Canadian ambassador visits UCF

Nicole King
NEWS EDITOR

The Canadian ambassador to the United States visited UCF on Jan. 29. He came to bring recognition to the university's Canadian Studies Program and discuss furthering research and teaching possibilities with faculty members.

Ambassador Raymond Chretien said Floridians need to know more about Canada as it is the most important trading partner of the United States. "The further down from the border, the more difficult it is for us to make our case because people do not live with us and travel to Canada a lot like in Maine or Michigan."

Elliot Vittes, director of the Canadian Studies Program, said Chretien's visit brings attention to the program and raises its visibility. "Hopefully, it will fuel interest in teaching or doing research concerning Canada."

Canadian Studies has been a minor degree program at UCF for nearly 20 years. Vittes said several faculty members have participated in grant programs sponsored by the Canadian Embassy in Washington. He said the ambassador's first visit to Orlando will hopefully highlight the important links between Canada and Florida and extend the knowledge of Canada in this region.

Abortion display sparks campus support, anger

Taylor Sikes
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

"This is where thoughts are supposed to be provoked," Todd Beauchamp, 26, of the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform, said. "We want to educate the student body that abortion tortures a baby to death."

Last week, the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform brought its Genocide Awareness Project to campus Monday through Thursday. The project's purpose is to stimulate discussion and debate about the issue of abortion with students, Cheree Bartlett, media spokesperson for the Center, said.

The project uses a large collection of banners containing graphic pictures of historical, genocidal events and linking them with pictures of aborted fetuses. One banner had a picture of dead Native Americans at the Battle of Wounded Knee below the words "Government Massacre of Native Americans," followed by a picture of an aborted fetus's bloody arms and feet lying on a quarter below the words "Government massacre of unborn Americans."

Another featured a picture of victims killed by the Nazis. It was followed by a picture a hanged African-American man. The final picture showed an aborted fetus's body under the words "Planned Parenthood."

"These pictures are here to stimulate conversation and promote dialogue," Bartlett said. "The pictures are somewhat graphic and some people are offended, some are shocked. Some people understand the message we are trying to convey."

"The Genocide Awareness Project shows the parallel between genocide and how abortion is genocide," UCF student Jesse Gusse, 19, an electrical engineering major, said. "The pictures are for the comparison." Gusse said he was there to support the cause and join the debate. He said that the group was at UCF to educate people about the issue.

UCF Police were on hand to assure peace during the week long display on the Free Speech Green.

Check out our updated online calendar, your source for UCF events.

www.UCFfuture.com
Patton/Cupicha: setting higher standards

SHELLEY WILSON
STAFF WRITER

Student government president and vice president hopefuls Darin Patton and Andrew Cupicha want to inform students about activities on campus, look at programs to reduce the Activity and Service Fee, and reconstruct SG positions.

"I think most of the student body is not aware that they pay $6.50 per credit hour to fund the Student Union, Student Government, recreation and legal services. Some students pay up to $70 in Activity and Service fees a semester and don’t know what it all goes for. Our job in SGA is to inform them about their money and let them become more involved in the process," Patton said.

Their main focus is meeting student needs by enhancing student life and empowering the student voice. According to Patton and Cupicha, one way this can be done is making sure the Student Union, clubs and organizations, and the recreation services are properly funded and enhanced.

"I hear a lot of money from the Activity and Service Fee reverts back year after year. So either that means students are being charged too much, or clubs and organizations are not being properly funded," Patton said.

"If we’re charging too much, let’s give the money back to the students. Or if we’re not funding appropriately, let’s change the way the money is allocated so that all clubs and organizations hold the events they want to.”

They also want students to become more aware of what is happening on campus. An informational line that Patton initiated during his former presidential term is on their agenda to be reinstated at UCF.

"The UCF info line will include daily and weekly activities that any organization can advertise on. Students can dial 823-INFO and find out what is going on on campus," Patton said. "We are also looking to put in a scrolling marquee near the Student Union so that students walk by will know what’s going on.”

The future growth of UCF is an issue that students need to be aware of and take part in, Cupicha said.

"Another parking garage, a student activity center, a newer arena, new tennis courts, new intramural fields, and a golf course are in the future plans to be built here. A lot of students don’t know about them. There’s a lot of land UCF owns that’s not even touched now," Cupicha said.

Student government leadership also needs to be changed according to Cupicha.

"The paid positions of student government can create committees where they can gain leadership experience and use it as a first step to move into SGA so you will become qualified for a position and learn about different positions instead of just filling in hours," Cupicha said.

"You can have a great platform and a lot of great goals, but if you don’t have a good relationship with people that are willing to work hard for changes, it’s worthless. By working together with students, faculty, and administration we can accomplish anything," Cupicha said.

Patton said their past experience is what sets them apart from other candidate tickets. "While serving as student body president in 1995, the SGA here was awarded best student government for the third year in a row. That’s something we can bring back with our dedication and integrity."

Darwin Patton
Candidate for president
- Major: Masters in business administration
- Student body president (1994-1995)
- Member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon
- Omicron Delta Kappa
- National Leadership Honor Society
- Consultants for Effective Leadership

Andrew Cupicha
Candidate for vice president
- Major: liberal studies
- IFC executive vice president
- Coordinator of Halloween Knights
- Member of 31st Senate
- Southeastern Interfraternity Conference president

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THE 1999 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Slatton/Piccolo: real leadership/real results

SHELLEY WILSON STAFF WRITER

Maintaining and updating an activities bulletin board for students, encouraging inclusive events on campus by clubs and organizations, and creating a visible and sustained presence and informational campaign in Tallahassee for UCF are some of the projects that SG president and vice president hopefuls Mike Slatton and Fred Piccolo want to achieve.

"I want students to be aware of what their power is here in the state and the kind of power they can influence. UCF is 30,000 plus constituents of representatives right here. Our job in student government is to give students information so that they can mobilize for things that they want," Piccolo said.

They said they believe that UCF is becoming more of a traditional school rather than a commuting one and they want to give UCF more recognition.

"A primary goal that I am working on is for UCF to make an attempt at a world record. Not only will this bring spirit and pride to the campus, but also national recognition," Slatton said.

Creating an educational lecture/presentation series for UCF is another addition that Piccolo believes will bring recognition to UCF.

"By bringing in the top influential individuals in each major to UCF and letting them speak about their field and allowing students to present new ideas to that representative, UCF will have been heard," Piccolo said. "It will then be easier for students to get a job when they get out. We don’t want to limit education just to campus. By bringing in people outside of the school, we’re going to round out the educational experience for the entire student body."

Giving warning slips instead of parking tickets is also on the agenda for Slatton.

"During the first week, students are so busy fixing their schedule, buying their books, and getting everything done, nothing makes you feel worse than having to pay another $35 for a parking ticket. I don’t see why a warning couldn’t be given during the first week to tell students the date to get a permit," Slatton said.

The biggest plan for Slatton and Piccolo would be giving information to the students about the student government and the school itself.

Piccolo said: "We want to have an open door policy with people. Students have a right to know how allocations are broken down because it’s their money. People see student government as something to hide, but if you’ve done nothing wrong, then you have nothing to hide.”

