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Asbestos clean-up continues on campus

By DEREK GONSOULIN
Staff Writer

The University of Central Florida may want to adopt the motto "Pardon Our Dust" as construction continues on five projects with 27 others in various stages of development. The Student Union, one of the most anticipated of these projects, will open next month for office workers, Peter Newman, Director of UCF's Facilities Planning division, says food court and retail shops will serve students and faculty in August.

August seems to be the anticipated date for other projects, too. Newman said workers are putting in the footings on the student parking garage which is being built near the Education Building and are examining the panels for its outside. The garage is being built near the Education Building and is scheduled for completion during renovations to the library stairwells had to be replaced.

See ASBESTOS, Page 12

Lecturers hit campus for a week

By NORA KULIESH
Staff Writer

Community leaders will turn in their traditional job assignments on Feb. 17 for stints as lecturers in UCF's classrooms during the school's first "Distinguished Lecturer Week." More than 100 government, business, and media participants from the Central Florida area will lecture on subjects in their fields in a program designed to extend students practical insights into their careers of choice.

The program's aim is to strengthen the connection between UCF and the Orlando community, said Karen Jennings, UCF's director of Constituent Relations.

Jennings said UCF has been "Orlando's best kept secret" for too long.

"We don't want to be a secret anymore," Jennings said.

Bringing in Orlando's leaders will not only offer students an opportunity to hear from professionals, she said, but it will let the community see firsthand what a dynamic institution UCF is.

All Weiss, President of Walt Disney World Resort, will be among the honored guests. A UCF alumnus, Weiss is informed of UCF's growth.

Now it's time for others to find out.

Also expected to appear are Bob Opsahl
See LECTURERS, Page 5

Campus construction continuing

By ORLANDO MONTOYA
Staff Writer

The University of Central Florida may want to adopt the motto "Pardon Our Dust" as construction continues on five projects with 27 others in various stages of development. The Student Union, one of the most anticipated of these projects, will open next month for office workers, Peter Newman, Director of UCF's Facilities Planning division, says food court and retail shops will serve students and faculty in August.

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See CONSTRUCTION, Page 2

Barlow's discovery is far out

By DANIEI HEML
Staff Writer

A UCF professor has found the possible origin of the Martian meteorite that was found in Antarctica and thought to have evidence of life on Mars.

Dr. Nadine Barlow, Director of the Robinson Observatory and in charge of the astronomy program at UCF, believes she has found the originating point of the meteorite found in the summer of 1986.

Barlow has identified two craters in the southern hemisphere as being the most likely candidates.

"I decided to look for the origin on my own for curiosity sake," Barlow said. "I knew that there was a lot of interest in the meteorite and eventually they would want to know where it came from and this could provide NASA with some clues where to look."

The meteorite fell to earth about 13,000 years ago. Although it was found in 1986, it wasn't until 1993 when scientists realized the meteorite was Martian. It is the 12th Martian meteorite found on earth. According to a U.S. News and World Report article, there are four craters in the meteorite indicating there was possible life on Mars.

"Since all Martian geological activity ended about that time, I knew I was looking for a fresh crater," she said.

From the size of the meteorite, she also knew the crater must be at least 100,000 miles in diameter or elongated. Using a catalog of Martian craters that she compiled as a graduate student at the University of Arizona, Barlow further reduced the number of possible sites to 23 craters. Using images taken by the Viking Orbiter mission, she eliminated all but two craters. One is 7 miles by 6 miles and the other is 14 miles by 9 miles.

Both are found in the heavily cratered region of the southern hemisphere. Barlow is hoping the Mars Global Surveyor orbiting mission scheduled for September will verify her findings when its information is analyzed.

Dr. Silfvast, chair of the UCF Physics Department, said Barlow's findings being noteworthy to the Astronomy department, "It puts the university and Physics Department in the limelight for working in the forefront of this new era," Silfvast said. The discovery will set forth the direction for where future Mars landings will be.

"She is the expert on the surface of Mars," Barlow said.

Barlow presented her findings in October to the American Astronomical Society's Division of Planetary Sciences Conference in Tucson, Ariz., and will be presenting at next month's Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in Houston. She also has submitted a paper for publication in the Journal of Geophysical Research.

Barlow joined the Physics department last January. Before coming to UCF, she worked nine years in the Johnson Space

See PROFESSOR, Page 7

Asbestos is in good shape, it's not a hazard to anybody."

The buildings due for asbestos abatement (the removal process) are: the Health and Physics Building, Computer Center I (next to CCII) and the Chemistry Building.

During renovations to Computer Center II, the mechanical room in the Health and Physics Building will be abated of asbestos, a material that has been found to cause cancer over years of exposure to potentially hazardous levels of its fibers.

The Health and Physics Building and CCI have asbestos in the form of water pipe insulation, floor and ceiling tile, and the glue used in securing carpet, tile, insulation, etc. (called mastic). The Chemistry Building has asbestos in its floor tile and will be dealt with at a later time, Mammino said.

The three buildings' asbestos is non-friable (or unable to be crumbled by hand and inhaled), Mammino said. In that form, he said, the asbestos does not pose a risk to the workers.

Phil Maynard, industrial hygienist at the University of California at Berkeley, agrees with Mammino.

"The floor and ceiling tiles are not friable," Maynard said. "It is difficult to make [asbestos] release in those situations."

Damaged, asbestos-containing materials (ACM) could release asbestos fibers, Maynard said, but he found it unlikely to happen.

"A big flood could degrade [the tiles], but unless some physical harm comes to the tile, it is not a problem."

Asbestos had to be removed from CCII and the stairwell in the library due to renovations to both. CCII is undergoing construction for a new Music Center, Computer Center III, located directly behind CCII.

From Jan. 13-23 asbestos in the form of floor tile, pipe insulation and mastic was removed from CCII.

Mammino said the old carpet on the library stairwells had to be replaced.

See LECTURERS, Page 5

The President's home is among the flurry of construction activity on campus.

Photo by CARL POLGAR

Dr. Nadine Barlow is an expert on Martian meteorites.

Photo by MIKE MARSHALL

The President's home is among the flurry of construction activity on campus.
Noriega volunteers her helping hand

By TRACY WEBB
News Editor

Graciela Noriega is leading the UCF community into the 21st century.

Noriega, a combination political science and liberal studies major, has wanted to help others early in her college career.

A year ago she was an active volunteer with Americorps, a national service program started in 1993 by President Clinton. Noriega volunteered in the Bithlo community where Americorps determined school-aged children are at risk.

"My primary focus was parks and recreation at the Bithlo community park where I still volunteer every Friday and do a Culture Shock program. I did mentoring and tutoring with after-school kids at Columbia Elementary School. I also did community clean-ups," Noriega said.

In total, Noriega averaged about 1,700 hours of community service in one year. She says, "It was all worth it."

Noriega says the major influence in her life is her father.

"He has always been pushing me to do good," she said. "He is not happy with B's because he knows that I can do better."

She gives this advice to any aspiring student who wants to follow her lead in the community.

"It's a lot of hard work and dedication. You have to have a goal. Once you have a goal nothing can stop you. If you put your mind to it you can do whatever you want."

