Eight contend for chance to lead Orlando
Still, none of the candidates are making their way to UCF

Ben Baird
Staff Writer

On Feb. 4 Orlando voters will go to the polls in the largest and perhaps most confusing mayoral election in the city's history: an election in which many of the eight candidates see their terms having a direct impact upon UCF.

The special election comes after Gov. Jeb Bush tapped Orlando Mayor Glenda Hood for the position of Florida secretary of state. This created a campaign season, which would usually take between six months and a year, into a matter of weeks.

Citing a lack of time and invitations, no candidate plans to make an official visit to UCF during his or her campaign.

This guide to the 2003 special mayoral election serves as an introduction to the candidates.

Please See EE-SGA on 6

Financial aid staff hopes for smooth semester

Joe Harless
Staff Writer

Despite the difficulties students faced with financial aid disbursement last semester, the financial aid office says the bugs from last semester will not present a problem this semester.

In an e-mail sent to the 23,872 students who received financial aid last semester, the financial aid office apologized to students who received their funds late due to software errors in a new computer system implemented last semester.

Lisa Minnick, associate director for communication and public relations for the financial aid office, and author of the e-mail, discussed last semester's difficulties. "It was hard in the fall," Minnick said. "We had to accommodate the new system."

In the e-mail, Minnick wrote that the office staff believes that students would not experience delays in the receipt of financial aid for the spring term. Less than 5 percent of the e-mails sent out came back to the financial aid office as undeliverable.

"I think it will be fine," Minnick said. "We've worked those bugs out of the system."

One look at the line from the financial aid office confirms Minnick's statement. While long lines trickled out from the office last semester, only a few students now remain inside the office.

Some students, however, still have not received their funds for the full semester. Students like senior Jennifer Stewart still come to the office asking about

Please See System on 4

Theater legend reflects on his life and art

Cary Grayson
Staff Writer

In 1959, when "A Raisin In The Sun" became the first play written by a black author to reach Broadway, Douglas Turner Ward was there.

Eight years later, when the Negro Ensemble Company emerged to take its place on the cutting edge of American theater, Ward also was there. On Thursday, when Louis Elder's "Ceremonies In Dark Old Min" opens at UCF, Ward will be there, too.

Please See Ceremonies on 20
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Shuttles too late for earliest classes

Shuttle operators vow to consider changes if complaints warrant

Danielle DePari, Staff Writer

Sophomore Eran Green, 19, would like to take earlier classes.

"Taking earlier classes would be really beneficial for me, because then I could get my classes over with earlier, and would still have a substantial amount of hours during the day," Green said.

Green lives off campus and does not have a bike; she relies on the UCF shuttle to get him on and off campus and now will be able to count on it to get him to school earlier.

As UCF begins the spring semester with earlier classes, the UCF shuttle service will also run earlier, but some students complain that it does not run early enough.

"Having received word from the administration that some classes were going to start early during the spring term, we moved the start time of the shuttles up to 7 a.m., from the previous starting time of 7:30 a.m.," Clark said.

However, not all students who need to get on campus earlier have been able to fully benefit from the shuttle service.

"Driving on campus is such a hassle," Almeida said. "I would like to get on and off while it isn't too crowded. The shuttle would be nice because if I had to get up that early for class, I might not be awake enough to drive.

Clark said he has only received one complaint about expanding shuttle times.

"The UCF shuttle runs from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday. Stops include Pegasus Point, Pegasus Landing, Jefferson Commons, Alafaya Club, Boardwalk and University House.

Higher education around the nation

Scholar gets new shot at tenure

Brooklyn College has reappointed a popular history professor for another year after scholars and students protested his possible dismissal.

"I am thrilled that Brooklyn College was able to make a decision that will protect the rights of all students and faculty," said Professor Robert Johnson.

However, Christoph M. Kimmich, the college president, announced in December that Johnson would not be reappointed.

"I was disappointed by the decision, but I am grateful for the opportunity to continue teaching at Brooklyn College," Johnson said.

Before Kimmich's decision, rumors surfaced that the administration had received a negative evaluation of Johnson's work.

"If the evaluation was negative, it is difficult to understand why Brooklyn College has reappointed him," said Professor Philip Gallagher.

"It is clear that the decision to reappoint Johnson was based on merit and not on political considerations," said Professor David Johnson.
UCF won't monitor file sharing

STEPHEN HIRST STAFF WRITER

While the Recording Industry Association of America legally fights to shut down peer-to-peer programs, it has increased the pressure on universities to police file-sharing activity by students. However, although college officials say they are responsive to public pressure to put a stop to it, they have a mixed reaction to the conflict between the interests of copyright holders and those of students.

“UCF won’t see why they can’t just use dial-up service, and faculty can’t use the file sharing services,” said Steve Zorn, a senior at Central Florida Future University.

The Digital Millenium Copyright Act of 1998 protects service providers from liability for copyright infringement, as long as they have no knowledge that users have been违法 the law and provided they also take steps to stop such activities as soon as they are pointed out.

Student and faculty response to the conflicting letter has been mixed. Elayne Allen, an anthropology professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, said that many students are interested in the Internet and they should be allowed to monitor it in their own way.

But other students, such as seniors Joseph Grace and Michael Zorn, are concerned about the potential for abuse and the potential for the development of an Internet culture that would make it easy to bypass the law.

One issue is the use of file-sharing programs, which allow students to share copyrighted material with other students.

“Once you’ve got it in your hands, you can use it for whatever you want,” said Senior Joseph Grace, who compared the monitoring of file sharing to police tactics.

It’s the same thing as the police causing a roadblock to check for drunk drivers,” Grace said. “Not everyone on the road is drinking, but you have to deal with the ones who have the bad habits.”

As for UCF’s official position on monitoring its network, Joel Hartman, director of information technology services, said the university has no intention of doing so at this point. “We do not explicitly look for file sharing, or any other type of copyright use, including peer-to-peer applications,” Hartman said.