Fred Piccolo
Candidate for vice president
- Major: Double Major of economics and history
- Campus Activities Board’s speakers director
- SEAG’s director of governmental affairs
- UCF Honors College
- State Lobbyist for Higher Education

Mike Slatton
Candidate for president
- Major: political science with a minor in history
- Chief of staff to student body president
- Member of Florida Student Association
- Valencia Comm. College president and vice president
- Campaign Worker/Volunteer
1998 Campaign Season

According to Slatton, continuity and experience from the current administration to the next is a great quality this ticket holds.

“We’ve certainly been put in a learning experience throughout this last year. We’ve had an opportunity to look at past administrations with student government and see what could’ve been fixed. As the student body changes, the faculty and administration stays about the same so you have to understand what they’ve been through to understand what the real issues are. Student government is not about drawing a boundary line between students and the administration.”

Piccolo believes their leadership and knowledge of how the government outside of UCF works is one reason why this ticket is different from the others.

"By spending the past three years lobbying in Washington and in the state of Florida, I have gained an insight into how legislatures work both on the state and federal level. That gives us an edge on how to expand our horizons above the activity and service fee budget to receive a part of the big pie from the federal government.”

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THE 1999 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Halscott/Lee: above and beyond

SHELLEY WILSON
STAFF WRITER

Jaime Halscott and Charlie Lee would like to see the registration system at UCF changed, more power given to the colleges on campus, and more involvement with students if they are the next president and vice president of SGA.

"We are very pro-club and pro-student. We want to listen to every individual student and hear what they have to say. When people start to see what we're trying to do, people will get very excited about it," Halscott said.

One of the things they have heard about through students and personal experience is the registration system, which this ticket wants to update.

"The problem with the current system is it's built for only 20,000 users. It is not accommodating for all of the students here at UCF. It should be made easier for students to use. Registration should not take more time than picking out your classes and going online or turning in your schedule to the registrar's office," Lee said.

Moving authority to the individual colleges is also a part of this ticket's agenda for the year.

"The colleges can reach their students a lot better than the student government," Lee said. "With the students proud of their university and happy with the events, they will spend more time here and the university will grow more because of it. Doing what the students want and making it a better college in their eyes drives this ticket. It's not our administration, it is their's."

Halscott said he thinks tuition prices should be looked at.

"Currently, they're trying to push a 10 percent increase in tuition through which will exactly set the undergraduates at paying for 25 percent of their education. So they're trying to walk that fine line as far as how much the students pay for their tuition which is not a good idea," Halscott said.

Lee said they would also like to see more clubs and organizations funded, especially if they have not been in the past.

"The Activity and Service Fee budget will be up to 9 million this year, twice as much as it was last year, and I would like to see twice as many activities and clubs funded," Lee said.

"We don't believe that a million of the same programs should be funded and others get tossed at the wayside. There should be diversity in the way funding happens and the way things are done on this campus," Halscott said.

Lee said letting the students know this is their campus and student government is here to serve them is their theme.

"We want the students to tell us what activities they want here on campus," Lee said. "After you get the students proud of their university and happy with the events, they will spend more time here and the university will grow more because of it. Doing what the students want and making it a better college in their eyes drives this ticket. It's not our administration, it is their's."

Jaime Halscott
Candidate for president
- Major: engineering
- Senate president pro-tempore
- Committee chairman
- Member of Engineering, College Council
- CAB/SG Merger Transition Committee

Charlie Lee
Candidate for vice president
- Major: organizational communication
- Clubs and Organizations committee chairman
- President Paintball Club
- Member Senate of 31st session
- vice chair for Elections and Appointments Committee

Constitutional Amendment #1 (Enumeration of Student Body Entitlements)
Article I The Student Body
(Add Section V. Entitlements)
Each Activity and Service Fee paying student at the University of Central Florida is entitled to fully participate in the Student Government process including but not limited to voting in Student Government Elections, requesting Activity and Service Fee funds, and running for any elected office without exception or restriction so long as he/she meets the minimum University of Central Florida requirements as stated in the UCF Golden Rule and conditions of the Student Government Constitution.
United Nations club grows despite small program

Nicole King
NEWS EDITOR

Members of UCF’s United Nations Association spend their free time imitating delegates of other countries. They have represented countries from all over: Colombia, Venezuela, former states of the Soviet Union. They are now preparing for a conference in New York later this semester. They’re going to be in North Korea.

“We have been getting very controversial countries,” said UNTA’s faculty advisor Dr. Hosman Sadri of the Department of Political Science. “We’re such a young club, you’d think they would give us something easy.”

Members of the three-year-old club attend conferences throughout the United States in model U.N. conferences. Clubs from universities around the country send members to represent whatever country they are assigned. Sadri remembers the first time the club attended a conference. “We requested a few countries, hoping we’d get an easy one to represent like France. We ended up with Cuba which is a very controversial country.”

The club’s about bringing theory and practice together. “I’ve learned compromise, cultural sensitivity and I acquired a passion for international issues,” Lopez said she joined because she wanted to learn about the mechanics of the United Nations. “There’s a lot of misconceptions about the international organization, and Model UN helped me learn the truth behind its existence.”

Sadri said he is hoping to institutionalize the program. Funding for the various conferences attended during the year comes from several places, including fundraising and students receive no academic recognition for their participation.

“When you look at our program in comparison to other universities like UF and FSU,” Sadri said, “we’re young and on a shoe-string budget and it’s not a class like it is at other places. Yet we can still compete against them at competition and place. I’ve been very proud of the students.”

Sadri said the U.N. club has approximately 25 members and is open to all majors. “We are a team and we work together. If someone is shy, he or she can write or research. If someone is good at one-on-one interaction, he or she can be a negotiator. We all depend on one another and play our part.

“This is a good opportunity for students to see how the real world works, to practice formulating ideas and communicating them clearly. We’re always looking for new members to divide the workload.”

‘Memorial Day on May 31, not 24

Nicole King
NEWS EDITOR

The Memorial Day holiday listed in the Undergraduate Catalog is wrong. On page 10, the catalog lists the holiday as May 24 when in actuality it is May 31.

Scholarships:

The UCF Alumni Association is offering 14 different scholarships for students. The deadline for applications is March 26. To pick up an application, stop by the Alumni Relations Office in the Administration Building, Room 340 or call UCF-ALUM.

UCF Army ROTC is offering two and three year full tuition scholarships for qualified applicants. The scholarships are available to all UCF students; applicants must be willing to become an officer. The deadline for applications is Feb. 19. For more information, contact Capt. Bob Hribar at 823-5383 or hribar@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu.

Seminars:

UCF’s Downtown Academic Center will present three seminars in February. The seminars will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, contact Wendy Bolyard at 317-7700.

• Feb. 3: A Deal with the Devil. Join resident artists and staff of Orlando Opera as they talk about Charles Gounod’s opera Faust.

• Feb. 12: Team Performance Effectiveness: The Question of Diversity. Dr. William Wooten, associate professor of psychology, will speak about how team diversity affects performance.

• Feb. 18: What did you say? Effective communication for interpersonal and career success. Professor Bernie Jensen will discuss the ability to communicate with others. Jensen will identify key communication strategies and provide suggestions for improving listening.

Other Campus News:

• The Health and Physics Building (HPB) will be renamed the Mathematics and Physics Building (MAP) starting this spring. The College of Health and Public Affairs will move out of the building as soon as construction on its new building is completed. The Mathematics Department will move into HPB, joining the Physics Department, during the summer.

