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Central Florida Future

June 18, 1997

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UCF professor’s spin on Clinton–Jones scandal

By OLIVIA K. CURNOW
Staff Writer

The Supreme Court ruled last week that Paula Jones may continue to pursue her suit against President Clinton while he is in office. Dr. Aubry Jewett, a UCF professor and specialist in American government, agrees with the Supreme Court’s decision.

"In my view, the President is not above the law," he said. "He should be treated like any average American citizen. The thought of putting off the trial for several years — it just didn’t smack me as being very democratic." Jones has charged Clinton with sexual harassment while he was governor of Arkansas. Clinton has denied these allegations. However, others have confirmed Jones did tell them at the time what had happened, but she swore them to secrecy because she was afraid to lose her government job.

"Originally, when she brought these charges forward, most people sort of dismissed it as totally political and suggested she was just a tool of some of Clinton’s enemies from Little Rock," Jewett said. "I don’t know whether or not the charges are true. I tend to think that it’s not just totally political myself. I think there is a ring of truth, but I think that’s for the courts to decide." Maggie LeClair, office manager for the School of Communication, said the media and courts are making more of a fuss over the case because it involves the president of the United States. "If it had been a private interaction between two people, this wouldn’t be happening," she said. "She went up to the hotel room of a married man and she said to him, ‘What’s the big deal?’"

Jones’ lawyers first insisted on a public apology to clear Jones’ character. Clinton’s lawyers have suggested a settlement out of court, but no admission to wrongdoing. Jones said any money she would get out of the case would be donated to charity. Since then, she has decided, if she won the case, she would pay the legal fees.

See CLINTON, Page 3

$14.6 million building under construction

By NORA K. KULESH
Managing Editor

UCF has been making strides toward a bigger and better, more accommodating and modern campus by establishing new facilities that will cater to the contemporary needs of students.

Immediately behind the Visual Arts building and adjacent to Lake Claire apartments, a structure is under construction: The Anthony J. Nicholson School of Communication.

The $14.5 million building is going to house all the communications classes under one roof. The lack of space has been a problem for UCF since enrollment has increased so dramatically in the past years, but according to Director of Communication, Dr. Mike Meeke, the hard work of President Hitt and his staff have managed to plug some of the law jams in Tallahassee and get us some of the funding we need.

The state allocated the $14.6 million for the building and a portion of the furnishings. However, Meeke says it is not adequate to cover all the equipment needs. Factors such as Radio/TV being

See BUILDING, Page 10

UCF’s downtown

‘Hidden jewel’

By JON MARSDEN
Staff Writer

"There’s a UCF campus downtown?"

This was the response of most students when asked what they thought about the Downtown Academic Center, and rightly so. The center has only been open since 1996 and is just recently becoming a bright star in the public eye. With courses ranging from Business Administration to Social Work, the center truly is what Director Cecelia Rivers calls the "hidden jewel of UCF right in our own backyard."

The center is just that. If you are living in the downtown area, it is in your back yard. Located at 36 West Pine Street just across the street from the Blue Room, it is hard to miss. Finding parking is no problem because the Church Street Station Market parking garage is just around the corner. Across the street is the Lynx bus station, which allows students to hitch a ride on public transit.

The building was constructed in 1920 and served the community for more than 50 years as the Carey Hand funeral home. Its architect, F.H. Trimble, also designed several other buildings in Orlando’s historic district.

The graceful archways and red brick construction of the Center set it apart from the high rises and modern architecture of the big city. On the inside, it is as contemporary as the Sun Trust building.

The only visible remnants of the old interior is the hardwood railing and end posts of the staircase, though it has been painted over to match the modern decor.

The walls are adorned with paintings by Steve Len, whose artwork is displayed in the administration building on the first floor.

See ACADEMIC, Page 10

Striving for higher standards

The Teacher Tenure Bill proposes new teacher evaluation measures.

Florida Film Festival

‘Ulee’s Gold’ makes a sweet debut at the Enzian Theatre.

Camping for kicks

Only female Division I football coach sets up camp at UCF.
Campus golf carts damaged

By DAN TUCKER
Staff Writer

Royce Cannon reported four golf carts had been tampered with on June 7. Cannon, a representative of the Computer Store, said he found the damaged golf carts when he arrived at work that morning.

According to a UCFPD report, one cart had been tipped over, allowing the batteries to leak. Another cart's ignition switch had been removed from the wooded area, between the Biological Sciences Research ponds and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Officers were called to the scene on June 2, after a man saw three white males running from the wooded area. The plants were confiscated and placed into evidence.

According to a report, one $5.358 digital printing system is missing from the Engineering Building, Room 183A and thought to be stolen. Dean Treuren reported the item missing on June 4.

On June 8, Gary Gross was charged with driving with a license that had been suspended. Gross was charged with driving under the influence, resisting an officer and a violation of probation.

A $1 bill, altered to look like a $2 bill, was found on June 2. John Salmon, a cashier at a concession stand, found the fake bill as he was counting the money at the end of the evening. This is the second fake bill that has been found since May 29.

Another cart's ignition switch had been removed while it was in the possession of campus police. The cart had been found unattended and was reported missing.

In other campus crime news reported by the UCFPD, 35 marijuana plants were found in the wooded area between the Biological Sciences Research ponds and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plants were confiscated and placed into evidence.

Three Cheers for UCF

Crystal River High School Junior Varsity cheerleaders participate in the UCF Elite Cheerleading camp.
Faculty art exhibition on display at UCF gallery

By NORA R. KULIESH
Managing Editor

The UCF Art Gallery has, for the first time in many years, works by all UCF faculty artists displayed at the same time. Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. is when the paintings, ceramics, drawings, digital images and more can be viewed.

The exhibit will run until August 29 with a reception open to the public on Aug. 27 from 5-7 p.m. at the Gallery.

For more information call 823-2676.

