Runoff candidates trade tantrums

Voting resumes today amid spectacle of impeachment charges, election violations

Ben Baird

In what is shaping up as an extraordinarily close and ugly battle for the student body presidency, current Student Government Association vice president Brian Battles and Brian Kirlew both said they would find themselves ineligible for office if they are found guilty of campaign misconduct.

Battles and Kirlew each will go before separate review committees that will decide whether the two runoff candidates have violated election laws and thus should be eliminated from the race.

Kirlew will answer to impeachment

PEACE SEE Kirlew's on 6

Battles, Kirlew advance as campaign continues

Gary Graffon

It's back to the polls today for students who will vote in a runoff election after a record 5,241 ballots narrowed the field of Student Government Association presidential candidates from five states to two last Wednesday.

Brian Kirlew, 22, and Brian Battles, 23, the two current SGA vice presidents, will face off again in a runoff that continues through Wednesday because neither received more than 50 percent of the vote.

Kirlew and his running mate, Kevin Ortia, 21, won the primary with 1,900 votes, or 28.6 percent, Battles and Joe MacLean, 21, collected 1,925 votes — just .4 percent — for 25.1 percent.

The team of Jeff Stroop, 20, and Aaron Clevenger, 20, finished third, with 1,255 votes, or 20.3 percent.

Reviewing out the race were the slates of Nathan Thalikala, 25, and his running mate Constance Katsadas, 19, (1,052 votes, or 16.4 percent), and Andrew Hounell, 20, and running mate Nathan Mitchell, 20 (200 votes, or 3.1 percent). Another 32 votes were cast for write-in candidates.

Please see Candidates on 6

Class project pushes to merge Orlando and Orange County

Jason Irsay

What began as a class project for doctoral students in Associate Professor Aaron Liberman’s public affairs class has become a full-fledged study that has attracted the attention of some of Orange County’s top government brass.

The project was to figure out a mechanism by which the Orlando and Orange County governments could consolidate, Liberman said.

On Wednesday, three of his students, Lynda Dennis, Mark Johnson and Briel Oetjen, will present the work of the class to several government officials at a forum set up by former Orange County Chairman Linda Chaplin, who is currently director of UCF’s Metropolitan Center for Regional Studies.

The 19-student class had to explore the possibilities of consolidation, a process by which multiple municipalities combine services and operate under a single government. Supporters of consolidation argue that it creates more efficiency, while opponents feel that consolidation destroys the local identities of cities and towns.

Chaplin thinks highly of the study, although she would not commit on whether she supports it. “When I heard about the lengthy and exhaustive study and work the students had done, I thought it would be a shame to put it on the shelf,” Chaplin said. “It was thorough and in-depth, and so in essence I expect everyone

Please see Mayors on 4

Dropping acid

Orange County Fire Rescue responds to chemical spill

Krista Zeller

One person was taken to Winter Park Memorial Hospital after a 2.5-liter bottle of sulfuric acid fell from a shelf and shattered on the floor in a room of UCF’s Biological Sciences building Friday.

Orange County Fire Rescue responded in a call around 4 p.m. from a UCF police officer who reported the spill on the fourth floor of the building.

“Employees were putting the bottle back where they belong and a shelf gave way,” said Edean Rivera, a spokesman for Orange County Fire Rescue.

Two other UCF employees who came in contact with the acid complained of nausea and dizziness and were examined on the scene. None suffered serious injuries.

UCF police evacuated about 100 people from the building by pulling the fire alarm and cordoning off the area as a precautionary measure while they waited for

Please see Three on 3

Orange County rescue workers equip themselves with protective suits after an acid spill Friday in the Biological Sciences building.
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Three UCF employees treated for minor injuries

From Page 1

Orange County Fire Rescue hazardous materials unit arrived.

"The UCF police department did a fantastic job of phoning the alarm and making sure the building was being evacuated," Rivera said. "Anytime you have a spill of acid, you have to evacuate because it’s corrosive and gives off fumes that could be toxic.

"Forced in protective suits, four hazardous material workers went into the building to test the spill that they originally suspected was sulfuric acid.

Workers later discovered it was an acetic acid spill, a chemical much less volatile than sulfuric acid, but more flammable, said Sgt. Troy Williamson, crisis prevention coordinator.

A team of workers had to return to the building with different materials to clean up the acetic acid spill, while the first team was hosed down before they removed their protective gear.

Once inside, workers neutralized the spill with a gel product specifically made to clean up hazardous materials, Williamson said.
Mayors may not like idea, but citizens see it differently

from page 1

to learn something Wednesday on both sides of the issues.

Chapin used her connections within Orange County government to set up the forum. With Dr. Liberman's help, Chapin invited a panel of local government experts to respond to and challenge the study's recommendations.

The panel includes four experienced officials: Former Orange County Administrator Tim Williams, former Orange County Administrator Jean Bennett, former city of Orlando Mayor Howard Tipton, and former Winter Park Mayor Joe Terranova.

Additionally, many government officials from throughout the region will attend the forum, according to Chapin.

"I'm very pleased with the response of local officials," Chapin said. "I knew the number of mayors, county commissioners and other elected officials who have let us know they plan to attend." 

Chapin, Liberman and the graduate students anticipate Nugent not just coming but also asking questions.

"There very well could be some strong feelings involved on the part of the government officials," Chapin said. "Cities, for instance, like the idea of maintaining autonomy. They want to have to go to one municipality." Under the current form of government, citizens must pay taxes to both the city and county in which they live.

The most immediate way consolidation affects Orange County residents, particularly UCF students who live near UCF just miles outside of the city of Orlando, is that a consolidated government would let them vote in Orlando elections such as the current mayor's race.

Liberman argues that consolidation keeps government size and expenses under control by limiting the duplication of services. "The strongest argument for consolidation is, big government is going to be what we now have. We're going to pay the costs of these governments. If we don't benefit, we're going to pay the cost," he said.

While studying the implications of full consolidation, the class considered four interest groups: Orange County government, the city of Winter Park and the city of Orlando.

Chapin said that Orlando and Orange County officials have discussed consolidation occasionally, but never studied the idea as extensively as in the UCF study. "Most often, and recently, it's discussed in the context of solving problems," Chapin said. She cited the cooperation between the fire departments of Orange County and Orlando.

I was interested in what the students had already done because I'd never seen an in-depth study of discussion," she said.

Both Chapin and Liberman praised the class's study as a demonstration of UCF's growing role in the greater Orlando community. "What is the purpose of a public research university if not to contribute to pertinent issues of the day and consolidation is one of those issues," Liberman said.

Liberman said the project demonstrates the skills of his students, who come from different backgrounds, including public administration, psychology, criminal justice, social work, nursing and health administration.

"In any view, this is a real opportunity to UCF and the public affairs doctoral program to showcase the good work and talent of our students," Liberman said.

Chapin, who served as Orange County chairman from 1990 to 1998, agrees with Liberman that a university should generate dialogue within the community. "What I'm primarily interested in is promoting a dialogue on interesting and important issues.

Cities and counties have considered the idea of consolidation elsewhere for almost two centuries, Liberman said. New Orleans became the first city to consolidate when it combined with Orleans Parish in 1802. During the 1950s, some major cities consolidated with their county governments, such as Cleveland, Ohio, with Cuyahoga County, and Louisville, Ky., which combined with Oldham County in 1968.

In the most recent high-profile consolidation, Louisville, Ky., merged with Jefferson County for this year.

While Orlando follows in Louisville's footsteps, Liberman and Chapin think the city and Orange County should at least consider it. "We are going to offer the first step in this dialogue," Liberman said.

