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A Division of the Student Government Association

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University · Daytona Beach, Florida

One Free Copy per Person

The 'Travolta Jet': the real story

Andrew Striker

Staff Reporter

Over eight years ago, the actor John Travolta donated a CL-41 Canadair to our University. Though some know its story, others still debate over the intended purpose and the future of the aircraft

Approximately eight years ago Bill Neese, a professor in the AMS Department, negotiated the donation with Travolta. A resident of Spruce Creek, Neese had the privilege of meeting Travolta on several occasions and was familiar with the Gulfstream CL-41 he had in the local hanger, a trainer jet Travolta had purchased several years earlier with the intention of using it for recreational flying. The plane itself, however, had significant damage to several key components including moderate corrosion on the main wing spar. The repairs needed to make the jet flyable again far exceeded the overall value of the plane. Upon considering all of his options, Travolta expressed his intention

of reselling the plane to make up for the loss of investment.

After hearing the gossip of Travolta's intentions, Bill Neese approached him with the proposal of donating the plane to Embry-Riddle. This would not only benefit the university but Travolta as well, as the donation would be tax deductible and he could declare the entire value of the aircraft, not just what a potential buyer was willing to pay. Travolta agreed an had the plane transported to the DAB airport.

The donation included not only

the CL-41 and its certificate, but also a stockpile of parts for it. The aircraft and its parts were stored at the AMS department facilities, now the only department who could put the plane to practical use.

Since it was received, the plane has been used in several AMS courses, giving students hands on experience with gear retractions and engine runs. Contrary to several rumors regarding the aircraft, there was never an intention for it to be used in any flight

Aside from its occasional use in AMS lessons, it has also been used for PR purposes such as allowing for photographs to be taken

of people sitting in a jet formally owned by John Travolta while visiting the university.

The future of the aircraft is still in debate but its uses as an instructional tool are limited. "Without a doubt the plane will never fly again", said Fred Mirgil, a professor in the AMS department. In recent years the AMS department has tried several times to trade or sell the plane for another aircraft more suitable to the AMS program courses, preferably a corporate jet. "We almost had it traded for a Lerjet-23," said Mirgil, "and then another time for a Jetstar, but both deals ended up falling through."

The aircraft itself, a Canadair CL-41 Tutor, was formally used by the Canadian Royal Air Force

for training purposes. Many may recognize it as the official plane of the Snowbirds, the Canadian counterparts of the U.S. Blue Angels and Thunderbirds. Continual development and modifications to the aircraft saw further models including the CT-114, CL-41G-5, and CL-41R. The Malaysian Air Force also operated 20 of these aircraft starting in 1967. In Malaysia they were known by the name Tebuan (wasp). Though most of the Tutors were retired in the 80's, six were kept operational until their total retirement around 2000. The Snowbirds are now the only fully operational

Please see "**TRAVOLTA**," page A2

ERAU Summer Enrollment by the Numbers

Daytona Beach Campus Undergraduate Enrollment

315: The number of College of Engineering students (27%)

680: The number of College of Aviation students (58%)

63: The number of College of Arts and Sciences students (5%)

55: The number of College of Business (5%)

96: The number of new students to Embry-Riddle (8%)

52: The number of non-degree seeking (4%)

1,165: Total number of undergraduate students

College of Art and Sciences:

21: The number of Aerospace Studies Majors (33%)

19: The number of Engineering Physics Majors (30%)

10: The number of Human Factors Majors (16%)

6: The number of Communications Majors (10%)

7: The number of Space Physics/undetermined (11%)

College of Aviation:

405: The number of Aerospace Science Majors (60%)

97: The number of Aviation Maint.. Science Majors (14%)

73: The number of Air Traffic Management Majors (11%)

67: The number of Aeronautics Majors (10%)

14: The number of Applied Meteorology (2%)

8: The number of Homeland Security Majors (1%)

8: The number of Safety Science Majors (1%)

8: The number of other majors/undecided (1%)

College of Business:

51: The number of Aviation Business Admin. Majors (93%)

4: The number of Aviation Management Majors (7%)

College of Engineering:

259: The number of Aerospace Engineering Majors (82%)

13: The number of Mechanical Engineering (4%)

8: The number of Civil Engineering Majors (3%)

10: The number of Computer Engineering Majors (3%)

5: The number of Electrical Engineering Majors (2%)

7: The number of Software Engineering Majors (2%)

13: The number of other/undecided (4%)

*Figures taken from Embry-Riddle's facts and figures page on www.erau.edu. All figures for the Summber B 2008 term, unless otherwise stated. Financial figures for all Embry-Riddle campuses unless otherwise stated.



MATT GOLDBERG/AVION

AVIATION MAINTENANCE STUDENTS INSPECT the CL-41 Canadair that was donated to the university by John Travolta last decade. The 1960's aircraft has never been flown at Embry-Riddle but has been used by multiple AMS courses.

Red Bull Flugtag: Tampa Bay



ANDREW ZABACK/AVIO

EVERY YEAR, RED BULL holds an annual event called Flugtag. The basis of the competition is to have teams construct a human powered flying machine completely from scratch. This year an ERAU team competed with a man powered space shuttle.

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CL-41 future an uncertainty



☐ "TRAVOLTA" from FRONT

CL-41's in existence. ent as the Tutor located Although there are still a few near the Flight Maintenance

others flying, corrosion problems and fatigue and stress fractures make them difficult to maintain. This is apparent as the Tutor located near the Flight Maintenance

hanger suffers from similar problems. However, many of the problems that have developed with the plane in the past 5 years are a result of it sitting idle and unprotected from the elements. The lack of space for the aircraft in any hangers has left few other options. The AMS department

hopes to build a new storage hanger soon to prevent this in the future with any of its teaching tools including the CL-41.

