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STS-117 rolls out to the launch pad at KSC

Space shuttle Atlantis readies for June 8 launch to the ISS

Nicole Titus

Editor-in-Chief

The space shuttle Atlantis returned to the launch pad last week after extensive fuel tank repairs that lasted two months. NASA is preparing Atlantis for a June 8 launch for a mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

The shuttle began rolling toward pad 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center at 5:02 a.m. on Tuesday. The trip took about 7 hours and arrived at the pad at 11:47 a.m. according to NASA spokesperson Tracy Young.

Atlantis first rolled out to the pad for this mission back in February, but due to a freak hail storm on Feb. 26, the shuttle had to be rolled back to the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB). The fuel tank had a significant amount of damage and needed to be repaired.

There were over 4,000 dings on the fuel tank and all but 400 were substantial enough to repair. As a result of the repairs, the tank has thousands of white spots as well as a large white patch in the shape of the state of Montana. Although the tank may look unusual, NASA claims that the fuel tank is ready for launch.

Hail and freak storms at the KSC are not unusual. Hail cause damaged on Discovery in 1999, as well as on Atlantis in 1990.

Wayne Hale, NASA's shuttle program manager told the associated press that "There is, at least mathematically, some small increase in risk. But our work indicates that that is a very small-to-nonexistent increase to the potential for damage."

NASA is now in the process of doing final preparations of the shuttle for launch in June.

When the STS-117 mission launches in June it will deliver the S3/S4 truss assembly to the ISS. This truss segment is identical to the P3/P4 assembly that Atlantis delivered during the STS-115 mission last September. The segments contain a pair of solar arrays, a radiator and a rotary joint that will aim the solar arrays. The assembly will be attached to the starboard side of the ISS. This truss will be the 15th element of the station and weighs 15,824 kg, which is the largest payload the space shuttle has ever brought to the space station only.

Atlantis' 11-day mission will also include an exchange of a space stations crew member. Astronaut Clayton Anderson will relieve flight engineer Sunita Williams who originally was not supposed to leave the ISS until the STS-118 flight. But due to launch delays, Williams will be heading home on STS-117. She will still have spent 6 months on the ISS as originally intended. Williams set a new world record for a woman's space flight duration, eclipsing Shannon Lucid.

Atlantis has flown 27 missions and has docked with the ISS seven times.

The next launch after STS-117 is scheduled for Endeavour on August 9th. NASA intends to launch four shuttle missions in 2007 and five more in 2008.



BEN COOPER/AVION

SAE teams do well at National Competitions



PHOTO COURTESY JACK MCKISSON

THE ERAU FORMULA HYBRID team with their car nicknamed "shredder," posing in the winner's circle at New Hampshire International Speedway after the competition earlier this May. The team placed second overall in the inaugural year of the contest.

Chris Tezak

Photo Editor

What do you get when you add ERAU students, aluminum, carbon fiber and a little elbow grease? You get the Society of Automotive Engineering (SAE) design teams, all four of which competed in national competitions in the last few weeks.

The ERAU SAE chapter sponsors an Aero Design team, two Mini Baja teams and a Formula Hybrid team. All the teams designed and built their respective vehicles entirely by student hand with facilities on campus.

Aero Design

The Aero Design team, Aquila (Spanish for eagle), competed in their competition May 4-6 in Ft Worth, Texas. ERAU competed in the open class, which provides only one design limitation and one goal, a maximum gross weight of 55 pounds while carrying the largest payload possible. Two other classes in the Aero Design are normal, which restricts wingspan and engine size, and micro, which looks for the lightest aircraft that can carry the greatest payload.

The ERAU team, led by SAE President

Tim Unton, designed a twin-engine plane with a 12.5 ft. wingspan and a gross weight of approximately 16 pounds. This allowed the aircraft to carry nearly 40 pounds of payload, which was second best in the open class.

The team placed first in the design report and presentation, but during the second round of flying, rough conditions caused the primary plane to crash, forcing the team to go to their prototype and lose precious points. The team from Universidad de Sao Paulo, Brazil, was able to avoid crashing through the weekend and also held a larger payload, giving the team the overall crown in the open class.

The second place finish was the best overall finish since 1998, when ERAU won best overall in the regular class. Unton was happy with the result, citing it as the team's greatest achievement of the year. "The different teams at the competition are all very good, and to come out on top of most of them showed us that all the hard work we put in really paid off," Unton said.

For next year, Unton looks to knock more weight off the aircraft, noting the Brazilians were able to carry 4 more pounds. of payload. "We have already begun kicking around some ideas about how to get the weight down and what next year's plane might look like."

Mini Baja

Two teams, one co-ed captained by David Majko, and an all girls team, one of only two in the country, co-captained by Jane Moehlenbrock and Farala Alvarez, competed in the Mini Baja Competition sponsored by the University of Central Florida and held in Ocala on April 14-15. The competition is a pure grit and endurance test for the buggy-like vehicles. The many facets of the competition include the design report, acceleration and braking, endurance racing, towing power and a water pit.

75 teams competed in the competition, with the team from Clarkson University coming out on top. The top honor for the ERAU teams came with the women receiving third place in the Polaris Design Report award. Overall, both teams finished in the top half of the field while greatly improving results from previous competitions.

Moehlenbrock received the team's design award at the competition banquet and cited it as her proudest moment of the year. "I went up in front of all 74 teams to accept the 3rd place trophy for our written design report. Nobody expected us to place that high and it was great," said Moehlenbrock.

Please see "SAE," A2

ERAU team wins NASA competition

Chris Tezak

Photo Editor

With the declining number of students going into math and science fields, it becomes more important every year to promote these fields to young people. But since 1998 NASA and the Texas Space Grant Consortium have been sponsoring a Public Relations competition to try to entice more middle and high school kids to pursue careers in science and engineering.

This year a team from ERAU competed for the first time and ended up taking home the top prize. The team consisted of group leader Kelly Billon, Melanie Pugh, Joe Antonucci, Kevin Moch, Ken Baylor, Ivens Jean and faculty advisor Professor Joanne Detore-Nakamura.

The team was tasked to create a marketing campaign complete with commercials, a website, flyers and outreach events, all using the central point of NASA's new efforts to explore the Moon and Mars. The team kicked off their work last summer with a presentation to determine the finalists in November and competed in the final challenge at Kennedy Space Center in May.

At Kennedy, the team not only had to present their original plan, but also create an ad-hoc proposal within a 24-hour time frame. The team used a hero motif to create a plan for educators to embrace science and math. Another website, storyboards and design proposal followed, but at the end of the weekend the work was good enough to be tied for first with a combined team from Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication and the Art Institute of Phoenix.

The 24-hour assignment marked a high point in the cohesion of the team. "After the first day when we presented our major campaign, we knew where we stood, since going into it we had not seen what everyone else had done," said team website designer Melanie Pugh. "But after the first day of presentations, we knew there was steep competition and we were more motivated."

The combined Arizona team consisted of 84 people and had received extra points because of their involvement in the program over the last few years. ERAU received no such extra points. However, at the time of publication, the Arizona team's placement is under indefinite suspension due to

complaints filed by other teams concerning the 24-hour project. If the competition judges rule the complaints as legitimate, it would make ERAU the sole winners in their first attempt at the competition.

The team was also happy with their ability to change gears at the competition at Kennedy. "We thought our design for the website and storyboards would not be the best, because of the other art and design schools so we thought we would have to stand alone in our ideas," said Pugh. "Our first campaign was really serious but our second proposal had Spiderman jumping out of the website and it was making everyone laugh."

With success comes rewards. In September the team will show their presentation to legislators and NASA officials in Washington D.C. as well as the NASA Project Management Conference in Feb. 2008. The team was also given a seat on the advisory board of the Coalition for Space Exploration, the first time it was offered as a prize. Also sitting on the board are Buzz Aldrin, Gene Kranz and James Cameron, among others.

The team's website can be found at www.morethanrocketscience.com.

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Professor talks about diversity

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Flight Team places third



Spencer Conklin/AVION

Press Release

Embry-Riddle

Embry-Riddle Flight Teams Dominate National Competition

Daytona Beach, Fla., May 16, 2007 – Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's flight teams dominated the National Intercollegiate Flying Association's (NIFA) Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference (SAFECON) held May 7-12 at Rickenbacker International Airport in Columbus, Ohio.

The Golden Eagles flight team from Embry-Riddle's Prescott, Ariz. campus took first place and the Eagles flight team from the Daytona

Beach, Fla. campus placed third in the national competition.

It was the sixth NIFA SAFECON national championship for the Golden Eagles, who also took the spot in 2005, 2003, 1999, 1997, and 1993. The Eagles of Daytona Beach took first in 1992.

In this year's competition, involving more than 400 pilots from 31 aviation programs around the nation, the Golden Eagles earned a total of 440 points. Following Embry-Riddle's Prescott team in the rankings were the University of North Dakota, at 351 points, and Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach team, at 318 points.

Each team earned its way to the

national NIFA contest by competing at the regional levels. The Golden Eagles of Prescott have won every regional competition since 1986. The Eagles of Daytona Beach have won every regional meet for the last 19 years.

The Golden Eagles also captured the Judges Trophy, as well as first place in flying events and ground events. The team placed first in four of 11 individual events.

