Extra fee could raise $1 million for athletics

Sarah Downes Staff Writer

The UCF Board of Trustees finance committee will vote Thursday on a proposal to increase the athletic fee from $0.88 to $1.19 per credit hour. This $0.31 increase will generate approximately $1 million in additional funds for the athletic department.

These funds will be used to increase the salary for athletic positions, raise the amount for athletic scholarships in the summer, pay for maintenance of the Wayne Densch Sports Complex when it is completed this spring, hire more academic tutors for athletes, boost sports marketing on campus and enhance the athletic recruiting process.

Currently, UCF coaches are paid less than their counterparts in the MAC and Atlantic Sun conferences. "The majority of the extra funds will go toward increasing salaries," said Steve Orsini, UCF’s athletic director. "I believe in investing in people first."

According to Brian Battles, SGA executive vice president and a member of the Athletic Pet Setting Committee, the salary increases will not go directly to the coaches, but rather to the coaching positions.

"By increasing the pay scales, the athletic department can hire better coaches in the future and hold the current coaches to a higher level."

"The increase in the athletic fee is definitely needed," Battles said. "Sports are an important part of a college experience."

The committee intends to double the amount of money offered for summer scholarships for athletes. Already it has $100,000 in scholarship money allotted for the summer and hopes to match that in the new, increased budget.

Construction workers are beginning to build a Wayne Densch Sports Complex next to the UCF Arena, a state-of-the-art facility with a weight room, equipment room and sports medicine clinic for the 400 student athletes.

Battles said, "This facility will be important when it comes to recruiting." Orsini said, "Potential athletes want to know where they will work out when they tour college campuses."

The complex will also have

Please see Fee on 3

Outlook for faculty union uncertain

Come Jan. 7, faculty union will lose bargaining power

Mike Blakley Staff Writer

UCF faculty members remain in the dark about their financial futures because a critical method of addressing faculty issues will vanish when their union’s contract expires in January.

"I am very worried," librarian Eda Correa said. "The union is the only association we have to look out for our contracts, benefits, grievances and salaries."

In the past, the United Faculty of Florida’s contract allowed faculty members to collectively bargain for their needs. Its past efforts have provided full salaries for undergraduate teaching, a set precedent for grievance procedures and a 2.5 percent pay raise for faculty members.

But when its contract expires on Jan. 7, 2003, the faculty union loses its legal bargaining power.

Roni Joels, a professor of reading and education and former president of the United Faculty of

Please see Board on 5

Who are YOU?

Forensic science popularity grows with CBS drama

Andrea Milam & Krista Zilizi Staff Writers

Gena Ward starts her day much the same way any forensic scientist would. She will examine paint chips, analyze hair fibers and compare fingerprints. She will test an unknown drug and perform a handwriting analysis before she calls it a day.

She doesn’t carry a gun, question witnesses or make arrests. She doesn’t even solve real crimes for now because Ward isn’t a real forensic scientist, at least not yet. She’s a 21-year-old junior at UCF majoring in forensics.

But even when Ward becomes an official forensic scientist — certified with a bachelor’s degree and four years of forensic education — she will still won’t be fighting crime the way “CSI: Miami” does.

In real life, forensic scientists

Please see TV on 4

Prisoner of procrastination

Columnist Chris Arnold looks at life from deadline to deadline.

—OPINIONS, 9

College students confess

They fear about sex, alcohol, money and relationships.

—NEWS, 6

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UCF Fact

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

BMG to offer simpler royalty system to musical acts

Breaking ranks with industry rivals, Bertelsmann Music Group (BMG) on Wednesday will launch what the company calls a “fairer, more transparent” accounting system for royalty payments, a move that artist representatives say could ease the controversy over whether performers are getting cheated by their labels.

BMG, home to such acts as Carolee Santanana, OutKast and Brittany Spears, is the first major music company to scrap contract clauses that artists say unduly restrict their earnings. The action comes as lawmakers in California and New York have begun to scrutinize complaints from pop stars about questionable accounting practices in the industry.

In the years ahead, BMG plans to introduce a new contract model under which the company would count on an act’s recording career for fewer years but share in a series of new revenue streams, including concert proceeds and sponsorship and film deals. BMG already is designing a new agreement that is expected to reduce the number of pages in a standard contract from 100 to 12.

Initially, BMG’s royalty revisions are not expected to result in higher royalty payments to artists. But BMG executives say the new plan will simplify royalty computations, making it easier for artists to determine what they are owed.

None of the other four major labels—Universal Music Group, Sony Music Entertainment, Warner Music Group or EMI Group—intends to follow suit any time soon.

Congress approves ‘Anton’s Law’

WASHINGTON — The family of a 4-year-old killed in 1994 when an adult seat belt failed to hold him in a crash, the bill sets new federal auto safety standards for children.

Congress approved “Anton’s Law” after legislation overwhelmingly received from universities around the world.

In auto safety parlance, children ages 4 to 8 are known as “forgotten children” because they are too old for conventional child seats, yet their bodies are not big enough to be effectively protected by adult shoulder belts in rear center seats, and promote research into how best to protect older children.

In auto safety parlance, children ages 4 to 8 are known as “forgotten children” because they are too old for conventional child seats, yet their bodies are not big enough to be effectively protected by adult seat belts. The legislation, passed late Monday, aims to close that loophole.

Doctors and safety experts strongly recommend that parents use rear seat centers for 4- to 8-year-olds who have outgrown conventional child seats.

Most boosters are essentially pads that allow children to sit higher in a vehicle so that adult lap and shoulder belts do not cut across their shoulders and necks.

Emergency-room doctors have documented a pattern of abdominal and neck injuries in children as a result of using adult belts. Despite the recognized risks, only 1 in 20 states require older children to ride in booster seats.

The middle of the back seat is statistically the safest place in a car to ride, but most vehicles only have a lap belt there. A booster seat cannot be used effectively without a shoulder belt.

Federal regulations at the National

FEE TO FUND MORE ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIPS

FROM PAGE 1

offices and a meeting room for the football coaches. The money collected from the proposed fee increase will pay for a maintenance crew to keep the complex in top condition.

Since the NCAA ruled that student athletes have to show a certain amount of progress toward completing their degrees with each year of college, there has been more academic pressure on athletes. The increased fee will help fund more academic tutors for athletes, as well as extra hours for current tutors.

Part of the money will go toward marketing sports to UCF students. Some of the proposals include: providing more buses to transport students from campus to the Citrus Bowl; funding away football game trips for students who attend all of the home games, and promoting UCF athletics through giveaway items like cups and hats. These are not sold for profit, but are considered for the campus.

The marketing proposals will really help get more support for our teams, and the support will increase the athletes’ enthusiasm,” said Julie Reeves, a College of Education student assistant and member of the committee.

“A great sports team gives people something to talk about and helps get the university’s name out to the nation.”

All of the above items will contribute to enhancing the athlete and recruitment process.

“When compared to other universities in our division, we are no closer, yet so far behind in resources to attract athletes,” Orsini said.

PEACE PRIZE WINNER

Ripetta Mendah Turner won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1992 for her work with people in Guatemala. During her speech at the International Education Week lunch on Monday, she lauded the about the transition to college life.

FRESHMEN FIND THEIR WAY AT UCF

Newest arrivals work hard to make smooth transition

By DANIELLE VANCE

Freshman Jennifer Harttler, 18, grew up a lot in the last three months. Along with a large class of freshmen, she has nearly completed her first semester of college. She reevaluated it not as an adventure, but as an eye-opening experience. As an Orlando native, she’s already familiar with the campus, and not put off by the intense atmosphere. Thus, she did not fear the start of classes back in August.

She did, however, expect them to pose very different challenges than those she was used to.

“I took 16 [credit] hours this semester,” she said. “It may have been a bit much, but I did well.” Indeed, she anticipates a 4.0 GPA at the end of classes next month.

Like others in her class, freshmen made the transition to college life — with its requirement for balancing multiple difficult courses with work, play and newfound freedom — by taking a workmanlike approach.

On the one hand, some students mistakenly believed college challenges would resemble the ones they faced in high school and made poor use of their time.

Germayne Crow, a counselor at the Counseling and Testing Center (CTC), which sees many freshmen over the course of the semester, said that many underestimates the difficulty level of college courses. The disappointments of not seeing normal grades brings many students into the CTC.

“There are some students that come to the center very depressed because of lower achievement than what was accomplished in high school,” Crow said. “They have high grade expectations, and are usually disappointed after erlein.”

Freshmen who put in the necessary work, like Harttler and Jessica Brown, 18, made a smooth transition to college life. Brown has no regrets about her decision to attend college. She worked for four years in her classes because she loves her major and wants to cred in it. She has also grown fond of the campus.

“I love it here,” Brown said. “It’s in my own little community. People are really friendly. Sure, the classes are different from high school, but you learn to adjust to them.”

Both Harttler and Brown have done well in their classes, although both wish there had been more work in campus activities, especially
TV show generates new interest in major

FROM PAGE 1

spend much of their days and weeks in a laboratory exhaustively tracking and analyzing evidence like fibers and textiles to solve crimes — not gathering evidence, analyzing it and throwing criminals behind bars in just under an hour like Nicky manages to do on the CBS crime show.

While Ward knows the television show is not completely accurate and the forensics field is not quite as glamorous — briefly explaining the hours of theories and chemistry formulas she has to know before she can ever get into a forensics lab — she enjoys the fact that the field of forensics is being given its day in the spotlight.