"I know that’s so cliché but it’s so true, if you really want something you can find the resources and work it. You need to be positive, determined and strong."

Graciela Noriega and her friend Rico Brown enjoy a fun time at a rally for President Clinton.

If you have a nomination for "Student Leader of the Week" please call 977-1009.

The Central Florida Future covering UCF for nearly three decades

Construction gives campus new appearance

From Page 1

They too will be replaced when construction begins on the Health and Public Affairs Building. Newman said it's convenient to use the land as dirt lots for now because the land would have to be cleared anyway.

The work never ceases, with or without difficulties.

The latter is partly the case with the Communications Building. Newman says DiMare Construction is approaching 50 percent completion on the project, also planned for an August opening, despite estimates putting work two to three weeks behind.

Rounding out the list of construction projects are the President's House, a privately funded project which the university expects to be completed by August, and the remodeling of the Computer Centers. In addition to a complete makeover of CCl and CCI, Newman said the school will have a bridge to the 21st century, an aerial walkway linking the buildings with CCH.

Newman says the most exciting part about the growth on campus isn't breaking ground or the ribbon cutting.

"The most exciting part is the concept, the actual design," he said. "By the time you finish a project, you're ready to move on."
Admission is free • Please bring a canned good.

If you tell them, they will come.

8pm UCF Arena Wednesday, February 19

JAMES earl JONES
MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER

Funded by Adlkey and Service fees or allocated by Student Government Association.
Black History runs deeper than one month a year

By Dr. Felix Boateng
Knight-Ridder/Tribune News

A full appreciation of the celebration of Black History Month requires a review and a reassessment of the social and academic climate that prevailed in the Western world, and especially in North America before 1926 when Black History Month was established.

It is important to recall that between 1619 and 1926, African Americans and other peoples of African descent were classified as a race that had not made any contribution to human civilization. Within the public and private sector, African Americans and other peoples of African descent were continually dehumanized and relegated to the position of non-citizens and often defined as fractions of human. It is estimated that between 1860 and 1925, an African American was lynched every two and a half days. The academic and intellectual community was no different than the bulk of mainstream America. Peoples of African descent were visibly absent in any scholarship or intellectual discourse that dealt with human civilization. African Americans were so dehumanized and their history so distorted in academia that "slavery, peonage, segregation and lynching" were considered justifiable conditions. In fact, Professor John Bogues, the founder of Columbia University graduate school of political science and an important figure in American scholarship, defined the African race as "a race of men which has never created any civilization of any kind...

"It was this kind of climate and the sensational, racist scholarship that inspired the talented and brilliant African American scholar, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson. Woodson dropped out of mainstream academia to devote his life to the scientific study of the African experience in America, Africa and throughout the world. Under Woodson's direction and contributions from other African-American and white scholars, the "Negro History Week" was launched on a serious platform in 1926 to neutralize the apparent ignorance and deliberate distortion of Black History. Meetings, exhibitions, lectures and symposia were organized to climax the scientific study of the African experience throughout the year in order to give a more objective and scholarly balance to American and World history.

Today, this national and international observance has been expanded to encompass the entire month of February. The expansion, of course, has increased the number of days for celebration, but its strength and importance lie in the new meaning that has emerged. As Ralph L. Crowley points out in an article in the December 1977 issue of the Western Journal of Black Studies, "it is no longer sufficient to devote the entire month to the celebration of great Negro contributions to the American mainstream." I believe, like Dr. Crowley, that it is necessary to use the occasion to examine the collective ingenuity, creativity, cultural and political experiences of the masses of African Americans and other peoples of African descent. In North America, a variety of programs, including lectures, exhibitions, banquets and a host of cultural activities are presented throughout the month of February to commemorate the occasion.

At Vanderbilt University, the Black Cultural Center has been in the forefront of programs developed to mark the observance. The activities will include lectures, a Black History Month community banquet, dance performances, Black oriented movies and an exhibition. The intention of the founders of Black History Month was not, and is still not, to initiate a week or a month's study of the universal Black experience. Instead, the observance portrays the climax of a scientific study of the Black experience throughout the year. The month of February is significant and recognized in African-American history for the birthdays of great African American pioneers and institutions. These include the birthdays of Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Eljaughon Hughes, Eubie Blake, NAACP and the first Pan African Congress. Historians may also recall that the first African-American senator, Hiram Revels, took the oath of office in February 1870. Black History Month takes on a paramount significance as we approach the 21st century. Civil rights laws and celebrations such as Black History Month have exposed the legal consequences of overt discriminatory practices and racial harassment. The struggles for civil rights in America and achievement of independence by African countries in the 20th century have shown the strength, the humanity, the ingenuity and the contributions of Black people to the human civilization.

However, these revelations have not neutralized the prevalence of prejudicial attitudes which generate discriminatory acts both on a national and in the international arena. Behavior may be controlled by laws, but attitudes can only change through education and the elimination of ignorance. I believe strongly that Black History Month should be the reaffirmation of struggle and determination to change attitudes and heighten the understanding of the Black experience.
Valentine’s Day: an exercise of conforming, or not

By DIANA IMANUEL
Staff Writer

As I was in the department store the other day, weaving through the collection of balloons, teddy bears and heart-shaped candy boxes, I had reached a milestone. It had occurred that I began to question the validity of Feb. 14, also known as Valentine’s Day. I ask: should Valentine’s Day be recognized as an official holiday? Hmm ... I don’t think so.

Before I continue and possibly offend “in-love” couples, remember this is my opinion (for whatever it is worth). I am not a miserable person. I am not against acknowledging aesthetic emotions, nor am I against the concept of being in love. As a matter of fact, I am in love and do believe I have found “the one.”

But let’s ask this: What is it we need? Is it one day of recognition to display love and affection toward our loved ones? I’m going to say what we need is several days dedicated to expressing our love and affection. What a better place this world would be. But why the formalities for only one day?

Candle-lit dinners, flowers and candy are appreciated and are symbols of affection that do not go unnoticed. But why must we exploit ourselves by contributing to this unnecessary holiday? What about those pressured subjects who are simply cannot afford another date or who in no way is burdensome. And finally, let’s consider the dateless individual. This person may become so lonely for an entire day as he/she may consider the dateless individual.

In order to further understand why the theory, we must examine those pressured subjects who are affected by this holiday. Let’s consider the early bird couple who has been dating for only a few months. Now, the question is how much money should you spend? From a guy’s standpoint (or a girl’s, according to this politically correct world we live in), the amount you spend could make or break your relationship, whether it be on dinner or gifts.

Questions you may ask include: If I spend this much money, she/he might think I’m getting too serious. Or, if I don’t spend enough, she/he might think I don’t care about our relationship. Ah ... the pressure of what to do. Let’s consider the couple who has been dating for years. Partner A might not be able to top the amazing Christmas present that was given only a few months ago. Again, the pressure of finding a suitable, yet expected, gift is burdensome. And finally, let’s consider the couple who has been dating for only a few months. Now, the question is how much money should you spend?

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Student arrested for possession

By LINDSAY MALANGA
Staff Writer

Patrick Marc Gagne, 19, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia on Jan. 31.

