

Breaking the bank

UCF jacks tuition 15%

By Shay Castle
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The Board of Trustees for the University of Central Florida voted last week to raise tuition by 15 percent.

The increase will go into effect for the upcoming fall term.

The move is part of an attempt to close a \$50 million gap left by a reduction in state funding. Increased tuition will cover \$20 million of the deficit, and prevents the university from cutting programs and increasing class sizes, according to school officials.

Undergraduate courses at UCF will now be about \$148 per credit hour, which will cost students an extra \$230.88 for a typical 12 credit-hour semester.

Valencia College also announced last week that it would freeze tuition

at the current rate of \$99.06 per credit hour for the 2012-13 year.

The increased cost will have a big impact on Valencia students who hope to continue their education at UCF.

"It's definitely going to add more stress to my life," said Kimberly Chung, a biomedical science major who plans to attend UCF in the fall. "I'm not getting any financial aid. I can work harder but that only does so much."

"I get financial aid, so I guess it doesn't impact me as much," said Darian Smalley, a computer science major. "But if they cut that, I won't be able to go to school. There's no way. I can't feasibly afford it on \$10 an hour."

Pedro Alicea, an engineering major, said the increase doesn't affect his future plans, but it will impact the way he lives.

"I still have to do it regardless," he said of his plans to obtain a bachelor's degree at UCF. "It's just going to take more money out of my pocket."



Eric Barber is head over heels for NCAA tourney.

Knights vault into regionals

Baseball team Miami bound

By Mary Stevens
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The UCF baseball team anxiously waited as ESPNU announced where the Knights will be headed for Regionals.

Moat Sports Grill exploded with cheers after the Knights learned they were headed to Coral Gables for regionals.

"It is an outstanding and very competitive regional and we are excited to have the opportunity to play," said head coach Terry Rooney after the announcement.

The Knights will have to face No. 1 seed Miami, No. 4 Stony Brook and No. 3 Missouri State in the region.

— See Knights, Page 8

Syria denies massacre

President Assad: terrorists to blame

By Patrick J. McDonnell
Los Angeles Times

Syrian authorities denied responsibility for a weekend massacre in the central town of Houla in which the U.N. said 90 people died, more than a third of them children.

The Syrian government “categorically denies the government forces’ responsibility for the massacre,” Jihad Makdissi, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said in Damascus, the Syrian capital.

The spokesman blamed the killings on “terrorists,” Syrian officials’ usual depiction of anti-government rebels.

The spokesman’s version of the events is at odds with opposition accounts of a military onslaught against helpless civilians using tanks and artillery, weapons largely limited to the arsenal of the Syrian military.

Each side in the Syrian conflict has accused the other of killing civilians and then publicly blaming its adversary for the deaths. The Syrian government has alleged that the opposition has fabricated attacks and staged assaults at key junctures in the U.N. peace process in a bid to sabotage progress.



Two young boys were killed in their house by Syrian Army shell in the Damascus suburbs.

More than 10,000 people have died in a rebellion that began with street protests in March 2011 against the government of President Bashar Assad.

Opposition activists blamed government forces for the Houla killings, which appear to have occurred on Friday and early Saturday. The opposition says the victims fell to a government offensive in Houla township a hotbed of rebel resistance to Assad’s rule.

