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# Tickets sell out; students sold out

The waiting is the hardest part  
 for those camping out in the cold

By ANTHONY LEDERMAN  
 Alligator Writer

Although the 9,100 tickets for this month's Tom Petty concert sold out within five hours Wednesday, a promise to give students the best seats fell through.

Graduate student Lindsey Reider, the first person in line at the University Box Office, waited almost 20 hours for tickets — only to get 21st-row seats.

Just before the tickets went on sale, Reider, an exercise physiology major, said the wait for Petty was worth it.

"I have never seen him before and I really wanted to see him — and I wanted to do it right," he said before he got his tickets.

But after leaving the box office with seven tickets, Reider was livid.

"It doesn't make any sense. That's ridiculous. That's bullshit!" Reider said.

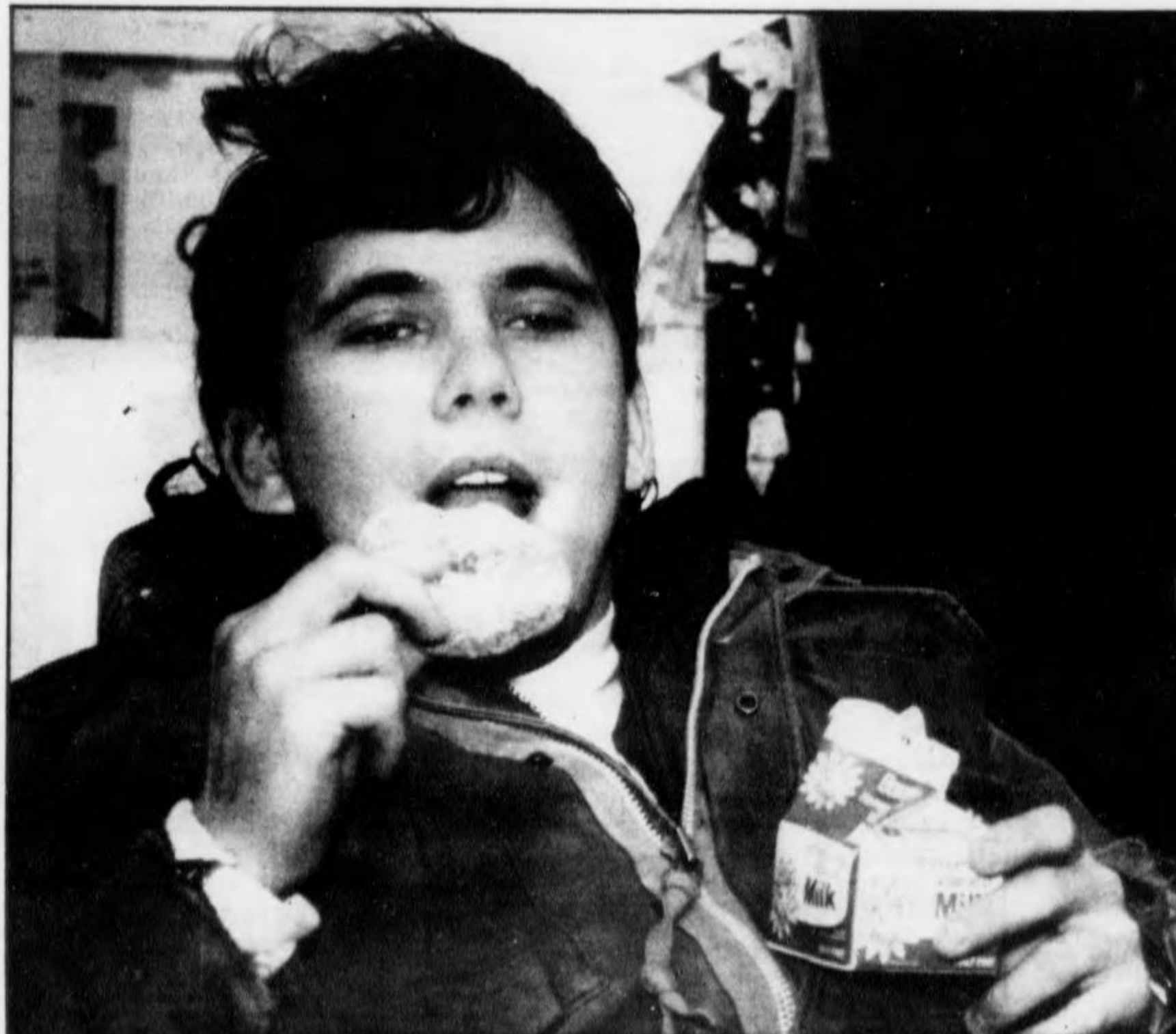
Reider didn't get front-row seats

because there was confusion at the box office about how many tickets he wanted and where he wanted to sit, Student Government Productions Chairman Raul Mateu explained. During those few seconds of discussion, other TicketMaster outlets in the state began selling tickets.

