UCF extends its reach into outer space

By BRIAN SMITH
News Editor

UCF students and faculty are working with NASA to design and construct a laser communication satellite scheduled to launch from the Space Shuttle in 2000.

The satellite's purpose is to send messages from space by the use of laser beams.

Ron Phillips, Florida Space Institute director, said the satellite will improve telecommunication services.

"For example, a new way of communicating with airplanes in flight," Phillips said. "Pilots could get weather information, each passenger could watch their own live television channel since a laser beam can carry a billion TV signals."

"There could be video conferences while flying. While it has military applications, our main focus is commercial use."

The $11.2 million satellite will be 20 feet by 20 feet and weigh about 150 pounds. It was built to these specifications so it could be launched as a "Hitchhiker" canister on the shuttle or a small rocket.

Once in orbit, the satellite will pass over the Florida Space Institute at Kennedy Space Center five times a day for 11 to 13 months.

A laser will track the satellite and a second laser will be aimed at reflectors and bounced back to a sensor array at the test site. The second laser will contain messages and will not be disrupted by atmospheric turbulence.

"Since the Greek wars, we have sent messages by light, turning the source on and off," Phillips said. "We are sending messages by changing the frequency of the laser, a leading edge technology."

"It's wonderful when we can showcase the existing talent in the space industry here, and the partnerships between govern-

Students in debt find help to pay bills

By MAYERLINE MICHEL
Staff Writer

"Credit cards are pure evil," education major Catherine Brown said, hitting her desk with her fist. Usually quiet, Brown became excited and used her hands to gesture as she explained how she had a "mini-nervous breakdown" when creditors began calling her and pressuring her to pay her $5,000 credit card debt.

"My parents had to take over my payments for a while," Brown said. "I make $10,000 a year, and I owe half of that to credit card companies not counting the interest."

According to the National Credit Research Foundation, college students account for almost half of the $285 billion credit card debt in the United States. Brown and students like her struggle with their mounting debt alone. However, there are resources to help manage and pay off debt.

One of those resources is Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Central Florida Inc. (CCCS), a non-profit United Way supported agency.

Barbara Morton, vice president of hooping and research of CCCS, said parents often send their students to college to learn a profession, but no one ever teaches young adults how to manage their money.

"A lot of students graduate college with a $30,000 loan debt and a $20,000 credit card debt," Morton said. "That's a rough way to start out."

See CCCS, Page 4

H.E.R.O.s are found at UCF

By GWEN R. RHODES
Staff writer

Twenty five UCF Honor students are coordinating after-school club activities for kindergarten through fifth grade students in the University Honors H.E.R.O. program (Hilcrest Elementary Reach Out).

Clubs, sponsored by the Honor students range from the Art Club, Brain Bowl, Dance Club and International Club to the development of a Drama Club.

"Volunteerism is not a requirement of the Honors program, but is important from the perspective that these students have a gift and that gift could be shared with others," said Dr. Allyn MacLean, professor and director of the University Honors program. "One of the things I wanted to see happen was to be able to find a project in the community that we could participate in and give something back to the community."

"It was fate that we received a phone call from Leadership Orlando the very same week that we decided to locate a project that we could identify with, pull resources into and keep as an ongoing project."

Kathleen M. Bartlett, assistant director of the Honors' program, was assigned the task of researching the opportunity Leadership Orlando offered to develop and coordinate the H.E.R.O. program.

"When they called us, the project seemed to suit us perfectly," said Bartlett. "We wanted to find a project that would help provide educational opportunities for students."

See HONOR, Page 5

OPINION

He's staying
Cheers to Daunte Culpepper for passing up the NFL.

— Page 9

SPORTS

NCAA bound
The volleyball team faces Clemson in tournament opener.

— Page 20

REVIEW

Drag Diner
A review of Monday nights at Union Restaurant.

— Page 11

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES...

The UCF bookstore is now being operated by Barnes and Noble. It will expand by 25,000 feet.

Photos by AMBER BOWERS

See SATELLITE, Page 4
Condoms, education highlight World AIDS Day

By OLIVIA K. CURNOW
Managing Editor

"You look like you could use a condom," said Tony Marlow to a student walking by the Student Union. The student looked at the co-captain of the men's basketball team who was dressed like a condom and reached in the basket for a handful of free condoms.

Students in the class HIV Disease: A Human Concern hosted the World AIDS Day activities in front of the Student Union on Dec. 1. For 25 percent of their grade, the students, in groups of 20, had to create a project pertaining to AIDS for the event.

Each group had its own table, mostly providing statistics about the disease.

One group let students know every 30 seconds someone dies from AIDS by ringing a bell and changing the number on a chart. "Seeing numbers will affect people more than just telling them," said James Stein, a senior in the class.

Psychology major Larissa Marsiello said the class is educational and much needed for college students. Teenagers and young adults are the greatest "at risk population" for contracting the virus.

"I think [the class] should be a requirement and I think it should be targeted to freshmen," Marsiello said.

Between shouting 'free condoms!' to students passing by, Marlow said the class has taught him a lot.

"The class is great," he said. "I've learned a lot about practicing safe sex."

Other tables held contests and games, testing students' awareness on HIV and AIDS.

Restaurants such as Taco Bell, Rio Bravo, Boston Market and Fazoli's donated gift certificates as prizes.

"There's an outpour of students getting involved," said senior Heather Whipple. "It's a great opportunity for students to look at the statistics and the prizes draw in the students."

A live broadcast from radio station 102 JAMZ and a race car belonging to NASCAR driver David Russell also drew in the crowd.

"This is a great way for people who have unanswered questions about HIV and AIDS to learn to protect themselves," said senior Adam Sabety.

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Funk flies at animal rights benefit

By CORBETT TRUEBY
Entertainment editor

Any student who is sick of driving all the way downtown to hear good underground dance music is in for a treat on Dec. 6th when Campus Action for Animals (CAA), the animal rights organization here at UCF, hosts Liberation, "a benefit to raise money and peoples awareness for the animal rights movement to educate students and people in the community.