However, Hartman said that UCF was not immune to the problems of copyright complaints. “UCF like many other universities, occasionally receives notices from the RIAA and Motion Picture Association of America regarding copyrighted content allegedly stored on or being served by others on computers located on campus.”

According to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, Hartman admitted that the university has a legal obligation to investigate such direct complaints and take appropriate action. Hartman added, “Fortunately, we receive very few such ‘take-down’ notices.”

Elizabeth Sgammato, a student at the University of Wisconsin campus soon to be known as Stevens Point, said that many students are interested in the Internet and they should be allowed to monitor it in their own way.

“I lived in the dorms, and I’ve heard that we weren’t supposed to use Napster or stuff like that,” Sgammato said. “But we’re not in the same one I know had it, but only I got in trouble.”

Sgammato noted that in addition to losing her Internet privileges, a disciplinary committee also made Sgammato write an essay on the ethics and dangers of using systems similar to Napster.

Though her ordeal is over now and she has since moved off-campus, Sgammato still wonders, “How did they know what I was doing?”

Web site lets students
spot professors who are tough graders

DAN MIHALOPOULOS
KRT Campus

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Before registering for classes, students at the University of Wisconsin campus soon will also be able to look at the Internet to see just how tough it would be to ace courses.

Many students say they are eager to log on to pick up an idea which class will be the most difficult to pass — which professors to avoid. Bar charts on the Web site show what percentage of each instructor’s students received As, Bs, Cs, Ds, or Fs during past semesters.

“I’ll be strongly tempted to look, like a bear with a honey jar,” said Thomas McNichol, 26, a graphic design major. “You could learn, ‘Who to avoid this kind of stuff through the grapevines. Now you can just punch it up.”

The University of Wisconsin student association recently decided to pay $10,000 to Pick-A-Prof, joining more than 50 public universities nationwide that subscribe to the three-year-old service based in Texas. And student leaders at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UCI) and Wright College are debating whether to bring it to their campuses next year.

In an age when students can order term papers over the Internet, the spread of Pick-A-Prof has stirred a fresh debate about the effects of rapid technological change on education.

Many students relish having easy access to grading system won’t be perfected until summer

From Page 1

their funds.

"I come here every week," Stewart said. "After taking out three short-term loans last semester, I expect to get her full funds with the spring disbursement." "Hopefully I’ll get the fall [add a week before the spring," Hirst said.

When asked about students that have not received their full funds yet, Minnick urged them to check their financial "To Do" lists on their Polaris accounts.

"At this point, the people that haven’t received their funds yet have either missed their checklist or Polaris yet," Minnick said.

To help students still experiencing problems with disbursement, Minnick said the financial aid department plans to send out another e-mail specifically for those students, complete with hyperlinks to Polaris to check their financial "To Do" lists.

Minnick also encourages students to communicate with the financial aid office about problems they experience with disbursement.

"Some students won’t see their funds before they won’t follow through on the paperwork," Minnick said.

Minnick said UCF made the switch in computer programs so the various university departments could be better equipped to communicate with one another. The financial aid department was the last office on campus to switch to the new PeopleSoft system without testing to make sure the system worked properly.

"Students and staff suffered together," Minnick said. "It was harder than we thought it would be.

Minnick also said that while the financial aid system has dealt well with the department from last semester, it has not yet perfected the system. It will take until the end of the summer term to work out all the bugs, he said.

"The main thing right now is to get things squared away," Minnick said. "Fall was an aberration.

Florida seeks new chancellor

BECKA KULICHAK
STAFF WRITER

Last month, the appointed chancellor to Florida’s Division of Colleges and Universities, Daniel Papp, resigned from the position and will remain in Steoge to finish his term as senior vice chancellor there.

Papp’s decision to resign comes six weeks after the state voted to install a Board of Governors to oversee Florida’s higher education system and the state’s 11 boards of trustees at Florida’s public universities.

Papp resigned after stating that his role as chancellor would be wade with such a change in place, the Orlando Sentinel reported.

But Papp’s decision may be politically-motivated in light of several Mag that he may have lost his pre- sidential positions at three of Florida’s universities.

Former Florida House Speaker Ed Wathen took over as president at Florida State University, L.I. Gov. Frank Brogan is controlling for the presidency of Florida Atlantic University and Jacksonville Mayor John Delaney is consider ing a position as president of the University of North Florida.

Former Chancellor R.T. York told the Orlando Sentinel that Papp was delivered from coming to Florida for that reason.

In Georgia, Papp manages academic, faculty and student affairs, fiscal and budget business, information and institutional technology and strategic research and analysis for 34 colleges and universities.

Interim Chancellor Carl Hackett is waiting to retire, but has agreed to serve in the position until a replacement can be found.
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EOE/DFFWP
Mushrooms enlist in the war on cancer

LINDA MARSIL

During World War II, the development of penicillin was credited with saving thousands of Allied Lives. Afterward, battalions of scientists scoured over swamps, marshes, jungles and forest underbrush looking for other fungi that could help. Researchers screened thousands of compounds, leading to the discovery of streptomycin and other early antibiotics.

But others didn’t pan out. Among these was a fungus from the jack-o’-lantern mushroom. Although it showed promise as an antibiotic, the fungus had a toxic side effect that made it useless in humans. Half a century later, however, this mushroom may see limited use in cancer-fighting arsenal.

A chemical derived from this fungus, known as lovastatin, has been used as a possible therapy for difficult-to-treat cancers, such as advanced ovarian cancer and breast cancer.

Early studies also suggest lovastatin may be more potent when used in combination with chemotherapy – as clapsin and paclitaxel.

The original studies of the

devolved a compound, trehalose, that was effective. He sent the substances to Dr. Michael Keiter, a UC San Diego pathologist, who tested it on mice with leukemias and lymphomas.

Keiter found that the compound killed tumors in mice. He was able to develop a drug that could help patients.

McMorris had several advances with advanced pancreatic cancer. He had found that the drug was effective in combination with other therapies.

