PART TWO IN A SERIES

Candidates put advocacy center stage

As the Feb. 17-19 SGA presidential election approaches, the five candidate slates have their views on the role they would play with administrators and the Board of Trustees, and sound off on solutions to improve SGA.

CARY GRAYSON
STAFF WRITER

If the five slates of candidates vying 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 on a more active role than past SGA administrations in providing student concerns to the most powerful entities on campus — UCF's administration, and the Board of Trustees.

Presidential candidates believe that the student body president needs to take a firmer role in issues, particularly controversial ones — such as granting President John Hitt a $30,000 raise — as a poor

Hip-hop artist may perform for homeless benefit

BEN BAIRD
STAFF WRITER

The SGA Senate will vote tonight on whether to spend $20,000 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 UCF for both a concert and a speech. The performance would be part of a weeklong event called Hip-Hop Week, hosted by the SGA Senate chapter of Elements.

The event has, in past years, dealt with affordable housing, but will turn its attention this year toward Orlando's homeless problem.

KRS-ONE was chosen over other possible acts including the less-expensive Doug E. Fresh, who would have cost only $10,000. SGA has cleared up the financial concerns that put some allocations in jeopardy.

Elements President Melissa Crespo said KRS-ONE was chosen because he had been

References in Action Series: CRIMINAL PROFESSIONAL

DEA agents discover Ecstasy lab in UCF student's apartment

Krista Ziliez
STAFF WRITER

 Authorities arrested two UCF students early Tuesday after they discovered an Ecstasy lab within their Waterford Lakes apartment.

Drug Enforcement Administration agents raided the apartment in The Fountain apartment 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 bathroom and a closet along with chemicals and devices used to make Ecstasy lab.

Ex factor

Ecstasy is taken orally. Usually it takes effect in about four hours.


Agents arrested two UCF students early Tuesday after they discovered an Ecstasy lab within their Waterford Lakes apartment.

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UFC takes lead on faculty union

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Students find secret fees tacked on tuition

Danielle DePari
Staff Writer

On the sixth week of classes, freshman Josh Scholfield decided to update personal information on his PeopleSoft account. After completing the task, he split, turned around and noticed something unusual: Puzzled, knowing he had paid the full amount at the beginning of the semester, Scholfield found a $14 fee for a physics class. Scholfield is not alone. Many students do not know about the fees that are charged in addition to their courses, particularly those held in computer labs, art and science courses.

Students sizable such fees seem to arbitrarily appear on their invoices. “I couldn’t understand how the fee had just gotten there,” Scholfield, 18, said. “It paid the full amount for my classes initially and hadn’t even received notice that I owed something further to the school. Then I found out it had something to do with the fact that the class was linked.”

Lee Choe, associate chairman of the Physics Department, explained that in fall 2001, the department decided to link classes with labs. The department did so because labs and classes often ran on completely different schedules with completely different material.

The system worked properly until the installment of PeopleSoft last spring. After this, the program allowed students to enroll in completely different labs and classes. Then, last fall, the department decided to create a “dummy” class to combat the problem.

“We created a fake course and closed the real course. This combined students that needed to be in the lab and class into one class,” Choe said.

After it was ensured that students were in the combined class, the department manually took students out and put them in the separate labs. Following this, the program changed students a $2 fee that should have been charged all along.

“I told the computer people to build the lab fee into the dummy course, because the same thing would happen if the student didn’t know about the fee,” Choe said.

Though Choe knew that the potential for a problem was certainly there anyway, the professors did not know and did not communicate the information to students.

The fee issue affects students in a broad spectrum of fields, and some express anger at the insufficient fees. Freshman Chris Hepler, 18, thinks UCF should have informed him that he owed money.

“I had no idea I had been charged anything additional to my account until a friend told me a couple days ago,” Hepler said. “I haven’t been on PeopleSoft in a long time, I have no reason to check it, I thought all the fees were charged at the end of the term.”

The consequences of not paying a fee he did not know he owed bothered Hepler. “I heard if I don’t pay the fee they’ll drop me from the class, and that scares me because if my friend hadn’t told me I would have been dropped,” Hepler said.

He added, “I think the school definitely should have sent out an e-mail or something.”

Choe said that because the problem is not supposed to occur there is no one responsible for communicating the information to students.

However, lab fee anger is not spreading now to the campuses. According to the Journalism Department, labs fees are charged across campuses not only on a lab-to-lab or art-to-science classes, but also to students enrolled in any class located in a computer lab. Various departments use these fees for computer repair and maintenance.

Expect Ecstasy crackdown here

PAGE 1

had planned to produce Ecstasy but told officers that Duplan did not know Williams was operating an Ecstasy lab in the room. DEA Agent Michael Stevens stated in the affidavit. Duplan had agreed to run the room in his name for Williams.

Two months later, a DEA agent in Sonora, Calif., discovered four shipments of LSD — a chemical used to produce the designer drug — shipped to Duplan, the affidavit stated. Duplan also ordered several chemicals and laboratory equipment through eBay and paid for them with a credit card and through a PayPal Internet account.

DEA agents say the Ecstasy lab is the first they’ve discovered inside an apartment in Florida. Law officials say the situation is unusual because Ecstasy is rarely ever manufactured in the United States, but is usually produced in the Netherlands or Belgium and smuggled in from other countries such as Canada, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

It is much more difficult to produce Ecstasy in the United States because DEA officials are constantly monitoring purchases for chemicals used to make Ecstasy.

