Administrators answer to students at open forum

Danielle DePari

War dominated a forum with UCF administrators Monday as students drilled President John Hitt and his lieutenants about campus demonstrations and the university's financial investments in companies that profit-ed from the Iraqi conflict.

Patrick Rostock, a member of Campus Peace Action, expressed the need for a campus with borderless speech zones.

"You need to make the campus entirely free for speech... Designated areas make demonstrations inaccessi ble," Rostock said.

Hitt said the problem of remote speech zones was resolved last year after the administration created three new regions on campus for free speech activity in addition to an existing area on the Chemistry Green.

The new zones include areas out-side UCF's new regions on campus for borderless speech zones.

Students to meet with Hitt to save fired professor

Danielle DePari

Legal studies professor Diane Sudia surprised UCF last November when she decided to sue several professors and university officials after she was fired just before she would have earned tenure.

Students who adored the professor responded with an outcry of letters, T-shirt campaigns, public appearances and protests to convince UCF officials to reconsider.

Administrators and colleagues in the Criminal Justice and Legal Studies Department remained tight-lipped, unwilling to reveal why the professor was being let go after teaching at UCF for almost five years.

Seven months later, little has changed.

Sudia is still suing for what she calls an illegal termination procedure. University officials failed to give Sudia a full year's notice as they are required. And she is still unsure whether she'll have a job at UCF come fall semester. Students are still writing letters and protesting.

One thing has changed, though. Students' patience is beginning to wear thin and several are taking their case to UCF President John Hitt, determined to find out why he and others want to fire a professor who has achieved so much in such a short time at UCF.

Sudia, who met all tenure requirements in just two years at UCF and lead the Trial Team to first place in a national competition this year, would have earned tenure after this summer had she not received a notice of termination.

But like Sudia, students haven't had much luck persuading administrators and officials that those accomplishments should be enough to allow her to keep her job. In fact, they've had enough trouble getting Hitt to sit down and talk to them.

Hitt has canceled two previous appointments.

Paying tribute to the Creative queen

Nicol Jenkins

On Saturday, April 5, in an event featuring live painting and a clown, parents, children and alumni celebrated the career of Dolores Burghard, the founder of the Creative School for Children.

For the last 27 years, students and faculty have brought their young children to the Creative School, which Burghard, 75, founded. The on-campus school offers students and faculty a place to bring their children, ages 2 to 7, while they are in class or working.

Burghard has worked with children since she was 12, first as a camp counselor and baby sitter. She was in UCF's first graduating class when the school was known as Florida Institute of Technology, and later earned her master's degree in early childhood education at UCF.

While Burghard worked in local government, she helped to found Head Start, a government program for low-income families in Orange County. In 1965, later, she directed a kindergarten program for Lakemont Elementary School for six years.

In 1970, the UCF Student Government Association asked Burghard to come up with a program for young children to the Creative School took over the directions on how to make a pyramid.

Burghard then directed the school for the last 27 years, she said. President John Hitt makes his final decision on B.J.'s sound is interrupted.

Please see Burghard on 5

INSIDE

Surreal scenes shock students

New provost selected

Index:

UCF FACT
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Higher education around the nation

Exposing fraud

Brian L. Clack’s law firm, which represents the University of Central Florida, was ordered to pay $2 million in penalties and fees, plus interest, for its role in a scheme to inflate its earnings.

The university’s former legal counsel turned the tables on his old employer, filing a $1 million wrongful-termination lawsuit against the private institution.

The lawyer, Michael A. Baskin, asserts that his dismissal from Central Florida in February was, in part, retaliation for his role in exposing financial wrongdoing at the historically black college.

The suit, filed in March, alleges that the institution allowed trustees and other prominent alumni to submit “false charitable donations” to the university in lieu of tuition payments for their children. Before he was allowed to claim tax-deductible contributions on their tax filings, the lawsuit says.

The trustees reluctantly abandoned the practice, Baskin’s lawsuit says, after he brought it to the attention of university officials.

The practice was never reported to the U.S. Treasury Department or the Internal Revenue Service, the suit says.

The suit also alleges that the chairman of Clark Atlanta’s Board of Trustees, Carl Vlasek, awarded a housekeeping contract to a company that was owned by one of his friends, against the recommendation of an independent selection committee that had favored a more qualified vendor.

In addition, Baskin says that Clark Atlanta’s president, William Jackson, billed the institution for $14,000 in private legal work Vlasek incurred before he took office last August.

The former general counsel says the president approved the reimbursement after being advised by Baskin that the fees should not be paid with university funds.

Clark Atlanta has countersued Baskin, claiming that his release of privileged information in his lawsuit amounts to professional malpractice and breach of fiduciary responsibility. The university also alleges that Baskin’s legal action is part of an ongoing attempt by him to use threats, prejudice and humiliation to settle his financial claims against the university.

In the aftermath, Clark Atlanta is seeking unspecified damages arising from what it calls Mr. Baskin’s “repeatecd breaches of fiduciary duties,” including his failure to report the illegal acts he alleged had been committed by the president.

Baskin is seeking more than $1 million in forfeited salary and benefits that he says were denied to him as a result of his wrongful termination. He had served as the university’s general counsel for 16 years, and his annual salary was $157,000 at the time of his dismissal.

Baskin had also served as director of the office of general counsel, one of several administrative roles he held in addition to his regular duties. The institution, for example, owed him more than $40,000 bonus last year if he collected $1 million in past-duet student accounts, his lawsuit states.

Baskin says his attempts to collect the bonus and other compensation contributed to his dismissal.

Progress report

States should create a national database that lists students who have made toward graduation, even when they transfer from one institution to another, says

President John Hitt answers questions Monday during a forum between students and campus administrators.

"We have decided that a free speech campus isn’t the direction to go for now," Hitt said. "It creates problems with pedestrian traffic and holding classes.

Other concerns regarding the war came from student Jonathan Leto, who wondered whether there were any moral implications for UCF, which has close ties to Lockheed Martin.

"Lookheed Martin has a $15 billion contract with the Department of Defense, does that mean anything to you?" Leto asked.

Hitt said it is not uncommon for shareholders to invest in defense in a time of international threat and conceded it was possible that UCF did own stock in Lockheed Martin.

Student Josh Edmundson complained to administrators about UCF Police officers’ actions at last week’s pro-peace rally. He claimed that after observing it during the protest, he had gone to visit officers to intervene.

"I had to pull out the Golden Rule," Edmundson said.

Vice President William Merck defended the students, stating they reacted appropriately in the situation, in times of protest, police action often evokes the crowd and causes more violence, he said.

There were no arrests and no confrontations that led to anything worse than the demonstration, which earned the students and campus more goodwill, he said.

Hospitality major Lisa Barick’s concerns were academic. Frustrated with the university’s policy that limits students to 17 credit hours per semester, even during the summer sessions, she demanded to know how she could appeal the policy a second time because her first appeal was denied.

Administrators suggested that Barick work through the appeals process again and applauded her for her vigor in her academic career. Provost Gary Whitehouse said the 17-hour restriction is especially necessary in the summer, because classes are fast-paced during the shorter term.

Junior Shaun Gyger hoped he could convince administrators to salvage an intramural field that university officials have marked for demolition with plans to construct a pool over it. He also asked administrators to repair existing fields pitted with deep holes that posed hazards to students who depended on them.

Vice President Tom Hildred offered Gyger a few answers except a promise that the administration might work with the Student Government Association and athletics to install lights on intramural fields.

