Digital Media Program takes leading role at film festival

Laura Stevens

The Florida Film Festival has returned to Orlando, and UCF's Digital Media Program is playing an integral part. Through sponsorship and complementary programs, the department continues to make a name for itself in the film world.

UCF is the main sponsor of a division of the festival called "NextArt," that component focuses on dynamic media in the future of entertainment, said Phil Peters, an associate professor in the Digital Media Program.

"We decided because we're a sponsor, we want to be highly involved," he said.

Today and tomorrow, the program will host three interactive media forums, a roundtable discussion about digital media curriculum and a digital media showcase.

"We are striving to establish an international reputation for UCF as a place where unique, innovative things are constantly happening," said Michael Mosshel, director of the program. "The festival has provided us with an opportunity to invite leading media artists and developers from around the country to come and brainstorm with us about the future of digital media curriculum and research."

For the forums, UCF will bring in speakers from around the country, including one of the creators of MTV and an Oscar-winning graphics designer. The forums are free.

The events begin with Bill Tomlinson moderating a forum titled "Breathing Life Into Digital Media: Why Artificial Intelligence Should (or Should Not) Be a Subset of Film Festival." Please see Festival on 4

Flashing will earn women more than beads this Spring Break

Diane Lazic

Junior Samantha Steffen has danced on pretty much anything that will hold her weight, but when it comes to flashing, she claims she is too modest.

"I've been Notes: October 2003/6 by Brett Hart/CFP

Teenagers and college students descended on Daytona Beach this week, ready to unwind as the city's Spring Break season kicked off. Many would hit the beach. Others would head straight for the bars and clubs. But wherever the students were, the violation sounds minor, the violation is not. Officer Delgadillo informed the violator that his open container of alcohol was against the law, but let him go.

"I have three options," Delgadillo said. Please see Alcohol on 5

While crowds party, officers look for law-breakers

Jesse Schrage

Thousands of college students descended on Daytona Beach this week, ready to unwind as the city's Spring Break season kicked off. Many would hit the beach. Officers would hit the beach. Officers would

Students of college students descended on Daytona Beach this week, ready to unwind as the city's Spring Break season kicked off. Many would hit the beach. Others would head straight for the bars and clubs. But wherever the students were, the violation sounds minor, the violation is not. Officer Delgadillo informed the violator that his open container of alcohol was against the law, but let him go.

"I have three options," Delgadillo said. Please see Alcohol on 5.
Being drunk doesn’t shield women from nudity laws, video cameras

FROM PAGE 1

In a culture where Spring Break is synonymous with alcohol and broken sexuality, the image of young women flashing has become a common form of self-expression. And with the popularity of “Girls Gone Wild,” an 85-video series that features young women exposing themselves, public nudity has also become more acceptable.

“It’s harmless overall,” said Susan Baxter, a 21-year-old junior.

“Both sides have their choice of expression,” said John Anderson, a 26-year-old junior.

But three women who removed their clothes and later claimed they were exploited were castigated on “Girls Gone Wild” tapes no longer think flashing is no big deal.

These women who went wild changed their minds and decided to sue the “Girls Gone Wild” distributor, claiming they did not consent to the use of their images on the videos.

One was UCF student Veronica Lane, who flashed her breasts on a Panama City Beach street in September 1996. She was 17 at the time. Lane, who lost her case in federal district court in Orlando last November, set the precedent for future lawsuits against the video company. While she claimed that she did not consent to the use of her image, the judge ruled that Lane did give consent by accepting a strand of beads in exchange for lifting her top.

Several students agreed with the judge’s verdict.

“If something like that would bother her that much, she should not be doing things like that at all,” Anderson said. “Women know what’s going on when they put themselves in that situation. We all know about beads and parties—[Women] have a choice to go into that situation.”

Sophomore Joseph Nowak, 20, who has watched several of the “Girls Gone Wild” videos, said the tapes are relatively tame, and not serious enough to appeal in court.

“It was definitely below what I expected,” he said. “Maybe [girls] do worry about lawsuits [but] they edited out all the raunchy stuff.”

Steffen said girls who go wild have no right going to court. “Things like that should not end up in court,” she said. “Regret is your own problem.”

Others, such as freshman Laura Douglas, 19, do not consider public nudity acceptable under any circumstance.

“It’s a pathetic way to get attention,” she said. “You can have fun and still respect yourself.”

Panama City Beach Mayor Lee Sullivan isn’t tolerating public exposure of themselves, go ahead. But no one should be punished, either.

If girls want to expose themselves and make fools of themselves, go ahead. But no one should be punished, either.

People may think it’s OK, said Todd Judge, a Maitland attorney who formerly worked for the state attorney’s office. But public nudity is a legal offense, and being drunk isn’t a legitimate defense for anyone who bares it all on a public street, whether or not a video crew is filming the display.

“The state of Florida recently passed a law that voluntary intoxication is not a defense to certain types of crimes,” he said, “so you should not have an expectation of privacy out in public. You should be careful not to do acts that invite people to look at you.”

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Police will be out in full force

FROM PAGE 1

inconvenience of them being overlooked. "What happens over Spring Break are that all the hotels are overcrowded," Bush said. "It doesn't matter where you're staying or whether or not you've already paid for it. There is always the possibility the hotel won't be able to accommodate you."

In the occurrence that your hotel is overlooked the hotel must automatically place you in a hotel of equal or lesser value. "Of course, that's to the hotel's discretion," Bush said. "So the person traveling may not get a (classic) Spring Break deal and get transferred to a nice family hotel. It may be nice, but a family hotel isn't something someone is looking for Spring Break wants. There's nothing you can do about it. It happens all the time."

When placing a deposit, credit may be easier than cash, but remember that if damage done to the room exceeds the amount you hang on your credit card, the hotel can charge you more. To make sure you are not blamed for damages already done, check the room as soon as you get there. "As soon as you get to the hotel [room] and notice any damages, tell the hotel staff immediately," Bush said. "We haven't really had any problems with that though because hotels require deposits."

Once everything with the hotel checks out, it's time to enjoy the freedom of Spring Break. However, don't take the freedom for granted, or it will quickly be taken away. "We will be out in full force," said A.J. Smith, Chief of Enforcement of Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco. "There will be no warnings."

With officers ready to enforce the punishment for rampant Spring Break Violations, you should be aware of the consequences.

"Being caught with a fake ID constitutes a felony, and you will be arrested and taken to jail," Smith said.

Common and popular among Spring Breakers is underage drinking and flashing. Both qualify as second-degree misdemeanor and after a judge's ruling, the individual charged may have to serve either 60 days in jail or a $500 fine, under the influence, students have been known to jump balconies. Such an act is considered disorderly conduct and is a second-degree misdemeanor as well.

Daytona Beach police made their presence felt during the first official days of Spring Break.

Destroying property qualifies as criminal mischief and as a first-degree misdemeanor, punishable by one year in jail or a $1,000 fine. Using precaution and keeping the consequences of actions in the back of your mind will help you have a stress-free Spring Break. Don't fall victim to preventable punishments and hotel mistreatment.

