Consolidation companies groan over student loans

Companies grumble as students combine long-term loans at lower interest rates

CRYSTAL ESPINOZA
STAFF WRITER

Major lenders are asking Congress to make loan consolidation a less attractive option for borrowers.

Last year borrowers saved thousands of dollars and consolidated more than $52 billion worth of loans after looking in a 4 percent interest rate, the Chronicle of Higher Education reported.

Now some major lenders in the student-loan programs say it has become too easy for borrowers to refinance their loans and want Congress to revise the 16-year-old system.

The program, designed to help borrowers repay loans by combining multiple loans into one with a fixed interest rate, allows borrowers to repay student loans over a span of 30 years.

But major lending companies want the program to change and under their proposal borrowers could no longer lock in fixed interest rates for up to 30 years.

Instead, they would be charged the same rate as all other federal student-loan borrowers are charged in a given year to channel more money into student-aid programs to help low-income students with college expenses.

It is unclear, however, whether the money would actually benefit such programs if Congress does agree to adjust the program.

CONSOLIDATION COMPANIES

Web wins students' attention in wired classrooms

Professors use kill switches to keep students unplugged, engaged in lectures

KRISTA ZILIZI
STAFF WRITER

Classroom distractions are nothing new, but these days they're not what they used to be either.

Instead of passing notes, whispering and daydreaming to pass class time away, students are now using the very distraction that educators have been pushing into classrooms for the past decade — the Internet.

In Danielle Moroux’s Design for Communications class on a recent afternoon, several students sat behind computers in the fully-wired classrooms checking their e-mail while Moroux lectures the class about Web servers and IP addresses.

“Seven million new domain names are being registered every day around the world,” she tells her class, but no one seems to care.

One student is too busy researching graduate programs at UCF to click to the Web site that's related to Moroux’s lecture.

CHRISTINE DELLERT
STAFF WRITER

Two UCF students were attacked last Saturday while attending a birthday party at Pegasus Landing. The two victims, Heath Frank, 20, and Carlos Smith, 22, are calling the incident a hate crime, saying they were beaten for being gay.

UCF police officers responded to the victims' call at 2:40 a.m. and arrested Eduardo Mongioi, 20, who was visiting a resident at the apartment complex. Mongioi is not a UCF student.

Eyewitness accounts state that Mongioi appeared severely intoxicated and was continually harassing gay students leaving the party.

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Two gay students call their brutal attack a hate crime

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Two gay students call their brutal attack a hate crime
Professors call Internet a distraction

while another student is window-shopping for shoes online. A third student reads a Chili’s restaurant menu.

While Moroux urges her class to embrace the Internet as a learning tool, her classroom is an example of the struggles professors face in trying to bring technology into the classroom while retaining their students’ attention.

"If I didn’t have the Internet, I couldn’t teach this class," she said. "[But] I do get a little annoyed when students aren’t paying attention, which is why I walk around and my assistant identifies students not on task. I do a lot of monitoring.

But students, who have grown accustomed to tapping on keyboards and surfing at computer screens on a day-to-day basis, say the Internet is only a temptation for distraction if professors don’t keep their classes interesting enough.

"If the teacher keeps you moving the whole time, then the Internet isn’t a distraction," said senior Nick Carnes, 22. "If they leave the door open, well, it’s up to the professor to keep us interested.

"I respond to my e-mail during class, but it’s my primary contact," she said. "It’s pretty convenient to instant message my programmer friends and ask them questions about class."

But she admits that from time to time she wanders from class-related functions on the Internet to browse the Web.

"If the class is going over things I already know, I’ll start reading other things — it’s better than falling asleep, because that would be really rude," she said. But in an attempt to feel more in touch with the students they’re teaching and keep their classrooms more structured, professors are turning to devices that allow them to control a student’s activities on the Internet, at least in the classroom.

Synchronized technologies in several UCF classrooms have allowed professors to decide when students can surf and where.

When Journalism Instructor Renee Brokaw wants students to log off and focus their attention on her lecture, she can black out their monitors and project a message on each student’s screen that reads, “Eyes up front” with a click of a mouse.

"There’s no reason to do it other than to get everyone’s attention to start class," she said. "It’s not to censor anyone."

The synchronized technology allows her to not only lock students’ access to the Internet, but also lets her project any content on a student’s screen onto a large screen projector in front of the class.

"If students are window-shopping for shoes online, or surfing to the research spots through; it’s more than I’m being deprived because I’m not surfing during lectures," she said. "The Internet is always there, I can surf when I go home."

But Moroux — who acknowledges that she knows her students aren’t always paying attention when she hears their computer clicking away in class — is leery about using kill switches to keep students unplugged from the Web.

"I don’t use [the kill switch] because students get annoyed," she said. "And sometimes I’ll lecture and I know they’re still getting it even if they’re doing something else."

"Most of the students are respectful and they do what they’re supposed to do," she said.

"My assistant identifies students not on task. I do a lot of monitoring."

"The Internet isn’t a distraction," said senior Jon Sanchez, 23.

Schwartz doesn’t object to a technology that would restrict her from accessing the Internet during classes either.

"It’s not like I’m being deprived because I’m not surfing during lectures," she said. "The Internet is always there, I can surf when I go home."

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Dan Rather used to have a line about the importance of truth. I don't understand why his other line never caught on.

"If only one person would have stood up to say, 'I don't think it's true,' history might have been different."
United

There will be a regime change, the Central

The Consumer Bankers Association also suggests allowing

How are the Americans against Saddam Hussein? We

WASHIINGT0N—One night last week, six Iraqi-born men gathered around the din­

Another proposal, suggested by one of the New York Financial Aid Administrators, would charge a small fee for

United States and the rest of the civilized world for democracy.

Robert Arthami, 35, also took part in the PFI rebellion, as did a third man who came to the United States in 1997 after six years in a refugee camp in Saudi Arabia and now delivers pizzas to Starbucks coffee shops.

He is especially sensitive about civilian casualties because last November, his 21­

So many of these Iraqis recently interviewed said they plan to per­

More than a dozen Iraqis recently interviewed said they plan to per­

But their hopes are mixed with apprehen­

Santana also said the four men were transported to the Orange County Jail where they were given mea­

The first 100-page report of recommendations for reforming Iraq's legal system and issued an open letter to lawyers

The United States government and the rest of the civilized world for democracy.