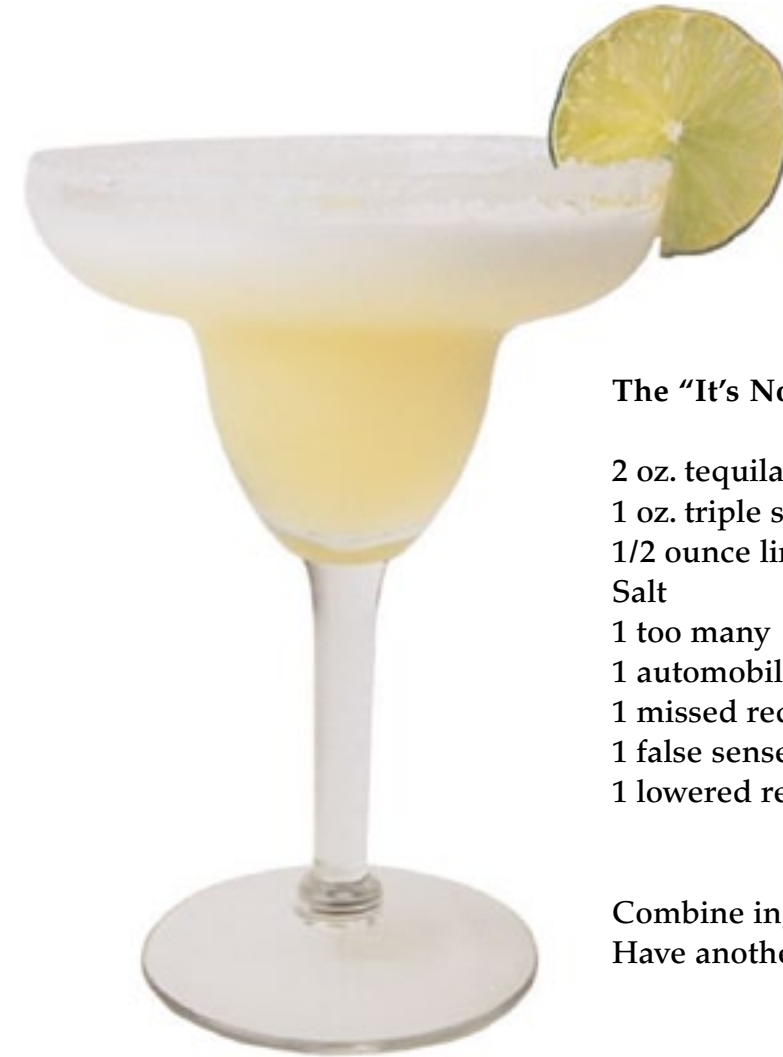
The U.N. said its investigation had indicated that a residential neighborhood was hit by artillery shells and tank rounds. U.N. observers who visited the scene on Saturday counted at least 90 bodies, including at least 32 children under the age of 10. Some victims died from artillery strikes, the

U.N. said; others were killed at closer range with small-caliber weapons.

Makdissi said government forces were in “self-defense mode.” The spokesman said the conflict began when hundreds of armed men, wielding heavy weapons including mortars, machine guns and armor-piercing rockets, attacked Syrian military positions, killing three security personnel and wounding 16 others.

Opposition activists say it was government forces who initiated the attack in Houla. But both sides agreed that fierce clashes between government forces and the rebels ensued in Taldo, the town in Houla where the massacre took place.

— MCT Campus



The “It’s Not Like I’m Drunk” Cocktail

2 oz. tequila
1 oz. triple sec
1/2 ounce lime juice
Salt
1 too many
1 automobile
1 missed red light
1 false sense of security
1 lowered reaction time

Combine ingredients. Shake.
Have another. And another.

Never underestimate ‘just a few.’
Buzzed driving is drunk driving.

Future of space exploration sent from Florida

New launches on horizon boost high-tech jobs

By James Tutton
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Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) is a young company at the forefront of the next generation in the commercial space industry. Their primary goals over the next three years are maintaining a hefty flight launch manifest of commercial and government launches and eventually sending manned missions into space by early 2015. Currently SpaceX has nearly 9,000 employees in its facilities in California, Texas, Washington D.C. and Florida, with expanding construction projects underway at its main launch facility at Space Launch Complex 40 at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

"The next rocket for our next mission is already down here in Florida," said Kirstin Grantham, director of corporate communications at SpaceX. SpaceX will continue to hire more employees locally to help maintain its 26 planned launches from Cape Canaveral through 2015, including four launches in 2013, eight in 2014 and 10 in 2015.

The company was founded in 2002 by CEO Elon Musk, who amassed his fortune by co-creating the internet-based financial transaction system PayPal. His primary goal, aside from running a profitable private space company on Earth, is literally out of this world: building a base on Mars in the not so distant future.

