Universities vie for politicians

As universities compete for state dollars, many turn to politicians for leadership

JASON IBSAY

In higher education, educators may make the best presidents, but they do not possess the clout or fundraising power of politicians. In a time when states grapple with shaky economies and a shortage of qualified educators, universities are beginning to tap politicians for their presidencies.

Former New Jersey governor Thomas Kean serves as president of Drew University in New Jersey. Former U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey leads New School University in Manhattan, N.Y. The University of Oklahoma considered former U.S. Senator Phil Gramm for its presidency.

In Florida, politicians are stepping into presidential positions at universities as well. The University of Miami tapped former Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, as its president in 2001. Now, three of the state’s 11 public universities may soon have former politicians as their presidents.

Florida State University’s selection of former State Senator T.K. Weidner to serve as its 13th president reflects the growing importance of political connections in university presidencies.

Past years, universities have

Gay rights laws take shape in city, Will UCF be next?

CARY GRAYSON

Last month a gay rights crusade finally subsided when lawmakers voted to extend equal rights to Orlando citizens. Now UCF’s gay community hopes their quest for an anti-discrimination policy will be answered.

Currently, no anti-discrimination policy exists at UCF that protects professors, faculty or students from discrimination based on sexual orientation, thus UCF and other state institutions are not breached by city laws. But the issue may be the first thing to dominate the university’s Faculty Senate meeting later this month.

Michael Mullins, chair of the Faculty Senate, said that he expects the issues to be brought up in meetings sometime early this semester, although “no faculty has raised this as an issue so far.” Mullins said that while he was “not sure of the sentiments of the overall faculty,” he was certain that some members of the senate would bring the issue to the floor.

Although the senate cannot unilaterally change or create an anti-discrimination policy, it has the ability to make recommendations to UCF President John Hitt regarding what would be in the best interest of the university.

But its recommendation alone may not be enough to convince Hitt to pass such an ordinance. Hitt told The Florida in a previous interview that he didn’t see a demonstrative need for a protection policy.

It is unclear what the president’s position on the issue is following the city’s decision to include a sexual orientation protection policy and he did not return phone calls or e-mails before press time.

If the Faculty Senate decides to pass a resolution regarding protection policy, the process could take as long as three months to pass through the senate and on to Hitt. The first Faculty Senate meeting of the semester will be Jan. 28.

Even if such a resolution passes, it is still unclear if Hitt has the authority to change UCF’s anti-discrimination policy on his own. The change may have to be facilitated by the State Board of Governors, the new governing body that oversees all Florida universities.

“Certainly would be a viable show that the university is in support of no discrimination based on sexual orientation,” said Joshua Smith, 20, a member of the Gay and Lesbian Bisexual Student Union on campus.

Nationwide, 223 colleges and universities have sexual orientation protections in place, including Rollins College in Winter Park.

Web site aims to curtail student drinking

Counselors hope interactive approach will convince students to learn about alcohol abuse

JOE HARLESS

UCF’s REACH program is currently considering a new approach to counseling students on alcohol abuse via the Internet.

The web site, MyStudentBody.com, is currently being used on an experimental basis at 24 colleges and universities throughout the nation. This web site, developed by Inflexion, Inc., a company that specializes in interactive health communications, is paid for by universities to help make students more aware of the consequences associated with binge drinking.

Universities gain access to it through a school code assigned to them by the site.

Taja Glassman, coordinator of the Drug and Alcohol Resource Site.

Please see Counselors on 3
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Counselors use web site in conjunction with other techniques

From page 1

Centered at the University of Florida, found out about the site through e-mail. His contact for students with access to the site for a year. The UF trial began last September.

"It's a good tool to have," Glassman said. "Students go to the Internet first and the site deals with alcohol and things associated with it."

Brooke Williams, coordinator of alcohol and other drugs for UF's REACH program, said she is planning to use the site or one like it in conjunction with other counseling techniques.

"Online learning is just a piece of the puzzle," Williams said.

The web site provides information based on data provided by each user. Responses and information about alcohol abuse and possible consequences, such as contracting sexually transmitted diseases, are created specifically for each individual user.

Instead of provoking the dangers of drinking or attempting to cram statistics down students' throats, the site takes a non-blamed approach and presents the students with information so they can consider their options and make their own decisions.

By adjusting the level of aid for each student, the web site offers a more versatile approach to prevent alcohol abuse instead of treating each on the same way.

A study among 230 students with binge-drinking tendencies showed that the web site was most effective in correcting students to drink less compared to other alcohol abuse web sites, the Chronicle of Higher Education reported.

MyStudentBody.com is one of the sites REACH is currently considering to help them upgrade their Alcohol and Drug Awareness and Prevention Training program (ADAPT).

Williams hopes to include a web site like MyStudentBody.com to make the ADAPT program more interactive and accessible when it is reintroducted on Feb. 1. Currently, no web sites are being used in the ADAPT program to help educate college students about the consequences of alcohol abuse.

"Right now all we use is an interactive CD-ROM," Williams said. This program allows students to view and explore various scenarios associated with alcohol, but Williams said BEACH wants to use more up-to-date techniques to educate students.

"The college campus way that part of the effectiveness of the web site is the anonymity," Williams said. "Students because it allows them to complete the educational course in the privacy of their room."

Nevertheless, Williams still does not believe this will become the only method of treating and educating students about alcohol abuse.

"The site shouldn't take the place of a mandatory class and instructor," Williams said. "They should be used in conjunction with one another. It's not rare for all of these cases alone one is different."

Although the site is not substitute for peer educators, it does supplement education efforts, Glassman said. "It's not a question of which is better, but of what else you can use to help."
Robert Morein was working towards his doctorate when he was dismissed after asking for a new adviser. Soles Servke

Doctoral student takes intellectual property case to Supreme Court

L. Stuart Ditzen CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PHILADELPHIA Even the professors who dismissed him from a doctoral program at Drexel University agreed that Robert Morein was uncommonly smart.

They apparently didn't realize that he was unusually stubborn, too — so much so that he would mount a court fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court to challenge his dismissal.

"It's a personality trait I have, I'm a tenacious guy," said Morein, a pleasantly eccentric man regarded by friends as an inventive genius. "And we do come to a larger issue here."

A five-year legal battle between this unusual ex-student and one of Philadelphia's premiere educational institutions has gone largely unnoticed by the media and the public.

But it has been the subject of much attention in academia. Drexel says it dismissed Morein in 1995 because he failed, after eight years, to complete a thesis required for a doctorate in electrical and computer engineering.

Morein, 50, of Dresher, Pa., contends that he was dismissed only after his thesis adviser "appropriated" an innovative idea Morein had developed in a rarefied area of thought called "estimation theory" and arranged to have it patented.

In February 2000, Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Esther R. Sylvester ruled that Morein's adviser indeed had taken his idea. Sylvester held that Morein's adviser had been unjustly dismissed and ordered Drexel to reinstate him or refund his tuition.

That brought roars of protest from the lions of academia. Drexel appealed to the state Supreme Court.

The appellate court, by a 2-1 vote, reversed Sylvester in June 2001 and restored the status quo. Morein was, once again, out at Drexel. And the time-honored action that courts ought to keep their noses out of academic affairs was reassured.

