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Battles defeats Kirlew by 281 votes

CARY GRAYSON
STAFF WRITER

In numbers that approached last week's record primary turnout, students on Wednesday elected Brian Battles and Joe MacLellan to lead the Student Government Association in the 2003-2004 academic year. Only 281 votes separated the winning ticket from the losing team of Brian Kirlew and Ken Ortiz. Battles and MacLellan captured 2,715 votes, or 47.3 percent, to Kirlew's 2,434 votes, or 43.3 percent.

The vote total of 5,155 rivaled last week's primary turnout, students on campuses and over the Internet reporting a rush to the polls.

Coach's 'go-to guy' Petry's former opp. die after cancer battle

The spirit of former UF women's tennis star Tracy Petry lives on through her children.

THE central florida FUTURE
THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER SERVING UCF SINCE 1968

Battles, the current student body executive vice president, attributed the narrow margin to the experience of the candidates in the race. "You had two very qualified candidates running against each other," he said.

While election-related conflict has nearly brought SGA house to a standstill, Kirlew currently the student body vice president, and Ortiz vowed to continue working on behalf of students until Battles and MacLellan are inaugurated in May.

Said Ortiz: "I'm still in student government. I'll do my best to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to get in."

Party politics have dominated SGA for the past two weeks as both Battles and Kirlew were accused of using unethical campaigning tactics to unfairly influence voters.

Before the beginning of primary elections, Battles and MacLellan were brought before the Election Commission and cleared of charges relating to distributing campaign materials before the official start date of active campaigning.

Last Thursday's SGA Senate meeting was adjourned early when more than 50 supporters of Kirlew came to protest the charges of impropriety that were brought against him earlier that afternoon.

Both Battles and Kirlew denied any wrongdoing, and each alleges that the charges were brought to SGA because of political motivation.

Said Kirlew: "The charges lack standing. They lack any real merit, and they are politically motivated."

While both tickets have denied any wrongdoing, they agree that the rampant accusations have caused a faded student view of SGA.

"I think rumors on all sides have definitely had a negative impact on the students' view of the election," said Battles.

Kirlew and Ortiz, however, felt that the attention emphasized their constituents to vote in the runoff.

"Those charges have definitely gotten a lot of people involved in the election," Kirlew said.

Student raped leaving club

ROSEMARY R. DAY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A man suspected of raping a 19-year-old UCF student was arrested Monday night on two counts of sexual battery.

Jason Daniel Hogan, 28, was arrested at his apartment in Winter Springs and taken to the Seminole County Jail after a flood of tips to CrimeLine, Central Florida's anonymous tips hotline, led police to Hogan.

The victim said Hogan raped her last Friday morning after she left the night club bumper, after she became separated from her friends.

Hogan drove her to a 7-Eleven gas station at Aldermy Trail and Lake Underhill Road, where he became aggressive with her, the victim told police.

In an interview with WPIT, the victim described the ordeal.

He grabbed my neck while he was driving and held my head in his hand just squeezing. And he started cursing me saying, 'I'll kill you,'" she said.

Hogan then drove the victim to the parking lot of WMFE on East Colonial Drive, where he tore off her pants and underwear and raped her, she said. She managed to escape and ran across the street to the Days Inn motel to call for help.

Candice Stevens, 21, the night auditor at the Days Inn, said she was the person the victim spoke with after the incident.

"I was shocked when I saw her," Stevens said. "She was crying and very upset. She didn't have underwear or pants on, so I gave her a towel and a check-up for your love life

Tapping toes for charity

Two UF dance groups donate money to help the children's Miracle Network.

Music department sings THE BLUES

Inadequate facilities frustrate music majors, professors

Laura Stevens

Music students have longed complained about conditions that include the lack of adequate rehearsal space, practice rooms and equipment on campus. Not a cold snap last month gave them a new reason to gripe.

For two to three weeks, Colonial Hall, home to UCF's Music Department, had trouble with its heat, and the temperature in studios on the building's first floor hovered at about 50 degrees.

Yet it's only the latest slight to the program, students said.

"If it wasn't for the faculty, we would have filed it. Period," senior Adrianna Luther, 21, said.

The ongoing complaints are not easily answered. Additional money is hard to find, and the fact that the music department must raise some of its own funds doesn't make things any easier.

Moreover, with presumably cuts coming in university funding across the state — required, in part, because of last November's voter-approved limit on class sizes in public elementary and secondary schools — Lee Eubank, the department chairman, said, "Next year is going to be even more difficult."

"There have been many ups years," he said. "It's just a cycle."

Dean Kathryn Seldel of the College of Arts and Sciences told students how to make station-type work.

Ramón López, right, practices during a stanza in the rehearsal hall. The room is crowded with equipment and only a narrow walkway available.

Ramon Lopez, left, practices during a stanza in the rehearsal hall.
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Music students yearn for concert hall

uhis last week that the music department would receive enough money to cover its budget this year. He does not blame anyone particular for the music department's financial problems, and notes that all departments in the university are making tough decisions.

Still, he added, the current economic climate makes it harder for the department to raise money. And without a foundation of support, he said the music department is struggling just to keep the lights on.

"The department has been very helpful to us," Eubank said. "The main problem has been acquiring new equipment and repairing old equipment.

He said the music department has always struggled to raise money from alumni. And over the years, he said, he has listened to a lot of student complaints.

"We haven't had any upgrades for years," he said. "When I became a music professor in 1993, I was told that by the university president and the dean that the music department building needed to be brought up to date. We've been waiting." Eubank said.

The only way the department is going to improve is to have our own endowment," he added.

Faculty members share the students' frustration.

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Computers nabbed in robbery at The Future

KRISTA ZILIZI HOWARTH

Thieves broke into the office of The Central Florida Future early Monday and made away with $7,000 in computer and office equipment, Orange County police said.

Thieves entered the student newspaper's off-campus office, at 3361 Rouse Road, Suite 115, by smashing the glass front door before employees arrived that morning.

The thieves stole a $2,600 laptop computer, a $50 laptop adapter, two computers valued at $1,400, two flat-screen monitors valued at $900, an alarm system, and a $75 postage-meter seals.

The office had not been assaulted before and nothing else was damaged.

One computer was found abandoned near the front door and police were able to lift fingerprints off of it.

No arrests had been made as of Wednesday and co-publishers Brian Linden and Heissam Jebailey said they believe the burglary was a random act.

"While the newspaper has been covering some sensitive issues lately, we have no reason to believe we were targeted specifically," Linden said.

Orange County officials said that another office within the University Court building, where The Future is located, was burglarized last week.

Thieves stole computers from that office as well, and entered by smashing the glass door open. Neither office was equipped with an alarm system.

"We're definitely getting a security system installed to help prevent this from ever happening again," Jebailey said.