Italian Studies chair planned

An effort is now underway to raise the minimum $600,000 to fund an eminent scholar chair in Italian Studies at UCF.

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literature offer several courses in Italian language, literature and culture now, and will add a course in the History of Italian Literature this fall.

Harriet Tubman brought to life at Valencia

JUNETEENTH is the historical celebration of June 19, 1865, the day when the last of the slaves were notified they had been freed - two and a half years earli­er by the Emancipation Proclamation.

On June 23, Valencia Community College will bring Joyce Grear, the acclaimed historian, actress and storyteller to the stage for the second year, to portray Harriet Tubman.

Grear will appear at 9 a.m. on Valencia's West Campus in Bldg. 5, Rm. 111; and at 12 noon on the Osceola Campus in Bldg. 1, first floor atrium.

The public is welcome to this free event.

Teacher Tenure Bill proposed

By ELLEN DAYSPRING
Staff Writer

Florida's public school system has often encountered problems ranging from budget cuts to the employment of unsatisfactory teachers. Because of the many legal loopholes involved in teacher contracts, it is literally impossible for administrators to let go of any teacher with senior­ity and an extended contract.

The Teacher Tenure Bill was introduced into the Senate to try and remedy the problem. The bill has several new features designed to reduce the time and difficulty it requires when relieving teachers of their duties.

The bill was due on Governor Chiles desk the latter part of last week. If signed, it will be effective July 1 for grades Kindergarten through 12.

"The intent of [the bill] is to make it easier for school districts to let go of ineffective teachers," said Dr. Robert Lange, UCF Professor of Educational Research, Data Analysis, Measurement, and Program Achievement.

The bill has four key features which can make the bill effective. The first is the reduction of the time the teacher has to respond after being notified of a deficiency. The current time frame is anywhere from a year on. The new bill would reduce this time to a maximum of 90 days.

The second feature is the reduction of the number of legal steps to go through in order to fire a teacher.

The third is parent involvement. Although parents will not have a final say in the evaluation, they will have an input.

The final is student achieve­ment and progress. Student's per­formance will be measured and assessed and those results will factor in the final evaluation.

The bill has positive and nega­tive sides, Lange said. Some of the positive aspects include the fact it will create new opportuni­ties for developing indicators where improvement is needed in the schools. Also it will involve teachers working with parents to ensure these improvements are made and that students are pro­gressing at a satisfactory pace.

However, there are negative sides to the bill, he said. Teachers can be harassed by administrators and parents using this power to their advantage. But also indica­tors of student performance could be damaging to some teachers who are doing their jobs but the results show otherwise.

"There needs to be more emphasis on teachers meeting the bill's needs rather then meeting certain time frames for progress," Lange said.

The major focus of student progress has always revolved around the Scholastic Assessment Test. Lange said this can have serious negative impacts on student achievement because the curriculum content is being geared toward the content of the test.
Q: What would make you more supportive of UCF Sports?

BY PETER KUNDIS

A: Build a football stadium for the football team, and also expand the arena for the basketball team.

—Mark Intong, Junior, Electrical Engineering, Orlando.

More advertisement of them.

—Sharonda Pierce, Freshman, Education, Vero Beach.

Maybe by having a kind of ‘Field Day’ on campus; essentially its an event where the students can just go to play different types of sports with their fellow students.

—Lori Auri, Senior, Learning Disabilities, West Palm Beach.

I think that having Pep Rallies on campus would be both really fun and also would help to get more students involved.

—Jeannie Martin, Senior, Learning Disabilities, West Palm Beach.

I guess more publicity and more types of spirit motivators. The people need to make it a lot more exciting. I’ve already been to two football games, and they were pretty boring. Maybe even get some Ice Hockey! (Ha!)

—Tara Suh Dorsey, Sophomore, Business, Ft. Lauderdale.

I really think that there needs to much more support on the campus. Use a lot more visual aids to both publicize, and increase student awareness of the sporting events. A lot of times, the students are not even aware of the sporting that are taking place.

—Bill Tomala, Senior; Public Administration, Orlando.

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Phase II Coming Soon
To computer lab assistants can we just get along?

By JASON HEIRONIMUS
Opinion Editor

Most students will spend a solid four years at the University of Central Florida or at any other college or university. Throughout their scholastic tenure, they will be forced to take part in the time-honored tradition of writing papers. While a student can take comfort in the fact millions before them had to do the very same thing, they should also understand the good Lord their time was not spent writing on a typewriter. With the advances in technology, we are lucky enough to have computers and word processors, though only glammed up versions of the outdated typewriter.

We can easily cut and paste, nip and tuck, grammar check, spell check, and dozens of other nifty tricks to touch up our papers.

Isn’t technology great?!

Unfortunately, however, some students are forced to visit a very frightening place in a space designed for half a computer lab. Let me explain. This horrible place is filled with about 100 computers. That place is - the computer lab.

In case you are unfamiliar with a UCF computer lab, let me explain. This horrible, horrible place is filled with about 400 computers in a space designed for half that. During the fall and spring terms it is close to impossible to actually get on one of these computers.

But once you sit down, you are surrounded by crazed students writing feverishly in order to turn in a paper on time. Then there is the constant pecking of the keyboard keys - it is enough to drive anyone involved in a confusing game of let’s see how big of an idiot I can make out of myself.

Here is an excerpt of one of my own humiliating conversations with a computer assistant:

(me) “Uhh, excuse me. Excuse me. Hey assistant: “What's the problem?”

(me) “Well, it’s kind of hard to explain, like, stuff is blinking and my text is gone, and I thought I was on the A drive but I guess I’m on, like the G drive or something and... Could you just come and look at this please?”

(computer assistant) (sigh) “No see, all you have to do is go to file, click on this and open up that and hold down that.”

At this point everything he said just sounded like Charlie Brown’s teacher.

(me) “Uhuh, OK.”

