Airlines suffer from discounts and rule bending

By TODD McHALE
Contributing Writer

With airline ticket prices always seemingly on the rise, more consumers have sought out discounts and some have resorted to bending the airline’s rules for lower-priced tickets. Much like any other business, airlines hope to get as much for their service as it possibly can.

However, they also need to fill their planes, which can result in huge discounts for the knowledgeable consumer, according to Sue Martin, a travel agent for New Horizons Travel.

“As far as getting discounted fares, it’s very confusing because every airline has different rules regarding them,” said Martin.

Traditionally, airlines have offered the best deals to travelers who purchase tickets anywhere from four days to 30 days in advance of the departure date, according to Delta Airlines’ website. Martin explained the airlines offer these discounts to encourage travelers to book early, so they can be prepared for the necessary amount of fuel and meals and anything else that pertains to the number of people on the plane.

“If the airlines offered a discounted fare just before the departure time, they would have a rush of customers at the last minute,” Martin said.

Martin explained she has seen a normally $300 round trip on an advance purchase be as high as $800 on a last minute purchase.

“There’s no cheap way to fly last minute,” she said.

A way to reduce the cost of a plane ticket is by planning your trip to coincide with discounted fares.

“If you can travel during the week and stay at least through Saturday, that will definitely lower the price of your ticket,” Martin said.

“I hadn’t planned on staying through Saturday on a trip that I’m planning over the holidays,” Martin said.

GLBSU considers lawsuit against SG

By OLIVIA K. CURNOW
Managing Editor

Although the Student Government Senate voted to deny funding to the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender University Student Union (GLBSU) after three weeks of debate, club representatives and senators have said this is not the end of the fight.

“Will we take further action? Of course we will,” said Dr. Ken Kazmerski, faculty advisor for GLBSU. “Because we believe that prejudice and discrimination can be combated by knowledge, we will take whatever steps are necessary.”

The GLBSU bill proposed funding for activities held during the GLBSU Bi-Gay Awareness Week in April. The club wanted to bring Chastity Bono to speak during this week. A majority of the senators said she was more political than educational, therefore voting against it.

Sen. David Siegel said he voted for the bill the first time it was brought to the table. He said he changed his vote after he saw the biography sheet on Bono.

He, like many other senators, disagreed with the following excerpt from the sheet:

“[Bono] is an expert on how to comb the marketplace of ideas and dreams of water fountain visits turn into nightmares.

Copper in water

Dreams of water fountain visits turn into nightmares.

“Big - The Musical”

Popular movie hits center stage.

First timer

Volleyball team sweeps Clemson in NCAA tournament.
A discussion with the man who has shaped UCF

By JEFF CASE
Staff Writer

December 10, 1997

As director of facilities planning, Pete Newman has served a major role in the growth of the UCF campus. Newman designed and planned the construction of the UCF Arena, the Alumni Plaza, the Florida Solar Energy Center and the expansion of the Physical Plant.

Newman, who is serving in his fifth year as director, is planning several other future campus facilities including the Communication Building and the parking garage. He recently answered questions about the future of the UCF campus and his current projects.

Central Florida Future: What do you think the communication and health and public affairs buildings will provide for majors in those schools?

Pete Newman: The one thing is additional square footage space. There is a dean's building, additional classrooms, huge amount of space for the radio and television majors and there is also a large auditorium and theater. As far as the Health and Public Affairs Building, it really gives those majors an identity. Their building will be right on Pegasus Circle so they are right in the center of campus.

CFF: Is there any truth to the rumor of a possible expansion of on-campus Greek housing?

PN: We've looked at eight different locations on campus for an expansion of Greek housing, and we've finally settled on the northwest quadrant of the campus. We are looking at adding seven more Greek houses in the area. The problem is in the 1995 master plan, the area we were seeking was designated as preserved. We have to make a master plan amendment and that is what we are in the process of doing now. At this point, we are still working through it.

CFF: Is there any truth to the rumor about an on-campus football stadium?

PN: No. The only thing we were looking at, we looked at it a year ago, was expanding the UCF Arena. It was just a conceptual idea of doubling the seating capacity to 10,000 seats, but we have not looked at building an on-campus football stadium.

CFF: What has the Student Union added to the campus?

PN: The one thing it has done is it has really become the center of the student life on campus. It's almost like a mall at Christmas time. The plaza out in front seems to be very successful and it's just the hub of student activity whereas there was no hub before.

CFF: Will the Student Union be expanded further in the future?

PN: We're going to be starting phase IV and we're going to be adding a 12,600 seat banquet hall, more retail area, more offices and possibly an auditorium. As part of the project, we want to go in and landscape the plaza area to the west of the Student Union so we can start to use that area.

