With aid from SGA, Nader joins long list of speakers for activist conference

Ben Baird / Staff Writer

Ralph Nader, the former and perhaps future presidential candidate, will speak at UCF during the first annual Florida College Activist Conference Aug. 4-6.

The Green Party's candidate for president in 2000 will take a cut in his fee to address the conference, charging a quarter of his usual rate.

"He's typically a $20,000 speaker and he's going to speak here for only $5,000, which is really generous," said UCF Progressive Council executive officer and SGA senator Josh Edmundson.

The cost of the conference is estimated at $54,080. The Progressive Council, however, raised most of that money itself, requiring only $7,285 from the Student Government Association. Those funds will specifically cover $5,300 in speaking fees and $565 for food.

The Progressive Council originally sought an additional $2,000 for various supplies to help stage the conference. But senators who opposed the bill during a debate last Thursday argued that the request was too much, especially when the event will take place between the end of summer classes and the start of fall classes, when fewer UCF students will be able to benefit from the expense. Allocations from the SGA Senate are drawn from the per-credit-hour activity fee paid by all students.

An estimated 200 students from across the state are expected to attend the conference, with lodging and most food donated by the members of the Progressive Council.

More than 40 speakers have been lined up, including students, lawyers, activists and politicians. In addition to Nader, those who will receive a fee for their appearances include Ben Mandel of the Green Party; Brian Koturning of Florida College, 30805; Joel James; Rhonda Cheatham and Kevin Aplin of the Florida Cannabis Action Network; civil rights lawyer Richard Wilson; and Andy Burnay of Campus Democracy.

The expense was challenged by SGA senator Patricia Xavier, who said the conference was too expensive and didn't have enough speakers to justify the cost. Xavier and others on the SGA Senate discussed the possibility of canceling the conference, but the motion was defeated.

The UCF Progressive Council team of, from left, UCF grad Ryan Tutka, UCF student Brad Falco and Ernie Falco signed a deal to promote basketball super star LeBron James on the Web.

UCF apparel vendor shut out, shuts down

The pair sold the shirts both online at www.knightmareapparel.com and, more prominently at a table in a Citrus Bowl parking lot during home football games. Soon they not only broke even, but also made a small profit, giving some of their money to a school.

"We were tired of what was out there, going to stores and not seeing anything," Bencomo said. "Even the stuff that was out was just bad quality. I wanted to be able to wear something to the two roadtrips we go on every season — I wanted to do something.

And do something they did. The Knightmare Apparel company began with a single shirt sporting the phrase "Knights For Life," which survived a popular NWD wrestling shirt. It was an idea Bencomo and Worsdell thought fans would like more than traditional T-shirt offerings, and they were right; the fans started snapping them up.

The two UCF alumni started Knightmare Apparel five years ago, with the goal of offering UCF fans more options in T-shirts.

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Opponents of affirmative action plan state initiatives

Sponsored by the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision disusing the use of affirmative action in university admissions, conservative activists plan to sponsor ballot initiatives in other states akin to California's 1996 measure banning racial and ethnic preferences.

Wend Connerly, a University of California regent, launched a statewide initiative campaign July 3, the Anti-affirmative Action Coalition, an anti-affirmative action group, and its political allies.

In California, Connerly is leading the campaign for a measure to end the collection of data related to race and ethnicity as part of an effort to create what he calls a "color-blind" society.

Affirmative action supporters denounced Connerly's various efforts. At the University of Michigan, students said they would call on unions and civil rights groups to boycott business or other organizations that support his initiatives.

The recording Industry Association of America, which represents the recording industry, is following a legal suit against Loyola University in Chicago to hand over the names, addresses, telephone numbers and other details of students and the university network in violation of copyright law. The association obtained the data through a subpoena, indicating that the group is fulfilling its pledge to clamp down on peer-to-peer music piracy by threatening to sue thousands of people.

An officer for the U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia delivered the subpoena to the university July 7, according to Jack Corliss, a technology administrator at Loyola. The document cites the Digital Millennium Copyright Act and directs Loyola administrators to provide the names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of people assigned to a specific Internet address.

Loyola officials say the university complied with the subpoena after notifying two students assigned to the Internet address last week that the recording industry...
Company hopes to hype LeBron James while promoting itself

From Page 1

Investors or venture capital. We always want to keep the roof on the building, hosted it for free with a buddy, built it ourselves and only paid for the materials.

Tornado Promotions, which is based in Orlando, now provides a link on the Web sites of clients with top listings on major search engines. Its clients design to help other get Web sites name recognition, build a name for itself.

"I’m marketing because it gives me the opportunity to see the power of a good site, and it gives me the opportunity to build an assortment of businesses," said Balle, 21. "Being your own boss is great. You have no limit on what is possible, you set your work schedule and control your own financial future.

Professor of marketing Ronald Michaels said that in order for young entrepreneurs to succeed, they need a sound plan and a strategy. He said it’s imperative that the company understands its customers’ needs and the Internet’s hard work, continued development and luck — the factors that determine which businesses thrive and which fail.

"You can’t expect to sell a good or a service and keep selling it for a very long period of time. You have to continuously do it," Michaels said. "Needs change and your product and service needs to change to meet the need and it’s a little bit of both, a little bit of heart, and quite a bit of business.

Since the Internet economy continues to hold down revenues for new dot-coms, the market has gone from cutthroat to Tornado Promotions.

"The past year or so has been really good," Tokia said. "We have stepped up our marketing efforts to improve search engine placement, as well as distributing promotional products for potential and current clients. Our business is like a snowball; once it starts rolling down the hill it keeps getting bigger and bigger and bigger.

"Since its inception the company has experienced and increased in growth and revenue every month of its existence. Our biggest hit of clients includes the John C. Collins & Gilbert, Recreational Equipment Warehouse, Legendary Sports Marketing Group, America Liberty Financial and John B. North, director of sales for SEB Software, who provides Web sites with domain registration, Web hosting and design services. Balle also designed and built the engine marketing — just acquired its biggest client to date, the Web site builder for the National Basketball Association’s No. 1 draft pick.

Maniscal Marketing is building the official Web site for James, and Tornado Promotions will promote the site.

