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SIGNING SECRETS TRICKY LEASE POLICIES

— SEE NEWS, A2



STARTING A STREAK

Men's hoops gears up for A-Sun rally

— SEE SPORTS, B1

DEFENSE RESTS WOMEN BEAT TROY

— SEE SPORTS, B1

Student death raises questions

Family, friends think fraternity was involved

HEIDI A. DE VRIES
Managing Editor

The apparent suicide of a UCF fraternity pledge in November has prompted police to open two investigations surrounding his death.

John Yancy, 19, was found dead Nov. 19 in his Oviedo home, with a handgun at his side, by a roommate who called police. The Seminole County Sheriff's Office is still continuing its review of the circumstances surrounding Yancy's death, Sgt. Bob Martin said. "We're waiting for the medical examiner's report," he said. "It can take months to complete all the tests."

At the same time, the sheriff's office also is trying to run down leads stemming from a break-in at Yancy's home, which was strewn

with drug paraphernalia, soon after the departure of police who arrived to investigate the death. Police have identified one suspect in the break-in, also a UCF student, who is "nowhere to be found," sheriff's investigator Mark Fore said.

The twin investigations have been encouraged and are being watched closely by Yancy's family and friends, who suspect there is a larger story to be told in a tale that they say involves drug use and Yancy's involvement with Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

"He was afraid," said a close friend of Yancy's family and the mother of one of his friends, who asked that she not be identified. "He called his family and friends the night before [his death]."

She said Yancy had never done drugs before entering college. Based upon incidents described by Yancy prior to his death, she blamed Pi Kappa Alpha for distributing drugs to its members. However, it wasn't until after his death

PLEASE SEE **GREEK** ON A9

Murder in apartment shakes up residents

One dead, police patrols rise at Pegasus Landing

JORDAN CRUDO
Staff Writer

During the winter break, UCF experienced its first homicide.

A murder has never taken place on university-owned or affiliated property since UCF was established 41 years ago. That ended Dec. 20, when a man was shot to death at Pegasus Landing, one of three UCF-affiliated apartment complexes located on Alafaya Trail.

According to a police report, officers responded at about 7:30 p.m. to a 911 emergency call about shots fired at 4500 Silver Knight Way, Building 33. They found a body beside the sand volleyball court behind the Phase-3 clubhouse.

Police later confirmed the body as 27-year-old Tarvin S. Kennon, a Sanford resident.

"I was in the bathroom getting ready to go out when my friend came to me and said he thought he heard gunshots," said Kimmie, a resident of Pegasus Landing who asked that her last name not be used since the suspect has not been caught.

"I told him maybe they were firecrackers, and then he said he saw two black males running from a car parked right next to mine. I went to the balcony and there was a police car double-parked behind mine, and we told him what we thought was going on. He then told us to go back inside and lock the door," she said.

Pegasus Landing is home to about 2,500 UCF and other college students, three full-time UCF employees and 47 resident assistants. At least one RA is assigned to each building.

During the shooting incident, a majority of students were away for the holidays.

Kimmie said she didn't think anything dire had happened, because UCF Police regularly patrol the area.

"We did not think too much of it since there

PLEASE SEE **DEAD** ON A7

Hitt proposes a home for football

- Already constructed
- Proposed building
- A — Aquatic Center
- B — Convocation Center
- C — Jay Bergman Field
- D — Softball field
- E — Indoor practice facility
- F — Practice fields
- G — Parking garage
- H — Student housing
- I — Retail space
- J — Soccer field
- K — Parking
- L — Wayne Densch Center
- M — Amphitheater
- N — Track additions
- O — Arena

Stadium facts

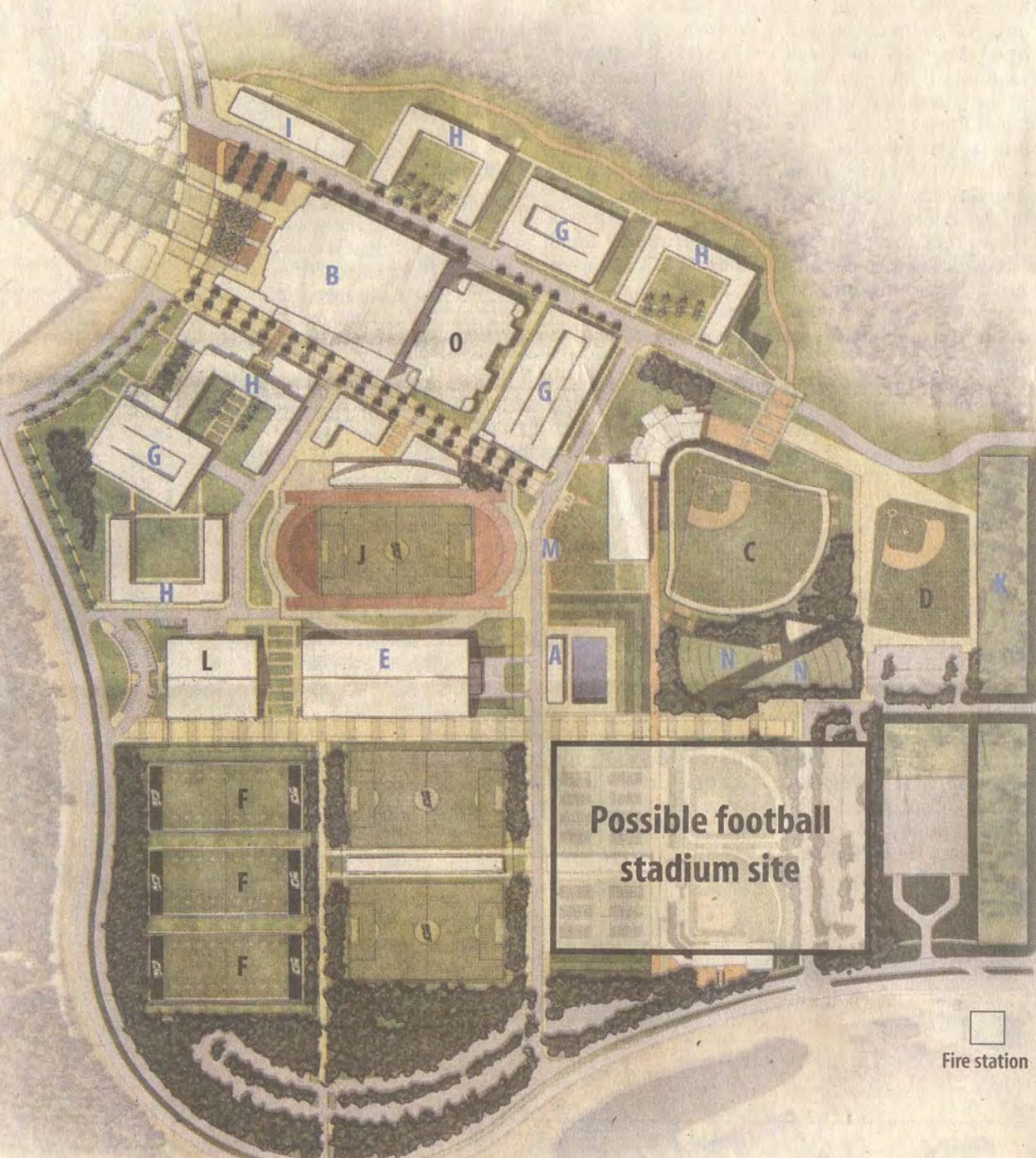
Location:
South of Seminole County line

Estimated cost:
\$35 million to \$40 million

Seating capacity:
45,000 to 50,000,
expandable to 65,000

Construction date:
Could be start of 2006 season

Funded by:
Concession and ticket sales,
private fundraising



Movin' on up from the Citrus Bowl

ASHLEY BURNS
Sports Editor

Since 1979, UCF's football team has called the downtown Florida Citrus Bowl home, forcing fans on campus to drive across town to watch their team play.

That may be about to change, with the announcement Tuesday by University President John Hitt and Athletic Director Steve Orsini that UCF is studying a plan to build a stadium on campus, just south of the Seminole County line.

The surprise news comes hot on the heels of the recent approval of the university's Master Plan. That blueprint, which some area residents claimed was too ambitious concerning growth when the latest version was approved in November, did not include the

projected \$35 million to \$40 million stadium.

"We were not in a position at that time where we would have realistically placed a football stadium on the Master Plan," Hitt said at a news conference. "We've got some new information on cost, and we think that's made it a project with good prospects."

He would not identify who had supplied those cost estimates, but conceded that with the new numbers, "We only began looking at the serious prospect of building a football stadium a couple months ago."

Two years ago, Hitt and Orsini looked into the cost of building a concrete bowl stadium on campus but encountered a hefty price tag of about \$107 million and pushed the idea to the back burner.

Their interest in building an

on-campus home for the football program was piqued again when they discovered the price for a powder-coated steel structure was less than half the price of the concrete stadium. The stadium capacity would be about 45,000 to 50,000 seats with an option to expand to 65,000 later. By comparison, the Citrus Bowl, located just west of Interstate 4 in downtown Orlando, holds 70,000 fans with temporary bleachers.

The construction costs would be covered by projected concession and ticket sales as well as private fundraising, Hitt said. No student fees or state dollars would be involved.

While the prospect of an on-campus stadium is enticing to the UCF community, Hitt admits there are quite a few obstacles to

PLEASE SEE **STUDENT** ON A6

Stadium idea scores points with students

SHANNON BENNETT
Contributing Writer

Freshman Amanda Thomas remembers trying to get to her first UCF football game last fall.

"It was insane," the Libra dorm resident recalls of the trip to the downtown Citrus Bowl 20 miles from campus. "We carpooled, still got lost, and drove around in circles until we finally found a stranger nice enough to let us follow him to the game."

In the years to come, students may not have to follow in her footsteps when attending their first game.

Last week, UCF President John Hitt announced the tentative plans to

PLEASE SEE **FANS** ON A6

Radio guru saves the day during tragic Asian tsunami

KATE HOWELL
Senior Staff Writer

It was 6:30 a.m. on Dec. 26 when Charles Harpole was literally shaken out of his hotel bed by the 9.0 earthquake that devastated southeast Asia. The quake lasted for several minutes, bending metal, collapsing buildings and sparking a tsunami that washed away thousands of lives.

Despite the horrific danger, the vacationing UCF film professor and all members of his party were alive and uninjured. The mountainous location of their hotel had protected them from the tsunami, but other areas weren't so fortunate. Upon seeing the enormity of the disaster, Harpole and his fellow traveling amateur radio enthusiasts quickly got to work.

The group set up its radio equipment and began relaying messages. The first few mes-

PLEASE SEE **FILM** ON A8



COURTESY CHARLES HARPOLE

UCF film professor Charles Harpole was on vacation in Asia when the tsunami hit. He relayed messages on his radio to victims' families.

Around Campus

News and notices for the UCF community

Tsunami relief

SANGAM, UCF's Indian Student Association, is holding a fundraising event to benefit victims of the recent tsunamis.

Donations will be collected from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. today and tomorrow at a table outside the Student Union.

Money can also be placed in collection boxes located in the library, bookstore and many departmental offices.

WebCT to the rescue

Course Development and Web Services is hosting a WebCT lab where students will have a chance to work on their account with an instructional designer available to assist them.

The lab will be held from 10 a.m. until noon tomorrow and from 1:30 p.m. until 3 p.m. Thursday in room 157 of the library. Students can register at <http://reach.ucf.edu/~webct411>.

For more information contact Linda Futch at 407-823-3718.

Meet and mingle

The Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning is holding an informal faculty social from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. tomorrow in Classroom Building 1 room 207. Refreshments will be served. For more information call Tace Crouse at 407-823-3544.

Cutting down waste

Recycle UCF will be holding its first 2005 meeting at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Student Union room 250. All students are welcome. Information will be given on UCF's recycling program. For more information e-mail Annie Howe at annieland10@hotmail.com.

SGA hits the airwaves

The first SGA Senate meeting of the semester will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Student Union. The meeting will broadcast live on Knightcast on its remote port. For more information e-mail Knightcast Director Nicholas Markovich at sga_wknt@mail.ucf.edu.

Take me to your leader

With Leadership week rapidly approaching, UCF faculty, staff and students have the chance to nominate individuals for their contributions and leadership. Nominations can be found at <http://www.slp.sdes.ucf.edu/leadershipweek.asp>.

All nominations must be submitted at the location found on the form by 5 p.m. Friday. For more information contact Gary Morgan, LEAD Scholars Director, at 407-823-3940 or gmorgan@mail.ucf.edu.

UCF gets a life!

StudentsReview, a student-run national survey group, ranked UCF as the 20th school in the nation for having the best social life, and 30th for most beautiful campus. Information about other school rankings could be accessed through www.StudentsReview.com.

Let us know

The *Future* wants to hear from you! If you have a club, organization or event and want your information to be considered for the Around Campus column, send a fax to 407-447-4556 or an e-mail to editor@ucfnews.com. Deadlines are 5 p.m. Tuesday for the Thursday edition, and 5 p.m. Friday for the Monday edition.

A BINDING CONTRACT

Rent deferment is not applicable to new renters, and other truths of leases

NASEEM SOWTI
Senior Staff Writer

If nothing else, UCF junior Indiana de la Cruz knows she might have gotten herself a nice future-mother-in-law. De la Cruz had to ask her boyfriend's mother for money to pay January's rent for her Pegasus Landing apartment; a rent that de la Cruz thought — mistakenly — she could have deferred until her financial aid kicked in later in January.

It all started with a phone call that led to substantial miscommunication.

"[Pegasus Landing] told me in December that they can defer my rent if they knew that financial aid was coming in," de la Cruz said. "I went there on the third [of January] and showed them the [financial aid verification] form."

But what she got in response was a big, firm 'no.' Her request for deferment was denied.

"They told me that they can use the form on any month other than January," she said. "This is not what they told me back in December."

De la Cruz tried speaking with management to no avail, and her phone calls were not returned. "They just kept saying 'that's the policy!'"

There was little else she could have done to circumvent the situation.

Little did she know that she was fighting against an actual policy, which was neatly tucked between the paragraphs of a leasing contract she had signed three semesters ago.

Jason Stimson, an accountant at Pegasus Landing, confirmed the deferment policy.

"We don't defer the rent

for the months of January and August," Stimson said. "It is a part of our accounting policy and we hand it out to the residents when they are signing their lease."

Pegasus Pointe, another UCF-affiliated housing community, has similar rules and guidelines, which can be obtained in print at the leasing office.

Leasing contracts are marred by legal jargon, which can present a problem for students leasing an apartment for the first time.

As a result, not many students read their contracts thoroughly prior to signing them. This move can lead to unpleasant situations like de la Cruz's.

"Contracts are important and binding," said Jimmy Watson, director of Off-Campus Student Housing. "We tell all the students that if they don't understand any part of their lease, do not sign it."

For students who feel overwhelmed by the contracts, help is available at UCF Student Legal Services.

Students can seek free legal advice from civil attorneys and can also be represented in court without a charge.