Several individual members of the Golden Eagles placed particularly well. Peter Grey, a junior, was first in computer accuracy and simulated comprehensive aircraft navigation events. He also won the Craig Morrison Award for the high-

est score in the combined preflight inspection, computer accuracy, and simulated comprehensive aircraft navigation events.

Jacob Lindvig took first place in the power-off landing event, and seniors Andrew Trone and Sascha Korzep earned first place in the crew resource management/line-oriented flight training event.

"The entire team performance was absolutely amazing," said Head Coach Jared Testa. "Eight of the Golden Eagles graduated this semester and our victory was a fitting conclusion to four years of hard work. I'm so proud of everyone on our team."

The Eagles team of the Daytona Beach campus, led by coaches David Zwegers, Les Westbrooks, and Bill Baker, took second overall in the flight events, third overall in the ground events, second overall for the Judges Trophy, and third place overall in the national championship competition.

Senior Liam Broderick earned Top Pilot honors for the entire meet. Sophomore Daniel Demmy won the IFR event, and Broderick and senior Phil Siess earned second place in the CRM event.

"No coach could be prouder than I am of this year's Eagles team," said Head Coach Zwegers.

Complete rankings of the 2007 NIFA SAFECON are at www.nifa.us.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, the world's largest, fully accredited university specializing in aviation and aerospace, offers more than 30 degree programs in its colleges of Arts and Sciences, Aviation, Business, and Engineering. The university educates more than 34,000 students annually in undergraduate and graduate programs at residential campuses in Prescott, Ariz., and Daytona Beach, Fla., through its Worldwide Campus at more than 130 centers in the United States and Europe, and through online learning. For more information, visit www.erau.edu.

Graduation celebrations a success



JONATHAN METTIN/AVION

Press Release

Embry-Riddle

This year's graduation celebrations were a little different. Not only was there the usual "Pomp and Circumstance," but the events also included golf tournaments, go-karts, wave pools, fast cars, free food and cheap drinks, to name a few.

The spring graduation was held on Monday, May 7, at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach. This was the first commencement ceremony to be held on a Monday. In previous spring ceremonies, the graduation was held on campus and the graduating class was too large for there to be one commencement.

But this year, since the event was held at the Ocean Center, which can accommodate 10,000 people,

there was only one commencement ceremony.

Since the event was held on a Monday, this gave Embry-Riddle and the senior class council a chance to provide a weekend full of events for the class of 2007 and their families.

The celebrations began on Thursday, May 3, with the senior class party, held at the Daytona Lagoon. Drinks were cheap and the turn out was good, with 247 people in attendance.

The dean's golf scramble was held on Saturday and 65 people attended.

Embry-Riddle also hosted a Family Fun Day at Daytona Lagoon on Sunday, with reduced prices at \$5 a ticket. A small price compared to the usual \$27.99 for adults. Over three hundred tickets were sold and 263 were in attendance on Sunday.

Over 700 people attended the alumni reception at Daytona USA on Sunday evening and was by far the most attended event of the weekend.

The commencement ceremony was held at 9 a.m. on Monday, with over 600 seniors in attendance. The Ocean Center was filled to the brim with friends and families of the graduates.

The ceremony lasted three hours, with speeches from The Ohio State president, Karen Holbrook, as well as the senior class council presi-

dent, Brian Gambino.

The Embry-Riddle staff and the senior class council worked very hard this semester to bring all of these events together.

The senior class council spent most of the semester planning these events and working to raise money for the senior class council nest egg. Once this nest egg reaches \$10,000, the money will be used as an emergency book loan account for students who have late financial aid. Currently the account is only \$4,000 dollars short of its goal.

The money raised by the senior class council also goes towards a senior class gift. This year's gift is a stylized athletic logo being placed on the floor of the lobby of the new recreation building.

The senior class council raised money through various fund raisers. They sold senior class t-shirts and glasses, stylized after James Bond's "double-o-seven" and a survivor theme. The council also raised money by creating a senior class baby picture slide show that was on display around campus for five days, as well as at the Ocean Center before the commencement ceremony. This fundraiser alone raised \$3,500 and included photos of over 150 graduates.

All in all, the weekend's events and the efforts of the senior class council and the Embry-Riddle staff were a great success.

ERAU Hybrid car takes top awards

"SAE" from Front

Unton was also impressed by the team, believing they are the most likely to improve for next year. "They are at that point where they have accumulated a lot of knowledge and experience and some of the members who have been with the team from the start are really going to help that team make it to the top."

The Women's Baja team will be competing again in June at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. The competition will be similar to Ocala with tests of endurance, strength and determination.

Formula Hybrid

The newest National SAE competition, as well as the newest ERAU SAE team, was the Formula Hybrid, which set out to test the cutting edge of power train technology, and tasked teams to create a gas-electric powered hybrid racecar. Craig Czapinski captained the team, and the competition was held in Loudon, N.H. at the New Hampshire International Speedway on May 1-3.

The competition follows a strict

set of guidelines that govern the SAE Formula competition, which uses gasoline engines to power traditional style racecars. The team from ERAU was able to use the majority of the chassis and skeleton from last year's Formula competition in this Formula Hybrid, allowing them to concentrate on the complex drive train and engine systems.

The competition tested the car's abilities in acceleration, handling, an autocross circuit, endurance, and fuel consumption. The team did extremely well, placing second overall in the competition, out of seven teams, and taking the crown as the best team from the United States. McGill University, Canada, took the competition's top overall honors.

The ERAU team, though, took home Most Innovative Design, as well as the Daimler-Chrysler Best Systems Engineering Award. This is impressive, considering the team has only been working on the car for one year, compared to McGill and the team from Dartmouth, who have each spent three years on their cars.

Professor Jack McKisson, one

of the team's advisors told ERAU News Media the team was well composed and prepared for a tough competition. "One of the judges commented that it was clear from the outset that the Embry-Riddle team was well prepared, with all the students fully involved in the task and ready to compete," said McKisson.

Funding Worries

Even with all the tough competition and many problems with design and fabrication, it appears funding may be the biggest obstacle to overcome. The ERAU chapter is the sixth largest in the world but often does not have money to adequately equip their garage. Moehlenbrock told The Avion about the problems experience by the Women's Baja team.

"Right now, we have girls (including myself) paying for their own flights to a competition in June. We also don't have enough money to buy new tools, and we have to really worry about the cost of our parts during design." She continues, "A lot of people think that we must get a lot of money, but we really don't. We are thankful for what we get and SGA really helped

us out a lot more this year than in the past. The AE and ME departments have donated but their funds are limited."

Captain Unton shared the same sentiment as his Baja counterpart Moehlenbrock. "Funding is very difficult to come by for SAE here at ERAU. Just about every team has to put in a lot of extra work to get sponsors and do their own fundraising."

Unton did point to an SAE advisor Professor Darris White as a bright spot for the team. "I must say our adviser Dr. White has done a lot to help out our funding situation. Without him we received a lot less money. He is always out there looking for ways to get us the needed equipment, grants, sponsorships, etc. That has helped us out a lot, but we still have a ways to go."

With size of the ERAU SAE teams likely increasing in the next few years, and many of the teams returning, funding will continue to be a hurdle to overcome. "Sometimes it can be very difficult to compete with teams like the University of Michigan who raise over \$100,000 annually for their SAE design teams," Unton said.

Coach Resigns

Press Release
Embry-Riddle

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – Dan Blank, the only head coach Embry-Riddle women's soccer has ever known, has resigned after nine seasons with the University.

Blank joined the Embry-Riddle family in 1998 to start women's soccer at Embry-Riddle. He ended his career with the Eagles with a 98-61-8 overall record, three Florida Sun Conference titles, three NAIA Region XIV titles, and three NAIA National Championship appearances.

"It was the best time for the program and I to go in different directions," Blank said. "I am proud of what has been built here in nine years and thankful to have worked with so many wonderful players and co-workers."

"I'm very proud of the foundation and success that our women's program has had under Dan's leadership over the last nine years," Athletic Director Steve Ridder said. "Dan's work has paid great dividends for numerous student-athletes, our athletic program and our university. I am appreciative of his efforts and wish him nothing but success in his future endeavors. I'm also excited about our women's program continuing to reach new levels of success in the future."

The Eagles have competed in every regional tournament since 1999 then and since 2001 have been a fixture in the NAIA Top 25.

Blank has helped produce more than 25 collegiate All-America selections. In January 2006 Blank attained his "A" License from the United States Soccer Federation, and holds the Advanced National Diploma from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).

While the successes of Blank's teams on the field are well documented, mention must also be made of their success in the classroom. He maintains that soccer is fleeting and life after college is not. In accordance with that philosophy he set a 3.0 grade point average as a team goal for each semester. In addition, a number of individual players were recognized as NAIA Scholar Athletes or Verizon Academic All-Americans.

Eagles drop to Flagler 9-5



JONATHAN METTIN/AVION

Press Release
Embry-Riddle

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – Flagler College lefthander Austin Donmoyer pitched a complete game to lead the Flagler baseball team to a 9-5 win over No. 17 Embry-Riddle, Monday at ERAU's Sliwa Stadium. Donmoyer surrender five runs (three earned) on eight hits and fanned nine batters as

the Saints improved their record 20-25 on the year, while the Eagles slipped to 39-9 with the loss.

