Universities lose in state budget plan

Tuition hike will recover most of lost state funding

MARSHALL SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

After months of bickering, the Florida Legislature on May 27 finally approved a base-bonus $50.3 million budget for the year, setting aside $1.7 billion for public schools and universities.

That budget includes a recommended 8.5 percent tuition increase and a $60 million cut in state university spending. Meanwhile, about 22,000 new students are expected to flood university classrooms this year, with no additional money to accommodate them.

The $40 million cut is significantly less than the reduction lawmakers had proposed. University presidents had waged a public media campaign last month against the earlier proposal, shaming that the Legislature might slow as much as $1.18 billion from the operating budgets of Florida's 11 public universities.

While administrators don't expect the cut to dramatically affect UCF, they are considering raising UCF's tuition by 5.5 percent to make up for UCF's $5.9 million loss.

The state approved an 8.5 percent tuition increase that applies to all in-state undergraduate and graduate stu-

PLEAS ESEE Bright on 3

Big classes are big stage for energetic teachers

M I K E R I E G E L
STAFF WRITER

What's the best way to determine how much someone learns in college? A) Check the grades and the final GPA. B) Analyze samples of the student's assignments. C) Let a person's post-collegiate successes or failures, determine how well they mimicked what they were taught. D) Make it mandatory for every student to take a standardized test before attending a university, and then require another test be taken just before college graduation.

The Florida Board of Governors, which manages the state's universities, is leaning toward option D.

The board is considering a plan to implement a standardized test for college students that would operate much like the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) for the state's public schools. In effect, the test would determine how much a college student learned during his or her time at one of Florida's 11 public universities.

Board Chairman Carolyn Roberts said those tests would provide taxpayers with empirical proof that their money is contributing to education, she told the St. Petersburg Times. Another board member, Steve Uhlfelder added that the tests could provide a more accurate picture of which universities are the most successful, the Times further reported.

Unlike the FCAT, the college version of the test wouldn't affect a student's ability to graduate. It would, however, alter how funds are allocated to each university.

The board also offered two other options that could be used instead of, or in conjunction with, the college version of the FCAT. The state could gauge universities based on surveys conducted with employers that hire Florida graduates, or out-of-state universities could be commissioned to conduct peer reviews.

Senior Chris Willerson, 22, said he does not understand the logic behind linking the test, "There's no motivation to do well," he said. "If it doesn't make any difference to the student, then people won't take it seriously."

Sophomore Jennifer Robins, 20, also thinks the plan is flawed. "Standardized testing has no place in college," she said.

PLEAS ESEE Test on 7

Good instructors can engage hundreds

Wendy Spence
STAFF WRITER

Charles Negy's General Psychology course is a favorite among UCF freshmen. About 200 students fill the auditorium for his classes every week to listen to his unique and interactive lectures. Students should leave their cell phones at home or be sure to turn them off because he will answer them. He does not want students to miss the lecture, whether it be about Sigmund Freud or Darwinian evolution.

Negy has taught psychology to more than 7,000 students during the past five years, and he prefers teaching in large auditoriums. "The potential for some very wicky, energized discussions can occur far more in a class of 200 than a class of 30," Negy said.

PLEAS ESEE Face-to-face on 6

Homosexuals continue to feel hostility on campuses

UCF still without protection policies for gay students

Wendy Spence
STAFF WRITER

College campuses throughout the United States continue to be a hostile environment for homosexual students, a recent study reported. A National Gay and Lesbian Task Force survey of more than 1,000 homosexual students, faculty, and administrators revealed that more than one-third were harassed within the past year. Twenty percent said they feared for their safety due to their sexual orientation, the study stated.

The sentiment among UCF's gay community is much the same. And some gay stu-

PLEAS ESEE Incidents on 3

INSIDE

Hazing Are we short on students trying to bring any order among the morning? —NEWS 4

Building woes A deal to lease a building is expected to bring a new home for the business administration building. —NEWS 8

Index:

Housing: freshmen 8, seniors 3

Building woes freshmen 8

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In the first instance, it's a sign of propel- ling growth for the future. Professor who said Tom is a computer engineering professor who might consider the student orientation.

Ed Colombo, assistant direc- tor of the Information Department, a Palmetto immigrant, has taught at UCF since the fall of 2000.

Like any visiting professor, Colombo is required to register for a new contract at the end of each academic year; visiting professors teach one-on-one to the students.

Last month, FII, Orange County deputy sheriff, staff and immigration officials arrested a student on charges of illegal immigration.

**Middle East**

Middle East is a region of the world that includes the Arab states of the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent, and Iran. It is divided into several sub-regions, including the GCC countries, the Arabian Peninsula, and the Horn of Africa.

**Bright Futures do continue, for now**

**Incidents may be higher, but students fear speaking out**

**Campus briefs**

**UCF computer engineering professor written off for protection of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students**

**Human Rights Watch claims that harassment and bullying can affect the emotional and physical health of students as well as their academic work.**

**And that, Parson says, is particularly detrimental to gay students because they won't reach their academic potential, while others may drop out if they don't feel safe in their surroundings.**

**UCF Counseling Center psychologist Andrew Blair acknowledges that to curb the problem of sexual discrimination, the issue has to go right to the top.**

**UIF: systemic and starts above the university, it starts in the state government by offering protection from discrimination,**

**But police [HELP] I don't know how overt it might be. Discrimination is about behavior, while prejudice is about beliefs and attitudes.**

**For campuses safety, the National Gay and Lesbian Task force has suggested several recommendations a university can take to curb harassment.**

**Training sessions for campus police on gay issues and hate crimes**

**Create alumni groups for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students**

**Encourage discussion of sexual orientation during student orientation.**

**Provide gender-neutral bathrooms**

**UCF provides student organizations such as the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Student Union to combat gay prejudice and discrimination.**

**The UCF counseling center offers gay and lesbian discussion groups, including an outreach program called A.U.D. that battles the stereotypes and prejudices surrounding homosexuality with education.**

**UCF officers are also trained to identify hate crimes and bias against homosexuals through 8-hour mandatory diversity course.**

**Organizations such as Legal Defense and Education Fund and The American Civil Liberties Union believe that legislation is the best way to combat the hate crimes.**

**They assert all instances of unlawful harassment.**

**Alert school officials and them to know expect you them to take proper action about actions that do not happen in classrooms, their Web site states.**

**Blair suggests that before choosing a school, students should research its environment.**

**Before attending a university, find out about resources, campus climate, groups on campus and even places and resources outside of the campus, the student.**

**Also, "the other student, says and seek information off the Internet.**

**Said Simoes de Souza: "Everyone should be able to get their education and walk on campus without worrying about being themselves. That's a basic part of the college experience.**

**"In the first instance, it's a sign of propelling growth for the future.**

**"His statement about the state university would be different at the institute.**

**"It's ridiculous that people are feeling unsafe in their own schools," said junior Talhadi Batouli. Everything should be treated equally, and if even one student feels for their safety on any campus, then the school is not doing its job," Professor told the Daily.**

**"It is the responsibility of the administration to ensure that everyone feels safe. Everyone should be able to get their education and walk on campus without worrying about being themselves. That's a basic part of the college experience.**

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Anti-hazing laws weak, often are overlooked

Most states have them, but law enforcement rarely cites offenders

V. DION HAYNES
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The activities of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity at the Glenbrook North High School in north suburban Northbrook were an example of a perennial problem. The same year the case was passed, the newspapers were abuzz over the death of a West Point cadet and the subsequent trial during which another young cadet, Douglas MacArthur, testified to rampant hazing at the academy.