"Lots of things can go wrong when you go somewhere, just don't let it ruin your trip. Most of the problems are completely fixable," Bush said. "If you don't know what to do, contact whoever you made the arrangements through and have them offer advice on what you can do. They're probably already dealt with it. They can worry about it and you can enjoy your trip."

Players did not make the grade

FROM PAGE 3

powerhouses yanked their teams out of national postseason tournaments amid questions about player academic records. One team, from St. Bonaventure University, consequently refused to play the last two games of its season.

John D. Welty, president of California State University at Fresno, said last week that he would not let his team play in the National Collegiate Athletic Association championship or the National Invitation Tournament because of a continuing investigation into whether a team statistician had completed class assignments for players.

He already had placed the athletics department on probation for two years and taken away three basketball scholarships in December. Fresno State clinched the regular-season Western Athletic Conference title over the weekend with a win over the University of Nevada at Reno. Across the country, St. Bonaventure, in southwestern New York, forfeited six games after the NCAA determined that a Big East player, Jamil Terrell, did not meet the association's academic criteria when he transferred to St. Bonaventure from Coastal Georgia Community College for the 2003-04 academic year.

The forfeitures give the Bonnies a conference record of 1-23, effectively removing them from consideration for the NCAA and NIT playoffs. The Atlantic 10, which had voted last week to exclude the team from its postseason tournament, the next day, to protect that action. St. Bonaventure officials announced that the university's team had decided not to play its final two regular-season games.

-Distributed by GLOBE WIDE PRESS

Festival allows students and program to market themselves

FROM PAGE 1

Animation Rather Than of Computer Science."

Rebecca Allen, a professor in UCF's Design and Media Arts Department and an internationally recognized designer and artist, will join the discussion, along with Ken Perlin, director of the Media Research Lab at New York University and a winner of a technical Academy Award for achievement in computer graphics.

"The forum takes place from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. today at Winter Park City Hall, 401 S. Park Ave.

"Media Art Centers: "If We Build It, They Will Come...," will follow from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. tomorrow at The University of Central Florida, 1300 N. Orlando Ave. Richard Grush, director of operations and public programs at UCF's Department of Film, will moderate.

This forum brings together film experts from around the nation to discuss the pros and cons of building a media center in Orlando."

At 3:30 p.m. Friday at the Espanola, George Merlot, one of the creators of MTV, will discuss the state of special effects in movies. He designed special effects for such as Star Trek, Troopers, "As Good as It Gets," "Vocellia," "James and the Giant Peach" and "Total Recall." The assistant professor is interested in films, "It's a great way of earning a living," Merlot said.

"An ongoing Media Tools Showcase tomorrow and today's is Under the Production of UCF's involvement in the festival. This showcase will give students and others opportunities to see demonstrations of the newest equipment in the film industry.

Demonstrations of new technology will include Adobe Media Center's new 6.5, Apple (Final Cut Pro, Final Cut Express, discern) MRI, disowned MediaLab Max and Combustion Engine, Panasonic and others. Filmmakers use this technology for making movies.

The free showcase will be set up in the film festival's headquarters at 120 E. Comstock Ave. in Winter Park, and should appeal to many people, according to senior Chad Misselhorn, who is interested in the digital media program.

"There would be good things for anyone who is interested in film or media special effects to go see," Misselhorn said.

UCF also is sponsoring a gallery called "Projections." It is a gallery of new dynamic installations showing the best of digital media from around the world," Peters said.

Marcus Wein, co-curator of "Projections," talked about the interactive aspect of digital media.

"Digital technologies add as powerful and often unpredictable ingredient to the artistic stew; a chance to break out of the products we had to take care of," he said.

He said it has given him experience and the opportunity to network and work as a professional in the industry. "It's a good experience." John Nelson, also a senior in the Digital Media Program, agreed.

"You learn a lot of the etiquette and rules of the business world," said Nelson, 27. "I've learned stuff outside of just creating graphics."

"I have learned that there are other people you can work with, and they are going to be good clients."

It was great to learn how to manage a big project, how to manage tasks, and to experience the politics of working with creative individuals.

UCF's involvement in the festival has helped the Digital Media Program distinguish itself, Nelson said.

"It's been a great honor for UCF and the department of the film festival," said Peters.

The honor may become common for the future of the program. "I think we've got anything to say about it."

"We expect to continue operating events like this that give our faculty and students a chance to see the best and brightest at work," he said.
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for the UCF Police Department reveal that reported crimes have increased in nearly all categories for which the department tracks data.

Sgt. Troy Williamson of the UCF Police Department said that ourburglaries have risen significantly. "We've had a lot of problems with those," he said.

Cmdr. Roland LaCree of the Orange County Sheriff's Office agreed that ourburglaries persist in the UCF area. "I know that we have experienced problems with ourburglaries in east Orange County," LaCree said. "We tried to attack it from a crime prevention standpoint." He reasoned that ourburglaries target the UCF area. "There's a ton of cars in those apartments." Our statistics show that ourburglaries have increased from five reported in the period of Jan. 1-Feb. 27 of 2002, to 24 during the same period of this year. Other crimes also have increased. Residential ourburglaries have risen from one last year to six this year. Auto theft has jumped up to two in the first two months of this year.

Christi Hartler, director of housing and residence life, acknowledged that car ourburglaries remain a serious concern. "The one problem that has been frustrating to solve is our break-ins," Hartler said. "It has gotten better, but there is still a problem. I think having more UCF police patrolling the properties might help this problem. We will have to look at the statistics over a longer period of time to see how things are going."

Williamson attributed the rise in crime to the growing number of students on campus. He said the police department has struggled to keep pace. "We have 1,600 new residents on campus, for the last year and a half or so," he said.

"That's Academic Village, plus approximately 3,700 new residents in the apartment complexes, both Pegasus Landing and Pegasus Pointe."

Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life Jeff Novak insists the College Park neighborhoods are safe. Novak called the statistics "very inaccurate."

"I think it's a really safe environment," Novak said of the communities.

Novak said the presence of UCF cops has improved safety at the UCF-affiliated complexes. "I think UCF's presence has reduced some things that otherwise would have been done," Novak said. "I have noticed a large difference in the environment."

Residents of the communities also have noticed a difference since UCF police took over security at the beginning of this year. There's a negative difference. Despite the presence of more police, sophomore Jamie Blume, 20, living in Pegasus Point for the second year, feels uncomfortable there. "There's more crime, so I should feel safer," Blume said. "But I still feel unsafe."

Likewise, Pegasus Landing resident Jodi Eller, 20, a sophomore who has lived in the community for two years, says crime has risen. "Actually, I don't know if I feel unsafe, but a lot of stuff has gotten stolen," Eller added. "I don't think my stuff is safe."

"This year I've gotten a lot more [stuff] stolen than last year," Eller added.

Blume said that residents do not regard the UCF police officers like they did Orange County deputies. She said crime has increased "because people think it's UCF cops instead of Orange County. She added: "They don't think UCF cops are as powerful. They don't take them as seriously."

