Who deserves money from SGA?

In the first of a three-part series leading to the Feb. 17-19 SGA presidential election, the candidates share their views on funding Greek and other exclusive student organizations, and also how to increase involvement in SGA and campus groups.

Cary Gratton
STAFF WRITER

As the SGA presidential election looms, campus clubs and organizations are deciding where their allegiances lie. As always, the issue of Greek affiliation promises to be a factor in determining where votes fall. In the meantime, candidates must figure out how best to distribute almost $9.5 million of student activity fees among exclusive and non-exclusive organizations to please their constituencies.

While all of the candidates — both Greek and non-Greek — would fund sorority and fraternity events such as recruitment and guest speakers, none want Greek affiliation to be the only factor in approving or withholding funds. Each of the five candidate slates (except one) answered their questions with The_Picture_in_person. The fifth slate provided its responses via e-mail.

**Elections commission clears SGA candidates of violations**

Battles-MacLellan ticket receives endorsement on nightclub flier before official campaign begins

**Ben Baird
STAFF WRITER**

Former student Sen. Juan de la Torre asked the SGA Elections Commission on Friday to disqualify one of the five slates running to lead student government, claiming the candidates broke election laws by campaigning too early.

The team of Brian Battles and Joe MacLellan were accused of illegal campaigning after Primo Entertainment, a promotions company that works with several local nightclubs, began distributing advertisements around campus and through e-mail that endorsed the Battles-MacLellan ticket in the Feb. 17-19 election.

The advertising flier, which otherwise promoted the Hogs and Honey's nightclub, included a single sentence at the bottom that read: "Don't forget to vote for Primo's favorite. Brian Battles and Joe MacLellan, in the UCF election."

Many SGA officials perceived the flyers as campaign material, and labeled it a direct violation of SGA campaign laws that restrict endorsement of candidates.

**LAURA STEVENS
STAFF WRITER**

For a university professor, tenure is a valuable commodity — a status that earns faculty members better pay, recognition, a higher rank and above all, job security. While the road to earning it is usually long and rigorous and requires years of publishing, researching, getting grants and going to conferences, most professors consider the demanding mandates worthwhile if that guarantees them peace of mind that they will have jobs regardless of what may happen within their classrooms or on campus.

At UCF, the requirements to earn tenure are straightforward and clear. Professors are eligible for tenure after five years of working at UCF and they have completed research and publishing requirements within their departments. Based on evaluations by a group of tenured faculty members within their department, the dean of their college and UCF President John Hitt, a faculty member is either granted tenure or denied.

Once a professor earns tenure, a university is almost powerless to fire him or her unless layoffs reach a tenured professor’s level, or a professor commits a major offense, such as sexual harassment.

**A new class of tenure**

**Laura Stevens
STAFF WRITER**

Professors consider pros, cons of changing tenure standards

For a university professor, tenure is a valuable commodity — a status that earns faculty members better pay, recognition, a higher rank and above all, job security. While the road to earning it is usually long and rigorous and requires years of publishing, researching, getting grants and going to conferences, most professors consider the demanding mandates worthwhile if that guarantees them peace of mind that they will have jobs regardless of what may happen within their classrooms or on campus.

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**Cupid’s gift guide**

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**LIFESTYLES, 19**

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To guard 3 students’ privacy, Georgetown shut down the university’s e-mail system and removed student information. The university in Melbourne, Australia, which also had a similar problem, made $350,000 in its university's public-safety operations before the system shut down, the university immediately fired its president.

To prevent future problems, the university also named three students. However, they estimate that the cost to campus leadership and support funding Greece events as long as Facebook makes them exclusive to the general student population.

Likewise, Taskalidas and his run made students Kalefas and Katsalanis want to steer money toward groups organized around race or ethnicity, because those groups help spread cultural awareness, which in turn benefits all students, they say.

Brian Battles, 20, and Joe MacLellan, 21, have similar beliefs about funding exclusive organizations like the LEAD scholars program and Greek organizations, both Greeks. They believe all clubs should be funded, no matter what. That’s because the money will be spent to improve the organization or will benefit the UCF community.

Many student says the activity and services fees should have a right to get some of that money back. As for Primo Entertainment’s role in the matter, it pulled, he said.

At the election. The reality is that [Kleffs] are also mobilizing so many voters,” Houchin said. “It’s probably hard to change without advertising the student elections.

Houchin and Mitchell also intend to appoint those whom they believe are most qualified for cabinet portfolios, regardless of their affiliations. Streep and Kleffs would fund interest group efforts, believing that they provide educational opportunities for the entire student body. As long as the laws stay the way they are, the only things that student government can entertain paying for are things that are open to everyone, like recruitment, Kleffs said.

Beyond Greek organizations, Streep and Kleffs would fund interest group efforts, believing that they provide educational opportunities for the entire student body. As long as the laws stay the way they are, the only things that student government can entertain paying for are things that are open to everyone, like recruitment, Kleffs said.

Preceding Greek organizations, Streep and Kleffs would fund interest group efforts, believing that they provide educational opportunities for the entire student body. As long as the laws stay the way they are, the only things that student government can entertain paying for are things that are open to everyone, like recruitment, Kleffs said.

Student Body Vice President Brian Richey, who is also running for the SGA presidency, Marciano, did not agree with the verdict. Both questioned whether the social affiliations of the election commissioners had anything to do with their decision to allow Battles-MacLellan ticket until they were impeached. Both Richey and Student Body President Marco Pela both are members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. Elections of UCF Batista, 21, who is our [fraternity] chapter president, and Student Body President Marco Pela both are members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

According to the university’s rules, elections commissioners have been given an unfair advantage over the other candidates.

"People have been campaigning for a long time and there’s been a lot of pressure from the clubs and organizations, etc.,” he said. “I think every- one when voting will have an equal advantage over the other candidates.

But the Elections Commission did not vote in favor of the鞀9 candidates. Battles said he believes that the endorsement would give him an unfair advantage over the other candidates.

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In a time of mounting war, some members of the community have begun looking to higher education for a stance on the situation. In fact, groups such as the Massachusetts State College Association and the Modern Language Association have pronounced formal criticisms of President Bush’s stance on the war on terrorism.

According to Nancy Stockdale, a UCF professor of Middle-Eastern history, the public often turns to the university because of professors’ expertise in the field.

“In my experience, there are many people in the public who are interested in the informed opinions of professors who are experts in the region of the world affected by conflict,” Stockdale said. “Part of the role of a university is to outreach to the public and share its knowledge with the general population.”

Despite recent anti-war resolutions passed at such higher education institutions as the University of Montana at Missoula and the University of Wisconsin at Madison, the UCF Faculty Senate has not even begun to discuss the subject, stating that such a broad-based issue is not on its agenda.

Michael Mullens, a professor of engineering and chairman of the Faculty Senate, does not think the university should address the issue. “The senate has a mandate not to make statements on broad societal issues,” Mullens said. “We are here to discuss the academic policy at UCF.”

Mullens said that though members of the Faculty Senate have strong views on the impending war, those members are on both sides of the issue and could never come to one conclusion.

While in the classroom, Mullens said that professors should discuss their views with students in an appropriate manner. This could include a forum outside of the classroom or an in-depth discussion with students that professors are closest to, such as graduate students.

Stockdale feels obliged to speak with her students about the war.

“Professors have a responsibility to discuss world events with their students, particularly wars that impact our daily lives. As a scholar of the Middle East and its history as long as I can remember, I feel that my students understand my position and, equally as importantly, why I hold it,” she said.

Stockdale added that professors have a responsibility to listen to the opinions and concerns of students on this issue as well.

Stockdale is not the only professor who takes this stance. By the mid-1970s, 41 percent of professors supported petitions or resolutions indicating their position on the Vietnam War according to the Pew Research Center of Higher Education.

Dr. Friedman, a UCF professor of history, disagrees with resolutions filed on behalf of a public issue.

He said, “As official representatives of a publicly funded university the faculty senate should recognize that despite their own personal or even collective thoughts on the issue, they speak for a broad constituency which may hold many different opinions on the topic.”

He added that as individuals, faculty members have rights to voice their own opinions and it does not present itself as an official statement.

Though Shelly Park, chairman of the Philosophy Department, thinks that there is nothing wrong with professors sharing their personal opinion about the issue with students, she said that several points must be made clear first.

Park said that it should be made evident that these are only the opinions of these professors and are not a unified response from the university.

Doug Evans, a professor of humanities, said it is not the duty of a professor to go into his or her office, turn the music up and close the door. He said professors should speak with students about the war in a sort of open debate.

“It is discouraging that on this campus there are not more debates,” Evans said. “It is like no one wants to make too much of an argument.”

