Students forced to register

SHELLEY MARMOR

Read Laureos wok at 4 a.m. to try and arrive ahead of time to avoid the long lines. Still, the senior computer science major had to endure a three-and-a-half hour wait before he was questioned, fingerprinted and photographed as part of a new anti-terrorism measure that brought him to the U.S. government's attention merely because of his place of birth.

Laureos, from Marrakesh, Morocco, was among the thousands of people across the country recently required to register with the Immigration and Naturalization Service as part of the new National Security Entry-Exit Registration Program.

This registration process applies to males 18 and older who entered this country on or before Sept. 30, 2002, on temporary visas — a group that primarily includes out-of-country students and visitors. These makes come from one of 25 predominantly Muslim countries that the government has classified as having a high-risk of terrorist activity.

Anticipating the same crowd that Laureos expected, the Orlando INS office opened at 7:30 a.m. 30 minutes earlier than normal, on the day the registration requirement went into effect.

When his turn finally came and his name was called, Laureos walked into a room where he filled out a three-page questionnaire. He had to allow INS agents to conduct a search of his belongings and hold off his personal items for questioning. At the end of his interview, he was arrested and his documents were seized. His hearing took place the next day.

"I'm from a Muslim country," Laureos said. "I couldn't have predicted this situation, nor could I have prevented it."
Busch promises more for black, Hispanic colleges

The Bush administration will propose a 5-per cent increase for the 2004 fiscal year for programs for historically black colleges and colleges with large Hispanic enrollments. The proposed expenditure, $357 million, would represent an increase of a cent over the 2003 level.

The announcement of the proposal came late Sunday after Bush urged minority educators when he said his administration would file a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court opposing the University of Michigan's affirmative-action policies.

The proposal would benefit three federal programs that award grants competitively to institutions serving black and Hispanic students for projects like constructing student services, scholarship aid and faculty development.

A total of 90 institutions are eligible to apply for grants under the Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program.

Over all, Bush wants to increase support for the three programs by 30 percent from 2001 to 2004. When he was running for president in 2000, Bush proposed increases over five years of 77 percent for the two programs for historically black institutions and 90 percent for Hispanic-serving institutions.

Think Gettys party for King holiday canceled

Administrators at Texas A&M University at College Station forced a group of students to cancel an off-campus party scheduled for Martin Luther King Jr. Day after learning that the students planned to dress in gypsy-ramp looks and other racially demeaning costumes.

Students Being in one of the campus residence halls had been planning a party called "Think Gettys," which was to be held in the nearby city of Bryan on Monday. An anonymous letter tipped off university administrators about the party.

University officials expressed outrage that students would plan to do something so racially insensitive on the holiday honoring the slain civil rights leader. Officials went door to door in Walllon Hall, the residence hall where the party was being planned, handing out letters condemning the party.

The anonymous letter to the administration alleged that the students planned to wear blackface.

Homeland security

The new Homeland Security Bill gives federal officials a consider­able and unprecedented license to pry, especially when the information is considered. In accordance with the new law, the government will have the right to collect and monitor any data that individuals may have otherwise thought to be private, including e-mails. Passage encompassed the underestimation of the scale of an anti-terrorist preventative measure, it has strong implications concerning the privacy of future communications for Americans.

How do UCF students feel about the new standard for Internet privacy violations?

You have nothing to be afraid of, you should have nothing to worry about. Call 911 once and think about the government.

You want to know the truth about what everyone thing you have to do light as a part of it. If you thought what everyone thing, then people will trust us and we will be fine.

If you do as the war gets, it will deter the kind of style of the last but, this gives us to give us a good chance in a small group of the generation. The generation that is any point will never give us a good chance in a small group. You will stay and we will stay.

For as the war gets, it is defen­se the kind of style of the last 10 but, this gives us to give us a good chance in a small group of the generation. The generation that is any point will never give us a good chance in a small group. You will stay and we will stay.

RALLYING

Guy students gathered outside the Student Union Tuesday for a rally to gain support for equal rights on campus. Shannon Davis, a freelance reporter and columnist with Paul Davis, a campus administrator for the group Our Generation, said gay and lesbian homosexuals deserve protection.

Registration viewed as discriminatory

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Accidents happen daily

FROM PAGE 1

and books, or just a general rush to and from, accidents in UCF's many parking lots are common. It doesn't help that there are so many aggressive drivers fighting for so few parking spaces. About 37,000 parking decals are sold each semester for the 15,865 parking spots on campus, said Lisa Carpenter, the executive assistant for UCF parking services. The decals outnumber parking spots because not everyone has classes at the same time, she said.

Although UCF Police Sgt. Troy Williamson said accidents occur on campus once or twice a week on average, anecdotal evidence suggests that fender-benders occur with much more frequency. The victims and perpetrators just don't bother to report them.

"We get parking-lot accidents frequently," Williamson said. "Some people leave notes, but there are a lot of hit-and-runs."

Corsaro called UCF Police right away after the other driver backed into his 1998 Nissan Altima.

"I know that it was going to be expensive, and I couldn't afford to claim it on my own insurance or pay it myself," she said. "Besides, I didn't know how reliable she would be about paying the damages if we handled it on our own."

The mechanic estimated that repairs would cost $600 because Corsaro's entire bumper had to be replaced or it would never be the same, she added.

"My car was fixed, but it was an extreme inconvenience to me because I couldn't get to work for the few days it was in the shop," she said. "I had no transportation."

Sophomore Andrea Friedman's 2002 Mitsubishi Eclipse was hit in the same lot as Corsaro's car.

"One day I was driving into the parking lot and this girl hit me in front of me started to reverse, so I stopped," Friedman, 18, said. "She just kept coming until she was really close. I beeped my horn, but she still hit me."

Friedman's front bumper and part of her hood was denied when her car was hit. Unlike Corsaro, however, Friedman and the other driver handled it on their own rather than alert and wait for police, since they both were going to class and neither of them wanted to be late.

"I think these accidents happen because of all the construction and reckless drivers around," Friedman said.

Still, if anyone has an accident or returns to their car to find that it has been hit, they are advised to contact UCF Police.

"If it's a hit-and-run, the only thing we can do is give the drivers a report form, unless there are witnesses," Williamson said.

That short form - used in the case of a hit-and-run, or for drivers to exchange information themselves for the benefit of their respective insurance companies - is one of two types of forms that police use in accidents. The longer form, containing about four pages and requiring much more detailed information, is used if anyone has been hurt, wound up in the hospital or had extensive damage to their car, Williamson said.

Unfortunately, junior David Martin, 21, was not aware of his options when he came out of his class and found a dent in his brand-new 2001 Honda Civic.

