SGA pushing to change Safe Ride program to offer greater variety of services to student body

Round-trip cabs on new agenda to curb drunk driving

TAYLOR BARK
Senior Staff Writer

Safe Ride, the program that offers students vouchers for cab rides home, is being slowly changed to offer a wider range of services to students. In the future, students may be able to take a free ride for a night out on the town and catch a free ride home without having to worry about finding a designated driver.

“Students don’t really know about it, We have a huge amount of money budgeted for it, and it never gets used,” said SGA senator Rafael Palomo, about the current Safe Ride program.

Safe Ride is a program provided by SGA that offers students the opportunity to sign up for a voucher for a free cab ride home from any location. The voucher can be used for up to 800 cab rides, but students can only use one voucher every 60 days. During the fiscal year of 2004-2005, approximately $30,000 in vouchers were redeemed, amounting to about $40,000. The money comes out of the Activity and Service Fees account and is specifically reserved for eventual launch of SGA’s budget.

“The original intent of the program is a safe ride home,” Director of Activity and Service Fees Business Office Joseph Scarrato said. He said that, for example, a student can carry a voucher around with him and use it when they need a ride home if their car breaks down, or when they get a date, or when they get left behind by friends or if they feel they or their driver is too intoxicated to drive.

However, a proposal originated in the Governmental Affairs Committee of SGA Senate last July to restructure Safe Ride so that it will provide a round-trip service. Student Body President William Bentley explained that it is the only way that the proposed system will actually work. Safe Ride would provide a round-trip service, so if students have been drinking and are intoxicated they will not be able to sign up for Safe Ride.

Different ideas have been proposed about how to provide round-trip cab rides, including a round-trip cab ride or offering tours similar to the University of Florida’s Later Gator Tours. Recently, however, the idea has been mostly de-emphasized in favor of the use of round trip cab rides. Bentley said that buses could cost as much as $80 per hour to operate. He also said that, in comparison to other schools, UCF has fewer problems with the location of its service due to the downtown nightlife areas. For example, UCF’s campus is much closer geographically to its dormitory areas than UCF’s is to downtown buildings. Bentley said that students start and end studies during certain days of the week and during specific times. In comparison, a cab could be used at any time of the day and the students could be dropped off at a specific place without feeling the need to be close to the university at a specific time.

For more information, students are encouraged to speak to their representatives in the Governmental Affairs Committee.
Sara Farrow is best known for her work with Darfur, and can often be seen in the media. She has been a featured guest on shows like The Today Show, 20/20, and Derreck Kayongo, a Darfur refugee, will be the keynote speaker at a series of events this week in the Student Union. The event is open to all students, and representatives from colleges and academic departments. The social work program is taking applications from interested students and organizations, with a deadline of March 27. The purpose of this information is to promote cultural and educational opportunities to the community.

For more information, call 407-823-6671.

ASA Scholarship pages

The ASA Scholarship page is held by the Assistant Professorship of Greater South Florida, a women's organization that awards scholarships to deserving students.

Mia Farrow and her husband, Paul Gere, are organizing an exhibit that displays the work of Darfur-based artists. The exhibit will be held at the Student Union and will be open to the public.

The exhibit will run until March 27, and visitors will be encouraged to donate to the Eggnatz/Alles campaign.

The exhibit will also feature a performance by the artist Nabil Zain Al-Tan.

Al-Tan, the concert organizer, said: "It's time for everyone to come out and support our cause. We need everyone's help to fight for Darfur."
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Higher Education

What's in the news of colleges around the country

Professor charged with terrorism conspiracy asks for extension

TAMPA, Fla. — An attorney for Sami Al-Arian said a federal judge Wednesday to postpone the former college professor's second trial on terrorism conspiracy charges until at least August.

Linda Moreno filed a motion in U.S. District Court asking for a delay in the trial, which is scheduled to begin in April.

Moreno cited a pending motion filed by her and co-counsel William Moffitt asking to withdraw from the case. She also cited U.S. District Judge James S. Moody to delay a three-hour hearing scheduled for later this month regarding prayer questions.

