Senate approves $10.5 million budget

Changes include less funding for Greeks, raises for maintenance staff

Despite long lines, turnout makes Universal event a success

Michael Newman
STAFF WRITER

More than 7,000 students gathered at the gates of Islands of Adventure Thursday night, all hoping to attend the most expensive Student Government Association event of the year. The first 7,000 walked through the gates free; hundreds more who showed up either paid $19.95 to join the event or were turned away, disgruntled, refusing to buy tickets for the after-hours event that was funded by their student activity fees.

Ultimately, 2,500 students did choose to fork over the money and by the end of the evening, 7,500 students had piled into the theme park, making "Universal Knights" the largest gathering of students this year, according to Student Body President Marco Pefa.

"I didn’t expect 7,000 people to show up: I thought the line would come," he said.

Despite the large crowds that amassed outside the ticket booths, where lines moved only inches at a time, students remained well-behaved, said Jim McCrystal, an Islands of Adventure security official.

"I was actually dirtwalking this [last] week with the exception of a few words, it was pretty orderly," he said.

Students grew somewhat more aggressive after an announcement at 9 p.m. that only 500 more students would be admitted into the park.

Many pushed their way toward the booths, eager to snatch one of the few remaining tickets. Gate officials ordered students back. Others began to cut through lines. Those who were caught were sent back to the back of the line. By 9:15 p.m., the free tickets had officially run out.

Sophomore Andrea Halpern, 19, was left standing outside. She didn’t want to pay to get into the event, for which SGA spent $12,000.

"We got there at 7:30 p.m.," Halpern said. "We were close [to the booth] when we found out the free tickets were sold out. So we left."

Clinton speaks at UF

Alex Barock
STAFF WRITER

GAINESVILLE — Former President Bill Clinton delivered a message of hope for world peace at the University of Florida on Thursday. A packed O’Connell Center cheered throughout Clinton’s speech about global security.

Students and the general public filled the Gainesville university’s basketball arena to hear the speech, with a capacity crowd of 10,000 in attendance, an estimated 300 to 400 people were turned away.

The stadium buzzed with conversation only slightly softer than the sound of saxophone music as the crowd awaiting Clinton’s appearance. Accents, the UF student government speakers bureau that organized the event, kept the time of the speech secret for security reasons.

When Clinton climbed the stairs to the stage at 4:45 p.m., the crowd greeted him with applause!

Congressman wants bill to cap tuition

Joe Harless
STAFF WRITER

An embattled state across the nation consider tuition hikes for public colleges and universities. A California lawmaker is calling for a law to cap tuition and sanction campuses that raise tuition by more than 5.2 percent a year.

If Republican U.S. Rep. Howard P. McKeon’s measure to restrict tuition passes, colleges in at least 16 states, including Florida, would be subject to the new law. The measure would allow the U.S. government to cancel federal student aid programs — including loans, grants and work study — on campuses that raised tuition by more than double the national average, currently 2.6 percent.

State legislators announced earlier this year that Florida would raise tuition rates for public colleges by 15.5 percent next year.

Greg Schuerckman, director of federal relations for UCF, said despite the fact that Florida already has one of the lowest tuition rates in the nation, it would still fall into McKeon’s category of schools who are raising tuition rates by too much, too fast.

The average cost of attending a Florida public college or university in 2002-2003 was about $8,700, the national average sits around $3,718.

"The bill would inadvertently target Florida, even though the bill has no specific targets other than the schools that have doubled the rate of inflation," Schuerckman said.

Schuerckman said the university
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Uniforin focus

The U.S. Army Training Corps has become a target at two college campuses as protests of U.S. military action against Iraq increased.

University of New Mexico officials are investigating three separate instances of messages being spray-painted on university buildings after the war started, including the one that honored the Navy and Air Force ROTC. The messages included "Bush is a terrorist" and "War is murder." No one claimed responsibility for the defacements.

Similar graffiti and vandalism at the University of Iowa prompted officials to try to camouflage military presence on the campus by dropping flags painted on two uniform uniforms to class.

Lt. Col. Carol S. John, a professor of military science who oversees the University of Iowa's ROTC program, insists that the physical safety of the 120 cadets in the program was not at issue.

Nevertheless, she says, "many cadets walk around campus, and if they see them there, they are a very large profile. There are anti-war protests on campus. Some are emotional young people who may not respond appropriately."

Early one morning, campus police officers discovered 10 spray-painted messages at the entrances to the ROTC building had been smeared. The words "Freedom dies when bombs don't," "U.S. ARMY" and "[expurgated]" were found spray-painted on four other buildings on the campus the same morning.

The ROTC at the University of Miami is one of the few campus camp­aign groups of the university. Against War, says the organization does not support the conten­tion of the ROTC.

But, she says, some people in the uni­versity movement at Miami do not support, being in the ROTC. "There is a lot of feeling that people are being used by the ROTC," Ms. John says.

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Miami's anti-Bush liders are trying to raise tuition

University of Miami officials are trying to raise tuition for both in-state and out-of-state students.

This month, the university's Board of Trustees will consider a plan that would charge Ohio residents the higher tuition that out-of-state students now pay. If the plan is approved, which Miami's administration and trustees expect, the university would become the first public institution in the country to charge one rate, according to many higher-education officials.

This year, Miami's in-state students, who made up about 50% of the university's student body, pay $8,600. The university's one-time tuition hike is 5%.

If the new policy is adopted, higher rates would hit both Ohio residents entering the university in the fall of 2004, it would not apply to current students.

Under the plan, Ohio residents would still pay less than their peers from other states, however. That's because they would automatically receive a scholarship award equal to at least the amount that state-law­makers annually provide the university for each of its students.

Some in-state students also would receive a new form of aid under the new Ohio Scholarship, which would be awarded to stu­dents with financial need or special and additional stimulus for students to stay in Ohio, such as engineering; that the university does serve to the state's economic development.


From Page 1

with a standing, jubilant roar of appla­use.

Clinton attempted to address the crowd, but the cheering drowned him out. He paused and checked on the continuing applause, then began his speech.

Over the course of his hour­long address, the former pres­i­dent spoke of Iraq, terrorism, and the challenges of the new milen­nium — bringing the cultures of the world together.

Before diving into the details of a world in transition, though, Clinton made a non-partisan reference to the current conflict in Iraq.

As a man who once sent troops into battle himself, he said, "We ought to want those people, their commanders and their President Bush to know that we're pushing for them, and we're praying for them, and we hope it will be over as soon as possible."

Though he occasionally stopped on addresses current events in Iraq, Afghanistan and North Korea, Clinton kept his speech a broader focus for much of his speech. The world, Clinton said, has converged in the view that global interdependence.

Societies and cultures, now forced together, have yet to inte­grate. This lack of integration, he said, has caused strained rela­tionships that, ultimately, terrorism.

"Whether by trade or travel, hy immigration or information technology, by shared cultural experiences or shared scientific endeavor, or shared vulnerability to terrorism, we simply cannot escape each other," Clinton said.

"Like it or not, our fates are hound up with one another."

The central theme of the speech — increased cooperation — included references to the United Nations and America's recent tendency for unilateral­ism. Though he said the United States should never give up its right to act unilaterally, he added, "We ought to bend over backwards to build a world where we are sharing responsibility, sharing burdens, sharing values."

He encouraged students to involve themselves in bringing cultures closer together. He said the generation currently in college should lead the world from interdependence and strife to interdependence and integra­tion.

"We all do better when we work together," he said.

Globalisation is the greatest man who died during Clinton's life­time, he said. "When Bill died," he said, "Bill died. And Clinton appreciated every culture, every religion. If the world could learn to understand its neighbors, their cultures and religions, Clinton said, it could end the ignorance that precip­i­tates conflicts and, "there will be no more them, there will be only us."

Clinton criticized the Bush administration's decision to fight Iran without UN support, saying it undermines the legitimacy of the United States: "If you didn't go on some­thing unless you got your way 100 percent of the time, you would be no marriage," Clinton said.

Ironically he criticized the way the Bush administration is handling North Korea's nuclear program, which Clinton said is the one current example where the world expects the United States to handle a problem uni­laterally, and the administration refuses to do so.

Clinton said the United States must convince North Korea to halt its weapons pro­grams and allow inspections again, something done during Clinton's time in office. In exchange, the United States should give North Korea food aid and a non-aggression pact.

Essentially, Clinton said, "we shouldn't pay for the same thing twice."
The Bush adminis­tration cut off aid to North Korea when it openly restarted its nuclear program last year.

In what may have re­ferenced the current debate in Washington weighting national security and freedom, Clinton praised the university.

"Here, ideas matter, and open, honest discussion is encouraged, not attacked," he said.

Clinton's reception of the homecoming student popula­tion. He said he would welcome the warm welcome he received in 1992 when he first spoke at the school, during his campaign for office.

Eleven years later students were still eager to listen to Clinton. Freshman Matt de Vlieger 13, dropped in from the other end of campus Peace Action for a glimpse of Clinton. de Vlieger said Clinton tried to reach out to everyone, Democrats and Republicans alike, and his speech captivated everyone.

"Our group isn't out in front of the blowtorch. At first, the kid was laughing at everything he said, but by the end, he was enthralled," de Vlieger said. "He had his hands under his chin, and he was just lecturing, just taking it in."

UFO junior Maria Hill, 20, agreed that Clinton's explana­tion of the world's political climate was easy to understand, and she appreciated his non-partisan sentiment.

Most of the speech, she said, was anti-Bush. It was non­partisan, "the way politics should be," Hill said.

Groups hope to promote patriotism with rally

Brandon Harlin

Rebuilding on a Conservative Cornerstone and the UCF College Republicans host a "Support Our Troops" rally from noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday in front of the UCF Library.

The event will feature speakers, music, voter registration drives and a balloon drop, a memorial service for those who have died in Iraq. The event will also include Band, and a free lunch.

The event also will raise funds for the American Red Cross, which will benefit from donations given to thank soldiers and their families.

Former Smith, president of ROCK, explained that the rally is a way to show support for the troops fighting overseas. "Our group loves this country and loves the troops who fight to protect this great country," Smith said.

"This rally is the least we can do to thank the troops and support for our troops," Kyle Coulidise, pres­ident of the UCF College Republicans, said that his group would put on an event that would show "what they feel is the majesty of theAmerican com­munity.

Smith said: "Anti-war people have done their protesting and have been hos­tile-pro-American and troops messages, but now is the time the anti-war people should start doing more productive things with their power than just attacking Saddam and his oppressive, tyranny regime."

COl1n and Considerit stressed that the rally is not pro-war, saying, "I don't think on campus wants a war." Considerit said.

Considerit and Coulidise explained: "The rally is about pro-troops and pro-America and supporting the world in this war on ter­rorism."

They added that it is vital that in showing support for our troops that we also show support for people who are fighting the mission, like supporting the fireman, because they are putting them out that fire.

Our soldiers need our support in their mission now more than any other time."