Mateu promised Sunday that students would get "premiere" seats if they bought tickets through the box office at Constans Theatre in the Reitz Union.

"We heard that the Constans Theatre was the place to get good seats," law student Chris Puleo said. "I don't think they know what the hell they're doing."

Students didn't get the best seats because the contract between SGP, the University Box Office and TicketMaster calls for tickets to go on sale at the same time throughout the state, Mateu said. Shows usually aren't so popular and SGP can start selling tickets earlier than other outlets in the



KEVIN WISNIEWSKI — ALLIGATOR

state or reserve good seats for students and "no one would fuss," Mateu said.

SGP announced Sunday that tickets would go on sale at 10 a.m. but Mateu said it decided to move the time up an hour Tuesday because he anticipated a long line.

Since the box office is a TicketMaster outlet, the company wouldn't allow SGP to sell tickets earlier without telling all state outlets, Mateu said. So every outlet started selling tickets at 9 a.m.

UF sophomore Shira Friedman, who was about 30th in line, said her friends at the front of the line got bleacher seats and she couldn't believe the floor seats were gone

see Tickets, page 5



KRISTIN FISHER

After a cold night of waiting for Tom Petty concert tickets, John Garrigues, above, eats breakfast while still in line Wednesday morning. He has been camping out since 6 p.m. the day before. People waited in line for up to 20 hours on the north side of Reitz Union, left, to get tickets for Petty's Jan. 27 concert. The concert sold out in a little more than five hours.

## Extra tickets available

Gainesville native Tom Petty has decided to release roughly 2,000 additional seats for his upcoming campus concert, with tickets going on sale at 9:30 this morning at the Reitz Union's Constans Theatre and other TicketMaster outlets, said Raul Mateu, chairman of Student Government Productions.

The seats are obstructed view and located either behind or to the side of the stage. Ticket

prices are reduced to \$12 for students and \$15 for the general public, plus a service charge.

"The seats right behind the stage are pretty close," said Mike DeLorenzo, the O'Connell Center's associate director.

"I'm sure (Petty will) turn around and face them," he said. "Plus, we'll hang some speakers facing the fans behind the stage, so it should sound good."

— ANTHONY LEDERMAN

# Award program meets opposition among deans

By RONALD DUPONT JR.  
 Alligator Writer

Choosing top professors and giving them thousands of dollars as part of a state award program may not be a good idea, UF instructors and administrators said Wednesday.

The new program — which will split \$185,000 among 50 UF teachers — offers far too much money and will create dissension among teachers vying for the award, journalism college Dean Ralph Lowenstein said.

The comments Lowenstein made at Wednesday's deans meeting raised several questions, including one that silenced his colleagues: If UF's best teachers are the ones being considered for the award, then

what does that say of the quality of their peers on the judging committee?

"The best teachers, per se, may not be on the committee that selects the best teachers," Lowenstein said.

Lowenstein asked the deans at the meeting who would like to be on the committee. His question was met with laughter.

The statewide program calls for students and instructors in each college to choose top teachers for the award, based on past honors, teaching techniques, course examinations and outlines. UF gives the 50 winners \$2,500 each, then gives an additional \$5,000 to each of the top 10 instructors chosen from the 50 finalists.

But that's just far too much money for an award, said Jane Brockmann, president of

UF's United Faculty of Florida chapter.

"It's going to cause problems," she said. "I don't think it has been thought out properly. Good teaching is a part of our job. We get our reward for doing our job through merit pay increases. Giving people a one-shot prize for a single occasion is not the answer."

"The Legislature wants to reward good teaching. But this is a quick-fix solution."

Besides providing too much money, the state program also has unexplained eligibility requirements for the candidates, Brockmann said.