"James, who has already handed endorsement deals worth over $100 million and has brought plenty of attention to Tornado’s business. James’ basketball skills have been compared to those of Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan, but the value of his name has made him and businesses attached to him big money.

The young star just signed a record-breaking deal with the Cleveland Cavaliers worth nearly $38 million over three years. James is also the new face of Upper Deck trading cards, and is expected to raise ticket sales for the Cavaliers.

Every time an Internet search is done for LeBron James, Tornado Promotions appears in insane official site the first site on the search result lines.

"We have been working on Tornado Promotions since its beginning and the fast-paced growth of the company will be even greater now that they have such a high-profile client. The young man has the opportunity to work in connection with a young superstar can serve the public, clients and stock price well.

"Our company has grown tremendously in the past six months and we are definitely on the right track," Balle said. "When we started working with Maniscal Marketing and LeBronJames.com, we knew this was a great opportunity to build a company to give our company the national sports marketing," said Tokia. "I heard about the project, I love LeBron James and thought it was a perfect opportunity to get involved in building a successful Internet company in providing clients with good customer service so they keep coming back and referring new business. We need to make the most of the marketing.

Michaels said the foundation provided the company with $10,000 in business classes at UCF to make the group a model for starting the company. The company has made its investments, and the group is looking to raise more money to start the company.

"I think marketing is very important because the Web has a great player with great skills, but he’s from a small school — a smaller market — so the marketing has to hype him up and make everyone know that there is a great player and the school, and it can help now our career," Look at LeBron James — he’s built like an NFL player, he’s big and has those financial benefits.

This symbiotic relationship will benefit James, Promotions, Michaels says, but keeping such a bigname client happy could prove troubling for the economy.

"It’s great to have that kind of publicity because it helps to build them a great reputation. It’s a tremendous opportunity to build a company," he said.

Balleo attributes the company’s success to the lessons he has been learning as a UCF student, both in the classroom and by experiencing the growth of the campus.

"UCF has influenced me greatly, and in a way it is much like our company," said the business administration major. "With UCF growing so rapidly as we are, it has prepared me to work in a fast-paced environment such as I do now.

Tokia also said the knowledge he’s absorbed at UCF has given him the confidence and experience to own a company like Tornado Promotions, which offers itself as a "Digital Roadhouse" to the marketplace.

"I think the most important thing is to become easy for people to know where to go. I would want to work with a company that has already been there at that level," Lyons said. "At least I know how they handled or helped someone like LeBron, they already have a reputation.

Even with all their accomplishments, the founders of Tornado Promotions want to expand their business ventures. Balle said he eventually wants to see his company branch out and go beyond the Internet and into commercial real estate. His partners have similar dreams, but now they are focusing on their clients’ needs and enjoying their growing success.

Each founder has some dream clients, though, that they some day hope to serve, while gaining more recognition for the company.

"If I could get one client that we currently do not have, it would probably be my Idol, Mark Cuban, owner of the Dallas Mavericks and founder of Broadcast.com," Fabo said. "He said Broadcast.com to Yahoo for over $5 billion. Also we would like to work with Fred Hall Energy drink — maybe we can work out a tradeoff, because he needs a little more money on their own.

SGA senators fear pressure from flag bill advocates

Senate waits for group to leave before discussing bill

Ben Baird

The SGA Senate waited for meetings in Rollins Rebuilding on a Conservative Evening, or ROCK, to leave a meeting and then voted to consider the group’s upcoming request for money to display an American flag in Rollins Center Lobby. Senators said the presence of CampusViews as well as a TV crew could pressure senators to keep quiet when the measure ultimately is decided.

While there was some light questioning of Rock members at a meeting of the Senate’s general committee, there was the issue that would be debated at length during the July 24 Senate meeting, when the bill would be voted on.

However, once group members had departed, the senators revisited the flag bill. Senators said they needed to prepare for the next meeting, when they expected more supporters and news media. Under that kind of scrutiny, some senators surmised, a few people might be too nervous to speak up.

Sen. Sammy Mamantrim criti- cized his colleagues for covering. "The media will be here... don’t let enumerators or reporters keep you from speaking your mind. Speaking your mind is what you pay for.

Senators certainly didn’t hold their tongues with the activity at the microphone. Sensations that ROCK was underhanded and deceptive flew through the air as the group moved to defeat the bill, "It’s kind of sad that they got to act like they have power to..." Edmundson said. "I’m very disappointed that the group has suffered so much from the snub... he can write a..."

The meeting was adjourned.

The Central Florida Future • July 16, 2003
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Only two bids were welcomed, says Orsini

FROM PAGE 1

Apart from paying royalties to UCF for licensing, the two say they donated what they could to the UCF Alumni Association, and had planned on increasing the amount of donations to the school as the company grew.

When they learned that UCF’s previous exclusive sports-retailing contract with Knight’s Lockerroom had expired, they jumped at the chance to increase their sales with greater stadium access.

“We thought this would be perfect for us, because now UCF would have a whole bunch of vendors there and we could have a variety of people selling, and that would increase the quality of merchandising,” Bencomo said. “We started getting excited and asking questions.”

While the two built up their expectations, though, UCF’s athletic department already was writing a new contract, furthering a lucrative relationship with mega-retailer Barnes & Noble, which owns and operates the UCF Bookstore on campus.

According to Steve Orsini, UCF’s athletic director, granting exclusivity contracts is standard practice among universities.

“We wanted to continue the partnership that UCF has with Barnes & Noble,” he explained. “We go back and forth on UCF on a weekly basis either by phone calls. Meanwhile, Bencomo and Worsdell poured some money into building up their company. Bencomo said they were preparing the company to visibly compete for access to the stadium against their competitors.

However, when the pair was finally granted a meeting with Orsini they were told that Knightmare Apparel wouldn’t get the contract.

“I sat down with him, showed him my shirts, he loved my shirts and said you guys have a niche and I wish there was something I could do for you,” Worsdell said. “I said ‘there is something, you can give us a corner, give us something’.

“It was not an open bidding process,” Worsdell continued. “I guess we were ignorant about the manners of business in dealing with UCF.” Worsdell said that he and Bencomo were denied any chance of obtaining a contract with UCF to sell within the stadium.

