CANDIDATES WOULD BE PART OF A WEEKLONG EVENT CALLED HIP-HOP ARTIST MAY PERFORM FOR HOMELESS BEN BAILD

The SGA Senate will vote tonight on whether to spend $32,000 to bring old-school hip-hop artist KRS-ONE to UCF. If the senate passes the bill, on its third and final reading, it would bring the artist to its most powerful entities on campus.

If the five slates of candidates seeking to lead the Student Government Association agree on anything, it is that representing the student body is their most important task. All the candidates have vowed to take a more active role than past SGA administrators in promoting student concerns to the most important agenda topics: UCF's administrative and the Board of Trustees.

Pavan Talubala believes that the student body president needs to take a firm stand on issues that are debated in trustee meetings, particularly if those issues are important to students. He cited current Student Body President Marco Pefia’s abstention on particularly controversial issues—such as granting President John Hitt a $10,000 raise—as a poor plan.

If the senate passes the bill, on its third and final reading, it would bring the artist to its most powerful entities on campus.

DEA agents discover Ecstasy lab in UCF student’s apartment

Authorities arrested two UCF students early this morning when they discovered an Ecstasy lab within their Waterford Lakes apartment.

Drug Enforcement Administration agents raided the apartment in The Fountain complex on Lake Underhill Road around 2 a.m., after a neighbor called Orange County Fire Rescue to report a chemical odor emanating from the apartment. DEA agents found an Ecstasy lab set up in a closet and a bedroom along with chemicals and devices used to make Ecstasy.

Authorities also arrested Robert Duplan, 23, a commercial manager, on a charge of manufacturing Ecstasy. Williams, 21, a commercial manager, also was arrested.

Ex factor 

Ecstasy was patented in 1913 by the German chemist and company founder, and it was used as a painkiller.

Ecstasy was patented in 1913 by the German chemist and company founder, and it was used as a painkiller.
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Expect Ecstasy crackdown here

Expect Ecstasy crackdown here...
UCF takes lead in recognizing faculty union

Joel Addington Staff Writer

When the leaders of UCF’s faculty union collected faculty signatures last semester, they did not know what to expect from the administration.

As it turned out, they encountered far fewer problems than their counterparts across the state.

On Jan. 25, UCF’s Board of Trustees, in accordance with President John Hitt’s recommendation, voted to voluntarily recognize United Faculty of Florida (UFF) as the bargaining agent to represent about 1,000 faculty members in collective bargaining.

Collective bargaining is the process by which the faculty, represented by UFF, negotiates its contract with UCF. The contract stipulates terms of tenure, sub­ contracts and numerous other faculty concerns.

In 2003, the Florida Legislature passed revisions that recognized Florida’s education system, from kindergarten through college. Then last November, Florida voters voted for more changes with the passage of Amendment 11, which created a statewide Board of Governors to oversee the higher education system. These changes caused much uncertainty about the future of Florida’s public universities.

As part of the ongoing changes, Florida’s public universities became, in effect, private corporations instead of state-run institutions. In turn, the faculty became “public employees” instead of “state employees.”

The adoption of Amendment 11 caused other changes. Now, each university must create a “personal program” and must begin collective bargaining with any unions certified to represent a university’s employees by the Public Employees Relations Commission.

The certification process with PERC can take a significant amount of time. First, the union initiates a “card drive.” Cards are distributed and signed by faculty members, attesting that they want to be represented by a specific union. If 50 percent of the faculty signs the cards, then legally the union can be submitted to PERC for certification. However, in reality the union usually gets 50 percent or more before the cards are taken to PERC. Once certified, PERC calls for an election. If the union gets a majority of the vote, then they become the bargaining agent. UCF-UFF obtained signa­ tures from 70 percent of faculty members. After finding out that 70 percent had signed the cards, Hitt recommended that the Board of Trustees recognize UFF.

The board’s decision effec­

UCF takes lead in recognizing faculty union

Only one other state university has approved United Faculty of Florida to represent its faculty.

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example of student representation. "This is a very powerful position which most of the time our president has not utilized," Talalaks said.

If elected, Talalaks plans to take the presidential hose of tuition hikes through the Board of Trustees, and wants to pursue more communication between SGA and the administrative body to ease cooperation between the two.

Brian Battles wants to protect programs such as Bright Futures, which helps many UCF students pay for tuition, and wants to urge trustees to create a broader base of academic curriculum.

Battles also wants to ensure student representation on key UCF committees such as the parking and traffic committee, the budget committee, and the university master plus committee, all of which receive final approval from the Board of Trustees.

"Then when we actually have two student representatives sitting instead of just one on the board," Battles said.

Andrew Houchins also believes it's important for the study body to participate in aggressively in trustee meetings and votes.

Talalaks' words to every issue, but we think the [president] should take a strong stand and vote on the students' opinions," Houchins said.

And Houchins doesn't just want to vote based on his own ideas — he wants to know students' concerns so that he can talk to them directly to trustees.

Houchins also plans to hold open forums for the students to share their ideas so that he can go into every trustee meeting with a particular agenda.

Jeff Stepp's agenda is somewhat different — he would like to work with campus students to redo textbook prices for students by allowing outside vendors to sell books cheaper.

"There's two guarantees when you go to UCF — you'll have to vote and you'll have to pay for textbooks," Stepp said.

Brian Kirby wants to work with trustees on two major issues — implementing a parking and traffic plan to stagger the traffic coming from Rosenau Park through the campus, and creating a comprehensive and extensive health-insurance plan for students.

Finally, Kirby wants to open up communication so that SGA and the administration can work together more effectively.

To vote is to determine the processes so that as the university is changing policies, ours will change with that, so that we won't have that gap," Kirby said.

The candidates also recognize the importance of opening up communication between SGA and the student body.

Talalaks and his running mate, Constance Katsafanas, want to make SGA more accessible to students by publishing where SGA allocates money from student activity and service fees. Talalaks also intends to create publicly published office hours for the entire cabinet, and a weekly "Meet Your President," where students can voice their concerns and ask questions.

"We want to be accessible and

we want to incorporate everybody to let them know that student administration really cares about what they think and what they want," Katsafanas said.