• Student Accounts/Loans and the Collections Office is back in the Administration Building’s Room 107 from Trailer 541. All telephone extensions remained the same.

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Getting points for school spirit during Greek Week

KELLY BRYANT  CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Fraternities and sororities are gearing up for the annual Greek Week festivities, taking place this year from Feb. 27 through March 5. Kick off will take place at the Solar Bears game on Feb. 27, with some of the proceeds going to the Salvation Army, this year’s Greek philanthropy. Other events include the tug-of-war competitions, Greek Sing, where you can watch your favorite organization strut their stuff on stage, a Progressive Dinner on Greek row for non-Greeks and faculty as well as active members, and a Beautify Orlando service project. Each event will have the Greek teams competing for points to be Greek Week champions.

New to the competition this year are spirit points, which will allow each organization to evaluate one another based on their participation, energy level, and sportsmanship.

IN OTHER NEWS FROM GREEK ROW:

• Jamie Molinaro of Chi Omega has been invited to participate in the Chi Omega Leadership Institute in Memphis, Tenn. at the end of February. The Institute chooses six active members and six alumni from across the country to participate in this annual leadership training. Molinaro, 20, was chosen for her experience in such campus organizations as O-Team and Consultants for Effective Leadership, as well as being a founding member of UCF’s Chi Omega chapter. After her training, she will be sent to the sorority’s regional Fireside Convention in July to facilitate programs for chapter officers and advisers.

• Pi Kappa Phi will be holding their philanthropy, Bowl Shlager, on Sunday, Feb. 7 at the Oviedo Bowling Lanes from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Participating sororities will compete for a trophy. Proceeds will benefit Push America, Pi Kappa Phi’s national outreach project. Push America was founded over 20 years ago and promotes a better understanding of people with developmental disabilities.

• The Greek Council is currently collecting school supplies through March 1 to bring to the Southeastern Panhellenic Conference for their service project. This year the conference will be held from March 25 - 28 in Atlanta. Each sorority will send a delegate to represent their chapter and attend programs facilitated by Panhellenic.

UCF supports group’s freedom of speech

Dean McFall, director of Public Relations for UCF, said that UCF did not endorse or sponsor the Genocide Awareness Project, but they do respect the right for groups to exercise their First Amendment rights.

"UCF is a limited public forum for the expression of First Amendment rights," McFall said. "That means the university must make reasonable arrangements for off-campus groups to exercise their freedom of speech. Even images of such a repugnant nature.

"The group notified us that they were coming," he said, "but that they would be in a place where ideas are supposed to clash and out of those clash-es, universal truths can come out.

"We take no joy in the pictures but feel it is a profound duty of ours to the Constitution to allow them to be here."

The Genocide Awareness Project will now head to the University of South Florida.

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Cramped rooms linked to psychotic behavior

Scientists have discovered that living in cramped spaces may cause serious side effects, ranging from slightly paranoid to dangerously psychotic behavior. In a recent experiment, lab rats were forced to live in small room-like containers for several semesters, only coming out to eat in crowded rat cafeterias or share a bathroom with dozens of other rodents. The majority of rats suffered from an acute case of irritability, while several showed signs of aggressive behavior.

A typical OCS patient named Moose chewed another one's ear off for simply looking at him the wrong way.

Richard Schinka, a professor

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Canadian-American trade relations stressed in visit

FROM PAGE 1

Chretien said the sheer number of Canadians visiting Florida every year is impressive, anywhere from a million and a half to 2.5 million. "You need to know a lot more about us," he said. "The trading relationship between two countries is the most important of any in the world." Canada's province of Ontario is the second most important trading partner of the United States. 'Just one province of Canada is more important than your trade with Japan. Most people don't know this," Chretien said. Chretien also talked about the shared environmental issues between the two countries like acid rain and global warming. "It's very important that we get our act together on those issues as we share the North American continent. There is a strong desire to marry our positions on those global issues," he said.

One of the biggest problems facing Canada, according to Chretien, is its water supply—what to do with it. Chretien said it is not export water in bulk in ships or tankers. "We'll sell you all the bottles of water you want," he said, "but we will not sell you ships of water."

Chretien said a few years ago, Saudi Arabia wanted to buy an iceberg from Canada and pull it off its coast to supply the country with fresh water. Chretien said it is offers like that that need to be regulated. "We want to make sure we don't sell it until we're absolutely certain about our own supplies," he said.

It is working to resolve those types of issues that Chretien said is the best part of his job.

"I like the fact that I am involved with issues that I know are of interest to a great number of Canadians on a daily basis. Compared to most of the jobs in the foreign service where you are far away and few Canadians could care less about what you're doing, I deal with bread and butter issues, the quality of life and the standard of living. This gives me a profound satisfaction."

Canadian-American trade relations stressed in visit

Students receive exposure at spring Career Expo Fair

LESLEY RAE JOHNSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

More than 1,500 UCF students attended the spring 1999 Career Expo on Jan. 26 in the UCF arena. This is a 21 percent increase from last year.

The director of the UCF Career Resource Center, Jim W. Greaves, said the job fairs have expanded in the last ten years. They started with 33 employers meeting in the Holiday Inn across from UCF. They now have more than 200 employers represented in the UCF Arena.

"It's a great opportunity for the students, because they don't have to leave campus," Jill Baker Ziegfuss, the assistant director of the UCF Career Resource Center, said. "It gives them a chance to interact with employers in their fields."

UCF senior Tynika Williams, majoring in hospitality, said she was able to give her resume to several companies who were present and where she was located in the Arena. "It is working to resolve those types of issues that Chretien said is the best part of his job.

"If the fact that I am involved with issues that I know are of interest to a great number of Canadians on a daily basis. Compared to most of the jobs in the foreign service where you are far away and few Canadians could care less about what you're doing, I deal with bread and butter issues, the quality of life and the standard of living. This gives me a profound satisfaction."
Former NU star to plead guilty in gambling case

CHICAGO - Dennis Lundy, the star running back on Northwestern's 1994 football team, will plead guilty next week to lying in a grand jury appearance when he denied betting against his own team in at least two Big Ten games that year, his lawyer confirmed Wednesday.

Lundy will plead guilty to a single count of perjury on Feb. 5 in U.S. District Court, attorney John F. Murphy said.

As part of his plea, it was learned Wednesday, Lundy will admit he intentionally fumbled on the goal line in a game against Iowa in what sources called "a spur-of-the-moment" decision.

Lundy had bet several hundred dollars that NU would lose to the Hawkeyes by more than the oddsmakers' point spread, according to the sources.

Lundy, 26, who had a brief NFL career with the Bears and the Houston Oilers, could not be reached at his home in Tampa.

The latest revelations involving NU's tarnished sports program came as Christopher Gamble, another former NU football player and Lundy teammate, could not be reached at his lawyer confirmed Wednesday.

Gamble, in a brief on-field chat with teammate Michael Senters, fretted he was likely to lose his bet when he fumbled inches from the goal line late in the third quarter of the Iowa game on Nov. 12, 1994.

Iowa, a six-point favorite, was ahead 35-13 when Lundy, concerned a touchdown might jeopardize his bet against his own team, decided on the spur of the moment to fumble intentionally, sources said.