The Eagles, who totaled eight hits, were led by Danny Martin who went 3-for-5 with a double and an RBI. Colin Gray and Joey Lubonty each had a pair of hits with Lubonty registering a double and Gray belting out a home run.

Brad Jackson led the Saints' 15-hit offense going 4-for-5 with three RBI

Bryan Harrell (3-for-5, 1 RBI) had a pair of doubles, and Wade Lamont (1-for-3, 2 RBI) hit a homer for the Saints' only other extra base hit of the night.

The Eagles took an early lead in the first after Danny Martin doubled to the gap in left centerfield, moved up on a Michael Brady sacrifice bunt and came across on a passed ball.

The Saints evened the score courtesy of a pair of singles and a balk and

threatened more. Glenn Kiture singled to right and Jackson tried to get to third from first on the play, but was thrown out at third by Lubonty to end the inning.

The Eagles reclaimed the lead in the bottom of the inning when Gray took Donmoyer over the left field fence for his fourth homer of the year. Branden Roper-Hubbert boarded on a free pass, stole second and scored when Lubonty ripped a double down the left field line. Lubonty scored from second on Martin's single through the right side to put the Eagles up 4-1.

In the top of the fifth, Lamont pulled the Saints to within one run with a two-run blast to left field.

After the Eagles got a run back in the bottom of the sixth, the Saints used three hits, two walks, a wild pitch and an Eagle error to plate three runs and take a 6-5 lead in the seventh.

Donmoyer held the Eagles to just one hit over the next three frames, and the Saints offense fed off his confidence and put up another three-spot in the ninth to seal the win.

Kyle Albright (0-1) took the loss, yielding four runs (three earned) on six hits in three innings of relief. Eagle starter Steven Otterness went six innings and allowed five runs on nine hits with seven strikeouts.

The Eagles return to the diamond at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday when they host Thomas in a non-conference doubleheader.

Eighth straight cup

Press Release
Embry-Riddle

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – For an unprecedented eighth season in a row, the Embry-Riddle athletic program captured the Florida Sun Conference Commissioner's Cup, the league office announced on Friday. The Eagles averaged 7,038 points to retain the trophy, finishing ahead of Savannah College of Art and Design (6,576), Northwood (5,591) and Webber International and Warner Southern who averaged 5,167 points each.

The Commissioner's Cup, formerly known as the All-Sports Trophy, recognizes the league's most successful all-around athletic program. The Cup points are awarded in descending order to the eight FSC members based on regular-season standings in the 15 conference sports - eight for first place, seven for second place, and so on. In addition, one bonus point each is awarded to both the men's and women's basketball tournament champions. Total points are then divided by the number of sports sponsored by each institution to get the overall scores.

Embry-Riddle posted top-three finishes in 11 of the 13 conference-recognized sports it sponsors, including championships in men's and women's cross country, men's soccer, women's golf, men's track and field, and men's tennis. The ERAU volleyball, baseball, women's tennis, and men's golf teams all posted second-place finishes, while women's soccer took third, and men's basketball and women's track and field each finished fourth.

SCAD captured five league titles in volleyball, women's basketball, men's golf, softball and women's tennis, while the Bees posted runner-up finishes in women's soccer, women's golf and men's tennis.

Northwood University was the biggest mover in the Cup standings going from fifth to third-place this year behind league titles in women's soccer, women's basketball and men's basketball. Another vast improvement was St. Thomas University which went from eighth to sixth behind its regular-season championship in baseball and a runner-up finish in softball.

Women's tennis advances at nationals

Press Release
Embry-Riddle

MOBILE, Ala. – The 10th-ranked Embry-Riddle women's tennis (12-8) team advanced to the second round of the NAIA Women's Tennis National Championships with an 8-1 opening-round win against Southwestern (Kan.), Monday at the Mobile Tennis Center.

The Eagles easily swept all three doubles points as Natalie Anaya and Lindsey Kurtz downed Leah Rankin and Jenny Crank 8-3 at No. 1, and Hana Im and Kerinn Meisenbach defeated Danielle Patton and Molly Kearns at the second position. At the No. 3 spot, Marga Rico Jimenez and Sara

Abraul topped Kelsey Reynolds and Madison Lumm 8-1.

In singles play, the Eagles did not lose a single game at either of the top two spots as Im and Anaya each posted 6-0, 6-0 victories over Rankin and Crank, respectively. Abraul also blanked Mehvash Shahzada 6-0, 6-0 at the No. 5 spot.

Rico-Jimenez took a 6-1, 6-0 decision against Reynolds at No. 4 and Kurtz topped Patton 6-0, 6-3 at the third spot.

Southwestern's Lumm won her singles match by default at the No. 6 spot.

The Eagle women will take on seventh-seeded Berry (Ga.) at 1 p.m. on Tuesday as the second round of the tournament gets underway.



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JONATHAN METTIN/AVION

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Loophole causes student loan corruption

Amit R. Paley

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Education Secretary Margaret Spellings, facing aggressive questions about her department's oversight of the \$85 billion-a-year student loan industry, offered a vigorous defense of her actions Thursday and called for a multi-agency effort to prevent corruption in the loan system.

"Federal student aid is crying out for reform," Spellings told the House education committee. "The system is redundant, it's byzantine and it's broken. It's often more difficult for students to get aid than it is for bad actors to game the system."

In a sometimes-tense hearing,

Democratic lawmakers accused the Bush administration of failing to clamp down on conflicts of interest and various industry practices that have drawn criticism from Congress and attorneys general across the nation. The House voted this week to increase federal regulation of the loan business.

"The Education Department's oversight failures have been monumental," said Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., chairman of the committee. "Was this simply laziness? Was it incompetence? Was it a deliberate decision to look the other way while these things happened? Or was it a failing more sinister than that?"

Miller disclosed at the hearing that the Justice Department is examining a controversial

accounting loophole used by Nelnet, a Nebraska-based lending company, in an attempt to collect more than \$1 billion in government subsidies. Spellings decided this year to halt the payments but allowed Nelnet to keep \$278 million it had collected.

Ben Kiser, a Nelnet spokesman, said the company is "fully cooperating" with the Justice Department and remains "confident that there are no grounds for any action against Nelnet." The department is looking into potential civil fraud, according to a source who spoke only on the condition of anonymity because of the matter's sensitivity.

Spellings offered her fullest explanation yet of the decision to settle with Nelnet, saying she believed there was a significant

chance that the company would have won if it had filed a lawsuit against the government to continue receiving payments.

But Miller, in one of several verbal sparring sessions with Spellings, said the explanation made little sense. "If it's such an easy case for them, why did they walk away from \$1 billion?" he asked.

Spellings said the Bush administration has taken significant steps to regulate the student loan industry. She announced that a task force named to create rules forbidding gifts from lenders to universities had made its recommendations, which she pledged to implement.

One of the biggest areas of contention was the department's oversight of companies that offer private loans, a fast-growing section

of the market. Spellings said she had the ability to regulate only federally guaranteed loans, but Miller insisted that she could have used her bully pulpit as secretary to stop controversial practices in the private loan business.

"Who was monitoring?" Miller asked. "Did they have blinders on?"

Spellings replied: "It was not a violation of the laws I'm charged with overseeing."

"That's a crutch," Miller said.

Spellings said responsibility for regulation of the private loan market rested with the Federal Trade Commission, Securities and Exchange Commission, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and Federal Reserve. But she promised to convene the heads of all the agencies

"to coordinate a government-wide endeavor to end student-loan abuse -- no matter where it occurs."

Several Republicans came to the secretary's defense. "We must be cautious not to engage in an endless, partisan fishing expedition that, after a while, runs the risk of becoming a witch hunt instead of a serious pursuit of changes to public policy," said Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon of California, the committee's ranking Republican.

Also Thursday, New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo announced that the parent company of lender Student Loan Xpress, which placed three executives on leave amid a conflict-of-interest investigation, agreed to pay \$3 million and sign a code of conduct that forbids controversial business practices.

Dorms become junkyard as semester ends

Larry Gordon

Los Angeles Times

After final exams and graduation every spring, America's college campuses become junkyards of abandoned stuff -- providing, some say, a snapshot of a generation of students raised in a throwaway culture.

Take Pomona College in Claremont, Calif. A cleanup of the dormitories last week filled hallways and lounges with about 50 unwanted mini-refrigerators, 40 computer printers, scores of microwave ovens and window fans, mounds of mattresses and couches, piles of pillows and clothes, a store's worth of detergent, shampoo, books and ramen noodles, not to mention bicycles, stuffed animals, crutches and exotic underwear.

At this liberal arts college and at schools across the country, graduating seniors and underclassmen lack the time, storage space, wits or desire to keep all their possessions. So they leave some behind, even items in good condition. That is particularly true for students headed to faraway homes or for those whose parents will finance another clock radio and bookcase in the fall.

"I think it's absolutely enormous. But it's not surprising," said Sarah Kuriakose, Pomona's former student body president, while surveying items gathered in a room-to-room search she organized. "No college student would say it's surprising."

But Kuriakose and activists on other campuses have decided enough is enough. Concerned about waste and overstuffed landfills, they are devising ways to donate or recycle dorm leftovers.