Added Considerit: "We hope that this rally will show [us] that we're actually supporting patriotism and the pride of our country."

Send comments to cffnews@ucf.edu. News is printed on the morning of the day newspapers are delivered. The opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editorial staff or the Student Government Association.
Long lines spoiled fun for some

FROM PAGE 1

Hundreds of other students felt the same way and went home instead. “You might as well come when you can have the whole day and pay the full price,” sophomore Jennifer Mansfield, 20, said. Peña, too, wanted the event to be longer, but budget constraints prevented that from happening. “The senate was not behind it,” Peña said. “If they supported it, we could have found more money to pay for it.”

Senior Anthony Drum, 21, came to the park prepared for anything. “I came ready to pay $50.”

Freshman Billy Wells, 19, didn’t mind paying a discounted rate to get into the park. “I’m not too mad about paying the $20; it’s better than $50.”

Wells, however, complained the event was chaotic and rowdy at times, particularly in front of the gates. “There was a massive amount of people getting into the park, pushing and shoving and cutting into the line,” Wells said. “They should have had more ropes or something better organized.”

Yet students were left with no other choice than to endure the lines if they wanted to enter the park. SGA did not make tickets available to students in advance.

Peña said handing out advance tickets last year for a similar night at Wet N Wild was ineffective because several students who claimed tickets days before never showed up.

Other students, such as, senior Michael Resta, 22, complained the lines inside the park were too long. “I only went on three rides, which lasted 10 minutes, but waited in line four hours,” he said.

Peña said that Universal led him to believe the lines would be shorter as opposed to what students might have experienced during regular park hours.

Many students were disappointed to find that the park’s most popular coasters, Dueling Dragons, The Hulk and Dr. Doom, closed at 11 p.m. because of an Orange County noise ordinance.

Peña said he had to negotiate with park officials to keep the rides open until 11 p.m. The event lasted until midnight.

“I know that two or three rides closed at 11 p.m.,” he said, “Universal originally wanted to close them at 10 p.m., and I said we wouldn’t do it if that happened. So they pushed it back.”

Despite some complaints, senior Billy Russell, 22, called the event a good time. “The lines were long, but we got over that.”

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Law would penalize 12.5 percent Florida hike

FROM PAGE 1

already manages to keep its costs low despite the current economic downturn, McKeon’s bill could make that impossible without severely curtailing university services and programs.

“Tuition hikes would require drastic changes,” Schuckman said. “People are seeing the increases and knowing what raises the cost of attending college, it would also make it harder to keep the cost of attending university-funded grants and scholarships, to pay for their education.”

Additionally, UCF Police have tightened up on policy to combat a possible attack. This tightening includes the addition of two canine units to the department. Uhrle said the canine unit would help with the psychological toll that terrorism and war can take on the UCF community. “Terrorism and war can take on a regular basis.”

Regular drills conducted by the fire department on campus also have helped prepare for a terror attack. The response to a recent mock fire in the Biological Sciences Building demonstrated the department’s team work, he said. “We have the most experienced medical, weather and fire response,” said Uhrle.

The UCF administration has prepared for situations such as terrorist attacks with the “UCF Emergency Management Plan.” The plan advises members of the community of UCF’s procedures for dealing with emergencies. Additionally, the UCF Police coordinate with the Department of Environmental Health and Safety offers information for students on the homeland security warning system. In addition to bolstering security on campus, UCF has prepared to deal with the psychological toll that terrorism and war can take on the UCF community.

Yochum says the students should not only have an emergency plan with family members, but also with co-workers and classmates. This should include where to meet and how to get in touch with each other.

UCF’s safety precautions extend to students studying abroad. Lauren Johnson, director of the UCF Study abroad program, said she has added information to student orientations about the importance of communication in case of an emergency. Johnson added that she is advising students who need to keep a low profile and avoid large gatherings of Americans or Western “hangouts.”

Preparing for the worst

DANIELLE DEPALEI STAFF WRITER

Since U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge warned Americans in February of possible terror attacks on soft targets, including college campuses, the UCF administration has implemented updated policies in order to ensure students’ safety in the event of an attack.

According to James Uhrle Jr., director of UCF homeland security, the incident within the Department of Environmental Health and Safety, one way the campus has prepared for possible terrorist attacks is by adding security to the campus utility infrastructures and key buildings around campus.

McKeon’s law wouldn’t punish colleges that reduce tuition costs, he said. People are seeing the increases in tuition and wondering how the college would eburn future costs.

Ultimately, the U.S. Department of Education would decide which tuition raises are appropriate, and what raises warrant penalties.

Tuition is measured in several ways. "Hustidet says. "How can an institution give a rational explanation as to why they are increasing their tuition?"

More than 12 percent of the college’s student body is paying out-of-state tuition.

"Students seem skeptical too. "Senior, Jenny Stewart views McKeon’s plan as a "Catch-22." While the proposed bill could keep the cost of attending college down, it would also make it more difficult for students, who rely on university-funded grants and scholarships, to pay for their education.

"It might help regulate tuition, but a lot of people are hurt at UCF on loans and scholarships," she said. "I don’t think this is the best way to deal with this."

While most UCF don’t believe this measure is an effective way to curb the cost of college tuition, Schuckman admits that McKeon’s bill has some favorable aspects.

It will allow students to apply for federal Pell Grants year-round and will raise the maximum award from $4,000 to $4,500. The law also will create a transfer credit policy that would make it easier for students to transfer credits from one school to another.

"Some of those aspects were elements that we’ve been pushing hard for some time now," Schuckman said. "These aspects mentioned in the bill, like the Pell Grants, are quite good.

"Schuckman said McKeon’s College Affordability in Higher Education Act has not been introduced to Congress yet and has been sent out to soliciting further information on it before being brought to the House of Representatives.

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Small colleges ditch football programs

FROM PAGE 3

James C. Geedl, the university's president, said the new tuition structure would help the university become more self-funding as state support for higher education dwindles.

The single-rate tuition system, he said, would give the university more money and flexibility to compete with private universities for top Ohio students and entice them to stay in the state by offering aid packages that are more competitive with the generous grants and scholarships that other colleges provide.

More aid also could be directed to middle-class families who earn too much money to benefit from Pell Grants and other federal aid programs but who still struggle to pay college bills.

Some higher education analysts headed toward Miami's tuition proposal. José E. Pérez, vice president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, said that the idea amounts to more than a nationwide to increase in-state tuition and an effort to move the university up in the annual college rankings in U.S. News & World Report.

When institutions put more money into scholarships by raising tuition, antuuu in the plan, much of the aid typically ends up being awarded on merit, he argued. And that, he said, does little to put colleges within a dollar reach of many low-income students.

Recording industry sues four students

The Recording Industry Association of America filed lawsuits on Thursday against four college students who allegedly were offering access to copyrighted music files within their institutions' networks.

Joseph Nievelt, a student at Michigan Technological University, David Peng, a student at Princeton University, and Aaron Sherman, a student at Michigan State University, were named in separate suits filed in federal district courts in Michigan, New Jersey, and New York. The institutions were not named.

According to the complaint, the students have "taken a network created for higher learning and academic pursuits and converted it into an emporium of music piracy." In a news release, the recording industry allegations that the students were engaging in copyright infringement, each offering from 27,000 to more than a million songs to other students.

The lawsuits ask for $30,000 for each of the dozen of recordings, listed by title in the complaint that the students allegedly used illegally.

The students could not be reached for comment.

Bob Elfish, the telecommunications engineer at Michigan Tech, was shocked and angered by the lawsuits. His university has a long record of cooperating with the recording industry, he said. The university runs copyright-education programs and routinely shuts down the Internet access of students who share copyrighted material. He said that the recording industry had never notified the university of Nievelt's alleged infringement.

The action by the recording industry differs slightly from the organization's past complaints about programs like KaZaA, which allow users to share files INTERNET. The new lawsuits are aimed at users of file-sharing programs that limit searches and users to computers within a specific network.

Small college football teams lose more than just money

Michigan Technological University and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell have announced that they will eliminate their football programs to save money.

Both public universities, whose football teams compete in Division II of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, have prominent hockey teams and serious financial difficulties.

Already in the current academic year three other institutions — Canisius College, Fairfield University and St. John's University in New York — have announced plans to discontinuе their football teams among other sports programs.

St. John's officials said the decision was made for gender-equal reasons, while costs was cited at the other two institutions. All three compete in Division I-AA of the NCAA.

Lowell's athletics director, Dana K. Shimer, said his department had been told to trim its operating budget for next year by $300,000. The department's total budget is $5 million, he said, and football is the highest-cost-expensive team of the 17 varsity squads at the university, after Division I hockey and men's and women's basketball.

Lowell does not offer athletics scholarships in football. The 10 football players will be helped to transfer to other institutions if they wish to continue playing football.

At Michigan Technological University, the football program will be eliminated because of a requirement that all departments across the university trim their budgets by 10 percent next year, said David Fisher, an assistant athletics director. Fisher said that the team had already shrunk to seven players.

The football program has received about one-third of the total athletics budget of $1.50 million, Fishel said.

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It was the beginning of the Relay for Life, an 18-hour overnight walkathon that is the American Cancer Society's signature fund-raising event. It was the sixth time UCF hosted the fund-raiser that raised more than $236,000 this year. $43,000 short of the $279,000 organizers anticipated. Forty-eight of the 111 teams this year made up UCF students and faculty. The turnout pleased Jackie Murphy, event chairman. "It's a good result considering the economy and world situation," she said.

About 100 booths filled the inside of the track, selling drinks, snacks and raffle tickets for everything from chairs to power tools in hopes of raising money for the American Cancer Society. A large stage occupied the center of the track where games, music and performances kept participants entertained throughout the night and into the morning.

The Luminaria Ceremony created a somber atmosphere in the middle of an otherwise loud and cheerful event. The ceremony drew participants' attention to the hundreds of candlelit bags that lined the sides of the track. Each bag, decorated with crayon images of flowers and rainbows, served as a reminder of cancer victims and survivors.

"I am Erin Lonergan, 21," it hummed in honor of her mother, who had undergone surgery last month after she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She is expected to make a full recovery.

"It's good to see support from the community, and it's reassuring to get support from people who are fighting through the same battles," she said.

Senior Dave Ehrlich, 21, walked a few laps in honor of his aunt, who currently is battling breast cancer. "The fact that people cut their hair, that you cut your hair, evokes a very encouraging," he said. His fraternity, Beta Theta Pi, raised almost $5,000 in a joint effort with Alpha Delta Phi sorority.

Junior Adam Miller, 20, participated in the relay in honor of several of his relatives who have battled cancer. UCF Business Services raised the most money for the event as a team, raising almost $10,000.

Department Chair Dan O'Lusty, a 29-year-old cancer survivor, raised more than $5,000 — the highest sum raised by an individual. He sold buttons that read "Cancer Sucks!" for $1 to raise money. Diagnosed with cancer at age 25, he has attended the March of Dimes since 1997. He says he is "an advocate for anti-Arab and anti-Muslim bias."