Duplan and Williams are both being held at Seminole County Jail without bond and will appear in federal court Friday morning in Orlando.

Officials say the Ecstasy bust Tuesday is an example of the growing epidemic of the synthetic drug use in Orange County and all over the nation.

"The drug is very popular all over the country, in middle school, in high school, in college, in all different regional and economic backgrounds," said David Spall, an Orange County narcotics agent. Last year, law enforcement officials seized 25,000 Ecstasy pills — in just one year, half a million dollars on the street — in Orange County, Spall said.

Ecstasy, a stimulant and hallucinogenic, usually sells for $200-$300 a pill.

"The reason [Ecstasy] is so popular is people enjoy the effects — it enhances feelings towards others, enhances touch and taste sensations," Spall said. "People call it the feels drug.

But while the drug is widely popular, it can also be very dangerous.

"The problem is you never know what ingredients are in it — it can be anything from drain cleaner to amphetamine," he said. "The drug can vary wildly and that's what often causes people to over-dose."

In long-term use, there is evidence that Ecstasy can produce serious problems in the brain, which can often cause depression and sleep disorders in users of the drug wears off, he said.

"People need to understand this isn’t a nice drug," Spall said.

MTV CASTING CALL

Katie Reedy/CUF

Kokila Hunter, 18, while a member of an MTV crew snaps her photo to go with her application to qualify for various Spring Break reality TV shows. MTV held a casting call on campus Feb. 6.

Proceeds will benefit The Ripple Effect

Picture Page 2

homeless, herself, making film the ideal choice to perform and subsequently speak on the matter. If the expense is approved, it would be the first allocation this academic year from the SESA Speakers Fund.

Last semester $20,000 was allocated to the Progressive Council to bring activist and filmmaker Michael Moore to UCF. However, Moore ultimately said he had never agreed to do the event and had to decline the invitation after the money was approved. NISB that time there had been no other requests to tap into the Speakers Fund, which currently has $80,000.

Hiphop Week will include multiple opportunities for students to help the homeless. Crespo said. Elements of this program will feature local artists during the week.

This year’s hip-hop week is to help the homeless, the school said. Students can receive admission for the concert because the money comes out of SESA funds; however we will not forgo this opportunity," Spall said. "We’ll also have bone up set in the Student Union so that people can bring their donations.

The funds and goods raised by the event will aid the homeless through the group The Ripple Effect, an Orange County-based charity that provides the homeless with food and clothing every Saturday at Lake Eola Park. The Elements group has assisted with the organization on many occasions.

Elements, a hip-hop club, tries to promote more positive aspects of the hip-hop culture. The group derives its name from different aspects, or elements, of hip-hop culture including rapping, break dancing and graffiti art.

"We’re not about the stuff you see on TV — the naked girls, the drugs, all that," he said. "We’re about bringing people together as a culture," Crespo said.

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Publisher: UCFuture.com
News Desk: centralfuture@ucf.edu
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UCF takes lead in recognizing faculty union

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

Joel Addington, Reporter-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, compensation, and numerous other faculty concerns.

In 2001, the Florida Legislature passed revisions that recognized Florida's education system. In February 2002, Florida's Board of Trustees must 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 began to form collective bargaining units.

The adoption of Amendment 11 caused other changes. Now, each university must create a new collective bargaining unit. Florida's public universities can choose from the faculty union, represented by UFF, or the faculty union, represented by PERC. Florida's public universities can also choose to form a public employees relations commission.

The certification process with PERC can take a significant amount of time. First, the union initiates a voter drive. Cards are distributed and signed by faculty members, indicating that they want to be represented by a specified union. If 50 percent of the faculty signs the cards, then legality of the union can be submitted to PERC for certification. However, if the union obtains signatures from 70 percent of the faculty, it becomes the bargaining agent.

UCF-UFF obtained signatures 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 as the bargaining agent.

The board's decision effectively cut the red tape, skipping the certification process and paving the way for UFF to begin bargaining as soon as possible.

According to Jon Reiskind, president of the UF chapter of the University of Florida, Hitt probably recommended the voluntary recognition here because UCF is growing at such a frugal pace that it cannot afford to drag its feet on the bargaining issue.

UF, on the other hand, faced the same kind of growth problems, but has handled them much differently.

Last August and again in December, Reiskind said that the Gainesville faculty union sought a similar voluntary recognition. The UF administration responded by insisting on an election to let the faculty decide for itself, even though more than 70 percent of UF's faculty had signed cards saying they want to be represented by the union.

Like UCF-UFF also needs the bargaining situation settled before it can move forward with strategic planning, Reiskind said. Elements of the plan that affect terms and conditions of employment, such as instituting untenured faculty positions for example, cannot go forward until a contract is negotiated, he said.

He also said that elections have not yet been scheduled, and might even be delayed until next fall. Reiskind called Hitt's recommendation a "pragmatic solution."

At the University of West Florida in Pensacola, UFF chapter President Nicholas Fiorito said the Board of Trustees there also refused to voluntarily recognize the union and wanted to wait for elections to take place.

Fiorito said that many of the Board of Trustees members, like the rest of the Panhandle region, are conservative and anti-union.

