



Memo to Members

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Jaffe Technical Communication Excellence Award Presented To Lockheed Martin Standout

by W.C. Wiese

Molly Townsend, Supervisor of Fixed Wing Communications at Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control – Orlando, is the first recipient of the Gloria Jaffe Outstanding Technical Communicator Award. These awards, presented by the Orlando Chapter of the Society for Technical Communication (STC), recognize achievement by technical communicators, and recognize the Central Florida businesses that significantly benefit through their employment. Lockheed Martin becomes the first company to be recognized by STC for the professional involvement of its technical communication professionals.

The Jaffe Award is named for Orlando Chapter founder and retired University of Central Florida Technical Communication professor Gloria Jaffe. Her leadership is reflected in the enduring communication values prized by the Orlando Chapter and in the professionalism of UCF graduates who had the opportunity to study with her.

At Lockheed Martin, Townsend was instrumental in preparation of proposals that represent several billion dollars in new business over the next decade. She implemented marketing communications plans and projects, wrote articles for employee communications, managed publicity for the company's management



Molly Townsend, a communications supervisor at Lockheed Martin, is the first to receive the award.

club, and created a multimedia kiosk for the University of Central Florida. She also served as a middle school mentor and as guest lecturer for the UCF Technical Writing curriculum. Townsend is currently beginning a one-year career development assignment to the Vice President of Communications, Lockheed Martin Systems Integration in Bethesda, Maryland. In this as-



The trophy presented to Molly Townsend.

signment, she will work with the Systems Integration businesses (consisting of some 31,000 employees) to develop and implement strategic communications plans and to support proactive relations with the trade press and other media.

The Orlando Chapter recognized three other communicators for their achievements. Linda Mathis, Technical Publications & Training Manager for Comtech Systems, Inc. in Orlando, and Christina Payne, a technical writer with Lockheed Martin Enterprise Information Systems in Orlando,

(Continued on page 2)

Get Published in the STC Newsletter!

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact **Christina Payne** at christina.l.payne@lmco.com.

Jaffe Awards, cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

received runner-up trophies. Jason Nichols, Senior Product Services Specialist for InfoSource, Inc. in Winter Park, received a certificate as a finalist for the awards.

The award presentation was a highlight in a joint meeting between the Orlando Chapter and faculty members and students of the University of Central Florida (UCF) Department of English. Professor Jaffe presented the awards in person. Three of the

four finalists are graduates of the UCF Technical Writing program she founded.

Mike Murray, Orlando Chapter President said, "With all the technologically focused companies in this area, recognition is long overdue for the professional contributions of Central Florida's technical writers, Web designers, indexers, and trainers who tangibly contribute to the success of these businesses."



Gloria Jaffe doesn't walk away empty-handed. She is the door prize winner of the STC tote bag.

Students Receive an Early Valentine

by Barbara Odom



In keeping with our commitment to serve our students along with the corporate community, Orlando Chapter STC was pleased to offer a new

member discount in January to all students. Not only did the chapter offer a \$15.00 cash reduction in the sign-up fee, we gave our new student members three \$5.00 coupons for discounts on their admission to future meetings.

In essence, students who signed up be-

fore January 31st received all the benefits of a \$140.00 regular membership for \$20.00. In addition, the \$5.00 fee to join the Special Needs Special Interest Group (SNSIG) was paid by an anonymous donor to encourage membership in this very important group.

The response was overwhelming; to date, over three dozen students have signed up for membership and the SNSIG welcomed 25 students to its membership roles.

If you missed out, don't despair! Student membership is still a bargain at \$50.00 a

year. The privileges of membership include access to STC's annual salary survey, an extensive jobs database, award-winning publications, networking opportunities, and reduced rates at conferences and seminars.

With January's special membership program, Orlando Chapter STC proved how much we care about our students and how committed we are to our future technical communicators.

Collect the Complete Set!

Another New Release from the Orlando Word Mint ...

