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Central Florida Future

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The Student Newspaper at UCF since 1968

www.CentralFloridaFuture.com • Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Tournament time

UCF and C-USA ready for women's championship tomorrow — SEE SPORTS, A7



Making a splash

Delta Upsilon fraternity helps raise money for Boys & Girls Club — SEE NEWS, A2



DRUGS

COMPOST THAT CAUSES THE MUNCHIES



A pot grower in California is following nature's rules, if not the law. Workers who were sorting items at a San Jose recycling center found a large trash bag full of marijuana plants. The center collects leaves, tree limbs and other natural material for composting, but police say they'll be held as evidence of a crime.

COURT

A COURTROOM DRAMA WITH PUNCH

A man who punched his lawyer in a Kentucky courtroom last month has been sentenced to six months in jail. Peter Hafer also has a new lawyer. Mark Bubbenzer said his client is sorry and didn't mean to disrespect the court. But Scott County Circuit Judge Rob Johnson reprimanded Hafer as he sentenced him for contempt of court Monday.



AROUND CAMPUS, A2

UCF'S ASDA WELCOMES GUEST SPEAKER TODAY IN STUDENT UNION

UCF's Pre-dental ASDA will be welcoming associate dean of student affairs and admissions for Nova Southeastern University School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Hal Lippman, this afternoon from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

LOCAL & STATE, A2

2 DEAD, 5 INJURED AFTER SHOOTING AT FLORIDA WENDY'S

A gunman dressed in a suit and tie burst into a Wendy's restaurant at lunchtime, killing one person and shooting four others before turning the gun on himself, officials and witnesses said. The gunfire sent customers running out of the restaurant.

NATION & WORLD, A4

POLICE FIND 6 DEAD INSIDE MEMPHIS HOME; 3 OTHERS SURVIVE

Police were trying Tuesday to piece together the violent event inside a brick home where six people were found dead in an apparent mass shooting. Three children who survived the attack were hospitalized.

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TODAY'S WEATHER

75° 53°
HIGH LOW
MOSTLY SUNNY

UF students sue administration

Suit seeks online voting in student elections

ZAILEEN ROACH
Staff Writer

Students at the University of Florida have sued their administration and their student government after being told that online voting for student elections is unconstitutional.

Earlier this year, the UF student organization Stu-

dents for Online Voting petitioned the student government supreme court to amend the spring ballot and let the student body decide if future student government elections should be conducted online — a procedure UCF has used for eight years.

The court denied the petition and stated that online voting is unconstitutional

under both federal and state law. The UF supreme court published its opinion against the online voting petition in February.

"Our concern is not the technical security the voting system provides against potential hackers," the opinion reads. "Our concern is upholding and protecting the most fundamental tenants of

a free society: that every person has one vote; that vote is cast in complete privacy and that the integrity of the election can be monitored by both the public and the government."

The supreme court stated its concern with the possibility of voter coercion if voting becomes as easily accessible as logging into the university's network. The court also cited the threat of increased double voting as a reason for

unconstitutionality.

"The Online Voting amendment has the effect of taking away the right to a secret ballot," it said, "because it inhibits the supervisor of elections from being able to verify that voters participating in elections are actually the persons whose Gatorlink username and password were used to access the system."

PLEASE SEE **STUDENT** ON A5

A mile in Keds shoes



Team Little Triplets, in yellow, participates in the 3rd annual KnightWalk for Babies Sunday, which was held on the UCF campus.

COREY MAYNARD / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

TAKING BABY STEPS

Walk supports March of Dimes

KARI WILBERG
Staff Writer

The third annual KnightWalk for Babies was held Sunday in front of the Reflecting Pond and Millican Hall to benefit March of Dimes.

March of Dimes, an organization that formerly focused on helping premature babies, is now looking to improve the lives of all babies.

"Our mission has changed, focusing this year on making sure every baby is born healthy and strong," said Jenni Williams, community director for the March of Dimes Central Florida Division.

Williams said events such as KnightWalk help raise money to prevent premature birth, birth defects and infant fatalities.

More than 150 walkers at KnightWalk helped raise more than \$8,000 for March of Dimes



Volunteers and participants pause for a picture during the 3rd annual KnightWalk for Babies Sunday. The event was held at the Reflecting Pond next to Millican Hall.

COREY MAYNARD / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

this year. KnightWalk raised \$18,000 during the first two walks in 2006 and 2007. Williams said the March of Dimes Collegiate Council's goal is to raise \$15,000 during 2008. The money is raised through sponsorship of the participants.

Williams said the March of Dimes continues to receive donations throughout the year, which contribute to that total

goal. Alpha Delta Pi sorority won the award at the end of the walk for the top overall team. The sorority raised \$906 for KnightWalk.

Phi Delta Theta won the award for raising the most money as a fraternity. The fraternity raised \$100 toward

PLEASE SEE **EVENT** ON A6

Officials say not to fear

UCF PD tests alert system

KARI WILBERG
Staff Writer

Being prepared for a tragedy is important, but it is more important for UCF students to live their lives free from terror, said a UCF psychologist.

David L. Wallace, director of the Counseling Center and a psychologist, said the university is working as hard as it can, but attacks like those that took place at Northern Illinois University or Virginia Tech are too unpredictable.

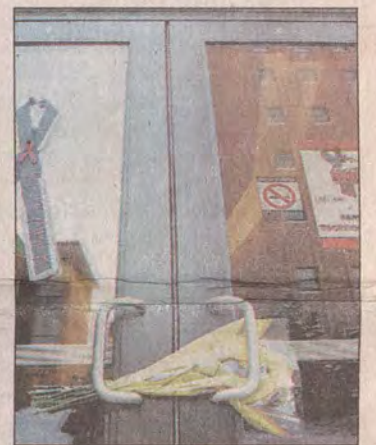
Wallace said students should be optimistic about such situations and not get caught up in the what-ifs.

Angelica Rivera, a sophomore chemistry major, said she feels safe because she does not spend more than a couple hours on campus each week. But she said when she sees news reports about school shootings, it concerns her.

"It could happen," said Matt Tucker, a senior religious studies major. "I recognize there's a potential, but you have to focus on class and hope it doesn't happen."

Wallace said people should be as careful as they can.

"I would like to see us be in a place to where people can feel they did the best they can do and come to terms that it is a dangerous world sometimes," Wallace said. "The important thing is to be able to live a life that



BRIAN KERSEY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flowers are left at the doors of Northern Illinois' Cole Hall, the scene of a Feb. 14 shooting that claimed the lives of five students, in DeKalb, Ill. Gov. Rod Blagojevich and other lawmakers and university officials announced plans to demolish the building and replace it with a new classroom facility named Memorial Hall.

isn't terrorized all the time."

He compared a shooting to walking to one's car alone in the dark. Wallace said a person can be as careful as possible, but should recognize that he cannot predict what other people might do.

Cpl. James Roop, community relations supervisor for the UCF Police Department, said UCF is working to improve and create more community alerts.

Roop said the UCF Police Department is in the testing stage of creating desktop alert systems.

"If there is a police con-

PLEASE SEE **POLICE** ON A6

Social work for elderly gets \$75K

RYAN PELHAM
Contributing Writer

The UCF School of Social Work will soon have a new program for graduate students interested in working with the elderly.

The school received a grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation that will provide \$75,000 over three years. The grant money will be used to start the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education, which is designed to train social work students for working with the elderly.

The program will start in the fall and will focus on second-year master of social work students.

UCF will join Florida State University, which received the grant in 2006, as the only two schools in the state to host the program.

"In Florida, it's especially important because we have one of the highest proportions of older people in the whole country," said Denise Gammonley, assistant professor of social work and co-principal investigator for the program.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's estimates for 2006, 16.8 percent of Floridians are 65 or older, compared to 12.4 percent nationally.

Despite the need, the School of Social Work has had

PLEASE SEE **FEW** ON A5

AROUND CAMPUS

News and notices for the UCF community

UCF's ASDA welcomes guest speaker

UCF's Pre-dental ASDA will be welcoming associate dean of student affairs and admissions for Nova Southeastern University School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Hal Lippman, this afternoon from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Room 218 A of the Student Union.

Those attending will have the opportunity to ask questions. For more information, contact keithpayton@msn.com.

English conversation class today

The Center for Multilingual Multicultural Studies hosts free English conversation classes every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in CMMS Room 114.

The program is open to all and will be taught by teachers from UCF's TESOL program. No books are required. For more information, contact mill15716athollow@gmail.com.

VUCF holds volunteer expo

Volunteer UCF and Diversified Greek Council will be holding a volunteer expo Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Union's Key West Ballroom. Those attending will have the opportunity to meet more than 30 non-profit organizations. For more information, contact vucf_pr@mail.ucf.edu.

LOCAL & STATE

Keep local with headlines you may have missed

2 dead, 5 injured after shooting at Wendy's near West Palm Beach

WEST PALM BEACH — A gunman dressed in a suit and tie burst into a Wendy's restaurant at lunchtime Monday, killing one person and shooting four others before turning the gun on himself, officials and witnesses said.

The gunfire sent customers running out of the restaurant. Motorists at the drive-thru window also fled, some leaving their vehicles running.

The only victim killed was a Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue lieutenant who was taking a lunch break from training and met his wife and child at the restaurant, said Deputy Chief Steve Delai.

The 42-year-old man and his family had just left the restaurant when he returned to retrieve a toy his child had left behind. Delai said the man was shot in the back as he stood at the counter.

"It appears as though he was the first one shot ... and died immediately," Delai said, adding that the man's wife and child were still in the parking lot when the shooting broke out. "Our officer probably didn't even see him."

Palm Beach County sheriff's spokeswoman Teri Barbera said three of the survivors were in critical condition. Two others had minor injuries, including one person who was injured while running away.

Several people were carried from the restaurant on stretchers. Authorities did not identify the shooter or the victims.

"I just saw a lady with a little boy in her arms come running out screaming, 'Somebody's shooting!'" said Sandra Jackson, who had been getting gas across the street. The woman said her husband was still inside, said Jackson, 43, of Palm Springs.

The mayhem unfolded just after noon during the lunch hour rush at the eatery on a major suburban road lined with strip malls, car dealerships and fast food restaurants, about five miles from downtown West Palm Beach. A billboard advertising an upcoming gun show stands just behind the Wendy's.

