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," Smart 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 eat 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.

UCF, Page 4

I could burn myself with a cigarette, and not even realize it. Ecstasy brings people closer together, even if it is fake.

Ecstasy, or MDMA (methylenedioxymethamphetamine) is a synthetic drug that acts as a stimulant and as a hallucinogen at the same time. MDMA was once a drug that marriage counselors prescribed to couples during counseling. Recreational usage became so bad that the drug was banned in the United States in 1985. It is still a popular recreational drug today.

Users take Ecstasy for the sense of well-being it gives them, its hallucinogenic effects, or to dance all night at a hours-long rave party. Ecstasy stimulates the central nervous system while it produces hallucinogenic effects. The price depends on the supply and demand in the local area, but usually fluctuates between $20-$40 per dose.

Ecstasy has been proven to cause brain damage in animals. It depletes serotonin, a necessary chemical in the brain. Serotonin affects one's thinking process, mood, aggressive behavior, sleeping and eating.

ECSTASY, Page 5
79-year-old graduate says “better late than never”

Nicole King

NEWS EDITOR

One of the graduates during this fall’s graduation is 79-year-old Elmer Kundinger. Kundinger 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.

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

Kundinger 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 have 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, Kundinger 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 looking for new mountains to climb. I’m just that way. I’ve got to look forward to something.”

Commencement ceremonies were held December 19 at the UCF Arena. Approximately 2,360 students graduated this year following four days of degree awards by UCF to 96,496.

The University Dining Room
All-You-Care-to-Eat Dinners

WHO: Any Student (we accept meal plans or cash)
WHAT: All-you-care-to-eat buffet-style and exhibition cooking for $6.95 (as low as $5.75 for meal plan members), including salad bar, veggie bar, soups, deli sandwich station, and your favorite desserts and beverages. WHEN: Monday through Friday from 5:00 pm to 7:15 pm. WHERE: Located in the Student Resources Center.

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
<td>Cream of Spinach &amp; Bacon</td>
<td>Cream of Chicken</td>
<td>Creamy Vegetable</td>
<td>Turkey Soup &amp; Stuffing</td>
<td>Turkey Casserole with Ham &amp; Cheese</td>
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<td>January 14</td>
<td>Macaroni &amp; Cheese</td>
<td>Spaghetti</td>
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<td>Vegetable Soup</td>
<td>Vegetable Lasagna</td>
<td>Almond Chicken</td>
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<td>Vegetable Soup</td>
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Fri. 7:30am - 10:00pm

SUB Connection
Mon.-Thurs. 7:00am - 9:00pm
Fri. 7:00am - 10:00pm

Central Florida Future • 2
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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The American Cancer Society
UCF bug collection is becoming nationally recognized

From Page 1

ify it.

If successful, he will add 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, 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 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 butter-

tflies. 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 lit-
tle 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 col-

lection 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 fiddle with 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 collec-

tion is his way of giving back to other peo-

ple. 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 people 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 supplies, 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 too like hunting elephants which are fairly big and you can hear them coming. You're working with things that are half as 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 guts for a human being to do. It was not far away and we deliberately do 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 living 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 something new to look at."

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Eccstasy, or Ecstasy, is a stimulant drug that has gained popularity among college students. The drug is created by changing the molecular structure of an existing drug 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 varies 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 1990s, GHB has also become popular as a recreational drug. Liquid or powdery forms of GHB are often mixed with other hallucinogens. It is sold underground in Orlando for approximately $10 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 may not remember what happened to them while under the influence of the drugs.

Recently, UCF's Alpha Delta Pi sorority had a speaker who discussed such mind-altering drugs. Audience members were instructed not to accept "hunch punch" mixed drinks.

"We learned that keeping your hand over the top of your cup can prevent anything from being slipped into your drink," said UCF marketing major Natalie Natalie.

"We are trying to educate people to make logical and reasonable decisions in their life," said Sgt. Tom Orbus of UCF's Crime Prevention Unit. "We want to teach two things: one, that date rape is a criminal offense; and two, we are trying to get people educated that no means no."