"Since nobody was around, I figured there was nothing I could do," he said. "Then I saw the dent in my new car, it really made me mad. I had to pay for someone else's recklessness and lack of consideration out of my own pocket."

Martin's advice is to try to park away from other cars if possible and pay attention at all times.

"I think that if people would just try to concentrate on driving and not show off or do 10 other things in the car at once, there would definitely be fewer accidents on campus."

FROM PAGE 1

Before the university installed the traffic light, the intersection was a three-way stop sign, and pedestrians would often cross regardless of how many cars were waiting. Many students still seem to be following the same procedure, and officers fear that students are at a greater risk of getting injured now that the passing cars rely on a green light to direct traffic flow.

Students like Freshman Andrew Pignato, 18, cross the intersection illegally several times a day. Pignato has been warned by a UCF police officer that he would get a ticket if he was caught again.

"Most of the time I just go when I know the light's going to turn right before it turns," he said. "I do it if I'm running late to class or trying to get home."

While he admits he is a frequentjaywalker, he is not necessarily opposed to UCF officers' warnings to issue fines to violators. "If they didn't, people would be walking across when the light was green, it would cause more traffic when the lights are there to fix traffic problems," he said.

For the time being, police have only issued warnings instead of tickets in an effort to convince students to cross the intersection legally.

"If you're patient, you wait less than a minute and you can walk," Williamson said.
Punk isn’t dead; it moved to the class

Mike Blakeley
Staff Writer

Since the second week of January, some of the most famous angst-driven, three-chord ballads ever recorded have been heard blaring from a trailer behind the Classroom 1 Building. In fact, the sounds are so loud that neighboring classes occasionally have to ask them to keep the volume down.

This is situation?

It is if the teacher is Eugene Montague, the man behind the novel first-time offering in the UCF Music Department, a course titled Punk in the History and Practice of Rock Music.

Montague and his students meet twice a week to study bands such as the Ramones, the Sex Pistols, the Germs and the impact that these and other punk bands have had on contemporary culture.

Like other students, those in Montague’s class must write papers, and there are in-class quizzes that require them to identify certain songs. But unlike most other classes, this one also sends its students out to visit “hole-in-the-wall” clubs around town and hear some really loud bands perform.

These students already have defined the punk sound — simplistic two- or three-chord songs with raw vocals, junior Jenny Baxter, 22, said.

“It is very hard to draw boundaries,” she added.

“As a department, we are looking for ways to broaden ourselves in the university. We want to provide opportunities for all students to engage in diverse styles of music.”

-Eugene Montague
Professor of Rock in the History and Practice of Rock Music

In appearance, Montague himself proves the stereotypical definition wrong. His clothes smell nice. His hair shines. His voice — a Dublin accent that conveys an intellectual authority — sounds better-suited for a voiceover in a history

POLICE BEAT

Pot dealer passes out, offers signed confession

Carly Morris
Staff Writer

Mark Anthony Wynder, 20, was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana with intent to sell on Jan. 11. Officer Erik Lashinsky responded to a call at Pegasus Landing in reference to possible drug use. Upon his arrival, he met with the resident advisor, Darren Evans, who said someone had called the front office and reported smelling marijuana. Lashinsky went to the room and knocked on the door, covering the peephole while he knocked. When the door opened, Lashinsky was given permission to enter the apartment.

Once inside, he saw three burnt marijuana cigarettes, a scale and individual bags with marijuana inside. During the search, Wynder fainted and an ambulance came. After being awakened and was examined for injuries, Wynder gave a signed statement claiming the marijuana belonged to him.

“I was in a different room and did not have any knowledge of the marijuana,” Wynder said.

Littering leads to marijuana mess

Melissa Anderson, 20, was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana on Jan. 11. Officer Paul White noticed people throwing beer cans from a balcony at Pegasus Pointe. White asked for the residents to come down and clean up the mess. When Anderson came down, White asked for her identification. When she opened her purse, White saw a bag of marijuana. Anderson was arrested following a field test of the marijuana.

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Students study Middle Earth

Class analyzes J.R.R. Tolkien

STEPHEN HIRST
NEWS STAFF

Imagine a course in which the curriculum includes the mandatory study and discussion of the Ringbom of the Rings' journey from the elven city of Rivendell to the dwarven Mines of Moria and essay topics range from "The Character of Gollum: A Study in Alienation and the Issue of Free Will" to " Tolkien and Modernism: The Meaning of the Ring." If it isn't a "Dangerous and Dangers" geek's wet dream, it's an actual UCF literature class and it counts for a full three credit hours. Welcome to Lord of the Rings 101, or as it is officially titled, "Tolkien and Fantasy Literature," taught by Dr. Jerome Donnelly.

During the past twenty years, Donnelly essentially bears a more than slight resemblance to Ian Holm, the actor playing Bilbo Baggins in "The Fellowship of the Ring," that has taught the class at UCF only three or four times.

The main goal that the professor has for all of his students is the realization of the literary triumph that "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy represent. Although Tolkien is basically teaching the course, the class largely consists of lifelong "Rings" fans, he is clearly excited to spread his appreciation of Tolkien's works to students who may never have encountered it before, as well as shed new light on issues for those already familiar with the author.

"Use all literature, fantasy is too important to be left to a specialized niche," Donnelly said.

The course restores around the fantasy genre's biggest name, J.R.R. Tolkien, and his body of poetry, novels and critical essays. This also means he's "toughens up the author's life's story, from his early days as a soldier in WWI, to his years at Oxford and his subsequent publishing success.

While the course emphasizes Tolkien's "hobbit-related stories," course reading also includes one of Tolkien's lesser-known works, a translation of "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight," and the ancient and anonymous poem "Beowulf," considered a seminal fantasy influence.

While in some classes the students enjoy the fantasy genre, many of them have not read what most literary readers consider the cornerstone of modern fantasy: Tolkien's trilogy.

Senior Literature major Melissa Ringfield, 22, was one of them until recently.

"I've always read a lot of fantasy but never 'The Lord of the Rings.' It wasn't until recently I realized that all these authors I've been reading owed so much to 'The Hobbit,'" Ringfield said.

But most students have several reasons for opting to gain a better understanding of the author. M. Lord of the Rings' trilogy, "The father of fantasy," says, "It's just easier to get to from the literary canon," Ringfield said. "Everyone has to read Chaucer, Shakespeare. I wanted to study something a little different."

Though Ringfield read "The Hobbit" in her childhood, she never got around to reading Tolkien's most widely recognized books until "The Fellowship of the Ring" stormed the box office.

