Culpepper snubs NFL for UCF

By JEFF CASE
Staff Writer

After months of sleepless nights, Golden Knight fans can slumber in peace.

In a press conference held before local and national media at the UCF Holiday Inn Select, Golden Knight quarterback Daunte Culpepper announced his intentions for the 1998 UCF season.

"I've had a lot of factors [to consider] in my decision of what to do next season, and I am going to stay at UCF for my senior year," said Culpepper over the ovation accompanying his decision. "This program is building so fast that it probably needed me more than the NFL needed me."

The decision came after weeks of question dodging by Culpepper, his teammates and the UCF coaching staff whether Culpepper would forego his senior year and enter the 1998 NFL Draft.

After consulting family and friends, Culpepper said his choice was clear. "My mother told me over since I was little, I pretty much made good decisions," Culpepper said.

"Even when I came to college, she told me that any decision I made [about the NFL] she'd support me 100 percent."

"It was also very important that I got to talk to coach Kruzceck, I look up to him and he's given me some great advice and with the things he heard from the NFL, it was probably best that I stay."

"It was obvious to me and anyone who knows the situation that it is best for me to stay. I probably need another year to hone my skills and become a better player."

Kruzceck, a former NFL quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Washington Redskins, said Culpepper's decision will only lengthen his NFL career.

"When I talked to him about honing his skills, it's mental things at the line of scrimmage," Kruzceck said. "I just felt [staring] gives him a bigger advantage.

Accusations fly over GLBSU funding

By OLIVIA K. CURNOW
Managing Editor

Although the Student Government senators passed 20 bills in the first hour of their meeting, they spent more time discussing funding for the Gay, Lesbian, Bi- sexual Student Union (GLBSU).

GLBSU requested funding to host a Gay Singled Out Event and to bring speaker Chastity Bono on campus, which would cost $2,500.

To learn more about GLBSU, see Page 3

Sororities raise money for scholarships

By NATALIE NATALE
Staff Writer

Every Tuesday at 3 p.m., seven delegates from various sororities meet to discuss issues concerning Greek life. These women show dedication to their sororities and devotion to unifying the Greek system.

Along with discussions about rushing new members, pledging, scholarships and housing, the National Pan-Hellenic Conference (NPHC) is committed to serving.

On Oct. 26, the NPHC hosted its annual philanthropy event, Trick-or-Treat on Greek Street.

For a $3 donation, parents brought their children to Greek Park to trick-or-treat at the sorority and fraternity houses.

Sororities and fraternities supported the event by providing candy, cakes, face painting, costume contests and haunted houses for the children.

The event raised more than $2,000 for Panhellenic's Philanthropy, the Orlando Crisis Nursery.

The NPHC used the "Nerdiest Chapter" contest to encourage scholarships in the See CONFERENCE, Page 5

Teleconference connects colleges to discuss campus crime

By KELLY BRYANT
Staff Writer

The UCF police and housing departments in conjunction with the University of Vermont hosted a teleconference on campus safety in the Student Union on Nov. 17.

The two-hour discussion was televised from Burlington, Vt., and included a panel of seven campus crime officials from all over the country. Viewers were encouraged to either fax in their comments or use a toll free number provided by UCF to speak out on various crime concerns.

The topics ranged from explaining statistical campus crime information to underreporting by college administrators.

Bernie Plaskoff, the dean of campus life at UV, said he feels criminal activity at universities is inevitable because campuses are not sheltered from ordinary community problems.

"A college campus is a microcosm of the greater society," Plaskoff said. "We have the same problems as the rest of the world has. People bring these societal problems in when they attend the school."

This inevitability is not to say precautions cannot be taken to limit the number of crimes committed at colleges.

The board members agreed that schools have come a long way in making universities safer places for students and giving

Unhappy holidays

Thanksgiving is a waste of time.

— Page 7

The Rainmaker
A review of the latest Grisham film.

— Page 13

Seniors say goodbye

Knights defeat No. 29 Toledo in season finale.

— Page 16
Gunshots ring in the night in front of SAE house

By ANNEMARIE MONTALI
Staff Writer

Police were called to the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house in response to gun shots. A maroon Cadillac with three people inside stopped in front of the SAE house and pulled out a shotgun and a 9 mm handgun from the trunk.

One suspect fired two rounds into the air with the 9 mm. The three people got back into the car and left the scene at about 10 p.m. on Nov. 15. Witnesses were not able to give police a description of the suspects.

In other reports from the UCFPD:

- Quoc Vuong, 21, was arrested for burglary after police responded to a report of battery involving the man. After running a background check on Nov. 15, police discovered a warrant was out for Vuong’s arrest in Seminole County for burglary and petty theft.

- Norman Thornley, 52, was arrested for driving under the influence when police stopped Thornley after observing his car straddling lanes and driving 12 mph in a 25 mph zone.

- Norman Thornley, 52, was arrested for driving under the influence when police stopped Thornley after observing his car straddling lanes and driving 12 mph in a 25 mph zone.

- Dori Ware, 22, reported she was sitting in a cubicle on the third floor of the library when a person who was sitting behind her, reached over and put his hand under her coat, which was thrown over the back of her chair.

