Student Government presidential election gets complicated

ADAM SHIVER
STAFF WRITER

Once, twice, three times recounted. This year’s student government elections were recounted three times this past weekend in hopes of finding the runner up in this week’s elections. The recount put the Sprenkle ticket in first place with 995 votes, and the Deeb and Cupicha tickets both at 701 votes and the Deeb ticket in second in another election this week.

Last weeks results showed, as of the time of publication, that the Sprenkle ticket was in first place with 995 votes, and the Deeb and Cupicha tickets both at 693 votes a piece.

Unfortunately such a tie has led to much controversy. The original count put the Sprenkle ticket in first place with 1,014 votes and the Deeb ticket in second with 701. This turnout would move on to face off with the winner in another election this week.

As of the time of publication, that runner up from the primary is still unknown. Once the primary race gets under way, the two remaining candidates will move on to face off in the runoff in hopes of finding the student who can lead for the next year.

RECOUNT, Page 4

A kiss for a vote

A camel smooches student Issac Oster in exchange for his vote in the 5G presidential elections. The camel was a promotional part of the Deeb, Doegman and Breneman ticket to increase student voting.

Jana Eaton crowned Miss UCF 2000

TAYLOR CLARK
STAFF WRITER

The Miss University of Central Florida scholarship pageant, sponsored by Campus Activities Board, was held on Saturday. The event was hosted by Mistress of Ceremonies, UCF senior and Miss Florida 1999, Kelli Meierhenry and Master of Ceremonies, John Santo, Mr. UCF 2000, a junior. With suspense in the air, 14 women competed in the three part event—swimwear, talent and evening wear. Jana Eaton was crowned Miss UCF 2000, while Victoria Gray was awarded first runner-up.

Eaton, a Molecular and Microbiology major and an activist for genetic disease research, aims to use her platform as a means of education as well as a method of further increasing funding for research.

“I plan to emphasize education and awareness as well as promote funding for such necessary medical research during my year as an activist,” Eaton told judges.

Eaton will educate high school students and other young adults with the hope of recruiting them into the field, as they begin to make career choices, by showing them the importance of genetic disease research.

The pageant also offers participants a chance to win scholarship money.

“The Miss UCF scholarship pageant holds the objective,” said CAB Program Coordinator and Executive Director of Miss UCF, Jean Holt, “of providing an opportunity for young women to earn scholarship money to further their education.”

The money won in the pageant will be given to the financial aid office with the intention of assisting in scholarly expenses.

Following victory as Miss UCF, Eaton will go on to compete at the state level for Miss Florida, an official preliminary for the Miss USA competition. This happened for Kelli Meierhenry who won the title of Miss UCF 1999 and eventually competed and won Miss Florida in June. Nicole Gilley, first runner-up in the 1999 competition then replaced Meierhenry as Miss UCF 1999.

Before relinquishing her title, Gilley took a moment to offer some advice to the soon to be crowned Miss UCF and to say thank you. “Whatever you do, cherish the year. It goes by so fast. And thanks, [UCF] for letting me represent you,” she said.

Following in Gilley’s footsteps, the newly crowned Eaton was excited and also proud to represent the school. While in the spotlight, Eaton recognized the help she received along the way. “With the support from my Alpha Delta Pi sisters who stuck with me and gave me confidence,” said Eaton.

Several other awards were received in categories such as Miss Congeniality, which went to Michelle Woolley, and most program ads sold, which went to Margie Serrato.

BOR, Page 8

Board of Regents may re-structure

SHELLEY WILSON
STAFF WRITER

The current system of the state Board of Regents may become eliminated and replaced with local boards as part of an education overhaul set to take place in January of 2003.

The plan that was endorsed by House and Senate leaders last week would allow each of Florida’s 10 public universities to get its own governing board appointed by the governor. A constitutional amendment passed in 1998 eliminated the elected post of a state education commissioner. This would change how Florida schools from kindergarten through college were handled. Colleges and Universities would receive the biggest impact from the change.

Separate state boards that oversee the 28 community colleges and 10 public universities...
Falun Gong - Ancient art enlightens UCF students

DIANA MARTIN STAFF WRITER

As part of its program of events, the Campus Activities Board Cultural Arts committee brought to campus the Falun Gong workshop on March 31. This workshop was held at the Student Union south patio where many people were able to stop and watch, ask questions and even participate in the exercises.

UCF is not the first college or university here in Florida that the Falun Gong workshop was held. Elly Xu, the instructor of this workshop, has taught at Stetson University and Palm Beach Community College as well. Her visit to UCF was her first, as well as the small group of practitioners that she brought along with her.

Xu and her group came to UCF for three reasons: to introduce Falun Gong to Knights, to teach the workshop's five sets of exercises, and to answer questions. Elly Xu is Chinese and studied in Japan for about six years before arriving in Florida. Her reason for studying and teaching Falun Gong is an interesting one.

"Falun Gong has changed my life tremendously. Xu, said "Falun Gong has given me all the answers about life, space and the universe. Problems disappeared. Mentally and spiritually, Falun Gong made my life peaceful, happy and more meaningful," said Xu.

The principles of Falun Gong are Zhen (truthfulness), Shan (benevolence, kindness, compassion), and Ren (forbearance, endurance, tolerance). Falun Gong is a traditional Qigong and meditation system. Falun Gong is different from the Qigong schools of Taijichi and Yoga, and it is the most powerful and advanced Qigong school.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a practice that is designed to improve the mind, body and spirit through exercise and meditation. Falun Gong also relieves stress, improves the health, cleanses the body, creates harmony and promotes enlightenment and spiritual growth. The practice has five sets of exercises: Fozhan Qianshou Fa, movements to stretch and open up all the body's energy channels; Falun Zhuang Fa, a standing meditation to enhance one's energy level and attain wisdom; Guantong Jiachi Fa, a sitting meditation to improve one's energy level and attain wisdom; Shentong Jiachi Fa, purifies the body by mixing and exchanging the energy from the body and the cosmos; Falun Zhoutian Fa, overall circulation is strengthened and improved; and Shentong Jiaochi Fa, a sitting meditation to increase energy potency and attain a pure and clear mind.

Falun Gong gives top priority to the development of an individual's 'Xingxing,' which is one's 'heart/mind nature.' The cultivation of Xingxing includes dealing with gains and losses, letting go of unhealthy attachments and giving up negative behaviors. The assimilation of the supreme nature of the universe is the ultimate object of Falun Gong.

Li Hongzhi introduced the ancient practice of Falun Gong in China in 1992. Since then, millions of people around the world have experienced the benefits of Falun Gong.

Practitioners of Falun Gong are taught to look inside themselves for things to be improved. Almost every practitioner has a personal story about improvements in their health due to Falun Gong.

Though Falun Gong is a position and peaceful practice, it was suppressed in China when it was first introduced. The growing popularity of Falun Gong upset Chinese authorities, who ordered millions of Falun Gong tapes and books to be confiscated and destroyed. Thousands of practitioners were inhumanly treated or tortured, which the government started on July 20, 1999. To justify their brutality, the Chinese government fabricated horrific stories and distorted the truth against Li Hongzhi and Falun Gong. Falun Gong is being brutally persecuted in China because the Communist Party cannot tolerate any of the practice's spiritual beliefs.

For information on Falun Gong, their website is www.falundafa.org. If you would like to find out the next date for this practice, call Elly Xu at (407) 673-1255, or EMAIL her at ELLYXU@aol.com.

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State BOR system may ‘Go’

From Page 1

will be abolished and local citizen boards at each school will help set policy and select school presidents. The statewide-appointed board, however, would still make major policy. The Board of Regents Chairman, Thomas Petway III, who appointed Governor Jeb Bush, is cautious about eliminating the state BOR system. He is hoping for the final product to be a mix with new ideas put into it to make it stronger.

"I look forward to the upcoming debate to chart the direction of the State University System and the Board of Regents," Petway said. "I hope the Legislature carefully examines the ramifications of its proposal and conducts extensive research and public hearings in order to produce the best governance structure for Florida's school children."

"Caution and consideration is a theme that many Universities, including UCF, is asking for on this plan. All of the State University presidents are preparing to sign a letter that will go to key legislators asking that caution be exercised and that they be consulted in advance of enacting the overhaul of how higher education would be governed."

In a prepared statement, State University Chancellor, Adam Herbert defended the BOR and stated that the accomplishments of the last decade provide ample evidence for its continuation, not elimination.

"The significance, scope and dramatic changes accompanying this educational governance legislation are best illustrated by the impact on the State University System."

"The capacity of the existing SUS structure to address the State's rapidly evolving higher educational needs has not been discussed, evaluated, or challenged," Herbert said.

"Does the performance of our State University System during the past decade demonstrate these dramatic changes without such thoughtful, open and analytically based discussion? I believe that such a comprehensive review would indicate that a bulldozer is not needed for work merely requiring a screwdriver."