I return to my computer and stare blankly at the screen, my paper slowly vanishing into oblivion.

Why can’t I get help? I am a computer idiot in a foreign land, taking on powers that are way beyond me. On occasion, I need serious help.

Many students go through this exact same situation on a daily basis. They may not be comfortable with computers and the magic they can create, nor have the power to fix a problem when one arises.

Computer assistants are there to do exactly that, assist students with computers. Much too often I see these people having too much fun and ignoring the students altogether. Every now and then I see one walking around the crowded lab, ready to help any student who may need their help. Unfortunately, however, this is becoming the exception rather than the rule.

Too often I see the assistants joking with friends at their terminals in the front of the lab, or playing fun games on their computer, or even worse, talking on the phone to friends.

I understand a computer assistant’s job is most likely a thankless one. They must work long, odd hours, deal with too many students and only two printers, of which usually one is broken, and help people who are, for the most part, baffled by the very thing which they seek to control. It does not create a very friendly working environment. So the students must understand their position when looking for help in their particular situation.

Students are at the mercy of these machines every time they walk through the doors of the computer lab. It is my understanding that no one, on their own free will, wants to be there. Tension blankets this place like a fog. Weary students and tired computer assistants must reach a level of understanding that provides for a comfortable, not necessarily enjoyable, lab experience. Assistants should be aware that students don’t want to ask for help, but their entire academic career just may hinge on whether to hit the Alt H buttons or go up to one of those File column things.

Students and computer assistants can work in peace and harmony. A little understanding is all it takes.
Rent “Oz” Listen To Pink Floyd, Amaze Your Friends

By COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE

As if the Wizard of Oz’s flying monkeys weren’t enough to weird a person out, now there’s something more.

Classic rockers, many enthusiastic and conspiracy theorists alike are buzzing about the bizarre connection between the 1939 movie “The Wizard of Oz” and the 1973 Pink Floyd album “Dark Side of the Moon.”

When played together—with the movie’s sound turned down and the album’s — fans swear there’s some strange synchronicity.

To get the movie and soundtrack in sync, start the album right after the famous MGM Lion roars for the third time—and prepare to be astounded, or underpressed, depending on your level of skepticism. Among the matches:

• A song “Someone In the Sky” is played as Dorothy’s house is in the sky.
• Just as the sound of a cash register starts off the song “Money,” the film switches from black and white into color.
• Side One of the vinyl album is exactly as long as the black-and-white portion of the film.
• The Wicked Witch appears as the words “Black . . . black” are sung; the camera switches to Dorothy in a blue dress as the words “Blue . . . blue” are heard.
• As Glinda the Good Witch confronts the Wicked Witch, the lyric “And who knows which is which and who is who” is sung.
• “Brain Damage” plays as Scarecrow sings “If I Only Had A Brain.”
• The sound of a heart beating is heard at the end of the album as Dorothy listens to the Tin Man’s chest.

Radio stations in Boston and New York report a barrage of phone calls and letters on the strange coincidence, dubbed “The Dark Side of the Rainbow.”

Deejay George Taylor Morris at Boston’s WZLX-FM told the New York Daily News, as reported in Wednesday’s edition of “Countdown,” radio and television news, that he touched off a frenzy when he mentioned a new possible connection on the air.

“The phones just blew off the wall,” Morris said. “It started on a Friday, and that first weekend you couldn’t get a copy of ‘The Wizard of Oz’ anywhere in Boston.”

While the band has publicly denied any attempt to match its soundtrack to the movie, fans say there’s just no accounting for the coincidences. Several even have started websites, including “The Synchronicity Arkive” at www.xent.com-arkive/earlychron.html, and “Dark Side of the Moon as a Soundtrack for The Wizard of Oz” at www.chelmford.com/home/album/woodso.html.

Parents Think Practical When Buying Grad Gifts

By COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE

IRVINE, Calif.—A flashy new sports car might go great with a cap and gown, but most parents give their graduates plain old money or a watch, according to a national survey.

Nearly half of 500 parents polled said they planned to shell out less than $500 on a graduation gift for their son or daughter, with cash, a watch or jewelry among the top choices.

Only a small sampling (6 percent) of Moms and Dads said they would dole out more than $1,000 on a gift for their offspring.

The numbers indicate that pocketbooks are tight, says Kia Motors America, which conducted the nationwide poll of parents with children in high school or college.

The burning question, of course, is how many parents will hand over the keys to a set of wheels for their new grad? Two out of 10 parents said they would give a car as a graduation gift.

But while some graduates might expect an expensive, sporty model to go along with their sheepskin, almost half of parents surveyed said a compact sedan was a much more practical gift.

In order of popularity, presents selected by parents for their graduates included: money (76 percent); watch/jewelry (45 percent); computer (23 percent); car insurance (1 percent); car (20 percent); and vacation (18 percent).

Web Site Required At Kalamazoo, MI College

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—By the time freshmen at Kalamazoo College graduate, each will have a traditional liberal arts education. And a web page.

The new graduation requirement to design a personal web page impacts the Class of 2000 at the Michigan college.

“At first, students were like, ‘Oh no. Can you believe this? Another hoop we have to jump through,’” recalled Emily Springfield, assistant to the vice president of experiential education, who created the web page program. “But when they got into it, they were like, ‘This is cool.’”

Springfield, a 1996 Kalamazoo grad and English major, developed her own online portfolio her senior year. At the time, she felt such work should be a graduation requirement, so students could have an updated portfolio ready for use when they made post-graduation plans. College officials liked her idea, in part because it will help ensure that the 1,300-student body is computer-literate.

More than 40 software workshops were held this past year to train freshmen to design web pages without the need to know HTML.

Although students are encouraged to be creative when designing their personal web pages, college officials require students to document their achievements and activities for every year they’re at the school. That amounts to about five hours of work each quarter, said Springfield.

