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 embellished them during the just-completed Student Government Association presidential campaign with insensitive verbal attacks.

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Bell also claims Kirlew threatened to have her kicked out of school if she told people about the altercation, and says that Kirlew sent UCF police to confront her on the patio of Wackadoo's.

Please see *Senate* on 7

SAE president arrested for house party

**Krista Zilizi**
**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

Please see *Police* on 10

The dorm killer

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

**Krista Zilizi**
**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 himself responsible.

He quickly dismissed any concerns about the fatal disease that strikes 100 to 150 college students across the country each year. "I didn't get vaccinated. My [residential 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."

The reaction has been much the same at universities across the state since Jan. 1, when Florida became one of five states to enact a law that requires students who live on-campus to be immunized for the bacterial disease. Nine other states require mandatory education about meningitis.

Please see *FSU* on 3

Laws on meningitis vaccination and education

- Law Passed
- Bill Introduced

**Graoge & Photo Illustrations by Anna St. Germain / CFP**

The dorm killer. Many states now require students who live in dorms to consider meningitis vaccines.

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Greek Week 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 among 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

What is it? Meningitis is a group of bacterial diseases that can infect the brain and spinal cord. People can get meningitis from breathing in a bacteria that lives in the soil, a bacteria that lives in water, or by getting sick from other people.

What are the signs? Signs of meningitis may include fever, headache, stiff neck, rash, confusion, or seizures.

How can it be treated? Treatment for meningitis includes antibiotics, antiviral drugs, and other medications.

How can it be prevented? To prevent meningitis, wash your hands often, avoid touching your face, and avoid contact with people who are sick.

Where is the vaccine required? The meningococcal vaccine is required for students at the University of Florida.

Why isn't vaccine required everywhere? Meningitis is caused by different types of bacteria, and there is no single vaccine that protects against all types.

For incoming students, the meningococcal vaccine is given as part of routine student health screening. The vaccine is given as a single dose at age 16 and again at age 18.

FROM PAGE 1

"The average student can't afford it," Barthelemy said. "But if it's going to be required, I believe the state should have something in place to help pay for it." The state has discussed the possibility of requiring meningitis vaccinations for students, but has not yet made a decision.

Another concern is whether the law will be enforced. Many students are skeptical that the state will actually require vaccinations to be given.

"I don't think the state will enforce it," said one student. "There's too much pressure on the universities to meet their budget goals." Another student said, "I think the state will give some sort of waiver to students who can't afford it."
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 began to review the system on Thursday, trying to ascertain how the system helps or hurts students, and what to do about it.

Robert Armacost, 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 pluses-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 shows that nearly 80 percent of UCF students oppose the plus-minus system.

Hotchkiss, however, believes that many students have not been fully informed about how the system has affected 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-minus 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 Mirror, 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 aren't using plus-minuses and they won't use plus-minuses and they don't think it's a good grading system," Mullens said.

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 Kassandra 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 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.
### Individual Dinners

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Entrees</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Two entrees</td>
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<td>Three entrees</td>
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### Family Dinners

- **Family Meal for 4**
  - Your choice of two 26oz containers of fried rice or lo mein, three 16oz entrees, and four egg rolls
  - $21.99

- **Family Meal for 6**
  - Your choice of three 26oz containers of fried rice or lo mein, four 16oz entrees, and six egg rolls
  - $29.99

- **Family Meal for 8**
  - Your choice of four 26oz containers of fried rice or lo mein, four 16oz entrees, and eight egg rolls
  - $32.99

### Steam Table Entrees

- Bourbon Chicken
- General Chicken
- Broccoli Chicken
- Mushroom Chicken
- Spicy Chicken
- Broccoli Beef
- Pepper Steak

### New from our Seafood Department

- Fresh Sushi

### New from our Deli Department

- **CUSTOM MADE SUB WRAPS**
  - Try your favorite Publix Custom Sub on a Delicious Lavash Flatbread

- Available in four flavors: White, Wheat, Spinach, or Sun Dried Tomato (all with 2.5 grams of fat or less)

- **Boar's Head Custom Wrap**
  - $4.99

- **Boar's Head Custom Wrap Combo**
  - Includes Wrap, Deli Dirty Potato Chips, and a 22 oz Deli Fountain Drink
  - $6.39

### Save 50¢ on any Chinese Kitchen Individual Dinner

Limit one coupon per purchase.
Offer valid at University Palms Publix only.

### Save $3.00 on any Chinese Kitchen Family Dinner

Limit one coupon per purchase.
Offer valid at University Palms Publix only.

### Save 50¢ on any Boar's Head Custom Wrap Combo

Limit one coupon per purchase.
Offer valid at University Palms Publix only.
Blood, sweat and glory

UCF's rugby team currently ranked best in the state

KEVIN O'GRATTAN (STAFF WRITER)

Without fanfare or publicity, the UCF rugby team moved to the top of the Florida's rankings with a decisive win over the University of South Florida.