CFF: Has the construction of the parking garage adjacent to the Education Building gone smoothly?

PN: No. The problem has been with the pre-caster. There have been delays in its delivery. The pre-cast is the pre-casted concrete. The parking garage is like a giant Erector set, and without the pieces they cannot do the assembly. We were hoping to complete it by the beginning of November, but it probably won't open until sometime in December.

CFF: What do the new facilities add to the marketability of the campus?

PN: If you look at the new Communication Building it is going to be a state-of-the-art building. The Student Union and the Computer Science Building, along with the other buildings, help draw students here. I think the main thing UCF has done is gone after the population base here in Orlando to draw students from, which is encouraging.

CFF: How has your job changed since you began your career at UCF?

PN: I would say the complexity of the job. When I first came here, we were maybe doing one building at a time. Now we're doing several remodeling and several new constructions, so the master plan has become much more complex.

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UCF Class of 1997

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Behind the Scenes at Disney...

I think Hercules would make a great cartoon.

You know, according to legend, Hercules was the son of Zeus and his wife, Megara.

Let's ignore that part about Leonidas, ok Michael Bolton as the singing voice of Hercules and commemorative plastic plates from McDonald's.

After spending way too much money equipping his farm with computers and modems, Old McDonald came to the realization that maybe he didn't need E-1-E-1-O-M-A-L.

Click click click. Clink click. There's a click. Clink.

Teaching the children.

The Ke Chronicles

Every Labor Day weekend in Northwestern Nebraska, the annual Burning Man Festival takes place...

The Ke Chronicles is a celebration of the Free Spirit. Thousands of artists and musicians converge for a week-end of art, music, and freedom.

The yearly event is a celebration of the Free Spirit. Art and music converge for a week-end of art, music, and freedom.

This of course, comes that every town in San Francisco a preppy once place.

This year, a small group of hikers arrived in San Francisco on Labor Day weekend, and since none of their peers were around, they felt free to do stuff they'd never be caught doing if the others were around...

The little girl still in my neighborhood went downtown to the children's museum and promised to take a friend.

They were already at the beach as they boarded the train...
2 men found in car with narcotics

By ANNE MONTALI
Staff Writer

Police arrested David Webb, 19, and William Shriver, 18, for possession of marijuana after they were pulled over for careless driving.

Officers pulled Webb's car over around 3 p.m. on Nov. 22. When the police approached the vehicle, they noticed over $200 in the driver's lap and what looked to be a plastic bag containing marijuana in Shriver's hand. After conducting a search of both suspects and the vehicle, more than 20 grams of marijuana, a bag of cocaine and six and a half tablets of Fiorinal were found and confiscated as evidence. Webb and Shriver were then placed in police custody.

In other reports from the UCFPD:

- Renee Martin-Cueto, 19, reported to police her day planner was stolen from the Health and Physics Building. Martin-Cueto left the building after her class on Nov. 18 at 10:45 a.m. When she returned to the classroom 15 minutes later, after realizing she had left her day planner on her desk, she discovered it had been stolen.
- The day planner contained two credit cards, her check book and her driver's license. There are no witnesses or suspects at this time.

- Vijaya Ragoonathan, 23, reported to police a grand theft auto on Nov. 23. The victim had parked his car in a visitors parking lot on campus at 1:30 p.m. when he returned from the library two hours later, his vehicle was missing. Ragoonathan is willing to prosecute.
- Gary Willis, 39, was arrested for possession of cannabis, a bag of cocaine and resisting arrest without violence at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 22. Police confronted Willis walking on campus after smelling the strong odor of marijuana coming from the suspect's cigarette. When officers asked for the cigarette, Willis put it in his mouth and swallowed it. Willis was then placed under arrest.
- Police responded to a report of petit theft and burglary on Nov. 19 at the CREOL Building. Karen Oliver, 22, told police she had left her wallet, containing her bank card, on her desk. She believes the card was taken from her wallet sometime between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Nov. 17. When Oliver called to cancel her bank card, she was told that several purchases totaling more than $500 had been made with her card that day. Oliver is willing to prosecute.
- Police arrested Katherine Kocik, 18, for driving under the influence around 3 a.m. on Nov. 23. Officers reported Kocik smelled strongly of alcohol, was unsteady on her feet and had slurred speech. She was arrested after failing to pass the field sobriety tests. Kocik was taken to the DUI center where her blood alcohol level was found at .55.
- Paul Sanguinetti, 20, reported his bicycle was stolen from the sidewalk next to the computer store. Sanguinetti left his bike around 2:15 p.m. on Nov. 18. When he returned 15 minutes later, the bicycle had been stolen. The bike is valued at $300. Sanguinetti is willing to prosecute.