Though many students have become accustomed to the Tutor's presence and the many rumors and stories behind it, its fewer questions befuture is yet to be deter-

mined. Though the University like would it traded, they must first find an interested party. For now the plane will sit hanger awaiting its unforedestiny, though seen n o w with fewer questions behind its presence.

Campus Briefs

The hockey team recently got some good news about their upcoming sea-Despite concerns of the hockey rink closing with changes being planned for the Sunshine Park Mall where the rink is located, it appears that a reduction in rent for the rink's operator will allow it to remain open. At the Planning Board Meeting in South Daytona, the plans for the mall listed the area where the rink is as "entertainment". The rink's operator told SGA Vice President Brian Dietz that his rent for the facility was being reduced by half to a more manageable \$9,000. This means that as long as the rent is paid by August 1, the hockey team will have a facility to compete in for the upcoming school year. Members of the hockey team have been working diligently to procure sponsorship for the boards around the rink in order to meet the August 1 deadline.

THE VION By students, for students.

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Starbucks poised to open at ERAU



MATT GOLDBERG/AVION

THE CAMPUS LIBRARY STARBUCKS had some of its finishing touches put on it this week as it appears ready to open for business shortly. While the construction equipment and fences were removed from around the outside, new employees could be seen being trained within the restaurant throughout the week.

Advertisement



Thursday, 7/31

Co-op/Internship Contract Signing Meeting IC-104, 4PM

All students who have been selected for a Fall 2008
Co-op/Internship must attend an informational meeting complete a contract for registration. In order to earn credits for the experience, a contract must be signed with Career Services before the experience begins. We will discuss the process, review the procedures and talk about responsibilities for the Fall 2008 Co-op/Intern experience.

Register in EagleHire http://erau.erecruiting.com

Career Corner

http://www.erau.edu/career

226-6054 McKay Hall 280

Northern Lights mystery solved

Andrew Zaback

Space and Av. Editor

In February of 2007, NASA launched a group of five satellites aboard a Delta II rocket to study what causes weather to occur in space. The fleet is called THEMIS which is an acronym for Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms. Recently, the THEMIS team

Recently, the THEMIS team has made a giant breakthrough in the mystery of what causes the Aurora Borealis. Better known as the Northern Lights, the source of this natural show has been unknown until now.

Researchers have determined that massive magnetic storms power substorms which in turn causes the pulses of light in Earth's atmosphere. The storms occur about one third the distance from the Earth to the Moon.

The reconnections of magnetic fields are the cause of these lights. Scientists on the project compare the concept to a rubber band that has been stretched too far. These are

known as substorms. These storms cause fluxuations in auroral displays seen at the north and south poles on earth.

Dr. Vassilis Angelopoulos, the principal investigator for the THEMIS mission at the University of California in Los Angeles takes pride in the project. "We have discovered what makes the Northern Lights Dance," said Angelopoulos.

In addition to causing the northern lights, the substorms are normally accompanied by larger, more severe space storms that effect communications and other utilities on the surface. This discovery is only the first step in the process to solve when why and how substorms occur.

Once scientists understand fully how space storms function, better models can be created to more accurately forecast space weather.

Essentially, the borealis is a storm in space caused by energy gathered from solar winds. When this energy is thrown into space by Earth's magnetic field, it becomes dis-

torted enough to change shape, sending the energy to the magnetic poles of the earth.

These observations were made using the THEMIS system. The fleet aligns once every four days along the equator with cameras aiming to each pole. They also have sensors that measure light particles flowing through the magnetic field of Earth.

The measurements help scientists predict when and where substorms will happen and as a result where the space storms will take place and their intensity. The observations made by THEMIS prove that when magnetic fields reconnect in different shapes a flare of the aurora will occur.

For more information on the THEMIS mission, visit http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/themis/main/index.html.



External Tank Arrival



PHOTO COURTESY NASA

THE EXTERNAL TANK FOR STS-125 is moved into the Vehicle Assembly Building from the Pegasus transport barge. Once inside, the tank will be inspected and hung vertically for storage. Stacking of the solid rocket boosters is scheduled for Aug. 7.

Advertisemen

Life is for everyone!



If you, or someone you know, is thinking about suicide...

Remember:

SHOW YOU CARE • ASK THE QUESTION
• GET HELP •

Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 (TALK)

Funding was provided through SAMHSA / CMHS Grant #1 U79 SM57528-01

Daytona Beach Community College • Bethune-Cookman College • UCF-Daytona Regional Campus

3673C/12-2006

Upcoming Cape Launches

NET Sept. 26 Delta 4H Classified NRO sat. Launch window TBA

Date TBD
Delta 2
Next GPS satellite
GPS 2R-20
Launch time TBA

Oct. 8
Space Shuttle Atlantis
STS-124
Hubble Service
Launch window:
1:30 a.m. EDT

Nov. 10/11
Space Shuttle
Endeavour
STS-126
Multi Purpose Module
Launch window
9:28 pm.

Edited by Andrew Zaback

Oct. 10
Atlas 5
Wideband Global
SATCOM
Launch window TBA

Nov. 13 Delta 2 STSS Demo. Launch window TBA

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AVweb,

The World come to Oshkosh!

By Mary Grady

Well, maybe not the whole

world, but in EAA's opening-day excitement, it does feel like the whole aviation world has descended upon AirVenture. As visitors stream in through the main gate, they find the nowvenerable Cirrus Design on one side, showing a mockup of the Cirrus Vision jet (the real one will fly into Oshkosh for the first time on Wednesday), and on the other side, the Icon light sport aircraft, with its folding electric wings, fresh from its first flight. That sets the tone for the mix of old and new, tried-and-true and cuttingedge, vintage and experimental, industry leaders and hopeful upstarts, that mix it up across acres and acres of nonstop aviation exuberance here in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. With the "virtual" unveiling of Burt Rutan's giant WhiteKnightTwo -- the world's largest-ever car-bon fiber aircraft -- set for Monday in Mojave, with a live video link here to the AirVenture crowds, the show promises to be off to a grand start, showcasing its experimental roots and celebrating the futuristic vision

of Virgin Galactic.

