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Recommended Citation
Kirlew charges victor with vote tampering in SGA election

Claiming that the winners “cheated,” Brian Kirlew, who lost last week’s Student Government Association presidential election by 251 votes, said he will formally contest the victory by Brian Battles, his co-vote president in the current SGA administration.

“I know in my heart and my soul that an impropriety has happened...that the winning ticket cheated,” Kirlew said.

Kirlew claims several students notified him that campaign supporters of Battles and his running mate, Joe MacLellan, unalterably pressured students to vote for the Battles-MacLellan ticket on wireless laptop computers under the supporters’ watchful eyes.

“I was skateboarding with my friends and 10 beautiful Kappa Deltas came up to me and told us [to vote] for the Battles campaign and walked us over to the laptop,” said freshman Danny Sakami. “They were just so hot that all my friends just did it. It wasn’t private at all. They would know who you voted for.

Should you bring a pillow to class?

Web site lets students rate UCF professors, classes

“Not only is the book a better teacher; it also has a better personality.”

“Instant anneuli walking into this class, I swear the teacher has bad sleeping pills.”

“Boring. But learned there are 137 tubes on the ceiling.”

Student statements like these only come from one source — frustrated students. A newly acknowledged forum on the Internet Web site RateMyProfessors.com gives students the chance to tell it like it is.

Terror alerts issued at local apartments

Three off-campus apartment units issue letters about terror, but UCF seems warnings too vague to act on

The warnings told residents that apartment living goes way to anonymity and it is important for residents to be aware and get to know their neighbors.

The warnings were given out based on a recommendation from the National Apartment Association, according to spokespeople from the complexes.

Jefferson Commons issued warnings to:

Please See More on 3

Terror classes

Few colleges offer specialized terrorism courses, a recent study finds

In an increasingly panic-ridden and suspicious America that seems to continually grow more concerned with terrorism with each passing day, both college professors and students agree that college-terrorism classes have grown in importance and popularity since Sept. 11.

One study by the American Council on Education found that terrorism courses at UCF's Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies enrolls substantial increases in terrorism courses from 2001 to 2002.

"You can see the great deal of concern that people exhibit, and students want to know more about it," McCarthy said.

Kevin C. Dunn, an instructor of Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, N.Y., and Samuel Nunn, a professor at Indiana University, both say they saw substantial increases in their terrorism classes.

Please See UCF on 4

INSIDE

$125,000 sends students to park

Free admission to Bands of America scheduled April 1.

—MUS. 3

Less sophisticated side of college life

Anne Kashiwabara talks about college life at UCF.

—NEWS 7

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UCF FACT

Surf's up, dude

It's time when Hollywood actors say either gas or oil refiners tell it like it is.

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More charges of vote-buying emerge in race

From Page 1

were voting for. It wasn’t like you went to a priva-

te booth.

Other students claim the campaign sup-

porters changed students’ votes once they

made their selection and were out of sight.

Only the first allegation has been con-

firmed.

Kirlaw is also standing behind earlier

allegations that he and MacLellan gave

away free shots in a bar to bribe students

to vote for their ticket, and knowingly al-

lowed an endorsement that promoted them to

appear on a Hogs and Honeys nightflyer. He

was then informed that the candidates

were allowed to campaign.

“We have independent students who will

verify that [Battles and MacLellan] were

at Bar Orlando and received free shots to

vote for certain candidates,” Kirlaw said.

He said several students will testify at a

hearing, which has not yet been scheduled, to

verify the charge, but refused to disclose their

names.

Sophomore Jennie Cowley also has come

forward to claim that MacLellan offered stu-

dents free shots two weeks ago at another bar,

Devaney Too. If they agreed to vote for the

ticket.

The Battles-MacLellan ticket had set up a

laptop computer inside the bar and DJs announced throughout the evening that stu-

dents could receive free shots if they agreed to

vote for Battles and MacLellan, she said.

Battles, who won the runoff election with

2,715 votes to 2,434 votes for Kirlew, already

thinking about

using the money f"rom the event since no rides

are available.

“The event is a good opportunity. It is a

good way to market the university,” he said.

‘We are going to the island of Adventure.

That’s a popular rollercoaster at Islands of

Adventure, would be one of many rides available for UCF students to enjoy for free in an after-hours event April 3.

UCF students from 6 p.m. until midnight.

Plans are also in the works to rent charter buses to transport students to the park from UCF and back.

‘We are going to rent the buses for 5,000 students, but there should be enough for a significant number of stu-

dents who need the trans-

portation,” Peña said.

The Islands of Adventure event would dwarf last year’s UCF day at Wet n’ Wild water park, which cost $3,000.

“We had 2,500 there last year. If we can double that, it would be amazing,” Peña said.

Last year’s event was not a successful event like this year would be, as the water park remained open to regular guests.

A bigger budget this year has allowed this year’s event to be bigger than the Wet n’ Wild event.

“We just had more money in our account, an increase in the activity and service fee due to more students at UCF, so we had more projects for money,” Peña said. “There were certain accounts such as salaries that didn’t have as much spent as we anticipated.”

Also, unlike last year, funds have been adequate enough that no club that has asked for funding has been denied, Peña said.

Peña said the expense of the event is justifiable because it will benefit students who are at UCF this year, who have paid activity and service fee money, instead of rolling it over to fund next year’s activities.

SGA will spend roughly $25 per student who attends the event, or half the cost of a regu-

lager ticket, if at least 5,000 stu-

dents show up.

Even if only 2,700 stu-

dents attended, as happened at last year’s Wet n’ Wild event, SGA still paid out the nor-

mal admission cost for those 2,700 students.

To combat the historically low attendance by UCF stu-

dents at events such as foot-

ball games and concerts, Peña said he will make many attempts to publicize the event.

“We have a month to publicize this event,” he said. “I’m going to go out to clubs and organizations and let them know that this is going on, we’re going to put an ad in The Florida Times, flyers around campus, and we’ll be in front of the Student Union telling people to come.”

But he’s confident that many students will take advantage of the opportunity.

“Islands of Adventure is a big event,” he said. “I think they’ll show up.”

"I think it is a good expenditure. We spend upwards of $100,000 on concerts and they have less attendance than what is anticipated at this event. This magnitude of an event has never been done before for UCF students.

**BRIAN BATTLES**

Student body president
UCF to offer summer seminar in homeland security as a complement to terror classes

FROM PAGE 1

slices as well since last September.

Dunn said he had about 200 students try to get into his terrorism course this semester; and Dunn said that within one year, his terrorism class size increased from 35 to 75.

“I doubt I would have had that high a number (of students) five years ago, and I am not sure I will have that number five years from now. Only time will tell,” Dunn said.

Randall, Wisconsin S. Holmes, an assistant professor of government and politics at the University of Texas at Dallas, said, “The last time I taught terrorism, in spring 2001, I had about half as many students.”

While those professors’ testaments indicate that students all over the nation have shown an increasing interest in issues regarding weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, relatively few colleges offer specialized terrorism classes and don’t offer adequate courses to meet student demand, a study found. A survey by the Center for Nonproliferation Studies that analyzed 78 institutions, including the top 25 national universities and liberal arts colleges, found that only nine public universities and four liberal arts colleges offered at least one specialized course on terrorism like UCF, Indiana, New York and Texas do.

Dunn, McCarthy and Randall relate this heightened interest to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

“What the events of Sept. 11, 2001 did, among other things, was to make the average American citizen and student more directly aware of the issues of terrorism,” Dunn said. “Thus, there is a greater interest among American students for courses on terrorism today.”

While they say terrorism isn’t a new concept, it’s a new issue for Americans in this day and age who became victims of terrorism for the first time in September 2001.

“When I used to teach this class, there were no victims of terrorism [in the class],” McCarthy said. “Today, everyone in that class is a victim. That’s the biggest difference.”

McCarthy said he believes universities have a responsibility to help students understand the context of the world and to understand the history of terrorism.

“With terrorism, knowledge is power,” McCarthy said. “Randall said that terrorism classes have become more important because terrorism can affect all of our lives, and terrorism classes can expand our views of the world.”

UCF’s Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies also seems to believe that terrorism courses have become more important than ever before as an American gears up for a possible war with Iraq.

According to McCarthy, the department will be increasing its number of classes that deal with homeland security and offer a certificate on homeland security. UCF also will sponsor a weekend workshop on terrorism and homeland security this summer.

Some professors think colleges could be more helpful and informative to students if they offered a wider variety of terrorism classes.

McCarthy and Randall said that terrorism classes, integrated with other areas of study, would be helpful to students because of the numerous ways that terrorism affects people and society.

For instance, terrorism classes taught from a historical, sociological, psychological or religious perspective could offer students a better understanding of terrorism and its causes and effects.

McCarthy said he would like to see UCF and other colleges offer classes on weapons of mass destruction.

“There’s a tremendous need for this stuff,” Dunn said. “Even what I’ve seen, there’s a number of students interested in learning about it,” he said.

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, some of the information that McCarthy and Randall cover in their terrorism courses has changed. According to Randall, this is due, in no small part, to students’ newfound curiosity and eagerness to learn more about terrorism and its possible implications and hidden dangers.

McCarthy said his terrorism class now spends more time covering the Middle East.

“People have a thirst for knowledge about why [many people in the Middle East] hate Americans,” McCarthy said.

McCarthy added that he has also noticed a significant change in his students.