The benefit is more of a party, with local dj's Davie D, Clueless, Glare, and Steve Hammond spinning from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. at Club Inside, which is just across the street from UCF. Guests are encouraged to check out literature which will be available, as well as sign-up sheets for anyone interested in becoming a part of CAA.

"We hope everyone comes out to dance and socialize," said Maria Distro, who is co-producing the event. "But we also hope everyone takes the opportunity to learn more about the organization and what we're doing. Either way, it'll be fun for anyone who comes to support a worthy cause (and I'll save that annoying drive, too)."

UCF's Computer Team comes out on top at regional competition

By ROBYN PATTERSON
Staff Writer

Once again in competition, UCF's Computer Team excelled at the Southeast Regional Collegiate Computer Programming Competition. It won first, fourth and eighth place. The team has won first, second or third in the region for the last 16 years.

Florida State University placed sixth and the University of Florida placed 37 at the competition.

The competition, which comprised of 10 problems ranging from geometry to text processing, had to be completed in five hours.

The gray team solved six of the 10 problems. The members were seniors Bryan Kline, Michael Kuwaja and Joel Davis. Kline and Kuwaja brought experience to the team because they are from last year's first-place team.

To keep the team's skills sharp, Marathon Saturday practice sessions in the Computer Science Building were held a few times this semester. Its weekly practices will begin again in January.

"Everyone wants to beat UCF," said Ali Oroojii, faculty advisor. "[Other teams] have not made the level of commitment our students have made."

Graduate students Robert Franchescini and Glenn Martin assisted the team as coaches this year. Undergraduate Eric Heimburg, who also participated at last year's event on the first-place team, also assists the team.

The team is now looking ahead to the contest finals in Atlanta in late February," said Oroojii. "The problems are getting harder each year because the skill level of the students is getting harder."

Besides the gray team, UCF also had a blue team and a red team. Chris Bubelis, Dany King and Ellie Portugali made up the red team, which placed eighth in the competition with three solutions. Phillip Deechmer, Ambrose Feinstein and Drue Paust made up the blue team.

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CCCS assists in paying off student debts

From PAGE 1

Futurist magazine reported 82 percent of full-time college students have credit card debts. "Most of those students are very reluctant to ask for help," Morton said. "They think they can do it alone.

Brown agreed and said she is aware she can ask for help, but she would rather try to do it herself. Morton responded that dealing with it alone is fine, but organizations often have influence to negotiate with creditors to lower interest rates. Also, once a person signs up with a credit counseling agency, creditors leave them alone. They deal directly with the agency.

Morton said CCCS will send potential clients a packet of information free of charge. After reviewing it, they can call to make an appointment to see one of the organization's 39 counselors. The fee is on a sliding scale based on income, anywhere from $20 to $50. If the client fits into certain categories, the fee could be waived.

The organization services more than 20,000 people annually and has 14 offices in Central Florida. It has an operating budget of $2.3 million.

"Before accreditation, we knew we had policies and everyone abided by them," Morton said. "We had a good reputation in the community and among clients. Now we have our policies in writing for everyone, counselors and clients to see."

UCF's Morton said CCCS can attest to the organization's effectiveness. Herrbach-Anderson said that she and her husband went to the organization for help after they got married. Before the wedding, her husband told her that he owed some money.

"To me owing some money means that you owe a friend $200," Herrbach-Anderson said. "His credit card debt was $9,000."

She said credit card companies make it too easy for college students, some of them unemployed, to get credit cards. They send representatives with free gifts to entice students: T-shirts, water bottles, rebates and phone cards, Herrbach-Anderson said. In most cases you only need your college ID. Not only do the companies campaign on campus, they also target students by phone.

Students fill out an application they got either on campus or by mail and four to six weeks later, they receive a credit card. Many of the companies visit campus before the holiday season when there is a temptation for spending.

Once students have "maxed" out several credit cards, they usually have a hard time finding the money to pay minimum balances on those cards each month. In that case, they can call home.

In Brown's case, her parents helped. Some parents will say if you expect to be treated like an adult then act like one. That's what Herrbach-Anderson's parents said.

She and her husband had to find their own way of paying off their debt. Herrbach-Anderson found out about CCCS through one of their creditors. The couple worked out a payment schedule with the organization. They pay $240 a month and let CCCS deal with the creditors, she said.

Students are not the only clients that CCCS services. Morton said in her 13 years with the organization, she has seen a diverse group of clients, such as people who make $8,000 a year all the way to people who make more than $100,000 a year.

"We see a lot of the middle generation, 30-40 years old," Morton said. "They had no financial education either at home or in school. They don't know how to manage their money. We're finding that it's the same with students graduating from college right now."

Interest on the credit card balances is one of the causes of the problem.

For example, if a person has a $1,000 balance on a card with 7 percent interest rate (most credit cards are 16 to 21 percent) and makes only the minimum payments each month, it will take seven years to pay off the balance. It will also cost the person an additional $700 in interest.

For consumers struggling to manage credit card debt alone, Fortune magazine offers these tips:

- Haggie with credit card companies to lower the interest rate on credit cards
- Search for a company with low interest rates
- Don't accept just any credit card offer
- Go cold turkey or cut up all your credit cards.

Satellite brings UCF, NASA together

From PAGE 1

"Combined with the satellite tracking dish NASA has donated to the university this makes us a gateway to the universe."

The Florida Space Institute, Florida colleges and universities, Spaceport Florida Authority and NASA are in partnership to build the satellite, the first to be completely built in Florida.

The Boeing Corp. will offer technical support and will pay $4 million for the subcontractors at Spaceport Florida. UCF will pay the remaining $7 million.

In addition to the satellite, UCF donated a 30-foot dish antenna to help research the use of laser communications from the ground to satellites.

The dish was donated by NASA's Langley Research Center in Virginia and arrived at the Cape Canaveral Air Station on Nov. 20. It will allow students and faculty to track and receive scientific data from satellites.
Honor students volunteer at inner city school

From PAGE 1

a service project that we could offer as an option to the Honor students, which would provide them with an enriching experience. We wanted something in which they could use their academic talents.

Hillcrest Elementary School is an inner-city school built in 1923. It is one of the oldest schools in the Orlando area. The school serves a diverse population including many high-risk students. Eighty percent of its students receive free lunches.