- Dr. Karen Verkler, who teaches educational foundations, reported a theft from the Education Building. Verkler left her sweater on her chair and locked her office door later to find a picture had been moved. Verkler believes an unauthorized person has taken a key decal from the rear window of her car. There are no suspects or witnesses at this time.

- Mark Rawls, 31, was arrested for driving with a suspended license and being in possession of cannabis. Rawls was pulled over by police for having a broken tail light at about 1:15 a.m. on Nov. 14. When Rawls said he did not have his license, officers ran a check on him and discovered his license had been suspended. After being placed under arrest, Rawls’ car was searched, and police found cannabis and other drug paraphernalia. Rawls was taken to Orange County Jail where he was booked.

- A banner was reported stolen by Jason Lewis, 21. The sign was placed on University Boulevard by the Campus Activities Board office on Nov. 6 and was noticed missing on Nov. 11. The banner was black and yellow and read “The Students Would Like to Welcome Back All Alumni to UCF.” It was valued at $120. Lewis is willing to prosecute.

- Mike Ruggieri, 20, reported that some person had spray painted miscellaneous words on the west side door of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity house. There are no suspects or witnesses at this time. The fraternity is willing to prosecute.
Club offers support for students uncomfortable with ‘coming out’

By JAMES COMBS
Staff Writer

The Gay/Lesbian/Bi-sexual Student Union (GLBSU) is an organization that is not well-known on the UCF campus but it has existed since 1976.

The GLBSU is willing to lend a hand to help the Orlando community.

The organization has done volunteer work for building houses for the poor. It has held food drives for the poor and it helps the Gay and Lesbian Community Services by assuring people on the telephone in time of crisis.

Faculty advisor Ken Kazmerski said GLBSU is moving in a positive direction with its increasing number of members. However, he said he feels the GLBSU is still discriminated by Student Government.

“I think they have a hard time understanding that a lot of the things we do in our culture,” Kazmerski said. “They seem to think that the things we do are scandalous.”

Recently, SG voiced opposition about funding GLBSU for The Dating Game, which is an event that was to take place during Les Bi Gay Awareness Week. The opposition concerned whether the game would be open to students who were not homosexual.

“We said if they wanted to have a heterosexual part of that event it would be fine with us,” Kazmerski said. “But if they were doing a dating game, they would never think of having a homosexual couple.”

Kazmerski said SG wants to eliminate its guest speaker for its Les Bi Gay Awareness Week, Chastity Bono.

“SG feels Bono, the daughter of Sonny Bono and Cher, does not appeal to the entire campus, he said.”

“Pro-tempore James Barnard said Bono is more political than educational. We’re not there to promote mutual sensitivity between the heterosexual and homosexual communities at UCF and in the Orlando community, he said. “We work very hard to bridge the gaps of misinformation between cultures,” Kazmerski said.

GLBSU has two events each year. One event is called “Light in the Closet,” which takes place every October. It is a celebration of coming-out day. This year the event took place on the steps of the Orlando City Hall.

During the event, GLBSU had its flags out and had speakers who shared their coming-out stories. Also, members of the Parents and Families of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) spoke to the crowd.

In addition, a chorus sang various songs. Kazmerski said they usually have a Disney comedian who adds to the entertainment. It also had visual candles as a memorial for those who are afraid to come out of the closet.

“We always have a major turnout for this event and the whole community was very supportive with the exception of a few prank calls,” Kazmerski said.

GLBSU’s second event is the Les Bi Gay Awareness Week, which takes place in April.

During this event, the GLBSU will display books, art and culture regarding homosexuality in the library. The club also will have an exhibit in the UCF Bookstore where it will display a mannequin wearing a T-shirt that promotes its cause.

In addition, GLBSU invites guest speakers to appear toward the end of the year.

One year, the guest speaker was Keith Meinhold, who was the first gay soldier tried under the “Don’t ask, Don’t tell” policy.

GLBSU also participates in Gay Pride Month every June. Kazmerski said in the past years the club has led gays in marching parades and proudly displayed its banner.
Muslim students host an inter-faith forum

By PETER KUNDIS
Staff Writer

This past week was designated as “Islamic Awareness Week,” by the UCF Muslim Student Association. On Nov. 9, the UCF Muslim Students Association hosted an inter-faith dialogue between local religious leaders. It was originally intended to be a three-way discussion between representatives of the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic religions, but unfortunately the scheduled Jewish speaker was unable to attend. Represented at the dialogue were, Imam Muhammad Musri, of the Islamic Society of Central Florida, and Michele Machado, of the First Baptist Church of Sanford. Mustafa Saeed, the president of the Muslim Students Association, moderated the dialogue.

“Family Values,” and how they are treated by each of the represented religions was the focus for this dialogue. The dialogue was a very non-confrontational and pleasant way for all to discuss the many differences and essentially highlight the similarities of these different religions. Each of the speakers was allotted about 25 minutes to express his/her particular views on the relevant issues of the importance of marriage, the decline of moral and spiritual values in the West, homosexuality, sin and forgiveness. Also touched upon during the dialogue were the specific doctrines that are followed by these two religions. Both speakers took turns answering questions from members of the audience.

Culpepper should be Heisman candidate next year

From PAGE 1

tage, longevity in the NFL, the more he understands game plans.