Federal prosecutors have not announced definitively whether they will try the 62-year-old Al-Arian again on charges that he raised money and supported the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, a terrorist group responsible for hundreds of deaths. But they have said in recent hearings that they are preparing for a second trial.

In December, after six months of trial, a judge failed to remove Al-Arian on any of the charges against him. He was acquitted of eight of the charges, with the jury deadlocking on others.

lincoln: colleges look to high-risk drinking

LINCOLN, Neb. — Several of Nebraska's colleges and universities are looking into high-risk drinking by students.

Top administrators at the University of Nebraska, Nebraska State University- Omaha and Kearney campuses, the three state-run campuses, are looking into new alcohol policies.

Lincoln: Provosts to reduce high-risk drinking

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Provosts to reduce high-risk drinking

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The group, called the Nebraska Collegiate Concern to Reduce High-Risk Drinking, said in a news release that it hopes to duplic­ate the success seen at the University of Nebraska-Lin­coln in combating high-risk drinking.

The Nebraska Prevention Center at UNL received a $300,000 grant last fall from the U.S. Department of Education to help campuses across the state replicate the UNL model, said Tom Work­man, assistant director of stu­dent involvement at UNL.

Any private college, univer­sity or community college not already in the group may join at any time, Workman said.

UNL proposes new pay system; upsets those with many courses

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — A proposal to change University of North Carolina students' pay­ment by credit hours instead of time hours could spark a debate about the benefits and drawbacks of the old system.

The proposal, called the UNL model, said Tom Work­man, assistant director of stu­dent involvement at UNL.

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Ask a Doc

KAREN VERES

What is the risk of clots with the birth-control patch?

Many women choose the patch, but is it safe to use with pregnancy is real. The patch is worn for the entire month. At your annual appointment, discuss with your health-care provider what your individual needs and risks are for the contraceptive method of your choice.

The FDA approved the birth-control patch, sold by the name Ortho Evra, in 2001. Since then, over 4 million women have used it.

The FDA reported no higher risk of serious effects on the blood and blood vessels from hormonal contraceptives. The FDA report and recent research studies have conflict­ing results: the Boston Collaborative Drug Surveillance Pro­gram reported no higher risk of blood clots among women using the patch. Earlier reports from another study by SIVIGLIA found an increase in risk of blood clots for women using the patch, although the complete data isn’t available to date.

Overall, the risk of blood clots for women using the patch is about three in 10,000 women.

The FDA issued a warning in November with the patch that the total level of estrogen exposure is 60 percent higher than with the average birth­control pill. Estrogen is the part of the hormonal combina­tion that can promote blood clots forming. You need to tell your new women that you are using the patch.

The Twig is Real

The Twig is Real

The Twig is Real

Ask a Doc

KAREN VERES

What is the risk of clots with the birth-control patch?

Many women choose the patch, but is it safe to use with pregnancy? The birth-control patch can be safely worn to prevent preg­nancy. The risks of serious dis­orders, heart attack, stroke, clotting disorders, breast cancer or breast cancer are less for the weekly birth control pill.

Forthcoming research will examine the long-term effects of the patch. The Twig is Real.

Forthcoming research will examine the long-term effects of the patch. The Twig is Real.

Forthcoming research will examine the long-term effects of the patch. The Twig is Real.

The Twig is Real.
Campus society works to bring clean water to African village

According to the World Health Organization, an estimated 1.1 billion people do not have access to safe drinking water, and 60 million people die every year from preventable waterborne diseases. Clean drinking water can prevent waterborne diseases, such as cholera, dysentery, and typhoid fever. It can also help those with a weakened immune system, such as people living with HIV/AIDS, the young and the elderly, who are especially susceptible to waterborne diseases, MacNevin said.

However, clean water does not only affect health issues in Africa, but also the economy. If there are more wells that provide clean water for the people in Africa, the women and children would be able to use the time normally spent walking two miles everyday to get contaminated water to develop a trade or craft that will benefit the economy, and it will help them provide for their families. Children will also be able to receive an education that will eventually help them to help their economy one day, Kaiser said.