The state Supreme Court declined to review the case and, in an ordinary litigation, that would have been the end of it.

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FROM PAGE 3

found no evidence of misconduct by Dr. Ferrer in the case. But Penn administrators published Dr. Ferrer by preventing him from conducting or supervising any research on human pathogens and restricted his ability to conduct experiments on animals for a period of two years.

Foreign students in Colorado charged with visa violations

At least six Middle Eastern men enrolled in Colorado colleges have been arrested and imprisoned in the past three weeks for allegedly not taking and leaving the United States, with another registration occurring elsewhere.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as well as the U.S. Attorney General's office created the system to collect information about nonimmigrant aliens living in the United States. The system has been criticized as discriminatory, particularly by Arab and Muslim groups, because it focuses primarily on people from the Middle East and predominantly Muslim countries.

Registration at local INS offices was required by December 18 for men over the age of 16 from five countries that the Justice Department has declared sponsors of terrorism — Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Syria. Men over 18 from Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Eritrea, Lebanon, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen must register by January 10. Pakistanis and Saudis also were instructed to arrive February 21 to register. The system will expand to track all non-immigrant foreign residents by 2006.

...Charles Hinckley

Politicians improve public relations

FROM PAGE 1

occasionally selected former politicians to lead them, but in the current economic climate, in which many states face budget crises, and universities must compete with each other for dwindling amounts of money, some universities are turning to politicians to lead them through the murky financial times.

UCF faculty and administration members understand the desire to have politically connected presidents. Faculty Senate Faculty President Michael Mullens said that public university presidents need political connections to succeed.

"I think the political connections themselves are critical to a successful university president... because we are a public body and we depend on public funding," Mullens said.

Because state universities rely on public funding, they make as many political connections as possible. "All state universities benefit from political connections," UCF spokesman Linda Gray said. "Many have lobbyists not only in Tallahassee, but also in Washington. It's important that you have those relationships."

Gray said politicians bring more than leadership to the table when they serve as university presidents. "At a time when funding is tight, someone with political pull could bring other things to the university," Gray said.

Gray explained how public universities could benefit from having a politician as a president. "The universities receive funding from the state," Gray said. "If someone has worked in government, they have connections, but they also know how the system works, and how to get money from the government."

Although faculty would generally prefer to have an educator serve as president, Mark Smith, the director of government relations for the American Association of University Professors, says that politicians can make great presidents if they understand the job, instead of raising money.

"Political connections allow a university president to more effectively deal with state government," Smith said.

"Politicians understand how to improve the public relations of the university," Smith said. "Assuming that they understand the educational mission of universities, political connections can complement that."

"As a general rule, faculty would like to see presidents of universities understand the university," Smith said. "Long ago, the road was to serve as faculty, then chancellors, then president."

"UCF needs to have the proper qualifications, having served in the Florida State Legislature, as a lobbyist and as president of Tallahassee Community College for six years. "He certainly is a very astute man, and he should do a fine job," Mullens said. "I do hope he respects the academic mission of the university."

Both Florida Atlantic University and the University of North Florida hope to follow PSU's lead and fill their vacancies with politicians. FAU wants Lieutenant Governor Frank Brogan to become its president after Derwael's inauguration this week. UNF is considering Jacksonville Mayor John Delaney for their next president after his mayoral term ends June 30.

Gray and Mullens agree that universities, when possible, should choose candidates with both political and education experience. "Ideally, what you'd want is someone who is a good leader and has connections, and has an academic background," Gray said.

At UCF, President John Hitt is a politician in his own right, faculty members say.

Although Hitt does not have the political experience of Wetherell or Delaney, Gray said he knows how to play the political game. "Dr. Hitt maintains excellent relationships with the governor and legislators," she said. "Because he's been around a long time, he knows the players, and they know and respect him."

Mullens calls the president a leader who balances the responsibilities of president and politician in a way that works. "If I had my choice [for a president], it would be an educator with a full understanding of the political process, and Dr. Hitt is an excellent example of that," he said.

An evidence of the respect that Hitt has earned, Gray mentioned his recent appointment. "The governor appointed Dr. Hitt to the malpractice task force," Gray said. "You can logically assume that the governor thinks highly of him."
No support for action against N. Korea

GLENN KESSLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WASHINGTON—In 1994, when President Clinton faced a crisis over North Korea’s nuclear ambitions, two former officials in the first Bush administration wrote an influential opinion article in which they argued for “nuclear deterrence,” a military posture aimed at striking a nuclear reprocessing complex designed to convert nuclear rods into weapons-grade material.

The Clinton administration was already contemplating a military buildup in the region. The Pentagon produced a contingency plan for bombing the facilities, concluding that it could take them out quickly without widespread radiation.

Today, there is virtually no support for military action, even in administration circles, but the so-called “preemption” scenario has become less of a clear-cut option as the administration asserts that North Korea likely has already crossed the nuclear threshold and already may possess one or two nuclear weapons.

To some extent, the current Bush administration is hamstrung in its military options because it is consumed with planning a possible war against Iraq. But Administration, in its rhetoric and its policy choices, has also subtly changed the context for dealing with North Korea, mainly by already anointing North Korea as a nuclear power. This has allowed the administration to keep the focus on Iraq, which it acknowledges has unresolved nuclear ambitions, while minimizing the immediate threat from North Korea.

The Clinton administration, in effect, operated on the presumption that it was not so sure what North Korea had nuclear weapons but that the regime was so unstable and irrational it had to be kept firmly within the international system of nuclear non-proliferation. So officials leaped at the chance to engage with the North Korean government and negotiate a deal to freeze its nuclear program.

The Bush administration, by contrast, states that North Korea has nuclear weapons and they believe it actually has the capability to play out the possibility that it may soon acquire more. Indeed, even though North Korea just admitted to secretly dumping plutonium on its agreement with the Clinton administration, Bush officials appear to believe North Korea will not act rationally and nationally in the coming months, responding to international pressure to meet the terms demanded by the United States for a resumption of dialogue.

“If we don’t do it now, I don’t see how we’ll do it later,” Secretary of State Colin Powell continued one interviewer who asked the president about the administration’s decision to refuse to negotiate a frozen nuclear program.

“If, yes, they have a large army and, yes, they have had these couple of nuclear reactors for many years, and if they have a few more, they have a few more, and they could have them for many years.”

The administration’s hard line on negotiations with North Korea, which it views as a moral bankruptcy regime on the verge of collapse, has prompted criticisms from the right over the right over what some might regard as a cavalier dismissal of the nuclear threat. “If (President Bill) Clinton had said that, they would have had his head,” said Lawrence G. Knauss, executive director of the Manoffield Center for Pacific Affairs, a conservative policy organization in Washington.

But, despite administration claims, it is not clear that North Korea is already a nuclear power. In early 1995, the administration began circulating an analysis that North Korea may have obtained enough fissile material to produce two bombs by the end of July, and even today, that analysis is a subject of dispute, with some experts dismissing it as little more than “a back of the envelope” calculation. It is based largely on the amount of plutonium that would be needed for a nuclear weapon and how much North Korea is estimated to have diverted from its nuclear facilities.

“There are people who don’t agree with that,” said David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security, a research group. He said the possibility was “high,” but he believes that North Korea has developed its nuclear weapons capability has increased over time.