Whoever looks at the benefits of our energy policy. Last week, about 1.2 billion Americans against Saddam Hussein? We

If you look at the benefits of our energy policy. Last week, about 1.2 billion

If the Iraqis who phoned relatives in Iraq and find ways to assist in its rebuild­

The legal limit is 35 mph, and an illegal turn on Park Boulevard. After Punter noticed Koerner was

There are students who really do not want the war as a policy exception,” McNemar said. “And my concern is finding the middle ground. The difficult and critical part will be finding the right place somewhere in the middle.

POLICE BEAT

One of the biggest advantages and their opponents are firm in their

Elmendorf said. While the militant advocates and their opponents are firm in their

Police Beat

right place somewhere in the middle.

Missouri, to consolidate their loans. It has been meeting for approximately 12 years.

The Washington region's Iraqis — part of a worldwide diaspora of about 3 million, more than 300,000 of whom live in the United States — include Kurds, Christians, and Sunni and Shiite Muslims. Some have been here since the 1970s, others came after the fall of Saddam Hussein.

Sam Conte, 55, who lives in Falls Church, Va., and has been here since 1981, is a practicing physician who has been here since 1981.

In one of the biggest advantages and their opponents are firm in their beliefs, many college officials suggest charging a small fee for

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The Washington beef looks a decision plan for Iraq's future. The group has been meeting for approximately 12 years.

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The first 100-page report of recommendations for reforming Iraq's legal system and issued an open letter to lawyers
Higher education around the nation

FROM PAGE 3

known as a virtual private network and installed 60 access controllers around the campus. The software uses the federal government's most advanced encryption algorithm to guarantee the privacy of data flow and other network information. The access controllers act as firewalls between the points of entry into the academy's wireless network and the campus's wired network. Coverage of the entire campus will be completed by the start of the fall semester.

Coach quits after firearm incident in gym

Nolan Richardson III resigned after being suspended from his job as men's basketball coach at Tennessee State University after apparently threatening one of his assistants with a handgun during the winter break. According to a police report published in The Tennessean, Richardson said he was upset when only four players showed up for an evening practice on Christmas. He berated the assistant, Hessen Smith, who confronted him with a bag holding a chain, an account confirmed by Christopher Graves, another assistant coach.

Richardson, whose father Nolan Richardson Jr., was a longtime basketball coach at the University of Arkansas, said as acting head coach, although "it had no clip or anything," according to Richardson's account. "At this point Graves, who was standing on the sideline at half-court, intervened and told me to 'run, that man is crazy,'" Smith told police.

That was the end of the incident. The coach was suspended the following day. Last week, university officials made it permanent. Richardson, who became Tennessee State's head coach in 2000, could not be reached for comment. The university named Smith as acting head coach.

Arkansas released the elder Richardson in 2001 after he had accused the university and its fans of treating him differently because he is black and then demanded that his contract be bought out. He is suing Arkansas.

Touch up

Students in a women's studies course at Iowa State University have turned an assignment to educate others about women's issues into an opportunity to stage a successful protest.

The object of their ire was a mural that has decorated a kitchen in a coed dormitory since 1984. The mural, located on a men-only floor, features three soldiers. All are armed, one holds a beer keg, and one ditches a stoutly clad woman under an arm. Sometime after the mural was created, it gained some painted additions: condoms and lubricants on the soldiers' belts, the label "date rape extraordinaire" on one of the soldiers' bandannas, and the word "rooters" (a reference to Hooters, also known as the date-rape drug) on the keg.

Creating a university ban on pre-alcohol or sexually harassing images in public spaces, the women's studies group complained to Iowa State officials and papered the campus with fliers that cited recent statistics on date rape.

The university initially demurred, asking the group — all women — to try to work out differences with the mural's supporters, all men. Since then, the hall's male students have erased the graffiti and have asked the university to paint over the woman. The conversations about the mural and the issues it raised are continuing during the spring semester.

FROM PAGE 5

the approval of mifepristone (formerly known as RU-486) by the Food and Drug Administration in September 2000, chemical abortions accounted for 6 percent of abortions.

The last survey, in 1996, also had reported a decline in abortion rates and numbers of abortion providers. The new survey shows a 5 percent drop in abortion rates since 1996.

It is not clear why abortion rates are decreasing, said study co-author Lawrence B. Finer of the Institute's assistant director of research. But he added there is evidence that emergency contraception — in which the hormones used in birth control pills are taken within a few days of sexual intercourse — could account for as much as 45 percent of the decline in abortions since 1994.

It is also likely that a greater availability of other contraceptive methods is contributing to the decline, experts said. In the past few years, American women have been presented with a range of new contraceptives cholesterol such as a patch, vaginal ring, monthly shots and new intrauterine devices with fewer side effects.

Because these methods do not depend upon taking a pill once a day, women are more likely to use them correctly, avoiding an unwanted pregnancy, experts said.

9U' radicals strive for social change

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — These Florida State University students are well-versed on issues ranging from the possible war with Iraq to the death penalty to how student government is elected.

They listen to National Public Radio, write anti-oppression letters to governments and protest major institutions. They are members of what they call progressive or radical organizations. Several of these groups are conducting workshops on political, cultural and sexual issues this week.

The workshops are part of the campus's first Radical Bash, which is open to the public. They got the idea from the University of Florida and University of Central Florida, which also hold Radical Bash.

These organizations are for people who want to change the status quo in their community and the world, students said.

NORMA, the National Organization to Reform Marijuana Laws, was to hold a workshop about First and Fourth Amendment rights. It will include information on situations such as how to handle being pulled over by the police.

VIX, Voices of Planned Parenthood, will do a workshop on sexual identity, which will include information on sexual rights. Information like this will be valuable for both the straight and gay communities.

Amnesty International will provide information on a variety of topics, such as the death penalty, human rights violations in Iraq and the plight of Haitian detainees. CPE also will offer a workshop on belly dancing. Students said it's just a coincidence that the week falls at the same time as the Greek rush week.

2 Day Career Exp Event

Internship Fair

Experience, Exposure, Enlightenment

January 21, 2003
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Location: Live Oak

List of EMPLOYERS for both events at:

PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE REQUIRED
Sponsored by the Career Resource Center
Unit of Academic Development and Retention
Division of Student Development and Enrollment Services

National Briefs

FROM PAGE 5

Iowa

State U.