Although UCF's rugby team is a dominant force in the southeastern region this year, few students know much about the team.

The UCF rugby team formed in 1998, and since its inception, it has contended for the title in the southeastern region.

The sport of rugby, an intense contact sport, combines the speed and agility of soccer and hard-hitting action of American football. However, rugby players do not wear all the padding of American football.

Rugby originated in England during the 1800s and is quite popular throughout the rest of the world. It is also one of the fastest growing sports at the collegiate level.

Many players hope that within a few years there will be enough teams to become an NCAA sanctioned sport.

Unlike most other athletes, the majority of rugby players come to the team with no previous experience playing and generally little knowledge of their sport at all. Many learn about the team through friends and decide to see what rugby is all about. Most players come from soccer and football backgrounds.

The lack of experience creates a greater responsibility for senior players to not only fill the role of teammate, but also that of teacher. The UCF team has accomplished this by evolving the team into a pseudo-extended family. Also, the UCF rugby team is the only rugby team in Florida that does not have a coach, which requires many of the senior players to fill in by mentoring younger players.

The UCF rugby team's regimen of practising twice a week seems to have paid off, according to senior Robert "Doug Fresh" White, 22. The team is in excellent condition and functions like a well-oiled machine. Every member knows his position and is integrated seamlessly into a cohesive unit.

"Everyone works together like a family and every position is backed up like a freight train," White said.

The rugby team is currently 6-0 on the season and is continuing its hot streak in the Florida Cup in the fall. The team feels this is the culmination of three years of intense team building. Also, bringing diversity and experience are players like senior co-captain Yeichi Morita, Marfin, 29, a native of Japan, honed his skills at home. "Rugby is big in Japan because it's the biggest sport," Morita said.

Junior co-captain Adam Kelley, 21, finds his most memorable moment the team's recent victory, 40-0, over the University of South Florida. "We hadn't beaten them in four years," Kelley said. The team also won the Georgia's Southeastern Back Bone Tournament.

Many of the players on the team look up to Kelley and Morita. Several players praised Kelley's contribution to the team over the past three years in developing the team as a whole. Junior Shaun Gygier, 20, was attracted by the intensity of the sport. "I had seen it a couple of times on TV," Gygier said. "I also like that we get to travel a lot.

The rugby team travels 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 very good chance of going all the way out to Pasadena, Cali. for nationals.

The team practiced lightly last Thursday during its week off, taking extra care to limit the chances for injury. "We've known 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 knees, arms out of socket and broken collarbones."

"There is always a lot of blood," Jason Urbanski, the rugby club's president, said. Normally there are no time outs, but time is given for a player to stop bleeding during games. "You've just got to keep on playing," the 22-year-old senior said.

The UCF rugby team was also honored by having three members: Adam Kelley, Yeichi Morita and Mike Lawson invited to attend the All-South Camp. Athletes are first invited to a regional camp, from which a regional team is selected. It is from these teams that All-American athletes are chosen.

Now ranked No. 1 in the state, the UCF rugby team looks ahead to regionals and nationals. "We have a good chance of going to nationals," Urbanski said.

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A liberal kind of education

Liberal studies majors jacks of many trades, masters of none

LISA MARIE HOTTLE (STAFF WRITER)

By the time she came to UCF two years ago, senior Lauren Moskowitz already had a résumé that would have made most people envious. She was a star salesperson who had a job with a company that specialized in marketing, advertising and English at the University of Florida. Moskowitz, 22, wanted to use her various credits toward a single major but found that she could not transfer them into a specific degree program.

"It is a flaw of the requirements were different, so in order to graduate on time, I chose liberal studies," she said. "It's great for transfer students.

In light of studies showing that most people change their careers four or five times. And while most majors prepare students for a particular type of work, the liberal studies program prepares graduates to enter the workforce 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 something of every thing. Many times they fight stig­mas about the value of a liberal studies degree, but as the econom­y 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.

Moskowitz will graduate in May with a bachelor of arts in liberal studies, marketing, mass communi­cations and political science.

Moskowitz does not believe her degree will set her back in the workplace. "It's a well-rounded education," she says. "It gives me the freedom and knowledge to pursue any field related to any of her three areas of interest.

Supporters of liberal stud­ies say students can blend the techniques that are well-known in one field and apply it to anoth­er field, which yields innovation and progress. Ideas often are cer­tified in one field can have unexpected relevance in a differ­ent field. A person who knows these ideas has an advantage over a narrowly educated person."

Elliot Vitiles, the director of liberal and interdisciplinary studies, says that liberal studies majors have prepared them­selves to enter the turbulent job market. "Employers want people who can conceptualize in a big sense," Vitiles said.

