Central Florida Future, December 2, 1998
SGA Computer Lab receives half of requested budget

Shelley Wilson
Staff Writer

The Senate's biggest responsibility is to allocate the UCF student fee service funds which all students pay. Different UCF clubs and organizations request money from this fund to help with their programs or events. The request either goes through two committees: Clubs and Organizations (C&O) or Organizations, Appropriations, and Finance (OAF).

The Garden of Remembrance is just one of several projects under works at the Student Union. The Garden, designed by UCF architect Afza Dastakti, will be a living memorial to honor deceased UCF retirees who have made lasting contributions to the University.

A letter written to the UCF Retirement Association (UCFRA) from the widow of a UCF employee described plans for the garden. The letter asked what needed to be done to ensure that her husband would receive recognition for the years he had given to the university. She said, "His whole life was the university. He did everything in his power to make it a better place."

Les Ellis, retired academic vice president and former president of the association, said, "Her letter got us thinking about how we could honor not only her husband, but all of our long-term employees that have passed away." Their answer was the Garden of Remembrance. Honorees to be named on the wall will include anyone who retired from UCF and had been vested in the Florida retirement system while at UCF.

The Garden of Remembrance is planned for the dirt parking lot between the UCF Arena and Student Union.

Garden project will honor UCF retirees

Stacey Copeland
Staff Writer

Ask any UCF alum what is different about their alma mater and they will all agree to one statement: UCF looks absolutely nothing like it used to.

The university has been growing in leaps and bounds during the last few years with new additions including the Student Union, Communications Building, two parking garages and much more. Even now, construction is under way for several new buildings on campus.

The Garden of Remembrance is just one of several projects under works at the Facilities Planning Office. The garden, designed by UCF architect Afza Dastakti, will be a living memorial to honor deceased UCF retirees who have made lasting contributions to the university.

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The Garden of Remembrance is planned for the dirt parking lot between the UCF Arena and Student Union.

The importance of meeting Willie Nelson, my hero

Taylor Sikes
Staff Writer

"Get in line, single file, behind the gate," the security guard said sternly. I rushed into the line, anchoring the twentieth spot. My heart began to thunder and my palms started to sweat.

It was Friday, Oct. 23. Just after a Willie Nelson and Family concert at the King Performing Arts Center in Melbourne, FL, I was hoping to catch a glimpse of the famous country singer after the show, someone I had always wanted to meet.

Willie Nelson is a hero to me in a day when I can't seem to find many heroes, and where I find people hard to believe. I went to the show that night expecting to see a legend perform. What I went home with was much more.

The two and a half hour concert ended around 11 p.m. The show was unbelievable. Nelson played his hits, sang some covers, and jammed along with his band. He seemed to enjoy himself, constantly smiling and waving to the crowd. Every few songs, Nelson would take off his signature red bandanna and toss it into the audience, then retie another one for himself.

At the end of the concert, as Nelson was bowing, people began coming up to the stage. Nelson came forward and shook people's hands. It said a lot to me about his character that he would do that. I decided then that I had..."
Skydiving gives student a natural high

SARAH SEKULA
STAFF WRITER

He's an avid adventurer who craves bungee jumping and surfing Florida's waves.

His number one passion, though, is leaping from airplanes.

"I'm the type of person who is always looking for something bigger, harder, faster," UCF student Todd McFliker said.

McFliker, 22, describes himself as a crazy and wild individual.

"I'll do anything," he said as his green eyes widened.

"I'm not one to get scared, but I did have second thoughts when the door of the airplane opened at 10,000 feet," McFliker said, recalling his first skydive at the School of Human Flight in Quincy, FL.

"That's when I got scared. I made myself walk over to the door, I squatted down like I had been taught and shouted, 'ONE, TWO, THREE!' as I shut my eyes and rocked back and forth. I jumped out of the airplane and was free falling for a few minutes, it was amazing," he said.

"You hear the wind rushing by your ears. It's incredible how loud it sounds, sort of like a lawn mower. And we saw a gorgeous sunset up close. I was actually in the clouds. When we reached about 3,000 feet, the tandem master, the professional strapped to my back, pulled the parachute cord for me. Silence. The wind no longer felt so powerful and I was floating.

"At this point, I relaxed and I felt in awe of my surroundings," McFliker said. "This is the most beautiful thing I've ever seen."

The English/Creative Writing major said he skydives for two reasons.

"It's a rush, it fulfills my search for adventure," McFliker said. "And also, I get great film footage for my 'Learning to Fly' documentary."

He videotaped his second plunge, which he took with two of his best friends, to begin the documentary.

"They were the subjects," McFliker said. "I took my video camera on my first jump just for fun, but the four times I went back were for business; to make my documentary."

"My goal is to finish the documentary in time to give it to everyone involved as their Christmas present," McFliker said.

McFliker said he likes his family and friends to become involved in the filmmaking process.

"I admire Francis Ford Coppola because he does this and he really pours his life into his work," McFliker said. He has accumulated a great deal of skydiving footage since January.

"I'm working on this documentary because I want to, but at this point, I have too much good material not to take advantage of it," McFliker said. "I'd like to submit it to film festivals all over the country eventually."

"It's funny because you plan all the hilarious things you are going to videotape yourself saying during the freefall," he said. "But when you get up there, your mind turns into jelly and you just say 'Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!' It's a good thing that tandem jumping doesn't require too much thinking," McFliker said. "The tandem master does everything for you, which is great because when I'm up there, I don't want to be thinking about my altitude or where to land. The tandem master guides you back to the exact spot where the plane took off. It's amazing!"

After seven tandem jumps, an individual may jump alone. Although McFliker is nearing his seventh jump, he said he's not sure he wants to fly solo.

"I wouldn't want to have to worry about when to pull my chute," he said. "At the same time, it would be a great accomplishment. I'm sure I will do it eventually."

"I'm constantly searching for an adrenaline rush," McFliker said. "I figured skydiving would give me a five-minute high, but it was wrong. After my first dive, I felt a natural high for about 24 hours!"
Community leaders invited to campus by business fraternity

LORI RITTERSTEIN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Professional business fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi, has brought two recognized community leaders to UCF within the past couple of months.

Darden Restaurants Senior Vice President of Corporate Relations Rick Walsh in October. Walsh has been with what was General Mills and is now Darden Restaurants for 14 years and is responsible for all external and internal communications, government relations—locally and nationally, media and public relations, and community relations. Darden, the world's largest full-service restaurant and the 30th largest employer in the United States.

"Mr. Walsh was very insightful in providing us with information about all aspects of his company, including past performance of the three restaurants under the Darden umbrella as well as some future plans," said Alan McCune, vice president of Alpha Kappa Psi's Chapter Activities.