“When he came here, he made a big commitment to a small program to take it where it needed to be. My obligation to him is to take him from this level to the next level, and physically, he’s got all the tools to be great. If he gets with one of the right squads [next year] that will teach him for a year, he could be the next Warren Moon,” Coach Gene McDowell said that reports he and his staff gathered from NFL scouts and scouting combines rated Culpepper as a late first or second-round selection.

“General managers of NFL teams, the scouting combines and NFL scouts from individual teams know where Daunte is rated [this year],” McDowell said. “If he comes out [next year] and is a legitimate Heisman Trophy winner, and has another great year and wins that trophy, his rating will go up substantially.

“If Daunte stays healthy, will have a chance to be not only the first quarterback taken, but the first pick [overall] in the NFL draft, which means that his initial signing bonus will be way above what it could [have] been this year.

“I’m not going to make any prediction about win-loss record next year. But, I think we will have an outstanding football team next year and we are whole lot better football team with Daunte than without Daunte.”

By remaining for his final year, Culpepper said he hopes his success will improve recruiting for future UCF squads.

“I can’t get caught up in all the outside stuff outside of football (the Heisman race),” Culpepper said. “It’s great that people think highly of me, but I still have to go out and keep my focus on what we’re doing, playing football. That’s the most important thing.

“I want to have a winning I-A season here at UCF because it is so important for that to happen for [good] recruiting. I think that if we have a winning season and the team does well, I think everything else will fall into place.”

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Photo by MIKE MARSHALL

Junior quarterback Daunte Culpepper decided to stay a Knight, much to the delight of the packed conference room at the Holiday Inn Select.

Imam Muhammad Musri, of the Islamic Society of Central Florida, addressed the audience on Nov. 19 at the Inter-faith Forum.
Knowledge is power to fight crime

From PAGE 1

aid to those who are victims. For example, UCF has a wide array of victim service programs. Educational speakers are available for lectures on sexual assault, prevention, domestic and relationship violence, victimization and other pertinent college topics.

UCF offers counsel from the University Judicial System, and Victim Advocates are on-hand 24 hours a day to help students in need. Rosalind E. Andreas, a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin, said she thinks colleges are also required to have policies on how to handle a rape victim and prevent sexual assault.

"It provides us with the opportunity to give people programs provided by campus security," Andreas said. "It also encourages schools to form services dealing with hate crimes and sexual assault. Teams across campuses join together to prevent these things from happening."

There are more campus crime prevention organizations than ever before. The International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators and Security on Campus Inc. (SCI) are two examples of how far campus crime prevention has come in the past 10 to 15 years.

"The same things were happening on campuses 15 years ago but it was all going unreported," said Lee Liggett, a consulting attorney in Houston, Texas. "Now students know where to go for help and there's a lot more of it out there."

SCI is trying to get the Accuracy of Campus Reporting Act passed through Congress. The act would help get a better look at what is really happening on college campuses and how to prevent crimes from occurring. Right now, there is some discrepancy with the way schools are reporting their crime figures.

While one college may include crimes that only occurred directly on campus, another school may take into account crimes that happened half a mile off school grounds.

Daniel Carter, vice president of SCI, said she feels knowledge is power concerning crime.

"There are many greater risks if you are unaware," Carter said. "Students always think it is not going to happen to them."

"Students are encouraged to use the programs offered by the Victim Advocates and may discuss these campus crime topics on an Internet chat room located at listserv@list.uvm.edu."

Conference impacts campus

From PAGE 1

Greek community. Each delegate gave weekly reports of how many As and Bs sisters earned on papers and tests. Kappa Delta won the contest and a pizza party.

"With all the social and philanthropic obligations, it's often hard to focus on academics, but UCF's Greek system always manages to make scholarship a priority," said Amy Aichison, Panhellenic scholarship chair.

As evidence that NPHC has made a significant impact on the campus, UCF's Greek system was rated No. 1 in Florida by Florida Leaders Magazine.

Panhellenic is derived from the Greek "pan," which means all, and "hellenic," which means Greek.

Established in 1902, the Panhellenic Council is trying to get the University of Central Florida's Greek community to include predominantly African American sororities.

Chi Omega will join the NPHC spring "As a founding sister of Alpha Xi Delta, I am very excited about Chi Omega coming to UCF," said Beth Eschenberg, a Panhellenic delegate. "They will be a great asset to our school and community."

The 1998 officers for the NPHC include: President Angela Evans, Alpha Delta; Vice President of Risk Management Jen Sardone, Kappa Delta; Vice President of Rush Kyle Wierda, Alpha Xi Delta, and Director of Chairs Kelly Keefe, Delta Gamma.

The secretary and treasurer will be announced on Nov. 25.

‘What are you afraid of?’

Fariello

From PAGE 1

nature of the speaker.

“I think the issue here is fear,” Sen. Dominic Fariello addressed the senate. “What are you afraid of? These are students. I don’t care what they represent. They’re not doing anything wrong, why not fund them?”

Sen. Cheryl Baum agreed with Fariello.

“If the senate is voting based on personal bias and prejudice, then we have broken the Code of Ethics, which as senators have written and are required to follow,” she said. “If we don’t pass this, that’s discrimination on our part.”