"When we spoke to the principal, Alliene Schain, she was full of wonderful ideas," said Bartlett. "She suggested the students break down into interest groups and run an after-school clubs' program. Her heart is as big as her school, and she works hard to get programs like this up and running for her students."

The UCF students began the volunteer program on Oct. 1 after participating in a training workshop on how to work with elementary-age children that was offered by Dr. Donna Camp of the School of Education.

"The whole program is a challenge," said Bartlett. "The school has limited resources, so we are learning to work with the available resources and come up with creative ideas to make this a better experience for all the students."

The time spent with the children has proven to be more than rewarding for Bartlett and her Honor students.

"One of the most fun things I get to do in my job now is to work with these kids," said Bartlett. "It was fate that their needs dovetailed with ours.

"It has become my stress relief from a tough day at school," said freshman Honor student Shelly Bryant, who coordinates the reading club at Hillcrest. "When I go see the kids it makes me feel so much better. They are so honest that when they say something nice you know they mean it. They do know what political correctly means."

"It helps so much if you read to them," said sophomore Kim Gates, music club coordinator. "My parents read to me when I was two or three and I was reading on my own in kindergarten. Reading to them encourages them to read and it's a plus if they find an area they really enjoy. Then that gives them more reason to want to come to school."

The Hillcrest students are divided into small groups that are more manageable for the UCF students.

"The small groups provide them with more individual attention," said Bartlett. "We are fostering their education which will have an impact on their future."

As part of the partnership with Hillcrest, the Honors' program has been able to have a Macintosh computer donated to the school and made a connection between a UCF graduate student from Romania and a Romanian fourth-grade Hillcrest student and his family.
Living in a material world:
Are today's students more interested in money?

By MAGGIE WELTER
College Press Service

College students who scrape by on macaroni-and-cheese dinners and spare change may not be the norm on every campus. In fact, many students say they aren't about ready to deny themselves some of life's luxuries, such as cars, CDs and the latest fashions. Just ask the students at the University of California at Los Angeles. In a recent survey, UCLA students rated themselves one of the most materialistic campuses in the nation.

After a national survey of four-year institutions showed that 14 percent of students at UCLA were materialistic, the fact that the proportion of students at other campuses was higher than expected, Provost Rudi Colloredo-Mansfeld, professor of psychology, said, "You have to realize that we are surrounded by an excess of material luxuries. Beverly Hills, Hollywood. Our students see a lot of Mercedes and BMW's and that has an effect."

According to student-researcher Xavier Rosas, it's a negative effect. His analysis of UCLA's "materialistic, unimaginable bunch of individuals...a powerhouse of pollution, the poster child of traffic congestion and a milieu of tanned, buxom blondes."

Rosas' description of babies in tuxes and BMWs may be a little extreme, but in fact the image many students on other campuses have of UCLA, and the top concern is looking like the sun-filled image many students on other campuses have of UCLA. "I think of UCLA. I think of a bunch of 90210 kids who have money and play a lot. I know they aren't all like that but that's what I think," said Kelli Palmer, a senior at Elon College in North Carolina.

Palmer said she didn't think students at Elon were extremely preoccupied with material goods. At Elon, she said people are defined by their achievements, not by objects or fashion. "The prestige and popularity comes from the leadership. Are you a president of an organization? Did you organize an event?" Palmer said.

Carrie McNally, a senior at Michigan State University, does think it's a local thing in UCLA's case. "I just think that all of Southern California comes off as materialistic," McNally said. However, even though she doesn't think MSU students are materialistic as UCLA students, she said a good portion there are obsessed with material goods. "There are a lot of people who go around and spend a lot of time and money on music and clothes," she said. Here I'd say we're a bit more into electronics."

When all is said and done, McNally said the truth of the matter about college students everywhere is this: "We all have to have our toys, our CDs, our computers, stereos. We were brought up having them and now everyone thinks they need them to survive."

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I celebrated Thanksgiving with my family, as I rarely get to see them, it was great spending time with them. We ate and slept, then woke up and ate again!
— Marisol Aglero, Sophomore, Health Services Admin., Jacksonville.

I spent Thanksgiving Day with my family and friends in West Melbourne.
— Kenneth R. Mitchell, Junior, Political Science, West Melbourne.

My family and I had a Thanksgiving feast with our relatives. We all ate until we dropped.

I spent time at Disney World with my best friends, who came all the way from Japan just to visit me. And we spent this special time together—just having fun.
— Yumi Yotsukawa, Senior, Psychology, Tokyo, Japan.

I went home to spend time with my family and eat as much as I could, since I don’t get to eat a home-cooked meal that often.
— Charles Lubrido, Senior, Economics, Spring Hill.

This year my family and I dressed up as Pilgrims and Native Americans, then we stuffed ourselves with turkey, in the true Thanksgiving tradition.
— Wendy Timonera, Junior, Political Science, Kissimmee.
LEAD STORIES

- London's Daily Telegraph reported in October that Catholic Church-supported teaching program for schools in Ireland and Northern Ireland has suspended its use of the phrase "daddy" and "mummy" in lesson plans, for fear of confusing or offending kids ages 4 and 5 who are not raised in traditional homes. Suggested alternatives include "the people who look after you."

- In September, inmate Michael F. Schmitz, 45, serving two years in the Kentucky State Reformatory for drunken driving, filed a $1.9 million lawsuit against the Lexington (Ky.) Police Department complaining that officers were too nice when they arrested him in 1996. According to the lawsuit, when police found a loaded assault rifle in his car and could not figure out how to disarm it, they uncuffed the obviously inebriated Schmitz and had him take it apart. Schmitz said he "could have shot most everyone standing around watching this escapade" and thus contends that the police endangered the public.

- At a September meeting of Christian Coalition leaders in Atlanta, founder Pat Robertson said the religious group should raise its political intensity by looking to the notorious machine politics of Chicago and New York's Tammany Hall as models, and that it would be God who would personally select the Republican best suited to advance the coalition's agenda in the next presidential campaign. Robertson had begun his remarks by noting that he assumed he was talking only "to the family" and that if any members of the press were present, "you would please shoot your sleeve" since the speech was recorded without his permission and leaked to the press.)

