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Cocaîne, crime focus of professor's new book

By MARK DEMAHO
Staff Writer

Imagine driving women with crack addictions to a park on the water's edge to interview them on your days off. Sounds strange, but this is exactly what UCF professor Dr. Susan Mahan did as research for her book "Crack, Cocaine, Crime, and Women."

Mahan has spent much of the last 19 years devoted to these topics, doing field work in jails, volunteer clinics and schools. As a veteran in criminology, she offers much insight into drug addicts, children born to addicted mothers and methods of changing the system.

Mahan offers several issues to ponder from a park in a run-down section in Daytona Beach. Often, she says, people pretend these run-down areas of cities aren't their problem. They look down on the people who live there and blame them for their lifestyle.

"All the while, she says, police officers ride these sections of town in an attempt to halt the drug scene. What Mahan tries to stress is freedom in the central Florida area. Brown says he and Noriega can serve UCF better than the other tickets.

"We have the necessary experience and know what the jobs entail," Brown said.

Noriega is a vice presidential candidate from Sarasota. She plans to pursue a career building communities in Latin American countries. Some issues this ticket plans to focus on include expanding and improving cultural diversity awareness, designing a campus shuttle system to alleviate the parking problem and installing an SOA Hotline for new recommendations and concerns.

Keith McDonald and Karen Montague represent the third ticket. McDonald, presidential candidate, is a senior from New York.

CANDIDATES, Page 2

See Opinion page

CHANGE BEGINS WITH STUDENTS

UCF criminology professor Susan Mahan said people born into a bad situation have less of a chance.

In her book "Cocaine," she discusses the dilemma of those born into a poor situation with little or no hope. Thus, it becomes everyone's responsibility to treat these people like human beings and offer help.

A key element in helping these people, Mahan says, is making sure mothers addicted to drugs are given proper prenatal and support before, during and after their pregnancy.

"The drugs are not the real problem. The real problem is the lifestyle," Mahan said of the majority of defects in childbirth. In order to achieve more support, the criminal justice system must stop placing such harsh penalties on drug-addicted expectant mothers, Mahan said.

A few years ago, Mahan said, a national drug council made up of doctors, lawyers, treatment specialists and criminologists discussed the topic of penalties in relation to drugs. Their focus was the discrepancy between the penalties for cocaine and crack. Since crack is the "cheapest way to get high," Mahan said, it usually is the drug of choice for people in poverty.

Mahan also said crack use has much higher penalties because of a covert racism in the political system. Many middle and upper class people can afford cocaine, she says, and the penalties are usually lighter.

She says to give off an anti-drug positive facade, the political system has to change. Mahan says the lack of change is part of a bigger problem that affects all areas of society.

The voice behind Darth Vader in the Star Wars Trilogy is coming to UCF. James Earl Jones will be appearing at the UCF Arena Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. Admission is free but a donation of a canned food item is requested.

Jones will speak on a motivational topic centered around Black History Month. He will share life experiences from which he has learned lessons for succeeding.

Jones' career ranges from theater to television and motion pictures. As well as the newly released Star Wars trilogy, he also is the voice behind the Lion King, "Hamlet" and "King Lear." Jones also is one of the earliest actors to belong to a historic acting company known as "The Black," which launched a generation of African-American stars.

A grand night

UCF Athletic Director Steve Sloan takes his roasting all in fun during Saturday night's Night of Knights fundraiser for the athletic department. Story, Page 16
Candidates offer solutions

He is majoring in political science (international relations). He plans to attend law school after graduation.

Montague is a senior majoring in speech pathology. She plans to eventually attend graduate school and work in a rehabilitation clinic.

McDonald and Montague were members of the 28th and 29th Student Senate.

Their platform is based on spirit and tradition, student government awareness and student services. McDonald says he and Montague can serve UCF better than the other candidates because they are "... easily approachable, enthusiastic and creative."

"We have our hearts in the right places," Montague said. "We are true examples of unselfish leaders."

Professor details cocaine use in book

Mahan teaches on UCF’s Daytona Beach campus, but said she will return to Orlando and Brevard in a few semesters. When she returns, she said she will teach a class called "Women and Crime."

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ROTC ushers in new battalion commander

By AMIS WOOTTON
Staff Writer

Honor, tradition, discipline and leadership are only a few of the words that could describe the atmosphere and ceremony of the ROTC Change of Commands.

More than 150 Basic Course Cadets stood at attention Thursday afternoon as their commander handed down his authority to a new battalion commander. Former commander Capt. Parker passed the gold and black battalion flag to Cadet Lopez as though handing over a legacy.

With the intense desire to expose UCF students to the tradition and purpose of the ROTC program, not even the threat of rain could deter the officers from holding the ceremony on The Green.