A few weeks ago, the UFF chapter at Florida State University requested voluntary recognition via a letter to President T.K. Wetherell, said FSU faculty union President Jack Arsenault. In response, Wetherell issued a letter that said:

"We are committed to respecting the rights of faculty to vote in an open election on the issue of collective bargaining. We made this commitment to our faculty and intend to honor it. This should in no way harm our cur­ rrent or future relationship with the UFF as I am sure you would agree that it is important that we honor the faculty right to vote."

In other words, FSU has not taken any action.

Fiorito described the frustrating circumstances that the union has faced at FSU.

"We have been prevented from communicating directly with our Board of Trustees. I attended their meeting in May 2002 after being assured by the provost that he would arrange for me to have a few minutes on their agenda." Fiorito said that after he arrived at the meeting, the provost said that "the chairman"

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

If elected, Talakala plans to take the student body on fun bike rides 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 said he 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 participation on key UCF committees, such as the parking and traffic committees, 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 students fighting for something instead of just one on the board," Battles said.

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

Talakala’s two sides to every issue, but we think [the president] should take a stronger stand and vote with the students’ opinions,” Houchins said.

And Houchins doesn’t just want to vote based on his own ideas — he wants to know student concerns so that he can take 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 Streep’s agenda is somewhat different — he would like to work on practical solutions to reduce textbook prices for students by allowing outside vendors to sell books on campus.

"There’s two guarantees when you go to UCF — you’ll have to pay for tuition and you’ll have to pay for textbooks," Streep said.

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

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

"I think we need to streamline the processes so that as the university is changing policies, ours will change with that," Kirby said. "So that we won’t have that gap," Kirby said.

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

Talakala and his running mate, Constance Kahalana, want to make SGA more accessible to students by publishing where SGA allocates money from student activity and service fees. Talakala also intends to set up publicized 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," Kahalana said.

Battles and his running mate, Joe Macellana, believe outside perspective offers the most effective solutions for improvements and want to create walls on committees within the executive branch where students can offer valid concerns and effective solutions.

Battles and Macellana also want to implement an open-door policy and publish 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 nonexistent to the SGA Senate... there’s not really anything we could do to make them be there, other than making it more publicized that they aren’t doing their job," Mitchell said.

Streep and his running mate, Anson Crewell, 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," Streep said.

Streep and Crewell 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 Ortle, Kirby said they plan to set office hours for the entire SGA staff so they can 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 and publicize 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.

"This is a problem," Talakala and Kahalana 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.

Talakala and Kahalana also want to improve Safe Rich, expanding the service to include shuttles that can carry every campus bus to popular destinations, such as expert venues and clubs.

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

"In the past, a lot of times that money wasn’t allocated," Battles said. "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 participation at sporting events and will 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 Macellana 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 Safe Ride program by presenting students from across the service and negotiating better contracts with transportation companies.

Houchins and Mitchell also want to expand scholarship programs such as those with the annual "Who at UCF?" roster as well as merit-based and leadership scholarships.

Streep and Crewell want to make sure that the Late 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," Kirby said.

Please read Candidates on 7

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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,” Fortado said.

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

“I’d like to think that President Wetzel, the trustees, and other top administrators were simply unaware that the authorization court signed by the faculty specifically requests UFF representation,” Fortado said.

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

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

“I like the faculty at UCF, we would like to get on with negotiating a contract tailored to our university’s and faculty’s needs,” Fortado said. “We know we can win a representation election, and a negotiated contract 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 requested 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 per cent of the faculty had signed, the neutral party reported 60.8 per cent of the bargaining unit signed cards, Fortado said.

The UFF headquarters is located in Tallahassee. Statewide UFF President Tom Auxter whose organization is responsible for 9,000 faculty members across Florida, said UNF President A. Hendy 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 means 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 recommendations: some faculty like physicians and counselors, would have to be removed from the bargaining unit (or the group covered under the contract).

Fortado expressed frustration at the string attached to voluntary recognition. However, Auxter said, “I don’t doubt for a minute [the UNF-UFF’s campaign to bargain] will go forward.”

Auxter said that last year, class-pairing membership in UFF grew from 3,500 to 4,400. For 15 years, he said, growth was flat; “the goal for next year is 6,000. It’s rational for a university to voluntarily recognize a union, said Auxter. He doesn’t mind. 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, that school’s board of trustees voted unanimously to recognize UFF as the bargaining agent for New College faculty.

UCF-UFF Vice President and former UFF state President Rosie Joles 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, Joles said.

Also, Florida is the only state with public employees in the southern United States, accessing a bridge.

However, she said, some northern states, such as Ohio, have more favorable laws directing unions than Florida. Florida’s state names an “uneven playing field.”

Bargaining between UFF and the administration will begin in a matter of weeks at UCF. “I think of this as a bridge,” Joles said of UFF’s Board of Trustees vote on Jan. 31. “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 Cleveringa also wants to make it a priority to start an SGA book fair, where students can sell 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.

Kirkew’s main objectives include lobbying Congress for student loan deterrents after graduation and 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 rape messeng with them,” Kirkew said.

Kirkew 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 fantastically last term,” he said. “The problems we have with Safe Ride is that we have individuals who are profes sional students who are changing the way the program was designed to operate.”

Questions? Comments?
Email Julie at stylinchik02@aol.com
Or call (407) 823-5335

FOR ME, FAITH IS NOT ABOUT RULES, UNCOMFORTABLE CLOTHES, OR SOME EARLY AM MEETING. FAITH IS NOT ACTING LIKE SAINTS ON SUNDAY AND SINNERS THE OTHER 6 DAYS. FAITH IS ABOUT TOUCHING SOMETHING LARGER THAN YOURSELF—the Eternal One—and allowing that touch to change you. NUMINUS WAS STARTED TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE WHO THINK LIKE I DO. IN THE PROCESS, I HAVE FOUND A GROUP OF FRIENDS LIKE ME WHO ARE LOOKING FOR MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS AND A SPIRITUAL CONNECTION.

