Bush blocks travel to Cuba

PATRICIA XAVIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UCF junior Christina Morejon is going to Cuba this summer. She plans to spend her weeks soaking up Cuban culture at the University of Havana and exploring the capital city. Though her trip is legal, a recently enacted Bush administration policy will prevent educational trips to the communist island nation illegal for most Americans. Morejon joins an exclusive group of about 28,000 American citizens who traveled to Cuba every year on a special educational license. The U.S. government prohibits travel to Cuba for tourism, but educational trips get a special exemption.

This fall's new exemption will face a new limit barring all trips except those that offer academic credit. The Bush administration imposed the new limit to curb perceived abuses of the license by Americans who visit Cuba for play rather than enlightenment.

Renowned cigars, tropical beaches and events such as the Havana Jazz Festival have attracted American tourists, some of whom misrepresented the purpose of their travel to Cuba, a federal offense.

In a New York Times interview, Treasury Department spokesman Taylor Griffith said, "The license was being abused. It was not being used for what it was intended for." This fall's new restriction will limit such abuses.

SEE Blocked on 8

Don't like that grade? An appeal can change it

TRINA PRIORE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Approached with almost as much fear and dread as final exams week is the one following it, when students' grades are posted.

While many assume that disappointing grades are written in stone, a few people at UCF have been able to improve them through a little-known process called a grade-appeal. Senior Samual Yetes knows the process well and he's a proponent of it. He thinks it has saved his credits.

SEE Non-traditional on 6
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Company boycotts MTV’s Greek reality programming

Shelley Marmor Staff Writer

While some viewers may question the authenticity of today’s reality television programs, Fred Rudmin has decided to actively boycott two shows in particular because of the false images he believes they portray.

Rudmin, co-founder of Greec010.com, a New York-based company that sells merchandise to Greek organizations throughout the nation—has decided to sever ties with MTV after several people complained that the company’s involvement with “Fraternity Life” supports an unrealistic depiction of Greek life.

Rudmin’s company initially struck a “unoffensive product placement” deal with MTV prior to the filming of “Sorority Life” in December 2001. Rudmin said the deal consisted of Green010.com sending mer-

UCF graduate invents keyless keyboard

Becky Kulchak Staff Writer

Ten years ago Peter McAlindon had a vision while studying on the first floor of UCF’s library. He imagined inventing a computer keyboard that would work with any PC, would compare in size to a standard keyboard and would offer users the same 128-key functionality most keyboards do.

But his keyboard would be distinct in one very obvious way—his keyboard would be keyless.

The goal of the UCF Industrial Engineering grad wasn’t simply to produce an awesome piece of technology, but to offer a solution to victims of carpal-tunnel syndrome. His vision also has transformed the former UCF student into the CEO of Keybowl Inc.

Using two sculpted domes instead of keys, users move the domes onto correspond-

Law class seat posted on eBay draws $225 bid

Clinton Beck Staff Writer

Those days a person could sell just about anything on eBay—even a seat in a Constitutional Law class.

Former UCF student Ryan Vescio could have earned $225 after the first-year law student put his spot in Bruce Roger’s class at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale on the Internet auction site.

“Appears every semester student started sending out e-mails saying, will trade for this class, will pay for Constitutional Law [raids],” he said.

There were approximately 150 e-mails sent out on the school’s system to all 1,200 students in the two and a half days before I put the auction. I was one of a very few people who were lucky enough to get the classes I wanted,”

So Vescio decided to find out just how much his seat was really worth and what desperate students would be willing to do to snag a spot in the class that quickly fills each semester. After placing his seat on the auction site, he sent an e-mail to the entire university suggesting students visit his auction. Vescio didn’t know anyone would take the auction seriously. But within 19 minutes of sending out the e-mail, Vescio received about two dozen e-mails from students who called his idea “the funniest thing they ever read” and 10 bids for a spot in the class.

He also received several complaints from faculty and students, which finally captured the attention of the university’s administrators. While he was not punished, Vescio was given a warning.

There will be no trading of keys in the future. This keyboard was designed by Peter McAlindon, CEO of Keybowl Inc., and a graduate of UCF’s industrial engineering program. The keyboard is designed to prevent problems inherent with a standard keyboard.

There will be no trading of keys in the future. This keyboard was designed by Peter McAlindon, CEO of Keybowl Inc., and a graduate of UCF’s industrial engineering program. The keyboard is designed to prevent problems inherent with a standard keyboard.
Most students drop grade complaints early

Natalie Rodriguez

When a police officer suspects someone of being drunk, a quick blow into a Breathalyzer, a blood-alcohol measurement device, will give them all the proof they need to make an arrest. Without such a device, people have to guess for themselves how drunk they are.

With new key-chain-sized Breathalyzers selling for as low as $5, drunks finally may have more than two corrections, he said. Students may have a chance to get the grade changed without charge.

Second, the students who got the grade changed without charge were not good points, they had other options. They could reconsider their appeals.

Third, the professor's peers, he said. The students who got the grade changed without charge were not good points, they had other options. They could reconsider their appeals.

Key chain tells drinkers when they are drunk

Natalie Rodriguez

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Ten years in the making, orbiTouch is in Union

FROM PAGE 3
affects 6.4 million people and cost $1.12 billion in lost productivity in 2001 in the United States.

The keyless keyboard, which McIlhacen calls the orbiTouch, will not cause carpal tunnel syndrome due to its ergonomic design. So while it may slow some people down, they will be able to type for longer periods of time, increasing their productivity.

Wall Wilson, chief operating officer of Keybowl, Inc., said the orbiTouch is also targeted to people with disabilities, or who are unable to use standard keyboards.

He cited the examples of Shawn Grassey and John Williams.

Shawn Grassey has cerebral palsey and has limited movement of his fingers. Unable to use a traditional keyboard, he was able to type his name for the first time with the orbiTouch.

John Williams, an author, suffers from carpal tunnel syndrome and cannot use a traditional keyboard for more than a minute. With the orbiTouch, he can type for hours with no discomfort.

Rossa Muller, technical support for the Career Resource Center, studied the device for its potential to allow more students access to computers.

"We like to explore all options—seeing what we can do—to be more inclusive and more user-friendly for students," Muller said.

Instead of the eight used nine.

McIlhacen said that over the past six years, 12 prototypes were developed.

"And it doesn't include the ones that went up in smoke," he said.

Currently, the device holds two patents, with more pending.

