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SGA theme-park party invites 7,000 for free

Alex Barcock
Staff Writer

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The $125,000 party is supported by student activities fees, where all SGA money originates, and guarantees free admission for up to 7,000 UCF students. If a valid ID is required, no guest will be permitted at the after-hours event, which runs from 9 p.m. to midnight.

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Please see Stragglers on 3

Designing with comfort in mind

Joel Addington
Staff Writer

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The student's perspective

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Despite credentials, international students face internship hurdles

Rosemary R. Day
Staff Writer

While some students may find it difficult to compete against others to obtain internships, international students find the difficulties to be even greater.

Senior Marcela Hernandez, an international student from Venezuela, searched the UCF Cooperative Education Web site for internships in industrial engineering and turned up meager results.

“There were over 30 matches on the Web site, but only two accepted international students,” Hernandez, 22, said.

Sophomore Elizabeth Hernandez, 20, also has had a difficult time finding an internship, despite her credentials.

While recently attending a job conference sponsored by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Hernandez, a Honduran international student, learned that her international status barred her from qualifying for internships because employers were unwilling to complete the extra paperwork and pay the extra costs involved with hiring an international student.

“I thought the conference would be a good opportunity to get internships since it was specifically for Hispanics, but as soon as employers found out that I was an international student, they told me they wouldn’t hire me,” Hernandez said. “International students have visas that allow them to work, while they are students, but once they graduate, companies have to pay money to keep them,” Hernandez said. “They don’t want to have to do that.”

Junior Lino Silva, 20, faced the same problem. An international student from Venezuela, Silva applied to several internships only to be turned away because he was not a United States citizen.

“Employers may like you, but they turn you away because you are an international student. They don’t want to deal with immigration paperwork,” Silva said.

Next year, the opportunities for jobs will be significantly lower for international students since the United States government plans to cut the H-1B visas each year.

According to Melanie Parker, director of the UCF Career Resource Center, because of the cut on the number of H-1B visas that can be issued each year, H-1B visas are difficult to get approved.

“The employer has to make the case that a worker with certain skills cannot be found in the U.S. citizen applicant pool and that the only way to find someone with those skills would be to hire a nonresident,” Parker said.

“That’s very hard to prove.”

Further hampering international students are strict restrictions that dictate when they are allowed to work before and after graduation, Parker said.

“International students can apply to do curricular practical training during college, but they have to prove that it is a necessary part of their academic program. They have to do that before graduating,” she said.

Please see Work on 7

Employers may like you, but they turn you away because you are an international student. They don’t want to deal with immigration paperwork.

― LINO SILVA
(UCF student body president)

Designing with comfort in mind

Environment can inhibit or induce the learning process, experts say

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Patriot Act causes concern as liberties fade
DIANE LAZIC

While the U.S. Congress sifts through the latest Domestic Security Act, proposed by Justice Department officials as the latest Patriot Act II, students and professors are debating the implications of the act and its potential to curtail the original Patriot Act.

As expected, opinions about the act falls largely along party lines.

Lindsey Hefter, president of the UCF Young Democrats, said the Patriot Act and Patriot Act II "contribute to a false sense of security and violates the Constitution by taking away our rights."

She added, "In the long term it is too powerful to the executive branch, and does help push the agenda of the pro-war wing."

Brian Malamut, press secretary for Congressman Ed Keller, said the Orlando Republican bound commits both for and against the first Patriot Act. "Congressman Keller was on the House Judiciary Committee. It was used with both extremes left and right, [and] they all agreed about this, Malamut said.

On Oct. 5, President Bush signed the USA Patriot Act (USAPA) into law. This law gave sweeping new powers to the U.S. domestic law enforcement and international intelligence agencies. Also at this time the U.S. Attorney General Ashley rewrote the Department of Justice to focus more on anti-terror measures.

Most U.S. schools and businesses rewritten by the act were put into place.

PAGES Civil on 6

Stragglers may have to pay their way into park

Michael S. Wolve/Delivery Services reporter (SF CAMPO)

President George W. Bush surveys the crowd upon his arrival Monday at the U.S. Coast Guard facility in Philadelphia.

Combination of religion and politics dangerous or divine?
GENO MEHALIK

Since the advent of the war on terrorism and the Iraqi conflict, students at UCF are trying to decide what role President Bush's faith should have in his policy decisions.

Junior Christine Harden, a member of UCF's United Campus Ministries, said, "It's beneficial for a president to be a Christian because it significantly affects the individual's style of leadership."

"He believes that God has all the power and that God has given him his position as leader of the United States," she said. "It's Bush's Christian-perspective that makes him effective as a leader."

According to Debrah Calvillo, a senior biology major and president of the University of California Christian Associated Students, Bush has a "perspective that's not scientific, but spiritual."

"We're witnessing a shift in Bush's theology — from talking mostly about a Western theology of 'personal transformation' to describing a Calvinist divinity plan laid out by a sovereign God for the country and the world."

Bush's public display of religious beliefs has America questioning how his faith dictates his decisions in war.

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Designers try to improve learning with better technology, lighting and desks

From Page 1

From the Chronicle of Higher Education, the Classroom Design Manual offers simple guidelines for universities to follow in designing classrooms. They include:

- Students should be able to see what’s presented.
- Students should be able to hear what’s said, “free from noise and distortions.”
- Students should be comfortable (the manual mentions temperature and furniture among considerations).

Lighting, chairs, a room’s layout, temperature and even windows are a few of the considerations planners consider when designing classrooms. Designers consider all of these features with students’ and professors’ needs in mind. Classroom design also vary according to the subject being taught.

Peter Newman, the director of UCF Facilities Planning, said that several features factor into the design of classrooms.

“Acoustics are critical,” he said.

The temperature of classrooms also strongly affects learning. “Nothing is worse than being too hot or too cold,” Newman said.

Noisy heating and air conditioning systems can distract students from class. Similarly, if the walls are too thin, commo­tion in one classroom can disrupt a neighboring classroom.

Newman said seating is always a main concern for students.

“Students prefer comfortable desks,” said Denise Dickson, assistant professor of hospitality management. “Flip-arm chairs make working difficult.”

Although students and planners often complain about the older flip-arm desks with little surface area, some classes in the VAB and other buildings still use them.

Newman said many of the older buildings on campus, such as the VAB and the Math and Physics Building, need major renovations. Another older building, the Education Building, is being remodeled.

“The Math and Physics Building needs a lot of work and will eventually be completely renovated,” Newman said.

Added Dickson: “The Math and Physics Building is not well equipped and the lighting is not good.”

Poor lighting can negatively impact learning, according to Daniel Niemeyer, who works as a classroom-design consultant and wrote a book titled “Hard Facts on Smart Classroom Design.” In the Chronicle article, Niemeyer said, “There is a lot of research that shows that the more light there is in a room, the more likely you are to get interaction.”

Considering the value of natural light, planners often debate whether to include windows in classrooms. The new Classroom 1 Building, for example, is windowless, while windows in holes windows but has small classrooms, said Newman.

