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Exploring a closet one bug at a time

Nicole King
NEWS EDITOR

"Making a discovery is the equivalent of having someone hand you $5 million in a suitcase," Stuart Fullerton said. "You just get the feeling that 'Here's something nobody has ever seen.'"

Fullerton, 58, works Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. classifying bugs in a 7 by 12 foot room called the "Bug Closet." As a wasp specialist, he has discovered at least two species of wasps on UCF's campus; the Dryinus fullertoni is even named after him. He might discover more, it depends on what he and the students he works with find while sifting through the 75,000 as-yet-unprocessed insects they have collected.

"This is not building a better stop sign up the street, this is not making a zillion dollars and having a 17 bathroom house, each with a roll of toilet paper. This is what's out there in our garden, this is what makes life for us. These are living creatures created by the same person we were and we don't know anything about them. Insects are neat things. They are not just something you squat and say 'Oh another damn bug.'"

The collection Fullerton devotes himself to is in Room 121 of the Biology Building. Shelves line the walls, leaving only about a three foot walkway for visitors to pass through. Inside, Fullerton bends over a microscope, peering at a wasp one-half inch long and trying to clas-
The University Dining Room

All-You-Care-to-Eat Dinners

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WHAT: All-you-care-to-eat buffet-style and exhibition cooking for $6.95 (as low as $5.75 for meal plan members), including soda bar, veggie bar, soups, salads, deli sandwiches, and your favorite desserts and beverages. WHEN: Monday through Friday from 5:00 pm to 7:15 pm. WHERE: Located in the Student Resource Center.

WHO: Why not? Nutrition, variety, convenience, value, social interaction... isn't that enough?

Wednesday
Pota to Fries
Friday
Broccoli Rice

Thursday
Turkey Stroganoff
Friday
Chicken Fried Rice

Friday
Turkey Crock w/Protein Sauce
Tuesday
Baked Ham

Saturday
All-You-Care-to-Eat Buffet

Sunday
All-You-Care-to-Eat Buffet

PHOTOS BY NICOLE KING

The Commencement ceremony was held December 19 at the UCF Arena. Approximately 2,360 students graduated during the four services, bringing the total number of degrees awarded by UCF to 96,496.

NICKIE KING
NEWS EDITOR

One of the graduates during this fall’s graduation is 79-year-old Elmer Kandigian. Kandigian was awarded a degree in liberal arts from the College of Arts and Sciences after first coming to UCF in 1995. He had begun his college career in Michigan but had his education postponed by his service in World War II and a 45-year career in the construction industry.

“Th is is basically finishing something I started 60 years ago,” Kandigian said. “It’s a great let down. It took me so long to get here.”

Kandigian said he will continue to take classes at UCF although he won’t work toward any specific degree.

“Now I can take the classes I want to take. I made a lot of friends at UCF mostly among the teachers because of my age,” he said. “They’ve been so wonderful to me. I don’t want to leave. I thought I would come back and take a course just to be around them all.”

Now that he’s out of school, Kandigian will spend his time learning to play the tenor saxophone “just because I’ve always wanted to” and volunteering at a local elementary school as a teacher’s helper. “I also bought a tennis racket. I used to be a pretty good player and I thought I’d take it up again.

“I’m the type of person who always looks for new mountains to climb. I’m just that way. I’ve got to look forward to something.”
The College of Arts and Sciences graduated 721 students, the Engineering and Education colleges, 567, the College of Health and Public Affairs, 502, and the College of Business Administration had 570 graduates. Bagpiper Stewart Meredith (left) announces the entrance of the president and the platform party.

Photos by Nicole King

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UCF bug collection is becoming nationally recognized

From Page 1

ify it.

If successful, he will add it to the 55,000 specimens already in the bug collection. This little collection is now known on a national basis, not because it is a big col-
lection but because it is very regional. We know more about this 1,100 acres at UCF than any other place in the world as far as insect life. We have more information than the state collection in Gainesville about what’s going on in this area. Just knowing what each bug is not necessarily enough.

We need to know what it does, why it does it, and what relationships it has with other animals.”

Fullerton has worked intermittently on UCF’s collection since he was a student at the university in 1977. He has donated money and equipment, but mostly, time; and, as a volunteer, he has never been paid for any of his efforts.

An avid bug collector since he was a child, Fullerton said he started out at 14 or 15 collecting butterflies. “Probably most bug collectors, real dyed in the wool bug people, not nine to fivers, start with butterflies. They are big and gaudy and fun to chase and you don’t mind making a fool of yourself,” he said.

Fullerton, who is severely nearsighted, said his parents did not realize he had poor vision until he was 14. “I was basically blind as a kid, so what I did was look at little stuff up close and most of it was insects.”

When Fullerton was a sophomore at his high school in California, he skipped school and traveled with his box of bugs 100 miles to San Francisco. He visited the Entomology Department at the California Academy of Sciences. “I met the most delightful people there,” Fullerton said. “They told me everything I was doing wrong. After that, they told me what to do and how to do it right. They said ‘Come back’ and I did, several times through the years.”

After Fullerton retired from teaching in 1990, he began volunteering at the UCF Arboretum. “That brought me back into contact with the little bits of an insect collection they had,” he said. “I was doing some other stuff and I opened up a drawer and said ‘Gosh, this is a mess. Let me fix it.” And after about a year of that, I was doing all of that full time at home and bringing it to school. So I stopped vol-
unteering at the arboretum and went into it full time.”

Fullerton said working on the collection is his way of giving back to other people.

One of his biggest thrills, he said, is inspiring the same kind of enthusiasm in the students he works with as the people at the California Academy did in him. “There is nothing like seeing the excitement on the students’ faces after they have just seen something that has never been seen before. I like to give back to others like those peo-
dle did to me.”

“This is an ongoing study that will be going on long after I’m dead and that’s one of my goals, to make sure it goes on. It’s not about me, it’s about the collection now.”

Fullerton’s plans for the collection began to become a reality in 1993 when the head of the Biology Department decided to offer entomology to students on a regular basis. Fullerton was asked to help out with the lab. The Bug Closet opened the following year with little support from the university. “The students in the class that year came in and we bought the sup-
plies, built the table. One of them provid-
ed the little refrigerator and I bought the materials and put up the shelves and things. The equipment that I didn’t pur-
chase, I beat up on my friends to donate or I threatened to come visit them.”

Fullerton said the Bug Closet is almost totally self-supporting. The collection has an endowed fund and a small scholarship associated with it. Fullerton said the only expenses the Biology Department has are the electric and telephone bills.

Fullerton said he doesn’t mind the lack of support by the university, but he does fault UCF for destroying bug habitats with its constant expansion. He said both of the two species of wasps he discovered on campus have had their habitats destroyed. One species was found under what is now the parking garage and the other’s habitat was bulldozed to make a retention pond and a new road. “Two extinctions in one year might be a record,” he said.

A rare species of spider was also discov-
ered about 20 years ago in what is now the parking lot for the UCF Arena Fullerton said. “It’s never been found any place in Florida again—not that anyone has ever gone out to look for it. It’s not like hunting elephants which are fairly big and you can hear them coming. You’re working with things that are half an inch long.”

Fullerton said he often feels as if he is “running in front of bulldozers trying to find out what’s there before it is destroyed. I fully expect that with the work we’re doing here, we will find many new species and we’ll say, ‘Well, where were we when we found it?’ And then we’ll say ‘We were under that parking lot over there.’

“We have no right to destroy species. We’re usurping the position of whatever we consider our creator or higher power to be and that takes a lot of ego for a human being to do. We’re deliberately doing it all over this place.”

Despite his frustration, Fullerton said he continues to look for new bugs because he is constantly surprised by the insect world. “They are the largest single group of liv-
ing creatures in the world. There are over a million different species of insects named and probably another 10 million that haven’t been named. They are such an enormous group! Every day there is some-
thing new to look at.”

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Ecstasy popular in downtown rave scene

Ecstasy vary according to time, place, and manufacturer. The names change frequently. The drug was invented here in Florida. Rumor has it that Ecstasy first appeared in cities between 1992 and 1994.

The drug is created by changing the molecular structure of an existing drug or to create an entirely new substance. These drugs are created in clandestine laboratories and are extremely dangerous.

There have been rumors circulating as to where Ecstasy originated. Some old ravers claim that Ecstasy first appeared in London, during the 1980s. Others say the drug was invented here in Florida. Rumor has it that some Florida medical students created Ecstasy in their school laboratory.

The street name of specific kinds of Ecstasy vary according to time, place, and manufacturer. The names change frequently.