The senate did pass the GLBSU bill with Turner in favor of it. Turner then made a motion to reconsider the vote and put it on the next meeting’s minutes for discussion.

According to Robert’s Rules of Order, the purpose of the motion is to prevent a temporary majority from taking advantage of low attendance at a meeting where a vote may have opposition by most of the community.

Pre-tempore James Barnard said only those who vote in favor of the bill can make this kind of motion.

“When you have death hanging over your head, then you talk to me about fear,” he said. “I’d rather vote for a speaker who talks about what gay students go through rather than someone who is such a political activist.”

This issue will be discussed further at the Dec. 4 senate meeting.

He made a statement by passing the bar.

Not entering one.
Chuck Shepherd's
NEWS OF THE WEIRD

LEAD STORIES
• In December, 1996, Phillip Johnson, then 32, of Johnson Bottom, Ky., shot himself in the left shoulder with his .22-caliber rifle, "to see how it felt," he told ambulance personnel. On Oct. 2, 1997, an ambulance crew was again called to Johnson's home, where John was bleeding from another left-shoulder shot fired by a .22-caliber rifle. A source said the Inez Mountain Citizen newspaper that Johnson said the December shooting "felt so good," he had to do it again.

• The government of Italy revealed in September that it had recently asked a court in Rome to take jurisdiction of a lawsuit it plans to file against Yourself as Magellli Molqi, who was conviceted of the 1985 Achille Lauro hijacking and murder. The government says when Al-Molqi failed to return to an Italian police station to report an arrest as a fugitive, he committed a suffering one) and will have a large (.) deformity in his face.

• In March, New Jersey Nets basketball coach John Calipari admitted that in a moment of rage he called reporter Dan Lima, himself, as his fairway drive hit a yardage marker, bounced back, and hit him in the right shoulder.

• In March, New Jersey Nets basketball coach John Calipari admitted that in a moment of rage he called reporter Dan Lima, himself, as his fairway drive hit a yardage marker, bounced back, and hit him in the right shoulder.

THE CONTINUING CRISIS
• At the annual national hobo convention, held this year in August in Britt, Iowa, Minneapolis Jewel was elected queen of the hobos for the third time. The king was a fellow from Helena, Mont., known as Prow. Said Jewel, about the changing demographics at the convention: "The old-timers are dying out, the ones who rode the steam trains. So it's nice to see these younger kids coming in."

• In October, sheriff's deputies in House Springs, Mo., near St. Louis, reported that someone recently launched a Civil War-type cannibalism that crashed into the trailer home of Leonard and Kathy Mickelson, lodging in a bathroom wall. Authorities did not immediately know if the cannibalism was thrown, catapulted or fired from a cannon.

• Texas and Cheerleaders, Again: In September, a federal grand jury in Tyler, Texas, indited the wife of a high school principal for writing and mailing a death threat. According to the indictment, the wife, Tamela Ellis, sent school trustee Ginger Motley a note warning her to stop criticizing the school administration or Motley's daughter, who is a cheerleader, would "never live long enough to cheer at her first football game."

• According to a Times of London report in August, trains in Johannesburg, South Africa, are being systematically equipped with fans to blow away the increasingly common cannabis smoke. Frequently, cannabis smokers take over the front car of a train in order to blow smoke playfully through the keyhole into the train engine's cab. Earlier in August, one driver had to stop a train for almost an hour because he was rendered dizzy by the smoke.

• According to a news report in the June issue of the magazine of the Ontario College of Nurses, one of the college's members was suspended for six months recently for "vulgar and offensive" behavior. According to the report, the nurse said she had accidentally broke wind while working in the presence of a patient's wife, who took offense. However, the discipline committee found that the nurse compounded the problem by asking if the wife if she "wanted more" before passing gas directly into her face.

• Road Rage Lite: Danny L. Jones, 44, described by co-workers at the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles as "Mister Rogers friendly," was charged in August with aggravated menacing for using the office computer to track down motorists who offended him and writing them nasty letters. Typical threats, should the driver not mend his ways: Jones will "poke your eyes out" or "cut your head off and hand it to you on a platter" or "dispose of you like trash."

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 8306, St. Petersburg, 33738, or Weird@surpriselive.com. Chuck Shepherd's latest paper-back, "The Concrete Elephant 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.
Thanks comes cheap when overshadowed by school work

By JASON HEIRONIMUS
Opinion Editor

We have a lot to be thankful for, don't we? After all, the holidays are upon us and it would seem that even if we don't have anything to be thankful for we should at least act thankful. I believe it to be simply the name of the most recent holiday that is lingering over us. Thanksgiving, to be the root of all this unnecessary thanking.

Right now, in the midst of a ridiculous amount of work, I really don't feel that thankful, honestly. Students are at the utter mercy of their professors at this point in the semester and they want us to be thankful. I find this notion to be a bit insane. This is a time of self-reliance and overwhelming selfishness. This is a time when every student should be concentrated solely on their own endeavors. It is quite an interesting dilemma actually.