Yet the practice continues, and the activities of Northbrook's once high-profile young marines focused new attention on the Illinois law under which 15 students were suspended and both presidents would get hit with wooden objects or paddled with a book or flying pan," said Sweer, who teaches journalism at Franklin College and Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis.

Now, under the 43 state anti-hazing laws, spurred by dozens of hazing-related deaths, the practice is deemed a crime punishable by fines or imprisonment. As a result, more national fraternal organizations have banned hazing, replacing the physical and psychological intimidation at the center of their pledging activities with dramatically milder, largely non-desensitized membership drives. High schools also have taken an anti-hazing stance as part of zero-tolerance policies against bullying.

Virtually all states have a weaker law, prosecutors there have been more reluctant to apply the ban to public school students selected for the teams, scholastic groups, bands and even church youth organizations.

The study called Initiation Rights in America, issued in May, 1999, explained the rationale in Illinois law, under which 15 students have been charged and 15 others, including the older students who also teach journalism, have chronically ignored.

Moreover, some experts assert that these laws and bans have been so ineffective at curbing hazing more attractive to youth and pushing underground so-called "Phi Phi" reality television program, the dangers associated with hazing may be escalating.

Experts say these anti-hazing laws vary. For instance, New York and Texas are considered to have strong laws and impose severe penalties against perpetrators of hazing even if their victims agreed to participate. In North Carolina, which is considered to have a weaker law, prosecutors have applied the ban to public schools but not private ones.

South Carolina's law applies to fraternities, sororities and all activities involving the Citadel military college or sports teams.

A 2000 study concluded that hazing affected nearly half of high school students selected for the survey. The practice is routinely used as initiation for sports teams, scholastic groups, bands and even church youth organizations.

"It's a lot more prevalent and pervasive than we originally thought," said Norman Dallor, a prominent attorney, who advises consulting and development at Alfred University in Alfred, N.Y., the study's author.

While the Glenbrook North case sparked widespread outrage and shock, it is hardly the most egregious example of hazing gone wrong.

In March, 11 members of the Phi Epsilon Chi fraternity at Pennsylvania State University in New York were charged in connection with the death of a pledge, Walter Dean Jennings, whose brains were gouged out after he forced to consume large amounts of water.

In February, the Zeta Phi Beta sorority at Virginia Union University in Petersburg, Va., was suspended and four members charged with misdemeanor hazing for allegedly consuming alcohol, seriously injuring or killing a pledge, Kimberly Daniels, who was paralysed.

And last September, Kristin High and Kellita Gaudin, both students at California State University at Los Angeles, drowned while reportedly performing a pledging ritual for a citywide chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. The women, drowned with their hands tied behind their backs, had been forced to run through strong currents at a Los Angeles beach.

Though California has an anti-hazing law, the Los Angeles County district attorney's office and the Los Angeles Police Department have declined to file charges against the sorority, said Angela Reddock, a Los Angeles lawyer who is representing High in a civil suit against nine sorority sisters.

"They are making the case that the (policy) didn't conduct a thorough investigation," Reddock said. "Of the officers said he didn't know there was an anti-hazing law in California."
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Face-to-face time makes world of difference for lecture hall students

From Page 1

He tries to exact his students into thinking actively about what is being discussed during the lectures. "I try to encourage them to discuss and debate while I monitor the discussion," he said.

Senior Melina Berzofsky remembers telling Negy’s General Psychology course her freshman year, "I barely ever missed a class, the material was so interesting," said Berzofsky. "We had very full discussions on the different theories of psychology kept me coming back to each class," she said, "I would recommend this class to all incoming freshmen who need to take a general education elective.”

For Negy, a good instructor is someone who challenges his or her students to think about topics that are prohibited at normal social gatherings, such as race, politics, sex and religion. "I actually have less respect for the professors who purposely avoid topics that are controversial all because they are so concerned with offending students or exceeding low student ratings," Negy said.

Negy needs not worry about students evaluating him poorly. Thirty-five percent of his students believe his description of the course material was very good. His communication of ideas and information were also ranked very good, according to his student evaluations from 2002.

With hundreds of students to teach, Negy’s office hours could overwhelm him if not for a screening system he set up. He offers help only to students who seem working hard enough or are needy enough. For many of his students, engaging lectures are all they need.

Another UCF professor, Tech Elsheimer has found a way to keep his big class motivated, even though they meet four days a week at 9 a.m. Even though the classes begins so early, students do not miss a class due to the interesting and important material covered each class meeting.

Elsheimer keeps his students thinking by posing around models, asking questions and having students work on problems in class. "It is easier for a student to get lost in a larger class, but that is why a good instructor should make sure students know how to take the initiative to get assistance if they need it," Elsheimer said.

He offers students feedback through his office hours, where students can pick up graded tests, or they can contact him through e-mail. Elsheimer also considers students’ feedback forms, from student evaluation forms, "If I see some recurring or helpful suggestion, I will use it to serve future students.

Last year, 48 percent of Elsheimer’s students evaluated his stimulation for learning as very good. Forty percent also said he was very available to help students inside and outside of the classroom.

A professor must convince a student that the course material is not only understandable, but worth the effort to learn, Elsheimer said. "Students will take their cue on how interesting and important a topic is based on how well an instructor conveys the enthusiasm that first led them to that field," he said.

Despite efforts by big-class teachers like Elsheimer’s to keep their students involved, senior Kaitie W㎟emanski says out-of-class assistance is still important to succeed. "The lecture class was a bit overwhelming with 300 students, but the lab helped to clarify the weekly material with a smaller class size," said Wземanski. "If you are going to enroll in a lecture class, try to schedule a lab offered or visit the professor’s office," she said.

Teacher Daniel Vaughan knows the power of connecting with students in smaller numbers. "I am available to all of my students during office hours, before and after class, and via e-mail and telephone. Even my cell phone number is published on my Web site," he said.

