By some strange twist of fate, America's first woman astronaut can say that she was at UCF for America's latest space disaster.

Sally Ride spoke Sunday at UCF as part of an effort to encourage young women to pursue careers in science-related fields. Her appearance at UCF came one day after the space shuttle Columbia disintegrated as it re-entered the Earth's atmosphere following a 16-day scientific mission. The Columbia was flying toward Cape Canaveral, Fla., when it broke into pieces in the skies above Texas. At 11:15 a.m., Ride spoke to a group of eight fifth-grade students, all girls, from Thonembridge Elementary School in Oviedo. The girls, wearing blue T-shirts and accompanied by parents and teachers, sat on the floor in the auditorium of the Engineering II building and played the role of reporters, as jealously journalists from numerous local and national media organizations

Please see Ride on 8
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Drivers wanted!
SGA budget in the red $3,600

Ben Baird  Staff Writer

Just an college students sometimes find themselves in financial trouble. Students at UCF were no exception when the Student Government Association announced Thursday it was having fiscal troubles.

SGA Commissioner Ryan Romanick told senators that SGA was in a $5,000 deficit and was uncertain if it could continue to fund travel expenses for student organizations for the rest of the semester.

The announcement came on the second night of spring financial rush, when less than half of the senators attended the senate meeting because so many senators were absent, the Senate could not have a quorum — the minimum number of senators required to conduct official business.

With the announcement that a quorum of senators was not present, many senators chocked and left the room rather than waiting the necessary minutes to form a quorum to be reached to address the how the deficit would affect funding for student organizations. While at least one senator stood with senators to stay to address the deficit, the majority of those present quickly left.

The Clubs and Organizations committee, which dispenses funds to various groups on campus to fund travel expenses, is responsible for the $5,000 deficit. The organizations that granted too many generous vouchers at an undetermined date.

"Clubs and organizations are going to have to realize that they have to go out of pocket for some of their expenses," Van Voorhees said. The committees' funds come from student activity and service fees.

"We're looking for any way possible to get the students back their money," Monarocelli said.

Shortages are occurring for other accounts also that they can pull extra money from to fund trips for organizations for the rest of the semester.

Sen. Marcus Gould said that the senate is currently attempting to transfer $100,000 from various accounts so that the organizations will still be able to take their trips. Senators export the amount will cover travel expenses for the rest of the semester.

All of the funding for which the Clubs and Organizations Committee handles is sensitive, as it all relates to forms such as plane tickets and other travel expenditures that must be bought and paid for in advance of a trip.

The total SGA budget for the 2003-2004 fiscal year is $460,000, some of which SGA sets aside for emergency purposes.

"In government, money is set aside in case the worst comes down or something like that," Gould said. "We're holding onto those funds in the next few months, however the likelihood of using all of these funds is not really high."

"There's more than enough funds in accounts that are set aside for reserve purposes, such as capital improvement and discretionary funds. SGA may also derive funds from past projects that did not use their entire allocations."

SGA's activity and service fee budget for 2002-2003 amounted to $50,000 to the president's discretionary fund, $1,400,000 to the capital improvement fund and $60,000 to the clubs and organizations emergency allocations fund.

"We'll look at all the accounts individually and make a determination as to which accounts still have funding," said David Pavlounis, director of student government administrative service.

Although the senate took control of the problem, Van Voorhees said, "This type of a whole needs to use more fiscal responsibility."

SGA's budget year will end in June, however, requests for allocations from the Clubs and Organizations committee can be made no later than May 15.
Forty protesters begin first anti-war movement on campus

**KRISTA ZILIZI**

On an unusually warm afternoon last Wednesday, an uncommon scene was taking shape at UCF. Students armed with signs began to gather outside the Student Union. Those without signs donned T-shirts that read "No Blood for Oil" and "Drop Bush not Bombs." Another student passed out fliers that read 15 Reasons to Hate Bush.

Then, under the direction of Robert Coffman, president of the new campus student organization Campus Peace Action, 40 students began chanting, "What do we want? Peace. When do we want it? Now." Equipped with a megaphone and a notebook, Coffman silenced the chanting students and stepped away from the crowd. Forceful and well-versed, the 22-year-old junior declared, "Understand this war is not about flag-waving and supporting your country -- this is about oil. It will only benefit those who already have their hands in the oil pot. This president does not have your interest at heart. Opposing war is your patriotic duty."

Suddenly, a war protest was taking place at UCF, and Coffman and his 40 activists were there to convince students why war with Iraq was wrong.

While Jan. 29 marked a national day of protest in many places across the country following President Bush's State of the Union address last Tuesday evening, it was the first protest UCF had ever seen.

But, at first no one seemed to care, except Winter Springs resident Matthew Macik, who called himself the lone voice of reason.

"It's sad to see this whole thing is one-sided," he said. "There are no students supporting the President."

"These young people don't understand that this isn't war propaganda -- it's the truth," he continued. "We have choices in America, and I choose to support the President."

But the protesters weren't there to debate the reasons for war. They were resolute in their belief that war with Iraq was wrong and wanted others to feel the same.

They drowned out Macik's dissenting opinion, chanting, "Hey Bush, we know you, your Daddy was a killer too."

While the campus protest didn't attract half a million like last month's march in Washington D.C., it did not go unnoticed either. One professor joined the group of peaceful activists, while another stood on the other camp and called the protest, "a waste of time."

"These students are a bunch of losers," said Niels Lobo, a computer science professor. "They probably don't even read the newspaper. If you study this issue, you've got to agree with us."

Protesters took a stand against the war with Iraq. Forty students held signs attacking President Bush, believing the war is all about oil.
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Perez implemented summer graduations at university

He initiated the first evening escort service for all individuals on campus — the Student Escort and Patrol Services that is still used by students today.

The covered bike racks, that still stand near the dorm today, are a result of Perez’s work as president and so are the grills by the dorm lawns.

Summer graduations exist at UCF thanks to Perez, who passed the resolution after UCF switched from grading quarters to semesters.

Perhaps Perez’s most valuable example of representing the student body’s needs in the 90’s was his decision to allocate $10,000 in emergency funds to financial aid to help financially strapped students waiting on late financial assistance checks to arrive.

And like any president, Perez made decisions that didn’t sit well with some during his term. He vetoed a bill to allocate $15 for 24 Musicians who hoped to attend the Florida Music Educators Association in Jacksonville.