The drug has side effects like mild diarrhea, headaches, including nausea, vomiting, fatigue and bone marrow suppression; a phase 3 trial with advanced pancreatic cancer was halted because of these side effects.

"It is not a cure for pancreatic cancer," said Dr. J. Randolph, a medical oncologist at UCLA’s Jenson Cancer Center who tested lovastatin in pancreatic cancer patients. "But it’s an interesting drug, and clearly there are people who’ve had responses in other cancers.

Preliminary results of recent research in a wide variety of other cancers have been encouraging in a 2001 trial of 15 women with recurrent ovarian cancer. Five patients experienced at least a 50 percent reduction in tumor size, while two others showed improvement.

"I am encouraged by early signs that lovastatin may be effective in treating ovarian cancer," said Keiter. "It’s not a cure, but it’s a step forward."
Six-week strike closes colleges

from page 3

than 400 students who want the college to return to Johnson.

Oklahoma Panhandle gets NCAA probation

Citing a "severe lack of institutional control," the National Collegiate Athletic Association last month put Oklahoma Panhandle State University on probation for five years and took away two and a half athletics scholarships for violations of the association's rules. The NCAA's Division II Committee on Infractions, which heard the case, also ruled that coaches and administrators must undergo intensive training on how to comply with NCAA regulations.

According to the committee's report, among other infractions, Panhandle State's coaches gave 11 players athletics scholarships and allowed them to practice and compete from 2000 to 2002, even though the players did not meet the NCAA's academic eligibility standards for Division II. The violations involved football, basketball, and softball players.

Nine other athletes received scholarships and were allowed to compete even though they were on academic probation, violating NCAA rules and the university's own policies.

The women's basketball coach also used the owner of a recruiting service to convey a scholarship offer to a player in Yugoslavia, in violation of NCAA policy, the committee ruled.

Finally, a physical-education instructor, who also served as Panhandle State's senior woman administrator, circumvented the university's rules for dropping and adding courses by voiding a football player's failing grade in one course and giving him a grade in another for which he had not registered.

The infractions committee also ruled that a former president refused to let a faculty member report potential rules violations to the NCAA, the committee found, and the baseball coach lied to the association's investigators on several occasions.

National strike shuts down universities in Venezuela

A six-week national strike aimed at toppling Venezuela's government has left the country's universities virtually abandoned and is threatening to force officials to reschedule the academic year.

Four of the nation's 22 public universities remained officially closed this week after their governing bodies determined there weren't enough students and professors in class to justify keeping the universities open. In solidarity with the strike, most students and professors at the other 18 public universities and the country's 15 private universities have refused to attend classes.

Opposition political parties, as well as the country's largest labor confederation and business chamber, began the strike on Dec. 2 in an attempt to force President Hugo Chavez to resign or accept an early referendum on his presidency. The left-leaning president has been accused of running the oil-rich nation like an autocrat and of trying to turn it into a socialist state.

On Monday in the capital, Caracas, pro-government students at the Central University of Venezuela — the nation's largest university — were blamed for assaulting an official and setting fire to a car at the university's governing body meeting to decide whether to officially close the campus.

Still, only about 400 students showed up for classes on Monday after the two-week holiday vacation. Officials said most universities have remained empty since the second week of the strike. The first semester of Venezuela's academic year began in September and was scheduled to end in early March. Professors at the Central University of Venezuela haven't been paid since November.
Profs: Site will cause grade inflation

from Page 4

histories, but college instructors here and across the country are complaining that Pick-A-Prof is the worst blow to the integrity of higher education since Cliff's Notes.

"There is no relation between an easy A and the quality of learning," UW sociology professor Carrie Young Costello said.

Critics say grading histories on the Internet will make it simple for students to choose professors who are most likely to grade gently. Students inevitably will try to play the odds to give themselves the best chance of posting high GPAs and attracting job offers, said George Davida, a computer science professor and faculty senate member.

"It's a no-brainer," Davida said. "This will turn the university into a casino."

Proponents warned that Pick-A-Prof will result in grade inflation. "There will be an influence on professors to bring students into their classes by not grading too hard," said Jennifer Maher, an associate professor of women's studies.

Pick-A-Prof is a simple, if novel, concept. Data on the grading histories of professors at public universities is open to the public. Pick-A-Prof requests the information from universities and places it on its password-protected Web site.

At most universities where Pick-A-Prof is used, the student associations pay the company to construct and maintain the site. Pick-A-Prof also runs message boards featuring anonymous reviews of professors, which the company screens for profanity and personal attacks. Company officials say the screening process makes Pick-A-Prof's reviews more useful than the feedback that students post on other Internet sites, such as myprofessorsucks.com.

Pick-A-Prof is in operation at some of the nation's largest universities, including the University of Texas, University of Massachusetts, University of Maryland, University of Kentucky and Indiana University.

Pick-A-Prof founder Chris Chilek and John Cunningham began the company while students at Texas A&M University, where they graduated in 1999.

Cunningham, a marketing major and Chilek, who studied computer science, knew they had the right to view professors' grading history. But they noticed that few students went to the trouble of asking university administrators for the fat binders that contained the paper records.

"We recognized the opportunity to put it online, where there would be more access," Chilek said in a telephone interview from the Pick-A-Prof office in Austin.

Professors who criticize the service underestimate their students, Chilek said.

"The students know that if they go for the easy A, then they won't have the background they will need to succeed in a higher-level course," he said.

Some college students defend the site as a valuable tool for increasing accountability among professors and giving students more information as they choose expensive courses.

"You pay for a class and you want to get something out of it," said Kory Kozloski, the UW student association president.

UC student government President Angel Alvarez has proposed shutting down Pick-A-Prof. The company chose the campus as a trial site, meaning some data are already available to UC students on a test basis.

"Now I don't have to rely on how accurate my friends are when I ask them about a class," Alvarez said, who expects student representatives at UC to decide on taking the service soon after the holiday break.

Mary Ming Lam, a junior majoring in movement science at UC, has logged on to the test version and said it is easy to use. "Of course, everyone is looking for a professor who hasn't failed too many people," she said.

