

## BRIEFLY

NEWS FROM  
AROUND THE NATIONAuburn Gay and Lesbian Association  
battles for university charter

Citing Alabama sodomy laws, the Auburn U. Student Government Association voted 23-7 to deny the Auburn Gay and Lesbian Association a permanent university charter, even though the group met all requirements for campus organizations. After threats of a lawsuit from the American Civil Liberties Union, Pat Barnes, Auburn's vice president for student affairs, overrode the SGA vote and granted AGLA a charter. A student-initiated petition then collected 3,000 student signatures and 7,000 others from around the state, and was sent to the university's Board of Trustees requesting that the administration's action be reversed. In response, a gay rights rally held on the Auburn campus attracted 300 participants from throughout the southeast. About 100 counter-demonstrators turned out to watch the rally. Some held signs that read, "Faggots Go Home" and "AGLA, Auburn Gays Like AIDS." The Alabama state government even joined the fray. In an on-campus address, Alabama Gov. Guy Hunt said he supported the SGA's efforts. And the Alabama Senate passed a resolution commending the actions of the SGA and students fighting the AGLA charter. "Although this one battle has been won, we are only on the road to overcoming the entire war against hatred and bigotry," AGLA's vice-president said. ■ Kimberly Chandler, *Auburn Plainsman*, Auburn U.

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Gibby the Cat fails in dark horse bid  
for U. of Florida student body president

Her campaign for U. of Florida student body president began as an attempt to make student government more accessible to students, but it ended on election night when she was disqualified by UF's Board of Masters before the votes were even tallied. And all because she's a cat. Gibby, a three-year-old Himalayan, ran as a member of the Pants Down Party. Her owner, UF graduate student Christopher Georgoff, said Gibby was disappointed she was disqualified. Georgoff, who said his cat has been talking to him since he got her last summer, said Gibby claimed to have been Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius in a previous life. "Gibby just wanted to help students," Georgoff said. Gibby and her party ran on a platform of giving free beer to all UF students, bringing 19th century Russian Communist leader Vladimir Lenin to UF as a keynote speaker and putting softer toilet paper in all campus restrooms. Even if Gibby had won the election, chances are she would never have taken office. To be student body president, a minimum 2.0 GPA is required, and UF officials say they have no record of Gibby's GPA. ■ Mike Cumella, *The Independent Florida Alligator*, U. of Florida

Elvis may have left the building  
but he's back in classrooms at U. of Iowa

From velvet paintings to commemorative plates to postage stamps to... higher education? Yes, you can bet your blue suede shoes. The King of rock 'n' roll has gone to college. A new course at the U. of Iowa titled "American Popular Arts: Elvis As Anthology," created and taught by UI Professor Peter Nazareth, focuses on the late singer's influences on music and culture and the origins of those influences. And there is much to be learned from Elvis' example, Nazareth believes. "America is energy. You hear a lot of that energy in Elvis — the energy to dare, the energy to try. Elvis decided quite early on in his life what his goals were and where his talents lay, and he worked hard to achieve (them)," he said. UI junior Gina Armbruster said the class has shown her Elvis "as more of a musician than a fat guy of the '70s who never had a prime." ■ Loren Keller, *The Daily Iowan*, U. of Iowa

## Hey, shut up!

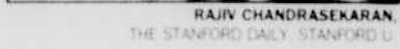
## I can't hear the library mime

Stetson U.'s Quiet Library Society may be the least demanding organization on campus. It has no meetings, no dues, no officers, and the club's official spokesman, David Alvin, doesn't say a word. Alvin, a mime, wanders through the library of the Florida university wearing the club's official T-shirt, white gloves and white make-up on his face to encourage students to sign up as charter members of the organization dedicated to making the library a quiet place to study. "People are surprised to see me at first," Alvin said. "But we've signed up sixty members so far, and the noise level has gone down." And that's exactly what Library Director Sims Kline wanted when he created the club. ■ Robert Bullock, *The Stetson Reporter*, Stetson U.

## Want to make big bucks?

## Work for the Stanford Bookstore

At Stanford, working at the school bookstore has become an extremely profitable business. Just ask the store's general manager, Eldon Speed. An eight-month investigation by *The Stanford Daily* has revealed a host of perks for the store's top managers that are unheard of at other college bookstores, and prompted an investigation by the California Attorney General. The benefits offered by the non-profit Stanford Bookstore, which operates independently of the university, include use of a vacation home, a motor home, a sailboat and at least eight expensive automobiles. The vacation home was furnished by the store with such amenities as a hot tub and satellite dish, costing \$69,000. "Things like that are exceptional... I haven't heard of anything like that," said Steve Johnson, who conducted a survey of managers' salaries for the National Association of College Stores. ■ Howard Libit, *The Stanford Daily*, Stanford U.



Your book-buying dollars at work?

U. of Pennsylvania donation  
brings new meaning to 'campus stud'

For Rick Nahm, *The Daily Racing Form* may become required reading. Nahm, who heads up the U. of Pennsylvania's \$1 billion fund-raising campaign, may use the paper to trace the value of one of the most unusual donations to Penn — sperm. The university has received breeding rights to Belmont Stakes winner Bet Twice for the next five years. Nahm said the university has 15 opportunities to sell the right to stud with Bet Twice to willing owners. Breeding seasons with Bet Twice fetch between \$15,000 and \$20,000 each, and if he proves to be a "good stallion" with prize-winning foals, the value will increase. ■ Kenneth Baer, *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, U. of Pennsylvania

Earth Day: This ain't  
no party... this ain't  
no foolin' around

By JACKIE SPINNER

*The Daily Egyptian*, Southern Illinois U.

It's not that environmental activists don't want this year's Earth Day celebration to be fun. They just don't want it to be a party.

"We're trying to make it less of a big party and more talking about real issues," said Miya Yoshitani, national council coordinator of the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC).

"Earth Day makes it too easy for the mainstream media to marginalize it or take it out of the everyday like it's just a big party," she said. "Everyone loves the Earth, but that doesn't present the issues very well."

Instead, groups are aiming for ongoing programs geared at educating the public about the environment.

To commemorate the 20th Earth Day celebration in 1990, students on more than 2,000 campuses organized attention-grabbing events. Yale students baked a 6-foot wide cake, which was decorated like a globe. The Memphis College of Art exhibited "Dumpster Art" in which students created art with objects collected from trash containers within a mile of campus.

But the president of the Student Environmental Action group at the U. of Virginia said offbeat events like these do not provide a lasting message.

"Everyone felt Earth Day 1990 was a big event," said SEA President Jason Titus. "But it came and went. That's not what we want."

Paul Davidson, a student environmental activist at Kansas State U., said Earth Day still plays a significant role among groups at schools with younger environmental movements. "We still have to get the attention of the community," Davidson said. "A group that is already well-established and politically powerful doesn't have to, but we do here because awareness is not terribly high, and involvement is low."

Students at Harvard U. plan to celebrate Earth Day this year with group activities, like hikes and speakers aimed at raising environmental awareness.

But Randy Viscio, SEAC national office outreach and field coordinator, said Earth Day must be broadened. "The people with the money need to broaden who they are reaching," he said. "Earth Day has a real tightrope to walk in terms of doing what the Earth Day people want it to do and (raising) money."

Yoshitani said students will be the driving force in making this transition for Earth Day. "Students are trying to take a broader look," she said. "We need to create alternatives rather than just meeting immediate needs without looking at a greater picture. Students are making that connection."