Randall said that the context of his classes hasn’t changed, but he now applies the practical aspects of terrorism to the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. He also said his students now ask more and different questions during class.
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Residents see warnings as cause for conversation, not panic

FROM PAGE 1

Residents immediately after receiving the recommendation from the National Apartment Association. Junior Mable Marte, 20, an employee and resident of Jefferson Commons, said the warning served as more of a conversation piece than a threat to residents. "Everyone became more aware, but no one acted like the world was coming to an end," Marte said. "The residents appreciated the fact that we communicated the information to them."

Cindy Holle, a leasing consultant for the Fountain, said that none of their residents overreacted to the warnings, and most seemed receptive. She said it worked to increase residents' awareness.

Gary Scourbough, director of education and governmental affairs for the Florida chapter of the Apartment Association, said that warnings go to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to the National Apartment Association and then to local chapters, who disperse it to members.

Scourbough added that when warnings state that soft terrorist targets might include apartments, he imagines that they mean high-rise apartments and not two- or three-level buildings like those typically found in the Orlando area.

"While we don't downplay these warnings, we don't encourage complexes to aggressively warn residents," Scourbough said.

U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft issued the initial warning. "Recent intelligence reports suggest that Al Qaeda leaders have emphasized planning for attacks on apartment buildings, hotels and other soft or lightly secured targets in the United States," Ashcroft said at a Feb. 7 news conference, during which the United States raised the terror alert level to orange, the second-highest level of alert.

The letters distributed by the Fountains and Wentworth advised residents to follow certain guidelines, including:

• Report suspicious activity to apartment management, which notifies abandoned cars and packages.
• Make an effort to be aware of who neighbors are.
• Report any lost keys or amenity cards to management immediately and do not reveal security codes to strangers.
• Check ID's from maintenance people before allowing them to enter apartments.
• Be aware of where emergency evacuation procedures are and create a Family Disaster Plan.

Also, be sure that apartment management has up to date emergency contact information.

Sophomore Jessica Gentella, 20, a resident of the Fountains, said the warning worried her. "I was shocked. I never considered apartment complexes a target. It has really made me consider moving into a house," she said.

However, not all residents of the complexes are alarmed. Junior Ross Stern, 21, who lives at Wentworth Apartments, said he does not worry so much about retail terrorist attacks but about the reactions of residents to the terror alerts.

"There are a lot of minorities and families who live at Wentworth," he said. "I worry that children will be instructed to be overreacting to situations and will end up being critically discriminately [of their neighbors]."

Most apartment complexes in the area, including Boardwalk, Northglade Lakes and the Village at Science Drive, have not issued the warnings, and neither has UCF warned its residents, according to Christi Hartler, the director of Housing and Residence Life.

"Our residents have access to many methods of communication — Internet, cable TV, newspapers," Hartler said. "They have a feel for what is going on in the world. If there is something specific that they need to know, it will be communica ted to them."

This alert is similar to one issued in May 2002.
Post-grad crafts novel that reveals life of parties and one-night stands

JAMIE RICH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Aaron Karo’s inspiration to write a novel was deceptively simple — an e-mail that he sent to a friend five years ago that detailed a typical weekend of drunken debauchery during Karo’s freshman year at college.

His dream of turning his novel into a television show or feature film, however, may be a little more difficult.

But that’s what the 23-year-old New York native and author of the witty college humor novel, “Ruminations on College Life” — a novel based on the monthly e-mail column he wrote and circulated during his years at the University of Pennsylvania — plans to do right after he makes a stop at UCF tonight.

While making it in showbiz isn’t easy, it may not be as out of reach for this business school student who recently left Wall Street to promote his book, which has sold 15,000 copies so far. He’s also plugging a post-college column that boasts a readership of 17,000 and a stand-up act that earned him the title “The Jewish Chris Rock” from a New York Times reviewer.

Karo is working on a film screenplay based on his novel and a post-college sitcom based on his current column.

But that visit to UCF on his current Ruminations Tour is less about seeking recognition than an excuse to hang out with a college crowd, he said.

“I travel around the country talking about my experiences in college and how I came to write ‘Ruminations,’ as well as what it’s like to be in the post-college world,” he said. “Plus, I get to meet college chicks.”

Karo will discuss with students everything they can already relate to and everything that has made his book a success — anecdotes of partying all night, sleeping all day, crummy professors and really hot boys.

“I used to read other columnists’ work and think they were making up ridiculous stories,” says the author-commentator. “But those things happen to everyone. People just don’t realize it.”

While most college students have their fair share of outrageous tales of collegiate mayhem, few have been able to market them as well as Karo. And very rarely does a single e-mail about cheap beer and all-nighters capture the interest of the college community the way Karo’s did.

“My friends started forwarding my e-mails to their friends, and their friends started forwarding it to their friends,” he said. “Pretty soon, I had attracted hundreds of subscribers.”

After his graduation in May 2001, Karo e-mailed his bustling readership base seeking assistance and know-how to continue “Ruminations” after college.

Karo’s readers urged him to turn his columns into a book, and soon afterward he signed with a literary management company in Los Angeles, landing a book deal.

But adapting the e-mail column to novel form was more daunting than earning a loyal readership, Karo concedes.

“I thought we would print out all the e-mails and slap on a cover,” he said. “The book is different from the column, though — one-third of the book is brand-new material. You can’t just sell what was free in the column. Plus, the chapters are laid out so you can pick up at any page and start reading.”

But what wasn’t complicated was coming up with the name for columns that he ultimately describes as “Seinfeld meets frat boy” and “Seinfeld meets Sex and the City.” In his early 20s.

“Ruminations” is a great word,” he said. “I don’t know how I came up with it, but I’m glad I did. It has become a brand for what I write and accurately describes my writing style.”
Far from home, and seeking a place to fit in

LAURA STEVENS
STAFF WRITER

The average freshman coming to UCF with worries about new schedules, professors, college homework and the expenses of tuition can turn the home for first time. Imagine adding to that list the challenge of learning to speak English as a second language.

International students face many more challenges than the typical UCF student. Transitioning into American culture is an adjustment. Statistics show international students overall have the highest rates of all students, according to the International Studies Program. However, program director Mathilda Harris said transitions can be hard. "Sometimes it's an academic issue that we deal with, but most of the time it's homesickness," she said.

Kasper Christensen, 27, came here from Denmark, and said the biggest issue he has faced is transitioning in the campus bureaucracy. "In Denmark, students are put on a track and assigned classes for their entire school career. At UCF, you have trouble heading classes and would like more help. "No one at UCF seems to take responsibility for any freakin' thing," he said. "Where else can you go ... and see an IBM service?"

In learning to deal with a new school system, time management also becomes important, said Virginio Corbin, 23, a student from France. In France, college requires students to take about 30 credit hours per semester. Here, she takes only 12, requiring a completely different mindset.

Another adjustment involves testing. Corbin said, "Exams are really different." French students take all of their exams over a period of one week, rather than interspersed throughout the semester. "In America, there are oral exams at the end of the semester. We complain when we have chapters to study ... but there you can have a whole book," she said.

Doing homework is also a challenge. Qin Li, 23, a violin student from China, said doing homework in a second language takes extra effort. "The biggest problem is when I take an academic class," she said. "If you need one hour to prepare, I need two hours." And that's time she does not have. As a music major, she has to practice her instrument seven or eight hours a day, attend rehearsals and study.

Cultural differences also make it difficult for international students to make friends. "Usually my circle of friends is from the same Yugoslavia," Gribic said.

Gribic, a social science education major, moved to the United States when she was in high school. Her grandparents were killed during the war in Bosnia.

Cultural differences in opinions about war among American students sometimes shock her. She said, "People here don't know how to see your friend die beside you. I just don't know what's in their right mind would want to go to war."

"I also has a small circle of friends within her own nationalitiy. "It's very hard to make American friends because of different cultures," she said.

Her roommates are Chinese, and she lives in an apartment complex where she said about 90 percent of the Chinese students at UCF live. "We call it China Town," she said, and laughed.

Transitioning to UCF can be hard, said Rachel Bendina, assistant director of the Center for Multicultural and Multilingual Studies. Some students have emotional issues which staff often notices because they see their students so often. "I know 154 students, all of them by their first name," she said. The program, which sends foreign students in English, creates a welcoming environment, he said. "We try to help them as much as we can to deal with culture shock."

He said the program holds a conversation time bi-weekly in the Barbara Ying Center. Faculty, staff and other UCF students are involved. They sit and converse about culture shock, American holidays and traditions, dating, privacy, American culture and other cultural topics. He said because of the conversation hour, students feel more welcome at UCF.

Harris said the International Student Program helps foreign exchange students to adjust. The program advises students and helps them with course work. They also pick students up at the airport and try to help them through and around their problems, she said.

UCF currently has about 1,500 international students, and that number continues to grow. They come for many reasons.

"I really like the place, the weather, the location and the location," Corbin said. "The campus is great. Facilities are above average compared to Denmark for the international environment."

Lee said she came to UCF because her parents wanted her to receive a quality education. "UCF is better than China," she said. "Because it's like, the high-tech—the lab and library. If you use the internet there's no charges. We use Web CT to take exams. That's effective."

Corbin, who lives on campus in the Lake Claire apartments, said she likes the opportunities she has at UCF. "The campus is way larger here. I feel like there is way more to do here. Because of fewer class hours, she has more time to get involved, she said.

Despite the culture shock, many say they appreciate the cultural differences and different aspects of living in the United States.

"I come here as a European," Christensen said. "That makes it interesting to interact." He said his cultural background also allows him to bring new ideas into discussions about war with Iraq.

Because of the background and appreciation of different cultures, Gribic said she has joined the International Students Association. In meetings, students come together to celebrate their cultural heritage. "Students I think are more open to new cultures," she said.

