Former Senate speaker sets record straight on resignation

MAREE JONES
Former Senate Speaker Sean Lavin is speaking candidly about the circumstances that led to his resignation. The current Garrett compared his term as speaker to wearing a pair of "golden handcuffs," an analogy he explains passionately.

"When I ran for Senate in 2003, I had no idea the speaker got $1,400 a month, was issued an SGA PDA and laptop or received an extravagant office that would make any executive jealous," he said. "Reflecting on my quick rise to the top of the Legislative Branch, I now realize that all of those luxuries were just perks in the golden handcuffs that ultimately consume the entire life of the speaker, and while I loved advocating for my fellow students as speaker, the position became my life's top priority, instead of my family, friends and education."

Recently, Lavin removed those golden handcuffs by resigning from the top position after a motion for a vote of no-confidence was brought against him by Sen. Stephanie Matthews.

A vote of no confidence is less serious than the process of impeachment, in which formal papers are filed against a public figure for corrupt activity if she paused, would remove an official from office for a full year. No allegations of improper activity were made against Lavin. However, some senators felt it was time to explore additional conditions for the office of speaker by passing a vote of no-confidence against him.

When questioned about her decision to bring the vote against Lavin, Matthews said, "The Senate has been frustrated for a long time" she added that no one who is better qualified to serve in the role of speaker had been "brought to our attention until recently."

The shortages of possible speaker were pointed out and at the March 30 SGA meeting where SGA former Comptroller Nick Merolle to the position of speaker and was elected to the position as a senator. Matthews leveled.

Former Senate Speaker Sean Lavin

Library increases patrol for students

List of stolen items include textbooks, purses and laptops

NATASHA ZAT

UCF Police, along with the help of UCF Library management, have initiated safety measures to avoid thefts in the campus libraries. Kathy Wilson of Library Customer Services has decided to take action by increasing the presence of unattended laptop and backpacks that he has found at the library.

The notes, which can double as bookmarks, "Alert is a phone number everywhere. Please do not leave property, such as backpacks, purses or books unattended." The note also advises that the phone number (UCF Police, 407-823-5333), which students can call to report suspicious activity.

Sara, associate director for Public Services at the Library, said the notifications have been sent out with a regular basis, and the student returned. Since staff cannot stay with every unattended item, the library has assembled a group of students and volunteers to patrol and monitor the library at all times. "If the group sees an unattended backpack, they have a phone number they can call right away," Sara said. "I think the students feel secure in our building, but a lot of people are not aware of what they're doing and they need to stay with their backpacks." Scharf said. "I think they're doing a really good job."
Women earn South title

Rugby wins grudge match with College of Charleston for championship

JESSICA DOWLING

The UCF women's rugby team went head-to-head this weekend as they visit the USA Rugby South Division Championships for the second year in a row.

The ladies will advance to nationals once again this time at University of California­San Diego or an e-mail to

The late night event at the Market Place on Saturday at the Lake Nona Area Building Auditorium. For more information, contact Richard Greenwood at 407-362-2954.

Fleshman show
The International Students Association (ISA), in coordination with the Office of International Students and Scholars, presents an event for the day of Purim, Saturday, March 5. Events will take place at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Marketplace. Admission is free. For more information, contact Amy Buford at 407-823-6397.

Volunteers needed
Students are needed to help set up, run games and help distribute tickets and prizes for Kids Advisers on location. Volunteers are given a program, Self-Discovery magazine, and a different costume party featuring a specific theme. For more information, contact Noah Saposnik at 407-362-3953 or an e-mail to

Police Beat

Lavin begins new chapter in Senate life

Lavin wins rallies support for students at UCF

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Animal rights club will protest at April's circus

The Farm Animal Reform Movement is backing BARC's billboard.

"For every $1,000 BARC can raise, FARM will pay for a billboard for a month on a major Orlando or Central Florida billboard," Holbert said.

FARM is a national organization dedicated to animal rights, activism and environmental causes.

"Every month, our circus demonstration is coming up," Beniamino said. "Every year at the UCF Arena, the Shriner's Circus comes in and forces the animals to perform multiple shows daily for a whole weekend in April. The thing about the Shriner's Circus is that they contract out their animals, and last year, both of the elephants had tuberculosis. People coming out of the show said the animals looked crippled and won't be able to see the circus.

Beniamino added, "We like to try to get people who have ADHD who may be one of the millions of young adults who have ADHD to come out and talk to people about how they feel."
U.S. · Five Afghan law students, barred women from public life and kept girls out of the former ruling Taliban, a student has died of injuries received during a game on campus.

Baltimore Wednesday morning, police spokesman said.

In her book, "...I do not give a death toll for the militants, a police official said Wednesday that 85 insurgents died in the clash—the largest number killed in a single battle since the U.S. Marines led November attack on the former militant stronghold of Fallujah left more than 500 dead.

I will accept auto-accident related injuries

Another study published in the Journal of American College Health, reveals that college women who binge drink "...are more likely to engage in supplemented sexual activity,... especially without protection. Researchers also point out the academic-related effects of binge drinking, which usually affect the brain and cause negative mood.

According to Schuck, the academic side of binge drinking still remains a "...chicken and egg problem..., it isn't clear whether binge drinking causes academic problems or the other way around. Researchers have been behavior that binge drinking, which usually affect the brain and occur more in students who have poor performances in school.

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Earn Your

Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling

Master's Degree in School Counseling

Specialist Degree in School Psychology

degree in this field and was sentenced to consecutive sentences.

Binge drinking can impair cognitive performance and result in plunging moods, shamed, self-conscious and unhappy.

Drunk: Girlhood, the 24-year-old Scotts Zeldas draws a picture of her life as a drunk in small part because I felt foolish, small and vulnerable.

Smashed: Story of a Drunken Girlhood, the 24-year-old Scotts Zeldas draws a picture of her life as a drunk in small part because I felt foolish, small and vulnerable.

Police arrested the man in Silver Spring, since her body was found in his car in her apartment.

University Court, Suite 200

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University Court, Suite 200
Discipline, heart gave boxer edge

Week in Health

Week in Health

Week in Health

Week in Health

NURSE SOMI

Chemicals in tattoo ink scrutinized

Although tattoo ink is subject to regulation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the agency has not required manufacturers to certify that their products are nontoxic. In fact, there are no laws requiring tattoo ink manufacturers to list the ingredients of their products on product labels, nor is there any government oversight of the tattoo inks themselves.

The first known tattoo was a body modification that was practiced by the ancient Egyptians, and it is believed that tattoos have been used by various cultures throughout history for various purposes, including art, decoration, and protection.

In recent years, there has been increased interest in the effects of tattoo ink on the body. Some studies have suggested that tattoo ink can enter the bloodstream and accumulate in the body over time, potentially leading to health effects.

The risk of complications from tattoo ink depends on several factors, including the type and quality of the ink, the technique used for applying the tattoo, and the individual's immune response to the ink.

There is no consensus on the risks associated with tattoo ink, and it is important to discuss the potential risks and benefits with a qualified healthcare provider before considering a tattoo.

In conclusion, while tattoos can be a form of self-expression and art, it is important to weigh the potential risks and benefits before deciding to get a tattoo. Additionally, it is important to consider the use of high-quality ink and to follow proper tattooing techniques to reduce the risk of complications.

RICHARD E. HORNBY, P.B.

Criminal Defense Attorney

(407) 543-1591 or Toll Free (866) 543-1591

www.LAWORLANDO.com

The living of a lawyer is an important distinction that should not be blurred simply upon offenses. Before you decide, ask us to send you new information about our qualifications and experiences.
Dancers moved to soca music while mingling with friends

Junkanoo headdress and dance, which began in the Bahamas, is a type of traditional dance that was adopted by the Bahamian people. This dance is performed by groups of people who wear costumes and move to the rhythm of soca music. The dance is a popular cultural expression and is considered an important part of Bahamian culture. The dance is often performed during festivals and events, and it is a way for people to come together and celebrate their heritage.

Junkanoo is a type of dance that is performed in the Bahamas. It is a traditional dance that began in the Caribbean and is characterized by the use of Junkanoo headdresses and costumes. The dance is performed by groups of people who move to the rhythm of soca music. The dance is often performed during festivals and events, and it is a way for people to come together and celebrate their heritage.

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Assistants will patrol library to prevent theft

"False sense of security is tempting to those who want to steal from them," said Williamson.

In the two weeks leading up to Spring Break, several students' personal belongings were reported missing from the library. Some of the missing items included textbooks, wallets, purses and even a personal laptop.

"We got an e-mail from management that there have been thefts in the building," she said. "It was a false sense of security is tempting to those who want to steal from them." Williamson added that she isn't sure if the increase is due to students reporting the crimes.

Sophomore Sara Wilkinson is mimed at the idea that students could be stealing from other students in the library. "I don't know why people are stealing laptops," she said. "There are laptops here that they can rent. I guess I just have to bring my stuff with me now. I thought I could leave it out," said Wilkinson.

Library Dona Goda added that she isn't sure if the increase is due to students reporting the crimes.

When asked if she has been warned to watch her belongings, Goda said that she isn't sure if thefts have been increasing in number recently or if the apparent increase is due to more students reporting the crimes.

"I don't know why people are stealing laptops," she said. "There are laptops here that they can rent. I guess I just have to bring my stuff with me now. I thought I could leave it out," said Wilkinson.

Williamson advises students who are in the campus library to keep their belongings with them at all times and make sure their names are clearly printed in their textbooks. Since all three bookstores in the UCF area ID students who are selling their books back at the end of the semester, having a student's name in a textbook ensures that the student will be the only one compensated for a returned book.