"[CSI actors] play the role of forensics and detective, and that never happens in real life. But the show does scratch the surface," she said. "If they were to make a real movie of the forensics field, it would take hours and days to discover something and most people would find it really boring."

But even still, forensics is intriguing more and more students at UCF. The 29-year-old program, one of UCF's oldest, is becoming one of its biggest, boasting nearly 600 students. Back in 1974, the four-year program drew only 12 students.

UCF's program was created in response to President Richard Nixon's Safe Streets Act, originally designed to provide educational big. The major has two tracks: analytical sciences, which examines things such as hairs and fibers for the purpose of recreating a crime; and forensic biochemistry, which comprises the identification of bodily fluids and DNA analysis.

Today the program still centers around evidence analysis and lab work like it did back in 1974, but it's drawing hundreds of students who believe a forensics degree will allow them to lead the kind of careers "CSI" forensics scientists do.

"My comment is that if you watch CSI, just forget it, because what we do and what they do are not vaguely resemblance each other," McGee said. "We have dozens of people a week call us up and say, 'I watch CSI and that's exactly what I want to do.' We have many students like Ward and Dupras, who teaches a forensics anthropology course, attributes the program's success to that chemistry base.

"It is one thing that makes the program so good," she said.

Heather Karr, 22, knew what she was getting into when she chose to pursue forensics as a major. The senior was poring over chemistry theories within her forensics major before the CBS crime show ever made it big.

For her, the lure isn't the fascination forensics careers she sees on television and in the movies. It's seeing the book theories come to life inside the forensics labs at UCF.

"The application is the best part," Karr said. "You can do so much good with it, help a family member who were beloved one, and someone behind bars."

But for Karr, that's also the biggest challenge.

"You're dealing with people's lives, so error isn't acceptable," she said. "You work so much trying to be flawless with your work and it gets tiring and you get down."

But Karr, who admits she has a weak stomach, doesn't mind the challenge, so long as it doesn't involve blood.

She wants to pursue a career in forensic anthropology that will allow her to dig up skeletons and bones.

"I know I can't do live gore or blood," she said. "This is the cleaner side."

While "CSI" is further from reality than most students think, the show's Carol is more representative of people like Ward and Karr than most stereotypes have portrayed in the past.

"The field is no longer dominated by men or nerds in taped glasses and white lab coats — it's a major that attracts as many women as men," Ward said 50 percent of the students in her classes and labs are female.

end, only 10 percent of the students who enter the program graduate. He attributes the large dropout rate to the major's strong emphasis on chemistry, which most students do not expect when they enter the program.

While chemistry is what causes many students to drop out, Tasha Dupras, who teaches a forensics anthropology course, attributes the program's success to that chemistry base.

"It is one thing that makes the program so good," she said.

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It's a whole new generation," Ward said. "Women are able to do this because they don't have boundaries anymore."

But she isn't convinced that forensics majors can shake the new stereotype.

"When you read the shampoo bottle and understand it, that's when you know you're a doc," she said.

McGee believes the program has been successful because of the quality of the students. "We have been very, very fortunate," he said. "We have attracted a body of students who can make a commitment to the profession."

While McGee and the forensics department are considering adding a crime-scene track within the major — something a little more representative of the careers that "CSI" actors portray — the department doesn't have enough faculty members to do so yet.

"Our biggest problem is serving 600 students with essentially four faculty members," he said. "[Because] our faculty have to have Ph.D.s, it's very difficult to find someone with a Ph.D. who has had this kind of experience and who's willing to work in a college or university."
Ohio, wondered what would happen when the contract expires. "The real question is who will be the employer of all the university employees in the future," Joel said.

Joel warned that if the faculty loses its bargaining power, the trends toward universities adopting a business model style of operation, in which profit and efficiency become priorities. She said such a model emphasizes funding graduates who go directly into technical fields, like engineering, over graduates of the arts.

She said running a university according to a business model works against students' best interests.

"That kind of thinking certainly undermines humaneness and certainly undervalues the students who go out into the helping public," Joel said.

She said although the potential exists for UCF to run itself as a business, the current administration understands students' needs.

"It is hard to put a price on a graduate," Joel said. "They will raise the students." The United Faculty of Florida's UCF chapter has maintained a cooperative relationship in the past, according to Arlen Chase, the union's local president.

"We have not faced the problems most of the other universities have," Chase said. He said that relationship differs from other Florida universities.

"I have not seen it as a rivalry," Chase said.

Instead, Chase said he works with the current board of Trustees in a fashion that resembles a think tank more than a rivalry.

Chase said the change in January is unlikely to cause major problems. He said the correspondence with the board has been mutually beneficial and neither side wants to upset the process.

To ensure that UCF maintains its bargaining power, Chase has advocated a campaign to have 60 percent of the faculty unionized. Under Florida law the faculty union needs a majority vote to maintain its right to collective bargaining. Chase has set his goal at 60 percent, even though UFF needs only 50 percent to be recognized as a union, to show a substantial amount of support.

The union needs 60 percent of all Florida's public universities' faculty members to join in order to give it the legal right to collectively bargain. Chase said seven of the 11 schools already have reached their goal and that a team has toured several campuses to rally support.

He said 60 percent of the UCF faculty already has joined. The biggest challenge is losing employees, he said. Faculty extends beyond just professors, including a substantial amount of UCF employees, he said. Chase has had difficulty reaching faculty members at UCF's branch campuses.

"It's making it difficult just to find these people," he said. "If it was just about getting signatures this would be a done deal."

In addition to not knowing exactly what will happen in January, the situation gets complicated further with the passing of Amendment 11.

The amendment establishes a statewide board of governors to oversee Florida's public universities.

Joel applauded the passing of Amendment 11. She hopes the new plan will better serve the students by improving the disbursement of funding to the universities.

The oversight will help more than just Florida's colleges, she added.

"The quality of life in a state is directly tied to the quality of its higher education," she said.

Gov. Jeb Bush will select most of the positions on the governing board, and the kind of role the board of governors will play remains uncertain.

In addition to the members selected by Bush, a member of the faculty senate will serve on the board of governors. Chase said having a faculty member on the board lends a much-needed voice to the decision makers.

But how much of a voice UCF's faculty will have remains to be seen.

Even through all the uncertainty Chase has an idea of how everything will unfold. He said both sides want to remain cooperative, and he doubts the needs of the faculty will get overlooked.

"They have the power to ignore (the union) even if we get 60 percent," Chase said. "But that is not the kind of relationship we have."
Students play games, watch movies, raise grades

CARY GRAYSON  STAFF WRITER

Freshman Carrie Butler rushes to complete a last-minute extra-credit assignment for a better grade in her general psychology class before finals and all she has to do is a little juggling to earn it. Usually extra-credit assignments consist of written papers that require a lot of research and time. But some teachers, like psychology professor James Brophy, have other ideas for students in need of extra credit, and for him, juggling is just as good.

Butler agrees. "Juggling is a fun assignment, and I'm even happier that it's for a grade. It's refreshing," Butler said.

Within the psychology department stands a bulletin board full of extra-credit assignments that range from volunteer surveys to playing video games. Some of these assignments only require students to fill out a survey about drugs and alcohol or parental relationships, while others ask students to look for weapons in X-ray photographs or play action games on PlayStation 2.

Physics professor Costas Ethimios also allows students to improve their grades with unconventional methods of extra credit — he tells them to go see an action movie.

Based on the special effects his students see in the movie, they have to choose a scene from the movie and write a paper describing whether the physics involved was a plausible occurrence.

This semester, about one-third of his students completed the extra credit, and the assignment also improved the overall success rate of students in his class.

Theater survey teacher J.J. Ruscella's extra-credit assignment promised students three extra points if they performed a song with a group in front of their class of 300.

Ruscella said he wanted to provide his students an unconventional method of extra credit while giving them "the opportunity to experience being a performer."

The purpose of the assignment was to allow students to have a good time while bonding with other group members.

"The assignment was embarrassing as hell, but worth it," Bratcher said.

While most of his students participated, Ruscella was surprised that not everybody took advantage of this extra-credit opportunity.

"It's not brain surgery," Ruscella said.

College students confess - sometimes they lie

STEPHEN HIRST  STAFF WRITER

Like many college students, senior Jason Hayner, 22, finds nothing wrong with lying to mom about his finances.

"In actuality I'm buried in debt," Hayner said. "But I don't want to be a financial burden."

Hayner is not alone. Most college students lie about money relationships, sex or alcohol according to a study by the University of Virginia. College students in that study reported that they lied in about half of the conversations they had with their parents and in 26 percent of conversations they had with close friends.

The lies told by the students varied greatly in their nature and scope. Some lies told by students in this study were minor, such as telling a parent they got home from a night out several hours earlier than they actually did.

Others were more serious, like telling a parent they were doing well in classes, when they were actually failing.

However, Rich McLaughlin, of the UCF Counseling and Testing Center, believes that sometimes, in certain situations, students have good reasons behind their lies.

"I think lying is a little harsh of a term in some situations," McLaughlin said. "When students are doing well in something traumatic in their lives like a sexual assault or an eating disorder, they could be withholding information for any number of reasons. Everybody keeps some secrets."

Yet, students like senior Ryan Bitter, 21, still lie to their parents so they will not have to listen to parents' lectures.

