**UCF engineering prof remains in jail**

**Lisa Marie Hottle**  
**Staff Writer**

The UCF electrical engineering professor arrested last week on charges of immigration violations still sits in Seminole County Jail even after a local judge freed him on $50,000 bail. Students arrived to class Tuesday to find that Hassam Jubara would not be teaching their Computer System Design I class this week. Some were unsure that Jubara had been arrested. Others wondered who would teach class in his place and how the arrest would affect their class.

While Jubara’s attorney, Brian D. Solomon, counseled U.S. Magistrate Judge David Bailar to release the professor Monday, another hold by an immigration court denied his release because of several false reports, Jubara made on immigration forms in 1996 and 1999. U.S. Attorney Cynthia Hawkins Collins also argued against bail, claiming the Palestinian professor’s involvement with the Islamic Concern Project, a Tampa group that allegedly served as a front for terrorism, made him a flight risk.

Jubara was shut down in 1996 for allegedly funding terrorist activities for the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, an organization the Department of Justice has designated a foreign terrorist group, according to federal officials.

Please see Judge on 7

**New radio tower rises above campus skyline**

**Alex Barcock**  
**Staff Writer**

Peacefully situated amid pine trees on the edge of a duck-filled pond, a mammoth skeleton peeks through the tree line on the south side of campus. At the end of April the mammoth will speak, and maybe make the campus more money.

At 477 feet tall, the unmistakable silhouette of WUCF’s new 880-foot radio tower will forever change the campus skyline. In sove, the campus jazz station hopes the tower can improve the quality of their signal. But that’s not the only goal.

“If it’s a good thing for the university,” said Kayonne Riley, WUCF station manager: “They’ll be able to rent to cell phone companies. They’ll be able to make some income.”

Though the tower’s main use is broadcasting music and other WUCF programs, the tower can accommodate 40 antennas for other uses. The station plans to lease space on the tower to cell phone companies that would use the tower to boost cellular signal strength in the area. No deals have been struck yet, though, said Lyman Brodfuehrer, overseeing WUCF. "It’s a good thing for the university.”

Please see New on 6

**Is American media getting Iraqi war coverage ‘right’?**

**Michael Newman**  
**Contributing Writer**

When American soldiers were taken captive by Iraqi troops last week, television stations across the world aired a video of the prisoners of war first broadcast on Iraqi television stations.

In the United States, the American public would not see those images for days as broadcast stations opted not to show the videos, but simply reported that the video was being aired around the world.

Despite the fact that the media is saturated with coverage of the Iraq conflict, that incident is just one example of how America’s media images are constantly filtered and restricted, say communications professors at UCF.

“We saw seeing sanitized news,” said George Bagley, who teaches radio and television courses at UCF. “When we see a bunker blown up, we see it from a distance, and all we see is an explosion. We don’t see the five Iraqi soldiers dead inside.”

He feels it is important to show all images of war, including gruesome images like dead bodies and buildings in ruins, because it conveys the realities of war and helps viewers make a more informed decision whether to support military action against Iraq.

We should see everything because we, as taxpayers, are paying for this war and have a right to ‘see every bullet’, Bagley said.

“Professors say the war coverage is not only filtered by grisly images, but those days the media is focusing much less time questioning the reasons and implications of military action than they once did.”

Please see Media on 3
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MEDIA: Focus shifts to putting faces on war

FROM PAGE 1

A blow regarding censorship, said Fred Fedler, a print journalism professor. “In Vietnam, journalists were more culled,” he said. “They contradicted what the military was reporting. Journalists showed viewers of the war a glimpse of what was going on in the war … in [their] eyes, they just reported the news.”

After the United States withdrew from Vietnam, the government came down hard on the media, blaming them for the loss of the war and turning the American public against the government, he said.

Since then, media access has been firmly controlled by the White House, despite the fact that most news sources have round-the-clock access to troops and military leaders.

The interest in media is a journalistic perspective because we’ve never before had journalists embedded with our troops,” said Jennifer Wang, a journalism professor who has worked in print and broadcast journalism.

“It’s fascinating to look at how the war is covered because of instantaneous turnaround and better accountability of the media. We have never seen this live, all Vietnam videos had to be shipped and developed in America, and we wouldn’t see the ‘video for three days, at the least.’

While the military has allowed media to travel with the troops, embedding them with certain regiments and divisions, and technology advances have allowed journalists to broadcast everything instantaneously, the media have learned to shift its focus to putting a personal face on war rather than uncovering confidential military information.

“The coverage has been positive,” Wang said. “I haven’t seen real digi-dig on the part of news media.”

But Fedler says there isn’t anything necessarily wrong with that approach.

“The media should report on anything that doesn’t put the soldiers in harm’s way,” he said. “I’m in favor of candor; and rather would have the discretion made by the military.”

Hughley believes it’s reasonable for the military to restrict certain information.

“It’s reasonable because the military limits what journalists can say, because some reports can hinder what the military is trying to accomplish.”

The result has been positive for both the military, which wants to prevent criticism about the nation’s administration, from reaching the airwaves, and for the media, which want to sustain extended coverage.

This war is big news, and is most important right now; no matter what stance is taken on it, Fedler said.

But Wang says the round-the-clock war coverage may not be achieving the effects that journalists sought.

“I don’t think there is anything to see in live coverage,” she said. “You only see the heads of the journalists and a background. And the video is grainy, might as well hear them on a video phone.”

The round-the-clock coverage of the war, especially by network news, demilitarized the war. Now you have a cathartic [and war coverage], which is backwards,” she said.

THE CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Higher education around the nation

Missile kills four Jordanian students

Four Jordanian university students were killed near Mossul, in northern Iraq, on Saturday when their car was apparently struck by a missile, Jordanian officials said. The students, who had been studying at the University of Mosul, were attempting to flee the war in Iraq and return to Jordan via Syria.

They were on the main route that connects Mosul to the Syrian border, according to Speaker al-Maschaneq, director of the information bureau in the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There were about 300 Jordanian students in the region, he said, and it was feared in neighboring Iraq before the war began.

Two weeks ago, the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad advised Jordanian students to evacuate Iraq immediately and return to Jordan. More than two-thirds of Jordanian students heeded the embassy’s advice and returned home, starting the start of hostilities.

Many Jordanians study in Iraq on governmental scholarships. Jordan and Iraq both provide scholarships for students from the two countries, in a program similar to those in many other countries in the region. Significant numbers of Jordanian students at universities in Syria and Iraq, as well as Iraq.

Universities in neighboring countries are also seen as alternatives for Jordanian students who may not have been able to get into first choice options in Jordanian institutions.

A spokesman for the U.S. Department of Defense said he had no information on the incident.

Tufts alumni group withdraws award

Many Tufts alumni

The alumni association at Tufts University has rescinded its decision to give a prestigious campus award to a student who participated in a military protest at a speech given by former President George H.W. Bush last week.

The senior, Elizabeth Moinni, joined a group of students in protesting President Bush at the annual Pare Lecture, which attracted a crowd of about 2,000, including prominent alumni and university trustees. Large crowds of students demonstrated outside, while inside, some students stood and turned their back on Bush, chanted over his words, blew whistles, and held a banner in, involving an American flag emblazoned with an obscenity.

Even security guards escorted many of these students out, including Moinni. It was at that point that Bush slammed a box under an obscenity, and Bunton, who could not be reached for comment, told The Gstoff that it was actually another student who made the gesture.

The incident sparked a heated debate on campus about the appropriateness of the protest, and an open forum was held to discuss the lecture in greater detail.

Meanwhile, the Tufts University Alumni Association decided not to give

Where do you get your war coverage?