If anyone has information regarding the grand theft burglary, they are asked to call Crimeline at 407-428-8477.

Attention Unaffiliated Women... (Come learn what Kappa is all about!)

FROM PAGE 3

"The university has grown exponentially, except for the music department," Moore said. The music department has indeed grown, he said, but comparing its ratio of growth to UCF's average growth makes it seem as if the music department is at a standstill.

Moore said the dean's know the music department's problems with facilities. However, he said, a problem such as campus parking affects more people, and UCF administrators must address those problems that affect the most people first. Thus, the music department's woes have to be kept in perspective.

"If you want to be critical or offer constructive suggestions to the problems, you must be fully informed," Moore said.

"It's very easy to get into a room and complain," Robert Swedberg, the general director of Orlando Opera and former director of the opera studio at UCF, praised the music department. But like those students who feel limited by the resources at hand, he sees wider potential and said the department's budget problems are disappointing.

"The music department at UCF currently seems to be most associated with producing music education majors who can feed into the burgeoning school districts in Central Florida," Swedberg said. "This is a very important focus, and this approach is providing a very valuable service to our community.

"Still, I do believe a campus that is flourishing the way UCF is must be ready for building performance focus in the music department," he said.

"I continue to be open and available to UCF, and am anxious to use my energies and the resources of Orlando Opera to help build a program that has the potential to be one of the only such programs in the country where students may enjoy such a unique combination of academic training and professional opportunities," he said.

UCF could benefit from partnership with opera

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Hillel goes Hockey

Come join Hillel at the TD Waterhouse on Thursday, March 6th for the Orlando Seals versus the Capers Fear Fire Antz. Puck drops at 7pm, for more information including ticket cost, contact Davi at sportsmayven@hotmail.com
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Tapping toes for charity

BRANDON HARDIN
STAFF WRITER

At the ringing of a bell throughout the night, students in the UCF Recreation and Wellness Center crowded onto the gym floor, tossing nude puzzles, necklaces, and a variety of other items into a box in front of the "Time Warp." What would possess a group of students to dance together in a seemingly Pavlovian response? A good cause. More than 520 students donated their time and money last Saturday and Sunday to participate in UCF's Dance Marathon 2003. This annual event raises money for the Children's Miracle Network, a nonprofit organization that helps children and their families by funding medical care and research. For Weinbrenner, a senior accounting major, and Lindgren, a senior communication major, participation in Dance Marathon is an annual tradition. "I have kept myself busy. If I were not involved in doing something, I would probably go nuts," said Lindgren.

The closing ceremony began at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday. After Solomon and her board personally thanked every participant, a group of seven dancers began their routine on the gym floor. "I'm hoping if we meld into the crowd's energy that we won't see us and that everyone will follow," he said.

"I was very excited about the total. I wasn't sure we were going to get that high, but I think about all of the fundrais­ ing we did and how many more participants we had than in the years before. It was right on track," said Solomon.

The Central Florida Future • February 27, 2003
A check-up for your love life

Kristin Davis Staff Writer

"How many dates are here because you haven't been on a date since Moby Dick was a pup?" David Coleman asked students this past Monday night at a seminar on building relationships, part of UCF's Leadership Week 2003.

Coleman is more commonly referred to as "the dating doctor" although he doesn't hold a doctorate degree. What he does hold, however, is the key to making relationships work.

Coleman opened the session by setting out to prove he indeed knows everything there was to dating— including pick-up lines. His first test: he asked students to provide him with a pick-up line and swore he would be able to finish the phrase.

Freshman Jimmy Skiles, 18, was among those who attempted to disprove Coleman's skills.

"The human body has 200 bones in it..." Skiles began. "What another one?" exclaimed Coleman.

After appearing at more than 2,000 events from radio to television and talking to more than 1.5 million people about relationships and dating, "I'm no wonder," Dr. Coleman has heard it all.

But his knowledge goes beyond cheesy pick-up lines that are more likely to receive a slap in the face than a date for the weekend.

He talked about how to find and maintain a long, meaningful relationship.

"You won't find the right person until you become the right person," Coleman told students.

In order to find "the one," Coleman does not recommend rounding up a group of 30 strangers and dating all of them at once for the entire world to see.

"Dating shows like The Bachelor and Joe Millionaire are terrible ways to find the person you want to spend the rest of your life with. How can you possibly get to know someone while you are dating 30 other people at the same time?"

He claims that while these shows make for good entertainment, they are a joke when it comes to finding a serious relationship.

Coleman does believe, however, that "speed dating"—where people find their ideal match by having eight-minute-long conversations with a sequence of suitors—in's not entirely off base.

"You will know if you have chemistry with someone in less than eight minutes," Coleman said.

This period of time allows someone to decide if the other person meets the four most important matchmaking criteria, according to Coleman.

"You can find a good match between two people based on physical, chemistry, communication, lifestyles and interests, and P.E.O.P.: Parental, Educational, and Geographic environment. The last part means their family, schooling, and where they live.

Coleman may be known for his good relationship advice, but he also practices what he preaches.

He has been married for 17 years and currently has two daughters, whom he jokes never will be allowed to date to Coleman encouraged UCF students to write down questions they were curious about.

One student was curious as to which condoms are the safest to use. Coleman jokingly replied that the safest condoms are the ones that don't break.

Although Coleman didn't preach for or against abortion, he did give advice when a student asked how long a girl should wait before her first sexual experience.

"The quicker a man tries to have sex with you, the less time he plans to spend with you in a long-term aspect," Coleman said.

Freshman Benen Ferde, 17, agreed. "She believes that you have to respect and love yourself before anyone else can.

"Generally, guys push sex too soon in a relationship and girls are usually the ones who rush into falling in love too soon," Ferde said. "A man's sexual prime occurs from ages 18-35, while a woman's prime is from ages 20-45.

A popular complaint Coleman receives from women is that men are terrible lovers because they want to go straight to humping sex.

After surveying hundreds of women, he compiled their responses to find out which physical area women wish men would focus more time to acquire. The results included fingertips, palms, kissing one lip at a time, the back of the neck, eyelids, crook of the arm, ears, feet, scratching their backs and stroking their hair.

Not surprisingly, Coleman shared with students that women are aroused through hearing and touching. Men are aroused through sight.

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Relationship doctor:
dating shows a joke

FROM PAGE 7

Coleman said that if a woman wanted a man, all she would have to do is make eye contact, smile and say "hello," and he would think, "She wants me right here, right now."

Two of the most frequent questions coming from Coleman's audiences are: "Why do women go to the bathroom in packs and why don't men call back?"

Coleman says men's poor phone correspondence has everything to do with having rejection issues. "He wants to acknowledge that other men simply don't call because they themselves aren't interested and are always looking for a one-night stand."

