

# Alumni found love in newsroom

By Erika Spicer  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

A chaotic newsroom isn't exactly the place one would expect a romance to blossom.

However, as described in her new memoir, "Boxes: Lifting the Lid on an American Life," Donnan "Deedie" Beeson Runkel and David Runkel made that love story possible in The Daily Collegian office in 1963.

"He waited until the last minute," Beeson Runkel said of her husband's attempt at a first move.

Both members of the Collegian's Board of Editors, David Runkel waited until the night before Deedie Beeson Runkel's last college final to ask her out on a movie date followed by grilled stickies at The Diner, Beeson Runkel said.

"I was hesitant because I didn't want to complicate things at the Collegian, and I had no idea she was graduating early and that the next night was her last final," David Runkel said.

A few years later, the Penn State graduates got married.

Treasured memories like this one appear in the chapters of Beeson Runkel's memoir.

The title and structure of the book are inspired by a special collection of boxes she has on her dresser at home.

Each chapter of the memoir is dedicated to a box and the people and memories that go along with it.

The box that holds Beeson Runkel's engagement necklaces served as inspiration for the chapter that tells the story of the couple's relationship.

Since a great deal of the mem-



Courtesy of Donnan Beeson Runkel

**Penn State alumna Donnan "Deedie" Beeson Runkel, left, released a memoir about her experiences at Penn State — including meeting her husband David Runkel while working for The Daily Collegian.**

oir was inspired by her college years at Penn State, Beeson Runkel wants her audience to realize the significance of college and its impact on one's life.

"Recognize what is important — I'm hoping people can read the book and understand the important things in your life, they stay with us," Beeson Runkel said. "I don't think we recognize that kind of thing until later in life."

Beeson Runkel said she hopes to get a wide readership of the memoir, especially from Penn State students.

"I would read the book. It would be really interesting to understand someone else's Penn State experience," Liz Mirarchi (sophomore-art education) said.

As an English composition major, Beeson Runkel was greatly influenced by her professor John Barth, now a renowned author.

Beeson Runkel sent Barth her memoir to show him she was still writing, she said.

"It pleases me when students send me their work years after I've taught them. I remember that Deedie was a very pleasant, hard-working student," Barth said.

As Beeson Runkel and her husband moved from city to city — Beeson Runkel focusing on public relations and Runkel on journalism — the couple finally settled in Ashland, Ore., where they run a bed and breakfast.

No matter where life takes them, though, Beeson-Runkel said, "My writing life and roots are at Penn State. After 50 years, I still put The Daily Collegian on my resume."

Beeson-Runkel's memoir hit shelves in local bookstores in Ashland and is also available online at Amazon.com and bn.com.



Jacques Brinon/Associated Press

**American model Sara Ziff, right, and boyfriend Ole Schell made a documentary that gives an insider's look into the modeling industry.**

# Documentary exposes fashion's darker side

By Jenny Barchfield  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PARIS — Discovered at age 14 outside her Manhattan school, Sara Ziff was quickly swept up into the high-glamour whirlwind of the fashion industry, jetting to Paris and Milan for shoots and shows and getting paychecks with an astonishing number of zeros.

She and her boyfriend, a film school graduate, started taking home videos backstage on a lark, but the couple's hobby bloomed into something bigger — an inside peek behind the industry's high-gloss facade into its darker side of body image problems, drugs and even sexual abuse.

Ziff, a blue-eyed blond who walked for luxury supernovas including Louis Vuitton and Chanel, says the couple's documentary, "Picture Me," shows an industry sometimes out of control.

"It's sort of the 'Wild West,' with people feeling the rules don't apply in fashion, for some reason. I'd like to be a part of making some sort of changes in that way," Ziff, 28, told The Associated Press.

She and her boyfriend and co-

director, Ole Schell, were in Paris Monday to promote the movie among the fashion glitterati, who are flocking to the city for the spring-summer 2011 ready-to-wear show, which begins Tuesday. The movie, which is currently playing in Los Angeles, is scheduled to be released in Paris next month.

