Meet Your SBA Candidates

Jessie Akers
1. My main goal for Coastal in 2008-2009 will be to create exposure for Coastal in the community to enhance opportunities for job placement.
2. A good leader is someone who listens to the advice given to them, makes the decision and is accountable for the result.

David Greene
1. I want to provide fair, equitable, and judicious, service to any issues before the Honor Court.
2. I believe that leadership is the ability to understand a collective intent and facilitate action towards a shared goal.
3. I was born in Clearwater, Florida. I attended the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

Craig Call
1. I intend to bridge the gap between students and their elected representatives.
2. Leadership is the ability to motivate, encourage, and inspire individuals to achieve a common goal.
3. I am from Savannah, Georgia. I went to Armstrong-Atlantic State University and received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice in 2004.

Jessica Sebag
1. I would like to see SBA become more open to the students and organizations through frequent surveys, better office hours for students to drop by and voice questions or concerns.
2. To me, a leader is someone who others rely on, someone who is able to get others to work with them but must sometimes be prepared to accomplish tasks or deal with situations themselves since they are ultimately responsible.

Brian Strickland
1. The United ticket will bring the Student Body, Student Organizations, SBA, the faculty, and administration together to improve the value of your degree and experience at Florida Coastal.
2. My definition of a leader is someone that harbors the integrity, open mind, and work ethic to unite people for a common cause. A leader has to be someone who people can trust, will listen to concerns of others, and will never expect more work out of his colleagues than he is willing to give.

Before going to the student polls, take a look at some of your options for next year’s SBA Executive Board. These candidates responded to The Rainmaker’s questionnaire in order to allow Florida Coastal students to cast an informed vote. The questions we asked the candidates are:

- In 25 words or less, please sum up your “mission statement” or goals or ambitions for Coastal next year.

- What is YOUR definition of leadership?

- Background: Hometown, Undergrad, Philanthropic goals, if any, anything fun you would like to share?
The Saint Johns River is a place that fresh and saltwater fish, bald eagles, ospreys, stingrays, dolphins manatees and, of course, gators, call home. However, liquid waste and sewage is also making itself at home in St. Johns River.

Local environmental groups believe that the Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) is violating the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), which regulates water pollution, by dumping beyond what is allowed by its permits. Permits are issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), a state agency that monitors water and protects air, land and water.

The environmental groups also allege the FDEP’s standards for issuing permits is insufficient to protect water quality, and that the FDEP itself is directly violating the CWA in its issuance and lack of enforcement of certain permits. A permit was given to Georgia Pacific Paper Mill (GP) by the FDEP to allow a pipeline connecting its facilities to the St. Johns River. The agreement stemmed from pressure by protectors of Rice Creek, a small creek close to the paper mill, alleging GP had been dumping into the creek since 1947.

At the urging of environmental groups for GP to cease dumping Rice Creek, GP decided the solution was to build the pipeline to bypass the creek. The FDEP granted GP a permit to extend a pipeline from its facilities directly into the St. Johns River.

Michael Howle, General Counsel for the St. Johns Riverkeeper, a citizen-based advocacy group protecting the health of the river, calls GP’s system a false reality. “One can take a fish from the St. Johns, have it analyzed, and find a distinct and conclusive fingerprint of GP dioxins,” said Howe, despite the use of Rice Creek as a sewage buffer. The permit for the pipeline was upheld after an administrative hearing, and now Putnam County is appealing to have the permit revoked.

The Riverkeeper filed suit in Federal court against JEA for continued violations of the CWA in August 2007, regarding its Arlington East and Buckman facilities. JEA said it “inherited an old, leaky, labyrinth sewage treatment system” in a 1997 acquisition. Ten years after the purchase of those treatment plants, they still do not meet county expectations.

Quilla Miralia, Legal Director of the Public Trust, said that JEA must address the issues in the infrastructure of the facilities. The Public Trust filed a separate claim against JEA two years after JEA’s filings. Law firms that represent the Riverkeeper. Both suits allege that from September 2001 to July 2007, JEA has continuously violated the CWA.

Compliance reports from the Department of Environmental Protection’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, and self-reports released by JEA, show that during this time the JEA’s Arlington East facility has committed 96 illegal discharges of untreated water or sanitary overflows. Violations at its Buckman facility total 111, amounting to 8.3 gallons of waste dumped into the lower St. Johns waterway. These permit violations have not been enforced in court sanctions by FDEP despite their enforcement has been left up to the community’s grassroots organizations.

This is not the first attempt by the St. Johns Riverkeeper to put a halt to the ongoing waste dumping by JEA. In 2004, the parties reached a settlement over an uncovered broken pipeline. Under the terms of the settlement, JEA fixed the pipe and paid for further environmental studies and vessel pump-outs. The Riverkeeper announced its intent to file the present claim in December 2004. The law provides a sixty-day window after notice of intent to file suit to allow JEA to remedy the problem before the suit is filed in court. JEA has yet to respond to the announcement. Neil Armingeon, head of the St. Johns Riverkeeper organization, calls the lawsuit “a last resort to force JEA into compliance with the law.”

The Riverkeeper has since filed a motion for consolidation of its case with the Public Trust’s case. The General Counsel for the St. John’s Riverkeeper said they did not file the claims together with Public Trust from the start because the Riverkeeper sought liability for violations at Buckman and Public Trust only named Arlington East in its suit. To add Public Trust as a plaintiff to the Buckman facility claim, Public Trust would have to conduct separate filings and investigations before the motion is filed.

The court is expected to rule on the motions in the coming weeks. If granted, it will allow the two non-profit organizations to combine their limited financial resources. The complaint seeks (1) civil penalties, (2) a declaration that JEA’s actions are in violation of the Federal Clean Water Act, and (3) an injunction requiring JEA to prepare a solution to prevent continuing sewage spills in the St. Johns River.

While the resolution of these cases could be a positive step for the water in Jacksonville, they will not end the issues facing the river.

Proposals from Central Florida to extract drinking water from the St. Johns River are being formulated, which threaten the environmental quality of the St. Johns River and its value for citizens on Northeast Florida.
Human Trafficking: Slavery In The 21st Century

Kristen Showker
Contributing Writer

It has been over 150 years since the United States fought one of the most horrific wars; the war to end slavery. In 1865, President Lincoln was prepared to sign the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. He could not have imagined that 150 years later, modern day slavery would still exist.