Career, Experience, Enlightenment

January 22, 2003
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Location: UCF Arena

Leading Students In The Right Direction!

www.crc.ucf.edu
Holiday Sales Weak, But Not for Autos

Retail sales climbed in December, but January sales were flat because of the auto sector as department stores suffered through a lackluster holiday selling season.

Retail sales rose 3.2% after a 4.9% gain in November, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. But without auto sales, retail sales would have been unchanged for December. Auto sales jumped 5%, the largest gain in more than 20 years when auto dealers stocked sales with fre­emailing deals in the wake of the terror attacks.

The figures for December mean consumers sharply slowed their spending during the fourth quarter of 2002. Economists now believe the growth rate for spending in the fourth quarter will be only half the 4.5% pace recorded in the third quarter. Slow consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of economic activity, is expected to push growth in gross domestic prod­uct for the fourth quarter below an annual rate of 2%. GDP is the total value of goods and services pro­duced in the nation.

One victim of weak holiday shopping is Brainy educational toy stores, which are trying to cobble together the Right Start, used books, and a baby center in a Zany image by sending toy stores, and the venerable FAO Schwarz chain of high-priced toy stores. FAO Inc. this week filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy court protection.

Economists: Hiring To Remain Slow

The nation’s labor market is ex­periencing one of its most pro­tracted slumps in post-World War II history. Economists don’t see it improving much soon.

The Labor Department reported Friday that payroll employment contracted by 101,000 in December, led by more layoffs in the manufacturing sector, which elimi­nated jobs for the 29th straight month, and by struggling retailers that hired less than they normally do during the Christmas selling sea­son. The unemployment rate held steady in December at .6%, but steady in December at .6%, but

Kmart Closures

May Affect 35,000

Kmart Corp. said it will close 226 stores, affecting 33,000 workers and claims to emerge from bankruptcy by April 30.

In March, Kmart closed 260 stores, affecting 27,000 jobs. The Troj, Mich., retailer continues to operate 5,100 stores. Kmart needs to close stores while under bank­ruptcy protection to allow it to get out of leases. The closings will be subject to court approval. Kmart is scheduled to appear in U.S. Bank­ruptcy Court in Chicago on Jan. 26.

New Cable Channel

Planned for Blacks

Comcast Corp., the nation’s biggest cable operator, plans to launch a cable channel targeted at African-Americans in a venture with Radio One Inc. The company has 66 stations in 52 cities. The channel, to be launched in a few months, will feature news, opinion and sports-related pro­grams for people in the 16-to-44 age range. The network could pose the first serious threat to Viacom Inc.’s MTV entertainment network, which has come under criticism for cutting its commitment to programming for young people. Please turn to Next Page.

What’s News—

In Business and Finance

Healthy Eating? Here is a sampling of healthy-­

fussing fast food items and how they really measure up in terms of calories and fat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>CALORIES</th>
<th>FAT GRAMS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fish Grill</td>
<td>790</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fish &amp; Chips</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fried Shrimp &amp; Fries</td>
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Healthy Eating is a heart­

ing a popular topic, but it’s hard to find healthy options in fast food restaurants.

The new year is shaping up as one in which all the troubles bedeviling the me­

dia industry finally boil over into crisis.

The pending resigna­

tion of AOL Time Warner Inc. Chairman Steve Case closely fol­

ows last week’s departure of Sony Corp. ’s high-profile multimedia chief, Thomas D. M blockade and a list of executive casualties that in­
cludes AOL Time Warner’s Gerald Levin and Robert Pittman; Viendi Universal’s SA’s Jean Marie Messier; and Bertelsmann AG’s Thomas Middelkauf. The turmoil at AOL Time Warner, Wol­
ter Newsweek, the weekly magazine that for the past year had defended the idea of reviving CNN 18 months ago, is reported to have split the board and chief executive of CNN News Group, leaving the net­
work in the midst of a brutal retai­

l battle and preparations for a possible war in Iraq.

The big-name exits indicate that time has run out for executives that haven’t fixed the big picture problems of the industry. The de­

partures also raise the question of whether the lumbering conglomer­

ates make sense.

Today’s media business was built on the idea that all kinds of content existed for free, most content, and has grown to $150 billion in sales and is expected to grow to $200 billion in 2003.

But Friday’s report suggested that, especially in the media industry, that time may be running out for a number of companies. That is be­

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Do Media Empires Work?

Some key marriages and divorces in the media industry’s recent history.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 2001</td>
<td>AOL Time Warner Inc. and Time War­riner Inc.</td>
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<td>January 2001</td>
<td>CNN to be acquired by AOL Time War­ner Inc.</td>
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<td>February 2001</td>
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<td>June 2001</td>
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<td>July 2001</td>
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<td>September 2001</td>
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<td>November 2001</td>
<td>Time Warner to be acquired by AOL Inc.</td>
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The pending resigna­


Detroit Sees SUV Backlash Growing

By Jeffrey Ball

A unsettling thought is dawning on auto makers who rely on sport utility vehicles for a big chunk of their profits: The biggest SUVs are becoming uncool.

The death of the SUV has been forecast repeatedly, and throughout its declining rise. But now some of the big three's top executives themselves say they see distinct signs that an important segment of cutting-edge consumers—those who want nothing more than to "fashion a "francise, or fancy lifestyle" with their vehicles' poor fuel economy, Chrysler, hoping to play on the idea that its new offering is a growing environmental conscience in the average American consumer, is running a national TV commercial suggesting that people buy a minivan instead of an SUV because the minivan goes farther on a gallon of gas.

SUVs have become the butt of jokes for political satirists and cartoonists. A group called the Earth Liberation Front has claimed responsibility for a series of vandalism attacks on SUVs, including a fire this month at a Pennsylvania car dealership. What is the answer is some Detroit executives particularly worried are signs of a backlash developing.

In contrast, Chrysler is attempting to solve most of its problems by creating content that can be recycled as movies, books, theme park attractions and toys.

Each of these approaches, however, has proved flawed at times. Viacom's emphasis on ad revenue, for example, was undermined by the deep advertising recession of the past two years. Disney is in the midst of a drive to branch out into second-tier firms, but commercial advertisers always the period of turbulence from which it may never recover.

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What's News—

In Business and Finance

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Detroit Sees SUV Backlash Growing

By Jeffrey Ball

A unsettling thought is dawning on auto makers who rely on sport utility vehicles for a big chunk of their profits: The biggest SUVs are becoming uncool.

