SGA's new cabinet coming together

By LINDSAY J. MALANGA
News Editor

With an eventful fall on the way, Student Government has been spending the summer building its cabinet and preparing for another memorable year.

As President Keith McDonald and Vice President Karen Montague head the crew into the 97-98 school year, positions are still waiting to be filled to complete the staff.

Spirit Coordinator Chris Gonzalez plans to “do all we can to boost student morale, spirit days, and other activities that are going on to show how much fun it is to be a Knight.”

Gonzalez said being a spirited person with a lot of energy and leadership positions helped him earn the spirit coordinator position. “I think Student Government persuades student enthusiasm by leading by example. All students love UCF and show it on a daily basis,” he said.

Gonzalez is anticipating many new activities to elevate student enthusiasm. “A few of the things we have planned for the fall are monthly spirit days, a UCF billboard to be put up, bus rides to all home football games, a trip to Nebraska, making homecoming bigger and better than ever, and a lot of other fun stuff to make the students happy,” he said.

Some of Student Government’s goals include spreading enthusiasm and coordinating student events, but another aspect is not all fun and games.

Chad Hastings understands what it is like to be on the practical side of UCF’s SGA, as he now holds the Comptroller position. Hastings advises the President on finances matters, keeps track of account balances and

See CABINET, PAGE 3

Ski rope invention pulls students toward success

By SEAN CLAEYS
Staff Writer

UCF student Markham Gross, 23, and recent graduate Michael Lintzner, 22, met at college three years ago and now own a lucrative business. Gross, from Huntsville, Ala., and Lintzner, from Hartford, Conn., came to UCF, “To ski in a warmer climate and get a great education,” said Lintzner.

“Training for barefoot skiing with Rick Powell [previous barefooting world champion] was one main purpose for coming to UCF. But after blowing out both knees, I decided to join SAE to meet other people until I recuperated,” Gross said.

Months after their initial meeting through their fraternity, Gross and Lintzner became skiing partners. Gross joined the ski team as a trick skier.

“That was just for fun,” Gross said. “Barefooting was still my main priority.”

Since then, the two have built a strong friendship as well as an exceptional business, Hardline.

The Hardline was developed by a UCF student and alumnus.

Photo by SEAN CLAEYS

The Hardline was developed by a UCF student and alumnus.

Water skiers give the Hardline the thumbs up.

Lintzner explained Hardline was started as just another random idea out in the boat while taking the everyday ski set. Gross said he felt all the ropes he had skied with were very elastic. This stretchability resulted in slack and a feeling of no control while he practiced the precise maneuvers involved in barefooting.

The next day, Gross and Lintzner stepped into something new, the UCF library, and researched on what fiber would create the perfect rope. A few weeks later, their first ski rope was developed, made of 100 percent spectra.

“Spectra has no stretch so you have more control, and the individual fibers have a considerably large tensile strength compared to all other rope fibers. This allows for a much smaller diameter, yet stronger

See STUDENTS, PAGE 3

New course to examine 'isms'

By OLIVIA K. CURNOW
Staff Writer

The Institute for Public Media Arts has chosen UCF as one of seven colleges in the United States to implement a new class in their curricula.

“Exploring ISMS: Ethnicity, Gender and Visual Communication” (SYP 4932) will begin this fall and continue through next spring, giving students eight credit hours for the year.

“It’s so intense that we might give them an incomplete at the end of the fall so they come back in the spring,” said Dr. Maria Cristina Santana, an associate professor in the School of Communication. She will be co-teaching the class with Dr. Lin Huff-Corzine of the sociology department.

The students will begin the semester by shooting color photography and making a photo diary of themselves. The spring project will involve shooting a video of themselves and their own “ism,” whether it be racism, sexism, ageism, classism, feminism or individualism.

“This is the way they can explore their own ism,” Santana said. “I’d like to create more exposure to these isms in general.”

This is one of the Institute’s many projects. It is being sponsored by the Ford Foundation, Time-Warner, Levi-Strauss, Lotus, Philip/Morris, and the Johnson Foundation.

“I would definitely like to create in the future a class like this at UCF without the sponsorship,” Santana said.