Although other international students may have trouble making American friends, Christensen said, "I just joined a fraternity—Delta Sigma Pi, the business fraternity. He said, "That's really cool." He compared the fraternity to the family in his "Big Fat Greek Wedding." He said, "You can really be with them all the time."
Internet rating system more efficient than university’s surveys

FROM PAGE 1

to anonymously share their opinions and evaluations of university professors. With more than 500,000 postings, students from every university have an electronic grade for their professor and maybe even earn a little extra.

Since its creation by San Jose State graduate John Swappeski in 1999, RateMyProfessor.com has evaluated 113,000 professors from 2,800 universities across America. One of these universities is UCF, whose students have posted ratings of 340 of its instructors. The site is gaining popularity among students as a more objective alternative to the university’s professor evaluations.

The site is for students who have taken a class with a professor and feel compelled to rate his or her performance. Anyone, however, can sign on and leave a rating, regardless of whether or not the student has actually taken a class with the professor.

Each professor access on the Web site is given an overall average numerical rating, with a “1” being the worst and a “5” being the best. Professors are evaluated in categories that include easiness, helpfulness, clarity, and seriousness.

UCF professors show a range of scores, with a few of the behaviors on campus arousing greater sentiment—both positive and negative.

“I go to RateMyProfessor.com and rate all of my professors,” said sophomore Bill Wright, 20. “When I was in high school, I used RateMyTeacher.com, and I just kept using it when I came to UCF.”

Wright also checks the site when he is preparing his schedule for the next semester. “I’ve noticed that most professors here don’t have a lot of feedback, but I can use what [on the site] to get an idea of what I’m in for.”

Junior Adam Brooks, 21, recently learned about RateMyProfessors.com from a friend. “I’m definitely going to use it in the future to help me pick my classes,” he said. Brooks also will recommend the Web site to his girlfriend when she transfers to UCF in the fall.

Brooks and Wright both agree that the current method of evaluating professors provided by the university offers little feedback to students concerning individual teachers. They praise Swappeski’s attempt to start his advertisement-free site to replace the existing system of measuring professor performance.

The distinctions between RateMyProfessor.com’s system of rating and those used by universities are numerous. The most apparent difference is the public disclosure of the scores. UCF, like most colleges and universities, conducts teacher evaluations secretly without revealing the evaluation scores of specific teachers to the student body.

“At the end of the semester, they ask us a bunch of questions and give us feedback [about the teachers], and then it disappears into that manila envelope and we never hear about it again,” Wright said.

The professor and the department heads review the individual scores and comments from course evaluations, but only the department’s average is made available to the public.

“Anyone can leave a rating or message, whether or not it is accurate. While RateMyProfessor.com does inspect all postings for foul language and libelous content, the message posts are not scrutinized any further once they meet the aforementioned criteria.”

Psychology professor Charles Negy has 45 student ratings, the second most of any UCF professor on the Web site. With an overall rating of 3.5, Negy questions the validity of Internet rating systems, but does not believe students should have restrictions placed upon their opinions.

“I’ve heard of those sites. Students should be able to use whatever resources they’d like. The university shouldn’t impede the students right to say what they want about their professors,” Negy said.

Negy still believes that the most effective way to rate professors is the university’s student evaluation at the end of the semester.

Despite criticisms, RateMyProfessor.com continues to expand its database of universities and professors on a daily basis. In defense of his creation, Swappeski states that “thousands of students use the site to help plan their class schedules and [to] improve the quality of their education.”
OUR STANCE:

$125,000 should go to student groups

Student Body President Marco Peña's proposal to spend $125,000 to send 7,000 students, at most, to Islands of Adventure seems like an extravagant and irresponsible idea. Although the event would be open to all UCF students, a relatively small fraction would actually get to take part. What if all students turned out for the event? Would Peña only allow 7,000 to enter and turn the rest away? While most of the student body likely will not attend the event, it is entirely possible that more than 7,000 would show up.

How would Peña determine which 7,000 deserve the chance? First come, first served? With a crowd that large, he will not know which 7,000 students arrived first.

Furthermore, Peña should consider the outcome of last year's 'Wet 'n' Wild day when only 2,500 students showed up for free admission at the water park. Why did so few show up? Possibly because the vast majority of students did not want to venture to International Drive. While Adventure is even further away than Wet 'n' Wild, and if students know they could drive all the way out there, only to be turned away they may have even less inclination to make the trip.

In light of the fact that many student groups were denied funds this year, and many received far less than they had requested, it seems irresponsible to blow so much money on what would be a grand going-away party for Peña. Not to mention that the party is over-priced.

Normal admission to Islands of Adventure costs roughly $60. The $125,000 that this proposed event would cost equates to admission for about 2,500 people. Thus, it could be argued that for 7,000 students to attend for this cost, SGA would actually get a discount.

However, Islands of Adventure normally closes at 7 p.m. Thus, the park will not lose any business at all through this deal. Above and beyond the actual cost of operating the rides, the park will profit substantially.

Also, the $125,000 only rents the park for four hours. Most regular customers stay at the park far longer than four hours.

While the idea of having a free event for UCF students is not itself bad, Peña could throw an event that would benefit more students, be more convenient, and cost less than this proposed Islands of Adventure night.

OUR STANCE:

Winning slate should use other slates' ideas

Congratulations to Brian Battles for winning the student body presidential race.

After an ugly, heated campaign that witnessed many allegations and much mud-slinging, it's time for Battles to begin the healing process and work toward improving UCF.

Following an extraordinarily close race against his co-vice president Brian Kirlew, Battles should extend an olive branch to Kirlew. After all, the two have to work together for a few more months, and Battles's narrow victory hardly constitutes a sweeping mandate. Battles should work with Kirlew to implement some of his initiatives.

For example, all students would benefit from the student health insurance plan that Kirlew proposed during the campaign. A comprehensive student health insurance plan would allow students to use the Student Health Center for minor ailments, but go to local physicians for more serious illnesses.

Battles should also take Kirlew's proposal to bring more jobs to campus and higher pay for on-campus jobs. Students who work on campus should make more than minimum wage.

Kirlew, however, was not the only candidate who had innovative ideas to improve campus life. Battles should consider the platforms of the other three presidential candidates as well.

Jeff Strong's textbook-exchange idea would certainly benefit students by allowing them to save hundreds of dollars each year on textbooks. Payan Thakshila's plan to expand shuttle service around UCF would keep more cars off campus. Finally, Andrew Houchins promised a fresh, unbiased approach toward student government.

A common theme of this year's election — making the Student Government Association more accessible and involving more students in student government — should become the centerpiece of Battles's presidency.

Battles should realize that students want their activity and service fee money to go toward groups that deserve it. They do not want Greek organizations to receive the largest share of the SGA pie. As evidenced by this year's record voter turnout in the presidential primary and runoff, many students and student groups besides the Greeks care about the way student government operates.

The student body will hold Battles accountable if he betrays its wishes or gives preferential treatment to particular groups, such as the Greeks.

So, while Battles should go forward with his own platform, including expanded discounts for students who use their UCF cards, he should institute any programs that will benefit UCF students and make UCF a better place for all students.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor may be unsolicited, but are not necessarily those of the Student Newspapers of UCF.

SGA anti ideal example of dirty politics

As a former SGA leader, I would like to congratulate all the candidates that ran for student body president, for defining an issue that wasn't particularly Office A is not much different than running for mayor of Orlando. There have been a lot of ideas put against other candidates, dirty tricks, mean bolts, and stuff like that. It makes us want to go to bed at night.

The money raised by the campaign does make a difference. The money raised by the campaign does make a difference.

In conclusion, the process of our dispute is not so similar to that of the money raised by the campaign makes a difference.

"No legacy is so rich as honesty."

—WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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Spring training's in the air

Mental Doodles

Christopher Arnold

With all that has been happening in the world—mounting tensions in the Middle East, North Korea’s nuclear program, rising gas prices and an uncertain economy—a tense and nervous people can be expected.

A bit closer to home, it’s easy to get caught up in the regular stresses of bills, classes, work and whatever else makes you feel like there just are never enough hours in the day.

And before long, days blend together into weeks and time seems to escape you. At least until spring.

That’s right. If it’s spring and you’re in Florida, then it’s time to play ball.

There are two states the boys of summer travel to in order to prepare for baseball season—and we are one of them. And they are everywhere when March rolls around. Lakeland, Atlanta Braves at Disney, Houston Astros in Kissimmee. New York Yankees in Tampa.

Let’s get one thing straight right from the get-go—these games don’t mean anything. There is no “March Classic” to crown the best team. Established players’ playing time is often limited, and because teams are evaluating their young talents, rivalries, where the Detroit Tigers and the Chicago Cubs once raced the team mascot around, is particularly go out to the ballpark to socialize. It’s an opportunity to socialize and get some sun and fresh air. It’s a setting in which fans can congregate. It’s sitting in the grass alongside the left field wall at Disney’s Wide World of Sports.

It’s listening to the more inbreded fans in the sixth inning bellowing seriously at the third-base umpire. It’s “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” sung collectively by who knows who, never feels so bold during the seventh-inning stretch.

It’s seeing the players’ kids make cross-country treks to see their favorite teams play in March. There are the locals who regularly go out to the ballpark to socialize. Then there are those who may never have the opportunity to see a major league game—this may very well be their only opportunity to see big leaguers play and in their own backyards, no less.

Another appeal to this annual tradition is accessibility to players. Autograph-hunting has become a pastime in and of itself this time of year, which is not always a good thing.