According to users, the wired feeling of Ecstasy, or “blowing up,” is cleaner than tripping on LSD. One feels no pain. "I could burn myself with a cigarette, and not even realize it. Ecstasy brings people closer together, even if it is fake," said a local user.

There have been several extreme cases where Ecstasy users harm themselves permanently. The effects of too much of the drug can cause nerve damage and muscle twitches by drying out essential fluids in the spinal cord.

Ecstasy is often used in combination with other drugs, such as Rophynol and GHB. GHB was made common by bodybuilders. The compound was used to stimulate muscle growth. Since the early 1980s, GHB has also become popular as a recreational drug. Liquid or powder forms of GHB are often mixed with other hallucinogens. It is sold underground in Orlando for approximately $50 per dose. GHB is odorless and has a cinnamon-like taste. Users say it induces a state of relaxation and lasts about one and a half to three hours.

The adverse effects from GHB can be respiratory depression, respiratory arrest, low blood pressure, coma, or death. In the 1980s, the U.S. government approved GHB in clinical trials for narcolepsy treatment. Some European countries formerly used the drug as an anesthetic. It was declared illegal in 1990 by the Food and Drug Administration. Ecstasy, Rophynol, and GHB are commonly used in date rapes because a person can blow up just having a great time with his or her date. Women have passed on their sickness to the rest of the population. A pusher would sell drugs to his own mother if he could," Paul said.

Despite the risks of drug use, some students contend that is a normal part of college life.

"I think that it's normal for students to try mind altering drugs once or twice," said UCF psychology major Jen. "But no more. I don't like how it gives someone a false feeling and it's just not worth the hurt it does to your body. Also, I wouldn't want to mess with the law when it comes to these drugs. I can find ecstasy in a natural way. I can blow up just having a great time with my friends or by being in love."
How to pick the right graduate school

TAYLOR SIKES
STAFF WRITER

The hardest part of going to graduate school is choosing where you want to go. There may be two or even three possibilities in your own city. Here is a process that can narrow down your choices and help you to find the graduate program that best matches your interests.

Gathering Information

The first process in choosing a graduate school is research. Begin this by finding out as much information about a school as possible. Write or email potential schools and request departmental information and catalogs. You can also use research directories, like Harold R. Doughty's "Guide to American Graduate Schools and Research Facilities.

"Research the Internet to familiarize yourself with the past publications of the faculty," said Marline Nilsson, a 23-year-old student who is putting her masters in political science. "It is good to know what kind of research they are doing in order to see if you are interested in the same things."

Nilsson also said a good resource for finding information about colleges is your college advisor or a professor from your university. Professors know what programs are generally like and can give you a feel for the school. They can provide advice on which programs are the highest quality available. Faculty may also have contacts or colleagues at other schools that provide insight into their programs.

"Speaking with an advisor gives insight into where you are headed. It gets you going in the right direction," said Nilsson.

Barnes and Noble vows to beat competitive prices

FROM PAGE 1

at 40 percent, which is set by a wholesaler. Eckhart said there are many reasons a book may not be in demand.

"There's a different professor, if the publisher quits publishing the book, or if there's another edition to the book it is all factors that could lead to the book not being available," he said.

He said the bookstore will buy back any book even if it doesn't need it and will beat competitive prices. The books that aren't needed are sent to another school or the bookstore hands the sale the next business day.

Eckhart said that the bookstore would pay back money if it doesn't need it and will beat competitive prices. The books that aren't needed are sent to another school or the bookstore hands the sale the next business day.

Barnes and Noble vows to beat competitive prices

Narrowing it down

Cost

Cost is a major problem for graduate students. A common misunderstanding about graduate school is that there will be an abundance of financial aid and scholarships.

"Graduate school is very expensive," said Nilsson. "Plan way ahead, at least a year. Apply for assistantships and fellowships. Make sure you have a job lined up to fit your classes. If you anticipate working in the day, make sure night classes are offered.

"The Guide to American Graduate Schools" said prices for a resident at state universities range from $1,800 to $2,500 a year, or from $2,400 to $5,000 for an out-of-state student. Private colleges range from $4,000 to $21,000 annually.

Some state institutions are waiving fees for out-of-state graduate students, or allow students to establish residency in a shorter amount of time. Find out if you can get your first two years of graduate school for free.

"The resources of the city. Meanwhile, if you live in the boonies then you have fewer opportunities."

Visiting the Campus

"If you think you are having a hard time choosing a college, then this is the place to get your information," said Fensci. "Note their academic abilities, achievements and skills and see if they are similar to yours.

"See if other students are getting the same type of education while at your school."

Where to Look for Graduate School Information

Books:

- "The Guide to American Graduate Schools"
- Peterson's Graduate Programs in the Humanities, Arts, and Sciences
- University Catalogs (attractive by writing or emailing the university)

Web Sites:

- University Web Sites
- Yahoo Search Engine: http://www.yahoo.com
- http://www.gradguide.com
- http://www.petersons.com

In Liberal Studies at Rollins College. "The size of the school doesn't always reflect what classes will be like. Ask specific questions in reference to size."

"A good campus visit is getting an appointment with at least one adviser and getting as much information as possible about the programs," said 39-year-old Lee Anne Kirkpatrick, a graduate student at UCF, who's working on a master's degree in Statistical Computing.

Kirkpatrick said to meet with the faculty, see their facilities and see what kind of students are enrolled in their program. It puts faces with statistics and real people, instead of just names and numbers.

Nilsson said the campus visit gives you a feel for the atmosphere of the school and allows you to check facilities like libraries, labs and class rooms. This will give a good picture of how well the department is financed. Remember that this will be the environment you study intensively in.

She also said to make it a point to talk to current students currently enrolled in the program. There is a lot to tell from these students. Note their academic abilities, achievements and skills and see if they are similar to yours.

"See if other students are getting the same type of education while at your school."

J. Wendi Schear

In Central Florida Future • 6

Meeting the faculty

This allows you to ask specific questions and helps to give a feel for the people you will be studying under said Kirkpatrick.

"The faculty is very important," said Kirkpatrick."The reputation of the faculty influences job placement and represents the quality of the program."

"Meeting the graduate professors provides an opportunity to see if you connect with the professors," said Nilsson. "If you don't get along with the professors, you are going to hate graduate school."

Tying it all together

Once all of your information has been accumulated, you have met with the faculty and visited each campus, sit down and go over your information. Look at the pros and cons of each school and why you or liked or disliked them. Find the six or seven universities that match your interests and desired educational goals the best, and apply to them. When you are accepted, go back through the process and make your decision.

Remember, the most important part of choosing a graduate school is to make sure you are content with where you choose, so invest time in your search.

Spring 1999 Course Schedule

NOTE: Class times are in 30 minute blocks.

CRS # & Sec. Title Days Br. Times

College of Arts & Sciences

3333 ENP 314C 0054 Advanced Applied Psychology 03 M 1100 1515
3334 ENP 314C 0055 Advanced Applied Psychology 03 M 1530 1515
3335 ENP 314C 0056 Advanced Applied Psychology 03 M 1900 1515
3336 ENP 314C 0057 Advanced Applied Psychology 03 M W 1530 1515
7035 STA 322 0054 Statistical Computing 01 T 1900 1945
1732 CGS 3170C 0054 Internet Applications I 01 T 1730 1945
1735 CGS 3170C 0054 Internet Applications II 01 T 1730 1945
4690 WMI 3145 0054 Leadership Through Oral Communication 03 W 1530 1900

College of Business

6948 GEB 3051 0055 Commerce 06 M 1000 1245
4522 MAN 3025 0054 Management of Organizations 03 M W 1000 1155
6945 GEB 3051 0054 Commerce 06 M W 1300 1415
4436 MAN 3054 0054 Quality & Productivity Management 01 T R 1400 1515
4200 GEB 3010J 0056 Commerce Discussion 00 R 1830 2115

College of Engineering

0890 ENG 3420 0054 Engineering Analysis 03 M 1500 1615
0969 EGN 3343 0054 Thermodynamics 03 M W 0830 0945
4915 EGN 3210 0054 Engineering Analysis and Computation 03 T R 0830 0945
4927 EGN 3213 0054 Engineering Analysis-Dynamics 03 T R 1100 1155
4928 STA 3023 0054 Probability & Statistics for Engineering 03 T R 1400 1515
4962 EGN 4643 0054 Engineering Administration 01 T R 1130 1245
7903 EGN 3413 0054 Engineering Economics Analysis 02 T R 1600 1650
7355 MW 3601 0054 Solid Mechanics [6-week summer session of classes For spring/summer (video) courses.]