Williamson said the UCF Police Department continues to fight that perception. "[Some students] run around saying, 'You're not cops, you're just security guards,'" Williamson said. "They have to explain to them, 'Yes, I am a policeman, yes, you are in the wrong area, because these rules do apply."

"These students who are living in these two apartment complexes don't get the message that the UCF Police Department is here," Williamson added.

Hartler said people should not judge the 'impact of the switch to UCF Police Department just yet. 'UCF police have been at the properties for just two months,' she said. 'More time is needed to determine their impact."

Chancellors Row residents think the police should do more now to prevent these crimes. The residents want additional patrols at Pegasus Point and a stronger divide between the two neighborhoods. "There are obviously more cops over there," Garcia said. "They should do a better job of patrolling, and possibly parking areas that are adjacent to their complexes."

"Especially now that it's school property, there needs to be more security," Ashley Ford said. "The university is pretty negligent."

Her brother agreed. "I definitely think they need to boost security. I mean, five cars in one night [is ridiculous]," Casey Ford said.

The poor state of the fence separating Pegasus Point and Chancellors Row possibly contributed to the crimes, say the victims. Gulick blamed the crime on "the easy accessibility."

"I added, 'you hop the fence and you go,'" Gulick said. "The fence belongs to Pegasus Pointe. At this point, I think the responsibility is on Pegasus Pointe and Chancellors Row to put a wall up to deter the crime."

"I guess agreed, 'Hopefully we can get a wall put up.'"

The Chancellors Row victims believe the burglars orburglars came from neighboring Pegasus Point. "I'm almost positive it's someone in [Pegasus Pointe]." Casey Ford said.

Gulick, who works in protective services, discovered his truck and his girlfriend's car broken into Monday morning. "I am not going to work in 6 o'clock, this morning," Gulick said.

Gulick said that Orange County Sheriff's deputies arrived shortly after. "They said they thought [the burglars] came from Chancellors Row."

"I'm sure that car [was parked] in the Student's Ad Good
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Residents of Chancellors Row say this wovecked fence between Pegasus Pointe and them was probably the scene point for burglaries.

Statistics in all theft categories have risen

FROM PAGE 3

Orlando Jai-Alai and Race Book

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Outdated laws remain effective even though they're out of touch with reality

MIKE RIEGEL
STAFF WRITER

Do not sing in a public place if you're wearing a swimsuit.

There will be no farting in public places after 6 p.m. on Thursdays. Showering naked is regarded as a punishable offense. And under no circumstances will anyone be allowed to engage in sexual congress with anyone but their spouse, and only in the missionary position.

Who would make these kinds of bizarre rules? Is it the latest cult of comet watchers desperately trying to close a dead science fiction writer? No, these are, or once were, enforceable laws in Florida.

University culture has always made allowances for certain types of licentious behavior, given that many students are newly emancipated from their parents. What most don't know is that the laws in Florida attempt to do more than just curb the youthful transgressions that characterize the college experience; they aim to outlaw them completely. And these laws are still on the books.

Take, for instance, Chapter 794.02 of the Florida penal code that outlaws "brutal and lascivious behavior." The law states, in part, that "any man and woman, not being married to each other, lewdly and lasciviously associate and cohabit together, or if any man or woman, married or unmarried, engages in open and gross lewdness and lascivious behavior; they shall be guilty of a misdemeanor..."

In effect, this law prohibits people from having any premarital sexual contact, regardless of whether or not they live together. The infamous Andy Boyd, 22, said junior Andy Boyd, 22.

"Maybe I'll make them out of COFFS after all."

Equally controversial "bedroom legislation" is from Chapter 509.02; the infamous law which prohibits "unnatural acts" with other people. The phrase "unnatural acts" may sound quite ambiguous, but when it was enacted in post World War I, it had a very definite purpose.

Historically, this law has only been applied to homosexual individuals as a means to prevent them from engaging in sexual relations with same-sex partners. The Florida Supreme Court even went so far as to say that "death would not be too extreme a penalty to pay for sodomy."

According to that ancient court, the only "natural" act was achieved by a man and a woman in the "missionary" positions.

While the court has since relaxed its stances on capital punishment for gays, the law remains on the books, punishable by up to 60 days in jail and a $500 fine. While no Floridaian has been charged with this misdemeanor since the 1950 passage of Florida's Privacy Amendment, there was almost a notable exception for a notable Floridian.

Only a month before the 2000 presidential election, Jeb Bush's son John, then 16, was caught in a situation of possible "sexual misconduct."

The younger Bush was caught by Tallahassee mall security having sex with a bare-to-the-water 17-year-old girl in the back of a Jeep Cherokee.

The police came and investigated, and despite the fact the couple was seen from the parking lot by the security guard, the officer in charge determined they had not been in public view while having sex. The news about the infraction, therefore, didn't surface until much later. The mistake Bush made was engaging in such behavior in a public parking lot, outside the protection of the Privacy Amendment.

When religiously motivated laws aren't necessarily backfiring on future generations of conservatives, Florida has some laws that even historical context cannot explain away.

Florida's law books are filled with archaic and peculiar references of public fat uninclusiveness and the negative effect thatshowing naked has on society. Most of these laws, however, have since been changed or are no longer applied.

Some of those laws, for mostly unidentified reasons, have been able to endure. One such eyebrow raising law details the exhibition of deformed animals. It states that no one can charge people to see "any crippled or physically distorted, malformed, or disfigured beast, bird or animal..."

At least one student, 19-year-old sophomore Brian Anderson, has reservations with such a law. "How are handicapped dogs and cats supposed to make a living?" he asked.

"This is blatant discrimination."

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Pro-choice activists address plight of abortion rights

As President Bush vows to put pro-life justices in Supreme Court seats, women's rights activists scramble to filibuster opponents in Senate

LISA MARIE HOTTLE
STAFF WRITER

For the past 30 years since the landmark Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court case that legalized abortion in the United States, the decision has been seen as a major victory for women's reproductive rights. Since then, the court has continued to expand reproductive rights for women, opening up new avenues for choice and privacy. However, President Bush has promised to appoint anti-abortion justices to the US Supreme Court, which could reverse many of the landmark decisions that have protected women's reproductive rights.

The former president of the National Organization for Women said that while there is no way to guess which Supreme Court justices could bring about constitutional change, it is essential that the government appoint a justice who supports a woman's right to choose.

Senators must put the rights and the lives of women over other issues in confirming justices, and a nominee should be confirmed for the US Supreme Court only if he or she is committed to supporting basic constitutional principles, she said.

President Bush's anti-abortion justice appointment would tip the existing 5 to 4 margin that favors abortion rights and could ultimately appoint justices that could overturn existing abortion rights for women.

"We cannot afford to wait until a resignation is made and a nomination is announced," she said. "We must start now.

Responding to this threat, the Feminist Majority Foundation has launched a "Never Go Back" campaign that alerts women to their reproductive rights.