Modern day slavery involves women, men, and children who are forced, coerced, or defrauded into labor or sexual exploitation. This form of modern day slavery, called human trafficking, involves organized crime groups who make excessive money at the expense of the trafficking victims and our society.

Approximately 600,000 – 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders worldwide each year. Of these victims, between 14,500 and 17,500 are trafficking victims and our society.

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The victims, but undermines and weakens governments and the rule of law through economic gain and corruption. Factors of supply and demand fuel these organized crime rings. The supply of trafficked victims is due to poverty and the dream of a better life, violence and discrimination against women, government corruption, political unrest, and armed conflict.

Factors on the demand side are perhaps more troubling as they include sexual exploitation, sex tourism, child pornography – all enhanced by modern day technology, making this type of sexual exploitation available to “consumers” at the touch of a button. Traffickers prey mainly on vulnerable young women and children. They use many methods to trick, coerce, and win the confidence of these vulnerable victims, force the victims out of the protection of their homes, transport them across borders, and use various methods to detain them. These methods include confiscation of documents, drugs, and violent victims, and the threat of harming the victim’s families and loved ones.

A fifteen year-old girl’s parents in Madagascar pushed her to engage in prostitution with older male tourists in order to provide income for her family. In Burma, a young woman migrated to China in order to find work and escape unruly military encounters. In the document, the FDA published a 968 page “Cloning Risk Assessment” document stating that cloned cattle, swine, goat, sheep, and their offspring are all safe for human consumption. In the document, the FDA claims they are not looking to see whether the cloned animals are “normal,” rather, whether there may be any health risks for humans. The FDA’s risk assessment spanned five years. Before that, the FDA placed a moratorium on cloned products while they conducted their assessment.

Daytona 500

Top Ten Drivers:
1. Ryan Newman
2. Kurt Busch
3. Tony Stewart
4. Kyle Busch
5. Reed Sorenson
6. Elliott Sadler
7. Kasey Kahne
8. Robby Gordon
10. Greg Biffle

Next Five Races:
2/24/08 - Auto Club - California Speedway
3/2/08 - UAW Dodge 400 - Las Vegas Motor Speedway
3/9/08 - Kobalt Tools 500 - Atlanta Motor Speedway
3/16/08 Food City 500 - Bristol Motor Speedway
3/30/08 - Goodys Cool Orange 500 - Martinsville Speedway

Cloned Beef: Its What’s for Dinner

Hala Ezeldin
Staff Writer

Cloned meat and milk is safe for consumption, the FDA reports. But the thought of it makes most people cringe. Regardless, the meat aisles at your local grocery store may one day be stocked with items labeled “cloned.” But, it is unlikely that actual cloned meat and milk will appear in the mainstream for a few years, because the stores will instead be selling the meat and milk from the offspring of clones.

Allowing those animals time to grow spells out the delay before the products reach stores. Further, the milk that makes it to store shelves actually blended from several cows, which makes it hard to label. But that sounds like a technicality that most consumers may not be concerned with. Some distributors and sellers of these products are reluctant to carry them.

Dwaine Stevens, the representative of Community Affairs for Publix, guarantees Publix will not be carrying cloned foods. Stevens said, “Publix has decided not to go in that direction for fear of offending consumers.” While some vendors claim they will not carry the product, one Florida restaurant was not let slide. This is why people cringe. Regardless, the product of an illness unrelated to her cloning. However, the egg cell has its nucleus removed so that the injected DNA can be read and duplicated. The egg is then placed into the body of a female animal to carry it to term.

This process is by no means fool-proof, or cheap. A single attempt is estimated to cost about $20,000 and sometimes results in malformations and early deaths. For farmers, cloning is a type of insurance. They can create more animals with better genetics and still monitor for any deviations. However, there are risks involved with farmers creating offspring from two cows that carry the same DNA.

Reports say that farmers have problems with a high volume of inbreeding. The more inbreeding, the greater chance that the animals’ immune system will be weakened; and thus allow for the animal to be susceptible to disease. However, this is no different than what a “normal” animal encounters. Researchers and scientists opposed to the move claim that the FDA’s risk assessment is weak and the long-term effects of cloning have not been determined. They further argue people are repulsed by the idea and suggest there are serious ethical implications as well. Those who may have ethical or religious objections will no doubt make their voice apparent in the coming years.
How To Land Internships: Students Advise Students

Julia Latimer
Contributing Writer

Gone are the days when summer break actually meant a break. For law students, the months of May, June, and July mark an opportunity to get invaluable experience, unique insight into a legal career, and of course, to fatten the resume. The two summers before graduation are usually the only times law students can work full-time in a legal capacity, therefore utilizing them to the fullest is a must.

Beginning the job search for the summer does not have to be a difficult task. Ellen K. Sefton, director of Career Services, featured various students who offered their summer work accounts and advice.

Panel member Adam Edgecomb, who spent a summer volunteering for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, decided to begin his search around this time last year. “I sent an email around mid-February to the office manager saying I [was] interested in volunteering for the summer,” said Edgecomb. “She kept my name and said she’d get in contact with me closer to the summer.”

Searching early is important, but searching for an appropriate and relevant job is also key. Edgecomb said that because he was from Jacksonville and had an interest in the department at Legal Aid, the JALA experience was more in line with what he wanted to do as a career.

It may seem like the real estate mantra, “location, location, location,” but many employers are more willing to take a chance on law students with roots in the community, said Sefton. “Geographical ties may make it easier to land one of these jobs,” said Chamberlain. Showing an employer in an interview that you have family in the area, an investment in a house, or perhaps a love for Jacksonville’s beach can help an interviewee appear to be a safer bet.

After narrowing the what and the where of the job search, the next step is determining how you plan to search. De’Anna Hines works for the law firm Austin & Austin. She found her job through another member of Coastal’s Black Law Students Association chapter. “Network like crazy,” she advised, “go to any event possible where other attorneys are going to be there ... whether it’s local or in Orlando.”