Some argue that whether a university takes a stance has little to do with what its students say on the war. On Jan. 23 The Chronicle of Higher Education reported that a petition faxed to the White House containing more than 300 signatures from places such as Harvard and Swarthmore colleges could not even be confirmed as received by White House spokespersons.

Stockdale said that whether she would start a petition depends on the circumstances at the time.

“However, I am active in community outreach educating people of various backgrounds in our community about the issues at stake in war in the Middle East, and I think there are many effective ways that we can all express our opinions,” she said.

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Speaker discloses the ‘truth’ about Iraq war

SHENLLY MARMOR

A recent CBS News/New York Times poll, about 45 percent of respondents believe President Bush should give the United Nations inspectors more time, with only 30 percent wanting to immediately invade Iraq.

Most of the roughly 75 UCF students who attended a speech by Erik Gustafsson on Thursday titled “What You Don’t Know About Iraq,” seemed to agree with that majority.

Gustafsson, founder and executive director of The Education for Peace in Iraq Center (EPIC) in Washington, D.C., delivered two addresses on campus regarding his view that the U.S. should not go to war. He also discussed his experiences in Iraq both as an Army specialist during the 1990 Gulf War, and on two other humanitarian visits he made on behalf of EPIC in 1997 and 2000.

Advocating the position that the United States should not invade Iraq, Gustafsson made it clear that he believes this war will have only negative effects in both Iraq and the United States.

Gustafsson said the war will harm the Iraqi people, not their leader Saddam Hussein, and will also further harm the reconciliation in Iraq.

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Justice Flanagan and her son Bryan, in their car, turned the corner of the Kennedy Space Center, and was gladdened to see the astronauts who died on the space shuttle Columbia. Due to strict regulations and limited space, Flanagan was unable to join her husband, Vincent, a资深 Bahamas technician for the space shuttle Columbia, at the memorial service.

Speaker: War will hurt Iraqis most

According to internal U.N. documents, well over 100,000 Iraqis will need humanitarian assistance in the event of a war. The WHO also estimates that more than 50,000 Iraqis will need medical treatment just days after a war breaks out, Gustafson said. Senior Sudan Ali agreed. Ali believes most people do not have enough information about the effects of the war is not only on the Iraqis but on all people in the world, who are indirectly affected.

Gustafson added that while he believes Hussein withheld information from U.N. weapons inspectors and he supports regime change in Iraq, he believes the war will hurt the 21 million Iraqi citizens most. However, one audience member remained skeptical, and questioned how Gustafson believed a change in regime could come about without war.

Gustafson proposed that in addition to the U.N. weapons inspectors, the United Nations should implement human rights monitors and develop a way to deal with Hussein's tyranny. He said that though Hussein hates the United States, he loves himself more, and therefore he will always comply with the United Nations in a degree.

Gustafson also said that an oversight, military-trained changes, would not work in Iraq unless the United Nations and the U.S. governments invest substantial time and money into a new regime establishment.

"I think that we have Saddam in a box and we should pursue a policy that brings about regime change," he said. "It has to be a long-term process. Instant regime change doesn't work. You don't order regime change at McDonald's."
Economic downturn leads to drop in endowment value

JOE HARLESS

Market forces and few donors have taken a toll on UCF's financial status, but the financial losses have not affected the university much.

UCF lost 8.8 percent of its market value from 2001 to 2002. The value of the UCF Foundation, for example, fell from $55,747,000 on June 30, 2001 to $50,250,000 a year later, according to a survey conducted by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Although this loss of money hurts UCF, David Scott, a finance professor here, said the loss of 8.8 percent should not worry people too much, considering the state of the economy.

"A loss of 8.8 percent within the realm of U.S. financial market activities is very good," Scott said.

The survey ranked UCF at 401 out of 654 college and university endowments listed.

Robert Holmes, chief executive officer and vice president of development and alumni affairs for the UCF Foundation, Inc., says the economy contributed to the downturn.

"The value of endowments fluctuates with the market," Holmes said. "We enter the market with a portion of the portfolio." Endowments to colleges and universities usually operate with a foundation. If an individual or group wishes to give gifts to a university, the gifts go through the foundation before reaching the school.

"Two kinds of gifts given to a college or university include restricted and unrestricted funds. Restricted funds call for specific uses of the gifts. A trust of land given for the specific use of building a new football stadium is an example of a restricted fund. Unrestricted funds do not come with specifications on how the money or property must be used.

UCF has recently benefited from restricted gifts. During the fall semester UCF combined a financial gift of $800,000 given to the College of Education by Robert Heinzeffman with a $20,000 grant to hire a scholar to study the nature of greed.

UCF also began construction on the Rosen School of Hospitality Management last semester due in large part to the $20 million given in donations by hotel owner Harris Rosen. Even the Burnett House where President Hitt resides was built on endowments, a result of $500,000 in donations from Al and Nancy Burnett.

Linda Gray, UCF spokeswoman, says universities very rarely have to worry about the loss of 8.8 percent within the realm of U.S. financial market activities. (Inroads)

In the past, college and university alumni have contributed a large portion of the financial losses caused by the economy. While the president of Florida bas recently benefited from endowments, the college could not afford to lose more money to fund the same research at another school. Inroads

"The biggest problem facing UCF in performing any fundraising activities is that the college has a young alumni base. An older, more established alumni base, such as that at Harvard or Princeton, has had more time to amass wealth and make connections than schools like UCF, which is relatively young in comparison," Gray said. "As UCF's alumni base expands and grows older, the UCF Foundation hopes it will help out with donations.

UCF's alumni base expands and grows older, the UCF Foundation hopes it will help out with donations.

Florida has a matching program, in which the state matches the amount of donations above a specific limit. Thus, the program effectively doubles the money given to the school. However, the state has not had the money to meet these match-

Florida has 11 state universities, Gray said. "There has to be money there."

The matching program means the amounts in the order they are received. Gray uses this example. The University of Florida has one award for $10 million and another for $8 million. The University of Central Florida has an award for $5 million. In this model the state would have to match both of UF's awards before it matches the UCF award since UF acquired them before UCF acquired its award.

The matching program can also be used by the developments of a foundation to attract gift givers. An award for $5 million meant to fund research for AIDS at one college could be worth $10 million to fund the same research at another state university giving the gift giver something to think about. It also attracts universities in competition with one another.

"The presidents of the 11 state universities have spoken with the governor and the state legislature, encouraging more funding for the matching program. More funding could encourage more philanthropy and donations, according to Gray."

"If money is tight, philanthropy will be hurt." Gray said. "Nonprofit organizations have been having trouble since Sept. 11."

Holmes said the December markets were not totaled yet, adding the foundation usually has those totals by the middle of February.
Mixed emotions on tenure changes

FROM PAGE 1

Seemingly tenure is a designation that provides experienced professors the ultimate perk — it allows them to plan their long-term careers and develop their courses and departments as they see fit.

But what happens to professors who focus on teaching and service who never qualify for tenure because they haven’t devoted the time to research and publishing, such as Cindy Moore?

Moore, who has lived all over the United States and in Japan teaching students to speak English, can’t count on the kind of job security tenured professors can, no matter how many years she teaches, because many universities, such as UCF don’t grant tenure for service and teaching.

For her, being without tenure is a huge threat to her career because she can be fired for seemingly no reason.

And in a time when a sluggish economy has put many out of work, and homeland security has prevented many foreigners from getting into the country, Moore knows her job isn’t completely secure.

“With fewer foreigners getting visas, fewer teachers are needed to teach them English,” she said.

“I love associating with foreign students and would be very glad to do it the rest of my life,” she said. But Moore, like other nontenured faculty, would feel more at ease with a tenure designation that would ensure her job was protected.

In an effort to ease the minds of non-tenure faculty members around the nation, some universities are doing just that — offering new tenure paths to professors that focus on rewarding instructors for teaching service and advising.

Most recently, the University of Western Michigan decided to allow a group of non-tenure-track, full-time employees a chance to earn tenure — most of them in specific professional fields, such as nursing, English instruction and aviation.

These specialists will be judged for tenure using non-traditional standards and will earn a salary similar to traditional tenure faculty members. They will not be required to research and will be judged solely on their service and professional competence.

While professors like Moore call the new tenure track a fair reward for those who are committed to teaching, many faculty members at UCF say new tenure standards create a double standard.

Naval Modani, an associate professor within UCF’s finance department, believes Western Michigan’s new policy will dilute the faculty.

Tenured instructors, who have not been held to the same standards as traditionally tenured professors, can now join faculty committees of tenured professors who have completed research to help decide which faculty members should qualify for tenure, he said.