"If my parents know I was drinking as much as I do, it would lead to incessant nagging," Bitter said. "If they knew about the water cooler I covertly converted into a four-man bong, I could be in real trouble."

However, this year's sophomores Karu Betourne does not feel she needs to hide things from her parents anymore.

"High school was different," Betourne said. "I was always being nagged about where I was going, with whom, and who was going to be there."

Senior Michele Stora, 21, has decided to come clean with her parents, about most things anyway.

"I am pretty honest with my parents," Stora said. "But when I do lie, it's mostly about relationship stuff."

"It's personal, and I don't really want anyone to know about that kind of thing, especially my parents," Stora said. Sometimes students like senior Shannon Hawke, 21, have naive parents already and do not see any reason to lie.

"I could be 65 years old and married with two kids, and my mom will still believe that I've never done it [had sex]," Hawke said.

Sometimes being a single mother is really hard. I want to raise my daughter, to hear her soul, to know God. I know I need help to do that. This community is helping my dream come true!

The best things in life are simple, like sitting in a swing with a child or the love of God. Simple, yet profound. Don't feel in control? Neither do I, but God's love puts it all in perspective.

I am teaching my child that fact now in my community.

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Freshmen learn to balance school, fun.

From Page 3

By since they live on campus and have better access to them than off-campus students.

"I wanted to focus solely on my classes and studying, and now I wish I had gotten a little more involved," Braun said.

Crow said most freshmen do not make the transition as smoothly as Williams. "I feel overwhelmed by all the changes that they endure."

"The majority has a problem with learning how to survive on their own," Crow said. "There are no parents or teachers telling them what to do. They have to establish their own sense of independence, and they have to keep ties made with family and friends back home."

Without the guidance of elders, some freshmen put emphasis on the wrong things. Freshman Kelly Williams, 18, wishes she had spent more time studying and less time playing around.

"I had fun this semester," Williams said. "As a result, however, I spent less time focusing on my classes and more time focusing on my social life. I forget about having to maintain my scholarship for a while, and now I'm going to have to work harder in spring to keep it."

Williams approached college life differently than Hartske and Braun, getting involved in campus life. She participated in many campus-sponsored activities and joined a sorority, believing in the networking for her educationally motivated. "I would have spent even less time studying had my sorority not made me a mandatory study time," she said.

Off-campus students experienced many of the same things that on-campus students did. Freshman Jonathan Chung, 18, said living with friends helped him ease into college. "I moved into Magna Palms with friends from back home," Chung said. "If I hadn't known them, it would have been awkward. I just wouldn't know their personalities, and it could seriously clash with my own." Chung attended many campus activities and participated in intramural sports. His participation in campus activities affected his grades this semester, Chung said, but in a positive way. "The [campus activities] help relieve the stress of school work."

Besides the struggle to balance work and play, Crow said it relationship issues greatly concern incoming students. "Making new relationships and finding people who move to campus can be a challenge!"

Crow said, "There are a lot of nice girls here," he said. "I haven't really been seeing anyone yet, but once I settle in here more, I might start."

Freshman priorities may change, also. Hartske, who studied tremendously this semester at the cost of socializing, will approach next semester differently. "I'm going to relax a little bit more next semester," Hartske said. "No procrastinating, though. I'm going to work out and have fun."

Braun said her plans will remain the same. "I do want to be more active in school, but other than that, I couldn't be happier with where I am right now in life."

Williams wants to get back on track. "Next semester, I'm going to be studying a lot harder," Williams said. "It may mean some sacrifices as far as extra activities go, but it'll be worth it when my grades are brought up."

Chung likes the route he has chosen. "My roommates are great, my social work and social life is balanced, and I'm learning to adjust."

FROM PAGE 3

Highway Traffic Safety Administration have had the authority to require automakers to install full lap and shoulder belts in the middle seat, but they were reluctant to act without a congressional mandate.

Firms with White House ties backing controversial pipeline

WASHINGTON — Two Texas energy companies, both closely tied to the Bush White House, are lining up administrative support for nearly $800 million in public financing for a Permian natural gas project that will cut through one of the world's most pristine tropical rain forests.

A top priority of Venezuelan officials, who see it as key to energy independence, the Camisea project has encountered fierce opposition. Worldwide environmental groups and some members of Congress argue that the massive extraction and pipeline project will destroy the rain forest and the lifestyle of its indigenous people.

The project backers' quest for financial support from U.S. development banks will test the political pull of the Texas companies, Hunt Oil Co. and Halliburton Co., which have longstanding ties to the Bush-Cheney administration and the Republican Party. Next month, Hunt Vice President Steve Stasickent is set to accompany Commerce Secretary Don Evans on a trade mission to Peru, where President Bush traveled in March to promote Andean trade.

The controversy surrounding the project highlights the conflict between Bush's energy policy, which advocates mining fossil fuels globally and U.S. environmental safeguards, which detractors say the administration plays down. Government spokesmen say that no decisions have been made on public financing and that a careful review is underway.

Under federal regulations, projects receiving backing from the Export-Import Bank of the United States and the Inter-American Development Bank must pass rigorous reviews to ensure that they will not threaten rare natural habitats.

But officials reviewing the Camisea loan applications, who asked not to be identified, say the project is proceeding despite warnings that it may run afoul of international environmental standards. Independent reviews commissioned by project developers have also noted numerous problems, including fuel spills, unauthorized pipeline route deviations, and destructive erosion and landslides.

---COMPARED BY SEN WALTER DONALD JONES---
City takes lead: UCF should follow

O n Monday, Orlando's City Council gave preliminary approval to protecting gay people from discrimination in housing and employment. The measure passed despite a "no" vote by Mayor Glenda Hood. The city is moving forward on the issue, even though the mayor turned her back on the gay community that had supported her for so long. Orlando may soon join a long list of cities, including Tampa, Miami Beach and Atlanta, which protect gays, if the ordinance passes a second vote on Dec. 2.

Sadly, by voting against the measure, Hood tried to appeal to the political higher-ups (i.e. Jeb Bush, who may appoint Hood to a cabinet position) in the state rather than the people who helped elect her. Hood seemed to care more about her political future than her political back­ers. By acting in her own political self-interest, rather than in the interest of the people who have helped her serve as mayor for 10 years, Hood showed that she is merely a typical politician.

Regardless, the measure thankfully passed by a narrow 4-3 vote. Now that it has momentum, including Tampa, Miami Beach and Atlanta, Bush, who may appoint Hood to a cabinet position rather than in the interest of the people who support this measure, the faculty supports this measure. Now it's time for Hitt to do his part.

Hitt has an opportunity to take a leadership role on this very topic today at the board of trustees meeting, open to the public, in the Student Union. Hitt can start justifying the $60,000 raise that the board may grant him by pushing a measure that will make UCF a more tolerant university.

Students should attend the trustees' meeting, to voice their stand on this measure. They can also write the board of trustees and let them know whether they think Hitt deserves his proposed raise. The meeting represents an opportunity for students to address the people who run UCF. Students should let the trustees know what they think of their actions and how they think UCF can improve.

You must be early! I wasn't expecting you so soon! It will be just one more minute, nice and quiet, please? I just got out of the shower. I'll be right with you.

Sorry for the wait - we had - I'm coming! It would be much longer...

 OUR STANCE:

 Courthouse no place for commandments

F or a Monday ruling, a federal appeals court upheld the often-observed separation of church and state, ruling that a monument to the Ten Commandments in Alabama's judicial building, installed by Alabama's chief justice, promotes religion too much.

The Founding Fathers of this country realized that keeping the church and the state separate is vital to a democratic society. They came from England, where a state religion, the Church of England, persecuted believers of other religions. They knew that this country should never endorse any given religion, and they included a provision in the First Amendment prohibiting the establishment of a religion.

Specifically, it states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

More than 200 years later, some govern­ment officials continue to push religion upon the masses. Fortunately, the judge in this case, Myron Thompson, ruled that such behavior couldn't be tolerated.

That such scenarios still play out should remind all citizens that they must stay on guard against the government endorsement of religion. The United States was founded upon the ideal of religious pluralism, in which all religions, or no religion, have an equal place in society. Preventing government endorsement of religion prevents the government from persecut­ing people who practice religions different from or contrary to the government's religion.

This is not about the phrase "under God" being included in the Declaration of Independence. It is about keeping the govern­ment from supporting a religion at the expense of others. Religious symbols have no place in courthouses, city halls or public schools. A separate appeals court ruled Tuesday that granite monuments displaying the Ten Commandments must be removed from the grounds of four public high schools in Ohio.

The Ten Commandments contain valuable lessons, and they do form the basis for many of this country's laws, but the government should not display them for all to see in its buildings. Regardless of government leaders' personal religious beliefs, they should not and cannot push those beliefs upon citizens for any reason.

If religion is allowed to mix with govern­ment policy, dire consequences will surely fol­low. Once religion begins to creep into govern­ment, it will continue until it dominates govern­ment. The American people must always demand that the outlines of church and state remain separate, for the sake of religious freedom for all, and to serve as a model for the rest of the world. The pages of history are filled with religious governments persecuting believers of other faiths. The United States must always keep church and state separate.

It takes a great man to be a good listener.

—GOD COMES

Letters to the Editor

Hitt's raise could finance more pressing concerns

I can't believe that they are going to give President Hitt a $95,000 raise and $1,000,000 raise per year for Hitt," published Nov. 5, didn't give us feedback on a more constructive way. We should return financial and money that these people have been making on us since the beginning of the semester. How about 15 scholarships of a thousand dollars each. Not how about better compensating the staff that keeps us campus looking at spiff or funding to offer more dance classes every semester? And who does he need a raise anyway? All these perks he's getting are at least worth the $60,000 being proposed.