Bookstore renovations to be finished June 30

From PAGE 1 books." Peetz said.

In addition, a Starbucks Cafe will be built in the bookstore. It will seat 137 people at a time, Peetz said.

She said the cafe will serve finger foods: croissants, doughnuts and cheesecake. It will also serve different kinds of coffee. Each table at the cafe will have an outlet where students can plug their laptop computers in and do work while they eat.

The bookstore will also set aside 5,200 square feet for a clothing department. There will be a wider variety of clothes to choose from, Peetz said. "When our company took over this bookstore it had mostly gray T-shirts," Peetz said. "Students will see a lot more color and novelty added to the selection, but the clothes will still have to do with UCF."

Barnes and Noble has a policy to buy back every book from students. It will buy hardbacks back for $1 and softbacks back for 50 cents. Peetz said even if a book has no value, the store will still buy it back. "The more books we buy back, the better price we can offer for students," Peetz said.
Price wars hurt airlines during holiday season

From PAGE 1
but the flight was so much cheaper if I did stay through Saturday that I changed my plans," said senior Lauren Santiago.

Airlines offer discounts for these flights because the majority of the business travelers travel during the week, and many of the weekend flights have many more available seats that need to be filled.

Some airlines have offered discounted fares to full-time students who are over the age of 12. These discounts vary considerably and are quite restrictive. There are restrictions such as maximum age of 22 (proof of age is required), student identification, seven day advance purchase, Saturday night stay and round trips only.

Santiago said she has been offered a 25-percent student discount, but the discount was taken off a high fare so it wouldn't have saved her that much.

"Anyway, after I called every airline and they quoted me prices that varied from $600 to $400, I decided to check on the Internet and that's where I found a round-trip flight for $265," she said.

Other travelers have also used the Internet to purchase airline tickets in the middle of the week for a weekend flight and have managed to find some deals on certain flights. Even with all the restrictions regarding air travel, some travelers have come up with some innovative ways of working around these restrictions.

Some travelers have taken advantage of some of the discounted round trip tickets instead of the higher one-way tickets, according to the Traveler's Handbook.

According to Martin, the strategy works like this. Travelers who have priced the one-way ticket and has found that because of circumstances, the round trip ticket is cheaper, goes ahead and buys the round trip ticket. When they reach their destination, they just throw away the return portion of the ticket.

"Airlines do frown on this practice," she said.

Whether you plan to take advantage of discounts offered by the airlines or plan to bend some of the rules, the key factors are preparation, persistence and price checking.

Furthermore, a quick check on the Internet may wind up saving you hundreds of dollars.

"The best thing to do is to watch the newspaper and television because when airlines decide to reduce fares, the public knows about it as far as we do," Martin said.
December 10, 1997

Chuck Shepherd's NEWS OF THE WERD

LEAD STORIES

- In September, prominent Iraqi orthopaedic surgeon Hassan al-Khoudari abruptly fled the country after localnewscasts showed that his patient, Saddam Hussein's son Odi, was still walking with a bad limp after being treated by al-Khoudari following a 1996 assassination attempt. And in November, several bodies of a prominent Mexican plastic surgeon were found mutilated and encased in concrete inside 66-gallon drums alongside a highway; the doctors had operated on drug lord Amado Carrillo Fuentes, who died in July of complications from the surgery.

- In November, Paul Z. Singer, head of Singer Financial Corp. in Philadelphia, was sentenced to nine months in prison for an extreme reaction to what he called business pressures. One night in 1996, an extremely depressed Singer decided to deal with his tension by loading a backpack full of spray paint cans of a former girlfriend. Curtis had counsellors will again attempt to bring mental incompetence due to a brain injury caused by his shooting to trial for the 1987 murder of a woman in Hartford, Conn., and state prosecutor released him in 1989, saying he would not get rid of it, but in the process of putting it out of his pocket, he accidentally fired one gun and thought that since he ought to get rid of it, but in the process of putting it out of his pocket, he accidentally fired one round, which hit him in the leg, went through the front seat, and hit the companion, age 20. According to police Capt. Paul Dotson, the officers on scene, who had until then ignored the liquor store, had their attention engaged by the gunshot and the gun owner's lip-luring out of the car and throwing the gun over a fence. The shooter was charged with illegal possession of a firearm, and his weapon was treated at a hospital and released without charges.

- Carlos Manuel Perez, 21, was jailed in Aniston, Ala., in October after a series of missteps that almost begged for his arrest. He stopped in front of a local government building in a stolen car, which had no license plate. His intention, he told the first person he saw, was to inquire about obtaining a nonphoto identification card, since he was not carrying a driver's license. That first person happened to be Sheriff Larry Amerson, in uniform. When pressed for ID, Perez produced a Social Security card with the name Matthew Nowaczewski (though Perez has a dark-skinned Hispanic complexion). He also produced a birth certificate under that name but with some information erased and rewritten in pen, including his birthplace of "MISSissippi." Said Amerson later, "I know we're from Alabama, but we're not that stupid."

