Candidates for lead position debate issues

Campaigning teams work the crowd, abandoning podiums to interact, directly address students

MARK JUSTICE
Senior Staff Writer

The students hoping to be the next leaders of the SGA squared off in the Student Union on Thursday in what many are calling the most active debate to take place on campus in years.
The candidates addressed questions posed to them by a moderator and spent about 30 minutes answering questions from the audience.

In a stark contrast from SGA debates of years past, the event got off to a heated start when vice presidential candidates Eric Eingold declared that his running mate, Matt DeVeijfer, "were the 'only ticket brave enough to promote an enrollment drive.'" The ticket viewed such action in a more effective solution to the parking problems currently facing the university.

"I noticed the debate becoming a bit heated after I noticed the audience getting testy," said after the debate.
Mark White advocated for a more diverse use of SGA funds, citing larger allocations to one or two programs such as Universal Kingdoms as wasteful and saying, "SGA has been on autopilot for two years.

DeVeijfer quickly responded to White's remarks. He noted that White had held two of the most influential Senate Government positions during the past two years, including his current role as president of the Senate.
"If SGA is on autopilot, no one is at the wheel," DeVeijfer said. "Why is this place flying blind?"

**Rough riding**

Unofficial club aims to protect its road rights

ANDREW VAN WART
Contributing Writer

That bicycles and cars are separate but equal is the message pedaled by UCF's emerging unofficial bicycle club.
The club has its origins in founder Dan Razzano's parking frustrations.
When he realized that the plastic paint on it and competed for the first time.

"I didn't do horribly, but it kind of broke after that" Costanzo said.
However, that didn't stop him from competing to compete throughout high school and even last present day. One unique club member has been a rival from Razzano named "Megaduck." It was made with six legs instead of wheels, three body sections and three of those sections of the body rotated around.
"It was incredible, Andrew Van Wart - the independent - a2

UCF Professor witnesses history at Costa Rican election

Bruce Wilson was part of a group of about 100 international observers

TAYLOR VERESAR

Costa Rica recently held its 14th consecutive presidential election, which takes place every four years on the first Sunday of February, and UCF's own Bruce Wilson was there to witness it.

Wilson, an associate professor in the political science department since 2001, served as an official observer for 10 days. The election, which was held on Feb. 5, was the third for Wilson to attend and the 1995 and 2001 elections as well.
Observes are usually made up of mag- isnities and the election (instances of other Latin-American countries, but, of Wilson in Costa Rica politics and judicial reform, he makes an ideal candi- tate for the position, according to the Supreme Election Tribunal.
"My presence is because of what I write about," Wilson said.
Wilson was part of a delegation from the Scholar of Teaching and Learning, believes Wilson is an ideal candidate for Costa Rican politics and judicial reform, he makes an ideal can-

Bruce Wilson was part of a delegation of about 100 international observers to attend the political science department.
Philip A. Pollack, another professor in the political science department and foreign collaborator with Wilson on his other area of research, the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, before Wilson is well-suited for the job.
"I think this is the best," Pollack said.
"There is a reason why they chose him to go to Costa Rica to cover the elections.
Wilson was part of a delegation of about 100 international observers to attend Costa Rica, said Roger Handberg, professor and department chairman of the political science department.
"For one reason, it makes readers angry to have to grove around us," said Zach Nissen, who rides a red Membrane Micra. "Then, hench you off and yell out the window at us. Why are you doing this much to get to the next traffic light?"

Though the group's main purpose is to promote equality on the road for motorists, the motorists say there are risks involved.
"I don't have to pay for gas," said Jennifer

CAMPUS CLUB in 32

Bike laws in Florida

- Florida public transportation system mandate that a bike lane be built in both sides of every major road where it wouldn't interfere with public transit
- Bicyclists are considered motor vehicles and are required to obey traffic laws, cross signals and have front and rear lights.
- Baggy pants riding while riding the group travels in a pack taking up a lane of traffic.

Though many smile to see the group laughing and joking around with one another while waiting for lights to turn, not everyone is happy to see the bikers.
"For one reason, it makes drivers angry to have to grove around us," said Zach Nissen, who rides a red Membrane Micra. "Then, hench you off and yell out the window at us. Why are you doing this much to get to the next traffic light?"