Coining New Words for Each and Every Occasion

This month's coinage by Dan Voss:

Anti-autodefenestrationism (n.). The philosophical belief that one should not commit suicide by throwing oneself out of a window. From *anti-autodefenestration* (n.), opposition to autodefenestration, where *autodefenestration* is defined as the act of throwing oneself out a window. From *defenestration* (n.), meaning throwing a person or thing out of a window. See also *defenestrate* (v.t.), to throw a person or thing

out of a window, as in "If you don't shut up, I will defenestrate you." (threat). Etymological derivation: English root word is *fenestra*, or window; as well as *fenestration*, the arrangement, proportioning, and design of windows and doors in a building; and *defenestrated*, provided with or characterized by windows. Ultimate source is *la fenêtre* (Fr.), meaning window. Example 1, philosophical arena: "Opponents of euthanasia practice anti-autodefenestrationism in the hopes of reducing suicides near high-

rise structures in depressed areas." Example 2, professional arena: "If you miss this proposal deadline, you may as well go ahead and autodefenestrate." Examples of other words in the verbal suite: "Marsha told Harry if he did not stop defenestrating their trash, she would defenestrate him." (etiquette, counseling) "If your assault team is blocked by a brick building, use a Predator shoulder-fired assault weapon to fenestrate the structure and to

Upcoming Chapter Elections: On Skydiving and Serving Your Orlando Chapter

by Mike Murray, Chapter President

I never thought I'd want to skydive. Somehow, jumping out of a perfectly good airplane has never made sense to me. Yet, if I were ever to do so, I could very well find out that my fear of the unknown was pretty silly. I actually might even want to do it again. That's how I felt at first about volunteering to help my STC chapter – *very tentative!*



Taking the first step

So, what do you think would be the scariest part about skydiving? Would it be free-falling through space? How about waiting (and waiting) for the reassuring tug that tells you your parachute has opened successfully?

Would you worry about where and how you might land? I can tell you that for me, while all of those things would certainly be weighing on my mind, the hardest part would be that first step. Heck, that airplane might land with me still frantically clinging to the doorway! The sad part is, I'd never know if I could have done it and what it feels like – another self-imposed restriction, more self-doubt.

Making is easy



So, is that why you haven't taken the first step to become involved in chapter activities? Does it scare you? Well, I can assure you that it certainly did scare *me!* Never in my life did I think I would ever want to be Orlando Chapter President, much less "in charge" of *anything!* But somehow, I managed to

make myself take that first step, and every day it got easier. Why? Because of the incredible support group that is our chapter – always there to help, council, advise, support, encourage, and ultimately become my very best friends anywhere.

Starting "close to the ground"

The Orlando Chapter STC offers lots of opportunities for personal development, and you can jump out at 3 feet instead of 3,000. Can you commit to helping with one thing at one meeting? We could use your help. Are you able to join one of our committees? We sure could use

your ideas. How about getting on the upcoming ballot for Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, or President? You'll never be alone, plus I'll tell you a little secret – it's not nearly as bad as you think. In fact, this has truly been a fun year! Get with a member of our Nominating Committee and let her know you're interested:

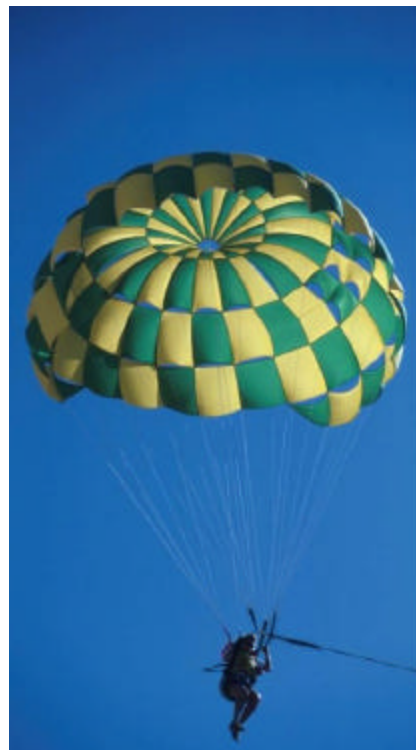
- Janette Farnsworth (janette@scribetree.com)
- Joanne Godwin (jgodwin@ouc.com)
- Chris Laning (chrislaning@cfl.rr.com)

You can also get with any "red badge."