Over $1 million was raised and invested in research and development and production startups.

Faculty and students can download the orbiTouch to the computer store at the Student Union.

While it retails for $695, it can be purchased for educational purposes for $300.

MTV show not a true portrayal of Greek life

FROM PAGE 3
chase with Greek letters and the company’s web address to MTV producers who distributed the merchandise to the pledges on the show.

Entering into the unofficial deal with MTV before the first season of "Sorority Life" seemed like a natural fit for the company, said Radmin, who researched the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Pi sorority that "Sorority Life" filmed last year in its first Greek rivalry show.

"The sorority had the highest GPA on the University of California Davis campus," he said.

However, about halfway through this season’s "Fraternity Life," filmed at the State University of New York Buffalo, Radmin said he is now receiving negative feedback about his company’s involvement with MTV’s show that claims to portray an accurate profile of the university’s Sigma Kappa Omegas pledges.

In particular, Radmin said MTV focuses on negative aspects of Greek life, such as underhanded drinking and fraternity brothers intimidating pledges by demanding them to do push-ups and clean their fraternity house.

MTV only shows about 5 percent of what really goes on in fraternities and sororities on the shows, he said.

"They are better institutions than the shows are portraying," Radmin said.

"Overall, I just realized after the second or third week that we shouldn’t have any involvement in the show. It’s disconnected from our mission and what we do," Radmin said.

Since Radmin entered into an agreement with MTV voluntarily, he has only one option if he wants his company’s name taken off the show — pay the re-selling costs of sharing their logo on the air.

Both "Fraternity Life" and "Sorority Life" have also replaced the space where Greek101.com’s name used to appear in the credits with an anti-biasing organization’s logos at Radmin’s request.

Kevin Stone — owner of Greek Unique at UCF, a store similar to Greek101.com — believes Radmin has made the right decision to sever ties with MTV.

"As a member and former president of Kappa Sigma fraternity at UCF, Stone stresses the behaviors depicted on "Fraternity Life" don’t hold true within his fraternity.

"I would have been thrown in jail if I had my pledges doing that," he said.

While Radmin said the Greek community has been in support of their decision, Jason Malley, an Alpha Epsilon Pi brother at UCF, says Greek101.com’s decision will likely hurt them financially.

"The company should sponsor [MTV] because they need to make money," Malley said.

Profitable or not, Radmin believes his decision was the correct one.

"It is a necessary step because I strongly support Greeks, and fraternities and sororities produce good people," he said.

Non-traditional methods better suited for some

FROM PAGE 1
allow many of the situations encountered in films makes them pay attention and eventually learn more.

The idea is to instruct a physics class using an electronic-response system comes from a Harvard professor. Efthimiou and his students were eager to test out the system.

But the experimental class demanded more than just watching movies.

The students are also required to read "The Science of Superheroes," a book that answers questions such as whether evolution can really produce X-Men or if a human would ever be capable of breathing underwater like a fish.

The book also explains how "tech-nabable" occurs in comic books to create seemingly credible explanations of improbable superpowers and bizarre events.

No quizzes are given in the class — just a midterm and final exam. Students can write reports on events.

Some of the students are shy or just scared to make comments in front of the class, so they would never raise their hands if the questions were asked orally," he said.

Efthimiou said feedback clearly demonstrates that students are performing better in this class than most do in a typical physics class because the material is more interesting to them.

Although the class is unique and strives to be straightforward, some students still aren’t completely reassured.

"It’s true that this course doesn’t feel like a science class — it feels like a film class," senior Jackie Sands said.

"However, it’s still very confusing when it comes down to the stuff you have to know, because I hate any kind of science.

Sophomore Carla Cowell, 20, does not mind being part of the experimental course.

"It’s a good learning experience when you learn in different ways, you find out how you learn best," she said.

"The interaction between the students and teachers is another reason why the class is so interesting," Efthimiou said.

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Despite convenience, professors doubt handy breath tester

FROM PAGE 4

expressed a similar doubt about the device, which she said is un­
less to the sensible drinker. "If you need to give yourself a
Breathalyzer test, you shouldn't be driving," said Zapata, 23.
Instead she said, "have a party at your home, or take a cab or
have a designated driver."

REACH coordinator Brooke Williams said such a
device has costs and benefits, but ultimately agreed with
Zapata's assessment. "A pro in
that maybe a key chain
Breathalyzer will deter a person from driving, and a con is that it
creates a false sense of securi­
ty."

She said she wouldn't advo­
cate using the key-chain
Breathalyzers on campus. "If you're drinking, you shouldn't be
driving at all," she said.
Williams said students who do use the Breathalyzer should combine it with other methods to check their impairment. "If it's the only method, then I don't
think it's fair," she said.

Williams said the device is a positive sign for personal responsibility, however. "I'd at least if it shows there's more aware­
ness in drinking and driving," she said.

Some students do see good
in the pocket-sized
Breathalyzers, despite the unso­
phisticated nature of the device. "Key-chain Breathalyzers would keep people more aware of their intake of alcohol hopefully," said senior Adria Martin, 25.

"I would recommend it
because it's a good safety pre­
cautin," said junior Jonathan
Waters, 22.

He said the device could do
more than help people who need
to know if they're safe to drive —
it could even help people learn
to control their alcoholism. "If the key chain said they shouldn't
drink, they might take it serious­
ly," Waters said.

Through senior Rafael
Rodriguez said he might buy a
key-chain Breathalyzer, he said a
blood test ultimately should determine if you can drive safely.

Jay Corzine, a sociology and anthropology professor,
does not recommend the device to anyone without knowing the
accuracy and the quality of the product. He said relying on legal
limits to decide safety is a mis­
take. "People have different lev­
els of tolerance," he said.

The best approach to drink­
ing and driving is to have a desig­
nated driver, Corzine said.

Williams said a big advan­tage of the device is its compact,
portable size. "People can keep
it on them," he said.

Breathalyzer.net sells the
majority of its Breathalyzers to
customers. They offer a key­
chain device for $22.

The first full-sized
Breathalyzer was invented in
1964 by Dr. Robert Barkerstein
of the Indiana State Police. It
measured the effect of breath on
color-changing chemicals to
determine blood-alcohol level.

The Breathalyzer.net key chain
uses infrared sensors to detect
alcohol.

Passing the gavel

Outgoing Student Body President Marno Peha, left, marks the formal transfer of power with the handing of a gavel to his successor, Brian Bottile, at a ceremony earlier this month.
undermined the intentions of the U.S. sanctions against Cuba, which are to deprive the president of Cuba's Castor regime of the financial wherewithal to continue to oppress its people.

