U. presidents’ raises no longer on taxpayers’ dime

Florida Legislature limits presidential salaries to $225,000

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UCF likely to implement admissions writing test

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UCF likely to implement admissions writing test

The University of Florida recently announced that students applying to the school in 2006 will need to take an essay test for admission. UCF officials are likely to follow UF’s lead and adopt a similar writing requirement, according to the Orlando Sentinel.

An essay is already planned for the SAT and ACT tests, which will be added in 2005. The UF College Board said the SAT and ACT essay sections will suffice for applicants.

This marks a dramatic shift for both tests, which will now divide their content into three sections, rather than two. The maximum score on each section will remain 800, meaning the new perfect SAT score will be 2400.

Currently, UF looks at test scores, GPA, extracurricular activities and family background to decide admissions. In 2002 the average UF applicant had a GPA in the range of 3.3-4.2 and an SAT score of 1190-1360.

UF expects the new requirement to more accurately indicate the academic skills of incoming students. UF officials expect the same gain from such a test, which they say will help to maintain UF’s high admission standards.

Alicia LaBrake, a senior at Winter Springs High School, plans to attend UCF after completing her first two years at Valencia Community College. She says the addition of a new test is just another obstacle for students hoping to go to college.

"I know that competition is high, but I wouldn’t like it because you could have a decent GPA but just not be as good a writer as someone else and not get into the school you want," said LaBrake, 17. "I definitely want to go to UF, but I’m just an all-right writer. I’m not ready to take a writing test, and high school hasn’t really prepared me for that kind of test."

In recent years UCF English professors have complained that students are entering college unprepared and untrained for college writing courses. Patrick Murphy, chairman of the English Department, said that 20 years ago there were no remedial writing courses for first year college students, but those

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New admissions test criticized for potential racial bias

FROM PAGE 1

courses disappeared with budget cuts in the early 1990s. Without such remedial courses, Murphy says many students are being forced to take their general education writing courses at community colleges. He said a new writing assessment test would be a valuable tool when choosing which a university admits.

We hope to understand bet­er the needs of incoming students, assessing writing would be crucial for such understanding," he said. It is important to use criteria that will help the university estimate an applicant's likelihood for success at the time he or she is applying. Many students enter the university with... insufficient knowledge... of grammar, formal sentence struc­ture, and paragraph organization. Those are the skills that enable people to communicate ideas across... regional, cultural, generational and... disciplinary differences.

LaFrance said preparing students for college-level English and writing... should start in high school; without it, students are ready for college.

"I know a lot of my teachers give me back my papers and they don't even criti­cize the work, especially the writing," she said. "If they want to push writing skills, they should push it more in the... the high classroom." As UCF's popularity has increased, it has lightened its admissions stan­dards, creating a paradox for some high school graduates. While each successive generation falls further behind, college... admissions standards move further away... from students' academic skills.

Critics of the SAT test say that like the SATs, this form of testing can be racially and economically biased.

"English professor" Dan Jones objects to such claims, though. All kinds of tests have a potential for bias, he said, but the test should be as minimal such bias as much as possible. In the case of a written exam, it should focus on the fundamentals of good writing, he said.

"I'm happy to see this additional emphasis on writing skills. Writing skills are typically under-emphasized and undervalued. In general, students are... coming in to college with weak writing skills," Jones said.

A new writing test at UCF would... first be added to a... trial board, and not be required for admission, said Tom Huddleston, vice president of Student Development and Enrollment Services.

While professors who have been waiting for this type of test continue to add their support, UCF has yet to for­mally adopt a writing test.

The test could help some students and hurt others in gain­ing admission to a particular school," Murphy said. "Writing skills are crucial for success not only at the university but... in most professions, and that's why many... applications for professional positions... require some type of writing sample... over-ready or built into the application process."
As tuition rises, financial aid may plummet

State grants may keep pace, but not federal aid

Ben Baird
Star Writer

UCF Board of Trustees recently voted to increase grants for all students, by up to 15 percent for out-of-state and graduate students. Though federal students with Florida-based scholarships and loans may go unamended by the recent tuition hike, many recipients of federal grants will soon see a decreased payout, making the gap between their income and tuition even wider.