Trained to think and function as a single unit, the cadets have become well disciplined in Army procedure. It only took one rehearsal for the three squads to become confident of their movement and stance. Cap in the right-hand pocket, button fastened and shoes shined, the cadets were eager to welcome their new commander.

"Cadet Lopez has been a great leader in the past and represents the Army well," Cadet Fogel said.

"She is hard worker and is the ideal representative of females in the Army," said Cadet Arango.

Capt. Thomas said the role of a battalion commander is not easy. The training of new cadets and promotion of the ROTC program are part of the responsibilities that the new commander will undertake.

"Cadet Lopez has the potential to excel," Thomas said. As the largest ROTC unit in Florida, the Fighting Knights battalion also is the highest ranking cadet unit.

Thomas attributes the program's success to high standards and training. Lopez said the upcoming challenges are just part of the job.

"After three years in the Army, I have learned a lot," Lopez said. "Motivation and a strong drive keep the program moving forward."

Her ideas of improvement are expanding the relationship between UCF students and the ROTC program. She encourages students to observe the ceremonies and activities the cadets partake in on Thursdays.

"We want people to know what the Army is all about," Lopez said. "A voice that needs to be heard."

Lopez also plans to increase the standards and improve campus showing.

- On Thursday, some of the cadets will take on the challenge of an obstacle course and repelling, a exercise in which the cadet slides down a high wall by ropes. In April the cadet will make a trip to Camp Landing for a special field training exercise.

More than 150 cadets were on hand last Thursday for the Change of Commands.
The job hunter: how to research your future employer

By Brian Krueger
College Press Service

In a job interview, you expect to be asked plenty of questions about your experience and future plans. But most employers also are interested in whether you can tell them a little about what they do, too. By doing employer research, you can set yourself apart.

Sadly, most college students know little if anything about the employer they are contacting or even interviewing with. When I interview a job candidate, the quickest showstopper can come when I ask (whether on the phone or in person), “What do you know about our company? If you haven’t even taken the time to do this basic research, why should I, the employer, want to accept your offer from the employer of your choice.

Employer information, even detailed information, is usually available for the price of some simple digging. It’s out there waiting for you to discover it and bring it to the surface.

The source location for this information can be found (in order of ease of access): at your campus career placement office, campus library, public library, or obtained by contacting the company directly.

There is one source of employer information that is usually easily obtainable and unsurpassed in value: the annual report. Why? Because the annual report contains that marvelous insider report of what is important to the company: information on what the managers are focused on for the coming year; and all of the “hot buttons” that you can push in getting the interview and getting the job. You might rightly ask: Why do you call it insider information? It’s available to the public, right? Right. It’s available to the public.

But most people only look at an annual report if they are interested in stock ownership of the company, not if they are interested in the company as a potential employer. Want to truly impress me? Study and understand our company via our annual report. You can gain access to most annual reports by calling the company directly and asking for its Shareholder Services department. Then ask that a copy of the most recent annual report be sent to you.

Another excellent source of company information is any specific recruitment literature that may be available. This source of information goes by a variety of names, but is typically titled “Employment Opportunities with . . .” or something similar. Often this information is geared directly toward the entry-level job market and lists the entry-level jobs available and corresponding departments (or business units). The best source for this information is your Campus Career Placement office, although many libraries also have extensive employer information files. If not available in those locations, contact the company directly, ask for the Human Resources department, explain that you are planning to interview with them in the near future and request that they please send any appropriate company literature direct to you.

Although the above noted information can provide you with very detailed information, it is usually only available from larger companies. Yet nearly every size organization has a third party organization that will provide information that can also greatly enhance your job search marketing information. This is one type of information that will not usually be available through public access, so it typically requires a direct call to the company. Ask to be connected to the Marketing Department, then ask if they would please send out some general marketing information on their company to you. This could be in the form of general company information or specific product information.

Most companies are happy to oblige. Do your best to become familiar with the company’s position within the marketplace and how they position themselves with their customers. Get to know what they really do (or a living) and what your potential role could be within that greater company purpose.

Ironically, most students don’t attempt to acquire any of the above information until after their first on-campus interview. But if you are serious about your job search, do your best to acquire the information before you make contact with the employer or its representatives. It is those who are well-informed from the start who consistently are given the opportunity for the company-site interviews and eventual job offers.

Job search is a two-way street. Don’t just go begging for any job. Doing detailed research on each potential employer will assist you in better understanding which companies you may have an interest in working for. And it will give you the ammunition you need to be successful in eventually landing a job offer from the employer of your choice.

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Presidential elections - we need to care more

By DIANA IMANUEL

Opinion Editor

As student government elections approach, candidates are consumed with the last-minute details of organizing their platforms and providing sound campaigns. With so much diligence, work and effort put into these campaigns, it would seem the control and power of the outcome lies within the hands of the candidates.