"I urge you to take the pledge," Nelson said. "Fast $50 can give clean water to someone for a lifetime."

Facts about the 1000 Wells Campaign

Information about the project and how and why to donate

- What is the 1000 Wells Campaign goal? The goal is to construct a new drinking water well in each African village.
- Why is clean drinking water important? Access to clean water can stop the spread of waterborne diseases, including cholera, dysentery, typhoid fever, and AIDS.
- How can I learn more about the cause and make a donation? Visit www.1000wells4africa.org to learn more, and contact David MacNevin at macnevin@uml.edu for donation info.

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Virtual art allows students to capture what cannot be seen. Students are encouraged to experiment with their own creativity and to explore new forms of art creation. Visual art can be a powerful tool for expression and can provide a space for personal reflection and growth. It can be used to create a sense of community and to foster connections with others. The possibilities are endless, and the potential for creativity is infinite.
Today marks the beginning of a week that will be filled with activities, including a three philanthropies through a two-day fundraiser titled "Raid Away Brass Can Dance," led by the chapter's sorority, Alpha. The fundraiser will take place on Saturday, May 11, to benefit the Ronald and Nancy Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

The event will be held at the Ronald and Nancy Reagan UCLA Medical Center at the University of California at Los Angeles. The fundraiser will include a live auction, a silent auction, and a dinner. The event will also feature a raffle, with prizes including gift cards, tickets to local events, and more.

For more information, please contact the chapter at ronaldandnancyreaganmedicalcenter@ucmerced.edu.
Baseball team continues struggles during home stand

Knights 'embarrassed' by 14-2 home loss to Bethune-Cookman on Tuesday

BRIAN MURPHY

Everyone has had those certain days where nothing seems to go right. On Tuesday night, the UCF baseball team had one of those days. As it was blasted by the Bethune-Cookman Wildcats, 14-2, UCF Coach Jay Bergolina called the night 'very, very embarrassing.' While that observation certainly fits, it may not tell the entire story. On Tuesday, the Knights were without one of their most consistent contributors of the season, the batting lineup, with star outfielder Anthony Rendon out due to an injury.

Freshman Mitch Herold began the season on the mound for the Knights but, much like his only lost start, he did not last long. Herold (0-1) recorded five strikeouts in two innings of work, but his control came and went. Herold gave up those runs, two of which were earned, on two hits and six walks. As a starter, Herold has had a roller-coaster season. He has thrown 1-2-3 innings and he has allowed three runs, on two hits and nine walks. Right hander Tim Bascom to the mound for the UCF baseball team on Tuesday, hoping for another gem.

Sophomore Ashley Van Ryn said, "We know we have to be more aggressive and more intentional of the way that you get things done and the way you become successful, it’s a team game. So don’t take the team lightly. It’s our job to get that beyond our offensive or defensive ability. It’s a team thing that has surprised even our own expectations. The team unit." Coach Bernie LaGange said, "The camaraderie of our players is one of the strongest things we have." The younger girls, their new, unfamiliar leadership roles are ones they have accepted with the same enthusiasm. It seems to be a little bit of a challenge, but it can’t come from a single individual, but must be a team thing. "There aren’t any seniors so everyone’s role is one that goes beyond any offensive or defensive ability. It’s a team thing that has surprised even our own expectations. The team unit." Coach Bernie LaGange said, "The camaraderie of our players is one of the strongest things we have." Sophomore Ashley Van Ryn said, "We know we have to be more aggressive and more intentional of the way that you get things done and the way you become successful, it’s a team game. So don’t take the team lightly. It’s our job to get that beyond our offensive or defensive ability. It’s a team thing that has surprised even our own expectations. The team unit."