Community leader and Greater Orlando Chamber of Commerce President, Jacob Stuart, came to UCF in November. He spoke about the importance of commerce in the community and how individuals within society are in control of their own destiny with far more people involved in community service today than at any other time in history.

Stuart joined the Chamber in 1984 as president and has had a large impact upon the Orlando Region. Some of his accomplishments include: a fund raising drive for a major arts organization in Central Florida which raised $31 million in 2 years time, the ‘World Class’ educational initiative and the ‘City of Light’ community volunteer program. Stuart has also contributed greatly to the expansion of the Lynux bus system as chairman of the Board of Directors. "Jacob Stuart was a fantastic speaker with a well-rounded background of knowledge and experience," said UCF business student Kristy Hartwig.

Dr. Bill Callarman, Nu Chi chapter advisor, said: "Speakers, such as these two, are only one of the benefits students gain from membership in professional organizations. I encourage students to be involved in university activities beyond the classroom.”

Alpha Kappa Psi does provide other benefits to its members as well. The fraternity prides itself on contributing to the community through membership in both the Greater Orlando Chamber of Commerce and University of Central Florida Professional Business Fraternity. The chapter also participates with Junior Achievement, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Adopt a Highland Park McDonald House. Additionally, this coed business fraternity has worked with many area businesses and taken numerous corporate tours such as MLPies, Orlando Arena, Orlando International Airport, Hughes Supply, Channel 2 and Team Disney.

Alphakappa Psi’s mission is to develop well trained, ethical, skilled, resourceful and experienced business leaders. The UCF chapter, Nu Chi, has a goal of preparing business students at UCF for corporate and community leadership through professionalism and life long friendships. The fraternity also completes business research for the Small Business Development Center in the College of Business and attends regional and national conferences. There are currently over 250 undergraduate chapters and over 80 alumni chapters across the nation. It is the oldest and one of the largest national college fraternities with more than 140,000 members of which 4,500 are faculty. Having been founded at UCF in 1991, the Nu Chi Chapter has grown to over 75 members.

Students suffer from lack of computers

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"Because Writers Need Readers"
Americorps UCF gives back to the community

Dillon Elliasen
staff writer

Twice a week, for three hours, UCF student Chuck Zimmer works with students at Discovery Middle School who have problems in sixth grade math. Zimmer said there is one math class in which not all the students are at the same level, so he takes them to a quiet area and helps them understand the math lessons of the day.

The computer engineering major said he didn’t plan on being part of Americorps UCF, but said he’s friends with a past director of the organization and “he talked me into it.”

“I get a sense that I’m actually helping people,” he said. “I feel that I’m making a difference.”

Zimmer is just one person who gives back to the community by helping kids in math. He is part of Americorps UCF, a new program offered by the Office of Student Activities. The goal is “to improve and increase levels of school readiness and school success among public school students at a local middle school and a high school through academic tutoring and mentoring activities sponsored by UCF students.”

Americorps UCF is just one small part of the whole Americorps program which is made up of four separate branches; Americorps*State and Americorps*National programs, Americorps*NCCC, and Americorps*VISTA. The program employs over 25,000 men and women.

In the Americorps Member Handbook, it states that the four main objectives of Americorps are:
1. Getting Things Done. Members help communities improve education, public safety, the environment, and other human needs;
2. Strengthening Communities. Americorps helps unite people from different backgrounds;
3. Encouraging Responsibility. Americorps encourages members to show responsibility to their communities, their families, and themselves;
4. Expanding Opportunity. Americorps members receive awards to further their education, as well as job experience, specialized training, and life skills.

Americorps also has a long list of policies for its members, which includes their rights, responsibilities, and prohibited activities. Members of Americorps programs receive living allowances, educational support, health care to those who do not have adequate coverage, child care subsidies based on the member’s income, and Americorps training.

Americorps is administered by The Corporation for National Service (CNS) which was created by the National and Community Service Act, signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1993.

Earlier this year, President Clinton proposed legislation that would enable Americans to earn awards towards their education by serving their communities. Americorps*State programs are run by bipartisan state commissions appointed by the individual governors, whose duties include developing a state plan for service, submitting the state’s applications to CNS for funding, making grant decisions for Americorps positions, and overseeing grant programs. Each state commission is funded by the CNS and has an executive director.

Americorps*National programs are similar to state programs, but the members are national or multi-state commissions, and grants are received directly from CNS. Americorps*NCCC, which stands for the National Civilian Community Corps, is a 10-month, full time residential service program for 18-24 year olds. The main concentration of this organization is the environment, but members of this group also work in education, public safety and other human needs programs.

Americorps*VISTA, Volunteers in Service to America, helps economically challenged communities through literacy programs, housing assistance, health education, entrepreneurship, employment training, and neighborhood revitalization. Members of this program work full time and live in the communities they serve.

For more information on Americorps programs, information is available at the Office of Student Activities.

Homework assignment results in new art form: rollerpainting

Stacey Copeland
staff writer

Rollerpainting. What in the world is that?
That is exactly what several UCF students were wondering on Nov. 19. Anyone taking a stroll by the Visual Arts Building last Thursday morning got a chance to see quite an unusual sight. Several students were hard at work smearing loads of paint on their wheels to make tracks across a large canvas. Some were sporting roller skates, some inline skates and others were cruising across the canvas on bicycles. A ramp was even provided for the few brave experienced skaters and bike riders.
The event, thought up by UCF art student Danny Caballero, was actually a homework assignment. Caballero, a student in Dr. Gaudinek’s ‘Art Happenings’ class, wanted to do something a little different to make sure he got that “A.”
He said “I really wanted to incorporate modern forms of recreation into a piece of art. I thought using inline skates, skateboards, roller skates and bikes to track paint across a canvas would be a great way to do that.”
Caballero said that ‘Art Happenings’ is all about different forms of conceptual, perceptual and performance art.

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ID carding extended through December

Nicole King
News Editor

• Through December 1998, a re-carding period will be offered to students, staff and faculty who did not receive their ID cards during the initial carding period. The IDs will be given out at the All Campus Card Office located across from the UCF Bookstore.

• The Home Depot/ESPN College Football Awards Show will be televised live on Dec. 10 from Disney-MGM's Theater of the Stars in Orlando. All UCF students are invited to attend. Free tickets are available by calling 407-560-4651.

• The University of Central Florida (UCF) Home Depot/ESPN College Football Awards Show will be televised live on Dec. 10 from Disney-MGM's Theater of the Stars in Orlando. All UCF students are invited to attend. Free tickets are available by calling 407-560-4651.

