Editor's note

Happy end of-the-semester everybody!

FYI - Remember the conversation we had on e-mail about selling swordfish and therefore pur- chasing seafood that propels destructive fisheries? Just wanted you to know that I tried a bit for some more info, but came up with an empty hook. When I asked for help to assemble a "red list of seafood you shouldn't buy" (per Tracey's suggestion) from a few people on DEP's "Sea- floor," I was basically told what Tracey said in his e-mail. Such a list does not and really cannot exist because the issue is largely personal and moral. I have to say I was surprised, but the gen- eral advice I received was, in the words of one, "Eat on unless you have a moral problem with it. There aren't many that I am concerned about." It seems obvious to me that if I had the time to look out other sources, opinions on this issue would've varied, and I'm sure I could've gotten a bit more help on assembling this list. But just so you know, here are the fish you all decided we should avoid buying: billfish; any shark other than blacknosed, sharpnosed or silky; red snapper; orange roughy; cod; Natives; grouper; and jacks. If this is an issue you'd like me to pursue fur- ther, let me know and I'll drill.

(Licette@teeoac)

Sports

1. The 5th annual American Cancer Society Hank Warren 5K run/walk was held on Saturday morning, April 12th. Proceeds were used for research, edu- cation, and patient services.

Our very own Yoav Rappaport came in second place in his age group and yours truly was given a trophy for first place in the age group of 35-39 (NOT my age group)! I completed the walk in an unbelievable 48:05 minutes, but was beat to the finish line by my better half (Liz), who finished in 48:01. Linsa Feronda from Channel 10 News also participated and won in her age group. The run attracted people from ages 7 to 87. A fun time was had by all, and many thanks go out to MSAC for sponsoring this worthy event.

2. USF has done it again! On April 12th, the USF "Zany Scientists" placed 3rd in a wheelchair basketball fundraiser. The event was co-sponsored by the City of St. Pete Parks and Leisure and Bayfront Medical Center. Over $2200 was raised for the National Wheelchair Basketball Association. Our local NWB team is the Fighting Pelicans, and in order to be on this team you must be disabled. 100% of the money raised is used by the team to travel to "away" games. The Fighting Pelicans were on hand to coach the Zany Scientists, which included Yoav Rappaport and myself (some others agreed to help but were no-shows). This event was a real eye-opener – it is a lot harder than it looks! It gave me a new respect for those who play this sport professionally. Special thanks to MSAC for donating to this wonderful cause.

-Sean Singh

Joke of the Month

Actually, this isn't really a joke but it's something that did make me smile. Hope it does the same for you.

Some terrific bumper stickers (retrieved from the internet)

1. The gene pool could use a little chicken.
2. Make it idiot-proof, and someone will make a better idiot.
3. Don't blame me, I'm from Florida.
4. It is as bad as you think, and they ARE out to get you.
5. When you do a good deed, get a receipt in case heaven is like the IRS.
6. Time is the best teacher; unfortunately, it kills all its students.
7. It's lonely at the top, but you eat better.
8. We are born naked, wet and hungry. Then things get worse.
9. Always remember that you're unique, just like everyone else.
10. And for those angry and stressed out over finals. I killed a 6-pack just to watch it die.

Keep smilin' and GOOD LUCK with finals – you're almost done!

Good people doing good things

On a sunny March 22, 18 students and friends joined hundreds of other volunteers to help restore over 4 acres of wetlands in Cockroach Bay. Cockroach Bay is a large estuary on the east- ern side of Tampa Bay and it has been targeted by a coalition of Florida agencies and nonprofits as a critical area for restoration and preservation. It is also a very popular boating, fishing, and recreation area. Most of the restoration involves reclaiming land in the uppermost tidal areas of the Faya's drainage area. The land is cleared of non-native vegetation, re-sculpted to mimic drainage patterns based on historical photographs and then re- planted with salt marsh plants.

Over 20,000 plants were used to reestablish the 4 acres currently under restoration. Groups of volunteers, coordinated by Tampa Baywatch staff, worked to survey a planting grid, dig holes, plant either plugs or single plants, fertilize them, and then put them into place. Although this might seem like back-breaking work, we were able to finish the entire planting before noon. Actually, most of it was finished by about 11 a.m., and most of us joined throngs of volunteers feasting on the barbecue lunch pro- vided by Tampa Baywatch. MSAC donated money to Tampa Baywatch to help cover the cost of lunch, so we all felt quite jus- tified in indulging.

And for some MSAC volunteers, the morning was even less strenuous – a small group, not bothering to read the map and directions, took a little detour around Tampa Bay and arrived about an hour late (but still in time for lunch!).

Let's not forget to mention the 30 or so campers from the Oceanography Camp who also showed up to volunteer their time and energy. Some of them came back to the department for a reunion, but many showed up just to participate in this community volunteer project. I think it's wonderful to see these girls get involved in protecting the marine environment in their (and our) backyards.

-Nan Schmidt

<---Are you feeling like this???? Well, don't fret because SPRING SPLASH is right around the corner. It will be held on May 24.