The shooter entered the restaurant and went to a restroom before coming out brandishing what appeared to be a 9 mm handgun, sheriff's spokesman Paul Miller said.

Ashley Milton, 28, said she had just opened the door to get lunch when she heard the "pop pop" of gunfire and saw people running.

"I really didn't think that's what it was. I thought this can't be happening," she said. "You see your life flash before your eyes."

PLEASE SEE LOCAL ON A4

SPLASHING FOR CASH

Fundraiser collects more than \$5K in cash, supplies



Sophomore R.J. Thornbury, vice president of UCF's Delta Upsilon, falls into a dunk tank outside the Student Union Feb. 26. The event raised money for the Boys & Girls Club.

MICHAEL DENNIS
Contributing Writer

"Oh, the weather outside is frightful," Will Winner said as he took his seat above the dunk tank.

He sat there shivering in a wind chill of 43 degrees as a large crowd of Greeks and other students gathered to participate in Delta Upsilon's Dunk a DU fundraiser last Wednesday.

Participants got three chances to dunk brave brothers for a cost of \$1. This was the first event in DU's week-long campaign to raise money for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. More than \$5,000 in cash and supplies was gathered through DU's efforts, said Brad Bailey, DU vice president of philanthropic involvement.

"DU has an international partnership with the Boys and Girls Club," Bailey said, "and so far, this is our most successful fundraiser."

Events also included the collection of sports and athletic equipment and DU's skit night, called Lip Service.

"It's cold, but it's all worth it," Winner said. "I think the cold weather is actually drawing more attention."

That sentiment was echoed by John McCann, who had collected more than \$400 by 1 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon.

"The water is warmer than outside," McCann said.

"These guys definitely want to get dunked, and people want to see it."

This is not the first year DU has organized such a fundraiser, but it was their largest on campus to date. Aside from the amount raised at the dunking booth on Wednesday, sororities and other participants donated items such as basketballs, loose-leaf paper and athletic equipment.

Bailey said efforts at the dunk tank alone brought in more than \$900. The events also raised more than \$2,000 in supplies and more than \$1,000 in the sale of T-shirts, which were printed to promote the event. The remainder of the \$5,000 collected came from DU's other philanthropic events.

Monday night brought DU's final event, the skit comedy show Lip Service, which was held in the Pegasus Ballroom. Brothers greeted attendees as they entered by selling raffle tickets for such items as a free tanning session, gift cards and a pre-paid bar tab at the Knightly Scoop. Sororities, such as Alpha Delta Pi, Kappa Alpha Theta and Zeta Tau Alpha, put on skits to poke fun at their Greek brethren and to honor all of the hard work that went into the week-long, campus-wide event.

"A massive fundraiser like this just can't

be thrown together," Bailey said. "It takes uncountable hours to organize and execute."

Those hours weren't put in only during the actual fundraising week. The Pegasus Ballroom had to be booked more than a year in advance. Renting a dunk tank and getting permission to hold the event on campus provided plenty of red tape for Bailey and the rest of the DUs, as well.

DU has experience with organizing events for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and also Habitat for Humanity, which they held an event for last summer. Their 2008 campaign has dwarfed all other efforts.

"I took over the role of philanthropic coordinator in December, and that's basically been all I've done," Bailey said. "It doesn't help when you're running this out of a mailbox."

DU does not have an on-campus house in which to coordinate their efforts. This complicated planning and forced them to store supplies and donations at the houses of participating sororities.

With the cash and supplies gathered through DU's efforts, they can enjoy their accomplishments. Plans for next year's event are already underway, and planners will use this year's success to garner more support from local businesses.

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LOCAL WEATHER



Today
MOSTLY
SUNNY

High: 75°
Low: 53°

TODAY IN DETAIL

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 75. West northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Tonight: Mostly clear with a low around 53. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.



Thursday
MOSTLY SUNNY

High: 78°
Low: 63°

Friday
CHANCE T-STORMS

High: 78°
Low: 58°

Researchers say they can speed up bacteria IDs

ZAILEEN ROACH
Staff Writer

UCF researchers think they have found a way to shorten the time it takes to identify a bacterial infection.

Using nanotechnology and gold particles coated with sugar, the scientists believe they can determine which bacteria have infected a patient and which antibiotic is best suited to treat the infection. The process is not yet FDA approved, but if it's used, it could save medical examiners money and improve the quality of patient treatment, said Dr. Manuel Perez, an assistant professor at the NanoScience Technology Center.

Perez has worked at the center for three years. He worked on the study along with post-doctoral fellow Sudip Nath and graduate student Charalambos Kaittanis, finding an alternative way for doctors to test patient infections.

Perez said the most common procedure that medical examiners use to identify bacterial infections is to microscopically observe the pattern of the bacteria's growth, a process called a culture. But, he said, cultures can take days to complete and often require large samples of bacteria, which can be cumbersome for doctors.

"By the time you get the result," Perez said, "the patient might be sicker."

He said using nanotechnology could significantly reduce the waiting period, while still producing accurate results.

The nanotechnology study observed the behavior of a small sample of bacteria as they ate away the sugar coating surrounding gold particles laced with an antibiotic. Bacteria that are growing need to eat, and the things they like to munch on most are sugars and carbohydrates.

The bacteria bind with the gold particles and can be identified based on their reaction to the antibiotic, Perez said.

Methods other than cultures, such as those involving DNA testing and fluorescent detectors, can be used to identify bacterial infections, but Perez said that the methods are costly and time-consuming. Using nanotechnology would save doctors and pharmaceutical companies money because most offices already have the materials necessary, Perez said.

"The only thing they need to get is the gold metal particles," he said.

Dr. Michael Deichen, associate medical director of UCF Health Services, said that sometimes it is necessary to do a culture that can take up to two or three days to yield a result. For example, he said, cultures for tuberculosis can take four to six weeks to determine the strain and the appropriate antibiotic needed for treatment.

To keep the patient from getting sicker while the doctors wait for results, they often prescribe multiple antibiotics in order to treat all the different symptoms, Deichen said.

Perez said his approach reduces the need for the medicines that cover all the bases. This is something that would be a tremendous benefit to both the patient and the doctors if the study is accurate, Deichen said.

"If it was a test that was truly rapid and truly sensitive, we could start with the right antibiotic," he said.

Another dilemma that doctors face in treating infections, Deichen said, is that more and more conditions have antibiotic resistance, such as the MRSA staph infection or certain strands of tuberculosis.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention states

BACTERIA: LIFE HISTORY AND ECOLOGY

BACTERIA GROW IN A WIDE VARIETY OF HABITATS AND CONDITIONS.

When most people think of bacteria, they think of disease-causing organisms, like the *Streptococcus* bacteria growing in culture in this picture, which were isolated from a man with strep throat. While pathogenic bacteria are notorious for such diseases as cholera, tuberculosis and gonorrhea, such disease-causing species are a comparatively tiny fraction of the bacteria as a whole.

Bacteria are so widespread that it is possible only to make the most general statements about their life history and ecology. They may be found on the tops of mountains, the bottom of the deepest oceans, in the guts of animals and even in the frozen rocks and ice of Antarctica. One feature that has enabled them to spread so far and last so long is their ability to go dormant for an extended period.



BACTERIA HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND NUTRITIVE REQUIREMENTS.

Most bacteria may be placed into one of three groups based on their response to gaseous oxygen. Aerobic bacteria thrive in the presence of oxygen and require it for their continued growth and existence. Other bacteria are anaerobic and cannot tolerate gaseous oxygen, such as those bacteria which live in deep underwater sediments or those which cause bacterial food poisoning. The third group are the facultative anaerobes, which prefer growing in the presence of oxygen, but can continue to grow without it.

Bacteria may also be classified both by the mode by which they obtain their energy. Classified by the source of their energy, bacteria fall into two categories: heterotrophs and autotrophs. Heterotrophs derive energy from breaking down complex organic compounds that they must take in from the environment — this includes saprobic bacteria found in decaying material as well as those that rely on fermentation or respiration.

The other group, the autotrophs, fix carbon dioxide to make their own food source; this may be fueled by light energy (photoautotrophic) or by oxidation of nitrogen, sulfur or other elements (chemoautotrophic). While chemoautotrophs are uncommon, photoautotrophs are common and quite diverse. They include the cyanobacteria, green sulfur bacteria, purple sulfur bacteria and purple nonsulfur bacteria. The sulfur bacteria are particularly interesting, since they use hydrogen sulfide as hydrogen donor instead of water like most other photosynthetic organisms, including cyanobacteria.

BACTERIA PLAY IMPORTANT ROLES IN THE GLOBAL ECOSYSTEM.

The ecosystem, both on land and in the water, depends heavily upon the activity of bacteria. The cycling of nutrients such as carbon, nitrogen and sulfur is completed by their ceaseless labor.

Organic carbon, in the form of dead and rotting organisms, would quickly deplete the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere if not for the activity of decomposers. This may not sound too bad, but realize that without carbon dioxide, there would be no photosynthesis in plants and no food. When organisms die, the carbon contained in their tissues becomes unavailable for most other living things. Decomposition is the breakdown of these organisms and the release of nutrients back into the environment and is one of the most important roles of the bacteria.

The cycling of nitrogen is another important activity of bacteria. Plants rely on nitrogen from the soil for their health and growth and cannot acquire it from the gaseous nitrogen in the atmosphere.

—WWW.UCMP.BERKELEY.EDU

that nearly nine million people are infected with tuberculosis worldwide, and each year, almost two million people die from the infection. In 2006, there were 1,038 cases of tuberculosis in Florida.

In 2007, Perez watched the news reports of Andrew Speaker, who was quarantined after a trip overseas. Doctors believed Speaker had a contagious strain of tuberculosis that was extensively drug-resistant. He was released weeks later when doctors found that his strain was only moderately resistant to antibiotics.

Perez said this happened while the nanoscience study was being conducted. He said he looked to his fellow researchers and said, "We better finish this paper. It's timely, and people need it."

He said that Speaker was

not diagnosed promptly because the tests used to diagnose him were not fast enough and not reliable enough. Perez wants to change that.

"We hope our technique will be faster," he said. "In epidemics, time is of the essence."

Debra Reinhart, interim director of the NanoScience Technology Center, said this kind of research will help the economic development of the university.