But some students said the main attraction of Pick-A-Prof is the opportunity to learn more about the demands of a class and the teaching style of professors before signing up. Course catalogs customarily give no more than a terse description of the material a class will cover.

"There will be a lot of people trying to get an easy A, but those people have always been there," said Susan Howell, a marketing major at UW. "I just want to know which classes are good and which classes are not."
DANCING THE KNIGHT AWAY

U.S. claims to have thwarted more than 100 terrorist attacks
WASHINGTON — Federal authorities said Friday that more than 100 terrorist attacks planned against the United States and its allies have been thwarted since Sept. 11, 2001, due in large part to the continuing interrogation of enemy combatants and other cues gathered in the war on terror.

Although authorities would not officially disclose the nature of the planned attacks, government sources said they included threats against American embassies on three continents, a U.S. military base in Europe, and American cargo ships passing through the straits of Gibraltar.

It also remained unclear how many of the threats were against specific sites inside the United States. But federal authorities noted that it was the interrogation of a key al-Qaida operative that ultimately led to the arrest last year of Jose Padilla, the so-called “dirty bomber” who allegedly was scouting attack targets in the United States.

The disclosure about the more than 100 planned attacks came in a legal declaration filed by Vice Admiral Lowell E. Jacoby, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

His nine-page affidavit was used by government prosecutors to detail how important the interrogations have become, and to argue against a federal judge’s ruling last month that Padilla be allowed to meet with his lawyer.

According to the CIA, more than 1000 al-Qaida operatives and associates have been detained in more than 100 countries since the Sept. 11 attacks, and the Pentagon was attacked.

Authorities revealed Friday that embassies have been a particular focus of the terrorist network, especially in recent months. Other threats have been aimed at U.S. airports and the aviation industry.

Other sources said plots have been thwarted with a flurry of arrests, as was the case in Singapore early last year when intelligence from interrogations in Afghanistan led to the unraveling of an al-Qaida cell planning to blow up military transport buses and U.S. warships.

Wetlands may lose protection under new guidelines
WASHINGTON — As many as 20 million acres of the nation’s wetlands may lose federal protection from industrial pollution or unlawful development as a result of new guidelines announced Friday by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Officials said the step was necessary to comply with a Supreme Court ruling, but environmentalists said it was part of an Industry-backed effort to get key protections under the 30-year-old Clean Water Act.

Friday’s announcement stems from a regulatory guidance letter that was prompted by a 2001 Supreme Court ruling that denied Clean Water Act protection to isolated, non-navigable ponds and wetlands contained in a single state. The letter was issued by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

Regional offices of the EPA and Army Corp were formally instruct­ed Friday to withhold clean water protection from those types of iso­lated wetlands and to seek guid­ance from headquarters in deter­mining whether to protect other small intrastream streams and water­ways that currently enjoy federal protection.

EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman and other officials said the new guidelines “reaffirm federal authority over the vast majority of America’s wetlands.”

The new regulation would shift responsibility from the federal gov­ernment to the states for protecting up to 30 percent of the 100 million acres of wetlands in the lower 48 states, according to official esti­mates.

But environmental groups warned that the guidance letter and the planned rule making marked the government’s first step towards severely weakening the law and putting at risk hundreds of thou­sands of miles of small streams, tributaries and wetlands.

The administration has been wrestling with the enforcement issue for weeks, and there were indications that the EPA and the White House decided to narrow the scope of the new guidelines at the last minute, in response to criticism from environmental groups.

--- COMPILED BY NICK JOSI
Candidates should make a call on UCF

G runted, UCF does not lie within the borders of "The City Beautiful," but UCF is a part of the greater Orlando community. Thus, it is disappointing and frustrating that none of the eight candidates to succeed Glenn Hood as mayor of Orlando have plans to officially visit UCF during their abbreviated campaigns.

Pete V. Berreth, a UCF graduate and lawyer who is one of the candidates, regularly visits UCF has many UCF students working for his campaign and would make UCF a centerpiece of his economic plan for Orlando, he will not campaign here.

Not only any of the other seven candidates – Pete Barr, Buddy Dyer, Alex Lamour, Shaco Lechleiter, Wayne Leichering, Wayne Barr, and Rich, Bill Sublette and Dewey Wallace – although they say they want to involve UCF in Orlando's affairs and make Orlando a place where UCF graduates want to live. They claim they want to find out what concerns UCF students. They might learn what UCF students want if they only asked. And the best place to find students is on UCF's campus, where there is never a shortage of students or opinions.

In a race as close as this one promises to be, all the candidates could use every vote they can get.

By not trying to garner the votes of college students, the candidates, in essence, are saying that they value that constituency.

If they wanted those votes, the candidates would seek them as aggressively as they seek the votes of soccer moms and senior citizens.

In an election with eight candidates, likely very few votes will separate them.

These candidates will also ignore another huge chunk of voters by not tapping the campus – the 4,000 faculty members and the majority are registered voters in Orlando.

Although the mayoral candidates may not want to see the college vote, students who are eligible to vote in this election should definitely do so. The special election occurs Feb. 4.

Our Stance:

International students deserve more respect

The U.S. government's suspicion of foreign college students, particularly those from Arab or Muslim countries, may increase national security, but it decreases their freedom and ability to feel at home. Unfortunately, the government's tactics to strengthen immigration laws in the past year or so. It would be a shame if some of the hijackers in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks entered the country on student visas, the government now scrutinizes foreign college students, particularly those from Arab or Muslim countries.

After the terrorist attacks, everyone agreed that the government had to increase national security. To do so, some freedoms would inevitably be lost. Still, the United States should be a place where freedom is preserved, and where people should not have to live their lives with the government looking over their shoulders.

Unfortunately, the government's tactics may ruin, or at the very least, hamper, the lives of foreign students and tarnish their perception of this country. When students from Arab or Muslim countries come to the United States to study, they should be treated with the same respect as any other student. They deserve more respect from the government.

The government should view foreign students with more respect. It should treat them as a part of the community and not as a threat.

