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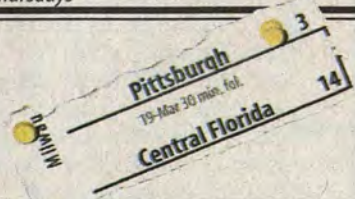
Central Florida Future

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The Student Newspaper Serving UCF Since 1968

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BRAWL



The men's basketball team confronts Pittsburgh in NCAA play tomorrow.
— SEE SPORTS, A8

MEGAACON



A man dressed as a Sailor Scout wasn't the only thing Megacon had to offer.
— SEE the indie, 11

Recalling the media's shift on civil rights

NATALIE RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Reporters who covered the turbulent civil-rights battles of the 1950s and 1960s encountered not only violence in the streets, but also nervous publishers who feared antagonizing readers and advertisers, a celebrated editor said Monday at UCF.

The journalists' strategy: "Go as far as you can go without getting fired," said Eugene Patterson, the former editor of the *Atlanta Constitution* and *St. Petersburg Times*. "Survive, but stretch the boundaries."

Patterson, whose editorials in support of civil rights for blacks won the 1967 Pulitzer Prize, recalled the era for an audience of about 200 people at the Student Union during a forum on media coverage of civil rights then and now. He was joined by Moses Newson, a journalist who covered desegregation in the South, and Clarence Page, a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the *Chicago Tribune* who has written about civil rights and urban affairs since the 1960s.

The forum was organized as part of UCF's ongoing look at racial issues on the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 ruling in *Brown versus Board of Education*, which desegregated the public schools.

At the time of the court's decision, the media was as divided as the general public. Living in the North during the civil rights strug-

PLEASE SEE **BLACK** ON A4

Just like high school, but with fewer virgins

DUFFY HERY
Contributing Writer

It is a known fact that a majority of female students keep their old prom dresses, even if they never plan on wearing them again. On April 9, they can break out those dresses for one last hurrah, as UCF holds its first prom in the Center for Health and Wellness.

Hosted by the Office of Student Involvement, this prom is not the typical song and dance like the typical prom experience. It'll be 100 percent free of charge, and feature several different types of music.

What: UCF Prom
When: April 9
Where: Recreation and Wellness Center
Price: Free

"We're hoping to have a prom where everything that wasn't at the prom you went to in high school, is going to be done at this year's prom," said senior philosophy major Matt Shannon.

Shannon is the prom's organizer and has brought this idea from the drawing board to the basketball courts of the health center. It has taken him nearly all semester to plan this event.

"It's not going to be too serious. It isn't going to be a required formal dress, but people can dress up however they'd like," said Shannon.

The party is going to have a feel of early eighties teen flicks that featured a school prom. It's going to have an 80's cover band, with music from both the eighties, and a DJ for more recent music. The theme for the prom is called Poseidon's enchantment, which will feature sea creatures and other ocean-themed decorations.

The party is planning on featuring not just the basketball courts, but also a set up with the yoga, spinning, and other workout classes as well as other DJs and "chill out" areas to just hang

PLEASE SEE **KING** ON A7



More than 1,000 supporters of the Bright Futures scholarship rallied outside the Old Capitol building in Tallahassee yesterday.

RALLY IN TALLY

1,000 converge on state capital to support student aid

ALEX BABCOCK
Managing Editor

As dawn broke on the UCF campus yesterday, 10 students climbed aboard a 50-seat charter bus destined for Tallahassee to defend a threatened scholarship.

There they joined more than a thousand other people in a mass demonstration of support for the Bright Futures scholarship, something they say is threatened by state budget cuts.

As students intermittently cheered, chanted and whistled in a sea of green and yellow T-shirts, the colors of the rally supporters, a cadre of speakers charged up the crowd, including Miss America Ericka Dunlap, a UCF student. She echoed the sentiment of most speakers that the scholarship is too valuable to Florida's students to lose.

"Being a university student is a very expensive thing," she said. "There are a lot of people standing in front of me today that don't have \$50,000 to pay for college."

The scholarship, created in 1997 by the Florida Legislature, funnels money collected by the Florida Lottery to a scholarship for students with good high school GPAs and high scores on tests such as the SAT. About 110,000 students received Bright Futures scholarships during the 2002-2003 school year, worth about \$202 million. Nearly 71 percent of students at state universities have the scholarship.

UCF's contingent began to gather at the pickup point at 6 a.m., even before the bus had arrived, with the glow of a thin crescent moon still the brightest light in the sky. At first there were four, then five, and eventually nine students and two members of the *Future* staff to make the trip. The group would join up with a

PLEASE SEE **HUNDREDS** ON A5

UCF professor diagnoses foreign-accent syndrome

NASEEM SOWTI
Senior Staff Writer

A UCF professor has helped diagnose an extremely rare speech disorder, called the foreign-accent syndrome.

Last year, Jack Ryalls, a professor in the department of Communicative Disorders, diagnosed a Sarasota woman with this syndrome. A stroke had left Indiana-born Tiffany Noelle Roberts with a British accent, and no one was able to diagnose her condition. Since his diagnosis, five new cases have been referred to him.

The foreign-accent syndrome is a rare disorder, with less than 50 cases recorded in its history. The very first case was reported in 1941 in Norway, after a young Norwegian woman suffered a brain injury during an air raid in World War II. Initially she had severe language problems. However, once she recovered, she was left with what sounded like a strong German accent. She was later ostracized by her community.

The road has been no easier for Roberts. Following a stroke in November 1999, the 57-year-old Roberts was paralyzed on the right

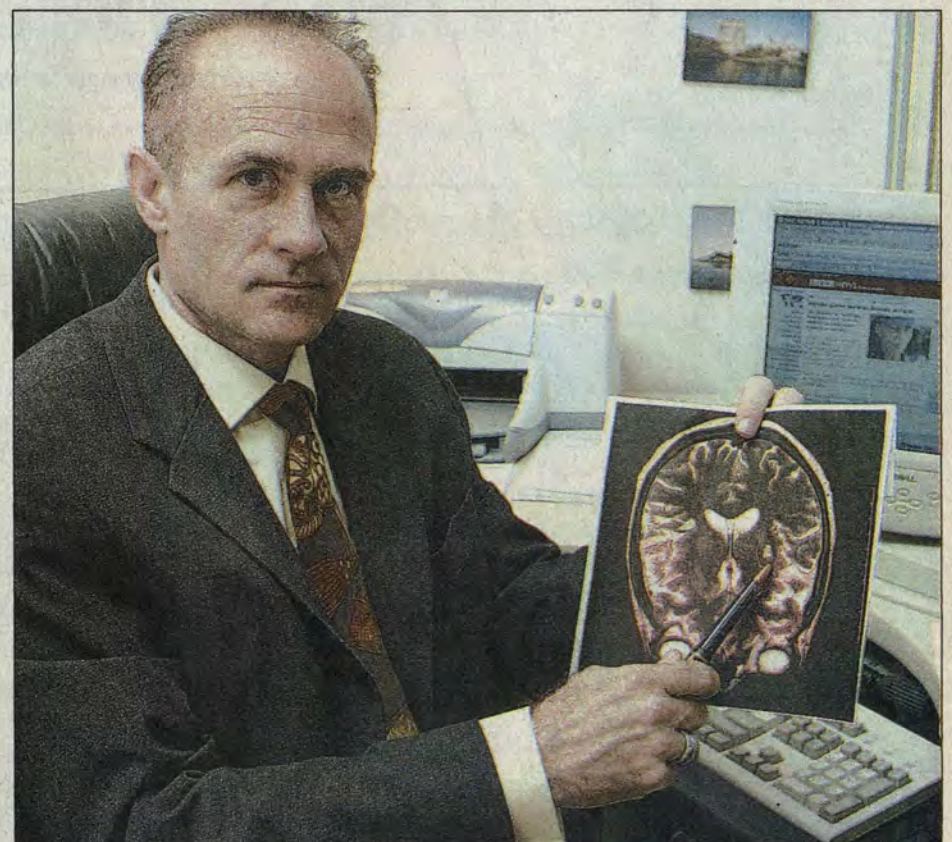
side of her body and was unable to speak. After months of therapy, she eventually gained the function of her right side back, however, her speech did not recover as expected.

Although she was able to speak with the same fluency that she had before the stroke, her accent had taken a different turn. She started speaking with a British-sounding accent and in a higher pitch than her original voice.

"I was so focused on my rehab that I didn't realize the change in my accent," said Roberts. Her family, being considerate of her recovery, did not say anything either. She added, "The first time I realized this situation was in the check-out line of a supermarket," when a cashier asked her where her accent was from.

The situation became extremely frustrating for Roberts once she realized that she cannot convince anyone that she is an American. This frustration even led her to become agoraphobic — fearful of public and open spaces — for a period of time.

For four years no one seemed to



Jack Ryalls, a professor in the department of Communicative Disorders, shows the part of the brain affected by Roberts' rare speech disorder. The foreign-accent disorder makes her sound like she has a British accent.

PLEASE SEE **ACCENT** ON A7

Around Campus

Talk of tech brains
 "Nanotechnology of the Brain" is the topic of a talk by Vikram Kapoor, director of Biomedical Nanotechnology Research Laboratory at the University of Toledo, at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow in Engineering Building II Room 102. Questions such as "Can the computer think as a brain?" will be up for discussion. Visit the Web site of the UCF student chapter of the Electro Chemical Society at <http://www.mmae.ucf.edu/ecs> for more information.

Free cookies and coffee
 Nell Newman, an advocate of sustainable agriculture and the daughter of actors Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, will speak about organic coffee at 3 p.m. tomorrow in Communication Building Room 209.

Nell Newman is president of Newman's Own Organics, an enterprise that began as a division of her father's company, Newman's Own. Newman's Own Organics recently developed six new coffee varieties, all of which are Fair Trade Certified by TransFair USA, which means small-scale farmers are guaranteed a fair and sustainable price for their crop.

She'll talk about what goes into the average cup of coffee and the concept of fair trade in the coffee industry, while showing off her product. Free coffee and Newman's Own's cookies will be served.

Tri Delta takes the spotlight
 The women of Delta Delta Delta sorority at UCF hope to raise their profile next week with activities involving food, music and an invitation to other students to help make gifts for patients at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children and Women.

Sorority members will man a table outside of the Student Union from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Wednesday as part of the sorority's PR Week. In addition, Tri Delta will hold its annual Lady of the Knight event, which welcomes women who are not affiliated with a Greek-letter organization, at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Tri Delta house on Greek Park Drive. Attendees will have the chance to make gifts for children at the hospital.

Clarification

The cover of the Feb. 26 edition of *the indie* contained a cartoon caricature that has been erroneously embraced by some readers as a depiction of a specific individual. The cartoon was not based on any one person in particular and no harm to any individual was intended.

Let us know

The *Future* wants to hear from you! If you have a club, organization or event and want your information to be considered for the Around Campus column, send a fax to 407-447-4556 or an e-mail to editor@ucfnnews.com. Deadlines are 5 p.m. Tuesday for the Thursday edition, and 5 p.m. Friday for the Monday edition.

Artless Orlando awaits a movement

JESSICA LACOMBE
 Staff Writer

The fine arts are considered an important aspect and benefit of any major metropolitan area. In a growing city like Orlando, one might expect a growing art scene. The problem is, there isn't one.

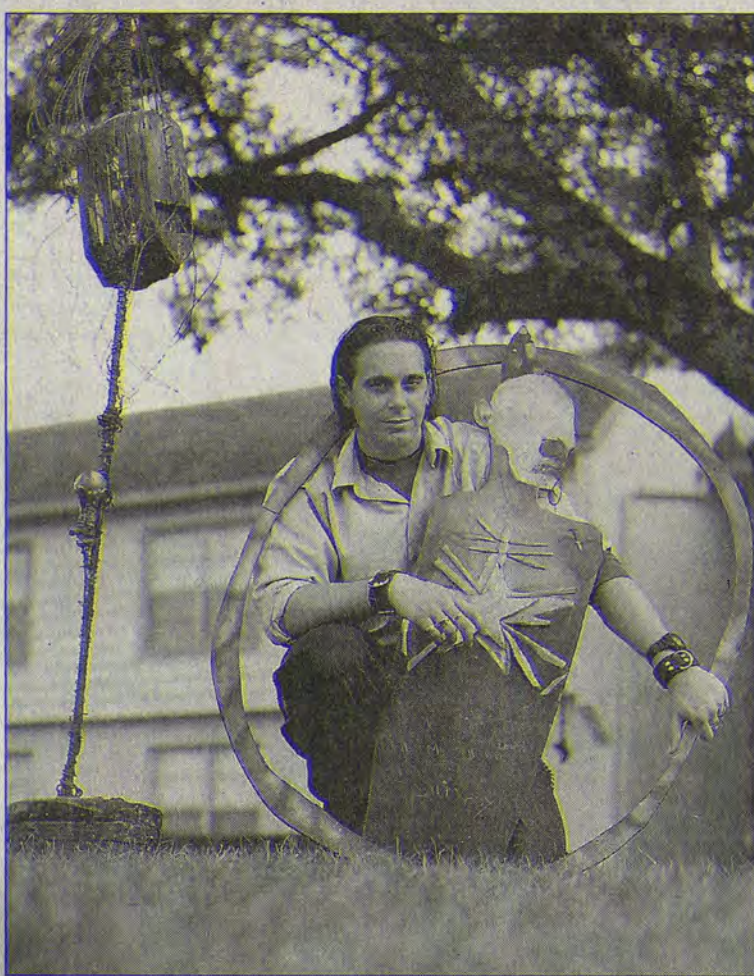
Unlike other U.S. cities, where an urban atmosphere provides a niche where full-time artists can survive, Orlando-based artists are hard to come by. The same story applies for art galleries. While Winter Park houses three, and the downtown Orlando area has the Orlando Museum of Art, these venues cater to already-established artists. Fledgling artists generally come up empty-handed when searching for a small gallery in which to show their work, leading to a lack of young full-time artists in Orlando.

At a time when city officials are trying to enhance the downtown, critics have disregarded the efforts as building the facade of a city without the substance.

"There are plenty of buildings and clubs and venues, but not a lot is going on," Zachary Moldof, a UCF student and local artist, said. "There is no consistent and viable outfit for people who are not established."

According to Moldof, Orlando does just fine bringing in established artists and musicians who visit, but that's where their end.

"I don't know anywhere I



JAN SVOBODA / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE
 Christopher Archer, 25, believes the transient Orlando atmosphere is to blame for the fail of the Prima Galleria in downtown Orlando. Archer was one of three managers of the gallery.

can go to see local artists in a way that the city supports," he said. "I don't know if it's a lack of actual talent among the artists or a lack of venues, besides your random open mic night. But something is obviously lacking. There is no reason to go downtown if you are not going to see a show or go drink at a bar."

Unlike Moldof, other local artists have felt the blow of artless-Orlando in an economic way.

Over a year and a half ago, in Feb. 2002, Christopher Archer, 25, a graduate of UCF, became one of three managers of the Prima Galleria. Located at 11 E. Pine St. in downtown Orlando, Archer, his sister Arianne, 26,

and one of the handful of "true" local artists, Dan Eymenger, 40, came together to bring the Prima Galleria to life.

All three had been disheartened by a lack of exposure for local artists, which consisted largely of wall decorations on the inside of music clubs.

"I came from South Florida and Miami, where art is intermixed with culture," Arianne Archer said. "Coming to Orlando, I met up with a large number of art-minded people who didn't have a venue. I noticed how disrespected the artwork was, because when it was shown, it was decoration on the interior of a club. I wanted to find the middle, comfortable atmosphere where artwork is shown, but it's not as stuffy as a state-sponsored gallery."

After gaining sponsorship from the Orlando Visual Arts League, the space became part of the city of Orlando's mandatory endowment to the arts. The three began renovating the space.

The revamped gallery space was remodeled to hold about 25 pieces, a format parallel to small galleries found in cities like New York and San Francisco. Prima Galleria entered a phase of week-long shows featuring one or two artists at a time.

The hitch was, no one was buying. In fact, there weren't that many people even attending.

So why did the Prima Galleria flunk?

PLEASE SEE GALLERIES ON A6

Professor in good company with Einstein

NASEEM SOWTI
 Senior Staff Writer

A UCF professor has become the first Floridian inducted to one of the oldest and most prestigious scientific organizations in the world, the National Academy of Science in Italy.

Henry Daniell, a professor in the department of Molecular and Microbiology who was named last week as the Pegasus Professor of 2004, was elected as a member of NAS last month, and will be presented with this award in Rome in April.

"I feel very proud to be nominated to the National Academy of Science, Italy, because it is older than any [scientific] concept that I have ever taught or done," Daniell said.

Although most countries have their own National Academy of Science, Italy's is the oldest science academy in the world, dating to 1782.

In the academy's 222-year history, only 16 of its 175 inductees have been Americans. Induction to the academy places Daniell at the same rank as some of the most celebrated figures in the history of science: Benjamin Franklin, inducted in 1786, Louis Pasteur, inducted in

PLEASE SEE TEACHER'S ON A6

Student recognized for his social work with the elderly

KATHRYN PODOLSKY
 Contributing Writer

Oscar Rivera exudes the sort of calm usually found in seasoned doctors and visiting chaplains, a quality one hopes for in a time of crisis or personal need.

Rivera was named "Student Social Worker of the Year" by the Florida chapter of the National Association of Social Workers for his humanitarian work.

A senior in the bachelor of social work program at UCF, Rivera recently began an internship with the Alzheimer Resource Center, Inc., in Orlando, where he helps Alzheimer patients' caregivers find services and support groups.

"Even though he has been in the field of social work for a short time, veteran social workers can learn from the gentle manner with which Oscar skillfully counsels troubled caregivers," said Shellie Brassler, executive director of the Alzheimer Resource Center.

That's high praise from a director he has worked with for less than two months.

Rivera was born in Puer-

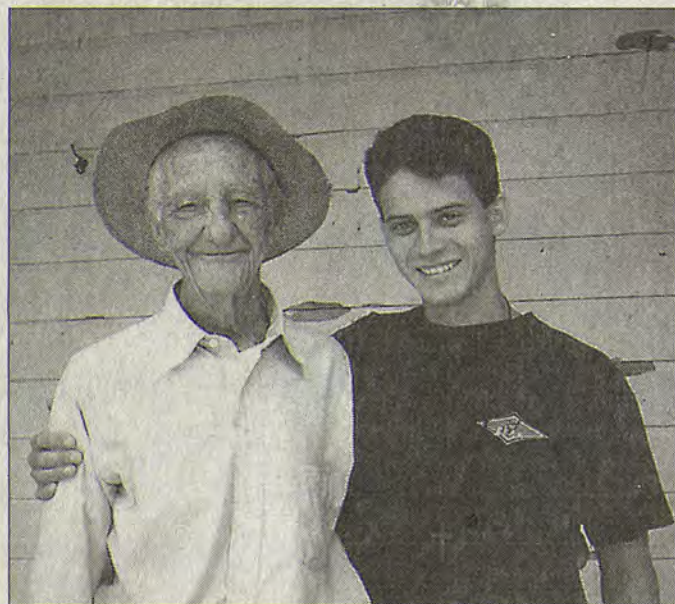
to Rico in 1974 and moved to Orlando in 1991. When his grandfather fell ill, and cancer was the diagnosis, Rivera returned to Puerto Rico and was his caregiver for 10 months. The experience helped him decide what he wanted to do with his life.

"I was the person to stay with him all day long," Rivera said, "and after I met the social worker who

worked for the hospice, I wanted to come back to Florida and go to school [to become a social worker]."

He entered the BSW program in 2002 and has been working steadily within the field ever since. According to Robin Kohn, the program coordinator who wrote letters supporting Rivera's nomination for the state

PLEASE SEE GRANDFATHER'S ON A4



COURTESY COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
 Oscar Rivera, right, gained inspiration from his grandfather, Oscar Rivera Vidal.

Week in Health

NASEEM SOWTI
 Senior Staff Writer

Economy class syndrome or deep-vein thrombosis?

A few days after a flight, a healthy college volleyball player began having crushing pains in her chest and left leg. Her leg swelled and turned purple. The diagnosis? Deep-vein thrombosis. DVT is a potentially serious condition in which blood clots form in the leg or pelvic veins. Doctors believe that flying on an airplane for several hours can cause this condition. At least 200 people had DVT following air travel in the last decade, according to a report in the journal *Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine*. Sitting for many hours without getting up and moving around makes blood flow in the legs to slow down. This increases the tendency of components of the blood to clump together and form clots in the leg veins. Although most of the clots resolve harmlessly, they can be fatal if they break away and lodge in an artery. Those with health conditions that promote clotting, pregnant women, or those who take hormonal medications such as birth control pills are at a greater risk for developing DVT, according to the World Health Organization. However, studies show that DVT can also occur in people without any risk factors. The good news is that there are a few steps one can take to prevent DVT: drink plenty of water during the flight, wear loose-fitting clothes, walk around the cabin when possible or do simple exercises in your seat to increase blood circulation.

Blacks unaware of higher kidney disease risk

Kidney failure and its leading causes disproportionately affect blacks; however, they are largely unaware of their high risk, according to the first National Institute of Health study to assess the group's knowledge and awareness about kidney disease. While 90 percent of blacks surveyed by the National Kidney Disease Education Program had heard about kidney disease, only 15 percent felt their personal risk for developing the disease was higher than average. An alarming statistic shows that black men between ages 25 and 44 are 20 times more likely to develop kidney failure compared to whites. Other studies show that all segments of the population are largely unaware of their risk of kidney failure. Some of the major risk factors for developing kidney disease are diabetes and high blood pressure, according to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease.

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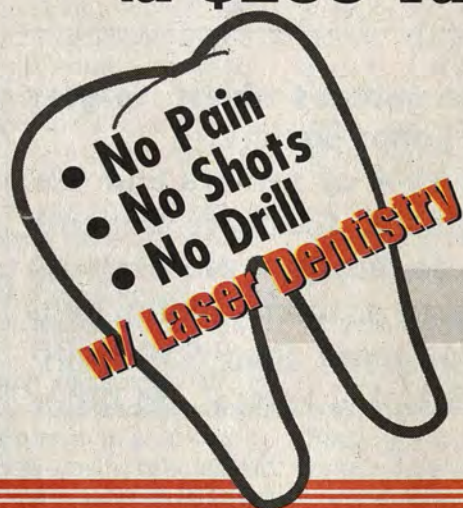
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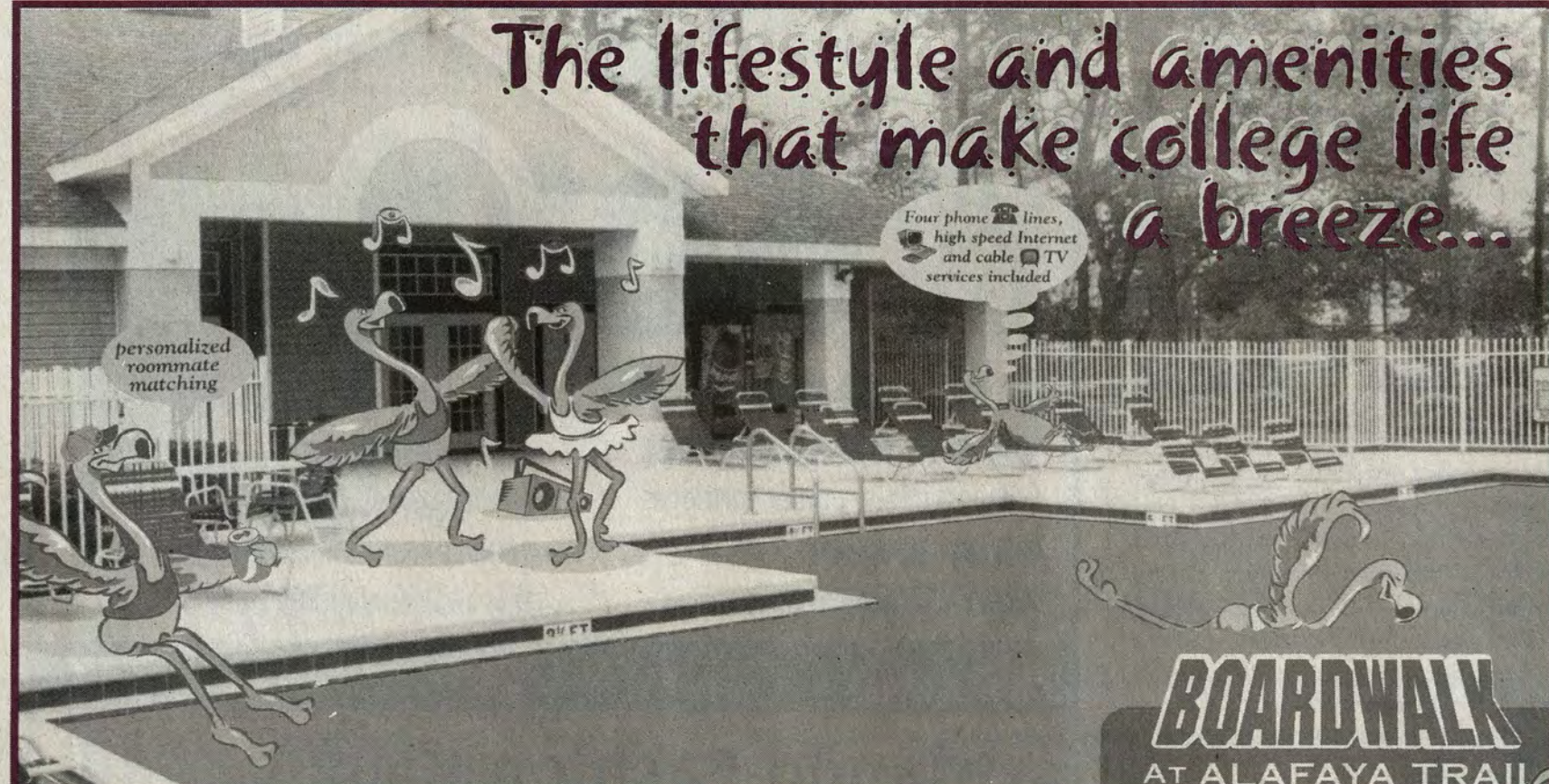
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Black papers 'born to fight'

FROM A1

gle, Page said he thought "segregation was going to vanish." Northern newspapers that reported on civil rights victories seemed to be gloating, he said.