Governor Jeb Bush is still, however, not a hundred percent behind signing off on the idea of abolishing the Board of Regents that unanimously passed through Senate.

The Governor supports and believes in a seamless education system, but the Governor has not yet taken a stand or position regarding the role of the BOR system and what role they would play in that education system," said Justin Sayfie, Communication Director for Governor Bush's office.

Senators on both sides that voted for it stated the system might be a new concept, but worth it in the long run.

"It's a radical departure from the way we govern in Florida but it's a more accountable way to do it," Jack Latvala, R-Palm Bay, said.

Tom Russin, D-West Palm Beach, said, "A lot is going to depend on how good the people are who are in these jobs."
Italian club seeking new members

DIANA MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

Ever dreamt about riding a gondola in Venice, climbing Pompeii’s Mount Vesuvius or visiting St. Peter’s Square in Rome? There is a way to experience these journeys and the Italian culture in Orlando.

The UCF Italian Club is a relatively new club on campus. This year’s president, senior Tanja Lezic, is hoping to promote the club throughout campus and the community. So far this year the Italian Club has shown a series of Italian movies, held several book sales and picnics and has attended a few operas. Their next event is a Wine Tasting evening on April 8.

As part of their movie series, the Italian Club showed the movie, “La Vita’’ di Bella” (“Life is Beautiful”) on March 30 at the Student Union. The CAB Cultural Arts committee provided pizza and drinks for those who attended.

Recount of votes may mean longer wait for results

FROM PAGE 1

have put the two parties in a runoff election this week. This however was interrupted when the Capucchi ticket called for a recount. Upon recounting the votes the Capucchi ticket came out one vote ahead of the Deeb ticket, with the Sprenkle ticket still in first place by a considerable margin.

Such an outcome naturally led to the Deeb ticket’s request of a recount as well. This third recount of the votes showed the Sprenkle party with 995 votes, and the Capucchi and Deeb ticket with a tying 693 votes, leading to the Deeb ticket’s request of a recount. This was not to be made April 3.

The Student Government Chief EC, David Dobin stated that he would prefer not to comment on the election until the recount and until a decision has been reached on the recount scheduled for Monday.

Even with all the controversy, candidate John Deeb still made it very apparent that he was quite pleased that his ticket had made it, originally, into the runoff. “We are very excited about proving that an independent ticket can maintain a competitive edge in a presidential race,” said Deeb.

When we declared our candidature for the presidency we got taken as seriously as the other candidates due to our unorthodox approach to Student Government,” he added.

Another debate for either a runoff situation or a total recount is an idea held by many of the candidates.

“We would like to schedule an additional debate between the two tickets before this final election, and this should be held outside the Student Union. Time and date will be posted, pending the agreement of the other ticket to participate in such a forum,” said Deeb.

In addition to more debates, increased advertising and self-promotion is planned for this week as well. Each party’s advertising is paid for by our unorthodox advertising material. “Our ‘Independent’ stickers were our main campaign vehicle,” said Deeb. Some parties however are using nothing but word of mouth to promote themselves.

Department of Defense awards UCF four grants

DARYC ELENA
RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

Once again, UCF has become the recipient of a new research grant.

But this time, UCF has received four. The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) has awarded UCF four competitive grants totaling more than $4 million for research expected to affect computer operations and for use by the DOD.

The Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) grant will unite UCF with Princeton, Georgetown, Arkansas and several other universities. These funds, $1 million a year for three to five years, will be utilized to develop new computer applications using spatial solutions. This includes studying the interaction, travel and collisions of solutions. This new technology could lead to critical changes in computer operation.

That knowledge could lead to new ways of building computing machinery,” says George Stegeman, researcher and professor at CREOL. Stegeman was awarded the MURI grant after a proposal explaining the project. He was one of 171 applicants and one of 20 to receive the grant.

The DOD’s Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP) awarded UCF three other grants. All branches of the U.S. armed services participate in the DURIP program in which money is set aside for the purchase of hi-tech equipment used for research, such as being conducted at CREOL.

DURIP awarded Mike Bass, researcher and professor of Optics, Physics and ECE, and Nabeel Riza, researcher and associate professor of Physics and ECE, a grant of $386,000 for the development of optically written displays for both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional displays.

It allows us to study the types of materials we need to study,” says Bass. The grant will provide the equipment: laser, their components and supports. He will be studying non-linear spectroscopy and seeks to find a way to make images in the 2-D and 3-D displays have more realistic sizes and a full range of colors.

Riza will be obtaining and using scanners in an effort to determine how to control where the light goes in the displays. This research will aid air traffic controllers and physicians and will be used in entertainment.

DURIP’s second grant goes to Leon Glebov and Oleg Elfinov’s team for the development of high quality holographic elements. Glebov and his team developed photo-thermal-refractive (PTR) glass. This $250,000 grant is to aid in automatic systems designed to allow the production of the holographic elements. Glebov says that this glass will be used for military and civilian purposes.

The third DURIP grant goes to Glenn Borenstein, researcher and professor. This grant will fund infrared antenna research.

The findings from these research projects are expected to aid in computer operations and will provide the DOD with ground-breaking research for defense purposes.

Bass and Riza grant information edited by Mike Bass.

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Nanus receives Emmy for television editing

Shelley Wilson
Staff Writer

Michael Nanus, a 1992 graduate of the UCF Radio-Television Division, received an Emmy for his work editing a TV news special report to air during prime time.

The report, "A Heroin Emergency," was narrated by WESH anchors John O'Connor and Wendy Chioji, and examined the problem of heroin abuse among young people in Orlando. The Emmy, a prestigious award presented by the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences, is given to honor outstanding achievement in television broadcasting.

Nanus, who has served as an adjunct in the Radio-Television Division, stated the award was a big recognition.

"The Emmy is a personal award that recognizes the individual's work and you are judged by your peers because it is given by other professionals in the industry so it is great to be recognized by them," Nanus stated.

Nanus praised the piece that Channel 2 aired as being a very informative and moving show, which he was glad to be a part of.

"Immediately we received calls from all over Orlando thanking us and even teachers called to request copies so they could show it in their class. The most fulfilling part of my job is creating a piece that creates positive feedback." When Nanus first started at UCF more than a decade ago, he was an undecided major. He first declared Computer Science, but became interested in television after hearing a friend talk about his major, Radio-TV.

After taking several classes in the TV department, Nanus took a strong interest in the editing/directing aspect of the television industry. The road to being a UCF graduate to working in a size market 22 for television hasn't been a long one for Nanus. He started as an intern at Channel 2 and when he was only nine credits away from graduation, Channel 2 offered him a full-time position as an editor. Nanus is the first to admit that he is a rarity.

"It used to be that if you received a college diploma you had a job lined up waiting for you. It's just not like that anymore," Nanus stated.

Nanus did state that the new UCF state-of-the-art TV equipment has better prepared and given more experience to students wanting to work in this field.

"I'm quite impressed with the new facility. It has made them a serious contender to draw Radio-Television majors to the program. UCF has some of the same equipment that local channels are already using and that's helping prepare them for what's really out there," Nanus said.

Nanus is actually the second UCF graduate to receive a television Emmy. Victor Santiago, a 1996 graduate, won an Emmy in 1997 for a news feature titled "How to Buy My First Car." The feature was aired within the Univision network program Control as part of a series designed to accustom new citizens to the United States lifestyle.

Santiago could not be reached for comment.

"Intern, intern, intern. A big benefit is going to school and not only at news stations, there is also channels such as Nickelodeon and The Golf Channel that can give you invaluable experience." Mike Meeke, Director of the Nicholson School of Communication, praised the work of Nanus and Santiago and the faculty of the Radio-Television Division.

"We're delighted that our graduates are achieving success in the television industry. Achievements such as these reflect well on our faculty who provide top-notch training for students entering television journalism," said Meeke.

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Club to study Southern Literature

ADAM SHIVER
STAFF WRITER

The English department is hosting a four-day event titled “The Society for the Study of Southern Literature.”

The affair will encompass many different events, one of which is a reading by the well-known author of On the Bus with Rosa Parks, Rita Dove. Otherspeakers such as Susan V. Donaldson and Patricia S. Yaeger will be participating in the conference as well, with readings by Ellen Douglas and Donald Harington.

There will be book signings, lectures and a reception. For more information contact the University English department at (407) 823-2361. Students are eligible to donate their younger brother. When he spends his life looking after his older brother, he returns home one day with a young bride, cash and gifts in hand to repay his debts to his sisters, they have no idea what to do. Toys in the Attic is a story of what sudden wealth can do for someone and the people around him.

The play opens April 6 and runs through April 16. Curtain time for opening night is 7:30 p.m. All other shows, Thursdays through Sundays, will begin promptly at 8:00 p.m., with matinees on Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Tickets range from $4.50 for students, up to $7.75. Students can obtain more information at the UCF box office by calling 823-1300.