However, the powerful selection of these two candidates, who will represent and speak on behalf of the student body, lies within our hands — 55,000 to be exact.

Now, that's a lot of hands.

Though only a minute percentage may take advantage of this wealthy responsibility and privilege, that specific percentage determines who will help control the distribution of the activity and service fee, a fee which directly originates directly from the student body’s pockets.

Now, that’s a lot of pockets.

According to the elections commission, only 9.4 percent of 27,500 pupils actually select the representatives who help determine where our money is spent. With not even 10 percent of the student body exercising their right to voice their opinions, we may be misplacing blame and pointing fingers in the wrong direction as far as dissatisfaction among student body officials are concerned.

We shouldn’t be blaming previous student body presidents and vice presidents for the misappropriations of funding, but we should be blaming ourselves for putting that, and more, on the line.

I think the main focus and goal is unclear. In an effort to understand how the election process works, we must understand the original intent of student government presidential elections.

Presidential elections are not a popularity contest. No, that would be UCF Homecoming King and Queen. Second, presidential elections are not about selecting representatives to schmooze with UCF administrative professionals for selfish gain and prestige. No, that would be President’s Leadership Council.

The intent of the elections is to select dedicated representatives who are sincerely concerned for the student body’s well-being and has UCF’s vision in mind.

What does this mean? Well, a number of things.

How does one select a ticket? To begin with, we must examine the candidates’ experience and platforms. When dealing with experience, it’s not the amount of clubs and organizations and candidate is a member of that determine.

mines if they are capable of holding such a position. It’s great if they are in the skydiving club, surf club, REACH, SEPS, SAA, SADD, etc.

Now, I’m an advocate of involvement, but what about leadership?

Has the candidate held an office in any of these organizations? Does the candidate have a solid reputation? How is the candidate’s platform filled with ideas and support for the student body as a whole? What was the cause? What did they accomplish with S.G.?

Who benefited from the project? Etc.

These are real questions that give us the opportunity to see beneath the skin of the ticket. When exploring the platform of the candidates, we must search for issues that are relevant to our needs.

For instance, who’s going to fight for the opening of the student union (which is long overdue)? Who’s going to fight for a new recreational services building? Who’s going to fight against tuition increase? Who’s going to fight for more student and faculty parking? Who’s going to fight to decrease student apathy? And so on.

These are questions that enable us to weed out the competition and see the candidates for who they are and what they stand for. From this criteria, we must choose wisely the ticket that is most concerned with issues that we care about.

But the real question is: Do we, the student body, actually care? If we don’t, we should start to IMMEDIATELY.

I care about my education, the value of my degree, and how my money is being spent. You should, too. We, the student body, have a bigger responsibility than we credit ourselves to have. We should care about our future.

Though we may not be able to control the money being spent, we can control where it is being spent by selecting proper representatives.

I ask you, my colleagues, to take a painless stand and voice your opinions through a reliable liaison. Know this: We only victimize ourselves without taking action.

Our votes will make the difference for our future.

Does UCF’s Greek system have a color?

I'm colorblind. No, I really don’t have a vision problem, but what I do have is rare. I don’t see the color of a person’s skin when I am first introduced to them — rather I find a distinguishing characteristic that makes them unique.

When I first came to college, I came from Miami, the biggest melting pot in all of Florida. As a transfer student to UCF, I decided like many others to go Greek. But what I’ve found over the past year has astonished me. I was first told there were African-American sororities and Caucasian sororities. I didn’t quite understand, how could this be? An African-American friend of mine explained to me that for years the prestigious “white” sororities did not accept people of color. So they began organized themselves. African-American women devised their own sororities. Since the beginning sororities have been segregated. The problem is that although sororities are not segregated any more (by law or in practice) they are segregated in reality. I don’t know about you, but I thought segregation ended in the 1960s. Growing up, I was taught by my parents that we were all equals — whatever color you were. I had diversity all around me and grew up with a group of friends that came in all shapes and sizes, from all ethnicities, races and religions. There were no “white” groups or “black” groups where one type of person was dominant. Rather, the melding of people that became my support group were a rainbow of colors.

And so here I sit — still wondering, still baffled.

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Why hasn’t the Greek system integrated? Have either group sat down and talked about solutions? I understand on both sides there are traditions that have made them what they are today. Yet, if we always followed tradition and precedent, then the Civil Rights Movement would have been largely unsuccessful. I understand that on both sides there are mixed feelings and uncertainties. We come from different backgrounds. But isn’t one of those differences what make America the melting pot that it is?

