State requests budget documents on expenses

Shelley Wilson

This week the State University System is expected to receive the documentation it requested from UCF's Student Government on budget allocations.

"In October we submitted our addendum budget," said Student Body President Deric Murphy. "Senate and OAP passed this budget and Dr. Haddleston signed off on the budget. We started funding all of the programs we wanted to and did not know about this budget not being passed until January. It has been told to us by Tallahassee that they're interested in underwater photography. It was an overwhelming feeling to be able to get not being passed until January. It has been told to us by Tallahassee that they're interested in underwater photography."

The requested documentation includes expenses through Nov. 30, 1998, from the $4.5 million approved budget, sources for projected increased revenues, and the Activity and Service Fee Committee's minutes from its meetings on recommendations for implementing new programs.

In the past 20 years, 14 addendum budgets have been proposed at UCF. Only two of those budgets were vetoed by either the SG president or Student Affairs' vice president. Another budget was not granted at all by the state. Murphy's budget proposal is the only proposal that the Board of Regents/State University System has had questions about.

The increased revenue for the total Addendum Budget Allocation was $750,000. The Senate passed this amount on Oct. 8 of last year. James Smith, Jr., director of University Budgets, requested the increase in spending for Activity and Service Fees in a memo sent to Ron Stubbs, director of Budgets for the State University System of Florida, on Dec. 2, 1998.

The memo said the current budget would not meet operational requirements and local delays did not allow inclusion in the original budget request. Operating expenses were requested at $725,000 and non-operating transfers were requested at $10,000.

More, Page 2

Student makes his living underwater

Marla Chandler

"If you don't want to have close encounters with sharks, don't be the first person off the boat," Bret Forbes, 36, a journalism major at UCF, said. "Sharks will come within 5 or 6 feet of you, which is a great opportunity to get a close-up shot."

Forbes, who is 5 feet 10 inches tall with a medium build, was diving at San Salvador in the Bahamas when hammerhead sharks cruise along a wall around 150 feet deep when he got up close and personal with some sharks.

"I was at 110 feet below the surface, and they were 40 feet below me," Forbes said. "When I first saw them, I got a rush of adrenaline mixed with a bit of fear, but it was an overwhelming feeling to be able to photograph them."

It was not until 1998 when his wife was scuba certified that Forbes became interested in underwater photography. "My wife was into photography, and we both wanted to learn how to take pictures underwater," he said.

Forbes and his wife invested in an underwater camera made by Nikon called the Nikonos V. Underwater Camera System. "We decided to take turns with the camera, but I ended up taking it more than she did," Forbes said with a chuckle.

In 1991, Forbes began entering photography contests. That same year he entered the EPIC Underwater Photo Contest sponsored by Nikon and placed in the top 10. In the Nikonos Shootout held in Cayman Brac in the Cayman Islands, the second contest he entered, Forbes placed second in the wide-angle category.

Forbes began taking pictures and submitting them for publication while he was a construction superintendent of steel erection for high-rise buildings. He oversees the setting of beams and the installation of concrete blocks and other materials."

Ucf senior Bret Forbes at Stingray City in Grand Cayman Island.

PHOTOGRAPHER, Page 3

As an African-American woman, I feel we are going down the path that has been set before us. -Sylvia Michele Badie

Past, present and future of African-American women

Taylor Sikes

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The African-American Student Union and the Women's Studies program hosted a forum on Tuesday for African-American women to discuss their changing roles in American society.

"Black women. Where have we been, where we are, and where we are going" was led by three UCF employees. Each person had different views of the topic: the oldest taking "where we have been," the youngest speaking on "where we are going."

The event was a part of UCF's celebration of Black History Month. It was attended by about 30 people of differing ages and races. At the end of the confer-
Panhellenic proposes changes to sorority rush

KELLY BRYANT STAFF WRITER

Panhellenic's Rush Executive Board is currently proposing a few changes to sorority rush for the fall semester. The Board would like to see UCF move to a "no frills" rush that would eliminate a lot of the flashiness of past rush parties. One change that has already been voted on and passed is the removal of Skit Day. Instead, sororities will prepare a 10-12 minute video to be shown on the day that skits are usually performed.

Rush Executive Board has also chosen the 1999 Rho Chi team. The chosen women will attend a retreat on Feb. 20-21 for training.

Greek Week plans are in full swing as the kick-off on Feb. 27 draws closer. The teams for the week have been announced: Delta Delta Delta, Phi Kappa Alpha, and Delta Tau Delta; Alpha Delta Pi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Tau Kappa Epsilon; Chi Omega, Kappa Sigma, and Acacia; Delta Gamma, Sigma Chi and Fiji; Zeta Tau Delta, Alpha Tau Omega and Phi Delta Theta; Kappa Delta, Delta Upsilon, and Pi Kappa Phi; Alpha Xi Delta, Lambda Chi Alpha and Alpha Epsilon Phi; Pi Beta Phi, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Lambda Theta Phi.

GreeK BEAT

Greek block party has been added to Greek Week. It will be held on Greek Row on March 6. The time has not been announced.

Chi Omega visited the Westchester Retirement Home for a Valentine's visit on February 13. The chapter set up the residents and delivered cards and gifts as part of its philanthropy project.

Greek Council is still collecting school supplies to bring to the Southeastern Panhellenic Conference for their annual philanthropy work, which is held at the end of March. Supplies may be dropped off at the Greek Council office through the first of March.

More funding needed for clubs

FROM PAGE 1

$25,000 on the memo. Snubs sent a memo back to the UCF Student Government office, received on Dec. 3, 1998, stating that at the time the 1998-'99 operating budgets were approved, UCF was provided a 139 percent increase over 1997-'98 actual expenditures. This additional request would make the budget over 179 percent from the previous year.

The memo also stated that the ending fund balance of the '98-'99 budget was $566,383, significantly less than the requested $750,000 additional increase. Based on the increase provided in August 1998 and the end fund balance, the State University System requested the documentation to make a recommendation.

The Panhellenic Conference requested funds has already been voted on by Greek Week. During the past month, 10 different bills equaling $44,730 in funding for clubs and organizations have been presented to the Senate. The bills have been delayed because the Senate did not have the money to fund all of them at once. When the bills were on their second reading at the ninth session of Senate, a reserve of $51,000 was used to fund these clubs and organizations.

"What we did was not hide the money," Murphy said. "I have my SG projections account right now so that you never spend the full amount of money that is there. When a club or organization comes to me for funding we take it out of there."

Murphy said the fact that the Senate funds clubs and organizations was a measure that had to be taken.

"When the Senate gets their chunk of money, they took in account the traditional programs they would fund," he said. "Due to the enormous amount of wonderful programs that the students are putting on this year, the Senate spent all of their money and their accounts went dry."

"It's not the student body president's responsibility to monitor what the Senate is doing with their money. I think Senate has done an excellent job this year and I'm happy they're out of money because that means they have given every club and organization opportunities for funding."

Murphy said that the transfer of funds would affect the next Student Government administration.

"When the next student body president and vice president come in and the money is not there, and clubs and organizations are used to someone being so charitable, but that's not the normal way it's supposed to work. The clubs and organizations might get mad at the new administration and say, 'Murphy handed me $13,000 without any questions!'"
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**Election statutes called ‘outdated’ by candidates and commissioners**

**Shelley Wilson**

*Staff writer*

There have been seven violations brought against student government candidates, only three have been charged to the candidate tickets. These violations are currently in appeal to the Election Commission.

There are four tickets for students to choose from during the elections. On the agenda for some of the tickets is changing the election statutes. The violations for the presidential tickets are outlined in the election statutes, which acts as a representation of the Constitution during the elections.

The student body does not receive a copy of the statutes so many students do not know that the violations candidates commit can be charged back to their original seat.

"Ignorance of the law in this case should be taken into account during the elections because many students do not know the statutes," Fred Piccolo, a vice presidential candidate, said. "The candidates receive them, but the students don’t.

"If a candidate in the federal and state elections walks down the street and says ‘I want to run,’ they can, but here we’re held liable for what 30,000 people say and do, which trickles down and comes back as a charge against the ticket."

Another issue that Piccolo said he is concerned about is the conflicts of interest for members of the commission.

The commissioners are just doing their job when they find violations and report on them," he said. "They should remove themselves though when it is time to deliberate the charge. Would you let a witness on a murder case also sit on the jury?"

A loophole in the system is another problem area that presidential candidate Jaime Halscott said he wants to change.

"If a candidate violates [Student] Union policy they would not be violating election statutes and in which case there is nothing that can be done," he said. "The Election Commission should have the power to enforce all University/College/Building regulations that would otherwise give another candidate an unfair advantage."

The first election statute was written back in 1978 and the last revision was made in 1995.

According to Chief Election Commissioner Cheryl Fox, the election statutes are not up-to-date.

"The Election Commission sends recommendations for changes to the Election and Appointments Committee after the elections," Forz said. "During the time I have been chief, there’s been 14 recommendations, but only one change."

Fox said she is impressed with the Election Commission and the elections staff, but thinks better communication would encourage students to participate in the elections more.

"Some violations are inevitable, but I wished that if they changes to be made, they would address the Election Commission first to help use the elections to the fullest ability we have to offer."

"Students will have an opportunity to vote for the next student body president and vice president on Tuesday and Wednesday."

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**Photographer’s travels include Fiji, Mexico**

*From Page 1*

 installation of columns that were welded and bolted together.

On his yearly vacations he shoots photos underwater in the Florida Keys, Cozumel, Mexico and the Cayman Islands. He also started writing stories to go with the photos. In addition, Forbes has been to the Fiji Islands located in the South Pacific where he has photographed some of the most beautiful coral in the world. Besides a variety of colorful corals, the South Pacific also has a variety of tropical fish of many colors and shapes.

"I captured scenes of these reefs and fish and showed them to friends and relatives who don’t scuba dive," Forbes said. "Showing my photographs is what I like best. They differ from the basic point-and-shoot pictures since I create my own angle. I like to do wide-angle reef scenes using subjects that can create a forced perspective, (subjects appearing larger than the background)."

This past September, one of his photographs was featured in an article in Skin Diver magazine. The photograph, a two-page spread, was of a grouper in San Salvador seeking a handout from divers. "It was a perfect photo opportunity, because these groupers have been hand fed by scuba divers for years and are not afraid of swimming within two inches from you," Forbes said. Besides Skin Diver, Forbes has taken photographs and written articles for Sport Diver, Scuba Times, and Rodale’s Scuba Diving Training.