When Cunningham, chairman of UCF’s Chemistry Department, doesn’t believe the new tenure standards are fair either.

“Research and teaching go hand-in-hand,” he said. “We want teachers to be researchers as well.”

Lin Huff-Corzine, assistant vice president in the division of Academic Affairs, thinks UCF’s tenure system, which is similar to tenure standards at most of the nation’s universities, works effectively and ensures that only the best and most qualified professors get to teach students.

Creating alternative tenure tracks might move less-qualified professors into classrooms, she said.

“If you’re going to take a group of people who have less of an education than the rest of the faculty, I think the students would be cheated,” she said. “We want to keep about 70 percent of our courses taught by tenure or tenure-earning faculty.”

Huff-Corzine, who helps facilitate applicants for tenure positions, said current tenure standards at UCF have done an adequate job of accomplishing both.

“We do tenure people here who are not Ph.D.s,” she said. “Anyone who has reached the highest level in their field can apply for tenure.”

“All the faculty in the chair of reviews take the faculty member’s work extremely seriously,” she said. “It’s a person’s life work.”

While psychology professor Richard Tucker understands the plight of part-time faculty who have considerably lower pay and fewer benefits, he doesn’t think job insecurity is as much of a threat as some nontenured faculty might think.

“We know that full-time instructors have no job security, in fact they may actually have less pressure on them because they are not subject to requirements necessary to gain tenure,” he said. “As long as they’re doing a good job teaching, they will be reappointed.”

While political science instructor Cindy Benson doesn’t feel her job is threatened because she isn’t tenured, she isn’t opposed to the idea of offering other tenure paths to faculty members.

“In general, such a program would be of benefit to individual departments, the university, the students and instructors alike,” she said.

“In this department, I feel quite secure, but I know and

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Language barriers in the classroom

Heavy accents of foreign-born instructors' both help and hinder teaching

ALEXIS VALLAS

Senior Brian Johnson is one of many students on campus who struggle to overcome the communication barrier with foreign teachers. Like others, Johnson sometimes feels foreign-born instructors' accents hinder their ability to teach students effectively.

"It is sometimes difficult to understand a professor with a strong accent and this could affect the education we receive," said Johnson, 22.

However, some students, such as sophomore Andrea Saldivar, 19, do not sense a communication barrier.

Swallen's lab instructor acknowledged that his non-native background could cause some difficulty in communication and as a result, tried his best to assist his students and make sure that they understood the material so that it would not affect their grade, she said.

"To avoid confusion, he would type out everything he said so the students didn't have to ask him to repeat himself or better explain. He was always more than willing to help us out if and when we needed it."

Freshman Lauren Weber, 18, believes foreign teachers are an excellent way to make students learn to speak another language.

"I think [having an accent interfering] forces people to pay better attention in order to get the notes and learn the material," Weber said.

But there is evidence that having an accent interferes with learning. A study that examined the effects of foreign accents on language learning found that having an accent interferes with the ability to understand and produce speech.

The study, published in the journal Language and Cognitive Processes, found that learners with accents had more difficulty understanding and producing speech than learners without accents.

"But if you are found deficient in any area, the potential instructor is offered several workshops and remedial training sessions to help reach a satisfactory speaking level. If the prospect is not speaking English at an appropriate level after a couple of years, they are then released from the university," Sudia said.

"UCF follows specific guidelines with the United Faculty of Florida union contract very closely," Schell said.

These requirements the professor must meet before teaching at UCF should prove they can teach just as effectively as any other teacher, Schell added.

"I haven't had any problems in communicating with students," Sudia said. "I was educated in English all my life."
Increasing student diversity in SGA a major theme

FROM PAGE 3

been Greek on this campus, I first had to be a UCF student. I would say that UCF is the first historically that I'm in."

Streep and Clevenger also want to create internships for certain club positions, with the hope that students can earn academic credit and become involved at the same time. By creating those positions, their goal would be to attract students to participate in government who might not otherwise become involved.

In an e-mail, Kirlew wrote that he and Ortíz "would encourage any able and qualified student to be involved on campus. We need leaders and I don't think whether you are a Greek or not should be a prerequisite."

The five slates also each have a goal for changing the way that the SGA Senate distributes money to UCF clubs and organizations.

Talakala and Katsafanas will focus on bringing credibility to the senate and opening lines of communication between SGA officials and the students.

"I want [the senate] to really look at how [funding] is going to benefit the students," Talakala said.

The two feel it is essential to inform students of exactly how activity fees are being spent. "It's their money," said Katsafanas. "You put into the pot, you deserve to know what's being taken out of it."

Talakala and Katsafanas also believe student awareness is key to getting students involved in the senate.

"I want [the senate] to really look at how [funding] is going to benefit the students," Talakala said.

Two feel it is essential to inform students of exactly how activity fees are being spent. "It's their money," said Katsafanas. "You put into the pot, you deserve to know what's being taken out of it."

Look for additional election coverage of SGA candidates' stances in this Thursday's issue of the Future.
Non-tenured profs need job security, too

For professors, the Holy Grail and pinnacles of their careers are earning tenure and engaged her students in unorthodox ways. Sudia's style conflicted with that of some of her peers and superiors, and last fall UCF tried to fire her. Sudia was on a tenure-track. She advanced the name of the university. If she had the time and did not face the opposition of her superiors, Sudia would earn tenure, as she deserves. Still, even though her students adored and admired her, Sudia had no job security because she did not have tenure status.

As the case of Sudia illustrates, job security for non-tenured professors does not exist, no matter how popular or successful professors may be. Professors who do not have tenure have to work with the fear that if they conflict with their superiors, they could lose their jobs.

Tenured professors here have not had the time or opportunity to publish enough articles or conduct enough research to earn tenure. They should not have to worry about job security for teaching in an unorthodox manner. Improving job security would allow a long way to improve morale among non-tenured professors. They would not have to work under a cloud of uncertainty. Additionally, they might be motivated to pursue tenure, and improve themselves and UCF.

MARIJUANA MAN - a healer, not a dealer

A few weeks ago in California, a jury found Ed Rosenthal, a medical marijuana advocate, guilty of federal counts of cultivation and conspiracy of marijuana. Last week, members of the same jury called for a re-trial, saying they had made a horrible mistake and that federal prosecutors had misled them.

In this case, the federal government made a travesty of justice. An appeals court should overturn Rosenthal's conviction immediately. Rosenthal admitted to growing marijuana for distribution to seriously ill patients, which he can legally do under California state law. In fact, Rosenthal grew marijuana with the blessing of the city of Oakland, which has its own medical marijuana law and authorized him as "an officer of the city."

However, the judge in Rosenthal's case, Judge Charles R. Breyer, refused to allow the defense to present these facts as evidence. Breyer ruled that such facts were inadmissible because the federal government flip-flopped. Rosenthal, under Federal law, which does not allow marijuana cultivation for any reason. By his own admission, Rosenthal acted within the law. Judge Breyer denied Rosenthal the chance to defend himself. Rosenthal, never denied that he grew marijuana; rather he did so openly in cooperation with Oakland officials.

The federal government should respect the sovereignity of states to pass laws as they see fit. If the federal government has a problem with laws that the states pass, it should challenge those laws in court and have the laws declared illegal. It should not target a citizen who obeyed the laws of his city and state. In Rosenthal's trial, the prosecutor portrayed him as a horrible drug dealer who has harvested marijuana for commercial sale. He could not have lied any more bluntly. Rosenthal grew marijuana exclusively for use by chronically ill patients. When the jury members called a news conference to announce that they had come to the wrong verdict, they said that they would have decided differently if they had been allowed to hear the very evidence the judge suppressed.

Whatever happened to a government of the people, by the people, and for the people? Recent polls have found that the vast majority of the American people, as much as 80 percent, support legalized medical marijuana. The government should listen to the people and end its war on patients and the people. Like Ed Rosenthal, who help them.

"If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow."

—CHINESE PROVERB

Letters to the Editor

[Editorial notes and letters]

Columbus coverage sensationalized

Week after the Columbus space shuttle accident, we are still seeing too much praise and glorification of heroes above it. It needs to stop.

I know that the loss of lives is sad, and I know that our ganze pride is epitomized of honor and accomplishment, but it has gone too far. More than seven people die every day just in the initials of any newspaper. The sensational coverage is degrading attention and papa grace from other pressing issues such as the physician with brain cancer, or depending on carefully doled and the terror situation between India and Pakistan — two nuclear powers. This world seems to be growing in improve, yet unthreatened by space ships.

