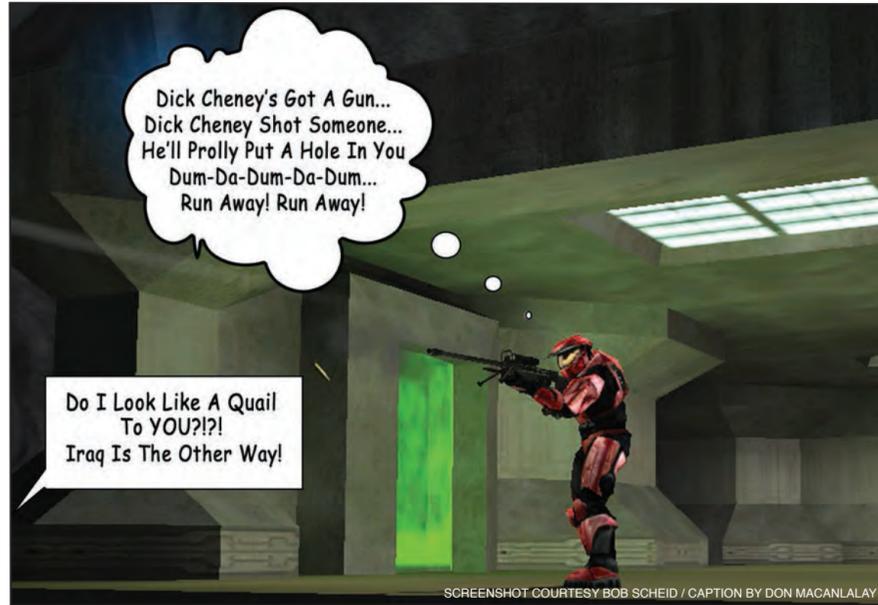
The audio has very good sound effects of the gunshots and explosions, but the music for the game is maddening. The music used for the garage consists of nonstop ticking and will drive you up a wall considering that you spend 80 percent of the time in the garage.

The background music for the matches is less noticeable because the player has to focus on all the audio cues from their machine to monitor its performance parameters.

Overall, the game has some technical issues that will drive any newcomers away. Even for those who have been follow the series for a while will have trouble adapting to some of the new elements. With that said play this game if you really love Armored Core or you have a lot of patience dealing with the learning curve.

Graphics	8
Gameplay	7
Audio	6
Controls	8
Concept	7.5
Overall	7.5

Is that song catchy or what?