See UCF, PAGE 3

Muscling up

Deaubrey Devine heads a new line-backing corps into battle for UCF this season.

Story on Page 12

Ebonics flu

UCF gives the controversial topic a spin.

— Page 5

No ‘Contact’

New release would be better suited lost in space.

— Page 8

Hustling up

Deaubrey Devine heads a new line-backing corps into battle for UCF this season.

Story on Page 12

Postseason hope

Women’s soccer team now has the opportunity to play in NCAAs.
By DAN TUCKER

Ver, was arrested on a County warrant. The other two occupants of the vehicle, Alfredo Garcia and Louis Hernandez, were detained for damaging the net. The net was last seen on June 23 at the Administration Building. On June 24, Feliciano put her bike in the rack at 11:45 a.m. and returned 30 minutes later to find it missing.

On June 25, Dr. John Leeson notified police that six homework assignments were stolen from under his office desk between June 11-13. Dr. Leeson told police he may know of a few suspects since several of the papers were identical.

WORD OF THE WISE

es•ti•vate v. 1. to spend the summer 2. to pass the summer in a dormitory state, as snails

Estivating UCF students choose to spend scorching summer days in the cool air conditioning.

UCFPD discovers illegal aliens

By DAN TUCKER

Staff Writer

On June 22, according to UCFPD reports, a white Ford pick-up was pulled over for damage to Jennifer Walkley's car on June 23 at the court.

On June 22, according to UCFPD reports, a white Ford pick-up was pulled over after failing to stop at a stop sign. Malagon Rigoberta, the truck's driver, was arrested on a Seminole County warrant. The other two occupants of the vehicle, Alfredo Garcia and Louis Hernandez, were detained for being illegal aliens from Mexico and turned over to the Border Patrol.

In other campus crime news reported by the UCFPD:

- An estimated $500 worth of damage was done to Jennifer Walkley's 1997 Saturn while parked in the back lot of the Pi Beta Phi house. Walkley parked her vehicle on June 23 around 10 p.m. When she returned to her car the next morning, she noticed several dents, scratches and shattered glass on the hood of her car.

Walkley is willing to prosecute.

- Michael Bruhaker reported the Alpha Tau Omega volleyball net was stolen on June 24. The net was last seen on June 23 at the court.

- Elena Feliciano's bike was stolen from the bike rack at the Administration Building on June 24. Feliciano put her bike in the rack at 11:45 a.m. and returned 30 minutes later to find it missing.

- On June 25, Dr. John Leeson notified police that six homework assignments were stolen from under his office desk between June 11-13. Dr. Leeson told police he may know of a few suspects since several of the papers were identical.

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Students find success making ski ropes

... and lighter rope that doesn't snap. It responds like no other out on the market," Lintzner said.

"We originally made one [rope] for ourselves, but when we used it to tour our tournaments, all these skiers thought it was awesome and wanted to buy it," Gross said. "Realizing that we needed to do something besides both of us majoring in psychology, Mike and I started Hardline." After talking with several business professors, at UCF, Gross and Lintzner obtained a business license and officially started Hardline out of their house last February. Since then, they have sold hundreds of ropes, to not only barefooters but wake boarders and slalom skiers as well.

Hardline has persuaded more than 23 professional skiers to switch to their product. Top names such as Shannon Best, Thomas Horrell, Cobe Mikacich, Randy Harris, Martin, all use the Hardline "shoe lace" ski rope.

"It is definitely the best rope I have used. It allows me to load the line so I can shoot across the wake to reach my next buoy," said Brian McDonald, tournament slalom skier and owner of Blue Dot, a new wake boarding rope.

"It's like a real cable so it doesn't stretch when I'm trying serious tricks," knee boarder and barefooter Bill Collins said.

"When I'm trying serious tricks, I need the sun on my face," Collins said. "It's like a steak cable so it doesn't stretch." 

"We were never looking for a big money invention," Lintzner and Gross said. "We have in-the-closest projects that we shall not divulge at the time." 