There is no better word to describe the coverage than "sensationalism." The type of reporting is a disgrace. Sensationalism in a newspaper mean more than a simple business, whether the matter itself is not. Americans demand that they be informed. Newspapers and news programs fail when they fail to meet this goal, and when they fail to resist providing puff margins in any form for those who are trying to sway readers. Probing attention-grabbing stories that may grow minimal research out is a lack of ethos that should be involved for the vast world's public.

—DAVID HILL

Hindsight is always 20/20

In the opinion of anyone merely, there are always the questions and the second-guessing that supposedly plagues the ones left behind.

In the article "What could we have known?" published Feb. 6, Adair Shiver rightfully asks if NASA did all it could to help the astronauts and save their lives. I say "rightfully," because as Americans, it is our right to question the decisions made for us. In the case of the space shuttle, we are depending on governmental and commercial men and women who work for the space program.

Shiver asks some questions about NASA's procedures in his article, and although I do not intend to be an expert on the matter in any way, I do like some basic research and came up with some answers for him.

"Why did they not fire the commander before the extension of the shuttle for any damages caused during flight?"

While it's true that the commander was at the shuttle's core, there was no reason to carry it on to the mission specifically, a mission devoted to scientific and medical exper-

"If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow."

—CHINESE PROVERB
Smells like freedom

MENTAL DOODLES

Christopher Arnold
Staff Writer

Integrity

Defined as the steadfast adherence to a moral or ethical code, it is why truth is upheld unfailingly. It is what newspapers' readers— or at least should be— want. Newspapers contribute a great service to their communities in that they provide information. Accurate information. Timely information. They do this honestly— sometimes brutally and uncompromisingly. And with the exception of opinions sections, offering it all impartially. The paper's role in society then, is not to judge but to observe and collect data so the public is able to draw better-informed conclusions on its own.

Newspapers are entrusted to do this through the provisions of the Constitution, and more specifically the First Amendment. The rights that allow our citizens to freely speak against impending war or to worship a religion unconnected to their own enable our nation's newspapers to print what at times might seem unpopular. And so if in a paper's rights, they are also its obligations to the community it serves. And it is free to do this without fear of censorship.

This is the beauty of the press. This is the beauty of a fundamental right that too many lack for granted.

Recently a few people active in student government have accused The Florida of having an agenda that spills over into its news articles. Theirอชน are an attempt to undermine the independence and credibility of the paper and could not be further from the truth.

I do not see one that one of the incredible things about a newspaper is its ability to produce a completely new product everyday. To accomplish such a feat is no accident—a newspaper is evidence of and a testament to the great amount of work and dedication and passion that went into it. Whether daily or not, a student-run publication is no less a part of journalism's long and rich tradition. Student-run publications, after all, are where tomorrow's journalists are trained. Such an environment necessarily adopts the legacy of the press for its sole.

It all begins with integrity. Because of a paper's scope and the variety of people it reaches, it would be silly to think that a paper could appease everyone equally. Most people would be willing to try and do so. And it would be hypocritical to bend at the will of a particularly vocal dissenter because they are in disagreement with some aspect of that paper. This is why it is so important to compromise the paper's integrity.

Most of those involved with student publications are getting their first experiences within a newspaper environment. What lessons would they learn if they were made to sacrifice standards to conform to some external entity? How those some future journalists handle similar situations in their professional careers?

This paper would set a dangerous precedent.

Similarly it's foolish to label such a paper's purpose as "to be controversial" or assume its readers are deliberately intended to harm an individual or an organization. Such actions would be nothing but detrimental to a student's future journalists.

And though a publication's intent is to be announced and fair as possible, it is impossible to deny that controversy does sometimes ensue.

Most often those debates are centered on the opinions section. This is true in nearly all newspapers. Opinion sections are meant to facilitate a debate, and must be done for no other reason than because it is the right thing to do. Is the responsible paper's readers. Opinions are an argument in a debate, and must be treasured as such.

By no means is this to say It is a flawless system. In fact, one might say it has failed arguably into the category of "reader-led than driven." These particular publications are, after all, run by students. These are the same students who, after classes, take exams, are involved in other activities, have friends and families, and, in some cases, work other jobs. These are the same students who are still learning how they do and as it is with student publications the same is as it is with any endeavor. Whether it is journalism, leadership, athletics, or whatever else, mistakes happen.

Are mistakes in print more glaring than mistakes in the professional world? How those journalists who have left print what they have been in print in print? And when they occur, student publications become, maybe for the first time, what any paper would do—apologize, print a retraction, learn and grow from the experiences.

That, too, is part of the tradition that is the newspaper.

That is why It maintains its integrity.

So long as newspapers—remain steadfast in their mission and faithful to their readers, the institution will remain great.

And to those individuals or organizations who would like to see the paper shaped to accommodate them, I say where is your integrity? What ethics will you take with you in your future endeavors?

What often goes unacknowledged is just how valuable a part newspapers play in their communities and why it so different.

God, I love the smell of newspaper in the morning. Send me the Florida.

(Edward Dingley Adams to be watched on the first Saturday)

Letters to the Editor

FROM PAGE 10

that the free enterprise form could have damaged the industry why wasn't another American or not Two weeks later, it got a first-hand look at the astronauts and personnel who work with the space program. To second-guess their motivations or commitment to the mission is, at best, irresponsible. The best we can do is watch in the operations to be simplified so that its final output is as clear and concise as possible. When you're honored to work

Adviser: Stuart Katz

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JON SCROGGINS
STAFF WRITER

With the academic eligibility of junior tight end Michael Gaines still in question, recruiting coordinator Scott Fountain made sure the Knights wouldn't be lacking at the tight end position.

Fountain, who doubles as a staff writer, was able to sign two tight ends for next year.

QB Moffett's the prize of 2003 class

CHRIS BERNHARDT
STAFF WRITER

For a program with a prolific passing offense, UCF football has developed a strange trend when it came to recruiting in the backfield.

Over the past several years the Golden Knights have managed to snag quality running backs out of high school in Alex Haynes and Donnelson Williams. Yet in each of the past two years, highly touted quarterbacks renegotiated on an earlier commitment and chose to sign somewhere else.

But this year things were different... sort of. This time UCF got its quarterback, Winter Park's Steven Moffett. And they still managed to ink three running backs: P.J. Smith, Brandon Williams and Ron Williams.

Among all 25 players in UCF's 2003 recruiting class, Moffett ranks the highest. Considered one of the best high school quarterbacks in the state, his signing marks a huge step toward continuing the program's progress in the future. An all-state, all-district, all-county and all-Central Florida selection as a junior and senior at Winter Park High School, he threw for 5,041 yards and 48 touchdowns in his prep career while completing 56 percent of his passes.

At 6-foot-3, 240 lbs, he has the height to be a great college quarterback and he'll also bring athleticism to the position not seen at UCF since Darnell Calliepepper's departure. Moffett ran for 1,400 yards and 27 touchdowns. He has also thrown for 2,129 yards and 21 touchdowns.

The Knights would like the game at four in the seventh, answering the Panthers' run in the top of that inning, but FIU would pull ahead for good in the top of the eighth after a two-out, two-RBI bloop single from Luis Stevens. P.J. Moffett would score four in that inning, but UCF was not out of it just yet.

The Knights came back from the 6-4 deficit when three batters, including third baseman Rich Wallace, were hit by pitchers. Wallace's bunt scored FIU's lead off of pitcher Adam Bergman.

The 25th ranked UCF baseball team opened its season Saturday with a 5-2 loss to the Florida International University Golden Panthers. The Knights rallied late in both of the eighth and ninth innings, but FIU would hold on.

Sixth-ranked FIU is currently ranked 25th in the nation in Baseball Week Magazine. The Knights are ranked 69th in the nation.

UCF and FIU split the series with a 17-14 loss in the second game, which was cut short due to darkness after 11 innings.

Senior Van David Stobart struck out a career-high 10 batters in Saturday's game.

FIU holds off late rally to beat Knights

TOM ALEXANDER
STAFF WRITER

The Knights were two outs away from closing out the closest game of the season. The Knights were within three, Taylor Cobb then strode to the plate and hammered a two-RBI single to center field to end UCF's lead to 6-7.

But Fjelstul and the Knights' top returner. She is excited for her two seniors especially. Fjelstul missed qualifying for the NCAA Championships by three shots. The Knights big loss came after freshman phenom Federica Piovano failed to qualify academically. Piovano earned All-American honors the year before after finishing seventh times as the Knights' top fundraiser.

But Fjelstul has confidence in the returning players.

"I'm excited," Fjelstul said. "I'm especially excited formy two seniors. I'm looking forward to watching them finish their UCF careers on a good note."
Softball team struggles in St. Augustine

BY SADIE SHAM
STAFF WRITER

The UCF softball team defeated Mississippi, 5-4, and lost to Arkansas, 6-2, on Saturday at the UCF Triple Crown Classic in St. Augustine, Fla. The Knights lost games to Southern Illinois University and Purdue on Friday.