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Wilson was part of a delegation of about 100 international observers to attend Costa Rica, said Roger Handberg, professor and department chairman of the political science department.
Workers began burying the victims today, a process that will continue through Tuesday. At the funeral home in Pinellas Park, families will have the opportunity to view the bodies and pay their respects.

"It's hard to imagine saying good-bye to someone you love," said one family member.

The Survivors' Clubhouse, located at 1230 5th Ave. N., will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily for those who wish to grieve in a safe environment.

For more information, contact the Pinellas County Medical Examiner at 727-828-3131.
Robot rumblers enjoy competition

February 20, 2006

Grant was immediately hooked on the concept. His first competition was at a forum in January 2002 in Alachua, Fla. with other veteran builders. He made his first robot out of a tackle box, drill motors, laminator wheels and added a lamp on the front of it. Grant said.

Since then, Grant has placed first in the 30 competitions he has attended. He even went to the national competition this year in San Francisco. Although he didn't win the $10,000 prize and a trophy, there are other prizes that winners receive besides just a trophy and bragging rights.

Go has only been competing for about a year and a half, but he has only lost two competitions ever, he said. He enjoys learning about the robots and engineering concepts, but he has other motives.

"This is my pathway to engineering because that's what I want to do," Go said.

But sometimes winning can be secondary to having fun in these competitions. "Everyone competes for different reasons," Go said. "Some get pretty competitive and go all out. Others treat it simply as a hobby.

Unlike Grant, Go has only been competing for about a year and a half, but he has only lost two competitions ever, he said. He enjoys learning about the robots and engineering concepts, but he has other motives.

"This is my pathway to engineering because that's what I want to do," Go said.

The club is also hosting its own event. This Wednesday, in the Pegasus Ballroom, the club will host a career fair. More than 90 federal, local and state agencies will be attending, including representatives from the FBI, CIA, UCF Police and eight law schools.

"Criminal justice is a growing major at UCF and can present a wide range of job opportunities," Vargas said. "It's a big misconception that if you are a CJ major you can only be a police officer," Silvia said. She said other job titles include corrections officer, parole officer, juvenile probation officer, victim's advocate or lawyer.

What stands out about the members of this club is their enthusiasm and sense of duty. "It's kind of one of those fields you get into where you know the money's not going to be great, but there's going to be that sense of helping the community," Vargas said.
Bradley Mason said Friday.

and had no problems at

guises.

Rivero's sergeant was not

murder charge, which

Chicago on a solicitation of

declined comment on Friday

Tuition spikes 8 percent under

trustees Friday, there also will

in the Utah

Jenkins, BYU spokeswoman

was booked into the Utah

chief Dan

under 16, said Capt. Rick

Healey.

Japanese also notified

attended with

the images were recorded

and the number of applications

annually for tuition,

$1,400.

First-year

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and

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for the . Special

a fundraiser for the . Special

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died of bird-flu-like

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German authorities also

increased in fowl, livestock, and

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As far south as Arkansas,

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Connecting the UCF Community

2005-2007
Common Theme

AMERICA mirroring the present • mapping the future

Tuesday, February 21st
Neil Howe
“Millennials Rising”

What mark will your generation make?

Neil Howe, co-author of “Millennial Rising: The Next Generation,” will speak to the UCF community on his predictions for today’s college age students!

Town Hall Meeting
7:00-8:30PM Cape Florida Ballroom

Book Signing and Dessert Reception
8:30-9:00PM Cape Florida area
Purchase books at the UCF Bookstore prior to event or from 6-7pm the night of the event.

This event is free and open to the UCF and general public.
This event is LINK-LOOT and LEAD IMPACT qualified.

Co-sponsored by Student Development and Enrollment Services, Undergraduate Studies and LEAD scholars
Leadership Week offers opportunities for students to speak on diversity and other issues, including cannabis laws.

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

**Florida state senator to speak on diversity issues in politics**

**Gary Spilin says District 19 truly reflects America**

By Tiffiny Palma

Florida State Senator Gary Spilin says District 19 truly reflects America in the importance of diversity in politics. 

Spilin, who currently serves as a state senator, has called his district "a true reflection of America."