The Clinton administration officially acknowledged the CIA analysis in 1997, Bill Jeffrey Steinberg, Clinton’s deputy national security advisor and now the president of the Strategic Defense Institute, has said it has not been confirmed that North Korea took the steps to develop nuclear weapons and produce two weapons. Asserting that North Korea already has nuclear weapons, and not to just assume that they produce more, is “a pretty slippery-slope argument,” he said.

An administration official said that, given that the CIA has calculated that North Korea has enough nuclear fuel for two bombs, it made little sense to see a new nuclear threshold that needed to be crossed. “What does the number have to become before you say we’ve entered a new line?” he asked.

Robert Eslon, a top non-proliferation expert for the Clinton administration, said one or two bombs give a nation only the ability to suggest it has a doomsday bomb that it could use in response to an attack. “95 or 75 is the beginning of a military strategy,” he said.

Preparations for military action, however, did not progress very far before. Former President Jimmy Carter negotiated a freeze in the North Korean program. According to former Washington Post reporter Don Oberdorfer, in his book “The Two Koreas,” Clinton and his top aides were discussing deployment options for troops and military equipment to South Korea when Carter called to say North Korean leader Kim Il Sung had agreed to the freeze. Carter urged a resumption of dialogue between the United States and North Korea. At the time, U.S. military officials were greatly concerned about a North Korean preemptive strike in response to the buildup, as well as for possible reaction by as many as one million dead in a full-scale war.

The resulting deal, known as the Agreed Framework, committed North Korea to shut its nuclear reactor in exchange for regular fuel shipments and the construction of two light-water nuclear reactors. But it was concluded just as the Republicans took control of Congress, and the administration was immediately forced on the defensive to preserve it. Many conservative advisers in the administration, thus, overwhelmingly opposed an immediate resumption of military action.

Testifying before Congress in early 1995, Paul Wolfowitz, now Bush’s deputy defense secretary, assumed, as did the Clinton administration, that North Korea had not yet obtained nuclear weapons. But he said the agreement did nothing to stop the North Korea policies that are the cause of tensions on the peninsula. “There is every reason to suspect that they will continue with some kind of nuclear development in secret,” he predicted.

In October, North Korea admitted it had been conducting a secret effort to produce enriched uranium for possible use in nuclear weapons, prompting the current crisis.

Kanter, an advocate of military action in 1994, said he would have if he were to propose military action today, because of the administration’s assessment that North Korea already has two weapons. “Given the enormous risk, a military strike would entail, going from two to six bombs changes the situation,” he said. “At a minimum, it’s a much closer call.”
University: Professor did not steal idea

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But Morein, in a quixotic gesture that goes sharply against the odds, has sued the highest court in the land to give him a hearing.

His attorney, Faye Riva Cohen, said the Supreme Court appeal is important even if it fails because it raises the issue of whether a university has a right to lay claim to a student's ideas -- or intellectual property -- without compensation.

"Any time you are in a Ph.D. program, you are a serf, you are a slave," Cohen said. "Morein is concerned not only for himself. He feels this is what happened to him is pretty common."

Drechsel's attorney, Neil J. Hamburg, called Morein's appeal -- and his claim that his idea was stolen -- "preposterous."

"I will eat my shoe if the Supreme Court hears this case," declared Hamburg. "We're not even going to file a response. He is a brilliant guy, but his intelligence should be used for the advancement of society rather than pursuing self-destructive litigation."

The litigation began in 1997, when Morein sued Drexel claiming that a committee of professors had dumped him after he accused his faculty adviser, Paul Kalata, of appropriating his idea.

His concept was considered to have potential value for businesses in minutely measuring the internal functions of machines, industrial processes and electronic systems.

The field of "estimation theory" is one in which scientists attempt to calculate what they cannot plainly observe, such as the inside workings of a nuclear plant or a computer.

Prior to Morein's dismissal, Drechsel leaked into his complaint against Kalata and concluded that the associate professor had done nothing wrong. Kalata, through a university lawyer, declined to comment.

At a jury trial before Syvester in 1999, Morein testified that Kalata in 1990 had posed a technical problem for him to study for his thesis. It related to estimation theory.

Kalata, who did not appear at the trial, said in a 1986 deposition that a Cherry Hill company for which he was a paid consultant, K-Tron International, had asked him to develop an alternate estimation method for it. The company manufactures bulk material feeders and conveyors used in industrial processes.

Morein testified that, after much study, he experienced "a flash of inspiration" and came up with a novel mathematical concept to address the problem Kalata had presented.

"Without his knowledge," Morein said, "Kalata shared the idea with K-Tron. K-Tron then applied for a patent, listing Kalata and Morein as co-inventors."

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Drexel University attorney
WASHINGTON — Three decades after the military draft ended, a small group of House Armed Services Committee members want to bring it back. They seek to spread the risks and burdens of war among a more diverse and representative volunteer force. It is unlikely that legislation to reinstate the draft would pass the Democratic-controlled Congress.

Rep. Charles Rangel of New York is unlikely to become law — the Pentagon opposes it — but it throws a spotlight on issues of patriotism, sacrifice and fairness in an all-volunteer military that in its enlisted ranks is disproportionately poor and African-American or Hispanic.

Rangel, a vocal opponent of war with Iraq, proposes drafting 18- to 26-year-old men and women for military duty every two years, in a draft that would eliminate the exemptions for college or graduate school students that allowed many white, middle- and upper-middle-class men to avoid fighting in unpopular wars.

If President Bush declares war on Iraq, he should ensure that Americans from all walks of life fight in it, Rangel said. He believes that those who make the decisions and those who support the United States in war feel more readily the pain that’s involved, the sacrifice that’s involved, if they thought that the fighting force would include the affluent and those who historically avoided this great responsibility,” said Rangel, a decorated veteran of the Korean War.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld rejected Rangel’s proposal out of hand. “We’re not going to reimplement a draft. There is no need for it at all,” Rumsfeld told reporters.

The current military prepared for war and a uniform draft would be costly and ineffective because it would rapidly militarize to train soldiers to serve for very short periods of time, he said.

“We have people serving today — God bless ‘em — because they volunteered. They want to be doing what it is they’re doing,” Rumsfeld said.

Politically, the proposal also is likely to run into problems in the Republican-controlled Congress.


“This is not a new proposal. It’s been debated at various times since the draft was placed in inactive status. The Department of Defense and the military services command all oppose the idea and feel that the volunteer service is working extraordinarily well on all levels. It’s hard to disagree with that.”

But Rangel’s proposal raises new questions that go to the heart of American’s concept of equality. Already, it has created strange alliances: Conscientious objectors have sided with the Pentagon while other notable Vietnamese War foes have joined the call for conscription.

“T’ve dead set against any declaration war on Iraq. But if we’re going to do it, if that’s what the country wants, then everybody should participate in equal footing,” said former South Dakota senator George McGovern, a World War II bomber pilot who ran for president in 1972 on a Democratic anti-war platform.

“T’ve never been opposed to deferment. We should never repeat that injustice,” he said in a telephone interview.

McGovern said his position was a logical way to oppose war. “It might cause some of the people who think going to war is a good thing to think twice about it if they think their sons or grandchildren or nephews would be in it,” he said.

