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The Squid's Ink

Notes From the Editors

Since February is the month for romance, we would like to offer you some helpful hints on picking out just the right flower. See the article later in this issue. This month is also unusual because it is a leap year. Finally, this month is unique because February 2 is the first "even" day since 8/28/888. Enjoy!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Brad Penta and Carol Steele for their successful doctoral defenses last month. See the article later in this issue for more info on Carol's defense.

Congratulations to David and Carolyn Fries. Harrison Michael was born on January 26th, weighing over 8 pounds.

Congratulations to Bob and Jenny Helber. Jenny gave birth to Reilly Grant on January 29th, weighing 5 lb 6 oz.

SUPERSTARS is Coming!

By Tracy Christner

The annual SUPERSTARS event will be held on March 18th at North Shore Park. For those of you that are new to the department, SUPERSTARS is a corporate challenge where athletes from 30-35 Tampa Bay corporations compete in eleven events for the coveted traveling trophy. Funds raised from SUPERSTARS benefit the department in many ways. Scholarships, fellowships, visiting scholars, and educational outreach all benefit from this fun event. Events include softball,

football, golf, volleyball, tennis, canoe races, sack races, basketball, boardwalk, and an obstacle course. Marine Science students coordinate and referee the events. Many of the chairperson positions have already been filled. Just try and take the canoe race chair away from Peter Betzer and look out. He lives for this stuff! The following awesome people have already committed to chairing events: Volleyball - Heidi Crevison, Tennis - Helen Talge, Basketball - Lizz & Sean Singh, Boardwalk - Linae Boehme

If you are interested in chairing an event or volunteering to help run events please see Lisa Merman. She has graciously volunteered to shake some volunteers out of the woodwork (so contact her before she finds you, and she will). It's a fun day for a great cause, so get involved, no experience necessary! Spouses, significant others, and older children are welcome to come and help. MSAC provides breakfast and the SUPERSTARS committee will provide t-shirts and lunch. For more information please contact Tracy Christner (x3931).

Say It With Flowers

This Valentine's Day, don't go with the usual dozen red roses. Every flower has a symbolic meaning. The language of flowers clearly has so much more to offer.

*Yellow roses (infidelity): You unfaithful cow.

*Red poppies (fantastic extravagance): Stop running up huge credit card bills.

*Lavender (distrust): I know you're seeing someone behind my back.

*Peonies (abundance): I know you're sleeping with everyone in the neighborhood.

(Taken from GQ magazine)

Upcoming Events

Feb 2, Groundhog Day; the only tropical storm ever to hit the US in February came out of the Gulf of Mexico on this date in 1952.

Feb 5, Chinese New Year

Feb 6, Turkey Bowl

Feb 8, Blood Drive 8am-4pm, FMRI Circle

All donors will receive a t-shirt and a cholesterol screening, plus entry into drawings for roundtrip tickets to London and AMC movie tickets.

Feb 14, Valentine's Day

Feb 19, Full Moon

Feb 21, President's Day

Inquiring Minds Want to Know...Yet Again

By Mark Hafen

Believe it or not, here are the last of your responses for this regular feature...more of your picks for the best movies of all time.

Christina Holland: These aren't classics, just the ones that have a special place in my heart. "Kiki's Delivery Service"-Japanese animation at its finest and sweetest, and now dubbed into English by Disney. "Some Kind of Wonderful". Okay, I know how sappy and horrible it sounds - I don't care. "The Last Star-Fighter". Great effects (even if you watch it now), a cool story, and just good fun.

Nan Schmidt: It is *impossible* to pick the "best" movies. It's a fluid list that I can't quite seem to focus on. So, the most beautiful films that I remember seeing include "Wings of Desire", "The English Patient", and the 1910 French

version of "Beauty and the Beast". The scariest films that I remember seeing and enjoying include "The Shining" and "A Touch of Evil". The funniest movies that I remember seeing include "The In-Laws", "Bringing up Baby", and "Fletch". And, finally, I will judge my favorite movies using the criteria of my viewing frequency: "Blade Runner", "Star Wars", "Star Trek" (insert any even number), "To Have and Have Not", "A Room With a View", and "Monty Python and the Holy Grail".

