University presidents say state cuts slice campus budgets to the bone

Statewide blitz attempts to pressure lawmakers to reconsider their plans

Krista Zillizi
staff writer

Desperate to hold on to $118 million in funding that lawmakers have proposed to remove from higher education in Florida, the state's university presidents launched a statewide media campaign May 8 hoping to pressure legislators to reconsider.

These presidents say Florida's public universities are the only sector in the state that is facing such extreme funding cuts at a time when their enrollment is increasing.

"State universities are being cut disproportionately," said UCF President John Hitt, chairman of the State University Presidents Association. "We expect 42,000 students for the fall (at UCF), whether we have the money to educate them or not."

Five of Florida's 11 university presidents are transcending the disorderly campus weather to lead the in jail - check. intoxication and University-presidents _ so that college students can be blitz , a_ttempts lawmakers _ with endless attempts legislators to reconsider.

During his stint as the student byphone president Marco Pena reflects on his tenure.

Peña's two years at top come to an end

Mike Riegel
staff writer

Create a Safe Ride program so that college students can be transported safely - check.

Get arrested for disorderly intoxication and spend an evening in jail - check.

Send roughly 10,000 students to Wet 'n Wild and Islands of Adventure - check.

Become the student representative on the UCF Board of Trustees - check.

During his stint as student body president, Marco Pena didn't exactly lead the "average" life of a college student. Pena has accomplished many of his goals, seen a great deal and learned more than he ever thought possible. It seems that he is an example of his own personal philosophy that sees a "world with endless opportunities, where those who try hardest are the ones who succeed."

Pena has departed from the presidential office he's held for the last two years, but he's satisfied with the job he's done and proud of how hard he's tried to improve the college experience for thousands of Golden Knights.

Please See SGA on 9

Staging a show turns students into stars

Diane Lazic
staff writer

An UCF senior Natalie Weiss translated from student to professional stage manager; she's leading a tale of transition come to life. It's a tale she wrote, directed and composed lyrics for.

At this year's Orlando International Fringe Festival, eight UCF students will journey through a world of sex, drugs and apple trees in Weiss' play "Cami, Lundy and Quinlan." The story follows the title's

Please See Theater on 10
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Topless photo shoot

The director of Ohio University's School of Visual Communication has been demoted, a week after a student filed a fed­eral sexual-harassment lawsuit against him. The demotion stemmed from a photo shoot in which the student posed topless for the director.

The $30,000 lawsuit was filed on behalf of Becky Humes, a senior in the school. Last November, Humes made a sexual-harassment complaint against the director, Larry Nighswander. It was dismissed, and in the federal lawsuit, Humes alleged that the university was "deliberately indifferent" in its response to the complaint.

Humes' complaint alleged that Nighswander made sexual remarks and inappropriately touched her while the two were alone during the photo shoot, which occurred in September.

Nighswander, who joined the university as director in 1995, was relieved of administrative duties on May 2. He still teaches, and he will go on a yearlong, paid leave of absence to work on a photo-editing book in the fall. The leave was approved before the lawsuit was filed.

Last month, the dean of the College of Communication announced a ban on faculty photo shoots involving partially nude student models. The new regulation will be similar to existing rules for the School of Art and will be put in place next week, said Lisen Brown, a university spokeswoman.

The policy was originally scheduled to be put in place over the summer but was pushed forward because of the lawsuit, Brown said.

Breaking made ground

Eligible models made at Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia voted unanimously this week to bear the union label.

Philadelphia is now home to the first-of-its-kind model union, which will be part of District Council 47 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Of the 13 eligible models who voted, all voted in favor of the union.

All models, both male and female, have complained of dirty studios and heating problems.

The idea, Brown said, was a source of con­centration as well for models.

All models, no matter what their expe­rience, earn what they say in a policy $11 per hour.

The models began to bear their com­plaints last year soon after the models formed the Philadelphia Models Guild. They then approached DC 47 organizer Gary Kapevezian, who told them they could join a union. Hamilton said.

Student editor gets death threats

Six weeks after a controversial opin­ion piece on anti-Semitism appeared in the student newspaper of Santa Rosa Junior College, in Santa Rosa, Calif., the college locked the newspaper's office and offered to provide a police escort for the newspaper's 19-year-old student editor after she received death threats from local extrem­ist groups.

Class project turns students into budding entrepreneurs

Erica Morton

Unclear business dreams became a坦OUI reality for three UCF student entre­preneurs.

They have an office in MetroWest, a community flour­ishing with business prestige. They have dealt directly with home, office of celebrities and top busi­ness professionals, and they have not even graduated from college.

"We went from being com­promised to having a career," senior Aaron Underwood said.

Underwood, 21, joined with seniors Michael Bright, 22, and Matthew Davis, 21, and won $10,000 and a business oppor­tunity to run their business consulting service in UCF's introduction to Entrepreneurship course last month after they impressed Joseph Durek, a major entrepreneur in Orlando.

Derek, a founder and former CEO of Lentek International, Inc. — one of the fastest growing com­panies in Orlando that distributes items such as air cleaners, post-control devices, hardwoods, pot products, personal care prod­ucts and flashlights — offered $10,000 to any team of students in the entire four-year class who could come up with the best business plan by the third of the semester.

Derek, who made $25 million in sales in five years launching Lentek International, Inc., con­structed the course to teach future entrepreneurs the skills he learned when he started his own corporation.

Derek presented the class with about 20 business ideas — a concierge service, managing rental properties and foo­dstores, new product development, selling time shares for boats, cars and planes and a venture capital­ist.

After observing an increas­ingly busy society, this team real­ized that few people could afford­ly commodify so the concierge service idea appealed to them. They adopted it and formed the business, Contemporary Concierge.

A concierge is devoted to providing personal services, from pressurizing to problem solving. Contemporary Concierge special­izes in gift and small-item delivery, restaurant reservations, car-rental services and theater tickets.

"We want to perform everyday activities for individuals so they can focus on what they really need to do," Bright said in the company's press release.