To get to this point, SpaceX first has to develop and then test the next level of space technology, and they are getting this guidance from NASA and its program for Commercial Orbital Transport System. The C.O.T.S. program is divided into several key success elements per mission, like "launch to orbit," "berth with International Space Station (ISS)" and "proper recovery of spacecraft." SpaceX is awarded financial assistance as they prove success with specific mission goals, which further proves they can handle elements of a manned mission later on.

SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft successfully docked with the ISS over the weekend, making SpaceX the first private company to accomplish this feat. Only four nation states have docked with the ISS in the past. Astronaut Don Pettit described the interior of Dragon as having a "new car smell," and when asked live via press conference from inside the capsule if he could imagine flying to the ISS in the Dragon, Pettit said, "It's roomier than a Soyuz, so flying up in a human-rated Dragon is not gonna be an issue."

Russia currently charges the U.S \$53 million to fly one astronaut to the ISS and are currently the only ones providing crew transportation into space. SpaceX plans to cut the cost to \$20 million per astronaut by providing a 7 member crew a flight in a Dragon spacecraft for \$120 million per trip.



Employees at the SpaceX launch complex in Florida hard at work preparing the latest rocket.

To secure its continued success, the company has to ensure their investors of the potential profits that can be found in the commercial space industry. They are currently at \$1.2 billion in expenditures including around \$390 million from NASA, \$100 million from Musk, \$120 million from other investors and \$300 million from commercial contracts. Though plenty of money has been spent, SpaceX states that it has been cash flow positive and profitable for the last five years, with the majority of its investment support coming from private companies looking to launch satellites.

The price to launch a satellite into orbit varies from as low as \$53 million for smaller launches, up to \$80 to \$120 million for larger rocket launches. The Falcon Heavy rocket is currently under development

and can handle these larger payloads and eventual missions into deep space. The business model for this ever-expanding industry was stated by spokeswoman Graham, "If someone can show that they can afford a launch, we will sell to them."

Despite all the aggressive plans already in the works for SpaceX, Musk has made it clear in several interviews that his ultimate goal is to build a base on Mars and make life multi-planetary. He foresees sending millions of tons of cargo and building supplies to Mars overtime and eventually building a permanent establishment on the planet that could potentially house thousands of people in the future. The rate of progress from private industry and continued government support will help to establish this enterprising endeavor.



Falcon 9 rocket manufactured by SpaceX ready for flight before launch last Tuesday.



(L-R) Curt Hansen, Alice Ripley and Asa Somers star in the musical 'Next To Normal,' currently touring nationwide.

Touring play targets disorder

Pulitzer prize-winning musical illustrates family troubles

By Neda Hamdan
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Inspired by a "Dateline NBC" segment, Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey wrote the play, "Next To Normal," about a family trying to take care of each other. The play touches on sensitive topics like bipolar disorder, and one of the characters goes through electroconvulsive therapy (ECT).

Starting on Broadway, then winning the Pulitzer Prize in 2010 and three Tony Awards, including Best Original Score, the play is now coming to Florida. The play is currently on tour across the nation. It can be seen at the Mad Cow Theatre. Opening night is on June 8 but there are two special preview performances on June 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m. for \$10.

"I'm really looking forward to this play," Gina Buton said. "I have been following this play since it first went on Broadway, and I'm