• Fall 1998 commencement will be held Dec. 19 at the UCF Arena. Each candidate who participates in the event will receive guest tickets based on the amount of seats available and the number of participants. Commencement times are:
  • 8 a.m.: College of Arts and Sciences, 6 tickets per person
  • 11:30 a.m.: Colleges of Education and Engineering, 8 tickets per person
  • 1 p.m.: College of Health and Public Affairs, 9 tickets per person
  • 6:30 p.m.: College of Business Administration, 8 tickets per person

  Graduation participants at the main branch must pick up their tickets between Dec. 7 and 12 at the UCF Bookstore. Candidates may order and pick up tickets at their area campus. Tickets must be ordered Nov. 16-21. At the Brevard campus, contact the BCC Bookstore. At the Daytona Beach campus, contact the Administrative Services Office. A photo ID will be requested upon pick up. Doctoral candidates and platform party guests must contact the Constituent Relations Office at (407) 823-6609 for tickets.

  • The Student Union has begun offering "notary public" services. Contact Chuck Gallo at 823-2117.

  • A holiday toy drive will be sponsored by the UCF Police Department and the Student Alumni Association. Unwrapped toys will be collected from Nov. 2 to Dec. 11 and will be donated to the XL 106.7 Baby DJ Fund. The drop-off locations are:
    • The UCF Police Department
    • The Student Alumni Association Office (Administration Building Room 340)
    • The Student Union (box near the information desk)

  Arrangements can also be made for the toys to be picked up at other departments on campus by calling Officer Emerit at 823-6268.

  • A copy center specifically for students opened earlier this month. Knightro's Copy Kingdom is funded by Student Government and is located in the Student Center, Room 133. Black and white copies are 3 cents each, color copies, 50 cents, black and white transparency copies are 50 cents and color transparencies are $1.50 each.

  Students must show their UCF ID cards before using the center. The hours of operation are:
  • Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-10 p.m.
  • Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
  • Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

  • The following items will be on display at the UCF Library during December 1998:
    1. Paper: Structure and Form, by Judith Segall
    2. Venezuela: Its Art and Culture, by Alfred Marquez
    3. Personal Development, by Dr. Robert Harmar, director of the Counseling and Testing Center
    5. Music at UCF, by Dr. Lee Eubank, chair of the Department of Music

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Country music star fulfills hero status

FROM PAGE 1

to meet him that night.

So I'd now joined a group of about 30 waiting outside the fence that guarded the band's tour busses. I heard my name called. "Are you here trying to meet Willie Nelson too?" asked Zack Monette, a 22-year-old friend of mine from UCF. I responded yes and joined him near his and our roommate in line.

After waiting about 40 minutes, the security guard came to lead us back to Nelson's tour bus. We waited anxiously in line as the gate opened. Our group was led back about 200 feet and positioned adjacent to two tour busses. My pulse began to speed up as I grew eager to meet Nelson.

"Taylor, if I tell myself when I meet him don't laugh at me," Monette warned. During our 20 minutes on the bus we never budged. I began thinking about Willie Nelson. I found myself amazed with my perception of him. He was an American legend, who had been to hell and back. He was an American legend, who had been to hell and back.

As my mind continued to trail off about what Nelson was like, I noticed some commotion brewing toward the front of the line. After a few minutes, Nelson stepped out of his tour bus and our line began moving forward. He would spend a few minutes with each person, signing autographs, taking pictures or just talking. As I waited my turn, I started to get nervous.

I began to prepare myself for a let-down, which is often the case when my expectations are high. I realized I didn't know the man, just my perception of who he was. And people, particularly stars, are not as the same in person, as in the spotlight. I was ready to be disappointed.

I continued to move forward in line until I got to the third or fourth woman, maybe five feet from Nelson. She hugged him and told him that she thought he was great. He signed a cotton T-shirt for her. "There is one more thing I want you to sign," the woman said as she lifted up her shirt exposing her large belly. Nelson laughed and signed her stomach. "That is going to be your next big fun," the woman said, waving goodbye to him and walking to her car.

It was my turn. I walked up to him, shaking a little with excitement. "That was a great show you put on tonight," I said. While we shook hands, he replied smiling, speaking in a soft voice.

"Will you sign my ticket please?" I asked.

"Sure. What's your name?" Nelson asked.

I told him my name and watched his wrinkled, hands write my name and sign his own, the folds in the skin around his eyes bunching up while he squinted. "Do you mind if I get a picture with you?" I asked.

"Not at all. Taylor," he said, putting his arm around me. "I put my arm around the legend and we both grinned widely for the camera.

"It was nice of Willie to say and do everything that night, I thought about what Nelson was like, ten minutes before I met him I had expected to be disappointed. After my time with him, I felt that I had chosen a legitimate hero. Instead of falling below my expectations, he shot above them.

"Driving home from Melbourne that night, I thought about what I had learned. I saw that people could be who they say they are and mean what they say. This gives me hope in my perception of others. Meeting this American music legend, Willie Nelson, renewed my trust in people and helped me to believe that it is possible for people to say what they mean and mean what they say.

Stress overload hinders performance

LINDA RAMOS
STAFF WRITER

Stress is necessary because it helps you to overcome challenges by filling the body with energy. A more descriptive definition is provided by the University of Massachusetts (Lowell) Counseling Center: "Stress is a response of the body to a variety of internal and external stimuli."

However, experiencing extreme stress for long periods of time keeps the body in a 'fight or flight' mode eventually leading to physical illnesses and nervous breakdowns. Symptoms of stress are familiar: physically, blood pressure increases, headaches occur, breathing becomes shallow, stomachaches intensify, and sleep patterns are disturbed. The Counseling Services of the University of California at Irvine also describes emotional and mental symptoms associated with stress including decreased concentration levels, frequent bouts of anger and depression, feelings of being overwhelmed, fatigue, and even boredom.

What causes stress? Linda Sherman, author of the pamphlet "Stress" and a staff psychologist at the Counseling Center of the University of Oregon, provides several causes. First, stress levels are elevated by anticipation of an event (e.g. test day).

Second, beliefs about an event intensifies stressful symptoms. For example, the belief that a class is too difficult, impractical or boring creates add-on stress to the normal amount of stress that the class already may cause.

Third, a person's personality make-up can hinder or help control stress levels. For example, faced with an assignment the (a) optimistic student can respond to the challenge enthusiastically (a positive stress level) or (b) the pessimistic student can be paralyzed with indecision and lack of motivation (a negative stress level).

The best way to control stress is with relaxation. Sam Houston State University (Texas) discusses options in their information sheet Short Relaxation Techniques where the focus is on the mind and body connection.