The same day, he granted $350 to send a girl and a boy’s championship flag football team to New Orleans for a national competition.

He also vetoed a $320 request to send two representatives to the Sports Medicine Education Foundation in Florida and denied a $125 request for students to attend the Southeastern Theatre Conference.

But taking the leap from student government, to city government isn’t affecting Perez’s general outlook. He still holds the same values today as he did while attending UCF.

“UCF has focused on leadership and management skills to use the students’ money efficiently,” Perez said. “Now I stand on the same platform, it’s just a bigger world.”

While attending UCF, Perez represented close to 15,000 students. As Orlando mayor, he would represent almost 250,000 citizens. Orlando’s escalating population serves as one of the key footholds in Perez’s campaign platforms.

Jeff Jonasen, Perez’s campaign manager, believes Perez will be just as effective as a city leader as he was as a student body leader.

“This knowledge of the city and the community’s needs is what makes him a great candidate,” Jonasen said. “We’re receiving a lot of positive feedback from all aspects of the community.”

And as Orlando mayor, Perez won’t forget his past. In fact, he plans to use as a gateway to develop stronger ties between the university and the city.

“I perceive UCF to be a big part of our city’s future,” Perez said. “Our future starts at UCF. In a way, so does his.”

With a team of more than 70 students supporting Perez’s campaign, including student body vice-president Brian Kieler, Perez has relied on UCF volunteer efforts to create a better awareness of his issues in this mayoral race.

Two-hour protest draws spectators, news crews

realize that Saddam has to go.”

“Basic wisdom should tell them [protestors] to listen to those U.N. inspectors and realize that ultimately Bush is making the most sane decision.”

While the protest remained peaceful, several spectators became embroiled in heated debates with protestors and other spectators. A group of students mockt the activists’ chants declaring “What do we want? War. When do we want it? Now.”

One spectator accused the anti-war activists of behaving hastily to which Coffman replied, “Who’s in a hurry here? We’re for peace in America, peace in Iraq and all over the world. It’s a little weird that people are sitting out here saying they want war and death.”

The line has been drawn,” Coffman told spectators, “If you do not join the movement, you are not our war — you can not be in between.”

Junior Chrissy Tommaso, 20 had made his choice. He supports a war with Iraq and wonders what it would be like to even voice the protestors to back one as well.

“A lot of what they are saying are half-truths,” he said. “They say it’s just about oil — that’s only half of it. Saddam has been shady, he’s been hiding weapons, that’s all well-known.

It’s not so much that he is going to use them, but do we want Saddam having that kind of leverage over us? What I want to know is, what would it take for these people to say ‘OK, it’s time for war.”

Sophomore Richard Soeling, 20 said, he knew what could change the protestors’ views. “If he [Iraq] throws a bomb through a window here with a biological weapon, the protestors would be quicker to protest for war.”

Paige Anderson, 10, was on the other side of the line. The freshman, who comes from a military family, could not justify supporting a meaningless war, she said.

“When you think about people’s children and husbands losing their lives, that’s something really hard to put millions of families through — especially if there is no purpose.”

As the protest drew to a close nearly two hours later, Coffman told spectators, “The world has never seen activism like this. Four million people will protest before a war ever begins.”

And he was right, the world had never seen such powerful activism before, at least UCF hadn’t until now.
70 UCF students running campaign

From PAGE 3

digger through the solid dirt. The hard part is navigating through Orlando's downtown streets dur­ing rush hour trying to find the locations that have been approved for Tico Perez yard signs.

"I get to learn the roads of downtown Orlando," Crowley said. "If anything! can say I know where downtown Orlando is — put up a sign there!"

While Crowley is unfamiliar with Orlando's downtown streets, he is familiar with city politics. He has been involved in several city council campaigns in his home­ town of Daytona as a political sci­ ence major, but says this one is different for two reasons.

For Crowley, this campaign isn't just about padding his resume or making connections, though he admits working on mayoral campaign for a city with a 200,000 population has allowed him to meet several influential figures in the city. Instead, Crowley has a personal interest vested in former UCF graduate Tico Perez's may­ oral campaign.

So Crowley has immersed himself in this campaign just like the 70 other UCF students have, backing Perez and making his campaign one of the most youth­ oriented campaigns in the mayoral race.

"I think the reason most of us are for Tico is because he would be the first UCF graduate mayor so that means a lot to all of us," he said.

Like Crowley, Nick Digirolamo, 19, is working on Perez's campaign. Digirolamo has taken a keen interest in both Perez and local politics for nearly eight years.

"I met Tico through Boy Scouts and I've always been interested in politics, so my involvement is a mix of both," he said.

He, too, is drilling yard signs with Crowley until he notices an interested elderly man, standing barefoot on a street corner, waving a Tico for Mayor sign. The man drops his sign, approaches Digirolamo and tells him the Navy SEALs have put a Tico Perez sign in the middle of Lake Ivanhoe. The sophomore politely smiles and thanks the man for his information and support, and both return to their work.

"It's unfortun­ ate," Digirolamo said. "This guy has called the office four times this week telling us that."

"It seems like everyone's got their supporters who are really eccentric. I've seen Buddy Dyer supporters who are just as eccentric," he said.

But Digirolamo isn't put off and continues to help candidate assemble signs.

Digirolamo acknowledges that Perez has been able to garner more support from college students compared to other can­ didates. But he says that's not just a result of Perez's UCF affili­ ation, but because the can­ didate's agenda has addressed col­ lege student concerns instead of ignoring them.

"Being a graduate from UCF, Tico can improve the relations between UCF and the City of Orlando," he said. "The university has a lot of events in the city of Orlando, which is a gateway Tico can provide.

"Transportation is also a major issue in Tico's campaign. That affects students," he said. "The biggest thing that affects students is roads because every­ one drives on I-4 and 408."

But Perez's connection to the younger generation stretches beyond UCF.

"Tico's been so involved in the community, he's touched a lot of people's lives and he's had the opportunity to work with so many young people on different fronts," said Alan Fowler, a former UCF graduate who worked on Perez's campaign beginning in 1999 and continues to volunteer today.

Perez's vision to turn Orlando into a vibrant community filled with arts, culture and entertainment has also appealed to the college demographic.

"He is completely committed to revitalizing and putting all kinds of life into the city of Orlando," Fowler said. "He wants to fix the city's woes and make this a place where people want to live."