Liberman wants people to notice the city and allow the citizens contact their legacies and city leaders to look into the possibility of consolidation," he said.

officials urge students to go on waiting lists

from page 3

was going to be for non-freshmen, I didn't think I would get housing," she said. "I think our process was much easier than what freshmen have, and I think it was a better chance of getting housing." 

Peter Mitchell, associate dean for Housing and Residence Life, explained the need. "There's better retention of students who choose to live on-campus because the university wants them to get adjusted to college life, but I think 40 percent is too much," Calw said. "Sixty or 70 percent would be more reasonable. It's much superior to get a chance of getting housing."

Chapin, a son of the director of Housing and Residence Life, felt the lottery was the fairest way to offer on-campus housing contracts to returning students.

"We can't make everybody happy in this process," she said.

Students said that their fate is live in a dorm is down from a little black box. 

"We're sorry that there are some who may not get housing, but we're glad we made 274 happy," Chapin said.

Housing and Residence Life sent out several memos and e-mails as reminders to students about the application process, yet many students still failed to meet both requirements by the deadline. As a result, about 200 students were not included in the lottery and placed on a standby list.

Those who did not win housing through the lottery will be placed on a waiting list based upon when their names were drawn for on-campus housing.

College Housing participants were exempt from the lottery and will still be awarded housing regardless of the lottery results.

According to Mitchell, students who were placed on the standing list will be placed after those on the waiting list. Students who paid only the $100 deposit will be placed after the students on the waiting list, and students who turned in only the housing form will be placed next. The order of both groups will be based on student ID numbers.

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Kirlew's calls generate a protest in senate session

Three congressmen want draft reinstated

Candidates allege unethical campaign tactics in SGA race

Florida Republicans, said the current volunteer force has proven to be adequate and certainly is more motivated than a force that includes drudges. "I am not necessarily opposed to the draft if the bill is approved by Congress," said Senator Ketz. "But there are other options that need to be considered." Ketz cited the possibility of a "selective service" system, which would allow for a more fair and equal distribution of military service among citizens.

Free the Planet President Ryan Brown said reinstating the draft would be "a step in the wrong direction." Brown said that without a draft, the United States would be unable to "defend our way of life against the threats we face." Brown called for a "voluntary" military system, in which citizens would be given the option to serve.

The draft has been a controversial issue in American politics for decades, with advocates on both sides arguing for the benefits and drawbacks of a draft. Some argue that a draft ensures equality in the military, while others believe it is unfair to require a draft and would lead to widespread opposition.

However, the reinstatement of the draft has not been without its detractors. Opponents argue that a draft would be ineffective and could lead to widespread evasion. They also argue that a draft would be a violation of individual rights.

In the end, the decision to reinstate the draft will likely depend on a variety of factors, including the political climate and the willingness of Congress to consider the issue. As the debate continues, it is likely that the issue of the draft will remain a contentious one in American politics.
Black History Month

UCF scholar sheds light on Black Seminoles

MARSHALL SPENCE

Rosalyn Howard abandoned the conveniences of modern life to explore a society that historians have overlooked.

Howard, an assistant professor of anthropology at UCF, brings to light the history and culture of a unique Seminole community that has roots in the Seminole Indians of Florida in her book, "Black Seminoles in the Bahamas."

Howard spent a year in the Bahamas studying the people of Red Bays, a relatively isolated settlement on the northwestern end of Andros Island. The community consists of about 300 people known as Black Seminoles, a group people whose African descendants escaped slavery in the United States to peacefully coexist with the Seminoles during the early 1800s.

Howard lived with two different families during her stay and only took a weekend break to attend her son's graduation in Red Bays, named Omelia.

In fact, the people of Red Bays, started by her father, Marshall. Not only was Marshall widely accepted as the settlement's patriarch, but she also served the community as a midwife and bush doctor. Marshall made innovations in the traditional, basket weaving style of Red Bays, started by her father. She has also been awarded several times for her contributions to Bahamian tourism.

The community of Red Bays is a patriarchal society according to Howard, and the men are traditionally thought of as the breadwinners. Ironically, it is the women who actually bring in most of the income with their basket weaving.

In fact, the people of Red Bays rely upon basket weaving as one of the island's main sources of income. Fishing.

P.S. Set Society on 8

Shabbat Shalom Central Florida

How about learning something new for Shabbat? Then make sure you come to Pegasus Ballroom AB on Friday, February 28th at 6pm. We will be holding two separate services. Afterwards, join us for some and oneg, dessert, and fun times! RSVP to Julie at stylinchik02@aol.com

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**Society escaped persecution to Bahamas**

Black Seminoles who were already a conglomerate of many different tribes. The former African slaves integrated and peacefully lived with the Seminoles for many years. They became known as Black Seminoles. In the meantime, the Americans invaded Florida and the Seminole Wars began.

The Seminoles, along with the Africans that had joined them, defied the U.S. forces and fought them. But the Americans eventually won. However, about 150 to 200 Black Seminoles managed to escape into the wildcats of Florida, and made their way to the southern coasts of Florida.

In 1811, with no place else to go, the Black Seminoles gathered at some boats and escaped as they could, and headed out to sea without looking back, Howard said. The Black Seminoles knew about the Bahamians and, in fact, had asked the British in the Bahamas for sanctuary; several times. But the British turned them down. The Black Seminoles eventually landed on the remote, northeastern coast of Andros Island and established the Red Bay settlement.

From there, they migrated throughout the island, where they have lived ever since. To this day, they consider themselves an unbeset and uncompromised people. Howard returns to Red Bay every year to visit — she is considered a member of the community now. She tries to help the people there as much as she can. In the past, Howard has mailed countless books that her anthropology students donated to the people of Red Bay. Howard said she is now trying to help them sell their books on the Internet.

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**Black History Month**

**Critics: Affirmative action needed**

**Impact of One Florida unclear**

**Danielle DiPari**

After the Bush administration filed legal briefs with the Supreme Court in January urging it to overturn Michigan’s affirmative action admissions policy,quilting a iber fabor among supporters and opponents, President Bush praised Florida as an ideal model of racial diversity in public education with a neutral admissions policy.

But many at UCF where One Florida proudly works best, call Bush’s answer to racial diversity in higher education flawed and misconceived because of its disproportionate ratio of minorities to non-minorities.

Of the freshmen who entered for the fall 2002 semester, minorities comprised 48 percent. This included 12 percent Hispanic, 2.5 percent African-American, 5 percent other, and 6.7 percent American Indian.

Tracey Dietz, assistant psychology professor, said students should not yet praise One Florida, as the program does not have a proven track record of increasing diversity.

"You must realize that increases in minority student representation at UCF or any other state university may be caused by something other than One Florida, such as changing population demographics and non-Hispanic whites choosing to go to out-of-state schools," Dietz said. "More importantly because we do not have data on graduation rates and they need to be looked at, we should really draw any conclusions about the success or failure of the One Florida program."

Many students such as sophomore Charleste Lewis, 19, believe One Florida is a poor excuse for reparations needed for years of open discrimination.

"If they won’t give us reparations for slavery, affirmative action is needed, not Florida, as the government’s to make things right," Lewis said. "Affirmative action is needed for people to know that we’re not just aiming at the fact that the same policy will not be needed in the workplace," she said.

The One Florida program, launched by Jeb Bush in 1999, guarantees students who rank in the top 20 percent of their graduating class admission to a state university. However, the plan does not guarantee a university of their choice, which students like sophomore Joseph Thomas, 19, think, allows particular universities to discriminate.

"Even if students have the same grades as others, there is still discrimination as to what universities will accept which students," Thomas said. "Affirmative action is needed."