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Writing has suffered in America, the report states, and in the least-emphasized area of "the three Rs"—reading, riting and rithmetic. Modern American schools are opting to test students' skills and knowledge through multiple-choice testing styles, reducing or eliminating free writing on exams and regular schoolwork, the report found. English and writing professors at UCF say that approach is causing an epidemic of bad writing among college students who haven't received proficient training to hone their writing skills. While high schools are generally ignoring the importance of fostering good writing skills in students, English Department Chairman Patrick Murphy said proficient writing is crucial because it is vital to communication and reflects a student's critical thinking abilities. "Students must understand they don't need to write beautifully, they just need to write proficiently," Murphy said. Murphy said UCF offers too few writing courses and more upper division writing courses should be added to every major's curriculum. The problem is not entirely institutional, though. "If you don't take responsibility for your own writing habits, Murphy said. While students exhibit poor writing styles because they resist the urge to revise their papers, he said. "The average faculty member at UCF earns about $20,000 to teach a course for the semester. Class sizes will also inevitably rise with less money available to hire faculty some- thing that almost always affects the quality of instruction in the classroom," Modani said. Accomplished professors will be less inclined to come to a state where higher education is plagued by financial crisis. "Why would qualified people come here if they see budget problems?" Modani asked. This year, as universities are facing one of the largest budget cuts in history, 30 percent of Florida's public institutions have laid off adjunct faculty and private colleges will retain most or all of their funding, a disparity that the presidents said is unjust. Most of the money the Legislature has proposed to cut from higher education will pay for smaller classroom sizes in K-12 schools. "While tuition increases could ease some of the burden that universities would face in the absence of state funding, they would have to raise tuition by roughly 25 percent to make up for the $15 million dollar loss," the Legislature's proposal for a 7.5 percent tuition increase would have been sufficient—generating about $87 million. Moreover, any tuition increase would have to be reasonable, Hitt said. A 22 percent tuition increase would severely erode affordable access to higher education. "We're in a real box on this," he said. The Senate and Gov. Jeb Bush endorsed Education Commissioner Jim Hinton's proposal that tuition at Florida universities rise 7.5 percent starting next year. Individual universities could add another 5 percent. An average student at UCF who is a Florida resident currently pays $2,820 a semester. If the Senate plan goes through, students will pay an extra $225 a year. Presidents complained that the state's matching grant program has also diminished in recent years. The program is designed to provide state money to match any private donations universities receive to support faculty chairs, professorships, student fellowships and research facilities as designated by the state. The state has yet to match roughly $45 million of private donations that universities currently have on hand. "If you put all of these together the [budget] cuts come out to $200 million, and that's going to be dramatically greater than $185 million," Young said. "We don't even get to play with what the grants signify what programs they fund, using that money for other purposes is out of line," he added. "We can't make it a grant for biology research and teach English classes," he said. "It will produce less than 5 percent of the solution," he added. The solution presidents have proposed to legislators is to curtail funding for the class size amendment. "We have proposed mid-level funding for the class size amendment, not the highest level," Hitt said. "You go to the intermediate level, there is enough funding to go around. We feel it's the best solution," Hitt said if legislators went with their plan, all of the $113 million would be channeled back into higher education. While some of the presidents would recommend cuts on Bush's stance, Hitt said he believed Bush appreci- ates the role Florida's universities play in developing a professional workforce. "We would walk forward and have words of support for us," Hitt said. President of the Florida Educational Association, a special session Monday to discus-
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Students launch concierge service with help from successful CEO

FROM PAGE 3

can enjoy the life their hard work has earned.

Durek, now the CEO of Contemporary Concierge, said, "The concierge business was my initial favorite business idea because I understand the demands on a person's personal time."

A normal day for the students begins with the opening of their office at 7 a.m. Checking messages, responding to e-mails and following up with business interests fills the early morning hours. Then they go back to the drawing board to create fresh ideas to improve people's lives. Business projects, classes or miscellaneous tasks follow after lunch.

"Time and repeat the following day," Barber said. "Sometimes in there I eat."

It was only about four months ago that the hopeful entrepreneurs walked into a class they tell as established entrepreneurs.

"Most of the students thought it would be an easy class," Barber said. "Actually, it was the class we invested the most time in."

Durek said that the opportunity to work for himself attracted him to a career as an entrepreneur and to the course. The group of 24-year-old entrepreneurs, mainly influenced by their fathers' business experiences, had what they call the "6th" of an entrepreneur at a young age.

"Growing up, my father was an executive for an utility company," Underwood said. "I think being around a business-oriented environment at a young age really initiated my love of business."

Davis' first entrepreneurial endeavor began when he discovered a way to become a jewelry maker.

"On the way home from the bus stop, my friends and I would walk past a telephone pole that had a box that contained wires," he said. "Whenever someone would do work in the box, they would always cut wires and leave them on the ground. We took the wires and made rings, necklaces and ankle bracelets."

While Davis said that his jewelry business was not profitable, he's confident about the success of this endeavor.

Barber is confident too, even though his first entrepreneurial experience was short-lived.

"I liked acquiring baseball cards and re-selling the quality ones for a profit," Barber said. "That was until my parents told me that I couldn't take money from my friends."

The services apply to the total spectrum of a diverse society. Davis said. Services from household chores for a homemaker, to planning an event for an elite establishment are practical needs for everyone.

Durek also has high hopes for his new business.

"Mike is a great 'man do' person," he said. "Matt is dedicated to success. And Aaron understands that customers are the reason why we are in business."

As Barber, Davis and Underwood look forward to their December graduation, their main focus is to expand their business. They are currently speaking with property management groups to provide services within their complexes.

Rather than only offering custodial information, a representative will be present inside a residential community to assist the residents. The company will later consider franchise opportunities outside of the state.

But these students haven't stopped thinking of new ideas or business ventures. For them, this is just the beginning.

"I would love to own a restaurant one day or a small resort," Davis said. "They would be small enough places that have a home-like feeling, where the employees would know your name and happily order to any request."

Barber's dream business is to own an upscale wine bar and grill.

The Introduction to Entrepreneurship course consisted of 40 students, including Davis, Barber and Underwood, launched seven new businesses this semester as a result of the training, leadership and financial assistance professional entrepreneurs such as Durek provided students.

"Durek inspires me and is what we consider an 'angel investor,'" Barber said. "He has trusted us with a lifelong commitment and has allowed us to be his partners in this new business without requiring us to place any of our money on the line."
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Fringe Festival planted Orlando roots in 1992

FROM PAGE 1

from several other countries, momentarily upping the creativity quotient in a downtown that is still striving to create a permanent place for the arts.

Now in its 12th year, the festival is a buffet that tempts its audiences to sample mostly unfamiliar fare in equally unfamiliar settings. Ticket prices are kept low — $8 or less — to encourage experimentation and keep patrons moving among shows that typically last about an hour. The content ranges from drama to dance, through comedy is king.

"These performers are accepted on a non-juried, first-come-first-served basis," said Chris Gibson, the festival's producer. "This separates the Fringe from any other kind of theater in that the audience decides what it likes instead of producers making all decisions concerning content, form, style and artistic interpretation."

For performers who oftentimes struggle to find an outlet, that distinction is significant. Sally McArthur, a past festival performer, said the Fringe is "absolutely the very best thing we do theater-wise in Orlando."

Audiences, too, appreciate the range of acts and the novel format in which those shows are presented. "I've been coming ever since it started," said Connie Jordan, who teaches humanities at UCF. "You see great things from people all over the world. You can see some unqiue, avant-garde, rare things here."

The fact that it's relatively cheap is another plus, she said. "It's an inexpensive, fun thing for people to do. For a $100, you could see 15 shows."

Orlando was the first city in the United States to create its own Fringe Festival, Gibson said. The idea originated in 1987, in Edinburgh, Scotland, where several acts were banned from that city's celebrated international arts festival and opted to set up tents outside the city and create their own festival. In time, the Edinburgh Fringe grew to become more popular than the main event.

Twenty years later, a Fringe Festival circuit was thriving in Canada. A group of Orlando theater artists eventually tapped into that circuit, drawing several Canadian and English acts to town to help launch Central Florida's first Fringe in 1992.

"Mr. Story and the Supposed Guage" is among acts that range from the dramatic to the bizarre at the Orlando International Fringe Festival.

This year's festival, like last year's, will be centered at Heritage Square, at Central Boulevard and Magnolia Avenue. That location will host vendors, a beer tent, a ticket booth and an outdoor stage for outdoor shows. Indoor shows will be performed on one of nine stages, which are located throughout the Orange County Regional History Center at Heritage Square.