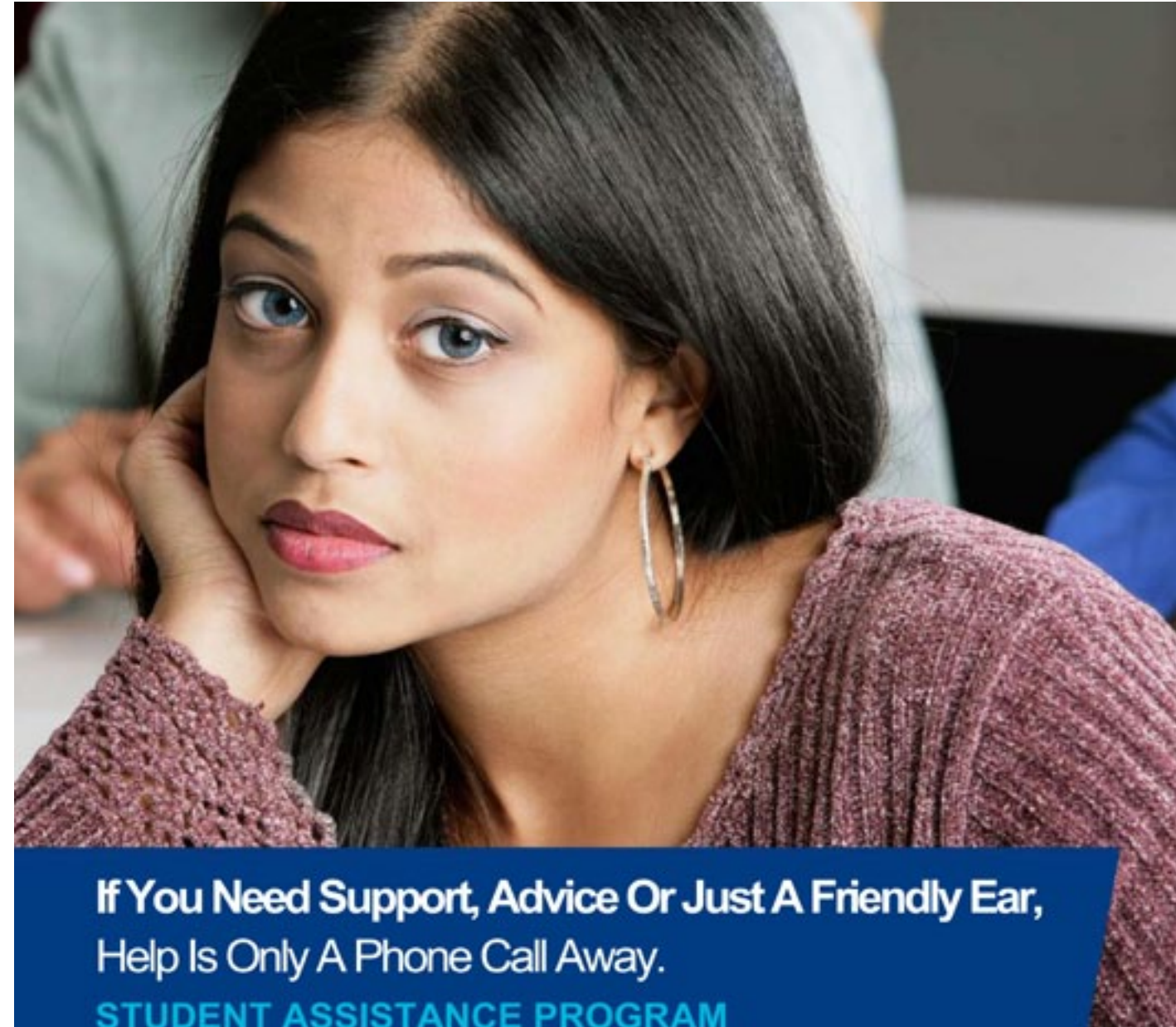
so excited it's finally here."

The play goes through July 8, but there will be two special Monday performances on June 18 and July 2 at 7:30 p.m. for \$15. Excluding special performances, all tickets are \$34 for adults and \$32 for seniors/students with ID.

"I have a close relative that has bipolar disorder," Karen Jameson said. "It's nice to have someone actually bring it into the light and show the real side of it."

"Next To Normal" stars Melissa Minyard, who plays the main character Diana, also suffering from bipolar disorder. Stephan Jones plays her husband Dan, who tries to take care of Diana and pick up the mess she makes. They also have two children in the play -- Natalie and Gabe, played by Emily Walton and Brandon Allen Wood.

To purchase tickets for "Next To Normal," call the Mad Cow Box Office Theatre at 407-297-8788, or go online at <http://www.madcowtheatre.com/>.