College officials will use the students’ online portfolios for individual career-counseling, but others may want to misuse the data, Springfield admitted. Students will be encouraged “not to allow the entire world” to see their web pages by limiting access to a certain group.

“This is a lot of personal information,” said Springfield, noting that one student included letters to his parents about his first year in college. Samples of portfolio pages can be viewed at http://www.kzoo.edu/305-pflio/Exmaple.

Prof Moonlights As Pronouncer

WASHINGTON—Words like “ptomaine,” “spheterize” and “usurafuly” roll off Alex Cameron’s tongue.

For the past 17 years, the University of Dayton professor has served as the official pronouncer at the national Spelling Bee, an annual event that gathers 200 young word-smiths in Washington for the ultimate test of spelling power.

As each contestant steps on stage, Cameron is responsible for pronouncing their word correctly and clearly—which can be a challenge with words like “strongylid,” “araneiform” and “jitternorem.

“Jitternorem is a little bit of a strain sometimes,” said Cameron, the chair of UD’s English department who stepped into the pronouncer’s role in 1981 after helping out at regional bees.

Although he’s spent almost two decades perfecting the art of pronunciation, Cameron claims there are “many, many” words he’s never sure about. To prepare, he practices using the phonetic spelling provided by Webster’s Third Edition Dictionary, the contest’s standard guidebook.

Contestants, who range in ages from 9 to 14, can ask Cameron to define a word or use it in a sentence. That’s the easy part. The hard part is dealing with a contestant who flubs the spelling.

“They react in many different ways,” Cameron said. “Sometimes there’s almost a smile of relief [that the pressure is off]. Other times you know there’s going to be a lot of tears.”

Cameron admits he stumbles over a word’s pronunciation on occasion. “I’ve misspronounced words [or] come out too fast,” he said. “There’s an auxiliary pronouncer, just in case I break into tears and run.”

For many 20-somethings, living with debt is a part of life

By COLLEEN DE BAISE

College Press Service

For Kelly McEvers, the downward spiral of credit card debt began in college when she charged a $1,000 emergency car repair bill. That was three years ago, and she’s still in the hole.

Now a graduate student at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., McEvers said it was just too tempting to start charging with reckless abandon.

“You just get [credit cards] in the mail and of course when you are in college you say, ‘Wow, Cool. A new outfit,’” she said.

McEvers doesn’t have the problems—or number of credit cards—as Dana Cognetta, a recent graduate of Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y. Cognetta owes $5,000 on her seven credit cards, and all of her accounts have been turned over to collection agencies because of delinquent payments.

Cognetta, who once charged $1,000 worth of designer make-up in a single shopping spree, said she used credit cards impulsively.

“I charged things I didn’t really need like Chinese food takeout for a period of six weeks at a time,” she said. She considered cutting her cards into little pieces, but said “new, even if I wanted to, I can’t use them.”

Generation Xers, as a group, have been depicted as politically apathetic, nose ring-wearing Net surfers. But their most defining characteristic may be debt. That’s according to U.S. News & World Report, which recently conducted research on the spending habits of young adults.

The magazine found that between 1990 and 1995 the average outstanding credit card balance of households headed by someone under 25 grew from $985 to $1,721.

Members of the 20-something generation are more prone than any other age group to “pet in over their heads” in terms of debt, U.S. News said. According to the magazine’s research, 45 percent of college students have plastic in their wallets, and one-fifth of people under age 25 have four or more cards. Of those seeking professional help at the National Consumer Counseling Service, more than half are between 18 and 32, the magazine said.

With college students, the trouble usually starts “late toward the end of their junior or senior year,” said Catherine Williams, president of the Chicago office of Consumer Credit Counseling Service, a non-profit agency that provides free debt counseling.

She said 45 percent of students spend more time cracking their books—and less time at a campus job. “There’s a push toward the end. Their [time at] work usually goes down, but their spending doesn’t,” she said.

Then, “they come out of a college and they have no cash flow to make the first apartment. They’re in a negative position before they get out the box,” she said. “They

See COLLEGE, Page 11
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INCLUDING MATERIALS
By DEAN G. LEWIS
Entertainment Editor

In Victor Nunez's quiet, reflective character study, Ulee Jackson (Peter Fonda) is a content beekeeper and grandfather living in the Florida panhandle with his two grandchildren, Penny and Casey (Vanessa Zima, Jessica Biel). A Vietnam War veteran, Ulee has carved a peaceful existence out of the Sunshine State terrain. Like Nunez's 1993 breakthrough "Ruby in Paradise," "Ulee's Gold" manipulates the raggedy flanks of northern Florida to its advantage. With hives of bees buzzing in the thick humidity, these insects become important supporting players in a rich, disarming deep story that is boosted considerably by Nunez's special gift for creating metaphors.

With his previous works, Nunez mixed subtle characterization with melodrama to get his action. "Ulee's Gold" is no different. Old-timer Fonda, in the best performance of his career, finds himself in the middle of a spat between his incarcerated son Jimmy (Tom Wood) and Jimmy's former crime pal Eddie and Ferris. Jimmy's drug-addicted wife Helen (Christine Danford) lands in the hands of the two thugs while waiting on a flight to Orlando. Doesn't take long for Ulee to negotiate with Eddie and Ferris concerning a stash of stolen money Jimmy hid away in a truck. The two men want it back, so they can cash it on the gold and retreat out of state. Ulee agrees to lead them to it. Here, Nunez could have shone us into a familiar, confrontational showdown between good and evil. Instead, he takes the more solemn, less flashy route by having Fonda, with his long legs and droll posture, kick Eddie's revolver into the swamp. Any hint of violence goes down the gutter, and we're left comfortably acquainted now to Nunez's style of storytelling.

While this subplot, every part of it cautiously plotted, is kept to an ordinary level, what is not remains the elaborate yet simple metaphor important central to the film. Bees, which live in organized colonies, contrast the dysfunctional, "broken" family of Ulee's. As the end credits roll, the soundtrack spills over to Van Morrison. And as the honey pours into Ulee's barrels, we come to an understanding that the sweet "gold" has become the man's livelihood, his money, his love.