College of Health & Public Affairs

6488 CGI 4163 0054 Cultural Diversity in Criminal Justice 03 M 1800 2045
6511 PLA 3003 0054 Civil Practice & Procedures 03 M 1800 2045
6551 PLA 3004 0054 Property & Real Estate Law 03 M 1800 2045
6422 SOW 3024 0054 Clinical Practice with Children and Adolescents 03 T 1800 2015
6423 SOW 3024 0054 Clinical Practice with Groups 03 T 1800 2015
6572 PLA 4003 0054 Career in Legal Studies 01 T 1800 2045
6990 PLA 3944 0054 ST Careers 01 T 1800 2045
6219 PAD 4466 0054 Multiculturalism in Public Administration 03 W 1800 2045
6430 SOG 6653 0054 Clinical Practice with Children and Adolescents 03 W 1800 2045
6012 PLA 4003 0054 Law of Contracts 01 T 1800 2045
5087 PLA 4794 0054 Advanced Legal Applications Computer Software 03 W 1800 2045
6225 PAD 4795 0054 ST: Volunteerism for Public Administration 03 W 1800 2045
6434 SOW 6914 0054 Research Project 02 R 1800 2045
6586 PLA 4796 0054 Law Office Practice 03 W 1800 2045
7055 PLA 3010 J 0054 Police & Security 01 T 1800 2045
7093 PLA 3015 0054 Legal Research 03 R 1800 2045

Register for classes at the UCF Downtown Academic Center and you can enjoy the computer lab, bookstores, and study lounge located in this modern, state-of-the-art facility in the heart of Downtown Orlando. The downtown center offers upper-division and graduate-level courses. We're bringing quality programs and professors Downtown.

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Spelling problems curable
with some ‘kommon cents’

Amanda Johnson
College Press Exchange

Americans have forgotten how to spell, what’s next?

Take the typical American day. You get up and enjoy your breakfast, maybe some Trix cereal, or if you really don’t know how to spell, a few Krispy Kreme donuts.

You get dressed. Don’t forget to put on your Soft’n Dri deodorant.

On your way to work, you stop at the local All-Nite Quicke Mart to buy gas for your Infinity.

You’re in a hurry, so you go through the drive-thru to get some coffee.

After work, you run a few errands. You go to the Fantastic Mart to buy a Rice Krispy treat.

Soft’n Dri deodorant.

We like to listen to music by bands like Kool-Aid or Men. ‘N Sync or Blessed Union of Souls.

We’re the ones who go and see movies called Antz.

And instead of creating our own slang, we’ve just mis-spelled words to make them spell right.

We’re the two cases. For one, Thomas Jefferson was mulatto.

We’re the ones who go to the bank that doesn’t mark this word right.

Little Johnny: But that’s what’s wrong. They laugh at it.

Therefore your right answer would be right.

So if I tell you that I don’t have any left, would you believe me?

And if we like you, we’re either phat or kewl.

Some businesses misspell to be cute.

Or is that kute?

I can’t tell anymore. For some strange reason, they think all the words in their name should start with the same letter.

Take for example the name of a restaurant in rural Ohio, Korner Kafe. Then again, if they had spelled it right, it would be Corner Cafe.

I guess I’m wrong.

Spellings must be kute.

I wonder why none of my professors think that. One would think that with all the technology we have today, misspellings would never happen again.

After all, everything is done on computers, which can highlight all the misspelled words for you (like in done for about half of the words in this article). Then again, in the future we won’t need spell check.

At some point, misspellings are going to be so common that nobody will even notice. People will only take notice when things are spelled right.

Imagine this: Little Johnny: Teacher, why did you mark this word wrong?

Teacher: Johnny, you spelled it S-C-H-O-O-L.

Little Johnny: But that’s right.

Teacher: I know that.

What’s your point?

Little Johnny: If I spelled it right, now can it be wrong?

Teacher: Johnny, we don’t spell things right anymore. Therefore your right answer is actually a wrong answer. If you spelled it wrong, it would be right.

Businesses need to start realizing that they are doing more harm than good.

They need to realize that spelling words incorrectly doesn’t make them look good.

It makes them look stupid.

Businesses need to start giving us more credit. We’re smarter than they think.

Most Americans recognize when something is spelled wrong. They laugh at it.

After all, Americans use common sense.

Opinion

Central Florida Future

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January 6, 1999
www.UCFfuture.com
Former student questions proposed tier system

Through my local paper, The Tallahassee Democrat, I understand that two "to the death" enemies have agreed on something. That something must be something that is so good for them that they can't believe it's true! Please don't tell me adults and professionals who are alumni of these schools aren't as competitive for legislative dollars as they are for touchdowns, because I know they are.

Florida and Florida State have agreed to the recently proposed Tier system. I understand this will mean:
1) The end of the per pupil parity funding for UCF if this proposal goes through. In short, we will receive less money per student.
2) UCF will become a second class school. The political-legislative "spat" will not admit this. Furthermore, if UCF is in the 2nd tier, this will be used against us when we are recruiting scholars as well as when we are recruiting athletes.

The Gators and the Seminoles are fierce competitors. I want my university to compete with them and not be placated with their leftovers!

Knights, please be brave and bold enough to consider a very non-politically correct position and fight for UCF's status and future! When I served on the UCF Alumni Association Board of Directors, "per student parity funding" was one of the major issues that was fought for and won, but only after many years of labor. Please don't give up on this issue without an all-out war with the Board of Regents!

Unless the BOR can show us how the "new" tiered system is better for UCF, we should fight for status quo!

Don't stand at the door with your hat in your hand hoping for an invitation to the "feast of legislative funding." Once we are officially a second tier school, our expectations must be lowered to left-over's.

"Fight 'em Knights, Fight 'em!"

-Gregory D. Wilson, UCF Class of '81

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UCF alumna wants to turn knights into manatees

I graduated from UCF in 1985 with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. My father and two sisters also graduated from UCF (PTU for some). I would appreciate clarification on a matter that has puzzled me and my family while attending and since graduating from UCF. Is there anyone who can explain why UCF's mascot is a "Knight"? I have heard a story that since UCF (PTU) was such a big commuter school, it was considered a night school. Oh, that is clever. I believe that several individuals made a hasty decision and came up with Knights. When you think of central Florida, you do not think of medieval knights. I also cannot remember ever seeing a female, black, or other ethnicity knight. The women in the medieval times were often, shall we say, ladies in waiting. I would like to see UCF adopt a new mascot, a strong figure to represent our university that also identifies with our central Florida lifestyle.

The names of the other Florida university mascots ring out with power and strong Florida symbols: Gators, Seminoles, Hurricanes, and Panthers. Many colleges and universities have unique mascots. I am open to different ideas for a new mascot. I would like to see the current student body and registered alumni association members contacted for input for a new mascot. This could be conducted through the Internet, on campus displays, the "FUTURE," and through the alumni magazine. Suggestions...well, my personal favorite is to be the Manatees. A creature that is strong, unique and associated with our state. This would also make people aware of the animal and its quest for survival. UCF, like the manatee, is going to have to stay strong for recognition and survival. Picture the crowd at the football games doing the wave at manatee speed.

Many colleges and universities have unique mascots that are not some blood thirsty felines or fierce animals, the Maryland Terrapins, Utah Utes, Syracuse Orange, Temple Owls, Purdue Boilermakers, Lehigh Engineers, Tufio Jumbos, and many more. Other suggestions, the UCF Crackers. No, it is not a racial slur or meant as a slam. It's a cowboy. During the late 1800's, the Florida cowboys would communicate with each other by cracking a whip. Hence, they came to be known as Crackers, much like the Indiana Hoosiers, Oklahoma Sooners, or the North Carolina Tar Heels.

How about the UCF Storm?

Now, since we're considering changing the mascot. I think some consideration should also be given to changing the school colors. Whoever picked black and gold has never watched an outdoor sporting event in Florida. I challenge anyone to wear a black shirt to a UCF soccer, baseball, or football game. I am proud to wear my UCF shirts, but try wearing one on a local golf course. Unfortunately, I can only bear them when I know I will be indoors with air conditioning.