But that was not the case everywhere. "It depended pretty much where you were," Newsom said. "Newspapers in the South were quite bitter."

The former executive editor of the *Afro-American* newspapers in Baltimore, Md., who is black, felt the hostility firsthand while covering the confrontations that accompanied desegregation of Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., in

1957. A colonel of the National Guard at the scene invited him to leave. "He said my presence there would probably cause some sort of problem," Newsom said.

"These kinds of situations were embarrassing. There were no press facilities for blacks," he said. But given his role, Newsom could not back away. "Black newspapers were born to fight for freedom and to inspire people."

Media outlets that initially were silent on the issues of civil rights and the Brown decision did so out of fear of economic loss, Patterson said. Coverage began to shift only when white reporters finally

came to recognize the wrongs inflicted on blacks. "A reporter can stand only so long and watch a sheriff beat up somebody before he wants to write about it," he said.

The court decision in *Brown versus Board of Education* shifted the balance of the law, Page said. But human attitudes are not so easily altered.

"Can you change people's hearts through government action?" he asked. "This is the ongoing debate. Our civil rights history shows you that you can."

Patterson added that a law cannot change the human heart, but "human nature can change with the help of a law."



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Grandfather's cancer inspired student

FROM A2

award, Rivera is "conscientious, intelligent, energetic, resourceful and polite." He is the recipient of three academic achievement scholarships, an active member of the BSW Student Association, the BSW student representative for the Central Unit Chapter of the NASW, and a volunteer in Deland where he resides for the Meals on Wheels program, the Florida Lutheran Retirement Center and the Alliance Community for Retirement.

Included in this lengthy resume will be a minor in aging studies, a reflection of Rivera's special interest in the aging population. The research and mentoring program has Rivera working with his mentor, Mary Van Hook, on a project that focuses on the ways in which older adults use religion to cope with difficult life events. The resulting paper will be presented this month at the Second National Gerontological Social Work Conference in Anaheim, Calif.

Dedicated to the disadvantaged and oppressed in our society, social workers have historically been the champions of

those less fortunate, with an emphasis on promoting social change and the empowerment of human beings.

"The hours are long, the challenges are many, and it is by no means glamorous," Rivera and fellow student Mary Mann wrote in a recent contribution to a local paper. "As a profession, social work requires devotion to making a difference for those who are truly in need ...

yet every day over a half million social workers wake up believing they will give a child, a family or a senior citizen renewed hope."

Rivera plans to start graduate school this fall in UCF's master of social work program. He will accept the 'Student Social Worker of the Year' Award at the NASW-Florida conference on June 10, 2004, in Deerfield Beach.



COURTESY COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Oscar Rivera was named 'Student Social Worker of the Year' by the Florida chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. He has also received three academic scholarships.

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Hundreds march to save scholarship

FROM A1

group of Student Government Association members in Tallahassee, including SGA President Brian Battles, Vice President Joe MacLellan and Vice President-elect Willie Bentley. SGA Sen. Josh Wagoner also attended, along with members of Battles' cabinet.

On the bus, as the movie *Blow* played on video monitors hanging from the ceiling, the bus was largely quiet, some students napping on the way. All of them have a personal connection to the cause.

"It helped me out a lot," said Laurel Elmore, 19, of the scholarship. "It paid for my classes and some books. If I didn't have it, I'd probably be at FAU, because I lived closer to it. I'd be home. It wouldn't be cool."

In the next seat up, Melinda Loece said she wouldn't be able to go to UCF without the scholarship either. "That's why I'm going today to Tallahassee — to help people have the opportunity to go to college, to have the dorm life. I wouldn't have been able to have that without Bright Futures."

A slew of state senators, including Senate President Jim King, spoke to the crowd, all championing the scholarship and pledging to keep it in the budget. Some referenced the power of this many students' voices as part of their motivation.

Lead by Florida Sen. Ken Pruitt, the Rally in Tally started with a march from the Landis Green on the campus of Florida State University, with about 200 students leading a procession through city streets in downtown Tallahassee. Chanting "They say cut backs — we say fight back," the group walked an uphill route behind a banner touting the importance of Bright Futures to the future of Florida's students. About a dozen police motorcycles, cars and trucks escorted the activists from FSU to the Old Capitol a few blocks away, where the main rally was held.

Most students at the rally were from FSU. "I'm here because of all the cuts they've made," said FSU sophomore Kelsey Visser, 20. "What's going to be left for my sister?" She added, "We need to get rid of [Gov.] Jeb [Bush]. That's what we've got to do." Bush has recommended increasing Bright Futures funding by \$24.1 million over the 2003-2004 budget year level.

Visser has had a Bright Futures scholarship for two years. She said without it, life would be much harder for her. "I'd be working two jobs and not putting my time into my schoolwork," she said. Regarding students who pay for college without a scholarship, she said, "I don't know how people do it."

Her boyfriend, J.P. Eason, 21, transferred from UCF to be

with her a year ago. He said poorer students will be the first to suffer if the Bright Futures program is cut. "I'll be alright — I can afford to finish school, but there's so many students who won't be able to pay."

Pruitt took the stage after arriving in the "Bright Futures Express," a short yellow school bus he's ridden for 4,000 miles throughout the state since the start of the fall semester to champion both the scholarship and a program called the Florida Prepaid College Fund. Much of his speech was spent touting the importance of the programs, including the Prepaid Fund, the only such fund still operating in the United States. Though 28 states had such programs, all eventually were ended because of financial problems, except for Florida's, which has about 1 million students enrolled in it. The program allows for students and their families to pay for college at a locked-in tuition rate, which will not rise past the level the parents begin paying at.

Pruitt called the program "the great education equalizer."

The Florida Legislature is currently working on the state budget for the 2004-2005 budget year, and some senators have suggested reducing or eliminating the payouts from the Bright Futures scholarship to help balance the tighter budget.

Compared to the first Bright Futures rally held last year, this year's event had more of a focus on maintaining the scholarship, rather than saving it from elimination. Thanks to the effort of Pruitt, Battles said, there's far less likelihood of any proposed cut passing into law. "Without him, it would have been a rally to save Bright Futures," Battles said.

About 85 percent of UCF's incoming freshman class this

year is receiving the scholarship, Battles said. As a graduate student, he no longer receives the scholarship, but benefited from it for his first four years in school. "Without that scholarship, I would be in debt right now with student loans," he said.

As for why relatively few UCF students made the trip, Battles chalked it up to a mixture of timing and lack of information. "It's right after Spring Break, and there's a lot of students taking tests this week," he said, adding that students might get more involved in the lobbying effort after news of the rally spreads.

"I'm a little disappointed in the [SGA] Legislative Branch — that no senators made the trip," he added. "None of them other than Josh Wagoner made the trip. It's something they need to hear and need to hear from me."

At the rally, aside from speeches, students who gathered in front of the Old Capitol's steps were treated to a choreographed dance routine

by FSU's Alpha Delta Pi sorority, clad in green Rally in Tally T-shirts. Their performance was followed by an animated show by Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's marching band, in full orange, green and white uniforms.

Music pervaded the rally, helping to keep the mood lively. A sing-along of Vitamin-C's "Graduation Song" ended the rally, and students spread out, heading to separate charter buses for their journeys home.

A sense of optimism was evident as the rally wound down, the crowd responding with cheers until the conclusion — it seemed no one really feared the scholarship would ultimately be cut this year. It just needed a show of support to keep it going, something Pruitt said the legislature now seems ready to do.

"As a legislator and more importantly as a parent, I understand that I have one chance to make my mark in life," Pruitt said. "We have one chance, and we plan on getting it right."



UCF student and Miss America Erica Dunlap, top, addressed the rally that began with a march from FSU to the Old Capitol building, above. PHOTOS BY BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

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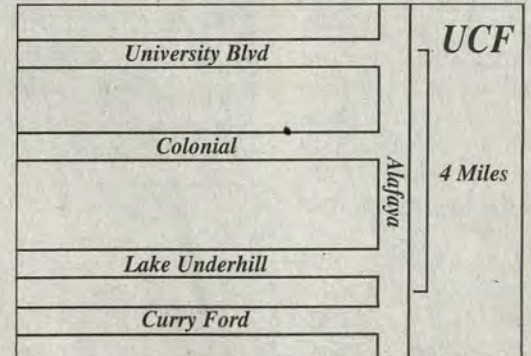
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Galleries sinking as art heads elsewhere

FROM A2

According to Christopher Archer, the problem is the Orlando art scene. While it's a city, he said, Orlando has a very transient atmosphere. The population of art-buying socialites is nearly absent from a town he described as a "corporate playground of businessmen attending conferences." Archer also said that the difficulty is compounded because professional artists are hesitant to show their work in a city where there isn't a buying audience.

"It's really hard because we are having to create an Orlando art scene," Christopher Archer said. "It's very discouraging when you can't convince the public that art is worth going out to see or buy. The scene just wasn't there the way we thought."

Which isn't to say that Orlando isn't trying. In recent years, other art venues have been given a boost. Independent film in Orlando has been creeping more steadily into frame, thanks in part to the huge success of *The Blair Witch Project*. Despite the grumbles of film critics, the Florida-based project gave the country a kick in the pants from independent film.

So what does that mean to Orlando?

Building off the free press from *Blair Witch*, local film festivals, which before were barely a blip on the radar, started taking in larger crowds.

Take the Florida Film Festival, which took its first baby step in 1991. The festival has ballooned alongside independent film. Ranked as one of the top-10 film festivals in the world, more than 21,000 people attended last year. And more importantly, it featured the work of over 100 independent filmmakers. Not to mention its rising star power, as Oliver Stone, Christopher Walken and William H. Macy are a few who have attended in recent years.

This year, an entire day of the 10-day festival is devoted to student films, a chunk of which come from UCF and Valencia Community College.

"The student showcase and the short showcase are probably the best ways to communicate with talented peers who can be contacts in the future," said UCF film student Aaron King, whose films have been shown at the Florida Film Festival. "As a venue, it really does get your films shown to a much broader audience than nearly anywhere in Florida."

To top it off, another positive about these films is that they are very low budget affairs. So low, they are synonymous with "no budget." And while independent and student filmmakers are struggling to make ends meet, it forces them to employ local actors. Unlike big box office names, they will work for nothing. In a round-robin way, both filmmakers and actors are finding ways to build their portfolios in the city.

The downside to this is that they are building their portfolios so they can leave. Cities like New York and Los Angeles come up with frequency among the two groups. If you ask them the reason, "Orlando just isn't a city in that way," according to Scott Ehrhart, 29, a local painter. "You can't stay here if you want to make something of yourself in that capacity."

Back to square one. Orlando will never have a real city draw without a real city undercurrent. That means art-developing art. Until organizations like OVAL gain more funding to create a place where artists want to stay, and the community gives support to those artists, residents might as well keep dreaming of a Soho.

"Five years ago I was hoping a foundation would have developed by now," Ehrhart said. "I'm still hoping that. People keep talking about a flame, but as of now, no one wants to stand near the fire."

Get green, get lucky for St. Patrick's Day



Get Carded hosted "Get Green, Get Lucky" yesterday outside the Student Union to increase awareness for organ and tissue donation by asking students to sign donor cards. They also raffled prizes and handed out green popcorn, snowcones and cotton candy.

Teacher's work generates big research money

FROM A2

1892, and Albert Einstein, inducted in 1925, are just a few.

Members of the academy are elected based on several criteria, such as inventions and publications.

Daniell's pioneering work in chloroplast genetic engineering technology is one of the highlights of his resume and a key achievement leading to his induction. His ideas and research in this technology have enabled the production of transgenic plants that are resistant to drought and insects. Through his research he has contributed to human medicine, for which he has

engineered transgenic plants that produce pharmaceuticals to treat an array of diseases, including cancer and cardiovascular diseases, and vaccines for anthrax, plague, cholera and other bioterrorism agents.

Daniell also has an outstanding publication record, having authored more than 100 publications on chloroplast genetic engineering, and has been cited by peers over 1,000 times in scientific journals. During the past five years he has published more than 40 articles in some of the top scientific journals, including *Nature Biotechnology* and *Trends in Plant Science*. He has earned the title of

UCF Millionaires Club Honoree for two consecutive years by securing about \$10 million in research funds. In addition, he founded the first UCF-based biotech company, Chlorogen, Inc. Chlorogen has attracted millions of dollars in investment capital from several major biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, and is expected to experience rapid growth.

Daniell's selection as the Pegasus Professor of 2004 recognizes him with the highest honor bestowed upon a UCF faculty member. He expressed his excitement for earning this title, and with a laugh said, "I guess everything happens all at once."

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King and queen to be crowned

FROM A1

Another feature will be a faux King and Queen of the UCF prom. There will be a voting booth present and crowns for both winners.

"It's not going to be as serious as homecoming, but it will be worth seeing," said Shannon.

Shannon hopes to bring in everyone from campus to this event. "This is all inclusive: age,

year, or whether you're Greek won't matter," said Shannon.

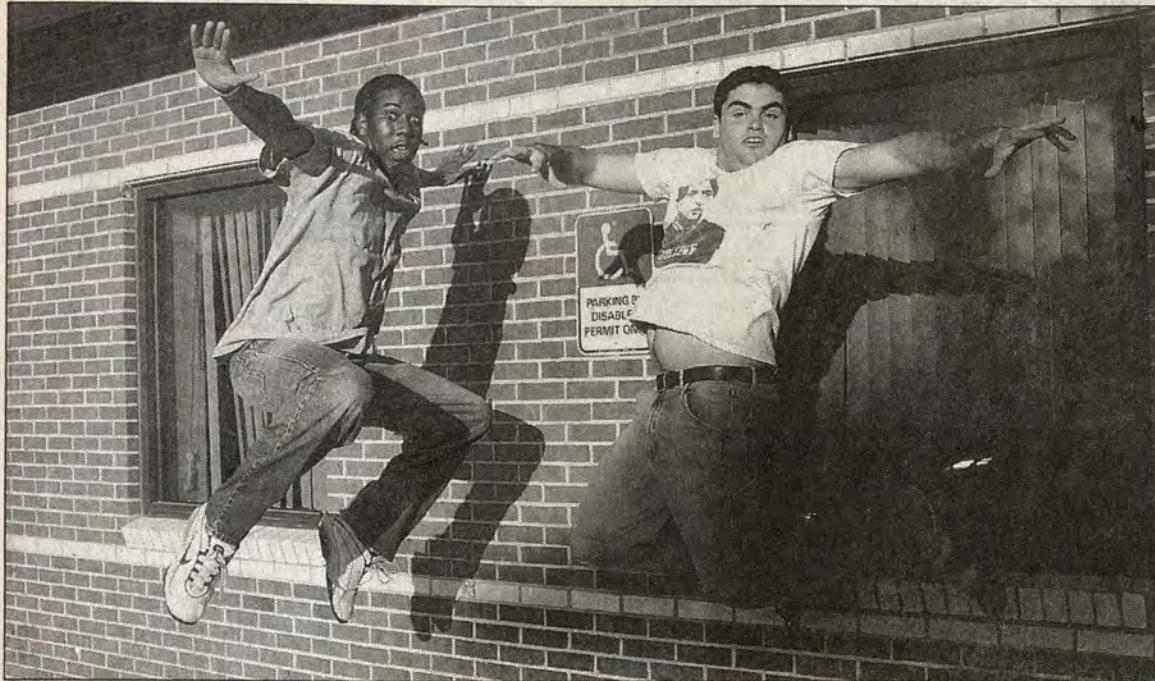
He also believes that couples should come and any type is allowed to attend.

"I remember reading that some schools didn't allow same gender couples to their proms in the state of Florida, so now here is a chance for same sex relationships to come as a couple to the prom and have a good time, no matter who they're with" said Shannon.

While some people took their prom seriously, Shannon feels that this prom should be just for a fun way to get to know other students

"It's just going to be a light-hearted event, with wild stuff going on. We're not going to have seriousness involved at all during this party," said Shannon.

Shannon also said that he hopes there will be 40,000 attending, but in reality wants a few hundred to show up.



JAN SVOBODA / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

David Williams, left, and Matt Shannon were the creative brains behind a UCF prom for those who took their high school prom too seriously.

Accent syndrome rare, but real

FROM A1

have an explanation for her situation. Her neurologists failed to diagnose her condition, and her relatives could not understand why she was speaking like a Brit. After all, she had never even been to Britain.

Last year, however, after much suffering and agony, Roberts was referred to Jennifer Gurd, an expert on speech disorders at Oxford University, through a friend. Gurd eventually referred Roberts to Ryalls at UCF, who had worked on foreign-accent syndrome for his doctoral dissertation.

According to Ryalls, this condition is caused by stroke in the left hemisphere of the brain, which is specialized in speech and language. The stroke leaves behind dead brain tissue in that region that causes changes in the speech pattern and pitch.

"The accent is considered by the patient, acquaintances, and investigators, to sound foreign," said Ryalls. Because of the damage to the speech region of the brain, the patient uses syllable emphasis and accentuation different from his or her original accent. In other words, the wrong syllable stress is applied to words, and this leads to what sounds like an accent. "Some part of what

seems to be an accent is also in the ear of the beholder," said Ryalls. In an interview with BBC, Gurd further explained that the accent is not genuine; rather, it is the result of a change in the speech pattern.

Roberts' case received a considerable amount of coverage from the media, and she was interviewed by programs from all over the world. Due to the publicity her case received, five new cases, which might have gone undiagnosed, have been referred to Ryalls.

Roberts said, "Had I been diagnosed first, it would have been easier [to deal with my accent], but I hope with the awareness I have brought to the public, some good will come for others with the same syndrome."

In an effort to further understand the relationship between the left-hemisphere stroke and the foreign-accent syndrome, Julius Fridrikson, a communication and disorders scientist at the University of South Carolina and UCF graduate, is conducting more in-depth research.

In his research, he is studying the brain function of a North Carolina man who began speaking with a French accent following a stroke. Fridrikson is using Diffusion Tensor Imaging and Functional and Magnetic Resonance

Imaging to study the brain functions and activities during speech.

What Fridrikson found was a confirmation of what scientists had long thought about the syndrome: The images from the patient's brain showed that the section of the brain that helps control motor and speech function was working overtime to compensate for brain matter destroyed by the stroke. As for the change in the pitch, Dr. Ryalls explained that the stroke can cause tense or loose vocal tract posture, which leads to higher or lower pitch accordingly.

Unlike Roberts and some other foreign-accent syndrome patients, the North Carolina man is slowly losing his French-like accent and gaining his Southern drawl back. Fridrikson is planning to do a follow-up study on him in June.

Statistically, there are 1.5 cases of foreign-accent syndrome every 10 years. Almost all the cases suffer from a stroke in the left hemisphere of the brain, and more than 60 percent of the cases have been women.

"People don't realize how integrated your personality is with your voice," said Roberts. "A part of me had died during the stroke," she said, describing the loss of her American accent.



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2
Consecutive seasons in which Pittsburgh has made it to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA Tournament.

21
Opponents Pitt has held to less than 60 points this season.

30
Opponents Pitt has held to less than 70 points this season.

18
Games in which UCF scored more than 70 points this season.

Briefs
MTV will be in attendance at the March 27 home baseball game against Stetson, conducting an open casting call for future shows. Gates will open and the casting call will begin at 10 a.m. at Jay Bergman Field. In between innings, fans will have the chance to compete in contests in front of MTV representatives.

Upcoming
Men's basketball heads to Milwaukee, Wis., to face Pittsburgh in the first round of the NCAA Tournament at 9:40 p.m. tomorrow... Baseball travels to Buies Creek, N.C., tomorrow for a three-game series against Campbell... Men's tennis hosts New Orleans at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow at the UCF Tennis Complex... Women's track and field heads to Tallahassee to compete in the FSU Relays tomorrow.

Quotables
"I'm ready to go. We've been waiting for this. We want to go up there and show them what we're all about."
— JUNIOR GUARD GARY JOHNSON BEFORE THE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM LEFT THE UCF ARENA YESTERDAY

"All we have to do is go out and play basketball. That's what we've been dreaming about. All those great guys that are on my team are up for the challenge."
— GUARD DEXTER LYONS

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Wisconsin 6
19-Mar 6:20 PM

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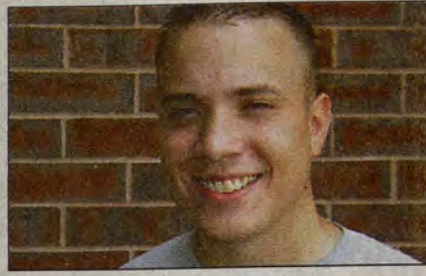
Kansas City

19-Mar 11:30 AM

South Carolina 10

Oklahoma St. 2
19-Mar 30 min. fol.

Eastern Washington 15



ASHLEY BURNS
Sports Editor

Next stop: upset city

This game's as tough as a Murray State drug test

This week has been insane. Fans of UCF have shown every emotion possible, from anger to elation to grief. I wouldn't go as far as to say that UCF has the most bipolar fan base in the country, but the fact is we're just not used to this. What's truly amazing is that our men's basketball team got a little more than just a 14 seed. They actually got screwed. I'm not exactly a professor of bracketology just yet, but I do understand simple math. UCF is currently ranked 62nd in the Ratings Percentage Index. Illinois-Chicago is ranked 87th in the RPI. However, Illinois-Chicago is a No. 13 seed. On top of that, UIC has a worse record (24-7) and a weaker strength of schedule (UCF is ranked 209, UIC is ranked 229).

If it were just UIC that had received a higher seed than UCF, then maybe I'd let it slide. However, University of the Pacific pulled a No. 12 seed, despite having a lower RPI (65) and a lesser record (23-7). What gives Pacific the edge is that its SOS is a 160. But a SOS of 160 means absolutely squat to me, when Pacific is playing out of the Big West conference.

Anyone ever heard of the Big West before? Take the Atlantic Sun and add wheelchairs.

Air Force received an 11 seed, and also sits below UCF in RPI (70) and record (22-6). The Falcons didn't even win the Mountain West Conference, yet they ended the season as the No. 25 team in the nation. I know that Air Force was ESPN's darling Cinderella this season, but an 11 seed with a SOS of 183?

My brain hasn't hurt this much since the last time I watched *Newlyweds*.

But Illinois-Chicago, Pacific and Air Force aren't my problem. My problem is Murray State. Only five days ago, Murray State was below UCF in the RPI. Since then they've passed us and earned a No. 12 seed.

