3 students: Kirlew's gotta go

Ben Baird
Staff Writer

Three students are calling for Brian Kirlew to resign from his position as legislative student body vice president, claiming he insulted them during the just-completed Student Government Association presidential campaign with insensitive verbal attacks.

Jeff Steep, Shana Bell and Shane Bagel all have filed charges against Kirlew, who is already facing impeachment charges for destroying other candidates' campaign material during the primary and for instigating a group demonstration at a recent meeting of the SGA Senate.

The most damaging of the new charges is Bell's testimony. The African-American student claims Kirlew told her she should vote for him because they both are black. Kirlew lost the eventual runoff election to Brian Battles, who is white.

"When I approached Brian he said to me, 'Just remember that you are black,'" Bell stated in her affidavit. "When I would react to his insults, he ended by telling me that I should 'let my hair be kinky for a day,' meaning that I was white because I straightened my hair."

Bell also claims Kirlew threatened to have her arrested for protesting "because they both are black." Kirlew also sent a group of females - drinking inside the fraternity house after the primary - a file to confront them.

"He also told me I should have had a dispatcher called the Police to confront him on the patio of Wackadoos," Bell said in her affidavit.

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SAE president arrested for house party

Krista Zilezi
Staff Writer

UCF police arrested the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity president over the weekend after officers discovered nearly two dozen underage students drinking in the fraternity's on-campus house early Sunday morning.

Police found at least 23 underage students — mostly females — drinking inside the fraternity house after officers responded to complaints about loud music. Some students were drinking out of beer bottles, while others drank out of red plastic cups.

Police first knocked on the door to break up the party. When no one answered, a dispatcher called the house and still received no answer. After officers turned

The dorm killer

On-campus residents face high risk of meningitis, yet many opt out of state's recommended vaccine

Krista Zilezi
Staff Writer

When freshman Luke Miller returned to his dormitory in January after winter break, he was given an ultimatum if he wanted to continue to live on-campus — receive a meningitis vaccination or sign a waiver acknowledging that if he got sick, he wouldn't hold UCF responsible.

"I didn't get vaccinated. My [presidential assistant] just told me to sign the waiver," said the 19-year-old, who lives in Academic Village. "I don't know anything specific about meningitis."
has become a vibrant part of campus life here at the University of Central Florida. No tradition is more enduring than that of Greek Week, a celebration amongst the Greeks, whose goal is to celebrate leadership, charity, and unity within the Greek community and to promote Greek Life as a whole. Organizations are divided into random teams consisting of at least one fraternity and one sorority. The teams then choose a theme that coincides with the overall theme of Greek Week. The theme is then incorporated into the team’s skit for “Greek Sing,” sign, and Progressive Dinner meal/décor. To further promote campus involvement, the following events are open to the entire UCF community:

**Sunday, March 9th:**
- Tug of War Competitions at Lake Claire at 12:30 PM
- Greeks vs. Faculty All-Stars Softball Game at the Intramural Fields at 4 PM

**Monday, March 10th:**
- Greek Sing at the UCF Arena at 8 PM (Doors open at 7)

**Tuesday, March 11th:**
- Spirit Sign Drop-Off in Front of the Math & Physics Building from 11AM-12PM
- UCF vs. Toledo Baseball Game at the UCF Baseball Fields at 7 PM
- Greek Letters Day

**Wednesday, March 12th:**
- Progressive Dinner (Fraternity & Sorority members only) at 7 PM on Greek Park Drive

**Thursday, March 13th:**
- Greek Week 2003 Awards Ceremony at the Student Resource Center Auditorium at 9 PM

For more information call the Greek Affairs office at (407) 823-2072.
Higher education around the nation

FSU student dies of meningitis

Swallstedt ad banned from student newspaper

The Heights, an independent student newspaper at Boston College, has no tolerance for statements that are a glorification of swastikas and Nazi symbolism.

"If the FSU community has one message to deliver, it is that the swastika is not acceptable," said Robert Dollinger, director of university affairs.

"We are committed to ensuring that our students and faculty are educated about the dangers of racism and intolerance," he added.

The decision to ban the swastika was made by the newspaper's editorial board, which said it was "enforced by a variety of student and faculty groups on campus, including the Student Senate, the Black Student Union, and the Center for Multicultural Student Affairs.

The ban comes as part of a larger effort to combat hate speech and discrimination on campus. The university has implemented several initiatives to promote diversity and inclusion, including unconscious bias training for faculty and staff.

"We take these issues very seriously and are committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment for all students," said university president John Thrasher.

"Our goal is to ensure that every student feels welcome and respected on our campus, regardless of their background or identity.

The ban on the swastika is just one step in our ongoing effort to promote diversity and inclusion on campus.

The decision to ban the swastika was met with mixed reactions from the student body.

"I think it's a good move," said junior Sarah Kim. "I don't want to see the swastika on campus ever again.

"But I do think it's important to have a forum for discussion and debate," she added.

"I think we need to talk about these issues and come to a consensus on what's acceptable and what's not," said senior John Smith.

The ban on the swastika is expected to be in effect for the remainder of the academic year.
Faculty Senate begins review
of plus-minus grading system

Cary Grayson STAFF WRITER

Students who consistently flirt with A-minus grades may find relief soon, as UCF starts to evaluate the plus-minus grading system. The Faculty Senate has begun to review the system on Thursday, trying to ascertain how the system helps or hurts students, and what to do about it.

Robert Armouet, the interim director of the Office of University Analysis and Planning Support, presented preliminary data to the Faculty Senate about trends in GPAs since 2000, when the plus-minus system was introduced.

The average UCF GPA has risen since 2000, but GPAs for students in classes with teachers who use the system have decreased, according to the report. That data may not indicate whether or not the plus-minus system is hurting students, said junior Wesley Hotchkiss, 20, the chief student advocate for the Student Government Association.

"This study showed that the teachers who are using plus-minus also tend to be harder graders," Hotchkiss said. He believes that the increase in GPA may have resulted from UCF's increasingly competitive admissions process.

Senior Melissa Cupps, 21, the judicial adviser of the Student Advocacy Office, said a student survey showed that nearly 80 percent of UCF students support the plus-minus system.

Hotchkiss, however, believes that many students have not been fully informed about how the system affects students, and stressed that SGA is not taking any further steps until more data has been collected.

Cupps believes that, while this data is a helpful starting point, comparisons need to be made between UCF and other schools, like the University of Florida, that use plus-only grading.

"We don't want to come out and say, absolutely, that we're going to end [plus-minus] right now," Cupps said. "I don't think any students have had a chance to make an informed decision."

Michael Mullens, chairman of the Faculty Senate, said that he looks forward to working with SGA leaders to find the best system for everybody whether or not it is the current system.

"I am interested in further discussion between the faculty and student government to see what we think is the best overall solution," Mullens said.

Although Mullens currently uses the plus-minus system in his own classes, he said that the presentation made him rethink his grading policies.

Mullens was most enthusiastic about the possibility of incorporating a plus-only system, in which a "plus" grade would be halfway between the grades above and below it in terms of GPA weights. A B-plus, for instance, would count for 3.3 GPA points.