I realize that UCF is in a position where people across the nation are taking notice of us. If you watch ESPN or any other major sports network, they do not say the Wolverines played the Buckeyes. They have the state or private name of the university, not the mascot. I know there are many people out there with the same opinion as myself. I know this because I have talked to numerous alumni and students at sporting events and alumni parties. Many of them have agreed with me. I do not believe that changing the mascot will have any adverse reaction on the university, only a positive one. Knights reflect a strange time in the world where there was one non elected ruler who taxed citizens for his own benefit, cruelty, and savage punishment. While we are moving our university into the 21st century, let's bring the mascot with us.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

-R. Ellen Pearson, UCF Class of '85

Play a role in this spring's blockbuster...

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE GREEK COUNCIL OFFICE (STUDENT UNION 2088) AT 823-2072

FRATERNITY RUSH WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1999 7 PM STUDENT UNION: KICKOFF RUSH RUNS FROM JAN. 7, 1999 THROUGH JAN. 10, 1999
Murphy and Fox head for the projects

CORBETT TRUBEY
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Riding on the wave of an increasing number of viewers, the Fox network has teamed up with comedian/actor Eddie Murphy to executive produce "The PJ's," the first animated television show featuring an all-black cast. Working with the legendary Will Vinton Studio, they have put together a satirical look at a family living in a big city project that promises to break cultural stereotypes and taboos.

Murphy is the voice of Thurgood Stubbs, the cranky superintendent of the Hilton-Jacobs Project. While not kicking back in his recliner watching "Wheel of Fortune" with a "forty," he's busy fixing the plumbing and handling numerous complaints from the tenants. Thurgood's wife Muriel (Loretta Devine) claims Oprah to be her hero and keeps her secret fantasies locked away in her diary. They play surrogate parents to Calvin (Crystal Scales), an overweight but bright 10-year-old, and his friend Juicy (Michele Morgan).

Rounding out the cast is Muriel's older sister Bebe (Jennifer Lewis), her Korean husband Jimmy (Michael Paul Chan), the elderly Mrs. Avery (Ja'net DuBois), Thurgood's chess buddy Sanchez (Pepe Serna), who speaks through a broken voice box, and Haiti Lady (Cheryl Francis Harrington), who uses voodoo to solve everyday problems.

These characters come to life through a form of animation called Foamation, which uses large, puppet-looking creations similar to clay figures. This is the first weekly stop-motion animation production to ever take place, with four or more episodes in production at one time. According to producer Vinton, "It's going to be a challenge... but I'm excited about bringing these characters to life each week."

The other challenge will be how well audiences take to a show dealing with such strong stereotypes in a controversial setting. In the past, shows like "Good Times" and "Sanford and Son" managed to entertain while showing people who lived well below middle-class standards. More importantly, they were situational comedies that carved a place for blacks in the television industry. Along the way there have been many hits and misses, but what sets "The PJ's" in a separate category is the ability to exaggerate through animation, a factor that could leave people, regardless of race, laughing for more or irreversibly offended.

"I wanted to do the type of show where people sit around and talk about it afterward, the way they did with shows like 'All In The Family,'" says Murphy. "I want people to watch 'The PJ's' and say 'Oh, man, I've never seen anything like that.'"

In the past, Murphy's humor would easily command such a reaction, but considering his move towards more family oriented films such as Dr. Doolittle, he's toned it down quite a bit. So maybe "The PJ's" won't be so bad after all. The creative aspect of the show is already turning heads, and when the show premieres this Sunday after "The Simpsons," there's potential for "The PJ's" to start another merchandising trend like "The Simpsons," "Beavis and Butthead," and other adult-oriented animation shows have created in the past. It's a bold step for Fox, something viewers should be used to, and also one for Murphy. The only question remaining is if it will be a welcome step forward... or an unfortunate step back.

---

Eddie Murphy is the voice of Thurgood Stubbs, the superintendent of a big city project full of colorful residents in the new stop-motion animation series "The PJ's." It premieres Sunday, January 10th at 8:30p.m. on the Fox network.

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CORBETT TRUBEY
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

It's difficult to knock a film that makes you feel good all over. You know, that uplifting, warm and fuzzy, get-out-of-your-seat-and-cheer feeling which is the result of endless tugging at your heartstrings and, in the case of Patch Adams, numerous bumps to the funny bone. But if you’re anything like Robin Williams, there’s a tendency to keep tuggin' and bumpin', which sometimes gets a little played out.

Patch Adams is based on the true story of a medical student who practices an unorthodox form of medical treatment, one that causes him to risk his education and career. Firmly believing that laughter is the best medicine, Patch dons clown costumes and other assorted props to keep patients smiling and increase their desire to recover. Of course, not everybody agrees with such a personal and unusual method, and Patch must prove himself to all who doubt him if he ever wants to be a doctor. This includes his biggest opponent Dean Walcott (Bob Gunton), who does everything in his power to keep Patch from graduating.

In the opening scenes we get a brief glimpse of the old Patch, a sad and depressed man being admitted to a mental hospital for attempted suicide. Of course, our hero can’t look like too much of a schlump, so the reasons behind this are magically replaced with a humorous scene of Patch reaching out to his first ‘patient,’ his hallucinatory cellmate. And then.... Poof! Patch magically appears in the next scene strolling on campus as an enthusiastic, energetic freshman (we’ll just assume he had all that money for med school stashed in a Swiss bank account somewhere). All we know about Patch from the beginning, and pretty much the whole movie, is that he really, really, really wants to be a doctor. As far as introducing a main character goes, it’s pretty weak.

What audiences will get plenty of, though, is Robin Williams whooping it up in front of cancer patients, nurses, classmates, and anyone else he feels could use a good laugh. The emotional range of these scenes go from bittersweet to flat-out outrageous, and since this is the kind of stuff Williams does best, it makes Patch Adams fun to watch.

The only time things get to be a little too much is during the heavier scenes. Numerous tragedies pop in and out during the course of Patch Adams (remember, we’re dealing with hospital patients), and each one has a manipulative way of being dropped unexpectedly, and then quickly blown off to make room for the next plot point. This form of storytelling is very popular with, say, Melrose Place and other emotionally hollow television shows. This would be much easier to point out if it wasn’t for the intense performance of Williams, who maintains a screen presence almost as strong as in Good Morning, Vietnam. But what starts out as Oscar mate­rial slowly borders on grandstanding, and Williams dominates practically every frame he’s in (I lost count of the number of times he bust ed a tear). The well-played supporting characters, includ­ing love interest Carin (Monica Potter), roommate Mitch (Philip Seymour Hoffman), and buddy Truman (Daniel London), are all given equally complex personalities but only a fraction of the time to expose the audience to them, condemning years of their educational frustration into poignant monologues that are blown off to make room for Williams.

But as said before, you can’t knock a movie that makes you feel this good. As much as the movie seems to unwillingly steer you to whatever emotion is appropriate for the moment, you have to appreciate the fact that Patch Adams is based on a true story, that Williams really goes all out for it, and that audiences are exposed to a trend in the medical community that is insightful, incredibly compassionate, and could potentially revolutionize the medical com­munity. Patch is the mack daddy doctor that everyone’s going to love.
Katzenberg looks to heavens for 'Prince Of Egypt'

IAN SPELLING
COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

Jeffrey Katzenberg hopes God's on his side.

Katzenberg, the guru of the animated film and one of the head honchos at the still-burgeoning DreamWorks studio, is going all out with his latest film, "The Prince of Egypt." The movie sheds the cute creatures of the family films he over­ saw at Walt Disney and tackles no less ambitious a story than the saga of Moses. It's a risk of biblical proportions: a (report­ edly) $90 million on an animated religious epic with no obvious promotional tie-ins, on a film that may be too kid-friendly for adults and too adult for kids.

"What we were trying to do at DreamWorks was take this technique of animation that for 70 years has been used to tell fairy tales and do something different," Katzenberg says during a conversa­ tion at a Manhattan hotel. "As you know from my 10 years at Disney I love animation and I loved the fairy tales, but we wanted to try to do something different now.

"So, to change 70 years of perception, which I hope is not completely impossi­ ble, is a big challenge. The last time I faced this was when Steven Spielberg, Bob Zemeckis and I were involved in a movie called 'Who Framed Roger Rabbit?' We'd say, 'It's going to be ani­ mation and live-action,' and people would say, 'Oh, yeah, it's 'Pete's Dragon.' " We went, 'No, no. It's NOT 'Pete's Dragon.' It's something completely different.'"

Katzenberg says the time is right for something completely different once again.