UCF will face UNF this weekend, with the game at Marshall, the Knights sat alone in fifth place in Conference USA overall record of 12-13 and a C-USA record of 6-10. If UCF were to win this three-game series, versus Marshall and UTEP respectively, and have to lose the final two games, to Rice and Memphis respectively, the Hawks would make UCF basketball fans happy. Sure, this is not a turnarounds season the expectations have seemed to be, according to UCF Coach Kirk Snapp and USA coaching staff, it seems to be about the only thing that seems to be going right for the Knights. Still, according to UCF Coach Kirk Snapp and USA basketball team, marking the end of the season hopes are alive. It’s highly unlikely the Knights are headed back to the C-USA Tournament, but that doesn’t make this season any less exciting for the Knights. The UCF baseball team continues struggles during home stand.
Pirates’ pilfering leads to win over Knights in finale

Women’s basketball draws No. 11 seed, date with Tulane in Conference USA tournament

BRON MURPHY

They say it’s better to give than to receive, but on Wednesday night for the Conference USA Tournament, the UCF women’s basketball team was a hit for receiving.

The Golden Knights fell to the Pirates on the court but gained the lead for the majority of the period. After the Pirates for the game’s opening two shots, the Knights kept the home team without a field goal for the next five minutes. The UCF offense used this opportunity to go on a 11-0 run, capped off by a 3-pointer from junior Francione Houston with 20.9 seconds left. Houston ended the regular season with a 3-point shooting game.

The filmmakers showed the fan’s farewell in the form of a 3-point shot by senior Jesse Slack. But with nine seconds remaining, junior Jenesa Miles completed a 3-point play to give the Knights a 30-29 lead at the buzzer.

The Knights shot for a much higher percentage than the Pirates over the last 30 minutes (52% to 27 percent), but due to the turnovers, the Knights had 30 fewer shots than their opponent. For the game, the Pirates attempted 44 shots to the Knights’ 35 attempts. This put us on the high road of being competitive in 3-point attempts. But it could not save the Pirates’ final errant three.

At the 1:30 mark of the second half, junior center Chelsea Mills damed a jumper in the paint that put the Pirates on top 30-29. The basket gave the Pirates their first lead in nearly 23 minutes, a lead that they never relinquished.

From there on out, the Knights were constricted 29% of the time. They missed 10 of their last 12 shots and complicated that mistake with 13 turnovers. In the second half, the Knights improved their shooting percentage to 52 percent. Meanwhile, the Pirates were a 4-45 from the floor (22.2 percent).

Freshman Jasmine Staggs and sophomore Chandler Williams contributed 13 points each to lead the Pirates’ offense. Miles led the late Knight offense to 16 straight. She hit five of her shots and three of her three-point attempts.

With the victory, the Pirates improved to 20-10 overall, 13-7 in conference. The Knights fell to 20-10 overall, 13-7 in conference.

The unseeded Knights are the underdog, and that’s just the way they want it. "It’s going to be a fabulous game. We’re excited for it," Van Ryn said.

"That’s one thing we can say for our conference. Where you have to have incredible strain on the team," Feaster said. "You have to have confidence. A confidence that begins with the competition their new conference brings and ends with the pressure to receive. But in its place to win more championships."
Baseball team continues home stand

Opponents will be the sixth-ranked Tulane Green Wave (6-4, 6-1 C-USA). The Green Wave entered the tournament on a roll winning three of their last four games. The team is fourth in the league in scoring offense at 6:04 points per game last six in defense, allowing 6:0 points per game. Separately, Tulane is led by former junior Samantha Smith, who is averaging 6:39 points per game. Meanwhile, junior Ashley Langford is averaging more assists than any other player in C-USA with 63:9 per game.

A by-8 meeting between two schools this season was on Jan. 13 in Orleans. On that day the Knights claimed their first victory in C-USA by the score of 6-0. Sophomore Amber Long scored 18 points to pace the team.

"I think that there are great athletes, the ability to shoot outside and they did a tremendous job the last time we played them," Tulane Coach Jon Scatton said about the Knights. "I think we have to be ready to go out and get a team that is probably very inspired, especially after beating Marshall on the road, and that probably gives them a little confidence going in against our defense.

Tulane and UCF are even in their series history at 5-5. The last time Tulane defeated the Knights was in the 1986-87 campaign. The Green Wave won 7-6 in overtime as the single-game winner in UCF history.