And how hard can it be? I mean, he's got four vice presidents to deal the thinking for him, all he has to do is sign a damn deal. I don't see President Hitt taking for a raise, and his decisions really do effect us. All we need is that, but most students won't be writing that kind of money 10 years after they graduate. So, I don't see why he should get a raise when he doesn't even have to pay a mortgage or eat. We should stay on top of all of his 1,000,000-dollar-a-year and start walking around campus, get to know and start asking our "nurtured" feelings.

—MELA HERNANDO

The grinch who stole...

"Hey, Hey, Hey! What are we going to do without you? Your presence, kind and great, that you aren't going to bother to come. Now you tell us how you're feeling better for Christmas? I'm begin feeling the Grinchism," by Joey Nieves, published Nov. 12.

So you plan to spend Christmas with family, and expect to receive several presents. And you aren't going to have any presents, for the people you expect to receive presents from, it is cor­rect? I did see my friends when I was about six years ago, but I did tell them in advance about my no present policy and ignored my family not to get the present. Is that what you want to do? Why make a suggestion? What your parents would probably want is I know this isn't bad because I am a parent and a grandparent, you can't be at the store, find them a nice gift and be better make them out and you like you did when you were a real little baby and include a note telling them all the reasons you appreciate them.

By now, that's your gift giving years, but you give one gift this year, give a trip to a needy poor, people who can barely pay the rent and keep food on the table. Nothing costs for Christmas gifts for their children and are highly dependent upon donations. Let me make another suggestion. You don't see the family with the person whose birthda you are celebrating. You wrote friends and Sororities, how about learning a little about Jesus or whatsoever, the most influential persons on this planet at all time. Why not read the book of Matthew or Luke from your credit? Consider it a part of your education.

—ANNE B. JOHNSON

Please See Letters on 9
Beating the clock

MENTAL DOODLES

Christopher Arnold
tobacco writer

Well, all, Halloween has passed and Thanksgiving’s not far away. Decorations for Christmas and Shakespeare’s Day are already up and the air’s getting brisky. You know what that means? It must be time for finals.

As usual, I’m beginning to stress. Sure, I need to study. But I also have to work. And if I miss any more classes, then their finals become a moot point. Not only do I have to do holiday shopping, but also if something happened to my friends and family and they have birthdays in the final two months of the year.

Yeah, I’m beginning to stress a little, but I’m not worry

After all, I put the “pro” in “procrastination.” That’s right, when it comes to putting off until tomorrow what you can’t do today, I am king of the hill, the top dog, the head honcho, the sartorially-splendid doorknob, and if you will permit me, “the man.” I’m starting into the face of an impending deadline as I write this, and I’m laughing all the way. If Nike offered endorsement deals in this field, well, we’d have to sign the doorknob.

Obviously, the art of dalliance is not for everyone. Few have the heart and heart to succeed and reap the rewards in the procrastinator’s arena. I have heard of a trained professional when it comes to delaying the inevitable. I spent years mired in the menorum minor leagues, developing my skills and learning all that my instructors and coaches and fellow lodgers could offer.

But I also watched a lot of good-intentioned kids burn themselves out in the process, unable to handle the pressures and rigors of that last minute action, unable to savor that rush of adrenaline, that thrill in the game of beating a deadline as it expires. A grizzled dally-day-veteran, I’d like to share a few things I’ve learned with the up-and-comers out there who think themselves the future of the sport. Either commit fully to the game or go home now. As long as any procrastination pursuit will promise, we’re not about delaying a task only to fail. Let’s be honest: any idiot with a short attention span and Spongebob Squarepants playing nearby can do that. Anybody out there who’d rather live off a liquid diet of Coronas and Jack Daniels can successfully not do a thing. But to accomplish that thing in its final hours, as the time counts down and the bell begins to toll, well, folks, that’s the stuff of legends. It’s better than heroin.

Or so I’m told. After all, it is against league regulations to use illegal substances while procrastinating. That too, only dawdlers and dandies and the sport. No trick, no steroids, no blood doping, no kind. If you go it clean the whole way. Besides, after you’ve washed down the coffee and Eli Kats with a bottle of Dr. Pepper sprinkled through a Pixie Stick straw, you don’t need any banned chemicals to get you through an all-nighter writing papers, studying for exams, rebuilding your embri
cute, neutering your dog while translating “War and Peace,” or whatever other tasks you’d been meaning to do.

You also may not sleep for a few days, but that’s one of the prices you pay to play.

We live by the adage: “Good things come to those who wait.” That’s right, we’ve got an adage. We also have a handshake I’ve been meaning to learn, but our slogans is impervious to failure. I challenge any of you to find something that disproves this little universal truth.

“Carpe” what? OK, that is a good one.

But that’s neither here nor there.

After all, haven’t we all had that one paper that we just absolutely dreaded? You just knew it would be excruciatingly difficult to write, and even though you might have had a few weeks or more to prepare it, you either had other classes, work, family or whatsoever to thankfully keep you from. And the deadline, why start it now? Who was to say after all, that your professor was not a secret agent in some shadowy government anti-procrastination program? He or she could very well be “acti

vated” for some covert ops on the other side of the world, and then what? You’d have wasted your time writing that stupid paper.

Besides, anyone with a library card and day planner can prepare and write a paper in that span of time, right? But only a select few are able to do so in one day. So you will. Circle the wagons and rally the troops, because an all-nighter’s on deck. You scramble to gather resources, lock yourself in your room, and pray to the great god of writing. Caffeine. He sends you his messes days, Mr. David and Conan, and then Jay again, to accompany you during the process. You organize your thoughts, you want to quote, make copious notes and attach an intravenous caffeine drip. You start to type it up, but your computer’s on a different sort of problem that is far from routine. Somehow, through all of this, you manage to have it ready on deadline.

So what if you show up to class in the same disheveled clothes you’d worn the day yoked with teeth unbrushed and hair unkempt and walking amidst your very own Little Cloud of dirt and dust like Charlie Brown’s friend, Linus.

Welcome to the game. This is just a taste of a procrastinator’s schedule when the season’s in progress. Think you can handle it? Because if you value sleep over a cup of coffee, you prefer media over them kid’s from the vending machine, and if you want the time to maintain your personal hygiene, then walk away now. Go and prepare responsibly for your finals and don’t try to memo
tize it all in the hour before your test. Budget your time as you need it.

As for me, I feel my Pixie Stick high beginning to subside. Wake me in an hour.

Columnist Christopher Arnold can be reached at charlie@ucffuture.com

A modest proposal

In my Myers article entitled “Napkin rights are wrong,” published in The Florida Gator, I made the point that vegetarianists do not “eat enough protein.” The students then pointed out that this would probably result in the victim eating less of the most nutritious meat, thereby reducing the stress on the animal and, in turn, the stress on the environment. They added that whether or not this argument holds water is debatable.

I agree. However, the students did a great job persuading me that vegetarianists are right. So I have decided to implement some changes in my lifestyle. I have started eating vegetarian-style meals every day. However, I am still eating meat, but I am now much more conscious of the environment and my impact on it.

I have started running every day, but I am no longer as fast as I was before. I am now much more aware of my surroundings and the importance of staying active.

I have started reading more about the environment and the importance of protecting it. I now make an effort to recycle and use environmentally-friendly products.

In conclusion, I think it is important for all of us to think about the impact our actions have on the environment. I urge everyone to make small changes in their daily lives to help reduce our carbon footprint and protect our planet.

The Future is Calling...
The Knights travel to Ohio for a MAC game against the RedHawks

CHRIS BERNHARDT  STAFF WRITER

Miami. In college football, that name garners respect. Over the past two seasons, no other name has instilled more fear in its opponents. The record speaks for itself: one loss in three years, a national championship and perhaps another pending this year. So when UCF travels to Miami this Saturday, they can expect a tough contest and 40-degree weather.

What's the weather like? Ouch, wrong Miami.

Rather than an intra-state contest with the No. 1 team in the nation, the Golden Knights will square off against conference and division rival Miami of Ohio. But even though the RedHawks don’t have quite the talent and prestige of their Florida counterparts, don’t take this Miami team for granted.

“Miami of Ohio is a great team,” UCF quarterback Ryan Schneider said. “Right now, they’re the second-best team in the Eastern Conference in the MAC. We have to go out there and beat them. I think they came in second place last year. I think the team is pretty strong there, and they have a good defense and offense.”

But perhaps the biggest thing that separates the two teams is the atmosphere.

“The weather is a big thing,” UCF Coach Mike Kruczek said. “It’s going to be a very different game than what we’ve played in the past. We’re going to have to be ready to go out there and win the game.”

For their part, the RedHawks are looking forward to the challenge.

“Miami is a big game for us,” UCF receiver Alex Haynes said. “It’s a big game for us, and we want to win it.”

But the Knights are confident they can win.

“We’re a team that’s used to being in the spotlight,” UCF running back Chris Bernardt said. “We’re a team that’s used to being in the national spotlight. And we’re a team that’s used to being in the national spotlight.”

The game will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, with the winner advancing to the MAC championship game in Detroit. The loser will be eliminated from the conference race.