The approximately 38,000 students at UCF about $20,000 receive some form of financial aid. According to Minnick this number is likely to increase in the fall as many students who have never taken out a loan in the past may be forced to do so.

"I would advise students to apply early and then follow up to ensure that everything required is submitted on a timely basis," said Minnick. "[Students] should raise their financial aid package to determine if they need to apply for other loans and scholarships."

In addition to the rising tuition, awards given by the federal government will diminish starting in 2004, because of a new measure passed last month through the U.S. Department of Education.

These federal awards will force Florida families that have an annual income of $50,000 to shoulder an additional $500 of the cost of college. Those with an income of $80,000 will have to pay an additional $1,500. Some students who currently receive federal awards will not receive any next year. The changes in the federal program will, however, offer some consolation for extremely low-income students. The changes will increase total Pell Grant awards by several hundred million dollars.

For students with less well-endowed sources of funding, less money to pay for more pricey credit hours will likely end up taking them.

UCF professors bag over $1 million in research awards

Extra cash meant to keep good teachers from fleeing the university

Mike Riegel
Star Writer

For the first time in the history of UCF, the faculty members have been recognized by the Board of Trustees and the Trustee Chair awards. Professors Glenn Boreman, Henry Daniell, Peter Delfyett, Eduardo Salas and Kay Shunney were nominated by a committee of Fupasian Professors and affirmed by Provost Gary Whitehouse and President John Hitt. Each recipient was chosen based on their outstanding research, teaching and scholarly status in their field.

Each professor receives an annual award of $50,000, which can be renewed each year for a period of five years. The cost of these Trustee Chair appointments, which equal $212,500, will be paid for with state funds. The professors can tap as much as half of the endowment as supplemental income.

Boreman, a 24-year veteran of UCF, is a professor in the School of Optics/CREOL. He's in charge of the Infrared Systems Laboratory, which specializes in the production and testing of infrared detectors. Earlier this year, Boreman was honored with the Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award for his efforts with CREOL.

Delfyett, like his colleague Boreman, is also a professor in the School of Optics/CREOL. The thrust of his research is in the field of high-speed fiber optic systems. His success in developing new technology during his decade at UCF is evidenced by the 12 U.S. patents he holds for UCF. According to Delfyett, the grant will allow for further exploration of new technology in the field of telecommunications.

Daniells award follows worldwide media exposure for his work in molecular biology. The Board honored Delfyett for creating low-cost vaccines for anthrax and the plague. This and other biotechnology research drew the notice of national and international media — Delfyett's work has been profiled on CNN, the British Broadcasting Corporation and the New York Times.

He said he's looking forward to using the money to supplement the work being done by UCF's biotech company which he founded. His current project, which seeks to make vaccines and therapeutic proteins available at dramatically reduced prices, has attracted multimillion-dollar investments from prestigious biotechnology investors and pharmaceutical companies this year, he said.

Salas, unlike his fellow appointees, is not bonded with technological or biological areas of study. As a psychology professor, Salas focuses on the field's human condition. His work in the Institute for Simulation and Training has made UCF one of the premier sources of information for teamwork, research and development.

Minnick, UCF's Distinguished Researcher of 2002, Salas said his nights are now set on making UCF the recognized leader in the study and development of teamwork.

"She was the only woman to receive a Trustee Chair award, a professor of industrial engineering and management systems. Her research with human-centered computing has also earned her her this year's award for the College of Engineering and Computer Science's Distinguished Research Lecturer.

Her current work could ultimately lead to the end of computer mice and keyboards; she's developing a method of interfacing with computers using the brain directly, translating thoughts into digital signals. UCF hopes these Trustee Chair awards will help lure prominent professors and researchers, while bolstering the need for more endowed and valuable staff currently working for the university.

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UCF's retention up since Whitehouse started

FROM PAGE 1

"I have a lot of respect for the openness he has brought into a very potentially closed place," said Huddleston, vice president of Development and Enrollment Services. "I believe he cares about everyone he meets.