The death of the SUV has been forecast repeatedly, and throughout its declining rise. But now some of the big three's top executives themselves say they see distinct signs that an important segment of cutting-edge consumers—those who want nothing more than to "fashion a "francise, or fancy lifestyle" with their vehicles' poor fuel economy, Chrysler, hoping to play on the idea that its new offering is a growing environmental conscience in the average American consumer, is running a national TV commercial suggesting that people buy a minivan instead of an SUV because the minivan goes farther on a gallon of gas.

SUVs have become the butt of jokes for political satirists and cartoonists. A group called the Earth Liberation Front has claimed responsibility for a series of vandalism attacks on SUVs, including a fire this month at a Pennsylvania car dealership. What is the answer is some Detroit executives particularly worried are signs of a backlash developing.

In contrast, Chrysler is attempting to solve most of its problems by creating content that can be recycled as movies, books, theme park attractions and toys.

Each of these approaches, however, has proved flawed at times. Viacom's emphasis on ad revenue, for example, was undermined by the deep advertising recession of the past two years. Disney is in the midst of a drive to branch out into second-tier firms, but commercial advertisers always the period of turbulence from which it may never recover.

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What's News—

In Business and Finance

Continued from Previous Page

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A recent decision by the California Supreme Court broadens the definition of rape and reemphasizes the truth that rape is wrong, at all times. Now, if a woman changes her mind during sex, her partner must immediately stop or be guilty of rape.

The Jan. 6 decision, in the case of a woman who consented to sex but later withdrew consent, should make men respect women more, and strengthen women’s rights.

Men (and women) have an obligation to respect the wishes of their partners during sex. If a woman tells her partner to stop during the act of sexual intercourse, he should immediately stop. If a woman no longer wants sex, even if she willingly consented moments earlier, he must stop.

Men must respect women’s rights and wishes during sex, even if a “yes” given minutes before becomes a “no.”

This decision represents a victory for women’s rights. Women have come a long way in establishing their sexual rights. Only decades ago, women had limited sexual rights, and men too often got away with rape. The feminist movement of the 1960s helped bring about progress regarding rape, and this ruling continues that progress.

Women should never be forced to have sex, even if they previously agreed to it. The court’s ruling declares that “no” means “no,” whether a woman says it before or during sex.

The court’s decision correctly gives women the right to change their minds during sex. Men should not force women to have sex, even if the women previously gave consent.

Rape is a serious crime, and the penalties for committing rape should reflect the seriousness of the crime. Men who continue to have sex with a woman after she clearly states that she no longer wants to have sex should face serious penalties.

Men who continue having sex with women against their wishes deserve harsh punishments. Although not as savage as raping a woman at knifepoint, this is still rape. Prior consent does not give a man the right to continue sex with a woman against her wishes.

Sex should be an enjoyable activity for both partners. If one no longer wants to do it, the other should honor her (or his) wishes, whether they are having sex for the first time or the hundredth.

Women’s rights. Women have come a long way in establishing their sexual rights. Although no new evidence or studies prompted the change, the Web site no longer says that there is no association between abortion and breast cancer. Although no new evidence or studies prompted the change, the Web site no longer says that there is no association between abortion and breast cancer.

The omission of information about condoms and breast cancer is a result of the Bush administration’s attempt to appease abstinence-only sex educators who urge the omission of information about contraception. The omission of information about condoms and breast cancer is a result of the Bush administration’s attempt to appease abstinence-only sex educators who urge the omission of information about contraception.

Information about contraception is necessary in order to protect women and prevent unintended pregnancies. The omission of information about condoms and breast cancer is a result of the Bush administration’s attempt to appease abstinence-only sex educators who urge the omission of information about contraception.

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Surreal celebrity behavior

Hey Theo: Why not take your act back out on the road?

KRISTIN DAVIS STAFF WRITER

After attempting Late Knights this past weekend, I couldn’t get Theo from “Road Rock” out of my mind.

It wasn’t because he was particularly good looking and it definitely wasn’t anything to do with his personality, wit or intelligence, or rather, the lack thereof. It just had to do with his fixation with talking about himself, or more specifically his two-inch faux-hawk.

Theo was incredibly self-absorbed, vulgar and annoying.

He spent most of the sight-sparing metaphors that didn’t make any sense, talking about his penis, or mentioning that his personal quote is “It’s the season,” although he never explained what that meant.

This wasn’t even the most annoying trait about this “celebrity.” One of my friends told me when Theo first came into the Student Union, he literally stuck up his nose at students who said “hello” to him.

The final obnoxious behavior that broke the camel’s back was when he told us that he didn’t have time for a photo because “he had to do his thing.”

Who does he think he is? A Brad Pitt look-alike? I’m so tired of overrated reality television shows and warped celebrity cherubs. Underneath their expensive clothes, manicured nails and makeup, celebrities are just normal people. They don’t deserve to be treated as if they are superior human beings.

It seems as if everyone these days has stars in their eyes. Some people have a tendency to think that anyone who has been on television, in movies or on the radio deserves to be treated as if they are gods when they aren’t.

Just because people make a few dollars doing something of little or no importance doesn’t mean they should be treated with more respect than anyone else. Especially if they are the type of celebrity who treat people as if they are unworthy of their presence.

Most of any friends that have met celebrities have found them to be arrogant and egotistical and not to get caught up in the star-struck cultures when celebrities need to focus of most media sources.

Try your friends from now on, no one will want to see you with the people we worship from television, movies and in the music business today. I think some celebrities need a reality check in order for them to realize they aren’t as special as they think they are.

Maybe then the celeb­rities like Theo will realize that after his 15 minutes of fame expires, he should continue to live a private life, as private as the details of his package should be.

Stephen Hurst Staff Writer

Finally, one of life’s greatest mysteries is solved. For decades, the “manimal” has puzzled, with no clear answer in sight. But on Jan. 15, 2003, the people of the world got their answer to an eternally debated question: Who can tow a commercial jet further — 50 mid­dles or an elephant?

In perhaps the most ridiculous event ever staged in the history of the Fox network — and that’s saying quite a lot — 132 lbs. of bronze-medalist Shawn Crawford probably stands to lose the most, as his race will no doubt draw comparisons to the infamous Jesse Owens horse races of the 1930’s. After winning four gold medals in Germany in 1936, Owens went on to race some of the world’s biggest names. Describing the premier sprinter of the day and one of history’s greatest athletes be lowered to the level of sideline entertainment was difficult for many Americans to watch.