Business major Bonnie Eber echoed students’ sentiments when she asked administrators to solve registration dilemmas. Business students have to wait two months to see an advisor for every time because her first appeal was denied.

Hildred said the University of Central Florida is undergoing growth and excitement, and there is much more ahead, Hildred said. "Of a more personal note, my wife’s parents and brother live in Florida, and we look forward to returning to a milder climate."

Hildred said he likes UCF’s expanding facilities. He sees and hears from faculty, staff and students. He said there’s a "constant pressure on UCF’s efforts to attract students.

Hildred has been a consultant for several years and reminds him of his early years at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Hildred said he has a few goals for UCF when he takes over as provost, including expanding and focusing on the university’s research mission. He also wants to build on UCF’s efforts to attract honor students, improve career management services for students and provide more career-related internship opportunities for students.

MJ. Science, UCF’s vice president for research, served as chairman of the provost search committee, which was made up of

UCF selects new provost

MARSHALL SPENCE

Following months of uncertainty, the university has found the person it wants as President John Hitt’s second-in-command.

Terry L. Hickey, current senior vice president and provost of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, will bring nearly 30 years of experience as a college professor, researcher and academic administrator to UCF when he takes over as UCF’s new provost July 1.

Hickey will replace Provost Gary Whitehouse, who announced his resignation last September. Whitehouse said he will go on administrative development leave before his position.

Hickey attended the University of Akron, will bring with him.

In November 1972, Hickey started a 24-year career at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he rose through the ranks to assistant professor, department of physiological optics to associate provost for academic programs. In 1997, he left UAB to become provost of the University of Akron on May 1, 2000.

Hickey said he wants to be UCF’s new provost because he wants to make a significant contribution to a growing institution.

"The University of Central Florida is experiencing growth and excitement, and there is much more ahead," Hickey said. "Of a more personal note, my wife’s parents and brother live in Florida, and we look forward to returning to a milder climate."

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Marshall Spence

Forum discussions

War issues dictate forum discussions

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Please see Provost on 8
Spending riches on recognition?

Due to a production error, an incomplete version of this article was published in the April 14 edition. It is reprinted here in its entirety.

Mike Riegel
Staff Writer

How much does it cost to turn someone into a Golden Knight?

The answer is — well, there isn’t any answer. The money that UCF spends annually on public relations ventures could be doing wonders for the university, but no one knows exactly what it accomplishes.

That fact, however, has done little to change the school’s opinion of the importance of public relations. Vice President of University Relations Dan Holahoeck reports that UCF spends about $3 million on services that cover an array of public relations-related functions.

Three different departments handle a majority of the public relations at UCF -- community relations, marketing and media relations. According to Linda Gray, director of media relations, the responsibilities of her branch transcend the standard goals of “name recognition” and “attracting new students.”

“We are a public university and the public deserves to know what we are, who we are and how we do it,” Gray said. The purpose for media relations, she said, is to attract positive attention to the university and provide a knowledgeable resource for students, parents, faculty and government representatives.

There are times, however, when the attention is not so positive. Steaming from her tenure as director of media relations at the University of Florida, Gray is aware that handling negative publicity is sometimes an integral part of her occupation.

“When there were five serial murders at UF [in 1984], there were hundreds of media on campus and dozens of remote satellite trucks for live broadcasts,” Gray said. While her staff here at UCF has yet to encounter a similar barrage of attention from the press, Gray said her office will field anywhere from 25 to 100 calls from media outlets on a normal day.

“Someone has to be available to answer those questions,” she said.

UCF professor Hussam Aburas’s recent arrest on charges of immigration fraud was one of the first controversial incidents Gray has handled at UCF with reporters calling her office in search of the university’s official response.

Gray and her staff also make calls and send e-mails to alert media outlets about the achievements of UCF faculty and students.

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UCF professor Hussam Aburas’s recent arrest on charges of immigration fraud was one of the first controversy
Burghard credited with Creative School’s success

FROM PAGE 1

Burghard to direct a new school on campus where students could drop off their children while they attended classes.

Burghard did not want to lead a traditional childcare program. “I was inspired to start a school, not a day care, where children are able to explore and become individuals,” she said.

In establishing the school, Burghard first had to decide on a philosophy and hire the right staff to foster that vision. The Creative School has a staff of individuals who have worked there for 12 to 22 years. Marcia Diebler, the assistant director and education supervisor of the Creative School, has worked there for 21 years.

Diebler says Burghard deserves credit for its success. “Mrs. Burghard’s dedication and philosophy has made the Creative School what it is today,” Diebler said.

From humble beginnings, the school has grown considerably. “The Creative School started out with 15 children; now we have expanded to about 150 per semester,” Burghard said.

The school’s success in developing early learning skills has made it popular with UCF students and faculty, which explains the long waiting list to enroll children. “The children of students have first priority at the school, then comes faculty, alumni and the community,” Diebler said.

The school also provides graduate students and faculty with the opportunity to conduct educational research and training in the classrooms.

At the Creative School, children learn to work independently and think on their own through stress-free programs in which they can choose their own activities. The philosophy of the school is not to mold the children, but for them to become uniquely individuals.

“Impression and creativity are the cornerstones for which we work to develop a child’s love for lifelong learning,” Burghard said. “The teachers here are facilitators, not lecturers.”

Burghard has always wanted primarily to make learning fun for the children. “I never thought that I would be working at the Creative School for so long, but I just love helping children grow,” Burghard said.

Christina Clayman, a member of the Parent Association, brings her 3-year-old son, Marcus, to the school. “All the parents will miss Burghard greatly; she exudes a great deal for the children,” Clayman said.

A.J. Range, a supervisor at the school, is said to see Burghard leave. “It will be difficult to replace such great leadership. The Creative School would not be where it is today if it were not for Burghard,” Range said.

Stacey Dunn, a professor of psychology at UCF, brings her 4-year-old daughter, Nicole, to the school while she is working. Dunn hopes the school will continue to grow. “The Creative School for Children has been indispensable to the faculty and community of the university,” Dunn said.

Burghard has many avenues she wishes to explore after retirement. She would like to do volunteer work with abused children, spend more time with her grandchildren and pursue her interests in photography and writing. But Burghard will not be a stranger to the Creative School. She plans to visit the children whom she has grown fond of, as much as she can.

CONTESTANTS NEEDED!

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Seeing the light in the Tunnel of Oppression

Simulated horrors show students evils of real world

Gesho Mebalik
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It was the scariest extra-credit assignment freshman Milik Samson ever signed up for. Scenes flashed and video monitors warned Samson and other students to keep quiet. A group of terrorists rushed him and other unsuspecting students into a dark room while shooting orders.

A flashlight hovered over the students' faces as a terrorist cried out, "We do whatever I say!"

"The program brings about a sense of urgency," Ortiz said. "It reminds students that these are world issues. As world citizens, we need to take responsibility for our actions and right these wrongs."

The International Diversity Forum, in partnership with the Office of Student Activities and Housing and Residence Life, hoped an aggressive approach like an interactive display would encourage active responses from students.

Students reacted to the scenes they saw with mixed emotions.

"I thought the actor playing the attacker in the date-rape scene could have been softer," Freshman Kat Setzer, 19, said. She did not think this happened in society that often.

Junior Tianna Sims, 21, disagreed. "It does happen," she said firmly.

Beth Helt, a volunteer tour guide for the event, said what happens is "not grotesque, but... it's a reality that we deal with everyday in the world."

"It's not grotesque," she said. "It's not suppose to be glamorous."