Whoopee. The Racers only had four regular-season losses, but one came against Samford and the other at Austin Peay. Read that again. The Racers not only play out of the Ohio Valley Conference, which is parallel to the A-Sun at best, but they have a weaker SOS than us (211).

Let's throw all of that away. The bottom line is that Murray State is a black eye to the NCAA. This week, two of Murray State's top players were arrested for drug-related charges. While the Racers' second-leading scorer has been suspended, another player will play in Friday's first-round action, despite being charged with possession of marijuana and hindering prosecution.

It makes me physically ill to watch a group of clean-cut athletes like our men's basketball team stuck with a lower seed than they deserved, while Murray State grooms its athletes like the Portland Trailblazers.

When it comes down to it, UCF fans have to choose. Do we get behind our team and believe that a No. 14 seed can pull the upset or not?

The answer lies in a history lesson.

In perhaps one of the greatest first round upsets in the history of the NCAA Tournament, the No. 14 seed University of Arkansas-Little Rock stunned the nation in 1986 when they knocked off 10th-ranked Notre Dame.

The No. 14 seed has seen its share of success. Little Rock over Notre Dame in 1986. Siena over Stanford in 1989. Weber State over Michigan State in 1995.

We're not Siena. We're not Weber State.

We're UCF. Pittsburgh better not forget that.

Ashley Burns can be reached at sports@ucfnews.com

Men refuse to surrender tournament hopes

FRITZ LORISTON
Senior Staff Writer

Be careful what you wish for — you just might get it.

Pumped up by his last outing at the UCF Arena, Dexter Lyons said following the regular season finale that he'll take his teammates and battle any team in the country.

"I'll take these guys over anybody," an emotionally high Lyons said after a career-high 33-point performance. He finished second in scoring in the Atlantic Sun Conference, averaging 18.5 points en route to leading the Knights to their best record in the Division I-A era. "I don't care who we play. The best, whatever. We'll get the job done."

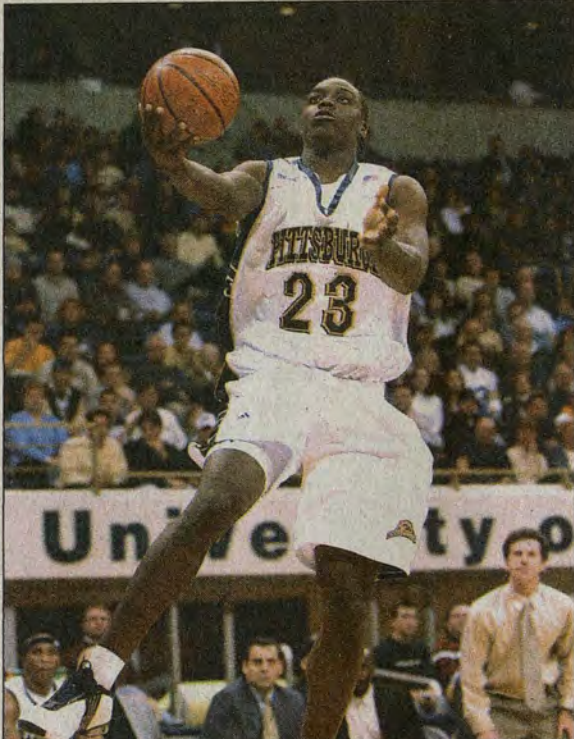
Well, his wish has been granted. Here's what Syracuse Coach Jim Boeheim, who clinched the NCAA championship a year ago as a No. 3 seed, said about UCF's opponent tomorrow: "I've never seen a three seed better than Pittsburgh."

The Knights (25-5) are facing a

Pittsburgh team that is ranked eighth in the current top 25 AP-poll and that might have been a No. 1 seed if it had not lost to Connecticut by three points Saturday night in a conference tournament final. The Panthers (29-4) won the Big East regular season title.

Nonetheless, the 14th-seeded Knights, who had hopes of sneaking into the NCAA tournament against a power team riding high, are not backing off even though their worst fears have become a reality. They'll face a Pittsburgh team bent on providing the tournament selection committee a reason why they should have been placed among the top-seeded teams in the 64-team field.

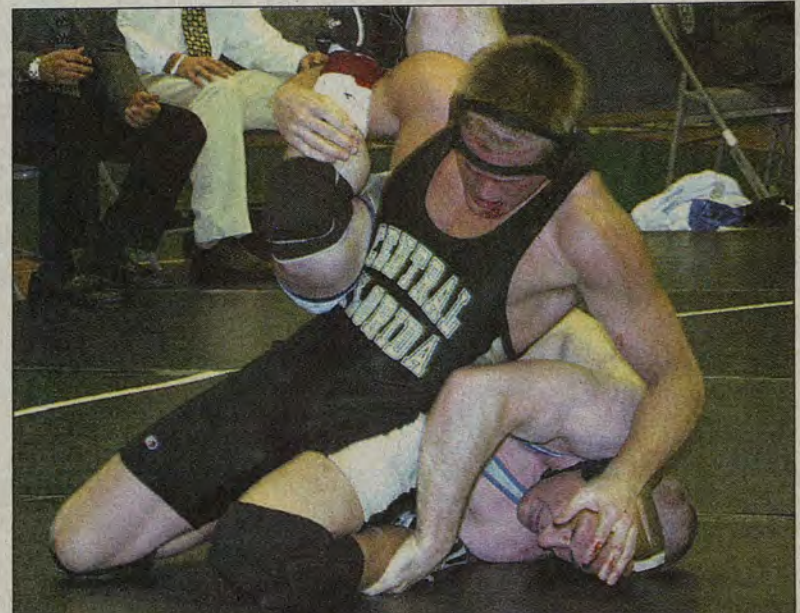
"The same comment stands," Lyons said prior to the team leaving for the tournament yesterday afternoon. "These guys are a great group. We understand our role and we leave it all on the court. No doubt this is a big game, but we can't get away from



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH ATHLETICS
Pittsburgh freshman Chris Taft finished ninth in rebounds in the Big East this season. The forward pulled in over seven rebounds per game.

PLEASE SEE **PITT** ON A9

Wrestlers return national champs



COURTESY OF JEFF RUBERG
Jason Ruberg defeated Eric Bendler of Santa Fe C.C. to become a national champion Saturday.

Wrestling Knights edge defending champs for title

ASHLEY BURNS
Sports Editor

The UCF wrestling team stunned defending champion Grand Valley this past weekend in Richardson, Texas as they won the National Collegiate Wrestling Association National Championship.

The Knights knocked off the defending two-time champions by the closest margin in the short history of the tournament. UCF finished with a total score

of 166, while Grand Valley fell to second with 163.5 points.

"What can I say about this? The guys wrestled so hard today," UCF Coach Johnny Rouse said. "It's been the same style that we've worked with them on all year long, no changes. They had to believe in themselves and hold off a strong Grand Valley team. This is special to win this title for us."

UCF earned championship performances from three wrestlers at the NCWA championship. Jason Ruberg took the title in the 184-pound weight class, while Tom Lawler shined in the 235-pound bracket.

Two Knights vied for the title

PLEASE SEE **ROUSE** ON A10

Softball shines on Best's bat

Shortstop hits five bombs as UCF wins Winthrop tourney

MARK LENNOX
Staff Writer

The UCF women's softball team (23-11) defeated Furman in the championship game of the Silver Bracket in the Winthrop Tournament in Rock Hill, S.C., Sunday.

With the win, the Knights extend their winning streak to five games. The Knights easily dispatched Furman, winning 7-3 thanks to another strong pitching performance from junior pitcher Lindsay Enders. Enders tossed a one-hit game, striking out three batters to give UCF the crown of the Silver Bracket.

"I think we've gotten better tremendously," said Enders, who improved her season record to 11-3. "Our hitting has really come around and that's definitely going to help us in the A-Sun play. I've done my best, that's all I can do."

UCF squared off against East Tennessee State in the first game of the tournament, coming up short 9-5. After jumping out to an early 5-0 lead, the Knights gave up four runs in the fifth to close the gap. The game slipped away in the sixth when the Buccaneers scored five runs to seal the win.

"We need to get tougher on defense," UCF Coach Renee Luers-Gillispie said of what her team needs to improve upon following the tournament. "We're allowing way too many runs. Offensively, our bats really showed up this past weekend."



BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE
When UCF played in Stephanie Best's hometown of Rock Hill, S.C., she hit five home runs.

Highlighting the Knights' loss was junior Stephanie Best, who had two home runs in the game. The trip to Rock Hill marked a homecoming for Best, who was raised in the South Carolina town. This would not be the last time Best would hit the long ball in tournament play, and it was the last time the Knights would taste defeat as well.

"Just the atmosphere in

general helped us out," Best said of playing in front of her hometown fans. "It was a very special tournament. I had a lot of family and a lot of friends there. Playing short, every time I looked over I saw familiar Ft. Mill faces."

"Our team saw that we had so many fans out there for us, and we finally got to play in front of a group of our fans. It was just a special weekend."

UCF quickly bounced back from the loss, shutting out Towson 5-0. Junior Crystle Kraft got the Knights going early, slamming a home run to left to rack up her second long ball of the season.

Best kept UCF rolling. Her double scored Cici Alvarez from second base, and Best topped off her outstanding play by hitting her second home run of the day. Lindsay Enders picked up her ninth win of the season, fanning five batters and allowing only three hits.

In Saturday's action, the Knights knocked off Akron 10-6 coming behind from a five-run deficit to defeat the Zips. Taylor Sawyer got the win for the Knights relieving Kelly McIntyre in the first inning. Sawyer pitched 6.1 innings, giving up only two hits and fanned four batters for her fifth win of the season.

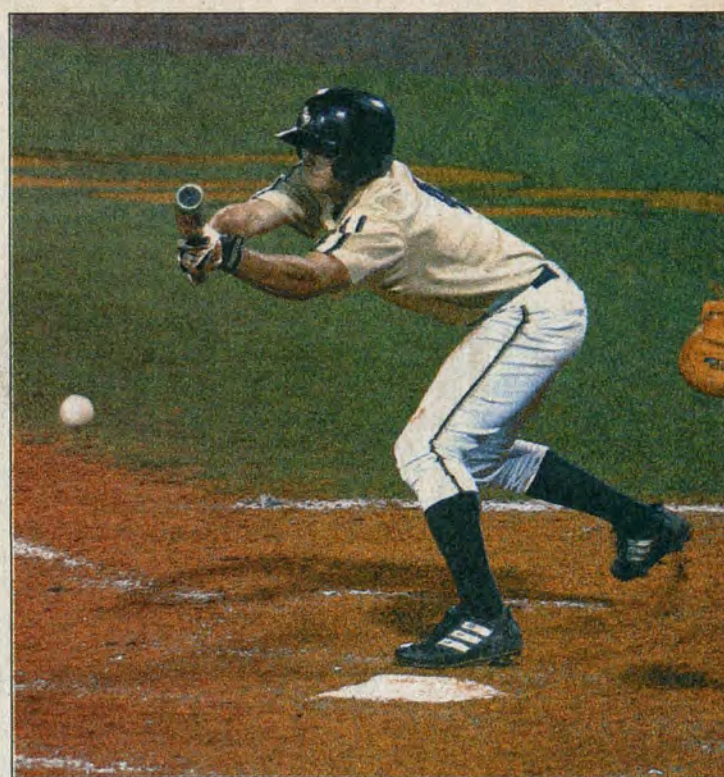
The Knights took the lead 7-5 in the fifth after Katie Feaster blasted a three run shot, her first home run of the season. The Knights never looked back, adding three more insurance runs.

Thanks to a strong performance by Enders, the Knights easily took out Pittsburgh in the second game. Enders picked up her tenth win of the season after only giving up five hits in seven innings pitched.

"We knew that she was probably going to be our go-to pitcher," said Gillispie of Enders. "She had a great weekend and it solidified our thoughts heading into this weekend's A-Sun play."

Heading into the final day of the Winthrop tournament, the Knights received a big

PLEASE SEE **ENDERS** ON A10



BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE
Junior center fielder Clay Timpner had three hits Tuesday night, extending his streak to 18.

Seahawks lit up by hot bats

Timpner, Butera rack up big hits in blowout wins

FRANK KOSHEL
Staff Writer

UCF continued its dominance this season over teams not ranked No. 2 in the country, beating the Wagner Seahawks Monday and Tuesday night by a combined score of 24-5.

"It's been a combination of both [weaker pitching and improved UCF hitting]," said UCF Coach Jay Bergman of the Knights' run production as of late.

The Knights (17-4) put the smack down on the Seahawks (2-7) with a 16-2 shellacking Monday night at Jay Bergman Field. Catcher and third-baseman Drew Butera did the most damage, batting 3-for-6 with four RBIs.

"I felt outstanding and I saw the ball well," Butera said.

UCF set season highs in runs scored and got a season-best seven stolen bases. The game opened up in the fifth inning, as an eight-run bottom half put the game out of reach for Wagner.

With one out in the inning, senior David Mann walked and stole second, eventually scoring on center

fielder Clay Timpner's RBI triple. Timpner would score on a Dee Brown single up the middle, making the score 4-1.

Marshall Bernhard brought in Brown on a single, and then scored as well on Butera's single to center field, bringing the Knights' lead to six. Wagner reliever Jon Polonitzka would get one out and be pulled after allowing a bases-loaded walk to David Mann.

UCF scored two more runs on wild pitches, giving freshman pitcher Taylor Meier a cushy 10-2 lead. The Knights would tack on five more runs in the sixth and their sixteenth run in the seventh inning.

Meier delivered a strong performance, allowing two runs on only two hits and striking out six in five and one-third innings. The bullpen continued to excel, with Brian Brooks and Tim Bascom finishing the game giving up only a single and no walks.

Pitcher Mike Mercadante started his first game of the season Tuesday night, giving up six hits and only one earned run. Tuesday's win was UCF's sixth straight.

"It was good to get my first start under my belt," Mercadante said.

UCF had another big inning, scoring four runs in

PLEASE SEE **TIMPNER** ON A10

Pitt won Big East regular season title

FROM A8

what's gotten us so successful."

The Knights, who have packed their Cinderella slippers and look to score their first NCAA Tournament win, will showcase their talents in the East Rutherford Region in Milwaukee, Wisc., in front of a national audience. The matchup is scheduled to air live at 9:30 p.m. on CBS.

The game plan will remain the same for the Knights, who practiced an entire week without knowing their first-round opponent. UCF features a potent, swarming defense, but its opportunistic offense is tame without its seniors.

Lyons, Roberto Morentin and Josh Bodden have set the tone all year long for the Knights, accounting for 43.1 points per contest. But it's the emergence of Robert Ross that gives the Knights a different dimension.

Coming off the bench, Ross is immediate offense. In the season finale, he started his first and only game as a Knight and finished with a career-high 19 points, including four three-pointers.

"I lived most of my life in New York playing in big-time tournaments. This is just the biggest of them all," said Ross, whose offense propelled the Knights in the A-Sun Championship game. He drilled three shots from long range, including two consecutive ones in the second half, that halted a Troy State rally, as UCF claimed the league's automatic bid to the big dance. "I'm ready for it and ready for the challenge when my number is called."

While Ross will look to provide some consistency on the wing, Bodden and Morentin, the backbones of the team, will supply the Knights with physical play in the paint. The Knights should look to exploit their inside experience against a young Panthers' front court.

"Experience is a big thing, especially at this level," said Morentin, a native of Valladolid, Spain. "I have experience in junior college, back home, in world championships. I figure that's definitely an advantage to us against their starting freshmen."

But if the Knights should pull off any sort of upset, Lyons will have to bring his A-game, both defensively and offensively. As he goes, so do the Knights'

chances.

This was evident earlier in the season in the Knights' sole meeting against a ranked opponent. Lyons was held to a season-low six points as then No. 2-ranked Florida overwhelmed the Knights with a 20-point defeat.

After that performance, Lyons put the team on his back and put together a 14-game winning streak, and the Knights never looked back. He was crowned the A-Sun "Defensive Player of the Year" and finished behind Troy State's Greg Davis as the leagues Most Valuable Player. Lyons also won the league's tournament MVP.

Similar to UCF, the Panthers, who have amassed a 105-29 record in league play the last five years, also rely heavily on their defense. They led the Big East in scoring defense, holding opponents to just 56.6 points a game.

Offensively, the Panthers feature sophomore guard Carl Krauser, who finished third in the Big East with 4.8 assists per game, and senior forward Jaron Brown. Both standouts were selected to the All-Big East second team. Also leading the way is freshman center Chris Taft, who was a third team pick and the Big East "Rookie of the Year."

All three players made the All-Tournament Team for the Panthers, who defeated Virginia Tech and Boston College before stumbling against Emeka Okafor, the league's "Player of the Year," who led Connecticut in the Big East tournament.

Both teams excel in the defensive end of the court, and whoever can impose pressure early and take advantage of the other's mistakes will have the upper hand.

"Everybody is counting us out, but we have a positive attitude about it," said Josh Peppers, an athletic true freshman who has forced Coach Kirk Speraw to insert him into the rotation due to his solid play off the bench. "We're going to go in there and do what we have to. Hopefully we get the victory. Our chances are better than people think."

Peppers will be there when the Knights move to Conference USA after next year. What better way to leave a mark in the A-Sun than with a win on Friday night? Go Knights.



PHOTOS BY TODD DREXLER / SIDELINE SPORTS

Seniors Josh Bodden, above, and Dexter Lyons, below, helped lead the Knights to an A-Sun Championship two weeks ago. Now they hope to lead UCF to a first-round upset over Pitt.



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Men's tennis topples Penn State

Sierra, Bradu have helped to improve men's doubles play

NATHAN CURTIS
Staff Writer

The men's tennis team has won five of their last six matches and evened its record at 8-8 thanks to their defeat of Penn State on Sunday afternoon.

The men looked to complete a UCF sweep of Penn State as the Nittany Lions returned to Orlando after the women's team defeated them 4-3 last week.

Strong doubles play helped the Knights accomplish that goal, as UCF defeated Penn State 4-3.

While the season started off

for the Knights with weak play in doubles competition, it now seems that that time is long gone. The Knights again took the doubles point as all three pairs were victorious against the Nittany Lions. UCF's Antonio Sierra and Catalin Bradu pulled in a huge victory in the second spot, as they shut out Penn State's Anthony Pu and Justin Lavner 8-0.

The singles portion decided the game for UCF as three Knights came out victorious. Sierra and Ener Gursoy won consecutive sets in the first and second positions, defeating Mikhail Bekker (6-2 and 6-3) and Craig Rubin (7-5 and 6-2) respectively. The match was ultimately decided when Rhett Rosen defeated Pu 6-4, 2-6 and 6-3 in three matches.

This marked the third match in a row that UCF has won. The Knights stay home

to take on New Orleans at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow at the UCF Tennis Complex.

The women's tennis team didn't have the same luck as the men, however, as they were beaten by Houston 5-2 on Tuesday. UCF's two points came in the singles portion of the match for the Knights.

Anna Westin bested Biljana Dimovska 6-0 and 6-4 and Kristina Lohmos defeated Diana Martin 7-6 and 6-4.

Prior to Tuesday's setback against Houston, UCF sophomore Pamela Fernandez was named Atlantic Sun "Tennis Player of the Week." Fernandez was unbeaten last week in both singles and doubles play, including the Knights' victory over Penn State.

The women return to action Saturday as they host Western Michigan at 10 a.m. at the UCF Tennis Complex.

Rouse is wrestling's 'Coach of the Year'

FROM A8

in the 197-pound class, as Todd Hauser and Danny Fernandez finished first and second, respectively. Dave Miller, Raun Jesse and Jeff Ruberg each finished second in their weight classes, while four other Knights finished in the top six as well.

Grand Valley earned titles in only two weight classes, as Rick Bolhuis won the 174-pound class and Vince Gervais triumphed the 133 group.

UCF and Grand Valley had only each other to worry about as Bethel College finished in a distant third place with only 104.5 points. Bethel College did manage to win two weight classes, as Eric Vallejo took gold in the 125-pound weight class and Matt Palladino topped the 141-pound class.



The UCF wrestling team knocked off defending champ Grand Valley in Texas Saturday. COURTESY JEFF RUBERG

Only three other Florida schools competed in last weekend's NCWA tournament. Santa Fe Community College finished the best of the three with 25 points and a 16th-place showing. University of South Florida finished 42nd in the 43 team field,

while Pensacola Christian finished dead last. Both USF and Pensacola failed to score any points or have any players finish in the top six.

Rouse joined his champion wrestlers as he took home NCWA "Coach of the Year" honors this weekend.

Timpner extends streak to 18 games

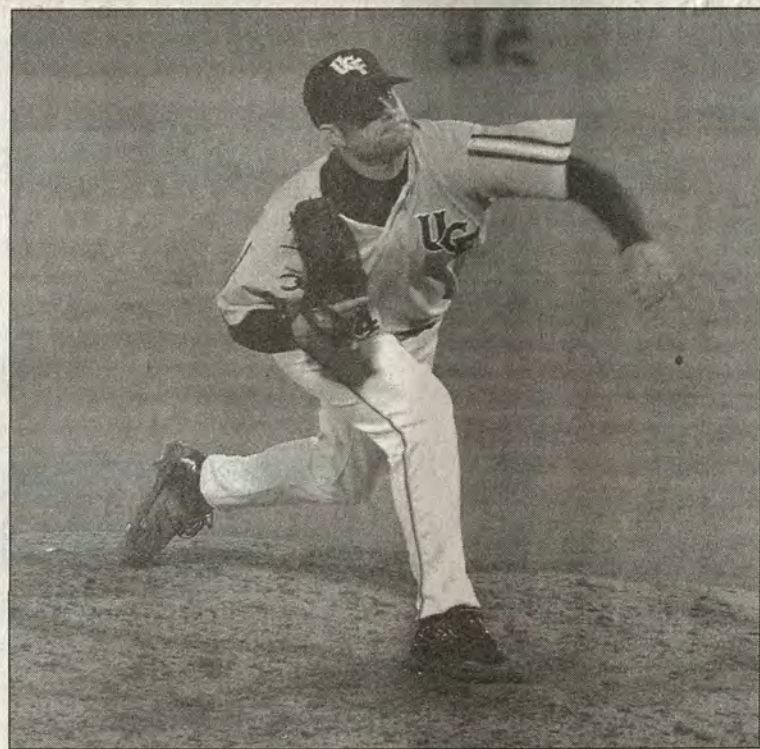
FROM A9

the eighth inning for a big 8-2 lead. After sophomore Ryan Bono started things off with a walk, Butera drove him in with an RBI single to right field.

Second baseman Matt Ray drove in Bernhard with a bunt single followed by a big two-run single by shortstop Jon Cooper, to cap off the inning. Timpner had a big night, scoring two runs and stealing two bases while going 3-for-5 with two RBIs.

"I like just producing runs, and giving our team a chance to win," Timpner said, who extended his hitting streak to 18 games.

UCF goes on the road to start a three-game series with division foe Campbell tomorrow. UCF's next home stand is a big three-game weekend series against archrival Stetson.



Junior pitcher Mike Mercadante earned his first career victory Tuesday against Wagner. BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Enders anchors staff with 11 wins

FROM A9

scare from Marshall, but managed to fend off the Herd winning 10-9. UCF got off to a rough start giving up four runs in the first inning. The Knights cut the lead to one run in the second inning, and eventually took the lead in the third thanks to another Best home run.

Best finished the day three-for-three with three RBIs. Nikki Green also registered two RBIs on a sacrifice fly to score Kraft and Jania Shinholster.

In the sixth, the Knights were up 10-4 and looking to put the Herd away. With two outs, Jessica Williams scored and that was followed by Sarah Wilson's grand slam to cut the lead to 10-9. Sawyer picked up her sixth win of the season ending the game with Abigail Harter on force out to first.

The Knights were paced offensively again by Best, who hit yet another home run which gave her five dingers in the tournament. Best picked up her second consecutive A-Sun "Player of the Week" award for her performance in the Winthrop Tournament.

Over the course of the tournament, Best batted 11-14 (.786). UCF gets a short break before Atlantic Sun play begins, where the Knights will take on the Jacksonville Dolphins in Jacksonville on the 21st.

"It's a point where you see a lot of parity across the board," said Gillispie. "We always think that Florida Atlantic is the one to beat. But we saw Stetson earlier this season, Troy State is going to be tough to beat and Mercer has a pitcher that is really showing a lot of strength. We can't take anything lightly."