Some schools, such as Pennsylvania State University and Ohio State University, conduct immense yard sales with proceeds to worthy causes.

"Not until you are here sorting through it all do you realize the actual magnitude of what was previously being trashed. And what could be put to good use for families of need," said recent Pomona graduate Katie Lenhoff.

Lenhoff was among 24 volunteers working on the new, week-long effort called "Operation Clean Sweep," which will funnel dormitory discards to six charities.

Norbert Dunkel, vice president of the



LOS ANGELES TIMES PHOTO BY KAREN TAPIA-ANDERSEN.

Association of College and University Housing Officers-International, said the widespread abandonment of property has become a springtime ritual at many schools.

The University of Florida, where Dunkel is director of housing and residence education, recently gave about 20 tons of usable items to the Salvation Army, food banks and other groups.

"Students today, even versus 15 years ago, are much more of a throwaway culture," he said. "They use things and don't keep them for an extended period of time."

Part of that is driven by technology: Why save a printer if a faster and cheaper one will be available next year? Some belongings are forsaken by departing graduates. But lots of undergraduates who shop during the year and then panic because many colleges allow no or very little summer storage.

In some cases, students have acquired things that won't transport well -- such as the live 5-foot-long boa constrictor University of Florida employees found a few years ago in a dorm drawer.

And, some students seem simply spoiled. That was the case in May

when a freshman from Maryland left a closetful of clothes and shoes. The university contacted her mother, who seemed unconcerned and told the school to give it all away. Families like that, Dunkel said, "are affluent enough to buy a new wardrobe every year."

Last year, Penn State's "Trash to Treasure" sale at the campus stadium involved more than 66 tons of student cast-offs and garnered more than \$50,000 for United Way. Among the items were a mink coat, a silver-plated punch bowl, 33 television sets, 166 window fans and 270 pairs of ski boots.

Carolyn Lambert, who is helping to organize Penn State's sixth annual sale scheduled for May 26, considers the events "a huge anthropological study in terms of what students leave behind and have donated."

Besides the vacuum cleaners, irons and extra sheets that parents bought in September, some students walk away from mugs filled with coins, said Lambert, an associate professor in Penn State's School of Hospitality Management.

"A lot of the items would indicate that they are more of a privileged group than a previous generation," she said.

\$400 million shipwreck found

Alan Zarembo

Los Angeles Times

This article was co-written by Karen Kaplan.

Deep-sea treasure hunters said Friday they have recovered what could be a record haul of gold and silver coins from a colonial-era shipwreck -- but their failure to provide many details has set off a galleon-sized controversy over their claims.

The hunters from Odyssey Marine Exploration Inc., a Tampa, Fla.-based company, said their haul has so far totaled about 17 tons of coins, more than 500,000 in all.

Each coin could bring between a few hundred and several thousand dollars, according to an expert who evaluated some of them at the company's request. The total could reach \$500 million dollars, which would make it one of the most valuable sunken treasures ever discovered.

But some experts in nautical archaeology were quick to cast doubt on the value of the booty.

"There is no such thing as \$500 million on any wreck in the world," said Robert Marx, a veteran treasure hunter. "Anybody who says so is ... lying."

George Bass, an archaeologist at Texas A&M University who specializes in shipwrecks, said he is skeptical of these types of early estimates, especially when such little information has been provided by the company.

"Very often, it's exaggerated because of course they need to get financial backers," he said.

Odyssey Marine Exploration is unusual in the treasure-hunting world. It is a company whose stock is publicly traded on the American Stock Exchange.

On Friday, its shares, which had been hovering around \$4, shot up 80 percent to close at \$8.32. It rose to \$8.94 in after-hours trading.

Odyssey co-founder Greg Stemm said the company is being "relatively secretive" while it confirms the identity of the ship.

A spokesperson for the company stressed that because it is publicly traded, it can not distort the value of its discovery. "If we were to inflate the value of a find like that, we would be in serious trouble" said Laura Barton, vice president of communications.

Since September, the company has filed a series of motions in U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida for a summary judgment giving it the rights to an "unidentified, shipwrecked vessel."

The documents say the wreck was found last summer 40 miles off the southwestern tip of England. It was a 17th century merchant vessel equipped with cannons. Stemm would neither confirm nor deny that the filings refer to new discovery.

The company announced the find with scant details, explaining that the wreck was found in international waters somewhere in the Atlantic. They code-named the site Black Swan.

Stemm said historical records show that several ships sank in the same region and that the company is still trying to confirm the

identity of the wreck.

They found the treasure using a deep-sea robot equipped with cameras.

The company provided a photograph of hundreds of large white plastic buckets stacked on wooden pallets in a warehouse. Each is bucket is numbered and labeled with the weight of its contents. In the foreground, an 18-kilogram bucket is opened to reveal shiny silver coins.

Rare coin expert Nick Bruyer recently traveled to inspect the coins as they were going through the conservation process and declared the size of the find "unprecedented." The coins spanned several decades and were exceptionally well preserved, he said.

After examining dozens of them, he concluded that their value ranged from a few hundred dollars to \$4,000 apiece. The finest specimens "could bring record-breaking prices," said Bruyer, founder of Asset Marketing Services, Inc. in Burnsville, Minn., who has done work for Odyssey in the past.

Bruyer and Stemm refused to give the nationalities of the coins, but Odyssey has already begun marketing them on a special Web site, www.blackswanshipwreck.com.

Black Swan could put the company way into the black -- and into the record books. The biggest previously reported find was the 1985 discovery of Nuestra Senora de Atocha, a Spanish galleon loaded with gold, silver, gems and jewelry that sank off the coast of Florida in 1622. When it was located by famed treasure hunter Mel Fisher, the value of its cargo was

estimated at \$400 million.

But that figure is also hazy. Fisher's company is private and has never disclosed how much it has actually brought in, according to Bass, the archaeologist.

Treasure hunting is by nature a secretive world, comprised of a handful of companies.

"In this business, we all hold our cards pretty close to the chest," said Scott Heimdal, president of RS Operations, a treasure-hunting company based in Peoria, Ill.

Even by those standards, Odyssey is withholding more than usual, critics said. "So much is kept secret it is hard to know what they have," Bass said.

Marx, who has written dozens of books about shipwrecks, said Odyssey could have disclosed a rough location and date of the wreck, and the nationality of the coins to satisfy skeptics without jeopardizing the find.

He also raised the issue of whether competing legal claims for the treasure could emerge. International laws governing shipwrecks are complex and in many cases give rights to the countries that originally owned the vessels.

Stemm said the company was well within its right to scoop up those tons of coins before all the legal questions are settled.

He compared the situation to finding a wallet filled with cash but lacking identification to trace its owner.

"Do you have a right to pick that up and bring it to the police station?" he said. "That's the same thing. We were walking along and we found a wallet with 17 tons of silver."

At Pomona College, dean of campus life M. Ricardo Townes stressed the positive as student volunteers scoured rooms for things they would later truck to charities for what is expected to become an annual event.

"There is a spirit of sustainability around here, of re-using things as opposed to just throwing things away," Townes said.

For example, fridges will go to animal shelters to keep medicines chilled.

Officials from some charities seemed awed by the scale of it all.

Nancy Dufford, a coordinator at Uncommon Good, a Claremont-based agency that helps low-income families, was picking out couches, fans, mirrors, school supplies and toys.

"We're thrilled," she said. "Our families will definitely benefit from this."

Pomona College allows returning students to store just five boxes of items over the summer and some schools don't allow anything. As a result, students chip in to rent off-campus storage units for the summer so they can have the comforts of home in the fall. Some amenities are purchased from outbound seniors.

Kuriakose says parents are as much to blame as anyone for "rushing out to Target to buy completely new printers and lamps every year."

Those mom-friendly items were plentiful at Pomona's giveaway piles. But so were some oddities: A Molson beer sign. A full bottle of Celine Dion perfume. A pair of boxing gloves. A big blue plush toy horse. A gladiator costume complete with faux sword. A Weapons and Warrior Castle Combat set. A box of "Hemp Plus Brownie Mix."

Then there was a woman's leathery outfit that could have been a costume for Halloween, or maybe not.

"That was really awkward," Kuriakose said. "We decided not to put that into the church yard sale pile."

And yet for all the things students leave behind, it's worth noting what they don't.

At Pomona, some beer and vodka was found but no drugs, no obvious contraband, no illegally copied CDs.

"I think everything illegal is pretty precious to students," Kuriakose said. "I think they are careful to pack it up."

Bee colonies begin to die out

Russ Parsons

Los Angeles Times

It is like a scene out of a Stephen King novel: One sunny spring day, the happy buzzing sound of bees fades to silence. The bees disappear, abandoning hives and leaving flowers unpollinated, never to bear fruits and vegetables. Gradually, the world starves.

That's the picture some are painting this spring in the wake of heavier-than-normal losses by beekeepers.

Although that picture may have apocalyptic appeal, it ignores some inconvenient facts.

For starters, California's almond farmers -- who grow the most bee-intensive crop in the country -- are forecasting a record harvest this year. In fact, the latest estimate, recently released, is for this year's crop to be almost 20 percent bigger than last year's. The state's plum, peach and nectarine farmers say that their trees are full of fruit too. And so do cherry, pear and apple farmers in Washington.