Of course, some athletes, such as Tashen Kobayashi, don’t have to worry about such things, I don’t think anyone is going to argue that a man once once hit forty hot dogs in twelve minutes is con­cerned with anything related to dignity.

But admit it — you’re already interested. Who doesn’t want to see if a 132 lb. Japanese man can cut faster than a 1,000 lb. Kodiak bear? Now that’s what I call entertain­ment.

I’ll be the first to admit that some of these Fox spe­cials have been in rather poor taste. Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire? was possibly the most pathetic thing I’ve ever seen on television. And “Magico’s Biggest Secrets Finally Revealed” was another show I wasn’t a real big fan of. That one managed to suck all the fun and mystery out of every magic show I’ve ever seen, while simultaneously destroying the careers of magicians everywhere by giving away the magic industry’s most guarded secrets. Thanks a lot, Fox.

But I think this show will be a success, and not only by the ratings. It should be genu­inely fun to watch. The cli­mate of the American entertain­ment industry now is com­pletely different from that of Owens’ day. The racial over­tones that he dealt with are no longer an issue for athletes. In the 30’s, there was a general feeling that Owens was being taken advantage of. That isn’t the case with Crawford. He clearly knows what he signed on for, and will undoubtedly get a hefty payday for his efforts.

Hopefully, most people will understand that these games are all in the spirit of fun. There won’t be any broken hearts, pissed off mag­icians or lawsuits at the end of the show, just a few sore mus­cles. In other words, yes, “Man vs. Beast” is unbeliev­ably idiotic, but at least it’s harmlessly idiotic. I’m sure there will be people bemoan­ing this entire event as the end of western civilization or the further decline of American culture, but this is nothing new. It has all been done before. Only now, it’s being mass-marketed.

By the time this article is printed, the multispecies com­petition will be over and done with, and the outcome of these events will be public knowl­edge. I figure that the starting gun will kick off tomorrow, giving Crawford the chance to get out on an early lead. That’s probably his only shot against an animal with a stride that big. And I wish him and all the other contest­ants’ luck, as they defend the prowess of Homo sapiens everywhere.

The mid­dles vs. the elephant

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UCF hosts Troy State in A-Sun home opener

CHRIS BERNHARDT  STAFF WRITER

Coming off a three-game losing streak, the UCF women's basketball team needed a spark last week as it began its conference schedule. It got one in a big way with wins over Jacksonville and archrival Stetson.

But while those two victories helped get the Golden Knights going in the right direction, take them with a grain of salt. Jacksonville and Stetson are a combined 3-22.

Saturday the competition gets bumped up a notch when Troy State comes to town. Though the Lady Trojans' overall record of 6-6 may not seem impressive, it ranks as the best among teams in the Atlantic Sun South Division, a division that includes UCF. The Golden Knights come into the game 6-7.

Neither team has lost within the conference as of yet, so expect a body contested game. Just don't expect a lot of points. UCF leads the A-Sun in scoring defense, allowing just 60.5 a game. Right behind them, the Lady Trojans give up just 61.1 per game.

Troy State sports a strong backcourt of Chaquita Alexander and Kerri Fiehrer. Alexander leads the team in scoring with a 15.6 point per game average. Fiehrer leads the entire conference in assists, averaging 5.7 per game. The next closest competitor dishes out only 4.4 per game.

Center Theo Herring gives the Lady Trojans a solid post presence, averaging 12 points, 7.3 rebounds and 1.00 blocks per game.

The Golden Knights welcome a struggling Hatters team to UCF Dungeon.

KRISTY SHONKA  STAFF WRITER

Following a three-game road trip where the Knights faced two of the top teams in the Atlantic Sun, the UCF men's basketball team returns home Saturday to play rival Stetson at 7:00 p.m. The game will be televised on the Sunshine Network.

On their road trip the Knights picked up a win over Troy State but fell to Mercer SS-63 Monday night. Mercer is undefeated in the conference, as were the Trojans before UCF played them. The Hatters, however, are winless in the conference and have only won two games, a 70-69 decision over New Hampshire on Dec. 29 and a 73-68 win over Lipscomb on Jan. 11.

Leaders of the pack

After struggling as a freshman, Takira Allen leads the Knights in scoring

CHRIS BERNHARDT  STAFF WRITER

When it came to who would lead UCF in scoring this year, several possibilities existed. After all, the Golden Knights had six players average at least seven points a game last season and returned five of them.

Perhaps last year's leading scorer, Marvelous Washington would repeat the feat. Or maybe preseason all-conference pick Jessica Seals, the secondleading scorer in 2001-02, would take over the title. Or last year's all-Freshman teamer, Ali Roberts. Or even stalwarts Erin Paige or Adrienne Billings.

But would anyone pick sophomore forward Takira Allen, who averaged 3.9 points per game last year, to step forward and top the stat sheet? If anyone did, they'd look like a genius about now.

"I think I've shown major growth from last year," Allen said. "You can see my confidence is way up. I worked hard over the summer and I think it shows on the court this year."

The UCF men's basketball team has had to deal with plenty of adversity this season, beginning with the loss of the Graham brothers to Oklahoma State almost a year ago. They've endured a lack of respect from the media (the Golden Knights were picked to finish second-to-last in the A-Sun before the season even started), tough losses on the road at FGCU, Tennessee-Martin and Kansas State, and, most recently, the suspension of senior point guard Al Miller one of the team's leaders both on and off the floor.

Through it all, the Knights have posted a 14-6 record, including their first victory over a ranked opponent, won their first two conference games and are playing better team basketball than they have in some time. Helping UCF steer its way through the rough seas that have been this season, has been the consistent play and leadership of senior guard Ray Abellard.

SURPRISING SOPHOMORE

Ray Abellard has been a consistent leader on the court for the Knights

TOM ALEXANDER  STAFF WRITER

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STEADFAST SENIOR

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Allen and the A-Sun may soon be on first-name basis

From Page 10
mer and it's showing this year. And I think I'm helping my team a lot.

On a team full of experienced players with great expectations, Allen has come out of the shadows and turned into the brightest spot on an underachieving squad. She leads the Golden Knights, averaging 11.5 points per game.