The holiday calls for us to thank every human being that has ever walked the earth, while you're really thinking, "Sure. I'm thankful, thankful that while I'm stuffing my face with turkey all I can think about is the huge bio-chemistry test that I have to take the very Monday after I get back from Thanksgiving break." Who does that? It's like giving a starving Ethiopian a pizza and then telling him only to eat the crust. Upon review it seems to me like a torture technique, testing students to see exactly how much abuse they can take.

This occurred to me the other day when talking to a friend from one of the other state schools. He asked me if I was coming home on Sunday or Monday. "Sunday or Monday?? For the love of God, don't you have classes?"

In which he replied, "You've got to be kidding me, your professors didn't cancel your classes?"

It was an odd conversation considering that it was consumed only by questions. But the content of the conversation is not what is important. What is important is that in my usual research for my column I discovered that I as a student am being hoodwinked.

This is where I ask you the student: IS THIS PAIRS! I think not! I understand that we only have so many days left before we get our real break for Christmas, but considering the stress levels that are flowing around the UCF campus I consider two days to be far too few.

Sure we may have the weekend as well, but come on, that doesn't count.

This is the time to act. I cannot be the only one that thinks two days isn't an insufficient amount of vacation time for Thanksgiving. I for one refuse to just sit down and take this abuse. Under the current system it is virtually impossible for me to give any kind of thanks to anyone. I'm wound as tight as a watch and not suitable for any kind of thanks.

I question the motives of a school whose purpose is to break up families. Now, I understand that this is quite a harsh indictment, but let me explain myself. It is similar to the beginning of the first Superman movie where the slightest occurrence sets off a chain reaction of adverse effects.

Let us examine, for example, my roommate. For the sake of anonymity we will call him Herb. Herb has a test and a presentation due on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. In order to fulfill his duties as an able bodied student he stays up all night preparing for the test and presentation. As both draw near the level of anxiety and stress that Herb is enduring has almost boiled over. However, in order to please his awaiting family he hosts it. Herb does poorly on the test but impresses his professor with his vast knowledge of nothing special in his presentation, thus getting a good grade.

Herb has endured much over the past 24 hours and must now concentrate on fighting the madding holiday traffic in order to get home at a decent hour and please his mother. He finally pulls into the driveway at midnight, tired and exhausted. The next day at Thanksgiving dinner Herb is asked to tell everyone what he is thankful for, his reply is none too pleasing. "I am thankful that my name is really Zork from the planet Prosthesis and I have come to eat your turkey!" Herb is thus placed in the looney bin, never to be heard from again.

Now my question to the UCF gods is, do you really want to be responsible for such a horrific scene as this? I should hope not.

My requests, in all likelihood, will go ungranted. I will have to tough out the short holiday and enjoy it while it lasts. Though stress will undoubtedly be my co-pilot as I head back home for the holiday, I must remain strong and realize that at some point, somewhere down the road, all of this will help me out in some way. I'm not sure why and I'm not sure how, but they tell me so I guess I'm just gonna' have to trust them.

While I am bitter, I am not totally unresigned to the tradition of the thank you. Thank all you guys for taking the time to read this, I hope you all have a happy and safe Thanksgiving!

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The Rainmaker' loses a few drops

By GARY ROEN
Movie Critic

Say the name Grisham in the publishing world and you have a bestseller. Say the name Coppola in the film world and you have a major box office hit. Combine the two on screen and you have the new film 'The Rainmaker'.

Add the talents of Danny DeVito, Jon Voight, Matt Damon, Roy Scheider, and Danny Glover and the film has all the earmarks to be a major hit. Other actors who add to the motion picture are Randy Travis, Virginia Madsen, Mickey Rourke and Andrew Shue.

The film follows the novel pretty well and is fairly easy to get immersed in from the beginning. 'The Rainmaker' begins as Rudy Baylor (Matt Damon), a recently graduated lawyer, finds employment in a shady firm. He later sets up shop with DeVito. Baylor tackles three cases throughout the film.

Case One is Mrs. Birdie (Teresa Wright) who wants him to draw up her will to give to her son before her death. Case two, Kelly Riker (Claire Danes) is being beaten by her husband. Baylor talks to her about representing her in a divorce. And three, the most interesting one, is a mother battling a major insurance company to get coverage for her son to have a risky operation to save his life.

Greed, ambulance-chasing attorneys, shady law practices and coverups are just some of the things that add to the kettle. Because 'The Rainmaker' was directed and written by Francis Ford Coppola, it appears to have everything to make it a great film. The court scenes are very exciting entertainment with excellent performances by Voight as the attorney for the insurance company and Glover, who plays the judge who hears the case.

But something is not quite right with the movie. It seems to be a little too funny at times, with two plot lines that are very serious. Possibly it is because there are three producers who may have had different views of how to tell the story. They are Michael Douglas, Steven Reuther, and Fred Fuchs. Elmer Bernstein’s score is stirring and adds a lot to several scenes.

Unlike other films of Grisham’s novels, the law offices are not shiny and glitzy and the lawyers are not of the highest caliber. Instead there is a very dark feel and the attorneys do some underhanded things that do add to the story.

Overall ‘The Rainmaker’ is a very good film with many of the Coppola touches that audiences should enjoy in spite of its minor faults.

‘The Rules’ is a major setback for women everywhere

By GARY ROEN
Book Critic

For any woman of the '90s who has worked for equality the book, "The Rules" by Ellen Fein and Sherrie Schneider (Warner Books $5.99, 174 pages) is a direct slap in the face.

