Fears, concerns, prompt meeting

Officials beef up patrols around Pegasus Landing

**KATE MINIEN**

In a collaborative effort, UCF Police, Victim Services and Pegasus Landing officials held a town hall meeting Tuesday night, hoping to quell safety concerns among residents in the wake of a string of crimes that occurred at the apartment complex last month. The meeting, held at Pegasus Landing, came on the heels of an unsolved murder that claimed the life of 27-year-old Tarvin Fears, a resident of the apartment complex last month. In addition to replacing every machine in the workout area, basketball courts and weight rooms also received a makeover.

After months of renovation and preparation, the gym opened in its entirety to the UCF community instead of simply reopening the gym to students, as was done for the partial unveiling early December. The 9000 earthquakes decided to hold an all-day event celebrating the new facility.

In addition to replacing every machine in the workout area, basketball courts and weight rooms also received a makeover. New wood floors cover the basketball and volleyball courts. More noticeable is the presence of black and gold throughout the entire gym—a feature that RWC Associate Director James Wilkening said was lacking in the old gym. The event began in the morning with Pancake Bread giving out five samples outside the gym. Smoothie King was also present to distribute samples.

The area was “the perfect place for something to happen,” he said. “We’re working on this 24/7 in hopes of a day.”

Zelanes said he intended that the killing took place at the UCF-affiliated apartment complex because it was desired by students, who went away for the winter break.

The area was “the perfect place for something to happen,” he said. “We’re working on this 24/7 in hopes of a day.”

Zelanes added students who were receiving raises were considered a target. They’re attacking our right to decide the compensation we receive,” he said.

Fears, concerns, prompt meeting

**NATHAN POCKETT**

UCF students were receiving national recognition for their recent literary success. Kelisha Bell, a UCF alumnus who graduated in 1999, and Kris Vigas, currently a junior, recently released books that are considered to be a young adult literature.

“Vegas’s book is a suspenseful novel that focuses on the terrors of high school, and Vigas’s book is about a teenager’s journey to find his true self,” said Kelisha Bell.

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Prof. Brain delves into mind
She uses Hollywood to study students about overcoming divides

Class Acts

MARLA ALLOO

The classroom is dark, and the students are quiet, waiting. The task at hand is often an improvement from last year's Monday lessons.

This is what a typical day is like for Vikram Raghavan's English composition classes.

He uses movies such as Harry's Philadelphia and Cool Hand Luke to educate about today's social issues and right.


She uses videos because they deal with the issues of gay rights and prejudice on "human terms." The speaker believes presenting this information makes more of an impact on students.

The Pennsylvania native, 46, has been teaching the course for UCF for more than 20 years.

Brain allows along with contemporary articles as teaching tools because "people are often stimulated visually and react more to the video than if you read text." brain said.

She said she never imagined she would be teaching in the future.

She was one of those students who succeeded in "not bringing up her politics" comments on her report cards.

Brain received in college but eventually dropped out. After getting married, she said her husband opened a business and promised to study law and traveled in Florida.

When she was 16, Brian decided to go back to college. "I wanted to prove to myself that I could do it myself," she said. She earned a BS in 1977 and in 1979 received her undergrad degree in English and her master's degree in 1983.

Richard Green, chairman of the English Department at the time, believed that she would make a good teacher and helped her as an ad interim instructor. She became a full-time instructor in 1999.

She developed a base simply because she was always great at her job. BIOS Brain Roffman, said she said Brain's kindness, warmth and dedication make him an outstanding instructor.

Freshman Debbie Shacter said. "Professor Brain is amazing, and she wants you to speak up. She is a very kind person," she said.

Samantha Slavin, chairman of the English Department at the time, believed that she would succeed by breaking down barriers. Slavin said she still the same amount of people. She's always the same kind of person today that she was when she first started.

Way back when have the. After filling field activities, Safi Rezonalesa was changed with driving under the influence at about 2:10 a.m. She failed the field sobriety tests. She lied too many steps and stopped between each during the walk test, and she struggled to identify any landmarks for balance during the one-leg stand.

She admitted that she should not have been driving and was taken to the Orange County DUI test center. Her BAC was 0.04.

She was charged with driving under the influence at about 2:10 a.m. by Officer James Brennan.

Her test was administered off 404. She had neither a driver's license nor a second test was used to get the legal limit.

Ineptness was not a problem.

U-turn paves way.

After filling field activities, Safi Rezonalesa admitted that she had been.

Not today.

An advisory body, the Advisory Council on Alcoholism, turned Red Mirror a public awareness campaign that puts "people first." A program is the give people a chance to learn more.

Prevention, Health and Education Commission.

For over four years, she has coached the team in a variety of tasks.

They work hard on every task.

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CENTRAL FLORIDA'S LARGEST VW INVENTORY • CENTRAL FLORIDA'S LARGEST VW INVENTORY
Florida college considering changing rules for two-year colleges

A change in policy could happen as early as next fall, unhappy that most of the beef after Coke's contract of 75-cent cans of PepsiAmericas - not simply to state more choices as well as the school higher denominates more choices as well. The university has asked it to report back with an expanded product line, as the school higher denominates more choices as well. The university has asked it to report back with an expanded product line, as the school higher denominates more choices as well.

Science Spotlight

HATFIELD, Maine — Judge set a $100,000 bond yesterday for the reputed former Brazilian drug lord, the 1964 murders of three civil rights workers.

Circuit Judge Marcus Garbage, March 31, 1964 for Edgar Ray Killen after meeting with his attorneys, ordered $10,000 to be posted.

Killen, a 72-year-old former preacher from the tiny Union community, was arrested last week. It is the first pre­paratory step in a new federal charge in the killings that focused national attention on the civil rights struggle in the South.

U.S. military scales back joint training

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia - Marines have scaled back their planned maneuvers and air strikes after reaching a compromise with the government and agreeing to only carry weapons or set up a base camp in areas under government control, an American spokesman said Wednesday.

The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln steamed into the Indonesian waters Wednesday, officials said, after a thief took her pass­port from her hotel room.

Four more bodies found after California mudslide

LA CONCHITA, Calif. - Searchers found four more bodies near debris from a first second night, swearing to recover the victims.

Deichen said the pain medi­cation is an anti-inflammatory medica­tion, particularly in liberal arts, and among pain medications.

"Patients who are taking anti-inflammatory medications, including aspirin and ADRs, also to be aided in the patients," Deichen said.

"Medications are just a link to heart attacks," Deichen said.

"In the end, we want to help organs such as Tylenol, aspirin, and other medications, such as Celebrex fall under the same category of anti-inflammatory medications, in this category may also be linked to heart attacks," Deichen said.

"But persons with good car­diovascular health don't have to worry about risks," he said, if the medications are used inter­mittently.

"Some medications said the pain med­ications fall under three main categories.

Among other medications such as Tylenol, said that TYLENOL and Motrin make up the first category, Tylenol is the only medication in this group.

Not linked to heart attacks. But abusing it can lead to organs such as Tylenol, aspirin, and other medications, such as Celebrex fall under the same category of anti-inflammatory medications, in this category may also be linked to heart attacks," Deichen said.
Courts jumping once more

Free fitness classes were also available for anybody who came to attend the event. There were also rallies with prizes distributed every hour. The outdoor adventure club held a contest and demonstration at the climbing wall. The wall was one of the few features of the gym that was not severely damaged by the impact of the hurricanes that flooded the gym in the fall. A dodgeball tournament was held to kick off the use of the new basketball and volleyball courts.

The courts host numerous intramural sports, including basketball, volleyball, dodgeball, floor hockey, ping-pong and even badminton. Intramural events, including the new basketball and volleyball court, were held to recognize and reward the students themselves. Of the completion of the project, President John Hitt and Student Body President Kevin Peters spoke at the event. The directors of the RWC gave Peters and the SGA a plaque from for donating emergency funds, which the SGA keeps in its account, toward the repairs for the gym.

Besides the SGA, awards were also given to two UCF student-employees of the center for their work and research about some of the new features of the gym. Justin Barnaky received recognition for his contribution to the flooring in the gymnasium area. The floor is made of a material which is safer than the old flooring. Kim Halliday, a fitness instructor at the RWC, also received commendation for her work and research for the wood flooring in the exercise rooms.

The UCF co-ed flag football team also received recognition for their work and research done by Barnaky and Halliday; the project would never have been completed in the timely manner it was.

Work, however, is not done for the RWC employees. The recreation pool, new tennis courts, and new sand volleyball courts, which feature professional nets and equipment, are still in the process of being constructed. The date set for the opening of that area is the week after spring break.

Understanding the number of the campus.

We’re coming to UCF this January!!
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To learn more about Alpha Epsilon Phi, visit www.aephi.org
Tech fee proposed for wireless network

Amount may vary depending on school need
GUAM SCARLETT
Consulting Writer

The State University President's Association has proposed a belated Christmas present to students who attend Florida's public universities: a new fee.
The fee would be used for technological purposes, such as upgrades, new equipment and the expansion of wireless access on campus. The cost is yet to be determined.
Before the fee is added to student tuition, a vote from the Florida Student Association will be needed to determine whether it would be in the best interest of the majority of the student body.
If fees increase, the amount may vary for each school depending on size and the technological needs.

"UCF is interested in the idea," UCF in the PKA is Student Body President Kevin Peters, who said there will be a meeting this Friday concerning the fee increases.
Peters said the topic was discussed in a November meeting, but nothing has been formally proposed.
"UCF is the leader of Florida's state universities when it comes to things like wireless and technological advances," Peters said.
"Wireless Internet access is already available in some of the largest buildings on campus, such as the UCF Library, the Student Union, and the Health and Physical Activities Building.

Some students don't think the additional fee is necessary.
"I don't think going wireless really improves the performance of the computer or connection to the Internet," said Janice Geoffrey Harta. "I don't think that kind of upgrade should affect the fees students have to pay." Others wouldn't mind paying the fee.
"I love having the UCF campus wireless, and it really is great to check my e-mail between classes," said Danielle Rubenstein, an advertising and public relations senior. "There are quite a few places on campus where we don't get it, and service is low." Her example included parts of the first floor and the auditorium of the Communications Building.

The added fee would definitely support an improvement in UCF's computer technology, especially the wireless access, she would be willing to pay a few extra dollars, and I think other students would too, as long as the site wasn't too slow.

The fee would be one of many that UCF students pay. An increase in the activity and service fees was recently approved to go toward repairing the Recreation and Wellness Center and other parts of campus that were damaged during last year's hurricanes. The fee is now $8.09 per person per credit hour.

University fees, per hour:

- Manatee Hall rental fee ($63.80)
- Activity and Service fee ($0.25)
- Housing fee ($8.32)
- Capital improvement fee ($2.44)
- Financial aid fee ($3.60)
- Transportation access fee ($0.30)

There are additional fees, such as the UCF health fee, which comes to about $50 per term, a material and supply fee for the courses between $5 and $41 per term, and registration and late payment fees, etc.

Over the past five years, UCF's cost of tuition and fees has skyrocketed. In the 2000-2001 school year, the combined price of tuition and fees is $361 per credit hour for a Florida resident was $278. This year, tuition alone is $2,682 for the same group of students.
If fees bring the total to approximately $5,238 it is the fee worth it? "We feel that the students are already being taxed enough," Peters said. "There won't be a lot of discussion before making any decisions on adding another fee."
show up at Tuesday's protest. There will be an evaluation of the impact of the Faat on union members.