In addition, his photos have been used by travel companies in brochures on travel destinations such as Bahama Island Adventures in Bimini, Bahamas. "There is nothing like the feeling of seeing one of your bylines in a national magazine or photo credit," Forbes said. "It makes me feel great."

Forbes hopes to become a full-time freelance and possibly do a documentary for National Geographic.

Forbes, who became a father on Nov. 11 to a baby boy, Collin Andrew, said he wants to share his love for the ocean with Collin.

"I hope to share my experiences in the underwater world with my son, but I will not force it upon him if he chooses not to scuba dive."
Entries being accepted for the first Knight Images Awards

The Nicholson School of Communication will be awarding the first annual Knight Images Awards. Applicants can enter in advertising, radio, television, print, public relations writing, news-editorial writing, photography, resume submission, and speech presentation. The theme for each of the categories is to either inform students about or recruit them to the Nicholson School of Communication (NSC). Entries should be turned in to Dr. Bob Davis or to the Com. Building’s Room 238 by March 1.

The requirements are:
- Advertising: Students should create an ad or commercial for the School of Communication. Categories are mechanical ads, digital ads, radio ads and television ads.
- Public Relations: A three-part press kit is required: an information sheet listing statistical information on the NSC, a backgrounder, a one or two page press release on the NSC. All information on the NSC, a backgrounder, a one or two page release on Tony Nicholson, and a one to two page press release on the events, activities or ideas the NSC offers.
- News Editorial: A 800-1,000 word article on the NSC.
- Resume Submission: A one-page 8 1/2 X 11 resume mounted on a black mount board meeting contest specifications.
- Speech Presentation: One or a group of students may present a 7-9 minute informative or persuasive presentation on the NSC. All entries are to be submitted on VHS.
- Photography: Students should capture student life as a communication student at NSC in a black and white 8 1/2 X 11 picture. A four sentence caption should be mounted underneath.

The awards show will be held in Com. 104 on April 10. Contact Susan Toffey at 671-6267 or Jeanette Ritch at 322-1069 for more information.

In OTHER NEWS:
- Members of Phi Beta Lambda competed in the Phi Beta Lambda District Spring Leadership Conference on Jan. 29. The winners will be eligible to compete in the state competition in March in Tampa.

First place winners: Christi White- Business Communications, Robert Soucek- International Business Marketing, Mary Lynn Cossier- Impromptu Speaking, Jeff Doughlas- Parliamentary Procedure Typing Speed Test
Secon place Winners: Kitty Avery- Computer Applications, Jillian Guild- Parliamentary Procedure Typing Speed Test, Mary Lynn Cossier- Finance

Third place Winners: Alex Cook and Jeff Doughlas- Desktop Publishing

Fourth place Winners: Jillian Guild- Accounting II, Mary Lynn Cossier- Business Principles

Fifth place Winners: Dauntous Issac- Typing Speed Test, Christi White- Word Processing, Jillian Guild- Business Math

The President’s Leadership Council is looking for members. Applicants should be of junior standing or higher, have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0, be full-time students during the fall and spring semesters and have demonstrated leadership abilities through university involvement and community activities.

Two letters of recommendation and a completed application form are required. Council members will work as student ambassadors and receive a stipend for their work for each semester. For more information, contact the Office of Constituent Relations in the Administration Building, Suite 328 or Michelle Marcado at 823-6669. Applications are due by Feb. 19 by 5 p.m.

The following items will be on display during March in the Library:
1. "Arabesque" by Professor Regdo Kindy of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
2. "Celebrating Women’s Lives: Women’s History Month 1997" by Dr. Shelly and Carnie D'escrees of the Women’s Studies Program
3. "UCF Celebrates Leadership" by Edward Hampshe, interim director of the LEAD Scholars Program
4. "Animal Liberation" by Greg Rivera, president of the Campus Action for Animals
5. "Making a Difference through Social Work" by Dr. Mary Van Hook, director of the School of Social Work
6. "Celebrating Caribbean Unity" by David Steele and Shaina Smith of the Caribbean Student Association

The Academic Exploration Program is offering six-hour sessions entitled "How to Choose a Major" throughout February. The classes are free and will be held in the Engineering Building, Room 206. All classes will meet from noon-1 p.m. The sessions will be held on Feb. 17, 23 and 25.

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-AULUM.

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 Hibbs at 823-5383 or thirib@pegasus.ucf.edu.

UCF’s Downtown Academic Center will present the seminar "What did you say? Effective communication for interpersonal and career success" on Feb. 18 from noon to 1 p.m. Professor Bernie Jensen will discuss the ability to communicate with others. Jensen will identify key communication strategies and provide suggestions for improving listening. Admission is free. For more information, contact Wendy Belyard at 317-7700.

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Forum part of UCF’s planned celebration of Black History Month

From Page 1

ence, the forum opened up to the audience for discussion. The forum was opened by Shelley Park, the director of Women’s Studies, who introduced the first speaker, Mary H. McKinney. McKinney has been with UCF since 1973. She currently works as executive director for the Financial Aid Office.

McKinney addressed the past of black women. "When I started at UCF, I don’t believe there were any black women in high positions," McKinney said. "For a black woman looking to be a professional, teaching was the only option."

McKinney was followed by Kathy Gary King, who works in recruiting for the College of Business Administration and has worked for UCF since 1986. She spoke on where black women are now.

King opened her segment with clips from the movies “Soul Food” and “Waiting to Exhale.” Using examples from the movies, she said she sees today’s black women as strong, assertive, sensitive and sensuous.

"Regardless of what the circumstances are, I see two things we have to do," King said. "One is to work and get paid. Second, you’ve got to be responsible for yourself, for your family and your community."

She also showed a clip from the recent film “How Stella Got Her Groove Back,” in which the lead character is a over-worked business woman. King said that black women need to put the accent on themselves and practice good “personal preparation” to fulfill their many different roles, such as mother and professional.

"We are at the crossroads of using you effectively," she said. "We are going to have to learn to start balancing. If you start putting the accent on you, then the other things will fall into place."

King suggested treating yourself once a month and to map a plan to educate and elevate by networking locally.

King was followed by 1998 graduate Michele Badie who now works as a program assistant for the African-American Studies program. She opened her talk up where black women are going with a clip from “Waiting to Exhale.” The clip showed four black women celebrating New Years together.

"As an African-American woman, I feel we are going down the path that has been set before us," Badie said. At the beginning of her talk Badie began to cry and was unable to speak. This moved McKinney who also began getting “misty.”

After an emotional moment, Badie continued her presentation. She called black women of the future “reformers and activists” and said they have been raised to have things their way.

"I got out of my career, no one can put a price on," she said before closing with a story.

The forum said to think global, know who you are and what you want, network, and to treat people the way you want to be treated.

The panel then opened for a time of questions and discussion.

One question was what should black women do during their time at UCF. The forum said to think global, know who you are and what you want, network, and to treat people the way you want to be treated.

"The sky is the limit," King said. "There are a lot of places to go and we are going to get there. It will just take us one step at a time."

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Circle K works to improve community

MAria Chandler
STAFF WRITER

Making long lasting friendships and giving to the community is what Circle K is all about. Circle K is the College equivalent of the Kiwanis. In the beginning of 1997, this volunteer organization was founded at UCF. Some of the things they participate in are: Provide-a-Ride, Arena concessions, teddy bear drive, and participating in the Dance Marathon.

Circle K worked this past Christmas to bring smiles to the faces of needy children. A member had the idea of donating stuffed animals to needy children. Professors with large classes asked students to donate stuffed animals. In 1997, the organization collected 750 stuffed animals. Last year, Dr. Michael Luckett, assistant professor of marketing, took it a step further and asked construction workers, Bel Baca, secretary of Circle K, said, "He really pushed it." The stuffed animals this year totaled 2,036 and were distributed by Alpha Point.

Members of the Circle K club pose with some of the 2,036 stuffed toys they raised for needy children for Christmas.

Circle K also participated along with other organizations at last year’s Dance Marathon. Those who entered the event had to dance for 24 hours to raise money for the Children’s Miracle Network. Circle K won the small club division at the marathon.

Recent volunteer work includes going to a soup kitchen to read books to children and a penny drive is planned to benefit the prevention of Iodine Deficiency Syndrome. Each floor in the dorms will be competing against each other in the Penny Drive. Silver change and dollar bills count extra.

Circle K meets on Thursday nights in the Student Union at 6 p.m. Currently they have about 20 members. The requirements are to show up at a meeting and pay $30 per semester. Newsletters are given out at meetings and nonmembers can attend though they are encouraged to join.

Jannette, vice president of Circle K said the club was a "great opportunity to go out and help the community. You also get to meet others from around the state and the county at conventions and conferences."

It's National Eating Disorders Awareness Week!
February 20 - 27, 1999

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Monday, February 22, 4-5:00pm, SU; Key West Rm 218A
* REACH Peer Education presents an educational workshop on 'Body Love, Body Hate: Striving to be The Perfect 10'.

Tuesday, February 23, 11am-Noon, Location TBA; Call 823-3578
* "Fleshing the Future" will be presented by Dr. Stacey Dunn focusing on media influences and body image issues.

Wednesday, February 24
* 11am-2:00pm, SU
Body SMART fair in front of the Student Union featuring games, prizes, and information.
* 7:00pm, Location TBA; Call HRC at 823-5641
Susan Mitchell, PhD, RD, author of "I'd Kill for a Cookie", will present on the topic of stress eating.

Thursday, February 25
* 10am-4:00pm, Counselling & Testing Center; SRC, Rm 203
An Eating Disorders Screening Program will be offered with additional information, resources, and referrals for you or a friend.
* 1-3:00pm, SU; Rm 313
"Greens Speak" will offer an open discussion of how eating disorders tie in with the Greek community.

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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.

"Waited Moose chewed another one's ear off for simply looking at him the wrong way," Richard Schimke said, a professor.

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The stuffed animals this year totaled 2,036 and were distributed by Alpha Point.
How to become scuba certified

Sarah Sekula
NEWS EDITOR

"I saw Goliath, a huge, bright green moray eel," Gwen Rhodes, a junior at UCF, said. "He lives in a shipwreck in the Florida Keys and seems to have international fame," the novice scuba diver explained.