Being a kid again

A lot of my volunteer activities involve kids, and I know why. In their minds, they have no limitations and can do anything. More than that, they want to *try* anything and everything! Society has not yet informed them about their so-called "limitations," and their own self-talk hasn't kicked in to impose any restrictions on them. I always want to be a kid at heart!

Have you ever heard that over 90% of what you fear never happens? Well believe me, it's true. Take that first step soon. I promise you, your parachute *will* open!



Job Hunting During an Economic Downturn

by John Thomstatter, Philadelphia Metro STC

In our information-driven economy, technical writers play an important role in the support of high-tech products. These jobs can be especially sensitive to corporate mergers, economic slumps, and shifting product demands. How are Delaware Valley technical communicators handling the recent economic slowdown, and what steps can be taken to quickly find reemployment if you are suddenly out-placed?

The current atmosphere

As a member of the Philadelphia Metro chapter's job information committee, I have been monitoring Delaware Valley technical communication job resources for the past four or five years. During this tenure, there have been times with abundant job opportunities, as well as times when jobs were scarce. This year's economic downturn has had a major impact on technical writing jobs in the local area. The economic slowdown started to become more visible about November or December of last year, as reflected in the number of jobs being posted on our Web site.

Company mergers, management operating philosophy changes, the Internet, shortened product life cycles, and general business volatility are fueling the changes that affect hiring and job stability. I spoke recently with a local employment recruiter who explained how the business slowdown impacted second quarter hiring. Some companies that had open job orders pulled the requests or deferred the hiring decision for a few months.

During this same time period, a company that was impacted by a merger laid off many people in their writing department, only to reverse course a few months later and go into a restaffing mode. Another chapter member, involved in leading-edge single source documentation solutions, saw her writing department dissolved due to a change in management philosophies.



Heather Nelson, a member of our chapter job information committee, is receiving feedback from job hunters indicating that companies are placing more emphasis on tool set knowledge, as opposed to writing skills. This idea further reflects the information presented by our March Career Day keynote speaker, Paula Berger, who explained that Internet-driven demands are placing more emphasis on getting information out quickly and less emphasis on writing quality. Also, from our local job postings, we see companies are mainly looking for entry- or intermediate-level writers, and in many cases the salaries offered are one-third to one-half lower than earlier postings.

The Philadelphia Metro chapter provides a variety of resources to help members handle the changing job environment. Our dinner meetings and annual Career Day program help members keep current with skill requirements and new opportunities. STC's society-level jobs web page, our chapter jobs Web page, and our weekly jobs e-mail distribution effectively match job opportunities with job seekers. Many companies that submit job listings to our group have expressed appreciation for the service and have indicated it is a valuable resource for finding qualified job candidates. These job listings seem to be filled quickly.

My job search tips

I was outplaced earlier this year due to the business slowdown and have first-hand job hunting experience. When you are actively employed, you have a different perspective on the job market and the potential opportunities that may exist. My search took almost five months, including a three-month dialog with the company I finally went with, so I can't offer a fast-track solution. Companies can be more selective and slower to make hiring decisions when there are more job hunters in the marketplace.

Following are six tips that I found useful during my job search. The tips were also important to other people I spoke with who were job hunting in today's economically challenged market.