He said that women go to the bathroom together for many mysterious reasons, but speculate that they trick in packs to talk about guys, gossip about other girls, have company while waiting in line or to find a way to get out of a bad date.

Sophomore Jessica Williams, 19, was surprised by the accuracy of Coleman's accusations.

"Those really are some of the reasons girls go to the bathroom in-groups," she admitted. "It's horrible, but it's true."

After addressing many students' concerns, Coleman began asking the audience questions about issues ranging from sex to relationship compromises.

"Who controls the relationship?" he asked his student audience.

"Girls have most of the control because they get to decide when the couple has sex," 19-year-old freshman Kelly Morrell answered. "Girls have been offered sex since they were 13 and guys have to work for it."

While Morrell's response did draw a hearty applause from the females in the audience, Coleman disproved Morrell's theory.

"The person who loves, cares, or tries the least has the most control," Coleman corrected.

Coleman warned students about relationship treachery - religion, sex, alcohol, money and jealousy and enlightened students about the fact that set men and women apart - commitment.

"Men view commitment as a lack of freedom, while women tend to see it as a positive addition," he said.

But women and men can agree on one thing they want more than anything else: sex, "jungle sex," teased Coleman.

The number one thing that both men and women want is what they cannot have.

But sophomore Vanessa Bowman, 20, believes that both men and women want love and attention as well.

"Everyone wants to be wanted," Bowman said.

Apparently, everyone also wants someone who knows how to kiss well.

Coleman identified about 15 types of bad kissers - to swatch out for. The list included categories such as the Octopus, the Brander, the Hoover, Niagara Falls, the Lizard and the Skunk. He said he has experienced a Brander first hand.

"One time I kissed someone who always felt the need to leave a mark on me," he said. "That's the worst kisser I have ever had."

The Relationship Doctor didn't prescribe any bad kisser remedies, but he did share some tips for how guys can impress girls.

"How many of the women in the audience would like a single rose just as much as a dozen of them?" Coleman asked students.

Nearly every female's hand raised.

"Guys, I just saved you at least 10 bucks."

He also suggested doing things for their girlfriend or wife on days that aren't holidays such as Valentine's Day.

He suggested getting women 20 inexpensive, but sweet items from the dollar store and wrapping them separately instead of giving them to her on a holiday he recommends giving them the day before that way it is unexpected and she will be unwrapping the gifts all day long.

Another idea he shared with students was to buy ten bags of Hershey's Kisses and trail them into your significant other's room when they are not home. Next, hide somewhere in the room and leave a note in front of your hiding place saying: "Now I have kissed the ground you walk on." He guarantees that whoever does this will be pleasantly rewarded.

Sophomore Matt Schroeder, 21, has come up with some thoughtful gestures of his own.

"For a previous girlfriend, I once wrote her a song and played it for her on my guitar," he said. "I played it while she came [out] of her room. Then I gave her a gift I had bought her earlier. She didn't expect any of this, so she was really surprised and happy."

Trust was an issue Coleman discussed as one of the five characteristics of a good relationship. He also says a good relationship requires constant effort on both sides, but that it isn't as difficult to find as it may seem.

"If someone has a bad dating life in college than they just aren't trying hard enough," he said.

Dyer wins in Orlando mayors race

Buddy Dyer seized victory in the Orlando mayoral election Tuesday, capturing 57.54 percent of the vote, or 173,118 votes.

Dyer, a former state senator defeated advertising executive Pete Barr in what many have called a divisive campaign.

Dyer, who ran unsuccessfully in November as state attorney general, will take over for Glenick Hood, who has resigned her post as mayor to become secretary of state.

Dyer promised through weeks of campaigning to make reviving downtown a top issue on his agenda.

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A snub to Native-American cultures?

Black History Month focuses on educating others about the art, culture, and contributions of other cultures still go without recognition.

Although Native Americans were the original inhabitants of America, there is no Native-American History Month to fill in historical voids, shed light on misconceptions or celebrate that sphere of diversity.

"Native Americans were the first people," Lafita, 18, said. "Every race kind of suffered."

However, Lafita believes Native Americans did speak out for their culture to be recognized.

"I think it all depends on how much you want others to see," she said. "Even though Native Americans have spoken out, they really didn't push it like the black people did.

In February of 1926, Carter G. Woodson initiated Black History Week to educate others about the different dimensions of black culture, besides slavery and vague textbook interpretations. In 1976, this education spread before the National Black History Month, which is now celebrated all over North America.

In 1820, there were 1000 Native-American slaves, now known as Seminoles. Trying to leave Southern plantations for freedom in Spanish Florida, the Seminoles protected the former slaves from recapture in exchange for portions of their harvest.

After Congress passed the Indian Removal Act of 1830, the government began to remove the Seminoles from Florida and moved them to western territories. Opposed to the Seminole War, U.S. history, which continued until most of the Seminoles had been captured and sent to Oklahoma.

"We all know that America was based on the backbone, sweat and tears of the Native Americans," senior Contina Thomas, 24, said. "So for them to have a Native-American month, it would be something that would be rightfully due. I would support that.

Today, more than 2000 Seminoles are living throughout South Florida. These are six reservations in Florida, near the cities of Hollywood, Big Cypress, Brighton, Okeechobee, Fort Pierce and Immokalee.

Junior Kristin Godinez, 22, took an interest in Native American literature course and finds most of their history interesting, such as how the term "Indian-giver" came about when the Indians were introduced to alcohol and given blankets infected with small pox.

"Their way of life, oral tradition and their view of creation is unique and intriguing," Godinez said. "I think everyone should study it.

Professor Cecilia Milanes said she felt compelled to teach an Ethnic Literature course, a combination of African American, African American, Native American and Latino.

"Most education systems around the country give kids the idea that American Indians are a race that has died out," she explained. "They don't say specifically, 'we killed them.'

Still, there are similarities between ethnic groups that were victims of government-organized repression, Milanes added.

"It was a part of our Constitution, and the educational system did not acknowledge contributions of people deserving basic rights," she said. "We should have an Anti-Columbus Day, which actually happens across the country, particularly out West. He is acknowledged as the man who discovered America. The Indians say 'we were here when he got here.' He actually discovered that there were people before him.

In June of 2002, the National Trust for Historic Preservation listed Indian Pass as one of the 11 most endangered historic places in America. The Quichean Tribe said environment groups believed they had won their fight to protect Indian Pass but the current interior secretary reversed the original decision and reopened the mine permit process. As a result, what was once sacred Quichean land is now gold-mining territory.

Professor Mark Kamrath currently teaches the Native American literature course. A lot of educated people are unaware of the historical contributions that different tribes have made in terms of agriculture, commerce or other daily events, he said.

"It's easy to assume and stereotype because the reservation system exists," Kamrath said. "If we could borrow from Black History Month to highlight the success stories and contributions in a way that is productive, it would help broaden our understanding and break down stereotypes.