"We were about 45 feet underwater—swimming around a shipwreck site," she said. "That's when Rhodes caught her first glimpse of the notorious, but rarely seen, sea creature.

"The whole experience was incredible," Rhodes said. "The visibility was great. You could see all the colors because we didn't go very deep. We saw red coral, green coral, parrot fish, puffer fish and a huge sea turtle swim right by my face."

Rhodes' admiration of Jacques Cousteau and love of marine life prompted her to become a certified scuba diver last fall. She has been on eight dives since.

Like Rhodes, many students have an interest in scuba diving but have no idea how to begin.

Where to start

The first item on the agenda for scuba newcomers is to find a local diving company. Talk to friends, see if they can refer you somewhere. And don't just call the company on the telephone, visit and tour the facilities. Meet the instructors. Ask yourself if you feel comfortable around them? Do they have a good selection of equipment? Shop around and keep in mind that your choice of instructor is very important.

Certification expenses

The course fee can vary depending on where you sign up and the time of year. Dive stores and instructors sometimes offer reduced rates during colder months. At Scuba Worlds on West Colonial, a scuba certification course costs $179. It is available all year long at this price. College students receive a 10 percent discount off the price and equipment. The $179 fee includes books, certification card at C-card, classroom lectures, pool training sessions, and four open-water dives.

"There is an additional charge, usually $25-$30, for boat costs if you go to the coast instead of the local springs," John Shimkoski, owner of Scuba Worlds, said. "It's up to the class. They may say, 'Let's just do all the dives close to Orlando.' But generally the class will elect to pay the extra money to go down to West Palm."

Social aspects

Some people choose to take the class with a friend, but many come by themselves. "Diving is a good way to meet other people," Shimkoski said. "We sent a group out to West Palm this morning. Many of them have not dived together before. By the time they come back, they will know each other well.

"It's a good social activity—more so than most sports," he said. "A lot of different people participate. I think it's something that everybody can do and it's non-competitive. Everyone is pretty much on equal footing once you hit the water. You can't muscle your way through water, it's all about technique. Just the overall experience is exciting—the boat ride, getting in the water and being with friends that you knew before or that you met in class. It's a calm, relaxing sport."

Time investment

Many scuba companies offer courses that last four to six weeks or a more condensed course offered over two weekends. Each is about the same amount of time.

Scuba Worlds is affiliated with NAUI (National Association of Underwater Instructors), which requires a minimum of 32 hours of class instruction. PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) may have different requirements, Shimkoski said.

Scuba Worlds has a certification course that runs two evenings a week for the span of five weeks. Rhodes said she started class this summer on June 15 and received her C-card on July 19. "I went two nights a week. Monday night was academics and Wednesday was pool practice," Rhodes explained.

The most popular course according to Shimkoski, is the one offered over two consecutive weekends. "The first Saturday is classroom lectures and Sunday is pool training. The following weekend is reserved for the open-water dives."

Equipment

Gear provided by the company usually includes a tank, regulator and buoyancy compensator. You have to provide mask, fins, snorkel, weight belt, weight, a dive bag, Shimkoski said. Cheap diving equipment is available at discount department stores for $50 to $80. But it is recommended to buy professional gear found only in dive stores. This gear will last longer (many items come with lifetime guarantees) and will fit better.

The gear can cost from a low of $150 to a high of $300, he said. Rhodes said she paid about $45 for her personal gear, about $75 for a mask, $20 for the snorkel, $30 for the weights and $20 for fins. The price for weights will differ for each person because it depends on body size.

"If you put money into anything, put it into the mask," Rhodes emphasized. "I made a point of getting a good one." She said she rented a mask on a previous摞orking experience. "It kept leaking and I just couldn't relax—I kept having to fix it," she said. "Purchasing a mask that fits made it much more pleasant."

Local Places to Get Scuba Certified

Great American Dive Center, Winter Park 673-4777
Scuba Worlds, Orlando 273-3373
Northwest Divers, Inc, Orlando 658-9464
Odysses Scuba Centers, Winter Park 857-2822
Orlando Dive Center, Orlando 894-4411
Orlando Adventure Scuba, Orlando 292-4271
Paradise Divers, Orlando 339-3573
Scuba Quest, Orlando 851-667

Learning the basics

Prior to hitting the water, the instructor begins with a medical and liability session. They want to make sure conditions such as exercise induced asthma, chronic ear problems or lung trauma do not affect your diving.

"The next part is an introduction to scuba diving," Shimkoski said. "We talk about characteristics of equipment, how to assemble, maintain and inspect the equipment. And how to select it for purchasing. We also talk about the differences in tanks."

"Then we go into the effects of scuba diving, basically we call it diving physics," he said. "For example, the effects of pressure, heating underwater and visibility."

Next, the instructors discuss proper diving techniques. Practical stuff is taught: how to assemble your equipment and how to enter the water. The basics are then discussed: face mask clearing, buoyancy control, swimming techniques underwater. Classes also talk about some emergency procedures, buddy breathing (using an alternate air source), and how to descend and ascend safely.

Rhodes recalled, "A big thing they talked about was the buddy system. Never dive without a buddy. You kind of keep an eye on each other."

"With safety being the main concern of the course," Shimkoski said, "that's one thing. You're citizens—being comfortable and confident underwater and how to think rationally. We do a lot of muscle training—doing one skill over and over again. We also teach a safety stop. Every 15 feet a diver should stop for three minutes."

After this, a student is now ready to apply this information and pool exercises begin. "We usually go to a YMCA pool or whatever is available," Shimkoski said. "The pool training is about six hours altogether. We won't let you go out into open water unless you've mastered the skills of confined water."

Rhodes said: "One thing we had to do was take off all of our equipment and let it fall to the bottom—then put it on again. Out of the pool, we practiced our masks off with our eyes closed. This simulated getting the mask on under water."

The last step of the certification process is a series of four open-water dives. For the open-water dives, it is two dives in a local spring, like Blue Springs (freshwater), then two dives at West Palm Beach submarine. Shimkoski said they choose Blue Springs because it is close to Orlando. "It's about an hour away in Orange County," he said.

"When the final dive is complete," Shimkoski said, "every new diver seems to feel like they've accomplished something and have overcome that initial fear."

"I was a little bit nervous when I started the class," Rhodes admitted. "But it all comes together when you're diving—it becomes habit and you do things without thinking."

Rhodes is planning more dives for the future. "I'm looking into going back to the Keys or maybe somewhere in the Caribbean. There's so much more I want to see."

The exciting thing about scuba diving and getting certified, according to Shimkoski, is "the conquering of the underwater environment. I guess it's the last great frontier. They say space is, but how many people go to space? You have the unknown underwater, a feeling of discovery."

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Taking things as they come

DANIEL F. MCMULLAN
STAFF WRITER

"You want to do what with my daugh­ter?" Melissa's eyes ask—daring me to repeat myself. My wife's like that, though. When I have a brilliant idea, she emphati­cally says so. Whenever I come up with some nonsense, she simply says nothing.

There's a lot of silence in our house.

My plan to take our 2-1/2-year-old daughter canoeing sinks before it can float. I look around quickly hoping to find a better idea written on the floor or ceil­ing.

"Hey, I have an idea. Let's go some­where on Sunday," I say. "Somewhere we've never been and make a day of it. See what there is to see and spend no money."

Melissa's eyes brighten. "Maybe we could get a hotel room on Saturday night," she adds.

Ever magnanimous, I agree. Melissa is really excited about this. I'd be a real jerk to belittle the big deal it is. So that is it—all it really rains the mud. This is the most spontaneous thing we have done to­gether in a while. We really need this.

On Saturday morning the urge to man­age and plan took over the urge for spontaneity somewhat. And after dumping through several Florida books, I settle on Mount Dora Country Inn. I pick Melissa up from work at 6 p.m. at the mall in Merritt Island and drive west­ward.

Finally, we leave city limits and its noise. Melissa is worried that Mount Dora will look like Orange Blossom Trail. "Don't worry," I say. "Look, honey, rolling hills! A change to altitude—we're almost giddy with vertigo. It's also 9 p.m. as we pull into the Mount Dora Comfort Inn.

As I walk in, the clerk says, "Sorry sir, we're booked. Mount Dora bicycle thing this weekend, ya know? Everything for 15 bucks just to hear you whistle." Melissa storms out of the bathroom. "Stop it, Dan. You're not going to guilt trip our 3-year-old daughter. It's not her fault."

Not her fault? You think we're leaving because the room service sucks?

Grabbing the car keys, Melissa explo­des out the door in her pajamas, bare-feet, and Micaela in her arms. She's furious: she'll walk out to check the mail or get the paper wearing her pajamas, but never bare-footed. I pack angrily. I drop the room key off and stomp to the car.

Inside, the silence is loud.

Pulling onto the highway, I fight the temptation to stomp on the gas and burn rubber. That would just push Melissa over the edge. I turn around and see Micaela sleeping as if nothing had ever happened.

"Should we turn around?" I ask Melissa.

"Do whatever you want," she responds.

I make a U-turn, pull into the Budget Inn and retrieve the key. We lay Micaela down and she doesn't bat an eyelash. As Melissa and I lay down, I mumble a weak apology for losing my temper. "I can't believe what you did to her in her accep­tance, I think.

Gratefully, Micaela sleeps until 8 a.m., which is nice because we're all in better moods. When I leave the room, she tells Mommy, "Daddy yel at me last night. You yell at Daddy."

At breakfast, Micaela is well behaved and enjoys her favorite meal: bacon and apple juice. My breakfast is disappointing and I tell Melissa, "I have half a mind to complain to the manager."

"Don't be miserable, honey," she says quietly.

"Don't be miserable, Daddy," Melissa says loud enough for two other parties to hear.

I pay the bill and we head for Mount Dora, which turns out to be the most appealing small town I've ever visited. It seems genuine, not contrived. Out of time and out of place, the town is very New England-like and Victorian—only with palm trees.

Furthermore, everyone is so friendly and there are several blocks to explore and enough shops to keep Melissa, a pro­fessional gift-giver, occupied for days.

