SGA Computer Lab receives half of requested budget

SHELLEY WILSON
STAFF WRITER

The Senate’s biggest responsibility is to allocate the UCF Emergency Service Fee, which all students pay. Different UCF clubs and organizations request money from this fee 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 C&O funds strictly registration, travel, lodging, and office supplies and can fund $1,000 a year. OAF handles programming, projects, and special requests such as guest speakers

Charlie Lee is C&O’s Chair and said he sees more funding than before. “A lot of clubs do come to us and overall, they’re happy with the results,” Lee said.

However, one organization owned by Student Government requested money and was not pleased with the allocation of the fee.

In the 1998-’99 Activity and Service Fee Budget, the SGA Computer Lab requested $31,750 for its annual budget. The Activity and Service Fee Committee recommended $29,730 for the lab; but in the end, the Lab received only half of that ($14,730) which was the amount suggested by the OAF Committee.

An addendum budget for the lab was sent to SG President Jason Murphy, from the Lab’s Manager, Shawn Stafford, in late October requesting funds be added to the Lab account through a transfer of funds.

The budget stated that the Lab’s current funds were already allocated and these funds would provide the Lab with enough funds to operate the Lab through May ’99.

The components on the STANDARDS, Page 3

Garden project will honor UCF retirees

STACEY COPPELAND
STAFF WRITER

Ask any UCF alumni 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 Azita Dashtaki, 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 prompted 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.

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

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

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SHELLEY WILSON
STAFF WRITER

Taylor Sikes poses with his hero, Willie Nelson, following a concert in October.

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 cover songs 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

COUNTRY, Page 6
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 'Ahhhhhhhh! 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 I 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.

The first was University Relations 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 Restaurants is the world’s largest full-service restaurant and is 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 McCuney, 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 anti-drug organization in Central Florida which raised $13 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 LYNX 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 all students 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 the university activities beyond the classroom. It also participates with Junior Achievement, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Adopt a Highway, McDonald House. Additionally, this coed business fraternity has worked with many area businesses and taken numerous corporate tours such as MPInvest, Orlando Arena, Orlando International Airport, Hughes Supply, Channel 2 and Team Disney.

Alpha Kappa 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 at 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 collegiate fraternities with more than 140,000 members of which 4500 are currently at UCF. Nu Chi Chapter has grown to over 75 members.

Students suffer from lack of computers

FROM PAGE 1

addendum were three new computers, one Minitower, two scanners, Photoshop 5.0, two fax drives, supplies, repairs, and operating software. The three computers, the Mac Minitower which helps the front desk handle system administration, eight months of office supplies, and eight color poster printers were turned down by the Government.

The reason given to Stafford was that a new technology committee was in the works. “I was told I would be on it, so we’ll see what happens with it,” Stafford said.

Stafford admits that although computer services are very expensive, it’s the students that suffer from not receiving the students.

“When there’s more than one person waiting for a computer there’s a need. Just one more computer could alleviate some of that,” Stafford said.

According to OAF Chair David Siegel, the Lab made two requests for around $20,000 each that he said were not in the annual budget of the Computer Lab. He also said the Lab wanted the SG President to draw from his account.

Doug O’Brien, programmer analyst for SG, said the request did not ask for money from a specific account. “It’s not up to us where the money comes from, that’s the Finance Committee’s job. We just submitted a request,” he said.

As a finance committee member, Siegel told the SG President his concerns about the space in the Lab.

“Told Jason I didn’t know how well our copy center is going to be used if that does happen,” O’Brien said.

In regards to why the Lab did not receive the computers, Siegel explained that the fund that was allocated.

Siegel said: “If we’re going to do an upgrade, which we did fund, let’s do it the right first time. We also funded their supplies and the things they needed to keep going.

“I think the Lab is in very good shape. I see state-of-the-art equipment being used in that room that can only be wired for so many stations. We bought 50 computers only two years ago, so I don’t see how the Lab is coming to a halt because we said we wanted to look at a long-term strategy.”

O’Brien said the next step for the Lab was to work on requests on the annual budget.

According to Stafford, the goal is to run the Lab for the students. "My goal is to actually help the students that come in the Lab the best way I can. We’d love to have the need unless you’re that student waiting for a computer to use," Stafford said.
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 local 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 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 bikes.

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. Guadnek’s ‘Art Happenings’ class, wanted to do something 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.