Green Wave rides hot streak into C-USA tournament

For a few of the Knights, this tournament marks the final stage of their college career. Seniors Kendra Smith, Leilani King and Shelby Weber have accomplished a lot at UCF. They have been a big part of these Atlantic Sun Conference championships as well as in this new era of UCF basketball.

"In 6:0 of times when teams have gone through the season that we have gone through, they could and have placed as high as 5-6 in the UCF Coach Paul Strickler said. "But our kids come out every day. They are just a group of kids who want to work every day and want to get better, no matter how many games they have left.

No matter the class, all of the Knights hope they have at least four games remaining this year. To win the conference tournament, the Knights must win four games in as many days. While there is no definite advantage to the conference's top four teams who received first-round byes, Strickler believes in the old adage that anything can happen.

"In shows, there have been upsets throughout the league as it's gone through," she said. "But, I really believe that anybody could step up and win the tournament."
SEETHING

Some bands break into music, Seether has fought and clawed its way in, touring and promoting almost nonstop in an effort to get noticed. The hard work paid off.

BRANDON BIELICH

It all began with two musicians from South Africa.

Singer and guitarist Shaun Morgan and bass guitarist Dale Stewart desired a career making rock music.

Although the duo did not fit the mold of the average rock band, Morgan and Stewart — collectively called Seether — continued to write and perform.

The persistence paid off. Desperates at Wind-up Records, an independent record label in New York, discovered Seether and made their move, immediately flying Morgan and Stewart out to New York and signing them.

From day one, Seether noticed a unique characteristic of its new family. Working with Sony BMG music, Wind-up Records had the distribution power of a major label, but it still operated in the traditional, independent label way.

"(We) didn't have just numbers on a computer screen or a piece of paper. They actually know you by name," Stewart said in a telephone interview.

In 2002, now with the support of a label behind them, Seether entered the studio to record its first album, Disclaimer. Stewart and Morgan exchanged ideas and arranged songs, with Morgan doing most of the singing. Professional drummer Josh Freese partici-
Glut of ideas dooms Night Watch

From R.L.

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Seether finds early success

The band, Seether, was faced with the decision of releasing their album. They had been working on it for a year, and finally decided to release it. They were worried about how it would do, but they were also excited to share their music with the world.

The album, "Disclaimer," was released in 2000 and sold over 500,000 copies. It was awarded a gold certification by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), making it the first debut album to ever go gold twice. The album also went to number one in South Africa for "Fine Again," and it stayed on the South African charts for six weeks.

The lead singer for multi-platinum band, Pat Calahan in Philadelphia. The band also recorded a new drummer in John Humphrey after a recommendation from its sound technician.

The band's schedule was hectic, with frequent tours and radio play. They even had to find a new drummer in Callahan in March on a trip to New York. While he and Morgan had been in South Africa, that's like a 26-hour flight. They decided to return to South Africa in March on a small tour with Metallica. As for now, the band makes its way to Orlando Thursday as part of the Winterfresh SnoCore Tour.

Seether co-headlines the show with good friends and Jackson 5, Shinedown. Lead guitarist is the only 26-hour flight, which was a no-brainer. "We had Seether at the station coming to do an interview and perform a song, and we thought it would be great," he said. "The guys are great, and they put on an amazing show.

"We can't wait to party with them at the Winterfresh SnoCore Tour." Stewart said he likes playing Orlando, as he enjoys the crowds and the atmosphere. "I took my girlfriend to Disney World last time we were in Orlando," he said, laughing. "It's just a little scared of the hurricanes."

But Stewart wasn't worried. Forecasts show no hurricanes just a few miles of Seether. Seether performs a sold-out show with Shinedown Tuesday at the House of Blues in Downtown Disney Westside. The show starts at 6:45 p.m. Check out www.seether.com for more information on Seether.

The band is very grateful for the fans who have supported them. They have been with them through thick and thin, and they appreciate the support. Seether is looking forward to their next album, which they hope will be even better than the last one.
Abortion activists' methods wrong

F ew subjects have been as controversial and emotionally charged as abortion. In effect, few subjects have generated more public discourse. The ongoing struggle between anti-aborters and abortion advocates has been spotlighted by the media and long-harbored sentiments and opinions have also dawned the subject's national and international reaches and depths. Many people have opinions on the subject of abortion and many public figures have expressed their views on it. The Catholic Church, too, has been an active participant in the debate.