Kamrath believes that after taking his course, more students are aware of the extent and degree of deception and other efforts to displace the natives. Many people are unaware of historical facts, such as Indian children being forced to learn a completely different culture, he added.

"Native Americans have enough cultural wealth for us to benefit from for a Native-American Month," Kees said.

On Jan. 15, a group of Native-American students from a Wyoming Indian high school led a march against racism on the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. They marched with their school's Eagle Staff, American, Tribal, State and POW flags and led over 650 people who declared themselves resolutely against racism. They marched against the announced new headquarters of the West, Directors of the Creator, a White supremacist hate group, as well.

Kamrath agreed with Kees and believes there is still more for students to learn about Native Americans.

"I see students gain understanding of what was lost in that process, what the cost was for American progress and expansion," Kamrath said. "It starts to register that there was a human cost.

Paleontologist Paul Sereno has encountered some of the weirdest creatures that ever walked the earth. Yet some of the scariest things he's discovered aren't likely to become extinct anytime soon. Sad to say, mutual fund management fees will probably outlast us all. That's why Dr. Sereno was afraid of getting eaten alive.

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Opinions
Thursday, February 27, 2003

OUR STANCE:

Finger-scanner lesson in poor judgment

Although the Recreation and Wellness Center’s finger-scanner system is apparently up and running again — for the time being — the system’s recurring problems make it seem even more like a very poor purchase by the university.

UCF spent thousands of dollars on this unreliable and unnecessary security system. The finger-scanner system supposedly offers the latest security technology, but what UCF has on its hands is a high-tech mess.

How many times will this system fail before it finally works the way it is intended to? Students remember last semester’s failures. They remember the long lines and unnecessary waits just to use the gym they pay for.

UCF does not need this system. Attendees of the Recreation and Wellness Center can check people into the gym just as effectively as the finger-scanner system. Sure, it would require the hiring of employees to manually check students’ IDs, which would cost money. But at least the method of verifying students’ IDs works, unlike the on-again, off-again finger-scanner.

But the powers-that-be thought that the traditional method did not provide enough security. So they used a time-tested and reliable system, they gambled students’ money on the latest security toy. It should come as no surprise that the system has failed. After all, UCF made a similar mistake with PeopleSoft, jumping into a costly program without doing its homework. Like PeopleSoft, the finger-scanner system has caused many headaches. Like PeopleSoft, UCF did not prepare adequately before implementing the finger-scanner system.

However, since the Recreation and Wellness Center’s system is finally working and there is no change in the cost, UCF should demand some monetary compensation from the companies involved. The manufacturers’ faulty and/or defective products have cost UCF students too much already.

Students have lost the most from the faulty finger-scanner. Students, in part, paid for it with their money. Students have had to endure long lines and delays to access the Recreation and Wellness Center, costing them valuable time that they could spend on other things.

The finger-scanner system has caused more problems than it has prevented. After students waited through long lines last semester to get enrolled in the system, they will now have to go through that process again.

This time, however, the Recreation and Wellness Center to either get the finger-scanner system working properly or repair the system and get its money back.

C ongratulations to Buddy Dyer for winning the Orlando mayoral election. As Orlando’s next mayor, Dyer faces many challenges. Hopefully he can succeed when Glenda Hood failed.

Dyer should work to consolidate Orange County and Orlando. Consolidation would lead to more efficient services by eliminating the duplication of services. Consolidation does not destroy local identities and towns, but rather builds a larger community. That community would then include UCF more than it does now. Right now, areas like UCF in unincorporated Orange County do not have much of an identity. Consolidation would give character to areas such as UCF.

Unlike Hood, Dyer should work more closely with homeless charities. He should do all he can to repeal the laws the city passed that effectively criminalized homelessness. Dyer should work toward real solutions, like a drop-in center rather than aesthetic patches like the sidewalk ordnances.

Many UCF students and groups care about work with and support Orlando’s homeless population, and they would welcome a proactive approach to the problem of Orlando’s growing homeless population.

To ease the problem, Orlando might provide more affordable housing. Thus, Dyer should continue Hood’s work to revitalize Parramore, but, in doing so, he should try to keep housing affordable.

Dyer should try to beautify the area, to attract businesses.

Boasting Parramore would go a long way toward resuscitating downtown Orlando. Students want to take part in downtown life and culture. Building up the city would encourage more UCF graduates to stay in the area rather than leaving after graduation. Currently, many students trend toward UCF and Orlando as a four- or five- or seven-year pit stop on their path toward some career. Dyer should try to make Orlando a place UCF graduates want to live.

Finally, for both current and future UCF students, Dyer should try to build the long-discussed downtown performing arts center, which Hood passed along to UCF students will go downtown to attend shows if they have a finger-scanner-like venue at which to see them. If you build it, they will come. A downtown performing arts center would give people another reason to go downtown and would generate more money for local restaurants, bars and clubs. It would also enhance the presence of the arts in a city that lacks one.

Dyer should take advantage of this golden opportunity to improve the “City Beautiful.”

Honest disagreement is often a good sign of progress.

—MAHATMA GANDHI

Letters to the Editor

We reserve the right to edit letters to the Editor and reject letters that are not necessarily on theme of the article.

SGA poor training ground for future politicians

This week’s SGA elections are a historic opportunity to exercise the principle of democracy. It is a foolishness that all the people that are currently running won. They need running while we have a clearly articulate student leader who isn’t running for anything.

In the past, student government was supposed to seem as a stepping stone to real political leaders and to give them the opportunity to shine. Without the debate that preceded a normal political election, however, it seems that the SGA, including both Battles and Fields, has no role.

Most important, though, the article stated that the people that are running are students. What is critical to understand is that the anti-political rhetoric is not only not American, it is not even a truly American concept. One could argue that the anti-political rhetoric is not American because it is not an American option.

Perhaps you selected your candidate by what experience they had on the playground by playing the ordinary children and their families, but it is a serious matter whether our great nation should do the same.

The young thing is not that Americans are an uneducated people. They have more educated roles in life and they have more educated roles in life and they should have more educated roles in life. They should have the same opportunity to shine.

—ANDREW RENNIE

Sunday, February 24, 2003

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams

—NELSON MANDELA
Donor recipient deserved second last-chance to live

ADAM SHIVER
STAFF WRITER

Imagine knowing that the only way your loved one could survive is by receiving an organ transplant.

The lists for organs are extremely long and hard to get on, but your loved one is able to obtain such a position. Time goes by and eventually they are informed that a set of organs with a matching blood type has come available, and they will be receiving them.

A miracle, you’d think, right?

That is exactly how the parents of Jesica Santillan, a 17-year-old Mexican girl who suffered from cardiomyopathy, a life-threatening condition that weakened her heart and lungs, felt. She and her parents thought this surgery would be a second chance at life.