Williamson also encourages students who use their laptop computers outside of their residence to stop by UCF Police on campus and get their drivers license number engraved into their laptops. This service is free and will discourage thieves from stealing laptops that could potentially be left around.

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For the second straight year UCF wrestling on top

ANDY SANCHEZ
Sports Editor

SPORTS
The Student Newspaper of UCF
March 24, 2005

Gators chomp on the Knights

Baseball drops game in Gainesville as UF offense reigned

JEFF SHARON
Staff Writer

UCF fell to Florida 11-4 on Wednesday, March 23, in a 4-2 game-one victory, but the Knights couldn’t overcome the Gators’ hard-throwing staff.

The Knights, as Taylor Cobb held the Gators scoreless in his first three innings of work on the mound, were unable to respond to UF’s hitting. The Gators scored twice in the first and added four more runs in the second on a two-run double by Davis Petracca, who took his lead off of the pitch, and a two-run home run off of UCF pitcher John-Michael Howell. The Gators tacked on three more runs in the third, and the Knights couldn’t get anything going until the eighth, but the Gators scored two more runs in their half of the inning, setting the table for Davis, who ripped a three-run homer to left-center field, giving UCF a 1-0 lead in the ninth.

The Knights rallied again to tie the game at one in the ninth off of Brian Bohn (4-2), but the Gators scored twice in the bottom of the frame, hitting R.J. Ankeny with a walk to load the bases, and then knocked in the run with a sacrifice fly by Davis, who had a three-RBI performance by Davis Petracca, who took his lead off of the pitch, and a two-run home run off of UCF pitcher John-Michael Howell. The Gators scored twice in the first and added four more runs in the second on a two-run double by Davis Petracca, who took his lead off of the pitch, and a two-run home run off of UCF pitcher John-Michael Howell. The Gators tacked on three more runs in the third, and the Knights couldn’t get anything going until the eighth, but the Gators scored two more runs in their half of the inning, setting the table for Davis, who ripped a three-run homer to left-center field, giving UCF a 1-0 lead in the ninth.

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Tennis falls hard to the Vols

Wrestling more than just a club

The meet got underway with three doubles matches, and with seven dramatic upsets, every upset appeared as if UCF was pressing in relief. “We came out flat in doubles,” Coach Bobby Cashman said. “Some days you try to get pumped, and you just can’t get it going.”

Senior Anthony Serna had a different reason for the stagnant beginning. “You get a little more nervous when you’re playing against a team like Tennessee up on you in the court. It is a bit shocking.”

No matter the outcome, UCF lost all three doubles matches. In singles, the first point went to the Knights with the 6-3 win of senior Joel Allen over the Vols’ Mark Fleischmark. No. 23 Andrew Williams With Allen’s win came a sudden nervous from seeing a team win in the 5-2 defeat.

“I didn’t expect to lose,” Williams said firmly. “Some people think of the UCF as a team, we’re the wrestling club and with finding the new leader for the institution, it has served us.

Not only are the Knights losing these things, but they are doing them extremely well.

Senior captain Tim Lacko and Todd Haiser led the Knights’ recent rise to the No. 1 spot when they transferred to Arkansas, Texas, for the NCAA National Championships.

The Knights opened their championship in dramatic fashion. They rolled in the points later, but with individual championships to the last three weight classes UCF clinched the National Championship.

The victory was really a team effort, but all nine would be placed to 15 of possible weight classes.

Freshman Jerren Williams, who wrestled in the 157-pound weight class in his first day to the game and with the first-ever National Championship.

“Honestly, I didn’t expect to win the upset change in the atmosphere. Previously, the Knights had been outmatched, but with the score now tied at 3-3, a sense of confidence filled the room.

Each point turned critical, and with every closer win or near loss, the home crowd was drawn deeper into the match.

But there is a reason why Tennessee (9-3) is ranked No. 25 in the country. They’re good. UCF defiantly put forth the effort. The Volunteers were better. They took the next four match points consecutively with the win. The final point of the day was similarly dictated to the Volunteers.

The Knights have struggled against ranked competition, with a 1-4 mark this year. The match is set for 4 p.m. today at the UCF Tennis Complex.

State & Nation

Tennis

UCF

State & Nation

UCF

Top Star

State & Nation

UCF

GALLIGAN

UCF

Professor

UCF

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

APRIL 9 FROM 10-4PM

REGISTER AT HTTP://WWW.UCF.EDU/ORGLEDU

HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS IN PRIZES

St. Louis to seek for candidates. “It’s a unique deck,” Staub said. “We have a lot of coaches here with basketball in quite a few places.”

Staub will work without a formal search committee, does expect to find another coach willing to stick around for 20 years. But a successful hire for this revenue sport could solve some of the most important decisions that Staub made at UCF.

“They are not going to be the kissing cousin of basketball, or a player or a high profile in the athletics department,” Staub said. “They will be looking for a basketball coach that is dedicated to the institution and graduation of our student-athletes.”

UCF’s head basketball coach John Gallagher, Villanova’s assistant basketball coach with the Blue Devils, was charged.

“During the season,” Williams said. “I was the one to be first in my weight class. To get to the National Championships and 5 individual championships was important, but the story of everything I knew I could do in the No. 23.”

Senior Mandal Lee, who also wrestled in the 197-pound weight class, said that his family was so thrilled with filling his shoes. “When I was a kid I was told I could never do something,” Lee said. “I worked hard to achieve that.”

The victory was really a team effort, but all nine would be placed to 15 of possible weight classes.

UCF states, seven, and points overall to the National Championship races are also in the development of the team that past three years.

UCF’s seniors, seven, and points overall to the National Championship races are also in the development of the team that past three years.

Survivors in the Top Star.

UCF

GALLIGAN

UCF

Professor

UCF

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

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Survivors in the Top Star.
Defending champs up next

Forge All
drew within 3-1 using a lead-off walk by Kyle Richards, who came around to score on a "slid-off hit by Heather Collins."

Kendrick responded in the fifth inning, blasting a solo shot and making it 4-1, but that had her season high for already breaking 18 innings this sea-
son.

The Bisons used a walk by Leigh Little in the seventh, and scored an RW double by Jessica Wilson for the final margin of 4-2.

Game two was a different story as Florida manuc­stup­num the game's lone run in the fourth inning on a two-out
RBI single by Shay Sullivan.

UMFA had chances to even the game in the first and third innings, but both times leaves the tying run in a "mound position."

"We know that we have to play better especially with a man like Pug on the hori-
zon," Rice said. "They are going to get their key hits, and we have to be able to do the same."

The doubleheader with the defending A-Sun champion Owls is slated for Tuesday at the UCF Softball Complex.

First pitch is set for 3 p.m.

Among the Atlantic Sun.
The A-Sun season starts.
A five-man medical staff
of teams.

Earl had his return to Gainesville,
around the burner and seven batters without
record­ ing an out. Derek Absher
came in to close the door.

Despite getting threshold in Groveland,
Owls. He stuck a bold perform-
ance, going three-for-four with three singles and an RBI.

Matt Ray had a quiet .4 of 4, four-single
in game two of its
doubleheader with Lipscomb on
Tuesday. He went 4-2 with

A double, a walk, four RBI
and three runs off of
UCF since Rich
Stephens of USA in 2003.

The Knights are currently tied with Troy for first in the conference at 5-1. UCF begins the second half of the season hosting a three-game set against A-Sun foe Jacksonville this weekend at Jay Bergman
Field.

Tomson's first pitch is 6 p.m., with a day-night
doubleheader scheduled for Saturday.

INSIDE THE 
NUMBERS

9 Hits for softball in its first game of a doubleheader with Lipscomb on 
Sunday. It won 6-2.

Who's hot
Softball's Volpese Reat. The short-
stop ripped a 3-run homer against 
Lipscomb — her 10th of the season.

Who's not
UCF Baseball, the Latins. The 
height saw perfect Tuesday 17-
6 and 16-16 at UCF.

Upcoming
Baseball starts a three-game series with Lipscomb on Tuesday, 
tomorrow and finishes the series with a double-date Saturday afternoon and evening ... Men's tennis hosts Air Force today at the 
UC Tennis Complex ... Women's track and field is participating in the Florida Relays in Gainesville today through Saturday ... Women's golf is before, Na for the Perkins Cup on Saturday.

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Orlando should change its nickname from "The City Beautiful" to "Arrogant Orlando." If we want to repel the tourists industry there wouldn't be much to keep this city from becoming a ghost town. It's a place where big business runs wild. The problem of Orlando is to be the business seat of Florida, but also as a business for the future. It would be great to see a change in the way Orlando is run.
Hope should be re-inserted for Schiavo's loved ones

COMMENTS

NATHAN PURDUE

Early Wednesday morning, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals denied the pleas of Terri Schiavo's parents to re-insert the feeding tube that has kept Schiavo alive since 1990. The tube has been removed for six days now. Schiavo's parents will now take their case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

So much controversy surrounds this issue. The media has been unusually unbiased in its opinions on the case. There are two sides to the issue. The first side believes that she is actually a human. The ability to reason, and to have feelings and emotions is what makes us human.

The other side believes that there is still hope and that God will perform a miracle. This side argues that America pays billions of dollars in taxes every year, which allow convicted criminals who have been given life sentences to live. They are not part of society, yet we allow them to live.

First off, I think it is inhumane to starve a living organism to death. Even though Schiavo can't think, her body is still capable of survival. If they are going to permanently pull the feeding tube, they should give her a lethal injection and let her go peacefully.

Originally, I felt that Schiavo was not a human being because of her inability to reason or to have emotions. Doctors are very confident that she will never come out of her vegetative state. I believe in a God who can perform miracles. But I reasoned to myself that after 15 years, this just might be her time to go.