Through programs Whitehouse helped start, student retention has jumped from 69 percent to an estimated 81 percent this fall, meaning more students are graduating from UCF, rather than transferring or dropping out.

Inspired by the experience of his daughter at North Carolina State and the suggestions of faculty, Whitehouse started the LEAD scholars program at UCF. The program helps freshmen and sophomores enhance their leadership skills and transition from high school to college.

"He's always been there," said Bill Faulkner, director of Student Leadership Programs. "Ordinarily we're going to miss him in this role. I'm sorry to see him go.

Whitehouse, a chemist also earned more and more responsibility. President John Hitt's job required him to become more involved with campus, leading to a shift in control and support to operations.

The provost's role at universities throughout the nation has changed much in the same fashion as at UCF. With increasing demands for presidents to helm fundamentally different institutions, makers in state capitals and in Washington, D.C., the provost's post has become a more powerful and influential.

During Whitehouse's tenure in that role, enrollment has surged from 25,531 students to about 40,000 today. Ed Neighbor, the vice provost for student administration, said the work that Whitehouse and Hitt have done as a team to keep that growth manageable stands as a lasting achievement, over which other state schools have been less successful.

"Most people in the state recognize UCF has been very successful over the last 10 years, which really makes those jobs of ours extremely fascinating — to see the direct result of all the decisions we're making," Neighbor said.

Whitehouse had a personal commitment to success, having shepherded his two children through college and seen his wife get a PhD. He also showed a concern for faculty that's resulted in a flurry of programs that have endeared him to his peers.

The provost helped spawn the Research Incentive Awards program, and continued the Teaching Incentive Program despite its demise at the state level. Both programs have given new accolades and recognition to UCF's best teachers through awards for performances. The provost has also helped grow the school's research budget to $75 million annually.

"Those are excellent programs," said Kathy Seidel, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "Since the state does not routinely give the kind of salary increases that are required to compete for the faculty, having the TIP and the RIA has been a wonderful way to give teachers rewards.

"Faculty have responded," said Seidel, who has worked with Whitehouse for 17 years, adding: "Without any question, he's the best boss I've ever had.

The average salary of UCF faculty members from Whitehouse to Cunningham, the chairman of the Chemistry Department, now: "If you look at the average salaries of our faculty, we're after one or two in the state," he said.

Whitehouse also helped develop the Provost's Research Enhancement Postions, a program to hire senior research faculty members, further bolstering UCF's push into scientific research.

"There were a lot of efforts of his. There was an increased responsiveness to faculty needs — he wanted to know what the problems were and how to fix them," said Mike Cosk, a sociology professor.

To advance the expertise of UCF's instructors, the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning also was created with help from Whitehouse. The program provided teachers the opportunity to learn more about their profession, through weekly workshops and seminars. Cosk, an administrator at the center, said Whitehouse was instrumental in improving faculty relations through such programs.

"I don't think the relationship between the faculty and him could be better," Cunningham said, "he always knew we were talking with a friend. He always listened.

The drive to improve the faculty experience at UCF owes some of its strength to Whitehouse's origin as a member of the faculty himself. Whitehouse came to the university in 1975 as a professor and chair of the Department of Industrial Engineering.

He left behind a tenured position at Lehigh University, a private university in Pennsylvania, for then-named Florida Technological University, at the original two-division version of University Boulevard.

His colleagues called him a risk-taker for going.

"There was nothing around campus," Whitehouse said. "There were walls, there was a train track, there were no restaurants, no houses it was in the middle of nowhere."

Despite the modest 11,000-student campus size, Whitehouse found himself as far more dynamic than Lehigh, where "things don't change," he said. UCF was a whitewash, and being a part of the faculty was exciting, he said.

"The first year I was down here, they changed the name of the university, they started fielding, they went from the quarter-system to the semester system, and they combined the Arts and Sciences College and three other colleges," Whitehouse recalled.

In the early 1980s, Whitehouse started making some changes of his own, pushing for increased use of computers at the school, as microcomputers, the equivalent of modern desktop computers, were becoming popular. In 1983 he returned to the faculty continuing his work in industrial engineering.