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.egaming@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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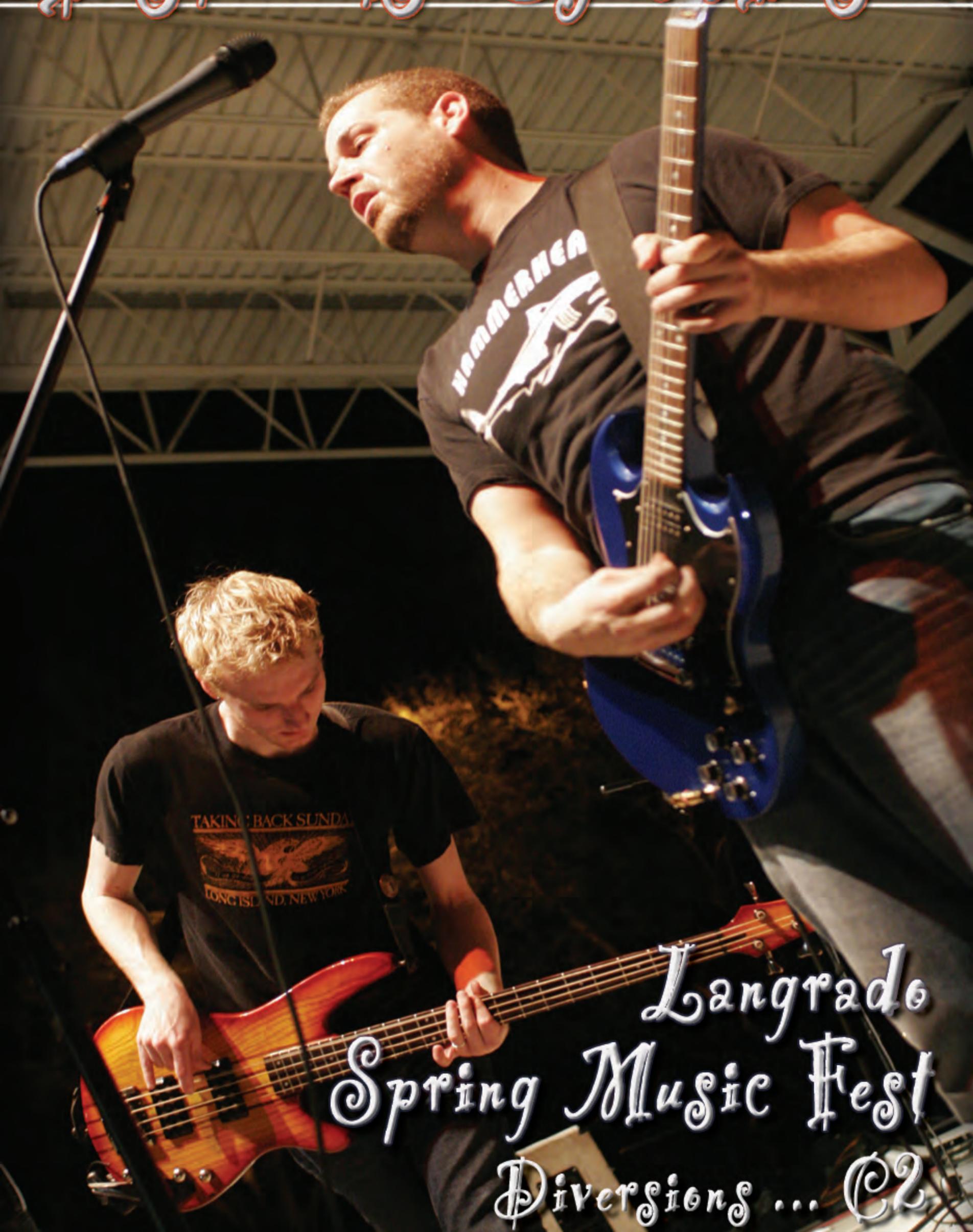
Student LifeC3

ComicsC4

ClassifiedsC5

The Avion, February 28, 2006

Festivals Of Music



Langrado
Spring Music Fest
Diversions ... C2

Atlantic High School presents Spring Music Fest

Nicole Titus
Staff Reporter

This past Saturday, Atlantic High School's Key Club put on a free benefit concert, called Spring Music Fest. The concert has been put on each year since it started back in 1999 and continues to get bigger and bigger.