UCF to host Shakespeare Festival

UCF will be hosting the Shakespeare Festival at the Walt Disney Amphitheater downtown at Lake Eola. A Comedy of Errors will be come to a close on May 6. Tickets range in price from $8 up to $35. Shows on Thursdays will begin promptly at 7 p.m. can do for fun. Fridays through Sunday will take place at 8 p.m.

Labour’s Lost will be showing as well from April 7-May 7, with preview showings on April 5 and 6. Tickets will range from $8 up on through $35 as well. Showings on Thursdays will begin promptly at 7 p.m., while shows Friday-Sunday will happen at 8 p.m.

Reserved seating for both shows are available. For more information, as well as to make reservations, contact the Festival box office at (407) 893-4600.

Career Fair to Take Place

The Career Resource Center will be hosting a job fair for all Education Majors. The event will take place April 11 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. The function will be held in the Education Building Gymnasium. The fair will attract school districts and private institutions from all over Florida and around the Nation. The Career Resource Center encourages all Education Majors to attend. For those interested in attending, you may contact Jill Ziegenfuss at 823-2161.

Give blood, receive T-shirt

The Central Florida Blood Bank is going to be holding a blood drive on April 12 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. in front of the Student Union. Students are encouraged to come out and donate, and will be given a free T-shirt for their participation. Students are eligible to donate every 56 days, or 8 weeks. Supplies are low and the blood bank can use all the help they can get. Students can contact Karline Grippinham with the Central Florida Blood Bank at 999-9485 for more information.

Reserve your Fall 2000 textbooks now and save 5% when you pick them up in August. Come (in person) to Knight’s Corner Bookstore with five dollars (sorry cash only) the week of April 10-21 along with your Fall class schedule.

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The Homecoming week of festivities, October 16-21, is planned and organized by the Campus Activities Board's Homecoming committee. This year the director of the committee is Alison Rhoads. As a sophomore, Rhoads is a Social Science Education major who already had experience with the Campus Activities Board upon applying and getting the director position. On March 20-21, Rhoads and a panel interviewed those who turned in applications for a position on the Homecoming 2000 Executive Board. The board was announced on March 22.

* Assistant Director: Emily Revell
* Carnival Director: Heather Stevens
* Judges & Awards Director: Kellie Lee
* Spirit Splash Director: Dawn Henry
* Parade Co-Directors: Lyndsy Lyons and Josh Mandell
* Public Relations Director: Beth Hawley

"I was looking for people who stood out as leaders. Each person on the board showed enthusiasm and determination. They are people who will get the job done and work hard to make Homecoming 2000 the best it can be," said Rhoads.

Positions are still open for the Spirit Knight Director and King/Queen Director. Applications will be available at the CAB/OSA Office, SU 215, on April 10 and are due back on April 19 at noon.

There were several board positions that Rhoads cut and merged under one director. Internal and External Public Relations, Graphics, and Marketing were combined and are under the responsibility of Public Relations Director Beth Hawley. The Philanthropy position was also cut, but Rhoads is looking into having Volunteer UCF help the committee with it.

"I cut some of the positions from the board for several reasons. One reason is to get things done more efficiently. A lot of responsibility is put under the Public Relations Director and her committee. With one person overseeing all that is going on with Public Relations, the jobs will get done. Another reason was to get more students involved in various aspects of Homecoming. The final reason was to have a smaller board. I feel that by being smaller we will have a more oriented team," said Rhoads.

The theme for Homecoming 2000 is KNIGHTMARE. There is a contest going on to design the official logo. The logo must somehow include the theme, Homecoming 2000 and the University of Central Florida. The design must be on a disk as a jpeg file. The logos will be judged based on adherence to the theme, creativity and overall appearance.

The Homecoming committee will be working hard to ensure that the week of festivities involves the entire UCF community. Their goal is to make sure that everyone has a great time in the spirit and traditions. The committee is working toward catering to the different tastes of the diverse UCF population.

If students are interested in helping with Homecoming 2000, contact the CAB/OSA Office at (407) 823-6471, or stop by the Student Union room 215.
Florida 6-year-old excelling at University of Rochester

SPECIAL TO THE FUTURE

OCALA (TMS) -- Justin Chapman is the only student at the University of Rochester who's on the verge of losing his baby teeth.

The 6-year-old is the youngest student ever to enroll in the university, where he's taking an ancient history class. Of course, that's just one of an awfully full load.

Justin is enrolled in 29 other classes offered through the Internet and Monroe Community College.

Despite all the schoolwork, his mom, Elizabeth Chapman, insists her son is in class less than the average first grader. Officially, Justin is a sophomore at Cambridge Academy, a private high school in Ocala, Fla., that offers correspondence courses. Rochester allowed Justin to enroll in a program admitting exceptional high-school students. School officials say they have no questions about his abilities.

Neither does Elizabeth Chapman, who said she first noticed her son's intelligence when he passed one of her college-level exams at the age of 2. She thought he was just filling in bubbles at random. She also said she has no idea where the kid got his smarts. "I don't remember him reading books on string theory," but he knows all about it, she said.

Aside from his young age, Justin is the typical student. He talks during class and doesn't study. His mom -- who insists on speaking for him -- says his biggest problems stem from often doing "more than what's expected for class."

She said she has to tear him away from his computer to make sure he gets plenty of exercise.

Find people like you.

Or nothing like you.
Thoughts on the lotto craze, lottery fever bites

JOSEPH MURDOCK
STAFF WRITER

Would money make your heart grow fonder or just make your wallet explode? The big news of last week was the $80 million prize for winning the Florida lottery. Would you let the lottery change your life? Well, you can say no all you want but it’s going to happen once your name hits all the news media.

Remember those times when you really looked to just get out and party and get the lump sum of some where around $36 million. I don’t know about you but that sure beat any job I have ever had.

Imagine not having to worry if you didn’t work another day in your life. Most people say they would keep their jobs even if they won the lottery. Why the heck would you?

You could do anything you wanted to after you win that kind of cash. Own your own business, sell painted sea shell by the seashore, or just lay back, and get a mode house cleaning service to do the dirty work.

Would you let the lottery change your life? Well, you can say no all you want but it’s going to happen once your name hits all the news media.

Remember those times when if someone want to rob you blind they would only get enough money to get a happy meal? Now your a prime target and moving to a different location would probably be the smartest thing to do.

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It was February 3, 2000 around lunchtime. I walk out into the main confer­rence/lunch room at the UCF Police Station and see about 20 police officers huddled around the television set. It seemed a bit odd to me, since the most we get in here for lunch at any given time is 7 or 8 people. I can sense a tense calm in all eyes, as if we are tuned in to the television set for a special report. I quiet­ly creep up to get a better view.

Chief Dennings of the Orlando Police Department is speaking to a room full of reporters about an early morning traffic stop. As he tells of the ordeal, which resulted in OPI’s first on-duty fatality since 1996, his voice begins to crack. He is visibly struggling to finish his speech. Officer George DeSalvia was dead and Officer Edward Diaz was seriously wounded.

All at once, I am overwhelmed. I look around the room. I see 30-year police vet­erans, as well as a 3-year veteran. As Chief Dennings speaks, one of our older officers just hangs his head, shakes it in disbelief, and slowly raises it again. They have lost one of their brothers, a member of their fraternity whose bonds are stronger than any Greek fraternity you would be able to find on any college campus. I look at one officer, a friend who is 4 years younger than myself, who will probably one day transfer to a more dangerous department than a campus Police Department, and suddenly get very sad. These friendships that I have formed while earning money to complete my college career, have suddenly changed. One day, perhaps 5 or 10 years, down the road, it is very possible that will pick up a newspaper and read that one of my friends has lost his life during a routine traffic stop because the suspect “lost his cool.”

As a student assistant at the UCF Police Department, I cannot tell you how many times friends have asked, “Can you get me out of this parking ticket?” or “Are they real police officers?” People think that I am strange, or that I should be afraid of policemen for some reason, but I tell them that police officers are normal people like you and me. They put up with a lot of nonsense from officers DeSalvia and Diaz, I can tell you that policemen are not normal people. They put their lives on the line every day of their life to make our lives safer. So the next time you feel like complaining because an officer pulls you over for running a stop sign or for driving 15 miles over the speed limit, you can take it some­where else. I don’t want to hear it.

-PATRICK A QUINLAN
STAFF WRITER
I began writing this article with the intended purpose of declaring enough is enough for regards to six year old Elian Gonzalez. And I am not the only one who felt this way. A CNN.com Quick Note showed that 85 percent of those who par­ticipated thought, “This tug-of­war has gone on too long. Let the people of America decide.” Granted, I am not the only one who feels this way. A CNN.com Quick Note showed that 85 percent of those who par­ticipated thought, “This tug-of­war has gone on too long. Let the people of America decide.”