Controlling breathing is one suggested method. A stressed person's breathing is shallow and inefficient. Deep breathing not only keeps the body's oxygen supply at peak levels to ensure maximum performance but also forces the body to slow down by actually thinking about the breathing process. By doing this, the mind is refocusing the mind away from the stressor, inhaling deeply through the nose, hold for a few seconds, and exhale through the mouth visualizing the stress being pushed out of the body. Deep breathing takes patience and practice.

Another method described by the information sheet is the process of mental quieting. This can be used in conjunction with deep breathing and is similar to meditative styles. Choose a word (i.e. 'one'), sound (i.e. 'uhm'), or phrase (i.e. 'I am') to think of when taking in a deep breath. As other thoughts arise, softly push them aside with your mind. During the exhale, silently think 'calm.' Again the method takes practice and time.

The overall point of these two techniques is not on eliminating stress (a healthy dose is productive) but on learning to control it in your own advantage.

Linda Ramos is associated with Full Student Services (FSS) which provides word processing, secretarial, and research assistance to college students.
Resolution services works to settle disputes

MAria Chandler
Staff Writer

Having trouble settling a dispute? UCF's Dispute Resolution Services (DRS) can help.

The Resolution Services office is located in the Student Resource Center, Room 155B, between the Counseling and Testing Center and the Housing Office. Resolution Services has been settling disputes since September 1994.

Pete Wallace, program's coordinator, said the DRS has the following goals:
• Bridge to the Community—graduate students meet with apartment managers over roommate troubles
• Outreach programs at community colleges—not up and running yet, hopefully within the next year if not next semester
• High school outreach programs—working with Lake Hale and Lake Mary High Schools to help them improve their programs and for their student mediators to continue at the college level
• Four credit course on practicing academic enhancement—needs proposal by a sponsoring college or by initial funding
• Training sessions—two day session of skills and techniques offered to those interested in becoming a volunteer mediator
• Continuing education seminar—refreshes those skills learned in the training sessions and provides feedback from participants in the subject
• Student Mediation Association—an on-campus club that offers careers in mediation
• Quick assessments

The parties choosing to settle their disputes through the services set their own solutions. The mediators only listen to both sides.

"I think the program is a strong one and it has the potential to do a lot of good for the students here at UCF," said mediator Kristy Glasenapp. "My experiences have always been positive. I have found that people truly want to work out their differences in a mature fashion rather than following the current trend of lawsuits and other litigation."

"Mediation helps students focus more on their education and other achievements, rather than conflict that gets in the way," said Nadine Hoom, DRS student assistant. "According to Dr. Garth Jenkins, associate dean of students and chief judicial officer, the parties get more out of the mediation session because the aggressor is confronted with his or her actions.

"The program is a valuable alternative rather than formal discipline in dealing with a broad range of problems," said Jenkins. "We have had good success with it especially with roommate conflicts."

DRS is open on Mondays from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. and Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Hey guys, how cool is this? As I write this the bowl gods are considering our UCF Golden Knights for a bowl game! I'm a little bit out of the loop so for all I know, Daniele and the boys are out on the field right now preparing for the first bowl game in UCF history. Even if you're not a football fan this has got to make your heart beat just a little bit faster.

I, for one, am a big football fan and just the thought of playing in a post-season bowl puts a smile on my face. But we need to support our team, well, buck up kids, because our next game is going to be a lot farther away than a minute drive.

Unfortunately for all you guys who chose UCF because it was a reasonably low profile school, too bad! We're in the big time now so you might as well accept it. But not only that, you should enjoy it to its fullest extent. Americans are famous for finding ridiculous reasons to drink and party, well, if this isn't one then Labor Day has no business being a major party holiday. This is perhaps the best reason to go to our football games, yet another reason to slack off and procrastinate for a few more hours. Which brings me to the next issue. There seem to be a whole new breed of slackers that take the idea of using the football game as an excuse to party to a whole new level. These people are the chronic tailgaters. These people are the ones that show up first at the parking lot before the game, spare no expense in their tailgating experience, and then never actually enter the game! I'm sorry, but this is a phenomenon that is completely beyond me. They are walking distance from the event that has caused the celebration and yet fail to take part in the real festivities. I'm not sure which is worse, the no-shows or the no-gus.

I realize that there is a good chance that we will get snubbed for any post-season play. I have thought about this and, not to be a cynic, I would just like to thank our Golden Knights for representing us so well. If we don't get into a bowl, that's okay, you guys have led us to the promised land and we're knocking on the door, if it wasn't for you guys we would still be floundering in Division II ball. Not that that was so bad, it's just that you all have shown us what it is to step up.

One expected anything from our football team three years ago when it first moved to Division I, and we figured that five or six wins and a couple of moral wins here and there would be sufficient. But instead you guys have shown us something special. You showed us that UCF and its students can rise above the rest, and that eventually players will be answered if you work hard to make them come true.
Woody’s price of fame

MICHAEL SPINDAE
STAFF WRITER

If there is a cultural value in Celebrity (and for the future’s, yellow journalist image, trust me, there is, there always is, and its big baby, huge!!!) it’s the self-reflexive mirror of cultural reality. A meditation on who and what a star has become in disheveled society. What separates it, say from Robert Altman films and “The Daily Show” (both the grand masters of critically reflexive productions), is the inspiring cinematic spectrum of today’s state of affairs twisted into a timeless aesthetic, feigning black and white cinema (as a black and white film), the historical authenticator.

Observe the People Magazine-like marquee in the papers advertising Celebrity. The story begins with the star—of the stars, Kenneth Branagh, Judy Davis, Famke Jansen, Charlize Theron, Leonardo DiCaprio, Winona Ryder, Joe Mantegna, Melanie Griffith, and Bebe Neuwirth, all stolen from their particular, contextual drifts in the film. Their images are potent reminders that we draw our strongest impressions from our first impressions. Woody Allen has set the stage and the performers do little more than play their parts—to method acting, no faces, just the irony of their own cinematic reflexivity.

And they are hilarious. Melanie Griffith’s “plays” a has-been to open the episodic tale with instruction from her precocious and wholly myopic director, Greg Mortelza, Kenneth Branagh “years” for a greater respect among the socialites as a Celebrity reporter, quite cerimoniously dumping the maturing Judy Davis, who finds herself at a refuge for aging socialites (at the refuge, a celebrity preacher—Benney Hinn? Robert Schuler? Rush Limbaugh?)—arrives and Allen’s self-reflexive humor becomes a dogmatic signifier, the preacher gives autographs just as Melanie Griffith would so Branagh can sell his reporter outfit, in the “polymorphously per-

plains of how a hostage victim becomes famous, not because he is a hero, in the mytharily biblical sense, but he has made the news, worldwide. Later in the film, Mantegna elevates Davis (breaking a promise to his family and championing his new love interest instead) to the level of New York celebrity and informs her that Warhol’s theory of 15 minutes of fame wasn’t meant for everyone, just those who are deserving, like her (naturally). The highlight of Celebrity, and the greatest self-reflexive trick up Allen’s sleeve is casting DiCaprio as a coke sniffing, bitch-slapping, hotel trashing, out of control teen heart throb who proposes a four-some with Branagh and a couple of groupies, a direct and frank criticism of the superstars tabloid persona. Allen seems to be saying, it doesn’t matter whether there is “truth” in these characters, but rather, we have fallen into Dianne’s inferno, because we simply can’t mind our own business. Our business, as stargazers, has become the business of others.

