Teaching academy in the works at UCF

Stacey Copeland
STAFF WRITER

UCF is growing once again. Recently, over 100 central Florida educators voiced their approval for a new teaching academy now in the planning stages at UCF.

Educational administrators, teachers, students, and concerned parents recently gathered on campus to help experts in the College of Education define the role of the proposed academy, which will be built adjacent to the Education building. The academy and its programs would include:

• A model K-12 school where both new and continuing teachers could polish their skills.

• Creation of uniform standards for all central Florida school districts.

• A system of mentoring and training new teachers.

• Discipline problem solving seminars.

Education Dean Sandra Robinson said: "I'm absolutely thrilled about the new academy in the works. UCF will definitely benefit from the collective wisdom of all the people associated with this project."

Students and graduates readily agree with Robinson's observation. Shelley Ruiz, a recent graduate of the Early Childhood Education Program, is now teaching second grade in Palm Beach County.

Ruiz said, "An on-campus school would be an excellent addition to the education program at UCF. Nothing can prepare you to teach more than actually being in a classroom to observe what goes on. It gives you a good idea of what to expect when you graduate. Interning and working in real-life situations often provides you with some of the most valuable experience you will get while you are still in school."

Ruiz also agrees with the administrators' plans to address discipline problems in the classroom. She added, "It seems like many education students are not fully prepared to teach when they graduate because they haven't been taught how to handle discipline problems. As a first-year teacher, it is something I have to deal with a lot and I think much more time should be devoted to it before new teachers are placed in real-life situations."

The academy will also be used to streamline the teacher training process. Special speakers will find it much easier to come to the academy and be able to reach a larger audience instead of having to travel to all 11 school districts in the area.

The academy is estimated to cost approximately $6.5 million. Planners involved with the academy will spend the next year defining goals and determining what needs to be done to accommodate the needed programs. The building is slated to open in 2002.

Outsmarting thieves:

What you need to know

Gwen R. Rhodes
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Recent police reports reveal that theft is still the most common crime on the UCF campus and the surrounding UCF student community.

Police working for colleges nationwide logged 102,001 incidents of theft in 1996, according to Security on Campus, Inc., an organization that encourages students to guard against crime.

The UCF area has been hit hard with auto burglaries in the past few years. According to Cpl. Marian Halogreen, Orange County Sheriff's Office and Ofc. Jeannette Emer of the UCF Police Department, items targeted are CDs, books, radios, purses and backpacks. A large number of the burglaries have also occurred in the nearby apartment complexes.

"Many of these burglaries can be prevented if students would take the steps to lock their cars, keep valuables out of view and park in a well-lit area," said Halogreen. "Leaving items where they can be seen is a temptation. If they are not where they can be seen, they will present no temptation.

"If they don't see the items, maybe they'll leave your car alone," she said.

According to Emer and Halogreen, the holiday season is an especially busy time for thieves. Emer said, "Keep in mind that the holidays are coming. Thieves will do their shopping from you and your vehicle. Sometimes they will follow you to your car. Always be observant and aware of your surroundings."

If spending a day shopping, place packages in your trunk after looking around to see who may be watching. If you see someone suspicious, go back to the shopping area and report it to security. Most malls have escorts during the holidays. Don't hesitate to use this service.

Police urge drivers to:

• Park the car in a well-lit area.

• Lock the door to your car.

• Turn off your car before you enter stores.

• Pay attention to what's going on around you.

• Register your bike with the police department.

• Check your car regularly.

• Engrave your name in your books.

• Engrave your stereo, VCR or computer.

• Give your name to the security guards.

• Give your name in your books.

• Keep a list of the serial numbers assigned your appliances, and other valuables.

• Register your bike with the police department.

• Check your car regularly.

• Pay attention to what's going on around you.

Guidelines to prevent theft:

• Prior to going shopping, make a list of what you need.

• Put your name, or easily identifiable mark on your valuables, even if it's your favorite sweater, computer disc or pair of pants.

• Use a laundry pen and write something on the label inside. Write your name in your books. Engrave your stereo, VCR or computer.

• Lock the door to your car. Lock the door to your room.

• Keep a list of the serial numbers assigned to your appliances, and other valuables.

• Register your bike with the police department.

• Check your car regularly.

• Pay attention to what's going on around you.

Extra precautions:

Be careful in the dark

Maria Chandler
STAFF WRITER

Walking through a poorly lit parking lot alone is enough to send chills through some people's bodies, but to others, it is paradise.

Parking lots in front of the Visual Arts Building and across from the Humanities and Fine Arts Building are dimly lit at night, Richard D. Paradise, director of Physical Plant, said he is aware of this, but there is no funding available to do anything about it.

Originally, money left over from the completion of the parking garage located next to the Education Building was to be used for a designed system of lighting in those two parking lots. Instead, the money was used toward the construction of the second parking garage.

MORE, Page 4
VUCF director makes philanthropy a lifestyle

Taylor Sikes
Staff Writer

"My heart is in this," said Melissa Zelniker, a 21-year-old senior at UCF, majoring in legal studies and criminal justice.

"I feel like God has given all of us some kind of talent, whether it be for sports or something else, but the one thing that we all have is the ability to give to others," she said.

Zelniker spent the whole day with her buddy and said she loved every minute of it. She has not missed a Special Olympics since.

After her experience with the Special Olympics, Zelniker found other ways to get involved with helping others. She began working with her mother, who taught classes on the education and prevention of the AIDS virus. Zelniker organized bringing her mom’s teaching to her high school to share with her friends.

She said she has had friends and family die from the disease, so its reality hits her every day. Through her mother’s program, Zelniker also became hospice certified. This allowed her to work with patients who were suffering from AIDS or other terminal illnesses.

"Even if you are sitting in a nursery home and playing cards with someone, there is no way that you can’t be touching their life," said Zelniker. "If every person took the time out everyday to do a random act of kindness and touch someone else’s life then you know how much better this world would be."

When high school ended, Zelniker left home for the University of Florida. In the fall of 1996, she left Gainesville in search of a university in a bigger city, which met her Miami-sized standards. Orlando met her approval and she transferred to UCF as a sophomore. She rushed Zeta Tau Alpha sorority that fall and began planning service projects, which included picking up trash along highways and working with the Special Olympics. Zelniker remembers one moment with a victim. "We had one woman come into the office and she was just a wreck. She was bleeding and bruised. The first thing she did was start yelling at me. She reached across the table, touched my hand, and said, "I am just here to help you." She just started bawling. Later she told me that was the first time in ten years she had a nice touch."

This fall Zelniker started working for Volunteer UCF as its director. She said she works about 30 hours a week, but only gets paid for ten. Her role is mostly administrative, which she said is often frustrating for her. "I miss being in the field," said Zelniker. "I am always at the Special Olympics or Habitat for Humanity, but now I am busy getting other people involved. I get upset about it a lot.

Sometimes Zelniker finds the job very rewarding. One example of this is when Volunteer UCF promoted organ donor cards at a recent football game, where more than 3,500 cards were distributed.

"To have such an impact on so many students, that is where my job as an administrator starts to feel good," said Zelniker. "When I actually see reactions on people’s faces, it is exciting. To motivate a college student is difficult, but to get them involved in something like this can be life-changing."

Zelniker is balancing her service projects with other campus activities like serving on the President’s Service Council as a Student Government senator, and working at her studies. She was also nominated for Homecoming Queen.

Zelniker said she is set to graduate in the spring and sees herself going to law school. She is not sure exactly what she will do, but said she is sure work with the needy is in her future.

"I just want to do something for the public sector. It means doing pro bono work that is okay because the money is not important to me," said Zelniker. "Whether people understand it or not, in order to be happy in life you must give to other people."

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Death poll sheds light on age-old fear

Nicole King
NEWS EDITOR

Are you scared of death? Do you know where you are going? If you were near the Visual Arts Building on Dec. 2 you might have been asked these questions. As an assignment for her Art Happenings class, UCF student Andrea Token took to the sidewalk last Wednesday and asked students their opinions on death.