"These days drug pharmacies are making it Applebee's. 'I could find ecstasy in a natural way. I can make it Applebee's. But no more. I don't like how it gives someone a false feeling and it's just not worth the harm it does to your body. Also, I wouldn't want to mess with the law when it comes to these drugs."

In June, Federal District Court Judge Maurice Paul handed down a life sentence to an international drug dealer in Florida. Paul explained his feelings about giving a drug pusher this serious a sentence.

"Pushers are the lowest kind of criminal. Not only are they infected, but they try to pass 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 harm it does to your body. Also, I wouldn't want to mess with the law when it comes to these drugs."

The UCF Police Department is making an increased effort toward the fight against drugs on campus. With nearly 30,000 students, the potential for drugs will always be present.

"Only with community awareness and training our children, can we squash future drug problems in our state," said State Trooper Marcus Ferrari.

In 1997, UCF reported 22 arrests for drug related violations. This is the highest reported number in the last five years. The 1998 statistics will be released in the second week of January.

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How to pick the right graduate school

TAYLOR SIKES

The hardest part of going to graduate school is research. Begin this by finding out as much information about a school as possible. Write or call potential schools and request departmental information and catalogs. You can also use research directories, like Harold R. Dougherty’s “Guide to American Graduate Schools and Research Facilities.”

Research the Internet to familiarize yourself with the past publications of the faculty.”

The hardest part of going to graduate school is research. When you are interested in the same programs, you can give yourself a feel for the atmosphere of the school and allow 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.

TAYLOR SIKES

Fensch said.

The resources of the city. Meanwhile, if you live out of the book, or if you have fewer options.”

Visit the campus “If you think you are having a bad day, choose a campus that is the right direction,” said Nilsson.

Sow 6914 0054

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.”

“The Guide to American Graduate Schools”

Percussion’s Graduate Programs in the Humanities, Arts and Sciences

“Meeting the faculty”

The faculty see their 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 what they expected out of the program,” said Nilsson.

TAYLOR SIKES

Price can give you the best feel of what the programs are generally going to be like. Ask specific questions in reference to the size of departments you are looking for. They are similar to yours.

“Meeting the faculty,” said Kirkpatrick.

The reputation of the faculty influences job placement and represents the quality of the program.”

“Meeting the faculty,” said Kirkpatrick. “The reputation of the faculty enjoys job placement and represents the quality of the program.”

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On your way to work, you stop at the local All-Nite Quickee Mart to buy gas for your Infiniti. You’re in a hurry, so you go through the drive thru to the vending machine to buy a snack, so you run to the game you went to. What was the name of that team, the futures from that basketball game you went to. What was the name of that team, the futures from that basketball game you went to. Quickee Mart to buy gas for your Infiniti. After work, you run a few errands. You go to the Fotomart to pick up the pictures from that basketball game you went to. What was the name of that team, the Stars? And you need to pick up some all-purpose Kleener and some lite bulbs so you stop at the Rite Aid. The good news is that you can buy them in the Valu size. But you know you are forgetting something, so you stop at the pay phone and use your FonCard to call home. That’s when you remember you need to go to Bake One. One to cash your check. Sounds like America needs a spell check. Everywhere you look, somebody is misspelling something to grab your attention. I’ll admit that it does serve its purpose. Misspellings do grab your attention, but they don’t make me want to buy a product. Usually, it scares me away from buying it. I mean, do you really want to trust your money to a bank that doesn’t know how to spell “bank?” Or get your haircut at a place called Kasual Kuts? I don’t. And how about taking something called Cold-Eeze when you don’t feel good? No thanks. This trend is only going to get worse. After all, how are the future generations supposed to learn spelling correctly if 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: 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 things 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.
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 (FPU 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 (FPU) 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. 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 ferals or fierce animals, the Maryland Terpsins, Utah Utes, Syracuse Orangemen, Temple Owls, Purdue Boilermakers, Lehigh Engineers, Tusla 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 even 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 wear 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 Pierson, UCF Class of ‘85

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Central Florida Future • 9
www.UCFfuture.com
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 Studios, 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 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 8:30 p.m. on the Fox network.