COMPELLING EXPLANATIONS

- Shawn S. Warren, charged with arson in June in Anderson, Ind., denied he actually started a fire in a garage. Instead, according to the town's chief fire investigator, Warren said, "I probably thought about that fire, and it just happened." Said the investigator, "(Warren) did tell me sometimes he thinks about things and they happen.

- Former law student Scott Freuhan, 35, suffered another setback in August as a federal judge in Pittsburgh declined to reinstate his lawsuit against Duquesne University. Freuhan had claimed that the only reason he flunked out was that the school had failed to accommodate his disability, which is that he sits for a long time, his arms and fingers get numb.

- In July, the California Supreme Court suspended prominent criminal-defense lawyer LeRoy Grin, 69, for 2 1/2 years for lying to investigators. Grin admitted visiting an imprisoned-client's wife's trailer home to help prepare for one of the husband's trials and staying overnight rather than driving back to San Francisco. However, he denied having had sex with her, explaining that the wife had climbed into bed with him but that sex only occurred if they had "without (my) consent."

- Catholic priest Donald Kocher, 61, testifying at a deposition in a Chicago-area lawsuit against him and his diocese for sexual abuse of parishioners, admitted that he had sex with as many as a dozen women over a 20-year period. However, he added, "I've always seen (the affairs) as morally wrong, and I've always tried to bring them to a conclusion as quickly as I could."

- Ricky Wassenaar, 34, was convicted of assault and robbery in Tucson, Ariz., in July, after being apprehended in a car after a chase, holding stolen money plus guns, a ski mask and a bullet-proof vest. Wassenaar, acting as his own attorney, presented the defense that a man named Jim had slipped a date-rape pill into his drink at a bar, dressed him in the vest, and placed him in the car. As for the chase and attempted ramming of an officer on a motorcycle, Wassenaar said he was just trying to get out of the officers' way so they could chase whoever they were after.

- In September in New York City, federal judge Lewis A. Kaplan disregarded sentencing guidelines and sent Orthodox Jew Solomon Sprei to prison for only 18 months for insurance fraud (vs. three to four years, as prescribed). Kaplan cited Sprei's "three marriageable-age daughters, who by law of his Bobov family would have to rely on their father to find husbands for them. Kaplan declared that the happiness of at least two of them would be crucially delayed if Sprei were imprisoned for the recommended time.

POLICE BLOTTER

- Weird Weapons: Frozen chicken legs (woman pelled her boyfriend for car casing, Broward County, September; slow-moving train (robber rubbed victim's head into it to convince him to give up the money, Orlando, October); red peppers (Ebensburg, Pa.; cook laced the luncheon special of a police officer who had given her one too many parking tickets, July).

- Incompetent Cops: Loren Qualu's' 1994 firing from the Akron, Ohio, police force was upheld by a state appeals court in June. Qualu's' main problem was having answered police calls on three occasions in which he had forgotten to bring his weapon. And Rasko, a Great Falls, Mont., police German shepherd, was dismissed from the force in July after the second straight incident in which he responded to a standoff by biting a police officer and not the suspect.

- Lancaster (Va.) High School marching band director Robert T. Spiers was detained and handcuffed at a parade in Warsaw, Va., in October after he twice ignored Sheriff Gene Sydnor's demand that he speed up his marchers. Sydnor said he was concerned that the gap in front of the Lancaster band was growing so large that people might think the parade was over. Spiers was released about 15 minutes later, and the Lancaster band eventually won first prize.

- Police Brutality: Newport, Ky., detective Michael Scott was suspended in September for passing gas in the face of a DUI suspect. And Buffalo, N.Y., county jail officer John Walsh was convicted by a federal jury in September of violating the civil rights of inmate Norvin Fowlks in 1991 and 1992. Fowlks accused the 395-pound Walsh of, on separate occasions, holding Fowlks' penis on the floor and using his crotch as a pillow, and both times stomping on it with his boot.

- According to psychologists at Portland University in England, the two-tone sirens and flashing blue lights of British police cars seriously impair the judgment of officers by the time they arrive at a crime scene. Dr. Aldert Vrij, who led a recent study, told the Daily Telegraph in October that officers subsequently tended to underestimate the danger they face and tended to become sluggish and reluctant to fire their weapons.

- In July, Max, a 400-pound western lowland gorilla housed in the Johannesburg (South Africa) Zoo, captured a fleeing burglar suspect, Isaac Mofokeng, 29, who unwisely tried a short-cut through the ape compound. In the process, Mofokeng fired two guns, hitting Max in the jaw and shoulder, but he mended quickly.

Among Max's subsequent awards: honorary constable of the local police precinct, Newcomer of the Year by the Johannesburg Press Club, and spokesman for Lembomo-brand bananas (fee: a one-year supply). Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 8306, St. Petersburg, 33735, or Weird@compuserve.com.

Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird

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Opinion

Culpepper's return a relief for all of UCF

BY JASON HEIRONIMUS
Opinion Editor

Upon reflection of all the great Thanksgiving holidays that we have endured, I must say that this past holiday was special. The turkey was still dry, the gravy still a bit thin, and I was yet again forced into eating yams. However, despite the typical Thanksgiving food, the day was consumed by thoughts other than the average thank yous.

Along with many other UCF students, I have transformed from a student willing to make jokes about the small-time feel of UCF to a student willing to paint himself gold and black and tailgate before football games eight hours before kickoff. I may have been a bit overzealous about my tailgating and tailgate before football is not an exaggeration.

It has been a twisted and tainted from ideals society teaches us to believe in them and in my hero to do something good and help but smile. For weeks the debate had raged, at least in my apartment, on whether or not Daunte would leave. It seemed that there was really no reason for him to stay. Why? Money, baby. These days it’s all about the green. The capitalist ideals that our nation was founded on have now been twisted and tainted from ideals into law. Society teaches us to always do the most financially sound thing, no matter right or wrong. Daunte has taught us that there is still a small, glimmering spot of hope for the human race. Now, enough about ethics.