Sub-plots upon sub-plots thicken, to the point of stasis, and Celebrity becomes a formulate and critical comedy, one now cast in a marvelous late ’80’s stone of revelations. Allen seems intent on embarrassing anyone who’s ever found stardom or wish they had, Kitch, like the new Truth anti-tobacco advertisements, dead on, as only the perversions of a 60 something man with a teenage Asian fetish can be.

Dear Dr. Dupane,

I have a boyfriend who watches football all weekend long, every weekend. I’d like some quality time with him. What should I do?

—Nida Tendon, 19

Dear Nida,

Honey, it’s football season. You don’t have too much say in this. Guys like football. Guys have been raised on the fact that they get to lay on the couch all weekend long, remote in hand, beer in the other. You can do a few things: 1) Leave him, but we all know you won’t do that since he’s so good in the sack. 2) Deal with it like most weak little girls who can’t stand up for themselves would do. OR 3) Learn to appreciate football for what it is. Male bonding (no, not male bonding, you sickos). Maybe even learn the game to understand him better. Or if you must, make game days “Girls Day Away” and go shopping or something else that is really girlly. I think you just may be smart enough to figure this out on your own. Face it honey, you won’t change him, lucky for you, though, there’s only two more months. And really, would you rather deal with a macho guy watching football or a woman that watches ice-skating?

Dear Dr. Dupane,

Why do all girls assume I’m trying to get them in bed if I’m trying to be nice? All I want is to have a good time.

—Rodney, 22

Dear Rod-man,

One of two things is going on here. Either you are picking the wrong girl or your approach is a little too rough. Over time, girls have been trained to think that all is well. You can blame your “boys” for that. Unfortunately, girls think this way for a good reason. Let’s slip back to high school for just a moment. Boys wanted sex because all their friends were getting it. And in college, boys want sex because all their friends are getting it. Some things just don’t change. But Rodney, there is a small amount of hope. You need to be 100% honest with a girl. Start off truthful and polite and we will that you are not feeding on a line of crap with impatient intentions. Tell her you love her. Do fun things with her (you’ll get points for creativity). Tell her you want to take it slow and don’t bet your self convinced you should break any of your personal rules. It sucks for guys, I’m sure. There’s nobody to point a finger at, though. That’s just the way it is. Follow my rules, Rodney, and just maybe you’ll get sex anyways.

Get a problem? Nothing is too big or too small for Dr. Dupane. Just e-mail her at DrDupane@hotmail.com
Virtual holidays not as full as you'd think

VICKI DESORMIER
STAFF WRITER

Go into any store in the mall and you KNOW Christmas is coming in less than four weeks. Everything is buy, buy, buy. Presents, cards, clothes, decorations—it’s all there in your face and has been for a couple of months now. But trying to find a free virtual holiday greeting on the internet is like trying to find a country song that doesn’t have any references to guns, lost love or pickup trucks.

What’s going on here?

There are sites for birthday greetings. Sites for Memorial Day greetings. Want a belated Thanksgiving Day greeting? There are a couple of them. Adult greetings? There are a couple that could be used for Christmas card needs, but you sure wouldn’t want to send those to mom. But, for the most part, you had better plan to head on down to your corner card shop and buy the old fashioned kind of card that you have to sign, address, stamp and lug down to the post office.

Of course, there are a few of the good virtual post card sites (I’ll get to that in a minute) that have a couple of selections of Christmas greetings, one or two even have Chanukah cards and there are a couple that have Kwanzaa options, but as far as I can find, there aren’t any that offer a very large selection of free virtual greetings for the season. Christmas really is about making money, isn’t it?

Go on over to Blue Mountain Greetings (www.bluemountain.com) and you can find a whole bunch of real cutey cards, which are appropriate for anyone on your list. They have cards for Christmas, Chanukah, Ramadan, Kwanzaa and even the Winter Solstice. Other than the old Scrooge on your list who doesn’t want to celebrate anything, you can send a free card to anyone on your list. (And there are a few cards in their collection that might even bring a smile to Scrooge as well.)

Byte Size Greetings (http://vh3261.inf.net/index.html) has a couple of Christmas, Chanukah and Kwanzaa cards (actually one of each) that you can choose from and one of everyone’s favorite holiday elf. Not much of a selection, but four more than you’ll find a most other sites.

If you’re feeling creative, you can build your own cards with Volition (http://www.volition.com/bookshop/postcard.html). This cool site has all kinds of pictures and music for you to put together your own cards with your own words and get the card you really want to email to your family and friends. There are 62 images for Christmas cards and 5 for Chanukah. Unfortunately, there are none for Kwanzaas or Ramadan, but there are plenty of images that could be used creatively with your own words to make cards for those occasions as well.

Those would be my top three sites for those who don’t plan to leave the computer screens to send their cards this holiday season. There are other sites where you can find a card or two. Some (like the adult sites, which I can’t get into here) are appropriate for some people and not for others, some allow you to post your greetings on the internet for all the world to see and some even allow you to instant message everyone on your list with the same generic card.

Whatever way you choose to make your greeting, there are not as many options as you might expect. So if you are stuck behind the keyboard between now and the holidays, you can still get some cards out.
Bugs that won't bite back

STEVEN UNGER
STAFF WRITER

It's hard to put on a good performance, especially when you're less than an inch off the ground. But these little bugs sure know how to gather laughter. The creators of Toy Story didn't fail to make an enjoyable cartoon. Disney's magic has the same creativity as before, as well as an abundance of characters with rich color and deep senses of humor. A Bug's Life is the ultimate answer to the successful Antz, with the story and the cast of characters to match.