While financial aid recipients have to pay out-of-pocket for the first month's rent of each semester at the UCF-affiliated housings, accountants at both Pegasus Landing and Pegasus Pointe said they are working closely with representatives from UCF's financial aid to broker a deal that would allow them to accept the deferment forms.

If a deal were reached, students living in on-campus residential communities may defer their housing payments if they know they will receive enough financial aid to cover the cost.

Resources that can help with leasing problems:

- Student Legal Services, www.stulegal.sdes.ucf.edu, (407) 823-2538
- Housing and Residence Life, <http://www.housing.ucf.edu>, (407) 823-4663
- Off-campus Student Resource Center, <http://www.housing.ucf.edu/osrc/home2.html>, (407) 823-6505
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, <http://doacs.state.fl.us>, (850) 488-3022
- Better Business Bureau of Central Florida, <http://www.orlando.bbb.org>, (407) 621-3300

Things to remember before signing a leasing contract:

- Look for blank spaces;
- Obtain information on extra charges;
- Put any modifications to the lease in writing;
- Never rent without seeing the apartment;
- Find out what the policies are on parking, parties, visitors, etc;
- Find out what the rent covers;
- Find out the procedures of terminating a lease;
- Find out about security guards and their hours of duty;
- Keep a copy of your lease;
- Talk to the residents of the complex;
- Never sign a lease if you feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

SOURCE: JIMMY WATSON,
DIRECTOR OF OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT SERVICES

Nation & World

Keep current with headlines you may have missed

Former coach faces new hearing after tampering with evidence

AMARILLO, Texas — A former Panhandle high school teacher who received a prison sentence after admitting he fondled a 16-year-old female student faces a second probation-revocation hearing later this month.

David Brown's 10-year probation in Randall County was revoked late last month. He pleaded guilty in November 2003 to charges of indecency with a child.

Brown, 46, was scheduled to appear in court later this month regarding evidence on Potter County motions to revoke Brown's probation on an evidence-tampering charge.

Brown also pleaded guilty in January 2004 to a witness-tampering charge in Potter County. He was sentenced to five years probation and a \$1,000 fine.

More than a dozen arrested in BayWalk brawl

ST. PETERSBURG — Dozens of people got into a brawl at the BayWalk entertainment complex, drawing about 60 police officers to the scene. Fourteen people were arrested, but no one was seriously injured.

The fighting began Friday night with a group of teens near the Muvico theater, and grew to dozens of people pushing and throwing punches in the center of the courtyard.

Police quickly broke up the fight and cleared teens from the courtyard about 11 p.m. under the complex's curfew. But sporadic fights continued on nearby streets until after midnight, police said.

Police arrested seven adults and seven juveniles on charges ranging from battery on a law enforcement officer to disorderly conduct.

Smokers in Italy take last puffs before new fines are enforced

ROME — Smokers in Italy took their last puffs in smoky bars and trattorias Sunday, hours before the start of one of Europe's toughest laws against smoking in public places.

The outdoors, private homes, and restaurants and bars with ventilated smoking rooms are the only places spared from the anti-smoking law.

Smokers will face fines from \$36 to \$363 if caught lighting up where they should not — including offices. Owners of premises who turn an eye to smoking face fines as high as \$2,904.

In a country where restaurant diners rarely ask if drifting smoke is bothersome to others and doctors and visitors puff away in hospital corridors, about 26 percent of people smoke.

Intruder shocked with stun-gun in struggle with deputies, dies

PENSACOLA — A man who burst uninvited into a home Saturday morning died after fighting with frightened

PLEASE SEE NATION ON A4

Central Florida Future

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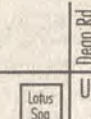
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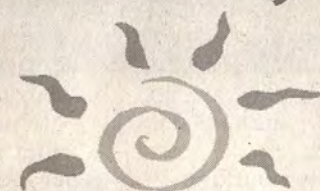
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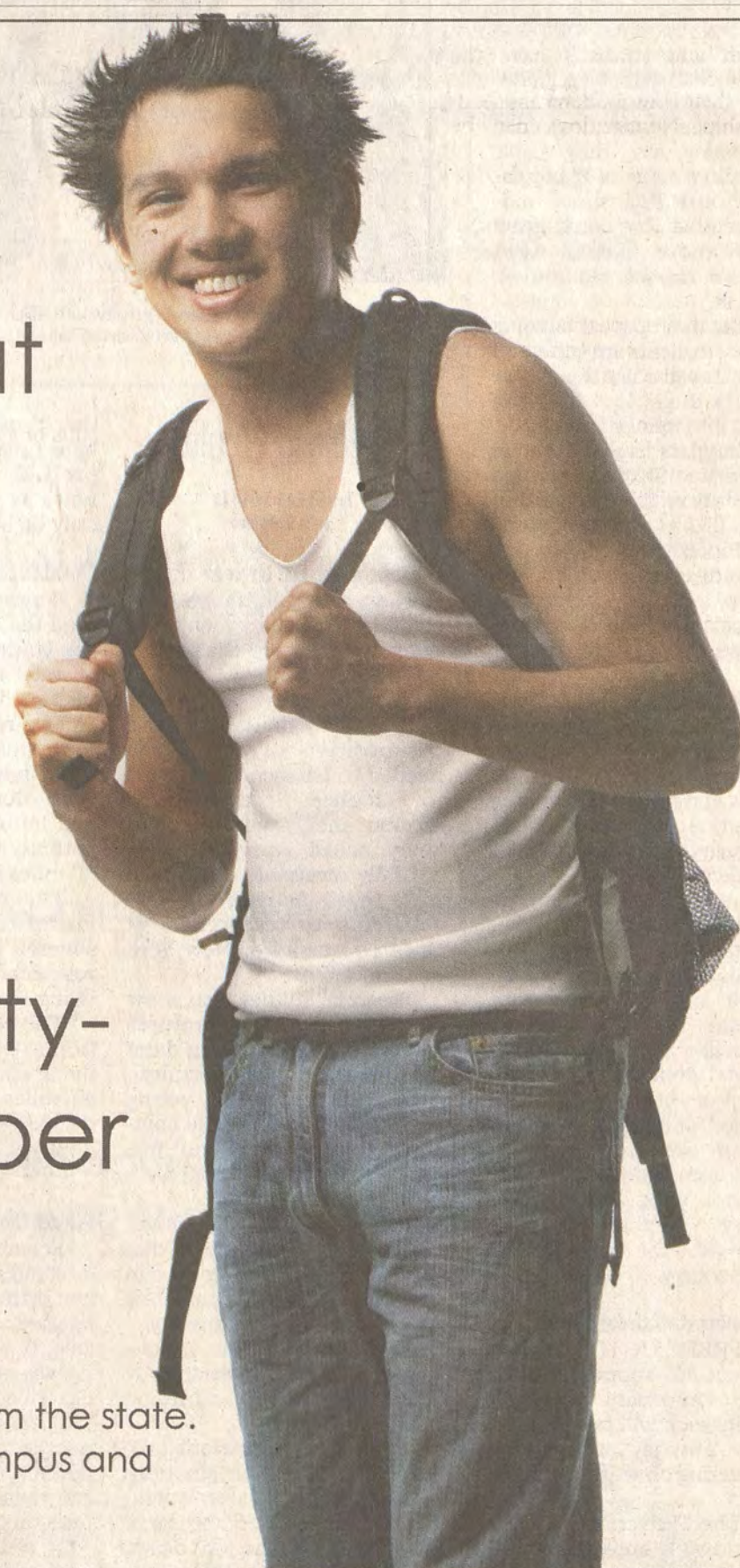
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Higher Education

What's in the news at colleges around the country

University founder sentenced

SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands — A federal judge has sentenced the founder of Saipan University to nine years and one month in prison for cheating 88 Chinese students out of more than \$567,000.

Soon Kyung Park ran a scheme in 2003 to lure the students to attend the university by falsely representing the quality of its education and the nature of its facilities, Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick Smith said this past week.

U.S. District Judge Alex R. Munson ordered Park deported to South Korea after he serves his prison sentence.

Alert studies after murders

GREENVILLE, N.C. — Inside a small brick house on the edge of the East Carolina University campus, Barry DuVall and his staff are driven by tragedy.

Last year, two University of North Carolina-Wilmington students were murdered. Now, DuVall and the staff at the Center for Wireless and Mobile Computing spend their days building portable safety alert systems on trash cans, mounting wired poles in the yard and testing cell phones with panic buttons.

They are working to make personal alert devices work on North Carolina's college campuses.

Christen Marie Naujoks, 22, and Jessica Lee Faulkner, 19, were the UNCW students who died a month apart last spring.

DuVall dreams of putting a device in the hands of students and faculty that will make them feel safe on and off campus.

Holiday break yields break-ins

NORMAL, Ill. — Off-campus student apartments left empty during universities' end-of-the-semester holiday have been targeted in break-ins across the state and at Illinois State University, the rash of thefts tops the last three year-end breaks combined, authorities said.

Police say they can't explain a surge of 17 burglaries near ISU since mid-December that could grow with more than a week before classes resume on Jan. 18.

But they suspect burglars know students are gone, and at least some use the opportunity to get loot they can turn into money for drugs.

Burglars hauled away an estimated \$10,000 in stolen goods from the apartment of two ISU graduate students in Bloomington, including furniture, electronics and even couch slip covers, knickknacks and meat from a freezer.

New numbers for IDs

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — In an attempt to fight identity theft, Penn State University is ending a long-standing practice of using Social Security numbers to identify students.

A new nine-digit number went into effect Monday. Penn State was advising students and employees to keep their old ID cards with Social Security numbers until they were sure the new cards would work for all purposes at the highly automated university. The university has been working on the conversion for more than a year, according to Gary Augustson, vice provost for information technology.

Support staff strikes a vote

FREDERICTON — About 365 support staff at the University of New Brunswick will take a strike vote Monday in a dispute centering on wages and benefits.

The University of New Brunswick Employees Association has been in talks with the administration since last year.

The union represents employees in two bargaining units on the university's Fredericton campus.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nation & World

FROM A2

residents and Escambia County sheriff's deputies who shocked him twice with a Taser stun gun.

The intruder smashed a garage window of the Pensacola home at 8:55 a.m. It was unclear why he broke in.

Neighbors said he was yelling during the confrontation at Kristy and Kent Bodily's home. Neighbors also said a child in the home called the sheriff's office and ran out seeking help.

When deputies arrived, the suspect was fighting with family members. Deputies tried to handcuff the man but he resisted, so they fired a Taser twice to stop him.

"The confrontation spilled out into the front yard, where the suspect collapsed and died during the struggle," police said.

Abbas elected in Palestine, peace talks with Israel expected

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Mahmoud Abbas was elected Palestinian Authority president by a wide margin Sunday, exit polls showed, giving him a decisive mandate to renew peace talks with Israel, rein in militants and try to end more than four years of Mideast bloodshed.

The victory of the staid and pragmatic Abbas, who has spoken out against violence and has the backing of the international community, was expected to usher in a new era, after four decades of chaotic and corruption-riddled rule by Yasser Arafat who died Nov. 11.

Abbas, popularly known as Abu Mazen, has promised to reform the Palestinian Authority, overhaul the unwieldy Palestinian security services and quickly resume negotiations with Israel, stalled for four years.

President Bush, who has said a resumption of peace talks

must be accompanied by sweeping Palestinian reforms, called Abbas' election "a historic day for the Palestinian people."

'Three die in canal after SUV submerged; only one escapes

MELBOURNE — Three people died after they were pulled from a submerged, overturned sport utility vehicle in a remote canal in central Florida.

Florida Highway Patrol Sgt. Chuck Griffith said the Friday night crash killed the driver, Jeremy Charles, 21, of Melbourne; Autumn Noel Gomme, 15, of Palm Bay; and Michael Reinertsen, 16, of Melbourne.

Another passenger, Kathleen Ramsey, 17, of Melbourne, escaped just before the SUV sank into the 6-foot-deep canal and began filling with water and mud. The Jeep Grand Cherokee came to rest with just a portion of its rear tires visible above the water line.

Rescuers didn't know how long the vehicle had been submerged, but they said the combination of murky water and mud made it difficult to find the victims.

Jackson lawyers ignore past sex crime allegations

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — Lawyers for Michael Jackson urged a judge to deny a prosecution request to present evidence of alleged past sexual offenses during the pop singer's upcoming child molestation trial.

In a motion released last month, prosecutors argued the evidence should be admitted under a 1995 California law that lets relevant previous acts, whether prosecuted or not, be considered in sex crime cases.

Jackson, 46, has pleaded not guilty to charges of molestation, conspiracy and giving alcohol to his alleged victim at his Neverland Ranch in Santa Barbara County.

Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville issued a gag order that bars both sides from speaking about the case publicly. He also sealed virtually all documents, including some 14,000 pages of evidence filed by prosecutors.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A sticker reading "no smoking" is seen in a restaurant in Milan, Italy, Saturday. A new law goes into force today, and requires owners of restaurants and bars to report those who light up.

Week in Health

NASEEM SOWTI
Senior Staff Writer

Laptops, men and their testicles

New research shows that using laptops heats men's testicles to a degree that could result in infertility.

A combination of the heat generated by the laptops and the position of the thighs needed to balance them leads to higher temperatures around men's genitals and "may cause irreversible or partially reversible changes in male reproductive function," according to researchers at State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Previous studies also show that higher temperatures around the genitalia can damage sperm and affect fertility.

Scientists advised young men to limit placing the computers on their laps until further research is conducted.

Watch news with favorite music

A new study suggests that watching the daily news can trigger depression, confusion, irritation, anger and anxiety.

These undesirable effects, however, can be alleviated by relaxation therapy and mood music afterwards.

Researchers questioned 170 students about their emotional state before and after watching a 15-minute news segment that included stories of death, strikes and a rise in taxes.

Following the news, one group of students underwent a relaxation exercise and the other group received a lecture on research methodology.

Only the relaxation group displayed improvement in their mood. Scientists added

that those who are having a hard time in their life "should probably avoid watching the news as those emotions will only be heightened."

Florida's deepest U.S. coral reef

Researchers have discovered the deepest coral reef in the United States, in 250 feet of water in the Gulf of Mexico, off Florida.

The reef, which according to the marine researchers is a "flat, living sea floor covered with blue and brown corals and lettuce-like green algae," is three miles wide and about 20 miles long.

The reef was tentatively identified in 1999, but it took several more years for researchers to confirm it as a living reef.

The new finding is an addition to North America's only living coral reef that lies about six miles seaward of the Florida Keys, with an average depth of 15 to 30 feet.

Stocky Monkey; newest primate

Scientists in India have discovered a new species of monkey in the Himalayas. The new species, named *Macaca munzala*, is a stocky, short-tailed, brown-haired creature and is described as "extremely shy."

Although new to science, people in the area are quite familiar with the monkeys and call them "mun zala" or deep forest monkeys.

It is unknown whether the new species is threatened or how many of it exists, but its discovery bears witness to the fact that there are still "tiny pockets of habitat that have yet to be discovered," scientists said. The last monkey species was discovered back in 1903.