The event also includes a Visual Fringe, showcasing art exhibits at the Orlando Visual Arts League gallery, 20 S. Orange Ave., and a Kids Fringe, with shows geared toward those up through middle-school age, some of whom will be performed by children.

But don't expect to just sit back and watch. Among this year's Fringe offerings is "Joe's NYC Bar," an interactive experience in which the characters from "Alice in Wonderland" will be welcomed into an East Village tavern setting and go about mixing it up with the audience.

"Our show is interactive and happens all around you," said Christian Kelly, one of the performers in the production. "The audience is welcome to participate. Characters will talk to you throughout the show. We actually don't even have a script."

For information call 407-446-0077 or go to orlando fringe.com. Tickets go on sale at the venues one hour prior to showtime, or may be purchased up until the day of shows at the Fringe Festival box office located inside the lobby of the Orange County Regional History Center at Heritage Square. Box office is open 11 a.m.-7 p.m. daily.

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SGA members praise Peña's accomplishments

FROM PAGE 1

Senior Marcus Gould, who served as a Student Government Association senator under Peña, said that Peña "was the most important person" in his success at UCF. Gould cited Peña's "belief in the idea of diversity, accountability and access to higher education" as critical to the development of UCF and to Gould's own personal development.

During his time in office, Peña focused in part on the full-time director of governmental "Heber of students something tangential to the debate on another student was arrested and detained in the police report.

"It was good to see [Pefia] stand up against that," said Sophomore Tara Barker, 20. "It was to see [Peer] stand up against that."

Junior Michael King did not agree with Barker's evaluation. "If more illegal activities take place in fraternities and sororities, then of course the police are going to spend more time in those areas," King said. "If we had wanted to do something like this, we should've done it formally at a meeting, instead of after a night of partying."

During his second term, Peña served on UCF's Board of Trustees. Peña represented the student body, and even spoke against tuition increases. He ultimately abstained from the tuition vote, but proposed programs that would sustain Bright Futures scholarships for graduating seniors who planned on taking summer classes. The measure eventually passed, ensuring the aid to all those who qualified under the terms of the scholarship.

Pefia called his time as a board member not only a personal learning experience, but an educational experience for SGA. "It was to learn about the state of the state, and how the state operates," Peña said. "Knowing how things get done should give SGA some direction in the future."

Joshua Grossman, SGA's director of governmental affairs, praised Peña for his efforts as a member of the Board of Trustees. "He did not back down on student issues with the board. Under Peña's leadership, new ground was broken between the students and the state government, he said. He called Peña and his administration an effective "educator" for transmitting the concerns of UCF students to the state's lawmakers and leaders.

In his most recent efforts, Peña turned his attention to implementing a pan-campus grading system, which he said will put UCF GPA's on par with currently advantaged University of Florida students. While he has relinquished the presidential reigns to Brian Battles, a member of his cabinet during his second term, he is confident that things will continue in a positive direction.

Grossman said the new administration will be as good, and possibly better than Peña's. While the SGA moves on, Peña is planning to move on. "He's en route to law school from U of Hawaii — the latter, he admits as a long shot. But he has learned to try."

"Being president has shown me that college is about a lot more than grades," Peña said. "Getting involved with SGA helped me realize a great deal, and taught me things that you just don't learn in the classroom."

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"Where it Pays to Care"
Th eat er fes tival offers st udents an outlet to put on a play

FROM PAGE 1

three young women through life changes, with musical accompaniment by Orlando rock band Dodger.

Weiss calls the play a coming-of-age, surrealist story, centered on three characters going through transitions. The high school and college-aged women lose their innocence, but gain wisdom as the play progresses.

“There are moments that are so real the audience connected with the show,” Weiss said.

“You are really trying to figure out what’s going to happen. The result is a play Weiss said is spontaneous.”

“Cami’ will premiere Friday at the downtown festival’s red-venue, 385 W. Amelias St. It took first-time playwright Weiss two months to create the show, despite the distraction of working on other productions.

“I was working in a play but all I wanted to do was write my play,” Weiss said. “At rehearsals, all I would be thinking about was completing my play.”

Weiss says the play will keep the audience connected through the combination of music and drama, something the hopes will draw a younger audience.

“We are trying to reach people with different mediums. We have Beatles music, the local band Dodger and actors from UCF. We think it’s important for young people to come and see theater.”

The all-age stories that combine to make “Cami” will give young people in similar situations both perspective and entertainment, Weiss said.

“I love how we captured and emphasized some of the important things in life that are sometimes overlooked in art,” she said. “It is a very true and honest work. There are moments that everyone can relate to and has experienced.”

Kelly Borgia, the show’s stage manager, said the show wasn’t designed to make money.

“The production was done entirely by UCF students, who found more value in the experience than in any material gain.”

“What’s good about the show is the intention we went into it with,” Borgia said. “We are not aiming for commercial success, but hope people enjoy the performance. We all raised every dollar, held our own auditions, found our own rehearsal space and the band. We did it all ourselves.”

Borgia has worked as a stage manager since starting college, years of working in a play; but she said, “I wanted to do was write my own show.”

“What’s exciting,” she said. “It’s mind-blowing to see something that you’ve written get put on stage.”

The band backing up the visual entertainment of the performance, Dodger, has never been to the festival before. Dodger-frontman Matt Kamm, 18, said he thinks the band will fit right in, though.

“It’s a great opportunity. We’re excited.”

Kamm said he would to perform in a Fringe Festival. The band, “Cami,” will happen to wear tap shoes in the show.

“Sex is the City,” said Kamm, a sophomore at UCF. “I know it’s going to be a fresh, new experience.”

The band has played together for two years; most of the members grew up together in Orlando. Performing in the festival offers a welcome change from playing clubs, Kamm said.

“It’s been an amazing and mind-blowing experience,” he said. “It’s a very different experience, so much more cultured than just playing a show.”

Despite what he called shocking moments in the play, Kamm said, “It’s something people in their late teens and early twenties will relate to.”

“If you deal with sex and drugs, [but] the overall message is of hope, and I hope people get that,” he said.

Borgia says the most poignant moment of the play comes straight from pop culture, after Lamarque sleeps with a guy upon ending a long-term relationship.

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“She sings, “I feel like a whore. It’s happened to me.”

The play incorporates music of the Beatles and Dodger, and the acting of UCF students. Weiss said the play has taught her valuable lessons about play production and working with people for a complex production. The result is a play Weiss said is engaging and spontaneous.

“It’s exciting,” she said. “It is theatre, you never know what’s going to happen. You get to experience someone having a moment that is so real right in front of you. My play has a lot of simultaneous action going on, which is only possible in live theater.”
Experts: Revisions lead to tight writing

From Page 4 said. He stressed that revision is key to becoming a better writer.

"There is a huge misconception that writing is a talent," he said.

Writing is a sport; it requires frequent and extensive practice, he said. Writing also develops students from experience, not from birth.

Another common writing deficiency that appears in students writing is that they often don't teach their essays to the appropriate audience, Murphy said.

"Students write to an audience that doesn't know them, doesn't speak their slang and may not know the same background information that they know," Murphy said.

Students must understand they need to shift their writing from self-expression to audience-focused expression, he said.