- **Keep a detailed log of your search activities.** The log can be as simple as a computer text file or as detailed as a database to record your search activities. Include date, contact, phone, e-mail, Web site, and similar information along with a text narrative. Keep file copies of your e-mail messages, attachments, and job descriptions. This is extremely useful to maintain follow-up information, especially when hiring decisions are slowed or deferred as a result of the economy.
- **Build a portfolio of writing samples.** Prepare a portfolio or writing sample set to provide supplemental information to support your resume. A good sample document portfolio helps demonstrate how you can meet the demands of a new position. Samples in PDF format can be e-mailed along with your resume. (Make sure you have permission to share any samples you are providing.)
- **Diversify your Internet search and look for opportunities out of the mainstream.** With more people being computer-literate and Internet-savvy, the well-known job web sites are being inundated with resumes. Look at company web sites, trade associations, professional associations, etc. Be creative and try to find opportunities out of the mainstream.
- **Network.** Friends and business associates can help you uncover opportunities or evaluate business conditions at a company. Internal company contacts can provide valuable insight about job conditions and can sometimes provide valuable feedback when your application is being reviewed.
- **Customize your resume to fit the job.**

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Job Hunting Cont'd

(Continued from page 4)

Take the time to customize your resume to address the skills and key requirements of the job for which you are applying. Companies are being more selective when filling vacancies, so your resume needs to be finely tuned to the job requirements. Computers and word processing software make it easier to customize your resume. Using e-mail to submit your resume also minimizes the number of printed copies you need. Also, take time to craft a cover letter appropriate to the position. This is just as important with e-mail as with traditional mail.

- **Grow your skill set.** Be receptive to learning new skills. The trend in the industry seems to be placing more emphasis on finding people with specific software tool set knowledge rather than writing skills. One of our chapter members used her time off and a free software trial offer to increase her Web design skills. Be sure to make the best use of your free time to gain "hire knowledge."

And some basics

The above tips seemed to be very important in my discussion with other job hunters, as well as for myself, but there are also some basics to keep in mind during your job hunt.

- **Perseverance is the key to success!** In a downturn economy, opportunities take longer to materialize. Don't give up! The key is to keep working the marketplace until you find an opportunity that closely matches your skills and job requirements.
- **Wear your thick skin and don't take things personally!** Potential employers have different schedules, agendas, and priorities. Yes, employers might be screening candidates, but may not have an immediate hiring need. Recruiters may be driven by client requests to selectively deliver people with a very specific skill set.
- **Maintain your positive vision and attitude!** Be positive when marketing yourself. Being outplaced or laid off doesn't mean you lost your skill set or years of experience. Examine the potential work longevity that may exist with prospective employers. Are they a new start-up dot-com or a company facing a merger? What is the long-term outlook or life cycle of the company's product or product mix, and how does that equate to your job longevity needs? If you are financially able to manage a longer job search, be selective to achieve a long-term positive move. Don't sell yourself short!

- **Be flexible and ready to adapt to new situations!** To survive in today's job market, you have to be flexible and have the ability to adapt to new conditions. Have a plan A, plan B, plan C job solution approach. Prioritize your job needs (job type, working conditions, travel distance, salary, etc.). If a perfect job fit is not available, what alternatives should you consider based on your priorities?
- **Follow up!** Follow up e-mails with phone calls to ensure your information has been received and attached resume files can be viewed. Don't waste time waiting for people to get back to you. Once you get to the interview process, the company has some level of interest in you. Prompt follow-up calls and e-mails make employers more aware of your interest in their position.

Job hunting is a personal, creative adventure, especially when the economy is slowing. I'm sure that everyone can offer additional tips or suggestions based on their own job search experiences.

This article was reprinted with permission by John Tomstatter of the Philadelphia Metro STC.

CIBER, Inc., Announces Job Opening

Here's your chance to try out your new job hunting skills.

CIBER, Inc., has an opening for a Technical Writer at one of our clients in West Palm, Florida.

The details about the job:

Technical Writer/Documentation Specialist with experience writing and editing technical documentation. Applicant must be well-spoken and have excellent writing skills. In addition, the

applicant must be an expert with MS Word and MS Excel.

The anticipated start date is February 24, 2003 and the end date is July 25, 2003. The position pays \$32.14/hr.