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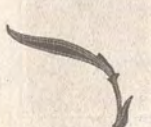
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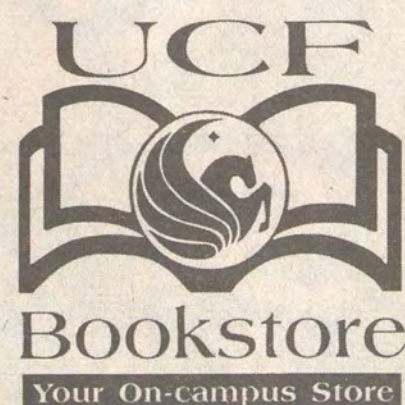
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Student funds will not be used

FROM A1

overcome.

"We'll know more in a matter of a few weeks," Hitt said. "I'd say it's at least 50-50 at this point, but we've got a lot of hurdles to cross."

One obstacle to the plan is community reaction. There have been outcries in the past about UCF's expansion, and a stadium creating potentially more traffic headaches likely will bring a number of people knocking at Hitt's door.

"Some would be delighted and some would not," Hitt said of the surrounding communities. "There are some, quite frankly, who don't want us to do anything. They would probably be happiest if we agreed to close the university — perhaps if we agreed to die in the bargain. And we get a lot of inquiries on why we haven't already built a stadium on campus."

Oviedo Mayor Tom Walters was optimistic about the idea. "By and large it would impact us in a positive way," he said. Hospitality businesses especially would benefit because the fans would have to stay and eat somewhere, he said, and why not in the town next door?

"Let's keep it in perspective. The impact would be seen about six times a year, with an influx of fans. But I don't see that as damaging to the environment and the traffic. But we, as a community, would benefit the other 46 weeks of the year," Walters said.

Hitt did not disclose how the school's Board of Trustees felt about the stadium concept. Approval from both the university's Board of Regents and the UCF Athletic Association is necessary for the project to move forward.

Hitt discounted initial reports that the stadium could be ready as early as the start of the 2006 season, saying he doubts there will be enough time to take care of the intricate details.

"We'd have to reach a very timely decision with our board," he said. "We'd have to get the St. Johns River authority people all on board with everything we'd have to do in regards to the environment. There are a lot of things that would have to get done. I don't want to say that couldn't happen, but it's a dream more than an expectation."

Many also wonder why \$45 million should be spent now on a football program that has a 3-20 record over the past two seasons, including this past year's run as the only winless team in college football. Hitt and Orsini admit a losing team isn't very attractive. However, they remain steadfast that a stadium is the final component of their plan to save the sinking ship that they attempted to salvage with the hiring, prior to last season, of Coach George O'Leary, who previously led Georgia Tech to a national championship. Attendance at last season's home football games averaged about 20,000.

In the past, ecological concerns anchored the debate on campus expansion. But the projected stadium site would not involve any environmentally sensitive land. The likely location is already preserved in the Master Plan for recreational use — and, until recently, was slated for a proposed softball complex for which the ground was already being prepared.

UCF's surrounding neigh-

Fans: More students would attend games

FROM A1

erect a 45,000-seat campus football stadium to be ready for use as early as the 2006 football season.

While it may come as no surprise that UCF is considering the undertaking of yet another massive construction effort, students may wonder what exactly it is they are to gain by plucking the football team from downtown and presenting them with a more convenient, albeit smaller home base.

UCF officials claim that an on-campus football stadium will draw larger amounts of student spectators who live within walking distance. And while Thomas attended most of the games last fall, she admits that she would welcome any move that would simplify the process of "getting there."

Between tolls, parking passes and fighting traffic, it's hard to find a UCF football-goer without a complaint. Leaving from UCF, the amount in tolls that it takes to get to the Citrus Bowl add up to a round trip of \$240. Add on a parking pass that can set you back up to \$10, and it turns out that, though students are not asked to pay for tickets, attending football games is anything but free.

Business major Manika Chuon, 18, confessed, "I wanted to go to every home game, but I hate paying tolls and paying for parking, so I only ended up going to two."

Another plus is that a smaller campus stadium will make for fewer empty seats. The Citrus Bowl has 70,000, and the proposed UCF stadium would have only 45,000.

"For the first home game, it was announced over the loudspeaker that there was a record number in the audience due to the new coach, but it only looked about half full, and it [attendance] didn't improve as the season progressed," said 19-year-old UCF majorette Katelyn Lamb, who had a field view

of the audience during the band's halftime performance during every home game.

A transfer student from FSU, Lamb said that the on-campus stadium there created a festive atmosphere on game day that is unparalleled here because "everyone leaves."

Oftentimes, the Citrus Bowl stands were empty because the fans stayed outside in the parking lots to party. "Some people come to the games just to drink," said Jonathan Hamilton, a 21-year-old SGA senator. From what he's seen from the Master Plan, when all is said and done, he says there won't be much room for former Citrus Bowl tailgaters in the vicinity of an on-campus stadium.

"People are going to bring their own alcohol," said 20-year-old D.D. Rothman, an elementary education major. "Especially if there's a chance they can't buy it in the stadium, and they're going to get crazy inside if there's nowhere to do it outside."

Nevertheless, not everyone is looking at this possible change negatively. Lake Claire resident Joy Johnson, 19, thinks that games with a sober audience would produce "a much more wholesome experience" for the college crowd.

Still, Rothman said, "If there's a stadium on campus, there has to be a place to tailgate."

Aratili Maye, a 27-year-old graduate student, admitted that, though she's never been to a game here or elsewhere, if the stadium were on campus, she would make the trip and see what all the fuss is about.

"It will bring attention to the university and exposure," incoming graduate student Letitia Browne, 23, agreed. "Fans will be more likely to see campus along with the team, and maybe that would inspire them to consider attending UCF."

Indeed, said freshman, Chuon, "It's a shame we didn't have one before."

borhoods might not be taking the biggest hit. The most concerned party in this early feasibility study may be Florida Citrus Sports, UCF's landlord at the Citrus Bowl.

Currently, the Knights play five home games per year at the aging downtown stadium. Their immediate future at the Citrus Bowl has been threatened by talk of impending renovations that could briefly displace the team.

Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and the Florida Citrus Sports executive committee have been negotiating upgrades for the home of the Capital One Bowl that would be in the range of \$30 million to \$60 million. None of the parties involved have suggested a specific amount of involvement for UCF, and Hitt said UCF never expected to make a large financial contribution to the renovations.

Hitt said the university maintains a strong relationship

with both the city and Florida Citrus Sports and that UCF hasn't dismissed the possibility of remaining at the Citrus Bowl. "I told the mayor that it's still not a foregone conclusion that we won't be there," he said. "We haven't decided to build a stadium on campus yet."

"I don't think there's anything wrong with the Citrus Bowl. It's a fine stadium now, and the proposal they have would make it a great stadium. But it's not on our campus and if you look at collegiate football, the great majority of teams play on their campus."

Hitt maintains that time is needed to examine every possible angle regarding the potential stadium. But his determination is evident in his statement that the project would finally give UCF athletics the strong sense of community that it has lacked.

"We could produce a very fine collegiate football experience," Hitt said.



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Dead man did not live at the complex, was not a student

FROM A1

was only one patrol car. Then we went out around 8:15 p.m. and they were roping off the crime scene, which included our building," she said. "I went down to get my car on the south side of the building and the officer wouldn't let me, and then I was not allowed back up to where my friends were, so I walked around to go up the other set of stairs and that's when I saw the dead body. It looked just like it does in the movies. His face was down and his leg was folded back like he was running away, and there were a bunch of cops crowded around him. That's when a police officer escorted me back up and told us what was going on."

She added, "They told us that they would tow the car that the suspects left behind shortly after the detectives were done with us so that we

can leave, but they didn't end up towing it till about 4 a.m. and they didn't clean the body up until midnight."

Pegasus Landing was formerly known as Knights Crossing until College Park and UCF purchased it in 2001. Many residents agree the complex is safer now than before, but the murder concerns them.

"I was home for the holidays when my roommates told me about the shooting," engineering major Kaare Kurtzke, 19, said. "It kind of freaked me out. I was shocked. I did feel a whole lot better when I found out the guy wasn't a student or resident. That was a huge relief, but it was still weird coming back here."

Kimmie said she is still rattled even though the shooting took place weeks ago.

"It's a little bit scary at night," Kimmie said. "It will take a while to get over it. I haven't gone near where the

body was because it's hard. I can still picture the body there. I try not to go to my car by myself."

Since the incident, police have stepped up patrols in the area.

Some residents like James Gasch, 19, said increasing the presence of law enforcement will not make him feel safer.

"No matter how much extra patrol Pegasus Landing receives, it still won't feel safe anymore," the business major said. "I don't know what more I can do, besides lock our paper-thin doors. When someone is murdered outside your building, it's hard to feel protected. Our security alarms are an extra fee, too, which isn't fair."

Officials at Pegasus Landing did not return calls for comments.

Crimeline is offering a \$5,000 reward for any information leading to an arrest.

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Members of the Amateur Radio Club, including Jared Davies, attended a swap meet on Saturday. They use their hobby for fun, but are also valuable during natural disasters.

Film prof worked with Thailand to relay messages

FROM A1

sages were to those on the mainland, assuaging the concerns of various family members. "We had two-way radio operators on over a dozen Andaman and Nicobar islands," Harpole said. "They passed on messages calling for doctors and telling folks at home their visitors were okay."

The Indian government also got involved, using the improvised system to relay official requests for water, blankets and other sundry supplies.

With nearly all the telephone lines down and cell phones with little or no reception, a dearth of ham operators were the sole connection between the Indian mainland and the island. The group continued with their operations but suspended their activity when the Indian government assumed control of communications.

The ham operators disbanded and several of them headed south to Nicobar.

Harpole, acutely aware of his foreign status, returned to Thailand for a happy reunion with his wife and her family. "I was concerned, that this being an Indian operation, I should step aside," he said.

In the days after the quake, Harpole continued to radio around Thailand, India and Sri Lanka as part of a team of operators filling the chasm in the region's communication infrastructure. Though still stunned by the ruin, Harpole nevertheless feels the recovery effort is "doing rather OK considering the mass of destruction."

He met with Aegis of the National Institute of Amateur Radio in India, which is a ham radio club, on the Andaman and Nicobar Island chain. According to Michael Potaczala, the staff advisor for the UCF Amateur Radio Club, the 572 islands that make up the chain in the Bay of Bengal between India and Thailand were off limits to amateur radio operators because of the presence of Indian military bases and aboriginal peoples.

The restrictions were lifted and Harpole and the club went on a DX Expedition, where operators go to a remote location and try to talk to other amateur radio operators. The group worked to set up the first ham radio lounge on the islands, basing its venture in the idyllic coastal town of Port Blair.

Amateur or ham radio enthusiasts, along with Potaczala, are unsure where the term "ham" originated. "It's an urban legend thing," he said. "One theory is that the first amateur radio club was at Harvard and that's the initials of the founders."

Radio hobbyist come in varying degrees of enthusiasm, some only want to communicate with people across the globe while others want to build antennas and increase range. "Amateur radio is experimentation," Potaczala said.

Ham radios have proved useful during disasters. Last summer, members of the UCF amateur radio club manned Orange and Seminole County shelters during hurricanes Charley, Frances

and Jeanne. During Hurricane Charley, the Red Cross' cell phone fiasco prompted the use of amateur radio as the main medium of communication between the Red Cross shelters and the Central Florida Red Cross Disaster Operations Center.

During the Liberian Civil War in 1996, Harpole was able to make contact with one of the missionaries who was confined in a compound surrounded by heavy fighting. He relayed information at the request of the State Department and the United Nations.

UCF Indian club raises money for tsunami relief

KATE HOWELL
Senior Staff Writer

SANGAM, UCF's Indian Student Association, has undertaken a massive fundraising effort to raise money for the victims of December's tsunami.

"My parents were driving along the Indian coast when the tragedy occurred. What my parents described of the destruction and what I saw on television affected me deeply," Abhishek Karnik, the president of SANGAM said.

"I am sure that everyone felt the same way and wanted to help the victims in any way they could."

In that spirit, the organization is working with other Multicultural Student Center groups, Volunteer UCF, SGA and the International Student Center to raise \$44,000; \$1 for every student attending UCF.

SANGAM will have a booth from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. today and tomorrow in front of the Student Union to collect for its "just one dollar" campaign.

All money collected will be directed to UNICEF and Direct Relief International. "Both these organizations are well-known international relief organizations," Karnik said, adding that Direct Relief International has the lowest overhead at less than 1 percent.

This is important to Karnik

and all of SANGAM, who were appalled to find that many organizations spend excessively on bureaucracy and only pay out 30 to 40 percent of every dollar collected to aid and relief. "It is worth spending 5 or 10 minutes of your time researching an organization's Web site before you decide which one to donate to," Karnik said.

He added that monetary donations are what the relief organizations need right now. "Sending clothes and food cause logistical difficulties. Most organizations are not accepting donations of that kind," he said.

With the death toll passing for 150,000, the last thing the people of Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India need now is a medical epidemic. In hopes of preventing one, relief organizations like UNICEF and Direct Aid International are working to provide clean water and food. Shelter and the restoration of power is also a primary goal.

If the response is positive, the group will extend the drive throughout the week. There will also be collection boxes in many departmental offices, the bookstore and the Library.

The United States has pledged \$350 million for the relief efforts in Asia, and has promised more as the death toll rises.

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Greek director: No evidence of drugs in death

FROM A1

that she became suspicious of the circumstances surrounding the last few months of Yancy's life.

"In the beginning, when I got the phone call about John, I was like 'Oh my God,'" she said. "No one here was in denial. We know that kids sometimes do things. But once the break-in happened, and once things just started being discovered, we knew it wasn't what it seemed."

On Nov. 14, five days before his death, Yancy was arrested for possession of cocaine and Xanax. According to the Orange County Sheriff's Office report, Yancy said the drugs were for his own use. He referred to the Xanax as a "xanny bar." In Yancy's wallet after his death, investigators found a Post-It note that read, "8 — Bars \$30," suggesting a sale or purchase.

On the day Yancy died, police found items in his bedroom that included several prescription medications, \$230 in cash, five cell phones, many bags containing a white powder and residue, a measuring scale and several bongs, marijuana plants and syringes. They

also found a safe and a combination to that safe. The combination was addressed to a UCF student. Inside the safe were more bags containing a white, powdery substance.