During this spring's SGA election, most candidates also expressed support for a plus-only grading system. In a previous interview with The Phantom, Brian Battles, winner of the SGA election, advocated changing to a plus-only system. Battles emphasized, however, that standardization is key to any system.

Cupps and Hotchkiss agree that all instructors should be held to the same system in the interest of fairness to students.

"Some teachers choose to use it and some don't. It's really kind of unfair to students," Cupps said.

Mullens, however, feels that faculty members should be able to decide how to grade students in their classes. "I strongly support the idea that faculty should have the flexibility of grading how they want to grade," Mullens said.

Most of the Senate uses plus-minus grading, according to Mullens, even though it is less common than straight grading in the general faculty.

"It looks like most of the faculty can't use plus-minuses and they won't use plus-only," Mullens said. "The majority aren't interested in using plus-minuses and they don't think it's a good grading system."

Hotchkiss and Cupps expressed concern that plus-minus grading penalizes students more than any other group, because of the absence of an A-plus grade to counteract an A-minus.

Sophomore Cassandra Schwartz, 19, agreed.

"I think it is great for the grades below an A, but since you can't get an A-plus, it isn't fair to be given an A-minus, especially if you are trying to maintain a 4.0," Schwartz said. "Once you get an A-minus, it can only hurt your GPA."

Hotchkiss believes that this could penalize UCF students who are most likely to compete for positions in graduate schools.

Mullens agreed that these are valid concerns, and emphasized that the Faculty Senate and SGA will work together to find the best solution for students.

"I have an open mind, and I'm always looking for ways to do things better. I think most faculty are," he said.
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The UCF rugby team is currently ranked at the top in Florida, with an undefeated 8-0 record. The team travels all the padding of American football. White said.

"It's a dominant force in the southeast region. unit. football. ing their victory in the Florida state.

Without fanfare or publicity, requires many of the senior play­ers take to not only their role on the 22-year-old rugby team. They are first invited to a tryout.

"We know what it's all about. Most play­ers who are trying out for nationals. Rugby is one of three minors.

"It's a big in Japan because big in America. Most other athletes, Marita said. Unlike most majors prepare stu­dents for a particular type of work, the liberal studies pro­gram prepares graduates to enter the workplace with the option of going in a number of directions. Students majoring in liberal studies do not settle upon a particular area of study because they want to learn some of everything. Many times they fight stigma about the value of a liberal studies degree, but as the econom­ic and social structure changes, liberal studies majors may find their degrees invaluable. Some students fall into lib­eral studies because they have tried different majors without success, and liberal studies allows them to combine their diverse credits. Rugby team travelled all over Florida during the regular season, and with a win over Eckerd College, they will be off to Myrtle Beach, S.C. for regional competition. The team feels they have a good chance of going all the way out to Pascoa, Cali­fornia.

The team practised lightly last Thursday during its week off, taking extra care to limit the chances for injury. Marita knows for being one of the most aggressive of contact sports. Broken bones are frequent injuries. Team members have sustained a variety of injuries, including sprained ankles, arms out of socket and broken collar­bones.
Senate decides tonight whether to pursue impeachment charges

Kirlew denies Bell's allegations, claiming they are her way of exacting revenge on him for not dating her.

He conceded he called the UCF police after Bell continually hounded him during his campaign.

"She was following me around the Student Union," causing a scene, trying to disrupt his campaign efforts, so I called the police," he said, "When they came, she left.

Streep, who was a presidential candidate in the primary election, said Kirlew made inappropriate comments to him during an SGA meeting, saying, "If you want a war, Streep, you will get a war." "Kirlew then informed me, "The only thing that came out last night was my 200 people to whom your ass for me," Streep stated in his affidavit.

That incident occurred after Kirlew called a group of student supporters to demonstrate at an SGA Senate meeting after he was informed about the first set of impeachment charges against him.

Kirlew refuted Streep's comments.

"We exchanged a few words; they weren't pleasant," he said. "I told him that their treatment of those 200 students who came to the floor [of the SGA Senate meeting] was inherently racist," he said.

Kirlew also said Streep's charges should not be taken into consideration because he too acted inappropriately.

"If Streep went up on the floor of the student senate and lied," Kirlew said, referring to an incident where Streep accused him of removing another candidate's campaign banner from the Student Union.

Streep later apologized to Kirlew and said he did not know the campaign banner could not hang in the Student Union.

Ragil's charge claims that he witnessed Kirlew say, "I can't stand all you Pikes and your 'roid-rage.'"

Kirlew denies that accusation, too.

He maintains that the student's allegations are unrelated to his performance in student government and that these charges are nothing more than personal attacks from students who supported Battles and Joe MacLellan, the slate that defeated Kirlew and his running mate, Kevin Ortiz, in last week's runoff election for SGA president and vice president.

"One week after the primary election, an individual filed an affidavit against me, stating, 'The only thing that came out last night was my 200 people to whom your ass for me,' Streep stated in his affidavit.

Kiflew said, referring to an incident where Streep later apologized to him, "I can't stand all you Pikes and your 'roid-rage.'" Kirlew said.

The three students' charges were discussed Monday at a meeting of the SGA Legislative Judicial Review Committee, which voted unanimously to forward the charges to the SGA Senate. The senate will decide tonight whether to proceed with the impeachment charges.

"Disruptive conduct, instigation and intimidation and personal abuse are all [Golden Rule] violations that the committee unanimously agreed should be brought before the senate," said Tyler Van Voorhes, chairman of the Legislative Judicial Review Committee.

If Kirlew is found guilty, he would immediately be removed from office. Ortiz, the current senator pro tempore, would take over as legislative vice president until MacLellan, the newly elected vice president, takes office in May.

The three students' charges are:

1. "Disruptive conduct, instigation and intimidation and personal abuse are all [Golden Rule] violations that the committee unanimously agreed should be brought before the senate," said Tyler Van Voorhes, chairman of the Legislative Judicial Review Committee.
2. If Kirlew is found guilty, he would immediately be removed from office. Ortiz, the current senator pro tempore, would take over as legislative vice president until MacLellan, the newly elected vice president, takes office in May.
3. The senate will decide tonight whether to proceed with the impeachment charges.

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Black students connect with fewer mentors

Study: Minorities receive less guidance in high school and college

Hendricks believes that many students in his high school made their college decision before getting to high school. "A majority of kids that went to my high school were never planning on going to college," Hendricks said. "If they had a strong presence talking to them, a few may have changed their mind, but by their junior or senior year they decide, 'Reject this' or decide to get ready for college." Sophomore Rose Simon, 20, had a different experience at Atlantic Community High School in Delray Beach. Atlantic offered students dedicated counselors and a career counselor. "The career counselor was so holistic that you just wanted to get to know her," Simon said. "The career counselor's office had an entire wall of every available college and a computer [database] of what colleges you might identify with. If she didn't have the information, she would get it for you," Simon said. Her career counselor was on track with all seniors and made sure they always came into her office to discuss not only college, but also finding a job.