Murphy believes students underestimate the amount of writing that will be required of them as they pursue their careers. "They often fail to take course work seriously," he said.

UCF has taken some measures to combat poor writing to restore students writing skills to a satisfactory level.

The university is currently considering increasing the number of required writing courses in each department and has a writing center with 30 consultants on staff each semester to help students.

"Consultants are here to help fine-tune papers from any discipline," said senior Melissa Ringfield, a writing consultant.

Ringfield, 22, said consultants check things from grammar to structure, looking for a central focus, valid evidence and a thesis statement.

"Students have a habit of doing one draft and turning it in," she said. "We try to help them become better writers, and we urge them to always do more than one draft.

According to Anastasia Bójanowski, the university writing center's coordinator, many students don't know the center exists.

In an effort to promote the center's services, consultants advertise on campus and meet teachers require students to have their papers reviewed at the writing center before they turn them in.

While Bójanowski said the writing center can help correct writing flaws, the system needs to change.

"We can solve writing problems here at the university, but we need to have more writing classes," she said.

She faults high schools for training students to pass tests like the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, rather than showing them how to write essays.

Because of this failure in the system, college students need to work harder to pick up the slack, Bójanowski said.

While professors say UCF needs to do more to offer students writing instruction, basic English courses at UCF cover the schedule every semester.

This fall, UCF will have 40 to 50 instructors to teach 3,000 students enrolled in English composition classes.

Though educators at the college level have been making up for the lack of writing instruction, high school students have received for years, teachers at the high-school level are finally beginning to feel the pressure to boost writing proficiency.

The Scholastic Aptitude Test, a common college prerequisite, will include an essay portion beginning in 2005.

Murphy and Bójanowski said that unless more writing courses are required in students' standard curriculum, writing will always be a difficult subject for students to tackle.

But Murphy said there is no one solution to end all the writing problems.

There will always be a conflict because teaching styles and learning styles are never going to be the same, he said.

Column sparks controversy

FROM PAGE 3 The Oke Leaf, a weekly publication run under the direction of the college's journalism department, published an opinion column on March 18 titled "Anti-Semitism Over the Horizon of Jewish Beloved?" It was written by Mark McGee, a student at the college.

In the column, McGee discusses the conflict between Israel and Palestine, which he refers to as "Israelis genocides.

He decries American support of Israel, which he argues causes the killing of innocent Palestinians and, in turn, fuels hatred of the United States by people abroad.

The column sparked controversy on campus. One professor sent out a college-wide e-mail message calling for the resigna-

tion of both the editor, Kristianne Toomis, and the faculty advisor to the newspaper, Rich Mellott.

Toomis has received letters containing violent threats from a group that calls itself the "Hate Task Force," prompting the security measures taken by the college last week. She has also found fliers with swastikas left on the windshield of her car.

Several professors and students at the college, many of them Jewish, have also received anonymous packages of anti-Semitic literature in the mail.

Both Toomis and Mellott have decided the column should be run, citing the newspaper's commitment to encourage debate and free speech on the campus.

"The First Amendment isn't there to protect agreeable stories," Mr. Mellott told The Press Democrat, a Santa Rosa newspaper.

But Robert E Agrella, the college's president, said that "the article should never have been printed," according to The Press Democrat.

The college's Academic Senate will meet this week to discuss imposing greater editorial control over the student newspa-
OUR STANCE:

Education cuts will cost students and hurt Florida's economy

If Florida's proposed budget is adopted during a special legislative session this week, state universities could lose $118 million for next year, up from $80 million this year. Most of the cuts would come from state funds not from tuition or other sources. The severest impact of these cuts will have on our school and the state's economy in the long-term make a reversal of course critical.

The state cannot cut university budgets so drastically.

The state faces an economic recession mirroring that of the nation. Because tax revenue is lower than budget requirements, the state government must find ways to cut costs or boost revenue. Its budget largely earns costs and, although the budget takes money from nearly all sectors of the state-funded school system, universities will carry the greatest burden of all.

The breakdown of cuts to K-12 schools, community colleges, universities and other sources shows that although universities use less than 16 percent of the state's revenue, they provide a critical role in helping students. They are a long-term investment in the future of the state.

Cutting higher education is a short-term problem brought on by a long-term issue.

State's legislators should heed the advice of well-intentioned university presidents, and reconsider their budget strategy. Because the state's education problems get worse.

Our Stance:

New president must continue Peña's legacy

During Marco Peña's two years as president of the student body, he has defended the rights of students both formally and physically. As a member of the UCF Board of Trustees, he spoke out against tuition hikes, though the hikes eventually were approved (with Peña's abstention). He championed the Safe-Ride program, aimed at helping students in dangerous situations get rides home. He even threw students a party. He succeeded.

Despite opposition from administrators to some policies, Peña succeeded in fighting for student rights. The legacy he has left for new Student Body President Brian Battles to continue is not unlike that of great defenders of civil rights. Battles must ensure that the commoners in this system, the students, are given a voice in matters of great importance, such as issues in tuition and other fees.

The pressure now on UCF to contract its budget will soon lead to higher tuition. Though preventing the cost of student life from going up is unreasonable, Battles must continue Peña's fight to keep burdens imposed on students fair.

The controversial and costly end-of-year events Peña supported should continue, though the cost of those events should be more carefully weighed to prevent student groups from feeling ignored or left behind, as some did this year. The effort SGA made to provide funding for all student groups is admirable, though.

Most critical to the success of the new administration is involvement with students. Connect with your constituents, and listen to what they have to say.

Missing the point

After reading Mike Riegel's columns, "Southern high schools can't escape past segregation," published May 7, I was a little bit concerned. He is right that Mr. Riegel was spent enough to sit down and spend 2 minutes on the issue, something many of us think is a little bit out of our league. However, it is crucial for us not to be burned out.

I couldn't tell if he was more upset with the segregation issue or the thought of a national holiday being fought over by people being paid for, even though the issue is one of the most important of the reconciling process.

There are times when you are just another griper without the brass to do anything about it.

-JAMES MITER

SEND YOUR LETTERS

Got an opinion about The Future or UCF in general?

Tell us!

Send letters to editor@ucffuture.com or submit online at www.ucffuture.com

In an editorial, "Virtues not taught in school," published April 29, the newspaper reported that "President John Hitt had been told "horrible stories of racism."" On behalf of Black student, an associate professor of legal studies who has lived a longest period for an article about being a student who had received the e-mail and right letters concerning the matter, according to Jerry Kimbrough, senior executive assistant to Hitt, and a professor of English, "Students in the right were not told the principal." However, the article also noted that Peña's senior executive assistant told me that "the campus is made up of students." A letter to the editor.

In an article, "Internet replacing libraries," by lParama Tenzin and published February 19, 2003, the newspaper reported that "the library of books are available in the library." A letter to the editor.

DIPLOMA: ACF

ARTS: HITT REC 9VENG ST£RS

In an editorial, "Hitt's removal," published May 5, the newspaper reported that "we're sorry, but we don't think that's a real problem." A letter to the editor.
**Weapon of mass dysfunction?**

**Mike Riegel**  
Staff Writer

Just so that it’s perfectly clear, this column has absolutely nothing to do with legalizing marijuana in the United States. Most of us wrote that essay in high school, and we got crappy grades because we were high when we wrote it. This column is about the Canadian government’s intentions to legalize marijuana, and President Bush’s intentions to stop them.