"The movies also played a part in making me want to read the 'Rings' trilogy," Ringfield said.

Donnelly said this semester's class is larger than any in the past, and this is due to partly to the popularity of the current movies based on Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. But what he does think of Hollywood's take on the fantasy masterpieces is an open question.

"I think there's been some who has been reading the books since childhood, since the 1960's, any movie is going to be at least a little disappointing," Donnelly said. With that said, Donnelly still enjoys admiring the movies, and would have liked to see a few things done differently.

"For one thing, I think the hobbits appeared too food-related and cute," Donnelly pointed out. "They looked a little too funny for my taste."

A large portion of the class focuses on debunking myths about fantasy literature in general and J.R.R. Tolkien in particular. Donnelly has very specific goals for his students when it comes to the author.

"Probably the biggest misconception about Tolkien is that he is some kind of a dreamer from a different age or mentality," said Donnelly. "The reality is he is a highly sophisticated writer with real applications to modern issues."

For example, the class contemplated whether Michael Jackson demonstrated a punk attitude when he dangled his child over a balcony or if Mariah Carey's breakdown was a "punk thing" to do.

In addition to discussing celebrities' building on the public, students pick up on the significance of counter cultures and social movements. Montague said he hopes his students gain a greater understanding of punk history and the impact it has on today's culture.

Arguing over whether punk is dead or not has failed to come up in class so far. But Montague assumes the debate will come.

"Most people writing about punk, write about it dying in 1977," he said.

It is ironic that college students now can earn credit for studying music that could have had them kicked out of school 20 years ago. Montague said. But that does not mean punk music has died, he added.

"Punk music is not dead because it is being absorbed into the established system," he said. "If it ever had the image of not being for intellectuals, it has certainly lost it now."

The established system at UCF has welcomed its new. The music department has been accommodating in helping to get the class started, Montague said.

"Everyone in the department can see the importance," he said. "No one is taking the stance that this is a bad thing to be doing. It shows a change in what college stands for. I like to think it acknowledges that a lot of different subjects are worth studying."

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Poorer parents are unaware of aid

FROM PAGE 5
face and that the party has been a tradition for sever­
al years.

When administrators confronted the students planning the party, the students denied being racist and apologized for the party and cancelled it.

The university was investigating how much resi­dence-hall advisors knew about the party and whether leaders of any student groups had helped to plan it. After the inquiry is complete, the university might take disciplinary action.

Low-income families need
student aid information

Low-income families, who need the most infor­mation about student aid, have the least information about how to pay for college, according to a report released Monday by the Sallie Mae Fund. The report is based on a national poll of parents with children who are 18 to 24 years of age.

The poll found that among those families earning less than $50,000 a year, 50 percent said that they needed more information about how to pay for col­lege. Only 37 percent of those earning at least $75,000 a year had the same view. And of families with incomes under $25,000, 65 percent of parents said they had “no idea” how they could pay for college for their children.

The survey found a gap in the ages at which chil­dren start to learn about financial aid. The average age in families with annual incomes over $75,000 was 14, while the average age for families with annual incomes under $25,000 was 10.

A racial gap also exists on information about stu­dent aid. The poll found that while 45 percent of white parents said that they did not have enough informa­tion about paying for college, 60 percent of black parents said that they did not have enough informa­tion about paying for college. Also, 62 percent of Hispanic parents felt that way.

The Sallie Mae Fund is the charitable arm of Sallie Mae, the largest financier of federal student loans.

Current SGA trio will remain until May 8

FROM PAGE 1
said Student Body Vice President Hein­lein Krizko. “Whether or not public opinion says it’s in violation, we have to follow what the Judicial Council says.”

Senators on both sides of the argu­ment agreed that the Judicial Council’s ruling is the end of the matter.

“It’s not my responsibility as a stu­dent legislator to interpret the constitu­tion. The interpretation of the constitu­tion falls to the judicial branch,” said Sen. Marcus Gould, who had opposed the change in the statute that eliminat­ed the third position.

Nation briefs

All told, the administration hopes 500,000 health care workers will volunteer for vaccinations. The program expands in the summer to a second phase, in which 10 million volunteers from the ranks of fire­fighters, police officers and emergency workers will be immunized.

Inoculations began as early as Friday, the day the federal Homeland Security Act goes into effect. A provision in the measure protects from liability all involved vaccine manufacturers, the fed­eral government and those who administer the vaccinations. Negligence, however, is not covered.

President Bush last month noted that health care workers volunteer to be vacci­nated against smallpox to provide a large group of protected clinicians and first­responders in the event of a bioterror attack. A similar vaccination program has already begun with inoculations of mem­bers of armed forces.

Federal health officials expect the vacci­nation program to run smoothly but they do not expect it to be problem-free. The live­virus vaccine carries more risks than mod­ern vaccines and in the past was known to cause death in 1 to 2 out of every 1 million people inoculated.
Our stance:

Even more growing pains to come

According to its Master Plan, UCF wants to have 48,000 students by 2010. The university already has too many students for its infrastructure. How it plans to accommodate nearly 10,000 more students without compromising the surrounding environment?

To add to that many more students, UCF will have to expand and build, likely on undeveloped land it now owns. The construction and development necessary to hold 48,000 students will take a serious toll on the environment.

The expansion and growth envisioned in the Master Plan seems unrealistic and irrational given the university's ongoing problems. UCF already lacks professors and classroom space to accommodate the current student population. The university has serious traffic problems on campus, and the roads that lead to UCF have too many vehicles on them now.

Even if UCF can expand its roads and add more roads to handle the additional traffic that would accompany the extra students on campus, UCF's Board of Trustees must realize that the university does not exist in a vacuum. The growth that UCF wants would cause traffic nightmares for the surrounding area. Traffic on Aloma Avenue and University Boulevard is already atrocious.

Unless UCF plans to add more access roads leading into the campus, the area around UCF cannot afford the added traffic that 10,000 more students would bring.

Then there's the problem of a shortage of professors. As things stand now, UCF does not have enough professors to teach its students. If UCF cannot find or afford enough professors now, how do they plan to find the professors needed to teach those extra students?

The Board of Trustees wants to build UCF into a nationally recognized university which is certainly honorable, but before it proceeds with its plans to grow the university to its projected goal of 48,000 students, it must consider the costs and feasibility of that growth.

After all, it does not need to rush into the growth that the Master Plan prescribes. The Board of Trustees should slow down its growth and realize that UCF should continue to grow slowly. Rome was not built in a day, and UCF should not be either.

It makes little sense for UCF to grow so quickly when it has experienced so many growth problems in recent years. Until UCF catches up to its recent growth, it should try to grow much more. UCF does not need to add 10,000 students by 2010.