As a boy I was subject to the typical hero worship. My heroes were sports figures, actors and actresses, and writers of various types. But sports figures were always at the front of my mind when I looked to one of my heroes for answers. The vast majority of the time they never answered me, because, well, they didn’t know me. But I believed in them and in my subconscious mind I believed these sports figures to be the embodiment of all that was good in the world. As I grew older, and some say wiser, I began to see these people as just that—people. They are flawed just like the next person and have ugly traits just like the next person. But it wasn’t just that, they seemed to revel in constantly making the wrong decisions. Though I wanted to emulate their actions on the field of play, I found myself doing exactly the opposite of my heroes in social situations. Just once, I wanted my hero to do something good and to make me proud. Time and time again, however, I was disappointed.

Daunte Culpepper is an enigma. I cannot for the life of me understand his actions. Aren’t you supposed to grab the cash and run? Who really gets four-year degree anymore anyway? The answer to these questions are respectively: no and almost every person that is not bound for the NFL. Imagine for a second that you are guaranteed a tremendously large sum of money once you decide to stop attending school. You are promised a career which provides for fame, success, and financial stability. Now this is where the decision comes: should I stay or should I go? A college degree is a treasured commodity. It is an accomplishment that no one can ever take from you. But, you don’t need it. Why go to college if you are already provided for financially?

Because you cannot buy, and I believe some people would disagree with me, a college degree. All the money in the world can’t make you a college graduate, only hard work and perseverance can.

Daunte Culpepper has accomplished so much in his three years at UCF. He has commended a football program from second rate to first rate and the school along with it. He has transcended the school of thought which calls for grabbing the money and never looking back. Ask yourself what you would do if you were in Daunte’s position. I myself know that it would be one of the most difficult decisions that I would ever have to make in my life. And who knows what the right decision would be? Staying in college is the politically correct thing to do because if you don’t, the whole world will be mad at you. In that type of situation, one must do what they feel is right for them and nobody else.

The decision, as the media was calling it, was undoubtedly a landmark in UCF history. All of central Florida should drop to its knees and thank the good Lord for dropping such a quality person and football player into the laps of UCF fans. Knight fans rejoice, for Daunte’s Inferno has only begun!
By CORBETT TRUBEY
Entertainment Editor

Poor Lt. Ripley. First she accidentally brings in some deadly lifeform onto her ship. Then she has to go to some space colony to battle a bunch of pesky monsters again. But who said it didn't make for some pulse-pounding entertainment?

"Alien Resurrection" is the fourth film based on one scary creature and one of the best female screen roles of all time, played with pistol-packing emotion by Sigourney Weaver. While the first "Alien" set the mood, the sequel was an all-out space war, and the third was dark and artsy (not to mention underrated), the fourth is complete mayhem. Like a rollercoaster ride essential to any big-budget action film, director Jean-Pierre Jeunet has created the most visually exciting installment yet, with a gore and blood content that might have those with weak stomachs finding a new use for their popcorn buckets.

The ride begins so easily: Ripley was cloned by scientists so they could take out the alien embryo inside of her (the one that set the ending of the third movie), make more aliens, and use them for government research. When the aliens bust out of their holding cells, the only people left aboard the space station, including the mysterious Call (Winona Ryder), must find a way to keep the station from reaching earth without getting ripped into shreds. And I do mean shreds.

Many scenes in the movie truly reflect what the "Alien" series has been about. An underwater space war, and the third was a human image of itself. The actress who tries to sabotage the professor's wedding by not telling him the message of when and where to be. This sounds a bit too much like the film "Electric Dreams." Many of the supporting cast members are pretty much unknowns except for Wil Wheaton who starred on "Star Trek The Next Generation." His scenes are far and few and his talents are wasted.

Hughes' fans might just like this film because there are lots of touches that are strictly his. If you're not familiar with the other 'Alien' films, or you might want to do your homework, or else you'll be more confused than entertained. If you have been keeping up and truly appreciate the overall plot of the film it came from. The story is somewhat the same but

Disney fumbles with another classic remake

By GARY ROEN
Movie Critic

"Flubber," the remake of the Disney film "The Absent Minded Professor" is not as good as its black-and-white predecessor of the 1960s. Can it be that Disney who remade "That Darn Cat," "The World's Greatest Athlete," and "101 Dalmatians," has run out of ideas? John Hughes, known for the "Home Alone," pictures and other funny films, is trying to double hard to recreate his own successes. There are too many scenes like the Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern bad guys from two of the "Home Alone" films. There is also a scene that is too much like his other movie "Weird Science" when a robot in "Flubber" creates a human image of itself.

Robin Williams' professor character is often overshadowed by cutesy robots and the Flubber. The film has no Disney magic as did the picture it came from. The story is somewhat the same but Hughes would have been better to start with another premise.

Many of the supporting cast members are pretty much unknowns except for Wil Wheaton who starred on "Star Trek The Next Generation." His scenes are far and few and his talents are wasted. Hughes' fans might just like this film because there are lots of touches that are strictly his. When the Flubber is flying around in the neighborhood it's a small, cute boy reacts in a very funny way. The actress who played principal Moody's secretary in "Ferris Bueller's Day Off!" was the cur rental agent who had to confront Steve Martin in "Planes Trains and Automobiles" has a small part here. "Flubber" is very weak and is a very big disappointment. On the other hand, children should enjoy the film for the Flubber and robots.

``
Diner is anything but a drag

By GAIL BLAIR
Staff Writer

Within the quiet, residential area of North Shine Avenue manscaped by red brick streets is Union Restaurant. It is the venue for Drag Diner on Monday evenings which not only tantalizes the palate, but also stimulates the eyes with a cast of engaging drag queens. They are the hosts for the night and mingle among the guests before, during and after the show which begins at 9:30 p.m.

Though under new management, Union is still a small restaurant with a one room, smoking-permitted-anywhere dining area. The double doors of the restaurant open to a bar which occupies one wall and smoking permitted anywhere. An evening which not only tantalizes the eyes with a cast of drag queens, the hostess Jennifer and the wait staff were immediately attentive to guests' needs, making it feel more like being over for dinner at a friend's house than at a restaurant. But then again, perhaps the whole intention is to make everybody feel like family.