This means applying what they have learned in all the areas brought together for each person. He believes that taking dif­ferent parts of programs and putting them together allows students to better market them­selves.

Some students prefer liber­al studies upon arrival so as not to be locked in a specific course or career. Craig Lesser, 23, sought a liberal studies degree because it allowed him to study a broad range of areas. "I had already experienced some preju­dices about a particular major," he said. "I had a professor who made a sarcastic comment about how a particular major was going to ruin your life," Lesser said.

But Lesser's notion does accept many at-risk stu­dents who are rethinking their majors in light of graduation. "It operates closely with the stigma attached to liberal studies grad­uates. "Some people have the conception that, you know, you can't find a job," Lesser said. "['Critics say that liberal studies students "are smart," but they must be easiest in their job search."

Vitiles answers such criti­cism with a simple question: "How can it be easier if it's a 44-credit major?" he asked.

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Many critics thought that
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 accused him during his campaign.

"She was following me around the Student Union, causing a scene, trying to disrupt my 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 Student Senate and lied, was inherently racist," he said.

Kirlew also said Streep's charges should not be taken so seriously, as he claimed he was not a proper candidate running mate. Kevin Ortiz, the current SGA president and vice president, 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 incitement and personal abuse are all [Golden Rule] violations that the committee unanimously agreed should be brought before the senate," said Tyler Van Voorhees, chairman of the Legislative Judicial Review Committee.

If Kirlew is found guilty, he would immediately be removed from office. Ortiz, the current student body vice president, would take over as legislative vice president.

Kirlew's ticket, the slate that defeated Kirlew and his running mate, Kevin Ortiz, last week's runoff election for SGA president and vice president. "One week after the primary election, an individual filed an affidavit against me, then another after the senate meeting, now three more: Five different individuals who are all connected to the Battles-MacLellan defeat," Kirlew said.

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Black students connect with fewer mentors

Study: Minorities receive less guidance in high school and college

Jesse Schrag
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Zetrey Hendricks did not attend a high school that encouraged students to pursue higher education. He says his mother and father motivated him to attend college.

"They wanted me to be educated, something they didn't have the opportunity to do," Hendricks said.

The environment Hendricks grew up in also kept him motivated to go to college. "I lived [in Miami] my entire life. I wanted to make a better life for myself, and watching people falling behind motivated me to keep my head on straight and get me where I needed to go," Hendricks said.

Hendricks, however, is an exception to the rule.

Recent studies indicate that black students receive less guidance in high school, leading to lower enrollment rates and also in college, thus lowering graduation rates.

A recent American College Testing policy study of 1,085 black high school students revealed that these students lacked strong mentor relationships that could help motivate them to attend college.

Another study by the American Council on Education, shows that, while minority enrollment in college has increased, minority graduation rates remain low. The study revealed that 38 percent of black and Native American students graduate, while 46 percent of Hispanic students graduate college.

The study found 68 percent of the students planned on attending college, but only 56 percent actually attended.

Looking to change this, the ACT has focused on helping African-American students develop interpersonal relationships with teachers, principals, counselors and other staff members.

By playing a mentoring role, these adults can help students improve the importance of postsecondary education, identify the talents these students have and help develop them and guide them as they make educational and career decisions.

Hendricks said such advice could have helped some of his high school classmates to pursue a college education.

Hendricks said his predominantly black high school did not prepare its students for college; Hendricks attended Miami Central Senior High School, an under-funded and D-rated school, where only a handful of teachers pushed students to attend college.

"Throughout all my high school years, I had a total of maybe four teachers who put forth an effort to teach us something," Hendricks said.

"I still check with me in college." During Hendricks' junior year, his English teacher made sure his students were prepared for the SAT and ACT tests. During his senior year, another English teacher brought in some of her former students to talk about what to expect in college, Hendricks said.

"One counselor made sure you signed up for the Bright Futures scholarship if you qualified," Hendricks said.

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 his 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," Hendricks said.

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 helpful that you just wanted to get to know her," 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 is give you your office hours and it's up to you to contact them," Hendricks said.

Although Hendricks does not think UCF 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 1960s 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, Dietz said. 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 ridicule, 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 Barea, who was editor in chief at the time, says she regrets having allowed the column to run.

Funds denied

On the last day of the semester, Barea originally asked for this year’s funds for the magazine, which has appeared five times since it was founded last fall.

At the time, he sought start-up funds from the university’s Central Council, which this year is allocating $1.7 million in student activity fees. Barea originally asked for $11,000 but eventually whittled down the request to $5,500, which the Central Council denied.

Jamie McNairn strongly denies charges of censorship. "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 five 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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The deadline for applications is March 31, 2003.

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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 Peiia outside the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house for drunken and disorderly conduct. Peiia, 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. "He couldn't be 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 report stated. "He could've been looking for anything—we don't know.