"Now, it seems as though there is this unbelievably rich opportunity to take this form of storytelling called animation and tell something other than a fairy tale with it. Those fairy tales are very specifically designed. They are cartoons. They are exaggerations. They look for caricatures of their actors. The music is used in a very particular way. What we've attempted to do with 'Prince of Egypt' is to find a dif­ ferent path, something that's original," he says. "'Prince of Egypt' does not look like a fairy tale. We've tried to create a painted realism. We've tried to bring a painting to life using some of the digital state of the art tools that exist for us today. I don't think any of it is easy, in terms of attract­ ing an audience. It's why we're out there promoting the movie. Maybe seeing Val Kilmer or Sandra Bullock or Jeff Goldblum talk about 'Prince of Egypt' will say to people, 'Well, maybe there is something different here and maybe we should check it out.' It's not like most ani­ mated films, so it would be wrong to mar­ ket it like most animated films."

The historic plot: An infant placed in a basket and set into the river by its dis­ tressed mother (Odra Hass) arrives safely before the Queen of Egypt (Helen Mirren). The Queen and Pharaoh Seti (Patrick Stewart) trust the child — a boy they name Moses (Val Kilmer) — as their own and raise him as the brother of Rameses (Ralph Fiennes). The brothers grow close.

Then, Moses' brother and sister, Aaron (Jeff Goldblum) and Miriam (Ofra Hazan) reveal to Moses his true identity and tell him that the slaves toiling and dying as they erect the Pharaoh's pyramids are Moses' own people. Soon, God tasks Moses with leading his people out of Egypt. Brotherly strife, assorted plagues, boot camp training and the parting of the Red Sea all ensue with frightful speed.

To bring 'The Prince of Egypt' to the screen, Katzenberg recruited hundreds of animators, many of them Disney veterans, a fact that fanned the flames of the Disney-DreamWorks and/or Katzenberg-Michael Eisner feuds. Katzenberg also secured the Oscar-winning talents of "Lion King" composer Hans Zimmer and "Pocahontas" lyricist Stephen Schwartz.

"That's for others to judge," he says. "That's for others to judge, I can say that making the movie was a privilege. I can also say that there have been very few times when I look at something after the fact and feel it represents the best possible work that we can do. I do feel that we've done our best possible work with 'Prince of Egypt.'"

"What the outcome is, whether people like it or not, I can't do anything about it. It's not in my hands," Katzenberg says. "But making it was a privilege and I look at 'Prince of Egypt' with a great sense of pride. We accomplished the goal."
Chuck Shepherd's
THE STORY OF THE WEIRD

Lead Stories

- In December, a deer hunter on upscale Nantucket Island, Mass., stumbled upon a deer that lead him to the 8-by-8-by-7-foot-deep underground squar- ter's apartment of Thomas Johnson, 38, which he from drug charges in Italy. Johnson's apartment has December that they had begun work on breeding a trade, said he shuttles among Nantucket and similar residences in four other states.

- Researchers at a large Russian biological and medical center told New Scientist magazine in that they had begun work on breeding a capsule carrying dirty laundry. It would lead the order. In late December, police finally pelted the cops with firebombs and bottles.

- In December in New York City against social activist George Singleton, 49 and black, with because of the bag of suspicious herbs found in his turn over to police because they thought his budget and authority to appoint 1.

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Leasing Economic Indicators

- In November, thousands of normally tranquil monks of the Chogye Buddhist order in South monks had welded the doors shut, and supporters brawling with rocks, clubs and firebombs over who by the weight of the capsule carrying dirty laundry. It will lead the order. In late December, police finally pelted the cops with firebombs and bottles.

- In November, a federal judge tossed out a in October that the average flaccid Brazilian penis 99.5% of the cases analyzed were genuine cases, said the judge. 

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Least Competent People

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Recurring Themes

- As recently as September 1998, News of the Weird reported on Milwaukee's Gary Arthur, the man who has had more than 50 charges filed against him in 30 years for his peculiar fetish of telephoning women and convincing them to fit other people who might be in the room so that he can hear the phone on the other end. It was government jobs.

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The Thrill of Victory, Agony of Defeat

An unidentified 30-lb hunter jumped joyously into the Aratama River in Yokohama, Japan, in October, celebrating the home team's win over Osaka for its first baseball league pennant in 38 years. He did not appear to be on drugs or unable to stand, said the Japanese government's justice ministry.

(Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 8300, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33738, or chuck@compuserve.com.)
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Beaming parents are barely home from the hospital with their newborns before they are forced to face perhaps the most vexing question in child-raising today:

How are we going to pay for college?

Babies born today are potential members of the college class of 2020. Right now, the average cost—tuition, room and board—at a four-year private school is $19,213 per year, according to the College Board in New York. But most Ivy League schools and those that are comparable cost more than $20,000.

The College Board says the average annual cost for a four-year public school is $7,572. Penn State, though, is between $10,600 and $11,000, depending on year and major.

If you look back at how rapidly college costs have risen in the past decade—5 percent to 6 percent annually—and project ahead to 2016, when today's newborns will likely become college freshmen, it is not hard to conclude that four years of college could cost $75,000 for a public university to $250,000 for a top-notch private school.

And yet, according to a 1997 poll conducted for the Student Loan Marketing Association (Sallie Mae), which is part of the nation's largest provider of student loans, just 18 percent of parents say they have started saving for college because their child begins high school.

"Most parents, the survey showed, save about 25 percent of college costs, while two out of 10 families—20 percent—don't save at all for school. "Many parents come into this with the attitude that government and schools will pay for everything," said Mark Kantrowitz, a Pittsburgh author and financial-aid expert who publishes a Web site at http://www.finaid.org that is filled with charts, calculators and other information about paying for college.

"That just doesn't happen. The federal government has stated that it expects the family to be primarily responsible for a child's education, and will step in only when a family can't afford it."

Time, said Kantrowitz and other college financial experts, is a family's greatest asset. "Saving just $25 a week from age 17 to age 35 will yield about $43,000, a decent chunk of money. Even just $10 a week at that rate would grow to nearly $14,000—for all that in 17 years that may barely cover books and late-night pizzas."

"The most important thing is to start saving as soon as possible," said William Shevlin, who specializes in college financial planning at New Century Financial Group in Princeton.

The earlier a family starts saving, Shevlin said, the more risks it can take with its money. "When a child's a young one, be more aggressive," he said. "Then, when he gets closer to college age, you want to think about repositioning your money, perhaps putting it into something more stable, like an intermediate-term bond fund or a price-rate fund. They're interest-earning, but not necessarily subject to too many wild swings."

Financial aid is an extremely complicated process, said Kantrowitz.

"It's got its own language. It's very intimidating," he said. "It takes time to learn and understand the process, and the earlier a family starts, the better-educated it will be by the time it has to engage in the process."

Financial experts almost uniformly suggest getting into stocks and mutual funds early and staying there for 10 to 12 years. You don't need thousands of dollars to start out, they point out. What you do need is a strong stomach to ride out the fluctuations.

In recent years, states have begun offering prepaid tuition plans, in which families contribute either in a lump sum or, and earn interest on, rather than having to

Suppliers of such plans, which are in 22 states, including Pennsylvania and New Jersey, say their biggest strengths are in encouraging families to save, and in offering reassurance that there will be money for college. Detectors, though, point out that money can be placed in other vehicles that offer higher returns.

What happens, though, if you haven't been saving and it suddenly dawns on you that your son or daughter is just two or three years from heading off to college? That's a situation that Jack Joyce, now part of the financial aid division of the College Board, saw time and again when he worked at colleges in Massachusetts and New York.

"We tell them it's better to start early— and if they have younger children, to start thinking about saving for them—but it's never too late to put something aside, even if it's only a minimal amount," he said. "It's something they'll be able to draw on and earn interest on, rather than having to pay interest on a student or parent loan."

If you do get into the savings game when the child is 12, 13, 14 years old, still look for growth for at least a couple of years, but stick with lower-risk investments, experts say. Bonds are attractive, they say, because there is less risk that they will fall sharply in value. Government securities are fairly safe, but have a lower

The most vexing question in child-raising today is how are we going to pay for college?

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When the college candidate turns 16, advisers will tell you to look at money-market funds, certificates of deposits, or savings bonds that protect the principal and still earn money.

Everyone agrees that it's crucial to save money in the parents' names, not the child's.

"There are slight tax benefits by saving in a child's name, but it's outweighed by loss in aid eligibility," said Kantrowitz. The formula used to determine financial aid is much harsher on a student's assets than on the parents'. A student is expected to contribute 35 percent of his or her assets toward the cost of education, the rate for parents, though, is 5.64 percent.

(Remember: assets include savings and investments, but not retirement plans or the value of a home.)

In other words, if a student has saved $4,000 from summer jobs, a college will expect $1,400 of it to go toward tuition. Parents' assets would have to be just under $25,000 to require that much.