AVweb staff has the event covered, with daily videos, podcasts, newsletters, and photo galleries. Be sure to check the AVweb. com Web site every day for all the latest news-as-ithappens, and every morning our AVwebFlash digest will be delivered direct to your inbox. The weather for the whole week promises to be severe clear, with cool breezes and low humidity -and no doubt a thunderstorm or two tossed in -- sure to help keep the airplanes flowing in and out nonstop, great for the thousands of campers, and encouraging for the EAA folks, who hope that their usual throng of visitors will be willing for a week to forget about high fuel prices and other dreary economic woes and come to Oshkosh to explore the world of flight.

Diamond tries to soothe DA42 customers

By Russ Niles

Diamond Aircraft is offering DA42 position holders a variety of options after suspending the production of the twin, which the company said had 80 percent of the piston twin market. But the insolvency of Thielert Aircraft Engines and the decisions of the insolvency administrator (among them canceling warranty support and TBO prorating) on the diesels prompted Diamond to stop production while it gets alternatives in place. Most of the options involve a significant wait time for delivery but there is one way to get instant gratification if the owner is willing to bet on TAE's recovery from its current woes and Diamond's ability to fill in the support

gaps in the meantime. "A very limited number of TAE-equipped aircraft are available for delivery from distributor inventory. All such customers are eligible for the Diamond DA42 Customer Assistance Program, also announced today, that may address the current support issues for many position holders," Diamond said in a news release. The program essentially subsidizes the increased operating costs of the Thielert engines resulting from the decisions of the insolvency trustee and would be viewed by most as an interim measure until Diamond's own Austro diesel is ready, which could be later this year. Other options include simply waiting for the Austro, waiting for the Lycoming 360 avgas engine option to be ready or asking for a full refund of the deposit (which comes with a \$20,000 discount on any other Diamond aircraft. "Diamond enjoys a great, loyal and supportive customer base. With the uncertainty regarding resumption of TAE powered DA42 production and viable options now on the horizon, we designed this program to offer maximum flexibility to our DA42 position holders," said Heike Larson, Diamond's VP of Sales and Marketing.

FAA medicals now last longer for younger pilots

By Russ Niles

Pilots who haven't turned 40 yet now have five years between medicals and the new term is retroactive in many ways. As of July 24, a third class medical for someone who hasn't reached his or her 40th birthday lasts five years, instead of three years, and a first class medical is valid for a year, up from six months. AOPA says it even reactivates some medicals that were expired on the day the new regs came into effect.

For instance, if your threeyear medical had expired before July 24 it was automatically extended to five years from the anniversary date. Also, turning 40 during the new term of the medical doesn't affect the length of the term.. If you renew your medical the day before your 40th birthday, the new medical is good for either full five years or one year. "This is welcome news for the GA industry," said AOPA President Phil Boyer. "AOPA supported the FAA's move that makes it easier and more affordable for younger pilots to fly."

African women and food crisis

Kevin Sullivan

The Washington Post

After she woke in the dark to sweep city streets, after she walked an hour to buy less than \$2 worth of food, after she cooked for two hours in the searing noon heat, Fanta Lingani served her family's only meal of the day.

First she set out a bowl of corn mush, seasoned with tree leaves, dried fish and wood ashes, for the 11 smallest children, who tore into it with bare hands.

Then she set out a bowl for her husband. Then two bowls for a dozen older children. Then finally, after everyone else had finished, a bowl for herself. She always eats last.

A year ago, before food prices nearly doubled, Lingani would have had three meals a day of meat, rice and vegetables. Now two mouthfuls of bland mush would have to do her until tomor-

Rubbing her red-rimmed eyes, chewing lightly on a twig she picked off the ground, Lingani gave the last of her food to the children.

"I'm not hungry," she said.

In poor West African nations such as Burkina Faso, mealtime conspires against women. They grow the food, fetch the water, shop at the market and cook the meals. But when it comes time to eat, men and children eat first, and women eat last and least.

Soaring prices for food and fuel have pushed more than 130 million poor people across vast swaths of Africa, Asia and Latin America deeper into poverty in the past year, according to the U.N. World Food Program. But while millions of men and children are also hungrier, women are the hungriest and skinniest. Aid workers call malnutrition among women one of the most notable hidden consequences of the food crisis.

"It's a cultural thing," said Herve Kone, director of a group that promotes development, social justice and human rights in Burkina Faso. "When the

mother, not their father. And when there is less food, women are the first to eat less."

A recent study by the aid group Catholic Relief Services found that many people in Burkina Faso are now spending 75 percent or more of their income on food, leaving little for other basic slept on the cracked floor under a tin roof, common conditions in a country that ranks 176th out of 177 on the U.N. Human Development Index.

A year ago, Lingani might have started a small fire to boil herself a cup of weak coffee. But even that is now too expensive.

Such sacrifices led to food riots



PHOTO COURTESY WASHINGTON POST

WOMEN IN AFRICA CAN hardly cock or even buy food with high prices in market. they all share the same story that a year before they could eat a healthy food, but now, they can barley eat.

Pregnant women and young mothers are forgoing medical care. More women are turning to prostitution to pay for food. And more families are pulling children — especially girls — out of school, unable to afford fees and clothes.

But perhaps the most perva-sive effect of the growing global crisis is the ache in the stomachs of millions of poor women such as Fanta Lingani.