"It's a reality that we deal with everyday in the world."

Andrew Black, a psychologist at the UCF Counseling and Testing Center, moderated the debriefing sessions where students who participated in the tunnel were questioned about their responses to the information presented.

"The reactions that students had varied. Some students started looking at things differently," he said.

The situations were all dramatized, but were representative of the incidents of oppression that occur every day around the world, said Vivian Ortiz, area coordinator for UCF Housing and Residence Life.

"There are things that some people can't relate to," she said. "Some are even dumfounded by it, actually."

"It reminds students that these are world issues. As world citizens, we need to take responsibility for our actions and right these wrongs."

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Byron Bledsoe, Senior Pastor
Harvard changes rules for early admission

Higher-education officials have long argued that enrollment-and-graduation statistics are misleading because they don't track students who transfer to other institutions.

Half of the students who earn bachelor's degrees attend two or more institutions, and these students are sometimes recorded as 'dropouts,' the report says.

The report, "Following the Mobile Student: Can We Develop the Capacity for a Comprehensive Database to Assess Student Progression?" describes a study conducted by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems for the Lumina Foundation for Education.

The study examined state college-enrollment record systems that track data at the student level and considered the feasibility of linking those databases into a more comprehensive network.

Forty-six such databases exist in 30 states, the report says — some states have multiple databases for different sectors, like community colleges. About half of the databases have links with other state databases, but they rarely link across state lines.

The existing databases, which all use the same basic information categories, contain information on 10 percent of the nation's full-time enrollment, the report says.

The biggest roadblock in setting up a national database is, for privacy and identity theft in higher education are a "significant threat," to the proposal, researchers said.

Increasing concerns of privacy and identity theft in higher education are a "significant threat" to the proposal, researchers said. Colleges could encrypt the Social Security numbers or say Social Security numbers to students are free to make multiple applications in the future.

At least two other colleges — Princeton and Brown University — also defy the association's guidelines. They say they don't want early applicants who have applied early decision to other early decision.

Harvard had changed its policy last year in an effort to comply with the admissions-counseling association's guidelines, which had recently been updated. Under last year's policy, Harvard allowed early decision candidates to apply early decision and early decision college as well.

Dean of UCI's College of Arts and Sciences

Sodium said he liked Hickey's extensive administrative experience and that he performed admirably at the University of Akron. Solomon added that Hickey's experience in fund-raising was a bonus.

"It's a big plus to have somebody who not only manages what it takes to break even and raise funds," Solomon said.

Calling all UCF Graduate Students

Graduate Student Association

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Provost will focus on increasing research

UCF students, staff and trustees. The committee's job was to find three candidates to replace Whitehouse. Hitt then had to choose one of those three candidates.

The other two finalists were Gary S. Kruehnenich, provost and senior vice president at Arizona State University, and Kathryn Seidel, dean of UCI's College of Arts and Sciences.

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Hitt cancelled two previous appointments with students

FROM PAGE 1

with students backing Sudia in the past two months. They have scheduled another on April 23, though they're not sure what Hitt will reveal.

Hitt himself has said that when he meets with students, he won't be able to discuss much with them while litigation is pending between the university and Sudia.

"What students don't understand is that I can't talk about the case," Hitt said.

Hitt said he has yet to hear from a concerned student and is unaware of the campaigns students have launched to save the professor's job, besides a student appearance on a Channel 13 news broadcast.

However, Sudia backers say their two original appointments with Hitt were canceled after he appeared on Channel 13 inviting students to voice their concerns about Sudia.

They also say the Keep Diane campaign is so well known at UCF, Sudia's accomplishments and pointed out all the reasons the professor shouldn't be fired. While Sherman received a call from Yandy Cook, associate general counsel to Hitt, promising her that Hitt would respond to her letter, she received a response from Cook instead.

"It basically said, 'We don't care,'" Sherman said. "It wasn't from the president, it was from Ms. Cook. It had no commentary to what I wrote."

Students who are scheduled to meet with Hitt next week have compiled a petition containing 500 signatures — something they hope will help convince Hitt of Sudia's influence on campus.

Hitt acknowledged that he had not seen any other instance in UCF history where a terminated professor received so much student support.

In the meantime, Sudia has received a contract for the summer until her case is heard in court.

Sudia declined to comment due to ongoing litigation.

Legal Studies majors Joshua Lukman, left, and Joshua Meyer wear 'Keep Diane' shirts to protest the termination of teacher Diane Sudia.

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

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For Economy, Peace May Be Answer

The fall of Baghdad hasn't tilted the balance of pow-

er, but there are signs it may re-
gain traction and overt a slice back into the U.S. As events have

moved rapidly in the favor of the U.S., economists were marking
down first-half growth expectations,
and chief executives re-
mained wary of a pickup in sales,
tojection, and investment.

But the pessimism appears to be
heavily affected by the fall in eco-

nomic activity that came in the run-

up to war. It will probably take
months to know for sure if war jitters
have been the economy's main
restraint, or whether more en-
trenched obstacles, such as the un-

winding of the investment bubble at
the turn of the decade, are to blame
and will continue to hold back growth.

There are some signs that "propoculitical uncertainty" has been
the main culprit, as Federal Re-

serve Chairman Alan Greenspan
argued earlier this year. Consumer
confidence has been in the wake of
the drop in oil prices and the jump
in stock prices that initially fol-
lowed the outbreak of war March 21.
But business and consumer be-

siments. At the Business Round-

table, a chief executive of one of
the country's largest companies
members expecting to cut jobs this
year, while others were planning to
increase them by 45% to 9%. Just
56% expected sales to grow this
year, down from 71% last November.

Cheap Air Fares

For Summer Go Fast

Bargains on overseas flights abound, but the deal may be flie-

ning. The usual spring and early summer off

season to book a round-trip to Europe is now

in late May. But the summer season is

peaked, and flights to Europe

are expected to be more expen-
sive this year than last, as

travelers look to avoid the peak

July and August periods.

Super sonic

To Superseded

If price is no object, take one of
the last flights of the Concorde.

After 27 years of zipping

at twice the speed of sound, the Con-

corde is being grounded. Air France

will cease flights May 31 and British

Airways, the other only airline fly-

ning the supersonic jet, will stop all

Concorde flights Oct. 31.

Concorde's retirement means that aviation will for the first time in

its history become slower rather

than faster. There is no successor to the

Concorde, and none is on the

drawing board.

An aviation marvel, the needle-

point Concorde was an economic

failure. It was designed in the mid-

1960s, when thick black exhaust
trails were a normal price to paid

for flying so high up. Even today, they

are struggling to make them up even

bigger profit hit. That means

the deal, which in many cases

must be bought in the next few weeks or

months, may still be as good as a no-

summer travel rebound.

Information on Superseded Web site specializing in international

travel says online bookings are

40% to 75% of the first week of Ap-

ril.
Apple Plans Online Music Service

By Peter Wang Tam and Ann Wise, Memphis

Apple Computer Inc. will launch its own music service in coming weeks with songs from all five major record labels. Instead of selling subscriptions, the service, which will be integrated with Apple’s iTunes music software, is expected to focus on individual songs, charging consumers about $0.99 each for most tracks.

People familiar with the matter said the service will be more consumer-friendly than most of the other legitimate online music services, with a simplicity that makes it easy for consumers to purchase a song and move it to the popular Apple iPod devices. But it will only be available to Mac users, who comprise only about 5% of the global market.

An Apple spokeswoman declined to comment on the new service.