"I can’t understand why, in assistant psychology professor said that higher education needs some type of affirmative action to prevent a longstanding reflection of society.

He said that when teaching race and ethnicity classes in the Midwest he had little to no racial diversity in the classroom. He added that it made the classroom an inadequate place to learn about racial issues. He called UCF the most diverse place at which he has taught. That diversity helps students learn from experience.

"We can’t change our stereotypes, but we can change the way we think," Wright said. "It’s up to each of us to face our stereotypes and to understand each other." Wright said.

Vice President Thomas Hsu-Hofferton believes the One Florida program, as a whole, will bring more minorities to universities. He said that it is an effective way to enhance diversity on college campuses.

He added that one of the most impacting aspects of the plan is to work with middle-school students in the area of college preparation in order to promote college attendance. He said UCF promotes partnerships that sponsor these events. "We believe diversity is a form of education," Wright said. "Students will receive an immediate view of the world if they attend a school which does not provide a diverse environment."

Wagner Bureaugrass, a psychologist professor, said people who practice racial prejudice, agrees with Wright that universities should strive for diversity. Bureaugrass said when people say affirmative action is not needed and that the One Florida program works fine. He said affirmative action needs to be done both at universities and in recruiting for jobs nationwide.

"What it boils down to is whether or not you believe affirmative action needs to be taken to correct past discriminatory patterns, some of which are continued in the present time," Bureaugrass added. "Are some not aware of it, because [discriminatory patterns] may not be as blatant as they were in the 40s, 50s and 60s."

"Though UCF does practice a traditional method of affirmative action, there is always some type of opposition, Gordon Chavis, executive director of admissions, said UCF does practice a deviation of affirmative action.

"We act affirmatively to admit lots of different types of students, such as athletes, musicians, alumni children, national merit scholars, etc," Chavis said. "In fact and given good academic credentials, we might admit an oboe player over someone else. If the music department believes we need to fill the matching band, that could be a form of affirmative action."

According to Chavis, UCF has one of the best records for recruiting minority students in the state, although UCF legally cannot actively recruit minority students.

In order to accommodate the needs of minorities in Florida, the state has created two new law schools, which cater to minority communities. The new law school at Florida A&M will attract mostly African-American applicants, while the law school at Florida International will attract Hispanics.

Junior Christine Cooper, 20, said she believes a diverse environment enhances her education.

"I think that learning how to communicate and collaborate with people of all races in the classroom will definitely help me to be more knowledgeable in the workplace," she said.

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Black History Month

Festival celebrates Nobel laureate

JASON IRSAV
STAFF WRITER

After promising to appear at a conference in honor, not even a blizzard could keep Wole Soyinka from fulfilling his word to come to UCF.

Capping a three-day festival in his honor, Soyinka, a Nobel laureate, inspired and amused a crowd of roughly 50 students and scholars Wednesday in the Pegasus Grand Ballroom.

Reading from his latest book of poetry, "Sanamukand," Soyinka, the 1986 Nobel Prize winner in literature, entertained the crowd with poems inspired by life in his native Nigeria. Soyinka is not only an award-winning writer, but also has earned fame and respect as a playwright and a poet.

Soyinka's appearance followed two and a half days of lectures from world-renowned scholars of African literature. Scholars came from as far away as the University of West England and from universities across the United States to present research papers about and discuss Soyinka's work.

This scholars included Bernd Lindfors, a visiting instructor at Harvard University, who is widely considered the most authoritative literary scholar of Soyinka and critic and influence on the teaching and promotion of African Literature and criticism in North America, according to the festival's organizer, Lisa Ottenwolde, an Orlando-based freelance journalist. Lindfors presented the first lecture during the conference, titled "Wole Soyinka's First Homecoming."

James Gibbs flew in from England. He sat on a panel that discussed "African Literature and Criticism Now."

Other presenters focused on Soyinka's contributions to African theater: Esteeble Irby, an associate professor of international theater at Ohio University, sat on a panel that discussed "African Theater Now: The Soyinka Paradigm." He later presented "Dance, Trance and Transcendence — The Semiotics of Spirituality in the Plays of Wole Soyinka."

Although the literary and theater communities have long recognized Soyinka as one of the world's great writers and playwrights, the UCF community largely did not know who Soyinka is or why he matters.

The ignorance of people at UCF regarding Soyinka's importance and the lack of support from the UCF community prevented organizer Ottenwolde from making the festival as large as he envisioned, he said.

"The lack of sponsorship was the biggest problem," Ottenwolde said. "Once I failed to get the type of money I needed to have the event go the way I had planned, I had to drop some activities, like stage performances of Soyinka's works and a musical concert that would have featured a renowned African artist."

However, despite the difficulties he encountered, Ottenwolde said he was pleased with the festival. "If quality is what counts, the first Wole Soyinka Festival at UCF is a great success," he said.

The first example of days of the experience attracted little attention from the UCF community, but Soyinka's appearance Wednesday — delayed by a paralyzing snowstorm in the Northeast — drew students and admirers. Some students had heard about Soyinka's appearance from professors; others came with their professors to hear him speak.

Freshman Sheryn Botts, 19, did not want to miss a chance to hear a Nobel laureate speak. "I felt that this was an opportunity I couldn't pass," Botts said. "It's not everyday we have a Nobel Peace winner coming to speak to the student body."

Similarly, Associate Professor Corbia Rodriguez-Milano asked her ethnology American literature class if they wanted to attend Soyinka's appearance, and they took her up on the offer. "We don't often get the opportunity to hear a Nobel laureate, and I think it's really important to hear writers that have that world recognition," Milaanes said.

Soyinka did not disappoint the attendees. He began by reading "Doctor's Vision," a poem about a patient near-sighted in one eye and far-sighted in the other. He followed with "Voting Trees" and "Tareg for a Nation," which he read for the first time in public.

Soyinka also read "After the Storm" from his latest book of poetry. "Perhaps see Event on 11"
Event for writer may get a home at UCF

From Page 10

Delays," about a stopgap vision that has not been fulfilled; "Lost Vision," a poem about the poems he has misplaced over the years; and "Business Lunch."

Soyinka then opened the floor to questions from audience members. Most of the questions came from the different scholars in attendance, many of whom have spoken with Soyinka before; however, some admirers also posed questions to the Nobel laureate.

One audience member asked about Soyinka's attitude toward neocolonialism, a historical movement that affirmed the independent nature, quality and validity of black culture. Soyinka attributed the rise of neocolonialism to colonialism in Africa and called it inevitable. However, he did not support it.

"The quarrel we have with neocolonialism is over-reconstruction, which then obscured a lot of both historical and contemporary literary elements," Soyinka said.

Paschal Ema, an assistant professor of literature at the University of Akron, asked Soyinka about his views on globalization. Soyinka said the march of globalization could not be halted.

"What I believe is our responsibility is to make sure that globalization is not Americanization, or indeed any other nationalization," Soyinka said.

Soyinka said he hates globalization but has fallen prey to it. "Being venomously against globalization, I have a confession to make," he said. "When I travel and I am jet-lagged, first thing in the morning, I'm looking for one sign, Starbucks. They make that mean espresso... I look around, find my espresso. Down with globalization."

The crowd laughed.

Soyinka also addressed a question about the role of religion in African culture. Soyinka talked about the two religions, Christianity and Islam, which try to exert their influence on African people. "These interfacing religions are the beginning," Soyinka said.

"The new wave we are witnessing is a rapid, fundamentalist aggres-

Soyinka said he thinks this will happen. "There will be a kind of disappointment in our student turnout," Bots said. "I think that the students should take advantage of the university sponsoring a Nobel Prize, or any author, any publisher author who's coming and willing to give their time."