"It's not just Perez's political ideologies that have won his stu­ dent supporters. His strong char­ acter has also renewed these stu­ dents' faith in politicians."

"He's very open-minded to any idea tossed at him," Digirolamo said. "He listens to people and wants to know what others have to say. If it's doable, he'll do it. He doesn't put on an act. I know a lot of politicians who put on acts."

While Perez's character has renewed students' interest in pol­ itics, Jeff Jonasen, Perez's cam­ paign manager, said it's refresh­ ing to see college students back on the campaign trail.

"I was involved in cam­ paigns in college, so it's nice to see students in city politics," Jonasen said. "I've worked for Buddy Dyer and never saw quite as many students involved. I appreciate that they chose to be involved here."

FROM PAGE 5

70 UCF students running campaign

Would be the first student to run for Mayor

"I'm not running for mayor," Perez, 22, said. "I'm just running for the opportunity to represent the younger generation of the younger generation."

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FROM PAGE 3

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Ride calls Columbia tragedy unavoidable

FROM PAGE 1

tions listened.

Later in the day she spoke to girls in middle school. The College of Engineering and Computer Science hosted Sunday's event, titled the Sally Ride Science Festival.

The fifth-graders' questions focused on Saturday morning's disaster. Ride, wearing a burgundy long-sleeve shirt and looking tired from the many interviews she had conducted following the tragedy, answered their questions as best she could.

Ride, who flew on two mis­ sions to space on the shuttle Challenger before it exploded on January 28, 1986, served on the presidential commission that investigated the Challenger tragedy. Seven astronauts, including schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe, died on that mission.

The Columbia accident hap­ pened 17 years and four days after the Challenger accident and claimed the lives of seven more astronauts, including the first Israeli astronaut.

The seven space explorers included five men — Commander Rick Husband, pilot William McCool, payload commander Michael Anderson, mission spe­ cialist David Brown and Israeli payload specialist Ilan Ramon — and two women, mission specialist Kalpana Chawla and mission spe­ cialist Laurel Clark.

Ride talked about the shock of Saturday's disaster and said it brought back memories of the Challenger accident.

"The moment that I heard that [mission control had lost contact with the Columbia at 9 a.m.] I knew there was a very, very bad problem," Ride said. "Because I was so close to the Challenger acci­ dent, the members of that crew and the investigation, my thoughts went back to the Challenger acci­ dent. I felt, 'Oh my gosh, we have another horrible day.'"

Ride, a physics professor at the University of California in San Diego, said NASA could not pre­ vent Saturday's accident. "There was almost no time from the point they realized there was something wrong until basically it was over," Ride said. "NASA had no indica­ tion really that there was a serious problem until the shuttle just didn't show up and you started seeing the streaks in the sky."

"Things happened much too quickly," she added. "NASA was very good at having backup plan after backup plan. For everything you can think of, they plan for. This was some­ thing that was very unexpected and nothing could be done."

Ride stressed that people not rush to judgment on what caused the Columbia accident. "I think people are sort of focusing on what may have been problems some­ where around or inside the left wing of the shuttle," Ride said.

"One of the lessons from the Challenger accident and investigation is don't try to pre-guess what the problem may have been."

Based upon her experience investigating the Challenger, Ride did not want to speculate on what caused Columbia to explode. "In the first few days of the Challenger investigation, there were lots of theories, and they all turned out to be wrong," she said. "So, I think it's said the thing that we just don't know yet."

Although she does not know what caused the Columbia tragedy, Ride said, "I think that there will be a reaffirma­ tion of the importance of the space program, a reaffirma­ tion of the importance of exploration in sci­ ence and in engineering," Ride said. "Science, technology and engineering drive our country for­ ward."

Ride said the space program should continue because it moti­ vates young people to strive for success in science. "It's a great example of the wonderful things our country can do when we put our mind to it, and the wonderful things we can learn about our plan­ et and our universe when we really put the effort into it," Ride said.

Ultimately, Ride remains opti­ mistic that the Columbia accident will have some positive outcomes.

"Events like this sometimes focus our attention and focus on how important the study of science and engi­ neering can be."

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Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, and Major General Marsha Harris, former director of the U.S. Space Alliance, spoke about women's roles in space exploration before a group of 500 elementary school and middle school girls at UCF on Sunday in an all-day science festival aimed at encouraging girls to pursue math and science careers.

But before the Sally Ride Space Festival could begin, Ride and Harris allowed the young women to ask questions about the shuttle Columbia tragedy that claimed the lives of seven astronauts the morning before.

"My experience has been, at times like this, people want to get together," Ride said.

"I think although yesterday was a horrible day for the space program, it will go on and get better because of it," she said.

The Challenger Centers across the nation, she said, serve as a memorial to lost crew members, as well as an inspiration for the children who want to become tomorrow's astronauts. She expects something similar will happen for Columbia's crew.

"Although she helped with the investigation following the Challenger accident, she said she is now currently assisting in shut- ting Columbia's investigation.

"I will help by offering any perspective I have from my expe riences," she told students.

Ride also told the young women how she grabbed the opportunity to travel to space more than 20 years ago.

"I was working on my Ph.D. at Stanford, and I remember NASA ran ads in our school paper because they were looking for women to join the space program," she said. "I saw one of them and ripped it out immediately. I studied my application into the first mailbox. I came across.

"Her father, a political science professor, always encouraged her to pursue science, she said, even though he told no one what astrophysics was about.

"My father could not explain to his friends what his daughter was doing," she said. "Then I became an astronomer, and his problem was solved."

Despite Saturday's tragedy, Ride said she would return to space given the opportunity.

"I like what John Glenn did," she said. "I'm gonna call NASA in 25 or 30 years and tell them I want to go back too."

Harris said women have gone to great lengths, even posed as men, to serve their country and have made considerable contributions throughout history.

"It is not unusual for women to be a part of what's good for this country," she said. "We've always been a part of it."

Harris handled outlets crucial to NASA's exploration programs.

"Space isn't the next fron tier," Harris said. "We are already there and we're going to keep going there."

After their speech, the women fielded questions about what scares them, what inspires them and what space food tastes like.

They set aside their usual military and astrophysics vocabulary and answered every question in words the young women could understand.

Things like air resistance, orbital engines and noticeable atmosphere were simplified and explained in less than three sen tences.