"The researchers do some amazing things that haven't been possible before," she said.

Perez said he is interested in applying nanotechnology to cancer studies, too.

These kinds of studies are important to everyone because, he said, "We all get sick with a cold or something."

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LOCAL & STATE

FROM A2

Josh Maynard, 30, said he and his 20-year-old brother Jerry hit the floor when the well-dressed gunman opened fire. Jerry Maynard said the shooter held his gun sideways and said nothing.

The gunman went to the counter, Miller said, shooting a customer before slowly turning to his left and firing on others before shooting himself.

About 10 to 15 people were believed to be in the restaurant at the time of the shooting, Miller said.

When the shooting stopped, the Maynard brothers ran out of the restaurant. Josh Maynard's blue jeans were torn and his brown leather boots were sliced, damage he said was caused by a bullet that grazed him.

Bob Bertini, a Wendy's Inc. spokesman based in Dublin, Ohio, said the restaurant was cooperating with the sheriff's office.

Panhandle woman charged with fatally stabbing her brother

SHALIMAR — Authorities say a Panhandle woman fatally stabbed her brother after he poured beer on her.

Thirty-year-old Nichole Tamara Hewitt-Melikjanyan is charged with murder in the death of 24-year-old Jessie James McCLOUD.

The siblings' father, Lyle McCLOUD, told police the two had began arguing in the kitchen early Sunday in Shalimar east of Pensacola. The father says Jessie poured a beer on her, she took a swing at him and after he tried to restrain her, she stabbed him twice in the chest with a serrated knife.

She is being held without bail.

It was not known if she had an attorney.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

HIGHER EDUCATION

What's in the news at colleges around the country

Painful process of state budget cuts begin; education hit hardest

TALLAHASSEE — In a bleak sign of what's to come in writing next year's budget, legislative committees Monday approved millions in cuts from the current version, reductions that largely fell on education.

Lawmakers are making a second round of current-year cuts — they slashed about \$1 billion in October — because of tax shortfalls due to a slumping economy. Besides education, the cuts touch health care, law enforcement and environmental programs.

Making the cuts was a practice run of sorts a day before the Legislature begins its annual two-month session Tuesday. In that span, lawmakers will build next year's budget, which goes into effect July 1, with at least \$2 billion less than the present \$70 billion spending plan.

His panel approved \$543 million in cuts. In the Senate, six separate appropriations committees made similar reductions.

Education cuts totaled about \$350 million in both chambers including some \$260 million that will affect primary and secondary schools. Health care cuts are about \$36 million, though they are largely administrative and won't affect programs. Sansom's council and the Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee approved amendments to soften cuts in the court system, including state attorneys and public defenders.

Both tapped one-time money from reserves — \$16 million in the House and \$175 million in the Senate — to avoid temporary layoffs that would have brought some courts to a halt. The court system, though, still faces about \$20 million in cuts.

Senate cuts were combined into a single bill Tuesday, and both chambers will vote on the cuts by the end of the week. Differences then will be worked out before a final version is approved, probably next week.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATION & WORLD

Keep current with headlines from around the globe



NIKKI BOERTMAN / ASSOCIATED PRESS
Police talk to people in the neighborhood where six people were found dead Monday in Memphis, Tenn. Authorities say the bodies of 6 people were found at the home.

Police find 6 dead inside Memphis home; 3 others survive

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Police were trying Tuesday to piece together the violent events inside a brick home where six people were found dead in an apparent mass shooting. Three children who survived the attack were hospitalized.

Authorities forced their way into the home Monday night and found the bodies of four adults and two children. Police said they were investigating the case as a multiple homicide, but released few other details — including whether they believed the killer was at large or among the victims.

Most victims had been shot, police said, and at least one child had been stabbed.

Children ages 7 and 4 and a 10-month-old baby were taken to Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, Memphis Fire Department, spokeswoman Melanie Young told The Associated Press.

The Commercial Appeal reported that one of the children had been updated to stable condition and another upgraded to critical while the third remained in extremely critical condition. Hospital spokeswoman Jennilyn Utkov told The Associated Press the family has requested that no information be released on the children's conditions.

Authorities were called to the house by a relative who knocked on the door around 6 p.m. Monday but did not get an answer.

Wayne Bolden, who lives across the street from the scene of the shooting, said that a man who lived in the house periodically fired shots in the yard.

He said the family there kept to themselves, but he would see four or five children from the house riding bicycles occasionally.

Rob Robinson, who owns the brick, single-family home where the shootings occurred, told *The Commercial Appeal* the house was rented, and that a man, his girlfriend, a baby and at least one other child lived there.

Police were uncertain whether the man was among the victims.

Bombings in Afghanistan kill 5, including 2 NATO soldiers

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide car bomber attacked a government building Tuesday in eastern Afghanistan, killing a policeman a day after a similar blast left four people — including two NATO soldiers — dead.

The car bomber tried to hit a government building in the Tani district of eastern Khost province, but Afghan guards opened fire toward the car, said Khost Gov. Arsalah Jamal.

A policeman was killed and five other people, including an Afghan soldier, were wounded in the explosion, that followed, said district police chief Guldat Hamim.

The attack came a day after another bomber rammed an explosives-laden car into the gates of another government building in the Yaqoubi district of Khost province on Monday, causing a part of the building to collapse and trapping soldiers inside, officials said.

Four people — two NATO soldiers and two Afghan civilians — were killed in that attack and 19 other people, including 15 soldiers, were wounded, officials said.

Anti-U.S. protest follows Pentagon air strike in Somalia

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Hundreds of people shouted anti-American slogans Tuesday in a southern Somali town that was hit a day earlier by a U.S. air strike targeting an al-Qaida terrorist.

An aid worker in Doble, who asked that his name not be used for fear of retribution, said military planes were spotted again Tuesday.

The protesters — mainly women and children — took to the streets in Doble shouting "Down with the so-called superpower!"

Residents and police in Doble said at least eight people, including four children, were seriously injured when a home was destroyed in Monday's attack. The air strike was confirmed by U.S. officials, who said only that the target was a "known al-Qaida terrorist." The U.S. did not disclose the target's identity or the fate of the targeted individual and did not confirm reports of any other casualties.

The U.S. military has staged several attacks on suspected extremists in Somalia over the past year. America has been concerned Somalia could become a breeding ground for terrorist groups, particularly after Islamic militants briefly gained control of the south and al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden declared his support for them.

A radical Islamic movement that ruled much of southern Somalia in 2006 took over Doble last week, led by senior official Hassan Turki. Turki, who is rarely seen in public, is on U.S. and U.N. lists of suspected terrorists for alleged ties to al-Qaida. His fate after the strike was not known.

Doble is just miles from Kenya, where border agents tightened controls.

The Islamic movement, the Council of Islamic Courts, seized control of much of southern Somalia, including the capital, Mogadishu, in 2006. But in early 2007, troops loyal to the U.N.-backed interim Somali government and the allied Ethiopian army defeated the Islamic group.

The Islamic council now appears to be re-emerging.

8 killed, including U.S. soldier, in northern Iraq helicopter crash

BAGHDAD — An Iraqi military helicopter crashed in northern Iraq, killing a U.S. soldier who was on board and seven others, the U.S. military said Tuesday.

The M-17 helicopter was reported missing Monday, the military said in a statement. The Iraqi Defense Ministry said the Russian-made aircraft got caught in bad weather and was found Tuesday south of Beiji, about 90 miles south of Mosul.

All eight people on board the helicopter died in the crash, the U.S. military said. One was a U.S. soldier, military spokesman Lt. Michael Street said.

An Iraqi air force official said six Iraqis and two foreigners were killed. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to release the information, could not elaborate on the nationalities of the two foreigners.

Street said he was unaware that another foreigner was on board the helicopter.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

UCF professor, pianist hosts piano concert

KEITH SPENCER
Staff Writer

The University of Central Florida music department continued its 2007-2008 performance season with an International Piano Concert Series last weekend, featuring accomplished pianists, including a UCF professor.

UCF associate professor of piano and chair of piano studies Laurent Boukobza, who is also an accomplished pianist, hosted and performed at the two-event concert — the first night of which was attended by a crowd larger than the Music Rehearsal Hall's maximum capacity.

"It [International Piano Concert Series] was created based on a need I found when I came to America about 10 years ago," Boukobza said. "I found out that a lot of Americans are talking a lot about international things, but they are not necessarily making the next step to actually immerse themselves into that internationalization."

Boukobza, who is French, believes that this shortcoming of internationalization is not so much a matter of Americans not wanting to experience international culture as much as it is a fact that they sometimes just don't have access to these types of opportunities.

"When I came to the States I realized there was a huge demand for things that were international. Of course, music is probably one of the best things placed on the planet for that concerning art. Art is a form of communication that does not require a specific learning of the language, and music is an international language, basically. So, I saw that it would be good for the students of the school to have access to something international."

Boukobza thought that creating a series of piano concerts would be a great asset for UCF, the department and students. Boukobza said his thoughts coincide with one of President John Hitt's five goals: Internationalizing UCF's campus.

This year's concert marks the third time since its inception in 2006 that Boukobza hosted the event. Boukobza has already begun planning for next year's concert and hopes to include guest artists as well.

"It [International Piano Concert Series] was created based on a need I found when I came to America about 10 years ago."

LAURENT BOKOBZA
UCF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PIANO, CHAIR OF PIANO STUDIES, ACCOMPLISHED PIANIST

The latter depends upon whether or not he obtains the necessary funds to do so. In order to be considered for performing in the concert, a musician must fulfill three criteria as prescribed by Boukobza: he or she must have previously won an international piano competition, have performed extensively in the international scene and have a record label backing them. Boukobza meets all those criteria because he won an international piano competition, he travels to Europe once a month and three record labels back him.

"The fact that UCF is a growing university, the fact that I was able to develop new programs, new service, new curriculum, and to contact a lot of new teachers who sent me very good students is what is most enjoyable about teaching at UCF."

"I hope that the UCF department of music will be put on the map and people will start knowing that UCF is providing high, world-class level music from musicians and pianists. People will start knowing about [the concerts] because we keep doing it year after year, word gets out," Boukobza said.

At the concert Saturday, Boukobza performed Mendelssohn's "Rondo Capriccioso," Haydn's last Sonata in E-flat Major and Beethoven's last Sonata. He also performed Bach's "Busoni Chaconne" in D minor.