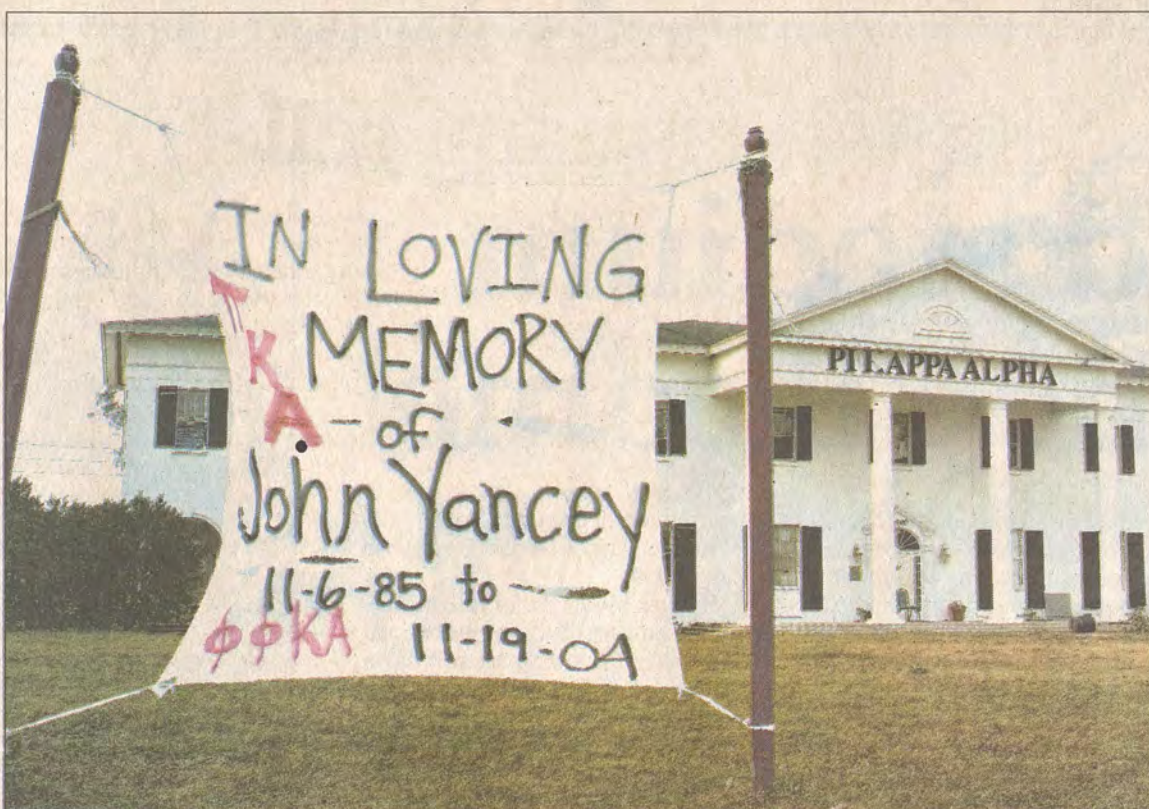
Seven Seminole County Sheriff's agents spent about eight hours in Yancy's house, according to their report. The break-in occurred within 30 minutes of their departure. Police would not say what, if anything, was taken.

Last week, investigator Fore blamed distractions for slowing the investigation and hampering the search for the lone suspect so far. "We've just been so busy, I've been planning on calling UCF to see if they know where he is," he said.

Yancy's family and friends want the investigation to take a hard look at the actions of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity members.

"He had told us about them beating him up," the family friend said. "At the funeral, members of Pi Kappa Alpha told very disgusting stories."

One of the restrained stories involved Yancy being high one night, and members of the fraternity shaving his sideburns off. A more disturbing story involved fraternity members



Days after the incident, Pi Kappa Alpha, the fraternity where Yancy was a pledge, put up a sign mourning his death. The sign incorrectly spelled Yancy's last name. Family friends have raised suspicions that fraternity members may have given Yancy drugs and intimidated him in his last days.

tying up pledges and women visitors, and forcing them to take drugs until they passed out, she said.

Greg Mason, UCF's Director of Greek Affairs, said in

response, "A lot of the stuff is rumors and we don't have any firsthand knowledge of drugs being part of [Yancy's] death."

Telephone calls placed by the *Future* to the president of

the campus fraternity chapter were not returned. Attempts by the newspaper to contact and interview officials of the fraternity's national office in Tennessee also were unsuccessful.

Still, another friend of Yancy's, Brett Hartwell, wrote a letter to the newspaper that said, "I will always remember the distasteful Pikes who showed up [at the funeral] ... may you live with your actions forever." In the same letter, Hartwell confirmed that Yancy told him members of Pi Kappa Alpha had threatened him.

"There are people's lives threatened and I am in fear for many lives," Suzanne Yancy Sardinha, Yancy's mother, wrote in another e-mail in response to questions from the *Future*. "I will get justice and all parties responsible for John's death and any whitewashing of it will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

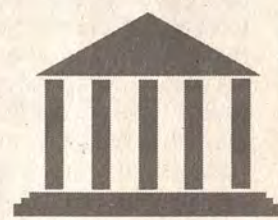
The family friend said Yancy's mother had tried to talk to UCF President John Hitt and other members of the administration about her concerns with the fraternity, but that she didn't get the answers she was looking for. "They just kind of blew her off. The president didn't even acknowledge [John's death]," she said.

In a phone interview, Yancy's father, Fred Sardinha, said, "We would love to tell you all we know, but we have been asked to wait."

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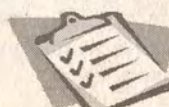
Look at your lease carefully. Most state that you must inspect the unit at the time of move-in. If there is a deadline for giving a list of problems back to the landlord, make sure you get it back to the landlord by the deadline, and keep a copy for yourself.

✓ TAKE PICTURES!



To further protect yourself from being charged for damages existing when you move in, take photos of all common areas, your room, and bathroom. Photograph any current problems with the condition of the flooring, carpeting, furniture, and the lawn/landscape (if you are responsible for lawn upkeep). Take more pictures when you move out. Print the photos with dates!

✓ INSPECT EVERYTHING!



The landlord may provide you with a move-in inspection sheet. If not, make your own list, stating existing problems within each room of the unit. Be very specific - note everything major and minor, such as carpet stains or tears, condition of mattress, furniture, walls, blinds, countertops, EVERYTHING!

✓ MAKE A COPY!



Be sure to make a copy of the completed inspection sheet BEFORE giving it back to the landlord. Keep it in a safe place during the duration of your lease.

✓ INCREASE YOUR CHANCES!



By taking these steps, you should not be charged for pre-existing damage when you move out. And you will be able to prove which damages were there at the time you moved in, if the damages claimed against your deposit are disputed.

www.stulegal.sdes.ucf.edu

For more info, or if you have problems, call 407-823-2538 to set up an appointment, or visit the Student Resource Center, room 155 Monday - Friday 8am-5pm. We assist with selected areas of law, including landlord/tenant, consumer, criminal, traffic & more. Eligible students can receive free consultaion & representation. Funded by Activity & Service Fee through the Student Government Association



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OUR STANCE

Build stadium and they'll come

An on-campus football stadium is the newest plan for the fastest-growing campus in Florida. It is also, perhaps, the most welcome idea to ever be proposed by President John Hitt.

Hitt and Athletic Director Steve Orsini announced their plans to study the feasibility of an on-campus stadium that could be usable for Fall 2006 and wouldn't cost anything to the students who attend the university. Because no state funds can be used to pay for non-educational programs, the stadium would be funded by donations, sponsorships and ticket sales. Students, who pay their athletic fees every semester, would still be able to attend games for free.

A university is a place of education — but it's also a place of business. The university employs thousands of people, and one of Hitt's jobs is to make money — sometimes in the absence of student needs. In this instance, there is a background chance of eventually making money. But the primary concern of the plans for a stadium are fulfilling the needs for the university — and giving the students a place of gathering they can be proud of, not to mention, one that they can access.

The Citrus Bowl is a nice stadium in a very inconvenient part of town. Driving all that way is impossible for some stu-

dents and expensive for others. To have school spirit when it comes to sports, one must also have a car, and be willing to pay for the tolls and the gas involved in the 20-mile trek to the city-owned Citrus Bowl.

Alternatively, there are 15,000 students who would be within walking distance of the proposed on-campus stadium. And guess what? Chances are extremely high they would actually come to more games — a UCFnews.com poll showed that 79 percent of respondents would be more likely to attend football games with an on-campus stadium.

Freshmen would learn that game day is a major school event and the current average of 20,000 people that watch UCF lose its football games would shoot through the roof — at least 35,000 people could watch the Knights take a beating.

Why not? School spirit is not created by a world-class football team. It is created by student pride. All Knights chose UCF because they felt — at one point or another — that it was worth paying \$30 to apply.

School spirit is the collective joy of every first down and the university-wide agony over every fumble.

Of course, there are problems that will need to be worked out. The traffic that a 40,000-seat stadium could bring

would be enormous. Poor Alafaya Trail may not be able to handle it.

The rowdiness of tailgaters and the possibility of increased underage drinking are not to be overlooked. Even if the stadium doesn't sell alcoholic beverages, people will have it in their coolers and backpacks. The 20-officer UCF Police force isn't going to be enough to safely monitor the activities of perhaps 20,000 visitors. UCF will have to employ the help of the Sheriff's Office and outside agencies.

However, the advantages of an on-campus field — a true athletic home for both jocks and intellectuals alike — far outweigh the possible problems. If researched properly, the traffic and safety issues can be addressed. But no research could replace the pride every Knight will feel when sitting in their own stadium at their own campus.

And who knows? Perhaps recruiting for the fledgling football program will be easier when UCF can boast its own. Perhaps winning will be easier when the crowds are packed in and cheering for their own team, playing on their own home turf.

Thanks, President Hitt. Though the stadium is still in the evaluation and planning stages, the idea is sound and the students are supportive.



BEN HENDERSON / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

READER VIEWS

Students for a stadium

I was excited to hear that we are finally taking steps toward an on-campus football stadium [see 'Makings of a stadium,' A1]. While a small, but vocal, minority would rather see UCF stick to just providing classes, I believe I am in the majority that came here for a true collegiate experience.

As a student, it will be a huge benefit to be able to walk or shuttle to the games, and not have to worry about people driving home with some alcohol left in them. In the future, we will be able to come back and see the growing campus each and every fall.

Currently, visiting teams and fans (and sometimes national television audiences) come to the worst part of downtown Orlando for games; many leave thinking our campus must be part of the mess.

This change will bring about national exposure to our campus and rid us of a small "directional school" image.

UCF deserves the best, and John Hitt and Steve Orsini continue to deliver.

—STEPHEN ALIANIELLO

UCF needs a stadium

I'm a graduate student at UCF. As a student, I've witnessed the growth of the university firsthand.

Speaking as a student, fan, and community member, a 45,000- or 50,000-seat stadium is exactly what UCF needs.

The negative responses portrayed in the *Orlando Sentinel* [Jan. 6] do not depict the feelings of the UCF community as a whole. As a member of the UCF English department myself, I'm embarrassed about the negative voice that we constantly hear.

I've witnessed Master Plan meetings and can honestly say that these "watchdogs" who speak from the community have nothing better to do than complain. They knew the growth that was going to take place on our campus — President John Hitt was vocal about that — whether it comes in the

form of classroom buildings or a stadium.

Orlando has put UCF in an awkward, and potentially harmful, situation at the Citrus Bowl. UCF should not depend on the community who provides weak support for their "home team" for a place to play football.

We bring a lot to Orlando and deserve better treatment than this.

If UCF is going to dump \$18 million into Citrus Bowl renovations and continue to be just a tenant at the Citrus Bowl, why not use the money to build something that we will benefit from in the future, something long-term?

The community rarely supports its "home team." In fact, I've seen several Gator and 'Nole flags hanging inside community buildings downtown. The leaders of Orlando want to support their own schools and seem to have little room up until now to support their "home team." We deserve better.

It's time that UCF learns to walk on its own. The community loves us when we make it to "the dance," but we're ridiculed when we have a losing football season. UCF needs and deserves this football stadium.

Certain community members and faculty members are going to complain no matter what we do. They always will. Football drives big public schools. It has and will.

UCF knows that. And, in order to move closer to other big-name schools, we need to act like one.

Build the stadium, Hitt. Go Knights.

—RUSSELL GORDON CARPENTER

Alumni angry about attendance

The problem is not game attendance, the problem with attendance is community relations. UCF and the city of Orlando need to work more hand in hand to build better relationships.

PLEASE SEE **READER VIEWS** ON A12

OUR STANCE

Generosity or human decency?

It's hard sometimes to sympathize with others. Not that we, as Americans, don't want to, but sometimes the situation is just too far beyond our imaginations.

More than 150,000 people died in the span of just a few days due to the destruction of the tsunami in southeast Asia. There hasn't been an event of this magnitude since the American bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

While that was an act of war, the tsunami was an act of nature and therefore struck without any warning. It was simply inconceivable that so many could die because of a 15-foot ocean wave.

Could that be the reason this administration was so slow to react? President George W. Bush has been criticized domestically and internationally for being ignorant of the global community. The initial aid amount pledged by the United States was a meager \$15 million when one considers the amount of devastation. It was also less than half the total cost of his Jan. 20 inauguration. While the amount may have dwarfed the donations of other westernized nations, it was not nearly enough.

Realizing its mistake, the government has now pledged \$350 million toward reconstruction. Privately-funded aid groups in America have raised

even more than that. But what was the main reason for America pledging more? It is the belief of many that Bush is trying to buy favoritism with Muslims in the region and worldwide.

"We're responding because of the human dimensions of this catastrophe. It turns out that a majority of those nations were Muslim nations," Secretary of State Colin Powell said. "We will be [delivering aid] regardless of religion, but I think it does give the Muslim world and the rest of the world an opportunity to see American generosity."

American generosity? What ever happened to human spirit? Caring about your fellow man and helping anyone in desperate need? It seems there needs to be political incentive for this administration in order to get anything done.

One senior U.S. official told Reuters that when Powell held his first senior staff meeting after the tsunami hit, the event was discussed in "business as usual" terms. But when seen on television traveling through the region, Powell portrays the façade of a government that cares. It still remains a mystery to this administration why the United States cannot gain global support for an unnecessary war, especially when it ignores any demand for help that does not favor American political agenda.

"They definitely got off to a slow start with the pledges of \$15 million and then \$35 million, but I think they soon realized the perception was very negative and more had to be done," said Ibrahim Hooper of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. "The perception of our response to this world-class disaster could have a real impact on American policies worldwide," he added.

One can cite Bush's tsunami response unfavorably to his urgent reaction to hurricanes in Florida. Right before his re-election, Bush pledged \$13 billion in hurricane disaster aid to Florida, a critical "swing" state. Many wondered if that amount would be similar had the hurricanes hit a less important electoral state. If southeast Asia had a significant affect on presidential election outcomes, there would probably be disaster aid funds.

America is portrayed negatively in the Muslim world as a greedy, westernized, global juggernaut looking out only for its own interests. The more important campaign of winning the Islamic support globally is being lost on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. Unless America changes the foreign policy of "liberating" countries and becomes more respectful of Muslims worldwide, then we can be assured of more terrorist attacks.

MAN ON THE STREET

THE WORD AROUND CAMPUS

'What do you think of an on-campus stadium?'



HEATHER RIGHTER
Hospitality

"The new stadium would mean a lot more people coming to the games, which is always a plus."



JIM MIRANDA
Psychology

"All I need to know is how much will it cost me, otherwise I don't care."