Much of the job search can be done from the comfort of one’s own computer desk. Westlaw and LexisNexis both provide databases of law student summer jobs nationwide. Under the “Career Resources” tab on Westlaw and “CareerCenter” tab on Lexis, students can find a host of openings categorized by state with detailed salary, application, and responsibilities information.

Panel member Dana Charback, who worked for a small firm last summer, found her job on EaseLaw. “My process was pretty easy,” Charback said, “I submitted my resume online and that was basically the only thing I had to do.”

Due to the lack of out-of-town options at a Coastal informational, Sobrina Cox-Thomas found her Tampa internship at the General Counsel’s office by googling government agencies. “I called and introduced myself and got connected to the person who hired interns,” Cox-Thomas said.

Coastal offers many programs and services geared toward landing the perfect summer job. Career Services aids with resume and cover letter construction, interviewing skills, but Sefton said that their main focus is preparing job search strategies for students.

Coastal also offers clinical placement programs so that students can obtain credit and practical knowledge by placing them in live client clinics. For information regarding clinical placement programs, contact Professor Lynn McDowell, director of clinical placements.

Experience is always a factor when hiring employees, but those who did not enter law school pre-packaged with law firm experience can take heart. Students can start volunteering at a place like JALA as early as their first year, said Sefton. All the summer workers on the panel agreed, Lawyering Process course work and legal research was the basis for everything they did. “All the work in LP, I actually used everything” said Thomas-Cox. For the second summer, Sefton emphasized that one absolutely has to have a job. “All legal employers expect that you have had a job your 2L year; it’s the only year you can get experience before you graduate.”

Interested in advertising in the classified section of The Rainmaker?

The cost is $5 for students, faculty, and administration.

To save your spot, contact Keesha McCray at therainmaker@fcsu.edu.

Florida Coastal’s Mock Primaries Yield Liberal Results

Melody Davis
Contributing Writer

How does Coastal size up to the rest of Florida with our poll projections? Does the fact that we have different priorities than most of Florida (i.e., studying endlessly) mean a vastly different result, or are we a true representative sample of voter pool of the Sunshine State?

The results of the recent Coastal poll indicate Republican Rudy Giuliani and Democratic Senator Barack Obama as the strong candidates for the Presidential Election of 2008. Brian Strickland, President of the Coastal Republicans, said that he would attribute their victories “to the more liberal atmosphere of law school. Both Giuliani and Obama tend to attract the more liberal side of their respected parties.” However, Giuliani ended up dropping out of the election the day after the Florida primaries and then offered his backing to Senator John McCain.

Given that New York Senator Hillary Clinton won 50% of Super Tuesday’s democratic vote, eclipsing Obama’s 33%, perhaps Mr. Strickland has his finger on the pulse here at Coastal. Mr. Strickland said, “Another factor is the youth vote.” But when you look around at Florida Coastal, is youth really the first word that comes to mind? Diverse or eclectic would best describe our ever-changing demographics.

With an average age of 27, a Caucasian population of fifty-five percent according to US News, the voters here at Florida Coastal may have voted exactly how one would expect a 27-year-old Caucasian to vote. According to FoxNews.com, senior citizens and Hispanics were the key to success for McCain. That may explain why McCain didn’t fare too well in our mock primary.

This law school contains a significantly low percentage of both groups, according to US News and World Report’s Grad School Rankings.

The military vote, totaling 27% of the turnout at the Florida primary, strongly supported McCain as well. The rest of the Republican candidates splintered the vote of many demographics that traditionally support the GOP.

Conversely, the democrat turnout at the Florida primary revealed a rather unified support of Clinton from all demographics. Corey Smith, President of the Florida Coastal Democrats Society, suggested Hilary Clinton had such an easy win in the primary because of her name recognition.

Not all of the candidates were actively campaigning in Florida because of Florida’s rule violation (when they moved the primary up),” Smith commented. “If Obama and [Senator John] Edwards had a chance to campaign in Florida, it might have been a different story or at least a closer race.”

The controversy over Florida moving up its primary definitely ruffled more than a few feathers. CNN reported that Clinton was planning her victory party before the Florida primary began, perhaps an indication that the race, for Democrats, won’t be as telling this time around. But this state has proved determinative, as both Giuliani and Edwards have seen their presidential hopes dangle in the lastest polls.

The most telling indicator is going to be whether, in the end, the presidential election reflects the race in Florida, which has proven to be one of the vital battles in the road to the White House.
Hey Now, You’re An All-Star

DANIELLA DIAZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Michael Jordan once said, “There is no ‘I’ in team, but there is in win.” Mike could have easily been referring to his 14 appearances during NBA All-Star Weekend, an annual professional basketball tradition since 1950.

New Orleans hosted this year’s events, from February 15-17, with the big game taking place on the 17th. All-Star Weekend was filled with other sponsored events, such as the 3-Point Shootout, Skills Challenge, All-Star Celebrity Game, and the classic Slam Dunk Contest.

Fans spend weeks voting on their favorite NBA players in hopes they will obtain a coveted spot in the starting lineup. The ballots were counted and your 2008 starters were: Bryant, Iverson, Anthony, Duncan and Yao in the West; Kidd, Wade, Garnett, James and Howard in the East.

Notably missing in the starting lineup for the West was Wake Forest grad and current Hornets’ guard, Chris Paul, arguably one of this season’s strongest competitors. “He’s averaging a double-double on a first place team in the [Western Conference],” said 1L Brian Cantrell. Paul, along with other All-Star hopefuls, earned a spot on All-Star team as a reserve, chosen by NBA coaches and writers. 1L Nathan Roman, was quick to agree with Cantrell regarding the starting lineup. “Chris Paul should start in the West, but it’s pretty much a popularity contest,” said Roman. Even though the West dominated last year with a 21-point victory over the East, this year’s underdog definitely had something the West lacked: Kevin Garnett. Traded in the off-season from Minnesota to Boston, Garnett was this year’s top vote-getter. In addition, Dwight Howard, the near seven foot tall center from Orlando, made his first career start and his second All-Star appearance.