Why don’t we start our simple? We can keep tradition alive and still promote diversity. Take the time to get to know others that are unlike yourselves. Go to their meetings and invite them to yours. Why can’t the two Greek systems get together and support each other? Maybe we could even introduce a governing body which includes both panhellenic systems. I am sure both sides promote diversity to the fullest and do not discriminate, but maybe we should make it more clear that both systems have an open-door policy. This is 1997. Wake up and ask:

"Are we taking a step backward?" If there is one thing that I’ve learned is that ignorance breeds ignorance. I look at people in this sense. We all have a puzzle. Knowledge and experience is the key to help fill those missing pieces. Without meeting people that are unlike yourselves, you may never be able to complete the puzzle.
Admission is free • Please bring a canned good.

If you tell them, they will come.

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Local filmmaker casts spell with documentary on witchcraft

By DEAN G. LEWIS
Entertainment Editor

Patrick Cox, a motion picture producer from Oviedo, heads his own production company after years of professional speaking, painting, recording and civil engineering.

Cox's career evolution hit full stride several years ago with the release of his first film, "The Eye of the Beholder". A small-scale, inexpensive love story, "Beholder" enabled Cox to finance his next project, "The Hydronator". A horror yarn about a toxic waste monster that rises out of a retention pond and terrorizes a community, "The Hydronator" established Cox's trademark fetish for the macabre. His latest project, "Witchcraft", is a 74-minute documentary that chronicles the history of witchcraft and uncovers how young people in Orlando are turning to it as a religion of choice.

While the number of adolescents involved in black magic seems to be growing, a visit to a nudist colony on Brevard's Playalinda beach, a gay man's craze for body piercing and patrons who regularly consult palm readers also seem to imply witchcraft is a sinful and corrupt theme may be obvious after repeated viewings.

The documentary's anti-persecution message is obvious after repeated viewings, and, just recently, had the opportunity to confirm the film's moral points. I sat down with Patrick Cox and talked with him about "Witchcraft" and his aspirations as a filmmaker.

Cox: How did you get started in the local film making business?

Cox: I began by producing industrial videos, mostly for public speaking. After awhile, I decided to do a feature-length movie. With my background, I thought it would be best to put it all together along with my video skills to make my movie. "Witchcraft".

Cox: How long ago was that?

Cox: About two years ago. That's when I successfully made my first feature, "The Eye of the Beholder".

Cox: As a filmmaker, do you think it's important to go to Hollywood and make it big or stay active locally?

Cox: First of all, I'm a producer and I produce my own productions. With that in mind, I want to stay in Florida. I really have no desire to move out of this area because I have a lot of relatives and friends here. Yet, if my work progresses upward, it probably won't matter then where I choose to work as long as my product sells.

Cox: Your newest project, "Witchcraft", came out last year?

Cox: Right. I completed post-production in November of 1996. It's now in distribution and selling extremely well.

Cox: I went to the Orlando public library in downtown and the Seminole library and got every book they had on the occult. I had a couple hundred stories to choose from. I wanted to tell the important ones for the documentary. All the related articles I then xeroxed.

Cox: "Witchcraft" contains numerous skits with a troupe of actors. What inspired you to add these fictitious elements to your documentary?

Cox: Well, I'm trying to persuade my audience that tolerance is a good thing. And I thought how could I demonstrate that? So, I went to work with young actors from around town in order to bring out the skin and show people rather than just tell.

Cox: Actually, I did not do that on purpose. Night time is when the kids come out. Their underworld is on Wall Street in downtown Orlando. It's a little section where they meet to talk about vampires, spells, raising of the dead, and other things like that.

Cox: What was the budget?

Cox: It was done for about $7,000. In Hollywood terms, $7,000 is really nothing. We raised $4,500 for editing. I, along with other contributors, put in the rest. It was just enough for a thorough and efficient production.

Cox: I'm very good about letting people add their creativity to my projects. In the pre-production stage, I ask for ideas and for my crew to share those ideas. I even go as far as telling them they could change the script if they want to. I'm surprised though on how little is changed. I'm not really a control freak in the creativity area, except for an incident I encountered while making "The Eye of the Beholder". A character on the set wanted to use the F word with a cop. People just don't do that. It would have been unrealistic to portray the dialogue in such a manner.

Cox: The screenplay for "Witchcraft" is quite focused and concise. How did you begin writing scripts?

Cox: First of all, I took a television production course years ago. I learned a lot from that. I also picked up some books and began reading. I believe screen writing is alarm to the audience that tolerance is a good thing. And I thought how could I demonstrate that? So, I went to work with young actors from around town in order to bring out the skin and show people rather than just tell.

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Learn to give car salesmen a run for their money

By BRANDY GILL
Web Editor

If you're interested in buying or selling a new or used car, all the technical information and specifications you can handle, available specials and rebates which many dealers have especially for college grads, insurance quotes and most important prices.