The administration has weakened the enforcement of the U.S. policy relating to Cuba, a U.S. policy that started during the Kennedy administration with a trade embargo. The intention of the embargo, imposed after Castro took power in 1959, was to force the Cuban government to implement reforms that would promote democracy and higher human rights standards. The Bush administration can see the new policy reflects this goal.

For removed but infinitely aware of the tension between Americans and Cuba, 27-year-old Morejon plans to enjoy her stay on the island despite the limits. She will attend a course on Cuban culture at the University of Havana five days a week, spending her free time exploring old churches and tropical beaches.

"I want to travel as much as I can on the island, see the history of Cuba and mingle with the people and enjoy the nightlife," she said.

Morejon and other cultural-trip students are planning a trip to Cuba, the Treasury Department says no license is needed to travel there.

Morejon journey plans are affected by the restrictions on traveling to Cuba.

"I don't look at my trip as a punishment, it's a vacation," Morejon said. "I'm well aware where I'm going. I make a family trip, it's very safe, especially nowadays. But in my field of study, being able to actively interact with different societies is really important, and being in Cuba and living and studying with Cubans is a learning experience."
Sallie Mae cleaning up on own mistakes

FROM PAGE 3

believed all along.

In a written response to the AAUP's committee report, July 1, Genislauf, the president of the university and David Stamps, the provost, denied that there had been any violation of the professor's academic freedom.

The committee that investigated the case will next make a report to AAUP members at the organization's annual meeting in June. At that time, the group's members will vote on whether to censure South Florida for its handling of the case.

Consensus: A serious black mark against a university's commitment to academic freedom—could make it difficult for the university to attract top-notch scholars and administrators, some faculty members fear.

Laid off profs offered enrollment discounts

With its enrollment growth slowed by military cutbacks, National University is reaching out to a new pool of potential students that could be as large as 40,000. California teachers who will be laid off because of statewide budget cuts, National says, are the program's target.

A glitch is based in San Diego and has 26 other locations, is offering half-price tuition for all teachers who lose their jobs this year as a result of the state's budget crisis. University officials say the program, which will cover classes taken from this July through June 2004, could be worth more than $6,000 per student.

Jerry C. Lee, the university's chancellor, says the institution will cover the costs of the program from its own $100-million operating budget and from its $200-million endowment. He says the program makes sense because his institution is now operating below capacity. Class sizes, which usually average about 20, are now at about 17, Lee said. Military cutbacks account for some of that, he said. And while enrollment next year is projected to increase, Lee said he expects it will grow by only about 6 percent.

There are no limits on what courses the teachers in the tuition program can take. Those who decide to take courses that will help them make a career change are free to do so, Lee said. He hopes the participants will use it to gain new skills and credentials that would be useful to them if they return to teaching.

Government mutes on Sallie Mae error

Are government officials letting Sallie Mae off easy? That's what some college lobbyists, student advocates and competitors of the company are asking after the student-loan giant admitted last month that it had under-charged 500,000 borrowers because of an error in the installation of a computer program the company uses to calculate monthly payments.

Since then, the company, which is the largest financier of federal student loans, has been notifying those borrowers altering them to the mistake and telling them that they must make larger monthly payments to finish repaying their loans on schedule.

As "a good-will gesture," Sallie Mae officials will credit each of the affected accounts for any extra interest that was charged to the loans. They estimate that the average credit is $8.79 per borrower, which will cost the company about $8-million.

Speaking to investors last month about its latest quarterly earnings, Albert L. Lord, Sallie Mae's chief executive officer, said, "There's no question that we messed up," adding that it was "a genuine mistake and it won't happen again."

But to many college officials and advocates for students, such reassurances are not enough. Some believe that instead of charging borrowers the extra payments, Sallie Mae should have picked up the tab.

Some lobbyists and lenders also wonder why the U.S. Education Department or Congress has not taken a more active role to determine whether Sallie Mae acted properly and whether the remedy it came up with was appropriate.

The installation error, Sallie Mae officials say, dates to 1992. However, they say the glitch had "minimal impact" on the calculation of payments until 2001, when the interest rate dropped precipitously and the company began to offer extended-repayment options mandated by Congress in 1996.

Sallie Mae officials say they learned of the problem last fall when some borrowers, who were nearing the end of their 10-year repayment term, contacted the company questioning why they still had not paid enough to close out their loans.

The borrowers noted that they had made every payment on Sallie Mae's schedule, but their statements showed that they still needed to pay more to clear their debts.

The borrowers who have been affected are those who had agreed to pay back their loans over the standard 10-year term. Sallie Mae officials emphasized that 90 percent of the affected borrowers face a payment increase of $50 or less per month.

About 2 percent of the borrowers will see their payments grow by $100 or more. Some emphasize that borrowers are not being asked to pay more than they agreed to pay when they took out their loans.

But college lobbyists and advocates for students say that some borrowers are taking on more debt to make up for Sallie Mae's mistakes.

That is because the company is encouraging borrowers who may have difficulty managing their new monthly payments to switch to a more flexible repayment plan that would give them more time to repay their loans.

Such a solution is comforting the lobbyists say because by extending their repayment periods, the borrowers are increasing the total amount of interest that they owe.

Sallie Mae officials insist that they are paying for their mistake, but that most observers agree that the $8-million Sallie Mae is returning to borrowers in interest costs is a small hit for a company that had more than $130 billion in total revenues in 2002.
President George Bush recently unveiled a policy designed to restrict educational travel to Cuba, an increase in pressure that administration officials say will promote reform in Cuba's decades-old communist government.

The immediate effect, though, will be the end of legal travel to Cuba for all American scholars not obtaining college credit for their visits. This policy is rationalized as a means to ending abuse of previously available licenses for Americans to travel to Cuba if the trip was for education, rather than for tourism, which is banned altogether.

The administration says Americans felt about their intentions so they could visit the country for pleasure. Their actions, those officials contend, thwart efforts to starve the government of income by limiting monetary transactions between the United States and Cuba. The idea that only non-students will share this policy makes little sense. The administration likely would have banned students as well, if it didn't fear a public outcry.

Former President Bill Clinton's policy of increasing interaction between U.S. and Cuban citizens was the right track. This Clinton administration believed that more people-to-people contact ultimately would topple Cuban President Fidel Castro's regime by exposing the Cuban people to enlightened and successful American influences, something the Cuban people would embrace for.