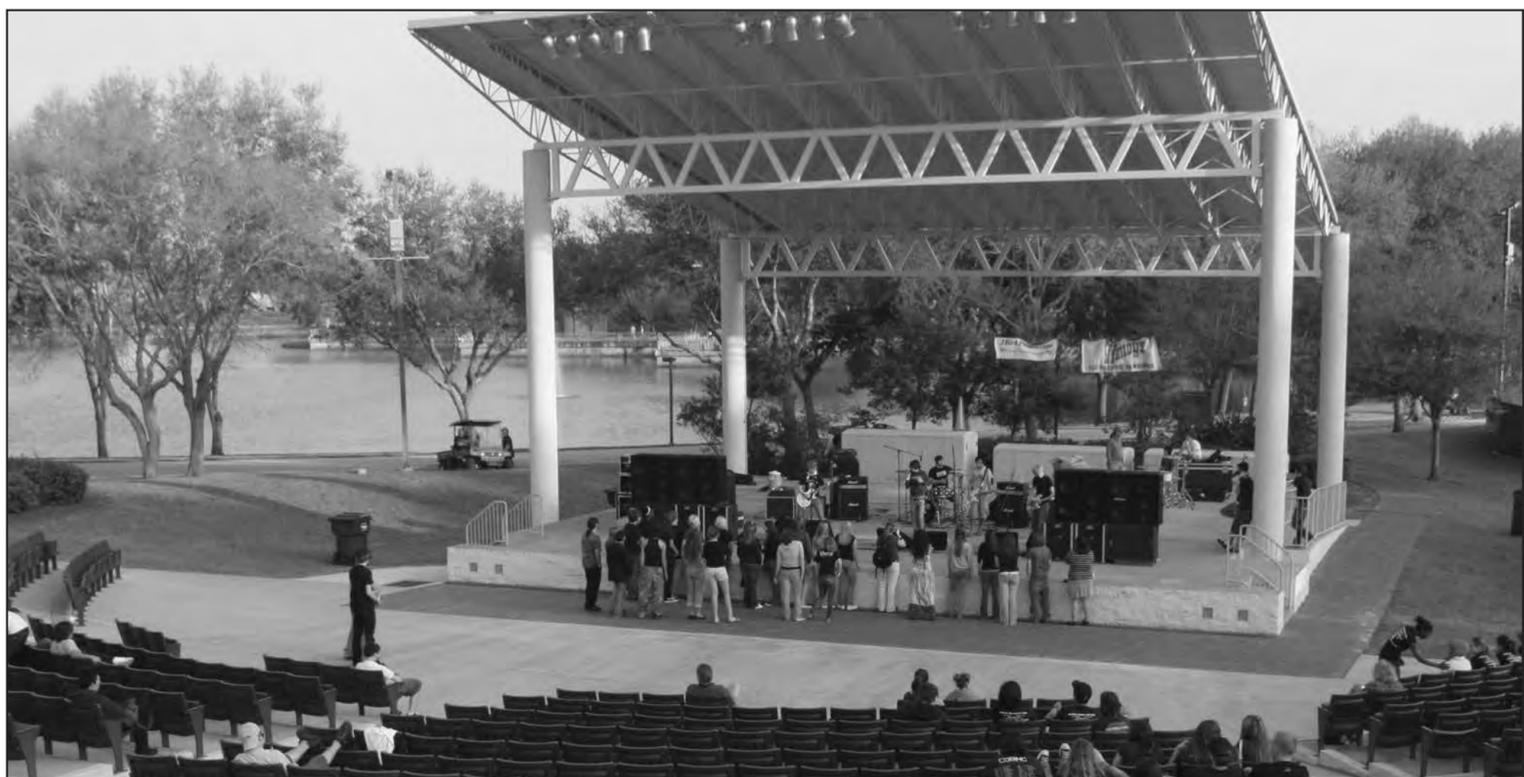
The proceeds from the benefit were donated to the Children's Cancer Foundation, which is an organization that provides assistance to families with children undergoing cancer treatment in the central Florida area. Last year the Key Club raised \$2,800 for the foundation and hopes to raise just as much this year.

The show was held at the Port Orange Amphitheater and admission was free. They raised their money through concession stands, raffle prizes, and donations. It was an all day event, running from 2-9 p.m., with seven bands playing about a 45 minute set each.

All of the bands that performed were local Florida bands that the Key Club had either seen in concert, or had learned about on Myspace. The bands included Last Winter, Power Movement Project, No Harm Done, My Getaway, Early Next Year, This Solemn Vow, and Pathway to Providence.

The bands were generally punk rock, indie, and alternative. There was also a Christian metal band as well as a particularly unique band that combined rock, hip-hop, indie, and reggae. Each had their own unique characteristics one of which was how young some of the bands were, and yet they still rocked.

The bands were very eager to support the Key Club and the children's Cancer Foundation. The bands even enjoyed listening to each other play before and after their own performances.



ZACH MAHONEY/AVION

ATLANTIC HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS the annual Spring Fest. The event was sponsored by Wendy's and the schools key club. It was located in the Port Orange City Center Park. The weather was just about perfect and everyone seemed to have a great time. All proceeds will go to the Children's Cancer Foundation.

The city of Daytona helped out a lot. They provided the venue itself for an extremely discounted rate. They also provided lighting, chairs and

tables for the event. The Atlantic High School Key Club, and Wendy's sponsored the event. The sound equipment was provided by J'Bird

Production, and the city of Port Orange also helped out with the event by giving the Key Club a discount on renting the Amphitheater, and by supplying a tent.

It's really great when people come together for a cause greater than themselves, and the Spring Music Fest is no exception.

The Veronicas, wannabes

Don Macanlalay
Photography Editor

Put two identical twins from Australia, doll them up, and have them sing and write their own songs behind a pop-rock soundtrack, and what do you get? Just another band trying to break into a genre already comprised of artists with the likes of Avril Lavigne and Ashlee Simpson.

After reviewing The Veronicas's CD, "The Secret Life Of ...", I must say that I wasn't a big fan of this kind of music and the band surely didn't sway my opinions otherwise. Yet, for those of you who like the pop-rock genre, then pick this CD up, enjoy it for

ten minutes and then get tired of it. So if you like Ashlee Simpson or anything that sounds like her, breathes like her or sings...well pretends to sing like her, then maybe, just maybe, you can get this CD and enjoy it until you retire in a nice home in Ponce Inlet.