- CNN
- ABC
- Fox News
- Network TV
- Internet

I don’t trust any place enough to get it. Everyone is collaborating on everything. I get my information by the click of a button, I don’t even look for it.

- ABC NEWS
- Political Science

I mostly watch TV and use CNN because they keep you up to date but they lack objectivity.

- CNN
- WPO

I get my news from CNN because they have the most truth on TV.

- ABC NEWS
- Political Science

I get news updates on my on-campus pager and then I check CNN for full coverage.

- ABC NEWS
- Political Science

The internet network because they’re not biased. It’s more objective point of view.

- ABC NEWS
- History

My brother is a Marine, he’s a reliable source. Not the CNN, where one statement they did put fire and they still read fire they tell you another.

- ABC NEWS
- Political Science

I go to The Reasoning Place (UICfuture.com) just for the background. Don’t really read the depth many of the others.

Eric Babara, History

A large-screen television broadcasts CNN coverage throughout the day in the Business Administration Building.
Recreation Center dumps finger-scanning system

KRISTA ZILIZI  STAFF WRITER

After more than a year of failed efforts to correct the faulty high-tech security system within the Recreation and Wellness Center, officials decided to forgo the finger-scan access system last week and resort to the original card-scan system.

The finger-scan system, which was designed to allow students to enter the fitness center by simply scanning their fingerprint, was originally implemented as a security measure to keep non-UCF students out of the fitness center who otherwise could use any student ID card to get in. But since last January, the finger-scan access system has caused problems, malfunctioned for several reasons caused by errors in the Siemens Westinghouse-manufactured software.

Since that time, Recreation Center employees have monitored students entering the center a number of ways — by entering students information into a computer or conducting random ID checks at the gates. Other times, a sign simply instructed students to pass right through the gates.

"We finally just put our foot down; the manufacturer didn't meet the deadline, so we told them if they can't fix it, to get it out of here — so it's gone," Rick Falco, coordinator of the Recreation and Wellness Center, said.

While Siemens Westinghouse has not reimbursed the Recreation Center for the cost of the system, it is currently working to install another upgraded system to replace the finger scan, Falco said.

Falco said the new system, which will display students' photos from their ID cards on a computer screen as they scan their cards, will allow Recreation Center employees to monitor whether the student scanning the card is the real cardholder. Falco expects that the system will be installed within the next few weeks.

For now, Recreation Center employees are randomly checking student ID cards at the entrance after students scan to ensure they don't have to deal with the system shutting down every day," Falco said.

Iraqi university damaged during bombing in Baghdad Sunday

Moumin a Senior Award was planned. The award, which carries no monetary stipend, is given to a junior senior each year who display "academic achievement, wide participation in campus and community activities, outstanding qualities of leadership, and potential for future alumni leadership," according to Nancy A. Sardella, the university's assistant director for alumni relations.

Moumin, who is majoring both in women's studies and peace and justice studies, has made a name for herself on the campus as a political activist. She is involved with several campus organizations, including the Student Association, Students for the Rights of Animals and Amnesty International. She was chosen as an Outstanding Scholar, which is a campus program supporting community service work by students identified as leaders at the institution. She was also a finalist for the Wendell Phillips Award, which brings with it the honor of speaking at graduation.

According to Alan M. MacDougall, president of the student association, Moumin's behavior at the Fauers Lecture was "distrustful and inappropriate."

Moumin sees the situation as one of censorship. "People in power don't have to get out and rally to make their points," she told the Globe. "They can do things like take an award away from a student who is making an argument they don't support."

Bomb hits Iraqi university founded in 13th century

Al-Mustansiriya University, which was founded in the 13th century, was hit by a bomb on Sunday during intense strikes on Baghdad. According to Reuters, the bomb left a crater 10 yards wide and 10 feet deep at one of the university's entrances.

Classes were not in session at the time of the blast, which injured several bystanders, the emergency agency reported.

"Academically, it's one of the most important institutions in Iraq," Abdul Majid Khuez, an Iraqi scholar and general secretary of the A-Khoei Foundation, in London, said of Al-Mustansiriya. "It's part of the University of Baghdad and has been since 1282, when it was incorporated as one of the new university colleges."

Charles Tripp, a specialist in Iraqi history at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, said the Iraqis restored the university in the 1980s.

Al-Mustansiriya University was built in 1223 as an Islamic college designed to promote an ecumenical form of Sunni Islam at a time when Baghdad was the center of a vast Islamic empire.

The university is in the old section of the city along the Tigris River and is situated behind the Ministry of Defense, making it a vulnerable institution.


**Housing rates are on the rise**

**Cary Grayson**

The Board of Trustees will decide today whether to raise on-campus housing rental rates. The raises, which will inflate housing prices by $100 to $175 per semester, is in line with yearly increases over the past 10 years, according to Associate Director of Housing and Residence Life Peter Mitchell.

While on-campus housing used to be a cheap alternative to living in an off-campus apartment, that is no longer the case. Next year’s prices will start at $750 per semester, or about $450 per month, for a double room. Prices for a single room will cost $2,255 per semester, or about $850 a month. Those prices are higher than most off-campus housing accommodations in the area that normally range from $400 to $600 a month.

Ten years ago, on-campus housing prices ranged from $800 to $1,100, but have increased by nearly $1,000 since 1993, or about 6 percent per year.

Mitchell claims that the increases are justified and necessary in order for UCF to continue to provide housing to students. The increases are “very comparable” to the other student real estate and housing costs in the area, Mitchell said.

“The cost of housing is typically higher than the rate of inflation,” he said. “The increases are in line with the housing market at other public universities and residential facilities off campus,” he said.

Because the Department of Housing and Residence Life does not receive any government funding, it relies solely on rental rates to pay for utility charges, debt service, employee salaries, repairs and facility renovations and maintenance.

“When the costs of goods and services increase, we have no choice but to pass these increases on to our residents,” he said.

According to Mitchell, numerous renovation and repair projects will occur in Breved Hall and the Lake Claire Apartments, including installing new showers, blinds, doors and lights, and repainting Academic Village rooms.

While living on campus may not be the cheapest housing option for students, Christi Hartzler, Director of Housing and Residence Life, said the benefits of living on-campus make up for the higher rental rates.

“Studios show that freshmen who live on-campus during the first year are 12 percent more likely to persist in college,” she said.

“Our prices, when compared to the other public universities in Florida, are in the middle of the market,” she added.

“The same goes when we compare ourselves to many of the off-campus apartment facilities,” Mitchell said.

Several students who live on-campus don’t necessarily mind paying extra for the amenities and convenience that campus housing offers.

“Parking is never a problem, there are a million things to stay occupied with, dorms are pretty nice … and you make a lot of friends who have the same living situation and are always there,” said sophomore Adrianna Schwartz, 19, who lives in the Lake Claire Apartments on campus.

Senior Steve Gordon, 22, doesn’t mind paying more for his Lake Claire apartment, either.

“Even though I could save money by living elsewhere, I like the convenience of being on campus and not having to find a parking space every day. Personally, it’s worth the difference in cost.”

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    - F: 9
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    - A: 10
    - B: 20
    - C: 30
    - D: 20
    - F: 10

- **Results of professor performance evaluations**
  - Student comments
  - Realtime interaction with fellow students
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New tower could boost cellular phone reception

FROM PAGE 4

The cost of building the tower and the benefits of the project.

The station has broadcast from a tower atop the library for more than 15 years. Problems with the tower's location and WUCF's interest in improving its signal motivated the new project, the station's third tower.

WUCF's first station was located in the Student Resource Center with a short antenna on the roof, Riley said. From there, the station moved to the library, where a new tower was constructed in the mid-1980s. When WUCF moved to the Communications Building in 1996, the tower stayed in place.