There are listings of a dealer's actual cost and it shows you how to calculate a fair price. For example, if you're interested in purchasing a 1997 Honda Civic LX, its list price is approximately $15,000. The dealer's invoice is approximately $12,800. The dealer marks up the car to include a profit margin, of course, but also because they get kickbacks from a manufacturer for selling so many cars a month over a certain price. This doesn't go to the salesperson, but to the dealer.

I would rather have a double root canal while chewing glass ... well, you get the point. This is where the beauty of technology, more specifically the internet comes in quite handy.

On the recommendation of a friend, I browsed a site on the net which you can find at www.edmunds.com. The site is produced by Edmunds new and used car price guidebooks. The site provides a photo of the car you're interested in buying or selling, all the technical information and specifications you can handle, available specials and rebates which many dealers have especially for college grads, insurance quotes and most important prices.

Anyway, if you're in the market for buying or selling a new or used car check it out. If you have any questions, comments, or recommendations e-mail me at blg47360@pegasus.ucf.edu.
By GUANINA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

February 19, 1997

Student issues a priority to Florez

By GUANINA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Florez an opportunity to intern in
Washington
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Studen~
my interest to be more defined in Hispanic
Resource Network, an organization offer­
affairs, and that's how I ended up interning
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Florez worked with the Central American
Dollar Drink Night
Hot Music, Cold Drinks,
A Wed. Tradition
$1 Frozen Drinks $1.50 Select Beer
$1 Bottled Beer $1 off Select Daiquiris
$1 Wells, Shots, Jello

Florez was inspired and
by his father.
"My father is an immigrant (from
Columbia) and came to work hard," Florez
said. "He was very conscientious to us
worked to get us out of a bad neighborhood
with a poor education system."
Florez's experience with Hispanic and
governmental affairs have helped him
become a leader on campus.

The best leader is able to lead other people
and make sure the best qualities they
posses are maximized," Florez said. "You use
your experience with the eagerness and
knowledge of others and use that to maxi­
imize. You let people do what they can do
best and establish confidence. I've found
that to be a good leader you need to be
assertive, responsible and lead by example.

Florez is trying to help establish Lambda
Theta Phi, the first Latino fraternity at
UCF. His future goal is to become a civil
rights lawyer.

"I think there are a lot of issues out there
that have to be addressed as far as civil
rights is concerned," said Florez, who
would like to return to Washington D.C.
and work in civil rights.

If you have a nomination for Student
Leader of the Week call the Central
Florida Future newsroom 977-1009.

Alan Florez has been
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Ramadan ends

A party to celebrate the end of Ramadan was held Feb. 8 at the Barbara Ying International Center. The Eid-Al-Fitr party was sponsored by the newly formed Arab Gulf Students Association. More than 70 students and guests attended the event. Students pictured represent Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

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 Wildfang.
- You are a Mechanical, Materials of Aerospace Engineer, by Dr. Louis Chow, Chair Department of Mechanical, Materials and Aerospace Engineering.
- Edward Albee, by Fan Xin Lin.
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CENTRAL FLORIDA
FUTURE • 12

Women take 9th-place finish at spring invitational

By MERIDYTH STANLEY
Staff Writer

The UCF women's golf team had a rough start its first day at the FAU and UM Spring Invitational last weekend. The team finished ninth of 17, 24 shots out of first place. Coach Jill Fjelstul remains positive. "Our high score day one put us behind the pack. Days two and three were respectable scores but they weren't enough to put us in contention," she said. She was very encouraged with Berg's performance. "I am very pleased with Line's scores," Fjelstul said.

Berg

Tied for sixth overall is a great finish for her first tournament. UCF's next tournament is Feb. 28 in Gainesville at the Lady Gator Invitational. "The girls realize their potential," Fjelstul said.

These two weeks will be good practice for them to prepare and work on getting four scores low on the same day.

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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 Wildfang.
- You are a Mechanical, Materials of Aerospace Engineer, by Dr. Louis Chow, Chair Department of Mechanical, Materials and Aerospace Engineering.
- Edward Albee, by Fan Xin Lin.
- Patricia Mitchell, Chair, Special Collections Librarian at 823-5427.

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Professional football league tries out former players
By TIM SPRINGER
Sports Editor

The Regional Football League held a formal tryout at the UCF football practice facilities Saturday morning.
A rain-soaked field may not have allowed for outstanding 40-yard dash performances, but former UCF players Nakia Reddick, Tarveres Tate and Donald Huzzie refused to let unfavorable conditions hinder their dreams of playing football at a higher level.

Drills included the bench press, vertical jump, broad jump, shuttle run and 40-yard dash. Reddick turned in a 4.6 time while Huzzie and Tate ran a 4.7 and 4.8.

“We went out and just basically showed what we have,” Reddick said. “If we didn’t impress [the RFL] we’ll try to impress someone else. Continuing to play football is what’s most important.”