- A 17-year-old motorist was cited for driving without a license in Springfield, Ill., in September. When stopped, he gave the name "Johnny Rice," but police got tough with him when he was unable to spell "Johnny" in any of the conventional ways. His real name, he said, then, is Dyvon D. Stewart, and after an inquiry of the car's owner, police learned that Stewart had legitimately borrowed it and that despite the false name, he was not wanted by police on any other matter.

THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

- Tax Reform: In September, Albanian Socialist Party leader Gafur Mazrek and Democratic leader Azem Hajdari got into a fistfight on the floor of the parliament about the wisdom of raising the country's tax from 12.5 percent to 20 percent. Two days later, Mazrek returned to the chamber and seriously wounded Hajdari with four shots from a handgun.

- In September elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina, dictated by the 1995 Dayton peace accord, a Muslim slate won control of the city council of Srebrenica, a city that Serbs had ethnically cleansed of Muslims during the war in what human rights agencies call the worst European atrocities since World War II. However, still not a single Muslim resides in Srebrenica. Under the Dayton agreement, Bosnians, wherever they reside, could elect governments in their former municipalities.

- One Man, Two Votes: Prosecutors in Madisonville, Tenn., announced in October they would send newspaper publisher Dan Hicks Jr., 76, to trial for voting twice in the 1996 presidential election. Of his second ballot, he said he had taken pain pills and was using Election Day for his recent knee surgery. If he hadn't asked for a day off, he would have asked for a day off, he would have realized that the polls would soon close, and he had to rush to the polling place, completely forgetting that he had voted by early ballot two weeks before.

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Tainted water a serious issue at UCF

By JASON HEIRONIMUS
Opinion Editor

Thirsty anyone? It sure does get hard walking all over campus, sweating up a storm, and trying to get a million things done at once when you've got a bad case of dry mouth. Some of us need water to soothe a dry palate on an hourly basis. Unfortunately though, UCF has created an oasis, in half the buildings on campus.

Unless you are one of those lucky people that is a distance relative of the camel and you don’t need nourishment in the form of water, you should know exactly what I am talking about. Almost every water fountain on campus seems to be infected with a strain of something. My sources tell me that it is actually dangerous levels of copper and lead.

But don’t let that fool you. Have you watched The X-Files lately? By the way, it’s back on Fox. You should try it. Michael Hague might raise a shroud of something.

As I grew older the water fountain always meant freedom, and water. With just a raised hand I could receive a ticket to laziness. I could leave class and wander around the school grounds until I was caught, but always eventually getting a drink of water.

During soccer practice as a kid there was a water fountain about a quarter of a mile away from where we practiced. Because our coach, and my dad, always forgot to bring anything to replenish our little bodies we always had to make the long hike for water. Though the water was probably just as poisoned as the UCF water is, it was always a special moment.

I have many fond memories of drinking fountains as a child and I hoped to continue these memories into my college years. Wrong! It seems that everywhere you go our water fountains are tainted with warning notices. If someone ignored these notices and instead drank more just to spite the man than the build-up of copper could cause brain damage and mess up their red blood cells and kidneys. I would highly suggest not to do this.

It is quite ironic, isn’t it? (Isn’t it annoying that every time you mention that something is ironic it gets passed off as an Alanis reference.) Water is supposed to be the most pure substance out there. There is a diet out there that requires you to drink something like five gallons of water a day, that’s a lot! But surely they wouldn’t require it if it wasn’t healthy. And now we buy water out of bottles. “Hello, I’d like some water please.”

“Here you go, that’ll be $1.50.” Wait a minute, what? Not only is our water tainted now, but if we want the privilege of not getting ourselves sick by drinking it then we have to pay for it! How did we let this whole water issue get so out of hand?

And now UCF has joined the ranks of the dirty water people. It is humorous, actually. You go to get what you think will be a harmless drink of water and WARNING! WARNING! WARNING! “Slowly step away from the fountain. Put your hands where I can see them. Now, I’m willing to let you go, but just turn around and pretend this never happened, OK?” How can the simplest things turn into the most complicated matters. I remember like it was yesterday, and probably because it was, getting a drink of water and feeling happy, nourished, refreshed. Of course that feeling may have been spawned by the dangerous levels of copper and lead in my body, but whose counting?