Sweeping for Pennies

Lingani, who sleeps on a concrete floor, began one recent day at 4 a.m. and dressed quietly in kids are hungry, they go to their the dark. All around her, children in February in Ouagadougou, the capital, and towns across the country. Hundreds of people were arrested after they set fires and smashed government buildings to protest rising prices. But for Lingani, the struggle is quieter, and harder by the day, and it starts before the sun comes up.

Lingani, who said she is about 50, walked across the dirt courtyard past the two-room hut where her husband was sleeping in his own double bed, with a thick mattress. The dirt street outside was muddy and steamy from an overnight rain shower.

After a half-hour walk on the

black-dark streets, she reported for work and pulled on the long green smock of the Green Brigade, a city program that pays poor women the equivalent of about \$1.20 a day to sweep streets two mornings a week.

Lingani picked up a pair of small straw brooms and pushed a wheelbarrow onto a wide, deserted avenue. In the orange haze of streetlights, she bent over at the waist, so far that her bottom was higher than her head, and started pushing red dust into little piles.

The "shssssh shssssh" of her sweeping was the only sound, except for the crowing of a few roosters and occasional laughter from men at an all-night bar down the road.

She worked a section of road about 150 yards long, while a dozen others in the all-female brigade swept along. A tanker truck sped down the street, kicking up a cloud of dust into her face and blowing away her little piles. She coughed, pulled her pink head scarf across her face and swept the same dust all over again.

Lingani swept until the sun came up, pushing her piles onto a small metal dish, then dumping them into a wheelbarrow and finally into a pothole on an unpaved side street.

By 7 a.m., she'd finished her section. But she had to wait an hour for a male supervisor to show up and check her work. In two weeks, she would get her monthly pay of less than \$10.

The Job of Women' Lingani walked a half hour back to her house, where her huge family was starting to stir. She took off her smock and picked up a green plastic basket

about the size of a shoebox.

Market time. She and one of her two "co-wives," Asseta Zagre, do the shopping on alternate days. Their husband's other wife, the senior of the three, is nearly blind and can't do chores anymore.

Polygamy is common in much of Africa. In this household, the patriarch is Hamado Zorome, 68, a retired police officer whose pension is the family's main

income — but he doesn't tell his in the shade and talking. wives how much he gets.

The pension of a mid-level civil servant is probably modest in Burkina Faso, where the United Nations says nearly 72 percent of the country's 15 million people live on less than \$2

Zorome also collects a "tip" of 60 cents from each of his two working wives when they get their monthly pay, which he uses to buy the kola nuts he likes to

Lingani and Zagre, who also sweeps streets, said Zorome doles out small amounts of money for them to buy staples such as cornmeal. But the bulk of the family's meals are paid for out of the wives' sweeping wages.

As she prepared to leave for the market, Lingani kept bending over and rubbing her ankles and feet. She said they hurt from sweeping for so long. She has never weighed herself, but she said she can feel a significant loss in her weight and strength in the past year.

Last month's sweeping money was already gone. So she went to her husband, who handed her about \$2.50 for groceries. He told her to spend no more than about 75 cents and save the rest for another day.

"Women are born with this job" of feeding the family, Lingani said, as she walked around puddles and past goats tied to trees. "The man has to have his share. And we have to make sure the kids have their share. So we eat less."

Lingani said none of the older boys in the family has a steady job, since work is hard to come by in this poor city. So, she said, the boys mostly spend their days doing odd jobs or playing soccer. What little money they earn they tend to spend on food and beer for themselves.

"A man can never sit at home. They are always out somewhere," Lingani said. "They don't do anything. They don't help."

Lingani walked past small stands where women were selling fruit or water, assisted by small girls. A few men sold bags or charcoal, but most were sitting

"Men and women should fight together for the children," Lingani said. "But if the men won't do that, the women have to fight alone."

Zorome, Lingani's husband, said that men don't help with shopping and cooking because 'that is the job of women." Like many men interviewed here, he said African culture clearly defines roles for men, who work outside the house, and women, who manage children and meals.

He said that men are willing to work but that jobs are scarce. He would prefer it if his wives didn't have to sweep streets, but "life is much more expensive now."

("Last year, we could eat well, but now, forget it," he said. "My sons don't work, so it's up to me to feed 25 people. That's why the women sweep. We don't have anything, so they have to work. That's life."

On her way to the market, Lingani explained the ugly math: A year ago, she could feed her entire family a nutritious meal of meat and vegetables and peanut sauce for about 75 cents. But now the family gets much lowerquality food for twice the price.

She said the cost of six pounds of cornmeal has risen from 75 cents to \$1.50. A kilogram — 2.2 pounds — of rice cost 60 cents last year and costs a little more than \$1 now. Other basics such as salt and cooking oil have also doubled in price.

Fuel costs have more than doubled for trucks that haul food to landlocked Burkina Faso, helping keep food prices high.

Beef or goat meat is now so expensive — about \$1.20 for a tiny portion — that the family has given up meat completely, eating cheap dried fish instead. Rather than seasoning their sauces with vegetables and peanuts, they now use the tough leaves of baobab trees, the gnarly giants that flourish here in the dry lands south of the Sahara. To soften the sour taste of the

leaves, Lingani mixes in potash, a paste made by boiling down water strained through ashes from wood fires.

China in disaster Marines duty in Iraq

The Washington Post

she read the words scrawled in black spray paint on her restaurant's metal security gate, Cheng Xingfeng vowed she would not yield.

"Sichuan People: Go back to the disaster zone," the message

Cheng had opened her restaurant just 15 days earlier, in a sliver of a shop crammed in among sellers of fruit and plastic goods in a rundown section of south Beijing. The Beichuan Chengfeng Restaurant. The name said it all. Where she was from. Who she was. Why she had no place to go back to.