In 1987 Whitehouse took the post of acting dean of the College of Industrial Engineering. He said he had reservations about volunteering for the spot, but after the school failed to find an adequate candidate, he decided to take it, both to help out and help promote more programs ideas.

Whitehouse impressed the administration with his skill at dealing with the college's faculty, and making compromise. After a year, the school offered Whitehouse the permanent post, which he accepted.

From the perspective of a teacher in the college, Whitehouse started accumulating the ideas that he had developed over his years of experience at UCF, which made him an administrator, who has worked with the college's faculty, and making compromise. After a year, the school offered Whitehouse the permanent post, which he accepted.

Whitehouse took full command of the school's new president, a role that gave him more control over the future of faculty relations than ever before. Soon after Whitehouse recommended with Hitt's presidency, Hitt returned the favor, appointing Whitehouse as his second in command in 1980. Hitt declined to comment for this story.

"I think I was pretty well respected on campus," Whitehouse said. Broad experience in faculty relations — being a department chairman to working in the Faculty Senate — plus an interest in subjects ranging from history to technology helped bolster his resume, he said.

Despite having different personal qualities, Whitehouse and Hitt complemented each other. "HII definitely was much more involved in the academic side at the beginning," Whitehouse said. As time went on and he built up respect for me, or trust, he started adding things to the job.

Hitt ultimately added student affairs to the provost's domain, a move Whitehouse emphasized the importance of the provost's office. He estimated that he has cut direct reports to Hitt in half.

A lot of people were concerned about that, because everybody feels that they want to report as high as possible," Whitehouse said. "I'm the one who's in the library who doesn't report to the president. I'm a little embarrassed.

And I said: A year from now, it's all down and talk about it, and if you don't feel you're better off having someone pay attention to you, just change it. And she said down with me, said, 'you know, you're right.'

When Whitehouse announced last fall that he would retire from the administration, a search was begun that ended in May with the selection of Terry B. Huddleston, 53, provost of the University of Akron in Ohio, who formally took over on Tuesday.

Whitehouse quietly slipped out the door of his third-floor office in Milliken Hall June 25, leaving his life as an administrator behind. He has moved up, as he describes it, to teaching. Following the passion for industrial engineering that brought him to UCF, Whitehouse will resume a professorship he has missed for 17 years.

Whitehouse said he's confident in Hitt's abilities, who will overcome the challenges of taking on an entirely new staff. "I had the advantage when I came here, Whitehouse said, "I knew everybody. Hitt doesn't know anything about anybody, so he's got a lot of learning to do."

Following a semester-long break, Whitehouse will return to the faculty next spring. He said he wanted to leave UCF the way he started.

"Doctor Whitehouse is no obviously eager to go back to teaching," said Chris Morgen, W in the College of Arts and Sciences and a former student. "He's really enjoyed working with the students, with people which has made it easier to let him go."

"Morgan said, adding, "He's been an honor and a privilege to work, with someone who I've both liked and respected.

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Hitt’s pay to stay at $295,000 for now, despite recent cap

From Page 1

...would apply to the current presidents once they sign new contracts or extend their current contracts.

The $225,000 freeze would not prevent presidents from making more than $225,000, it only limits the amount of state tax money that can be applied toward a president’s salary.

Universities can continue to use privately raised funds to pay their presidents as much as they wish.

The law, which was tucked on to the same legislation that raised tuition at a minimum of 8.5 percent last month for Florida’s college students, was modeled after Texas legislation that already imposes a cap on presidential salaries.

Sen. Stephen Wise, the former chairman of the House Education Appropriations Committee who proposed the bill, said the decision is appropriate at a time when the economy is weak and universities have already seen severe budget cuts.

“The main, positive effect will be for the university boards to take into consideration the needs of students as a priority and the reason for a university,” Wise said. “A university is not a giant employer program; a university is established to train our students for employment.”

The cap comes after Texas legislation that already imposes a cap on presidential salaries. and a large tuition increase for their salaries. and a large tuition increase for the students which had a positive effect counter-productive.