The Bush plan likely will worsen conditions in Cuba by reducing this cross-cultural interaction, while at the same time preventing legitimate educational visits by American institutions, such as museums, and regular individuals who want to learn about a mysterious and unique nation just 90 miles from Florida's coast.

If what some Republicans and Democratic legislators now believe is true, Bush's policy shift signals a gradual increase in tensions between the two countries, which detractors say will lead to a toppling of the Castro regime by force.

The Bush administration policy, though well meaning in its intention of freeing the oppressed Cuban people from a failed regime, is misguided.

Increased interaction between the United States and Cuba is the best solution. By allowing a free cultural exchange, the Cuban people will see a better life, and the income this exchange provides will benefit them, ultimately giving them the strength to topple Castro's regime.

The free flow of knowledge between cultures should never be inhibited. Through this exchange the best ideas, be they Cuban or American, will spread, inevitably leading to a better life for the Cuban people, and enlightenment for countrymen on both shores.

Congressmen's questions deserve answers

Congressman Henry Waxman of California has long chafed Republican leaders in Washington, D.C. He vocally opposed granting immunity from prosecution to witnesses in campaign-finance investigations in 1998; he said the Republicans supporting immunity had not explained why it was necessary. Republicans accused Waxman and other Democrats of obstructing the investigation.

Last year, Waxman infuriated Republicans when he criticized a Bush administration plan toward policies supporting the scoundrel-plagued Enron Corp. Waxman, in his report, focused on secret negotiations between Vice President Dick Cheney and company heads. The White House called the report a waste of taxpayer money.

While the war in Iraq wound down, Waxman again jabbed at Republicans, charging that the Bush administration had favored Cheney's former employer, Halliburton Corp., with several lucrative contracts, worth at least $600 million. A Cheney spokesman said despite being Halliburton's former CEO, he had nothing to do with the contracts.

Last week, pressure on the administration mounted when Waxman criticized a contract to rebuild and operate Iraq's oil infrastructure worth $7 billion. Waxman accused the administration of again favoring the company this time with a vaguely worded contract essentially giving Halliburton control of the Iraqi oil industry beneath a veil of repair services.

Waxman, the ranking Democrat on the House Government Reform Committee, has reason to object to the policies of Republican lawmakers and leaders. On a base level, his political affiliation dictates it. More importantly, though, Waxman's role in the committee is to make sure his fellow politicians are being honest and serving the public.

Republicans have called Waxman's complaints unjustified, partisan and ridiculous. They have brushed aside his accusations, calling some of them election-year maneuvering, but Waxman has persisted, and he's not alone.

The work Waxman has done to uncover potentially unconstitutional acts is commendable. He has championed open government by demanding answers to questions both he and his constituents deserve to have answered.

In an ideal world, any politician would run for office solely to benefit the people. Unfortunately, in a government so large and complex as America's, the potential gains for corrupt politicians to make too great to be ignored. The House Government Reform Committee exists to combat this problem.

Regardless of the side from which the accusations flow; no demand for explanation or information should go ignored or rejected outright. The public's business should remain the public's business.

Only when the greater good of America's citizens is at risk in disclosing information should such hopefully rare secrets be kept. Waxman sets a positive example for politicians to follow: one that questions authority and demands accountability rather than one based on secrecy and deception.

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
Simple ways to spend Florida’s pocket change

Mike Riegel
Staff Writer

What’s that old saying? If you want something done right, hire a bunch of rich guys that spend most of their time trying to decide how much they should increase their salaries.

I’ll concede that I may have transposed a word or two, but there is good reason why that particular saying has endured while others have kicked the bucket and shuffled off this mortal coil to dethrone heaven. We have the Florida Legislature to thank for that.

As you can well imagine, Florida’s congressmen are back in Tallahassee for a special session to figure out how the state’s $52 billion budget should be spent. I say the money should go toward Coke, because it’s much more versatile than Pepsi.

The actual issues at hand, however, are even more significant than those clever soft-drink companies would have us believe. UCF, along with the rest of the institutions of higher learning in Florida, may or may not have their budgets restored considerably as a result of what our lawmakers decide in the next few days.

Only one problem — they can’t seem to decide anything. I thought this would all blow over as soon as those guys started missing their scheduled tea times, but for the second time in my life, I was wrong. There is no Santa Claus, and Florida’s golf industry is in dire straits. Life is cruel.

But instead of just griping and not having the brass to do anything about it, I’ve decided to step up to the proverbial tee and start knocking some legislative balls right down the fairway.

I’ve taken it upon myself to break this Democratic deadlock, because if I know anything, it’s how to spend large amounts of money on frivolous stuff while managing to ignore what is so crucial to Florida’s economic and cultural well-being.

In my infinite (infantile) wisdom, I’ve developed several solutions to the budget-related crises in Tallahassee.

If you’re a lawmaker, then you must copy each of them down and follow them. If you’re not, then you’re allowed to read at your own leisurely pace and enjoy them.

First, if the budget is such a problem, let’s make a few simple sacrifices and be done with it. Let’s begin with Florida’s money-hungry school teachers.

Where do they get off demanding $21,000 a year? So what if they have to buy some supplies for their students every now and then? I did the math, and it turns out you can buy something like four million glue-sticks with $21,000.

I mean, what’s so wrong with the way things are now? I learned basic math at a public school — and look how well I turned out.

Next on the list are these wacky emergency rooms. Are they making casts out of $20 bills these days? I’m definitely no doctor, but I know that money does not heal wounds — it makes you president.

What we need are more lawyers in these hospitals, making sure none of those doctors are making human errors.

Lastly — and this one’s a no-brainer — quit with all the construction and restoration of Florida’s roads. Who hasn’t been trudging along one of this great state’s highways at nearly 6 mph and thought, “Why ain’t it be like this all the time?”

I, for one, think we should replace all those extra lanes with large pictures of car crashes and people changing tires. This way, drivers will finally have the chance to slow down and look out their windows for absolutely no reason.

Without roads, schools or hospitals dragging the economy down, Florida can finally turn around. We can spend the $32 billion on the important stuff — like beans dip and the special edition DVD of Dawson’s Creek. Most importantly, the struggling golf industry will begin to thrive once again.

After all, who needs a population made up of smart, healthy people with safe and spacious roads to drive on? Not me — and I think I’ll forward this column to my congressman and let him know.