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‘Men in Black’ get their groove back

Actors’ chemistry carries film

By Amanda Smith
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The alien-blasting Agent J, played by Will Smith, and Agent K, played by Tommy Lee Jones, have a major box-office comeback with “Men In Black III.” It’s been about 10 years since the duo appeared in “Men In Black II,” but they didn’t skip a beat with the latest installment in the sci-fi comedy franchise.

The movie starts off slow, but when Agent K’s younger self appears, played by Josh Brolin, the plot thickens. Speaking of plots, this one is a lot better than that of the sequel (you know, the one that no one remembers.)

In a nutshell, Agent J goes back in time to 1969 to help Agent K kill Boris the Animal (Flight of the Conchords’ Jemaine Clement) before Boris can kill

Agent K in the present day. Boris wants to kill Agent K because he locked him away for 40 years in a prison on the moon (that’s present day also). It’s kind of like “Back to the Future” with aliens.

This time around, the viewer gets exposed to the younger Agent K, and Josh Brolin sports the same stone face as Tommy Lee Jones, proving the moodiness was there all along.

“MIB: III” was full of laughs, but isn’t the type of film to take the whole family to because of the degree of foul language, warranting a PG-13 rating.

This movie gets a B for recovering from the lackluster “MIB II” and creating an entertaining third installment full of everything MIB fans crave: aliens, gadgets to fight aliens, and the effortless chemistry between Agent J and Agent K.



Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones return as special agents J and K for the third ‘Men in Black’ film.

Opening May 30th “Snow White/Huntsman”



Rated: PG-13

Running Time: 2 hrs. 7 min.

Genre: Action/Drama

Director: Rupert Sanders

Starring: Charlize Theron, Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth

“For Greater Glory”



Rated: R

Running Time: 2 hrs. 33 min.

Genre: Drama/Foreign

Director: Dean Wright

Starring: Eva Longoria, Oscar Isaac, Andy Garcia

Box Office



“MIB: III”

Rated:
PG-13

This Weekend:
\$ 55,000,000

Total Gross:
\$ 55,000,000



“The Avengers”

Rated:
PG-13

This Weekend:
\$ 36,799,000

Total Gross:
\$ 513,484,000



“Battleship”

Rated:
PG-13

This Weekend:
\$ 10,902,000

Total Gross:
\$ 44,408,000

Nathaniel's Hope still lives

Family of deceased child honor his life through community organization

By Francesca Fey
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Born on June 6, 1997, Nathaniel Timothy Kuck's whole four years of life was spent crisscrossing the nation to and from hospitals with his family in desperate search of treatment. In 2002, he lost his battle to multiple birth abnormalities, but gained support and hope from his community, proving that life doesn't have to end after death.

In memory of Nathaniel, his parents Marie and Tim Kuck, alongside his sis-

ter, Brianna, founded Nathaniel's Hope -- a nonprofit organization dedicated to spreading the message of hope and enriching the lives of children with special needs.

Like the children that Nathaniel's Hope facilitates, Nathaniel was born with many special needs, including Craniosynostosis Syndrome, a malformation of the skull that occurs in infancy, and Duodenal Atresia, a restriction in the digestive tract.

"For four years we traveled all over the U.S. for surgeries and medical atten-

tion; it was a constant battle for his life," said Brianna Kuck. "But even though he had these special needs, even though he was so limited, even though he spent so much time in and out of the hospital and therapy sessions, he was a little bundle of joy."

Brianna was only nine years old when she lost her brother Nathaniel, but despite the traumatic loss, she only recounts the good times spent with him.

"Though he couldn't walk, talk, or eat with his mouth, his smile was killer. He was definitely a precious little guy that didn't need words to speak. His smile spoke for him," said Brianna.

Ten years after Nathaniel's passing, Brianna is a 19-year-old college student studying Communications at Southeastern University in Lakeland, Fla.

She strives to keep her brother's memory alive and is very active in Nathaniel's Hope as the volunteer coordinator, stage manager, and the administrative assistant for Make 'M Smile -- an event held on the first Saturday of June in honor of Nathaniel's birthday.