Vaughan said students can learn equally as well in larger size lecture classroom and smaller ones if the professor knows the subject, can orally communicate that subject to others and cares about the students.

Lecture halls such as these lack the intimacy of smaller classrooms, where instructor-student interaction is more personalized.

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Not being able to listen to your teachers might be a disorder

Natalie Rodriguez, Staff Writer

Some students, no matter how smart, just can't listen. It's not that they're learning impaired; they just can't process the information that most students can. These "learning disabled" students suffer from a litany of problems with one thing in common: they barely have a hint that anything's wrong.

At UCF this unusual disability includes students with specific auditory and linguistic disabilities and those with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. In fall 2002, 60 percent had a learning disability.

The most significant problem college students with learning disabilities face is "people not understanding their disability because it's hidden," said Philip N. Kallin, director of Student Disability Services at UCF. A person with a learning disability shows little sign of problems in everyday life, he said.

The term learning disability is used to describe the difficulty a person with average or even high intelligence has in acquiring basic academic skills.

There are ways to overcome the challenges. Learning disabilities pose through identification and accommodation. At UCF, Student Disability Services offers individualized services to those students who present a recent or updated documentation of their learning disability. Kallin said Student Disability Services only works with those students who come to them.

One of the more popular accommodations is allowing more time for learning-disabled students to take tests than other students. Student Disability Services administrators over 2,000 tests in an academic year.

Students also get help with ne quality. Class notes are transcribed for other students for those with difficulty learning and understanding speech.

For students who have trouble understanding text, Student Disability Services provides audio recordings of textbooks and coaching that enables students to cope with their disabilities.

UCF does not offer specific disabilities programs, and does not offer remedial courses for students with specific disabilities.

According to the New York Times, students with learning disabilities represent the fast-growing group of college applicants.

Recent research and studies of the disability may have contributed to growth of this category by labeling long-suffering students, said Assistant Director of Student Disability Services, Louise Friderici.

Experts are unsure of what causes learning disabilities. It may be due to heredity, had teaching, moving from school to school, toxins in the environment, brain damage or an accident at birth.

"There's not enough data to say that this causes learning disabilities. We do know that those are some of the associated causes," Kallin said.

The key to overcoming learning disabilities in college is seeking out help, studying and staying committed. A learning disabled student needs dedication, he said. "For every hour that the non-disabled student puts in for studying, the learning disabled will probably need two to three hours of additional study." He said, Kallin added that learning disabled students need to be open to learning new strategies so they can be successful.

Some signs that may indicate a learning disability are memory problems, reading, writing and listening trouble, time management problems, trouble meeting deadlines, organizational problems and lack of attention.

According to the National Center for Learning Disabilities, learning disabilities vary widely, from dyslexia to trouble reading, writing or spelling. Sufferers may also have trouble with math, concepts of time and money, detail problems or hyperactivity and impulsivity. The level of the problem also varies, from mild to severe.

Students who think they have a learning disability should contact Student Disability Services. High School students with learning disabilities should prepare for the transition to college by presenting recent documentation of their learning disability such as a report from a psychologist, psychiatrist or neuropsychologist.

UCF students have access to free psychiatric help on campus, and can be screened for learning disabilities.

Test may greet freshmen and departing seniors

Face Page 1

"We're supposed to pick a major and learn about it. It's not about four years of all the different subjects." UCF President John Hitt, the chairman of Florida's State University Presidents Association, said he's wary implementing such a program, the St. Petersburg Times reported. The cost of creating, processing and grading such a test would be prohibitive, he said.

University of Florida President Charles Young wasn't necessarily opposed to the idea of a college PSAT, but said that if the universities helped design the tests to ensure that they are representative of the material being taught, he told the St. Petersburg Times.

The Board has already planned its next move: finding out what the state's 200,000 public university students are learning. Through a committee, this research should produce a list of information students can be tested on.

If approved, Florida will be the only state in the nation that uses standardized testing to determine funding for higher education.
Cracks in building's face force students out of classes

BRANDON HARDIN
STAFF WRITER

Classes and some faculty offices were forced to move out of the Business Administration I Building after inspectors found fissures in the building's construction. Problems include cracks in a brick façade and missing concrete.

Repairs to the 12-year-old building have begun, as rumors the building is condemned circulate throughout campus.

Physical Plant Director Richard Paradise said a faculty member asked him one day "Why are we working in a condemned building?" Paradise said. Such concerns are unfounded, he said.

"Neither of the problems, as far as we know, create a hazard for anyone in the building,"Structurally, it's OK. We just need to be prudent about repairs," Paradise said. Following the discovery, an inspector hired a forensic architect to find out what was wrong with the building.

The cracks formed from years of enduring Florida's sweating summers and cool nights, causing expansions and contractions in the masonry. These fluctuations caused the concrete and brick to shift around just enough to form cracks.

The building's problem was aggravated by poor construction. Spots along the façade which should have been anchored to the building's concrete block structure were left free-standing, making the façade less stable.

Within the block structure another missing component was found - concrete. Some columns in the building that should've been filled with concrete were left hollow, weakening the structure.

As workers made repairs to the brick, they are identifying these columns and planning repairs for them.

"We're going to be very methodical about repairs," Paradise said. "Safety is going to be the key factor."

Repairs estimated to take between six months and a year have begun, with a coordinated series of repairs, one section at a time.

A consultant is currently estimating the repair cost.

No fault for the building's deficiencies has been determined.

"Right now, we're seeing what revelation the university has and identifying who is responsible for the problems," Paradise said.

Repairs will begin on the southeast wing of the building, and move clockwise around the building and then to the north until repairs are complete.

Faculty in exterior offices of the building were relocated, and some classrooms had to be temporarily moved. For the duration of summer term, the public lab in BAI 101 is now in BAI 105, and the MugDroid/Teching Lab is in BAI 104.

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Cracks in building's face force students out of classes

Teacher linked to terrorism suspect

FROM PAGE 3

Jubah for the second time changing his falsified immigration documents.

Authorities said Jubah lied about a previous marriage, did not list all prior names he had used and did not accurately represent his immigration history. In addition, authorities said he earned $230,000 under-the-table between 1985 and 1996 while working at an Orlando retail store.

The professor is linked to Jesse Maali, an Orlando retail shop mogul who was arrested on charges of money laundering and employing illegal aliens at his stores. He is also connected to University of South Florida professor Sami Al-Arian, who faces terrorism charges. ISIS agents say he worked atMaali's Big Bargain World store on international Drive in the mid-1990s and was allegedly involved with the Islamic Center Project, a Tampa group started by Al Arian that allegedly served as a front for terrorism.

He currently remains in jail, and a government motion to reopen a deportation case against him has been filed.

Sorority house mother passes away

Jean Waller, house mother for the Alpha Delta Pi sorority, died May 22. Waller had retired in March and moved back to Kansas after months of failing health.