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When officers asked Florio if he was too impaired to drive, he replied, "You got me."
American students yearn to learn new cultures

Douglas Cousonnier
time writer

After the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, with international travel becoming increasingly cumbersome, students might wonder whether the study abroad program has declined in popularity.

Mary McMeley, 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 study abroad actually increased, because more people realized the importance of understanding other cultures," McMeley said.

Students began to see that their careers would inevitably 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 semesters- 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 interested in what's going on outside this country," Johnson said. "But 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." Social financial considerations can become a hurdle for students interested in studying abroad. "Bright Futures is not 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 is a good idea that you go abroad," Johnson said. The safety concern 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 reason for taking in applications, and the deadline's not until the middle of April. We're 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."
n 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 at 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 vaccines do, 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.

**OUR STANCE:**

**Universities should shoulder vaccine costs**

A few 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 Ragiel 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 Ragiel's charge is nothing but 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. 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." -VOLTAIRE MEDR
Protesters' messages falling on deaf ears

INSIPID THOUGHTS

Adam Shiver
STAFF WRITER

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 adamant about ignoring what millions of Americans and peace activists around the world are saying?

For the past year, PETA and the Anti-Israel movement have been fighting to have the United States launch a preemptive attack against Iraq. They don't want to wait for Saddam Hussein to consider an invasion.

A barrage of humorous protest signs that opposed war didn't get his attention, either.

"Drop Bush, not bombs."

"Stop the Bushit."

"Disarm Bush too."

"Preemptive imprisonment."

"Impeach the squatters."

"War is not a family value."

But some of my favorites were:

"Drunken frat boy drives country into ditch."

"Let's bomb Texas, they have oil too."

"Sacrifice our SUVs, not our children."

"Let Exxon send their own troops."

I asked for universal health care and all I got was this honey stealth bomber.

"How did our oil get under their sand?"

"Daddy can I start the war now?"

"Bush-Cheney-Rumsfeld: The asses of evil."

And I think I can tell by the smirk on his face that he was 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.

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 autocratic governments as Iraq or North Korea. It's not the American way — didn't you hear that Mr. President?"

— Culver's Adam Shiver can be reached at adams@future.com

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 perhaps the most laughable charge is Bush's treatment of the Holocaust.

"For the Ethical Treatment of Animals debuted the "Holocaust on your plate" campaign, which depicts photos of factory farm and slaughterhouse scenes side-by-side with photos from Nazi death camps, in yet another0 outlandish and insensitive play to convince America to stop eating meat.

One photograph shows an emaciated man next to a photo of a starving cow. Another shows a pile of naked human bodies next to a shot of a heap of pig carcasses.

They claim the parallel is appropriate because modern society has abused and dehumanized animals the same way Jews, Gypsies and homosexuals were tortured.

Jewish groups are furious, as they should be. Level-headed Americans are shaking their heads in dismay, wondering what PETA musters the nerve each time to launch the offensive campaign.

I am left wondering how PETA produced a photo of an emaciated calf in a slaughterhouse.

I really don't think you could have gotten a single hamburger out of him. It would be bad business for cattle ranchers to underfeed their cattle. Did PETA starve their cows for the greater good of animal rights? Hardly seems like the means justify the end.

On a similar note, while PETA activists and promotions people are spending hours thinking of ways to offend the general public with outlandish displays, I find it interesting that none have considered taking an active role in reforming the corrupt cattle industry.

Has anyone at PETA thought about securing jobs in the cattle industry? Ever consider changing things from the inside? They could buy up cattle ranches and chicken farms and move those creatures into their homes. That way poor down trodden animals would never live in fear.

While they're releasing the chickens and cows from the ranches and farms, they better fly over to Africa and explain to the hyenas hunting people on the Serengeti that eating meat is inhumane.

On a grander scale, they might send letters to the Middle East and request that all the animals there be spared from war and terrorist attacks that continue to ravage the West Bank.

Actually PETA President Ingrid Newkirk has already taken the liberty of doing just that. She appealed to Yasser Arafat to stop stripping bombs to donkeys, but didn't ask him to stop suicide bombers from blowing up buildings and buses, killing innocent civilians.

For an organization that purports to promote compassion, they have very little regard for human life.

But perhaps what is most ironic in this preposterous campaign is the fact that PETA claims that the Holocaust display was funded by a Jewish philanthropist who has spent the last 25 years affiliated with the world's foremost Holocaust organizations. Naturally the philanthropist is an anonymous contributor, either because he is too laughed at or so ashamed that he is supporting something that makes a mockery of Holocaust victims.

Matt Prescott, creator of the controversial campaign, who claims he is a Jew, has praised the ingenuity of the campaign. His role in this campaign is disturbing because he somehow believes because he is Jewish, he is entitled to some sort of ethnic immunity to dishonor Holocaust victims simply because he receives a paycheck for it.