PLEASE SEE Fringe ON 9

Wild make-out session

Kendra Scott, who plays Liza Mairand, and Joe Swanson, who plays Trevor Newton, are both actors in the upcoming UCF Theatre performance of "The Baldyhouse Scene."

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**Burglar(s) targeted unlocked vehicles**

From Page 6

"Pegasus Pointe," Gullick said. "Car burglars have regularly struck Chancellors Row. Gullick said, "This is the second time this has happened since I lived here. He's lived in the neighborhood since mid-November."

Mason, who has lived in Chancellors Row for a while, said the problems began only recently. "I've lived here five years," she said. "The problems have started the past few months...since November." The crimes have proven costly to the residents. "They've stolen a good $1,500 from my car," Mason said.

Ashley Ford suffered serious damage to her car. The car burglars(s) stole her car stereo and destroyed her dashboard in the process. An initial estimate indicated that she would need a completely new dashboard.

**Fringe restrictions prohibit unlimited access to abortion**

From Page 8

abortion rights supporters about the threatened Roe v. Wade decision and develops a network that will mobilize to keep the decision in place.

Smeal said that without her services, any talk on abortion rights would be useless. "When my doctor and staff show up and we do an abortion, it's the reality of choice," she said.

But prohibiting abortion is just a small faction of a larger issue. Smeal said if the Roe v. Wade decision is overturned, the rate of "back-alley abortions" will increase for the 1.4 million women in the United States who decide to have abortions.

Thirty years ago, 1.2 million women resorted to illegal abortions annually, botched illegal abortions caused as many as 6,000 deaths a year, according to NARAL Pro-Choice America.

Overturning Roe v. Wade will also inhibit sex education, access to contraceptives, including the "Morning After Pill," and ultimately will hinder the process of gaining reproductive rights for women in Muslim countries, Smeal said.

"People need to understand the interlinking issues," she said.

**Game face and determination**

Members of Pi Beta Phi sorority, with male stand-ins, dig their heels into the sand at a tug-of-war contest Sunday, one of many events scheduled at Lake Osceola during Greek Week.
Our Stance:

Good-neighbor policy requires policing

Reported crimes to the UCF Police Department have risen dramatically since the department took over the College Park properties. So far, the department has not been able to curb the rise of crimes such as car burglaries and residential burglaries, and the crime has spread beyond Pegasus Point and Pegasus Landing. The car burglaries in Chancellors Row show that UCF crimes have spread to affect non-student neighborhoods. While such burglaries may be difficult to prevent, and determined car burglars often succeed, burglaries in Chancellors Row could continue to occur unless Pegasus Point and the UCF Police Department take immediate action.

The fencing separating Pegasus Point from Chancellors Row badly needs to be repaired, if not completely replaced with a more permanent wall. The chain-link fence, originally put in place when Pegasus Point was built, droops very low in some parts and provides easy access to anyone who wants to jump it.

As the fence belongs to Pegasus Point, responsibility for fixing or replacing it falls upon the complex. The property manager should immediately fix the fence to keep unwanted people out of Chancellors Row."

Our Stance:

Have fun, but use head on holiday

As students go off to exotic locales, or stay in Orlando, for Spring Break, they should remember the lessons of so many foolish Spring Breakers of years past.

Yes, drinking alcohol can provide you with much fun and good times, but remember if you drink, do so in moderation, and about every year, college students die during Spring Break, and usually alcohol plays a factor in the deaths.

Do not let yourself fall prey to the alcohol trap. No one wants to spend Spring Break in a hospital recovering from alcohol poisoning or an injury sustained while jumping off a balcony or doing something else stupid.

Alcohol consumption may lend some of you to compromising situations. If you find yourself in such a situation, protect yourself. You want the memories to last, but a lingering sexual assault is not something you want.

Do nots go out by yourself, especially if you have been drinking. You may find yourself in a place you do not want to be.

If you have not reached the magical age of 21, you probably should not drink, but you probably will anyway. If you drink, be wary. Law enforcement officers will seek out underage drinkers. An arrest would certainly put a damper on your Spring Break plans.

Along the same lines, remember to treat the police officers you encounter with respect and civility. Do not taunt, harass or provoke them. They try to do their jobs, but they do not want to ruin your good time, but they can do so very easily if you give them reason to.

For young women heading off to have fun somewhere, keep in mind that law enforcement officials will crack down on flashing this year. In light of the ubiquitous crotchet in Spring Break locales, if you flash, you likely will end up on tape somewhere. You certainly do not want your bare breasts and visage to show up on some Web site someday. If you feel the overwhelming desire to flash, consider yourself warned.

Spring break is a time-honored college tradition. You have earned this break. Enjoy it in a somewhat responsible manner. Try to stay sober enough to remember all the fun you are having. Have a good time, but use your head.

"What we become depends on what we read after all the professors have finished with us. The greatest university of all is a collection of books."

—THOMAS CARLYLE

Letters to the Editor

Poll percentages misrepresent American sentiment

It’s sad to see a poll was used to support a position without even mentioning the poll amid results regarding a recent letter to the editor titled, "Kasumisov presents a minority opinion," published March 9.

In it, the author stated that "scientific polls indicate that the majority of Americans — on the side of 68 to 70 percent — support military action to dislodge Saddam Hussein." And in fact this is true, but only to an extent, let’s dig a little deeper into such a poll — I will use the latest poll of March 7, 2003: According to a Harris poll of 551 Americans, 60 percent of Americans do not support war against Iraq, but only 53 percent support if there are American casualties, or 44 percent if there were hundreds of casualties or 44 percent if there were thousands of casualties.

As great a revisionist as Kasumisov may be, he is a fraud. The United States Institutre for Public Policy Research (I2P) has also conducted a poll of all of Americans who are not war against Iraq, but only 53 percent support if there are American casualties, or 44 percent if there were hundreds of casualties or 44 percent if there were thousands of casualties.

Perhaps additional support is needed to curb the rise of crimes such as car burglaries and residential burglaries in Chancellors Row. The UCF Police Department, for its part, has drawn criticism from residents in Pegasus Point and Pegasus Landing for enforcing, perhaps too aggressively, traffic laws such as speeding and failure to make complete stops. Perhaps the police should focus more on patrolling the communities, particularly late at night and on weekends, instead of worrying about minor traffic infractions. As great a revenue stream as citations for traffic violations may provide, citations do little to serve and protect.

The UCF Police Department needs to beef up its crime prevention tactics to ease the minds of residents in neighboring communities. By adding these communities, UCF took on a great responsibility. It needs to keep these communities safe, not only for the students who live there and do not like worrying about rising burglary rates, but also for the residents of non-student neighborhoods such as Chancellors Row.

UCF needs to act as a good neighbor and do its part to promote safety and security. If that means more police patrolling the College Park communities, then UCF needs to expand the police department. UCF should do all it can to make all its properties, both on- and off-campus, as safe as possible.

Send your letter

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The Future encourages community input. Letters to the editor should not exceed 500 words in length and be submitted by email at editor@ucffuture.com. The Future reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity or fair representation.