(***1/2, A-)

An Evening with Victor Nunez and Peter Fonda

By DEAN G. LEWIS
Entertainment Editor

Saturday night, June 14, was a special occasion for film-goers at the Annie Russell theater. After the Florida premiere of the new film, "Ulee's Gold," writer-director Victor Nunez walked on stage to accept an award in Outstanding Achievement for Film and Culture. Presented specially by the Enzian theater and Orange County Commissioner Linda Chapin, the award is just one of many additions to Nunez's past mantle of independent movie-making. Partially filmed here in Orlando, the movie is set to open locally at Enzian on June 25. Lead star Peter Fonda also made a guest appearance to field questions from the audience. Arriving late because of a delayed flight, Fonda emerged from the backstage curtain, casually dressed in jeans, a blue shirt, and a denim jacket. The free-wheeling star, forever type-cast since the days of "Easy Rider," is finally finding a second life as critical acclaim pours in for a role originally intended for Nick Nolte. Fonda is marvelous as Ulee, and some audience members wondered if his reserved perfection in playing a family survivor and beekeeper was a remnant of his late father Henry. Making a reference to his father's Academy-award winning performance in 1981's "On Golden Pond," Fonda defended a question that he didn't come so terms with his Dad. The emotional closure was there, according to Fonda. In the actor's 35-year plus career in Hollywood, he has the role of a lifetime, proving not all Hollywood stories have tragic ends.

As Nunez made clear to the audience, he seeks to create "stories that are of value." In "Ulee's Gold" this value is the ability to recognize the power of love and life. After writing and directing films for more than 20 years, Nunez has given us one of this year's best and most satisfying pictures.

Florida Film Festival

"Blowfish" makes local debut

From PAGE 9

Somewhat aimless, sermonic dramas about two New York siblings who decide to venture down to Florida and meet up with their mother at a trailer park. An attempt into character goes way too far and in all the wrong directions. Dialogue is drilled in as filler, providing the only relief in the form of voice-overs from former wrestler George "The Animal" Steele. The big guy plays Henry, a mute recluse who also lives in the park. He doesn't talk, yet we hear him loud and clear through quiet, often effective verbal meditations. The film opens with him as a boy, running away from school bullies. The camera tracks behind his little figure as he runs across a field, the camera tracks behind his little figure to the side of a road where a semi sweeps by, forcing the boy to cover his ears from the noise. "Blowfish" then steps away and takes us to Nick and Gino, the two Brooklyn brothers whose Southern transplant will inevitably change both their lives. When they get to the park, mother is gone, so they must fend for themselves through romance, friendship, and, of course, fishing. Directed by Mark Carasus and produced with the help of the Valencia Community College Film Program, the film's best strength lies in its setting. Trailer parks, rather claustrophobic and humdrum, contrast the bustling chaos of the Big Apple. While a sense of place may be necessary in telling stories, a better script in this case would have broadened the film's independent bravado.

(*** C)
What’s playing: Pillows, fish, and a dead singer

By DEAN G. LEWIS
Entertainment Editor

“The Pillow Book”

A poetic, intelligent story that not only showcases writer-director Peter Greenaway’s (“The Cook, The Thief, His Wife, and Her Lover”) keen penmanship but also his extraordinary visual versatility. Bizarre tale centers on young Japanese girl Nagiko (graciously played by Vivian Wu) whose childhood in Kyoto is marked with family tradition. Her father, a skilled calligrapher, writes birthday messages every year on her face. As her mother recites sacred verses from “The Pillow Book”, her homeland’s classic collage-style collection of poetry, literature, and philosophy, little Nagiko watches in bed her father’s love to an overburdening, gay publisher (Yoshi Oda) to support his impoverished family. A short and quick man, publisher extends his control on the household by forcing Nagiko to marry early.

After abandoning her abusive husband, she escapes to Hong Kong where she finds work and love in the fast-paced city. But sexual desires begin to question her, so she seeks out a man who might satisfy her penchant for scribbling love letters on human subjects. She finds long blonde English writer Jerome (Ewan McGregor) whose infatuation with languages impresses her.

The man even encourages Yiddish and tempts Nagiko to let him write some on her naked body. This literary prowess soon turns the tables on the couple as Nagiko senses she must tutor the errant actress herself, not on paper though, but skin, the skin of various lovers, the ones she feeds will best satisfy her sexual needs.

Greenaway, with his deliberate use of picture-in-picture, juxtaposes past and present to reveal flawlessness. A quite liberal interchange of images between Oriental culture, sexual perversity, and betrayal fills every frame of his beautifully composed shots. Now playing in selected cities, this unique Greenaway Film Properties labor of love deserves a strong avant-garde following. During, haunting, imaginative.

“Colin Fitz”

Irrelevant comedy-drama about two inert security guards assigned to watch the grave of rocker “Colin Fitz” in order to prevent vandals and party-goers from defiling the deceased’s tombstone. Grady (Andy Fowles) and Paul (Matt McGrath) are unwillingly sent to the cemetery by their boss, O’Day (William H. Macy). There the two engage in end­less banter. Grady, on the verge of being dumped by his girlfriend (Mary McCormack), is an obnox­

Sundance shocker about two emotionally affected women-haters who decide to turn the tables on a helpless, deaf brnetle while on a business trip in the Midwest. Written and directed by Neil Labute, the film benefits from an intermittently sharp, David Mamet-style script. Able to thrust his characters into dialogue frenzies, Labute achieves maximum support from his two leads Chad and Howard, devilishly played by Aaron Eckhart and Matt Malloy. Their pasts come back to haunt them while waiting at a airport for their flight. Both been dumped or jilted by the opposite sex in some excruciating manner. The two hook up with an attractive co-worker at the airport. Her name is Christine, a reserved secretary who not only lost her hearing but her ability to fully talk from a childhood illness. The guys take advantage of their weaker prey and lay the cards down heavy up until the final, revelatory scene. Labute’s self-indulgent debut will bejudged to some, offensive to others. But for a film that makes fun of the post “Waiting to Exhale” delirium, it’s female-bashing screams might be heard as low-budget mimicry of classy play­wright Mamet, especially of his Pulitzer-Pride-winning “Glengarry Glen Ross” in “Which is the Company of Men”, in its office cor­

Special to the Future

Julianne Phillips at the grave site of “Colin Fitz.”

riders and desktop gabling, hazardously juggles ground with. A little too close for comfort.