During the second half of Simon's junior year, all the school's counselors visited the English classrooms and notified students of the opportunities available to them. Atlantic Community High School offered an AP program and an International Baccalaureate program. "The school was so demanding that many were on point," Simon said. Hendricks and others say the dearth of guidance and support for minority students exists at the college level as well.

"Nobody reaches out to me at UCF," Hendricks said. "The multicultural office will help if you if you come to them and they'll encourage you to come back." Hendricks feels the same way about his professors. "All professors really do give you your office hours and it's up to you to contact them," Hendricks said.

Amid Hendricks' does not think UCF mentors should reach out to him, he would not mind if they did. Tracy Dietz, assistant professor of sociology, identifies the problem of minorities finding mentors as a long-term historical problem dating back to the 1960s. "The first schools were not desegregated," Dietz said. "Racial segregation existed until the early 1980s and middle-class predominant white schools received better resources where better teachers would rather teach.

A disproportionate number of mentors, compared to students, exists in schools. There are people who believe that students find role models similar to themselves. Female college students find female role models and black college students find black role models, she said. The disproportionate number of available black mentors to black students results in a shortage of role models for minority students.

"If all blacks down into college," Dietz said. "The proportion of minority students enrolled in college that actually graduate is low," Dietz said.

Hendricks, however, wants to defy the statistics. Like in high school, he will not allow a lack of mentors to hold him back. "I want to have a better life than where I grew up," Hendricks said. "I want to drive a Mercedes and own a home."
New paper sues student government

FROM PAGE 3

seen Radulescu, had not interviewed one of the professors, had not identified himself as a columnist when he interviewed the other professor, and had used his girlfriend as an anonymous source.

One of the professors denied several of Sanders's allegations, including that students had walked out of his class in protest.

Bill Kibort, who was editor in chief at the time, says he regrets having allowed the column to run.

Funds denied

Albany originally asked for $11,000 in student activity fees. The editor of the magazine, "We're not preventing him from publishing or distributing his magazine," he said. "We're just not going to give him money for it."

"Books Not Bombs"

Students at hundreds of colleges and high schools planned a walkout Wednesday to protest the pending war with Iraq.

National Youth and Student Peace Coalition, an organization of 16 student groups that came together after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, planned and organized the walkout.

The condition wants to link its "Books Not Bombs" campaign with better financing of education, particularly higher education.

The students involved attribute increases in tuition at state universities across the nation to the rising military costs associated with the war build-up. They argue that money spent on the military would go to much better use if spent on higher education.

They have called the tuition increases a "war tax" that makes a college education unaffordable to lower-income families.

Students at colleges and high schools across the country were expected to participate in Wednesday's event.

Student groups in Australia, Spain, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Brazil and Scotland also planned to participate in the movement.

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Police nab drunk driver from party

Police nab drunk driver from party

FROM PAGE 1

on the lights and sirens on their vehicles, Robert Frucci, 20, finally came out and identified himself to officers as the fraternity president, according to the arrest report.

Police arrested Frucci on a charge of hosting an open house party where underage students had access to alcoholic beverages.

Frucci could not be reached for comment by deadline.

Last semester, UCF Police arrested Student Body President Marco Peia outside the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house for drunken and disorderly conduct.

Peia, a Sigma Alpha Epsilon brother who was at Sunday's party, said a UCF officer entered the fraternity house without permission or a warrant.

"He went into our courtyard, went into our hallway... and that's a violation of our Constitution — illegal search and seizure," he said. "We could've been looking for anything — we don't know."

Another man also was arrested outside the party on a charge of driving under the influence of alcohol.

Robert Florio, 44, was arrested before he even placed his keys in the ignition after an officer noticed the man stumbling toward the parking lot, the police report stated.

He failed several sobriety tests. Officers finally ended the tests in fear that Florio would lose his balance and injure himself, the report stated.

When officers asked Florio if he was too impaired to drive, he replied, "You got me."

The finer things

UCF students learn the proper way to hold a fork, among other skills, at the etiquette dinner held on March 1 at the Marriott World Center. The guests were served manners as well as a free four-course meal.
Study abroad gains ground despite 9/11

American students yearn to learn new cultures

DOUGLAS COUSMINER | TUE-WED

After the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, with international travel becoming increasingly cumbersome, students might have expected that study abroad programs would decline in popularity.

However, according to Mark McMeley, UCF's study abroad program remains as popular as ever.

McMeley, former assistant director of the study abroad program, said the terrorist attacks heightened interest in the program. "After Sept. 11, the number of students interested in participating in a study abroad actually increased, because more people realize the importance of being exposed to other cultures," McMeley said.

Students now begin to see that their careers would eventually have an international element. The United States is very connected to the rest of the world, and students need to be proficient not only in another language, but in another culture," McMeley said.

The study abroad program, run by the Office of International Studies, offers students semester- and year-long programs at 11 different destinations. This summer, UCF students can study at nine different universities in eight countries.

Lauren Johnson, the current program director for the Office of International Studies, agreed that study abroad programs remain popular. "I think September 11 has made Americans more interested in what's going on outside this country," Johnson said. "It's also made it more difficult for students from other countries to come here, because of increased security restrictions, which means that Americans who want to meet people from other cultures have to go abroad themselves to do that."

Many students choose to study in Spain because more students tend to take Spanish than French or other foreign languages, Johnson said. However, some students choose destinations based on their majors. "There's a music program in France that's quite popular for advanced music students," Johnson said. "There's a nursing program that is almost filled to capacity right now that is going on in Sweden.

McMeley said language and economic issues have made Australia one of the most popular study abroad destinations. "In the last year, Australia has become increasingly interesting to people," McMeley said. "Since Australians speak English, Australia feels more inviting to students who do not wish to travel to a foreign language site, he said. Additionally, Australia has become less expensive because "the Australian dollar has declined, so that makes it a good buy."

Such financial considerations can become a hurdle for students interested in studying abroad. "Right now is paying for summer tuition hours, last year and again this year," Johnson said. However, McMeley said, "The office of international studies offers need-based scholarships.

Johnson said parents remain the biggest hurdle for students considering study abroad. "I think students are considering more with their parents, and they're parents are saying, 'I don't think it's a good idea that you go abroad.'" Johnson said.

The safety concerns raised by September 11 also caused the office of international studies to cancel a program. "We had one program in Jordan," Johnson said. "There was interest in it, but we had to cancel it for now, because the travel advisory set by the Department of State said they're evacuating all non-essential Americans from Jordan, and they're not encouraging people to go there if they don't have to."

Johnson could not give data on the exact changes in popularity of study abroad programs, because many students continue to apply. "Right now we're at a peak season for taking in applications, and the deadline's not until the middle of April, so it's hard to say right now how we're doing.

The interest in study abroad programs is still there. I don't think the popularity of these programs has decreased at all," Johnson added. "In general, students are always interested in traveling, broadening their horizons, and earning credits at the same time."