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February 13, 2003 • The Central Florida Future
GM Bets $2 Billion On Smaller Lineup

General Motors Corp. is preparing to sell its remaining small car and truck plants, leaving its so-called economy class offering to Chrysler Corp. and Ford Motor Co. GM, which is generating losses of $4 billion a year in its North American division, will focus on only three metropolitan areas: its sprawling Youngstown-Warren industrial base in Ohio, its sprawling automotive-parts plant in Saginaw, Mich., and its sprawling parts plant in Richmond, Va. GM is also considering closing or selling its sprawling automotive-parts plant in Saginaw, Mich., and its sprawling parts plant in Richmond, Va. GM is also considering closing or selling its sprawling automotive-parts plant in Saginaw, Mich., and its sprawling parts plant in Richmond, Va. GM is also considering closing or selling its sprawling automotive-parts plant in Saginaw, Mich., and its sprawling parts plant in Richmond, Va. 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EBay Finds New Niche: Used Cars

By Nick Wingfield
and Karen Linderlund

Would you buy a used car over the Web? Until recently, the conventional wisdom was that you wouldn’t. Most Internet pundits and analysts believed for years that paying thousands of dollars for a second-hand auto without taking a test drive or at least kicking the tires...

What’s News

In Business and Finance

Continued from Previous Page

Only one to qualify: having bought more than one doesn’t qualify you for more money. It’s one settlement check per customer.

State Tuitions Soar,
Think Tank Says

States are posting along their budget woes to public university students and their families, an influential think tank says. Tuitions are rising by double digits in some states, while the amount of state- funded student aid is dropping.

The result, says the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, San Jose, Calif., “is the worst fiscal news for public higher education institutions and their students in at least a decade.”

For students like Jason Hassen­bohm, that’s just fine. He had such a profit, students like Jason Hassen­bohm, that’s just fine. He had such a profit, students like Jason Hassen­bohm, that’s just fine. He had such a profit, students like Jason Hassen­bohm, that’s just fine. He had such a profit, students like Jason Hassen­bohm, that’s just fine. He had such a profit, students like Jason Hassen­bohm, that’s just fine. He had such a profit, students like Jason Hassen­bohm, that’s just fine. He had such a...

By Jay Hendry

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**OUR STANCE:**

**Ecstasy bust sign of things to come**

**L**ast month, 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 UCF faculty members. In doing so, UCF left the door open to a progressive manner by recognizing the Faculty union of Florida as a legitimate union for UCF faculty members. By extending its recognition, the UCF administration opened the door to improved relations between UCF faculty members and administration.

Currently, faculty members at those nine universities cannot bargain collectively with their bosses. By taking this step, those administrations create an environment in which their faculty members feel anger, resentment and confusion 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 the other universities went through the laborious process of collecting signatures from a majority of the faculty members. By doing so, those chapters demonstrated their resolve and commitment 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.

These faculty members, like those at UCF, should have the opportunity to collectively bargain. As unions have demonstrated for at least a century, when 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, University of South Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University and Florida Polytechnic 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 recognize those unions and give them the bargaining power they deserve.

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

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**OUR STANCE:**

**Embracing unions improves faculty relations**

T}uesday'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 concerned about the spread of Ecstasy and other such drugs that they plan to dedicate resources to eradicating its use or at least severely hamper 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, nausea 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 laboratories, which means the quality and contents of the drug are unknown, Ecstasy may be fatal. Whether people deserve harsh punishments for Ecstasy-related crimes or not, the arrests Tuesday should remind everyone that authorities consider Ecstasy a scourge of our society and they will stop at nothing to do away with it.

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.

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Women make their mark in technology field**

Women make their mark in the technology field... This letter is in response to Dora Peters' article "Girls Allowed?" published Jan. 30, 2003, and many traditionally male-dominated fields are now drawing more women. The world is a better place when all talents are recognized.

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**Men work the day shift**

Women make their mark in the technology field... This letter is in response to Dora Peters' article "Girls Allowed?" published Jan. 30, 2003, and many traditionally male-dominated fields are now drawing more women. The world is a better place when all talents are recognized.

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**Greek funding a long-debated issue on many campuses**

Solving a debate that has been at the forefront of Greek systems since the 19th century is a recent society debate. It doesn't surprise me that the subject of funding Greek-letter organizations and other student organizations is a hot topic on campuses. Whether people are satisfied with the status quo and all the organizations that come with it.

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Affirmative action in the NFL?

I THINK IT'S KICKIN' IN

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, even among the notable exception—racially motivated sports analyst and football expert, the late Jesse Jackson.

The NFL has come under fire in recent months for its hiring policies. Earlier in January, high-profile lawyer Johnnie Cochran protested the Dallas Cowboys' selection of Bill Parcells, demanding that the team lose draft picks and face penalties because Dallas didn't hire a black coach. Only two coaches of color are black—Tony Dungy of the Indianapolis Colts, and Marvin Lewis of the New York Jets. When you consider that about 60 percent of the league's players are black, this seems a little suspect.