Some professors see windows as an inconvenience while others enjoy natural light and loving what the weather is like before they go outside. “Windows detract from PowerPoint, so you have to take time to close them,” Dickson said.

While some professors enjoy classrooms with windows, others prefer technological features. “Give me a classroom with working technology and I am a happy teacher,” the other things, like windows, mean much less to me than technol­ogy,” said Pamela Gries, an associate professor of criminal justice and legal studies, who teaches in the Health and Public Affairs Building.

“I use PowerPoint for lectures,” Gries said. “I supplement my lectures with discussions of Web sites, so Internet access is essential for me.

Classrooms equipped with technology are also in high demand and greatly enhance student learning. The Classroom 1 Building, which features wireless network access throughout the building, and the

Health and Public Affairs Building are among the most high-tech buildings on campus.

“My only complaint in Classroom 1 is that there are exceptions,” Peter Bled, an assistant professor of hospitality management, said.

“Whenever there is a technological glitch, they seem to be repaired quickly.”

“Classroom 1 has in-ceiling document cameras so you don’t ever need an overhead. They have VCR tape capability, CD-ROMS, and Internet access,” Bled said.

“The only thing that is missing at this point is DVD capability. It is just fantastic.”

Classroom designs are function specific. For example, if a classroom is going to be used for large lecture classes, an auditorium-style room with tiered seating might be consid­ered. The function of each room and the number seats in each room are determined by facili­ties planning.

There are at least two other departments involved in classroom design. The Office of Instructional Resources is responsible for the 17U multime­dia classrooms on campus, and the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning task force is responsible for all the four studio classrooms on campus.

Studio classrooms are designed to enhance a more independent student-to-student learning process, rather than the traditional lecture and note-taking routine. Such studio classroom feature tables or stations that sit four students each and contain two comput­ers. Typically there is one computer for every two students.

These classes are usually held in a lab-type setting where students work together on exer­cises. Computer science, math and physics courses lend them­selves to studio classroom instruction.

Beth Marshall, the director of the Office of Instructional Resources, said faculty consider­ations play a large role in classroom design. “The design elements [of multimedia classrooms] are based on the requests of the faculty and administrators who are respon­sible for the building,” Marshall said.

“They tell us what they want to do in the building and each of the rooms, and we determine what equipment is needed to implement their requests.”
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Civil libertarians not alone in raising their concerns

FORT LAUDERDALE —

after revelations of previous misuse of surveillance powers by federal agencies, including the discovery in 1974 that the FBI and foreign intelligence agencies had spied on more than 10,000 U.S. citizens, including Martin Luther King Jr.

This is specifically what Matthew Milestone, 24, and president of Objectivist Club at UCF doesn’t understand. “The focus should be less on Americans and more on terrorist countries that the Justice Department has listed as sponsoring terrorism. Iran and Syria are places that they list as huge supporters of terrorism, yet we are furious about phone calls,” he said.

He said these changes suspend due process and threaten public interest. “The manner of gathering evidence and going to a judge was worked fine. I don’t see why they are changing it, or how changing this process combats terrorism. There should be due process for everyone.”

The changes “went through quickly because of patriotism that follows a national event.” In this case the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, said Dave Lutten, a professor who teaches American Constitutional law.

“The Supreme Court has ruled in other types of cases that in war times, free speech and civil liberties can become more restricted and this was step up investigative activity,” he added.

Allison E. Bonell is the director of civil rights in the office of Florida Attorney general Charlie Crist, a Republican. “ Constituents are not expressing any concerns about the Patriot Act to us,” she said.

But if a different story in the office of U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, a Democrat. “We have had very limited positive feedback,” said Robert Luke, a staff member in Nelson’s Orlando office. “Most of the feedback has been negative by concerned constituents.”

Civil liberties organizations and some conservative groups are now raising the same concerns because it appears that many of the act’s provisions had not been carefully studied before they were embraced.

Chief among the concerns are that it expands surveillance — in the form of wiretaps, search warrants and subpoenas — with reduced checks and balances to protect civil liberties.

The government may now spy on any individual’s Web surfing by merely telling a judge that the spying could lead to information that is “relevant” to an ongoing criminal investigation.

The person spied on does not have to be the target of the investigation. Moreover the government is not obligated to report to the court on whom the person spied upon what it has done.

Another provision deals with rights of attorney. The FBI can now trace from phone to phone, computer to computer, without demonstrating to a judge that the probing could lead to information that is “relevant” to an ongoing criminal investigation.

The government is not obligated to show to a court that the particular information or communication to be seized is relevant to a crime or a criminal investigation.

Moreover, the press secretary said the Patriot Act and Patriot Act II “are just modernizing crime-fighting techniques,” which countered that while he can understand the rush job in a time of emergency, that still doesn’t make it right. “There is no evidence that our previous civil liberties posed a barrier to the effective tracking down or prosecution of evildoers,” he said.

James Jordan Buck, 21, is vice chairman of the UCF Young Republican and disagrees with Milestone. “I think: the Patriot Act is good and seem necessary for better investigations and protection. But the way the government is going about it is wrong. "These ideas go against the Constitution. They eliminate the checking-whether element, which helps provide privacy and creates fairness,” he said.

Lanier said that in his classes, his students discuss what the Constitution permits the government to do. “It may regulate the time, place and manner of what you do when you do it, when you do it and how you do it. It’s not so much what the activists are saying but how they are doing it, who they are doing it with, and the time they are doing it.”

He added: “No one has an absolute right to say anything they want to at any time. And I feel that some activists seem to believe that the First Amendment says you shall not have restricting freedom of speech. Well, not exactly. You can’t yell ‘fire’ in a crow, or threaten a person. That is a threat to the public order. So, it’s always a balance.”

Wingrav doesn’t feel that the current administration has an agenda. “If we were trying to solve this problem, I could make some clear choices. But in looking for the best solution, eliminating checks and balances portions is a mistake.”

He added: “Laws don’t discriminate. It’s the people who abuse the laws — investigators and police officers — who have the potential to abuse without anyone checking on them.”

USA Today recently reported that federal probes of alleged civil rights violations by police rarely lead to prosecutions. From 1981 to 2001, the Justice department looked at 4,255 complaints of civil rights abuses by law enforcement. It filed changes in changes in just 5 percent of those cases.

Yet Duck is resolute in saying that he trusts and supports the government. “They have the information and know more than the public,” he said.

Said Lanier: “People fail to remember that Abe Lincoln, the great emancipator and Civil War hero, each in even being used by a suspect or target of a surveillance order. In addition, the government is not obligated to show to a court that the particular information or communication to be seized is relevant to a crime or a criminal investigation.

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Work visa costs deter employers from hiring international students

From Page 1

then, they can apply for optional practical training which allows them to work for one full year after graduation. But that, the only option is the H-1B visa.

Because employers are look- ing to hire履primes long-term, these restrictions cause emplo- yers to overlook international stu- dents when hiring interns, Parker said.