Defending their title and their court

Craig Brooks & Kristy Shonka  STAFF WRITERS

While the volleyball players from Georgia State, Florida and Jacksonville State are sleeping in hotel beds this weekend, the UCF volleyball players will be sound asleep in their own beds.

The Golden Knights are hosting the Atlantic Sun Championships on Friday and Saturday, which helps the players out because they get to go about their normal routines.

“You get to sleep in your own bed. You get to eat your own food.”

The UCF volleyball team has a bye in the first round.

“Just a great place to host the tournament,” said UCF Coach Mike Kruczek.

The defending champion, UCF, will face Florida International at 7 p.m. on Friday in the semifinals.

Win the A-Sun. Above all else that has been the battle cry for Bob White’s UCF men’s soccer team this year. On Sunday, they did just that. The Golden Knights defeated Stetson 1-0 to win the first conference title in program history. With the win, UCF advances to the NCAA Tournament where the Knights will face Florida International on Friday in Miami.

UCF’s road to the championship has been anything but easy, and its fairy tale postseason has been one filled with lucky breaks and more than one well-placed shot that found the back of the net.

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Chris Bernhardt

Gail Striegler, UCF's women's basketball head coach, can sympathize with her counterpart for the men's team, Earl Spires. When she arrived four years ago from Stephen F. Austin in Texas, Striegler inherited a team beset by graduation and injury. Much like UCF's men's squad, who returns just five players from last season, Striegler barely had enough bodies to field a team.

"My first two years I kind of went through the same thing Eric's going through right now," Striegler said. "I only had like eight players, I could actually play the first year. Then, I've gotten along, I've lost some kids along the way, but the core has stuck with us.

But the core has grown over these years, from a 9-20 team in Striegler's first year to an early favorite in the Atlantic Sun this season. For the first time in the Knights' tenure, the Golden Knights have a core of experienced, upperclassmen to go along with a strong group of recruits and second-year players.

Eight players return from last year's squad, which went 17-16 during the season. Besides the first five returning from last season, Striegler's team has the potential to go all the way to the conference championship. The Knights have the depth and talent to compete with the other teams in the conference.

As a result, the Knights have high expectations for this season. Striegler has set a goal of finishing in the top five in the conference and making the NCAA Tournament. With the experience and talent the team has, it's not an unreasonable goal.

Striegler and the Knights are off to a good start, winning their first two games of the season. The offense has been potent, led by senior Celeste Hudson, who is averaging 13.2 points per game. Hudson has been a key player in the team's success, providing a scoring threat and leadership.

The defense has also improved, as the Knights have held their opponents to an average of 62 points per game. "We're further ahead than we've been at this time of the season," Striegler said. "I can't remember doing that.

The team's improved defense, along with the offensive burst, has put the Knights in a strong position to continue their success. With the talent and depth on the roster, the Knights have the potential to make a deep run in the conference tournament and even the NCAA Tournament.

Overall, the team is off to a promising start and has high hopes for the rest of the season. The Golden Knights will continue to work hard and strive for success, both on and off the court. With their experience and talent, they have the potential to make a big impact in the Atlantic Sun Conference and beyond.
Speraw faces challenge with only 5 returning players

Tom Alexander / Staff Writer

"Each and every year it's a new team," said UCF men's basketball coach Kirk Speraw.

In no year has a statement like that been more true than this one. Just a few short months ago, the UCF Golden Knights were win away from playing in the Atlantic Sun Conference Championship and an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. As short as those months have been, they have been eventful ones for this program.

Twin brothers Stephen and Joey Graham, two of UCF's top four scorers and marquees players, left UCF in the off-season for Oklahoma State, dealing a tremendous blow to Speraw's squad. That loss has many thinking UCF can't possibly have a season like they had last year. The Golden Knights have been picked to finish only fifth in the new South Division of the A-Sun in the preseason poll, ahead of Stetson.

But the team is confident that they can prove those who count them out because of that loss wrong. The Knights return two starters from last season and four seniors, including standout guard Ray Abellard and forward Ed Dobson. With a large quantity of newcomers, the returning players will have to take charge, Speraw said.

"Some people are going to have to have good seasons for us," Ed Dobson, Ray Abellard, Al Miller, Josh Bodden, Marina Boyd are going to have to really carry the load here early on in the season," Speraw said.

Abellard and Miller will provide a veteran presence in the Knights' backcourt, but Boyd should also see time there as well. The position where UCF will be hardest hit will be at center, where the graduation of Paul Reed leaves a pretty big hole to fill. Right now three players will try and fill that role. Dobson, Bodden, and junior college transfer Roberto Morentin. At 6-foot-9, Morentin will provide some size in the paint. With Miller and Abellard seeing increased time together, someone will be the go-to player. UCF may have a tough go of it, but if Miller tops out at 5-foot-10, UCF will still have to count on its new-comers to produce very quickly if they are to succeed. The loss of Jassen Treece, who hit the game-winning three-pointer at the end of the regular-season, could be a big blow for the Knights.

The Knights have a tough road ahead of them. In addition to an always-difficult conference schedule, UCF will also take on some big-name out-of-conference schools. In fact, UCF starts the season on the road in Annapolis, Md., to take on Navy this Friday. They also play Florida A&M on the road (Oct. 7), and the Knights' road schedule ends with a trip to Little Manhattan to play Big 12 opponent Kansas State.

Before beginning their conference schedule in January, the Knights have a three-game homestand in which they have a large quantity of new-comers to produce very quickly if they are to succeed. The loss of Jassen Treece, who hit the game-winning three-pointer at the end of the regular-season, could be a big blow for the Knights.

Ed Dobson was side-lined for most of last season after breaking his leg early in the season.

UCF picked to finish second in A-Sun South Division

From page 12

Washington, a junior, led the team in scoring last season averaging 11.1 points per game.

Turnover turn around

Last season UCF had a problem with turnovers, losing the ball 167 times. That trend continued against NWB, where the Golden Knights turned the ball over 32 times.

But against Houston they took much better care of the ball, finishing just eight turnovers.

"We definitely have to take care of the ball better," Stringer said. "I think that's the key point. There's no reason we should be having as many turnovers as we had in the exhibition game the other night because we have lot more solid guards." Freshmen show potential

Stringer has talked highly of freshmen point guards Claudia Johnson and Shae Slade Smith all preseason. In the two exhibition games, both players showed why.

Smith dribbled out onto assists, got five steals, scored eight points and grabbed six rebounds in 21 minutes of the game against NWB. She started against Houston and had six points, five assists and two steals in 21 minutes.

Hudson scored 12 points and had two steals in 15 minutes as reserve versus Houston.

Fellow freshmen Claudine Johnson and Shelley Weber also played solidly in those games in limited minutes. Johnson, a guard, had 13 points combined in the two games and Weber, a forward, had nine points, five rebounds and three blocks all together.

The last freshman on the squad, guard LaShay King, played just four minutes against NWB, and not at all against Houston.

"I think all the freshmen are going to play a part in the season that we have this year," Stringer said. "I think Celeste and Shae are going to get a lot of minutes. The other three are going to get minutes depending on the different people that we play." Around the A-Sun

In addition to UCF guard Jessica Scales, Georgia State's Kyla Rogers and Angelina Miller, Florida Atlantic's Tamica Pierce and Troy State's Tessa Herring make up the Atlantic Sun Preseason Team. Rogers was also named Preseason Player of the Year.

Both the coaches and the media polls pick Georgia State to win the North Division and repeat as conference champs. Belmont, Campbell, Jacksonville State, Samford and Gardner-Webb were picked to finish behind them in both polls, respectively.

Florida Atlantic was the choice by both parties for the South Division, followed by UCF, Troy State, Stetson, Mercer and Jacksonville.

UCF signs five

Continuing their recruiting in revealing the Golden Knights signed five high school standouts to letters of intent. That group includes: center Courtney Sroud (Charlotte, N.C.), forwards Keuntaa Miles (Dania) and Cassie Mullen (Warner Robins, Ga.), and guards Shae Slade (Fl. Lauderdale) and Jenas Stell (Owensboro, Ky.).
Heart and Soul

Senior Jessica Scala is a major reason for the Golden Knights’ turnaround

CHRIS BERNHARDT STAFF WRITER

If Jessica Scala had her way, she probably would have had major back surgery in the offseason, multiple injuries didn’t keep her from playing last year. So why did Scala get operated on this year?

“Coach is always pulling her out of drills,” teammate Erin Page said. “He’s really into keeping her healthy. ‘Oh, we’re on the line again, I’m like the first one on the floor too, so you can’t run."

Such has become the calling card of Scala. For all her crisp passes and sharp shooting, her toughness impresses people as much as anything. Despite dealing with a back injury and a severely sprained ankle, Scala moved into one of the Knights’ 30 games last season and started 29 of them. Now as she embarks on her second season at UCF, she hopes her body can hold up enough to carry her deep Golden Knights squad to prominence.

“I’m getting better everyday. About 70-75 percent is where I’m around right now,” Scala said.

That much out of her, especially about injuries, is a lot. She’s soft-spoken in interviews when she speaks at all, and clearly isn’t very comfortable with all the attention she receives. But her play speaks for itself. The 5-foot-9 point guard joined the team last year after transferring from Palm Beach Community College and instantly quieted the pace of the Golden Knights offense. She averaged 10.5 points per game, good for second on the team. She grabbed 5.5 rebounds per game, third best on the team. She dished out 11 assists, nabbed 64 steals and made 45 percent of her three-pointers, all team-bests.

