Professor’s research may predict traffic accidents on I-4

M AR SH ALL SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

Because of Mohamed Abdel-Aty’s research, Orlando residents could see a dramatic decrease in the number of accidents that happen on Interstate 4 within the next few years.

Abdel-Aty, an associate professor of transportation engineering and one of the leading traffic safety analysts in Florida, is working on a two-year project to create a computer model that can predict traffic accidents by predicting their potential of occurring based on real-time data.

Funded by the Florida Department of Transportation, Abdel-Aty will use electronic sensors buried under I-4, called loop detectors, to analyze a 35-mile section of the highway between Disney and Lake Mary. If his research proves that accidents can truly be anticipated and predicted, the project could anticipate accidents on I-4 up to 10 to 15 minutes before they occur.

“Nobody has thought of using this data for safety until now,” Abdel-Aty said.

But this research is not just limited to I-4. Abdel-Aty said this model could be applied to any highway anywhere in the U.S., as long as loop detectors are in place.

Located at half-mile intervals underneath I-4, the detectors have been used by the Florida Highway Patrol.

Professor Peter Hilton’s decoding
methods during World War II laid foundation for technology in today’s war

ROSEMARY DAY
STAFF WRITER

Peter Hilton has his own war story to tell. His story is more than 60 years old and unlike most typical war stories. His battle stories don’t detail German bombs and gunfire. His victories weren’t won on the front lines.

His enemies were encrypted codes; his victories were won by breaking them. Like most soldiers, he needed to be strong-willed to carry out duties that involved an exhaustive guess-and-check process to decipher Nazi Enigma and Fish codes during World War II.

Former general commands attention of UCF students

BEN BAIRD
STAFF WRITER

Former NATO commander Wesley Clark is best remembered for the role he played in overseeing the 1999 Bosnian conflict. Three years later, he is being recognized for his role in the Iraqi war, though he’s doing most of his work in front of the camera lenses, not the front lines.

Even retirement couldn’t convince the 58-year-old Army general to leave his military life behind. Instead of launching military operations, today he’s analyzing other commanders’ tactics — explaining to Americans the things that only an Army general would know about war, as a CNN military analyst.

Last Thursday, he visited UCF with a similar purpose in mind.

He praised commanders’ combat strategies in Iraq and talked about the aftermath of the Iraqi war.

“I think [Gen. Tommy] Franks has done an excellent job and [so have] all of his subordinate people,” said Clark, who was referring to the current commander of operations in Iraq. “But the people who really deserve the appreciation are the men and women in the front pit, in the tank, in the fighting vehicle, the men and women at the bottom. They’re the heroes.”
Friends, fraternity members recall
‘a guardian angel’

Junior John Peterson, 22, struck April 13
down town train

Nicol Jenkins
Staff Writer

About 400 friends, family members and fraternity brothers paid their respects Tuesday to John Warren Peterson, 22, a junior and business major who died Sunday April 13, when a train struck him in downtown Orlando.

The viewing service followed a candlelight vigil held the previous evening at which friends, family and the Greek community gathered to remember Peterson, a brother of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Seniors Shaun Findlan and Bobby Kenyon, two of Peterson’s best friends, spoke of Peterson’s warmth at the candlelight ceremony held at the Sigma Phi Epsilon House. “This is the least I can do for someone who has touched and meant so much to so many people,” Findlan, 24, said. “He will truly be remembered by lighting up a room with his smile and making others laugh.”

Kenyon, also 24, vowed to remember Peterson every day. “Words cannot explain the loss of a best friend, a brother and a confidant,” Kenyon said. “The only peace, in my heart and my head, is to know that I have a guardian angel in heaven watching over me. Our memories will never be forgotten, and I will carry them wherever I am each day.”

During the viewing at the Granikowski Funeral Home in Sanford, friends honored their fallen brother who they called caring and active. They said he enjoyed working out, hanging out with friends, working at Benjamins and playing various sports including baseball, volleyball and golf.

Longtime friends Derek Chontas and Ryan Diefhara talked about Peterson’s character. “John was always giving, understanding, and he always went out of his way to let you know that he loved you. He will be deeply missed by hundreds of friends and his family,” said Chontas, 22.

Diefhara, 22, remembered Peterson’s enthusiasm. “John was my best friend and a genuine person. He never stopped smiling or laughing, and it was almost contagious when you were around him,” Diefhara said. “John touched so many people and loved everyone. I’ll never stop thinking about him.”

Peterson is survived by his parents, Carri and Teri, and his sister, Jessica. He was a lifelong resident of Lake Mary and a member of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Friends say Peterson would often say, “This is nowhere near a goodbye, but more of ‘I’ll see you in a little bit’.”

The viewing extended through Thursday. Services will be held at the Granikowski Funeral Home in Sanford at 1 p.m. Friday, April 17. The family will hold private burials in Lake Mary.

U.N. needed to help stabilize
Iraq, says retired commander

From Page 1
the ones who win the battle.”

Clark said the next step in the war is to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people while stabilizing the region.

“If you take off your helmet, sit down with somebody and share a coffee and talk about their problems, most of them will give you a fair hearing . . . think our goodwill will eventual­ly show through.”

“What the United States has to do is to establish securi­ty,” he said. “It has to assure each of the minorities that their communities will be protected.”

Clark felt that the war itself was conducted cor­rectly, he believes United Nations support and interven­tion is now needed for a sus­tained presence in Iraq.

The United Nations would help to legitimate the United States’ efforts and would have the reserves to help recon­struct Iraq, he said.

There are many Americans who doubt the effec­tiveness of the United Nations, and I’m one of them,” he said. “They are not the most effective

of organizations, but they are the most legitimate organization.”

Clark also addressed how the situation in Iraq will affect the Bush administration’s war on terror.

“My friends in the Pentagon call it draining the swamp,” Clark said. “While Iraq is the least dangerous of the nations that comprise the administration’s ‘axis of evil,’ the first step in draining the swamp has been completed by gaining a large foothold in the region, he said.

Clark cautioned Americans about the need to improve vet­erans’ benefits in the country—something that might be part of his campaign platform if Clark makes good on rumors that he will run for the 2004 presidency.

“We shouldn’t have soldiers on food stamps, we shouldn’t have soldiers who can’t afford to buy a decent car to drive to their jobs, and it’s not just the men and women in unif­orm today,” he said. “I think veterans need the kind of atten­tion and support that they’ve been promised, including health care.”

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I had surgery again.

acter who used an infection seriously damaged the retina of his eyes in 1994. "The infection created so much scar tissue that my retina collapsed," Guzman said. "I was completely blind for seven months."

Surgery repaired some of the damage, but Guzman faced many challenges. "My prognosis was not good. I would die in a few days. It was a long process, and I was fortunate to recover," he said. "After recovery I had surgery again and regained a little bit of vision in my right eye."

Guzman said the infection completely changed his life. "When you're born blind, that's what's normal to you. I saw for most of my life. Knowing how different it is to have sight, then not, was very difficult." Mundane activities became challenges for Guzman. "Eating, putting toothpaste on your toothbrush, tying a shoe, stuff that I took for granted and was difficult to re-learn," he said.

"It has been pretty stable since 1997," Guzman continued. "I have been able to see with glasses. Since then I have always been interested in ways to improve my remaining vision."

In early April, Guzman did just that. On April 5, through the collaboration of the UCF Office of Disabilities, the Jupiter-Tequesta Sunrise Rotary Club, and Scott Hearing, a low-vision specialist, Guzman received a $4,000 technological device that will improve his vision to 20/20.

Guzman recalls Philip Kallin, the director of Student Disability Services, e-mailing him information about the Rotary Club's search for a student with ambition who could use this technology. "I was nervous that I would be given this expensive piece of equipment that would not work for me, and someone else would be missing out who could be benefiting from it."

Hearing said that when he started his practice, he was moved by all the patients who told him that no one could help them. He said the field has come a long way in 20 years. "He named the equipment after Jordy Laforge, the blind character who used special eye bands to see on 'Star Trek: The Next Generation.'"

Hearing has helped many young people, but never a UCF student prior to Guzman. He has helped six Florida Atlantic University students, one medical student attending the University of Miami, and more than 30 high school students.

The Jordy is a miniature, wearable closed-circuit TV device. Using an optional docking stand (the gogglers are placed in a holder, looking down on the reading surface), the user can see magnified images on a monitor or a computer screen.

Guzman said, "It has such a convenient setup." The goggle portion of the system is only $250.