Since that time, broadcasts have transmitted from WUCF to the library's tower by fiber optic cable. The new tower has no cable connecting it to the studio, a low power radio signal transmitted from the Communications Building will communicate with the tower. This signal is then amplified and rebroadcast from the new tower.

This setup is unusual for radio stations; Riley said many local FM stations are using the same set. The station plans to build a fiber optic link eventually.

Riley said WUCF will probably broadcast further with the new tower, but the goal is to improve the quality of the jazz station's signal where it can already be heard.

Their current setup leaves them prey to interference from trees, buildings and especially taller towers used by other local stations.

"There are a lot of stations that cause us interference," Riley said. "They're knocking us out."

When it comes to radio towers, Riley said, it's the size that matters. Radio signals travel in straight lines; any obstructions between the tower and a listener's radio weaken that signal, or block it entirely. If WUCF's signal is too weak when it reaches a radio, interference from taller towers used by other stations can make hearing WUCF nearly impossible. Once the new tower is up, the signal will be better and as broad as the station's license allows.

All broadcast stations are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, which determines which radio stations can broadcast in an area. WUCF's coverage area, called a "footprint," extends to Oceano, Del Mar, Thousand Oaks and Thousand Oaks. Riley said their signal breaks up before reaching most of these outlying areas. "We're not even close to Thousand Oaks, and we break up before west Oceano," she said.

Using the taller tower, WUCF can reduce the power of the signal while still improving its quality, and will ultimately reach more people. Currently, the station operates at 40,000 watts. The new tower may need only 10,000 watts, a relief for scientists on campus, who complain the station interferes with their experiments.

Riley, who has overseen the project for six years, says the process to build the tower began 15 years ago. He has reason to appreciate such a project, as a published jazz musician himself.

As a dean, though, he has a responsibility to both artists and scientists at the university. The scientists don't like the current tower.

This problem, Doerle said, is the tower's location. Near the center of campus, and sitting above most buildings, the tower sends some of its signal downward, into buildings. In the Chemistry Building and other research areas on campus, sensitive measuring equipment is picking up these signals, throwing off their measurements.

The new tower addresses this problem in three ways: by being farther away from the buildings, having a lower power signal and sitting on the ground. Most of the signal is absorbed before it can disrupt equipment. Once the new tower is finished, the tower on top of the library will come down.

Riley is happy to see it go. It's an exposed, technically problematic and even dangerous in its current position, she said.

"If a hurricane came through there, it's going somewhere," she said. "The tower's new location, on the southeast corner of campus, is probably where it should have been all along."

The tower stands like a tall, thin, three-sided pyramid. Steel ribs comprise the skeleton of the structure, providing a framework that supports 200,000 pounds of girth. "It's just a lot of steel," Riley said.

The ribs criss-cross each other in a repeating pattern that gradually narrows as it reaches the roof. A 10-foot pole will crown the tower once completed. As the tower goes up, construction workers hang from it by their tool belts, securing sections as they rise on the crane.

The lower sections of this skeleton weigh 12,000 pounds, and putting them in place requires the help of a 225,000-pound crane, said Bruce Doerle, WUCF's engineering director.

The three tubular-steel feet of the tower form the points of an equilateral triangle at the base, each side 65 feet wide. It looks like the tower stands on its base, but the full weight of the structure rests on three points, each less than two feet wide. Concrete and steel anchors beneath these points hold the tower to the earth, the anchors root 55 feet into the ground. It took about a week just to make this three-piece foundation, Doerle said.

Though workers routinely scale the structure, working on the same altitude as craning hands, Doerle says it's too dangerous to take a look himself. He'll wait until it's done, he says, then he might climb it.

Doerle says the project is on schedule, and should be complete by April 30.
University presidents recommend tougher standards for state scholarships

Jason Erskay Staff Writer

The presidents of the state's 11 public universities met with Gov. Jeb Bush Monday to discuss tuition rates and reforming the Bright Futures scholarship program, among other issues.

Meeting at the University of South Florida, the State University Presidents Association, headed by UCF President John Hitt, suggested tougher standards to qualify for the five-year-old state scholarship because it takes away a valuable source of revenue, said Daniel Holsenbeck, vice president of university relations.

"No one wants to get rid of it," he said. "But the criteria for awards should be higher. It should be balanced by true financial need - we aren't entitled to an academic program that rewards mediocrity."

Holsenbeck argued that the large percentage of students receiving Bright Futures scholarships deprives universities of much-needed revenue, especially at a time when the Legislature wants to cut higher education funding by $189 million.

The Florida Lottery provides universities with much of their funding, some of which universities use to fund the scholarship.

"Each year as Bright Futures goes up, it eats up all the lottery money," Holsenbeck said. "Bright Futures is going to grow... four times as fast as lottery money."

In response to what he called "a crisis," Holsenbeck said SUPA has proposed modifications to the state scholarship. The presidents want to raise the criteria for Bright Futures, put caps on cool and add a need-based element.

However, other interested parties in the state do not endorse the president's plan, including the governor.

Student Body President Marco Pefia, who attended Monday's meeting, said Gov. Bush wants to keep Bright Futures intact in its present form.

"The governor seemed to be on the same page with the students on Bright Futures," Pefia said. Pefia, a member of the Florida Student Association, said FSA does not like SUPA's plan either.

"We looked at the proposal that they had, and essentially it waters down the program, so that it's only for the elite students," Pefia said. "The problem with the program is that in a few years, only 10 to 15 percent of students can get it."

Pefia said the presidents included the criteria modifications of students receiving Bright Futures scholarships.

Although about 30 percent of UCF freshmen receive the scholarship when they enrolled at UCF last year, he said a far smaller percentage of the student body as a whole still qualifies. "Only 40 percent of the entire student body has Bright Futures," Pefia said.

Pefia suggested that SUPA's plan was the only way to force students to attend universities out of state.

"Their stance is high," he said. "I'm unimpressed, mostly from a student's perspective, but also from a citizen of the state's perspective." Holsenbeck said Florida needs to do more to help fund its public universities. He said the state needs to find a "reasonable and appropriate source of revenue," and not cut budgets.

"The truth of the matter is, you have to do all those things," Holsenbeck said. "Fix Bright Futures, don't cut our budgets, maintain our general revenue, find money to fund enrollment growth."

The money for enrollment growth could come from tuition increases. Holsenbeck said universities, and UCF in particular, could accommodate more students if they had the ability to raise tuition. "Give us some flexibility with tuition," he said.

Pefia thinks SUPA is taking the wrong approach to solving the universities' financial problems.

"I don't think we have the budget on the backs of students," he said.

Pefia supports the governor's stand on tuition rates.

In [Bush's] recommendations, he said the schools need to fund Bright Futures, Pefia said. "If schools raise tuition, they have to cover the difference."
Our Stance:

War images filtered for your viewing pleasure

Americans across the country have tuned in to the latest form of reality television, the 24-hour-a-day coverage of the war in Iraq available on cable news channels such as CNN, MSNBC and Fox News.

Yet as Americans stay glued to their televisions, they get a very limited perspective of the war unfolding half a world away. American television networks have thus far shown the coarsest and incomplete picture of the war.

Those networks do not hesitate to show footage of Iraqis holding American soldiers hostage, and some dead. The images of bombs and missiles blowing up buildings demonstrate American military might. Yet the networks have been slower to show the horrors of war.

American networks hesitated to show the footage of Iraqis holding American soldiers hostage, and some dead. Other networks around the world swiftly broadcast these same images. The American networks explained that they did not want to show the video of American POWs, which was shot by an Iraqi journalist, out of sensitivity to the soldiers’ families.