At the master class on Sunday, students had the chance to not only listen to international artists, but they also played their pieces of music for these renown artists and received

professional critiques and criticisms from the perspectives of those who do not reside in the United States. Boukobza said that it is a real life experience for students when these people come to the States from foreign countries because they come with different expectations from a different part of the world.

Many student members of the audience found Boukobza to be an impressive and extremely talented musician.

"I think he's amazing. He's one of the best piano players I've ever heard, and I've heard a lot of piano players in my life," said freshman molecular biology and microbiology major Alexander Noll, who attended the concert Sunday. "I am very surprised by the turnout. I didn't think this many people would know of this guy, and I didn't think that many people were into piano playing."

Freshman biology major Jonathan Vicencio also said he was impressed with the performance.

"So far I think the guy is a great performer. I enjoy the way he plays," Vicencio said during the intermission of Boukobza's performance Saturday night.

Southeastern University assistant professor of piano, Ching-Wen Hsiao is a personal friend of Boukobza who drove two hours from Lakeland to hear him perform Saturday night.

"I think the concert is beautifully played. I love his musical ideas, especially the shaping of the phrases, and the different colors, it's just amazing," Hsiao said. "It keeps you listening the entire time and [the selections] are hard pieces. I loved it."

At the end of his performance on Saturday evening, Boukobza expressed that he was surprised by the great turnout.

"It's the first time that I actually see a concert at UCF where so many people have showed up to where they cannot all make it into the hall," Boukobza said. "I'm ecstatic about it, that's fantastic. I feel happy."

"I hope and I wish that the audience was somewhat happy that they had a good moment, that they enjoyed listening to great music and that it lifted their spirits," Boukobza said.

Favre retires after 17 seasons

CHRIS JENKINS
Associated Press

After flirting with retirement for years, Brett Favre means it this time. The Green Bay Packers quarterback quit after a 17-season career in which he dazzled fans with his grit, heart and rocket of an arm.

"I know I can still play, but it's like I told my wife, I'm just tired mentally. I'm just tired," Favre told ESPN's Chris Mortensen in a voice mail message.

Tuesday's surprise move comes after the 38-year-old three-time MVP set several league records, including most career touchdown passes, in one of his most successful seasons.

Favre's agent, Bus Cook, said the quarterback told him of his decision Monday night.

Packers general manager Ted Thompson thanked Favre for 16 years of wonderful memories with the team.

"He has had one of the greatest careers in the history of the National Football League, and he is able to walk away from the game on his own terms — not many players are able to do that," Thompson said in a statement.

The team scheduled an afternoon news conference with Thompson and coach Mike McCarthy, and said it was unsure when Favre might address the media.

Favre led the Packers to the NFC championship game in January, but his interception in overtime set up the New York Giants' winning field goal.



JEFF PHELPS / ASSOCIATED PRESS
Green Bay Packers' quarterback Brett Favre runs off the field in their victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers for the NFC Central title Dec. 24, 1995. Favre has decided to retire after 17 seasons.

"If I felt like coming back — and Deanna [Favre's wife] and I talked about this — the only way for me to be successful would be to win a Super Bowl," Favre told ESPN. "To go to the Super Bowl and lose, would almost be worse than anything else. Anything less than a Super Bowl win would be unsuccessful."

Last season, Favre broke Dan Marino's career records for most touchdown passes and most yards passing and John Elway's record for most career victories by a starting quarterback.

He retires with 5,377 career completions in 8,758 attempts for 61,655 yards, 442 touchdowns and 288 interceptions.

In his final season, Favre also extended his quarterback-record streak of consecutive regular-season starts to 253 games — illustrating his trademark toughness. Add the playoffs, and Favre's

streak stands at 275.

In the past several off-seasons, Favre's indecision about his football future became a winter tradition in Wisconsin, with Cheeseheads hanging on his every word.

Before the Packers' Jan. 12 divisional playoff game against Seattle, Favre told his hometown newspaper that he wasn't approaching the game as if it would be his last and was more optimistic than in years past about returning.

But Favre finished the season on a sour note, struggling in subzero temperatures in a 23-20 overtime loss to the New York Giants in the NFC championship game.

Afterward, Favre was non-committal on his future. McCarthy said he wanted Favre to take a step back from the season before making a decision.

Now he has — to walk away.

Student court says online voting is unconstitutional

FROM A1

Last week, the president of Students for Online Voting, Tommy Jardon, and Executive Director Sam Miorelli filed the lawsuit in Alachua County 8th Circuit Court, saying they were unhappy with the way UF's administration handled the situation and that the action was their only option.

The university has not been served yet. Steve Orlando of the UF news bureau said the administration could not comment on pending litigation.

"The administration turned a blind eye," Jardon said, "and so the last recourse we had, the one that all of us had contemplated but sincerely hoped it would never come to, was filing suit."

The lawsuit asks that the UF supreme court be mandated to approve online vot-

ing for the spring ballot.

Before filing the suit, Miorelli contacted the vice president of student affairs, Patricia Telles-Irvin, to make her aware of the petition and to seek council. Telles-Irvin responded in a letter sent to Miorelli after the supreme court's decision.

She stated in the letter, "There has clearly been a loud cry over the past few years from the student body regarding online voting. ... As the vice president of student affairs I cannot allow these voices, which you represent, to go unheard. To this end I will be forming an independent committee to review the subject of online voting."

But a committee was not what Jardon and Miorelli wanted. Jardon said students have been asking for online voting since 2001 and Telles-Irvin had the power to over-

UF ONLINE VOTING PETITION

The student body constitution may be amended so that online voting becomes the only method of voting in all future student government elections provided that:

- 1) A voter may vote from any computer connected to the Web and logged in using a Gatorlink username and password
- 2) The connection is secure and encrypted
- 3) Voter identity is secret and untraceable
- 4) At least one voting booth is available on campus for any voter wishing to vote in private
- 5) Provisional paper ballots are made available on a case-by-case basis for any voter with a disability, special need or any other extenuating circumstance

rule the supreme court's decision.

"If they [the administration] really chose to exercise that power, they could have," Jardon said.

He said this is the fourth committee that has been established to review online voting and he fears that it

will be recommended back to student government and no progress will be made.

"When everything else fails," Jardon said, "the fail-safe for students [is] amending the constitution directly. It's a fact of life. It's a fact about American democracy."

UF's student body president, Ryan Moseley, had no comment on the lawsuit.

Jardon said he and Miorelli did everything required to amend the constitution. They created a petition outlining the guidelines for voting if the student body constitution is amended so that online voting becomes the only method of voting in all future student government elections. If this happens, voters must vote by logging into their Gatorlink account, on a computer with a secure and encrypted connection where the voter identity is secret and untraceable. A date for the vote has yet to be set.

They also want at least one voting booth available on campus for students wishing to vote in private, as well as provisional paper ballots made available on a case-by-case basis for any voter with a disability, special need or any other extenuating circumstance.

More than 5,600 students signed the petition, which is more than 11 percent of the 50,576 students enrolled at the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year. UF's constitution requires signatures from 10 percent of the student body for a petition to be certified for a ballot.

Mark McShera, UF College Democrats' editorial chairman, said that no organization has ever attempted to collect that many signatures before. He said he believes that an online voting system would increase voter turnout and

double the number of the 8,000 to 9,000 UF students who participate in student government elections each semester.

UCF has seen large numbers of voters for their online student government elections. Cherayne Metz, the Student Government Association's supervisor of elections, said that UCF reached its highest number with 25 percent of the student body participating in online voting this year.

McShera said that every campus that has implemented online voting has increased student involvement in the election process.

Jardon said that the student government system at UF is corrupt, and by increasing voter turnout through online voting, he said he hopes to buffer the influence that the Greek community seems to have on elections.

"The only way to break that vice grip is by increasing voter turnout," Jardon said.

UCF's chief justice, Patrick Hayden, said he has never witnessed any competition among Greeks during UCF's elections. He said he could find no reason why online voting should be deemed unconstitutional.

UCF's student body president, Brandie Hollinger, said she couldn't see a problem with online voting either.

"It's our responsibility," Hollinger said. "If we want people to vote, we have to make it as easy and seamless as possible."

Few students in elderly social work

FROM A1

difficulty finding students interested in working with the elderly.

Jill Davis, the school's director of field education and Gammonley's partner in securing the grant, said that six or seven students worked with the elderly in their internships in the 2006-2007 school year, including the undergraduate and graduate programs.

There are about 160 undergrad students in the school and about 190 graduate students, said Robin Kohn, coordinator for the bachelor of social work. Davis estimated that about half of those who participated in internships with the elderly were graduate students.

"We're hoping to increase that, through this program, to get up to five or six [graduate students]," Davis said.

"I think part of our challenge is to help students see that working with the aging population isn't all nursing homes and Alzheimer's."

Cathy Edwards, vice president of programs for Seniors First, an organization that coordinates Meals on Wheels, minor household repairs and other services for local seniors, said that finding student interns has been difficult for her organization.

"We've had to practically call begging for interns," Edwards said. "We know the value of having this many students learning about aging and wanting to work in the field."

Gammonley said that the grant will cover some of the students who focus on work with the elderly.

"We have enough funding to support four students per year," Gammonley said, "but

we're really hoping to recruit more people."

Students will receive a stipend for their internships. One stipend is being provided by the Orlando VA Medical Center, and the others will be provided through the College of Health and Public Affairs.

Students will rotate through multiple internships while gaining experience with patients in the three stages of aging: those who are well, those with disabilities and those reaching the end of their lives.

"It's designed to ensure that students get exposed to all of those older adults," Gammonley said.

The School of Social Work has partnered with 10 agencies in Brevard, Orange, Seminole, Flagler and Volusia counties to ensure that students will work with patients in all three stages.

"This kind of program can-

not happen without really strong partnerships with community sponsors," Gammonley said.

The Senior Resource Alliance, which is one of the partners, will provide students with a variety of options for work.

"At our agency, they get a variety of experiences," said Cathy Lieblich, director of the Florida Pioneer Network for the Senior Resource Alliance.

Interns at the Senior Resource Alliance may, for example, team with a nurse to work with patients or advocate for nursing-home reforms.