Ultimately, PETA should be ashamed of itself for trying to garner exposure by exploiting Jewish persecution. To equate humans with chickens only belittles those who suffered in Nazi concentration camps and disgusts their memory.

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

The UCF men’s basketball team will get its chance today to quiet all remaining doubters when it faces off against Jacksonville State in the first round of the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament. The fifth-seeded Knights play the fourth-seeded Gamecocks at noon at GSU Sports Arena in Atlanta, Ga.

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 19-10 on the year and 11-6 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 match-up 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 68-66 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 which

Please See Defense on 16
FROM THE SPORTS DESK

ESPN home game against Marshall highlights 2003 football

The UCF football team will host defending Mid-American Conference champion Marshall on Nov. 19 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. Buffalo comes to Orlando the next week before UCF has the road again for games against Ohio and Akron.

The Knights will welcome the West Division’s Central Michigan to town for Homecoming Oct. 25. Their final non-conference game comes at home the Friday before getting an early start on the home schedule Sept. 13 against Florida Atlantic. The Knights get a late-season test against Miami Nov. 22. Their final non-conference game follows. The Knights remain on the road the following week when they begin conference play at Kent State. Buffalo comes to Orlando the next week before UCF has the road again for games against Ohio and Akron.

Abellard garners All-Conference honors

The Atlantic Sun Conference announced Tuesday that UCF senior guard Ray Abellard earned second-team All-Conference honors for his performance this season. It is the second consecutive season Abellard has garnered this award.

Abellard finished the regular season leading the Knights in scoring averaging 16.1 points per game. His average ranks sixth in the Atlantic Sun. He was among the leaders in three-point shooting and free-throw percentage. In just two years with the Knights, Abellard has hit 157 three-pointers, which puts him in fourth place 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 ranked out

The UCF women’s tennis team scheduled for Tuesday against Richmond was canceled because of bad weather. The match has not been rescheduled. UCF will try again at the UCF Tennis Complex on Friday, when the Knights host Houston at 11 a.m.

LeCompte finishes second

Junior Matt LeCompte finished in second and led the Knights to an eighth place showing Sunday at the University Club in Baton Rouge. LeCompte shot his best round of the tournament on the final day with a team score of 265. Host LSU won the tournament.

Men’s tennis team wins eighth consecutive

The Knights improved to 4-0 in the Atlantic Sun Conference with a 5-4 win over Campbell on Saturday for their eighth win in a row. The No. 6 Knights improved to 8-2 overall.

UCF won five singles matches with the Knights’ lone win coming at No. 3, Catalin Bradsa (No. 1), Gabriel Strnabic (No. 2), Simon Jaeger (No. 4), Ener Gursuy (No. 9) and Robert Koons (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 8:30 a.m. today against Boston College at the UCF Tennis Complex.

---COMPPILED FROM STAFF AND Wire REPORTS---

---THE END---

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ERROR Gursuy picked up a singles win at No. 5 for the Knights against Campbell on Saturday.
Defense gives fans reason to cheer

FROM PAGE 14

Expectations were low. The A-Sun conference had picked UCF to finish second-to-last in its newly created South Division, above only Stetson. It looked to fulfill that prophecy.

But the Knights' remarkable improvement from an 8-23 record in 2000-01 to a 17-12 record last year was an aberration.

But only those people outside of the UCF basketball team noticed the improvement. Coach Kirk Speraw and his team knew the Knights would be everybody's surprise. They set out to prove the naysayers wrong. And much to the surprise of many, they succeeded.

"At the beginning of the season I saw something," junior col­lege transfer Raeford Boyd said. "I just didn't believe it. I thought there wasn't that we were the most tal­ented team, but we were all com­fortable with each other. I knew that team unity you can take over the world."

What began some 35 days ago with that loss to Georgia State was the birth of this year's UCF team. A team that is 19-10 on the year and the fifth seed heading into this week's A-Sun Tournament. The Knights sur­passed last year's win total with three games left in the season and with the win for the regular season conference title going into the final two weeks of the season. And they did all of that after start­ing point guard Al Miller, one of the five returning players, sus­pended indefinitely from the team before conference play began.

Speraw said this team inherits better than last year's team. Senior Martin Boyd says this group is more team-oriented than last year's. Senior Ed Dotson said it's the team's work ethic and desire to win that has been the difference. Senior Ray Abellard says it's the players' belief in one another and the team's defense-first mentality.

All of those qualities are evi­dent when watching this year's team play. They hustle. They dive for every loose ball. They play tough defense. And as the season progressed, they showed they could score, too. They have a good time with one another other and it shows. It is no wonder attendance has increased from last year by more than 200 fans per home game.

"We don't have a flashy team, but we have a team that's going to get the job done," Boyd said earlier in the season. "We're going to get wins. We're going to play together and we look good playing together. I mean our home crowd is getting larger and larger every game, so they see it. Granted there aren't as many duds as last year but they see a lot of spectacle plays. There's a lot of excitement, and most importantly, we win."