Token had three cardboard cutouts of caskets set up from 10-11 a.m. Her goal was to determine whether or not society has been de-sensitized to death through the media.

"Someone I knew had died and it started me wondering if people ever thought about death," Token said. "On TV they always show you dying; bombings, shootings, massacres. I was trying to figure out if people were scared of it."

"I didn't want to get into religion or anything, so I tried to keep the questions to 'yes' or 'no' answers."

Token said during her one-hour survey, she found that 104 people said they were not afraid of dying, while 28 said they were and four said they either did not know or care. Ninety-eight were concerned about where they are going, but 35 were not.

"I learned that either people don't care about death or they're not scared at all," Token said.

"Overall though, I think people care where they're going."

Essay exams give students a chance to show off skills

Linda Ramos
STAFF WRITER

Some students love 'em, some students hate 'em: the essay exam. Essay exams are more subjective than the traditional multiple choice and true/false tests. They are also more suited to a student's benefit by allowing students to "show off" all the studying they have actually done.

Essays also serve other educational purposes. According to the Counseling Center of George Washington University, the goals of an essay include: application of principles, organizational skills, analytical reasoning, and construction of thesis statements with supporting details.

Carol Kanar in "The Confident Student" provides tips for answering essays.

First, make sure you answer them! Not answering an essay guarantees no points. The number of points or percentage weight an essay carries indicates how important the essay will be graded by the professor.

Write in complete sentences unless otherwise stated in the question. In addition, if you are completely unfamiliar with the essay topic, don't try to compensate by overwriting gibberish hoping to make it "sound right." Instead, use the information you did learn from studying to write about issues that are related, even if remotely, to the topic. Again, some credit is better than no credit.

Kevin Paul of "Study Smarter, Not Harder" describes an effective technique for handling the essay exam.

First, after reading the question, take 3-5 minutes to write a mini-outline. Then just write and don't stop until the essay is completed. Worry about spelling and grammar later.

Second, restate the question in the introductory paragraph so that the professor knows you are answering the correct question.

Third, insofar as the essay's content is concerned, explain your reasoning with concrete, logical supporting examples. Write neatly and clearly. If there are any errors, draw a single, clear line over the phrase.

Lastly, work within time restrictions; however, should you run out of time, complete the essay by writing the remaining information in outline form. This lets the professor know that although you ran out of time, you knew exactly what you wanted to write.

Most students run into problems with the essay question itself.

There are common key words which tell you what to write and how to present it.

Brenda Smith in "Bridging the Gap: College Reading" has defined some key words which should be circled or underlined when seen in an essay question:

- Compare/Contrast: Write about similarities and differences
- Evaluate, Interpret: Examine the pros and cons as well as the topic's significance
- Describe, Explain: Focus on the topic's characteristics, causes, effects, process
- Illustrate, Diagram: Use examples, draw tables or charts
- List, Outline, Trace: Itemize, present main ideas and details, show the progression step by step

Remember to always leave time at the end of an essay for proofreading, editing, spell-checking, and grammar corrections.

Linda Ramos is associated with Fall Student Services (FSS) which provides word processing/typing and research assistance to college students.
More lights to go up on campus

FROM PAGE 1

parking garage located near the Creole Building. Despite this setback, improvements have been made.

Parking said in the last five years, $150-175,000 has been spent on lighting. For example, lights have been placed on the Biology Engineering and Business Administration Buildings as well as the portables near the Biology Building. Also, Student Government is working with Physical Plant to place lights on the Chemistry and Health and Physics Buildings.

"The foliage around campus has been recently trimmed to allow more light to pass through," said Paradise.

The use of light meters determines how much light is in a given area. The national standard for parking lots is 5, but at UCF the standard is a three foot candle on average.

The national standard is set at .5 due to the energy conservation of the 70s. It was enough to get the lights on point A to point B. Measures are still taken to preserve costs though.

According to Sgt. Tom Gorbas, Crime Prevention Unit Coordinator, one Christmas 50 percent of the buildings on campus were shut down saving about $25,000 in electricity.

Technology has also cut the cost of electricity. Paradise said the way in which glass is cut can allow more light to diffuse out. Furthermore, the higher the light is placed, the larger the area that is illuminated.

Paradise said on average the university spends $82,000 per year to light 3,000 lights that are 150 watts each. He added that only includes electricity, not bulbs that need to be replaced or damaged poles in need of repair. Since the light meter reading of .5 in the two parking lots is upgraded, there are several ways to prevent becoming a victim of crime recommended by Gorbas.

• walk with a buddy
• call SEPS for a ride
• be aware of surroundings
• stay away from stubberby
• stay where others are
• avoid shortcuts through alleys
• never give hitchhikers rides
• never ask for rides
• if being followed, seek others
• keep purses and bags close

If something looks suspicious notify the UCFPD immediately.

John M. Clark, CPFM Manager, Parking Services said parking personnel may be seen looking into a car for a hanging parking permit. "The tags are flimsy and sometimes fall off the rearview mirror," said Clark.

"The tag is yanked causing it to no longer stay in place. If this is the case, the person making the report will not be criticized for the report," said Clark.
UCF-Brevard participates in America Reads program

AMBER FELDMAN
STAFF WRITER

This year, UCF-Brevard participated in America Reads, a non-profit literacy organization. The goal of this organization is to bring elementary students up to their current grade-level by the third grade. ARBD expands that goal to include grades K-6. ARBD communicates with area schools and targets students who are not reading at their current level. By focusing these services on the local community, students can develop a stronger level of community awareness.

This program evolved from a grant given to the Community College in which they were to choose a four-year college and a national service organization to combine forces with. UCF has long been involved with BCC, so UCF was a natural choice. The two schools come together with America Reads, a national non-profit literacy organization.

BCC has had an established service learning program for almost 10 years. Many students at UCF come from the BCC system and had no options to continue service learning work. This program, started last year on the main campus, fills that gap.

Dr. Maria Lavooy, a psychology instructor on the UCF-Brevard campus, is the UCF coordinator of ARBD and the head of the service learning program on campus. Lavooy works in conjunction with Barbara Baird, coordinator of ARBD with BCC. Lavooy said that creating a sense of community is a high priority for service learning programs. Lavooy said that many students on the BCC campus work, live, and raise children in this community and are unsatisfied with having to contribute to a community so far from home. "This allows us to keep our Brevard people in this community," Lavooy also stresses that BCC is a big part of this UCF program. "We couldn't do this without this partnership," she said.

This program is currently offered as a three hour course on the Orlando (main), Brevard, and Daytona campuses of UCF. Some professors have also begun to work this program into their curriculum by offering an option of a specified number of hours in place of a requirement or as extra credit.

In order to apply for this course, they are required to attend an orientation meeting. During the beginning of the semester, each student must complete several hours of training either in class or by video tape before beginning their community service hours. Lavooy said, "They are not thrown into the program without training. We have intensive orientation and extended training sessions."

These sessions offer students the opportunity to learn what to expect and they are given materials to help them in their volunteer work. Currently, after training, students are given tutor bags. These bags contain many different types of learning and teaching materials such as sentence strips, scissors, stickers, crayons, etc. "We provide students with a bag of materials to use with the children. We encourage them to work directly with the teachers because the teachers know whom their students are lacking, but we don't want them to become a burden to the teachers," Baird said.

Students who participate in this program must complete 75 hours of volunteer work. Those hours are to be divided into two different facilities. All students are requested to work half of their hours with the ARBD program in an elementary school. The other facility can be chosen by the student. Lavooy has lists of several non-profit agencies that students can volunteer with. Among them are rape hotlines, animal rescues, the humane society, shelters, and child abuse prevention centers. Lavooy said that most students come to the course with their own contacts. If a student does not find something on the list that suits them, they are referred to BCC's service learning office. BCC has a list of over 240 non-profit agencies in the area.

There are two meetings held during the semester that students must attend. There is also a final meeting where a student turns in their reflection paper. Each student is required to complete a journal or a paper that explains what they learned from their experience. Baird said that this is a mandatory assignment. "Without reflection, there would be no learning."