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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 bustsed 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 equal complexity personalities but only a fraction of the time to expose the audience to them, condensing 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 muck daddy doctor that everyone's going to love.
Katzenberg looks to heavens for ‘Prince Of Egypt’

IAN SPELLING
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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 oversaw at Walt Disney and tackles no less ambitious a story than the saga of Moses. It’s a risk of biblical proportions: a reported $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.

“‘Prince of Egypt’ is a fairy tale. We’ve tried to create a painted 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 impossible, 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 animation 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 different 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 attracting 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 animated films, so it would be wrong to market it like most animated films.’

The historic plot. An infant placed in a basket and set into the river by its distressed mother (Ofra Haza) arrives safely before the Queen of Egypt (Helen Mirren). The Queen and Pharaoh Seti (Patrick Stewart) treat 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 Haza) 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, hectic swarms 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.

Finally, he landed a top-notch voice cast that also includes Steve Martin, Martin Short, Michelle Pfeiffer and Danny Glover.

All told, four years passed since work began on ‘Prince of Egypt.’ Katzenberg’s touch can be felt on every note of music, every inch of footage. There’s a lot riding on the film.

Katzenberg’s reputation and the ability of animated film as an art form to expand beyond so-called kid flicks instantly come to mind. Bottom line, then, is ‘Prince of Egypt’ the finest animated feature with which he’s been connected?

“I don’t know if it’s the finest animated film I’ve been involved with, because that’s not for me 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’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.”

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Chuck Shepherd's
EYES OF THE WEIRD
Lead Stories

*In December, a driver hunter on upscale Nantucket Island crashed, smashed, and burned his car in the bushes that lead to the 8-by-8-by-7-foot-deep underground squat from drug charges in Italy. Johnson's apartment has said he built cedar paneling, a Belgian stone floor, walls lined with books and tapes, makeshift shower and toilet, and a beaming radio "beam" to help power the spacecraft.

*In November, federal judge tossed out a Georgia law prohibiting caskets side by side other than a funeral home, calling the law a blatant restraint of trade. On the government's argument to the judge to retain the law was that having independent casket dealers in a price war would "promote the criminal element" in that market would be encouraged by the easy availability of caskets.

Recurring Themes

As recently as September 1998, News of the Weird reported on Milwaukee's Gary Arthur Medrow, the man who has had more than 30 charges filed against him in 30 years for his peculiar fetish of telephoning women and convincing them to act as in the room so that he can hear the phone go off. However, Medrow was not a suspect for what happened in December 1998, as someone impersonating a police officer to the man's genitals so the caller would "hear the search.

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78 Firebomb 79 Coffee corners 80 "The Frail Is a"

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Leading Economic Indicators

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*Researchers at a large Russian biological and medical center told New Scientist magazine in December that they had begun work on breeding a combination of bacteria and yeast to decom­pose the human waste accumulated on space shut­tles, but will even decompose cosmonauts' cotton underwear and produce enough methane in the process to power the spacecraft. One of the space stations Mir's 1997 catastrophes was caused by "beaming radio waves" onto it by satellite and thus reading his mind. (The man had an earlier per­sonalized when he showed up at a hospital over­aling in aluminum foil and complaining about pain from the radio waves.) The man's lawyer, George E. Walker, argued vigorously for the permit: "There's no evidence in science today before this panel that (my client) in any way is not of sound mind."

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53 Small greenhouse 57 Laerkers, et al. 64 Big galoots
55 Mud and garbage 58 Mugs and glasses
56 Judah's son 59 Statue's head
57 Harte or Whirlpool 60 Gigolios
58 Sages 61 Dazzle's son
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Grants alone no longer cover college tuition

Ralph Vigoda

college press exchange

Beaming parents are barely home from the hospital with their newborns when they are faced with 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—nation, 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 $25,000. The College Board says the average annual cost for a four-year public school is $7,472. Penn annual cost for a four-year public school is $25,000; more than $19,213 per year, according to the College Board in Princeton. The earlier a family starts saving, the better-educated a child will likely become college freshmen, it is thought. Saving as soon as the baby is born can take up to $19,213.

"It's not hard to conclude that four years of college costs have risen in the past decade—5 percent to 6 percent annually for the prime-rate fund. They're interest-earning, but not necessarily subject to too much swings," said 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 return than many other investments."