Iowa won 49-13 and Lundy won the bet. According to sources, Lundy had a bigger bet than usual riding on the Iowa game - several hundred dollars - because he was trying to make up for some recent gambling losses, including a losing bet against NU in the Ohio State game that year.

Lundy claimed in a grand jury appearance in 1995 that he had sparred his wrist earlier in the Iowa game and the ball squirmed out of his hands when "I got hit on the arm real good."

But videotapes show he was untouched when he fumbled.

The strongest evidence against Lundy regarding the fumble turned out to be later admissions he made to authorities, according to sources...

Lundy, who was playing for Dallas and a fourth former NU player, Gregory Gill of Pittsburgh, also have been charged in the gambling scheme. Both have pleaded guilty to a gambling-related charge, according to his plea agreement.

Landy's gambling, confronted Lundy on the sideline after the fumble and challenged him about coughing up the ball on purpose. An assistant coach overheard the accusation.

Ray "came right out and said, 'If people weren't betting on the games,'" recalled former linebacker Keith Lozowski.

The university began an investigation, turned over its findings to the U.S. attorney's office and suspended Lundy from the final game of his collegiate career for his betting activities.

Lundy had denied to university officials that he bet on NU games.

In the Ohio State game, Lundy, Gamble and Senters allegedly placed bets with Ballarini, wagering that Ohio State, one of the top-ranked teams in the country, would beat NU by more than the point spread, according to the charges.

Just before halftime, Gamble was worried not because his teammates were losing, but because they were winning and jeopardizing his bet, according to his plea agreement.

Before going into a huddle, Gamble told Senters they likely would lose their $500 bets because the team was playing so unexpectedly well, his plea agreement revealed.

The alleged bets turned out to be losers. The NU defense put up a stiff fight and Ohio State won by just two points, 17-15, even though Ohio State had been favored by more than two touchdowns.

Lundy also is alleged to have bet on NU's 1994 game against Notre Dame, as well as a number of other undisclosed games in 1993 and 1994.

Ballarini has agreed to cooperate with the government and is expected to be a key government witness if Senters or Gill goes to trial.

Ballarini has alleged that he had lengthy betting relationships with the four former football players.

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Campus crime from around the nation

PETER LEVINE
COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

TUCSON, Ariz. (CPX) - And you think your roommate gives you problems.
Campus police at the University of Arizona were surprised to receive a call from a young woman who suspected her roommate of stashing marijuana in their dorm room and selling it.
According to the Daily Wildcat, police searched the room Jan. 18 and found a small bag of what appeared to be marijuana in a purse belonging to the suspect.
When the suspect returned home, police asked if there was marijuana elsewhere in the room. According to reports, she admitted having some and turned it over to investigators. Police reported that the suspect said she paid $150 for the green, leafy substance she handed them and explained that she sells it to her friends on a "casual basis."
The roommate who summoned police said she did so after finding what she thought was marijuana in the suspect's purse. She said she also had fielded visits from people who had come to the room looking to buy the drug.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, Ill. (CPX) - Police arrested two fraternity members who were trying to get rid of an old score with a rival fraternity at the University of Illinois.
According to the Daily Illini, an officer saw two men running from the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity house on Jan. 4 with a total of seven trophies under their arms.
Police stopped the men, who said they had taken the trophies to get back at Phi Kappa Tau members believed to have stolen the charter from their fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi.
According to police reports, investigators found no signs of forced entry—indicating that the fraternity house's door could have been unlocked—and no other damage.
The two students were arrested in connection with the incident and charged with residential burglary.

LAWRENCE, Kan. (CPX) - Police in Lawrence, Kan., found more than they expected while investigating a reported break-in at the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity house at the University of Kansas.
According to the Daily Kansan, police were summoned on Jan. 15 when fraternity members noticed that the back door to their house had been pried open and that items worth thousands of dollars, including TVs and electronic equipment, were missing.
While investigating the scene, police found several Kansas driver's licenses that appeared to be bogus and equipment—including tampering supplies, glossy computer paper and Polaroid photographs—that could be used to make fake IDs.
Craig Hartman, the chapter's president, told the Daily Kansan neither he nor the fraternity's leadership board were aware of the covert operation.
The chapter already has removed one member suspected of manufacturing the fake IDs from the fraternity, he said.
"This was not a house activity," Hartman said. "It appears to be confined to a few people."
Police are continuing to investigate. So far, no charges have been filed.

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (CPX) - Pepper proves once again that it adds spice to life.
According to the Daily Michigan, two male students at the University of Michigan started brawling in a campus dining hall on Jan. 20 after one student poured pepper into the other's hair.
Students hoping to eat their dinner in peace stared wide-eyed as the fighters punched each other in the face.
According to the Daily, one student was taken to the university's hospital with what appeared to have been a broken nose.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (CPX) - A student at Drexel University was the victim of filminam last week when he gave an unspecified amount of money to two men who apparently had hooked him near the University of Pennsylvania on Jan. 13.
According to police reports, the student said he was approached by a man claiming to be a visitor from South Africa and in need of help.
The student said he stopped to talk to the foreigner when they were approached by another man who offered to take the foreigner to a support station that could offer assistance.
The foreigner asked the student to look after his money while the man took him to a bus station where he could retrieve his passport from a locker. The foreigner told the student that he wanted to make sure he would get his money back, so he asked the student and the man to put some of their own money in with his pile of bills.
The man and the student agreed, and the foreigner wrapped the money in a red bandanna and gave it to the student to hold.
The man drove away. When the student opened the bandanna, he found only a pile of paper. It is unclear what happened to the money.

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Finding out my best friend is gay

TOBY McFLIKER
STAFF WRITER

The day was Tuesday, the 8 of April, 1997. I will not forget this day for the rest of my life because this day changed things. This was the day that my freshman roommate sat me down to tell me that he was gay.

My roommate, Marcus, and I used to be very close growing up together in South Florida. Marcus was my next door neighbor. He was my best friend who taught me everything, from how to ride a bike, to how to drive a car, to how I should shave my face without drawing blood. Marcus has two years on me, so as a kid, I would look up to him with praise. I wanted to be friends with his friends, I wanted to go hang out at the mall all day with Marcus and his crowd, to get the grades, my job, and about my girlfriend.

Then we both grew up. Marcus went off to college at UCF. So when I graduated from high school two years later, I decided to live in the dorm that Marcus got to snag him as my roommate, to go out to college with Marcus and his crowd, to get the best friend turn out to a flamer, a fairy, a bum, and a So when I graduated from high school two years later, I decided to live in the dorm that Marcus got to snag him as my roommate, to go out to college with Marcus and his crowd, to get the best friend turn out to a flamer, a fairy, a bum, and a fairy.

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Taking the "standard" out of standardized testing

Cliff Hicks
COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

Right now, somewhere in America, a high school student is hunched over some books, studying in vain for the ACT or SAT or even both.

No matter how many hours that student puts into the books or courses in preparing for the standardized tests that are going to have major impact on their college outlook, it's all really for naught.

Boil it all down, and standardized tests aren't worth the paper they're printed on. Set the Way-Back Machine for 1994. Enter a young writer, not the greatest academic shiner in the world, but a relatively bright kid. His name is.