Rachel Schmiedt dominated for the Golden Knights (2-6), finishing Saturday 3-4-4, with a double and a game-winning RBI against Ole Miss. Against Mississippi, the Golden Knights got off to a bad start. They allowed the first four Ole Miss batters to score, three of which came thanks to a home run from Andrea Brails. Schmiedt answered back in the bottom of the first when sophomore shortstop Stephanie Best nailed a three-run home run over the left-field wall. The home run was the second on the season for Best and the 13th of her career.

The Golden Knights tallied two runs in the second inning when Jania Shinhoster hit in Dottie Cupp and Schmidt amassed a double to score Shinhoster. Only three Ole Miss runners reached base in the first, and with one out, Schmidt moved to third on a passed ball.

Junior pitcher Taylor Sawyer picked up her third win of the season for UCF and Schmidt went 2-3-4 at the plate. Dana Brill credited the loss for Ole Miss, who had its pitchers finish with nine strikeouts on the day.

In UCF’s second game, Arkansas pushed out early putting five runs on the board in the first inning. UCF’s sophomore pitcher Dyaun Simmons allowed three hits in that inning and finished the game with five hits. Arkansas scored another run in the fourth inning before UCF scored to prevent a shutout in the top of the sixth.

UCF’s Schmidt elicited a single in right field, advancing Nikki Groven to second base. Green reached third on a passed ball and scored UCF’s first run on a sacrifice fly by Cupp. Schmidt then scored on an error by Arkansas’s second baseman, Blake Woolard.

With the loss, Simmons’ record fell to 1-1 while Arkansas’s Heather Schlichtmann improved to 3-1.

After a three-hour rain delay Friday, the Knights lost to Southern Illinois University, 3-2, and Purdue University, 10-2.

In the first game, the Golden Knights had a 5-1 lead over the Southern Illinois Salukis in the top of the seventh inning. However, two singles and a hitter’s choice loaded the bases for Ole Miss. The Salukis’ Lindsey Beatty homered to left field scoring two runners. SIU allowed their second win of the day and of the season.

Against SIU, UCF’s Taylor Sawyer fell to 0-3 on the year while Katie Klose picked up the win. UCF’s Stephanie Best tallied a triple and hit a double in her 3-for-4 performance at the plate. Rachelle Schmidt also assisted, going 2-for-4 with a double.

In the second game UCF was tied up at two in the top of the fourth inning. The next inning Purdue scored two runs and took the lead. They clinched the game in the bottom of the sixth when the Boilermakers scored six runs, including a two-run home run by Andrea Bosich, ending the game with the eight-run mercy rule.

Best and Simmons each recorded doubles. Best also scored against Purdue. Purdue’s Leighann Burke picked up the win while UCF’s Dottie Cupp went the distance. Purdue finished the day 1-1 overall.

Bergman: Composure will come with experience

From Page 13

ou. With two outs, first baseman Ryan Bow hill a sharp drive to the left side of the infield that looked like it would go through, but Luis Rodriguez fielded the ball and made the game-ending force out with the winning run on base.

“We were in it the whole game, we got down by four on that bloop single, two runs to get us down, but the guys stayed in it and we fought the whole way,” Cobb said.

UCF did discover a few bright spots in the loss to build on, however: starting pitcher Von Delaun Skrentuch pitched five innings and allowed three runs on four hits, with a curveball that left batters baffled.

Cobb, a sophomore, was 1-for-2 with two RBIs in his first at-bat as a Golden Knight. Cobb’s role was limited to hitting last season, but this year he will also be designated hitter. In his first plate appearance this season, Cobb showed a bunt, but he regained his composure for his run-scoring single in the ninth.

“The Bulldogs had nine on the season and PUI improved to 6-1,” UCF Coach Jay Bergman said. The Panthers showed they had already played six games before the Knights’ season-opener.

“I think that may have been a little better than ours in the seventh, eighth and ninth innings. They knew a little bit more of what to do and that’s what the game experience will do for you,” Bergman said.

Knights continue Canadian pipeline

From Page 13

playing time next season.

“Michael Gaines has got to make some grades, and we’re hoping he will, and we’ll have him. But if not — well, that’s why we signed [Michael] Fountain said.

The 6-foot-3, 270-pound receiver joined both tight end and defensive tackle at Trinity Valley. He will give UCF experience as tight end and likely cannot play next season. Johnson only saw limited time last season after senior Mario Jackson suffered a broken leg.

The Knights also signed tight end Mike Merritt out of Sunnyside High School. Merritt, who will likely redshirt, also played defensive end in high school. He was a part of Sunnyside’s first district title team in 18 years. Merritt had 16 catches for 142 yards and 15 pancake blocks last season.

This three offensive linesman that signed — tackle Brad Williams out of Vidalis High School in Georgia, tackle Richard Zulys out of St. Michael’s College School in Toronto and guard Aaron Born out of St. James High School in Alabama — will all redshirt.

Williams is 6-foot-6, 270 pounds. He co-captained his team last year and was a three-year starter at Vidalis. His team went 21-3 during that stretch and he was named all-region in 2001 and 2002. He chose UCF over Mississippi State, Troy State and Middle Tennessee.

Zulys marks the third offensive lineman UCF has signed from Canada. The 6-foo7. 300-pounder was a member of the 2000 all-Canadian Bowl. NFL/Football Futures.com ranked Zulys the No.1 high school football prospect in Canada. He turned down Syracuse and Marshall to play for the Knights.

Bern, 6-foot-4, 287 pounds, also played defensive tackle in high school, but will play guard for UCF. He earned all-state honors his senior season. Bern chose the Knights over Vanderbilt and Troy State.

Fountain said, despite losing four seniors from last year’s starting line, next year’s line will be just as strong.

Those guys have been groomed well,” he said. “There shouldn’t be any drop off.”

Additional signing-day coverage of defensive backs and wide receivers in Thursday’s Future.
Recruits add much needed depth at IB, DL

Chris Bernhardt Staff writer

The mark of a strong program wasn’t seen in the much depth it can build during the recruiting process, especially at its weakest positions. In a showing of how the golden Knights small program continues to impress, the Golden Knights went out and did exactly that. As graduation, injuries and academics continue to take to their toll on its linebacking corps and defensive line, 129 new players at both areas to help ease the burden.

In particular, the Golden Knights are extremely shallow at linebacker. That position has taken some huge hits over the past year. First, they lost all three starters from 2001, Tiio Rodriguez, Elliot Shorter and Wilie Duke, to graduation. Then early in the fall, junior Antoine Fobe broke his ankle and was lost for the year. Early in the season sophomore reserve Smairic Brown was cut from the team for disciplinary reasons. At season's end weak side linebacker Stanford Rikule hurt his knee, which eventually required surgery. Chris Phinisee, the strong side linebacker graduated and took it off of Middle Linebacker Chad Massoe has academic issues to deal with.

So UCF has just three experienced linebackers left: two are recovering from injury and another is currently academically ineligible. With this in mind the Golden Knights, originally stymied to recruit three players at this position, instead brought in four: Randy Derick, Delon Golus, Craig Harvey and R.J. Pullings.

"You have to evaluate what you have and you have determine whether you’re going to have it when the season starts," Head Coach Mike Kruczek said. "And you have to make a call based on that evaluation. And we did that in each segment."

Two of those players, Harvey and Pullings, come from locally Community College in California and are expected to contribute right away. "We would like to essentially get away from signing multiples of junior college players but right now we have specific needs, urgent needs at certain segments," Kruczek said. "One of those segments was at linebacker."

Pullings, 6-foot-4, 242 pounds, originally from Ocala, has a very unique connection to UCF in that he's the cousin of former Golden Knight quarterback Darrein Caliphooper. He was a Parade All-American in high school and made 8 tackles, 10 sacks and 11 pass breakups on the JC last season. He also made field goals and kicked field goals, recovered two. With those accomplishments and accolades on his resume, UCF had to extend with Temple and Michigan State for Pullings's services.

Harvey, 6-foot-4, 250 pounds, also had impressive numbers in junior college. He recorded 9 tackles, 11 sacks and three pass-break-ups to go with five fumble recoveries and one fumble recovery. That made him a second team JC All-American. A graduate of Miami Central High School, he earned his first team all-state and second team all-american honors as a prep. With Musco out and coming off an inconsistent 2002, Harvey will have the chance to compete for the starting middle linebacker spot.

"We have some depth situation right now at linebacker and we feel really good about the two JC guys that we brought in," Defensive coordinator and linebackers coach Till D'Olivo said. "We expect both those guys to come in and compete and help our defense next fall."