Troutt said the two parties are almost deadlocked due to lack of commu­nication. "They are saying that they are trying to give raises and the union is stopping them. Well, we had union meetings where [an admin­istrator] told us [on Nov. 22] that they would have that."

"Instead, they took a break and have since refused to tell us they were declaring impasse," the continuous bargaining mem­bers claim they are trying to give faculty salaries raises, not declare impasse instead of nego­tiating our memorandums of agreement.

"In any case, once in impasse, both negotiating teams will place their case before a special magistrate nominated by the administration," Troutt said. "The third-party magistrate will make rec­ommendations."

If either side rejects those recommendations another impasse would ensue. If UCF's Board of Trustees will then make the final determination that must be ratified by the faculty, even though it is not. That is why both sides can continue to nego­tiate.

"This process is designed to provide a timely avenue for opportunities to resolve issues in a collaborative environment," he said.

"I added that he knew more would not be popular among some union members. "I assure you that this deci­sion was not a decision on the part of our firm that believe that declaring impasse now is the best way to achieve more rapid resolution on a contract that will reward our excellent faculty and other professional employees."

Troutt disagrees. "The way to solve the problem is in the hands of [UCF]. They would have had [bargaining] sessions, Other schools are making forward progress, but their administration was the first to declare impasse — how embarrassing.

She said the real reason for the delay of progress is the lack of honest communication required for UCFs bargaining team could not come to an agreement. "At the Nov. 22 meeting, they already declared that there would be an impasse before they even met with us," Troutt said. "They sent out a fully prepared e-mail with information about the impasse decision, but they would not address the impasse decision, but they would not address the real issues."

"But that's just a part of it," she added.

"Repeatedly UCFs bargain­ing team has been unable to explain the ins and outs of their proposals. Often their proposals have con­trived and difficult to follow. When we ask them to explain, they tell us that they think the statements are clear enough.

"It's like they don't want to know what they're putting on paper," Troutt said.

She also said the UCF team frequently provided the Faf with information it needed.

"We asked them to provide the Faf with a list of books and journals that were used for their cost of living surveys. The UCF staff removed the critical books and only gave us some other books.

"We're not sure what the motivation is behind this," Troutt said.

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"We asked them to provide the Faf with a list of books and journals that were used for their cost of living surveys. The UCF staff removed the critical books and only gave us some other books.

"We're not sure what the motivation is behind this," Troutt said.

As a result of this behavior, the Faf will not use the UCF staff's cost of living surveys and will continue to work on the students' behalf.

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Teacher: Stadium could bring recruits

From Al Price, the football team's success never directly improved his situation at the workplace. "The football team never benefitted the Art Department, and it's not a contradiction. I was never convinced that money not spent on football would go to the arts. Besides, like a friend of mine always used to say, there's not much else to do in Auburn except kill things," Price said.

Price said that he understands Hitt's intention of building a stadium for the football program despite its dismal reputation, which was capped by school-wide frustration during the most recent 0-11 season. "When it comes to building a stadium you have to think way down the line," Price said, "That's what Hitt's doing. He wants a winning program."

Though nobody really knows if a new stadium is the best thing for the university, there is a public outcry of foolish spending. The football program will receive the money for the stadium through donations and not at the expense of other departments and programs at UCF. "That doesn't mean there won't be some fun," Price said.

UCF's chapter of the United Faculty of Florida thought there was a difference, and that UCF should be focused on academics. "I wish someone could interest UCF's leadership in academics — between Big Man On Campus and the mad rush for a stadium, no one seems to have any time for old-fashioned academic concerns — like teachers," Trouard said.

"Now the payoff for an ill-advised (football) season is a new stadium and a redirection of fundraising that will eclipse any other project. Too bad for the softball season, too bad for the neighbors in the UCF area and too bad for the city who thought UCF would welcome the opportunity for such a partnership in the Citrus Bowl renovations."

People always say to put your money where your mouth is. When I make a purchase at any one of UCF Business Services many locations, that's exactly what I do.

UCF Business Services does not receive any funding from the state. Profits they receive are reinvested back into the UCF community through their generous donations.

Spending that promotes convenience, affordability, and wise investment... I'd say that's definitely putting my money where my mouth is. What about yours?
Brotherly love

Brother Jed espouses his religious beliefs on the free speech lawn outside of the Math and Physics Building yesterday. He had a sign warning fornicators, masturbators, feminists, rock 'n' rollers, sodomites and pornographers that judgment day is near.

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Call for an appointment! Work-ins Welcome!
Coach Kirk Speraw's crew has been looking for something to build on. This Chap. 10-3 (16-3 A-Sun) defeated Stetson Tuesday night at the UCF Arena in front of a season-high crowd of 21,000. Forward Marcus Johnson led the Knights with 18 points, on 6-of-9 shooting, including a crucial jumper that helped to seal the game. The first two clutch points by Sophomore Anthony Register, who scored 20 consecutive points for the Hatters late in the second half, answered with a jumper to bring Register 4-0 on a 3-2-1 action within the last three downs and the count Hatters once again scored a team, this time in the other course, and the Knights emerged victorious on the strength of some clutch play late in the game. Both Register and 18 points, including two off-bleachers three-pointers in the final minutes, as UCF finally put a damper on 2019-20 season for men's basketball victory over conference foe. Center 2159 fans and Sports Editor Dec 21-22 and 6-0, Stetson's Anthony Register, who scored 20 consecutive points for the Hatters late in the second half, answered with a jumper to bring Register 4-0 on a 3-2-1 action within the last three downs and the count Hatters once again scored a team, this time in the other course, and the Knights emerged victorious on the strength of some clutch play late in the game. Both Register and 18 points, including two off-bleachers three-pointers in the final minutes, as UCF finally put a damper on 2019-20 season for men's basketball victory over conference foe. Center 2159 fans and Sports Editor Dec 21-22 and 6-0, Stetson's Anthony Register, who scored 20 consecutive points for the Hatters late in the second half, answered with a jumper to bring Register 4-0 on a 3-2-1 action within the last three downs and the count Hatters once again scored a team, this time in the other course, and the Knights emerged victorious on the strength of some clutch play late in the game.
Best quiet in first preseason game

Lindsay had a great outing," Luers-Gillispie said. "She started strong, and was able to strike out a couple of batters."

RHS on two hits. Shortstop Kellie Mcintyre also added two hits for Tennessee and scored three times. The Lady Vols were led offensively by third baseman Kristi Durant, who lit up the Knights' pitchers for three RBIs on two hits. Starting pitcher Monica Abbott pitched three perfect innings, striking out six along the way. Megan Rhodes and Ashley Baker also chipped in two innings apiece of mound work, surrendering a combined four runs on six hits.

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"Today was just a measuring stick," Luers-Gillispie said. "We know we have to face them again in four weeks, and we'll be ready to go."

UCF opens the regular season Jan. 29 with a doubleheader against Bethune-Cookman.

The Knights are preparing for their fourth and final season of Atlantic Sun play, but will face Tennessee again in a non-conference regular-season matchup on Feb. 4.

"Today was just a measuring stick," Luers-Gillispie said. "We know we have to face them again in four weeks, and we'll be ready to go."

UCF opens the regular season Jan. 29 with a doubleheader against Bethune-Cookman.
Marcus du huge in Stetson defeat

**SUMMING UP THE GAME**

Jeff Sharod

It's a good thing it's still early.

After dropping three of their first four contests in conference play this season, the Knights have been able to turn things around.

The team has now won their last three conference games, which is all they needed to do in order to start a winning streak.

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**OFF THE DRIBBLE**

**UCF vs. STETSON: 66-52**

**UCF analysing openduc huge in Stetson defeat**

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**SUMMING UP THE GAME**

Jeff Sharod

It's a good thing it's still early.

After dropping three of their first four contests in conference play this season, the Knights have been able to turn things around.

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Permit Regulations:
A permit is required for all motor vehicles parked on campus.

Permits MUST be ordered online, and can be picked up at the South Garage or mailed to your home.

Daily permits are available.

Vehicle assistance offered by Parking Services:
- Jumpstart your car
- Call a tow truck
- Inflate tires
- Give directions

Parking Services Hours:
Mon-Thurs: 7:30 a.m.- 6 p.m.
Friday: 7:30 a.m.- 5 p.m.

How to get your parking permit
1. Order your parking permit online at www.parking.ucf.edu (complete instructions are online)
2. Pay for your permit

Your permit must be ordered online!
www.parking.ucf.edu
For info call: (407) 823-5812

Student Escort Patrol Service (S.E.P.S.) provided by the UCF Police Department. Escort for students on campus at night. Call (407) 823-2424

Student Escort Patrol Service (S.E.P.S.) provided by the UCF Police Department. Escort for students on campus at night. Call (407) 823-2424
and realize we have a pretty nasty rivalry game.

Before I go further, I would like to note that this so-called rivalry has gone a bit downhill of late, it would be generous of me to say that UCF basketball is all right. It would be very rare to the point of saying that Stetson couldn't beat a bag of hangs in a game of bumper hockey. Heck, the past two UCF home games have had free rail-bowl seats at halftime for free burritos. Even our own team shoot better than Stetson.

UCF has knocked off the Hatters seven consecutive times. It doesn't take Sherlock Holmes to discover that one of these teams isn't really holding up its end of the rivalry I can blame Stetson though. Look at where our program is going and look at where the Hatters are going.

Last season I wrote about how both the basketball and baseball teams are struggling between those two schools because of UCF's national ambitions and Stetson's satisfaction with the bare minimum. Even one Stetson fan echoed my sentiment, as he posted on the UCFSports.com message board, that Stetson wasn't inclined to improve its conference stature or beef up the Hatters' national image.

He basically said his school was fine with being in a mid-to-bottom conference, playing against bottom teams. Watching a team with that kind of fan base provides about as much heart-stopping excitement as the possibility of another Kid 'N Play movie.

Who wants to put up with that? Where's the fun in knowing that your basketball program might never move to a better conference? Then again, this is coming from a guy who doesn't even want an NBA basketball goal.

The bottom line is that UCF basketball is going to have to have to that new rivalry because the Hatters don't show up to play. As if they walk into The Dungeon, 2,159 fans or not, and become Rowdy Knights were giving them hell.

So where does that leave us with this game? 2,159 fans showed up against Stetson last season, an all-time record 4,737 fans showed up to watch Knights against Troy during the season, an all-time record 4,737 fans showed up to watch the Knights against Troy during the season, an all-time record 4,737 fans showed up to watch Knights against Troy during the season, an all-time record 4,737 fans showed up to watch Knights against Troy during the season, an all-time record 4,737 fans showed up to watch the Knights against Troy during the season.

It's a coincidence that we play Troy at 2 p.m. on Saturday at home. Probably just common logic dictates that the Knights should be playing in front of a record-setting crowd. The fans are going to walk into that game. Troy is a small team that last year.

The Trojans once-talented team has shriveled up and fallen into a closer than kilometre Alvarez's remarks.