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Be sure to cheer on your UCF Men's Basketball team as they compete in the first round of the NCAA's against Pittsburgh on Friday night on television from Milwaukee! Log on to www.ucfathletics.com for details!

Saturday, March 20th - 2:30 p.m. -
- Men's Tennis v. New Orleans. Come out and cheer on your Golden Knights as they take on New Orleans at the UCF Tennis Courts (between the Rec and Wellness Center and the Creative School for Children). Admission is FREE for everyone! Although some bleachers are available, bring your own lawn chair for your comfort!

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OUR STANCE

Protest correctly takes aim at war

It's been a year since America rolled into Iraq for the sequel to the Gulf War. Saddam Hussein was up to no good and we were there to stop him, again. UCF students will join area activists for a protest called "Mission Not Accomplished" this Saturday at Bumby Avenue and Colonial Drive near downtown Orlando to show how they feel about this sequel.

The United States entered the war with a clear goal — the dismantling of a well-developed, American-aimed weapons program. This was the most important point in President Bush's push for war, and it's the reason Americans tolerated it.

Since that time, hundreds of American soldiers have died. Thousands of Iraqis, both innocent and guilty, have died. No advanced, sinister weapons program has been found, however.

Tied to that goal was winning the war on terror. Judging by the continuing rash of terrorism-related deaths in Iraq, let alone Spain and elsewhere, that war-front isn't favoring the allies.

Saddam Hussein is in American custody, and Iraq has a slowly developing, more progressive form of government. But the headlines we see daily aren't about the small successes, like the opening of a new hospital or another school. They're

about the new deaths. Terrorism, something Bush was keen to link to Iraq regardless of evidence to the contrary, is winning.

When those anti-war protesters hit the streets Saturday, they will shout about how poorly the operations in Iraq have gone, and how we need to withdraw our troops. Unfortunately, it's too late to leave now.

Iraq is a country in despair, a country dominated by fear, as it was before the United States came to help. Rather than fearing Saddam Hussein, the people of Iraq now fear coalition forces and their constant patrols and checkpoints throughout the country.

They also fear their neighbors. Iraq, like many countries in the Arab world, is divided by factions of the Islamic religion. Sparing the details, it's a less strict element of Islam facing off against a more traditional sect. Caught in the middle are the people who just want to live, and the foreign forces now protecting them.

If the forces left now, the rival religious factions would have a power struggle that would cost thousands more lives, leading to a kind of instability typified by Israel.

How does the United States get its forces out, then? By fin-

ishing what it started, as quickly as possible. Members of the Iraqi Governing Council signed an interim constitution on March 8, a major step toward self-governance.

Seeing this process through to a stable government where religion remains independent of government and the people don't fight for dominance could take years, if it ever happens. American influence needs to gradually be removed from the process until there is no more.

Until that happens, we'll continue to see headlines like Monday's about four missionary deaths at the hands of terrorists.

Ultimately, the Bush administration and subsequent administrations won't be winning the war on terror until they can deal in world affairs without being violent and oppressive. Right now, American troops are on the ground in Afghanistan and Iraq, two Muslim nations, trying to fight a war on terror started by Muslims whose biggest gripe is the United States having too much of a negative influence in their world.

Until the fundamental matter of how we interact with the nations of the world is dealt with, violent symptoms like Iraqi resistance will continue to plague us, making for more missions not accomplished.

OUR STANCE

TV doesn't have to make you stupid

Paris Hilton and Nicole Ritchie are getting a shot at a second season of *The Simple Life*, proving that stupidity is a viable commodity to American consumers.

It's not a shock that the show is coming back, considering its inexplicably successful first season. There's no accounting for good taste, as the diversity of TV shows around the globe shows us. America's recent affinity for force-fed "reality" entertainment is becoming the television industry's bread and butter, despite the growing farcicality of recent shows. That *The Simple Life* wasn't canceled after its first season is a testament to the growth of the lowest common denominator segment of the American TV audience.

Though offering a glimpse into the psychology behind two girls experiencing a total change in their way of life, the show does so in such a fabricated and surreal setting that none of it can be felt for the reality it attempts to represent.

No matter how smelly the barn is when Paris and Nicole go through the drudgery of milking cows, we know that when the show stops, their lives get a lot more comfortable, while the average American is staring at a TV they're still making payments on.

They're not selling us a reality. These girls aren't really

learning from their experiences. They're being paid for the show, and the jobs they're getting are already set up for them by the time they make it to the set.

So what this means is despite the pretensions under which the show advertises itself, nobody's life is being changed by any of this. Two rich girls who never have had to work or go without being waited upon are essentially going camping for a little bit, and as they bumble through ridiculously simple jobs, the viewing audience stares with rapt attention. America bade farewell to the last season having gained nothing in return for devoting their time to the show, save perhaps a temporarily altered level of respect for fast-food employees.

Now, with a chance to start anew, we've got nothing to look forward to. Sure, sitcoms and dramas — which have been on a downward slide in recent years — aren't real, but at least they try to throw us a bone when it comes to educating people about morality.

Most of the networks' non-"reality" lineups involve traditional family situations where problems are encountered and solved through reason and wisdom, and people can go away from the show having learned something about the human experience.

In that respect, fictional TV shows offer something of public

interest like classic novels have offered important life lessons. *Moby Dick* tells a tale of the folly of vengeance, *Jurassic Park* examined the hubris in trying to dominate nature, and *The Jungle* helped expose the dark side of the meat-packing industry, helping to enact social change that led to the strengthening of labor and sanitation laws.

Though not as deep in their messages, shows like *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *Seventh Heaven* and *Home Improvement* help people understand aspects of themselves while entertaining them at the same time. They're social dramas, not just freak shows catering to our basest, slack-jawed interests.

Unfortunately, those fictional shows don't often apply directly to the reality of our own daily life. If you must watch TV in your spare time, expanding your mind can be as easy as changing the channel to the Discovery Channel, CNN or TLC. You still get to lie on the couch, but an hour later when you turn off the tube, you've taken something away from the show instead of just having wasted your time.

Shows like *The Simple Life* exist because they're cheap and don't require much thought to produce. Those are exactly the reasons you shouldn't be watching them. They cheapen us all, making stupidity cool and making wasting time America's real favorite pastime.



BEN HENDERSON / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

READER VIEWS

Bush deserves it

With the Democratic nomination process now over, the real political season is starting and I believe it will turn out to be a real nasty one.

There will be negative attacks and distortions of the truth on both sides. During the Democratic nomination process, President Bush was criticized on almost a daily basis, and I don't believe a lot of those allegations were fair.

I personally believe that Bush got dealt a bad hand of cards and is trying to make the best of it. He was sworn in just as the recession was starting and later on that year the terrorists attacked — both out of his control.

I don't believe he was given a fair shake, so I made a Web site to help explain why I think he is doing a good job under the conditions. It's called www.BushDeservesIt.com and I made it as realistic as I could and it is very fair. It talks about some of the important issues of the Bush administration, some of the problems of the Bush administration and offers a section where people can respond with any objections. I wanted to give a common-sense look to his presidency to students and then let them decide. If you love him or hate him, I encourage you to visit this site and read the topics.

— JOHN KILLILEA

Cultural symbols

The Republicans cannot win the upcoming presidential election based on their policy record, which has been a disaster in all areas including defense against terrorism, environmental protection and the economy.

Instead, they are opting to fight battles over cultural symbols. Over the next few weeks, we should expect the Republicans to press for a vote in Congress over a resolution praising the war in Iraq, a Supreme Court battle over removing the words "in God we trust" from the Pledge of Allegiance, and a continuing effort to define 9/11 as the "property" of the Republicans.

These efforts are strikingly similar to the efforts of ROCK last year to deflect attention from criticism of the Iraq war with its proposal to put flags in the classrooms at UCF. All of these efforts are designed to portray the administration's opponents as traitors and to preempt the perfectly legitimate criticism that the Republicans so richly deserve for their catastrophic policies and their repugnant values.

— BARRY MAUER

Kerry shines in Bush's dark shadow

Now that Sen. John Kerry is assured of the nomination, it's important to highlight the differences between him and President Bush.

John Kerry served two tours of duty in Vietnam for which he was awarded a Silver Star, Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts. He co-founded Vietnam Veterans of America and campaigned to end the war, with the solid record of one who did his duty.

Around the same time, George W. Bush used his congressman father's political connections to enter the "champagne division" of the Texas Air National Guard. His record in the Guard is noteworthy for poor attendance and transfer to Alabama so he could help a family friend's Senate campaign. Bush ended his service to the Guard early to attend Harvard Business School.

In 1984 John Kerry won his first Political Action Committee-free Senate campaign. During his first term he continued his campaign for Vietnam Veterans, while the president was helping his father's campaign and buying a small portion of the Texas Rangers. In the Senate, John Kerry broke party lines to support the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction act, took on corporate welfare and government waste, pushed for campaign finance reform, and held Oliver North responsible for the Iran-contra scandal.

Critics will claim Kerry's record in the Senate is too liberal. A little bit of research will show that nearly all legislation Kerry voted against (Republican and Democrat) was laden with the pork that Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens is

famous for. Kerry may have agreed with some bills on principle, but he could not vote to needlessly waste millions of America's tax dollars.

— LUIZ BRAVIM

Bible is a compass, not a map

I am writing because I wonder what Charles Eugene and the writer of "The whole story" [Reader Views, March 4] are talking about when they write that "Jesus says you must hate your family and is against peace."

Are they talking about when Jesus called people to come and follow him, leaving behind their friends, family and deceased to be his disciples? That's answering a calling, not hating your family, and there is a great difference. What happened to "Love one another, as I have loved you," or "Turn the other cheek," or my favorite, "Forgive 70 times seven"? These are the actions of a kind, loving, and peaceful person, not a warmonger, as these letters have depicted Jesus and the Bible.

Since when did God order killing of children and the unborn? Are they drawing from the book of Exodus? If so, they are way off, since the decision to kill the first-born was a result of the pharaoh's decision to kill the Hebrew first-born, not a wrathful and evil God. Also, if one doesn't believe in the Christian God, God does not condemn them to death. In fact, the Gospel reads that the Apostles should "knock the dirt from their sandals and walk away."

The few times God struck someone down in the New Testament, the source of Christian values, is when a person pretended to serve God for their own immoral gains.

To the others of these letter writers: What you fail to understand is that even the simplest of books can be misconstrued and twisted around. The Bible is not a road map, but a compass for those who believe in God.

— ETHAN ROBERT WELLS

Atheists are not attacking Christianity

Atheism simply means without belief in a deity — a lack of belief in a God.

Some try to suggest that atheism is a religion. This is not true. How can you have a religion based on something that you do not believe? Here's another way to look at it. If atheism is a religion, then not collecting stamps is a hobby.

Atheists are everywhere. They are students, teachers, doctors, nurses, scientists, firefighters, entertainers, politicians, business professionals, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, et cetera. They span all human races. They sit beside you in class, at lunch and in the library. They live in your neighborhood and work beside you at your job.

Atheists are no different than other people regarding laws and good morals. Most atheists, like most people, are good and do their best to contribute to society, raise families and enjoy life.

Some Christians claim that atheists attack their religion.

Atheists are not attacking Christianity. It may appear so when atheists show falsehoods of the Bible, God and their religion. However, atheists are simply defending their right for religious freedom. Christians are actually the ones attacking atheists, and religious freedom, as they push their God, Bible and religion into our government, our schools, our pledge, on our money, et cetera. Atheists have no problem with Christianity as long as it stays out of our government and is not pushed upon us.

Religion is a private matter. Why can't Christians keep their belief in their homes and churches? Why does their faith and their God need help from our government?

Atheists respect Christians' rights to believe in a God. Why can't Christians respect atheists' right to not believe in a God?

— CHARLES EUGENE

Terrorist attacks sweep the globe

The headlines are too familiar, the images too sad. Terrorism strikes again. Scores were

PLEASE SEE READER VIEWS ON A12

Central Florida Future

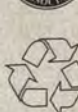
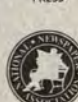
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READER VIEWS

FROM A11

murdered in Madrid only days ago, as they rode trains during their daily lives.

If anyone had thought that such radical attacks were confined to the United States and Israel, they are clearly mistaken. In recent months, terrorist groups ardent on attacking the core of democracy have targeted various places across the globe. Just this week, more innocence was stolen at the Ashdod Port in Israel, when Hamas and Fatah sent two 18-year-old boys to blow themselves up.

From the Middle East, to the West, to Europe, terrorists have turned no blind eye to those who do not subscribe to their radical views. As the stories are all too familiar for many, all must stand up against these fanatics. We must take a firm stand on terrorism across the board, whether it be Al Qaeda, Hamas or Fatah. When such groups are eradicated, then freedom-loving peoples across the globe will rejoice.

—NOAH SAPOSNIK

Speakers were inspiring

The week prior to Spring Break was a very inspiring one for me.

I had the unique opportunity to see and hear, for free, two incredibly amazing speakers at UCF. Marjorie Agosin spoke on March 3, and Cornel West spoke on March 4. I was astounded by both of these speakers' intelligence, insight and experience. The audience that made up both these events was pleasantly diverse, made up of members of the community, UCF faculty and students.

I was touched by the depth of the comments and questions put forth by my peers, and felt a connection to UCF and its community that I have not yet felt in my two years at UCF. I hope that the UCF community realizes the value of and vocalizes its appreciation for these types of events — events that educate through personal connection and formal dialogue, and expose students to ideas and topics outside of those they may encounter on a daily basis.

I know the inspiration I felt was shared by others, and I cannot wait to experience that type of encouragement again. Thank you to all those involved in both of these events; your work is much appreciated.

—CHRISTINE GOFFREDO

What gay marriage means to me

Imagine a car accident. My body struggles with the help of life-support equipment while my loving partner of six years devotedly keeps vigil in the waiting room around the corner.

In storms my mother, her well-marked King James Bible perched threateningly in hand. Before anyone can address the escalating commotion surrounding her, mother dearest has instructed the hospital to remove my loving partner; she has all but consumed the attending

nurses with questions and instructions; and the doctors are already making changes to the equipment at my bedside; and it is clear from her demands that she will not stop until every hospital employee and patient recognizes her — and her alone — as my closest of kin.

Hours later, as I sigh my last breath, I can see only the face of that one who has tormented, ridiculed and ultimately rejected me. All I wanted from my last moment of life was to gaze into his eyes one last time, and tell him how much his smile and love made each breath worth taking. And you say there is no hell?

Not long after, mother has stormed into the apartment complex, demanding access to my home. Once admitted, she claims all within, "in the precious name of Jesus!"

Days later, a bedraggled funeral director reviews arrangements in a church I would never willingly step into since the fateful day I "came out." The place is Ohio, far from my home in Florida and even more separated from my beloved partner.

The rush and commotion of emergency rooms and a Luftwaffe-style parent overlooked the power of attorney documents and other documents I had drawn up, hoping to protect myself and my beloved partner. Some of the problems with having to establish one's relationship via papers includes the fact that those papers have to be presented — often forcefully — in difficult situations. And with papers, who is to say they will be easily recognized, let alone enforced? Can you blame an emergency room physician if she doesn't take the time to read and carefully consider three legal documents establishing power of attorney with a dying patient in one room and a raging, demanding parent in another?

Had this tragedy struck me 11 years ago, my wife of 10 years would have faced no questions about our relationship or her "rights." But no reasonable legal means exist to recognize — let alone enforce — the loving, joy-filled and mutually supportive relationship that I have shared for six years with another man.

So yet again, it's time Americans recognize the dictates of a religious establishment theocracy that seeks to legitimize its mistreatment of minority persons. Yet again, it's time for America to turn its back on religious intolerance. Yet again, Americans have the opportunity to recognize and affirm that democracy is government by the rule of law built precipitously on the principle of equality for ALL. Yet again, it's time that freedom-loving Americans recognize and affirm that it is never appropriate, for any reason, especially religious, that the demands of the majority be authorized to trump the rights and protections of the minority.

Yet, in the midst of this legal turmoil, my greatest hope and prayer is that when I sigh my last breath, I will have the right to gaze lovingly and appreciatively into the eyes of the one who has truly loved and cared for me.

—DAVID GOLBY

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Crossword

ACROSS
1 Whitney and Lily
5 Barracks boss
10 Wanamaker and Houston
14 Harangue
15 Gay (Hiroshima bomber)
16 Et... (and others): Lat.
17 Subtle derogatory implications
19 Equipment
20 Cuban leader
21 Demolition letters
22 High point
23 Skater Lipinski
25 Soft leather
27 Makes it one's business
31 Little cupids
32 Steakhouse offering
37 Kelly or Tierney
38 "Lou Grant" star
41 Out of control
42 Kind of drum
44 Site for a stand
46 Puts emphasis on
49 Gloucester ghost
53 Fein (IRA's political wing)
54 "M*A*S*H" star
55 Before, to a bard
57 Easy
61 Scott Joplin compositions
62 Dejected
64 Pre-med course
65 Point of contention
66 Oahu goose
67 Towel word
68 Soon-to-be adults
69 FBI agent

DOWN
1 Severeid or Idle
2 Turner of films
3 Traveler's stops
4 One who stammers

5 Single gal in Sonora
6 In addition
7 Subterranean growth
8 Actress Jackson
9 Singer Sheena
10 Heroic tales
11 Smart guy?
12 Home of the Heat
13 Seductive woman
18 Delete
24 Uninvited picnic guests
26 NYC summer hours
27 Labels
28 End of grace
29 Hawaiian coffee
30 Flexible joint
33 Compensatory
34 Skip over
35 Nary a one
36 Just manages
39 Billions of years

40 Confirms
43 Have lunch
45 Part of LEM
47 Plastic money
48 Cherry red
49 Ms. Bernhardt
50 Carpentry tool

51 Degas or Bergen
52 Uses a fly rod
56 Being: Lat.
58 List unit
59 Singer Home
60 Early garden
63 Play on words

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3/15 solutions

SNOS EES SLEDGY
SONE ONE REIHOD
SITR VTA ONRO7
SITR TISSB TMO
SIVY SNI TIVY
VWYS OHM ITVBO
NEA AVESBAO1
SFW NIS OS BOO
GIMYIWS RVN
SIVY TISSB TMO
SIVY SNI TIVY
VWYS OHM ITVBO
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Please see solutions in next issue — Mon. 3/22

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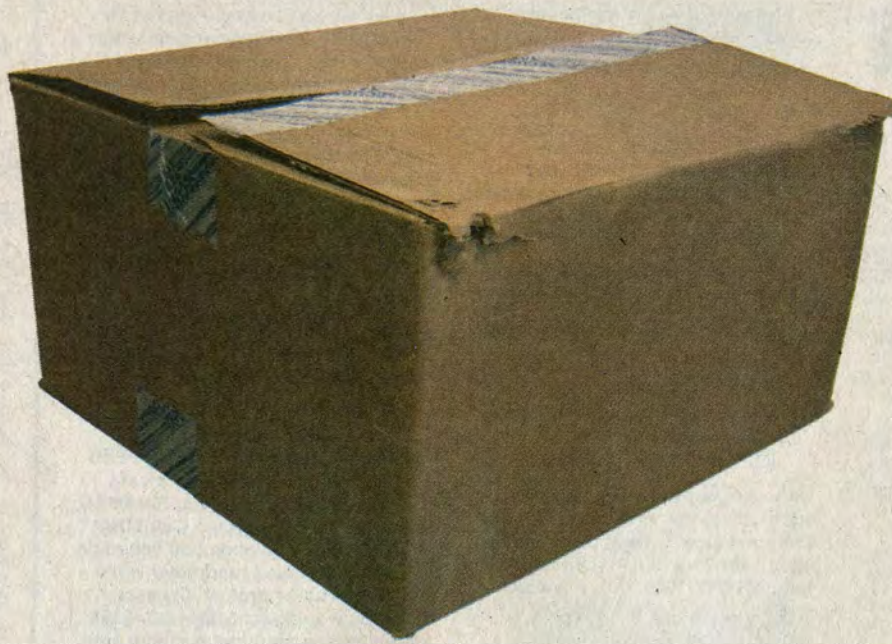
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All that you
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Annual convention makes
 geek fantasies a reality

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
 Staff Writer

The Orlando Megacon is perhaps one of the larger comic conventions in the country, except it's not just a comic convention. It's an anime, sci-fi, role-playing and video game convention too. When I showed up on Saturday, the biggest day of the weekend-long convention, I had to spread myself thin and hit all three floors. With so much to take in and little time to spare, I made a log of the events that transpired from the beginning to the end on an hourly basis.

PLEASE SEE **AFTER** ON i 2



ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ / the indie

stellastarr*

Quirky New York band makes its third appearance in six months in Orlando.



SEE MUSIC, PG. 4

Schindler's List

Legendary Spielberg film finally out on DVD.



SEE MOVIES, PG. 6

Shooting

Angus McWitherspoon is killed by a Ludacris lackey. We'd say "rest in peace," but we know that isn't possible.



SEE RAMBLINGS, PG. 11

Take Pharb and you'll pheel phine

A phreakin' good hangover medicine, phor cheap booze

SEAN HUNTING
Indie Asst. Editor

Every now and then an assignment comes along that you just don't want to pass up. An article with opportunities seeping out of every corner. An article so rare that even the research is fun. In fact an article in which the research is the very best part of all. It's just wonderful when your boss calls you up and says "Look, I need you to get really, really wasted."

We were asked to do a promotion with Pharb, the new hangover medicine that is supposed to make sure you feel good after a long night of drinking. The ingredients are basically a combination of an extra strength Tylenol, a Tums and a strong cup of coffee. In other words it will kill a bellyache, a migraine, as well as make you hyper enough to actually want to go to work after a night of drinking. It is full of promises to the extent that the Web site has a disclaimer stating, "Warning: Prevents you from feelin' like ass." A hefty promise indeed. The indie decided to test this product the only way we know how. We threw a party.

"The indie, and Pharb pres-

ent: The Top Five Under Five Party." Despite the self-important title, the party was a small gathering of friends and neighbors who wanted to test out a party drug that wouldn't end up with your spinal cord deteriorating. Everybody bought the cheapest booze they could find, with the highest potential for a hangover. This was extra important because the group consisted of professional, functional alcoholics who rarely if ever complained about "feelin' like ass" the next day. We killed two birds with one stone, testing the product and finding the top five ways to get drunk for under five dollars. Here's the hooch:

5) Natty Ice and The Beast — Somewhere, sometime, some college student coined these two wonderful nicknames for these two terrible beers. Keep in mind you have to use the term "beer" loosely when describing these two college favorites. Natural Ice and Milwaukee's Best have become common beverages for inexpensive parties and poor students' refrigerators. They both have a familiar taste that is slightly reminiscent of some sort of animal urine. The good news is after a few of them you don't care.

4) Boones Farm — This isn't one of the most famous cheap wine products of all time, but it definitely deserves at least a footnote in the bum wine his-

tory books. For \$2.99 we bought a 750 ML bottle of this 75 percent nectar. As far as screw top wines go, it is tasty and smooth. After downing a whole bottle of their Strawberry Field variety, we felt nothing but happiness. The only problem is it doesn't warm your belly like some of the more abrasive bum wines. Stomach linings everywhere rejoice.

3) Popov — Technically Popov is more than \$5. We considered this one a group project, with three guys sharing a bottle. Some people will say "never drink vodka out of a plastic bottle" or just "never drink Popov," or "If you switch the second 'p' with the second 'o' and then put a little line under the 'v' it says it all." These complaints are all duly noted, but the fact is, Popov does what it is supposed to do, and does it well. See you on the floor.

2) The Quart — Due to some obscure Florida state law that nobody has ever been able to explain adequately to the indie staff, you can't buy a 40 ounce malt beverage anywhere. For some reason that extra 8 ounces is completely taboo. Of course everybody knows just one more beer will set anybody off on a homicidal killing spree. However, the quart is a cheap and easy way to drink. There are a wide variety of malt liquors for under two dollars that taste really good

if you mix some grape soda (it sounds bad, but trust us) in when you are halfway done. If you are an elitist, you can spend another 50 cents and get an actual beer such as Bud Light or Ice-house. But where's the fun in that?

1) MD 20/20 — Originally from the Mogan David winery, MD 20/20 quickly earned the nickname Mad Dog for obvious reasons. This stuff will tear you up. Coming in a variety of flavors like Strawberry-Banana, Lemon Ice and Key Lime Pie, you would think this stuff was more of a delicious smoothie than a rancid wine substitute. It isn't bad as all that; otherwise we wouldn't have been chugging whole bottles of it with a smile on our face. At \$3.99 a pop, there is no excuse to taste test every flavor until you find the one you like. Or until you are legally dead.