Just 27 miles northeast of Orlando, Mount Dora offers a needed respite from theme parks and cartoon spokesmen—or mice, as it were. At 184 feet above sea level, it also appeals to my need for broken ter­rain.

Micaela, on the other hand, is not impressed.

"I want to go back to the room," she says. "To the hotel where we stayed last night."

What? I don't even want to hear that. We see a sign outside Hart's Country Crafts on 100 W. Third Ave. Free coffee and cookies—that draws us in. We are kept in by the smell of coffee brewing and candles burning—two of my favorite scents. Melissa and I frantically try to keep up with Micaela as she runs around looking at things. "Can I see?" she asks. For her, seeing means touching. As we leave, the owner, Jo Hart, suggests we wade down to the lighthouse. It's 80 degrees in the shade when we reach the 35-foot tower on Grantham Point. The structure is not exactly awe­inspiring, but what it's the only inland freshwater lighthouse in Florida, it doesn't have to be. I spot what looks like a nature trail, so we investigate. The path is part boardwalk and part sandly trail and winds through the needs and cypress of Palm Island Park. We spot an alligator, two rac­coons and several different birds. Micaela is delighted.

Melissa and I are really tired. The hills, the heat and the hotel have taken their toll. We return to the car and buckle Micaela in. She's still wide-awake and still asking to go back to the hotel. So we tell what do most parents do: we lie. We tell her we're looking for it right now. On the way, Micaela finally dozes off. To her it was just another day. For Melissa and I, it was an attempt to live spontaneously. Which just can't be done when you've got a child to plan for. We should have studied our lodging options instead of tak­ing whatever was left. We should have made reservations. We could have arrived soon enough for Micaela to become accustomed to her new surroundings. We would have if we waited to eat until after settling in. We should have, we could have, and we would have...

But it was fun all the same. I'm glad we took the trip. But I needed to remem­ber my friend's advice. "Don't take life so seriously," he says. "You'll never live through it."
Barbies with tattoos raise a few eyebrows

MARYLNE SCHWARTZ
KNTI3H-RIDDER NEWSPEPERS

I have an aunt who is a doomsayer. But in this instance, I'm afraid she is all too right.

She has been watching all this mess going on in the Senate floor with pursed lips. All along, she has predicted that standards and decorum will now slip everywhere.

"Once behavior like this is discussed openly in the hallowed halls of law and government," my aunt has warned repeatedly, "who knows what other slips in taste are bound to follow?"

Well, they have, Aunt Dorothy, they really have.

Please sit down if this is coming as a complete shock. Barbie has gotten tattooed now comes with a set of do-it-yourself wet-and-stick-on tattoos. OK, these stick-ons aren't whips and chains, just flowers and butterflies. But, still, the door has been opened.

And for every tattoo that goes on Barbie, there is one included for the little girl who buys her.

"It's too much," says nurse Nancy Lenox. "Now they've gone too far. I saw this as a commercial on TV. I can just picture all those little girls running around in their new tattoos."

Lenox is a friend of mine. Frankly, she hasn't gotten anywhere near as upset as the Monica situation as she has over Barbie's tattoos.

Interns are in and out of fashion. But Barbie, for goodness' sake, is an institution. Interns are in and out of fashion. But Barbie, for goodness' sake, is an institution.

"What are we going to have now?" Lenox wants to know. "A Barbie with body piercing?"

This is all part of the Mattel toy company's plan to bring Barbie into the 21st century. A spokesman for the company says the tattoo doll is proving popular.

I know the little girls love it, but what about their parents?

"Well, they've also made Barbie's figure more realistic," says Carol Pennington, a mother I talked to while browsing through a toy store. "A tasteful tattoo doesn't bother me. After all, my daughter can always wash off the Barbie kind. Lots of kids are getting tattoos. It's not the shock it used to be."

"But to have my daughter play with a doll with that impossible figure would make me feel a lot worse."

I checked out that new, more realistic-figure Barbie while I was in the store. Guess what, folks? I don't know anyone who has a figure like that, either.

Just like any other out-of-the-ordinary Barbie, the tattoo version is beginning to get a cult following. And it's adults who are buying it, just as much as kids.

"I collect outrageous toys," says Marianne Davis, a college student. "I know a girl at school who has her own tattoo and has had an artist friend paint the exact one on this new Barbie. It's quite a conversation piece."

This brings to mind what happened some years ago when the company came out with a Magic Earring Ken. This Ken doll had very blond hair, rather mod clothes and an earring in one ear.

I wasn't aware of this, but a friend tells me the doll was an instant hit, but not with little girls. It was heavily collected in the gay community.

This Ken doll is no longer being made. It is almost impossible to find one secondhand.

Toy marketers and a lot of parents like the idea of Barbie and Ken taking on a more worldly existence.

I asked several what they think will be Barbie's next foray.

"Anything that's in the spotlight," says mother-of-two Jan Higgins. "Well, let's just hope for Ken's sake, they don't come out with a Lorena Bobbitt Barbie."
In order to make this review for *Message in a Bottle* a bit different, I'm deciding to pride the entire ordeal together via timeline:

9:25- Waiting for the premiere show to end. 
9:35- Watching Disney presents Doug's 1st Movie. I wonder if that’ll be an "animated masterpiece." 
10:00- The long journey begins. Not long afterward, newspaper journalist Theresa Osborne (Robin Wright Penn) begins. Not long afterward, an "animated masterpiece." 
10:26- Newman has a life-threatening condition. The opening scene is an explosion of cinematic action. The opening scene is an explosion of cinematic action. 
10:37- Newman appears for the first time, more than 45 minutes in. The scene is an outer for the rest of the movie; Costner's character is not a performer. This was reduced to comic relief, a la City of Angels. 
10:46- Costner gets into a fight with a dancer with theuzzi-er of his dead wife (John Savage, who's wasted in a throwaway role). During the fight, Penn walks into the diner. If this was anything resembling real life, she would've concluded that

Costner's character was nothing like the romantic that she knew well or not at all. If you're stickler for privacy, then you should make an effort to live with someone that you know a little bit better. This roomate of yours could be a real weirdo, so take care of this ASAP! The last thing you want is to come home and see your nosy roomate parading around in your underwear, reading your diary out loud, and blowing their nose on your pillows.

**Get a problem? Nothing is too big or small for Dr. Daphne! Just e-mail her at DrDaphne@hotmail.com**

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**Return to sender**

*B.W. Earl*  
**Staff Writer**

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**Dear Dr. Daphne,**

My roommate has been going through my stuff. Lately when I've been coming home, I notice things in my room that have been moved around, and my roommate has been acting like a little strange, I haven't found anything missing, but I'm afraid that might happen next. How should I deal with this?

---

**Desperately Seeking Privacy**

**Dear Privacy,**

Having a roommate that you can't trust makes for a very uncomfortable living situation. First and foremost, make sure that someone has definitely been in your room without you knowing it. Make sure it's not a pet going through everything. If you have one, and consider yourself, especially if you're paranoid, absent-minded, or both. Making an accusation and being completely wrong about it will only make things worse.

In regards to your roommate's behavior, you might want to consider what they've found. This would include any drug paraphernalia, inflatable animals, or bondage gear. Then it's time to take action. If you’re living in a dorm, I suggest you hang this over to your R.A. It's their job to take care of these kinds of things. If you live off-campus, then you're on your own. If you're that type that doesn't have a good conscience, you know that you value your privacy and people who violate it will get a good beating (you can leave out the beating part if you like). You can also set up a video camera in your room while you're gone if you feel like totally nailing them. If you're the kind of person who is backbone deficient, then the best thing to do is put a lock on the door. If your roommate asks why you did it, just say that you want to keep your valuables safe. More importantly, what are you doing living with someone that would do that to begin with? It's amazing how many people blindly walk into screwy living situations with people they don't know or not at all. If you are stickler for privacy, then you should make an effort to live with someone that you know a little bit better. This roomate of yours could be a real weirdo, so take care of this ASAP! The last thing you want is to come home and see your nosy roomate parading around in your underwear, reading your diary out loud, and blowing their nose on your pillows.

**Got a problem? Nothing is too big or small for Dr. Daphne! Just e-mail her at DrDaphne@hotmail.com**

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**IT'S 11:59 ON NEW YEARS EVE. DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR DATE IS?**

**Ben Affleck**  
**Casey Affleck**  
**Dave Chappelle**  
**Guillermo Diaz**  
**Angela Featherstone**  
**Janeane Garofalo**  
**Gaby Hoffmann**  
**Kate Hudson**  
**Courtney Love**  
**Jay Mohr**  
**Marta Plimpiton**  
**Christina Ricci**  
**Paul Rudd**
Son Volt delivers alterna-country rock

Son Volt is made up of Jay Farrar on vocals and guitar, Jim Boquist on bass, Dave Bouqust on guitars, and Mike Heidorn on drums. During the show the band displayed musical ambidexterity by playing different instruments. Farrar was pulled a harmonica from his pocket and tore into it, causing the crowd to cheer with excitement.

Guitarist Boquist played three different electric guitars and a slide guitar. On "Out of the Picture" he joined in on the fiddle, complementing the dark, slow picking of Farrar's guitar. With all the different instruments, very little talk in between songs, and no encore, Son Volt seemed to dedicated their show solely to the music. And the audience didn't seem to mind. They sang along on "Windfall" and other slower songs, and danced during the faster ones, like "Drown," and "Medicine Hat.

Son Volt was formed in early 1994. Farrar and drummer Heidorn were formally together in the band, Uncle Tupelo. This band was formed in the late 1980s and featured Jeff Tweedy on bass. Tweedy later went on to form the band, Wilco, who gained critical acclaim for their recent work with Billy Bragg on the album, Mermaid Avenue, which features songs written by Woody Guthrie but never recorded.

In 1990, Uncle Tupelo released their first album, No Depression, which gained attention from critics and brought interest back toward country rock-interest that was lost since the days of Gram Parsons. The same year the band was dedicated their show to New Orleans, Trace. Son Volt has now recorded three albums, Trace, Straightaways and Wide Swing Tremolo. The latter was recorded in Millstadt, Ill., in an old lingerie warehouse which the band turned into a studio. They later named the studio "Injunuka" after a Moroccan town known for its musicians.