Jackson makes a good point that there are qualified black candidates clamoring for a shot at a coaching position. In reality, though, Bush has his own, very different reasons for his pre-emptive attack on Iraq.

The first, and most trivial, of his 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 no 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 felt it was a no-brainer 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 main reason 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 the Florida Keys to expand fishing. 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 quickly realize the president's plans.

Gustavus Adolph Shiver can be reached at adshiver@ucf.edu

Affirmative action in the NFL?

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Gustavus Adolph Shiver can be reached at adshiver@ucf.edu
Senior Marius Boyd’s defense has been a major reason the Knights are 17-7 this year.

ADAM SHIVER

Junior Dexter Lyons brings intensity to Knights’ games.

KRISTY SHONKA

Knights need to take last games one at a time

KRISTY SHONKA

Dolphins and the Hatters back in January, while the Trojans currently lead the Atlantic Sun Conference and UCF site in a tie for second in the South Division with Mercer. Sure Jacksonville has lost its past two games by a combined 59 points and Woodson has only won four games all year. But the

Please see Troy on 15

SIGNING DAY

Walker, Turner could contribute next season

KRISTY SHONKA

Last football season was a good one for UCF’s offense. Quarterback Ryan Schneider threw for more than 3,500 yards. Wide receivers Jimmy Fryxel and Doug Gabriel each surpassed 1,000 yards, marking the first time a receiving duo has accomplished that feat at UCF. And the traditionally pass-happy system saw its first 1,000-yard rusher since 1995 in Alex Haynes.

The good news for Coach Mike Kruczek is that Schneider and Haynes will return for the 2003 campaign. The bad news is Fryxel and Gabriel won’t. Both are seniors and hope to be playing on Sundays.

Please see Beckton on 14

Knights face final North Division foes

CHRIS BERNHARDT

A month ago things didn’t look too great for UCF’s women’s basketball team. After ending their non-conference schedule with a 77-47 loss to Florida State, the Golden Knights stood at 4-7 but with hopes that the conference schedule would breathe new life into their floundering season.

Thus far, it has. They’ve gone 7-2 since that point, and have won five of their last six games to improve to 11-9. Recently, UCF has played a stretch of games against members of the Atlantic Sun’s North Division. Already 5-1 during that span, the Golden Knights will end this week with games against two of the divi-

Please see Freshmen on 15
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Young but talented at defensive back

Kristy Shonka

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

That group had two seniors in starting cornerback Amane Samuels 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 safeties Mark Bigby and Peter Sands both saw time as their freshman years before starting their sophomore seasons. Sands finished second on the team in both interceptions (5) and tackles (90) last season while Bigby tied for 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 second on the team with 80 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,” coordinator and co-defensive backs coach John Fentie said of his recruits.

Titusville’s Berkendy 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, 180-pound Parks led Central Florida with 161 tackles. He recovered three fumbles and returned one 85-yard fumble for a touchdown. He recorded three sacks and had 10 kick returns for 261 yards, including a 69-yard touchdown.

Ponente compared Parks to the hard-hitting, high-flying Bigby and said there was no question about whether he would come to play as a true freshman.

“He’s going to play a lot of football for us his first year,” Ponente said. Parks 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-10, 189-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.

Edgewater’s Troy Washington was the best defensive back in the nation after he committed to Ole Miss in the fall. He was also a National Honor Society and a mentor for middle school students.

FROM STAFF WRITER

Peter Bigby

That group had two seniors in starting linebacker Chris Bigby and defensive tackle Todd Turner who runs a 6.2-second 40-yard dash.

Beckton said that physically, Narsesian is a 6-foot-1, 225-pounder who runs a 4.54-second 40-yard dash with a 4.2-second 20-yard sprint.

The team was third on the conference in pass defense. But the Knights do have some returners from the 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,” coordinator and co-defensive backs coach John Fentie said of his recruits.

Like Amane Samuels and Patrick Holland, the 6-foot-5, 185-pounder considered himself a leader on the team last season. Holland was a starting safety for the Knights the past two seasons.

"It’s not a matter of him taking the reigns with the defense. It’s a matter of putting his leadership out there," Beckton said.

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"It’s not a matter of him taking the reigns with the defense. It’s a matter of putting his leadership out there," Beckton said.

Beckton looks for Marshall to emerge as leader

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. Walker is a Winter Park quarterback while Moffett, Beckton said, was farther along than Brooks Turner during his freshman season. Walker was a high school quarterback.

"Unfortunately,坚强,” Beckton said, "Offered by Tennessee. Offered by Miami. Offered by Ole Miss. Signed by UCF. That’s how this place has gotten.”

Walker played in the 2003 UCF Hawai’i Spring game, where he caught five passes for 75 yards. Four of those passes came from his future teammate Moffett.

Walker is a 6-foot-6, 255-pounder, first committed to Ole Miss before changing his mind and signing with UCF. Bigby met him the No. 22 receiver in the nation after he caught 40 passes for 812 yards and 10 touchdowns his senior year. Edgewater coach Bill Gobris, who also coached Walker’s brother David, said Walker is further along than Gobris was at the end of his high school career.

Walker is a 6-foot, 185-pound explosive receiver who runs like a running back after he catches the ball. He has four receptions for 500 yards and 10 touchdowns his senior season. He also recorded touchdowns running and on a punt return. He earned MVP honors at the Howard-Jade All-Star game.