Orsini said the deal was perfectly legal. “I remember meeting with the Knightmare Apparel people,” Orsini said. “They asked me if they had a chance to make a bid and I explained the situation to them. We followed the university’s purchasing practices and they allowed us to do what we did.”

Orsini did make them an offer; though — to sell outside the stadium in the parking lots.

Barnes & Noble did not return requests for comment for this article.

As negotiations between Barnes & Noble and UCF went on, Knightmare Apparel was kept in the dark. They were also kept under the illusion that they would be able to make a bid for the contract.

By Worsdell’s account he kept contact with UCF for several months, but the school didn’t meet with him or return phone calls. Meanwhile, Bencomo and Worsdell poured money into building up their company. Bencomo said they were preparing the company to visibly compete for access to the stadium against their competitors.

In lieu of a fixed fee, Bencomo and Worsdell offered to pay UCF a percentage of their sales. But UCF never responded to their counter offer, they said.

“If you go to UF and walk downtown, there are vendors all around the stadium,” Bencomo said. “We thought we could grow into something like a Garment and Gold, or a Tiger Bag,” he said, referring to popular outlets that sell fan apparel at Florida State and Auburn.

The pair said they would love to open up a retail shop, and not have to conduct their business from their homes, a parking lot or an Italian restaurant.

“With the stadium located so far from campus — across town, just east of Interstate 4 — having a fixed location isn’t practical.”

When the pair investigated opening a shop on campus, they found out Barnes & Noble had exclusivity rights there too, and the Student Union already had a store with those rights, too.

“Then there really left a sour taste in my mouth,” Bencomo said. “But if there’s a fair chance that we could really get into the Citrus Bowl, then I’d give it a shot because I love UCF.”

Their next shot will be a year from now, when the new Barnes & Noble contract expires.
Flag funding highlights rift between liberal, conservative groups

FROM PAGE 4

bill similar to the Kornerstone request, but without that group's name attached to it. "I'm not going to back the bill by ROCK because of the narrow-mindedness that they've displayed, the utter lack of respect for other UCF students, and really just the lack of spirit in what they're trying to do," Edmundson said.

"I want to do this right, and I think it should be done right, and I'm going to be authorizing legislation later working with both organizations and anybody else who comes on this," he said. The bill will be authored under the SGA Senate name, he said, rather than be identified with single organization.

Edmundson encouraged others to vote down the ROCK bill in favor of his own, reminding them that his bill would be coming up, too. "I will have the bill ready by the next senate meeting," he said.

ROCK President Heather Smith later said the relatively secret senate deliberations on her bill showed the dishonesty of some senators. "It is a sad day for UCF students when several of our senators will only share their true feelings towards an issue when they know that no one else is around," Smith said. "Clearly, they have something to hide."

Smith also said ROCK did not want Edmundson to sponsor the bill specifically because of his ties to the Progressive Council.

"I do not feel comfortable allowing Sen. Edmundson to sponsor our bill since his organization has called the American flag 'oppressive' and 'fascist,'" Smith said. "Members of his group have also desecrated the flag publicly. When advancing an American flag bill, surely we want our sponsor to be someone who supports the flag."

Edmundson maintained that he is in full support of the flag and the ideas of placing it in every UCF classroom, but will not support the bill due to its association with ROCK.

Smith says she'll support Edmundson's bill if her organization's request is rejected, assuming that Edmundson's bill will achieve the same objective. "Like most students, we do not care who the author is, we just want flags in each classroom," she said.
**Title IX ‘takes no hit’ with affirmation**

Advocate predicts that male athletes will continue to suffer as women’s sports grow

**LARRY EICHEL**
KNIIGHT HOOKEY NEWSPAPER

The U.S. Department of Education concluded its yearlong review of Title IX Friday by reaffirming the existing rules issued the 1972 law, which has helped produce the requirement that a school make its student body "a safe harbor" called the university a "safe harbor," said the letter does urge schools not to make the test is an equally sufficient means of demonstrating that it is already a lose-lose situation for the universities.

Bush administration has completely vowed to the gender-quotas crowd," he said.

The letter does urge schools not to get rid of teams as a way of coming into compliance.

Numerous men's teams in such non-revenue sports as wrestling, swimming, gymnastics have been eliminated in recent years, with advocates of those sports citing Title IX as a factor. The letter declared the elimination of teams "a disfavored practice" that is "counter to the spirit of the law." The department, in its letter, also sought to debunk the idea that proportionality is the preferred method of compliance, a "safe harbor," meaning that it is the surest way for a college or university to protect itself against charges of non-compliance. The "safe harbor" language appeared in a 1996 letter issued by the Clinton administration and in several court decisions.

"In fact, each of the three prongs of the test is an equally sufficient means of complying with Title IX, and no one prong is favored," Reynolds wrote.

The changes embodied in the letter are far more incremental than many advocates of women in sports feared when the review began — and far less ambitious than opponents of the status quo had wanted.

Last year, after the filing of a lawsuit over Title IX enforcement by the National Wrestling Coaches Association, the Bush administration created a special commission to review the way the law has been implemented and to make recommendations.

In its report, the sharply divided commission on the Education Department to make several changes in the proportionality standard that would have given athletic administrators more flexibility in dealing with the number.

Its work was widely denounced by women's groups and hailed by the wrestling coaches and their allies.

But on Feb. 25, when the report was formally submitted, Secretary of Education Rod Paige announced he would consider only the unanimous recommendations. With that single announcement, he wiped out all of the more controversial proposals.

Then last month, a federal court in Washington threw out the wrestling coaches' lawsuit.

The coaches and other groups cited that many colleges and universities have gotten into compliance with Title IX by getting rid of men's programs rather than adding athletic programs for women.

Groups backing the current rules say that economies have had at least as much to do with the program cuts as Title IX.

**Peer-to-peer crackdown starts on campuses**

**FROM PAGE 3**

group had sought their identities and contact information. The students, who are enrolled in the university's summer session, have not discussed the subpoenas with university administrators, Communications.

Loyola is not the only college to receive such a subpoena since the recording-industry association announced last month that it would start amassing evidence to prepare lawsuits against people who upload large amounts of music, said Jonathan Larm, a spokesperson for the group. But he declined to reveal how many colleges have received similar subpoenas.