CIBER offers a competitive benefits package that includes medical, vision, and dental plans, 401K, an employee stock purchase plan and more.

To Apply:

Please submit your resume and availability to Joe Pitts, Recruiter, at jpitts@ciber.com or contact STC employment manager, Richard Phipps at rphipps@ciber.com

Please visit <http://ciber.com/apply> to complete an online employment application. When prompted enter jpitts@ciber.com as the referring recruiter.

Tool Tips

By David Coverston



>Have you ever received a forwarded
> email that had been forwarded
>> by someone else and by the time it
>>> got to you, you felt like you had
been in the
>>>> Battle of Little Big Horn?

Well, here is a tip for you—use emailStripper. emailStripper is a free program that reformats text for you, taking out all of the arrows and extra returns. You can download it at www.papercut.biz/emailStripper.htm



There is no installation routine, so you have to create a directory, copy the file into it, then create a shortcut to it on your start menu or desktop. I suggest you put it in a directory named C:\Program Files\emailstripper so you can easily find it later.

To uninstall emailStripper, simply delete the file, the directory you put it in, and the shortcut.

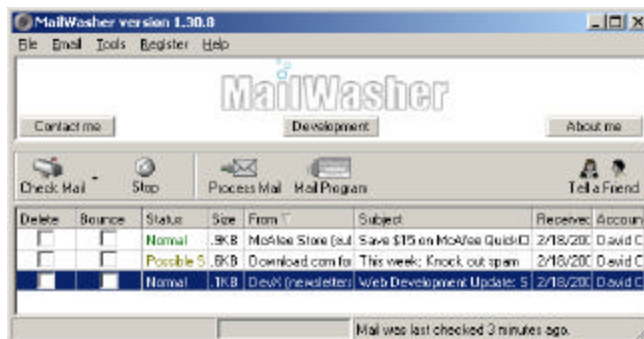
EmailStripper is great for fixing text copied from Web pages or newsgroups. I use it to clean up text from mailing lists that I want to save in documents for later reference.

Judges Needed for State Science and Engineering Fair

The Florida State Science and Engineering Fair desperately needs judges. The fair will be held on Thursday, April 10, at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center in Jacksonville from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. If you are able to volunteer, please send an e-mail

to Nancy Besley, Executive Director of the Florida Foundation for Future Scientists, at nbesley@mail.ucf.edu.

The second program I want to recommend to you is MailWasher, a program that lets you deal with spam the way you have probably always wanted to.



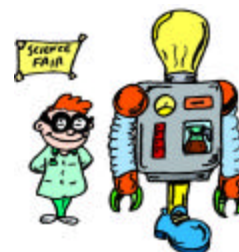
MailWasher lets you “bounce” your e-mail, which means sending it back to the one who sent it to you. The sender gets an “e-mail is undeliverable” message, and you get the satisfaction of knowing that spammers who are trolling for good e-mail addresses don’t have yours.

MailWasher is very easy to use. After I installed it, it found my e-mail accounts, and let me import them into MailWasher. It also found Outlook, so I was configured and ready to go in a just few minutes.

I connect to my ISP, start MailWasher, then use the check boxes to tell it which e-mails to bounce back to the sender and delete off the mail server. If I am not sure about an e-mail, I can use the Preview message command to look at the body of the e-mail before I decide what to do with it. I then click the Process Mail button to delete and bounce the marked e-mails. Outlook automatically opens, and I download my e-mail without all the junk mail.

The program’s Web page, www.mailwasher.net, says that the program is free and won’t expire, but does ask for a donation of between \$3 and \$20 dollars to register it and remove the advertisement.

David Coverston, Orlando Chapter secretary, is a technical-writer for PaySys International, Inc. If you have any questions about this Tool Tips article, please feel free to contact David at dcoverston@paysys.com.