Kantrowitz gives an example of a family of five today (two parents, three kids, including one about to start college), in which mom and dad have $660,000 of income and $55,000 in assets. The student has no assets, except for $3,000 from a summer job. At a state school that costs $11,200 for the year, the family would be expected to pay $4,500, leaving $7,000 in financial aid that would come in a mixture $55 billion in aid was distributed.)

But for all the talk of risks and investments and prerogatives, the way to pay for college comes down to a pretty common-sense formula:

"For every dollar somebody saves," said Jack Joyce, "it's a couple of dollars somebody doesn't have to borrow."
Go figure: math's popularity is increasing

LUNI S. KADABA
COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

Go figure.

If mathematical ability equals money and if money equals the essence of cool in these materialistic times, then an intellect for math equals very cool.

Just add up the ample evidence:

Mathematics plays a significant role in several recent popular books, blockbuster movies and a campaign for a new man's cologne that salutes "the sex appeal of intelligence."

We offer more proof:

In some locales, high school math competitors, "mathletes," are capturing the limelight once reserved for jocks. The latest SAT math scores are the highest they have been in 27 years.

A planned TV series featuring scientists and engineers has captured the imagination of a high-profile producer. Even the diaper set has its nerdy followers, "people of the cloth, ... because only a few people know pi from pie."

"Pi," the award-winning summer art-house thriller, math genius Maximilian Damon as the troubled young genius, and "Contact" starring Jodie Foster as an astronomer in search of extraterrestrial intelligence.

"Mathematics is the modern language of leadership," Stanley Eileen, national secretary/treasurer of Mu Alpha Theta honor society and a mathematics professor at the University of Oklahoma. "Billy Gates hasn't hurt."

The organization of high school and junior college math scholars has watched its membership rise to 50,000 mathletes and 1,300 chapters as interest in state math competitions has increased.

"Mathematics is the modern language of leadership," Stanley Eileen, national secretary/treasurer of Mu Alpha Theta honor society and a mathematics professor at the University of Oklahoma.

One purveyor of haute couture has tapped into the new allure of mathematics and, by extrapolation, brains.

Next year, Givenchy will introduce nationwide a fragrance for men it calls Pi. Named after the Greek symbol, it represents the number 3.1415 (to 9999 decimal places) and, proclaims its marketers, "never-ending explorations."

Earlier this year, the company test-marketed the computer-generated scent in Miami, a location chosen not so much for its intelligent men but for its number of shoppers who wouldn't think twice about paying $50 for 7.3 ounces of a musky/spicy cologne. Nevertheless, Givenchy has declared Pi the thinking man's fragrance.

Put another way. Brilliance = In; Buff = Out.

But what's a fragrance without sex appeal?

Givenchy has worked hard to equate intelligence with sexiness. The ad campaign in Florida features an astronaut - not the likes of John Glenn, but a young, cute model, IQ unknown.

Students at Philadelphia's George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science think math's new cachet is cool to the nth degree. "It's about time," says student body president Anwar Jackson, 17. "I don't have any muscles."

The mathematician as hero has gotten a hefty boost from Hollywood. "Good Will Hunting" featured sexy Matt Damon as the troubled young genius, and "Contact" starring Jodie Foster as an astronomer in search of extraterrestrial intelligence.

In "Pi," the award-winning summer art-house thriller, math genius Maximilian Cohen (Sean Gullette) verges on madness as he studies patterns in the stock market. "People are looking for keys to uncover the secrets of life," "Pi" director Darren Aronofsky has said. "Pi is being rediscovered as a way to look at the universe and find possible answers to the eternal questions."

Our society has mounted a милли­

umnum nears, bringing with it a technical Armageddon in the form of that computer glitch known as the Y2K problem. It's only logical that we yearn for the surety of mathematical formulas.

That desire for universal answers helps explain the popularity of books like "Fermat's Last Theorem" by Amir D. Aczel. The book tells the tale of the enigmatic mathematician who wrote the books that led to the 1994 Nobel Prize for economics.

"Everyone was taken by surprise at how well that book did," says Jeff Zaleski, an editor-at-large at Publishers Weekly. "Since then, books about math have piled up, like so much computer data, and have titillated the minds of even those who don't know pi from pie."

Earlier this year, the life of Paul Erdos, an eccentric but immensely respected mathematician in the field of number theory, was the subject of two tomes: Paul Hoffman's "The Man Who Loved Only Numbers" and "Fermat's Last Theorem" by Amir D. Aczel. The book tells the tale of the enigmatic mathematician who wrote the books that led to the 1994 Nobel Prize for economics.

"I think there's a certain romance attached to mathematics," Zaleski says. "It's like a priesthood - because only a few people understand it."

New Year, New Resolutions, No Money!

Yo, Dude! Want to save way cool money on school tools? Slide on over to that Knight's place, I think its called "Knight's Corner". Got the cheapest titles in town. Tel'em BC sent ya!
January 6, 1999

Inside the TAAC —

Tony Mejia  
SPORTS EDITOR

The TAAC enjoyed its share of national success during the non-conference portion of the schedule, with Samford and Florida Atlantic pulling off stunning road upsets, and many other conference members giving good showings against top-ranked teams. However, now that the new year has rolled around, everybody is looking forward to the conference season, in which to make their mark. The Central Florida Future will be following the progress of all 10 TAAC teams leading into the conference tournament in late February.

Campbell Camels

Coach Billy Lee has had his problems in his 11th season at the helm of the Camels. The longest tenured TAAC coach has suffered 50-point losses to Vanderbilt, South Florida, SMU, and the likes of Norfolk State and Southern. Their TAAC debut was shaky as well, as the Panthers suffered an overtime loss to FAU before Monday night's blowout loss to UCF. However, with Morris back and Quincy Gause returning from an academic absence, Driesell's team remains the favorite in the conference chase. Alabama transfer Anton Reese is second in the TAAC in scoring. Florida State (5-7, 0-1) will look for revenge against Florida Atlantic at home Thursday and against UCF on Saturday.

Jacksonville Dolphins

The newest member of the TAAC was greeted rudely by Centenary in the conference opener, but bounced back in the TAAC opener at Jacksonville, pulling off an 83-71 road win and spoiling the Dolphins return to the TAAC. The Gents shot 63% from the field in the win, and got 34 points from Player-of-the-year candidate Ronnie McCollum. Freshman Ed Dotson, who has been very impressive in his first season, added 15 points and 5 rebounds. However, the Gents failed in their bid to open the conference season perfect on the road, dropping a decision to Stetson, 68-55, despite 20 points from McCollum. Centenary (5-7, 1-1) gets both Jacksonville and Stetson on its home court on Saturday and Monday.

Florida Atlantic Owls

Undoubtedly the most unpredictable team in the TAAC, FAU pulled off another upset in the conference opener, shocking pre-season favorite Georgia State in overtime, 97-90. However, in a home game it was expected to win, FAU fell to Campbell, 72-70. The Owls' strong non-conference slate featured Miami, Ohio State, South Florida, SMU, and Oklahoma State. They lost in blowouts to four of those five teams, but pulled what arguably is the most unlikely upset to date in college basketball, beating then 19th-ranked Oklahoma State in Stillwater, 83-81. Damion Arnette is the TAAC's leading scorer (22 ppg) and ranks second in rebounding. FAU played much of the year with 6'5 guard Gary Durrant at center, but finally got Houston transfer Ashley Baumgardner eligible to add size to its frontline. Arnette scored 31 in the upset of Georgia State, whom FAU (4-8, 1-1) visits on Thursday. A rematch with Campbell awaits on Saturday.

Centenary Gents

Centenary's pre-conference outings were filled with near upsets at Texas A&M, Mississippi State, and New Orleans. The Gents ended the non-conference schedule with a 77-48 loss at Missouri, but bounced back in the TAAC opener at Jacksonville, pulling off an 83-71 road win and spoiling the Dolphins return to the TAAC. The Gents shot 63% from the field in the win, and got 34 points from Player-of-the-year candidate Ronnie McCollum. Freshman Ed Dotson, who has been very impressive in his first season, added 15 points and 5 rebounds. However, the Gents failed in their bid to open the conference season perfect on the road, dropping a decision to Stetson, 68-55, despite 20 points from McCollum. Centenary (5-7, 1-1) gets both Jacksonville and Stetson on its home court on Saturday and Monday.

Darryl Hucks  
University of Central Florida Foundation

There's never been a better way to show you're proud to be a UCF graduate than by putting a UCF tag on your car. And there's never been a better time than right now.