Though pollination is still continu-

ing in the United States.

"In the good old days" beekeepers might lose 5 (percent) to 10 percent of their hives every year," Mussen says. "Then we had the mites and that pushed us into a range of 20 (percent) to 25 percent. The hives could still handle those losses and bounce back."

"But lately, we've been seeing losses into the 35 (percent) to 40 percent range and even a few individuals with 75 (percent) to 80 percent. My biggest concern is that if this situation continues to go on, beekeepers might just decide it's not worth the effort to keep up and quit the business. That would be bad."

There are several things that make these new die-offs different from those in the past. In normal die-offs, the hives are filled with dead bees that can be examined to find the source of the problem; in this case, the bees simply disappeared, abandoning perfectly good hives.

The recent die-offs seem to be more rapid and are occurring in greater numbers than those in the past. They are more widespread, so far occurring in California and in 26 other states. The phenomenon has been reported in



PHOTO COURTESY MATT BROWNE

ing for a few crops, there has been no indication so far that the honeybee disappearances will have any effect on any harvest this year.

Definitely, something strange is going on. This winter and spring, an extraordinary number of worker honeybees have been abandoning seemingly normal hives and leaving healthy queens and brood to starve. No one knows why this is happening; scientists have named it "Colony Collapse Disorder."

Most agricultural pollination is done not by wild bee colonies but by commercial beekeepers who truck hives and sell bee services where they are needed. Since the early 1970s, the number of bee colonies in the United States has declined almost by half, due to urbanization, pesticide use, pollution, various pests, and beekeepers retiring or going out of business.

The long-term decline of the bee population has resulted in the cost of rented hives going up by \$50 or \$60 each, to \$125 or more. But farmers say that rate has leveled off over the last few years.

This new problem began in November when commercial beekeepers along the East Coast began reporting sudden and drastic die-offs in their hives.

Similar occurrences have been well-documented since at least the late 19th century. In the beekeeping world there is an entire lexicon for such events, including "spring dwindle," "fall dwindle," "autumn collapse" and "May disease."

"If you look back a ways, something like this happened at least as early as the 1890s," says Eric Mussen, extension apiculturist at the University of California, Davis, and the state's leading bee expert.

"In the period 1963, '64 and '65, we had this kind of thing happen year after year. And then again in 1975 it happened pretty hard. They called it 'disappearing disease' then."

In the 1980s, infestations of a tiny bug called the Varroa mite devastated commercial hives and almost wiped out wild bee populations in

Europe, though it is not clear whether these cases are related.

Scientists don't know what causes Colony Collapse Disorder, and many doubt whether there is a single cause. They call it a "syndrome" rather than "disease" because of the suspicion that it may be the result of several factors coming together.

"There is a big long list of things that can happen to honeybees that are very negative," Mussen says. "When they begin to add up, it's very easy to push the population over the edge."

The only thing that all of the problem hives seem to have in common is that they were experiencing periods of "extraordinary stress" due to poor nutrition or drought. If the hives are weakened, factors that otherwise might not be fatal could have disastrous effects.

"I think probably some of it had to do with local weather conditions late summer and fall last year," Mussen says. "Because of the weather there were lots of problems with bee nutrition so I think they just got off to a rough start."

Research is focusing on two factors that might be the breaking point. The first, identified recently by researchers at the University of San Francisco, is a fungus called Nosema ceranae, which has turned up in several affected hives.

Bee scientists also are looking into the effects of a new class of pesticides called neonicotinoids, particularly imidacloprid. It is a systemic pesticide, so even if it is applied only to the soil or the seed, it still can show up in pollen collected by bees.

The use of imidacloprid is restricted in France because of harmful effects on honeybees, though there is disagreement among scientists in Europe and elsewhere about the restriction.

"You know, it's tough to be a honeybee, that's not news at all," says Tim Smith, a tree fruit specialist at Washington State University.

"But I don't think there's any sudden alarm among users of honeybees, though of course we are all concerned about the possible long-term impact."

Prof. continues diversity debate

I've really enjoyed these exchanges with you, and I'm glad you're writing into the Avion to express your opinion. I've got a couple of comments.

To paint Don Imus as a powerless person who is at mercy of the oppressed minority is really a mischaracterization. Don Imus is a very powerful opinion leader with a large following, particularly white, heterosexual males who are a fan of the shock jock's mean-spirited commentary. He's not powerless; he's a part of the majority culture who wields the power.

Rosie O'Donnell is an opinion leader as well, but the majority of women in our society do not command such power. I thought her comment about Asians was ignorant and disconcerting to me personally. My husband and his extended family are Japanese-Americans and are very educated, not at all like the way Rosie painted Asians. My husband's grandfather, Sheigo, was a principal at a school in Hilo, HI and is extremely intelligent and speaks English very well.

I'm also sensitive to Italian-American stereotyping too because my family is primarily Italian-American. My great-grandparents came here from Italy and the town that I grew up in was mostly Italian-American. Large companies were not hiring Italian-Americans at the time, so my great-grandmother worked in a laundry and then at a knitting mill sweatshop. I was the first person in my family to graduate from college.

I can't tell you the last time my family saw a film without the Italian-American being cast as a part of the mafia, and these were in children's shows. We rented Racing Stripes one night and sure enough, the Italian-American sounding voice of the albatross announced that he was a "hit bird."

So who cares about that, right? It's just about cartoon characters. Well, parents care for one. All of that gets absorbed by children and becomes a part of their cultural perspective. Children will also internalize these negative comments. My daughter thought there were hit men in our family, for instance.

Race, ethnicity, class, gender, ability, sexual-orientation in this country is complicated. I can't address everything about the complexity in this response, so I will limit it to one area-- race and ethnicity to show you how views can

shift, causing us to re-evaluate our perception of reality.

Many people are unaware that Italian-Americans, especially Sicilians, were lynched in the south too, although not in as great numbers as African Americans, or that they were detained in concentration camps in the U.S. like the Japanese in WWII, but again not in as large numbers.

The lynching of Italian-Americans happened well before the war, mostly in the south. There's some great scholarship that traces the evolution of Italians from being considered Black in our country to being considered White.

Race can be fluid and some scholarship suggests it is largely a construct meant to divide us. There's a great documentary, Anti-Italianism: Discrimination and Defamation in the History of Italian Americans, a 30-minute documentary, directed and produced by Paul Budline for the Charles and Joan Alberto Italian Studies Institute at Seton Hall University that I took part in, which discusses these realities. That evolution is a good example of Freire's Pedagogy of the Oppressed, which suggests that some oppressed people who obtain positions of power actually replicate the power structure rather than work to abolish oppression.

Unless we examine history and analyze why we believe what we do, we become inextricably enmeshed in our culture's perspectives. It's hard to see life from another person's point of view if you never peak out of the box. That box or ethnocentricity is what sometimes causes conflict and even wars. No one is willing to compromise their views.

My position is complicated too by the fact that I'm a trained journalist who is a First Amendment proponent. I oppose censorship from the government. I also don't like political correctness. I don't like extremism in any form. However, in the case of Imus, whose advertisers pulled their ads, I feel that the marketplace of ideas is alive and well.

Imus was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. What many young people fail to recognize also is that it wasn't very long ago that racist ideas were legislated in the form of Jim Crow laws. There are many people here, even on our campus, who were brought up in segregated schools. In fact,

just last week Taylor County High School, located in Georgia, decided to hold their first integrated prom. Heretofore, they had held two separate proms-- one for Whites and one for Blacks. Segregated proms in the year 2006? Sounds unreal, doesn't it. So how far have we come? Not far enough.

The tragedy is not that Imus was fired, but that Imus picked on some powerless women who were trying to better themselves through education and athletics. To demean the Rutgers women's basketball team by calling them pejorative, racist and sexist terms was not civil discourse. Moreover coming from an opinion leader, Imus's comments could provoke people to act out and/or just sanction that sort of behavior.

Women, racial and ethnic minorities, and the working-class carry the burden of a heap load of negative slang terms. I can't think of too many nasty terms for middle-class, white, straight men. Why do you suppose that is? It's all about the power.

Imus was fired because someone was very brave and became an ally. Rosie's contract wasn't renewed either. Perhaps the lesson here is that we just need to be nicer to each other. Wouldn't THAT be great.

~Dr. Joanne Detore-Nakamura
Professor HU/SS

Stand Up! A political smorgesbord

These breaks are killing me. There are so many things to talk about, but I have to counter that with not taking up the entire page and trying not to sound like an idiot (though some still think I probably do). With debates, attorneys, Jerry Fallwell kicking the bucket, and the National Association of State Boards of Education probably electing someone president who does not believe in evolution, it's been a busy month.

more stable than Gravel.

These two candidates have much riding on their Internet fame. Both of them were originally not invited to their respective second debates, but after a firestorm of emails to the debate sponsors, the two were let back in. Paul, who in a field of strong conservatives is playing the old republican, is one who really wants a smaller government, one who remembers when the party was not full of war hawks, and one who thinks big brother should be taken out back. He may get enough support in the end to make a dent, but we all know what happens when fringe candidates meet mainstream media.