One student challenged Ride asking her whether it was fair to let people buy their way into space.

"I am all for sending civilians into space," Ride said. "But I think we need a system of merit to choose them, not just based on who has the biggest checkbook."

She said a diverse amount of people should travel into space. Missionaries and journalists can describe the experience in a much different perspective than an engineer or a scientist can, she said.

Despite the loss of shuttle Columbia's crew, Ride spoke optimistically about NASA's future.

"It's going to go on and it's going to get better," she said. "And the kids growing up today are going to be a big part of it."
**Opinions**

**OUR STANCE:**

**Don’t ground manned missions**

Many Americans aren’t thinking about the Columbia space shuttle’s return to Earth Saturday morning. In fact, most have come to consider space travel as routine. In this day and age that lift-offs and landings hardly ever made the headlines anymore.

But Saturday’s tragic accident made headlines and made Americans realize that blasting shuttles into space is still an extraordinary feat — still risky and dangerous.

While President Bush vowed that space exploration would go on, many Americans were left wondering if there was just too much at risk to continue to risk human lives in space missions.

In a time of soaring health care costs, a possible war with Iraq and a plummeting economy, are space missions a vital priority for America? While it seems that there are few other reasons for humans to go to space except to satisfy man’s curiosity, space missions would have to focus on pressing issues like health care, defense and the environment.

Besides, the Bush administration’s lack of contrition after 9/11 has convinced many Americans that the space program is a result of space exploration.

Grounding the space program forever isn’t the answer; the solution however calls for major overhaul for NASA and the space mission.

But the only way the space program can successfully continue to exist requires more attention and funding from the government and from the American public than it has received in recent years.

The best way to ensure that humans are never lost in space missions again is to replace 20-year-old shuttles with new space vehicles — even to pay for space travel would cost less than $4 billion.

Tiles that crack and fracture off space vehicles aren’t acceptable either — heating shields have been designed to withstand intense conditions that don’t have to be second-guessed by scientists.

America must remember that committing manned space missions may have saved seven lives in this event, and may save lives in the future, but it will also destroy the human spirit of exploration.

**OUH STANCE:**

**Activism a welcome gesture at UCF**

The forty students who assembled outside the Student Union on Wednesday to protest against American foreign policy and the ongoing war in Iraq deserve praise for taking a stand and speaking out.

Finally, some students are beginning to exercise their free speech rights.

The words and actions stirred a decent amount of attention from the student body and the Orlando community at large. A respectable number of students actually went by the protest to check it out and see what was going on.

Some students even joined the protest after they learned the purpose of the protest. Local television stations covered the protest, letting residents know about the protest.

The protesters accomplished their goal of raising awareness among students about war with Iraq, and they did so peacefully. Although some people opposed them and argued with them, the protesters remained peaceful and committed to their ideals.

To their credit, UCF police officers at the scene allowed the protesters to practice their rights and kept the peace during the all-day heated arguments.

Wednesday’s protest is an encouraging start of hopefully greater activism on campus.

"To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe." —ANDREW CARNEGIE

"Oh I Have Slept The Thirty Roads of Earth. Pout Out My Hand And Touch the Face of God."

Judged, Columbia.

CHRISTIAN FIEDLER / EDITOR

**Letters to the Editor**

"Black degree percentages in line with black population"

Adam Shiver wrote in Thylake, "non-profit" published Jan 26, that "50 percent of college degrees awarded each year..."

I quick visit to the Census Bureau's Web site revealed that while minorities make up 41 percent of the American population, blacks receiving only 40 percent at the graduate and doctoral stages make 33 percent. It seems like when some schools say that they represent fly percent and feel percent, it isn't true for the population.辔 Perry S. Sain

"Vote best man for the job, ignore affiliation"

In response to your editorial, "SGA needs more Greek leaders," published Jan 23, 20 non-Greek students should become actively involved on campus. The more diverse our campus leadership is, the better it is for all minorities.

Student Government represents students of all races. Those are 20 non-Greek leaders in Student Government Senate. While SGA has allocated $52,000 to Greek Council, SGA has also allocated $51,000 million to the next group of 20 non-Greek students.

Avoiding the campus amongst Greeks and non-Greeks from is irresponsible. Many Greeks have non-Greek friends and vice-versa. The other large number of students are Greeks. These are the same students who have graduated and are now getting work experience or furthering their education.

Incidentally, the University of Michigan did not give extra points to Asian, non-Greek students in their admissions system, which gave 20 points, out of a possible 150, for being black, and only 7 for a perfect SAT on the non-black, in Michigan, applicants received more points for being part of the 11.2 percent of the black student population than the less than one percent who admitted a perfect SAT score.

-BRIAN M. SAIN

"Racist satire disgrace to students and SGA"

rather than approach this with an all-friendliness attitude, I think that one consider just what the students, minorities and students who are not Greeks. The non-Greek students is a very new to the school. They are often argue with the people of color, or the people are not students. Considering the article "influenetial e-mail says student government," by Thylake published Jan. 26, I do not feel editors a subject that should be tolerance. I think that they would be wrong for being biased, especially of the students of color. I would like to thank the leaders of SGA and Van Voorhees for drawing attention to this candidates.

Though our nation is now in a time of extreme cautioning that Van Voorhees and SGA are not is, in an insult to them. I think that they are now a better time than ever for students to fulfill their responsibilities to become aware of SGA and their roles and responsibilities, to appreciate the opportunities for personal and professional growth and the individual reformation that may take place in the student governing body.

-MATTHEW SHANNON

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Greg Land
Bob Layton

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MENTAL DODGES

Christopher Arnold
STAFF WRITER

"It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.

That is when George Orwell's 1984, a past vision of a now-possible future. The novel - beloved being ditched in symbol

ic layers, famous for instilling migraine in high school students from people's minds to amber waves of grain - has had more than its share of influence on our society

and popular culture.

One need not look any further than "reality television" to discover this. Threnae audiences are given through which they are able to watch

the daily lives of strangers.

Truly, big brother is watch-

ing you.

In fact, "Big Brother" just happened to be one of those shows. The network that offered it just happened to be CBS, whose logo is an "E". Al-

most the better to see you with, my dear,

But Orwell's work has
done more than help create a paradigm generation of people. It offered such pearls of wisdom as "newspeak" and "doublethink.