She clearly established herself as the most versatile player on a Golden Knights team that finished 17-13, its first season under Coach Gail Striegter. That was due both to her ability to do all she can and the opportunity to score. That should be a good thing, as she’s already one of the most prolific long-range shooters in school history. Her 50 successful three-point attempts ranks ninth on UCF’s all-time list. Her 44.9 percent from beyond the arc stands third.

And when she does pass, hopefully she’ll have a little better luck connecting with her teammates. Last season some of the Golden Knights players had problems shooting and finishing off her quick drives. That contributed to her 133 turnovers. Minimizing mistakes has become a team-wide goal, and a year of playing with UCF’s experienced core should help.

“They’ve been a lot better about that this year,” Striegter said. "The post players have really been doing a nice job of keeping their heads up and being ready for the pass and the guards have had a year to play with and I think they know what to expect out of her.”

Regardless, her simply being on the court at least less than 100 percent will send a message to the team as a whole. That trait of wanting to go out all even when hurt implopes not only the younger players but the most veterans of teammates.

Some days you can tell she’s kind of in pain, but she’s not going to complain,” said Page, one of team’s longest tenured players. “She’s heart and soul.”

Traffic controller

Guard Al Miller begins his fourth season directing Speraw’s offense

TOM ALEXANDER STAFF WRITER

If the UCF men’s basketball team is to succeed this season, it will have to count on its veteran players to be leaders and carry it until the newcomers can adapt to the UCF system. This is especially true of senior point guard Al Miller. Miller and Ray Abouched make up the Knights’ backcourt, but it is Miller who will be asked upon by Coach Kirk Speraw to direct traffic out on the floor and distribute the ball to his teammates.

Miller grew up in the southeast area of Washington, D.C., and started out as a football player. As he tells it, Miller never really had a love for basketball growing up, but in the summer when his friends and family would play Miller was always called upon to fill in when there weren’t enough players to have a pick-up game.

As time went on, Miller says he developed a love for the game, and in his freshman year of high school, the former quarterback, wide receiver and running back switched to basketball. After attending Calvin Coolidge High School until his junior year, Miller switched to Maine Central Institute. It was during his senior year at MCI, when the team won the New England Prep School Championship, that Miller drew the attention of the staff at UCF.

But the Golden Knights weren’t the only team to recruit Miller. Schools such as Georgetown, Louisville, Maryland and UCF’s Atlantic Sun rival Georgia State also recruited the point guard. But Miller says it was UCF’s loyalty during the recruiting process that made him want to come here.

“I’d be honest, I didn’t have any SAT scores in time, and a lot of the bigger schools ended up going with other players or just not calling me as much,” Miller said. “But UCF just seemed to stick beside me through the thick and thin. Even when I didn’t have any scores, Coach was still calling and knocking on my door and coming up to visit me. When I finally had a chance to come down and visit, it was my first time in Florida, and the sunshine and everything that goes with it brought me here.”

Those other colleges’ loss has been the Golden Knights’ gain. Miller has 734 career assists, and it is his unselfishness with the basketball that Speraw thinks is his biggest asset.

“He’s a great distributer of the basketball. He really pushes the ball well in transition and finds the open man. He’s very hard to defend on the dribble as well,” Speraw said.

Entering his senior season, Miller is going to have to continue to do what he does best for the Knights to win the Atlantic Sun. Miller himself says he feels like he has the best summer workouts of his career, and he is determined to help the Golden Knights go where he has never gone before.

“This is my last year, and I plan on having my best year. My whole career, we’ve been all right, but never fortunate enough to win the Atlantic Sun and go to the NCAA’s. I want nothing less than that for this team,” Miller said.

Al Miller dished out a team-leading 94 assists last year. 
UCF loses regular season game to Florida International

FROM PAGE 10

escaped UCF 1-0 earlier in the season. It would take a score from one of UCF's bench players, Junior Chris Bemudis, and after Jacksonville tied the game with just over seven minutes left in regulation, the Knights were over in overtime on an own goal. A UCF throw-in bounced off a Jacksonville defender and into the Dolphins' net to end their season.

The Golden Knights would move on to face fourth-seeded Stetson the next day for the A-10 Championship after Stetson knocked off top-seeded Mercer. Bad weather would postpone the game until Sunday, when the two-time A-10 champions would battle once again.

The two teams fought a titanic struggle in the first half and went into the break scoreless. Just over two minutes into the second half, UCF senior forward Freddy Koyagialo scored off a pass from freshman Billy Judino, and the Knights held on to win the championship they were favored to win before the season even started.

Four other Golden Knights made the All-Tournament team, including tournament MVP Eric Vasquez, freshman goalkeeper Ryan Mcintosh, Junior Urial Dea and freshman Jean Pablo Giraldo in the second half of this season. UCF has had a different hero nearly every week this season. In addition to this squad's unbelievable heart and chemistry, will be what it needs to take the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA tournament and go farther than any UCF men's soccer team has ever been.

To get there, the Golden Knights will have beat Florida International, which beat UCF on Nov. 10, 2-1, but the Golden Knights scored their two goals unanswered in the second half, momentum that the team feels will carry them through the conference tournament. The winner of Friday's match will travel to Dallas to play Southern Methodist on Nov. 27.

When you're a punter for UCF life can have a lot of twists and turns. The Golden Knights have that high-octane offense that tends to go zero-to-60 from half-to-half. In the first half you could be placing punts inside the one. In the next you could be watching the whole game from the sideline.

That was the case for Ryan Flinn in UCF's 32-0 victory over Kent State last Saturday.

"Me not playing to good for us. I'd like to put up as many as I have," Flinn said. "It's all about field position. I'll do my best to get it down as close to the goal line as possible." At this time this season that potent and veteran UCF offense has sputtered. At other times the inexperienced defensive players have had trouble keeping teams from running them over. The Golden Knights have gone through problems on kick returns, and even true freshman place-kicker Matt Prater has walked a fine line between spectacular and inconsistent. Yet one thing has remained constant.

The senior has been nothing short of great for the Golden Knights this season, kicking kicks from deep in UCF territory or delicately placing them against the opponent's 20-yard line. On 34 punts this year, he has 1,416 yards and an average of 41.9 yards per kick. He has a long of 61, yet has put the opposing team inside his own 20 six times.

"He's been the biggest surprise I've had in a while," UCF Coach Mike Kruczek said. "I've known Ryan since he got here, obviously and we put him on scholarship last January. I had some questions about his game toughness and mental approach to the game, being able to handle the crowds, but he's answered them in spades, really, and done a great job."

Though this kind of production shouldn't seem that unusual for a senior, Flinn doesn't qualify as an ordinary senior. Though part of the team for the past five seasons, he came into the year with only five career punts. The reason: four-year starter Javier Beorlegui blocked him. Though Beorlegui handled both punting and place kicking duties, his specialty was the punt.

He ranks second in school record book with 2,350 career punting yards. This year he's averaged 40.9 yards per kick. That's more in practice so far than any else.

"I'm not really surprised, I'm happy for him that he is having this great year," long snapper Bobby Brown said. "I didn't expect that he would have a bad year. I always knew he had the potential to be a really great punter and he's really proven that."

Added Flinn: "There was never a doubt in my mind that I could do it. I'm not sure the rest of everyone else's doubt to rest. I just pushed myself more in practice so I could do better and better."

Now the former walk-on has a scholarship, and the only full-time job he has is punting. He just has enough quality and quantity to be successful. But involved with the kicking game (Brown is the other) he has become a leader. Using his experience and the will that made Beorlegui describe him as a "goody" guy, Flinn has helped out freshmen place-kickers Prater and Ryan Feely and former freshman Kevin Beorlegui, Javier's younger brother and Flinn's eventual replacement.

Flinn still talks to and hangs out with the elder Beorlegui, called him his best friend in the world and even planned to go out to the bench with him the morning following the first State game. He credits that time competing with him for a lot of his success.

Like Beorlegui, he surely impresses opposing teams. But punters take time to make it big, and Flinn says he wouldn't mind heading to NFL Europe to not only develop himself, but to serve as a focal point of seeing Europe. That's a pretty good situation for a guy that had to save every penny. Flinn came from a family that didn't have much and was some-what surprised.

"It'd be a chance to go to the next level," Flinn said. "I feel I'm doing pretty good this season and just keep getting better and better as time goes on," Flinn said. "I know there's a lot of walk-ons out there. For everyone else out there that reads this, just keep at it. It pays off."
Knights have something to prove against Miami

FROM PAGE 10

more, he is mechanically as sound as there is. He is also very smart with what he does with the football. So he is going to be a tremendous challenge. Strength-wise and delivery, he is every bit as much as Dwayne (Lewis/Whit). And he has got more mobility. You're looking at a guy in two years who could be the No. 1 pick in the country simply because of his athleticism and the way he delivers the football."

The Rodfawls are also plenty capable of running the ball. Veteran Cal Murray has been in and out of the lineup all year with injuries, but Lakey Clemens has filled in nicely. The junior has 86 rushing yards and an eye-popping 16 rushing touchdowns. He's also a formidable pass catcher out of the backfield, with 25 receptions. Clemens will still start if Murray returns, but if both are available then Miami will have an extremely dangerous ground game.

One last offensive weapon at Miami's disposal is place-kicker Jared Penasheg. The most accurate kicker in the MAC this season, he hasn't missed a field goal since last year. He has connected on 16 straight attempts, a conference record.