Our Stance:

Orlando's mayoral candidates, realizing just how important the student vote is, descend upon UCF to tap a vital resource.

Letters to the Editor


Today's love isn't tainted, just unconventional.

Letters to the Editor

Don't agree with our columnists?

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Please write your name and college affiliation on all e-mail correspondence. Submissions will be considered for publication without acknowledgment. E-mail submissions are strongly preferred.
No doubt, by now we've all heard about the Raelians, that loveable band of misfits who so adoringly think that humans are clones of an alien species. They have been granted time in the forum that is mass media and have been scrutinized, dismissed and jeered.

Admittedly, some of that lambasting has come from yours truly, mostly because of one tiny little fact - they're all crazy.

But what if they're not? That's right, what if "Those Crazy Raelians" - sounds like a new Broadway show - aren't so crazy? What if we really are clones of an alien race? In the interests of journalistic objectivity and fairness, I decided to look into that idea.

We are clones of aliens. Why this change of heart? I have mocked this movement readily and every time I see them get airtime I shake my head in amazement. If that's not enough proof for you, just look at him over the last decade or so - I don't know many humans who molt.

If you're still skeptical, just think back to that fatalistic, almost tragic day in Germany when Jabba-oh forgot which planet he was on. He must have forgotten Earth had gravity, after all, and that was why he dangled his infant son over the balcony.

Anna Nicole Smith. OK, so she may not necessarily be an alien, but she's definitely a freak. And I hear she is almost a shoe-in for the role of Jabba the Hutt's sister in "Star Wars: Episode III" - Yoda Kills Jar-Jar.

• Strim Thurmond. Anyone remember Pruso Face from "Return of the Jedi"? And while I'm getting "Star Wars" out of the way, why is it that no one ever sees Janet Reno and Chewbacca in the same place at the same time?

• Basta Byrnes. He definitely has the Predator hair. And Christina Aguilera. If men are from Mars, then we need to take up a collection and send this gal back to Venus as soon as possible.

• Marilyn Manson. I must admit, I've never been a - what's the word I'm looking for? - fan of this particular artist. Still, despite knowing little more than his appearance and a few assorted lyrics, I was nonetheless surprised when I saw him turn up on the Sci-Fi Channel's "Parascope." I'm pretty sure he's a clone of that show's Scorpions. Or maybe he's just evil innately. Either way, he's just not right.

There you have it.

As you can see, we clearly are not the unique beings we once considered ourselves. The Raelians have proven themselves immensely wise and charitable for revealing to us the true nature of our existence. We should be thankful. Our leader did not let sanity and earthly desire deter him from this goal. We should not overlook his steadfast resolve to this asinine endeavor.

Let's hope that comet comes soon - I think their madness is contagious.
Knights
KNOCK OFF another A-Sun team

Kristy Shonka
STAFF WRITER

Junior college transfer Dexter Lyons registered a triple-double Saturday as the Knights handed Troy State its first conference loss of the season, 76-61. The win snapped the Knights’ seven-game losing streak against the Trojans and marked the first UCF win in Troy, Ala., since the 1999-00 season. Lyons had 14 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists for his first career triple-double. It was his third consecutive start. Senior guard Shonka also had a career performance, knocking down six three-pointers. She scored 26 points for the fourth time this season, and tied her career-best for three-pointers in a game.

The Knights grabbed a two-point lead at the half after Abellard upped the lead to double digits for the first time with a pair of threes. The Trojans cut the lead back to

UCF, Mercer face off in battle of unbeaten teams

Kristy Shonka
STAFF WRITER

When the Atlantic Sun coaches and media filled out their ballots for the conference’s preseason poll, it’s doubtful that any of them thought that tonight’s match-up between UCF and Mercer would be a battle of the only undefeated teams in the South Division.

But that’s the case as the Knights (10-5 overall, 2-0 A-Sun) and the Bears (9-3, 3-0) go at it tonight. Only one will walk away a winner from their 7 p.m. game at Porter Gym.

Both polls had Mercer finishing third in the division and UCF finishing fifth, with Jacksonville and Florida Atlantic at the top. Both teams have knocked off FAU, and the Bears beat Jacksonville, 71-69. The Owls have yet to win an A-Sun game, while the Dolphins are 1-2 in conference play, and Mercer is 2-0.

Please see UCF on 14

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK
Golden Knights finally put a lid on the Hatters

Chris Bernhardt
STAFF WRITER

Over their first three seasons under Gill Striegler, one team consistently haunted the Golden Knights. One team that always seems to have their number, one team that always seems to stand in UCF’s way. And they’re less than an hour away.

Since the 1999-2000 season, UCF and Stetson have squared off eight times. The Golden Knights have lost seven of those contests, including meetings in the past two Atlantic Sun tournaments. But they didn’t lose this time.

The Hatters, stumbling along with just one win all year, lost to the Golden Knights, who finally got some vindication Saturday with a 76-62 win at Stetson.

Despite both squads entering the game with losing records, the two rivals played predictably light early. After watching the lead change hands six times, UCF scored eight straight points to open up a 22-14 lead. The Golden Knights hung on to take a 29-24 edge into halftime.

UCF took over but after the intermission, scoring seven unanswered in the first two minutes of the half and building on it with a 22-10 run. Stetson mounted a comeback with a 14-5 push but could get no closer than 15 points with a little over three minutes left.

The Golden Knights shot 44 percent from the field in the decisive second half, and 59 percent for the game. Meanwhile they limited the Hatters to just 35 percent.

All Roberts scored a game-high 14 points to go along with six rebounds. Erin Payne chipped in 10 points. Joslyn Giles had 14 to pace Stetson.

Stetson fell to a dismal 1-12 and 0-2 in the A-Sun. UCF is still just 6-7 overall but 2-0 in-conference.