What I found disturbed me. If 85 percent of those who par­ticipated thought, “Elian’s Miami rela­tives should do everything in their power to keep the boy from going back to Cuba,” as opposed to 15 percent who thought, “Elian’s Miami relatives should do everything in their power to keep the boy from going back to Cuba,” Granted, this pole is not scientific, but it should be noted that more than 39,000 votes were cast. So I decided to do a little research as to not sound completely foolish. What I found disturbed me.

Now try for a moment to imagine yourself as a six-year­old child living in an oppressive society, which you are only beginning to understand under the cover of darkness, which I can’t possibly begin to imagine, you find yourself in the middle of a 90-mile stretched of ocean. Of course, you don’t know how far 90 miles is, only that the ocean seems to reach out into blue infinity. Over the course of what must have been a horrendous journey, 10 of the passengers, including your mother and step­father, drown. Eventually you and two surviving adults are picked up by American authori­ties.

After suffering unimaginable trials and tribulations, Elian arrives in the Land of Opportunity. Suddenly he is in the midst of a legal battle in which people he has never met are deciding his fate. Furthermore, you have lost best friends take him to Disney Land and buy him nice new clothing. Next, cameras and intrusive reporters surround him. Great-uncles and numerous other relatives come out of the wood­work and demand that he be turned over to them. Then his father comes on to the scene and demands that he be sent back to Cuba. Hasn’t this child been tor­mented enough? I can’t begin to fathom what kind of psychologi­cal damage has been done to this poor kid. Not only is he being fought over relentlessly by the INS and family members, but he also must surely have devel­oped a rather warped view of America as a place of new toys and clothes and theme parks.

What is going to happen to Elian once his fate is decided? If he stays in America with his uncle, I foresee a major reality check. No more Disney World, no more fancy new toys. He has returned to Cuba he will most likely see a hero’s welcome, and again be showered with attention. What happens when the attention fades? This kid is six years old! All those involved are so con­sulted with “doing what is best for Elian” that it seems to me that no one is stopping to think about what effect their actions are having on his state of mind?

And is it not held in these United States that the locus of decision over a child belongs to the parents? Do we not have a division between minors and adults, where the adult makes those decisions for the minor that they cannot make for them­selves? Obviously his mother wanted him to come to America, but she is no longer here to voice her wishes. Although I do not know if sending him back to Cuba is the morally correct deci­sion, I do think that decision now lies in the hands of the father. If he even say this knowing that he may very well have been coerced into voicing that particular opin­ion. Castro has certainly been ral­lying immense support for him­self because of the Elian situa­tion. He has even threatened an armed rescue mission. Although this sounds absurd and American’s tend to brush off such threats, let us not forget that he is a dictator and demagogue and once led a successful coup in his own country. Most recently, Castro, during a five-hour speech, said that he would allow his father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, to come to America in order to take care of Elian during the on-going legal process. Not just his father though. The party would include his father’s wife and son, Elian’s schoolteacher, twelve fellow stu­dents, and a team of experts and psychologists. Oh come on.

Adding fuel to the fire are the Cuban residents of Miami. Some ten thousand demonstra­tors formed the shape of a cross in father’s protest. Demonstrators also vowed to form a human circle around the house where Elian is staying, so that the INS would not be able to retrieve him. Not now, but they are in the midst of a legal battle. What is the interest of the child of Cuba, and the multitude of ci­zens ready to blockade houses and provide any rulings by the court. This situation is getting out of hand. The next few days should, prove interesting.

It seems to me Elian Gonzalez has been fundamental­ly shaped by the events since November; serious psychological damage has been done. In fact, in an interview with Diane Sawyer, Elian said that he believed his mother to still be alive and wan­ted to go home to where else. I don’t want to hear it.

What this poor child needs now is stability. And as much as it pains me to say so, international law and our own social laws would seem to dictate that he be sent back to Cuba, and back to his father.
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**OPINION**

**Too many free speeches for one student**

Jennifer Mazzoli  
STAFF WRITER

Ducks! Run the other way! Watch out! No, I am not talking about a war battle scene; I am talking about what I have to do to get around campus sometimes. No, the campus is not filled with violence of any kind, just a large number of people that bombard me with flyers, stickers, posters, loud music, Bibles, free “giveaways” and their thoughts of me going to hell, each and every day.

Now don’t get me wrong, I am all for the First Amendment and the freedom of speech. But I am sick and tired of walking to a class or to my car and having people stick innumerable flyers in my face advertising some club that has free beer on Tuesday nights for ladies. If I am interested, I will go to the club myself. The obnoxious colored flyers don’t really grab my attention. Sorry guys. I am tired of walking down the sidewalk, and at least 5 people within a distance of 10 feet asking me if I have voted, and sticking me with colorful stickers. Personally, if I want to vote, I will. Plastering me with stickers is not going to encourage me to vote. I walked by the Union this past week and had to cover my ears. The unceasing loud music did not coax me into seeing what the particular group was advertising at any given time.

The free speech circles around the Math and Physics Building are there for people who want to speak. If a person willingly joins the circle, then they have every right to speak their mind to each other and the “leader” of the group. I do, however, have the right to get upset when I am just passing by, and someone in the group yells to me that I am “going to hell” because I am wearing jeans and a t-shirt. Now, if I have joined the circle to begin with, then they have every right to voice their opinions to me. But I am an innocent bystander in the whole thing. So, please leave me alone.

Now I know that some people out there are going to be upset with my argument. You’re probably thinking, “We all have the right to free speech, we can say and do and hand out anything that we want.” Well, I totally agree. But it comes to a point where it is annoying and no matter how many flyers you stick to my car, or how many stickers you stick to me, I’m not going to “Vote for this ticket,” or “Come out to this club.” How about if I am interested, I will come to you?
‘Romeo’ rap-Kung-fu misses mark

JENN KIRKLAND
JMS CAMPUS

“Romeo Must Die,” but he doesn’t. Hey, we’re not giving it away—of course Jet Li will live throughout the whole movie.

Obviously from the title, this marriage of the rap and Kung-Fu worlds is oddly enough a playoff of the Shakespearean classic.

We haven’t seen the likes of this since we unfortunately reviewed “Ten Things I Hate About You,” which was based on “The Taming of the Shrew.”

Although rap is no stranger to the Asian influence, from Fu-Schnickens to Wu-Tang Clan, Kung-Fu has been cutting up the charts for years.

Set in Oakland, this bay area tale of two houses, both distinguished and undistinguished in their own way, is the story of the race for real estate and the greed that corrupts both families to the point of death and dishonor.

On the exterior, both families seem to be in control of their members’ lives, both personal and professional.

Enter Aaliyah and Jet Li, who basically have character names that don’t represent their screen performances as well as their real names.

This sad excuse for Romeo and Juliet is brought together by the death of their siblings in order to solve their family squabbles and “save the bay.”

Sounds like Hardy Boys or Nancy Drew, with a dash of Shaolin.

We’re still unsure of whether or not a relationship was to develop between the two because, on screen, they look like they are merely friends. Even in a provocative Aaliyah dance scene, Jet Li looked like a statue on the dance floor.

The male stars

Anthony Anderson plays the babysitting thug in Aaliyah’s family.

He provides the goofy gags like getting car after car stolen from under his nose and cushioning Jet Li’s fall out a window.

How ‘bout no?

The two families are run like dysfunctional versions of earlier crime families in better movies, always lamenting their mistakes and vowing revenge time and time again.

Rapper DMX plays his own game as the underground casino owner who is unwilling to sell his “beach-front” property to the two feuding families.

Richard Dawson, go back to your podium!

Are we seeing “the best performance comes from a non-actor” —DMX? But seriously, although he sounds like an NRA commercial, claiming that guns don’t kill people, he does. Dark Man X puts in a surprisingly promising performance, which now has producer Joel Silver assuring him more screen work in the future.

The parade of a seemingly endless budget includes such rap song staples as hot cars, hot women and hot clothes, giving the film an extra gloss. Like this movie needed it with this kind of name-dropping in the trailers.

Are they kidding us? Jet Li is no Jackie Chan. And no one is Bruce Lee!

Anchored by one of its very few redeeming qualities, “Romeo” boasts a soundtrack with DMX and Aaliyah, of course, and Timbaland, producing parts of it, it continues with the quality work that each of these three artists have exhibited previously.

Plus the songs are good.
Weak script ‘High’ on list of problems

MARK REYNOLDS
UCF CAMPUS

Once upon a time, I thought I knew a lot about music. I had a large collection of CDs arranged neurotically into subcategories and I would go into small seizures fits whenever a friend or relative moved one out of place. I would sit around thinking about the world’s greatest band combinations (what if John Coltrane had been in a band with Marvin Gaye?).