SEMINSTER-LONG PROGRAMS

1. Austin Peay State University, Elizabethton, Tennessee - Open to all majors.
2. California, University of Redlands - Open to all majors.
3. Ole Miss, University of Mississippi - Open to all majors.
4. Ohio, University of Cincinnati - Open to all majors.
5. Pennsylvania, University of Pennsylvania - Open to all majors.
6. Japan, Meiji University - Open to all majors.
7. Spain, University of Zaragoza - Open to all majors.
8. Sweden, Stockholm University - Open to all majors.
9. Sweden, Uppsala University - Open to all majors.
10. Thailand, Mahidol University - Open to all majors.
11. United Kingdom, University of Cambridge - Open to all majors.
12. United States, University of Georgia - Open to all majors.
13. United States, University of Texas - Open to all majors.
14. United States, University of Wisconsin - Open to all majors.
15. United States, Arizona State University - Open to all majors.
16. United States, University of California - Open to all majors.
17. United States, University of Illinois - Open to all majors.
18. United States, University of Michigan - Open to all majors.
19. United States, University of North Carolina - Open to all majors.
20. United States, University of Oregon - Open to all majors.
21. United States, University of Texas - Open to all majors.
22. United States, University of Virginia - Open to all majors.
23. United States, University of Wisconsin - Open to all majors.
24. United States, University of Washington - Open to all majors.
25. United States, University of California - Open to all majors.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

How to apply for a study abroad program:
Go to the Office of International Studies website, www.intlstudents.ucf.edu, where you can download all of our applications.
After filling out an application, speak to the program coordinator before submitting any paperwork. You can call or visit our office (407) 823-2070.

WINTER ABROAD PROGRAMS

1. France - Language and Culture, Semester B, Location: Angers, France - Open to all majors.
2. France - Language and Culture, Semester B, Location: Amboise, France - Open to all majors.
3. France - Language and Culture, Semester B, Location: La Rochelle, France - Open to all majors.
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In light of recent cases of meningitis in north-central Florida, including one at Florida State University, more attention has rightfully fallen upon a new Florida law that requires students who live on-campus to either get vaccinated against meningitis or sign a waiver releasing the university from responsibility.

While the law all the very least alerts students to the existence of meningitis, it does not require universities to fully explain the severity of the disease. Many UCF students unwittingly signed the waiver, not knowing how deadly or damaging meningitis can be, or that the bacteria can thrive in crowded living conditions such as dormitories, fraternity houses and sorority houses.

UCF and all state universities should do a much better job of informing residents of the dangers of meningitis. Too many students blow off the vaccinations as unnecessary precautions because they do not understand what the disease can do. Universities should explain to all students who live on campus what the vaccine does, what it prevents and what it does not prevent. Students should have as much information as possible so that they can make an informed decision about whether to get vaccinated.

Universities should strongly recommend meningitis vaccinations for students who live on campus, and it should notify all students, both on- and off-campus, of the risks of the disease. Whether students decide to get the vaccinations or not, they should have the facts.

Of course, the cost of meningitis vaccinations will factor into students' decisions about whether to go through with it. Many students would rather not spend $75 on a vaccination. On this point, the responsibility again falls upon UCF and other state universities. The universities want their students to remain healthy; they do not want the negative exposure that accompanies meningitis outbreaks.

Universities can prevent meningitis outbreaks by making vaccinations affordable enough that students will want to get vaccinated. UCF and the state's other public universities should subsidize the cost of meningitis vaccinations for students who live on-campus. In fact, any student who wants to get vaccinated deserves a subsidy on a meningitis vaccination.

If the state's universities bring the cost of meningitis vaccinations down, to say $40, and inform students of the grave risks of the disease, many more students would be inclined to get the vaccinations, for peace of mind.

In turn, universities would get the peace of mind of knowing that a meningitis outbreak would not occur on their campuses.

Impeachment must be considered with care

Some very serious allegations have been brought against current Student Body Vice President Brian Kirlew regarding his actions of the past month. Three students filed affidavits claiming that Kirlew acted inappropriately during his unsuccessful campaign for student body president.

Ex-candidate Jeff Streep accuses Kirlew of improper conduct in arguments between the two. Kirlew dismisses Streep's allegations. Streep has a contentious history with Kirlew, and perhaps he holds a grudge.

However, the other two students who filed affidavits against Kirlew do not have political backgrounds, and they are not trying to settle a political score.

In the second affidavit, Shane Bagel alleges that Kirlew verbally assaulted him, and that Kirlew was not provoked in doing so. The third affidavit comes from a black student, Shana Bell, who says that Kirlew pressured her to vote for him based upon his shared race.

Kirlew says Bagel's charge is nothing more than a personal attack. And he claims that Bell made her allegations because he did not date her.

If the allegations against Kirlew are proven to be true, he indeed acted inappropriately. However, as the SGA Senate hears the charges and decides whether to impeach him, the senators should use due care to not rush to judgment.

Kirlew has stepped on a lot of people's toes during his time in student government, but this impeachment vote is not about payback or revenge. The senators must vote based only on the facts. They must decide whether his actions, if validated, warrant impeachment.

The Senate must act responsibly as it votes on this measure. An impeachment against Kirlew could ruin his aspiring political career and damage his reputation. As the voting results indicate, Kirlew collected only 281 fewer votes than Brian Battles in last week's runoff election. He has many loyal supporters and the backing of several important groups on campus.

On the Senate should deliberate for as long as necessary and hear all the facts, from all parties involved, before it votes. If the senators determine that Kirlew knowingly violated the Golden Rule and acted inappropriately, they have the duty, as representatives of the student body, to impeach him. If not, they must vote against it.

"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have." -MARGARET MEAD

Letters to the Editor

Let winning ticket claim victory

I think enough is enough when it comes to the SGA presidential election regarding the article "Kirlew charges rise with vote tampering in SGA election," by Ben Baird, published March 3. Brian Kirlew should be the last person pointing fingers about legal activity. He should be more concerned with his own legitimate charges.

More students voted for the Battles/Medelkun ticket. Regardless of how the votes were obtained, they were. If students such as Danny Salamida and Jenna Connolly voted for Kirlew because they were approached by attractive women or given free shots, then that does not change the fact that the elections were run fairly.

Let winning ticket claim victory. Their correct quote: "The outcome bothers you, then maybe you should have voted a little more seriously next year." -MELINDA SILVA

S6A out of tune with students' needs

I find it a little hard to believe that spending $25,000 to send 150 students to a final theme park for four hours is somehow a more appropriate expense than granting that money to student organizations, regarding the story "$25,000 to send students to islands of adventure," by Ben Baird, published March 3.

When Shana Bell states that she does not feel that spending $125,000 has been denied funding this year, he obviously isn't in tune with what's really going on within S6A. And on that note, neither does his current administration that approves the individuals' organizations. Countless groups which have been denied funding have only received a partial amount of money they requested this year.

How can they be so sure this is the way students really want their money spent? Did they ask any students if they wanted a trip to Islands of Adventure? I don't remember them asking me.

SUNK ROWES

Corrections

In the article "Students, fun and fake," published Feb. 24, an indirect quote was incorrectly attributed to Glenn Florence as a result of an editing error. He did not say that TVU broadcast nothing but "it sums viewers to see his correct quote: "The camera affects a lot of things. There are a lot of secrets and other things that are very sad that can't be revealed."
Protesters' messages falling on deaf ears

INSPIRED THOUGHTS

By the people, for the people, right? Isn't that what democracy is all about?