Spilin said that his district has a large number of populations that make up the community, including African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Anglo-Americans. He said his district is a reflection of the diversity that exists in the state of Florida.

Spilin added that his district has a strong sense of community and pride, which he feels is a result of the diversity that exists in the district. He said that he believes that this sense of community and pride is what makes his district special.

Spilin also said that his district has a strong sense of civic engagement, with many residents actively involved in local politics and community organizations. He said that this engagement is a result of the diversity that exists in the district, as residents from all backgrounds come together to work towards a common goal.

Spilin said that his district is a great place to live and work, and he is proud to represent it in the Florida Senate. He said that he will continue to work hard to ensure that the diverse needs of the district are met, and that residents from all backgrounds feel welcome and valued in their community.

Spilin concluded by saying that he looks forward to continuing to work with constituents from all backgrounds to ensure that his district is a thriving and diverse community for years to come.
Tickets tried to clarify points, challenging competing ideas

Wilson will return to Costa Rica before presenting work in Norway

Attention Ortho Eva Birth Control Patch Users

Users of the Ortho Eva birth control patch may be at an increased risk of developing blood clots and related disorders. The FDA recently warned that the Ortho Eva birth control patch delivers excessively high hormone levels: Elevated hormone levels are associated with increased risk of blood clots and related disorders. If you or a loved one has used the Ortho Eva Birth Control Patch and developed a blood clot or related condition such as stroke, heart attack, deep-vein thrombosis, or pulmonary embolism, you may have a valuable legal claim.

For a free and confidential consultation, please contact us at 1-877-810-4808 or via our website at www.AWS-LAW.COM. We're here to help.
WEEK IN HEALTH

Health study suggests a doubled risk of blood clots for birth-control patch users

JENNA GOOGH
Staff Writer

Women who use the Ortho Evra birth-control patch may have double the risk of developing blood clots than women who use the pill, the Food and Drug Administration said. A study with these results was made public Thursday by the patch's manufacturer. The study is considered preliminary, the FDA said, and, for now, women are not being asked to take any other precautions besides speaking with their doctor.

The results came from one of two studies that the makers of the patch's manufacturer conducted comparing the patch and the pill, the company said. The first study did not find any increased risk of clots for women who use the patch, but the results of the second study suggested that the risk of blood clots in the legs and lungs nearly doubles for patch users, Ortho said.

Dr. Daniel Shames, director of division of reproductive and urological drug products at the FDA, said that for women who do not use birth control, the risk of a nonfatal blood clot is about 1 in 10,000. For women who are using birth control, the risk is between three and five out of 10,000.

The studies are ongoing and will look at the risk of heart attack and stroke for birth-control users, Shames said. Currently, there is no difference in the numbers, but Shames said it will be only 18 months before results are ready.

In November, the patch label carried a warning that women who use the patch expose themselves to 60 percent more estrogen than those who use the pill, Ortho said. Since the patch was introduced in 2002, over 4 million women have used it.

SPRING IN THE AIR

Kappa Alpha Theta hosts charity field day

ASHLEY BURNS
Student Writer

Kappa Alpha Theta recently hosted its annual philanthropy, Spring Fling, yesterday at Lake Claire.

The event is a fundraiser for Court Appointed Special Advocates, a group that benefits a number of causes, including aiding children who come from abusive and neglecting homes and live in foster homes.

Spring Fling featured a series of field day events, including a dunk tank, tug-of-war, banner competition, Save-A-Theta and other fundraising activities.

Prizes and surprises composed to the different events during the afternoon, and they were rewarded with trophies for victories.

Theta also hosted its annual Mr. CASAnova event last Wednesday.

UCF Dining Services & The UCF Bookstore

would like to congratulate Shontel Marsh, our Spring ’06 Dining Membership winner!

Shontel is an Engineering major at UCF. When awarded with her $400.00 Scholarship for textbooks at the UCF Bookstore for the Spring semester, she said, “I can’t believe I don’t have to pay for books because I eat at The Marketplace!”

Winning this scholarship was great!!!

We would like to thank Shontel and all of you that signed up for Block and Residential Dining Memberships this Spring semester. We hope to see all of you again this Summer and Fall ’06! We are excited for you to see all of the new locations and opportunities that we are bringing to you in the new academic year.