Lobbying for selection on this year’s team was unique, to say the least. One player who particularly raised eyes this past month was Chris Bosh from the Toronto Raptors. The power forward from Georgia Tech became an overnight Internet sensation when his 77-second “campaign” for votes hit YouTube. Also, Portland’s Brandon Roy gained exposure when his team sent every Western Conference coach and select media reps a free “Roy”, a silver iPod Nano loaded with a video of why the shooting guard should be chosen for the All-Star team. At roughly $200 each, the campaign cost the Blazers’ nearly $15,000.

Although each year’s events are hosted by a different city, students felt a certain glow in this year’s choice. “It [was] another terrific event to help the city of New Orleans get back on its feet,” said 2L James Maskowitz.

The $2 Million Dollar Opportunity

KYLE SILL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you were called and asked to spend $2 million dollars on a nearly bankrupt mixed martial arts league that was dropped from every television network (even pay-per-view) and called “human cockfighting” by Sen. John McCain, would you?

Well, that is exactly what Dana White asked and exactly what Frank and Lorenzo Fertitta did in 2001. Seven years later, Dana White is the President and the Fertitta brothers are the proud owners of the leading and most prosperous mixed martial arts sports association, the Ultimate Fighting Championship ( UFC).

What exactly is “mixed martial arts”?

It is a combination of many different fighting styles, including boxing, wrestling, jiujitsu, judo, karate, and muay thai. Fighters use a combination of styles to affect a win by tapout, knockout, or referee stoppage.

What began in 1993 as a no-holds barred, anything goes tournament to determine which fighting style would reign supreme, has today become a highly regulated, rules-based organization sanctioned by various State Athletic Commissions. Rules adding weight classes, prohibiting hitting the groin, kneeling a downed fighter, and hair pulling, along with enforcing drug testing have taken the UFC from its “street-fighting” beginnings to a legitimate fighting organization that grossed (according to some reports) over $120 million dollars in 2006. The rise of the UFC can be attributed not only to the addition of rules to make the fights more mainstream, but also to the fighters themselves. Legendary fighters like Randy “The Natural” Couture and Royce Gracie put humble, likeable faces to an arguably brutal sport, while current fighters like BJ Penn, Quinton “Rampage” Jackson, and George “Rush” St. Pierre showcase the skill, determination, and dedication that the UFC is all about.

With the UFC in a bit of turmoil at present, the next few months of fights will undoubtedly be electric. The Lightweight, Welterweight, and Heavyweight titles are all in interim status due to a drug policy suspension, a back injury, and a turbulent retirement.

During the next live event on Saturday, March 1st, the undisputed Middleweight title will be up for grabs when UFC Champion Anderson Silva takes on PRIDE Champion Dan Henderson.

Conveniently, on March 1, 2008, multiple Jacksonville area locations will be hosting the live event. Hooters, Buffalo Wild Wings, WingHouse, and Gator’s Dockside are the most popular spots to catch the action. Take pleasure in some food and drinks, and enjoy the fights. There is no charge to watch, but get there early because the seats are always claimed by fight time.

In case going out isn’t your style, you can also catch UFC events live on pay-per-view - check your provider for pricing. Be sure to stay tuned and glued to the tube. The action is bound to be competitive, heated, and fierce.

The English Premier League

CHRI S LORD
ASS'T SPORTS EDITOR

I’m sure many of you are familiar with the names David Ortiz, Manny Ramirez, and Josh Beckett since they are all members of the Boston Red Sox, which won another Major League Baseball title after sweeping the Colorado Rockies. I’m also certain that the majority of you have heard of Eli “baby-face” Manning, Michael “Gap” Strahan, Tom “Pretty-Boy” Brady, and Randy “Top-Notch” Moss because they just played in the Super Bowl XLII (“42”). However, do the names Wayne Rooney, Cristiano Ronaldo, Robbie Keane, Brendan McCafferty, or Frank Lampard ring a bell?

Well if you recognize any of these names, you probably know a thing or two about soccer. These guys compete in the most watched sporting league known as the Barclay’s Premier League or, more commonly, the “Premiership.” Keep on reading even if you are one of those people out there saying to yourself, “who cares about soccer?” or “soccer does not mean anything in the United States.” The Premiership generates approximately 3.7 billion dollars in club revenues and consists of twenty “clubs” (teams) who entertain soccer fans world-wide. American entrepreneurs, such as Malcolm Glazer, have taken financial interest in this league as team owners. Some of the best U.S. National team players, like Eddie Johnson, Clint Dempsey, and Tim Howard, earn a living by playing for clubs in the Premiership.

Many soccer fans argue that the Premiership also attracts the most talented international players, boasts the best English talent, and is the most competitive soccer league world-wide.

Over the last fifteen years, four teams have been able to crown themselves champions and the top club in England, Manchester United, has been the dominant club after claiming nine Premier titles, followed by rivals Arsenal and Chelsea who managed to win five titles between them.

It is no surprise that these three clubs are currently standing at the top of the Premiership and are contending in other tournaments world-wide. It is very unfortunate that the NFL season has come to an end. However, you can still fill in the sports void while waiting for March Madness to begin, tune into ESPN2 or Fox Sports World.

The English Premier League

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Painting The World Blue

Three Men At A Time

Daniella Diaz
Contributing Writer

Welcome back for another semester of stress! It’s 2008 now and, well, everything is pretty much the same as last year. A tank of gas still costs an arm, kidney and your firstborn child.

Are you that broke student still searching for more bang for your buck? Ms. Diaz’s first piece of advice: Forget about those boring beach bars this Saturday night. Avoid the usual hangover hell and grab $25 (plus tax) from that stash the ‘rents just gave you.

Take a two-hour drive south to Orlando, where you and friends can experience an exciting live show and access a 30-acre area of nightlife, all for under 30 bucks.

Ms. Diaz’s second piece of advice: Split the gas money.

Orlando is one of eight cities worldwide where you can catch the infamous Blue Man Group, a one-of-a-kind performance of music, lights, color and technology.

The show opened in June of last year and takes place in the 1,000-seat Sharp AQUOS Theatre at Universal Orlando.

Blue Man Group consists of three men dressed in all black, revealing only their bald, blue heads and gloved hands. The makeup used on their faces is actually grease paint, which gives a consistent “wet” appearance.