Critics say Apple Chief Executive Steve Jobs has marketed his products in the past as tools for getting free online tunes and learning how to download homemade compact discs—wherein the eyes of many recording executives enables the theft that has been destroying their business. Mr. Jobs also has long criticized the online-music services already offered by companies owned by the labels and others as being too difficult to use. He has maintained that the only barrier facing people who want to enjoy online digital music is the lack of a good legitimate service.

To win over skeptical music-industry officials, Mr. Jobs embarked on a campaign with meeting with many executives in Los Angeles and at Apple’s Cupertino, Calif., headquarters. According to people familiar with the matter, he managed to persuade many that his new creation, armed with Apple’s trademark elegance and simplicity, could win over consumers to the idea of paying for online music.

Apple’s service will be competing in a marketplace full of subscription-based online services, including those owned by the labels themselves, such as pressplay and MusicNet. Another difficulty will be that Apple, like its competitors, must compete with the availability of unlimited free songs on Internet peer-to-peer swapping services.

Though the new Apple offering is expected to have a broad catalog, rightsholders make it unlikely that it can match the selection of music from unauthorized networks.

College, With All the Perks

Continued From Previous Page

laptops, but only after raising tuition.

Even when colleges can’t pass on the charge for, say, cellphones, not laptops, but only after raising tuition.

Some parents familiar with the matter said the service will be more consumer-friendly than most of the other legitimate online music services, with a simplicity that makes it easy for consumers to purchase a song and move it to the popular Apple iPod devices. But it will only be available to Mac users, who comprise only about 5% of the global market.

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College, With All the Perks

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What’s News—In Business and Finance

Continued From Previous Page

WorldCom May Get Second Chance

WorldCom Inc., which engineered the biggest accounting fraud in corporate history, has won strong creditor backing for a bankruptcy-reorganization plan and could emerge from Chapter 11 proceedings as early as September.

WorldCom has secured backing for the plan from 90% of its creditors, reaching a broader consensus faster than many expected in the largest bankruptcy in U.S. history. In an effort to break its scandal-ridden past, WorldCom also plans to change its name to MCi, the big provider of long-distance telephone service it bought in 1999.

Many in the telecommunications industry dread the resurrection of WorldCom after an accounting fraud that is expected to total as much as $11 billion in overstated revenues and profits. Some critics fear a round of price wars as the industry continues to reel from a huge glut of capacity. Competitors such as AT&T Corp. and the regional Bell units WorldCom is being rewarded for its fraud by being allowed to remove the debt from its books and to go on its books.

Wells, which are owned money by WorldCom, say it should be liquidated and put out of business.

A Reprieve

For Philip Morris

Altria Group’s Philip Morris USA division dodged a $12 billion court-ordered bond after an Illinois judge reversed his earlier decision that threatened to force the company into bankruptcy proceedings.

The bond requirement stems from a $13.1 billion judgment against the company for deceiving smokers that “light” cigarettes were less harmful than regular cigarettes. Illinois law requires defendants to post the full amount of the judgment, plus interest, as bond, which Philip Morris said it was unable to do. Instead, as a guarantee during its appeal of the verdict, the company will pay a pre-existing $6 billion long-term note into escrow, and pay $500 million to the account.

Odds & Ends

General Motors Corp. reported sharply higher net income for its first quarter, crediting the increase to strength in the North American automotive sector and a gain from the sale of its defense unit. … U.S. industrial output fell again in March amid a sharp drop in utilities production, as capacity use hit its lowest level in over a year.

By Jay Herhney

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Hitt out of touch with student concerns

From his perch in the Office of the President on the top floor of Millikan Hall, John Hitt seems out of touch with the campus he directs. Rarely appearing on campus or interacting with students, Hitt has helped UCF to become one of Florida's largest and most-growing universities, but he does not grow similarly on students. Instead, students see their university's president as aloof to their concerns, ignoring them altogether or putting off action.

While Hitt has reached out to students more this year with open forums, he still has not paid enough attention directly to students. In particular, Hitt claims he did not know about the campaign being waged by students to save the job of legal studies associate professor Diane Sudia, a campaign dramatized with news stories and editorials in the pages of this newspaper.

The university tried last fall to fire Sudia, whose unorthodox teaching style drew criticism from her peers and superiors. Yet that same teaching style earned Sudia the respect and adoration of her students.

Many of those students launched a highly visible campaign to "Keep Diane," complete with signs and T-shirts. They set up a table in front of the Student Union. They attracted the attention of the Student Government Association, as much so that the SGA Senate passed a resolution in support of Sudia. (The university itself has not officially commented on the Sudia situation because of pending litigation.)

Still, Hitt claims ignorance of the effort, and of the dozens of e-mails students have sent to him on Sudia's behalf. If Hitt followed the actions of the SGA Senate and read the articles in the student newspaper, he would have a better idea of what is going on at his university.

Indeed, if he spent more time around the campus, interacting with students and listening to their concerns, Hitt would know that a number of students support Sudia.

While Hitt's once-a-semester forums with students represent an attempt to connect with them, he needs to make himself more available.

Granted, Hitt has a challenging job, trying to appease a number of interested parties, but he should pay more attention to student concerns. After all, students should be the ones he tries to please most.

Hopefully, Hitt finally will meet with students who have scheduled a meeting to talk with him next week about Sudia. It would represent another step in the right direction.

---END---

Letters to the Editor

BUSH needs to focus attention on economy

With the Iraqi war for the most part behind him, President George W. Bush has finally decided to focus attention on the nation's ailing economy. Hoping to avoid the mistake of his father, who fought a successful war against Iraq but neglected the economy and ultimately lost his reelection bid, the current President Bush now says he sees the need to revitalize the economy. He knows that he faces another election next year, and he cannot allow the economy to languish.

Unfortunately, Bush insists that giving massive tax cuts to businesses and on stock dividends is the best way to revive the economy. But most Americans currently disagree with this approach, according to an Associated Press poll that says six out of 10 Americans believe this is not the time for tax cuts. While Bush doesn't seem to mind giving tax breaks to the wealthy, he also doesn't seem to mind cutting young American troops, many of them poor and in need of financial assistance, into harry's war.

Tax cuts could help kick-start the economy, but Bush's first round of tax cuts two years ago did not do the trick. Things have not improved economically since then, and millions of jobs around the country have disappeared.

In his defense, Bush has faced challenges that no one foresaw, namely the Sept. 11 terrorist attack and the subsequent expenses required to vastly improve the nation's security. Still, it seems determined to go to war with Iraq, despite the $60 billion price tag.

Bush initially proposed a tax cut of $726 billion for this year's budget, but most Democrats and even some moderate Republicans rightly questioned slashing taxes at a time of rising deficits, an unknown Iraq war occupation and reconstruction costs. Both houses of Congress proposed tax cuts, but much less than Bush proposed.

On tax day, Bush decided he would accept a reduction of $350 billion, still far above the $350 billion backed by the Senate. This vote in the Republican-controlled Senate last week stung the president in a time of war.

As the economy spirals through this lengthy recession, Bush needs to work with Congress and try new techniques to get it going. Bush needs to realize that tax cuts may work sometimes, but they are useless when he fails, he needs to try a different approach.

College students face a very shaky and uncertain job market as they graduate from college. They fear graduation and the prospect of finding a job in an economy where jobs seem to vanish, but few seem to appear. UCF's Career Resource Center says only 41 employers are currently registered for the May 8 Statewide Job Fair. The last year's fair featured more than 100 employers.

