Water troubles continue at UCF

Lead and copper found in samples

The Department of Environmental Protection set the maximum contaminant level for lead at 0.015 mg/l (milligrams of lead per liter of water). The following levels of lead have been found in these buildings on campus:

- Pi Beta Phi: 0.390 mg/l
- Wayne Densch I: 0.329 mg/l
- UCF Arena: 0.115 mg/l
- Administration Buildings: 0.110 mg/l
- Wayne Densch II: 0.108 mg/l
- Building Services: 0.092 mg/l
- Engineering Field Lab: 0.040 mg/l
- PE Support: 0.030 mg/l
- Student Resource Center: 0.025 mg/l

UCF posted warnings Monday urging everyone to run the water for at least 30 seconds on the main campus before drinking it. Tested samples revealed high levels of lead and copper.

The Environmental Protection Agency collected water samples from 40 buildings in December. The tests showed elevated levels of lead and copper in 15 buildings. Three of the 15, the Administration Building, the Pi Beta Phi House and Wayne Densch 3, had high levels of both metals.

“This is a persistent problem here with the university,” said Dean McFall, director of University Relations. “We thought we had it licked, but we need to revisit the system.”

McFall said the university installed an anti-corrosion system about a year ago to coat fixtures and prevent lead and copper from leaching into the water. “We thought it was working effectively,” McFall said, “but this is bringing it into question.”

The Department of Environmental Protection set the maximum contaminant level for copper at 1.3 mg/l (milligrams of copper per liter of water). The following levels of copper have been found in phase buildings on campus:

- Wayne Densch I: 2.700 mg/l
- Pi Beta Phi: 2.280 mg/l
- Fine Arts Building: 2.220 mg/l
- Rehearsal Hall: 2.100 mg/l
- UCF Print Shop: 1.750 mg/l
- Communication Building: 1.690 mg/l
- Computer Center: 1.630 mg/l
- Administration Building: 1.450 mg/l
- Bio Science: 1.420 mg/l

Outlanders find bills to climb— even in Florida

Nicole King

Outlanders find bills to climb—even in Florida

Sarah Sekula

It’s all the stuff that your dad wanted to teach you but didn’t have the chance to.

—Crystal Arla, freshman

SGA elections too close to call; run-off planned

Shelley Wilson

A run-off election will be held this week for Student Government’s president and vice president seats.

The Darin Patton/Andrew Cupicha and Jaime Halscott/Charlie Lee tickets are the two tickets in the run-off.

Regular elections were held last week with 2,725 cast. The ticket that receives 50 percent plus one of the votes in the run-off will become the next student body president and vice president, inducted in May.

The John Deeb/Patrick Dougan ticket received 429 votes (15 percent), Mike Slatter/Fred Piccolo received 401 votes (22 percent), Darin Patton/Andrew Cupicha received 801 votes (27 percent), and Jaime Halscott/Charlie Lee received 853 votes (29 percent).

A lot of students walking by the voting booths said that they were not interested in learning about the candidates or that they disliked Student Government.

Freshman Nika Palcevis said that her

Students, Page 2

Students speak out about Student Government elections.

What you think

Calling all Greeks

Gamma asks for students to volunteer for victim advocacy program.

How important are the Student Government elections to you?

Our weekly Q&A.

Got something to sell?

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Worst, Page 8

Patton/Cupicha and Halscott/Lee are the two tickets in this week’s run-off election for student body president and vice president. The winning ticket must get 50 percent of the vote plus one.
Students: elections not priority

busy schedule was one reason for her lack of concern about the elections.

"Honestly, I don't care enough to know about the Student Government," she said. "I do know they're a big part of campus, but I think everyone else should take care of it. I only hear about the candidates. I don't really know any of them enough to vote on them."

Pedro Davila said he was confused about who to vote for. Davila said he thinks students are skeptical about Student Government.

"The literature of the tickets contradicts what the candidates say when you talk to them," Davila said. "Three tickets are promising money to the Greeks, which cannot be done because the Greeks are exclusive clubs."

"Students are cynical when it comes to the government because of all the scandals about the organization, including the Senate elections last fall. If Student Government really wants students to know and care about the organization, then their image needs to be changed."