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
• 11 a.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 XL106.7 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

UCF Memorial will include a Pegasus

Student Union. The lot will be made into a green belt with a large structure in the center. The structure, shown in the drawing, will consist of five black granite walls pointing inward in a circle with a Pegasus encased in a metallic sphere at the center.

The Pegasus will hang approximately 12 feet above the ground. Oak trees will be planted around the memorial. The name of each honoree will be inscribed on the stone surfaces of the five walls and new names will be added annually and more trees planted in memory of those who died during the previous year.

The campus memorial and related horticulture are estimated to cost approximately $165,000 - $200,000. The UCTRA has teamed up with the UCF Foundation to head up a campaign to raise the money to build the memorial. The UCF Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation that encourages, solicits, receives and administers private gifts and funds received by the university. All gifts to UCF are received and processed through the Foundation. "We hope to have all the costs met entirely by private contributions," said Ellis. "We're raising funds, first on campus, then we're going out into the community and to friends of the university."

Construction is expected to begin in 1999 with a formal dedication planned as early as 2000. For more information, contact the UCF Retirement Foundation or the UCF Foundation.
Country music star fulfills hero status

LINDA RAMOS
STAFF WRITER

Stress is necessarily 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 'flight or fight' mode eventually leading to physical illnesses and nervous breakdowns.

Symptoms of stress are familiar. Physically, blood pressure increases, headaches arise, 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) pessimistic student can be paralyzed by 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 up at peak levels to ensure maximum performance but also forces the body to slow down by actually thinking about the breathing process; thereby refocusing the mind away from the stressor. Lahale 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. 'ahm'), 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 exhalte, 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 is to your advantage.

Linda Ramos is associated with Full Student Services (FSS) which provides word processing, tutoring and research assistance to college students.

Stress overload hinders performance

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?" asked 28-year-old Monette UCF student and 2nd-year friend of mine from UCF. I responded yes and joined his 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 let myself when I meet him don't laugh at me," Monette warned. During our 20 minutes waiting in line I began thinking about Willie Nelson. I found myself amazed with my perception of him. He was a grandfather, I said, his face has been to hell and back. He has been married and divorced several times. I think for most of the seventies he was either stoned or drunk. In the mid-eighties, Nelson lost all his hair grow long. And how he

wrote songs about the IRS. But through the years, his unyielding personality and the generosity of his spirit seemed immovable to me.

I thought about the gall Nelson had to be one of the first country stars to go against Nashville's clean-cut standards of short hair by letting his red hair grow long. And how he wrote songs about the things he loved: honky-tonks, cowboys, and getting drunk, always with a camera.

As my mind continued to trail forward I noticed some commotion off about what Nelson was like, a grandfather.

As I waited my turn, 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 a person, sign autographs, taking pictures or just talking. As I waited my turn, I started to get nervous. I had learned. I saw that people can be who they say and appear to be. This gives me hope in my perception of others. Meeting 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.
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 Wales 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 Host, 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.
Hey guys, how cool is this? As you know the big boys are considering our UCF Golden Knights for a bowl game. I'm a little bit out of the loop so for all I know, Danneels 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 one thing we must consider as the UCF faithful is that if we do make it to a bowl, we must show up! At our last home game where we played against the University of New Mexico only a little more than 19,000 fans showed up to congratulate our team on the great season. 10,000! I understand that for die-hard football fans this was a tough day to stay away from the television but, 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 than 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 football. Not that that was so bad, it's just that you all have shown us what it is to step up.

No 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 raised our standards to something special. You showed us that UCF and its students can rise above the rest, and that eventually players will be answered if you respect their feelings.

Opinions in the Central Florida Future are those of the newspaper or its editorial board. Written letters must be typed and include the author's signature and phone number. Letters are subject to editing for space and grammar and become the property of the newspaper. The Central Florida Future is a semi-weekly newspaper published weekly by Danneels Publishing, Inc. and is not associated with the University of Central Florida.

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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-reflective mirror of cultural reality. A meditation on who and what a star has become in this here society. What separates it, say from Robert Altman films and "The Daily Show" (both the grand masters of critically reflective production), 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 behind the region of the stars, Kenneth Branagh, Judy Davis, Famke Janssen, Charlie 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 facades, just the irony of their own cinematic reflexivity.