An unstable economy and stricter immigration laws also pose barriers for international stu- dents in an already challenging market, Parker said.

"It is a challenge to find internships and jobs today when the economy is down compared to several years ago," Parker said. "Also, there is a heightened con- cern in the U.S. about immigra- tion status due to current events."

Bernardinez searched for internships throughout four years of college and found that intern- ships are now scarcer due to recent events.

"I had one internship before September 11 happened," said

Bernardinez. "Since then, many companies have changed their requirements to only hire U.S. residents.

Although internship opportu- nities are not readily available to international students, it doesn't mean they are any less important," said Nicole Howard, marketing internship coordinator for the UCF College of Business.

"It's crucial for all students to get internships. Companies expect students to already have intern- ship experience when they graduate," Howard said.

Unless employers become more open to hiring international students, however, Bernardinez sees the necessity of internship experience as a never-ending cycle of rejection for international students.

Many international students are turned away because compa- nies say that we do not have enough experience," Bernardinez said. "But how can we get the experience if companies are not willing to hire international stu- dents? Someone has to give us that initial opportunity.

Virus cancels classes and study-abroad programs

From Page 3

forces to withdraw from the Iraqi territory immediately," Masrul Hassa, a history professor at Jamia Millia, who has also taught at the University of Virginia, said the resolution, which was largely symbolic, was a way for faculty members to voice their opposition to the war.

He emphasized that the ban was not sanctioned by the uni- versity administration, but that most faculty members were in favor of it. Hassa called the res- olution "morally binding."

The boycott is one of only a few protests to sweep the territory immediately." American universities are

The move to suspend class- es for nine days, starting last Friday, was made in agree- ment among the heads of Hong Kong's eight universities, in an effort to prevent the spread of the disease, known as severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS. The syndrome has infect- ed more than 1,600 people world-wide and killed at least 80. Hong Kong has been considered the epicenter of the disease, with at least 101 cases and 15 deaths.

Hong Kong has been the center of the outbreak, and most universities will remain open. Several of the universities are disinfesting and cleaning campus buildings and posting information about the disease on their Web sites. Classes are scheduled to resume on Monday.

Programs of American univer- sities in Hong Kong and China are beginning to be can- celled or reconsidered because of the epidemic.

Meanwhile, Syracuse University has shut down its exchange pro- gram in Hong Kong, and other American universities are reconsidering their study-abroad programs in the region.

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University officials are urg- ing students to stay at home and use this week as a reading peri- od. Libraries and other facili- ties at most universities will remain open. Several of the universities are disinfesting and cleaning campus buildings and posting information about the disease on their Web sites. Classes are scheduled to resume on Monday.

Programs of American univer- sities in Hong Kong and China are beginning to be can- celled or reconsidered because of the epidemic.

Syracuse University, which runs a study-abroad program based at City University of Hong Kong, has arranged for the 31 students in the program to return to the United States on Wednesday, said Kevin Morrow, a spokesman for Syracuse. The students have completed most of their course work for the semes- ter, he said, and will be able to finish up through independent study or an internship.

Syracuse has also canceled two short programs that were scheduled to begin in May in mainland China, Morrow said.

Princeton University administra- tors are deliberating over whether to proceed with their summer language program in Beijing, scheduled to begin in June, said Perry Link, a profes- sor of East Asian studies at Princeton.

Paleontologist Paul Sereno has encountered some of the weirdest creatures that ever walked the earth. Yet some of the scariest things he's discovered aren't likely to become extinct anytime soon. Sad to say, mutual fund management fees will probably outlast us all. That's why Dr. Sereno was afraid of getting eaten alive. So he turned to a company famous for keeping the costs down. That meant more money for him and less for the monsters.

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Supreme Court hears the first challenge in generation to using race in college admission process

STEPHEN HENDERSON
KENTRICK REGISTER STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court heard its first challenge in a generation to using race in the college admission process Tuesday as two of its central justices emerged as the most conflicted members of the high court.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy and Sandra Day O'Connor expressed consternation about the role affirmative action should play in American life.

In a courtroom filled with cultural icons and political dignitaries who came to witness the historic arguments, both justices expressed strong doubts about the assertions — made by white students who were rejected by the University of Michigan — that affirmative action is an impermissible factor for coleges to consider.

But Kennedy and O'Connor also asked pointed questions of the university's attorneys about whether Michigan's programs go beyond legal limits and how long they might need to be in place.

O'Connor's varying points of view have been discussed almost since the suits were filed, and many have considered her to be the key vote in the court's decision.

Kennedy's past opinions suggest that he might be less on the fence about these issues but also open to changing his mind.

Many think the court's opinions might unfold around the pair's middle-ground positions because the other justices are so firmly divided. And some court watchers said Tuesday that Kennedy and O'Connor's struggle reflects a deeper tension on the court in its desire to deal with race discrimination, to ensure academic freedom and to practice judicial restraint.

"They've got to look at all of those principles and try to balance them in this decision," said Victor Baldwin, a New Haven, Conn., lawyer who filed a brief supporting the university on behalf of several black mayors. "They need a way to be able to look at those policies without getting too tangential in the educational process or to be second-guessing decisions made by educators.

Kennedy also seemed to be searching for a way to balance those interests in the arguments. If the justices struck down Michigan's policies, he asked, would the responsibility for devising a better plan fall to the courts or the university?

The case, which separate range Michigan's use of race in its undergraduate and law school admissions, mark the first time since 1978 that the high court has considered such an important affirmative action case. The justices will make their decision by July.

Kirk Kolbo, an attorney for plaintiffs Barbara GTetter and Jennifer Graz, didn't get through more than a few paragraphs in his argument before O'Connor jumped in with several crucial questions. O'Connor first challenged Kolbo to establish how he could prove that race — and not some other factor — prevented his clients from being accepted to the university and then moved to his claim that race can never be used in admissions.

"You have some precedents out there that you have to come to grips with, because the court obviously has upheld the use of race," in certain contexts, O'Connor said. "You're speaking in absolutes, and it isn't quite that.

Kennedy then broke in with several inquiries that questioned whether the small number of minorities on campus was a legitimate concern by universities to try to correct.

"So if your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after your after 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Bush’s references to Scripture in his speeches over the top, students say

FROM PAGE 3

himself,” Caldwell said.

“Private: Bush even talked of being chosen by the grace of God to lead at that moment.”

On another occasion, Bush said, “I believe God wants me to be president, but if that doesn’t happen, it’s OK.”

Warren Goldstein, an assistant professor of sociology at UCF, said the combination of religion and politics is always dangerous. He also said the idea that Bush believes he has been chosen by God to lead the country is scary.

“I don’t feel comfortable with those statements,” Goldstein said. “I would prefer when [leaders] are driven by more rational consideration.”

People justify all sorts of things when they have a God, [said] war is most often in the name of God,” he said. “Some examples in history include the Crusades and the Spanish Inquisition. Political leaders often use religion for their political purposes. And if one believes his leadership is a divine prophecy, he can justify all sorts of human atrocities.”

