

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

Page 3 • Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Long-distance love

Students talk about their experiences with long-distance relationships

By Kristin McNulty
THE BATTALION

Students who enter into a relationship during the school year may find



themselves separated for the summer because of different responsibilities and goals.

"Neither of us wanted it to happen, but we knew our feelings for each other were so strong that we decided to go for it," said Kara Hill, a sophomore architecture major.

Hill is in a long-distance relationship with her boyfriend Chris, who lives in Norfolk, Va.

She said they both entered the relationship with a pessimistic view.

"He was afraid that I was going to cheat on him, and I was afraid of doing this long-distance thing forever," Hill said.

She said she and Chris talk on the phone for one to two hours a day, and she makes the most of their time together when she sees him.

"I know our relationship will be stronger when this is all over with," Hill said.

Unlike Hill's relationship, some long-distance relationships are not so fortunate to stand the test of time.

Olivia Harrington, a sophomore accounting major, said her relationship did not work out for the better.

"I was doing all of the work to see

him; he didn't seem to care," Harrington said.

With her living at home and her boyfriend away at college, Harrington was skeptical of being courted long distance.

"I knew the distance would be some kind of barrier, but I wanted to give it a shot anyway," she said.

Even with the hour-long phone conversations daily, Harrington said she knew it would not work.

"I was taking it more seriously than he was and that hurt me. Then the relationship ended," Harrington said.

Stephen Blake, author of "Loving Your Long Distance Relationship," gives advice to couples going through a long-distance relationship: "Through college, I experienced a long-distance relationship. Everyone told me that it couldn't work, but they were wrong and I wanted to share that with couples."

Blake said love and understanding are worth preserving in any relationship, regardless of the miles that may separate two people.

Blake gives advice on how couples can cope with saying goodbye again and again. "Make the most out of your

time together. Stay away from the airport and stay focused on long term plans versus the moment," says Blake.

He also says to keep phone conversations short, light, frequent and information based. Constant phone arguments, avoidance and long-term plans that never seem to synchronize are all signs that the relationship is in trouble.

Some factors might increase the odds that a long-distance relationship will last, said Kate Morris, a psychology professor at Butler University.

"The younger you are, the less you would know what you want out of life and a relationship," she said.

Morris said the length of time spent together before entering the long-distance relationship and personality are also factors to consider in distanced courtship.

"If you start out with time together, you are more likely to survive the distance," Morris said. However, if you are the type of person to sit around and mope, a long-distance romance could be tough."

For those who are enduring, or have yet to endure, this test of time, Blake says, "Distance cannot and will



RADHIKA THIRUNARAVANAN • THE BATTALION

not hurt a bond between two people that is based on mutual respect, trust, commitment and love. Although you may feel like you are losing faith in your relationship at times, hold fast and trust your heart."

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Sandler marries model-actress Titone in Malibu

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — Adam Sandler married model-actress Jackie Titone in an outdoor ceremony that was attended by celebrity friends and his pet bulldog dressed in a custom tuxedo.

"Sandler got married," the comic's Web site said. "Woopity Doo!"

Sandler's publicist, Cindy Guagenti, confirmed the marriage Monday.

Photographs of Sunday's nuptials showed "The Wedding Singer" star in a black tuxedo and white yarmulke, and

Titone in a white gown with spaghetti straps, standing among hanging pale rose bouquets and chairs draped with pink satin.

Sandler's dog, Meatball, appears in one photo wearing a black tuxedo jacket and a white yarmulke of his own.

It was the first marriage for Sandler, 36, and Titone, 28.

Titone has appeared in Sandler's movies, including as a waitress in "Big Daddy" and an angel in "Little Nicky."

Sandler also has four music albums. "They're all gonna laugh at you," "What the hell happened to me," "What's your name?" and "Adam Sandler: Stan and Judy's Kid."

On the Net: Adam Sandler Website: adamsandler.com

Rapper Nelly hopes to be bone marrow match for sister

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Grammy-winning rapper Nelly was on hand as hundreds of residents turned out to register as potential bone marrow donors. He hopes one might be a match for his ailing sister.