UCF is proud of the 58 doctoral and over 550 master's students graduating this Spring. They now have 2.2 million more reasons to celebrate their graduation.

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UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
GRADUATE STUDIES

DIANE LAZIC
STAFF WRITER

After losing much of his vision, one student, with the help of a high-tech piece of equipment, can now see, and his future seems much brighter now.

Life changed drastically for senior Alberto Guzman, 35, after an infection seriously damaged the retina of his eyes in 1994. "The infection created so much scar tissue that my retina collapsed," Guzman said. "I was completely blind for seven months."

Surgery repaired some of the damage, but Guzman faced many challenges. "My prognosis was not good. I would die in a few days. It was a long process, and I was fortunate to recover," he said. "After recovery I had surgery again and regained a little bit of vision in my right eye."

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UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
GRADUATE STUDIES
Blind student to pursue master’s with new vision

The imaging device, called Jordy, after the billed character on "Star Trek," will improve Guzman’s vision to 20/20. Without the device, Guzman was almost completely blind.

The imaging device, called Jordy, after the billed character on "Star Trek," will improve Guzman’s vision to 20/20. Without the device, Guzman was almost completely blind.

Guzman said the Jordy felt unusual at first. "I was strange when I tried it on. Even though it weighed so little — it was 7 ounces — I was not used to it being on top of my glasses."

He had to adjust to the magnification. "One thing about magnification, it takes some getting used to. It makes you seasick. When you’re magnifying, it magnifies movement too. You have to adjust and set up the appropriate contrast."

However, Guzman noticed the differences immediately. "In the library there was a little sign five feet away that I could not see. Without the Jordy, I could not see for 20/20 vision."

Guzman hopes that the Jordy goggles will allow him to pursue his master’s degree in disability studies at the University of Illinois. He wants to advance research in this technology that will help him and others better their lives and futures.

"This technology is amazing," Guzman said. "I can see my fool bar on my computer. I have not seen this good in so many years. The Jordy makes things easier and clear."

FROM PAGE 5

item weights less than 7 ounces. A handheld or clipped-to-belt contrived unit holds a rechargeable battery. The Jordy has 16 switch-selectable magnification levels that provide magnification up to 25 times.

An object locator button temporarily returns to the lowest magnification level to help with orientation. It has four viewing modes: full color black and white, high-contrast positive and high-contrast negative.

Hearing wants to make the Jordy smaller. "We are working to get its size now down from goggles to just a pair of glasses," he said.

Paul Mogun, an engineer who helps move learn and adjust to the Jordy, worked with Guzman. "The Jordy works for people who need magnification," Mogun said. "We worked on Alberto’s issue, which is with light.”

Mogun taught Guzman how to use the Jordy around his home and elsewhere. "The library was the first trial, but I felt it was also important to work with him in the area that he spends a lot of time in, his home.”

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He had to adjust to the magnification. "One thing about magnification, it takes some getting used to. It makes you seasick. When you’re magnifying, it magnifies movement too. You have to adjust and set up the appropriate contrast."

However, Guzman noticed the differences immediately. "In the library there was a little sign more than 50 feet away that I would have had to have been underneath to see at all,” he said. "With the Jordy, it was perfect. It was like when I could see for real, like when I had 20/20 vision.”

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Focus on Resolution.

UCF
Hackers banned from revealing tricks

FROM PAGE 3

card system, called the Blackboard Transaction System, to about 225 colleges. In seeking the restraining order, the company argued that it faced "imminent risk of irreparable harm" from the students' presentation.

The company's complaint said the students' findings, if disseminated, "could facilitate massive fraud, security breaches, and other harms, threatening both the physical and financial security of college students, and harming the universities, their vendors and Blackboard itself."

Blackboard cited federal and Georgia anti-hacking laws, as well as federal and Georgia trade-secret laws, to justify its request for the restraining order. The complaint made no mention of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, but a lawyer for Blackboard sent the conference organizers a cease-and-desist letter that said the students' presentation could violate that law as well.

According to the cease-and-desist letter, Hoffman and Griffith planned to tell those attending the conference that "not only did we hack the system, but we hacked it so far we could build functional [card] readers from scratch."

Hoffman, an undergraduate who is majoring in computer engineering, began two years ago to probe the electronic underpinnings of Georgia Tech's BuzzCard, an identification card that all of the university's students and faculty and staff members are required to have.

In his postings, Hoffman acknowledges that he used a knife to open a metal switchbox in a dormitory laundry room in June 2002. He was trying, he says in the postings, to figure out how the debit-card system worked, as well as to understand how secure it was. Bob Hardy, a spokesman for Georgia Tech, said the university reprimanded Hoffman for breaking into the circuitry box, but he declined to elaborate.

—COMPILED BY STAFF WRITER KRISTA ZILLI

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Professor worked with first computer to crack encryptions

FROM PAGE 1

The UCP professor's battle then was a sensational affair compared to what a typical World War II soldier's battle, much like today's battles, was sharply different from earlier wars. Hilton's work is relevant to both.

Hilton's war was dominated by computer technology. Commanders and military officers today would be lost without computer aid.

Hilton's war was relatively easy compared to the role as a decoder, was ironical one of the experimental aspects of World War II. Wartime proved the computerized conflict our nation is fighting today. Hilton's crude guess-and-check methods of deciphering encrypted codes would lay the foundation for computerized military tactics today that rely on computers to do things like guide smart bombs and prediction missiles to specific targets.

Hilton never imagined that his method of combining “gibberish and gobbledegook” was the key to the German Fish codes; he was deciphering during World War II, would be relevant in 2000. Hilton's work was relevant enough—his game work removed much of the speculation, for military operations today.

Hilton began his military career as an undergraduate at Oxford University, where he was recruited by the British Foreign Office to work at Bletchley Park—the British military's decoding headquarters.

I was in my fourth term at Oxford, and the foreign office was looking for mathematicians with a knowledge of German," he said. "Well, I wasn't a mathematician, but I was specializing as a student of mathematics."

"My knowledge of German wasn't very profound, either," he said. "I just taught myself some, because obviously, as that was the only way to understand some German." Hilton started his work at Bletchley Park in January 1942, deciphering the German Enigma codes.

By the end of 1942, Hilton was transferred to the research department, where he worked on decoding the new German Fish codes.

"The Nazis thought they were the master rappers, and that the stupid British would never be able to decipher their new code," he said. "Of course, they were wrong."

The decoding involved a combination of machine methods that quickly ran through possible solutions to reduce the possibilities to a manageable number. Mathematicians such as Hilton then made intelligent guesses as to the possibility of each message. "I was having an extraordinary experience taking and comparing apparent gibberish and gobbledegook."

Adding the mathematicians in their work was the first computer, the Colossus, invented and developed by Alan Turing and Tommy Flowers. "The Colossus was very basic by the standards of the time, but there was a lot of knowledge as to whether this machine would function reliably," he said. "Some more cautious people we said we needed two machines working in parallel to break messages because one of them might well be wrong. But in fact, they turned out to be very reliable."

"We never really knew what use was made of the decoded messages, but we did know that there were certain military officers who were very reluctant to put their faith in these cryptos," he said.

Today, the computer has evolved to dominate many mathematical rather than a comprehensive knowledge of math, Hilton said. "We weren't actually using deep mathematical ideas that we learned. We were just using the capacity to think mathematically, and that was something that I could do."

The experience allowed Hilton to work with men that he considered some of the great mathematicians of the 20th century. "I got to know some of the greatest mathematicians of the 20th century. I would have expected to be my teachers if I was good enough as a student," he said. "I never expected to be personal friends with those people—go to the pub, drink beer and chat with them. The work that we did in the war had a marvelous equalizing effect, where I could be as good as the outstanding research mathematicians."

If patriotism means a total suspension of any right to use one's critical faculties, then young people are being asked to do what they shouldn't be asked to do for the first time, to accept authority rather than form their own judgments. —Peter Hilton

Mathematics professor

aspect of war, including weaponry, but now Hilton is the reluctant one—hesitant to admit whether such advances in military weaponry are valuable.

"Now there are these sort of clever bombs—I just regard that as a very bad joke," he said. "War was bad enough, and now it is infinitely bad."

"One knows that whenever you make a great scientific advance. It can be used for good or for ill," he said. "In modern society, we think much too much in terms of military experiments. We become more efficient killers and not enough about how we can eliminate poverty or eliminate malnutrition."

Because of America's technological superiority to Iraq, Hilton calls American victory over Iraq certain. At the beginning of World War II, however, victory over Germany was not defined.