Freshman Christopher Berryman agrees that leaders led by religious convictions may make decisions that may not benefit the nation as a whole.

“If someone believes they have a mission under God, they might be inclined to do something as foolish as ignore the United Nations, break alliances and put our soldiers at risk by putting them into a war they might not be able to win,” Berryman said.

Harden said she believes UCF students support Bush if they do not want to live with the threat of terrorism.

“It seems to me that a lot of students respect Bush for his character and ability to make bold decisions,” she said.

During a time of war, presidential addresses are meant to answer questions about precipitating world events. During these speeches, Bush’s prolific use of Bible scripture has caught the attention of many students.

Junior Carly Usdin said it makes her uncomfortable to hear the president cite Scriptures in his speeches.

“How can you stand before a unified group if not all of them believe in something you’re basing your speech on?” Usdin asked.

Senior Erika Hefferman said Bush’s use of Scripture does offend her.

“Being at war in the right time to use the Bible,” she said. “In order not to alienate other religions, he should keep it to a minimum, though.”

I believe God wants me to be president, but if that doesn’t happen, it’s OK.

—GEORGE W. BUSH

President

Senior Meredith Davidson believes Bush’s religious convictions are over the top at times.

“Sometimes he gets carried away,” she said. “I think it’s hard for people who strongly hold to their faith to realize that other people have other beliefs.”

But Harden believes Scripture brings healing to the American people.

“This country was founded by Christian men who were not afraid to proclaim their faith,” she said. “I respect him for proclaiming his faith.”

Goldstein said the real question is not what role Bush’s religion plays in his decision-making process, but rather, how sincere is he in his speeches.

“The difference between sincere and cynical actors is that sincere actors are taken in by their own act,” he said. “The question is: Is Bush cynical or sincere? What does he believe in?”

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Students deserve comfortable classrooms

UCF needs to heed the advice of class­room design experts more and upgrade all its classrooms to maximize the learning potential of UCF students.

The older buildings on campus have a certain charm, but their chalkboards cannot sustain their shortcomings in terms of design and technolo­gy. The Math and Physics Buildings, for example, have poor lighting which detracts from the learning experience of students who have classes there.

Other antiquated buildings also need upgrades. Buildings such as the Chemistry Building, Phillips Hall and Colburn Hall, all built before the advent of the Internet, need to be brought into the 21st century. UCF should make it a priority to have all its buildings well lit, well insulated and comfortable environments. Until these buildings get the attention they need, students will suffer the consequences of learning in a poor environment.

Learning environment is but one of many factors that contribute to the overall education­al mission of universities such as UCF, but it is absolutely matters. Students who face visual or audio distractions in their classes likely will not learn as much as students who do not face such distractions.

Visual barriers, such as poorly lit classroom­ or obstructed views, and audio barriers, such as poor acoustics or external noise from construction, can have negative impacts.

Additionally, students who are too hot or too cold when in class will not learn as well as students who attend classes in comfort.

UCF should not halt construction on the new buildings already under way, but, like it is doing with the Education Complex, it should improve upon its older buildings. UCF owes it to its students to provide the highest-quality learning environment it possibly can.

UCF should solicit the advice of students in the design process for classrooms. After all, who knows better what type of classroom works best to facilitate learning in college courses but college students? Students could provide quality insight into what types of class­rooms work best and what types of classrooms do not work at all.

As paying customers of the university, students deserve the best learning environment possible, in all buildings.

Letters to the Editor

We are a nation of selfish people

This is in response to Brandon Wilson's letter to the editor on March 31, "Reasons not to be in Iraq." It amazes me how selfish and blind people choose to be when they write their opinions. Brandon Wilson wrote, "I have so many problems right now in the United States that need to be fixed before we go striking other countries.

Sure, Saddam's WMDs might have been due to the number of disputations, ultimatums, and sanctions who drove war themselves in the terms of holy war and we can not ensure that the horrible behind North Korea is really linked by selling chemical weapons.

Open your eyes, we are a selfish nation ourselves. The simple because we can't offer more stories at all. Last week in literature, a story that included a tripe for a selfish action is being taught in a high learning government officials will ridicule against their families if they relate. We complain about an)

Send your letter

Don't agree with something you've read in The Future? Let us know.

Submit your letters to www.UCFfuture.com or e-mail editor@UCFfuture.com

Correction

A March 25 story, "Student services won't cut to win public opinion," identified the Progressive Council as an "Outsider" club. Although the group's membership includes students in Campus Peace Action, the sound itself has taken on the name of the club with help.
Front-line reporters embedded in bias

INSPIRED THOUGHTS

Adam Shiver

We have come across refugees fleeing Baquoa. We have seen the streets of Baghdad filled with high winds kicking up blinding sandstorms and got to see firsthand as the last of the U.S. forces left Iraq, it's one of the most American soldiers fell, this is why we are here.

The television media has become inundated with reporters' biases and opinions. It's no reason to, to make us understand the meaning of our government.

Jim Phillips, the host of Real Radio 104.1F, was speaking just recently about embedded reporters. He, along with many callers to his show, felt that independent reporters are needed in Iraq, and I have to agree with this point.

Embedded journalists are governed by the military forces that are covering, whether or not they realize it. If something unpleasant were to happen that placed the United States government or the military in a bad light, would these embedded reporters be able to report those details?

If they reported the truth, they might be expelled from the military unit they were embedded with, ending their career-making assignment. If they manipulated the coverage in favor of the military, they might sacrifice their own journalistic integrity, but their careers would continue unabashed.

An independent reporter should be free of opinions and should give it to the public straight.

A reporter's position is to be on the backside of a microphone, not fielding questions from other reporters.

Columnist Christopher Andrew was called at the office.
For the GOOD OF THE TEAM

Chris Bernhardt
STAFF WRITER

In the far too tangible world of sports, dominated by numbers and individual statistics, ways of measuring a player’s commitment to a team are tough to come by. But during the UCF baseball team’s final turn at bat in the second game of a double-header against Jacksonville State last Saturday, Ryan Bear proved just how much of a team player he truly is.

With the Knights behind 9-7 and down to their final two outs with no runners on base, the senior watched a 5-4 pitch go by and took a walk, placing the tying run on first.

It may not seem like much, especially because the next batter hit into a game-ending double play. But consider that Bear came into the game with a .19-game hitting streak and had failed to prolong that stretch in his previous three at-bats. Rather than taking an ill-advised hack at the 5-4 pitch, he sacrificed himself to give his team a better chance at winning the game.

“I just try to take the same approach every day, get good swings on balls,” Bear said. “Just trying to get anything going that we could help the team.”

Such is the way of Bear. The Knights’ first baseman just goes out and does his job every single game.

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

592 Currenty has highest slugging percentage of the Knights.
347 Currently has third-highest batting average of the Knights.
23 Number of runs Bear has scored this year. Second highest on team.