And they are hilarious. Melanie Griffith "plays" a has-been to open the episodic tale with instruction from her precocious and wholly myopic director, Greg Mottola. Kenneth Branagh "years" for a greater respect among the socialites as a Celebrity reporter, quite ceremoniously dumping the maturing Judy Davis, who finds herself at a refuge for aging socialites (as the refuge, a celebrity preacher—Benney Hind? Robert Schuler? Rush Limbaugh?)—arrives and Allen's self-reflective humor becomes a domineering signifier, the preacher gives autographs just as Melanie Griffith would) so Branagh can sell his reporter oats, in the "polypharmacously per-plains of how a hostage victim becomes famous, not because he is a hero, in the martyred 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 cutting DiCaprio us a coke sniffing, bitch slapping, hotel trashing, out of control teen heart throb trash who proposes a fourth 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 Dante's inferno, because we simply can't mind our own business. Our business, as stalkers, has become the business of others. Sub-plots upon sub-plots thicken, to the point of stasis, and Celebrity becomes a formulaic and successful comedy, one now cast in a marvelous late 90's stone of revelations. Allen seems intent on embarrassing anyone who's ever found stardom or wish they had, kitsch, like the new Truth anti-tobacco advertisements, dead on, as only the perversion of a 60 something man with a teenage Asian fetish can be.

Kenneth Branagh, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Gretchen Mol are just a few of the 200 plus speaking parts in Celebrity, Woody Allen's quest for stardom.
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 pick-up 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 those 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 cute 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 are few cards in their collection that might even bring a smile to Scroogie 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.
A colorful troupe of bug performers arrive on Ant Island at the invitation of Flik (right) in the new computer-animated adventure A Bug's Life.

STAFF WRITER

Bugs that won't bite back

STEVEN UNGER

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 Newsradio'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 slim 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.
Lead Stories

"Entrepreneurs in Wisconsin and South Korea have recently introduced products to encourage cremation as an alternative to burial (in Korea mainly because a Korean man stumbled upon a way to treat ashes at ready to perform the world's first penis transplant and ex-girlfriend, but at his sentencing hearing in evidence. The cause of his change: In February 1998, in fact had making threats in 1996 while trying to recruit a penis surgeon Nicolo Scuderi announced that he was going to attempt to transplant a penis to a potential patient. Scuderi said the process of the operation would be: As in every episode, several candidates who died during the campaign remained on the ballot, including Los Angeles County Sheriff Sherman Blocks, who was never in the race. He had been more than 14 days before the election. The deceased Banks was one of eight Tennessee state senators to receive the highest endorsements of the National Rifle Association. Banks' widow won the race, and Loop, in jail, still received 571 votes.

Lease Most Criminal

Police in Winter-Salem, N.C., arrested Sidney Reuben Smith, 48, in November after he applied for a cooling account at the Blue Cross and the primary care. Banks had been more than 14 days before the election. The deceased Banks was one of eight Tennessee state senators to receive the highest endorsements of the National Rifle Association. Banks' widow won the race, and Loop, in jail, still received 571 votes.

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. According to his wife, he spent his nights writing about the experiences he had had. He then wrote a book about the experience, which resulted in a pulled back muscle that made further climbing impossible.

(Author's Note: This is a fictional story for the purpose of entertainment.)
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 "Pow" in regular rotation. They also had Von Ra as the opening act for the Barenaked Ladies at She-bop-a-la-ll 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 songwriter. 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.

Dancing out the members are two long-time friends of Vaughan's Dave "Tinman" Tinnney 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 GrooveBone. The contribution of Rankin's soulful voice and blinding guitar work has firmed up what was the only weak element in the band. He is also contributing as a 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 righting his wrongs. Trest, 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 12/2 at Volcano, 1/24 at Wolfy'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 November Christmas Jam. They also have various bookings at Pointe Orlando. For those showieres, as well as ordering CDs, hats, and t-shirts, check their website at www.vonra.com.

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The Student Government of UCF would like to extend you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. This is an invite to our holiday gathering for all students and family.

When: Thurs. Dec. 3rd
Where: Student Union Cape Florida Ball Room
Time: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Please bring two canned food goods to help feed and support the First National Food Bank of Orlando.

go knights!
Culpepper named Independent MVP, three others on First-Team

Senior quarterback Daunte Culpepper and three teammates were named to the Football News All-Independent team, with Culpepper selected as the Independent Player of the Year.

Culpepper was selected over Notre Dame tailback Autry Denson and quarterback Jim Druckenmiller of Penn State.

Penn verbally commits to Knights

Former South Carolina quarterback Victor Pettit, a member of the 1997 SEC all-freshman team, has given Janet Jefferson's Penn football program a verbal commitment.