Bots said that he wants to make the event better for the next year. "We need to gather support from the organizations and Planning committee through the African Association, which is to a student group," Bots said. "He hopes for more funding and support from UCF next year."

Although the university did not actually sponsor Soyinka's appearance, Omoworth hopes it will in the future. Students may get another chance to hear Soyinka speak next year. Omoworth said he wants to make the Wide Soyinka Festival an annual event at UCF if he can get cooperation and support from the UCF community.

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OUR STANCE:

Bigness makes Barr bad for Orlando

A s Orlando citizens go to the polls Tuesday to pick a new mayor, they will do so with allegations of bigness floundering around their heads.

Both Pete Barr Sr. and Buddy Dyer have accused the other of bigness. Barr, a retired advertising executive, called Dyer a bigness for falsely fearing the Democratic Party line — not the usual definition one associates with bigness, and Dyer knows it. But Barr’s own behavior required him to try damaging control. Barr has most words and made comments that demean blacks, women and Jews, according to two City Council members, his former employees and an official written complaint on file with the state.

All of Barr’s statements have come to light since Feb. 4, when Barr emerged from a pool of eight candidates to earn a spot in Tuesday’s runoff election with Dyer. Barr initially tried to dismiss the eight double last year’s total of 3,107. Unfortunately, because of Orlando’s narrow drawn borders, most UCF employees and students have no say in the election because they do not live within the city limits. That fact should focus added attention on a study by two MSU professors, to be released Wednesday, that urges consolidation between the governments of Orlando and the surrounding Orange County. Consolidation would make Tuesday’s vote, and all future Orlando votes, much more important to those at UCF.

Meanwhile, for those who are eligible to vote in the city, Dyer is the right choice.

There’s good and bad in SGA activism

There’s great news in the fact that a record 6,521 UCF students voted in last week’s Student Government Association special election. That’s more than double last year’s total of 3,107. Such a strong turnout should keep interest high heading into today’s runoff election, when the top two vote-getters — the teams of Brian Kirkiew/Kevin O’Grattan and Brian Battles/Jo MacLellan — will face off in balloting that continues Wednesday.

But before anyone should put the back on a job for a well done, endeavor that those 6,521 votes still represent only about 17 percent of the student body. In other words, 83 percent of students did not care enough about who represents their views on the Board of Trustees to cast a ballot, even though it takes just minutes by computer to log on to a Polaris account from any location and do so.

That lack of interest is appalling. Then, again, so are the occasional antics of elected student leaders, who should focus up to the fact that maybe it’s their fault students take SGA less seriously than they should.

Last Thursday’s meeting of the SGA Senate is Exhibit A.

The current SGA election figure prominently as the senate meeting crested into a crisis, with various members lobbing accusations of racism, and others trying to ruin people’s reputations. The meeting turned into an exercise in democracy, not democracy.

Kirkiew, who runs senate meetings in his current elected role as student body vice president, doesn’t help to keep those sessions from dissolving into exercises in folly and foolishness.

During Thursday’s session, when Sen. Jeff Streepe — the third-place finisher in the special election — ambushed Kirkiew for his actions during the campaign, Kirkiew telephoned a number of his supporters to show up and raise a ruckus. Kirkiew should keep senate meetings under control, not try to incite riots.

While Streepe is working to discredit Kirkiew, Kirkiew has been trying to undermine Brian Battles, his co-candidate and Kirlew’s opponent in this week’s runoff election. Regardless of who wins the election, Kirkiew and Battles still have to work together until May. After what has occurred during this campaign, it would be understandable if the two never wanted to work together again.

Such behavior is symptomatic of a widespread problem in student government. As we have reported previously, SGA leaders here have their own agendas, and those agendas too often do not coincide with students’ needs or wants. Senators routinely walk out of meetings, miss votes and sometimes do not bother to show up to meetings at all. They neglect legitimate student concerns to engage in petty name-calling.

SGA needs more professionalism in its ranks, not less. These student politicians should remember that their No. 1 responsibility is to serve students, not smear those who disagree or challenge them. Students should do more work to understand each other and work for the SGA candidates slate that will not most professionalism and make it a goal to instill that attitude in the Senate as well.

Letters to the Editor

If you can’t party with Ron Jeremy, you’re a party pooper

Lucille Brown has a right to her opinion in her column “Party with a signed porn star” published Feb. 20, but she can’t control wanting sexually explicit and nude. Porn, even when distributed by girls, is not appropriate in a public setting.

I am sure she is a smart girl and knows what she is getting herself into. Why the cats-corn farm kids and people who frequent where she was stranded, were not identified, maybe prevents any words, not bad, but a look at parties’ people. Wrong in saying with nothing and getting turned on by the same.

Some of us are comfortable with sexual things and aren’t bothered about it. It is the same as saying about sexual explicit display or anything dealing in bad taste, to her he in the same ...

— Lisa Roman

Anti-war celebrities protected by free speech, too

In the opinion, “Celebrities shouldn’t dub in world peace,” by Kevin O’Grattan, published Feb. 20, he discusses the public and our war statements made by numerous celebrities.

People’s group put their first amendment rights by walking in front of a camera by speaking a certain opinion. Opponents has added these opinions and American. Voting opposition to the government’s plans does not make a person an American.

“Since when do Hollywood celebrities know more than the American intelligence community and when did they decide to switch sides from a political point of view?” he asks in his column.

The way she got into her own information about the situation and take on the role of political analyst.

No democratic celebrations for making political statements against the war, calling their conditions unacceptable because they do not have access to confidential national security information, people get the definition of power and potential costs of wars are in court and how the speeches to the politician it is deny the principles of a democratic state to our public officials and people is madness.

We celebrities include, have the ability to and use the position and the influence of war and should use those abilities.

— DAVID HOLLIS

Our stance:

"Imagination is the only weapon in the war against reality." — Jules de Gauthier
Duct tape can't save us from reality TV

Mental Doodles

CHRISTOPHER ARNOLD STAFF WRITER

Gallon of water. Check. Three-day supply of non-perishable food. Check. Duct tape. Check. With my disaster-preparation kit securely in place, there's only one thing left to do — act normal.

Now, your average person might look at an apartment layered with cans of albino tuna (it's a dolphin-safe, after all) and gallons of Evian water and question its resident's perception of "normalcy." Of course, if that so-called average person broke the duct-tape seal I have dutifully placed over every crack and crevice and discernible entryway to see those cans and bottles, I might be forced to switch on "abnormal" mode — you know, turn green and bulky; burst out of my britches like a cheesy sci-fi B-movie set labically.

Despite the best intentions of the missing link to be relied upon each other and every few days compete in obstacle courses for fish bait and a piece of the action. The Missing Link is sent to a chateau in France to not only pretend he has $50 million, but — and this is so much more of a stretch — that he's actually a happy sapling involved in some surrealistic courtship ritual.

Previously, celebrities — and I use the term loosely — have tried to get in on the action. Such lopsided personalities as Kathy Griffin and Stephen Baldwin tried to find out what Hollywood has been actually a mole in celebrity's clothing.

I'm told Griffin is a comedienne, although I always thought that meant the person was funny. And Baldwin, well, he and his brothers resemble a real-life version of the Michael Keaton film "Multiplicity" with Stephen being a third- or fourth-level clone doing more than a little bit upstairs.

Of course, this is old news. The most outlandish show is one that just recently began — ABC's "I'm a Celebrity: Get Me Out of Here!" Yes, that's the actual title. The premise of the show strains celebrity in Australia.