I decided this subject with my parents a couple days ago. They had a strong opinion that she should be kept alive. Then I talked to one of my best friends. He felt that she should be allowed to die.

The problem in this case is that her unfaithful husband is the person who wants her feeding tube removed. I had an inner conflict when I saw her husband crying on national television pleading with the courts to allow his decision as legal guardian to stand.

Terri Schiavo should be allowed to live. There are not enough people in this world who have faith that she will come out of this state. Nobody will be hurt or oppressed in any way if the tube is re-inserted. Why not let her friends and family have their wishes?

No reason to stop her from coming back to life.
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An indie show you shouldn’t dodge

UCF’s piano protege Alton Terry

Orlando martini fans get the blues
**HAPPENINGS**

Dodge dreary days with a dose of the local scene

Dodger, Say Hi to Your Mom, Yip-Yip, Band of the Name, The Crayons and On Cassette all performing

**CHRIS BOWERS**
Staff Writer

It was by all standards a dreary week in Orlando. The sunny connotations of Spring Break were washed away by five straight days of rain and sweater weather. For those of us stuck here in town, perhaps the time was spent making friends with the girls from down the street and realizing you were the only three people left in a deserted apartment complex. Or maybe you made it through the week playing board games till three in the morning, only to wake up the next afternoon to another day of dark clouds and rain, realizing the new day would again call for more exciting rounds of Encore! or Trivial Pursuit: Pop Culture Edition. In times like these you have no choice but to make the best of it, and that's just what we did. We cheered and hugged like drunken coeds on South Beach when our teammates would correctly identify adrenoleukodystrophy, then we put on our sweaters and raincoats and walked home.

But now Spring Break is over, and just as we were beginning to enjoy our isolation and look forward to nights of what had become a pretty darn good kind of nothing at all, the rest of the world came crashing back. Spring break partiers struck hard and sudden, arriving like an army in trucks that stunk of Natural Light and with their skin toned to a crispy shade of bright pink. Each armed with stories like "dude, bro, you just... well bro, you'd just never believe it... there were like these three girls and..."

As a young Tom Hanks once said, "Ah, home-crap-home."

But fear not, friends, for our time is now, and our reward for braving the break comes in the form of good live music.

This week, there are quality live shows throughout the dampened City Beautiful's many venues, the highlight of the weekend taking place on Saturday night. For a $5 cover, you can catch local favorite Dodger play its brand of indie-pop at 9 p.m. Saturday at Back Booth, along with the nationally touring Say Hi! To Your Mom and other familiar names Yip Yip, Band of the Name and The Crayons. The event is a release party for another local up-and-coming band, On Cassette.

The music of Dodger could be just what we all needed, a wake-up call from our dreary reverie, a sound that combines smart lyrics and upbeat melodies in the style of Of Montreal and Saturday Looks Good To Me. Check out the band's Web page, http://dodgerandfriends.com, for a diverse sampling of songs that are equally good acoustically as they are with the addition of electric pianos, string sections and drum machine beats (and for some of the hippest DIY concert flyers your likely to ever see).

So this weekend, re-immure yourself in the local scene. These are all high-quality musicians who are playing because they enjoy the spirit of what music is about and the community that it brings together. So get a friend and go join that community; Don't worry, Trivial Pursuit will still be there when you get back.

Get up close and personal with Dodger, above, and many other bands at 9 p.m. this Saturday at Back Booth for just $5.

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**IN THE ISSUE**

Vol. V, No. 24, March 24 - 30, 2005

Thanks to everyone who sent us feedback recently about how to improve the indie from the Future's free ticket giveaway. We apologize for making you sit through The Ring Two (see the review on page 112) in return for your benevolence.

This week, we have coverage of an important expo at the Memory Mall next week, as well as profiles of a UCF piano wunderkind and one of the best local indie rock shows.

We've also got a review for Orlando's Blue Martini Lounge, the latest expansion of the Florida-based posh martini bar system.

Be sure to check out next week's Life section for a special surprise just in time for April Fool's Day.

For those of you who enjoyed our "worst covers ever" feature, pick us up next week for the start of our more useful "best covers" series.

---

John Thomason
CAMPUS
Reception for artist Anschion E. Maiden
March 24, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., free
Student Union
Pasage Ballroom
407-823-3702

The Rhythm Within
March 24, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., free
Student Union
South Patio
407-823-4832

CARIBBEAN CONCERT
March 26, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., free
Student Union
Pasage Ballroom
407-823-3490

MONEY & POLITICS: Are Elections for Sale
March 19 and March 20, various times, free
Student Union
Pasage Ballroom
407-823-8500

LATE NIGHT WITH CONAN O'BRIEN'S MAX WEINBERG
March 28, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
Pasage Ballroom
407-823-4832

GLBSU Advocates for Gay Adoption
March 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., free
Health and Public Affairs Center
407-823-3490

JAY RUPTZ JAZZ QUINTET, "A NIGHT OF THE COOKERS"
March 29, 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m., free
Rehearsal Hall
407-823-5411

UCF SPRING TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE
March 30, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., free
Student Union
Pasage Ballroom
407-823-3517

HAPPENINGS

Block It Out With a Beat
March 30, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., free
Student Union
Pasage Ballroom
407-823-3517

EVENTS
Hi/Lo Film Festival
March 26 and March 30, 9:30 p.m., $5 to $7
Dillard's
37 S Magnolia Ave.
407-292-2000

Rollins Dance XIX
March 26, 8 p.m., 10
Rollins College
Annie Russell Theatre
1000 Holt Ave.
407-666-2161

Holl Festival 2005
March 27, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., free
Rollins Park
400 W. Colonial Drive
321-229-3011

Short Film Slam
March 27, 5 p.m., free
Dillard's
37 S Magnolia Ave.
407-992-1200

Digital vs. Film Photography Discussion
March 30, 6:30 p.m., free
Planet Digital
1413 Haven Drive
407-896-7326

An Evening With the Due Family
March 30, 6:30 p.m., free
Ondan City Hall
400 S. Orange Ave.
407-264-3105

Radio 4, Supersystem (indie)
The Social
March 28, 7 p.m., $30-$40
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-241-0499

CODESEVEN, THE SNAKE THE CROSS THE CROWN, DECIBULLY (alternative)
March 28, 8 p.m., $8
WRR Pub
1500 N. Mills Ave.
407-998-5100

LARGE NUMBER, FASHION FLESH, TO ESME, YIP YIP (electronic)
March 29, 9 p.m., $7
Saconares
300 State Lake
407-244-0209

LUNA BELOVED (rock)
March 29, 9 p.m., free
Ballard & Groton
535 W. How England Ave.
407-539-1711

Mint Condition (R&B)
March 24, 7 p.m., $10-$40
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
407-351-5483

Sugar Oasis (indie)
March 25, 10 p.m., $4
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Orange Ave.
407-228-6048

C-style, Urban Legacy, The Blood Brothers, Lawless Warrior, Feze One, Zay, J. Parker, Du Don Legend, DJ M Squared (hip-hop)
March 25, 10 p.m., $5
AKA Lounge
68 E. Pine St.
407-899-3707

Dirty Shannon (rock)
March 25, 10 p.m., free
Central Station Bar
100 E. Central Ave.
407-406-8336

Six On Sunday, Fallen Heroes, Fairweather (rock)
March 25, 7 p.m., $7
The Lost Echoes
1002 W. How 436
407-862-1002

Stone Ryder, Swansinger (rock)
March 25, 8 p.m., $3
Nature Coffee & Tea
301-239-1200

Please see CALENDAR on 14
**HAPPENINGS**

**CALENDAR**

FROM 13

1207 E College Ave 407-422-5969

**Cadillac Recipe, Blue Collar Addict, In Tension (rock)**
March 25, 9 p.m., free
Holly Rollin's
500 E. 50th
407-334-0069

**The Sleeping, Before Today, Fire on Gorgous (rock)**
March 25, 8:30 p.m., $7
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave
407-898-5070

**Fatboy Slim, The Crystal Method (electronic)**
March 25, 8:30 p.m., $29.50-$32.50
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-999-2570

**The Legendary J.C.'s, Supervillains, Hindu Cowboys (various)**
March 26, 9 p.m., $7-510
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave
407-246-1419

**The Hate Bombs (rock)**
March 26, 9 p.m., $5
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave
407-898-5070

**Voodoo Hodown (rock)**
March 26, 9 p.m., $3
Underground Blue UCF
1220 N. University Blvd
407-442-4102

**Against All Authority, Supervillains, The Corks, Knup (punk)**

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**ATMOSPHERE**

- **March 26, 6 p.m., $10**
  - Semmen
  - 360 State Line
  - 407-244-0299

- **The Deksunizers (rock)**
  - March 26, 10 p.m., free
  - Ybor City
  - 26 W. Pine St
  - 407-849-0911

- **O.F. Beadstrom, N.O.R.M., Pain Principle, Bleeding Inc. (metal)**
  - March 26, 9 p.m., $5
  - The Kline
  - 6700 Hanna Ave
  - 407-671-2712

- **Mr. Piranha, No Harm Done, The Lush (rock)**
  - March 26, 7 p.m., $7
  - 0-Zone CDs
  - 1002 W. Hwy 436
  - 407-382-1002

- **The Adorables (rock)**
  - March 26, 8 p.m., free
  - Austin Coffee and Film
  - 129 W. Fairbanks Ave
  - 407-975-3364

- **Franchise (rock)**
  - March 26, 10 p.m., $4
  - The Intersection
  - 1321 N. Mills Ave
  - 407-226-0008

  - March 27, 4 p.m.-2 a.m., free
  - Wall Street Plaza
  - Wall and Court Streets
  - 307-849-0904

- **Fantasie, Libyan Hit Squad, The Uptight (rock)**
  - March 27, 10 p.m., $5
  - Back Booth
  - 38 W. Pine St
  - 407-999-2570

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**SPOTLIGHT**

**FATBOY SLIM PREVIEW**

From 1998's 'We've Gone A Long Way Baby' to his most recent release 'Palookaville,' Fatboy Slim (formerly known as Norman Cook) has ventured his way into the House of Blues. Many long-time Fatboy Slim fans have seen the transition that Cook has made from his earlier records to Palookaville. One of the most recent catchy tunes is his 'Wonderful Night' single, which plays on numerous TV spots and commercial air running this season.