Some students who voted said that although the elections are apparent around campus, students sometimes miss what it means to vote.

"It's hard to miss campaigning here on campus," senior Doc Post said. "Everywhere you go there are signs advertising candidates. Students have an opportunity to learn and make a difference, but for some reason they don't care what the SG president and vice president do."

Post said he doesn't see how a candidate can make students care.

In the '60s, people voiced their opinions and tried to change things around them," he said. "No program, teacher, or forum will make students want to change; that comes from inside. Students are the first to complain, but the last to do something about it."

Candidates in the election said they saw a lot of interested students who wanted to make a change for UCF.

"People that normally don't vote are probably voting in these elections because of the variety of the tickets," candidate John Deeb said. "People think I'm anti-Greek, but I'm representing the common student that's not in a fraternity or sorority."

Fred Piccolo said students were more interested in these elections than they have been in previous years.

"The student body seems interested in learning by asking questions about the candidates, which is a very good sign for the elections, candidates, and students," Piccolo said.

Presidential candidate Darin Patton said he was impressed by the turnout for these elections.

"I commend everyone that ran because the diversity of the tickets made the elections unique," he said. "I'm very pleased with the number of students that voted and wish to thank everyone that helped with the elections."

During the elections students also voted on a constitutional amendment to allow anyone who takes at least one credit hour to be involved with Student Government. The amendment passed with 2,117 votes in favor and 238 votes against.

UCF currently has a 4-year term limit on senators, which is the only term limit in the state.
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Medical coding offered at South Orlando Campus

JAMES COMBS
STAFF WRITER

UCF’s Professional Development Center in south Orlando is offering a new entry-level course in medical coding.

The course will begin Feb. 16 and last until May 20. It will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Professional Development Center.

"The purpose of the Medical Coding Certificate Program is to prepare people to become well-trained medical coders," said John Duryea, director of the center. "They will be able to find entry-level positions as Medical Coders in insurance companies/doctors' offices, clinics and other health-related facilities. All doctors have medical coders."

Mitch Sirota, the center’s program associate, said people who complete the course will learn how to put number codes on such things as operations and medicines. Then they will give it a price and send the code to an insurance company.

The program offers two different courses: terminology and basic coding. The terminology course, which lasts seven weeks, will focus on anatomy and physiology. It will also cover medical definitions on topics like diseases and diagnosis.

The basic coding course lasts five weeks. It will focus on three kinds of medical codings. The first two codes students will learn are ICD and CPT, codes used in doctors’ offices and health clinics. The third code, DRG, is more commonly used in hospitals to code surgeries, Sirota said.

Sirota said students can take a competency test on anatomy and physiology. Students who pass the test will be exempt from taking the terminology course.

Lew Fear will teach the course. He has done medical coding in the military, in hospitals and in the private sector. He also owns a medical coding company.

"His experience and tremendous background is a big advantage for students taking the course," Sirota said. "He will be very good in working with the students and helping them understand the coding aspect."

Duryea said entry-level jobs in medical coding start at $10-$12 per hour. Independent work can also earn as much as $50,000 a year.

"This is a great program for career changes as well as those already working in the medical field who want to expand their career opportunities," Duryea said. "The whole point of this program is to help people get a job as quickly as possible. The room for growth in this field is good."

Duryea said it will benefit students to have a knowledge of anatomy/physiology and medical terms before entering the course. An AA degree is not required to register.

The course costs $990. A certificate of completion will be issued at the end of the course which will help students get jobs at entry-level positions in small medical practices, Duryea said.

For more information or a brochure on the program, call UCF’s Professional Development Center at (407) 856-6585.

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Central Florida Future
Bookstore offers 10 book scholarships to students

Nicole King
NEWS EDITOR

If you were a book, what would your title be? If you can answer that question and the Bookstore Advisory Committee likes your answer, you might win one of 10 book scholarships that will be awarded for the '99-00 school year.

Two scholarships will be awarded per college. Undergraduates are eligible if enrolled for a minimum of nine hours and graduate students if enrolled for a minimum of six hours. At least a 3.0 GPA is required.