I was nothing compared with Rob Gordon (John Cusack) and his friends in “High Fidelity.”

Rob is the owner of a small record store - LPs, that is, and not CDs. He and his two buddies, Barry (Jack Black) and Dick (Todd Louiso) pass the time in the sleepy store by one-upping each other on remote musical and pop cultural knowledge. They put together “top five lists” of their favorite albums and songs.

Rob sees his life in terms of such lists. What are the top five jobs he would most like to have, what are the top five things he likes most about certain albums, songs, etc. His life does not seem too bad at age 30, no less).

As the film opens, we see him breaking up with his most recent girlfriend, Laura (Iben Hjejle). His life seems to have been spent on the mundane things such as character development - few to no characters actually grow in this film - and mundanity.

Rob’s so-called mid-life crisis is thrust upon us with little explanation beside his relationship demons and the film drags on for a long time with virtually nothing happening, other than lengthy record store banter sessions and several tepid, anointed moments between Rob and Laura as she moves out of his apartment over a period of several days (here’s a hint: Rent a U-Haul, pack up and move out already!).

This loss brings up a slew of memories of his top five worst breakups, which he explains to the audience through the fourth wall of the movie screen. He figures that if he can find out exactly what went wrong in each of these splits he can exercise his relationship demons and get out of his mini-mid-life crisis.

Of his top five worst breakups, number three is Charlie (Catherine Zeta-Jones), an airy model-type, and number four, Sarah (Lili Taylor), a woman he got out of convenience. But the one he really wants back is Laura.

The problem at this point is that the film drags on for a long time with virtually nothing happening, other than lengthy record store banter sessions and several tepid, anointed moments between Rob and Laura as she moves out of his apartment over a period of several days (here’s a hint: Rent a U-Haul, pack up and move out already!).

Rob’s co-written mid-life crisis is thrust upon us with little explanation aside from woman trouble.

His life does not seem too bad and he does not appear too unhappy. Maybe more than a crisis, Rob is actually just going through growing pains - coming of age (at age 30, no less).

These character and story problems are not necessarily the fault of the acting. Cusack is as good as he ever is - very frank, smart and sarcastic. Black jumps around wildly spitting out tongue-in-cheek remarks that come across believably and amusingly.

What is at fault here is the screenplay (which, along with Scott Rosenberg, Cusack co-wrote with D.V. DeVincentis and Steve Pink, his co-writers on “Grosse Pointe Blank”).

Most of the writers’ energy seems to have been spent on the extensive, and well-researched, music trivia sections. It appears they took less time working on mundane things such as character development - few to no characters actually grow in this film - and a plot outline.

The rather simple (over-used) story feels at least 30 minutes too long. This is especially noticeable when, late in the film, new plot branches are added that seem to only multiply the number of scenes in which we hear more pointless talking.

“High Fidelity” feels like it would work and sound better on stage - the same way John Guare’s endless babble in “Six Degrees of Separation” works better on stage than on film.

There’s just not much especially cinematic about the film. After awhile, all the dialogue gets tiresome and I long for a pretty shot or two in front of which to relax and rest my ears.

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The Comedy of Errors' not to be missed

LISA APPLEGATE
STAFF WRITER

A surprising number of students have never heard of The Orlando-UCF Shakespeare Festival, a local theatre group. This was apparent by the abundant number of empty seats at last Thursday night's preview show of their new play. "The Comedy of Errors" not to be missed by anyone, whether you love or hate Shakespearean language, you can't tell which is her husband and a merchant accuses the wrong man of owing him money.

Shakespeare's plays are usually only read or seen because of school-related activities for most people. Some of us find them difficult to understand and occasionally even dull or drab. "The Comedy of Errors" was none of those things. Had it been performed by a less talented cast, it may not have been as entertaining, but these actors were truly great. They interpreted the story for their audience with many energetic pantomimes that made the youngest or most clueless playgoer chuckle at the late author's humor. Members of the audience were even included during a couple of parts to illustrate the jokes of a scene. All in all it was a show not to be missed by anyone, whether you love or hate Shakespearean language, because this is no ordinary troupe of actors.

This play is the start of their spring 2000 season, and it opened on Friday, March 31. The two preview shows on Wednesday and Thursday prior to its opening were only $7 to see, which would have been a good time for those of us with little money to spare to see the show.

There is still time though since it is being performed until May 6 and students with a valid school I.D. receive a 50% discount.

The Shakespeare Festival's second spring show "Love's Labour's Lost" previews this week on Wednesday and Thursday evening and will run on the days opposite "The Comedy of Errors." Both shows cost between $7 and $15 to attend depending on the section you sit in and what day you go to see the play.

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NEWS OF THE WERD

Lead Stories

- Highway Patrol officers in Sparta, S.D. arrested a 14-year-old boy on Feb. 16. They charged him with stealing a car in his hometown of Madison, S.D. According to police records in the Madison Daily Leader, the troopers were merely finishing a meal at a Friday's Restaurant when the boy, in an adjacent booth, suddenly approached them, spread-eagled himself on the floor, and said, "Please don't shoot me," and "The car is in the parking lot."

- In February, Union City, N.J., prosecutors began looking into the dental practice of Kevin P. Ward, 42, after a 5-year-old boy emerged from a routine office visit with a broken leg. The boy told his mother that Dr. Ward had reacted after the boy kicked him because of pain. Also, in January, Dr. Ward was sued by the parents of an 8-year-old girl who suffered a broken wrist while having a tooth pulled in 1996.

Latest Adventures in Democracy

Ernest Alverio, 74, told reporters in Valparaiso, Chile, in December he would never again try to vote after being ruled ineligible for the third time in 10 years because records indicated he was dead. And Islam Karimov was re-elected president of Uzbekistan by being faithful stewards of Chick-fil-A offers excellent benefits and opportunities to the right people.

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- Lee Ming-chi, 31, was sentenced on Feb. 5 to seven years in prison for violating probation on a marijuana sales charge; Quim has no arms, no legs, a partial left leg, and is almost totally dependent on others for care. Also in February, a federal judge in Atlanta sentenced quadriplegic Louis E. Covar Jr., 51, to seven years in prison for violating the probation he had received on a charge of possessing marijuana. (It is estimated to cost about five times as much to house them as to house able-bodied prisoners.)

Recurring Themes

- More Evidence that Cigarettes Are Bad for You: In Cleveland, Charlene Smiley, 44, was charged in February with fatally stabbing a 45-year-old woman in a dispute over smoking in Smiley's boyfriend's house. And Michael Raines, 20, was charged with fatally shooting a 45-year-old man in Benton, Tenn., in October because the man would not return the cigarette lighter Raines had loaned him.

Least Competent Criminals

- February Negative-Cash-Flow Robberies: In Albuquerque, an unidentified man asked for change of a $10 bill to get the Keva Juice shop owner to open the register, the man grappled with the checker, the locked the register instead, and the man fell, leaving his $10 behind. The same thing happened at Larry's Quick Stop, Spokane, Wash., on February 1. The man was charged only for change of a quarter, which he also left behind when the clerk told a phone caller he was being robbed.

(Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 18717, Tampa, Fla. 33697, or go to www.NewsoftHeird.com)
Dear Nancy,

I think my boyfriend is using me. The other night I went over to his house and after we had sex he said he was going to go to sleep. I was under the impression that I was spending the night until he said he wanted to sleep alone. I was really hurt and when I left all he said was see you later like nothing had happened. The next day when I called him his answering machine had a message on it to his ex girlfriend saying how he's going to meet her in Tampa, he never mentioned this to me! What should I say to him?

-Feeling used

Dear Feeling,

I hate to break it to you honey, but you're as used as a pair of dirty underwear. And it's no secret, that boy is screaming it out to you loud and clear. If someone yelled "Fire!" would you stop and think about it? Would you wonder if there really was a fire, or would you run for your life? If you have any brains whatsoever you'd just run and that's what you need to do now.

When you're on the floor you can't complain when people walk on you-and this boy stepped in crap and got it all over the house. Then you called him back for more! You're going to be wiping crap off your back for the rest of your life. Respect, find out what it means, write it down, take a picture, memorize it, fantasize about it and most of all EXPECT it.

Dear Nancy,

I live with my girlfriend whom I really love and care about. But the thing is—lately I've been seeing a different side of her. She burps out loud and goes to the bathroom without even closing the door. She even picks her nose in front of me!

It's great that she's comfortable and everything but I'm getting really turned off by all of it. What should I do?

-Mr. Manners

Dear Mr.,

You mean you're not dying to kiss her after she just burped her last meal? You should be proud. I bet she'd win first place in a who can flick their boogers the furthest contest. You could make some extra money.

Gross. Now I'm turned off. Anyway, you don't have to say a thing—just give her this article for some reading material while she's meditating on the toilet, then close the door behind you.