That's pretty much all I need to know because the list of participants includes Cris Judd, Melissa Rivers and Robin Leach. Judd is no relation to Ashley Jones's husband. Rivers can be seen regularly on "Entertainment Tonight" criticizing celebrity fashion and un eclipsing her jaw for moon- time feedings with mother Joan. Leach coined the phrase "champagne wishes and caviar dreams," which should have been left if the '80s.

Maybe we could just leave them out there?

Besides the fact that former, fringe and wannabe celebrities have latched on to the genre of reality television as a vessel to continue waning careers or as a springboard for new ones, the simple fact remains that "reality" is a misnomer.

These are game shows. At the most, label them with the "extreme" tag that is popular today. Whether the prize is money, marriage or merchandise, they are still prizes the competitors envision winning. The celebrities vie for the real thing. In these respects, the shows are not unlike "The Price is Right" or "Jeopardy.

Where they do differ is in their duration and their environment. Not confined to a set for a half-hour taping, these shows take on unorthodox locales. Competitors might have to commit significant blocks of time to the competition, whether that be weeks or months.

It can be argued that the reality presents itself in the interpersonal relationships and the reactions to the settings and challenges, as reflected through the unrehearsed documentation of the camera.

But let's face it. If I were to win $25,000 playing Plinko on "The Price is Right," my excitement would be just as real. Likewise, if I bust over a "Jeopardy" podium and charged Alex Trebek because an incorrectly-stressed syllable lost me the game, that would be a real reaction.

As for the documentary nature of the camera, the validity of this argument seems to be offset by the role of the editor when it's all said and done. More than offer reality, these shows want you to be compelling. They want viewers to tune in and see what happens next. They want advertisers to pay top price for sponsorship. The editing of reality ensures this.

Mind you, a program that fails into this style of reality can be automatically bad. There are definitely some entertaining aspects to this style of programming. Conversely, there are really bad programs in every genre.

But these shows are anything but reality. For that, we have the nightly news, which has now informed me that I am still missing moist-tiered festivities from my disaster-preparedness kit.

On the humanity....

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Scala, Hudson light up Florida Atlantic

Wallace plays hero

Knights split with East Carolina

The UCF baseball team split the first two games of its home weekend series versus East Carolina.

The Golden Knights (4-4) already with three home losses, took another one on the chin at Jay Bergman Field on Saturday afternoon. The Knights dropped them 8-7.

"We dropped a ball out there, didn't recognize the fly ball with two out which was an easy catch," UCF Coach Jay Bergman said. "And then it kind of opened the gates and they took advantage of it. And then we kind of let down and that was real disappointing to me because that's the first time this year that I've seen the team get down.

That fly ball came in the sixth inning of the sixth, when East Carolina rallied from a 5-2 deficit with two runs in the inning. UCF starter Mark Michael had already given up a two-run homer to Ryan Norwood that made the score 5-1, but it looked like he would get out of the jam with a short fly ball to right field. But rightfielder Dee Brown appeared to get a late break on the ball and it fell in for a two-out double.

That proved to be Michael's last batter as Lincoln Minch, making a rare relief appearance, came out of the bullpen. Minch proceeded to give up a walk, an IIB single and a two-run double. Suddenly the Golden Knights 5-2 advantage became a 7-0 hole.

"All we were looking for was one out in that situation and I felt like Lincoln was experienced enough to come in and get out of the jam," UCF Coach Lee Haggard said.

That's exactly what Minch did, leaving the Knights in a 7-0 hole, and helping himself by getting out of the jam with a double, getting two out.

Senior Rich Wallace knocked in P.J. Leatherman in the bottom of the 12th inning Friday for a 6-5 win over East Carolina.

Knights lose their No. 1 seed chance

Ed Dobson had 14 points and nine rebounds, but UCF couldn't overcome a 10-point second half deficit, losing to Mercer 60-40 Saturday night at the UCF Arena. The Knights lost back-to-back games for the first time this season.

Playing before the home crowd for the final time in their careers, the Knights three seniors, Abellard, Dobson and Markus Boyd, combined to score 40 points. The Knights were downed, however, on the glass. Out-rebounded 45-20, UCF couldn't seem to come up with the key rebound when it was needed. The Knights had 14 offensive rebounds and converted them into nine second-chance points in the second half.

"When you go on the road, win the battle of the boards and limit their possessions and shot attempts, that's huge," Mercer Coach Mark Skaggs said.

The Knights came out strong in the first half, and trailed by five at halftime. UCF committed only seven turnovers the entire game, and helped themselves by
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AFFA: sits alone atop the Atlantic Sun South Division

FROM PAGE 14

came out hot in the second half and helped her team build a 58-40 edge with a free throw at the 11:26 mark. But UCF rallied back and with just over seven minutes left got back out in front with a Hudson three and eventually built a 68-62 lead.

Likewise FAU came back and had a 75-73 advantage with just over a minute to go before the Golden Knights got yet another three from Hudson. The Lady Owls got two free throws from Julie Good to go up 77-76, but couldn't build on that during their next possession thanks to a shot clock violation. Then with 8.5 second left, forward Erin Paige hit the game winner for UCF.

Scalia's 22 points in a season-high and tied with Pierce for tops in the game. For Hudson, a freshman, the 23 points is a career-best. Tidbits Allen also chipped in with 18 points for UCF. Trinitee McCleod had 17 points for FAU, while Good had 11 and six assists.

The six treys by both Scalia and Hudson tie them for the third best single-game total in school history. UCF which led the A-Sun in three-point shooting a year ago, had found itself near the bottom in that category this season. But the Golden Knights have shot well from downtown the past two games and appear to have gotten hot at just the right time.

High-school students shadow sports marketing

KRYSTI SHONKA
STAFF WRITER

When University High School senior Aileen Alfonso and her volleyball teammate Iluska Garman and Assistant Director of Sports Marketing Gert Garman, and Assistant Director of Sports Marketing Lynne Roberts showed up to meet the coaching staffs of both the men's and women's basketball teams before getting a feel for the program at the WWE Sports Center on Saturday night, the trio was confident the team would be ready. "The next two weeks we're going to have to work on our fundamentals, and we're going to have to put together our game," he said. "So we’ve gotta get back to our old UCF style, defense comes first."

Even though Mercer went into overtime, the Knights led the entire game, winning 77-72. The Knights led for much of the first half, but saw the lead evaporate into a three-point deficit at halftime. Despite Ed Hobson’s dominating night on the inside, UCF wasn’t able to get much going in the second half. The Knights shot just 38.8 percent from the floor in the half. Boyd just missed a double-double, replacing 10 points and nine assists, but it wasn’t enough as the Trojans held on for the win.

The Knights only have one game left to get back on track before the Atlantic Sun Tournament begins. UCF travels to Florida Atlantic for the regular-season finale on March 1. Alfonso is confident the team will be ready.

"The next two weeks we’re gonna work on our fundamentals, and we’re gonna improve as a team," he said. "We’re gonna get back to our old UCF style, defense comes first."

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PAG~

Adrian Simer / CFP
Knights win in extra innings

FROM PAGE 14

that out,” Bergman said. “We put him in a situation, probably my fault, that he hadn’t been in us a reliever and maybe it was a little uncomfortable for him. So I’ll take the blame for that.”

East Carolina would gain another run in the top of the eighth off a long flyball by catcher Adam Smith, his second of the game. UCF scored back with a run in the bottom of the eighth and ninth innings but missed out on several chances for more. The Knights had runners on first and second with no outs and their two, three, and four batters up against a pitcher making his collegiate debut. Nathan Kraft sacrificed the runners to second and third and one runner scored on a wild pitch, but Brown struck out swinging and Clay Tippner flied out to left field to end the threat.