Where I see Paul gaining steam, it seems Gravel is around for laughs. He is more along the lines of someone who has got nothing to lose and lets himself go. The former Alaskan senator may really be crazy, since it seems Alaska can pick some gems (see Ted Stevens and his tubes), and if you saw the debate you know why. He was getting as close to throwing punches as you will see



Chris Tezak
Columnist

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Phoenix prepares for Mars launch

Mikel Fitterman
Chief Copy Editor

In one of its final steps before proceeding to a launch, NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander has arrived at Kennedy Space Center in Florida from Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company in Denver, Colorado. Slated for launch Aug. 3, the Phoenix is the first of NASA's new Scout series. Improving on previous designs such as the rovers Spirit and Opportunity, the Scout series spacecraft are intended to allow in-depth exploration of Mars with a lower price tag. Phoenix will be studying the arctic plain of Mars, researching the history of water on the Red Planet and deducing whether or not it could have, or does, support life.

Transported to Kennedy Space Center via a specially designed shipping container on board a U.S. Air Force C-17, Phoenix will be undergoing final testing at Kennedy Space Center. The nitrogen-purged container ensured a clean environment for the lander. Trials this month will determine if its launch systems are working correctly and if the landing radar will operate as intended after its eight month journey through space. Lockheed previously had problems with the commercially-bought radar altimeter, as it required more modifications to suit Phoenix's mission. Unlike Spirit and Opportunity, which used inflatable shrouds to bounce to a stop, Phoenix will use

its own thrusters to decelerate to a safe landing.

The determination of a landing site for Phoenix has been aided by the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, using its High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE). By utilizing digital maps of the landing site's topography, NASA scientists can more confidently select a landing site with a minimal amount of mission-endangering terrain.

Most of the instruments needed for scientific research on board Phoenix had already been designed, due to research left over from the failure of the Mars Polar Lander and the scrubbing of the Mars Surveyor 2001 Lander. Scientists want to look at what is happening on Mars at present, and will use such devices as cameras, weather observing equipment, and an eight-foot long robotic arm that can obtain soil and ice samples and send them to a combination mass spectrometer and furnace that will analyze them. In a cost-cutting measure, NASA saved \$10 million by eliminating an X band antenna from Phoenix. All communication will be via a UHF transmitter and relayed through the Mars orbiters.

NASA hopes that Phoenix will add to and improve upon the already vast amount of knowledge gathered about Mars from Spirit, Opportunity and the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and live up to its name as it rises from the ashes of the Mars Polar Lander and Mars Surveyor.



PHOTO COURTESY NASA

Delta emerges from 19 month bankruptcy

Bob Scheid
Staff Reporter

Delta Air Lines officially emerged from bankruptcy Monday, April 30, leaving Northwest Airlines as the only remaining major U.S. carrier still under Chapter 11 protection, according to Reuters News Service.

"This is a great day in Delta's history," said CEO Gerald Grinstein, citing, for example, an expected net debt of \$7.6 billion at the end of this year (compared to \$16.9 billion in June 2005). Delta had been under bankruptcy protection for 19 months, during which time it spent \$3 billion restructuring and reorganizing itself, ultimately emerging from bankruptcy a year ahead of schedule.

Expansion and harsh internal cuts in spending have helped the airline move from a \$452 million loss of last year into a predicted profit of \$816 million this fiscal year. Changes made to the company included the addition of 49 international and 21 domestic destinations, reducing the number of employees by 6,000 and the number of aircraft by 82, and restructuring of the union contracts.

Delta may soon sell its regional connection service Comair in order

to further cut costs. Delta signed a 10-year agreement with Pinnacle Airlines to take over that duty. That airline will begin flying 16 regional jets for Delta by the end of this year.

The airline has also rejoined the New York Stock Exchange using new shares as of May 3. Other changes to the corporate structure include the resignation of Grinstein from his position, effective when a new CEO can be found, and the selection of a new board of directors, chaired by Daniel Carp.

"Delta used the Chapter 11 process to completely transform every aspect of our business," said Edward Bastian, Chief Financial Officer. He went on to say that the changes made will help make the company more resilient to future problems in the market.

The significant number of changes made to the company has been symbolized in a new logo, reminiscent of the old but with fewer colors, lowering painting costs. Replacement of the old logos on signs should be complete by the end of 2007, with the fleet being repainted over the next four years.

Northwest Airlines expects to be released from bankruptcy by the end of June.

Eclipse 500 earns production cert. but cheated on type certification?

NATCA claims FAA delivered Eclipses TC with unsolved safety hazards

Brian Asbury

Advertising Manager

The Eclipse 500, the world's first very light jet (VLJ) received its production certification late last month. This allows the company to produce the jet without the inspection of each aircraft by the FAA before delivery can be made. This greatly increases the production rate of Eclipse.

The VLJ received its type certification last September. However, the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) has filed a grievance with the FAA accusing the FAA of certifying the aircraft even though particular safety issues have been identified but not rectified.

"Despite the identified safety issues, the FAA management certificated the Eclipse 500 aircraft. Despite the identified safety issues, the FAA management certificated the Eclipse 500 aircraft," wrote Tomasa DiPaolo of NATCA's aircraft certification department in the complaint to



PHOTO COURTESY ECLIPSE AVIATION

Michelle Owsley of the FAA.

DiPaolo told *avweb.com* that unnamed engineers were unaware upon coming into work on Monday that the FAA had even awarded the type certification, adding "Who's ever heard of the FAA working on a Saturday?"

Now that the Eclipse poses the production certification it can now

roll aircraft off the production line at will. "This is a major milestone that we've been working hard to achieve," said Eclipse spokesman Andrew Broom.

Eclipse has about 60 aircraft currently on the production line and with the production certification in hand, they can provide delivery dates to their customers. The VLJ

already has more than 2,500 orders at \$1.5 million each and is expected to revolutionize the aviation industry allowing thousands more corporations and individuals to own their own jet. The Eclipse 500 can operate out of small airports requiring only 2,500 feet of runway to operate and has a more than 1,100 NM range.

Virgin Atlantic orders 787-9

\$8 billion order delivers serious blow to rival Airbus

Brian Asbury

Advertising Manager

In a competitive blow to Boeing

rival Airbus, Virgin Atlantic signed an aircraft order for up to 43 Boeing 787-9s, a deal worth up to \$8 billion. This largest order for 787s placed by a European airline will allow non-stop flights from Britain to Australia, a 16-17 hour flight.

The purchase is for an initial 15 planes, an option for another 8 and purchase rights for a possible 20 more. The new 787s will enter the fleet in 2011 and replace the Airbus A340-300s in Virgin Atlantic's fleet.

Airbus was competing for the contract with its' A350 promising lower fuel consumption than the B787, but will not be ready to enter service until at least 2013. Sir Richard Branson, Virgin chairman, said the environmental advantage went to the B787 with only two engines opposed to the A350, along with the rest of the Virgin fleet, that has four engines. Availability was also a large factor to the decisions according to Branson.

Virgin Atlantic is also joining forces with Boeing and American

engine manufacturer General Electric to develop bio-fuels to power future aircraft. Boeing chairman Jim McNerney mentioned that a number of options, including soya beans and algae, grain and "cellulosic" crops such as prairie grass, were being looked at to base a new fuel of off with plans to test the new fuel on a 747 next year.

Conventional bio-fuels, such as ethanol, freeze at high altitude channeling thinking that environmental-friendly aviation fuels may not be possible.



PHOTO COURTESY BOEING

Orbital Express malfunctions during space flight docking

Bob Scheid
Staff Reporter

Orbital Express, a U.S. Air Force program designed to demonstrate in-flight autonomous refueling of spacecraft, suffered a major computer malfunction two weeks ago, according to SpaceflightNow.com.

Orbital Express is a formation of two independent spacecraft. ASTRO is a servicer spacecraft built by Boeing's Phantom Works division, while NextSat is a fuel carrier and mock spacecraft for the ASTRO to dock with. The mission is under the oversight of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). They were launched together in March, flying in a loose formation.

On May 11, the two craft had closed to about 100 feet and were preparing to close when a major

malfunction in the flight computer of ASTRO, called AC-2, caused the spacecraft to lose navigation and guidance data. The result was the activation of ASTRO's fail-safe control system, reverting to free drift mode and allowing the two satellites to coast apart to a distance of several miles over a period of a few days.

Jan Walker, a spokesperson for DARPA, said that "ASTRO's fault protection software is programmed to, above all else, avoid a collision with NextSat."

In the interim, the control team checked the computer data and began trying to reestablish computer control over the spacecraft. Walker reported that both the vehicles were safe and that ASTRO's backup computer, AC-3, had been powered up. AC-3, a redundant processor with a separate battery, was intended for use as an

experiment; ASTRO was going to attempt to replace one of its primary guidance computers with the spare using a robotic arm.

The AC-1 computer, the primary flight computer, continued to operate correctly.

Orbital Express' mission included a long range rendezvous, but this was not planned for some time. Originally, the program was to follow a series of increasingly difficult maneuvers from increasing distances, but the distance between the two spacecraft has necessitated the use of the long range rendezvous program now. As of press time Friday, there was no information as to the success of the rendezvous.

However, Orbital Express has already successfully completed several refueling tests using pressure and pump techniques between the spacecraft.