In Defense of Basic Transport

by Dan Voss

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one to separate oneself from the prevailing philosophy concerning the correlation of vehicular transportation with one's professional status, a decent respect for the opinions of one's colleagues makes it necessary to set forth the reasons that impel the separation.

It has been called to my attention a number of times over the past several months that the vehicle I use to wage my daily wars on traffic-clogged I-4, now nearing its 16th birthday, has long since passed the point of constituting an appropriate mode of transportation for a professional technical communicator.

"This is becoming ridiculous, Voss," declared an aerospace co-worker who shall remain nameless. "Here you are a manager working for the world's largest defense contractor, and you are still driving around in a 1987 Honda Civic, for Heaven's sake!"

"With faded red paint and a dent on the front fender, no less!"

Actually, the co-worker left out the rusted chain that hangs around the rear-view mirror like a secular answer to a crucifix, but that's another story altogether.

"Anybody hurt in that wreck?," a fellow member of the Orlando Chapter's Administrative

From where I sit, there are three basic things a car needs to do. It needs to start. It needs to steer. And it needs to stop. Anything beyond that is gravy.

our chapter, and you are an eyesore on the local highways!"

"Surely you can do better than this."

Well, my friends, I confess—in all honesty, I probably could do a little "better"

than this. But I guess that all depends on your definition of "better."

Starting is important. If this function is



not achieved, driving the car becomes more difficult. Steering can also be important in many situations, particularly if you are not on a straight-away. And stopping is always helpful, particularly for the car in front of you.

But other than that, it's all lagniappe. Air conditioning is nice, especially in Florida, but you don't need it to drive. Stereophonic, six-speaker sound is pleasant, but a basic radio can keep you awake. Cushy bucket seats upholstered in zebra hide are nice for your buttocks, but hell on your pocketbook.

And that brings us to the crux of the matter—dollars. My 1987 Honda Civic cost us \$1,500 two years ago, plus about \$600 in engine work shortly after we acquired it. On that investment, I have now logged approximately 65,000 miles at just under 40 miles per gallon, with no other cost beyond oil changes. And NO car payments.

And, believe it or not, it actually *does* have a working air conditioner. You just can't use it and drive at the same time, but why sweat the small stuff?

Compare that to buying a Lexus at 7.2% over the same time period. Those elephant-choking car payments do so much better in a 401K.

And speaking of Lexuses (Lexi?), that's another place where a 1987 Civic comes in real handy—when fancy

high-falutin' Lexi or vehicles of that ilk try to cut you off on I-4. All you have to do is look at the other driver, point menacingly at the dent in the fender, throw your hands in the air (well, *one* of them—remember that steering thing), shrug as if to say "Go ahead, hit me!" and watch them back off. Works every time.

Well, 'most every time. The only time it doesn't always work is with really BIG vehicles, but then you usually have other options. Civics *are* very small, but that can be a plus as well as a minus. They are also very fast, you see, and they fit into places where other vehicles don't. Put those two qualities together, and when you can't bluff the bigger cars down, you can generally go around them. Shoulders work well for that. Which is another big advantage of Civics—if you're in a really bad traffic jam and you really have to get somewhere, there's always the shoulder, which becomes a great HOV (Hondas-Only Vehicles) lane for cars that size.

The Civic's forerunners in the proud Voss family tradition of basic paid-for commutation and recreational vehicles—a trio of Hyundai Excels representing a total investment of less than the cost of one moderately priced new car—over a period of 11 years logged a total of nearly 350,000 miles at 36 MPG with just a few minor mechanical repairs.

Included in the accomplishments of the three Hyundais—and the humble Hyundai, as you may recall, was a much-maligned vehicle among the hoi polloi, trailing only the lowly Yugo in lack of prestige—were off-the-road performance in the mountains of Utah, a 98-MPH burst of speed on the Bonneville salt flats (my wife was driving at the time), and several instances of running out of gas just as we coasted into a gas station.

(Continued on page 8)

Honda Cont'd

(Continued from page 7)

It's a matter of soul. Those cars had *soul*, you see. You can't get soul like that in new cars.