We all had things to do early the next morning. Some of us had school, some of us had work, but we all had to be up by 9 a.m. The good news is we all felt fine the next day. The bad news is that doesn't prove anything. Pharb or no Pharb, we all probably would have been fine the next day, because we are, after all, luses. The only way to truly test out this product would be to try it out for yourself. It only costs a dollar for a packet, so you might as well. You have your assignment ... now get drinking.

After the shuttle landed, the geeking began

FROM 11

12:30 p.m. — The car is parked, and I am ready to geek out. Because the convention center is so huge, hosting multiple events at a time, I have to take a shuttle from the parking lot to Megacon. The shuttle is full of impatient fan boys and girls wearing shirts that display every possible comic character from Spider-Man to Fing Fang Foom! In the back of the shuttle I see prepubescent girls who are huddled together, afraid of the advancing nerds. I assume they're Sailor Moon fans, because they're wearing short skirts, bright make-up, and white T-shirts. But I find out that a cheerleading competition is being held in the same building, which has been the case for several years. Whoever is in charge of planning has a great sense of humor.

1:30 p.m. — I've been inside the convention for about 30 minutes now and have begun to adjust to the sight of storm-troopers and furries strutting around. I peruse the bargain bins and find such treasures as *Alf Meets the X-Men* and *Spectacular Spider-Man #24: Death Dance of the Hypno Hustler*, for a steal at \$.50 apiece. Common sense dictates that I come back later in the day to buy the comics so I don't have to carry them around, but my impulsiveness kicks in like spider senses. I quickly lose \$125 but gain much, much more in lonely night reading material.



ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ / the indie

2:30 p.m. — Now that I'm all done spending money, it's off to the celebrity booths, where all I have to do is show up and ... spend money. Just about every celebrity, from B-level to Mr. T-level, has decided to charge a set price of \$20 for an autograph. Whether it's the voice of Space Ghost, George Lowe, leaving a personalized message on your answering machine, or Walter "Chekov" Koenig signing your

mint-packaged Mego figure, you've got to fork over the \$20. I have a brief discussion with Glen Shadix, the fat effeminate guy from Beetlejuice, who after getting exhausted from signing too many DVD's, exclaims to me, "I want some food!" A girl dressed as a mix between Rainbow Brite and hair metal video vixen offers him some Pocky Sticks, but Shadix just looks at her and bellows "I want some real food!" I

PLEASE SEE MEGACON ON 110

The indie is the Thursday arts and entertainment section of the Central Florida Future, the free independent campus newspaper serving the University of Central Florida. Opinions in the indie are those of the individual columnist and not necessarily those of the editorial staff or the Central Florida Future. All content is property of the indie and may not be reprinted in part or in whole without permission from the publisher.



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Central Florida Future
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In this issue ...

It's been a happy week at the indie offices, filled with wild parties, joyous singalongs and all-around good-natured revelry as one of the most important events in our paper's short history unpredictably commenced. Angus McWitherspoon finally kicked the bucket.

You may think it cruel and insensitive to celebrate the passing of one of the indie's most consistent voices, but that's because you probably didn't have the good fortune of meeting the guy. We were about ready to start production on *Throw Angus from the Train*; it was getting to that point.

Imagine being a part of a group of hip, intelligent, sophisticated collegiates with important thoughts to contribute to society every week. How would you feel if a cantankerous old codger invaded your workplace, bumping into fax machines with his walker and drinking all the office coffee? We couldn't easily fire him; cause, you know, he's old. And that would be mean.

But don't worry ... as we stood over Angus' grave, we complained about the weather, the cheap coffin quality, the dispassionate eulogy and the imprecise grave size, paying the perpetual complainer the ultimate homage. We'll miss you, pal. Yeah, right.

— JOHN THOMASON

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happenings

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for the week of March 18 - 24

An unusual name, an unusual band

stellastarr* will rock* you*

JOHN THOMASON
indie Editor

Asterisk-laden, Next-Big-Thing retro-rockers stellastarr* love Orlando, which is convenient because Orlando loves them too. On Wednesday, the New York-based band, which formed in art school in 2000, will be making its third appearance in the last six months to the city Mickey Mouse built. It previously opening for The Raveonettes and Placebo. But this time, the marquee is all stellastarr*; the quartet is headlining the only Florida date on their current tour and even nabbed indie-pop icon John Vanderslice to open things up.

If you haven't heard stellastarr*'s nostalgic yet curiously original sound, this would be the time to indulge. The whisper-to-a-yell dynamics and male/female vocal interplay recall The Pixies, while the irrepressible bursts and chugs of guitar bring to mind The Wedding Present. Shawn Christensen's offbeat vocals vaguely resemble those of David Byrne. It's some kind of miracle that the band is able to pay homage to the legends above while still sounding distinctly new.

I spoke with bassist Mandy Tannen about stellastarr*'s unique name, its newfound fame, cats and more:

John Thomason: What is it about Orlando that keeps attracting you back?

Mandy Tannen: The band requested to go to Orlando; it wasn't part of our tour. We feel the fans seem to be really into it. We love going to Florida, and we felt it was a necessary stop.

JT: How have your lives changed since you were this little New York band with a cult following to making videos and signing to a major label and such?

MT: Well, I'm never home anymore [laughs]! We're constantly on tour, so our whole social lives

changed. We play shows every night, where we used to play once every two weeks. We're constantly meeting people, doing interviews and living out of our suitcase.

JT: I know you all met at an art school ... are you going to continue to pursue art even when music is taking up so much time?

MT: We do all of our own art for the band, and that's a lot of work in itself. We do all of our CD covers, posters, Web site art, stuff like that.

JT: What's with the asterisk?

MT: When we came up with the name stellastarr*, we really liked that it evoked a name, but we wanted to turn it into an object, so we made it one word and put the asterisk on it to make it more of a thing rather than a person.

JT: In your music videos, album art and Web site, you seem to have an affinity for Polaroid pictures. What is it about them that appeals to you?

MT: We like the fact that you

watch it develop. The person who's taking the picture is part of the whole developing process. That's kind of how we feel about this band. We're developing as the audience is watching us.

JT: On the Web site, there's a picture of a cat with a stellastarr* button... whose cat is that?

MT: That's one of our fan friends; I believe she's in Cleveland. She told us about her cat. She travels to get to our shows, for five of six hours just to see us during and after our shows. She told us her cat constantly walks around with a stellastarr* pin, and she just sent us the picture.

JT: What's next after the tour; is a new record in the works?

MT: We've been writing the next record but probably won't be able to record it until fall or winter of this year. It's there, and it's definitely going to be made; it just depends on what happens in the next couple of months, when our schedules open up.



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EVENTS



True West

March 18 to March 28
Call for times, \$10
Theatre UCF
University of Central Florida
407-823-1500

Duel of Fools

March 18 to March 20
8 p.m. and 10 p.m., \$10-\$13
SAK Comedy Lab
380 W. Amelia St.
407-648-0001

Comedian Pablo Francisco

March 18 to March 21
Call for times, \$16-\$18
Improv Comedy Club
129 W. Church St.
321-281-8000

Wellness through comedy with Goldie Hawn

March 19, 8 p.m., \$25-\$40
King Venter for Performing Arts
3865 N. Wickham Road
Melbourne
321-242-2219

Antique show

March 19 to March 21
Call for times, \$3-\$5
Central Florida Fairgrounds
4603 W. Colonial Drive
407-295-3247

Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival

March 19 to March 21
9 a.m. to 6 p.m., free
Central Park, Winter Park
N. Park Ave. and W. Morse Blvd.
407-672-6390

Market Pro Computer Show

March 20 and March 21
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., \$6
Central Florida Fairgrounds
4603 W. Colonial Drive
407-295-3247

Comedy hypnosis and magic show

March 20 and March 23
Call for times, \$10
The Flamingo Room Theater
8445 International Drive
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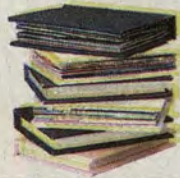
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Student Union
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Sushi Knights

March 21, 12 p.m.
Free to UCF students
(must register in advance in Student Union Room 208)
Fusian Japanese Eatery
12281 University Blvd.
407-823-6471

Memory and concentration workshop

March 22, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., free
Student Union
Pegasus Ballroom
407-823-5130

Pastry Knights

March 22, 7 p.m.
Free to UCF students
(must register in advance in Student Union Room 208)
Natura Coffee and Tea
12078 Collegiate Way
407-823-6471

Amateur Knight 2: Judgement Knight

March 23, 9 p.m., free
Student Union
Wackadoo's
407-823-6471

Make Over Bus Tour

March 24, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., free
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Patio
407-823-6471

BFA Student Art Exhibition Opening

March 24, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., free
Visual Arts Building
Room 140a
407-823-3161

SHOWS



Saves the Day, Granddaddy, The Fire Theft, Dios (rock)

March 18, 6:30 p.m., \$20-\$22
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

Padalock Grafts, Summerbirds in the Cellar (rock)

March 18, 9 p.m., \$5
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Loss for Words, Paper Street Soap Co., Lost in Progress (metal)

March 18, 9 p.m., \$5-\$7
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

The Delfonics, The Stylistics, The Chi-Lites, The Blue Notes (soul)

March 18, 8 p.m., \$35-\$42.50
King Center for Performing Arts
3865 N. Wickham Road
Melbourne
321-242-2219

Big Sky (rock)

March 18, 6:30 p.m., \$20
Hard Rock Vault
8437 International Drive
407-599-7625

The Get Up Kids, Recover, Rocky Votolato (rock)

March 19, 7 p.m., \$15.50
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

One Drop (rock)

March 19, 9 p.m., \$5
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Runnin' Blind (rock)

March 19, 9 p.m., \$3
Underground Bluz UCF
12261 University Blvd.
407-482-4141

Gargamel, Bughead, One Drop, Sucker Punch (rock)

March 19, 10 p.m. \$5
The Station
843 Lee Road
407-645-4558

Kynda, funkUs, Bluelegs, Tony Brown (rock)

March 19, 9 p.m., \$6
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
407-351-5483

Diabolic Intent, Divine in Nature, The Moshers, Blood Moon, Lost Minds (hard rock)

March 19, 9 p.m., \$7
The Haven
6700 Aloma Ave.
407-673-2712

Good Golly Miss Molly Hatchet (jazz)

March 19, 10 p.m., \$4
Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0048

Story of the Year, Hazen Street, Saosin, Adair (rock)

March 20, 6:30 p.m., \$12-\$14
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

James Brown, Black Eyed Peas (soul/pop)

March 20, 7:45 p.m.
\$53.95 (\$39.95 after 5 p.m.)
Universal Studios
Universal Orlando
407-363-8000

Some Other Life, One Less Reason, Transmission, Code Sunshine (rock)

March 20, 9 p.m., \$7-\$10
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

In This Day, Madicon, Whatsherface, Indorphine (metal)

March 20, 9 p.m., \$5-\$7
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Profits (acoustic)

March 20, 9 p.m., \$3
Underground Bluz UCF
12261 University Blvd.
407-482-4141

Jeff Coffey Band, Blindfold, Ron Irizarry, Curb 60 (rock)

March 20, 8 p.m., \$6
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk
Universal Orlando
407-351-5483

Deroot, Hand to Hand, Last Winter, Jabberwocky, Blue Collar Addict (metal)

March 20, 10 p.m., \$5
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

Fuel (rock)

March 21, 6:30 p.m.
\$17.50, \$19.50
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

School for Heroes, Hand to Hand, Minus Driver, Far Less (hardcore/metal)

March 21, 6 p.m., \$7
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Nickel Creek (country)

March 22, 7 p.m.
\$17.50, \$19.50
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

Modular, Medicated, DJ Clearwater (electronic)

March 22, 9 p.m., \$5
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

Don Caballero, The Band of the Name (rock)

March 23, 8 p.m., \$8
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Liz Phair, Wheat, Rachel Yamagata (pop)

March 24, 7 p.m.
\$19.50, \$22.50
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

stellastarr*, John Vanderslice, Ambulance, Will Johnson (indie)

March 24, 8 p.m., \$10-\$12
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

An Albatross, The Cinema Eye, Jesse Washington, Deadbird (punk)

March 24, 7 p.m., \$5
Ballard & Corum
535 W. New England Ave.
Winter Park
407-539-1711



ART

Urban Stew (opening reception)

March 18, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
OVAL on Orange
29 S. Orlando Ave.
407-648-1819

Contemporaries: From Johann Eyfells to Now

March 18 and March 19
11 a.m. to 6 p.m., free
Church Street Gallery of Contemporary Art
418 W. Church St.
407-835-8822



UPCOMING

Calexico, Ester Drang (rock)

March 25, 9 p.m., \$12
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Flogging Molly, Throw Rag (punk)

March 26, 7:30 p.m., \$12-\$15
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

Future charity event



If you're going to drink this weekend, why not drink for a good cause? Head on over to the Liquid Cellar at 9 p.m. March 20, and get imboculated to stop cancer!

Five bucks, proceeds of which goes to the American Cancer Society, gets you into the bar and access to the drink specials.

How do \$3 Jager shots sound? Want some caffeine with that? Make it a Jager bomb for only \$1 more. Also enjoy \$2 domestic bottles, wells and Killians draft. You can also get a Liquid Cellar 32-ounce Mug for \$5, with \$1.50 refills on Saturday nights.

So go to the Liquid Cellar (across from UCF) and fight cancer the only way you know how: By dropping Jager bombs.

Granddaddy is in town



We don't know who Granddaddy's booking agent is, but he needs a good kick in the arse. The atmospheric, electro-drenched pop-rockers shared the stage with banal singer/songwriter Pete Yorn last year, and tonight they'll play a bill with watered-down emo-popsters Saves the Day. Still, seeing this great band under the bright lights of the House of Blues is worth the pricey sums; the swirling dynamics, luscious pop harmonies and technologically hip lyrics translate magically on the stage. The Dios and The Fire Theft (Featuring ex-Sunny Day Real Estate frontman Jeremy Enigk) support.

1. Norah Jones, *Feels Like Home*
2. Jessica Simpson, *In This Skin*
3. Evanescence, *Fallen*
4. Kanye West, *The College Dropout*
5. Kenny Chesney, *When the Sun Goes Down*

for the week of March 18 - 24

A few words with NELLIE MCKAY

Who says that classical and rap don't mix?

NICOLE PREZIOSO
Staff Writer

Nellie McKay, who calls herself a "musical coke dealer," is promoting her debut release *Get Away From Me* (Columbia), the year's freshest and most original album. *Get Away From Me* is a collection of cabaret piano tunes mixed with the occasional old-school rap that discusses politics, crushes and neuroses.

The 19-year-old looks like Doris Day with curled strawberry-blond hair. When she speaks about her recent performances on *Live with Regis and Kelly* and *The Saturday Early Show*, she can only be described as quirky and ridiculously adorable.

McKay is a classically trained jazz pianist who left the Manhattan School of Music after two years and started writing "Beatles-y, love-based songs, the pop and jazz covers." When those didn't make her any money, she developed her own kitschy style and harnessed her talent by performing in gay bars.

"It's the best training one could get," she said. "But the pressure was ridiculous. It's such a tough audience. Now I'm just trying to write a melodic catchy tune where I can talk about me."

The title *Get Away From Me* is a light-hearted jab at Norah Jones. "It's not a mean thing, but the original title was *Penis Envy*," she said. "Everyone loved it, but it's not really an angry album, and we knew it wouldn't sell in Wal-Mart. That and I didn't want people to miscon-

strue that I want a penis."

Key songs include those that complement the range of female neuroses. "Sari" (think "Sorry") drives the point home by apologizing for just about everything. "Women feel the need to apologize when there's no reason to," she said. "It's such a problem, especially in high school and college, but no one looks for an answer. The sexual revolution is still happening because women still try to be pleasant, and we forget we can be bitches too."

Crushes on boys with "twinkly blue eyes" come out on "David," leading into "I Wanna Get Married," with lyrics no feminist would ever utter: "I need to cook you meals / I wanna pack you cut little lunches / for my Brady bunches / Then read Danielle Steele."

"It sounds weird, but I absolutely love the idea of being married and having someone hug you and hold you forever," McKay said. "I really want to get married. I'm half-tempted to just steal some boy and keep him and marry him against his will just to have this wish."



McKay will be coming to Florida sometime this summer, though that idea makes her nervous. "Aren't there a lot of serial killers there?" she asked. "I just saw *Monster*, so it freaks me out knowing that happened there. Then there's the [2000 presidential] elections, and that's where my grandfather died too. I can't wait to go, but it still freaks me out."

Although McKay gets comparisons to Doris Day and Eminem, she insists she's more Mikael Gorbachev meets Dinah Shore. "Really, I'm more Andy Rooney meets Captain Kangaroo," she said. Either way, she's stellar.



JERROD ROCKHILL

NO-FIDELITY

Luck of the Irish

One of the better holidays of the year was yesterday. That holiday supports everything I stand for in pure almost-pornographic bliss.

Brown liquor, angry Europeans, green beer and obnoxious music. That bliss is Ol' St. Patrick's Day.

St. Patrick's Day always brings out tons of small town local bands, bagpipes and soccer riots of our fondest potato-eating people from the British Isles.

Take that England; no one wants your tea or gin or heroin junkies.

Bring me shamrocks, whiskey, Irish cr me and one of those shirts that says, "Kiss me, I'm Irish."

Of course, also, it's some of the better music that comes from the holidays. Good old-fashioned pub music. Depressing, lonely and sad pub music that makes you want to drink till your BAC is 0.3. Of course if you're Irish, you're born with that.

Now I won't make this column totally about bashing and praising the Irish and their drinking prowess but to talk about pub music.

There are a lot of small-time pub bands over in the awesome British Isles and a few of them tour the United States. One of my favorites, a small-time London group known as Things in Herds has planned a U.S. tour soon. They'll hoping to also get all of their out-of-print CDs re-released stateside shortly.

One of the best things about a decent bar band is the intimacy. Small, quaint and five feet away. You don't get that when you go to a big name concert that's worse than the movie *Gigli* and 5,000 people show up and you're pushing through a crowd of sweaty people who haven't bathed in a good month.

Of course, going to a local bar in town to see a concert isn't easy if you're under 21 and if you don't mesh well with the creative class - the creative class being those counter-culture beatniks whom are 18 to 55 and bitter and nasty like rubbing a salty lemon in a deep flesh wound.

Of the better of the local bar bands in Orlando is this semi-electronic, semi-post, semi-indie band call Gestalt. Finding an under-21 show is rare and they play at only a handful of venues such as the Peacock Room, which has really good mixed drinks.

I think one of the things about Gestalt is one of the songs they sing makes a clever reference to Orlando, even if it is about something burning in Orlando. I'm not sure what burning they're talking about, whether it was the forest fires a few years ago, the trash processing facility or a house in Parramore.

No, I'm not poking fun at big time bands, but there are some of us who would rather wallow in our own pity and drink ourselves happy in the comfort of a decent local and with a decent band.

We're consumers, so consume. That's something I never got about the "independent" movement which was to support the local over the national or known as direct capitalism. So, why fight consumer culture in the name of independent culture? Silly socialists.

Get off the Internet. Get off eBay. Get off fashion.

Of course, no place worth going to in Orlando is without its fair share of pretension. Whether you're buying beer at that hip video store in Winter Park or sucking down cocktails at the Peacock room, there's always someone that'll share their opinions with you over a frosty cup of beer, and the music is always nice.

Get out, see a great band, support the economy and get really, really tanked.

E-mail Jerrod Rockhill at jerrod@theindie.com

New spins

The Vines • Winning Days



Genre: Nostalgic
Release date: March 23
Record label: Capitol

NICOLE PREZIOSO
Staff Writer

The Vines' 2002 debut *Highly Evolved* resonated with people because it was a return to great '70s rock. It forsook plastic beats and catchy hooks for bombastic guitars and painful wails. In 2004, *Winning Days* returns with only slightly more frenetic energy. Considering the 11 tracks were written at the same time as *Highly Evolved*, the Vines' vocalist Craig Nicholls, bassist Patrick Matthews, drummer Hamish Rosser and second guitarist Ryan Griffiths seem to have only tinkered with old tunes rather than ravage us with new ones.

Even though *Winning Days*, produced by Rob Schnapf (Beck, Guided by Voices, Elliott Smith), isn't much different from *Highly Evolved*, it packs on more melody. While *Evolved* was a schizophrenic trip through psychedelic rock and Ramones-esque punk, *Winning Days* brings analog equipment and

acoustic guitars to the front while developing Beach Boys harmonies and soothing grit.

The crescendo in the beginning of "Ride" promises a vibrant album with the same screeches and thrashing fans loved about *Highly Evolved*. "Animal Machine" also takes advantage of the whisper-to-a-scream technique, but then "TV Pro" runs away from this grind and dances back into a dreamy haze. Nicholls holds onto his title of King Mumbler as his comparisons to Kurt Cobain remain accurate. Except Cobain's lyrics actually mean something.

On "F**k the World," Nicholls' warbling lyrics have something to do with globalization and protecting the environment placed against a 30-second amp-squeal ending. As for the rest of the album, you get a feeling he's trying to tell us something but hasn't quite figured out a way to say it. Nicholls is content with the sounds and pronunciation of words instead of what they actually mean. While "F**k the World" doesn't make sense, screaming and bellowing the lyrics seems to add another layer to the title. As an anthem, it's perfect.

It's the album's crashing guitars, battling vocals and overused distortion that prize form over content. Rather than focus on what a song can mean, the Vines make you feel it



COURTESY NETWORK

instead.

When the Vines do slow down between blasts, as in "Sun Child," "Autumn Shade II" and "Evil Town," they're trying too hard to be poignant. Their blasts are better than their ballads.

But it's Nicholls who triumphs over his bands' music. While you may not be able to understand a word he utters, it's his frenzy that makes this album a force.

Winning Days isn't new and different, but it's still decent.

Generation • Generation



JOHN THOMASON
indie Editor

The influence of Nirvana on today's alternative rock landscape is inescapable. However, it's not often to see their unsung debut *Bleach* as a modern band's main point of reference, but Generation's self-titled album resonates with the same malcontent wails and grimy, distorted guitar licks.

This Orlando band's album sounds so much like *Bleach*. It's hard to believe it wasn't recorded in 1990, just before grunge was lapped up by record executives and glossed over with a pop sheen. While it's refreshing that *Generation* harkens back to such a legendary record and not, say, one by Bush, the inevitably dated sound rings of the same been-there, done-that irrelevancy as the many Gas Huffer, Ziggun or Blood Circus records now clogging up countless dollar bins.

There's a lot of pain and passion going into this music, so it's unfortunate it sounds so recycled. Had this record been made in the early '90s when our ears were clouded with flannel, it may have snuck into the *Headbanger's Ball* a time or two; now, it's simply generic dirt-rock.

Genre: Grunge
Release date: None
Record label: President Washington

Brides of Destruction • Here comes the Brides



RAMIRO E. VAZQUEZ
Staff Writer

Now that Vince Neil has turned into a fat slob and Tommy Lee has turned into a joke, Motley Crue bassist Nikki Sixx felt compelled to form Brides of Destruction with ex-L.A. Guns guitarist (and the guy who put the "Guns" in Guns N Roses) Tracii Guns. If a novelty cock-rock act like The Darkness can go gold in the U.S., the Brides might have a shot.

Musically the Brides recall the first Crue album *Too Fast For Love*. "Brace Yourself" and "Life" have traces of the gutter glam-meets-punk meets-pop sound that made *Too Fast* stand out. You also get the feeling that the Brides recorded this album in a day, which is kinda cool.

But on the other hand, the Brides probably should've worked on their songs for an extra day. Still, where they lack in quality, they compensate in attitude. The album is far from perfect, but rock 'n' roll isn't supposed to be.

Genre: Hair metal
Release date: Mar. 9
Record label: Sanctuary

Artist profile

We vouch for Boucher

Butterfly Boucher may not be original, but the potential is there

NICOLE PREZIOSO
Staff Writer

You've heard Butterfly Boucher before.

Though she calls her sound "fresh pop-rock with an edge," she could be plucked from her current tour with Howie Day and Barenaked Ladies and dropped into Lilith Fair. It's no surprise that she will tour with Sarah McLachlan in July.

But that's not necessarily a bad thing. She does get points for redoing "Changes" with David Bowie for *Shrek 2*. And Lilith lovers will adore her.