She moved to Orlando in 1990 and served as house mother for the Alpha Delta Pi sorority for 11 years. Survivors include a son, Joseph; three daughters, Paula Rigby, Catherine Hupach and Betty Ballard; a brother, Gordon Quillen; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Private memorial services will be at a later date in Hays, Kan.

Memorial is suggested to the organization of the donor's choice.

(GPCompiled by Krista Zilizzi and Shelley Marmer)
UConn students charged with staging kidnapping

FROM PAGE 3

es in basic computer-graphics programs, such as Photoshop, she said experimenting with computers is, well, not quite in fashion.

The virtual fashion show was a joint effort between 12 students working voluntarily with DeBoni at the Fashion Institute and 28 students in a computer-graphics course at Simon Fraser University in Surrey, British Columbia.

The students in Surrey, most of them specializing in computer graphics, created the virtual space using a virtual-reality platform called Atmosphere, made by Adobe, the software company that also makes Photoshop and other popular graphics programs.

The platform allows several users to enter an online "room" at the same time and to communicate with one another by typing messages that appear in a chat window on each user's screen. During the virtual fashion show, some of the student designers were on hand to answer questions from online visitors.

Cautionary tale

Syllabus Magazine recently published an article about how the Internet makes it easier for students taking online courses to plagiarize.

"There's just one problem with the article. Many of its passages seem to have been plagiarized, if only inadvertently," says Michael Heberling, president of Eiler College's Center for Graduate Studies, which found that the 1,600-word article, which appeared May 1 on Syllabus's Web site, included about a half dozen passages that were lifted almost verbatim from an essay of his own.

His 3,000-word text had been published in the spring of 2002 in the Online Journal of Distance Learning Administration. His article was titled "Maintaining Academic Integrity in Online Education."

To Heberling, the similarities were striking. "Colleges entering into online education face a great deal of scrutiny among educators over the question of academic integrity," he says.

The Syllabus article is much like a sentence of Heberling's: "Online education has come under a great deal of scrutiny over the issue of academic integrity." An example:

"However, a strong case can be made that it is more difficult for students to cheat and easier for educators to detect cheating in the virtual classroom," says the Syllabus article. Heberling's article: "Frequently, a strong case can be made that it is actually harder to cheat online and that it is also easier to detect." To Heberling, the similarities were striking.

The Syllabus piece, titled "Probing for Plagiarism in the Virtual Classroom," was written by Lindsey S. Hamilton, a graduate student at Florida Atlantic University, and William T. Ryan, an associate professor of international business at Florida Atlantic.

Hamilton contacted Syllabus officials and the authors. Hamilton sent an e-mail message to Heberling, apologizing for using sentences that were so close to his own.

Although he was angry when he first came across the story, Heberling says he now realizes that it's a perfect example of how easily people can plagiarize without intending to, especially when research is conducted online.

Analyze this

They said they were doing psychological research. But three undergraduates at the University of Connecticut's Hartford campus are now participating observers in the criminal-justice system, following their arrest this month for allegedly staging a fake kidnapping.

The three were charged with breach of peace.

"We received a phone call from a motorist who noticed someone blindfolded and gagged in the car next to her," said Thomas Trzaskos, a detective sergeant in the West Hartford Police Department. "She was alarmed and thought an abduction had taken place."

Another witness reported seeing a man in the car remove a blindfold and gag, reported Trzaskos.

The "abductee" approached the witness, saying, "They're going to kill me! They're going to kill me!"

Then he asked if the bystander planned to do anything.

Police officers located the three occupants of the vehicle in a university building. The most identified themselves to the police as UConn students and said they were doing a psychological experiment to study how people react to distress.

"The students' names are not listed in area directories, so they could not be reached for comment," Heberling said.

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Big classes pass economic test but fail students

The trouble with the world is that the stupid people are codscrew and the intelligent are full of doubt.

—BERTIL WILLIAMS

Opinions
Wednesday June 4, 2003

OUR STANCE:
Big classes pass economic test but fail students

A recent Chronicle of Higher Education article highlighted a reality in the university world: teachers who like big classes. The reason it’s rare is obvious. Big classes, meaning those in auditoriums with over 100 stu-
dents, are overwhelming and difficult to manage. Anyone who has seen a bad teacher try to handle 200, 300 or even 500 students knows what can go wrong. The teacher loses the class, and it starts getting noisy. The teacher gets frustrated, and snaps at the class to calm down. Students resent the teacher and tune out or just walk away for a minute. For a university in rapid expansion like UCF, the big classes are a perfect werden to growing pains. Stretching the student-teacher ratio means more money coming in for less money paid to instructors. Why pay 10 teachers when one can do the same job, right? Though teachers may be paid a bit better for taking a filled lecture hall, their message has a better chance of getting lost. Despite the efforts of a few teachers talented enough to handle large classes, there is no substi-
tute for classes small enough that teachers can know their students. A teacher who has 30 stu-
dents can engage them on a personal level and interact with each more than once in a blue moon. That connection will inspire them to learn.

Unfortunately, at schools like UCF there is a conflict of interest so obvious and yet so unlikely to be resolved. The Master Plan says UCF will continue increasing enrollment, and UCF has to pay a lot more to build small classrooms and hire more teachers. With less money to work with than originally planned, the obvious choice is to schedu-
le more auditorium classes.

On the other hand of the issue are overzealous teachers who dread the cavernous classrooms that will seem increasingly practical for a school with a dwindling student body and a continued drive to increase enrollment. Teachers do better in smaller classes. Students respond better in smaller classes. The only reason is to have small classes.

UCF needs to reconsider its reason for being: to educate, when deciding between having more auditorium classes or more regular-sized classes.

OUR STANCE:
FCC rule change will build more monsters

The Federal Communications Commission sent shockwaves through the mass media industry with its decision to ease restrictions on ownership of television stations and newspapers by large media firms Monday. The decision follows a month of public debate, mostly against the rule changes that FCC Chairman Michael Powell says will help televi-
sion networks survive in a changing world. The most notable change allows companies to own their own newspapers and television stations in the same market, a previously prohibited prac-
tice.

Both conservative and liberal consumer watchdog groups have criticized the proposed changes, saying Americans will suffer the con-
sequences of the decision through decreased competition and increased consolidation of media outlets.

The proof is that this type of change hurts consumers is there, As Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., noted, the 1996 Telecommunications Act that removed the radio station ownership limitation of 40 stations in the nation was supposed to help consumers. The theory was that competition could take care of the need for program-
ning diversity. A small group of rich radio companies focused the idea into law; and instead of helping consumers, it created a monster.