But Brian Cross, a director of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, a nonprofit based in Philadelphia and Oakland, Calif., said renewing the draft is “a very bad idea.” He said the argument posed by Rangel and McGovern that a draft could help deter war is akin to “hostage-taking,” adding, “The young people of America don’t need to be Charlie Rangel’s hostage.”

William Galston, the director of the Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy at the University of Maryland, praised the draft as a form of public service. “We’ve constructed a notion of citizenship that is all rights and no responsibilities,” said Galston. “I don’t think that’s good for the country in the long run.”

In the last Congress, according to Rangel, only one member had a child who’d enlisted in the military, although several lawmakers were parents of officers. Rangel presented Pentagon statistics showing that African Americans comprise 22 percent of enlisted men and women in the military. They represent less than 13 percent of all Americans, according to the 2000 Census.

The story of African American Vietnam War fatalities is complicated. Between 1961 and 1966, African Americans comprised about 10 percent of U.S. men at arms but accounted for almost 20 percent of Vietnam combat fatalities, according to the Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War. Under heavy criticism, the Army and Marine Corps worked to reduce black casualties after 1968. By the war’s end, African American combat deaths amounted to about 12 percent, slightly above their proportion of the U.S. population.


The draft, requiring two years of military service, ended as American troops pulled out of Vietnam in 1973, and registration halted two years later. Former President Jimmy Carter reinstated registration after the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1986.

-By Jodi Cadorette

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Making a difference during spring break

KRISTIN DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Last spring break Annie Howe didn't party. She didn't go to a bar or to the beach and didn't even have tan lines to show. But Howe, 19, did have a unique experience that few other spring breakers did — a chance to brighten the lives of a group of children diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses at a camp in Eustis, Fla.

It was campfires and crafts that kept this sophomore busy at Boggy Creek Camp during her week off from school and she'll do it all over again this spring break.

Howe is one of many students who participated in UCF’s Alternative Spring Break. Last year, students visited three locations in Georgia, Florida and Tennessee to volunteer their time to help the less fortunate.

“I loved the atmosphere,” she said. “Volunteering has always been something I have loved to do.”

Howe is no stranger to volunteering. She has accumulated about 300 hours of community service just last year. This year, Howe will return to the same camp in Eustis to work with seriously ill children. She hopes to see some of the same children she worked with last year.

“I sent Christmas gifts to two of the young children I met at the camp,” she said. “They aren’t old enough to write letters yet, but they tell their older sister what to write and she sends them to me.”

Senior Priscilla Casados, 21, made the same trip her freshman year and it remains one of her fondest memories to date. Casados met a girl at the Boggy Creek Camp who she still keeps in contact with. She befriended the 15-year-old girl three years ago and she has watched her grow up and go to college. The two keep in touch via e-mail and Casados looks forward to hearing about what’s going on in her friend’s life each month.

“Spring break is a time most college students spend thinking only about themselves and planning which parties to go to,” she said. “Alternative Spring Break allows you to spend the week giving something back.”

This year, students will have the opportunity to visit five locations. In Tennessee, student volunteers will work with United Cerebral Palsy and construct four wheelchair ramps during the week for low-income individuals. Cerebral Palsy is a disease that cripples victims’ motor skills and muscle movement, and often confines them to wheelchairs.

In Eustis, students like Howe serve children with chronic diseases, many on ventilated assistance, and camp with them for four days.

In Augusta, Ga., students will volunteer their time with Habitat for Humanity in its annual Collegiate Challenge. Started in 1989, Collegiate Challenge is one of nation’s largest year-round alternative break programs. More than 9,000 students participated last year and volunteers will spend the week constructing a program in Augusta.

In Atlanta, Ga., students will volunteer with Hands on Atlanta, a non-profit volunteer organization. Students will spend the week volunteering in five different community agencies in Atlanta. In Miami, Fla., students will volunteer with Hands on Miami and serve AIDS patients and restore beaches.

Interested students should attend an informational meeting Thursday at noon in the Academic Building. Students may also contact Jeff Novak at (407) 324-8435 about lodging, food and transportation information.
Bush Outlines Plan To Boost Economy

President Bush unveiled his plan to kick-start the sputtering economy.

The plan calls for some $600 billion in tax and spending initiatives—despite warnings from economists about widening budget deficits and complaints from liberals about rewarding the rich. The plan includes eliminating the tax on dividends—a gamble on the idea's mainstream appeal in a country where more than half the population now owns stocks—extending unemployment benefits, and spending provisions of the tax relief package approved by Congress in 2001, such as tax-rate reductions and increases in child-tax credits.

Democrats blasted the plan's high cost and benefits for the well-off. They restrained their own economic plan that focuses almost entirely on short-term help for working families and hard-pressed state governments.

And even some business analysts who praised Mr. Bush's far-reaching aims worried that his plan risked doing too little to boost the economy in the short term, while damaging long-term finances states and the federal government. Some well-established industries also fretted that the new plan's tax breaks on dividends could lure investors away from companies in Japan's shrinking market.

Oil Production

With war in oil-rich Iraq looming, Saudi Arabia and several other OPEC members are backing a plan to increase oil output around the world by as much as two million barrels a day, opening the spigot much wider than expected.

The move comes as a strike in Venezuela—where 25% of world oil production and 50% of U.S. imports has been affected by a labor dispute—raises the specter of an oil crunch. The OPEC summit, held last week, will meet on an aggressive marketing effort. Walt Disney's ABC network will broadcast the Super Bowl.

Takings on New Flavor

PepsiCo, having long failed to create a winner in lemon-lime soft drinks, is betting it will finally score during this year's Super Bowl.

The purchase, N.Y., beverage marketer intends to use nearly half of the airtime it has acquired for the game to promote Sierra Mist, a lemon-lime brand it launched nationally last week. Twenty-second commercials, created by Genesis Group's BBDO, will hit on an aggressive national marketing effort. Walt Disney's ABC network will broadcast the Super Bowl.

The Sierra Mist campaign will be expensive, ABC says 30 seconds of commercial time during the game is selling for an estimated $2.2 million, although big advertisers tend to pay less.

PepsiCo is betting the campaign will transform Sierra Mist into a "major trademark along with Pepsi and Mountain Dew," says Cie Nicholson, Pepsi's vice president of flavored soft drinks. "We plan to be day one on the map." The new carbonated-soft-drink trademark launched in the past 3 years has been a big success, extending brand extensions such as Diet Coke.

American Pie

With vehicles such as the Ohio-made Honda Element SUV (pictured), Japan's top auto makers are accelerating their shift into the U.S. market, Japanese auto maker share of light-vehicle retail sales:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market</th>
<th>Toyota</th>
<th>Honda</th>
<th>Nissan</th>
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<td>U.S.</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
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Japan's Big 3 Signal a Turn

Toyota, Honda, Nissan Increase Their Focus On American Market

By Norihito Suenaga and Todd Zion

The latest sport-utility vehicle to hit the American market is bigger than its predecessor on the outside, bigger on legroom, bigger in the cargo area and better under the hood.

In short, it's American in every imaginable way but one: It's the new Lexus RX330 SUV, from Toyota Motor Corp.

Making the old RX300 more American and less Japanese is exactly the point. For Toyota, as well as Honda Motor Co. and Nissan Motor Co., what American consumers want is becoming more important than the wishes of consumers in Japan's shrinking market.