"This should not come as a surprise to anyone that a subpoena may have been served on a college," Larmy said, adding that other large service providers, besides colleges, have received subpoenas.

The subpoenas to Loyola suggest growing excellence by the recording industry in demanding that Internet service providers identify individuals who are sharing music online. When the recording industry issued a subpoena to Verizon Communications asking that it reveal subscribers' names, the company fought the demand. But it relented last month after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia denied the company's request to place the subpoena on hold while Verizon challenged a provision of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

Tracy L. Minniti, director of the program in computer policy and law at Cornell University, said she has studied the question of whether colleges could refuse to comply with recording-industry subpoenas, citing academic freedom or the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and determined that they can not.

"I don't see how we have much of a choice," she said.

**Boston U. loses big research contract with NASA**

Boston University, which just last week had David S. Gildin, a former NASA administrator, to be its next president, had lost the largest research contract it has ever received, $60 million from NASA to build a satellite to study an invisible web of hot gases spreading through the universe.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration suspended the satellite project in May after a review board concluded that the university could not deliver the results it had promised.

While NASA officials do not believe that the university intentionally misled them, they chose to end the deal after the review board, composed of independent scientists, determined that the university's instruments were much less sensitive than its original bid had indicated, according to reports last week.

"The bottom line" is that Boston University's satellite "couldn't do the science it promised to do," Tim Gehring, NASA's mission manager for the project, told the Associated Press. "It's really a lose-lose situation for everybody."

Under the project — known as Spitzer or the Explorer for Spectroscopy and Photometry of the Interstellar Medium's Diffuse Radiation — the university would have received about $210 million from NASA over seven and a half years, and would have disbursed the remaining $80 million to subcontractors, said Kevin R. Carlson, a university spokesman. The university had hoped that the project would help it become a leader in science and engineering.

Carlson said that while the loss of the contract did not have a big impact on the university as a whole, it was a "huge win" for Space Frontier and three people.

"We have put the project out to bid again, and Boston University has submitted a new proposal. Supriya Chakrabarti, director of the center and Spitzer's principal investigator, said in a statement that NASA's decision was very disappointing. He said that he believed his department's "mission design is robust," and that he was optimistic about the university's new proposal.

However, competition may be stiff. Gehring said about three dozen other groups have since received similar subpoenas. NASA will announce the recipient next spring or summer.

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OPINIONS

Wednesday July 10, 2003

OUR STANCE:

UCF locks out little guy with Barnes & Noble contract

UCF just awarded an exclusivity contract to Barnes & Noble, effectively barring anyone else from selling the school’s official merchandise at the Citrus Bowl. This idea is neither new nor unique. Last year, the university had a deal with somebody else, and schools throughout the country make similar deals. Both sides win — the vendor gets the security of knowing nobody will compete into their business, or forcing them to have competitive prices for their Pegasus pennants and pompoms — and UCF gets some money for awarding the contract.

Left out in the cold are independent vendors without the cloud or money to buy a contract, like Knightmare Apparel — a company formed by a UCF graduate, a current student, and a friend. The company has been forced to shut down through a combination of unfortunate circumstances that make UCF a uniquely bad place to sell licensed merchandise, and the exclusivity contract being the final nail in the coffin.

School spirit, though to an extent born of pride, is tied to the university’s academic standards, and prestigious programs, comes mostly from its sports programs. UCF’s football team is the head of that program, the most visible, and most lucrative. Students attending UCF games tend to display UCF pride more openly than any other single group, and thusly, they buy products that show that pride. Football games are the perfect place to hawk such wares, in an environment brimming with school spirit — but UCF’s football games, the home games, are 20 miles away in downtown Orlando. This means students are divided by a wide stretch of terrain — they either buy their Knightpounder(s) at the stadium, or 20 miles away on campus, which makes it impractical to put a solid storefront in either place.

Two places on campus sell UCF sportsware: Knightwear in the Student Union, and the sprawling UCF Bookstore, which Barnes & Noble owns an operations in, the John T. Washington Center. Both have contracts with UCF — and neither wants competitors in their midst. So even if there were space on campus, it’s taken.

What’s left for the outsiders, the small businesses like Knightmare Apparel, is very little; they can sell in the parking lot at the games, or they can sell on the Web. And for Knightwear, that just isn’t enough to make it viable. So UCF can give students the theoretical knowledge to survive in the open market, but in the UCF territory, they’ve cut a shot and dangerous signal.

OUR STANCE:

Flags in UCF classrooms are worth the $10,000 price

For no less than 12 years of their lives, every person in the United States who has stepped into a public classroom has seen an American flag. It’s one of the most pervasive symbols in our society, perhaps second only to the crucifix. Having a symbol of America in American classrooms isn’t inconsistent — it’s not hard to imagine Martin’s logos on the walls of the offices for the Florida baseball team. Though not required in either case, these symbols are supposed to be inspirational, and remind those in their presence that they’re a part of a group or a team.

The enduring symbol of America, the stars and stripes, may fly from staffs around campus, but classrooms at UCF don’t have flags like K-12 classrooms do. A conservative group on campus, Rebuilding a Conservative Corners tone, wants to change that.

The group has asked the Student Government Association for $10,000 to put a flag in every UCF classroom. Combined with the political strife the idea has caused, the cost has the SGA Senate split.

Proponents say now is the time to show our support for America, while our troops are in harm’s way and we continue to recover from Sept. 11. They’re facing fiscal students who worry that the flag will seem oppressive to international students, and that the project will cost too much when money is needed elsewhere.

Opponents are right to think the flags might be offensive. Of course they might be. If you put a symbol in front of a random group of people, somebody will likely find the symbol offensive. The problem is, if they’re offended by the American flag, the symbol of America, why does it matter? Returning to the Martins analogy, imagine going to a game at the Marlins’ stadium in Miami, and seriously considering complaints from the opposing team that Marlins logos are offensive and shouldn’t be there.

There should be no question that allowing flags in the classroom is politically safe. The question, then, is whether it’s worth the cost to put them there.

Will students benefit from having a flag on the wall in every classroom? Will teachers benefit? Will America benefit? It’s a hard question to answer. Certainly, some students will be pride-filled to see our national symbol hanging before them. Equally certain is that many students won’t care that it’s there, just like they haven’t cared that it’s not there.