Bush and his advisors have hinted that if Canada decides to legalize marijuana, then the United States would make it more difficult for Canadian goods to cross the border and be sold here. Bush sure is creating an amazing legacy of foreign policy. He must’ve inherited his diplomatic tendencies from his great-great-great-grandpa, Genghis Bush. It will be interesting to see if Bush decides to invade Canada because they’ve legalized marijuana—a weapon of mass dysfunction.

I can already hear the country songs proclaiming the evils of pot and the Canadian government. In fact, I’ve learned that Toby Keith is writing a song called, “You Know, They Speak French There, Too.”

The Dixie Chicks declined to comment when they were asked if they would support an invasion of Canada. They did, however, immediately rip their clothes off and serve messages all over their nude bodies. (Several people reported the one in the middle ran out of ink.)

But those loud-mouthed Canadians aren’t bowing to Bush. They have the audacity to believe they’re allowed to make their own laws in their own country. Nice try, guys. We don’t know what kind of loss you’ve got flying on your flag, and you don’t make maple syrup with it.

In a completely unsubstantiated and wholly fabricated statement that I made up, Bush said, “Merica will not allow sovereign countries to rule themselves, at least not without ‘Merican help.”

Bush then threatened Canadians, urging them to talk to Osama and Saddam, the last two “thieves” that stood against “Merica.”

Osama and Saddam could not be reached for comment, as they were dead or on a bench with a couple billion dollars to keep them comfortable.

The Bush administration does, however, have an actual rationale for threatening Canada, but mine is much funnier and more entertaining. Bush and his kinfolk would have us believe that if Canada legalizes marijuana, U.S. drug laws would be undermined and more drug smuggling would lead to organized crime.

In other words, Don Corleone is going to be replaced by Don Cannabis. Or maybe Bush is afraid that a strong gust of wind will blow a green cloud of smoke south and we’ll all get a contact buzz that causes the entire country to miss Must-See TV on Thursday. Don’t worry, George, maybe the green cloud will cause us to forget how bad the economy is, too. Ur one mind might be poisoned by that cloud of pot on our way to vote in the next election. You’ll just have to make sure the Supreme Court is in an air-tight room so they don’t forget to elect whomever they want.

Proponents of the Bush administration will say that I’m just another pothead who wants to take advantage of a country where I can purchase marijuana that’s cheaper or higher quality. Well, they’d be wrong. I don’t smoke marijuana on a regular or sparsely basis, so I don’t have a personal preference as to whether or not it is legalized. I prefer crack, a nice vintage ’82 or ’83, before it became so commercial and mainstream. My point is that the United States should set its own foreign policy, and not set the policies for all foreigners. Canadians can do what they want, because contrary to what some creative geography by Republicanna would have us believe, Canada is not the 51st state. Everyone knows that title belongs to Mexico, where insane amounts of marijuana are produced every day and smuggled into the United States.

As with most issues that make absolutely no sense, the Bush administration is trying to fortify its stance by invoking the almighty image of the “child.” What about all the children who will go to Canada and smoke pot? Won’t these children explode once they get a whiff of Canadian marijuana? Here’s what I propose to those children when they return from a Cheech and Chong-esque trip to Canada: When the customs agent asks you if you have anything to declare, just say, “Nope, I’m really high and there’s nothing you or Bush can do about it.”
Women's sports win All-Conference title

Ashley Burns
Staff Writer

There was no surprise when the Atlantic Sun Conference announced that the winner of the 2003 Sherman Day trophy was UCF. The award for top women's athletic program was earned by UCF for the second consecutive year. The Knights' teams set a conference record by compiling 353.3 points on the year. Georgia State set the previous record in their 1997-00 campaign, in which they poured in 229.3 points. Florida Atlantic finished second to the Knights with a final score of 241 points.

"We're real proud of our coaches and student-athletes here at UCF," commented Athletic Director Steve Orsini. "As I tell them our goal each year, athletically, is to be conference champions. I'm real proud that our teams have reached their goals."

2003-03 women's sports accomplishments

Women's Basketball: En route to the regular season Atlantic Sun Conference title, the Knights finished with a 19-10 overall record. Erin Paige was named to the A-Sun Second Team All-Conference, as well as joining teammate Celeste Hudson on the All-Conference Tournament Team. Head Coach Gail Stringer won A-Sun Coach of the Year honors.

Women's Cross Country: For the fourth consecutive season, the squad was named an All-Academic Cross Country Team. The Knights finished third at the A-Sun Championships.

Women's Golf: The women finished fourth overall in the A-Sun.

UCF softball proves Sophomore success

Knights reach finals in A-Sun tournament

Ashley Burns
Staff Writer

In only the second season of UCF Softball's existence, the Knights made a major impact in the Atlantic Sun Conference. UCF finished the regular season with a 1/3 conference record, earning them the number four seed and the team's first-ever appearance in the A-Sun tournament. The first obstacle for UCF came in the form of the Stetson Hatters Thursday at 9 a.m. Stetson jumped out to a seemingly insurmountable 5-2 lead by the bottom of the fourth inning. UCF ace Dottie Cupp stayed strong as always, finally receiving an error by shortstop Ashlee Bischoff, and being lifted in the sixth inning. Cupp allowed six hits and six runs, an ERA of 2.33 points on the year. As always, Dottie Cupp kept the Knights in the game, eventually earning a spot in the Knights' staff with a 176 ERA. She pitched a complete game, helped by teammates, as she was named to the A-Sun All-Conference Tournament Team.

Dottie Cupp
22 Points
87 Points
27 Points
71 Points

Stephanie Britt, 37
03 Pitching: 10.77 GPA; 184.3; 184.3; 184.3; 29.3

Stephanie Britt had a stellar season on the plate by batters. She was named first-team All-Eastern and All-Conference honors. In a season, she batted .372 with 10.77 GPA and a 184.3 slugging percentage. She was named to the A-Sun All-Conference Tournament Team.

Stetson Hatters

Knights fall short

Stetson takes two out of three from UCF in key series

Ashley Burns
Staff Writer

Coming into this weekend's series at Stetson, UCF baseball was in full time at Melching Field at Conrad Park, with seven of those who came against the Stetson Hatters. More than ever the Knights needed to improve that record. However, the Knights had other plans. The series started with a slugfest Saturday night that saw a combined eight pitchers take the mound in the Atlantic Sun Conference action.

Stetson (35-15, 20-10 A-Sun) sent Adam Townsend to the mound to take on a heavily pressured UCF (30-23, 13-14 A-Sun) lineup. The Knights jumped all over Townsend in the top of the first as leadoff David Mann started the game with an infield single. Nathan Kragt immediately made an impact with a double down the left field line, scoring Mann. Clay Tippen brought Kragt home with a single, and then scored on a double to right by Dee Brown. Brown scored after advancing on a base hit by Drew Nutt, a wild pitch by Townsend, and a single by Rich Wallace. The 4-0 first inning lead was a decent cushion to start with, but the Hatters had their bats ready to go in the bottom of the first. Knights' pitcher Von Daniel Storchbass fell victim to some unlucky play. After reaching on a fielder's choice, second baseman Ben Hall was easily caught stealing by Nutt. However, a walk to Brian Snyder, an infield hit by Ryan Bear, and a base-loading error by Wallace put the Hatters on the board. A 4-1 lead was quickly halved when Andy Wilson crushed a grand slam to left field, tying the game at four each.