So, there I am, surrounded by lots of other kids with sterling GPAs, all of whom are in the National Honors Society and any other self-righteous collection of academia that they can find, while I'm off working on the newspaper and doing the occasional theater thing.

Now, realize that all of these students who slept and ate with their schoolbooks took the same tests I did.

And when the results were handed down, many of the NHS squadron ranked in the 90-95 percentile of college bound seniors. In English, it means they were in the top five to ten percent of scores.

Some of the "best and brightest," if you will, and they were happy to be part of that top five percent.

This, of course, surprised the hell out of me. That's because I placed in the 99 percentile - the top 1 percent of college-bound students.

According to the tests, I was smarter than most of the NHS students.

Remember now that I didn't put any real time into studying for the tests. In fact, I mean, I brushed up on my algebra and glanced over a few obscure words that teachers insisted I should know.

I had figured, going into the test, that it wasn't going to be that hard. I'd looked over a few of the sample tests that the brainiacs were using, and it seemed like common knowledge to me.

So what does a standardized test reveal about a student? Anything, really?

From what I found, the tests were a basic combination of general knowledge with high emphasis on grammar and vocabulary, coupled with a degree of inanity and basic math knowledge.

See, this is what really burned the eggheads of my school. With a basic grasp on algebra and trigonometry, I was solving problems they were using calculators to do.

One of them asked me after the test how I did a specific problem without using calculators, so I showed him, briefly, how I did it.

"That'd take forever!" he wailed at me. "Not if you do it right," I responded.

What was a simple logic jump for me was an insurmountable complex for the honors student.

He couldn't see how simple it was to use what he had learned in ways they hadn't taught him to.

The problem was that so many of these so-called "best and brightest" had no idea of how to really apply any of what they had learned in the real world.

I can't tell you how much it begged me to know that the majority of the people in NHS couldn't change the tire on their car, nor could they figure out how to use algebra to figure out the interest on their credit cards.

These are basic facts of life, folks, simple things that everyone should be able to do, much less our "best and brightest.

My point is that there's a very basic difference between academics and knowledge.

Just because a person does well in school offers no insight on how they really are, in my opinion.

Don't, by any means, take this as a "I'm so great" column, because I'm telling you up front that I'm not. Sure, I like to think of myself as sharper than the average pointy stick, but I'm not a fountain of resounding brilliance. Heck, I rely on spell-check just as much as anyone else.

When students take these tests and get evaluated and judged by universities, many of the potential collegiate students are never even met.

The art of interviewing prospective students is dead.

It had to happen, unfortunately. With more and more people trying to gain higher education, administrators needed to find a quick and easy way to discriminate between those who were capable of higher learning and those who weren't.

It's still wrong.

There's no way that a single test, designed for "everyone" can be fair to "everyone," no matter how much research goes into it.

It can be hard for some students to pick the "least correct" answer or the "most correct" answer.

Committees have swarmed these tests with enough politically correct jargon that the typical student needs an interpreter with him at all times.

It's especially true in the foreign language classes where tests are often formed by committee, and not always reflective of what a specific teacher is teaching.

Is this really the solution to our problem?

No, it isn't.

The solution is smaller classes, more personalized attention, more intensive work and learning tailored to the students' needs, not some teacher's time constraints.

The solution is more teachers, not some digital-era nightmare where the only person who ever teaches a test is some student engineer who may or may not have any idea of what's on it.

It doesn't work for high school students and it doesn't work for college students.
Cheers to the underdog

CORBETT TRUBEY
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Welcome to Rushmore Prep. What appears to be a maze of weathered grey stone buildings full of spoiled brats and decaying teachers is illuminated by the presence of 15-year-old Max Fischer, Rushmore’s most devoted student. Throw in a millionaire alumni and an attractive first grade teacher, and witness a permanent and highly entertaining alteration in Max’s pubescent existence. This is Schwartzman’s first time acting as his only true friend. Max falls for the new first grade teacher, and witness a permanent and highly entertaining alteration in Max’s pubescent existence in Rushmore.

Although Max (Jason Schwartzman) has founded just about every extracurricular club at Rushmore, he has the lowest GPA out of all his classmates and is close to losing his scholarship to go there. This does not change is unwavering love for his school, nor does it affect his quest for his school, nor does it affect his quest for a good college education. When Mr. Blume (Bill Murray), a wealthy former student visits the school, Max forges a bond with this aging, horribly depressed tycoon. While this unique friendship develops, Max falls for the new first grade teacher, and witness a permanent and highly entertaining alteration in Max’s pubescent existence in Rushmore.

While everybody in the film has their good and bad qualities (Max disses a few people here and there), there is an undeniable air of hope that Max strongly exudes which carries Rushmore from start to finish. If anything, you root for him just because of who he is. This is Schwartzman’s first time acting in a film, and hopefully not his last. For someone who has never been in one, he maintains a strong and natural presence that is packed full of subtle power. He is well complimented by Williams, whose British accent looks the least bit out of place. Other supporting members, including Mason Gamble as younger best bud Dick and Brian Cox as the head of the school do commendable job of keeping the laughs coming.

And emerging from what might’ve been a disappointing end to a distinguished career is Bill Murray. What do you do if you’re a great actor falling out of your prime? Head for the indies! Murray’s Mr. Blume is so pathetic you could shed a tear for him (But this is Bill right now says it’s very possible), then this could be the first sleeper hit of the year. Of course, I don’t think Max would have it any other way.
Dear Dr. Daphne,

I have a problem. I have just started dating a girl who is kinda out of my league. I am cooking dinner for her next week. She likes wine and I have nothing about it. What kind should I get? Theodot

-Whine Stud

Dear Whino,

You have a problem. By now you should know the difference between Merlot and Zinfandel or Chardonnay and Cabernet. Knowing this is important, you know.

Not just for getting her in bed, but as you are slowly learning, wine is very important socially. It takes time to develop a good sense with wine, but its easily had, which is what you will have to do for Ms. Thing next week, I hope she worth it.

I wish you had included what you were cooking because that is fairly essential in determining what to get, though you should choose what you like best. Here's a quick reference guide to wine types:

**- Reds -**
- Merlot or Claret: earthy tasters good with pasta, goat cheese, sausages
- Cabernet Sauvignon: rich date red good with everything including ham, pasta, turkey, grilled steak

**- Whites -**
- Sauvignon: young, fruity grape great with fish
- Chardonnay: fruit based dry white good with fish, Chinese
- Pinot Grigio: my favorite dry with fish
- Sweet Whites: usually with dessert or alone
- Sparklers: ripe late picked, good with goose or after dinner

Austere: sweet late harvest grape perfect for dessert.

My list is a very basic one and brands you will have develop a taste for yourself. There is an immeasurable list of types. I have also searched the web for good sites and have found two that are educational for those of you lacking in this social knowledge. Check out: http://www.bath.ac.uk/~eube/home.html or http://homepage.cs.cmu.edu/~jk/test/links.htm.

Got a problem? Nothing is too big or small for Dr. Daphne! Just e-mail her at DrDaphne@hotmail.com.
Prinze breaks out from dad's shadow

IAN SPELLING
COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

It's already begun.

Freddie Prinze, Jr., riding the wave of the hit "I Know What You Did Last Summer" and its sequel, is fast becoming teen idol material. His latest film, "She's All That," which casts him as a high school jock-brain-Romeo, will surely increase the 22-year-old's profile.

