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The Squid's Ink

Notes From the Editors

Can you believe it's March already? Time really flies. You might remember that saying about the month of March: it comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. March also means Spring Break. Here is a poem by William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878) we thought you would like. It's called "Stormy March".

The stormy March has come at last,
with wind,
and cloud,
and changing skies;
I hear the rushing of the blast,
That through the snowy valley flies.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jennifer Cummins for her successful thesis defense entitled "Bioactive Compounds Within the Marine Sponge, *Callipelta* sp."

Congratulations to the geologists and the chemists for beating the biologists and physicists (by just one point) in the recent Turkey Bowl. Thanks to Dan Otis for organizing it and to MSAC for providing the food.

Lecture Series

By Sarah Tebbens

Prof. Don Turcotte of Cornell University will be presenting the Spring 2000 Eminent Scholar Lecture Series. Prof. Turcotte has written several books including "Geodynamics" (with Schubert), "Fractals and Chaos in Geology and Geophysics", and has just completed a comprehensive book on the state of knowledge of mantle convection.

Prof. Turcotte has numerous honors including membership in the National Academy of Sciences. He is a bright, creative scientist with a remarkable breadth of knowledge. Even if a lecture topic is not in your specific range of interest, I strongly recommend them, as I think all can benefit (and, in some cases, perhaps even be amused) by seeing how Prof. Turcotte approaches scientific problems. His lecture schedule is as follows:

March 6, 11 am, USF-DEP Joint Use Auditorium: The role of self-organized complexity in the Earth Sciences.

March 7, 11 am, USF-DEP Joint Use Auditorium: Our current understanding of mantle convection.

March 8, 11 am, USF-DEP Joint Use Auditorium: New approaches to understanding natural hazards.

Publications

Have you published anything lately? Let us know so we can print it here. This month we have just one new publication to report.

Basu, S.K., S.D. Meyers and J.J. O'Brien. 2000. Annual and interannual sea level variations in the Indian Ocean from Topex/Poseidon observations and ocean model simulations. *J. Geophys. Res.*, 105, 975-994.

SUPERSTARS

The date for the next SUPERSTARS is rapidly approaching. It will be held on March 18th at North Shore Park. Volunteers are still desperately needed. For more information please contact Tracy Christner (x3931) or Lisa Merman.

Upcoming Events

Mar 8, Ash Wednesday

Mar 13-17, Spring Break

Mar 17, St. Patrick's Day

Mar 18, SUPERSTARS

Mar 20, Full Moon; also Vernal Equinox (1st day of Spring)

Mar 25, on this date in 1992, thunderstorms dropped hailstones up to 4" in diameter over the Orlando region. Millions of panes of glass were broken, and there was \$60 million in damages.

Guilty Pleasures

By Mark Hafen

Either the rigors of the semester have got you down, or the prospect of personal embarrassment has made you reticent. Repsonse to my request for the bad movies you still love was less than enthusiastic, despite my attempts to inspire you with my heart-felt confessions on 'Coneheads' and 'Vegas in Space' (admit it: you went out a rented that latter one, didn't you?). Nonetheless, three brave souls dared to bare their guilty pleasures.

Over a series of e-mails came these admissions, from **Jason Lenes**, the crown prince of suspect cinema: "Howard the Duck"! The worst movie ever made, and possibly the best! Classics of this nature are my specialty. 'The Highlander', a frequently maligned "film" in which Christopher Lambert should have been nominated for an Oscar. And Sean Connery! Enough said. And speaking of Connery, there's always 'Darby O'Gill and the Little People'. I've got one more! 'Clash of the Titans'."

Tressa Whalen, no stranger to public humiliation, offered: "I love 'Dumb and Dumber'. I laugh every time. I know it's horrible, but too funny. Oh, and

don't get me started on 'Hot Shots'. I can quote every line verbatim." [Author's note: a particularly sad commentary, nicht wahr?]

Finally, **Jason Jolliff** provided this glowing review of 'Texas Chain Saw Massacre Part II': "Texas Chain Saw Massacre Part II' is an enduring and timeless saga of one rural family's quest for understanding in a world that has passed them by. Tears filled my eyes when the patriarch of that homely family of misfits won the Texas Chili Contest with his own unique family recipe. My heart went out to poor misunderstood bubba (leather face) as he dealt with his feelings of inadequacy by "acting out" with his chain saw. This film boasts an Oscar-caliber performance by none other than Dennis Hopper. 'Texas Chain Saw Massacre Part II' is a "must see" that the whole family will enjoy."

That concludes our series on the highs and lows of the world of cinema (unless I get more suggestions – hey, you have to do something over spring break!). Thanks to everyone who has participated over the last several months. We've learned an awful lot about some of you, but not enough to taint the content of any letters of recommendation. We hope!

UPDATE: In the November issue, Molly McLaughlin told you about Mattel's Barbie computer being marketed for girls, and the Hot Wheels computer marketed for boys. We are happy to announce that Mattel has changed their wording, and now both computers are "just for kids". Thanks to Molly for bringing this to our attention.

Joke of the Month

Submitted by Greta Klungness

People are dumb. In case you needed further proof that the human race is doomed through stupidity, here are some actual label instructions on consumer goods:

On a Sears hairdryer: "Do not use while sleeping." (Gee, that's the only time I have to work on my hair.)

On a bag of Fritos: "You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside." (The shoplifter special.)

On some Swanson frozen dinners: "Serving suggestion: Defrost." (But it's just a suggestion.)

On Tesco's Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom of box): "Do not turn upside down." (Too Late!)

On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding: "Product will be hot after heating." (As night follows the day...)

On packaging for a Rowenta iron: "Do not iron clothes on body." (But wouldn't this save even more time?)

On Boot's Children's Cough Medicine: "Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication." (We could do a lot to reduce the rate of construction accidents if we could just get those 5-year-olds with head-colds off those forklifts.)

On Nytol Sleep Aid: "Warning: May cause drowsiness." (One would hope.)

On most brands of Christmas lights: "For indoor or outdoor use only." (As opposed to what?)

On a Japanese food processor: "Not to be used for the other use." (I gotta admit, I'm curious.)

On an American Airlines packet of nuts: "Instructions: Open packet, eat nuts." (Step 3: Fly Delta.)

On a child's Superman costume: "Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly." (I don't blame the company. I blame parents for this one.)

On a Swedish chain saw: "Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands or genitals." (Was there a spate of this happening somewhere? My God!)

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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