UCF Dining Services and UCF Bookstore Team
March 29, 2006
UCF Orlando Campus, Student Union
Pegasus Ballroom: 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

Hosted by the UCF Division of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Student Association, the Graduate Research Forum will include poster displays and oral presentations of student research and creative projects. The forum is open to UCF graduate students in all disciplines and the community is welcome to attend.

Visit www.researchweek.ucf.edu or 407.823.2766 for details.
Earn your master's or doctorate in education or counseling at Barry University's site in Orlando. Programs include educational leadership, counseling, human resource development, Montessori education, and exceptional student education. Graduates go on to be college professors, mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, school counselors, teachers, principals, trainers, and consultants. Classes meet evenings and Saturdays with courses generally offered in 8- or 10-week terms.

With an Adrian Dominican heritage, Barry University offers a practical and personal educational experience, and compassion is our hallmark.

Ready to find out if Barry is where you belong? Just call or email.

Prepare Yourself
for success in education or counseling

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ADRIAN DOMINICAN SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
AT ORLANDO
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Orlando, FL 32826
321-235-8408
edorlando@mail.barry.edu
www.barry.edu

where you belong
Softball team continues fast start

Knights split with B-CC, defeat Ohio State and Stetson

MELISSA HEYBOER
Sports Writer

The UCF softball team is proving early on that it will be a tough team to hang with the big boys, but it can beat them, too.

After taking two games from Rice Tech last weekend, the Knights entered this week with the 27th powerhouse Ohio State and longtime rival Bethanie-Cookman and sweeten their NCAA tourney on their plate.

Going into their Wednesday doubleheader against Bethanie-Cookman, the Knights were looking to improve on their 3-6 record with a sweep sweep against the Panthers. Those hopes would fall early as the Knights would give up four runs in the first inning on a walk-off hit, one hit batter and three errors. "They just didn't show up ready to play," UCF Coach Renee Luers-Gillispie said. "They came out with a lack of communication and lots of errors."

Amber Lamb would add a scoring home run in the 11th inning later to bring the Knights within two. The Panthers however added two more runs in the top of the seventh on a T-Bay Flower single to right field.

Unfortunately for the Knights, they would lose the ball loaded in the bottom of the seventh inning allowing the 'Wolves to go on to win 6-2. "Every time you don't come up to bat with an opportunity to win a match, it's just a little more difficult," Luers-Gillispie said. "We know we can work on it, learn from it and keep improving."

The Knights would come back strong in game two of the doubleheader Wednesday.

"They know how important it was to be ready for the second game," Luers-Gillispie said. "We know we need solid defense, no big innings and to live by fundamentals of softball."

The Knights struck first in the second inning on a Jessica Zinanni single to left field and a walk that allowed the Knights to take the lead, 6-1.

The Knights did Recover nicely on Sunday night, 77-62 win over Memphis.

For a majority of the game, the Knights were in control. They were shooting over 50 percent and their defense was doing a remarkable job of keeping the leaguer's second-best scoring offense in check. With 131 points, the sophomore guard Amber Long nailed a 3-pointer to give Knights a 54-50 lead.

But after that, everything that looked so positive for the home team disappeared. After the final 10 minutes, the Knights made just three field goals and committed 14 turnovers as Memphis outscored the Knights, 28-27.

Tag: Amanda Williams of the UCF softball team proves the ball during Wednesday's loss to Houston at the UCF Arena. The UCF softball team also lost on Saturday night's game against Bethune-Cookman in Dallas. It was the Knights fifth back-to-back period game, dating back to mid-season. (Photo: Central Florida News Service)

SPORTS CENTRAL FLORIDA

A WEEK TO FORGET

WHY THEY LOST

Mens and women's tennis teams fall

Both teams travel south to be swept by Hurricanes

The UCF women's tennis team traveled to Miami to take on the No. 18 Hurricanes this weekend, falling nine match en masse in a 7-0 defeat.

The UCF men's tennis team couldn't find the win column all three matches by a score of 4-3, 7-0 and 7-0. On Thursday, they went on to sweep the Ospreys, 7-0. On Sunday, the Knights went 3-0 twice and 2-1.