Our stance:

In times of war, impoverished ignored

Besides the obvious reasons against war with Iraq, i.e., war is bad and the global community does not support it, there are the financial and humanitarian reasons.

Estimated costs of a war with Iraq range from $8 billion to $1 trillion — that's right, trillion. At a time when the U.S. economy is mired in a recession, and companies in various industries lay off thousands of American workers, that money should go to Africa, instead of waging an unpopular war overseas when there's the problem of a shortage of food and water.

The U.S. should invest in Africa on many fronts. It should send money and food to alleviate the starvation that threatens to kill millions. The U.S. should send medicine and medical professionals to try to slow down the spread of diseases. It should send teachers to educate the people of Africa. It should build up the infrastructure of Africa to create conditions for sustainable growth.

If the U.S. dedicated itself to helping Africa, instead of waging an unpopular war against Iraq, such a move would go a long way toward growing America's image around the world. Other countries would perceive the U.S. as an imperialistic bully and more as a humanitarian neighbor.

On top of helping its image, resolving the crisis with Iraq diplomatically would save the U.S. billions of dollars — money that it could spend to get the U.S. economy out of the gutter.

AIDS, pneumoenc and tuberculosis to ravage Africa

For a small fraction of the cost of a war with Iraq, the U.S. could save millions of lives, and save a continent that suffers on the edge of destruction. A serious American commitment — at least millions. If not tens of millions of dollars or more — to Africa could avert this horrible tragedy.

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If the U.S. dedicated itself to helping Africa, instead of waging an unpopular war against Iraq, such a move would go a long way toward growing America's image around the world. Other countries would perceive the U.S. as an imperialistic bully and more as a humanitarian neighbor.

Our stance:

Letters to the Editor

Washington war protest misguided activism

I am writing in response to the opinion column, "War is senseless activism," published Jan. 23. It can be argued that we are not at war in Iraq, and those protesting the war are misguided.

I was in the middle of the streets of Arlington, Va., Jan. 21. But the focus of that day's events was not the Iraq protest. Anti-war protesters were there to show that their cause was a just one.

The war in Iraq is not just for the sake of regime change. It is for the sake of freeing the Iraqi people. America has a moral obligation to support the Iraqi people.

Letters to the Editor

Students contribute to anti-American propaganda

I've learned about the politics of education. The University of Central Florida has grown 1,000 percent in 10 years, and has invested millions of dollars on an infrastructure that is not built in a day, and UCF should not try to catch up to its recent growth, it should not try tens of millions of dollars or more — to Africa could avert this horrible tragedy.

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The stoned cold sober facts

Stephen Hirst
STAFF WRITER

"We'll see them dozens of times by now — The Partnership for a Drug-free America's hold new name of anti-drug advertisements, featuring the running degan, "Marijuana has no heart.""

In one segment, two stoned teens in a fast-food drive-thru become distressed and run over to help the person in distress, who immediately eliminates racial disadvantages in a matter of four years — and that's before we even have to think about giving preferential treatment to minorities.

The stoned cold sober facts remain that the Partnership for a Drug-free America has been shown to effectively maintain racial diversity in college classrooms without giving minorities an unfair advantage.

And while such programs might sound good to the president and his brother, it is in the face of minorities a people that have suffered from this country's conception, in Florida, while minority admissions grew by a very insignificant amount at all, but not in all universities, the minority student population at most universities is still fairly now.

Although national blacks students receive only 10 percent of the graduate degrees awarded each year, while white students earned 77 percent and Asian students earned 4.5 percent. In contrast, while students receive a shopping 17 percent of college degrees awarded each year, while students receive a shopping 17 percent of college degrees awarded each year by nearly as threatening an image as the pot any carbon has ever smoldered with.

So do these depictions appeal, while still isolated minority voters and reverse the progress minorities have made over the past four years? — The Partnership for a Drug-free America has been shown to effectively maintain racial diversity in college classrooms without giving minorities an unfair advantage.

And while such programs might sound good to the president and his brother, it is in the face of minorities a people that have suffered from this country's conception, in Florida, while minority admissions grew by a very insignificant amount at all, but not in all universities, the minority student population at most universities is still fairly now.

Under the policies of George and Powell has finally spoken up and taken a stance that I agree with. Powell wholeheartedly disagrees with the policies of George and Powell. He believes the minorities are still isolated minority voters and reverse the progress minorities have made over the past four years.

And as any person person knows, marijuana smokers account are responsible for plenty of foolish depictions as depicted in the commercial where a kid carelessly shoots his friend while the friend is a boring.

Do so those depictions accurately reflect the state of mind of the typical pot user? To find out, let's play a little game called — “Name That Intoxicating Substance.”

Mystery intoxicant number one can make the user violent, paranoid, phobic, hallucinogenic and sexually aggressive to a dangerous degree. Those who abuse it often feel like they are in a nightmare and extremely isolated and often lead to fatalities on American streets every day.

Mystery intoxicant number two is easily avoided and leaves a person with a feeling of euphoria. There is zero possibility of any hangover or overdose. Those who use this substance are generally out for Domino's Pizza and Chinese food.

The substance is also extremely easy to cultivate for anyone who wants to bother and try and equally difficult for the government to keep track of or to tax effectively.

Now, one of these chemicals is smoked daily in a nationwide advertising campaign designed to reduce its appeal, paid for by the U.S. taxpay- er. The other is relucantly marketed by its most popular representatives during halftime of the most popular televised sporting event on the planet.

Can you guess which is number one? A small disclaimer — my guess here isn't to suggest the complete safety or benevolence of marijuana. Pot is admittedly a psychologically addictive psychotropic substance. To deny the potential for abuse that it contains is either naive or a case of denial.

While lucky fortune makes pothead on a couch aren't nearly as threatening as lunging violent, hallucinogenic, and dead behind the wheel, marijuana can and does ruin lives. A negligent father who ignores his family and devotees all his time and energy to going high is a serious drain on society, even for the pot and for others who buy drugs, including marijuana, are funding terrorists.

Perhaps the most outrageous of the current advertisement centers on the myth that people who buy drugs, including marijuana, are funding terrorists. The ad leads off featuring a series of people with guilt-ridden faces confessing to the crimes they helped support, including such guilty exploits as killing a judge.

The spot ends with the cryptic message, "If you buy drugs, you could be supporting the terrorists." It's a shameless guilt-trip designed to tug at the viewers' heart strings for victims of the attacks of Sept. 11. Some of the average Cheech has absolutely nothing to do with terrorism.