The Holy See has taken the position that the execution of an innocent human being is a sin and that Church members are morally bound to oppose it. The Church has declared that the life of an unborn child should be respected from the moment of conception. Furthermore, the Church has declared that the right to life is a fundamental human right and that the state has a duty to protect it. However, the Church also recognizes the right to privacy and the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, which includes the right to choose to end a pregnancy.

Another point of contention is whether or not abortion is legal in a given country. In many countries, abortion is legal in some circumstances, while in others, it is illegal or restricted.

In the United States, abortion is legal in all 50 states, although the laws governing abortion vary widely from state to state. In some states, abortion is legal in the first trimester of pregnancy, while in others, it may be legal in the second trimester or later.

The question of whether or not abortion should be legal is a complex one, and there are many different perspectives on the issue. Some people believe that abortion should be legal in all circumstances, while others believe that it should be legal only in certain circumstances, such as when the mother's life is in danger or when the pregnancy is the result of rape.

Regardless of one's personal views on abortion, it is important to approach the issue with empathy and respect for others' beliefs and experiences. The debate over abortion is an important one, and it is important for individuals to engage in informed and thoughtful discussions about it.
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Blowing off some steam has never felt so good

MOUTHING OFF

ASHLEY BURNS
feature writer

In my wildest dreams, I never would have thought my rant about Sexist by the Bell would have elicited the positive response that it did. I knew right away it could have been either the most brilliant or most mentally challenging thing I've ever written. I actually expected people to call me to DRM hell for writing their time with a column about a television series that ended so many years ago. But the appreciation really helped me relieve some stress.

To all of the people who helped calm me down after this past weekend, I want to say, "Thank you." "Why thank them," you ask? Well, it's another dandy story...

After their well-published and long-awaited separation, Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey have taken different approaches. With the news out, they have both accommodated. Tabloids are reporting that Simpson has been getting friendly with newly single Jason Wade, while Lachey is using his time to meet with lawyers to gain half of Simpson's current assets and a good portion of her future income.

Am I the only person waiting for the road-trip TV movie about Lachey? I can see it now: future NFL star Matt Leinart is sitting in his favorite coach at the Playboy mansion, surrounded by Playboy bunnies, staring at Leinart. He tells him about the game. Leinart is quick to interrupt and tell him about the game... Again. After that, they play a game they could have possibly regressed the Apocalypse if it had been any worse. Martha Carey is reportedly making a return to the big screen. Her next role will be as a weak-willed trying to find her father in the independent film "Tennessee." In related news, the state of Tennessee is changing its name to "Wha, God, why?"

According to Fox News, President Bush is once again insisting that Osama bin Laden will soon be captured. Also, I'm promising that I'll stop hitting on freshman sorority girls and Scoop Dogg promised to stop insulting pitbulls. Furthermore, GM Hammert has sworn to remain public interest in his cases. Allen Rodriguez has vowed to win New York, and Dan Marino is confident that he can come out of retirement and win a Super Bowl ring. Send all of these promises and more in your upcoming book, Yeah, Right, Things That Will Never Happen In All My Children's Lifetime.

But News is also reporting that a study conducted by the McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum shows that Americans know more about the Simpsons than they do about the First Amendment. Apparently, 82 percent of Americans surveyed could name five immediate members of the Simpson clan, while only one out of every 1,000 Americans could name all five First Amendment freedoms. That's absolutely nonsensical! Everyone knows the five freedoms of the First Amendment. Children can learn things so long as an imaginary appropriator tells them to, putting crayons up your nose now will just make you dumber. Ralph Wiggum's ear sniffs smells like cat food, there's a rabbit in Ms. Burns' pocket, and Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech.

If we Americans can't recognize the ideals of our forefathers, then we're failing through a giant dent of ignorance. And, which dent of ignorance.

észatic there can be read at ashleyburnsnational.com

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