Tragically the girl’s surgery was botched.

Santillan had type-O blood. The blood type made her a universal donor, but unfortunately she could only receive transplanted organs of the same type. When doctors performed the surgery, transplanting a new heart and new set of lungs into the little girl, they failed to check the blood type, which lead to the rejection of the organs by her body.

The doctors immediately began looking for a new set of organs to fix the damage they had caused, but naturally it took some time — a little over 10 days, in fact. In that time Santillan’s condition worsened.

It is now being reported that after the transplant the hospital showed much more interest in keeping the error from the media attention than in finding replacement organs.

New organs were obtained of the correct blood type, but after the second operation, swelling began in Santillan’s brain, which lead to her untimely death.

In the wake of Santillan’s death, many are asking whether the girl should have received the second set of organs to try and fix the botched operation. Some think the organs should have been donated to a recipient who had a better chance of survival.

They believe since the odds were very low Santillan would survive the second surgery, she should have been condemned to death and the organs forfeited to someone who had a better chance of living.

This is absolutely ridiculous.

Giving the girl the next available set of organs was the very least that the hospital and medical staff should have done. In fact it is what is required of them. The organ donation system specifically states that the sickest child is the one who receives needed organs first.

If I am not mistaken, a child that is dying due to an error on the doctor’s part is in most need of the organs, in all respects.

Some medical ethicists believe the system should be changed so that only those with the best chance of survival receive harvested organs.

I am sure those ethicists would change their tune if the child was in need of an organ, but did not have a high chance of survival.

(Columbia Alas. Shiver can be reached at adaserv@gmail.com)

Military’s exclusion of gays will hurt U.S. efforts

Jennifer Vanasco
Kent Campus

It might be gearing up for war, but the Marine Corps has decided that no matter how well they serve, gays aren’t good when it comes to fighting.

So when the Corps issued a “Stop-Loss” order this month, it excluded gays and lesbians. That is, most Marines are prevented from leaving the service for the next year — but not if they’re attracted to people of the same sex.

Gays and lesbians, it seems, are free to go.

It is true that the Marines refuse to overcome these vestiges of national prejudice even during a time of impending war. After all, the military has been the great equalizer, holding in blacks during the Civil War and Japanese-Americans (even when their families were in internment camps) and women during World War II.

The ability to fly a bomber or shoot a missile should be more important than who you love.

The Marine Corps policy is not only discriminatory, it also opens a loophole. Don’t want to go overseas to war? Served to face the threat of bio-terrorism? Just come out.

Charlie Moskos, who helped craft the Pentagon’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, recently identified this opening for soldiers and suggested that if the draft were re-instated, the hole should be sewn closed.

“Don’t use a gay ban with a draft because that would make it too easy for people to get out,” Moskos said.

Even without a draft, it makes no sense that the military is content to release gay and lesbian soldiers — and anyone who is willing to pretend to be gay and lesbian — just because some anonymousstraight men and women are worried about them.

After Sept. 11, at least seven Arab-Indian and two Korean-language specialists were kicked out of the military because they were found to be gay. They wanted to continue to serve. They may have figured that the military — hurting for Arabic speakers — would keep them around anyway.

A record 1,250 gays and lesbians were discharged from the military last year, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. This is the highest number since “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” was instated in 1994.

How is this preserving military effectiveness? As Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., said, “For those who needed further evidence of how ill-advised the anti-gay military policy is, they now have it. Firing talented people who possess a scarce and sorely needed skill because some people don’t like their choice of sexual companions puts prejudice ahead of national security.”

The Marine Corps should change its policy. Preserving our national security is more important than preserving prejudice.

Military’s exclusion of gays will hurt U.S. efforts
Men’s basketball looks to end on a high note

KRISTY SHONKA STAFF WRITER

About two months ago the UCF men’s basketball team squared off against Florida Atlantic. In their first Atlantic Sun Conference game of the season, back then the Knights were supposedly a team destined for the Atlantic Division and the Owls were the reigning conference champs. They weren’t picked to repeat, but the preseason polls had FAU finishing second in the South Division. Those same polls had UCF staying home come tournament time.

My how things can change in just two months.

Saturday’s rematch between the Knights and Owls is the final game of the regular season. Defying preseason predictions, UCF (18-10, 10-5 A-Sun) will advance to the A-Sun Tournament while FAU (14-9, 7-8 A-Sun) will sit at home reflecting on what could have been.

In the first game against FAU, the Knights already overcame a slow start to shoot 53 percent from the field and hold the Owls to just 28 percent. They also won the rebounding battle 45-25.

Freshman guard Celeste Hudson, coming off a career-high 25-point, six three-pointer performance against FAU, hit three of four shots beyond the arc and scored 11 points in the first Mercer game. Both

Tough road trip ahead

CHRIS BERNHARDT STAFF WRITER

Coming off the heels of a huge 78-77 road victory over Florida Atlantic, the UCF women’s basketball team likely feels a major sense of accomplishment. After all, they went into that game against FAU tied with the Lady Owls for first place in the Atlantic Sun South Division with a 9-2 conference record.

But the Golden Knights (14-9, 10-2 A-Sun) are far from done as they head into conference play against Mercer (8-14, 5-5 A-Sun) tonight. The Knights already own a 78-29 victory over Mercer in their first game of the season and hold the top seed in the A-Sun Tournament with a nine-point lead over the Bears. That game also marked a new high for senior guard Julie Abellard, who scored 20 points in the Knights’ 80-69 win.

Senior guard Celeste Hudson, coming off a career-high 25-point performance against FAU, hit three of four shots beyond the arc and scored 11 points in the first Mercer game. Both

If you happen to be anywhere near the UCF Tennis Complex during a women’s tennis match, you will hear Julie Pecasting.

In fact, Coach Patricia Allen named Pecasting’s best quality as her competitive spirit. Even if she’s not playing on the court, you can always hear Julie cheering on her teammates. When someone is a match, she can really be heard.

When asked how she keeps up her drive and enthusiasm, Pecasting said: “I don’t know—I’m just happy.”

And it’s not very hard to see why.

Photo by Adam Stock / CFF, photo illustration by Adam Stock / CFF

PLEASE SEE Pecasting on 15

Junior Julie Pecasting’s never-say-die attitude carries over to her teammates

Sadie Sham STAFF WRITER

Krisy Shonka STAFF WRITER

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Knights can claim 5th seed

From Page 12
the FAU Gymnasium hasn’t been kind to the Knights. "FAU's going to be a tough one," Speraw said. "We have a hard time down there, playing in that environment. We’re going to have to go down there and try to get things going."

The Knights have lost in Boca Raton each of the last two years, but this year’s team isn’t like those teams. This team was built on defense and emotion and the Knights need to use this game to refocus on what got them to this point.