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 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 $11,300 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 percentages, the way to pay for college comes down to a pretty commonsense formula.

"For every dollar somebody saves," said Jack Joyce, "it's a couple of dollars somebody doesn't have to borrow."

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Go figure: math's popularity is increasing

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

We offer more proof.

In some locales, high school math competitors, "mathletes," are capturing the lime-light 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 for babies from mathematical formulas; political polls; stock-market undulations; computer-generated special effects; space-shuttle launches; calculating the tip for that lunch tab.

Even a good flush these days owes its success to mathematics.

By law, new toilets can use only 1.6 gallons of water per flush - an amount that doesn't always get the job done. A high-tech company in Los Alamitos, N.M., has created software based on formulas for volume and flow that can simulate a flushing toilet - a popular tool among manufacturers trying to design a more effective toilet.

"It's quite clear the nerds are running away with all the money," says Stanley Ellison, national secretary/treasurer of Mu Alpha Theta honor society and a mathematics professor at the University of Oklahoma.

"Bill 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," Ellison says.

One purveyor of haute couture has snapped up "My Brain Is Full of Numbers," by Amir D. Aczel, which suggests that those math types aren't all that smart.

Next year, Givenchy will introduce nationwide a fragrance for men it calls Pi. Named after the Greek symbol, it represents the number 3.1415 (ad infinitum) and, proponents claim 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 1.3 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, RJ 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 pres ident 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" starred Jodie Foster as an astronomer in search of extraterrestrial intelligence.

In "Pi," the award-winning summer arthouse thriller, math genius Maximilian Cohen (Sean Gullette) verges on madness in his studies patterns in the stock market.

"People are looking for keys to uncover the secrets of life," "Pi" director Darren Aronofsky has said. "It is being rediscovered as a way to look at the universe and find possible answers to the eternal questions."

Our уме has mounted at the millennium neu mears, 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 safety 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 and Fields Medal winner Andrew Wiles proved in 1993:

"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 "Hypercube," and Bruno Schurter's "My Brain Is Open" (Simon & Schuster, $25). Sylvia Nasar's "A Beautiful Mind" recounts the life of John Forbes Nash Jr., the handsome mathematical genius who went mad at 30, only to make a recovery and win 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."
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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 0-0, with a new season in which to make their mark. The Central Florida Future will be following the progress of all 10 other 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 20-point losses to N.C. State and Vanderbilt, while also having to deal with injuries to key starters Darrin Hucks (mononucleosis) and Eddie Walker. The Camels limped into the UCF Arena without starting centers Jason Smith, who had 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 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.

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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. Darnos Annette 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 Burmangarder eligible to add size to its frontline. Annette scored 31 in the upset of Georgia State, whom FAU (4-8, 1-1) visits on Thursday. A rematch with Campbell awaits on Saturday.

Jacksonville Dolphins

The newest member of the TAAC was greeted rudely by Centenary in the conference opener, 83-71, but it's a long haul to the conference tournament, which the Dolphins will host in late February. Forward Calvin
Slaughter has been as good as advertised, leading the team in points and rebounds. Second semester addition Marvin Augustin has afforded Hugh Durham another option inside. Jameel Anderson and Ivan Guilder, both JUCO transfers, are the guards, while fellow junior colle ge transfer Shawn Platts and Amos Conyers are the team's top reserves. JU's best performance came in a 7-point loss at Florida, but the team has been blown out by Ball State, Florida State, Baylor, and South Carolina. Jacksonville State (5-6, 0 -1) hosts Stetson on Thursday, and plays Centenary again Saturday.

Jacksonville State Gamecocks

JSU balanced its non-conference slate by scheduling West Georgia, Brewton Parker College, and Mississippi Valley State in addition to Alabama, Mississippi State, and UAB, thus the Gamecocks were a surprising 5-6 heading into TAAC play. Hosting Mercer, Mark Turgeon's conference debut was spoiled in overtime, 70-68, into TAAC play.Hosting Mercer, Mark Turgeon's conference debut was spoiled in overtime, 70-68, into TAAC play. Hosting Mercer, Mark Turgeon's conference debut was spoiled in overtime, 70-68, into TAAC play. Hosting Mercer, Mark Turgeon's conference debut was spoiled in overtime, 70-68, into TAAC play. Hosting Mercer, Mark Turgeon's conference debut was spoiled in overtime, 70-68, into TAAC play.