“The Board of Regents had not been fair on the percentage of [salary] increase to Dr. Hitt, based on his performance,” said UCF trustee Geraldine Ferris. “It’s not fair to take something out of context and give you only a small order of magnitude in this legislation agenda.”

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Opinions

Wednesday July 2, 2003

OUR STANCE:

Writing requirement is a needed step

The University of Florida announced two weeks ago that students seeking admission beginning fall of 2006 will have to take a mandatory writing test before they get in. The new requirement stacks atop SAT, GPA and other factors currently considered at UF.

UCF officials say they'll likely follow suit. The change should be welcomed by English teachers, long inundated by backofthehand papers, but the test should also benefit every faculty member who requires writing of his or her own students. UCF would be right in implementing such an admissions policy change.

Unfortunately the likelihood that this test will reflect that students in Florida are well prepared for college is low. Such a test would be necessary, unless there was a suspicion at universities that writing standards for high school graduates are not adequate. While tests for students graduating in 2006 is that their junior and senior years at high school will be tougher than it was for their older all­

But only in the broader context that any test designed

ity in the ability to communicate ideas—is the only type of test that intends to measure if a student can write that student likely can't speak clearly or process information adequately. Claims that the test will unfairly discriminate among minorities and the impoverished have merit, but only in the broader context that any test designed to find an average person will be designed for the average American student—a white member of the middle class.

The only way to effectively combat such inherent

bias in any materially­designed test, such as the SAT and ACT, is to produce tests for separate seg­ments of the population. A test could be created for rich kids, who should reasonably be expected to have better educations, and a test designed for poor kids, who would likely have lower­quality educations.

Using the same analytics tests could be produced for different cultures, religions and races. Of course, such an exercise would be far more expensive than designing a national test by which all American students are judged.

If such a test were left to the county level,

though, the precision of the test at measuring the average student would likely improve, as the students in one county would likely have more in com­mon than students from Florida who would have with those in another state. Regardless of the level at which such a test would be administered, there is a clear need for edu­

cators to begin to fall to begin quickly evaluating American students' writing skills to determine whether or not they are in the past.

For too long, the educational system in Florida and in the United States as a whole has been in decline—the victim of misguided use of taxpayer money. While funds that should be going to schools are diverted to special projects, the selections of teach­ers have diminished, while class sizes have increased and educational standards have plummeted.

If this trend continues, students will likely know less and less, while classes get larger and teachers get paid less money.

Ultimately, the generations of young Americans being underserved by the public education system will grow up and filter into the workforce. If they lack the skills their parents have, this will only lead to a workforce unqualified to compete with that of the rest of the world, and American prosperity will be jeopardized.

Equally troubling is the prospect of students

usually enough to attend private schools putting away the test in the job market. If America's taxes can't build an educational system to rival that of pri­

vate schools, the average American child will be at an even greater disadvantage widening an already large divide between the rich and the middle class in America.

Along with initiatives like the class size amend­

ment and the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, this writing requirement will push schools and the lawmakers that ultimately decide funding for schools to reform our educational system.

By choosing the flaws in our students' education, we demonstrate the need for improvement.

Throughout comprehensive tests, we can uncover previ­ously unnoticed areas from public education.

Ultimately, these kinds of reforms can save our public schools.

OUR STANCE:

Provost Whitehouse bows to his heart

Long­time UCF provost Gray Whitehouse stepped down last week, after a dozen years on the job. That's an almost unprecedented term for a provost. He told that post for so long because he knew what was happening at UCF was important, and he owed it to the school to stay. He watched the student population nearly double during his term. UCF has gone from a mid­sized school to the big leagues, competing with the University of Florida and Florida State. He has helped the most essential of research facilities and built the campus' prestige both in Florida and nationally.

Since entering the administration 21 years ago, Whitehouse has maintained an interest in helping teachers, while giving students more tools to succeed in grad­uate school. He prepared a list of programs and policies long enough that it will likely never be repeated under the watch of any provost.

As any teacher at heart, he's never forgotten why he's here—he to help students learn. He said he wanted Whitehouse to know UCF the way he's going to get his wish. He's going back to teaching for a couple of years, he said. Then he'll weave a final bow.