To put it into perspective, Antz is more like Sparta where there is an authoritarian rule within the colony. A Bug's Life is like the city-state of Athens where a group of peaceful ants are oppressed by a group of giant, hungry, totalitarian grasshoppers. It seems that all the ants worked for were the hungry grasshopper clan, including one lonely ant named Flik, played by Newsmagazine's David Foley. Flik is the brave little ant who has big plans for saving his colony. Kevin Spacey is on the evil side as hopper, who leads the rest of his bullying grasshopper gang against the outnumbering ants. In between there is Seinfeld's Julia Louis-Dreyfus as the princess ant, who constantly accepts and rejects Flik's crazy ideas. The ants in A Bug's Life are more peaceful and joyous. There is also a more diverse cast including spiders, fleas, beetles, moths, and ladybugs that infest the fun.

The detail is more abundant than Toy Story, with colorful scenery and intricate camera angles. As many as 300 individually animated ants appear in a dozen crowd scenes. And some of the computer animation is so crisp and clear the scenes look like Disney filmed it on their front lawn. Even though musician Randy Newman is back with new tunes, the movie is far less musical than Toy Story, and more concentrated on the adventures of these crawling insects.

Flik goes on a journey to help his colony fend off the grasshoppers. On the way he finds a group of circus travelers, and he fools the colony into thinking that they are mighty warrior bugs that will surely defeat the enemy. One of the circus clowns is comedian Denis Leary, who plays Francis the ladybug. Other members of the group include Madeleine Kahn as a butterfly, Jonathan Harris as a praying mantis, John Ratzenberger as P.T. Flea, and Frasier's David Hyde Pierce as D. F. Shy the stick bug.

A Bug's Life is funny, enjoyable computer animation for people of all ages. The characters are diverse and rich with style. Disney and Pixar did a fantastic job creating a miniature world that is always ignored. They used their magic to bring to life a colorful array of humor and fun. So pay attention to the details, and watch where you step.

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Lead Stories

• Entrepreneurs in Wisconsin and South Korea have recently introduced products to encourage cremation as an alternative to burial (in Korea mainly because land for burial is scarce). Two Wisconsin women sell pendants and blown-glass sculptures to display ashes as an alternative to burial (in Korea mainly because in a more attractive setting than in urns. A South

• Pears, evidence. The cause of his change: In February 1998, November 1998 said he is now a gentle man and had an operation would be less complicated than a reattachment although he was not sure all penile functions would be on transsexual women seeking to become

• Tatum, reported that would be on transsexual women seeking to become

• Republic Senator in Arkansas, surgeon Fay Bowen, said during the campaign that a "rape exception" for abortion is not necessary because the stress of rape produces hormonal changes in the woman that prevent conception. He did not produce research but said his statement was based on general knowledge in the medical community.

• In an effort to upgrade her long-shot campaign against incumbent U.S. Sen. John McCain, Arizona Republican Crystal Young, 57, (who beat 8 challengers in the primary), said late in the campaign that the reason she qualifies for Social Security disability payments is the pain she experiences from once having had electromagnetic needles implanted in her body by across Shirley MacLaine denied not meeting Young.

• In an era when Hollywood stars support causes such as Farm Aid, human rights campaigns, and eating child labor, actor Wilfred Brimley became the celebrity spokesperson for Proposition 201, which sought to ban cockfighting and a hand on a man, prominent Italian plastic surgeon Nico Scuderi announced that he was ready to perform the world's first penis transplant and in fact had three potential patients. Scuderi said the operation would be less complicated than a reattachment even though he was not sure all penile functions would be effective. He said his initial operations would be on transsexual women seeking to become men and not merely on men who seek larger genitals. And the next day, China's Xinhua news agency reported that surgeons had constructed a new penis, out of abdominal tissue, for a 6-year-old boy who had an accident.

Election Recap

• Jane Ellis, Clearwater, Fla., candidate for a state House seat, got 27 percent of the vote despite her persistent, inexplicable claims that her opponent, the son of locally well-known U.S. Rep. Michael Bilirakis, was an impostor from out of state, hired to impersonate the younger Bilirakis.

• As in every election, several candidates who died during the campaign remained on the ballot, including Los Angeles County Sheriff Sherill Brown, who took eventual winner Lee Baca down to the wire even though he died four days before the election. In the Yakima, Wash., race for county coroner, incumbant Leonard Lithkebinkie was re-elected, although he died two days before; he was running unopposed because his only challenger, John Reynolds, had died on Sept. 14 and went over the primary (which he won).

• In an upset proportional to Jesse (The Body) Ventura's becoming governor of Minnesota, a challenger to the Mendocino County, Calif., district attorney won, despite the incumbent's saturation of the state association of district attorneys. The new DA is ex-con Norman Vroman, who served time for wire fraud and still owes $1.3 million in back taxes, but is very popular because he favors decriminalization of marijuana, also.

Least Competent Criminal

Police in Watson-Salem, N.C., arrested Sidney Robins Smith, 48, in November after he applied for a checking account at a BB&T bank branch, claiming to be Jerry Cain and possessing Cain's ID. A bank officer called the police. The real Jerry Cain had passed away three weeks earlier after a long illness, a fact known to all at the bank since his widow, Melissa Cain, is a teller there.

Recurring Themes

In July, British climber Alan Hinkes succeeded in scaling the 26,000-foot-high Nanga Parbat in Pakistan, a year after he had to retire from a previous attempt. As reported in Newsweek, in addition to being the highest-rated endorsement of the National Rifle Association, Parks' widow won the race, and Lopez, in jail, still received 571 votes.

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Von Ra: Another O-Town success

MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER
STAFF WRITER

Following a line of successful Central Florida bands including Sister Hazel, Matchbox 20, Backstreet Boys, and N Sync, many people in the local music scene are asking the same question: "Who will be Orlando's next import?" A lot of them are confident that it will be Von Ra.

It's hard to argue that they have not achieved a lot of recognition and success in the local area. Von Ra has been nominated for best band in the Orlando Music Awards. They have opened for numerous national acts at the House of Blues including Sister Hazel, Jeff Healy, Hall and Oates and the Little River Band. WSHE 100.3 has embraced them by playing their singles "Just Waking Up" and "Paw" in regular rotation. They also had Von Ra in the opening act for the Barenaked Ladies at She-bop-a-la II this past July 4th at the Hard Rock Cafe.

So what makes this band different from any of the other local artists in and around Central Florida? There are a number of factors including fan and family support, having a sound that is popular in current alternative/pop/rock music and a lack of other outstanding talent to compete with.

From the beginning, Von Ra has been a family enterprise. The band is led by Vaughan Rhea, the lead vocalist, rhythm guitarist, and songwri ter. David "Boo" Rhea, Vaughan's brother, is the band's bass guitarist and contributes as a songwriter. Barbara Rhea, their mother, is the band's manager and merchandise coordinator. Their father has contributed lyrics, and Vaughan's wife Emma maintains the band's internet website.