"There was never any doubt in my mind that if America went to war in Iraq, we would win. We have an overwhelming superiority, technologically," he said. "In the case of World War II, it was the outcome of the war, if we looked at it as we would because Germany had already conquered most of Western Europe."

For Hilton, the war against Germany was a necessary measure. He is not as decided regarding the Iraqi conflict. "I hate the whole idea of war, but World War II was unarguably a good war," he said. "I could see an alternative to war to get rid of Nazi Germany.

"[While I am perfectly clear in my mind that Saddam Hussein is, or was, horrible, unfortunately there are many such men, and I am not convinced that the regime in Iraq is the worst that we are up against in this imperfect world of ours."

Hilton questions America's reasons and intentions for invading Iraq.

"We have been very careful to preserve the oil fields and less careful to preserve their museums and hospitals," he said. "It is about time that the human race stops using war as a means of putting policy into effect. It is appalling that we can't do better."

Also discouraging to Hilton is the negative backlash that greets anyone who speaks out against the war, including today's youth.

"I think that this current war makes things very difficult for young people because they are being asked to show patriotism, he said. "Now it is of course correct to be patriotic at a time of war, but it patriotically means a total suspension of any right to use one's critical faculties, then young people are being asked to do what they shouldn't be asked to do—namely, to accept authority rather than form their own judgments."

Hilton believes technological advances should have created a way to end wars, not improve them.

"War should have been eliminated long ago," he said. "It's not proper for a modern, highly technological society to devote so much of its effort to being inefficient at constructing war."

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Don’t blame Internet for rise in ID theft

HEATHER NEWMAN
BRENNER HEDER

Identity theft is soaring, thanks to high-tech tools, light penalties and widespread publicity. 'Crooks are stealing honest people's personal information and racking up credit-card bills in their names, opening dozens of new accounts and ruining in days sterling credit ratings that took years to build. If you're one of the many people who suspect the rise of ID theft, consider their personal information is when or if they buy online. Yet studies show that in cases where victims know how their identity was stolen, the No. 1 cause was having their purse or wallet swiped. Experts say in the rest of the cases, the majority of crooks get their information through a job or an insider connection. Buying or selling items online fails far down the list. If you're watching every number you type at Amazon.com but not keeping an eye on your belongings, you're forms fill out at the doctor's office or what you throw in the trash, you could be leaving yourself open to becoming the next victim. Consider these recent cases:\n
A worker for a computer company that served credit reporting bureaus told people's personal information for $400 a record, resulting in the theft of more than 12,000 people's identities. Virtually every adult American has a record with the three major credit-reporting agencies. The ring operated for at least two years before being busted in November.

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Race-neutral policy threatens diversity in law, medicine fields

Michael Fletcher
The Washington Post

If race-conscious admissions plans are eliminated at the nation's professional schools, the United States will likely witness a dramatic decline in the number of black and Hispanic doctors and lawyers, according to findings reported by associations representing medical and law schools.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, if its member schools relied strictly on academic measures for admissions, the proportion of black, Hispanic and Native American medical students would fall from the current 11 percent to no more than 3 percent.

The situation is similar for the nation's law schools, particularly highly selective ones, the Law School Admission Council said.

In 2011, Terence Pell, president of the Center for Individual Rights, the public interest law firm that filed the cases against Michigan, said selective law schools and medical schools could achieve significant racial diversity simply by adjusting their admissions requirements.

"Their projections assume that if you eliminate racial preferences, you don't make any other changes in your admissions policies," he said. "There is no reason they have to look at just grades and test scores."

The Bush administration and others have also suggested that colleges turn to race-neutral strategies to achieve diversity without triggering the resentment and legal challenges that often accompany race-conscious admissions plans.

"It will take time, creativity and constant attention by government and university officials to pursue effective race-neutral policies," said Secretary of Education Rodrick Paige. "However, as Americans we owe it to our heritage and to our children to meet these challenges head on, rather than looking for short cuts that divide us by race and betray the nation's fundamental principles."

In states where racial preferences have been banned in recent years — among them California, Texas, Florida, Mississippi, Georgia and Washington — colleges and universities are expanding their recruitment efforts. They are instituting programs aimed at improving minority student achievement as early as elementary school and embarking on programs that give preferences to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Florida, Texas and California have guaranteed admission in state schools to students who graduate in the top tier of their high school classes.

For the most part, those approaches have restored significant levels of racial diversity to all but the most selective undergraduate programs. A study by the Century Foundation, a New York-based research organization, projects that if economic affirmative action replaces race-conscious plans, there would be a dramatic decline in the number of black and Hispanic medical students who aspire to professional schools, where competition for seats is keenest and alternatives are fewer.

The best estimate is that without race-conscious admissions, the number of African Americans in an entering class of 550 would fall below 10, said Jeffrey Lehman, dean of Michigan's law school. In the 1970s, Michigan has enrolled 21 to 37 black first-year law students per class. "If there were a way to enroll more underrepresented minorities without considering race, we'd do it," he said. "It is not that we didn't value race-consciousness."

Michigan's law school, which is considered highly selective, admits students who average 165 on the Law School Admissions Test and a grade-point average of 3.5. Last fall, 1,407 law school applicants nationwide achieved or exceeded those grades, according to a brief the Law School Admission Council filed at the Supreme Court. Of those students, the council said, 20 were black and 114 were Hispanic.

Luis Levato would be the first to say that he might not have made it to medical school without affirmative action. Raised by a single mother, he made stellar grades in high school but piling-part-time jobs as a barber and food service worker, he struggled as a college student. And in his first year of medical school, he said, his grades were "on the low side." Still, he persevered, his application boosted by his history of leading community health initiatives, his participation in a summer enrichment program for aspiring medical students and, perhaps most critically, an admissions regime that considered race and ethnicity in evaluating applicants.

Levato graduated with honors in 1996 from the UCLA medical school, where he is an assistant clinical professor of medicine.

"Getting into medical school, I definitely benefited from affirmative action," he said. "But once I got there, I really excelled."

Opponents of race-conscious college admissions contend that they violate the constitutional rights of whites and Asian applicants. Racial diversity, they say may be a worthy goal, but should be achieved through race-neutral means.

"By discriminating on the basis of race at the point of competition, innocent individuals are injured in their constitutional rights," Kirk Kolbo, an attorney representing the plaintiffs challenging Michigan's law school and undergraduate admissions policies, told the Supreme Court during oral arguments April 1.

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Affirmative action divides races, opponents say

Fiscus Page 10

conscious admissions at the nation's most selective 418 colleges, the result would be a small drop in the number of black and Latino undergraduates.

But achieving diversity through race-neutral means has proven much more difficult for professional schools. Part of the difficulty is that low-income whites and Asians, on average, score significantly better than middle- and upper-income blacks and Hispanics on standardized tests, making them more compelling candidates under most race-neutral admissions scenarios.

In 2001, for example, underrepresented minorities from families with incomes of $80,000 or more averaged 219 on the Medical School Admission Test; whites and Asians from families with incomes under $10,000 averaged 257 and 255, respectively.

Accounting for economic hardship will not level the admissions playing field for minority and economically disadvantaged medical school candidates, the Association of American Medical Colleges asserted in a brief submitted to the Supreme Court.

At the University of California, the percentage of black and Latino students in the medical and law schools has dropped since race-conscious admissions were eliminated in 1996.

This year, black and Latino students make up 16.9 percent of the first-year medical students at UCLA, the state's five state-run medical schools and 16.5 percent of the first-year medical students at the University of California at San Francisco. But officials said the programs reach many fewer students than the race-conscious admissions programs did.

Medical school officials said that training black and Latino students is crucial both for the sake of diversity but also to help ensure that there are medical professionals willing to practice in poor and minority communities, which are typically underserved by doctors. Numerous surveys of minority medical school graduates have found that they are far more interested in practicing in poor communities than other students.

"When you're looking for medical students, there is a lot more to it than grade-point averages and lost scores. Nobody has shown that the best doctor is necessarily the one with the best grade-point averages and MCAT scores," said Neil Parkes, senior associate dean at UCLA medical school. He added that nearly every student admitted to UCLA's medical school goes on to graduate.

In evaluating medical school applicants, he said, UCLA considers a broad array of factors beyond academic credentials, including applicants' passion for medicine and ability to connect with patients.