"The latter of which, interestingly enough, means the ability to maintain two contradictory beliefs simultaneously in your mind. More than just

in your mind. More than just

able to maintain two contradictory beliefs simultaneously. Lawsuits have been

filed against fast food nation. Lawsuits have been

filed against fast food nation. Lawsuits have been

filed against fast food nation.

The International Federation of Competitive Eating (IFOCE), whose meetings I understand are held at the IRON. It even comes with its own training regimen that includes developing your stomach capacity, jaw strength and hand speed.

You don't get to be a world champion eater by just eating, after all.

Oh, and did I mention that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has even petitioned to make competitive eating a medal event? Absurd, but true.

Modern-day obesity has been partly attributed to consumers' ignorance of the nutritional elements of the food they are eating. Similarly, it is

ignorance that has led to this rise in eating competitions. We have turned the situation into the amusing and readily rewarded indiscriminate feeding be-

locuses than other individuals. Many while might see this as merely a byproduct of its newfound cult-like status, the greater dangers it presents may not yet be fully appreci-

ated. We are in true reverse the trend of increasing obesity, most agree it can only be accomplished through prevention and keeping children fit

early on. Here we can realize-

ally hope to accomplish this if networks continue to latch onto this rising commercial interest.

We can't. Something, ev-

tually will have to give.

Obesity is good. Obesity is bad. Good on will be well.

Carol Burnett's career can be marked at shared humor.

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Boyd's return lifts Knights

Matt Bethon
Staff Writer

Ray Abellard scored 15 points, and the Golden Knights used a suffocating zone defense to defeat Samford 56-52 Saturday night at the UCF arena.

The Knights (15-7, 7-2 A-Sun) are off to their best start ever in the Atlantic Sun under Head Coach Kirk Brown in their first season in the conference when playing at home.

In a matchup of the two best defenses in the A-Sun, the Knights jumped out to an early advantage. Leading 19-11, UCF held Samford scoreless for nearly seven minutes of the first half, as the Bulldogs committed five turnovers and missed all three of its field-goal attempts. J. Robert Merrill ended the drought by hitting back-to-back three-pointers, but the Knights still led 27-17 going into halftime.

The Knights were sparked by the return of Martain Boyd, who sat out the previous game after suffering a concussion. UCF's premier defensive stopper stressed the importance of the team's focus on defense and improved by the Golden Knights' defense in the second half, but allowed the Bulldogs to creep back into the game. With 2:51 left, the Golden Knights increased their lead to 57-55.

"Defense wins games, we're definitely gonna survive with our defense," Boyd said. "If our offense isn't there, you better believe that the other team is not gonna score more points than we are. Our defense is too tough."

The Knights led by as many as 15 in the second half, but allowed the Bulldogs to creep back into the game with 2:51 left, the Golden Knights increased their lead to 57-55.

PLEASE SEE Belmon't's ON 16

KERBY SHAM

TOP: Lindsey Brown in the A-Sun's 71-49 triumph over Samford.

MIDDLE: Erin Paige's seven points and nine rebounds, while guard Cherelle Price had 19 points for Samford.

BOTTOM: A Samford player is covered by guard Shayla Smith. The Golden Knights are tied with Florida Atlantic for first place in the Atlantic Division.

Knights earn FIRST WINS of season

UCF beat B-CC, Morris Brown

Sadie Sham
Staff Writer

In their first day of play at the UCF Invitational, the Golden Knights picked up two W's in a double-header and made school history. In the first game, UCF beat Bethune-Cookman College 5-3, The Knights ran-ruled Morris Brown in the second game 21-0.

Against Bethune-Cookman College, UCF scored first in the second inning when sophomore Stephanie Best scored on a fielder's choice by sophomore Lindsay Bush. The Knights tacked on two more runs in the next inning.

In the fourth inning pitcher Jami Shidner was one of four Knights to hit a double against Morris Brown on Saturday.

PLEASE SEE Best on 17

UCF swept through North

Chris Bernhardt
Staff Writer

The Golden Knights got off to a strong start on their stretch of six games against Atlantic Sun North Division opponents by sweeping a two-game road trip this week, improving to 10-8 overall and 6-1 in the A-Sun. They are tied with Florida Atlantic for first place in the South Division.

The Golden Knights took on Samford (4-14, 6-7), taking advantage of the sub-par opponent for a runaway 71-49 triumph.

They shot poorly in the first half (36 percent) only to turn it around in the second (44 percent). But the hot shooting allowed the Bulldogs to tie the game four times after UCF got a 12-6 lead early. The Golden Knights found themselves up by only two, 20-23, at halftime after Marvelous Washington hit a jumper with 30 second left in the period.

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MIDDLE: Erin Paige's seven points and nine rebounds, while guard Cherelle Price had 19 points for Samford.

BOTTOM: A Samford player is covered by guard Shayla Smith. The Golden Knights are tied with Florida Atlantic for first place in the Atlantic Division.
Watch For Toll Plaza Lane Changes!

Major changes are scheduled to occur in the northbound direction of State Road 417 at the University Main Toll Plaza. For approximately two months, there will be a concrete barrier separating the two northbound E-PASS lanes of State Road 417.

- E-PASS customers exiting to University Boulevard use right lanes only.
- E-PASS customers continuing north on State Road 417 (towards Aloma Avenue) use far left lane.

A graphical description of the toll plaza layout for this phase has been provided for your benefit. Watch for message boards placed along State Road 417 with exact dates for lane changes.

Why All The Changes?
The Expressway Authority is widening State Road 417 between State Road 50 and University Boulevard, and expanding the University Main Toll Plaza to include highway speed Express E-PASS lanes. Improvements are also being made to the University Boulevard Interchange.

What's Next?
• Toll plaza construction to be complete in April 2003.
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Belmont's buzzer beater nails UCF

FROM PAGE 14

Phillip Bobbitt banked in a long-three-pointer to cut the lead to five. The load remained at five with under a minute left, but Dexter Lyons put the game away when he made an aerobic block on the defensive end, and then took the ball the length of the floor for a layup that put the Bruins up 56-48. After Eddie Harper hit a three for the Bulldogs, Abellard closed out the scoring with a pair of free throws.

Lyons admitted the team was a little concerned after letting Samford build into the game. "We kind of got a little laxedish, but we just felt that we needed to calm down and pick everything up," he said.

Both teams shot the ball well. The Knights finished at 47.7 percent, and the Bulldogs shot 46.5 percent from the floor. Abellard finished with 18 points and three assists, and Lyons added nine points and five rebounds.