Rounding out the members are two long-time friends of Vaughan's Dave "Tinman" Tinney on drums and David Rankin on lead guitar and vocals. Rankin is a recent edition to the band, having joined the group this past spring after the break-up of his funk-rock band Groove Bone. The contribution of Rankin's soulful voice and blinding guitar work hasfirmed up what was the only weak element in the band. He is also contributing as songwriter and adding to the existing guitar leads to earlier Von Ra songs.

Locally the band has sold over 5,000 copies of their 1997 self-produced CD Panes. The CD is a blend of dark, insightful songs that reflect Vaughan and David's experiences coming of age, and dealing with young adulthood. "Drifted Away" was inspired by Vaughan's experience going off to college and deciding to quit so he could concentrate entirely on his music. "Shine" was developed from a poem written by David. "Drinker's Hour" was a contribution by the guys' father. It's a haunting song describing an alcoholic's regret for ruining his life and that of his wife and children. He prays to God for help in fighting his wrongs. Trust, faith, and love are themes that run throughout the CD, especially in the songs "Loved You All Along," "Eyes on the Sky," and "I Need to Care."

In August the band went back into the studio to record several new songs and to re-master some of the tracks from Panes. The new CD, also independently produced, will be available in December. It will be called Native. The band also recorded a live performance in August at Orlando's Sapphire Supper Club. Tracks from this recording can be heard on a CD-ROM that was developed by fans attending Full Sail for recording and production. The CD-ROM contains five Von Ra songs, pictures, and video clips recorded at live performances in and around Orlando.

The band sold-out of the current production Panes when they opened for Sister Hazel at the House of Blues in October. The demand for their music has not gone unnoticed. It has been confirmed by band manager Barbara Rhea that they are speaking to several major labels for signing a deal.

With the support of the local fans, radio stations, and venues, Von Ra is sure to achieve national air play and continued success in the coming year. Now is the time to hear them and be able to say, "I knew them when they were a local band in Orlando." Upcoming dates are 12/22 at Volcano, 12/4 at Wally's in Sanford, 12/12 at the Copper Rocket, 12/18 at Sapphire, and 12/22 at the House of Blues for SHE 100.3's Acoustic Christmas Jam. They also have various bookings at Pointe Orlando. For those who are interested, as well as ordering CDs, hats, and t-shirts, check their website at www.vonra.com.

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go knights!
December 2, 1998

Freshman/Novice Race last Saturday (Nov. 21). Competing in the race with Jacksonville, Miami, Rollins, all-freshman team, has given Janet more.

Dame tailback Autry Denson and quarter­ry completion percentage in leading ber of the 1997 Independent-best 9-2 mark, equal to Notre Dame.

Downs in a three-game stretch. His peiformance earned him Pettit with Culpepper selected as the Steve Young's national record for com­back J arious Jackson, and Louisiana season-ending knee injury in the first half of the 1997.

Community (Orlando), Kelly Warren (13:24) as the only entry (Pompano Beach), Avant, Lauren Roderick (Boca Raton)

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UCF Crew wins four races at Freshman event

The University of Central Florida women's novice crew wrapped up its fall season with four first place finishes at the annual Florida Intercollegiate Rowing Association

Freshman/Novice Race last Saturday (Nov. 21). Competing in the race with UCF were Barry-Florida, Florida Tech, Jacksonville, Miami, Rollins, Stetson and Tampa.

The Novice crew of Lindsay Hoffman (North Ft. Myers), Janet Poole (Apollo Beach), Cindy Wilson (West Hartford, Conn.), Kelly Warren (Orlando), Jennifer Grace (Indian Harbor Beach), Jennifer Pallon (Palm Springs), Diane Avant (Orlando), Kelly Mueller (Orlando) and coxswain Shannon Peer (Orlando) finished 13:33, 27 seconds ahead of sec­ond place Florida.

Jody Hart (Leesburg, Ky.), Karla Pizar (Orlando), Amy Robinson (Valrico), Tiffany Murlink (Grandville, Mich.) and coxswain Pettit rowed the Novice 4+ .B (14:22) to a victory as did the Novice 4+ (14:40) of Grove, Sara Ellerkamp (Pompano Beach), Avant, Lauren Roderick (Boca Rotan) and coxswain Margaret Capps (Torrance, Calif.).

The women's Novice Lightweight 8+ finished first (15:24) as the only entry in the event. The women's varsity and novice crews open its Spring season February 27 at the

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Knights heating up

Chariya Davis scored 28 points in a 90-70 loss to South Carolina last Saturday. UCF had recorded their first win of the season prior to the game against the Gamecocks by defeating Bethune-Cookman behind another solid effort by Davis. Against South Carolina, Kelli Ely scored 17 points and had six assists for UCF; whose next game is Dec. 4 against High Point in the UCF Women's Basketball Classic at the UCF Arena.

Bring A Manatee Home For The Holidays

This holiday season, Adopt-A-Manatee for someone you love and help ensure the survival of these unique animals. For $20, "parents" receive an adoption certificate, a photo and biography of their manatee, a membership handbook and a newsletter subscription. Your contribution will go toward efforts to help protect endangered manatees and their habitat.