It’s so appealing to watch a child approach his or her favorite star and ask for a signature on a ball. But then there are the “professionals” who make their living off of whatever they can acquire. As you might suspect, this can get pretty cutthroat, and so the bigger the star, the larger the circus at times.

Still, nothing is ever perfect, and the pros of spring training far outweigh the cons. Take the food, for instance. Make no bones about it, this is no five-star fare. Wolfgang Puck is not whipping up veal loin with Sicilian blood orange sauce. Emerson Lague's never be heard hollering his trademark "Bam!" on the other side of the vendor counter. But hot dogs—or my personal favorites, the "Dodger Dogs" down in Vero Beach—have never tasted better, nor has Italian ice ever been more refreshing.

From lemonade to beer, there are any number of beverages to choose from. From burgers to pizza, you can find something to soothe your appetite. Oh, and don’t forget a staple of any baseball experience—the peanuts. Finally, there are all of those other sights and sounds that accompany a game in March. There’s John Fogerty’s "Center Field" blaring through the speakers. A timely Homer Simpson "D'oh!" after an error. The T-shirts being shot into the stands between innings. Kids racing the team mascot around the bases.

I love this time of year.

These are only some of the ingredients that give spring training its magical persona.

Whether time needs to be made or can be found, these games are a prime opportunity to simply relax and have fun. To watch major league athletes play a game as a game. And to share time with friends and family.

Now, that’s baseball.

Contact Christopher Arnold at chris@ucffuture.com

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Women’s basketball remains in first place

KRYSTY SHONKA STAFF WRITER

Despite having its five-game winning streak snapped by Troy State on Saturday, the UCF women’s basketball team remains the favorite for the regular season Atlantic Sun Conference title and the coveted No. 1 seed in the conference tournament.

While the Knights lost to Troy State 98-79 Saturday, their 98-76 win over Mercer on Thursday, coupled with the Trojan loss to Florida Atlantic that same night, means if UCF wins its two remaining games, the Knights clinch the No. 1 seed.

The win over UCF (15-10 overall, 11-3 A-Sun), moved the Trojans (19-10, 11-4) into second place in the A-Sun South Division and a half-game behind the Knights. Troy State jumped out to a 43-36 halftime lead on 7-of-11 shooting from three-point range. Chequita Alexander led all players with 29 points, and her sixth three-pointer of the night sparked a 16-2 run for the Trojans in the second half that put them up 70-48 with 8:17 left in the game.

Adrianne Hilling had 15 points for the Knights and Celeste Hudson added 10. Troy State connected on 13 three-pointers.

It was UCF which went on big runs Thursday night, as the Knights beat Mercer 87-76 in Macon, Ga. Mercer took an early 16-10 lead before the UCF offense got hot, rattling off 19 straight points for a 35-10 lead with 1:36 left in the first half.

The Knights held a 41-25 halftime lead after shooting 65.5 percent from the field behind perfect shooting by Tahkia Allen, who had 18 first-half points. The Knights continued to increase their lead in the second half, jumping out to a 53-25 lead, but they couldn’t maintain it. Mercer cut the lead to eight with 7:22 left in the game, but the Knights were able to hold on for the win.

UCF shot a scorching 67.7 percent.

Pleas see UCF on 15

Wansa, Schmidt homer in Saturday sweep

MATT BEHON STAFF WRITER

Jenna Wansa and Rachelle Schmidt each had three-run home runs as the UCF softball team capped off its six-victory Saturday in day two of the UCF Softball Tournament. The Golden Knights had back-to-back shutouts, defeating Southwest Missouri State 60 and Charleston Southern 1-0.

In the first game against SMS, Nikki Green put the Knights on the board in the second inning with her first home run of the season, a solo shot to left. The Knights would add another run in the second inning when Lindsay Cupp doubled home Delicia Curr. UCF went up 5-4 in the third inning when Rachelle Schmidt hit a monstrous home run to left-center field that hugged the outfield wall.

The Knights would add another run later in the inning when Jennifer Wershler knocked a bobbled double to right field, scoring Pysnia Simones.

Green finished the game with 3-for-3 and two runs and an RBI. Cupp improved to 4-for-4 on the season, becoming the complete game and striking out six.

Against Charleston Southern, UCF scored six runs in the first inning. capped by Wansa’s dramatic three-run home run. Wansa, a freshman who had not had an at-bat for the Knights all season due to injury, took the first pitch she has seen all season deep. She finished the game 4-for-4 with four RBIs. The Knights added two runs apiece in the second and third innings, ending the game in the fifth inning due to the mercy rule. After the game, the talk was about Wansa’s home run.
Women’s tennis team drops two A-Sun matches

SADIE SHAM
STAFF WRITER

The UCF women’s tennis team fell just short of a victory against Campbell 4-3 in Atlantic Sun Conference play on Saturday. The match at the UCF Tennis Complex was suspended numerous times due to bad weather.

With the loss, UCF dropped its record to 4-4 overall and 2-2 in the A-Sun. Kristina Lohmos was one of three Golden Knights to pick up a singles win. The sophomore got by Pascale Veraverbeke at No. 3, 6-4, 7-6; Julie Pecastaing beat out Carmen Linder 6-1, 6-4; and Campbell’s Kerstin Stokinger shot down Anna Westin at No. 1, 6-4, 6-1. However, UCF doubles teams were not as successful. Pecastaing and Samara lost 8-5 at the No. 1 spot by Stockinger and Linder. Campbell’s Declercq and Veraverbeke dropped Pamela Fernandez and Westin, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 at No. 2. Regardless of the UCF win at No. 2, the Owls still picked up the doubles point, winning at No. 1. Alena Dvorakova and Karelina Roubickova defeated Pecastaing and Westin, 6-4 at No. 1.

The Golden Knights still had two victories in singles play as Lohmos and Samara won in two sets. At No. 3, Lohmos breezed by Rivera, 6-1, 6-1; Samara was a 6-4, 6-1 winner at No. 5 over Stephanie Buxalleu. Dvorakova dropped Westin, 6-0, 6-1 at No. 1 while Roubickova beat Pecastaing, 6-4, 6-0 at No. 2. Pat’s Crystal Borg defeated Luczak at No. 4, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

UCF will be in action again Tuesday when it hosts Richmond. The match at the UCF Tennis Complex is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.
Wansa hits home run in first at-bat

"It was a good loss because they were in the game, they were hitting hard and we were doing what we used to do," she said. "And we haven't seen that yet this season."

Home sweet home
After taking three of four games at home this weekend, the Knights are now 7-3 at the UCF Softball Complex on the season.

"How can you not play well here?" Larc-Allen said. "We're gonna have a different mentality when it comes to that. You gotta be the bulldog on the front porch and not let anybody in your house."

Triumphant return
Freshman Alexa Wanas, who has not played since opening day against the University of Florida due to tendinitis in her arm, hit a three-run home run in her first at-bat as a Golden Knight.

Bush-wacked
Catcher Lindsay Bush enjoyed success at the plate this weekend after getting off to a rough start this year. Bush played in three of the Knights four games and had three doubles and an RBI.

"It feels good to hit again and be back on track," Bush said.

Lights out
Dottie Cupp continued her recent stretch of torrid pitching, picking up shutout wins Friday and Saturday. In the two games, Cupp pitched a combined 12 innings, allowing only five hits and striking out 11. She was also a force at the plate and on the baselines, going 4-4 with an RBI and four runs scored.

Versatility
Psych Schmidt showed off her many tools this weekend, racking up a combined seven RBIs in the four games and earning the win on Saturday's win over Charleston Southern.

Schmidt, Shinhunter show off hot bats
Rachelle Schmidt smoked opposing pitching this weekend, going 4-for-12 with 4 RBIs and a three-run home run. Schmidt was on base in eight of the 14 times she was at the plate, including the victory over Charleston Southern.

Batting cages almost ready
The softball team received more good news this week with word that the new state-of-the-art batting cage facility should be completed sometime this week. The facility was set to open Feb. 26, but inclement weather has slowed down production. The 1,200-square-foot facility will be located next to the bullpen, with a direct connection to the dugout. The surface will be made of synthetic material installed by FieldTurf.

David Mann hit a two-out RBI single in the bottom of the 11th inning to give UCF a 3-2 win over Monmouth on Friday night.

Mann leaves Saturday's game with an injury

first two innings," UCF Coach Jay Beacham said. "[Milens] just carried it from there."

The Hawks would score two runs in the ninth after loading the bases against reliever Drew Thomas. But Kyle Bono came on to preserve the victory. Milens got the win, improving to 3-1, while Scott Zaneski took the loss in his first start of the year.

In the earlier game Schwartz had two hits and two RBIs, leading the Golden Knights to a 10-4 victory over Charleston Southern. In the third inning Schwartz singled and best on a fielder's choice. After cupped rallied, Simmons stepped up with the bases loaded and hammered a double to left field, scoring the bases.

"I had kinda been in a slump," Simmons said. "So I just felt good.

The Knights remained in the driver's seat headed into the fifth inning, when they walked on five more to close out the scoring. With Schmidt and Best on, Capp doubled up the middle, scoring one run. One batter later, Best and Capp came home when Simmons singled hard up the middle, recording his fourth and fifth RBIs of the game. Two batters later, Simmons would cross the plate when Bush doubled to deep right-center. A single by Jacque Clark scored Bush and ended the game with the eight-run mercy rule.

Cupp pitched brilliantly for the Golden Knights, allowing only two hits and striking out five.