Please see Roberts on 14

Photo & Illustration by Anne Swenson / 129

The women’s basketball team picked up its first two A-Sun wins of the season last weekend.
Bradu, Sierra lead Knights at Miami

CFF STAFF REPORT

Juniors Catalin Bradu and Antonio Sierra earned UCF’s only wins in the first two days of the University of Miami’s Spring Fling. Bradu and Sierra won their singles matches and combined for the Knights’ only doubles match win Friday against William and Mary.

Bradu rallied to beat Jeffrey Kudel 2-6, 6-2, 6-2, while Sierra easily beat Stephen Ward 6-2, 6-2. The two beat Ward and Sean Kelleher 8-4 in their doubles match. Junior Gabriel Strangberg beat Kelleher, who is ranked 30th in the Midwest Region, in singles play 4-6, 6-4, 7-6.

The Knights couldn’t muster any victories Saturday against Clemson. Bradu, Strangberg and senior Augusto Sanaubria were the only UCF players to win a set in their matches. Clemson swept the Knights in doubles.

The matches in the Spring Fling count against players’ individual records, but do not count against the team’s record. UCF played host Miami on Sunday.

The Knights’ next match is Jan. 23 at the University of Florida.
UCF's defense stifles A-Sun's top offense

FROM PAGE 12

UCF's defense stops the offense of A-Sun's top player.
UCF fairs well at national tourney

UCF officials also did very well, as Chris Morello and Steve Anderson were both named All Americans. 71 officials from 31 different institutions were invited to work the national tournament, and the top 20 officials are annually recognized as All Americans. Steve Anderson worked as the field judge for the Men’s Collegiate Championship game and Chris Morello worked as the line judge for the Co-Rec Collegiate Championship game. This is the first time UCF has had two All Americans in the same year.

Join us
Sign up today for 3 on 3 Basketball, Dodgeball, and the USA Tennis ladder at: www.imsports.ucf.edu.

UCF UPSETS 8-TIME CHAMP

The UCF cheerleading squad ended Kentucky's string of eight consecutive national championships on Saturday when it won the squad's first-ever national title. It marked the ninth time in the last 10 years that UCF has finished in the top 10. The Knights avenged their second place finish to the Wildcats last year.

UCF ATHLETICS THIS WEEK

Men’s Basketball v. Stetson Hatters
Sat., Jan. 18th at noon
Come out to the UCF Arena and watch the men's basketball team as they take on the Stetson Hatters in televised conference play! Plan to wear a hat and participate in our “Ugliest Hat Contest!”

Women’s Basketball v. Troy State
Sat., Jan. 18th at 3 p.m.
Stick around the UCF arena and watch as the women's basketball team takes on Troy State in conference play! Cheer your Golden Knights on to victory!

Admission is FREE for students with a valid UCF ID.

TO BOTH GAMES!
All other UCF fans, call 407-UCF-GOLD for tickets!

...AND TAKING NAMES!
www.ucfathletics.com
Let's get physical

LINNEA BROWN

The new year has begun and while most people are trying desperately to stick to their dieting resolutions by restricting carbs, consuming cabbage soup or sipping shakes to replace meals, four UCF couples decided to take a different approach to dieting this year.

They decided the best diet plan would involve getting a little physical—and it would all start in the bedroom.

For SS0, our UCF couples enlisted online for a weeklong trial run on the newest alternative diet—the sex diet.

The diet, which can be found at thesexdiet.com, is intended for couples in committed relationships. It calls for couples to go through the program together and encourage each other to use detailed sexual fantasies as their motivation and reward system for achieving their personal weight-loss goals.

With the help of the sex diet, couples learn how to focus on sex instead of food to lose weight. The diet's guidelines instruct each participant to read through his or her e-book and fill out a contract with their partner encouraging them to work together to achieve their team goals.

"A lot of diets are such a longer thing," said Angela Williams, a 22-year-old senior. "The contracts really helped make this a team effort and helped us to support each other when I probably would have just quit if I was doing it alone." 

Please see Diet on 19

Dream diet

LAURA STEVENS

If students want to shed pounds, they might want to start by revising their sleeping patterns.

Studies in the Journal of the American Medical Association and the Lancet suggest chronic sleep loss can cause hunger and slow down a person’s metabolism and affect people’s ability to maintain or lose weight.

There is a direct correlation between weight disorders and sleep, and weight gain caused by sleep problems can become a cycle, said Jay Travis, a doctor at the Sleep Diagnostic Institute of Orlando.

"The more people are sleep deprived, the more they gain weight," he said. "The more overweight you are, the more sleep problems you have." 

The National Institute of Health has found that adolescents ages 12-15 are at risk for weight problems associated with lack of sleep. They suggest adolescents need an average of 8.5 to 9.5 hours of sleep every night.

However, only 15 percent of adolescents get the amount of sleep they need, according to the institute. About 26 percent of adolescents say they sleep 6.5 hours or less on school nights.

John Shepard Jr., a medical director at the Mayo Clinic Sleep Disorders Center, says there are ways to ensure a good night’s sleep.

While some diets warn against eating before bed, Shepard says that going to bed hungry isn’t a solution either.

"If you get the munchies, eat something that triggers serotonin, which makes you sleep," he said. "Carbohydrates (bread or cereal) or foods containing the amino acid L-tryptophan (milk, tuna or turkey) will do the trick." 

He also advises dieters to avoid alcohol near bedtime, which can cause people to snore, wake up repeatedly and foster sleep apnea in some.

Best easy by doing the following:

Don’t go to bed hungry.

Establish a bedtime routine.

Go to bed at the same time.

Breathe evenly and deeply.

Get regular exercise.

No caffeine before bed.

No TV or reading in bed.

Please see Diet on 19

Playing with candy-flavored fire

KATRINA HAMMER

What is wrapped in a leaf, smokes when lit and is about two-thirds the size of a cigarette?

A marijuana joint comes to mind, but also throws in choice of mouth-watering, candy-inspired flavors such as strawberry, cherry, grape and chocolate.

It is the Indian bidi, a small, sweet-flavored cigarette that is gaining popularity with young adults around the nation. In fact, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, up to 40 percent of teens in urban cities have lit up a bidi at least once.

