Notes From the Editors

This month we received our very first letter to the editors. It’s nice to know that at least one person reads this fine publication! In response to last month’s “Did You Know” column, Lisa “Eagle Eyes” Young wrote, “You have been deceived! As a parent, I am by default, a Disney movie expert and I must set the record straight. There is at least one other Disney cartoon feature in which both parents are present and don’t die: Sleeping Beauty. She is raised by her fairy godmothers, but her parents remain alive and well, and are a significant part of the story. Lady & the Tramp might qualify as well, although they don’t become parents until the very end of the movie. I just couldn’t sit by and let innocent people remain misinformed about something as important as Disney trivia.”

Thanks Lisa! All we can say is keep those letters coming.

Another first in this issue is our first coupon! Due to our favorable review of “Sweet Tooth” in a previous issue, the owner has graciously agreed to give SI readers a discount. Look for the coupon on the last page. If you know a business that would like to place a free ad or print a coupon, please let us know.

Congratulations to Bryan Black for finally making it into the Navy. Bryan leaves on August 8th, and we wish him the best of luck. Look for a tribute to Bryan from two friends on the following pages.

Congratulations to the USF Pelagic Rangers, this department’s co-ed softball team. They managed to crush the competition and bring home the 2nd place trophy. Way to go team!

Welcome New Students!

15 brave people have decided to join this department this semester. We hope to see them at many departmental events. The following is a list of their names and advisors:

- Joseph Andrews – Dr. Carder
- Brian Darrow – Dr. Walsh
- Samantha Eide – Dr. VanVleet
- Ruoying He – Dr. Weisberg
- Roger Kelly – Dr. Fanning
- Lesley Melahn – Dr. Vargo
- Denis Nadeau – Dr. Muller-Karger
- Boris Wawrik – Dr. Paul
- Gregory Berman – Dr. Doyle
- Judy Drake – Dr. Vargo
- Matt Ewert – Dr. Paul
- William Hemme – Dr. Weisberg
- Jason Law – Dr. Mitchum
- Rachel Merkt – Dr. Vargo
- Lisa Vanderbloemen – Dr. Muller-Karger

Congratulations to Christina Kellogg for her successful doctoral dissertation entitled “Genetic Diversity and DNA Repair of Environmental Marine Vibriophages.”
A Few Good Men?

By Eric Siegel

Well, now that Bryan is Navy-bound, we can start talking about him behind his back. As a former roommate and officemate, and a current friend, I should have all the dirt on his life, right? However, the problem was that he left no dirt behind (physical dirt, that is). Anyone that has ever been to his apartment knows what I mean. His place was spic-&-span, his floors were shiny (courtesy of Mr. Clean, the man behind the shine), and his bed was always made. Although his residence was clean, this does not mean that his mind was clean! Simple reminders of this include his “Bachelor Pad” mouse pad, and his everyday state of mind! I can confidently say, however, that for every person he made cringe by his attitude, he also helped, befriended, and made another person laugh. Will this department remember Bryan for years to come? Yes! If the Navy was looking for a few good men, I think we can all agree that they found one in Bryan.

Bryan’s Song

By Sean Singh

This goes to the tune of “The Beverly Hillbillies” (Ed. Note: some of us aren’t old enough to remember that show!). Come listen to a story ‘bout a guy named Bryan, Poor “Black” college kid, never went a cryin’.

Then one day he was talking to a professor

Who said, “Marine science, gonna give you power.”

Water, that is…boats…waves…fish feeding…

On his first day at school they stuck him on a boat, Fed him, and everyone watched his lunch float. They said, “Your project’s late, but we know just what to do…

Instead of just two years, we’ll keep you an extra two!”

4 year Masters, that is…more football…more soccer…more cruises…

The weeks rolled by and things were looking bad. Schedules started slipping and some people got mad. They called another meeting and renewed a hex

The answer was simple – No sex! Divorce, that is…moved out…single again…not bitter…

Months turned to years and he was still in the bay, He worked hard while the SEALS dream slipped away. Didn’t want to end up asking, “Do you want that baked or fried?”