Those are the qualities that Gilberto Hernandez Jr. believes set his medical school application apart. His undergraduate grades at UCLA were average, as were his scores on the Medical College Admission Test. But Hernandez believes he was admitted into medical school because of his volunteer work, with medical outreach programs, the upward trend in his grades toward the end of his college career and the fact that UCLA considered socioeconomic and other factors in evaluating applicants.

Hernandez earned five letters of distinction at UCLA medical school, where he is scheduled to graduate next month. "I think people understood that I was qualified," he said, "but I just didn't have the numbers."
Identity-theft victims spend years clearing fraud claims

From Page 9

Two men who posed as computer technicans broke into the records of Florida restaurants, stealing personal information for more than 12,000 people and running up more than $7 million in fraudulent charges. Those patrons had done nothing more than eat.

Workers for the Social Security Administration in Houston were caught selling personal information to get illegal aliens into the country (given current law, that would lead to results far more sobering than a tarnished credit rating). ID theft helped fund the WFT terror attacks.

What's worse, there's very little people can do to completely prevent their identity from being stolen. Victims spend up to two years to clear their names, convincing creditors they didn't open or max out accounts. And even after everything has been settled, they aren't protected against future thefts.

That's where ID theft is discovered that quickly and it doesn't end that quickly," said Barbara Span, vice president of external affairs at Star Systems, the nation's largest ATM-debit network. Her company regularly does ID theft research.

"There are a lot of sources to get an individual's personal financial information," she said. "You can be cautious enough."

Take Michael Barlow. His case had a typical cause, but an unusual ending.

Barlow is director of curriculum for Hazel Park Schools in Detroit. A couple years ago, he got a call from one of the three agencies that compile credit reports.

The agent told him it wanted to make sure everything was OK because there had been a flurry of activity on his account: a pile of applications for new cards, old cards being mailed out, and a new address popping up in the records for the first time in 17 years.

"I knew nothing about this," he said.

He asked for, and got, the phone number and address the person was using to open the fraudulent accounts. Then he called the number, posing as a bureaucrat for one of the credit card companies.

"I called this number in Detroit, and asked to speak to myself," he said. "The man said, "Yes, this is him.""

He quizzed the man about the facts on the application, discovering that he knew Barlow's work history, Social Security number and a pile of other personal details.

"It was absolutely chilling. He never skipped a beat."

Barlow filed a complaint against the state Attorney General's Office online. In days, officers from that unit, the Detroit Police Department and the U.S. Postal Inspector's Office had set up a sting, catching the crook red-handed.

It turned out that the man, Darryl Carwell, had done this before. He got Barlow's information from a form Barlow had filled out at an optometrist's office years before. When the office closed, simply dropped the records --- including his personal information --- into a trash bin.

That's where Carwell got the file. He later pleaded guilty to reduced charges in federal court.

"This should never have happened," Barlow said.

But that's how it often does. Barlow was Internet savvy, even using the Web to help catch the crook. Still, his online activities had nothing to do with getting his good name stolen.

Barlow also was lucky. There is no requirement for credit agencies to call when there's unusual activity on a person's account, especially considering they don't offer credit themselves. In fact, if you want that service on a regular basis you typically have to buy it for as much as $90 a year.

There are few regulations that handle how papers with personal information are stored or disposed of.

Most people know someone who's been the victim of identity theft, national studies show. The Federal Trade Commission says there were 102,000 new cases reported to the federal government in 2002, almost double the previous year's total.

Even that could underestimate the real number of thefts. In a November survey of 2,000 adults by Star Systems, 5.5 percent of respondents said they were victims. If the survey reflects the experiences of most Americans, that would be almost 12 million victims nationwide.

And, as in the research done by every agency that's studied the crime, Star found that most victims' problems had nothing to do with the Internet.

"There doesn't appear to be any direct connection with the use of technology," Span said.

That would be the good news.

"Access to somebody's information can be facilitated by technology," she said.

In other words, computerized record keeping could make it easier for workers in hospitals or financial institutions or corporate personnel departments to sneak a peek at other people's personal information.

Doctors' offices and hospitals, which often have everything from dates of birth to Social Security numbers to employment information on a single new-patient form, are required by new regulations to computerize all of their records by October.

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Street rock

Deepest of bands performed at the second annual Florida Music Festival April 10-12 in downtown Orlando. The event, organized by Aloft Magazine, created a forum for musicians and music industry executives to meet.
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OUR STANCE:

Board whacks budget behind our backs

The chairman of the boards of trustees of Florida's 11 public universities continue their trend of hounding correct meetings when they met privately with Gov. Jeb Bush Friday.

At the private meeting, the chairman, all appointed by Bush, discussed the state's budget, which significantly cuts funding for Florida's higher education system. Sadly, neither the public nor the press knows exactly what the chairman talked about with the governor because neither the public nor the press could attend the meeting, possibly in violation of Florida's Sunshine Law.

Gov. Bush anticipated criticism of the reduced state's education funding. Perhaps they're right to sacrifice university funding for the sake of more vital programs, but they must give funding back to the universities when the economy rebounds.

However, in the meantime, while the economy crawls along, state universities will have to find new sources of funding because the quality of education will suffer with reduced funding. Unless the economy improves significantly, cuts will likely follow in ensuing years. Universities should not put the brunt of the financial burden on students.

As Nims said, universities will have to become more accountable for their spending. They should trim excessive administrative overhead, unnecessary projects and practices more focused community service. They also must do more to increase academic enrollment from the community. Universities, and UCF in particular, need all the help they can get right now especially if they want to continue growing without sacrificing the quality of education they provide.

And when the chairman of the boards of trustees meet in the future, they should do so in public.

OUR STANCE:

Child protection continues to crumble

Although President George W. Bush wants no child left behind in education, he risked our noble goal — he just wants to allow children to fall through the cracks in Florida.

Besides the poor quality of Florida's education system, the state's flawed child-welfare system continues to allow children to fall behind, or worse. The Department of Children and Families lost another child last week. This time, 5-year-old Zachary Bennett died while in the custody of his father, Lamon Bennett.

The elder Bennett had a criminal record, which included selling cocaine, domestic violence and stalking, before the DFPS placed Zachary in his care last August. Apparently, the child's caseworker failed to conduct a thorough background check on the father before handing over custody of Zachary. The caseworker conducted only a limited background check. New Zachary is dead, after his father savagely beat him.

Zachary's death follows the killing last month of an 8-month-old boy who was shot and hospitalized. New Zachary is dead, after his father savagely beat him.

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Surely, after all the negative publicity that these tragic failings have generated, Gov. Bush must have the power to do something. He replaced the head of the DFPS Kathleen Kersey, last year, but her replacement, Jerry Regier, has not solved the agency's problems. Many months after Regier took over, the same problems plague the DFPS.

The DFPS still needs an overhaul, including better training for caseworkers that could help prevent situations like Zachary's and better compensation for caseworkers to attract more and better-qualified caseworkers. And these changes must happen soon. Otherwise, many more children will die at the hands of their own parents.

While the state slashes funding for higher education, it should use some of that money to properly fund the DFPS and fix its many problems. The continued incompetence and failures of the DFPS embarrass the state and its residents, and call into question Florida's priorities.

Too many children have already been left behind in Florida in terms of education, but under the state's protection the state's care.

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Too many children have already been left behind in Florida in terms of education, but under the state's protection the state's care.
President Bush, who was obviously motivated by the idea of "nation-building" during the 2003 campaign, is now nation-building at home.

He plans to spend some thing like $80 billion over the next six months rebuilding Iraq. The agenda includes everything from repairing the oil fields to rebuilding elementary school textbooks.

Like the Clinton administration, he now realizes that you cannot pour soldiers and bombs into a country, dictate its culture, and come home.

But this is nation-building, Republican style, with huge contracts awarded in secret to politically connected companies, in the name of the "emergency" oil-field contract to Halliburton, formerly run by Vice President Cheney — and, guess, who would have predicted that Iraq's oil fields might need to be reoriented after a war? — is only worth $600 million, not the $12 billion the administration reported. I suppose we should be grateful for that.

In fact, in an odd twist, we're supposed to be grateful to all these big crooked contracts because they're going to good old American companies and not to the filthy French or the nasty Germans or the Russians who were so terribly helpful — not! — in the recent festivities.

The feeling seems to be: Hey, they paid for the destruction. If it weren't for us, there wouldn't be all these roads and bridges that need rebuilding! So someone's going to make money rebuilding them, it ought to be us.