Women are told to go back to the days when they were seen but not heard. The authors tell females to let the man ask her first, let the man make the phone calls and to not initiate a conversation with a male.

There are 35 rules the writers say women should follow to find true happiness with the opposite sex. In simple terms they are telling women to once again go back to playing hard to get.

"If you think 'The Rules' are crazy, don’t worry, so did we," the authors wrote. "But after much heartache we came to believe that 'The Rules' aren’t immoral or outlandish, just a simple working set of behaviors and reactions that, when followed, invariably serve to make most women irresistible to desirable men. ... What are the rules? They are a simple way of acting around men that can help any woman win the heart of the man of her dreams. Sound too good to be true?"

It is. Even the authors had doubts. Makes one wonder about the writers and purpose of the book.

The tactics these women propose will separate the sexes more than they already are.

"The Rules" is just plain bunk and those who follow it in the trash.

This book, like its first title, is pure bunk that should not be taken seriously by any woman.

On a recent episode of the Fox network show “Ally McBeal,” the book was placed where it belongs when Ally’s secretary threw it in the trash.
Older students make most of college experience

By VICKI DeSORMIER
Staff Writer

It's not easy being a college student over the age of 25. You don't know if your peers are the students or the professors. You're often juggling school, work and kids.

And, frankly, it's pretty scary. Stepping onto the University of Central Florida campus for the first time was a terrifying experience for Karyn.

College is a daunting enough experience for most students, but the 41-year-old mother of three had not been in a classroom for two decades. She said she worried that she'd get lost just trying to find her class.

"I was scared out of my mind," she said. "I felt like a grandmother compared to all the kids around here and then I didn't know where anything was."

She said she drove in circles for an hour trying to figure out where to park and how to get to her first class, but the education major said she was determined to appear calm.

"These kids weren't going to do better than me," she said. "I'm older and wiser, right?"

Karyn laughs now, but she said the challenge of returning to school after 20 years was monumental. She had decided that after rearing her children to an age where they were all fairly self-sufficient, it was time to finally pursue her dream of becoming a teacher.

"I'm almost done now," she said, "but I thought I'd never survive the first semester."

Dave said he knows how Karyn felt. A computer science major, he is a junior at the age of 30.

"I just wasn't ready for college at 18," he said. "Education wasn't that important to me."

After many years in business, however, it became clear he wasn't going to make as much money without a degree. "So I enrolled the day my daughter turned 10," he said. "A single father rearing a daughter and a son, Dave said it's difficult to juggle a full-time job and his classes. "But I gotta do it," he said. "It's not a matter of wanting to take classes. I have to do this if I want to give my children what they deserve."

Dave said he has brought his kids with him on more than one occasion and left them in the library to read or do homework while he was in class. He doesn't like to use the library as a babysitter, but he said there are times when he simply doesn't have a choice.

"I have friends who are willing to watch them, but sometimes they're busy, too," he said.

Shawnda shakes her head at the thought of having to juggle childcare, work and school. "I wouldn't want to have to do all that," she said. "That's why I waited so long to come back to school."

Students at UCF come in all shapes, sizes and ages, each with his/her own set of challenges. If you're an older student, facing the challenges of going back to college (or going for the first time) we'd like to feature you in an upcoming column. Or, if you have a problem that is unique to the older student that you'd like investigated, drop me a line at wordgal@rocketmail.com.
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UCF hosts ground breaking ceremony

By BRIAN SMITH
News Editor

In the President's Board Room, faculty members gave an audience a guided tour of the Virtual Campus of the Future on Nov. 19.

In an attempt to become a virtual campus community, UCF would like to remove students from the classroom and place them in front of a computer screen.

"We are in a very early stage toward teaching on the web," said Steve Sorg, instructional programming. "We are thinking about moving from a time of no automobiles to the horseless carriage."

UCF wants to mimic the teaching approach in traditional classrooms and use the tools that exist on the web.

"We started in the summer of 1996 training faculty and helping them to learn how to deal with the technology," Sorg said. "How to develop and re-engineer courses so they could be delivered fully on-line."

At the beginning of the fall term, UCF offered 13 different courses on the web with an enrollment of about 500 students and more than 60 faculty members participating.

Sorg said the quality of learning will not decrease with an on-line course. "We're not concerned about the quality issue since I think we spend a great deal of time working with the faculty about re-engineering courses and thinking about the process of teaching and learning," Sorg said. "These courses are open to the world so quality is something we're very conscious about. We are making great efforts to make sure the quality is there."

UCF is offering the courses on the web for distance learners and for students who have a conflict with their schedule.

"We found out 75 percent of students who were taking fully on-line courses did not have to come to campus at all," Sorg said. "It was interesting to find out the 75 percent of those students were also taking full on-line courses at the same time."

"They were regular students who for convenient purposes were adding to their schedule courses that didn't conflict with their personal life schedules, work schedules or their class schedules."

Joel Hartman, vice provost for Information and Technologies and Research, said the university "still has not been able to completely come up with a way of bringing for the students."