Of course this shouldn't seem so surprising. This was what UCF expected from the 6-foot-2 product of Quincy Shanks High School when they recruited her two years ago. Then she was coming off a senior year in the prep ranks where she led her team in scoring and rebounding while earning all-conference honors for a second consecutive season.

But once she became a Golden Knight, things didn't work out quite so easily. For nearly three-quarters of last season she seemed lost and unable to catch up with the flow of the game. Meanwhile her classmate Roberts started every game and established a quick attack on the school block records.

"Last year I was feeling kind of lost," Allen said. "Even though my teammates did help, me get acclimated to the system I wasn't comfortale with it yet."

Then, toward the end of the season, things started to turn around. On Jan. 30 against Florida Atlantic she had her best game of the year, playing 37 minutes, scoring 14 points and grabbing eight rebounds. From that point on she began seeing more consistent minutes and backed up solid play.

"My teammates helped me out tremendously," Allen said. "Even when I was making major mistakes they were helping me out with my confidence. I worked so hard in the summer to continue my improvement."

Still she started this season on the bench behind several veter­an players. In a reserve role in the season's second game versus Eastern Illinois, she scored a team-high and career-best 16 points. She topped that two days later against New Orleans by getting 18 points. She led the team for a second time with 13 points in the following game against Southern Miss and has started at power forward ever since.

Since that move she has scored in double digits four times and led the team in scoring five straight games prior to last week. She is also tied for the team lead in rebounding, at 6.4 a game.

During this impressive run she had a career-high 30 points and also 12 rebounds for her first career double-double against Detroit, had a career-best 14 boards against Florida and garnered Atlantic Sun Player of the Week honors for the very first time.

"[Allen] is turning into the player that I knew, that she could be," UCF Coach Gail Strieger said. "Every night, the thing that [Allen] does is she goes out and plays hard. She's one of those players right now and she'll continue to be that as long as she plays the way she has been."

For even more perspective on how important her emergence has been, the team consider that the second leading scorer, Paige, averages 6.6 points per game. That's nearly five points less than Allen.

Indeed, the disappointing start to her collegiate career seems like a distant memory. Now if Allen can keep working hard in the next few years she could establish herself as not only UCF's best player but also one of the top in the Atlantic Sun.

"I've never been satisfied with what I'm doing," Allen said. "I think by my junior year, this conference is going to know me and they're going to know me on a first-name basis. That's just how hard I'm going to work."

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I'm going to work."

Scala, Washington struggle to score

From Page 10

All and all, this team will make for an interesting match-up for the Golden Knights, who have gotten strong post play of late from Takhra Allen, All Roberts and Erin Paige, but receive little scoring production on the perimeter. In fact, UCF sits at the bottom of the conference in three-point shooting just a year after leading the league in that category.

Guard Aliyah McDonald and versus Washington, last year's leading scorers, have yet to get on track this season.

But with a chance to reach 500 and stay unbeaten in conference play, the Golden Knights will likely bring their A-game. A win and a 3-4 conference start would give them a big edge in a predominantly weak South Division.
Big drought dooms Knights against Mercer

KRISTY SHONKA
SPORT WRITER

Mercer used a 14-2 run in the second half to pull away from UCF en route to a 56-43 win in men’s basketball action Monday night in Macon, Ga. The 22-point deficit was the largest of the season for the Knights.

UCF had cut the Bears’ lead to 42-38 when the Knights were held in just two points over the next five minutes. UCF could not get closer than 12 points the rest of the game and Mercer had a game-high 25 point_lead when freshman Marcus McGee hit a three-pointer at the buzzer.

In the first half Mercer led by as many as 11, but the Knights cut the lead to 33-31 and he only had five in the second half and went into the locker room up 38-31.

Mercer held UCF’s leading scorer Ray Abellard without a point in the first half, and he only had five in the second half. He missed all five of his three-point attempts. Dexter Lyons and Ed Dotson were the only Knights to reach double figures for the Knights.

Two nights after hitting his three-point attempts, UCF’s guard Delmar Muhammad had 14 three-pointers in the period.

Uncharacteristically, UCF’s defense struggled, allowing the Bears to shoot 66.7 percent from the field in the second half, while forward Alemseh Muhammad scored all 15 of his points in the second half. Forward Scott Emerson recorded a double-double with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Guard Delmar Wilson had 14 points and center Wesley Duke added 10 points to round out Mercer’s starting five.

Senior Ed Dotson led UCF with 16 points Monday night against Mercer.

The game was televised on the Sunshine Network.

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Stetson comes in winless in A-Sun

FROM PAGE 10

Monday night. The Hatters have been close in most of their A-Sun losses, including an overtime loss to Jacksonville State and a four-point game against Troy State.

The Hatters rank last in nine of the A-Sun’s statistical categories, including scoring defense (81.9 points per game), scoring margin (-12.9), field goal percentage (38.4) and field goal percentage defense (53.1). Stetson takes care of the ball and knows how to force turnovers, as the Hatters lead the conference in turnover margin at plus-15.

Senior Alexis McMillian leads Stetson in scoring with 13.3 points a game and ranks first in the conference averaging four steals a game. Sometime forward center Mark Styles is the only other Hatter to average double digits with 10.3 points a game.

The Knights return to the UCF Arena, where they hold a 5-1 record on the year. It will be the second time in as many home games that the Knights will be televised on the Sunshine Network.

The last time was an 84-69 win over visiting A-Sun Champion Florida Atlantic on Jan. 4. UCF’s offense tends to perform better at home, as the Knights have scored at least 60 points in half of their games at the arena.

Seniors Ray Abellard and Ed Dotson lead UCF. Abellard struggled to find his shot Monday against Mercer. He only scored five points on two-of-10 shooting with three-point attempts. Dotson had 16 points. The Knights will need Abellard to regain his shot in order to succeed in conference play.

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Ray Abellard has been a consistent leader

The junior college transfer from Pensacola Junior College is in his second season as a Golden Knight, his first as a full-time starter, and leads the team in scoring and three-pointers. Abellard came highly-recruited out of junior college, but chose UCF to continue his basketball career. In his first campaign at UCF, Abellard finished third on the team in scoring and was named to the Atlantic Sun All-Conference second team.

This season, Abellard has been UCF's first option on offense, but his improved defense is the best addition to Abellard's game, according to UCF Coach Kirk Speraw.

"He's gotten much better defensively in all areas, he's made good progress there," Speraw said.