Currently some of these meetings are held only on the main campus. Lavooy is trying to arrange for meetings to be held on the Brevard campus for student convenience.

Tara O'Shea, a UCF student, participated in the program this semester. "It changed my life. I was a psychology major and now I know that I want to go into education. It was the best thing I have ever done." Due to this experience, O'Shea has become involved with Teach for America, a national program that will place her in an inner city school so that she can help students while she earns her teaching certificate.

O'Shea received a letter from the parent of a child she tutored this semester. "The levy's mother worked full-time and she just wanted to thank me. I kept that letter." Anyone interested in registering for this program can contact Dr. Lavooy at 632-1111 ext. 65598. Main campus students should contact Dr. Leudenriller at 932-2424.

Routine traffic stop results in drug arrest

GWEN R. RHOADES
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

During a routine traffic stop on Nov. 30 for an expired license tag, UCF Police discovered a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia in the possession of Michael Jones.

The drug, Ecstasy, chemical name Befoldene: Inhyclpondite, is a started often used by bodybuilders. The controlled substance was dis­ covered after the police dispatcher had confirmed that the tag expired on May 27, 1998 and that Jones' driver's license had been suspended four times and was invalid. At that time, Jones was arrested for the expired tag and suspended license and placed in handcuffs. His car was then searched. An unused, still pack­ aged hydromorphone was found under the seat and the con­t rolled substance vial was found in a black gym bag in the back seat on the passenger's side.

Jones was then charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

IN OTHER UCFPD REPORTS:

• Young Essaini was arrested for failure to sign a traffic citation after he was stopped for going 38 m.p.h. in a 20 m.p.h. speed zone. The 20-year-old Moroccan student refused to sign the traffic citation, so he was arrested and taken to jail. He said he only received $600 a month from his country and that if he paid the fine then he wouldn't be able to eat. After the police officer explained the consequences of not signing the citation, and had an interpreter explain the situation to Essaini, he elected to go to jail rather than sign the citation.

• UCF Police responded to a suspicious incident in the courtyard of the Student Resource Center at approximately 1 a.m. on Nov. 15. Two golf carts had been left unwatched and crashed together. The damage was estimated to be about $50. Two male suspects wearing white shirts were observed fleeing toward Orange Hall. Photographs and fingerprints were taken at the scene.

Upon further investigation it was discovered that both carts' key switches had been left in the run position. This enables the carts to be run without a key. The UCF Police Department recommends using more security measures to prevent future incidents of this kind.

• Sometime between Nov. 17 and Nov. 19, a 1,999 license plate decal was illegally removed from Bryan Caldwell's 1989 Toyota Corolla while it was parked in the West Parking Garage. Caldwell found that his decal was missing when he received a parking ticket on his windshield. The license plate decal has the number 04696919 on it. Caldwell is willing to prosecute.

• On Nov. 19, the UCF Police responded to a report that artwork was stolen from the Visual Arts Building sometime between 5 p.m. Nov. 18 and 3:30 a.m. Nov. 19. The five photos, entitled "Blue Bathroom" had been displayed on the wall for about a week. The photo­ grams had been chosen for display by Tara Huff's instructor.

In place of the stolen photos were black and white set of photographs which had been displayed by another instructor, who stated that the wall was empty when he arrived that morning. Huff is willing to prosecute.

• Sometime between Nov. 23 and Dec. 3, $700 in tools was stolen from one of the Waste Water Treatment Plant's trucks.

The tools stolen were three socket sets, two open box wrench sets, one allen wrench set, one screwdriver set, one nutdriver set and one chisel set. The tools were color coded with yellow spray paint. The treatment plant is willing to prosecute.
Number of student smokers continues to rise

CHRISTINE TATUM
COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

CHICAGO - The number of cigarette smokers on college campuses is rising, jumping 28 percent in four years and prompting researchers to warn that tobacco-related illnesses could continue on the upswing.

A recent study, conducted by researchers at Harvard University, compared surveys of more than 14,000 students at 116 colleges nationwide in 1993 and 1997. Last year, 28.5 percent of students reported smoking, up from 22.3 percent in 1993.

The findings aren’t much of a surprise given that smoking already had risen among teen-agers by 32 percent in the 1990s. Once those teens hit college, smoking rates naturally rose in acad­emia, too. The study found that the vast majority of college smokers picked up the habit in high school; only 11 percent took their first drag after the age of 18.

“It seems like everyone does it,” said Caryl Reussin, a junior at the University of Missouri who has tried smoking but said she doesn’t like it. “It’s a social thing that some people do all the time and a lot of people just do when they drink.”

Healthcare professionals say there’s often a high price to pay for that kind of socializing. Smoking is the nation’s leading preventable cause of death and disease. The government says it kills more than 400,000 Americans each year and causes a variety of health problems, including premature labor, lung and bladder cancer, heart disease and impotence.

“College kids don’t think about that stuff,” said Claire Weingarden, a sopho­more at Syracuse University who tried smoking but avoided making it a habit. “We don’t sleep. We don’t exercise. We eat terrible food, and we drink like it’s our job.”

All the more reason to kick the habit or refrain from ever picking it up, said Dr. Halina Brukner, director of the University of Chicago’s primary care group.

“Even the most intelligent, high­achieving students really don’t realize they are going to die,” she said. “In a sense, they are smoking because it makes a statement that they are immortal. It’s a rebellion and an adolescent defiance that even they know is bad for them.”

Students have heard the medical data, she continued. “But heart disease - that’s something their grandparents get, not their friends.”

Further complicating the problem is that many students don’t consider them­selves to be smokers if they take a drag occasionally. At bars or during weekend parties, Brukner said. It’s rationalizing and delusional for students to think of themselves and their friends as only “social smokers,” she said.

“A smoker is a smoker,” she said. “The health effects are accumulative, so it doesn’t matter whether you smoke seven cigarettes over the course of a week, or seven in one day. Doctors con­sider the number of packs you smoked over the number of years. It’s the num­ber of cigarettes you consume over time that matters.

“Sure, (infrequent) smokers are at a lower risk of getting addicted,” she con­tinued. “But because this is an addictive substance and the threshold for getting addicted is so low, we know their need to have it starts increasing. They may feel they can handle it now, but studies show that in general, once people start smoking, they need to smoke more and more.”

Jason Thomas, a sophomore smoker at the University of Iowa, knows that feel­ing. He first tried smoking when he was a junior in high school. At first he managed to limit his smoking to weekends only, but found that increasingly diffi­cult once he reached the university.

“I’m hooked, and I admit it,” he said. “I started because it was just something to do. I guess I thought it looked cool or kind of sophisticated. To be honest, I can’t say an exact reason.”

That’s the irony, Brukner said. Many students smoke because of the coo­image they think they’re projecting. Yet they don’t seem to think about their bad breath, yellowed teeth, deep coughs on clothes and hair that reek of smoke.

“I’d love to see billboards and ad cam­paigns that say, ‘Gee, your breath really stinks,’ or ‘Your clothes smell terrible,’” she said. “Because that’s what smoking does to a person whether they like it or not. I have seen adults who are embar­rassed to tell me that they’ve smoked for years, and when they do, they almost always say, ‘That was so stupid. I wish I had never done it.’

Thomas said he plans to kick his smoking habit before he graduates.

“I’m young,” he said. “I’m not wor­ried about it.”

Quitting is rarely easy, doctors say.

According to the Harvard study, half of college smokers reported that they’ve tried to stop in the previous year, and 18 percent had made five or more attempts to beat their addiction, the study found.
Police Blotter: A weekly look at campus crime briefs

PETER LEVINE
COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

TUCSON, Ariz. - Someone made off with a fiberglass fish mounted on a wall in the University of Arizona's biological sciences building.

According to the Daily Wildcat, a university employee reported the fake, finned creature valued at $1,200 - missing on Nov. 20. The employee said he found no signs of forced entry and that many people have access to the room where the fish was kept.

