

March 1999
Volume 4, Issue 3

Inside this Issue

- * Foreign Relations
 - * Movie Mania
 - * Philosophical Cerebration
 - * Science Demystified
 - * Upcoming Events
- And much more!

University of South Florida
Department of Marine Science
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

The Squid's Ink

Notes From the Editors

The circulation of this newsletter has grown substantially since its' inception. We now have a *Squid's Ink* mailing list, that includes people in other departments (such as the library), other organizations (such as DEP), and even other states (Bryan Black in Mississippi). We would like to encourage everyone, whether they are a part of the Marine Science department or not, to submit material for this newsletter. Submissions can be made via email or campus mail. Thanks for reading!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Jolley for his continued generosity toward the students. Student Government cut MSAC's budget substantially. Bob agreed to use departmental funds to split the cost of Wacky Wednesday Wunchtime and this newsletter with MSAC. Thanks to him, both of these worthy endeavors will continue.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Steve Myers and his wife. They recently had a baby boy named Robert, who weighed in at 8 lbs 3 oz. Congratulations also go to Rob Walker and his wife Kellie. The new addition to their family was born on December 27th and weighed 8 lbs 2 oz.

~~~~~

### *Fascinating Fact #1:*

*It is impossible to sneeze and keep your eyes open at the same time.*

~~~~~

Science Demystified

Of the 1.4 million species that have been classified to date, only 250,000, or 35%, live in the ocean. This is not because the oceans are less diverse, but because we have spent less time there looking for new species. Despite our ignorance, there are a few things we can say about underwater communities.

For the most part, aquatic life practices "r" selection: adults breed profusely and the young rarely reach maturity. This is the habit of most fish and everything lower down the evolutionary scale. Mammals like seals, dolphins, and whales are the exceptional "k" breeders.

Compared with landlocked ecosystems, the oceans have many layers of carnivory: predators preying on predators preying on predators. Some scientists believe that the oceans were maximally harvested from within before humans started fishing.

Upcoming Events

Feb 3

Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman doctor, was born on this day in 1821.

Feb 3

No Wacky Wednesday Wunchtime since everyone is at ASLO.

**Feb 4, 8:00-4:00, DEP circle
Blood Drive**

We had a record number of donors (76) at the last drive, let's try to top that. Get a free t-shirt and a chance to win a trip for two to London.

**Feb 10, noon, MSL conf. room
Wacky Wednesday Wunchtime**

"Memories of Saipan" by Molly McLaughlin. Alternative title is "National Geographic Naked Native Pictures." Bring your lunch.

**Feb 12, MSL lounge
TGIF wine tasting**

Celebrate Valentine's Day with your friends. Bring your favorite bottle of wine.

**Feb 17, noon, MSL conf. room
Wacky Wednesday Wunchtime**

"Ballooning with Bob (Helber)." If you missed this fun activity last semester, now's your chance to give it a go. Learn something practical - you never know when you will need it! Bring your lunch.

Feb 22

English colonists ate popcorn for the first time on this day in 1630.

**Feb 24, noon, MSL conf. room
Wacky Wednesday Wunchtime**

Currently open, contact Jyotika to present something.

**Feb 26, Tavern on the Green
TGIF**

The ever-popular beer brew is back.

Philosophical Cerebration

By Bob Helber

Do scientists create acronyms just to make their work more esoteric?

I don't think so. Scientists create acronyms (CA) to simplify their work (TW), not to make it more esoteric (ME). The purpose of acronyms is to shorten or to make (TM) a manuscript more concise (MC). Scientists who do not (DN) CA produce scientific writing (SW) that is, as a consequence (AC), arduous, lengthy, and a pain to type into the computer. For example, a researcher (AR) writing about TW on El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) with relation to sea surface temperature (SST) CA to shorten these names. The result is that TW is not necessarily ME but is MC. The truth of the matter is that SW that is written for other scientists and their peers seems ME to non-peers. To their peers and themselves, who possess extremely superior intelligence (PESI), the use of acronyms (OA) is completely natural and they do not think TW is difficult to read (IDTR). Scientists simply think in terms (IT) OA. It is only when non-scientists (NS) try to read SW that the problem occurs. The intellectual inferiors thus cannot comprehend (CC) the text full of acronyms. So it is not that AR tries TM ME SW of TW, it is just the fact that they PESI which means they think IT OA TM their SW MC and AC is that the NS CC. Persons who CC or find this IDTR DN PESI.

