The Squid’s Ink

Notes From the Editors

The Marine Science Department will soon begin a search to fill three assistant professor positions in biological oceanography. A search is also in progress to fill a position in chemical oceanography. It is rare that there are so many openings at once. The search committees have an outstanding opportunity to expand the horizons of this department. We urge you to actively search out candidates that will both complement and expand current research interests and course offerings. We hope that you will not only take into consideration the amount of money they can bring in, but also what they can do for the students. For example, it would be extremely advantageous to hire candidates that will provide new courses that will increase student competitiveness in the job market. Instead of trying to simply replace departing professors by finding people who will fill their shoes, we hope you hire people who can take this department in new directions.

The students have a responsibility as well. We strongly encourage student participation in the candidate interview process. Attend lectures given by candidates. Voice your opinions to those on the search committees. It is also important to identify courses that you would like to see offered by the department. For example, wouldn’t it be nice not to have to drive all the way to Tampa to take a statistics course? E-mail us your suggestions, and we will print them in future issues of SI.

Congratulations!

Diane and Ernst Peebles are the proud parents of Bryan Rome Peebles, born on February 28th and weighing 6 lbs. 14 oz.

Poetry in Motion

April is Poetry Month! To celebrate, we would like to share this poem entitled “On the Hurry of This Time” by Henry Austin Dobson (1882):

With slower pen men used to write,
Of old, when “letters” were “polite”;
In Anna’s, or in George’s days,
They could afford to turn a phrase,
Or trim a straggling theme aright.

They knew not steam; electric light
Not yet had dazed their calmer sight—
They metered out both blame and praise
With slower pen.

Too swiftly now the hours take flight!
What’s read at morn is dead at night;
Scant space have we for Art’s delays,
Whose breathless thought so briefly stays,
We may not work – ah! Would we might—
With slower pen.

Helpful Hints

By Sean Singh

*Old telephone books make ideal personal address books. Simply cross out the names and addresses of people you don't know.

*Fool other drivers into thinking you have an expensive car phone by holding an old TV or video remote control up to your ear and occasionally swerving across the road and mounting the curb.

*Lose weight quickly by eating raw pork and rancid tuna. I found that the subsequent food poisoning/diarrhea enabled me to lose 12 pounds in only 2 days!
Statistics Demystified

We muddle through life making choices based on incomplete information...

Most of us live comfortably with some level of uncertainty.

What makes statistics unique is its ability to quantify uncertainty, to make it precise. This allows statisticians to make categorical statements, with complete assurance about their level of uncertainty!

Foreign Relations

Easter is the principal festival of the Christian church year, celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his Crucifixion. The origins of Easter date to the beginnings of Christianity, and it is probably the oldest Christian observance after the Sabbath. Western Christians celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs upon or after the vernal equinox (March 21). Easter, therefore, can fall between March 22 and April 25. This rule was fixed after much controversy and uncertainty, which lasted in various parts of the church until the 8th century. This year Easter is on April 4.

The connection of baptism with Easter is of early date. During the church's first centuries the whole of Lent was not only a time of penance but also the period during which the catechumens (persons to be baptized) were prepared for baptism, which was given only once a year, at Easter. For the six weeks preceding Easter the catechumens were instructed in the Christian faith, and the texts of the Lenten liturgy in the Roman Catholic missal still preserve clear indications of this practice. The catechumenate came to an end with the solemn baptisms of the Easter vigil. This is the explanation of the present practice of the long ceremony of blessing the font on Easter night and of the great emphasis on baptism and its meaning and the many allusions to it still present in the Easter services.

Easter customs have taken a variety of forms. Eggs, formerly forbidden to be eaten during Lent, have been prominent as symbols of new life and resurrection. The hare, the symbol of fertility in ancient Egypt, a role that was kept later in Europe, is not found in North America. Its place is taken by the Easter rabbit, the symbol of fertility and periodicity both human and lunar, accredited with laying eggs (often brightly colored or decorated) in nests prepared for it at Easter or with hiding them away for children to find.
Special WWW

A very special Wacky Wednesday Wunchtime will be held on April 21 at noon in the MSL conference room. We will have an “Interview and Negotiation” panel discussion, featuring Pamela Hallock Muller as the panel chair, Peter Betzer for his administrative perspective, Ben Flower as a recent survivor, and Erin Lipp and Mark Hafen as current participants in the process.

Pam will start the discussion by presenting information on what can happen in the interview and negotiation process and how it could actually harm ones career. The panel will then discuss issues raised by her presentation and their own experiences, and make recommendations on how to avoid such problems. Questions from the audience will be welcome.

Please make an extra special effort to attend, as this is your chance to learn valuable information that could impact your career. Questions for the panel can be e-mailed in advance to Jyotika (jyotika@marine) or Pam (pmuller@marine).