"We were never looking for a big money maker, just something to pay the bills," Lintzner said with a smile. "I have caught a glimpse of the real world, and I'll do whatever it takes to avoid living with that stress. My goal is to keep Hardline producing the best quality ski merchandise, and to retire as soon as possible." 

"Obviously the guys at Hardline have created the wake boarding rope of the year," Lintzner and Gross' rope invention was also featured in Launch, another popular wake boarding magazine. In addition to the write-ups, Hardline is an official sponsor of Boardstock '97, a large two-step wake boarding competition. Also, it was used in the 97 Xtreme-Games for barefoot jumping, partly due to other ski ropes breaking under the high resistance landings, Gross said.

"We are making a mark in the water ski industry. The two innovative ski pioneers plan to design and manufacture ski handles for wake boarding, barefoot trick skiing, and barefoot jumping."

"Plus," Gross said, "we have in-the-closest projects that we shall not divulge at the time."

"We were never looking for a big money maker, just something to pay the bills," Lintzner said with a smile. "I have caught a glimpse of the real world, and I'll do whatever it takes to avoid living with that stress. My goal is to keep Hardline producing the best quality ski merchandise, and to retire as soon as possible."
**Student Spotlight**

**Q:** Of all the classes you have taken at UCF so far, which has been your favorite?

**A:** 1.) Of all the classes you have taken at UCF so far, which has been your favorite?
2.) Why is this one your favorite class?

**BY PETER KUNDIS**

1.) Human Nutrition.
2.) Aside from just being a very interesting subject for me, Stephanie Norris was both quite approachable and genuinely concerned about her students.

---Stephanie Smith, Senior, Organizational Communication, West Palm Beach.

1.) Digital Circuits.
2.) I have always enjoyed hands-on electrical circuits, and this particular class provided me with the best training. My professor was quite through, fair, and also very professional in every aspect, which enabled me to enjoy this course even more.

---Jae S. Smith, Senior, Computer Engineering, Newport News, Va.

---Wajiha R.Khan, Junior, Political Science, Lahore, Pakistan.

---Amy Atchison, Senior, Liberal Studies, Boyton Beach.

---Joe Liguori, Sophomore, Business, Orlando.

---Camil Reyes, Sophomore, Communicative Disorders, St. Petersburg.

---Stephanie Smith, Senior, Organizational Communication, West Palm Beach.
Ebionite plague sweeps across nation

BY JASON HEIRONIMUS
Opinion Editor

There are very few things Americans can agree on. Apple pie. Uncle Sam. The United States of America. These are all things that may put a bad taste in our mouths, but ideally they are fairly good things. I haven’t seen anyone protesting apple pie, at least not yet. However, I like to think there are far too many things Americans can’t agree on.

We are nation with an identity crisis. While diversity is always a good thing and should be applauded in one of our strengths, perhaps too much diversity encourages adversity. It seems as if little, benign “hot topics” get in the way of our progression as a country and as human beings. Almost everyone has a unique perspective on the latest issue of the day. With so many different views it is near impossible to find a middle ground. A middle ground is what we need to do. Almost everyone has a unique perspective on the latest issue of the day. With so many different views it is near impossible to find a middle ground. A middle ground is what we need to do.

Perhaps one of the most controversial topics of the day is “ebonite.” I think this is because it is called “black likes to call it.” To the non-talk-show-watchers of the day is the “ebonite” as Oprah might choose to call it. However, I don’t believe I can understand someone wanting to speak in every-day life the way they do if they only speak ebonite. It is a more relaxed tone. It is much more poetic and fluent than our boring, straight English.

I have decided that for the rest of my life I am going to speak strictly pig latin, or Funny Lazy Vernacular English, as the experts like to call it. I feel more comfortable in that dialect, it is how I grew up. In my family’s house we were strictly pig latin. Sure it made it tougher for me in school, and it will be much tougher for me to get a job when my interviewer is trying to figure out what I am saying. But hopefully people will catch on and eventually pig latin will be recognized by some school so that my children will be able speak their native tongue in class. I can see it now, “pah swah a estionque.”