FREE WEIGHT TRAINING

The Exercise Physiology Lab at UCF is looking for healthy, male and female volunteers (ages 18-35), to participate in a research study to examine how genetics affect the way a person responds to weight training.

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UCF Card Services

As of May 16, 2003, UCF Card Services is issuing a new ID card to incoming students. There is a $15 charge for current students who wish to have the new, more attractive look. However, both styles of the UCF Card will continue to be valid.

The office is located in the John T. Washington Center, Room 104 across from the UCF Bookstore. Hours of operation are Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Fri. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 407-823-2100 for more info.
Men's tennis caps outstanding season

By MIKAEL FOSTER

The eight-run inning that clinched the season, North Carolina beat teammate Ener Gursoy and Rosen won the doubles drew B over Troy State's Daniel Quisemo and Robert Van Swelm, 6-4. The Knights then followed up their good fortune during the USF and the Omni Indoor Regional tournaments to close out the fall season. UCF began spring play being swept by fifth-ranked powerhouse University of Florida, followed by a slight stumble against the University of Alabama-Birmingham. The losing streak would be short lived, however as the men quickly followed up by threshing intently rival Rollins 6-1. Atlantic Sun Joe Stinson, 7-0, and higher ranked Colorado University 9-2.

The victories snowballed for the Knights. During a 17-match win streak, UCF took wins from Georgia State, Mercer, Navy and Boston College. The victories were all decisive and the men were proving to be an unyielding force.

Please See Brada on 13

COMMENTARY

Lost in the shuffle

By ASHLEY BURNS

For now, anyone with a television and interested in college sports knows that the Atlantic Coast Conference has invited the University of Miami, Boston College and Syracuse University to join starting with the 2004-05 campaign. The heads of NCAA Division 1-A are absolutely drooling over this idea as it would make the ACC into another monster conference in both football and basketball.

While meetings between all of the Athletic Directors of the Big East schools apparently went well in Ponte Vedra this past weekend, the ACC's ability to raise the necessary funds will answer all questions. If the ACC can raise the money to make those major changes, then there really is no question other than who will replace the hole.

The conference would be monstrous as it would put the Hurricanes and Seminoles together, basically promising fans of the rivalry too, and maybe, even three, matchups per season. More than anything though, it gives the ACC a championship bowl game. The bottom line? Millions of dollars in revenue are going to be made by the conference and all teams for this incredibly wise investment.

Nothing could be better for the ACC. However, just like any hostile takeover, someone gets destroyed. In this case, three conferences are going to be maimed by this potential marriage.

The Big East is losing arguably the best football team in the nation, Miami also isn't any slouch in basketball and baseball. Boston College is well above average in both major college sports, and Syracuse's national basketball championship doesn't make them the ugliest girl at the dance. It also doesn't hurt that they've proven to be consistent winners.

Please See Big on 13

Knights lose two of three to end season

By ASHLEY BURNS

UCF baseball ended its season Saturday as the team failed to win its most important series of the season against Jacksonville University. The Knights showed great inconsistency as they took only one of three games from the Dolphins.

With the loss, the Knights (25-14, 14-10) failed to make the Atlantic Sun Conference tournament, and instead helped the Dolphins (28-27, 17-16) clinch their title.

Games one of the series showed a Knights' team understanding the immediacy of a series sweep. UCF jumped all over Jacksonville starting pitcher Dennis Robinson (4-7), driving in eight first inning runs. UCF set a team record with nine hits in the first inning.

After Jacksonville scored three runs in the top of the first, freshman first baseman Dave Lambert hit a two-run double to left center, starting the Knights' rally. The eight-run inning was highlighted by David Mann and Birdsong getting consecutive doubles in the first.

Three more runs in the third inning helped the Dolphins to only three more runs through eight innings. UCF added its insurance in the second when Ryan Bear scored on a wild pitch. The Knights added two more in the third with Bileys by Bear and Clay Timper.

UCF pitcher Von David Stertzbach came in to relieve Taylor Cobb in the first inning and bounced back from two previously poor performances on this important Senior Night. Stertzbach pitched eight strong innings, allowing only four runs on nine hits, while improving his record to 4-8.

Head Coach Jay Bergman was pleased to see Stertzbach pitch so well. "For Von David to be able to give us what he had tonight was really typical of his career since he's been here." Bergman said. "It was a very special night for him because he gave us a chance to get back in the ball game."

Robinson took the beating for Jacksonville, giving up six earned runs in only one inning and also committing a throwing error, which scored another run.

Bergman, well aware of the performances his players would have to deliver on Saturday, said, "I didn't tell them anything today. I didn't tell them anything at practice all week long. They realize what the situation is. We kind of put it on them. If you're going to get in the tournament, you have to win all three. You've got to get help to do that. We told the players that we believed in them, and we haven't let them...."
Big East must fill holes

FROM PAGE 12

over the last three years that their football program can be surpris­
ingly talent filled, too, at least against UCF.

So which schools are going to fill the Big East's East Miami, Syn­crome and BC depart? It’s not a roster of who is going to fill the Big East's East Miami, Synchronous and BC depart. Which other conferences will allow them­selves to be torn apart. Unfortunately it is already pretty obvious who the unfortunate les­ser conferences are.

Conference USA is already on the verge of folding. One of the loudest moments in football history was C-USA looking past a nation of victories. However, C-USA has mentioned include Louisville, Cincinnati, and University of South Florida. If any of these teams jumps ship from C-USA, Rutgers and Syracuse will be likely replacements. Louisville and Cincinnati both have had major schedule problems. While Turner, Memphis and Cincinnati both have had major schedule problems, but their football teams are too inconsistent to carry the weight of even Boston College.

The most interesting aspect of the Big East is the potential for the league to be torn apart. If the Big East is gone, then the ACC and C-USA are on the same level. That means that the ACC can start to really challenge for the ACC title.

FROM PAGE 12

belief. They just have to believe in themselves and go out and play hard and get the things done that are possible for them.

UCF's tournament hopes rely heavily on either a sweep of the remaining three weekends or at least one victory and a combi­nation of victories and losses in every other conference.

Game one displayed what seemed to be a late season theme as the Bulls were up by two runs on Michael Cray. Then, on another great night, Michael pitched another great

UCF finishes 8th in Atlantic Sun

Now that everyone has had some time to rest up between conferences, UCF has had a handful of leagues that are slipped in. The Atlantic Sun is one of the lesser conferences. Action begins this week incoordi­nation, flag football, basketball, tennis, soccer, softball, and football. It is possible to take one of these.