I believe that UCF should have to make up for this water situation in some manner. Copper causes damage to the brain. Damage to the brain is obviously detrimental to a student’s ability to recall everything that he/she is supposed to know for a test. I suggest that UCF should enact a campus-wide water referendum. This water, provided by UCF and given to us innocent students, has undoubtedly affected us in a negative manner of some sort. Think about it. The new parking garage is opening late. Whose water are they drinking?

Consider, the metaphor. As a matter of fact there are a lot of things that could be attributed to tainted water.

For example, I recently received a low grade on a paper. Do you really think that it was my fault? Like many students I am a victim of an unwarranted brain damage and I seek retribution.

Though my childhood memories of the joy I have shared with numerous water fountains have been somewhat obscured, the Great Water Crisis of 1997 will most likely end by the time we get back for spring. During break, if you find yourself eating your presents or setting traps for Santa Claus in your chimney remember that there is a reason, and, most importantly, there is help out there.
Secret service search student's home after Chelsea column

By COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE

SAN FRANCISCO — When Guy Branum urged University of California-Berkeley students to "show you spirit on Chelsea's bloody carcass," it was supposed to be a joke, he says.

Problem was, the Secret Service isn't laughing.

Branum, a columnist at the Daily Cal newspaper, mentioned President Clinton's daughter in a piece that preceded the 100th "Big Game" — the much-hyped football matchup between Stanford and Stanford University.

His reference to the first daughter, who attends Stanford University, led Secret Service agents to search Branum's apartment Nov. 24, shortly before First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke at the Berkeley campus.

"They were brow-beating me about writing the column," the 22-year-old senior told Reuters. "They told me to be careful in my writing.

"I've gotten everything from hate mail to a lot of e-mail supporting me," Branum said. "Today I got one that said I should be castrated.

"We were brow-beating me about writing the column," the 22-year-old senior told Reuters. "They told me to be careful in my writing.

"They were sort of the holy idols of the moment," Jack Nachbar, professor emeritus of pop culture at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, told Knight-Ridder Tribune News Service.

"Another professor, Mike Marsden, dean of arts and sciences at Northern Michigan University and a pop-culture scholar, says Beavis and Butt-head instinctively displayed American free will and individualism. "There is value in telling people the emperor has no clothes," explains Marsden.

"But if "Beavis and Butt-head" at its best was smart comedy about dumb people, it also captured some degree of reality," says Robert Thompson, a Syracuse University professor.

"I've become more and more convinced that "Beavis and Butt-head" was not just a cartoon, it was a documentary," says Beavis Thompson, who will head the New York University's new Center for the Study of Popular Television.

"As long as students are 21 or over, they'll be allowed to tip back a brew at Sherry's, the campus pub, say university officials. "We'd rather have them here than out on the highways," Sandra C. Boyette, vice president for university advancement, recently told The Chronicle of Higher Education.

The university would try to substitute the scholarships with other funds if they are cut, she added.

The Rev. Ray Davis of Green Meadows Baptist Church in Mocksville, N.C., told the Associated Press that Baptists traditionally take a stand against alcohol.
Resumes on the Internet are newest way to find jobs

By KELLY FITZPATRICK
Contributing Writer

In the age of technology, many individuals seeking employment have done away with the postal system, otherwise known as "snail mail" and have decided to post their resumes and cover letters on Internee servers.

"I posted my resume on the Internet through the University of South Florida job placement office about a month before my graduation," said Inke Bernstein, 25. "I did it because I wanted to get a job out-of-state, preferably the west coast but it was so expensive and slow to send out by "snail mail" that I decided to try. Through the Internee, it was within three weeks from all over the coun­try. Through the Internee, it was free and I received responses to my resume throughout the coun­try."

Bernstein is now working as a credit collector in Flagstaff, Ariz.

"I'm graduating in May and I am already working on getting my resume online," said Megan Cassidy, a criminal justice major. "I reached such a large majority of employers for free. A person would be crazy not to take this route when looking for a job."

This seems to be attracting more and more people because it is the fastest way to get information," said Dr. Ronald Rubin, marketing intelligence professor. "It's changed the face of business not just with resumes and e-mail, but right down to conference calls where it's a 'I see you, you see me' over a computer. Just recently, my daughter put her resume online looking for a job on a cruise line. Shortly after, Carnival Cruises called her, had an interview over the phone and hired her. It's absolutely amazing."

There are other more advanced ways a person can create a web page but Neal explained the simplest. To find out more, a good book to refer to would be "Dummies" series. The web­site is net.dummies.net.

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By CORRETT TRUEY
Entertainment Editor

I'm sure many of us have lost count of the number of times we wished we were older when we were kids, which makes the teen angst of dorky 12-year-old Josh Baskin so easy to understand and enjoyable to watch as he magically turns into Tom Hanks in the hit film Big.