"We have tried to encourage interaction between students and faculty in courses that have about 300 hundred to 400 hundred students," Sorg said. "In a regular environment, you never speak to your professors. You only listen to them lecture and talk to the student next to you."

The second approach is an attempt to raise the grades and retention rates in courses that have traditionally high failure rates and low grades.

"Students drop out of courses because they find them more challenging than they anticipated or it's a course more difficult because it's required for them but it's really designed for another major," Sorg said.

UCF has a national leader in using the web as a way to enhance and provide courses. We've put in interactive television facilities to the branching campuses as a way to increasing our ability to deliver courses so the faculty don't have to spend a lot of time driving back and forth."

Sorg said UCF has experimented with three approaches to using the courses on the web during the fall 1997 semester.

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Women's basketball - UCF Tournament, UCF Arena, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.
No. 29 Volleyball at No. 27 South Florida, 7 p.m.
Men's basketball against Toledo, UCF Arena, 8 p.m.

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Season ends with offense, defense playing well

From PAGE 16
Benoit led the defensive charge, finishing the game with seven tackles and two sacks. Benoit (10.5 sacks, 100 tackles) tied Emil Ekiyor for fourth on UCF's all-time career sack list with 20.5. He is only the second linebacker in school history to record triple-digits in tackles.

"It's a little painful (to go 5-6)," said Benoit, who is a potential 1998 NFL Draft selection, was observed by scouts from the Minnesota Vikings, Tennessee Oilers and New York Giants during the Toledo game. Benoit said the chance to play in the NFL is nothing but a dream and it is not aware of who is interested in him. Outside linebackers coach Charles Huff said the departure of the seniors, especially their heart, will be felt on UCF's defense will be felt.

"Termaine Benoit, Jameel McWorter and Mike Osuna... having the opportunity to coach three seniors has made my job very easy," Huff said. "Three excellent players and I'm going to really miss them and I hate to see them go; they will be missed at UCF."

Huff expects to see Benoit playing on Sundays next fall. "I'm pretty sure Benoit will get the opportunity to play at the next level, but he'll probably have to play an outside linebacker," said Huff. "After having talked to the scouts, he should be a late round pick. It just depends on what teams need and how free agency goes in the NFL."

On the other side of the ball, the Knights played a balanced game of rushing and passing in what could be record-setting quarterback Danute Culpepper's last game at UCF. Culpepper threw for 219 yards, marking the 10th consecutive game he has passed for more than 200 yards. Culpepper's performance gave him the school's single-season record for passing yards with 3,085. His 25th touchdown pass of the season is also the second-highest single-season mark in Knight history. Culpepper also had a 1-yard quarterback sneak in the second quarter, giving him five on the season and placing him eighth on the school's career rushing touchdown list.

UCF's 143 rushing yards was the first time in four games the Knights managed to gain over 100 yards. The Knights were led by junior tailback Mike Grant's 12 carries for 65 yards. Coach Gene McDowell said his team's performance was a testimony to his play all season. "It was a really good win," said McDowell. "Going 5-6 without this schedule, our players overachieved in probably nine out of those 11 games this year. Winning is not the only thing. How you play is what counts."

Thanks to the team's play against that tough schedule, McDowell said the Knights could have been best signing class ever. With an influx of Division I-A talent, the coach hopes the team will have the deep to win those close games in the future that it couldn't win this year.

"This football team is not nearly as good as it is going to get," he said. "Recruiting is what solves a lot of personnel problems. The reason I say we overachieved this year is because we accomplished what we accomplished with a I-AA football team. It is unbelievable what these guys did and they did it with a bunch of heart."

Seniors do not regret losing season, schedule

From PAGE 16

ting up a field goal.

As usual, Cleveland had plenty to say following the game.

"We finally got the chance to stomp with the big dogs," said the receiver, who said because of nagging injuries never felt 100 percent all year. "With all the season, the receiver, nagging injuries never felt the pain I had, it was real tough personally. It's hard to swallow to go losing season.

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Volleyball plays South Florida in season finale

From PAGE 16

Knowing that the NCAA selection committee would drown on TAAC conference competition, Smith set up a match with South Florida on Nov. 29, one day before the seeds are announced for the national tournament. She said a good showing late in the season will give the team a first-round bye or that the Bulls, ranked two spots ahead of UCF in the national poll at No. 27, before the seeds are announced season will give the team a first-round bye or that the Bulls, ranked two spots ahead of UCF in the national poll at No. 27, before the seeds are announced.

For the fifth consecutive season, the Golden Knights will likely face in the national tournament. After losing in the first round of the NCAAs the last three years, Smith said the USF game will prepare the team for the stiff competition it will likely face in the tournament.

The team will have a selection party at Loco’s Pub on Nov. 30 at 5:30 p.m. and fans are welcome.

Women’s basketball wins season opener

The women’s basketball team opened the regular season on the road with a 86-72 win over Radford University on Nov. 21. Senior center Stacey Deveaux scored 19 points and sophomore LaDonna Larry had 15 rebounds and 15 points as the Knights (1-0) defeated Radford (1-1) 86-72 at the Dedmon Center in Radford, Va.

UCF opened the game strong, as 15 of its first 10 points were from three point range. RU’s defense kept it close, forcing the Golden Knights to commit 22 turnovers in the game.