Students and his running mate, Joe MacLellan, believe outside perspective offers the most effective solutions for improvements and want to create walk-ons committees within the executive branch where students can offer valid concerns and effective solutions.

Battles and MacLellan also want to implement an open-door policy and publicize their hours of availability so they can meet with students who have concerns about SGA.

The team of Houchins and Nathan Mitchell also recognize the importance of consistent office hours to ensure efficient communication between students and SGA officials, but aren't sure how they would accomplish that.

"We would try to make them have their office hours and keep them, but they seem more concerned to the SGA Senate... there's not real by anything we could do to make them be there, other than maybe making it more publicized that they aren't doing their job," Mitchell said.

Stepp and his running mate, Anson Clevenger, will rely on frequent polls to help them assess what issues are most important to students.

They also intend to create volunteer positions to prepare students for cabinet positions to ultimately attract more inexperienced students to join SGA.

"We want to open up positions that aren't paid where people can gain experience and then step up to the next level," Stepp said.

Stepp and Clevenger believe maintaining an open-door policy is crucial so that students can express their opinions to them personally.

Speaking for the ticket of Kirby and Kevin Orris, Kirby said they plan to set office hours for the entire SGA staff, centers to increase accessibility and want to reform the SGA Web site to offer students more current and complete information about events and involvement.

Battles will also promote the senate's open forum process that allows any student to speak for two minutes on any topic. He hopes more students will take advantage of that opportunity to voice their concerns.

Finally the candidates have a wide range of ideas for new programs and solutions to fix existing programs that are ineffective.

Talalaks and Katsafanas want to initiate a number of programs to include branch campuses in activities such as Homecoming by providing transportation to bus students to the main campus. They will push for a comprehensive recycling program on campus and will use the money earned from recycling kickbacks to restore free printing in campus computer labs.

Talalaks and Katsafanas also want to improve Safe Rich, expanding the service to include shuttles that can carry more campus to popular destinations, such as expert venues and clubs.

Battles and MacLellan will direct their attention to scholarships and grants.

"In the past, a lot of times that money wasn't allocated," said Battles. "We need to make sure every year that the entire budget that is allocated towards scholarships is used.

They also want to offer scholarships to students for fan participation at sporting events and reward them for outstanding examples of leadership.

We want to make sure that we're rewarding students that are making a difference," Battles said.

Other programs Kirby and MacLellan hope to implement include a student-run parking and traffic committee, a textbook exchange to make books more affordable, a recycling program to fund free printing, and a statewide job fair that will bring more companies to UCF for job recruitment.

Houchins and Mitchell want to overhaul the existing Side Ride program by providing students from across the service and negotiating better contracts with transportation companies.

Houchins and Mitchell also want to expand scholarship programs such as those earmarked for "UFO" who's where, as well as merit-based and leadership scholarships.

Battles and Clevenger want to make sure that the Latino Knights program, an alcohol-free campus event held once a month, continues next year.

They also plan to eliminate duplicated programs within SGA and other student organizations.

There's room for us to look at what kind of consolidation is out there, what student government should be in the business of doing.

PLEASE SEE Candidates on 7
Other unions envious of UCF faculty's power

FROM PAGE 4

had told him there wasn't time for UFF on the agenda and the trustees had already been introduced to the UFF.

"I can only speculate as to why the FSU trustees have chosen not to grant voluntary recognition despite a strong majority of the faculty signing cards clearly indicating that they want UFF representation," Fiorito said.

Fiorito hopes FSU's delay in recognizing the faculty union has resulted from ignorance of faculty members' intentions.

"I'd like to think that President Weatherall, the trustees, and other top administrators were simply unaware that the authorization court signed by the faculty specifically requests UFF representation," Fiorito said.

"Perhaps their stance will change when they think about what the faculty wants as indicated in their signatures.

Fiorito evokes the bargaining power that UCF-UFF now possesses and warns that further delays would be costly for all interested parties.

"Like the faculty at UCF, we would like to get on negotiating a contract tailored to our university's and faculty's needs," Fiorito said. "We know we can win a representative election, and a guaranteed outcome is simply going to delay, at considerable expense to taxpayers, FSU, and UFF."

At the University of North Florida, UFF Chapter President Bruce Fortado said he also supported voluntary recognition. The issue was discussed at the January board of trustees meeting, but Fortado said, "the subject was tabled."

After the administration paid a neutral third party to inspect the cards to verify exactly what they read and that 40 percent of the faculty had signed, the neutral party reported 65.8 percent of the bargaining unit signed cards, Fortado said.

The UFF headquarters is located in Tallahassee. Stonewall UFF President Tom Auxter, whose organization is responsible for 9,000 faculty members across Florida, said UFF President David Kline and two subcommittees urged the board of trustees there to voluntarily recognize the local union chapter at the trustees' next meeting on Feb. 20.

"This is a telephone conference call meeting," Fortado said. "This month we will not be able to speak as we would in a face-to-face meeting."

He also said there was a stipulation to the voluntary recognition recommendation: some faculty, like physicians and counselors, would have to be removed from the bargaining unit (or the group covered under the contract).

Fiorito expressed frustration at the strings attached to voluntary recognition. However, Auxter said, "I don't doubt for a minute [the UCF-UFF's campaign to begin] will go forward."

Auxter said that last year, class-packing membership in UFF grew from 3,000 to 4,000. For 15 years, he said, growth was flat; the goal for now and year 6,000. It's rational for a university to voluntarily recognize a union, said Auxter. If nothing else, recruitment and retention purposes and the faculty's peace of mind.

Besides UCF, the only other public university in Florida to voluntarily recognize UFF was New College of Florida. On Saturday, the school's board of trustees voted unanimously to recognize UFF as the bargaining agent for New College faculty.

UFF-UFF Vice President and former UFF state President Rosie Joels said having a collectively bargained faculty contract creates an atmosphere where everybody knows the rules. "UFF has a very positive working relationship with the UCF administration,": Joels said.

UCF administration is currently in a stalemate with bargaining of public employees in the northern United States, according to Joels.

However, she said, some northern states, such as Ohio, have more favorable laws for recognizing cards clearly indicating that they want UFF representation.