Officer J. Frank was dispatched to the Lake Claire Apartments in reference to a fire alarm, and upon entering the suite he detected the smell of marijuana. When the officer entered the room, he saw a pipe and a cannabis cigarette in a cup of water. Further investigation led to the findings of two bottles of Testosterone Cypronate and a pipe. Marc A. Robinson, 26, reported a stolen bicycle on Jan. 29. Marcionette parked his Roadmaster bicycle. After locking the bike to a light pole with a chain and a combination lock west of Andromeda, parallel to Central Florida Boulevard inbound, he returned to find it gone.

In other crime news:

* Mark B. Wreyk, 19, reported on Jan. 30 a stolen pink and blue Roadmaster bicycle. After locking the bike to a light pole with a chain and a combination lock west of Andromeda, parallel to Central Florida Boulevard inbound, he returned to find it gone.

* Jeffrey Allen Mauldin, 19, also reported a stolen bicycle on Jan. 30. The theft occurred when Mauldin left his bike unlocked in the weight room for approximately an hour and a half.

* David Adam Marcionette, 19, reported missing items from his vehicle for approximately 35 minutes and returned to find his book bag and other miscellaneous items missing.

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SEPS brightens image

By LINDSAY MALANGA
Staff Writer

If you didn’t know where SEPS was before, you’ll know now.

The Student Escort Patrol Service has begun using three-equipped, illuminated toppers for its golf carts that patrol campus.

Chief Richard Turkiewicz, Director of Public Safety and Police, wanted to develop something that would give the SEPS program more visibility on campus. Sergeant Thomas Gorbus came up with the idea for the toppers.

"These toppers will definitely improve the program by providing more visibility for students," Turkiewicz said. "There are a million golf carts on campus that ride around all day, but now the SEPS' carts will be specifically identified."

The toppers read "SEPS Escort Patrol 823-2424."

Gorbus welcomes any comments or suggestions for the SEPS program.

Volunteer’s Week

FEBRUARY 8-14

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Send That 'Special Someone' an elegant floral arrangement, a dozen long stemmed red roses or a romantic bouquet.

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UCF students get an additional 5% off (15% total discount) and UCF faculty, staff and employees get 5% off on orders placed and delivered between February 8-13.

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Center for Professional Development
Division of Continuing Education

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February 14

Sends That "Special Someone" an elegant floral arrangement, a dozen long-stemmed red roses or a romantic bouquet.

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travel: real life stories!
Searching for a man called Oscar

By DEAN G. LEWIS
Entertainment Editor

On Tuesday morning, Hollywood embraced its best of 1996 with nominations for the 69th Annual Academy Awards. While the actual nominees are not available (this article went to press before nominations were announced), I will reveal MY choices from all the great films that graced countless multiplexes, twin cinemas and art houses across the country.

For Best Picture, no film since, perhaps "Schindler's List" or even 1995's "Dead Man Walking" is as emotionally profound and powerful as Lars Von Trier's "Breaking the Waves." With a shattering performance from Emily Watson, its relentless hand-held camerawork, and a love story that truly transcends our cinema's box office, Von Trier delivers an elegy full of spirituality, devotion and sex. His film won the Grand Jury Prize last year at Cannes and Picture, Director, and Actress honors from the National Society of Film Critics. It could win more. Other picks for Best Film are "Big Night," "Secrets and Lies," "The English Patient," "The People vs. Larry Flynt," "Fargo," and "Shine." Independent productions took 1996 by storm. Columbia made a late-year impact with its biopic on Larry Flynt. Director Miles Forman recently won a Golden Globe. Along with Forman (the only director besides Oliver Stone to have won two Oscars in the last 25 years) my picks for Best Director are Anthony Minghella ("The English Patient"), Joel Coen ("Fargo"), Mike Leigh ("Secrets and Lies"), Lars Von Trier ("Breaking the Waves"), and Scott Hicks for "Shine.

In my Best Actor sweepstakes, Tom Cruise ("Jerry Maguire"), Anthony Hopkins ("Surviving Picasso"), Denzel Washington ("Courage Under Fire"), Liam Neeson ("Michael Collins"), and the delicate duo of Stanley Tucci and Tony Shalhoub ("Big Night") will have to go up against the big three: Ralph Fiennes ("The English Patient"), Geoffrey Rush ("Shine"), and Woody Harrelson ("The People vs. Larry Flynt"). Ironically, too many women had far too many great roles of their careers in 1996. I am still overwhelmed by Emily Watson's tragic portrait of Bess McNeill in "Breaking the Waves." I love Brenda Blethyn as the single mom in "Secrets and Lies." My other nods for Best Actress are Marianne Jean-Baptiste, so good in "Secrets and Lies," the lovely Juliette Binoche ("The English Patient"), Natalie Portman ("Beautiful Girl"), Marion Ross ("The Evening Star"), and Joan Allen ("The Crucible"). I also enjoyed Pam Ferris as the cruel school principal in "Matilda," Janeane Garofalo ("The Truth About Cats and Dogs"), and Elizabeth Pena ("Lone Star").

1996 saw a bountiful number of screenplays, both original pieces and risqué adaptations. My picks for Original Screenplay go to "Big Night" (Stanley Tucci and Joseph Tropiano), the literary "Lone Star" (John Sayles), "Breaking the Waves" (Von Trier), "Jerry Maguire" (Cameron Crowe), "Secrets and Lies" (Mike Leigh), the Coen brothers for "Fargo" and Reggie Rock Bythewood for Spike Lee's "Get on the Bus." Other good scripts include "Larry Flynt," "Everyone Says I Love You" and "Flirting With Disaster." Adapting an existing story and still keep the integrity of that work is a laborious undertaking. However, Anthony Minghella transformed Michael Ondaatje's lyrical novel, "The English Patient," into one of last year's best penned scripts. Minghella will most likely win my award, but who can blame Philip Haas for his clever "Angels and Insects," John Hodge for "Trainspotting," Malcolm Bradbury for "Cold Comfort Farm," Laura Jones for "The Portrait of a Lady," Arthur Miller for "The Crucible," and the late Scott McPherson for "Marvin's Room" for trying their hearts out? I can't. I have yet to see Kenneth Branagh's 4-hour translation of "Hamlet." That could very well sneak into my list.

The 69th Annual Academy Awards will be presented live on ABC Monday night, March 24 at 9 p.m. It's the Super Bowl of cinema.

The best place to advertise is in the Central Florida Future

By DANIELLE MARABLE

It's that time again! Everyone's favorite rock star's daughter will be on screen Wednesday night in "Stealing Beauty." The movie, starring Liv Tyler and Jeremy Irons, will be showing in the Student Activity Center at 6:30 and 9 p.m.

Come and find out who the best candidate is for SGA president on Thursday night. The Student Government Association's Presidential Debates will start at 5 p.m. in the SAC. Get involved and have a voice on campus. Sit back and relax on Valentine's Day in the Visual Arts Building auditorium with the UCF Jazz band. On tenor sax will be Bob Berg. The show starts at 8 p.m.