This year marks the 10th year of Nathaniel's Hope being in operation, serving the community and the numbers of volunteers and children (known as VIP's) that attend the events.

One such event is Make 'M Smile, an annual, free of charge festival at Lake



Nathaniel Timothy Kuck, pictured here on his fourth birthday, suffered from many birth defects.

Eola in remembrance of Nathaniel's birthday. This year's Make 'M Smile is occurring June 2 with plans to break previous records, as attendance is expected to be at 12,000, 2,000 of those being VIP kids. Similar events have been held in Antigua and Guatemala.

Other events include Caroling for Kids, providing gifts for hospitalized children during the holiday season, and

Buddy Break, which involves organized time between VIPs and screened volunteers, or "Buddies."

"Nathaniel's Hope has helped kids with special needs feel accepted; it has given them a place to belong," said Brianna. "At our programs, people will love them just the way they are. Nathaniel's life and death is a testimony that there is purpose to every life."



The Kucks: Parents Marie and Tim, sisters Brianna (at right) and Ashley (at left) with Nathaniel.

Tweets of the Week



Mouthy_

May 25 ☆ Favorite ↗ Retweet

I just finished doing 100 push-ups over a period of 8 years



repomon

May 23 ☆ Favorite ↗ Retweet

I went to a Mechanic when my car started making these awful noises but it just turned out to be Nickelback playing on the radio.



mollymcnearney

May 23 ☆ Favorite ↗ Retweet

Don't send vague texts to girls unless you want them read and analyzed by 7 other girls.



Ty_Schutz

May 22 ☆ Favorite ↗ Retweet

Apparently, the serving size for Oreos is "until you feel gross."



FaisalAdam_

May 23 ☆ Favorite ↗ Retweet

I have a Love/hate relationship with slashes...



badbanana

May 22 ☆ Favorite ↗ Retweet

Professional wrestler name: Office Max. Signature move: Three Hole Punch.



hipstermermaid

May 29 ☆ Favorite ↗ Retweet

Liked the 3 day weekend? Try not having a job, it's a 365 day weekend.



KenJennings

May 28 ☆ Favorite ↗ Retweet

When I run the media, "blue" and "red" states will be renamed "Crate & Barrel" and "Cracker Barrel" states.



MrEberhard

May 29 ☆ Favorite ↗ Retweet

Inventor of the TV remote control has died at the age of 96 Have they tried turning his batteries round and smacking him against the table?



BorowitzReport

May 26 ☆ Favorite ↗ Retweet

Hard to believe that Twitter is six years old. Seems like just yesterday that I spoke to my family.

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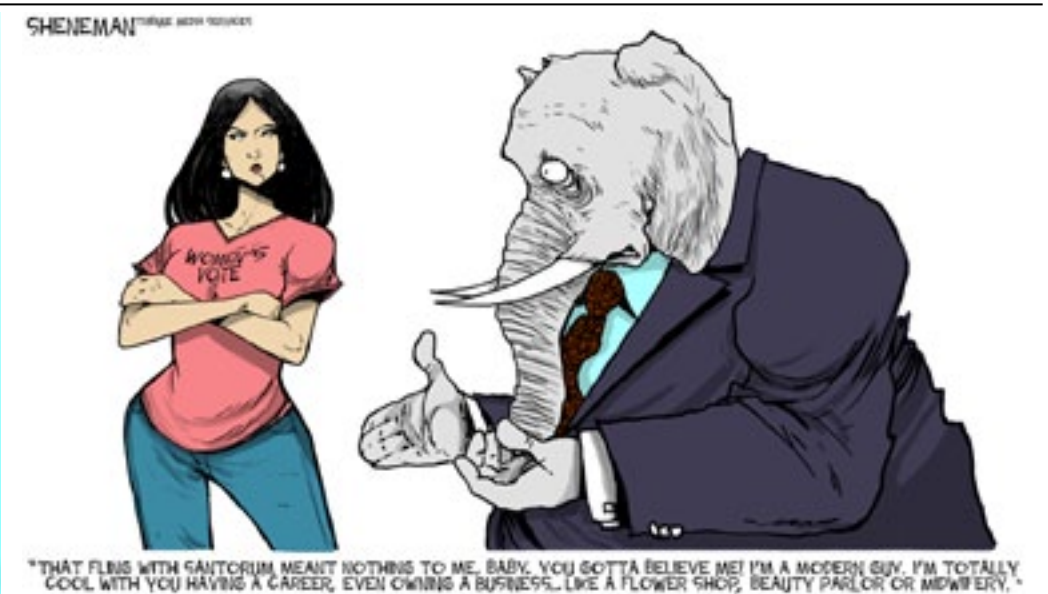
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Knights earn No. 2 seed in regional