The economy needs to improve, and Bush should think beyond tax cuts alone in an effort to make that happen.

---END---

Opinions
Thursday, April 17, 2003

OUR STANCE:

Bush needs to focus attention on economy

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---END---
Photographic images are not really realistic

GLENN MCDATT
THE BALTIMORE SUN

The picture, which appeared in the Los Angeles Times, the Baltimore Sun and The Birmingham News, seemed to depict a British soldier and Iraqi civilians during fighting in Bagh, Iraq. Taken by a Los Angeles Times photographer, the image turned out to be a composite of two photographs that had been digitally spliced together.

When the deception was discovered, the Times published a correction, citing its policy against altering the contents of news photographs, and fired the photographer.

The incident was mainly seen and discussed as a matter of journalistic ethics. But it also highlights what long has been recognized as photography's dual character: A photograph may look real but it is not reality. It is an image that, unlike other kinds of images, possesses the unique ability to compel belief in the truthfulness of what it represents.

Photography's ability to look real, even when it isn't, can be its downfall. But, for artists, the same duality has been a great wellspring of creativity.

From Cindy Sherman's fake film stills to the fantastic photo collages of Marig Geerlinks and Anthony Cusafe, one of the persistent themes of contemporary art photography has been an insistence on the absolute unreliability of photographs as measures of truth.

Indeed, much contemporary art photography deliberately sets out to convince the viewer that they actually remember what long ago was bound to be fabricated. cinnamon heroines who never existed, starring in films that were never made.

Yet so convincing was the illusion that many people insisted that they actually remembered having seen the "movies" from which Sherman's "stills" were taken -- even though the whole thrust of her work practically ended out to the viewer: "This photograph is a lie!"

So since then, art photography has moved further and further from the idea that photographs are "true." At the same time, photography as a form of news has made people more dependent than ever on pictures as a way of understanding their world.

Perhaps the lesson is simply that the images in which we live have enormously complicated our relationship to reality.

By creating a duplicitous world of pictures that stands between us and the real world, photographs have shrunk the dimensions of space and time that once separated people. But they also have further blurred the distinction between image and reality.

The doctored war photograph is just one more example of how photography's "objectivity" was also one cause of the resistance to its acceptance as art, since, unlike painting, sculpture and drawing, its effects were thought not to depend on the creative vision of the artist.

Though American artists Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Weston, Ansel Adams and others had long championed photography as art, the widespread view of photography as a mere transcription of reality only began to change in the 1970s, with the appearance of a new generation of postmodern photographers.

Cindy Sherman, whose "Untitled Film Stills" represents a bridge between traditional photography and the new conceptual art, deliberately set out to subvert photography's claim to truthfulness.

Sherman's cleverly posed photographs, which purported to be production stills from 1960s-era B-movies, were in fact wholly fabricated images of cinematic heroines who never existed, starring in films that were never made.

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Perhaps the lesson is simply that the images in which we live have enormously complicated our relationship to reality.
Sweep of Dolphins gives the Knights Atlantic Sun lead

Ashley Burns
STAFF WRITER

The UCF women's softball team didn't seem to be challenged at all this past Sunday as the Knights easily took two games from the Dolphins of Jacksonville University. A stunning combination of near-perfect pitching and fast bats helped the Knights improve their record to 32-23 overall.

The sweep also moved the Knights into the top spot in the Atlantic Sun Conference with an 11-3 league record. The Atlantic Sun Championship meet this weekend at the UCF track and field complex.

Next game
St. John's vs UCF
9:30 a.m. Friday
at UCF

Jania Shinnester hit her 12th double of the season in the second game of Sunday's doubleheader against Jacksonville.

Softball team has won eight conference games in a row

The UCF women's softball team hasn't seemed to be challenged at all this past Sunday as the Knights easily took two games from the Dolphins of Jacksonville University.

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Competition tight for Atlantic Sun track title

Jon Scroggins
STAFF WRITER

The injury bug hit the UCF women's track team hard this indoor season, but Coach Marcia Mansur-Wentworth's squad never lowered its expectations.

The team's goals are still within reach as the Golden Knights prepare to host the Atlantic Sun Conference Championship meet this weekend at the UCF track and field complex.

Last season UCF earned its third consecutive conference title by keeping the field, tallying a whopping 203 points, an Atlantic Sun all-time best. This year the field is much more even. Mansur-Wentworth said 120 points might be enough to win, and there would certainly not be another runaway.

"Nobody has that many good people. It will be a much more open championship," Mansur-Wentworth said. "It looks strong. Their athletes are competing really well. On paper they're definitely the team to beat.

The Knights have their work cut out for them. They have won five conference championships, including the last three in a row, but Mansur-Wentworth said the doubles other teams will be intimidated.

"If anything, that's a weakness," she said. "Everybody wants to knock us off. They're all gunning for us. They probably feel like this is their year; we're down, they can get us. I know if I was at another programma"

American Women's Track and Field meet.

They even have a shot at knocking off the Golden Knights. The Knights have their work cut out for them.

There was nothing special about a pitcher who can throw a one-hit, complete-game shutout. When Golden Knights' ace Dottie Cupp walked off the mound this past Sunday, it was just another day at the office.

Dottie Cupp threw a one-hitter in the first game of UCF's doubleheader against JU. The Knights won 4-0.

The Knights gave Cupp the only offense she would need in the third inning. Right fielder Rachelle Schmidt reached on an error in the bottom of the inning and advanced to second on a Jen Whitley ground out.

Including another run in the bottom of the inning, Schmidt would advance to third on a ground out by Stephanie Best.

PLEASE SEE Sawyer on 16

AShley Burns
STAFF WRITER

There's something special about a pitcher who can throw a one-hit, complete-game shutout. When Golden Knights' ace Dottie Cupp walked off the mound this past Sunday, it was just another day at the office.

Most pitchers, baseball and softball, would grab for simply a win, let alone a one-hitter. For Cupp, though, the scoreless innings just roll off of her fingers.

What makes this senior pitcher so special isn't the fact that she has a cannon for an arm or that she can baffle any batter and turn around and hit the long ball off an unexpected adversary.

Cupp has taken a 2-year-old program and made it into an immediate contender in the Atlantic Sun Conference. But she doesn't have to carry the burden of being on a young team alone, she has created a cohesive unit with her leadership and experience.

Cupp transferred to UCF in 2002 from Gulf Coast Community College, riding high with a softball scholarship for the baseball program. Normally a rookie program wouldn't make a big impact or put up a high amount of wins. Cupp and the rest of the 2002 inaugural squad introduced UCF softball to the A-Sun Conference with an astonishing 46-19 record. The Knights finished third in the conference, as well as going 12-4 against their new rivalry.

Cupp didn't have to step up as a leader. Instead she chose to.

"There's always the pressure to win. It's a brand new program, so UCF took a chance on us last year," Cupp said. "Being the first year, we had something to prove.

Cupp did more than prove the worthlessness of this squad. In her first season, and assuming the role of staff ace as a junior, she earned a spectacular record of 26-4, while fanning 215 batters in the season. She has also provided support to her own cause as she bat-
Chris Bernhardt Staff Writer

Two weeks into a post-season interview, UCF Coach Jay Bergman perfectly summarized his team's 10-4 victory at Jay Bergman Field on Tuesday night over state rival University of South Florida (24-13).

"Matt Fox," Bergman said.

Indeed Fox (4-2) was the story on a beautiful night for a ball game, a contest that concluded a three-game series between the two schools that took place over the past three Tuesday's. USF had won the first two in Tampa rather handily, knocking Fox around for three runs and six hits in 4 2/3 innings over both games.