The other two linebacker recruits come directly from local high schools. Derick, 6-foot-4, 200 pounds, just finished a fine career at Olympus High School. As a senior he made 140 tackles and three sacks. Combined with his ability to burst 340 pounds and his 40 time in the 100-meter, he caught the attention of East Carolina and Louisiana before deciding on UCF.

Golus, 6-foot-1, 205 pounds, played multiple positions at two-time defending 5A champion, Roddick High School. He capped off his 355 tackles, nine sacks and four interception senior year by winning the MVP of the state.

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Women’s tennis improves to 2-0.

The UCF women’s tennis team shut out its opponent for the second time this season with a 7-0 Atlantic Sun Conference win over Stetson on Saturday at the UCF Tennis Complex. The Golden Knights improved to 2-0 in the A-Sun with the victory and 3-2 overall. The Hatters fell to 0-1 in the A-Sun and 2-2 overall.

UCF dominated in the doubles category to gain the first point. Kristina Lohmus and Amanda Samara had an outstanding performance at the No. 3 position, winning 8-3.

Julie Feraunt and Anna Westin defeated Stetson’s Beth Hayden and Melissa Milovanovic 8-3 in the No. 1 spot while Pamela Fernandez and Ola Lorcak picked up a win in the No. 2 spot, 8-4.

In singles play, Ahmad and Pamela Fernandez both smacked their opponents in swift wins. Lohmus ousted past Beth Hayden, 6-2, 6-1, while Fernandez defeated Woefer, 6-2, 6-1. Feraunt took it to the last set 8-6, 6-4 over Bohannon.

Milovanovic fell to Westin, 6-4, 7-5 at No. 1. At the No. 4 spot, Ola Lorcak got a win over Mariana Levin, 6-3, 7-4, 7-4. Junior Amanda Samara won her second straight match at No. 8, coming back to beat Jen Wolsinski, 4-6, 6-3, 10-4.

UCF’s Simon Jaeger’s performance at No. 6 was notable. He defeated Matt Umberg, 6-3, 7-5 in the No. 2 spot. UCF’s Simon Jaeger was 6-2, 6-1, while Fernandez defeated Anna Westin, 6-2, 6-1, UCF’s Pamela Fernandez defeated Freedom Giron 6-4, 6-0 in the No. 3 spot.

“UCF serves the doubles matches well. That’s an improvement which is an improvement for a team that has struggled in this category in the past,” UCF’s No. 1, Dennis King, said.

The Golden Knights return to the courts Friday when they meet their 2003 Atlantic Sun Conference opener at Stetson at 2 p.m. The Knights finished last season as the runner-up in the A-Sun.

UCF Athletic Director Adam Rose said: “UCF serves the doubles matches well. That’s an improvement which is an improvement for a team that has struggled in this category in the past.”

UCF’s Simon Jaeger was 6-2, 6-1, while Pamela Fernandez defeated Freedom Giron 6-4, 6-0 in the No. 3 spot.

“UCF serves the doubles matches well. That’s an improvement which is an improvement for a team that has struggled in this category in the past,” UCF’s No. 1, Dennis King, said.
Kristy Shonka  
Staff Writer

With five regular-season games left on the schedule the UCF men’s basketball team has already reached its win total from last season. The Golden Knights ran away with games against Atlantic Sun Conference North Division basement dwellers Campbell and Gardner-Webb to improve to 17-7 and the conference.

UCF beat Gardner-Webb 82-59 Saturday at the UCF Arena. The Knights jumped out early on the Runnin’ Bulldogs, using their trademark stifling defense to gain a 35-19 lead at the end of the first half.

“I thought the first 10 minutes of the game was the deciding part of the game,” UCF Coach Kirk Speraw said. “I thought we did a very nice job defensively establishing our defense. I thought we did a nice job of moving the ball offensively getting good looks.”

Robert Monnin and Dexter Lyons paced the Knights in the first half. Monnin was a perfect 5-for-5 from the floor for 13 of his 14 points and he grabbed seven of his eight rebounds in the first half. Lyons scored 11 of his 13 Points and grabbed all five of his rebounds in the first half. Ray Abellard led UCF from three-point range, nailing three of his five 3-pointers in the opening 20 minutes.

UCF went into the locker room up 42-21, but some confusion about the length of the halftime break led to a Gardner-Webb timeout when the Knights left the court, instead of the usual 15. But at some point during the break the time was cut back to 15 and the Knights did not even.

The UCF players did not arrive back on the court until the buzzer was sounding and they began the second half without their coaches on the bench. The Bulldogs were out and had a chance to vary up and it showed. They went on an 11-2 run to cut the lead to 12, but that was as close as Gardner-Webb would get.

Freshman Tory Lindbeck added to the Knights lead as he began a string of three consecutive three-pointers with 9:20 left in the half. When he was through the Knights held a 64-41 advantage.

“He’s been shooting the ball better lately in the last 10 days and gaining his confidence back.” Speraw said. “He went through a little spell there where he was struggling, but I think he’s back focused and we need him to step up and play that role for us and he’s done a nice job in the last three games of knocking down shots.”

Lindbeck also hit three three-pointers in the Knights’ 88-69 blowout of Campbell on Tuesday UCF’s point total was a season high, while the Knights also set a school record by clothing out 16 assists on 30 made field goals.

Abellard led UCF with a career-high 10 assists. He also had three triples and the Knights hit a season-high 14 from behind the arc. Ed Dodson led the Knights with 20 points as he was one of five UCF players to reach double figures. The Knights shot 69 percent from the field in the second half.

The Knights hit the road this week for 7 p.m. starts Thursday in Jacksonville against the Dolphins and Saturday in DeLand against the Hatters.

Golden Knights split two game home stand

Chris Bernhardt  
Staff Writer

The UCF women’s basketball team continued its recent string of strong play Saturday, winning for the fifth time in its last six games with a 82-67 triumph over Jacksonville State.

After going into halftime down 34-31, the Golden Knights saw themselves fall behind by as much as seven after the Gamecocks got a layup from Fredericka Emney with 19:15 left, making it 45-38 ballgame. But UCF rallied back, tying the game at 57 on a Shaila Smith’s floater at the 12:15 mark. From there the Golden Knights never looked back, going on a 15-2 run over the next eight minutes to seal the game.

“It just clicks in the second half,” Beth Paige said. “I can’t tell you what it is but I think that’s one reason why our team is so confident, because we know the second half is our half.”

This second half, where UCF scored 31 points and shot 51 percent from the field, followed an ice cold first half that saw both teams shoot under 35 percent. After trailing by as much as nine early in the period, the Golden Knights came back to tie three times in the opening half and even took two brief leads midway through.

But after Amanda Tyus hit a three-pointer to give Jacksonville State a 52-51 advantage, the Gamecocks fought off UCF for the rest of the half.

They also out-rebounded the Golden Knights going into the intermission, 25-23. But by the game’s end UCF had won the battle of the boards 51-38, including 16 offensive rebounds. Paige led the charge with 12 rebounds to go along with her season-high 17 points. Tashia Allen chipped in with 12 points and five rebounds and Jessica Scala had 11.

Adrienne Billing also continued to improve on a poor beginning to the season with 12 points.

“She’s always been kind of a second semester player, she did the same thing last year,” Coach Gail Strieger said. “She really has picked it up and is continuing to play well. I think our whole team is playing well.”

Shanika Freeman had 21 points and 10 rebounds to pace Jacksonville State, who fell to 11-9, 5-4, UCF improved to 11-8, 7-2.

On Thursday night UCF suffered a heartbreaking 52-50 loss to Georgia State. The game turned out to be one with two very different halves, with UCF outscoring Georgia State 30-19 in the second half after getting pounded in the first, 23-30.

As the first half score would indicate, the Golden Knights allowed the Lady Panthers to dominate. They got out-rebounded 32 percent to 32 percent and out-rebounded 29-11. At one point they went nine minutes without scoring, allowing a 10-6 advantage to turn into a 20-10 Georgia State lead.

“(UCF) did not play Golden Knight basketball in the first half,” Strieger said. “They pushed us around from the tip, out-rebounded us, out-blooded us out-everything.”

But as badly as they played in the first half, they rallied back in the second. Billings hit a short jumper to give UCF a 48-44 lead and cap a 15-2 run with a little over four minutes left.

The two teams battled back and forth for the remainder of the game, exchanging leads five times. Then with seven seconds left, UCF’s LaShay King drove through the paint and hit a layup that appeared to give the Golden Knights a 52-51 edge. But instead a charge was called and the bucket was given back.

