

# Central Florida Future

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The Student Newspaper at UCF since 1968

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## They don't lie

Want to know how bad UCF's offense was? Look at these stats — SEE SPORTS, A8



## Digitize yourself

Digital Booktalk's UB the Director encourages kids to enjoy reading — SEE NEWS, A2



### Technology

## SECOND LIFE AFFAIR ENDS IN DIVORCE

A British couple who married in a lavish Second Life wedding ceremony are to divorce after one of them had an alleged "affair" in the online world. Amy Taylor, 28, said she had caught husband David Pollard, 40, having sex with an animated woman. The couple, who met in an Internet chatroom in 2003, are now separated. Second Life allows users to create alter egos known as "avatars" and interact with other players.



# Knights get in shape in their way

## Leaders in three categories announced

ANDREA CANTERBURY  
Staff Writer

The points have been tallied and the first winners from the "Get in Shape the Knight Way" program have been determined.

The first student winner, Alexandra Sinkover, earned the most points for the month by participating in gym and outside activities.

Delta Sigma Theta has

earned the title of Healthiest Sorority of the Month. Currently, 12 members participate in the program. They were the first sorority to sign up, accrued points by going to the gym and gained bonus points for participating in activities and joining the program's Facebook group.

The goals of "Get in Shape the Knight Way" go hand in hand with the organization's Five Point Thrust philosophy,

one of which is "Physical and Mental Health."

"As a chapter, we saw 'Get in Shape the Knight Way' as something not only beneficial to our own physical and mental health, but also as a means to live what we promote, so to speak, and lead by example," said Ashley Dieudonne, second vice president of the sorority.

PLEASE SEE PROGRAM ON A7

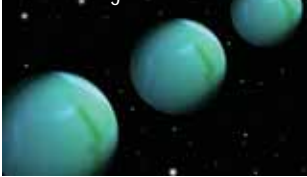


Sigma Pi, the winning fraternity for "Get in Shape the Knight Way" participates in the IM football games, in which the team's overall record was 9-1, reaching quarterfinals of Comp B.

### Space

## PLANETS, MOON SMILE ON THE EARTH

The heavens smiled down on Earth Monday in a rare celestial triecta of Venus, Jupiter, and the moon. The planets aligned — an event known as a conjunction — Sunday night, and were joined by a thin sliver of moon on Monday. The rare planetary meeting was visible from all parts of the world, even from light-polluted cities such as Hong Kong and New York.



## Breaking news on your cell

Get UCF news sent to your cell phone. Just text the keyword UCFNEWS to 44636.

### AROUND CAMPUS, A2

## FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY

Today from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. there will be a big, red tent near the Health Services building that will offer free blood pressure screenings for students, faculty and staff as part of Project Pressure.

### LOCAL & STATE, A2

## HOSPITAL OFFICIALS WARN AGAINST ALTERING FORMULA

A mother who watered down her infant's formula to save money almost watched her 5-month-old die. Now, hospital officials cautioning cash-strapped from trying something similar. La'Damian Barton was hospitalized after he had a seizure.

### NATION & WORLD, A4

## RUSSIANS HOLD TRAINING EXERCISES WITH VENEZUELA

Russian warships have held training exercises with Venezuela's navy in Moscow's first such Caribbean deployment since the Cold War. Russian television on Tuesday showed the countries in a simulated attack.

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# No green on grass



NORML President Brendon Rivard speaks to the Golden Rule Review Committee about equalizing marijuana and alcohol punishments.

## Golden Rule Review Committee stalemate postpones pot proposal

DONALD THOMANN  
Staff Writer

As a result of a stalemate 3-3-1 vote Tuesday, the final decision on a proposal that would equalize university penalties for marijuana and alcohol offenses has been pushed back to spring 2009.

"We are not trying to promote drug use with this proposal," said UCF Student Senator Brendon Rivard, "but to discourage irresponsible drinking. Alcohol is more dangerous than weed, and by making the penalties more severe for marijuana offenders, we are implicitly stating that it's OK to use the more dangerous substance."

At a meeting on Tuesday, Rivard presented to the Golden Rule Review Committee a proposal that would change the current Golden Rule

statutes regarding marijuana policy at UCF.

If enacted, the new policy would reduce the penalties for first and second time misdemeanor marijuana possession and paraphernalia charges to the same level as the penalties currently in place regarding alcohol offenses, such as drinking on campus and underage drinking.