Mercer Bears

Georgia, Kentucky, and Wake Forest gave Mercer a steady test at the beginning of the year, which has Coach Mark Stokover 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 boosted 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) hosts Jacksonville State and travels to Samford on Thursday and Saturday of this week.

Samford Bulldogs

Samford has achieved a reputation of being very good and has moved into the pack of TAAC teams most likely to capture the conference crown. The Bulldogs were the lone conference team to finish over .500 in non-conference action, upsetting Tulane and falling a basket shy at UTEP and Chattanooga. Forward Reed Rawlings and swing guard Will Daniel continue their solid play, but it has been the production of sophomore center Marc Salyers that has pushed them over the top. While Rawlings averages 17 points per game, Salyers is averaging 14, right along with Daniel. The Bulldogs, notorious for their slow-paced style and half court offense, scored an uncharacteristic 105 points in their 105-75 win against Troy State to open TAAC play. They got back to their normal playing style in a 72-59 win against Mercer behind 22 points from Rawlings and 17 from Daniel. Samford (8-4, 2-0) hosts Troy State and Mercer on Thursday and Saturday.

Stetson Hatters

Stetson was the lone TAAC team not to open its conference schedule last Saturday. Instead, the Hatters opened up on Monday against Centenary, winning 68-55, behind 18 points from swingman Garrett Davis. Stetson has had a rocky first half of the year, 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 up tempo 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 often sets 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.
Wyatt returns Bethune-Cookman football to glory

GEORGE DIAZ
COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. - The little demons always dropped by after dark, beckoning Alvin Wyatt to join them for another night of misery. He knew them well: Frustration. Emptiness. Doubt. Embarrassment. Often overwhelmed by emotional upheaval, Wyatt stared at the ceiling in his one-bedroom apartment, praying for a blissful night of sleep that never would come.

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

The demons continued dancing in his head.

This is what happens to a compassionate man who loves his school and sees a football program crumbling. He was an innocent bystander in the early '90s, watching another man destroy something he cherished.

Wyatt would pray for an opportunity, for his time. Just a chance to lead the football program almost run into the ground.

Much of the controversy focused on head Coach Sylvester Collins, whose two-year reign ended in 1994 when Collins was fired by the school after he was charged with raping a 17-year-old girl who lived in his Daytona Beach apartment complex. Although Collins would be cleared by a grand jury, he was sentenced to six months probation after another incident — soliciting an undercover police officer for oral sex in May '94.

Improper financial aid given to student-athletes through the "Presidents Leadership List" led to NCAA sanctions that stripped the team of 32 grants-in-aid beginning in 1994. A serious deficit at the football practice facility.

Wyatt also played for the Buffalo Bills, from Bethune-Cookman in 1970. Drafted by the Oakland Raiders that same year, Wyatt said, "And I just couldn't take it anymore."

On a campus just a few miles east of the Daytona Speedway, Wyatt embraced a NASCAR work ethic, taking B-CC from a lazy crawl to a pedal-to-the-metal pace.

He has yet to slow down.

A few weeks past his 47th birthday, Wyatt remains an athletic, older reflection on the football staff between 1991-93. Wyatt embraced a special way. He is there round-the-clock, not just a coach on the sidelines, but running that I had been a part of that success," Wyatt said. "And I just couldn't take it anymore."

"We stepped on the gas and went down the road, reading the paper or watching TV," Wyatt said. "They'll see me coming out."

"Real hung­ry," Wyattsaid, emphasizing the word to punctuate his desire.

A divorced father of four with a limited social circle, Wyatt rarely strays far from campus. "His wife," Wyatt said, is the football team.

The marriage appears to be a prosperous 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 my door and going next door to get an edge (haircut). Everything is there for me.