Newly appointed Provost Terry Hickey has inherited a daunting legacy. As long as he keeps the teachers and students in mind, though, UCF's future will stay bright.

I disagree with what you say, but I defend to death your right to say it.

—Mark Twain

Gray Davis, you have been had­t­get­ ter for termination...

Flagrant flag­waving?

I congratulate rebuilding on a Greenville

 fierceness on those bright plans to put flags in all the buildings regarding the June 22 article, "Rock­on­university­plan­for­flags­in­classrooms," by Ben Baird.

I knew there was something missing from the classrooms, but I couldn't put my finger on what it was. I thought some of the rooms might be missing instructional equipment like projectors and computers, and maybe even enough teachers to deal with UCF's expanding student population. But then I knew, thanks to Robbins, that the rooms were missing flags.

Why hasn't there been an outcry about these missing flags? Surely the hundreds of thousands of people who have passed through UCF were not the past 40 years must have noticed the word "flag" in those classrooms.

Could it really be that none of them has noticed anything until now and we have gone about our business without flags? Why did we hire a drama and English group to put flags to this point in our students? To help Robbins get its flag proposal passed, I went to see some of the positive effects these flags will have on the atmosphere at UCF. Students will probably think twice before giving any questions about the U.S. government in the classroom. We don't need that kind of criticism talk like at UCF.

Foreign students will know what country they are in and will appropriately: they can and they should know what the government, too.

The flag might become a regular or part of each class, just like in grade school.

Flags will help us all learn more, but they're not enough to ensure that student protest against slavery or fighting against slavery we need to make it feel safe. We can't let UCF be a display of ques­tions and views expressed in an atmosphere of dia­logue, mutual understanding and respect, rather than fear, and I want foreign students to be welcome at UCF and invited to share their views.

Thus I strongly support UCP's goal to be more inclusive and diverse and to provide international focus in our curriculum and overall programs.

—BARRY MAUER

Letters to the Editor

Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the Florida Times­Union.
I hate it when my column is overruled by anti-American demogogues. Let me assure you that the opinions expressed in this col-
umn can be attributed directly to un-American trolls that live under bridges and eat children.

With my attempt at a clever disclaimer thankfully behind us, I’d like to say that American flags should not be mounted in all of UCF’s classrooms. Now that I’ve expressed my view, I’m prepared to be tarred and feathered. I know it’s not Friday yet, but I was hop-
ing to get a jump on this week-end’s chicken fetish parade in downtown Orlando.

Rebuilding On A Conservative cornerstone (ROCK), a conservative organization on campus, has pitched the idea to mount flags in each class-
room at UCF. Honestly, I don’t see anything wrong with ROCK’s patriotic suggestion — except for the $8,000 to $10,000 price tag. I’m asking student government for

I know you’re all asking, how could someone who loves America as much as I do possibly say such an offensive thing about the most enduring symbol our nation has to offer? It’s surprisingly easy — because, well, flags don’t help anyone learn.

I see the symbolism behind it — we live in America, and this university is proud to be a part of America. But do I need a flag in the classroom to remind me that UCF is a part of America? Not really.

I walk through any parking lot on campus and see millions of American flags covering our foreign cars. What I need is a flag in class that reminds me about the assignment due in a couple days.

And there’s at least one other serious consideration in this flag-discussion — UCF’s commu-
nity of international students. I’m sure most of them don’t have a problem with the American flag, considering that they left their native lands to study here. But why shouldn’t they be allowed to display their flag as well, if we’re hanging American flags in every classroom?

It seems fair, doesn’t it? I see the symbolism — it’s important to the UCF commu-
nity of any American student. Since students from UCF represent hundreds of countries around the world, I say we display all of those flags in every class-
room, such as Canada’s flag of a man playing hockey and eating maple syrup and Mexico’s flag of, uh, whatever’s in Mexico.

The newly decorated class-
rooms will make going to class so much more fun, except for color-
blind people — they haven’t caught a break since black and white TV.

The members of ROCK need to realize that with UCF facing severe budget cuts, this money could serve a greater purpose.