American can use a spirit boost, though. We’re in a recession; we’re battling a cunning and licentious terrorist enemy; seemingly from all sides; world opinion of us isn’t as good as it used to be. At a cost of $10,000 for the chance at giving a little bit of spirit to our classes, and a reminder to students that we live in a great country, it’s worth a try.

“Let him who would enjoy a good future waste none of his present.” — ROGER BABBON

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters opposite are not necessarily those of the editors.

Letters to the Editor

Fighting for the right to drink

Saturday, July 5, some friends and I drove down to see a soccer match between the USA and the Netherlands at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando. With me were my friend and another male friend, both members of the military, who were born in India. When each man presented his military ID to the bouncer, he was told that he couldn't enter in there as he was the grounds that their military IDs were not "proper identification." Each man offered an assurance of backing credentials including Indian Army officer's licenses; we were denied because the licenses hadn't expired. My friend explained that the military is a necessity to revive one's honor due to the difficulty created in moving frequently. Of the other men had just expired (two men) so in my nerves that neither of these men were trying to present false identification. Clearly there were use of a communication tools to call for the form of military ID 10 is actually serves, and the establishment wasn't willing to admit they had made a mistake.

In times of renewed patriotism and appreciation for the military, along with respect for our members of the military, we would have realized that neither of these men were trying to present false identification.

— EMMANUEL

Letters to the Editor

The other worthy investment

I want to thank you for reminding me how lucky I am to live in this county. I had not realized how much until I read your article that "Flags don't help anyone win." There is an abundance of history surrounding who made the flag, who actually won the battle by the flag, etc. The most important thing to learn it what is the color on the flag stand for. White is for purity and innocence, and red and white represent life, liberty, and justice for all. We are reminded every day by the American flag that our forefathers fought for our lives and peace for our flag. We learn what it means to be an American, whatever your policies are and we matter what country you originally come from. Not all of them. This school wastes our money, I think flags in the classroom would be a worthy investment.

— ANTONIO CARDON

Letters to the Editor

We are a charitable organization committed to providing letters to the public in an effort to spread truth and information. Our website contains contributions from a wide range of authors, including experts in various fields. We strive to provide balanced and accurate information, and our goal is to promote understanding and awareness of important issues. Our website can be accessed at [website URL]. For more information, please contact [your contact information].
Inflated grades, deflated standards

ON THE MIC

Mike Riegel
Staff Writer

Give me an "A," give me an "B." Just don't give me a "C"! That is the chant that can be heard at universities across the nation, and UCF is certainly no exception. A recent study by The Future found that students are receiving better grades than they used to.

In the past 20 years at UCF, the number of As has dramatically increased, while the number of Cs has decreased. This proves, once and for all, that we really are smarter than our parents. We've been trying to convince them of that fact since we were 13, and now we have statistical validation.

Actually, the upswing in GPA is probably due to grade inflation. This particular phenomenon occurs when someone is given a grade that they did not earn. The motivation for grade inflation is debatable, but one thing's for sure: I like it. I like getting good grades. I like having a GPA that's been augmented more than Patricia Anderson. And I'm pretty sure that most of my peers would agree with me.

I can see it on the faces of my fellow students when the teacher passes a test back. Some poor kid looks down and that "C" is staring back at him; the next thing you know he or she is looking for the nearest window and entertaining thoughts of jumping out of it. If the class is on the first floor, the humiliation doubles as the emotionally distraught student jumps out, but only manages to scrape a knee. But a C doesn't mean "deficient." It simply means "average." Or at least it did once upon a time. Things have changed and people have become very sensitive. Most students don't want the truth, they want the sanitized, politically correct version of what would be the truth if this were a Disney movie.

If someone showed up to English class and completes a majority of the course work, they're expecting to be graced for putting forth the necessary effort. This person may not be entirely Torrance, but they tried, didn't they? So go ahead and give them an A for that research paper titled, "Why DVs are Way Cooler than Video Tapes." All right, maybe I'm only a fan of grade inflation when it works in my favor. Of course I like to get a good grade that I don't deserve, but I can't stand it when other people get good grades for turning in work that isn't as good as mine.

Really though, grade inflation is a waste of time. It might be a short-term solution that will make students happy, but that doesn't help anyone in the long term. College is not about stroking the student's ego, it's about drinking and getting away from your parents.

It's also about being honest. All through grade school we were all reminded of how we could do anything if we tried our hardest. That's a nice thought, but it's pretty far from the truth. College is natural selection. Those who have the skill move on to become doctors, lawyers, and scientists. Those who fail to meet the Darwinian challenge are left behind to become president of the United States.

What I'm trying to say is that when 1 go to the doctor I want to be relatively sure that the physician in question didn't earn a medical degree by being "pretty sure" of how to diagnose my ailment.

If that means a university-wide return to normal standards of grading, then so be it. But not until the grades are in for this semester—Ponce promised a crap $6 bill for every A I get.
Attendance concerns

call for new measures

New UCF committee
taking on hefty task

In an effort to raise the attendance level this year at UCF home games, especially football, Gert Garman, director of sports marketing, has come forth with a plan that she hopes will accomplish that.

Garman has put together a committee, comprising 115 volunteers, to assist the UCF Marketing Department.

She came up with the idea after recently attending the National College Athletics Conference, where they had a session on voluntary sales forces. There, Garman decided to form a voluntary sales force of her own for UCF only bigger.

The 115 volunteers will be split into different subcommittees. One will distribute items such as posters, schedule cards and season-ticket brochures for all UCF sports all over town. Another will distribute news releases throughout Orlando.

A third group, the Volunteer Sales Force, will consist of two teams, a black team and a gold team, mostly comprising UCF fans with statewide contacts. Their goal, designed like a contest, is to see which team sells the most tickets through the month of August. The committee also has alumni chapters in Tampa, Brevard County and Atlanta that want to get involved.

The volunteer committee makes up the final subcommittee. Members will travel with Clear Channel radio stations to live events to help gain exposure for UCF sports. "Those 115 people are going to be great PR tools for the Athletics Department. The more people they can get fired up, the better off we're all going to be," Garman said.