The burning question might be whether or not I should write about how Adam is related to the mental happens in a bottle of Fang, but the real question is why? Why isn't The Dungeons packed for every home game? Why does a talented player like Peppers have to be surprised when 2,159 fans show up to watch our game?

I'm tired of telling UCF students to support their athletic program.

This is the last time. Either you're in or you're not.

2,159 people can't be wrong. Unless they're Stetson fans.

end of story

[Quotables]

"I can't see why they wouldn't want to come to UCF,"

HUNTS'S HOOPS COACH KIRK SPERAW ON TUESDAY NIGHT'S HOME GAME

"It was nice to see more than them,"

WOMEN'S HOOPS GUARD CHESTNUT HUGGINS ON PLAYING AS A TEAM

C-USA will benefit from new deal

from #2

two scholarships. The schools that continue to have problems will be subject to the demise of the "historical penalties" at best.

Consecutive years of falling back to certain academic stand­ards would lead to recruiting and further scholarship restrictions.

A bonus 'straight win over an elite team would lead to being banned from pro­grams or postseason games, and a fourth would affect Divi­sion I's membership and probation.

Conference USA has a new deal with ESPNU and CSTV

C-USA's new conference, Conference USA, announced a monster deal with ESPN and CSTV on Tuesday to have the league's football and men's and women's basketball games broadcast by the networks.

The deal begins with the 2005 season and runs through 2010. It replaces the existing eight-year agreement that began in 2003-04.

ESPN will carry the C-USA football title game that begins next year and will have first pick of 10 regularly-season games a season to be televised on ESPN or ESPN2. It will have first selection of six men's bas­ketball and three women's basket­ball games each season to show on ESPN or ESPN2, plus the conference champi­onship game.

The league also announced a deal with College Sports Television to have more than 50 football games a season tele­vised by the network. CSTV will also show more than 100 men's basketball games and 20 to 30 women's basketball games a season, along with early-round cover­age of the conference tourna­ments.

The network will also pro­vide coverage of other C-USA sports, such as volleyball, base­ball, softball and men's and women's soccer.

CSTV has the rights to pro­duce the conference's official Web site.

C-USA's members are Army, Charlotte, Cleveland State, Duquesne, East Carolina, Houston, Louisiana, Marshall, Memphis, Saint Louis, South Florida, Southern Miss, TCU, Tulsa, USF and UAB.

Helennian Trophy winner Matt Leinart's choice coming soon

LOS ANGELES — With his self-imposed Thursday deadline pass­ing, Helennian Trophy winner Matt Leinart still doesn't know whether he will return to Southern Cali­fornia or go to the NFL.

'I have no idea. I'm just in a world of my own. I know the news [on the last day of the NFL draft] as of now Tuesday, I don't know what to do. There have been certain times of the day when I think, 'Yes.' Then my feelings would change and an hour later, I'll hear something or talk to someone and think, 'No, maybe not. It's always back and forth.'

Drudge, he added, "I really have to get on the ball. I'm trying to do everything but I really don't have much time."

Leinart is one of three USC players declaring for the nation­al draft.

Linebacker Lofa Tatupu and punter Tom Malone, both juniors, also plan to announce Monday and could complete requirements for his sociology degree at some point.

Leinart has been bombarded with both information and opinions.

"It almost seems like an easy decision to people out­side of USC — Why stay when you're going to be a top pick. But it's really a lot harder than it seems to make the decision. There are so many pros and cons to both decisions," said Leinart, who started classes on Monday and could complete requirements for his sociology degree this semester.

'Whenever I do, I'm going to be happy with my decision and move on from there. I look at it as a win win situation,"
UCF, faculty need to work together

Sometimes, UCF just can't seem to settle on a topic. When Coach Mike Kruczek lost a key player, he blamed the athletes. When a student is kicked out, they are at fault in this instance. Yet, the faculty members also must share the blame for the university. Yes, they may be interested in making the university more prominent, but they also want to make UCF the most prestigious institution in Florida (and, someday, the world). How could it be that these two groups, who should be, working together for the university’s benefit, disagree so much that they need a neutral party to come in?

This is a collective effort, and we are all working toward the same goal — helping to bring UCF from a small institution to a prominent one.

The university may have a history with the student body, but it also made itself clear with the faculty. UCF neighbors UCF administrators, bringing the game to a thrilling end and making the rules.

One whole situation is just immature. Obviously, UCF professors want to be at UCF. They find a job elsewhere. They can’t get what they want to be there at UCF. They definitely want the faculty members also to want to be at UCF.

No one to blame

Giving credit where it’s due

UCF’s Faculty Union has been

attacked for its support of the

student newspaper, the Student

Staff. The union has been criticized for its stance on the

Kappa Alpha Fraternity’s

involvement in the suicide of an
campus student. The union has
taken a stand against the university’s

administration’s decision to

allow the fraternity to continue

its activities on campus.

The faculty union has been

under fire for a long time. By officially declaring an

impasse, the faculty union was scheduled to

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Basketball brings home what football can’t: wins

COMMENTARY
KATHY POKRIST

It was a normal Tuesday night. The arena was loud and packed. The UCF men’s basketball team was in action. We were the ones cheering. The crowd was thick, the atmosphere electric. It was a good feeling. I was happy.

I was sitting in the front row of the student section, waiting for the teams to take the court. My mind was elsewhere. I was thinking about my day at work and how I wanted to relax after a long week. Suddenly, the music started, and the crowd erupted. The game was about to begin.

I looked around at my fellow fans, all wearing bright orange and cheering for the Knights. The atmosphere was electric. It was a feeling I hadn’t experienced in a while.

A few weeks ago, the Knights were at the bottom of the conference standings. Now, they were on top. The team was playing with confidence, and the crowd was cheering them on. I was impressed.

One of my friends had seen a few games this season and was excited to see what the team could do. He was a big fan and had been following them closely. We were both looking forward to tonight’s game.

I sat back and enjoyed the game. The players were giving it their all, and the crowd was on their feet. It was a great moment.

I thought about the team’s progress this season. They had come a long way, and I was glad to see them performing so well.

As the game went on, I couldn’t help but feel proud of the team. They had worked hard, and it was paying off. I was glad to be there to witness it.

I looked around at my fellow fans, all wearing bright orange and cheering for the Knights. The atmosphere was electric. It was a feeling I hadn’t experienced in a while.

I thought about the team’s progress this season. They had come a long way, and I was glad to see them performing so well.

I left the game with a smile on my face. It was a great night. I am looking forward to the next gamebanks.
FREE WEIGHT TRAINING

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

Participants will receive:

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- MRI scans of the upper arms
- $125

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Genital Herpes

You May Not Have Symptoms, But Your Herpes May Be Contagious

Did you know that you may give your partner herpes even when you have no visible sores or lesions?

Local physicians are studying the investigational use of an approved prescription medication for recurrent genital herpes to learn more about when a person can spread it to others.

You may qualify if you are 18 or older and know or suspect that you have recurrent genital herpes. If you take part, you will receive study-related care, including physical examinations, laboratory tests and study medications.

To learn more, please call: 407-472-0228

M-F, 8-5, or visit www.ocrc.net

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Volunteer for a clinical research study of an investigational medication.

To Qualify:

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- Stay 6 hours in Research dorm
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Compensation is paid up to $300.00
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Donate Plasma

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Your plasma is manufactured into a derivative called Albumin. This critical fluid is used to treat battlefield injuries including shock, burns and blood loss.

Earn up to $170 a month donating regularly. When you donate plasma, you are helping save lives. Take being a hero to another level. Donate Now!

New and Return Donors: Bring this ad and receive an extra $5 on your 2nd and 4th donations.

DCI Biologicals Orlando, LLC
1900 Alafaya Trail, Suite 500
Orlando, FL 32826
(321) 235-9100
www.dciplasma.com

Don’t miss out on interviewing for career opportunities this Spring!

NOTICE:

All UCF students & alumni must attend an introductory workshop to gain access to full & part-time job postings and employers recruiting on campus. This workshop will teach you how to use the online database, submit your resume, and sign up for interviews taking place on-campus.

Dates and times for the Introduction to Online Job Postings and On-campus Interviewing workshop for the Spring semester are available at www crc.ucf.edu.

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UCF Affiliated Housing

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**Crossword**

![Crossword Image]

**Crossword Clues**

1. **First Name**
2. **Middle Name**
3. **Last Name**
4. **Street Address**
5. **City**
6. **State**
7. **Zip Code**

**Crossword Puzzle**

**Clue 1:** First Name (9, 7)
**Clue 2:** Middle Name (8, 5)
**Clue 3:** Last Name (6, 5)
**Clue 4:** Street Address (9, 13)
**Clue 5:** City (5, 6)
**Clue 6:** State (2, 3)
**Clue 7:** Zip Code (5, 6)

**Across**

14. **Across 14:** Name of a state in the Midwest (4, 9)
15. **Across 15:** Name of a state in the Southeast (3, 7)
16. **Across 16:** Name of a state in the Northwest (4, 9)
17. **Across 17:** Name of a state in the Southwest (4, 9)
18. **Across 18:** Name of a state in the Northeast (4, 9)
19. **Across 19:** Name of a state in the Rocky Mountains (4, 9)
20. **Across 20:** Name of a state in the Southeast (2, 5)

**Down**

1. **Down 1:** Name of a state in the Midwest (4, 9)
2. **Down 2:** Name of a state in the Southeast (3, 7)
3. **Down 3:** Name of a state in the Northwest (4, 9)
4. **Down 4:** Name of a state in the Southwest (4, 9)
5. **Down 5:** Name of a state in the Northeast (4, 9)
6. **Down 6:** Name of a state in the Rocky Mountains (4, 9)
7. **Down 7:** Name of a state in the Southeast (2, 5)

**Instructions:**

Enter your answers in the crossword puzzle grid below. Each clue corresponds to a state in the United States. Fill in the grid with the correct state names. Good luck!
The UCF SHUTTLE PROVIDES STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES BETWEEN 15 OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT RESIDENT COMMUNITIES AND UCF, WITH SELECTED STOPS IN RESEARCH PARK.

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<tr>
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<td>#2 Addison Place, Pegasus Pointe, College Station</td>
<td>Millican Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>#3 Pegasus Connection, Arbor Apartments</td>
<td>Transit Center</td>
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<td>#4 Village at Alafaya Club, University House, Boardwalk</td>
<td>Millican Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>#5 Village at Science Drive, OTC/HR (Research Park)/P-11</td>
<td>Health Center</td>
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<td>#6 Northgate Lakes, Tivoli</td>
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<td>#7 Collegiate Village Inn (CVI)</td>
<td>Transit Center</td>
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<td>#8 Riverwind at Alafaya Trail</td>
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<td>#9 Knights Landing/IST/RP/BA/HR (Research Park)/P-1</td>
<td>Health Center</td>
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The shuttle runs approximately every 15 minutes (each way) from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. every class day. Save time, money, and all the fuss. Hop on the shuttle and ride with us!

Ride the Black and Gold On-Campus Shuttle

The UCF Black and Gold Line provides transportation services for everyone to travel throughout the campus. There is no per-ride cost to use these shuttles. The service provides safe, convenient, and timely travel to the many destinations on our campus.

The operating hours are Monday thru Friday 7 A.M. until 7 P.M.