This may be a little harsh, but I think that our college kids are a little better than this pop-rock teenie bopper thing going on here. I think it's funny how the old genre used to be this pop music like boy bands and such, but now it's only in a different form. It's like we've given those former guys a rock look and guitars and it's the exact same thing, but "edgier."

Wow, edgier. Don't get me wrong,

for a debut CD this is expected for the kind of music these twins are doing. I don't want to offend anyone who loves these girls, but if you like good-looking chicks, I'd say buy this CD just for the inset photos.



Musical getaway coming up

Zach Mahone
Divisions Editor

If you're looking for a chance to get away, forget about all the stress of Daytona and enjoy some good music with 15,000 other people from all over the country, then your chance is coming up. In two weeks will be the fourth annual Langerado Music Festival in Sunrise, Florida (about 15 minutes west of Ft. Lauderdale).

This year could be the best one yet with the ridiculous lineup they are presenting. The Festival is two days long hosting more than 25 different bands. Some of the headliners include Ben Harper, The Black Crowes, The Flaming Lips, and Wilco.

I personally saw Ben Harper three years ago when he was on tour with Jack Johnson; he rocked Jack out of the water, and I love Jack Johnson. Harper could be one of the best slide guitarists that are alive right now. Whether it is through the soul dances of southern Gospel, 70s funk or electric blues, Harper maintains a stance for a simple beauty. Ben Harper is a road hound. He typically plays 150 shows a year and records

material during bus rides and sound checks. You can catch Harper Saturday night from 7-9 on the Everglades Stage.

A new chapter of rock-n-roll came around when the The Black Crowes hit the scene. From their debut of their multi-platinum album "Shake Your Money Maker" there was no looking back. The Band has six studio albums which have exceeded 19 million in sales worldwide. They performed over 2000 shows between 1990 and 2001 alone. The Black Crowes are one of the few contemporary bands who have shared the stage with Jimmy Page, Bob Dylan, The Rolling Stones, Aerosmith, AC/DC, The Who, Neil Young, The Grateful Dead and many other legendary artists.

Although grounded in an indie rock/post-punk approach to rock music, The Flaming Lips are known for their lush, multi-layered, psychedelicish arrangements and their spacey

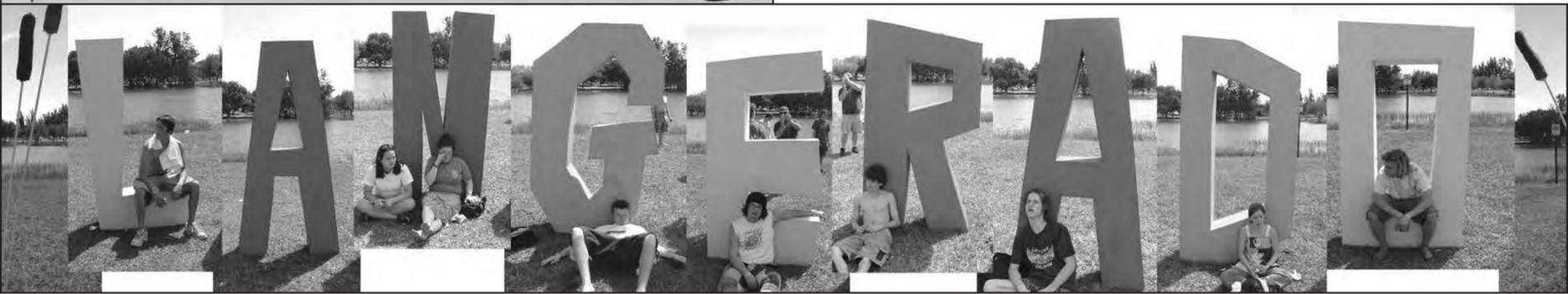
lyrics and bizarre song titles. They are also acclaimed for their elaborate live shows, featuring animal suits, puppets, video projections and complex stage light configurations. In 2002, Q magazine named The Flaming Lips one of the "50 Bands to See Before You Die."