Bulls hault Knights’ rally for 8-5 win

Kristy Shonea
STAFF WRITER

The UCF baseball team rallied off four runs with two outs in the seventh inning, but it wasn’t enough, as South Florida won 8-5 Tuesday in Tampa. The loss is the second in a row for the Knights, the first time they have lost consecutive games this season.

Senior Ryan Bear sparked UCF’s two-out rally in the seventh, knocking a bases-loaded single up the middle to score Jon Cooper and David Mann. Cooper reached on a fielder’s choice and Mann drew a walk. A passed ball scored Nathan Krugt and advanced Bear to second. Bear scored when Dee Brown knocked a double down the left-field line, making the score 7-4. The threat ended when Blaine Schulte grounded out to the pitcher for the third out.

The Bulls jumped out to an early 5-0 lead in the fourth inning off UCF starter Von Lindemann. ADAM Rosche

Tennis teams extend their streaks further

Sadie Sham
STAFF WRITER

The UCF men’s and women’s tennis teams both won their matches this past week. The women’s team won its sixth consecutive match Monday afternoon, holding off Memphis 4-3 at the UCF Tennis Complex. UCF (11-6) has not lost since March 14, while the Tigers (11-6) snapped a six-match win streak. Even more impressive was the No. 71 men’s tennis team, which extended its winning streak to 17 on Sunday, edging past Florida Atlantic 6-1. In Atlantic Sun Conference action, in Evanston, The Knights, who lost only two matches on the day improved to 2-0-1. While the Owls dropped to 1-1-1.

In doubles action, the women’s tennis team won two matches to pick up the first point of the day, at No. 2, Julie Peronaci and Pamela Fernandez got past Sumitra Rao and Marlene Dimforslet, 8-4. Also winning for UCF was Marlene Gunawan and Kristina Lomanos at No. 3. The duo defeated Viktoria Grabner and Andreas Flachtfinger, 8-4. Taking the lone loss for UCF was Ola Losvik and Anna Westin, who fell to Sabrina Lindenmann and Monica Gonzalez-Gordo at the No. 1, 8-2.

Peronaci and Fernandez were in a solo game, crushing Rao at No. 3, 8-2. Lomanos held off a late comeback attempt from Grabner to earn a 6-4, 7-6. The other UCF singles victory was Fernandez, who was a 6-3, 6-3 winner Dimforslet at No. 5.

UCF’s lone senior, Marlene Gunawan, played in her final match at the UCF Tennis Complex, losing to Lexy Lindenmann at No. 1, 8-2, 6-4. The affair was the Knights’ last home event on the 2003 schedule.

Gonzalez-Gordo and Flachtfinger also secured singles wins for Memphis, beating Westin at the No. 2, 6-4, 6-7 (10-5), and Lindenmann, 6-2, 6-0 at the No. 3, respectively.

With their home schedule now complete, the Knights traveled to Tennessee for a pair of matches starting April 5 at Tennessee Tech. The trip concludes at Middle Tennessee State on April 6.

In men’s play UCF got off to a Reviving start, winning two of three doubles matches to secure the first point of the day. At No. 2, Simon Jaeger and Augusto Samara had little trouble with Oscar Plotnik and P.J. Schofield, winning 8-4. The other UCF tandem to pick up a victory was Euer Gunseby and Gabriel Stranberg at No. 3. The pair blew past Ernest Diaz and Juan Todesco, 8-2. The lone loss came from Catalin Brada and Antonio Sierra as they lost 8-5 at the No. 1 spot to David Deners and Christian Puel."
The Central Florida Future would like to graciously thank their partners, The Village at Alafaya Club and The Village at Science Drive in the fight to make cancer history!

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We would also like to say special thanks to Jonco, Inc. for the benefit night at McDonalds UCF.
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Bear made switch from right to first

FROM PAGE 12

trying to help the team as much as possible.

"He brings a lot of hardness to the baseball team," Coach Jay Bergman said. "He's a good student, a good person off the field. Real quiet person, very laid back. Very competitive."

That description also personifies his play this year, quiet but competitive. His numbers are solid but not spectacular. As of last Tuesday, he was hitting .347, third on the team behind Clay Tipper and David Mann. His six stolen bases are second to those same two. He has 21 runs batted in, tied with Dee Brown for second best. And his three home runs put him even with Blaine Schnell for tops among the Knights.

Overall the 6-0, 230-pound right-hander has been UCF's best all-around hitter, topping the team in slugging percentage (.592) and walking (15) more than he strikes out (10). Yet Bear isn't fully satisfied.

"I'm still not 100 percent," Bear said. "My swing, where it needs to be, there's still definitely room for improvement. But it's an everyday thing working to improve that."

Though he began the year batting further down in the lineup, his performance has turned him into the team's clean-up hitter. It's a role he enjoys because of the opportunities to drive in runs. His stepping up in the middle of the order has been with a home run, 16 RBIs and four stolen bases.

"He played in the outfield in 2002, where he proved to be a solid fielder with a strong arm. He was originally penciled in as the starting right fielder this season, but once Mann proved himself capable of playing left field, a reshuffling of the defense became necessary," Bergman said. "Bear made switch from right to first, as of late the rest of the Knight's power hitters have struggled to find consistency."

"He's a great job for us offensively," Bergman said. "He's been batting at clean-up spot, and that's a hard place to bat because you're always going to get curveballs and a lot of hard pitches."

After spending two years at Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City, Bear transferred to UCF and started 20 games last season. He hit .385 in 59 games overall, with a home run, 18 RBIs and four stolen bases. He played in the outfield in 2002, where he proved to be a solid fielder with a strong arm. He was originally penciled in as the starting right fielder this season, but once Mann proved himself capable of playing left field, a reshuffling of the defense became necessary.

"We've got a bunch of younger guys that look up to us seniors, and I think it's good for us to come in and work hard every day," Bear said. "Have a good work ethic and show them how to work hard and how to come out and play hard every day."

As a senior, Bear fills a natural leadership role. There are only two other seniors among the Knights - everyday position players - Wallace and second baseman Nathan Krug - further enhancing the need for seniors to provide younger players with a model for success.

"We've got a bunch of younger guys that look up to us seniors, and I think it's good for us to come in and work hard every day," Bear said. "Have a good work ethic and show them how to work hard and how to come out and play hard every day."

Whether at the plate, in the field or in the dugout, Bear has been one of the most valuable players on the team. Through the Golden Knights' 8-6 record in 2003, Bear leads the team in batting average (.429), second in RBIs (16), third in stolen bases (6), and ninth in walks (15). He has demonstrated his ability to come through in the clutch, as he has hit four home runs and eight RBIs in the past six games.

"He's been the heart of our lineup," Coach Jay Bergman said. "He's been consistent all year, hitting in the .300s and driving in runs. He's had a good year so far and will continue to be a key player for us this season."