The equalization proposal would establish a three-strike policy for marijuana offenders. The first offense would come with the minimum drug education class and up to one semester of academic probation, the second offense would mandate a drug class and up to two semesters probation and the third offense could result in suspension for two semesters

### GOLDEN RULE

If enacted, the new policy would reduce the penalties for first and second time misdemeanor marijuana possession and paraphernalia charges to the same level as the penalties currently in place regarding alcohol offenses, such as drinking on campus and underage drinking.



with the possibility of expulsion.

As it stands, the proposal only covers paraphernalia charges and possession charges of less than 14 grams, and would be in addition to any criminal charges at the state and local level.

Further, Rivard said that it would not cover possession of hard drugs such as heroin and amphetamines, and it would

PLEASE SEE COMMITTEE ON A5

# Education and the Web look for happy medium

CASSIE MORIEN  
Contributing Writer



Social networking Web sites are quickly becoming one of the main avenues of communication in today's society. But education may be the one profession that remains exceptionally wary of the social networking craze.

Sites such as Facebook and MySpace allow users to discover long lost friends, announce company meetings, plan elaborate events, instantly chat and upload hundreds of personal pictures for free.

These popular sites have been utilized around the globe by a variety of age groups. Pre-pubescent middle school students and entire universities, to large corporate businesses and the media can all easily be accessed through Facebook and MySpace. "In education we are very careful of our personal lives," Robert Lundquist, principal at Oviedo High School, said. "We are center stage at all time in front of the public. We do not want to jeopardize the integrity of what we do."

PLEASE SEE OPINIONS ON A7

# One gay group to take action

## A Day Without a Gay plans for service

WHITNEY HAMRICK  
Variety Editor

While those planning to skip work and save money through abstaining to spend in protest along side the Day Without Gays boycott, A Day Without a Gay: Call in Gay hopes to open a positive discourse through community service.

On Dec. 10, which is International Human Rights Day, members and supporters of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community have been asked to boycott the economy by taking off work and forgoing monetary contributions to society. "What if, just for one day, those who could take off work, did?" said Sean Hetherington, one of the organizers for A Day Without a Gay. "And instead of staying home feeling hopeless, they went out and did good things for their own LGBT community and/or the greater world to show America that we are compassionate loving people, even in the face of being outcast as separate but equal."

Hetherington, a personal trainer in West Hollywood, heard about the Day Without Gays boycott to be held Dec.



A Day Without a Gay: Call in Gay hopes for positive discourse by community service.

10, and wondered how effective it would be.

Instead of staying home from work and not spending any money, Hetherington and his boyfriend, Aaron Hartzler, came up with the idea of donating that time to community service.

"We read about the national boycott of the U.S. economy and the work force and support it, but wanted to add a service element to it so that efforts were still going back into the non-profit economy," Hetherington wrote in an e-mail. "Every time someone holds up a

PLEASE SEE SITE ON A6

# The trials, rewards of being in honors

JOHN MURPHY  
Contributing Writer

A student with three or four tough classes such as calculus or physics may think they have it bad, but it's probably nothing compared to the students who attend the Burnett Honors College, which can be a bitter-sweet experience for both students and instructors alike.

Just ask Justin Sanak, a freshman who is enrolled in two honors courses at UCF. He is currently one of many students attending the honors college, and is enrolled in honors sociology and astronomy. In addition, he takes two standard-level classes, Finite Math and Intro to Computer Science.

Sanak often has to spend several sleepless nights, with coffee cup or can of Red Bull in hand, studying into the early hours of the morning for that all-important test to maintain a satisfactory GPA. Amazingly, it

### ELIGIBILITY

Admission to The Burnett Honors College is highly selective. Typically, academically talented students identified by the UCF Undergraduate Admissions Office are invited to apply to University Honors by The Burnett Honors College. However, any incoming student interested in applying to The Burnett Honors College may request an Honors Application by completing and submitting the Honors Application Request form. To be eligible to apply to The Burnett Honors College, students must:

- Be admitted to UCF
- Complete the Honors application in its entirety, including the personal statement and an unofficial copy of the high school transcript.

doesn't seem to faze him, and he especially enjoys the community aspect of the college.

PLEASE SEE HONORS ON A6