Vehicles such as the new Lexus SUV, a bigger, Mississippi-made pickup truck, Nissan plans to launch later this year, and Honda's new Ohio-built Element SUV, mark an important turn in the long-running battle between the auto titans of Japan and Detroit.

The Japanese are accelerating their shift away from their home market, which they see headed for long-term decline. With cash earned largely in America, Toyota, Honda and Nissan are boosting investment in new factories, engineering labs and vehicles. They plan to storm the American car-truck market with an intensity that will rival their early-1980s assault.

Come are the days when Japan's top car makers would tread lightly in markets such as big pickups and SUVs for fear of a trade backlash and tough competition from Detroit. Almost nothing is sacred anymore, as Japanese executives have shown this week, coming to Detroit's annual auto show to pocket the "Automobile of the Year" award from Automobile magazine for the new Nissan Xterra sports car.

Nissan's large pickup is designed to compete head-on with Detroit cash cows such as the Chrysler Silverado and Ford's redesigned F-150. Detroit executives also are bracing for Toyota's roll out of a larger replacement for its Tundra V-8-powered pickup. Such moves mean more competition—and potentially less profit. In a segment that up to now has provided a huge chunk of annual revenue and profit for General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and the Chrysler unit of DaimlerChrysler AG.

For the Japanese giants, the math has become simple. With the market shrinking back home, even boosting your share of the pie might not mean higher sales and profit, notes Norio Matsumura, a Japan analyst.
Hollywood Flops Rain Over Holidays

By Tom King

What's News—
In Business and Finance

IBM said it signed a three-year, $2.5 billion contract with Sanmina-SCI under which the contract manufacturer will make servers based on Intel's x86 chips for customers in the U.S., Latin America, Europe and the Middle East. Sanmina will also make certain laptop computers.

A year ago, IBM announced an agreement under which Sanmina took over IBM's desktop personal computer manufacturing in the U.S. in a $5 billion deal.

Odds & Ends

Factory orders dropped more than expected in November, pulling back from a strong gain the previous month.... UAL Corp., the parent of United Airlines, said it intends to shed 10% of its management and salaried employees by Jan. 30, part of its plan to lower expenses to meet the strict terms of its debtor-in-possession financing package. United, meanwhile, said it is cutting one-way business fares by as much as 40% for travel to and from its largest hubs, Chicago and Denver.

By Jay Hershey

How to contact us: CampusEdition@wisc.edu

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Mercedes to Revive

CarDiesel

For U.S.

To tap into revived consumer interest in fuel efficiency, Daimler-Chrysler's 4.2-liter 3.0-liter diesel engine, which grew to 15% by the late 1990s, will finally be imported by DaimlerChrysler, which in 2003 in the U.S.

The turbocharged car, to be sold as a 2005 model-year vehicle, will average 40 miles a gallon, an improvement of more than 30% from the comparable gasoline version, the company said.

Fuel-powered cars often get as much as 10% better fuel economy than gasoline-powered vehicles. That makes them an increasingly attractive technology to auto makers that are in danger of violating the U.S. government's fuel-economy rules because they are selling many gas-guzzling sports cars, sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks. The downside of diesel cars is that they emit far higher levels of soot-causing pollutants. U.S. limits on these tailpipe emissions will get tougher in 2004 and even more strict in 2007.

IBM to Outsource Server Production

IBM Corp., continuing to reduce its manufacturing operations, said it will outsource most of its Indian server making to Sanmina-SCI Corp.

BIPOLAR DEPRESSION

Dr. Charles Bailey, with CNS Healthcare is offering screenings in Orlando for participation in a research study on an investigational medication for those experiencing symptoms of bipolar depression. Eligible participants between 18 and 65 years of age will receive a comprehensive psychiatric examination and study medication at no cost. Health insurance is not necessary. Enrollment is limited.

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Bush’s history of ill-advised installments

Our stance:

Budget constraints make politicians of presidents

In a perfect world, budget deficits would not exist. Florida would have more than enough money to fund all its programs and universities would choose only qualified educators to serve as their presidents.

Unfortunately, that world does not exist. In the real world the state’s universities face severe budget crises. Worse still, Florida’s 11 universities must compete for a limited amount of money making it necessary that university presidents devote much attention to raising money and schmoozing with state government leaders as they do to pursuing the academic mission of their universities.

The days of educators working their way up from professors to chancellor to presidents have all but passed. Although a majority of university presidents still have roots in the world of higher education, these educators retire politicians who almost certainly fill their positions.

Political connections make the difference between a well-funded and an under-funded university.

In this academic and economic climate, it comes as no surprise that many of the state’s university presidents have political experience. Unfortunately, with little financial relief on the horizon, public universities will consider the political connections of their presidents increasingly important, perhaps to the point that a president’s political connections will matter more than his or her educational experience.

Unless the state university system gets a large influx of cash, to the point where all 11 universities have enough money to meet all their needs, politics will continue to play a large part of the apportionment process. University presidents will have to sell their respective institutions as the most needy and most deserving of the state’s insufficient funds, and those presidents’ ties to legislators and the governor will determine the amount of their funding.

Furthermore, future presidents at all public universities will need to be well adept at playing the political game. They will have to know who to talk to, what to say and how to get money. Their roles as educators will become far less important than their roles as fundraisers.

To fix the problem, Florida’s legislature must make the decision to adequately fund the state university system. The legislature has to devote enough money to help the system become one of the nation’s best, so that Florida’s 11 public universities can work together to promote each other, rather than compete with one another for scarce resources.

“We can try to avoid making choices by doing nothing, but even that is a decision.”

—CORY COLWIN

In light of recent Raelian claims that humans are clones of aliens, a new batch of signs appears.
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Decoding speech codes at universities

Becka Kulchak
Staff Writer

If you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say it at all. My mother’s opinion is that way. I remember wondering how long I would have to live until I could do nice things to people even if that’s not what I believed.

Fortunately, today I say things that aren’t always nice, that are sometimes controversial and that others find offensive from time to time. Luckily for me, the Constitution and the First Amendment protect me from people like my mother who insist that “not nice” views should be kept to ourselves.

But my mother’s opinion is somewhat far-reaching and like her, some still believe that if you don’t say nice things, you shouldn’t do nice things.

Ironically, that rationale is taking shape at one of the most liberal places in the world: the University of Florida. Students and faculty have debated issues of free expression and freedom of opinion for years. But lately, the discussion has taken on a new level.

Harvard Law School is considering creating a speech code that would ban offensive language such as racial, gender or sexually offensive slurs. The idea came from the Black Law Students Association after racially insulting e-mails circulated around campus and a professor stated to his students that, "feminists, Marxists, and the blacks," had contributed nothing to the theory of tort law.

The ramifications of enforcing a speech code are endless, but more importantly, it will not achieve the racial sensitivity on campus that they hope for.

The Black Law Student Association immediately recommended a speech code be enforced to keep racially offensive language out of classrooms and out of Harvard.

But what the Black Law Student Association fail to realize is enforcing speech codes and stifling politically incorrect statements are not only ineffective, they are Constitutionally deplorable.

The ramifications of enforcing a speech code are endless, but more importantly, it will not achieve the racial sensitivity on campus that they hope for.