Fatboy Slim proves that dance music isn't dead instead, it just might be making its comeback. Different this time around, Fatboy Slim isn't remixing tracks electronically and digitally exclusively on the computer. This time, he is remixing with actual human beings.

See him tomorrow evening with the Crystal Method and DJ Mark Shancer. Tickets range from $25.59 to $65. Doors open at 8:39 p.m.
A self-taught piano player has a ‘Magnificent’ time composing his own tunes

KATE GOODELL
Staff Writer

In the quiet and secluded back corner of the third floor of the Student union, afternoon sunlight pours through the windows and onto Alton Terry, a 22-year-old English major. He sits behind a black baby grand piano in the Cape Florida Ballroom hallway, undisturbed by any intrusion into his melodic world of ivory and black. His face is concentrated while his strong hands float across the keys that produce a harmonious ring of chords. He's playing out his own invention; "The Magnificent," a song he composed himself.

After reaching for his sunglasses, he becomes a young Ray Charles, filling the empty halls with his melodies. He's preparing for the second-annual "The Rhythm Within" showcase, which will be held tonight at the Pegasus Ballroom. Not only will the showcase close with his solo performance, but he will also manage the entire production.

Three years ago, a piano had never been graced by his presence. While living in Jacksonville, he first heard singer/songwriter Alicia Keys and was awestruck by her talent and passion for music. Inspired by her organization, From the Ground Up, he turned her passion into his own and set out to create Never Give Up Your Dreams Inc. But his new fervor for music began with his desire to learn to play the piano.

The problem was that he was without a piano at home, so his grandmother drove him to the University of North Florida to find access to one and seek lessons.

"I played sunup to sundown even took a semester off to practice," Terry said. "I was always hearing things. So I just tried to follow my mind literally — what I heard — and never had the chance and never had the money," Terry said.

Although he eventually gained access to a piano at UNF, no one was willing to teach him. This only made him try harder. He first memorized a piece from Beethoven by listening to it and then locating the keys on the piano, but then turned to resources on the Internet for fundamentals and sheet music. He learned how to identify some of the notes from the sheet music and would write the letter of the scale to the corresponding note.

"I played sunup to sundown even took a semester off to practice," Terry said. "I was always hearing things. So I just tried to follow my mind literally — what I heard — and never had the chance and never had the money," Terry said.

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But after spending countless hours trying to read and practice other people's music, he decided he would rather create his own.

"I played sunup to sundown. I even took a semester off to practice," Terry said. "I was always hearing things. So I just tried to follow my mind literally — what I heard — and never had the chance and never had the money," Terry said.
Isn’t it nice to have an incisive slice of talk with Thrice?

Brandon Bielich: You originally came from the independent label Sub City records before signing to mainstream Island Records a couple years back. But I understand you still work with Sub City, donating proceeds from your album sales to charity?

Eddie Breckenridge: Yeah, each of the albums that we did with Sub City, which are Identity Crisis and The Illusion of Safety ... both of those, for as long as they sell them, they donate five percent of the retail costs to the charities that we’ve chosen for those albums. And it lasts as long as they’re releasing those albums. So hopefully, if people are still buying them in 10 years it will still be raising money for those charities ... Island did the exact same thing [with The Artist in the Ambulance].

Brandon Bielich: What can we expect to see on the new DVD; I’ve heard you have sorted through years of video footage to provide the ultimate story of Thrice?

EB: [Laughs] It’s just like studio footage from when we were recording, live footage, footage of us in a van, traveling and doing stupid stuff; us with other bands. Basically, like a history of where we’re at and where we’re planning on going, kind of. I was a little leary at first of actually doing a DVD since [we’re only six years old]. Usually people do it a little bit later, but I think the thing that makes it better is the fact that it’s not just [a retrospect], it’s also showing where we want to go.

BB: Would you say the new CD will be heavier or softer than your previous work?

EB: I would say it’s probably spread out even more like dynamically. There’s some stuff that’s mellower than there was on Artist in the Ambulance ... I think it’s a mix of the two extremes. Like dynamically moving from something that’s like really spacious and really quiet into something that is really heavy; we’ve been experimenting a lot with that ... It’s a lot more powerful, I think.
I just searched for it on the piano and put it together. Within two months I had my first song. It's called 'The Magnificent.'

Currently a student at UCF, Terry has found ways to play. But still unable to read sheet music, he plays by ear. First he began using a piano at UCF's music department, but because he was not a declared music major, he was prohibited to practice. Then tried to a busy university campus.

A blue projector light shines from the back, creating just enough light for him to see the white keys. This helps him concentrate on memorizing the music rather than seeing what he is doing. It not only helps him become a better pianist, but these private practices are a stark contrast to a busy university campus.

"I play alone at practice," Terry said. "It's a way to get away from reality. When people come, they come for the same reason. It's thought-provoking and soothing."

He speaks of his followers, those friends he has made over the past few years at UCF who have come to appreciate his raw talent, his inspiring ambition and his caring nature. If he is there, they can be found scattered around the dark room, listening.

Marques Brantley, a 20-year-old broadcast journalism major, is a close friend of Terry's. "I feel sorry for someone who has never met Alton, 'cause he's really an amazing person," Brantley said. "Anything he can do to help anyone out, he does, and even sometimes goes above and beyond that. And that's just a great person to have around, period."

But what occupies most of Terry's time is the organization he founded at UCF this last fall called Never Give Up Your Dreams, Inc. It was created to inspire, motivate and instill positive values in any given community at any given time. A large part of the club's focus is centered on reaching out to the community by giving people a chance to display their talents through avenues like the talent showcase.

Some of the 14 acts to be featured at "The Rhythm Within" include Club Kreyol Dance Troupe, Carl Hamilton's Quintet and Latin Rhythm. The event is free to all, although donations are welcome. Terry encourages people of all talents to participate, although music is his personal way of making a difference with the vision that people will leave a performance with a better perception of themselves.

"We use music as a tool to inspire people because it's an effective way of getting people to listen," Terry said. "I try to evoke peace in a way."

As for the future, Terry only sees himself involved with music. He was recently selected to study abroad with the "Art Under One Roof" program at St. Petersburg College in Italy, after submitting a recording of his piano compositions. He is thrilled to see his dream become a reality.

"I want to perform everywhere, especially Florence," Terry said. "One of the professors in the program wants to train with me as soon as possible, so I've decided to leave at the end of this semester. There's nothing really holding me back. It's one of my dreams."

Maybe someday Terry will accomplish his goals in a big way. In his experiences, music has had a huge effect on people, and he's aware of how music can bring people together. He wishes to do the same with his own talents.

Alton Terry plays a few notes recently at UCF. He founded an organization called Never Give Up Your Dreams, Inc., created to inspire communities. After watching the recent movie Ray, which details the life of Ray Charles, Terry appreciates the way Charles transformed music into his own style, even when at first people were uncomfortable with it. "That is what art is supposed to do," Terry said. "Make people uncomfortable."

But what he speaks of is the artist's drive to be different, and to reach the audience.

"I love to play for people. I try to use it to inspire people the way I was inspired," Terry said. "It sends a message in no other way possible. Music is sometimes the only way some things can be heard. If I could have one day where people just get along because they listened to what I wrote, it would be worth it."

Thrice planning tour supporting album coming out in summer of fall

**BB:** No you and [drummer] Riley are brothers. Do you ever find it harder to get work done or are you guys pretty tight?

**EB:** No, we're super-tight ... I think it's a lot easier actually, because I think me and him feel like it's really easy to be honest with each other on a critical level, especially when we're writing music or anything like that ... I can [give constructive criticism to] everybody else but it's a lot easier with my brother.

**BB:** Obviously, the new album is a lot of hard work, but can you give us a possible time period for its release?

**EB:** We're shooting for late summer but maybe fall. I would probably say fall because we're not going to be finished recording it until like sometime in May. What we've been doing scheduling-wise, we've had a lot of songs, more than we can even record. We have to figure out how we're gonna choose what we're gonna use. I hope it's out as soon as possible, but I would say probably sometime in the fall.

**BB:** After the release of _Artist in the Ambulance_, it seemed that Thrice toured almost non-stop for a year and a half. Are you planning a similar run to support your new album?

**EB:** Yeah, I think that's the best way to do it; especially since we've been off for about, more than six months now [with] writing this record. I just think it's really important to get your music out there. Especially because you can tour for two months and [hit] a city in every state, but that's only one show in each of those states, so it's really good to get back there. Then there's also Europe, Japan, Australia and Canada, and pretty much, it's best to be on the road as much as possible.