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Stereophonics hits Orlando on tour

Patty Canedo
STAFF WRITER

Following in the tradition of The Beatles, U2, and Oasis, UK band Stereophonics have spread their hard rock sound all around the world and have set their next sites on the U.S.

The growing popularity of Kelly Jones, lead vocalist and guitarist, Richard Jones, bassist, and Stuart Cable, drummer, began in Cwmaman, South Wales.

The group got together to listen to bands like The Kinks, Led Zeppelin, AC/DC and Creedence Clearwater Revival in a village environment.

They started out playing first covers and eventually began performing their own, original songs.

In the summer of '96 V2 records signed Stereophonics and together they produced a couple of singles, "A Thousand Trees" and "Local Boy In The Photograph". A year after signing with V2, the band's debut album Word Gets Around was released and hit number 6 on the UK charts.

The success of Word Gets Around, performances with the Manic Street Preachers, Supergrass, and The Who, and an unforgettable concert at Cardiff Castle, which had not been used for a rock concert since the Rolling Stones played there 20 years earlier, proved to UK and Continental audiences that Stereophonics is a group of great performers.

Upon returning from a sold out tour of Japan, New Zealand and Australia the band began '98 by winning several awards, such as a Brit Award, a Melody Maker Award, and Kerrang Award for Best New Band.

In September of '99 Stereophonics released their second album, Performance and Cocktails. The album is a reflection of the group's new, found world understanding and maturity that came along with touring.

Stereophonics pride themselves on having a unique sound for each of their songs; this method is heavily demonstrated on the CD Performance and Cocktails.

For example, the song "Roll Up And Shine" has more of a hard rock sound to it with heavy guitar and intense lyrics when compared to the track "Harry Up And Wait" which has a slower paced sound and softer lyrics, it is in these and other songs that make you wonder if your still listening to the same band.

It is this uniqueness and outstanding musical ability that makes Performance and Cocktails such a fantastic album.

Orlando will have an opportunity to experience Stereophonics' music when they appear at the Hard Rock Live with The Charlatans UK on April 12 as part of a tour that will be stopping all over the country.

For more information on Stereophonics visit their website at www.v2music.com.
April 5, 2000

It is truly 'Ncredible that 'N Sync manages to attract the 'N trest of millions. If the little teeny-bopper 'N fidels had any sense, they'd ignore 'N Sync altogether and be die-hard Backstreet Boys fans.

The fact is, the Backstreet Boys make 'N Sync look like walking scrambled eggs when it comes to appearance. The lasagna-haired Justin Timberlake and Chris Kirkpatrick are reason enough not to buy the latest 'N Sync album, "No Strings Attached." But then again, nobody really needs a reason to pass up the fabricated fanfare.

What is necessary, however, are reasons to buy the album. Sadly, there is no such beast. But let's not cry over spilled sell-out juice.

Instead, let us explore all of the reasons to avoid 'N Sync and its chocolate-covered musical pop tarts. For starters, there's 'Space Cowboy,' an abominably futuristic ditty pitting gap-toothed wonder-boy JC Chasez against a faux funk synthesizer. The winner? Anyone who didn't buy "No Strings Attached." Chasez files out of the gate with expected lyrical nonsense: "Everybody's talkin' 'bout Jerusalem. Hidden religious propaganda you say? Doubtful. 'N Sync posesses neither the skill nor creative freedom to write songs about anything other than getting down and losing love - presumably, the getting down went too far, leading to temporary love that was lost once the tour bus headed to the next city.

"Digital Get Down" is Y2K compliant, presenting the must-have topic of Internet chatting. The trivialities continue to pour out: "You may be 20,000 miles away but I can see ya' and baby, baby you can see me." Excuse me, 'N Sync, but not everybody has a digital videocamera and a high-speed Internet connection. We'll stick to Instant Messenger, thank you very much.

The vocals of "Digital" are toyed with electronically, reminiscent of Cher's "Believe." It is ironic how a group can mock itself by using the least advanced elements of electronic advancement.

A change-up from the pseudo-block-rockin' banter is the Richard Marx written and arranged "This I Promise You." Yes, this is the same Richard Marx whose smash hit, "I Will Be Right Here Waiting For You," climbed the charts and placed Marx among the one-hit wonder millionaires. If only 'N Sync were one-hit wonders too.

A boy band guitar line is prominent throughout (recommended if you're into that kind of thing). In a musical moment, listeners can actually hear Marx's smoldering vocals, which lack dynamic shifts of any kind - remaining static with respect to volume, yielding a repetitively arena-ready texture.

The only relative bright spot is "Don't Say Bye Bye," the first single from "Strings." A string arrangement lasts for nine seconds at the beginning of the disc, just long enough to give listeners a reason to finally use the intro function on their CD players. Shortly thereafter, 'N Sync is fully immersed in another watered down "Teenin' Up My Heart" (the best boy band song in the history of boy bands), which makes use of echoing bye byes and computerized bleeps.

'N deed, the boys of 'N Sync are not to blame for their sacrilegious acts of "music." They are a commercial construct, one of which most ambulance-men would kill to be a part. So instead of complaining about how horrible they are, revel in the fact that so far the album has only resulted in one video, and that you're not the one who sat through "Strings" three times to write this review.

On the heels of the successes of Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera and ManuMo Moore, the team of 15-year-old Marit Larsen and Marion Raven seen destined for smash success. They've already had a taste of it, with "Don't Say You Love Me," their first American single, from the soundtrack to the ominously named "Pokémon: The First Movie." It is sort of disturbing that "Don't Say You Love Me," a sexually-tinged song about resisting the advances of a boy who is "moving too fast" - was included on the soundtrack to a movie aimed squarely at an 8-year-old audience. Beyond that, though, 'N Sync comes across as a musically wholesome, sweet girl group, singing harmless poppy passas to idealistic teen love and cute boys.

The adorable "Girl In Your Dreams" - penned by Marion when she was just 13 - deals with teen insecurity and having a crush. "Maybe I don't have the blonde hair you like/ or maybe I don't have eyes like the sky/ and I'm not sure if I'm the girl in your dreams/ but I can show you what love means," sings the girls over an R&B-flavored backing of synthesized drums and gentle piano.

The album's production is predictably immaculate and uninspective, mostly featuring softly strummed acousticities and danceable drums, building to more instrumentation during the choruses. The melodies are sweet and forgettable, the music pretty but disposable. It sounds like an unapproachable pop smash, sure to be bought by millions of young teen girls.

In a tempestuation market filled with uncomfortably mature teen girl exhorting listeners to "hit me baby one more time" or "rub me the right way," 'N Sync's chaste, good-girl-pop is a welcome addition, a nice and safe album for teens and pre-teens.
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Pope's improvement pays big dividends

TRAVIS BELL
STAFF WRITER

Justin Pope took the mound on May 20, 1999 as a freshman against the 13th-ranked Florida Atlantic Owls with the fate of the UCF season in his hands. UCF faced elimination in that TAAC Tournament matchup with FAU, but Pope responded in a big way. He threw 131 pitches and held the Owls to three runs in 6 2/3 innings en route to a 7-4 victory that extended UCF's season one more game before being eliminated by Jacksonville. Pope says that game helped jumpstart him.

"I just wanted to go in there and give our team a chance to win, and we won," Pope said. "That gave me a lot of confidence." That confidence has showed up dramatically this year. On a team that is full of senior leadership, it has been the sophomore who has stepped up as the leader on the field.

He has supplanted seniors David Rankin, who was the top starter last year, and Casey Kennedy, who was the number one guy during the first five series, because he has dominated opposing hitters with ease. But he has never viewed starting the first game of a series as being the No. 1 guy. Pope just says it take a different mindset to start the first game.

"In the first game you have to be a little more prepared and a little more focused because you're going against their number one," Pope said. "Every game I'm a lot more focused and a lot more prepared."

But with three quality starters, there is less pressure on each of them. Coach Jay Bergman says that pitchers feed off each other's good fortune, which is why he thinks this year has been so successful.

"All good pitching staffs do that where everybody feeds off each other. That's what makes them good," Bergman said.

And it has made Pope even better. He is currently 7-1 after shutting down Jacksonville last Friday. His 3.36 ERA leads the team,
Confidence, work ethic fuels Pope's resurgence

and he has struck out 66 batters in only 61 2/3 innings and holds better than a 4- to 1 strikeout-to-walk ratio.

Rankin and Pope played together this summer for the Staunton Braves in the Valley League in Virginia. While Pope went 5-2 with a 2.90 ERA this summer, Rankin says Pope learned how to dominate a game.

"His work ethic is just phenomenal," Rankin said. "Every time he steps on the field, whether it's practice or a game, he is always working to better himself. It's that aggressiveness and competitiveness that have made him so dominate this year."

And all this followed a 7-5 season with a boom-and-bust ratio. He has learned how to walk a batter.