Beckton said that Chris Narsesian, a 6-foot, 185-pound wide receiver from Lake Howell, has already told the coaches he wants to redshirt his first year. Narsesian is noted for his speed and hands. He was the first commitment of Beckton’s recruiting class to play as a true freshman. As a true freshman, the 5-foot-9, 185-pounder caught two passes for 15 yards. He also saw time on special teams.

Beckton said that Marshall, a 6-foot-3, 180-pounder, has great height and speed and can help the Knights spread the field. He was a late commitment who chose UCF over Syracuse and Kansas State.

If Walker and Turner do play next year they will be competing with seniors 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 only other returning receiver who recorded a catch last season. As a true freshman, the 5-foot-9, 185-pounder caught two passes for 15 yards. He also saw time on special teams.

Beckton said Marshall had trouble reading routes last season, but going through practice this spring should help him out.

"Upon he gets accustomed to what we do here at UCF I think he’s going to be a phenomenal receiver,” Beckton said. Whether or not he’s the Knights’ first-string wide receiver will be a role player in the receiving corps next year while Sumpter is an explosive receiver.

Marshall is the only other returning receiver who recorded a catch last season. As a true freshman, the 5-foot-9, 185-pounder caught two passes for 15 yards. He also saw time on special teams.

Beckton said Marshall had trouble reading routes last season, but going through practice this spring should help him out.

"Upon he gets accustomed to what we do here at UCF I think he’s going to be a phenomenal receiver,” Beckton said. Whether or not he’s the Knights’ first-string wide receiver will be a role player in the receiving corps next year while Sumpter is an explosive receiver.
Despite being hampered by a Troy State-Mercer game were preseason all-conference game at home Knights winning record, but they had been home 85-63. Both win North Division has implications - for Jacksonville Samford, but the preseason on big losses to Belmont and implications on game. Both Warner and Sheppard The Trojans won the earlier Hatters lost by only seven points Tip-off for both the Division favorites are still a dan- care ·

**FROM PAGE 12**

Troy State-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.

The Knights (17-7, 9-2) travel to Jacksonville (10-12, 5-5) tonight. The Dolphins are coming off big losses to Belmont and Sanford, but the preservation South Division favorites are still a dice game, but JU is 5-2 at home. Senior forward Calvin Warner leads Jacksonville averaging 18.7 points and 7.3 rebounds a game, while guard Kevin Sheppard, who averages 16.5 points a game. Both Warner and Sheppard were presaison all-conference selections.

The Knights head to DeLand on Saturday. Stetson (4-1, 2-8) was over Belmont was the Hatters’ first over A-Sun team with a winning record, but they had been playing better. After wins against Campbell and Gardner-Webb, the Hatters lost by only seven points to Georgia State and by eight to Sanford before their upset of the Terriers.

Stetson is paced offensively and defensively by senior guard-forward Austin McMillian, who averages 18.6 points and 4.1 steals a game. The Hatters take care of the ball, while foreign oppositions to turn the ball over. Stetson leads the A-Sun with a 4.8 turnover margin and averages 14.4 steals a game.

Stetson also features a showdown between Troy State and Mercer, which will have major implications on UCF's place in the A-Sun standings. Troy State (19-14, 4-10) and UCF both win their games, the Knights will move into sole possession of second place in the South Division. If Mercer (15-5, 6-2) wins, UCF wins, the Knights would sit a half-game up on the Beas and Trojans.

The Trojans won the earlier game at home against Mercer 88- 81. The Knights have won the A-Sun auto- A-Sun teams to beat Troy State, as they won on the road 76-61, taking the somewhat warped circle, Mercer beat the Knights at home 86-69. Both UCF and Mercer fall at home to Belmont for their only other conference losses. Tie-breaks for both the JU and Stetson teams is at 7 p.m.

This year's two games give UCF a good opportunity to tape up for the stretch run of the regular season, composed of five games against fellow South Division opponents. The Golden Knights are tied with Troy State for second place in the division with a conference record of 7-2, just one game behind Florida Atlantic (9-1), whom they tied to bid next week.

It would also give the Golden Knights a chance at some more才算 to tape up young players, such as Celeste Hudson, LaShay King and Shelby Weber. Along with the opportunity to tape up big losses to Belmont and implications on game. Both Warner and Sheppard The Trojans won the earlier Hatters lost by only seven points Tip-off for both the Division favorites are still a dan- care ·

**FROM PAGE 14**

UCF Coach Mike Kruczek announced Monday the hiring of Jim Robinson as the men's basketball coordinator Robinson replaces Charles Hall who was reassigned after the 2001 season. He will also assist defensive coordinator Bill D'Orlando in coaching the line- backers.

Robinson comes to UCF after a one-year stint at Houston where he was special teams coordinator. He led the Cougars to a dramatic turnaround, starting special teams and coaching Lou Groza Award Semi-finalist Dustin Bell. Houston won from 17th in 2000 to first in Conference USA in 2001. He is good at his opponents' punt return yardage.

Robinson is a former defensive tackle and defensive coordinator. He will move to Orlando and will begin his on- field duties when UCF begins spring practice in February.

UCF relay teams shine at Gator Invitational

Top 10 finishes by two relay events on the first day of the A-Sun women’s track and field team par- ticipation at the Gator Invitational hosted by the University of Florida on Sunday afternoon.

The distance medley team – which included freshmen Autumn Clasens and sophomore Amy Collins and Valerie Mattox – fin- ished seventh in the event with a

**FROM THE SPORTS DESK**

**Kruczek hires special teams coordinator**

Rounding out the top UCF seniors was Ericon Garcia, who tied for his best time of the season. The Golden Knights return to competition on Sunday.