Cupp and Best earn conference honors

The Atlantic Sun Conference announced Monday that UCF's Marissa Cupp has been named the women's softball league's Pitcher of the Week, while Stephanie Best took Player of the Week honors for the second consecutive week. It marks the second time this season that UCF players have captured both the pitcher and player of the week honor.

Cupp, the A-Sun's Preseason Player of the Year, made three appearances over the past week, pitching 20 innings, striking out 24 and allowing only one earned run. She finished the week with a 2-1 record, including two shutout wins. She had an impressive 0.83 ERA and pitched her second one-hitter of the year in a 3-0 win over Georgia State.

Best finished the week with a .429 batting average and a .722 on-base percentage. She slammed two home runs for the week, pushing her season total to 11. Best was 9-for-21 at the plate, hitting .429 with 16 RBIs and four stolen bases.

"It is the third time Best has earned the player of the week honor this season, while Cupp is the second Knight to be named the pitcher of the week this year," Coach Jay Bergman said.

The Knights travel to Nashville to play Lipscomb on Friday, followed by an Atlantic Sun game against Belmont on Saturday.

Larsen leads UCF at Florida Relays

Sophomore Ann Larsen highlighted the list of UCF women's track and field athletes at the Florida Relays on Friday.

Larsen placed 11th in the high jump with a mark of 5-feet, 6-inches - short the NCAA Regional qualifying mark of 5-feet, 7-inches that she has achieved on two previous occasions this season.

Other top-20 performances came in the 1500-meter event. Freshman Astrid Claessens placed 14th with a time of 4:54.09, followed by sophomore Amy Giles in 15th at 4:54.50.

Meanwhile, freshman Kim Wuppah shaved time off her season best with a time of 14:43 in the 100-meter hurdles, while sophomore Valerie Martinez erased a hundredth of a second of her season best in the 300-meter hurdles, finishing in 32.93.

Freshman Andrea Morrow

SEE Morrow on 15
Morrow broke own record in steeplechase

From Page 14

broke her own record as she placed fourth in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the Florida Relays on Thursday.

It was the third in a row -- shattering her previous record of 11:48.02, which she set at the UCF Invitational on March 8. That mark also stands as a UCF Stadium record.

On the day, senior Kelly Roloff earned 4,872 points to finish sixth in the heptathlon.

On the day, senior Kelly Roloff earned 4,872 points to finish sixth in the heptathlon.

Men's tennis ends season April 12

From Page 12

On the singles courts, the Knights won all but one match. Brady was a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Denver's No. 1, Sajid Butt, in the first match. The Golden Knights defeated Scheinfeld, 8-2, 6-0 at No. 2. At the No. 4 spot, Sierra was victorious, holding off Jeremy Perez, 6-4, 6-0. Jaeger was also a speedster, beating Diaz, 7-0, 6-3 in a feisty No. 5 match. Garvey recovered for a 5-7, 6-3, 11-9 win over Plutnik. Paiz was the only Owl to win in a solo event.

The match was the final stend for UCF which boosted its 4-5 record to a perfect 5-0. Since losing to Alabama-Birmingham on Jan. 25, the Golden have won all 17 of their matches.

On noon April 12, the men's team will conclude the 2003 regular-season schedule with a home match against South Florida at the UCF Tennis Complex.

Crew earns third consecutive Petrakis Cup

Jon Kutilek STAFF WRITER

The UCF women's rowing team earned nine first-place finishes out of 10 last Saturday on the way to their third consecutive Petrakis Cup.

The Knights, who placed second in competition against such colleges as Stetson University, the Florida Institute of Technology, University of Central Florida, and Jacksonville University although the winner of the Petrakis Cup was determined by the overall points between UCF and Jacksonville.

The varsity 4+ boat, consisting of rowers Keleio Luedtke, Aimee Cooper, Amy Price, Crystal Weiss, Tanya Kanzler, Maya Fisher, Natalie

fundamentals of baseball, basketball, cheerleading, soccer and football in the style of a sports camp. The women's and men's basketball teams led a clinic in the UCF Arena, where LaShey King a freshman guard on the women's team, gave participants pointers during passing.

"I love working with the kids," she said. "They're having so much fun."

Beyond Jay Bergman Stadium, 5-year-old Brandon Mitchell, who is taking advantage of his time with the men's soccer players as his mother Cindy documented the day with her camera. Of course, if the size of the smiles were any indication, it might be debatable who was having more fun — the Knights or the children.

Mike Spence, a long-time participant, stood the underlying message. "It's really great to give back," said the coachkeeper, whose teammates were teaching the kids the best way to celebrate after scoring. "I remember being a kid and coming to an event like this. It really helped build my confidence."

On an adjacent field, senior guard Doug Gabrielson was teaching budding football players how to tackle one of his passers, while Assistant Head Coach Alan Good looked on.

"The players love to be the coaches and work with kids," said Good, a long-time participant in the program. "This event is a great opportunity for UCF to show the community what we're about."

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**LINNIA BROWN STAFF WRITER**

Thursday, April 3

"AUSTRALIA TRIP"

Ensemble Island of Australia theme park will offer fun attractions to the 2000 UCF students who will visit Greece, simple- ments of the Greek Addiction for all 100 students. Participating Greek women will also offer free admission to all 100 students. Art will open at 9 p.m., 7:30 and 11:30 in the Greece and Pat Tellows. R.R. and up at free Greek women. (Screaming mondays), 4/20/1219.

Friday, April 4

**Bongo bean bliss party**

Hello, Bongo Fans, both "in the Beak," an evident/fish/food event that will include their entertainment by Kevan M. and The Legendary Joint Speed, as well as beer and mamacita event. Beginning at 5 p.m., we'll be held and Sunday, the 25 even chance includes an admission to Vacation. Visit Street Corner. The family, the fox has been. One free drink at the ballroom DJs in downtown Tonight: $3 4/20/1219.

Saturday, April 5

**Belly dancing class**

We take the time off work to improve belly dance class, taught by Midnight-class dance students every Friday. Learn how to perform mbre, variant and traditional belly dance, as well as incorporate little belly dance, with belly dance. Course 1 price only $20. (Weiner, Gloves, and American glasses.) Course 1 price only $20. Classes are held 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 3099 (mower to 4, 32010), 4/21/1219.

Sunday, April 6

"The start" at the house of man. Fun will find the event, which will become Downey Baby House of Black. Bell Grand opening event and are open, with their beer "The start" will be done, and we know how to keep the main stage down. **I know that evening** and the Start will also perform. Tonight open at 6 p.m., show at 7 p.m. The $5 cover charge is advance and $7 for the day of the show. 4/21/1219.

Monday, April 7

**A show in the pub**

Pub hosts a night of open-mic hip hop with a live band. The night will be from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. at 407-415. Cost is $5 cover charge. 4/22/1219.

Tuesday, April 8

**Waves**

Chamber Music at Cafe in Sunset Park hosts "A Beach in the Casual Solar" deals every Tuesday. The event features participants from various parts of the world and different styles, including a belly dance. Cost is $5 cover charge. 4/22/1219.