The story of the rule change’s backer, Clear Channel Communications, has since expanded its radio station holdings to over 1,200, making it five times larger than its closest competitor and allowing it to homogenize content across the country, including in the Orlando market. Combined with its Fox entertainment operations, Clear Channel has taken control of the music promotion business and closed off small-
time artists to airplay. This is why we hear the same music on almost every FM station in Orlando, and why we can hear the same music in every major city across America.

More frightening than radio consolidation is what faces major cities when the current rule changes are implemented. Now that television stations and newspapers can combine into the same company serving the same audience, the natural result will be a decrease in the variety of voices consumers hear.

For some, Monday’s rule change, newspapers and television stations were legally separated. Though they could cooperate with each other, they couldn’t be the same entity. We saw this cooperation in Orlando in the Orlando Sentinel and Bright House Networks Channel 13 shared each other’s medium, providing each side with the opportunity to reach a broader audience. While sharing the content, rather than pro-
ducing unique content, the number of news and entertainment stories pursued decreased. If the Sentinel were to merge with channel 13, it’s likely both news outlets would produce fewer stories.

Composing the problem is another rule change that allows companies to own enough television stations to cover 50 percent of the American viewing audience. The current limit is 35 percent.

Networks like ABC, CBS and NBC can now get more control over the stations broadcasting their coverage by buying them; they’ll also get more control over the content Americans see.

Imagine a world where the television net-
works have even more control over content than they do already. Combine that with ownership of the network’s values in town for hard journalists, the newspaper. Now make the stories pushed by the network the top stories at your local newspaper.

Now ask yourself, in the public better served?

A misguided analysis of the “Matrix Reloaded”

I just had to comment. I have some of the insurance information I caught in Mike Powell’s FCC column, “Matrix Reloaded,” published May 28.

I am a new newspaper, obviously much less intelligent than Mike Powell, yet I can see that he does not like the first installment of the Matrix film series. Powell felt that his office had a first look at the film.

The “Matrix” did have a record-breaking weekend of around $35 million, but that is not the only factor in that film’s success. However, the next film in the franchise — Matrix Reloaded — only still held short of topping the list for all movies.

The “Matrix” sequel earned the $50 million mark in 3 days, distanced only by the top box office year — “Spiderman,” which hit $548 million in only nine days.

Second, to state that Warner Bros. has "left its ability to ment an intelligent genre" is a complete fallacy. The Matrix earned its success in entirely when the first movie came out. The sequel has depended on the box office showing of the original movie, which was the best for a brand new movie by far at almost $700 million.

Now that this is passed along to the “Matrix Reloaded,” the only non-intellectual, yet so predictable, move the movie may make this time is failing.

Many people decided that, The “Matrix Reloaded” was just the first step of exploitation and "hype". With all the excitement the film had brought, there was another movie in the works.

So, why is this so unlikely? It will probably never get the papers. However, the movie has had some reviews so far, and is not bad but not too good.

Until then, get a new Matrix.

— Cruz Arredondo

Midwest peace will come when terrorism ends

I heard the popular “Violence breeds violence of past Mideast peace processes on the road to peace contains the fallacy ."... The road map has been turned off. The peace process is on hold. The fact is that the Middle East is filled with too many, Sophie's choice of box office cash is a complete fallacy.

When making the road map, Israel is living in their bubble, with security is its largest hope. Several attempts to reach peace have been hindered by the lack of involvement, and the lack of a true leader with intent to resolve the peace process.

For peace to work, one must be one on the front line, and security is not the only factor. To end the violence, we must also work with the frontline workers. Let’s get to the bottom of the Israeli issue, and bring it to the point where it can be fixed.

Wasn’t it noted in the article “Violence mires followers of the road map” that the US leads the way in peace talks? Is it so unlikely that the US will lead the way in peace talks?

— Patricia Noe

Dems hopefuls devise their plan to topple Bush in 2004

Democratic hopefuls devise their plan to topple Bush in 2004

For those concerned that our current leaders are not handling the war, they can turn to the candidates in the primaries. Several hopefuls have already been declared frontrunners, and with the upcoming primaries, the race is heating up.

— Roger Smith

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Dems hope hopefuls devise their plan to topple Bush in 2004

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— Roger Smith
Mike Riegel

This would be a bigger waste of time than Al Gore running for president again.
This would be a bigger waste of paper than Tom Green’s “script” for “Freeway Got Fingered.”

This would be a bigger waste of cash than taking a bunch of money and doing something crazy to waste it.
(Sorry, I always run out of outlandish comparisons after I come up with two. It’s a rare degenerative disease found in self-important college columnists.)

Of course I’m referring to the Florida Board of Governors’ plan to make college students take a standardized test in order to find out how much they’ve learned.

Under the proposal, students would take a test just before they attend college, and then another test before graduation to see how much they’ve learned. The results wouldn’t affect a student’s graduation, but it would affect the amount of funding UCF and the state’s 10 other public universities would receive. It’s basically the FCAT on Prozac.

Let me be one of the first to say that I’d rather eat dirt than take this test. Never mind my fondness for soil and soil-related products, this is a dreadful idea disguised as a heartfelt attempt to improve higher education.

The Board of Governors, whose members were appointed by Jeb Bush, rationalized this test by claiming it will hold public universities accountable for the money they receive from taxes. One member, Steve Uhlfelder, was quoted as saying, "Did we make any difference in these children’s lives? It seems Steve and his buddies on the Board haven’t set foot on a college campus in quite some time, because if they had, they would know that you can’t find too many children in college classrooms— that’s because an overwhelming majority of people attending college are adults.

We’re not children, Steve. And if you really want to get technical, we pay for the classes we attend, unlike those poor children who have to take the FCAT.

Even if this test was imposed upon college students, it would be worthless and end up doing more harm than good. The point of attending a university is to narrow your focus of study to a particular major and become an expert in that field.

Wouldn’t it then be counterproductive to give someone a standardized test that covers several different disciplines?

I know that during my first two years I was forced to take several math and science classes, but I’ve spent the last couple of years avoiding them like Justin Timberlake’s latest album.

I hate to point this out to officials throughout our great state, but there is already a litmus test for how much a person learns in college—it’s called the real world.

The students who learn a lot normally get jobs and become productive members of society; the others continue playing video games while saving money to attend the next Adam Sandler movie.

But let’s expose this testing nonsense for exactly what it is—a politically and economically-motivated measure that does nothing to help Florida’s universities.

It’s an efficient way for Jeb Bush to say that he’s devoting money towards improving education in Florida. But what he’s really doing is taking the same amount of money and dividing it unevenly so as to “reward” a university that does well on some standardized test that has absolutely no connection to a practical college education.

Since this college FCAT idea is such a dismal failure, I’d like to propose my own solution. Let’s have assigned lunch periods for everyone, allow seniors to leave campus once a month during lunchtime, and force UCF administrators to call our parents each time we miss a class.