Our elected officials carrying out what the majority of the country's population wants is the founding principle behind our nation's government.

So why is President Bush so adamantly ignoring what millions of Americans and peace activists around the world are saying?

The United States is just as well suited to launch a preemptive attack against Iraq. They don't buy war or any of its solutions. They don't want innocent men and women to die. And they are wondering where their heads are.

There are signs all over that the American people are thinking about peace and we are just not hearing them heard.

Another shows a pile of naked man-eating animals the same way Jews, Gypsies and homosexuals were treated. A sign depicts a photo of a starving cow. The campaign slogan is utterly disgusting.

A preemptive war is a precedent that the United States should never set. We have played the role of defender for many years and that's the role we should always play in global politics.

The role of aggressor is one that is expected from our country. A pre-9/11 governments like Iraq or North Korea. It's not the American way — did you hear that Mr. President?

By the people, for the people, right? Isn't that what democracy is all about?

PETA's comparison of animals, Holocaust victims leaves bad taste

KEVIN O'GRATTAN STAFF WRITER

"To animals, all people are Nazis.

The campaign slogan alone is shocking, but the new display that accompanies the slogan is utterly disgusting. But some of my favorites are:

Drunken frat boy drives country into ditch.

Let's bomb Texas, they have oil too.

Sacrifice our SUV's, not our children.

Let Exxon send their own troops.

I asked for universal health care and all I got was this honey stealers bomb.

How did our oil get under their sand?

"Daddy can I start the war now?"


And I think I can all be summed up by a sign that depicted Bush saying: "Why should I care what the American people think? They didn't vote for me."

Jokes aside, Bush should remove his head from his sphincter so that he can hear what the American people and the rest of the world have to say. Millions of people do not turn out for events just for fun and games.

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By the people, for the people, right? Isn't that what democracy is all about?
Overcoming long odds

Knights to face JSU in 1st round

Kristy Shonka
Staff Writer

This year’s men’s basketball team has performed well all season, despite naysayers’ predictions.

It all begins when the UCF men’s basketball team lost to Georgia State in the second round of last year’s Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament. The Knights knew that game would be the last for seniors Paul Reed, Jason Thornton and Evandro Moretti, but the loss of sophomore twins Joey and Stephen Graham came as a shock.

"The Grahams decided shortly after the season to transfer to Oklahoma State. Combined with the loss of Reed, UCF lost three of its top four scorers from last year. Throw in transfer Mark Konecny’s dismissal from the team and the departure of freshmen Jamon Harmon and Tim Kiscaden, and the Knights were left with only five players who would return for the 2002-03 season.

When this season began, UCF welcomed 10 transfers to the team and none had Division I basketball experience. Three transferred from junior colleges, four came from high school and the other three had no collegiate basketball experience.

The Knights were predicted to finish second-to-last in the A-Sun’s South Division, but instead the team has won more regular-season games (19) than any team in UCF’s Division I history. The Knights are 18-10 on the year and 11-5 in the A-Sun. They have the chance to win 20 games for the first time since Coach Kirk Speraw’s first season in 1993 when the team went 21-9.

Jacksonville State is 20-9 on the year and 10-6 in the A-Sun. The Gamecocks have won seven consecutive games, including an overtime win over Georgia State and a win over North Division champs Belmont.

The Knights won the lone regular-season matchup between the two teams Jan. 23. Senior guard Ray Abellard hit a pair of free throws in the waning seconds of the game to give UCF a 69-67 win. The game went back and forth throughout and neither team held a lead of more than four points.

Forward Omar Barlett averages 15.6 points and 7.3 rebounds for the Gamecocks. The Knights held him to 10 points earlier in the season, but he grabbed 10 rebounds. When he gets the ball in position to score, he usually does. Barlett is second in the conference at shooting from the floor (61.4 percent). Guard Poonie Richardson lit up UCF’s defense for 21 points, nine of them in the second half.

Please see Defense on 16
ESPN home game against Marshall highlights 2003 football

UCF Football team will host defending Mid-American Conference champion Marshall on Nov. 10, for a Wednesday night game on ESPN or ESPN2. The MAC announced Tuesday UCF's schedule features five home games and seven road dates. The Knights will play four non-conference games.

UCF kicks off its season on the road at Virginia Tech on Aug. 30. The Knights will have a week off before getting an early start on the home schedule Sept. 13 against Florida Atlantic. A trip to New York to face Syracuse follows. The Knights remain on the road the following week when they begin conference play at Kent State.

Abellard has bit 157 three-pointers, which puts him third in three-point shooting and free-throw shooting percentage. In just two years with the Knights, Abellard has averaged 16.1 points per game, leading the Knights in conference.

Abellard finished the regular season leading the Knights in scoring averaging 14.1 points per game. His average ranks sixth in the Atlantic Sun. Abellard has hit 157 three-pointers, which puts him fourth in all-time at UCF.

This season Abellard has reached double-digit point totals in 22 of the 28 games he played in. He led UCF in scoring 17 times.

Women's tennis rainout

The UCF women's tennis match scheduled for Tuesday against Richmond was canceled because of bad weather. The match has not been rescheduled.

Men's tennis team wins eighth consecutive

The Knights improved to 8-1 in the Atlantic Sun Conference with a 5-4 win over Campbell on Saturday for their eighth win in a row. The No. 66 Knights improved to 8-2 overall.

UCF won five singles matches with the Camels' lone win coming at No. 3. Catalin Brusa (No. 1), Gabriel Strangbetg (No. 2), Ender Gursoy (No. 9) and Rhett Rosen (No. 6) all picked up singles wins for the Knights. The doubles matches were suspended because of the threat of rain.

The Knights next match is 3:00 p.m. today against Houston College at the UCF Tennis Complex.
Defensive gives fans reason to cheer

FROM PAGE 14

Expectations were low. The UCF basketball coach had fewer returning players and a limited recruiting budget. As a result, the Knights' performance improved from last year's 14-18 record to an 18-10 record this season. The Knights had a 10-game winning streak and were headed for a trip to the NCAA tournament.

But the Knights didn't have an easy road to success. They had to work hard to improve their defense, which was a weak point last year. They focused on teamwork and communication, and it paid off. The Knights were one of the few teams to make the NCAA tournament, and they were competitive against some of the best teams in the country.

The Knights' success is due to the hard work and dedication of the players. They had a strong bond, and that helped them succeed. The Knights' coach was pleased with the team's performance, and he was looking forward to the future.

PHOTO BY MIKE McKENNA
Seniors have left their mark

FROM PAGE 16

because we had a lot of success on the squad," Aberfield said, "but this year we know that we weren't as deep offensively, so therefore we were going to have to play defense. Defense was going to win us games."

The Knights held eight teams to 60 or fewer points this season, and they won six of those games, losing by one point in one game and two points in the other. The Knights were in a position to win most of their games this year. Six of their 10 losses were by five points or fewer.