Trying to keep up the support for Storchbass, the Knights rallied to break the tie in the top of the second. Mann walked, stole second, and advanced to third on a single by Kragt. Mann then scored by a deep sacrifice fly by Brown. UCF added a run in the top of the third when Kragt drove in a bases loaded walk to score Wallace, giving the Knights a 6-1 lead. The Hatters came back to within one in the bottom of the third with a solo shot by Snyder.

Cooper came back in the top of the fifth on a perfectly executed squeeze bunt by Kragt. The Hatters then took the lead with a barrage of hits. After singles by Snyder and Zenchyk, Jamie Douglas replaced Storchbass on the mound. Snyder scored on a wild pitch by Douglas, and Douglas was quickly replaced by Taylor Cobb. Wilson stroked again with a two run shot to left field giving the Hatters their first lead of the
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Eleven players return to softball team next season

FROM PAGE 14

stop (Carrie) Crutt. Lindsey Oakley fol-

lowed with a single; and Lindsey Brush
drew them both in with a double double
to right center. Oakley and Kaycee
Clark later scored on another UCF
double, this time by Nikki Green. The
Knights took the lead for good but
added two more runs in the seventh when
A-Sun Player of the Year
Stephanie Best crushed a two-run home run to straight away center.
The Knights hit up three Stetson
pitchers, including Blake Boorebecke,
who dropped to 25-6. Cupp, as she did
during most of the season, pitched the
comeback in the bottom of the sixth.

Another error, this time by catcher
Atlantic University, whom they were
easily, tying the game at threes.
Cupp moved to third on an error by Crystal Parbon.

With a double to

hitting duel. Best proved to be the thorn in
their most important
winning percentage, the
softball team next season

 leadership, but started another UCF
comeback in the bottom of the sixth. While
Stieam and Mercer elected to

stop the Knights on a two-run single by Cupp.

With the first round win, UCF
now faces Mercer, whom they
were 1-3 against in the regular season.
Possibly believing that they needed a
theme for the tournament, the Knights
once again waited until the later
innings to take the game.

Mercer jumped out to a 3-0 lead through the top of the sixth inning. The Beare starting pitcher Katie
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innings to take the game.
Jennifer Montgomery (24) was one of four Knights to earn NSCAA honors as A-Sun Freshman of the Year along with her All-South Region Second Team Selection.

Women's sports program takes top A-Sun honors

FROM PAGE 14

Sun. Kim Tudor was named to the Second-Team All Conference.

Women's soccer: Winning the A-Sun Championship, the Knights finished with a program best 18-5-0 record. The team finished an outstanding sixth in the nation in scoring. Jackie Vann, Jennifer Montgomery, and Nicole Cieslack were named to the NSCAA All South Region second team, while Allison Bagliff was named to the NSCAA All South Region third team. Montgomery was also named the A-Sun Freshman of the Year.

Women's soccer: The team finished 12-6, 2-2 on the season. The women earned a number three seed in the A-Sun Conference. Marieke Gunawan was named to the All-Conference First Team. Julie Pecastaing was selected to the All-Conference Second Team. Pamela Fernandez took home All-Freshman Team honors.

Women's tennis: The team finished 12-6, 2-2 on the season. The women earned a number three seed in the A-Sun Conference. Marieke Gunawan was named to the All-Conference First Team. Julie Pecastaing was selected to the All-Conference Second Team. Pamela Fernandez took home All-Freshman Team honors.

Women's track and field: The Knights continued their ongoing domination of the Atlantic Sun conference by capturing their fourth consecutive track and field title.

Women's volleyball: The women won the team's tenth A-Sun title, an all-time conference record. Santaeila Sante won the A-Sun Player of the Year award.

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Apple's music downloading service offers a legal, cheaper alternative

PATRICIA XAVIER CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Alan Smilke, a Webmaster at UCP, just bought a new album for his music collection. He didn't go to the store, didn't pay full price and didn't even have to wait for delivery.

Smilke legally obtained the Mighty tribute album for less than $10. And he did all this in 90 seconds from his office computer, as one of the millions of new subscribers to what many are calling a revolutionary new music downloading service.

"I suspect I'm going to buy more music soon; more than I ever have before," he said. "This rocks, and the thing that sold on this is convenient, convenience, convenience and price." For more than five years the digital world has been the battleground in the war between consumers seeking free music and industry executives whose profita- lly is plummeting as fast as sales figures.

Last week, Apple Computer Inc. offered an olive branch by launching the music services iTunes Music Store. The service, which provides customers with more than 200,000 songs for 99 cents per download, or an entire album for $9.90, sold more than one million songs in its first week.

"Hitting one million songs in less than a week was totally unex­pected," said Warner Music Group Chairman and CEO Roger Ames, quoted on May 5 in The Wall Street Journal. "Apple has shown music fans, artists and the music indus­try as a whole that there is a successful and easy way to legal­ly distribute music over the Internet."

After the Recording Industry Association of America settled a lawsuit in April, requiring four college students to pay $12,000 to $17,500 each for running illegal music file-sharing services online, students look to iTunes as a lawful alternative to obtaining music off the Internet.

By downloading iTunes 4, the digital music player software free from www.apple.com, users can access the new music services and downloadinglibrary by checking on the Music Store icon.

"It's easy. I figured out how to do it," said a music fan.

Photo illustration by Chris Arnold / CIF

When the devilish walk through Holy Land...

LIFESTYLES

8 Days a week

Highlights of the cultural calendar

LINNIE BROWN STAFF WRITER

Wednesday, May 14

Sca. Paul to concert

The detective sarper and dancehall remedre perform at 8 p.m. downtown Orlando (Star) Theater at 8 p.m. downtown Orlando. For tickets, call for more. 500 rep­ rior-vote-returned. 500-684-8420.

Thursday, May 15

Open Lumberjack World Championships

Nominated by the Paul Ferguson Lumberjack Show. The $10,000 open Lumber­jack World Championships will be held at 11 a.m. at Heritage Field. Hosted by the Reggae ensemble Morgan Heritage. Tickets are $5; present­ed by The Lumberjack World. www.lumberjackworld.com or 407-281-0246.

Friday, May 16

Morgan Heritage at CityWalk

Reggae ensemble Morgan Heritage, from the 2001 Spring Break Live, will per­form at Rock For Live. Hosted by the "Reggae Isolator" P.C., other reggae artists also will perform. Free for the first 1,000 persons and $5 in advance. Show: 4-10 P.M.

Saturday, May 17

Fringe Festival continues

The 12th annual Orlando Cultural fest­ival runs May 16-25. More than 75 events are now being held in 500 venues and at more than 70 venues through downtown. At least 40 local bands also will perform at Downtown Central Live on stage or Staging Area downtown. Tickets are $10-$40 per show, usually advance tickets are required on $5-$10 at Orlando's free Fringe button. 407-428-0677.