According to Farrar, the title of the album comes from an old Gibson catalogue. One of the advertisements he saw was for a 1962 amplifier. "Wide swing" was one of the ways the ad described the amp’s tremolo. Farrar thought it applied to Son Volt's latest music.

For more information on Son Volt, check out their web site at http://www.wbr.com/sonvolt
stephen king chats about his chilling miniseries

ron givens

college press exchange

new york (kt)v "he's a shocker for you: stephen king is thinking about retiring - maybe.

"i'd rather leave when i'm at my best than when i start to go downhill," says the 51-year-old author, one of the most successful novelists of our time. "i don't want to finish up my career fishing for bad foothills because my eyes have started to fail." stephen king is on "storm" in a greenroom at the daytime talk show "the view," where he was also about to promote "storm of the century," a six-hour miniseries that starts sunday night on abc.

"in "storm," an evil stranger arrives on a tiny island off the coast of maine and terrorizes the community just as a killer blizzard hits. the chiller, king's first screenplay written directly for television, proves that he needn't worry about his abilities.

early reviews, which have been very strong, indicate that king can still hit one out of the park.

in other ways, he seems to contradict the notion that king is in the twilight of his career: he loved working on "storm" so much that he'd jump at the chance to write another miniseries for the alphabet network. in the meantime, he's not lacking for projects: three more books in his "dark tower" series, a novel about a grocery-store price war in 1970s detroit and a book on creativity, are in the works.

he says he'd like to write a nonfiction book about a season in the life of a baseball team.

you have to wonder when his "retirement" could begin.

and yet there is a winding-down quality to what he says: "i'm getting to the end, although the house isn't bare yet. it's not time for the fire sale."

king's energy level jumps when he talks about "storm." he clearly becomes the guy who has produced an almost nonstop stream of horror and suspense since "carrie" in 1974. more than 30 books of fiction, more than a dozen screenplays. more than 150 million books sold worldwide. countless millions in earnings. forbes estimated that he earned $40 million in 1996... and that was considered an off year.

when writing goes well, king says, "it's very addictive. it's like "storm of the century.""

i was thinking i'm never going to finish this because i've got all these characters and i've got to try to find a way to integrate all of them into the story. it's like you're pulling this weight behind you. and then at some point, it's around and it's pulling you."

"at the center of "storm" is evil. the small, insular community on little tall island is bracing for a major winter storm when a stranger (colm feore) arrives and kills an old lady. even though he's locked up in the tiny jail cell crowding the general store, the constable (tim daly), townspeople begin to die, each of them sacrificing one of the few things the stranger has said. "give me what i want and i'll go away."

the dark force represented by the stranger fascinates king, who lives in bangor, maine, with his wife, novelist tabitha king. their daughter and two sons are grown.

"as we go into the next millennium," says king, "evil is the central problem that we have to cope with. we have to try to decide if there is such a thing, and if there is, what we're going to do about it. whether it's when we dig up the bodies of 40 slaughtered men in rwanda or whether it's the ethnic cleansing in bosnia or whether it's a case of two boys who go crazy and shoot a bunch of children."

much of "storm" has an old testament quality to it. the settings refer to the trials of job, and the evil stranger delivers a perverse kind of judgment on the townspeople. king doesn't present these themes in a heavy-handed way, as the miniseries leaves its morality with narrative suspense... or maybe it's the other way around.

"i believe in god. very much," says king, who describes himself as a "generic" protestant. "i just don't believe in church at all. i don't have any use for the religion. in the end, it always bores me to the same end, which is: we're better than the rest of the people because god has got a direct line to us."

discussing religion, or any other subject, king speaks his mind without hesitation, whether he's complaining about the vacuousness of the media or defending the megadelgo he made last year when his publisher of 24 years, viking, wouldn't meet his reported asking price of $17 mil-

lion for the novel "bag of bones." king jumped to simon & schuster, which put out "bag" last fall through its pocket imprint, and the novel got some of the best reviews ever for a king work.

although he took a lower advance for the novel, he got a cut of the profits. already, king says, he's made more than he would have if viking had met his price.

"the downside," he says, "is there is a guestlist which is the press, the radio talk-show guys, everyone who's going to sit in a chair and say, 'who does this guy think he is, he wants all this money.' you want to find a polite way to say, 'i'll tell you who i am. i'm the only person god made who can do this one particular thing, and you like it. so, shut up.'" stephen king is similarly blunt when he imagines the end of his career as a published writer.

"i'd like to express my gratitude gracefully," he says, "that doesn't mean tears and flowers and elton john singing "cullel in the wind," he said with a laugh. "i don't want any of that ---""

then, with a weariness that comes from knowing that he is, as he says, "wired up" to be the kind of writer who wants to entertain the biggest audiences possible, king adds: "i probably will continue to do it. probably i'll be like muhammad ali and say, "it's not time yet. one more fight.""

the smart money says stephen king isn't about to go gently into that good night. the night is too scary, and he's still got a lot of rocking and rolling to do.
Talk about a lame job market! In Coalwood, a small town in the depths of rural West Virginia during the 50’s, you’ve got two post-high school options: get a football scholarship or head to the coal mines. Coal miner’s son Homer Hickam (Jake Gyllenhaal) isn’t too jazzed about this, and his future is looking about as bright as the light on those cool little helmets he and his friends will be wearing after they toss their tassles. All it takes is a rocket in the sky for Homer to realize his true professional calling, but audiences can unfasel% of the audience and double-dosed with the unstoppable message to blow you away.

Based on a true story, October Sky plots Homer’s motivation to build rockets and possibly into something more. While everyone is a skeptic at first, the town slowly begins to spot Homer’s potential. This includes a numerous cast of locals from workers in his father’s mine to his teacher (Laura Dern) to even good ol’ mom (Natalie Caerday). And then you have the obligatory obstacle, which in this case pretty much goes to dad (Chris Cooper), who enjoys putting his big dreams to do something. I’m not saying you’re going to want to flip the bird for all the feel-good scenes that follow. But to do that, you would really have to have a heart of stone. There’s also something about Homer and his three friends that has the stale aftertaste of Stand By Me, with one scene in particular involving a train.

So unless you’re completely devoid of human emotion or extremely prejudiced against West Virginians, you will find the appeal of October Sky a difficult choice to pass out. Not only does this little film go a long way to get you involved, but when you leave the theater, you feel moti-vated to do something. I’m not saying you’re going to want to raid NASA or anything, but it’s a lot better than the hollow emotions that you have to make up for after watching big-budget blow-outs. And that makes October Sky all the more satisfying.
The Entrepreneurial Spirit

The Japanese firm Matsushita announced in December that the Tokyo government would soon begin distributing to elderly people the company's new robotic cats (furry, lifesize, and, thanks to microchips, playful and talkative) to combat loneliness. Skin sensors cause the cat to purr when pressed and to jump when startled by a noise. The cats are expected to sell for about $300.

Only the Falcons Were More Disappointed

On Super Bowl Sunday, the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times profiled local resident Jeffie Leggett, 80, as he prepared for the Publishers Clearing House prize patrol that would later that day, he was certain, be arriving at his house with $31 million. He proudly displayed the rosettes of magazines he had bought over the last two years for $550 worth, though he complained to the reporter about his lack of food and heat and his broken-down car and pointed to the latest PCH mailings, which Leggett says "read like I'm gonna win. They've sent me plenty of literature that says, I win!" He didn't.

Edward L. Bodkin, 56, was arrested in February in Huntington, Ind., and charged with performing surgery without a license. Police said Bodkin had removed the testicles of at least five consenting men and was ready to perform again when a patient got cold feet and handed over to police a videotape Bodkin had linked him to, some of the surgeries. Allegedly, some of the testicles were in jars in Bodkin's apartment. As to the patients' motives, prosecutor John Betzinger concluded, "I can't say it isn't a reasonable human being and give you an intelligent answer to that."

Photography Doctors' Favorite Pastime

In January, the Tokyo Sun published office photos of surgeon William G. Middleton's nurse, inexplicably straddling an unconscious female patient, who subsequently filed a complaint against the doctor. On the same day, in Tulsa, Okla., dentist Donald L. Johnson pleaded guilty to sexual molestation of a young girl, behavior that came to light when lewd photos of surgeon William G. Middleton's nurse, inexplicably straddling an unconscious female patient, who subsequently filed a complaint against the doctor. On the same day, in Tulsa, Okla., dentist Donald L. Johnson pleaded guilty to sexual molestation of a young girl, behavior that came to light when lewd photos of apparently anesthetized girls were posted on $110,000 worth of camera rolls and sent to editorial assistants and key employees. The doctor told the news media that "photography is doctors' favorite pastime."

No Longer Weird

In January, three young men broke into a house in St. Paul, Minn., with a shotgun and beat a man who they said owed them money. They left after firing a shot over the man's head to scare him, but on the way out, the shotgun accidentally discharged again, hitting one of the three in the buttocks, and all were arrested when a police officer saw the distinctly wounded man later on the street. Three days later, in Newark, N.J., Andre Gordon, 27, was arrested when, after photon-wielding a 25-year-old man, his gun accidentally discharged, firing a bullet through his own arm and into his leg.

Least Competent Criminals

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Recurring Themes

News of the Weird has reported several times on the phenomenon of horses that are inexplicably, almost pathologically, cluttered, but tragedy struck twice around Columbus, Ohio, recently. A 70-year­-old man in the Cliftonville neighborhood shot himself to death in February rather than face the consequences of a health department order to clean up his house and yard. Said the man's wife, "I'm a good housekeeper, I grant you that." Six weeks earlier, a 60-year-old man in nearby Whitehall, Ohio, had died of a heart problem after his wife declined to call 911 for him because she was afraid authorities would discover the couple's too-cluttered house and arrest her.

No Longer Weird

Adding to the list of stories that were formerly weird but which now occur with such frequency that they must be retired from circulation: (31) The discovery of gibs of undelivered mail at the home of a postal worker (usually after he got behind on his deliveries and needed to hide it, so), such as the 10-year­-old envelope apparently found at retired postal worker Ralph Horvath's home after he was killed in a fire in Chicago in January. And (32) the bank robber who wants a worry-free getaway (no parking problems, no driving while jet-lagged, no forgetting the keys or to have the car gassed up, etc.) and decides to haul a mash can (much higher profile than a getaway car) outside the bank, as police say Mary Barnes did after robbing a National Bank branch in Kansas City, Mo., in November.

(Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd or WestFN@publishersweekly.com)

The Entrepreneurial Spirit

According to a September San Francisco Chronicle report. New Orleans Times-Picayune reporter Ricky Lewis, 42, says 95 percent of his business comes from relatives and friends of men who have been slain in gang violence and who want the victims' faces commemorated on T-shirts. The city has such a high homicide rate, Lewis says, that several of his customers have later been murdered and memorialized.

New Product Deliveries: In System in December in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Wendy Cashabake opened what she believed was Canada's first drive-thru shop selling only sex toys and lingerie. Also in December, the New York company Joe Boxer placed 10 vending machines in the city to sell men's underwear in pop­­­-top cans and said it hoped to roll out 100 more in 1999.

New Products: In December in Overijse, Belgium, horticulturist Luc Merete introduced a line of skirts and dresses made of five grass, still growing as long as the material stays damp. And in January, Heather Joy of Glenpool, Okla., showed an Associated Press reporter her handcrafted bags made from bull scrotums, priced at $100 and up. And in January, a Melbourne, Australia, company called Liquor Pop drew criticism when it announced its intention to market PopThee type products with 6 percent alco­­hol, in melon, pineapple and orange flavors.

Reasonable Human Being and Give You an Intelligent Answer to That.

Photography Doctors' Favorite Pastime

In January, the Tokyo Sun published office photos of surgeon William G. Middleton's nurse, inexplicably straddling an unconscious female patient, who subsequently filed a complaint against the doctor. On the same day, in Tulsa, Okla., dentist Donald L. Johnson pleaded guilty to sexual molestation of a young girl, behavior that came to light when lewd photos of apparently anesthetized girls were posted on $110,000 worth of camera rolls and sent to editorial assistants and key employees. The doctor told the news media that "photography is doctors' favorite pastime."

No Longer Weird

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Reasoning Themes

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(Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd or WestFN@publishersweekly.com)
Tom DeLuca performed his ever-popular act last Wednesday at the arena, hypnotizing a randomly chosen group of students on stage for 60 minutes of wacky mayhem. As always, some students were eager to participate (left). During the show, DeLuca had his subjects cruising around town, dancing the ballet, checking their fly, and many other potentially embarrassing stunts. They even got to chow down on some ice cream (below). DeLuca, who has come to UCF for over a decade, never fails to keep audiences glued with one of the most entertaining shows you'll ever see on campus.

Photos by Corbett Treacy

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"If you take any reasonably smart person and tell them to spend a year researching an industry, they can become an expert if they work at it." - Christy Haubegger

Name: Christy Haubegger
Age: 30
Career: Entrepreneur, Founder & Publisher
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UCF Volleyball names Fitzgerald new coach

University of Central Florida Athletics Director Steve Sloan announced today the hiring of Meg Fitzgerald as new head women's volleyball coach. Fitzgerald succeeds Miriam Ochoa who, as an interim head coach, led the Golden Knights to the Trans America Athletic Conference semifinals while posting a 7-15 record last season.

Fitzgerald, a native of New Orleans, La., comes to UCF after one-year stint at Rollins College. In one season as head coach of the Tars, Fitzgerald took over a team that had posted only 21 victories in the two previous seasons and led it to a 15-16 record and 7-7 mark in the Sunshine State Conference.

"I am extremely excited about taking over the head coaching reins at UCF. This is an incredible opportunity to be given at this point in my career," stated Fitzgerald.

"The timing is more accelerated than I expected, but I welcome the challenge."

Prior to assuming the head coaching duties at Rollins, Fitzgerald spent the 1996 and 1997 seasons as an assistant coach at the University of Colorado and University of North Carolina-Charlotte, respectively. At both institutions, she served as the summer volleyball camp director.

An outside hitter for the University of Florida volleyball team from 1992 to 1995, Fitzgerald was a two-time all-Southeastern Conference selection (1993 & 95) and member of four SEC Championship squads under the guidance of head coach Mary Wise. The Gators appeared in the NCAA Tournament during all four of her seasons and twice reached the Final Four (1992 & 93).

The 1996 graduate holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies from Florida. "We have been fortunate to have a legacy of excellent volleyball coaches here at UCF," Sloan said. "I believe Meg will continue this excellence." Fitzgerald will begin her new position February 22nd.

Night of Knights filled with accolades

Quarterback Duante Culpepper registered another "first" in UCF history, while three other past greats were recognized in the annual "Night of Knights" fund-raising event.

Culpepper received the first Wayne Densch Award, given to the Outstanding Athlete of the Year at the Presidential Ballroom at Church Street Station. The second class of UCF's Athletics Hall of Fame was also inducted. Former soccer standout Amy Allman, baseball star Tim Parker, basketball player Jerry Prather, and former volleyball player and coach Laura Smith. Onky Smith, who was stuck on the west coast, was unable to attend.

The event's auctions raised approximately $125,000, up from the $100,000 raised last year.

UCF hosts Golf Invitational

The University of Central Florida women's golf team hosted the 1999 UCF Women's Golf Invitational at the Stonebrowy Golf Club Feb.15-16.

UCF begins spring football practice early

The UCF football team will begin football spring practice on Wednesday morning.

"It gives us a longer period of conditioning without interruption, and if someone gets hurt, they have longer to recover time," Kruczek said. "Plus, you don't have a problem with exams week in April."

"It's our year's recruiting class, cornerback Travis Fisher, wide receiver Thad Ward, and tight end offensive lineman Taylor Robertson are the only ones enrolled and eligible to practice this spring. The other recruits remain in high school for junior college." The Golden Knights plan to work in the mornings on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in addition to scrimmaging on Saturdays in the football practice field. The practices culminate with the annual Blackout Game at 1 p.m. on Mar.13 in the Florida Citrus Bowl. All practices and scrimmages are open to the public.

Crew has successful showing in IBC

The University of Central Florida women's crew competed in the Southern Spirit Indoor Rowing Championship in Melbourne last Saturday (Feb. 7). Joining UCF at the Championship were Miami, Florida, Rollins, South Florida and Jacksonville.

Jennifer Swanson (Miami) finished first in the Open Lightweight category with a time of 7:58.1, followed by Amy Engelhardt (Palm Coast), who finished second in 8:03.6. Amanda Reeves (Florida) placed first among the Lightweights in 7:45.8 while UCF's Christian DeBono (Miami) finished eighth with a time of 8:16.8.

The Novice were also successful with Tiffany Marlin (Grandville, Mich.) (7:53), Jody Hart (Lake George, Ky.) (7:55.6), Amy Robinson (Valrico) (7:55.9) and Katie Elverum (Grandville, Mich.) (7:56.0). Elverum placed in the top ten in their race and Lightweight Mandy Workman (Satellite Beach) finishing a close second to her in 8:17.2. Elaine Pearce in 8:17.2. Pearce's first place time was 8:16.2.

The Golden Knights open their Spring rowing season February 27 at the Keiser Cup Regatta in Fellsmere.

—TONY MEJIA
UCF ends regular season against Florida teams

TONY MEJIA
SPORTS EDITOR

With second place in the TAAC still up for grabs, the Golden Knights travel to Jacksonville for a key conference game before returning home to end the season against Florida Atlantic.

Brad Traina has returned to the UCF lineup after missing five games due to a stress fracture in his foot, while Davin Granberry is expected to return from his shoulder injury. Now, it’s time to put all the pieces together in time for a TAAC tournament run.

In Traina’s absence, juniors D’Quarrion Stewart and Marko Lovett and redshirt freshman Jason Thornton have picked up the scoring slack, so it may take time for everyone to get re-acclimated to playing together. Meanwhile, Granberry’s absence has forced Bucky Hodge, Roy Leath, and Beronti Simms to step up their play in the post. The injuries may actually have strengthened the team down the stretch.

Stetson Coach Murray Arnold thinks to “really think their injuries will end up being a blessing. It’s allowed them to be in shape from the start of the season and has made other people step up.” Arnold said, “UCF has more strength and depth (than TAAC-leading Samford). I see the Knights as the strongest team in the league.”

Jacksonville, who UCF visits on Thursday night, has improved as the season progressed and going into Monday night’s game at Tiny State had won three in a row. The game will also give the Knights a chance to play at the site of the conference tournament, the JU Memorial Coliseum.

In the previous meeting between the two teams, UCF won a 74-58 decision in Orlando, holding FJ leading scorer Calvin Slaughter to only six points. The Golden Knights will continue to blend all their pieces together in time for the TAAC tournament in their final regular season road game. The Dolphins, who according to Coach Hugh Durham were playing with a lack of intensity at the time of their previous encounter, but their play of late has them re-invigorated, presenting a solid challenge for the Golden Knights.

UCF will end its regular season at home against FAU. The Owls, already eliminated from TAAC tournament contention, will be playing their final game of the ‘98-’99 season. Damon Arnette, who will finish as Florida Atlantic’s all-time leading scorer, will become the first Owl to ever lead the TAAC in scoring.

UCF won in Boca Raton, 82-72, despite playing shaky defense. However, the Golden Knights shot extremely well from the field to escape with the victory. Traina, in the last game he would play until UCF’s next possession, hit second shot, or something like that. We want to continue to get better so that we can present a solid challenge for the Golden Knights.

The Knights avenged a previous loss to the Gents in Shreveport, 87-80, on Jan.23., when they were without Traina for the first time. A number of players also had the flu in that loss, and struggled to get in sync offensively while McCollum and freshman Ed Dotson each scored 24 points for Centenary.

UCF had its full content of players for the first time this month, as everyone was healthy enough to see action. Marko Lovett had 10 points and nine rebounds, while Cory Perry had six points, four rebounds, and a game-high 10 assists. With all the players back in the mix, UCF looks to close the season by improving in each of its next two games.

“We want a plateau effect. Stabile, so you know where you’re at,” Traina said. “We want to continue to get better so that heading into the tournament, we can be peaking. That way we avoid being beaten on a last second shot, or something like that. We want to continue to improve so that we can put away teams with a comfortable margin.”

UCF has a one-game lead on Georgia State for second place in the TAAC. The team will look to continue to gel at Jacksonville on Thursday night before finishing the season at home against Florida Atlantic. Both games start at 7:30 p.m. The season finale against the Owls will be televised by Sunshine Network.