I believe that ebonite-speaking children should be placed in Special Education classes. They are starting school with a decided advantage against them, they don’t speak the language. Special Education students have disadvantages which tend to impair their learning ability, an inability to speak English seems to be one of these disadvantages. These students will undoubtedly need special attention in class and most likely will need attention outside of the class as well, assisting the student to properly learn and understand English for his/her benefit.

Parents of these children should feel no shame in placing their children in Special Education. It is not an indication of how intelligent the individual may be, they may be the smartest in the school, it only indicates that they have a small roadblock in their path to getting a quality education.
**Feeling 'left' out? Not any more for these lefties**

**Business etiquette class covers finer points of dining**

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**COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE**

To all left-handed college students across the nation, Mike Rose has a simple message: "I feel your pain." The 20-year-old college sophomore describes himself as a "white, middle-class male" who "doesn't have a lot of political gripes."

Nevertheless, in an imperfect world, it's easy to feel left out. Rose found this out when he was a freshman at Pennsylvania State University. In his freshman year, he wrote a letter to his dean of students asking why there were hardly any left-handed desks in the building. According to Rose, it was the "cruelest" reality for left-handers to face on a typical college campus. Classrooms in lecture halls and classrooms were designed for right-handed students, and Rose found himself struggling to keep up.

Rather than simply complain about such rampant exclusion, Rose, who attends the University of California at Davis, set out to improve life for lefties.

"Last year we always joked about putting left-handed desks in. So this year, we decided there must be a reason this shouldn't be a serious issue," he says.

The result is The Lefties' Rights Association, an official student organization at UC Davis formed in November 1996. Rose, along with classmate Mark Thomas, set up a table on campus, seeking signatures for a petition addressed to the dean of their left-handed friends.

In all, the two obtained 140 signatures from students who said they would like to see the university install desks to accommodate this historically overlooked "minority" of southpaws. "People would come up and say, 'We're southpaw,'" Rose says. "Four years ago," Rose recalls.

Petitions in hand, Rose and Thomas approached Neal Presa, a senior political science student who was running for a student government senate seat. A lefty, Presa was sympathetic and signed the petition. "We knew the election was coming up, and we told Neal this was a way he could reach the whole left-handed (student) population," Rose says, which he estimates to be about 8 percent of the school's 18,000 students.

Supporting left-handed desks on campus "helped me with the election," admits Presa. "But don't write in your article that I used it to win the election, and cast it aside. I didn't!"

After the election, Presa says he made the concerns of his left-handed constituents his top priority. "Tuition increases and the lack of computers are more popular issues, but getting left-handed desks was the easiest one to do something about. It was the one that got my attention right away," he says.

The left-handers narrowed their request for new seats to three halls on campus that do not have a single left-handed desk. The reason? "There's really no established building code that says 'Thou shalt make 15 percent of desks for the left-handed.' Left-handed people aren't exactly disabled," says UCD architect Chris Adamson, in reference to government and business compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Adapting lefties, he says, "is more of a social consideration."

At a cost of about $7,000, the university will replace seats at two of the halls with 36 left-handed desks, according to Dr. Evelyn R. Babey, the university registrar. A third hall was already set to undergo renovation this summer, and construction workers will add left-handed desks there, too.

"There was no controversy over this one," says Babey. "I laughed (about the formation of the Lefties Rights Association) because I'm right-handed," she says. "The university's willingness to add new chairs "does show we try to meet the things that people ask for," Babey says. So what challenges yet lie ahead for the left-handed students on campus? "It's not really a multi-faceted movement," says Rose. "There's not a whole lot of things that affect left-handed people besides desks on campus."

The group will continue to sponsor parties that ban right-handed activities. At the parties, everything from a handshake to picking up a glass must be done with one's left hand.

Not wishing to discriminate, Rose says, "We're an equal opportunity organization. We accept right-handed members."

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**American Heart Association**

**The Power of Prevention**

**Heart Disease and Stroke**

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**COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE**

Holly Jones polishes her resume. Her cover letter looks good. She's settled on what to wear. Then the ubiquitous job interview forms appear: On and off the business lunch is a topic of conversation at the University of California at Davis, in the halls for the better part of a minute.