She emphasized that the committee's plan this fall is to accomplish five major goals: get students involved, increase season ticket sales, build tradition, enhance UCF's visibility, and change the perception of UCF within the Central Florida community.

"These are five things that we think we can make some headway on," Garman said.

One of Garman's main concerns is the student body's tailgating practices.

Attendance levels

For MAC teams in the 2002-2003 football season

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Attendance concerns

call for new measures

Tough times ahead

for UCF and out- 
of-conference foes

UCF needs to be concerned with the significance of its games against its MAC rivals, even Buffalo and Kent State. However, the most excitement usually comes against the teams that aren't in the Knights' conference.

It is only a matter of time before UCF wins the next big Alabama-like game. Last season saw the Knights lose a few big heartbreakers against national powerhouse Penn State and new conference rival Marshall.

Whether it be the field goal differences against Auburn behind Daunte's arm, or a near-win against Temple behind Vic Perf, the out-of-conference games sometimes hold just as much importance as the games that take UCF to a conference championship.

Florida Atlantic University Owls

One of the biggest goals that UCF football has tried to achieve over the years is to get away from games against division I-AA teams. 2003 will fortunately be the last year that UCF has to face off against a team like the Owls of FAU.

While the Owls are relatively new to NCAA football, they have created a program in a flooded football market. First of all, they play in South Florida, an area that is obviously marked as Miami Hurricane territory. Outside of that, there is the growing presence of Florida State and UF fans. Outside of that, there is the growing presence of UCF and USF fans.

It is good, though, that the Knights' last game against a division I-AA team comes against a Florida school.

The Owls will provide a great display of UCF's offense. FAU gave up just over 20 points per game last season against teams like UConn and Nebraska State. This September 13 affair will be quite entertaining as the first half will undoubtedly display Ryan Schneider's passing attack. FAU will be a good team for Schneider and his receivers and tight ends to pad their numbers.

The second half will allow Alex Hayes to literally run FAU into the ground. It is more than likely that backups Keith Williams and Dontavis Wilson will see a share of the time in this game as well.

No matter the amount of points UCF puts on the board, it will be an entertaining day for UCF. The most enticing aspect of this game is that it offers the entire team the opportunity of an extra day of practice in case they need to work out any chemistry issues.

Syracuse Orangemen

This is the most win game of the season for the Knights. After last year's knee-buckling second quarter comeback against UCF, the Orangemen can own the Knights with a third straight win this year.

The Orangemen are coming off a miserable 2002 campaign in which they finished 6-8. Syracuse might possibly have been the most inconsistent team in NCAA football last season, as they upset Virginia Tech in a three-overtime offensive brawl. However, this is the same Syracuse team that lost to Temple four weeks prior.
UCF finished 9th in the MAC in average attendance last season

"We don't want to discourage people from tailgating at their cars. What we don't want anymore are the burning of the couches, and the U-Haul trucks coming in, and that kind of stuff. We want people to come down there and tailgate. Bring your grill. Bring your coolers.

Great time. Even if you're not a sports fan, you can come and have a great time, even if you're not a sports fan, you can come and have a great time."

GARMAN

"I think some of the problems that go on in the parking lots are just from people who have no intention of coming into the game," Garman said.

Some tailgaters, Garman said, aren't even sports fans, but she sees this as a positive.

"If we made it an event where you can come in, you can have a great time, even if you're not a sports fan, and it's in social occasion," Garman said.

All of the goals, however, the most important one that lies swipers, not just at the fans, but back into the sides.

"We're asking students to come to 15 home games," Garman said. "Students' attendance will be recorded through special cards that allow the system to keep a tally of active and retired students.

"We started the card-swipers last year, so we know when students arrive, we're going to have the card-swipers, not just at football now but also basketball, baseball and women's soccer, volleyball, men's basketball and women's basketball.

"You come to 15 home sporting events, and you get a prize put into a drawing," Garman said. "We're going to send one UCF student and a friend of theirs to the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas for three days, all expenses paid.

The contest will run through the end of the men's basketball season. In addition, the student government will be giving away scholarships at athletic events this year. Garman said the contest will be held for both the fans and the students. Also to be repeated this year will be Freeden's Poney, where 200 freshmen will get sent by bus to the first home game.

"We'll also be offering two free tickets to the first home game for any active or retired military, police, EMT and fire personnel," Garman said. "We want to honor them.

Garman is even trying to schedule an F-18 to fly over the stadium to honor these personnel.

UCF has also developed an organized tailgate party to help control and enhance fans' experiences at our games. At Fan Fair, the party starts about three hours before kickoff, and will run through halftime.

"This is supposed to be fun. It's an alternative to hanging out in the parking lots," Garman said.

UCF will accompany each Fan Fair event. Garman has planned for five bands to perform throughout the season.

In addition, she said, "We're going to have a drum show going from around the country before our games start, and then it will show our game."

"So you'll be able to come and go up until an hour before game time because that is when the stadium opens, and you're either in or you're out, because of Sept. 11 security procedures," explained Garman.

Garman and the committee also thought up the idea of Knight March. Two hours before gametime, the team buses will drop off the players on the far side of Tinker Field. There will be a parade led by the cheerleaders and the pep band, which will go through the crowd, leading the team into their locker room. The objective of this march is to have the fans interact with the team and get them pumped up before they go into the locker room," Garman said.

The question remains how these new ideas will be received by students and others.

"I think they'll be curious because we are going to advertise it everywhere," Garman explained. "It's just a matter of going and experiencing it for the first time."

Garman realizes that change is always scary for people. Nonetheless, she feels optimistic that the committee's ideas will be widely accepted, understanding it's all how they're presented.

"Ideas can be the greatest ideas, but if they're not presented well, or they're forced upon people, then that's not good," Garman said. "Again, this is an invitation for people to come and have a good time."
Adding to that pressure, the Knights must stop three potential yards in the game.

If quarterback Bryan Randall still hasn't found a receiving threat in the fall, he will need to keep the offensive line on the field long enough to give Schneider time to take advantage of the lack of experience on the opposing side. Schneider does his job for the offense. If Schneider does his job and finds two receivers in this game as many of the other teams have, then West Virginia Tech will fall into place.