Knights stifle McCollum in win

Freshman Jason Thornton, being coached by assistant Chris Mawry, was a huge surprise in his relief of the injured Brad Traina.

The Knights averaged a previous loss to the Gents in Shreveport, 87-80, on Jan.23., when they were without Traina for the first time. A number of players also had the flu in that loss, and struggled to get in sync offensively while McCollum and freshman Ed Dotson each scored 24 points for Centenary.

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3) “The Bomb”
4) Island French Toast
5) “One More Thing”

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2) “Breakfast Slider” Sub roll with scrambled egg, bacon, cheese, onion, and green pepper...$3.59

3) “The Bomb” Kaiser with egg, cheese, and bacon...$1.89

4) Island French Toast Thick batter French Toast a secret island recipe...$2.99

Locos is now open at 8:30 am for breakfast!
Basketball Notebook

Knights continue perfect February with win at Stetson

Down 17-6 five minutes into the first half of the Feb. 9 contest with Stetson, the Golden Knights seemed calm and confident. 35 minutes later, it was apparent why UCF was so composed.

The Golden Knights, led by Mario Lovett's career-high 22 points, used a 21-8 run to open the second half and never let up, burying Stetson, 80-68 before 3,141 spectators at the Edmunds Center. The victory put UCF in sole possession of second place in the TAAC.

The Hatters opened the game with an 11-2 run, as Garrett Davis hit a pair of jumpers, including one from 3-point range. After UCF answered with four straight points, Kenneth Johnson connected on two more 3-pointers, giving Stetson a 17-6 lead heading into the media timeout.

"Stetson came out as the aggressor," UCF Coach Kirk Speraw said. "I thought they executed their offense very well. We knew it going to be a battle."

The Knights were into the half down by four points, but a Bemini Simms-led surge in the second half put UCF ahead for good. Simms scored all seven of his points during a three minute stretch that pushed a 42-40 UCF lead to nine. Both Simms and Roy Leath, who added four points, five rebounds, and two blocks, sparked UCF with their bench play.

"It was a case where Brad (Traina) didn't have his A-game. D'Q (Stewart) didn't have his A-game, but others stepped up," Speraw said. "Simms carried us through a stretch with his play, while Roy Leath provided the best effort he's had here. Jason Thornton also was a key factor with his shooting."

Lovett was the biggest factor however, scoring from the perimeter as well as down in the post. He called for the ball from point guard Cory Perry when he was guarded by Ricky McConnell, a player whose skills he knew from his high school days. When Stetson big duo of Sebastian Singletery and Santos Hampton guarded him, Lovett used his agility and speed to score over and around them. He surpassed his previous career-high of 9 points, which ironically was set against Stetson earlier this season.

"I see the Knights as the strongest team in the league right now," said Arnold, whose team's last contest was against TAAC-unbeaten Sanford. "I don't think there's any question. UCF has more strength and depth than anyone. I feel that their injuries may be a blessing in that everyone came along faster. When they get Brad at full speed and get (Davin) Granberry back, they've got a great shot at being the best team come tournament time."

Traina returns to the Golden Knight lineup

Brad Traina, seeing his first action after missing five games due to a stress fracture in his foot, managed only one 3-point field goal, but helped his teammates in other ways in the UCF victory against the Hatters.

"Throughout the season they key on Brad, meaning others have had to step up," Lovett said. "Since he's been gone, other guys have had to do more. Now we can get Brad back in the mix."

Traina, who scored nine points, looked out of sync, which can be attributed to the layoff.

However, he said he felt fine physically and is eager to get back out and play.

"I felt fine out there. I think I hurt being out so long because I was out of the flow," Traina said. "But it was beneficial being able to watch things from a coaching perspective. Still, I wanted to play as soon as possible. It didn't matter where it was, I just wanted back in there."

Fan support appreciated by UCF coaches, team

UCF fans who made the trip up to DeLand to see the Golden Knights play the Hatters were part of the largest crowd to see a UCF game this year. The vocal UCF faithful provided a spark that helped the Knights come back from an early deficit.

"It was really great that they came out to support their team," assistant coach Don Burgess said. "The staff and players really appreciated it. We needed the lift from the great turnout. We're very thankful."

The Golden Knights, following their home game against Centenary on Monday night, play at Jacksonville on Thursday before the season finale, at home on Saturday night against the Florida Atlantic Owls.

UCF fans will also get a chance to make another road trip to cheer on the Knights at the TAAC Tournament, which will be hosted by Jacksonville. UCF will play on Thursday, Feb. 25 in the first round. The semi-finals will be televised by Sunshine Network, while the TAAC championship will be on ESPN.

—Tony Mejia
Oakley opening eyes in early season, specifically his own

TRAVIS BELL
STAFF WRITER

UCF third baseman Bill Oakley has made great strides coming into the 1999 season after only getting at-bats as a freshman last year. But its one major change that has been the difference in his progress.

"I was having trouble seeing the ball this summer and last year, so I got contacts," Oakley said. "I'm a made a world of difference. I've been able to see the ball, and it's not jumping around at me. I don't have to swing at the middle one."

Since he no longer has to worry about seeing the ball, all he has to do is watch it travel to all parts of the field. The success has has helped Oakley regain confidence in himself to be an effective hitter at the collegiate level.

"I've gained confidence," Oakley said. "The first game against Nicholls State was unbelievable. It was one of those days where you just see the ball and everything goes well for you."

In only his seventh career start, Oakley got the Knights offense rolling in the season-opener. He had a two-run double in the first inning, and then added a three-run homer to right. His five RBIs tied an Olive Garden Classic single-game record, and it started Oakley on an offensive tear that has continued through the first six games.

He had two three-hit games in the Nicholls State series, and is hitting .500 with nine hits. More important, he has only struck out twice and has drawn three walks. That's the kind of discipline and leadership that Coach Jay Bergman expected from the sophomore this year.

"He has been instrumental in all three wins. Plus he's playing good defense," Bergman said. "He just needs to stay within himself, and not get too big with his swing. He just needs to keep the ball in play."

Staying within himself is not a problem for the team-oriented Oakley. He wanted to improve to shore up the team's vacancy at third base, and was rewarded for his play in the Olive Garden Classic by earning All-Tournament team honors.

"It was an honor. I remember some of the guys that won it last year, and I looked up to them a lot," Oakley said. "I just wanted to hit for average, and I wanted to be solid in the field. That's all I could ask."

Humble expectations for a kid that came to UCF as a small-town hero in Libertyville, Illinois. Oakley set several schools records during his career, and his team was ranked as high as fourth in the national USA Today poll. But after hitting .311 and compiling a 10-2 mark as a pitcher, Oakley came to UCF and had to sit the bench for the first time in a long time.

"It was an eye opener," Oakley said. "When you come from a small town, everyone knows you for baseball. Then one day, you're sitting on the bench. I wanted to do something about it. I wanted to really work hard, and I did this summer."

All that hard work has definitely paid off for himself and Bergman. After losing five regular position players from last year's squad, Bergman has been able to rely on Oakley at the plate and in the field to help stabilize a young team.

"Bill made a lot of progress in the fall, and he worked real hard over the summer," Bergman said. "He's just stepping up the plate; seeing it real good, and swinging it."

Despite Oakley's torrid start, he's not pleased. He never had personal goals in mind, and is concerned with the team winning.

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Despite Oakley's torrid start, he's not pleased. He never had personal goals in mind, and is concerned with the team winning. After a surprising start at the Olive Garden Classic, UCF's home debut against Nicholls State left him unfilled, despite his personal success. "The most important thing is winning," Oakley said. "We haven't done anything until we win and win consistently. That is everyone's biggest concern right now. Individual things really mean nothing right now."

UCF may have turned the corner last weekend, taking two of three games from St. John's. Hopefully, UCF can continue its solid play so that its third baseman can begin to enjoy his surprising .379 average.

For more information, call (407) 823-2807.

For more insight into UCF sports check out our website www.ucfknights.com.

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Wednesday February 17, 1999
6:30 pm: Golden Knight Basketball with Head Coach Kirk Speraw
7:00 pm: Washington Wizards @ Orlando Magic (LIVE)

Friday February 19, 1999
7:00 pm: Phoenix Coyotes @ Tampa Bay Lightning (LIVE)

Saturday February 20, 1999
7:30 pm: UCF Men's Basketball: Florida Atlantic @ UCF (LIVE)
7:00 pm: Orlando Solar Bears @ Cleveland Lumberjacks (LIVE)

Sunday February 21, 1999
7:00 pm: Orlando Solar Bears @ Cleveland Lumberjacks (LIVE)

Monday February 22, 1999
7:00 pm: New Jersey Devils @ Tampa Bay Lightning (LIVE)
**BASEBALL NOTEBOOK**

**Knights take two from Red Storm**

UCF gained confidence this weekend as it battled back from deficits in two of three games against St. John's to improve its record to 6-6.

Surprisingly, Coach Jay Bergman feels that the 1-3-8 victory last Tuesday against Bethune-Cookman really jump-started the team to its drastic improvement over its struggles during its opening homestand against Nicholls State.

I thought the game against Bethune-Cookman in the middle of last week when we were down 6-0 gave us a lot of confidence to come back and win that game," Bergman said. "I think every ball game you gonna see us get a little better and better."

After winning 14-5 on Friday, the Knights had a major breakdown during St. John's 10-5 win on Saturday. But they recovered nicely with a solid 8-5 win on Sunday. The Knights trailed at least once in each of the three games, so to come away with two victories was impressive, but it is also a concern for Bergman. UCF continued its dubious trend of stranding runners on base (29) and committing several crucial errors (eight) in the three-game series leading to many scoring opportunities for the Red Storm.

"We had it (bases loaded) tons of times," Bergman said. "I just hope that we can get through it and mature and grow. One inning we gave six outs, and another time we made a base running mistake to get doubled off. This team can't afford that kind of stuff.''

UCF has won four of its last five games and the offense has finally turned on since losing the first two games against Nicholls State. The Knights have averaged 10.4 runs during this current five-game stretch, showing the improving maturity of the young UCF squad.

"We've scored a lot of runs with two outs, and that is a good sign for any baseball team," Bergman said. "We left some runners stranded, but that's part of the ball game, but that will all take care of itself."