He says his hope lies not to have a "misunderstanding" with the university. "I am still hoping that with the new administration of [FAU President Frank] Brogan, that the hardships will come to an end."

—MOHAMMED KHALID HAMZA
FAU educational technology instructor

The university for cancer fund-raiser

Jennifer Peltz
South Florida Sun-Sentinel (AP)

Teacher says he's victim of anti-Arab bias at FAU

FORT LAUDERDALE — Mohammed Khalid Hamza, an educational technology professor, says his star has fallen steadily in his first five years at Florida Atlantic University. But his fortunes took a sharp turn last year. After an education-college evaluation concluded he wasn't on course for tenure, he was told this would be his last year at FAU, according to Florida Commission on Human Relations documents.

Hamza, an advocate for Muslims on campus and in the community, thanks his victims of anti-Arab and anti-Muslim bias. So does the human relations commission's executive director, who issued a finding last month supporting Hamza's allegations of employment discrimination.

There is an abundance of evidence that Dr. Hamza's national origin and religion played a major role in the decisions that the university made," commission chief Derek Daniel wrote.

"I am still hoping that with the new administration of [FAU President Frank] Brogan, that the hardships will come to an end," Hamza said. "I want everything back that was taken away from me unapologetically."

Hamza told the human relations commission he was the subject of ethnic slurs and slights among colleagues almost as soon as he arrived at FAU in 1997. He says he differed with colleagues over grading standards. A group of five education professors, he told the commission, 'determined to get rid of him.'

Four of the professors could not be reached Monday. The fifth declined to comment.

Hamza brought his concerns to College of Education officials in 2000, and they arranged a meeting that soothed relations for a time. But tensions flared again after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Hamza says.

"My outpatient made some people not so happy, but I am an American, I believe in American freedom of speech," said Hamza, a naturalized American citizen who was born in Kuwait and raised in Kuwait. He has lived in the United States for more than 20 years.

An adviser to the FAU Muslim Student Organization and the Islamic Center of Boca Raton, Hamza also has written about anti-Arab and anti-Muslim sentiment and Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the South Florida Sun-Sentinel.

Still, according to the commission's findings, Hamza had five years of superb evaluations, enjoying an "excellent" rating in every category each year as he approached the tenure process last year.

The College of Education had recognized his research on educational technology, and students had nominated him for a teaching honor. With a computer-science colleague, he had applied for a patent for a design for constructing laboratory experiments online. In 2000, he was named the university-wide President's Leadership Award recipient.

In June, a committee of his fellow education-technology faculty members agreed Hamza was on track to apply for tenure last fall, according to the commission finding. "Two months later, the education faculty's tenure committee conducted he was not. He was told soon after that his contract would not be renewed, the commission found.

Meanwhile, four white male faculty members were recommended for tenure with far less scrutiny, according to the commission report.

But the university says it developed "several qualifications about Hamza because he had exaggerated his academic accomplishments in applying for university awards, and several students had complained that his courses were not well-run."

He was still hoping that with the new administration of [FAU President Frank] Brogan, that the hardships will come to an end."

—MOHAMMED KHALID HAMZA
FAU educational technology professor
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3:00 PM
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April 7, 2003 • The Central Florida Future

Wireless Internet service to be expanded to entire campus

The Homecoming committee made up of representatives from nearly every facet of campus life. These representatives will include SGA leaders, Greek members, residence halls, and many more to ensure a university-wide, all-inclusive Homecoming.

Currently the Campus Activities Board organizes and runs all Homecoming events. This Homecoming committee will take responsibility for all Homecoming activities, and will pay for all events with the allocation.

Other major innovations to the budget include the creation of an umbrella organization to oversee and fund club sports such as crew and rugby. SGA has allocated $100,000 for this organization.

Further additions to the budget include increased funding to the Creative School for Children. The Creative School will receive $50,000 from SGA, $45,000 of which is allocated only for the operation of the school.

“This year we wanted to ensure the school remained student-centered so we increased the amount a bit to cover a deficit imposed on the school,” Gould said. Last year the school received $10,000 from SGA.

Fees have been allocated for the maintenance staff of SGA facilities. The raises will affect only those staff members who are, full-time employees and work in activity and service fee-funded facilities such as the Student Union, the Recreation and Wellness Center, and the Student Resource Center. The raise will pays these employees about $1.00 more per hour, or $60 each week.

Next year's budget includes another large allocation for the completion of the UCF Wireless Project. The senate allocated $135,000 to the project, which will extend wireless services on campus to facilities including Greek Park, making UCF's completely wireless campus. Both SGA and UCF will fund the project. Gould said the project should be completed before the fall semester begins.

Pending the availability of land on campus, SGA has allocated $150,000 for a ROPES project, which would be a leadership team-building course on campus for groups ranging from clubs and organizations to other schools. The cost of the facility is being partially funded by SGA and partially by the university.
OUR STANCE:

SGA funding fair, equitable

With nearly $10.5 million at their discretion, Student Government leaders have made responsible allocations in the budget for next school year. The SGA Senate could have spent more time deliberating the budget, but the preliminary decisions show improvements over previous SGA spending decisions.

By giving less funding to the Greek Council, student government leaders demonstrated that they finally are starting to listen to the student body. The overwhelming majority of students, who do not belong to Greek organizations, want their activity and service fees to go to inclusive groups rather than those such as fraternities and sororities that exclude some students.

Individual Greek organizations can still request funding for particular projects. When Greek organizations host charitable events, they can and should receive funding from SGA.

Additionally, all active organizations on campus were recommended to receive funding next year. That’s a change from last year, when many groups received nothing while others seemed to receive too much. While some organizations received far less than they requested this time, every organization received at least some money.

The $3,000,000 proposed for a new Homecoming Committee seems like an awful lot for a week of poorly attended events. Last year, the budget allocated nearly $10,000,000 to the Office of Student Activities for Homecoming events. With more than three times that amount, the Homecoming Committee should have no excuse for a less than glorious Homecoming Week.

That new committee, which will include members from a number of different campus organizations, should work hard to find out which performers students want to see, and then book those performers. As one of the largest universities in the state, UCF deserves a top-notch Homecoming Week that caters to students’ interests.

Student government deserves credit for taking a step to help the janitorial staff of the university, something the administration has hesitated to do. The SGA budget includes raises of $1 per hour for janitors who work in UCF’s run buildings, a noble step that recognizes the hard work these employees perform to keep UCF clean and beautiful.

Thank you, SGA, for looking out for the most under-appreciated members of the UCF community.

Thank you, also, for funding campus organizations in a more responsible and equitable manner.

Letters to the Editor

Where are the yellow ribbons?

I remember back in 1991 when the news of my relative going off to war started to hit the town of the Ansca Village community. I asked them why they were doing that, and eventually they explained they were serving.

The next time I walked into any government armaments support your troops, these are not breakouts of some machine made out of some machine, these are our friends that paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. So I would say to everyone, thank you and God bless.

-Alex Sh(error)

Islands of Adventure event chaos from start to finish

The event would have minimized the red tape outside of Islands of Adventure if I arrived at the park at 8 a.m. and stood in line for an hour and was allowed in to the first row without delay for two hours and they had带回 an eighth of a million dollars in the pot.

People were coming in line and being hassled. I charged $55 for the remaining use and was awaiting a waste of money, I know $100 didn’t set the pot but maybe they could have refunded for something less. People inside the park had to wait more than 30 minutes to get items from the store. People might have left the line and an underwhelming environment. Not one event that you plan or event at this large a scale at a popular theme park, please be more organized.

-Eric Gonzalez

Preventing problems for next year’s park party

After more than 7,000 students showed up at Islands of Adventure Thursday night, we have to call “Universal Knights” a great success. The turnout exceeded most expectations, including that of Student Body President Marco Fein.

The great turnout indicates that students approved of the event, for which the Student Government Association spent $215,000. It also demonstrates that SGA did a fine job promoting the event. By most accounts, the 7,000 students who were admitted for free had a great time. Many others wanted to attend, but circumstances did not allow that to happen.

For example, because “Universal Knights” took place on a Thursday, hundreds, and perhaps thousands, could not attend because of conflicts with scheduled classes. SGA should schedule future events such as this for a Friday or Saturday, so that classes will not interfere.

Additionally, SGA should provide at least one month’s notice for the event, so that those who work but wish to attend have time to rearrange their work schedules.

Instead, even with those two groups missing, hundreds of students who showed up at the event still did not get in before the cut-off of 7,000 free admissions. After watching their fellow students stream through the gates without paying, most students — including those who arrived in plenty of time, but encountered large crowds at the gate — did not want to pay $10.95 to get in, and walked away.

SGA could resolve this problem fairly easily. Rather than having students with the promise of free admission and only allowing 7,000 to take advantage of the deal, SGA should allow tickets for all. Every student could pay a discounted admission, say $10, to enjoy the park, and the student could then complain about getting cheated. (With a regular all-day ticket price of $51.95, that’s $10 in still a bargain).

To avoid the long times that awaited students when they arrived at the park entrance, SGA should make tickets available prior to the event. That way only those students who have tickets would make the 22-mile drive. No one would waste time traveling, only to be discouraged upon their arrival. Students who already held and had paid for their tickets wouldn’t feel the need to cut lines, and the unnecessary waiting time at the gate would be reduced, thus allowing students more time in the park.

“Universal Knights,” at Islands of Adventure was hugely successful, but better planning for future events could make them even more successful for more students and could prevent some of the complaints students had Thursday night.

“Money is the barometer of a society’s virtue.”

-Anthony

We have the Americans on the run! Surrounded, even! They are nowhere near Baghdad!

Our stance:

Preventing problems for next year’s park party

Letters to the Editor

Where are all the yellow ribbons?

I was walking back from “Tech’s” when I saw some of my friends wearing yellow ribbons tied to the tree of the American Village community. I asked them why they were doing that, and eventually they explained they were serving.

Whether it was the red tape or the support your troops, these are not breakouts of some machine made out of some machine, these are our friends that paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. So I would say to everyone, thank you and God bless.

-Alex Sh(error)

Islands of Adventure event chaos from start to finish

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-Eric Gonzalez

What went wrong at theme-park party

As a student who is not active in student government, Greek organizations, or any other campus life activities, I decided to start counting some school spirit and attended “Universal Knights” top-secretly.

What a failure. This program was organized and executed poorly on so many levels, and it seemed to cause the public a lot of confusion and problems with the event — from the omnipresent someone with an idea, they tried to work with school policy or government.

If SGA is going to spend $25,000 to gain 7,000 students, they should have given all out to ensure every student just be same one.

I am sure there are a lot of students who are upset with the event because they weren’t included, but I am sure there are students who are happy having made the trip down there because they either had to do it because tickets were so high, or decided to not pay and went home having wasted gas and lost money.

There are also plenty of students who were opposed by the religious faith, it felt like we were at a real cold place — there was nothing separating lines and no covered center.