If we’re not going to be treated as adults, then why should we be treated as such? I’ll tell you why—because this is the way of the world. Once we leave high school and enter college, we get to do our own thing. That is the way it was when Big Daddy George H.W. Bush paid for little Jeb’s education, and that is the way it should be.

I realize that tax dollars are at stake, and people want to see that their money is accomplishing something. But believe it or not, I pay taxes, too. Some of my hard-earned cash goes toward Social Security, but do I go to nursing homes and demand that old people wash my car and fold my laundry? Of course I do. Grandma and grandpa better just mess with my money.

There’s only one proposal for a standardized test that I would even consider accepting. The test should be optional, and anyone stupid enough to sign up for it should automatically be denied their degree.

One of the most basic skills students learn in college is how to avoid tests. If you volunteer for one, then you should be sent back to freshman composition to start over.

After all, I’m this besten one-two judge how much I learned in college.
Legendary crew coach leaves team near the top

MEGAN RENTZ CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Dud Vall Regatta in Philadelphia is the biggest event in women's rowing each year and one that teams across the country strive to win.

It also serves as an annual recognition of the accomplishments of UCF Head Coach Dennis Kamrad, for whom the event's celebrated Kamrad Trophy is named and whose teams have won 17 titles at Dud Vall. Thus, for UCF, this year's regatta had special meaning, because it would be the last in Kamrad's 30-year coaching career at the university. He retired at the end of the season, and the team wanted to bring the Kamrad Trophy home one last time for him.

They faced plenty of competition. This year the regatta attracted 41 entrants in the Varsity 8+ event alone. As it turned out, the Knights' Lightweight 8+ crew came in with a time of 7 minutes, 45 seconds.

"It's a very young squad and that's been our theme throughout," said First Assistant Coach Victoria Summerfield. "They really did well. There were lots of freshmen and sophomores this year and obviously with this kind of showing we're going to try to go out next year and win it.

Earlier in the season, the Knights defended their six-consecutive Florida Intercollegiate Rowing Association championships by adding a seventh, finishing first in the Varsity and Junior Varsity 8+, as well as first and second in the Varsity Lightweight 4+.

As for next season, Kamrad stated, "We've got a good squad and we're looking forward to next year. As is true in all sports, we're taking inventory both physically and mentally to figure out where we're headed for next year."

Kamrad's success as a coach is evident in the long record of accomplishments by his teams. Each year UCF competes in a prestigious conference with the likes of Villanova, Harvard, and Purdue. UCF currently is ranked as one of the top rowing teams in the country.

This year the Knights spent the season fluctuating between seventh and eighth in the national rankings. Heading into the Dad SHA Regatta, the women were ranked seventh in the U.S. Rowing Collegiate Women's Lightweight 8+ poll. Yet even with that regatta's championship trophy named in his honor, Kamrad remains as modest as ever.

"I'm proud of the kids," said Kamrad. "I'm proud of the staff and the direction that things are going. I think right now this staff is going to take it to another level."

Kamrad has not only brought irreplaceable experience and dedication to UCF, but also to the Central Florida community. He has had a hand in starting numerous high school programs in the area, as well as the Florida Athletic Club and the Orlando Rowing Club. These clubs also have gone on to win national events, including the Head of the Charles, the Canadian Henley, FISA Veterans and Masters Nationals.

As the Kamrad era comes to an end, members of this year's rowing team will know they were the last to be coached by a legend who will be forever remembered at UCF.

Another dodgeball season begins with controversy

Wednesday nights are when the true intramural participants break out of their cages and enter the dodgeball arena. Sigma Chi was back with new faces to try and take its third dodgeball championship. Sigma Chi's (8-1) took out Kappa Sigma (7-2), Outlaws (2-7), and Dodge This (1-8) to earn 1,600 points at the first night. Teams play a three-game series each night against three different opponents.

Even with Kappa Sigma's loss to Sigma Chi, the Siggs set a dodgeball record by defeating Dodge This in 21 seconds, racking up 475 points in that match and accumulating 1,995 overall points.

But, almost as controversial as FSU playing Oklahoma in the 2001 Orange Bowl due to their BCS ranking over Miami, Sigma Chi is still in first place with fewer overall points but a better record and poll ranking.

The Dodgeball Championship Series takes into account a computer formula, a poll voted on by intramural supervisors, and strength of schedule. The DCS and its celebrity analysis is released every Thursday morning on the intramural sports Web site, www.imsports.ucf.edu

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Baseball season through, Bear not

ASHELY BURNS CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ryan Bear was undoubtedly the MVP for UCF baseball this season, despite the team's forgettable record.

The right fielder, already named to this year's Sun Conference First Team, recently was named to the Wisconion Academc All-America Team. Bear is one of only 11 players in the nation to receive this honor.

Bear started every game this season for the Knights while increasing his batting average to a full 100 points from the previous year.

Bear received the honor not only for his team leading 200 batting average, but also for his 3.72 GPA. The management graduate became the second student athlete to receive the First Team honor joining Chad Rzepczynski, who earned his bid in 2001. Matt Leinweber was named to the Second Team in 2002.

Track and field season at regional, despite loss

Not on the heels of their fourth consecutive Atlantic Sun Conference championship, the women's track and field team was ready to attack at this year's Atlantic Sun regional this past Saturday.

Senior Kelly Rohlf, sophomore Ann LeBlanc, and freshman standout Andrea Morrow represented the Knights at the inaug­ural even. Bear was not able to compete in the high jump, but neither was able to qualify, finishing 19th and 123rd, respectively.

Morrow, UCF's star steeplecharger runner, earned a time of 11.96 at ten seconds off her school best. 10:50.92. Morrow finis­hed 22nd of 30 in the event, failing to qualify as well.

Despite the loss at East Regional, Morrow achieved great success in her first season in the steeplechase event. Morrow origi­nally a cross country runner was selected by Head Coach Maria Marsu-Wikstrom to compete in the steeplechase.

Prior to the Regional, Morrow set the 5,000 championship record with her 15:08.52 time, as well as breaking her own UCF record. She also fin­ished fourth place at the Florida Releys back in March, only the second time that she competed in the steeplechase.

The Knights also ran into trouble at the Georgia Tech Invitational earlier in May as Larsen was the only UCF compet­itor to crack the top 10 in her event.
Junior colleges prove helpful for recruitment

FROM PAGE 12

The Jews at the East Regional ends yet another spec-
tacular season for the women’s track and field team.

Winning ways help UE recruitment

While the football team has already taken huge steps acquir-
ing such a talent as quarterback Steven Meffett and tailback Ron
Williams, UE’s other programs are doing the same.

Men’s cross country looks to improve from this year’s fifth-
place finish at the Atlantic Sun Championship with the addition of two strong middle-distance runners.