By allowing and protecting the many sides of an argument, free thinking will continue. By remembering to maintain a level of respect for every person, offensive viewpoints may become dissimilar ones.

Now if only Harvard could get its act together.
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• Decal sales offices located at the South and West parking garages.
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HOURS: MONDAY - THURSDAY 7:30AM TO 6:00PM, FRIDAY 7:30AM TO 5:00PM
EVERY GAME counts

Defensive specialist Marcus Boyd helped fill the void at point guard since Al Miller was suspended indefinitely from the team.

UCF hits Atlantic Sun schedule

After losing its final non-conference game of the season Monday, the UCF men's basketball team dives head first into Atlantic Sun play beginning Saturday at Troy State. The Trojans knocked off preseason South Division favorite Jacksonville, 70-68, in their first league game of the season.

The Knights lost Monday to Kansas State, but beat Florida Atlantic on Saturday, 80-69, in their first A-Sun game of the year. The Owls were picked to finish second in the South behind Jacksonville.

"We've got the momentum going for the conference and hopefully we can keep it and maintain it throughout the conference," said coach Donnie Jones.

Concerns that the Trojans would be able to shut down Troy State's frontcourt duo of shot-blocker Ali Roberts and continually improving Takira Allen.

Knights look to put rough start behind them

"My realistic goal going into (the season) was to be a little bit over .500 coming out of December," Striegler said. "The bigger games, the Florida States, the Florida, the Georgia Techs and the Mississippi States, you always hope you can win one of those. I think our team is good enough to play with those. We weren't able to do that."

Fortunately, what has already taken place doesn't really matter. Sure, a strong beginning to the year would have helped build momentum, but the true season for UCF begins this week when it opens up its conference schedule.

On Thursday the Knights will travel to take on Jacksonville, then go on to play bitter rival Stetson, on Saturday.

Both teams have come out of the gate even slower than the Golden Knights. Jacksonville comes in just 2-8, 1-5 at home. Despite leading the Atlantic Sun in field goal percentage and three-point shooting, the Dolphins have struggled to score points, ranked second-to-last amongst A-Sun teams with a 56.2 point-per-game average.

Forward Kat Sung has served as a bright spot, averaging 14.1 points per game and leading the conference in rebounding with 9.8 per game. Center Kara Donnell has also gotten off to a strong start, averaging 10.1 points per game and 7.3 rebounds. Those two will make for an interesting match-up against UCF's frontline of shot-blocker Ali Roberts and continually improving Takira Allen.

Pleas See Trojans on 16

Please See Stetson on 18
CHRIS BERNHARDT
STAFF WRITER

The Golden Knights traveled up to Tallahassee on Sunday for their final non-conference game of the season. And just when it seemed they might grab some momentum before entering conference play, UCF Achilles' heels flared up again: poor shooting, turnovers and rebounds.

"I thought we played good for about 33 minutes, and the last seven minutes we just fell apart," UCF women's basketball coach Gail Striegler said. "We couldn't ever get it on track offensively. Defensively we did a pretty good job. Had too many turnovers and too many offensive rebounds."

When the dust had settled, Florida State sent UCF home with a 77-47 loss, the Golden Knights' third consecutive defeat and seventh overall. Though it ended up a blowout, the game was closer than the score would indicate. For the first six minutes of the game the two teams went back and forth, exchanging leads three times. But with the score tied at 11, the Lady 'Noles went on an 8-0 run over the next four minutes and eventually finished the half up 30-21.

Early in the second half FSU seemed to pull away when Lauren Bradley converted a three-point play for a 40-26 advantage. But on three successive three-pointers, the Golden Knights crept to within 11 points at 43-32 with 11:07 left. Yet they would get no closer. The Lady 'Noles outscored UCF 31-13 down the stretch for the winning margin.

"I thought the kids played hard," Striegler said, "but to beat a good team you got to play 40 minutes, you can't have turnovers and you got to outrebound them and you got to execute." The Golden Knights, a shooting

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Stetson, JU have early season struggles

"They don't really have true post players," Striegler said. "They play kids that will hit the 12-foot, 15-foot shots that are going to pull our post players outside a little bit and cause some problems for us that way. I think they're going to have a hard time matching up against us because they don't have the power post players which we do."

But with apologies to the Dolphins and all of UCF's other opponents, Saturday's game against Stetson has probably been circled on the Golden Knights' calendars for quite a while. In each of the past two A-Sun tournaments, the Hatters have disposed of UCF. Now they are hobbling, just 1-9 on the year.

Freshman forward Joslyn Giles has made for a solid addition on a team that has otherwise struggled mightily on both ends of the floor. She leads the league in blocks with 1.89 per game to go along with averages of 12.3 points and 7.6 boards.

With Stetson struggling, the Golden Knights might look at this as an opportunity to exact some revenge for seasons past.

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EOE/DWP
Kansas State holds off UCF

KRISTY SHONKA STAFF WRITER

When Ray Abellard injured his ankle Saturday against Florida Atlantic, UCF Coach Kirk Speraw said his senior "reevaluated it. The injury kept Abellard from practicing Sunday, though he did start Monday night at Kansas State. But UCF's leading scorer only played 11 minutes and went zero for three from the floor. Forward Ed Dotson picked up the offensive slack for Abellard, but with a short bench UCF lost 71-50. After the Wildcats held the Knights without a field goal for almost seven minutes to start the second half, Dotson sparked a UCF run that cut a 14-point deficit to four with 1:17 left in the game.

The Knights (8-4) had to send FSU in the free-throw line to stop the clock, stalling any opportunity to cut further into the lead. The Wildcats held UCF scoreless the final 1:29 of the game.

After Kansas State hit seven 3-pointers in the first half, UCF held them without any in the second half, but the Knights could only convert 8 of 11 themselves. UCF's defense held Gilson Dobosza, who ranks among the nation's leaders in blocks per game, to just two of 11 from three-point range.

Kansas State jumped out to a 43-23 halftime lead, but UCF couldn't make up the difference, despite playing much better in the second half. The Wildcats only outscored UCF 26-20 in the final 20 minutes.

Allen leads Golden Knights

FROM PAGE 17

... team that has struggled to hit shots and score points all season, did manage to shoot 45 percent from beyond the arc. But they hit just 38 percent from the field and their turnover bug-a-boo reared its ugly head again, as UCF gave up the ball 20 times compared to just 10 by FSU. Also, the Golden Knights managed just eight assists while the Lady Noles reeled in 12.

"Our past players had about 13 turnovers," Stringer said. "A lot of them are from three second calls, post players making bad decisions, trying to force passes. We had a couple of those that actually worked when they caught it."

Four players hit double figures in scoring for the Lady Noles, led by Gamecoast Adeniyi with 16, Bradley had 15, Tiffany Morris 13 and Trinetta Moore 12.

Forward Talshen Allen, UCF's leading scorer, once again paced the Golden Knights with nine points and eight rebounds. Fellow forward Erin Paige also had nine points to go along with six rebounds. Sharp-shooting freshman Claudia Johnson chipped in with eight points. UCF fell to 4-7 on the season, while FSU went 8-3.

All the Golden Knights' remaining games will come against Atlantic Sun Conference opponents, starting Thursday at Jacksonville. From there UCF hopes to turn things around and fulfill all its preseason expectations.