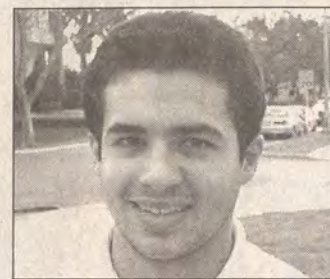
LATOYA ROBERTS
Nursing

"As long as I don't have to pay more tuition for it, then I'm all for it."



MONDRIAN CONTRERAS
Biology

"I think it'll help the program tremendously and hopefully produce better teams in the future."



PAT GATTI
English

"I hope it will bring more people to the home games and help get the program off the ground."



SHAINA ROSS
Liberal arts

"If they change the rules banning alcohol on campus, then I'm in full support."

Central Florida Future

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FROM A10

As a former graduate of UCF, during my years living on campus, the City of Orlando was like another city. Additionally, before I attended UCF, UCF was unheard of. No one wanted to go to UCF because no one knew about it.

After 15 years, there has been no difference. All of my fellow alumni don't speak about UCF much because there is no community relation, no attempt to reconnect local alumni with the continuing school efforts.

Oh yes ... I forget the continuing and annoying effort to solicit donations from an unemployed alumnus.

Oh, by the way, did I mention the fact that I have applied to UCF for six jobs and was rejected by them all? Being an alumnus of UCF does not have its privileges.

— ANONYMOUS ALUMNUS

Jews give to victims

A tiny country made up of immigrants and oppressed people from all corners of the globe knows how to extend a hand.

Within hours of the devastating recent tsunami in the Indian Ocean, multiple humanitarian missions all departed from Israel. This included a medical team out of Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital to help treat victims and provide aid.

ZAKA, the unique rescue-and-recovery volunteers, arrived in Sri Lanka with 80 tons of aid material contributed by the Israeli government. For some reason, no news outlets have picked up

READER VIEWS

this story, which is remarkable for many reasons.

In a world where, if it bleeds it leads, all news agencies submit at least one 'Israel-article' each day on the Israeli conflict.

Sadly, there is a lack of media interest in this Israeli humanitarian effort.

When Israelis help those in need all around the world even more than some superpowers who have the capabilities, it goes unsung by the major media outlets.

— NOAH SAPOSNIK

Be a brother, tell truth

As one of John's real friends, I am compelled to respond to your article [Holiday Blues, Dec. 6, 2004]. John Yancy was not depressed, but threatened by the brotherly Pikes.

I pray that the Pikes, who may truly be his brothers, come forward and tell the truth.

I hope they learn from what happen to John and confide in someone, either their mother, father, friend, or anyone. An education and popularity are not worth your life or a friend.

I will always remember John and the distasteful Pikes who showed up at his memorial. May you live with your actions forever.

— BRETT HARTWELL

'Dorms' not dry

I want to set the record straight about the opinion "Dorms should never be dormant" [Dec. 16, 2004].

For starters, there are no "dorms" at UCF; there are residence halls. A dorm means you have a community

bathroom shared by many students. Nowhere on UCF campus will more than four people share a bathroom, so I'd like that known first and foremost.

Second, as an on-campus resident assistant, I am offended that the author of this opinion thinks it's OK to expect RAs to stay on campus and have to be working over the whole holiday break.

Even if an RA chooses to stay around and not go home, it's still a holiday and we deserve a break from work just as regular students deserve a break from classes.

The comment about not allowing alcohol in any of the residence halls regardless of age is very false. UCF is not a dry campus. If the student is of legal drinking age, they can have alcohol in their room.

Next, the part about there not being cooking facilities for residents to use. That is also not true. Yes, the students in the halls don't have their own kitchens to use, but there is a community kitchen that is available 24 hours a day. If you are too lazy to walk to use the community kitchen, then by all means, live out of your mini-fridge and microwave with Easy Mac and Ramen noodles, but there is another option.

Living on-campus is one of the best experiences I've had being at UCF. Everyone should experience it at some point in their college career.

I hate that UCF students talk so badly about our school. If you hate it here so much then leave. It's people like this that sabotage the morale and positive PR that others are trying to build up.

— CHANA SPEIR

Ashlee Simpson's sorrows are a man's happiness



COMMENTARY

SHANNON MAU
Opinions Editor

I doubt anyone had a better week last week than I did.

No, I didn't get a new job (obviously). No, I didn't buy something amazing (again, the job). No, I didn't find a new girlfriend (picture above). Nothing along those lines happened.

But at one point I did watch the Orange Bowl halftime

show. That, my friends, was an experience I don't think I could ever replace.

Ashlee Simpson performed her song "La La" down in Miami last Tuesday to the roaring boos of the crowd. On several online downloads of the broadcast you can even hear one fan yell "you suck!" It sounds as if I was actually there.

Just when I thought I couldn't be any happier, I got news that UCF is in the planning stages of making an on-campus football stadium.

What better way to show the country which school has the worst football team in the nation than by playing in your very own stadium? But there will be several advantages that the new facilities will have over the Citrus Bowl.

On-campus games means there will be more of a collegiate environment, a sharp contrast to the night school G.E.D.-environment of Orange Blossom Trail. Certainly UCF President John Hitt will waive the "dry campus" rule because football without beer is inconceivable. And in conjunction with that, more students will attend the games because they can get drunk and walk back home. The positives can be summed up in one phrase: "More chuggin', less muggin'." Hopefully UCF will get all things in place and start construction as soon as possible. Like most of the student body, I really would like to see our school flourish in athletics.

OK, we don't need to flourish. But please just win one freakin' game!

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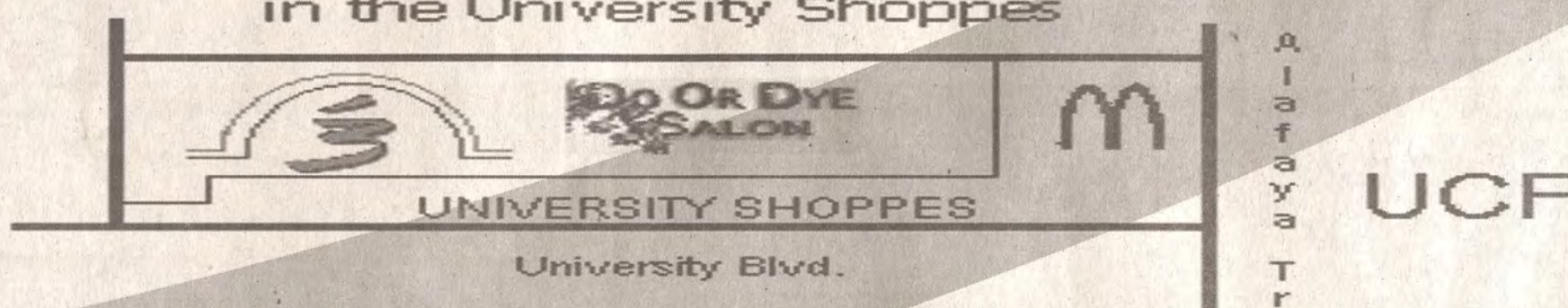
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| #6 Northgate Lakes, Tivoli..... | HPA/Engr I & II |
| #7 Collegiate Village Inn (CVI)..... | Transit Center |
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| #9 Knights Landing/IST/RP/BA/HR (Research Park)/P-I..... | Health Center |

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Problem solvers

Men fixing faulty areas for A-Sun run

ASHLEY BURNS
Sports Editor

Gary Johnson doesn't like losing.

Even a two-game losing streak doesn't suit his taste. That's why he wants to start the New Year on the right note. He wants his team rolling on a winning streak and his team is going to need it. Johnson knows he needs help on the offensive end and it looks like he's finally receiving it.

"I'm confident in my teammates because I know players like (Marcus) Avant and Kingsley (Edwards) are capable of," Johnson said. "I knew it was going to take a little while and they wouldn't step

right in and score 15 points a night. But anything helps. I'd rather me have 10 points and we win than have 15-20 points and lose."

Riding in the middle of the pack in the Atlantic Sun Conference with a 2-3 record, Johnson and the Knights are finding their quest to repeat as A-Sun champs a little tougher than they expected. In fact, they know that every team they play is gunning for them.

"We know we have our backs against the wall," senior forward Marcus Avant said. "We know we have to play every possession and play hard. We still have a chance to win this thing but we have to go on a winning streak."

PLEASE SEE **FREE** ON B6



BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Senior guard Gary Johnson leads men's basketball in scoring with 13.4 ppg.

BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Hudson rebounds to lead women

A-Sun's top defense takes win over Troy

MATT DUNAWAY
Senior Staff Writer

The UCF women's basketball team completed a perfect week at home with a 55-43 victory over Troy on Saturday afternoon.

The Knights entered the game with the No. 1 defense in the Atlantic Sun conference, giving up only 59 points per contest, and the defense held the opposition under 45 points for the second time in a row.

"Our guards did a good job

on defense of doubling inside, and getting back outside putting a hand in their shooters' face," Coach Gail Striegler said. "I thought it was a very good game overall, and we had different players step up at different times."

After missing the FAU game on Monday due to discipline reasons, guard Celeste Hudson didn't force anything on the floor, and responded with an all-around good game.

The junior was three-of-seven from the floor, scoring eight points, grabbing eight rebounds, and dishing out a team-high five assists.

PLEASE SEE **DEFENSE** ON B8



BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Forward Keunta Miles is averaging 4.6 points per game while playing just 13 minutes per game this season.

Orsini: Football recruits will rise

Coaches and players will benefit from new stadium

ASHLEY BURNS
Sports Editor

With a feasibility survey under way, the UCF Athletics Association is looking at completing an enormous facilities construction plan within the next few years.

Athletic Director Steve Orsini already has the wheels in motion for a brand new 10,000-seat convocation center that will be the new home for men's and women's basketball. The athletic village plan also includes seating extensions to Jay Bergman Field and a brand new softball complex.

The facility upgrades will certainly give UCF a leg up on its competition in recruiting and nabbing NCAA Regional events, but Orsini and UCF President John Hitt have an even bigger vision for what these facilities will bring, including the new on-campus stadium.

It's not only about the look, but it's about the spirit. Hitt and Orsini believe with the addition of the new stadium that UCF will finally be able to create a college football atmosphere not only on its own campus but in the surrounding communities.

"Think about the band forming outside the Union, marching down the new mall we're creating, past the convocation center and arena and right into the stadium," Hitt said of their vision. "Think of tens of thousands of people who come to the campus every fall who might not get to the campus otherwise. Think about the students that can walk to the games. Think about a stadium that's really developed and really in tune to the needs of UCF football and not for any other purposes."

Those thoughts are the driving force behind the UCFAA's survey. Orsini suggested in a press

PLEASE SEE **DREAM** ON B5

Bringing it back home

Constructing a castle gives UCF football a feel of pride

Who wouldn't want an on-campus stadium?

Seriously, who can't wrap their legs around this cash-cow idea and ride it into the college football promised land?

Unless you have the education of a USF student, you've heard that the UCF Athletics Association is conducting a feasibility study to determine whether or not to build an on-campus stadium.

I'm conducting a feasibility study of my own to determine if I could possibly be any more excited and let's just say it would take an army of Hilton sisters and an Olympic-sized swimming pool filled with caramel to even enter the same ballpark.

Obviously a \$45 million move like this isn't going to please 100 percent of the people, but if 100 percent of the people can't see how many benefits this addition will carry then we have a serious problem.

First of all, it makes me happy and there's nothing more important than that. I've waited too long for this and I won't settle for a letdown. Every year I've heard the same song and dance about how it would be another 10 years before an on-campus stadium could even be remotely considered. One former UCF football coach once said we'd never see an on-campus stadium in his lifetime. And now along comes a feasibility study and a big smile on my face.

If this stadium comes to fruition, then pearly whites will be shining throughout UCF and its neighboring communities. This I guarantee. This move means money for everyone, and I know I'm not the only capitalist that can smell it coming.

Does anyone honestly believe that the owners of the Liquid Cellar, Donnelly's Pub and Wackadoo's won't be happier than Star Jones in a chocolate factory when this stadium is erected?

PLEASE SEE **SCHOOL** ON B2



COMMENTARY

ASHLEY BURNS
Sports Editor

School pride is a stadium away

FROM B1

The hospitality industry throughout the UCF area is going to explode. Oviedo Mayor Tom Walters said the move could "impact us in a positive way." That "way" is hotels, bars and restaurants and local businesses. Granted Walters is a politician in a town which I believe still uses the Pony Express in some areas, but he's right. The only negative the hospitality industry in the UCF area would ever see would be rioting fans if the stores run out of booze.

I know what you're thinking. Won't a boom in the hospitality industry mean a boom in traffic for some parts of Seminole and Orange counties? Yes. So? Have you seen the traffic on campus Monday mornings? Los Angeles gridlock looks like an Amish drag race compared to the mess we face each week. A Saturday football game would be no different.

What about parking? Where are all of these new cars going to park? By the time this stadium would be completed, UCF should have approximately six million parking garages on campus. Kid-ding aside, I have this image in my head of cars and trucks lining McCulloch Road. Tailgate tents and pony kegs sparking in the autumn sun.

What that image details is school spirit. Anyone who has ever attended a MidKnight Madness celebration or even caught a Sunday afternoon softball game knows that school spirit is about as common at UCF as John Kerry in the White House.

Everyone knows it needs to change, but it never changes. It never changes for football. 0-11 or 11-0, our football program rivals no one when it comes to campus support. Even outside of football, UCF athletic programs don't receive the proper support. Men's and women's basketball draw puny crowds. Men's and women's soccer might as well play on a deserted island. They deserve better. These teams are all receiving upgrades to their facilities, but maybe it's the fans that need to be upgraded.

All these years, I've also thought that spirit was missing in Millican Hall as well. But then President Hitt echoed my dream at last week's press conference.

"We could produce a very fine college football experience," he said.

The problem is, though, that Hitt also said this project is not an expectation, but exactly what I've been living since the first day I stepped foot on campus at UCF: a dream.

This dream needs to come true. UCF students, alumni and fans need to make sure that this dream doesn't fall apart like my bank account after a three-day poker binge.

At the press conference last Tuesday, I was the only person in the room aside from Hitt and Orsini who was in love with this idea from the start. Then I looked around and saw reporters thirsting for blood and gearing up to unleash a barrage of questions ranging from: "How can you afford this?" to "Does a 0-11 football team really deserve a new stadium?"

There were plenty of other ques-

tions, but these were my two favorites. I'd be more than happy to answer both of them.

First, if it means that I have to work 17 full-time jobs while turning tricks during the two minutes of sleep I'll have per day, then so be it. If an on-campus stadium needs to be funded and I'm the only person who can do something about it, then I will bankrupt every blood and sperm bank within a million-mile radius.

Thankfully I won't have to. Care to know why?

Because an on-campus stadium will pay for itself in a matter of seasons. Do sponsorships, concessions and ticket sales ring a bell to anyone? I always giggle a little bit when I read that Louisville's stadium is named Papa John's Cardinal Stadium. What's to laugh at, though? Louisville has a stadium and we don't. If it means naming our stadium Premier Adult Factory Outlet Field, then let's get on the phone right now and get it done.