Writers wanted call the CFF 977-1009

CHEVY CHASE 
BEVERLY D'ANGELO RANDY QUAD

CAB FARE

On Sunday night "I'm Gonna Git You Sucka" will play at the SAC at 6:30 and 9 p.m. "In Living Color" creator Keenan Ivory Wayans wrote, directed, and stars in this spoof on '70s black exploitation movies. Come out and laugh at "Mr. Handicap Man!" Greek Week is Feb. 16-22, and we have "Singles Out" UCF style coming at ya.

For Tuesday Knight Live, 50 girls and 50 guys will be looking for Mr. and Mrs. Rights at 8 p.m. in the SAC. Jenny McCarthy may not be here, but UCF's Ken Loo will be just as great!

As always, if you have any questions, please call the Office of Student Activities at 823-6471.

The time the coordinates are on a rot.

VEGAS VACATION

AT THEATERS EVERYWHERE FEBRUARY 14TH

February 12, 1997
Central Florida Future
Kevin Spacey, left, directs Matt Dillon in “Albino Alligator.”

This Alligator lacks real bite

By DEAN G. LEWIS
Entertainment Editor

In Kevin Spacey’s film-noirish directorial debut, “Albino Alligator”, Gary Sinise and Matt Dillon play brothers Milo and Davo, two small-time thieves on the run from a botched heist with fellow delinquent Law (William Fichtner).

The three retreat to Dino’s Last Chance Bar, a Prohibition-era lair joint buried in the basement of an old city building. Dino’s has no windows, no back­doors, and no exits. Along with its cranky owner (M. Emmett Walsh), three patrons (Skeet Ulrich, John Spencer, and Viggo Mortensen), and Janet the wise­cracking bartender (Faye Dunaway), our modern-day James Gang welcomes us into its hostage hell, no holds barred, bad­talking, gun crazy, philosophizing charade of mucho madness, reminiscent of “Dog Day Afternoon” (both films have animal names in their titles). An ingenious Oscar­winning script made the 1975 Sidney Lumet classic, featuring Al Pacino as Sonny the bank robber, far supe­rior to this white gator.

Spacey, who won an Oscar for his sly turn as Keyser Soze in “The Usual Suspects”, directs admirably, producing a low­key suspense yarn filled with pan­ning, overhead action, and close­up shots. Yet Spacey is like a pris­oner, chained regrettably by Christian Forte’s hybrid of a script. “Alligator” doesn’t take long to thrust itself into tired, cliched situations. For instance, as G.D. Browning, the nervous cop who’s got a million SWAT team sharpshooters readying to dice Dino’s water hole, Joe Mantegna turns into a parody, especially when confronted by a TV reporter for the local news. Their quibbles are nothing new and forces Spacey’s film to plod along much like a mediocre, direct­to­video pie.

** 1/2 (out of four) C– 1 hour, 34 min. Rated R.
Sixo ready to strike the chords of success

By STEPHEN UNGER
Music Critic

From their hometown in Miami, Sixo hopes to play its indie rock sound to a melody of success. Influenced by the Police and the Replacements, the four-piece band began playing only a couple years ago, and now it's looking for some exposure.

"Rescue", their new release, is bound to follow from one tune to the next. Goldfinger is exposing their ska-punk rock world. Their tour, which hit the Sapphire Club in Orlando Feb. 6 is supporting the works of their self-titled CD. After a successful attraction with their EP "Richter", Goldfinger is exposing their first full album on college radio stations across the U.S. Twenty years ago the Sex Pistols began punk rock, and today Goldfinger attempts to extend its long tradition of chord strumming and performing at quick tempos.

They intend to show audiences their music is able to jingle along with other performers such as No Doubt, Green Day and Rancid. Like most punk bands, the sound from Goldfinger drives from the fast lanes in sunny California, and eventually winds up echoing throughout the rest of the nation. Goldfinger's music is neatly linked with the ska-punk style, which offers speed and emotion that immediately follows from one tune to the next.

Goldfinger's sound originated in California.
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Asbestos clean-up scheduled for 3 buildings

From Page 1

This meant the asbestos-containing mastic on the ceilings (or large, open areas between steps) had to be replaced as well.

Chris Barr, a sophomore majoring in computer science, is a lab consultant in CCI. He said it would not make sense for UCF to endanger its students.

"It would be kind of crazy to let us work in [CCI] if there was actually any health hazard," Barr said. "There might be a fractional amount, but other than that, I doubt it." Building Occupant Notifications (which inform the public the building has asbestos-containing material) are posted on the front doors or hallways of each building by Environmental Health and Safety to comply with Environmental Protection Agency standards.

Each notification contains:

* Known locations of ACM and a complete list including rooms, floor tile, pipe insulation, black duct music, etc.
* An underlined statement showing there is no risk to the public. "The presence of ACM in the building does not necessarily mean that an asbestos exposure hazard exists. Asbestos exposure comes from fibers that have been released from the material and inhaled. ACM in good condition and if not disturbed is not hazardous."
* A list of suggestions on what the public can do to maintain safe conditions, including familiarizing oneself with ACM locations and not to disturb the areas.

Mammino said private businesses clean the asbestos on campus. Law Engineering of Orlando is the consultant in asbestos abatements at UCF and Simpson & Associates, Inc. of Trilby is the contractor that cleans asbestos.

Contractors who remove asbestos wear full body coveralls, disposable head covers, boots, or sneakers and respirators. The building is sealed with polyethylene (similar to the material used in plastic, garbage bags) and the asbestos is soaked in a mixture of water and soap.

The asbestos is scraped with large, spatula-like devices attached to broom-stick-length handles. The scraped-off material is then packed into 55-gallon drums and the building is left without ventilation for 24 hours to let any remaining fibers settle. The areas are then soaked and cleaned again.

Students offered differing opinions on ACM in the building does not necessarily mean that it is not hazardous to your health as long as it is left undisturbed.

Mammino said: "I explain to people who see asbestos projects going on and tell them not to worry about it. Because when people don't know anything about asbestos they get scared of it, because they see asbestos signs hanging up that say 'cancer causing' and they get concerned."

Asbestos, installed when UCF was built in the 1960s, is an excellent fire-retardant material used in insulating pipes, vents, walls, etc. due to its ability to maintain heat and cold.

The problem is that if it is friable, or able to be crumbled by hand and inhaled, it can enter the lungs and in 20 to 40 years can cause a form of lung cancer called Asbestosis. Damaged asbestos material on pipes, ceiling, ducts, attics, etc. pose the greatest risk.

To learn more about the asbestos abatements on campus, call Mammino or the Environmental Health and Safety department at 823-6300.
Kids engineering event set for Saturday

A CFF Staff Report

More than 100 Central Florida high school students have been invited to UCF on Feb. 15 to participate in the 1997 Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS) competition.

TEAMS is a dynamic academic program and competition for high school students across the country. TEAMS invites thousands of high school students in a one-day event held each year. Students work together to solve problems and answer questions related to technology, mathematics and science.

For information, call 823-2455.

Nurses association plans drawing

The Student Nurses Association will hold a drawing for two Littman Stethoscopes, a crystal clock and a numbered Disney lithograph.

Tickets can be purchased at a bake sale on the Green or through the SNA. The drawing will be held Feb. 26. For information, call (904) 427-8111.