Efficient documentary that takes ample time to tell the stories of three gay people whose lives are changed by on-the-job discrimination. Filmmakers Kelli Anderson and Tami Gold introduce us first to Cheryl, a Georgia woman and waitress at a Cracker Barrel restaurant in an Atlanta suburb. When she comes out of the closet at work, the restaurant fires her, claiming it has a requirement that all employees be straight. After a legal battle and Queer Nation in hopes Cracker Barrel might reverse their policy. From here, “Out at Work” witches gears and heads north into the auto towns of Michigan. We soon meet Ron, a plant technician from Detroit whose sexuality causes undue harassment on the jobite. Coincidentally, his protests against Cracker Barrel have made him easy prey to co-workers. Ron, feeling a bit closed in, surprisingly turns to the Unions for support. Yet the most convincing portrait though comes in Nat Keit, a library clerk out of the Bronx. Here, the film finds its heart and soul as it chronicles Nat’s efforts to get health benefits for his 11-year companion David, who’s dying from AIDS. Luckily, the New York Public Library system, in the end, steps behind its openly gay employee and grants the insurance Nat and David desperately need. Premiered at Redford’s Sundance Film Festival back in January, the film runs a short 55 minutes. Let that not distract you from an engaging and thorough documentary. Not as ambitious as the full­scale “Hoop Dreams” (1994), “Out at Work”, down to its bare bones, walks away as an angry outcry against Cracker Barrel and every­thing it stands for.

See BLOWFISH, Page 8
Memories will fuel weekend tournament

From PAGE 12

UCF hopes to be on the ball this weekend in their only home tourney.

Building completion due in Spring

From PAGE 1

so high tech and equipment intensive, as well as the film department, Meeske said the department is relying on fund raising and gifts.

The first contribution was made by Anthony J. Nicholson, who has dealings in TV and films. His gift of $2 million is a planned gift whose proceeds will establish an endowment which will benefit the school. Due to his benevolence, the school has been renamed after him.

In addition to classrooms and offices, the building will have a 500-seat auditorium, WUCF-FM radio facilities, a state-of-the-art digital darkroom, and a TV teaching studio and sound stage. David Franklin, the acting UCF program director of film and animation, is very excited about the facility.

He says the film department will occupy one-third of the building for production and post production uses.

"The new facility will level the playing field between other film schools like NYU and UCLA with UCF," said Franklin.

Meeske said the building was desperately needed.

"The computers we are using now are horribly antiquated. We can’t access the Internet and a lot of times they don’t even work. And this is the case with every division of the school. "We not only need to replace the equipment and make it workable, we need to be training students on equipment that is more in line with what they will encounter in the work field."

The new building has given us the opportunity to design a facility specifically for our needs."

The generation of new construction on campus is due to the increased enrollment and the projections for continued growth, says Meeske.

Also, he believes UCF has been underfunded for many years and hasn’t been able to add new facilities as they were needed. That is now changing.

"I am happy that UCF has started to recognize some of the changes that need to be made," junior Esleen Helms said. "We have gotten a new Student Union and will have the new Health and Public Affairs and Communication Building by next year. I’m excited."

"Maybe it will add a sense of home to campus by having all the HPA and communication classes under one roof."

The new building is estimated to be complete by November/December of this year, but Meeske says it will be difficult to move white students in classes.

"We have been waiting for these new buildings for a while now, waiting a little while longer isn’t going to be hard. At least now they will be ready before we graduate," said Helms.

Academic center moves downtown

From PAGE 1

main campus as well as in the Orlando International Airport.

Although the Center looks relatively small on the outside, the layout on the inside allows for maximum usage. The center boasts an auditorium that seats more than 100, four classrooms, a bookstore, a conference room, a computer lab and an interactive learning center.

All of this is jam packed into a two-story building and yet is quite spacious and doesn’t give the feeling of being caged in. In fact, none of the many windows in the original building have been covered, rendering the building much less stuffy than most modern structures.

Not one alcoye lies dormant, every one has a purpose. The center offers credit and non-credit classes, seminars, workshops and conferences. It has capabilities for teleconferencing and student registration, as well as information on student aid and academics.

As for professors, the center employs stuff from the college of health and public affairs and will soon add faculty from the colleges of Arts and Sciences and Business Administration.

Why is there a need for a campus downtown? The answer is simple says Rivers. Access and outreach in the community. There are many who find the downtown location extremely accessible and convenient. In fact, many government employees receive education in their fields at the Center. The Center can provide meeting space as well as professors to conduct lectures for employees of business partners, thus creating bonds between the business world and the University.

"This enhances the visibility of the college to the community," Rivers said.

In its young age, the Downtown Academic Center has already won the Golden Brick Award. This honor was presented by the Downtown Orlando Partnership that recognizes new additions to the downtown community or significant contributors to the area. One of the judges responsible for the presentation of this prize was quoted as saying: "What a fabulous use of this space."

If the club scene downtown is getting dry, and the dining scene is all set, why not walk down the street and check out "The hidden jewel of UCF ... "

located immediately behind the Visual Arts Building and adjacent to Lake Claire apartments, the new communication building will house state-of-the-art facilities.
White shows the boys a thing or two

From PAGE 12

Because her motivation and work ethic outline others in the program, the school asked her to coach the defense, then later the junior varsity.