They can play music through tubes and pipes, catch paintballs in their mouths and simulate a hilarious candlelit Twinkie dinner with a random audience member.

Although the men rotate for each performance, Tampa native Anthony Parrulli is the captain of the Blue Man Orlando show. Parrulli has been a Blue Man since 1998 and has spent the past seven years performing in Blue Man Las Vegas. He has made a guest appearance on Heroes, played the role of Terry Benedict’s limo driver in Ocean’s 11, and was a contestant on Wheel of Fortune.

Suspended above the stage are two cubes, which contain people in the first few rows wearing ponchos. It all came together when the show began with one blue man pounding on a large drum while the other “raising the roof.”

Towards the end of the performance, the entire audience was covered in a massive sea of toilet paper. It sounds absurd, but if you want more details, you’ll just have to experience the show yourself.

Immediately after the performance, I attended a press conference where I spoke with one of the Blue Man Band members.

He described how he began as a crew member in the production and eventually worked his way up to a spot in the band playing the Chapman stick, a ten string guitar-like instrument.

The musician noted how important it is for the band to “attack [their] instruments and rock out while playing them.”

When I asked him if he had any aspirations of being a Blue Man, he responded, “No way, they have aspirations of being band members!”

In sum, the experience was phenomenal.

For more information on tickets to see Blue Man Group, call (407) BLUE-MAN or visit www.universalorlando.com.

I would recommend calling first and asking about student discounts or Florida resident rates.

Performance times vary daily.
Show Me Your Beads!

DANIELLE DUBOW
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

It’s that time of the year again, when the beads are flowing and the rhythm moves you, it’s Mardi Gras. If you can’t travel to New Orleans for the original Mardi Gras, then head about an hour and a half south and celebrate at Universal Studios, Orlando. Every Saturday night, Universal transforms itself into party central with all the necessities, including long lists of concerts, authentic cuisine, and plenty of beads. Universal Studios has been hosting their version of Mardi Gras for the past 12 years. Each year, the event has a different theme. “Discovering Utopia” is this year’s theme and includes 13 amazing floats.

There are also dozens of performers strolling through the streets on stilts and other entertainers in elaborate costumes. The parade route covers the entire length of Universal Studios, so you’ll have no problem finding a good seat to watch the festivities.

Universal’s Mardi Gras hosts authentic musicians from New Orleans that play in a replica of the French Quarters. This began when Hurricane Katrina caused many of the musicians to lose their jobs. In an effort to contribute to the “Celebrate the Music of New Orleans” program, Universal hired musicians to get the crowd energized.

Concerts are also held for the next 12 weeks, through April 19. Each Saturday, a new band or artist performs after the parade, at 8:30. For a complete list of the performers you can visit their official website, www.universalorlando.com/mardigras/.

Bret Michaels performed while I was there. The acoustics were surprisingly good in the outdoor theatre and finding a place to see the stage was not difficult. Of course, there were groupies that stood by the stage about 2 hours before he started performing, but that’s not necessary. I watched the entire parade and then headed down to the concert to catch the perfect view.

If you don’t want to go home right after the parade, you can dance the night away at CityWalk. CityWalk hosts the official after party for this Universal event.

Don’t worry about breaking the bank, you can enjoy free admission into their select clubs until 2 a.m. with your Mardi Gras ticket. So grab a friend and head down to Orlando for the biggest party east of New Orleans.

“Lost” Is Finally Back

DANIELLA DIAZ
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

On September 22, 2004, a catastrophic event occurred that would forever change history. Oceanic Flight 815 crashed while en route from Sydney to Los Angeles, leaving many injured passengers stranded on a “deserted” island that was far from deserted. Some passengers are desperately trying to get off the island. Some are doing everything they can to stay. It has been 90 days, and the survivors are finally starting to piece together how they are all connected to one another and what force brought them together.

Welcome to the exciting world of LOST, a show full of flashes, back stories and survival of the fittest. J.J. Abrams, the mastermind that brought you Heroes, Alias and Cloverfield, stunned audiences by creating a “legal thriller without the legal aspect,” according to Professor Trisha Bowles. An avid fan from the beginning, Bowles continuously ponders the many hypotheses that erupt throughout the series. “All of my theories have been blown! [I still] have a theory of cloning,” said Bowles, but the most common scheme in the minds of fans is the concept of purgatory – the survivors are all in hell for the sins they have committed.

Viewers from all over are intrigued by the show. “LOST is great because it makes viewers think and talk; something refreshing [and different from] all the same recycled shows out there today,” said 2L, Steve Luongo. With the writers’ strike still in full force, this season’s premiere of LOST was easily one of the most anticipated television events.

Chiara St. Pierre, said, “I think it’s bigger than us all. Nobody really knows what is going on, and that is why it is so phenomenally successful. It leaves room for the imagination.” The duality of the show comes down to this – are you a man of science, or a man of faith? For John Locke, the answer is simple, and he has exhibited a mysterious faith in the island. Locke, who was paralyzed from the waist down back in the states, has been able to walk ever since the crash and does not want to leave. None of the survivors knew of his paraplegia upon arrival except Rose, who actually saw Locke in his wheelchair moments before departure. Rose, who was diagnosed with cancer, also remains faithful to the island and feels that she has been healed.

However, Jack Shepard is a man of science. A surgeon from Los Angeles, he is the “resident doctor” for the survivors.

Last season ended abruptly with a flash forward of Jack as a drunk, begging Kate to return to the island with him. Is Jack turning over a new leaf? Tune in at 9pm every Thursday night on ABC to find out.

Stetson Hosts Central Florida Diversity Picnic

KEMI SOBOMEHIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Stetson University College of Law is hosting the “Central Florida Diversity Picnic” on Saturday, February 23, 2008. The purpose of this event is to attract minority law students from Florida schools to meet and establish mentoring relationships with attorneys and members of the judiciary throughout Central Florida.

This is the first diversity picnic held at Stetson University. The idea was borrowed from the Minority Mentoring Program held in South Florida.

The picnic will provide a fun-filled venue for judges, lawyers and other legal luminaries to mingle with law students from around the state.