Abellard is also a star off the court. Last season, he was named to the A-Sun's All-Academic team, and the psychology major's goals after his basketball career are not typical of most student-athletes.

"My first goal is to get my degree," he said. "I'll be the first in my family to get my degree, and I have to get it. That comes first, no matter what. After I get my degree, I would love to play some type of professional basketball. If that doesn't come, then I'll stick with my degree, get my master's, and work with kids. I love working with people.

Abellard takes his role on the team as seriously as he does his education. He sees himself as the leader on the team. His coach agrees, saying that Abellard has a good knowledge of the game, and his leading scorer is part of a "good group of guys that get along well." The Knights' leading scorer has been struggling with an ankle injury for the last week, but played through pain and scored 26 points in UCF's road win over Troy State on Saturday. He is only part of what Abellard himself calls a more positive team than last year. A team that has stressed defense and role-playing as its keys to victory and one poised and driven to take the conference this year.

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Gabriel first Knight to play in Senior Bowl

Wide receiver Doug Gabriel accepted an invitation to become the first UCF football player to play in the Senior Bowl, an all-star game that gives the nation's top college players a chance to play for coaching staffs from two NFL teams. The game is at 2 p.m. Jan. 18 at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile, Ala. and will be televised by ESPN.

Gabriel's 1,237 receiving yards his senior season were a school record and combined with Jimmy Floyd's No. 34 in the country in the Omni Hotels Collegiate Tennis Rankings, preseason poll.

The Knights return six receivers from last year's 17-1 squad, including juniors Gabriel Straunberg and Catalin Bradu who earned first-team All-Atlantic Sun honors, Bradu and Straunberg combined for 33 single-season victories last year.

The Knights are the high school record for all-time in Mid-American Conference history. He was a second-team All-MAC selection and combined with Jimmy Floyd to be the most prolific receiving tandem in UCF history with 2,983 total receiving yards. Gabriel also set a school record for all-purpose yards in a game with 294 against Syracuse and tied a UCF record when he made four touchdown receptions in the season finale against Ohio.

In 1998, former quarterback Dana Cappepepe was the first UCF player to be invited to play in the Senior Bowl, but he declined the offer. Instead he earned offensive MVP honors at the Butch Reynolds Classic, which Gabriel has also been invited to play in.

-NUMBER ONE ON ITEMS

TWO TIMES A WEEK!
Now publishing
Mondays & Thursdays

FROM PAGE 10

Senior Gabriel has been a consistent leader

The junior college transfer from Pensacola Junior College is in his second season as a Golden Knight, his first as a full-time starter, and leads the team in scoring and three-pointers. Abellard came highly-recruited out of junior college, but chose UCF to continue his basketball career. In his first campaign at UCF, Abellard finished third on the team in scoring and was named to the Atlantic Sun All-Conference second team.

This season, Abellard has been UCF's first option on offense, but his improved defense is the best addition to Abellard's game, according to UCF Coach Kirk Speraw.

"He's gotten much better defensively in all areas, he's made good progress there," Speraw said.

Abellard is also a star off the court. Last season, he was named to the A-Sun's All-Academic team, and the psychology major's goals after his basketball career are not typical of most student-athletes.

"My first goal is to get my degree," he said. "I'll be the first in my family to get my degree, and I have to get it. That comes first, no matter what. After I get my degree, I would love to play some type of professional basketball. If that doesn't come, then I'll stick with my degree, get my master's, and work with kids. I love working with people.

Abellard takes his role on the team as seriously as he does his education. He sees himself as the leader on the team. His coach agrees, saying that Abellard has a good knowledge of the game, and his leading scorer is part of a "good group of guys that get along well." The Knights' leading scorer has been struggling with an ankle injury for the last week, but played through pain and scored 26 points in UCF's road win over Troy State on Saturday. He is only part of what Abellard himself calls a more positive team than last year. A team that has stressed defense and role-playing as its keys to victory and one poised and driven to take the conference this year.

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Gabriel first Knight to play in Senior Bowl

Wide receiver Doug Gabriel accepted an invitation to become the first UCF football player to play in the Senior Bowl, an all-star game that gives the nation's top college players a chance to play for coaching staffs from two NFL teams. The game is at 2 p.m. Jan. 18 at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile, Ala. and will be televised by ESPN.

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**NEW**

**Cultures, New Experiences**

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Lauren Ashpiugh knows that UCF requires students to complete at least nine summer credit hours in order to graduate. So she approached the required in an unusual way—by going to France.

Choosing to study for 10 days in Moscow, the junior music performance major found herself living about a mile outside of town, in a setting with no phones, no cars and no TVs. But it was a perfect place for her to practice her solo pieces and participate in small ensemble groups.

"Every other day or so, all of the students would get together and perform for one another," she said, "It amazed me how much students improved over such a short time.

"I traveled with my instrument before, but this trip will always be one of the most enlightening experiences of my life."

Students eager to complete the course requirement by taking a similar approach have 15 different opportunities to study abroad this summer and immerse themselves in the language, music and art of another culture.

But the deadline to apply is nearing. Applications are due Feb. 1 for study in Germany, applications are due April 15 to study in Spain, France and Japan. Other locations where UCF students can study include South Africa, the Caribbean, Italy, Sweden, Scotland and Jordan.

Such programs can be pricey. For example, the cost for this program in Germany is $2,500, excluding airfare, UCF tuition and personal expenses. For the program that runs July 21-Aug. 15, (Applicants for the Germany program must have completed one full year of college courses and at least two semesters of "Elementary German")

Yet scholarships are available through the Office of International Studies based on financial need and enrollment in the Burnett Honors College.

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**A night of burn-outs and roach paper**

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**THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED**

Linnea Brown

Staff Writer

Dude, when I get high, it makes me wanna do stuff," actor James Newbery proclaimed loudly, bouncing his legs restlessly in his on-stage chair.

His four-store friends stared at him blankly. One of them took a long drink from a male-barrel joint and exclaimed loudly from the corner of his mouth, evidently making a conscious effort to formulate a deep thought.

"Wah, but you never actually do anything!" the friend finally said.

"You have all these big plans, but all you ever do is sit around and talk about them."

I jumped and looked over at the audience member who had taken solitude in the somnolent to me. Somehow, I had a strong suspicion that smoking weed and talking about it were the only actions that any of the actors had taken to prepare for "The Pot Show," an incredibly dreamy show about — you guessed it — smoking weed.