These hand wrapped, non-filtered cigarettes attract young smokers for several reasons. They come in a variety of flavors, are cheaper than traditional cigarettes by about a dollar per pack and are considered by some to be a “natural alternative.” The cigarettes contain pure tobacco that has been sun-dried and then wrapped in a leaf.

Freshman Nicky Surillo tried bids several months ago after being introduced to them by a friend. “It didn’t seem as bad because they tasted good,” he said. Surillo, 18, said that the bids leave a really good aftertaste, one that lingers on the lips. “That’s probably why they may have become so trendy,” he commented.

But Surillo stopped smoking bids with his friend shortly after he started. “I heard that someone who used them started coughing up blood,” he said.

Unfortunately, people often do not realize the danger that lies behind smoking these Indian imports. One reason may be that seven out of 10 bidi packages do not contain a surgeon general’s warning.

Nevertheless, people flock to specialty stores, health food stores and head shops, those that sell paraphernalia for use with illegal drugs, to stock up on bids. Indian bidi cigarettes are sold through the Internet as well.

Business major Evan Schechter smokes bids occasional. "Schechter, 18, said that bids are hard to get, but well worth the effort. "They actually have a flavor," Schechter said. “They’re much better than regular cigarettes where there is a choice of no flavor or menthol.”

Schechter said that stores around the UCF area have recently

Please see Bids on 19
StJ-Cape
Florida
224.

What does it mean to have integrity? And how does this principle affect your leadership ability? Find out more about knowing how to make successful make decisions that are in alignment with your personal and organizational values.

Mon Jan 13
8 pm Avant Garde Speaker Dr. Ronald Eaglin on Adventure Racing, a sport which challenges mind and body requiring teams to cross terrain on boat, bike, foot and other. Dr. Eaglin will share his experiences along with slides and pictures, and how you can get started. SU Key West 218A

Tue Jan 14
10 am - 4 pm Club Showcase. SU South Patio. Clubs and organizations will have info tables. Get involved! 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Knights of the Round Table meeting, SU Egmont Key. All Clubs and Organizations are invited to get updates on campus happenings, share ideas, and improve UCF. 7:30 pm Intro to EKCEL, SU Egmont Key 224 9 pm CAB Cinema "The Good Girl" starring Jennifer Aniston, Cape Florida Ballroom 316

Wed Jan 15
1 pm VUCF Mentor Training Session. Learn how you can help a young person study. Carpool from Millican Hall at 1 pm.

Fri Jan 17
5 pm Spring Registration Deadline for clubs; forms due in the Office of Student Activities

Sat Jan 18
8 am VUCF Ripple Effect. Carpool in front of Millican Hall at 7:15 am. Join us serving the Orlando homeless community by distributing clothes from our clothing drive and food from the Ripple Effect organization.

Tue Jan 21 - 22
7:30 pm EKCEL: Leading with Integrity. SU Cape Florida 224. What does it mean to have integrity? And how does this principle affect your leadership ability? Find out more about knowing how to make successful make decisions that are in alignment with your personal and organizational values.

The Office of Student Activities is now accepting applications for the following leadership positions on the Campus Activities Board (CAB)

- Special Events
- Concerts
- Dance Marathon
- Public Relations
- Spectacular Knights
- Cultural and Fine Arts
- Speakers
- Popular Entertainment
- Cinema
- Video Productions Director
- Video Productions Operations Coordinator
- Video Productions Productions Coordinator

Pick up and drop off applications in OSA. All applications are due on Jan 24 by 5 pm

VUCF Clothing Drive will continue through January 24th. Drop boxes are located in the Student Union and in the breeze way near the bookstore.

Visit us on the web at osa.ucf.edu
For more info on any of these events contact the Office of Student Activities, Rm. 208 in the SU, or call 407.823.6471
Funded by the Activity and Service Fee as allocated by SGA
THE COLLEGE NIGHT OF 2K3
Free Bud Light until Midnight
Dress to Impress (no Sandals, Hats or Shorts)
Located on the corner of University and Alafaya
For more info call 407-657-0029

Phat Tuesdays
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Every Tuesday Night!

Open Bar
till Midnight for Everyone!
Free Bus ride @ Lake Claire 10:30

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Diet encourages couples to reward weight loss with sex

From Page 16

The contract calls for each participant to "ask for what you really want," and write down 15 detailed sexual incentives for their partner to pleasure them with as a reward for following the diet. "The sexual rewards were the best part of the whole diet," Williams said. "We took all of ours out of the Kama Sutra book."

But William's boyfriend, sophomore Ryan Helle, 23, wasn't as thrilled with the box structure of the diet. "The whole team-workout thing was just stupid," Helle said. "It didn't really give us anything to work with, so we invented stuff. Like, we decided to have wild sex right before every major meal, but we just made that up ourselves."

Each participant also had to give up two "mental addiction" foods, or comfort foods, that they used to eat or partake in the diet. "I have never been bad in a movie," he said. "The movies have been the only thing that I've ever done well in."

Junior Chris Adams, 21, gave up fast food from Chick-Fil-A while his girlfriend Ashley Campbell, 20, sacrificed ice cream and popcorn. "Now that the diet is over, though, I can't wait to eat them again," Adams said. "I know I'd be getting a lot more section if I went along with it."

But Campbell, a sophomore, has decided she can live without them, so we invented stuff. Like, we just made that up."

---

American counterparts. Samira Asma, an epidemiologist for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said bidis contain more cancer-causing agents than American cigarettes. They also cause the same problems. Bidis can cause respiratory problems, mouth, throat, stomach and lung cancer, heart disease and strokes. The wrapping of the bidi also causes problems. Bidis are wrapped in a tendu leaf, which is toxic, so smokers have to inhale deeper and more frequently to keep the tobacco from coming out. It also causes problems. Bidis are also incredibly strong. They can break in half from the powder inside them.