"I think this year, since we don't have the athletic ability that we did last year, we rely on taking care of the minor details that put us in those points and get us those extra stops that we need in order to get the advantage on the [other] teams," Boyd said. "That's where we see ourselves. We try to take care of the little details in order to succeed." Sweating the small stuff has paid off for the Knights. They are one win shy of the school's first 25-win season since 1993-94 and have the most wins since the 1995-96 season that went 19-10 on the season. Their 14 wins are the most in the regular season for UCF since it joined Division I.

Despite what happens in this weekend's tournament, the Knights' three seniors — Boyd, Aberfield and Dotson — have already left their mark on this program. All made necessary adjustments to their games in order to help the Knights succeed.

For the past two years, Aberfield and Dotson have been the lone seniors on the court. The seniors split the regular season series, with each team winning the first meeting and the second meeting being decided by less than 10 points. The seniors have been the lone seniors on the court. The seniors split the regular season series, with each team winning the first meeting and the second meeting being decided by less than 10 points.

Senior forward Roberto Morentin had 14-2 records. He was the second time in seven years the two teams have played, with Mercer winning 73-68 a week ago. They will play at 9 p.m. Saturday.

Jacksonville was the season opener for the Knights in this season's A-Sun regular season. Jacksonville hosted Mercer, a 6-8 A-Sun record after losses to Mercer and Troy State and to end the season last year. They are the only team to beat UFV this season, and they have the best record in the A-Sun. The Knights have lost two of their last three games, but they are the only A-Sun team to win three games in three days, which is what the A-Sun champion will have to do to win the tournament.

The Knights beat Tulane, Maine and Indiana State in consecutive days over Thanksgiving weekend to win the University Hoops Classic. Speraw thinks this experience should help the Knights in the A-Sun Tournament.

The defense will be a little bit more pressure in this situation and certainly we're going to have to handle the pressure and deal with the pressure, as all the teams up there will, but we've been already have," he said. "I think we can draw on that."

Speraw said for a team to be successful in this tournament it must focus on the fundamentals.

"Can you not make mistakes and can you make shots," he said. "Who can handle the pressure and deal with the pressure, as all the teams up there will, but we've been already have."
Baseball out-slugs Monmouth 17-10

KRYSTY SHONKA
SPORTS

The UCF baseball team used the final game of its four-game series with Monmouth to get some inexperienced players some experience. Only five of UCF’s starters Sunday have seen regular playing time, but that did not hurt the Knights as they bested Monmouth 17-10 for their fifth consecutive win.

UCF set new season highs with 20 hits and 17 runs and four Golden Knights had career days to give the team its first four-game series sweep since 1987 against Stetson. UCF (9-4) jumped out to an early 4-0 lead and would score at least one run in each of the first six innings, including six runs in the fourth.

Sophomore Taylor Cobb earned the win for the Knights, giving up two earned runs in five innings, while striking out four and walking three. He improved to 2-0 on the year.

In his first career start at UCF, Brian Stoneman went 1-2-3 with career highs in runs (5) and RBIs (3). Stoneman started for David Mann, who is still recovering from an injured hamstring. Elaine Schulte started in center field for Clay Timner, who jammed a finger sliding into second base. Schulte recorded a career-best four RBIs and tied his personal best with three hits.

Jon Cooper got the nod at shortstop in place of Matt Fox, who relieved Cobb in the sixth, and got four hits and three RBIs, both career highs.

"Don’t make a nice adjustment at the plate," UCF Coach Jay Bergman said. "He’s doing the things we asked him to do and he’s getting some pitches to hit."

Junior Burt Clark, who relieved Ryan Baze at first base, got his first career hit Sunday with a giant home run over the left-field fence. Clark pitched his first two years at UCF but this year has seen time at first base and as the designated hitter. Bergman was able to work 20 players into the game.

"Everybody got a chance to play this weekend," he said. "I was very proud of the players. Nothing but positives."

The Knights were up 17-3 after six, but Monmouth scored a run in the seventh and six runs in the eighth. UCF reliever Nick Whalen faced six batters in the eighth without getting an out. He gave up five runs on three hits and three walks.

But the most important thing for the Knights was that they got their offense going. Thirteen players are now hitting over .200 and eight of those players have seen time in all nine games.

"It was a good weekend," Bergman said. "Just what the doctor ordered."

The Knights kick off their Atlantic Sun Conference schedule this weekend with a three-game series at Mercer.

Softball team splits first A-Sun double-header

MATT BETRON
SPORTS

Julia Shimshoster went two-for-three with two home runs, leading the UCF softball team to an 8-0 win over visiting Gardner-Webb on Monday at the UCF Softball Complex. The Knights (10-1, 1-0 A-Sun) dropped the second game of their doubleheader 5-3, giving the Bulldogs (7-11, 1-5 A-Sun) their first conference win of the season.

In the first game, the Knights had a 1-0 lead when Shimshoster led off the third inning with a home run down the left field line. The Knights added three more runs in the inning on RBIs by Payla Simmons, Taylor Sawyer and Jenna Wansa. UCF would add a run in the fourth and fifth innings, and Shimshoster capped the scoring in the sixth with her second home run of the day.

Sawyer was brilliant for the Knights in earning her fourth win of the season. The southpaw pitched the complete game, allowing only four hits while striking out three.

In the rubber match, the Knights came out sluggish, finding themselves in an early hole they couldn’t dig out of. The Bulldogs jumped all over UCF starter Payla Simmons, tagging her for five runs. Simmons would depart in the third inning, bringing back Sawyer. The Knights mustered rallies in the third and fourth innings, but were unable to cut the lead any closer than two runs. Sawyer was once again effective against the Bulldog batters, pitching five innings and allowing no runs as the Knights won 1-0.

The downfall for the Knights, as it has proved to be many times this season, was their lack of run support. UCF would muster only four hits, a complete reversal of the first game in which they had put 12 hits and eight runs on the board. It is this inconsistent play that has bothered Coach Renee Luers-Gillispie.

"We’re still trying to figure out what it’s gonna take to get more runs in the inning," she said. "And we don’t quite know what that is yet."

On Sunday, the Knights lost to Southwest Missouri State 8-2 in the finals of the UCF Softball Tournament. Just a day earlier, UCF had blanked the Bears 6-0.

"They’re learning that they’ve got to be able to stop it up and play hard every day," said Luers-Gillispie, who went 46-19 in 2002, her first year at UCF.

The Knights traveled yesterday to Osceola County for the Rebel Games, where they took on Valparaiso and Detroit. Details of the action will be available in Monday’s edition of the Florida.
Cable's newest battle of the sexes pairs up Oxygen and Comedy Central

**Katrina Hammer**
**Staff Writer**

Pairs of underwear are falling from the sky. Red panties, black things and skimpy lace lingerie flutter to the ground below. Confused, a young man walking by stops and picks up a pair. A girl calls out from a balcony above and asks the man to watch the underwear as she comes down to collect them. Suspecting he is unwise, the man brings the underwear to his nose and sniffs. The girl immediately demands that he not smell her underwear, as she turns to her friend and laughs.

This girl is not an unfortunate college student who has accidentally lost her laundry, but the co-host of a new television show. Madison Howard continues to throw underwear from the balcony to get a laugh. She tosses them on passersby and times them to see how long they will wait for her to come down.

She never does.