"Our execution is just off a little bit," Speraw said. "Our fundamentals on defense are still just a little bit and we’ve got to get them back."

Because of the way the Knights’ schedule worked out, Saturday’s 7 p.m. game against the Owls in their only game of the week, Boyd said that a week of practice is very important to them.

"I think we need the time to focus and analyze what we did wrong and how to correct it," he said.

Speraw added, "We’ve just got to get re-juiced, re-energized and focus in on one more regular season game and getting some things done beyond that."

Troy State game could decide division

From Page 12
she and fellow guard Jessica Sales have heated up recently, to go along with strong inside play by forwards Erin Paige and Tahirah Allen.

In the January contest the Knights did a good job containing Mercer’s best player, April Dyer. She had just nine points and five rebounds, below her season averages of 11.8 points and 6.9 rebounds. But second-leading scorer and rebounder, Lee Lee Cannon, did have a nice game, with 11 points and eight rebounds.

On the same night UCF put itself in first place with the win over FAU, Mercer hurt its chances of winning the division with a 69-50 loss to last-place Jacksonville. A loss to the Knights would eliminate the Lady Trojans in scoring with 17.2 points per game, with Herring second at 14.5. Herring also grab a team-leading 7.4 rebounds per game. Kerri Fiehrer had 14 points and six assists against UCF last month and leads the conference in assists with 5.3 per game.

The Golden Knights are playing far better now than they were when that game took place, especially on offense. But the Lady Trojans are also playing well, winning seven of their past nine.

Further making this game interesting is Troy State’s 5-1 home record in conference play compared to against UCF’s 6-0 road conference record.

This game probably will end up close and with low scores, as it did in two of the A-Sun’s better defensive teams against each other. But the Knights need this win more because two losses to Troy State would give the Lady Trojans a huge mental advantage should the two teams meet again in the A-Sun tournament.

When it’s all said and done, this could be considered a winnable game. As for that game against Troy State (14-9, 9-3 A-Sun), it could very well determine the winner of the South Division. In their first meeting with the Lady Trojans, the Knights actually had a one-point halftime lead but shot miserably in the second half. They hit just 27 percent of their shots while Troy State shot 52 percent in the period.

The inside-outside combination of guard Chaquita Alexander and center Thena Herring gave UCF fits, as they went for 25 and 35 points, respectively. Alexander leads the Lady Trojans in scoring with 17.2 points per game, with Herring second at 14.5. Herring also grab a team-leading 7.4 rebounds per game. Kerri Fiehrer had 14 points and six assists against UCF last month and leads the conference in assists with 5.3 per game.

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When it’s all said and done, this game could turn out to be the most pivotal point of the season.
Pecastaing wants to coach after graduation

FROM PAGE 12

Pecastaing picked up her first racket when she was 4 years old and has been playing tennis ever since. A native of Nice, France, she graduated from Lycee du Parc Imperial and played for Tennis Club de Cannes. She decided to play in Florida because she wanted warm weather and was closer to home than California. Also, she wanted to attend Florida State University, so it included getting a good education.

"The first three months were terrible because I didn't speak English very well. But I learned quickly and I loved the team, so it wasn't really that difficult to adjust," she said.

Pecastaing has had an outstanding underclassman campaign. As a freshman, she finished with an impressive 23-6 singles record, playing mainly at the No. 4 spot, and won 15 of her first 16 dual matches. During her sophomore tenure, Pecastaing posted a 21-7 singles record and garnered the team's MVP award.

Allison acknowledges Pecastaing as an asset to the team: "She is a go-to player. If you play her at four, she's going to win. If you play her at two or three, you can expect a good result. When in doubt, go to Julie." Pecastaing said.

"It's hard to see why she has such outstanding results," said Coach Allison.

"She's a heck of a competitor," Allison said. "She sets the standard for everyone else to want to compete at a high level." Pecastaing has competed in the academic field as well, earning a spot on the International Team Association's All-Academic Team. Planning is the key to balancing school and academics for Pecastaing. "I always plan everything," she said. "I have my time to practice and go to class, and I know when I'm going to eat, and I know when I'm going to sleep." Disciplined and diligent, Pecastaing is also goal-oriented. "I want to play in the No. 1 spot, but I guess coach has her reasons to play me at two," Pecastaing said.

Allison does: "She is going to drive people at two, three and four insane. Does she have the ability to play one? Yes, absolutely. She has the talent and desire to play at one. But we need her at two." Pecastaing's other goals include getting ranked in doubles, winning the Atlantic Sun Conference again, and advancing past the first round of the NCAA's. Over the years, Pecastaing has played doubles with four separate partners.

"It's hard because we all have a different game, so we have to adapt to each other," Pecastaing said. "That since I've already played with Anna [Westlin], it runs pretty quickly." However, she sees a strong need for improvement in doubles play with Westlin.

"We just need to be more consistent and work with each other better," she said.

Allison has high hopes for her in this area. "I'd like to see her be a leader in the doubles and get more national ranking with Anna," Allison said.

When her career with college tennis comes to an end, Pecastaing would like to put her enthusiasm and knowledge of the game to use as an assistant coach at UCF. "I love the game. I'm very much looking forward to her being a graduate assistant coach," Allison said. "She is a great person and I am very fond of her. We're just lucky we recruited her."
Timpner leads UCF over East Carolina

Chris Bernhardt Staff Writer

Everyone seemed to have one. From slightly-built leadoff hitter David Mann to the struggling Dee Brown, every regular or semi-regular on UCF's baseball team had recorded at least one RBI. All except one: cleanup hitter Clay Timpner.

Not that Timpner, a sophomore, pressure all-conference pick, had not been hitting well. He came in hitting a decent .276 over the team's first eight games. But he had yet to knock a runner in; at least until Sunday afternoon.

That day Timpner, who moved up to second in the batting order because Coach Jay Bergman wanted the chance to hit-and-run with Mann on base, went 3-for-5 with two RBIs. He came within a home run of winning the series. It was big for Timpner, the sophomore's first save of the year.

"There has to be awareness of how the cobb and flow of a baseball game," Bergman said. "You can create that yourself or you can allow it to create you. And I think they created a situation early in the game and we got the run and that was it.

Penny wouldn't make it out of the second inning, giving up a late-inning triple to Timpner that made the score 5-0. Timpner later scored off of Rich Wallace's sacrifice fly and the Knights tacked on one more run in the bottom of the third inning, when catcher Ryan Bon? tripled and scored on Evans's fly out to right field.

That proved more than enough for UCF starter Taylor Cobb, who scattered six hits and struck out a career-high six over six scoreless innings. That performance got the sophomore his first win of the season.

"He did a good job," Bergman said. "He had a couple situations first and third with two outs. He had to make the good pitches and he did."