In the second game against Southeast Missouri State, the Knights couldn't get their bats going and were shut out 3-0. The Bears would score all their runs in the third inning, scoring three runs in four consecutive at-bats. After Amanda Bean reached on a bunt single to start the inning, Fielding knocked her home with an RBI single. Stacey Watten then doubled to left field, scoring Fielding. Watten would then score one batter later when Stacey Meredith reached a single to left. Bean, Kiffin and Watten each finished the game with two hits apiece. Cupp had two hits and two RBIs for the Knights. Taylor Nwspur got the loss for UCF despite allowing only three runs and striking out five.

"I think we were hitting hard shots, we just weren't getting them to fall like the first game," Cupp said. Doting on the loss, UCF Coach Renee Luers-Gillespie was pleased with what she saw:

Still, he had already left his mark on the season after playing hero in Friday night's 3-2 win in extra innings. He ended that game with a two-out RBI single in the bottom of the 11th and finished 4-for-5 with a walk.

"It's great. It's a real big game for us," Mann said after Friday night's contest. "Hopefully it will get us on a roll."

The loss for Montgomery was an excellent outing by Hughes' starter Jim Carson, who completely befuddled the Knights for the first seven innings with an array of off-speed pitches.

Von David Stetich had a solid effort on the mound for UCF, but allowed one rounded run in the top of the third on a single off the bat of Lance Koening and two runs total after Mann's mishap of Mike St. Martin's single to left field allowed Koening to score and make it a 2-0 Montgomery edge.

UCF's offense did nothing against Carone until the bottom of the eighth, when Timmerman worked out a walk. Carone left the game and Joe Cummings proceeded to walk Fielding Wallace and hit Taylor Cobb to load the bases with one out. Mike Kelly came in and struck out four batters, allowing a two-run single to Brown that tied the game. He would pitch the rest of the way for the Hawks and eventually get tagged with the loss.

Thanks to Bono and fellow reliever Mike Billek, Montgomery stayed at two runs ahead for the rest of the game, setting up Mann's heroics. Billek pitched a 2-3 innings, allowing one hit and striking out two runners on the way.

After Amanda Bean reached on a bunt single to start the inning, Fielding knocked her home with an RBI single. Stacey Watten then doubled to left field, scoring Fielding. Watten would then score one batter later when Stacey Meredith reached a single to left. Bean, Kiffin and Watten each finished the game with two hits apiece. Cupp had two hits and two RBIs for the Knights. Taylor Nwspur got the loss for UCF despite allowing only three runs and striking out five.
McGee comes alive for Knights

FROM PAGE 14

Atlantic battled back. FAU had a chance to tie the game with 7:28 left, but Antoine Stevens could only knock down one of two free throws and the Owls trailed 60-59.

A three-pointer by Abellard extended UCF's lead to six before the Owls cut it to three again. This time on a three by Earnest Crumbley, UCF called a 30-second timeout and Abellard fed freshman Marcus McGee, who answered Crumbley's three with one of his own with 2:19 left. The Owls never cut the lead smaller than four the rest of the game.

McGee scored a career-high 14 points with four steals, helping fill in for Lyons. Freshman Troy Lindbeck started in place of Lyons, but was cold from the floor, missing all six field goals he took, but was four-for-four from the free-throw line. Ed Dotson chipped in 14 points and Roberto Morentin had 13 points for the Knights. Josh Boddie scored 12 points and grabbed eight rebounds off the bench for UCF.

Crumbley had a good all-around game for Florida Atlantic University.

Senior guard Jessica Scala earned Atlantic Sun conference player of the week for last weekend's 22-point performance in UCF's win over Florida Atlantic University.
Three teams reach their goal

Iota Phi won their first title by storming through the Recreational League bracket. They had to put up with a pesky, unranked High Rollers team who they were able to eventually shake off. In the Competitive League, the Lake Show didn't need 40 points after they achieved the "three-peat" in intramural soccer last Monday afternoon, by defeating Pepita's Burritos 2-0. The Iota Phi were undefeated in the regular season, and were rarely challenged on their way to the finals.

Pike won their second title in three years by defeating The International's 1-0 in the Recreational Finals. Pike won the IFC Black league during the regular season and will move up the IFC Gold league next year. Pike only had three goals scored against them during the entire tournament and shut out their opponents in three of their six games.

Futballin' made their first appearance in the soccer championships as they beat up the Criminals 5-0 in the Competitive Finals. Futballin' went undefeated throughout the entire season and dominated the final match.

Sistas, Iota, Lake Show hoop it up

The long winding road to the Intramural 3 on 3 Basketball title came to an end, as three teams captured their respective divisions. Sistas Wit Game showed why they were ranked No. 1 all season, as they took the women's crown.

On the Men's side, Iota Phi Theta won their first title by storming through the Recreational League bracket. They had to put up with a pesky, unranked High Rollers team who they were able to eventually shake off. In the Competitive League, the Lake Show didn't need 40 points from Kobe Bryant to win yet another title as they beat the Wildcats. If you have yet to win an Intramural championship shirt, the guys from the Lake Show may let you borrow one of their many extras.

Big Webos win kickball

Who says kickball is only for kids? Big Webos met up with Pi Beta Phi in the Kickball Championship game last Saturday and came away with the title. Pi Beta Phi beat Cheap is good, Sexual Innamorata, and Kappa Sigma on their road to the championship game. Big Webos took out Scott Boot, Cuz, and Donkey Punchers to meet up with Pi Beta Phi. The ladies of Pi Beta Phi could not handle Big Webos. They lost 20-4, giving Big Webos the championship T-shirts.

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Students opt for flexible workout alternatives

JAIME RICH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Amanda Rich is sweaty. She leans forward, wips the perspiration off her forehead and stretches out her arms. "I'm going to hurt tomorrow," she groans. "It's worth it, though. Flooring-season is coming up."

The 19-year-old freshman grabs her towel and smiles. "This is my second yoga class of the week." Across the UCF campus, group exercises — yoga, Pilates and spinning — are quickly replacing the traditional treadmill and basic weights as fitness alternatives.

Yoga is described as a series of poses, postures and positions (asanas), which challenge inner strength and flexibility, while incorporating revitalizing breath work to align the body and soothe the mind.

"Since I've been taking the yoga classes here on campus, I breathe deeper, relax easier and have much stronger spine," Rich said.

The UCP Recreation and Wellness Center promotes yoga as a way to relieve "physical, mental and emotional stress ... to bring out the best in you," she said.

Sophomore Victoria Kerensky, 20, and freshman Lindsay Higgins, 18, frequently attend the recreation center's Monday pilates class. Similar to yoga, pilates is a mat-based fitness technique designed to strengthen and stretch the abdominal muscles, hips, buttocks and lower back region. Pilates sculpts and builds muscles while improving flexibility.

Mobilizing disabled to get in shape

CHRISTINE DELLERT
STAFF WRITER

The UCP Recreation and Wellness Center has implemented a workout program tailored for students with disabilities in an effort to encourage students with handicaps to stay healthy.

The new program matches students who have physical or sensory disabilities with qualified fitness instructors to lead them in warmed-up exercises and provide the necessary assistance with wheelchair-accessible workout machines.

Wendy Miletello, coordinator of recreation programs at the campus center, realized the need for the program after a student with cerebral palsy asked for assistance with gym equipment.

Miletello is working with Student Disability Services to promote the fitness program and said she hopes that it will encourage disabled students to visit the Recreation and Wellness Center.

"I want disabled students to feel more comfortable knowing that someone is here to help," she said.

"Fitness instructors will teach students exercises to strengthen the muscles in their chest, shoulders, back and arms through the free assistance program and help them handle fitness equipment."

"I want to reach the students," Miletello said. "Even if we have 10 or 20 students come to use the program, that's a huge success."

Call 407-823-2408 to schedule appointments with fitness instructors.

At a time when Hollywood and mainstream America idolize surf culture, real UCF surfers tell it like it is...

DIANE LAZIC
STAFF WRITER

Senior Dave Kansagra is a genuine surfer. His passion for the sport transcends beyond Ron and Tom Janis.

"When surfing you have a clear mind," he says. "You're not thinking about any of your problems that happen when you're on land. It gives peace. It sets you at ease."

The president of the UCF Surf Club took an interest in surfing when he was 14. Kansagra now, 22, moved from New Jersey to Florida and as a snowboarder in New Jersey he quickly took an interest in surfing.

"A week before my freshman year in high school, those kids were going surfing. I went out on the first wave. I caught it. I got up on it. It's [gone] on from there," he said.

For Kansagra, surfing is not just a hobby, but a release. But lately, the public's obsession with surfing has invaded mainstream American culture.

"Every other kid now wears Volcom or Quicksilver, when some have never even been on a board in their lives," he said. "You can tell who's the surfer, and you can tell who's not."

Surf culture has sparked a myriad of spinoff styles in today's pop culture, with the masssurfing public continuing the demand. As additional surf shops open in most malls and shopping centers, the market for trendy surf labels grows.

Senior Rachel Mason, 21, who also began surfing as a teenager and delighted that advertisers and filmmakers are commercializing the surf culture, is what she calls "surf imitations."

"Surfing has definitely been marketed," she said. "You see it everywhere now."

After working at Cocoa Beach's Ron Jon's for three summers, Mason witnessed the public's interest in the extreme water sport.

PLEAS SEE Surfing on 22

10 ways to spot a poser

1. Wears a wig with fake dreads
2. Uses the words: "trenched," "groovey" or "grrrrrrrr...
3. Spends more time on the sand than in water
4. Declares "surf break" as the best move of all time
5. Only associates the label "surf" with right-handers
6. Believes long boards and short boards are all the same
7. When asked for waves, replies, "I only use left and right waves"
8. Wears a rash guard outside of the water
9. Believes Kelly Slater's (Christian Slater's sister) twin is really worth anything of Ken Burns' "Jaws"
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Rec center starts new fitness program

Danielle DePari
Staff Writer

Freshman Laurel Hassberger wants to lose the weight she gained her first semester at college.