Gammonley said that geriatric social workers not only work with patients, they act as advocates.

"We try to link people directly with the services they need," she said, "but we also advocate for system reform."

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Event raises more than \$8,000 for March of Dimes

FROM A1

KnightWalk.

When asked why Phi Delta Theta decided to participate in KnightWalk, member Alan Guterlet said, "We're walking for babies. We like to think that we're a fraternity who likes to give back to the community."

The walk started at 3 p.m. and consisted of a two-mile walk around the UCF campus.

At the halfway point, walkers received necklaces with puzzle pieces on them. Lauren Meyer, student director of the March of Dimes Collegiate Council, told walkers before it started that each puzzle piece is part of the bigger picture.

Meyer opened the ceremony around 2 p.m. with the registration, and all walkers received T-shirts.

"The reason it's so important

to college students is because, although they don't have families now, they want to know in five to 10 years they will have healthy children," Meyers said.

Student Body President Brandie Hollinger said it is important to engage in healthy lifestyle actions now because what people do will affect their future families. Hollinger said she wants to devote the rest of her life to mothers and babies as a neonatal nurse.

Joi Williams, UCF Women's Basketball coach, told walkers her godson was born at only 23 weeks and was in the hospital for two months after he was born.

Williams said that as the coach of a group of young women, she likes to show them everything they can do to help.

With the help of March of Dimes, Williams said her godson, who is now 9 years old, occasionally helps out at basketball games and practices.

Amber Long, a member of the Women's Basketball team and a criminal justice major,

said she and her team were there to support and do anything they could to raise awareness.

"We [the Women's Basketball team] also like to meet some of the kids that benefited from it," said Jasmine Stovall, another member of the Women's Basketball team and a business administration major.

Jackie Akers, a Women's Basketball team member and legal studies senior, said it is hard for the team to get out in the middle of the season but wanted to come out because they had a day off.

Not only did UCF students and athletes show up to support March of Dimes but also members of the surrounding communities.

Suzanne Little of Oviedo was present along with her husband and six children.

"We've been doing this for several years," Little said. "Three of our boys were born nine weeks early and they wouldn't be as in good of shape as they are now without

March of Dimes."

The triplet boys' birthday is this month, and instead of asking for presents at their birthday party this past weekend, they asked for donations to walk in KnightWalk.

When asked why they wanted to walk in KnightWalk, all six Little children shouted in unison, "We love March of Dimes!"

Not everybody felt this way about the March of Dimes' fundraiser. Ten protesters from the Animal Rights Foundation of Florida were present, holding signs by the Reflecting Pond near the March of Dimes setup.

Carla Wilson, Central Florida coordinator for the Animals Rights Foundation of Florida, said they wanted to educate students that there are alternatives to animal testing. The March of Dimes supports animal testing.

Elissa Cordero, a junior digital media major at UCF, said a lot of money goes into animal testing and they wanted people to know there are a

lot of different organizations who do not use money on animal testing.

"Most of these people don't know and think they are doing a good thing," Wilson said. "That's understandable."

Meyer said that protesters were present at the 2007 KnightWalk but any organization trying to find a cure requires research.


"The March of Dimes has saved thousands of lives, and I really support their cause," Meyer said.

Meyer said she started KnightWalk in 2006 with a small group of leaders on campus.

According to the March of Dimes press release for the KnightWalk, funds collected for March of Dimes have gone toward the initiation of special intensive care nurseries in hospitals to care for sick newborns, research leading to the first successful fetal surgery to correct birth defects and also community grants to help women get prenatal care.

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Police plan to teach how to handle crises

FROM A1

cern on campus, an icon would pop up on your computer saying there's an alert," Roop said. "It's the same thing as breaking news."

Roop compared the icon to weather alerts, which pop up on local TV channels, indicating severe weather.

Roop could not say what he would tell students to do in the event of a shooter because he said every situation is unique.

Roop said the UCF Police Department will begin educating staff, faculty and different organizations on campus about various ways to act in a shooting situation.

These education seminars

will begin right after Spring Break, Roop said, but will be limited to 20 minutes so people are not overloaded with information.

Wallace said the university has created multiple warning systems and is not just depending on one outlet.

According to Wallace, sirens, verbal messages on speakers, stations in buildings for scrolling text and text messaging are some of the things the university has done to warn students in the event of a campus-wide emergency.

"Many times the best way to handle things until things are de-escalated is to stay where you are and lock yourself in if you are indoors," Wallace said. "If you hear about

this and are coming to campus, don't come to campus."

Wallace said if a situation like Virginia Tech or NIU took place, decisions would have to be made at the spur of the moment.

"I'm really thinking that some of the more important things we can encourage students to do is not look at somebody who has some kind of depression or some kind of other mental illness concerns as being some kind of oddball," Wallace said.

Wallace said 25 percent of the world's population experience diagnosable depression during their lives and most of those people are not going to be violent.

Wallace said the people to

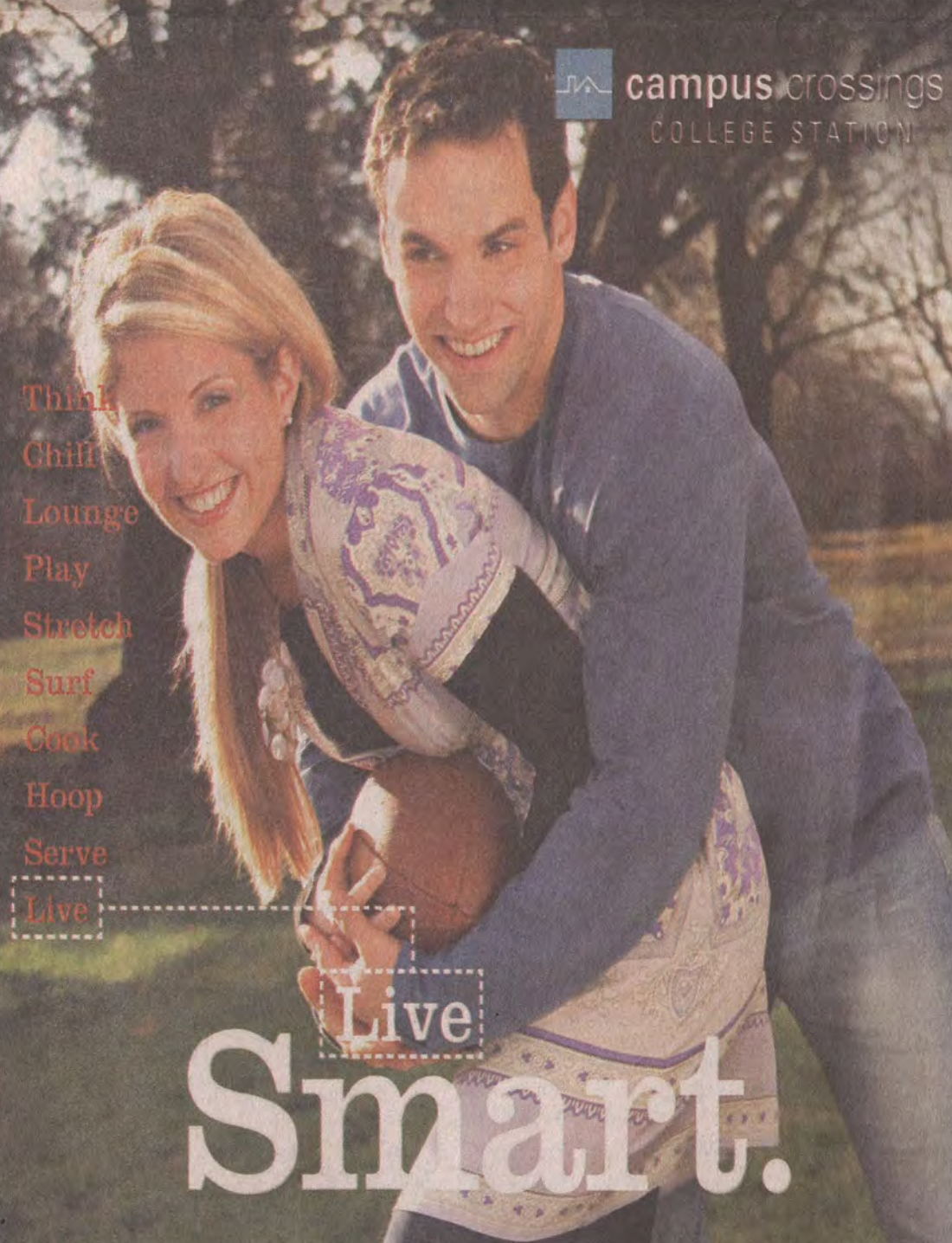
be worried about most are those who are not only depressed but suicidal.

Students should be sensitive to other human beings and really work on being friends with people when they see someone who is in trouble, Wallace said.

Wallace said students should encourage others who are suicidal to get help and seek counseling. Students can report their friends to the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities to get them help.

This is not turning people in, Wallace said; it's a way to get help for that person.

"Most people who do those things," Rivera said, "you don't notice them."



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University of Central Florida

CONFERENCE USA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP



UCF guard Chelsie Wiley rises up for a shot over UAB's Christon Ingram during the Knights' 85-67 loss Feb. 7 to the Blazers. Wiley and the 12th-seeded Knights will face the 5th-seeded Southern Miss Lady Eagles in the first round of the Conference USA Tournament tonight at the New UCF Arena.

GETTING SET

12th seed UCF starts tourney

RYAN BASS
Staff Writer

Even though the UCF Women's Basketball team will be seeded No. 12 in Thursday's Conference USA Championship opening round, head coach Joi Williams knows that every team will be as even as when the season began, with a record of 0-0.

"Everybody wants to get to March," Williams said. "When that time comes, anything can happen. It's a whole different season. Nobody has any wins or losses. We're excited about it."

Coming off one of their best games of the season against Memphis on Saturday, the Knights (10-19 overall, 3-13 in C-USA) will look to build off any momentum they received from their 81-69 victory heading into their matchup with the fifth-seeded Southern Miss Lady Eagles on Thursday with tip-off set for 5:30 p.m.

"This time of the season is very exciting and the postseason is something that our young team has never experienced," Williams said. "We are

excited about another opportunity to play Southern Miss. We know that they are a physical and aggressive team, and it's going to be important that we match their intensity for 40 minutes."