The enormous lines, except that the free ticket holders were getting paid simply did not help calm the crowd that much except a couple. Most people didn’t get into the park until after 2 p.m., which doomed our need to be for lunch.

In closing, I feel that the SGA had “bombed” in the right place, but could have removed more planning. Some thousand students came and went out fast and SGA should remember that before bringing down a million of a dollars for single event.

-Jared Robinson

Letters to the Editor

Please send Letters on 13
Simple ways to unite the community

MENTAL DOODLES

CHRISTOPHER ARNOLD

With all that is happening in the news right now, it is too easy to see all that is bad in the world. But then along comes an event that helps us to remember the good.

Thank goodness for the American Cancer Society and its Relay for Life. Held on the grounds of the UCF Varsity Track and Field, this annual event is meant to raise much-needed money to help continue the fight against cancer — a disease that, as was noted during the opening ceremonies, affects virtually everyone, either directly or indirectly.

As a newcomer to this event, I was little aware of what it would entail. All I knew at the outset was that I had volunteered to work a shift at our booth. I was somewhat nervous about the whole thing, but I don't think I was the only one.

Once I arrived, however, I found it difficult to leave.

Participants' booths reflected a carnival-esque atmosphere. A dunk booth, a miniature baseball field, a make-shift jail in which you could imprison anyone of your choosing. There was even a tent where Kansamet awaited — if you desired. Of course there was food... From dirt cups to vegetable soup, your taste buds were sure to be appeased. Music and entertainment kept the crowds in festive spirits.

And the funds all go to a good cause.

This was by no means an all-night party, however. There was greater purpose here.

At its core, the event brought together a community of people with similar goals and experiences. It celebrated not just the lives of survivors, but the memory of those who have lost.

There were moments of great introspection and reflection throughout the evening, highlighted by the Luminaria Ceremony. Individuals who wished to honor loved ones could place candles along the track, which were lit during this ceremony and burned throughout the night.

The beauty of the festival might have been lost on me a year ago. My grandfather passed away suddenly in early December due to colon cancer, which had been discovered only about a month earlier. Before that, I had no direct experience with the disease. The subsequent barrage of emotions, even though shared within my immediate family, nevertheless left me feeling suddenly isolated and alone.

But having attended the Relay for Life this past weekend, hearing others share their stories and personal experiences with cancer, I feel as though my heart has finally accepted what my brain has been trying to tell it: I am not alone.

Please see Joys on 14.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 12

SGA funding fair and justified

The letter is a response to Professor Micallef's article "SGA three-pork party raises $2000 for free" published Friday, April 3. I believe pork parties are a necessary event for our school, and as fair and professional reporting goes, you don't own coverage of the event.

The whole article misleads that the money spent in the event was money because other clubs and organizations did not receive funding that was completely unfounded. As a senator, I know SGA has been in fairly fund every registered club at least in part.

Due to financial constraints, it is impossible to fund every single activity on campus. As for the example, giving the Bowling Club $15,000 is not realistic and unfair to other clubs who need funding as well. The allegation that SGA's providence has several more funds than other groups is preposterous. I am sick of the bias that we are the best and as a senator, I commit to work as a team and a partner for the students.

- HUNTER DUNST

Conservative views are an example of the blame game

This is a response to Jeff McLaughiln's letter to the editor on April 3, "We are a nation of selfish people."

I am speaking of hearing your extreme right views. Few, if any, opinions are as we are as the war are debating. I support the war, but I also make that humanitarians did not see the oil war was.

Our nation will benefit from our intervention, and that is what we need to do. We cannot turn back against Iraq. Just because they re- placing our students and lack has no right to the date Senator in his speech. The nation was influenced with the idea of operation of church and state, and if we should turn this way.

- ROY O'BRIEN

KAPLAN

Classes starting soon!

LSAT: Classes begin Thursday, May 1, 2003
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UCF ARENA

April 7, 2003 • The Central Florida Future
***Anti-war side needs better marketing***

Jane Eibling KNIGHT RIDER

Say what you will about the war in Iraq, but this week, probably for some time. All the demonstrations, candlelight vigils and protest war protests seemed to make no difference to the leaders decreting the course of events. War to the American public that still backs them.

So supporters are left checking their heads, wondering how to get their message across and counter the omnipresent images of bombing and blood new dominating the national screen.

I have a suggestion for this struggling community: Ankara's. Consumers are the lingua franca of our realm. The avant-garde can talk all they want about diplomacy and the horrors of battle and the need for international alliances, but talk cannot compete with the ever popular G.I. Joe. (Never mind his of the public that still backs them. It's been a weekend of com- 

Of course, the most popular G.I. Joe. (Never mind the public that still backs them. It's been a weekend of common goal that is greater than any one of us. What is this goal? The world is our collective to market an "action figure" that uses words rather than quick-loading assault weapons. War will never be driven to the sidelines unless peace becomes sexy and desirable.

Joy comes with offering a helping hand

From Page 13

For me, the football—with its varying degrees of loss and emotion—seemed to reflect, and perhaps even complete, a personal catharsis. Furthermore, the celebratory mood of this group was truly refreshing. Everyone in attendance, everyone who worked behind the scenes, everyone who helped make the event a success, contributed something to the cause of combating cancer. It was inspiring to see so many people as willing to help.

But the weekend's events also revealed the value of community on a global scale. Borders may seem to dissolve as nations become more readily accessible to each other. Communities, however, will remain the foundation upon which all else is built. We must learn to interact within them, every day as was seen during the rally—both humility and benevolence and the belief that we all share a common goal that is greater than ourselves. We must motivate ourselves less with material goods and focus on the intrinsic joy that accompanies helping others.

And what better place to start than with our generation? Opportunities are all around us. It could be as simple as practicing random acts of kindness. It could mean volunteering at a homeless shelter or participating in a park cleanup. It could mean teaching a child to read. Whatever the course we take will help us all. It could have a positive impact.

The world is our collective inheritance, after all. Should we not try to make it better, in whatever way we can?

Glennon Christopher Arnold can be reached at ozofflawservice.com
Get Involved
THIS WEEK IN OSA

OSA Calendar
This Week and Next

Mon Apr 7
10 am - 4 pm US Army College Tour.
Includes climbing wall and give a
way. Chemistry Green
6 pm VU CF Green: Ribbon Gala (Get
Carded Banquet), Pegasus Ballroom
RSVP Required, 407.823.6471

Wed Apr 9
10 am - 4 pm US Army College Tour.
Includes climbing wall and give a
ways. Chemistry Green
6 pm VUCF Volunteer Award Ceremony,
Key West 218 CD
8 pm CAB Spring Concert with Nappy
Roots, Smiley & Southstar, and One
Drop. Free to all students; capacity
is 3500. UCF Arena

Thu Apr 10
7:30 pm Symphony Under the Stars with
UCF Orchestra & UCF Jazz Ensemble,
Reflecting Pond

Sat Apr 12
9:15 am VUCF “Keep Orlando Beautiful”
Park Bench Project. Meet at Millican
Hall at 9:15 am to carpool

Tue Apr 15
7 pm VUCF Canned Food Drive at UCF
Baseball game vs. USF: Jay Bergman
Field

Wed Apr 16
9 pm CAB Cinema presents “The Lord of
The Rings: The Two Towers,” Cape
Florida Ballroom

Sat Apr 19
11:30 am VUCF Kids Knight Out at UCF
Baseball game vs. FAU. BBQ with kids
at Lake Claire at 11:30 am then take
them to the game at 1:00 pm

Visit us on the web at osa.sdes.ucf.edu
For more info on any of these events
contact the Office of Student Activities,
Rm. 208 in the SU, or call 407.823.6471.
Funded by the Activity and Service
Fee as allocated by SGA

Symphony
UNDER THE STARS

REFLECTING POND
APRIL 10, 2003
7:30 PM
Please bring a blanket, picnic dinner and friends to
enjoy an evening of music. Food and beverages will be
available at the kiosk. Sponsored by the Campus
Activities Board and UCF Alumni Association. Funded
by the Activity and Service Fee as allocated by SGA.

Applications for Student Leadership positions
Available in OSA:
2003/2004 Graduate Assistants
(due April 25)

2003 Homecoming Director
(due 5 pm Fri, May 2, available April 14)

2004 Dance Marathon Board Members
(due 5 pm Fri, Apr 18)
Cupps throws first no-hitter, UCF sweeps Belmont

Matt Bethon  / Staff Writer

Dottie Cupp pitched a no-hitter as the Knights softball team took three of four games last weekend from Belmont University and Lipscomb. On Saturday, UCF won its first game over Belmont 5-2 and run-rulled the Bruins in the second game to the tune of an 11-0 victory. UCF improved to 32-11 on the season and 7-3 in the Atlantic Sun Conference after the Belmont sweep.

In the first game UCF scored two runs in the first inning before Belmont responded with two of its own in the bottom half of the inning. The Knights tacked on another run in the third and maintained a one-run lead through the seventh inning, when Candy Osker doubled off the left field wall, scoring two. Starting pitcher Amya Simmons got the first out of the seventh inning before Dottie Cupp came in and retired the final two batters, earning her first save of the season.

Simmons picked up her third win of the season, pitching 6.10 innings and allowing only two unearned runs.

In the second game UCF jumped all over Belmont starter bios Allen, tagging her for 11 earned runs and handing Allen her 14th loss of the season. Cupp started the scoring in the first inning for the Knights with a solo home run. UCF added four runs in the fourth inning and added six in the fifth, three off a home run by Stephanie Best.

Then in Friday's series opener, the Knights tagged pitching ace Taylor Cobb for three runs in the first inning and five more in the third. Meanwhile UCF kept hitting Campbell starter Josh Blades but couldn't find a way to get anyone across home plate.

Down 1-0 going into the bottom of the eighth inning, the Knights seemed ready to fall off the cliff. Something amazing happened — a comeback never before seen in 21 years under Coach Jay Bergman. Four runs in the bottom of the eighth.

FIVE runs in the bottom of the ninth.

And finally a game-winning home hit in the bottom of the 12th inning. Off the bat of freshman Drew Butera.

"I assisted head coach Greg Frady told me 'you're probably going to see a first pitch fastball,'" Butera said. "I saw it, swung it, got a lucky break. Sometimes it happens."

"It was a team game tonight. We came through, pulled together and we won it together."

Please see Michael on 19

Streakin'

Men's tennis team rides 17-match winning streak into Saturday's final match

Sadie Sham  / Staff Writer

Jan. 25, 2003

That was the last time the UCF men's tennis team felt the perils of defeat. It was the Knights' second consecutive loss of the season after falling 7-0 to the No. 5 Florida Gators and came at the hands of Alabama-Birmingham.

"It was an eye-opener for us," said Fernando Martinez, assistant coach and former UCF tennis player. "We were so confident coming in because we have such a great team."

Since then the Knights have been on a 17-match winning streak and have one match left before regular season play comes to a close. However, the focus is on winning the Atlantic Sun Championship for the first time in the program's history.