Last Saturday night I surprised my friend Nancy with tickets to the self-professed sketch-improv-talkshow comedy thinking the production would be hilarious. Little did I know the show would feel exactly like my high school days of inhabiting deeply... and then feeling ripped off because I didn't feel anything.

Perhaps I was expecting too much.

The show was held at an eclectic little downtown dive called the Tomorrow Ensemble Theatre, at 300 W. Church St. Before being seated, Nancy and I stood around in the lobby — an uncomfortably snotty refreshment requiring students to complete at least nine summer credit hours in order to graduate. So she approached the required in an unusual way—by going to France.

Choosing to study for 10 days in Moscow, the junior music performance major found herself living about a mile outside of town, in a setting with no phones, no cars and no TVs. But it was a perfect place for her to practice her solo pieces and participate in small ensemble groups.

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**Please see Students on 16**

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**Please see Pot on 17**
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Students fulfill summer requirements abroad

FROM PAGE 14

College. The minimum GPA for all programs is 2.0, however, some programs accept appeals.

Bernard Decker an assistant professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, has accompanied students to Germany since 1991. Among other benefits, he said, students who travel pick up elements of a foreign language not easily learned in the classroom. Moreover, from a book and looking at the board only works to a certain degree, he said.

But experience is what matters most. “Conflicts always arise because we don’t know each other,” Decker said. “If we understand Arabic culture, we might not have these problems.”

Anne Prucha, co-director of the Madrid study program, agreed. “The best part of the experience is being another culture and language 24 hours a day for six weeks,” she said.

Prucha, who has taught at UCF for six years, believes that students should study abroad to “break their perspective on the world.”

“They should be open to other cultures, willing to see another point of view and eager to try another language and use it in their day to day experience,” she said. “In addition, they should study abroad to challenge themselves and be made of the self-sufficiency and independence that one gains from studying abroad are invaluable.”

In Spain, Prucha said, students live with host families, visit museums and other cities, and “have numerous opportunities to experience the vibrancy of Madrid, a city known for its cultural attractions, active lifestyle, delicious food and drink and exciting nightlife.”

A three-week program in Uruguay, Japan, requires students to take an immersive language program as part of their study. The former is a fishing village on the coast where they are enrolled at Meikai University and study at a hostel.

Students who study in France will visit two places: Aix-en-Provence, a town that is home to 12,000 residents, a royal estate and the burial place of Leonardo da Vinci; and La Rochelle, an Atlantic coast city of 125,000 whose inhabitants have been provided with free tickets due to local authorities’ concern over growing environmental problems.

The 10-week study-abroad program in Italy is focused on art.

Italy is famous for its large cathedrals and the history that goes along with them, said Mariacristina Spina, who directs the program that is affiliated with a prestigious university in Urbino.

“Urbino is a small village surrounded by walls,” Spina said. “Everything is within walking distance. It’s very quiet. It is like you are frozen in time in the Middle Ages.”

Moreover, students can enroll in the program without any experience speaking the Italian language, because the program is taught in English — although Italian language courses are available.

However, Rodney DeVera, 22, a senior computer-engineering major chose to study Italian while he was there last summer. “I felt I became more comfortable and fluid with the language, since you have no choice but to speak it,” he said.

“One of my favorite parts was watching the sun set almost every day after dinner from our housing area,” DeVera said. “We were located on top of a hill and a group of us would watch the sun set behind hills. It was very tranquil and made you appreciate nature.”

DeVera said that his experience in Urbino gave him the confidence to pursue an internship this summer at the American Consulate in Frankfurt.

Senior international marketing major Tommy Grimes, 22, and senior political science major Karen Sayers, 21, spent four weeks in Koblenz, Germany.

“The culture, the food, the music and the customs are all reasons to study abroad,” Tillman said.

Sayers said that her experience in Koblenz gave her the confidence to pursue an internship this summer at the American Consulate in Frankfurt.

Senior international marketing major Tommy Grimes, 22, another student who studied abroad in Koblenz, can relate.

“Being immersed in the language forces you to learn,” Grimes said. “It is the fastest way to improve speaking and comprehension of a language.”

Senior literature major Frank Cole, 25, who also studied abroad in Koblenz last summer, his favorite part of the experience was the relationships he developed with other American students.

“We formed a real quick support group — being alone as UCF students brought us together.”

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Looking for a great way to use your musical ability? River Run Christian Church is a contemporary artists kind of church. We are looking for all types of musicians, especially lead guitarists. If you are interested, contact Mitch Todd, Pastor of Arts at (407) 877-5433.
Students consider pain, consequences

FROM PAGE 15

the health department, he added. "The guns can't be sterilized because they are plastic," he said. He also warned students to not take "tedious or drink alcohol to dull the pain before a piercing or tattoo." People come in drunk or on medication and we turn them away because it makes your blood thinner," he said.

But the pain of a piercing usually depends on where it is, he said. "The most painful is the nipple, but it feels like a bee sting," he said. However, for a tattoo, the pain depends on the weight of the person, and most only feel an irritation, he said.

Tattoos can cost up to $100 an hour and piercings range from $40 to $70, jewelry included. Freshman Jock Landon, 18, said he got his tattoo to express himself and even designed it himself.

"It's an abstract bird with spread wings," he said. "It is 17 inches across. I have an extremely high pain tolerance. The only time [the tattoo] hurt was on my spleen column and shoulder blades."

Landon also pierced his own eyebrows.

"I get the obligatory question, 'Did that hurt?' three million times a day," he said. Although his mother, whom Landon credits for his artistic genes, approved of his choices, his father did not.

"He's in the military," said Landon. "He just kind of looked at me and walked away." Landon's advice to anyone about to get a tattoo is to make sure it expresses them and that they won't regret it afterwards. "Make sure it's something that you want for the rest of your life," he said. "If you can design it yourself, that's even better." Senior Ryan Stark, 22, pierced his ears during the fall of his freshman year with a 16-gauge needle and then later stretched them. A few days after he turned 21, he also got his tongue pierced. "I have my ears pierced once in each lobe with a 14-gauge silver horseshoe with a ball at each end, and my tongue is pierced," Stark said. "I can't say that there was any one reason I got my ears pierced after I started college, but I was always curious about getting my tongue pierced. So one day I just decided to get it done. My girlfriend ran to the ear and we left. I can't say that need for pain wasn't a factor in there as well."
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