Believe it or not, one time as we were barreling up I-95 approaching Jacksonville, one of those Hyundais stopped dead on the side of the road, for no apparent reason, and would not start for love nor money. We had to call Triple-A (which, by the way, is a prudent investment for people who adopt our philosophy of basic transportation) and get towed to a nearby service station.

The mechanics checked the car from radiator to tailpipe but could find no cause for the mysterious failure. In the process, however, they also discovered a huge blister on the front right tire that was just about to blow—an event, which at 80 miles per hour, would have placed us in severe danger.

After installing a new tire, the mechanics brought the car down off the lift—still not having found any reason why it had stalled—and, just for laughs, we turned the ignition key. You can probably finish this story. Minutes later, we were back on the road. The car was running perfectly. Maybe it was just a coincidence. Or maybe the car saved our bacon. But we do know that it never stalled that way in the middle of the road again.

Well, just once, actually. I was driving down I-4 in the morning rush hour and traffic ground to a halt with my Hyundai and me directly opposite a gleaming new Jaguar. That car was so impressive you couldn't help staring at it (of course, the ogling had nothing to do with the fact that the *driver* of the Jag made J-Lo look like Totie Fields—that's my story, and I'm sticking to it!). Misinterpreting the situation, my Hyundai must have assumed I was lusting in my heart for a newer vehicle. Well, it stopped dead, right smack dab

in the middle lane of I-4, with a 76-wheel quintuple semi right on my tail.

After several minutes of desperate pleading with my valiant little I-4 warrior, I finally accepted the inevitable and made a full and contrite confessional, whereupon the vehicle sputtered a couple of times and lurched back into action. I learned my lesson on that one, believe me.

Which brings me back to that rusted chain on the rear-view mirror in the Civic. That chain dates to Hyundai #3, which carried a couple of parts from the previous two

Hyundais, both to continue the spirit of the line and also to replace the hood of #3, which had fallen victim to some idiot who decided to stop for no reason in the

The hood never quite fit, actually—which is where the chain came into play.

left lane of I-4, with predictable results. Since the car was still good except that you couldn't see the road through the crumpled-up hood (remember that part about steering?), we just took the hood off one of the older two Hyundais, who had gone to their rest up on blocks way back on our property (relax—we *don't* roast hot dogs over an open fire in an open trash barrel in the driveway), enrolled in our auto organ donor program, and voilà, I was back on the road in no time flat. The hood never quite fit, actually—which is where the chain came into play. It kept the hood from flying off when I went over 75, which was helpful.

Shortly after that, we managed to fry the engine of the poor little car and it was permanently retired to the organ donor program. We bought a new car of a different make that shall remain nameless, and within a month, it was giving us all kinds of problems. One day when it flat refused to start and I was late for work, in desperation I walked into the woods, stuck Hyundai #3's key into the ignition, and, just for laughs, turned it. Now remember, my friends—that car had flat-lined 2 months earlier.

You can probably finish this story as well, although I doubt you will believe it. Well, you can call it apocryphal or inspirational, but the fact is, that little car coughed and belched, spewing up first black, then white smoke; then it quivered and shuddered and shook; and then it actually started to crank.

Basically, it came back from the dead because I needed it to. I backed it out of the woods, pulled it onto the road, and drove it all the way to work. And back. No problem. For two weeks. Until we found the \$1,500 Honda Civic I am driving till this day.

As we pulled our newly acquired old Civic into the driveway that night, I tried the key on the Hyundai one last time, just for old time's sake. Nothing. It had passed away quietly in the night, secure in the knowledge that the tradition was now safe in the hands of the "new" little red Civic. We ceremonially removed the chain from the hood latch and moved it to the rear-view mirror of the Civic, where it shall remain until the next changing of the guard.