Please see UCF on 19
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Free Nibblers cup with main dish purchase and UCF student card offer good April 7 - April 20.

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Michael leads Knights to series win

FROM PAGE 16

The unhonorable tally arose a heartwarming story of Cobb, who entered the game with a staff leading 1.94 ERA. He allowed seven earned runs in 2.1 innings. And it is also a footnote of David Mann's adventurous day in left field. His misstep of a Bible toss in BISNII double in the top of the third allowed the Knights to break the game open. He did, however, get 3-for-3 with three walks and an RBI.

On the Campbell side, Blades lost a chance at a great outing. He allowed 12 hits in four earned runs in 7.2 innings, but those numbers are somewhat misleading because he was left out on the mound for 147 pitches. It was a clear indication of the Knights' weaknesses in the ninth inning before recording an out.

Tom Rispoli took the loss, his first of the season. Kyle Bono pitched a scoreless 2.23 in the extra frames to get the win, improving to 3-0.

"I told the players in every season there's always a defining moment. Hopefully, this was one of those moments," Bergman said. "That's [Friday night's game] probably the best game we've seen this season to that happening. It was really pleased. It would have been a lot easier to roll it over the extra frames to get two more runs in the first game, Jennifer Whitley hit a home run to Jason Brown in the fifth inning, the best batter he would face.

The Knights again tried to mount a rally late, but this time couldn't get to the Knights' weak relief corp. Jeff should have allowed seven innings for Campbell, surviving another late comeback attempt by UCF. He allowed eight hits and five runs, one earned. He went 0-4-3 in the season. For Nicks (4-5), his recent struggles continued. He allowed seven hits and six runs in 4.23, though just three runs were earned. Still, he has a 13.51 ERA over his past three starts and hasn't gotten out of the first inning. It could have high his poll score for the weekend rotation as UCF attempts to improve upon a 2-4 record in the final game of three.

"We've got a lot of considerations now," Bergman said. "We've got to figure some way to win the third game, that's for sure. Removing Nicks from the rotation is something we'll have to think about."}

ONCE, the hero of the first game, kept up a recent hot streak in going 4-for-10 with two RBIs and three runs scored in the series. Mann (4-for-6, six walks, two RBIs) Knott (5-for-11), four runs scored, two RBIs, Brown (4-for-11, four runs scored) all had a strong series for UCF.

Though the team didn't fully capitalize on the momentum of Friday's win, it was a win to take. The sweep, it took sole possession in finally winning a home conference series after losing the last four series.

UCF is now 22-12, 7-5 in the A-Sun. Once again the Knights travel to Tampa for a Tuesday contest against South Florida, then have a weekend series at Belmont.

"It was great to win the series. We had to win the series," Michael said. "Hopefully we keep things rolling, come out and win on Tuesday."
Men's golf finishes in sixth

Jon Kutilek Staff Writer

The UCF men's golf team wrapped up the Amoco Ultimate Young Oil Intercollegiate at the Silver Lakes Country Club on Tuesday in Jacksonville, Ala.

Coach Nick Climent was disappointed with his team’s finish in the 18-team field.

"We didn’t do anything right," Climent said. "Our preparation wasn’t good," he said.

Climent said another reason for his team’s dissatisfying performance was poor field conditions.

Play had to be halted after the second day due to darkness. The final three holes were finished before the final round on Tuesday.

Overall, the Knights finished with a score of 911, finishing just behind Austin Peay (907), Armstrong Atlantic (885), South Alabama (884), Columbus State (910) and the winning host team, Jacksonville State (890).

Andreas Hoegberg led the Knights in scoring, shooting a 225 over the three-day event. His 225 was good enough for 10th overall. Barry Roof finished just behind Hoegberg with a total of 237, tying for 21st overall.

Rounding out the scores for the Knights were Matt LeCoche and Ron Munkim, both with a 251 (tied for 37th overall), and Stefan Wistort with a 255 and tied 64th overall.

The men’s golf team is currently ranked No. 50 in the nation. And Climent thinks his team is better than its ranking shows.

"We expect to win every time we tee it up," he said. "We are better than we played this week."

The team did allow improvements during the tournament. The Knights improved their scores after the first round, in which they finished in 10th place, to move up into sixth by tournament’s end.

But Climent is optimistic about his team's future.

"We aren’t going to let our performance this week get us down, we will move on to do better next week," he said.

The Knights return to the course Friday as they travel to Spartanburg, S.C., to play in the Wolford Invitational.

Women’s soccer signs local standout, volleyball announces 2003 schedule

FROM PAGE 19

Next up for UCF is the Kaacie Cup in Cherry Hill, N.J. Saturday and Sunday.

Larsen leads UCF track and field in final day of USF Invite

Sophomore Ana Larsen bettered her NCAA Regional qualifying score of 20 feet-0.25 to break the school record in the high jump as the UCF women’s track and field team concluded its competition at the USF Invitational on Saturday.

Larsen shattered her previous record with a mark of 5.925 to win the high jump. She originally qualified for the NCAA Regionals with a record-setting jump of 5.7 on March 8 that still stands as a UCF stadium record. Senior Kelly Roloff also qualified for the NCAA in the event during a previous meet, with a jump of 5-5.75.

On the track, senior Erica Garcia paced the Knights with a second-place finish in the 100-meter dash, breaking an 11-year-old school record with a season-best time of 12.12. She also took third in the 200-meter dash at 24.78. In the same event, sophomore Ashton Braun was fourth in the 100-meter dash and freshman Astrid Clasen was fifth in the 200-meter event with a season-best time of 25.64.

Senior Danshelia Ruffin placed eighth in the 400-meter event at 58.54 and junior Emile Pugh placed ninth in the 400-meter event with a season-best time of 1:56.16.

Elsewhere, freshman Michelle Oladisse highlighted the Knights’ day with a season-best performance with an eighth-place finish in the discus with a season-best mark of 121-9, which is coming to UCF.

The UCF women’s volleyball upcoming schedule

UCF opens its home schedule with the UCF Fall Invitational Sept. 12-13 at the UCF Arena. The Knights have 13 home matches on the 2003 slate, including the home opener vs. Buffalo on Sept. 12. UCF will face Central Michigan, Tennessee Tech and Georgia Southern at the fall invitational.

Another road trip will take place Sept. 19-20 as UCF travels to Western Michigan to compete in the Western Michigan Invitational.

A trip to South Florida on Sept. 20 highlights a challenging non-conference schedule that features matches versus three Florida schools that made it to the 2002 NCAA Volleyball Championships, ACC or SEC.

UCF will venture south to Orlando for a match on Oct. 14, while the Knights are scheduled to visit Miami (Fla.) Nov. 4 in Coral Gables.

A vital play begins on the road Oct. 3 at Lipscomb. The Knights alsotravel to conference foes Belmont, Troy State, Florida Atlantic and Jacksonville.

UCF will welcome Marshall to UCF Arena for their A-Sun home opener Oct. 17.

The 2003 Atlantic Sun Championships return to Orlando Nov. 21-22. Last season, UCF won the regular season and conference titles en route to their sixth NCAA Championships appearance.
End of an Era wins first annual IM Sports Day championship

The first annual International Sports Day was a success. Nine teams competed in seven sports events on March 29. Each team competed in freeon-five basketball, outdoor soccer, indoor soccer, volleyball, badminton, table tennis and floor hockey. Five-on-five basketball winners were Old School, End of an Era, and Kappas Sigma. In outdoor soccer, End of an Era got warmed up for the championship round by defeating Braveheart. Futballin and MASA were also outdoor soccer winners.

Taking soccer indoors for the first time in Intramural Sports history, Ciggaweed, Sigma Chi and Braveheart all won their pools. The winners of volleyball were End of an Era, Sigma Chi and Futballin. Ciggaweed and Sigma Chi also took first place points in the badminton event.

In table tennis, Futballin had two victories, the first against Ciggaweed and the second against CMMS. Kappa Sigma and Sigma Chi both won the floor hockey event.

Students were then seeded for the final event of the day, an outdoor soccer, single-elimination tournament. In the first game Braveheart beat Ciggaweed and advanced to play End of an Era. Sigma Chi beat Futballin to take on End of an Era in the championship game.

Always Winning won bowling.

Always Winning stood up to their name in the Intramural Bowling tournament. They scored a combined 2,000 points with their four bowlers in three games. Coming in a close second was #1 Eight Dogs, only 13 points behind. Always Winning's Good of #1 Eight Dogs blew the competition out of the water with his high game score of 263. Rachel Bono of FCA was the top women's bowler with 156. She had to be tracked down on the IM Football fields and was shocked to hear she had won.

Always Winning lived up to their name in the Intramural Bowling tournament. They scored a combined 2,000 points with their four bowlers in three games. Coming in a close second was #1 Eight Dogs, only 13 points behind. Always Winning's Good of #1 Eight Dogs blew the competition out of the water with his high game score of 263. Rachel Bono of FCA was the top women's bowler with 156. She had to be tracked down on the IM Football fields and was shocked to hear she had won.

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Underage drinking starts early, and ban encourages it

KRISTIN DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

It's early Friday evening and Gray Rohrer has a long night ahead of him. He plans on party hopping from one friend's house to the next with one ultimate goal: getting drunk.

"Drinking is a social thing for me," the freshman said. "Sometimes my friends and I will encourage each other to drink. If your friends are getting drunk, you want to be on the same level."

While binge drinking is a major problem on college campuses, bad drinking habits typically develop in the everyday lives of students much younger than 21.

A recent study by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University found that 36 percent of high school graduates began using alcohol in eighth grade or earlier. The study also reported that underage drinkers consumed $27 billion worth of alcohol in 1998—about one-fourth of all alcohol sold in the United States that year.

"It doesn't seem to be in the best interest of alcohol companies to step underage people from drinking," junior Adam Drugy, 22, said. "Maybe it's because I'm here [at a college campus], but there seems to be a lot of underage drinking and not a whole lot [of] objection."

Ironically, while most undergrads are underage during the majority of their years at UCF, the alcohol industry's advertisements target the college-aged crowd. Clubs and bars constantly post flyers around campus and on cars promoting dollar-drink specials.

Don't be caught unaware

Most students don't know how to deal with the law

KRISTIN DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Pulled over in traffic by a police officer? Suspected of underage drinking? What now?

According to attorney Mike Murphy, students need to become more informed about their rights in order to avoid getting themselves into trouble with the law.

He said that people often make a situation worse by providing unnecessary information when being questioned by the police.

While students should not demand their Miranda rights in front of a police officer, it's always good to know that the restrictions placed upon law enforcement under the Fourth and Fifth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution when dealing with suspected criminal behavior.

If the police are asking you to do something, then it means they probably can't do it without your permission," Murphy said. "Most students assume they will get into trouble if they tell the police 'no,' but that is not always the case."

Often students do not even know when their rights are being violated, particularly in the case of illegal searches and seizures. Few people are aware that police cannot enter a home or living quarters without a warrant, unless invited to do so.