For just $25 more than your regular fee, or less than seven cents a day, you can help support academic programs and scholarships at the University of Central Florida.

Why not join the thousands of UCF Alumni, students and fans who have already purchased their UCF tags?

For more information please call the UCF Foundation at (407) 284-3760, or stop by your local Florida tag agency.

The UCF license plate...make the change.
Mercer Bears

Georgia, Kentucky, and Wake Forest gave Mercer a sturdy test at the beginning of the year, which has Coach Mark Sloneker hoping his team will be battle-tested and ready for the TAAC wars. An 80-73 overtime win at Jacksonville State was a step in the right direction, as Auburn transfer Earnest Brown scored a career-high 28 points. The Bears boost the conference's leading rebounder in Mark Adamson, who averages over nine boards a game. Mercer's big test came Monday afternoon as they hosted Samford, but came up short, 72-59. Mercer (4-8, 1-1) hosted Jacksonville State and travels to Samford on Thursday and Saturday of this week.

Stetson Hatters

Stetson was the lone TAAC team not to open its conference schedule last week. Instead, the Hatters opened up on Monday against Centenary, winning 68-55, behind 18 points from swingman Garrett Davis. Stetson (8-4, 2-0) hosts Jacksonville in an instant rematch this week. Will Daniel continue their solid play, but has gotten solid contributions from JUCO transfers, Sebastian Simplicity and Santos Hampton, currently third and fourth in the conference in rebounding. Davis has been streaky to this point, but should get a lift with the arrival of Maryland transfer Kelly Hite, who should take some of the pressure off him. Stetson (5-6, 1-0) is at Jacksonville on Thursday and at Centenary next Monday.

Troy State Trojans

Troy State is taking it slow to the next level. The Trojans have allowed over 80 points in all but three games. They have only beaten one Division I school, however, and allowed 105 points in a 30-point loss to Samford in the TAAC opener. At least they're exciting to watch. The Trojans toned down their up-tempo act and slipped past Jacksonville State at home, 70-68, to pull even in the TAAC standings. Troy State offense often runs four guards and are led by newcomers Robert Rushing and Eugene Christopher. Rushing, a freshman, attempts over 11 three-pointers per game, while Christopher is averaging 16 points per game despite shooting just over 30 percent. Troy State (4-8, 1-1) will take its gunners to Samford and Jacksonville State for rematches on Thursday and Saturday.

If you've been paying attention, you'll notice that teams that just played one another last week will line up and do it again in an instant rematch this week. This quirks of scheduling is caused by the defection of FIU to the Sun Belt, leaving the TAAC with an odd number of teams. Although nobody likes the situation much, Campbell Coach Billy Lee put it into perspective best when he said, "I guess you just have to dance with who you brought to the party." And so, the dance must go on.
Jo•in NOUJ
January 6, 1999

record that marks the most victories since Wyatt returns Bethune-Cookman football to glory in the fall of 1998. There is much to celebrate at B-CC this holiday season. An 8-2 blissful night of sleep that never would
for his time. Just a chance to lead the foot­
ball team, Lord ...

A berth in the Heritage Bowl in Atlanta, where the Wildcats faced Southern University. And, oh ... Wyatt is in the house.
Finally. He always has been there, really. Wyatt has lived on-campus for 19 years, blending in comfortably among the 2,300 students and casting a compassionate eye
on student-athletes who share Bronson Hall, a building adjacent to the university’s football practice facility.

Wyatt remained a likable coach, taking B-CC football program from an almost-
mortgage to a program that was thriving a few years later.

Tears rolled off his cheek and onto his pillow. He meant softly.

The demons continued dancing in his head.

He just needed for Bethune-Cookman

Wyatt always believed in him­
self.

Those seeds of trust are firmly rooted

Wyatt embraced a

Wyatt and B-CC appear to be a perfect
marriage. Wyatt is in the house.

A few weeks past his 47th birthday, Wyatt remains an athletic, older Teflection
of a solid defensive back who graduated

Wyatt was fired on May 16, 1994, after a number of "embarrassing" incidents, and
Wyatt remained silent on the hard

Alvin Wyatt always believed in him­
self. He just needed for Bethune-Cookman

The marriage appears to be a prosper­
ous pairing.

"The players can walk out into the hallway any time and see me sitting in the
lobby, reading the paper or watching TV," Wyatt said. "They’ll see me coming out
the door and going next door to get an
edge (haircut). Everything is there for me.

Wyatt embraced a

Wyatt returned Bethune-Cookman football to glory

George Diaz
College Press Exchange

Daytona Beach, Fla. - The little
demons always dropped by after dark,
decorating Alvin Wyatt to join them for
another night of misery.

"I was so afraid that all the knowledge
and ability that I had, I would never be
able to use it," he said.

Wyatt would pray for an opportunity,
for his time. Just a chance to lead the foot­
ball team, Lord ...

Wyatt always believed in himself.

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edge (haircut). Everything is there for me.
Knights get plenty of chances for breakthrough win in '99

FROM PAGE 24

dangerous team no one wants to face. With that reputation 7-4 would almost certainly bring about a bowl bid where 9-2 could not.

Think about that irony. UCF has gotten to the level where it is watched year-round. Aside from recruiting and the Black and Gold game, fans have this year’s post-season All-Star games to look forward to, like the one at the Florida Citrus Bowl in which Culpepper, Stuha Burley, Marcus Jenkins, Cornell Green, and Ryan Gillis will play in. Of course, right along those lines comes the NFL Draft. And as always, hopes of joining a conference will be a year-round thought.

It’s a new era unfolding right before the new millennium. Thankfully, being left out of the bowl picture didn’t cripple the program, but rather strengthened it and gave the people around it a new resolve. Like an evolving soap opera, it will be fun to watch what happens next.

What I like about it more than anything is that I’m close to my athletes. That was one of our problems before, our guys getting wild and doing crazy things. Now I think we’ve turned the corner on that.

His salary is $47,500, minimum coaching wages in a state that kindly pays to million-dollar men such as Steve Spurrier of Florida and Bobby Bowden at Florida State.

I’m not ashamed to tell anybody about that because Bethune-Cookman has done a lot for me,” Wyatt said. “And that’s why my loyalty is here. They’ve given me the opportunity that I wanted, and I appreciate that.”

Harnessing his love for the school and his relentless work ethic, Wyatt jump-started the rebuilding process in his first season by embracing those who believed and drooping those who didn’t. He called every player into his office during the off-season, explicit in his demands. No negative attitudes allowed. No-nonsense discipline. No slack off in the weight room. No excuses. Consequently, 20 players either transferred or left the program.

B-CC’s 4-7 record in 1997 hardly rates the bar to the level but it’s at now, but a year’s worth of experience under the Wyatt way did establish a solid framework for ‘98.

Beyond the successful running ("Wyattline") offense and solid skill position players such as quarterback Pa’tell Troutman and wide receiver James Adderley is a critical factor in the team’s sharp rise.

The ubiquitous Wyatt, challenging, charging, cajoling.

"It’s just like nurturing a baby or kid,” said Willie Blackmon, special teams coach. "If you care about it, they can feel it. Players believe they can win because he believes it. And they know he believes it.”

The strides have been significant, shared by the entire Wildcat family. A victory against North Carolina A&T vaulted the Wildcats into the I-AA national poll for the first time, and, most importantly, gave them precious paycheck for a humiliating 73-7 loss two seasons ago. The booster club’s fund-raising goal has jumped from $25,000 to $50,000.

There is a $3,000 specialty blocking sled crucial to the fundamental success of the Wyatune defense. A coaches office was constructed on the practice site. And the administration hired a full-time groundkeeper to line the field for practices.

“When we went 4-7 that first year, people still laughed at me when I told them we were turning this thing around,” nose guard Rod Smith said. “They’re not laughing anymore.”

Wyatt’s contributions to the rise of the Wildcat program was documented earlier this month, when he became the first recipient of Street & Smith’s Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award.

“I love my institution,” Wyatt said. “I love fighting for my institution. I love bringing this program back to glory.”

That long journey continued, when the Wildcats made their first postseason appearance in 21 years.

Southern played in the Heritage Bowl for the fifth time. B-CC is a newcomer on famed's door, led by a man who had the strength to chase away the demons that threatened to destroy this football program.

It is not easy for Wyatt to reflect on the past. Signing in an office adjacent to the football practice field, he reluctantly goes back to a time when grief and despair mixed with tears of yesterday’s despair mixed with tears of today’s promise.