Pick up the new DVD _If We Could Only See Us Now_ available everywhere this coming Tuesday.
Somewhere down the road people will credit Beck Hanson with being one of the top musical minds of our generation. Throughout the '90s and first half of this decade, Beck's music has served as a cultural barometer, reflecting the overall attitudes of the young people who have grown up with him. Beck first exploded on the scene with 1996's "Loser," a song that became an anthem for middle and high school kids everywhere who didn't quite feel they fit in anywhere. In 1996, he released one of the classic albums of the decade, Odelay, which blended alternative, R&B, hip-hop and soul in a way that wouldn't be duplicated or bettered until Outkast started experimenting with its own hybrid sound.

When the attitudes of Americans everywhere changed after Sept. 11, so did the music of Beck. In 2002, he released Sea Change, his masterfully sad homage to lost love. With its opening track is supposed short stories brought to life musically with the help of acoustic guitars, accordions, an upright bass, various percussion and brass instruments, violins, cellos and even a hurdy-gurdy. Within the pages of The Decemberists' newest epic we are introduced to a wide variety of characters, all eagerly awaiting the chance to share their stories.

Early on we meet Eli, the Barrow Boy, selling a curious variety of his personal collection including coal, corn cob and candle wax. Soon we come across a pair of sexually excited criminal lovers in "The Bagman's Gambit." And in "On the Bus Mall," we are introduced to a set of runaway prostitutes convinced they can find a better life, among the castaways of the towns they traverse in their coming-of-age anthem.

But perhaps the most in-depth and ultimately most memorable characters are the two soul survivors of a vast multiple shipwreck caused, apparently, by a vengeful whale. The two mariners, whom we soon learn have a long violent, intertwined past, will soon wage one last fateful battle to the death, inside the belly of a giant whale. Picaresque expands the definition of concept album, and it is as much of a masterful literary work as it is a triumphant musical experience.

If you truly allow yourself to be immersed in the musical tales, soon you'll find yourself transported far from the land of deadlines and final exams. Hitching a ride via ghost ship, you will find yourself ultimately in a mythical, romantic time that existed once long ago, hidden among the bookshelves of 18th century lighthouse towns, and that still remains captured in the dusty pages of Herman Melville, James Fennimore Cooper and Washington Irving.

Creating an awkward blend of anthem-like rock ballads and poppy love songs, this fourth album by Superchick is what happens when Simple Plan meets the Spice Girls ... for the fourth time.

Although Beauty From Pain will hit stores late March, the album is more of a re-release of their first three discs than anything else.

To make matters worse, this sextet, composed of four guys and two girls, decided to go even further than most generic boy/girl bands by attempting to incorporate religious undertones in the album, with lines so cheesy that Creed could openly cringe at them: "If you're out there/Put your hands in the air/Let the Lord know that someone cares," sing Tricia Brock and sister Melissa Brock, lead vocals, on "Stories (Down to the Bottom)."

A Christian rock boy/girl band that raps, sings, and dances? Perhaps Superchick needs a friendly reminder that in order to succeed in the music industry, you have to try to appeal to a certain genre of music ... not all of them.

— BRANDON BIELOCH

— NATHALIE ZFAT
**LIFE**

**Give gays a chance (to adopt)**

UCF's GLBSU holds Kids Come First expo

**EMILY SCOTT**
Staff Writer

If your heart bleeds every time you walk into a Humane Society building and see a plethora of homeless pets, imagine walking into a DCF office and seeing thousands of homeless children being shuffled around in the foster care system. Imagine if something could be done about it, but that solution was gay adoption.

"Every child deserves a safe, loving home," Saunders said. "They are being denied stable, loving homes. [Lawmakers are] hurting the very children they seek to protect."

Aside from just gay/lesbian/bisexual organizations, social work groups have also gotten involved in the fight. Of the perspective that social work groups bring to the cause, Saunders said, "They realize that in terms of putting children first, this is hurting them."

This event is supported by not just the campus GLBT group, but also the local American Civil Liberties Union and the Coalition for Fair Adoption. As the latter organization's Web site states, they believe "Every child deserves a safe, loving home."

This bear represents one of the 2,000 children available for adoption and currently denied to the gay community.

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**MARKO A MANNOMANNO**

**Friend + benefits = attachment**

It is simply a matter of cause and effect

**NICHOLAS MARKOVICH**
Staff Writer

So I got this imaginary letter the other day at the *Indie* offices. Allow me to present some of the highlights. "Dear Nick... Love the column!" (Thanks). "You are truly the greatest blessing to the written word since Gutenberg developed the printing press" (What can I say?). "I have a question for ya" (Ugh. Due to your previous compliments, I may overlook your sixth-grade use of colloquial language in my beloved column). "I have this FWB (friend with benefits for the un-hip) named Steve (Named changed to protect the duped) that I'm starting to develop feelings for. What should I do?" (Thanks for the advice) (Wow). "Your biggest imaginary fan — Ashley." (Thank you for the letter, Ashley. Good luck with your all of your future endeavors as a trophy wife and continued purveyor of poor grammar. To answer your question, the reason you find yourself in this particular quandary is because you are an idiot. When you combine sodium and chloride, you get salt. Mix flour, eggs, sugar and milk together, and you get cake batter. Add intimacy and romance to a friendship? Voila! You get ATTACHMENT.)

Whoever came up with the phrase "friends with benefits" should be punched in the crotch. First of all, it's one of those annoying not-as-clever-as-it-thinks-it-is terms that makes me want jam a pencil in my eye (see also "butter face," "two-pump chump," or half the dialogue on Sex and the City).

Second, it's all a big lie. People (especially you girls) use this phrase to fool yourselves into thinking you can separate the sex from the intimacy. Guess what? You can't. Well, MOST of you can't. To those who can: congratulations — now put down the paper and invite your friend over for some Marko-inspired lovelmaking.

It's bad enough that people aren't honest with others, but this is a case of someone lying to his/her own self. I'm not saying you shouldn't add a little dessert to your friendship cuisine, just be cognizant of the extra calories that come along with it. Eat it proudly — and don't waste time making excuses or justifying it to yourself or your gaggle of confidants. Friends make...
LIFE

LOUNGE REVIEW

A bar for the new Millenias

BLUE MARTINI LOUNGE
AT MILLENAI MALL
Genre: Martini Bar
Opening date: Now open

SHARON PARE
Staff Writer

West Palm has it, Fort Lauderdale has it, and Tampa has it. It is no wonder Orlando decided that it needed to do it “Vegas”-style as well and add a particularly sophisticated martini lounge to its high-end Mall at Millenias. No jeans allowed.

If you partied too hard during spring break, take the time to redeem yourself at this new and upscale Orlando venue. The bar is everything you might expect it to be: an intimate outside patio, a VIP area and a stage room. Since Blue Martini just recently opened, its line-up of events consists of a Monday Hospitality Night and a Wednesday Ladies Night. Every other evening is the same, with respect to the different radio stations or alcohol brands sponsoring the venue.

Driving toward this posh cigar lounge, you are warmly welcomed by the blue and purple lighting surrounding the building. Once the black-suited men open and close the velvet rope as they greet you, you are instantaneously invited into the ambiance of the lounge, which holds a soft red and, of course, blue lighting around the walls and bars.

Admission is only $5 after 7:30 p.m., and the line begins to get rather lengthy between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. If you spent all your money on booze during your break, there is no way your Louis Vuitton wallet will afford the $11 per drink (unless you go during happy hour, which is from 4-7 p.m. weekdays, with $6 martinis).

Luckily, they serve your martini with the shaker, which amounts to about a drink and a half. Stand up after two glasses and you will have felt that you have had about three stiff drinks.

There is a myriad of people in the crowd, but your general demographic for this atmosphere is mid-20s to late-30s. Though there are also enough “rents” who think they are still hip. So whether you are having a few drinks in a more prestigious place before heading downtown for the evening or showing your parents that you party in a very refined and composed atmosphere, the Blue Martini presents a nicer environment from the typical downtown bar.

Currently, the Orlando Blue Martini offers almost 30 different premium martinis. My personal favorite, the Carmel Martini, was one

I had not ordered but managed to snag a sampled sip from a friend, which tempted me to run off with her shaker and never be found again. I did start my evening off with a Cookies and Crème Martini, which left me with a good impression of the rest of their drinks. It was rimmed with cookie crumbs, wonderful to crunch on in the midst of sipping the drink.

Overall, the Blue Martini created a good first impression, especially for the high-class Orlando market. The Blue Martini is even situated on the second floor of the mall, which makes it seem like it is on a pedestal. The scene, food and drinks are first-class. Check it out on the Web at www.bluemartinioung.com.
**LIFE**

Guest speakers highlight event

**From 19**

will be adorned with lavender fabric to create an aesthetic effect.

This design was also inspired by Eyes Wide Open, another traveling display that used objects to create a lasting image. This display occupied the same spot on campus last fall and consisted of more than 1,000 pairs of shoes, one pair for each U.S. soldier that had been killed in Iraq since the start of the war in 2003 up to that point.

The Kids Come First display and general event schedule will travel to campuses all across Florida, "hopefully all the way up Tallahassee and all the way down to Miami," said student participant Danny Coeyman. In terms of the name, "it pretty succinctly gets what we're after."

The event, including a large display and guest speakers, is exactly what it claims: gay, lesbian, and bisexual students and other advocates hoping to raise awareness of how gay adoption helps families in the immediate area.

According to Coeyman, Florida is currently the only state with a constitutional amendment that bans gay marriage. The Web site for Equality Florida, a politically-tinged group seeking to ensure rights of GLBT community members, states that this ban was passed over 25 years ago. As per the form-fill petition on the organization's Web site, found at www.equalityfl.org, lawmakers said that when these laws were passed, they were "caught up in the hysteria of the times" and now regret their decision. Kids Come First comes at a convenient time as well, because the state government is now at the start of the open session the of Florida Legislature.