"That was the first year of integrated schools in Dougherty County, and the county wasn't happy," she said.

Determined to find a niche, White entered into a low-profile football position — the kicking and punting unit. She traveled to Boca Raton to meet with Dr. Edward "Doc" Story, a Physics doctorate who White called "the expert on how balls fly and how people kick them."

She spent 15 years coaching in high school. In the early 1980s, she met up with Paul Lounsbery, UCF's former defensive line coach, who then taught in the Albany area public school system. It was through contacts she made with them and others that paved her way to join the coaching ranks at Georgia Tech in 1985.

"She's as good a specialty coach as I've seen," Lounsbery said.

"Something's impressive because she doesn't come from a football background. The things she teaches the players can apply to their lives outside football. That's pretty special."

White spent four years as the kicking coach with the "Ramblin' Wrink," leaving in 1989 after the NCAA outlawed the kicking tee. But the connections she made through Coaches Bill Curry and Bobby Ross helped her start the networking of kicking clinics she holds for high-school kickers and punters throughout the Southeast.

"What is it about UCF that has White and her camp back for the fourth year?"

"Coming here maximizes the kids' chances to meet with successful athletes," she said.

"There's lots of space, and being out here [in East Orange County] we're away from the hustle-bustle, so nobody sticks their nose in our business. We get the campers' undivided attention."

She has coached and known former UCF place kickers Franco Grilla (now with the Arena League's Orlando Predators) and Charlie Pierce. More than 300 college kickers have passed through her camps. Her staff of instructors is made up of former campers who have experience at the college level.

The drills she employs stress the importance of kicking mechanics.

"You must understand what makes everything work," she said. White puts her pupils through drills that balance the body through a kick, starting at the feet and legs, working up through the hips and shoulders to keeping a still head.

Yet her camp also stress that becoming an effective football player is not all about kicking pigs high in the air or through the uprifts. Self image and mental stability are just as important as having a cannon for a leg.

"It's not all skill," she said. "It's about self-concept, the support of your environment. You must see yourself as successful."

And she knows what she's talking about.

"During terms which she does not hold camp, she teaches psychology at Georgia Tech."

"It's not about being better.

"Everyone must learn enough about you to learn that you're trustworthy. You must recognize interference and run out," she said.

"The teachers have come through those situations and talk through experience. Hopefully we can give them the knowledge based on the experience of others."

"And through her experiences, she's learned enough to light up a scoreboard by ones and threes."

Carol White demonstrates proper punting techniques.

Photo by TIM SPININGER

+ Akesson, 24, feels he is too old to play on tour

From PAGE 12

concentration, or major, by 10th grade. Even though Akesson said high school is too early for selecting a career, he said his focus on economics helped him maintain a combined 3.83 gpa at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock and UCF, where he was transferred to for his junior and senior seasons.

"It's good to know enough about the field being studied to try and figure out some of the language spoken in class," Akesson said. "I found my studies in economics helping me with some of the more difficult words on my composition paper."

Falkenberg said many foreign players have trouble adjusting to the English language.

"People are trying to recruit right now but and my biggest concern is getting the kids to pass the English portion of the SAT," she said.

"It's been good to have a player like [Akesson], who has a real good leader, on and off the court. Men's tennis won the UCF team academic award this year and a lot that has to go to example, the physical training he does."

Leaving for Sweden in early July, Akesson hopes to attend graduate school in Gothenburg, an hour from his hometown.

"I haven't decided, but I'll either major in international business or industrial economics," he said. "It's really tough to go to school there. You usually take five long essay questions and have five hours to do it in."

The only grade you get. If you fail, you can take the test again. Fail that, and you have to take the class over again."

As much as he enjoyed his college experience, Akesson said he will probably stay away from playing professionally.

"Right now it's feeling pretty good not to play," said Akesson, who added he might play soccer for a minor division team in Kunwan.

"I might enter a few tennis tournaments back home now and then because some of my best friends are still playing."

Falkenberg thinks it would be too expensive and time consuming for Akesson to try to play professionally.

"The competition in America is fierce," Falkenberg said. "You have to travel to places like Akesson, you have to have experience at the college level and allowed more students to go on to play on tour. I'm 24 years old now and when I watch TV the guys are 18, 19 years old who are playing professionally. Not too many guys can come in at my age and get started."

With his time at UCF now over, Akesson said he has no regrets.

"I think I did everything I wanted to do," he said. "It's time to get on with my life."

College students in ocean of debt

From PAGE 6

Rely on the credit card to get them through. Then they're really in trouble.

Complicating matters is the fact that young people's student loan debt has skyrocketed. In 1996, more than 50 percent of all U.S. students borrowed money to pay for their undergraduate or graduate education. That's partly because college costs increased as much as 200 percent between 1981 and 1994, outpacing inflation by more than 240 percent.

Experts also attribute the loan surge to the 1992 Higher Education Act, which expanded the federal student loan program and allowed more students to borrow even larger sums of money.

And simply, "more of the onus to borrow has moved to the students," said Diane Saunders, a spokesperson for NELLIE Mae, the largest nonprofit provider of student loan funds.

"In the past, the state and federal government and parents all were helping students pay for college more than they are now," she said.

In a 1991 national survey cited by U.S. News, only 26 percent of student borrowers said their parents paid for more than one fifth of college costs. Other students have shown that parents typically pick up only about 10 percent of their children's student loan debt.

Even if college costs have escalated, young people report that it's hard to resist the lure of material goods. Often, they lead a lifestyle beyond their means by dining out and frequenting pricey bars and clubs.

U.S. News dubbed it the "Keeping Up With The Coxes" syndrome, a reference to the "normal" lifestyle of Courtney Cox's "Friends" character, which many young people try to emulate.