The team's home crowd was treated to an upset of No. 25 College of Charleston back on Dec. 16 and upset of the Knights' second conference foe by the high-flying Lyons and Dotson. The Knights only lost four games last season and their 11-point loss to Miami was the only home game they lost by more than five points.

The Knights have also proven to be a resilient bunch. Until two weeks ago the Knights had not lost back-to-back games all season. Abellard was hobbled with an ankle injury for much of the sea­son, Boyd suffered a concussion and had to sit out a game. Lyons missed a game, key players have had off nights, but through it all, UCF never gave up.

A: SHE KNOWS GOOD HEALTH ISN'T A GAME.
BUT LEARNING ABOUT IT CAN BE.
Q: WHO IS DR. KAREN DANIEL?

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"A week before exams, I use a format like the patients see in the hospital. For example, I'll ask 'Chabers for $300 or Ashburn for $500.' Whichver team wins gets extra time on the books. Students learn how to work under pressure, and they really get into it: naming their teams and everything. It's a lot of fun, but it really gets into it: naming their teams and everything. It's a lot of fun, but it's also quite a bit of work."

"I want my students to have good morals and ethics, and to be compassionate and devoted to the profession. I want them to go extra mile for their patients. I know I've made an impact when, even after these class sessions are up, they come up to me and ask whether this patient stepped smoking, or whether that patient has a better handle on her heart disease."

"Knowledge for the sake of knowledge is not what today's students are looking for. As educators, we have a responsibility to prepare them to work in a rapidly changing world. Nova Southeastern University, with its progressive, wide-ranging curriculum and highly supportive faculty, is laying the groundwork to make that happen. And I'm proud to be a part of it."

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Please see Senior's on 17

The year's Knights have come together as a family, despite their varied backgrounds.
Mercer, was the

Iln.al

...will be key in

today, they advance to

in the season. After losses to

in the season. The - Knights beat Tulane,


Senior have left their mark

because we had a lot of losses on the squad," Abercrombie said, "but this year we know that we weren't as
defensively, 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, knocking

The season

FroM PAGE 16

He was a big reason for UCF's turn-

around last season and he's been an
even bigger factor in this year's play-
cess. Boyd began the season as the

starting small forward. After Miller

was suspended, Lyons moved into the third position and Boyd moved over to point guard. Since then, Boyd has led UCF in assists seven times.

"He just competes hard," Sperrone said. "He's not the most flashy player yet he does so many things that help you win ball games, and a lot of it is not in the stat sheet.

The highlight of the floor, we can do so many things with him because of his agility and quickness," Sperrone said. "He's just a good

in this tournament.

Abercrombie has also made some

adjustments to his game. Sperrone said his on-ball defense has improved from last year. An ankle injury early in the season impaired his mobility on defense, but Sperrone thinks that, overall, Abercrombie's game has improved since he got hurt.

"I think, since his injury, he's played more within himself and within the offense," Sperrone said. "He's had much better floor offenses and our offense has been much better when he learned how to play without being able to move very quickly.

Last season, Dotson showed just how much playing hard and

spelling, so is Jacksonville

we can draw on

the Knights in their victory over the Gamecocks, including the Mercer sweep.

Forward Roberto Morentin added 16 points for UCF. Abercrombie has averaged 16.1 points on the year, while forward Dotson scored almost 14 a night, while guard Gilbert-Thomas had 12.4.

Maris Boyd, the top scorer in the valley last season, has played more within himself and Ross, who have improved throughout the season a 22-point loss Jan.

...only team to beat UCF twice this season. The Bears also handed the Knights their worse loss of the season, a 102-point beat Jan. 13. But their last meeting was much closer as the Bears held the home team to 66 of 126 (52.5%) shooting in Orlando.

On the other side of the bracket No. 2 Belmont (17-11) took on No. 10 Morgan State (11-20) in the opening round, surprising many with a 78-73 win in Winston-Salem.

"I don't 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 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.

Swatting the small stuff has paid off for the Knights. They are one of the school's first 20-

The only award for UCF this season was the A-Sun regular season championship, the Panthers took care of the Knights in that honor.

The Knights beat Florida Atlantic 85-75 in their final regular-season game. While they gave up nearly 10 more points than they've ever

The Knights beat Troy 79-70, led by senior quarterback graduate Gilbert-Thomas with 14 points in 23 minutes Saturday night.

Marcus also played well defensively, which I was really happy to see," Sperrone said. "He has his foul trouble, with critical possessions

UCF got an added boost from their Alumni in the form of Mercer McGee in Lyons' absence. McGee only averaged eight minutes a game for the Knights this season.

UCF could be a strong team in the future.