Art exhibitions set at library

The following items will be on display in the library during February:

* Fan Xin Lin: the well-known Chinese artist, by Fan Xin Lin.
* Black History Month, by Andrea Patterson, President, African American Student Union.
* Florida Before Written History, by Will Wildfong.
* You Are a Mechanical, Materials and Aerospace Engineer, by Dr. Louis Chou, Chair Department of Mechanical, Materials and Aerospace Engineering.
* Edward Albee, by Cheryl Mahan, Reference Librarian, Library.
* UCF Exchange Students Abroad, by Dr. Karl-Heinrich Barsch, Office of International Studies.

For information, call Ching Lee, Special Collections Librarian at 823-5427.

Health Center makes change

The Student Health Center will accept appointments only by telephone.

To make an appointment, call 823-3850.

Volunteer opportunities

* Visiting Nurses Association needs volunteers for its book sale on Feb. 18 and Feb. 22-23. Please contact Karen Habib at 972-2274.
* Into the Streets is volunteering at a Renaissance Festival for the elderly on Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
* The Special Olympics is looking for volunteers on March 1. Contact Suzanne at 481-2535 for information.
* Volunteers are needed for Workout for Hope on April 19 at Pleasure Island. Call (800) 272-2310 for information.
* If you would like to volunteer your services, call Volunteer UCF at 823-3318 for information.

UCF-Brevard forms business club

The newly-formed UCF-Brevard Business Club held its organizational meeting on Jan. 30. Items discussed included: meeting schedules, guest speakers, workshops and possible Florida Public Relations Association student chapter membership.

The co-advisors for the Business Club are Ben Olson at 632-1111, extension 65573 or Student Affairs at extension 65566.

Also at Brevard UCF, the 1996 Fall Holiday Banquet, sponsored by SGA-Brevard took place on Dec. 15. The evening featured an awards ceremony for high-achieving students.

Presidential message

President John Hitt speaks during the opening ceremony to celebrate Black History Month. Events on campus continue throughout February. For more information call 823-2450.

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Intramural Junkie: Sickness or Art Form

By TIM SPRINGER

Commentary

Being a college student is not only about studying, writing papers and talking other students for their parking space. It's about competing, finding your killer instinct, and stepping up when the pressure is on.

Regardless of your athletic ability, you still have a chance to compete at the collegiate level. You won't get a scholarship. You won't go pro. But you will learn a lot about yourself ... and your teammates.

The score is tied. Your team has the ball, and the next point wins. You look your two teammates in the eye, as you prepare to inbound the ball, and you just know the ball will be back in your hands to decide the game.

You throw it to one teammate and immediately call for it back. "Give it up ... give it up ... here I am ... right here ... pass it here!"

Your teammate looks you off and throws up an air ball that goes out of bounds. "Welcome to intramural basketball, where wannabes are still wannabes, and coaches are nowhere to be found.

It's a turning tournament time for 3-on-3 intramural basketball. And if you're involved you know nothing else matters. Whoever said "It's just a game!" must've lost a lot. It's never just a game — especially in intramurals. There's a competitive nature in all of us whether we acknowledge it or not. If you participate in intramurals you know what I'm talking about.

Whoever said "It's just a game!" must've got it in their head, and the ball after you get the ball from the person who keeps scoring on your team-mates! 2. Do you tell your teammates "I got him/her" even though you've given up five consecutive points?

3. Do you stand outside the three-point line calling for the ball while your teams-mates fight for rebounds?

4. Do you call fouls only at the end of the game when the score is close.

5. Do you forget your I.D. at least once per season and try to talk your way into being able to play?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, you're a true intramural junkie and in the 95% of your team-mates, the other team, and Recreational Services. But you can be on my team anytime ... just make sure you pass me the ball after you get the rebound.

So, as the semester blows by like an Allen Iverson cross-over, students all over campus are scrambling to keep from falling behind in their studies. To some, six weeks deep into the semester means mid-terms are right around the corner. But to others, six weeks means there's a championship to be won. Each team has battled through its short schedule and now it's time to decide the champion. Ask every team in the Education Building on Wednesday nights who will win the title and most will predict themselves. It's not about being cocky. It's not about bragging. It's about knowing when to say win.

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McDowell likes balanced 1997 recruiting class

By TIM SPRINGER
Sports Editor

The University of Central Florida has inked its reinforcements for Round 2 of the Division I-A battle.

Coach Gene McDowell feels confident in the players the Knights have landed and considers this class to be one of the most balanced to date.

"This recruiting class is so balanced we could switch a player or two to the other side of the ball and play 11-on-11 against each other with just freshmen," McDowell said.

While some fans remain unsure of UCF's ability to win at the I-A level, McDowell has a vision that has the football program sprinting toward the light at the end of the tunnel. With two solid recruiting classes behind them, the Golden Knights hope to be close to full I-A strength in the near future.

"Four strong years of recruiting should allow us to compete," McDowell said. "If we can get 15 I-A players in each recruiting class, we'll be in good shape."

McDowell and his staff may feel confident about the latest additions, but they know it's still too early.

"Most football players don't develop to their potential in high school," McDowell said. "We've had players at UCF that were never recommended to us by their high school coaches and went on to play in the NFL. So you really never know what you have in a player."

The 1997 Recruiting Class:
Richard Bryant *, DL, 6-5, 250 — brother of former UCF Linebacker John Bryant; enrolled in December.
Siha Burly *, WR/DB, 6-0 — played at Mesa Community College in Mesa, Ariz.; is already enrolled at UCF.
James Burroughs, WR/DB, 6-2, 185.
Dwight Collins, RB, 5-9, 205 — Lake Charles, La.; runs a 4.45; first-team all-state; he was passed over by many schools because he is deaf.
Tavares Davis, WR, 6-2, 180 — Fort Lauderdale High.
Ahmed El-Hasary, OL, 6-7, 267 — Merritt Island; picked UCF over South Florida.
Ryan Ezell, DE, 6-3, 230 — runs a 4.8 40; from N. Pike High School in Summitt, Miss.
Chris Gum, LB, 6-0, 215 — East Miss Community College; 4.7 40; similar to former player Nakia Reddick.
Tony Hardman, RB, 6-0, 205 — Clearwater High; runs a 4.6 40; chose UCF over Maryland, Indiana, and Furman.
Shane Harpelt *, IR — attended Northwest Miss. Community College; currently enrolled at UCF.
Mike Hodge, DB, 6-0, 200 — Clearwater High; also a long snapper and possible linebacker or safety.
Deron Herndon, OL, 6-0, 300 — Lake Brantley High School.
Mike Hutson, DE, 6-3, 220 — Daytona Pine Ridge High; runs a 4.5 40.
David Hutcher, LB, 6-0, 195 — Lemon Bay; runs a 4.57 40.
Meaven Loundizer, CB, 5-10, 180 — E. Arizona J.C.; attended Miami Edison High.
Josh McKibben, DT, 6-2, 245 — Wauchula Harddee High.
Tom Martinez, DE/DT, 6-3, 248 — Tampa Jesuit High; runs a 4.9 40; chose UCF over Tulane, Southern Miss, Ohio University and ULM.
Jason Miller, OL, 6-4, 315 — Lemon Bay; chose UCF over Ole Miss.
Dossey Robbins *, FB, 5-11, 250 — Copiah Lincoln (Miss.) J.C.; originally signed with University of Florida out of Marathon High.
Tito Rodriguez, LB, 6-0, 210 — Lenoir Acres High.
Elliott Sharper, FS, 5-10, 180 — Greensboro High; runs a 4.5 40.
Cornelius Smith, LB, 6-4, 235 — Tyler, Texas.
Albert Snyder, S, 5-11, 170 — Palm Bay High; great speed.
Blake Thames, WR, 6-2, 215 — runs a 4.64 40; played quarterback in high school; from Forest Hills Academy in West Palm Beach.
Wardell Underwood, TE, 6-6, 245 — chose UCF over Ole Miss and N.C. State.