2005 has been a very good year for the singer/songwriter influenced rock group Wilco. Their 2004 album "A Ghost is Born" earned the Chicago rock band two Grammy Awards. Two of their earlier albums, 2002's Yankee Hotel Foxtrot and 1996's Being There as well as the DVD "I Am Trying to Break Your Heart" have been certified gold. Fans and critics everywhere feed off of Wilco's creativity and energy during their live performances: "the world's most exciting live rock band" said London's Sunday Telegraph, and "capable of nearly anything" said Spin magazine.

Whether you go to the getaway, the music, the people, or the atmosphere, there is no question about it; Langerado is going to be a break from the average routine of life. Go to <http://www.langerado.com/> to find out more information about ticketing and camping.

"This year could be the best one yet ..."
- ZACH MAHONE

"Langerado is going to be a break ... from life."
- ZACH MAHONEY



SGA president speaks to consultant about new president

Sara McCook
SGA President

Well, this past week has been one heck of a week. A group of students and myself met with the consultant from Witt/Keifer who is in charge of helping the Board find a new president. We discussed what type of attributes and experience we would like to see in him or her and gained some insight into the process of finding a University president.

More communication, along with involvement and a more academia based/focused person, were the main attributes repeated. I believe the consultant gained a good grasp of what we were saying and I hope she will report to the board the correct feelings.

That same day, she met with the Faculty Senate who opened her eyes to a different aspect and view of what type of president this University needs. But the basic concepts stayed the same. When

it comes down to it, we need a president who understands the importance of students and faculty, has some fundraising experience so we can hopefully climb out of the hole called debt we are in and continue to build and increase our endowment. We need a president

“ [Alumni] are the lifeblood and cornerstone to this University... ”

- SARA MCCOOK

who understands that without the solid workings of all three constituents (students, faculty and administration), our University will not succeed, someone who places more effort into enrollment management and increasing retention. Most of all, I believe we need a president who understands the importance of the University's alumni. They are the lifeblood and cornerstone to this University and there needs to be more attention paid to how we can increase giving without

asking for a check the second we graduate. Alumni support and dedication starts at day one when a student steps on to this campus for the first time.

This Tuesday, I will be holding the first President's Roundtable for all club and organization presidents.

I am anticipating this to be a great opportunity to gain feedback from student leaders as to the issues happening on campus as well as informing them of SGA's agenda. This is something that was started last semester on a smaller scale and received positive reactions so I'm moving forward with it hoping to hold two this semester and make it a part of the tasks the SGA President holds semesterly.

Another project I have been working on is the implementation

of an honor system. Although an arduous task, through working with the Dean of Students and members of faculty and administration I believe it is something that will increase pride and add to the culture of this University. Many of the overall goals of the system cannot be accomplished this year, but with time it will in hopes become a part of our University heritage. I have already received support from many faculty and administration and hope when presented to the student body, I will receive the same positive reaction. This honor system is not meant to act as big brother watchdog or focus primarily on cheating and plagiarism but center attention on the self-accountability and respect for one's own integrity.

I would like to close by congratulating the basketball team on their conference championship Saturday night against Florida Memorial and the four graduating seniors. Coach Ridder, congratulations on your four hundred and second victory; you have a great group of guys!



Tuesday, 2/28	Continental Airlines, preselected interviews for Flight Interns Spruance 134 & Flt Sim Bldg
	Lockheed Martin, Information Session for all students (CS,CE,SE & EE w/citizenship encouraged to attend) 5:30 pm, IC-104
Wednesday, 3/1	Lockheed Martin, preselected interviews for full-time Engineering opportunities Spruance 134
Friday, 3/3	Atlantic Southeast Airlines preselected interviews for Flight Interns Spruance 134

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Career Corner

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226-6054
Spruance Hall 134

Dirty-Hippie Headquarters

Full Name: Peter Richardson & Billy Sohl

DJ Name: Nameless Pete & The Sohlman

Show Time: 7:00-8:00 Monday & Wednesday
1:00 to 3:00 on Saturday

When Peter and Billy moved into McKay Hall freshman year little did they expect to find another dirty, greasy, long-haired hippie living next door. Since then the dirty duo has been bringing Embry-Riddle the best rock from all-over the genre three-times a week! From Led Zeppelin to Long Beach, Dub All Stars, Ozzy to O.A.R., the hippies have been playing all the greatest rock songs for over two years now and plan on entertaining ERAU for years to come.