"The first part of the season was a little bit disappointing to us," Stringer said. "The second part of the season we expect to go out there and be able to play with every single one of these conference teams."

Trojans have Atlantic Sun’s top offense

FROM PAGE 16

... senior forward Ed Dotson led UCF with 16 points Monday against Kansas State.

Senior forward Ed Dotson led UCF with 16 points Monday against Kansas State.

"I can feel," senior forward Ed Dotson said after the Florida Atlantic win.

After twigs Joey and Stephen Graham transferred to Oklahoma State and the Knights only returned five players from last year's squad, Oklahoma State and the Trojans' complete dominance in Thursday's game.

The Knights have defied expectations all season and newcomers Lindbeck, Will Johnson and Dexter Lyons have all played well of late. UCF will need all three to pick up some offensive slack if Abellard is sidelined.

Lyons has averaged 8.7 points and 4.8 rebounds in 20 minutes over the past four games. He's started the past two games in place of Miller. Lindbeck will probably start in place of Abellard if the senior can't play Thursday. Lindbeck played 34 minutes Monday. He has started once already this season. In the 68-41 win over Talase during the Thanksgiving break, he scored 15 points in 24 minutes.

The Knights are now 9-5 on the year, but the only games that matter are A-Sun games, where they stand 1-0. But UCF Coach Kirk Speraw said this year's conference teams are the best top to bottom he's seen in his 10 years at the school, and anything can happen any night.

"It's going to be a battle every night out, and if you've off your game just a little bit, you're going to get clipped," Speraw said. "So you have to be focused and ready every single night out in our conference."
**Welcome.**

Come spins to retro 80s music at ed cover charge and is for people 18 and up; Sunday, Jan. 12 Art 3161. Ga(man Association's National Alternative Spring Break event at the Social, located at 54 N. Orange Ave. and attend the meeting at 5 p.m. There is no charge.

**Tuesday, Jan. 14**

*Open Mic Spoken Word Poetry*

Valderrama hosts its evening of spoken word beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Social. The evening is dedicated to spoken word poetry. However, if students or anyone else wish to read, the event begins at 8 p.m. Call 407-832-2361.

**Wednesday, Jan. 15**

Successful Interviewing Workshop

UC Student Resource Center helps students prepare for the job market in the "real world." By offering this free program, it is possible to maximize the best possible interview. The topics covered include: research, appearance, and warm-up, interviewing, and following up. The session is open for 1 p.m. in the Social Resource Center at 407-832-2361.

**Thursday, Jan. 16**

**Tuesday Night Predictions**

Predict the Oscars with the help of a professional tarot reader. The reading begins at 6 p.m. at the Copper Rocket; The Curtis 3:16. The event begins at 7 p.m. in the Social. For tickets information call Theatre UCF at 407-832-2361.

**Theatre UCF**

"Flame and fortune at the P-house"

**THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED**

**Linnea Brown**

Welcome to the road less traveled: a weekly trip to anywhere out of the ordinary. Over the course of this semester, I intend to prove just how much fun it can be to appreciate the unusual, celebrate the obscure and find excitement beyond the stifling boredom of the UCF bar scene.

After spending New Year's Eve downtown giving out fake dollars and wipping off slobber from the throats of singing, sweaty drunk gays that were packed like sardines into the "six-bucks-for-twenty-bucks" deals on Wall Street, I was more than happy to take a much-needed breather on Jan. 1.

So, I headed up my go-go boots and met two of my favorite gay friends at one of Orlando's most intriguing places — The Parliament House — a notoriously fun (if somewhat seedy) gay club on Orange Blossom Trail.

"On the road less traveled" is a weekly column that is stay tuned for more spots to explore. For more information call Theatre UCF at 407-832-2361.
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Strippers and scavenger hunts highlight night of fun

FROM PAGE 20

wiped it off, placed two room strips of toilet paper on the seat, washed his mouth and curtseyed deeply. And to think that most guys can’t even remember to put the seat back down. I thought, smiling to myself. I felt like Alice in Wonderland.

However, back out in the trivia showroom, my friends were unimpressed with my new bathroom buddy. “He’s old,” they hissed distastefully, wrinkling their noses. Obviously, they had higher standards than I did. I made a mental note to choose their potential dates more carefully.

But back to the show. Any hopeful contestant simply had to enter his (or her) name before 10 p.m. by dropping it in a big green hat at the front of the stage. A stant, mid-dle-aged, bespectacled man introduced himself as Wanzie, one of the show’s hosts.

Dressed in green doctors’ scrubs, a yellow silk sports coat and Nike sandals with socks, he bore an odd, clashing resemblance to Dr. Doolittle, attending a pajama party. No sooner had Wanzie finished speaking than Miss Sammy herself sauntered across the stage in a pink, gaudy silk dress, tip-toeing to a hilarious number called “Just being a girl.”

A foolishly whimsical drag queen, Miss Sammy was barreling with more sparkling, nostalgic stage presence than a modern-day Lucille Ball. Secretly I immediately decided that Miss Sammy was my new hero.

I watched as the first three contestants took their places behind glittery, rainbow-striped podiums. Wanzie read a succession of witty, naughty questions about movies, music and celebrities from behind a pink, sparkly question-mark-painted podium.

Miss Sammy cleverly sprinkled the spoopy trudes with lighthearted, comical dialogue. My guy-hungry friends and I spent the entire first round drooling over contestant number two — a Rollins grad student hottie who looked like he had just stepped off the pages of an Abercrombie advertisement, which left me to wondering why I never met straight guys that look that good.

But I digress.

The most hilarious part of the entire game show was a three-minute scavenger hunt in which contestants had to beg audience members to give up personal items — down to their underwear.

The participating audience members each received a free drink coupon and needless to say, I participated. At the end of round three, a well-known Orlando choreographer won the weekly prize of $100.

“That will be me next week,” my drunken bathroom buddy bellowed, determined to win...one of these days. As my two friends wandered into the bar area to catch the end of an 11 p.m. strip show, I eagerly caught up with Miss Sammy to gush over her imperial performance charisma.

Miss Sammy laughed, explaining that the show’s other host, Doug, had called in sick two hours before that night’s performance. “I made up all the questions and answers myself an hour before the show,” she confided.

Wow, what a fun job. Divas have it made, I thought.

Meanwhile, at the bar, my poor friends had been cornered by an obnoxious “Flame and Fortune” groupie named Colleen. “I’ve been to every single show since the beginning,” Colleen bragged. “I’ve been a contestant four times and won three times. I’ve seen city commissioners play, and my straight roommate even came and won. And they always give away $100 bucks.”

My friend looked blankly past Colleen and adjusted his attention on a male stripper. “I just like to watch the strippers afterward,” he trailed off vaguely.

So, maybe some people are into the whole trivia scene more than others, but “Flame and Fortune” at the Parliament House makes for a good time. It might make you wish you were a diva.
Rodeo's gives taste buds wild ride

Donna T. Schuman
Staff Writer

When Danny Lunsford, owner of Rodeo's Wings and Sub Shop, opened his restaurant in February 2002, he designed his menu to specifically serve UF college students.

“I wanted to be able to offer them a large quantity of food at an affordable price,” Lunsford said.