Dinner began with a dish from the appetizer list. The suggestion from the waiter to try the Montrachet Garlic Dip ($6.95) with roasted peppers, caponata and tapenade was well-advised. A plate of warm pita bread triangles and french bread were provided for dipping into the soft, creamy cheese dip. However, be warned it is heavily seasoned though it promised a little more of the sweet apple cider glaze. Halfway through my entree, the drag queen show starring Miss Sammy and Frieda Lay began.

Miss Sammy revved up the audience by lip-syncing a bugle boy number. She blew her toy horn and held it in front of the guests' lips, inviting them to join in the revelry. She also stopped to sit on guests' laps before she jumped onto the bar to finish her performance.

The show continued with the long-legged Frieda Lay. Wearing black knee-high boots, a yellow silk jacket, sunglasses and a captain's hat; she looked like Captain and Tennille rolled into one. Frieda Lay lip-synced a song about rain which she expressed by using an umbrella and water gun for virtual effect.

Chrys Anthemum and Tiffany McCray (Miss Florida U.S.A. 1997) also graced the guests with their performances. Chrys Anthemum had the crowd amused with her escaped convict, knife-wielding, Lorena Bobbit routine which she lip-synced to Fiona Apple's song, "Criminal." Tiffany McCray, draped in a purple sequin dress bearing her midriff, set a romantic mood with her performance of a soulful Sade tune.

After the show, I got to sample the Almond Praline Butter Cake and the White Chocolate Raspberry Cheesecake. I couldn't decide which was better; both were decadent and so good I had to forget about the calories and fat grams I was digesting.

Union Restaurant is a definite experience in casual and inviting dining. The food, staff, ambience and show created a cumulative package of creativity I hope will only continue to blossom.

Union Restaurant is open for lunch and dinner. Drag Diner is every Monday at 9:30 p.m. Reservations are suggested (894-5778).
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So don't be so serious. Prepare to come to Filmmaker's Boot Camp, and learn how to make your product more fun. What are you waiting for? Call today!
Prof's display of tampon art labeled "offensive"

By College Press Service

AUGUSTA, Ga. — An Augusta State University's art pieces, assembled from sanitary napkins and tampons, are drawing criticism from students and staff members there.

The students and staff say the two pieces, by James Rosen, are offensive. The pieces, titled "Period Piece," consist of three rows of sanitary napkins, each adorned with a tiny red dot and a tampon.

The works are part of a larger faculty exhibit on display in the lobby of the university's Fine Arts Center.

At first, Rosen submitted the work under a pseudonym—Melisa LEVY, a play on the French expression, "cest la vie," or "that is life."

Rosen later agreed to use his real name after students complained that he had listed a woman's name as the artist.

In an interview with The Chronicle of Higher Education, Rosen was quoted as saying he used the woman's name to start a discussion about how art is perceived differently when created by a male or a female.

"I can say that I did not do it for the shock value," Rosen told the Chronicle. "It seemed to me that when you tinker with a taboo, there's bound to be some reaction."

Grade study's goal is to get students and professors communicating

MANHATTAN, Kansas — To professors, grades are just a number. But to students, grades mean a lot, and sometimes are viewed as a measure of self-worth.

This was the observation that prompted two Kansas State professors to launch into a series of studies about how effectively professors and students communicate about grades.

"Many students do not associate grades with the value of a student as a person," said Charles Griffin, associate professor of speech at KSU.

But Griffin was surprised at the level of intensity with which students attached meaning to grades. The study found that college students sometimes equate their grades with rewards and punishment.

"Students are very concerned about the personal impact of grades on both their present and future lives. Teachers see grades as less significant," Griffin said.

The professors now are delving into how faculty members and students talk about grades.

They've labeled one typical conversation "the desperate need" model. That's when the all-too-common scenario where a student begs a professor for a higher grade because he or she really, really needs it.

"There's also the clerk-reporting model, in which professors distance themselves from the grading process by viewing the grades as merely numbers out of their control," Griffin explained.

Goulden explained they hope to find that more interaction between professors and students will lead to more learning and less anxiety. She says when the instructor views herself more as a learning facilitator, then "the teacher helps better the student, not just their grades."

Like it or not, grades provide necessary feedback for the student, say the professors. But they admit grading can be tough on instructors, too.

"Grades are the worst part of my job," Griffin said. "It's difficult when you know students well and you suspect they will read all sorts of things into a grade that you have not intended to communicate."

Get the club in your school colors

SHARON, Pa. — Go into almost any college bookstore and you'll find rows of products with the school logo: caps, mugs, T-shirts, pens, notebooks—name it.

Many college fans go a step further and flaunt their school spirit on the road with bumper stickers, car flags—even license plates in the school colors.

Now these fans can secure their car with a Collegiate Auto Club, which features the name and logo of the school screened onto it. The anti-theft devices, which lock onto steering wheels to deter thieves, now are officially licensed through 20 college and universities.

The new Clubs include the Tennessee Volunteers, Northwestern Wildcats, Michigan Wolverines, Georgia Bulldogs, Arizona State Sun Devils, Ohio State Buckeyes, Nebraska Cornhuskers and a host of other schools.

"We expect the Collegiate Club line to include 30 to 40 schools by the end of 1998," said Chuck Quinn, president of Winner International, the Club's manufacturer.

Oh, and the Collegiate Bike Club is expected on the market by June 1998.

Perhaps if the club isn't a deterrent enough, the school logo will help to discourage a potential thief. After all, what thief wants to rip off a fellow fan when he could pick up an alum from a rival school?

Drivers, however, should be sure they park in friendly territory.

"Suspicious" fire strands 23 students

APPLETON, Wis. — An early November fire at the Delta Tau Delta fraternity house at Lawrence University caused about $35,000 in damage and left 23 students temporarily without homes.

The fire, which has been labeled as "suspicious" by Appleton Fire Marshal Eugene Reece, broke out early in the morning Nov. 6 in a fraternity bedroom.

Reece said the fire caused major smoke damage throughout the house but resulted in only one injury. A cause of the fire has not yet been determined, he added.