Nearly 300 potential RFL players participated in the combine, including former players from East Carolina and Northeast Louisiana universities.

What’s our Quadruple Cheese Melt all about?
Mozzarella, Romano, Fontina and Swiss cheeses melted to extreme satisfaction.

Texas bound
The University of Central Florida baseball team celebrates during an earlier-season victory. The Knights coming off a week in which they went 4-0, beating Southwestern Louisiana and Campbell. UCF which played Bethune-Cookman Tuesday night, will compete in this weekend’s Houston Invitational Tournament. UCF plays Southwest Texas State on Friday, Houston on Saturday and Oklahoma on Sunday. Second baseman Eric Riggs headed into Tuesday’s game with a seven game hitting streak.
1st defeat doesn’t dampen men’s team

By DEREK GONSOULIN
Staff Writer

Highlighted by Sunday’s victory against Florida International (ranked 7th nationally) UCF went 2-1 this past week.

Led by Matias Akesson and Ted Tandjung’s singles and doubles victories, the Knights (3-1) defeated FIU (3-3) 4-3.

Akesson, who missed UCF’s loss to Marquette with an illness, defeated FIU’s Gustavo Lopez 7-6, 6-3 in the top-seeded singles match.

Tandjung, who combined with Akesson on the clinching doubles point, won his sixth-seed singles match 6-3, 6-2.

The road victory against a higher seeded team impressed Coach Gail Falkenberg.

“I’m not used to the team playing so well on the road,” Falkenberg said.

If UCF had not had their match with Florida Atlantic rained out Saturday, Falkenberg said, “We were up 3-1 with three sets to play when it was rained out,” said Falkenberg, who said she will ask the league office if they make up the TAAC game at a later date. “We didn’t get the win, but we were the better team that day.”

After topping Seton 4-3 on Feb. 12, UCF lost 4-3 to Marquette (3-1) on Feb. 14. Despite playing a team used to the cold of Wisconsin, UCF was the team to wilt under the pressure of a four-and-a-half-hour contest in the Florida sun.

Falkenberg said not having Akesson due to illness contributed to the defeat. “[Akesson’s] not playing changed everything,” Falkenberg said.

“He felt he was sick and that it was more important to be ready for the conference games over the weekend.”

UCF faces Jacksonville and No. 43 Florida State on Thursday and Friday in Tallahassee. Falkenberg said the Florida State game is another big test for the Knights.

“I was impressed by our ability to go on the road and beat a team like FIU,” Falkenberg said. “We’ll see if we can do it again.”

Freshmen lift women to another upset

By DEREK GONSOULIN
Staff Writer

As Coach Gail Falkenberg’s women’s tennis team competed at Florida International, she could have asked how it won with three freshmen for the first time on the road.

Or maybe she knew the answer all along.

UCF defeated FIU 6-3 on Sunday, continuing its unbeaten season (4-0). In the span of eight days, the Knights have defeated Georgia Tech and FIU (3-3), teams ranked higher than UCF to start the season.

“We’re just playing great right now,” Falkenberg said. “We didn’t get the win, but we were the better team that day.”

Falkenberg said freshmen such as Veronica Widyadharma and Hadas Ronen are the reason for the team’s early success.

Widyadharma defeated FIU’s Jenny Sotomayor in the top-seeded match 6-1, 6-3 and at No. 3, Ronen defeated Rocio Bolanos 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.

“Veronica is undefeated in singles, defeating some ranked competitors and Ronen is doing well also,” Falkenberg said.

Sophomore Rachael Ashar made amends for her loss in No. 2 singles by combining with Widyadharma in their No. 1 doubles victory against Sotomayor and Celeste Frey 8-2.

Rain cancelled Saturday’s match against Florida Atlantic. UCF led 4-1, with Ashar up 5-1 in the clinching set when the rain came.

The Knights warmed up for their trip to Miami by beating Jacksonville 6-1 on Feb. 13. UCF plays host to Seton on Feb. 25.

Notables: The only American-born player on the roster has left the team due to a lack of playing time. Walk-on Jodi Bell of South Plantation will stay at UCF. Falkenberg said she can try out for the team next year.

Beat writers wanted to cover news, sports, features or business-related issues.

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Look for Dean G. Lewis’ movie and record reviews in the CFF every week.
Players leave behind glory for minors

By DEREK GONSOULIN
Staff Writer

As an amber sun blankets UCF's baseball stadium, the crowd gives its well-practiced shouts for yet another hometown hero circling the basespaths in his neatly tailored uniform. As the cheers fade into small talk, the sound of wood connecting with a baseball echoes throughout the quieted stadium like a gunshot.

But no one notices.