Movie Mania

By Jason Lenes and Jyotika Virmani

John Madden’s Shakespeare in Love recently won 7 Academy Awards, including Best Movie. Winners of the Best Original Screenplay, Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard (Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead) erase Shakespeare’s stuffy image presented on the back of Signet classics. They recreate the bard (Joseph Fiennes) as a young, passionate artist tortured under the insistent pressure of Phillip Henslowe (Geoffrey Rush), the owner of London’s Rose Theatre. Fighting a severe case of writer’s block, Will struggles with his new play Romeo and Ethel, the Pirate’s Daughter. Enter center stage the fair muse, Lady Viola De Lesseps (Gwyneth Paltrow, Best Actress Award winner) disguised as a boy auditioning for the role of Romeo. Will falls in love instantly, not with the woman dressed as a man, but with a voice.

Recreating the creation of Romeo and Juliet through a perfectly Shakespearean comedy of errors, the screenwriters intertwine original text, the attitudes of Elizabethan times, first rate witty word play, and good old-fashioned fun. With stunning performances by all, the film truly feeds on a steady stream of Shakespeare in-jokes and gripping modern-day references. The wonderful cast includes Rupert Everett as Christopher Marlowe, and Dame Judi Dench, winner of the Best Supporting Actress Award for her eight minute on-screen presence as Queen Elizabeth I. Excellent direction, a beautiful score, and believable scenery and costume designs help drive this film, but it is the magnificent script that will allow Shakespeare in Love to take its rightful place among the classic Shakespearean spin-offs.

Score: 5 squids out of 5

April Fool

April was called Germinal (the time of budding) in the French Republican calendar of 1793. An April Fool (un poisson d’avril in French, a gowk [cuckoo] in Scotland) is a person befuddled or tricked on April Fool’s Day. Possible origins for this day are:
*The uncertainty of the weather at this time of year fools people.
*A mockery of the trial of Jesus.
*March 25th used to be New Year’s Day. April 1st was its octave (when the festivities culminated).
*Relic of the Roman Cerealia, held at the beginning of April. The story says that Prosperina was gathering daffodils in the Elysian meadows when Pluto abducted her and took her to the underworld. Her mother, Ceres, heard the echo of her screams and went in search of the voice. However, her search was a fool’s errand- it was “hunting the gowk” or looking for the “echo of a scream.”

Virtual Ink

This column is dedicated to those of you who put off doing your taxes until the last possible minute. We know you are out there! We have seen you rush to the post office on April 15th and wait on line for hours just to make sure your taxes get out in time! Well, you only have about 2 weeks left, so we thought we would give you some information that will hopefully make filing your taxes a little easier.

www.irs.ustreas.gov is the official homepage of the IRS. Here you can find all kinds of up-to-date information in a relatively easy to read format. This site tells you how to use e-file, the new way to file your taxes electronically, and also gives information about the many tax credits that are available. You can search for help centers with Saturday hours, or search a database to find a local tax professional to help you. There is also information for those people filing taxes for a business. The “What’s Hot” section provides updates and corrections to forms, among many other things. Maybe most importantly, this website tells you how to file for an extension! Good luck!

Joke of the Issue

More bumper sticker slogans…

*I just got lost in thought. It was unfamiliar territory.

*42.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.

*99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

*I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe.

*You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be misquoted, then used against you.

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The future of this department depends on YOU!

USF was recently designated a Research 1 University. In order to maintain the high standards that have been established here, it is vital to have a library adequately equipped to handle our needs.

As you probably know, several subscriptions to important marine science journals have not been renewed. Boris Galperin, the Library Committee Representative for the department, sent out an email asking for your input. The response was dismal; less than 10% of the people in this department responded. This is pathetic when you consider that you will all use the library here at some point of your career.

We hope this will make it easier for you to respond. Please take a few minutes to review this list. Jot down some notes — what journals are most important to you, which ones are of no use to you, are there any journals that the library currently does not receive that would be helpful to you, etc.? Then, simply tear this page off ASAP and put it in Boris’ mailbox or e-mail him at boris@nekton.marine.usf.edu.

Dear Boris:

The following journals are very important to me:_________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

Please don’t cancel the following subscriptions:_________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

Other comments:___________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
Did you know ...

* There are 3 billion women who don't look like super models and only eight who do.
* Marilyn Monroe wore a size 14-16.
* If Barbie was a real woman, she'd have to walk on all fours due to her proportions.
* The average American woman weighs 144 lbs. and wears between a size 12 and 14.
* One out of every four college aged women has an eating disorder.
* The models in the magazines are airbrushed-they're not perfect!!
* A psychological study in 1995 found that three minutes spent looking at models in a fashion magazine caused 70% of women to feel depressed, guilty, and shameful.
* Twenty years ago, models weighed 8% less than the average woman. Today they weigh 23% less.
Q: I would like to change some of 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

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