"I think of this as a bridge," Joels said of UFF's board of trustees vote on Jan. 15. "We have agreed to cross it together."

Candidates want free printing back in labs

FROM PAGE 6

and what student government should be in the business of supporting," Cleveringa said.

Steve and Cleveringa also want to make it a priority to start an OpenGL book that would students to fill in their old books for vouchers and then pick up new ones that have been recycled from other students. They also hope to restore free printing in campus computer labs.

Cleveringa's main objectives include lobbying Congress for student loans and a crackdown on plagiarism by improving campus security to protect students who live on campus.

"Students in the dorms are not safe; they're having problems with break-ins, fights, drugs and with cops messing with them," Kline said.

Kline also acknowledges that Safe Ride, a program implemented last semester by the current SGA administration, in which he serves as student body vice president, needs improvements.

"Safe Ride worked beautifully last term," he said. "The problem is that we have Safe Ride is that we have individuals who are professional staff who are changing the way the program was designed to operate."
GM Bets $2 Billion On Smaller Lineup

General Motors Corp., is spending $2 billion to bring to market a lineup of four-new or reconfigured compact cars and trucks over the next few years. GM believes that the smartly designed new models will boost its market share among small, stripped-down buyers.

Outpaced by European and Japanese competitors and under- priced by South Korean rivals, GM faces a second-string threat. In the U.S. it has generated losses of as many as $3 billion a year in recent years. GM also needs the smaller vehicles because their lower gas mileage can help offset the lower mileage of its thirstrier but more-profitable large cars and trucks. The government sets fuel-economy standards for the average mileage of a company's entire fleet. GM will upgrade its dated lineup of small cars and pickups with more-stylish vehicles offering zipper engines, better rides and classier interiors that GM hopes will command higher prices. GM also hopes to fill gaps in the hot-selling segments of small SUVs and hatchbacks, along the lines of compact Chrysler's. Chrylser's popular PT Cruiser.

Revenue Crisis Hits State, City Workers

Tens of thousands of workers in state and city governments will soon find themselves out of a job. More than 46 states and countless local governments are confronting the worst budget crisis since World War II, primarily due to a drop in tax revenue on the heels of the stock market plunge. Many are warning that jobs will be cut as states- alized to close gaping budget gaps. Budgets are still working their way through legislatures and city councils, so many governments haven't settled on a final number. According to a survey by the Denver- based National Conference of State Legislatures, which said state budget gaps were growing "at an alarming rate," eight states have initiated layoffs this year.

Connecticut, for example, has issued about 3,000 layoff notices, and could send out some 850 more by the end of June. Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has proposed cutting nearly 3,000 positions in his state. California has said it will eliminate 10,000 vacant positions and lay off 1,500 workers with more to come.

Up to 100,000 state and local employees could lose their jobs over the next several years, or roughly 15% of the 1.5 million such workers added since 1998, estimates the Reason Public Policy Institute, a think tank. The number of state and municipal employees grew by nearly 30% during the Bush years.

Job Market Grows

But Lacks Vigor

While public payrolls are suffering, the overall job market may be improving. A surprising growth in jobs and a drop in the unemployment rate to 5.7% in January suggest the job market is recovering. While the job market is improving, the unemployment rate is still high, at least by historical standards. The unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage point in January to 5.7%, the Labor Department reported. Meanwhile, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 156,000 last month, which reversed the 100,000 decline in jobs in December.

According to the Feb. 28 consensus forecast of the Blue Chip survey of economic analysts, the unemployment rate is expected to rise slightly and stick at 6% through the middle of the year. Record Companies

May Owe You $20

Anyone who bought recorded music from 1995 through 2006 is en- titled to a $20 payment as part of a class-action lawsuit settlement.

The sign-up form is available online at musicsettlement.com. To get a paper form call 1-877-957-5782. The deadline for signing up is March 3. Checks will be sent sometime later this year, depending on possible court delays.

Recorded music products include compact discs, cassettes, and LPs. You must have purchased the product to be included.

Sign up atmusicsettlement.com or at the service desk in your campus bookstore.

The Deluxe Semester Abroad

Overseas Study Is Up, Using Plush Programs To Draw Students

By ELIZABETH BRENTNELL

A newly renovated student center at Boston College "felt like a five-star vacation," says the 26-year-old junior.

For cutbacks back that day, a surprising number of college students are taking study-abroad programs to a new level of higher learning. From Stanford to Michigan State, schools are adding courses, expanding the destinations and, in some cases, catering to students with resort-style extras. One school is even offering wine tastings in France.

Of all the programs offered by schools, the most are being revamped, and 10% say they are targeting their programs to students interested in world affairs—particularly post-9/11. Columbia University, an assistant director at Loyola College in Maryland, which has been paying for housing and gym memberships for overseas students. Still, whatever happened to backpacks and bunk beds? It wasn't too long ago that study-abroad programs were fairly low-key affairs for most schools, aimed at language students or the backpacking crowd. But educators say anything from the Internet to global turmoil has made today's youth more interested in world affairs—particularly if the accommodations are now as attractive abroad as they are at home. And the tough job market hasn't hurt programs, either, with students helping a stint overseas will add some shine to their resumes.

At some schools, the new look of many of these programs is stirring excitement. Please turn to Next Page.
Ebay Finds New Niche: Used Cars

By Nick Wingfield

Would you buy a used car over the Web?

Until recently, the conventional wisdom was that you couldn't. Most Internet pundits and analysts believed it would take years to pay thousands of dollars for a second-hand auto without taking a test drive or at least kicking the tires. But eBay Inc. is proving them all wrong. The online auction company hosted 300,000 used-vehicle sales last year. That's just a sliver of the estimated 43 million used vehicles sold in the U.S. each year. Ebay Motors, which started selling vehicles last year, is aiming at the hodgepodge of local newspapers, car dealers and auto publications in which dealers usually advertise.
OUR STANCE:

Ecstasy bust sign of things to come

Tuesday's arrest of two men for manufacturing Ecstasy should serve as a wake-up call to students, and anyone else for that matter, who use Ecstasy and other designer drugs.