To be fair, the Bush administra tion is pushing a lot of its deals. It doesn't need to, as it is advertising these contracts with no public bidding or discussion. Members of the House of Representatives were the ones who added a provision to the war-financing bill that would have prevented the awarding of reconstruction contracts to companies from nations that didn't support the war.

But this is nation-building, Republican style. And therefore we have
disillusionment, that we agreed to just because we're so noble and can't really be expected to obey, my dear fellow, we being the world's only superpower and all that.

This particular law is superpower-friendly. Our country is the one with more of the big global companies that are most likely to benefit from open markets for government business.

We also have a smaller government share of GEP than any of our major trading partners. That means we have more to gain from access to other nations' government business than they have to gain from access to ours.

And therefore we have more to lose if other nations retaliate by cutting off our access to jobs in their government contracts, which they are understood to threaten to do. And, lest we forget, the doctrine of free trade holds — based on near-mathematical proof, not just plain wishful thinking — that a nation benefits by buying foreign goods, not just by selling our own foreign goods.

As the folks boating the bill, we should want the reconstruction of Iraq to be as inexpensive as possible. If a firm from Uzbekistan can patch up a pipeline for less than a firm from Texas, giving the work to that firm in Texas is just paying too much. Even if the Uzbek firm is able to underbid the Texas one only because it is getting an Uzbek government subsidy, that just means a bit of the burden is being shifted from American taxpayers to the taxpayers of Uzbekistan.

Thanks so much for that Halliburton contract, George. And all the lovely deals for Bechtel and other well-connect ed companies. You shouldn't have.
Football will open with Sunday ESPN game

Kristy Shonka  
STAFF WRITER

When UCF Athletic Director Steve Orsini received a call from the Mid-American Conference about changing the date of UCF's football season opener, he thought it was too good to be true.

He and MAC Commissioner Rick Cristy are good friends and Orsini thought his buddy might be pulling his leg.

"I actually said to Rick, 'You're not teasing me, are you?,'" Orsini said.

Once Cristy assured him he wasn't kidding, Orsini agreed on the condition that he would first have to double-check with UCF President John Hitt and Coach Mike Kruczek.

Both Hitt and Kruczek said yes and the deal was done.

The reason for the change? ESPN wanted to air UCF's opener against Virginia Tech. Orsini announced Thursday that the Knights would

Freshman Wistort wins A-Sun men's golf title

Jon Kutilek  
STAFF WRITER

The UCF men's and women's golf teams concluded their seasons last Friday with the Atlantic Sun Championships held in Daytona Beach, with third and fourth pace finishes, respectively.

For the men, Stefan Wistort became just the third Knight in school history to win the conference title. The freshman set an A-Sun record for the lowest round in history with a three-day total of just 212.

"Stefan played extremely well and I am very happy for him," UCF Coach Nick Clancy said. "He had a great freshman season and this is an outstanding achievement for him."

Jacksonville State won the tournament for the second year in a row with a three-day total of 849. The Gamecocks' score also ties them for the lowest tournament score in history.

Rounding out the scores for the men were Barry Roof with a 216 (tied for 11th), Nimkhum Rojkwon with a 219 (14th), Andreas Hoergberg with a 223 (tied for 48th) and Matt LeCouteure with a 238 (56th).

For the women, Anna Green led all Knights in scoring with a three-day total of 231, good enough for 11th overall. Green followed with a 237, and Kristin Sordel a 235, for 17th overall. Finishing out the team were Harriett Tudor (t-19th) and Matt LeCouteure with a 243.

\[ \text{Men's tennis claims first A-Sun title} \]

Sadie Sham  
STAFF WRITER

The championship game, the level of play, the opposing team — these were all familiar aspects to the top-seeded UCF men's tennis team as the Knights clinched their first-ever Atlantic Sun Conference Championship on Saturday, defeating third-seeded Georgia State, 4-1 at the Mound Snail Tennis Center.

UCF improved to 20-3 and obtained the A-Sun's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history. With the loss, the Panthers end their season at 13-10.

UCF defeated ninth-seeded Florida Atlantic, 4-0, Thursday afternoon and advanced to the 2003 Atlantic Sun Conference Championship semifinals. UCF had little trouble with the Owls (9-13), picking up the doubles point and winning three singles matches.

Catalin Bradu and Antonios Skerra breezed past Christian Praz and Oscar Plotnik, 8-2 at No. 1. Also victorious for the Golden Knights was Simon Dijninger and Augusto Sandberg at No. 2, where the duo held off David Demers and John Jackson, 6-2, 6-4.

Needless to say, singles victories for the match, UCF won at No. 2, No. 4 and No. 3. Gabriel Strangberg defeated Demers, 6-4, 6-2 at No. 2. Skerra beat out David Dix at No. 3, 7-5, 6-4. The final UCF victory was Dijninger against Orsini, 6-3, 6-4.

The championship match will be played May 11 at 1 PM.

Please see Knights on 19
Knights rise, then fall

After beating FAU's ace Friday, the Knights dropped both games of Saturday's doubleheader

Chirs Bernhardt
Staff Writer

What started out as a series full of promise turned into a comedy of errors, literally, for the UCF baseball team this weekend. Taking on 15th-ranked Florida Atlantic in the Atlantic Sun, the Golden Knights continued a recent trend by blowing the conference's best pitcher for an 8-1 victory Friday night to begin the three-game home set.

But rather than build on that win and turn in a follow-up down season around, they played two of their most inept games of the season en route to dropping both games of Saturday's doubleheader and losing the key series two games to one.

"We got out-pitched, out-hit and out-everythinged," coach Jay Bergman said. "But you got to give Florida Atlantic credit. That's why they're ranked 15th and their pitching staff is much deeper and stronger than ours. At least it was (Saturday)."

It didn't look that way at first, Friday's series opener pitted two former high school teammates and current best friends against one another, with the Blue Waves' Danny Corey starting opposite Von David Stertzbach.

"That's the first time that we've ever started against each other," Stertzbach said. "I said hi to him before the game today and wished him luck and he did the same to me. We're best friends off the field, but when we step between those lines it's time to compete. And he knows that as well as I do."

Corey, who came into the game with a conference-leading 1.00 ERA, had his worst outing of the season against UCF. He gave up four runs in the first inning, left fielder David Mann allowing a single, and after giving up just two earned runs, striking out eight.

"I think [UCF pitching coach Greg] Cozart did a great job of keeping those guys off-balance and I located real well tonight," Stertzbach said. "I guess that's key to any pitcher but being able to locate is definitely what got me there tonight."

Then came Saturday, when UCF committed four errors and mustered just one run and five hits in two seven-inning games, losing 9-0 and 6-1.

Feeling Randy Beam's (8-1, 2.49 ERA) in the first game of the doubleheader, UCF needed to play some of its crispest ball of the year. But in the top of the second inning, left fielder David Mann mishit a fly ball off the bat of Rusty Brown into a single. Matt Hall came up next and hit a triple into the right-field corner to give the Blue Wave a 1-0 advantage.

Leading off the following inning, Bear booted a ground ball to put Robert Orton on, which began a two-run rally that also included a run scored off of a Wallace error at third base.

"That proved plenty of support for Beam, who never saw a runner reach second base and allowed just one hit and one walk in seven innings against a .292 hitting team," Stertzbach said.

"He went out there and really established that he wanted to win that ballgame. He set the tone for the rest of the team and then we scored some runs," Core (0-2) gave up eight runs in the 6-1/3 innings, the most runs he has given up all year.

Stertzbach (2-4), returning to the weekend rotation after spending the last month and a half in the bullpen, went a career-long 6-1/3 and gave up just two earned runs, striking out eight.

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Knights' bats fizzled. They did final two outs of the inning of work. Williams recorded another second-place finish in the shot put and a fourth in the discus. Thomas finished fourth in the shot put. Freshman Michelle Olandese won the discus event and finished sixth in the javelin. Sophomore Sam Schneer and freshman Kyleene Colananti rounded out UCF's domination of the field events with fourths- and sixth-place finishes in the pole vault, respectively.

Outstanding senior Shedden returned to her pre-injury form and won the 10,000 meters in 37 minutes, 62.21 seconds. Freshman Andrew Wolowicz upset the favorite to win the 3,000 meter steeplechase by finishing 10.69.22. Junior Derick Dick finished fourth in the 5,000 meters in 17:48.44 and sophomore Amy Glick in 18:50.20, also finishing in fourth. Freshman Olivia Gaskins took third in the 800 meters with a time of 2:15.61.