University of Miami will host UCF, Missouri State, Stony Brook this weekend

— Continued from Page 1

“It’s a great regional there is no question. It’s an outstanding regional. Obviously we know about Miami. We’ve had the opportunity to play them, they are an outstanding program. Stony Brook most people will tell you - I know they are the fourth seed in that Regional - but they are one of the best fourth seed in the entire bracket,” Rooney said.

The Knights (43-15) will face the Missouri State Bears (39-20) for the first game, Friday afternoon. UCF’s other opponents will be determined after Friday’s games.

The Bears are a dominant team on the mound, as their 2.51-team era ranks sec-

ond in the nation. One of the Bears starting pitchers, Nick Petree, holds a 10-3 record with a 0.92 era and has 109 strikeouts in 107.1 innings.

No. 4-seed Stony Brook has the second most wins in the nation with 46. The Seawolves are on a roll as they have won 22 out of the past 23 games.

The Knights traveled to Coral Gables earlier this year and outscored Miami 4-1. UCF has won two of their last three games at Mark Light Field.

“I’m excited to play Missouri State and obviously Miami is good,” said first baseman D.J. Hicks. “For me personally, I love playing there. The ball flies, so you don’t have to swing quite as hard.”

The Knights also cheered when the Gainesville regional was announced and they weren’t in it. UCF played the Gators earlier in the year and lost 8-0.

UCF shortstop Darnell Sweeney is hoping to see a lot of black and gold in the stands Friday.

“We’ve had great fan support this past year. A lot of our fans traveled with us and now this is just a three-hour drive so I don’t see no reason why we can’t have a good fan support down in Miami,” Sweeney said.

The regional works as double elimination, meaning a team will have to lose two games before being sent home. The regional winner faces the winner of Baton Rouge Regional.



L-R: Travis Shreve, Tommy Williams, Joe Rogers, Ryan Breen and Brian Adkins anxiously wait to learn where UCF will be headed for regionals.



64 bids announced

By Bryan Levine
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The 64-team bracket was announced Monday afternoon for the 2012 NCAA baseball tournament.

Of the 16 regionals around the country, three are here in Florida, with Tallahassee, Gainesville, and Coral Gables as host cities.

Two Florida teams, UF and FSU, are also in the top-5 in the national rankings, with the Gators taking the number one spot.

Five of the teams competing in the tournament this year are from Florida. Only UCF and Bethune-Cookman will not host their own region. In addition to five Florida teams, four Conference USA teams made the tournament, including regular

season champions Rice, post season champions UAB, and East Carolina.

All 16 regions will begin and conclude the first round this weekend, with games starting Friday afternoon.