"I think about it every day, and I can't wait," Pope said. "Every game I have a different perspective."

The confidence to know that he can win has been instilled in him by pitching coach Craig Cozart, who won 24 games while pitching for FAU from 1993-96. They both have a similar approach on the mound - they want to attack every hitter and leave nothing on the field.

"He's such a competitor and he's such a bulldog," Bergman said.

And while that bulldog is leading FAU to what it hopes is its first TAAC championship in three years, he has his sights set on pitching in a College World Series game.

"His physical stuff is better, but his mental stuff has really climbed the ladder," Bergman said. "That's where a pitcher goes to the next level. He is a tireless worker in practice to try and better himself every day. That work ethic has proved to work so far since he is dominating the competition this year."

But while he has continued to improve physically, Bergman says that it takes more than just physical prowess to be a good pitcher.

"His physical stuff is better, but his mental stuff has really climbed the ladder," Bergman said.

And while that bulldog is leading FAU to what it hopes is its first TAAC championship in three years, he has his sights set on pitching in a NCAA Regional and hopefully a College World Series game.

Much like last year, the balance of the season could come down to being on the mound and how he handles it.

"I think about it every day, and I can't wait," Pope said.

UCF supporters can't wait to have Pope on the mound because they saw what he did to FAU last year. So with another year's success under his belt this time it could be an even bigger stage where Pope is sure to succeed.
Juniar Matt Bowser has been swinging a hot bat at late, helping the heart of UCF's lineup remain productive through the start of the conference schedule.

Travis Bell
SPORTS WRITER

Several UCF mistakes nearly proves costly but the Golden Knights rallied late to save a 9-8 victory against South Florida on Mar. 28. Matt Bowser and Greg Good each provided RBI singles during the seventh inning to drive in the tying and winning runs. Bowser, who struck out in his first at-bats, responded with two hits and three RBIs, including a two-run home run in the fifth inning.

"These USF-UCF games are wild games," Bowser said. "You never know that's going to happen. You still have it in your mind that these guys are capable of coming back."

The Golden Knights, which will also play the Bulls for the first three Tuesdays of April, looked to be cruising along following Bowser's home run with a 7-1 lead. However, the bullpen and the defense nearly blew it.

Jesse Marlo made his first start for UCF and was in control during the first five innings, allowing three hits and one run. But three hits, including a two-run triple by Chris Cuccia, in the sixth, knocked him out of the game.

Zach Sutton came in relief and allowed two runs in the sixth to cut UCF's lead to 7-5. Following Sutton's struggles in the seventh, Coach Jay Bergman was forced to use starter Justin Pope in relief for the second time this year. Pope threw two wild pitches that allowed the tying and leading runs to score for an 8-7 USF lead, but it was erased with UCF's rally in the bottom of the inning. Neither team scored in the eighth.

Jason Arnold, who pitched the ninth inning for his fourth save, says these kinds of games are never unexpected.

"I wish I could say that (throwing a six-run lead) isn't something that you would never expect," Arnold said. "They (USF) are never out of it, especially against us because it's a big rivalry."

UCF improved to 36-33 all-time against USF and has won five of the last six games. The next two meetings will be in Tampa, with the Apr. 11 contest to be televised on Sports Channel Florida. The teams conclude the series in Orlando on Apr. 18.

## Student Government Senate Accomplishments

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Total Senate Working Fund: $15,196.00

C & O - Office Supplies

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Total C & O - Office Supplies: $2,652.53

## Golden Knight Leaders

| Batting average | Mark Batia | .316 |
| HITS | 45 |
| ST ❞ | 77 |
| RBI | 10 |
| HOME RUNS | 7 |
| TOTAL BASES | 35 |
| AVG | .316 |
| BA | .316 |
| OBP | .394 |
| SLG | .450 |
| RBIs | 10 |
| WINS | 3 |
UCF women's golf wins Florida Collegiate

Special To The Future

A sudden death playoff victory at Don Shula's Golf Resort in Miami Lakes gave UCF's Monica Gundersrud first-place individual honors, while her teammates contributed to a 310 in the final round to win the Ryder Florida Women's Collegiate 21 strokes ahead of second-place Florida.

Gundersrud, currently 80th in the College Golf Foundation rankings, led the tournament from round one, shooting the best 18 holes of the tournament in 71 strokes. A 77 in the second followed by a 76 in the final round allowed Florida's Paula Marti (79-71-74) to catch Gundersrud. Gundersrud captured her first tournament title after defeating Marti on the second hole of a sudden death playoff.

Golden Knight senior and the tournament's defending champion, Line Berg, finished one stroke behind Gundersrud and Marti at 225 (74-75-76) to take third-place honors, her highest finish of the season. No. 39 UCF will compete against nine teams at the TAAC Championship from April 10-12 in Macon, Ga.

UCF's event was Apr. 15-16 in Oakridge, Tenn. Members of the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association, which includes schools such as UNC, Clemson, Tennessee, J.U. and Texas, will be competing in the regatta.

"If we row to our ultimate capacity, we could medal," Kamrad said. "These are crews that we are within four or five seconds of every day. On our best day, we could be two-three seconds ahead; on our worst day we could be behind two-three seconds... It just depends on which of us shows up."

Women's crew samples taste of nation's best

Margaret Capps

UCF women's crew had a battle on its hands during a Big Ten/ACC scrimmage last Saturday in Raleigh, NC.

The other four teams that competed in the race were all ranked among the top 22 teams in the NCAA preseason polls including, Michigan, Virginia, Ohio State and North Carolina (both UVA and UM are in the top 10 preseason polls for crew).

Coach Dennis Kamrad took the team to the scrimmage so they could scope the steep competition outside of the TAAC conference.

"It was an excellent experience in that our students were able to see exceptional technical skills and fitness levels of top crews in the country," Kamrad said.

The Varsity 8, which is the top woman's boat, placed fifth at 6:58.9 to Virginia's 6:31.1 in the morning round of events. In the afternoon round, the top varsity eight placed fifth with a time of 7:03.88 to Michigan's 6:29.6.

The freshman/novice 8 had a successful race during the morning round. They placed third with a time of 7:02.10 and beat both OSU and UNC. The top finisher during the event was UVA with a time of 6:46.28.

The women's Second 8 put up a fight during both races against the teams in their event but fell 15 seconds short of beating any of the other crews.

At the race, Kamrad said the team learned what they need to work on in order to have a successful finish to their season.

"We rowed extremely well. Our early speed was very evident, but against bigger crews, we could scope the steep size," he said. "Also, we realize we have a disadvantage because of our lack of size."

Kamrad is excited about Southern Inter Collegiate Rowing Championship which is on Apr. 15-16 in Oakridge, TN. Members of the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association, which includes schools such as UNC, Clemson, Tennessee, J.U. and Texas, will be competing in the regatta.

"If we row to our ultimate capacity, we could medal," Kamrad said. "These are crews that we are within four or five seconds of every day. On our best day, we could be two-three seconds ahead; on our worst day we could be behind two-three seconds... It just depends on which of us shows up."

Monica Gundersrud won the Florida Collegiate women's golf tournament, edging the University of Florida's Paula Marti in a playoff held to lead the Golden Knights to the all-around tournament title.

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APPLICATIONS:
NCAA May Delay Ban On Summer Recruiting

**NEWS AROUND THE NCAA**

INDIANAPOLIS -- The controversial effort of the NCAA to eliminate summer basketball recruiting may be delayed for a year while the association leadership attempts to build what it defines as a new culture around the sport.

NCAA Executive Director Cedric Dempsey said at a news conference that he would support a legislative proposal to eliminate the summer as a time for coaches to evaluate prospective recruits. But Dempsey would prefer to have the implementation delayed to allow the association and its membership to "spend a year trying to rebuild a culture that is more beneficial to prospective student-athletes."

The proposal to eliminate the summer evaluation period—and diminish the influence of basketball camps and outside competition—is part of a package to be considered next month at a meeting of the NCAA's management council.

A version of the legislation produced by a Division I working group to study basketball issues calls for a reduction of the July evaluation period from 24 to 14 days, to be applied during the period from July 8 through July 31. Dempsey has supported a stronger version, put forward by the Big Ten and Southeastern conferences, that would eliminate the entire summer evaluation period and increase the evaluation period during the academic year from 40 to 70 days.

Dempsey, who met Thursday with representatives of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, acknowledged there is resistance to the proposal. Smaller colleges with limited recruiting budgets have found the camps useful because they can provide access, often within driving distance, to dozens of potential recruits that might otherwise remain overlooked.

Dempsey, without making specific references, stressed the potentially damaging influence of coaches in summer programs.

"I would like to see people who have the interest of student-athletes at heart doing the advising," Dempsey said. "And that we try to help to prepare young people to be productive citizens and in doing that, that they don't latch on all of their hopes for contributions to society on what is a very small avenue of success, and that is basketball."