On defense, Miami doesn't lose ground on paper. They give up over 400 total yards per game. Miami's run defense isn't good, allowing 191 yards per game. Even worse, Miami's passing defense ranks among the worst in nation, as it gives up 273 yards per game in the air. Facing the highly ranked Golden Knights' passing offense, that's a very bad news.

Yet the Rodfawls' defense has stiffened up when it has had to. Miami is the best in the conference in redzone defense and third down conversions allowed.

They are a lot more blitz and play more man coverage than [Boca State], Kruczek said. "In certain formations they like to come and get you. They have a multitude of different looks that they can present, they can come with the blitz."

In the midst of a bountiful pass rush, led by defensive end Matt Edwards (nine sacks) and linebackers Matt Akbary and Matt Schneider, the Rodfawls have a huge question mark. The school suspended defensive coordinator John Edwards after he got arrested on battery charges for allegedly shoving a Marshall fan to the ground after last week's game. How well they do without him will make a big difference in the ballgame.

Miami also suspended assistant coach Trevor Johnson after he accepted full responsibility for damaging Miami's couches box after the same game. "I don't think they fall off a whole lot other than the fact that you lost two coaches who run a lot of drills and who the kids work with, and have an identity with," Kruczek said. "I don't think that they are going to fall off that much. Even are a problem because you've two are diminish­ed from the equation. Now [Miami Coach Terry Hoeppner] has to depend on some young people, probably some grad assistants that are on that side of the football to step up responsibility wise and be able to tell him what is going on. Then you have to have a guy call this game. Now [Hoeppner] is going to be a lot more involved, but I don't think that will bother him."

The last thing UCF will have to contend with weather. So far the Golden Knights have locked them out on the road. They got an unusually warm Buffalo in clay two weeks ago. Will Mother Nature continue to smile on the Golden Knights, if it she doesn't, how much of factor will the cold be in this extremely important game? "The lack that is snowing," Schneider said. "Tell all the pre­season in week is can't play in the cold games, we are going to have when it gets cold and snowy. We are Florida boys who can't take the cold weather. I want to go out and show everyone that we can handle it and we are just as good in 80 degree weather as we are in 30 degree weather."

UCF hasn't beaten a team with a winning record since 1998. This marks its last chance to do so this season. Miami's defense will likely have some problems without their coordinator, which means the Golden Knights should score some points. But can the UCF defense stop Rodfawls? Breaking down and the RedHawks offense? This UCF team hasn't shown the ability to rise to the occasion in big games, and yet do they's hard to pick them to win on.

Miami 35, UCF 21

UCF plays winner of JU-JSU

FROM PAGE 10

4) No. 3 seed Florida Atlantic (13-10, 8-3) battles No. 6 seed Troy State (20-15, 7-4) for the right to play Georgia State in the second round.

The Golden Knights earned the chance by finishing the regu­lar season 10-4 in the A-Sun. They tied Georgia State for the regular season crown, but the Eagles needed UCF beat the Panthers 5-4 back on Oct. 4.

The A-Sun champion to beat the Knights was Jacksonville. The Dolphins upset UCF 3-2 on Nov. 8. UCF's Leyla Stuhldreher was Santa. As a team, Miami has 22 seniors, though they've also allowed 28.

So far this season, the Rodfawls have a question mark. The school suspended defensive coordinator John Edwards after he got arrested on battery charges for allegedly shoving a Marshall fan to the ground after last week's game. How well they do without him will make a big difference in the ballgame.

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Miami 35, UCF 21

UCF plays winner of JU-JSU

In order for UCF to get a secon­d chance at Jacksonville, the Dolphins have to get past Jacksonville State. The Dolphins beat the Gamecocks 5-4 back on Oct. 18, but JSU won its last two conference games.

"Jacksonville State is playing very well right now," Colado said. "I think that that's going to be a very good match and very much a battle. Jacksonville State has a new coach and he's done a fantastic job with the program in the short peri­od of time.

Jacksonville and JSU face off at 11 a.m. Friday with the ELU­Troy State game following at 2 p.m. UCF will play the winner of the first game at 5 p.m. and Georgia State plays the winner of the second game at 7 p.m. The championship game will be Saturday at 1 p.m.

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Airborne ambition
Juggling teaches more than how to keep things moving

Shelley Marmor
STAFF WRITER

Thursday, Nov. 21

Every little tip helps pay their way

Kristin Davis
STAFF WRITER

The majority of students who work at service-oriented jobs like senior Nicole Biscuiti, 22, usually rely on tips from customers to financially support themselves.

Biscuiti has been a waitress since she was 15 years old. She currently works at Wakkadaw's, where she has been a server for almost three years now and usually makes about $10 an hour in tips alone.

She even recently received a $10 tip for a $2 check.

"I enjoy the repetitive motion and performing in front of people," Biscuiti said.

"I'm a showoff."

---KENNY TOOMBS

Every little tip helps pay their way

Mike Blakley
STAFF WRITER

Students juggle careers, families and classes on a daily basis, but now they can learn to juggle the old-fashioned way, like graduate student Jasun Burdick.

Burdick started the UCF Juggling Club three years ago so he could learn how to juggle better. Now, as its president, he teaches 20 to 20 students every Thursday afternoon in the lobby of the engineering building.

"I want to make it so everyone can learn in about an hour, that's the goal," he said.

He puts together instruction booklets and teaching methods on how to juggle for his students. He measures reaction times, accuracy rates and correction ranges to come up with a system to teach juggling.

"I'm in this industrial engineering program, I have to make a system," said Burdick.

However, Burdick is not the only one who uses this process. Psychology professor James Brophy, over the past eight years, has required his students to learn how to juggle for his general psychology class.

This active learning helps them understand how stress affects performance, how practice can change behavior and how their minds work Brophy said. Students are also required to write a paper about juggling and take a juggling exam in front of the class.

"At first students grumble a lot, but by the time they finish they are really glad they did it. Some people just learn better while they're moving."

Brophy not only sponsors the UCF Juggling Club, but helps recruit members as well since almost half of the club's members join because of his class,

Please See Psychology on 19
EIGHT DOLLAR DINING
A ‘Fusian’ of food and fun

Donna T. Schuman
Staff Writer

For any college student, dining out usually means a trip to the drive-through or wings at a sports bar. However, Fusian Japanese Eatery offers a delicious alternative for under $8.

The restaurant is decorated with oriental-style draperies and butterflies hanging on the walls. As customers enter the restaurant, they can hear the soothing sound of various water fountains and Japanese instrumental music throughout the dining area.

Fusian is primarily a Sushi bar and offers more than 40 types of sushi rolls. Students with school spirit can even order the UCF roll, which consists of snapper, cucumber, mayo and sesame seeds.

However, customers have other options to choose from, such as the Chicken Teriyaki combo, a favorite of the non-sushi eaters, said owner and executive chef, Jeff Lam.

The restaurant has gradually adjusted their prices to accommodate students’ budgets.

“We cater more to our regular crowd, which is the college students,” Lam said.

Fusian also offers the same specials at various times and days, but under $8.

The restaurant’s happy hour does not offer specials on drinks, even though beer and wine is served there, but instead consists of sushi for $8 a roll from 5:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Customers are encouraged to show off their best singing voices every Saturday night at 10 p.m. when Fusian holds its karaoke night. Some songs are even sung in various languages. It’s a lot of fun for everyone, Lam said.

But Fusian is not always filled with the melodic sounds of its guests. During off-Karaoke hours, the atmosphere at Fusian is extremely friendly and relaxed. As guests enjoy their entries while sitting at regular tables or in a Tanami, a Japanese-style booth where customers remove their shoes and eat while kneeling on fluffy pillows, guests can even watch the chefs prepare sushi rolls at the sushi bar.

Soon students will even have a variety of Fusion Laboratories to choose from. Lam plans to expand the Fusian name and open two more restaurants. Fusian Too will resemble the original Fusian and is expected to open next year. However, Fusian will specialize in Thai food and is set to open in January on Audubon.

Lam attributes Fusian’s success to the reasonable prices, outstanding staff and good relationships with its customers.

“We are very personal with the clients,” Lam said. “Some (clients) come in two to three times a week.”

Fusian Japanese Eatery is located at 12254 University Blvd., in the University Square Shopping Center. The restaurant hours are Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and closed on Sunday. For more information call (407)370-0830.

Donna T. Schuman / UCF

Chef Junior Vengvisakhang prepares sushi rolls available at Fusion Japanese Eatery.

Student servers rely on tips for financial support

From Page 17

that is how they usually make most of their money.

Freshman Kelly Morrell, 19, can relate.

“Most servers depend on making most of their money at work from tips,” Morrell said.

Morrell noticed from her past experience working at a local Italian Restaurant in Melbourne, her hometown, that regular customers and people in the restaurant business tend to be the best tippers.

Biscuit agreed.

“I know what it’s like to have to work for tips so I am more generous with tips when I go out to eat. I think most students tip well because they can relate to having to work hard to support themselves.”

The amount each server makes in tips also depends on the time of their shift and how busy the restaurant is at that time.

According to Junior Kelly Scottaline, a 23-year-old waitress at Olive Garden, she usually makes most of her tips late in the evening on the weekends.

For each shift Scottaline works during the week, she makes about $60 to $100. In comparison, she makes about $40 to $60 during the weeks.

Nevertheless, tips are not always guaranteed.