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Women’s tennis season ends

Friday, April 25

UCF lightweight 8+ wins at SIRAS

The sixth-ranked women’s lightweight 8+ crew highlighted the list of UCF rowers at the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships at Melton Lake on Saturday.

The Lightweight 8+ boat — which included Tiffany Richmond, Lauren Gunthorpe, Heather Seward, Tiffany Beck, Laura Brad, Kristen Kosser, Katherine Motes and coxswain Summer Taylor — earned the gold medal in its event with a time of 6:37.5.

Meanwhile, the Novice 8+ crew of Alice Boggs, Lindsey Gunthorpe, Karlie Christian, Kristin Roche, Holly Campbell, Jacquie Miller, Summer Tudull, Christine Richardsonville and cox Heather Brown earned the bronze at 7:03.7.

After coming in fourth in the semifinals, the Novice 8+ crew was relegated to the No. 6 final, but they added to their win streak with a silver medal in their event with a time of 6:57.2.

Shinnocer scored on an RBI single by Clark in the sixth and last scored on a sacrifice fly by Brand in the seventh inning after a sacrifice bunt from Kessel. Graden added an RBI double and four RBIs.

The Knights don’t have a game the following weekend, which means they’ll have plenty of time to prepare for the NCAA regional against Florida Atlantic.

“It was an unbelievable great opportunity,” Ostin said.

The Knights finished first in the A-Sun overall and 9-2 in the NCAA East. Virginia Tech finished third and ranked fourth in the A-Sun.

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IM season ends; champs crowned

Julie Reeves
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's official. The spring semester of intramural sports action has come to an end, but not without crowning many new champions.

Flag football
In four-on-four flag football, worlds collided when the Pirates beat Lambda Chi, 24-19, to win the competitive league flag football title.

The women's final saw one of the legendary intramural coaches finally win his first title as the Vampires knocked off Ruck. You. The Recreational final didn't disappoint either, as PCA took apart Phi Delta Theta, 34-14.

Dick with Chicks took home the first five-on-five co-ed flag football championship, beating Bums with Nice Luggage, 33-15.

Softball
In the softball championship, many former champions appeared trying to defend their intramural titles.

In the women's tournament the Ballers were looking to keep their championship, but undefeated Alpha Delta Pi came out strong, winning 18-0 in five innings.

AFLAC and the Red Rockets have been huge co-ed rivals for the past three years. Both teams were undefeated going into the championship game, with AFLAC looking to average last year's playoff loss to the Red Rockets. The Red Rockets held on for their third straight intramural sports championship, winning 8-3.

The competitive championship game between Kappa Sigma and the Bandits was the longest IM softball game of the year, but the Bandits ended up sneaking away with the championship after nine innings, 26-25.

The men's final was lopsided as well, as Lambda Chi was mercy-ruled by Pi Kappa Phi, 15-0. The game was tight early, but the cinderella squad whose only win of the regular season was by forfeit was able to ride their playoff momentum to the crown.

Floor hockey
Championship week would conclude indoors with three floor hockey finals.

In the first game of the evening, the Boulders, who double as the UCF soccer team, took out GDS 7-1. The Boulders will surely be forced to play come next year, were on a different level as they took home the title.

The next two games were not for the faint of heart.

In the women's tournament, Park Off was looking to defend their title from 2002 floor hockey, and Alpha Delta Pi was seeking their second championship of the night.

ADPi led 1-0 over Park Off after an early goal by Lori Contente. ADPi appeared on their way to the title with 18.9 seconds remaining, until Amanda King played hero and put a top shelf to tie the game. The game went two overtime periods before King was hero again, ending the game in sudden death, 2-1.

The comp final was another instant classic, as a packed gym watched DU and Lambda Chi go to overtime, were DU finally was able to put Lambda Chi away, 5-4. Lambda Chi was denied their second title of the year, although things looked good from the start. An early goal put them up 1-0, before DU stormed back to take a 2-1 lead. DU looked as if they would win in regulation, but a late third period goal forced OT.

Baseball v. Bethune-Cookman
Tues., April 22nd at 6 p.m. • Joe Yergman Field (behind the UCF Arena)
Free admission for all students with a valid UCF I.D.

Softball v. FAU
Sat., April 26th at 2 p.m. • UCF Softball Stadium
Admission is Free for all... just bring your own chair!

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Beware the travails of travel abroad

Author's advice: Go, but go with a plan

GENO MEHALIK CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Vivek Wagle, coordinating author of Lonely Planet's "Europe on a Shoestring," has traveled the world. But he wasn't repelling off mountainsides in Scandinavia or wandering past small shops in Italy last Wednesday.

Wagle's second-to-last stop on his book promotion tour was the UCF Student Union, where he offered expert advice to future travelers in the areas of planning trips, packing, and staying safe abroad.

Wagle said that anyone planning to journey overseas needs to become familiar with their destination through researching maps, books or the Internet. "Guidebooks give advice and help you create an itinerary," he said. Wagle also advised travelers to bring their research materials with them.

"You're always going to change your plans," he said. "You're going to want to stay some place longer or skip a place that doesn't look interesting. A guidebook will show you the fastest and cheapest ways to travel."

Reviewing safety tips ensures that travelers will have a stress-free, fun vacation.

Wagle said it is important to leave copies of important documents such as passports, visas and other identification safe at home. "In case of an emergency, you want to have that information somewhere so that you can contact your relatives and have it found quickly," he said.

Ekno's Travel Vault (http://www.ekno.com) allows travelers to store copies of their identification online for easy access, he said.

When preparing for a trip abroad, Wagle said to pack lightly. Luggage becomes cumbersome and takes up space. "Every time I've gone out, I've packed less than the time before," he said.

Wagle stressed the importance of versatile clothing. "Bring matching outfits that can be worn in different combinations. Because Europe is a little more formal than other regions, bring a pair of light cotton pants and a sweater," he said.

Dying for an 'A'

KATRINA HAMMERM STAFF WRITER

Screams echoed the halls and caution tape covered the doorways after six bodies were found in Classroom 1 building last Friday. Faculty members and student workers lay on desks and tables in various rooms on the second floor, bright red blood dripping from their bodies and clothes.

While startling, this scene was neither gruesome act of violence nor a nasty practical joke — it was a final exam.

Alice Morrison was one of six "bodies" in the murder-mystery final that required Honors English 1 students to solve the crime by asking questions in their new language.

"It's better than reading a book and having a quiz. It was more fun than hard, and it really gets the curiosity flowing."

—MATT DOMBROWSKI
Senior

The proof is in the videotapes they made of themselves asking questions along the way, and which will be reviewed by Korosy to help determine their final grades.

Korosy hesitates to stage the skit every year because of the violent concepts associated with it. But her students understand that it's purely for entertainment and prefer her approach to more conventional teaching methods.

Sophomore Matt Dombrowski, 20, said Korosy's unique instruction in by far more effective than that of other professors. "It's better than reading a book and having a quiz," he said. "It was more fun than hard, and it really gets the curiosity flowing."

As the students raced through the rooms, they found more clues and more bodies. The "victims" had been doused in stage blood by Korosy just moments before. With the help of her niece, she also ran from room to room, creating scenes for her students to encounter.

Senior Scott Anderson, 22, acted as one of the dead bodies. "All Korosy made me do it," he said, smirking. "But I didn't have a job in law enforcement."

Striving to become a secret agent man

Fascination with killers steers one student toward FBI

JESSE SCHARGE STAFF WRITER

Marshall Vilet thought about being a teacher. But after taking an Introduction to Education course in community college, he knew it wasn't for him. He wanted a more thrilling occupation.

He discovered his calling while reading "Whoever Fights Monsters," by Robert Kessler. The author profiled serial killers he had encountered during his years as a government agent.

Intrigued by the stories, Vilet vowed to join the FBI. "Serial killers are fascinating and evil," he said. "When you think about it, human beings don't have natural predators except for other human beings."

Vilet, a 25-year-old graduate student, currently works for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in Lake Buena Vista. He started in the summer of 2001 with a three-month internship, and then returned later that year as a full-time intern.

Vilet was working for INS when the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks took place. "It was definitely a weird day," he said. "We got sent home at 10 a.m."

Vilet says that government services have changed since the World Trade Center fell. "To see what it was like before and after, it is so different," he said. "It is now very law-enforcement oriented."

Vilet also holds a different perspective of police since he began his work with INS. "I've always been respectful of police, but I have more respect for officers now, considering [that] I have a job in law enforcement."