He said the proposed legislation was not expected to affect the ability of universities to conduct their own camps, which often serve as a source of revenue for coaches and their assistants. "How we work through that will need a lot of discussion," Dempsey said.

Dempsey said he has begun to seek solutions in consultation with the National Association of Basketball Coaches and shoe companies, some of whom conduct high-profile summer camps.

"Part of the problem we have now is that we made these silly windows, these silly restrictions, that created these street agents born?" Thompson said. "You took the only thing you can regulate out of it—coaches."

"How were these street agents born?" Thompson said. "They were born out of the restrictiveness [the NCAA] put on coaches."

Many students, professors to study Hoops 101

**NEWS AROUND THE NCAA**

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Professors teaching Monday evening's and Tuesday's morning classes could be teaching to a lot more empty seats than usual because of Michigan State University's chance of winning the NCAA Championship Monday night.

To deal with intense student interest in the late-night, history-making game, some professors may well join their students at some place other than class, although MSU officials don't plan to cancel classes.

"It's putting the cart before the horse to make plans before the game," said Sue Nichols of MSU Media Communications. "I have heard no discussion of classes being canceled. But we're probably going to have to wait until (today) on that one."

History Professor Roger Rosenzweig said the game is important either way — win or lose — and all students who want to watch "history in the making" should be able to.

Of the 125 students polled in his Monday night Civil War class, Rosenzweig said only four students said they would be in class the night of the championship game.

"I decided for the first time in my tenure to cancel class," Rosenzweig said. "Well, we're not really canceling, just postponing because the students won't be missing anything.

"People will remember the championship game 20 years from now, not what they learn in my class Monday night."
Women's Tennis

The Golden Knights have been downright merciless when it comes to dealing with conference foes. UCF has not allowed four TAAC foes to win a game against them in match play victories.

Knights sweep through another TAAC opponent

FROM PAGE 36
Gaelle Gouttefarde and Daniela Okal posted victories as well. The Gamecocks became the fourth TAAC opponent this season to fail to win a game against the Golden Knights.

“We are playing more aggressive now than we did in the beginning of the season and it pays off,” said Allison.

With the win UCF improves to 16-3 on the season and 7-0 in TAAC play. The Golden Knights, winners of 10 straight matches, return to action April 7, when they travel south to take on No. 40 University of Miami at the Neil Schiff Tennis Center.

well, well, well,
looks like history majors might get a job after all.

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Men's tennis breaks through against Brown, falls to 'Canes

DAVID WINBERG
staff writer

After losing four straight matches against nationally ranked opponents, including tough 4-3 decisions to Florida State and New Mexico State, the University of Central Florida's men's tennis team upset Brown, No. 68 in the latest WingspanBank.com rankings, at the UCF Tennis Complex.

"We needed this win," said first-year head coach Bobby Cashman. "We have been working hard and we deserve it."

The Golden Knights started out the day taking the doubles point behind victories from juniors Federico Camacho and William Guerin at the No. 1 position and the senior and freshman combination of Fernando Martinez and Augusto Sanabria in the No. 3 slot. With the win Camacho and Guerin improved to 13-3 on the dual match season.

In singles play Johan Westin, a native of Eskilstuna, Sweden, gave UCF a 2-0 advantage after crushing J. R. Argo 6-0, 6-0 at No. 5. The Bears rallied with three wins behind No. 85 Justin Natale at No. 1, Nick Malone at No. 5 and freshman combination of Fernando Martinez and William Guerin at the No. 6 position. The Golden Knights improved to 13-3 on the dual match season.

Central Florida's men's tennis team upset Brown, No. 68 in the latest WingspanBank.com rankings, at the Neil Schiff Tennis Center for its second match of the week. The Hurricanes posted an early lead by sweeping the doubles matches for the doubles point.

In singles play Miami continued to roll grabbing three quick victories behind Peter Hoffman at the No. 2 position, Michael Lang in the No. 4 slot and Joel Berman at No. 6. The Hurricanes would march on to a 7-0 win, handing UCF its worst loss of the season.

UCF's William Guerin was the only Golden Knight who won a set, losing to Johan Lindqvist 6-4, 6-7 and 6-4 at No. 3. "Today, we came out a little bit flat and we can't afford that to a team of Miami's caliber," said Cashman.

With the loss UCF drops to 10-11 on the season and 4-2 in Trans America Athletic Conference play. The Golden Knights return to action on Apr. 11 against Rollins College at the UCF Tennis Complex. Match time is set for 1:00 p.m.

Men's tennis breaks through against Brown, falls to 'Canes

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Director Jeremy Foley said. "But at that moment in time we had people saying you can't win here. But it worked out."

"I am just so happy I made this decision and look at the situation we're in now, we're playing for a Final Four and we're knocking off the team that I had the chance to go to. I think when you take a risk and you have a sacrifice you have to make to do it with someone you trust and I trusted Coach Donovan and everything he was teaching me."

"I'm so glad that Donovan is back," said Mitchell, S.D., "He's the best coach in the country." And everyone believed him. In time, Foley four hours and one night to determine he wanted Donovan at UF. "We believe him, they believe him, he's just got something about him," Foley said.

But not everyone was convinced UF was where Donovan and everything he was teaching me."

"We believe Donovan," said Thompson. Many believed in him. It took Foley four hours and one night to determine he wanted Donovan at UF. "We believe him, they believe him, he's just got something about him," Foley said.

"When I talked to Coach Pitino he said, 'No way, you're crazy. You've got a better team at Georgia.' But when in time, we were coming off a 12-win season, at that moment in time we had people saying you guys can't get better at Florida."

"We had a lot of work to do at the University of Florida, and that's not taking anything away from anybody cause everyone wants to see missed opportunities. And there's no way you're going to win a Southeastern Conference championship in your first year, or the team that we've been able to that that's the biggest challenge here right now."

"I am just so happy I made this decision and look at the situation we're in now, we're playing for a Final Four and we're knocking off the team that I had the chance to go to. I think when you take a risk and you have a sacrifice you have to make to do it with someone you trust and that's Coach Donovan.""

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Questions?
Call the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence, toll-free, 1-888-956-7273.

Percentage of rapes reported to the Florida Department of Health in 1995.

Rape is a crime.
Always.

Florida Department of Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Stetson visits for TAAC baseball showdown

TRAVIS BELL  
STAFF WRITER

UCF's baseball team has entered the most challenging part of its conference schedule, and a familiar face comes to visit this weekend with revenge on its mind. The Stetson Hatters are in town for a much-anticipated three-game series between the top two teams in the Trans America Athletic Conference.

After avenging a series sweep last year with one this weekend against Jacksonville, UCF now is in the opposite position against Stetson. The Hatters want to get revenge for a three-game beating that was handed down by the Golden Knights last year.

UCF scored 37 runs in the first two games of that series, and then won the finale with a three-run home run in extra innings. Since joining the TAAC in 1993, Stetson and UCF have played in 12 series with UCF winning eight of them. The Golden Knights have also won five of the last six.

"We're looking forward to playing Stetson because they're a good ball club," first baseman Matt Bowser said. "We're not going to take them lightly, but we're not going to stress about them. We're going to come in, play our game, and do what we have to do."

-First Baseman, Matt Bowser

And UCF might want to follow those words, especially since the Golden Knights are 17-3 at home where the series will be played. But this is not the same Stetson team that got swept last year.

After being predicted to finish fourth in the TAAC in the preseason poll, Stetson has surprised many and garnered the 25th ranking in the Baseball America poll. However, they are currently in second in the conference behind UCF.

At 8-1, UCF has a one-game lead on Stetson and Florida Atlantic who both stand at 7-2. With UCF holding a 1 game lead over three teams, Coach Jay Bergman feels the next few weeks could make a big difference in the standings.

"Something is going to happen in this conference with the top four teams because we're going to start beating each other around," Bergman said.

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Women's tennis achieves highest ranking ever

DAVID WINBERG  
STAFF WRITER

The University of Central Florida women's tennis team continues to climb the rankings jumping nine spots to No. 39 in the latest WingspanBank.com rankings released March 27. It marks the first time in school history for the Golden Knights to be ranked among the nation's top 40.

"It's an honor for our team to achieve UCF's best ranking in school history," said first-year head coach Patricia Allison.


Senior Veronica Widyadharma picked up her 81st career singles win downsally Pearson 6-0, 6-1 at the No. 1 position and junior Sojja Prokopec extended her season unbeaten streak to 16 topping Manda Martin 6-2, 7-5 at No. 5. Anti-Jeanette Svantesson, Marieke Gunawan, selected for the All-WingspanBank.com team.

"Women's tennis at UCF had never cracked the Top 40 rankings prior to this week, but their spectacular play thus far has helped them carve out a place as the highest ranked team in school history."