Beichuan, where she and her husband were born, was crushed by the May 12 earthquake, destroyed so utterly that the government deemed it too dangerous to rebuild there. The town's middle school collapsed under the weight of a giant rockslide, swallowing Cheng's son and hundreds of other children. His body has not been found. Cheng's 12-year-old daughter escaped injury and was featured on national television when Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited the devastated region and spoke with her and other schoolchildren.

In the days after the quake, Cheng and her daughter huddled with tens of thousands of other refugees at an emergency shelter in a sports stadium in nearby Mianyang. Her husband left his job in a coal mine in Shanxi province to join his family, and when he arrived, they decided they couldn't stay there, taking government handouts and waiting to be told what their future would be.

He Chuan, Cheng's 16-yearold son, had dreamed of attending the prestigious Peking University in Beijing. Cheng's husband, He Dezhi, 42, had a brother in the city. Those two connections were enough for Cheng to decide the family should strike out for the nation's capital and build a new

"I want to help myself, to use my bare hands," said Cheng, 39, fingering her flowered apron after serving a bowl of spicy noodles. She had once worked as a kitchen assistant, so she

her choice, as evidenced by the graffiti. But Cheng ignores the ugly warning and says that others here have shown her great kindness. A few days earlier, when Cheng developed a migraine, some new friends in Beijing pooled their money to buy her medicine. A local girl often stops by and volunteers to wait tables. The owner of a Beijing hot pot restaurant has sent chefs over to Cheng's

decided to open a restaurant.

Not everyone is happy with

ing the rebuilding effort. On Wednesday, the United Nations issued an appeal to its member countries for \$33.5 million to provide technical assistance for early rebuilding in remote areas.

"China has the resources and capacity to manage this on its own," said Khalid Malik, U.N. resident coordinator in China. But bringing in international organizations allows China to draw on expertise developed after earthquakes in Pakistan



little place, instructing Cheng on how to adapt traditional Sichuan dishes for a Beijinger's palate.

The massive damage caused by the earthquake is wellknown. Nearly 70,000 people are confirmed dead and another 18,000 are still missing. Millions of homes were destroyed or severely damaged, and most victims are now living in vast tent cities or portable houses made of metal sheets and Styrofoam, relying on the government for their food, water and other basic necessities. The government reported that 1.4 million farmers in 4,000 villages have dropped back into poverty because of the quake. Before the disaster, the total number of people living in poverty in Sichuan was 2.1 million, according to government statistics.

Chinese authorities are now focused on resettling millions and approving plans for a massive reconstruction effort. Perhaps sensing the extraordinary size of the undertaking, China has surprised international observers by continuing to welcome help in managand Japan and the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean, which devastated millions. "It's an important signal by the Chinese government to welcome international support in the relief and recovery effort," Malik said.

Despite the carnage, most Sichuan residents have stayed put. The government urged other provinces to free up jobs for Sichuanese, but state media reported that only 20,000 Sichuan workers have left for 19 other provinces, despite 170,000 job vacancies. Many of those interviewed after the quake said they could not imagine leaving their home towns.

That was not the case for Cheng Xingfeng and her fam-

ily.
"We don't want to go back to Beichuan. There are still lots of refugees there," said her husband, He, sitting on one of the restaurant's metal stools, which are arrayed around its four tables, covered with simple oilcloths and plastic baskets of disposable chopsticks. "We want to keep having this restaurant, to be honored as Beichuan people," He said.

Doug Smith

The Washington Post

Of all the duties a Marine can have in Iraq, the one that is undoubtedly least sought after is now also becoming one of the least needed.

Personnel Retrieval and Processing, a unit that makes its home in a large earth-sheathed hangar on this air base in the desert of western Iraq, has had only about one mission per month this year.

The endless days of idleness are considered ideal by members of this reserve Marine Corps unit from Georgia.

"I enjoy the slow times," said Sgt. Christopher Crowder-Barnes of Marietta, Ga. "I enjoy it because it means nobody's dying.'

The PRP is the unit that prepares the remains of dead Marines for the journey home. It is one of three PRPs in al-Anbar province and part of Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

Remains are usually brought to the base for processing. The goal is to place them on an airplane, draped in an American flag, as quickly as possible for return to their families, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bo Causey, who heads the unit.

The hardest missions involve multiple, or especially grim, casualties. In such cases, a team goes into the field to conduct the recovery.

Across al-Anbar, American military deaths have dropped to about three per month this year, compared with a rate of nearly one per day throughout 2006 and in the first half of last year, according to the independent Web site icasualties.org.

This year all three al-Anbar units combined have had only four field retrievals, Causey said.

Despite the decline, the psychic strain of being constantly prepared never diminishes.

Like firemen, the 14 men who work here keep themselves ready to be called at any hour. They work out, study and read during their idle hours. They also practice processing. They stick close together, generally not associating much outside their own circle.

And they consciously watch one another for signs of disand you take in the smell, and you take in the sights. For "Everybody has their own

personal breaking point, Causey said. "So we all make an effort to get in touch with what we are all thinking. We pay close attention to everyone's routines, what they say, their attitudes. If something changes, we try to jump on it.

Causey and other senior officers live in the hangar, inherited from Saddam Hussein's air force. The accommodations are spartan. Besides their bunks, there is a weight room.

And then there is the processing room. It looks like a medical examiner's lab, with stainless steel gurneys and a cold-storage area.

Although it was called Mortuary Affairs until a 2005 name change, the PRP does not attempt to prepare the remains for funeral, Causey said. The mission is to stabilize and clean them.

Victims of bomb explosions often are dismembered, so the PRP does its best to organize and clean the portions. ("Body parts" is not the accepted term.)