The Orange County Sheriff's Office plans to crack down big-time on Ecstasy use. Law enforcement authorities are sufficiently convinced about the spread of Ecstasy and other such drugs that they plan to devote resources to eradicating its use or at least severely hampering it. Now, people have one more reason to not use Ecstasy.

Besides the fact that amateur pharmacists create Ecstasy in often-unsanitary homemade laboratories, which means the quality and contents of the drug are unknown, Ecstasy may cause a variety of health problems, including convulsions, kidney failure and strokes.

Although scientists continue to investigate the side effects of Ecstasy use, the drug, like many others, can be fatal. Still, some studies have shown little harm associated with Ecstasy use. A federal study of Ecstasy use indicated the potential. The doctor who conducted the study, Charles Grob, told a Congressional committee in February that "MMIB [Ecstasy's] current placement as a Schedule I drug is highly inappropriate."

Whether Ecstasy is harmful or not, the crackdown by federal, state and now local authorities on its use should discourage people from using it. As Tuesday's arrests demonstrate, the Sheriff's Office wants to send a strong message to Ecstasy users and Ecstasy manufacturers.

The two men arrested Tuesday face federal sentences that could send them to prison for at least five years. The federal government wants to eliminate Ecstasy use, and has thus stiffened the penalties for selling, manufacturing and possessing it.

Likewise, local authorities intend to get more strict with penalties for all crimes related to Ecstasy, even for possession. People caught possessing Ecstasy will go to jail.

While the crackdown on Ecstasy may represent a condemnation of youth culture and the rave scene, practitioners of that scene should take care. The Orange County Sheriff's Office is coming after you.

OUR STANCE:

Embracing unions improves faculty relations

Last month, UCF became the first of Florida's 11 state universities to approve the local chapter of the faculty union.

The Board of Trustees and UCF deserve praise for working with, rather than against, the faculty here to forge a new relationship that will hopefully lead to improved working conditions, including more job security, and better pay for UCF faculty members. By extending its responsive hand in partnership, the administration opened the door to improved relations between UCF faculty members and administration.

UCF, the state's largest university, is only the latest in a progressive manner by recognizing the United Faculty of Florida as a legitimate union for UCF's faculty members.

In doing so, UCF became the first of Florida's 11 state universities to approve the local chapter of the United Faculty of Florida, as a legitimate union for faculty members.

Currently, many的脸元 at those nine universities cannot bargain collectively with their bosses. By taking their time, those administrations create an environment in which their faculty members may feel anger, resentment and even insignificance regarding their relationships with administrations. Those nine administrations, which still have not recognized their faculty unions and continue to play hardball with them, breed ill will among their faculty unions.

Like the chapter at UCF, the faculty unions at these other universities went through the laborious process of collecting signatures from a majority of the faculty members. By doing so, those chapters demonstrated to their respective administrations that they do indeed represent faculty.

The reluctance of these administrations to rightfully reward the efforts of the unions by officially recognizing them is a slap in the face to the faculty members who want and deserve union representation.

Those faculty members, like those at UCF, should have the opportunity to collectively bargain.

As unions have demonstrated for at least a century, union co-workers band together, they can more effectively bring about positive changes.

The administrations and boards of trustees at the University of Florida, Florida State University, Florida Atlantic University, University of North Florida, University of West Florida, Florida A&M University, South Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University and Florida International University should recognize their faculty unions immediately.

Those unions have proven that they represent their respective faculties. It is only right for the universities to formally approve those unions and give them the bargaining power they deserve.

"Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind."

—RUDYARD KIPLING

Letters to the Editor

Women make their mark in technology field

Our program, as stated in the graduate catalog, is designed for those who wish to work in business, industry, government or other settings that training students to.

Included in the undergraduate computer-related programs, you can lead better than we did in the graduate program here at UCF.

So don't fret, girls, even if it seems like you are outnumbered in your classes here on campus.

You are not in the small minority of women in the world — computer and technology professions.

—MORGAN HEBERT

Greek funding a long-debated issue on many campuses

Solving this issue has been a Greek system there have been those who are against it. As a UCF alum, and a current student, I give another authority that is the subject of funding Greek letters organizations and with sports, scholastic and community as the UI campus.

There are social Greek organizations, service Greek organizations, international and local Greek organizations. House societies and fraternity and sorority are inter-related and more. All of these organizations offer something for everyone.

The list of Greek affiliations are the seniors who do the most harm of communities and hold the most sparks of campus life. Many sororities and fraternities are inter-related, providing some of the leadership and many of the clubs are named Greek organizations.

The dollars are donated: sports, scholastic and community. Each Greek organization provides services and programs. There are many opportunities for students to give back to their communities and help their peers. The Greek organizations and Greek organizations and Greek organizations have better benefits.

Becoming involved in these Greek organizations and Greek organizations should be allowed to the students. Students should be allowed to be an office in a Greek organization, and Greek organizations should be encouraged to become more active in the community involvement and affiliations.

—ABBY MOSKOW
Affirmative action in the NFL?

I THINK IT'S KICKIN' IT

STEPHEN HIRST
STAFF WRITER

This month the Detroit Lions hired Steve Mariucci as their new head coach. Though his San Francisco 49ers were recently eliminated in the first round of the playoffs, Mariucci is a proven coach with a winning record. He has taken the 49ers into the playoffs four times in his six seasons as head coach. He was born and raised in Iron City, Mich., so he has roots in the area.

Understandably, much of the reaction to this move has been positive. However, the notable exception—segregated sports analyst and football expert, the eccentric Jesse Jackson—has a different opinion.

The NFL has come under fire in recent months for its hiring policies. Earlier in January, high-profile lawyer Stephen Hirst was also mentioned in the context of affirmative action issues. Mariucci, who has roots in the area, is seen as a potential candidate for the job.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune columnist Stephen Hirst can be reached at shirst@ucffuture.com.

America's thirst for oil

INSIDIOUS THOUGHTS

ADAM SHIVER
STAFF WRITER

In reality, though, Bush has his own, very different reasons for his pre-emptive attack on Iraq.

The first, and most trivial, of these reasons is to finish what his father began with the Gulf War. A scary thought, but not one that is too hard to figure out. He wants to do it bigger and better than his daddy.