Foreign Relations

Chinese New Year will be on February 16th this year. This is the year of the rabbit, and corresponds to the year 4697 on the Chinese calendar. Except for a few people, the majority of Chinese people have to rely on a typical Chinese calendar to figure out when the Chinese New Year will be. The Chinese calendar has both a Gregorian and a

lunar-solar calendar system. The latter has each year divided into 12 months, and each month divided into 39½ days. There are also 24 solar terms closely related to the changes of nature, providing information on the proper time for planting and harvesting. There are also terms that mark the years in a 60 year cycle, and animals are used to mark the years in a 12 year cycle.

Chinese New Year is also known as the Spring Festival, as it marks the beginning of spring. Its' origins are unclear, but the word "Nian", which means year, was originally the name of a monster beast that started to pray on people the night before the beginning of the Chinese new year. Legends say that an old man scared Nian away, and he told people to put up red paper decorations on their windows and doors in case Nian sneaked back in.

Days before the new year, people give their homes a thorough cleaning, hoping to seep away any ill fortune. New Year's Eve is celebrated with a feast and fireworks. Gifts are exchanged in red envelopes. We hope all of you get to "Guo Nian" (celebrate the new year)!

Women's Awareness

March is Women's Awareness Month. Throughout the month USF will be holding several events to commemorate this. One notable event is the information and networking event that will be held on the Tampa campus on March 2nd from 11:00-4:00. Numerous organizations will set up information tables on topics such as personal safety, health issues, and career networking. Mary Diana from WUSF FM will be there, as well as other women entertainers. Free lunch will be provided to all those who fill out a short survey. For more information on this and other Women's Awareness events, please see USF's home page at www.usf.edu.

What's Happening

By Bob Jolley

SI seems like a good opportunity to bring everyone up to date on some of the goings on around the department. My contribution may also help Lizz and Jyotika keep their sanity!

OK, where to begin? Well, on the site in front of the MSL building where we at one time thought we would erect a deck and Tiki bar for TGIF and other parties, we did something really dumb and put up an antenna to help with our science. Go figure! The antenna is fixed to collect signals from the GOES East satellite which sends data from buoys that Dr. Weisberg and the OCG (Ocean Circulation Group) have put into the Gulf of Mexico. It also sends PORTS data and data from stations Dr. Luther and his team are monitoring within the COMPS program. Stay tuned, more dishes are on the way.

As most of the MSL inhabitants know, we are just finishing up the rewiring of this building with Cat 5+ cable which is the latest standard used by the university. It's probably already outdated, but it's certainly better than what we had. Installation and testing will be done by February 3rd, then Academic Computing in Tampa will be over to install hubs, ports, punch down blocks etc. The switch over will be about mid-February. Thanks for your patience and understanding. We had a number of problems with the installation.

The renovation to the student lounge and outdoor patio area is about to happen. We have a design and we have a cost quote from the contractor. It took some value engineering but we finally got the estimate within our budget and without gutting the whole project. I think you will be pleased with the results. Look for construction to

commence in March. Much thanks goes to Terri Slifko for staying on this project.

Plans are in the works for a major facelift for MSL. *Finally!* Ever since KORC went up I have gently prodded for money to spruce up MSL and Ron Bugg in Physical Plant has come through big time. We will soon undertake a complete makeover. New asphalt shingle roof (we couldn't afford the \$280k teal colored metal roof Ron & I wanted), pressure cleaning, painting (tan), new fascia and soffits (teal) and finally new awnings (teal). In case you haven't noticed teal is Ron's favorite color (*A.Ed. note:* so that explains the teal tiles on the floor!). It could be worse, mine is pink! This work should begin shortly.

Finally, for those of you who have had a need for large capacity cold storage of cores, biological samples, and beer kegs, I am pleased to announce that within the next few days we will have the MSL walk-in freezer and cold rooms up and running with completely new equipment. Enjoy!

I have other things in the works but will save it for next time. I'm sure Lizz and Jyotika will need material for *SI* then too. That's some of what's happening. See ya around.

Virtual Ink

Johan is taking the month off, so we would like to tell you about a useful website that we found.

But first, a message from Hope Botterbusch: www.onr.navy.mil/onr/speak/default.htm offers some useful information called "Tips for Preparing and Delivering Scientific Talks and Using Visual Aids." This includes helpful hints on how to dress, using visual aids, special requirements,

and how to address a nonscientific audience. Check it out.