Exercising with friends and attending group aerobics classes keeps her motivated to work out, and so when she heard about a new campuswide program called UCF Fit, she signed up.

Hassberger, 19, is one of 1,500 to 2,000 students already enrolled in UCF Fit. The six-week program, which runs from March 3 to April 11, is available to students, faculty and staff who are interested in improving their overall physical and mental well-being.

Heather Vorhies, a student assistant at the UCF Recreation and Wellness Center, says that the program intends to develop community through wellness.

Participants are broken up into teams—three regiments—and set personal fitness goals for themselves, keeping track of their improvement as the weeks progress.

The collective efforts of UCF’s Wellness Initiative Committee, Faculty Center for Teaching, Recreation and Wellness Center and the Wellness Research Center have each designed the new fitness program.

Wendy Mills, the coordinator of Recreation and Wellness Programming, said that each organization was hoping to encourage energy and motivation on campus. Mills said that everyone has been very positive about the program. Enrollment for the UCF Fit program is online at www.fctlucf.edu/ucf-fit or in the Recreation and Wellness Center.

Participants indicate their level of fitness when they sign up for the program. A beginner should do two times a week—three regiments—and set personal fitness goals for themselves, keeping track of their improvement as the weeks progress.

There are over 100 subtypes of the virus and they are categorized into low-risk and high-risk groups. The high-risk subtypes have been known to lead to cervical cancer when left untreated. An abnormal Pap smear may be the first indication that HPV is present.

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Wind and water rush
Kiteboarding emerges as the newest extreme water sport

JAIME RICH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“We try to go kitesurfing almost every weekend if there’s good weather,” said junior Nick O’Bea, president of the UCF Kiteboarding Club. “There’s no better way to chill.”

Kiteboarding, often referred to as kitesurfing, is Central Florida’s newest extreme water sport. This fusion of wakeboarding, windsurfing and kite flying has rapidly gained in popularity over the past three years and is now making its way onto UCF’s campus.

Kiteboards use large kites to propel people across the water on kite boards. Enthusiasts of the sport thrive on the rush from the wind to the water—high jumps that lift them 30 feet up to glide over 100 feet of waves.

This water sport requires minor equipment and no experience. While companies manufacture special boards for kitesurfing, kiteboarders can also use a wakeboard, the same board used by bodyboarders and foot binders. A kite is attached to the board with thin 100-foot nylon ropes and a little lush.

The kites vary in model and color, which offer by body weight, wind speed and conditions, skill level and board size. Although kitesurfing harness, and wet suit and are suggested it being a whip to slide to approach kitesurfing and is a hook knife to cut up sampled lines.

Because of its portability and affordability, college students see kiteboarding as an alternative to wakeboarding.

“Kiteboarding has all the best aspects of board sports and lets you fly in the air from the pull of a kite,” said Currier. “I love it.”

However, the sport is not always glamorous or extreme. Embarrassing moments do happen, Currier said.

“We face-planted before and been dragged down the beach, which is a little painful,” she said.

However, the sport is not always glamorous or extreme. Embarrassing moments do happen, Currier said.

“We face-planted before and been dragged down the beach, which is a little painful,” she said.

While companies sponsorships by business companies like the overhead pull of the kite, students, including an infusion of Hollywood's recent fictional plots, the surfers’, because the mainstream surfing culture because of its similar make moved to Hollywood's recent fictional plots, the surfers’ and technological advances in mainstream society.

“Ron Jon” and “Point Break” are intriguing to mainstream surfers, but at the same time, the sport itself doesn’t have the same presence. The film industry didn’t try to capture the surf culture because the overhead pull of the kite, the mainstream surfing culture because of its similar make.

“We do have a lot of kiteboarders that come to OUC since the overhead pull from the kites is similar to the overhead pull of the kite,” said Giri Lynn of the Complex.

“The cape is also a good tool to teach kiteboarders edges and balance.”

Enthusiasts also have access to free kiteboarding lessons, which normally run about $500, to learn a kite and rig equipment through the UCF Kiteboarding Club. The Sandy Point Pro-Am Sports School in Daytona and 3-5-1 Kite School in St. Petersburg teach students safety procedures for piloting and managing kites in the water. After six to nine hours of training, students are certified as independent kiteboarders.

Surfing first appeared in films of the 1950s

FROM PAGE 19

"Fun Joe’s attracted a lot of [backwash surfers], because the store isn’t threatening," she said.

Real surf shops would not put up with amature, Mason said.

"Blue Crush" appealed to the masses because it was mainstream surfing," she said. "It would appeal to the surf culture because it was mainstream surfing to surfers.

Like Mason, true members of surf culture do not approve of Hollywood’s recent fictional plots, the surfers’ and technological advances in mainstream society.

"Point Break" is a case study, grosse daytime comedic period of "Get tight-again," interpretation slanted to the surfer Hollywood’s recent fictional plots, the surfers’ and technological advances in mainstream society.

"Surfing-related themes first appeared in the mass consciousness in the 1950s and 1960s. With this plot, the films of the 50s represented a narrative, goofy daytime comedic period of "Get tight-again," interpretation slanted to the surfer Hollywood’s recent fictional plots, the surfers’ and technological advances in mainstream society.

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MMM, Maybe I should take a break from studying this week. I wonder what the Office of Student Activities has going on....

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Trendy stretch fitness technique was invented over 70 years ago

From Page 19

posture.

Pilates is derived from ballet, yoga and the studies from Joseph Pilates, who conceived the exercise method in the 1920s to train and rehabilitate injured ballet dancers.

"It's a great way to tighten your stomach without feeling like you're just doing crunches," Higgins said. Pilates pulls the abdomenus uses pilates exercises to strengthen her diaphragm.

With nearly five million devotees worldwide, pilates is particularly popular among celebrities. Madonna uses Pilates exercises to strengthen her diaphragm.

"It's a difficult class, but it's fun. I really feel like I've gotten a great workout when I'm done," Kerensky said.

A third fitness alternative is spinning, "I think spinning as a whole is popular because it is such a good workout with not that much coordination involved," said Michelle Meireles, a UCF spinning instructor. "That old saying [that] everyone can ride a bike, it's true."

Spinning, or indoor studio cycling, is a fast-paced training program that effectively burns fat while assimilating mental focus and energy accumulation. While riding an adjustable, stationary racing bike, students of all ages and levels of fitness can work at their own pace through spinning exercises of sprints, jumps, hill climbs and tempo intervals set to various types of music.

"My typical spinning technique is high intensity," Meireles said. "I use a combination of low resistance, moderate resistance and high resistance on the bike to change intensity of the class.

Spinning burns up to 900 calories in a 50-minute class. Spinning tightens legs and buttocks through steady consistent pedaling with heavy resistance. Through speed, tempo, timing and rhythm, this exercise increases cardiovascular fitness and circulation and reduces stress.

Why the current interest in new exercise trends?

"Yoga, pilates and spinning all offer students an opportunity to explore different avenues of fitness in a group setting. In some cases, the class environment may act as a motivator and support group to those who are intimidated by the gym or not as confident working out individually," said Chris Cantrell, a personal trainer and manager at the Recreation and Wellness Center.

Spinning instructor Lauren Brodten agrees. "I think it has a lot to do with the fact that men can take [spinning] and not feel stupid. Women feel a little more comfortable on the [workout] bike, and no matter how little or hard you work, it's still a killer workout."

To reserve a spot in an upcoming yoga, pilates or spinning class, register at www.ucf.edu or call 407-823-5012. Reservations are not required, but suggested as classes fill up quickly.

Want to be a personal trainer?

DANIELLE DEPARI
STAFF WRITER

Students interested in health and fitness should consider becoming a personal trainer at the UCF Recreation and Wellness Center.

Prospective applicants must gain certification through agencies such as Aerobics and Fitness Education and Certification (AFAA) or the National Association for Fitness Certification. These agencies sponsor weekend certification seminars. To graduate from the seminar, each applicant must pass a written and practical exam. The cost of the three-day workshop through AFAA is $420.

Chris Cantrell, a UCF graduate, personal trainer and manager at the Recreation and Wellness Center, warns that because certification is easy to obtain, students should research the trainer they would like to hire.

"Just because someone has certification doesn't mean they are the best option," he said. "You should watch them training their clients and then talk to their clients about their experiences with the trainer."

At the Recreation and Wellness Center, personal trainers earn $20 per hour-long session or $15 per session from clients who exercise with them more than once a week. UCF personal trainers charge $60 monthly for unlimited sessions as another payment option. Trainers are given free access to all of the recreation center's equipment.

These fees are much more affordable in comparison to gyms and fitness centers off-campus, which charge as much as $50 per session.

While most professional personal trainers work out of gyms, some go into business for themselves working as specialized fitness trainers for the elderly, handicapped or pregnant women.

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How to rent an apartment

Danielle Daut
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Before you rent an apartment...

• Weigh the pros and cons of a house versus an apartment, and which one is better suited to your needs.

• Go online and check out Web sites that review apartments.

A good one is ApartmentRating.com because it rates most of the apartments in the UCF area.

• Look early.

Begin looking at least two or three months before you plan on moving in so you can get an idea of what is out there, and also so you don’t get stuck with a place that has vacancies for a reason.