Early favorites include some veteran teams looking to compete on the smaller conference divisions. In basketball, defending champion Mike Jones got stronger by adding Mike Dolegi from the contracted Triangle Thrive franchise. According to intramural records, Mike has won an astro­nauts intramural titles in basketball, football and softball at UCF and looks to end his final season with a doubles title.

Basketball official, the year, Van Dorn, flag football official of the year, John Jackson, baseball umpire of the year. John Jackson, soccer official of the year. Both teams seem to have almost every single thing on the ground, for at least one victory and a combina­tion of victories and losses in every other conference.

We’ll see if it can do it in the next year, the Big East is a major player in the Atlantic Sun.

UCF sport Corner presented by

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DELIVERY!

NCAA

Livingston

Michael
didn't lose their league and the Knights' season needed divine inter­vention to make the post­season.

The Dolphins pounded out 16 hits to win the first round 15-4 over UCF. The Knights couldn't do over eight runs against UCF and couldn't do over eight runs against UCF.

Michael (2-7) pitched six innings, giving up three runs on 10 hits. Jacksonville pitcher Donald Boyle (23) controlled the Knights for the entire game, allowing only one run on six hits.

UCF broke up Boyle's control in the seventh and scored four on a Drew Hufnagel single in the bottom of the sev­enth inning. Gubris knocked down the three runs Jacksonville scored and the Knights went on to win 15-4.

The 7-4 loss eliminated all of UCF's postseason hopes and fin­ished the Knights in eighth place overall in the A-Sun standings.

Bradu named player of the year

Bradu received Player of the Year, and Gursoy was selected as Freshman of the Year.

Bradu was 15-4 over the season of the conference, anchoring the team at the No. 1 spot for almost the entire year. Meanwhile, Steve Bruni came on strong at a score of 1.14, allowing no qualms after being Bayesian. The Knights finished the conference in third place at 11-0 in the nation, stint with the best in the nation, stint with the best in the nation, stint with the best in the nation.

The men drew a rematch in the semifinals at a score of 7-0 versus the best in the nation, stint with the best in the nation.

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Cheer the refs, for a change! Intramural Sportsrecogn­ized the following students for their achievements in 2000-2001. Basketball official of the year, Van Dorn, flag football official of the year, John Jackson, baseball umpire of the year. John Jackson, soccer official of the year. Both teams seem to have almost every single thing on the ground, for at least one victory and a combina­tion of victories and losses in every other conference.

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8 Days a week

RateUCF.com receives high marks

Web site lets users
view and rate UCF students' pictures

Mike Riegel
Staff Writer

When the small Web design and development group at Mighty Ventures launched RateUCF.com on April 17, they didn't expect it to receive a great deal of attention. Three days later, the site had collected more than 15,000 votes from the 2,000 Internet visitors people invited to the URL address. So much for low expectations.

RateUCF.com is a Web site devoted to UCF students who've registered for free with the site and posted their picture, enabling anyone who visits to rate their physical appearance. The scale ranges from one to 10, with a score of 10 being the "Hottest." Aaron Mihalyi, a 25-year-old UCF graduate student and founder of Mighty Ventures, calls the site a way for college students to "have fun and meet new people." As a former college student, Mihalyi says that when budgets and students collide, free activities like his Web site might be preferable to others that are less cost-effective.

"I just thought it would be fun to rate people and see what they thought about me," sophomore Alex Conroy, 20, said. "I don't take it too seriously, though. It's not very divisive and anyone can leave a rating or a comment."

Upon logging onto the site, the visitor can choose to rate males or females, or look at the lists of the highest-rated people from either sex. Mighty acknowledges that this site might be regarded by some as being family superficial or perpetuating stereotypes about the importance of looking good, but he doesn't feel that these are the goals of RateUCF.

"[RateUCF] is not there to degrade people or find out who's the hottest," Mihalyi said. He called the site another method for UCF students to interact safely and freely. Apparently, students are responding to the site, in large numbers.

Please see Where on 18
Why Choose Tivoli Apartments?
Here's what residents have to say...

"Very spacious apartments and balconies"
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ASK FOR EXT. 54
Plans to create DateUCF
Web site may be in works

FROM PAGE 14

According to statistics from Mighty Ventures, the site had 150 members with over 200 different pictures on May 18, about a month after the venture began. They also claim the site has received more than 10,000 hits.

"It actually got so big that we had to upgrade the bandwidth because of all the traffic," Mighty said. He added that upgrading the bandwidth means that the cost of maintaining the site will also increase. "If you had a meeting about putting ads from local businesses on the site to help pay for the cost. This would, presumably, keep the site free from any charges related to posting pictures or leaving feedback.

But does this site enter exclusively to UCF students?

According to Mighty, the site is designed for UCF but anyone can submit pictures and be on the site. He estimates as many as 10 percent of the people on the site do not go to UCF, but are most likely from the Orlando area.

That's not to say that Mighty and his crew haven't prepared for the possibility of fraudulent submissions. He says that every time someone sends in a picture they have people scrutinize the photos to make sure they're not fake or too revealing. They have a similar system for the descriptions that people include with their pictures.

"We keep the pictures family-oriented, just in case kids find the site," Mighty said, "but we have been sent a couple pictures that were pretty revealing.

There have also been some pretty outrageous fakes, including one person who submitted pictures of UCF President John Hilt, which included a very unflattering description. Blatantly fictitious entries like these are never actually posted on the site, as they don't make it past the screeners.

Sophomore Tom May, 19, said that he visited the site and realizes the possibility that everyone is not who they say they are. "I don't think it would be too hard to send in some picture you've just downloaded and make up a name," he said. "UCF is a pretty big place, and it would be hard to check, but I'm sure most people are telling the truth.

The possibility of fraud or harassment originally led Mighty Ventures to outline any personal information such as e-mail addresses or Instant Messenger handles from being on the site. Reception from the site's initial members, however, led Mighty and his fellow creators to allow people to include such information, if they so desire.

As Mighty Ventures is busy maintaining and upgrading the RateUCF site, Mighty says there are also talks of beginning a DateUCF site. It would, just like the name suggests, be the catalyst for setting like-minded UCF students up on dates. The site is still in the proposal phase, and the logistics of setting it up may present difficulties, but Mighty and his staff are intent on capitalizing on the success of RateUCF.