"It's cruel," says Tully, saying students usually know your job is not in the best interest of the interview. "Don't overdo it," Tully adds.

"I've had people tell me that for their company, the business lunch is a weeds out process," says Tully. "With that in mind, one should expect that... it very well could be a test."

As college graduates prepare to enter the work force, many of them face the daunting task of trying to sell themselves to prospective employers while trying to avoid embarrassing slip-ups.

Tully says students fear the business lunch for one main reason: Dining at a fine restaurant just isn't the norm for today's fast-food generation.

"Students tell me, 'I can go through an entire day and not use a utensil,'" Tully says. "Imagine what that does (to the interview)." Tully says students usually know your job is not in the best interest of the interview. "Don't overdo it," Tully adds.

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Entertainment

‘Contact’: Marooned in space

By DEAN G. LEWIS
Entertainment editor

Trying to follow director Robert Zemeckis is much like tailing an unpredictable hurricane. You don’t know which way it will turn, how far it will go, or how strong it will become. In other words, the track record of Zemeckis is anything but proven. Having won an Oscar in 1994 for “Forest Gump”, Zemeckis returns with “Contact”, a sci-fi drama tailor-made for grown-ups. Adapted from the 1985 novel by the late Carl Sagan, “Contact” is a dull hybrid between “Close Encounters of the Third Kind” and “Communion” (the little-seen sleeper that starred Christopher Walken as author Whitley Streiber whose accounts of alien abduction were widely documented). Yet it is Zemeckis’ undoing that undoes the picture. Thinking it’s safe to retools a few and spits them out intermittently during “Contact’s” lengthy endeavor.

Jodie Foster (in her first screen role since “Nell”) stars as Dr. Eleanor Arroway, an astronomically obsessed scientist who crosses shop on her Puerto Rico outpost to set up station at a new, federally-funded New Mexico observatory. There she receives the sound waves from outer space that will change everyone’s ways of thinking. From a suspicious national security adviser (James Woods) to Foster’s sexist mentor (Tom Skerritt) to writer (Matthew McConaughey), making contact with these math-crazy terrestrials proves to be a labyrinth involving Jake Busey (Gary’s son) as a crazed terrorist hits the skids. It just doesn’t mesh with the rest of the picture. Above all else, it’s a suspense of spiritual renewal and faith, could get spaced out from the heavy time the novel hit its peak.

* 1/2 (out of four) C-

Continued on next page

Rolling the Dice

“Vegas Vacation”

Chevy Chase and Beverly D’Angelo reprise their roles for the fourth time in “Vegas Vacation”, an insipid third sequel to the 1983 original. National Lampoon has its stamp of approval on the first three, making the middle adventures, “European Vacation” and “Christmas Vacation”, entertainingly enjoyable. But its comic name-sake is nowhere in sight this time around. Low dice numbers strand the cast on the playing table. Chase is up to his old antics as usual, yet age and weight have taken its toll. What he seriously needs is fresh material. Ethan Embry (“That Thing You Do”) plays little son Rusty, bringing his boyhood, corny charm to the role. Dry comedy goes damped at the Hoover Dam. The City of Lights has received better PR before. Skip the desert heat and book your flight to a more meaningful, worthwhile destination. (D-)
“Honeymoon in Vegas”

Before he left Vegas for frequent flier mileage on board this summer’s “Con Air”, Nicolas Cage had a memorable blast in Andrew Bergman’s “Honeymoon in Vegas”. Cage plays a newlywed whose rookie wife (Sarah Jessica Parker) runs off with billionaire James Caan. Cage, garbed in an Elvis outfit, drops in on their plans from a plane. Having sneaked his way into a travelling sky-diving troupe called the Flying Elvises, Cage makes for a hilarious, if passeable, impersonation. Bergman’s comic hijinks are even better when there’s a Presley tune blaring on the soundtrack. This is the first film Bergman did after “The Freshman”. Since then he’s given us “It Could Happen To You” and “Striptease”. Bet safe on Vegas and rent this Bergman jewel. (Br+)

“Casino”