Certainly, networks should respect the privacy and emotions of the families, but they do a disservice to the American public by only showing positive footage. The American people have a right to know how this war is proceeding, for better or worse.

Americans should know if American soldiers have died or fallen into enemy hands. They should be informed about the progress of the war, and whether this war, which military and government officials predicted would go smoothly, is doing just that. By the same token, if this war somehow takes a turn for the worse, or if American forces suffer numerous casualties, the American people need to know.

Public opinion really turned against the Vietnam War when television began broadcasting images of American soldiers dying and suffering in a distant country, in a war that many people neither understood nor supported.

War coverage should strive for accuracy and completeness at all times. American television networks that broadcast images only of victorious U.S. actions distort the realities of what could become a lengthy and costly war, in terms of human life, military conflict.

Hopefully, the war in Iraq will progress with limited casualties. But whether or not that happens, war coverage should present the facts unflinchingly. American television networks owe it to the American people to broadcast the truth about the war, and not propaganda to keep support for war high.

Our Stance:

Professor has right to pro-Palestinian view

Writing engineering professor Hussam Jubara, a Palestinian arrested during Spring Break for allegedly falsifying immigration documents and participating in terrorist groups, deserves the benefit of the doubt and the right to a fair trial.

To its credit, UCF has not fired Jubara, and will not rush to judgment about his alleged crimes. Unlike the University of South Florida, and its handling of the situation there with professor Sami Al-Arian, whom federal officials have accused of funding terrorist groups, UCF has decided to take its time and wait until his case plays out in court before making a decision about his fate here.

UCF fired Al-Arian after the FBI arrested him last year. Although Al-Arian has not been convicted of any crime, he lost his job at UCF and was widely condemned in the national media in pro-Palestinian views. Federal officials alleged link Al-Arian to Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which the U.S. government has labeled a terrorist organization.

Jubara has ties to Al-Arian, having worked under him. Still, until proven guilty, the UCF community should presume Jubara innocent. Like Al-Arian, Jubara has every right to make pro-Palestinian statements. The freedom to espouse unpopular views is a freedom explicitly granted by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

In the wake of Al-Arian’s arrest, and in the midst of the war on terror, Jubara’s arrest could bring a significant amount of negative publicity for UCF if it handled the situation improperly. However, by acting with restraint, UCF has done the right thing.

Without the full facts in this case, no one in the UCF community should condemn Jubara. As Linda Gray UCF’s media relations specialist, correctly stated, “There is due process until someone is proven guilty.”

The Pakistani-Israeli conflict rages on, and has once again gained attention with the United States’ decision to wage war in Iraq. What Jubara and Al-Arian advocate — an independent Palestinian state — should become a focus of the U.S. government as soon as possible.

To secure real, lasting peace in the Middle East, the U.S. needs to work toward resolving the differences between Israelis and Palestinians and giving Palestinians their own state.

This country’s political climate likely will not be friendly to Jubara, but, for now, he deserves the support of the UCF community.
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Wednesday, April 2, 2003
2:30PM to 4:00PM
In the Student Union
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INSIPID THOUGHTS

Adan Shiver

I feel it has set a dangerous precedent in our foreign policy and opens the door for such actions by and against other nations worldwide.

I also feel this war is not only about finding weapons of mass destruction and freeing the Iraqi people; as the Bush administration has told us repeatedly, but is also very much about oil and power.

I have written heartfeltly in the past against such a conflict as the one going on right now. But at the same time I understand that troops, such as my best friend who is currently stationed in Iraq, have a job to do and have no choice in the matter. They have signed up voluntarily to support our nation in both peace and war time, and we as Americans citizens and those they are protecting must support them.

A war based on defense, rather than aggression, would have been much more warrantable, but the time for that debate is gone. We are fully involved in a major conflict with Iraq and there is no turning back. No amount of protesting will change that now.

I am in no way against protest, but I feel that such protests should shift focus. Protest the treatment of our troops by the Iraqi government. Carry signs and form chants in support of our troops, but do not bring them down with protests about what they have been sent to do. It is their duty, and their job, no matter their views.

There are many soldiers stationed in the Middle East this very moment who do not agree with the reasons they are there, but understand that it is their job to protect your freedoms, including the freedom of speech which you are protesting by protesting.

Please, try and hold two viewpoints in your mind at once. It is OK to feel negatively against the war and the Bush administration’s reasoning for war, but at the same time support the young men and women who have been sent off to fight against Hussein’s regime.

—Glennan Blair Shiver can be reached at glennanblair@comcast.com

Media role in war is supporting patriotism

Kevin O’Grattan

The Central Florida Florida

America’s armed forces are entrenched in battle. Like most Americans, I was proud to see the coalition forces begin the liberation of an oppressed nation of people and brace myself for the terrible things I didn’t anticipate accompanying this conflict.

Apparentl the media had not braced itself for the same possibility, as it reported the news of casualties in a manner almost seems to have misunderstood like that could occur.

Somehow, they never concluded that they would see death even though they had planted themselves on the front lines of war.

It is a fact that people will die in wars. There has never existed a war in history where there have been no casualties. The brave men and women of the coalition forces know this. All loss of life is tragic, but those who have made the ultimate sacrifice have done so to protect countless others.

These men and women know what is possible in a war and also know they are fighting for a higher purpose — to save lives and provide freedom to a people who have not known such liberty. Their deaths weren’t in vain or unnoticed and certainly no more brutal than the instances of violence and death media reports every day in the United States. Many of those deaths are pointless and in vain, yet those occurrences seem to affect reporters much less.

Yet the news coverage of the war has accomplished something that war opponents have proven to them that the war is in fact achieving many noble things, including freeing a nation of people who are hungry for democracy and liberty — something that war opponents all too often ignore.

The media also deserves commendation for its refusal to air images of American prisoners of war while the whole world did, and respect the military in withholding information that would jeopardize the military’s actions.

By showing the images of the prisoners of war, one is certain — that single despicable act by Iraq just furthers the case against this terrible regime and most Americans believe in this war more than ever before.

Finally radio stations that have taken a pro-American stance also deserve praise. Their refusal to play songs by the female country band Dixie Chicks and others who insult our troops and leaders and refuse to support the United States in a time of crisis shows that media owners aren’t completely absorbed with commercial profits and appealing to the entertainment industry. They’ve also proven that they aren’t afraid to take a conservative stance — something that has never been acceptable in the media industry — and step forward to support a greater good — supporting our troops and our nation’s freedom.

—Kevin O’Grattan
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Out for revenge

UCF travels to Atlanta looking to avenge last season's tournament losses to Georgia State

KRISTY SHONKA

The UCF softball team will be looking for revenge Saturday when it travels to Atlanta to play Georgia State. Sure UCF won three of the five games against the Panthers last season, but the Panthers won when it mattered.

Georgia State beat the Knights twice in the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament. The first loss dropped UCF into the loser's bracket. But the Knights rebounded and beat Troy State 4-3 to advance to the semifinals, where they met the Panthers again. And this time the loss sent the Knights home, ending their remarkable inaugural season with an 8-19 record.

But Georgia State will also be in the UCF record books as the program's first-ever A-Sun win. The Knights first beat the Panthers 5-2 at GSU's tournament on Feb. 13. That game didn't count in the conference standings, though. The Knights first A-Sun win came at home March 5, both by one-run margins of 2-1 and 1-0.

And this season the Knights have struggled with consistency and a sweep against Georgia State could help get them on the right track. The first game of the two-game series Friday will be at GSU's 5-2-11 and 4-0. The second game of the series is Sunday at 1 p.m.

But the Panthers have also struggled this season with a 12-15 record, and the UCF baseball team is in the A-Sun standings.