Asking about money is one thing, but taking a cheap shot at our winless program while some people might be trying to bask in a potentially gorgeous event is messed up. Besides, cheap shots are my job.

Does a 0-11 football team deserve a new stadium? Are you freaking kidding me? This question is about as appropriate as a tampon ad airing during the Super Bowl.

It's like asking if a homeless guy deserves a job with a Fortune 500 company. If one has the other, then it gets better. Give a hobo the chance to earn a paycheck and he might turn things around. Give a winless football team the final piece in an ever-increasing recruiting puzzle and it will turn things around.

Athletic Director Steve Orsini put it best when he said, "Good athletes help you win." Good athletes aren't exactly bowled over by football programs that have to take 30-minute bus rides to play in their "home" stadiums.

One of the top running back recruits in the nation actually paid a visit to UCF a few weeks back. Here's a guy that could come here and play right away. He could come here and be the next big thing. He could be a black and gold god. But guys like Jason Gwaltney don't come to schools like UCF because we don't have an on-campus stadium. Guys like Gwaltney don't come to UCF because we've been playing in a run-down Waffle House of a stadium while schools like Ohio State and Florida are playing in five-star stadiums.

The truth is sad but it's the truth that we've had to live as UCF fans since this program joined Division I-A football.

Hitt's announcement was definitely music to UCF's solid core of fans, but until that feasibility study turns into tons of powder-coated steel being raised next to Orion Boulevard, we have to live with the pain.

Now there's a chance that the pain will end.

Hitt calls an on-campus stadium a dream, but that's better than a nightmare.

Ashley Burns can be reached at sports@UCFnews.com

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

1,054

Average home attendance of men's basketball games this season

995

Average attendance of men's basketball away games this season

1,062

Attendance of men's basketball's 75-57 win over Jacksonville yesterday

Who's hot

Marcus Avant

The senior forward had a breakout game against Jacksonville yesterday scoring a career-high 14 points, while hitting four three-point shots on six attempts.

Who's not

Men's hoops players at the foul line

While they are beginning to show signs of improvement, the Knights still missed 9-of-24 free throw attempts against Jacksonville yesterday.

Upcoming

Men's basketball hosts Stetson tomorrow night at 6 p.m. at the UCF Arena then travel to Boca Raton Thursday to face Florida Atlantic... Women's basketball heads to Buies Creek, North Carolina Thursday to play Campbell and then hit the road to Boiling Springs, NC to take on Gardner-Webb... Women's track and field take the Turnpike to Gainesville Saturday to compete in the UF Invitational.

Quotables

"I think I'm going to try to get one at the end of the season."

— MARCUS AVANT ON THE NEW MEN'S BASKETBALL UNIFORMS

"We're still not executing the way we want to on offense."

— WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH GAIL STRIEGLER

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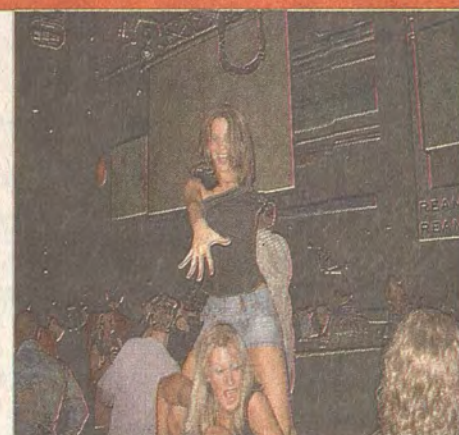
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State & Nation

Concerns over budgets top focus of NCAA President's address

GRAPEVINE, Texas — With big steps already being taken toward academic reform in college athletics, NCAA president Myles Brand believes the next area of concern is containing costs.

In his state of the NCAA speech on Saturday, Brand expressed concern about ever-increasing athletic budgets. He warned that similar rates of growth, pushed recently by big TV contracts and other "fast-flowing new revenue streams," are unlikely in the future.

"There will be disappointments when the rate of growth moderates," Brand said.

Winning programs won't necessarily escape that trend.

Brand pointed to an economic study released by the NCAA a year ago that found no correlation between increased spending and increased winning, or between increased winning and increased revenues.

The need to increase the rate at which revenue expands has also inflated the need to increase wins, Brand said. That has raised the competition for outstanding student-athletes and coaches, some who have \$2 million annual contracts.

"We must arrest the slide toward professional athletics and the sports entertainment industry," Brand said. "And while the problem is not of crisis proportions right now, the time to (address the problem) is now."

The average Division I university spends almost \$15 million a year on athletics. That increases to about \$27 million for schools with Division I-A football.

While containing costs dominated his speech, Brand also discussed academic reform and the status of amateurism in college sports.

Brand also called it "simply appalling" that there are so few black head football coaches in Division I, as well as Divisions II and III, and not enough women in high positions such as head coaches and athletic directors.

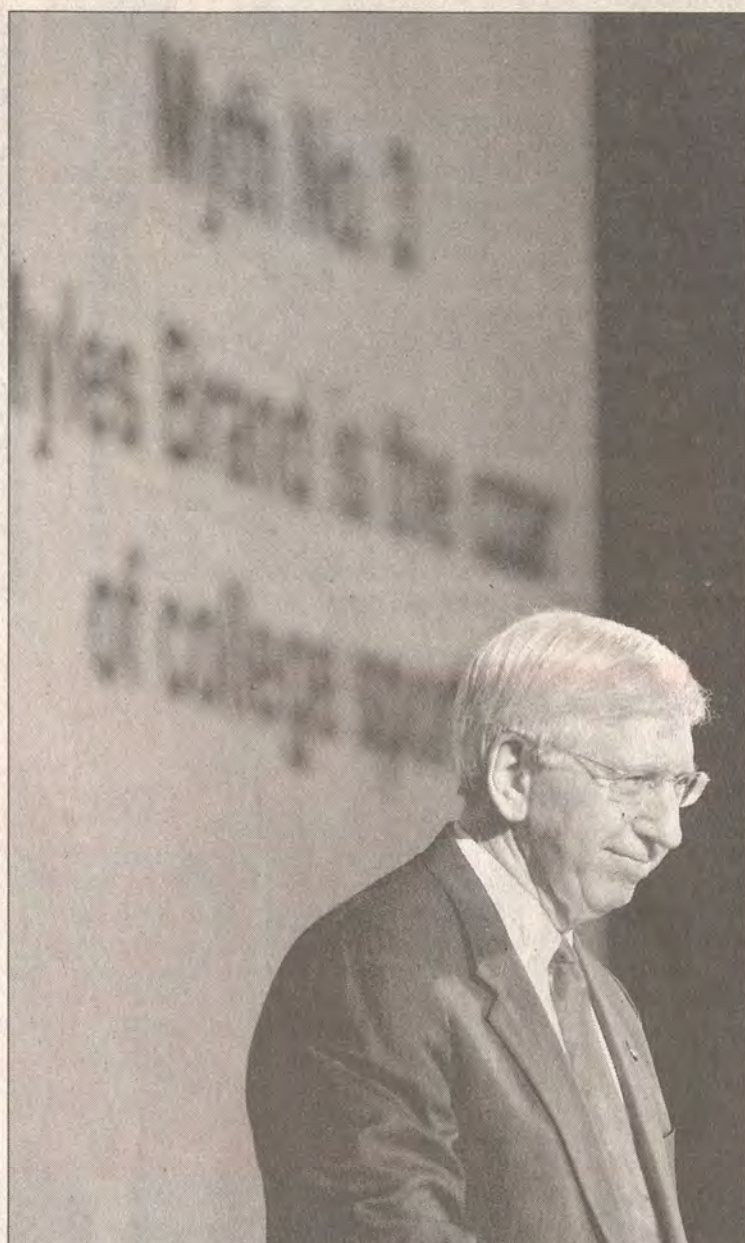
Ranking system for BS is No. 1 on list of possible changes to come

GRAPEVINE, Texas — While there still won't be a playoff in the Bowl Championship Series, the system will definitely be changed again.

Commissioners from the 11 Division I-A conferences met for more than five hours Friday to discuss needed changes.

The primary issue is determining how to rank teams, especially the two that play for the BCS championship. This was the commissioners' first meeting since The Associated Press last month asked that its poll not be used in the system's formula any longer.

There was no discussion of a playoff, BCS coordinator Kevin Weiberg said, because



TONY GUTIERREZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS
NCAA President Myles Brand believes that containing costs is the NCAA's next big step.

there is no interest from school presidents and chancellors for such a system.

Weiberg said the BCS could look for a suitable replacement for the AP poll in rankings or use a committee approach similar to the one used by the NCAA to select the 65-team basketball tournament. Or there could be a combination of those two approaches.

The BCS formula had been streamlined this season to put heavy emphasis on the two human polls, the AP and the ESPN/USA Today coaches' poll. Six computer rankings are also part of the formula.

If the system moved ahead with just the coaches' poll, Weiberg said he would be concerned if the coaches continue to keep their votes private.

"The transparency issue is one of our most important," Weiberg said. "That would put us in a position to have some level of discomfort moving forward."

The American Football Coaches Association is expected to discuss that issue when it begins its convention Sunday in Louisville, Ky. Coaches voted last month against releasing their final ballots.

The I-A commissioners aren't expected to meet again until April, but may not make any final decisions then.

Texas Longhorns' center will miss Big 12 Opener after game punch

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas coach Rick Barnes on Friday

suspended center Jason Klotz for the Big 12 season opener because he threw a punch during the Longhorns' win over Memphis.

Texas, 11-2 and ranked No. 11 by ESPN/USA Today and No. 15 by The Associated Press, plays host to Baylor (7-3) Sunday.

Although no foul was called after the punch Thursday night during Texas' 74-67 win, television cameras caught Klotz hitting Simplicio Njoya in the stomach. Njoya went to his knees briefly but finished the game.

UT spokesman Scott McConnell said the one-game suspension conforms with NCAA rules had Klotz been whistled for the punching foul during the game.

Klotz continued to play after the punch, scoring 11 points and grabbing four rebounds in his 27 minutes. McConnell said Barnes did not know Klotz threw the punch until after the game.

The 6-foot-9-inch player is averaging 11.3 ppg, and 5.1 rpg. Klotz has scored in double figures in a team-high 11 of Texas' first 13 games to be the Longhorns' most consistent offensive post player.

The Big 12 said late Friday that it accepts the penalty.

"Regardless of the physical nature of a contest, such actions are not acceptable," commissioner Kevin Weiberg said.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS



HEATHER WEIBLE
Contributing Writer

UCF wins flag football title

Three teams from UCF traveled to New Orleans for the 2004 ACIC National Flag Football Tournament, which was held Dec. 29 through Jan. 2.

The Golden Knights, UCF's co-recreational representative, won the national championship with a 9-6 victory over Georgia Southern. The Knights, who were undefeated this year, finished as runner-up in 2003, where they fell to the University of Connecticut.

The Knights opened up the tournament with a 65-0 shellacking of Ole Miss. Later in the day, they clinched their pool by knocking off N.C. State 39-18. UCF advanced to the quarterfinal round where they first were matched up with the University of Nebraska. After a 25-16 win, UCF moved on to the semifinals against the University of Texas-Dallas.

The Knights dispatched UTD 27-16 and advanced to the title game to face Georgia Southern. After a scoreless first half, UCF took control when Mike Ruggeri completed a deep pass to James Panui, who alertly pitched the ball to Lindsay Vincent for the touchdown. In co-rec flag football, female touchdowns are worth 9 points and that made the difference as UCF won its first championship since the inaugural tournament in 1979.

Panui was named male MVP of the co-rec tournament and Amy Schwambach was named female MVP of the tournament, the second year in a row that a UCF female has won that award.

UCF's other representatives also fared well in the tournament. The Franchise, UCF's men's team, had one of the most impressive runs for a UCF team in recent years. The Franchise opened up the tournament with three-straight wins before falling to eventual runner-up Pensacola Junior College 39-0. Including this year's Swamp Bowl tournament, The Franchise were 6-2 in extramural tournament play and 14-3 overall during the fall in flag football.

The Knightmares, UCF's women's team, got their first taste of extramural play by

traveling to their first national tournament. The Knightmares had a tough opening matchup, as they lost to eventual national champion, Southern University, 48-0. They rebounded in their next game, defeating Universidad DeCuautitlan Izcalli to move on to the playoff round, where they lost to Old Dominion University, 13-0.

UCF was also represented on the officiating staff for the tournament. Jason Human and Doug Marcello officiated at their first national tournament, and they both worked a national semifinal game. Those two bring the total of UCF officials who have worked at the national tournament to 11 over the last four years.

Intramurals are also gearing up for the spring semester beginning with Team Sports Trivia, 3-on-3 Basketball, and Dodgeball. Sign-up deadlines are Jan. 12 for Team Sports Trivia, Jan. 13 for 3-on-3 Basketball, and Jan. 18 for Dodgeball.

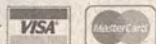
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Dream of stadium could soon become reality



The Florida Citrus Bowl has been the home of UCF football for the past 25 years, however the Knights could be moving to an on-campus stadium pending a feasibility study by the UCFAA.

CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE FILE

FROM B1

conference last Tuesday that an on-campus stadium is exactly what the football program needs to propel it to Top 25 status.

There's no secret that the Knights' 0-11 finish was the worst in college football this year, but first-season Coach George O'Leary has barely begun to get his hands dirty with the rigorous recruiting and healing an injured program.

"What it allows him to do is bring people on campus," Orsini said of how an on-campus stadium will help O'Leary's cause. "What he has learned in his short time here at UCF is to recruit a quality student-athlete we just have to get them on campus. Once they're on our campus they see what this university has grown into. If we so choose to put a football stadium on-campus, as George O'Leary has said, it would be the last piece of the puzzle. He can then sell this university to athletes and produce a successful football program."

The argument remains as

to whether UCF is doing the right thing by sinking \$45 million into an on-campus stadium while the city of Orlando is still working on a plan to renovate the Citrus Bowl, the Knights' home for the past 25 years. Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and the Florida Citrus Sports executive committee had hoped that UCF would in some way contribute to the Citrus Bowl's upgrades. If the Knights end up ditching the plans for a new stadium, they would undoubtedly end up homeless at some point as the Citrus Bowl would have to close for at least one season.

UCF has been one of the many teams nationwide that has played in a municipal stadium, as opposed to an on-campus stadium, throughout the length of its football program. However, in some cases having the Citrus Bowl as a home has been a hindrance instead of a helping hand. The nearly 20,000 fans that attended this year's five home games had to travel upwards of a half hour from campus and deal with ever-increasing strict parking guidelines.

For the most part, teams

that play in municipal stadiums do not see the same success as teams with an on-campus stadium.

"There are some who play in municipal stadiums," Hitt said. "But frankly I don't know many who will tell you that's their preference."

Other football programs that play in municipal stadiums include the Miami Hurricanes in the Orange Bowl and the National Champion USC Trojans in the Rose Bowl. However, it is quite evident that UCF has a hard time following in their municipal stadium success.