A major goal for this picnic is to attract minority law students in attendance to find a mentor.

Legal luminary Linda Kleinman (in attendance last year) said “the relationships students develop with legal professionals through the picnic and other networking events provides them an opportunity to seek guidance and practical tips for excelling as law students and eventually as members of the legal community.”

Frank Angones, the Florida Bar President, along with judges and attorneys from Central Florida will be available to offer advice and mentoring expertise.

The Central Florida Diversity Picnic promises food, entertainment and activities and games for the whole family. A host of children’s activities will be available to enable parents to focus on the mentoring and networking opportunities.

The picnic will take place from 1:00-4:00 at Stetson University College of Law, Tampa Law Center, 1700 North Tampa Street, Tampa, FL 33602.

For additional information please contact Tony Cabassa at lcabassa@tsg-law.com.
Within a short spreck of time, the blog phenomenon has stormed the once semi-sacred halls of cyberspace and has created virtual mayhem among mainstream media outlets. No longer just claptap blather about Susie High School’s new boyfriend and the best place to find Bargain Betsey Johnsons, blogs have transformed the news terrain from an intellectual alliance of the learned elite into a true internet free for all. Los Angeles writer Catherine Seipp believes that blog format is partly to praise for the popularity of these onlineedit thread. Inher article “Online Uprising,” Seipp says that blogs carry a “conversational tone” and provide “an opening to a discussion, rather than a full-Rged argument already arrived at.” She also attributes bloglove to the authors’ short, informal posts, sprinkled with persistent updates and often pointed opinions. Likewise, Meg Hourihan, author of “What We’re Doing When We Blog,” says that “the weblog’s post unit liberates the writer from word count.” 2L Kelly McCaffrey agrees. When asked whether or not she makes the occasional visit to the blogosphere, Kelly chirped, “I visit blogs everyday. I like the short, quick posts and the fact that they’re updated all the time.” According to studies on personalmediac, the “blogosphere is doubling in size every six months” and a new blog “is created every second of every day.” In essence, in this ego-era in which we reside, I propose that blog-obsession is just another extension of self-obsession, where ordinary upstarts employ the internet to notch a name and a niche for themselves. In particular, celebrity blogs provide the picture book for why blogs have become the fastest growing mini-magazines in the media. Case-in-point: Perez Hilton. His popular site, http://www.perezhilton.com, is a hotspot among the blog class and has transformed Mario Lavandeira, Jr. into the self-proclaimed “Queen of all Media” and an ostensible heireness. In his blog, Hilton stirs the always-churning pot of diva drama by offering his ever opinionated babble. He even doddles his own creative dabs on photos of Hollywood’s latest social dupe. 2L Alicia Cassidy believes that this unconventional perspective is what has helped to fashion the little known GLAAD worker into a shiny new celebutante. In particular, Alicia likes Hilton’s “refreshing combination of witiness and snotiness.” And other celebrity blogs have managed to win the devotion of fellow dotcomrades. Take, for example, “What Would Tyler Durden Do” at http://www.wwtdd.com, which offers the latest celebrity gab, or TMZ’s gossip website http://www.tmz.com. But not everyone is sporting his or her “Team Perez” t-shirt. In fact, many cyber-citizens and celebrities see social free verse pundits like Hilton as petty spewers of blogorhea who just can’t help but stir the hullabaloo. Even so, it doesn’tlook like blog-o-mania will subside anytime soon, especially considering the plain fact that nit-pick commentary equals cash. And author Catherine Seipp seems to agree when she reflects, “but Dennis the Menace, remember, loved good old Mr. Wilson almost as much as he loved tormenting him. He just couldn’t resist that tempting, hard-to-miss target of Mr. Wilson’s good old behind.” I couldn’t have put it any better.
Gator Watching at Clark’s Fish Camp

KEMI SOBOMEHIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It’s possible to sample “a taste of the wild” without leaving Jacksonville. Clark’s Fish Camp, located on the beautiful Jurlington Creek in Mandarin, was a tiny bait store and now is a thriving restaurant. It boasts that their 3 lbs prime ribs are the best in town.

Along with a full bar, Clark’s Fish Camp offers a variety of appetizers, main dishes, and desserts. With a menu of over 125 items, Clark’s Fish Camp offers something for everyone, such as hamburgers and hot dogs for children and soups, salad, chicken or fish for the non-adventurous eaters.

The prices of these items range from $7.50 to $9.00 per serving. The menu coupled with the wilderness theme engenders an exciting atmosphere, stimulating conversation. There is no mistaking the wilderness theme at Clark’s Fish Camp. The building looks like an old bait shop. From the parking lot, the path to the entrance is supported with a wooden pier that is lined with tiki lamps over a swampy terrain. After being greeted with a full outdoor bar, where the stools to sit on are actual tree stumps, the entrance-way gives you a feeling that you have entered the wilderness.

It is exceptionally decorated with mounted and stuffed animals (most of which are the menu). The owner, Joan Peoples, collects mounted animals from Florida and all over the world; many of them are from Africa. As you first come into the restaurant, there is a huge display immediately on your right, which includes lions.

Near the hostess station is a “fish plates” display encased in glass. Most astonishing is the tank with baby gators, an attraction for patrons to observe while waiting to be seated. Arrive early to enjoy this unique experience because it gets busy very quickly. Although Thursdays through Sundays are their busiest days, the average waiting period on their “slow days” is about fifteen or twenty minutes.

If you want to experience the wilderness without actually leaving Jacksonville, Clark’s Camp Fish is an excellent adventure for fun with the family, a casual evening with friends, or a memorable night for a business dinner with clients.

Clark’s Fishing Camp is a creekside front restaurant located at 12903 Hood Landing Road, Mandarin, FL. It is open Monday – Thursday 4:30-9:30, Friday 4:30-10:00, Saturday 11:30-10:00, and Sunday 11:30-9:00.

Cooking Corner

YVONNE MIZERAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
AND CONSUMMATE CHEF

Here’s a recipe I love to make when the weather gets chilly. Yep, beef stew. There’s nothing better on a chilly day than curling up on the couch with a hearty bowl of steaming beef stew and a movie.