...and Boyd moved players, as well as guards, giving Sperrone options.

"He's had the talent defensively. That's really been a big part of our success," Abercrombie said. "Just like this year's team, next year's team will have some question marks. Without Boyd, Abercrombie and Dotson, Boddie will be the only player

"I think, since his injury, he's played more within himself and within the offense," Sperrone said. "He's had much better floor defenses and our offense has been much better when he learned how to play without being able to move very quickly.

Last season, Dotson showed just how much playing hard and

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Baseball out-slugs Monmouth 17-10

KRISTY SHONKA
SPORTS WRITER

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 didn't hurt the Knights as they best 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 1997 against Stetson. UCF (9-4) jumped out to an early 6-0 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 Stenson went 4-3 with career highs in runs (5) and RBIs (3). Stenson started for David Mann, who is still recovering from an injured hamstring.

Eilene Schulte started in center field for Clay Timpero, 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.

"He's done 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 Brett Clark, who relieved Ryan Beair 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 he 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 Whidden 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 were new hitting over .300 and eight of those players have seen time in at least 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 BETHUN
SPORTS WRITER

Jansia Shihhosenter went two-for-three with two home runs, leading the UCF softball team to an 8-6 win over visiting Gardner-Webb on Monday at the UCF Softball Complex. The Knights (46-14, 1-4 A-Sun) dropped the second game of their doubleheader 5-4, 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 Shihhosenter 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 Shihhosenter 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 one run.

The down fall 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 them to play two games strong," she said. "And we don't quite know what that is yet.

On Sunday, the Knights lost to Southwest Missouri State 5-2 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 step 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.
Going to class in pajamas

Students taking online courses roll out of bed and over to their computers

Lisa Marie Hottle
Staff Writer

Taking open-book quizzes and reading lecture notes in pajamas while brushing one eye on the television sounds like the recipe for an easy A. But don’t forget the tomes of required textbook readings, mandatory discussion postings and a volatile software program called WebCT that freezes at a whim.

UCF students enrolled in Web-based courses believe the WebCT program offers great incentives but is not without its downfalls.

Senior Christy Biggs, 27, has taken up three WebCT courses every semester at UCF.

"The program perfectly fits her needs as a commuter from Ocala. She says that without WebCT, she also wouldn’t be graduating this May. She continues to struggle, however, with the theory-based classes offered in her psychology major.

"Subjective classes are harder to get through because sometimes it seems your opinion has to match the professor’s," Hagan said. "If your opinion doesn’t match others in the class, you constantly have to defend yourself.

Biggs often spends her lunch breaks at work following up on discussions or taking tests. She said that students with families have to care for make perfect WebCT candidates.

Please see WebCT on 22.

Stepping up

Crystal Espinosa
Staff Writer

The current rigs and a forest thick with fog appear to the audience. The sounds of the woodland emerge. These mysterious creatures dressed in long, white gowns and dancers of the classical ballet. They gracefully move across the stage, captivating the audience with their incredible synchronization. In the midst of the silent woods, the glories of the ballet emerge - the grace, the beauty, the majesty.
Many trainees try to find jobs as professional dancers.

From Page 19

Many trainees try to find jobs as professional dancers because I’ve improved and have been working (hard). It’s almost impossible to have a job unless you have experience.”

Though Williams acknowledges the intensive work and time involved with the ballet company, she said the opportunity is invaluable.

“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.”

Bring 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 in 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 300 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 decides not 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 bit better.”

Williams has made ballet a top priority in her busy schedule.
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You could even win $10,000. Or, you could start a new professional sports business, what could you do with a weekend away from work?...
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 night classes," she said. She finds that many older students take WebCT-based courses because of the freedom from attending traditional classes.

Jenna Roth, 19, says that 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 Biggs 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 anybody 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 bingos.

Both Roth and Biggs 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," Biggs said. For experienced WebCT students, the program has its quirks, just as any software does. Biggs 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 coursework 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. TechRangers suggest that students should be aware that WebCT is not user-friendly and recommend that students take quizzes and tests in the campus computer labs to combat Internet connection problems.

Junior Mebhi 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 Biggs' Introduction to Women Studies course, she is required to post her thoughts and research on each weekly question posted 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," Biggs said. "It's more work than a regular class."

While Biggs 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 Carole E. Adams teaches history and women's studies courses at UCF 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. "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, both says the professors often expect a lot more work from students because the courses are interdisciplinary.

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THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED
LINDSEY BROWN
STAFF WRITER

"Let's give it up for Satan's Candy Wheel, second band to perform tonight," Scott Metka, emcee, shouted into the microphone. "The other bands, you'll hear them later."

Satan's Candy Wheel was about to pull off a performance that most of us only have enough nerve to do while blurring the lines between drinking and experimenting into a hairbrush in the bathroom mirror.