STANFORD, Calif. For the second time in two months, a computer hacker broke into computers at Stanford University and stole the passwords for almost 300 e-mail accounts.

According to the Stanford Daily, the hacker used a stolen password to get into the university's electrical engineering department's computer system. The Daily also reported that the hacker broke into the system on Oct. 31 and maintained access for it for six days.

"It looked like the hacker was going for power and wanted to control the system, not necessarily what was on it," David Branley, a specialist in the university's Computer Security Office, told the Daily.

Although there were no reports of e-mail tampering, university officials did shut down several accounts, forcing many students to change their passwords.

The Daily reported that campus security officers tracked down the hacker to an Internet service provider, but could not proceed further without outside assistance. The university chose not to ask federal agents for help because minimal damage was done.

In early November, hackers broke into Stanford computers and took more than 5,000 user passwords.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, Ill. - A student at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana suffered minor injuries after three men attacked him outside a dining hall on campus.

According to the Daily Illini, the victim was eating in the dining hall on Nov. 19 when the trio asked to step outside to settle some business.

The victim later told police he did not know the men, but went along with them anyway.

Once outside, the trio pushed the victim to the ground and kicked and punched him all over his body. The attackers fled when a resident advisor arrived on the scene.

The victim was treated and released from a local hospital.

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. - Students pulling an all-nighter in a library at SUNY-Binghamton must have rubbed their eyes in amazement when a naked man sauntered by them.

According to the Pipe Dream, students called campus police to report the man's brief public appearance at 4:15 a.m. on Nov. 16.

The man, described as being nearly 6 feet 4 inches tall and about 30 years old, picked up a pile of clothes and fled from the building when someone questioned him. Officers reported that they searched the area but found no one.

BOULDER, Colo. - Armed with a three­-man water balloon launcher and a lot of snow, a group of students at the University of Colorado at Boulder managed to raise a few eyebrows on campus recently.

The group specifically aimed the snowballs at windows and managed to break one.

Passersby snickered, and police didn't think to look for any suspects - until they read about the incident in the campus newspaper.

ANN ARBOR, Mich. - One man's efforts to take cleaning supplies from the University of Michigan's graduate library were a wash after workers stopped him.

According to police reports, the man tried to walk out of the building with several cleaners and a box of trash bags.

The man, later dubbed "Mr. Clean," wound up dropping the goods and running outside, the trio pushed the victim to the ground and kicked and punched him all over his body. The attackers fled when a resident advisor arrived on the scene.

The victim was treated and released from a local hospital.

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Members of the Kappa Alpha fraternity at the University of Missouri kicked out a former pledge who was living among them after investigators named him the lead suspect in a rape case.

The suspect is not currently enrolled at the school.

"He was a pledge in the spring, and he didn't make grades," fraternity president Greg Shelton told the student newspaper, The Maneater. "He was down on his luck, and we offered him a place to live."

The reported rape allegedly happened in the fraternity's off-campus house after a homecoming party in September. The victim has been reluctant to press charges, leaving investigators unsure of whether they will make an arrest in the case.

"We can't go to the prosecutor without a victim," Columbia police Sgt. Stephen Pentiletti told The Maneater.

University officials said the fraternity will not be held responsible for the reported sexual crime or for housing someone not enrolled at the school.

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Police had little choice but to ticket a former Ohio State student for disorderly conduct after finding him in a stupor.

According to police reports, two students escorted the man to a dormitory after finding him intoxicated on campus. The man told the students he lived there, but resident assistants called police for help after determining he did not. Police checked out the man's story and learned that he indeed had been a resident of the dorm - in 1994, not this year.

Officers arrested the man, ticketed him and later released him to the custody of his brother.
Animal testing will keep me out of medical school

ERIKA CHECK CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Tuesday, I realized why I will never go to medical school. I was sitting in my statistics class watching a film that demonstrated how researchers record signals from resting brain cells. Fairly technical stuff, innocuous enough, right? Perhaps, except that those resting brain cells were part of a live animal. A cat, to be exact. A cat with an electrode inserted in its brain. I wasn't the only one in the class who felt sick and sud

We don't have to bomb laboratories. We don't have to shoot researchers in parking lots.

South Park doesn't deserve criticism

RICHARD PARKER CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What's the most popular show on television today? If you answered anything other than "South Park," you may not be in the loop. For those of you who don't know, "South Park" has been the hottest thing to hit television since "The Simpsons," yet it is beginning to draw a lot of fire from people who misunderstand the show's humor or haven't even seen it. Many people complain that "South Park" is inappropriate for children. Well, no joke! That's why they have the really big "TV-MA" symbol on screen before the show starts along with a disclaimer that the show may be inappropriate for some viewers. It is troubling that department stores are selling Stan, Kyle, and Cartman dolls to kids. Even more disturbing is that 8-year-olds know all of the characters including Mr. Haney, guy who has no teeth, and Mr. McPhee, who is no more intelligent than a fish. Our society is simply making sure that the creatures who lost their freedom, suffered and died so that we may live healthy — not more cosmetic — lives.

But that doesn't make the killing of animals any easier to accept. As a kid, I devoured James Herriot's books, had two cats of my own, and wanted to be a veterinarian when I grew up. The whole putting-downs-in-rabbits'-eyes thing didn't sit well with me. I used to argue about this with my dad. Who would have thought that I would be testifying about cranberries and rats to an immunity lab and testing humans for HIV, cancer, and even fetal defects. None of her work would ever be passed on, it was all small, furry friends of ours that had been sacrificed. And then people have to kill animals?...
It's almost here guys. The end of the semester. We'll all be able to breathe a sigh of relief and rest the books into the closet for a few weeks. Are you looking forward to December? Have you been naughty or nice? Santa (AKA Hollywood execs) apparently decided we've been nice and have provided us with new flicks ranging all the way from Shakespeare to Psycho.

Take a look and see if anything catches your eye.

Psycho (12/24)- Starring Vince Vaughn, Anne Heche, Juliette Moore. Hitchcock's original tale is back with a few 90's twists. The seven-week-long production is in color and features an amp-ed-up version of the original haunting score.

Star Trek: Insurrection (12/11)- Starring Patrick Stewart, Brent Spiner, Jonathan Frakes, Donna Murphy, F. Murray Abraham. One thing is for sure, all you Seattle stars Hanks and Ryan team up once again in this installment. Merry Christmas all you Wizards and Witches.

You've Got Mail (12/18)- Starring Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan, Greg Kinnear. YES YES YES YES!!! This is every woman's dream come true. Sleepless in Seattle stars Hanks and Ryan team up once again with director Nora Ephron to bring us another love story, Whip out the hankies filmmakers.

The Hunchback of Notre Dame (12/25)- Starring the voices of Val Kilmer, Ralph Fiennes, Michelle Pfeiffer, Steve Martin, Sandra Bullock, Jeff Goldblum. For Dreamworks first animated full length feature (as opposed to the computer generated Antz) they did something a little different. They consulted the Bible. Drawn directly from the book of Exodus, the movie tells the story of Moses. Dreamworks also captured former Disney composer Stephen Schwartz (Pocohontas, The Hunchback of Notre Dame) to create the epic score. Let's see... fascinating tale, all-star cast, award winning composer. I think we have a winner on our hands.

A Civil Action (12/25)- Starring John Travolta, Robert Duvall, Kathy Bates, John Lithgow. Travolta takes the helm as a lawyer in this true story of eight families stricken with leukemia in an industrial Boston suburb. Travolta plays a lawyer who gives up nearly a decade of his life and his saving's to fight the two corporations he believes are responsible for all the illnesses. It sounds like a John Grisham novel. It has my interest.

Dear Dr. Daphne,

You know, some people just suck. You would think by 1998, almost 1999, that the people of this world would be over this thing. There is really not a whole lot you can do. If mom doesn’t like where you are from, that is her problem. If you and your girl are still okay with being together without our Mama’s blessing, go for it. You are still only young once. And it’s not that you will actually marry this hussy. Chances are your friend, over time your little hoohie will have the same sentiments. So my suggestion is, move on to someone else who does not have racial parents. You shouldn’t have to worry about things like this when you should be focusing on your studies and success in this happy world we live in.