This recipe has a little twist – it’s Vietnamese beef stew. Once I started preparing it this way, I never went back to the traditional American version. This dish has so much flavor, it’s phenomenal! You probably haven’t heard of some of these ingredients, but everything is available at Winn Dixie or Publix in the international food isle.

Vietnamese Beef Stew

1 ½ lbs beef chuck, cubed
2 tbsp canola oil
1 large onion, diced
4 cloves garlic, chopped
4 cups water
4 tbsp tomato paste
1 tsp anise seeds
¼ cup soy sauce (more or less depending on how salty you like it)
2 large carrots, peeled and cut into chunks
2 potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
1 medium daikon radish, peeled and cut into chunks

Marinade
1 tbsp lemon grass
1 finger length red chili pepper, deseeded and diced (used dried if you can’t find fresh)
2 tbsp minced fresh ginger root
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp curry powder
2 tbsp fish sauce
¼ or more freshly ground black pepper

Combine all your marinade ingredients and add to beef cubes. Mix well until well coated and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.

Heat oil in a large pot over medium high heat. Sauté onions and garlic until fragrant.

Add the marinated beef and cook until the beef is browned on all sides.

Add water, tomato paste, star anise pod or anise seeds and bring mixture to boil.

Once you have a rapid boil, reduce the heat to low and simmer for one hour.

Add all the vegetables and soy sauce.

Continue simmering until all vegetables are cooked and beef is tender (approx. 30 minutes).

Serve with brown rice or a crusty baguette. YUM!
Student Spotlight:
Wershbale Is Making School Look Easy

ALICIA CASSIDY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Jamie Wershbale, 2L, embodies the true meaning of the word exceptional. As an alumna of Indiana University in Bloomington, Jamie decided she wanted to join the ranks of thousands nationwide and become a law student just a year prior to sitting in her first contracts class. Jamie is ranked number one in her class with a solid 4.0, and has received the book award in numerous classes, including Evidence and Professional Responsibility.

Last semester, Jamie managed to maintain a normal balance in her life while taking what most would consider an impossible schedule. In addition to her regular classes, Jamie is a member of both Law Review and Mock Trial, is a teaching assistant, and volunteers in the fair housing unit of Jacksonville Legal Aid. Her case note will be published in the Spring 2009 Law Review, and she has competed in the Buffalo-Niagara competition for Mock Trial.

Jamie was the first Coastal student to get an interview for a summer associate position at a law firm in Washington, D.C., and is currently a summer associate at Brennan, Manna & Diamond, specializing in business litigation. She does not stress about getting busy because she believed “the busier a person is, the more they can handle.”

For fun, Jamie enjoys going to the beach and feels that “as a law student, you should go out at least once a week to have fun with your friends so you never lose yourself in the work.” Her work ethic is above average and she epitomizes the logic of “work hard, play hard.” She enjoys playing pool and loves being outdoors surrounded by nature. “I view law school as conditioning for the real world, and conditioning is supposed to be hard.” Her advice for 1L’s? “Brief every single case, participate in class, don’t work 24 hours a day, and find some time to relax.”

This semester Jamie is a full time extern for Judge Peggy A. Quince of the Florida Supreme Court. “Judge Quince is awesome. She has accomplished so much, is so laidback, and is the first black woman on the Supreme Court. And in six weeks she will be the first black female Chief Justice.” Jamie’s attitude is the cornerstone of her accomplishments.

Throughout all of her finals, classes, and papers, she has maintained a cool, calm confidence, making her incredibly approachable and loved by all her friends. Jamie goes into all of her classes “enthusiastic about law school, learning the law and learning how it applies to real life.”

When asked what her favorite class was, she replied, “I enjoy them all. I think it is because I am genuinely excited about becoming a lawyer.” Her ideology on life and law can be summed up eloquently as “trying to see the best of everything, and realizing that everything is beneficial.”

Important Bar Dates For 2008

ASHLEY DUBOSE
MANAGING EDITOR

For those of us who have decided to stay and practice law in Florida, here is some important information you need to know. The first Florida Bar Exam is on February 26-27, but the deadline for registration is long past.

The deadline for the next Florida Bar Exam, occurring July 29-30, is May 1. There is a $375 application fee if law student registration is filed, and a $875 application fee if registration is not filed.

There is a $100 fee for late applications, as well as a $100 fee for the use of ExamSoft for those who wish to type their essays instead of hand write them. Remember, this is a two day exam; one day for the Florida Exam, and one day for the Multistate Bar Exam. You should also be aware that Florida requires a scaled score of 80 on the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE). This information and more can be found on the Florida’s Board of Bar Examiners website at www.floridabarexam.org.

For those of us who decide to cross state lines for our Florida Bar Exam, and one day for the Multistate Bar Exam. You should also be aware that Florida requires a scaled score of 80 on the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE). This information and more can be found on the Florida’s Board of Bar Examiners website at www.floridabarexam.org.

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Dear Rainmaker:

I am highly disappointed in the newspaper. The first and second issues of the newspaper have many spelling errors. A local attorney complained of spelling errors in the first issue, but only to see more spelling errors in the second issue. I like the idea of a school newspaper, but I find it abhorrent that FCSL would be represented this way to the public. I would rather see no school newspaper at all than to be portrayed to the public in such a manner. This newspaper represents everyone at FCSL, for which I am highly embarrassed. I hope the third issue, if there will even be one, will be spell checked thoroughly and will meet the high expectations of all professors and students attending FCSL.

Thank You,
Shannon Penland

Dear Shannon,

Thank you for expressing your concern with the Rainmaker. As the newspaper is a new addition to Florida Coastal School of Law, please bear with us as we endure some “growing pains”. It is our hope to continue to improve the quality of the newspaper with every issue. If you would like to take a more active role than that of a complainer, then we welcome your participation. There are openings for both writers and copy editors, and you can join us by contacting Christina Shackelford at cmshackelford@fcsl.edu.