Georgia State is coming off a near upset of No. 15-ranked Florida State last weekend. The Panthers were down 3-0 heading into the seventh inning when Lindsey Hystek knocked a three-run home run to tie the score and send the game into extra innings. But, Florida State won 4-3 in the eighth.

The key for UCF will be to come out strong. For Georgia State, the key will be to avenge four losses against the Knights last season. The Panthers have lost four in a row to the Knights and will be looking for a win Saturday to get back into the race for the A-Sun title.

Please see Knights on 13

Friday's game has makings of a

PITCHERS' DUEL

KRISTY SHONKA

This weekend the UCF baseball team will try to do something that Florida Atlantic, Stetson, Belmont and Campbell failed to do so far this season—beat Jacksonville State starter Jesse Corn. The junior right-hander leads the Atlantic Sun Conference with a 1.84 ERA as the Gamecocks' No. 1 starter.

Corn earned league Pitcher of the Week honors two weeks in a row after back-to-back complete game shutouts against Belmont and Campbell. He gave up just three hits while striking out 10 against Belmont and threw a two-hitter with nine Ks against Campbell. Corn threw 37 consecutive innings without giving up an earned run prior to Friday's game against Florida Atlantic.

He gave up a two-run home run to Jeff Fierentino in the seventh inning of that game, which UCF will win 9-4 in 12 innings. Corn did not factor in the decision as he left with the score tied at two. It was his first no-decision in six starts. He gave up seven hits in eight innings while striking out 10 against the Owls.

Corn threw seven innings in the Gamecocks' only win against Stetson, scattering four hits while giving up two runs, both earned, in the first game of the three-game series. He struck out eight batters in the first game of the series but gave up 10 hits, including seven on three earned runs.

Senior Mark Michael pitched UCF's first complete game of the year in Saturday's 6-4 win over Samford. The right-hander is 4-1 on the year with a 4.37 ERA.

Senior Mark Michael pitched UCF's first complete game of the year in Saturday's 6-4 win over Samford. The right-hander is 4-1 on the year with a 4.37 ERA.
Knights in need of aggression

FROM PAGE 12

aggressive in both games, which the Knights haven't done very often this season.

"We're not," UCF Coach Renee Luers-Gillispie said. "We're going in there without an aggressive attitude and we're not taking it to the other team."

In their first A-Sun double-header of the season, the Knights beat Gardner-Webb 8-0 in six innings by way of the mercy rule, but turned around and lost 7-5 in the second game.

The Knights played the last three games in three days earlier in the season. They lost the first game 5-0, then won 6-0, only to lose the third game 4-2. Out in California the Knights beat then 15th-ranked Fresno State 3-2, only to lose to Loyola Marymount, Sun Devils, and Santa Barbara in their next three games.

The Knights did play well in their second conference double-header March 15 at Campbell, winning 4-2 and 15-1. Luers-Gillispie said the Campbell games were one of the few times this season the Knights played aggressive throughout.

"We knew we were in conference, on our turf, and we were excited about going after them," she said. "But unless we've got some purpose behind it, we're not going to play aggressively."

Maybe revenge for last year's tournament losses will provide the Knights with the purpose they need to go after Georgia State.

Double-header could be a slugfest

FROM PAGE 12

has the makings of a pitchers duel, Saturday's double-header could turn into a slugfest with UCF doing most of the slug-ging. Seniors Mark Michael and Lincoln Mincks will probably get the nods for UCF, while Allen Buckley and C.R. Palmer could start for the Gamecocks. Senior Von David Stichert could be a possible starter for the Knights, but will most likely be the first reliever out of the bullpen.

Michael and Mincks have slightly elevated ERA's, but both are 4-1 on the year. Michael, who's ERA is 4.37, is coming off UCF's first complete game, a 6-1 win over Sanford in game two of Saturday's double-header. But Mincks, who has a 3.56 ERA, got rocked in the Knights' extra-inning 11-10 win in the first game of the double-header. Mincks did not last long-enough in the second inning to record an out after giving up six runs on seven hits. But that was an uncharacteristic performance for Mincks, who finished second on the team last year for innings pitched.

But the Gamecocks' Buckley has a 4.88 ERA on the year and has yet to record a decision in five starts. Palmer has a 7.29 ERA in five starts. Like Mincks, Palmer failed to record an out before being in the second inning of his last start, which Jacksonville State led 14-4 at UCF. Palmer officially threw one inning, giving seven runs (five earned) on six hits. Clark-Jenkins is another starter for AU who has seen time in the weekend rotation. He's 0-1 in four starts with a 10.69 ERA.

UCF comes into the series 19-6 overall and 4-5 in the A-Sun, while Jacksonville State is 13-11 and 2-5. The Knights swept Sanford, but lost two of three to Georgia State in A-Sun play. The Gamecocks swept Campbell, took two of three from Belmont and picked up one win each against Florida Atlantic and Stetson.

The Knights are coming off their best offensive performance of the season for a three-game series. They scored 26 runs against Sanford, including two 11-run games. The Knights will need to continue with the hot bats if they hope to pull off back-to-back series sweeps for the first time this season.

Fridley's game starts at 6 p.m. while the first game of Saturday's double-header will begin at 4 p.m.
Men's tennis wins 14th in a row

The No. 62 UCF men's tennis team increased its winning streak to 14 matches on Sunday, rolling over Nebraska 6-1 at the UCF Tennis Complex. With the victory, UCF improved to 18-2 while the Huskers fell to 8-6.

After dropping the doubles point, the Golden Knights recovered to win all six singles matches against the Huskers. Doubles matches to secure the win included No. 2 Seward, Jackson, Lauren Gombar, Heather Wolicki, and Knight, 6-2, 7-6 (1).

At No. 3, Augusto Saucedo beat Jorg Barthel, 6-3, 6-3. Despite losing the first set, Antonio Sierra rallied at No. 4 to pick up a 6-4, 6-4 win over D.J. Geatz. Ener Gursoy earned past Joel Reekers, 6-1, 6-3 at No. 5. Also victorious was Simon Jaeger at No. 6. The sophomore held off Patrick Kennedy, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Nebraska won two of three doubles matches to secure the first point of the day. The only UCF pair to come away with a victory was Brudu and Sierra at No. 1.

Since dropping two tilts to start the season, the Knights have not lost. Their last defeat occurred on Jan. 25 to Alabama-Birmingham.

Following a two-day break, the Knights will be in action this Wednesday when they host the Citadel at 2 p.m. at the UCF Tennis Complex.

Novice rowers tops at Canal 54

The UCF women's novice lightweight rowers earned two first place finishes against the University of Wisconsin at the Canal 54 Invitational on Saturday.

The freshman novice lightweight 4+ boat, which featured Tiffany Richmond, Katherine Motes, Tiffany Beck, Laura Brad, Amy Zink, Kristen Kesser, Sabrina Gilman, Julia His and coxswain Chantal Hix crossed the finish line at 7:03.08.

Kesser, Brad, Beck, Motes and coxswain Heather Brookes also combined for a first place showing in the freshman/novice lightweight 4+ event. They finished at 8:04.1, over 20 seconds faster than Wisconsin, which crossed the finish line at 8:24.30.

Although it took second place, the Knights' varsity lightweight 4+ entry of Richmond, Brad, Beck, Kesser, Motes, Lauren Gombar, Heather Seward, Kylie Roberts and coxswain Summer Taylor had a time of 7:03.08 — just three seconds behind the Wisconsin boat.

The Knights were runner-up at the national championship section in the event last season.

Next up for the UCF rowers is the Petrusakis Cup in Jacksonville.

Women's track & field golden at FSU Relays

The UCF women's track and field team earned top finishes during the final two days of the FSU Relays at Mike Long Track on Friday and Saturday.