The Australian-born guitarist sits in her dressing room and fiddles with her backstage pass—she's either nervous or indifferent. Boucher looks up to laugh, to think, to poke fun at her road manager. She's as unassuming as they come—a chronic coffee spiller with no makeup and unkempt hair. Yet she is charming and forthright.

Boucher becomes especially charged when discussing exactly how she played each instrument on her debut album *Flutterby*, as she mimes playing the double-bass and the xylophone. She sits taller when she says she co-produced the entire album. Yet the last thing she'll admit to is being a strong multi-instrumentalist.

Boucher considers *Flutterby* a personal album with real experiences that are "exaggerated just a bit to make them

more interesting." The obscure and cryptic lyrics lend themselves to pretty sounds but not coherent answers. Boucher said she tries to balance her lyrics. "I love it when you have to work out what the song is about," she said. "I want to write with vulnerability and honesty. But always try to avoid clichés or at least twist them."

Above all, Boucher wants to make music that inspires people. She said the last time she felt moved by an artist was when she saw Damien Rice. "That's when I realized that he's doing what I want to do," she said. "I kept throwing my arms out and screaming, 'I want that!'"

Boucher, who wants to make an album as good as Elvis Costello's and Elliott Smith's, said her sound comes naturally. "I never made a conscious decision on my genre," she explained.

Rather than rely on celebrity influences, she said her inspiration comes from her family. Boucher's sister, Summer, designs all of her clothes. "It's part of our whole support thing," Boucher said. "I grew up in a situation that taught me to be confident about who I am and what I want to do. So I just let the music come from me."

Boucher said this tour allows her to give a first impression to a new audience. She played with well-known bands before but mainly in small clubs. "An arena is not much different from a small club," she said. "You just have to figure out a way to be intimate in the way you talk and

treat people."

Her acoustic performance at the Barenaked Ladies show was endearing and sweet. Just as she cowered and played with her pass during the interview, she cracked jokes between her four songs and struck kitschy Kiss poses.

Still, Boucher was forced to rely on her performing ability as opposed to her musical ability in which Kiss poses are not enough. In spite of her solid voice, with only an acoustic guitar, her sonic quality was lost. The dips and loops that add tension and depth on her album were gone.

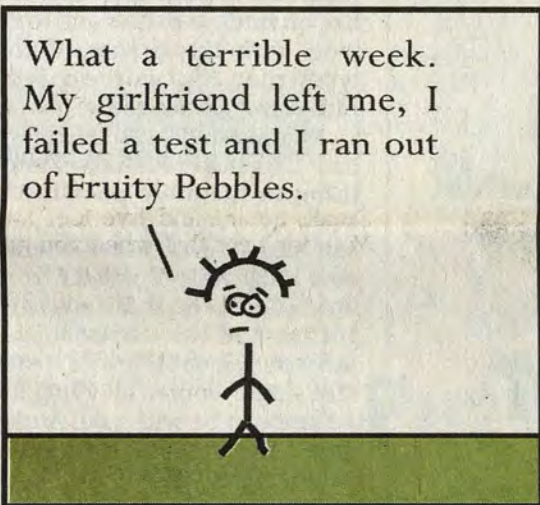
She tried to keep an intimate ambience, but making small talk with the front row doesn't work in a packed arena. Boucher became a victim of what she scorns—not putting forth everything she is.

Boucher has it in her to become a great artist, but as staff writer Emily Scott said, "the best way to describe her is 'unfulfilled potential.'" Regardless of her attempt to be wholly original, she's still written Lilith tunes with identical lyrics.

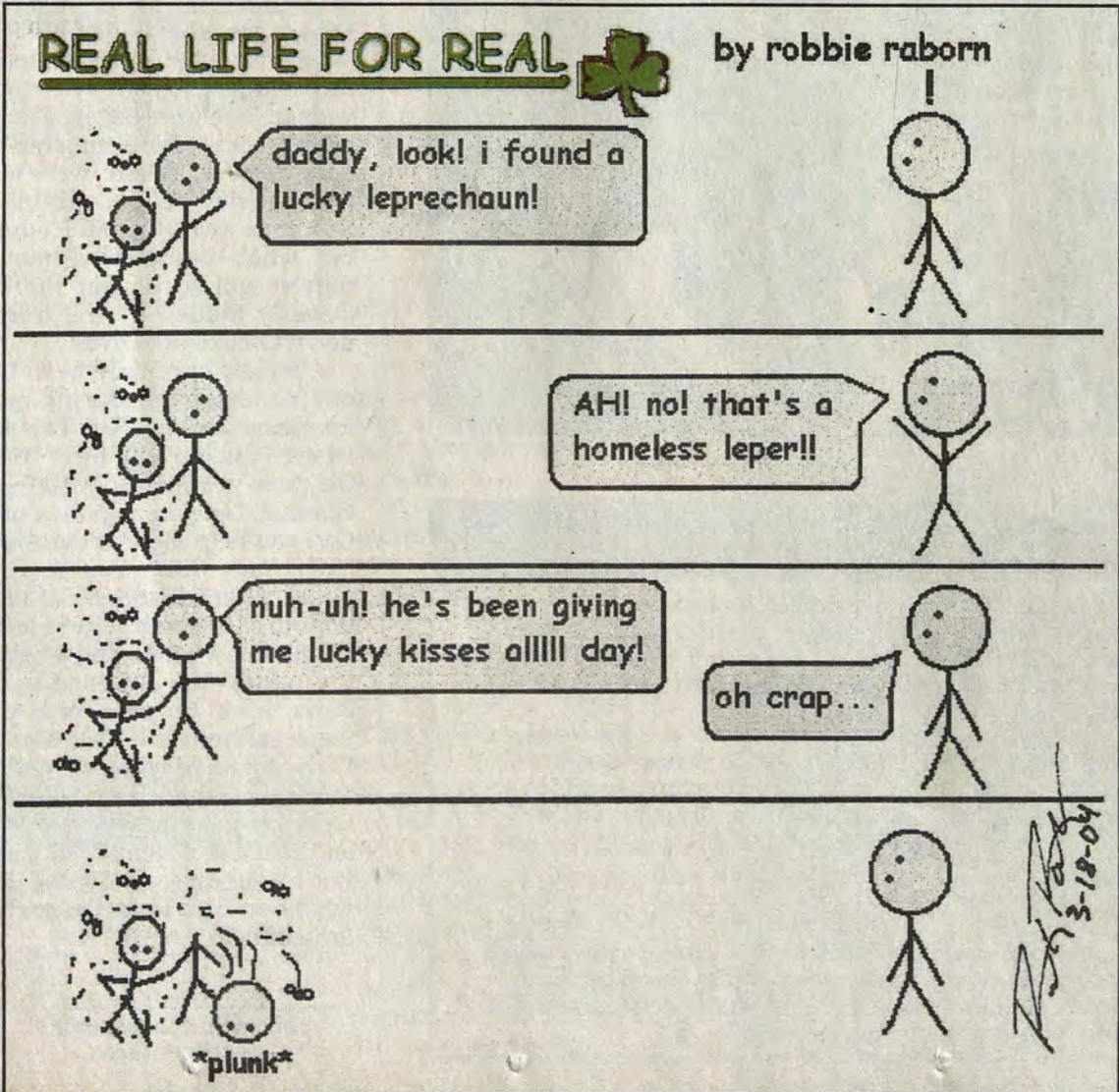
Boucher playing every instrument on her album gives her credibility, and her duet with Bowie is unparalleled. But she's holding back. She has the talent and potential to grow into an amazing artist, and she will in the future.

Note: Howie Day was sex with a guitar. Barenaked Ladies was a blast with water ballet and shopping carts. And Scott broke the Ladies' hackeysack. We'll be sending them one in the mail.

Comics



I can't draw Comedic Enterprises - copyright 2004 by Brandon Hardin



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In review

Taking Lives is thriller filler

Average movie is a good way to waste time



Taking Lives (R)
Psychological thriller
<http://takinglives.warnerbros.com/>

SEAN HUNTING
indie Asst. Editor

Two kids hit the road trying to leave behind their standard parents and previous lives. Martin Asher is a shy kid with glasses and long hair who just wants to get as far away as possible. His newfound friend has missing teeth from being beat by his stepfather and is just sick of people and their rules. He hates rules. The lack of cringing in the audience when this was said out loud was extremely confusing. Nobody else seemed to think it sounded totally ridiculous. Luckily Asher puts us out of our misery by throwing the dimwitted anarchist in front of a car, stealing his identity. This all takes place in the first nine minutes, which you should watch for free on the official *Taking Lives* Web site.

The introduction sets the stage for events that take place about 10 to 15 years later. When a body is discovered in Montreal, the police captain (played by the always great,

but generally typecast Tch ky Karyo) calls in his old friend from the FBI (played by the always gorgeous, but generally awful Angelina Jolie), an expert in profiling. Jolie is an overworked and undersexed special agent who looks for clues in everything. The investigation is helped along by a single witness (Ethan Hawke), who is able to draw a pretty good picture of the suspect. That is unless his unbearable hotness clouds the judgment of the beautiful special agent, who is inexplicably in desperate need of a good lay.

As a whole, *Taking Lives* is a decent thriller. It's stylish and fun, with characters that (after the first nine minutes at least) are fairly original and compelling. Jolie's character is a quirky special agent who spends her time laying in graves or looking at horrific crime scene photos while eating her steak dinner to help her profile the killer. Then there are the French Canadian cops who all fit a specific mold — the warmhearted police captain, the shy, nervous veteran and the young, brash rookie who resents out-of-town help. Sure, they are all fairly old stereotypes, but the acting and writing breathe new life into them, causing us to forgive and forget. You can almost even forgive the annoying Canuck accents.

However, as much as you want to like this film, there is an underlying silliness to the whole affair. At one point Jolie describes the murders as

homosexual in nature because they are all killed from behind. However, this is later disproved and shown to be stupid if you do any reading between the lines. It really makes no sense at all. There is an interesting set of twists toward the end that had the audience reeling but in my opinion were easily figured out just by watching the trailer or looking closely at the

poster. The movie also goes on a bit too long. In fact, the only thing that keeps us interested after the point where the movie should have ended is Jolie's right breast, which has the ability to save even the worst film. Showing it is like kryptonite to an audience, making us too weak to walk out.

It appears that 90 percent of the thrillers that are made

leave you conflicted. They always seem to have a few good parts that make up for the rest of the stuff you have to sit through. A thriller that is good in its entirety seems to be as rare as a teenage comedy that is hilarious the whole way through. Until the next great thriller comes along, however, *Taking Lives* will definitely hold you over if you are dying for something in that genre.



COURTESY WARNER BROS.

Mamet's Spartan a lackluster thriller

Derek Luke's character says 'I saw the sign' more times than Ace of Base



Spartan (R)
Thriller
<http://www.spartanmovie.com>

JOHN THOMASON
indie Editor

Loathed by some and worshiped by others, David Mamet has nonetheless secured a place in cinema history. But, as with many writers who attempt to branch out beyond their natural talents, some of their work can be spotty at best. There are two different Mamets. One is the Mamet of *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *American Buffalo* and *State and Main*, caustic theatrical films with rapid, acid-tongued dialogue that set the standard for countless aspiring writers.

But then there's the Mamet of *The Spanish Prisoner*, *Heist* and now *Spartan*, thrillers that are convoluted, contrived and flawed.

Whether you consider it a

criticism or a praise, Mamet has always been a writer first and a director second. Coming from the theater, it's no surprise his pictures have always been heavy on witty repartee but unexceptional in the direction department.

That's why *Spartan* is an interesting footnote in Mamet's career but a disappointment overall: It contains arguably his best direction yet; his eye is keen and his attention to detail meticulous. He handles the action sequences better than Schumacher on his best day, stepping out of his playwright roots to present some of the most realistic, harrowing assassination scenes in recent memory.

But for what? The tired narrative of a loner secret agent (Who can he trust!) called upon to rescue the president's daughter from an illegal prostitution ring shows Mamet repeating his own serpentine tricks from *The Spanish Prisoner* but with less of an impact. The political para-

noia theme feels like second-string John Frankenheimer. If you've seen one of Mamet's more plot-driven films — which are generally his second-tier material — you've seen them all, and this deadens the so-called "surprise" twists at the end of *Spartan*.

The film's most disappointing element, however, is its lack of fresh and whip-smart dialogue. In addition to being sadly humorless, the script

simply goes through the motions of what a political thriller should be. Aside from the characters' (albeit well-delivered) vulgarities, there are few chunks of Mamet gold to be found in the dialogue.

The film's final confrontation brings back a character who previously only had five minutes of screen time, then passes this character off as the root of all evil. I won't say who this actor is, but let's just say

it's not very convincing. Because he's barely in it, we could care less about Mamet's cop-out twist.

Despite Mamet's best attempts to dramatize his ideas, as well as a top-notch performance by the underused Val Kilmer, *Spartan* is a dud. But at least now that he's got this directing thing down pat, let's just hope Mamet's next script can rekindle the passion of his earlier efforts.



COURTESY WARNER BROS.

Also new to theaters this weekend

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (R)
Comedy/drama
<http://www.eternalsunshine.com>

The *Punch-Drunk Love* to Jim Carrey's Adam Sandler, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* sees the overrated, rubberfaced comedian stepping out of star-vehicle mode and into the warped mind of screenwriter Charlie Kaufman. Music video superdirector Michel Gondry helms Kaufman's offbeat tale of intentional memory erasure in this satire of a technological advancement that goes very, very awry. Kate Winslet, Elijah Wood, Thomas Jay Ryan (Henry Fool), David Cross, Kirsten Dunst, Mark Ruffalo and Tom Wilkinson join Carrey in one of the year's most impressive casts.

The Company (R)
Drama/musical
<http://www.sonyclassics.com/thecompany>

Eclectic hit-or-miss director Robert Altman returns with his first film since the lauded mystery *Gosford Park*. The picture focuses on a company member (Neve Campbell) intent on becoming a professional dancer. The project is a culmination of passions for the world of dance; Altman's passion for bringing his expansive, fluid camerawork to the intimate setting of ballet, Campbell's passion of her dream of participating in a realistic account of the dance world, and screenwriter Barbara Turner's passion for ballet culled from spending over two years with the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago.

Dawn of the Dead (R)
Horror
<http://dota.eigafan.com>

In 1978, cult-horror director George A. Romero followed up his underground smash *Night of the Living Dead* with *Dawn of the Dead*, a zombie-filled sequel with even more depth and cutting-edge satire. Only Hollywood tools would come up with the idea to remake a sequel, taking Romero's vision woefully out of context and turning it into teen-horror mush. First-time filmmaker Zack Snyder directs Canadian babe Sarah Polley and the perpetually bad-ass Ving Rhames to bring life into the inherently unnecessary remake, which seems more in line with the derivative but entertaining *28 Days Later* than it does Romero's groundbreaking artistic statement.



BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ

CINESCENE

Wanted: House with animals — party animals

Being on campus during Spring Break can spark all sorts of thoughts within oneself. As I strolled along the campus, I thought back to yesterday at my idealized look at college as a place to facilitate the better sides of both learning and partying. As I lay night after night in my Lake Claire apartment, staring at the cream-colored brick walls surrounding me, I'm reminded more of the stark prison in Jim Jarmusch's *Down By Law* than I am the raucous college comedy *Animal House*. This isn't what I expected college to be like.

When I was 5 years old, college looked like a challenging step in the life of an academic. At that time in my life, my uncle lived with me; he was attending Stony Brook University on Long Island. He wrote papers at all hours of the night, read an intense amount of textbook pages and smoked like a chimney. College then seemed like an intense battle, one to be won with the power of the typewriter. His favorite college film was *Animal House*.

By the time I was 13, college had transformed into something to facilitate partying. I knew an older gentleman; let's call him "Steve." Steve attended a local college not far from my middle school. He spoke of parties and the use of illegal substances coupled with beautiful single women all vying for a chance to be with you. At the time I didn't think it strange, but for a guy who talked about partying at college all the time, he sure had a lot of time to talk about it with teenagers. His favorite college film was *Animal House*.

When I was 17, I finally saw *Animal House*. Ah, what a wonderful time. With 24-hour partying and places where beer flowed like wine, I thought, "Hmm, this college thing doesn't seem so bad at all!"

The following year I began my five years at UCF. These students were not the people I saw in *Animal House*. They weren't even the people in *Dead Man on Campus*. After four weeks at UCF, I couldn't find anyone who even remotely reminded me of *Van Wilder*. Where was the all-day party? Where were the loose women, the stupid jocks? All the women here were engaged and all the jocks were getting business degrees. Where were all the movie people hiding? Everyone loves *Animal House*, but who's living it? I know they've got to be out there, cleverly hidden by the trees down Greek Park Drive.

I myself have only been to one college party during my four semesters at UCF. This is where I ask the help from you, the three people who read this column: Can you help me out? Can you help me live the *Animal House* life? You might notice an email address at the bottom of this page. Use it, and let me know when and where the parties are. As long as I don't have another one of these columns due that night, I'll be there. Maybe college in the movies is nothing like college in real life. Maybe reel life and real life never do collide. But I think they do. Please do what you can. Help the party drought end.

E-mail Brett Ryan Bonowicz at brett@theindie.com

THEATERS & TIMES

Loews Universal Cineplex
6000 Universal Blvd., 407-354-5998

Dawn of the Dead
12:05 p.m. 12:45 1:20 2:15 2:55 3:30 4:30
5:15 5:45 7:00 7:35 8:05 9:20 9:55 10:25
11:40 12:15 a.m. 12:45

Taking Lives
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Eternal Sunshine
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12:35 a.m.

Secret Window
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Spartan
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Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London
12:00 p.m. 2:10 4:25 6:45 9:05 11:20

Starsky & Hutch
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Hidalgo
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The Passion of the Christ
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Twisted
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Eurotrip
1:45 p.m. 3:55 6:05 8:20 10:35
12:40 a.m.

Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen
1:30 p.m. 3:45

50 First Dates
1:00 p.m. 3:15 5:30 7:50 10:05
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Barbershop 2
1:15 3:50 6:15 8:40 11:00

Regal Oviedo Marketplace
1500 Oviedo Marketplace, 407-977-1107

Dawn of the Dead
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The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King
12:00 p.m. 4:10 8:20

Mystic River
12:20 p.m. 3:30 6:50 10:00

Regal Waterford Lakes
541 North Alafaya Trail, 407-207-9110

Dawn of the Dead
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Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
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Taking Lives
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Spartan
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Hidalgo
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Starsky & Hutch
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Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights
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Twisted
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The Passion of the Christ
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Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen
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50 First Dates
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The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King
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Regal Winter Park
510 N Orlando Ave., 407-628-0163

Dawn of the Dead
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Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
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Taking Lives
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Spartan
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Hidalgo
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Starsky & Hutch
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Twisted
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The Passion of the Christ
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50 First Dates
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Miracle
10:25 p.m.

Monster
11:50 a.m. 2:25 p.m. 7:50

The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King
12:50 p.m. 4:55 9:10

The Statement
1:05 p.m. 4:05 6:55 9:40 12:30 a.m.

My Architect
1:10 p.m. 4:25 7:10 10:20

Enzian Theatre
1300 S. Orlando Ave., 407-629-1088

The Company
Friday (3/19): 4:30 p.m. 7:00 9:30
Saturday (3/20): 2:00 p.m. 4:30 7:00 9:30
Sunday (3/21): 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Monday (3/22): 7:00 p.m. 9:30
Tuesday (3/23): 7:00 p.m. 9:30
Wednesday (3/24): 7:00 p.m. 9:30
Thursday (3/25): 7:00 p.m. 9:30

Listed times weekend unless noted. All show times subject to change.

New on DVD March 23

The Rock knows his damn role — action star

MIKE RIEGEL
Staff Writer

The Rundown (PG-13)

Theatrical release: Sept. 26, 2003
Box office gross: \$47.6 million

What happens when Stifler goes to Brazil in search of a priceless relic and Hollywood sends the Rock to bring him back? Movie magic!

Ok, maybe that part about "magic" is a bit of an overstatement for a movie as ridiculous as *The Rundown*. Despite the laughable premise, the movie does have some redeeming qualities that make it a semi-enjoyable action flick.

Seann William Scott (*American Pie* trilogy) plays a treasure hunter in search of a golden idol. While his screen presence won't inspire comparisons to Harrison Ford's Indiana Jones, Scott's character is almost believable. That's quite a feat considering he normally plays characters that couldn't find their ass with a map and a tour guide.

But the real star of the show is the Rock (*The Scorpion King*), who may or may not have a real name that he's using now. The former professional wrestler has successfully made the jump

from the made-up world of wrestling to the really made-up world of acting.

The Rock plays a tough guy named Beck who specializes in tracking down deadbeats for his less-than-law-abiding clients. And like all muscle-bound bounty hunters, Beck really just wants to open his own 5-star restaurant.

I told you it was far-fetched. Anyway, the Rock is charged with going to the jungle and bringing Scott back to his father. From there, all the mismatched buddy film clichés take over and several loud explosions occur to keep the audience's attention.

The performances, surprisingly enough, save the film from falling victim to the predictable script. The Rock has charisma and enough comedic ability to give the old gags a little bit of life. His performance is reminiscent of pre-gubernatorial Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Speaking of California's governor, he has a brief cameo where he passes the figurative torch of odd-looking, over-sized movie stars to the Rock. It's touching.

Once the Rock catches up with Scott, they've got to find a way to deal with a local kingpin, played by Christopher Walken, who is also in search of the idol.



COURTESY UNIVERSAL PICTURES

As you might imagine, Walken's uncanny ability to steal scenes from average actors is on display whenever he enters the frame with his co-stars.

Overall, the film is a study in mediocrity, which ironically

places it among the best Hollywood action films to be released in the last few years. It's also your best bet this week, considering the other big release is Halle Berry's dramatic disaster, *Gothika*.

mugged in the Amazon by three armed natives. I guess there's nothing like being accosted at gunpoint to remind you that it's possible to spend the next four months in a U.S.-owned tropical paradise.

Also of note is this film's curious affinity for Guns 'n' Roses. One of the special features is entitled "Appetite for Destruction," and the working title for this movie was *Welcome to the Jungle* before it was changed to *The Rundown*.

I'm not sure what any of that means, but I'm reminded that I'll never forgive Axl Rose for what he did to that band.

Special features

Of the main special features, "The Amazon, Hawaii Style," is probably the most interesting. In this feature we discover that Brazil is actually played by Hawaii in *The Rundown*.

Director Peter Berg (*Very Bad Things*) originally planned to film in Brazil, but he changed his mind when his party was

Now available on DVD

<p>Veronica Guerin (R)</p> <p>Theatrical release: Oct. 8, 2003</p> <p>Box office gross: \$1.57 million</p>	<p>It's bad enough that director Joel Schumacher and producer Jerry Bruckheimer make films on their own, but their efforts combined typically create enough poisonous bile to make any self-respecting cineaste projectile-vomit their CGI-laden lunch. The un-dynamic duo fared better critically with last year's <i>Veronica Guerin</i> than with their laughable 2002 effort <i>Bad Company</i>. <i>Veronica</i> posits the venerable Cate Blanchett as the title character, the real-life Irish muckraker who was murdered by the mob and made into a martyr. The disc is loaded with two commentary tracks, a deleted scene, a featurette and even some footage of the real Guerin.</p>
<p>21 Grams (R)</p> <p>Theatrical release: Nov. 21, 2003</p> <p>Box office gross: \$15.79 million</p>	<p>It's hard to say what the future will hold for the well-received but still grossly underrated <i>21 Grams</i>, a film that came and went from most theaters (Enzian excepted) with a shocking brevity. Maybe it's the difficult, yet wonderfully convoluted structure of Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's film, or maybe it's his bleak and raw vision of a fate-propelled society, but something about this puzzling picture didn't sit well with the mass public. The cult audience for this fragmented tale is huge, however, and it's a huge disappointment to see that Universal provided no extra features. But hey, at least you get the anamorphic widescreen.</p>

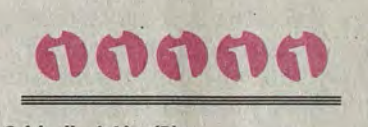
Last weekend's top box office hits ...