Now, though, Josh's wish is set to music when the Broadway production of Big - The Musical hits Orlando from Dec. 3 - Jan. 4.

For those of you have been living under the rock or have never taken the chance to watch the film version of Big, it's a simple and bitter-sweet tale of a teenager whose wish to be an adult comes true with hilarious results. Forced to leave home and figure out a solution to his dilemma, he finds a whole new life in the real world, complete with an executive job and a girlfriend.

The stage version is the same, except it contains a slew of musical numbers with titles such as "Say Good Morning To Mom," "Talk To Her," and "My Secretary's In Love." For those of you familiar with the movie, you can probably figure out where they fit in with the plot. The show also features a mixture of songs from the original Broadway production along with tunes written especially for the national tour.

As the fourth in the MasterCard Broadway Series presented at the Carr Performing Arts Centre, Big is another top notch musical production can be seen by those looking for great entertainment. With most people packing the theaters to catch anticipated Hollywood blockbusters like Scream 2 and Titanic, Big is an exciting alternative to make the most of our Christmas break and has been touted as a great show for ages 8 to 80.

Even though many of us are starting to wish we were younger now instead of older, you still have to be sympathetic for Josh, especially when he rips his good pajamas after growing a good couple of feet overnight, or when surviving in the corporate world means letting your co-workers beat the crap out of you at racquetball.

Now set to music, all these classic moments will have a fresh, new look to them when Big hits the stage to make us all feel in another age group again.

Tickets are available now through the Broadway Series Box Office, the Orlando Arena, or Ticketmaster.
Stint in military helped student with college preparation

By VICKI DeSORMIER
Staff Writer

Returning to college after a long absence from the classroom can be a challenge, but to some, the separation from the academic life brings an added maturity that makes things easier.

Some people just aren't ready for college at 18. They aren't ready to make the commitment it takes to get the full benefits of an education. Some are just ready to party and have no interest in academia. And some just don't know what they want to do when they "grow up."

"I went to college for the first time when I was 18," said Mark Intong. "But I felt I was just not ready."

Intong, 27, said he knew he wanted to be an engineer like his father, but was unsure about the area of concentration he wanted to study. He worked in his father's firm for a year and decided he did not want to be a civil engineer before joining the Navy. That, he said, has made all the difference.

"I was smart enough to do the work, but I wasn't sure what I wanted to do," he said. "I wasn't ready. I have a lot of respect for the 18- or 19-year-olds who show that maturity."

"I feel like I'm an older brother to them," he said. "I try to motivate and encourage them."

He said he believes many older students tend to fall into that role. The younger students look to them for direction and encouragement. It is a responsibility that should be taken seriously, he said.

Intong, who returned to college at 26, feels he was infinitely better prepared for the responsibilities of academia after a stint in the military. But he was also better able to help other people, especially his younger classmates, make it in school.

"I know what I want to do and what I have to do to get there," he said. "That makes it easier to study and to help the traditional-age students find the direction and encouragement they need."

Life, he said, is a learning process. College is not necessarily the next step after high school. There can be a break, as long as the time is used wisely. "Learning is a process that is ongoing," he said. "We always learn something from every experience."

KEVIN COSTNER

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THE POSTMAN

Hal Hartley

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Amazon.com helps ease shopping burden online

By STEVE BARNES
Web Editor

Looking for that perfect gift, but dreading the post-Thanksgiving crowds? Don’t despair. With the help of the Internet (and a credit card) you can do nearly all of your Christmas shopping without leaving your home.

Literally thousands of "virtual malls" exist on the Internet, and thousands of traditional retailers also offer their products on the web. Most of these sites are a lot safer than you might imagine. Most use encryption technology to protect your credit card number from theft, and while there is always the chance some con artist will throw up a web site just to rip off people, many reputable companies are doing business on the net.

One of my favorites is Amazon.com, the world's largest bookstore. Amazon has more than 2.5 million books available through its on-line catalog. Almost every conceivable topic is available, from art to zoology. Of course, books make great gifts, but how to find the right one can be a bit of a challenge. Amazon makes the chore easier through the use of its on-site search engines.

The search function allows you to select books by category, artist or title. Simply type in the information and Amazon will show you a list of all the books by that author or subject.

If you’re not sure just what you are looking for, try checking out the Recommendation Center, which lists books based on a number of criteria. The Book Matcher section allows you to plug in the type of author you like and then returns a list books by authors with similar styles.

Mood Matcher allows you to select a particular category of book, i.e., horror, love stories, sports, etc. It then returns a list of such books along with reviews and descriptions. In fact, throughout the site, you will find reviews by professionals and customers. (A link within the site allows readers to submit their own reviews.)