• Don’t look at apartments during prime renting time! (Right before fall semester starts)

The leasing consultants won’t have as much time to meet with you and answer your questions. This is also the time when the apartments try to make everything look as good as possible, and you won’t see what the apartments really look like during the rest of the year.

• Look for promotions.

This one goes along with “Look early!” Apartments run promotions throughout the year such as free rent, reduced rent and reduced security deposits. So keep checking in and eventually you will be able to find a deal on an apartment you want. Just be aware of deals that seem too good to be true.

Visit the apartment complex

It is best to ask the residents questions about the apartment complex, because they will tell you what the leasing office won’t. Try to ask as many residents as you can (to get a variety of opinions).

The questions you need to ask the residents are:

• How long have they lived there? Do they like living there, and if they would live there again?

These are the three most important questions, because if they absolutely hate the place, that’s a sign that you might not want to live there either. If you can, look inside their apartment.

The model apartment usually looks a lot denier; bigger and better than the actual apartments, so you probably want to look at an apartment that has been lived in.

Also make sure to walk around.

This is also an important question, because if the management is bad, then the apartment is bad. So you want to make sure you aren’t looking at a slum. Did you get roommates matching? Did they do a good job?

• Are there a lot of parties? Is it noisy? You may want to visit in an apartment complex where there are a lot of parties, or you may be looking for a quieter place, so this question can go either way.

• Do you feel safe here? Is there any crime (such as cars getting broken into, etc)?

• How is maintenance? If things break, how long does it take them to fix it? Do they fix it correctly?

• Have you ever had maintenance or cable television provided by the apartment complex, does it work correctly?

Ask the leasing consultant

• What exactly your rent includes. Do you have to pay a separate water or electric bill? Is cable or phone service included in the rent?

• What amenities they have, and make sure to show you those amenities.

Before one of my roommates moved into my current apartment, leasing consultant told her that our complex had tennis courts. She just assumed that the complex did, but when she asked, in person or on the phone, there were no tennis courts. They probably just told her that she could go to the tennis courts.

I found out that if you rent an unfurnished room, and rent furniture directly from a furniture rental store, it can be less expensive.

• If you are going to have roommates, find out: Do each of the bedrooms have a lock? Can it be locked from the outside? This is especially important if you don’t know who is moving in with you.

Before signing the lease

• Read the entire thing!

• Don’t feel pressured to sign right away, and if there is anything questionable on it, ask a lawyer about it. There are lawyers available on the UCF campus for free!

• Check out the pool.

Come up with a cleaning schedule, otherwise the person who will get stuck doing it, and that person will probably be you.

Decide how you are going to pay for household items, such as paper towels or dishwashing detergent. Will you divide the cost or alternate who buys it?

Hopefully all of these tips will make your renting experience a good one. Good luck!

Finding the perfect place

Wendy Wong-Ken
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dozens of apartment complexes lie between the bustling streets of UCF. Driving down University Boulevard or Aloma, Trail signs in front of each complex screams screen at prospective renters:

“Free rent! In-coming specials! Move-in special!”

With all these choices, how can a student choose the perfect one? Here are some tips to help you out:

• Figure out what you want from an apartment.

Do you want a party atmosphere, or quiet? Some complexes have utilities? A workout room, pool or club house? Washer and dryer in the apartment? Or laundry room on the complex? Also, think about if you want a shuttle that will take you to and from school. If you do, you can look for a complex to fight for parking, this could be a very important factor in your decision.

• Don’t get sucked into a “great deal” that “you can’t get anywhere else.” Take a little time deciding on the kind of place you want to live.

• Do you want an individual lease or a house lease? Some individual leases make the rent considerably higher. But if the rent is high, you don’t know your roommates, or you just aren’t sure if they’ll be able to pay rent. It is a mutual benefit to the apartment complex. It protects you and your other roommates from getting kicked out of the apartment if one roommate can’t pay rent.

• What kinds of people live in the complex?

Are all they students? Are mostly all freshmen, seniors or a mix? The age of the other residents of the complex will determine how you live for the next year.

• Visit a few of the apartment complexes to get a better feel.

Remember to bring identification with you when you go to look at an apartment. Most places won’t even let you in to peek into the model apartment without it.

• Look around at the other buildings when the leasing agent takes you to see a model. Are the buildings in good shape? Are any cracks, chips or broken balconies? Do they take care of the building? Are the sidewalks clean and sidewalks?

When you look at complex, remember that it is inside to look as wonderful as possible, with new furniture, floors and paint. Don’t be shy about walking around, looking in closets, bathrooms and pantries. Look under the bathroom sink, too. Is it gross under there? And when you walk through the kitchen, does it shake? Can you hear rattling in the cupboards or from the stove? And, can you live with those sounds every time you walk through?

When you visit the complex, try not to go during classes. Use the time you can’t really see how the management treats residents, and you can’t really pay attention for the type of atmosphere. Meaning, is it a party or non-party atmosphere? Visit the apartments during the weekend, if possible.

A Saturday afternoon would be great.

• Have you found your new home? If yes, and you really feel good enough time to think about it (not the five-minute walk from the model apartment) make sure to ask to take the paperwork and make sure you aren’t signing your life away. It is perfectly all right to ask to take the paperwork home with you. Please ask to take the paperwork home with you. And if you haven’t found a home, don’t worry. There are plenty more to choose from.

Don’t get taken for a ride

Danielle DePari
STAFF WRITER

When looking at apartment complexes, leasing agents tend to dazzle prospective residents with sparkling pools, gym and various other amenities. However, most would agree that students should focus more on the actual apartment or living quarters, rather than amenities, which may not be at all what they are supposed to.

Trina Eaker, a 19-year-old sopho-
more, moved into a local apartment complex for its resort-style pool. Quickly, she found what a friend described as “the most screwed up pool ever.”

“The pool was always closed when I lived there. This was because of broken beer bottles thrown in during parties. I ended up not even being able to use the pool,” Eaker said.

Some places put restrictions on what amenities can be used. The only way to find out what they are is in asking for leasing a potential resident.

Sammy Levine, a 20-year-old sopho-
more, said that though the apartment complex where she lives has a pool and game room, residents cannot use it after 5 p.m.

“It’s really inaccessible to us,” she added.

Similar problems arise on limited amenities. One local complex offers lan-
ding beds, but has only two to serve hundreds of residents. The waiting list to use them can be up to six weeks.

Please see Apartment on B-4
Finding the right moving company

JASON IRSAY
STAFF WRITER

When moving to a new residence, UCF students should consider hourly rates, service charges and minimum-hour requirements before choosing a local mover or doing the job themselves.

Having your friends help you out

The least expensive method of moving also involves the most work. Students can ask for friends’ help in moving their belongings. However, doing this may require several trips between the old residence and the new one. Find a buddy with a truck, but make sure to offer that friend a few dollars for gas and lunch. Insist they take the money, even if they say “No.” This will ensure you remain friends after the move, and they will be willing to help again when you need to move again.

Renting a moving truck

U-HAUL rentals are affordably priced for local moves at $29.95, plus 60 cents per mile and a $100 deposit, refunded upon return of the truck or trailer. This can be an option as long as you don’t have far to go and can move everything in one trip. Otherwise, if you travel 37 miles, you have just paid as much in mileage as the rental cost.

Using a moving service

Local movers charge an hourly rate plus a one-time service fee. Additionally, there is at least a one-hour minimum for the job. The clock starts running when the movers arrive at your residence and finishes when the last piece of furniture has been placed in the new residence.

Several other local movers will quote an exact price over the phone after callers tell them a list of items to be moved.

With affordable local rates and several vehicles sizes to choose from, U-HAUL at 4700 Colonial and Alafaya Trail is a good bet for anyone who needs assistance while moving.

Apartment complexes may offer false security, unreliable Internet

FROM PAGE B-3

Some of the most important issues prospective residents look at are security issues. Parents tend to look at security amenities when deciding which complex their child should move into.

“Parents are given a false sense of security when they look at places with gates,” said Loy Husband, a 20-year-old sophomore and resident of a local apartment complex just minutes from UCF.

“To me, the gate is a hassle. It is slow and never seems to work right,” she said.

Husbands said that if people want to get into the complex they just follow residents.

Another security amenity offered at many complexes is an alarm system. However, most go unused because residents do not know how nor have the desire to learn how to use them.

Danny Garza, a 19-year-old sophomore, said that his alarm system has never been used.

“I guess we must have a manual somewhere,” Garza said, “But none of us has ever figured out how to use it. It is really pointless for us.”

A big amenity for students is Internet service — service that does not always come through.

Though the majority of complexes offer Internet access, most have hundreds connected to the same server, causing the Internet to go down habitually.

Many apartment complex officers offer no help, saying it is up to the resident to call the Internet service provider.

“The Internet going down all the time really frustrated me. It seemed like it would always go down when I had really important research to do,” said Julie McClain, a 20-year-old senior and former resident of one of the largest apartment complexes serving students.

Many students are sold on apartment complexes through amenities since few actually see the apartment they will be moving into. The best way to avoid being taken on advertised amenities is simply to ask. Find a random resident or two that lives in a place you are thinking about moving into, and ask them about some of the aspects the complex has promised. Make sure to ask about breakdowns and availability of those amenities.

What to watch for in a lease

RENEE BEAUDETTE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

First-time renters may find that, with so many things to worry about, it’s easy to get lost in the details. However, it pays to try to figure out all the details out, since these may end up being costly and important.

The first thing a renter should be concerned with is the fine print found in the lease. The multi-paged document is tricky and important, but take the time to read it, and read it thoroughly.