Pettit said he left South Carolina for Garden City (Kans.) Community College after his redshirt freshman season when it appeared his playing time would be limited as a sophomore.

Penn took over for Anthony Wright when he suffered a season-ending knee injury in the first half of the 1997 Tennessee game. Pettit was 43-for-93 (.462) with three touchdowns in a three-game stretch. His performance earned him the Knoxville News Sentinel all-freshman team.

Pettit will enroll in May, missing spring practice, but could be a major factor in the quarterback race to replace the departing Culpepper.

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 Tech, Jacksonville, Miami, Rollins, Stetson and Tampa.

The Novice crew of Lindsay Hoffman (North P. Myers), Janet Poole (Apollo Beach), Cindy Wilson (West Hartford, Conn.), Kelly Warren (Orlando), Christina Donahue (Orlando), Kelly Mueller (Orlando) and coxswain Shannon Pettit (Pt. Myers) finished in 13:33, 27 seconds ahead of second-place Florida.

Jody Hart (LaGrange, Ky.), Karli Pazar (Orlando), Amy Robinson (Valrico), Tiffany Murlin (Grandville, Mich.) and coxswain Pettit rowed the Novice 4+ (+14:22) to a victory as did the Novice 4 (14:48) of Grove, Sara Ellerkamp (F Pontrio Beach), Avani, Lauren Rodinrich (Boca Raton) 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 in Spring season February 27 at the Keuper Cup Regatta in Fellsmere.

Free tickets to award show

Disney Sports, which is running the Home Depot College Football Award Show, is offering free tickets to UCF students. The show, which will be telecast on ESPN Thursday, December 10 at 8 p.m., will take place at the Theater of the Stars at Disney-MGM Studios.

UCF Crew coxswain Colleen Culpepper will be up for a couple of awards in the quarterback category, and students are encouraged to go out and make the trip and support him.

Students can call 24 hours a day at 1-800-550-4651 in order to reserve their tickets which will be free of charge.

In addition to all of college football's brightest stars, among those in attendance will be the ESPN college football crew: Chris Fowler, Lee Corso, and Kirk Herbstreit.
UCF wary of impressive Eagles

FROM PAGE 20

"They're a tough team. We happened to catch their score against Minnesota and were impressed," said senior Brad Traina. "Hopefully we'll be healed enough to play effectively against them."

UCF has injuries to nearly everyone on its team. Only center Bucky Hodge is healthy among the starters. Traina has a badly bruised leg and back problems, junior Mario Lovett is hoping to recover from a hip flexor injury, Cory Perry has an injured hand, and D'Quarius Stewart has hamstring troubles. On the bench, Davin Granberry is suffering from a sprained ankle, while Inyo Cue, Beronti Simms, and Jason Thornton are all somewhat banged up. Following the game against Winthrop, the Knights won't play again until Dec. 11 at Miami, giving them plenty of time to heal. However, healing is the last thing on their minds heading into this game.

"We have to respect this team. It will be nice to play them at home," Traina said. "We have to come up with the same defensive intensity and hope our offense continues to run smoothly and feeds off our defense."

Traina leads the Knights with 15.8 points per game despite the injuries he's had to deal with. Lovett has also been key, averaging 9 points and 9 rebounds an outing. They'll need to continue the production to survive Winthrop, whose new coach, Greg Marshall has been an assistant at the College of Charleston the past few years. Winthrop has played UCF every year since 1992, winning only once during that stretch, 83-78, at the UCF Arena behind 25 points from Waterman.