Martin Scorsese, America’s best and most consistent filmmaker, took an unfair whipping from some critics for what they called a rehash of his earlier classic “Goodfellas”. Aside from De Niro and Pesci, screenwriter Nicholas Pileggi, and the usual mafia mayhem, this one’s a summer. High rollers De Niro and Pesci cruise the strip while overseeing the ops of a dozen or so gambling meccas. Sharon Stone plays a local moll who falls under the watchful wings of De Niro. Too bad her pimp (a gruesome James Woods) wants her back. Scorsese again uses violence as a tool, not a weapon. A hoodlum gets the squeeze put on him via a vice. Pesci gets it in the head at bloody batting practice. Longtime Scorsese editor Thelma Schoonmaker provides the rapid cuts, most notably in the film’s action and gambling sequences. Like most of Marty’s other flicks, this one made my 1995 Top Ten. (A-) 

“Leaving Las Vegas”

Writer-director Mike Figgis, the author behind the hideous “Mr. Jones” (the Richard Gere drama from 1993), managed a 360-degree turn-a-round when he adapted this semi-autobiographical novel for the big screen. A startling, dark portrait of a drunk committed to drinking himself to death in the course of several weeks, “Leaving Las Vegas” gave Nicolas Cage a well-deserved Oscar. He finds some range in a role that’s been played all too often in Hollywood. Cage’s suffering soul is at the end of his rope. Just dumped by his screenwriting firm, he departs for the City of Lights where he meets a young hooker named Sera (Oscar nominee Elisabeth Shue). Figgis’ unsentimental writing will have you touched, while Shue’s intimate interviews on camera might lead some to recall Jane Fonda’s “Norma Rae”. (A) 

The Griswolds lose it all in “Vegas Vacation”

“Klute” (1971). Never has redemption, love, and addiction been this hard to swallow. Meditative, perceptive work. Film requires patience on part of the viewer. This 1995 release also made my Top Ten. (A-) 

Letter to the Editor

Insurance policy disturbs international students

Dear Editor,

We, the international students of UCF, are writing regarding a matter which we feel has to be brought to the attention of the UCF community. We are writing about the recent decision of the university to combine the insurance policies of the international and domestic students. The State of Florida Board of Regents rules that international students must have health insurance in order to enroll or register in university classes. As a result, all international students have to purchase health insurance that meets the minimum requirements mandated by the state. International students are dropped from classes if we do not have proof of insurance.

For the past two years, the International Student Services office managed to get health insurance premiums at reduced rates and we had hoped that this trend would continue for the 1997-1998 annual year. Unfortunately, the recent decision to combine the insurance of international and domestic students has made the insurance $75 more expensive for international students. The combined health plan means that international students will be paying a higher premium to subsidize domestic students. This is unfair.

To some people $75 is not a lot of money, but for the international students it’s a lot due to the monetary exchange rates. Often, we pay more to meet the American dollar.

We have written to the President regarding this, but haven’t received any reply or explanation regarding the decision. A few of the administrative staff have also voiced the unfairness of the combined health insurance plan but has fallen on deaf ears. UCF’s mission statement that “UCF is committed to the free expression of ideas, the equality of all people and the dignity of the individual” has ironically been abused in this situation.

We hope our concerns have been expressed to the UCF community so that more than 1,000 international students can see the light in this unfair and disturbing situation.

Sincerely,

UCF International Students
Great Art!

- The Tokyo-based theatrical company OM2, in a performance at the Kitchen in New York City in October, set up 11 mobile pens inside which the audience sat while the 20 cast members stared at them and moved the cages from place to place. The goal, said the New York Times, were "blurring the line between artist and audience, and the ever-popular audience discomform."

- South Korean artist Bul Lee’s display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City in March, which consisted only of rotting fish in sealed bags and glass cabinets, was abruptly pulled by officials after only several hours’ display because the ventilation equipment failed. The show was titled "Majestic Splendor."

- In April, Russian performance artist Oleg Kulik opened a two-week show, "I Bite America and America Bites Me," in which he stayed in character as a dog from the time his plane landed in New York City until the time he left town. Kulik hosed up in a gallery cage wearing only a dog collar and exhibiting the gamut of dog behaviors and emotions, and visitors could enter the cage to play with him only after putting on protective padding in case Kulik bit them. Kulik has been arrested in three countries for bitting his audience.