Said May of the possibility of a DateUCF site: "I would definitely go check it out, but I doubt I'd use it. Dating someone and jacking a number that judges how hot they are sounds like a pretty big jump."

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Engineering student turns author

Chastain's home foundry book is sold worldwide

PATRICIA XAVIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Having a book published before graduating college is an unusual feat. Building an iron-melting furnace from scrap is rare. Doing both is unheard of.

That's exactly what Steve Chastain did—al by the time he was 17-years-old.

From a young age Chastain has been interested in science and chemistry.

"He almost blew up the house several times while working with his chemistry set," Donald Chastain, Steve's father said. "Regular school bored him, but he enjoyed science as well as the arts. He always thought sports were a waste of time. He liked learning."

Upon entering UCF in 2000 as a mechanical engineering major, Chastain also published a how-to-guide, Build an Oil Fired Tilting Furnace. In the same year The Illustrated, 23-page book details engineering design and furnace construction of a heating system with the ability to melt 300 pounds of iron an hour.

Acknowledged as a breakthrough in home foundry design, Chastain's book has paid his way through college—up to his graduation in August—and is sold in over 50 countries including Australia, Canada, Sri Lanka, England and Saudi Arabia. It can be bought on Amazon.com, lindsaybooks.com or in catalogues.

The mechanical engineering major became interested in building his own furnace when he needed auto parts for his pastime, restoring 1900 cars. "I could not buy [the parts] and had to make them myself."

Steve Chastain shows off two books that he has written, now available at UCF's library.

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16 • Lifestyles

The Central Florida Future • May 21, 2003
Pucker up
Are lip balms addictive? Some claim yes.

Natalie Rodriguez
Staff writer

Taking out her Banana Boat SPF 30 lip balm from her bag, Ann Marie Calabrese applies the moisturizer to her lips.

"The 38-year-old senior smears on this seemingly healthy dose of aloe vera and UV sunblock about five times a day. "You don't need a mirror to apply it, and it does the job of protecting my lips," she said.

While Calabrese has never heard of lip balm addiction, some doctors and Kevin Crossman, the creator of the Lip Balm Anonymous Web site, claim that many people obsessively surrender themselves to lip balm due to physiological dependency.

An addiction forms when a person suffers physical consequences without a particular thing, said Ida J. Cook, an associate professor of sociology and interim associate director for the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning.

Yet the word is misused, Cook said. Lip balm is not an addiction, but "it may be a psychological fixation; an obsession," she said.

"When a person feels the compulsion of applying lip balm, it may be the beginning of symptoms of obsessive-compulsive disorder," she added.

Crossman, however, acknowledges his dependence on Chap Stick and says the addiction is real.

Crossman's Web site, www.kevdo.com/lipbalm, urges all consumers to stay away from lip balm and to help others fight the addiction. His site contains testimonials of those who consider themselves lip balm addicts, a self-evaluation lip balm addiction test, and steps to recovery and a myriad of news articles that report on lip balm addiction.

"The Web site is extreme in creating victims," Cook said. "It's kind of dumb."

Disbelievers of this unusual addiction say that lip balm use is simply a habit.

Junior Jenn Heffernan, 20, considers lip balm a part of her everyday routine. "It's part of my daily routine: brush my teeth, put lip balm on," she said.

She also admits to owning about 50 different types of lip balms, from scented sticks to glittered balms.

Sophomore James Jordan, 20, does not use lip balm but agrees with Heffernan. "Applying lip balm is just a habit of feeling dry lips," he said.

Junior Michael Barrancotto, 20, keeps Chap Stick in his pocket to use for just that purpose. "Nobody really uses it for lips. It's a little bit of a habit. If I don't have it, it's gross," he said.

Barrancotto began using lip balm in high school when he would spend a lot of time in the sun.

But habits can lead to dependency, some argue. Junior Joa-idy Pastrana, 20, says a lip balm addiction is possible. "Your lip becomes used to the lip balm, and absorbs it and will then want more," she said.

Pastrana uses the lip balm brand Carmex about five times a day to cure dryness. "My sister is addicted to lip balm; she's actually the one that got me into it," she said with a glimmering smile.

"According to Lip Balm Anonymous, Carmex has the worst reputation of being addictive because "their product contains salicylic acid," an ingredient in aspirin.

"Oh the official Carmex Web site, Paul Woelbing, a spokesman for the manufacturer, Carmex Labs, says addiction is just a myth. "Carmex contains no addictive ingredients. We are in full compliance with the Food and Drug Administration."

In regards to the ingredient salicylic acid, Carmex says that it serves as a pain reliever and an antiseptic, it also helps to dry cold sores.

Blistex, another popular lip balm brand, addresses the question of whether lip balm is addictive at www.blistex.com, with the help of Dr. Charles Zugerman, associate professor of clinical dermatology at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago. "People do not become addicted to lip care products or the ingredients in them. Rather, they may become habituated to the soothing feeling of applying a lip care product on their lips," he wrote.

There are those who argue that a chemical ingredient may be the root of lip balm addiction, while others say the dependency is based in advertisements. Marketing may have a lot to do with lip balm's popularity, Cook said.

Junior Jill Grummel, 21, remembers using lip balm in middle school because she wasn't allowed to wear lipstick.

Heffernan agrees that for young girls, Chapstick is in substance to get rid of makeup. "Bonnie Bell was cool back when we were younger," she said.

Without any scientific proof to convince lip balm users one way or the other, Calabrese says that all the weird obsessions in the world, she would prefer lip balm.

"Said Calabrese: "It's a safe addiction."
When the surf's up, shoot the tube, dude

Since we arrived at the shore a few minutes later than planned, I hurried breathlessly down the beach in search of the blue Next Generation Surf School tent, where I had arranged a private lesson with instructor and owner Brian Gale, an aspiring pro-surfer.

I charged straight up to the first blue tent I saw, where a tan man in bright green swim trunks was explaining the difference between maneuver and maneuver to a portly teen-age boy.

"And this must be your girlfriend," the tan man said grandly, turning to me and extending his hand. "I'm Brian Gale."

After a brief, onshore rundown of ocean safety, Gale showed me how to "pop up," or stand up on the 9-foot longboard that I would be learning on.

"It's a lot like breakdancing," he explained as he did "the worm" on his surfboard, pushing himself powerfully from his stomach to a squatting position.

I am a very competitive type, I thought to myself, practicing the pop-up in slow motion. I felt like I was doing Tai Chi.