A few months later, we took a deep breath and bade farewell to all 3 old Hyundais. A flatbed tow truck came and hauled the lot of them off to become "car-davers" in the auto mechanics program at a private school for troubled youngsters. There wasn't a dry eye in our family as the trusty band of vehicles that had given their all for our retirement disappeared into the sunset, bound for yet another noble mission.

Which left the Civic to carry the flag.

And you want me to trade it in on a newer model that is more befitting my professional stature? Are you kidding me?

With all due respect, my friends: love me, love car. Deal it. my car. with



February Meeting: The Importance of Technical Writing Skills for the High School Science Student

Presented by Dr. Susan Behel

Please join us for our next meeting, the 2003 Florida High School Technical Writing Competition Awards Banquet, when we will present awards to some outstanding student writers. This meeting also features guest speaker Dr. Susan Behel from Lake Brantley High School.

Dr. Behel is a Science teacher at Lake Brantley High School. She teaches Advanced Placement Biology and the dual enrollment Biotechnology series of classes to Lake Brantley's brightest science students.

Dr Behel's students have worked with NASA and a school in the Ukraine on several biology related projects.

Annually Dr. Behel coordinates a science symposium at the University of Florida where some of her students present the status and findings

of their projects to UF students and professors. In addition, Dr. Behel's science students have the strongest representation for Seminole County's high school students at the annual county science fair.

Dr Behel is a very strong supporter of the annual writing contest as can be seen by the number of her students that have historically participated.

Following Dr. Behel's presentation will be the presentation of the writing awards. Please plan on attending this "Special Meeting," and support your Orlando STC Chapter by being an active member at our monthly meetings and by sharing your STC experience with your friends and colleagues.

RSVP

Because we are serving dinner it is very important that we know you are coming. If you can join us on Tuesday, February 25th, please RSVP to Bob Shydo at bob@intuitive-info.com as soon as possible. We'll see you on the 25th!

All STC monthly meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. at the Winter Park Civic Center unless otherwise specified.

March 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	Pellegrin Scholarship Deadline	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Web Site: www.stc-orlando.org

Mailing Address: STC Orlando
P.O. Box 540444
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32854-0444

Chapter Meeting Schedule

- **February 25-** Writing Contest and Awards Banquet
- **March 25-** *The Tina-Xena Transformation: A Recipe for Professional Empowerment*
- **April 22-** *Employment Progression* and Scholarship Awards
- **May 27-** Panel Discussion on *Help*
- **June 24-** Year-end Banquet

UCF Students: Apply for the Melissa Pellegrin Memorial Scholarship

The Melissa Pellegrin Memorial Scholarship Fund was founded by the Orlando Chapter of the STC to honor and preserve the memory and generous spirit of a valued friend and professional colleague, Melissa Pellegrin.

Melissa's commitment to excellence was evident in the quality of her academic and professional work. She shared her enthusiasm in many ways, including professional presentations at STC conferences and meetings. She was employed as a technical communicator with The Resource Center, Inc., in Tampa, until her untimely death in April 1997.

The Melissa Pellegrin Memorial Scholarship Fund provides scholarships and awards to selected outstanding undergraduate and graduate students of technical writing at UCF. Recipients will be presented with certificates and checks from the scholarship fund, and their names will be added to a permanent plaque displayed at UCF. The scholarships and awards will be presented at the Orlando Chapter meeting in April.

To apply for the scholarship:

1. Fill out a **Melissa Pellegrin Scholarship Application**.
2. Attach a copy of your transcripts -- an unofficial copy will do -- and highlight all technical writing courses on your transcripts. Graduate students should submit transcripts for graduate work only.
3. Send a letter to Dan Voss, STC Education Committee Manager, and discuss in the letter why you chose this discipline and why you want to become a technical communicator. You may also discuss your need for financial aid if applicable. Your letter should not exceed two pages and should meet the requirements of a good business letter.

Your application, transcripts, and letter must be postmarked no later than March 7, 2003.

Please mail your materials to:

Dan Voss
STC Education Committee Manager
1684 Monticello Street
Deltona, FL 32725

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