Men's basketball

Mustangs overun Knights in first half of their way to a 77-55 C-USA home rout

ANDY VANZUZER
Sports Writer

For the last three years the UCF mens' basketball team has at its best when it has counted most in February and March.

Unfortunately, this incarnation of the Golden Knights, late-season success has been hard to come by in their inaugural season in Conference USA.

On Saturday, UCF suffered its fifth loss in six games in a 77-55 rout by Southern Methodist on Saturday Night with their third straight half hour to half hour loss at home and second in the second half.

For the Knights it was another loss and another opportunity to make strides and establish an inside game did them in as SMU controlled the game from start to finish.

The Mustangs nearly doubled up the Knights' point production in the loss for the game 150-10. Not only did the Mustangs beat UCF inside on offense, but they outrebounded the Knights 68-32 and blocked seven UCF shots.

It was a frustrating week for UCF athletics, which suffered losses in men's basketball, baseball and women's basketball.

Women's basketball

Ospreys swoop in and sweep Knights on the backs on Papelbon brothers and Olinto

CHRIS MOYER
Sports Writer

It took the University of North Florida basketball team more than two and a half hours to score its first run Friday night, but once they got started, the Ospreys carried the momentum to win the series on Saturday.

After nine scoreless innings Friday, the Ospreys defeated UCF 1-0 in 10 innings. After an 18-hour break, they came right out Saturday afternoon and matched their Friday night hit total before recording their first out on route to a 1-0 win.

"I've never, ever remember in my life a shot out at home twice in one week," UCF Coach Jay Bergman said. "Bergman can be excused if the moment sinks his mind. The Knights have not been shot out at home since 1983, Bergman's first season at the school, when his alma mater Rollins and Saint Leo fell out. "We don't have any changes," Bergman said. "There's no other
Softball wins first two games over OSU, Stetson

Knights fight back late, but strong effort by Taylor not enough to overcome deficit

AUV VASQUEZ

After pulling off one of its most impressive comebacks ever at Houston, the UCF women's basketball team was hoping Wednesday night's home game against the Cougars as an opportunity to build momentum in the second half of its Conference USA slate.

Instead, the Knights suffered a disappointing loss to Houston, becoming the seventh straight team to fall to the Red-Claws at the UCF Arena. Houston (24-7, 5-3 C-USA) got the victory with hot outside shooting — 13 of 25 from beyond the arc — and made a late UCF (24-7, 6-3) run in a game that saw the Knights' starting five at the final scene indicated.

After railing by double digits for most of the second half, UCF cut the deficit to 71-66 with 36 seconds remaining. After a missed Houston layup, UCF's heroine Taylor had an opportunity to cut the deficit to two with 22 seconds remaining, but her shot rimmed out and hit the backboard.

UCF was able to limit the Cougars from the outside, allowing Houston just 13 second-half success from the field. The Cougars scored 11 points of both its uphill and solid shooting and hit any last try but one to finish off the UCF defense that was lacking depth.

UCF coach Harry Smock also noted putting the game's fourth-quarter effort by Taylor in perspective that led to major improvements over the final 15 minutes.

"It's not unusual for them to shoot that well," UCF Coach Kirk Speraw said. "They've got a lot of firepower there, and they really challenge the defense. We didn't close them out on shorters, but we did settle to win the first half."

"When we lose at Houston, we played hard all 40 minutes," Taylor said. "When we were at Houston, we played hard all 40 minutes." UCF Coach Josh Peppe, as well as Taylor, called off the bench to lead UCF with two key points. Speraw said. "It's hard to get a win, hard to play with the energy, make the mistakes. That has been a problem all year, whether it's going to game practice, the practice, or possession, to possession.

"It went hand, but we didn't play hard at all 40 minutes."

Taylor's 25 minutes and 10 seconds were both career-highs for the freshmen, who came off the field in the final second.

SMU horsepower too much for UCF

"We know that this was going to be a tough ball game," UCF Coach Kirk Speraw said. "SMU just has talented players, and their size also hurt with us."

But when we got down, we did not do some things offensively that would have allowed us to score back to the game."