Wednesday, April 9

"Seven Days of the Week" are Trapped Down from Sunglasses and more! Hot from the "Seven Days" are 1980s, 1990s, and 80s T-shirt. The band will be from 9 p.m. at 3051. (407-647-6661, end up. 4/23/1219.

Thursday, April 10

"Chicano and Border" an exhibit that takes a closer look at the Chicano/a history and culture. The exhibit opens April 15 and runs through May 25. (407-647-6661. 4/24/1219.

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**Astrology, Tarot card enthusiasts look to unornodox methods for understanding**

**Becky Kulchak STAFF WRITER**

For Colleen Datz, astrology means more than choosing her daily horoscope. Datz believes in numerology and reading the positions of the stars as a way to better interpret herself and the world around her.

"The best part about astrology is that it really helps you understand other people," the 25-year-old senior said. "It is insight into the inner, more secret sides of their personality." Astrology existed long before Christianity, dating to 5,000 B.C. as a Hindu tool to determine which karmic stage a person's soul had reached. It was first developed by ancient cultures as a way of examining the relationship between people on Earth and orbiting bodies in outer space.

Today's pop culture mostly regards astrology as mere entertainment. Some associate zodiac symbols with psycho-delic revivals of the 1950s and '70s, or even with cheesy pick-up lines ("What's your sign?"). Followers of sun-signs and tarot card readings, however, view astrology as a helpful tool in deciphering daily trials and tribulations. As recently as the presidency of Ronald Reagan in the 1980s, First Lady Nancy Reagan famously consulted an astrologer to advise her husband on the timing of his actions and pronouncements.

"With astrology all the planets share in shaping your personality." - COLLEEN DATZ STAFF WRITER

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**8 minutes and counting down to true love**

**Linnea Brown STAFF WRITER**

I need a drink. fast. That was my first thought as I barged approximately into Ybor's Martini Bar last Tuesday evening for "5-Minute Dating," a speed-dating event where young, single hopefuls congregate to pair up with eight eligible "dates" for eight minutes each.

"Are you here for the event?" a muscular bottle asked, smiling disarmingly. "I'm Ezra Simmons, the event coordinator." Heh, baby. Unfortunately, Simmons then introduced me to the other event organizer — his girlfriend.

Oh, well. I just hoped my "date" of this evening would be that hot.

I glanced quickly into the crowded bar area, where a crowd of co-ed, nametag-toting twentiesomethings sipped Martini, struggling to appear sophisticated as they sized up their prospects.

Well, the guys sized up their prospects. The cleavage-bearing women, on the other hand, sized up their competition — as females usually do.

I suddenly felt like I was at a middle-school dance...or a mid-twentieth century cocktail bar.

"Can't believe I'm doing this," I confessed to Simmons, laughing, as he handed me a nametag and a dating card with my 5-digit code name: "Linnia 131." "Now no one is allowed to ask for your phone number; last name or phone number; or a second date," Simmons explained. "If you want to see the person again, you mark them down on your scorecard as either 'dating,' 'friendship' or 'business,' and then enter your choices on the Web site afterwards. You only receive each other's information if they also pick you for the same category."

I thanked Simmons and made a beeline for the bar, joining the expectant crowd of 39 soon-to-be serial daters.

I ordered the strongest-looking 8 citrus martini on the menu, hoping its alcohol content would ease my pre-date jitters. A few sips later, I was bonding with two girls standing next to me.

"Looks like there's a dress code for the guys tonight," one of them muttered, giggling. As noted that most of the men had donned exactly the same classic "guy" outfit — a blue long-sleeved, button-down shirt, tucked into khakis with a brown belt and brown shoes.

A bell sounded, signaling the start of the event. Fired up with the liquid encouragement of the martini, I confidently bopped over to table...
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Love across the ocean

How one student deals with her fiancé serving in the war

ALEX BARCOCK STAFF WRITER

Heather Smith met her fiancé at their church about a year ago through a mutual friend. Though they plan to wed in the summer of 2004, Smith knows she will spend this month's anniversary alone, while John Beamer serves overseas in Iraq.

Beamer, 25, and a senior at UCF, was called to active duty in early January, destined to serve in Kuwait as a corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps reserve.

Near the old Cold War Navel Training Center, Beamer's reserve base spent two weeks preparing trucks to be shipped overseas. The trucks are Beamer's passion, Smith says. He's always wanted to know how Humvees, tanks, and other heavy machinery worked.

The couple spent little time together in the days before Beamer's departure, the two said goodbye on Jan. 27.

"At the reserve center, I saw him walk away through the gate," said the 21-year-old junior said. "It was kind of tough."

"This is not the first time their relationship has been long-distance — Smith moved to Washington, D.C., for the summer of 2002 — but it definitely will be the most challenging."

"I think we've pretty much fallen in love over the phone and through letters," she said. "He's a good man. He's intelligent. He's respectful. He's just wonderful."

Smith has tracked Beamer's location as best she can.

From Orlando, Beamer flew to Camp Pendleton in California for a three-week course. He flew to Kuwait in early February. Assigned to Camp Coyote, 30 miles south of the Iraqi border, Beamer was involved in more training, more practice loading the trucks and more combat preparation. He spent the cold desert nights in a tent, is thin canvas his only separation from the harsh sandstorms.

Their phone conversations were fairly frequent until the second weekend of March, when Beamer's superiors cut communication because of the impending war. "He told me not to worry if I didn't hear from him, that he was OK."

Smith continues to write letters almost every day, even though Beamer can't write back. "I ask him if he's sleeping OK, if he's warm at night, how they're treating him, what the weather's like," she said. "A lot of 'I love yous' and 'I miss yous'."

Because of a military policy that discourages mail from non-family members, Smith said she writes "Heather Beamer" on her return address, and also has sent mail through Beamer's mother, to get around the rule.

In preparation for their upcoming anniversary, Smith said, she bought a gift for the two to share — a star registered with the International Star Register. "He always writes at the end of his letters. No matter where we are, we're always looking at the same stars," she said. "This way we both have something over the distance."

John is Chrishell Beamer's only child. Since Beamer left for Kuwait, Smith has paid weekly visits to his mother. Smith said those visits have brought the two closer and given Smith more insight into John's younger years.

"I get to hear all of his childhood stories, and she broke out all of the baby-picture books ... a lot of stuff I probably wouldn't be allowed to see if he were here," Smith said.

Chrishell Beamer is glad the visits have allowed her to get to know Smith better. She delights in Smith's involvement as president of the campus organization, ROCK, or Rebuilding on a Conservative Kernerstone, through which Smith has led several pro-war, pro-American rallies.

"It is wonderful that she's involved in that, that she's willing to stand up for what she believes in," Chrishell Beamer said.

At a recent gathering of families hosted by the Marine reserve center, one soldier's mother told Smith of a letter she'd received from her son. "He said, 'Does anyone ever there support us? All I see is anti-war,'" Smith said. "That's the saddest thing I've ever heard."