Keith Legg, interim associate academic affairs vice president and coordinator of the awards program, said it may cause problems.

"When you produce any sort of a program, you don't know how it's going to work," he said. "It's an experiment."

But it was an experiment not planned properly, Lowenstein said.

"What studies do they have to show this engenders good teaching?" he said. "When did they talk to us? What right do they have to throw good money at something they know little about?"

### correction

In 1985, the Hippodrome State Theatre was \$40,000 in debt. Also, Larry Strauss is Student Honor Court's chief associate justice. *The Alligator* reported otherwise on this page Wednesday.

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2:00, (5:30 @ \$2.50), 8:00, 10:15

**BACK TO THE FUTURE II (PG)**  
1:45, (5:00 @ \$2.50), 7:30, 9:55

**CHRISTMAS VACATION (PG-13)**  
1:45, (5:15 @ \$2.50), 7:45, 9:55

**WE'RE NO ANGELS (PG-13)**  
2:00, (5:30 @ \$2.50), 8:00, 10:30

**THE LITTLE MERMAID (G)**  
1:00, 3:00, (5:00 @ \$2.50), 7:00, 9:00

**BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY (R)**  
1:15, (4:15 @ \$2.50), 7:15, 10:15

**BLAZE (R)**  
2:00, (5:15 @ \$2.50), 8:00, 10:30

**STEEL MAGNOLIAS (PG)**  
1:45, (4:45 @ \$2.50), 7:30, 10:15

**ALWAYS (PG)**  
1:30, (5:00 @ \$2.50), 7:45, 10:15

Times Shown For Monday Thru Thursday

**TICKETS**  
from page 1

so quickly.  
"People were waiting all night with TVs and VCRs, and I even brought doughnuts and hot chocolate," said Friedman's friend Jeanette Li. "For what?"

"I camped out here since 10 p.m.," said English senior Elicia Geller. "We did not get good seats. It sucks."

Petty can take some of the blame. Mateu said the Gainesville-grown rocker got 300 tickets to sell or give away. Also, Rock-104 received 20 seats to give away as part of a promotional deal. SGP will also get an undetermined number of floor seats, Mateu said.

While many students left the box office complaining, some students did not mind the wait or the poor seats.

"It was worth it," business senior

*"I camped out here since 10 p.m. We did not get good seats. It sucks."*

— Elicia Geller  
English senior

Donna Johnson said. "We'd do it all over again. We consumed beverages, played our guitar and sang songs."

Mateu was happy to have the first sellout in SGP-concert history. Comedian Eddie Murphy came close a few years ago and last February, country singer Randy Travis sold out the O'Connell Center, said Mike DeLorenzo, the center's associate director. But that concert wasn't SGP-sponsored.

Petty's 8 p.m. concert is scheduled for Jan. 27 at the O'Connell

Center. Rock singer Lenny Kravitz, whose current single "Let Love Rule" is playing on MTV, will open the show. Kravitz also is married to Lisa Bonet of "The Cosby Show."

SGP is sponsoring the concert which Mateu said he strongly negotiated for a lower student ticket price and persuaded TicketMaster to hold off ticket sales until Wednesday — instead of during the holiday break or the first day of classes.

"We did everything possible for the students," Mateu said.

But many students were unappreciative.

"I could jump out of this seat and kill myself," marketing junior Britt Rothman said, complaining about his seat. "I wouldn't have bought these tickets except my girlfriend really wants them."

Alligator Staff Writer Dan Evans contributed to this report.

**Owner of Dub's Steer Room dies**

James "Dub" Thomas, owner of the Gainesville nightclub that promoted the early careers of rock stars such as Tom Petty and Bob Seger, died Tuesday of an apparent heart attack. He was 58.

Thomas was owner of Dub's Steer Room, which has hosted live rock 'n' roll and weekly mini-skirt contests for most of the past 26 years. The bar also is known for starting the career of Gainesville band Mudcrutch — some of whose members later formed Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers.

"I've always enjoyed people and that's why I've been in the business as long as I have," Thomas told *The Alligator* in 1983. "I party with the kids and try to keep them pretty much in line."

Thomas also founded In-N-Out restaurants, owned The Feed Store and partially owned Lillian's Music Store.

— MARY SHEDDEN

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