JONATHAN METTIN/AVION

BOT, Please Remember Students, “Something You Once Were”

Jonathan L.S. Casillo-Reminick

Student Representative Communications Committee

In keeping with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's traditions, keeping the student seat on the Board of Trustees is vital. Incredibly, as many students know, the Board of Trustees wishes to remove the student presence, stating that the student voice and vote are no longer of value to the Board. This, however, is not at all true. Following hours and hours of talking about options and strategies and motions and rallies, the Student Representative Board has determined that keeping students on the Board is the direction the Board and University should be taking.

As mentioned a couple of weeks ago in a background article, it was noted that the Board

of Trustees has included student input since it was created in 1968. Generally, the Student Government Presidents from each campus, Prescott and Daytona, make up the two student seats on the Board.

Most students I speak with are not even aware of this issue, which is very disappointing, seeing as that most likely means that they do not care about important issues on campus, say, tuition. The Board makes the decisions as to tuition increases and without a student to speak the student opinion, to defend the student pocket, and to vote to keep tuition low, this could turn out very badly for you, the students.

When Jack Hunt, the University president which pushed for student input, created the Employee Creed, he had the students in mind. If you have ever walked passed our beautiful fountain, you have most likely seen a small garden dedicated to him. If you look closer, notice the

plaque on top the black stone pedestal.

The pedestal says these words:

**A Student...
Is the most important person in this University.**

**A Student...
Is not an interruption of your work, but the purpose of it.**

**A Student...
Is not a cold statistic, but a flesh and blood human being with feelings and emotions like your own.**

**A Student...
Is not someone to argue or match wits with.**

**A Student...
Is a person who brings us needs-it is our job to fill those needs.**

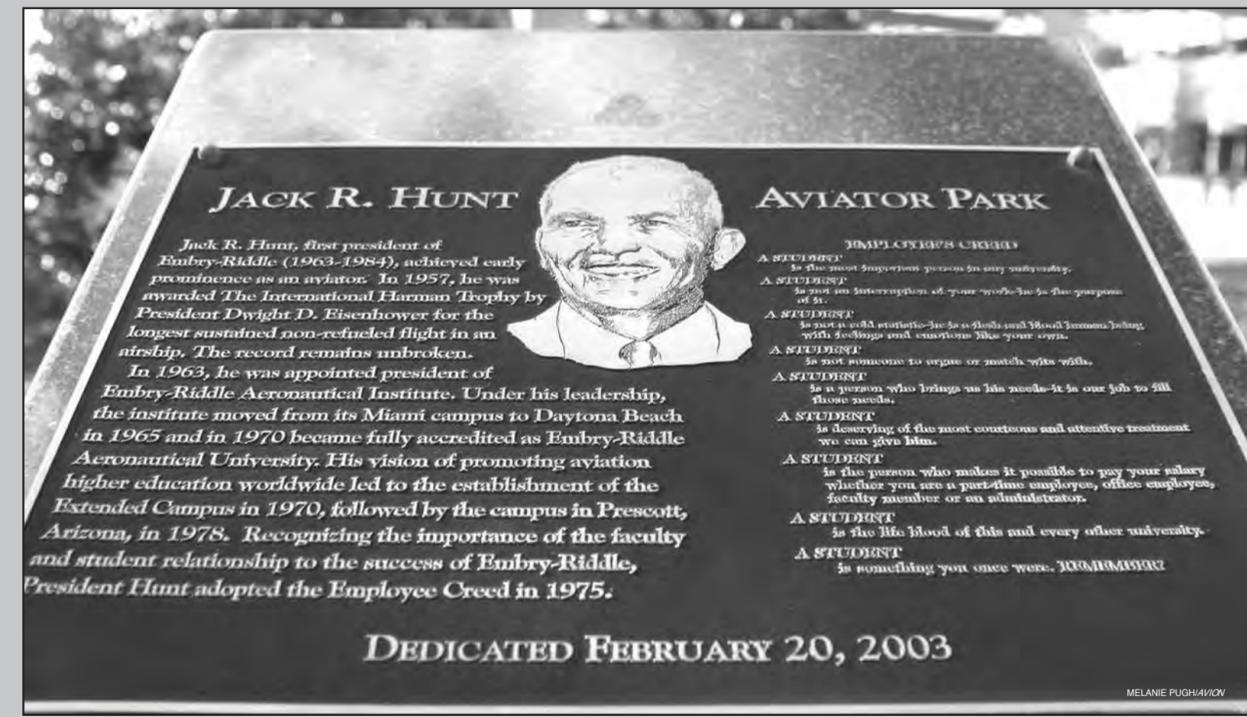
**A Student...
Is deserving of the most courteous and attentive treatment we can provide.**