Another reason why Bush is pushing so desperately for this war with Iraq is that the United States has gone as far as it can with the search for Osama bin Laden and his organization and has not new leads. The Bush administration is transferring the attention from the hunt for al-Qaeda to the hunt for the supposed weapons of mass destruction that Bush says Iraq is harboring.

Bush bought long and hard to get United Nations inspectors into Iraq to search for such weapons, but began planning a war before inspectors ever came close to wrapping up their search. He only went to the United Nations because he assumed they would not be able to send inspectors back to Iraq and hoped that would justify a reason for a pre-emptive strike.

The main motivation behind Bush's desire for war, though, can be spelled out in one simple word—oil.

Oil is the making money for Bush in all he does. He wanted to lighten environmental policies in order to extend the Alaskan pipeline and increase drilling across the nation. He also tried to allow for more drilling rigs in the Gulf of Mexico off the Florida and Louisiana coastlines. Now he wants to take over a whole country and its oil supply through force.

This war is almost solely based on oil and this administration's thirst for it.

American citizens who favor this war need to analyze the reasons why they support the president's decision to pre-emptively attack Iraq. I can guarantee those in favor of a war do not have family or friends being deployed to fight on the front lines.

If they did, they would see this as personally backing the president's plans.

Columnist Adam Shiver can be reached at shiver@sundaytimes.com.

The Central Florida Future
Senior Marius Boyd's defense has been a major reason the Knights are 17-7 this year.

Knights need to take last games one at a time

Kristy Shonka

Knights face final North Division foes

Chris Bernhardt

Knights need to take last games one at a time

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SIGNING DAY

Walker, Turner could contribute next season

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Terminate the taco, and squash the quesadilla. Crispers is here... your new quick, delicious alternative to fast food. We’ve been a central Florida sensation for over fourteen years... now in Orlando with new locations opening all the time. Stoke up on garden-fresh gourmet salads, hearty stacked sandwiches, a dozen tempting soups, all made fresh every single day.

If you’re a sweet freak, you should know that our desserts are absolutely outrageous... creamy cheesecakes, rich layer cakes, cookies, and brownies. Be sure to try a sundae or milkshake made with delicious Publix Premium ice cream.

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Crispers is now open at 436 & University and Alafaya Trail, which means delicious food is right around the corner... and it's fast! Plus, we're opening more new locations all the time. Eat in... take out... whatever: Just visit us today and you can tell your Mom you're eating right!
Young but talented at defensive back

Kristy Shonka - Staff Writer

If you thought last season's defensive backs were young, think again.

That group had two seniors in starting cornerback Anne Marie Samuel and reserve Carlos Thompson. This year there will be just one, backup free safety Patrick Holland.

But the Knights do have some experience coming back. Samuel is the only starter they lose and sophomore Arland Bigby and Peter Sands both saw time their freshman years before starting their sophomore seasons. Sands finished second on the team in both interceptions (6) and tackles (104) last year, while Bigby was third on the team with 104 tackles and he also recorded a pick. Omar Lawrence started last season as a redshirt freshman and had 10 pass break-ups, recorded an interception and was seventh on the team with 66 tackles.

The Knights also brought in five defensive backs in their 2003 recruiting class to help out next season. "They can all run. If I can get them running in the right direction, we'll be OK," said Beckton who hired back John Fuentes of his recruits.

Titusville's Bedford Parks is the only safety of the group and is also the most likely to see playing time next season. As a sophomore the 5-foot-11, 160-pound Parks led Central Florida with 161 tackles. He recovered three fumbles and returned one 86 yards for a touchdown. He recorded three sacks and had 10 kick returns for 281 yards, including a 86-yard touchdown.

Beckton compared the Knights to the hitting, high-flying BYU and said there was no question about whether he would play as a true freshman. "He's going to play a lot of football for us this year," Fuentes said.

Parkes is also accomplished in the classroom. He is an Academic All-American and four-year scholar athlete who has already earned college credit. He chose to be a Knight over Ole Miss, Stanford and Southern Miss.

Cornerback Sheldon Shakespeare is another player who could compete for playing time next season. The 5-foot-9, 160-pound Jacksonville native was a three-year starter at First Coast High School. Shakespeare recorded nine interceptions, five fumble recoveries, and 10 forced fumbles. He was also a member of the National Honor Society and a mentor for middle school students. "I think he's going to be a phenomenal receiver," Beckton said.

Whatever it may be, the Knights will need players to step up and fill the holes left by the speedy Gabriel and the stellar Pryzula.

Beckton looks for Marshall to emerge as leader

FROM PAGE 12

leadership.

Luther Hughes will help his classmates lead this group of receivers that will feature two soph­omers, one redshirt freshman and four newcomers, and he said he will need one or two of the newcomers from the 2003 recruiting class to come in and play right away. "Maybe only in a limited role, it depends on how fast they come in here and pick up things," Beckton said.

Kruzansk was pleased at the amount of talent in his newest receivers. "This is how we throw the football around a little bit, and I've got to say as a whole, I don't think we've ever signed this kind of quality at wide receiver," Kruzansk said.

Beckton said that physically, Edgewater's Mike Walker and Deerfield Beach High School's Brooks Turner have the best chances of the four to come in and play right away. Among Winter Park quarterback Steven Meddington, Beckton said a high school signee. "And tremendous skills," Kruzansk said. "Offered by Tennessee. Offered by Miami. Offered by Ole Miss. Signed by UCF. That's how for this place has gotten."

Wallace played in the California Bowl, where he caught five passes for 75 yards. Four of those passes came from his future teammate Meddington. Wallace, a 6-foot-4, 182-pound, first committed to Ole Miss before changing his mind and signing with UCF. Brooks was raised the No. 37 receiver in the nation after he caught 40 passes for 832 yards and 10 touchdowns his senior year. Edgewater coach Bill Grierke, who also coached Brooks in Deerfield Beach, said Walker is further along than Brooks was at his final high school. Turner is a 6-foot, 185-pound explosive receiver who runs like a running back. After he catches the ball, he will make four receptions for 100 yards and 10 touchdowns his senior season. He also recorded touchdowns running passing and on a punt return. He earned MVP honors at the Howard-Jabe All-Star game.