Just don't tell him that.

"I have no image," Prinze insists. "That's being created by other people, not me. It's not what I'm about and I don't buy into it for a second. I'm an actor. That's what I do. I get up when it's time to go to work, go to work and do my thing. I don't do press unless I've got a movie coming out. Look for me in a magazine when I don't have a movie coming out. You won't see anything. Not often, but a few times, people have tried to make it like I'm a teen idol. I have an audience that respects me and I respect that audience. I know they're the reason I have a career and, hopefully, they know I respect them and want to make cool movies. That's what I'm about, and nothing else."

Prinze stars in "She's All That," as Zack, a high school god in his senior year who's just been dumped by his bitch-goddess girlfriend (Jodi Lyn O'Keefe, who's now dating an obnoxious "Real World" star (Matthew Lillard). Then there's Laney (Rachael Leigh Cook), a senior who's into art, who wears glasses and ugly clothes, who's smart as a whip but a total outsider. Accepting a pal's bet, Zack endeavors to transform Laney into prom queen material and — surprise, surprise — the two find themselves attracted to each other. Think "Pretty in Pink Meets My Fair Lady."

"One of the reasons I made the movie was that Zack was the exact opposite of me," says Prinze, referring to his days in an Albuquerque, New Mexico high school. "It was a chance for me to experience what it was like to be liked and popular in school. I didn't have any friends. I did my own thing and people thought I was weird because I'd play out these fantasies in my mind. People would stare at me and go 'What the hell is he doing?'"

Another reason Prinze committed to "She's All That" was the opportunity to work with Cook. The two met making the first film, and I said, 'Not to take anything away from the movie. I laughed out loud reading the script. But that's how much I respect Rachael's work and how much I believed in her. Working together was absolutely the way I thought it would be. I knew we'd have chemistry together."

If the name Prinze rings a bell, it should, for Prinze is the son of the comedian Freddie Prinze. The star of TV's "Chico and the Man," the elder Prinze committed suicide at 22, when his son was a baby. Today, the son doubts that his father's name provided much of a leg up in Hollywood.

"It may have gotten me my first job but, to be honest, if you're playing percentages, the number of movies I've auditioned for and the number I've gotten wouldn't have got me sent back to the minors had I been on a professional baseball team. I can't play that game. Nobody in my generation cares who my dad was. They just don't. Their parents do, but they're not going to see 'What the hell is he doing?'"

Prinze turns up this spring in "Wing Commander," a sci-fi flick based on the CD-ROM game of the same name. He auditioned for and the number I've gotten wouldn't have got me sent back to the minors had I been on a professional baseball team. I can't play that game. Nobody in my generation cares who my dad was. They just don't. Their parents do, but they're not going to see 'What the hell is he doing?'"

Prinze says. "I'm against the whole idea of paying 30 grand a year to go to college. I've been in places like Greece, where you can go to college if you want to and it's free. My girlfriend and I have had long talks about this. She's paying 12 grand a semester to go to college and has to take classes she doesn't want to know about. It's ridiculous. So, I'm very against the American college system. How's that for a role model? It's not my thing. It doesn't work for me."

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MEL GIBSON PAYBACK

UCF BIKE AUCTION

Prinze Jr.

Prinze, the son of the late comedian, Freddie Prinze, Jr., has made a name for himself in the film industry. He stars in the upcoming film "She's All That," playing a high school jock-brain-Romeo role. Prinze has been open about his dislike for the term "teen idol," stating that he prefers to be viewed as an actor who respects his audience. He credits the success of "I Know What You Did Last Summer" and its sequel for increasing his profile, but he doesn't buy into the idea of being a teen idol.

Prinze's father, Freddie Prinze, starred in TV's "Chico and the Man," and his death at the age of 22 has had a significant impact on his son's career. Prinze has stated that his father's name has not given him a leg up in Hollywood, and he feels that his success is due to his own merits.

Prinze has been involved in various film projects, including "Wing Commander," a sci-fi flick based on the CD-ROM game of the same name. He has also been critical of the American college system, stating that he is against paying 30 grand a year to go to college. He has had long talks with his girlfriend about this, and they have decided to attend colleges where the cost is lower or where they can attend for free.
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reputation was being hurt by his public views that exterminators are responsible for many high-tech inventions, such as semiconductors and lasers. According to his autobiography (posted on the Internet), Farmiga was visited by an exterminator in his bedroom in 1997, an experience that has caused a falling-out with the Mormon church.

**Georgio Weirdness**

"Brid Davis, 25, of Middletown, Ga., was hospitalized in December after a hunting accident. He had chased a raccoon into a tree for his companion to shoot, but when hit, the 15-pound animal fell about 60 feet directly on top of Davis, knocking him out cold and breaking three vertebrae.

"A 72-year-old man was killed in a robbery attempt in Jonesboro, Ga., in December, and after giving a false name to police, he was quickly identified as the man who had shot the 15-year-old victim. It happened when the man, who had a 15-foot wall knocked over on top of him by the robber, turned to leave feet amputated for robbery, and a 60-year-old woman was killed in a robbery attempt in Jonesboro, Ga., in December, and after giving a false name to police, he was quickly identified as the man who had shot the 15-year-old victim."

**Cultural Diversity**

"According to statistics published in November in the Paris newspaper Le Figaro, 55 percent of people who have sex in France don't bother or shower daily, 50 percent of men don't use deodorant daily, and 40 percent of men don't change underwear daily (and 15 percent admit wearing the same pair three days straight). According to an expert on French culture, hygiene is considered merely 'the hidden face of beauty' in France, and because it is invisible to others, it isn't a priority.

"In rural Australia south of Brisbane, near the coastal resort of Byron Bay, reside wild white bushmen known locally as 'Talibas,' who closely resemble the savages from the movie 'Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome,' who seek of state body odor and "bush herbs," and some of whom carry pet rats in their severely matted hair. While the Taliros' occasional forays into tourism, other locals are thankful for them for environmental reasons, according to a report in the Times of London in October. Said one local, "Americans come out here and go, 'Fuck, everyone's so dirty' (so let's not even think of developing this place)." The Taliros have saved a lot of forest."

**Solution on Page 13**

**UCFthisWEEK**

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~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

From page 28

Arnold returns after All-American season

Arnold was a big surprise for the Knights last season as he stepped into the closer role and set the school record with 12 saves in 13 opportunities. He had a 2.04 ERA with 38 strikeouts in 35.1 innings of work, but will be joined by Dustin Spooner in the bullpen at closer.

Davie continues great all around performance

them this time around, but there are things we need to improve on, because there is no room for error on the court,” Howard said. “Coach was pointing out that we only hit 11-of-20 free throws and that could come back to hurt us next time around.”

The Knights get a pair of productive all-around games from senior guard Chariya Davis last week. Davis, who ranks second in the nation in assists, averaged 17 points, 7.5 rebounds, 4.5 assists and 2.5 steals. Davis also earned South Florida Player of the Week honors.

The starting rotation took the biggest hit in the draft, but the Knights just reloaded and should gel. Quality starts nearly every time out. Lefty Troy Satterfield is the only starter returning from last year after going 5-3 with a 3.65 ERA. However, Tallahassee CC transfer David Rankin, another left-hander, used a great breaking ball to his advantage as he went 15-7 at TCC with 181 strikeouts.