Causey, a veteran of some of the most deadly al-Anbar fighting in 2004 and 2005, said he was "voluntold" into the unit in 2003. Three other members who spoke to the Los Angeles Times described falling into the work by chance, not knowing exactly what it was.

Each had to pass a moment of truth when he found he was psychologically suited for it. For some, this occurred in training.

"When you see some of the slide shows, some of the pictures, it's pretty horrifying," said Lance Cpl. William Perkins of Fayetteville, Ga.

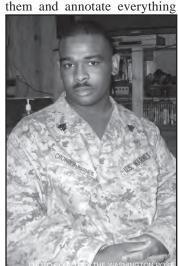
There are two common reac-

"One ... is complete shock," Perkins said. "It's just hard to process. The other reaction, which all 14 of us had, is just start making order out of chaos. Put the pieces back together. It's just an instinctual thing for us.

For all of them, there's a second moment of truth.

'It's not till the first time you open up a human remains pouch and actually look," Causey a lot of us, you take in that it's an American uniform.

"Sometimes you have photos of family. That can be hard for some people. We don't look at them, but we have to sort out and process them and put



on paperwork. Once you make it through the first time, it's something you will be able to handle." Lance Cpl. Nick DiVito said he has found a method to manage his emo-

"I kind of shut off my brain," DiVito said. "I know what to do. I know my job. I just shut off my brain to that bad stuff. It seems to work."

The Marines all said the job brings them a heightened sense of honor.

Perkins credited DiVito for putting it into words.

"The most rewarding thing for him is when you see in the back of a C-130 an American flag-draped transfer case, you've spent the past how many hours preparing to get them home, knowing they're going to be home and their family is going to have closure," Perkins said. "That's very rewarding. That's what we all try to do. Get them home as fast as pos-

sible.' Other Marines often are uncomfortable around the PRP team but usually express respect, unit members said.

"In my opinion, it is possibly the most honorable job we have out here," Causey said. "It's just one no one likes to talk about."

MAPPING VICTORY IN IRAQ











Yes we are still here this summer and we are still taking your opinions. Stand Up and your opinions will return on September 9.

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Student Forum

The Avion asks: "If you could invent a word what would it be?"

-Compiled by Matt Goldberg and Jason Preston



Eric Bosh
Senior
Aerospace Engineering
"Whose-it."



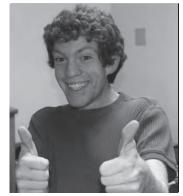
Clay Butler
Senior
Aerospace Engineering
"Purlenknocker."



Aaron Wrex
Junior
Aerospace Engineering
"Eastlakeism."