Sincerely,
Beth Homrich
Editorial Editor

Dear Editors:

I just wanted to drop a belated note to say congratulations on your first issue of The Rainmaker. I taught at three other law schools before joining the FCSL faculty last year and I can assure you that this is the best law school newspaper that I have read. Because I enjoyed it so much, my only piece of constructive criticism is this: where is the second issue? With a student body as large as we have at Coastal, it should be feasible to produce newspaper issues (similar in scope to the first issue) twice a month in the fall and spring semesters. If you are looking for an official or unofficial faculty advisor for the paper, I’d be happy to help. I don’t have a background in journalism, but I have a good sense of what would make potentially newsworthy stories for the newspaper based on what I’ve seen at other law schools and based on how involved I am at FCSL.

Keep up the good work!
Prof. Abate

Dear Professor Abate
(and all of the others who have verbally congratulated us),

Thank you so much for your kind words and moral support. It is always nice to feel appreciated. We will continue to work hard and do the very best we can to bring The Rainmaker to Coastal and the legal community. And of course, any and all recommendations and criticisms are welcome.

Thank you,
The Entire Rainmaker Staff

Climbing Debt Mountain

First, my Professional Responsibility professor would probably retroactively try to fail me if I did not include the following disclaimer: I am not a lawyer or financial advisor, so this article cannot be relied on for financial or legal advice. I wish to talk to you about your finances. Law students take out loans every semester while we are in law school. Someday, we will have to pay back those loans, with interest. Therefore this is a relevant issue.

Until recently, I would have suggested a subscription to the Wall Street Journal to keep you informed on financials, but Rupert Murdoch recently contracted to acquire the paper and may be “updating” it. So instead, I wish to highlight for you the benefits of a changing economy.

The bad news is that the economy is probably going into a recession, inflation is rampant, and most of us will have a massive Debt Mountain when we graduate. The enlightened viewpoint recognizes the benefits of the change since recession in America is cyclical. The inflation today is lower than in the 1980s, and the interest payments on my Debt Mountain may be tax deductible. (I still need to take tax law so I can understand how Debt Mountain can properly be itemized.)

I suggest to my fellow law students that we look at the enlightened view of this recession. The Federal Reserve dropped interest rates making Debt Mountain easier to scale when we do start climbing away at it. Someday we will graduate from Coastal and use our hard earned knowledge to do justice and make money. Thus, I say to you that every financial issue that may cause you worry (like the loan company’s interest statements) should be placed in perspective. Debt Mountain and all the years that we spend building it are merely our investment.

Our return on investment will be many times what we have put into our own Debt Mountain.
From the new Rainmaker Staff:

Hello again, kind readers. We are back with a partially new staff, bringing you all the news law students have time to read.

We would like to take this opportunity to say “thank you” to all of the students, faculty and administrators here at Coastal that have passed on their congratulations and general accolades to various members of our staff. Every time that happens, you really make our day.

We would also like to say thank you to all of the wonderful people in Security who let us into our office without complaint. This paper literally would not be here but for them.

Sincerely,
The Rainmaker

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**Christina Shackelford**  
Editor in Chief  
Coastal Year: 2L  
Undergrad: North Carolina State University  
Future Plans: Civil Litigation  
Plan B: Become a legal analyst for the FOX News Channel  
Motto: “Go big or go home!”

**Keesha McCray**  
Director of Operations  
Coastal Year: 2L  
Undergrad: Hampton University  
Future Plans: Entertainment/Sports Law  
Plan B: Own a Caribbean Island Resort and raise baby sea turtles on the side  
Motto: “It’s all about balance, and obedience gives birth to the blessings”

**Danielle Dubow**  
Entertainment Editor  
Coastal Year: 2L  
Undergrad: Florida State University  
Future Plans: Family Law  
Plan B: MRS Degree  
Motto: “Life is a million bags of M&Ms”

**Cecilia Y. Lai**  
News Editor  
Coastal Year: 2L  
Undergrad: Southern Methodist University  
Future Plans: Expat  
Plan B: Talent Scout  
Motto: “Sleep in now, ‘cause later you won’t have time.”

**Tim Darby**  
Photo Editor  
Coastal Year: 2.5L  
Undergrad: University of Florida  
Future Plans: Sports Law  
Plan B: Professional Photographer  
Motto: “Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.” - John Wooden

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**Robert Batsel**  
Chief Copy Editor  
Coastal Year: 2L  
Undergrad: University of Florida  
Future Plans: Win the lottery and go on a bender  
Plan B: Practice in Ocala, Florida

**Chris Lord**  
Assistant Sports Editor  
Coastal Year: 2L  
Undergrad: University of Central Florida  
Future Plans: Having a balanced lifestyle as a successful attorney  
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Motto: “You just have to go with the flow... life is a succession of moments, and to live each one is to succeed.”

**Stephan Mchardy**  
Assistant News Editor  
Coastal Year: 1L  
Undergrad: Florida State University  
Future Plans: Entertainment Law  
Plan B: I don’t believe in Plan B  
Motto: “Anything that doesn’t kill me makes me better.”

**Kimberly Mitchell**  
Assistant Business Manager  
Coastal Year: 3L  
Undergrad: University of California, Irvine  
Future Plans: Public Interest Law  
Plan B: To make and sell seashell jewelry on Waikiki Beach  
Motto: “Live, Love, Laugh”

**Brooks Terry**  
Advisor  
Coastal Position: Director of Marketing & Comm.  
Undergrad: Florida State University  
Future Plans: I’ve already graduated. What else do you want from me?  
Plan B: I might just attend Coastal  
Motto: “Leave school early or stay the extra hour because you will be stuck on JTB or 95 anyways.”

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**Ashley Dubose**  
Managing Editor  
Coastal Year: 1.5 L  
Undergrad: Mercyhurst College  
Future Plans: Intellectual Property Law  
Plan B: Queen of Universe  
Motto: “You can’t deny laughter; when it comes, it plops down in your favorite chair and stays as long as it wants.” - Stephen King

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**Angela Sigman**  
Assistant Executive Editor  
Coastal Year: 2L  
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Plan B: “I don’t believe in Plan B”  
Motto: “Anything that doesn’t kill me makes me better.”

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Sports Editor  
Coastal Year: 2L  
Undergrad: Washington & Lee University  
Future Plans: Family Law/Pre-Trial Mediation  
Plan B: Travel the world as a renowned international techno DJ  
Motto: “There is no room for softness... not in Sparta.”

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