* — Already enrolled at UCF

SPORTS SLATE

FEB. 12
Men's Tennis vs. Stetson, 2 p.m.

FEB. 13
Women's Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic, 7:30 p.m.
Women's Tennis vs. Jacksonville, 2:30 p.m.

FEB. 14
Baseball vs. Campbell, 3 p.m.
Men's Tennis vs. Marquette, noon

FEB. 15
Baseball vs. Campbell, 1 p.m.
Men's Basketball at Stetson, 7:30 p.m.
Women's Basketball vs. Florida International, 4 p.m.
Men's Tennis at Florida Atlantic, 1 p.m.
Women's Tennis at Florida Atlantic, 1 p.m.
Women's Track at Gamecock Invitational

FEB. 16
Men's Tennis at Florida International, 11 a.m.
Women's Tennis at Florida International, 11 a.m.

FEB. 18
Baseball vs. Bethune-Cookman College, 3 p.m.
Tsunami Beach Club

Upcoming Events

February 15  Firehouse
February 19  Backwash
            Average Joe
            Gum Wrapper Curb
February 21  Edgar Winter
February 28  Pat Travers
            Kansas
March 7  David Allan Coe
March 8  The Kill
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March 15  The Fabulous Thunderbirds
March 21

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Stetson game to determine men's fate

BY TONY MEJIA
Assistant Sports Editor

In a winner takes all shootout, the men's basketball teams of UCF and Stetson take to the court Saturday evening at the Edmunds Center in DeLand.

The bottom line: The TAAC tournament isn't big enough for the two Central Florida schools. In their first meeting, Feb. 3 at the UCF Arena, the Hatters took advantage of an awful shooting performance by the Golden Knights, winning 71-59. UCF shot 33 percent from the field, as Stetson's defensive pressure befuddled the Golden Knights, who didn't execute and missed easy opportunities.

Harry Kennedy went 2-for-11 from the field, including 0-for-5 from three-point range. In fact, the entire UCF team had its problems from beyond the arc, finishing 3-for-20. Stetson chose to play strong down low.

"When they [UCF] swept us last year, they got big efforts inside, and that kind of made us passive," Stetson coach Randy Brown said. "This season, we planned on taking it strong to the hole and attacking inside, and hopefully knocking them off the blocks a little."

Brown's strategy paid off, as Fred Estenman went 7-for-8 from the field for a game-high 17 points. Estenman and Stetson's other post threats, David Hill and Jeff Warbrinton, shot 15 of 21 (71 percent) and combined for 33 points. Brown will undoubtedly refer to the same strategy for this game, meaning Davin Granberry, Scott White and Tony Marlow must step up to defend Stetson's post triple threat.

Kenneth Johnson will guard Kennedy, as Randy Brown can only hope K.J. can hold UCF's sharpshooter to six points once again. Brad Traina, who paced UCF with 17 in the last game, will be matched up against Garrett Davis, Stetson's leading scorer. Davis scored 15 against UCF. Davis had a career high 31 at Campbell last Thursday, and has been on a hot streak as of late.

Campbell swept UCF and Stetson this past week, meaning they have secured the third spot in the TAAC East. Now the Hatters and Knights will play for the fourth and final spot in the tournament and a spot opposite the TAAC western division champion in the conference tournament's first round. With the teams even in the standings, and facing common opponents, the sweestakes now becomes best of three. With FIU and FAU down the road on the schedule, the winner would only have to match the other's performance against their neighbors from the south to find themselves in Charleston for the TAAC tournament.

This game unquestionably becomes the biggest of the UCF vs. Stetson rivalry since the championship of the 1994 TAAC tournament, when UCF's 79-71 victory propelled rookie coach Kirk Speraw and his Golden Knights into the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history.

Setbacks in Carolina leave Knights feeling blue

BY TONY MEJIA
Assistant Sports Editor

With the regular season winding down, the UCF men's basketball team looked to solidify its place in the postseason with its annual trip to the Carolinas.

Coach Kirk Speraw had his team lose and ready after a horrid home loss to Stetson, and the Knights appeared ready. Unfortunately, the trip to the Carolinas did not pay dividends.

Thursday night's venture into Charleston further extended UCF's woes and pushed the Knights' win streak to 14 games - currently tops in the country. Jermel President scored 16 to lead six Cougars double figures in Charleston's 90-61 win. The Cougars dominated the game throughout. One bright note however, was the play of Harry Kennedy, who after being shut out by C of C in the teams' previous meeting in Orlando, nailed four three-pointers and scored 18 points. Kennedy said, "If we won their last four games they would be however, and went on a 15-4 run in the TAAC East. Now the top ranked Knights will play for the fourth and final spot in the championship of the 1994 TAAC tournament. This game unquestionably becomes the biggest of the UCF vs. Stetson rivalry since the championship of the 1994 TAAC tournament, when UCF's 79-71 victory propelled rookie coach Kirk Speraw and his Golden Knights into the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history.

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Volunteer for the biggest event at UCF
Dedication fueling track team’s drive

By JEFF CASE
Staff Writer

It has been said the skills of one athlete cannot be compared with another. Testing the vertical jumping ability of a 6-foot-7, 210-pound basketball player and a 6-foot-2, 320-pound defensive lineman would yield different results. But there is one quality present in all athletes regardless of their sport — dedication.

Such relentless dedication can be seen on the UCF women's track and field team. It can be seen in its attempt to accomplish several goals: a conference championship, an NCAA berth and a winning season.

Coach Marcia Mansur-Wentworth summed up the dedication of her athletes, who practice as many as five hours a day: "[Track and field] is a seven-day-a-week sport."

The team, with only two seniors and two juniors, may be one of the best-kept secrets among UCF sports. Practicing at the state-of-the-art track and field facility next to the UCF Arena, the women are chasing a variety of goals. The semester is being a chance to compete at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field championships March 7-8 in Indianapolis.

Mansur-Wentworth said the Knights have three women who can contend for a berth in this event.

The first is sophomore distance runner Christy Miller, who is pursuing a chance to compete in the 3,000- and 5,000-meter run. Miller, who holds the UCF record for the 3,000-meter run (10 minutes, 37 seconds), feels confident.

"I'll get to the NCAA's," Miller said. "I'm trying to help the team out and trying to achieve my personal goals."

Miller, a psychology major, also was named by her country teammates as the 1996 MVP.