Correction

In the News & Views story, "What president approval for the war?" published March 6, the identity of the president was misidentified. The name is Richard Nixon, not Robert Gates.
If votes don’t tally your way, call a redo

DEVIL LIVES IN HOLLYWOOD

KEVIN O’GRATTAN STAFFWRITER

Charlie Daniels issued an open letter to Hollywood last week to let them know how a vast majority of Americans really feel regarding a war with Iraq.

While the media has decided to cover pompous Hollywood types talking to the streets in protest, the fact is most Americans support the liberation of the Iraqi people from its tyrannical dictatorship.

I, for one, am glad to see a member of the entertainment industry expressing his personal disgust for the people in Hollywood and acknowledging the need to go to war with Iraq.

I am sure the left’s response to this will just be to call Charlie Daniels a brain-dead redneck. Name-calling seems always to be their fallback defense. But, when America was attacked on her own soil, guess what kind of people went out to defend this great land? And will stand up and fight for the freedom of most of us take for granted?

It’s people like Charlie Daniels, not the many Hollywood celebrities who have decided to openly denounce our country.

While I agree with these celebrities that war is a terrible thing and should only be used as a last resort, war is part of human history and there come times when force is the only option to ensure peace.

Hollywood-types who oppose such war should take some time to read a history book and learn something. Dictators like Saddam Hussein and Hitler cannot be appeased. Their “hunger” for conquest will never be sated.

Furthermore, I think anyone who is a human shield for nations like Iraq should also be tried for treason. They are directly aiding and abetting an oppressive dictator.

In his letter to Hollywood, Charlie Daniels says he will boycott the movies of actors who oppose the war in Iraq and will stop going to the movies altogether if need be.

I think this is a lofty cause that all Americans can take up and perhaps take a bit further.

Americans should stand up and be heard. I think writing letters to these actors and actresses would be in order.

The American public should remind those in the entertainment industry that their life of luxury is dependent on the average American going to see their movies and buying their albums. Perhaps they have forgotten this fact.

I don’t know about everyone else, but I decided long ago never to align my moral compass with anyone from the entertainment industry — an industry notorious for employing convicts and drug abusers, and portraying violence and sexual promiscuity as social norms.

Hollywood can stick to playing pretend, while the rest of us live in the real world where real problems need real solutions, not arranged reads from ignorant people.

Daniels summed it up most appropriately in his letter: “You people need to get out of Hollywood once in a while and look into the real world. You’d be surprised at the horror,filth you would find out here.”

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A top-seeded women's basketball team looks for its first tournament championship since 1999

Chris Bernhardt
Staff Writer

Win the regular season title, win the conference tournament.

All season long Capt. Kristi Striegler, head coach of the UCF women's basketball team, has laid out these two goals for her team to reach. Saturday they achieved the first, winning the Atlantic Sun regular season championship with a 63-61 conference record.

Tonight at 7 p.m. the Golden Knights, 17-10 overall, will begin the pursuit of that second goal. Over the next three days the UCF Arena will play host to the 2003 A-Sun Women's Basketball Championship, and the home team goes in with every conceivable edge: home-court advantage, the top seed, the best record in the conference, the momentum of winning seven of their last eight games and all the confidence that goes with these factors.

"Playing in front of all of our people and playing at home, I think it gives us a good advantage," senior forward Erin Paige said. "If we come in focused I think we have a very good shot at winning."

The top-seeded women's basketball team looks for its first tournament championship since 1999

CFF

The top-seeded women's basketball team looks for its first tournament championship since 1999

Kristi Shonka
Staff Writer

The UCF pitching staff's 29-inning scoreless streak came to an end Tuesday night against Toledo, but the Knights held on for a 4-3 win in front of 1,007 at Jay Bergmann Field. The Knights recorded back-to-back shutouts against Pace on Sunday and Monday UCF improved to 25-5 with the three wins.

UCF jumped out to a 4-0 lead against Toledo behind freshman Mika Bilk, who made his first career start. The right-hander threw three five scoreless innings before the Rockets loaded the bases on three singles to start the sixth. A fourth single scored one run and Toledo cut the lead in half on a wild pitch by Bilk. The freshman got out of the jam though, retiring the next three batters.

The Knights appeared to take a 6-2 lead in the bottom of the seventh when R.J. Lehmann hit a two-run single to center field. But after an 11-minute delay, the umpires ruled the Knights batted out of order and the runs were taken off of the board and Lehmann was ruled out.

The Knights threatened again in the eighth as freshman reliever Ryan Ramsey got himself into a jam. With runners at second and third and only one out, UCF Coach Jay Bergman brought in freshman closer Kyle Bon. Toledo added a run on a groundout, but Bon got the next batter to fly out to center to end the threat.

Bilk earned his first win after giving up two runs on seven hits, while striking out five. Bilk's 1.23 perfect innings garnered the freshman his first save. David Mann and Ryan Bono each had two hits for the Knights and Jon Cooper, who is filling in for an injured Matt Fox at shortstop, had two RBIs.

Sophomore Dee Brown extended his hitting streak to eight games. But Toledo cut the Knights' lead just before the ninth. "[Our offense was good enough] to win," Bergman said. "All you've got to do is get one more run than them. We've got to do a little better tonight."

Sophomore Clay Timpner provided all the offense the Knights would need against Pace. UCF's center fielder provided an offensive surge to lead the Knights over Pace, 5-1, Sunday and again Monday night, 7-0. It was the first time since the 1997 season the Knights have recorded back-to-back shutouts.

Track and field team shines at its first outdoor meet

Jon Scroggins
Staff Writer

On a day when the UCF women's track team placed someone in the top five of nearly every event, Kelly Roloff was everywhere. The senior competed in six events in Saturday's UCF Invitational. She finished second place in the high jump, second in the long jump and fourth in the 100-meter hurdles. Then for good measure, she ran the final leg of one of the fastest 4x400 meter relays in school history. Roloff, fellow senior Dashieka Rufin, junior Emily Page, and freshman Astrid Claessens finished in 3:53.40 — six-thousandths of a second behind the winning team from Florida Atlantic.

Coach Marcia Winters-Wentworth said she expected the
Timpner went four-for-six with three runs scored, three RBIs and six stolen bases in the two wins. His performance Monday moved him into first on the team with a .395 batting average.

"I've been seeing the ball well and feeling pretty good," Timpner said.

UCF coach Sandy Abraham was almost perfect for the Knights in Monday night's win. The senior threw five innings of no-hit ball, with a second inning walk nipping his quest for perfection. He may have been able to go the distance, but the coaching staff had Stertzbach on a pitch count of 50 so he would be ready for a relief appearance this weekend.

"I know what's best for the team is what's best for the team," Bergman said. "It's not one of my contests. I'm just trying to get my FAU's and Georgia-State.

Stertzbach was outstanding. Completely in control," Bergman said.

Pace started things off right, as Timpner had two of his three RBIs in the first inning. But in the second inning, Blaine Schuette walked and advanced to third when Bear reached on an overthrow by the third baseman. Brown singled to third to score Schuette for a 1-0 UCF lead.