Dear Dr. Daphne,

My family wants me home for the holidays, but my girl friend’s parents asked me to go to Aspen. I’ve never been there before and I can’t stand being with her. How do I tell my parents I won’t be home?

- Traveling Man

Dear Traveling Man,

Sounds like you don’t appreciate the people who gave birth to you. But, you have a rockin’ offer on the table. Never thought you’d have a Sugar Mama, did you? Aspen is a great place. Lots of incredibles slopes, snow bunnies, inviting fireplaces, and great sex. Paradise with snow. And just think, you won’t be able to touch your girly all week with fear they may catch you in the act. Wow, wish I could go too. If it was a trip at any other time than Christmas, Kwanzaa, or Chanukah, I would say “Go. Have a joyous time!” But this is a time you should be with the ones you love, not ones you lust. You need to go home, spend some QT. (quality time for the ignorant readers) with mom and dad. Make cranberry relish and green bean casserole with mom. Watch football and sit on your fat ass with dad. If you don’t go, you’ll regret it later when you won’t have them. So, have lots of medicine sex before your honey leaves and ask her to send a postcard. You won’t miss her too much. Remember, girls will come and go but family is forever.

Got a problem? Nothing is too big or too small for Dr. Daphne. Just e-mail her at DrDaphne@hotmail.com
Second verse, same as the first?

B. W. Earl
Staff Writer

The first question that comes to mind for anyone who has seen Alfred Hitchcock's original masterpiece is, "Why?" What does Gus Van Sant (Good Will Hunting, My Own Private Idaho) hope to accomplish with this $25 million remake? How can you really improve on the horror classic that still has the capacity to frighten nearly forty years later?

Well, you can't. At least, not with the version that Van Sant has brought forth. A shot by shot remake leaves very little room for creativity for the director, but in those few moments that Van Sant does veer from the stylistics of the Master of Suspense, you certainly wish that it was truly shot for shot.

For those who haven't seen the original or the remake, here's the scoop on Psycho:

Secretary Marion Crane (played in the 1960 version by the Oscar-nominated Janet Leigh, and portrayed by Anne Heche in the remake) steals a goodly sum of money ($40,000 or $400,000, again depending on which version) from her company in the hopes of paying off her boyfriend's ('60-John Gavin; '98-Viggo Mortensen) various debts. On her way from her home in Phoenix to her boyfriend's locale in Southern California, she makes a stop at the Bates Motel, run by a fellow who goes by the name of Norman Bates (Vince Vaughn playing the part immortalized by Anthony Perkins). She decides to take a shower— is this starting to click now?

Unfortunately (at least, for Psycho purists), the shower scene suffers the most in the transition from original to copy. What was a sudden, fluid, and truly shocking series of shots in the hands of Sir Alfred becomes a clumsily edited mishmash in the redo. Add some outside shots (outside shots!) in the middle of all the carnage and a good five second delay between the entrance of Norman's mother and the intro of Bernard Herrmann's legendary score, and you have a botched attempt.

Another problem inherited by Van Sant is the actors' attempts to live up to the cast of 1960. Vince Vaughn tries to be so unlike Anthony Perkins' portrayal that he delivers a performance that feels like a performance. The same could be said for the rather miscast Heche, who doesn't exude the same screen presence that Leigh maintained throughout Hitchcock's production. In fact, the better performances come from the secondary characters, such as William H. Macy, filling in for the late Martin Balsam as the doomed detective who suspects that something is up at the Bates Motel, and Julianne Moore, who does an admirable job of updating Vera Miles' role as Marion's sister. Macy and Moore, both Academy Award nominees, don't seem to be intimidated by the big shoes that they have to fill, and their performances are helped immeasurably as a result.

I won't spoil the changes that Van Sant makes for those of you who are going to see the film. Let it just be said that whenever there's a change to Joseph Stefano's original script, it's noticeable. Very noticeable.

The new Psycho goes as far as it does because of the original's assured place in pop culture, as well as Hitch's brilliant touches. That is why the original will be remembered long after Van Sant's replication is forgotten, or at best, barely recognized as a footnote to Hitchcock's legacy.
somewhat par for the course with other MC's—but you get the feeling LL speaks of bravado and success in the world, not on the record—his "Rhyme Ain't Done" is a whirlwind of cultural ideograms, from He-Man to the sitcom Alice and the $2.00 deck cards, card characters, LL crossed all the demographic bridges to shake the hands of any potential listeners. Yet the justification of timelessness, without question, is "I Need Love." Without LL's R&B classic, the likes of Mary J. Blige, TLC would have been shut out of the Rap/R&B/Soul pantheon, a maverick of lyricism and invention. LL made fans from dust and conditioned them into genre ignorants-thank god.

-Marcus Spindale

Bruce Springsteen
Tracks
(Columbia)

The down-home folk-rock music man is back in black. No, that's not right. I mean back in box. Bruce Springsteen's Tracks has emerged as a blazing truth for devoted listeners. The 4 CD box set carres 66 songs, 56 never-released, that Springsteen wrote and recorded in the studio, but decided to leave off of his 11 released albums. Instead of piling up on the cutting room floor, they've found a permanent home in Tracks, and the hearts of many fans. Tracks has a wonderful thing going for it. Its pure Springsteen. The new songs are nothing strikingly different from Bruce Springsteen's signature style. They are just little ditties that missed the buses like "Born in the U.S.A," "Lucky Town," and "The Ghost of Tom Joad." The box set is also selling at a great price right in time for the store mascot season. You can pick it up in most music stores for about $60 bucks. Tracks is a must-own for any die-hard Springsteen fan. Along with the new songs are remixed and live favorites like "Born in the U.S.A." and "Rendezvous." This is one box set that's worth a trip to the mall. Just be careful of all the Backstreet Boys fans.

- Christine Selvaggi

Phonopsycho-
graphDisk
Ancient Termites
(Bomb Hip-Hop)
bombhiphop.com

Casting aside my guttural aesthetic objection to the cover art, there is something unsettling about the marriage of sentimentalism and 'pseudo' science fiction. Phonopsycho/plotDisk's debut wavers the welcome flag towards the musical avant-garde. "Hey you smutty arties, come on over and see what the hip hop underground has been concocting for the past 20 years." With the invitation accepted, and the parameters uprooted, Ancient Termites plays the devil's gestalt advocate. The needle becomes the message rather than the messenger and the listener is left wondering if there is a center to these reconstructed beats and melodic moments.

From strength to strength, the album avoids the regionalism of using only worn out hip hop samples and clichés and spaces, instead opting for a few old swing jukes. "He cuts the music with so much class," the third track, "Beaver Clause," intruduces and then highlights a singular display of mucho gusto: just an echo adorns the nimble flex and ferocious fury by a DJ who is more musical machine than jockey of sounds. And even the clueless, the traditional green thumb of hip hop purity can agree. Ancient Termites usher in a new age of experimental pluralism where the hip, or those who call themselves "underground," abandon cliches of identity and accept the hopped up flux the cut creator is now the great communicator, like Gershwin running through dime store photoblaster's.
Chuck Shepherd's Views of the Weird

Lead Stories

- The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (Alberta, Canada) announced in November that this year's single permit to hunt an Alberta big-bear sheep was won by Sherwin Scott of Phoenix, with a high bid of $465,000 (U.S.). The foundation will use the money for conservation. Scott said he was elated at his victory, but as to the amount, he said, "You can't make sense out of that.

- In October, a California appeals court reinstated the 1997 jury verdict for Robert Cunningham against his Orange County homeowners' association for meddling. Over a two-year period, the association had ordered Cunningham to clean up not only an outside patio but also the inside of his unit, claiming that he had too many books and newspapers lying around, thus his bed was too messy, and that piles of old clothes should be given to charity.