My friend Wolf and I were standing in the audience at the Social's first-ever "Air Band Competition," held last Saturday. The concept was based upon the overwhelming response to their "Air Guitar Competition" six months ago (think Lenna Reeves' excellent guitar riffs from the "Bill and Ted" movies ... only better).

This was no minor contest, either. A panel of four intimidating judges sat behind a table on the left side of the stage, judging each group's rehearsed performance on rock style, accuracy and charisma. Each band then had to spontaneously perform 60 seconds of a surprise song, chosen by the judges, which they had to rate on their improvisational skills.

The only props allowed on stage were a bucket and a microphone stand — without a microphone, of course.

Wearing a black mask, the drummer of Satan's Candy Wheel recurrently sat down on his drumset, coinciding with his drumming. Arms raised and fingers chomped around imaginary drumsticks, he appeared ready to beat the heck out of his invisible drum set. A heavily tattooed, blond dreadlocked guitarist strummed his hands around a male-belongs guitar, and a dark-haired John Lennon look-alike grabbed the mike stand.

A thrash-metal rock song blared loudly out of the speakers as the band members began to touch screen and hop erratically around the tiny stage like demented kangaroos. The dark-haired guy spontaneously punched his pants down and expressed himself, while the blond guy spit obscenities mouthfuls of beer at the crowd. Perhaps it was a creative metaphor ... although the judges didn't seem to think so.

"Judge Pat of Back Door nightclub stated flatly, 'I couldn't even figure out one of you was playing guitar and which one of you was playing bass.'" Metka exclaimed. "The best guess is you guys each had a microphone." The crowd roared in laughter as the band members sauntered back to their table on the left side of the stage.

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

The next group, Michaela's Bosom, also liquidated the stage with shards of jagged glass. Her costume was 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. Michaela's bosom also bulged prominently over the seams of her lace-up corset top.

"How do you say, 'I love your tits' in German?" Green inquired teasingly, eyeing Michaela's chest. A group of Britons on the other end of the stage, The Spivs, scored a personal victory by calling themselves "Ted" Fatica of the infamous "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 Shoos" glumly stumbled around the stage and simulated the process of smoking cocaine and shaking heroin, while actor Christian Kiyung his pants and yanked out his genitals. Nerve. My friend Wolf, along with the rest of the audience and the judges, looked completely horrified.

"I hate rock and roll," Embrace Metka boomed. "I know you did that song as a joke, right?" Fatica asked. The members of Distant Haven laughed weakly and agreed that you, the Crest 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 pervinized community actors (whom I last saw in a forgettable production of "The Pet 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 Shoos" glumly stumbled around the stage and simulated the process of smoking cocaine and shaking heroin, while actor Christian Kiyung his pants and yanked out his genitals. Nerve.

The next group was "Rock the Vote," named after the two explosively over-confident

"Air Guitar" champs from the previous competition, Bob 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 all-time band at The Drive In's "One Armed Scholar".

After their act, female judge Marsha Green of Marsha Green Marketing jokingly harassing two of the adorable, beanpole-ish band members into hiding their shirts off, making Green's already 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 "Lied-Hip-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. Michaela's bosom also bulged prominently over the seams of her lace-up corset top.

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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 sucks." Wolf muttered.

The judges quickly lectured Wolf's band on their dirty display and attempted to draw 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," Metka exclaimed. "You're in." The Turbos confirmed their victory by rubbing their hands even harder in the finals improv competition, after which Turbo's lead singer ripped off his shirt, revealing an extremely hairy chest and back.

He then grabbed a microphone and yelled uproarious words of encouragement to his fellow hairballs, provoking waves of laughter from the amused crowd of supporters.

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THE CENTRAL FLORIDA TIMES • March 6, 2003
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 Party Ave CDs, O-Box prize packs and an all-you-can-drink tab at the Social.

"Those guys were so great," I shrieked excitedly to Wolf, rushing off after the show to talk to Tur charged. I was determined to find out how they mastered the believable illusion of rockin' out.

"Turbo singer Rob Pentisoff (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," Pentisoff 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 these professional-looking posters around campus with pictures of us on it and everyone would ask when we were playing locally!"

Both sexes enjoy 'The Man Show's' humor

FROM PAGE 19

Central's "The Man Show" Hosted by Adam Corella 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 mania.

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

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

Leave it to Corella and Kimmel to find such a place. While their sense of humor seems tasteless to some, many people really do enjoy the comedy — even 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 Juggly Girls. The Juggly Girls, 19 true women to their nickname, grace around the show in many 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 shows fight for the attention of both sexes, although both seem to focus on one sex. Clearly, men enjoy "Girls Behaving Badly" and women are entertained by "The Man Show."

Charles Nog, 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.

Nog says it appears that competition never dies down, but as people age they begin to worry about their loss. "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, 1 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturdays and 8 p.m. Sundays on Oxygen.

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