Joined the Navy, hoping for a changing tide. OCS, that is…guns…uniforms…babe magnet…

Now the moral of the story is never lose your dream. Bryan’s not gonna need any brill cream. He will be moving to the land of the rising suns. He will be missed, by us and by Mons. Gone, that is…moved on…sayonara…still loves Jen Patch!

He’ll come back now, ya hear?!?

Quirky Quotes

As a sign of what Girl’s Camp does to its’ staff, at the end of week two of the camp, Teresa Greely was heard saying:”...I shall reconsider my considerations..."

SCUBA Club reminder: See Michele Winowitch to sign up for the trip to the Keys Aug. 14-17. Cost is around $258 for 4 dives and 3 nights in a hotel.
Virtual Ink

By Johan Schijf

Are you chemically challenged?
This month's websites are mainly for fun (well, only if you think chemistry is fun) but they can actually be very useful as well, for those who are taking the chemical oceanography core course this fall or just as a quick reference. All three sites are about the Periodic Table (PT).

The Pictorial Periodic Table (chemlab.pc.maricopa.edu/periodic/periodic.html) is an outstanding source of information on elements and isotopes. It allows you to display the PT six different ways. You can search the PT for elements with properties in a certain range (e.g. boiling point between 800 and 1200 K), search for keywords in definitions (e.g. "liquids"), or graph properties as a function of atomic number. An option to chart properties is still under construction. If you click on any element, you will get a host of information on that element, including properties such as density, boiling point, electronic structure etc. You will also get a brief history of the element's discovery, a picture of the element (when available) and information on all its isotopes, including mass, decay modes and energies, half-lives etc. Highly recommended!

(www.chem4kids.com/elements/index.html) is the PT part of the much larger Chem4Kids site, which is especially for kids. It only discusses the first 18 elements (H-Ar). Since the information is pretty advanced I think this is best for kids of at least 10-12 years of age (perfect for Girls Camp!). It has many links to an excellent glossary of terms, the graphics are great and if you have the right software you can even play soundbites that teach you how to pronounce the element's names.

If you want to test yourself on your knowledge of the PT, try (www.chem. uky.edu/misc/periodicquiz.html). You will get a blank PT to fill out yourself. If you submit your answer it will return your score (how many right, wrong, blanks) and a gratuitous hint or piece of chemical trivia (but not the correct answer so you can try again!). Enjoy!

Due to circumstances beyond our control, there will be no “Movie Mania” in this issue. After seeing “Saving Private Ryan”, Sherryl and Jason were too traumatized to be able to think and write coherently. Hopefully they will have regained their senses by next month, and will be able to write a review!

Philosophical Cerebration

By Bob Helber

Could the future hold an ambidextrous world?
I am forever wondering which common ideas today will seem silly in the future. A hundred years ago it was thought that there was no life on the bottom of the ocean. Could it be that in another hundred years it will seem silly to think that there is no life on Jupiter? But what current ideas will fail? I personally hope that in the future people will think that neckties are as dumb as we now think corsets were. I make no claims to have predictive powers, but I've got cold hard evidence that ambidextrism will run rampant.

The evidence that I site comes from unicycling. As you may know, unicycles go forward as easily as backward. Every stunt that starts with the right foot on the pedal in the lowest position can be done with the left foot on the pedal in the lowest position. Often, learning the stunt both ways is like learning the same stunt twice. After learning a stunt right-footed, learning it left-footed takes almost as long. Today most people would think, “Why learn the same trick twice?” A hundred years from now that will be a dumb question. I now know that question is dumb because I know I can never really learn a stunt until I am able to do it every way possible. I do not cease to be amazed as to how much better I can do a stunt once I’ve learned it front-side and back-side.