That served as a microcosm for the sophomore's season, as the sometimes shortstop, sometimes pitcher had seemed to struggle all the time in a year that began with much promise.

But this time, his third start of the season, Fox would show the great talent that spurred on those expectations and overpowered the Arizona Diamondbacks to draft him coming out of high school. He went a career-long 6 2/3 innings and recorded a career-high 12 strikeouts en route to the first win of his collegiate career.

"It feels real good," Fox said.

"Tonight I just felt under control. I had all my stuff, I was able to throw strikes where I wanted and I was able to get my own control over for a strike. I should do that every night."

Almost from the beginning, it appeared that things would go the Golden Knights' way. After Jeff Blake got a one-out single for the Bulls in the top of the first, he attempted to steal second with Myers Leslie at the plate. The ball got away from catcher Drew Ruttman for a moment, but he recovered to peg Leslie at second. USF Coach Eddie Cardinale came out to argue that the ball hit Leslie, but to no avail.

That play proved pivotal, as Leslie followed with a double that would have easily scored Baisley from second. Fox worked out of trouble by getting the next batter to ground out to the second baseman.

The Knights got on the board in the bottom of the first, with Ryan Bear knocking in Nathan Bergman on a beautiful night that concluded a three-game series. Florida State is the conference's top seed, having won the first two in a contest that concluded a three-game series. Florida State is the conference's top seed, having won the first two in a contest that concluded a three-game series. Florida State is the conference's top seed, having won the first two in a contest that concluded a three-game series.

Time to Celebrate!

Graduation Celebration

Monday, April 21, 2003

10:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

at the UCF Bookstore

The UCF Bookstore invites the graduating class of 2003 to Graduation Celebration. Make hotel reservations, order class rings, join the Alumni Association, and pick up your graduation tickets.

"Tickets distributed by the UCF Arena."

Please see Knights on 17
Cupp finished last season with a .265 record and 213 strikeouts. This season the senior is 15-9 with an Atlantic Sun best 156 strikeouts. She is second on the team with a 1.70 ERA and has a .270 batting average.

**Cupp is lone senior on young team**

**Sawyer continues A-Sun dominance**

than drove in Schmidt for the only necessary run of the game with a bunt hit to center field. Best added two more runs and some fireworks in the bottom of the fifth, when she hit her 15th home run of the season, a two-run blast to center field, scoring Schmidt again. Kaycee Clark drove in Nikki Green for the fourth run of the game in the bottom of the sixth with a sacrifice fly to center.

Cupp's two wins this weekend creates high momentum for the staff as they head into the four remaining A-Sun series, but she refuses to let it break her concentration.

"We've got to focus on South Florida this Wednesday. We've got to go one game at a time, and they're next on our list," Cupp said.

Keeping with the theme of near-perfect pitching, Janice Taylor Sawyer threw her own masterpiece in the second game, which the Knights won 6-1. Sawyer gave up only four hits in the late afternoon while striking out five batters. Lindy Oakley provided all of the early offensive entertainment for the Knights when she crushed a line drive double to left center, scoring Cupp and Lindsey Bush. Oakley advanced to third on an illegal pitch by Jacksonville pitcher Katie Dobson, and then scored on a wild pitch by Dobson.

The Dolphins fought back and cut into the Knights' lead when Janine Palumbo barely beat out a double play throw by Best, scoring Ronda Campo. Campo, however, had reached on an error, making the run unearned for Sawyer.

The Knights fired back in the bottom of the fourth, when center fielder Jania Shinhoster drilled a long double off the right center fence. Green joined her on the bases with a bunt base hit. Bush followed with a deep single to left, scoring Shinhoster. Oakley loaded the bases with a single to left, and Clark hit a bloop single to center, scoring Green. Schmidt brought Bush home with a single to right, giving the Knights a 6-1 lead.

Sawyer was able to retire the Dolphins in the sixth and seventh to pick up the complete game and build her record to 14-10 on the season.

Sawyer, pleased with the run support that her teammates gave her, said: "We're hitting very well right now, so it makes it easier to get out there and pitch. You don't have to worry about one- or two-run support.

The Knights continue their assault on the A-Sun with a doubleheader at Troy State on Friday before heading to Mercer for two games Saturday.
Knights hosts Florida Atlantic this weekend

FROM PAGE 15
Kragt with a triple that Bulls right fielder Freya Hornemeyer appeared to lose in the sun, and Rich Wallace brought Bear home with a double off the left-field wall.

"UCF scoring early" gave me a little confidence," he said. "I could get ahead of the hitters more with the fastball knowing I had a little lead to work with." Indeed it did seem to settle Fox down, as he retired 15 of the next 19 batters, allowing just a single to Scott Raehlich in the fifth inning.

Meanwhile UCF just kept scoring, chasing ball starter Matt Ingram (1-2) after just two innings and scoring two runs in each of the first six innings except the second. Kragt got his first career home run in the fifth, a two-run shot off the left-field foul pole, and Wallace got his third of the year with a blast to left-center field in the fifth. That marked the Knights' first multi-homer game of the season.

"We haven't been doing that early, we've been waiting to the seventh and eighth inning to score," Bergman said. "For us to get out there and get our 10 runs in the first six innings was pretty good for our baseball team."

Kragt, Bear, Dizera and Jon Cooper each had two hits for the Knights, and Doe Brown had three to extend his hitting streak to 11 games. Wallace, a senior third baseman-first baseman, went 4-for-4 and finished with a career-high five RBIs.

"I just felt good and got a bunch of pitches to hit and didn't miss them," Wallace said. "The ball looks real big right now."

UCF did finally get to Fox in the seventh, getting a three-run homer off the bat of Raehlich and chasing Fox with two outs and a man on first. Ryan Ramsey relieved Fox and allowed that runner to score, pinning Fox with four earned runs and shaving his pitching line.

Still, his performance was refreshing for a Knight team that has struggled to find solid pitching during weekday games. It also extended the team's winning streak to two after it lost a season-worst four in a row. That momentum could be key as UCF (24-15, 8-7) takes on the Atlantic Sun's top team, Florida Atlantic (32-9, 16-5), at home this weekend.

"Matt Fox did tonight exactly what we've been waiting for him to do," Bergman said. "Couldn't come at a more opportune time because we've been struggling. For him to go out and give us seven innings like that was a big, big boost for us."
A-Sun softball standings

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Atlantic Sun Men's Tennis Championship schedule

- Today: Match 5 winner vs. Match 6 winner 11:30 a.m.
- M6: Match 7 winner vs. Match 8 winner 11:30 a.m.
- M7: Match 9 winner vs. Match 10 winner 1:30 p.m.
- M8: Match 11 winner vs. Match 12 winner 1:30 p.m.

Atlantic Sun Women's Tennis Championship schedule

- Today: Match 5 winner vs. Match 6 winner 2 p.m.
- M6: Match 7 winner vs. Match 8 winner 2 p.m.
- M7: Match 9 winner vs. Match 10 winner 2 p.m.
- M8: Match 11 winner vs. Match 12 winner 2 p.m.

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**Lifestyles**

Thursday, April 17

*"War in Long: What comes next?"*

The title of the new play, "War in Long," by the President for Global Perspectives is stirring interest. UCF Theater Arts

University of Florida's "What in Long: What comes next?"

Friday, April 17

**Free Concert**

8 p.m., in the Student Union. Free admission.