The Customer Buzz section is devoted entirely to reviews and discussions by readers. This is a nice feature that allows you to find out what people like yourself think about various works. Select a category such as history, art, mystery - whatever, and choose from "aring about" or "divided over" and find out what other readers have to say. After reading the book, go back and add your own two cents.

There is also a great "Gift Idea" section which helps you locate something for the person who has everything. This section includes a list of rare and out of print books as well as books for children and Amazon.com trinkets.

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This really is a great way to shop, but if you want to get your gifts out in time for Christmas there is no time to waste. Some books are available for shipping from the warehouse in as little as 24 hours after you place an order. Other books can take a few days. Then the books have to be shipped. Amazon offers UPS second day and next-day air as well as standard delivery. Gift shipping is available for a small additional fee. The URL is http://www.amazon.com.

Well, now that you know the secret to stress free shopping, you might actually be able to relax and enjoy the holidays. Merry Christmas everyone.

If you know of a site that you think would be of interest to our readers, drop me a line at news@ucf.edu and I will try to review it in a future article.

Funding not provided for LesBiGay Awareness Week

From PAGE 1

characters should be portrayed as well as the people behind the scenes in the entertainment industry."

The senators also reflected on the incident at University of South Florida when the school brought a controversial speaker to campus. Since then, there has been talk in the Florida legislature of taking the activity to campus.

"I told [GLBSU] to contact some of the senators and find out exactly what problems they had with the bill," he said. "I told them to rewrite a new bill, maybe cut out the speaker. That would be a step in the right direction."

Siegel agreed with Fariello that legal action is not necessary. The senators and the club were making more of a presentation [by the club] should have been more professional."

During the open forum at the meeting, GLBSU member Edward Holmes spoke to the senate about discrimination and acceptance of the homosexual lifestyle. Siegel said the speech went down the wrong track because GLBSU has received funding in the past.

However, Kazmerski will continue to pursue funding for this year’s Army ROTC awards scholarships to hundreds of talented students. If you qualify, these merit-based scholarships can help you pay tuition and educational fees.

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Knights to savor Clemson victory

From PAGE 16

Harper said the Tigers sealed their fate by allowing the rally. "Once you have a team down 13-8, you should really put the game away," Harper said. "They couldn't do it and I think they knew they were definitely shot." The landmark victory may pose problems with future scheduling, Harper added.

"People don't want to lose to us now [because we won a tournament game], but a lot of teams definitely will want to schedule us now because if they beat us, it is to their advantage," Harper said.

"I really hope more teams nationwide will take us more seriously. The win is not a fluke, especially beating them 15-1, it's a lot to be said to beat an ACC team.

After defeating Clemson, the Knights played fourth-seeded University of Wisconsin on Sunday, losing in three games 15-7, 15-8 and 15-13.

Smith said the loss was disappointing, but has not spoiled her team's season.

"We've done everything we wanted to do this season, except we would have liked to have gone farther in the tournament," Smith said. "I had my best year of coaching at UCF, so right now I'm just relishing the success of this year and not looking at next year at all.

"Next year will be a rebuilding year and I have my work cut out for me as far as recruiting goes."

Women's basketball plays UTEP on Dec. 18 on Sunshine Network

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AWARDS TO THE FALL'S GREATEST

From PAGE 16

Back for the year he's giving us.

Defensive player of the year — Jermaine Benoit, senior defensive end. 105 tackles, 10.5 sacks, 33 quarterback pressures and 14 tackles for loss. Enough said.

Unheralded football player of the year — Donnell Washington, senior safety. You never heard his name because no one threw the ball in his direction.

First-year phenom — Charles Lee, sophomore receiver. Caught six touchdowns and can only get better over the next three years.

Assistant coach of the year — A tie between both offensive line coaches, Paul Lounsberry and Scott Fountain. Facing a murderous schedule and without starting center Bill Dayton and guard Ryan Gillis, the staff put together a strong unit which performed better than last year's line. With true lineman humility, Lounsberry credited Fountain with the unit's success, so we'll give both of them their due.

Best football player who decided to stay in school — Culpepper.

Best football player who should decide to stay in school — Heikki Ritvanen, sophomore forward. He could go pro now, but for the program's sake he doesn't. Despite missing four games in his two years as a Knight, Ritvanen leads the nation in goals scored with 47.

Best story — Outside of Culpepper's decision, the best story had to be true freshman running back Dwight Collins, who is deaf, rushing for 140 yards and two touchdowns in a quarter at Kent.

Soon-to-be comeback player of the year — Gillis. He gets to play his final year at offensive guard next season. It only took the NCAA several months and an appeal of an earlier denial for it to realize having a baseball-sized tumor removed from one's shoulder is a good reason to miss a football season.