Southern Miss (17-12 overall, 8-8 in C-USA) averages 72.8 points per contest and grabs 39.5 rebounds a game. The leader for the Lady Eagles is Pauline Love.

Love, who averages 16.8 points and 11.0 rebounds per game, torched UCF for a combined 43 points and 29 rebounds in two games during the regular season.

"Pauline Love is a very good player," Williams said earlier in the season. "She is so versatile that she can hurt you in transition, she can shoot the 3 and she can take you off the dribble. ... We know we are not going to stop her, but we have to limit her touches and not let other people have great career nights."

The Knights have their own double-double combo to try to neutralize Love. Tia Lewis comes into the tournament ranked fifth in the nation in

GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT

ON TAP

UCF will face Southern Miss tomorrow in the first round of the C-USA Championship. Tip-off is at 5:30 p.m.

THE EXCELLENCE OF YOUTH

UCF's Tia Lewis and Emma Cannon were selected to the all-conference freshman team.

rebounding with 11.6 boards per game and is also posting 12.0 points per game. Emma Cannon has also been huge this season, averaging 11.5 points and 8.6 rebounds.

In its past two regular season matchups with the Golden Eagles, UCF lost by a combined total of 39 points. The problems for UCF during its two games with USM have been rebounding and turnovers. The Knights were outrebounded in both games and averaged 21.5 turnovers.

Southern Miss comes into the tournament tops in C-USA in field-goal percentage and 3-point percentage, as well as second in the conference in field-goal percentage defense, free-throw percentage, scoring margin and scoring offense.

Two other players UCF will have to contain are Stephanie

Helgeson and Kendra Reed. Helgeson and Reed averaged 12.0 points per contest during the regular season and shot more than 47 percent from the field. Reed has also been deadly from behind the arc, shooting 46.8 percent from long range, which is tops in Conference USA.

Besides Lewis and Cannon, the Knights will rely on Marshay White and D'Nay Daniels to pick up the scoring. White has averaged 14.7 points per game in the past three games while dishing out 11 assists. Daniels averaged 10.0 points per game during the regular season and will also be relied on for her half-court defense.

Should the Knights defeat Southern Miss on Thursday, they will play No. 4 seed Houston in the quarterfinals on Friday at 5:30 p.m.

Knights prep for Houston

BRIAN MURPHY
Staff Writer

The UCF Men's Basketball team has experienced a lot of negatives this season. The Knights (16-12 overall, 9-5 in Conference USA) experienced three heart-breaking non-conference losses to Villanova, Kansas State and Connecticut. In between, they had a bad loss to in-state rival South Florida.

They lost three straight C-USA games after opening their conference schedule with four straight wins. They've had to fight through injuries to key players, such as Stanley Billings and Mike Battle, followed by more disappointing losses to SMU and Marshall.

And in a conference where Memphis may be the top overall seed in the NCAA Tournament, and both UAB and Houston are on the bubble to get an at-large bid, the Knights enter their final two regular season games with the ability to control their own destiny and can claim the third seed in next week's conference tournament if they win out.

The first game of the Knights season-ending road trip takes place tonight with a very difficult contest in Houston against the Cougars. A UCF win would give the teams identical conference records, and another win on Saturday at Tulsa would give the Knights the third seed through tiebreakers.

Currently, the Knights sit in fourth place in C-USA, which is good enough for a first-round bye in the tournament. But the third spot is valuable for the fact that it keeps that team out of Memphis' way until the final.

Guard Mike O'Donnell said he is just focused on winning games. But head coach Kirk Speraw said the potential to grab that important third seed is something that should energize his team.

"Hopefully that will juice our guys up because, quite frankly, I think we lost a little bit of our juice in the past couple weeks," Speraw said after Saturday's win over Rice. "Maybe when they hear that word, then they'll come with a little more pop and aggressiveness."

But Speraw expects the Cougars to play with a lot of intensity as well, especially since it will be their final home game of the season and the program will be honoring its seniors. And the player who will

Whom to watch



Noel
He is averaging 14.2 points with nearly 5 assists and 5 rebounds in the past 5 games.



McKiver
He ranks second in C-USA in scoring (23.1) and 3-point field goals (119).

PLEASE SEE MCKIVER ON A8

Miners enter the tourney on fire

PADRICK BREWER
Sports Editor

With the regular season over, the 12 Conference USA women's basketball teams take the court at the New UCF Arena for the start of the Conference USA Championship tomorrow.

The UCF Women's Basketball team's road to the title is tough, but here is what the other squads are facing as they head into the action:

No. 1 seed: UTEP (25-2, 16-0)

What to watch for:
Simply put, the Miners are the Memphis of the women's game. They come into the tournament on a 21-game win streak, including

all of the Conference USA contests. They won those contests by an average of more than 13 points. Only four games were won by fewer than 12 points, with two of them going into overtime. They are the best defensive team in the league, leading in steals and second in blocks.

No. 2 seed: SMU (21-8, 11-5)

What to watch for:
What UTEP is to defense, SMU is to offense. No team in the conference scores more than the Mustangs, whose average of 74 points per game is 24th in the country. Three players average double figures, led by senior Janielle Dodds, who averages

nearly 15 points per game.

No. 3 seed: UAB (14-15, 10-6)

What to watch for:
The jewel-studded attack of the Blazers features three of the top 13 scorers in conference, led by Diamond Rogers and Crystal McFadden. They have the favorable draw of not having to face UTEP until the finals, and they have beaten both teams that they could face in the second round — Marshall or Tulane.

No. 4 seed: Houston (15-15, 9-7)

What to watch for:
The Cougars had a chance to

PLEASE SEE TENTH ON A8

schedule

MEN'S TENNIS GEORGIA STATE TODAY

2 P.M. (HOME)
After going 1-2 in the C-USA Shootout, the Knights return to the UCF Tennis Complex to face the Panthers.

TENN. TECH FRIDAY

9 A.M. (HOME)
UCF will have a match against the Golden Eagles. Tennessee Tech, heading into its Tuesday match against Stetson, was 7-0 this season.

BASEBALL JACKSONVILLE TODAY

6:30 P.M. (AWAY)
The Knights will finish their home-and-home series with the Dolphins.

MONMOUTH MARCH 7-9 (HOME)

UCF will open a three-game series against the Hawks on Friday night at 6:30. The start time for Saturday's and Sunday's game is scheduled for 1 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL HOUSTON TODAY

8 P.M. (AWAY)
The Knights play the Cougars, whom they trail by one game for the No. 3 spot in Conference USA.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SOUTHERN MISS THURSDAY

5:30 P.M.
The 12th-seeded Knights will host the Conference USA Championship, and their first-round game will be against the fifth-seeded Golden Eagles.

SOFTBALL FLORIDA THURSDAY

6 P.M. (AWAY)
The Knights travel to Gainesville to face the No. 5 Gators. Florida is 24-1 this season.

WOMEN'S TENNIS TENN. TECH FRIDAY

2 P.M. (HOME)
The UCF Women's Tennis team will also face the Golden Eagles.



SMU's Alice Severin and UTEP's Brittney Jones fight for a rebound during the Miners' 76-63 win Thursday. UTEP and SMU enter tomorrow's C-USA Championship as the top two seeds.

VICTOR CALZADA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Softball drops Vermont again but falls to Terps in title matchup

MELISSA HEYBOER
Editor-in-Chief

The UCF Softball team narrowly missed becoming Altamonte Springs Tournament champions Sunday, as it lost its final game 1-0 to Maryland.

The loss came after the Knights (14-10) dropped Vermont 5-1 for the second time in the tournament to advance to the title game.

But the Knights lost the championship by way of one run from the Terrapins in the bottom of the sixth inning.

UCF's Allison Kime and Maryland's Sarah Dooley kept the game scoreless through the

first five innings.

Maryland's Jenny Belak started the bottom of the sixth with a single to shortstop. Kime retired the next batter, but a sacrifice bunt from Sarde Stewart advanced Belak to second.

With two outs, Kerry Hickey doubled down the left-field line to score Belak from second.

Maryland's Meredith Nelles relieved Dooley in the seventh inning and retired the Knights quickly to claim the title.

The Knights mustered only two hits in the game. Breanne Javier and Kime had one hit each.

Before the loss to the Terrapins, the Knights earned a 5-1 vic-

tory over Vermont earlier in the day to put them in the finals.

UCF's Ashleigh Cole continued her hot streak on the mound, throwing a complete game, giving up just three hits and striking out seven.

Cole held the Catamounts scoreless through five innings and gave up her only run of the game in the top of the sixth.

UCF was more productive at the plate, scoring three runs in the first three innings.

GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT

RUNNERS UP
The Knights captured second place in the Altamonte Springs Tournament after falling to Maryland 1-0 in Sunday's final. UCF finished in third place in the tournament last year, winning two out of three games.

MORE THAN A PITCHER
Senior Allison Kime has 88 strikeouts in 80.1 innings and a 1.05 ERA this season, but she also has a .317 batting average, which is second on the team. Her five doubles are tied for the team lead with Breanne Javier.

Tiffany Lane started off the third with a single through the left side. After stealing second, Lane advanced to third on a ground out by Javier.

Kime reached on a fielder's choice in the next at bat and advanced to second on a throwing error, which scored Lane from third.

Barrow followed with a single down the rightfield line, scoring Kime from second.

The Knights scored their final two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Cat Snapp led off and reached on another fielding error, and quickly move to second on a wild pitch.

Ashley Van Ryn put down a sacrifice bunt, which scored Snapp from second after a throwing error from Vermont pitcher Aimee Kern.

One batter later, Morgan Bullard singled up the middle to score Van Ryn from second for the Knights' fifth and final run of the game.

UCF totaled six hits in the victory, with Barrow grabbing two.

UCF heads back on the road Thursday when they travel to Gainesville to face in-state rival No. 5 Florida.

First pitch is scheduled for 6 p.m. at Katie Seashole Pressly Softball Stadium.

McKiver key to Houston's offense

FROM A7

certainly receive the loudest ovation from the fans in his final home game is senior guard Robert McKiver.

Now there are some pretty good players on the Cougars' roster. Guard Dion Dowell is second on the team in points per game (11.1) and leads the team in rebounds per game (6.6). Guard Kelvin Lewis gives the Cougars another solid scoring option, either as a starter or from off the bench, with nearly 10 points per game.