Virginia Tech Hokies

The toughest challenge in 2002 for the Hokies was opening the season against three arguably tough teams on the road.

Virginia Tech running back Kevin Jones could possibly be the best running back in the country this season. He has the potential to run for close to 2,000 yards and have a season that would make people forget Larry Johnson's 2002 campaign.

The toughest challenge in 2002 for the Hokies was opening the season against three arguably tough teams on the road.

Virginia Tech's passing attack could be a bigger part of the offensive scheme than it was last year. Despite leading an offense that showcased two-pronged running attacks, quarterback Bryan Randall still managed to put up impressive numbers. This year Randall and wide receiver Ernest Wilford will be a tough pair to stop. Wilford will more than likely receive double attention from the Knights' defense leaving the speedy DeAngelo Hall to burn UCF's secondary.

This is a tough way to start the season off for UCF; however, the Knights can win. If every player, especially Schneider, plays to his full potential for 60 minutes, then Virginia Tech can easily be beaten. The offensive line has to give Schneider time to throw and he has to make the right decisions.

If Schneider does his job and finds two receivers in the start, then the rest of the pieces will fall into place.

West Virginia Mountaineers

The Mountaineers were 6-6 in 2002 with a tough Big East schedule last season. While a 500 record isn’t exactly impressive, West Virginia did pull off two stunning upsets against Virginia Tech and Pittsburgh, both on the road.

While those wins are incredibly significant for any program, the celebration is over.

West Virginia football is heavily lacking in depth this year. UCF's defensive line will need to take full advantage of the Mountaineers' weak offensive line. If Paul Carver and his company can stop the strong run game, then West Virginia quarterback Brandon Mitchell will be forced to throw more.

Marshall and running back Quincy Wilson will try to wear down the defensive line. Marshall will run the ball.

In order to stop the running game, though, Schneider is going to have to keep the offense on the field long enough to rest the defensive line.

The Mountaineer defensive line is led by former UCF's defensive end Antonio Figueroa. Adam Jones and Brian King are among the fastest that the Mountaineers have to offer.

Virginia Tech's defense will have a hard time keeping up for 60 minutes against this run attack.

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Students take road trip in cooking-oil-fueled ‘Veggie Wagon’

This summer, David Brown and Rachel David, 21-year-old art students at Oberlin College in Ohio, plan to take the familiar journey seeking pre-graduation enlightenment on the road.

While Jack Kerouac rode cross-country in a Hudson Hornet, Brown and David will pedal out in their Veggie Wagon — a 2003 Volkswagen Jetta fueled by vegetable oil.

The friends test-drive their modified silver station wagon for the first time in May, when they first took them for a local ride along the streets of Brown’s neighborhood.

‘Everyone we talked to about this thought it was either so cool or it wasn’t going to work,’ David said, excited that their dream didn’t sink out during the trial.

“You can feel the power,” David said.

The classmates got the veggie-car bug last year from a man they met while attending the Rainbow Gathering, a counterculture event in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. They decided to do the same thing to make a political and social statement about the environment.

“It was so cool,” said David, who has a pierced nose and several tattoos, but no auto-engineering training.

But vegetable-oil-powered cars interest others, too. The U.S. Army auto manufacturers and even the Fabrowville school district in Livingston County, Mich., are taking a look at them.

To the establishment, vegetable power is big diesel.

Vegetable oil will not work in traditional gasoline engines. But it will burn in diesel engines.

The concept of using vegetable oil as fuel for diesel engines is nothing new, according to Joshua Titeiffel, the author of "From the Fryer to the Fuel Tank: The Complete Guide to Using Vegetable Oil as an Alternative Fuel.”

In fact, Titeiffel said, when Rudolf Diesel developed the diesel engine in 1896, he expected it to operate on a variety of fuels, including vegetable oil. In 1900, Diesel ran his engine at the World Exhibition on peanut oil.

The modifications are so simple that the two college students could figure out how to do it by visiting Web sites and talking to clerks at auto parts stores.

Ticket estimates there are fewer than 10,000 cars in the United States that run on vegetable oil. He said the idea seems to be exciting on as more people become environmentally conscious.

“It is, in a way, more efficient and more environment-friendly,” he said.

Titeiffel, who lives in Covington, La., spent two years in the late 1980s driving a vegetable-oil-powered Whitnabeg, the so-called Veggie Van, to every state to promote the use of the alternative fuel.

It goes by the 56-gallon drum for $2.29 a gallon.

Some environmentalists are advertising kits — which include valves, switches, sensors, fuel lines and filters — that can be used to modify cars to run on vegetable oil for about $500.

In Fabrowville, Mich., where the school system got a federal grant to test a 20 percent biodiesel blend in 36 buses for a year, school officials are hoping that the fuel will be more efficient and

\[ \text{7 Days a week} \]


ting

\[ \text{Lifestyles} \]

\[ \text{Wednesday July 16, 2003} \]

\[ \text{Mike Riegel} \]

\[ \text{STAFF WRITER} \]

\[ \text{Interesting-free. Low introductory APR. No finance charge on balance transfers. No application fee. No processing fee. One consolidated payment. Low monthly payments. Use it anywhere. Use it anytime. Use it enough, and get a special gift. The special gift is a credit card debt, to be more precise, though banks often neglect to mention this particular feature as they market their offers to millions. Why should you care about the indecipherable side effect of credit card ownership? Because, as many college students across the nation and at UCF can attest, doing the cost of credit card debt has left a mountain of debt on young shoulders.} \]

Frank Witsil
KIGHT RIDGE NEWSPAPER

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One out of 10 students owe $7,800 in credit-card debt

FROM PAGE 15

that before getting a credit card, or at least before I got four of them.”

Those Internet links include advice such as “Top Ten Ways to Manage Your Credit Card on Campus and Beyond.”

1. Before you apply for a credit card, determine what you can realistically afford to pay each month.
2. Plan to pay off your bill completely each month.
3. Before you choose a credit card, shop around carefully.
4. Compare interest rates, stated as the APR or annual percentage rate of interest. Be aware of low “teaser” rates that only apply for a few months on an introductory offer; then much higher rates kick in.
5. Avoid cards with high penalty rates, rates of 20 percent or even 30 percent if the cardholder misses or makes a late payment.
6. Look for hidden fees such as late-payment charges or over-the-limit fees.