While I was sitting a tab at Wachakoba last week, this same advertisement was playing. As I left the bar, one skeptical patron muttered something that really did things in perspective. "Did they say if we buy drugs, 'strange, guess they mean to say 'gasoline.'"
Aiming at a conference championship

Knights look to pick up where they left off

MATT BETHON
STAFF WRITER

After an inaugural 2002 season that surpassed even her expectations, Coach Renee Luers-Gillispie's Golden Knights softball team is aiming to take home the Atlantic Sun Conference title in 2003.

Luers-Gillispie leads the Golden Knights softball program into its second year of existence in 2000, and in her first year she carried the program to unparalleled success. The Knights finished with a 46-10 record, and at one point posted a 24-game winning streak. The team defeated 10th-ranked Florida Atlantic, and also posted victories over much more established programs like Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee. The Knights made it all the way to the semifinals of the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament and finished the year third in the conference. "46-10 is a huge record to have in your first season, and I passed all my expectations," Luers-Gillispie said.

Prior to her stint at UCF, Luers-Gillispie was no stranger to winning. She spent four years building the Texas Tech program and led the team to Top-25 finishes in 1998 and 1999. In addition to her four years at Texas Tech, Luers-Gillispie rebuilt programs at Bradley University and Joliet Junior College, and in 1994 her Bradley team posted the fifth best winning percentage in the nation.

Luers-Gillispie said that the team is focused on getting to the NCAA Regional Tournament this year, and in order to do that they are going to have to win the A-Sun Tournament. The team also needs to bolster its RPI ranking (Ratings Percentage Index), which measures a team's strength of schedule, and how that team performs against that schedule. A

PLEASE SEE Gators on 12

Illustration by Adam Rosche / CFP

Women's tennis team looks for national attention

SAWIE SHAM
STAFF WRITER

The 2003 women's tennis team has something to prove. Following a tough schedule last year in which the Knights played 10 nationally ranked teams, they never appeared in the rankings. However, this year they are poised and ready to take on the challenge.

"The rankings are important because they help solidify our spot to be able to go out and recruit better and better players," Coach Sarah Patricks, Allison said.

Although they lost Atlantic Sun Player of the Year Tammy Ellis Smith, Allison believes other players will rise to fill her spot.

"Obviously it hurts the team when you lose such a successful player in the A-Sun," Allison said, but the depth on the team is so incredible that any one of our girls can step up and play number one," Allison said.

Senior Mia Calabro, junior Éva Weiszi, and seniors Anna Westin and Julie Pecastaing are all capable of stepping up and filling in the No. 1 spot, according to Allison. In 2001-02, Calabro went 16-15 overall in the singles division and has been ranked 60th nationally, while Pecastaing went 21-7. Westin sees playing time at the No. 1 spot in doubles, while Pecastaing in the doubles most spot.

"One player isn't going to make or break your season. It's depth that's important and how you step up," Allison said. "We will probably alternate Calabro and Weiszi at the 1-2 and use Pecastaing at the number three spot."

Following another successful season, in which the Knights won their first Atlantic Sun Championship, Allison still sees room for improvement. Last season, the team struggled in the doubles category, posting a 2-8 record.

"I think we now have a chance to have a team ranked nationally in the doubles," Allison said.

With the power-punch of Calabro and Pecastaing, they might have a chance to make that happen. They will also be solid in the No. 2 spot in doubles with experienced junior Anna Westin and freshmen Pamela Fernandez.

PLEASE SEE: SEASON ON 13

Last year's bitter end fuels men's tennis team

MATT BETHON
STAFF WRITER

The 2003 men's tennis team opens up the 2003 season today against fifth-ranked Florida, and Coach Bobby Cashman's team is looking to bring home its first ever Atlantic Sun Conference Championship.

Cashman enters his fourth season as the head coach of the Golden Knights and has seen his team improve in each of his first three seasons, culminating with a 17-4 overall record and 7-1 A-Sun mark in 2002. The team ended the season second in the conference to Georgia State.

"I thought that we could have won the conference championship last year," Cashman said. "I think this year we're going to be the team to beat. I look at last year as a blessing because it kept them hungry. Sometimes I think things happen too easy."

Cashman's team returns six letter-winners, including juniors Gabriel Strangberg and Catalin Branu, both of whom earned Atlantic Sun All-Conference first-team honors in 2002. Strangberg finished the year 21-4, dropping only three matches in the spring season. Branu finished with a 12-7 record.

"I think holding the pick will be those two juniors," Cashman said. "Also, Augusto Santos, our captain, does a good job in doubles. He's a tough kid."

UCF also has three talented newcomers to the team. In September, the three all won

PLEASE SEE: ULTIMATE ON 12

Illustration by Adam Rosche / CFP

Junior Anna Westin will partner with freshman Pamela Fernandez as UCF's No. 2 doubles team.
BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHTS
THURSDAY NIGHTS

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$3 JAGER SHOTS

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Newcomers expected to contribute immediately

SAIDI SHAM  Staff Writer

In its inaugural season, the UCF softball team earned a 44-17 record, had a 21-game winning streak and finished the season at the Atlantic Sun Conference. This season, they hope to go even farther with the host of new leadership, and the arrival of a host of talented newcomers. They are Jenna Wanas, Taylor Sawyer, Jennifer Whitley, Kaycee Clark and Cristina Villodo.

"We have better talent than we did last year," Coach Renee Luers-Gillispie said. "We have more maturity and experience in our starting lineup than we did in the previous season."

As the only freshman Luers-Gillispie signed, high school standout Wanas will start at second base. She was a four-year letter-winner at Seminole High School and is a four-time all-area and all-state team selection. She was named the Orlando Sentinel's Player of the Year as a senior.

"She's a great athlete," Luers-Gillispie said. "We were really lucky to get her. She could have gone anywhere. She could have committed to UCF and what a stick."

Sawyer is a junior who came from Clark, a junior college in California. The left-handed pitcher Sawyer had an 18-4 record and a 0.91 ERA in 142.33 innings.

"She has a good mix of pitches and does really well with throwing ground balls," Luers-Gillispie said.

She also compiled a .265 batting average with 25 RBIs. She was named to the first-team All-Region Valley Oakley, a junior transfer from Tallahassee Community College. She was named 2005 Florida Community College Athletic Association (FCCA) and All-FACC Conference Player of the Year. In 111 career games at TCC, she had a .355 batting average with 17 doubles, eight home runs, 77 RBIs and 90 runs scored. She owns the school record for most RBIs in a season with 49.

Javier Kayce Clark transferred from the University of Oklahoma where she competed in the College World Series.