The Knights went up 4-0 in the bottom of the third when Cooper led off the inning with a walk. He advanced to second when Lehmann grounded out to shortstop. Timpner got his first hit and RBI of the night when he singled through the right side, scoring Cooper. The Knights added another run in the third after Bear hit a double off the right-field wall and scored on a sacrifice fly by Brown. UCF tacked on three more runs in the fifth and one in the eighth for the final score.

Rob Brinkels relieved Stertzbach in the sixth and threw three innings of relief, striking out a career-high six batters. Andrew Dayly struck out the side in the ninth. Stertzbach improved to 1-1 on the year.

Because UCF's weekend series against Mercer was rained out last weekend, Bergman threw his three weekend starters for three innings apiece in Sunday's game against Pace. Mark Michael earned the win after throwing the first three and Taylor Cobb earned his first collegiate save for throwing the final three.

Lincoln Mlinoski gave the nod Friday and Saturday Stertzbach will be in the bullpen for the weekend.

"They like me out of the pen because I did it last year and I was pretty effective doing it," Stertzbach said. "Going into our first conference series, they figured that we would try to put our best guns forward."

Stertzbach was 7-0 in long relief last year, finishing ninth in the nation with a 1.81 ERA. The Knights are four for six with a 6.75 ERA as a team. The Knights play Georgia State at 7:00 p.m. Friday and the teams will play a double-header Saturday before the weekend series.

"The coaches only expected the first three and Taylor Cobb earned his first collegiate save for throwing the final three," Bergman said.

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The tournament field consists of the top four teams from the conference's two divisions: North and South. The top seed from each division plays the fourth seed from the other division, and likewise the two second seeds play the corresponding third seed from the opposite division.

As the number one seed from the South, UCF draws Campbell (6-18, 5-11), the North’s fourth seed, in tonight’s first round. A month ago at the UCF Arena, Golden Knights defeated the Lady Camels 85-77 in their only meeting of the season.

“They played us a good game last time,” Strieger said. “They’re a good team. We don’t have an outside of the bracket.”

Despite the loss, it represented Campbell’s second highest scoring game of the year. Junior forward Kristin Vuckovich, who leads the Lady Camels in both scoring (11.8 per game) and rebounding (7.3 per game), got 13 and seven in that game, but what really hurt UCF was some surprising help from a seldom-used reserve.

Kenitra Dansiam, a sophomore guard, scored a career-high 21 points to go along with five rebounds and three steals in 23 minutes. She averaged just 2.7 points and 7.5 minutes per game on the year. They also got a big game out of fellow sophomore guard Jalynne Krockover, who had a career-high 19 points, well above her averages of 5.4.

“We’re going to do everything we usually do,” Paige said. “Play hard defense, try to keep them under 60 points, run the floor up and down, rebound.”

UCF will have to do a better job of guarding the three-point line in the second matchup, as they allowed Campbell to shoot 50 percent from beyond the arc last month. The Knights shot 54 percent from that area themselves, a big reason why they pulled out a victory. Guards Jessica Scala and Celeste Hudson had three 3-pointers apiece.

The UCF-Campbell game will be the third of the day, as the tournament’s remaining game is expected to pit Florida Atlantic (second seed in South, 14-13, 15-6) and North Carolina A&T (third seed in North, 18-13, 9-8) at 1 p.m. Florida State (first seed in North, 17-10, 12-3) and North Carolina Central (fourth seed in South, 12-15, 10-6) follow thirty minutes after.

“I expect it to be a great basketball tournament,” Strieger said. “You want to see some good basketball, you should be able to see it. All the games are going to be close games.”

But the game with the most potential to immediately impact the Knights will be the one that takes place a half-hour after their own. That game pits the North’s second seed, Belmont (16-6, 9-7) against the South’s third seed, Troy State (16-11, 11-5).

The winner of that game will take on the winner of the UCF-Campbell game in a semi-final Friday, assuming the Knights take care of business against inferior Atlantic Campbell team, conventional wisdom would indicate they’re better off facing Belmont. They defeated the Bruins 71-65 in January at the Atlantic Sun All-Freshman team.

Point guard Shyaan Smith earned a spot on the Atlantic Sun All-Freshman team.
Women's tennis earns weekend split

Sadie Sham

The UCF women's tennis team broke a two-match skid Saturday, defeating Saint Louis University 6-1 at the UCF Tennis Complex. With the victory, the Golden Knights evened out to 5-5 while Saint Louis dropped to 4-6.

UCF's Kristina Lohmos and Anna Westin snatched the first doubles win as they beat Kristin Doyle and Melissa Cutter, 6-4, at No. 3. The Billikens fought back when Melissa Lemus and Vicki Zielinski dropped Julie Peccasalaita and Anamia Sanamara, 8-0, at No. 2. With the score all tied up, the Knights' Pamela Fernandez and Mia Lamas 6-0, 6-2, while Lohmos followed suit, taking O'Hanley and Erin Kernan, 6-1, 6-4 at No. 1.

At No. 2, Fernandez dinked Cutter, 6-0, 6-2, while Luczak defeated SLU singles winner Lemus as she beat Westen, 6-1, 6-4. The only loss came over Roger at No. 3. Catalin Bradu and Catalin Bradu started off to lead Florida Atlantic University 6-1, 6-2, while Lohmos followed suit, rallying to win at No. 3. The only loss came over Roger at No. 3. The Billikens battled back to grab the doubles point but the Knights' Rosemary and Siobhan Lomas defeated John and Sierra, 6-4, 7-0, at No. 1, 6-1, 6-4 at No. 2, 6-1, 6-4 at No. 3.

UCF wins two, falls in championship

Matt Bethun

The UCF softball team took two of three games Sunday in the Charleston Southern Softball Invitational. The Knights defeated Indiana and Stony Brook before falling to UNO-Greensboro in the championship tournament. The loss snapped UCF's six-game win streak. The Knights are 16-12 on the year.

UCF defeated Indiana, 4-1, behind Dottie Cupp's stellar all-around performance. Cupp hit a two-run home run in the second inning and also pitched the complete game, allowing only four hits while striking out three, Dana Shihhoster also homered, and Stephanie Hest hit a two-run double.

In the second game, against Stony Brook, the Knights jumped out to an early 1-0 lead in the first, but would fall behind two innings later on a two-run home run by Kristen Brut. UCF tied the game in the fifth when Shihhoster scored on a hit by Nikki Green. Once again the Knights fell, 9-2.

UCF will now hit the road, traveling to California for a pair of matches. The Knights will play at UC-Irvine today and at Long Beach State on Friday.

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Men's tennis improves streak to 11 matches

Sadie Sham

The No. 65 UCF men's tennis team won all three of its matches in the past week, for 11 consecutive victories. The Knights have not lost a match since dropping their first two matches of the season. UCF blanked Nasy and Tenness Tech and beat Boston College in its first win on the year.