Behind the bleachers rests a tired batting cage. It has worn nets and mud surrounds the entire aluminum skeleton. Inside the cage, two stocky men in shorts and T-shirts laugh while taking batting practice. A third man, bigger than the other two, watches. The mon work with overused baseballs and broken bats taped heavily at the front.

Unceremonious with the wooden bat in his hands, the man hitting swings and fouls off a fastball. The hitter curses himself for the error and rubs the barrel of the heavily wrapped bat. His self for the error and rubs the barrel of the heavily wrapped bat. "I think you broke it," he says with a grin.

The hitter, former UCF standout Brad King, looks up from the bat to the back of the bleachers as if he could see through them. "I feel like I should still be out there," King says as he points through the old nets and through the out there," King says as he points through the old nets and through the back of the stadium. "Everyon is good," Belhorn says as he throws the scattered baseballs back to the back of the stadium. "They're good," Belhorn says as he throws the scattered baseballs back to the field. "You're traveling all the time, you have to get used to playing in out and you have to get used to rook-ies, veterans, Dominicans - it's a different world.

The pitcher, John Sutero, a minor-leaguer for the California Angels, throws a half-effort pitch to Belhorn. Ducking behind the safety net, Sutero watches the line drive pierce the position he once held through the sternum. Laughing, Sutero straightens himself and bunts a fastball right by Belhorn.

The pitcher answers with a double, "I once got Josh Booty out to win a game in high school." Booty is a teenage baseball and football phenom who signed with the Florida Marlins out of high school last year. A month ago he enrolled at Louisiana State University to play football, dirtied with his inability to make it past the Class A level.

UCF coach Jay Bergman said the realities of minor-league baseball can cause many young men to lose heart. Some players realize when they finally get to that point that there are other things to do and I have to get on with my life," he said.

With his normally strong voice show- ing signs of breaking, King says he hopes to make it to the majors one day. "I plan on making it," he says without making eye contact. Collecting all the baseballs and throwing them into a 5-gallon bucket, King can hear the fans he left behind cheer for the players he once called teammates. Just 50 feet of bleachers, foliage and fans separate him from the field he once played on, but he knows he cannot go back.

"I basically played for my scholarship here at UCF and I'll be playing for a pay-check (in the minors)," King says. "Now I don't have to worry about school so I can focus on baseball.

Belhorn knells down on one knee and begins tossing baseballs in the air for King to hit into the net. "It is true that one of the tougher things to do is to play everyday," Belhorn says as he feeds the balls progressively faster. "But even tougher is that realizing it's a job now and if you don't do well, you could be out very quickly."

By JEFF CASE
Staff Writer

"Maintain and gain." It's not exactly "just win, Baby!" but for crew coach Dennis Camrad, it's his pathway to success.

Camrad, founder of the UCF crew programs, explains his philoso-phy.

"The events we were successful in last year we hope to maintain that success, and those events we didn't quite reach the goal that we may have set, we hope to gain on," Camrad said. First on the list of "gains" will be to average a close loss (less than a second) in the Metro Cup Regatta. The race, which pits the UCF against rival Rollins College, takes place March 8 and serves several roles. Camrad said losing the race provides motivation for the season, as it did last year.

A victory helps set the pace for the year and gets the team started in a great direction, Camrad said. Whatever the result, Camrad said learning is victory enough.

"We take it [the outcome] and use it during the rest of the season," Camrad said. Another "gain" will be for a better showing in the President's Cup Regatta in Tampa on March 15. Although strong programs from Yale and Georgetown University dominated last year, UCF was able to lead with a second-place finish. UCF barely missed participating in the medal round, coming up four-tenths of a second short. The team hopes to also "gain" a medal in the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Championship on April 19. Also, Camrad said he won a team a finals berth in the Dad Vail Regatta May 9-10. Camrad said the ultimate "gain" would be to make the inaugural NCAA Championships, May 30-June 1.

Among the "maintains," Camrad offers two team goals: Maintaining its Florida Rowing and PERRAcs Cup championships. Equally important as Camrad's strategy is team unity. He chooses not to single out individuals.

"If nine people aren't totally together in a race, then that one person isn't going to do it ... they each have to take care of their busi- ness," Camrad said. The team's first test is this weekend. UCF will be competing in the Stetson Invitational on Feb. 22 to open the spring season. If the team stays dedicated to its philosophy, there should be no limits to its "gains."
Women get lost among FIU trees

By DEREK GONSOLIN
Staff Writer

Through the trees that constituted Florida International's front line, Chariya Davis penetrated like a chain saw, cut through double and triple teams. The penetrating became a habit Saturday evening for Davis, who finished with a team-high 19 points and five assists.

But when the Knights trailed by three with six seconds to play, Davis fell victim to the routine. With no defender in front of her at the three-point line, Davis drove to the basket rather than take the potential game-tying shot.