Beckton said that Chris Nieves, a 6-foot, 183-pound wide receiver from Lake Howell, has already told the coaches he wants to redshirt his first year. Nieves is noted for his speed and hands. He was the first commitment of UCF's recruiting class, after committing early to Tulane.

The Knights' final recruit at wide receiver is Semford Johnathan from North Miami High School. At 6-foot-4, 180 pounds, Johnathan has great height and speed and can run the spread offense. He's a true freshman who claims UCF over Syracuse and Kansas State. If Wallace and Turner do play next season, Beckton said he's optimistic about the combination with sophomores Brandon Marshall and Al Peterson, and redshirt freshman Andre Sumpter for playing time. Beckton said Peterson should be a role player in the receiving corps next year while Sumpter is an explosive receiver.

Marshall is the other returning receiver and that was a catch last season. As a true freshman, the 6-foot-5, 185-pounder caught two passes for 15 yards. He also saw time on special teams. Marshall had trouble reading scouts last season, but going through practice this spring should help him out. "He's got a good receiving ability, which we're going to need," Beckton said.

Whatever it may be, the Knights will need players to step up and fill the holes left by the speedy Gabriel and the steadily Pryzula.
Despite being hampered by a slow start, the Golden Knights won’t mean a thing if they don’t take winning record, but they had been home 85-63. Both box scores show five points to Troy State’s only loss by a combined 86 points. Junior guard Casey Clapp leads the team with a 12.6 scoring average. Though is whether he’ll qualify, though is whether he’ll qualify. 

Opponents in an ugly 1-game series. The Knights hope he will be a late qualifier. He led the Cougars to a dramatic win. It was special teams coordinator. Robinson comes to UCF from Boiling Springs, N.C., but a more. He had held the record of 7-2, just one game behind Florida Atlantic (9-4), whom they tried to make up next week.

The Knights had a chance to clinch a berth in the Atlantic Sun Tournament, which will take place at the UCF Arena, home just a month after stumbling against Florida State, the Golden Knights have picked things up in a big way and are poised to put themselves in a strong position to end the season on a high note.

TIME OF 12:56.04. Meanwhile, the 4x400 meter relay team of seniors Daniel, Robby, and junior Emily Pugh and freshman Romondia Godfrey ran 3:52.74.

Troy State-G Mercer game has implications for UCF

Dolphins only lost by a combined five points to Troy State and Mercer and the Hatters upset North Division leading Belmont on Saturday in Nashville. While the Knights biggest games of the season come next week, those games won’t mean a thing if they don’t take care of Jacksonville and Stetson this week.

Troy State-G Mercer game has implications for UCF

Troy State's 17-2 (9-2) travel to Jacksonville (10-12, 5-5) tonight. The Dolphins are coming off big losses to Belmont and Sanford, but the preseason North Division favorites are still a distant (4-11, 11) is 5-4 in the conference tonight.

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Stetson paced offensively and defensively by senior guard-forward Alex McMillan, who averaged 13.6 points and 3.1 steals a game. The Hatters take care of the ball, while foreing their opponents to turn the ball over. Stetson leads the A-Sun with a plus-4 turnover margin and averages 11.4 steals a game.

Can it be the same team with a circle, Mercer beat the Golden Knights the night before? The Golden Knights have picked things up in a big way and are poised to put themselves in a strong position to end the season on a high note.

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What to do with a Technical Major

Career Panel

In the Student Union
Key West Room 218D
Tuesday, February 18th 2003
2:00PM to 3:00PM

Discussion and Question & Answer session
For Engineering and Computer Science Students
to gain knowledge from the information
shared by industry leaders.
Participating companies: Siemens Westinghouse, NASA, Disney

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
What To Do With a Technical Major
February 18 (2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
Student Union - Key West Room 218 D

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
Careers For Arts & Science Majors
March 5, 2003 (10:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
Student Union - Cape Florida Rooms C & D

COLLEGE OF HEALTH & PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Careers in Health & Public Service
April 1, 2003 (9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) - Workshops in Key West
Atrium of COPHA Building I and II - Career Fair

SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY
Careers in Hospitality
April 2, 2003 (2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.)
Student Union - Cape Florida Room 316C

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
What can I do with a Business Degree?
April 18, 2003 (10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
Atrium New College of Business

For more information, please contact our main number at 407-823-2361.
Also visit our web-site at www.crc.ucf.edu

Sponsored by the Career Resource Center
A Division of Student Development and Enrollment Services
UCF Office of Academic Development and Retention

Academic Development & Retention
Division of Student Development & Enrollment Services
**Lifestyles**

Thursday, Feb. 13

**Highlights of the cultural calendar**

**LINNEA BROWN**

**STAFF WRITER**

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Thursday, Feb. 13


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Friday, Feb. 14

*Back to Racing 1-Day contest—* Nichole Rule, known for her nickname "Kurt," and "No More Mr. Nice Girl" will perform at 7 p.m. at the Malt Bar, located at South French Avenue and Jerry Avenue. This event is sponsored by N.C. WJ and is in memory of sternum, Idaho 101 and 407-674-1609.

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Saturday, Feb. 15

Golden Knights road trip—Come see the Knights as they travel to take on their rival University of Central Florida, authentic Caribbean and Creole food. Tickets are $21 and two-day tickets are $30. Day tickets are $21 and two-day tickets are $30. This event is held at the Florida Gym. Call 407-823-2805.

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Monday, Feb. 17

*Roommates on College Life*—United Fresh Milk has 2000 attendees and is a formal in the fifth floor in the Special Collections Department. The exhibit is held to raise the profile of Omega. You can use a computer to make a reservation with a member of the community in the University. Admission is free. Call 407-823-2090.

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Tuesday, Feb. 18

*Underground comic exhibit*—The exhibit is held to display the student's art and to expand the gallery. Visit the University's website to find out more about the exhibit. Admission is free. Call 407-823-2090.

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Wednesday, Feb. 19

*Open-to-public*—See Sugar and cream through the TDK Sacred Entertainment's "Life's Sacred Experience" reflecting open trip. The second largest borrower in Florida. Reconsider your open trip. Ask about your weather permitting. The exhibit is held to make the public aware of the people who have been affected by various artists around the world. To see any of these, go to www.library.ucf.edu/gallery. The exhibit is held on the 2nd floor. Call 407-823-2090.