Sometimes foreigners don’t realize they are supposed to leave a tip because in their country it is usually already included in the bill, Scottaline said.

Yet students aren’t the only ones on campus who face this problem.

Gina Mckenzie, 44, has worked at the Clip Joint, a barbershop, at UCF for two years now. She has found that the amount of money each customer tips depends on the individual. On average, she usually receives $2 per hair cut.

“Tipping should be voluntary,” said Mckenzie. “I don’t expect people to get a certain amount of cash each time.”

Elaina Poole, 51, also works at the Clip Joint and has made a living styling customers for the past 17 years.

“In my line of work, we give off of the extra money we get as tips,” Poole said. “It’s the money we use to buy gas to put in our cars, pay tolls and live on. It’s our spending money.”

Poole makes about $30 a day in tips and said that upperclassmen at UCF usually tip the best.

“Freshmen usually don’t tip as well because many of them don’t have jobs,” she said. “Generally, though, UCF students have given me better tips than any other place I have worked at before.”

Although she appreciates every tip she receives, she still feels each person should give what they feel is right.

“When I tip someone, I give from my heart.”

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Psychology professor works with club to help students juggle

From Page 17

said Burdick. "I would have never even thought of learning how to juggle if it weren't for that class," said 18-year-old freshman and the Juggling Club's historian, Lynette Kidwell.

Burdick's teaching methods are more effective than just reading from a textbook, Kidwell added. "The class is certainly more memorable," she said.

However, the club's vice president, 18-year-old freshman Kenny Toombs, has his own reasons for juggling. "I enjoy the repetitive motion and performing in front of people," he said. "I'm a showoff."

They practice old tricks and learn new ones, such as how to unicycle, walk and contact juggle, which is when a juggler rolls a glass ball across his/her arms and body.

The contact jugglers have to take off all their jewelry to do it right. Many of the times, we end up practicing later than planned because nobody has a watch to keep track of the time, Burdick said.

Brophy already has plans to invite the club to perform in his class next semester. Burdick hopes to schedule future performances in the student courtyard and add stunts, such as an organized unicycle ride and a human wheel.

Burdick was even inspired to create a geared unicycle that can go up to 20 mph because of a project a team of engineering students did.

The students have already demonstrated the ability to make the necessary parts to create one, Burdick said.

Burdick has nothing but confidence that he can teach students how to ride this unicycle and juggle at the same time.

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What's News--

**In Business and Finance**

**Consumer Spending Reassesms Some**

Pears about a major slowdown in consumer spending have proven to be unfounded, and many retail experts are now adding new hope that the economy, while weak, isn't as hard hit as once thought.

In October, shoppers increased their spending on clothing and many other retail goods. The Commerce Department said retail sales excluding automobiles rose 0.7%, far better than what most economists had been expecting. The gain was led by a 4% increase in spending in clothing stores, as the coldest October in years helped make up for weaker sales of winter clothing earlier in the season. Auto sales fell 1.5% from a 4% decline in September. Including autos, retail sales were flat in October, after a 1.3% drop in September.

The weak economy has put many households in a financial pinch, but thanks to downward price pressures consumer satisfaction with a wide range of products and services is edging higher, in large part because consumers feel companies are offering better values, according to researchers at the University of Michigan. The university's Survey of Consumers, a measure of consumer satisfaction, edged up during the three months ended in September, after a reading of 75.1, from 73.9 in the second quarter and from 72 a year ago that signaled a trend toward recession during the past three months.

Many prices are falling due to the weak economy and international competition in some industries. Some economists worry this could lead to a bout of deflation, in which prices and wages fall in tandem, leading the economy into an extended recession. But the Michigan researchers' index is rising positively to the low price environment.

**Business Spending Improves Slightly**

The outlook for business investment appears to be improving, but business spending is likely to be weak through the end of the year.

The GV Group Inc., a political and economic consulting firm, said the latest preliminary reading of its quarterly index of business investment improved to a minus 35 in the fourth quarter from minus 37 in the third quarter.

An index measure of minus 35 or lower suggests that business fixed investment is contracting in the current quarter. An index reading between zero and minus 33 indicates growth, but at slower rates than the historical average of 5%. Results greater than zero indicate above-average business investment.

The minus 25 reading is consistent with a 1.3% increase in business investment in the fourth quarter over a seasonally adjusted, annualized basis.

**Antitrust Suit Hits Visa, MasterCard**

Visa and MasterCard under­ took a decade-long effort to discourage the use of rival debit cards in favor of their own more-expensive versions, driving up costs for retailers and consumers, newly unsealed court documents show.

Depositions and internal company memo­ nors depict the companies as paying banks millions of dollars to curtail rival debit-card transactions, demanding that merchants take their debit cards or lose access to credit-card sales, and even trying to disguise their debit cards so merchants couldn't tell them from credit cards.

Thousands of pages were un­ sealed in a massive federal anti­ trust suit seeking damages from Visa USA Inc. and MasterCard International Inc.—the world's biggest credit-card issuers—by the nation's retailers, led by Wal-Mart Stores Inc. The suit alleges the two companies responded to the threat from debit cards by creating their own more-costly, less-efficient versions and illegally leveraging their power in the credit-card market to force merchants to use their cards.

Visa and MasterCard say none of their actions were illegal and all

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What's News

In Business and Finance

Continued from Previous Page

Roxio to Acquire Assets of Napster

Is Napster coming back?

Roxio Inc. agreed to acquire the assets of Napster Inc. for stock and cash valued at more than $5 million, a deal that could revive one of the best-known names in Internet music.

The deal still needs to be approved by a bankruptcy-court judge, and there's considerable doubt whether a new Napster could ever achieve the popularity the music-downloading service boasted two years ago. Roxio, a maker of personal-computer software for recording music, video and other data onto compact discs and DVDs, wouldn't say how it plans to use Napster's assets, which include the Napster brand name, intellectual property and some technology equipment.

Poor Coffee Quality

Sputs Control Effort

Coffee prices are at their lowest levels in decades. So why does so much of the coffee you buy taste so bad?

Falling global prices should be a problem for coffee-bean buyers at cheaper prices. But this year, coffee makers are increasingly substituting low-quality beans in their ground coffee for high-quality beans, according to the International Coffee Organization. Quality has gotten so poor that in recent weeks, the ICO issued new rules requiring coffee exporting countries to improve their product—or stop selling it.

Analysts say many of the best-selling supermarket brands have replaced the high-quality arabica beans they used to buy from regions like Colombia, Guatemala and Costa Rica, with low-quality beans from other countries. Vietnam, for instance, now the world's No. 3 coffee producer, grows some of the cheapest and lowest-quality beans in the world.

Odds & Ends

Norton is cutting more than 2,400 jobs and plans a restructuring charge of as much as $600 million as the computer security firm continues to cut costs. Norton Security Co. said its net profit rose 25% in its fiscal first half, boosted by improved sales volume and continued cost cuts.

By Jay Horwitz

Campus Edition will not appear next week due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

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Valet Parking - Positions starting at $9 - $12/hr are available for friendly, outgoing, motivated people. FT/PT A&M/PM positions available at upscale locations in the Downtown Orlando and Disney areas. Call 407-641-7275 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm or leave voicemail.

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Email erin@fashionsquaremall.com ASAP.

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3-bed/2-bath home with large porch for rent. Close to University, 2 miles from UCF, neighborhood close to Blanchard Park. No pets. $1200/mo. Call 407-382-5481 or 407-548-1298.

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Room avail in a new 4br apt. 4br/2 bath home in Goldenrod/University location. All util. included plus free, internet & cable, Basketball & Tennis, Golf, Pool. Gym. Call 321-785-6185

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For rent across from UCF 1br1ba in a 2.5 apt. Fully furnished. Cable, utilities, and high speed internet included. Florida Prepaid accepted. $1450/mo. No move in fees.

Private bath and bed in 4/4 close to UCF. Female only. All util. incl. $395/mo. Call Sarah at 561-596-2441.


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NEW in 403 HOME NEAR UCF. $450 INCLUDES ALL UTILITIES. FURNISHED WITH BEDS. HOUSE HAS GAME ROOM WITH POOL, TABLES, TV, DVD PLAYER. Call 407-736-1464

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Room avail ASAP in 2/2 beautiful unfurnished apartment in UCF & Valencia/Valencia Point. White, carpet, pool, tennis, Billi, $3200/mo. Utilities excluded & neighborhood w/security. A must see, an affordable price! Call anyone (954) 910-4109.

Large 2bed/bath 1st floor, block from ocean in Daytona Beach. Wall to wall carpet, pool, & gym. $800/mo. Utilities. Call 407-991-2964.

2bed/2bath in University House. Close to UCF, 2.5 miles away, pool, tv, and pool all incl. $500/mo. Call Dan at 409-519-3360.

Knight's Kissing Apartment. 10 in a 4-story apartment, May 2003, $550/mo, new lease neg. Call Paula 904-203-4640 MF

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550 ON CAMPUS

AA and OA

Do you feel like your eating/ drinking habits are getting out of control? Taxa Anonymous meetings meet Wednesdays at 5:15 pm. Alcoholics Anonymous meets Wednesdays at noon. In the UCF Cultural Center, 811 West Marvin Conference Room. 407-823-6441.

**FRIDAYS**

Fridays Frat House: Have fun! Have fun! Have fun! Be the life of the party! The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, John Denver, they are all here. Come on down.

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