The Knights put up some of their most impressive showings on the track in the seeded championship or field sections — especially in the distance races. In the 8,000m, junior Sara Dillman earned ninth place with a time of 25:03.59.

Meanwhile, sophomore Ashley Overby was fourth in the 10,000m with a personal best of 30:25.80, followed by freshman Megan Grum in 11th, also with a career best 30:31.60.

Freshman Astrid Christiansen finished fourth in the championship section of the 800-meter event with a personal best of 2:14.04 — an effort that also ranks second all-time at UCF.

In other non-seeded or "garbage" events, senior Erin Garcia finished fourth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 23.42, while she was third in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 58.32.

Please see Women's on p. 16
UCF baseball tops Columbia, falls to FAMU

Florida A&M third baseman Adonis Segal Robinson hit a two-run double in the ninth inning to give the Rattlers a 13-11 victory over UCF March 19 at Moore-Kittles Field in Tallahassee.

Matt Fox earned his first career start on the mound for the Golden Knights. The sophomore right-hander pitched a career-high 3.2 innings allowing five runs on six hits with five walks and three strikeouts.

Dyann Bear finished one-for-two with a two-run home run to lead UCF past Columbia, 7-4 March 19 at Jay Boggman Field.

UCF reliever Andrew Daly pitched the game's final three innings for his second save of the season. Columbia starter Jesus Granit pitched 7.0 innings in defeat, allowing all seven runs on eight hits with four strikeouts.

Men's tennis cuts down Big Green

The No. 2 UCF men's tennis team picked up a 9-2 victory over Dartmouth at the UCF Tennis Complex March 18.

The Knights convincingly took the doubles point, sweeping the Big Green. On the singles side, Gabriel Strangberg, Antonio Sierra, Augusto Sansahin and Enei Garsay earned wins for the Knights.

Softball sweeps Campbell

UCF swept Campbell March 17 with a 9-2 victory over the Camels and an 8-3 win over Campbell University at Atlantic Sun conference play on March 19 at Tinker Athletic Complex.

In the first game, UCF scored three runs in the fifth and added a run in the sixth before giving up two runs with two outs in the bottom of the seventh. UCF's Kacie Cupp pitched the complete game and improved to 6-5.

In the second game, Shinnshouter started off with a triple to right center and added a home run over left center and took a double up the middle. An error by Campbell's Laura Evans prevented the cycle for Shinnshouter but UCF was able to score plenty of runs for the game.

Taylor Sawyer picked up her 10th win of the season in the second game, striking out five.

The Knights dropped a 5-4 decision to St. Peter's College in their first game March 19 before Stephanie Best's record-tying performance in their 1-0 win over Army.

The day before her 11 RBIs performance, Best knocked in five with a RBI-double in Cupp pitched the complete game March 18.

Women's golf finishes 12th at Waterlefe/USF Invitational

The UCF women's golf team finished 12th at the Waterlefe/USF Invitational March 19-20 at Waterlefe Golf Club in Bradenton, Fla. On March 19, The Knights earned a team score of 902 (+45) while TCU won the event with a team score of 901 (+4).

Senior Kim Tudor had a strong showing as she finished tied for 18th. Tudor ended the tournament with a score of 221.

UCF novice rowers top Rollins Tri-Meet

The UCF women's novice rowing team beat Temple University and paired the Knights at the Rollins Tri-Meet in their third consecutive trip to Lake Maitland on March 15.

The freshman/novice 8+ boat that featured Tiffany Richardson, Katherine Motes, Tiffany Beck, Laura Braud, Amy Zicil, Kristen Kesser, Sabrina Gilman, Julia Blix and coxswain Heather Brooks took first with a time of 7:12.2. The freshman/novice 4+ crew of Kesser, Beck, Moers and Brooks also earned top honors in their event at 7:31.1.

The varsity 8+, which was made up of lightweight rowers Richardson, Beck, Moers, Kesser, Motes, Lauren Comnin Heusler, Seward, Meredith Thomas and cox Summer Taylor took second to the Owls heavyweight crew at 6:44.6.

UCF track & field dominates at Disney Relays

Senior Kelby Roloff headlined a list of outstanding performances by the UCF women's track and field at the Disney Relays on March 14 and Saturday at Disney's Wide World of Sports.

Roloff became the second Knight to qualify for the NCAA Regional Championship when she earned first place with a mark of 5-7 in the high jump on Friday. Her sophomore teammate Sam Laurense accomplished the same feat at the UCF intramural meet on March 5.

Also taking top honors in the first day of competition was freshman Michelle Claudino, who had a personal best of 4:10 meters to take first in the discuss.

On March 15, the Knights continued to dominate, earning five more first-place finishes. Leading the way was sophomore Le-A Shourovski. She took top honors in the hammer throw with a personal best of 146', a mark that also places her second all-time at UCF.

In only her second time competing in the long jump, senior Erica Cuerda placed first with a leap of just over 18 feet. Three of UCF's relay teams -- 4x100, 4x800 and the distance medley relay -- also earned first place showings, bringing the grand total to seven top honors on the weekend.

"I am ecstatic with the team's performance," said Coach Marko Manev-Wentworth. "We are rolling in the right direction."
Women’s tennis picks up two wins

March 27, 2003 • The Central Florida Future

FROM PAGE 14

of 1:03.30 and sophomore Melody Parry was ninth at 1:06.46. Sophomore Valery Martinez took fifth in the 800m garnet event crossing the finish at 2:19.97. In the garnet field events, senior Elese Wilcox topped all Knights with a fifth place finish in the shot put. She had a mark of 40-feet, five inches while freshman Brian Thomas took eighth at 29-7.25.

Sophomore Ann Larsen matched her season-best, NCAA Regional qualifying mark in the high jump with a mark of 5-7. Earlier in the competition, senior Kelly Roloff took second in the heptathlon with 4,952 points - 48 shy of the NCAA provisional qualifying mark. During the multi-event competition, she earned first place in the long jump with a leap of 18-4.5 and second place in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:22.42.

The Knights return to action Friday at the Florida Relays in Gainesville.

Women’s tennis beats the Rattlerettes

Julie Pecastaing, Pamela Fernandez and Ola Luczak were all singles victors - as the UCF women’s tennis team rolled to a speedy victory over Florida A&M on Saturday morning, winning 4-0 at the UCF Tennis Complex. With the win, the Knights improve their record to 8-6.

Behind two doubles triumphs, UCF quickly secured the tandem point. At No. 1, Luczak and Anna Westin tamed Charlana Brown and Charlene Kambarami, 8-2. Pecastaing and Fernandez clinched the point at No. 2, defeating Subrahian Williams and Monet Duncan, 6-3.

In singles action, the Knights raced to three wins. Pecastaing was strong against Collins, breezing to a 6-0, 6-0 victory at No. 2. Fernandez also wasted little time against Duncan, winning at No. 4, 6-4, 6-1. The other UCF solo victor was Luczak at No. 5. The sophomore crushed Kambarami, 6-1, 6-0.

Women’s tennis blows past Cyclones

The UCF women’s tennis team swept doubles play to defeat Iowa State on Thursday, 4-3 at the UCF Tennis Complex. The Knights got things going early, winning all three doubles matches. At No. 1, Anna Westin and Ola Luczak teamed to get past Sabrina Evers and Suzanne Hubinette, 8-2. Pamela Fernandez and Julie Pecastaing paired at No. 2 to crush the Cyclones’ Tara Gooden and Elizabeth Chermel, 8-2. Also picking up a UCF win was Marieke Gunawan and Kristina Lohmos at No. 3 where the duo defeated Evangelina Soriano and Courtney Leese. Pecastaing was impressive at No. 2 singles, easing past Gooden, 6-0, 6-0. At No. 3, Lohmos blanked Leese, 6-0, 6-0. The other UCF singles victor was Luczak, as the sophomore held off Charlotte Ljungkrantz at No. 5, 6-3, 6-2.