The Knights defeated Navy, 7-0, Monday at the UCF Tennis Complex. UCF's Kristina Lohmos and Anna Westin won the doubles point and had not lost a home match since March 23, 2000. The Knights picked up the doubles point by sweeping all three matches. Briti Rosen and Gabri Stramberg got things started with an 8-1 win at No. 3. Catalin Bradu and Antonio Sierra teamed up to win at No. 1, 6-4 at No. 2. Augustine Sanamara and Simon Jaguer won 9-7.

In singles play, Bradu, Sierra, Sanamara and Jaguer all won in straight sets, while it took Paul Rumi and Stramberg three sets to win.

UCF swept Tennessee Tech, 7-0, Monday. The Knights quickly picked up the doubles point, winning on all three courts. Bradu and Sierra won 6-1, 6-2, while Rosen and Stramberg won 6-0, 6-2. Rosen and Stramberg clinched the victory for the Knights at No. 3, defeating the double 6-4, 6-4. The victory at No. 3; a 6-1, 6-2 victory for UCF was also a three match win over Carrion-Custodio and Michele Panzeri.

Bradu started off to lead 2-0 with his speedy win over Fischer at No. 1 (6-2, 6-1). At No. 2, Rosen also was a speed win, defeating Carrion-Custodio and Michele Panzeri. Bradu started off to lead 2-0 with his speedy win over Fischer at No. 1 (6-2, 6-1). At No. 2, Rosen also was a speed win, defeating Carrion-Custodio and Michele Panzeri. Bradu started off to lead 2-0 with his speedy win over Fischer at No. 1 (6-2, 6-1). At No. 2, Rosen also was a speed win, defeating Carrion-Custodio and Michele Panzeri. Bradu started off to lead 2-0 with his speedy win over Fischer at No. 1 (6-2, 6-1). At No. 2, Rosen also was a speed win, defeating Carrion-Custodio and Michele Panzeri.
Shinhoster's power earns her weekly honor

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Fighting crowds and other hazards in the clubs

JOE HARLESS & MARSHALL SPENCE
STAFF WRITERS

On a recent trip to Universal CityWalk, to celebrate her 21st birthday, junior Karla Pullen and several of her friends were turned away from the Bob Marley reggae club by bouncers.

Concerned about safety in crowded nightclubs, security officers said there was no room for additional patrons.

After a Rhode Island nightclub fire on Feb. 26 killed almost 100 people and wounded 200 others and a rush to the exit in a Chicago nightclub killed 21 people three days prior, many security questions and safety concerns have been raised throughout Orlando's nightlife circuit.

Pullen took the rejection from the club better than most of her friends.

"I understand the club was taking precautions," she said. "It's good to know they're not concerned just with making money."

But despite the lessons of these recent tragedies, many UCF students who regularly venture to Orlando's nightclubs don't seem too concerned about the potential dangers.

Junior Megan Cramblitt, 21, said it's hard for her to tell where the exits are at many of the nightclubs in downtown Orlando.

"You can't see because of the crowds," she said.

Senior Alexa Heller, 22, agreed that she has a hard time finding the exits in downtown clubs because none appear clearly marked.

Senior Mustang Wilson, 21, doesn't know if any of the nightclubs she visits even have sprinklers.

"I've never seen any sprinklers."
THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

LINNAE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

"It's just baby oil and cabbage. I've got a bunch of 'baby dolls,'" drawled 22-year-old Cabbage Patch bartender Christopher Anderson. "Usually only the girls who wrestle are the ones who get drunk enough to take off all their clothes instead of just half of 'em."

Standing in the middle of a Circle K gas station across from the Daytona Speedway last Wednesday, my friend and I listened to Anderson describe the yearly Bike Week tradition of "Cabbage Wrestling," the event we had come to see— and completely missed, due to bumper-to-bumper motorcycle traffic—that morning.

Dozens of tough-looking bikers locally spied on the doors of the convenience store dressed in black leather chaps, long beards and slab tunics. Chris glared on the Harley-Widhogs motorcycles that impressively invaded the parking lot. A few loud-assured bikers hovered around a white souffle and a bunch of big ol' burly bikers hovered around a white souffle and a bunch of big ol' burly bikers. I opened my eyes wide and The mostly-male crowd clustered in front of the vendor booths, I jokingly tried on a marijuana-leaf bandana and I jumped back in the car to get to the "real" Bike Week, a bike tradition on Main Street in Daytona Beach since 1937.

Even though it was starting to rain, Main Street was obviously the trendiest shopper party spot. In fact, the streets were so jam-packed with black-leather-clad Harley riders that I felt like I had landed in some twisted, crazy costume party.

High-rollin' bikers paraded their gleaming machines down the street, parking in front of bars and strutting slowly past eminently overlookable drunkards. Drunken people-watchers hung over the edge of balconies and yelled causally at people passing by, and bikers' grease was the merchandise of choice in the souvenir shops.

As we hurried back to the car we passed a random religious man handing out fliers in the street.

"Jesus is coming!" the man proclaims.

"Oh, really? He's coming to Bike Week?" is a tough-looking, tattooed biker named sarcastically.

"In three days," the missionary wailed.

"Bike Week will be over by then. Smart decision," Jesus probably wasn't that impressed.

Maybe next year he'll make it for the coleslaw wrestling,
Students encouraged to locate all exits of nightclubs they visit

From Page 17:

don’t pay attention to that,” she said.

For some students, however, the recent fires have been a wake-up call.

Junior Khadija Hicks, 21 and junior Angie Slaughter, 20, both said that after the fires in Chicago and Elko, Nevada, they pay more attention to where the nightclub exits are.

Despite the hazards of a fire breaking out in a busy nightclub, overcrowding can be a more imminent danger.

The deaths in the Chicago club occurred after bouncers sprayed smoke to break up a fight on the dance floor and overcome those rushing toward the single exit in a stairwell, where the victims were unable to breathe.

“It’s so crowded sometimes you can’t even dance. I get the feeling that if something happened [in these nightclubs], it would be bad,” Slaughter said.

Junior Eddie Root, 21, is a former bouncer for Knight Lights bar and discotheque located across the street from the UCF campus.

Braxton said that while he never experienced any major safety problems when working at the club, the most pressing security concern was patrons and bouncers in club fights.

Braxton, who worked for a nightclub in Washington D.C., said he saw someone get stabbed with a broken bottle at Knight Lights.

“Everything was chaos,” he said.

“Everyone would rushing out of the club. Somebody could have been hurt [with] people pushing and shoving [each other].”

Braxton remains concerned about overcrowding in clubs. He said he fears a similar nightclub incident occurring in downtown Orlando because many venues allow numerous patrons on the roof to have live music. He wonders what those people will do in case of an emergency.

“The clubs get packed so quickly,” Braxton said. “If a fire breaks out and you’ve had a few drinks, how are you going to find the exit with everyone running around you?”

For additional safety, many clubs in Orlando often hire off-duty police officers to patrol during busy weekend nights.

“Officers are there to supplement security,” said Orlando Police Department spokesperson John Sartz.

The police officers at nightclubs work four-hour shifts. Most clubs pay the officers directly, but sometimes they pay the police department. Nightclubs who wish to acquire these additional safety officers must be certified by local safety inspection agencies.