However, there are exceptions. If the property owner has signed an agreement waiving the right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures, police may enter whenever they wish without asking for permission.

UCF Police may not search on-campus dorms and apartments without student consent unless they have reason to believe that a student is harboring drugs or participating in other illegal behavior.

Police also may enter a living quarters without permission to assist someone who is injured or hurt.

If someone needs medical help, [If] there is a fire or confirmed domestic violence, officers can enter any residence [without consent from the owner]," UCF Police Officer Michael Zelanes said.

While many students have been pulled over for a traffic violation at least once, they may not know that police cannot stop a vehicle unless they have a legitimate reason to do so, such as speeding or a suspected DUI.

One of the biggest myths involves people who are merely under the influence of alcohol or drug intoxication. Nobody can be arrested for that—unless they are driving, Zelanes said.

"According to HMWU, Police both said there is no law prohibiting someone who has consumed alcohol from walking home, so long as they are not creating a disturbance."

"If a police officer thinks that you are drunk while walking home, it is probably because you are acting disorderly," Murphy said.

Zelanes also said that house parties are only illegal when they become out of control with too much noise, fights
My girlfriend has decided to stop using the “pill.” At this time, she does not want to use any other contraceptive method. We have decided to use the “male” condom. I have used it in the past, but it broke. This would be a bad time for an unplanned pregnancy since we are both in graduate school. Do you have any advice?

We are proud of you for assuming responsibility for contraception at this time. Contraception should be a shared responsibility. The male condom is an excellent form of contraception, when used consistently and correctly. Condoms are also effective in reducing risk of sexually transmitted infections such as HIV, gonorrhea, chlamydia and trichomoniasis. The condom is not an effective in decreasing the risk of contracting herpes, genital warts or syphilis due to skin-to-skin transmission. These are also female condoms now on the market. You mentioned that the condom broke when you last used it. Here are some suggestions.

Check the expiration date and store your condoms appropriately. You must apply the condom before you enter the vagina and make sure you leave some space at the tip of the condom for expansion. Be careful of nails, which may pierce the condom. Lubrication with a water-soluble lubricant may reduce unwanted dryness and friction. By all means, wear them every time you have sex, which will increase the effectiveness.

There are three types of condoms: latex, polyurethane, for those with latex allergies, and sheepskin, which do not effectively protect against an STI.

Condoms come in different sizes. snug-fitting, larger-sized with more headroom and others that are roomy from top to bottom. Condoms come in different shapes: stringed, smooth, ribbed, balled or reservoir-tipped and rounded.

Incidentally, only 6 percent of men need larger-sized condoms. Condoms can be lubricated with water-soluble lubricants or spermicides (sperm killers). Experts now say spermicides do not increase the overall effectiveness of condoms. Spermicides can also be irritating to both men and women and may cause vaginal infections in women and increase the risk for HIV.

If you fail to use a condom or it breaks or falls off, your partner can use the emergency contraceptive pill. This pill has high doses of progesterone, and only birth control pills have been used within 72 hours of unprotected sex. It is considered to be as high as 85 percent effective in preventing pregnancy.

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Alcohol Web sites skirt drinking law

CHRISTINE DELLERT
STAFF WRITER

Freshman Josslyn Stiner knows the crazy stunts students pull to get alcohol underage. After translating Spanish for two friends trying to buy mail-order beer over the phone from a Mexican liquor store in Hilton Head, S.C., the 17-year-old has seen the desperation of the underage crowd.

For those who wish to forget the felony of using a fake ID or are tired of coaxing older friends to drive to the neighborhood convenience store to buy booze for them, the computer-literate generation of underage college students has turned to the Internet to solve its drinking dilemma.

With the exception of eBay, many motion Web sites and foreign importers sell and ship alcohol over the Internet to online buyers, requiring only a credit card number and an address.

On the information superhighway, it is impossible to discern the true age of the buyer, who simply clicks that he or she is old enough to legally purchase alcohol.

Sophomore Ethling Hernandez, 20, has seen advertisements for these sites while surfing the net. "I wanted to buy these Kahula-filled chocolates," she said. "All you had to do was click to say you were at least 21 to order them."

To some students, it's no surprise that the latest illegal ventures take place online.

"College kids know how to find things on the Internet more than anyone else," freshman Rory Curtis, 19, said. "We are the first generation of people who have become totally dependent on the [Web]."

Regardless of increased computer knowledge in the past decade, selling alcohol to 18-year-olds remains illegal.

Sophomore Dave Miller, 19, views the government's concern of these sites as a contradiction.

"If they are going to have a law to prevent people from drinking underage, I don't understand why they don't do anything about it," he said.

While some federal and state restrictions are placed on the sale of alcohol across state lines, liquor retailers fight to keep their products on the Internet to earn higher profits. By shipping their wine, beer or liquor directly to consumers, manufacturers do not have to pay state taxes on the products they sell.

Organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the Liquor Control Commission are making efforts to ban the sale of alcohol over the Internet to minors. In 2000, five online alcohol retailers were charged with selling wine and liquor to underage buyers in the state of Michigan, where these charges carry a $1,000 fine and up to 60 days in jail.

The challenge of keeping underage drinkers away from Internet alcohol sales is a continuing national concern.

"The Internet is such a powerful tool today, and with great power comes great responsibility," Curtis said. "But I don't see how they will stop the sale of alcohol to kids without banning Internet alcohol sales altogether."

Resident assistant Angela Ethling, 22, has not heard of any alcohol shipments to underage drinkers on campus.

If underage students were caught drinking alcohol they bought online, it would be the same punishment as if they were drinking alcohol bought illegally in a store, the senior said.

"To freshmen Josslyn Stiner, 18, buying alcohol over the Internet is a ridiculous way around the law. While it is wrong that state governments are allowing minors to get alcohol, she said, it's just as wrong for kids to take the time to find Web sites that will let them order it."

Said Stiner: "Do underage people really need another way to get alcohol?"
Illegality adds appeal to drinking

FROM PAGE 22

“It’s not that I always plan to drink. Alcohol just usually seems to find me,” Rohrer said. Underage students agree that drinking alcohol would not be an enticing if the law did not prohibit it.

“Some younger students drink just because it’s Illegal,” Rohrer said. “I think once many students turn 21, they won’t care about drinking as much as they used to.”

Brooke Williams, coordinator of Responsible Education and Action for Campus Health, or REACH, disagrees. She said students become addicted to drugs and alcohol in college, they say. They say that they will end it after college and when they get a job, but then they get caught up in the lifestyle.

It’s difficult to find effective ways of communicating the dangers of binge drinking to college students, she said. “The just say no” last might be effective for younger children, but it just doesn’t seem to work for high school and college students.

“We give students both sides of the story instead of just telling them to stay away from drugs,” Williams said. “We let them make a responsible decision after they have all the facts.”

Williams has observed that freshman and sophomores get into trouble with alcohol more often than upperclassmen. She says this is due to the fact that juveniles and sophomores have more adolescent and work responsibilities.

Senior Prisilla Casados, 22, is among those who began drinking more after she turned 21.

“I drink more now than I did when I was under 21,” she said. “Generally, most people get into trouble with their systems when they are younger and are less aware about what drinking after it’s legal for them to do does.”

Williams said one thing that increases the underage drinking phenomenon is the lack of alternative social activities for college students on the weekends.

She cited “Late Knights,” the on-campus series of free events with food, music and entertainment as “one of the first big local programs that has given students a chance to have fun without having to drink,” she said. “Most of the other places students could go that don’t serve alcohol on the weekends are further away.”

Citing this necessity believe that clubs or bars promote drinking under-age, she says they “often turn their heads rather than enforce the legal drinking age.”

Getting drinks for free is especially easy for girls, Casados said.

“Many clubs have ‘Ladies Night,’ where girls not only get in free, but can drink without having to pay, either.” she said. “This not only gets girls to come and drink at clubs, it makes guys more likely to go to the clubs to meet girls and to drink as well.”

Rohrer said that most clubs and bars promote drinking just to make more money for their businesses — although he doesn’t fault them for the negative consequences that drinking may bring for underage students.

“You can’t just blame bad things that happen on the businesses that sell the alcohol,” Rohrer said.

Casados said bars and clubs are aware that they are targeting an illegal audience.

“Many businesses have taken advantage of the fact that some college students have started sinking into bad drinking habits after moving away from home for the first time,” she said.

While there is such a large number of college students drinking underage, many argue that Florida’s drinking laws are ineffective.

“If the law was set up to keep everyone who is under 21 from drinking alcohol, it’s obviously not working,” Rohrer said.

Casados said the drinking laws were created with good intentions, but that they haven’t really prevented anything.

“It’s a nice idea in theory, but it’s not very practical,” she said. “Alcohol is still accessible to people under 21, especially at parties.”

Added Drury: “Prohibition proved that people are going to drink no matter what, and the numbers [from the Columbia study] prove people will drink no matter what age they are. It’s been that way for a long time now.”

—STAFF WRITER MINNIE ROGERS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT

Misbehavior always subject to Golden Rule

FROM PAGE 22

ing and numerous underage drinkers.

A police officer can ask the owner or person in charge to shut down the party,” Zelanes said. “If there’s more than the person in charge, if of age, can be arrested.”

The university requires that on-campus house parties be regis-

tered through GAMMA (Graduate Alcohol Management and Alcohol) and the UFC Police. Those not regist-

tered are considered illegal and subject to sanctions.

Patrick Mackown, director of the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, said that student misbehavior is subject to the university’s Golden Rule regardless of where they live.

Any interaction with police officers, however, can be stress-

ful for students.

“One should use caution when dealing with the police,” Murphy said. “On the street, police may be able to do whatever they want. They might arrest you without a lawful reason. The question I deal with is whether or not the actions will stick in court.”

Murphy says that a police officer’s impression of a certain situation may deviate from what had actually occurred.

“Some police officers will always try to justify their actions somehow,” he said. “There have been a number of situations on campus that professors have found police officers acting unlawfully.”

Students have the right to resist unlawful arrests as long as they do so without resorting to violence.

If an officer stops a student while walking and begins to harass him, Murphy says the student has the right to ask if they are the subject of a criminal investigation; if not, they may politely walk away from the situa-

ation.

Some officers do use empty threats against students, but it is stressed through yearly training on constitution-

al law that this type of behavior is not allowed, Murphy said.

Mackown has heard allega-

tions that certain officers feel they had been harassed or threatened by police. However, she cannot confirm whether these allegations were factual.

If a student is mistreated by a police officer, Mackown recom-

mends that students fill out an online complaint form to the police or seek legal advice.

“Students say ‘If a student is harassed or unlawfully punished by a cop, they need to talk with the officer’s supervisor. If they still feel nothing has been done, then they need to file a complaint with the chief of police.”

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A student gets a wax mold made of her hands at Hand-emonium, a CAB event in the Student Resource Center auditorium March 26. The event focused on hands: palm reading, finger foods, ASL Sign Language and handwriting analysis.