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What can you do in 110 hours?
How about break a world record?

Hairspray, fresh out of the '60s — PAGE 2
Our critics' top 10 movies of 2004 — PAGE 10
Remembering last year's best shows — PAGE 13
HAPPENINGS

Bust out the Hairspray
Classic John Waters film comes to life on the stage

CAROLINA GROPPIA
Staff Writer

Broadway's new musical-comedy phenomenon takes you back to 1962 Baltimore, as 16-year-old Tracy Turnblad sets out to dance her way onto TV's most popular show. This mega-hit is piled bouffant-high with laughter and romance — and enough deliciously tuneful new songs to fill a nonstop platter party. Welcome to the '60s.

Hairspray won a plethora of accolades, including Tony Awards, Drama Desk Awards, the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award and Theatre World Awards. The official Web site of the play (http://www.hairsprayontour.com) describes this musical as the story of "a big girl with big hair and an ever bigger heart, with only one passion — to dance." So when she wins a spot on the local TV dance program, The Corny Collins Show, she is transformed overnight from the outsider to the impressionable teen, celebrity of the '60s.

Before becoming a Broadway hit in 2002, however, Hairspray was the brainchild of writer/director John Waters, who conceived the idea as a movie in 1988, starring the then-unknown Ricki Lake as the main, chubby character. With low exposure and awesomely bad reviews, the movie was mostly unsuccessful aside from a dedicated cult audience. The musical, however, had a different success story. Hairspray became an immediate Broadway smash when it premiered at the Neil Simon Theatre in the summer of 2002. After winning eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Performance by a Leading Actor and Actress in a Musical, Best Direction in a Musical, Best Original Score and Best Costume Design, its place in Broadway history was confirmed. The musical also won the prestigious Tony Honors for Excellence in Theatre.

With a running time of approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes with a 15-minute intermission, this hilarious comedy features an original score by Marc Shaiman (who co-wrote the music and lyrics for South Park: Bigger, Longer, & Uncut) and Scott Wittman.

To quote one of the show's many catchy songs, "You can't stop the beat" of this hair-hopping hit. So, for the souls who thrive in new experiences, it would be a noble choice to check out Hairspray. Hairspray begins showing Jan. 18 and runs through Jan. 30 at the Carr Performing Arts Center. Ticket prices, ranging from $43-$71, are now available. If you are interested, call 407-849-2020 or visit http://www.hairsprayontour.com for more information.

For more photos of Hairspray, see page 15.
YOUR MOMMA...never made soup like this.

At Crispers, gourmet soups are a specialty. Since you're taking so many credits and going to so many classes, we want you to try it for FREE. Just show us your valid UCF student ID card.

We've got 12 varieties of soups, gumbos, chowders, and Oriental soups made fresh, every day. Purchase any garden-fresh gourmet salad, hearty sandwich or wrap priced over $4, and get a 12-ounce cup of our incredible soup, FREE.

Got a UCF ID card?
Then, there's FREE SOUP waiting for you at Crispers!

Free soup or $2.99 off chowders and gumbos with main dish purchase and valid student ID Card. Expires 2-27-05
**HAPPENINGS**

**CALENDAR**

**CAMPUS**

Road Trip: Works (opening reception)
Jan. 15, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., free
UCF Art Galleries
801 N. Magnolia Ave.
407-823-3535
407-823-3537

**EVENTS**

Ringling Bros. And Barnum and Bailey Circus
Jan. 13 to Jan. 16, various times, $12 to $25
TD Waterfront Center
600 W. Church St.
407-948-2020

Cocoa Beach Jazz Fest
Jan. 14, 6-9 p.m., $25 to $50
Radisson Resort at the Port
8701 Astronaut Blvd.
407-690-3500

Mardi Gras for Life
Jan. 14, noon to midnight, $10 to $15
Florida National Guard Armory
2805 S. Ferncreek Ave.
407-616-0959

**SHOWS**

**SHOES**

Kings Place
Jan. 13 to Jan. 16, various times, $10 to $20
Car Performing Arts Center
407 W. Livingston St.
407-849-2020

One Drop, Is What (rock)
Jan. 13, 9 p.m., $20
VIP Pub
1840 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Koi (rock)
Jan. 14, 9-12 p.m., $20
VIP Pub
1840 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Strong Out, Evergreen Terrace, The Explosion (punk)
Jan. 14, 9 p.m., $20
The Social
514 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Distance, Milka, Unison (rock)
Jan. 14, 9 p.m., free
Holly and Dolly's
501 E. 58th St.
407-634-0069

Junkion Rush, Funky D, Florganism, Russ Gaspard and the Grind (rock)
Jan. 15, 9 p.m., $4
Hard Rock Live
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-396-1400

**ART**

Three Dimensions (opening reception)
Jan. 13, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., free
Park Avenue Film Arts
160 W. Park Ave.
407-628-2549

Inside Out (opening reception)
Feb. 14, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
Cecil Field School of Art
600 S. Andrews Blvd.
407-717-0261

Terri Cook (opening reception)
Jan. 15, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
Hammed Watson Dance Studio and Art Gallery
120 A Hammocks Ave.
407-206-0009

**SPOTLIGHT**

**I'VE GOT RHYTHM**

**GALACTIC**

You May Not Have Symptoms, But Your Herpes May Be Contagious

Did you know that you may give your partner herpes even when you have no visible sores or lesions?

Local physicians are studying the investigational use of an approved prescription medication for recurrent genital herpes to learn more about when a person can spread it to others.

You may qualify if you are 18 or older and know or suspect that you have recurrent genital herpes.

If you take part, you will receive study-related care, including physical examinations, laboratory tests and study medications.

To learn more, please call: 407-472-0228

M-F, 8-5, or visit www.ocrc.net
Orlando Clinical Research Center
5055 S. Orange Avenue • Orlando FL 32809

Volunteer For Your Future
HAIRSPRAY IN PICTURES

Here's a sneak peek at the wild dance choreography and awkward kissing of John Waters' most-accessible movie, turned stageplay, Hairspray, opening Tuesday at Bobb Carr.

COURTESY CHIC BERNHARD AND PAUL BARRE
In Good Company is short of being great company

Topher gives a graceful performance in uneven charmer

NEVEN FILMS WITH GOOD ACTING AND SPORADICALLY STRONG WRITING ARE FILMS TO ADMIRE. THEY HAVE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO WARM YOUR HEART AND TEAR IT APART, ALL WITH THE SAME VERSATILITY. IN GOOD COMPANY IS THE FIRST SOLO EFFORT OF WRITER-DIRECTOR PAUL WEIZT (ONE OF THE TWO BROTHERS THAT DIRECTED AMERICAN PIE AND ABOUT A BOY), AND THOUGH THIS FILM HAS MORE IN COMMON WITH BOY THAN IT DOES WITH PIE, COMPANY SOMEHOW JUST MISSES THE MARK.

TOPHER GRACE STARS AS CARTER DUREA, AN AD EXECUTIVE WHO HAS JUST BEEN MADE SENIOR SALES REP AT 26. HE HAS REPLACED DON FOREMAN (DENNIS QUID), A YEAR OLDER THAN GRACE'S DAD. THE FILM TAKES A PREDICTABLE TURN, AS GRACE'S WIFE LEAVES HIM AND HE STRUGGLES TO FIND A ROMANCE WITH QUAD'S DAUGHTER, PLAYED BY SCARLETT JOHANSSON.

JOHANSSON, WHO HAS PERFECTED THE NASAL VOICE CHARM THAT'S COME TO BE HER TRADEMARK, SOMEHOW TAKES A MISSSTEP IN THE ROLE OF QUAD'S DAUGHTER AND GRACE'S LOVE INTEREST. THE CHARACTER IS A STOCK PLOT DEVICE THAT'S TRYING TO TREAD NEW GROUND, BUT SOMEHOW FALLS IN FEELING FRESH WHEN THE TWIST IN THE PLOT IS REVEALED.

QUAD, WHO APPEARED IN FOUR FILMS IN 2004, IS STRONG; HE'S SENSITIVE AND REALISTIC AND ENDURING. QUAD BRINGS A REAL PRESENCE TO THE ROLE, ONE THAT HIS AGE HAS GIVEN HIM. A WELL-WEATHERED LOOK WITH A GLOW STILL BEHIND THE EYE, QUAD'S DON IS THE SOUL OF THIS JOURNEY AND A MENTOR TO CARTER.

SOMEHOW GRACE HAS MANAGED THIRD BILLING IN A FILM THAT IS CLEARLY HIS. BREAKING FROM THE CONFINES OF THAT 70S SHOW, GRACE'S PERFORMANCE IS NOUNCED AND SUBTLE, A REAL STAR-MAKING PERFORMANCE IN AN OTHERWISE HIKWWARM FILM. IN GOOD COMPANY WANTS TO BE JERRY MAGUIRE IN SO MANY WAYS BUT TACKLES TOO MANY CHARACTERS AND LOSES ITS FOCUS IN TANGENTIAL WRITING.

THE FILM IS VERY PRETTY TO LOOK AT, AND THE CINEMATOGRAPHY AGAIN REVEALS SOME OF THE DEEPER THINGS THE FILM COULD HAVE EXPRESSED VISUALLY THAT WEIZT'S WRITING ONLY SKINS THE SURFACE. WEIZT'S DIRECTING IS ON PAR WITH HIS WRITING IN THAT IT IS UNEVEN AND STIFLED. WHILE THE FILM WANTS TO MAINTAIN REALISM, AND THE SCRIPT WANTS TO DEFY THE CONVENTIONS, THE TWO NEVER COALESCE IN A WAY THAT SEEMS FRESH.

WHILE THERE ARE PRICELESS MOMENTS IN THE FILM, ON THE WHOLE IN GOOD COMPANY FEELS FACTORY-MADE, PRESSED THROUGH THE STUDIO SYSTEM AS A WAY TO MAKE THE STARS LOOK PRETTY AND SAY LITTLE TO NOTHING NEW ABOUT SOCIETY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE CORPORATE STRUCTURE.