Rolon said fights at clubs do not pose a large threat considering the thousands of people who visit downtown Orlando on the weekends.

“The need for law enforcement is limited,” he said.

Rolon said that while many club goers are under the influence of alcohol, they must take extra safety measures.

“Everyone should be familiar with exits of the structure [of the club]. That should be the No. 1 concern,” he said.

Along with hiring additional security, club owners are taking other precautions to ensure a safe and fun night out for patrons.

Mark Poyor, acting manager at the Delray’s Times bar at Colonial Drive and Alafia Trail, said the fire department has been coming several on a regular basis and the bar’s owner recently began enforcing restrictions on the number of people allowed inside.

“The fire department didn’t use to come by before,” Poyor said. “Now we make sure to keep everything up to date.”

Rolon said students should be aware of the exits in case of emergency.

The front doors of the bar are always kept unlocked during business hours and exit signs are clearly marked around the bar. A sprinkler system runs throughout the building, something Poyor said is rare for a bar and all the fire extinguishers are new. The bar is housed in a fairly large shopping center and police drive through to patrol on a regular basis.

Even UCF professors have addressed the issue of club safety with their students.

William Fisher, a professor in the Rosen School of Hospitality Management, has advised his students to always be aware of where the exits are.

Fisher acknowledged that restaurateurs and nightclubs have to maintain certain safety standards. If establishments do not uphold these safety and security codes, they will be shut down, he said.
Computer, video game addictions plague students

Brandon Hardin
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Sophomore Mark Sinn, 21, locked out the windows of his apartment to watch the sun rise. He had been playing "Diablo II," a fantasy role-playing computer game, all night long without realizing it.

Sinn is one of the thousands of college students who find themselves addicted to these strategic, multiplayer videogames. Games such as "The Dark Ages of Camelot," "Everquest," and "Final Fantasy" cause students to lose sleep, friends and even lower grades in their classes.

Marissa Orzack, a licensed clinical psychologist and assistant professor of psychology at the Medical University of South Carolina, said that students can become addicted to their computers and videogames.

"Computer addiction, like other addictions, is the use of computers in order to change an individual's mood," she said. "Computer use becomes abusive when it interferes with one's work or school, or disrupts personal and family relationships and becomes increasingly necessary in order to feel good."

Sinn didn't realize he was spending less time on school and friends while he was addicted to videogames, playing two to four hours a day since middle school.

"When all you can think about is the game, you put off important tasks such as homework or social interaction with other people," he said.

While videogames may take up homework time, Sinn said that a gaming addict wouldn't necessarily be more productive without the multimedia entertainment.

The free time Sinn gained back by not playing videogames has not gone to homework or studying. Instead, he spends more time with his friends, watching television, eating and sleeping.

"The hole that games filled will inevitably be filled by something else [non-productive]," he said.

Junior Jimmy Bailey, 21, another former videogame addict, agreed with Sinn. Although he believes his grades suffered slightly from playing videogames, Bailey doubts that the situation would have been different without the games.

"If I wasn't playing videogames [to] slack off, I probably would have just been doing something else [non-school related]," he said.

Bailey felt obligated to continuously play videogames while addicted, putting off more productive study habits.

"It's like reading a good book. It just happens that some of these games are a hell of a lot longer than books, so it can be a problem," Sinn said.

Sinn and Bailey agree on several reasons for their addictions.

"[Videogames] are a good way to get away from yourself and everything [else]. Some people go get wasted. Some people play videogames. Some do both," Bailey said.

Sinn also felt that he used videogames as a diversion from real life. "Games give me a sense of control that isn't readily found in reality," he said.

The constant lure of imaginative discovery and suspenseful plots contributes to videogames' distraction from daily life. "Games with an enticing storyline give you an outlet because you can't wait to reveal the areas of mystery," Sinn said.

"You can't constantly play to reach the next level, [and the] game holds your attention so well [while] time flies by," Bailey said.

Bailey said that the aesthetic design of the games themselves is sometimes enough to hook someone into playing.

Sinn currently plays videogames less than he used to. He no longer owns any console systems, and his computer is no longer capable of running the newest games.

However, he still spends time taking part in friends' games. "I prefer to watch others play now instead of being in the cockpit myself. I can still enjoy the storyline from the passenger seat," he said.

Bailey realized he had a problem last semester and allowed a friend to confiscate his most frequently played computer games to keep him on task. He currently averages less than an hour of gameplay daily.

Sinn said there is the constant threat of getting hooked a second time because of the popular draw towards multimedia entertainment. "I wouldn't rule it out," he said.
Cigar has same nicotine as full pack of cigarettes

FROM PAGE 17

School, said college students are playing with fire by putting themselves at risk of a lifetime nicotine addiction.

"Young people who are smoking cigars may not think that they are at risk of getting hooked, but they are," she said. "Repeated exposure to any tobacco product puts students at increased danger of becoming addicted to nicotine."

Prior to the 1990s, cigar use was a behavior associated mostly with older, white men. Between 1990 and 1999, cigar consumption saw a 50 percent increase and began to include a younger crowd, according to College Alcohol Survey.

Now, the pattern shows a sharp increase in the number of young adults smoking cigars. According to the study, cigar smoking has become common on college campuses.

Freshman Evan Schechter, 18, prefers cigars over cigarettes. "I don't smoke cigars all the time," he said. "But I do like to sit around my apartment and smoke with friends when we are hanging out or watching TV."

Schechter began smoking cigars when he moved away from home and started at UCF.

"I saw some of my friends smoking them, so I tried them too," he said.

Schechter said that a majority of his male friends smoke cigars. "Almost all of my friends like smoking them, and those that don't have tried them at least once."

Cigar smoking accounts for the largest percentage of non-cigarette tobacco use. The College Alcohol Survey showed that cigar smoking is most popular among freshmen and sophomores, and among white males that show an interest in fraternities, attending sporting events and attending parties.

Sophomore Tony Kinas, 19, said there is something different about smoking cigars than smoking cigarettes. "You can relax with a cigar," he said. "They have a completely different smell and taste. And when you're done smoking it, you don't crave another one five minutes later."

Eastside Cigars of Oviedo carries a variety of cigars. Store clerk John Traversill said a lot of college students come in to purchase them.

"Students have been coming in since the mid-1990s," he said. "And most will continue to smoke after they graduate."

Sophomore Jack Sterba, 20, who works at Publix, said that cigars are quite popular among students who shop there.

Sterba sells many packages of the cheaper miniature cigars, such as Black and Milds. "They sell for about $1.00 for a pack of five," he said. "Students will occasionally purchase the single cigars, but they run a little more."

Single cigar prices range from under a dollar to several dollars, while cheaper cigars usually come in packages for about $1 to $5. The expensive price may be just one of the reasons that students are attracted to them.

Not all students find cigars attractive, though. Freshman Danielle Casado, 19, said she thinks cigars are disgusting. "My father used to smoke them," she said. "Although I got used to the smell, I still think they are gross."
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