UCF held an 11-7 lead early on in a first game but the Cougars' motivation in the second half was 25 points. SMU UCF 25-19 from the field Game 2.

UCF's 26 percent shooting performance in the first half was affected by a different effort by SMU, which led to a 9-5 halftime lead for the Mountain.

"We didn't get any better in the first half for the Knights," UCF Coach Adam Gilfus said. "If we shot 43 percent on the way to 12-8 percent from the field."

UCF's finished the game 14-29 from beyond the arc.

SMU UCF 13-8 from the field Game 2.

"During the second half, the Cougars played a rare full-court press that prevented some of our [outside opportunities]," Speraw said. "It's a win for us."

"When we're focused and we play with energy, we make the mistakes. That has been a problem all year, whether it's going to game practice, the practice, or possession, to possession."

"It was a tough game, but we didn't play hard at all 40 minutes," Taylor said. "When we were at Houston, we played hard all 40 minutes."

UCF Coach Josh Peppe, as well as Taylor, called off the bench to lead UCF with two key points. Speraw said. "It's hard to get a win, hard to play with the energy, make the mistakes. That has been a problem all year, whether it's going to game practice, the practice, or possession, to possession.

"It went hand, but we didn't play hard at all 40 minutes."

Taylor's 25 minutes and 10 seconds were both career-highs for the freshmen, who came off the field in the final second.
Vazquez stepped to the plate for an outstanding outing that included a fastball and struck out. Papelbon was nearly getting hit by a Lambert work. He was walked to load the bases and Houck to set up the double play.

Horwath and walked Vazquez, receiving a standing ovation. Matt Oxendine ranged to his night in the eighth, walking with a walk. Vazquez led off the fourth inning, got his confidence back and walked two runners in just two innings.

Bono hit into a double play in the second. Catcher Ryan Horwath and walk ed Vazquez, receiving a standing ovation. The Knights had another couple of potential opportunities on the bases. Bergman, how ever, got his confidence back and walked two runners to the plate in a 6-run inning.

In the strike zone, Bergman is not going to win. "We pitched pretty good defense until the end. We pitched well and played good defense until the end with the error," Bergman said.

Bergman said as an assistant from 1973-75, Rhodes donned the Gators' orange and blue as an assistant from 1982-86, while Bergman served as an assistant for nine years.

For a couple of UCF pitchers, pitching runs to the Knights junior left-hander Jeremy Martin as a starter on Saturday, the Ospreys had four hits in ten innings. The Ospreys had four hits in ten innings, with a walk.

Ranch) 6.29.

Bono hit into a double play after first baseman Kyle Vaqueriz touched off the fourth with a walk. Papelbon finished off his night's work by striking out pinch-hitter Travis Martin to lead off the inning and get a second out on sacrifice by second baseman Andy Wilcox. Bergman was removed, and he struck out the side in his last three innings.

Bono and walked two runners to the plate in a 6-run inning.

"It's been a year since the Knights were out on a combination," Papelbon said.
Olinto's bat completes sweep

Early bats and late bombs give Ospreys the three-game sweep over Knights

BRAD MURPHY

After being shut out in the last two games in what was its most just six run, the UCF Ospreys, were robbed in Sadie's 10 run defeat against the University of North Florida Ospreys, and the Knights of the North Florida University. The UCF Ospreys edged the Knights, 6-0.

The Knights became the first team to ever sweep the Knights in a home-game series. The Knights know how to win.

The Knights start their season through a three-game sweep. Mark Warner scored 16 runs for the Knights in the three-game sweep. Vicky Warner scored 6 runs for the Knights in the three-game sweep. Freshman starter Mitch Herbland pitched well for the Knights through these three games, but he was unable to complete the opening round of the conference tournament in a loss by just a few points.

The Knights added just six runs to the game. They added six runs to the game. They added six runs to the game. The Knights added six runs to the game. The Knights added six runs to the game. With the Knights added six runs to the game, the Knights added six runs to the game. With the Knights added six runs to the game, the Knights added six runs to the game. With the Knights added six runs to the game, the Knights added six runs to the game. With the Knights added six runs to the game, the Knights added six runs to the game. With the Knights added six runs to the game, the Knights added six runs to the game.
Futureendors White/Stout

Owner has grips with White. As a small-business owner in the area and UCF graduate student, I am appalled at the comments made by U.S. Senator White in the last few months. He has been focusing his efforts on the media when it concerns the media.