Lawrence University and the American Red Cross have found temporary housing for the stranded students. School officials say they hope to begin cleaning the house in mid-November after insurance investigators finish their work.

Reece, meanwhile, praised Delta Tau Delta's fire-alarm and smoke-detector systems, saying without early detection, the fire could have resulted in more serious injuries.
‘State Fair’ musical a blue ribbon production

By CORBETT TRUBEY
Entertainment Editor

Ever wondered what happened to John Davidson? Well, even if you didn’t, he is alive and well and headlining the cast of the latest Broadway production to hit Orlando. ‘State Fair,’ the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical is just here for barely a week at the Carr Performing Arts Centre. It’s a charming story about a family’s adventures at the fair and how it changes their lives.

‘State Fair’ is based on an original novel and first made into a film in 1933. Twelve years later, the legendary writing team of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II turned it into a hit musical movie. It wasn’t until 1992 that a stage workshop production of the musical was mounted, and after a slew of changes, ‘State Fair’ able to become the eleventh stage musical from Rodgers and Hammerstein.

The revised ‘State Fair’ features an expanded score based on songs from both film versions as well as rarely heard numbers from other Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals. This posed a challenge for the writers, who wanted to make the transition from the big screen to the big stage without losing the excitement and energy that has made ‘State Fair’ a classic.

And apparently nothing was lost. The show began a 35 week tour this fall after opening on Broadway with glowing reviews. John Davidson reprises his role as Iowa farmer Abel Frake, which he originated on Broadway. Many people remember John Davidson as the host of many TV shows including “That’s Incredible!” and “Hollywood Squares.”

What you might not know is that Davidson has a lengthy list of theater performances. His musical resume includes ‘State Fair,’ ‘Bye Bye Birdie,’ ‘Oklahoma!’ and many TV shows including “That’s Incredible!” and “Hollywood Squares.”

‘State Fair’ is the third in a series of Broadway productions to be brought to Orlando, so don’t miss out on a night of quality entertainment. Grab your favorite pair of overalls and your sweetie and head on downtown, just don’t ask John who the secret square is during the show.

Tickets are available now through Ticketmaster (859-3900).

John Davidson heads the cast of ‘State Fair.’
Late surge lifts Rockets past Knights

From PAGE 20

ers as well as five free throws in the closing minutes that put UCF away.

"We played well in spurts and got some positives out of this," said guard Mark Jones, who led UCF with 16 points. "Naturally, we'd like to win, but I think we're getting better. It came down to making the shots at the end. In the last five minutes, they really stepped up and hit their shots and we didn't."

The Knights now turn their attention to Winthrop, who they play Dec. 3 in Rock Hill, S.C. UCF will try to avenge last season's 83-78 home loss to the Eagles, who are without standout point guard Tyson Waterman.

Waterman scored 26 in last season's win, but is no longer at Winthrop. It will be a challenge for UCF to play well in their first out-of-state road game of the season.

"It's going to be tough because we're going on the road and we have to be tough on the road," said Speraw. "Winthrop is a good team, so it will be an important game for us."

Brad Traina, left, and D'Quarius Stewart, above, play at Winthrop on Dec. 3.
Men's basketball season schedule

1997-98 Men's Basketball Schedule (2-3)

Day Date Opponent Site Time

Fri. Nov. 14 Auburn UCF Arena 63-70
Tue. Nov. 18 at Florida Gainesville, Fla. 85-100
Thu. Nov. 20 McNeese State UCF Arena 67-51
Tue. Nov. 25 vs. Bethune-Cookman* Daytona Beach, Fla. 75-57
Sat. Nov. 29 Toledo UCF Arena 64-69
Wed. Dec. 3 at Winthrop Rock Hill, S.C. 7:00 pm
Sat. Dec. 13 Nova Southeastern UCF Arena 7:30 pm
Thu. Dec. 18 St. Thomas UCF Arena 7:30 pm
Tue. Dec. 23 at Marquette Milwaukee, Wisc. 8:00 pm
Tue. Dec. 30 vs. South Florida % Tampa, Fla. 8:00 pm
Sat. Jan. 3 at Mercer * Macon, Ga. 7:00 pm
Mon. Jan. 5 at Georgia State * Atlanta, Ga. 6:00 pm
Sat. Jan. 10 Troy State * UCF Arena 7:30 pm
Mon. Jan. 12 Centenary * UCF Arena 7:30 pm
Thu. Jan. 13 Samford * UCF Arena 7:30 pm
Sat. Jan. 17 at Jacksonville St.* Jacksonville, Ala: 8:00 pm
Thu. Jan. 22 C. of Charleston * UCF Arena 7:30 pm
Sat. Jan. 24 Campbell * UCF Arena 7:30 pm
Thu. Jan. 29 at Florida Atlantic* Boca Raton, Fla. 7:30 pm
Sat. Jan. 31 at Florida Int'l* Miami, Fla. 7:30 pm
Mon. Feb. 2 Stetson * UCF Arena 7:30 pm
Thu. Feb. 5 Florida Atlantic* UCF Arena 7:30 pm
Sat. Feb. 7 Florida Int'l* UCF Arena 7:30 pm
Sat. Feb. 14 at Stetson * DeLand, Fla. 5:15 pm
Thu. Feb. 19 at Campbell * Bienes Creek, N.C. 7:00 pm
Sat. Feb. 21 at C. of Charleston* Charleston, S.C. 7:15 pm
All Times Eastern
• Exhibition Games
  • at Daytona Beach Ocean Center
  • % at Tampa Bay Ice Palace
  • * Trans America Athletic Conference Game

Women's basketball team places 2nd in tournament

From PAGE 20

UCF returns to action Dec. 13 in Austin, Texas, against the University of Texas before returning home Dec. 16 against Bethune-Cookman and Dec. 18 against UTEP.