David English: No doubt selection of a 'good' movie has a lot to do with our mood and the expectations we bring to the viewing. If we are not expecting much, a jerky but quirky and charming film will seem wonderful. "The Stunt Man". A delightful film in which Reality gets bent all akimbo as a powerful movie director substitutes a fugitive for a stuntman killed during the movie's filming. If you could combine this film with Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" you would really have a fun and enjoyable reality roller coaster.

Jim Patten: I think that "The Shawshank Redemption" is one of my favorite movies. "Bull Durham" is a great baseball movie.

Nancy Holloway: I liked "Notting Hill" because the roommate in that movie reminds me of someone I know who is exactly like him. But two of my all time favorite movies are "The Quiet Man" with John Wayne (NOT a western) and "Moonstruck" with Cher. Romantic tales, both.

Patrick Smith: I think that "Forrest Gump" is the best movie of all time.

Calling All Turkeys

By Dan Otis

It's finally time for this year's (or last year's belated) turkey bowl. The game will be on Sunday, Feb. 6. It will be held on the field across from the USGS building between 3rd and 4th Streets S

on 5th Ave S. The pregame show with Terry, Howie, Chris, and JB starts at 10:30a.m., with kickoff at 11:05.

For those of you unfamiliar with turkey bowl, it's a friendly touch football game played by members of the marine science department. Marine science students, faculty, staff, COT staff, and alumni are welcome along with friends and family. After the game, we have a BBQ with various munchies, and of course, beer and other beverages. Those of you who don't wish to play are welcome to come and cheer for your favorite team and enjoy the BBQ.

The teams this year will be biologists and physicists vs. geologists and chemists, with 7 players per team on the field. This is the same as last year. As far as the rules go, it's pretty simple. No kickoffs, extra points, or field goals. The team with the ball starts at the 20 on kickoffs. Two-hand touch with each team getting four downs to reach ten paces for a first down. Touchdowns are worth one point. Punting is allowed (but very rarely happens). We will have two halves of 40 minutes apiece with a running clock. If some one would like to volunteer to be a referee (keep the clock and have an impartial eye for catches, first downs, etc.), contact me. If anyone has suggestions or would like to help out, please let me know at dotis@seas.

Next week people from Gabe Vargo's lab will be presenting original research from the ECOHAB:Florida program at the HAB2000 Conference in Hobart, Tasmania. Dr. Vargo, Dr. Cynthia Heil, MerrieBeth Neely, Rachel Merkt, and Danylle Spense will be presenting posters. The students would like to express their gratitude to Dr. Vargo and the Department for providing travel funds for them to attend the conference. Look for their fabulous posters coming to a hallway near you in late February!

(By MerrieBeth Neely)

Dissertation Discourse

Carol Steele is a member of the COT staff. We thought we would take this opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of someone you might not be familiar with, but is a vital member of this department.

Last month Carol received her Ph.D. in Human and Organizational Development from The Fielding Institute based in Santa Barbara, CA. Her dissertation was entitled "The Effect of the Arrival of Baseball on an African-American Community: A Study of Contested Terrain." It is a qualitative study, done in the methodology of ethnography, which seeks out people's stories and other data to better understand how those involved in the subject see it. She was looking for information about how well the promises made, over a 20+ year time span, to the African Americans who were dispossessed to make way for Tropicana Field were kept. They were told that bringing baseball (and the stadium) would bring them better jobs and a better life. She interviewed African Americans, city hall and business people who were involved in bringing baseball here, and baseball people. All have some similarity in the way they describe this event, but there's a lot of unconformity in their opinions about how well baseball has lived up to its promise of being an economic stimulus to the community. These differing opinions about the same event are why this is called a study in contested terrain. All would agree, though, that the promises made to the African Americans (as well as to the overall community) were overblown, as the jobs that have come with baseball are seasonal, part-time, minimum wage, and without benefits. There was a lot more about comparing the economic revitalization of downtown to the lack of economic stimulus to the businesses in the Black community, but we'll save that for another time!