In the bottom of the ninth the Golden Knights again got two on with one out, scored one run of Ryan Bonco’s RBI single, but got nothing else. Matt Fire struck out swinging and David Munn flied out to right field to end the game.

Mincks took the loss, falling to 2-1. Matt Bishop got the win for East Carolina, improving to 5-0. Greg Blum got his second save.

The loss quickly spoiled the good feelings gained from Friday night’s 4-2 extra inning triumph.

In that game, third baseman Rich Wallace played the hero, knocking in EJ. Lehmann for the winning run with a base hit in the bottom of the 12th.

“That felt good,” said Wallace, who went 5- for-7 over the two games. “We were playing too good not to get that hit. Good to go home and get a win right there.”

Early in the game the Golden Knights got 6-29 string of innings from starter Von David Storzbach. He gave up just four hits, one walk and no runs, striking out five. But Pirates starter Neal Sears was equal to the task, matching Storzbach until the bottom of the seventh, when UCF’s Blake Seelbach went deep for the first time this season. Walker, who had singled in front of Schulte, scored as well to make it 2-0 UCF.

The lead wouldn’t last long, though. East Carolina nailed the very next inning with two runs off a single by Ryan Jones. The Golden Knights answered with a Wallace run scoring off a single in the bottom of the inning, only to see the Pirates tie the game again in the top of the ninth on a RBI single off the bat of Darryl Lawhorn.

UCF drew a chance to win the game in the bottom of the ninth when pinch runner Jason Wagnerholm got thrown out at home. Then after a 20-minute rain delay, East Carolina used a walk, a sacrifice bunt, an intentional walk and a wild pitch to get men on second and third with one-out in the top of the 10th. But freshman reliever Kyle Bono got Nickow to hit a short fly to center field and Tippner made a perfect throw to end Ben Sandersen at home plate.

Bono steadied the Golden Knights ship from there, holding East Carolina scoreless for the remaining two innings and getting his first collegiate win. Glen Tucker (1-1) took the loss for the Pirates.

Centerfielder Clay Tippner gets hit by an East Carolina pitch for the second time in Saturday’s game.

Barnes/Sidelines /UFC

Men’s tennis gets revenge

MATT BETHON
STAFF WRITER

The UCF men’s tennis team continued its world play, knocking off defending Atlantic-Sun champion Georgia State and UT-Chattanooga this past week.

On Friday, No. 65 UCF upset No. 80 Georgia State 5-2. Playing at the No. 1 singles spot, Catalin Brada defeated defending collegiate player-of-the-year Matthew Ormaza 6-4, 6-1. The match marked the first time in his career that Ormaza lost to an A-Sun opponent. Antonio Sierra, Simon Jasper and Dzer Gursoy all picked up singles victories for the Knights.

The victory avenged last season’s loss to Georgia State in the A-Sun Championship. The Knights went into the tournament as the No. 1 seed looking for a trip to the NCAA Tournament, but were sent home by Georgia Tech. Then the Knights were overlooked for an at-large bid to the tournament.

UCF breezed by UT-Chattanooga 5-2 on Saturday. Jaeger stretched the match at the No. 4 position with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Alex Mahced, Gabriel Varnegb (No. 2), Augusto Gamboa (No. 3) and Gursoy (No. 6) all won in two sets for UCF. The Knights picked up the doubles point by winning two of three matches.

The Golden Knights received more good news this week, when junior Catalin Brada was named the first ever Atlantic Sun men’s tennis Player of the Week. When he earned the honor, Brada was No. 1 in No. 1 singles and No. 3 overall. His and Sierra were No. 1 at the top doubles position. After last week’s matches, Brada is No. 2 in singles play and he and Sierra are 7-1 in doubles.

UCF will return home and have a week off before returning to Atlantic-Sun Conference play with a match Saturday against Campbell. The match is at 3 p.m. at the UCF Tennis Complex. The Knights also played at Mercer on Thursday, however, results were not made available in time for publication.

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Orsini says compliance director is a top priority

UCF Athletics Director Steve Orsini announced Thursday that the hiring of Robert Mathner as assistant athletics director for compliance was most recently the director of athletics compliance office at Syracuse University.

"We are looking forward to having Robert join our department," Orsini said. "He has a great deal of experience in the field of compliance and athletics administration at the NCAA Division I level and comes highly recommended. His direction will be instrumental in our efforts to build a top-notch compliance program."

Mathner, a 1987 graduate of Southern Mississippi, earned a degree in business administration. He entered his master's degree in sports administration from Florida State University in 1989. In 1996, he earned his doctorate from Florida State University in physical education with a specialization in sport management. He is scheduled to report to work at UCF March 10.

Eller hopes program exposes students to UCF sports programs

IM Volleyball ends with four winners

Julie Reeves CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Four teams applied their way to victory Thursday night as the intramural volleyball season came to a close. The right started out with the co-ed group, in the Yellowjackets went on to win the championship. The recreation final featured an exciting match-up where the Big Gipped knocked out the Big Blues, in the final match of the season. The recreation final featured several exciting matches, including the semi-final game where the Big Gipped overcame the Big Blues, in the championship match, the Big Gipped defeated the Big Blues, in the final match of the season. The recreation final featured several exciting matches, including the semi-final game where the Big Gipped overcame the Big Blues, in the championship match, the Big Gipped defeated the Big Blues, in the final match of the season.

UCF Athletics this Week

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UCF Athletics

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Fraternities, fun and fake?
Samantha Fredericks
STAFF WRITER

Many watched as the girls of MTV's reality show "Sorority Life" laughed, cried, argued and smiled each other into submission. But now it's the guys turn. With "Fraternity Life," MTV follows the male-bonding adventures of the University of Buffalo's local fraternity Sigma Chi Omega.

A group of brothers from the UCF fraternity Sigma Phi Epsilon recently gathered to watch a preview of the show that will premiere at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday and gave their reactions as to how real fraternity life compares to MTV's version.

Most agreed that the pledge process portrayed on the show was not accurate, or at least not how fraternities at UCF operate.

"I wasn't at the right kind of fake-looking," sophomore Kevin Hall, 20, said. "It's not realistic on the UCF campus; we don't rush like they do."

"They make rush like fun, it's not superficial when it really is," junior Gil Beremand, 20, said.

The rush process on the show is more like a sorority's operate," junior Nick Golagorgis, 24, added.

Like its predecessor "Sorority Life," "Fraternity Life" follows new members through their pledge process, documenting the trials they must overcome to be initiated as brothers of Sigma Chi Omega. The first episode will introduce what MTV refers to as its "seal of approval," as they make their way through the rush process in hopes of being offered a bid.

"That would never work," Beremand said when one of the freshmen on the show was instructed to wait in his room to see if he was offered a bid. "Interviewing a bid and telling him to wait in his room for a two-hour period to see if he gets a bid or isn't real." But this is not the only thing on the show that would not work in many fraternities.

"I saw at least three to five things that they did which would cause our fraternity charter to get pulled and kicked off campus," senior Omar Faddan, 23, said.

Yet the main criticism with such reality shows is that they are distorted by the camera and the editing. The people on the show will most likely not be themselves and not everything surrounding a situation can happen.

Please See Fraternity on 21

The facts about the withdrawal process
Diane Liazic
STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Bethany Henry thought withdrawing from a class was going to be a simple process. Little did she know that when the system wouldn't allow her to withdraw from her personal computer, it was only the beginning to her problems.

"I could not withdraw online for some reason; so I ended up having to go to Millikan Hall and withdraw that way," Henry, 20, said. "I had thought that because I was allowed to withdraw from that class that everything was fine. The next semester I wasn't allowed financial aid because I guess I did not have enough credit hours. I had to wait till the following semester to be able to get loans again."