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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Projection:San Diego State vs North Carolina  
Ford Motor City Bowl  
Pompa, Mich. Dec. 23 8:30 p.m.  
Mid-American champ vs Air-large  
Projection:Marshall/Tulsa vs Louisville  
Aloha Bowl  
Honolulu Dec. 25 3 p.m.  
 Pac-10 No. 4 vs. Air-large  
Projection:Washington vs Air Force  
Mele Kalikimaka Classic  
Honolulu Dec. 25 8:30 p.m.  
WAC No. 1 vs. Pac-10 No. 5  
Projection:Colorado vs UCF  
Insight.com Bowl  
Tucson, Ariz. Dec. 26 1 p.m.  
Big East No. 2 or 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-large  
Projection:Alabama vs Virginia Tech  
Builders Square Aloha 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 champ vs Conference USA Runners-up  
Projection:Idaho vs Southern Miss  
Colgillan 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-large  
Projection:Tulane 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  
Greensboro, 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 12:30 p.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 1 p.m.  
SEC No. 2 vs. Big 10 No. 2  
Projection:Georgia vs Ohio State  
Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl  
Dallas Jan. 1 12:30 p.m.  
Big 12 No. 2 vs. SEC TBD*  
Projection:Texas A&M vs Arkansas  
Rose Bowl  
Pasadena, Calif Jan. 1 1 p.m.  
Pac-10 champ vs. Big 10 champ**  
Projection:Arizona vs Wisconsin  
Neka Sugar Bowl  
New Orleans Jan. 1 8:30 p.m.  
Bow Championship:Series selections  
Projection:Kansas State vs Florida State  
FedEx Orange Bowl  
Miami Jan. 2 8:30 p.m.  
Bow Championship:Series selections  
Projection:Syracuse vs Florida  
Tostitos Fiesta Bowl  
Tempe, Ariz. Jan. 4 9 p.m.  
National championship game  
Projection:UCLA vs Tennessee  
This takes into effect the fact that UCLA’s loss vs. Notre Dame was automatically effective due to the WAC title. But the win for Michigan State over Penn State gives Michigan State a 51-28 loss to Penn State in the Michigan PC bowl. That’s a Big Ten loss in the Michigan PC bowl, opening it up for UCF to fill that slot. However, with their hopes of being bowl eligible and filling the Big Ten slot for the Michigan bowl, the Hurricanes decided to stay home and play the Wolfpack. That left the Oahu bowl, also known as the Mele Kalikimaka Classic, which had UCF on short list along with North Carolina. However, the Tar Heels accepted the invitation to play in the Las Vegas bowl, the first game of the bowl season, on Dec. 19. These events landed the Golden Knights in Hawaii to play WAC champion Air Force or Colorado on ESPN, Christmas night. For UCF, that’s the best Christmas present of all.
UCF Women's Basketball Classic

WHO
UCF
Northern Iowa
High Point
Canisius

WHEN
Friday, December 4th &
Saturday, December 5th

GAME TIMES
6:00 pm &
8:00 pm

WHERE
UCF Arena

Tickets are $10 for a two-day pass,
$7 for individual day pass and
Kids 5 and under are free.

UCF gains needed confidence boost at Michigan State

Tony Mejia
Sports Editor

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.

"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.
Aloha means hello. Aloha means goodbye.

Senior center Bucky Hodge is the lone UCF healthy UCF starter.

Knights aim to top Winthrop before the extended break

UCF is looking forward to their upcoming week off. They are injured, tired, and coming off three road games. They also have another game to play before that break. Winthrop, out of the Big South Conference, will visit the UCF Arena Wednesday night. The Eagles are coming off a nine-point loss to the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis last week. Led by point guard Tyson Waterman, Winthrop is expected to make a run at its conference championship and automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Tony Mejia SPORTS EDITOR

Bowl-bid scramble leaves UCF hoping for invitation

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.

UCF's bowl bid is based on the condition that the school had a bid to the Aloha Bowl. The Jeep Aloha Christmas Classics is the first time a bowl game doubleheader has ever been held.

The bid is based on the condition that UCLA (10-0) beats Miami (7-3) on Saturday, sending UCLA to the WAC championship this Sunday. The matchup would be an enjoyable one that Larry Klompus, CEO of Bowl Games of Hawaii, would love to showcase.

“UCF is in their third year of I-A and Coach Kruczek has done a wonderful job in getting them to 9-2,” Klompus said.

“A lot of people overlook teams not necessarily with the bigger names but have done a great job and our bowl is all about a reward for the kids and a reward for a great season. We have people to call, things to check out with the networks and other people like that, but when push comes to shove, we want to give Air Force a team that has a recognizable number of wins.”

Klompus said UCF and Air Force should be a great draw on Christmas night. The broadcast will be shown on ESPN at 8:30 p.m.

“We have a game in prime time on Christmas night and we have a team in Air Force that scores 30 points a game and you have a team in UCF that scores 35 points a game,” Klompus said. “We want to be entertaining to the viewers who are tuning in after a long Christmas Day at 8:30 at night. It has to be an entertaining show.”

It will cost about $4 million to operate the doubleheader, including payments of $750,000 minimum to each team.

Daunte honored

Culpepper chosen by Football News as the Independent MVP.

Confidence gained

UCF's men's basketball team had a solid showing at Michigan State.

Bowl coverage

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

Hoops Du Jour

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

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