How do you describe buying school textbooks: one huge hassle? Too expensive? More painful than a trip to the dentist? Your solution to these textbook-buying blues is www.VarsityBooks.com, your online college bookstore. No more long lines at the campus bookstore, just click and go. Save up to 40% on new textbooks. They offer a money-back guarantee. There are several ways to search for a book, such as by author, title, or keyword. You can also look up University of South Florida, and look up the various departments. Unfortunately, the marine science department is not currently listed, but the oceanography class being taught by Sara Tebbens and Pam Hallock Muller is. There are several shipping options, and the shipping costs are the same if you buy one book or twenty one. One drawback is they do not offer a textbook buyback program like most university bookstores do. However, this seems like a viable alternative if you don't have the time to go to the campus bookstore.

Movie Mania

By Lizz Singh

In "Waking Ned Devine," the winner of the Irish national lottery is a resident of a small town named Tullymore, population 52. Poor Ned Devine was lucky enough to win a lottery of 6.8 million pounds, but unlucky enough not to live to spend it. Ned was literally shocked to death, holding his winning ticket and watching TV at the time of the unfortunate incident.

Enter elderly friends Jackie O'Shea (Ian Bannen) and Michael O'Sullivan (David Kelly), a twisted pair who are intent on finding the winner of the lottery and squeezing a share of it for themselves. Eventually discovering that the person they are looking for is dead, Michael pretends he is Ned Devine, and the town's residents are dragged into the task of confirming his borrowed identity

so that they can split the loot between them.

This movie is sweet, without being syrupy, and is absolutely hysterical. The cast is made up of actors largely unknown to the American audience, with the exception of David Kelly (known to some from his work in "Fawlty Towers"). The scene where he is riding nude on a motorcycle will leave you rolling in the aisles.

As an added bonus, this movie is playing at the Tampa Theater. If you haven't been there yet, you don't know what you're missing. This is a beautiful old fashioned theater with balcony seating and an organist that plays before each show. They now have a student rate (\$3.75). Ladies, be sure to check out the tiny toilet in the ladies room. Score: 4 1/2 squids out of 5.

Joke of the Issue

Contributed by Kathryn Privett

Here is a question from a final exam from a U. of Oklahoma class called "Momentum, Heat, and Mass Transfer II": Is hell exothermic or endothermic? Support your answer with truth.

Most students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyles Law. One student, however, wrote the following:

First, we postulate that if souls exist then they must have some mass. If they do, then a mole of souls can also have a mass. So, at what rate are souls moving into hell and at what rate are they leaving? I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving.

As for souls entering hell, lets look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Some of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to hell. Since there is more than one of these religions and people do not belong to more than

one religion, we can project that all people and all souls go to hell. With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in hell to increase exponentially.

Now, we look at the rate of change of volume in hell. Boyles Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in hell to stay the same, the ratio of the mass of souls and volume needs to stay constant.

Case 1: If hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter hell, then the temperature and pressure in hell will increase until all hell breaks loose.

Case 2: If hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until hell freezes over.

So which is it? If we accept the postulate given to me by Theresa Banyan during my freshman year, "it will be a cold night in hell before I sleep with you," and take into account the fact that I still have not succeeded in having sexual relations with her, then Case 2 cannot be true. Thus, hell is exothermic.

The student, Tim Graham, got the only A.

Squid's Ink "Staff":
Editor: Lizz Singh (lizz@marine)
Assoc. Ed.: Jyotika Virmani (jyotika@marine)
Contributors: Hope Botterbusch, Paula Coble, Bob Helber, Bob Jolley, Kathryn Privett, Nan Schmidt

Education Extra

By Paula Coble

These facts were taken from the Division of Science Resources Studies Data Briefs.

*The total number of science and engineering (S&E) graduate students in the US fell for the fourth consecutive year (1993-1997).

*Enrollment of men in these fields has declined, but the number of women enrolled has increased.

*In 1997, women made up 40% of S&E students.

*In 1997, graduate enrollment dropped in all major S&E fields except computer sciences and electrical engineering.

Mechanisms of Support for Graduate Students in Oceanography & Atmospheric Sciences in 1996:

*Research Assistantships accounted for over 50% of the primary support mechanism.

*Teaching assistantships accounted for less than 12% of the primary support mechanism.

*11-12% of students in the life sciences received their primary support through traineeships.

*Fellowships, traineeships, and self-support were the primary support for all other graduate students in oceanography and atmospheric sciences.

the text box shading to improve the print quality. Can that be done?

A: Yes. To change the shading or color of a text box, select it and double click its borders to open the Format Text Box dialog box. Click the Colors and Lines tab and then choose the new color from the Color drop-down list in the Fill section.

Q: What's the best way to print this newsletter?

A: Print page 2 on the back of page 1. Fold in half and mail with or without an envelope. For best results, use a medium to heavyweight paper. If you're mailing without an envelope, seal with a label.

Q: I would like to use my own clip

Q: I would like to change some of