PEOPLE REALIZE THAT CORPORATIONS ARE EVIL AND THAT THEIR CONTINUING MONOPOLIES HURT PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS, AND THIS MESSAGE IS SIMPLY SLAMMED DOWN THE THROAT OF THE VIEWER IN IN GOOD COMPANY. THERE ARE MORE SUBTLE WAYS TO CONVEY A MESSAGE, AND THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WEIZT COULD STAND TO LEARN IN HIS NEXT OUTING.
MOVIE TIMES

FROM 16

Lemony Snicket’s A Series of Unfortunate Events (PG)
1:10 2:10 4:10 5:10 6:15 7:15 8:10 9:10 10:10
The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou (R)
7:40 10:20
Meet the Fockers (PG-13)
12:00 1:20 4:20 5:20 6:40 7:40 9:20
National Treasure (PG)
12:00 5:00 8:00 11:00
Ocean’s Twelve (PG-13)
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
Racing Stripes (PG)
12:10 1:10 2:10 3:10 6:10 7:10 9:10 12:20
Spanglish (PG-13)
12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
White Noise (PG-13)
12:40 4:40 7:40 10:40
REGAL WINTER PARK
510 S. ORLANDO AVE., 407-628-0763
Andrew Lloyd Webber’s The Phantom of the Opera (PG-13)
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
The Aviator (PG-13)
12:00 4:00 8:00
Beyond the Sea (PG-13)
1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Coach Carter (PG-13)
12:40 4:40 7:40 10:40
Elektra (PG-13)
Hotel Rwanda (PG-13)
1:30 4:30 7:30 10:30
In Good Company (PG-13)
12:15 5:15
Kinsey (R)
12:35 2:35 5:35 8:35
Lemony Snicket’s A Series of Unfortunate Events (PG)
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The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou (R)
10:05 12:35
Meet the Fockers (PG-13)
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National Treasure (PG)
12:00
Ocean’s Twelve (PG-13)
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Racing Stripes (PG)
Spanglish (PG-13)
2:55 7:55
White Noise (PG-13)
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REGAL WINTER PARK
510 S. ORLANDO AVE., 407-628-0763
Andrew Lloyd Webber’s The Phantom of the Opera (PG-13)
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The Aviator (PG-13)
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Beyond the Sea (PG-13)
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Coach Carter (PG-13)
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Elektra (PG-13)
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Fat Albert (PG)
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In Good Company (PG-13)
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Kinsey (R)
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Lemony Snicket’s A Series of Unfortunate Events (PG)
11:50 2:40 5:35 8:20 10:20
The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou (R)
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National Treasure (PG)
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Racing Stripes (PG)
Spanglish (PG-13)
2:55 7:55
White Noise (PG-13)
12:55 2:55 5:55 8:55
LOEWS UNIVERSAL CINEMAX
2000 UNIVERSAL BLVD., 407-354-3374
Andrew Lloyd Webber’s The Phantom of the Opera (PG-13)
A Very Long Engagement (R)
Friday and Saturday: 3:15 6:15 9:15
Sunday: 3:15 6:15
D.MAC
39 S. MAGNOLIA AVE., 407-992-1200
People Say I’m Crazy (NR)
Friday: 3:15 6:15
Saturday: 3:15 6:15

IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE JANUARY 14

Inspired By A True Story

SAMUEL L. JACKSON

COACH CARTER

Paramount Pictures Presents an MTV Films Tollin/Robbins Production A Thomas Carter Film Samuel L. Jackson “Coach Carter” Ashanti Jennifer Hopkins Trevor Rabin Sandra Oh Kim Coates

In Theatres January 14

Violent, sexual, drug, language, teen partying

For rating reasons, go to www.filmratings.com

CoachCarterMovie.com

SOUNDTRACK AVAILABLE ON CD

David Gandy Ken Carter

IN VENUE

IT BEGINS ON THE STREETS.
IT ENDS HERE.
Now presenting the indie film critics’

Top 10 for ‘04

Mad puppets, sad musicians, rad killers and more

Everybody’s doing their year-end top tens, so we must also. We polled the indie’s five crochettiest critics for their personal top tens, pooled them all together and created this universal top 10. Check underneath the countdown for each writer’s individual list, as well as our collective 10 “worst” list.

10. The Saddest Music in the World
If Dogville is the year’s best example of extracting the artificial representation we’re used to in cinema, then The Saddest Music in the World is its polar opposite: director Guy Maddin creates a surreal dreamworld with a bona fide fairytale story. The tower using set design and slightly askew angles bring to mind German expressionism, and Maddin’s black-and-white photography and use of a Vaseline-greased lens enhance the picture’s decidedly vintage feel. If for nothing else, watch it for the global sadness competition that gives the film its title. The idea of sadness as a tangible property is one the film’s many intriguing ideas.

— JOHN THOMASON

9. Before Sunset
Richard Linklater has always excelled at capturing universal moments. In Before Sunrise it was the bliss, excitement and spontaneity of young love; in Before Sunset it’s the point where naive romanticism has given way to harsh cynicism and the bitterness of age. Not since the French New Wave has a director made as moving a film about the immeasurable power of memory — in this case, its ability to both comfort and depress simultaneously. As Jesse and Celine walk and talk for 80 minutes, we cherish the time we get to spend with them, as, like the characters themselves, we know it’s fleeting. The memory will be all that’s left.

— JOHN THOMASON

8. Kill Bill: Vol. II
Quentin Tarantino’s sequel, the second volume to the wildly popular cult film Kill Bill Vol. I, saw Uma Thurman through a slew of more cold-blooded killings, eventually landing among her beloved Bill, kiddo revealed. The characters to meet their demise in this film included Michael Madsen’s Budd, a lazy and loathable ‘Sidewinder,’ and a betrayed Pai Mei. Something more notable, however, is the sad departure of the lovely cycloptic Elle Driver (Daryl Hannah), in a classicly polite and gory way to go. Kill Bill Vol. II also featured another stellar soundtrack including Malcolm McLaren, Shivaree and Johnny Cash.

— GINO MEHALIK

7. Shaun of the Dead
Take the quirky British comedies of Richard Curtis, add the post-apocalyptic brain-sucking zombies of a George Romero flick with a dash of Guy Ritchie’s frantic camerawork and you might have a good indication of what Shaun of the Dead is. It’s not so much the juggling of genres that makes the film an instant no-guilt pleasure, but the faultlessness writer/director team Simon Pegg and Edgar Wright put in to each scene. The movie is both horrifying and hilarious at the same time and never loses its natural charm. In a year where the original Dawn of the Dead gets remade into a stylized music video, filmgoers were still able to find a frightful, delightful bloodfest.

— MICHAEL LAWRENCE

6. Garden State
Zach Braff’s directorial debut Garden State included two horny dogs, and amazingly both weren’t trying to co-pulate with Natalie Portman, who gives the finest performance of her career as a girl who lies and has seizures. Braff’s idiosyncratic script reminds one of the best films of Hal Ashby. Braff wears three hats in the film — writing, directing and starring — and excels in each. He has created a powerful opus that somehow magically deals with heavy issues with a light hand. While this film might not end up on every top ten list or even have a hope for an Oscar nod, one can only hope it ensures Braff more work in Hollywood.

— BRIAN BOWYER

5. I Heart Huckabees
Who would have expected a film about existentialism, nihilism and the purpose of living could be so much pure cinematic fun? One of the year’s surprise delights, I Heart Huckabees kicks around weighty, bewildering concepts like a Nerf ball. The result is one of the best mergers of big thinking and big fun in many years.

— MATTHEW HECKEL

4. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
The idea of a machine that could erase a person’s memories in order to make a relationship more perfect is a tried-and-true premise. But director Michel Gondry wove such a tale into an emotionally powerful personal story. The love between Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet through a love that could only be strengthened by the loss of memories.

— JOHN THOMASON

3. Saddest Music in the World
Like Before Sunset, this film deals with the power of memory but on a much more abstract and intellectual level. The use of black-and-white photography and a Vaseline-greased lens enhance the picture’s decided vintage feel. If for nothing else, watch it for the global sadness competition that gives the film its title. It’s the year’s best example of sadness as a tangible property.

— JOHN THOMASON

2. Before Sunrise
For noth-ing else, watch it for the global sadness competition that gives the film its title. It’s the year’s best example of sadness as a tangible property.

— JOHN THOMASON

1. Garden State
For noth-ing else, watch it for the global sadness competition that gives the film its title. It’s the year’s best example of sadness as a tangible property.

— JOHN THOMASON
We’ll call you crazy if you miss *People Say I’m Crazy*

**Documentary provides voyeuristic look at arty schizophrenic**

*MATT HEDGECOCK*

**Staff Writer**

When he was in the 5th grade, John Cadigan was voted "most popular, most athletic and most artistic." In his senior year he was voted "most quiet." And he had his first psychotic outbreak in college.

In *People Say I'm Crazy*, an amateur documentary produced by Cadigan and his sister Katie, Cadigan shares his life coping with schizophrenia and his gradual road to improvement. The brave, deeply personal examinations of Cadigan's illness make *People Say I'm Crazy* a memorable film.

The chronicle of John's life begins in 1997, already several years into his life with the illness. Overweight from medication to help him "even out," John takes control of the camera and turns it loose upon his life, showing the audience his highs and his lows.

Most of the material consists of self testimonies and interviews with his friends and family. Though it is naturally impossible to view life through Cadigan's eyes, his brutal honesty reveals his constant feelings of paranoia and mistrust. "I can tell by the way they make my bed whether they like me or not," he confesses. At his lowest ebb, Cadigan admits, weeping, to the violent thoughts that enter into his head. Truly affecting stuff.

The story isn't all gloom and doom, though. The film is filled with inspiring moments, particularly those involving John's work with his beautiful, semi-abstract art prints. We share in his unbridled joy and enthusiasm as he speedily carves art into formerly blank pieces of wood.

We can also see the progression of John's health and his return to semi-normalcy. At the start of the film he's virtually a shut-in, but a few years later he gives an introductory speech for a mental illness art exhibition in the Capitol Rotunda. Though it's clear he still faces a long road ahead of him, the film gives hope for future improvements.

The strength of the films lies in the focus on the illness factor of schizophrenia. While Hollywood productions like *A Beautiful Mind* suggest that mental illness somehow elevates people's minds to a higher plane, *People Say I'm Crazy* negates such talk. The intimacy of the story makes it clear that schizophrenia is not a gift.

However, the intimacy at times feels narrowly focused. There are times when the film could raise larger points about mental illness in society, such as a scene when John works in a food closet for the homeless. Mental illness is a leading cause for homelessness in America, but the people he serves isn't touched upon.

However, the intimacy is generally refreshing. *People Say I'm Crazy* is a touching and educational examination of one of society's greatest unsolved problems. Documentaries have been in lousy quantity the past year, but here's one that really stands out — in subject matter and quality.

*Opens tomorrow at D.MAC.*
Batman was a long time ago

Michael Keaton hits rock bottom in worthless thriller White Noise

JOHN THOMASON

It's hard to say who's more bored in your average screening of White Noise — the spectator watching the film or the picture's star, Michael Keaton. The actor, now 53 and showing it, is this predictable January clunker's only star power, and he all but sleepwalks through a role that is utterly below him. And this is coming from the star of Multiplicity and Jack Frost, so that's saying something.

Keaton's character, architect Jonathan Rivers, spends the majority of the film staring at a fuzzy television screen, and the actor does little to make compelling this surprisingly inactive thriller. First-time film director Geoffrey Sax does the best he can, shooting the fuzz from every allowable angle and inserting crude CGI, a generic horror score and clumsy shock theatrics. At several points he simply creates supposedly jarring scares through the editing, which have no logic in the narrative.

While this atmosphere may send chills down the naive spines of teenybopper horror fans looking for cheap thrills, White Noise is yet another example of a great idea squandered for the sake of formula and comfort. A potentially deep and intriguing premise turns out to be woefully innocuous and as interesting as listening to ghost-less static on your AM band.

The movie, which begins with a fairly explicable scenario only to watch its plausibility ratio plummet with every passing minute, concerns the real-life EVP, or electronic voice phenomenon. Many believe the dead can still contact the living through mediums like radio static, and that recording the white noise and playing it back can be the first step in hearing from your lost love one.