So then, how will this knowledge from unicycling disseminate throughout the world until equal amounts of right-handed and left-handed scissors exist? I don’t think it will take long since unicycling is not the only place this lesson can be learned. Once the word gets out, the whole world of sports could be turned on its ear. Surfers could put a different foot forward and ride a tube front-side no matter which direction the wave breaks. Tennis players that could swap the racket from one hand to the next would never have to hit a single backhand (or forehand, if they choose). If a computer programmer spills a cup of coffee on the side of the keyboard where the mouse is, he or she could simply switch the mouse and keep on working. Even the drudgery of always having to drive on the same side of the road could be removed! The possibilities are endless!
In this new addition to SI, Angela will discuss issues in the news, and provide ways to take action and get your voice heard…

H2O + emulsifier + pre-coal-like substance = ?

Orimulsion has been a hot topic in the Bay area since Florida Power and Light first disclosed its plans to convert from oil to orimulsion at its Parrish plant in northeast Manatee County. Some say that its presence in the Bay area would lead to inevitable disaster. Others claim that it is the answer to all of our fuel problems. Is it a dream or an environmental nightmare???

The Florida DEP has officially backed the conversion to this fuel alternative since the issues inception two years ago. With emission controls in place, DEP estimated that the maximum use levels of orimulsion would result in a 6% increase in particulate matter, a 16% increase in volatile organic compounds, and a 2,773% increase in carbon monoxide. It would also result in a 201% increase in nitrogen oxides, which pleasantly combine with sunlight to form ozone and with rainwater to form acid rain!

The FPL orimulsion plant was supposed to be located just a few miles upstream of the Little Manatee River, which feeds fresh water into the bay. Winds carrying these pollutants over our area present obvious problems. Worse yet, if (& WHEN) there were a spill in the bay, the technology to clean it up does not exist.

Unlike oil, orimulsion does not float on the surface of the water. Instead, it dissipates throughout the first several feet below the surface. Since it is suspended in the water, it is nearly impossible to clean up. This poses an obvious threat to all marine life in the bay.

For all of these reasons, orimulsion is banned in most countries. Interestingly enough, it is even illegal to burn orimulsion in Venezuela, the country that produces it! Why, then, is orimulsion even considered as a Bay area fuel source? MONEY!

Orimulsion is a cheaper source of fuel. Is this lower-cost energy worth the effect that it would have on the people and environment surrounding the plant?

This past month, Gov. Lawton Chiles and Cabinet denied FPL’s application to convert its Manatee power plant to orimulsion by a vote of 6 to 1. It appeared that this befouling fiend had finally been denied immigration into Pinellas County. However, FPL quickly made a strong effort to lobby for public support. Just over one month later, FPL gave up the battle and announced that it would not appeal the decision. As far as I am concerned, not a dream, but a nightmare has finally ended!

"As the tide of chemicals born of the Industrial Age has arisen to engulf our environment, a drastic change has come about in the nature of the most serious public health problems..." 
-Rachel Carson, Silent Spring

Take Action!

By Angela Strub

Who hasn't heard the most recent buzz about Viagra? This new impotency drug is getting publicity everywhere, and insurance companies are quickly considering coverage for the drug.

Meanwhile, only one-third of large group insurance plans cover oral contraceptives, which can cost over $300 a year. While our population skyrockets, it seems that insurance companies are saying that virility is more important than fertility. Access to family planning options such as contraceptives is an effective way to stabilize population growth.

The senate is soon expected to consider a bill called “The Equity in Prescription Insurance and Contraceptive Coverage Act”, S. 766 and H.R. 2174. This would require insurance companies that cover prescription drugs and devices to also cover contraceptives.

To make a stand and take action, contact your senator and ask her/him to co-sponsor S. 766. You can reach Bob Graham(D) by email at bob_graham@graham.senate.gov and Connie Mack(R) by phone at 225-7683 voice)

It is time to take this publication to a new level. If you carefully read SI a couple of issues ago (as we know you all did), you would have seen the article on “Sweet Tooth”, an ice cream shop. Well, that issue found it's way into the hands of the owners, who have decided that we are a worthy cause, and would like to give us a discount on purchases made there. So, if you feel like having some ice cream, gourmet coffee, or candy, please take the coupon (below) and claim your discount.