But when you talk about the Cougars, the conversation is dominated by McKiver. He ranks as C-USA's second-leading scorer and ranks 10th in the nation with 23.1 points per game. He has made 119 of Houston's 307 3-point field goals, a team total that ranks third-best in the nation. That's a good chunk of the Cougars' production, but McKiver has represented the near majority of his team's offense lately.

McKiver has scored 140 of Houston's 349 points in its past four games, which accounts for 40 percent of the offense. He gained some national attention when he scored 52 points against Southern Miss on Feb. 27, the most points from a player in C-USA history. That came

just one week after McKiver scored 41 points against UAB.

McKiver has taken a stunning total of 96 shots in the past four games. By comparison, Lewis took the second-most attempts during that span: 34.

So one focus for the Knights will be to keep the ball out of McKiver's hands as much as possible tonight. UCF's best perimeter defender, Dave Noel, will be asked to carry out the majority of that tough task.

"It's exciting for me," Noel said. "It's a challenge, and I love challenges. It's something that I'm going to take to heart; it's something I'm going to be ready for. He's a good player."

"He's definitely not going to get 52 against us, that I know."

Both teams will come into tonight's matchup with some redemption on their minds. Houston looks to rebound from a one-point loss to East Carolina on Saturday night. Meanwhile, the Knights will look to gain a measure of revenge after the Cougars beat them in the New UCF Arena 84-81 on Feb. 2.

The Knights led by 11 points with 17 minutes to play, but behind McKiver, who scored 23 of his game-high 31 points in the second half, the Cougars came away with the win.

Houston, much like UCF,

plays better at home, as evidenced by its 16-2 mark at the Hofheinz Pavilion this season.

"It's definitely not an easy place to play," O'Donnell said. "They shoot the ball just unbelievably when they are at home.... It's just like us; we play better at home. We're just more naturally confident at home."

But the Knights know how to play at Houston. They beat the Cougars in their house 66-56 two seasons ago, and lost in overtime last season 73-70. The Knights led by 22 points with 13 minutes to play in that game.

Knowing that the Knights' offense is also at its best when it is on target from beyond the arc, the team that guards the 3-point line better will probably gain what they are looking for. If the Knights want to gain that third seed in the C-USA tournament, they need a win tonight and Saturday at Tulsa.

Nothing is guaranteed with the Knights, especially with all the ups and downs they have experienced this season. So maybe it was a slip of the tongue or a true belief in his team, but Noel said after the Rice game, "We can, and we will, get both of those ball-games."

The Knights and Cougars will face off tonight at 8 in Houston.

Tenth-seeded Tulsa could surprise many

FROM A7

grab the No. 3 seed in their final game of the season, but lost 78-74 to Marshall at home. That loss could prove to be their downfall, as they are now stuck in the UTEP bracket.

No. 5 seed: USM (17-12, 8-8)
What to watch for:
Two words: Pauline Love. The Lady Eagles' sophomore forward leads C-USA in scoring in just her first year on the team. Love also leads the team with 11 rebounds per game and has 19 double-doubles this season. The Lady Eagles can rebound, but have significant problems with turnovers. They also live and die by the 3-pointer, shooting 40 percent from deep in their wins and just 31 percent in their losses.

No. 6 seed: Marshall (15-15, 7-9)
What to watch for:
Can head coach Royce Chadwick, who became the only C-USA coach with 500 career wins this season, get his team to rebound from last year's one-and-done performance? They have four of their top five scorers from last year, while Kizzy Hart, a transfer

from Labette Community College, has led them with 14.4 points and starting every game.

No. 7 seed: Memphis (10-19, 7-9)
What to watch for:
In the last hurrah for head coach Blair Savage-Lansden, who will resign following the season, the Lady Tigers will look for their first conference tournament win since 2004-05.

No. 8 seed: ECU (13-16, 7-9)
What to watch for:
The Lady Pirates are seeded five spots lower than when they won the championship last year. They are led by LaCoya Terry and Jasmine Young, both of whom have led the team in scoring in 13 games each. The Lady Pirates are hampered by its porous defense, which may not hurt them in their first-round matchup against Rice, but it will when they have to face UTEP in the second round.

No. 9 seed: Rice (13-17, 6-10)
What to watch for:
It will be an uphill climb for the Owls to reach the finals for the third consecutive time. For the first time since entering C-USA, the Owls will not be a top-4 seed. They have the

worst shooting offense in the league, although senior center Valeriya Berezhynska averages 17.3 points and 10.2 rebounds per game.

No. 10 seed: Tulsa (10-19, 6-10)
What to watch for:
The Golden Hurricane are the dark horse to win the tournament. Despite losing eight of their last nine, they have the most favorable draw of the lower seeds. If they can get past Memphis, then they would face an SMU team that they have already beaten twice.

No. 11 seed: Tulane (16-13, 6-10)
What to watch for:
The Green Wave are six years removed from their three straight titles, and the road to their sixth finals appearance nigh impossible. They are plagued by a sporadic offense that could either score 90 or 45. Junior guard Ashley Langford has been the stalwart for the Green Wave. She is the only player to start each game, and she leads the team in points and assists.

The tournament starts tomorrow at the New UCF Arena, with the first of the four games starting at noon.



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OUR STANCE

Launchpad could blast wildlife refuge

We hope when we say that NASA should not build in the wildlife refuge that you already know what we're talking about.

But for those of you who are just passing through this college town, we'll let you in on some disturbing information: NASA is planning to build a new commercial launchpad, and the two best sites they found to build on are in the 140,000-acre Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1963, or along the Cape Canaveral National Seashore.

For those of you who haven't had the privilege of visiting the refuge or the seashore — right by Mosquito Lagoon and Playalinda Beach — you're missing some of the most pristine places in this area. They house endangered wildlife, such as the peregrine falcon, the Florida scrub jay, the gopher tortoise and wild hogs, and many of these animals are incapable of relocating after their habitat is destroyed.

The Merritt Island National Refuge Web site states more than "500 species of wildlife inhabit the refuge with 15 being listed as federally threatened or endangered. Several wading bird rookeries, 10 active bald eagle nests, numerous osprey nests, up to 400 manatees during spring months and an estimated 2,500 Florida scrub jays can be found on the refuge."

Out of 11 sites, NASA liked these two the best because they were the best fit for other criteria, such as distance from residential areas and risk from hurricane storm surge.

In truth, it's hard to hate NASA because they are the reason these protected wildlife areas exist in the first place. But this certainly doesn't give them the all-access right to destroy something that is invaluable and irreplaceable — and NASA knows that. The trouble is, there are higher powers at work here, guiding NASA in an unknown direction.

According to Mike Thomas' column in the *Orlando Sentinel*, "The agency is under White House orders to plan for the commercialization of space." The *Sentinel* confirms stating, "NASA is directed by U.S. space policy to cultivate the development of commercial launch capability on federal ranges."

You read right: Our government is now in a race with other countries to commercialize space.

So there it is. If NASA was building something other than a tourist launchpad that will take any civilian with the cash on a wild ride to space, then maybe the "Commercial Vertical Launch Complex" wouldn't be as ridiculous of an idea as it is.

A *Sentinel* editorial states, "Here's what NASA's teaching: Conservation is OK, but commercialism is better." We couldn't have said it better. NASA needs to get its priorities straight and protect what it helped create.

In addition, the *Sentinel* notes that the Cape Canaveral National Seashore law, created in 1975, may be against them developing it.

"No new construction shall be permitted within the seashore except to advance the health and safety of the visiting public," the law states.

Surely shooting the public into space is not adding anything to their health — or safety.

At one of its four public hearings on this issue — a move that expectedly turned out hundreds of protesters — NASA noted that they will conduct a "final assessment of environmental concerns" by mid-September, as per federal law. We're anxious to hear what they come up with.

And for those unconcerned about the displacement of endangered species and the destruction of ancient wetlands, the move could also shut down the visitor center and many of the areas used for fishing, bird-watching, kayaking, sailing — and generally relaxing — on surrounding Mosquito Lagoon and Playalinda.

Even more shameful is that there are alternative sites right in this area that can be used. The Cape Canaveral Air Force Station houses an abandoned launchpad complex just begging to be used. But nope, NASA stubbornly notes that because it is owned by the Air Force — who also works under the White House's orders — they can't consider that site as an alternative.

But with all the protesting going on and all the wildlife at stake, we'll see how long NASA can hold off on pursuing a perfectly logical and reasonable alternative.

READER VIEWS

Badio strikes out again with unhealthy column

Please tell me this guy is kidding us about eating unhealthy. His last so-called editorial on cursing was sophomoric enough but this has to be a joke. I have seen my aunts, uncles and brothers who ate just like he thinks we all should fall victim one by one to diseases that could have been prevented if they ate better. His writing is so full of falsehoods that there are too many to even try to address. Have a short happy life, pal.

MICHAEL SCHAU

Images are intended to bring awareness, reality

On Monday and Tuesday, Students for Life at UCF brought the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) to UCF's main campus. The intention of the demonstration was to let people know the truth about abortion by showing people what abortion really is. This is only one of the many demonstrations that we do on campus, but it is interesting to note that none of the others get as much attention as this one does.

We agree that these images are shocking and gruesome, but that is because abortion is shocking and gruesome. If we are going to agree to something we need to know exactly what we are agreeing to. These pictures put a face to abortion, a face to the unborn child that doesn't have a "choice."

GAP uses images of aborted babies and compares them to the Holocaust and American slavery, and most people are outraged at this, but what they neglect to notice are the words "comparable but not identical" written on the banner.

One-third of our generation is dead because of a "choice" and one-third of American women under the age of 40 are wounded because of that same "choice" that they can never take back. Maybe the reason people feel that it is a "spectacle" or think that it is "pathetic" and "crazy" is because they've been fed a lie for so long about abortion, about how it is a quick fix or how it's just a blob of tissue.

Well, we're here to squash that lie and bring truth to that issue. We are here to show that abortion is a brutal act that leaves one dead and the other wounded. For more information on the GAP project, check www.abortionno.com.

KELLE LYONS
RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Abortion debate should stick to logic, science

Let me get to the point: the massive wall of anti-abortion shock media is repulsive and distasteful in every way. It accomplishes nothing in its thoughtless endeavor to persuade the masses.