Real war inspires video-game war

MIKE ANTONUCCI
KNIGHT RIDDER (KRT)

Real war is inspiring video-game war.

That's what is happening among fans of the new "Command & Conquer Generals" military-strategy computer game. Its publisher, Electronic Arts of Redwood City, Calif., has found that players around the world have rushed to modify the game to include a simulated U.S. campaign in Iraq.

The game, which already featured a confrontation between American forces and terrorists occupying Baghdad, includes programming tools that allow players to create additional graphics and missions and share them through the Internet.

Electronic Arts estimates that about 1,200 maps have been created in six weeks, as well as about 10 "mods" — game modifications such as more military missions. It took about six months for the previous game in the "Command & Conquer" series to generate that much map activity.

The ones that seem to be getting the most interest are based on the topography of Iraq and Baghdad," said Jeff Brown, the company spokesman. "Keep in mind, we don't have any more control over the content they create than the makers of crayons and paintbrushes have over the people who use them."

EA said sales data from the NPD research firm showed "Command & Conquer Generals" was the top-selling PC game of February and was continuing in first place during March. The game also has provoked controversy in China and Germany. In China, the government reportedly banned the game — which was only available in pirated versions — because of resentment over a scene that showed the destruction of a location similar to Tiananmen Square.

In Germany, advertising and store display for the game has been prohibited because of its violent content, although it still may be sold when asked for.

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Avoiding roommate woes

Diane Lazic
Staff Writer

Sophomore Jessica Gurney has lived with roommates since her first semester at UCF last summer. Last year she lived on-campus and was paired with a roommate she got along with.

"This year it's not working out as well," Gurney, 20, said. She has agreed to let Housing and Residence Life match her with roommates for next year.

"They usually do a good job," she said.

Many students, however, wish to choose their own roommates - either friends or strangers - because they do not trust random matching.

Advertising for a roommate

If you can't find a friend and don't want an assigned roommate by filling out a form, you can opt for the pre-technological route of putting up fliers around campus. Bulletin boards in the Student Union and the Communications Building are set aside for student advertisements.

The best lease for you

Alex Barcock
Staff Writer

Picking out an apartment begins before you buy a newspaper or get on the Internet.

It starts with your friends. If you have enough friends, or enough prospective roommates, you can make a deal for yourself and everyone else by renting in bulk.

Apartments generally increase in value as the number of bedrooms increases. However, a four-bedroom apartment will cost less per person than financing your own two-bedroom apartment solo.

Make sure you will get along with your roommates because kicking someone out after you've signed a lease could be costly, as much as several hundred dollars.

If you think you might want to have a boyfriend or girlfriend live with you eventually,
A home for your fun furry friends

Brandon Hardin
Contributing Writer

You're prepared to sign a lease for a new apartment. You sit down at the table, put pen to paper, and then you realize — what about Cuddles, your adorable pet Rottweiler?

There are many factors to consider when leasing an apartment, such as furnishings, utilities and cost. However, if you want to keep a pet in your apartment, check out the lease agreement to see if animals are permitted in the complex.

And if you are allowed a pet, find out if the apartment complex requires any deposits and fees for housing your furry (or scaly, as the case may be) friends.

Also, be sure to check if the complex will allow your specific type of pet. Some apartments do not permit exotic pets, such as snakes, or more aggressive breeds of dog, like Doberman Pinschers or Rottweilers.

No pets allowed

Here is a brief list of some local complexes that DO NOT allow any animals besides fish: Boardwalk Apartments, College Station Apartments, Collegiate Village Inn, The Gatherings, Jefferson Commons, Jefferson Lofts, Northgate Lakes Apartments, Pegasus Pointe, Pegasus Landing, Riverwind Apartments, University House on Alafaya, Village of Alafaya Club and Village of Science Drive.

Furry friends welcome — with restrictions

The following complexes DO allow pets, with certain restrictions and fees:

- Alafaya Woods Apartments — For pets up to 30 pounds, $150 deposit and a $150 pet fee. For pets 31-60 pounds, $200 deposit and a $150 pet fee. For pets 61 pounds or more, $300 deposit and a $300 pet fee. No exotic pets or certain aggressive breeds of dog.
- Arbor Apartments — Require a $200 deposit and a $200 pet fee.
- Chatham Landing Apartments — Require a $200 deposit and a $200 pet fee. No aggressive breeds of dog.
- Heather Glen Apartments — For pets up to 30 pounds, $150 deposit and a $150 pet fee. For pets 31-60 pounds, $200 deposit and a $200 pet fee. For pets 61 pounds or more, $300 deposit and a $300 pet fee. No exotic pets or certain aggressive breeds of dog.
- University Villas — Require $200 deposit and a $200 pet fee.

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Don't let a contract come between your pet and apartment.
Complexes perform a credit check on your finances

FROM PAGE 1
ask the complex if they allow this. Those that do may charge income to be two to four times more than that of your rent amount.
Before applying for the apartment, complexes vary. Most have preconceptions about the credit and rental history needs, the need for a parent or legal guardian or other person with the means to support you, binds that person to pay for anything you cannot. If you don’t pay the rent, the complex will go after the guarantor. Another common cost, aside from application fees and rent, is a deposit. Apartments use a deposit — which can be a couple hundred dollars — as insurance against any damage you may cause or any failure of yours to pay rent. Some apartments give this money back at the end of the lease and some don’t.

If your deposit is not refundable, this means it’s real — hidden in your lease. Divide the cost of this deposit over the price of the lease to get the real cost of your lease.

Some apartments may charge for parking or services like expanded cable or long-distance telephone access. Make sure you understand these charges. A premium may also be charged for a top-floor apartment, considered to be less noisy than lower floor rooms. Also double-check the length of your lease. Some apartment complexes allow only yearly leases, while others may allow semester-long or even monthly agreements. Make sure to research the lease and understand the specifics before you move in.

Once you’ve got your lease signed, check out the apartment before you move anything in. Be sure you make a list of any damage, excessive wear or problems you find in the apartment. Some complexes require you to do this, but it’s always a good idea. Let the complex know what you find so you won’t be charged for it later. Any damage you cause will come out of your deposit and may require additional charges. Know that some complexes expect you to patch even the pinholes before you move out.

If you really want to know what life in a complex will be like, the people living there already are your best source. Once you have the information and know your own needs, finding the right apartment should be much easier. Be efficient, comfort and peace of mind as rewards for your efforts.

Set up lunch interviews with potential roommates

FROM PAGE 1
Make sure to emphasize the specific criteria that you want in a person who’s going to share your living space. Provide the location of the house or apartment and a local phone number at which you can be reached.

What to look for
Instructing that an arrangement will work for everyone involved takes honesty, work and patience. In the search to find a roommate, a cluttered ear and laid-back manner may say as much about incompatibility as a reference or a credit check.

A thorough investigation of prospective roommates is only half the equation that may lead to a happy roommate relationship.

Model your criteria after those found in apartment complex roommate pairing.

Peggy Landis asks each of its potential residents their age, academic level and gender. Their questionnaires also deal with neatness, quietness, study habits, smoking habits and pet peeves.

Religion might also be a good thing to find out about. That says a lot about a person’s personality,” Gurney said.

While searching for your own roommate, also assess yourself of these habits. Living with roommates involves sacrifices of privacy and personal freedoms. You must be ready for the challenge of living with others.

“It’s definitely a mental shift you have to make,” sophomore Tina Wittington, 20, said. “You have to realize it’s not your space alone.”

Waggs with a high school friend and suggests that you room with someone you know or a person who has a lifestyle similar to your own to avoid confrontation and a tense environment.

Conducting the interview
Many agencies suggest that you should not just talk to a potential roommate over the phone, but interview them in person. Ask the more in-depth questions over lunch to make sure you find that person suitable for the living situation you want to create.

Experts also advise talking about who also will be visiting and for what length of time. Come to the interview prepared to talk about what you both feel is appropriate. Make sure to discuss specific details such as the social personality of that person and their interests and dislikes.

Get it in writing

Situations work out best when both roommates feel they are gauging from the arrangement and both understand the ground rules for making it work. Getting ground rules and being honest are key to the successful roommate relationship,” junior Beth Whenheim, 21, said.

She attributes her successful roommate relationships to knowing exactly what she seeks in a roommate and then conveying these needs explicitly to prospective candidates.

“Laying down specific rules before a roommate moves in is a way to avoid future conflicts,” she said. For example, Whenheim does not mind if a roommate borrows her food, but the agreement is that it should be replaced by the next day.

“It’s important that the rules be the same for both of us and we both agree that they are fair.”

Owner of Illinois-based Reliable Roommates, Bill Alberts, says that a written roommate agreement is crucial as an apartment lease.

He advises that all roommates write down their ground rules before moving in and sign the agreement as if it were a binding contract.

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CHRISTINE DELLERT STAFF WRITER

While cardboard and crate coffee tables define starting college student-style, not everyone wants to decorate from a Dumpster.

With a little help from flea markets, thrift stores and roommates, you can easily furnish your new home on a budget.

The essentials

Unless you are moving into a house or condo, many college-affiliated apartment complexes come with basic furnishings.

Northgate Lakes Apartments in Oviedo provides residents full-size beds, dressers and desks in each bedroom, while the kitchen is equipped with a microwave, refrigerator, dish-washer and garbage disposal. The living area has a four-piece dining set, coffee table, table lamps and a loveseat.

On-campus housing also supplies students with beds, dressers and desks. Apartment-style residences have refrigerators and stove tops with ovens. Many stores such as Goodwill and Salvation Army carry furnishings at low prices.

To cut down on the costs of other kitchen appliances and additional furniture for the living room, communicate with roommates before moving in. Have each person bring or purchase other necessary items, and compromise on a price limit for their expense.

If you need to buy your own kitchenware and bedding, check out local thrift stores such as Goodwill and the Salvation Army. The Community Thrift Store in Edgewood carries couches, coffee tables and recliners for reasonable prices. Many items are older and cleaning or minor refinishing may be in order.

Garage sales are another good place to find used furniture, toasters and blenders at low prices. While the quality of items ranges in extremes, you usually can’t find a better bargain.

Check classified listings with the Orlando Sentinel for estate, garage and rummage sales, most of which run on the weekends as early as 7 a.m. evenings are the best time to find the highest quality merchandise.

And don’t forget that no money in the world can replace mom and dad’s family hand-me-downs. Many students opt to furnish their essential items of their new home with family hand-me-downs. You can’t beat free.

The fun stuff

Now that you’ve got all the necessities out of the way, let your imagination run wild. Since most students only lease apartments or live on-campus for short periods of time, serious remodeling is not an option. A new coat of paint, some posters and a few funky lamps, however, can transform any dorm room into a home.

Jefferson Commons allows students to paint the walls, provided that they are repainted the original color when the lease runs up. UCF-affiliated apartment complexes Pegasus Pointe and Pegasus Landing, along with on-campus facilities, do not permit the color of the walls to be changed.