UE has received national letters of intent from twin broth-
ers Ryan and Brette White. Ryan finished second in the 1,500
meters and third in the 800 at this year’s regional championships, while Brette finished fourth in the 1,500 and sixth in the 3,000.

Men’s basketball Head Coach Kirk Speraw has been
looking at the junior college arena to fill his team’s holes for
next season and it apparently has paid off.

With the departure of guards Ray Abbazar and Marcus
Boyd, Speraw recently signed the players that he wanted. Gary
Johnson and Kingsley Edwards will be two new faces for the
Knights in the fall that will have an immediate impact.

Johnson led his team at Schoolcraft Community College to a 20-2 record for the 2002-03 season, averaging 5.4 points and
6.5 assists per game. In his career as an Ocelot, Johnson won
the MCCAA titles with a 62-2 record.

Edwards averaged 10.1 points per game at Monroe
Community College in New York. He helped his school finish fifth
overall in the National Junior College Athletic Association tour-
ament.

Johnson and Edwards will be joined on the court by UE’s
other signees, forwards Marcus Ayan and Joshua Poppens.

The women’s basketball program has given a different
route in recruiting, looking to build on the already successful
coaching staff. The Knights recently hired Jennifer Schneider
as assistant coach and recruiting coordinator.

As an assistant coach at Stetson, Schneider helped lead
the Hatters to a school-best 22
wins in 2004. Schneider also
worked with recruiting at the
University of South Florida,
where she helped the recent
Bulls recruiting class receive
national recognition.

The Knights won the 2002-
03 regular season Atlantic title.

Major-league dreams for UE players

Looking to join the likes of
last year’s Justin Pope and Jason
Arnold, three UCF graduates are
anticipating their selection in
Tuesday’s Major League
Baseball draft.

Pitchers Mark Michael and
Van David Shortsz have both
been the No. 1 pick in Florida.

Despite inconsistent run
support, Michael had a relatively
successful season. As one half
of the Saturday doubleheader
tandem, the right-hander led the
Knights’ pitching staff with a 3.13
ERA in 2003. With a 1-0 record in 2003, Michael brought his career
record to 14-10. The workhorse, who was chosen as the No. 66
player in Florida, also threw three complete games in his past season.

Shortsz will enter the
draft after one year in Florida. Despite splitting time between the
bullpen and the starting role, Shortsz averaged
2.29 against seven innings pitched per start. Shortsz’s off-
performance in 2003 is unchar-
acteristic of his abilities, as recog-
nized by Baseball America. He
finished his career ranked fourth
all-time at UE in strikeouts with 121.

Bear’s hot streak of awards could get even better as Baseball
America ranked him 95th in the
state. Bear was the Knights’ most
reliable pitcher during the season, evidenced by his 3.62
ERA. Bear’s 1-0 record in the
necklace of his teammates, be-
ing the 1985 second round selec-
tion. Bear turned in a respectable .931 fielding percentage to prove
that he was no slouch with the leather as well.

Should these three be drafted,
they would join the 16 active
former Knights in Major League
Baseball, including Arnold with
the Toronto Blue Jays, Pope with
the St. Louis Cardinals, and Mike
Murphy with the Detroit Tigers.

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

Pitcher Matt Ed-
wards

Speraw has
finished his
UE career
with a 12-2
record and
will enter
Tuesday’s
draft as the
63rd best
player in
Florida.

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One student's journey to find a dependable used car

Trinia Priore
Contributing Writer

Junior Laura Thomson does not care by selling it herself, she is looking for a new car. Thomson learns how much a car costs of the repairs she needs to make. While Thomson may receive the highest possible price for her used car by selling it herself, she is also accountable for the expenses and responsibilities in preparation for the car sale.

One student's journey to find a dependable used car

Web site offers summer travel tips

CollegeSAFE.com provides resource for travel safety

Kathrina Hammer
Staff Writer

Summertime is finally here and thousands of college students are looking forward to a well-deserved vacation. Many students decide to travel and depending on their destination, certain safety issues must be considered, especially when vacationing abroad.

After the attacks of Sept. 11 and the continuing hostilities in the Middle East, American students must be especially careful. To make planning and vacationing a rewarding and safe experience, CollegeSAFE.com provides students with an excellent resource for general travel safety tips.

The Web site offers visitors a link to its "Student Travel Safety Guide," which lists information about safe driving trips, safe beach trips and other generalized travel precautions.

Main Street Safety, the parent company of CollegeSAFE.com, is located in Orlando and can provide students with safety tips or resources, self-defense training and safety products. Tamara Bahieh, a representative for Main Street Safety, recommends four priorities to consider before and during a trip away from home.

First, students should alert friends and family about where they are going and where they are staying. Travelers should also check-in with friends and family periodically.

Second, always research the destination so as to avoid certain neighborhoods and areas if necessary. Third, stay close to a trusted friend, especially at night. Lastly, and most importantly, be alert at all times.

The vacation destination must also be considered when planning for a safe trip. The U.S. Department of State has issued a Worldwide Caution that asks Americans to be careful while overseas. The public announcement is being issued to remind U.S. citizens of the continuing threat of terrorist actions, particularly from demolitions remaining from the events in Iraq.


The State Department also maintains a Web database that can provide a buyer and has the cash in hand, the final step is to transfer the vehicle's title and registration to the new owner and cancel the insurance on her old vehicle.

Thomson is still liable for any accidents or tickets that her old automobile is involved in while her name is on the vehicle's registration. While Thomson is willing to put in the extra work and time involved in selling her own car, trusting in an old car is a more convenient and attractive option for most college students.

"First time buyers may want to trade in their vehicles rather than sell them on their own," Ford Car

PLEASE SEE Research on 16

Check out these important links for information on safe travel:

www.collegesafe.com/travel provides a travel guide with information on safety during a variety of trips and how to prepare for and have a safe vacation.

tareasafe.state.gov/travel_warnings.html to find information about any country in the world and to also read travel warnings and public announcements that pertain to the country.

tareasafe.state.gov/studenttravels.htm provides information about student travel and a variety of links to other resources.

www.journeywomen.com/top/default.html informs women what to wear in different countries to avoid harassment, stains and molestations.