Howard, along with Chelsea Handirc, Tori Meyer and Glenda Reedfield, hosts Oxygen's new comedy show "Girls Behaving Badly," described by the network as "Sex in the City meets Candid Camera." Sophomore Mike Shore, 20, remembers seeing one of the show's first episodes. He said the girls were walking around in love-shaming pants that did not even cover their buttocks. Their thing underwear hang out as they straddled through the streets. The stunt was aimed at making fun of the low-rise jeans that have become popular among men.

Shore liked the idea of a witty, female-hosted show that pulled panties and stunts on innocent male bystanders.

"It's a good concept to have a show where girls don't act like guys," he said. "But when they show a lot of skin, it's what guys want to see anyway. It kind of defies the purpose."

"Girls Behaving Badly" has enjoyed some success on the network and gives women a cable counterpart to Comedy Central.
Many trainees try to find jobs as professional dancers

FROM PAGE 19

because I've improved and have been working (hard). It's almost impossible to have to be able to integrate into their future career environment.

"Because ballet is visual, the best way to learn is to watch people who are good at it," she said. "You can try, and try, and try, but you have to actually see what you are trying to accomplish and learn from their work ethic.

"Being a trainee allows students to work with professional dancers and slowly integrate into their future career environment.

"The trainee program gives students a chance to expand their resumes," said Peter Stark, the school director of Orlando Ballet. "They are our core in all professional productions and get to dance with all the professional dancers."

With nearly two years of experience as a trainee, Williams' most recently performed in "Giselle" and "Nutcracker." She hopes to continue her career with Orlando Ballet as a professional dancer.

"They don't have a cap on how long you can be a trainee here. But I've decided that two years is about right," she said. "I really enjoy the Orlando Ballet and would love to get into the company here. I feel ready to move on."

Stark said that Williams has grown as a dancer and has learned the important lesson of how to transform from a student to a performer.

"She has improved tremendously over the past three years," Stark said. "Ballet can be very cerebral when it is class because you are dancing with bars and teachers are looking over you, but ultimately you have to be able to perform on stage. And she's a wonderful stage performer."

Williams said that she has gained many friendships from her time spent at the ballet company, and has developed a strong sense of what it takes to succeed in the world of dance.

"Ballet is competitive in that it's hard to find a job. It's not that you feel like you are competing against those around you," she said. "Everybody tries to do their best and after a certain level you can't compare dancers. Some are better than others, but some are just different.

Although a highly selective profession, ballet provides many opportunities for students outside of the competitive arena. Studying ballet may result in a scholarship to college or a job as a ballet instructor.

"Ballet is incredibly competitive," Stark said. "We have a school of 350 students. Of those, maybe five to 10 will be fortunate to find employment in this field as a professional dancer. There are more people training than there are available jobs. But the keys to ballet, like discipline, are transferable to other professions."

Stark said that Williams has the potential to be one of the few who make it professionally.

"She's someone who is going to be successful. She has the capacity to be a professional," he said. "And even if she doesn't decide to be a dancer professionally, her work ethic and attitude will lead her to success."

While Williams is unsure of where ballet will lead her, she said she would always make it an important part of her life.

"I love the freedom of movement and the artistry of it; creating and sharing something with people. I love being able to convey an emotion, feeling or storyline to a group of people and making their day a little better."

Williams has made ballet her top priority in her busy schedule.
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WebCT courses often require more work than traditional classes

FROM PAGE 19

"If you have to have dinner on the table by six, it's hard to take those class assignments," she said. She finds that many older students take Web-based courses because of the freedom from attending traditional classes.

Jenna Roth, 19, says that she also finds many students with their own families in her online developmental psychology class. "Many are going to branch campuses and taking classes that would help them in their current job," the freshman said. "Some are home all day with kids and often take three [WebCT] classes at once."

While Riggs says WebCT allows for more time to spend with her boyfriend and her full-time job, she does regret graduating alone. "I don't know anyone I'm graduating with," she said. "I don't get to hang out on campus, and I miss the camaraderie."

Students sacrifice meeting peers in their major when they take WebCT courses, because most never communicate outside the online student groups.

Both haven't met anyone in her WebCT class face-to-face. "Even though I like doing my own thing, I like the idea of going to class and meeting people," she said.

Both Roth and Riggs credit self-motivation to their success in WebCT courses. "I am pretty motivated and I can structure myself," Roth said. "I wouldn't recommend a person who isn't organized to take an online course."

"You have to be very disciplined and it's definitely not for everyone," Riggs said. Even for seasoned WebCT students, the program has its quirks, just as any software does. Riggs habitually backs up all her quizzes, cutting and pasting them into a personal Word document or into her e-mail account, so if the program freezes she can still complete the required classwork to e-mail to her professor.

Complaints of disappearing WebCT quizzes are battled by Techrangers, a group of tech support employees for professors and students. Technicians suggest that students should be aware that WebCT is not ADSL-friendly and recommend that students take quizzes and tests in the campus computer labs to combat Internet connection problems.

Junior Mehdi Lahrech, 20, wishes the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering would offer a wider variety of Web-based courses, so he could participate in more online learning. "But, he understands how difficult it is to post complicated theorems on a Web bulletin board," he said. "It has to be physically done as a group."

Lahrech is taking Introduction to Digital Circuits through WebCT and has found that students who are not interested in their studies must use caution when taking Web courses. "It's all up to you to do the work, and while it saves you the pain of going to class you have to be able to do the work yourself," he said.

In WebCT courses, professors assemble Web pages of class lectures and post discussion questions, grades, monthly calendars and weekly assignments.

In Riggs' Introduction to Women Studies course, she is required to post her thoughts and research on each weekly question posed by her professor. Every week she must complete a short quiz, read excerpts from her textbook and follow up on discussions from other students. "It's very labor-intensive," Riggs said. "It's more work than a regular class."

While Riggs confesses that online discussions do not replace lectures, the online courses have served her education well.

Professors who teach online courses must be able to not only group the WebCT software, but also to provide an effective learning environment for their students. Professor Curle E. Adams teaches history and women's studies courses at UCPI and struggles to find ways to reach people who live far from the main campus. She finds that WebCT solves the problem. Even with satellite learning, Adams concludes that students viewing from the branch campuses do not get enough personal attention.

"I really like that I am reaching students no matter where they live," Adams said. "WebCT is best for students who have difficulty getting to class, have heavy work loads or shifting work hours."

Adams says that the material covered in online courses is in many ways equal to what students learn in a classroom. "In many ways, equal to what students learn in a classroom."

"You can get people [involved with] a lot of visual projects," she said. "It gets students to do a different type of studying."

Adams added that the pedagogical influence of WebCT classes on students is greatly beneficial because they are able to access and explore Internet sources that they might never find printed on a traditional syllabus.

From her previous teaching experience, Adams has found that quieter students do not participate in standard classroom discussion. Adams feels that students are able to comfortably share their opinions on online bulletin boards.

With heated discussions in her history and women's studies courses, Adams says that the use of online message boards is advantageous, allowing students to wait a period of time before responding. "It allows time for reflection for everybody," she said.

While online learning may seem like a break from those 8 a.m. classes, Roth says the professors often expect a lot more work from students because the courses are interdisciplinary.