You can purchase new furniture for a good cause at the House of Hope Thrift Store on Orange Avenue, all proceeds go to benefit the Orlando House of Hope, helping troubled young women.

A large selection of dishware and paintings can be found at Cheap Charlie’s, downtown on East Colonial Drive, which carries many vintage and antique decorations.

One of Florida’s largest flea markets is located in Sanford, off Highway 17-92. flea World’s vendors sell everything from ceramics to carpets. You could easily spend a whole day traipsing through the heart of Central Florida’s bargain hunters.

Money to spare

If you want to invest in more expensive furnishings, visit the local furniture outlet stores. Often these stores contain last season’s models or slightly damaged pieces for a fair price.

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Breaking down the costs of living

A look at the monthly payment options for a house, apartment or dorm

CRYSTAL ESPINOSA
STAFF WRITER

Between weighing the pros and cons of living in an apartment or dorm, the costs of living can often seem overwhelming to students. Some may even consider the option of enjoying the luxury of living in a house, without the downside of still residing with parents.

To make the process a little easier, here is a look at the estimated monthly living costs for a house, apartment or campus dorm.

Campus dorms for the Fall 2003 and Spring 2004 semester are currently running around $2,000 per semester. A double room in the Apollo community, dorms located in the Lake, Osceola, Folk and Valencia Halls, are $1,850, which averages out to about $950 a month. Libra Community double rooms, those located in Citrus, Flagler, Sumter Halls, cost $2,100 for a semester or about $600 a month.

It is important to remember that basic flat housing rates include all utilities: water, electricity, cable, phone lines and Internet. Dorm rooms are also fully furnished and are cleaned once a week by UCF's custodial staff.

The freedom found in an apartment soon may not be its only alluring factor. With the costs of on-campus housing on the rise, apartments in close proximity to UCF are targeted towards college students and have proved to be nearly equally priced.

Student apartments, depending on the number of bedrooms, can range anywhere from as low as $350, found at The Gatherings, to $800 a month. Many apartments close to UCF, including Boardwalk Apartments, Jefferson Commons and Pegasus Landing, all have starting rates at about $400 per month.

Complexes such as Boardwalk Apartments, Jefferson Commons and The Gatherings include all utilities except phone in their monthly rent fees. Pegasus Landing, Northgate Lakes Apartments and the Village of Alafaya Club include phones and other utilities and services in their monthly fees.

Luxury apartments, such as Brittany at Waterford Lakes and The Fountains at Waterford Lakes, begin around $800 a month for a one-bedroom to a little over $1,000 a month for a three-bedroom apartment. Most include washer, dryer, pest control and garbage pickup, but no utilities.

Some luxury apartments have lower monthly rents; however, they do not include utilities.
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facturers, offering buyers free delivery and installation.

Students often buy a futon, as their first bed, instead of paying for a pricey mattress and frame. Futon Etc. Factory Outlet has two locations in close prox­

im­

ity to UCF, located in the Waterford Lakes Shopping Area and on East Colonial Drive.

Beware of rent-to-own furniture stores that boast delayed payments until next year. These companies typically charge high-interest in the months before payments, and furniture bought this way often ends up costing two to three times more than the original price.

DENISE AUFFANT CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT

Most luxury apartments do not include utilities in rent

FROM PAGE 6

ties. Waterford East Apartments have one-bedroom apartments for $550 a month and three-bedroom apartments at $757 a month, without utili­

ties.

If students decide to forge both the dorm and apartment, there is the option of living in a house.

The mortgage for a home, which generally includes the principal, interest, property taxes and home owner's insurance, can cost anywhere from $1000 to $10000, depending upon the size and location of the home.

Utilities for a four-bed­

room house cost around $50 to $100 a month for electricity, $20 to $80 a month for water, $30 to $50 for phone and possibly $40 a month for gas. Depending upon the number of people liv­

ing in the house, rent and utili­

ties payments can be split to lower the costs.

Examining the various monthly costs of living demon­

strates that the best price may not be the cheapest price but the one that allows you to live most comfortably.

What Residents Say:

Chester (Univ.-com, Jonas: “After checking the other apartments, I gratefully discovered Riverwind. It is the best living situation.”

Jennifer Andero: “Community features are excellent, and there are extra-curricular activities going on all the time.”

Andrew Johnson: “I’ve lived in Riverwind for two years and it has by far been my best living experience.”

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CLOSE TO UCF!
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Food for thought
Where you live will affect how you eat

Lisa Marie Hottle
STAFF WRITER

During Sonide Simon's first year at UCF, she frequented the Marketplace in the Student Resource Center at least three times a week. She opted to forget buying the meal plan because she wanted the freedom to learn how to cook without feeling guilty about not using pre-paid meals every day. In her second semester, Simon, 19, says she has learned more, less, or to cook — with the help and combined effort of her roommates.

"One time we made a big lasagna dinner with rice and everything," the freshman said. When deciding where to live, students need to take into consideration their access to a kitchen. While dorm rooms must use the campus-provided meal plan, those living in on-campus apartments and off-campus student living complexes have the option of learning how to cook.

With a semester of learning experience, Simon only goes to the Marketplace a couple times a week. In the meantime, she prepares everything from chicken and spaghetti to boxed microwave pizza and macaroni and cheese. Living with three other students, Simon has learned to try new foods unique to each person's upbringing.

She recommends that incoming freshmen with little cooking experience choose a meal plan system. "The food is really good," she said. "And if you don't go shopping it's a good deal." For those with little culinary expertise besides scrambling eggs and preparing high-rise subs, UCF offers an excellent alternative.

At the Marketplace in the Student Resource Center, meals are served buffet-style, which means all-you-can-eat! The standard fare includes hamburgers, French fries and pizza, but also caters to students looking to add spice to their plate. From steak and shrimp for the carnivores to pasta and vegetable soup for the vegetarians, the Marketplace stays open all day for students jetting from one class to another.

Students with no transportation may find great candidates for on-campus meal plans, especially if you are one for 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. cravings on a Tuesday night. Also, for students wanting more than a one-course meal, the meal plans offer a large variety to choose from.

Compared to grocery buying, fast-food flying and restaurant frequenting, the prices of on-campus meal plans beat all of the above. UCF dining services offers a plan with 23 meals for about $1,200 per semester. This means three meals a day, breakfast, lunch and dinner, guaranteed.

However, if you are a light eater like Sonide Lightburn, 19, the meal plan may not be your best option. She used the meal plan her freshman year at UCF and discovered that she preferred to cook her own food.

"It's a lot cheaper to buy your own food," the sophomore said. "I didn't use all the meals I paid for and they won't roll over so whatever I didn't eat, I lost." Lightburn admits that food in the Marketplace was enjoyable and often offered fare with an international flair.

When cooking for herself, she likes to prepare typical Hispanic meals with beans and rice. "I cook stuff that I would usually eat at home," she said. Lightburn recommends that those who are just leaving the comforts of home should opt for the university's meal plan.

"It's easier at first when you're getting accustomed to everything," she said. Lynn Knights works at the new Neighborhood Market on University Mall on Aloma Avenue and notices that college students typically buy food that can be prepared in less than 10 minutes.

"We always run out of frozen foods," Knights said. She adds that, surprisingly, students tend to buy a lot of health food.

"Fruits and vegetables go pretty quick," she said. The most infamous choice for filling the belly but not draining the wallet remains Ramen noodles. "We sell anywhere between 10-20 bags per person," Knights said. "And this is generally every third person [that checks out]."

She adds that college students buy few unsalted chickens, but the store cannot keep enough cooked rotisserie chicken on the shelves.

Once students leave their parents' house, there are a number of choices for eating. Whether it's the on-campus meal plan, the closest Darden restaurant or the local grocery, it is evident that students won't go hungry.

At 10 cents per bag, Ramen noodles usually fit anybody's budget.
Where's the best place to party or study?

KATRINA HAMMER  
STAFF WRITER

There are many issues for college students to consider when deciding which apartment complex to live in. Obviously issues such as location, size and price all come to mind, but students also must consider an apartment complex’s social reputation.

Complexes around UCF have differing restrictions on partying and late night socializing. Most have become likened because of the college atmosphere, but they still have nighttime security enforced in case of any major problems.

Student-style apartments around UCF are more likely to be lax in their party policies while apartment complexes not geared toward students often have much stricter guidelines, expectations and even complaints.

"It's a happy medium," freshman Amy Makis, 18, said of UCF-affiliated Pegasus Pointe. "There are times when there's loud music, but it's not a big deal. If you want a party you can always find it."

Sophomore Tiffany Donzart, 19, has lived in UCF-affiliated Pegasus Landing for two years. "This apartment complex is not too party-oriented in most sections because there are so many police patrolling the area," she said. "We also have resident assistants who check on us and reduce the problem of noise."

Senior Kyle Jacobs has lived at the Village at Science Drive for three years. "There are parties, but most of the time the other residents are considerate of your neighbors," Jacobs, 22, added that residents will usually check with other tenants in the building before throwing loud gatherings.

Some complexes have become known for their party atmosphere. Senior Annette Warnke, 21, said the Village of Alulaya Club is always active. "There is always a party and the weekends are like block parties," she said.

Junior Jason Valentine said that living in Jefferson Commons was not quite what he expected. "Almost every night of the week there is a party."

There are also several luxury-style apartment complexes that surround UCF. While these are not aimed at college students, many still choose to live in them. These apartments often come unfurnished, higher-priced and are a bit more upscale than traditional student living.

Luxury-style apartment complexes are not exempt from their share of problems, but differ from those of student-style apartments. Junior Susan Montenegro, 20, lived in Chatham Landing for a year. "It was completely boring," she said. "Too many families and old people live there. They would even complain about our dog in the middle of the afternoon."

Junior James Nunez lives in Elmhurst Village Luxury Apartments. Nunez, 20, said that his apartment is a pretty mild, easygoing living facility aside from the old people that fail to clean up and attend to their dogs.

"Instead of wild parties keeping me up all night it is my upstairs neighbor's dog running around the house like a yo-yo," he said. "My roommate and I actually place bets on him."

While luxury-style apartments are typically more expensive, students can often find a peaceful environment to come home to.

Montenegro now lives in Ardien Villas. "It's quiet enough to study when you want to," she said; "but you can also have parties with no worries about complaints. It's a good balance."

Junior Jamie Phipps has lived in Brittany at Waterford Lakes for a year. Phipps, 20, described the complex as quiet, family-oriented with nice-sized rooms, walk-in closets and beautiful kitchens. "Better than any college apartment complex," she said.

On-campus apartment living is also another option that students may consider.

Sophomore Alexis Graham, 20, will be renewing her lease for UCF's Academic Village next year. Graham says that she enjoys the quietness that Academic Village provides. "I'm not really into the party scene," she said.

Also, there is always someone to call when there is a problem, Graham said. "When there was a problem with loud music it was resolved quickly which may not happen at an off-campus apartment," she said. Graham also likes not having to worry about traffic or a lack of parking on campus.

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