It's a premise that can be played with harrowing realism or over-the-top kitsch, and this film goes neither route. Its story is set in idyllic suburban America, where Jonathan's wife Anna (Chandra West), a successful novelist, disappears for weeks until she is proclaimed dead. When a specialist in EVP intercepts a message from Anna from beyond the grave, he informs a skeptical Jonathan, who is in the midst of a visually banal grieving session that somehow feels both rushed and over-long in Sax's hands. After a few eerie coincidences in his home, Jonathan eventually succumbs to the man's claims and decides to check out his services.

Even when Jonathan's newfound obsession with EVP and the decoding of his wife's cryptic otherworldly messages dominate the film's second act, it doesn't lose its relative believability. It isn't until the film's final third that it becomes a ridiculous, unintentional farce. Apparently, just the fascinating idea of communicating with the dead wasn't enough to pull in that MTV demographic, so screenwriter Niall Johnson inserts a horror plot involving a serial killer whose victims can only communicate through the white noise, and it's up to Jonathan to come to their rescues. The film's "twist" ending involves a character so irrelevant to anything in the story that Sax even re-shows the character's only appearance to make sure we remember who the hell the person is.

White Noise is a film that's more clever in its opening stanzas than your typical run-of-the-mill mall-thriller but provides nothing for the discernable filmgoer. At best it merely insults his intelligence. But Keaton, not the spectator, is this wretched film's biggest casualty, as a once-revered actor has to be relegated to this.
Pixies reunion tour exceeded high expectations

played piano to a packed house, preceded by other talented UCF students: singer-songwriter-guitarist Adam Cohen, pianist Aiyana Caldwell, and first-time performer Rob Somers. The night continued with an outstanding acoustic set by the Heather Friedman Band, one of the last before their irreplaceable drummer Ramon Lopez moved to Japan.

7. Marc with a C, Natalie Weiss, Bucket of Nails, and Soft Rock Champion — Aug. 29; Austin's Coffeeshouse, Winter Park
A release party for Mr. With a C and showcase for Celestial Bison Records, this was arguably the best local show of the year. Bucket of Nails, a team of two brothers with makeup, guitar pedals, and broken drumsticks in tow, played its first show ever. Natalie Weiss, the mastermind of the distinct Unicorns, played many of the band's tunes on keyboard and accordion. And Marc with a C, claiming he was playing amongst a dream line-up, wowed the crowd with his irresistibly catchy ditties.

6. The Killers with The Zutons and Now It's Overhead — Nov. 22; House of Blues, Lake Buena Vista
After taping their Hard Rock Live sessions for MTV in Orlando last August, they sold out the Social and were forced to rock the House of Blues in November. Luckily, they were up to the task. Much of the crowd's reaction was also catalyzed by The Zutons, a genre-defying British band. The rockin' Brits danced, clapped, and harmonized the crowd into a frenzy, perfectly setting the stage for the oh-so danceable Killers. The one drawback to the evening was the first opening band, Now It's Overhead, making its rather unwelcome second appearance in town within five weeks.

5. The Orlando Philharmonic — Oct. 23; Bob Carr Performing Arts Center, Orlando
Never fear — any orchestra that pulls off Tchaikovsky's masterwork of a Fourth Symphony will rock you more than you might expect. In October, for the official 2004-2005 season opener, the Orlando Phil proved itself to be more than competent with its performance of Tchaik IV. The evening also included pianist John Kimm Park, who graced the stage with a near flaw-free rendition of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1. Ask the many UCF music faculty members who performed in the concert and they'll tell you it was indeed a great beginning to the season.

4. stellastarr* with John Vanderslice, Ambulance and Will Johnson — March 24; the Social, Orlando
Despite critics labeling them as a lesser version of bands like Pulp, stellastarr* can really rock a crowd. After opening for The Raveonettes last year at the Social, the group triumphantly returned as headliners, and their energy jolted their audience. The crowd was not as appreciative of Vanderslice and the other openers, who were poorly matched with the danceably driven headliners. When stellastarr* hit the stage, however, the Social's patrons made their appreciation clear. Aside from great music from a great band, this show had one of the best crowds of the year.

3. The Magnetic Fields with Darren Hanlon — Dec. 9; Annie Russell Theatre, Winter Park
It could be argued that the songs of Stephen Merritt are comparable to the likes of Cole Porter's. Thus, the red-velvet-covered seats of the Annie Russell Theatre were the best for the band's back-to-back shows on one December night. Unfortunately, only the first of the two shows makes the cut, because the two set-lists were nearly identical — same songs, same order. This left a bad taste in the mouths of some audience members, but it was remedied by the sweetness of Darren Hanlon, by far the year's best opening act. An Australian singer-songwriter, he needed only a banjo and an acoustic guitar with an old, twangy, wonderful timbre to wow the audience.

2. The Pixies with The Thrills — Oct. 10; Hard Rock Live, Orlando
Despite high ticket prices, this show sold out rather quickly. And rightly so. On their reunion tour, The Pixies may have physically rocked Hard Rock harder than it had ever been rocked before. The legendary "alternative" band was in its finest form. Aside from putting on a hit parade, they also showed off their own musicianship and experimental nature. The audience was less enthusiastic for The Thrills, but the crowd was won over when the Irish band's lead singer Conor Deasy explained that one of their songs was written to sound like Belle and Sebastian meets the E-Street Band.

1. The Mountain Goats and John Vanderslice with Sugar Oaks — Oct. 15; the Social, Orlando
So the first opening band was completely forgettable. It was the only part of the night that was such. Much like They Might Be Giants, this line-up was a Tale of Two Johns — Dambelle of The Mountain Goats and Vanderslice. The energy transmitted by these two really made the evening happen. For lo-fi indie rockers, Dambelle and Vanderslice both have amazing stage presence and know how to get a crowd jumping. Whether acoustic or electric, these guys have outstanding onstage chemistry, resulting in a near-perfect night of indie rock sing-along fun.
Plotkin PRKs his ass

Local hipster Danger Dave Plotkin ready to break world radio record

PAULA FERGUSON
Staff Writer

On a Friday night in mid-February of 2004, all hell broke loose at Kinko’s on Aloma Avenue — compliments of Dave Plotkin.

Black sheets of paper had been plastered onto the copy shop’s expansive windows, concealing from curious onlookers the madness that brewed inside. Meanwhile, at 1 a.m. sharp, roughly 60 raucous teenagers and music aficionados awaited the punk performance of Martian Death Ray.

Cardboard robots grooved amid copiers and fax machines, clutching bubble-spewing pistols. Their bellies read: “We can dance if we want to,” and “Karate can’t stop my body.” Security cameras had been swallowed whole by carefully draped garbage bags, and two attendees guarded Kinko’s main entrance. A swarm of cops would arrive any second now.

The rebellious Vigilante Bum-Rush, quite possibly the most bizarre and mildly illegal concert in all of Orlando’s time, was in full effect.

“My boss at the time had $500 on hold for me as bail in case I went to jail,” UCF alumnus Plotkin, responsible for organizing the wacky event, reminisced with a smile and a zestful tone of voice. “It was fun — the craziest thing I ever did.”

But perhaps not crazy enough for Plotkin, who strives to surpass even his most extreme schemes. Some know the 25-year-old...
4. Team America: World Police
In the same year Janet Jackson caused the country to have an outrage of puritanical proportions, nihilist film-makers Trey Parker and Matt Stone successfully created the most offensive and funniest movie in years. Team America is not a film you hate, but rather one most audiences “won’t get.” If you complain about seeing the puppets’ strings or whine about the vomiting scene being too long, the film wasn’t intended for you. However, if you like viciously laughing at any and everything that’s wrong with the world, this is your film.
—MICHAEL LAWRENCE

3. Dogville
Lars von Trier’s theatrical and biblically themed play on group dynamics, Dogville is, undoubtedly, one of 2004’s most widely overlooked films. Set on a remote and mostly dark soundstage, Dogville tells the tale of Grace (Nicole Kidman), a mobster’s daughter fleeing the din and corruption of a metropolitan existence, only to experience an even darker vein of human nature amongst the hushed and hypocritical emptiness of small-town Colorado’s Dogville. Perfectly ice-sculpted performances from Hollywood legend Lauren Bacall and indie ingénue Chloe Sevigny are complemented by a flawless Kidman as the weak and complacent Grace. Dogville runs just shy of three hours, but do not even think about ducking out early, as von Trier’s ending may redefine catharsis in film for future works.
—GENO MEHALIK

2. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind is a film that debuted in the atres a short time after last year’s Oscars and ironically has stuck in the minds of everyone who saw it. A film about love, a film about memory, a story about the mind and the soul, Eternal Sunshine is a film that got everything right. Strong writing, visual directing and a cast in sync with the material, Eternal Sunshine feels like less of a film and more like the reading of a letter from a long lost love. Each moment is precious and one never wants it to end.
—BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ

1. The Aviator
Martin Scorsese delivers a sheer haymaker of a film that’s every bit as fascinating and ambitious as its main character. The Aviator is a culmination of Scorsese’s career and showcases every talent he learned from each previous film — from New York, New York to GoodFellas. In doing so he creates a wondrous vision of America and the changes it experienced in the first half of the 20th Century.
Even more of a revelation is Leonardo DiCaprio as Howard Hughes. All of the naysayers who dismissed him as a mere pretty boy have now eaten those words. An absolutely masterwork performance.
—MATT HEDGECOCK

Staff’s personal top 10s
10. Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle
9. Ocean’s Twelve
8. Fahrenheit 9/11
7. Napoleon Dynamite
6. Garden State
5. Mean Girls
4. Before Sunset
3. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
2. The Girl Next Door
1. The Aviator
—BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ

10. Spider-Man 2
9. Colateral
8. I Heart Huckabees
7. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
6. A Very Long Engagement
5. Kill Bill Vol. 2
4. Shaun of the Dead
3. The Motorcycle Diaries
2. The Incredibles
1. The Aviator
—MICHAEL LAWRENCE

10. Meet the Fockers
9. Team America: World Police
8. Birth
7. The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou
6. Garden State
5. Closer
4. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
3. Kill Bill Vol. 2
2. I Heart Huckabees
1. Dogville
—GENO MEHALIK

Worst Films of the Year:
10. Saw
9. Open Water
8. The Ladykillers
7. A Slepping Down Life
6. Van Helsing
5. Jersey Girl
4. The Day After Tomorrow
3. Catswoman
2. Exorcist: The Beginning
1. Alexander
—the indie movie critics
Our top ten shows of 2004

From pub-rock and hip-hop to lo-fi pop and the Philharmonic

EMILY JANE SCOTT
Staff Writer

One might say that 2004 was not a great year in terms of concerts around town — especially if you were short on cash or transportation. The three Vote for Change shows that came close to here were all up to $70 in admission. And to see either The Cure or Morrissey, you had to travel to West Palm, Tampa, or Miami. However, if you knew where to look, there were plenty of amazing concerts in Orlando last year. If you didn’t know where to look, take a hint — read the indie more this year.

10. Sage Francis with Grand Buffet and Mack Lethal — Feb. 16; Back Booth, Orlando

Aside from some problems with the sound system at Back Booth, this show was excellent. After two outstanding opening acts, Sage Francis proved that hip-hop can serve more as poetry than club tracks and gangsta rhythms. From comparing lovemaking to music making with rapturous metaphorical skill to singing of hanging himself at half-mast in “Makeshift Patriot,” Francis captured his audience that night.