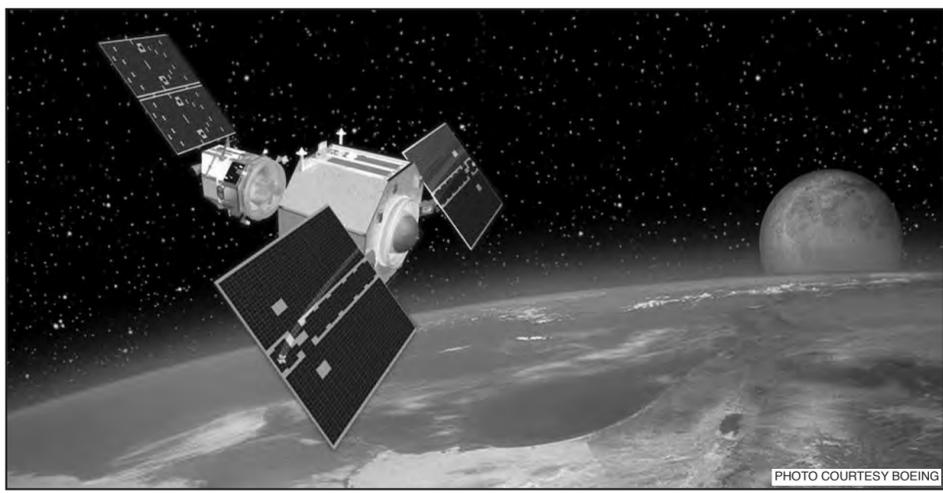
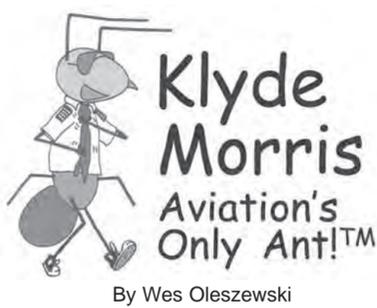


PHOTO COURTESY BOEING



CRYPTOGRAM

Puzzle:
Aj rfetmlsn lj icfs. Rj hjl ucgg aj, rj hjl
mjsstml lyj dqhretr rjssceg.

Hint: It could happen when you take a Chance in Monopoly.
Another hint: J = O, G = S

Answer: Go directly to jail. Do not pass go, do not collect two hundred dollars.

Word Scrambler

Theme: Board games

BSEHITLAP
OITRPOEAN
POLOMNOY
TVIARIL PRIUUST
SBLCBRAE

CUTEHS AND LDDAERS
CLYANADND
GMAE FO ELFI
BGOMAKCAMN
STREAGTO

Answers: Battleship, Operation, Monopoly, Trivial Pursuit, Scrabble, Chutes and Ladders, Candyland, Game of Life, Backgammon, Stratego

SUDOKU

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SIMPLE

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7							8	4				9

DIFFICULT

Twenty-one G's

ACROSS

- 1 Chart representation of values
- 6 World cup score
- 10 Gape stupidly
- 14 2:1, for example
- 15 "Tie your shoe ___ or you'll trip."
- 16 Against
- 17 Wrinkle removers
- 18 ___ Major (Big Dipper)
- 19 Pineapple brand
- 20 People Empowering People (abbr.)
- 21 Family ___
- 23 Flock of geese
- 25 Nest of birds built on high place
- 26 Short form of 'utility vehicle'
- 27 Silly titter
- 30 Welcomed
- 34 Chillier in manner
- 35 Greek god of war
- 36 "___, we have no bananas"
- 38 Hen
- 39 Big ___, a nickname of Clock Tower
- 40 ___ Girls originated in London
- 42 The bottom line
- 43 Buzz off!
- 44 Type of eclipse
- 45 Olympic flipper
- 48 Wide-eyed stare
- 49 Stomach muscles (abbr.)
- 50 Read all about it!

DOWN

- 51 Measurements
- 54 Daring determination
- 55 Stage light cover
- 58 Temporary worker (abbr.)
- 59 TV Show "American ___"
- 61 Plant seed
- 63 Out of Band Infrastructure (abbr.)
- 64 This contract is ___ and void."
- 65 Ancient Scandinavian language
- 66 Smart Noise Equipment (abbr.)
- 67 Deities
- 68 Adhesives
- 8 American Cancer Society (abbr.)
- 9 Baseball associations
- 10 Gizmo
- 11 Eager and hopeful
- 12 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air role (TV show)
- 13 Leg joint
- 22 Ireland (abbr.)
- 24 Past tense of eat
- 25 Final condition of wine, fruit and cheeses
- 27 Joke or tease at someone's expense
- 28 Frosting
- 29 Light-headed
- 30 The ___ Gatsby
- 31 Buying alternative
- 32 Looking at
- 33 Decorative sticker
- 35 What children learn
- 37 Dried-up, withered
- 40 Couples' romantic dance music (2 wds.)
- 41 Short-nosed dogs

- 43 Talking back
- 46 Scavenger bird, similar to crow
- 47 North by east (abbr.)
- 48 On your marks, ___ set ...
- 50 Nothings
- 51 Certain Pontiacs
- 52 Eternity
- 53 Knoblike part
- 54 Jewelry metal
- 55 Wise person
- 56 or ___ ...
- 57 Sediments from fermentation
- 60 "Dynamic ___"
- 62 Volume (abbr.)

Submit your completed crossword to our office in SC 110. All correct entries will be entered to win a \$10 gift certificate to Barnes & Noble Bookstore. Entries are due Friday by 5 p.m. Good luck!

Last Issue

So long and thanks for all the fish

WINNER: Sean Foxen



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41	E	A	R					42	C	R	E	D	O		43	T	I	E	R	S			
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66	T	W	O	S				67	H	U	S	H		68	O	A	R	S					

HOUSING / ROOMMATES

Room For Rent

DAYTONA BEACH Room for rent in spacious home, pet friendly with fenced in yard and lots of trees. Five minutes from campus can ride your bike to school. Cable and internet. PET OKAY. \$395 per month utilities included. 386-295-0268



Two story townhome for sale in Port Orange!

2/BR-2Bath in Port Orange. Six minutes to Daytona. New roof, 2006. Central heat/Air pump in 2006. Pergo flooring & ceramic tile on main floor 2006. New carpet & ceramic tile on second floor, 2007. Gas fireplace for smokeless burning and efficiency. Alarm system, beautifully landscaped, light and bright home. #137,500.00 (negotiable)



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Easy to Rent! 5 minutes from Riddle. Share nice 4 bedroom 2 bath home in quiet neighborhood with Riddle students. Washer/Dryer in home...Utilities split 4 ways. No long term lease required. \$350 Security Deposit. Call Kenny Doucette @ 386-235-1910



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235 Lockhart St. - minutes from ERAU. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath; new stove & frig; washer/dryer; central air, ceiling fans, off street parking, fenced yard. Small pets maybe. \$975/month plus utilities. Security and first. Available NOW. 386-763-1747.



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HOUSING / ROOMMATES

River front Condo for Rent

1/1 remodeled river front condo community located at the Preserve @ River's Edge. New appliances, tile, washer/dryer, wood flooring. Condo amenities include: river front pool & spa, gated access, gym w/ all new equipment. \$750/month + \$750/sec. Call 386-383-3444



Summer Housing

Sublease room in a new, huge 4brdm/2bth house with POOL. Close to everything; 5 min from local Colleges. Pets negotiable. Available May 1-July 31. Master with private bath only \$400/mo. Other rooms \$375/mo. Utilities not included. Very Flexible. Call Jamie 305-849-2152



Rooms for Rent

3 Bed 2 Bath house located in South Daytona 10 minutes from campus. Located in quiet neighborhood with no through traffic. Wireless internet, full kitchen, and all appliances are provided. \$400/mo. plus 1/3 of utilities. Call for more info or to see house. (570) 856-5977



Roommate Needed

1 roommate need to share 4brdm 2 story 2 1/2 bath about 10-15 mins from Riddle. It's brand new and will be finished for a May 1st move in. Rent is \$350 a month plus utilities (about \$440 total). Contact via email. Will - w_roeser@yahoo.com



Female Student

Wanted nonsmoker to share 2/1 beachside house. Close to campus and walking distance to Florida's most famous beach. \$450.00 a month and \$150.00 for utilities, \$300.00 for security deposit. If interested, call Sheryl for interview: 407-399-5607

HOUSING / ROOMMATES

Room Available

One room available in a 2 bedroom & 2 bath apartment with a lovely view located on the Intracoastal. Rent is \$367/month plus half the electric (which is about \$40 a piece). If you are clean, considerate, non-smoking, and without a pet, this is a thoroughly unique find. Graduate student preferred. Call for more info: (386) 631-1220.



Roommate Needed ASAP

Roommate needed immediately! Beautiful, fully furnished, 2 bedroom 2 bath apartment with pool, gym, racquetball, and tennis courts. You get the master bedroom/bathroom! 1 mile from ERAU! Non-smoker and no pets please. Call ASAP (239) 851-7271.