**A Student...
Is the person who makes it possible to pay your salary whether you are faculty or staff.**

**A Student...
Is the lifeblood of this and every university.**

**A Student...
Is something you once were, REMEMBER?**

As the governing body for this University, the Board of Trustees are the ultimate employees of this school, because every decision they make affects the students. Having student input through a voice and vote would give that extra edge to the students.





by Wes Oleszewski



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BY MICHAEL AND STEFAN STRASSER



CHICKEN WINGS™

BY MICHAEL AND STEFAN STRASSER



7	2	6				9	8
1			9				
		5				1	6
			1	9			7
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5			8	7			
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				6			2
6	3				1	4	9

Sudoku Challenge

Useless Movie Quotes

ACROSS

- "Beware the ground on which you stand, the floor is quicker than the sand."
- "I am invincible!"
- "Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, except the four assholes coming in the rear, in standard two-by-two cover formation."
- "I never broke the law. I am the law!"
- "The great tournament was too much responsibility. But, revenge... that's so much simpler."
- "You got the wrong guy. I'm the Dude, man."
- "I make art, until someone dies. See? I am the world's first fully-functioning, homicidal artist."
- "If my calculations are correct, when this baby hits eighty-eight miles per hour, you're gonna see some serious sh**."
- "This was supposed to be my weekend off, but no. You got me out here dragging your heavy ass through the desert, with your dreadlocks sticking out the back of my parachute. You got to come down here with an attitude, acting all big and bad. And, what the Hell is that smell?!"
- "I expect and demand your very best. Anything less, you should have joined the Air Force."
- "Just a reminder fans about 'Die Hard Night' coming up at the

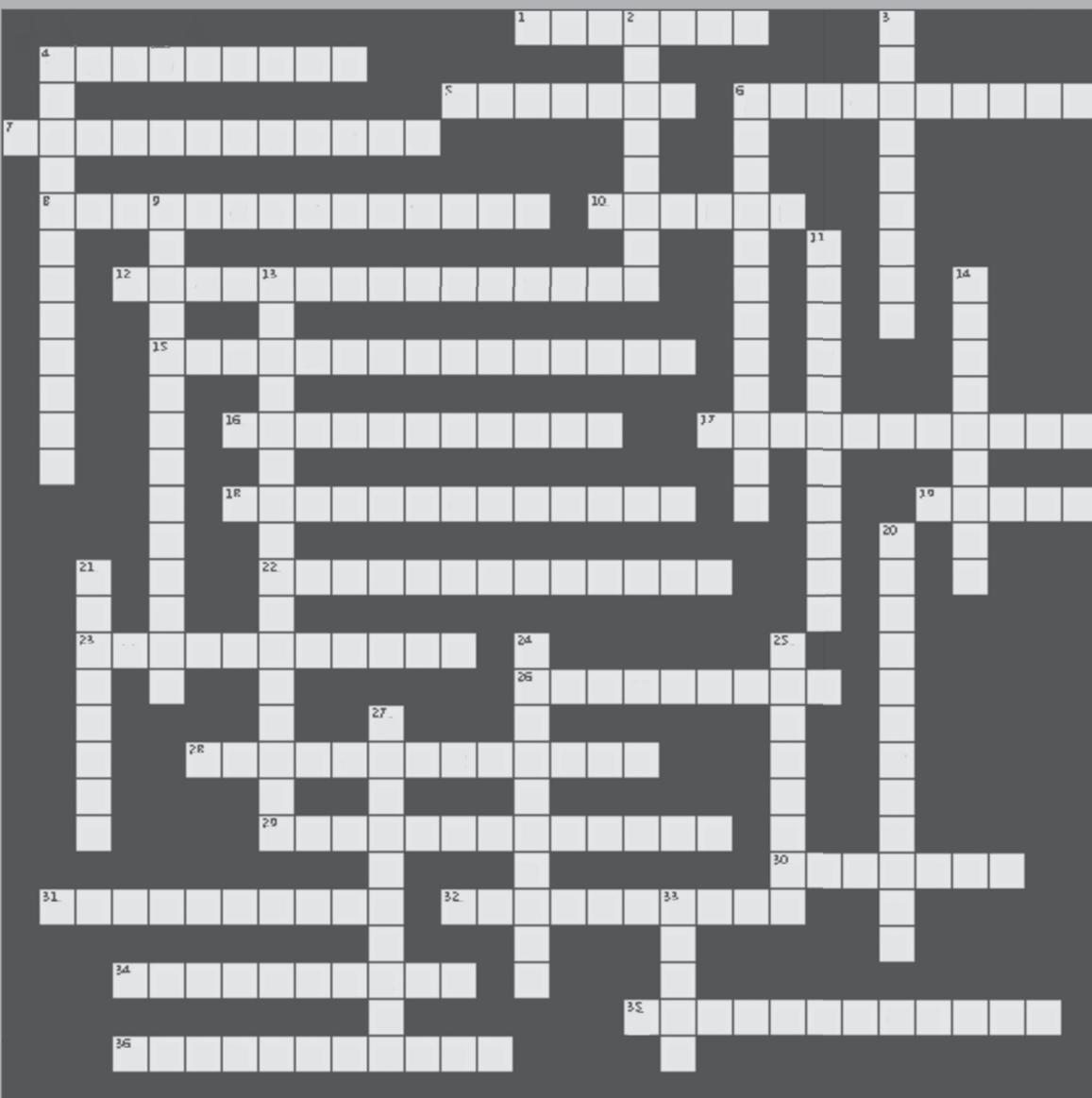
stadium: free admission to anyone who was actually alive the last time the Indians won a pennant."