Senior Kelly Kobia is gearing her sights toward the outdoor NCAA competition in June. Kelly, who is UCF's strongest performer in the discus and javelin, is looking at the indoor season as "just kind of a practice in outdoor conference. It's a chance for me to work and be competitive [during the outdoor season]."

Kobia also said the indoor season provides an opportunity to set a personal record. She already holds the school mark in the javelin (121 feet) during the Feb. 1 Jacksonville dual meet. Kobia, a nursing major who transferred from Tennessee, said her Jacksonville appearance next year.

"I want to qualify for the NCAA championship, an NCAA berth and a national championship, an NCAA berth and a national championship," Kobia said.

The team’s depth runs beyond those three, however. Mansur-Wentworth has seen improvement in others. Sophomore April Vitori has improved her performance in the 5,000 meters during her first season of track competition.

Improved performances also have come from freshmen Amber Twyner and Jen Herron. They compete in the discus, shot put and javelin and have recorded top-three finishes this year.

Junior Michele Boike, a high jump, long jump and 400-meter hurdles competitor, said she has a good chance to make an NCAA appearance next year.

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Crew competes in ERG

By TIM SPRINGER
Sports Editor

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to row as fast as possible for 2,000 meters without puking.

If you think the no-puking part is harsh, the posted signs are evidence it has happened. For the past 14 years, UCF has traveled to Melbourne to compete at the Indoor Southern Sprints hosted by FIT. Since this is an indoor race the normal grace and prestige associated with rowing is completely out of the picture.

"The fun part of the rowing is the technical skills on the water and the strength behind your limits," said Kelly Kobia, a nursing major who transferred from Tennessee, said her Jacksonville appearance next year.

"I want to qualify for the NCAA championship, an NCAA berth and a national championship," Kobia said.

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The most impressive finish belonged to Novice rower Dione Bakule with a time of 7:31. She beat every novice woman and her time ranked No. 1 overall in the collegiate event dominating all of varsity crews.

As a sophomore, Dione said she was pleased with her time, but she always room for improvement." Other top athletes were Mindy Hoepner (7:40) and Wendy Thayer (7:58) who had the best times in the open and lightweight categories. For the third year in a row Hoepner placed second.

Matt Boyle pulled the best time for the men's program with a 6:57.

"The pain was there, but I felt good mentally," he said. "Plus I had my teammate Jeff Bauren pulling his ERG right next to me and he pushed me a lot."

UCF's top lightweight man, Chris Chamballis, finished the 2,000m in 7:10, a personal best. Another top finish for the men was Novice Brian Pohel with a time of 7:18. "I'm pumped," he said after cooling down.

In two weeks the UCF Men's and Women's Crew programs will travel to Deland for their first race of the spring season against UF, Seton and Georgia State University. The true test of the strength behind UCF Crew will be measured at every race as we are reminded that "ERG's don't flow," and the technical skills on the water count.

Junior Michele Boike is hoping to achieve greater heights next year.

last year from the University of Tennessee, said her Jacksonville effort was "nothing ... I have to go 20 feet further to make the tournament."

Misty Green, a junior college transfer participating in her first season at UCF, wants to qualify for the NCAA championships in the high jump and heptathlon.

Green, who placed fourth last season in the Junior College Nationals high jump, seems to be on a pace to reach her goals. She has established goals for each meet to reach the qualifying mark for both NCAA championships.

Green also serves as the team's emotional leader. Many teammates feel she will take over the role of team leader next season. Groen, a physical therapy major, is reluctant to accept that role.

"I think we [the whole team] are all leaders and we all have to work together in a positive way," she said.

The team's depth runs beyond those three, however. Mansur-Wentworth has seen improvement in others. Sophomore April Vitori has improved her performance in the 5,000 meters during her first season of track competition.

Improved performances also have come from freshmen Amber Twyner and Jen Herron. They compete in the discus, shot put and javelin and have recorded top-three finishes this year.

Junior Michelle Boike, a high jump, long jump and 400-meter hurdles competitor, said she has a good chance to make an NCAA appearance next year.

The UCF Foundation is currently seeking 6 UCF students for part-time fundraising opportunities.

• Work on UCF Annual Fund Phone-A-Thon
• Three shifts a week
• Hours: Sunday - Thursday 6:00p.m. - 9:15p.m.
• Position closes 2/26/97

If interested, please call (407) 249-4740
Knights turn in less than Classic performance

By KEN JACKSON
Staff Writer

The UCF baseball team could not repeat its success of last year's Olive Garden Classic, suffering three opening-round losses before being eliminated by Oklahoma State in the consolation for third place.

Last year UCF defeated nationally-ranked Wake Forest, North Carolina and Georgia Tech. Friday night, UCF opened up against No. 17 Tennessee. The Volunteers opened a 5-0 lead before the Golden Knights' bats woke in the fourth inning. With two outs, Greg Pacitti and Erik Johnson clubbed back-to-back doubles, UCF's first hits of the game, to give the Knights their first run.

With Eric Riggs at the plate in the fifth, umpire Scott Chamberlain ruled Will Cord out after stealing second due to Riggs' catcher interference. Base umpire Bryce Fielder overruled Chamberlan, and after a lengthy discussion, they called for the pitch to be replayed.

'I've never seen a 'do-over' in all my life in baseball,' said tournament statistician Dan Pearson. That led to a run that inning. The Knights scored runs in the first three to tie the game 5-5 after eight innings. During that stretch, Travis Held pitched four innings of no-hit ball in relief of starter Marco Ramirez. Johnson argued out to end the ninth inning with Pacitti standing on third.

Center fielder Croud saved the game in the 10th by snaring a line drive off the bat of Baker Moore. In the bottom of the inning, Todd Bellhorn, Dustin Brisson and Adrian Camacho all hit balls sharply, but right in people.

In the 11th, relief ace Mike Maroth gave up a single, double and home run with two outs, giving Tennessee an 8-5 lead. Bryan Bruce scored on Riggs' RBI groundout, but Johnson flied out as UCF suffered its first loss 8-5. On Saturday, the Knights started strong and scored runs in the first. He added a solo shot in the fifth, swatted a three-run homer in the bottom of the 10th, and another pounding that evening against Oklahoma State. The game started well against the No. 18 Cowboys.

Who's Hot (through 7 games)
* CF Will Cord (4/0, 8 RBIs, 10 runs, .571 OBA)
* LF Greg Pacitti (1/34, 4 RBIs, 10 runs, .793 slugging)
* 1B Dustin Brisson (3/46, 3 HRs, 7 RBIs, .692 slugging)
* DH/OF Todd Bellhorn (.320, 11 RBIs)
* P Travis Held (0-0, 6.0 no-hit IP, 7 Ks, 0.00 ERA)
* P Marco Ramirez (2-0, 10.1 IP, 14 Ks, 4.35 ERA)

Who's Not
* SS Clay Wells (11/8, 0 RBIs 3 errors)
* RF Frank Fucile (.130, 1 RBI, 6 Ks)
* C/DH Erik Johnson (.182, 1-6 w/runners in scoring position)

UCF pitcher Matt Luboynzki released a change-up during Sunday's game against Oklahoma State.