“When I think about the struggle that we had and now all the people calling me telling me how proud they are to be a Wildcat, I’m overwhelmed by that,” Wyatt said.

"I think about the people calling me telling me how proud they are to be a Wildcat, I’m overwhelmed by that," Wyatt said.

Now I feel strongly that we have a football team that will ease our pain. It doesn’t hurt anymore. The pain is gone."

There’s a lot riding on today’s baseball game. It’s your son’s first time in the starting line-up — and he’s counting on you to be there when he steps up to the plate. Relax. Because you can count on us to get you there . . . on an expressway system that’s safe, efficient, well-run and well-maintained by people who care about Central Florida’s transportation needs.

We Get You There...

We Bring You Home.

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Traina inspires Knights’ surge

Brad Traina’s father is a coach. It’s in his blood. When you talk to him, you can’t help but feel that he is grooming himself to follow suit.

At halftime of Monday night’s game against Georgia State, UCF led by 10, 42-32. Right before walking onto the court, the senior co-captain said, “look at the score, we can’t win by less than ten points.” With that UCF trotted back in for the second half and proceeded to rip up the Panthers, opening the lead up to as many as 25 points before finally winning by 16, 86-70.

“I didn’t want to take a chance with a comeback,” Traina said, explaining his desire to maintain the lead. “It’s an old coach’s adage, ‘the score at halftime is always 0-0′, and I believe that. It was important to us to move out and make a statement to the whole conference.

Traina is among the TAAC’s leading scorers, averaging over 18 points per game. However, he’s been hurt a lot or in foul trouble and he’s not doing too badly.

Hodge, Granberry play big

Centers Bucky Hodge and Davin Granberry have begun to assert themselves down low. Their presence against Campbell, the two games, led to riding the Golden Knights in that category. Meanwhile, Hodge has also developed a tendency for picking up steals and Granberry.

Granberry has had six rebounds in the last two games, leading the Golden Knights in that category. Hodge has come up big for our team. That’s a big step for us.

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Chat McClendon added 17 points and nine rebounds, while Kelly Ely hit for 15 points. In addition, UCF dominated the boards, with LaToya Graham grabbing 12 rebounds and Camille Howard came up with nine. Sheridan Andrews led FAU with 15 points and eight rebounds.

The win followed a home win against Penn that shed the spotlight on a gain following a loss. Don't follow? Highly-touted freshman point guard Rhonda Ooten from Texas decided to leave the team after feeling homesick. Her void looks to be more than adequately filled by junior T.J. Williams, who comes to UCF after signing with Auburn and spending a year at Valencia Community College.

Bria spent most of the game day trying to get Williams, who played high school ball in Chicago, academically cleared. The reason for Bria’s diligence showed in UCF’s 57-54 victory against Pennsylvania on Dec. 30.

Williams, who only practiced one day with her new teammates and hasn’t played in a game since March, hit a pivotal shot with 46.8 seconds remaining, giving UCF a 55-51 lead.

Bria is most thankful to have the impact Williams (6-foot-11) is sure to bring as the Knights prepare for conference play. She hit all three of her shots against Florida Atlantic, continuing to contribute immediately and make up for the loss of Ooten.

“She’s going to make us an entirely different team,” Bria said. “I say all the time “the Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away.’ We’ve been given T.J. and the Lord took Rhonda away.”

Crossman leaves Golden Knights for Georgia Tech

Secondary and special teams coach Danny Crossman has left UCF to coach Georgia Tech’s defensive backfield.

Crossman, 32, coached two seasons at UCF after leaving Western Kentucky, where he was an assistant for three years.

Crossman played collegiately at Kansas and Pittsburgh and played professionally for the London Monarchs of the NFL-Europe League and also spent brief periods with the Washington Redskins and Detroit Lions.

Falkenberg leaves coaching for tennis

Gail Falkenberg has accepted a position at the Sports Club of Las Vegas and resigned her post as UCF tennis coach, effective Jan. 4.

Falkenberg, who has a 132-43 (.754) mark as the women’s coach and a 107-53-1 (.669) mark as the men’s coach, spent 1 1/2 years as the leader of UCF’s tennis program. Before her arrival, the women’s program experienced only one winning season in the previous 13 years, while the men’s program had suffered through losing campaigns in five of the previous eight seasons.

Falkenberg also led UCF’s women’s team to two TAAC Championships and the team’s first NCAA Tournament berth in 1997.

“UCF is heading toward new and exciting pros and accomplishments as it moves into the next century, and so must I,” said Falkenberg. “I leave with only good thoughts and experiences, treasuring always my tenure as a Golden Knight.”

UCF Associate Athletic Director Mary Kaufman said Falkenberg will be missed.

“She brought UCF’s tennis programs to a new level during her seven-plus years as a Golden Knight,” she said. “Her skills as a coach and administrator have contributed significantly to the success of our men’s and women’s tennis teams.”

Kaufman said the search for a replacement will begin as soon as possible.
**Tony Mejia**  
**Sports Editor**

Prior to Monday night's contest against Georgia State, the Golden Knights were adamant in saying they were playing for the role of conference favorite. Following the 66-70 victory, you can begin to paint the red and white target on the backs of UCF.

In that what Coach Kirk Speraw called UCF's best overall game of the season, the Knights took control from the onset and never let go. Opening the game on a Brad Traina three-pointer, they ran out in front 7-2, and fell behind by one point only twice in the game. It was their largest deficit. Traina electrified his teammates and the crowd of 726 with six first-half three-pointers against Georgia State.

"I was proud of the way we came out," Traina said. "I think this makes a statement that our homecourt is our turf and we're ready to defend it." They also must be ready to defend their new status as the offense fueling the defense. We shot well early and everything else followed suit," Traina said. "It was the fuel behind UCF's fire."

"It's going to be a tremendous challenge," Speraw said. "Both teams will be gearing for us and will come out with a lot more intensity and effort than they have had. Playing these games back to back is probably good for them because they just got it handed to them and will be itching to get back at us."

Traina will also be itching to get back in action, especially with him being able to get more treatment on his injured right ankle. Remarkably, the senior played practically on one leg against the Panthers and still managed to score 25 points and tie Harry Kennedy's school-record for most three-pointers in a game (8).

"It's a nice record. I knew all I could do was shoot because of the pain, so I was fortunate to get off early," Traina said. "I really wanted to contribute because this was such a big game for us. I couldn't do much else because it hurt to drive so it was good to get the open looks from the outside."

UCF did an exceptional job of screening to free up Traina. Cory Perry dished out a season-high 10 assists, many of them going to Traina. Perry also grabbed six rebounds and made four steals to go along with six points.

"Cory's defense on (Kevin) Norris was outstanding," Speraw said. "He also did a terrific job of forcing the ball around to open people. This was the best defense we played and it started with him. It was due to mental focus and our ability to come out and control things."

In a total team effort, for the second consecutive contest, every member of the Golden Knights got into the game and scored.

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**Tony Mejia**  
**Sports Editor**

Anyone catch the bowl season this year? I realize some people decided to take a stand against the bowl tyranny that left UCF out of the mix by boycotting the bowls and refusing to watch, but to those who did tune in, did you see what I saw?

I'm not referring to TC-who and their upset win over USC in the Sun Bowl. That was simply a case of one team spending too much time on the other side of the border (where the drinking age is like 5).

What I'm referring to is the results of the following bowls: Alamo, Orange, Peach, Gator, and Holiday. Still not following?

The winners of these five bowls share something in common...Purdue, Florida, Georgia, Georgia Tech, and Arizona. All on UCF's schedule in 1999.

Actually Arizona isn't officially on the itinerary yet, but all signs point to the fact that the Wildcats will add to what already will be the most difficult schedule in school history.

Happy new year, UCF's "99 squad has already gotten the wheels turning in recruiting, bringing in quite possibly the most talented class ever to be signed by the Golden Knights. We'll have more on that when it becomes official.

The message sent by recruiting, by the focus on reloading rather than rebuilding, and by the attention next year's schedule commands is simple. Central Florida, despite last year's bowl fiasco, has survived and is doing everything in its power to surge forward. Kind of like the old proverb stated in this column's headline...While Culpepper will be in some lucky team's training camp when UCF starts their season, the Knights will probably enjoy more attention this year than in any of Culpepper's four.

The reason goes back to scheduling. Every week UCF will be on ESPN's Game Day, being talked about as an opponent for one of the nation's elite. Most importantly, thanks to Culpepper and last year's 9-2 mark, UCF won't have to suffer the cupcake. If the Knights manage an upset or two, all of a sudden the Knights are a...