Best cross country runner — Anne Panaggio, sophomore. By far the most impressive feat in the NCAA regional (14th).

Women's soccer player of the year — Danya Smith, junior forward. Harris was the only real offensive threat for a team that suffered an over 400-minute scoreless streak.

Volleyball leader of the year — Amanda Fielding, junior setter. When asked what led to the Knights' huge win over the Tigers, Coach Laura Smith immediately said Fielding's sets. Throw in Harper and Menchiknow and you have to split this honor three ways.

Quote of the year — Former UCF defensive coordinator Willie Martinez on facing Culpepper with his Eastern Michigan defense: "Crapes, man. Is there any way he can't play?"
Marquette to test men’s basketball

From PAGE 16

The year’s 79-54 loss, UCF will be the toughest team on both of the Division II teams’ schedules, with St. Thomas visiting UCF for the first time on Dec. 22. Victories against the Florida Sun Conference pair would give the Knights their first winning record in more than a year.

It would then take an upset victory in one of UCF’s two remaining games against Conference USA members to give it its first winning record entering the TAAC portion of the schedule since Kirk Spurway’s first season in 1993-94.

On Dec. 23, the Knights travel to Milwaukee, Wis., to battle Marquette. It will mark a homecoming for Jones, who grew up in Milwaukee.

“I asked Coach Spurway to get me this game. I’m really excited about it,” said Jones. “It will be nice to play in front of my family. It’s not everyday you get to go home again.”

It’s not everyday UCF matches up against a guard of the caliber of Arthur Hutchins, the 5-10 senior captain who is considered among the finest in the conference. The Knights will also have to counter Marquette’s stifling defense, which has long been a staple of the program and Coach Mike Deane. The Golden Eagles’ interior threat consists of 6-10 junior center Jarrod Lovette and 6-9 power forward Abel Joseph. A large crowd awaits UCF at the Bradley Center, which also doubles as the home of the NBA’s Milwaukee Bucks.

Finally, the Knights close their hectic month on the road in Tampa on Dec. 30 in their annual battle against South Florida. This year’s edition has a special twist, as the game will mark the first college basketball game ever played at Tampa’s Ice Palace, home of the NHL’s Lightning. USF has won seven of the last eight games, including the last three. The Bulls won last year, 66-47, holding UCF to its lowest output of the year.

Coach Seth Greenberg is in his second season at USF. Seven newcomers highlight this season’s team, with a pair of froshmen starting at forward. Glenville State transfer Scott Johnson, a 6-10 center.

Women gearing up for conference play

From PAGE 16

them know that there are going to be 6,000 people there, and they are not going to be for you. You prepare them the best you can, but I don’t know if we can really prepare them fully. We just have to get in there and see how we do,” Bria said.

Following its trip to Austin, UCF will play three of its next four at home. Conference play begins Jan. 3 against Stetson, so there are not many games remaining to prepare.

“I think our continuity is coming around, I would like to see it get a lot better [over the next five games],” Bria said. “By conference time, I would like to get a good feel of not only the starters, but who plays well together, and when to play them.”

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December 10, 1997
Holiday schedule provides tough tests for Knights

By TONY MEJIA
Staff Writer

December will consist of one big test for the UCF basketball team. Already having passed the month’s first road test with an 83-78 victory at Winthrop, the Knights will now look forward to hitting the books in preparation for final exams, and then play four games to close out 1997.

UCF guard Mark Jones and forward Brad Traina established one of the few exceptions nationwide, Bria would have to let atmosphere they play in, I know the tradition. We are never going to get to that level until we start playing people at that level.”

Though Texas is one of the few exceptions nationwide, Bria would like to see that enthusiasm spread. “That is how it should be done, it is what women’s basketball is about,” Bria said.

So how do you get a young team ready for that kind of atmosphere? “You have to prepare them for things like this. You have to let them lose from the field),” said Traina. “I had a lot of solid, wide-open looks at the basket. We really needed this basketball game.”

UCF takes the momentum into a pair of home games against the only non-Division I teams on this year’s schedule, Nova Southeastern and St. Thomas.

The Nova Southeastern Knights will be making their second consecutive trip to the UCF Arena on Dec. 13, following last season’s loss to the Golden Knights.

The following awards are for the best and brightest of the season:

Play(s) of the year — Quarterback Daunte Culpepper’s 75-yard touchdown run against Kent and his decision to stay. The team’s bowl hopes look better than Culpepper’s shot at the Heisman, but I hope the NFL pays him what he deserves.

With the tournament win, the Knights overcame the first TAAC players of the year in Tyra Harper and Renata Menchikova have had a lot of solid, wide-open looks at the basket. We really needed this basketball game.”

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