"I believe she's a great leader and will definitely be an asset to us," Luers-Gillispie said.

Oakley, Clark's playing time will be spent at third base.

Villodo comes to the team as a walk-on, but she explained her arrival small team at Royal Palm Beach High School for four years. As a member of the National Gators tournament team, she placed third in the World Series. She will play third and outfield for UCF.

"She will be very valuable to us," Luers-Gillispie said. "She'll be able to get down there and get the job done. She's someone down there. She's very versatile."

Luers-Gillispie said the transition those players have made adjusting to the team has been easier than the first season.

"Last season everyone was new. Now we have a base to build off of," Luers-Gillispie said. "They all have great personalities and want to work hard, so that makes it easier."

On a retreat last weekend that consisted of team-building activities and a HOPES course before the trip, Luers-Gillispie said: "I don't even think they need it. I don't know how they're going to bond more than they already have. This is, for my best group of girls I've had in my 10 years of coaching.

Gators come to town for season-opener

From Page 10

better RPI rating gives a team a better shot of getting a bid to the NCAA Tournament if the team does not win the conference tournament.

"This year the way we scheduled it we had to get the NCAA Regionals," Luers-Gillispie said. "To do that we have to play tougher competition. We kind of upgraded our schedule a little bit. We didn't look at that so much last year because it was our first year."

Luers-Gillispie acknowledged that the biggest challenge for the Knights this season will be "getting stronger every day." She said she wants to keep the players "getting strong every day," and she wants to keep the team "getting strong every day."

"She can handle a lot of different things that we weren't able to handle last year," Luers-Gillispie said.

Jennifer Whitley, a junior transfer from Tallahassee Community College, will split time behind the plate with Lindsey Bush, last year's starter. Luers-Gillispie likes the maturity that Whitley has brought to the team. Rounding out the infield is the left-handed pitcher from Sierra College in California, Taylor Sawyer.

"She's the glue, a little bit different look being a little bit of a leader," Luers-Gillispie said. "She's double headed pitcher from Sierra College in California, Taylor Sawyer.

"She's that girl on the team where we need to be with her, she's not 100 percent at this point."

The starting lineup for the team will be Paisyn Simmons, who finished 2002 with a 16-7 record and 2.81 ERA. She also was a member of the College World Series Team in 2002. She's double-headed pitcher from Sierra College in California, Taylor Sawyer.

"She's that girl on the team where we need to be with her, she's not 100 percent at this point."

"We don't split, but we have some good games and some good pitching," she said. "That's where we need to know where we be, she said.

Ultimate goal: First-ever A-Sun championship

From Page 10

titles at Florida State's Hall Classic. In the Singles C, Draus, freshman Jason Anenbach defeated fellow newcomer Florida Beach in the finals. And in the Doubles C, Cashman swept up with freshman Larri Gowsky to win the Doubles B bracket.

Rebounding out the team will be sophomores Paul Ranny and Simon Jaggar, along with junior Antonio Stricchi, who posted a 13-4 record last year and earned a spot on the A-Sun All-Freshman Team.

"They have a lot of talent, but they are still good," Cashman said. "We've got a few opportunities against Florida, Florida State and South Florida, and we have to take advantage when we have the opportunity.

Cashman adds that it is difficult to schedule high-ranked opponents, mainly because a loss against a middle of the pack team like UCF could potentially hurt their rankings. There are a lot of teams between 35 and 60 that are very close in ability.

"They have a lot of talent," Cashman said. "We've got a lot of respect, but at the same time we also get teams that are like, 'We don't want to lose to an NCAA or Georgia State why do you play them?' Coaches that are ranked between 25 and 50 that I've known for a long time are like, 'We're at a point where you guys are good and we don't want to play you.'"

"I think we could do a fun appreciation day, especially when we play big teams. We could do little things to promote that, to just get the fans out there," Cashman said.

After coming up short against Georgia State in last year's A-Sun Tournament, UCF looks to be in prime shape to take home the title in 2003. Both Georgia State and FAU lost key players. Cashman believes UCF State is the stronger team in the conference, and looks for them to upset some teams.

The team's performance in the University of Miami Spring Festival last weekend showed some depth, talent and poise. After stellar performances by Brinna and Sker on the first day of the tournament against William & Marline's duo in the second round, Cashman was pleased.

On the final day of the tournament, the team came out firing against the host and No. 8 ranked Miami team, winning six of eight matches.

"The Golden Knights look to show up big this year, and they have our main goal. To win a conference championship," Cashman said. "That's number one."
Pumped up Lyons leads Knights over Dolphins

UCF plays its next two games on road

The Knights' basketball team continued to silence its preseason detractors Monday night, beating the Jacksonville University Dolphins 72-38 in what was a matchup of the team picked to win the Atlantic Sun South division in the preseason polls (Jacksonville) and the team picked to finish second-to-last (UCF). The Golden Knights were led by a career-high 29-point performance from junior forward Dexter Lyons, Lyons also pulled down 10 rebounds, recording his third double-double of the season.

UCF came out of the locker room with guns ablaze, starting the game with a 10-0 run that lasted over four minutes. Jacksonville got on the board four minutes, five seconds into the contest with a three-pointer by Steve Daniels, but the Knights' defense would only come back harder midway through the first half, going on a 16-4 run and pulling 45-21 at halftime. During that run, Jacksonville didn't score for over nine minutes and only had 12 points with just over two minutes remaining in the first half.

After halftime the Knights didn't let up, beginning with a Dexter Lyons three-pointer right out of the break. Jacksonville hit the crowd of 1,148 group that is easy to get behind, easy to cheer for; they deal with the Knights, they absolutely love them. They get me going. When I'm down a little bit, when

In Saturday's game against Troy State, the UCF women's basketball team came out flat and remained that way for most of the game. The result: a 65-40 loss. Well, that loss didn't sit too well with Allison said.

"I think that they come out on Saturday, just thought it was going to be an easy win, and didn't come out- they didn't come out focused," Striegler said. "Sometimes when your back's against the wall you come out fighting a little bit harder, but they realized their backs are against the wall.

The Knights jumped out to an early 13-5 lead before April Dyer converted a pair of free throws for the Bears' first points in almost four minutes to cut the lead to eight. The eight-point deficit was the smallest for Mercer the rest of the game. Another drought, this time two minutes, gave UCF a 24-10 lead and the Knights took a 37-23 lead into the locker room.

As for long-term goals, Allison would like to see national attention.