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Thursday, Feb. 20

*Judges to compete*—Judges will be at the House of Blues, at 407-823-2090. Sixteen artists, known for their diverse tastes, are asked to compete in the contest. The winning artist will be at the Florida State Fair in 2006. "Back to the future". Tickets are $10.25 in advance and $15 the day of the show. For tickets and more information, call 407-823-2090.

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**STAFF WRITER**

**BROWN**

**STAFF WRITER**

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**8 Days a week**

**STAFF WRITER**

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**Lifestyles**

**STAFF WRITER**

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**5 ways to get a last-minute date**

1. *Play dumb at the gym.* If you walk into the wrong locker room by accident, pretend not to know how to use the equipment and ask a hot girl or guy to show you. It's obvious after you arrive that you didn't work out a lot. Ask them to spot you while you bench press.*

   —**Erica Winter, 21**

   **Organizational communications**

2. *Try lying on your back at the pool or just lessen your bikini top and go off the diving board.* Say you need help by the guy who will be fighting over who gets to dive down and get it.*

   —**Eric Winter, 21**

   **Organizational communications**

3. *Go into the Lake Gator's common area and wait until a cute girl comes in to move her stuff from the washer to the dryer. Wait until she leaves, and then put your 4-pitch in with her clothes. When she comes back to get her stuff and pull your underwear out of the dryer, jump up and say, "Hey, that's mine," and look confused. You'll definitely have company that night."*  

   —**American Jones, 25**

   **Psychology**

4. *Sit down next to a bottleneck in the health center waiting area and pretend to be sick with the same thing they have.* This will form a fake bond, but hey, it's a conversation topic. Also, since they won't realize you're hitting on them right away, they'll be more likely to share stuff with you, like their phone number.*

   —**Mike Thompson, 22**

   **Art**

6. *Dude, I've peeled up so many chats at real plans. Just go through the button tree behind them and get the exact same thing they're getting, then sit down at their table and act surprised that someone else likes hamburgers with ranch dressing or whatnot. It works on the CD screen on campus, too — just start talking about whatever (Oh, they're buying)*

   —**Chris Lukas, 18**

   **Business**

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**A Valentine’s Day to forget**

**RACHEL ZALE**

**STAFF WRITER**

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As Valentine’s Day approaches, junior Rebekah Lane, 20, recalls a previous Valentine’s Day that ended in disaster.

"It was so perfect," Lane said. "We had been seeing each other only for a few weeks. He said that he did not know what to write."  

—**MADISON BROWN**

**On receiving a card from her boyfriend and not knowing what to do**

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**He said that he did not know what to write.**

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"It was not worth it to set myself up for heartbreak."

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"I ended the relationship a few days later." Lane said. "It was not worth it to set myself up for heartbreak."

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"It is that time of year that single people dread and everyone plans weeks ahead of time. But even though most people are reminded of heart-shaped balloons, chocolate and flowers, some are reminded of times when this day was anything but perfect." Valentine’s Day is supposed to be a day of laughter, joy, lots of chocolate and spending the day with loved ones, yet there are still ways people manage to mess it up.

Freshman Madison Brown, 18, received a card from her boyfriend last year with nothing written in it. "He said that he did not know what to write."

Two years ago junior Ryan Arnold, 21, was excited to spend his first Valentine’s Day in college with his high school sweetheart. But his excitement was crushed when she called and informed him that she had fallen for another bouquet of the same flowers — with her name on it.

"It’s a disaster," Arnold said that he did not know what to do. "You’ll definitely the guy will be fighting over who gets to dive down and get it."

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"I know what to do." Arnold apologized she walked him to his car, where she noticed that he had been sneaking out a few days and that he had been sneaking around for the past few days with another girl.

"It ended the relationship a few days later," Lane said. "It was not worth it to set myself up for heartbreak."

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"It ended the relationship a few days later," Lane said. "It was not worth it to set myself up for heartbreak."

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"It is that time of year that single people dread and everyone plans weeks ahead of time. But even though most people are reminded of heart-shaped balloons, chocolate and flowers, some are reminded of times when this day was anything but perfect. Valentine’s Day is supposed to be a day of laughter, joy, lots of chocolate and spending the day with loved ones, yet there are still ways people manage to mess it up."

Freshman Madison Brown, 18, received a card from her boyfriend last year with nothing written in it. "He said that he did not know what to write."

Two years ago junior Ryan Arnold, 21, was excited to spend his first Valentine’s Day in college with his high school sweetheart. But his excitement was crushed when she called and informed him that she had fallen for another bouquet of the same flowers — with her name on it.
A fondness for fondue

LIBBY BAIRD  STAFF WRITER

For those who love fondue, such as sophomore Stevie Mathews and senior Stephen Illsley, being able to make it at home was too much work. "If we had it will probably be off," Illsley said. "It's really hard to scrape off."

Fondue can be served as an appetizer, entree or dessert. Cast-iron fondue pots will work with any course, but pots made of ceramic or clay are the best option for cheese and chocolate, while oils or broths should use a metal fondue pot, according to Chef Emeril Lagasse's Web site. Even a candle under a shallow ceramic bowl will keep a chocolate fondue warm enough to eat.

Specially designed pots are available for as low as $8 in stores such as Target, but a plain saucepan and consisting of melted Emmenthaler and Gruyere cheeses with garlic, light wine and kirsch, or other brands.

First Illsley lit the fondue burner and poured in the beer while Mathews chopped apples, carrots and bread into bite-sized chunks. While the beer simmered, they added four cups of shredded cheese, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, garlic powder and mustard powder. "It seemed longer when we were hungry," Mathews said. "It's an interesting contrast of tastes, with the sweet apple and the tarty cheese."

Mathews enjoyed the gooey cheese mixture: "Everyone should have an inside-out grilled cheese on a stick. What's not to enjoy about inside-out grilled cheese on a stick?"

However, Illsley preferred apples with the cheese fondue: "It's an interesting contrast of tastes, with the sweet apple and the tarty cheese."