Troy Lindbeck also added nine points for the Knights, connecting on three of four attempts from beyond the arc. Samford was led by Merritt and Harper, who scored 14 points apiece.

After the game, UCF Coach Kirk Speraw praised the team's effort on the defensive end. "I think we're taking a little pride in that," he said. "The guys have been really consistent, and I thought it was nice character after losing a heartbreaker to Belmont on Thursday night. The Knights led by as many as 12 points in the second half, only to see the lead slip away. Trailing 58-55, Abellard hit a clutch three-pointer with 12 seconds left to tie the game, but Jason Sonn hit a layup at time expired to give Belmont a 60-59 victory.

Robert Moreno had his best game in a UCF uniform, scoring a career-high 29 points and eight rebounds. Ed Dotson also added 14 points and eight boards. Horrific shooting in the second half, however, doomed the Knights. UCF shot just 20 percent in the second half, and finished the game at 38.2 percent. The loss was even more puzzling considering the Knights forced Belmont into 24 turnovers and out-rebounded them 32-28.

The mood was somber after Thursday's performances. "We were a little down on ourselves, but we just had to bounce back," Lloyd said.

Lyons was determined not to let the loss influence the team heading into Saturday. "Every champion teams goes down sometime, but it takes a real champion to get back up," UCF holds the second-best record in the conference, and will look to continue its success in the upcoming week. The Golden Knights go on the road Tuesday against Campbell before returning Saturday to play host to Gardner-Webb at the UCF Arena.

FROM PAGE 14

But UCF hit seven of eight free throws to close out the game and held off a last second three-point barrage by the Bruins. The Golden Knights shot 52 percent in the second half and the Bruins hit 50 percent of their shots, a total 150 from their bright first half.

Arkema Filkins ran off the bench to score 17 points. Allen added 16 points and eight rebounds, while Paige and guard Jessica Scala had 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Guard Natalie Brown had a game-high 23 points for Belmont, followed by center Chasity Campbell with 16. Forward Brandi Weber added a game-high 23 points for Belmont and Samford.

It was the first woman in school history to record a double-double with 26 blocks on the season, and last week became the first woman in school history to go over 100 blocks for her career. She now stands at 164.

Around the A-Sun

Casey Collins of Gardner-Webb University was named Player of the Week on Jan. 28. She posted a season-high 19 points in back-to-back games against Belmont and Samford. She also shot 58 percent from the floor and 84 percent from the free throw line over that stretch, leading her team to wins in both games.

She is the first player from Gardner-Webb to garner the honor this year.
Best leads UCF's offensive attack

from page 14

Dottie Copp found herself in a bases loaded situation, but managed to escape after giving up just two runs. UCF answered back as Bush scored and a Nikki Green single sent Kepree Clark across the plate. The Wildcats went three-up, three-down the next two innings, but started a two-out rally in the seventh with a single by Megan McGuire. However, it was soon ended when Jen Whitley tossed out the next batter with a routine play from second to first.

Best went 1-for-2 with two RBIs, while Green went 2-for-2 and had a RBI. Copp pitched the complete game, picked up her first win of the season.

In game two against Morris Brown College, UCF's Taylor Sawyer showed off her pitching talents as she recorded the 15th shutout in school history. She gave up only two hits, struck out six, and did not walk a batter.

After scoring one run in the first, the Golden Knights shifted their sticks into drive, tallying four or more runs in the next four innings. They totaled a season-record 22 runs, a school-record 18 hits and Best had two triples, also a school-record.

"You just have to prepare yourself. I like how today worked out with the pitching changes," said Best of the slower, more deliberate style of Morris Brown.

She finished the game 3-for-3 with four RBIs. Janda Simmons, Rachelle Schmidt, Dydra Simmons and Jen Whitley each recorded a double for the Golden Knights.

Claessens shines in second indoor meet

Jon Scroggins
Staff Writer

In just her second indoor collegiate performance, freshman Astrid Claessens took second place in the individual 800-meter event, as the UCF women's track and field team competed Friday in the Baton Rouge Classic.

"We really pushed out on the 800-meter race Friday," she said.

"I'm happy with the way the season continues," she added.

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Sat., Feb. 8th at 1 p.m. - Jay Bergman Field (Behind the UCF Arena)

Women's Basketball v. Jacksonville State
Sat., Feb. 8th at 3:00 p.m. - UCF Arena - CONFERENCE PLAY

Men's Basketball v. Gardner Webb
Sat., Feb. 8th at 7:30 p.m. - UCF Arena - CONFERENCE PLAY

Baseball v. FIU
Sun., Feb. 9th at 1 p.m. - Jay Bergman Field (Behind the UCF Arena)

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SPORTS

SIGNING DAY

UCF football coach Mike kruczek will find out Wednesday who will make up his 2003 recruiting class. Wednesday is the first day high school senior football players can sign and deliver their National Letter of Intent to the colleges of their choice. UCF will hold a press conference announcing its signees Wednesday afternoon. Look for positional breakdowns of UCF's newest recruiting class in Monday's edition of The Future.

Tri-DMC wins 2nd annual outdoor adventure race

Last Saturday 19 teams competed in the second annual outdoor adventure race. Teams competed in canoes, biking, running, orienteering and several special events. Tri-DMC finished first in the student division, the team of three men completed the course in 1 hour, 49 minutes, and 1 second. The UCF Rugger Girls finished strong with a final time of 2 hours, 47 minutes, and 30 seconds. Some special events the teams competed in were rock tower climbing, soccer skills, pool challenge, disassembling a bicycle and scaling. To view all adventure race results and pictures go to http://clubs.cecs.ucf.edu/ar/.

Volleyball playoff time

The 2003 Volleyball tournament will get underway tomorrow night in the Recreation and Wellness Center. Several teams were undefeated in the regular season and are looking to take home the ever-popular IM Championship Trophy. Lambda Chi Alpha and Alpha Delta Pi are on their way to winning the Greek Points trophies again this year, both teams finished the regular season 6-0. BCM Underdogs are looking to defend their 2002 spring Co-ed Volleyball Championship with their 6-0 finish in the Tuesday Co-ed division. Vertically Challenged finished 5-1 and is looking to avenge their loss in the Open Rec finals last year. Go to www.imsports.ucf.edu to view the playoff brackets.