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Decisions, decisions, decisions

Now that Miami has announced it will accept the ACC's bid, what will UCF, USF, and Louisville do?

commentary

ashley burns  staff writer

University of Miami President Donna Shalala ended speculation this past Monday with an e-mail to ACC officials letting them know that the Hurricanes will, indeed, join the Atlantic Coast Conference.

According to reports, the Big East was frantically making offers in an effort to keep its top-drawer school from defecting, but it wasn't enough to hold onto the former national football champion.

Miami Athletic Director Paul Dee said the decision was based on "the future security of the athletes program." He continued: "This is a decision for a long period of time, not a short time. The most difficult is the withdrawal from an organization we belonged to since 1941. We enjoyed our time there. We enjoyed our success.

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That scenario is the conference could make in what becomes the NCAA's newest super conference. The Hurricanes, and Miami most likely will begin ACC play in the 2004-05 season. The two football powerhouse programs join Florida State, Maryland, Clemson, North Carolina, Duke, Georgia Tech, Boston College, Wake Forest and North Carolina State.

The defections call into question the character of these two new ACC powers. Did Virginia play the role of the hypocrite? The Hokies stood by the lawsuit filed by the ACC against Virginia Tech, but when the ACC finally had its way with Tech last received its own invitation to the ACC without hesitation.

Did Miami's greed destroy the conference that stood by the Hurricanes through the program's trouble and turmoil? Miami was notorious in the 1990s for all sorts of reprehensible activity, but the ACC continued to house them and helped them back to national dominance.

Whistleblower is said about what these two schools have done. It doesn't mean a thing to UTY long-time head coach and ACC enabler. Only can we call it a redhacks. Duly noted.

The Orlando Sentinel's Jerry Greene, however, had some positive words for the conference. "Why should we?" wrote Greene. Greene included some humorous redneck stereotypes, but closed with this advice. "Just thought that the next time the Orlando Magic come to town, bring them a little redneck souvenir..."

The Future. Smooth reported that the coach subsequently apologized for the remark, and the school rewarded him with a raise. Only we can call it a redhacks. Duly noted.

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Hookah water pipe called pleasing — or smoke screen

By Lisa Black

CHICAGO — Despite notorious links to the drug culture, the hookah is enjoying a whirl of mainstream popularity as college students flock to new cafes, where it’s become trendy to spend the evening puffing on the exotic water pipe.

Concerns about the danger of smoking have not dampened the appeal of restaurants like Ewanston’s Ill. Cafe Hookah, which offers flavors of fruity tobacco blends in a rekindling of a centuries-old Middle Eastern tradition.

“It’s neat because it’s ancient,” said Luke Griffiths, 20, a Northwestern University student from Atlanta, Ill. “You can sit here and imagine not being in yuppie Ewanston but in Turkey.”

Nationally, health officials are worried about the trend, saying the hookah hankies poppin’ up across the country are just another way to entice young people to smoke. And federal customs officials concede that water pipes are still used to smoke hashish and marijuana bluntly warn they view them with a wary eye.

Although not specifically targeted in U.S. drug laws, the hookah could be deemed illegal under federal drug paraphernalia prohibitions if used to smoke illicit substances, officials said. The smaller “water bongs,” a similar pipe also famed for drug use, are outlawed.

“From the tobacco-control perspective, this is just another clever, devious manipulation of people’s social desires,” said Peter Jacobson, associate professor at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. “To see this as anything other than a gateway back to cigarette smoking is very naive.”

The hookah’s growing popularity is difficult to measure, but at least 200 to 300 new hookah houses have opened throughout the United States in the last three to five years, according to industry estimates. Dozens are concentrated in California, which has strict laws against the practice.

The revival of the water pipe as a class pastime is new to the Midwest — at least among the youthful crowds visiting Cafe Hookah, which opened in October.

In countries such as Lebanon or China, hookah is a common sight.

Online auction sites can yield big bucks

By Brandon Hardin

Zachary Long knows that it doesn’t take a business major to see the value in online auction sites — just some basic computer skills and a little money sense.