Coach Lynn said this time around, but there are things we need to improve on, because there is no room for error on the court,” Howard said. “Coach was pointing out that we only hit 11-of-20 free throws and that could come back to hurt us next time around.”

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CAMPELL CAMELS (8-12, 5-5): Jamie Simmons averaged a team-high 11.5 points last week as the Camels split contests with Stetson and Jacksonville. The Camels evened last year’s TAAC win total by going on a 17-3 run to end the game against the Dolphins, winning 66-61.

CENTURY GENTS (10-9, 6-3): The Gents were upset by Troy State, 76-67 to lose its hold on second place in the conference, dropping to fifth. Despite Ronnie McCollum’s 20-point effort, Centenary struggled from 3-point territory, missing 15 of 18 shots.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC OWLS (5-15, 2-8): Florida Atlantic nearly pulled off an upset of unbeaten Samford at Siebert Hall, falling to the Bulldogs, 86-73, in overtime. Gary Dumont scored 21 points, while Damon Arnette, the TAAC’s leading scorer, added 20. The Owls regressed in their next outing, becoming Jacksonville State’s first victim, 68-73.

GEORGIA STATE PANTHERS (13-9, 8-3): Lenny Drizzle’s team vaulted to second place in the TAAC behind the effort of forward Quincy Gamez, named TAAC Player-of-the-Week for the second time in three weeks. Georgia State logged double-digits wins against Jacksonville and Stetson, as Arnette averaged 15.3 points and 12 rebounds.

JACKSONVILLE DOLPHINS (7-12, 2-7): The Dolphins fell back out of the TAAC’s top eight and back in danger of not qualifying for the conference tournament, to be held in their arena. Jacksonville lost to both Georgia State and Campbell, as guard Jameel Anderson suffered through a 1-for-17 performance in the two games.

JACKSONVILLE STATE (6-14, 1-9): It finally happened! After suffering through defeats in its first nine TAAC contests, Jacksonville State won its first game, 84-73, against Florida Atlantic. The Gamecocks had given UCF a slight scare, cutting a 19-point deficit to five in the second half last Saturday night, but the Golden Knights surged ahead to prevent, 82-64.

MERCER BEARS (6-13, 3-6): The Bears played their only game last week on Monday night against Centenary, which needs to play well in its remaining six TAAC games as they are currently seventh in the conference, must fend off challengers for the fifth.

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All Sports.
Knights look to overcome injuries

FROM PAGE 28

seeing only eight minutes of action against Samford on Thursday, but unexpectedly recovered in time to help UCF beat Jacksonville State on Saturday. Hopefully, that will be it for UCF's injury woes this year, as Speraw has struggled with those problems all season.

"It's gotten to the point where every day in practice, it's like, what's going to happen next," Speraw said. "There has not been one day all season where the entire team has taken the floor in practice or in a game, completely healthy."

The lone bright spot that could be associated with the injuries is that it has forced the healthy players to pick up the slack. Bucky Hodge, after struggling through most of his year-and-a-half stint in a UCF uniform, has recorded consecutive double-doubles and has become a force inside after avoiding foul trouble. Beronti Christopher, Robert Rushing, and Joey Raines. Both teams are fighting to remain among the TAAC's top eight teams and qualify for the conference tournament. Currently, the Bears are seventh and the Trojans rank eighth.

Mercer is led by Auburn transfer Earnest Brown and Mark Adamson, the TAAC's leading rebounder. Mark Slouksher brings his team in on Thursday night for a 7:30 game. Troy State, fresh off its upset of Centenary, visits UCF on Saturday night at 7:30. The Trojans feature three of the conference's top ten scorers in Eugene Christopher, Robert Rushing, and Joey Raines. UCF's late st win.

Senior Bucky Hodge recorded a pair of double-doubles last week, the first of his collegiate career.
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Knights reload for NCAA Tournament run

TRAVIS BELL  STAFF WRITER

The 1999 UCF baseball team led the nation in one major category last year that many people may be unaware of. While Southern Cal was winning the College World Series in early June, UCF was tying the Trojans for the national lead in number of players selected in the Major League Baseball Draft: 10.

That helps bring exposure and name recognition to the UCF program. However, since seven of the 10 players drafted were juniors, it leaves the 1999 squad inexperienced and untested, but that may not be such a bad thing for Coach Jay Bergman, entering his 17th season at the helm with a record of 622-373-3.

Fortunately for Bergman, among the players returning are former Freshman All-Americans Matt Brower and Jason Arnold. Both players came in with different expectations from coaches, but this year proves much different, as they will be counted on early and often.

Brower, who passed on the Toronto Blue Jays in 1997, put up the numbers of a first round pick. Now a senior, he has been hitting .313 with 11 home runs and 35 RBIs while starting 51 games at first base and left field. This year he will be the full-time left fielder and anchor a new outfield, with junior college transfers Mark Batia and Ivan Trujillo getting the early season starts in center and right, respectively.

Sophomore Darryl Stephens played in 24 last year’s games and will see time at designated hitter and outfield. Freshman Jeremy Pope, a 37th-round pick of the Houston Astros, lettered four times at Oviedo High School and should battle for playing time early. Billy and Tony Murzetta will see time off the bench as DH and in the outfield after coming from Central Arizona CC.

Arnold was a big surprise for the Knights last season as he stepped into the closer role and set the school record with 12 saves in 13 opportunities. He had a 2.04 ERA with 38 strikeouts in 35.1 innings of work, but will be joined by Dustin Spooner in the bullpen at closer.

Arnold could see work in the rotation if needed. However, mid­dle relief could be the biggest problem for the Knights. Bay Paul is the only southpaw out of the pen, while David Kelly, Pete Gavillan, Zach Sutton, Scott Keller, Chris Youngberg, and Pat Frawley will provide a bullpen by committee for Bergman.

The starting rotation took the biggest hit in the draft, but the Knights just reloaded and should get quality starts nearly every time. David Rankin, another left­hander, used a great breaking ball to his advantage as he went 15-7 at TCC with 181 strikeouts in two seasons. He could emerge as the number one starter for the Knights. Freshman Justin Pope and sophomore Brian Freeland will see early starts and remain in the rotation with success.

Despite catcher Erik Johnson’s departure in the draft, UCF should be deeper at the backstop. Spooner, a transfer from TCC, threw out 26 of 28 attempted base stealers in summer league. Sophomore Erik Shafer saw limited action in 12 games last year, and is second on the depth chart. Gavillan will see minimal time in the middle infield.

The Knights faced an early test in the Olive Garden Classic last year, with games against Duke, East Region finalist South Alabama, and No. 10-ranked Rice. Unfortunately, the reorganization of the Trans America Athletic Conference allows the Knights fewer non-conference games to prepare this young team.

Rather than playing 18 conference games against three divisional opponents with last year’s format, UCF will play 30 TAAC games against 10 conference opponents. Nevertheless, the Knights will still play South Florida four times, and have exposure to conference games against 5th-ranked Louisiana State and 10th-ranked Florida.