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Consolidation aids students in debt

MIKE RIEGEL
STAFF WRITER

For some, college represents the best time of their life — the best time to fall into debt, that is. Credit card debt, student loans and car payments are often taken for granted by students until they have to start paying the bills themselves. Yet, there are some like junior Jason Ramos, 22, who have found a way to keep as much of their money as possible and avoid debt.

I refinanced my car loan and I figure that I’ll have nowhere around $1,200,” he said. “My monthly payments are the same, but my interest rate dropped and I’ll be able to pay my car off a lot sooner.”

When Ramos purchased his 2001, he was happy to just hear that his loan was approved and he would be driving off the lot in his new car.

“I didn’t know much about annual percentage rates, but when my uncle told me about them, I decided to refinance as soon as I could.”

What Ramos found, without a great deal of effort, was a list of lenders willing to loan him money at considerably reduced rates.

“I tried an Internet search, looked in the phone book and talked to my family members,” he said. “Most [lenders] got back to me in less than two days. I guess they all wanted my money, even if they were getting less of it than the bank I had my loan through.”

Another popular pitfall for students is the infamous plastic cash, otherwise known as the credit card. One simple swipe, followed by a PIN number or a signature, and the item is paid for with nothing to worry about — at least until the bill comes in the mail. This concept of instant gratification has lured more than a few people into a cycle of increasing debt and additional credit card accounts.

“I have about six credit cards,” sophomore Patricia Conroy, 23, said. “I started with shopping and only paying the minimum amount every month. Then, I got another card when I lost my job and I put my rent on that one for a couple of months. After the first two, the offers [for new credit cards] poured in and it got really easy to sign up for them.”

Senior Kyle Hammon, 23, shared a similar experience with credit cards.

“I figured things were out of hand when I finished a Big Gulp. I knew I was bad with money and it turned out that I was worse with plastic.”

But there is help for those who have become ensnared in credit card debt. Consumer Credit Counseling is a non-profit organization that helps consolidate credit cards, department store cards and personal loans into one monthly payment. This process will often lead to creditors waiving late fees, over-limit fees, re-age (bring current your account if you are delinquent),

Please see Credit on 21
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Credit counseling helps balance funds

reduce and/or even remove the interest rates,” according to its Web site.

“Consumer Credit Counseling will gather up the outstanding balances of the credit cards and combine them to make one monthly payment,” Terri Larson, a representative at Consumer Credit Counseling, said.

Most of the 40,000 creditors they work with are aware that their clients will also, after consolidating, send in a monthly payment that meets their requirements and will be on time, Larson added. As a result, creditors will make concessions, such as reducing or lowering interest rates.

Additional information about Consumer Credit Counseling can be found at www.non-profit-credit-counseling.org.

Fbr. money extra spending cash. .

Financial Assistance office, said.

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before considering these optional
dents and parents who are oftentimes not aware
more

"Optiona/ Educational

Optional/Educational loans,

Ashley Decker, 19,
a credit

Many student groups believe that

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-allow are

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Sophomore Mary Larson, a representative at

2003

FROM PAGE

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February 3, 2003

STAFF WRITER

Other private companies, such as

in federal student loans

in federal student loans

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They work with clients to solve their

According to its Web site, consolidation.

Most of the student loan-programs

The

Limit on how much money college students

No matter what an individual's situation may

almost never too early, or late, to reconsol-

"It’s almost never too early or late, to recom-

solidate your finances," Larson said.

Where to go for more information:

Consumer Credit Counseling
www.non-profit-credit-counseling.org
(877) 436-0983

Collegiate Funding Services
www.colleger.com
(811) 419-5762

Raising limits on student loans

College lobbyists across the nation are trying to convince congress that there is a need to raise the limit on how much money college students are allowed to borrow through federal loan programs.

The lobbyists are arguing that the limits, which were set 10 years ago, need to be updated to com-
pensate for the ever-increasing costs of education.

Many student groups believe that if the federal loan limit is increased, students who are already in debt from borrowing too much money would be buried in debt three-fold.

The 10,000 UCF students borrowing about $47 million in federal student loans this academic year believe that they do not need any more money. In addition, their loans, in combination with grants, scholarships and jobs, provide them with enough money to pay for their college expenses.

Sophomore Darnelle Cadet, 19, and her loan covers most of her expenses and she doesn’t feel the need to borrow any more money.

Junior Lauren Sebastian, 23, and sophomore Ashley Decker, 19, both agree with Cadet.

Decker said, "if students loan covers her rent and

sorority expenses, making her grant and scholarship

money extra spending cash.

Larson added, "It’s too easy to get a loan — it’s like a credit card."".

However, if students feel that they are not get-
ing enough money from their federal loans, there are several companies, such as Cleveland and Suise Me, that offer other types of loans, called Optional/Educational loans, to students. These pro-

vides a way to charge higher interest rates and fees and the qualifications for these loans tend to be more stringent, often requiring credit checks.

"We highly recommend that students first apply for loans through Student Financial Assistance before considering these optional loans," Lisa Minnick, an intern associate director of the Student Financial Assistance office, said.

Optional/Educational loans are marketed to stu-

dents and parents who are sometimes not aware that these loans have higher interest rates and origina-

reasonable money from the federal loans, there

to borrow money, the greater their chances are of

graduating, Minnick said.

However, if a student has an unsualized loan, the interest on the loan begins to accumulate, the moment they take out the loan. But until the loan goes into reimbursement, the student leaves school for six months or graduations — after that, the interest starts to add up.

But the federal student loans have some of the best interest rates available, Minnick added. In fact, the present interest rate for the Stafford Loan, one of the most popular student loans, according to Minnick, is 3.45 percent. However, the interest rate increases to 6.06 percent as soon as the student has to repay the loan.

The only complaint about the federal student loans that most students have is that it takes such a long time to receive the money. Decker said she didn’t receive her loan money until halfway through the fall semester last year.

"It could have been any number of reasons," Minnick said.

Information on the loan form could have been incorrect or there could have been a problem with new software from PeopleFirst that the university is using, she added.

But until Congress decides whether or not the federal loan limit will be increased, there’s not much UCF can do to help students who want to borrow more money through a student loan.

Minnick believes the amount of loans students receive is sufficient, but for those that feel they need more money she recommends that they apply for scholarships and other similar awards.