Hitt remains steadfast that the on-campus stadium would surely act as a catalyst in the fanfare of the 15,000 on-campus student residents. For Orsini, the stadium not only means an increase in revenue in the nation's highest-drawing NCAA sport, but an increase in the quality of recruits.

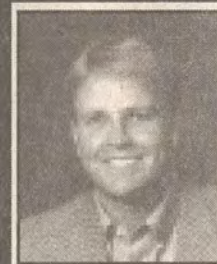
"Good athletes help you win," Orsini said. "Good coaches help you win. For us as administrators, the better people we have the better chance we have to win."

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Free throws still hurting men's game

FROM B1

But even with a bull's eye on their backs, the Knights are doing what they can to fix the problems that are hurting their A-Sun play. Free throws are killing the men. Rebounds and the lack of a big man inside aren't helping them either. The ability to penetrate and create shots inside has become a rarity in the Knights' three-point heavy offense.

"As a point guard, I don't like boxing out," Johnson said. "That's not really my job because I'm always looking for the outlet. In practice all we've been doing were box out drills and offensive box out drills. It forces everybody to go for the rebounds. From practice carrying over into the games, I think we're doing a good job rebounding."

"It takes a total team effort," Avant said. "You have to work with what you have and we do. We all crash the boards. If we can't get it we try to tip it out and let somebody else get it. We just scrap. We're not the biggest team and we're not going to be the biggest team. We're working on a team effort."

The Knights are 2-3 in their post-Christmas games this season, allowing 71.4 points per game. Last season the Knights allowed at least 70 points just twice in 31 games. The defense isn't so much as fault as is the Knights' below average free throw shooting. UCF is shooting a lackluster .645 percent from the line.

Johnson has been the offensive spark for this team, averaging 13.4 points per game this season. The point guard has received help from Josh Peppers and Anthony Williams, who are averaging 12.2 and 11.3 ppg respectively. The Knights are outscoring their opponents by an average of 5.7 points.

One of the men who

"It takes total team effort. You have to work with what you have and we do."

— MARCUS AVANT
UCF MEN'S BASKETBALL FORWARD

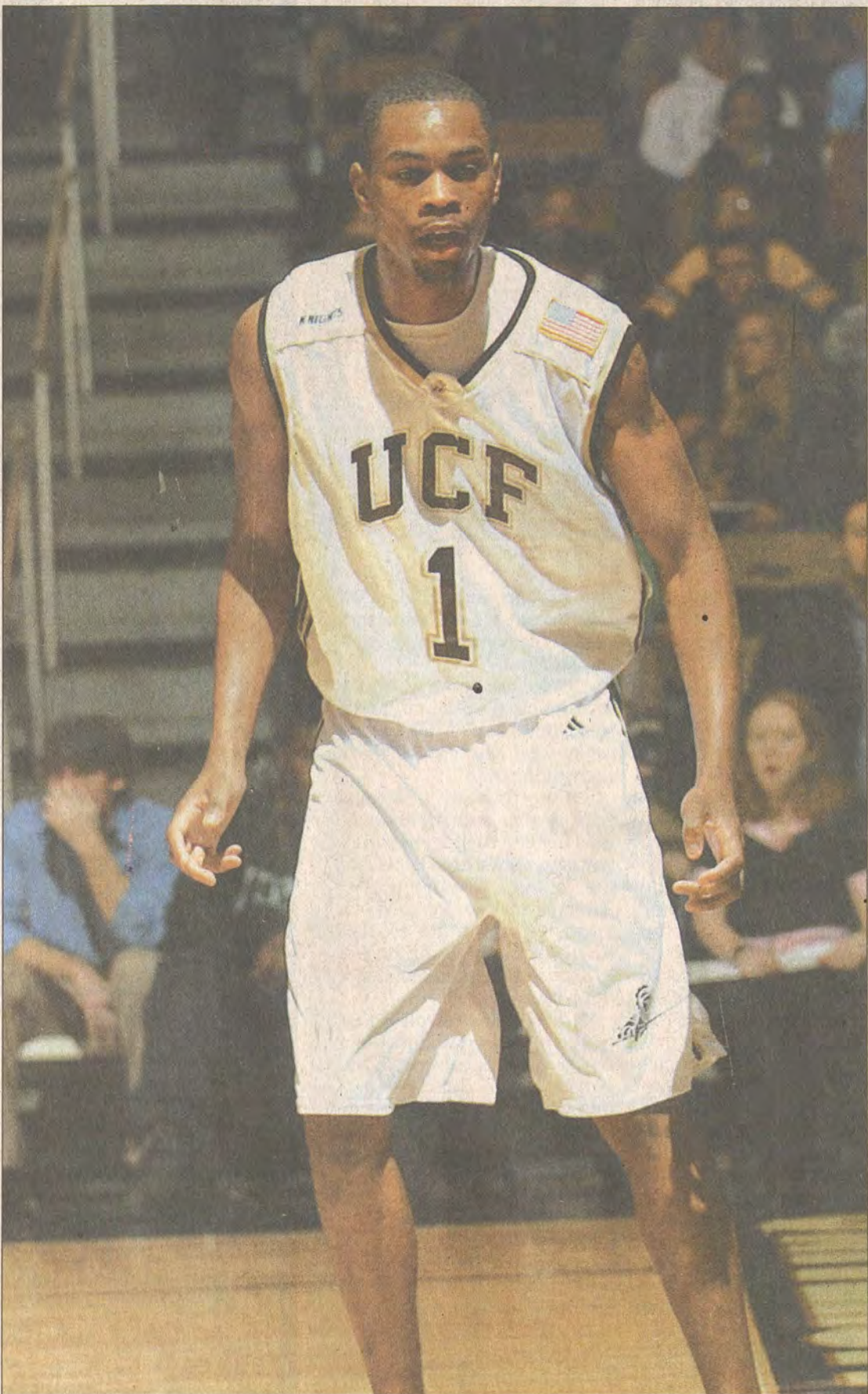
appears to be ready to step up is Avant. The senior forward scored a career-high 14 points in yesterday's win.

"For us to be successful, I have to be more successful on the offensive end," Avant said. "I can play defense, but I have to be more aggressive on offense. I've been coming in early every day to shoot and be ready for games."

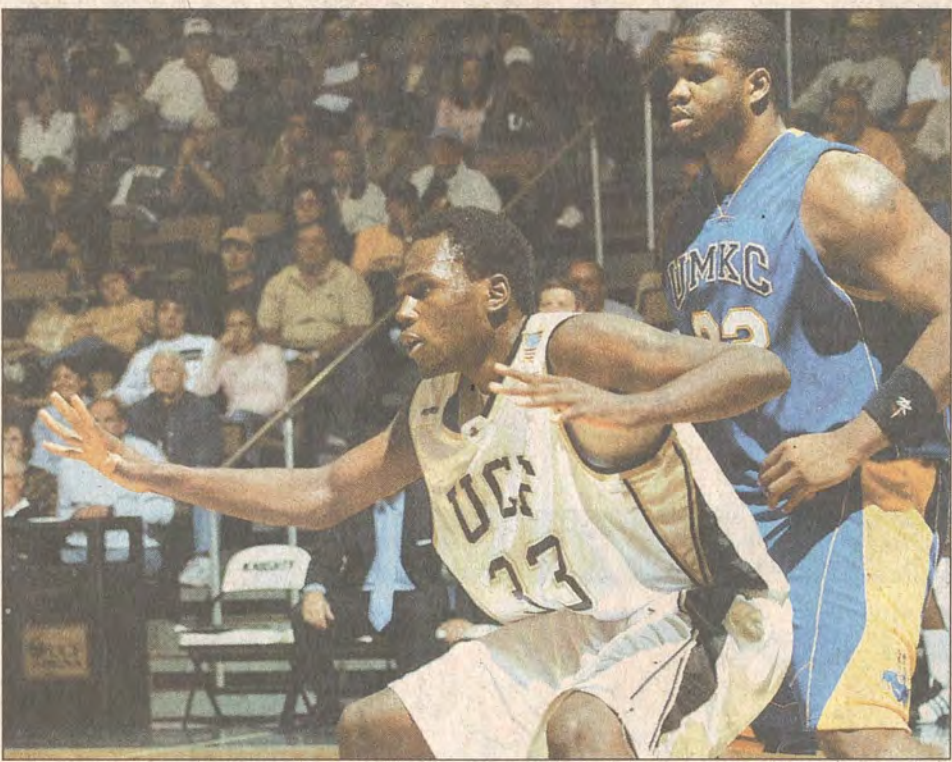
UCF has 15 A-Sun games remaining with only one non-conference game, a February 21 matchup with South Dakota State, interrupting it. The Knights are three-games out of first place in the conference and have three games over the next five days. Despite a hectic schedule this week, the team believes this is the kind of workload it needs to get back on pace.

"It's better when we play back-to-back," Johnson said. "I don't like sitting around having four or five days off. I want to win a game, go practice and win another game. Right now we're just searching for a streak. We had that two-game losing streak, but as long as we go out and compete we'll play good basketball."

Added Avant: "This is basketball it's what we love to do. If I could play every minute of every day I would."



BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE



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MEN'S BASKETBALL HEADING INTO THE STRETCH

Gary Johnson
Senior guard

Johnson has emerged as the team's offensive leader this season, averaging 13.4 points per game and has led the Knights in scoring in five of their 13 games. He also leads the team with a .406 three-point percentage and has racked up 26 steals.

Josh Peppers
Sophomore forward

Peppers is second in scoring with 12.2 points per game, but has done the majority of his offensive work coming off the bench. Like Johnson, Peppers also led the Knights in scoring in five games this season.



Peppers

Anthony Williams
Junior forward

Williams has been a pleasant surprise as a junior college transfer, averaging 11.3 points per game and is second on the team with 4.5 rebounds per game.

Marcus Avant
Senior forward

Avant started off the season slow but blew up for a career-high 14 points yesterday against Jacksonville. He's averaging 6.5 points and 3.9 rebounds per game.

Kinglsey Edwards
Senior guard

Edwards scored a career-high 19 points in the Knights December 16 win over Campbell. He's averaging 6.5 points and 2.9 assists per game.



Edwards

UCF 75, Jacksonville 57

The UCF men's basketball team ended its two-game losing streak yesterday, grinding out a 57-75 victory over visiting Jacksonville.

In a game which featured '8 UCF turnovers, the Knights, (9-4, 2-3 A-Sun) overcame their sloppy offensive play with a solid run spurred by their defense in the final minutes of the game.

UCF had five players score in double figures, and they out-rebounded the Dolphins (5-7, 1-4 A-Sun) 39-23, on their way to the victory.

Senior forward Marcus Avant led the Knights scoring 14 points, a career-high. Avant shot 4-for-6 from beyond the arc for 12 of his points. He also grabbed seven rebounds and dished out four assists, tying team highs.

The Knights, (9-4, 2-3 A-Sun) got off to a quick start building a 31-16 lead with less than seven minutes remaining in the first half.

UCF then struggled offensively, scoring only two points in the final six minutes of the first half. The Knights' poor offensive performance led to transition points for the Dolphins who took advantage, closing the half on an 11-2 run.

The Knights' lack of offen-

sive production seemed to be remedied early in the second half as they again extended their lead to double figures, 50-39. But the offensive struggles resurfaced midway through the final half allowing Jacksonville to go on a 13-2 run and level the score at 52 with 6:52 left in the game.

UCF then had an offensive awakening, outscoring Jacksonville 23-5 in the final seven minutes securing their second A-Sun win of the season. The run started when the Knights' aggressive defense forced consecutive turnovers.

Senior point guard Gary Johnson continued his consistent play with 10 points and four assists.

The Knights return to action on tomorrow night when they play conference rival Stetson at 7:00 p.m. at the UCF Arena.

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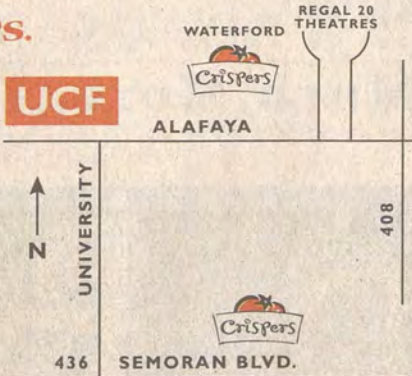
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Defense continues to propel women's run

FROM B1

"After missing the game on Monday and letting my teammates down, I knew I had to have two good practices," Hudson said. "We knew we had to pick up our defenses, and not have any dry spells on offense."

The two teams went back and forth in the first half, but UCF (5-6, 3-1 A-Sun) was able to control tempo, holding an 18-16 lead with 6:44 left.

Troy (2-9, 1-3 A-Sun) was held to only one field goal for the rest of the half, and guard Claudia Johnson canned a 3-pointer to beat the shot clock, giving the Knights a 27-18 advantage going into the locker room.

The Trojans started the second half strong, and were able to get within six at 31-25 at the 16:41 mark. UCF responded, and pushed the lead into double digits with a lay-up from center Ali Roberts and a mid-range jumper from forward Shelby Weber.

"They were double teaming us in the paint, and that allowed Shelby to get some open looks," Striegler said. "You have to find out what the defense is going to give you, and take advantage of it."

Both Weber and Roberts finished in double figures, with 14 and 11 points, respectively.

However, Striegler is still not satisfied feeling her squad left some points on the floor.

"We're still not executing the way we want to on offense, and we're still not finishing some of the easy looks," Striegler said. "That's something we have to work on."

The Knights also welcomed point guard LaShay King back into the fold. King led the team with 120 assists last season, and gave out two assists in limited action.

"She's been wanting to come back and play for so long now," Hudson said. "It's good to get her back because she's a threat out there on the court."

UCF was able to hold the double-digit advantage for the final eight minutes, and is now all-alone in second place.

But the Knights go away from home next weekend, and play teams only a half-game behind them in the standings.

"Campbell and Gardner-Webb are going to be gunning for us at their place," Striegler said. "You have to be able to win the road games in this league if you want to compete for the championship."

Hudson and the rest of the



Center Ali Roberts scored 11 points in Saturday's 55-43 victory over Troy University. BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Knights will get back to action on Thursday at Campbell.

"We just have to play UCF basketball," Hudson said. "Coach has been talking to us about doing the little things, and we have to come together on the road to make some things happen."

Around the Atlantic Sun

Speaking of the Camels (4-4, 3-2 A-Sun), CU is coming off a two-loss weekend in Nashville against Belmont and league leading Lipscomb.

The Bisons (8-3, 5-0 A-Sun) ran past Campbell 71-55 on Saturday afternoon, and won their 10th straight game at Allen Arena.

Campbell will now return to Carter Gym where it is 3-0 this season in league play.

After losing to Lipscomb on Wednesday night, Gardner-Webb (5-6, 3-2 A-Sun) rolled past Belmont 67-53 on Saturday earning a split in the Music City.

GWU is also undefeated at home in league play at 2-0, and will host FAU on Thursday while the Bruins (7-5, 2-3 A-Sun) take the Georgia roadie.

Stetson (5-5, 2-2 A-Sun) swept Georgia State and Mercer over the weekend using last second shots lifting it to 63-62 and 64-62 wins.