Saturday, April 19

*Shakespeare with a twist*

A new production of "The Tempest" presented by the Renaissance Theater Company. Performances start at 8 p.m. in the Student Union.

Sunday, April 20

**Back Sunday**

A new show at the UCF Mills Theater. "The Tempest" features the UCF Guitar Studio and the Guitar Ensemble.

Monday, April 21

**Rise Night**

Rise 2 Night hosts a weekly event in which participants can come out and enjoy various activities such as karaoke and trivia. Attendees can register for either Rise or Rise 2 Night. Free admission.

Tuesday, April 22

**Tales from the Dark Side**

A new show at the UCF Mills Theater. "The Tempest" features the UCF Guitar Studio and the Guitar Ensemble.

Wednesday, April 23

**An Edible's tan**

A new show at the UCF Mills Theater. "The Tempest" features the UCF Guitar Studio and the Guitar Ensemble.

Thursday, April 24

**A Salad's tan**

A new show at the UCF Mills Theater. "The Tempest" features the UCF Guitar Studio and the Guitar Ensemble.

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**Friends**

Friends are always telling her to relax, said junior Cara MacMartin. As a nursing major, her life is full of stress from class tests and events.

"As soon as I am told about a test, I begin to worry about it and feel like it will upset everything," said Cara MacMartin. She is one of many UCF students who participate in guided meditation to help them deal with daily pressures.

Meditation is a practice of concentrating on the present moment, said Morgen Helgason, 22, a graduate student and instructor at the Recreation and Wellness Center.

"What you choose to focus on is entirely up to you, but the goal is relaxation and clarity of mind," she said. By focusing on a particular object or thought while ignoring everything else, you increase your ability to focus on the present.

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**Freshman on a faster track**

**Kristin Davis**

Freshman year brings about changes. For most young adults, it is their first chance to live with strangers and make decisions without parental consent and survive on Ramen Noodles.

As the semester draws to a close, freshmen are on the brink of moving up the university’s food chain and becoming sophomores.

But new evidence reveals that today’s college freshmen seek something more. Results from the American Council on Education and research from the University of California-Los Angeles show that in general, this year’s freshman class spent less time partying, paid more attention to grades and took greater initiative to get jobs than did first-year students in 2001.

Freshman Brian Jeffers said college is the perfect opportunity to develop a network of contacts who can assist him in acquiring a well-paying position after graduation.

"I hope to learn skills that I can actually apply to my career in the next few years," the 19-year-old said.

Jeffers’ transition from high school to college was smooth due to his initial efforts to get involved at UCF. In his role in the LEAD Scholars program, Homors College, Baptist Collegiate Ministry, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and plays intramural sports for basketball, hockey, flag football and soccer.

Robert Harman, director of the UCF Counseling and Testing Center, said that those students who get involved on campus are more likely to be satisfied with their college experience than those who aren’t involved with any activities outside the classroom.

"The students having the best time in college seem to be the ones that are connected with the community," Harman said.

Grades also affect whether freshmen are satisfied with their college experience, "One of the complaints we are hearing most frequently is from freshmen that feel depressed because they are doing poorly in school," Harman said.

Freshman James Pitman, 19, can relate. He is repeating a class this semester that he failed in the fall.

"I’ve learned some hard lessons this year," he said, "I worried too much about my grades and I still received an F for the course. That kind of thing never happened to me in high school. I’ve never put so much effort into a class and not gotten the final grade I deserved as a result."

Although Pitman said his parents are disappointed when he doesn’t receive his usual report each of A’s and B’s, they try not to put too much pressure on him academically.

"I’m trying to fall behind in your freshman year," he said. "You really have to learn to manage your time well. Your parents aren’t there to make sure you get up to go to school anymore."
Academic and emotional preparation are key to a successful first year

From Page 19

bilities this year.

"I pay for my education, car insurance, gas, medical insurance and everything else either through scholarships or out of my pocket," the 19-year-old said.

She currently is looking for a job to help support herself during her time at college. According to the American Council on Education and UCLA's "The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 2002," 40 percent of men and 25.9 percent of women said that chances are very good they will get a job to help pay for college.

As money becomes an issue for many freshmen, some are beginning to spend more cautiously.

The study found that 65.3 percent of freshmen are concerned about financing college. "This year, I've learned how to find the best prices when I go grocery shopping. Now, I sometimes buy generic food brands instead of automatically picking up the name-brand stuff," Jeffers said. "That's something I've never thought about before college." 

First-year students are not only learning how to cook and shop for themselves, but also are making decisions about things previously dictated by parents.

"Freshmen who no longer live with their parents are experiencing a whole new lifestyle," Harman said. "They can come home whenever they want. They can go to bed at 3 a.m. when they have a class at 8 a.m., and no one is there to tell them they can't!"

Jeffers likes the newfound freedom of deciding whether to wake up to go to class or sleep two or three hours a week to do well in college, whereas in high school, she had to study at least 14 hours a week to do well in college, whereas in high school.

The ability to decide whether to continue attending church in college has also strengthened Jeffers beliefs.

"It might be hard for some people to stick with their morals when they first come to college. They think, 'Now that I'm not under the control of my parents' house, I can do whatever I want and be whoever I want to be,'" she said. "I think I've made good choices and haven't given in to temptation."

Freshmen say that being given the decision to decide which college to attend also strengthens their convictions to succeed academically and socially.

Coming to Orlando was a decision Jenkins made on her own. He was accepted into the University of North Florida and Ohio State University, but chose UCF for its location, affordable cost and good weather.

Jenkins also chose UCF because of its low tuition and recognized educational programs.

Since the beginning of her freshman year, Jenkins said she has gained knowledge both in and outside of the classroom.

"I'm learning that regardless of what may stop me temporarily, I am the only one who can stop me permanently," Jenkins said.
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Amenities, Rents and Incentives subject to change.
Drinking around the world — how naughty ... how fun. Since I am referring, of course, to Orlando’s hidden attraction: the local underground tourist practice of attempting to down one drink at all 11 countries at Disney’s Epcot World Showcase in a single afternoon — without puckering.

When I was 19 and working for Disney in 2000, I met a personal goal to someday stumple out of Epcot’s gates, knowing I had completed the ultimate beverage mission. This unfilled vow resurfaces a couple of weeks ago as I eagerly signed up to attend Epcot last Sunday with a group of 13 foreign exchange students. I couldn’t imagine a more perfect opportunity to gain some worldly perspective — and a supreme buzz — than with my international friends.

Unfortunately, I also couldn’t have imagined the lebargic consequences of drinking downtown the night before. I slept through my alarm, missed the 8 a.m. Epcot pick-up and drove hurriedly to the theme park myself around noon, squinting in the hot sun as I attempted not to wallow in the depths of my hangover.

I met up with my friends as they were finishing their lunch. We all agreed to begin our mission in Mexico, working our way around the World Showcase lagoon in elkaarwise fashion.

We walked into the picturesque Mexican pavilion and admired the colorful Mexican souvenirs in the marketplace. We laughed helplessly at the outstanding, Cheese-like mustaches adorning the male puppets’ faces on the boat ride, and finally ordered the layered margaritas from the open-air beverage stand outside.

Senior Joanna Guzman, 21, was the first to notice the drinks’ shortcomings. “Um, only the red layer is good,” she said, wrinkling her nose.

Guzman was right. The drinks certainly couldn’t compare to the real Mexican margaritas from my Spring Break venture to Cozumel. We attempted to slurp down the rest of our drinks as we moved on to Norway.