9. Flogging Molly with Throw Rag — March 26; House of Blues, Lake Buena Vista

The guy from Throw Rag who wore a washboard and played it with spoons wins the award for most fun had by a musical performer in Orlando in 2004. He happily jammed on his washboard and continually lost clothing while the packed crowd went nuts. The moshing built throughout the night and exploded as the well-known Flogging Molly hit the stage. Apparently the tin-whistle blowing, fiddling, Irish pub-rockers loved playing in Orlando — they were back with the Warped Tour and again with their own show at the House of Blues in September.

8. Gina Riggio, Adam Cohen, Aiyana Caldwell, and Rob Somers, followed by the Heather Friedman Band — Aug. 28; Natura, Orlando

Local gig-goers know one thing about Natura — there’s no better place to see a local show. One of the best shows there this year was made special with a homecoming for former UCF student and musician Gina Riggio. She

Please see Pixies on 113
Local and national celebs help out Dave

FROM 114

old mastermind as "Danger Dave." Others remember him as the guy who once hosted a rock concert on his apartment roof. Finally, to a select few, he's the only vegetarian brilliant enough to have ever adorned his office wall with an inflatable moose head.

Starting Monday, Plotkin will delve deeper into the unknown when he tries to set a new Guinness World Record by hosting Rollins College's WPRK 110 Hours Marathon — the world's longest continuous broadcast by any DJ in radio history.

"One hundred and 10 hours is more than 15 percent of the entire month of September," said Plotkin, a political science graduate and the former editor of The Independent Journal.

Furthermore, according to Plotkin, the marathon will be "about as long as watching all three Lord of the Rings films 12 times in a row, listening to all six Radiohead albums 22 times and driving to New York and back five times."

By now, one might be uttering, "Geez."

So from 9 a.m. Monday to 11 p.m. Jan. 21, Plotkin, chairman of WPRK's advisory board, will be enslaved within the underground confines of the Rollins College 91.5 FM radio station — heavily lacking snooze time, daylight and all sanity.

If all goes as scheduled, the DJ will go down in history, book-marking himself a prestigious spot in the Guinness Book of World Records, knocking the spotlight off the current 105-hour, Switzerland-set record and most importantly, raising a hefty sum of money for much-needed station improvements.

"I want to help out the station a great deal," said Plotkin, who first DJ'd on WPRK at the age of 14. "The station runs on a $30,000 to $50,000 salary. I want to show Rollins they're not giving enough money to the station. This will hopefully make us 10 to 15 grand."

With the combined help of hungry listeners and corporate sponsorships, money will be pledged every hour, refueling Plotkin with the drive to finish the marathon. Contributions can be made at http://www.110hours.org, the marathon's official site, to help make his five-day endeavor of exhaustion more bearable.

But in order to cross the prized 110-hour-away finish line, Plotkin must first adhere to a grueling list of rules.

One such requirement is that a 15-minute break be taken after every eight hours of solid, live broadcasting. And you best believe Plotkin, who claims he "likes being very clean," has plotted a way to maintain his hygiene throughout the entire 110-hour talkfest without wasting those treasured chunks of break time.

The winning plan, he described in a black T-shirt and blue jeans, is to shower while still on the air.

"We're building a shower," he said, an expression of sheer enthusiasm gleaming past his five o'clock shadow. "It's a special shower because it'll have boom microphones in it so I can continue speaking during the shower. It doesn't count as my break."

Thanks to Vanson Enterprises Inc. — a general construction company — and a lengthy, plastic tube designed to drain shower water into a nearby toilet, Plotkin's desire to stay fresh and clean will be fulfilled.

"There's so much to this," he said. "Like, I'll be in the shower reading. This hot, wonderful shower is brought to you by Vanson construction and Orlando Weekly."

Meanwhile, a trusty nurse will be introduced every four hours to watch over the fatigued Plotkin. According to WPRK, the vigilant healthcare professionals' sworn duty is "to be present and certify that Dave is alive."

The icy grip of death is an almost laughable possibility, but it should come as no surprise that Plotkin — a man with a plan — has taken every precaution to avoid the morbid tragedy. For three days each week, he's subjected himself to an intense boot-camp session led by former Navy SEAL trainer Rick Stafford to prepare for the brutal marathon. A determined Plotkin has forced himself from between warm sheets to meet with Stafford every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 a.m., relinquishing hours of slumber to pump it up.

"It's been a trooper so far," Stafford, who's worked with the Navy SEALs and the FBI, said. "He's learned about 80 different exercises. Every day is different. It's never the same day twice."

Come Monday, an approximately 20-pound leaner Plotkin will hopefully be in peak physical condition, fully prepared and pumped to slay the 110-hour beast that awaits him.

But the fun doesn't stop here. Additional marathon highlights will include the live performances of more than 30 bands and dozens of special guests like Orlando Weekly columnist Billy Manes and Republican National Committee Chairman Ed Gillespie.

Matt Kamm, frontman for the indie band Dodger and one of Plotkin's longtime pals, will help keep up WPRK's cluttered studios through a live performance. He and his bandmates have even created an epic theme song for the marathon.

"We sing about how Dave is going to go delusional over the five days of staying awake," Kamm, 20, a UCF digital media major said. "Dave is probably the most motivated person that I know. I mean, he's still incredibly young but wears a different suit every single day."

WPRK General Manager Dan Seeger proudly supports Plotkin's challenge as well, stating: "Dave is one of the very, very few people I've ever met who I'm inclined to believe if he tells me he can pull it off. If I didn't believe that, we wouldn't be doing it."

In that case, thank God Dave Plotkin — or, "Danger Dave," as they call him — is a risk taker. The heroic fellow awaits his 6,000-minute challenge with an eager spirit and endless enthusiasm. He counts the days until he can call himself an official Insomniac, and he'll cherish every second of airtime as if it were a delectable vegetarian burrito. A creature this deterred simply can't lose.

Meanwhile, an inopportune Swiss man will solemnly prepare to hand over his once record-setting title. Stay tuned.
A Half-Life mod that’s not Counter-Strike

Action Half-Life comes back in a new director’s cut

IVAN VELEZ
Staff Writer

T he visuals scream seven- year-old technology. Exceedingly simple architecture defines the game’s world. But the quirky, spastic gameplay in Action Half-Life: Director’s Cut has aged gracefully.

The Action brand originally began back in 1997, just as the game modification began to grow in popularity, particularly in the Quake series. No professionals and no funding — just a handful of hardcore gamers later dubbed Akimbo Team Productions wanting to create their own games. Their goal was to transform popular sci-fi first person shooters such as Quake 2, Half-Life and Unreal Tournament into multiplayer virtual action movies.

Action Half-Life was the sophomore attempt at creating this dream. Originally released in 1999, AHL refined the Action brand of gameplay and added John Woo-style diving. More than just a mere gimmick, diving drastically changed the way the game was played.

A poorly executed dive could leave a player a sitting duck, pinned to the ground. A well-executed dive could mean the difference between escaping with a near hit and receiving a fatal wound.

Accessories allowed players to be anything from a Kevlar- wearing tank raining death with an assault rifle to a silent assassin prancing around in “stealth slippers” and throwing quiet, lethal daggers through the air.

The variety of equipment combinations and balance between the weapons (for example, sniper rifles dominated over long distances while shotguns easily controlled close quarters) provided for surprisingly deep battles.

AHL’s lack of “ultimate” weapons prevented the redundancy of games such as Counter-Strike (a mod that started up April 15 in the eyes of one man (and shot only in accurate 1040es) — earns $1/40 million at the box office. Critics, however, agree that the movie doesn’t pack the emotional punch of Gibson’s first six Passion films. Come Oscar-time, Accountant is only recognized in the costume and editing categories, disappointing the movie’s more rabid fans.

December

Good taste prevails. “I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus,” “Feliz Navidad,” and “The Little Drummer Boy” are pulled from radio stations’ holiday playlists once scientists reveal that the three tunes actually kill the brain cells of any person unfortunate enough to hear them. Many express disbelief at the findings. But those of us who have ever crept while inadvertently stumbling upon the songs in a department store elevator can be found muttering, “I could have told you that,” to anyone who will listen.

There it is, folks. The going-on of 2005. It’s going to be a doozy.

Please see GET on 117

COURTESY SIERRA
LIFE
It's Doom and Doomer
The villainous Dr. Doom on his new anthology
MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

No one rivals Doom!! With my ingenious cunning and mastery of both the dark arts and the wondrous worlds of science, I, Victor Von Doom, sovereign supreme of Latveria, stand high above the shoulders off all other potential world conquerors. Witness some of my exploits that occurred during that hedonistic decade of the 70s in the trade paperback Essential Super-Villain Team-Up.

Such were the days when I was still in the beginning stages of my sinister career. It is only because of my inexperience that I allow those vile miscreants at Marvel to recount some of my early mistakes without incurring my full wrath in the process. 'Tis better that Doom studies his follies so that he may learn and grow in future endeavors.

Much of this volume recalls the days in which I was naive enough to believe that I may be in need of ally. Who better, thought I, than the Atlantean king Prince Namor, the Sub-Mariner. Only his savage strength and cunning would be enough to lay waste to that accursed Reed Richards and his quarrelling quartet, the Fantastic Four. But alas, I was wrong, for Namor showed signs of weakness, such as compassion and humility. Doom has no room for such frivolous ideas as these, or the men who would waste their lives associating with them. I believed I could sway him to my side and conquer the world, slicing up the globe as we see fit, but it was not to be. Perhaps it truly is as I have always felt it within the heart that lies beneath this suit of armor: Doctor Doom must rule alone!

Namor was at least respectable in comparison to the other insolent curs I cross paths with in this voluminous volume. None raise ire in me (Save the buffoonish Richards) like the Red Skull, who dared invade my homeland on two occasions, tasting defeat at my hands each time. One who believed he had felled me is the Shroud, a second-rate Daredevil who tried disposing of me as a means of gaining a reputation among the idiots in the superhero community. Did he not learn from his peers that all efforts are vaunted when it comes to ridding the Earth of Doom? 'Twas easier said than done.

Perhaps my most glorious moment captured in this series was when I ensnared every mind in the world to do my bidding under the auspices of my hypnosis. The world and all of its inhabitants were under my complete control!! Can Apocalypse or Baron Zemo boast of such an accomplishment? I think not. Only Magneto and the Champions were able to stop me, but only because I allowed them free will to challenge me. There must be weight to my victory, which will come soon thanks to all my knowledge.

One thing I didn't like about viewing my memories was the inconsistency in my appearance and character. There were far too many one-time writers and artists depicting me, making my adventures seem inconsistent from one issue of them to the next. Marvel even thought it fit to allow that stupid sibling of Stan Lee, Larry Lieber (the worst case of nepotism this side of those whorish Hilltons) tell of my stories. Such a disgrace shall not go unpunished. All of Marvel will die. After I re-read my adventures again, Doom can't get enough of Doom.

FUTURE FUNNIES
The indie now has full access to the Future's archives, so each week we're bringing you an old editorial cartoon. Check out this one from Jan. 19, 1994. Who doesn't remember Lorena Bobbitt and her sheer hatred of the male sexual organ? Ouch.