However GSU (4-7, 2-2 A-Sun) and Mercer (4-7, 2-2 A-Sun) still earned a split on the road blasting Jacksonville.

FAU (3-8, 1-3 A-Sun) was able to pick up its first league win over Troy on Thursday.



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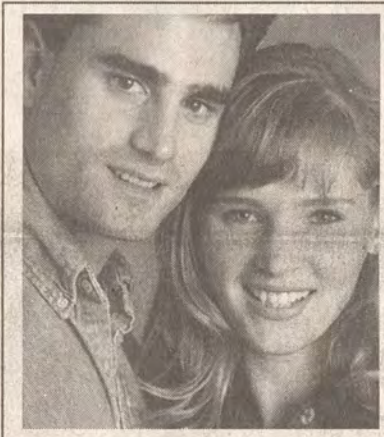
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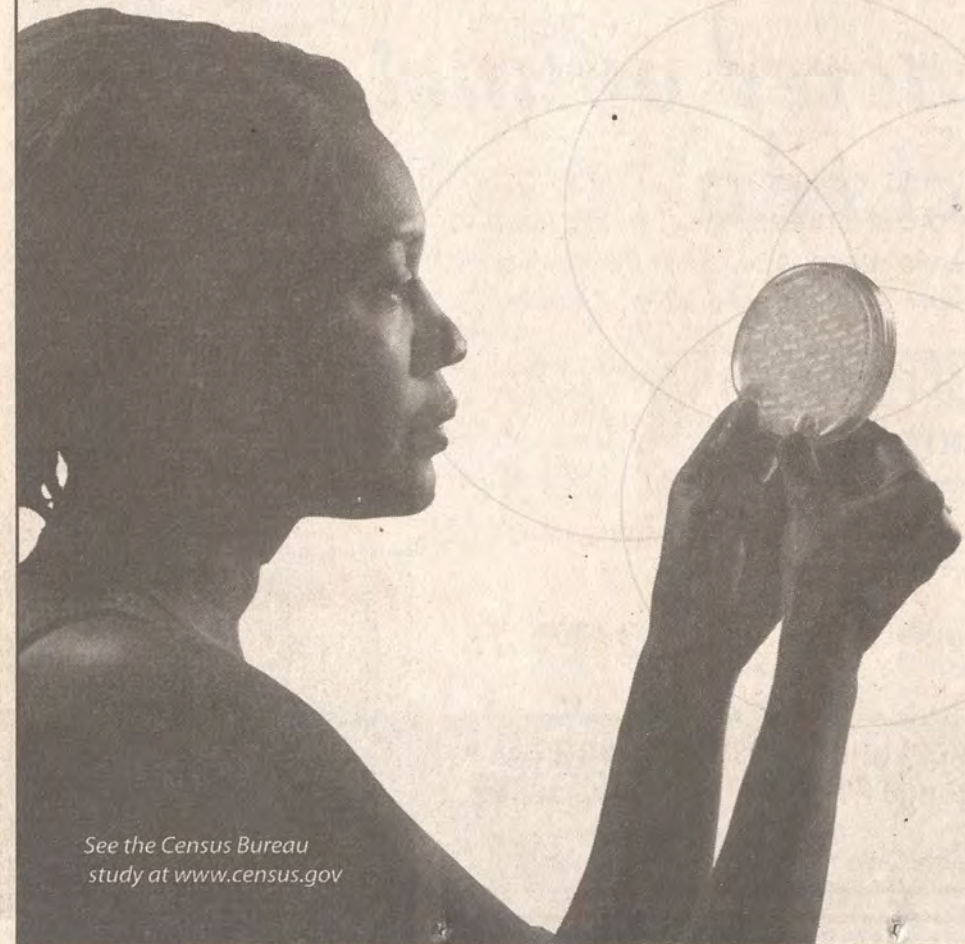
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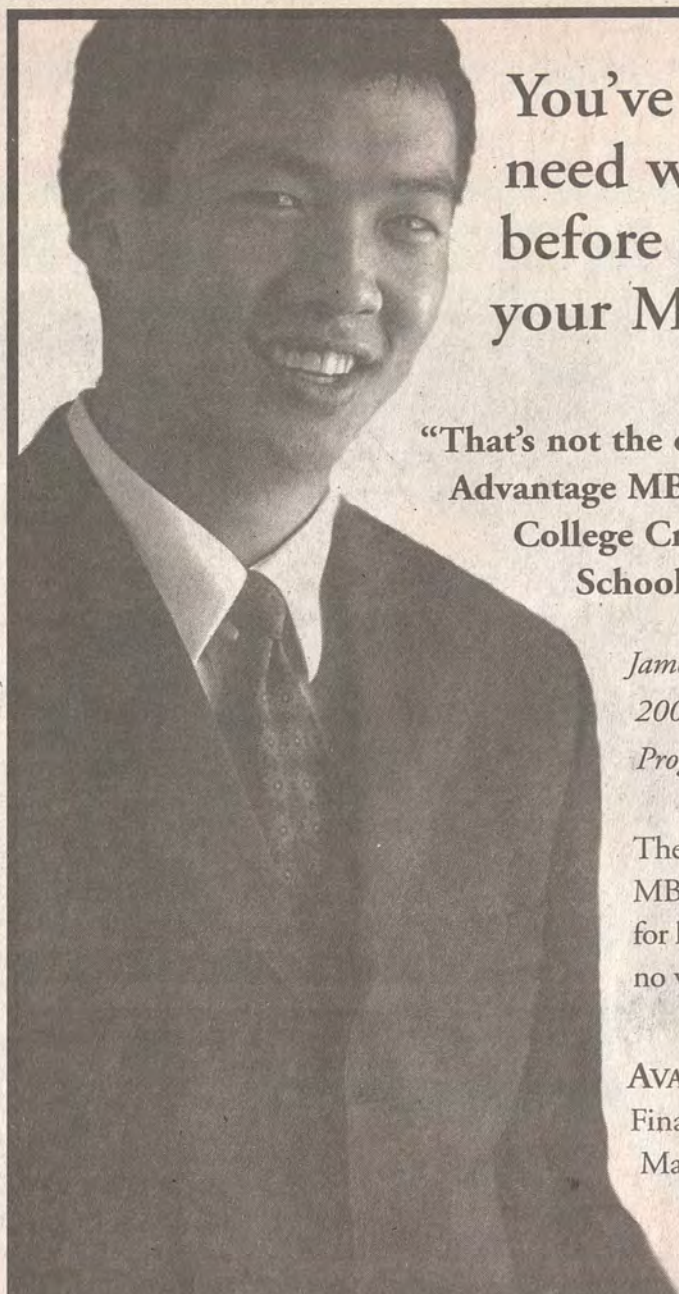
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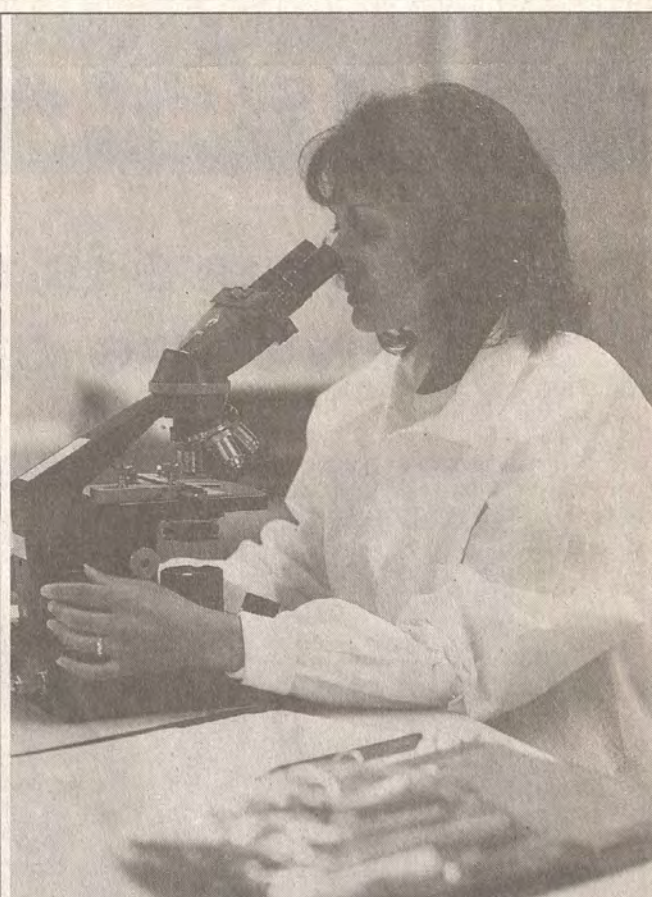
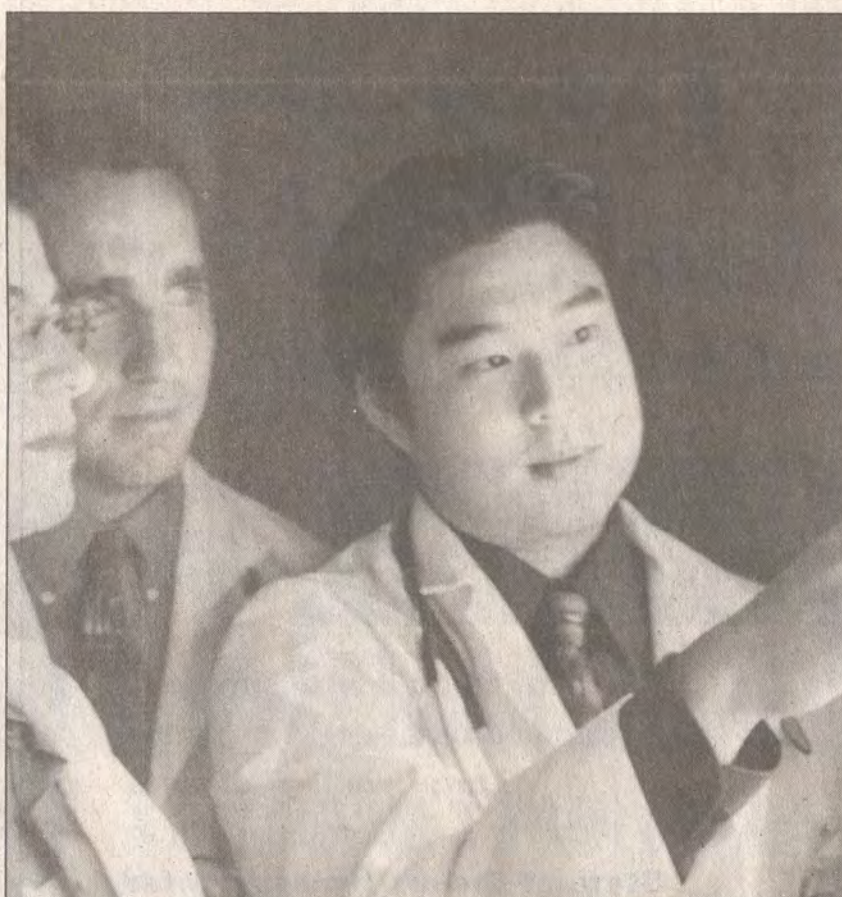
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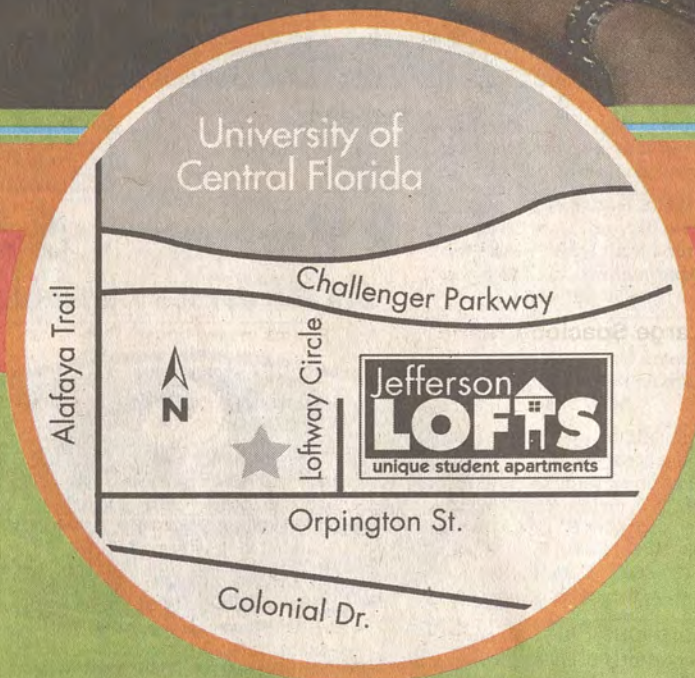
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Wanted: Idealists, Environmentalists, and Patriots - itching for a fight.
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2001 C320 MERCEDES BENZ
Private owner, 38k miles. Aspen green, beige leather, 4-door.
\$21,900 obo.
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2000 Mustang GT Convertible
Fully-loaded, \$12,500.
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Tour island of Phuket with a UCF student Accommodations, tours, & meals included Tickets to shows, parties

Welcome Back



Tuesday, Jan. 11

Homecoming 2005 Executive Board
applications available in OSI or at
www.ucf.knightmare.com

Wednesday, Jan. 12

CAB Meet and Greet plus showing of
Garden State. Event at 6:30 pm,
Pegasus Ballroom. Movie begins at 8pm.

Friday, Jan. 15

Caribbean Student Association (CSA)
party at Hypnotic. Doors open at 10pm.



CAB Cheap Dates Series
brings you its first event:
Cheap Skate on Jan. 18!
Sign up in advance in SU
208 for this event at the
RDV Sportsplex.
www.osi.sdes.ucf.edu

Monday, Jan. 17

60 free tickets to the Morse Museum
available through **CAB Cultural and Fine**
Arts. First come, first serve in SU 208.

Tuesday, Jan. 18

Cheap Skate ice skating, brought to you by
the **CAB Cheap Date Series**. Sign up in
advance in SU 208 for skating and hot
chocolate at the RDV Sportsplex in Maitland.

Wednesday, Jan 19

CSA meeting, 4pm, Pegasus Ballroom ABC.

MSC hosts **MLK Jr. Day** in Key West Ballroom,
218AD at 11am.

VUCF will be playing with kids from the **Taft**
Boys and Girls Club. Carpool from Millican
Hall at 2:15pm.

CAB Movie "Anchorman" 8pm, Cape
Florida Ballroom.

Thursday, Jan. 20

Volunteer with CSA at the TD Waterhouse.
Meet in Front of the VAB at 3:30pm.

CAB Speakers presents **Myth Busters**, 8pm,
Pegasus Ballroom.

Friday, Jan. 21

Homecoming Board applications due by
5pm in SU 208.

Saturday, Jan. 22

Late Knights "Knight Club" from 9pm til
2am in the Student Union.



Late Knights brings you "Knight Club"
from 9pm til 2am in the Student Union.
Come for free food and fun.
<http://www.osi.sdes.ucf.edu/lateknights/home.html>