More upcoming events....

*Pamela Hallock Muller will be on the panel at "Mentoring: A 'Must' for Women's Careers?" (2/2, 6pm, CAC)

*Florida Suncoast Writer's Conference; speakers include Wally Lamb ("She's Come Undone", "I Know This Much Is True"), Connie May Fowler ("Before Women Had Wings), and Arthur Golden ("Memoirs of a Geisha", soon to be a movie) (2/3-2/5, go to www.conted.usf.edu for more info).

*FIO's Rob Walker will give an inside view of the operations of a coastal research vessel (2/5, 11am, Pier Aquarium).

Guilty Pleasures

By Mark Hafen

Ok, now that we've picked your brains concerning your favorite and least favorite movies, it's time to come clean. Although some of you admitted to liking some films of dubious merit, we think it goes deeper than that. It's time to confess, to the entire department, which truly terrible films you've secretly enjoyed watching.

While we doubt anyone will come forth professing an affinity for "Ishtar", we know you've sat alone, munching popcorn and chuckling (or weeping) away at some pathetic movie that no one else would make time to watch. Film critics Roger Ebert and the late Gene Siskel occasionally devoted one of their shows to what they called their "guilty pleasures", films that were so awful but which they sheepishly had to admit they enjoyed. If they can do it, so can you! Send your offerings to Mark Hafen (mhafen@marine.usf.edu or x3-1183). You'll feel better. Really.

To kick it off, I offer two films that, while others may shun them, I freely admit I watch as often as I can. The first isn't necessarily an awful film. It is, more likely, considered to be

average. But "Coneheads", starring Jane Curtin and Dan Akroyd, and featuring a myriad of Saturday Night Live performers, makes me laugh uncontrollably every time I watch it. And I mean genuine belly laughs. I can't explain it, and you'd think after having seen it scores of times I'd have grown tired of it. But I swear I hear something new, in that stilted alien dialogue, every time I see this film, and I find myself mimicking Beldaar and Prymaat for days afterward (*A. Ed. Note: Aaah...that explains a lot!*). Let us get together, char some mammal flesh and consume mass quantities next time it appears on the primitive video imaging device. Or maybe not...

The second turkey I'll admit to enjoying is one that many people have probably never heard of. It's called "Vegas in Space", and features a cast comprised almost entirely of drag queens. Really bad drag queens! The plot seems to have been spawned by a behind-the-scenes cat fight between some prima donna female impersonators, which took on a life of its own and was developed into a science fiction flick, complete with original musical productions. Really bad musical productions! It is beyond awful, yet very original and with so much camp value that I cannot help but enjoy it. Look for it to appear occasionally on USA's weekend late night programming. Or, um, I have it on tape.

Chinese New Year

This year is the Year of the Dragon. To help celebrate, here is a list of the years and personalities. Find the year you and your friends and family were born and see what you are supposed to be like. Let us know if it's true. Be careful if you were born in the end of January or the beginning of February, because that's when the year changes, so you may be on the cusp of two years. In case you were wondering (and we know you were just dying to know!), Lizz was born in the Year of the Rat, and Jyotika was born on the Rooster/Dog cusp.

Snake: 1989, 1977, 1965, 1953, 1941, 1929: attractive, vain, selfish, and a bit stingy.

Horse: 1990, 1978, 1966, 1954, 1942, 1930: cheerful, good with money, perceptive, sometimes talks too much.

Sheep: 1991, 1979, 1967, 1955, 1943, 1931: artistic, elegant, shy, pessimistic, and puzzled about life.

Monkey: 1992, 1980, 1968, 1956, 1944, 1932, 1920: clever, skillful, flexible, inventive, solves difficult problems with ease.