“I know that I didn’t have the money at that moment, and probably wouldn’t have it for a while, but it’s not like I can go to class without books.”

—ANDREA RIVERA

FROM PAGE 15

lower maintenance costs. It also is better for the environment and the hones don’t smell as bad, said assistant superintendent Linwood Hibbard.

The fuel costs 15 cents to 20 cents more per gallon than diesel, Hibbard said. But, if total operating costs are lower, the school system might continue to use the alternative fuel, he said.

“The economics is always an issue,” Hibbard said.

General Motors Corp., the world’s largest automaker, is looking at how it can use renewable fuels, said Gary Hersted, the company’s director of alternative fuels.

But, he said, he does not recommend drivers use vegetable oil.

“That’s a little scary,” he said.

Still, Brown and David said they are not afraid to try. The seniors, studying “art stuff,” plan to drive from Detroit to Columbus, Md., where David’s parents live, and then to California.

The trip is the payoff for months of research and mastering basic mechanics. They even took welding classes.

The pair said the modifications took about a month and cost about $250.

They welded a 22-gallon steel tank for the vegetable oil and installed it in the back of the Jetta. They added valves and filters to purify the oil. The job required some rewired electronics.

To drive, they start the car with diesel fuel and switch to vegetable oil once it has been heated enough to be burned. And they are on the road.

Boardwalk is all-inclusive

24-hour high speed internet

Service in all 4 bedrooms. No other internet service needed.

Cable TV Programming with 68 channels plus HBO.

Unlimited local phone service (4 private lines) electricity, water, sewer & pest control included (no utility deposits)

Free shuttle service to and from UCF

Boardwalk Amenities...

sand volleyball & half-court basketball

clubhouse with big-screen TV & computers with Fast Internet

brand new fitness center

pool basketball

heated whirlpool

Largest Rooms & Living Areas

SUPER KITCHEN • FULLY FURNEISHED

Self-cleaning oven, ice-maker refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher

Utility room with full-size washer and dryer • Alarm system & keyed deadbolts on all doors

Full-size bed, dresser with mirror and end table • 4 private full bathrooms

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Located 8/10 of a mile from UCF

The Central Florida Future • July 16, 2003

One of the pair said the modifications took about a month and cost about $250.

The pair said the modifications took about a month and cost about $250. They welded a 22-gallon steel tank for the vegetable oil and installed it in the back of the Jetta. They added valves and filters to purify the oil. The job required some rewired electronics.

To drive, they start the car with diesel fuel and switch to vegetable oil once it has been heated enough to be burned. And they are on the road.

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Located 8/10 of a mile from UCF
Is it safe to use a tanning bed?

A tan is a warning signal that your skin has been exposed to too much sun. If your skin has ever a light tan, you have already been exposed to enough ultraviolet radiation, or UV, to cause damage to your skin.

UV from natural or artificial sources, causes your skin cells to react and produce a dark pigment called melanin. Melanin is a form of natural defense against UV; it acts as a sort of sunscreen by absorbing further radiation.

Tanning beds tan the skin by radiating it with both UVA and UVB radiation. Ultraviolet radiation from a tanning bed is more intense than natural sunlight. 20 minutes in a solarium can be equivalent to approximately four hours in the sun.

Contrary to common myth, solaria do not offer safe tans. Some operators of tanning beds claim their tans are safe as you only receive regulated doses. Yet any dose of UV will increase your risk of skin damage such as wrinkling, blotchiness, freckles and pigmentation. Exposure to UV also increases your risk of skin cancer.

Tanning beds like this one, also known as a solarium, can expose tanners to four hours worth of normal solar radiation in just 20 minutes. This can cause burns, broken blood vessels, rashes and long term skin damage according to Patti Stuart of Student Health Services.

Some people use tanning beds to tan or darken their skin. Solaria are enclosed sun beds that have light tubes that emit radiation from above and below. There are also similar devices like sun lamps that you stand in front of or angle over your skin.

Studies have shown inconsistent amounts of UV rays to be present in tanning beds. They also found a broad range of UV doses and many times they were excessively high. Often the dose of UV light is not checked properly by the operators of such facilities.

Fair-skinned people or those who do not tan can suffer severe burns, broken blood vessels and stinging if they use tanning beds. Tanning bed use can also exacerbate existing skin conditions or cause rashes. If you do not wear goggles while in the machine, you will damage your eyes severely. If you do choose to use these, think carefully about all the risks.

Operators of these facilities should provide you with correct information about the risks and require you to sign a consent form before you proceed. Finally if you find a lesion or mole you are concerned about, please call and make an appointment to see us at the Student Health Center, 409-823-2701.

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

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Roommates needed for 4/3 house with pool, $450-$600/mo. Fully furnished. incl. all, call Laura at 407-561-0683.

Room available for female in Northglade Lakes across from UCF fully furnished, 2 bdr, all utilities included. $450/mo. 3 mos. Avail. 07/03 - 08/04. Call Kristi @ 956-465-1477.

Jefferson Commons sublease, 1 bdrm furnished w/blue Plains. room needed for 323 apt. next to UCF. Furnished, utility and WiFi incl. Female, Price negot. Call Lindsey at 336-428-4093.

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Room for Rent available. In the Village at Alafaya Club. $450/mo. fully furnished, utilities, cable, internet, & wash-n-fold at the club. Email flackchick13@yahoo.com

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350 Rooms

2 Female Roommates, Large 42 House, 1 mile from UCF. Quiet neighborhood. House is furnished, room is not. W/D. No pets. We offer promotional products. Call 407-420-2560 or 410/11k/mo. 407-830-2075.

Cheap Lives: $200 1/4 of URF. Cell & WiFi included. Minutes from UCF. Clean, legal back and resident. students preferred. Call Eric at 407/748-3964.

1 2 Female roommates for 322 house in University Park. Furnished, fully furnished, $700/mo. All utilities included. Call 713-732-3714 or maryk629@yahoo.com

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350 Rooms

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Cheap Lives: $200 1/4 of URF. Cell & WiFi included. Minutes from UCF. Clean, legal back and resident. students preferred. Call Eric at 407/748-3964.

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