UCF's major concern is still the development of the bullpen. Four relievers pitched in the series for the Knights, throwing 9.2 innings with 10 strikeouts, but had a combined ERA of 6.52.

"If we can't get the ball to (closer) Jason Arnold then we can't win, and that's very obvious," Bergman said.

Even though the bullpen struggled, the offense has finally come around and has learned how to score runs without hitting the ball out of the park. UCF had 14 extra-base hits and nine stolen bases in the three games to produce runs.

"Sometimes, particularly with a young team, you go through periods and lose focus of what you're trying to do," Bergman said. "I think the players regrouped today, and that's a good sign that they got themselves back and didn't let the game get out of hand."

**Comeback kids**

The Knights continued a trend this weekend that started in the second game of the year against South Alabama—coming from behind. UCF has trailed at one point in the last nine games since jumping ahead of Dalh 4-3 in the season-opener.

Of the nine games that the Knights have trailed in, five have resulted in victories. The largest deficit overcome by the Knights was a 6-0 lead by Bethune-Cookman that resulted in a 13-8 win for UCF. Even though it is a good quality for the Knights to have, it is still a major concern for Bergman.

"I'm very concerned because that puts a lot of pressure on the offense," Bergman said. "But when you make mistakes defensively you'll get behind against a good hitting team. We're still very young, but we're starting to do some things offensively."

**February ups-and-downs**

The struggling 6-4 start for the Knights could be attributed to the collective youth of the '99 squad, but if you look at recent history it comes as no surprise.

The Knights are only a combined 20-19 in February since 1997. The 1997 team managed a 9-7 record, while last year's squad finished 7-9 in the second month. So this year's 4-5 record in February doesn't worry Bergman.

"It's still February, and we're not a very good February team," Bergman said. "So we'll just take things one game at a time and try to grow and mature."

UCF historically has provided a much better performance once March rolls around. The 1997 team produced a 15-4 record, while the next season saw a 17-2 mark during that span.

**Bumps and Bruises**

Freshman power-hitter Joe Sadler underwent surgery this week and will use a medical redshirt to save a year of eligibility.

Starting shortstop Mike Fox and backup middle infielder Matt Meath were sidelined during the weekend series with St. John's. Fox dislocated his shoulder in the Bethune-Cookman game last Tuesday, and Meath suffered an ankle injury last week in practice.

"This is the fifth time that he (Fox) has dislocated his shoulder, so this is not a new injury. That's something that concerns me," Bergman said.

**Who's hot...who's not**

Brent Spooner has a current five-game hitting streak, and went 5-for-8 against St. John's series, and has nine for the season. Jason Arnold has a 1.29 ERA in three games with nine strikeouts in seven innings. Tim Booth had five hits, four runs, four stolen bases, and three RBI's in the past three games.

Both continued several errors in the St. John's series, and has nine for the season. Excluding Arnold, the bullpen has allowed 43 hits in 32.1 innings with 22 walks and 24 runs. The Knights have stranded 91 runners on base in the first 10 games.

**Baseball team hopes to gain confidence against B-CC, Rollins**

**FROM PAGE 24**

against B-CC to 39-6. The game provides UCF's young team another game to improve while getting ready for conference play.

UCF overcame a 6-0 deficit last week to defeat the Wildcats, providing Bergman something to build upon despite the struggles during the weekend. Pitching was the main problem for the Knights during the Wildcats' outbreak, so they will look to improve upon that.

"We pitched ourselves into a deficit," Bergman said. "It wasn't anything else, but we hit ourselves out of it. We'll just take the same approach, but don't dig ourselves a hole early.

The Knights have a nice break between games, but they will play an exhibition game on Wednesday at 5 p.m. against a Japanese team. Bergman is hoping with how the schedule is set up to give the Knights a break before the prime match-up against LSU and the start of conference play.

"I think it's the way our schedule is because we have much next weekend, and then we only have a game against Bethune-Cookman next Tuesday," Bergman said. "So we'll be fully rested by the time we go to LSU. But we don't want to look ahead to LSU because we still have these two games ahead of us."
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Tennis teams enjoy victories prior to road trip

DAVID MARSTERS STAFF WRITER

The words of Coach Michael Dubielski echoed both pride and confidence after the UCF men's tennis team finished off a difficult week with a 6-1 victory over Florida A&M.

"We are in good shape. The men's team has gone 13-2 in doubles on the season, led by #1 doubles team Federico Camacho and Greg Novak," said Coach Dubielski. "The guys really stepped up against FAMU's Malcolm Bufford to win 6-1, 6-2, and clinching the Knights win against CSU with an emotional 6-2, 6-4 victory over Johan Payment. Freshman Johan Westin remained undefeated in the #6 singles slot, winning all three of his matches."

"Our doubles play looks very strong," said Dubielski, referring to the fact that his team has gone 13-2 in doubles on the season, led by #1 doubles team Federico Camacho and Greg Novak.

Along with being an important TAAC victory, the win against Stetson provided sweet revenge for the Knights, who lost to the Hatters 4 to 3 last year.

"We really made a statement with this victory," said Coach Dubielski. "The guys had a job to do and they did it." Meanwhile, the women's team improved to 2-1 on the season, bouncing back from its first loss of the season by breezing past Stetson 9-1. Ann- Jeannette Svensson, playing at #2 singles for the first time this season, beat Julia Woods of Stetson 6-3, 6-0. Rachna Ashar picked up her ninth victory of the season, defeating Lindsay Wyeth 6-4, 7-6, while Hadia Ronen notched her eighth win of the year with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Jennifer Parsons.

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Knights avenge loss to Jacksonville State

Tony Mejia
SPORTS EDITOR

UCF moved a step closer to its first TAAC regular-season title by avenging its lone conference loss of the season, 78-68 against Jacksonville State in its final home game of the season. After building as much as an 18-point first-half advantage, UCF allowed Jacksonville State to tie the game at 48 on a Tanya Simmons’ three-pointer with 10:50 remaining. However, the tie was short-lived as Kelly Ely connected on a three-pointer to put UCF ahead, 51-48. The Golden Knights never trailed again.

“It wasn’t easy at all,” Coach Lynn Bria said. “I thought we played hard. We put them at the free-throw line entirely too much. I felt that’s how they played in the game early.”

With the victory, UCF (16-7,12-1) has beaten every TAAC team it has faced this season. The Gamecocks defeated UCF, 77-70, in Jacksonville, Ala., on Jan. 21, leading early and holding on for the win. This game was nearly a duplicate, although with a different result.

“Up there we played poorly defensively. They pretty much did everything they wanted.” Bria said. “We were very aggressive and played with much more intensity this time around. We were a much better team.”

The Golden Knights hope to continue to play well heading into the TAAC Tournament, March 4-6. Bria says it is critical for her team to continue its surge. UCF closes its season with three road games at Stetson, Georgia State and Campbell.

“I think that the teams that do well in the tournament are the teams that are playing their best heading into it,” Bria said. “Being the regular-season champion is great, but not really what you work for all season. We’re shooting for the tournament championship and nothing else.”

JSU’s Lisa Baswell, the TAAC’s leading scorer, led her team with 28 points and 10 rebounds, while Heather Mayes added 18. Charyia Davis paced the Golden Knights with 17 points. Ely added 13 and Nancy Richter scored 11.

Knights continue perfect month, beating Gents

Tony Mejia
SPORTS WRITER

Late in the second half of UCF’s 59-49 victory against Centenary, senior Brad Traina took off for a tombstone dunk over Centenary freshman forward Ed Dotson. Although he missed the difficult dunk, the message was clear: He’s back, and the TAAC better take notice.

Traina scored a team-high 18 points for the Golden Knights, who continue their perfect play in February. In its last home victory, UCF scored 107 points, running away from Troy State. This time around, instead of a sprint, the Gents opted to make UCF run a marathon. Despite the change of pace, Kirk Speraw’s team managed to cross the finish line first.

“It was slow-paced. That kind of play helps you to sleep,” Speraw said. “They opted to hold the ball for 20 seconds before getting into their offense. It was a good plan. They wanted to slow us down.

“I thought our guys handled it pretty well. We maintained our composure and did a pretty good job.”

UCF turned the tables on Centenary, holding them to 31.6 percent shooting in the second half. The Knights also forced three 35-second violations, and held Centenary leading scorer Ronnie McCollum to just 16 points. McCollum anchors the Tars after hitting .313 with 12 home runs and 41 RBIs last year.

“The games against Rollins provide more for the Knights to lose since they compete in Division I, while the Tars are a Division II member.”

“IT’s kind of a lose-lose in a way because we still have to beat them,” Coach Jay Bergman said. “It’s a win-win for them because it’s a big game for them.”

Bergman’s ties to Rollins go back to when he played outfield for the Tars from 1959-63. Rollins has been on UCF’s schedule since the program’s inception in 1973 and has always played the Knights tough.

This year should be no different, even though the Tars have 10 freshmen on their roster, and only nine members returning from last year’s squad.

Third baseman Justin Sherrod, a pre-season All-American selection, anchors the Tars after hitting .313 with 12 home runs and 41 RBIs last year. First baseman Andy Jensen is the only other position player who saw a lot of action last season. He hit .274 with two home runs.

Senior Brent Hawthorn and A.J. Brack along with junior Chris Doherty anchor the pitching staff. Hawthorn posted a 3.86 ERA with a 2-2 record and three saves last year. Brack started 13 games with 90 strikeouts in 76 innings, while Doherty was 4-4 with a 6.08 ERA.

The Knights have already posted a 13-8 victory this season over Tuesday’s opponent, Bethune-Cookman. The win improved UCF’s all-time record to

Baseball

Travis Bell
STAFF WRITER

The Knights host a pair of familiar foes this week before the long awaited showdown in Baton Rouge with Louisiana State on February 27-28.

Rollins College and Bethune-Cookman come to Tinker Field this week, with the Tars visiting on Saturday and the Wildcats coming in on Tuesday.

UCF has only played Stetson more times in the school’s history than Rollins. Since 1973, the Knights have battled the Tars 78 times, coming away victorious in 40 of those matchups. But the Knights have dominated the series in recent history, winning eight of the last 10, including the previous six.

However, the games against Rollins provide more for the Knights to lose since they compete in Division I, while the Tars are a Division II member.

Tony Mejia is one of the versatile newcomers on the UCF roster.