Students can withdraw from courses through POLIAS or by visiting the Registrar's Office. The college advises offices of the area campus records office by the withdrawal deadline on Jan 28. The office accepts letter forms, or forms which must be time stamped or postmarked before the withdrawal deadlines.

However, due to recent technological changes, students such as Henry seem to be less aware of problems that can occur. According to the Office of Institutional Research for UCF, less than 1 percent of all grades accounted for about 5.5 percent of all grades. Dawn Harrell, a coordinator for the office of student financial assistance, said that before Polaris

Please See Withdrawal on 24

The return of '80s toys has an entire generation feeling...

Steve Lewis, manager of the clearance of Comic Zone store at Orlando Fashion Square, is reintroducing popular cartoons such as "He-Man," "Cobra Commander," and "Optimus Prime" from the 1980s through the comic books and toys sold at his store.

"It's another way for customers to relive their youth," Lewis said. "Many of the people collecting this stuff are in their late 20's to early 30's."

Old cartoons that are now comics, such as "Fatman" and "G.I. Joe," which show action and have toys to match. "The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" even have a new cartoon series that currently airs on the Fox Network on Saturday mornings. Other cartoons already made into comics are also in the plans.

Please See Classic on 24

Timeline of select '80s toys that are making a comeback

G.I. Joe (3/4 action figures)
G.I. Joe is a highly secret paramilitary organization whose job is to stop the diabolic organization of COBRA from taking over the world. Although the series began in 1982, the first action figure was made in 1982 and now includes a helmet with straps, snakeskin with standard US Army bag, pants, flak jacket, olive green, boots, two canteens, and a "Stinger" lever which can make a magic sword or come from a comeback.

Cobra Commander - He was first released as the villain in G.I. Joe and was discontinued in 1989. Cobra Commander is the lightning and militarized version of the G.I. Joe Commando. The action figure for Cobra Commander first available as a mail-in figure, now comes with a black backpack, silver helmet, red sunglasses, and a gold sound attack weapon.

He-Man (1980-1985)
He-Man was first released as the villain in G.I. Joe and was discontinued in 1989. He-Man is the strongest action figure in the world and is the leader of the "Masters of the Universe." He-Man has his own action figure with his name and is one of the most popular action figures of all time.

Optimus Prime (Transformers)
Optimus Prime was first released as the villain in Transformers and was discontinued in 1989. Transformers are a group of robots who can transform into different vehicles and are controlled by a computer. The Autobots are good and evil, and the Decepticons are evil and have power over the Autobots. The Autobots are led by Optimus Prime, who is one of the most popular action figures of all time.

The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (1984-1987)
The turtles were created in 1984. They are skilled martial artists and are controlled by a computer named Shredder, who is a very powerful ninja. The turtles are called The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and are the main characters in the series. They are raised by their Ninja masters and have the ability to transform into different vehicles and are controlled by a computer.
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or will be revealed. The viewer sees what MTV wants to show; especially when it comes to the portrayal of fraternities and fraternity life on television, junior Chris Florence, 21, said.

"The custom affects a lot of things," Florence said. "There are a lot of secrets and other things that are very sacred that can't be revealed.

Despite the discrepancies the brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon saw with the show, they still gave it the benefit of the doubt. They all agreed that fraternities differ on each campus, but some things on the show - such as being like a family, knowing the inside jokes, the drama and the typically dirty fraternity houses - were similar to how their own fraternity works.

"We all have fun going different places, we all party, we all disagree on certain things, but it just depends on where you are, how high the school is, how high the city is and how many other fraternities there are," Colompiro said.

But when the brothers of Sigma Chi Omega offered a bid to a rushee who wound up spending more time getting to know the Hooters girls than bonding with the brothers, it sparked the same reaction among the entire group of Sigma Phi Epsilon brothers. None of them could believe Sigma Chi Omega decided to offer the rushee a bid.

"He is cooler than all of them," junior Jason Worthman said.

As they continued to watch the show, laughter and occasional commentary followed by laughter, they all seemed to agree that they probably would never watch the show again.

"You would have to beat me with a bad to get me to watch this," Radwan said.

"Yeah, maybe to laugh at all the retarded that don't like girls," Bennsouad said.

"If I have time - and possibly if they have more socials at Hooters," Colompiro added.

In young, otherwise healthy people, the main reasons for this acid related problem is mainly lifestyle issues. Some of the changes needed to eliminate the problem are: stopping smoking, avoiding refined carbohydrates and avoiding carbonated beverages. Also, it is important to decrease sugar and refined carbohydrates content from one's diet. Some examples are: sodas, juices, sweets, high quantities of bread, rice, pasta, and potatoes, as these tend to make matters worse. We can all recall getting a bad case of acid reflux after consuming generous amounts of pizza. It is not the tomato sauce, but mainly the high carbohydrate content of the dough that is responsible. So decreasing overall carbohydrate intake tends to be very beneficial.

Another important point is to avoid eating within three hours of going to bed, as stomach contents tend to reflux up the esophagus when you lie down soon after eating.

Over the counter medications can be helpful (such as Pepcid, Zantac, Tums and other acids). They do not really take care of the root of the problem; they are just "temporary patches." Of course, if someone is experiencing persistence of stomach pain, or any type of gastrointestinal discomfort, they should seek a medical evaluation to rule out more serious conditions.
Scoot over, SUVs
Some students straddle two wheels instead of four

Mike Blakley
Staff Writer

Sophomore fand Romero is easy to spot on the road — he's the one pedaling along in the right-hand lane, trying as hard as he can on his scooter to keep up with traffic.

Romero, 20, can almost go fast enough to hold his own, but more often than not, his Honda Metropolitan's speedometer lags at a little under 40 mph, which makes him fall behind the ordinary pace that automobile traffic keeps.

Maybe it's the weight of his wallet slowing him down.

While most scooter enthusiasts roll down the highway, they can roll to the bank, which is about as far as Romero needs to go with all the money he has saved since opting to straddle a punchy two-wheeler.

Less than $2 in gas will last him almost an entire month, and the price he paid for his scooter, $1,400, makes even the sweetest deal on four-wheeled transportation look like the shady work of a crooked car salesman.

He bought the small engine scooter lock, stock and barrel for about as much as a down payment on a car would cost, but that pales in comparison to the pile of money he can save thanks to the scooter's fuel efficiency.

While rising gas prices put students in sport-utility drivers' budgets, Romero's barely gets scratched.

"I get about 60 to 70 miles to the gallon," he said.

That's almost 10 times the amount of an Excursion or Land Rover, and more than double the status quo for fuel-efficient cars.

Hybrid cars, those that offer very few parking spaces specifically for bikes.

"One night my neighbors were having a party and some guys went up to my scooter and were trying to pick it up and roll it around," he said.

After his roommate ran the rowdy partiers off, Romero parked his bike under a stairwell and has continued to park it there ever since.

"Now they write a ticket saying it's a fire hazard," Romero said.

Hugel, also a Pegasus Pointe resident, has faced similar troubles.

He has found his girlfriend's bike dumped over and spit on. "The parking situation at home is a nightmare, parking at school is a dream. With ample motorcycle spaces that rarely fill, students such as Romero and Hugel can park close to their classes and bypass the hassles of parking garages.

"People get upset when they see a little scooter taking up a while parking space," he said.

While their parking situation at home is a nightmare, parking at school is a dream. With ample motorcycle spaces that rarely fill, students such as Romero and Hugel can park close to their classes and bypass the hassles of parking garages.