"We'd like to win our conference," Allison said. "As a freshman you have to be mentally prepared," Allison said. Also playing in doubles are sophomore Kristin Lobner and junior Ainur Samurz. Newcomer City Lacy, a transfer from the University of Kentucky, will add to the team after having already 7-1 home record, but that would love to see more students come out to

King sparks UCF over Mercer

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Season begins today for women's tennis team

Season begins today for women's tennis team

"It's a big assignment for a freshman, but I think she's ready for it. She's mentally prepared," Allison said. Also playing in doubles are sophomore Kristin Lobner and junior Ainur Samurz. Newcomer City Lacy, a transfer from the University of Kentucky, will add to the team after having already 7-1 home record, but that would love to see more students come out to

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TRENT ALEXANDER
SPORT WRITER

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Fumbling for Football Knowledge
When Super Bowl Sunday rolls around, will you know how to follow the game?

CHAD MAIER
STAFF WRITER

This Sunday is the biggest sporting event over American culture. And while households across the nation will gather around the television screens to watch the biggest sporting event of the year, the Super Bowl, most people will not know the rules of the game.

The rules of the game are complex and cannot be explained in a few pages. However, I can try to give you a general overview of the game.

The game is played on a football field, which is 100 yards long. There are two teams, the offense and the defense.

The offense starts on its own 40-yard line and tries to advance the ball down the field to the opponent's 2-yard line to score a touchdown.

The defense tries to stop the offense from advancing the ball.

The game is divided into four quarters, each lasting 15 minutes. There are two 30-second timeouts for each team per half.

The game ends when one team scores a touchdown in the final minute of the fourth quarter.

The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

The Super Bowl is a big event and many people enjoy watching it. However, many people are not familiar with the rules of the game.

So, how can you follow the game? Here are some tips:

1. Watch the game: The game is broadcast on television in most countries. You can also watch it online through various streaming services.

2. Follow the experts: Follow sports analysts and experts on social media and in the news.

3. Use scorecards: Many websites and apps offer scorecards with real-time updates of the game.

4. Learn the rules: Learn the basic rules of the game and understand how the game is played.

5. Be patient: The game is long and may take some time to get into the rhythm of the game.

In conclusion, the Super Bowl is a big event and many people enjoy watching it. However, many people are not familiar with the rules of the game. By following the tips above, you can improve your understanding of the game and enjoy the Super Bowl.

Lifestyles
Thursday January 23, 2003
Gear up to become a football fanatic

FROM PAGE 14

No. 99, and linebacker Derrick Brooks, No. 55.

‘...Bay quarterback Brad Johnson, No. 14, directs the Bucs’ defense. Veteran Pro Bowl safety Rod Woodson leads the Oakland defense.

The score

There are several ways to score points in a football game...Touchdowns: Worth six points. This happens when one team carries or catches the football in the other team’s end zone.

The PAT: After a touchdown, the PAT attempt is attempted only if the field goal is not good on the defense. If the offense loses the argument, the game is over. If the offense wins the argument, the referee will signal the play and the game will continue. The winning team has the option to score an additional point.

Penalties

Perhaps the most confusing part of the game. The ones you will see broken the most and the players to use to signal them are:

False start: This is signaled by the referee raising his hands in a circle in front of his body. If someone on offense moves before the ball is snapped, the play is stopped and the offense is moved back five yards.

Holding: This is signaled by the referee grabbing one wrist with his other hand. No one is allowed to hold the ball carrier. The offense is penalized 10 yards for holding the defense.

Pass interference: This is signaled by the referee raising his hands in a circle in front of his body. This can be ruled on either the offensive or defensive plays. These are the calls that are made on pass interference.

Holding: This is signaled by the referee grabbing one wrist with his other hand. No one is allowed to hold the ball carrier. The offense is penalized 10 yards for holding the defense.

Time

The game clock runs continuously, but can be stopped periodically through game management. These two common ways are when a pass is incomplete or a player runs out-of-bounds. There is also stopped at the end of each quarter and with two minutes to go in the second and fourth quarters. Either team can call a timeout, up to three times in each half. The official can also stop the game at any time, or a head coach can challenge a call by the official.

A challenge is when the coach simply throws a red flag onto the field. The official will then review the play. A coach can do this twice per half. If the coach wins the argument, the referee will overturn the call. The team loses one of its timeouts if the coach loses the argument.

Clock manipulation is one of the key points to winning a football game. The winning team will run the ball a lot, trying to use up as much time as possible, giving the opposing team as little time to work with as they can.

Moving the ball

Each team has four downs to move the ball. If the team can get at least 10 yards in any combination of passing and running, the team is given a new set of downs. On the fourth down, the team has not moved the ball forward 10 yards, the team has to decide to go for it, punt or attempt a field goal.

Field goal: Explained earlier.

If the offense is in the defense’s side of the football field, the offensive only half a yard or less to go, the offense is too close to the defense’s end zone to punt but to far to try a field goal, the team that has the ball is kicking, or the game is almost over.

Penalties

Perhaps the most confusing part of the game. The ones you will see broken the most and the players to use to signal them are:

False start: This is signaled by the referee raising his hands in a circle in front of his body. If someone on offense moves before the ball is snapped, the play is stopped and the offense is moved back five yards.

Holding: This is signaled by the referee grabbing one wrist with his other hand. No one is allowed to hold the ball carrier. The offense is penalized 10 yards for holding the defense.

Pass interference: This is signaled by the referee raising his hands in a circle in front of his body. This can be ruled on either the offensive or defensive plays. These are the calls that are made on pass interference.

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Time

The game clock runs continuously, but can be stopped periodically through game management. These two common ways are when a pass is incomplete or a player runs out-of-bounds. There is also stopped at the end of each quarter and with two minutes to go in the second and fourth quarters. Either team can call a timeout, up to three times in each half. The official can also stop the game at any time, or a head coach can challenge a call by the official.

A challenge is when the coach simply throws a red flag onto the field. The official will then review the play. A coach can do this twice per half. If the coach wins the argument, the referee will overturn the call. The team loses one of its timeouts if the coach loses the argument.

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Mike Riegel  
STAFF WRITER

Most people go to the gym to work up a sweat. Others, like 22-year-old junior Karen Maurer, start sweating before they ever reach the gym. Maurer is part of a gym, and that fear keeps her from doing what she wants to do—get fit.

"I went to [UCF Recreation and Wellness Center] for about five minutes," Maurer said. "It was just overwhelming. It was huge and there were people and machines everywhere. I walked in, and then I walked right back out."

Freshman Darin Bailey, 18, also finds the gym to be an especially unnerving place.

"The first time I went, I worked out a few times, but it’s intimidating," he said. "I think if I were walking myself in there, I would look really out of place.

Tina Sophonopolos, 24, isn’t too concerned about losing face of the gym either.