Since my mom is from Sweden, I knew that the Scandinavian vibe of Norway would remind my four Swedish friends of their homeland. Sure enough, I watched as they consumed delightfully over the Holly Hanson ski wear and “inner bunk” chocolate candies in the gift store.

“They have gingerbread here,” junior Daniel Lambert exclaimed. “Why didn’t you tell us?”

In broken Swedish, I attempted to ask the Norwegian waiter if they sold my favorite, incredibly delicious Scandinavian beverage — pear or strawberry cider. “Har du glogg?” I inquired, “PArO? Jordgubbsbär?”

The waiter stared at me blankly. “Are you speaking Swedish or Norwegian?” he finally asked in English.

Oh, so maybe my accent needed a little work. Luckily, junior Joel Karshon, 22, jumped in and fixed the question in rapid Swedish, only to receive a regrettful “No.”

Burn. Somehow, I couldn’t work up the same excitement for a Viking-sized hefeweizen beer.

We rode the cheap Norwegian ride and watched a stereotypical tourism movie about Scandinavia.

“I think a lot of Americans go to Epcot and see everyone in their traditional costumes and think, ‘Oh, I’ve seen the world, now I don’t have to travel,’” Lambert, 22, said.

Senior Mikaela Nilsson, 24, who is Swedish, maintained a slightly different perspective.

“I just think Scandinavian guys look hot in costumes,” she joked airily, eulogizing the waiters’ campy outfits.

We decided to keep traveling to China, even though only about half of our crew bought drinks in Norway. However, realizing that I would probably crash if I drank any more alcohol, I decided to let our original goal of drinking at every country slide; especially since we’re per drink, per country was way more money than I was willing to spend.

In China, some of our group members felt compelled to create their own paper masks on sticks, which was the official “middle project” set up at little tables for the under-21 crowd.

“Hey, you can use these masks next time you decide to go streaking across campus,” a middle-aged, male stranger suggested, wiggling his eyebrows expressively.

I was suddenly very glad that we weren’t drinking ... or perhaps the man’s comment was a sign that I should keep drinking. I leaned over and took a sip of my friend’s Tsing Tao (the Chinese pavilion’s signature drink) and we fled to Germany.

The hot sun was starting to take its toll. We collapsed exhaustedly on a bench inside the German restaurant, our eyes glazy and our stomachs churnning at the sight of the artery-clogging sausage buffet.

A few of our guys purchased Beck’s dark beers (grape) from the staff — all dressed in beedroom masks on sticks — and we trudged on to Italy.

“Hey, don’t they have good wine-tasting here?” junior Anuj Patel asked, as we walked into an Italian wine shop, hoping for a free drop of alcohol.

The Italian wine merchant beams. “Only nine dollars each,” he said in a thick accent.

“But we’re drinking around the world,” Patel, 21, protested.

“Then try the Peroni beer stand,” the merchant replied pleasantly, showing us the door.

Unfortunately, the beer stand was blocked by a weirdly suspicious guard.

Please see Traveling on 24
Eternal Knights remembered

Last week, UCF honored students, faculty and staff who have died during the past year. From left, a white rose was set out for each Eternal Knight; students sang "Amazing Grace" and memorial awards were given to family members.

Visualizing situations relaxes, relieves stress

FROM PAGE 19

flight response," Helsper said. "Meditation teaches people how to deal with their stress in a productive and healthy manner that will leave them equipped to handle their everyday stress problems in a relaxing manner."

In guided meditation, instructors often help students visualize locations and calming environments.

MacMartin remembers when she first tried guided meditation in a high-school sociology class. "The teacher read us a scenario that led us through a walk in the forest, eventually ending up at the beach," she said. "It was very relaxing."

For most students, the great difficulty of meditating lies in the idea of focusing on single objects and blocking out the present situation. The trick is not to let first attempts discourage future meditation, said junior Kasey Keen, 21. Eventually it becomes easier to meditate as the body becomes accustomed to the mental exercise.

"Some people count to three in time with their breathing, while other people focus on a word, like 'om,' for instance," Keen said. "I focus my attention on the pattern of my breathing. I find it simplest to internalize my meditation in that way."

Along with relieving stress, meditation is useful in other ways. "I find that in place of sleep, meditation is a great alternative," Keen said.

Meditation can often supplement Western medicine. If done properly, Helsper said that these relaxation techniques are effective in treating many common illnesses.

"People with migraines, muscle tension, sleep problems, chronic pain from car accidents, lock jaw, digestive disorders such as irritable bowel syndrome or general anxiety find meditation helpful and calming," she said.

Helsper wishes to increase the number of meditation classes scheduled to two seminars every other week.

"Meditation teaches people how to deal with their stress in a productive and healthy manner that will leave them equipped to handle their everyday stress problems."

—MORGAN HELSPER
Guided meditation instructor

"I'm laid back about the class schedule; it really depends on the students," she said. "I like to allow them the freedom to choose when the best time for them is to come in, and then we all decide together based on everyone's schedule."

For further information or guided meditation, contact the Recreation and Wellness Center at 407-823-2408.

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Traveling under influence leaves guests drained

FROM PAGE 22

mine-like performance artist, wearing a white mask and a velvet royal cape. That was fine; we were sick of beer, anyway.

“OK, Italy... weird people with masks,” noted junior Sharon Pare, 21. “Let’s move on.”

So we kept walking, passing the American pavilion’s greasy, turkey leg-nawing tourists and fanned cake stands. We knew better than to pay Epcot prices for a Bud Light.

In Japan, I gawked over an impressive Koi pond and bought three mini-boxes of Hokkaido Blue Candy, which I promptly passed out to the impressed exchange students who never had heard of a candy wrapper that dissolves in the mouth.

Already feeling drained, we all mixed the idea of buying a Kirin Ichiban beer in Japan and continued on to Morocco.

A cranky Aladdin and Jasmine were posing for pictures inside the Moroccan pavilion.

“Come on, people, one at a time,” Aladdin snapped through gritted teeth. “We don’t have all day!”

I decided against buying my companions, or myself, a Casablanca beer. On that note, we tramped off to our last three destinations: France, the United Kingdom and Canada.

In France, I ordered a glass of wine and sat down on the edge of a fountain, where it started talking with a young couple from Miami about the “drinking around the world” craze.

“Three years ago, my friends and I came here and did it,” said Javier Suarez, 21, a lighting consultant. “We had to pee at every single stop, and we were really feeling it by Morocco. Only two of us made it the whole way. The others were too drunk to order any more... and a couple of the guys threw up right into Lake Epcot.”

His wife, youth counselor Anna Suarez, 20, sheepishly told her story. “I tried it on New Year’s four years ago,” she said, laughing. “I was too drunk to make it past the second country, but it was definitely a fun way of experiencing Epcot.”

Deedily “traveling” out, our international group didn’t even stop at the U.K. or Canada. Instead, we rode the breathtaking General Motors Test Track ride, paid $20 each for an authentic Norwegian buffet at the Norwegian pavilion and watched the spectacular illuminations fireworks display at 9 p.m.

As we passed by a couple of obvious round-the-worlders dozing on a park bench on the way out, I asked my friends if they wished we had attempted the true, one-drink-per-country world challenge.

“No, because there weren’t really any fun, drunk activities to do,” Lambert pointed out. “But I think it could be fun for a bachelor party or something.”

Anyone getting married? Watch out, Epcot; my mission has yet to be accomplished.

“Three years ago, my friends and I came here and did it.”

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