Bidis pose more severe hazards than cigarettes

Hollywood Briefs

Litotta always looks good

WASHINGTON — Actor Ray Liotta may be short on blokestormers, but plenty of his performances have won good reviews. "I see him as Michael on an actor who can shine through a bad film. Even if the movie has been less than spectacular," he says, "Roy's never been bad in a movie."

In "Narc," Litotta is back to the clenched-jaw intensity. By the end of the movie, Litotta's character is such a tempest of sweating, spitting fury, you could set him outside as a lawn ornament. But for all the scene-chewing, the wheezing and歇息ed Henry Oak, is no tough-guy caricature. Litotta infuses him with enough ambiguity — even softness — that you're never quite sure whether he's a good cop gone bad or a bad cop gone good.

"I see Oak, I see nothing of Ray," Carnahan said. "None of his marmalades. Ray is an incred-
Thursday, Jan. 23

"In conversation"

Founded in 1967, the legendary Negro Ensemble Company has produced more than 200 new plays and provided a theatrical home for more than 400 cast and crew members. This event, featuring company founders Douglas Turner Ward and Robert Hooks, begins at 7:30 p.m. at Hungerford Elementary School, 230 S. College Ave., Eatonville. A reception follows.

Friday, Jan. 24

The 50th Years of Black Theatre in America Through the Lens of an Arnie Rosenberg

A presentation by Lloyd Richards, former dean of the Yale School of Drama and former artistic director of the Yale Repertory Theatre. This event runs from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Maitland Civic Center, 841 S. Maitland Ave., Maitland.

Zora Neale Hurston Festival

Celebration highlights

The theme for the 14th annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival is "60 years of Black Theater." This critically-acclaimed event focuses on African-American culture with a mix of world-class arts and humanities programming, including music, dance, drama, folk and visual arts. Highlights:

Street festival

Vendors and an outdoor stage with free entertainment will fill Kennedy Boulevard in the heart of Eatonville. Event starts at 11 a.m. and resumes at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25.

On Stage: Celebrating 60 Years of Black History

The production directed by UCF film professor Tony Major will be staged by invitation-only at 5:30 p.m. (not repeated for the public at 2 p.m.) Saturday, Jan. 25 on the main stage at Theatre UCF. Admission is $10.

Saturday, Jan. 25

"A Wake-Up Call for the Nation"

No one who isn’t wearing a hat will be admitted to this event, which runs from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Maitland Civic Center.

Awards Gala

Honorees include Ruby Dee, Osceola Davis, Woodie King Jr., Sidney Poitier, Lloyd Richards and Douglas Turner Ward. Event starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Wyndham Orlando, 8001 International Drive. For ticket information, call 1-800-672-3310.

ASIAN ROSES (FCP)

Robert (around
Honest) and
Tom (Wright
field contact)
watch as Mr.
Parker (Hilton
Chappell) (now
he sees his
dance steps)
Ward showcases black talent, changes complexion of theater

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53. Taylor or Adoree
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51. Hesitation
50. monster
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DOWN
1. "The Big Easy"
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53. Taylor or Adoree
54. Zeno of
55. monster

See solutions, page 8

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The Exercise Physiology Lab at UCF is looking for healthy, male and female volunteers (ages 18-35), to participate in a research study to examine how genetics affects the way a person responds to weight training.
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100 Help Wanted
450 Retail
500 Off Cents
250 Automotive
300 For Rent
600 Green Lake
513 Rent
350 Roommates
750 Travel
400 Services
800 Reunion
Office Telephone Hours
Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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• 100 Help Wanted
• 100 Help Wanted
• 100 Help Wanted

100 Help Wanted
Bartender WANTED. $300 a day salary. Looking for excited and outgoing people. Training provided. No experience needed. Call 1-800-965-6350 ext 107.

Web Posting - Positions starting at $9 - $12/hr are available for friendly, outgoing, motivated people. PT, FT, AM/PM positions available at upscale hotels in the Downtown Orlando and Disney areas. Call 407-841-7275 - Mon-Fri 7:30p.m - leave voicemail.

Queen Positions

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Call NOW!

MOVIE EXTRAS/MODELS NEEDED

$150/080.

Call 407-882-8786

Job is in Winter Park.

WEB ASSISTANT
For Riversong Office.

Earn up to $1000 a day.

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Flexible and Dependable Person with flexible schedule needed for office work. Good phone voice, energetic, dependable. Can work a minimum of 6-8 hours a day. Call 607-275-7111.

MUSICIANS WANTED!
Looking for experienced guitar and/or your musical ability? River Run Christian Church is a contemporary church. We are looking for all types of musicians, especially lead guitarists. If you are interested, contact Mitch Hendry, Pastor of Arts at (407) 977-5433.

ARTS ADMIN.
Admin. assistant for new dirn. real estate office. PT 12 hrs./wk, flex. schedule, experience with computer skills, $10/hr. Start immed. Fax resume to 407-447-5051.


Call 407-629-6258.

Babysitter Needed (with experience) for one weekend night per week (Fri or Sat night) as Thursday or Saturday. M-Th sometimes F. Experienced. M-Th sometimes F. Experienced. Contact John @ 407-439-7654.

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For Experienced Waiters and Bartender Trainees Needed. _


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ATTENTION WV!

FLEUR DE LIS NEEDED!
Work in Amar's HOTTEST Night Club $55 PT Hours, PT PAY $550-

ATTENTION WV!

FLEUR DE LIS NEEDED!
Work in Amar's HOTTEST Night Club $55 PT Hours, PT PAY $550-

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ATTENTION WV!

FLEUR DE LIS NEEDED!
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Petition Pick-up: Jan. 20-30th (9am - 5pm)

Declaration of Candidacy: Jan. 27 - 30th (9am - 5pm)

Active Campaigning: Feb. 10 - 19th (Beginning at 9am)

Candidate Forum: Feb. 13 (12 - 2pm, infront of the Student Union)

Elections: Feb. 17th - 19th (Online voting ends @ 5:00pm Feb. 19th)

Run-off Elections: Feb. 24 - 26th (online- if necessary) Online voting ends at 5:00pm