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Las Vegas Bowl
Las Vegas Dec. 19 6 p.m. WAC No. 3 vs. Air Alaska
Projection: San Diego State vs. North Carolina
Ford Motor City Bowl
Ponca, Mich. Dec. 23 8:30 p.m. Mid-American champ vs. Air Alaska
Projection: Marshall/Tulsa vs. Louisville
Aloha Bowl
Honolulu Dec. 25 3:30 p.m. Pac-10 No. 4 vs. Air Alaska
Projection: Washington vs Air Force
Mele Kalikimaka Classic
Huntington Dec. 25 8:30 p.m. WAC No. 1 vs. Pac-10 No. 3
Projection: Colorado vs UCF
Insight.com Bowl
Tucson, Ariz. Dec. 26 8 p.m. Big East No. 2 or 3 vs. Notre Dame vs. Big 12 No. 5
Projection: West Virginia vs Missouri
Micron PC Bowl
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Dec. 29 7:30 p.m. ACC No. 4 vs. Big Ten No. 6
Projection: NC State vs Miami/FL
Music City Bowl
Nashville, Tenn. Dec. 29 5:30 p.m. SEC No. 7 vs. Air Alaska
Projection: Oklahoma vs Virginia Tech
Builders Square Alamo Bowl
San Antonio Dec. 29 8:30 p.m. Big 12 No. 4 vs. Big 10 No. 4
Projection: Texas vs Purdue
Humanitarian Bowl
Boise, Idaho Dec. 30 4 p.m. Big West champion vs Conference USA Runner-up
Projection: Idaho vs Southern Miss
Culligan Holiday Bowl
San Diego Dec. 30 8 p.m. Pac-10 No. 2 vs. Big 12 No. 3
Projection: Oregon vs Nebraska
AXA/Equitable Liberty Bowl
Memphis, Tenn. Dec. 31 1:30 p.m. Conference USA champ vs Air Alaska
Projection: Tulsa vs BYU
Norwest Sun Bowl
El Paso, Texas Dec. 31 2 p.m. Pac-10 No. 3 vs. Big 10 No. 5
Projection: USC vs Penn State
Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl
Atlanta Dec. 31 5 p.m. ACC No. 3 vs. SEC TBD
Projection: Virginia vs Kentucky
Sanford Independence Bowl
Shreveport, La. Dec. 31 8:30 p.m. SEC No. 6 vs. Big 12 No. 6
Projection: Ole Miss vs Texas Tech
Outback Bowl
Tampa, Fla. Jan. 1 11 a.m. Big 10 No. 3 vs SEC TBD
Projection: Michigan vs Mississippi State
Toyota Gator Bowl
Jacksonville, Fla. Jan. 1 12:30 p.m. Big East No. 2 or Notre Dame vs ACC No. 2
Projection: Notre Dame vs Georgia Tech
CompUSA Florida Citrus Bowl
Orlando Jan. 1 11 p.m. SEC No. 2 vs Big 10 No. 2
Projection: Georgia vs Ohio State
Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl
Dallas Jan. 1 1:30 p.m. Big 12 No. 2 vs SEC TBD
Projection: Texas vs Oklahoma
Rose Bowl
Pasadena, Calif. Jan. 1 5 p.m. Pac-10 champ vs Big 10 champ
Projection: Arizona vs Wisconsin
Midas Sugar Bowl
New Orleans Jan. 1 8:30 p.m. Bowl Championship Series selections
Projection: Kansas State vs Florida State
FedEx Orange Bowl
Miami Jan. 2 8:30 p.m. Bowl Championship Series selections
Projection: Tennessee vs Florida
Tostitos Fiesta Bowl
Tempe, Ariz. Jan. 4 9 p.m. National championship game
Projection: UCLA vs Tennessee

From Page 20

the encounters between Penn State and Michigan State, Arizona and Arizona State, North Carolina and NC State, and Notre Dame and USC.

Those games were pivotal to UCF's hopes, but weren't as important as what came Monday, when universities scrambled to get into bowls.

The University of Miami reportedly has accepted a bid to the Micron PC Bowl, ending the Knights’ hopes of playing in the Fort Lauderdale game. Michigan State's 51-28 loss to Penn State ended its hopes of being bowl eligible and filling the Big 10's slot in the Micron PC Bowl, opening it up for UCF to fill the vacancy opposite NC State.

However, with Miami wanting to have its post-season set prior to this weekend's game against UCLA, the Hurricanes decided to stay home and play the Wolfpack.

That left the UCF, also known as the Mele Kalikimaka Classic, which had UCF on its short list along with North Carolina.

However, the Tar Heels accepted an invitation to play in the Las Vegas Bowl, giving the Knights in Hawaii a game to spend Christmas in Hawaii.

UCF's probable Micron PC appearance never materialized, but the Knights will be pleased to spend Christmas in Hawaii.

For UCF, that's the best Christmas present of all.

Tune into Photoby Kevin Colber
www.UCFFuture.com

UCF's probable Micron PC appearance never materialized, but the Knights will be pleased to spend Christmas in Hawaii.

UCF Men's Basketball
UCF Golden Knights vs Winthrop University
Wednesday, Dec. 2
7:30 pm

Come to the UCF Arena and watch the Golden Knights slam dunk Winthrop.

For ticket information:
Call: (407) 823-6006

UCF students Free with Valid ID
Tony Mejia  
SPORTS EDITOR

UCF gains needed confidence boost at Michigan State

It's not often that a 23-point loss inspires confidence. However, when your opponent is considered one of the top eight teams in the land, and your team is down six in the second half, it has to have a positive effect.

UCF trailed Michigan State 54-48 with 15 minutes remaining in the second half last week in the opening game of the Coca-Cola Spartan Classic in Lansing, Mich. The Golden Knights raced out of the locker room with a 13-2 run against the Spartans on their home court in their own tournament. It was that confidence, despite the eventual 87-64 loss, that helped UCF in its 61-50 win over UNC-Wilmington in the tournament's consolation game.

"We handled the pressure well. It was something that we took from the Michigan State game," Traina said. "We played well against them, so you figure that if you can play like that against them, you can play like that against anybody."

It was even more critical that the Knights believed in themselves considering the injury problems that were hampering them. Senior Brad Traina wasn't even expected to play against UNC-Wilmington, but was worked on all day by UCF trainer Bill Biaggi, and decided he would start only 12 minutes before game time. Biaggi was a busy man prior and during the game.

Point guard Cory Perry awoke at 7 a.m. and immediately began treatment in preparation for the contest. During the game, Mario Lovett and Davin Granberry were worked on as well. Everyone fought through it, especially Traina.

"I didn't get much sleep due to the pain and it was just painful," Traina said. "When I went through stretching and warmups and started feeling better."

The effort impressed Speraw, whose team was animated and intense despite their ailments.

"That was the most toughness we've shown in the last three or four years as far as individuals playing through injuries," Coach Kirk Speraw said.

UCF held Michigan State point guard Mateen Cleaves, a preseason All-American, to only three points in their contest. Their only glaring weakness was rebounding, as they allowed the Spartans multiple opportunities to score on every possession. Still, it's a learning process, and the effort is there. Now the confidence appears to be at a peak as well.
Bowl-bid scramble leaves UCF hoping for invitation

TONY MEJIA
SPORTS EDITOR

Nothing is ever easy for the University of Central Florida. Late Monday night, after schools were finished shuffling for positioning in the various bowls, UCF appeared down to one last chance. Fortunately, the final hope came true.

The Aloha Bowl, part of the Jeep Aloha Christmas Classics, invited the Golden Knights to participate in the first-ever double header of bowl games. Quite fitting for a university which will make the first bowl appearance in its history. But there is an if in the equation. They needed help last week, and need one more result to go their way. The bid is contingent on UCF defeating the University of Miami this Saturday afternoon, leaving UCF in a position in which they have to root for someone else.

UCF coaches, players, and fans were glued to their television sets this past weekend, watching with a rooting interest.

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Toni Culpepper was among many watching other contests this weekend to see where UCF would end up in the bowl scramble.

Hoops Du Jour

Results from this week's men's and women's basketball games.
www.UCFfuture.com

Bowl coverage

Check for updates on UCF's invitation to the Aloha Bowl.
www.UCFfuture.com

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