- In November, Ten's World Class Cobra (a strip joint) won a Supreme Court justice Stephen Crane to be exempt from New York City anti-mud flap rules because it had begun to admit children to the premises and thus was no longer an "adult" establishment that the rules applied to. Shortly afterward, Crane ruled in favor of Ten's, which at press time at least twice had admitted children (accompanied by a parent, of course) for lunch, with dancers in the background.

Multiculturalism in Sports

According to a November New York Times report, Chinese soccer fans' new traditional yell to harass opposing teams is a word which is street slang for "Beijing cur." And in Lagos, Nigeria, in November, the star soccer player on the Cameroon female team, Caroline Ettou, was disqualified from the championship matches because, according to officials, all of her physical features are "male" (except for her genitalia).

"Number 1" in the News

A 12-year-old boy was let off with six months' probation in West Bloomfield Township, Mich., in October after he was caught urinating in his teacher's water bottle. Although she went to the hospital with nausea and stomach cramps, the boy's lawyer said, "The bottom line is, urine is not harmful to drink." And 10 days later in Tucson, Ariz., Caroline Gomez Maldozado, 42, was arrested and charged with abusing a reluctant 8-year-old stranger down the street in order to convince him to urinate into a cup so Maldozado could use it for an upcoming test as part of her probation on drug charges.

Grown-ups Who Take Things Literally

Jordan Locke, 5, was suspended from elementary school in Pittsburgh in October when he showed up in his Halloween firefighter costume that included a 5-inch plastic hatchet, which the school calls a "weapon" (though firefighters call it a "tool"). And in November, a Caneo Park, Calif., advertising agency was forced to pull ads for perfectly legal Altema 5-inch plastic hatchet, which the school calls a "tool." According to a November New York Times report, parents in several rural states continue the tradition of forcing their children into arranged marriages, at ages as young as 4, in violation of national laws setting the minimum age at 18. By contrast, in August in Anastas, Md., in a perfectly legal ceremony under state law, Phillip Compass, 29, married Tina Aker, 13. (It was legal because Aker's parents consented and Aker was pregnant. On the other hand, Compass appeared to have violated the state law on statutory rape.

- In September, a judge in Chilton, Wis., sentenced Michael and Angelina Rogers to a year in jail, 39 years less than they could have gotten, for physically abusing four of their five children and imprisoning one of them several times overnight in a dog cage in their basement. Judge Steven Weiske said he was trying to show "compassion," which the parents had requested so as to improve their chances to begin the process of retaking custody of their kids.

- In October in Kitchener, Ontario, a man was sentenced to six months' probation living away from his home on statutory rape.)

- In November in Milwaukee, a man was convicted for supplying his 13-year-old virgin son with a prostitute, saying it was about time he learned.

Quality Time With the Kids: Baltimore police dispatcher Henry Gilmore Watts, 32, was arrested in August and charged with chauffeuring his son and a friend, both 15, to rob a Peoples Bank. And on the same day, in Medford, Ore., Cynthia Alice Locking, 40, pleaded guilty to robbing two banks while her three daughters waited in the back seat of the getaway car.

Least Competent Criminals

Kevin Johnson of Chesapeake, Va., was convicted in November of attempting to defraud a Lowe's Home Center store in a 1991 incident. According to the prosecutor, Johnson and a friend dropped cans of paint in an attempt to make it look like the cans had cascaded from a high shelf and knocked Johnson unconscious. Johnson was taken to a hospital and later filed a lawsuit for $250,000. After the judge saw evidence that the open, strewn paint cans were undented and had come from different parts of the shelf so that they were unlikely to have hit Johnson, he dismissed the lawsuit, and prosecutors took over.

Update

In January, News of the Weird reported on a new breed of sheep that produces muscular flanks (in fact, it is named the "beautiful buttocks" strain) and 90 percent more meat. In November 1998, a scientist with England's Meat and Livestock Commission said the scheme has been abandoned because the resultant meat was invariably "tough as old boots," and the best food technologists have not been able to find a way to tenderize it.

(Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 8306, St. Petersburg, Fl. 33738, or Weird@computer.com)

$25 Plus Major Dry-Cleaning Work

In November in Austin, Texas, Henry Benedict, owner of the under-renovation adult theater Cinema West, announced that he will defray renovation costs at a public celebration of the building by selling the 500 seats from the old theater as souvenirs for $25 each.

Family Values

In India, according to a May New York Times report, parents in several rural states continue the tradition of forcing their children into arranged marriages, at ages as young as 4, in violation of national laws setting the minimum age at 18. By contrast, in August in Anastas, Md., in a perfectly legal ceremony under state law, Phillip Compass, 29, married Tina Aker, 13. (It was legal because Aker's parents consented and Aker was pregnant. On the other hand, Compass appeared to have violated the state law on statutory rape.)

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(Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 8306, St. Petersburg, Fl. 33738, or Weird@computer.com)
Actress Angie Harmon courts respect on ‘Law & Order’

Joe Dziemianowicz
College Press Exchange

It’s Tuesday evening on the set of “Law & Order.” (10 ET Wednesdays and a scene is about to be rehearsed. Entitled “Scrambled,” the story centers around frozen embryos, a botched burglary and, of course, a murder. Standing just off-set, actress Angie Harmon, who joined the show in July as Assistant District Attorney Abbie Carmichael, has her eyes closed tight.

She’s not catching 40 winks, although she’s been on the job 14 hours straight. Instead, Harmon is silently mouthing lines she’s about to deliver with co-star Sam Waterston, who has played ADA Jack McCoy since 1994. The scene consists of Waterston, who has made a dictionary an essential in that has made a dictionary an essential in Harmon’s dressing room. The no-through begins: Harmon launches into Abbie Mode.

“One hour after her arraignment ... Arlene Moore rasp. When the last line of the scene is uttered, Harmon is well prepared. The lines come together, it’s like, ‘Oh, good Lord.’ Especially when you’ve been on the set for 14 hours. This show is the hardest thing I’ve ever done.’

Indeed, “Abbie” is a far cry from Amanda Reardon, the FBI rookie she played on the short-lived 1997 ABC series, “C-16,” and a still further stretch from forensic criminologist Ryan McBride, whom she portrayed for two years on “Baywatch Nights.” The beach drama is not even listed on Harmon’s NBC bio. Still, it’s part of her past. So much so that on July 20, when the announcement was made to the TV Critics Association that Harmon had been cast in the role of in-your-face Abbie Carmichael, one critic asked if Abbie would wear a bikini during sweeps.

Two and a half months later, Harmon still doesn’t think that’s funny – or accurate. Ryan never wore it bathing suit, she points out. Furthermore, Harmon makes no apologies about the fact that “Baywatch Nights” was a big break. Nor is she sorry that her exotic good looks (courtesy of her Mom’s Cherokee ancestry) helped her get work as a model, which she always believed would be her ticket to acting.

“Getting ‘Baywatch Nights’ was a very big deal,” she says, “because that’s where it all started for me – that’s how I got into acting. The story goes that ‘Baywatch’ honcho David Hasselhoff met Harmon on a plane and hired her even though she had no acting experience. It’s all true, Harmon acknowledges. “Working on ‘Baywatch Nights’ was 44 lessons of hitting [my] mark, of being able to walk and talk at the same time and of finding [my] light and getting out of some body else’s light.”

Harmon learned her lessons well. She reportedly beat out 85 other actresses to snag the role of Abbie Carmichael, who has been working that past four years in New York’s special narcotics unit.

“I don’t know how many people they looked at,” she says. “I just feel honored to be the one they chose.”

Does she want to prove her detractors wrong?

“I do. And I will,” she declares.

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Bowl snub leaves thoughts of what would have been

JEFF CASE
Staff Writer

The disappointments surrounding UCF’s snub in any postseason bowl game has ended a difficult two weeks for Coach Mike Kruczek and his players.

In that time, UCF was not picked by any bowl (the Micron PC), in another (the Oahu bowl), in contention for two more (the Independence and Sun bowls) and, as of Sunday, out of all of four.