Apartment Available

Available from May to July. Nice, furnished, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment at the Barrington. 10 min from ERAU. Pool, tennis court. \$260/month + utilities (about \$30). Contact Camille for more information decou6c9@erau.edu



Room for Rent

Available now. Room for rent in spacious home five minutes from campus off International Speedway. Animal friendly. Large fenced in yard with shady trees. Access to indoor heated pool. High speed internet, cable. Pet ok. \$395 per month, utilities included. (386) 295-0268.

HOUSING / ROOMMATES

Spruce Creek Condo

For rent: 3bd/2bth 2 car garage, approx. 1650 sq ft. on golf course/water. Loft, pool. \$1600 month plus utilities, 1st/last, security month. Mary Doran (386) 290-5238



Summer Housing

Port Orange room for rent. Dishwasher, microwave, washer/dryer; utilities include cable TV & high speed internet; jacuzzi. \$500/mo. Short term lease. First & security. Available April 15th. (386) 763-1747.



House Across From Beach

3 BR 2 BA with huge 2 car garage - lots of storage, hardwood floors, Florida room. Asking \$1000/mo, OBO. Available now! Please call Cher (305) 395-0500



Duplex For Rent

Holly Hill, unfurnished, 2 bedroom/1 bath duplex for rent. 10-15 minutes from ERAU. 824 May Ave., lower unit, \$900 includes wireless internet and cable. Available now! (386) 248-8333 or (90) 343-5181



LPGA Home Available

4 Bedroom 3 Bath home in LPGA. Built in 2003. Features 2 car garage, security system and washer/dryer! Asking \$1800 per month. Call for more information (407) 252-7411

HOUSING / ROOMMATES

Another Roommate Wanted

Looking for a clean, friendly, and quiet roommate to share a beautiful house in LPGA International, just 10-15 minutes from school. Rent is \$375 plus 1/4 of utilities. Available ASAP. Please call (863) 381-7137



Condo For Rent

Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo located in quiet, swim neighborhood in Deerwood Subdivision. 1 mile from Embry-Riddle. \$920/month, first and last month and security. Call for more information (770) 312-7949 or (386) 441-4583



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Sublease room in a new, huge 4brdm/2bth house with POOL. Close to everything; 5 min from ERAU. Pets negotiable. Available May 1-July 31. Master with private bath only \$400/mo. Other rooms \$375/mo. Utilities not included. Very flexible. Call Jamie (305) 849-2152



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1.7 Ghz 256mb RAM 60GB Hard Drive Desktop Computer

System Specs :: 1.7 Ghz 256mb RAM 60GB Hard Drive. This computer was only used for a short period. It boots up quickly, and runs great, currently has Windows XP installed. Asking \$200 for the computer, I also have a monitor I will include for an additional charge. Any questions, please call Mark. 724-272-3645

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Linkin Park has more mature sound



Minutes to Midnight
Linkin Park



Jonathan Mettin
Staff Reporter

If you're like me, you're going to wonder for a minute if *Minutes to Midnight* really was written by Linkin Park. After they pioneered a new musical style in their first two studio albums (*Hybrid Theory* and *Meteora*), the band has decided to try something new with their third endeavor. Although they are sure to alienate a few fans, *Minutes to Midnight* is an extremely solid album that shows a side of LP we have rarely seen before.

Their first new material since early 2003, *Minutes to Midnight* is every bit as internally diverse as the other two albums. At one point emcee Mike Shinoda's dropping of the f-bomb and choir vocals singing "Amen" are separated by about twenty seconds. But it is radically different from the rap-rock of earlier LP albums, with heavy metal-esque songs "No More Sorrow" and "Given Up" sharing album time with tracks like the somber, Hurricane Katrina-inspired "The Little Things Give You Away." Linkin Park was probably the last band peo-

ple expected to make an introspective song called "Valentine's Day."

The album was co-produced by Shinoda and industry vet Rick Rubin, who has had production credits with the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Shakira, Johnny Cash and Run D.M.C., to name a few.

Some of the songs are layered incredibly deep – "Bleed It Out" has at least five musical styles going at any one

“ *Linkin Park has grown quite a bit from their earlier days ...* ”

-JONATHAN METTIN

time, including a punk chorus, 80's guitar and the band-described "death-party rap." Others, like the Shinoda-sung "In Between," are stripped down, sometimes just lyrics over a bass line.

If *Minutes to Midnight* has a weakness, it is that not every song stands out immediately. The songs themselves are able at least to stand on their own as decent, but the casual listener will probably dismiss a few tracks the first go-around. Some songs sound vaguely familiar – Nine Inch Nails' influence can be heard sometimes, especially on the track "No More Sorrow" – but the SoCal sextet adds their own flavor to everything.

Your initial reaction to *Minutes to Midnight* will most likely be negative if you are a fan of Linkin Park's previous works. But give this album the benefit of the doubt and a second listen; LP has grown quite a bit from their early days, and this album reflects that. It has a lot of nuances that will escape you the first time through, and is truly an album that gets better with each time you listen to it.



PHOTO COURTESY WARNER BROS.

Upcoming concerts in Orlando

When???	Who???	Where???	How Much???
May 27	Brian McKnight	House of Blues, Orlando	\$38.50
May 28	Madina Lake	The Social	\$1.59
May 30	Tyrone Wells	The Social	\$8.00
May 31	Ziggy Marley	House of Blues, Orlando	\$29.50
May 31	Nelly Furtado	Hard Rock Live, Orlando	\$37.50
May 31	Tool	Amway Arena, Orlando	\$41.50
June 4	Crossfade	House of Blues, Orlando	\$12.00
June 9	Musiq Soulchild	House of Blues, Orlando	\$32.50
June 13	Ozma	The Social	\$10.00
June 16	mewithoutYou	The Social	\$15.00
June 16	Classic Albums Live The Beatles' "Sgt. Pepper"	Hard Rock Live, Orlando	\$43.00
June 19	Rise Against	House of Blues, Orlando	\$23.50

Third is a charm



PHOTO COURTESY SONY PICTURES



Spider-Man 3 Soundtrack



John W. Smith III
Entertainment Editor

In a story of vengeance, love and forgiveness the Spider-Man 3 soundtrack politely compliments the movie in all aspects. From charging, web slinging anthems to beautifully orchestrated love songs, this soundtrack has proven to be as much of a hit as the movie.

Turning from bands like Dashboard Confessional and Nickelback on the second soundtrack, this album looks to emerging alternative rock and pop bands like The Killers and Snow Patrol. All the songs have a certain edgy feel to them but are smoothed over by powerful and inspiring lyrics. This album can only be enjoyed in its entirety, has a very laid back feel and seems like the

perfect driving record.

Opening the soundtrack is the top 40 single "Signal Fire" by Snow Patrol. Possibly one of the hardest songs to get past on the album, this catchy tune pulls listeners in and does not let them go. Coming into the second song, The Killers bring us the

“ *[It] portrays Spider-Man swinging from building to building ...* ”

-JOHN W. SMITH III

THE FLIP SIDE

She Waits



Jacklyn Duff
Columnist

It's a Thursday afternoon. She is a college student, and she sits there watching TV and waiting. She should be doing the dishes or her homework. She'll get to that in a minute. She checks her phone to make sure it isn't on vibrate. She knows he won't call until after work, but she checks just in case. She does her chores. She does her homework. She goes to her meeting. She comes back. She waits.

She waits for him to call. For him to say he is done at the gym and he is going to get in the shower. For him to say he'll be right over after that. He calls. She waits for the knocking at the door. She waits for her hello kiss. She waits to cook dinner with him. For him to kiss her on the back of the neck while she is washing dishes. She waits for him to lay on the floor and

turn on his cartoons. Then she can lay on top of him and ask him what is going on and become more lost as he explains. She waits to make fun of him. She waits to hear "what did you say?" as he tackles her to the ground and tickles her until she repeats it.

She waits for him to ask her how her day was. She waits for them to do homework. For her to sit at her desk, and him to lie on the bed. For both of them to be lost and have to go ask their roommate for help. She waits to hear his laugh when That 70's Show comes on. She waits to hear him speak Spanish or get delivery. She waits to argue over

what to eat and who is driving. She waits to curl up on the couch in his arms and watch a movie. For him to be warm. For

what to eat and who is driving. She waits to curl up on the couch in his arms and watch a movie. For him to be warm. For

“ *ask him what is going on and become more lost as he explains...* ”

-JACKLYN DUFF

him to say "how can you be so cold? You live in Florida." Or maybe they will go the theater. Where she can joke with him if the movie is funny, or she can dig her head into his shoulder and squeeze his hand if it is scary.

She waits for him. She misses him.

heaviest song on the album "Move Away." With a fierce guitar riff and a driving drum beat, "Move Away" is the song which perfectly portrays Spider-Man swinging building to building. Bringing in the more passionate side of the album, Jet brings us "Falling Star," the Yeah Yeah Yeahs give "Sealings," and the Flaming Lips contribute "The Supreme Being Teaches Spider-Man How To Be In Love." All these songs and more are reminiscent of the love story between Spider-Man and his life long love MJ. Other artists that make up the album are Wolfmother, The Walkmen, The WYO's and Chubbie Checker.

The soundtrack, released by LA-based label Record Collection, is without a doubt one of the best albums of the year. Portraying every theme from the movie, this soundtrack captivates all its listeners just as if you were watching the movie.