"We'd like to have this support," Saunders said. "A lot of people are upset with these policies, a lot of people want to see them changed."

In addition to the massive display, there will be guest speakers starting at noon. They include Orlando City Commissioner Patty Sheehan, Equality Florida Central Florida Field Coordinator Vonn Neu, President of the Orlando Gay Parent Group Lisa Gray and attorney with Florida Family Law Michael Morris. A speaker from the National Association of Social Workers will also likely be present.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday. Future events will be taking place at the campus of Florida State University in Tallahassee and Florida International University in Miami by GLBT groups at those schools. For more information about the event, please contact its coordinators at kidscomefirst@gmail.com.

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Columnist finds self bracing for impact

**From 19**

great love interests. You already find a majority of their personalities pleasant enough, as indicated by the fact that you are friends to begin with. Add on the fact that they are physically attractive, and WHAM! As Marvin would say: "Let's Get It On."

**YOUR WEEKLY FRIENDLY COLUMNIST** WARNING:

friends with benefits can't always go back to friends without benefits — just something you should remember. I shall now submit my opinions to the mercy of Marilyn, a woman so lovely and talented that she could melt any objections that I would have to the concept of CWB (columnists with benefits). I am now bracing myself for the incoming punch in the stomach...

She agrees with Nick for once

**From 19**

know you better than the guy at the door doesn't make him your friend.

With a friendship comes the implication that you both care about each other; and if you're not sure that that's the case, then the fact that you're more comfortable talking to Nick about it than with him should answer your question. If you do care about each other, then the fooling around shouldn't be confusing you. Like Nick said, add some banging to the friendship, and you're on your way to something fun for the both of you.

Sex and intimacy are easy to separate when the intimacy doesn't really exist. So let's be honest: "friends with benefits" is really just "benefits"... with someone whom you call your friend.

I'm not gonna give Ashley any advice, because I hate doing that, but the first step to figuring out what's happening between you and someone else is to be honest with yourself as Nick is pleasuring you to be. Fooling yourself into thinking your relationship is something that it's not just going to confuse you and blind you from what's truly going on.

Even though Nick is right, and "adding dessert to the friendship cuisine" isn't necessarily a bad idea, the truth is that when you're so called FWB-ing, you're skipping the meal and going straight for dessert. If you hadn't, you'd actually be dating now, wouldn't you (or at least "talking")?
This *Ring* feels false and does not shine

The sequel of the remake feels just like the hollow cash cow it was made as

**FILM REVIEW**

Two years ago, *The Ring* graced theatres and surprised many by grossing a gross amount of money. And with that, a sequel was born. Not a remake of the sequel of the remake, but a wholly original sequel from the remake of the original,

*The Ring Two* sports the same screenwriter as the original film but changes direction in replacing Gore Verbinski (who is busy forecasting *The Weather Man* with Nicholas Cage).

Hideo Nakata, the director of the original *Ringu* and its sequel, *Ringu 2*, takes the reigns for this film, in which mood is central and logic takes a backseat.

But one can't let logic fall into the way of the mysteries of *The Ring*, for it also had giant gaps in logic. If anything, *The Ring Two* just gives the audience more of what it got in the first film, and in that respect it delivers in spades.

The film picks up not too long after the first film, with Naomi Watts and her strange son picking up and moving to a small town in hopes of escaping the tape that nearly destroyed their lives. As fate would have it though, life is not so simple once again for Watt's Rachel Keller. Samara is back and she's pissed. At some point early in the film Watts destroys the cash in on the same values and themes audience, much in the same way Samara wants to use her son.

While the tape figured prominently in the first film, it is as pivotal as a stick of gum in this sequel. The filmmakers have decided to go the route of good versus evil this time, pitting the good Watts against the bad Samara. What's more interesting is that neither person has actually done wrong. While Samara's actions from the spiritual world may be questionable (she does kill people after all) she seems to only kill them with images from her world.

Basically this sequel does its best to cash in on the same values and themes of the original without stepping on exactly the same beats. Watts does have a male cohort in the film, the boy still calls his mother by her first name and the boy himself is still creepy in his Haley Joel Osment-like stillness.

But the film's scares are few and far between, with some of the most haunting moments coming from some of the acting. While Watts, who is usually outstanding in even the smallest role, chews the scenery with a bored stare in her eye. Here she is used as a conduit for the audience, much in the same way Samara wants to use her son.

While *The Ring* had some good scares and a genuinely creepy atmosphere, its sequel feels more like the cash cow it is.

Instead of following the story to its next step, this film takes the story of Watts' Rachel and places her in situations that feel not only false but simply out of place.
**FILM REVIEW**

Simon Green (Ashton Kutcher) and Percy Jones (Bernie Mac) share an intimate moment in Kevin Rodney Sullivan's racist Guess Who. Fore shame ... yet another cheap homoerotic joke, and this movie wasn't even directed by Brett Ratner.

**GUESS WHAT? GUESS WHO SUCKS. GUESS WHY? READ ON**

You can bet that Guess Who's Coming to Dinner's Tracy and Hepburn are grave-spinning at this revolting remake

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ
Staff Writer

For the first 40 minutes of Guess Who, one could come to the realization that the characters are actually living in an alternate universe, something straight out of another Ashton Kutcher film, The Butterfly Effect. In this alternate universe, Guess Who takes the first 40 minutes of Meet the Parents and replaces Robert DeNiro with Bernie Mac and Ben Stiller with Ashton Kutcher. Almost without fail, Guess Who attempts to copy a formula that works, and when that formula fizzles out just before the hour mark of the picture, so does the film. That's not to say it was actually entertaining or good before that mark, just that it stops trying after that.

Ostensibly a remake of Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, Guess Who tries to be the answer to a film that asked a question over 40 years ago. While the original film had social value, this film has zero value.

After some brief introductions to all of the characters, in which the audience is meant to be brought to a brisk sizzle while it waits for the moment black people and white people collide, the interactions between Kutcher and Mac are surprisingly flat. While both leads are adequate in facilitating the roles, the timing is off. Jokes that should have a spark, fizz, and setups that should pay off (the NASCAR angle) go nowhere at alarmingly casual rates. Mac and Kutcher, the father who apparently just hates white guys who date his daughter, don't make a whole lot of sense without making him a blatant racist. To explain: Early in the film, Percy tells a co-worker how he had checked into Kutcher's finances and credit history and that they were in great shape; he was happy with this guy on paper. Once he meets him and discovers Kutcher to be white, the trouble begins. But there's something wrong with that picture.

The entire impetus of the film is based on something that is completely racist. And though the original film was about breaking through the barrier of racism, this film actually embraces its racist intentions. Sure, it's all played for PG-13 laughs, and no one is ever "really serious" about anything in the film, but looking past the surface, did the filmmakers really examine what they're doing by reversing these roles?

**GUESS WHO, WHILE CUTE IN PREMISE, IS OVERWROUGHT WITH PROBLEMATIC EXECUTION. IT'S LAYING IN ITS EXAMINATION OF RACE RELATIONS AND CARELESS IN ITS INTENTIONS. IT'S A HUMORLESS FILM WITH NO COLOR IN IT WHATSOEVER.**
MOVIES

FILM REVIEW

Kevin Costner’s Anger film has many upsides

Up-and-coming indie-film teen stars Erika Christensen, left, and Evan Rachel Wood, right, star in The Upside of Anger.

Gina Scanlon
Staff Writer

Kevin Costner’s Anger film has many upsides

**The Upside of Anger** is a clever, witty, mature look at alcoholics impressively. They’re strong, smart and real. The balance of weaknesses between the two sexes makes the film believable. The supporting parts are well developed as well, given numerous layers and plenty of flaws.

Allen puts forth one of her best performances, though she is always strong. Kevin Costner is surprisingly endearing, and the part is perfect for him. The daughters, however, are strangely cast and aren’t too believable as sisters. However, Evan Rachel Wood turns out a compelling performance as the narrator with her wandering vulnerability and perceptiveness on the chaos that surrounds her.

There are some interesting camera techniques and tricks that are cleverly established and make the film stand apart from just another dramedy. The resolution is bewitching, sharp and thought-provoking, leading the audience to rethink the entire film from its beginning, which is rare.

Although the character development is well-done, the plot structure is a little awkward at times. There are strange occurrences that seem to be only used for shock value, which are funny at first, but then leave you wondering what you just witnessed, or more importantly, how they move the story along.

Despite a couple of bumpy scenes that could have been cut, the story has a chemically balanced mixture of heart and humor. The perfect cinematic drink, if you will.

COMING TO DVD — MARCH 29

Bigger, longer, and quite uncut

Trey Parker’s cult classic Orgazmo finally on DVD

Brett Ryan Bonowicz
Staff Writer

**Orgazmo**

Another Testament of Trey Parker, 60 minutes of deleted scenes and outtakes, with optional commentary. Rounding out the DVD is a blooper reel is included, along with a far-too-cute-for-it’s-own-good-titled documentary Before, During and After the Sunset.

A terrible atrocity to both cinema history and to all involved in the making of it, **Orgazmo** is the latest act of genreicide committed by Brett Ratner. The film masquerades as a harmless caper flick, but in reality is a crude improvisation revolving around how many gay jokes Ratner can squeeze into this feature’s running time. The DVD, being released as a part of the New Line Platinum Series (not Infinitum) includes deleted/alternate scenes with optional director commentary. And if one hasn’t heard enough of Ratner talking about why he cut or changed his movie, there’s a feature commentary with him. Always a must on a Ratner DVD, a blooper reel is included, along with a far-too-cute-for-it’s-own-good-titled documentary Before, During and After the Sunset.