A completed application package containing a cover letter (available at the bookstore), a letter of application, a copy of your most recent grade audit, a current resume, and the essay are due by March 15 at 7 p.m. Essays should be one-page in length, have a 250 word maximum (double-spaced, 12 point font, and a word count on the bottom of the page). Describe yourself and why the title is appropriate. For more information, call Ida Cook of the Faculty Senate at 823-2227.

IN OTHER NEWS:

- Campus Ministry at UCF has weekly activities for students and faculty of all faiths.
- Baptist Collegiate Ministries every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Student Union, Key West Room 218.
- Campus Crusade for Christ every Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Union, Key West Room 218.
- Campus Advent, contact Pastor Dan Forbes for more information at 657-4696.

Chi Alpha (Assembly of God) chapter meetings every Monday at 7 p.m. in the Student Union, Key West Room 218.
- Cypress Christian Life every Wednesday and Thursday from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Call 678-4020 for location. Cypress Church every Sunday at 11 a.m. in the Student Union, Cape Florida Room 318A.
- Episcopal & Lutheran Group bible study every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Young Adult Fellowship the first and third Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at Woodbury Presbyterian Church. Call 382-6521 for more information.
- Hillel Jewish Student Foundation weekly meetings every Monday from 5:30 p.m. in the Student Union, Call 262-1330 for more information.
- InterVarsity chapter meetings every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Student Union, Call 262-1330 for more information.
- International Youth Fellowship the first and third Fridays at 7 p.m.
- Key West Alliance met Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the University Theatre.

The deadline for applications is March 26.

\[ \text{Briefly} \]

- The UCF Downtown Academic Center is hosting 4 seminars during March, each from noon-1 p.m.
- "Dream Interpretation" with Dr. Burton Blau on March 5. Blau, an associate professor of psychology at UCF, will discuss the misconceptions about dream interpretation.
- "Of Mice and Men: The Opera" on March 10. A preview and discussion of the opera with the Orlando Opera staff.
- "An Introduction to Central Florida Theatre" on March 23 with Terry Olson, executive director of the Central Florida Theatre Alliance. An introduction to the theatrical performances available to the public in Central Florida.
- "Social Services for Working Class Women in Orlando: A Historical Perspective" on March 26 with Karl Frederickson, assistant professor in UCF's History Department. The seminar will focus on urban growth in Orange County in the 1920s and the women who founded the early social service organizations in Orlando.

Applebee's offers 10 book scholarships to students

Applebee's offers 10 book scholarships to students.

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February 24, 1999

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Q: How important is the Student Government election to you?

A:
“I really do not know anything about Student Government.”
—Kareen Campbell, freshman, IB, communication

“I think it’s important because it is a way for students to voice their opinions to the SGA about what they would like to see changed or improved at UCF.”
—Angela Meeks, junior, 21, chemistry

“I don’t like being assaulted on the way to class.”
—Tyler Mariotte, freshman, 18, undecided

“I think that Student Government is important because it provides a connection from the student body to the administration.”
—James Ferro, sophomore, 20, psychology

“It’s important, but I don’t pay much attention. I don’t even know who ran, so I really didn’t plan on voting.”
—Amber Napper, senior, 22, liberal studies

“I think it’s important because students can express their views over certain matters.”
—Steven Simmons, freshman, 20, computer science

“I have only been here for one semester and I plan to transfer in the fall. I have felt no inclination from the Student Government since my stay here to get involved.”
—Andrew Herbert, junior, 21, finance

Central Florida Future • 5
Trip to Cumberland Island planned for late February

From Page 1

Climbing Center. The Outlanders carpooled over and had a barbecue while they scaled the 35-foot walls of pseudo-rock.

With each month comes a new outdoors theme. The theme for February is backpacking. The Outlanders will host different speakers at their meetings, including an individual who has hiked through all of Florida. Clinics on topics such as how to pack your backpack will be provided.

We have hikes planned throughout the month," said Outlander's historian, Geraldine Sergeant. Upcoming hikes for this month include a trip to Cumberland Island, Ga., on Feb. 27 and 28.