For the Cyclones, Evers (No. 1), Soriano (No. 4), and Hubinette (No. 6) all gained singles wins.

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Inside the
Military Mindset

Children of military parents react to
the attack on Iraq

Laura Stevens
STAFF WRITER

On the evening of March 19, Sophomore Greg Stevens lay sprawled on the leather couch in his living room, forced to watch "Star Search" by his two sisters.

"He sucks!" Stevens, 18, yelled, while laughing at the second dancer's performance.

Suddenly the television scene changed, and Dan Rather's voice cut through with an image of the Baghdad skyline, Harsh flashes and streaks of light from cruise missiles flew across the screen as Rather informed the nation the war had finally begun.

The Stevens household fell silent.

"My first thoughts were, 'It's about time,'" Stevens said. "President Bush has given Saddam plenty of time, and I'm glad [Bush] came through on his threat to attack if Saddam didn't surrender.'"

While his father served in the Navy for 16 years, Stevens lived on military bases for most of his life and has been exposed to things most people never experience. From a young age he learned about the specifics of military airplanes, visited the hangar to see his father's plane and was even able to fly Navy simulation.

College students who have a parent in the military share an insider's view on the conflict with Iraq. The students say their life experiences and their parents' fierce loyalty to the military have influenced them and their beliefs, and most support President Bush's decision to attack.

"I just know more than civilians do," Stevens said. "I know what the military is drop-

Please See Military on 20

Life lessons under the influence

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

Linnea Brown
STAFF WRITER

Ahh, Spring Break. A world where all is remembered, but nothing counts. After all, in the profound words of junior Dustin Delphyke, 22, "Hey...it's Spring Break."

Despite wholesome dreams of backpacking, I finally broke down and decided to do something completely different. As my senior Spring Break present to myself, I plunked down $400 for a four-night cruise on the Norwegian Majesty to Cozumel and Key West, accompanied by two friends, Kristin and Yasmin. Little did I know I was about to learn some of life's most important lessons -- in the easiest ways possible.

While waiting at customs to board the boat in Miami, we learned the first of our lessons: some people just get lucky. I was one of them. I managed to sneak through customs with two water bottles full of rum in my backpack.

Not everyone had such good fortune, however. We watched as the suspicious custom officers swiftly confiscated another girl's liquor, disguised with food coloring in a Little Debbie's pineapple. "I felt like I was underaged again, trying to sneak drinks," senior Kelly Galley, 21, said. "They even snuffled my bottle of hair spray!"

Once onboard, we flung our suitcases into our tiny, shoebox-sized cabin, mixed ourselves some cocktails and headed up to the top deck...

"Hey, I know you..." a girl yelled. "You write for The Patriot."

Crap...witnesses. We soon realized, much to our chagrin, that half of the cruise ship was filled with fellow Knights. In fact, a prominent group of recognizable

Please See Spring on A18

8 Days a week

Highlights of the cultural calendar

Linnea Brown
STAFF WRITER

Thursday, March 27

Stevens Family Hosts Memphis. The match will pit Memphis against the popular Alaskan team who fought against the polar bears in Harvard. A question and answer session will follow the performance. Regional 6 p.m. in the main recreation building room 101. Free. 407-289-4002.

Friday, March 28


Saturday, March 29

last live concert: Springsteen's final "Last Concert" event will feature a rock and roll event. The concert will start with a chord and move on to a full drum set. Performance by local event coming soon. The concert will start at 7 p.m. at the Student Union. Free.

Sunday, March 30

"Wings and Warm Trips. Let's Earth hosts the second week of live shows with great shows with guests, cupping in a range for 5000. Compelling stories of food and decorated wine glasses included with every show. This concert is at 7 p.m. at the Mall, 30 E. Pine St., 32, and 407-672-0104.

Monday, March 31

Ward's Steak. Ward's Steak. Come to see the Grand Opening of the Ward's Steak restaurant. The restaurant will open to the public at 12 p.m. at the Student Union Center. The restaurant and Wine Center. Bring your own chair or table. Games start at 7 p.m. Free. Contact Carol Lancaster, 407-289-3700.

Tuesday, April 1

The Real Rip-Rap Show. Saturday Night is entertainment right proper to their week with rap hits and the performance at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. opening up the night and wings. This is "Everything Gang" event under the umbrella of the group. The concert will start at 7 p.m. and the concert gets $5 and an advance he needs for events. Doors open at 8 p.m. at Big Beef's Restaurant. $15 cover. All of the proceeds will go to Special Olympics. 18 and up. 407-464-2104.

Wednesday, April 2

The Rock Dance Project. The UCF Dance Program presents it's annual event and Pepper Center for the Performing Arts. Free. Contact Carol Lancaster, 407-289-4002.

Thursday, April 3

"Wheels of Fury." Theater UIU presents the play by Lawrence Wall. This contrast and poignant church killers the science ship between a group of friends from the Arts as they take a trip for a year's vacation in a Ronald McDonald. Show ends at 11:30 p.m. 30 E. Pine St. $10 to the seniors and $8 to the others. 407-289-4002.

Illustration by Christopher Jordan / STAFF
Spring Break debarment, typical, but no less appealing

FROM PAGE 17

UCF Fraternity boys had already assumed their positions by the pool. "Like a school of fish, waiting for bait," mused Jason Rosier, 21, a junior.

So much for meeting guys from other schools. However, that night we wound up solidifying a friendship with Roster and three other wickedly funny UCF guys who made the whole vacation worthwhile.

The most supreme lesson in beer occurred onboard with the guys, as the scheming-to-avoid-drink-prices continued. Jason French, a junior, came up with a brilliant plan... or so he thought.

"[He] found someone else's onboard credit card and started using it one night when he was trying to flirt with this hot Romanian waitress," Roster explained. "He started tipping big-time and racked up $117 in drinks, but he got busted when he tried to use it again the next night."

For French, the rest of Spring Break was an undercover endeavor. He shaved off his goatee, donned a baseball hat and hid out in a different cabin in an effort to avoid the authorities.

"[He] was even talking outside of his cabin area when we got into port," Roster said, laughing. "However, since the guys were such people, he made friends with the two security guards and the waitress who was working for him, he got off easy when he just blamed it all on being drunk."

On the trip, we learned: the college Spring Breaker should always surround himself with likable people, because he or she will inevitably be stuck with them for the rest of the vacation.

Chris Gustafson, a junior, learned this lesson the hard way. He was unknowingly convoking a 16-year-old's overprotective mother to let her son "have a little fun tonight."

This, of course, meant that Chris was the newly appointed babysitter for Trevor, 16, and all of his much-younger friends.

"He was looking for me, he screamed behind me and had a train of little people following me like a little Koala Bear," Gustafson said. "No matter where I went, there they were."

Things went from bad to worse as little Trevor got his hands on some alcohol and started throwingCoord. 2. We completely inebriated, started obliviously grabbing all the much-older girls, started a fight in the ship's nightclub and stole a newly purchased Cuban cigar from Gustafson's room unnoticed.

Strangely enough, Trevor bore a striking resemblance to the psycho doll from the "Chucky" horror movies. We avoided him at all costs.

The lesson about not drinking too much in the afternoon, was learned in the desperate little Mexican tourist village of Cozumel, where the beer flowed like water and bartering store-owners make it virtually impossible not to get drunk.

"All of the jewelry stores offered free tequila shots, so we literally went jewelry-store hopping for an hour," Gustafson said.