We'll need YOU to volunteer, so mark your cal- endars now! A sign-up sheet will be on the student lounge door this week. Volunteer duties will include serving beer, collecting money, cutting up fruits and veggies, picking up supplies, etc. (Hmmm... the first two sound more like honors than duties... Better sign up now to ensure your spot on the volunteer list!!!)
Did you know?

Our brand new Diving Club, appropriately called "SCUBA" (Scuba Club Uf Bayboro), took its first field trip on Saturday, April 5. Fourteen people left at 7 a.m. for the Gainesville area to dive at Ginnie Springs (The club gladly welcomed several people from outside the marine science department). The weather was beautiful and the hot sun made the 72 degree spring water very pleasant. After we solved a few minor equipment problems, everyone enjoyed the 55-foot Ginnie Springs underwater cavern (which is open to divers without cave-diving certification). The shallower holes, Devil's Eye and Devil's Ear, and a leisurely drift down the Santa Fe River were also quite enjoyable. A picnic lunch right next to the spring made the day just about perfect.

Thanks go out to Captain Buck of Tierra Verde SCUBA for giving us great rates on the scuba equipment, and also to Bob Jolley for allowing us to use two of the state vehicles for transportation.

Our next dive trip will take place in about a month and it will most likely be an open water dive. Members are encouraged to contact Dave Mallinson or Johan Schijf with ideas on where to go. Also, everyone is encouraged to join the club - more members means a better relationship with Student Government and therefore a stronger financial standing. You do not have to be USF-ified, and there are no dues so basically, you have no excuse!

-Johan Schijf

Philosophical Cerebration

Bob Helber's philosophical pondering came to me this month via satellite uplink from the Pacific Ocean. Read it and decide for yourself if the salt water's starting to upset Bob's homeostatic balance...

If humans survive annihilation, how will they evolve?

Sure, nuclear winter, a big 'rock from outer space or disease could easily wipe out the human race, but the real interesting possibility is that the human race could evolve! I personally have used my keen observational skills to identify signs of evolution in today's world. Here's a case in point: Several years ago I met a woman who showed early but distinct evolutionary characteristics. Her job entailed talking on the phone while using a computer and talking to walk-in customers. It was immediately obvious that many years in her position produced special adaptations suited for efficiency in her working environment. For example, her neck and back had curved in a permanent manner such that the telephone receiver would easily slip between her chin and shoulder. To ensure that the phone stayed in place and she glanced from the computer screen to the customer and back again, layers of fat had formed beneath her chin, thereby serving as a brace. These adaptations, I admit, might signal an unappealing future for the human race. But what, may I ask, were the early signs of adaptation for other species like, for instance, the flounder? I doubt the fish "status quo" were very pleased when early juvenile flounders had eyes that migrated across their faces.

-Bob Helber

Graduation is on Sunday, May 4.
Terri, Leann, any others?!

Congrats

MSAC-Miniupdate

In the off chance that you missed the MSAC meeting on Friday, April 25, here's a brief recap (I had the honor of shucking toxic clams at work all day and by 5 o'clock figured that my presence at the meeting would be nothing but malodorous, so I received this agenda from Terri):

- I already told you about SPRING SPLASH, so I won't repeat myself here, but that was a major agenda item.
- The deck building is implemented. We decided not to build a roof because of the exorbitant cost of the architect who would have to approve the design (about $2500!). Instead, we decided to make it so we can put up a canvas tarp for shade and shelter every time we use the deck. Geez, if free food and drinks weren't enough to lure you to TGIF, now we'll have just the right aura too...Sunssets on the deck. Don't ever forget how lucky we are to be able to do these things!!
- As discussed via e-mail, the Bayboro Adventure Day went, in the words of a famous Tiger, GRRRRRRREAT! We sold all the fish and soda sales were popping (oo, sorry about that very poor pun - it's late and I'm a bit fatigued). The bed race was also far from sleepy (yikes, there I go again...) - We won 1st for being the fastest and 2nd for best decorated, and even got on TV LIVE during the parade! Terri, Johan and Michelle C. pushed the bed in the parade and Patty, an economics major from student government, rented a mermaid costume and sat on the bed (Thank goodness she was just 100 lbs!). Unfortunately, student govt had a poor turn-out (Only President Diana Devore and her son showed, like had a choice!). We also could have won the big trophy if we had team spirit points but NO ONE ELSE SHOWED, so we better work on that next year!!! Of course, we'll also have to get a new bed since we all heard about the devastating fatality of our Florida Power bed. Let's just say we now have 9 little bed frames instead of one...
- MSAC will be working a soda booth at MarineQuest (May 17) - our latest fundraiser.
- Eric Seigel is coordinating a faculty/student sailing regatta. Date to be announced, but it already sounds like fun!

Thank you to all contributors!

The Squid's Ink

The Oracle of the Marine Science Advisory Committee

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Note: Place all submissions in my mailbox (Kusek). Just remember that all material is subject to revision for length, grammar, style, and idea content.