UCF Turkey Shootout

First Round
UCF 60 Denver 49
Buffalo 75, Sam Houston State 67
Bowling Green 85, Butler 67
Syracuse 89, Radford 69

Second Round
UCF 63, Buffalo 60
Syracuse 71, Bowling Green 67
Sam Houston 68, Denver 59
Butler 85, Radford 62

Seventh Place
Denver 79, Radford 69

Third Place
Bowling Green 74, Buffalo 54

Championship Game
Syracuse 104, UCF 66

All-Tournament Team
Sarah Fademreth - University of Denver
Charlotte Jones - Bowling Green State University
Charity Davis - UCF
Stacey DeVeaux - UCF
Caryn Scholl - Syracuse University

Tournament MVP
Teakya Barnes - Syracuse University

UCF Women's basketball team places 2nd in tournament.
Volleyball team aims for NCAA championship

Seniors upon seniors upon juniors. Experience galore and both the 1996 and 1997 TAAC players of the year in Renata Menchikova and Harper. The team sat around tables with the photos of former Knight athletes and fans and talked through the television's over-talkative announcers.

It's 6:40 p.m. - the announcements begin. The jumbo-screen television, dwarfing anything else in the room, displayed the selections with booming clarity. Then the listing of top eight seeds. Then a long series of commercials. The players begin to fidget in their seats as the East bracket is announced.

6:43 ... 6:44 ... 6:45 ... 6:46 ... the Central bracket comes next. The host: The No.4 Wisconsin Badgers in Madison, Wis. Next... "Whooyaaaaaannaannan!!!!!!!"

"Can you believe it! - Man it's going to be cold! - Wow! Clemson!!" comes from the forest of raised arms and smiling, wide-open mouths. Cracking a smile while trying to settle things down, Smith shouts over the chatter: "It's Clemson guys. Here's your chance to prove what you can do!"

UCF played the Tigers the last three years and beat them in South Carolina last season. But as important, Smith said, Clemson won't have the home court advantage.

On Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m., they play. If the Knights make school history, then the Badgers are next at Dec. 7 at 4 p.m.

"We beat them last year and they are a little tougher this year, but so are we," Smith said of the Tigers.

As for the atmosphere of making the special day feel select, junior Dawn Hoffman said the team should make coming to place like Loco's a habit.

"I know we're going to beat Clemson," she added.

"We're playing real well and we're together this year. We're really gelling and working hard together. This is what we've worked so hard for."

Renata Menchikova, right, will lead UCF into NCAA play on Thursday. The Knights won their sixth TAAC championship this year.
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**Volleyball hopes to heat things up in Wisconsin**

By DEREK GONSOLIN

Sports Editor

On Nov. 30, it wasn’t your typical volleyball get-together.

With players and coaches struggling into Loco’s pub several minutes past the 6:30 deadline, coach Laura Smith is usually a bit tougher on the discipline.

But she could make the exception that day. The NCAA tournament selections were about to start.

Seniors Susie Queisser and Tyra Harper were even playing pinball in the neighboring game room.

Speakers blasted an NFL game from every direction as a Miami Dolphin scores a touchdown.

“Yeah! Go Miami!” yelled senior Maribel Marcos, a Miami native. Sensing the restlessness in her team build, Smith began talking about the previous night’s heartbreaker in Tampa.

Thoughts of a hard seed were probably ended with the tough loss at then-No. 27 South Florida in four sets. There was still hope for UCF to nab a first-round opponent, and they back up with winning.

The sixth-consecutive TAAC championship assured a dance with somebody.

The Knights were hoping it was just somebody they knew. The last three seasons, UCF traveled to bobby, Louisville and Minnesota and lost in the school’s first match up in years with the host teams.

One and done. But not this year.

Not after all of the regular-season accolades the team had earned.

UCF won 27 of 30 games, including four of six from tournament teams on the road. The won at Hofstra, Stephen F. Austin, Arkansas-Little Rock and handled Michigan at the Tiger Classic in Louisiana. Of the team’s three losses, two were at tourney teams Oral Roberts and South Florida.

If any team in school history was ready for a NCAA road game, it’s this squad.

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 18

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**Baseball signs 6**

By BRANT PATRICK PARSONS

Staff Writer

The UCF women’s basketball team is off to a quick start this season, winning its first three games and advancing to the championship of the UCF Turkey Showdown.

After two come-from-behind victories against Denver and Buffalo; the Golden Knights fell in the championship against Syracuse, 104-66.

UCF trailed Syracuse 27-20 with 4:20 left in the first half but the Orange went on a 19-5 run to open the second half and led 26-20 at the 13:30 mark.

Syracuse finished with 13 of 22 three-pointers, two were at tourney teams Oral Roberts and South Florida.

If any team in school history was ready for a NCAA road game, it’s this squad.

See LATE, Page 16

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**Rockets launch late comeback to top UCF**

By TONY MEJIA

Staff Writer

UCF played 35 minutes of solid basketball against Toledo on Saturday night at the UCF Arena. But it was the last five minutes that told the final story as the Rockets overcame poor first-half shooting and their star center’s ineffectiveness to post a 66-64 victory.

The focal point of Toledo’s offense, 6-foot-11 center Casey Shaw, was shut down effectively by the Knights, who played a tough defense and the hustle group.

Fouled out, Shaw went 0-for-4 from the field and 0-for-4 from the foul line.

Along with Shaw, UCF started with a light foot and shot only 41 percent from the field.

“We played intense. In a way it was our best game, but when you lose you always have to look for something to get better,” Hodge said. “I know he is an NBA prospect, but I played good defense and the team dropped down and helped out; so overall we did a good job, but we just didn’t finish it.”

Providing the inside game, Shaw lacked for Toledo was 6-7 senior forward Joel Howard, who came off the bench to score 16 points on 7-of-10 shooting.

Hodge said, “That was when it was crunch time, and I felt I could do something to help them.”

As unfortunate as Hodge’s foul situation was, he provided the Knights with a huge boost in his 15 minutes.

Speraw said Hodge “really stepped up to the challenge of facing a big-name center.”

With players and coaches stragglers in the、“Bria” said. “The two nights before we were down, we showed a lot of character, we won a close game. I think that says a lot.”

The close game was a semifinal victory against Buffalo. Despite trailing by as many as 10 points in the second half, UCF fought back and held on to win, 63-60.

Junior guard Chariya Davis helped send the