Ride away in new wheels

One student's journey to find a dependable used car

Web site offers summer travel tips

CollegeSAFE.com provides resource for travel safety

Kathrina Hammer

Summertime is finally here and thousands of college students are looking forward to a well-deserved vacation. Many students decide to travel and depending on their destination, certain safety issues must be considered, especially when vacationing abroad. After the attacks of Sept. 11 and the continuing hostilities in the Middle East, American students must be especially careful. To make planning and vacationing a rewarding and safe experience, CollegeSAFE.com provides students with an excellent resource for general travel safety tips. The Web site offers visitors a link to its "Student Travel Safety Guide," which lists information about safe driving trips, safe beach trips and other generalized travel precautions. Main Street Safety, the parent company of CollegeSAFE.com, is located in Orlando and can provide students with safety tips or resources, self-defense training and safety products. Tamara Bahieh, a representative for Main Street Safety, recommends four priorities to consider before and during a trip away from home. First, students should alert friends and family about where they are going and where they are staying. Travelers should also check-in with friends and family periodically.
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Research reliability and pricing online and in magazines before buying or selling

FROM PAGE 14

Sallomon James Faircloth said, "Sometimes more money can come out of it, but either way it's more comfortable than selling to strangers.

Students are not forced to repair, replace, or arrange for delivery if they trade in old vehicles. Ultimately, the trade-in value is deducted from the price of the new car the student plans to purchase.

Now all of Thomson's research revolves around which type of vehicle the student wishes to buy and where the student intends to buy it.

Ron Johnson, director of sales for Holter Honda Orlando, said that while cars can be cheaper at roadshows, the safety hazards outweigh the cost difference. "Cars at the dealership are required to go through safety inspections," he said.

Students researching used cars can check annual auto guides and ratings in Consumer Reports magazines, as well as looking at the Kelley Blue Book homepage to determine pricing, before visiting each dealership.

"[A] benefit of getting a used car through a dealership is all cars come with a warranty of some kind," Johnson said. "Certified cars generally provide longer warranties than if you were to purchase them elsewhere."

JΒ AutoTrader.com agreed that buying a certified pre-owned vehicle allows extended warranties and gives the buyer a peace of mind, for the fraction of the price of a brand new one.

Thomson compares the prices and warranty values for a used Honda Civic at several local dealerships.

Prices can change drastically from dealership to dealership, so research and bilateral visits are necessary for a safe and honest car-buying experience.

Both leasing and financing require a student to make monthly payments, but the two are very different. Leasing is like renting—a car payment is made, but when the lease is up, the car is taken back to the dealership. If something on the car is damaged, there are penalties.

Financing is almost the same as borrowing a loan to pay for a car over time. But by the time the car is paid off, the interest has driven the cost even higher than if the car was purchased in full.

"College students are better off purchasing or financing a car then leasing," Johnson said. "It may seem like you are paying more money, but you will eventually have an end to the cycle. When you lease, the payment cycle is never-ending."

More and more auto manufacturers are offering college students like Thomson discount incentives and rebate programs to ease the overwhelming expense of purchasing a car for the first time.

Toyota offers a College Graduate Rebate Program with $400 cash back, no money down financing, a 90-day deferred payment when financing a waived security deposit and free one-year roadside assistance.

Honda and Acura created a program that offers affordable credit terms on all new and manufacturer-certified used vehicles. Ford gives a $400 cash bonus to students toward new cars or sports utility vehicles and a 120-day deferred payment.

With many different warranty and financing options to choose from, Thomson will spend a few days making a tough decision that should bring her years of worry-free driving.

"This experience has been such a long, drawnout process. There's so much time, effort and research that goes into looking for a car," Thomson said.
A last resort.

A. You may be one of over 6 million new cases of plantar fasciitis (heel spur syndrome), the most common cause of heel pain. The plantar fascia is a thick sheen material on the bottom of the foot that is attached to the heel bone and runs forward toward the toes. It maintains the arch of the foot.

The most common cause of this syndrome is repetitive activity involving the foot that occurs with weight-bearing sports like running, jogging, and walking. Obesity and foot deformities such as flat feet (pes planus) and abnormally high arc feet (pes cavus) have been causally postulated as precipitating factors for this disorder. Also, improper footwear supporting the plantar arch and the types of surfaces joggers run on may be contributing factors.

If the foot hurts, the best treatment is to rest the foot. If exercise is to be maintained, it should be non-weight bearing exercise such as swimming and cycling.

In addition, rest and application of ice or ice massage will reduce pain secondary to inflammation. Anti-inflammatory agents like ibuprofen (Advil) or Aspirin in the appropriate dosage and frequency are helpful. It is important to evaluate your footwear. It may be necessary to insert heel pads or other arch support to cushion the foot from repetitive activity. Orthotics are individually fitted and designed appliances that are inserted into footwear to support the plantar arch and foot. There are specific exercises that stretch the plantar fascia and eventually strengthen the muscles of the foot to better support the foot.

Usually conservative treatment will resolve plantar fasciitis with surgery to release the fascia being considered a last resort. The health providers at the Student Health Center are available to answer any questions regarding this disorder as well as any other health related concerns you may have.

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

Avoid traveling to the Middle East, Colombia or China this summer

be necessary to find out information on any country in the world. Visit
http://travel.state.gov/travel.wa or you will not be able to read about a country’s government, language, crime information and medical facilities. In addition, visitors will be able to read about current travel warnings or travel advisories if the country has received.

Students should avoid traveling to the Middle East in particular. Countries such as Iraq, Iran, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Turkey have unstable conditions that could be dangerous to American citizens.

Rabish said that students should also avoid countries that have been affected by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, especially China. Countries such as Canada, Hong Kong and Singapore have also been affected.

While the tropical climate and beaches are inviting, the Central and South America may also prove poor choices for student vacations. Several countries in both regions have been issued travel warnings from the State Department.

Columbia, which was issued a travel warning on Feb. 24, 2000, continues to be affected by criminal and terrorist violence in all parts of the country. The Department of State has listed that there is a greater risk of being kidnapped in Colombia than in any other country in the world.

Venezuela was also issued a travel warning on Feb. 19, 2002.

Rabish said domestic travel destinations are the safest right now. "With the increase in public awareness and with the Department of Homeland Security working overtime on safety issues, domestic travel is as safe as it has ever been," she said. The best bets are theme parks since all have increased their security measures. The U.S. has some excellent spots for students to vacation in, as well as some that should be avoided.

According to Morgan Quinto, a research firm that studies crime statistics, San Jose, Calif. is the safest city listed of those with a population of 500,000 or more. San Diego also ranked in the top ten. Three cities in Texas were listed, including San Antonio.

The most dangerous cities with populations of 500,000 or more included Philadelphia, Nashville and Washington, D.C. Morgan Quinto rates the cities based on crime statistics from six specific crimes: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and motor vehicle theft.

To avoid these crimes, wherever the destination, CollegeSafe.com recommends securing all valuables that are going to be left at home. Also, leave a lamp or radio on to make the home appear occupied. Have a friend pick up mail, or have the post office stop delivery.

If traveling to a foreign country, make copies of all important personal documentation and leave them in an envelope with a family member or trusted friend. Include passport, credit card and traveler's checks information in case they are lost or stolen.
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