Wyatt returns Bethune-Cookman football to glory

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What I like about it more so 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 caters 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 slacking 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 raised the bar to the level that 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 run-and-shoot (“Wyattbone”) offense and solid skill position players such as quarterback Patell Troutman and wide receiver James Alderley is a critical factor in the team’s sharp rise:

The ubiquitous Wyatt, challenging, charging, cajoling. Caring.

“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 payback 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 Wyattbone offense. A coaches office was constructed on the practice site. And the administration hired a full-time groundskeeper 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 fame’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. Siting in an office adjacent to the football practice field, he reluctantly goes back to a time when grief consumed him.

Tears start to well up in his eyes again; 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.

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

Knights get plenty of chances for breakthrough win in ’99

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, Suha 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.

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.
Basketball Notebook

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 be a coach, senior co-captain said, “he’s 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 injured for much of the year and actually didn’t get much practice prior to the game against the Panthers. He was in the training room, getting iced down for countless hours to get him as healthy as possible for the game. He’ll probably follow the same routine prior to the game against the Panthers.

“Every day, every morning, every night, it’s working,” Traina said. “I have to get to iced and get the swelling down. It would be nice not to have all those injuries. This is my fifth this year. Hopefully, I can get healthy.”

Imagine if he were healthy. For a guy on one good leg, he’s not doing too badly.

Jones stops to visit

Former UCF standout Mark Jones was at UCF’s non-conference finale against Ohio University at the UCF Arena.

Last year’s TAAC Player-of-the-Year wasn’t pleased at all by the NBA lockout, stating that he probably would have been on an NBA roster if not for the labor dispute. Jones, a 6-foot-6 guard, may play in Europe this year and hopes to return when issues are resolved. He had played in the CBA with Grand Rapids earlier this season, but he and his agent felt it best for him to take his act overseas.

Hodge, Granberry play big

Centers Bucky Hodge and Davin Granberry have begun to assert themselves down low. Their presence against Campbell and Georgia State have helped UCF to a perfect conference start.

“I think Bucky has played a lot better,” Coach Kirk Speraw said. “His defense has been consistent all season, but he has shot the ball well of late and has come up with big offensive rebounds.”

“Davin is playing healthy and it shows. He’s been hurt a lot or in foul trouble and he’s starting to prove how capable he is when he remains in the game.”

Granberry has had six rebounds in the last two games, leading the Golden Knights in that category. Meanwhile, Hodge has also developed a tendency for picking up steals and blocks.

“We decided we want to start working,” Granberry said. “It’s all about desire. I think for us to be successful, we needed to step up. We have to be real strong underneath to complement our perimeter shooting.”

The arrival of Seton Hall transfer Roy Leath has also helped.

Leath has seen his minutes in the post extended and has come up with big rebounds, defense, and blocked shots.

“He’s really helped. It’s good that we have him here that gives us added depth, “Hodge said. “We’ve got to be able to come up big for our team. That’s a big step for us.”

Tony Mejia
Women's basketball rises above changes

Chariya Davis scored 18 points and dished out seven assists in a 77-62 win at Florida Atlantic (2-10, 0-2). Davis converted seven of eight free throws to help ice the game as UCF (5-5, 1-0) used a 37-27 advantage in the second half to pull away from the Owls and win their conference opener.

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. But 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 7 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 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 prospects 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.

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FROM the SPORTSdesk

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January 6, 1999

Tony Mejia
SPORTS EDITOR

Knights pound Panthers in TAAC tilt

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 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._

Traina closed the half the same way he opened the game: with a three. It was the fuel behind UCF’s fire.

“I think it was a case of the offense fueling the defense. We shot well early and everything else followed suit,” Traina said. “I was proud of the way we came out. 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 team to beat. Only the Knights and Samford remain undefeated out of teams who have played two TAAC games. UCF’s next contest is Thursday night at Campbell, whom they beat 76-52 last Saturday, before playing an emotional rematch against the Panthers.

“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 grab the attention of the Golden Knights. We’ll have more on that when it becomes official.

What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger

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 way 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 “98 squad brought the school the most
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 fracas, 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 seasons.

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. More importantly, thanks to Culpepper and last year’s 9-2 mark, UCF won’t be considered a cupcake. If the Knights manage an upset or two, all of a sudden the Knights are a...