- "What the Hell are you doing?" "I'm slashing my wrists." "With an electric razor?" "Yeah, I know. I couldn't find any razor blades."
- "Back in the old days with J.C., we used to walk everywhere. Did you ever hear of a fat apostle?"
- "The one constant through all the years, Ray, has been baseball. America has rolled by like an army of steamrollers. Its been erased like a blackboard, rebuilt, and erased again. But, baseball has marked the time. This field, this game, is a part of our past, Ray. It reminds us of all that once was good, and could be again."
- "If you try to stop us or vamp' out in any way, then I'll stake you without thinking twice about it."
- "What? You pooped in the refrigerator? And you ate the whole wheel of cheese?"
- "Cadet Kyle Blankes reporting for duty, sir."
- "You're going to make a great character, Nick."
- "I just met your insane, crazy, freak of a son... no offense, alright?"
- "I want you to hit me as hard as you can."
- "Say goodbye to your two best friends, and I don't mean your pals in the Winnebago."

- "The Lord tells me he can get me out of this mess. But, he's pretty sure you're fu**ed."
- "Show me the money!"
- "Rosebud."

DOWN

- "Joey, you like movies about gladiators?"
- "Stop trying to hit me and hit me!"
- "Let's say this Twinkie represents the normal amount of psychokinetic energy in the New York area. According to this morning's sample, it would be a Twinkie thirty-five feet long, weighing approximately six hundred pounds."
- "You do plan to have dinosaurs on your dinosaur tour, right?"
- "Now, I don't have to tell you good folks, what has been happening here in our beloved little town: sheriff murdered, crops burned, stores looted, people stampeded, and cattle raped."
- "You can't handle the truth!"
- "When I say essay, I mean, essay. I do not mean a single word repeated a-thousand times."
- "Buzz! Your girlfriend! Woof!"
- "File also said you're heavy into martial arts, T'ai Chi and all that killer stuff. I suppose we have to register you as a lethal weapon."
- "Yankee Doodle Floppy Disk, this is Foxtrot Zulu Milk Shake, checking in at seven hundred feet."
- "Licensed to kill gophers by the government of the United Nations. Man free to kill gophers at will."
- "Look at you. You're the kind of guy that would beg for sex. I should know, we can smell our own."
- "Unlimited technology from the whole universe, and we cruise around in a Ford P.O.S."
- "This is Ripley, last survivor of the Nostromo, signing off."



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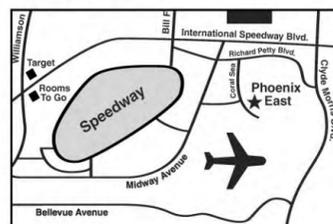
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diesel172

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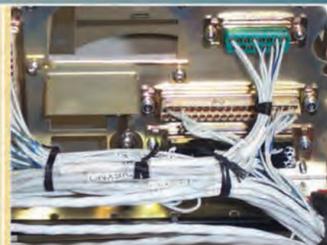
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