Shot over a period of five years by Ziff, Schell and their model friends, "Picture Me" makes a convincing case for the need for some sort of regulation in an industry where girls begin their careers at age 14 or even as young as 12. Ziff waited until after high school to pursue her career in earnest. Soon, she was gracing mammoth billboards in her native New York and out-earning her father, a neuro-biologist and professor at New York University. In the film, we see Ziff evolve from a wide-eyed ingenue into a harried and emotionally strung-out young woman. She's often in tears, reeling from the sheer exhaustion of the brutal monthlong fashion show calendar, or upset about a tactless comment from one of the professionals backstage.

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### By Jacqueline Bigar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2010:

This year, tap into your mind more often than your feelings, unless you have been successful at blending both. Your first idea, your knee-jerk reaction, will be right-on most of the time. Don't minimize the importance of following through. If you are attached, your partner seems to be transforming right in front of you. Don't push or demand. Where you have manipulated will backfire sooner rather than later. If you are single, you intensely want a relationship. Go for the person who is very different from your past choices. GEMINI provokes thought.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) \*\*\*\*\* A discussion reveals your level of commitment to a key project. You need to honor another's needs and the ability to change and transform. What might have worked originally might not any longer. Tonight: Hang out with a pal. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) \*\*\*\*\* You could be awestruck by what can be completed and handled. Finances flutter up and down, personally or professionally. Finally, you see the opening through which you will be able to walk and feel good about the choice. Tonight: Do for a loved one. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) \*\*\*\*\* After feeling so tired and pressured, you bloom and resonate with whatever calls your name. A partner has attempted to make adjustment after adjustment. Stop and take a complete, caring and empathetic look at this per-

son. He or she needs your time. Tonight: Whatever feels right. CANCER (June 21-July 22) \*\*\*\*\* Keep your thoughts and feelings out of the mix with people right now. You are moody, and what irked you one day might not even be a blip on your radar the next. Tonight: Just for you. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) \*\*\*\*\* Bring people together in a meeting. The power of a group cannot be denied in succeeding on a project. Though you need to make several adjustments to keep the troops together, it is worth it. Screen your calls: a friend might be very needy. Tonight: Where the action is. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) \*\*\*\*\* Take a stand and move forward toward a better idea through a brainstorming session. No one can have all the ideas all the time. Your willingness to encourage other views helps make friends and associates feel valued. Tonight: A must appearance. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) \*\*\*\*\* Reach out for more information. Perhaps you have given some time and thought to taking a workshop or expanding your knowledge in your chosen field. If you are questioning information, do your own research or find an expert. Tonight: Choose a different type of happening. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) \*\*\*\*\* Your directness will be appreciated by those you speak to. Be aware that several people in your life might need a touch of diplomacy. Listen to a totally different viewpoint. Tonight: Finally, some quality time! SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) \*\*\*\*\* Sometimes you get so wound up

you cannot see past the immediate. If you find yourself in a self-propelled whirlwind, stop. Defer to others. Listen to their ideas. Give up being a force for at least one day. Meanwhile, try to center yourself. Tonight: The only answer is "yes." CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) \*\*\*\*\* Keep focusing, despite the chaotic activity that surrounds you. Your attitude finally wears off on others. Clear out a task that has felt like a burden. Be open to a new path, thought or approach. Tonight: Remember to get some exercise. Walk the dog after dinner. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) \*\*\*\*\* Your mind might be overactive. Cut the judgments and overthinking. Creativity can flow once you allow the spice to turn on. Sometimes you interfere with yourself! Note how flirtatious a key person might be. Are you going to respond? Tonight: Think less about work and more about fun. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) \*\*\*\*\* You could be dragging from the moment you wake up. If you can, take some time off and indulge yourself. Recharging your batteries is a wise choice. You cannot be attentive without paying a little more attention to your well-being. Tonight: Close to home.

BORN TODAY  
Actress Brigitte Bardot (1934), actress Hilary Duff (1987), actress Naomi Watts (1968)

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