“T’ve made about $5,000. That’s a conservative estimate,” said the 21-year-old senior and eBay entrepreneur.

Among online auction sites, eBay is the largest, selling 17 million items in more than 185 countries at any given moment. Last year alone, eBay users performed in excess of $41 billion in transactions.

Long, a hospitality major, has been an eBay user since December 1999.

With about 200 transactions, Long is a veteran of the eBay community. He relentlessly buys items he sees as being undervalued, and then tries to resell them for a profit.

“It’s an open market. You’re on an equal playing field with everyone else,” Long said of the opportunity on eBay.

Long typically lists and auctions off video games for the Nintendo and Super Nintendo systems because he finds their market value seldom changes.

This stability lets him calculate what makes a good buy and what will ensure a profit loss.

With thousands of online games up for auction, finding a good deal can be difficult.

Student entrepreneurs use eBay.com to make some extra money on the side

By Brandon Hardin

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Please See Hookah on 17

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With thousands of online games up for auction, finding a good deal can be difficult.

Please See eBay on 15
calamine lotion or over-the-counter hydrocortisone ointment over the bite.

For people who are allergic to insect or spiders, the bites can cause severe trauma or life-threatening events, such as difficulty breathing and intense swelling, and should be treated by a physician.

Spiders bites are seldom fatal except those of the black widow or brown recluse species, whose symptoms include swelling at the site of the bite, itching, burning, numbness or tingling.

If you find a tick embedded in your skin, remove it with tweezers or gloved finger and be careful not to crush it. Species of ticks can cause Rocky Mountain spotted fever or Lyme disease.

To prevent insect bites, DEET is the most effective insect repellant, as natural products tend to be less reliable.
Hard Rock Live summer concert series an MTV hit

Reggae rapper Sean Paul performed at Hard Rock June 18 for an MTV taping. These concerts will continue throughout the summer with a variety of acts and will be broadcast on MTV over the coming months.

I love Sean Paul.

Mackenzie O'Bannon Contributing Writer

Madonna's song lyrics: "Music, brings the people together..." can easily be applied to what's happening all summer long at Hard Rock Live, Orlando at Universal Studios CityWalk.

Attracting Orlando's diverse music crowd with $10 tickets and the chance to see on national television, Hard Rock Live continues to generate a full house in its joint efforts with MTV and AT&T to produce a taped summer concert series.

The concerts will air on MTV this month. Beginning with the June 17 show featuring punk rockers the Ataris and Good Charlotte.

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Hookah-use health effects unknown

The Los Angeles-based company got its start seven years ago on Venice Beach, where its founder displayed 10 water pipes on a blanket, general manager Ahmad Roushdy said. Today the company sells hookahs spontaneously to about 100 cafes and outlets, he said.

In Ann Arbor, Mich., the Rendezvous Cafe near the University of Michigan began offering the water pipe two months ago. Patrons may also access the Internet on-old computers.

"Usually it's not the (cigarette) smokers who like hookah," said Zachary Lane, 18, a Northwestern University student from Turkey, who has smoked hookahs several times. "I put it to it, like cigarettes."

The United States, young smokers don't always realize that hookahs have been associated with lung cancer since the 1960s and 1970s — a fact that escapes few among the middle-american set.

"I still get people who walk past me and say: 'What is that?' and 'What are you smoking?' Everybody said, 'The older generation, they have a big smile on their face,'" Lane said. "Health officials are skeptical about claims of reduced nicotine and tar with water pipes, although they admit that little research has been done on the effects of hookah smoking, especially in the United States, where they are just noticing the trend."

But they point to a small number of medical studies in the Middle East that have concluded smoking water pipes elevates carbon monoxide levels and increases the risks for runners and low birth weights. They say the nicotine inhaled is significant enough to cause addiction.

"It's not safe; the potential for addiction is very high and the health effects over the long term are not something to write off and say it's not a big deal," said Dr. Thomas Houston, a director with the American Medical Association in Chicago.

People who grow up in the Middle Eastern countries where hookah is part of the culture say they don't understand the big deal.

"It's a part of life," Lane said. "We spent our Thanksgiving here."

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