During that six-month period, other sensitivedraft legislation while White neglected meetings and forgot to return phone calls. White's insertion as Sen pro tem has over his student body hundreds of thousands of dollars. His campaign has sucked him dry of political clout and, as President, White will have nothing to do but try to keep his job. I know nothing about the other three tickets except what I read in the Florida Times-Union. I do know, however, that with corporate pressure, White, ambitious neglect of the best candidate, has a position for failure to represent the students. As a small-business owner in the area and UCF graduate student, I am appalled at the comments made by U.S. Senator White in the last few months. He has been focusing his efforts on the media when it concerns the media.

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## Public relations are a global priority

**I am a former chairman of the board of the Florida Communication Association.**

I have been working in the field of public relations for over 20 years, and during that time, I have noticed a significant shift in the way public relations is perceived and practiced. In the past, public relations was often seen as a way to deal with negative publicity or to promote a company's image. However, today, public relations is an essential tool for businesses and organizations to engage with their audiences and build strong relationships.

With the rise of social media and the 24/7 news cycle, public relations has become even more critical. Companies and organizations need to be able to communicate with their audiences quickly and effectively to manage any potential crises or issues. In addition, public relations is an important tool for companies to build their brand and reputation, which is crucial for attracting and retaining customers.

As a result, public relations is no longer just a matter of crisis management. It is a strategic function that is integrated into the overall business strategy. Companies need to have a clear understanding of their audience and their goals, and then develop a communications plan that is tailored to their specific needs.

## The Future of Public Relations

In the future, public relations will continue to evolve and change. As technology advances, new tools and techniques will become available, and public relations professionals will need to stay on top of these changes to remain effective.

One area that is likely to see significant changes in the future is the use of data and analytics. With the rise of big data, companies will be able to gather more information about their audiences and use that data to make better decisions about their communications strategies.

Another area that will likely see significant changes is the role of social media in public relations. As more and more people use social media to communicate and share information, companies will need to be able to engage with their audiences on these platforms and build strong relationships.

Overall, public relations is a critical function for any business or organization. As the field continues to evolve, it will remain an essential part of the overall business strategy.
Regardless of the tickets, all that matters is voting. It's tough to make an endorsement with so much quality.

**MOUTHING OFF**

**ASHLEY BURNS**

-I've never fully understood the mentality behind SGA elections. The people involved in them pump ridiculous amounts of money into signs, t-shirts, stickers, blah, blah, and, other than that they receive a pretty hefty paycheck. I'm not sure what they ever get out of it.

-I have worked on four winning campaigns in my already long college career, and I finally got up because the whole idea made me sick to my stomach. It still does.

-Some people who are few and far between these days actually care about making a difference with student politics at one of the largest universities in the nation.

-I haven't known a person with such a quality since Brian Battles was president. We may never see another person who legitimately cares about what students deserve.

-What we've grown accustomed to are tickets filled by people who are bent on getting their resumes and gaining fat paychecks while they kiss every possible button to keep the small percentage of students who vote in the elections satisfied.

-The truth is that too many students couldn't care less about SGA elections. Every year I see the same pathetic result. Maybe it's because people have grown tired of thinking about their image than they do about taking a stand, or maybe it's due to the lack of interest involved.

-Gergow up on SGA for a long time. Now, because it never helped people like me. Even I've always understood that people don't necessarily agree with my opinions, but careless statements ring loud.

-Actions speak louder than letters to the editor, and DeVlager has done a lot at UCF to help — or at least attempt to help — the student body. All personal attacks aside, I know I've never believed in that idea, and if people want to think that's the reason I've voted for White, then I'm not going to lose my breath trying to dispute it.

-The fact of the matter is that I really didn't like White at all when I joined his campaign. As I always do, I gave him the benefit of the doubt, and I got to know him. He's a good leader, and he's honestly cares about the student body's best interests. I'm inclined to think that the other candidates don't because ideology can't hang with reality.

-White has shown me a lot in the past year, and I fully endorse him for the next SGA president.

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