Sunday, May 18

Band and wine-in wine tower at CityWalk

Two-and wine-inceous Saturday the car will perform at CityWalk as part of the wine and wine Tower. Show. The event begins at 4 p.m. at Universal Studios. Win, wines by the bottle, which will also begin wine tickets at the $5-$10 downtown military ticket. 407-224-4564.

Monday, May 19

Live Dance at High School

One of the biggest and best live show in the downtown area is now at 11 p.m. every Monday night at 1170 S. Orange Blossom Trail. Improve forms for the first 120 live music. Orchid, live at $5 per person. 407-428-0255.

Tuesday, May 20

Into the water

Buckled to a contract water sport agent in a legal, but the most-erected for the demands of water polo and football. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ed Lake Kennedy and Bridge, our own central stage behind Rosen College of Arts in the area. and members of the club, located at 4000 S. Wayne Avenue, in the town west of Universal Orlando. 407-859-3000.

Wednesday, May 21

"Mother Nature's" exhibit

Continued at The Nature's Park in a wide di­versity of flowers, butterflies and exotic birds. Hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily and members of the club, located at 4000 S. Wayne Avenue, in the town west of Universal Orlando. 407-859-3000.

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When the devilish walk through Holy Land...

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

LINNIE BROWN STAFF WRITER

"And so the ancient stones wall fell away, just like that song we all know..."

A man in a shepherd's horn and burlap headpiece paused and prompt­ ed the audience to sing, sweat dripp­ing down his beefeared face.

"Oh... what song?"

"The walls came tumbling down," the rest of the audience responded automatically, as enthusiastic claps of "Amen" echoed through the small, authentic-looking outdoor tent.

Feeling like a devil-child in Sunday School, I exchanged an embarrassed glance with Jason — my guide, Jewish convert — and decided we were probably both headed for hell.

We were, after all, gazing our way through the Holy Land Experience, Orlando’s $16 million “Be­ lieving world museum,” housed in a few hundred yards from the sinful, mortal walls of the Mall of America.

Since the attraction’s grand opening in February 2001, over 400,000 people have visited the place and paid as much as $35 each for the price of an adult ticket. So on a hot Wednesday afternoon last week, Jason and I decided to experience the Holy Land's virtues for ourselves — from an objective, proverb-wary w estern point of view.

I wonder what God thinks of it. Or Buddha ... or Krishna, for that matter.

We begin our holy adventure around 2 p.m. in the Shofar Auditorium, where a gray-haired speaker was expounding on traditional Jewish Yiddish on his head and sup­
Online gambling – don’t bet on it

How one student lost it all over the Internet

MIKE RIEGEL

STAFF WRITER

Robert Tyler thought the Oakland Raiders would beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in last year’s Super Bowl. "If they had," he said, "I might still be at UFC right now.

Instead, he is once again living with his parents in Miami. A constant offshore breeze is clearly audible over the phone as he talks, and so is Tyler’s regret at having gambled away his chance to attend UCF.

“I love watching football and basketball,” Tyler, 21, said. “I would make friendly wagers all the time with my friends, and I would usually win. When I saw an ad for a casino Web site where I could bet online, I thought I’d try it.”

Tyler checked it out and found that all he needed was a credit card, an address and a computer.

The Web site was owned and operated in a foreign country, outside the jurisdiction of U.S. laws prohibiting gambling. So he signed up and started placing wagers on his two favorite professional sports.

"I was careful, at first. I didn’t know this was some kind of scam, so I placed a small bet and waited to see what happened," he said.

While he doesn’t remember the game or the teams they played on, Tyler does remember that he won the bet and received a check a few days later. His credit card statement also reflected that he wasn’t being scammed.

After that, Tyler’s bets increased in both frequency and amount. “If I went on a losing streak, I’d bet a little more to catch up, but that didn’t always work, I got into a pretty big hole, but I had just enough credit left on my card to get even again. I just had to find the right game,” Tyler said.

What Tyler found was last January’s Super Bowl between the Raiders and the Buccaneers. Las Vegas has long been considered the premier attraction for legal gambling in the U.S. Until 1995, people outside the Nevada area had few options if they wished to place a bet on a sporting event. At that time, the first online casinos began, bringing the ability to gamble into every American household and dorm room with a computer and an Internet connection.

Some had additional options for betting on collegiate and professional sports. The sites contain tutorials on how to place bets so that novice players can learn the gambling jargon and better understand what they’re betting on.

Accounts can be opened with a valid credit card, and others are funded directly from checking accounts. Making everything as simple as possible is the goal of these sites, and it can also act as a lure for people who might otherwise steer clear of playing for money.

“I never would have tried [betting on sports] if it hadn’t been so easy.” 23-year-old senior Danny Lawrence said. “I’d been to Vegas a couple of times, but this was like someone brought Vegas to me, I had to try it.”

While Lawrence quickly “lost a little bit of money” and decided to stop playing the games, the online casino business continues to thrive. Bear, Stearns & Co., a global investment and banking firm in New York, estimated that there are about 1,800 Web sites devoted to gambling, all of which operate outside the U.S. These companies make $4 billion annually and more than half of that total can be attributed to U.S. business.

What can online casinos do to a household casino can’t? Well, a Web site can pull people out of their money with little recourse in the event of fraudulant behavior.

Web site operators can credit it was never wrong or not at all and then hide in the anonymity of cyberspace. With these casinos in different countries and the relative absence of legislative regulation, online gambling is, in itself, a gamble.

In addition to its susceptibility to deception and deceit, a U.S. Senate committee report found that the detached environment of the Internet may contribute to gambling addiction. The report cited the readily accessible nature of online gambling, the absence of tangible money and the immediacy of the bets as attributes that could help develop gambling addictions in a much wider segment of the population.

Having established the possibly detrimental nature of these Web sites, federal lawmakers have proposed several different laws packages that would limit and regulate online gambling. Right now Congress is considering several different bills related to online gambling.

One of the more recent bills introduced was the Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act, sponsored by U.S. Rep. James Leach (R-Iowa). The measure, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives but died in the Senate, would have made it illegal for financial institutions to give customers the ability to fund their online casino accounts.

With the absence of current legislation, some credit card companies view MasterCard as a burden, since online casinos advertise their presence to get people to sign up and start playing. These companies can hand money to the casinos, but do not bet it. "It a burden," said, "they are promotions that are funded directly from credit card firms.

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Breaking dress codes, Christian virtues at biblical theme park

FROM PAGE 18

Ina bühn unter meiner halter-top-style-shirt.

Oops. We randomly chose an exhibit with a cool name and stumbled over to the half-hour long, "Wilderness Tabernacle" show. There, a silent, Santa-Claus-like priest ministered the story of the biblical hero, Aaron (to the narration of a piped-in, booming voice) enhanced by dazzling special effects.

But who was Aaron again? Jason was completely mystified, and the only thing I could remember was reading somewhere about the prophet from my childhood years in Methodist Sunday School. Although I was sure that the show probably held a great deal of significance for the God-fearing families around us, I was swiftly realizing that the Holy Land Experience was not particularly geared toward the biblically forgetful (abem).

After the Tabernacle show, we took a seat on a bench outside the museum, where a talented cast of entertainers performed an impressive musical performance about the baby Jesus and the Lord's coming.

I wondered how satisfied the 200-plus Holy Land employees were with their jobs—and if any of them were only "believers" at work.

