

GOOD MORNING

Today is Friday, Aug. 18, the 230th day of 2006. There are 135 days left in the year.

- Today's birthdays:**
 Former First Lady **Rosalynn Carter** is 79.
 Movie director **Roman Polanski** is 73.
 Actor **Robert Redford** is 69.
 Singer **Johnny Preston** is 67.
 Actor **Christopher Jones** is 65.
 Actor **Henry G. Sanders** is 64.
 Actor-comedian **Martin Mull** is 63.
 Rock musician **Dennis Elliott** is 56.
 Actor **Patrick Swayze** is 54.
 Actor **Denis Leary** is 49.
 Actress **Madeleine Stowe** is 48.
 News anchor **Bob Woodruff** is 45.
 Actor **Craig Bierko** is 41.
 Hip-hop artist **Everlast** is 37.
 Actor **Christian Slater** is 37.
 Actor **Edward Norton** is 37.
 Actor **Malcolm-Jamal Warner** is 36.
 Actress **Kaitlin Olson** is 31.
 Actress **Gwendoline Yeo** is 26.
 Actress **Parker McKenna Posey** is 11.

Today's quote:
 "The self-hatred that destroys is the waste of unfulfilled promise." — *Moss Hart, American playwright and director (1904-1961)*

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Melanie Conklin

Madison natives work to fulfill filmmaking dreams

Scott Rudolph and **Frank Robak** spent their time at Memorial High School making short films and getting into trouble. At least that's how Rudolph jokingly sums up his time at Memorial, from which the pair graduated in 1993.

Now, both live in Los Angeles, and a movie they made in 2005 called "Statistics" took them to the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year. Last week it screened at the Rhode Island International Film Festival. The movie is based on an idea that Robak came up with shortly after graduation, "and we both vowed we would not rest until it was made," says Rudolph. So the pair formed Rebel Image Production and made it happen.

This week Rudolph is back in Madison visiting his family. He says he hopes to see "Statistics" shown at more festivals and is looking at distribution possibilities. Two positive developments: Hand Picked Films' **Michel Shane**, who has produced movies with **Steven Spielberg** and **Will Smith**, saw "Statistics" and came on board as its executive producer. And he brought the film to the attention of an international sales agency named Intandem Films, which represented them at Cannes.

The movie's plot, as described on imdb.com, "tells the story of six individuals who all share one thing in common: they will become statistics by the end of the day ... in that blink of an eye, their lives and the lives of the



Scott Rudolph and Frank Robak, Madison Memorial class of '93, made a film called "Statistics" that screened at the Cannes Film Festival this year.

people around them will be changed forever." (For more, go to www.statistics-themovie.com.) "All of this is just amazing to Frank and I, as we grew up in Madison dreaming of moving to Los Angeles and making films together," attests Rudolph, adding, "Frank and I have just finished the script for the next film and are really getting excited as we gear up to go out and shoot a film again together."

Flag-flying Danes explain
 They still are not identifying themselves, but the "Dane County Danes," who hoisted their country's flag over Bascom Hall last week, are willing to tell how and why they did it. In an e-mail from "Danmark Bascom" they responded to my query:

"The flag is there for three reasons," write the Danes. First, they say, is "solidarity and friendship with the United States." Second, to "honor the Scandinavian heritage in Wisconsin." And third, they say that back in 1957, Norwegian students raised their flag on Bascom Hall "while singing the Norwegian national anthem." And, the anonymous Danes add, the prank wasn't easy: "It was very hard to get it up there, and it took us a long time to figure out how to do it without damaging anything. ... The solution was to climb the building, cover up the spots that light the pole, climb the pole and strap the flag to the pole with plastic straps. The mission took a long time ... it was so exhausting to execute."

Lautenschlager on 'Tyra'

Attorney General **Peg Lautenschlager** was in Los Angeles yesterday shooting an episode of "The Tyra Banks Show." The topic was Internet crimes against children, says Department of Justice spokesman **Mike Bauer**.

Bauer says the state's task force on the topic and "its record number of arrests" is what got the show's attention. He says there were four segments, one with an agent demonstrating how they catch child predators, followed by interviews with a predator and a victim. Lautenschlager wraps things up by talking about the department's efforts and offering Internet safety tips for parents. The show is likely to air in September; look for an update here once it's scheduled.