Matt Fox came on to relieve Cobb and gave up two runs off of two hits, two wild pitches and a sacrifice fly, but managed his control enough to pitch a perfect eighth and ninth inning for his second save of the year.

Penny took the loss, falling to 2-3, and East Carolina went to 4-7.

Meanwhile for Timpner, the zero is finally gone under his RBI total.

"I wasn't really worried about it. I knew it'd come eventually," Timpner said. "It came a little later than what I expected, but I'm not that worried about it. I'm glad we got the win today as a team."
**Internet station may rock airwaves**

**Knightcast looks forward to move from Internet to AM**

**Alex Basco** Staff Writer

On the south side of campus housed in a quiet brick building, a group of more than 50 students live their dreams and act out their fantasies every week, every day, every month. Knightcast, UCF’s official student-run radio station, broadcasted 25 music and talk shows weekly. Students produce and host every show, with topics ranging from heavy metal to sketch comedy. Since its birth in November 2000, the station has broadcast strictly through the Internet but is now working towards a bigger dream — to broadcast on AM radio.

Research on converting to AM started in the summer last year and is growing, and management and faculty members are to receive a reality. With an AM signal students would be able to listen through radio airwaves rather than through a computer, as they currently do. "This is the first step in becoming a college radio station," said junior Scott Royffe, 20, Knightcast station manager. The station is considering a low-power AM setup that will allow them to broadcast to the boundaries of the campus. "If we are able to get all the proper permits, Royffe is optimistic, "I have a good idea that we are going to be able to do it," he said. Standing between Knightcast and a future media event is the Federal Communications Commission, responsible for licensing broadcast stations, SKA’s budget committees and the UCF administration. With cooperation from all three groups, Royffe estimates Knightcast could be on the air within a year to 18 months.

The station has grown in sports since its beginnings over two years ago as a hobby between friends. Knightcast was created in a student’s apartment and financed by its creators’ funding. Harris connected to the station through the Internet from their own homes and broadcast their shows remotely. A year and a half ago the station gained recognition and legitimacy when UCF approved a request for an on-campus studio.

Since then, the station has moved to a 200-square-foot room in the UCF Wired Cell of the Student Resource Center. Knightcast has steadily increased its staff and show content. From the original handful of shows, the station now boasts a 12-hour lineup, from noon to midnight, filling remaining hours with pre-programmed music playlists. "Among Knightcast’s lineup is ‘UCP 2 Knight,’’ says Randy Harris, the station’s daytime sports talk show airing at 4 p.m. Thursdays. Host sophomore Victor Anderson, 20, analyses UCP games and interviews UCP’s coaches and players."Sports exists in a passion cultivated since he could first speak," Anderson said. "Most kids' first words are 'mama' or 'dada.' The first words I said were 'Gio Canes,'" he said. "I’ve been a sports fan as long as I can remember.

Though genre-specific shows like Anderson’s influence the station’s lineup, variety shows make up the bulk of Knightcast’s content. New on-air personalities senior Randy Harris, 20, and junior Christian Magalhaes, 21, hosts of ‘Pantera’s Jakebox,” provide comic banter with an eclectic mix of music. The show airs from 4-6 p.m. Wednesdays.

"We’re not tied down by the same FCC restrictions that mainstream radio is. We’re not hear anything on Knightcast that’s being played to death on mainstream radio. In that aspect I think we’re bringing something new to the table, and we’re playing the music people are starved for."

-Randy Harris - Knightcast host

**Diane Kennedy / UCF**

Junior Christian Magalhaes mixes pop culture and ‘wacky tunes’ on the Knightcast show ‘Pantera’s Jakebox.”

**It’s no Van Gogh... but then again, who cares?**

**THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED**

**Linnea Brown Staff Writer**

"What’s up with the Pokemon in bondage?" a girl inquired curiously, stepping at the blobs, obscure stuffed animal in my arms.

About a dozen “dorm goddesses” who waltz campus dorm rooms spontaneously to themselves — were scattered around the room of the Libra Community Center, hugging brightly on couches and watching "The Simpsons" on a high-definition TV.

They balked at my towering armload of underwear and therador, and the Sobek-Pokémon doll as if I was carrying an alien.

Trying not to laugh at my own absurdity, I gingerly set down my squidgy masterpiece and exchanged a mock-serious look with my friend and our boyfriend.

"Don’t look until we’ve set it up," I admonished the gawking students.

Six tables, draped in black satin, had been impeccably set up to display 40 conservative student art pieces for an on-campus art show, held last Thursday evening.

The pieces included a painting of a manatee, flowers made out of tissue paper and an intricate unicorn figurine.

I suddenly felt as if I had spotted red devil horns. As the dorm goddesses would soon witness, our bizarre piece was the humorous antithesis of traditional art.

I originally acquired the idea of creating exhibition art after attending "Nude Bike 2002," a nude-art display that took place downtown three weeks ago.

One particularly memorable piece was "My Boyfriend’s Penis," by local artist Brenda Haak; who painted nine bold, colorful portraits of male genitalia, each from a different angle.

And she makes money off this? I could do that, I thought. A few days later, I attended "Bagic," a successfully risqué fashion event at Tiny nightclubs, featuring models parading down the runway in the latest lingerie fashion.

The message from both venues was clear — our society loves underwear and nudity.

We begin by staffing a pair of red, leotard-spotted rights full of crumpled-up newspaper and placing them on the head of a pillow-sized, dirty yellow Pikachu Pokemon plush animal.

We dressed it in various kinds

**PLEASE SEE Station on 20**

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**Saturday, March 1**

Painting the Classics of downtown UCF. The West Campus United Arts Alliance presents ‘Appreciation Night’ a creative art display and sale, including chalk murals, live chalk drawing, and a make-your-own chalk mural station. 4p-7p, Gallery 18, 407-823-3939.

**Sunday, March 2**

"Fugitives 2001" The 2001 Fugitive Generation. 9:00am. Intermedia House, from the Boulder’s ‘bizzare, bizarre, ‘bizzare." Printmaking, painting, sculpture, button-making, print, live painting, silk screen, paper-making, and mini workshop created for the public. 407-647-2832.

**Monday, March 3**

Inexplicable Behavior and Striper Knights.

**Tuesday, March 4**

The Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler's controversial off-Broadway show "The Vagina Monologues," at the UCF Fine Arts Cafe of the Student Union. Hosted by the UCF Womans' Resource Center, this show is at 7 p.m., in the Student Union's Community Center, 6pm-9pm, $10.

**Wednesday, March 5**

**Thursday, March 6**

Don’t take it so seriously.