While Vilet would like to work in the behavioral sciences unit of the FBI, which profiles serial killers and investigates cases, he knows he will have to finish his education and gain experience to do so.

Vilet dismissed the public's perception of an FBI agent. He said television has created that image by relying on stereotypes.
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comfortable shoes, he said. While heavy suitcases can make traveling difficult, a backpack is a necessity for a mobile vacationer. "If you're going from city to city, don't skimp on your backpack," he said.

"A backpack should be three things: big enough, durable and comfortable." Wagie also said testing a backpack is essential. "You need to walk a good quarter mile with it before you know its quality." He added that when picking a backpack, look for one that "Many people do not know transfers the weight to the waist that in Bulgaria if you are caught drinking and driving once, you are put in jail," he said. However, if you are caught driving while drunk, you are executed.

"A money belt keeps your money always very real. There are more local scams than I can think of," he said. Credit cards are accepted everywhere, but he stressed caution. "It's not like everyone is Western Europe, Wagie said. It's easier to use automatic teller machines. Credit cards are accepted throughout much of Europe as well. "If your card has a Visa logo, you can probably use it," he said.

"Many people do not know that in Bulgaria if you are caught drinking and driving once, you are put in jail," he said. "However, if you are caught drinking and driving twice, you are executed." While the chances of getting in trouble with the government seem slim, the threat of being hassled by the locals is always very real. "There are more local scams than I can think of," he said.

Wagie said he wishes to scare students, but he stressed caution. "It's not like everyone is out to get you," he said. "Whatever there is a whole bunch of small children around, or any large crowd for that matter, stay alert." Wagie said it's best for Americans traveling abroad to keep a low profile. Research the area, and know the local customs. "The juice of freedom is responsibility," he said.

Yet travel offers invaluable opportunities, he said. "Traveling abroad exposes people to new experiences and cultures. It is both a communicative and personally enriching experience."
Price check: Students pay for campus convenience

Many items are available for less a few blocks away

Alisa Babcock
Staff Writer

Buying a banana on-campus to between classes may seem


sensible. It's a healthy snack, and priced about 20 cents as a candy bar.

Riding the banana off-campus, though, could cost far more.

On average, buying food and school supplies on-campus costs 30 percent more than at comparable outlets just blocks away from UCF based upon a recent survey of sale prices.

For example, the banana that sells for 73 cents at the convenience store near Student Union costs 13 cents at a nearby Publix Supermarket, reflecting the disparity between the prices of many products on- and off-campus.

Campus vendors, including the chain restaurant Wendy's, raise the price more for food items than their counterpart outlets off-campus.

While all students are aware of the price differences, not everyone tolerates them.

"There is no doubt that they overcharge us," said sophomore Jessica Guadalupe, 21, "because they know we'll pay.

Guadalupe is frustrated by price inflations for products on-campus.

"One time I went to buy an 8-ounce can of tuna on-campus and it was 20 cents too much. "You can get the exact same brand for 90 cents anywhere else."

Overcharging on-campus is nonexistent. While campus vendors do not raise prices on products such as tuna and bananas, Guadalupe said those same vendors offer better deals on items such as two-liter bottles of soda.

Even those who buy on-campus do not always choose to pay the vendors' prices.

On-campus resident Dave Williamson, 21, a junior, has endured the higher prices at university vendors because of convenience, though he prefers shopping at off-campus grocery stores for his meals.

"I have seen some outrageously overpriced items at the convenience store Knightstop," said Don Leland, food service director at UCF Central Florida Dining Services operation at the Marketplace, Knightstop and Chick-Fil-A.

He said there is an overwhelming demand for more food outlets on-campus. UCF spends more than $10 million a year on food service facilities for its 40,000 students, faculty and staff.

A 3,000-square-foot grocery store near the Marketplace, Knightstop is under consideration to provide for those students who may be underenrolled by current food venues, Leland said.

In addition to creating more vendors, Leland said UCF Dining Services readily accepts suggestions from students about improving their choices on-campus. "We do try to get feedback from students about pricing," he said.

Many students wonder, then, why overcharging remains a problem.

Junior Melodie McNeil, 19, said the prices at the campus Subway run higher than at the convenience store off-campus.

A comparison between the campus vendor and a Subway on Alafaya Trail showed the price generally were consistent, with the exception of the Veggie Delite sub, which cost 50 cents more on-campus.

Yet McNeil said the campus convenience store does not accept coupons, another disadvantage. Because Subway restaurants are independently owned, each store can decide whether or not to accept coupons from customers. Campus Subway Manager Ryan Belllterman said not accepting coupons may be a campus-wide policy.

The Student Union's Wendy's also charges more than most off-campus restaurants.

Sophomore Charles Holm, 23, is annoyed by the lack of a 99-cent menu at the campus Wendy's. Items from that budget menu in particular cost 90 cents more than at the Wendy's on Alafaya.

Senior Melissa Hayes, 23, said that her finances, and those of her peers, do not match the prices charged on campus.

"We are college students, and obviously our budgets are tighter," she said. "I think that the school should look into lowering food prices."

However, what students pay in overcharges at campus vendors, they make up for in lower campus vending-machine prices.

Vegetarian beverages on-campus cost less than all other outlets surveyed, at 90 cents for a 20-ounce soda or 60 cents. Students who pay with their UCF ID card save another 5 cents.

On-campus prices for school supplies generally were more competitive with off-campus prices.

At the UCF OfficePlus, a campus office supply store, black Sharpie markers cost just 85 cents, compared to $1.49 at a Main Email Box store located north of campus.

OfficePlus's prices on products surveyed generally run below that of the UCF Bookstore next door, and typically were similar to the price of the same supplies off-campus.

Janet Netten, OfficePlus's retail supervisor, said the prices reflect the contrast in business models between the store and the UCF Bookstore. OfficePlus does most of its business with academ­ 

i c departments on campus; non­

department business accounts for only 8 percent of the store's revenue.

"We're not in competition with the bookstores," Netten said. "Our main purpose is to be here for the departments."

She said the store sets its prices so more of the department's budgets can go toward academics, rather than office supplies.

"They have to stretch their dollars as far as they can," she said.

By contrast, the UCF Bookstore does most of its business through student sales. Its UCF location is one of nearly 500 stores in the Barnes and Noble College Bookstores chain. Though the bookstore serves most of the store's business, it also sells office supplies and some food products.

The bookstore changes the most of all on- and off-campus venues for the products surveyed. For example, four AAA Energizer batteries at the bookstore cost $3.98, more than a dollar above the off-campus average.

The $1.25 price of a 2-liter Diet Pepsi bottle at the campus Coca-Cola vending machine is nearly 50 cents more than a similar bottle on-cAMPUS.

UFC Bookstore also topped the comparison price list. The same bottle sells for 89 cents at the CABS Bookstore across Alafaya Trail from campus, or can be had for 85 cents with a UCF ID card at a vending machine just outside the bookstore's doors.

"Pens and pencils are three to four times more expensive on-campus than would they be off-campus," sophomore Justin Becerra, 20, said. "Pencil paper is about $1.20. You can get that somewhere else for half the price."

Though students continue to gripe about the cost of living on-campus, the peril of surviving on smaller budgets, one factor seems to outweigh any discomfort the prices may cause.

Said Italian: "When it comes down to it, you are paying for the convenience."

Editor's note: The prices in this report reflect a survey conducted between April 10-19 at the following outlets:

On-campus: Wendy's, Subway, Chick-Fil-A, Knightstop Convenience Store, UCF Bookstore, UCF OfficePlus and Open-Ex Outfitters vending machines

Off-campus: Wendy's, Subway, Chick-Fil-A, Chuck's, Publix, Rolex, Winn-DiMart Neighborhood Drug, 99 Cents Only, Mint Buses etc.

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April 21, 2003 • The Central Florida Future

TV stereotypes create a false image, says FBI agent wannabe

FROM PAGE 21

“TV shows” hype it up and create larger-than-life personalities that don’t exist,” he said.

But Vliet concedes the FBI doesn’t do much to correct these myths, either.

“The prestige, the excitement, the challenge — it all comes with being an FBI agent,” he said.

Agents come from varying backgrounds, according to Vliet. Some are lawyers and some served in the military.

Vliet already has his bachelor’s degree in psychology and is currently working on his master’s in criminal justice.

Without the help of any UCF professors or former FBI agents, Vliet is paving his own path.

“I’ve tried to make contacts with the government,” Vliet said. “I have connections with the DEA and other immigration units. I just need to work with the government a little bit.”