Turnovers in the game. RU had 34 in the game) and eight straight points by DeVeaux’s play sparked an opening for the Golden Knights to commit 22 turnovers in the game.

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Golden Knights to commit 22 turnovers in the game.
Knights look to blast off against Rockets

By TONY MEJIA
Staff Writer

Following late Tuesday’s result against Bethune-Cookman, UCF turns its attention to Toledo, a MAC member who will provide a solid measuring stick as to where the program stands early in the season.

Led by center Casey Shaw, an All-MAC candidate who will provide a solid measuring stick as to where the program stands early in the season.

After games with a pair of non-MAC members (McNeese State and Bethune-Cookman), the Rockets have his attention.

Shaw, a 6'11, 260-pound senior and bonified NBA prospect, is being named as a defensive challenge in the Knights' shooting.

Equally important is that it’s a chance to make a statement against a tough opponent at home. It's an opportunity he relishes in.

"If we can get our fans to come out and support us it would mean a great deal," said Jones. "I think we showed in the way we played for most of the game."

Senior guard Mark Jones averaged 19 points through the first three games, but Florida held him to 13 in the Gators’ 100-85 victory on Nov. 18.

The Auburn game was a great atmosphere, and I think it showed in the way we played for most of the game."

After the Toledo game, UCF will hit the road for a game at Winthrop before returning home to face Nova Southeastern and St. Thomas in mid-December.

UCF Basketball Games This week:

**Men's**

Sat., Nov. 29
vs. Toledo
8:00 p.m.
UCF ARENA

Fri.-Sun., Nov. 28-30
UCF Turkey Shootout

**Women's**

For more information call (407) 823-6028
Second I-A football season has a special ending for UCF

By JEFF CASE
Staff Writer

In a game that honored UCF's seniors, it was a junior that got the festivities started.

With the score tied at three after a 12-play, 61-yard first-quarter drive by the University of Toledo, the Knights were looking to catch the Rockets off guard. On the kickoff following the drive, UCF surprised its fans and Toledo players alike with a reverse. Senior kick returner Todd Cleveland handed the ball off to junior Paul Miranda, who ran 88 yards to give UCF a 10-3 lead.

Miranda said the play swung the momentum the Knights' way.

"That play made everybody get intense right there," Miranda said. "After that we just started playing away."

Offensive coordinator Mike Kruczek said the call was part of those because a lot of times it helps establish momentum," he said.

Although the UCF offense had seven kills, three service aces and a team high eight digs in the three games, Liljenquist and Suzie Queisser also finished with eight digs apiece. UCF fielded Georgia State to just 19 kills and a .205 hitting percentage in the match. Amanda Fielding and Menchikova joined Harper on the TAAC All-Tournament Team.

UCF will need TAAC player-of-the-year Tyra Harper (13) and conference honorable mention Amanda Fielding (3) to be at their best to win at No. 27 South Florida.

First-team all-conference honoree Renata Menchikova had seven kills, three service aces and a team high eight digs in the three games. Liljenquist and Suzie Queisser also finished with eight digs apiece. UCF fielded Georgia State to just 19 kills and a .205 hitting percentage in the match. Amanda Fielding and Menchikova joined Harper on the TAAC All-Tournament Team.

In the three-game (15-5, 15-11, 16-14) victory over Florida Atlantic University (14-13) Nov. 21, Harper led the Knights with 25 kills, nine blocks and 11 digs. Melchikova had 22 kills and 12 digs in the three games, followed by Lisa Liljenquist with 12 kills and eight digs. Queisser led the team defensively with 17 digs in the match.

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 14

Seniors give football fans a fond farewell after victory

By KEN JACKSON
Staff Writer

A fitting day for the Golden Knights' seniors was summed up with 203 left in the game when fullback Kendrick Moore busted through the Toledo Rockets' line for the final score of the season.

Linebacker Shane Moore used the backdrop of his final collegiate game to add to his own family - He proposed to his girlfriend. On both sides of the ball, the 17 seniors gave a performance indicative of the Knights' season-long overachievement.

"It's unbelievable what these guys did this year," coach Geno McDowell said following the finale. "They did it with heart."

Jermaine Benoit, the team's headliner all season on defense, recorded his 100th tackle of the season on the next-to-last play of the game, marking the second time in school history a lineman reached that mark. His 10.5 sacks also lead the team.

"We wanted to go out letting everyone know UCF is for real," Benoit said. Five other senior starters had performed well, including defensive backs Darrell Latimore (team-high eight tackles), Kenton Rickeron (seven), and Donald Washington (six), linebackers Emory Green (four), and linemen Jameel McWhorter (two) and Mike Osuna (one sack).

Osuna was one of the better stories for UCF having walked on to the scout team two years ago before finding his way into the starting rotation. Following the game, the finality of the moment hit him.

"It's real emotional right now for me," said Osuna, who finished second on team with four tackles.

On offense, besides Moore, running back Mike Huff made an impact. Huff ran for 16 yards and caught a pass for 27 more on a drive capped by Daunte Culpepper's one-yard scoring dive.

Guard Ray Gould anchored a line that gave up just one sack. And Towson Central captured an 11-yard pass and returned a second-quarter punt 39 yards, setting

See SENIORS, Page 13