**PLEASE SEE Station on 20**

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**Lifestyles**

Tuesday February 27, 2003
Searching for meaning in bad art

FROM PAGE 17

of flowery stuffed bears and pandas, as well as hanging undies from its mohawked ‘antennae’ and from a weird, flesh-colored plastic finger that we glued to the middle of its forehead.

We then stapled a long, brown curly hairpiece to its upper lip, creating an impressively hairy mustache. I tried to ignore the fact that the mustached, pudgy stuffed animal was beginning to resemble my least-favorite porn star, Ron Jeremy.

"It’s not shocking enough," my friend stated, using the critical eye of a true con artist.

So we added a few more gross, tacky sexual details — like a realist-looking, rubber penis and testicles, sticking out of a hole from a weird, flesh-colored plastic finger that appeared as if our creation.

We then stapled a long, another finishing touch, we placed a newspaper-filled condom to give the illusion of a realistic-looking, rubber penis. Despite the insightful comments, the show’s meager attendance didn’t seem to bother anyone — although she never expected to hear that particular interpretation. But what he said.

As a finishing touch, we wrote a thought-provoking message on the piece. Everyone who looked at it appeared to take our artwork very seriously, offering his or her grave interpretations of our weird, sex-laden stuffed animal.

One student said he thought the piece’s sexual imagery showed that Pikachu was trapped by his culture of sex.

"People trap themselves in their own 'wanting to be accepted' world," he declared.

Another student stood and stared at the piece for a long time and said, "Right now society itself is obsessed with sexuality because it’s all you ever see in the media. It’s that whole idea of, ‘No, I won’t use my [penis] around, and it’s a lot bigger than anyone else’s.’"

Right, I certainly hadn’t expected to hear that particular interpretation. But what he said.

Despite the insightful comments, the show’s meager attendance made me feel that our Pokemon masterpiece had not yet made its true debut. For this reason, we decided to take our piece to the Bad Art Show, an art exhibition held every Sunday evening at Bodhisattva Social Club, at 23 Court St downtown.

Unfortunately, I was one of only two "artists" displaying work. In fact, only about half a dozen people actually attended the show but I didn’t really care! I met some interesting people and had fun.

One of them was a youth-looking, slender, graceful designer, who wore a new baseball hat that read, "I’m retired." He said he felt he could relate to Pokemon’s message.

"This piece applies to me because last week, someone gave me an assignment to have sex with as many people as possible," he said. "But guess how many I had sex with?"

He held up his hand in an exaggerated "zero" sign and responded, "Society definitely puts that pressure on us.

Surprisingly, only one UCF student had enough sense to laugh out loud at the piece. "It’s a grotesquely humorous, post-modernist statement on society’s wish to be desirable in ways that aren’t natural or necessary," she stated.

At least one person found the humor in it — although she never realized that the whole project was a joke, either. I guess everyone was too busy searching for the meaning.

The cool thing about the Bad Art Show was that artists could sell their work, there, I probably could have sold "Pokemon, Sex and Society" for millions of dollars.

Just kidding, of course. I doubt that anyone would have given me more than 20 cents.

But the piece did win me a free pizza from Papa John’s. We ended up eating fourth place in the on-campus art show, and pizza would be our prize.

Pulling into a grade hotel at a red light, I laughed the entire way home when I glanced over and saw another driver gaping at the mustached, underwear-clad Pokemon perched on the roof next to me.

Maybe when we pick up our pizza, we can donate Pokemon to Papa John’s.

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Station must adhere to stricter standards on radio broadcast

FROM PAGE 17

entire program. If you could just have the AM on in the background I think it would go a long way towards making people more aware that Knightcast exists.

Putting the station on the map is Boyle's goal, which he hopes UCF will support. "As long as all of the licensing and regulations check out," Boyle said, "we will run it by the administration and make sure that they're OK with it. We think that the future will be there for us. SGA has always been funding us, and we support the idea of student-run radio and broadcast radio.

In addition to SGA aid, WUCF station manager Keysun Riley provides the Knightcast staff with professional advice. "I know that Knightcast is highly interested in getting a real FM or AM type broadcast, and we're helping them to explore any potential possibilities that there are for that," Riley said.

A full-time WUCF engineer is helping handle the potential transition to AM.

Riley remains skeptical of some aspects of Knightcast's technical transformation to AM. "We're trying to look into it a little bit deeper before they spend a bunch of money and get something that's only going to cover from their office to the edge of the patio," she said. "You don't want to drop $12,000 or $15,000 for something that's only going to give you that [little] amount of coverage. If it is at all possible to get any sort of a real broadcast running, we'd love to make that happen."

Boyle is grateful of others' help. Free advice is welcomed by the low-budget station, which currently only has money to provide its one station manager with salary. Knightcast's operating budget for last year was about $25,000. Boyle estimates the cost of the transition to AM will be $12,000.

Upon broadcasting AM, it intends to keep its Internet radio signal as well. But to comply with AM broadcasting restrictions Knightcast will need to alter show content. Though Internet radio has no restrictions on programs, AM and FM broadcasts do.

"We have to be extra careful about everything that's said and everything that gets played," Boyle said.

To plan for the change, Boyle instructs DJs to act like they are already broadcasting AM and watch their words. Members of the staff are compiling a rulebook for on-air content. Some shows, such as "The Manly Oracle" airing at 10 p.m. Thursdays, face a tougher challenge complying with the changes than others.

Co-hosts senior Tom Alexander, 20, and junior Evan Turner, 21, helm the sketch comedy variety show, which includes segments similar to MTV's "Jackass." Freshman Steven Alexander, 19, known as "Steve Knievel" on-air, is the show's stuntman.

"Last week we had Steve Knievel's 'poop-poo predicament,'" Alexander said. "He made a concoction of chocolate syrup and creamed corn, put it back in the squeeze bottle and sucked it into his pants. He went to a local Wendy's, asked to find the bathroom and had an accident on the floor in the restaurant basically just to get a reaction out of the people working there."

Christian Magalhaes (front) and Randy Harris call themselves "Team Touchdurf and their show, "Vander's Juicebox", a "no-holds-barred pop-culture train wreck."

Alexander acknowledges that in the past the show did not adhere to FCC broadcast standards and has toned down explicit content.

"The show can get kind of racy at times," he said. "I think it's wise that we made sure the show was on after 10 o'clock. It's not something that's suitable for air in the daytime."

Aside from complying with new standards and preparing for the possible transition, Boyle hopes Knightcast evolves.

"We've found that as we get bigger and bigger, more people are coming, and it's going to become like a selection process now," he said. "I tell the DJs every time, 'Thank you for all your hard work, but now you're going to have to work harder to keep your slot.' That's what's going to make this station a lot better," he said. While Knightcast evolves, Boyle maintains that the focus of the station remains constant. "We are pretty much an outlet for any student, for any student organization. We're here to be a good outlet, and create a sense of community. That's the goal."

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