After Angel Miller missed her free throw, UCF had a chance to tie with four seconds left but couldn’t advance the ball far enough to get more than a desperation
Paige reaches career milestone

FROM PAGE 17

“You can sit there and talk about the last play of the game all you want but it doesn’t make any difference,” Striegler said. “You got to play for 40 minutes to win and we didn’t do that.”

Paige hits a milestone

Early in the second half of Thursday’s game, Paige grabbed her 50th career rebound. She becomes just the 11th UCF player to achieve this feat. She now has 515 over her four years as a Golden Knight, tied for ninth on the school’s all-time list.

She was presented with an award to commemorate the milestone before Saturday’s game.

“It’s an accomplishment but I had a game today,” Paige said after Saturday’s game. “Tonight probably when I go eat with my Dad we’ll talk about it. It will set in a little later, but right now I’m just taking it in everything.”

Roberts back in the starting lineup

After coming off the bench for eight straight games, Ali Roberts found herself back in the starting lineup against Jacksonville State. She replaced Kristy Colligan, who had replaced her as the starting center Jan. 9 against Jacksonville.

According to Striegler, the move was made in order to match up better with Freeman, one of the top post players in the Atlantic Sun. Still, Freeman managed a double-double and Roberts scored just four points and grabbed one rebound in 12 minutes.

Success at 70

With the win over Jacksonville State, the Golden Knights improved to 8-4 when they score more than 70 points.

After an early season offensive slump, the team has surpassed that plateau in six of its last eight games.

Around the A-Sun

Jacksonville forward Kat Sungy and Troy State center Theresa Herring split Player of the Week honors on Feb. 4. In two games Sungy averaged 21 points, 13.5 rebounds and three blocks per game. That included a career-high 35 points against Campbell.

Herring averaged 24 points, 6.5 rebounds and one block for the week, including a career-high conference-high 37 points against Jacksonville State.

Kappa Sigma wins wiffleball tournament

Kappa Sigma did it with a wiffleball bat by defeating End of an Era 24-16 in the wiffleball finals last Saturday in the Recreation and Wellness Center. End of an Era defeated Sigma Alpha Epsilon 18-4 and Beta Knights 26-14 to advance to the semi-finals against Kappa Sigma.

Kappa Sigma beat That’s Right 15-14 in the first round of the double elimination tournament to move on.

Kappa Sigma faced End of an Era for the first time and relegated them to the losers bracket. End of an Era bounced back, by hammering Curved Balls 31-16, and moved on to the finals to face Kappa Sigma for the second time of the day. End of an Era upset Kappa Sigma 19-10 in the first game, creating a winner-take-all matchup in which Kappa Sigma was victorious.

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Baseball v. Western Kentucky
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Women's Basketball v. Campbell
Sat., Feb. 15th at 3 p.m. - UCF Arena

Men's Tennis v. Colorado
Sun., Feb. 16th at 11 a.m. - UCF Tennis Courts (beside the Rec Center)

Baseball v. Western Kentucky
Sun., Feb. 17th at 1 p.m. - Jay Bergman Field (Behind the UCF Arena)

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The perfect gift guide for valentines

Knowing what a girl wants

KRISTIN DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Jennifer Bramski, 19, isn't hoping to get the traditional box of chocolates and flowers for Valentine's Day or for her boyfriend Dave, who she has been dating for a year, to get her something that is just picked up off a shelf or bought at a grocery store. Instead, she wants a gift with sentimental meaning to it.

"All I want for Valentine's Day from my boyfriend is something that he cooked himself," Bramski said. "Every girl loves diamonds. I actually have never gotten any diamond jewelry from a guy, but if I could pick out anything I wanted for Valentine's Day, I'd want it to be it." Although she is looking forward to exchanging gifts with her boyfriend, Weller said that the best present on Valentine's Day is spending quality time with the person you care about.

"Having a nice dinner by the fireplace with my wife would be the best gift in my book," Lee said. "All that matters to me is that we get to spend quality time together." Since Lee's family owns a day spa, he plans to get her a day spa, but even Lee likes to receive presents. One of the most thoughtful presents he has received were flowers a woman once sent him. He said, "Guys don't normally receive flowers, but I actually thought it was nice since it was different from the typical gift."

"I think it would be even better if a girl took a guy out to dinner for Valentine's Day and paid for him. I believe that a man should always take care of his girlfriend, and for one night it would be nice to let him take you out and pay for him." 

Searching for a man's heart

KRISTIN DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Senior Kevin Lee, 31, believes that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. He plans on having a romantic home-cooked meal with his wife for Valentine's Day. "I want a gift," Lee said. "All that matters to me is that we get to spend quality time together." Since Lee's family owns a day spa, he plans to get her a day spa, but even Lee likes to receive presents. One of the most thoughtful presents he has received were flowers a woman once sent him, he said. "Guys don't normally receive flowers, but I actually thought it was nice since it was different from the typical gift."

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Athletes flock to certain majors

Liberal studies, other majors perceived as less challenging, attract athletes

STEPHEN HIRST
STAFF WRITER

Certain majors, such as physical education, building construction, criminal justice and, perhaps most typically, liberal studies, attract a large number of student athletes.

The extensive enrollment of student athletes, particularly that by no means exclusively football or basketball players, in such academic programs has raised them the unflattering title of "jock majors." Athletes at universities across the nation tend to study in such majors, and the trend holds true at UCF as well.

A recent study conducted by The Chronicle of Higher Education, which analyzed the majors of football players at UCF and other universities, revealed some startling statistics about UCF's football team.

Among all undergraduate students, the most popular major was business administration, claiming nine percent of students.

The football team holds true to the makeup of the general undergraduate population, with nine percent of the players majoring in business administration. However, some particular majors draw a majority of the team.

More than a fifth of the team, 22 percent, major in liberal studies. The next most popular majors among the players were general business, administration or management with 16 percent. The criminal justice program claims 15 percent of the players.

The numbers for business majors are only slightly higher than the rest of the student body, but the other two represent a disproportionate high percentage. Some feel that liberal studies in particular may appeal to athletes because of the relatively ease and lower admission requirements of the major. The bare minimum 20 GPA necessary to gain acceptance into the program and also for graduation fails far below the stringent 3.0 and above that many other majors require.

Guy Mooney, the football team's academic advisor, admits he sometimes has a preconception of liberal studies majors.

"I think of someone who doesn't really have a clear idea of what they want to do," Mooney said. "I believe that those types of majors are set up to be especially well-suited ... but at the expense of any specific knowledge."

Mooney also noted that athletes do not have as much free time as most of their peers, possibly influencing them to observe, majors in liberal studies.

"While many students have jobs or work at an internship during the summer, college athletes haven't had those summer months 

" Athletes flock to certain majors

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"While many students have jobs or work at an internship during the summer, college athletes haven't had those summer months..."
Couples share thoughtful gifts with loved ones

From Page 19
18, recommends being adventurous and spontaneous when purchasing a Valentine’s gift for that special someone. Tickets to go indoor skydiving are at the top of her “Day wish list for her boyfriend of ten months.

“Anything with hearts, flowers or hot pink, I think should be avoided completely,” MacLeod stated. “Traditional gifts are boring and over-used. One time I received a present that was obviously from a grocery store that came pre-packaged with a balloon, stuffed animal and chocolate. I thought it was so corny and impersonal.”

Sophomore Jamie St. John, 19, agreed.

“The worst gift you could possibly get a girl would be a teddy bear with the words ‘Be Mine’ written across it.”

Selecting the perfect Valentine’s Day gift is heavily based on how well and how long couples have known them, St. John said.

“Picking out the perfect presents come with knowing the other person well enough to know what they would like.”

Freshman Amanda Grabowski, 18, has been with her boyfriend since their early high school days, she believes he knows what she would want on Valentine’s Day. It’s not the price but the thought behind the gift that matters most, she said.

“I would love anything personalized like a thoughtful message he recorded or wrote for me. Valentine’s Day gifts should be meaningful and really express how the other person feels about you.”

Top five best Valentine’s gifts for her:
1) Diamond Heart Ring – $150 - iroc.com
2) Tickets to indoor sky diving at SkyVenture – $30
3) Reversible Satin Robe from Victoria’s Secret – $54.00 – www.victoriassecret.com
5) Puppy Love Gift Basket – nine-piece set includes strawberries and cream bath items, cherry blossom lotion, and a stuffed animal that can record a six-second message to your loved one for $54.99 – www.vmin.com

Women give heartfelt gifts to their boyfriends for Valentine’s Day presents

He said random acts of kindness, not expensive gifts, matter the most to him.

“I appreciate anything a gift does for me. Even something as small as filling up your boyfriend’s gas tank for him on Valentine’s Day would be nice.”