- In a February show at San Francisco’s Capp Street Project building, artist Glen Seator reproduced to exact scale the outside of the Capp Street Project building and the street that abuts it. Seator used 115 tons of gravel, 30 tons of asphalt, and 100 tons of sand and re-created details down to the placement of poster staples on a telephone pole. And sculptor Lowell Davis, who made News of the Weird in 1995 when he burned down his studio and the street that abuts it, is now involved in the original agreement.

- The Associated Press reported in April that the United Arab Emirates’ National Aviation Research Center, housed at a generous level by ruler Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, has hired scientists from around the world to use state-of-the-art equipment to save the endangered hooded bustard bird. However, the only reason for the sheik’s concern appears to be that they are plentiful enough for rich Arab hunters.

Inexplicable

The New York Times reported in December that Odell Sheppard, a "middled-aged handyman," had just passed his ninth consecutive year of incarceration in Cook County Jail in Chicago, even though he has not been charged with a crime. He was sent to jail for failing to reveal the whereabouts of his daughter Deborah, who was the subject of a child-custody dispute between Sheppard and Deborah’s mother, but Sheppard maintains he has no idea where the girl is.

Bottom of the Gene Pool

Toby L. Sanders, 34, was charged with aggravated battery in Carmi, Ill., in January for chopping off the right middle finger of Lester E. Massey, 35. According to police, each man agreed to let the other chop off a finger, but apparently Sanders reneged after he saw how bad Massey’s hand looked. (Police said alcohol was involved in the original agreement.)

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 8306, St. Petersburg, 33738, or Weird@compuserve.com. Chuck Shepherd’s latest paperback, “The Concrete Encena and Other News of the Weird Classics,” is now available at bookstores everywhere. To order it direct, call 1-800-642-6480 and mention this newspaper. The price is $6.95 plus $2 shipping.
Linebackers looking forward to answering call this season

From PAGE 12

The three agree that preparedness is something the outgoing trio taught them last year. Another quality they say they learned was tenacity.

"They went 100 percent all four quarters, and we see ourselves that way," Palmer said.

"We have to be tenacious," Green said.

"The first three games set the pace for the season, and we'll have to show a lot of character and tenacity."

Those three opponents, Mississippi, South Carolina and Nebraska, will show the fledgling I-A Knights no mercy. The linebackers will have to rely on their tenacity and ability to help avoid an 0-3 start to a season that includes other tough matchups.

But the newcomers to the starting lineup will back down to no one.

"We play with a big heart, and we fight until the end," Palmer said. "I feel that nobody is going to blow us out."

Schedule to challenge women

From PAGE 12

the veterans that have been through our current run in conference can bring the younger players along."

Outside of the NCAA play-in, the 1997 schedule includes a challenging opener against perennial powerhouses Duke and Georgia in the UCF Soccer Classic on Aug. 30. The Knights travel to Gainesville on Oct. 3 for a match with Florida.

The longest road trip of the year comes when UCF flies to the west coast for games against UC Irvine and San Diego State in late October. The regular season ends at home with Auburn on Nov. 2.

Even with these high-caliber teams, Richter still considers the two regular-season games with TAAC nemesis Florida International, the only team to hold a share of a conference title with UCF (1993), as the Knights' priority during the preseason.

"It gets harder and harder every year to win the conference," she said. "Every game a conference opponent plays against us is their best game of the year."

Football season tickets to surpass 1996 total

The UCF athletic ticket office said more than 7,000 season tickets have been sold for the 1997, four-game football season. Alyson Barnes, manager of the athletic ticket office, said the 1996 total of just over 7,000 should be surpassed before the end of July.

"The fans are getting excited about Division I-A football," Barnes said. "They just want to get involved in the future of a growing program."

The 1997 season ticket package is $60, $15 cheaper than 1996 because there are four games instead of five.

Last season, UCF averaged 15,433 fans with a year-high of 18,013 attending the first game in Division I-A for the Knights, a 39-33 victory against William and Mary.