Apparently not, according to sprightly AJounes de Corte, Bonnie Lepic, 23, of Kissimmee, who said the job appealed to her because "believers" are paid a dollar an hour, focusing on—Jesus' role as a teacher. In fact, the stereotypically brown-haired, bearded actor's performance actually brought joyful tears to my own. I remembered all the positive qualities of Christianity.

However, I couldn't help but wonder if the audience would have accepted a different-looking Jesus as easily. After all, in many African-American churches, Jesus is depicted as a black man. I would love to return to the Holy Land Experience someday and see "Dwayne's alive, you know, playing the part of Christ.

After the Tabernacle, we in, realized the show was only halfway over. "It was very gray and came as a shock to everyone," Jason joked.

Good point. We peeked inside the empty tomb, where a lone cameraman lay draped on an empty stone bed. A man wearing a T-shirt that read, "Not only am I perfect, I'm Puerto Rican too," appeared to be meditating, so we politely left him alone and took a seat on a bench to await the final, 15-minute acting performance in the gardens. Jason suddenly grabbed a book off the counter in the gift shop titled, "What Every Jewish Person Should Ask," apparently another thinly-veiled attempt to convert Jews to Christianity.

"I feel like we've been part of an interactive church play all day," Jason commented as we lumbered past the holy novelties and saintly souvenirs of the gift shop.

I knew exactly what he meant. The Holy Land Experience had turned out to be pleasant, entertaining, educational... and very one-sided.

Jason and I practically stumbled out the exit, wondering how satisfied the and posing for pictures in the faux garden, feeling the blood instantly return to my halter-top-style-shirt. We randomly chose an exhibit of the biblical hero Aaron (to the narration of a piped-in, booming voice) enhanced by dazzling special effects.

"The crucifixion?" Jason suddenly grabbed a book off the counter in the gift shop titled, "What Every Jewish Person Should Ask," apparently another thinly-veiled attempt to convert Jews to Christianity.

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Perhaps they should change the park's name to "The Christian Experience" instead.

E-mail Columnist Lavinia Brown can be reached at brown@ucffuture.com.
The ugly side of summer jobs

Diane Lazic
Staff Writer

The end of the spring semester always brings a greater demand by students for part-time summer employment. But this year, many looking to find that perfect job to balance between classes and the beach may be out of luck.

As the unemployment rate rose to six percent last month and the United States enduring its deepest job slump in over 20 years, students find positions in the job market scarce or altogether unappealing.

Junior Tim O'Connor, 21, has experienced the low-paying employment typically open to college students while working as a janitor for a medical supply company.

"I got sick of cleaning toilets and mopping floors pretty quickly," he said. "I had to work super late some nights because my manager did not pay any attention to the labor laws," he said.

In an effort to leave the restaurant industry, graduate student Brian Huntley, 21, has experienced the low-paying employment typically open to college students while working as a janitor for a medical supply company.

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iTunes, only available on Macs, plans to expand services to Windows

FROM PAGE 18

use it in 90 seconds," graduate student Dante Sampang, 27, said. "It's easily searchable, and you can buy your favorite song without having to buy an entire album." Apple only provides the iTunes music services to Mac users in the United States, though the company has plans to launch a Windows version before the end of 2003.

Upon downloading the high-quality sound, the Mac user owns it and can share the song with up to three Macs, copy it onto iPod portables or burn it onto an unlimited number of standard audio CDs. Moreover, every song downloaded will include digital album art.

"I love the ability to preview songs before I buy [from the music store], and I love the download speed," junior Michael Stealy, 23, said. "It also sounds incredible, it rival raw CD audio."

Stealy said iTunes Music Store has the potential to drastically change the music industry. "In time artists will no longer feel pressure to compose an entire album," he said. "Instead they can feel free to produce a few really cool songs and just publish those."

Smilie agreed. "This is the kind of thing where in five years we will look back and say, 'This is where the revolution started.' It's a historic time and that's very exciting."

With the initial success of Apple's services, independent labels and artists are looking to jump on the iTunes bandwagon. Despite the dramatic success, Apple still faces competition from subscription providers, as well as free online music services.

"I've been spoiled by getting music for free on the Internet," graduate student Hayden Smith, 22, said. "I spent years spending $1.50 for an album and seeing the artist get less than $1. Now I only get free music. It's a lot better."

Senior Kristy Davis, 27, said she would never use Apple's music services when she could get music at no cost online. "If I like an artist I'll buy the entire album, but if I want one song I'll get it online for free," she said.

Yet some costumers see iTunes as a fair way to prevent music piracy.

Stealy says iTunes is superior to free online music services on Napster and Kazaa. "Peer to Peer file sharing is free, but it's also stealing," he said.

"The only thing percent of downloaders believe they are doing something wrong, the music industry has filed numerous lawsuits against companies such as Napster, Music City, Kazaa, Net Durham, Audiodolgy and more.

Apple executives say iTunes will eventually help prevent peer-to-peer file sharing. "It's not free, but its 90 cents a song, which I think is pretty doggone cheap," said Apple CEO Steve Jobs, quoted on April 25 in Wired News.

Smith said the music industry should have done this a long time ago and not have spent millions on lawsuits that alienated costumers. Another big hurdle for Apple is that it's still at the mercy of copyright holders. While all five major record labels are currently participating in iTunes, many artists remain critical of file-sharing services.

"Acts such as The Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Madonna have not allowed their music to be added to the service catalogue. Other artists believe selling singles diminishes the art of a complete album."

Yet the industry has various artists willing to participate in Apple's new venture.

"The future of iTunes is uncertain. If its popularity remains high, executives say it will revolutionize music distribution, but some music lovers just see it as another trend in the digital battle."

"We're pretty doggone excited," graduate student Sampang, 27, said. "We will revolutionize music distribution, and most think that's pretty exciting."

Apple only provides the iTunes services to Mac users in the United States, though the company has plans to launch a Windows version before the end of 2003.
Healthcare systems, theme parks currently hiring in tough economy

**From Page 21**

Sarah Lieving, 23, vows that she will immediately find other employment for the summer.

While the Labor Department recently reported a loss of 48,000 jobs in April, Lieving may find her goal to be a challenging task. The largest of these layoffs are coming from the public sector: Public employees lost 40,000 jobs nationwide last month.

Economists said they still expect economic improvements in the coming months as the winding down of the war in Iraq reduces uncertainty and makes businesses and households more willing to spend money. But they also report that it is unlikely that things will turn around quickly enough for students to find their dream summer jobs. Those looking for a part-time job will not be hurt as deeply as the thousands of new graduates tossed into the unstable economic and employment malaise. But, as companies are forced to cut back, they are often cutting the undergraduates less and are not required to hire people.

"It's really about the seniors. They're all looking for internships and part-time work," said a human resources representative at Disney World.

"There are a wide variety of positions available to sales, food services, even to be a lifeguard. We train our employees in all of these positions."

"We are currently hiring and do have entry level positions," she said. "It all depends on a student's background, experience and what they are looking for."

"We are currently hiring for enthusiastic people to be on board, a great attitude can get you very far."

**Working the job market**

Thousands of students attended UCF's Statewide Job Fair, top, held May 8 in the UCF Arena. Above, students talk with a representative from Universal Studios about job opportunities at the theme park.
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