1. <i>The Passion of the Christ</i>	\$32.1 million
2. <i>Secret Window</i>	\$18.2 million
3. <i>Starsky & Hutch</i>	\$16.0 million
4. <i>Hidalgo</i>	\$11.9 million
5. <i>Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London</i>	\$8.0 million

Re-issued on DVD

Put this List on your to-buy list

Schindler's List bonus features are just as illuminating as the film



Schindler's List (R)

Drama
<http://www.schindlerslist.com>

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ
Staff Writer

In 1993, Steven Spielberg decided to show everyone that he could essentially do anything. First he produced one of the most beloved movies of all time; a film that can be enjoyed by people of all ages, a film that makes one think of where we've gone in the past and where we're going in the future. That film ... was *Jurassic Park*. Later that year, Spielberg proved that he had a flipside to his coin, a film that became one of the most beloved films of all time. A film that can be enjoyed by people of all ages, a film that makes one think of where we've gone in the past and where we're going in the future. That film ... was *Schindler's List*.

Based on marketing and content alone, both *Jurassic Park* and *Schindler's List* couldn't be more distantly related. When looked at in the context of Spielberg's career, *Jurassic Park* and *Schindler's List* reveal the two heads of Steven Spielberg: the commercial director and the art house director. *Jurassic Park* is a rip-roaring funfest full of PG-13 violence and a plot that only vaguely resembles the much more intellectual book it was based on. By contrast, *Schindler's List* is a film in which Spielberg's technique is almost completely invisible; it is Spielberg's most personal statement as a filmmaker. It tells the story of one incredible man, Oskar

Schindler. Schindler was a war profiteer, and throughout World War II he helped save the lives of more than 1,100 Jews.

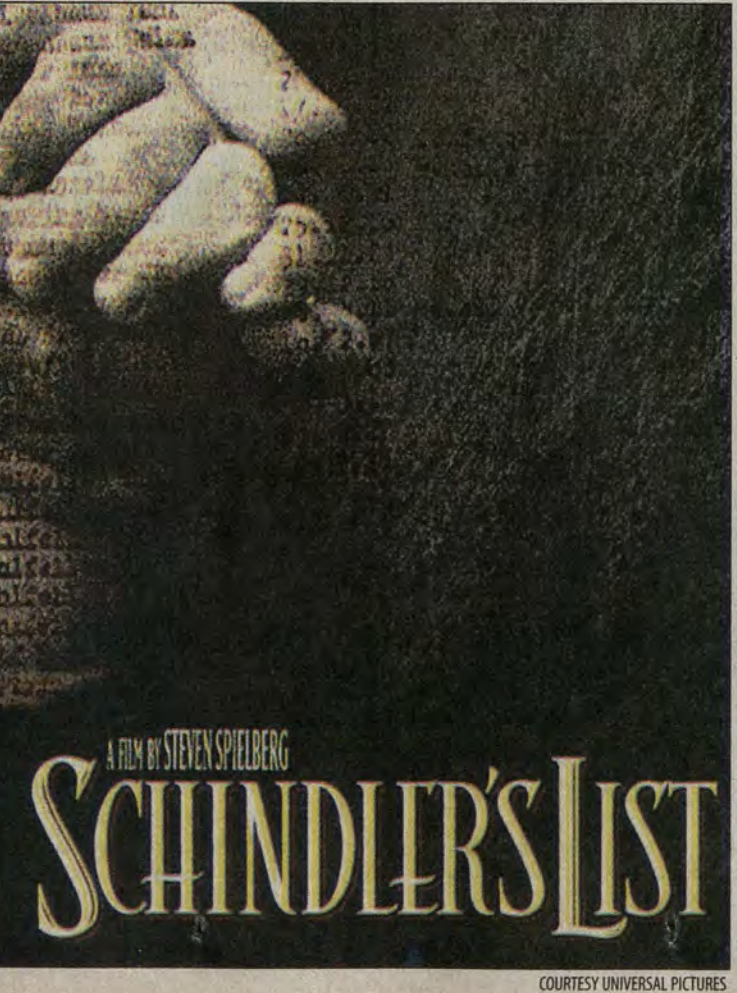
Recently Spielberg's final masterwork was released on DVD. Included in the set are two bonus features: *The Shoah Foundation Story*, with an introduction by the director and the 77-minute documentary *Voices from the List*. On face value alone the special features may seem a tad slim, but all things considered, these features suffice, and above all, they enhance the viewer's appreciation for this important event in history. Beginning with an 11-minute preview, *The Shoah Foundation Story* takes the viewer inside of the more than 52,000 Holocaust survivor testimonials that Mr. Spielberg and Co. have spent

more than 10 years inventorying and cataloguing. This feature is ultimately a teaser, meant to entice you to buy other Shoah products and to implement their teaching tools.

The meat of the disc comes from the beautifully simple documentary *Voices From the List*. Culled together from the chronicles of the *Shoah Foundation*, *Voices* retells the story of *Schindler's List* from the perspective of the survivors. Through testimony, the story of *Schindler's List* is felt on an entirely different level. Each individual broadly stroked in the film now has a clear story: a definable beginning, middle and end. The number 1100 doesn't mean anything without knowing the story behind the number 1, and *Voices from the List* does just that. While view-

ers might have wanted a documentary on the actual making of the film, it's difficult to imagine watching Liam Neeson or Ben Kingsley smile and reflect on the happy times they had on the set of *Schindler's List*. While the documentaries produced on Spielberg's other DVDs have been top-notch, this time it was wisely left out.

To know that one man could do so much should give everyone hope. That your impact in the world could be felt generations down the line is something that should send a shiver down anyone's spine. *Schindler's List* is a film to be cherished. It's a nearly flawless gem, a film so perfect it doesn't even seem to be made at all; it simply exists.



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miscellaneous

for the week of March 18 - 24

Top five things about St. Patrick's Day ...

1. Green vomit
2. Green beer
3. Green liquor
4. Getting kissed because we're Irish
5. Midgets dressing as Leprechauns



DANA DELAPI

NOT JUST SEX

One-night stands?
No — try for
mini-relationships

You know what I have heard a lot lately? What happens in Cancun, stays in Cancun. Or Vegas. Or Key West. Or Panama City. Basically, whatever happens on Spring Break, stays on Spring Break.

That has to be my favorite Spring Break afterthought — or pre-thought depending on how you planned on spending your week away from school.

For all of those out there that had a scandalous time last week, these might be imperative words to live by.

There are so many things to keep secret, like drunken debacles, wet T-shirt contests, endless nakedness, and oh yea, shameless hook-ups. Including those pesky little slip-ups known as one-night stands.

Ahh, the one-night stand. The way I see it, they are kind of pointless ... fun, but pointless. The sucky thing about Spring Break one-night stands is that they are simply that — one night of raunchy, animalistic, amazing sex. Which may also be their appeal.

But there is no follow-up. That hottie with a body is back on a plane home. After that night, your sexy Spring Break fling will be but a memory.

What kind of crap is that? Talk about bittersweet affairs. Why do we do that to ourselves? Great and amazing sex and we only indulge in it for just one night?

That's just crazy talk to me. At least make it two nights, that way it is like a mini-relationship and there is nothing to be ashamed of. After all, it would be based purely on sex.

But it can be no more than three times, because then it is time to jump ship. Otherwise you start entering the getting-to-know-you stage.

Now, I understand that by doing it more than once completely contradicts the whole one-night mentality, but come on, it simply makes more sense this way.

Instead of wasting another notch in the belt on one night, spread it out. Make it worth the numbers you are racking up, that's all I'm saying.

Plus, if it really was amazing, why wouldn't you want to saddle up again for round two? If it sucked, then I feel for you and wish you luck in all future one-night endeavors.

In the back of my head, I do hear all you nay-sayers — the ones who are traditional and say that one-night stands belong in the one-night category. Any more and then it becomes complicated. And it loses its appeal of hooking up with a total stranger.

I get that, and I agree. But all I am saying is, why are you cheating yourself? And your reputation? The more one-nighters you rack up, the sadder you look. Oh and by the way, sex is not something you are magically good at.

It takes practice. The five one-nighters you had on Spring Break are not going to help you become a bedroom all-star. You need to put in some more flight hours for that kind of status.

So stick to the mini-relationships, rather than leaving after a single night. They are quick, painless and educational.

Plus, they are a hell of a lot of fun.

E-mail Dana DeLapi at dana@theindie.com

Book review

Try on these *Gloves* on for size

Virgin Gloves is a challenging work by an Orlando author

ELIZABETH PALIK
Staff Writer

Someone finally came out and did it. Writer Alex Hutchinson showed up with his new book *Virgin Gloves* and released it right smack in the middle of Republican-ville (aka Orlando). He tells all of America about his own story as a bisexual man and his gay relationship with a boxer, right as President George W. Bush went on television and announced his problems with gay marriages. Speaking of controversial, this is the best coming-out story that Orlando has and will ever see. I just had to talk to this guy about his book, so I caught up with him over Spring Break. He showed up at my apartment in a gray polo T-shirt and khakis (looking very different from his picture on the cover of his book), girlfriend Terri and cat Raistlin in tow.

For the uninitiated, *Virgin Gloves* is the story of a writer, Ash Hatcher, who falls in love with the professional fighter he was assigned to write about for *Ring Magazine*. He becomes deeply involved with this fighter while working hard to promote his fights. Simultaneously, he also has to deal with his jealous, neurotic girlfriend, who is working on her career ambitions as a prostitute. Bizarre stuff. Ash is worried that his multi-million

dollar promotion would come crashing down once his girlfriend finds out about his affair with the fighter, which presents his dilemma.

I asked Hutchinson the all-important question: Why should we even bother reading his book? He explained that the book "vividly describes relationships run by passion and not by reason. It provides a very realistic portrayal of what it's like to be trapped in hormonal addiction to another person."

"In school, we learn about

math and science, but they never taught us about relationships," he added. "But the most important decisions we have to make involve relationships. People fantasize about having another person who will do anything for them... This is a story of what not to do in such a relationship, and thus shows how bad the consequences can be."

Watching him say these words, it's clear these are sentiments he sincerely feels. That of course led me to ask my next question: Just how

much of himself did he write into this story? Is this book to be taken as autobiographical? Hutchinson admitted that *Virgin Gloves* is semi-autobiographical, but the book is not to be taken as his big "coming-out" gesture.

"I wanted to make him as realistic as possible by incorporating the things I have personally experienced into the story," he said. "I wanted to speak from experience, so I wrote what I know."

When asked about the controversy involved in writing about homosexuality in a Republican town, Hutchinson said that he did not write *Virgin Gloves* as a political statement against Republican ideals. However, he understood that his book would definitely cause some degree of political controversy. "It's about time that we're having this conversation publicly," he said. "What happens between two people is none of the government's business." I asked him if he was afraid of being typecast as Orlando's "gay writer," and he replied, "I'm not afraid to be typecast, because my experiences and interests are very diverse so I'm not likely to write in only one genre. We have a tendency to label, simplify and categorize people. So I wanted to write something that showed more complexity and was clearly progressive. I think our society has more and more people that cannot be so easily labeled."

Hutchinson also had another reason for writing his book. After finding out that he was not raised by his biological father, he began searching for him. Hutchinson wrote this part of his history into *Virgin*

Gloves hoping that his biological father would recognize him and contact him. He also hopes that any of his readers with any information would help him on his search for his father and his identity.

If you had the chance to meet Hutchinson and get to know him, talk to him, work with him and be his friend like I did, you would think twice before dismissing a book like *Virgin Gloves*. Hutchinson is the writer who wrote the crazy story about gay writers and boxers, but he's also the quiet, shy guy who works at your local bookstore (He works at Books-A-Million on I-Drive).

These "homos" or other kinds of people discriminated against are your bookstore workers, bus drivers, neighbors, friends, brothers, sisters, boyfriends and girlfriends. It's time we see inside ourselves and recognize the despicable nature of our discrimination and embrace our differences as a part of our society and our family. Perhaps selling, publishing and reading *Virgin Gloves* is a good way to start.

You can purchase copies of *Virgin Gloves* on Amazon.com or iUniverse.com.

Alternatively, you can purchase the book and meet Hutchinson at a book signing on March 23 at Book Treasures on University Boulevard from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Hutchinson would also appreciate feedback and comments. He's also looking for anyone who might have information about his father or a good investigative company who could help him in his search. E-mail him at TeamHutchBoxing@yahoo.com



COURTESY IUNIVERSE INC.

Bleeps and bleeps

Real-life Animal Crossing confessions

Don't become an *Animalaholic*

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

There is nothing wrong with being addicted to gaming, but even the most diehard fans prefer to hide their passion for one obscure Gamecube title in particular. It's about running errands, fishing, buying clothes and collecting furniture. If that wasn't bad enough, all of your neighbors and townsfolk are cutesy animals that make silly noises. Sounds fun, huh?

Animal Crossing begins at

your new hometown. Tom Nook is the local storeowner, who also happens to be a construction worker, real estate agent and loan shark (raccoon). He'll sell you a house, but he'll force you into slave labor to pay it off. Once that's done, he'll make it an inch bigger and put you back into debt for twice as much. You load *Animal Crossing* and what do you get? Another day older and deeper in debt!

Let's talk about your townsfolk. Ranging from alligators to octopi to wolves, their personalities run from "angry and grumpy" to "flaky and retarded." Talk to Jeremiah the bullfrog and he'll say any one of the

same five things he always says. This is usually something like "Rain stinks" or "I like flowers." Next, he'll give you the privilege of fetching his GameBoy from Hambo the pig. After 10 minutes of finding Hambo, you'll learn that Hambo lent it to Static, who lent it to Biff and so on. Finally, you'll recover the darn thing from Axel the elephant, who's been standing 2 inches from Jeremiah all along. His reward for you is a piece of notebook paper. Why? So you can write a letter about how he's the coolest "person" ever. If you do, maybe he'll send you the piece of furniture you need to complete your set and earn

triple bonus points in the daily interior-decorating contest.

So, why play a game full of furry, mindless twits who prattle on about nonsense at two words per hour? It's addicting because everything happens in real time. If you skip a day of playing, everyone will ask you where you've been. Skip a week and the place is overrun with weeds. If you don't play tomorrow, you'll disappoint the mayor, and he won't send you a birthday cake. Don't even think about spending holidays with your friends and family, either! If you don't watch the New Year's countdown with Weber the duck, you won't get a special noisemaker item.

Your girlfriend can't give you that, can she?

Animal Crossing addiction is serious business. Its every element is designed to trick, tempt and even guilt you into playing more. A year ago, I played for a month straight before kicking the habit, then resumed for more torture. I'm now four weeks AC-free. It's an awesome game but one that ultimately drains you of soul, friends and social life. If a dog named Rover ever talks to you during a train ride, quickly jump out the window and splatter on the ground below. It will be less painful than an obsession with *Animal Crossing*.

Local odyssey

Discovering Orlando's hidden foreign delights

Central Florida is more culturally diverse than you might think

ERICA DENISE GOMEZ
Staff Writer

Orlando and its surrounding areas have often been criticized by many locals as being a "cultural black hole." But if the idea of a cultural experience in Central Florida includes sampling beer at Oktoberfest or riding the Nor-

wegian Viking ship at Epcot, then maybe you've overlooked the many other foreign experiences offered locally.

Culture from anywhere, including local culture, is non-existent in Orlando, says Shannon Willey, who works at Kathmandu, an exotic imports shop on Park Avenue in Winter Park. "[Culture in Orlando] is dead," she concludes.

Willey is not alone in her sentiment. "Orlando is very white-bread-capitalist-America," laments Shayne Söderström, lead vocalist and guitarist of the band Silent Movie Soundtrack.

However, the passport-less need not despair. You don't

have to traverse the world to add a little exoticism to your life. With a little research and an open mind, you can discover a goldmine of opportunities to immerse yourself in another culture.

For a taste of Greece, the Olympia Restaurant at 8505 E. Colonial Drive offers Hellenic cuisine along with participatory entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights — you can join in some Greek line dancing between courses.

For a more intensive Mediterranean experience, try visiting Tarpon Springs, the sponge capital of the world and a historic town with a large Greek population.

Although it's outside of the Greater Orlando area (it lies on the west coast of Florida, a two-hour drive away), it's worth the trip, especially during the Greek Orthodox Church's Feast of the Epiphany in January. It's the biggest event of its kind in the United States.

Along the sponge docks are picturesque buildings fashioned after Greek architecture. The downtown area boasts the impressive St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, a replica of the St. Sophia Cathedral in Constantinople.

Orlando has a handful of Middle Eastern experiences such as Cedars Restaurant at

7732 W. Sand Lake Road, which offers Lebanese cuisine, belly dancers, live music and more importantly, the shisha. The shisha, also known as the hookah, is a water pipe that looks like a glorified glass bong. People traditionally gather outside with friends and a shisha to enjoy relaxation and good conversation between puffs of fruit-flavored tobacco.

Don't deny it. Some of you secretly long to gyrate and shake it like Shakira, and the Blue Lotus Center on Church Street helps women (and a few brave men) learn the art of

PLEASE SEE FLIT ON 19

They want your junk

Avoid thrift shops; drop your items at Drop Smart

KATE HOWELL
Staff Writer

As the customary season of vacations and spring cleaning continues, college students everywhere are faced with two pressing concerns: How to pay for all the partying that occurs in the vacuum left by classes, and what to do with the mounds of stuff gleaned from closets and unearthed from drawers. Drop Smart and its owners Daniel DeYoung and Terry Brunschwig offer a single solution for both problems.

Drop Smart takes an item that the customer wants to sell and auctions it on eBay, such as a high-tech thrift shop. Unlike thrift or pawn shops, however, it's in the business's best interest to maximize customer profit. After all, they get 30 percent of the first \$500 made and 20 percent of the remainder of that profit. They also pay all the fees associated with eBay trade out of that percentage.

Nevertheless, Drop Smart is a genuine, full-fledged business that is definitely not operated out of somebody's garage. Beginning four and a half years ago under the name "Pennies on the Dollar," this online middle man has evolved into a fast-growing business with a Web page (<http://www.dropsmart.com>) and a brightly painted office space. Surfing the coattails of the colossal eBay phenomenon, Drop Smart brings eBay usage to people who normally would lack the time or the equipment to do business through that venue.

When asked where he got this seemingly unique idea, DeYoung, who incidentally is an impending UCF graduate, humbly confessed to ripping it off of a similar company in California. In fact, starter companies analogous to Drop Smart are springing up everywhere. In the last year alone, trading assistants working in concert with eBay experienced a 3,000 percent growth rate.

Nonetheless, it needs to be remembered that a trading assistant does not have a successful business make. Drop Smart has two things that none of its area competitors possess: Drop Smart motors and Drop Smart Pro. Drop Smart motors is just what its name implies — a way to sell cars and car paraphernalia online. Drop Smart Pro caters to high volume sellers, those rare people who manage to make actual money buying in bulk and selling for a profit.

Drop Smart will be doing its own radio version of Antiques Road Show. Beginning March 21 and running for 13 weeks on 540 FLA, listeners will be able to call in and receive an estimate of how much an item could hypothetically sell for on eBay.

While Drop Smart will sell just about anything, Mr. De Young's wish list consists of electronics such as cameras & VCRs and musical instruments, a sure fire favorite with the music student crowd. The most unusual item ever sold by Drop Smart? The guitar David Bowie played in his Arachnophobia tour, which went for \$8,000 to a doctor in Geneva.



COURTESY ST. PETE TIMES

Flit away with foreign films

FROM 18

belly dancing for \$15 a lesson (or \$45 for four). You can also catch some belly dancers at Mediterranean Nights at the Blue Room, a downtown nightclub at 17 W. Pine St.

For a bite-sized version of Bombay, the Laxmi Plaza off Doss Avenue and Orange Blossom Trail has a wealth of Indian shops, including House of Spices, a grocery store, Shivaz, a jewelry shop, and Chandan, a video store. The Clay Oven in Longwood is one of Central Florida's most highly acclaimed Indian restaurants, but there are several good alternatives in Orlando, such as Dakshin on State Road 535.

The shopping district surrounding the intersection of East Colonial Drive and Mills Avenue offers a plethora of Asian businesses. A quick walk down 50 helps you temporarily forget the sometimes-dreary mundanity of Orlando. Walking up and down the

aisles of a couple of the Oriental supermarkets, some people can't help but feel overwhelmed by their lack of knowledge. The indecipherable can labels, the strange contents floating in the jar, the wall of rice noodles...planning out a homemade dinner is an adventure in itself. If you're not up for an evening in the kitchen, then there are plenty of restaurants waiting to lift your burden. The area's restaurants are predominately Vietnamese with a smattering of Thai dining spots. For the best of both worlds, the Viet Garden offers both Thai and Vietnamese cuisine.

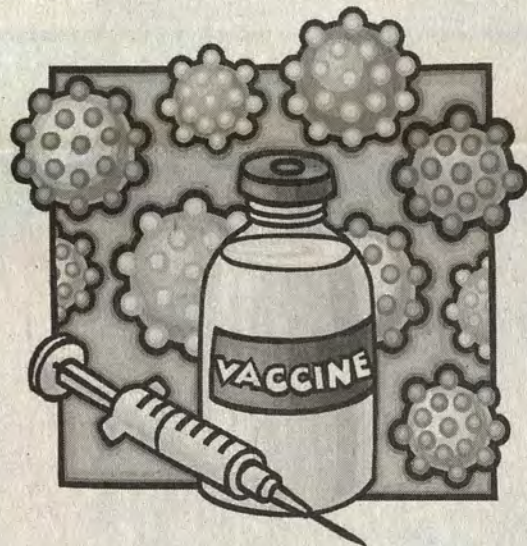
If you feel ill at anytime during your trek, there are a couple herb shops a few steps away that offer an all-natural remedy for anything that ails you. Inside the shops is a wall of hundreds of tiny drawers filled with dried roots, plants, berries and animal parts. All you have to do is explain your condition to the medicine man

and he'll customize a cure for your PMS, headaches, lack of energy or mood swings.

Ill or not, exposing yourself to culture from the comfort of your bed can be an option at times. Your local video rental store might have some foreign films such as *Life is Beautiful*, *Amélie*, *In the Mood for Love*, *Run Lola Run*, *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* and *Johnny Stecchino*. If you don't like reading subtitles, then *Whale Rider*, *East is East*, *Billy Elliot* and *Bend it Like Beckham* might be more to your liking.

While some would argue that Orlando is nowhere near as cosmopolitan as New York City or as diverse as Los Angeles, the continuous influx of immigrants is enriching Orlando's culture scene.

"I think if you know where to look, you can find culture in Orlando," says Bhriha, a belly dance performer and instructor at the Blue Lotus Center. "The question is: Are you willing to find it?"



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Megacon: Geeks, nerds, furrries and leather fetishists unite!

FROM 12

walk a bit and watch closely as a middle-aged woman in an Elvira costume tries to sweet talk Ken Foree, star of *Dawn of the Dead* and *Kenan and Kel*, into signing her arm for free, but alas, the mistress of the dark is no mistress of haggling, and she leaves the table without a smidgen of ink. A.J. Benza was right: Fame's a bitch.

3:30 p.m. — The creator booths are jam-packed with artists and writers, both established and aspiring, promoting their works and selling sketches. I am most impressed with Crossgen, a fantasy comic company who had the friendliest and most well-organized booth in the entire place. Not only were Crossgen's creators willing to sign things for free, its artists were also generous enough to do sketches on the fly. I saw Mark Pennington, inker on *The Path*, give advice to a young artist, while drawing him a picture of *G.I. Joe's* Destro for absolutely nothing. My faith in humanity is brought back up to a respectable level.

4:30 p.m. — There's been a whole lot of gaming going on, as I find out at the video game section. I meet a Kingpin of Playstation, who frequently travels to competitions across the country, playing for prize money. I challenge him to a quick game of *Capcom Vs. SNK 2*, and after three well-placed tiger uppercuts and a few fireballs, I'm wasted. I fare no better on the second floor, where the screams of arguing role-players deafen me. I try to interview a dungeon-master, but it seems someone cast a laryngitis spell on him.

5:30 p.m. — I find out that the big event of the day is being held on the third floor — the Anime and Video Game Costume Contest. With more than 150 contestants ranging from such characters as used car salesman Megaman and five guys dressed as *Vash the Stampede*, this thing's a real doozy. Contestants get to walk up a runway, dance and win themselves over to hungry fans who chant their names. It's like a wet T-shirt contest, only with acne instead of cleavage. Actually, there's plenty of that too.