"The students are definitely getting enough."
Students engaged by so-called reality

FROM PAGE 19

CityWalk, but instead was discovered by existing agents while she was working at a downtown bar.

“I was reading off with a co-worker when some casting agents came up to me and asked me to audition for Fear Factor. At first I said no, especially because of the eating part, but then they told me maybe and I would get lucky and not have to eat anything.

After her interview, she was asked to make a 10-minute tape for the Los Angeles producers to watch.

“Most people just make a tape of themselves talking. Reish said. “But my tape was outrageous. I performed my own stunts and it was a lot like ‘Jackass.’ It was very silly.”

Within a month, Reish was flown out to Los Angeles for the taping of the show. Before the taping, contestants were groggy and interacting with each other, Reish said.

“Nothing was scripted. It was so bad that I heard that some other reality shows aren’t, but all of our conversations were fresh and real.”

Reish participated in two “Fear Factor” trials before making it to the final round.

The first event had the contestants run on the top of a five-story ferris wheel, not knowing when it would stop or change speeds. Reish was not only the first person to go, but also scored the best time out of all the women.

“I was very happy when I finished the event,” she said. “I had a hard time believing that I had seen other reality shows aren’t, but all of our conversations were fresh and real.”

The second event was the final round.

“Less professor Keila Ayish, 19, said that she watches several reality television shows on a regular basis, such as “The Real World,” “Fear Factor” and “The Challenge.”

“I watch them because they are just really funny,” Ayish said. “The shows are for instance, I like to watch and see what Kelly is wearing.”

Reality television is an entertaining form of television, but should not be taken literally. Keila Ayish, sophomore, NIKI Jo Radcliffe, 19, said.

“Sometimes, I like to see what they will make people do, but I don’t take it seriously,” Radcliffe said. “I know that although they can’t control it, it still television.”

Professor Lee Moore, who teaches sociology at UCF, said people enjoy watching reality television shows because they can relate to the television shows to their own life.

When people watch dating shows for example, they often watch to see if they are doing the right things when they are on dates. It is also a great way for people to live vicariously through others.

Most people participate in reality television for the money. Moore said. It takes an aggressive risk-taking type of personality to participate, she added.

“But it’s not really reality. The events are actually happening, but it is not what people would normally do if they weren’t on camera.”

Although Reish did not successfully complete all the events in “Fear Factor” she said her experience was still a worthwhile one.

“IT challenged me in certain ways. The main point was to put mind over matter, which I did in the first two stunts.”
HAVE FUN, VOLUNTEER, BECOME A LEADER
DO SOMETHING
WITH THE OFFICE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

EKCEL's Annual Etiquette Dinner
March 1, 2003.
6 - 10 pm, Marriott World Center, Cocktail/Semi-Formal
The Etiquette Dinner is a dinner event, sponsored by EKCEL, that provides students with a four-course meal and an etiquette instructor in order to teach them how to dine professionally. Spaces for 100 people will be raffled. Sign up at the front desk in the Office of Student Activities Jan 27 - Feb 3, or online at http://www.osa.ucf.edu/Etiquette Dinner

Tue Feb 4
1:30 - 2:30 pm - Knights of the Round Table meeting for clubs, SU 224
9 pm - CAB Cinema presents "Punch Drunk Love," Cape Florida Ballroom, SU 316

Wed Feb 5
1 - 5 pm SAK Improv Comedy Class. Class limited to 20 participants, SU 224
6 pm Dance Marathon Dance Competition. Clubs can have fun and compete for prizes! Registration fees go to Children Miracle Network, Pegasus Ballroom.

Fri Feb 7
9 pm - 2 am Late Knights Polar Bear Pool Party.
Recreation and Wellness Center.

Sat Feb 8
9 am - VUCF Beach Cleanup at Alan Shepard Park.
Carpool from Millican Hall.
12pm - 4 pm SAK Improv Comedy Classes. Class limited to 20 participants, Student resource center Auditorium, and Wired Cafe.

Sun Feb 9
2 pm - Knight of Sushi, Fusian Restaurant. Learn to make sushi then eat your own creation. Advance registration required. Sign up in the Office of Student Activities, Rm. 208 in the Student Union.

Tue Feb 11
10 am - 6 pm VUCF Blood Drive, outside the SU
11 am - 2 pm VUCF Green Ribbon Day, SU South Patio
7:30 pm EKCEL "Time Management" workshop, SU 316
9 pm CAB Cinema presents "Moulin Rouge", SRC Aud.

Wed Feb 12
10 am - 6 pm VUCF Blood Drive, outside the SU
7:30 pm EKCEL "Time Management" workshop, SU 224
8 pm Battle of the Bands, UCF Arena

Fri Feb 14
7 pm Block Party sponsored by CAB and Affiliated Housing, Pegasus Landing

Visit us on the web at osa.ucf.edu
For more info on any of these events contact the Office of Student Activities, Rm. 208 in the SU, or call 407.823.6471

Funded by the Activity and Service Fee as allocated by SGA
At the west end of the UCF plaza, nestled in between Los Chinos Chinese restaurant and the Downtown IDea clothing store, sits Common Grounds Coffeehouse, one of the best-kept secrets for UCF students.

Common Grounds is a free coffeehouse donated to UCF students by the shopping center's owner, Mary Demetree of Demetree Properties, and run completely by volunteers.

The key word, free, does not stop at the admission price. Common Grounds also has free live music, free improve comedy shows, free meeting space for UCF clubs and organizations, and best of all, free coffee—all you have to do is show up.

"To prove the freetree idea we do all the time," Stewart said. "On Tuesday Feb. 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Common Grounds is hosting ESPo day for the officers of student clubs on campus to come get to know the place."

Local managers of businesses will give away free food all day, tell officers about the discounts places offer UCF clubs exclusively and register everyone who comes for huge prizes for their clubs from these vendors," he continued.

"I have never been in this place before," senior Melissa Mitchell, 22, who was part of the audience Friday night, said. "But I think it's a great idea, and I'm sure I'll come back."

The coffeehouse also has three rooms where people can come to see some comedy and hear the sounds of the Orlando-based band, "A Hollywood Landing."
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Valet Parking - Positions starting at $5 - $15/hr are available for friendly, outgoing, motivated people. FT/PT. AM/PM positions available at upscale hotels in the Downtown Orlando and Disney areas. Call 407-841-7275 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm or leave voicemail.

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