Although Mathews enjoyed the fondue, she said the next time she has it will probably be at a restaurant since making it at home was too much work.

Illsley and Mathews next tried making chocolate fondue. "Chocolate fondue is also often mixed with dessert liqueurs for added flavor. While cheesecake, pound cake and marshmallows are great with chocolate fondue, we served with strawberries and bananas and had three different toppings: chocolate sauce, while oils or broths should use a metal fondue pot, according to Chef Emeril Lagasse's Web site. Even a candle under a shallow ceramic bowl will keep a chocolate fondue warm enough to eat.

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Bad gifts, bad Valentine's and worse memories

FROM PAGE 17

her male roommate.

"I sort of asked me on a bit of a downward spiral for a little while," Arnold said.

Freshman Matthew White, 18, once received a pair of socks from her boyfriend for Valentine's Day.

"I was just like, ‘Oh thanks,’ I didn’t give too much of a reaction because it was not too exciting.”

Junior Laura Paz, 21, was begging for a date with her just a few days before.

"Lucky for me, I was fortunate enough to have my good friend J.J bring me roses and it definitely helped make my day much better.”

But sophomore Jeri Fenton, 20, was not so lucky. Fenton hoped for a nice romantic night with her boyfriend and planned an amazing Valentine’s Day dinner just last year for them.

"Everything was going perfectly until his ex-girlfriend showed up at the door as we were sitting down to eat. She was begging for him back and refused to leave until she got an answer and instead of taking her back, he invited her in to eat our romantic dinner.”

However, not all Valentine’s Days are horror stories. Despite Arnold’s breakup with his high school sweetheart, he will be spending this Valentine’s Day with his fiancée.

"It’s all about how you rationalize it to yourself,” Arnold said. "I’m either say OK, I don’t believe that the first person I ever really felt like I loved could do that to me or say OK, from now on, be a little more cautious and guarded about things,” It sure does suck, but you’re not dead and your family is still OK, so just learn, deal and move on.”

Jeff Rhim (left) and Anna Panzer contributed to this article.

Valentine’s activities for those without dates (by those without dates)

"My mommys and I am going to have a girls night. I was not as lucky. Fenton wins and a date party’ due to the excess competition. We'll do that to me or say ‘OK, I can’t have a girlfriend, I’m a student and I’m not a geek or anything — OK, so I am, I hate this stupid holiday.”

-Sam Weitzer, 19

Digital media

"I’m going to go see ‘Daredevil’. Not just because I’ve been waiting for it for a long time, but also because any girl who has been waiting for it for, like, I have, dearly doesn’t have a girlfriend, not to say I’m a geek or anything — OK, so I am, I love this stupid holiday.”

-Sam Weitzer, 19

Digital media

"All my single friends and I went to a really fancy restaurant, dressed up and exchanged little candies. So, we all felt loved, even if we didn’t have significant others.”

-Constance Katsafanas, 19

Psychology/premed

"I’m going for the triple crown of depression, drugs, masturbation, and crying.”

-Shawn Goldberg, 21

English literature

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THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

LINNEA BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Vrrrrroooooooooooommmmm! The ear-splitting sound of a 1,500-horsepower engine filled the air. An oversized monster truck, bump-bump-bump’d its way ominously toward the Reptoid.

"Gravedigger!" This announcement was met by hysteria as fans jumped to their feet and cheered. Some held up "G-A-A-E-E-M-G-E-E" poster boards, others chanted — and I gradually realized how much some people live, breathe and die monster trucks.

"Gravedigger is driven by Randy Brown," Steele yelled, provoking more applause. Randy Brown — my dad’s name! I joined in the cheering, feeling immediately partial to Gravedigger.

The two mammoth lined up side-by-side, facing each other. The trucks revved their engines as the audience held a collective breath. At last, once, the buzzer sounded and they were careening through the air, with Gravedigger pulling ahead at the last second. As smoke shot out of the Reptoid’s nose, both trucks hit the ground hard and triple-bounced, creating a spectacular visual effect.

"Wooooooo! On, Gravedigger!" Nancy and I cheered, clapping loudly. Despite the fact that our fingers were numb from the blistering wind, I hoped that we were adapting accordingiy to the monster-truck culture.

Next came the quad wars, a portion of the show that I didn't portion of the show that I didn't understand. Twenty guys in weird little lemming-like school uniforms came out and started a staged argument over the microphones. "You want me to take you to school?" Leeming No. 1 howled, threatening his competition.

Leeming No. 2 took the microphone, rambling on about there being "no rules in this game." Yada yada yada. The crowd cheered, the guys raced, and somebody won. I suppose it was entertaining, but it seemed as phony as a WWF event.

At intermission, Nancy and I cheered, drooling loudly. The trucks were lined up side-by-side, facing each other. With a couple who turned out to be the parents of Phil Foster, the 22-year-old driver of the High Roller monster truck. "You know they put about $250,000 into each of those trucks," Barbara Foster said. "And they have to replace parts after almost every show."

"Wow... talk about an ex-pensive hobby."

As we headed for home, I couldn't help but feel insignificant in my average, four-door Ford Taurus. However, I must admit that city life is more my style — where the Confederate flag and butt buckets are a lot less common.

The entire town of Bithlo was out to watch the monster-truck rally virgin event at the Citrus Bowl. I knew I had to go.

"The Reptoid, eh? Sporting teeth," I first heard that the United States Hot Rod Association’s Superbowl of Motorsports announcer Matt Steele laughed. "Another Florida boy, many miles — so we lied...

"You think we have here tonight..." I piled four of my friends in my car and drove off, forced to an abrupt halt in front of blond biker tricks, the big dawgs were threatening his competition.

After a brief session of BMX freestyle competition. Five monster trucks were allowed free range to do whatever stunts they wanted to, and we watched as Gravedigger plowed through each of those trucks, making the monster truck freestyle winner of the night. "All right, Gravedigger!" we yelled, joining in.

As we were leaving the stadium, we struck up a conversation with a couple who turned out to be the parents of Phil Foster, the 22-year-old driver of the High Roller monster truck. "You know they put about $250,000 into each of those trucks," Barbara Foster said. "And they have to replace parts after almost every show."

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