Matt Ellengold
Sophomore
Aerospace Engineering
"I think "um" should be a

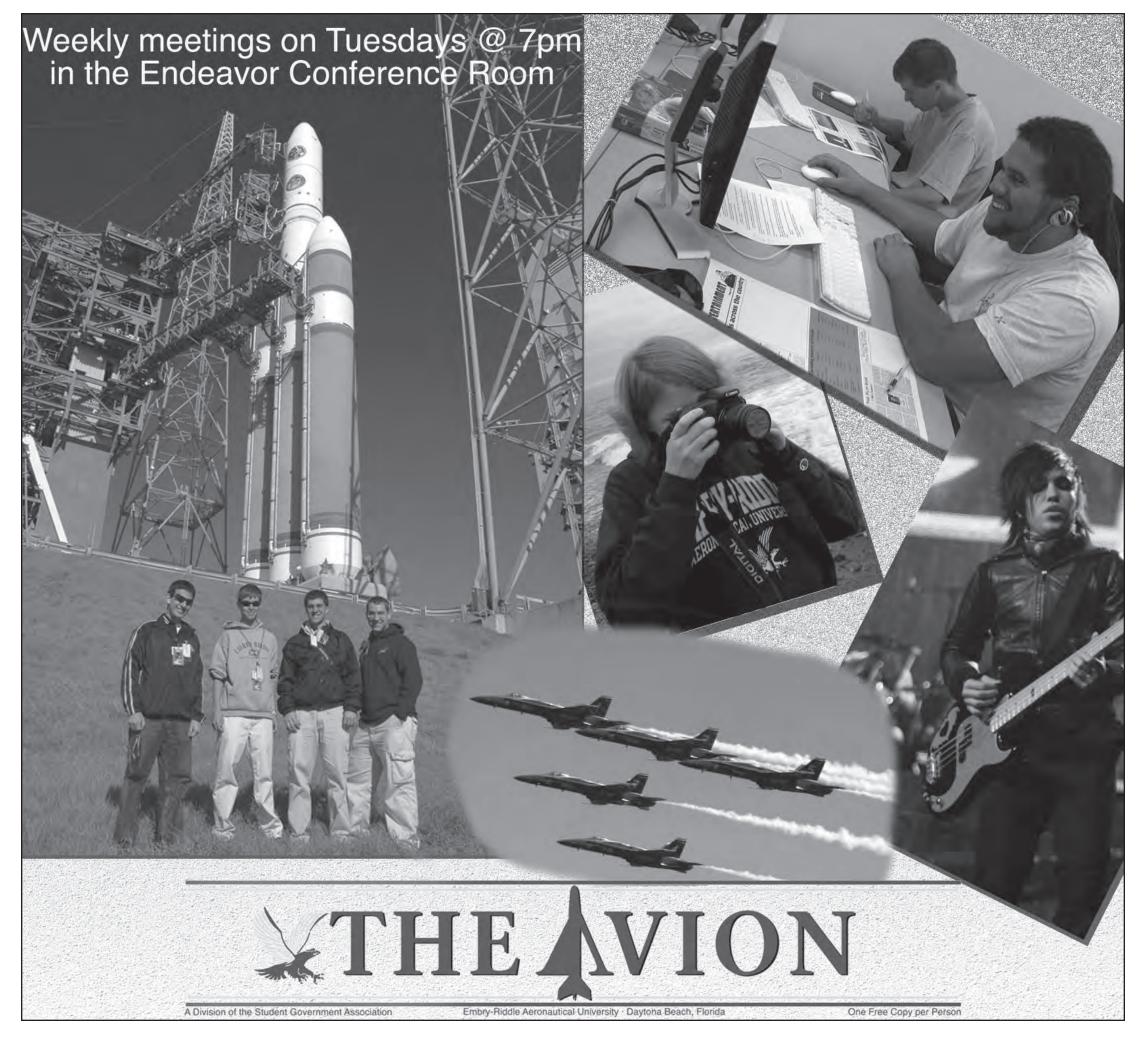


Alexander Strauss
Sophormore
Business
"Sexcapades."



Patrick O'Bryan Sophomore Engineering Physics "Jenkedy."

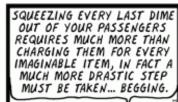
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OPTION.

...VOMITING ON THE SHOES, HOWEVER, IS A MANAGEMENT









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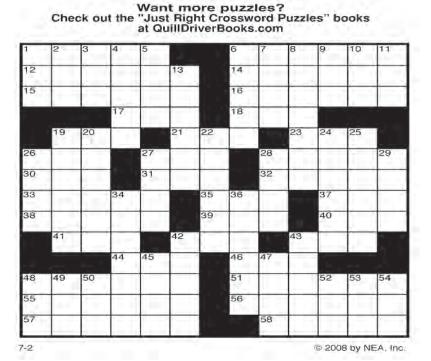
Answer to Previous Puzzle

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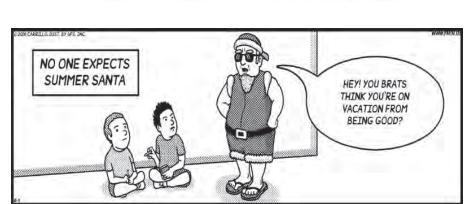
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- pronoun 50 Hurry along 52 Prince Val's son
- 53 Dusting
- backdrop











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Room for rent in house located in Pelican Bay. Rent is stated in Pencan Bay. Rent is \$420/month + utilities. Lease until January. 2 other students live there. Located 5 minutes from campus. Very nice area! Call 727-687-8381. My name is Louis. r

HOUSING / **ROOMMATES**

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\$500 includes cable and water This is a 3 br/2 ba house with bigyard. Owner live in this property and is looking for anyone who can afford the rent and like to live in a quiet, clean and peacful, no pet, no drugs situation. Please call (702) 379-9565 or email. y1924325@yahoo.com



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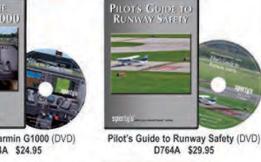
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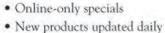
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Dark Knight set box office record



Hannah Brown **Staff Reporter**

"The Dark Knight" delivers. For once, a movie has not only lived up to the enormous hype, but it soars far beyond the realm of expectations. This film is outstanding in every way. Every actor delivers a fantastic performance, and I won't even bother

getting into how outstanding

Heath

Ledger's performance as the Joker was because I'm sure you've all heard it. But I will say that after such a performance, easily the best of his career, it's a real shame he won't be around to top it. (Jack Nicholson who?) The action sequences in this movie are stunning and fantastical. Here's a little FF (that's fun fact) all of the stunts you see in this movie are real. The flipping of a semi in the streets of Gotham (middle of downtown Chicago in reality) was done with wires and cranes, not computers like most of what you see in movies today. All of the explosions are real and a scene with Batman standstory building is literally Christian Bale with two ropes attached to his torso; forget about green screen. This just makes it all the more impressive. As far as the plot goes the writing is flawless, you couldn't possibly get bored. The plot is constant, suspenseful and enthralling. It's full of action, but also takes time to introduce each character and explain his or her side of the story in a way that helps the viewer to develop strong connections. In retrospect, this

movie really isn't about Batman, this is Harvey Dent's story. Harvey Dent, portrayed beautifully by Aaron Eckhart, is Gotham's new District Attorney, Gotham's "whiteknight" and the eventual villain, Two-Face (whose gory makeup is out of this world.) And I would be remiss if I didn't men-

"The Dark Knight" is now number one on IMDB's top 250 movies of all time ranked 9.3 out of 10 by 135,443 users, sur-

IMAGE COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS PICTURES

tion the score, which is CONTEMPLATING HIS NEXT MOVE, Bruce Wayne stares at his new Batsuit that allows him to be tougher, more mobile, and glide

exquisite and moves the down from towering skyscrapers. film along flawlessly. passing "The Godfather" and "The Shawshank Redemption". As far as box office, "The Dark Knight" raked in \$155.34 million in its first weekend, pulling

in \$18 million alone from mid-first film in history to make so It will be interesting to see night screenings on Thursday, July 17. In ten days, "The Dark Knight" has brought in over

much money so fast.

