Opening Remarks

Thank you to everyone who shocked me senseless and contributed information for this edition (look, look, you’re in the credit box at the end...isn’t that cool!?! Wouldn’t you like to see it again?)

The popularity of the RT must have grown in recent weeks, as it seems like everytime I turn around, someone wants to know why I haven’t done one yesterday. Well, you see I’ve been having this secret affair with Fabio, and he takes ALL my time...what? You’re not buying that? Ok, so it’s no: Fabio, I’m really undercover FBI...not that either? Well, I DO have a friend in the FBI, but the real reasons are more like (a) I had a grant to write, (b) I had a meeting poster to make; (c) I’m trying to study for my comps; (d) I work two jobs; (e) I try and squeeze a personal life in between (a) and (d). In light of this, I’m seriously considering retiring as editor of the RT, so that someone who has more time to do this can have a crack at it, and satisfy those people who need up to the minute (month) news. Serious applicants (or those who can make me laugh hard enough to be worth my time), please see me, or Lisa/Wendy (Presidential twins). Thank you, and have a nice day.

MSAC News

Oh, it’s almost the holiday season (Halloween is over, there’s no slowing it up now), so most of our news is concerned with festivities:

Turkey Bowl is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 19, beginning at 10 AM. For those of you who haven’t seen one, this is a co-ed departmental football game between the biologists and non-biologists. Students, faculty, staff and family members of all three have been known to play, and non-players are encouraged to come for the tailgate party. Interested in playing? Biologists, see Tracy Sulten; Non-biologists, see Dave Duncan; Cheerleaders and spectators, just show up.

This year’s Christmas party is being organized by Yoav and a small group of (gasp!) volunteers, ie, Naze, Sean, Sabrina, Jodi, Dawn, Katie, and some so special they couldn’t be named in print. BUT, it’s not too late to put yourself on one of the committees: FOOD, DECORATIONS, INVITATIONS, MUSIC, DRINKS. The funds are available to throw a good party, and RSVPs will be required so that we’ll be able to plan for the right number of people. Spouses and guests are welcome, as are children (I did NOT write that—Yoav did), it is just important that there is an accurate count beforehand. The location is still being chosen. Several options are being considered, and opinions or suggestions on these (or other places) would be appreciated:

(1) Student lounge; (2) Pier Aquarium ball room; (3) Chateau Du Whacko (which I take it the place some of us refer to as The Frat House); (4) Pool. The food will likely take the form of catered main dishes, and home-made salads and desserts, for a personal touch. Those wishing to bring something should let the FOOD coordinator know so that there aren’t 10 potato salads (Ed. note: since I don’t know who the food coordinator is, ask Yoav).

Kudos

To Nan Schmidt, who received a $125 book scholarship from student government.
To Helen Talge, whose research on diver damage will be mentioned in the January/February 1995 issue of National Geographic Traveler in a new section called Ecotourism.
To Jeff Hall, Zhaoqing Lee, and Ray Pribble, for their successful defenses.
To Joe and Kelly Donnelly, on the birth of their daughter Sarah Elizabeth.
To David Burwell and his wife, on the birth of their son, Jack Ion.

Halloween Came Early to St. Pete
A Concert Review, by Yoav Rappaport

Some of you might have seen strangely clad men walking down the hall with what looked like your grandfather’s golf pants and Hawaiian vacation shirts...And some of you might have wondered where are those fine fellows going with size 50 pants, a bow tie, and...wait, are those red clown noses? The answer, my ptiends, is the St. Petersburg Phish concert. A band originally from Burlington, VT, Phish formed in the early 1980’s, and is touring the country coast to coast. Phish had 4 stops in the Sunshine State: St. Pete (10/20), Sunrise (10/21), Orlando (10/22), and a free show in Gainesville (10/23). Needless to say, the St. Pete show was great: balloon animals were to be had (size 280, not the regular 130’s), and free makeup to all those that cared join in with all the clowning around. It just goes to show that everyone loves a clown, though some were a little scared of this gruesome alley. It’s lots of fun and can get you a free beer from Gaven (Tavern on the Green).

Explanatory notes: Alley is a term for a group or club of clowns.

Have you hugged a clown lately? Happy Halloween!
New Equipment
By correspondent Angie Souren

Bob Byrne's group is expecting a brand new, state-of-the-art Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS), with the impressive model name "The VG PlasmaQuad II." This undoubtedly expensive new machine will be capable of measuring very low element concentrations with high precision and accuracy, by distinguishing between individual masses (molecule, atom, isotope) and counting the incoming atoms and molecules at a particular mass. It will also be able to quickly identify the chemical composition of a sample by scanning a whole range of individual masses, ie, by scanning a range of elements. VG PQ II (as its friends call it), will be residing in the new KORC building, on the second floor. Stay tuned!

R.A.D. Workshop

Some of you may have received an email early in the semester from the campus police advising that these workshops would be conducted; some, like me, where interested, but never followed up and found out when others blew it off entirely; and some actually tried it out. Several female members of the marine science department (both faculty and students) went and experienced R.A.D.—Rape/Aggression Defense. This program is a unique approach to women's safety, integrating visual media, lessons, and discussion. A significant detail is that participants go over issues of personal safety and valuable background information before physical techniques are ever introduced. Most important, however, is that the R.A.D. program is based on the assumption that no one decision is right for all women in all situations—much discussion revolves around a woman's choices and options.

Unlike some other programs, where the extent of "protective tactics" is being taught to yell "No!", R.A.D. teaches practical defensive techniques, which require no special equipment or skills, and which easily become instinctive with repetition. While learning and practicing these techniques, one receives one-on-one feedback from instructor, and if you like, the chance to test them on a real person during a simulated attack.

This course came highly recommended to me, particularly because of its content, and the excellent training officers. They came over from the Tampa Campus, and were extremely "professional and confidence-inspiring." I'm definitely interested the next time this is offered.

Advertising Supplement

[Ed. note: We are blessed to have a new advertising sponsor; however, we will incur no liability for ad content.]

As the holidays near, we at DeBeerd's feel it is a public service to inform you that not ALL special occasions occur in the month of December. After all, you could be consid-