Vliet hopes to get a job with the Drug Enforcement Agency or work with INS as a special agent in investigations afterward.

Within five years, Vliet expects to apply for the FBI’s 16-week training course, which trains future agents in everything from ethics to firearms.

Yet getting chosen for the course is difficult, he said. Background checks can take up to a year while the bureau explores a candidate’s history going back 10 or 15 years.

“It’s hard just to get selected to take the test,” Vliet said. “Let’s say you pass the ethics portion, but fail the firearms portion; they hold you back,” he said.

Vliet said his criminal justice classes are not preparing him well for his future career.

“The classes aren’t really geared for an FBI profession. There are a lot of courses dealing with the police, and they are more geared for a career in that field.”

Last summer Vliet attended a seminar at UCF dealing with the scientific study of death. He plans on attending a seminar this summer that will discuss terrorism.

Vliet is motivated by his studies on serial crimes. Another book, John Douglas’ “Sometimes the Dragon Wins,” about killers who were never convicted, has inspired him to work harder toward his desired career.

“Sometimes the dragon wins,” Vliet said the cartoon implies that you can’t catch everyone.

But he is willing to try.

He knows there is a lot of work ahead, but he is ready for the challenge.

“It’s going to take a lot of hard work. I’ve never been one to quit,” he said. “I can’t give up anything.”

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EOE/DFWP
Killer test puts language studies to use in ‘crime’ investigation

FROM PAGE 21

mind.”

Korosy said she is always looking for ways to get students to use what they are learning. She said she would rather they master the material than memorize facts on flashcards.

“When you say anything in a language, you’re going to make a mistake,” she said.

Dombrowski agreed that practice is the best way to learn Spanish. “It’s a speaking language,” he said, “so you have to use it in conversation.”

Korosy said she uses this type of exam specifically to push her students’ limits. Honors students typically are highly motivated people who have wanted to learn all along, she said.

“Honors students traditionally do not like making mistakes, so this final is designed to demonstrate [their ability] to themselves,” she said.

At the end of the skit, students caught Korosy “red-handed,” as she met them standing in a room with stage blood covering her hands. The tapes that students filmed of themselves solving the crime will be reviewed by Korosy, and will count as the oral component of the class’s final exam.
When Roger Olney used the KaZaA file-sharing service to download a utility for his home computer, he got a rude introduction to the slippery world of spyware.

First, he mistakenly downloaded and installed a file called eblaster.exe:

"I am aware now after some research that eblaster is a program that monitors keystrokes (gulp) in super stealth mode (shiver, double gulp)," Olney wrote to members of the discussion group alt.privacy.spyware, where he turned for emergency help.

But, as group members would later inform him, the KaZaA Media Desktop program itself was already monitoring much of Olney's activity.

Unbeknownst to most users, Sharman Networks Ltd.'s KaZaA - the world's most popular post-Napster file-sharing program - has built-in software that spies on its users.

KaZaA is partnered with Brilliant Digital, which makes software that is downloaded and invisibly installed with KaZaA Media Desktop.

Also, Brilliant's software automatically hooks users into yet another network, Altnet, which can track behavior as well as store and retrieve targeted banner ads and pop-ups.

"It even seeks to profit from siphoning off processing power from its customers' computers," says Grey McKenzie, CEO of SpyCop Inc. (www.spycop.com), makers of a program that detects spy- and adware. "I think you now have to protect yourself against these programs, just like you scan for viruses."

Spyware and adware are being increasingly used by programmers to make money. When McKenzie started his company three years ago, for example, SpyCop's database recognized only about 30 commercially available spyware programs - mostly monitoring software used by spouses, parents and corporations.

Last year, the revelation that Brilliant's software had been piggybacking on KaZaA led to some consumer backlash. Technically, the Altnet program could be called adware, tracking software that users agree to download as part of the End User License Agreement. But EULAs are so filled with legalese that they're largely unread.

"The masses are being victimized all the time," says Grey McKenzie, CEO of SpyCop Inc. (www.spycop.com), makers of a program that detects spy- and adware. "I think you now have to protect yourself against these programs, just like you scan for viruses."

"Spyware and adware are being increasingly used by programmers to make money. When McKenzie started his company three years ago, for example, SpyCop's database recognized only about 30 commercially available spyware programs - mostly monitoring software used by spouses, parents and corporations."
Monitoring software may be impossible to uninstall

From Page 27

Today, after expanding SpyCop’s reach to include adware, McKenzie’s database encompasses more than 350 monitoring programs.

“IT’s a huge industry now,” McKenzie said. “Let’s face it. There’s big business in getting people’s attention, and people willingly partake of these programs. Then suddenly they notice they’re getting pop-ups all over their computers when they visit certain Web sites.”

McKenzie’s company sells SpyCop for $45.98, but free adware/spyware scanners are also available. They include Ad-Aware by Lavasoft (www.lavasoft.net), which last year won PC World magazine’s top award for software.

Ad-Aware has become an indispensable tool for many savvy computer repairers. Increasingly, users are complaining of problems directly attributable to adware and spyware.

F. Lee Pyles, owner of Computer Companions in Hewlett, Texas, says it has become commonplace to find dozens of monitoring software installations on machines he repairs. Often, these programs run in the background, invisibly sapping processing power.

“I had one the other day that had more than 125 executable files that Ad-Aware found,” Pyles said. “It was running like a dog. No sooner had I removed all that stuff and it was like I’d released the emergency brake on a car. It just came back to life.”

Some monitoring software programs are almost impossible to uninstall. They may contain hidden uninstall components that trick users into reinstalling, rather than deleting them.

“Other times, you’ll try to uninstall and they’ll want you to take a survey, or they ask you, ‘Why are you leaving?’” said Pyles. “Others will try to take you to their Web site. And they’ll never completely clean out the directories they create. You’ve got to do that manually.”

Much of the modern adware and spyware programming is poor quality, says McKenzie.

“It messes up your computer big time, and who’s to know?” he said. “If people realize that this kind of stuff is going on, maybe something will happen.”

Perhaps popular spots such as Download.com will some day become spy- and adware free zones, he said. But until consumers encounter widespread identity theft or machinery problems, McKenzie holds little hope for reform.

“You’ve got an epidemic here,” McKenzie said. “This kind of programming gives an 8-year-old the ability to become a sneaky hacker. And that’s just scary.”

E-mail your questions to: Askadoc@mail.ucf.edu

Ask a doc

Patti Stuart
KF Index Health Services

My doctor told me I have vulvodynia. Can you explain to me what it is and how it is treated?

Vulvodynia is a chronic vulvar discomfort or pain, characterized by burning, stinging, irritation or rawness of the vulva in cases in which there is no infection or skin disease of the vulva or vagina existing. These symptoms are the most common, but the type and severity of symptoms are highly individualized. Pain may be constant or intermittent, localized or diffuse. The causes of Vulvodynia are still unknown, but it has been suggested the following may be the cause or can contribute to factors leading to this condition:

• An injury to, or irritation of, the nerves of the vulva.
• An abnormal response of different cells in the vulva to environmental factors (such as infection or trauma).
• Genetic factors.
• A localized hypersensitivity to mast cells (vessels).

There’s big bucks in hitware and adware free programs. Increased by burning, stinging, irritation or rawness of the vulva in cases in which there is no infection or skin disease of the vulva or vagina existing. The symptoms are highly individualized: burning, stinging, irritation or rawness of the vulva. Pain may be constant or intermittent, localized or diffuse.

There is no evidence that Vulvodynia is caused by an active infection and it is not a sexually transmitted disease.

There is currently no “cure” for Vulvodynia. Treatments are directed toward alleviation of symptoms and may provide some or complete relief. It is important to remember that the cause of vulvodynia is still unknown and each individual’s symptoms are unique; no single treatment works all the time or is appropriate for every patient. Some women respond very well to a particular treatment, while others respond poorly or experience unacceptable side effects. It can take time to find a treatment or combination of treatments that will decrease or provide you with relief of your pain.

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, please contact the Student Health Center at 407-823-2701 and make an appointment. You may also contact the following organizations to obtain further information or addresses of local support groups.

National Vulvodynia Association
P.O. Box 4991
Silver Spring, MD 20996-4991
Telephone: (800) 799-6725
Web site: www.nva.org

Vulvar Pain Foundation
P.O. Box 177
Graham, NC 27253
Telephone: (888) 728-7074
Web site: http://www.vulvapainfoundation.org

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