Serious nature of the topic aside, Bauer says his favorite instruction they got from the show was "make sure you bring two outfits just in case you have on the same color as Tyra."

Bush taps Madison doc

Dr. **John Niederhuber** can now remove the "acting" from his title. On Tuesday, **President Bush** announced he will appoint the Madison doc, former director of UW's Comprehensive Cancer Center, as the 13th director of the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md. He became acting director in June.

BTW

Compiled by Mike Jones

Aniston: No engagement yet

Jennifer Aniston claims she was forced to speak out after more legitimate news agencies began reporting an alleged engagement to "The Break-Up" co-star **Vince Vaughn** as fact.

She tells People magazine, "I'm not engaged and I don't have a ring and I haven't been proposed to. Normally we don't even acknowledge these things because they're endless, at this point, the thing that got me was that I was getting phone calls from Greece! My Aunt Mary in Greece is getting accused of lying! I mean, they're getting angry. My dad calls and he says, 'Honey, it's on the CNN crawl,' and I'm going, 'Wait a second!' When it starts to travel over into the Today show and CNN and supposedly reliable and accurate news programs, then you just go, 'This is insane. People are getting fed a lot of bull.' The American people need to believe (the news). Please. Get it together!"

As for the real status of her relationship with Vaughn, she says, "We're just being. We're having a good time."

Kate and Owen?

According to numerous reports, it appears **Kate Hudson's** romantic relationship with her "You, Me & Dupree" co-star **Owen Wilson** may be the reason behind her surprising split from rocker husband **Chris Robinson**.

The Oscar-nominated starlet announced she was separating from The Black Crowes singer on Monday after nearly six years of marriage. According to Us Weekly, Hudson and Wilson kept things platonic while filming the romantic comedy, but a romance blossomed in June, when the two began the press junket for the film.

— Associated Press

Get in touch with Melanie Conklin at 252-6187 or mconklin@madison.com. On Tuesdays, catch Melanie on WIBA 1310 AM at 7:45 a.m. with Joshua Wescott.

SETTING IT STRAIGHT

Linville Architects architect for bank

Linville Architects of Madison was the architect for the Home Savings Bank branch at 3762 E. Washington Ave., which was featured in a story on green building on Page E1 on Thursday. Margie Letterer, marketing director of the Renschler Co., said her firm was the general contractor and provided some design services.

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TODAY IN HISTORY

- Key event:** On Aug. 18, 1846, U.S. forces led by General Stephen W. Kearny captured Santa Fe, N.M.
- On this date:**
- In 1227, Mongol conqueror Genghis Khan died.
 - In 1587, Virginia Dare became the first child of English parents to be born on American soil, on what is now Roanoke Island, N.C. However, the colony Virginia was born into ended up mysteriously disappearing.
 - In 1894, Congress established the Bureau of Immigration.
 - In 1914, President Wilson issued his "Proclamation of Neutrality," aimed at keeping the United States out of World War I.
 - In 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed the right of all American women to vote.
 - In 1938, President Roosevelt

dedicated the Thousand Islands Bridge connecting the United States and Canada.

- In 1963, James Meredith became the first black to graduate from the University of Mississippi.
- In 1976, two U.S. Army officers were killed in Korea's demilitarized zone as a group of North Korean soldiers wielding axes and metal pikes attacked U.S. and South Korean soldiers.
- In 1982, for the first time, volume on the New York Stock exchange topped the 100 million level as 132.69 million shares were traded.
- In 1983, Hurricane Alicia slammed into the Texas coast, leaving 22 dead and causing more than \$1 billion in damage.
- Ten years ago:** On the eve of his 50th birthday, President Clinton was guest of honor at a trio of events in New York that combined

celebrating with fundraising. Ross Perot, the presidential nominee of the Reform Party, launched his campaign with a speech in which he criticized the Republican and Democratic parties as captives of "special interests."

Five years ago: Fire broke out at a budget hotel outside Manila, Philippines, killing 75 people.

One year ago: Cindy Sheehan, who'd started an anti-war demonstration near President Bush's Texas ranch nearly two weeks earlier, left the camp after learning her mother had suffered a stroke, but told supporters the protest would go on. A judge in Wichita, Kan., sentenced BTK serial killer Dennis Rader to 10 consecutive life terms, the maximum the law would allow. Pope Benedict XVI began his first foreign trip as pontiff in low-key style, returning to his "beloved" German homeland.



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