Ms. Tara Young is sorely mistaken in her defense of "direct action." Direct action is acceptable under certain circumstances and may very well be effective in changing the stances of a small minority, but when it comes to a debate about abortion, logic and science should be the only tools utilized to argue one's point. To make an emotional appeal regarding a subject like this undermines our collective ability to make sound decisions. This great debate must be settled intellectually, not emotionally.

That being said, on behalf of those who still hold logic in highest regards, I'd like to apologize to everyone, pro-life or pro-choice or those still hanging in the balance, for the atrocious show of unintelligence that is taking place on our very own free speech lawn.

ALEX PADILLA
PHILOSOPHY

Keep anger in check; religious housing OK

In response to J. W. Koebel and his Facebook group opposed to religious housing, there are a couple of points I would like to make:

1. The new Hillel Center (including the housing) is being funded by private donors, so UCF students are not paying the costs for these new buildings.
2. The housing is open to all UCF students (so technically non-religious students could apply to live there).
3. If you are dissatisfied with on-campus housing/UCF-affiliated apartment complexes, then complain to the appropriate university individuals instead of targeting your anger/complaints at Hillel.
4. By opposing and trying to stop Hillel's building, you guys are trying to limit an individual's basic freedoms (including freedom of religion and ability to follow religious laws pertaining to living arrangements).

Code V for Voyeur: villain or victor?

Odd, complex situations usually lead to a slew of intriguing and equally complex questions and insights.

The recent discovery of our very own behind-filming voyeur does just that. The editorial staff has tossed the issue around for some time and we're having a hard time deciding what the right conclusions are — if any — on it. So we're here to provide some thought-provoking jousting on the matter for you, our readers, to think about, in hopes that you can help us out.

One of the main questions that has been brought to light is a complex one. Let's say, theoretically, the voyeur is found out while filming the next "movie." What happens then? It seems as if most people would want him locked up, or at the very least kicked off campus, never to record another rear end again.

There is a wrench in the cogs of this plan, though.

That wrench is the fact that what this person is doing is not illegal. The clips were filmed around UCF, which happens to be a public place. Sure, you can cause a scene in public if you find someone filming you, but what are the chances that the voyeur is walking around with visible recording equipment like those massive cameras your parents had? Slim to none.

The UCF Police Department was quick to notify students of

the situation, but what good did that really do? Even in their initial warning e-mail, they distinctly wrote that what he was doing was not illegal, and they stand by their word.

Also the effectiveness of that e-mail is brought into question. Was it really appropriate to send out a mass notification to every student and faculty member to inform them of someone partaking in an activity that is not at all illegal but is just creepy? Perhaps, but did it cause any alarm among the student body?

True, everyone has quirks and nuances, but this seems far out of that category to us. Is filming girls' behinds simply a nuance? Probably not. It seems more along the lines of a creepy thrill — one that raises serious moral questions about whether this person has crossed the line or not.

So here's the million-dollar question. What should happen to the voyeur in the case that he or she is caught?

Being arrested is out of the question because of the lack of illegal activity. Or is it? Should the voyeur be kicked out of school for good? Or should "that guy who recorded butts" be his label?

There is no denying that sneaking up behind someone and filming their derriere is downright creepy, but just how wrong is it really?

The videos have been deleted from the Internet, and no new ones have been added. No women have come forward yet and presented themselves as victims. We are not even sure if anyone could be identified based solely on their behind.

But we'd like to reiterate that the underlying and deeper question here is not whether what the voyeur is doing is wrong, but just how wrong is it? Does having your rear filmed really victimize you?

We'd like to end with the most disturbing find of all: not one single person has expressed any concern to us — big or small — about this issue. We feel that this person definitely crossed a moral threshold, but not one person has come forward or even written in with any concerns. Does anyone really care about this issue, or are we just wasting our breath?

These are all intriguing and complex questions that have been raised by this very unique situation. Because of the number of questions that can be formulated from it, we want you to give some serious thought to what has been asked here. We are asking you, the student population, to voice your thoughts and answers to these questions.

We want to know what you think about this situation. Please go to www.centralfloridafuture.com and write us a letter to the editor.

5. As for Graham's comment about kids secluding themselves in religious housing, not all Jewish (or "religious") students come from the same background. Personally, I know there are Jews from Hispanic countries, European countries, Middle Eastern countries, etc. Sharing a religion does not mean there is no diversity and that people will become close-minded (especially when there may be students living there from other religious backgrounds, too).

Growing up, I lived in my family's house where we all were raised the same way with the same religion and culture. And I didn't let that stop me from making friends with people of different ethnicities and religions.

I feel that J. W. Koebel and the Facebook group could spend their energy trying to change/fix established housing rather than complain about religious housing.

JESSICA WASSERMAN
FINANCE

Kosher legislation should stand alone

What is the quickest way to blow something out of proportion? I'm not sure. Perhaps dragging it through a fictitious political scandal and the Op/Ed section of the *Future* lists somewhere near the top.

It seems the *Future* is full of surprises. Of late, I've been quite shocked at two fun facts the staff at the *Future* brought to my attention.

First, that the resolution penned by Sen. Justin Martineau, which, despite repeated requests, was never shown to me, had been amended to include a section on vegan dining options.

Second, and most shocking, that the Op/Ed page takes the liberty to assume both that Chabad endorsed Berkowitz (which is false), and more importantly that I would put the petty politics of UCF elections before my deeply held religious values.

To say that I am insulted would be an understatement second only to labeling the Op/Ed piece as gross misrepresentation, ostensibly written for the writer's own political motives.

As many now know, I've started a campaign to bring kosher food to UCF campus. As a Jewish student, and more so as vice president of Chabad, I felt compelled out of religious motivation to work toward this "good idea," as the *Future* calls it.

Two members of the SGA worked on the Kosher issue primarily: Justin Martineau and Logan Berkowitz. At this point, Logan should already be absolved of any wrongdoing on this issue, having offered to back down on the kosher issue until after the elections, simply to prove that his desire for kosher food was sincere and above politics. Mine is no less sincere. I don't care about the politics of SGA, nor do I have anything personal against Austin Smith. In truth, I didn't realize the same Smith who worked on Martineau's resolution was the one running. True, it's ignorant — and a newly elected freshman member of an organization need not be embarrassed by a lack of knowledge about the UCF SGA.

What does upset me is that I had to find out over the weekend through a reporter at the *Future* that the senator supposedly working for my organization had made radical changes to a bill that was supposed to address only kosher dining. Why make such a big deal? Well, I feel I was entitled to at least verify the accuracy of a resolution dealing with Jewish dietary laws. Equally important, I believe that it is good government to deal with separate issues separately. Supporting Kosher food and vegan food are two disparate issues. We want a bill about kosher food that we can use as a tool to get to the next level: a kosher meal plan.

To be clear, I have nothing against vegetarians; to the contrary, vegetarian food is "more" kosher than regular meal plan food. Nonetheless, a bill demanding that animals be slaughtered in a certain way has no logical connection to a bill condemning the use of meat. If Sen. Martineau truly felt there was a case to be made here, why did he not once mention this issue or show me a copy of the resolution?

The part that really offends me is this notion that I would sacrifice my religious ideals for the sake of a UCF election. How pathetic is that accusation by a writer who has never met me? I simply wanted a resolution about kosher dining, without a vegetarian section to detract from the central message. Pass a separate resolution for vegan dining — I'll support that! I would never do anything to undermine the goal I've worked so hard toward these past few months. I want a place for Jews to practice their religion properly — there's nothing else to it.

The politics certainly weren't kosher, but the opinion piece — it was just pure chutzpa.

ADAM TOW
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND MICROBIOLOGY

The *Future* encourages comments from readers. In order to be considered for publication, letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words; we may edit for length. Submit them online at www.CentralFloridaFuture.com or fax them to 407-447-4556. Questions? Call 407-447-4558.

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 Easy level

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ACROSS
 1 "Gun for Hire"
 5 Bucolic
 10 Guns it in neutral
 14 Coarse file
 15 Ham it up
 16 COO, for one
 17 First lady of scat
 18 Sudden flow
 19 Mandlikova of tennis
 20 Reluctant
 22 Spoil
 23 Hebrew month
 24 Perceives
 26 Allied by kinship
 28 Ant
 30 Patriotic org.
 31 More horrifying
 32 Sacred song
 40 Retirees' org.
 41 Church leader
 43 Inter (among others)
 44 Skirt fold
 46 Woman behind the counter
 48 Tuck's partner
 50 Draw breath
 51 Docs
 55 Revealing
 60 Katmandu's place
 61 That woman
 63 Oakland team
 64 Arcturus or Rigel
 65 Warren and Scruggs
 67 PC command
 68 Transmit
 69 Band together
 70 Friend's address
 71 Memorable times
 72 Splits apart
 73 Classify

DOWN
 1 Tire feature
 2 Divide in two
 3 Small landmass
 4 Bowler's conversion
 5 Populate again
 6 Ref's cohort
 7 Wander
 8 of roses
 9 Looked with lust
 10 Dry run
 11 Praise
 12 Locale
 13 Burn with steam
 21 Ella's forte
 25 Gets dirty
 27 Once around the track
 29 Good Conduct, for one
 31 Disparity
 32 Actor Linden
 33 Exist
 34 Men from Madrid
 35 Kindled again
 37 In the style of
 38 Cover
 39 Has permission to
 42 Setbacks
 45 -lac-toe
 47 Actress Ward
 49 Affected person
 51 Billiards shot

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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3/5/08

HOSED	SLEDS	LEG
ALIVE	HERON	ATL
LILAC	TINGE	SHA
VISAVIS	SASSED	
TEC	FOCUS	DAILY
WOOS	AKRON	NESS
OINKS	SESTET	
SLEEPS	HIEAVES	
WAISTS	KNELT	
ACME	STOIC	AREA
CHARM	LOGON	TAG
CURSED	THEOPEN	
ENC	TOAST	ROBOT
SKI	ERNIE	MERRY
SSA	RATED	AMASS

Last issue solved

52 Organic compound
 53 Ross or Rigg
 54 Alan Ladd film
 56 Itemizations
 57 Pocahontas' place
 58 Word of defiance
 59 Welcome
 62 Actress Moran
 66 Inc. in Great Britain

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