Jacqueline "Jackie" Donahue, 30, was diagnosed with leukemia in 2001. The cancer was in remission for nearly two years before she suffered a relapse in January, she said. It was then she learned she would need a bone marrow transplant.

Bone marrow drives were held over the weekend at America's Center in St. Louis and at the

Hollywood Park Casino in Los Angeles.

Among those who registered Saturday were Ashley Donahue, Donahue's 20-year-old sister, and Nelly, whose real name is Cornell Haynes Jr. The event Saturday produced 1,025 new donors.

In March, Nelly and his ailing sister formed a campaign dubbed "Jes Us 4 Jackie" to find donors for Jackie Donahue and others, and to raise awareness about bone marrow donations. Nelly's nonprofit organization, 4 Sho 4 Kids, sponsored the Saturday event.

Even if a match is found for Donahue, efforts to register donors will continue, Nelly said.

"It could be someone else's brother or sister," he said.

Max Factor heir leaves evidence in hotel room

VENTURA, Calif. (AP) — Cosmetics heir and former fugitive Andrew Luster left behind a notebook in Mexico in which he apparently seeks to justify the assaults that led to his rape conviction, according to a published report.

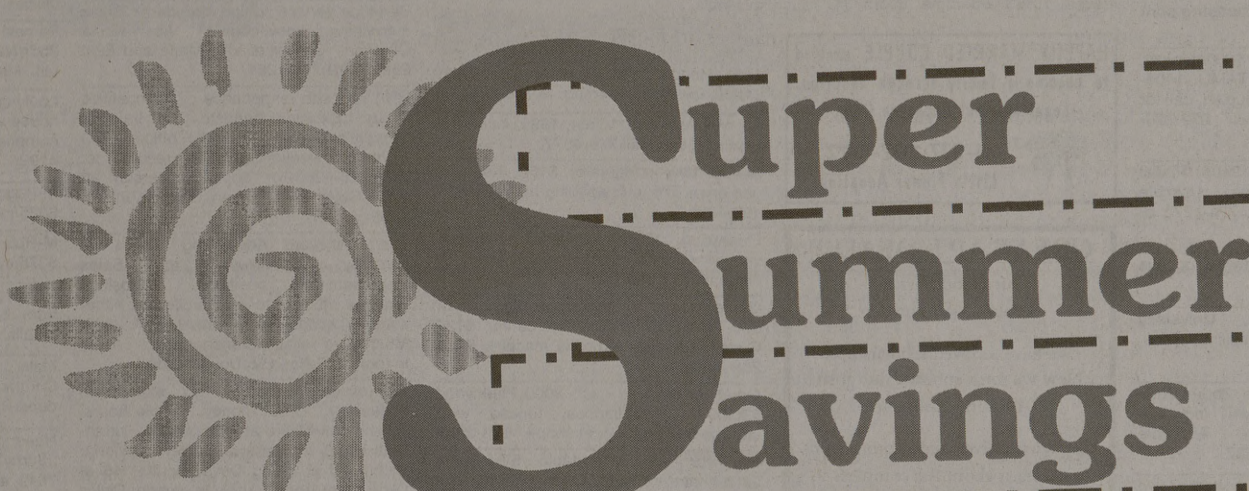
The notebook was stored among other belongings at the Puerta Vallarta hotel where Luster last stayed, according to an article published in the Ventura County Star's Sunday edition.

Authorities could not confirm if the handwriting was that of

Luster. A Star reporter who had covered Luster's trial recognized the 13 pages of handwriting as belonging to Luster.

The great-grandson of cosmetics magnate Max Factor, Luster jumped his \$1 million bail in January, shortly before a Ventura County jury convicted him in absentia of drugging and raping three women in his seaside home in Mussel Shoals, northwest of Los Angeles.

On Wednesday, Luster, 39, was arrested by Mexican police after he scuffled with bounty hunters in front of a Puerta Vallarta taco stand. On Thursday, the FBI flew him back to California, where he immediately started serving his 124-year prison term.



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