Junior David Mann continued his strong season. Mann picked up the Mincks picked up the

**Minks shuts out Bethune-Cookman**

Senior Lincoln Mincks struck out a career-high 10 bat- ters in six innings Tuesday night as the Knights beat Bethune- Cookman 14-0 for their first win of the season.

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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
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For Engineering and Computer Science Students
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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 a.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

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A Valentine’s Day to forget

RACHEL ZALL
STAFF WRITER

As Valentine’s Day approaches, junior Rebecca 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 a few weeks. He said he was going to stop by and drop off my gift, so he came to the door and he had a dozen roses in his hand. They were beautiful, but the card didn’t have my name on it.”

After apologizing he walked him to his car where she noticed another bouquet of the same flowers with her name on it. She soon found out that he had been sneaking around for the past few days with another girl.

“I ended the relationship a few days later,” Lane said. “It was not worth it to set myself up for heartbreak. It is that time of year again that single people dread and complexes play 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 Bryan 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 someone else. “I was really surprised that someone else likes him more than I do,” Brown said. 

5 ways to get a last-minute date

“The day ends up wasted. Guys, look at the wrong locker nerd by accident. Or pretend not to know how to use the equipment and ask a hot girl or guy to show you how. It’s obvious that they already work out a lot, ask them to spot you while you bench press.”

—Jen Miller, senior

Communications

“Try laying out naked at the pool or just loosen your bikini top and go off the diving board. Scare them when you jump up topless and yell, ‘Can someone help me? My bathing suit is at the bottom of the pool.’ The guys will be fighting over who gets to dive down and get it.”

—Erica Weather, 21

Organizational communications

“If you like the lake, bring your lawn chair 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 6 pack 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, 19

Psychology

“Sit down next to a booth 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 store with you, like your phone number.”

—Mike Thompson, 22

Art

“Dude, I’ve picked up so many chicks at real plan. Just go through the buffer, look 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 whatever. It works in the CD store on campus, too — just start talking about whatever (Oh, they’re buying)”

—Chris Lopez, 18

Business

—Compiled by JUNIA BROWN
A fondness for fondue

Libby Baird, STAFF WRITER

For those who love fondue, such as sophomore Stacie Matthews and senior Stephen Illsley, being able to make it at home is a delicious treat.

Matthews, 19, and Illsley, 20, both tried making cheese fondue for the first time at home. The ingredients included five cups of shredded cheese, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, garlic powder, a can of light beer, apples, carrots, and French bread, which cost about $10 altogether.

Fondue is a method of cooking that uses long forks and a variety of foods, which the diner cooks in a pot over a heating element. The word fondue comes from the French word fondre, or to melt. Modern fondue came from Rondou au Proumage, developed by the Swiss and consisting of melted Emmenthaler and Gruyere cheeses with garlic, light wine and kirsch, or cherry brandy.

First Illsley lit the fondue burner and poured in the beer while Matthews chopped apples, carrots and bread into bite-sized chunks. While the beer simmered, they added four cups of shredded Cheddar cheese, and one cup shredded Swiss cheese, one handful at a time, stirring until it melted. Next they added a tablespoon of Worcestershire sauce, mustard powder and garlic powder. Matthews then stired in about 15 minutes until the cheese began to melt. Matthews enjoyed the French bread cubes covered in the gooey cheese mixture.

“Everyone should have an inside-out grilled cheese on a stick,” Illsley said. “What’s not to enjoy about inside-out grilled cheese on a stick?”

Matthews agreed. “It’s an interesting contrast of tastes, with the sweet apple and the tart cheese.”

Cheese fondue, while high in fat, is a delicious food served with sliced carrots, apples, French bread and any other vegetable the individual may desire. Although Matthews 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 Matthews next tried making chocolate fondue.

Chocolate fondue is also often mixed with dessert liqueurs for added flavor. While cheesecake, pound cake and maraschino cherries are great with chocolate fondue, they are served with strawberries and bananas making for healthier options.

“I love chocolate fondue, but we wanted to try making the cheese first because it can function as a meal by itself,” Illsley said.

They bought pound cake, strawberries, Soft Batch cookies, chocolate chips, caramel sauce and milk to make it. While Illsley set up the fondue set, Matthews ground the pound cake into one-inch-square chunks. Illsley poured in a quarter-cup of milk, while Matthews microwaved a cup of chocolate chips for two minutes. The recipe also called for strong liquor, but because they weren’t legally able to buy it they had to leave it out of the recipe.

“I wish we had liqueurs to flambe it, because I think I would have liked it better,” Illsley said.

Matthews then stirred the milk and Illsley cut the tops off of the strawberries. When the chocolate was smooth, Illsley added about a half-cup of caramel sauce. The chocolate fondue was then ready for them to dip the bite-sized chunks into the gooey chocolate and enjoy.

“Like the cookies,” Illsley said. “They’re good.”

But Matthews preferred the strawberries.

“I love strawberries. I could eat them all day,” she said.

Although the chocolate wasn’t as tasty as the cheese, it was much less work to make, but not as enjoyable.

“The chocolate wasn’t nearly as hard to clean up as the cheese was,” Illsley said.

“Too much chocolate makes you sick after a while I guess,” Matthews said. “You can never overdose on cheese.”