1996 UCF Football Home Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/29</td>
<td>William &amp; Mary</td>
<td>18,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>Samford (Homecoming)</td>
<td>12,122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/19</td>
<td>Northeast Louisiana</td>
<td>16,293</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>Illinois State</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/6</td>
<td>Bowling Green</td>
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1997 UCF Football Home Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/20</td>
<td>Idaho</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>Samford</td>
<td>6-5</td>
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<td>9/15</td>
<td>Eastern Michigan</td>
<td>6-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>Toledo</td>
<td>7-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NCAA play-in gives women's soccer hope

By DEREK GONSOULIN
Sports Editor

After years of dominance in the Trans America Athletic Conference, UCF women's soccer may finally get a chance at the NCAA tournament.

For four consecutive years, UCF has won the TAAC championship. But because their conference lacks an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, the Knights have had to plan for next year rather than play for a national championship.

"One year we beat N.C. State and it came down to us or them for the final bid," UCF coach Karen Richter said. "The selection committee took them and I still can't explain it. We could have won a couple of close games we didn't, but I don't know if it would have made a difference."

In 1997, UCF may not need explanations: an NCAA play-in game between Conference USA and the TAAC will be played Nov. 11. Richter said the team is excited about the opportunity, but she wants it to first focus on qualifying for the conference tournament.

"I wish we had not put the NCAA championship dates on our schedule," she said. "We have a young team and I want the kids to focus on the present. I think we have to earn the conference title before we worry about the NCAA's."

Sixteen of the 23 players on the 1997 roster are freshmen or sophomores. Richter feels the return of junior goalkeeper Alyson O'Brien (82 saves, 0.89 goals against average), who played every minute at the position in 1996, and seniors Kara Kone (third team All-TAAC selection at forward) and Karen Flizga (coming off knee surgery) have the experience to match last season's 13-7-1 record.

"We'll see how the team gels in the preseason," said Richter, who is currently playing for a women's professional team in Tampa. "We are hoping to get the ball back with two minutes left. They haven't faced every situation, but they have now is limited situations," Van Gorder said.

"There will be a lot of firsts for them this year and that is the concern," he said.

"We weren't aware of last season ended they would shoulder a lion's share of the defensive load.

"We knew going into this year we would have a major responsibility in the defense with the role the linebackers play," Green said.

"We know we have big shoes to fill," Palmer said. "But we should be able to fill them. I don't think the position is the question mark everyone says it is. Our depth is a problem, but we've become real close as a unit."

Depth also concerns Van Gorder. Despite having junior college players Chris Gunn and Rich Butkovski signed, Van Gorder said they are behind in learning the team's defensive schemes.

"Our main goal is to try to be better that last year's linebacking corps," Devine said. "As far as watching more film than they did, they needed to key into game situations and on top of our assignments."

See LINEBACKERS, PAGE 11

By KEN JACKSON
Staff Writer

A message to Golden Knight football fans: unless you're real familiar with last year's squad, be prepared to buy a program.

You probably won't recognize the faces at all three linebacker positions.

Gene are John Bryant, Kendrick Thomas, and Nakia Reddick, last year's starters who leave big shoes to fill. They combined for more than 300 tackles and nearly a third of the team's sacks last year.

The Knights return their linebacker corps this year with sophomore Deaubrey Devine, junior Mike Palmer, and senior Emory Green. Each saw limited playing time last year serving as understudies to "JB", "K-Tom" and "The Ballhawk."

"All three are capable to hold starting roles," defensive coordinator Van Gorder said.

"Getting Deaubrey's weight down is a concern, but they have the capabilities to do what we expect our linebackers to do."

While their ability is not in question, Van Gorder expressed concern about their experience.

"They have now is limited to certain situations," Van Gorder said. "They weren't in the game last year when we were trying to get the ball back with two minutes left. They haven't faced every situation that comes up in a game and there are so many."

"There will be a lot of firsts for them this year and that is the concern," he said.

"but we should worry about losing last year's three standouts.

See SCHEDULE, PAGE 11

Richter

Future•