Women begin homestand

BY DEREC GONSOLIN
Staff Writer

An Owl and a Panther could stand in the way of a No. 1 seed in the Trans America Athletic Conference tournament for the UCF women's basketball team.

On a two-game winning streak, UCF (9-11, 6-4) gears itself for four of its last six games at home. The stretch begins when the Florida Atlantic Owls visit the UCF Arena Thursday night, followed by the TAAC-contending Florida International University Panthers Saturday afternoon.

UCF coach Lynn Bria said the Knights are starting to play together at the right time. "The team can sense the playoffs are around the corner, and three of our players [Seniors Shantrice Saxon, Gylindra Henderson and Lakesha Anderson] won't be back next season, so they realize how important this time of year is," she said.

After completing a season sweep of College of Charleston Saturday, 73-66, UCF will attempt to do the same to the Owls. UCF won at FAU on Jan. 23, 72-49.

UCF's 2017 women's basketball schedule includes 19 games, including 11 conference contests. The Knights' regular-season finale is March 5 against FAU. The winner will face the sixth seed in the TAAC tournament March 10 at 7 p.m. at UCF Arena.

UCF is an independent member of the American Athletic Conference, which is owned by UCF, Memphis, Cincinnati, SMU, Rice, Tulsa, the University of the Incarnate Word and South Florida. The conference's eight-member tournament will be held March 15-17 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

With UCF losing at FAU 56-54, Bria blamed her offense for wasting a good defensive effort. One reason for UCF's poor offense was leading scorer Shantrice Saxon, averaging 17 points a game, playing with the flu.

Women's basketball players use their quick, athletic style of play, "I think they have us beat on [basketball]," Bri said. "I think a few times a game we let up with our intensity and they don't." Yet, with a record of 6-13, including 2-6 in conference, FAU's hustle has not translated to victories.

"They lost two key players before the year even started," Bri said. "Even without two of their better players, Allen's team is still pretty good." As for translating effort into victories, Florida International (13-8, 7-4) never has lost to UCF in conference play (16-0). Both FAU and UCF have four losses in conference, trailing Stetson's six.

The Knights, who defeated Stetson 60-55 on Feb. 3, must beat the Panthers to accomplish their goal. To get closer to the TAAC's No. 1 seed and keep FAU from a regular-season title.

With UCF losing at FAU 56-54, Bria blamed her offense for wasting a good defensive effort. One reason for UCF's poor offense was leading scorer Shantrice Saxon, averaging 17 points a game, playing with the flu.
Crew team pulls same oar

By TIM SPRINGER
Staff Writer

To most people, the typical college athlete hangs heads on the gridiron, dribbles up and down the hardwood, pounds a white leather ball over a net, or turns a double play to end the inning.

But not every college athlete is typical.

If you consider working hard for free, traveling around the country at your expense, and spending countless hours rowing an average day, you may be a prime candidate for the University of Central Florida Men's Crew.

Every member of our crew is out here for his own reasons," said team captain and coxswain Mike Branson.

"We're just a bunch of guys that enjoy being on a team and doing something exhilarating."

The feelings of camaraderie and exhilaration seem to keep the men's crew content. No scholarships are offered, nor is there a plethora of funding sent their way each semester. Recognized as a club, crew relies on dues, alumni contributions, fund raisers, and assistance from the Student Government Association to supply and maintain equipment.

"We make due with what we have," Branson said. "We'll get by no matter what. We won't let funding be a determining factor or hold us in any way. We'll find a way around it."

It's determination that drives the 21-member crew. Each member has a drive that keeps their tradition alive. It may not be as rich as that at Harvard or Brown universities, but the determination is the same, maybe stronger.

Drive is Branson's explanation for why crew continues to dig its oars deep into the waters of competition.

They don't get pumped up by huge crowds. Rarely will you see fans tailgating at The President's Cup regatta or any other competition. It's not a sport in demand in the Central Florida area, yet the Golden Knights crew considers the Metro Cup — a battle between UCF and Rollins — to be one of the most important races of the season.

"We never want to lose, but losing to Rollins is unacceptable," Branson said. "There's nothing better than beating a crosstown rival."

With the crew season less than a month away, members are busy conditioning and training: three days in the weight room, three days on the glass of Lake Pickett. Coupled with school and work demands, it's hard to understand what keeps their boats afloat.

"It's all up here," Branson said, pointing to his head.

"There's a special something inside all of us that keeps us chasing the goals we set for ourselves.

"Our goal this year is simply to do our best and win every race. Every competitor is reaching for the gold medal, but we hope to be the ones bringing it home."

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GONZO'S GROWL

International flavor gets first big test

By DEREK GONSOULIN
Commentary

After Sunday afternoon's 5-4 victory against Georgia Tech, UCF tennis coach Gail Falkenberg said if her team were a food, it would be "a pepper." Adjusting her shades and smiling, Falkenberg justified her reasoning.

"Because right now we're hot," she said.

Make that internationally hot. As UCF's (2-0) faced a team that hosted the Olympics, the Knights looked more the international squad than the higher-ranked Yellow Jackets.

Tech coach Sue Hutchinson summed up what occurred during the match best. "It was the U.S. against the U.N."

While Hutchinson said she preferred her squad to be entirely of American-born players, Falkenberg is enjoying her current situation.

"It's been great," Falkenberg said of coaching players of different nationalities. "It's such a privilege to get to know all the cultures. They're all from different countries and yet they get along so well.

"It really is a pleasure to coach them."

Sophomore Jodi Bell from Plantation is UCF's only American-born player.

From first through sixth seed, the rest of the "Knights International" are: freshman Veronica Widyartha (Indonesia), sophomore Rachna Ashar (India), freshman Hadus Roneen (Israel), senior Anna Strand (Sweden) and freshman Iul Cayliri (Turkey). Freshman Brit Patriarche (Switzerland) did not play Sunday due to an leg injury.

"Thank God they all speak English," said trainer Jenn Scallin.

The mix of cultures has not always been easy.

Falkenberg said, "It's hard," she said. "They're so far away from home. It takes a while to make friends and some of them have never been away from their homes before coming here.

Roneen, who was a winner in her singles and doubles matches, said what made the transition easier was the team's desire to achieve.

"We manage well because we all have the same goal: Tennis and studying," she said. "It helped us overcome the difficulties between us."

The charm of playing in Orlando was lost on Hutchinson after four hours of hearing six languages shout over many made and missed points.

"I'd rather have them speak English rather than native languages, but I understand that's what they're used to," Hutchinson said.

One would get the feeling Hutchinson was going to call Interpol after her team was upset by the Knights.

"It's just the way it's going to be. America is a melting pot," she said.

The importance of defeating a big-name school such as Georgia Tech wasn't lost on Falkenberg.

"This was a great win for us, because we're trying to get into a major conference like the Atlantic Coast Conference or Big East and when we can beat an ACC team it's great," she said.

"It's a good start, but we can still improve, though. Our goal is to win the Trans Atlantic Athletic Conference."

If the Knights do win the TAAC, they should have the right to rename it.

How's Trans Atlantic Athletic Conference sound? Peppers, anyone?