

this weekend

TODAY
G.B.H, BackBooth
 7 p.m.
 with Whole Wheat Bread, Krumbums and The Attack, \$15
Cartel, The Social
 6:30 p.m.
 with There for Tomorrow and U.S. Royalty, \$15

FRIDAY
Pro Sports Mascots, Amway Arena
 12:30 p.m.
 mascots from around the country compete. \$9

A Palace in Persia, BackBooth
 8 p.m.
 with Look Mexico, Bear Colony and Mirrorpal. \$8

RX Bandits at The Social
 8 p.m.
 with Portugal the Man and Facing New York. \$15

SATURDAY
Rock Pink!, BackBooth
 7 p.m.
 Battle of the Bands with Megaphone, Fall Term, The James Boyce Band and Heroes of the Storm. \$6

Gerry Williams at The Social
 9 p.m.
 with Peter Baldwin and Beef Wellington. \$8

Operation Sequential Art, A Comic Shop All Day
 Donate comics, graphic novels and sci-fi novels to soldiers stationed in Baghdad.



Taking FLIGHT

UCF students compete in Red Bull Flugtag

DANIEL WALSH
 Contributing Writer

UCF students comprised two of the 35 teams, each attempting to defy gravity using human-powered aircrafts last Saturday at Red Bull Flugtag USA in Tampa.

A new record for attendance at a Flugtag USA event was set in Tampa. Free admission and \$2 cans of Red Bull attracted more than 100,000 people.

Spectators jammed into and around Tampa Bay to watch the teams take flight. The weather was perfect for the event: sunny, a slight breeze and temperatures in the 90s. Many spectators quickly quenched their thirst by chugging a few Red Bulls or beer.

Boats, kayaks and yachts clustered together on the Hillsborough River well before the first team lifted off creating a carnival-like atmosphere.

Teams from Florida — four of which were from Orlando — Texas, Massachusetts and New York participated in the crazy, energy drink fueled, kamikaze-style event that is Flugtag.

Flugtag is German for “flight day.” Red Bull Flugtag is the brainchild of Red Bull creator Dietrich Mateschitz.

The first Flugtag event was in Vienna, Austria in 1991. Since then, more than 35 cities around the world have hosted Red Bull Flugtag. This year’s Flugtag USA tour began in Tampa, and continues with two more stops in Portland and Chicago.

Prospective teams submit flight plans, including sketches of the aircraft they plan to launch from the 30-foot high flight deck.

Each team of five people is required to build an aircraft weighing less than 450 pounds (including the weight of pilot) and having a wingspan no longer than 30 feet.

Lightweight materials like PVC, cardboard and Styrofoam were the most popular materials used in construction of the aircrafts. Only 35 teams were selected from the 300 applications for Flugtag in Tampa.

All 35 teams lined up at the gates so the public could see the aircrafts in their pre-flight glory before they succumbed to a watery fate.

UCF team the Wrong Brothers built an aircraft, which according to nature, should fly. It was designed in the shape of a flying fish. “Our inspiration came from a flying fish with a record of 45 seconds of hang time,” said An Le, a master’s student in mechanical engineering at UCF and member of the Wrong Brothers. Le believed his team had an advantage in the competition because of their experience with aerodynamics. “We have three aerospace engineers and two mechanical engineers, we’ll win!” he said.

Although they launched only 11 feet, the UCF team of civil engineers, Party Fowl, wooed the college members of the crowd with their enormous half-chicken, half-keg shaped aircraft. Members of Party Fowl dressed up as red Solo cups and performed their choreography to the sounds of “Tequila.” After performing the chicken dance, Party Fowl barreled down the runway only to have their hopes of

placing fall short with a low scoring jump.

When asked down at the recovery zone why people should vote Party Fowl to win the People’s Choice Award, one of the crew members said, “Because we’re a keg, and we’re awesome.”

Orlando team the Flight Jrunkees’ craft could pass for a real jet, if it wasn’t made of Styrofoam and parachute material. Despite the realism, Jrunkees pilot Dave Echeverry said their team wasn’t taking itself too seriously. “We’re here to have fun,” Echeverry said. With more than 1,000 jumps between the members, the team expected to fall with grace.

Some aircrafts were designed for flight, but most were built for novelty and fanfare. Teams drew inspiration from many sources. Team Red Baron’s craft resembled Snoopy’s famous red doghouse/airplane. Team Super Awesome Mario Kart Forever’s team were dressed as notable Super Mario characters. Two teams, The Bread Winners and Jamon y Queso, designed their crafts in the likeness of Cuban sandwiches.

A panel of judges included Tampa Bay Buccaneers Defensive Tackle Chris Hovan and the youngest pilot to fly around the world, Barrington Irving. All the crafts would be scored one to 10 based on distance traveled, opening skit and craftsmanship.

The first team set the bar high with an amazing flight of 109 feet. The local Team Tampa Bay Watch opened their routine with music from Bay Watch

and choreography, which ended with one of the members wearing a blonde wig mirroring Pamela Anderson’s character, C.J. Parker.

After such an impressive performance, the teams that followed had a difficult time matching Team Tampa Bay Watch’s impressive launch. The Wrong Brother’s tried their best to beat the record by tapping into the power of the flying fish. Dressed as crustaceans, the Wrong Brothers danced and eventually stripped to their Speedos to the song “It’s Raining Men.” The stripping seemed to work because they launched the flying fish a respectable 23 feet before taking a nosedive into the river.

The Flight Jrunkees knew they were in for a rough landing and their skit showed it. After applying a giant pink Band-Aid to their aircraft, they ran confidently along the launch strip only to have one of the planes cardboard propellers fall off. The plane landed a median distance of 18 feet before sinking into the river. At the recovery zone, Echeverry smiled when asked about their run. “We usually land on a canopy and not face first,” he said.

At the end of the day, Team Tampa Bay Watch walked away with first place for their spectacular first flight of the competition. Second place went to Air Gilligan with 32 feet, and The Little Engine That Could took third place with 21 feet. The Tampa Bay Derby Darlings won the People’s Choice trophy with their roller skate-shaped aircraft.

Team Party Fowl, no “flug” on the “tag,” plummeted 30 ft. in front of 110,000 people in Tampa.

AMANDA MOORE / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

N.Y. graces Orlando art scene

MARY CRISTOBAL
 Contributing Writer

At Millenia Fine Art Gallery’s The Best & The Brightest exhibit on July 18, guests were greeted by a portrait of Sen. Hillary Clinton.

The realist painting was illustrated by Sarah Ferguson and hung across the gallery’s doorway, where the senator appeared face-forward, with her index finger touching her thumb.

Meant to make a strong

political statement, the painting was showing the senator as she was trying to make a point in a speech, with an American flag as her backdrop.

Ferguson is one of the 12 artists from New York City’s School of Visual Arts who is showcased at the Millenia Fine Art Gallery’s show titled The Best & The Brightest.

“I was looking for quality and diversity,” said Josh Garrick, organizer of the exhibit and also a previous SVA instructor, in a press release.

“The excitement derives when one considers the future in art that these extraordinarily talented artists may look forward to.”

Fifty-two small paintings covered one wall with one subject matter: a tree near a body of water. Artist Jeffrey Blondes did an evolution study of a landscape and how climate affected the tree and body of water. Across the paintings, there was a digital video of the

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GREGORY TERRITO / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE
 Two paintings of Sen. Hilary Clinton by artist Sarah Ferguson adorn the entrance to the Best and Brightest gallery opening reception at Millenia Fine Arts Collection on July 19.

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UPCOMING EVENTS • CLUB FIRESTONE

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