Freshman Brian Friedberg, 19, would also like a practical Valentine’s Day gift. He said his gift of choice would be a pair of boxer, but preferably not ones with hot pink hearts all over them.

“I don’t like useless things. I always wear boxers, so a nice pair of those would be perfect. It means more to me if I am wearing something that was a gift from someone I care about.”

Freshman Bruce Jeffers, 18, also advises women to buy their boyfriends something useful that shows their boyfriend like.

“I would show me that she actually pays attention to the things I like if she gave me a CD of my favorite band,” Jeffers said.

Even the traditional candy gift would be a nice gesture, he said.

“Even chocolate. You can’t go wrong with candy.”

Top five best Valentine’s gifts for him:
1) Three-box collection – includes one box of Dark Chocolate Crunch Carmel Popcorn, a box of Pecan and chocolate chip cookies and a box of Royal Cherry Chocolates $22.95 - www.harryanddavid.com
2) Orlando Predators arena football tickets – $8 - $60 - orlandopredators.com
3) Strip Poker – includes deck of cards and chance cards which read things such as “Remove a piece of clothing from the person of your choice.” $20 - www.redenvelope.com
4) Valentine’s Beer Pack – Experience the romantic side of beer with flavors such as cherry and raspberry from Belgium poured into flute-style glasses - $25 - www.realbeer.co.nz
5) Gap Men’s Boxers – special Valentine’s Day boxes, three for $25 or regular boxes, two for $20 - www.gap.com

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Unique teaching methods

KATRINA HAMMER
STAFF WRITER

Students line up across the classroom, ready to run as fast as they can to the wall on the other side. With markers in hand, the signal is given and they are off, rushing to beat their fellow classmates to the pieces of paper and poster board hung on the other side of the room. Chairs are quickly pushed out of the way and bookcases jump up and down in the excitement of the game. Students cheer and team points are added onto the board.

This is not a kindergarten classroom in an elementary school. Instead, the participants are UCF students attending Spanish class. The signal comes from foreign language instructor Allex Korey, who has brought Spanish board games and toys in a way for students to learn their vocabulary and verb conjugation.

"I try to have a sense of humor," Korey said.

Sophomore Amanda Mohammed, 18, has enjoyed the experience so far.

"You feel like you're not in class. I would completely recommend her to everyone. I love her."

Korey presents her classes with a variety of activities so that they can "actively learn." She comes up with new ideas for class all the time, at any time of the day.

"Most teachers are never off duty," she said. "I always think, "What can I do that my students will get this better than in the past?"

Unique teaching methods are becoming more common at UCF as instructors look for interesting and fun ways to help their students retain important information, if not keep them more entertained (and awake) in class.

Mathematics Instructor Arup Ghuha mentions types of liquor in his lectures. He will plug the word "vodka" or "rum" into his problems.

Junior Tyler Eischendorfer, 20, remembers being in one of Ghuha's classes his freshman year.

"Ghuha's lectures made people laugh," he said. "We're talking about hard core engineering here. That's an accomplishment in and of itself."

Sometimes students just appreciate the effort that their instructors make to keep them entertained in class.

Junior Melanie Wilson, 21, said she loved her organizational behavior and theory class taught by Lauryn Migenes. During the section of the course that focused on emotions, Migenes played seven or eight different songs for her students, Wilson added.

"Students were then asked to analyze the song and write down what emotions they felt and what products the song might be useful for promoting."

"Instead of standing there and lecturing, she keeps us involved," Wilson said. "She wants our feedback and wants to know what we think."

Wilson said she enjoys Migenes' class because of the entertaining ways that she teaches. "The classes are fun and have been a positive experience overall," she added.

These unique methods seem effective since students use them and students love them.

"It's the most effective teaching I've ever had and it's a lot of fun," Mohammed said.

Korey believes that her method is more successful than students may think it is.

"It is 10 years of teaching they haven't said that they haven't learned anything or that they hated the games."

Summers focused on game, training

FROM PAGE 19

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Summers focused on game, training
my lower back aches, how do I make it better?

Back pain is a very common complaint among adults of all ages but is even more frequent as we get older.

There are many causes of back pain including muscle strain, muscle tightness, trauma or injury, degenerative arthritis, and nerve impingement. In the college age group, the most common reasons for back pain are a sedentary lifestyle and excess weight. In these students who are physically active, the cause can be improper lifting and/or fatigue. Everyone will likely suffer from back pain at some time in their life.

Back pain that does not radiate below the hips is probably not from nerve impingement but rather mechanical (muscular) in origin. Numbness, tingling, or weakness of either lower extremity is worrisome and should be evaluated by a health care provider.

Often, the most practical treatment of back pain is a combination of daily stretching exercises and over-the-counter analgesics such as aspirin, ibuprofen or naproxen. The use of hot compresses or cold packs can be beneficial to relieve discomfort.

If you are overweight and do not exercise, a weight loss plan combined with regular exercise can help the symptoms of back pain. If you do exercise, a careful warm up with stretching before your activity is important as well as attention to proper body mechanics when lifting or carrying heavy items.

Although most back pain is in the lower (lumbar) spine, the upper (cervical) spine can be affected as well. Most would call this neck pain but the causes are similar and the treatment is the same.

Good posture both when standing and sitting is important to prevent back or neck pain. A slouched posture puts undue strain on the small muscles in the lower back which can lead to pain. A head forward posture such as reading at a desk or working at a computer puts tension on the neck muscles leading to symptoms.

The abdominal muscles contribute more than 50 percent of the support to the lower back so weakness of these muscles increases the chance of developing symptoms.

Severe, acute pain is probably indicative of a more significant injury and should be evaluated by a health care provider. Occasionally this will require prescription medication and/or supervised therapy.

There are numerous Patient Information Handouts regarding back pain available at both the Student Health Center and the Campus Wellness Center if you desire to learn more.
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Petition Pick-up: Jan. 20-30th (9am - 5pm)

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

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

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

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

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

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HAVE FUN, VOLUNTEER, BECOME A LEADER

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WITH THE OFFICE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The University of Central Florida Dance Marathon
February 22 - February 23, 10 am - 10 am
Recreation and Wellness Center.

The UCF Dance Marathon is a 24-hour no sitting, no sleeping fundraising event that benefits the Children’s Miracle Network. The Children’s Miracle Network provides comprehensive care and monetary support for pediatric cancer patrons and their families while continuing to foster innovative pediatric cancer research initiatives.

Tue Feb 11
10 am - 6 pm VUCF Blood Drive, outside the SU
11 am - 2 pm VUCF Green Ribbon Day for organ and tissue donation, SU South Patio
7:30 pm EKCEL “Time Management” workshop, SU 316
9 pm CAB Cinema presents “Moulin Rouge.” There will be dancers, decorations and more. Come get lost in the Moulin Rouge! SRCAud.

Wed Feb 12
10 am - 6 pm VUCF Blood Drive, outside the SU
11 am - 2 pm, 4 pm - 6 pm CAB Popular Entertainment Knight of Talent auditions, SRC Auditorium
7:30 pm EKCEL “Time Management” workshop, SU 224
8 pm CAB Concerts Battle of the Bands, UCF Arena.
Winner plays at an Orlando Magic Game. Top 8 bands out of 47 competing, plus a return performance from last year’s winning band, Unsung Zeroes.

Sat Feb 15
7 am VUCF Paws in the Park. One mile walk at Lake Ella for animal services. Volunteers will help with registration and clean up. Carpool from Millican Hall at 7 am.
3 pm - 4 pm VUCF Winter Park Retirement Community Post Valentine’s Day Party. Carpool from Millican Hall at 2:15 pm.
7 pm Block Party sponsored by CAB and Affiliated Housing, Pegasus Landing

Sun Feb 16
2 - 5 pm VUCF Bingo with residents of Sunbelt Health Facilities. Carpool from Millican Hall at 1 pm.

Tue Feb 18
7:30 pm EKCEL workshop “Say It Right.”
Communication, SU 316
8 pm CAB Popular Entertainment presents Hypnotist Tom DeLuca, UCF Arena. Free to everyone.

Wed Feb 19
Tickets available in OSA for CAB Mystery Dinner Theater event on 3-13-03
7:30 pm EKCEL workshop “Say It Right.”
Communication, SU 224

Thu Feb 20
4:30 pm VUCF Best Buddies. Have pizza, meet UCF Men’s Basketball team, and watch the game the with kids. Meet at Lake Claire.
7 pm VUCF Get Carded info table at UCF Men’s Basketball game. Volunteers will hand out info on organ and tissue donation, UCF Arena

Visit us on the web at osa.sdes.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