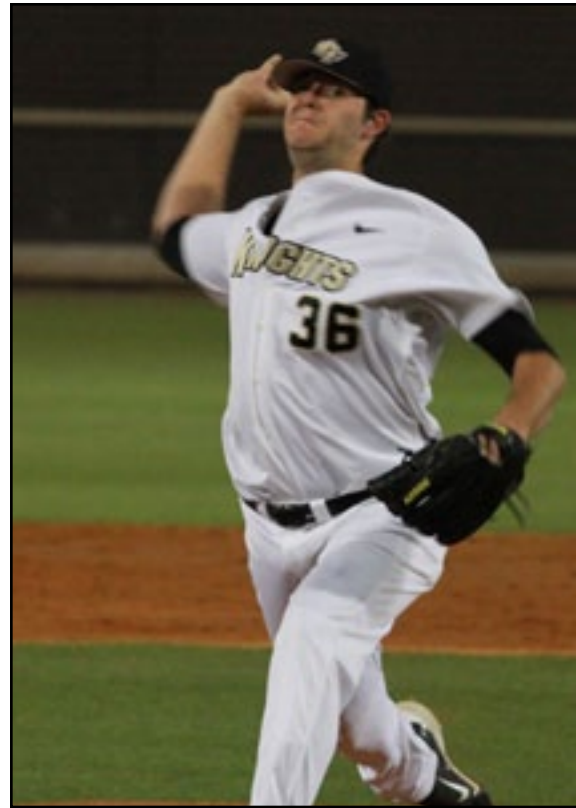
The first round is a double-elimination format. With four teams in each region, most teams will play either three or four games, with the final game Sunday night.

For those 16 teams who are fortunate enough to advance to super regionals, they will have to play one more best of three series before heading to Omaha, Nebraska where the College World Series takes place. It has already been pre-determined which regions will square off in the super regionals, and those games will be played at the school of the higher seeded team.

Regional Champion	#1 *Miami (FL) (36-21)
	vs.
	#4 Stony Brook (46-11)
	#3 Missouri St. (39-20)
	vs.
	#2 UCF (43-15)



L-R: Ryan Breen, Ronnie Richardson and Darnell Sweeney watch D.J. Hicks score during the Rice series.



Ray Hanson pitched 6.2 innings allowing three hits and two runs last weekend in Pearl, Miss.



Chris Taladay and RHP Ben Lively (19) celebrate after scoring a run during the Rice series.

Knights redeem themselves

UCF wins last 2 matches in C-USA tourney after losing 3 games in a row

By Mary Stevens
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What does the UCF Baseball team do when they hit their first losing streak of the year? They bounce back by winning and outscoring their next two opponents 17-3.

After losing the last two games against Rice at home, and getting beat 15-1 against UAB, the Knights took the last two games of the C-USA Championship as an opportunity to tune up their team.

For the last two games the team seemed to be on the same page, pitchers allowed less hits, and runs while batters converted their hits into runs.

UCF beat Tulane for the fourth time this year in UCF's final championship game. The game started on a positive note when the Knights scored a run in the first inning.

Tulane answered right away with a two-run homer. From then on, the Knights' pitching staff made sure the Green Wave didn't score.

The pitching staff for Saturday's game

included senior Ray Hanson, reliever Roman Madrid and closer Joe Rogers.

Hanson pitched 6 1/3 strong innings, while allowing three hits and two runs. After giving up a home run in the first inning Hanson had to change his approach.

"I just chalked it up to missing my spot and made a decision that I would try not to allow a hit the rest of the way. I started executing my pitches and everything seemed to work out," Hanson explained.

On the other side of the diamond, the

UCF bats put up a total of six runs to secure the win.

The Knights exploded with 11 runs against the Pirates' during their second game of the tournament on Friday.

Chris Taladay (3-for-5, 5 RBI) hit a three run homer in the fourth inning, helping the Knights widen the lead 9-1. After that, Taladay and Ronnie Richardson (2-for-3, 1 RBI) scored a run each before ending the game 11-1.

"This was much needed after yesterday. We don't have losing streaks here. We came out and showed them what we can do," said Taladay.

UCF lost its only game of the tournament to the eventual Conference USA champs, UAB.

The Knights were beating UAB 2-1

up until the fifth inning, then things took a turn for the worse. The pitching staff allowed 13 runs in the fifth inning.

"Obviously there was the inning [in the fifth] there that gave it away when they scored all those runs. Unfortunately, we weren't able to make the pitches that we needed too. We were consistently behind in the count and up in the zone," Rooney said.

The Knights' bats couldn't overcome the 15 runs deficit and lost the game that would eventually keep them from playing in the championship.

"We had a tough game the other night, but I think the way these guys bounced back showed that they are on a mission heading into the postseason," said Rooney.