All in all, it's pretty rare for a sequel to be better in almost \$314 million, becoming the every way than the original. Batman series.

if Chris Nolan can top "The Dark Knight" with a third film in the "Christopher Nolan's"

Girl Talk scores with new album



ing on top of a, let's say, 70

Hannah Brown **Staff Reporter**

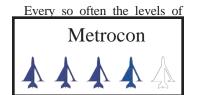
Ever wonder what Radiohead mixed with Jay-Z would sound if you even were wondering.

come out with a new mash-up album which mixes such bands as Huey Lewis and the News with Ludacris, Avril Lavigne with Jay-Z, BLACKstreet with Michael Jackson and Radiohead, and most impressive, The Beach Boys with Snoop Dogg. Now, I realize that in many cases, mixing these types of music together would constitute bleeding from the ears, but Gillis is genius when it comes to rhythms and like? Well wonder no more, beats and he really knows how to make this stuff sound good. I'm alias of DJ Gregg Gillis, has but I love it mixed with these new a try.

songs. This is Girl Talk's fourth album, "Feed the Animals," fol-lowing in the footsteps of "Night Ripper" which I wouldn't have expected him to top, but he has. The entire album can be heard at www.myspace.com/girltalkmusic, and you can download the album for whatever price you choose (including \$0) at www. illegalart.net, the physical CD is not yet out. I would recommend everyone check out both "Feed the Animals" and "Night Ripper," you'll love it, and if Pittsburgh's own Girl Talk, not a big fan of rap or hiphop not, at least you gave something



Metrocon 2008 fun for everyone



Jason Preston

Entertainment Editor

frustration begin to peak intermittently like an angry sine wave and there's the need to blow off some steam. Luckily having been invited to accompany a few friends to the anime and video game convention Metrocon 2008 in Tampa Bay, the trip was a little vacation away from the usual debasement of whatever is spat out from the entertainment industry. Now since those who attend these conventions are often put together in their own classification of social weirdo, one can't help but feel like they must liaison the events like a foreign diplomat, in this case it will be in this reviewers stereotypical asocial manner. Now take it away, myself.

After a fun-filled drive through some very obscure areas in downtown Tampa thanks to the GPS hating the driver for missing the correct exit, we arrived at the hotel, which was a lovely 500-foot walk from the convention center. However, even before check-in there was a teenage girl who was huddling behind a kart of luggage because the average-sized towel in the hotel bathroom had more surface area than her costume. Needless to say this is the one of the pros and hazards of going to such events. Some people can really pull off the look of the character they're trying to emulate, others fail horribly, and others still just shouldn't even dress up at all. For instance, a 250 lb man cosplaying in a

not something from Sailor Moon no matter how much you stretch the imagination, even with reality altering substances in one's bloodstream. Another bad case was the encounter with a Man-Rei, basically a man trying to

look like Rei Ayanami from Evangelion. It was slightly troubling that there were more girls dressing up as male characters than actual males dressing the part, but when you recall that 95% of all male anime characters look like girls anyways, it makes it a bit easier to handle. While no one can tell others who they can and can't cosplay as, it's agreeable among most that a person should at least make a decent attempt at trying to portray the character. This is a convention after all, not Halloween, and even if it were, there's no candy for the 250 lb man trying to look like a Sailormoon charac-

Not to say a bunch of cosplaying weirdos was the only scene to be had at Metrocon, there was also an entire area dedicated to the anime that is so loved by the cosplaying weirdos, and a whole range of events for anime-loving, cosplaying weirdos... so maybe it was just anime and cosplaying weirdos but even those who weren't into the whole idea that it's illegal for a character to not have some-

thing absurdly large

Japanese school girl's outfit is whether it be a weapon or area of the female torso. During the 3-day event there were plenty of performances and showing of various movies and anime series to keep people busy. Such performances included the Original Anime Human Chess

Show, and the crowd favorite, Azula's Fire Show. Although we bailed during the start of the first showing of the human chess match, it wasn't something that one couldn't live without.

Match, the Super Hero Stunt Hero Stunt show, which was hundreds of previously moving cancelled at first for an unknown reason, only to be replaced by a lack-luster attempt to show what people do to make a fight scene look realistic. Azula's Fire Show however, was one of the best Even more so was the Super

performances seen at Metrocon. Perhaps the majority of the people there were attracted to the swirling fire dances like a fly to an electric bug-zapper, but the choreography of the dancers was rather impressive. When's the last time you say a break-dancer doing the worm with a hoola-hoop of fire spinning around his neck? I didn't think

`The nightly entertainment consisted of much of the same as the day time with the addition of The Fantasy Masquerade, movie showings, rave dances, and the aniRAGE comedy performances just to name a few. Sitting in for the showing of Gundam MS IGLOO: The Hidden One Year War while my friends went off to the masquerade, the technical difficulties seemed to surround the entire convention since up to that point no performance had gone on without some sort of glitch. Even during the Blackout Rave, which started at 2am didn't go entirely flawlessly. There was one part when a cord had come lose somewhere, thus cutting off the sound and leaving

bodies to slow to an awkward halt. As for the aniRage comedy hour, it was more like 45 minutes of fairly good comical material. Part of the problem was the actors arrived at the panel room at midnight, which was when the performance should've began, but didn't actually start until about 15 minutes afterwards but still promptly ended at 1am. Granted there were some parts that had the audience laughing hysterically, but at other times it seemed to be just a silly and weak attempt at applying anime characters into real life situa-

So how to describe the whole convention? Well, as someone who's been to anime conventions in the past, if you've been to one, you haven't been to them all. Even when Metrocon was offline during the hours before dawn and boredom became a very real threat because one does not merely sleep through Metrocon, the hotel staff was nice enough not to notice the paper airplanes made from the complementary notepad gliding down from our balcony on the 22nd floor. Granted some of the performances could have been much better their first time around and the people running the show weren't fully prepared on the first day, the event as a culmination of all three days was very memorable. Sure, many may not be into the whole anime thing, but there are competitions for people like that in which you can beat the stupid out of those cosplaying weirdos with fake swords and win the grand prize of an even bigger fake sword you can take home and beat your friends with. Once one starts to disregard the potential for the person next to them being the opposite sex of what they think they're looking at, these conventions are rather fun.