**Orgazmo**

After years of chatter on the Internet, Trey Parker’s little-seen masterpiece is finally coming to DVD with the special-edition treatment leaving from its pores. **Orgazmo** tells the quaint story of Joe Young, a religious fellow who becomes involved in pornography so he can pay for (among other things) his wedding. The DVD includes no less than four audio commentaries: Track one by stars Matt Stone, Trey Parker, Dion Bachar, Stan Szwarc, Andy Kindler, Kevin Smith and David Zucker; track two with crew Maki San, David Dunn, Robyn Rabb, McHugh and Matt Potter; track three with comedy all-stars the South Park writing staff (Pam Brady, Matt Pregger and Kyle McCullough), Weird Al Yankovic, Dave Foley, Bob Odenkirk and David Cross; Kevin Smith and David Zucker. Also included is the 40-minute documentary *The Book of Orgazmo* — Another Testament of Trey Parker, 60 minutes of deleted scenes and outtakes, with optional commentary. Rounding out the disc is a behind-the-scenes montage.
Pixar continues to do DVD the right way

Not only has Pixar mastered the art of combining brilliant writing, spectacular animation and a sheer understanding of inspiring imagination (hear that DreamWorks?), they also know how to properly release a DVD with only one attempt. This new two-disc extravaganza is complete with all the usual extras (trailers, making-of docs and commentary), as well as other great features to make it worth your buck (deleted scenes, animated shorts, bloopers and more).

Amongst the deleted scenes is a storyboarded alternate opening that, while somewhat interesting, doesn’t have the same “oomph” as the actual opening of the film. Each of the deleted scenes includes an introduction by writer/director Brad Bird, complete with explanations as to where he planned on going with the scenes, and why they were ultimately taken out.

There are plenty of “making-of” documentaries on this DVD that chronicle Bird’s journey from his first day at Pixar to the film’s actual completion. They are very insightful, especially when one considers the director’s background. Prior to The Incredibles, Bird wrote and directed one of the most under-appreciated, traditionally animated films of all-time, The Iron Giant. He mentions how odd of a transition it was for him to enter this new world of computer animation, and how the neighborhoods of the two worlds actually are.

The highlights of the extras, however, are the animated shorts. The first one — Jack-Jack Attack — illustrates what exactly happened between the youngest Incredible and the crazy brace-face babysitter, Karl. The other — Mr. Incredible & Pals — is a perfect homage to the cartoons and comics of old. Shot like it was made 50 years ago, it follows Mr. Incredible, Frozone and a little rabbit sidekick, as they take down a few villains and save the city from a giant stalk of villainous corn.

The only disappointing thing about seeing this film during its theatrical run was the fact that no bloopers were included with the end credits. Where were the infamous outtakes we have all grown to love with Pixar films? Did they really find the perfect animated cast that never flubbed a line or tripped over a prop? Of course they didn’t. Incredibles Blunders is a very, very, short extra that has about a minute of outtakes. This set of bloopers isn’t as crafty or humorous as the other Pixar films.

Aside from all of these supplements, of course, is the actual feature. The transfer is amazing, as is the sound. If you find yourself stumbling around the video store looking for the ultimate cinema experience, pick up The Incredibles.
From a pompous director far, far away

George Lucas discusses his latest Star Wars film, Revenge of the Sith

DAVID GERMAIN
The Associated Press

Two decades ago, George Lucas pulled off the mask to reveal the face of one of cinema's greatest bad guys. Now, he's about to slip the mask back on.

Lucas offered a preview Thursday of his final Star Wars chapter, which spells out the last dark steps the once heartbeat young Anakin Skywalker takes to become the villain Darth Vader.

"It's not like the old Star Wars," Lucas told theater owners at the ShoWest convention. "This one's a little bit more emotional. We like to describe it as 'Titanic in space. It's a tearjerker.'"

Opening May 19, Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith brings full circle the mammoth sci-fi saga Lucas began in 1977 with the original "Star Wars," which shattered box-office records and remains one of the top-grossing movies ever.

Reaction was mixed on Episode I - The Phantom Menace and Episode II - Attack of the Clones, many fans grousing that the first one was too much a kiddie flick and the second one too sappy a love story. Calling the latest movie a Faustian tragedy, Lucas said he is unconcerned about whether Revenge of the Sith draws more boxs than Star Wars fans.

"I feel that I've made the movie the best I can and it turned out the way I wanted it to be, so I'm happy," Lucas, 60, told The Associated Press in an interview. "I never try to anticipate what the world's going to think or even worry about whether they're going to like it or not. That's not my job, to make people like my movies. They either like them or they don't. That's completely out of my hands."

The intensity of the action and themes in Revenge of the Sith probably will earn it a PG-13 rating, Lucas said. The first five "Star Wars" movies all were rated PG.

Lucas' entry at ShoWest was preceded by a parade of 21 Star Wars stormtroopers in white armor, followed by an actor dressed as Darth Vader.

Along with the trailer, Lucas showed the opening minutes of Revenge of the Sith, featuring the familiar "A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away..." catch phrase followed by the franchise's rousing introductory music.

The film immediately launches into a space battle elaborate even by Star Wars standards as Anakin (Hayden Christensen) and his Jedi knight master, Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor), lead a mission to rescue the kidnapped Palpatine, chancellor of the Republic.

The trailer sets up the rest of the scenario, with the suspicious Jedi council assigning Anakin to spy on Palpatine after his rescue, while the chancellor - the future evil Emperor of the original trilogy - plots to seduce the young knight to the dark side of the Force.

"It's very dangerous putting them together," warns Jedi master Mace Windu (Samuel L. Jackson). "I don't think the boy can handle it."

Everyone who has seen the original "Star Wars" knows Mace is right. That film opens in a dark, oppressive age a couple of decades after the action of Revenge of the Sith, when Vader and the Emperor have conquered the cosmos, stamped

Please see Luke in this special section for more from the latest Star Wars movie!

Two shades of Ryan Gosling

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ
Staff Writer

After holding off on seeing it for what seemed like an eternity and at the behest of my ex-girlfriend, I rented the film The Notebook. Being the emotional wreck I am, I cried at the end, and so after the film, I decided to instant message my ex and tell her that I thought the film was good and her recommendation was indeed spot-on. Her away message said, "sleeping" and I thought to myself at that moment whether I was tired too. I decided no and popped in another film I had rented: The United States of Leland.

I watched the film and thought it was OK; I had in particular enjoyed a song I heard during one scene between Leland and the junkie girl. I decided I'd look it up on the Internet Movie Database. They have a feature called "Soundtrack Listing," in which the songs featured in the film are listed. When I went to The United States of Leland page I discovered something rather peculiar.

That rather peculiar thing had a name, and his name was Ryan Gosling. You see, the thing that was so peculiar was that Ryan Gosling was the star of The United States of Leland. He, in fact, played Leland. But what I didn't realize was that Gosling had also starred in The Notebook.

While both films were competitively made, the most amazing thing about them was Gosling and his ability to seamlessly integrate himself into each role. While an actor like Al Pacino or Jack Nicholson or Edward Norton might earn accolades for being able to integrate themselves into obviously showy roles, Gosling had truly done the actor's job and made it not about himself but about the character. He made both characters so their own that he became unrecognizable by the end.

These were true performances, and while not recognized by the Academy (they probably thought it was two different people), Gosling's efforts did not go unnoticed by this young cinephile.

Leland was a shy, introverted and thinner spirit than his Notebook counterpart, who was a bit more buff - an extrovert oozing with romance from his fingertips. And in each role, Gosling is invisible. Unlike Brando or DeNiro, the show isn't about the actor but the character. In this post-Bennifer world, it's amazing to see an actor acting instead of just looking high the high life by basking Jennifer Lopez and being best friends with Matt Damon.

Sadly by the time I realized this magical movie moment had happened, it was nearly 4 a.m. I was alone in my apartment and I had had an epiphany about acting. I opened up my iTunes and downloaded the song I had enjoyed ("Undone" by Imperial Teen). I listened to that song for a while, not knowing the next time a magical movie moment like this would happen again.
Luke, Leia appear as infants in Lucas' Revenge of the Sith

MOVIES
Luke, Leia appear as infants in Lucas’ Revenge of the Sith

out democratic rule and are hunting down the vestiges of a freedom-fighting rebellion.

Star Wars, The Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi recount the rise of Anakin’s farmboy son, Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill), who teams with his newfound sister Leia (Carrie Fisher) and brash smuggler Han Solo (Harrison Ford) to take down the Empire and ultimately redeem Vader, bringing him back to the side of the good guys.

Amid the climax of 1983’s Return of the Jedi, Luke takes off Vader’s black mask so father and son can see each other face to face and trace Anakin’s downfall from nice little boy to bratty teen to dark knight of the galaxy. Revenge of the Sith presents Anakin in Vader’s black get-up only at the very end of the movie, Lucas said.

“Oh obviously, fans would love to see a movie about Darth Vader running around killing people,” said Lucas, who also was on hand to receive a “galactic-achievement” award from ShoWest organizers. “I’m not telling that story, and I’m not interested in that. That’s not what the movie is.”

“This first trilogy is really about the father, the struggles of a father, or a man, basically, to find himself, and at the same time fall into a trap of wanting certain powers, making a pact with the devil and basically spending the rest of his life regretting it.”

Hayden Christensen stars as Anakin Skywalker in the third volume of the Star Wars saga.