"People are posing and taking each other up constantly," she said. "I don’t want to know what they’re thinking about me, so I look for reasons not to go into the gym."

While a fear of working out in the gym may not technically qualify as a medical condition, plenty of students simply find the experience too demoralizing and choose to sidestep the idea of getting physically fit, at least in the company of others.

Steve Torres, a freelance trainer who has worked with professional athletes in the Orlando area, agrees the conditions of the gym can be brutal, but not always in a way of low self-esteem.

"It is essential to remember the narcissistic nature of working out, he said.

"Keep your focus inward will draw you from the surroundings, he said.

But Matt Fitzgerald, building manager of UCF’s Recreation and Wellness Center, has a different view of the gym patrons.

"I see people here of all body types doing all types of exercises," he said. Both agree, however, that students can overcome their fear of the gym very easily if they really are motivated to work out.

"Fitzgerald suggests finding a supportive friend who can offer positive reinforcement. And mapping out a fitness plan will also keep students focused on their goals, instead of their insecurities, he said.

"Many people will have a goal in mind and ask [a staff member] about the best way to reach it," Fitzgerald said.

That’s exactly how sophomore Julie Rekar, 19, overcame her fear.

"I didn’t want to go, I didn’t like it and was hard to keep coming back," she said. "Having a plan was what kept me through the beginning.

The next hurdle is the equipment. Fitzgerald says often students are apprehensive about working out with equipment.

"I’ve tried going to workout a few times, but it’s intimidating. I think if I were watching myself in there, I would look really out of place," -Darin Bailey

Becka Kulchak  
STAFF WRITER

"Sip, Shoot, Club It," or so goes the motto at Pat’s Liquors, Leal & Wine.

Junior aerocpace major Mitch Patel is not a normal 25-year-old college student. Most college students usually work part-time or full-time jobs in stores before or after school and during the weekends, but not Patel. Thanks to the financial support of his family and a bank loan, he has been the successful owner of Pat’s Liquors, Leal & Wine, located on the corner of McCall Road and Aloma Avenue, since 2001.

"Pat’s was the only small liquor store in the Publix shopping plaza next to Blackstone since August of 2001," he said.

"This job has definitely given me a lot of perks," Patel said. "I got to see Jimmy Buffet for free and attend college events, and I’ve even gotten a few tickets to the Magic games with box seats in the V.I.P. section. Plus, there was this one time down in South Beach at the Playboy party— I mean it’s been crazy —I wouldn’t give it up inescapable. Working at Pat’s Liquors, Leal & Wine has been crazy —I wouldn’t give it up inescapable. Working at Pat’s Liquors, Leal & Wine has been crazy —I wouldn’t give it up inescapable. Working at Pat’s Liquors, Leal & Wine has been crazy —I wouldn’t give it up inescapable. Working at Pat’s Liquors, Leal & Wine has been crazy —I wouldn’t give it up inescapable. Working at Pat’s Liquors, Leal & Wine has been crazy —I wouldn’t give it up inescapable. Working at Pat’s Liquors, Leal & Wine has been crazy —I wouldn’t give it up inescapable. Working at Pat’s Liquors, Leal & Wine has been crazy —I wouldn’t give it up inescapable. 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Working at Pat’s Liquors, Leal & Wine has been crazy —I wouldn’t give it up inescapable. Working at Pat’s Liquors, Leal & Wine has been crazy -
Spelling out the future

FROM PAGE 14

Instead, however, a quick flash of the brush-tailed walking corpse in "Weekend at Bernie's II" brought me swiftly back to reality.

Ross was calmly explaining the various levels of consciousness that one could reach during hypnosis. "We don't want to go into the Theta level, which is the deepest level of consciousness, because you won't remember anything," Ross explained. "We only want to go as far as an Alpha-level consciousness, which is the feeling you get right before you fall asleep — when you're almost dreaming but you can still hear everything."

Suddenly I breathed a deep sigh of relief. I had been getting horrible mental pictures of falling into a trance so deep that I would become a zombie for the rest of my life (think, the heart-shattering ending of Alice in Wonderland). "I would become a zombie for the woman said she met her unintended-once-on-a-lifetime love and how people were living in rubble, in a post-apocalyptic world") I had been getting share three times per session.

"That's fine, but I need you to relax and hold on to your experience and imagery," Ross instructed us to relax and pressed play on our cassette player. Soft, futuristic music filled the room as Ross continued to speak into the microphone, talking us through a step-by-step process of relaxing every muscle in our bodies, then our minds.

"To be perfectly honest, I'm still not sure if I was really hypnotized or just half-dreaming. But whatever it was, it was pretty cool."

While in an altered state, Ross asked us to look at our lives in one year, five years; 10 years and 100 years. She then asked us to look at the Earth and how people were living in 100 years, then 500 years. When our session was over and Ross had firmly guided us back from La-la land, she encouraged us to share our experiences and visions.

As in the 10-year vision, one woman said she met her unmar­ried, childless friend's future 8-year-old son. In the one-year vision, a man saw himself with his father's ashes in a funeral. "The spirit guides knew you were coming," Ross said knowingly.

"For my own hypnotic visions, I had a couple of nightmarish visions about misery and love once myself."

However, I'm too skeptical to jump to the conclusion that these visions were prophetic or trueful. Instead, I think they may have simply been a product of the things I felt subconscious­ly guilty about. One hilarious example of this self-approach was the horri­ble nightmares/visions of getting a Dolly Parton-sized surgically enhanced bust, which I shared with the group.

"Maybe you're trying to get something off your chest," one man suggested solemnly. The group members' 198-year predictions were believable. Everyone of one seemed to have seen the same colorless, stereotypical nightmares of rubble everywhere and people living underground. Now perhaps their predictions were accurate, but I must admit that I saw nothing except campy re­runs of 'The Jetsons' running through my head, which I doubt was anything more than my overactive imagination.

But who cared? Regardless of the visions' truth value, my imaginations were enough to warn me that I'd better make a few changes in my life now to prevent inevitable failure later. So the question of whether or not I buy into all that 'floaty-woody stuff is no longer rele­vant. Instead, I now respect hyp­nosis as a highly misunderstood tool that can motivate people by allowing them to listen to their deepest intuitions.

As we walked out of the Sage building, I learned that the brown-bearded man was a certi­fied hypnotist who brings his hypnosis act to colleges and clubs.

"Who knows, I might do a show at UCF soon," he boomed honestly. "You can be one of my on-stage guinea pigs."

And have him trick me into behaving like a real guinea pig? Maybe not lifetime, but I don't think I'm quite ready for the hypnosis performance circuit yet.
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