Smith says the argument used by those who say they support the troops, but not the war, is senseless. "That's like saying I'm for the carpenter, but not for making the house. She said, "There's just not an occupation out there where you don't support what the whole point of their job is."

The reserve center has suggested that families can help their loved ones by making care packages. Smith says she's currently working with other families to get desert scarves to the troops.

Writing letters, sending gifts and organizing rallies has kept Smith active and kept her anxiety to a minimum, but she says the news coverage still makes her nervous. She routinely sees coverage of Marines shot and killed. "You just pray that it's not him," she said.

Beamer's deployment order ends a year from his departure, which means he could be back in January. Smith says orders from the president have extended that commitment, though, and soldiers may be kept for up to two years.

"He said he had a feeling that they'd be able to come home before Christmas," Smith said. "He said he'd let me know as soon as he found out."

Until then, Smith lives with photographs, memories and a set of dog tags the two share. She gave him a tag with her name on it made before he left, and she wears one of his while they are apart.

"She'll keep writing him letters, she said, and watching their star at night."

SMITH SAW a picture of her fiancé John Beamer, a Marine stationed in Kuwait, when she was 18. She bought a gift for the two to share — a star registered with the International Star Register. "He always writes at the end of his letters. No matter where we are, we're always looking at the same stars," she said. "This way we both have something over the distance."

John is Chrishell Beamer's only child. Since Beamer left for Kuwait, Smith has paid weekly visits to his mother. Smith said those visits have brought the two closer and given Smith more insight into John's younger years.
Tarot cards used for centuries to explain present, future events

FROM PAGE 16

"I've been into astrology since I was in high school. My friend Angie and I used to have all the books, and we spent most of our time in class casting each other's charts," Datz said.

Casting a chart involves determining the positions of the planets as they relate to the time, date and location of a person's birth. Those positions translate into a person's astrological signs.

"I'm an Aquarius but I have a Capricorn moon, which means that I'm really free-thinking and open but at the same time I can be serious-minded," she said.

A third factor, known as the "ascendant" sign, represents the sign of the zodiac that was rising in the Eastern sky at the time of a person's birth.

"Your sun sign is how other people see you and your moon sign is how you see yourself, but your ascendant is how you really are," Datz said.

In addition to planetary birth charts, those interested in astrology often perform tarot card readings.

"When reading the cards, it is important to know their placement for interpretation purposes," Wilhoit said.

Oftentimes, becoming involved with astrology and tarot readings means overcoming personal stereotypes or the judgments of others.

Wilhoit remembers her first tarot experience.

"It wasn't at all like I expected, but I think it was because it was my friend who did it. I associate psychics and fortune tellers with thick-accented gypsies in the movies, and my friend is just a normal girl — I didn't even know she was into that kind of stuff."
8 minutes can seem like eternity with some dates

FROM PAGE 16

eight (labeled with a place card) to meet my first date, "Sean 014." Sean was cool. A 25-year-old lawyer, he was tall and cute, in an intellectual, basketball player sort of way. He talked fast, smiled a lot and had great teeth. Definitely a good catch. But ... no sparks. When the bell chimed at the end of eight minutes, we smiled, shook hands and walked off to meet our next matches.

I headed over to table 12, where 24-year-old "Luis 650" was waiting on a couch seat. Dark-haired, laid-back and 28-year-old, he looked like a normal guy, had typical jobs, Kevin, a young, hot pharmaceutical sales representative graduate. We made me feel a little better about girls who'd gotten eight minutes or my life.

As a grand finale, Simmons also announced a surprise bonus date, which I shared with Luis, 25-year-old who shared my passion for the man himself, Prince. It's amazing how much you can talk about in about eight minutes.

When we had finished the first four dates, Simmons announced a 20-minute break. I grabbed my drink and retreated to the ladies room, where girls were already comparing stories around afterward chatting with each other.

My seventh and eighth dates were actually both really fun, interesting guys, people that I'd love to hang out with sometime as friends, although I still didn't really feel any fireworks.

I talked about traveling with Chris, a 25-year-old archaeologist who told me all about conquering typhoid fever in Peru ... and I talked about music with Dave, a 25-year-old who shared my passion for the man himself, Prince. It's amazing how much you can talk about in about eight minutes.

As a grand finale, Simmons announced a surprise bonus date, which I shared with Luis, 25-year-old who shared my passion for the man himself, Prince. It's amazing how much you can talk about in eight minutes.

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Military rations becoming tastier

GORDON DILLON
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER (AP)

Veterans who remember the canned C-ration meals of earlier military wars may not believe it. But the U.S. military has finally come up with standard issue field rations that actually taste pretty good — assuming you don’t mind eating your meals out of brown plastic bags.

“Meals Ready-to-Eat,” or MREs, can include different menus, ranging from pastas to burgers, pancakes, and more. Each MRE entree comes with a disposable side-dish — rice pilaf, potato sticks, Chinese rice, etc. Snacks such as M&Ms and cheese or peanut butter that can be spread on a vegetable cracker for fiber are also included. Lack of fiber apparently was a problem with earlier versions of MREs, earning them the nickname “Meals Refusing to Eat.”

The menu slowly changes over time, with some of the less popular items being phased out. For example, the ham and egg omelet entrees, known to Marines as “Devil Man in a Bag” because of an unpleasant aroma and greenish hue to the eggs, is no more. The so-called “Four Fingers of Death” — four hotdogs in a bag with beans — is also on its way out.

Each entree comes with a side dish — rice pilaf, potato sticks, Mexican rice, etc. Snacks such as M&Ms, and cheese or peanut butter that can be spread on a vegetable cracker for fiber are also included. Lack of fiber apparently was a problem with earlier versions of MREs, earning them the nickname “Meals Refusing to Eat.”

“Meals Refusing to Eat.” Poor quality in the earlier versions of MREs also resulted in them being dubbed “Meals Refused by Martines.”

Each MRE also comes with an accessory packet: plasstic spoon, nested luencheon, packet of salt, sugar, cocoa or testers. Choice instant coffee, powdered creamer, a small packet of delight paper, Chiquelita gum and marshmallows. Unlike in the old days, the new health-conscious military no longer includes mini-gpacks of cigarettes with field rations.

Heating the MRE entrees and side dishes is simple, since each MRE comes with a disposable “ flameless ration heater.” Pour the entire bag in the heater bag, add a little water and a chemical reaction produces heat to warm the food. Virtually every Marine agrees that without heating, the MREs are awful — and even when heated, the popularity of any given MRE varies from Marine to Marine.

“I like the chicken and sausages,” says Lance Cpl. Nema Shpee, 22, with the 1st Marine Division at Camp Matilda. “It’s the one that tastes most like real food.”

“A lot of people like the beef patty,” says Lance Cpl. Ben White of Murietta, with the 1st Battalion of the 5th Marine Regiment at Camp Grizzly. “The best performed in the pork chow mein. I got that three days in a row once.”
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