Rooster: 1993, 1981, 1969, 1957, 1945, 1933, 1921: deep thinkers, capable, talented, likes to be busy, hates to fail, are often right.

Dog: 1994, 1982, 1970, 1958, 1946, 1934, 1922: deep sense of loyalty, honest, can be cold, has a sharp tongue.

Pig: 1995, 1983, 1971, 1959, 1947, 1935, 1923: extremely loyal, kind to loved ones, quick tempered but hates arguments and quarreling.

Rat: 1996, 1984, 1972, 1960, 1948, 1936, 1924: charming, easily angered, loves to gossip.

Ox: 1997, 1985, 1973, 1961, 1949, 1937, 1925: patient, quiet, remarkably stubborn.

Tiger: 1998, 1986, 1974, 1962, 1950, 1938, 1926: cries at sad movies because they sympathize with those who are suffering, prone to conflict with authority.

Rabbit: 1999, 1987, 1975, 1963, 1951, 1939, 1927: articulate, talented, ambitious, virtuous, reserved, admired, often financially lucky, trusted.

Dragon: 2000, 1988, 1976, 1964, 1952, 1940, 1928: healthy, energetic, excitable, short-tempered and stubborn, eccentric.

Rum Runner

February is clearly the month for rum, with both the Tampa Bay Gasparilla Pirate Invasion and the New Orleans Mardi Gras celebrations coming up. To celebrate, we have an old but classic recipe for the Best Rum Cake Ever!

- 1 t sugar 1-2 quarts rum
- 1 t baking soda 2 large eggs
- lemon juice 1 c dried fruit
- brown sugar 1 c butter
- baking powder nuts

Before starting, sample rum to check quality. Good, isn't it? Now proceed. Select large mixing bowl, measuring cup, etc. Check rum again. It must be just right. To be sure rum is of proper quality, put one level cup of rum into a glass and drink it as fast as you can. Repeat. With electric mixer, beat 1 c butter in large fluffy bowl. Add one seaspoon of thugar and beat again. Meanwhile, make sur rum is still alright. Try another cup. Open second quart if necessary. Add leggs, 2 c fried druit and beat 'til high. If druit gets stuck in beaters, pry loose with drewscriber. Sample rum again, checking for tonscistricity. Next sift 3 c pepper or salt (really doesn't matter). Sample rum. Sift 1/2 pint limon juice. Fold in chopper butter and stained nuts. Add 1 bablespoon of brown sugar – or whatever color you can find. Wix mel. Grease oven. Turn cake pan to 350 gredees. Pour mess into boven and ake. Check rum again and bo to ged.

Joke of the Issue

Submitted by Gene Olson

This happened on a fancy cruise ship...A sudden storm blew up at sea and a young lady leaning against the ship's rail lost her balance in the storm and fell overboard. Before anybody could react, another figure plunged into the waves beside her and held her up until a lifeboat could be lowered to rescue them. To everyone's astonishment, the hero was the oldest man on the ship...an octagenarian (that means over 80, for the uninformed) grandfather! That evening he was given a party in honor of his bravery. "Speech...speech...speech," the other passengers called out.

The old gentleman rose slowly and looked around at the enthusiastic

gathering. "There's just one thing I'd like to know," he said testily. "Who pushed me?"

When Harry was a young man in Louisiana he was always getting into trouble. One morning while waiting for the school bus, he shoved the outhouse into the bayou and went off to school as if nothing had happened.

When he returned, his father was waiting for him. He said, "Son, did you push the outhouse into the bayou?"

"Yes Dad," replied Harry. "Like George Washington, I cannot tell a lie."

Harry's father took off his belt and said, "Alright son, bend over. I'm going to whip you."

Harry tried to explain that Mr. Washington didn't spank George when he admitted to chopping down the cherry tree.

"Yes son," said Harry's father. "But George's father wasn't in the tree."

Science Demystified

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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