Kruczek could not have asked for a better situation than with the Oahu, where the Knights would have earned the berth providing UCLA had defeated Miami last Saturday. UCF would have probably played MAC champion Air Force on Christmas night, but following Miami’s 49-45 win, the Knights hope rested in the Sun Bowl, which chose struggling Texas Christian (6-5) over UCF (10-2).

Perhaps most disturbing about TCU’s selection is the fact the Horned Frogs averaged an attendance 282,168 in six games, which is much fewer fans a game than UCF, who attracted 317,490 fans in only five games. Aside from UCF’s losses, which came against Purdue and Auburn, a lack of a fan support was the other card bowl committees played against UCF. But closer investigation by bowl committees would have found otherwise.

UCF fans showed considerable interest in the Oahu bid, even before plans could be finalized. As of last Wednesday, 70 of the 110 spots on UCF’s flight to Oahu were reserved for fans, and at no small cost. A plane ride over and a game ticket costs a fan $1,000, not including hotel lodging for six nights, meals and a lunch with the team on gameday. That ticket costs $3,000 per couple and made up the majority of sales, says Darla Olive of the UCF Alumni Association.

“We had the reservations, and if UCLA had beat Miami, we’d call them back on Monday to confirm them,” Olive said. “We also had a $45 ticket that could have been bought as a commemorative item for those who could not afford the trip but still wanted to help the athletic department.”

Local businesses, particularly those selling UCF apparel, had also made arrangements for the Knights Oahu trip. Marc Eckhart, manager of the UCF Bookstore, had UCF logos sent to T-shirt companies to begin preparing bowl t-shirts for Knight fans. Now, those shirts will feature Oregon versus Air Force instead of UCF.

“We had an arrangement where they could have the items to us, as soon as the next day, following UCLA’s win,” Eckhart said. Eckhart added the bowl T-shirts would have cost fans between $14-17 and said he was planning on having about 500 in the bookstore by Monday.

Some guys are going to cry about this, but there are a lot of worse things in the world.

– Marv Richardson

To fans, the denial of a postseason game seems too cruel to be true. A 9-2 record is good enough for practicality any team in Division I-A to make a bowl game. Yet for UCF, the two losses to the Tigers and Boilermakers may have carried too much weight in bowl officials minds.

Defensive end Marv Richardson keeps UCF’s bowl exclusion in perspective.

“I think they deserve to be in a bowl game [at 9-2],” said Brian Deriso, a senior. “But in a way, they deserve to be left out after they lost to Purdue and Auburn. If they had beaten one of them, there’s no reason why they shouldn’t be in.”

Micron PC officials who attended UCF’s season-ending 38-6 victory against New Mexico saw only about 19,000 fans at the Citrus Bowl. But word travels fast, and most likely Micron officials told other bowl committees about UCF’s lack of support.

It is a cruel catch-22 for UCF; it needs more national support to get into a bowl, yet how can it attain this without a national platform, i.e., a bowl game? “It’s not fair,” said Rachelle Young, a junior. “It seems like we should have gotten the bid, especially with the crowd (5,000 fans) we took to Auburn. We had a lot of fans come out this season, it just seems like we should have gotten to go.”

Perhaps “the snub” is best understood as it will be by UCF’s players as unfair. Months of hard work and dedication to a season-long goal have been vanquished, leaving departing seniors with a sour taste from the team’s most successful I-A campaign.

“Some guys are going to cry about this, but there are a lot of worse things in the world,” said sophomore defensive end Marv Richardson. “We did have a great season, but if we just don’t look at this the right way, we’re not learning from this. We’ll be home for the holidays, but there are some people that have no home.”

Richardson certainly puts things in perspective, but still, it’s little of a consolation for UCF’s latest loss—one that didn’t come on the field.

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TCU lacks many of UCF’s attributes

From Page 20

Maybe if we were talking basketball and it were bringing Pre-season All-American Lee Nailon to the table could I see how TCU could be more appealing than UCF? However, they don’t have a Daunte Culpepper. They are not 9-2. All they have is a fan base that will make the three to four-hour trip to see the game. TCU was 1-10 last year. It’s quarterbacks threw two touchdowns all season compared to 12 interceptions. Running backs move the ball effectively, but consider that UCF has the nation’s sixth most potent offense, compared to TCU’s high-octane 71st-ranked offense. In addition, TCU drew the 88th largest attendance compared to UCF’s 74th-ranked attendance. What was that about a fan base?

Incidentally, Kansas State should be in the BCS, going to the Orange Bowl ahead of Florida. Why aren’t the Wildcats, ranked third in the BCS rankings, in the bowl championship series? Money and power. Instead, following an overtime loss to Texas A&M, Kansas State is going to the Alamo Bowl, whose affiliation is for the Big-12’s fourth place team. How ignorant is this system? The fact that K-State isn’t included in the BCS also robs UCF of a trip to Hawaii.

But isn’t that the trend? Rob the have-not’s and give more to the haves. After all, why should we give the haves the chance to buy up plenty of tickets for the potential game with Southern Cal, and that was the determining factor.

“I don’t think there’s any doubt,” Kruczak said of the Sun Bowl’s desire to take a Texas-based team. “A 6-5 team that struggled most of the season? It’s economics in bowls. That’s why Florida is in the Orange Bowl at 9-2. Do they deserve to be in the Orange Bowl? No. It comes down to whether they can put people in the stands.”

Speaking of which, that scenario involving money and ticket sales also played a part in keeping UCF from remaining Hawaii-bound. Although UCLA’s loss cleared up the Pac-10 vacancy the Knights were originally filling, Kansas State’s emergence into a BCS bowl would have forced Colorado to forfeit its Aloha Bowl bid, creating a Big-12 vacancy that the Golden Knights would have moved over into. Despite Kansas State’s third place ranking in the BCS standings, the Wildcats were excluded from the bowl picture as Orange Bowl officials elected to take Florida to sell tickets. Kansas State was 11-1 while the Gators finished 9-2.

The Knights will now concentrate solely on recruiting, as their next game will be at home against Purdue next year on Sept. 4.

Economics key factor in UCF’s bowl exclusion

From Page 20

games to become bowl eligible. The Sun Bowl was the only game in which they were ever considered. The Fort Worth, Texas-based school promised to buy up plenty of tickets for the potential game with Southern Cal, and that was the determining factor.

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James, Miami present a difficult challenge

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looking ahead to games against Georgia State, Memphis and Ohio State. Center Davin Granberry, who played with UM star forward Tim James is looking forward to the challenge.

"It will be interesting to play against somebody that I used to play with," Granberry said. "I want to match my skills against somebody who is going to the league. I don't know much about them, except that they have Tim and other good athletes."

UCF plays at Southland Conference member McNeese State on Dec. 15. The Cowboys fell to the Knights at the UCF Arena last year, and are currently winless. They are led by shooting guard Demond Mallen, who averages 14 points per game. UCF finishes its three-game road swing at South Florida, who is currently undefeated. The Bulls defeated UCF at the buzzer last season in Tampa, but the author of the game-winning shot, center Scott Johnson, is currently out for the season with a knee injury. Orlando's Raheem Brown, out of Colonial HS, has taken his place.

The story with South Florida this year has been the play of its two top recruits, forward B.B. Waldon and guard Alton Jackson. Waldon starts for the Bulls and is their leading scorer (15.0 ppg), while Jackson is an active contributor off Seth Greenberg's bench, averaging 10.5 points.

UCF will finish their stretch of four games in ten days with a contest against the second Division II school on its schedule, Barry University, Dec. 20 at the UCF Arena. Barry figures to be a winnable contest, and the Knights should enjoy their seven day layoff before the contest against Ohio University coming off a win.

The Bobcats posted one of the bigger upssets of the college basketball season, defeating host Syracuse University in the first round of the Carrier Classic. Ohio's depth was aided by the arrival of transfers Shann Stoker (Ohio State) and LaDrell Whitehead (Wyoming). Both were instrumental in the victory over the Orangemen. Ohio also features swing man Sanjay Adell, guard Dustin Ford, and center Daunte Flaherty. The Bobcats, who come in on Dec. 28 are the most formidable non-conference opponent to visit the UCF Arena this season.