"Okay, now let's try it while we catch some waves," Gale said, handing me a rash guard (a thick, wetsuit-like surfing shirt) to put on.

Unfortunately, the rash guard was black, long-sleeved and a few sizes too big, causing me to bear a strong resemblance to Shamu. But since I didn't have much of a tan, I decided that I probably would resemble Moby Dick without it.

I fastened the surfboard leash to my ankle and awkwardly plunged into the waves after Gale, who told me that female surfers had been dominating the surf scene lately.

"Even since the movie 'Blue Crush,' it's been blowin' up," Gale said. "Anywhere you go now, there's 20 girls paddling around you."

So much for being a pioneer. Gale went on to grumble that many beginners lack surfing etiquette, explaining that problems often arise when new surfers don't know their territorial manners.

"When you paddle in for a wave, and there's a surfer to your left who's closest to the curl, it's their wave," Gale said. "If you try to take it, you'll be in their way, and they won't respect you."

Right on.

After a few more surfing pointers, Gale announced that I was ready. Trusting his intuition — and having no idea what to expect — I lay stomach-down on the board as a medium-sized wave approached.

Before I could think straight, the water rushed and swelled beneath me, and Gale gave my surfboard a strong shove.

"Paddle, paddle," he shouted over the crashing wave, "Now stand up."

Using every ounce of adrenaline and strength in my body, I pushed up to my knees, and for a few uncertain, shaky seconds, struggled to shift my weight to my feet.

"Pop up," Gale cried — and I did. The next thing I knew, I was standing, and I gleefully surfed my first wave all the way in.

It was, by far, the coolest moment of my life.

Emerging from the water, I let out a triumphant battle cry and waved to my friends on the shore, who sleepily waved back. "So how much does one of those things cost, anyway?" I asked Gale, instantly in love with the idea of owning my own surfboard.

"About $400," he replied nonchalantly.

"Huh. (Although I do love pawsings...)"

Suddenly, the blond kid reappeared in the waves next to us.

"My name's Cashman," he announced in a thick, Southern accent. "I'm into hunting, wrestling and Stone Cold Steve Austin."

Right. His name's Shamu, I thought. I'm into surfing.

Although I only managed to stand up a few more times during the rest of my lesson (and almost surfed right through a fisherman on one of my more "successful" runs), I didn't mind.

After all... I had soared, man. Life just doesn't get gnarlier than that.

— Linnea Brown
A family member was diagnosed with Hypothyroidism. What is it, and how is it treated?

Hypothyroidism is a common disorder that affects more women than men. It is characterized by decreased production of thyroid hormones. Thyroid hormones are produced by the thyroid gland, which is located at the base of the front of the neck.

Thyroid hormones are responsible for regulating the metabolism of the body. Therefore, not having enough thyroid hormones can make someone fatigued, gain weight and have cold intolerance amongst many other possible symptoms. At some point the gland may become hypofunctional, either by losing its stimulation by other glands of the body or by degenerating itself, and having its cells become non-functional.

When that happens, the above-mentioned symptoms may become evident. The diagnosis can be easily made by a simple blood test. If a person is diagnosed with Hypothyroidism, treatment primarily consists of supplying thyroid hormone to the person. This is generally considered a lifelong treatment.

The prognosis is generally good, since most people regain their energy levels and are able to lead productive lives. The medicine may need to be adjusted from time to time, but overall, most patients stabilize with a certain dose of thyroid hormone medication, and require no further extensive medical care.

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

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Furnace aids construction of artwork, pumps, trains

From Page 16

"to find another way to make them," he said. "I needed to pour high temperature metals like cast iron, but there were no small, inexpensive furnaces out there and no books on building small furnaces."

Instead of shopping for bargains or raising money to buy a furnace, Chastain began researching various math and engineering books. He designed the furnace and assembled it in 10 weeks from some old propane tanks, scrap iron and other material he found around the house.

Chastain's parents claim they had no notion of their son's mechanical ventures or his writings. "I am a dentist, and an a boy I've watched me carve crows, inlays or bridges in wax or gold," Donald Chastain said. "I guess he was more interested in casting than I realized."

"Initially my family thought it was a joke," Chastain said. "Several professors were also amused. Now my family and friends are very supportive and claim bragging rights.

"Professors also speak highly of Chastain's accomplishment." Jay Kapat, a professor of engineering at UCF, acknowledges his student's talents. "I taught Stephen in 2002," Kapat said. "He was a very attentive and sincere student. He always understood the material quite well. He is also a hands-on person.

After building the furnace, Chastain decided to teach others the process. A friend offered to put the design plans for the furnace on a Web site, but Chastain had a better idea. He wrote a book detailing the steps to building a cheap furnace, fueled on used oil and powered by a vacuum cleaner.

The furnace can be built for under $200 and has many uses. Universities around the United States are using his instructional book in their art departments. Chastain said his book appeals to artists casting sculptures and machinists making parts for cars. Laborers in third world nations have been using the affordable furnace to repair complex machines including cars, water pumps and even trains.

"One guy in Macedonia is making a coal iron stove, and a place in Africa is making water pumps (with my furnace)," Chastain said. "I got e-mail from all over the world, almost every day with a new use for the furnace."

While many students hope to sell their own written work, Chastain explains that there is a simple formula to getting published. "The top three things people should know: identify your market, identify your market and identify your market," he said.

With no agent to assist him, Chastain contacted a printing company in St. Petersburg, Florida and invested all his finances in getting the book printed. "I was really scared," he said "all we had, every dime we had, something like $2500 went [into the first printing]."

He credits his publisher Tom Lindsay and author Laura Gengry with assisting in the publication process. "I was very lucky to work with Tom. He guided me through the process," Chastain said.

To advertise his work, he put together a press kit, wrote various articles for self-help publications and sought to have his book reviewed. Less than a week later, the book had already sold enough copies — at about $20 each — to make back his investment and produce profit.

Chastain says that everyone should write at some point in his or her life either to inform or entertain.

"Writing has definitely changed my life for the better," he said. "You instantly become an expert on your subject. People from all over the world want your advice. It is really cool to see all that work pay off when the book starts selling faster than you ever expected."

Chastain's father says the attention has not changed his son despite all his accomplishments. "His success has not changed our family except to say we are very proud," Donald Chastain said. "Steve would make a great role model for young students. Steve often said, 'Success is great but if it isn't put to work for the benefit of man, you do not have much.'"
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