"People think they're cheap enough to buy without taking out a loan or borrowing money from my parents," he said.
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Leadership Week 2003
See www.lead.SDES.ucf.edu
for a full schedule of activities

Mon Feb 24
1 - 2pm EKCEL workshop "Where Do You Stand?"
Egmont Key 224
8:30 pm "Creative Dating" with the Dating Doctor,
Dr. David Coleman, Pegasus Ballroom

Tue Feb 25 - Student Leader Recognition day
(combat by OSA to be part of our photo collage)
10:30 am workshop "How Valuable Are You?" with
Dr. David Coleman, Key West Ballroom
1 - 2pm EKCEL workshop "Study Smarter, Not
Harder," Egmont Key 224
8:30 pm "A Black Belt in Leadership" with Dr. Micheal
Dunphy, Pegasus Ballroom

Wed Feb 26
9 pm CAB Cinema presents "The Rules of
Attraction," Cape Florida Ballroom
1 - 2pm EKCEL workshop "Breaking the Ice,
Becoming a Team," Egmont Key 224

Thu Feb 27
1 - 2pm EKCEL workshop "Good Enough,"
Egmont Key 224
1-5 pm VUCF Hubbard House at Arnold Palmer
Hospital. Volunteers will help families of sick
children. Meet at Millican Hall at 12:30 pm to carpool.

Sat Mar 1
9:15 am VUCF "Keep Orlando Beautiful" park bench
painting project. Meet at Millican Hall at 9:15 am to
carpool.

Mon Mar 3
2 pm - 5 pm VUCF Mentor Training for Seminole
County Schools. Meet at Millican Hall at 1:30 pm to
carpool.
7:30 pm EKCEL Workshop: Officer Transition, SU 224

Tue Mar 4
10 am - 6 pm VUCF Blood Drive, SU South Patio
11 am - 2 pm VUCF Get Carded Info Table / Green
Ribbon Day, SU South Patio
1:30 pm Knights of the Round Table meeting for Clubs
and Organizations, SU 218

Wed Mar 5
3:30 pm - 5 pm VUCF Spring Clean Up, True Life
Center. Meet at Millican Hall at 2:30 pm to carpool.

Thu Mar 6
5 pm VUCF Bowling with Kids. Meet at Millican Hall at
4:30 pm to carpool.

Sat Mar 8
10 am - 2 pm VUCF Chill with Children event. Meet at
Lake Claire at 9:30 am

Student Leader Recognition Day - Tuesday February 25, 2003
All student leaders are invited to come by the Office of Student Activities, SU rm. 208
between 9 am - 7 pm to have your free photo taken and get your free student leader
recognition gift. All of the "Faces of Leadership" will be put into a photo collage appearing
at Leadership Week activities and in the Thursday edition of the Central Florida Future.

Leadership Week 2003
Visit www.lead.SDES.ucf.edu for a full schedule of activities

For more info on any of these events contact the Office of Student Activities, Rm. 208 in the SU, or call 407. 823.6471

Visit us on the web at osa.sdes.ucf.edu

Funded by the Activity and Service Fee as allocated by SGA
Withdrawal can affect academic progress and financial-aid status

FROM PAGE 19

exist, the students would come to the office and talk to them before withdrawing from a class. However, that's no longer the case. Now that they offer withdrawal from all their classes on Polaris, they don't have to come and talk to us, so they don't usually even ask what the repercussions are," Herrod said. "It is on the Web site and all online, so we try to make the information available any way we can.

Although UCF tries to make the consequences of withdrawing from a class known to students through several methods, it is still difficult to get the student to read the information, Herrod said.

"If they withdraw from some classes, it can affect their academic progress for the evaluation due at the end of the term," Herrod added. "If someone is consistently withdrawing, they are going to have academic progress issues."

Many students do not realize that they may not receive their financial aid if they withdraw below the required enrollment level, Herrod said.

"Suppose a student had six hours and dropped down to three, then they would not be eligible for the loan until it had already dis pfursed," she said. "We would have to cancel the loan. This is all federal policy, we don't have any say over it, just administering it.

A student who withdraws from a class will receive a "W" on their record. No withdrawals are permitted after the deadline, except in extraordinary circumstances, such as serious medical problems. Unsatisfactory academic performance is not an acceptable reason for withdrawal after the deadline and students who need to petition for a late withdrawal should contact Academic Services in the Administration Building, Room 210.

Students seeking a late withdrawal because of medical conditions must follow the medical withdrawal procedure set up for the withdrawal within six months of the term the withdrawal is being requested. The student's physician is supposed to provide the university with the appropriate medical information for their situation, Herrod said.

"If a medical withdrawal is approved, a 'W' will be recorded on the transcript," she said. "Students who receive a medical withdrawal may be placed on hold until the university determines if the student is ready to return.

If a medical withdrawal is not approved, the request may be approved as a late withdrawal and a grade of "W" or "WF" will be recorded. A grade of "WF" will affect the calculation of the student's GPA.

"It is on the Web site, so they must have read about it," Herrod said. "Yet, some students, such as freshman Oliver Ohta, 19, have never had a problem with the withdrawal process. Flota reads about the process online and took his parents advice of taking more credit hours than normal, just to be safe.

"I went online, withdrew and confirmed it at the office," Flota said. "It was convenient and smooth. I took 15 credit hours, so if I was going to withdraw I would be OK financially.

Douglas R. Burgess, an associate director in the Registrar's office, believes the most important thing for students to find out is the specific credit hours for their situation and get proper advice.

"It basically comes down to recognizing the differences between the drop and withdraw," Burgess said. "Students need to remember that withdrawal counts towards your three attempts to complete a course. Check with your advisors and financial aid just to be sure you know the policies that concern your situation."

Classic cartoons re-born as comic books

By placer Pac 19

Include: Masters of the Universe, Robotech, Battle of the Planets, "G.I. Joe" and the "Thundertank."

"The New Robo-Loans of Voltron," the follow-up to "Voltron: 2," will be made into a comic book as well.

"It's hard to say which one of the '80s franchises is the most popular since we carry so much," Lewis said.

However, not everyone wants to revisit their past through comics. Senior Rodney Devera, 22, has been collecting toys since he was 5 years old, yet he still prefers the new toys to the heavy Power Ranger toys from the 1990s.

"The Power Rangers were weak, the toys didn't look so cool," Devera said. "Toys in the '90s were better more detailed."

UCF graduate Damien Davis, 28, believes the demand for updates on '80s franchises stems from people growing up watching the cartoons on television while playing with the toys at home.

"I think it is people my age who graduated and have the money to spend on things that made them happy when they were younger," Davis said.

Lewis agreed.

"The main theory is that people in their old age enjoy what they liked when they were young," he said.

The toys are not simply a re-distribution of the old product with new packaging and point jobs; the action figures have been completely re-designed. The 1980s toys no longer share one body type for all the male characters like the 1960s action figures.

"They are aimed more at people in older age groups," Artichoke said. "It is an amazing book."

In the '80s, characters in the old cartoons never died or got seriously injured and when a plane blew up on G.I. Joe, parachutes would be seen floating to the ground a second later. If an Autobot soldier was hit by a laser blast, he would only require repair work and some maintenance before jumping back into battle. But the story lines in the comics now are not the same adventures popular with kids, Davis said.

"Yet, this new, growing trend can't last forever, Lewis said. "All sales on the merchandise comics have not been as high as they have been for the Transformers."

"There is only so much nostalgia you can take, Lewis said. "There is not everyday."

Despite Lewis's reasoning, Davis still has faith that this trend will last. "Look at 'Star Wars.' That's been around since the '70s," he said.

Devera agreed.

"I think it will last," he said. "People into the '80s toys know they will keep with it. It might die down, but it will stay a while."

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