UCF's first TAAC game of the year will be its first contest of 1999 when it hosts Campbell on Jan. 2.
Traina has scored was nearly perfect from the field, hitting on 13-of-31 points and pulled down nine rebounds in two games. He was named preseason All-TAAC in a vote of TAAC coaches and sports information directors.

Traina TAAC player of the week
Senior Brad Traina was named Trans America Athletic Conference Men’s Basketball Player of the Week Monday by the TAAC Office. Traina, a native of Sanford, was named to the Spartan Coca-Cola Classic All-Tournament team last weekend as the Golden Knights went 1-1. Traina scored a total of 31 points and pulled down nine rebounds in two games. He scored 22 points and had three three-point baskets against UNC-Wilmington. Traina was nearly perfect from the field, hitting on 13-of-20 shots (65%) for the two games. For his career, Traina has led the charge in three-point shooting for the Knights has only connected on only 66.1 percent of its free throws, coming off the bench to steal the ball and hit a three-pointer to start the night over the Eagles.

UCF's last outing
Brad Traina led a trio of Golden Knights in double figures as UCF rolled to an easy 79-57 win over Winthrop at the UCF Arena Wednesday night. Traina led UCF in scoring for the third time this season, scoring 19 points on 7-of-9 shooting. A 6-4 forward from Sanford, Traina was nearly perfect from the field, hitting on 13-of-31 shots (65%) for the two games. For his career, Traina has led the charge in three-point shooting for the Knights has only connected on only 66.1 percent of its free throws, coming off the bench to steal the ball and hit a three-pointer to start the night over the Eagles.

Defensive clamping down on opponents
After allowing their first three opponents to shoot 50% or better, the Golden Knights have made things a little more difficult since, holding their last two opponents to 30% or less. UCF first shut down UNC-Wilmington, limiting them to 30.3% (20-66) shooting from the field. The Knights followed that up with a 28.8% (17-59), including 21-46 in the second half.

Odds and ends
During UCF's win against Winthrop junior power forward Mario Lovett had his jaw bunt. Lovett said he didn't recall how he was injured but mentioned that trainer Bill Biaggi told him to try not to talk too much. Head Coach Kirk Sterner, when reflecting upon the fact that nobody saw the injury, quipped, "He probably hurt it talking too much."

Disturbing news was also uncovered following the win over Winthrop. Junior center David Cranberry and Orlando Sentinel beat writer Jerry Greene share a common bond in that they both are from the same native of Sanford. Cranberry had to talk to UCF's athletic training staff during Christmas break as they wards and centers need to be down top competition
The UCF women's basketball team is up on its record at 3-3 this season and are a good three-point shooter. The Knights open the TAAC season on Jan. 4 when they travel to Boca Raton to face Florida Atlantic. UCF holds the edge all-time over the Owls and have won four of the last five contests. UCF can't take FAU lightly because two tough games follow at home against Campbell and Georgia State.

In addition to overcoming the three-point struggles, the Knights must also improve their play at the free-throw line. UCF has only connected on only 66.1 percent of its free throws, compared to their opponents 74.5 percent. Free throw shooting for the Knights was never more prevalent than last season when they shot 3-of-4 from the free-throw line in games decided by six points or less.

UCF has steadily improved since the difficult season-opening loss against American University. Davis has taken control of this squad, but needs more help from the outside shooters to free up the low post. Meanwhile, the Knights forwards and centers need to be even more productive on the glass, have turned it up during the two games winning streak.
UCF loses bowl bid, home for holidays

Sports

Tony Mejia
Sports Editor

In a sad ending to a terrific season, UCF’s football team was excluded from bowl participation when the pairings were announced last Sunday. Because of the University of Miami’s upset victory over UCLA, Oregon vacated its Holiday Bowl bid to fill the Pac-10 slot to the Aloha Christmas Classics, and the Knights lost their conditional bid, being left to watch the bowl season from home.

UCF still had bowl hopes lingering in the Independence Bowl and the Sun Bowl, but saw both of those available bids extended to 6-5 teams with regional ties. UCF finished its season 9-2.

“We’re a young I-A program and an independent that doesn’t get too much recognition in the country and that’s the problem right now,” Kuczek said. “It’s unfortunate that this team with the quality we have, with the people we beat this season, even with the two losses, doesn’t have the ability to move on and play a game. It was very important to this program that we get to a bowl game this year. Now it’s been kind of taken away from us.”

The Independence Bowl was a longshot, as Mississippi had recovered from the resignation of coach Tyrone Steeleville in time to hire Tennessee offensive coordinator David Cutcliffe, thus giving a coaching staff with which to go bowling. Although the Independence Bowl was not tied to take the Rebels, its affiliation with the SEC made its decision a simple one.

Meanwhile, the Sun Bowl elected to extend its bid to Texas Christian. The Horned Frogs have posted a victory over WAC champion Air Force this year, but had to win its last two

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Tony Mejia
Sports Editor

This weekend, UCF got a disturbing reminder that all sports, even college athletics, are a business. The Golden Knights, on the verge of their first bowl trip in school history, saw their hopes dashed from the confines of their respective living rooms. The decision to keep them out was made in conference rooms by greedy bowl officials with money on their minds. The predicament was made necessary by the result of a football game in Miami, Fla., which kept the Golden Knights from receiving their conditional bid to the Oahou Bowl.

When I received the news of UCF’s exclusion, I felt sick. Imagine what players and coaches must have felt like. After falling out of the Oahou Bowl, the Knights were snubbed because of business. It seems that UCF’s 6-2 record had nothing to do with it. The Sun Bowl could have had itself an interesting matchup between the new kid on the block, UCF, and traditional power Southern Cal. Instead, facing the Trojans will be TCU. The Horned Frogs, despite their 6-5 record, leap-frogged three fellow WAC schools with better records in Wyoming, Colorado State, and Utah, as well as UCF to obtain the bid. What a ridiculous injustice.

Why even play a college football season? Just have bids throughout the season extended to teams who can rake in the most money. Let that be the schedule. TCU just to both Wyoming and Colorado State this year and finished 4-4 in the WAC. It suffered losses to 5-6 Oklahoma, 5-6 Rice, and 5-7 SMU as well. The Horned Frogs’ lone quality win was a 35-34 home win against eventual conference champion Air Force early in the season.

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Tony Mejia
Sports Editor

3-point onslaught UCF women’s basketball team hopes to heat up their perimeter shooting.

Home for the holidays UCF’s bowl snub leaves many to wonder what might have been.

Speak Up! Sound off on whether the current bowl situation is effective.

Game coverage Check in on results from men’s and women’s basketball games.

郏-who?
Disgusting!

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Sports Editor

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Sports Editor

Upcoming games
a measuring stick
for Golden Knights

Tony Mejia
Sports Editor

UCF has opened up its non-conference schedule with mixed results. A 79-57 win against Winthrop gave the Knights their second consecutive victory over projected upper echelon teams from mid-major conferences. Both Winthrop (Big South) and UNC-Wilmington (Colonial Athletic) were double-digit losers to UCF, who also defeated Division II Rollins in its season opener.

However, against teams from top conferences, the Knights have been beaten soundly. UCF could not shoot in a 77-42 loss at Auburn (SEC), who remains undefeated, and gave a solid showing before falling, 87-64, at Michigan State (Big-10), who at the time was ranked among the nation’s top 10.

More will be known about how good the Golden Knights are going to be following UCF’s action over the holiday break. The Knights travel to Miami (Big East) and South Florida (Conference USA), and also host Mid-American power Ohio University. With the tough matchups coming up, games at McKenzie State and home against Barry must be won.

The Knights visit the Hurricanes on Dec. 11 at the Miami Arena. The Hurricanes played well in a nationally televised loss to defending national champion Kentucky last Saturday. They will be coming off their conference opener against Boston College and may be

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