"I spent money I knew I didn't have," said Anne Matrapierre, a student at Northwestern who has four major credit cards and four retail store cards. "It's tempting because you think it's free money."

For Matrapierre, it's a struggle each month to make the payments. She was shocked to accumulate over a five-year rampage. She admits that she piled on debt by obeying her father's charge nice clothes, but she still blames the credit card companies.

"Undergrads are lured like lambs to be slaughtered by credit card companies," she complained. "The credit card companies know that students do not have money to pay them. It is really unfair what they do."
Pacitti signs with independent team

Former UCF OF Gregg Pacitti signed a free agent contract with the Fargo-Moorhead (N.D.) Redhawks on June 10. The Redhawks, a minor league franchise not affiliated with a major league team, are a member of the Northern League of Professional Baseball.

Terms and length of the deal were not disclosed.

Pacitti, 22, set the UCF single season home run mark with 15 this past season.

As Trans America Athletic Conference tournament MVP, Pacitti helped UCF to a No. 3 seed in the NCAA East Regional and led the team in RBIs with 71.

Cross Country names 1997 signees

UCF cross country coach Marcia Mansur-Weinworth announced the addition of 15 men's and women's players for the 1997 season.

The women's cross country team, which placed fifth at the TAAC Cross Country Championships in November, added 10 signees.

Returning, two-time All-Conference runner Christy Miller, will be joined by Gemma Dimery (Fairborn, Ohio), Kerice Klammer (Staten Island, N.Y.), Sarah Schles (Green Bay, Wis.), Stephanie Cameron (Middleton, Ohio), Kelly Lackner (Coral Springs), Jennifer Mackey (Merrit Island), Jennifer Carter (Fort Myers), Jamie Mills (Hudson) and Notre Dame transfer Colleen McBride (St. Petersburg).

The men's team, received five additions to a squad that finished second at the TAAC championships last season.

Chris Duncan of Camp Verde, Ariz., was the state champion in the 1- and 2-mile races. His 14:36 finish in the 5K during cross country season allowed him to win the state championship in cross country as well.

The other four signees are Chris-Helyn deVries (Marco Island and Lely High School), Lee Rosa (Cooper City High School), Shawn Macberry and Trent Simpson, who are graduates of Estero High School (Fort Myers).

UCF tennis player is TAAC’s academic elite

By DEREK GONSOLIN
Sports Editor

If UCF tennis player Matias Akesson were to boast of his accomplishments from 1997, he would be well justified.

As the Trans America Athletic Conference Player of the Year, Akesson could go on about how he bested Florida International's top player and led his team to its first national ranking shortly thereafter. He could point to his No. 74 national ranking and 20-5 record as UCF's top singles player to prove his worth.

But Akesson is just to humble for it.

"He just loves to play tennis," tennis coach Gail Falkenberg said. "He likes to hit the ball, pure and simple."

So when he was named TAAC student-athlete of the year, Akesson said he was surprised and honored.

"I never really thought about winning [the student-athlete award]," said the senior economics major.

"I never even knew they had an award like this," Akesson said, with a small grin and laugh. "But really, it's good for the school to be recognized for not only sports, but that we have something upstairs."

However, maintaining a 4.0 GPA and a busy tennis season takes more than intelligence, Akesson said, it takes planning.

"I think sports gave me the discipline to study," the native of Kvarnam, Sweden, said.

"I had very little time to study and play tennis, so I had to plan my days. My typical schedule would be from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the tennis court, then go to class until 5 p.m. and then study for two or three hours."

"Thanking his parents for telling him at an early age tennis was not everything, Akesson credits his upbringing for his good grades.

"My parents told me to study because I need to do more than just tennis to be successful in life," he said.

"They were right.

In the Swedish school system students must pick an area of interest, which requires them to study hard and be successful in life," he said.

"But Miller's injury is not a bad page in the UCF rugby club's otherwise successful nine-year history. Rather, Miller's injury is the reason behind one of the bright spots of the summer season. UCF's club hosts the annual Todd Miller Sevens Tournament on June 21 at 10 a.m. This event serves not only to remember Miller's injury, but also to remind current players this type of injury could happen to them, too.

See MEMORIES, Page 10

Coach kick starts players’ futures

By KEN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Carol White went to school to manage bits and bytes using a new gadget called a computer.

She ended up mentoring kickers and punters as a football coach.

White, director of the fourth annual School for Kicking and Punting Instruction at the University of Central Florida, said it was never meant to be this way.

"I expected to teach here [at UCF]."

Carol White, left, teaches kicking to high school students at UCF.

"It was really a freak injury," said Voegele. "He got in a scrum [in a game against the local club, Ironhorse], and then in the scrum he got caught in a bad position and then fell back onto the ground."

From that point on, Miller was paralyzed, retaining only the use of his upper body and forever losing the mobility so many take for granted.

But Miller's injury is not a bad page in the UCF rugby club's otherwise successful nine-year history. Rather, Miller's injury is the reason behind one of the bright spots of the summer season. UCF's club hosts the annual Todd Miller Sevens Tournament on June 21 at 10 a.m. This event serves not only to remember Miller's injury, but also to remind current players this type of injury could happen to them, too.

See MEMORIES, Page 10

By JEFF CASE
Staff Writer

About a year ago, hundreds of students participated in UCF's summer commencement ceremonies. Among the proud graduates was Todd Miller.

As student after student walked to receive their diploma, Miller, like the many before him, could hardly wait for his name to be called. But while most of his fellow graduates used their legs to get to their diploma, Miller was perhaps the only student who made his way to the stage by using his arms.

Miller, who is a wheelchair-bound quadriplegic, is in this condition due to an injury he incurred as a member of UCF's men's rugby club.

Randy Voegele, one of Miller's teammates, and a current assistant with the club, was present when Miller's injury occurred.

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Rugby remembers teammate's injury

By JEFF CASE
Staff Writer

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