REAL LIFE FOR REAL

Get more Action out of your old copy of Half-Life

From #16 around the same time as AHL, but reached astronomical success) and other similar “realistic” games that usually degenerate into my-gun-is-bigger-than-your-gun.

So why have you never heard of Action Half-Life before?

A string of catastrophic bugs triggered by “patches” for Half-Life (the required platform for Action, hence the name Action Half-Life) completely ravaged the entire dive system and many other core gameplay components — derailing the game's progress for an entire year.

By the time AHL got back on track, there were so many other comparable quality mods for Half-Life that it drowned in the sea of wannabe success stories that rippled in Counter-Strike's wake.

Action's window of opportunity was boarded up. A game that had been proudly displayed in magazines in the past was now fading away into obscurity.

But as of Jan. 3, a group of loyal fans has officially unveiled the work it's been secretly pumping into AHL. The Ministry of Action has revived AHL but has no delusions about where it's at.

The fans recognize that the opportunity to make the game a mainstream success is long gone; they just wish to return it to its glory days and tweak problems left long unresolved.

And with a small but loyal fanbase supporting them, Action's time might not be up anytime soon.

If you or someone you know has a copy of Half-Life just sitting around, consider reinstalling it and checking out the version of AHL at: http://www.ministryofaction.net.
RAMBLINGS

THE GEEK LIFE

Geek life: Customer disservice
A need for money drives our resident geek to tech support

ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

S o it’s happened again. I have trapped myself in the cubicle hellworld of technical support. In the new year, I have found myself on the short end of the broke stick, with my wallet gathering cobwebs where money should be. My very enjoyable road trip, as well as my mounting student loan payments and those damned credit demons chasing me down, sapped me of anything even remotely green.

Here I was, at 24, stuck in my old room, staring at the same four walls, in the same room I spent my high school years brooding in. All I could do was fantasize about that gorgeous city on the bay, that dream city of San Francisco, but if I had any hope of moving there anytime in the next year, it would take much more than mere candy-coated Technicolor fantasies. And here I was with nary a sixpence to my name. Therefore, as 2005 rolled in, I could see only cash signs floating in my head as I dreamed of the day I would be able to buy a burrito whenever I damn well pleased.

It had been awhile, I am sad to say. So, I gave in to my darkest fears and desires. I got a real job. An office job. It’s the kind of nightmare meat hook reality whose very possibility sometimes keeps me awake and screaming in the dead of night.

You see, I have lived this life before. I have stepped into the

CRAZED INDIE ROBOT

DIANNA ZISMAN
Staff Writer

Here we go: My favorite movies, TV shows and music of 2004.

Movies
Favorite Movie of the Year: Shaun of the Dead. Loved it. Nothing else I’ve seen this year comes close.
Movies That Got 3 Shauns out of a Possible 4: The Incredibles, Miracle, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.
Best Ben Stiller Movie of 2004: Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story. With characters named Patches O’Houlihan and Steve the Pirate, how can you go wrong?
Worst Ben Stiller Movie of 2004: Along Came Polly.
Best Ben Stiller Cameo Appearance of 2004: Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy. "Como estas, beetches?"
Movie That Gave Me Motion Sickness: The Bourne Supremacy.
Separating the Wheat from the Chaff Award: (tie) My Baby’s Daddy and Chasing Liberty, for being the sacrificial movie lambs of early January.
The West Side Story Award for Most Effeminate Street Gangs goes to: You Got Served.

A look back:
And the Robot award goes to ...

NEAR-LIFE EXPERIENCE

Cancelled, thank God

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

As of Friday, I will be 22 years old. Birthdays always scare me, since I usually spend them re-evaluating my entire life. This year though, I’ve decided to do something a bit different and embrace this new year of life for me by revealing the deaths of many primetime network shows that were cancelled last year. Perhaps knowing I’ll survive another year while Method and Red won’t give me the comfort I’m looking for. Shows are put in the order of time they were cancelled starting, with the earliest. Since so many shows were cancelled and I’m limited on space, consider this a “to be continued” column.

Doomed Den, NBC — Between this and Dr. Vegas, Rob Lowe has plenty of reasons to kick himself in the ass for leaving The West Wing. Having two shows cancelled in one year is quite the accomplishment. I think we’ve found someone to give Ted McGinley a run for his money. Lowe’s shows die before they even make it big!
A Minute with Stan Hooper, FOX — How ironic that this Norm MacDonald sitcom didn’t even last the minute mentioned in the title. Zing!
Friends, NBC — Good riddance to this unfunny garbage that has spawned too many rip-offs and one too many spin-offs (yes, one is more than enough).
Jake 2.0, UPN — In attempt to ride the waves of its Star Trek franchises and carve a niche for itself, UPN has had its share of sci-fi fodder that doesn’t last long. Black sitcoms, wrestling and sci-fi? Now that sounds like a successful template for a network to me!
Frasier, NBC — A simple cheers will do.
Kingdom Hospital, ABC — Stephen King is the kind of name you build a mini-series around, not an entire show. Doomed from the start.
Wonderfalls, FOX — It was a quirky little show with a strong fan base that simply wasn’t enough to keep the show afloat. I heard nothing but good things, so it was sad to see it go before I had a chance to watch it. I don’t think Fox’s habit of canceling good shows infuriates me quite as much as their habit of keeping crap on the air.
Century City, CBS — A law show set in the future is a bit too high-concept for viewers to take in on any network, even this ratings juggernaut. I’ll give credit where credit is due and respect this show for doing something CBS rarely does: Take a risk.
Cracking Up, Fox — Considering the tal-

[Please see CURTAIN on 1]
Could you be this man’s Tinkerbell?

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

The beginning of spring classes signals the dawn of a new semester, ending the annual fortieth of post-holiday video-game binging enjoyed by nerdfolk everywhere. As everyone returns, connection speeds around campus have once-again slumped down from “godly” to “acceptable.”

But since my head’s been in video games for the past few weeks instead of following Internet culture, it’s time for another issue of old links. In the usual style, if you haven’t already seen these classics, you may already be a newbie.

Peter Pan’s Pixyland
http://www.pixylife.com/peterpan

A rather large portion of the Internet’s celebrities are celebrities out of infancy. This one, a 50-year-old dude from Tampa, is definitely one of them. Why? He wants to be Peter Pan, going everywhere prancing about in tights and playing the role as much as possible. For whatever reason, he decided to make a homepage celebrating himself and his obsession. Since its inception, the link’s been passed around for years generally with a tagline like “Oh man, check this loser out!” The site itself contains photo galleries of its proprietor, fashion tips, his experiences being on various TV shows, his personal religious philosophies, and even a page detailing what he wants in his ideal “Tinkerbell” woman. What are you waiting for, ladies?

Welcome to my home page! Kiss you!!!!!!
http://www.kissyou.org/

Here's another personal homepage. This one belongs to everyone's favorite lovable Turkish man, Mahir Cagri. In 1999, he put up his original page, now available at http://www.vi3kissyou.org/indexes.html. Featuring photos of Mahir in various locales, it includes choice quotes as “Welcome to my home page. I kiss you,” “Who is want to come TURKEY I can invite,” “She can stay my home,” and “I like sex.” As in most of these stories, his site unexpectedly became a success. In fact, it became so popular that the Guinness folks acknowledged it as the most visited personal home page of 1999. Perhaps even more insane is that Forbes ranked Mahir among the world’s top 100 celebrities.

Off the air: the below

From 118

Most Disappointing Movie That I’ve Seen Three Times: Troy. The movie was awful. The direction was terrible and the music was so irritating that I was tempted to go on a rampage just to find that woman and stop her from ever moaning on another soundtrack again. Aside from Sean Bean, Eric Bana and Peter O’Toole, the performances were almost uniformly abysmal. And yet ... I’ve watched it three times. Why? Brad Pitt, Eric Bana, Sean Bean and Orlando Bloom in right clothing. Well, and Peter O’Toole, but only because he’s an awesome actor, not for any tight clothing. Damn you, Hollywood, for casting such fine men in such a terrible movie!

Cutest Movie, Even If the Music Is Off By About Five Years: I3 Going on 30.

Funnier Than It Looked: Mean Girls.

More Serious Than It Looked: The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou.

Least Surprising Twist Ending: The Village. I think Shyamalan is an extremely talented director but a hack as a writer. I’d love to see him direct someone else’s screenplay. Anybody else’s. Please. He can paint wonderfully vivid scenes with his camera, but he’s held prisoner by his incessant need to constantly pull a fast one on the audience. What started out as a gimmick has turned into an unfortunate crutch and, like Brian De Palma before him, Shyamalan wants so desperately to be Hitchcock that he can’t see how any film universe could exist outside of that realm.

Worst Movie I’ve Seen: Resident Evil: Apocalypse.

Not entertaining for even a second.

GBA brings office sanity

From 118

dark side of reality that is the corporate world before, and so I therefore know true fear. Though I am loathe to admit it, I once worked at a desolate wasteland called Convergys, the McDonalds of the phone support world.

The work, mind numbing tech support for an Internet company that shall remain nameless, drains the soul and saps the spirit. If not for my trusty Game Boy Advance, I would have surely lost my sanity.

Now I find myself once again at the mercy of the cubicle gods. On the plus side, the monetary rewards far exceed any I have made so far. And there is always the positive of working with hundreds of my fellow geeks in one giant mega-office. I think that’s true of all tech support jobs, even Convergys. There is a camaraderie evident in such places. Here we are, all of us well versed in the world of technology, most of us slightly sarcastic, of at least average or above average intelligence, and of course leashed like dogs to a telephone for 40 hours a week. It’s natural to feel a close kinship with your fellow brothers and sisters in arms. We face the mass of humanity on a daily basis, from the IT experts who are sure they know all your software better then you, to the Neverwinter Nights RPG fanboys who are raving mad because they must break from their obsessive addiction for a few days, to the infuriating elderly folks and housewives and nincompoops who take 15 minutes to find the start button. Which leads to the dark side of technical support, the stress of constantly dealing with folks already angry that their products aren’t working. Not everyone is quite so awful, but enough of them are to make your days tinged with misery.

Yet we persevere out in tech support hell, eking out a living by our wits and our brains. Who knows, maybe one day I’ll have you, dear reader, on the line with me. I promise to be pleasant and helpful. Just don’t expect me to be too happy about it.

Curtains for CNN’s Crossfire

From 118

The Best, Most [expletive] I’ve Seen: Nothing Pandit: Jon Stewart on Crossfire. Hall, Jon Stewart!

Best Programming Move: Bow Down to the Genius of Ron Howard Award: Arrested Development. Thank you, Ron, for being the executive producer of a show as brilliantly hilarious as this one.

Show I Most Resent For Invetigates Spwed At Me, The Non-Fan, By Fans, Critics, and The Show’s Producer Alike: Wonderfalls.

Favorite Smackdown of an Annoying Know Nothing Pundit: Jon Stewart on Crossfire. Hall, Jon Stewart!

Best Programming Move By CNN in the Last Five Years: Liquidating Crossfire. So technically, it happened in 2005, but the news continues to make me giddy. So long, Tucker Carlson!

Best Christmas Special: South Park’s “Woodland Critter Christmas.” Hail, Satan!
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