Kristen, Yasmin and I spent the early afternoon wandering along the dusty, charming marketplace streets of Cozumel, and then joined the rest of our Spring Break friends inside Senor Frog's - a wild, Americanized tourist bar. We each stuffed down yard-long Pils Coladas and joined in a drunken conga line that somehow made the broken-grabbing, stumbling behavior of the rowdy waiters and waitresses seem completely normal.

"I looookkkkeee Mexicoo," Yasmin shouted, as two Mexican waiters kissed each cheek.

As we stumbled happily out to board the boat, we caught sight of Gustafson and a group of gung-ho Knights doing a drunken, rowdy rendition of the UCF Fight Song. Right on.

Even more hilarious was the sight of our friend, junior Elena Sabo, 21, adorably saying goodbye to a guy she had met in Mexico. She kissed the guy turned to walk up the boat ramp... and fell flat on her face.

"I got a really big bump on my head," Sabo said. "But it was worth it."

Back onboard, we plugged out at a big buffet on the pool deck, attended a cheesy, Broadway-style dance revue and watered drunken Karaoke tunes such as "The Pils Colada Song" and "Piano Man."

We then headed up to Studio 54, the nightclub, where we partied and drank the rest of the night away.

Our last Spring Break lesson was that the universal excuse - "Who cares? It's Spring Break" - applied to just about every decision that anyone made on the trip. Everyone spent too much money drunk more than they meant to, did things they normally wouldn't have... and still stepped off the boat feeling like it was the best vacation they'd ever had.

In the telling post-cruise words conveyed by Dollywood's instant messenger service: "Spring Break Cruise: 5131. "Two handfuls of Puerto Rican Rum: $40."

"Having your friends burst in on you in the ladies' room, throw two buckets of ice on you and get it all on videotape: Priceless."

We won't ask.

These two women told their server on the cruise they wanted "margarita" and "beer" for dessert, and that is exactly what the server brought them, in chocolate syrups.
Food, fun and a lack of funding?

**Douglas Cousminer & Laura Stevens**  
*Staff Writers*

The balloons may be gone, but the memories live on for freshman Jessica Maykrantz. She attended one of UCF’s “Late Knights” in November and had a souvenir to show for it — at least for a while.

“THERE was a guy there who made me a big balloon hat,” Maykrantz said. “I looked like a dork, but I wore it all night. It eventually decomposed and I had to order my bed for a long time.”

“Late Knights” is a monthly event created by the Office of Student Affairs to provide weekend entertainment for UCF students on-campus.

In either the Student Union or the Recreation and Wellness Center, the event invites students to participate in games, listen to concerts, watch stand-up comedians, ride mechanical bulls and eat — all for free.

The pre-athletics final “Late Knights” event of the school year takes place Saturday in the Student Union, with more live music, dances and competitions on tap.

OSA graduate assistant Stephanie Meckofield said “Late Knights” gives on-campus residents something to do on Friday and Saturday nights, a time when the campus is normally quiet and deserted.

However, a lack of funding could jeopardize future events.

The majority of the event’s finances come from the office of UCF President John Hitt. “We requested $200,000 and received $100,000, out of which we can’t buy food,” said Hope Wahlke, the director of “Late Knights.”

Due to regulations, state money such as that provided by Hitt’s office cannot be used to purchase food. The Student Government Association gave OSA $90,000 to cover food for this year’s six “Late Knights.”

Wahlke said OSA is waiting to see if they will receive enough money to cover the event’s expenses again next year.

While SGA has agreed to fund the food, the funds from Hitt’s office are not guaranteed.

“It’s not looking good at this point,” Wahlke said.

Although the funding may be lacking, OSA continues to plan by soliciting student input. They hope to create a “Late Knights” student board in the fall.

Evaluations from the Jan. 11 event showed most students were pleased with it. Wahlke said OSA received the most suggestions about food choices.

About 1,500 students attended the most recent event, and OSA expects about 2,000 students this weekend.

“I think the goal of ‘Late Knights’ is to promote school spirit and provide a safe (alternative) to other weekend events,” she said.

“It’s a nice alternative to going out and partying and getting drunk. I liked that I could hang out with friends in a nice atmosphere,” said freshman Shayna Udell, 18.

Freshman Brian Berkman, 18, hopes that “Late Knights” will continue next year as it provides an outlet for greater campus involvement.

Some students are upset with SGA’s choice of funding, and feel that “Late Knights” should remain a priority.

OSA graduate assistant Kelly Esten, 21, has attended three “Late Knights” and said SGA should assume the financial responsibility for it this year.

“It’s a more worthy expense than Student Body President Marco Peña’s decision to rent the Islands of Adventure theme park for a night April 3 at the cost of $125,000, she said.

Add student senior Kelly Esten, 21, and SGA alumni Brian Berkman, 18, to the list of those who made me a big balloon hat.

“Late Knights” are convenient for dorm residents.

“Because it’s on-campus, we don’t have to leave campus late at night, and they can still have a good time,” she said.

The price tag is what keeps many students coming back.

“It’s free and it’s on-campus. Why wouldn’t I go?” Udell said.

Said Berkman: “Activities were a lot of fun; they gave away T-shirts and the food was good. I’d go back if they had another ‘Late Knights.’”

The final event, which runs from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday, will include performances by two bands; free pool at Wakodahatchee; an opportunity to watch the “Elite Eight” NCAA basketball games on television; face painting; Latin and disco dancing lessons in the Key West Ballroom; and a “Late Knights Idol” competition, UCF’s equivalent to “American Idol.”

The evening also will honor the return of Lester, the balloon guy, because he was a huge success last time, Wahlke said.
Military brats disagree with anti-war protests

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"I've been seeing demonstrations around the city and campus," said Chris Micklewright, 18, a freshman at Eastern University outside of Philadelphia. "It seems a majority of them are reacting from emotion. Very few of them have an educated opinion on what they say they believe." Students with parents in the military do not see the protests as a means to end the war quickly or keep military morale high. "If there's someone who wants to be a soldier over there and knows your country only half supports you," Martin said. "I think it's a poor decision for someone to enlist and go to war with those feelings of what's best." Christine Martin, 18, a sophomore at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, said trust in the abilities of American leadership plays a large role in the military lifestyle, especially when her father has been overseas in the Navy during the Kosovo conflict. "When we lived in Italy and my dad was in Sampson, you just come to realize [the government] knows more than they tell the public and you just have to trust them," she said. Because they have seen the military at work firsthand and often feared for parents in danger, "military brats" say protesting the war is unpatriotic and unfair to soldiers. "My father is a Gulf War vet and I remember how scared I was when he had to go away and how happy my whole family was when he returned safely," Lawson said. New enrolled in Army ROTC at UCF Lawson said she can't fully assess the extent to which her father's career has affected her support for the war, but being the daughter of a service member definitely increases her backing of U.S. troops. Being exposed to the military gives her a unique view on world events that the government means to keep from the public. "I know what's going on over there and know your country only half supports you," Martin said. "If there's someone who wants to be a soldier over there and knows your country only half supports you," Martin said. "I think it's a poor decision for someone to enlist and go to war with those feelings of what's best." Christine Martin, 18, a sophomore at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, said trust in the abilities of American leadership plays a large role in the military lifestyle, especially when her father has been overseas in the Navy during the Kosovo conflict. "When we lived in Italy and my dad was in Sampson, you just come to realize [the government] knows more than they tell the public and you just have to trust them," she said. Because they have seen the military at work firsthand and often feared for parents in danger, "military brats" say protesting the war is unpatriotic and unfair to soldiers. "I've been seeing demonstrations around the city and campus," said Chris Micklewright, 18, a freshman at Eastern University outside of Philadelphia. 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