The atmosphere at Rodeo's is laid back and friendly. The walls are decorated with horse-shoes and large rodeo photographs, a theme idea that came from Lunsford's home state of Oklahoma.

"In Oklahoma, rodeos are very prominent," he said. There are also writings on the walls from patrons expressing their opinion of Rodeo's.

"The original intent with the graffiti was to get customer feedback," Lunsford said. "Over time, people started to add their own expressions.”

Lunsford's daughter, Tiffany, greets customers and takes their order and diners can watch their food being made in full view of the open kitchen as well.

The menu offers specialty subs and wraps, such as the Cowboy Club and the Triple Cheese, and all of the sandwich- es are available hot or cold. Lunsford also offers wings in a variety of flavors such as honey garlic, teriyaki and BBQ. These jumbo wings are char-grilled, not fried, making them a healthy alternative to fast food.

For the lighter eater, Rodeo's offers garden, chef and chicken salads. The French Fries, which Lunsford seasons with lemon pepper and parmesan cheese, are a favorite with the customers. Dollar drafts are offered everyday from open to close as well.

All meals are under $8 and there are various lunch specials offered for about $6, making it affordable for most college students to eat there. Yet, the student crowd has still not developed as much as Lunsford had hoped.

"I would love to have more UF students come in, but the word is not getting out there," Lunsford added. "We still have people coming in that never knew we were here."

Rodeo's also caters to the customers by giving them the option of eating in the dining area or taking their food to go. However, Lunsford would like to change that.

"We get a lot of carry out orders," he said. "I would eventually like to go to full service and get the seats filled."

As an incentive for people to stay and dine, Lunsford has equipped the dining area with a PlayStation 2, a football table and numerous televisions throughout the restaurant. On Saturdays and Sundays, Rodeo's offers their "Big Game Special," which consists of 20 jumbo wings and a pitcher of beer for $10.

"We try to teleview as many sporting events as possible," Lunsford said.

"We will be adding things to the menu over time and hope to open a new location soon.”

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Removal's cons fail to sway unhappily tattooed

Joe Holleman
Contributing Writer

Getting a tattoo removed is a pure case of "good news/bad news." That's how Dr. William Goldstein describes tattoo removal to prospective patients during an initial consultation.

"The good news is 'Yes, we can get the tattoo out and the area will be totally normal or very close to normal,'" said Goldstein, director of the Vein and Skin Care Institute in Chesterfield, Mo. "Then, I tell them that the bad news will take about 15 minutes."

The short form of that conversation is this: Tattoo removal will take a long time, it will cost a lot of money and it will hurt. So much for the soft-sell approach.

Basically, a professionally drawn tattoo will take about 18 months to two years to remove, will cost about $1,000 and will require the use of numbing cream and the counting of minutes before and after a treatment.

The process works like this: A laser machine shoots out a small beam of light aimed at the tattoo, or more accurately, the ink molecules. If the tattoo is red, a green beam is used because red absorbs green. The absorption creates heat, which breaks up the ink molecules. This allows the body's white blood cells to actually eat away at the ink.

"The tattoo is not really erased off. It's actually pushed deeper inside the body so the body can cleanse it out over time," Goldstein said.

The standard description of the pain level is that the treated area will feel like it has been repeatedly snapped by a small rubber band. Patients usually take the numble before the treatment and then use numbing cream afterward. The treated area will scab or blister, much like a burn would.

"Does any of this scare off customers?" Goldstein said some prospective customers decide to live with the tattoo.

"But about 95 percent don't even blink at my little speech," he said. "They just want it off."

Crossword

ACROSS
1. French dish
5. Researcher
10. Island west of Cruz
14. Actor Juls
15. Copper's last stand
17. Shade providers
18. Peggy Lee hit
19. Hockey setting
20. Lame cousin
23. Printer's measure
25. Young guy
27. Hand shop
28. Blood-sucking bugs
33. Houseband
37. Get out of line
39. Puts in peace
40. Evening in Rome
41. Fancy crime
42. Father: Turkish leader
43. Bar white wines
45. Nitrogen compound
47. Cock in
49. Tassop awards?
50. Rich person?
52. Base or River
53. — and luck
57. Transatlantic
60. Shoe price
62. Slacken
63. High cards
65. Listen to
67. Device for holding
69. Medals
73. Ciguysts
77. Tantric Dood's mount

DOWN
0.Laughter times
1. Leather trim
2. Dancing gala
3. "Barn Free"
5. Serenade
6. Down
7. Time
8. Great up
9. Duke's partner
10. "First Love"
11. Time
12. Time
13. Hugh
17. In
19. Surfs
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See solutions, page 25

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Web cam popularity rises among students

FROM PAGE 20

way of showing the greater
Internet public the beauty and
vibrancy of the campus,’ Joel
Hurtman, the vice provest for
Information Technologies and
Resources at UCF, said.

These web cams cost about
$35 per camera, in addition to
the networking and installation
cost, and are not used for securi­
ty purposes.

‘UCF’s main web cam page
receives more than 4,000 visits a
month,’ Hurtman said. ‘It is one
of the top 20 most visited pages
on the main web site.’

Junior Blake Stephens, 20,
decided to get a web cam his sec­
tory year in high school. He paid
a total of only $55 for the server
it’s running on, the RAM, HD’s
and camera. He now has two
sites he uses his web cam for,
(http://www.TheResourceFork.co.
Since setting up a counter on his
web site last year to record how
many hits he gets a day,
Stephens has had 92,650 hits to
date and on average, six new
people visit his site a day.

“It seemed like a neat thing to
do,” Stephens said. “My web cam
records almost every part of my
room that I live in all day. It’s
on even while I sleep.”

Stephens’ web cam even
benefits his friends as well.

“Before all my friends call
my house, they can check my
web cam to see if I’m actually at
home,” Stephens said. ‘And
when I am talking online to peo­
ple, they can watch my actual
reactions to their sent mes­
ages.”

For Junior Isabella Harkins,
21, it was one of her friends that
introduced her to a web cam two
years ago.

“My friend was always
online talking to her friends
and she could see them wherever
they were talking to her from,”
Harkins said. “I thought it was a
great idea since I have family up
north and it would be a great
way to keep in contact with them
and my friends back home.”

Harkins mainly uses her
web cam to show her family and
friends her apartment in
Orlando and allows them to see
her and her friends in Orlando
as well. Harkins added that she
also uses her web cam to create
crazy music videos for fun.

“My web cam records almost
every part of my room that I live
in all day. It’s on even when I
sleep.”

—Blake Stephens

I live

Just can’t keep a
shopper down

HOLLYWOOD — Barely a
month after she was sentenced to
a Beverly Hills prison to serve
three years’ probation and 480
hours of community service,
Winona Ryder is shopping
again.

The actress was spotted
Saturday at the Prada boutique
on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills.
Like a kid in a candy store, she
started checking merchandize from
the Italian label’s resort collection
off practically every shelf —
including an $800 rosette-print
nylon tote and a $780 red canvas
purse with flower appliques —
while a saleswoman stood
by.

Ryder, dressed casually in
floral tops, a long gray skirt and
a black cloche hat, was over­
heard saying, “I like almost
everything.”

She loaded her downed
Prada escort.

Looks like she’ll be starting
out the new year with a new,
right foot, in a Prada satinette she paid for.

—Associated Press

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