From 116

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510 N. ORLANDO AVE, 407-628-0163
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ENZIAN CINEMA CAFE
1300 S. ORLANDO AVE, 407-629-1038
The Sea Inside (PG-13)
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DMAC
355 MAGNOLIA AVE, 407-932-1200
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Hearts (NR)
Friday: 8:30 10:30 12:30
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THE GEEK LIFE

Romance from a virtual to a real life
Geek ace finds MySpace a place for human race to soon meet face-to-face

ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ  Staff Writer

I have an Internet boyfriend. Well, I suppose he isn't really an Internet boyfriend. I mean, he doesn't exist entirely on the Internet, nor is he made of millions of zeros and ones. He is a real boy and we actually see each other in real life. We just happened to learn of each other's existence on the cybernetic plane.

When I was preparing to leave on my most recent road adventure, I began looking for a place to blog my voyage. As I researched, I stumbled upon a strange site called MySpace. You may have heard of it, being as how it's rabidly popular among the under-30 crowd of slacker Gen Xers and below. It's the next big thing to Friendster, which I loathe. Now we are free to enjoy the excitement of a singles punchbowl mixer and a kegger with all our college and high school friends, not to mention our enemies and those kids that were just too cool to exist and would never be our friends in a million years.

After stumbling across the Web site, I decided it might be fun to set up a little profile. Just a few pix of me, a little bit about myself, basically the usual drivel one puts up on such a site. Before I knew it, I was getting all these friends requests. That I was prepared for. What I wasn't prepared for was the number of friends I knew in the real world who were already hooked into this freaky little network. So, since so many people I already thought were cool were signed on, perhaps some of the people that dwell this virtual reality meeting arena might be worth meeting, at least on a chatting basis.

With that in mind, I set out to encounter a few of these folks. Some of them were wretched, and others just sad, while a rare few were actual enjoyable and decent human beings who were worth speaking to. While traveling, we...

NEAR-LIFE EXPERIENCE

The next 10 in the '30 before 30' list o doom
This time it's a trip from the library to jazz to supervillainy and more

MICHAEL LAWRENCE  Staff Writer

Here are the next ten entries in my "30 before 30" list, a compilation of 30 things I must do before I hit the age of 30.

11. Spend a whole day, from open to close, in a library.
   Warning up to a building of knowledge for an entire day? Mmmmm, sounds good to me. I don't even think I'd go on the computers. I'd go to the eight-story library in downtown Fort Lauderdale and go section-by-section through the different books, trying to learn as much as I could in a single day.
   The best place there: The Hall of Patrons. Rows upon rows of books devoted to human ingenuity and cleverness. Viva le knowledge!

12. Make a 'states' mixtape, with 50 songs, each one representing a different state, based on the order in which they were made a state.
   I once made a "months" mix (it was actually 14 tracks, bookended by different versions of "As Times Goes By"). Now onto celebrating my country in a creative, non-jingoistic fashion. Singer-songwriter Sufjan Stevens plans on releasing one album per state, which is quite the task. Check out his first one, Greetings From Lake Michigan. It's amazing. This is manageable enough for me. Except I'm already stuck on Delaware. Why should I expect someone to write a song about Delaware in the first place? Sufjan, do Delaware next for me. Please?

13. Design a supervillain, complete with origin and backstory, and go on escapades throughout the city, in character with costume.
   What's the worst that can happen? Getting shot or jinxed? Why, supervillains have no fear! I'm already anticipating going out to eat and shouting things...

CRAZED INDIE ROBOT

More like The Da Vinci Blows
For once, listen to Catholic Church

DIANNA ZISMAN  Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone (who is, apparently, close to Pope John Paul) made headlines denouncing The Da Vinci Code as a "sack full of lies against the Church."

My only response to that is: seriously? It's taken this long for bigwigs in the Catholic Church to officially come out against this book? The book was published in March — of 2003. I read it so long ago, I forgot that the book even existed until the good Cardinal brought it up again. Has the Church always been this far behind the times? If so... damn.

I have to make a confession. I'm strongly opposed to the cardinal's announcement. It's not because I want people to read the book. No, no. Quite the contrary. I firmly believe that if there's one thing people should do this spring, it's not read The Da Vinci Code. If you haven't already read the book, just stay away.

This isn't because I'm stunned by the book's assertion that (spoiler alert) the Holy Grail wasn't an actual chalice, but Mary Magdalene herself (in that, she held the child — and consequently the blood — of Jesus Christ in her womb). For one thing, I've heard similar hypotheses in the past. For another, getting mortally offended when someone discusses the sex life (or non sex life) of a dude who walked around 2,000 years ago seems a bit silly, but whatever floats your boat, I guess.

No, there are two other, more important, reasons why I'd encourage everyone to keep your distance from the book:
1. It's quite badly written and:
2. It goes against the entire premise of Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.

There aren't enough words to describe how horrible an author Dan Brown is. Code can quite accurately be described as "Da Vinci Creek" meets Nancy Drew, where Brown attempts to wow the audience with his "research" into the Grail by combining it with a murder mystery. The result is crap.

Sheer crap. There's no other way to describe it, except to say that it just SUCKS, man.

Just check out the first line: "Robert Langdon woke slowly. " Wow. Compelling. A few more chapters of THAT and I'll be ready to go outside and stare at the lawn for a couple of hours. And, in true hack-mystery fashion, Brown ends every chapter with a "shocking twist" that is proven meaningless...

PLEASE SEE THE INDIANA ON 119

THE DA VINCI CODE

DAN BROWN

AUTHOR OF ANGELS & DEMONS

LARGE PRINT

COURTESY DOUBLING

PLEASE SEE GIVE ON 119
High school history books totally taught us how badass propaganda can be. Are you not using a car pool on your way to work? You're riding with Hitler! Hyperbole can convince people of anything. Even though we usually think of propaganda as nifty artwork from World War 2, organizations ranging from the miniscule Elevator-Escalator Safety Foundation to the omnipresent Fox News Channel continue the tradition today. Sometimes, they even bring their flight to the Internet, where it becomes propaganda as nifty artwork.

Web Less Traveled

'I like big Bibles and I can not lie'

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

http://www.safetirder.org/

Somewhere in the '80s, old white dudes figured out that only this crazy new thing called "hip-hop" could influence the modern youth. This strange common-law marriage of hip-hop and corporate agendas resulted in such classics as "Don't Copy That Floppy," a 20-minute rap about software piracy. Google yourself a copy if you haven't seen it. Still following the trend in 1991, the Elevator-Escalator Safety Foundation brought us another example, now with a cut named "Safe T Rider." He dresses like Kid Vid from the Burger King commercials and pauses every few moments to dance along with the beats and randomly changing background colors. With lyrics like "Remember, there's a safe way to take the ride. Hold on to the rail and don't touch the sides," how could it not work? The EESF even provides study data proving its efficacy. When the movie's over, don't forget to take the awesome quiz to see what you've learned. Just remember, "We don't act sily when we ride, because a safe rider always keep safety in mind." Your efforts will earn you an awesome certificate you can print and hang on your wall to show all your friends, who will doubtlessly dub you the king of cool.

Baby Got Book

Courtesy of DJ White Boy Back in town and there would stop so I could surf the Internet and write this column, as well as research our next destination, I would log onto my preferred instant-messaging service and chat with my new-found virtual friends.

One of them in particular, a lovely young gentleman who lived nearby to my current base of operations, had a lot of interesting things to say. Before I knew it, I was looking forward to his buddy icon and his text messages.

The Indiana Jones trilogy: It's a way of life

‘Net boyfriends ‘wave of the future’

Then all of a sudden, I was back in town and there was the terrifying possibility of meeting him in the corporeal world.

We became close friends rather quickly, and within the next few weeks we were spending a lot of free time together. Things never seemed to head in any other direction until much later. After three months of being "just friends," something happened and everything changed and all of a sudden we were dating someone we met on the Internet.

Naturally we aren't the only ones this has happened to. There has been a strong demand for computer dating services, in fact, for dating services in general, since the advent of human kind. Matchmakers and the like have been popping up all over human history. It's only fitting that they would evolve into the next step, following technology's lead into the electronic universe.

But is a place like myspace.com really a dating site? I didn't specifically join up so that horny guys and girls could send me naked pictures of themselves. In fact, a lot of the people on myspace.com are in relationships or eunuchs or otherwise dating incompatible. So what is it?

Could it be that the world really is so small that contacts are never lost? I still get random messages from people I went to high school with asking me how my life is.

Somewhere, in some giant mega-net, will everyone really be able to meet everyone else? Internet boyfriends could quite possibly be the wave of the future ... Good thing I get in on the ground floor.

14. Save a life.
I want to do something noble and dignified ... don't we all? And the good thing about this one is that there are many different ways to do this. For instance, I can destroy someone's DVD of Superbabies or not have sex with them.

15. Go through a jazz phase.
I can't truly be pretentious until I do. And I'm not talking about going to a few concerts or downloading a couple of albums. I'm going for the all-out Harvey Pekar-esque obsessive-LP-collector jazz phase. Even if it only lasts a week or two.

16. Sneak out of a wedding.
My own swipe at the failed institution of marriage. One of my good friends was recently engaged, so this might not be too far off ...

17. Make out passionately in a planetarium.
Love under artificial stars. Yum. There's that distinct place between authentic romanticism and syrupy swill, and somehow this act of affection dangles dangerously between the two.

18. Get cell phone use banned in a public place.
That's right, you bastards who feel the need to push your private conversations on the rest of us. I'm coming after you! Your rudeness will be stopped! CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

19. Take a homeless person out to lunch.
Not to some poophole like Arby's, but to a decent, sit-down restaurant. My own way of giving back to the community. And acquiring diseases.

20. Flirt with an obscure religion.
Hello Shakers, hello Jews for Jesus, what's up Scientologyists? Holler if you hear me! I want you to want me. I'll end up ditching you like you're a wedding, but we'll have fun while it lasts.
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