6:30 p.m. — After a long, tiring day, I get back on the shuttle and rest my wrists, which have developed some form of carpal-tunnel after carrying around three bags of comics all day. I meet Louis George, a man who proves how diverse these things can be. He's a man in his early 50s, loves the artwork of Frank Frazetta (which he loaded up on at the convention), peppers his speech with Vietnam flashbacks and mild profanity and has let the LSD of his youth slip in and fester in his brain. Although Louis and I are from different times and places in thought and mind, we share a similar thought, which he expresses loudly, "This place is great, man!"

Today, I've seen every shade of skin color, age group and sexual preference. Families were all dressed up together and couples shared their love here. Megacon is not just a place to buy *Neon Genesis: Evangelion* tapes and Klingon weapons — it's a small utopia. Perhaps it's the superhero morals that went to our heads, but the majority of people there were nice and open-minded. They love their lives and would be willing to do anything for their fellow men — for \$20 of course.

Megacon fashions

Link readies his roofie bomb, top left, for latex vixens, top right. It's a sad day when adults dressed as the Justice League, bottom left, are out-weirded by a white forty-year-old Japanese schoolgirl who is really a white man, bottom right.



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ / the indie

Nerds, geeks, dweebs and dorks swarm the floor of the Orange County Convention Center at right. Not shown: Jocks, cool people and guys with girlfriends.

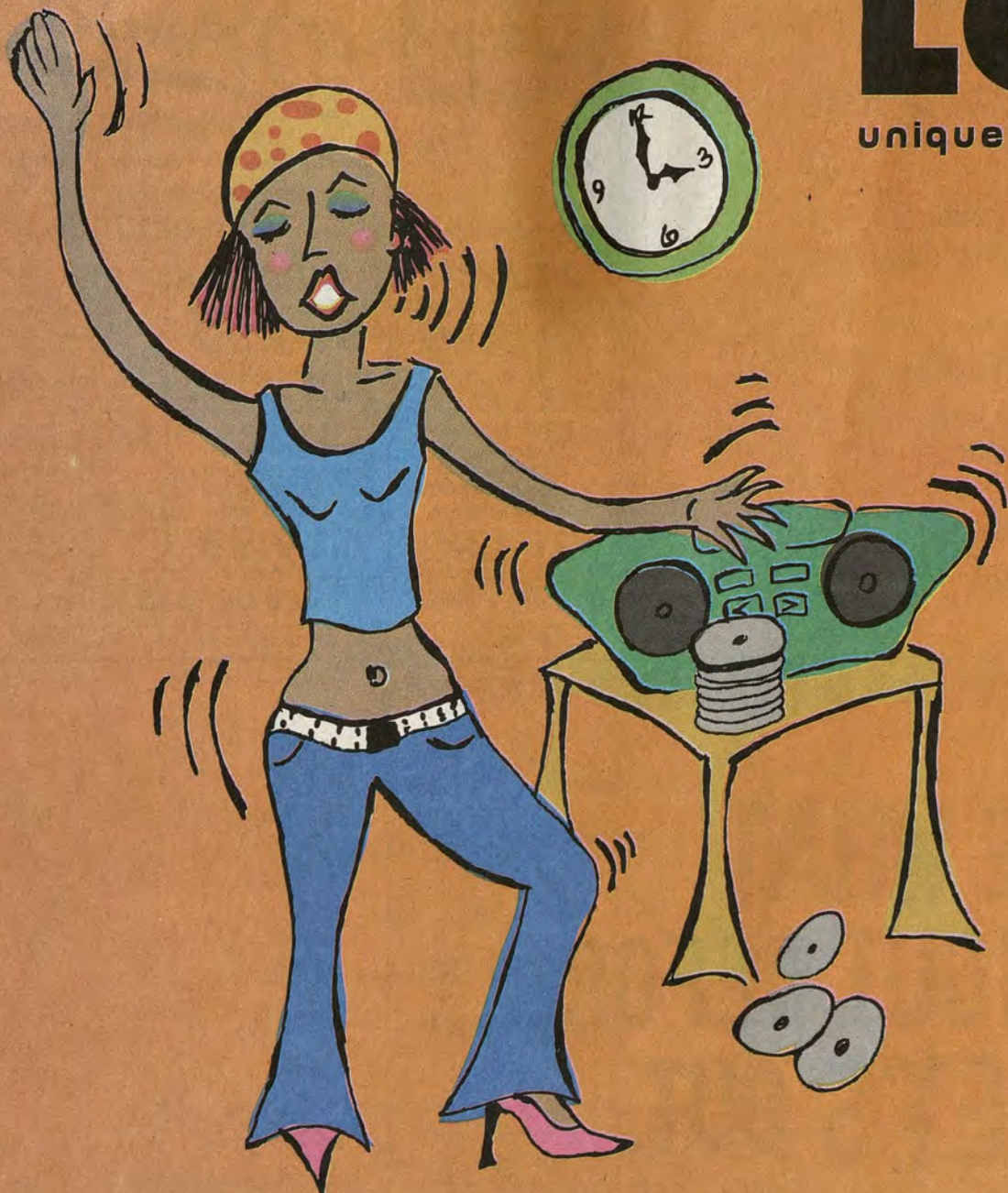


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ramblings

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MICHAEL LAWRENCE

NEAR-LIFE EXPERIENCE

Well Hung

American I-Dull is well into its third season and it's already created a new star, even before the final twelve compete for the grand prize — William Hung, the tiny, pasty Asian whose version of "She Bangs" is far more entertaining than Ricky Martin's. Hung has appeared on several talk shows, returned to I-Dull for a special last week and has even been offered record deals. All this from a guy whose no better or worse than a typical late-night karaoke star. He's quickly becoming an overnight sensation that people adore.

The big question is: Does he deserve any of it? Let's face it, the guy's biggest talent is being talentless. Or is it? Hung possesses something most people on the show have never exhibited — genuine sincerity. It's a rarity indeed. He's a happy guy who enjoys his lot in life. He knows the clock is ticking but doesn't care. He's too busy enjoying himself. We'd all cheer for this guy if we saw him, and in fact we do. I personally can't find the heart to root for any of the other contestants, and even though I've watched the show since the end of season one, I haven't voted once. They all look alike and sound alike and have the same answers. "I'm excited to be here and have wanted to sing, ever since I was a little boy/girl." At least Hung spices it up.

Carson Daly's stunt double Ryan Seacrest definitely doesn't. He's rude to the contestants and unfriendly to the viewers. He's the guy who'd get his new car stolen in high school after showboating it around. The real reason people tune in is for the judges, which really says something about the general talent on the show. Aside from the dreadful Paula Abdul, who got upstaged by a cartoon cat and Keanu Reeves before she reached used CD store status, Randy Jackson and Simon Cowell are the only people who come off as actual people. They entertain the audience but also stick to their general principles as judges. It's rather commendable. They're not afraid to mock themselves or concede when it's appropriate. One thing the contestants should learn from them it's how to act in front of the camera. Hung has learned this quicker than anyone. He's willing to give the people exactly what they want.

I wish I could say the same for I-Dull's three biggest success stories, Clay Aiken, Ruben Studdard and Kelly Clarkson. They roll their eyes during interviews and act as if their fame is a burden. Do they honestly think they'd make it on their own? Hung knows he wouldn't.

Americans have always had a thing for daffy foreigners. Look at Ahnuld and Antonio Banderas. They can't act, but they show up on time and put up a good effort. We're a nation of immigrants. We love giving people opportunities, even if there not the most deserving. After all, they're trying to struggle in a new culture. I appreciate William Hung for trying. He may not meet the American standard of a pop star, but damn does he put 110 percent into each and every performance. Good for him!

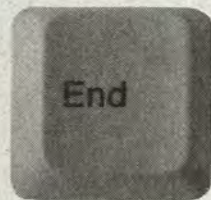
It may seem as if the producers are taking advantage of his naiveté and exploiting him, but I'd disagree. I think novelties are glad to be recognized. Tiny Tim played "Tiptoe Through the Tulips" til his fingers bled. He's not going to have the chance to get corrupted like celebrities usually do. He's not going to be in long enough to sell-out.

In two months, a new star will be christened on the show. They'll probably go on to release a bland album with a school photo on the front cover, and 10 or 12 songs about empty love that all sound alike. And it'll go double platinum. By that time, William Hung will have fallen from the graces of showbiz and gone back to resume the mundane life he left, as happy as he's ever been, entertaining patrons at any bar with a microphone and an open heart.

E-mail Michael Lawrence at michael@theindie.com

WEB LESS TRAVELED

Distributed computing — nectar of the nerds



BRANDON HARDIN

Today's topic is the pinnacle of comedy. It manages to trump all previous themes in terms of sheer comedic potential. It throws the Mr. T column helluva far. It slices and raids the Ninja versus Pirates debate. It has more sociological impact than the continual battle between robots and cowboys.

That's right. I'm talking about distributed computing.

Ok, so it's really not that funny. But it's entertaining. Well, it's entertaining for people with no lives, such as Internet geeks and journalists.

Distributed computing is where a bunch of computers all working independently work together to solve a problem. Some projects search for life in outer space. Others model protein folding. Another runs simulated monkeys that are

trying to recreate the works of William Shakespeare. In theory, this column can be like a distributed computing problem. Problem: I have to find five related Web sites a week, and I'm lazy. Solution: The readers scour the Internet and send me interesting links, thereby reducing my workload. Problem solved!

So send interesting links my way. My e-mail address is at the end of the column every week. In the meantime, use the links below and help solve extraterrestrial, biological, and theoretical problems.

<http://www.aspenleaf.com/distributed>

As a large listing of distributed computing sites, Aspenleaf.com is a great resource. Sites are organized by type, such as science, art, cryptography, upcoming projects and completed projects. Get in there, root around and see what you can find. The other links I mention in this column can all be found here; I just wanted to mention a few that caught my eye.

<http://setiathome.berkeley.edu>

SETI@home is one of the longest-running distributed computing projects out there. I've been

running it for three years now, and I've analyzed more than 1100 data packets.

After downloading a free, small program that also works as a screensaver, participants analyze radio signals received at observatories. The program searches the signals for pulses and patterns, then sends the results back to SETI, or the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence.

<http://www.stanford.edu/group/pandegroup/folding>

For those more life science oriented, I give you Folding@home. Here, a screensaver-like program runs theoretical protein-folding experiments. Those behind the project, a group of students and professors at Stanford, hope the results found will help explain how proteins fold so quickly and reliably. They also hope results will give insight into various protein-folding related diseases such as Alzheimer's and Huntington's.

<http://agent.capcal.com>

If the possibility of helping to cure a disease didn't make you want to put your spare CPU cycles to work, how about becoming an agent for Capacity Calibration? For those with an always-on Internet connection, such as those who have a cable modem, this program can earn you \$.30 an hour. For doing nothing. Multiply that by 24 hours a day, 30 days a month and that's a nice \$216 for doing absolutely nothing. Of course, you only get paid for the time CapCal is actually using your computer, so you'll probably get less than that. But still, it's money for doing nothing. And who can object to that?

<http://user.tninet.se/~ecf599g/aardasnails/java/Monkey/webpages>

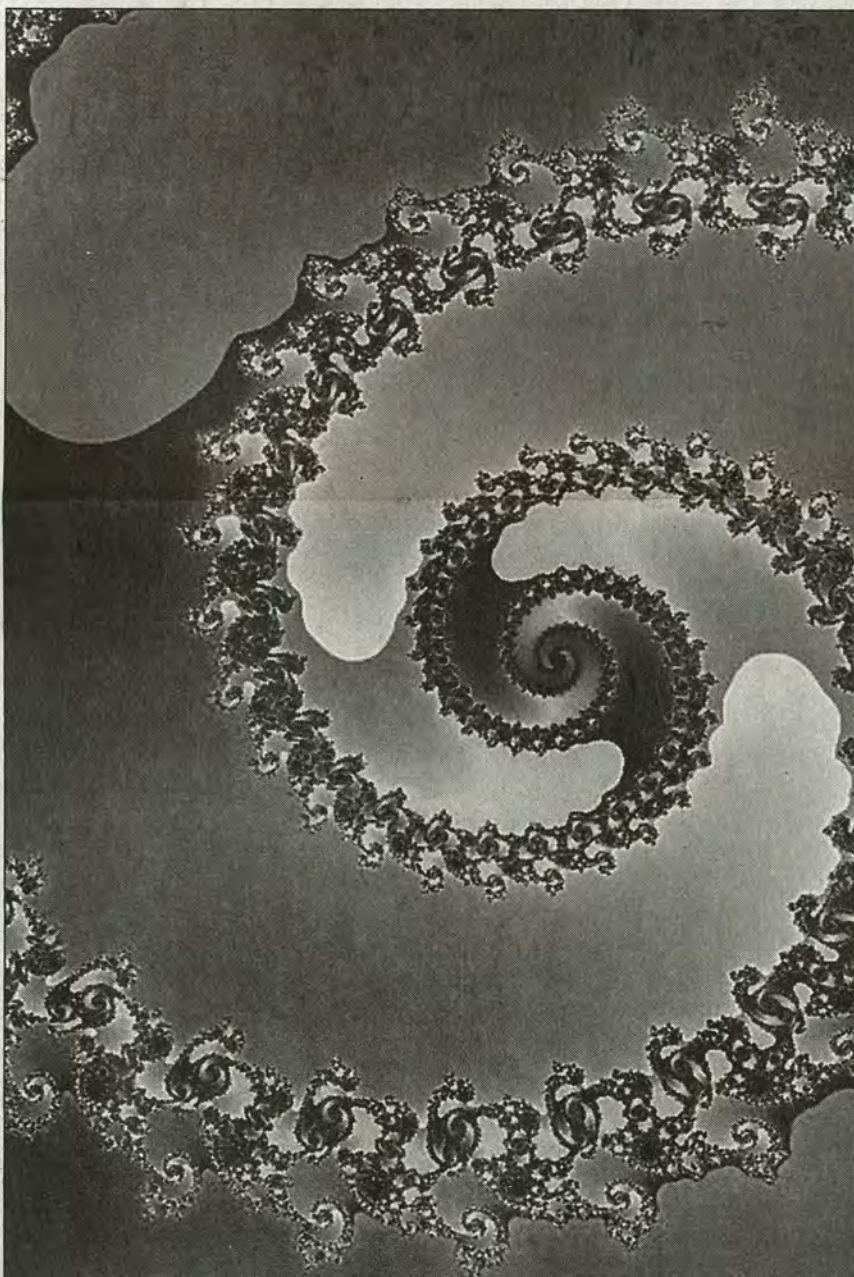
This project seeks to find out if an infinite number of monkeys at an infinite number of typewriters can write all the works of Shakespeare. However, I happen to know that it only takes one monkey banging away at a typewriter to produce a Web Less Traveled column.

The project designers started with 100 theoretical monkeys, and they have been exponentially increasing ever since to ensure some results within our lifetime. The current record is the first 14 letters from Coriolanus.

<http://www.electricsheep.org>

Electric Sheep is for you artsy folk. Taking its name from a Philip K. Dick novel, Electric Sheep uses a screensaver program to draw fractal images. Or, as the site puts it, "It realizes the collective dream of sleeping computers from all over the internet."

E-mail Brandon Hardin at brandon@theindie.com



COURTESY [HTTP://WWW.ANGELFIRE.COM/ALT/RICHCANDE1/FRACTAL.HTML](http://www.angelfire.com/alt/richcande1/fractal.html)

ANGUS' BEEF

McWitherspoon dead at 77, 50 years later than we hoped



INDIE EDITORIAL STAFF

It is with great regret that we, the indie staff, inform you that Angus McWitherspoon has died. Bitter to the very end, Angus died the way he lived — bitching at someone.

On March 10, Angus went to the Ludacris concert at the House of Blues. After the show, he somehow managed to get backstage and accost Ludacris, telling Ludacris that he found "Stand Up" offensive to people who need walkers to get around.

"I'll tell you what I stand up for!" Angus was rumored to have said.

"I'll stand up to leave your concert! I'm going home to listen to my Perry Como records!"

Ludacris' posse didn't appreciate Angus' actions or his musical choice, being Lawrence Welk fans themselves, and threatened to kill him. At which point, Angus turned and tried to flee.

While Angus was indeed furious, he was not fast due to having to use a walker, and a posse member popped a cap in his ass.

Before he died, he said, "With my last breath, I curse paninis!"

McWitherspoon is survived by his wife, Agnes. Upon hearing about her husband's demise, Agnes cheered, saying "Thank God. Now I can put on some shoes, get out of the kitchen and learn how to read."

Angus' death comes with a wave of good news though. We won't have to read his column anymore. The old man with his wrinkly fist in the air is dead and gone, and there is nobody left willing to type rants on his sixty-year-old typewriter with their pruned fingers. Instead we will be forced to read

more garbage by the self-righteous Sean Hunting in his new, yet-to-be-titled column. With every word Hunting types Angus will do a full roll in his grave. This is especially impressive considering he was cremated.

Angus has affected us all in some way. He changed the way we look at things. Who else could have pointed out the Nazi symbolism in the UCF Library's study units? He made us think. Without him, who would have thought about the poor trend in coffee naming? He made us mad. Who else could give an aneurism to a perfectly healthy editor, through nothing more than his misdirected anger?

The indie will hold a small ceremony in memory of this crotchety old bastard. Nobody will attend, and the plaque will be quickly thrown away, but that's more than Angus would have wanted. It's also much more than he deserves.

Send your condolences to editor@theindie.com

Top-five alternate deaths for Angus ...

5. Choked on a panini
4. Walker malfunction
3. Viagra overdose
2. Malpractice involving a hip replacement
1. Killed by hooligan reader who thought he sucked



ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ

THE GEEK LIFE

Megacon fantasy

Imagine a gathering of every sci-fi, anime, video game, fantasy and RPG gaming franchise ever created! Throw in a bunch of comic-book artists and B-list television celebrities and you have a recipe for nerdiness. And speaking of nerdiness, in the spirit of all things geeky, I have decided to concoct a devilish brew of a tale — add a few drops of D&D style tabletop RPG, mix in a few *Final Fantasy* elements, drop in a super hero or a robot and you've got yourself a delicious stew called Megacon:

The sorceress and her barbarian companion Chronos approached the gate, reigning in their snorting horses as they faced the grim wench tending the doorway to the mystical gathering.

"Is there an entrance charge?" the brave Chronos ventured to ask.

"Nothing around here is free," she replied, her voice like dry dust.

The travelers paid the required Gil and followed the twisty trail into the enchanted plain until they reached the ferry. They boarded the vessel, keeping a wary eye on their companions. Some of them seemed to be mere peasants, but among them were red-cloaked gun-slingers and traveling samurai, mystical druids and their animal companions, pod racers and robots. Most were babbling excitedly, hoping to acquire new adventure stories or magical scrolls. Some even had plans to meet powerful wizards and artisans in hopes of learning their secrets.

As the ferry drew near the mystic meeting ground, the sorceress noticed small fairies dressed in brightly colored garb prancing about near the shoreline and cheering loudly. The tiny females leaped into the air to land in the awaiting arms of their fellow fairies.

"What, pray tell, are they doing here?" the sorceress asked a nearby samurai.

"Those are the mythic Cheerleaders. They met here last year, too."

The Sorceress chuckled, questioning their decision to meet so close to a gathering of strange folk in odd costumes with questionable morals, then was distracted as they neared the holy temple.

She and Chronos disembarked the ferry and made their way to the crowded shrine. *Megacon*, the signs proclaimed. They braced themselves as they entered.

It was utter chaos. Vendors hawking their wares shouted into the din as caped and costumed heroes pushed their way through the crowded corridors. A few rakish pirates batted their eyes at some of the scantily clad wenches as a league of white-armored storm troopers kept the peace. Young Japanese schoolgirls, obviously lost through a fluke of time or some magic book or other such generic plot devices, looked around, eyes wide with both fear and excitement.

"Gollum," croaked a foul creature at their feet.

"You there, speak truth!" Chronos said. "What has this place to offer?"

"Yesssss, Masters. As you wish. I searches for the preciouss, but there are wizardly tournaments, some played on magical screens, while others are played with cards and scrolls. Some say also there is a secret room where one can see the future of anime, though I cannot tell you for sure where."

With a burst of vile laughter, the small creature crawled away. They pushed on through the crowd, holding tight to their Gil. The devoted had been waiting for hours to speak but a few words with their idols and obtain a few signatures. Ahead of them they saw the gamers hunched over their controllers, eyes darting rapidly. They passed artists with original artwork and comics, most of poor quality. Robots and demons blocked their paths, but they persevered, struggling to find their destination.

Then, suddenly appearing before them out of a suspicious mist. Anime Sushi, the sign said, beckoning them to part the dark curtains and enter. The peered ahead, and there it was. The future of anime.

"Aw, man. They made another series based on Ghost in the Shell?" the sorceress cried.

"SHHHH!!!"

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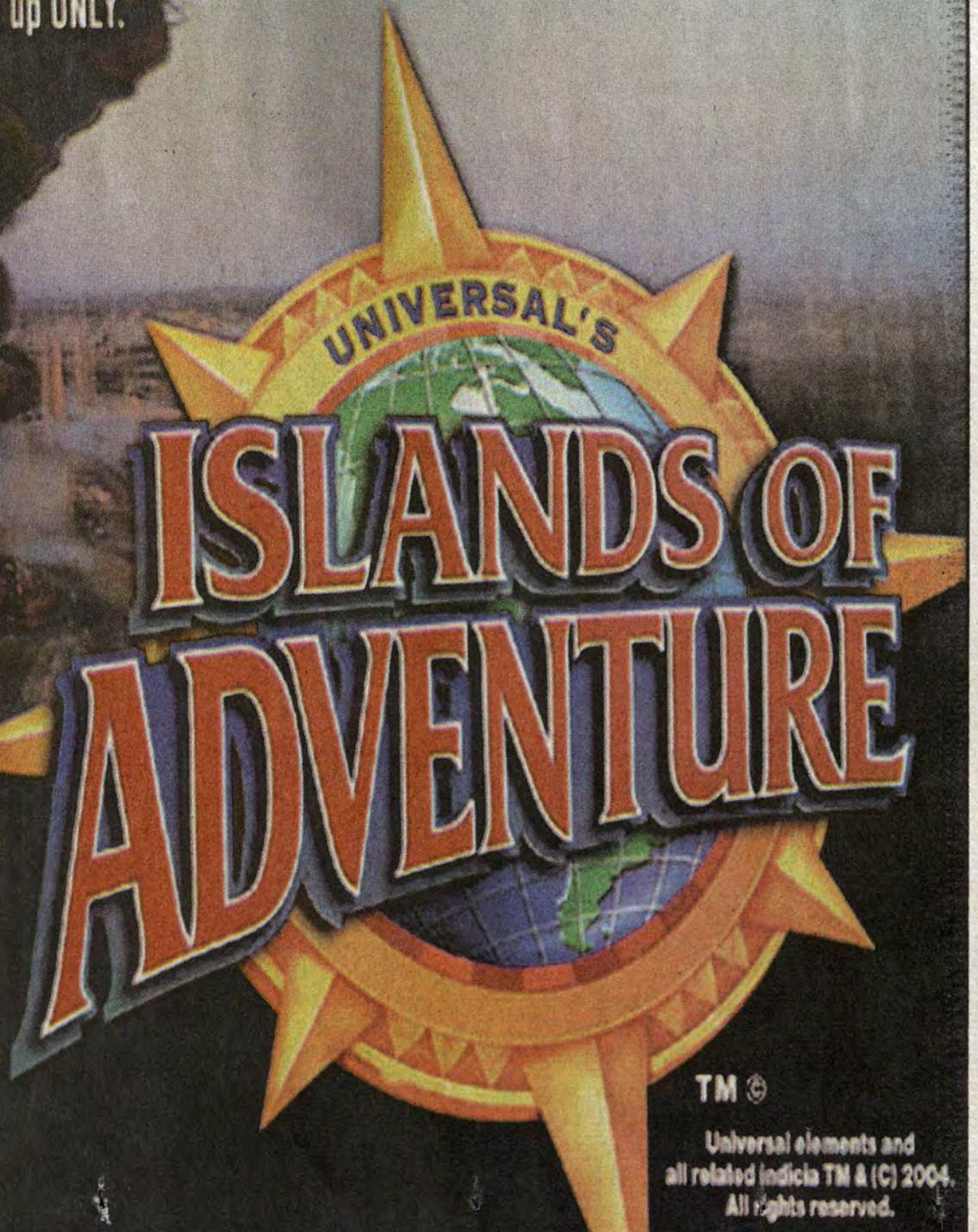
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