Find out how many months the lease is for, because that may not be the same time frame that you were planning on living there. Find out if the lease is for a year, or matches the school year. If the apartment complex only leases by the year, research to see if the apartment complex has a break-lease agreement, which would allow you to move out after the academic year.

“Many residents think that we have a break-lease agreement, which we don’t. So they get confused about sub-leasing,” said Luke Garcia, Manager of College Station.

If they lease by the school year and you don’t plan on staying for the summer, you will have to find someone else to sublease your room to. The problem is that it may be difficult to find someone to take over the lease. Once you’ve read your lease, you may find that there

Please see LEASE on B-13
Don't you hate when your apartment complex...?

- Tows your car or your visitor’s?
- Doesn’t know who you are unless you owe money?
- Moves a random person into your apartment and calls it “roommate matching?”
- Doesn’t clean the apartment before you move in?
- Takes FOREVER to handle a maintenance request?
- Enters your apartment without proper notice?
- Just doesn’t care???

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Recycle
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DENISE AUFFANT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Now that you've signed the lease and unpacked what things you've brought with you, the question now is, "How do I decorate my new place?" And decorating apartments on a student budget can be tricky. But do have several thrifty options to make your place look like a million bucks without spending much, without a million bucks.

A little bit of planning ahead and communicating with roommates prior to moving in can conserve on cash flow. Since most student-designed dwellings offer private bedrooms, one may opt for his or her own television and stereo. Army Thrift, Bric-A-Brac, and garage sales are another option available. You can't beat free.

The old stand-by – relatives

Many students use their families' hand-me-downs to furnish their first place. This would be the most economical option available. You can't beat free.

Garage sales

Garage sales are another good place to find used furniture at low prices. The quality of the items might not be perfect, but you can usually get a good bargain.

Check classified listings with the Orlando Sentinel for estate, garage and rummage sales. Also, students can pick a Saturday to spend driving around large Central Florida neighborhoods such as Waterford Lakes, Deer Run, or Tuscawilla.

When hitting garage sales, it is a good idea to have a plan of action. Look for sales within a 10- or 20-mile radius of your apartment. Make a list of the sales in that range that you would like to visit. Being organized will help students find the best deals. Most sales start on Thursdays or Fridays as early as 7 a.m. Professional garage sale shoppers usually strike early, taking the best deals and highest quality items, so start early.

Thrift stores

If garage sales aren’t your style, you could also check out the local thrift stores such as Goodwill and the Salvation Army. Most thrift stores carry furniture such as couches, coffee tables and recliners. They also carry kitchenware and bedding needs. The prices are very reasonable, and the different stores in town have a distinctive style.

The Community Thrift store in Edgewater carries just about everything. This store usually yields good, solid furniture. A refinishing, repainting or changing job may be in order if the items are usually scratched and a tad dingy.

The House of Hope's thrift store on Orange Avenue is a good place to find bed frames and tables. The store also has auction items available for public viewing. All proceeds go to benefit the Orlando Home of Hope, which helps troubled young women.

Cheap Charlie's, downtown on Colonial Drive, has a large selection of paintings, furniture, kitchenware and dishware. Check Charlie's' specialized option available for public viewing. All proceeds go to benefit the Orlando Home of Hope, which helps troubled young women.

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The benefits of house versus apartment living

**Ben Thacker**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Note to underclassmen: there is life outside of your apartment complex gates, and it is good.

Imagine for a second a world of tranquility. A gentle breeze blows through the leaves of lazy trees, whispering softly down a quiet street. Bright blue sky sneaks in through open windows, spreading itself across off-white walls and through the room. In the distance a bird sings, and the low drone of traffic lulls you into a pleasant afternoon sleep. You are home. You are at home. You are living in a house.

They say home is where you hang your heart. It’s where you go to get away from the stress of school and the worries of work. Home should be shelter, solace and safety; relief, release and peace. But it’s hard to hit a nail when the walls are shaking.

Living in an apartment complex with hundreds of brand-new students, inches away from your every move, can be trying. Chauvinistic displays of bass-booming automobiles and rapidly rising rent rates get tiring. And eventually, the herd of elephants that lives upstairs stops being cute. Sure, it’s nice to walk to parties and stumble home, it’s great to have a pool and a gym and a lawn service to wake you up Saturday mornings. And drunken basketball at 4 a.m. is fun, but the novelty of these quirks of apartment living soon wears off. You start to long for quiet nights and healthy sleep.

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Friends as roommates

Lisa Marie Hottle
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

They've shared your deodorant and maybe even your toothbrush. They've taken tons of mini vacations with you and you know how long the other tales in the show- er. They've held your hair while you threw up after a foolish night of drunken ecstasy. They've even gone halfnakes on a Microsoft X-Box with you.

However, this doesn't mean you'll make blissful roommates. The prime reason for broken friendships and negative bank accounts stem from two friends who believed they knew each other enough to share a house but found out they were incompatible roommates. While many of the same rules apply when choosing to live with complete strangers, there are a few that are unique to friends moving in together.

The two biggest rules are:

1) Respect your friend's privacy. No matter how long you've known each other, and do not use the friendship for granted. There are some basic tips to follow to help make sure the friendship will last.

2) Keep your place from feeling like a third of the time, and that means sleep time. That means sleep or homework makes for cranky roommates. While many of the same rules apply when choosing to live with complete strangers, there are a few that are unique to friends moving in together.

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Parties are great, but if you have people over and they happen to drink one too many beers, don't put them in your roomies bed without asking boyfriend and girlfriends are fine, but when they empty the refrigerator and play Annie Montrose until the dawn hours, it's time to send them home. Overnight guests often make for unwelcome ghasts, especially if they are sleeping on your couch emitting a foul morning odor. Discuss sleeping arrangements so neither roommate is tripping over unknown bodies on the way to the bathroom.

Choosing a roommate either ends tragically or cheerfully. There is usually no compromise or noth- ing at all. Be careful to avoid excessive sharing of personal items. Me, eat on the same plate, but my dishes have never matched. Use clothes without asking and return them stained and shrunk. What is your treasure may be your roommate's disgust. Be careful to avoid excessive sharing of personal items. Me, eat on the same plate, but my dishes have never matched. Use clothes without asking and return them stained and shrunk. What is your treasure may be your roommate's disgust.

Serenity, chores come with living in a house.

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Thrift stores provide inexpensive and new furnishings like beds, couches and lamps for budget-minded students to choose from.

Flea market, furniture stores offer bargains

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Community Thrift
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Orlando, 32809
407-857-4567
CORT Furniture Rental Clearance Center
1910 Semoran Blvd.
Winter Park, 32789
407-678-2677
House of Hope Thrift Shop
3730 S. Orange Ave.
Orlando, 32806
407-656-5364
Macik Mike Liquidator
2964 Lake Georgia Dr.
Orlando, 32817
407-679-4400

After all, the best way to save money is to not spend any at all.
Movers' rates, service charges vary

FROM PAGE B-4

All About Apartment Moving has a slightly more expensive service, charging $70 per hour, a three-man crew and a two-hour minimum for all jobs.

Father & Son Moving & Storage provides a three-man crew and charges $87 per hour with no service charge. All jobs have a minimum of three hours. A Apartment Moving of Orlando offers service from as low as a $60 deposit and $75 per hour with no minimum fee. The company provides free estimates over the phone.

Keep in mind that these are but a few of the dozens of movers available in this area. To get the best deal, call around. Remember to ask about hourly rates, service charges and minimum-time requirement. Also, obtain boxes yourself and bore items to avoid boxing charges and to speed up the moving process.

Communication resolves conflicts

FROM PAGE B-11

mate refuses to listen and work things out, your second option could be mediation between the both of you. Meet with a third person, a Resident Assistant if you have one, who will be unbiased and listen to both sides. Try not to involve neighbors or friends, because it may only complicate the situation. During mediation, set ground rules. Listen when your roommate tells their side and don't interrupt them. They should show the same respect when it is your turn to talk. Then, come up with possible solutions for the problem. After a peaceful compromise, sign an agreement or roommate contract. The contract can list a set of rules for the room or apartment, such as times for studying, guests, and cleaning. The contract can also include use of personal property, such as clothes and food. If the problem occurs a second time, the contract can be taken out and shown to the roommate to remind them of the agreement.

If the mediation fails to bring peace to your life and your living situation, you can opt for a room change within your complex. If you live in an apartment, however, you will need approval from the leasing office. If the situation becomes a threat to your safety, you can move immediately. If you live in a house, your options might only include breaking your lease. A leasing or contract cancellation is probably too extreme and may or may not be pro-rated.

Learn complex policies before you sign

FROM PAGE B-4

are several things that you still don't understand. Ask someone right away and try to get all issues cleared up before you actually sign the document. Because once it's signed, it's almost impossible to get out of it.

Some other things that first-time renters need to get cleared up are things like the hours of operation. How late is the office open? What about maintenance? If you have an emergency maintenance at 3 a.m., will someone be available?

Solving move-in problems here has always been good. Someone comes out to fix the problem the same day and the office gives you a follow-up call to make sure everything is OK," Jessica Feraco said of University House.

Don't expect to see 24-hour security on premises, as the policy of most apartment complexes is that the guest and residents are responsible for their own security.

One thing that affects many students is the guest issue and towing policies. How long can your guest stay?

While this is mainly an issue for you and your roommate, if they get too fed up with visitors, they can always call the office, so it's a good idea to know what the policy is ahead of time.

Also, if you plan on squaring in some parties between classes, you should check out your complex's towing policy. Visitor parking fills up fast, and while most places will let some stray cars slide, some will tow any overnight violators.

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