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"Air Guitar" champs from the previous competition, Rob and Mike. Made up of five skinny rocker geeks in black spray-painted T-shirts and Converse sneakers, their group performed an infectious rendition of alternative band at the Drive-In’s “One Armed Schizo.”

After their act, female judge Marshe Green of Marshe Green Marketing jokingly harassed two of the adorable, be@apple-eb band members into taking their shirts off, making Green’s remedy preference an amusing running joke for the rest of the night.

The next group, Michaels and the Beer Garden Boys, was refreshingly unique. Their performance featured four German exchange students wearing traditional German national costumes of lederhosen. They rocked out to an apparently popular German anthem called “Hop-Flip Hurrah,” and came complete with an enthusiastic army of young German supporters.

Their costumes were not strictly traditional, however. One of the guys had squeezed himself into the traditional woman’s costume—a red peasant dress and white apron—and completed the outfit with a blonde Afro wig. Michaels’s bosom also bulged prominently over the seams of her face-up corset top.

“How do you say ‘I love your tits’ in German?” Green inquired teasingly, eyeing Michaels’s chest. A group of biker overmembers of The Spivilves scored a personnal victory by calling themselves The Shivalettes. They performed a variety song called “Who Sold Out Now” dedicated to the band members who kicked them out. In a humorous moment, rockers Distint Haven performed a heartfelt “What It” by Creed. Unfortunately, none of the judges took them seriously.

“I hate rock, rock,” Empee Mekebo boasted. “I know you did that song as a joke, right?” Patton asked.

The members of Distint Haven laughed weakly and agreed that you, the Creed song had been a joke.

The most offensive of all the groups was a foursome whose name was too sexually offensive to repeat, let alone print. Consisting of a man, a woman and two promiscuous community actors (whom I last saw in a forgettable production of “The Pot Show”), the group performed a rendition of “My Generation” that would have made the remaining members of The Who croak in horror. They were obviously going for shock value. The two “Pot Show” guys drunkenly stumbled around the stage and simulated the process of snorting cocaine and shooting heroin, while actor Christian Kelly unzipped his pants and yanked out his genitals.

“My friend Wolf, along with the rest of the audience and the judges, looked completely horrified. It would have been OK if he hadn’t whipped out his socks.” Wolf muttered.

The judges quickly lectured the audience’s attention to the final band of the evening—Turbo. Turbo, comprised of four average-looking guys in their late twenties, simply and effortlessly blew everyone away. Lip-syncing and air-playing is a flawless imitation of a hardcore AC/DC song. Their energy and confidence earned the undivided attention of every amazed set of eyes in the venue.

The judges jumped to their feet, applauding. “That’s an automatic ticket to finals,” Metaxas exclaimed. “You’re in.”

The Turbo guys confirmed their victory by making even harder in the finals improve competition, after which Turbos’s lead singer ripped off his shirt, revealing an extremely hairy chest and back. He then grabbed a microphone and yelled upsurprised words of encouragement to his fellow hairballs, provoking waves of laughter from the amused crowd of supporters.
Air bands rock
Milli Vanilli-style

FROM PAGE 24

The judges anonymously awarded Turbo first place, giving them a hefty cash prize and gift certificates to Sam Ash music and Park Ave CDs, a Rock prize pack and an all-you-can-drink tab at the Social.

"Those guys were so good," I said earnestly to Wolf, rushing off after the show to talk to Turbo. I was determined to figure out how they mastered the believable illusion of rock's out.

Turbo singer Rob Penticoff (a.k.a. Rockin' Rob), a 25-year-old graphic designer, told me that the group had jokingly entered the contest at the last minute, although they did have quite an imaginative history.

"It's completely ridiculous that we won," Penticoff assured me. "We all went to school at Ringling Arts College in Sarasota, where we convinced everyone at school that we had a band called Turbo. We would put up those profession-looking posters around campus with pictures of us on it and everyone would ask when we were playing locally!"

Over the course of their college career, the guys printed up Turbo T-shirts, told everyone they were "all the rage" in Scandinavia and spent their free time fabricating Turbo's entire history.

"We were the biggest band that never was," exclaimed Andrew Spair (Turbo name: Andy Stary), Turbo's guitarist.

"We used to videotape ourselves doing air band performances in our apartment, and my big, final graphic design project was a Turbo CD."

"This is the reunion show," added bassist Martin Greiling, a.k.a. Party Marty.

"I'm kind of making me want to start a fake band.

I decided that I liked Turbo for the same reason that I adore drag shows and Britney impersonators - it takes a lot of effort to make people think you're really singing.

I want to be the next Milli Vanilli," I announced to Wolf on the car ride home.

"What?" Sigh. Some people will never understand.

Gloriana Lewis can be reached at levies@alufayra.com

Both sexes enjoy 'The Man Show's' humor

FROM PAGE 19

Central's "The Man Show," hosted by Adam Corolla and Jimmy Kimmel, "The Man Show" is a variety-style program driven by testosterone. The network describes the show as a half-hour of joyous chauvinism, with each episode containing a whole truckload of man。

Sophomore Erin Joseph, 19, thinks the show is humorous - sometimes. "It's entertaining," she said, "but it's directed toward horny men who sit around and drink beer."

While "The Man Show" does have its share of stunts and practical jokes, it focuses more on odd, middle topics. Future episodes have the hosts investigating a swamp in Florida, attending their first bachelorette party and visiting the Museum of Annoying Women.

Leave it to Corolla and Kimmel to find such a place.

While their sense of humor seems tasteless to some, many people really do enjoy the comedy - especially women. Freshman Kristy Thomas, 18, thinks "The Man Show" is hysterical.

She does, however, have a slight problem with the show. "I could really do without the girls jumping on trampolines," she said.

Thomas is referring to the Juggy Girls. The Juggy Girls, 19 women true to their nickname, prance around the show in sexy outfits and accessories. They perform practical jokes and provide the audience and viewers with certain aesthetics. The creation of these shows brings light to a battle that has been around for ages.

Competition is fierce. It seems that the struggle of girls vs. boys has been in existence since our preschool days. 

The show fights for the attention of both sexes, although both seem to focus on only one sex. Clearly, men enjoy "Girls Behaving Badly" and women are entertained by "The Man Show."

Charles Negy, a psychology professor, said that competition is not really based on gender. "People will compete with their pet dog if they think they'll have a chance at enhancing their self-image by lording something over their pooch," he said.

Negy said it appears that competition never dies down, but as people age they begin to worry about less. "As we get older and slowly start accepting that our lives are coming to an end and there's nothing we can do about it, many of us begin 'tapering off' in the area of competing," he said.

Until then, men and women will try to outdo one another, and shows created for enjoyment by a particular sex will fight for viewers.

Sophomore Jon Price, 19, however, has chosen his favored show. "The Man Show" proves that in the ongoing battle between men and women, the men can do much better shows.

Well, he is a man.

"The Man Show" airs at 10 p.m. Tuesdays on Comedy Central and "Girls Behaving Badly" airs at 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 11 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturdays and 11 p.m. Sundays on Oxygen.
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