Making fondue at home can be a relatively simple process with the right equipment and simple enough recipes.

“It’s a lot cheaper than going out to restaurants and you can control all the details and customize it to your own taste better,” Illsley said.

Matthews had other reasons for enjoying fondue at home.

“It’s a great way to have a different kind of fun with your friends.”
Bad gifts, bad Valentine's and worse memories

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

My name is and I am going to have a girl named .

Valentine's party due to the exam comments of the day.

My friend and I might be having a date competition. Will have 24 hours to get a date, and whoever has the most date wins.

I'm going to go to 

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.

I'm going for the triple crown of depression, breakup, masturbation, and crying.

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Bad gifts, bad Valentine's and worse memories

From Page 17

her male roommate.

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

Freshman Heather 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 Pue, 21, had a bad Valentine's Day one year when her boyfriend broke up with her just a few days before.

"Luckily, I was fortunate enough to have my good friend . Bring me roses and it definitely helped make my day much better."

But sophomore Jeri Pimentel, 20, was not so lucky. Fenton hoped for a nice romantic night with her boyfriend and planned an amazing Valentine's Day dinner just a few hours after her breakup with him.

"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 fiancé.

"It's all about how you rationalize it to yourself," Arnold said. "You either say OK, I don't believe that the first person I ever really fell 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 Wein (Nov/Dec and Nov/Jan) contributed to the article
Live, breathe and die monster trucks — the rest of Florida does

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

"And here comes the Reptoid's opponent," Steele declared, as a big, black monster truck bumped-bumped 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-3 A-A-E-E 44-G-E-K" posters, others clasped — 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 monsters lined up side-by-side, facing the ramps of dirt designed to launch the trucks over two impressive stacks of spray-painted junkyard cars. The trucks revved their engines as the audience held a collective breath.

As the last one, the buzzer sounded and they were careening through the air, as Gravedigger pulled 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.

"Woaaaaaa! On, Gravedigger!" Nancy whispered. "Our, I'm sorry. Despite the fact that our fingers were numb from the blistering wind, I hoped that we were adapting accordingly to the monster-truck culture.

Next came the quad wars, a portion of the show that I didn't entirely understand. Twenty guys in weird little leotards-like four-wheelers came out and roamed around the track, until two of the men stopped driving and started a staged argument over the microphone.

"You want me to take you to school?" Lemming No. 1 roared, threatening his competitor.

"Lemming 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 like a waste of time.

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We leave home at 6:30 p.m. — along with every other monster truck-fan in Florida. After being stuck in stadium traffic for two hours, there was no parking for miles — so we had to drive around a few orange cones and parked in VIP (Hey it was an act of desperation.)

Once we had successfully snuck our cameras past the site security personel, my friend Nancy and I found our seats with our three half-drunk guy friends wandering off in search of beer. Despite the chilly weather, the stadium was nearly filled to capacity — with fans sporting a wide array of colors, wranglery-wearing country folk.

"That's not anything wrong with that ... especially when you think about the non-attendance at UCF's football games. As if reading my mind, Steele suddenly shouted, "How many people do we have here tonight from Florida?"

The entire town of Plant City holstered back.

"How about all of 'em?" The Chuluota residents booted their response. A tipy woman with a basketball-sized ball beside her stood up and drunkenly pretended to boas her boyfriend. For the first time in my life, I silently thanked my parents for raising me in good Olehomeville.

The entire town of Plant City holstered back.

"How about all of 'em?" The Chuluota residents booted their response. A tipy woman with a basketball-sized ball beside her stood up and drunkenly pretended to boas her boyfriend. For the first time in my life, I silently thanked my parents for raising me in good Olehomeville.

When we first heard that the United States Hot Rod Association's Superbowl of Motor Sports was being held here, I didn't have much hope that it would be anything special. But then we heard about the monster trucks.

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."

"Wow ... talk about an expensive 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 bell bottoms are a lot less common."

"And they have to replace parts after almost every show." Barbara Foster said, "And they have to replace parts after almost every show."

"Wow ... talk about an expensive hobby."

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### Classifieds

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>lake camp for girls</td>
<td>10 a.m.-5 p.m., Fri., Sat., Sun. 5 p.m. Tues., Thurs, June</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>407-596-4683 for more info.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 200 FOR SALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boat</td>
<td>For Sale: Boston Whaler &amp; Tidewater, 25 ft.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Call 407-885-0503.</td>
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</tbody>
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#### 250 Automotive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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#### 325 Homes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Room for Rent</td>
<td>In Oakridge Estates.</td>
<td>Call 407-253-3443.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Master suite, 2 full baths, 2-car garage, near UCF.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$800/ month plus utilities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Bedrooms, 1 bath, 2-car garage, UCF area.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$700/ month plus utilities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Bedroom, 1 bath, 2-car garage, UCF area.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$650/ month plus utilities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Bedroom, 1 bath, 2-car garage, UCF area.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$550/ month plus utilities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 CAR GARAGE.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$500/ month plus utilities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 CAR GARAGE.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$400/ month plus utilities.</td>
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#### 350 Homes

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HOMES

ROOMS FOR RENT

350 ROOMMATES
M/F wanted for furnished BDRM in new 3 bdrm home on lake, gated community. 6 mins from UCF, $475/mth, incl util, no pets, no sec syst, pool & tennis. 3/17/03-3/19/03, 3/23/03-4/19/03. 407-281-9523 or 407-970-5241.

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