After losing the TAAC Tournament for the first time since 1994, UCF is predicted to win the TAAC regular season and conference tournament. They will be trying to earn their sixth NCAA Tournament birth since 1992, especially with the extended 64-team format up from last year’s 48.
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UCF debuts at home against Nicholls State

TRAVIS BELL
STAFF WRITER

UCF, fresh off a solid 2-1 start in the Olive Garden Classic, enter a fairly weak part of its schedule as it begins an eight-game homestand. Nicholls State is the first team to play at the Knights' new home stadium, Tinker Field.

The Knights will face the Colonels in a three-game series beginning on Friday at 6 p.m. The second game of the series is Saturday at 2 p.m., followed by the series finale the next day at 1 p.m.

The Colonels finished last season 28-34, including a 13-11 record in the Southland Conference. However, NSU earned a NCAA Tournament bid, despite the losing record, by winning the conference tournament. The Colonels stayed was a short one, as they lost their first two games in the South II Regional, including a 18-4 thrashing at the hands of LSU and a tough 6-3 loss against Harvard.

NSU suffered a 1-8 start last season and had losing streaks of six and seven games midway through the season, but finished the year with a .259 team average and 40 home runs. Second baseman Jacques Jobert (.321 AVG-6 HR-43 RBI) and first baseman Scott Duplantis (.308-9-49) lead the Colonels into the 1999 campaign. The left side of the infield also returns for NSU with Brandon Vasconcellos (.295-6-40) at shortstop and Kevin Perret (.285-6-40) at third.

The only other offensive production returning for the Colonels are outfielder Robert Davis (.257-3-13) and part-time catcher Corey Berner (.233-3-23). The Colonels have some experienced pitchers returning to man the staff this year. RHP Quinn Guidry started seven games and threw 41.1 innings with a 3.27 ERA and a 2-2 record. RHP Cheyenne Janks has the most wins of any starter coming back after a 6-6 record with a 4.68 ERA. He completed three of eight starts with 71 strikeouts in 75 innings. Ben Thompson received bad luck going 0-4 in 12 starts despite a 4.55 ERA.

UCF has only faced Nicholls State once in a two-game series in 1992. The Knights won both games, 5-4 in the opener and 6-2 in the finale.

UCF catchers Dustin Spooner and Eric Shafer will have the responsibility of handling a young pitching staff.

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Rankin’s presence strengthens UCF starting rotation

TRAVIS BELL
STAFF WRITER

David Rankin joined the UCF pitching staff this season and had the honor of starting the season-opener against Duke in the Olive Garden Classic. That role, usually reserved for the staff ace was handled nicely by Rankin, who responded by going seven innings, allowing six hits and two runs with nine strikeouts and no walks.

"Coming in, we knew that Duke would be a tough hitting team. They have about seven guys returning that hit over .300," Rankin said. "I just tried to keep the ball down in the zone and throw a couple change-ups to keep them off balance."

Rankin came to UCF from Tallahassee Community College after going 9-4 last year with a state-leading 1.68 ERA. With numbers like those, his performance against Duke provided little surprise to Rankin because he expects nothing but the best from himself.

"I set high expectations for myself," Rankin said. "I wanted to prove that junior college is not much different from Division I. I just wanted to throw the way that I’ve been throwing the last couple of years, and get our team off to the right start and get us rolling."

Rankin’s decision to go to TCC was fairly simple for him, and he thinks that it helped prepare him for the level of competition in Division I.

"It (TCC) gave me big game experience, and I pitched in a lot of big games there," Rankin said. "If you’re a freshman coming out of high school, you don’t really know what it’s like to play in a college baseball game. There is a big difference."

Rankin gained maturity and confidence while in junior college, so he is now ready for Division I competition. If he can continue throwing the way that he has since going to TCC, UCF will have much less to worry about after losing their two main weekend starters from last season: Todd Bellhorn and Matt Lubozynski. Rankin’s two-year numbers speak for themselves. He was 15-7 with an ERA just over two and the school-record of 181 strikeouts.

"If you’re a freshman coming out of high school, you don’t really know what it’s like to play in a college baseball game. There is a big difference."

Rankin joins Troy Satterfield in the starting rotation, and they will try to match the nation’s 10th best ERA of 3.94 set by last year’s staff. But Rankin doesn’t feel much pressure to match the numbers put up last season.

"I didn’t play with that staff, but I’ve heard that they were a great staff," Rankin said. "So I take it as an honor that I get to come in here and try to replace them. I’ll just try to go out and fill their shoes the best that I can, and just take it from here."

He gained the confidence of Coach Jay Bergman after his performance against Duke, and he should be the anchoring force for this year’s staff.

"I was very pleased to come in here and start, and I knew that he was a tough hitting team. They have about seven guys returning that hit over .300," Rankin said. "I just tried to keep the ball down in the zone and throw a couple change-ups to keep them off balance."

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Baseball team reloads after 98 draftees depart

The 1998 UCF baseball team led the nation in one major category last year that many people may be unaware of. While Southern Cal was winning the College World Series in early June, UCF was tying the Trojans for the national lead in number of players selected in the Major League Baseball Draft: 10.

That helps bring exposure and name recognition to the UCF program. However, since seven of the 10 players drafted were juniors, it leaves the 1999 squad inexperienced and untested, but that may not be such a bad thing for Coach Jim Bergman. He knows the biggest key of the season, so it's not so much a surprise, "We're in good shape if we can get all the first-year guys to play twice as hard." UCF hits the road for a pair of games against last week's competition, Mercer and Troy State. The Bears were embarrassed by the Golden Knights, 7-0, 49, at the UCF Arena. UCF out-rebounded Mercer 33-15, and were ahead by as many as 27 points in the game. They will attempt to duplicate that type of effort on Thursday night at 7 p.m.

The Knights had a tougher time with Troy State last week, but managed to grab the TAAC lead and put two games of distance between themselves and the Trojans by winning, 65-54. However, after holding Troy State leading scorer LaKeshia Parrish to eight points in their win last Saturday, UCF knows it must expect a tougher battle this time around, especially since it's away from home.

"We were fortunate to beat them last time," said UCF senior guard Kate Fetsch. The Golden Knight backcourt has provided quality minutes for Fetsch.

Tony Mejia
SPORTS EDITOR

UCF finishes with best Olive Garden Classic record in three years

Fortunately for Bergman, among the players returning are former Freshman All-Americans Matt Bower and Jason Arnold. Both players came in with different expectations from coaches, but this year proves much different, as they will be counted on early and often.

Tony Mejia
SPORTS EDITOR

Men return home to heal for critical stretch

Kirk Speraw's basketball team has to feel pretty fortunate to be where they're at. Following a week where UCF was down to only six healthy scholarship players, it managed a split of its four-game road swing, and have returned home for two in a row and four of the last six games. Best of all, the Knights still cling to the third spot in the TAAC standings.

After apparently surviving the low-point of the season, Speraw is looking forward to rebuilding at home. He knows the biggest key in getting his Golden Knights healthy, "We're in good shape if we can get all the pieces on the floor," Speraw said. "We need to get healthy and get some good practice time to regain our edge."

Leading scorer Brad Traina has missed the last three games due to a stress fracture of his foot. Davin Granberry had missed three straight with a shoulder separation before returning to the lineup last Saturday. Roy Leahy didn't fly with the Knights to Alabama for their two contests last week after having oral surgery. Point guard Cory Perry, already weakened by a virus, twisted his ankle after two victories.

Tony Mejia
SPORTS EDITOR