"As a point guard, I'm a little disappointed in that she should know the time and the score," Bria said.

With the 73-65 loss to the Panthers, UCFSnow has a harder decision to make than whether to shoot or drive. The third loss in four conference home games for the Knights (9-13, 6-6) have to fight to keep their place in the Trans America Athletic Conference tournament.

"These next four games will make or break our season," Bria said. "We're not for sure in the tournament yet.

Those next four games will begin at ninth-seeded Georgia State, a team like 10th-seeded Florida Atlantic that is fighting to be eligible for the TAAC tournament. Only the top eight teams in the TAAC conference make the postseason.

"It's a scary game for us," Bria said.

It looks like we're in and [Georgia State is] not so they have nothing to lose. For them, it can just hang loose. They're on the down court and for us it's a chance to get knocked out of the tournament.

When the Knights took to the floor against last-place Florida Atlantic last Thursday, they were in fourth place in the TAAC with a 4-1 record. With four of the last six games at home, the season looked to be turning around for Bria's team.

Yet as the final minutes of the 81-54 loss slipped away, the starting five for UCF sat on the bench and stared at the floor with their faces resting in their hands. The Knights had been out-shot (33 to 50 percent) out-hustled (33-46 rebounds) and out-done by a team with nine losses in its first 11 TAAC contests.

Bria found few explanations for the defeat.

"We take games one at a time, so I don't think we were looking ahead to FIU," she said. "Thank goodness this one is over.

After being handled by the Owls, UCF played more focused against the taller, higher seeded Panthers. Trailing by as many as 13 in the first half, UCF rallied behind its defense pressure. The Knights forced six FIU turnovers the final five minutes of the half to trail just 39-36 at intermission.

But FIU used its height advantage to out-rebound the Knights 48-37. The "skyline" of 6-foot-5 Yoana Aramberti, 6-foot-4 Germaine Brossard and 6-foot-1 Zekyia Madison was big enough for 49 points and 32 rebounds.

The play of the game came from Aramberti, who finished with a game-high 21 points and 11 rebounds.

"It was a pound of gold that was raffled at the charity dinner in the name of funding two more scholarships," Bria said.

Shantrice Saxton (22) and her teammates battled their way into the conference tournament.

Davis dropped into double digits down 70-60 with 26 seconds to play (UCF's only lead of the game). Aramberti drove for the top the key and was fouled on the make lay-up.

Cynthia Hendricks, who finished with 11 points off the bench, missed a jump shot on the next possession and FIU fouled her on the made free throw. Saxton rebounded the second free throw and passed the ball to Davis. Driving instead of shooting the three-pointer, Davis was fouled but could not hit the layup.

Davis missed the second free throw intentionally but time ran out as the two teams scrambled for the rebound.

"It would have been a great shot if she hit it, but we wanted the three-pointers," Bria said.

Community, boosters truly made this a night for all Knights

University of Central Florida Athletic Director Steve Sloan put his humility on the line in the name of the almighty scholarship last Saturday at the annual Night of Knights charity dinner.

"I'm asking for a $100-a-plate dinner and alumni to contribute a million to help UCF maintain its scholarship fund," Sloan concluded.

"The $100-a-plate dinner gave boosters and alumni an opportunity to be part of helping UCF keep its scholarship fund thriving. Master of Ceremonies Orlando Sentinel columnist Larry Guest led the roasting of Sloan as the guest of honor took more shots Saturday night than he had during his entire football career. Coaches, former players and friends hit Sloan with their best material followed by their true feelings.

Bobby Bowden, Bill Curry, Johnny Majors and Steve Spurrier were heard from on Sloan's behalf as was Cleveland Indians general manager and UCF alum Jim Holt. Each gave Sloan verbal noogies then proceeded to enlighten alumni and boosters on what kind of man holds the title of AD at UCF.

If you missed it, I'll sum up Sloan for you. It takes a special person to get an entire audience to agree on something. But it took a Forrest Gump impersonator to bring the crowd of high rollers to its knees with laughter. A little Gump and an open bar go together like scholarships and charity.

Many alumni and boosters did their part for UCF athletics simply by attending the affair. Some took it a step further by joining in on the auction.

Auction items included former NBA great Artis Gilmore, former Cy Young award winner Frank Viola, Warren Sapp of the Buccaneers, and former UCF athletes — to name a few. A fun round of golf is what the celebrity tournament is all about. But for some reason I don't think the grounds crew is in a good mood today.

It's amazing what a round of celebrity golf does to a course.

Witnessing the fun raised weekend gave me ideas. I plan to have a charity dinner in the name of funding two more semestars at UCF. And with the tuition increases sky rocketing, I may need to charge a bit more than $100 a plate. If all my friends show, I should make enough to pay my parking tickets.

Now finding people to say good things about me...that could become a problem.