Events during the fall semester included a canoe trip to the Lower Wekiva River, an all-night indoor rock climbing session at Aiguille Rock Climbing Center, a canoe trip to Juniper Springs, a skydiving adventure at Skydive Space Center and a three day camp out at Alexander Springs State Park.

"It's all the stuff that your dad wanted to teach you but didn't have the chance to," said Nick Leuthold, the club's quartermaster. "He makes these trips fun and I'm pretty sure he can tie every knot known to man.

"I think the club is good because it teaches you about the outdoors," said freshman Crystal Aria, human resources director of the Outlanders. "It's all the stuff that your dad wanted to teach you but didn't have the chance to."

Chances are your dad wasn't anything like the Outlander's safety advisor, Jim Lott. "He's like a 29-year-old 12-year-old," said Nick Leuthold, the club's quartermaster. "He makes these trips fun and I'm pretty sure he can tie every knot known to man.

"I have come to the realization that these club members eat better than I do at home in my comfy apartment. So maybe I'll start hanging out with Mother Nature on a regular basis and join the Outlanders on their Spring Break excursion.

The club hopes to travel to North Carolina or possibly Wyoming to participate in mountain biking, white-water rafting, hiking and climbing.

"I have to agree with Leuthold who said, "It's not worth doing if you don't have anything to lose."

The Outlanders Club meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Student Union, Cedar Key Room 223. Dues are $10 per semester. You can also check out their website at http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~outlander.
First Knight Images Awards offered by Communications

TAYLOR SIKES
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Nicholson School of Communication is offering its first Knight Images Awards, giving students the opportunity to win each prize. Prizes are being donated by the Florida Public Relations Association and Tony Nicholson is $100 for the winner of a category and $250 for the best of show.

Most categories for the awards, including public relations writing, news-editorial writing and photography, are aimed at communication majors. Any student can enter their resume for an award.

The theme in each of the categories is either to inform students or recruit them to the NSOC at UCF.

Ann Clark, public relations director for the Quotes Club, said this is a good way for UCF students to get their work looked at by Orlando businesses.

"The judges are going to be people in the community for each category," she said. "They will recognize the name with the entry, so when you go out for a job, they will see that.

"The work needs to be recognized and this was the way to do it."

The deadline for entries is March 1 and there is a $5 fee per entry, although students can enter as many times and in as many categories as they like.

There will be an awards show held on April 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to honor the winners. The show will feature a gallery of work and a picture slide show. Members of the business community will attend.

"This will be a founding thing that gets our name out there," Clark said.

For more information on the awards, you can pick up an entry form in the Communications office. If you have any questions, you can call Susan Tolliver at 671-6257.

GAMMA program seeks Greeks to be victim advocates

KELLY BRYANT
STAFF WRITER

GAMMA, Greeks Advocating Mature Management of Alcohol, is currently accepting volunteers to become victim advocates.

Each volunteer will be trained to help the victims of rape and abuse. The goal is to have advocates from every sorority to ensure that women feel comfortable asking for help. GAMMA meetings are held at noon on Wednesdays.

IN OTHER NEWS FROM GREEK ROW:

The Panhellicen Council will be voting on the adoption of its own Code of Ethics. The code will include submissions from each sorority, so when you go out for a job, they will see that.

"The panhellenic council is also discussing adopting a new alcohol policy that would bring about changes in the planning of social events in Greek Park. The new policy proposes that all parties require a guest list and that each attendant sign in upon arrival. It will also be mandatory that everyone's identification be checked at the door.

"Plans for the fall Greek Council Leadership Conference (GCLC) are currently underway. GCLC committee members held a meeting at the Alpha Delta Pi house on Feb. 16 to discuss possible changes and events for the upcoming conference. The committee hopes to have famous Greeks speak and hold leadership workshops.

"The Interfraternity Council has appointed a police relations chair in an effort to open up the lines of communication between students and the department. A barbecue is planned, but no date has been set.

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Student Government Senate Allocations

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<th>Purpose</th>
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</table>
Building Services’ personnel are urging those on campus to allow flushing the pipes nightly in an effort to reduce lead and copper levels. Fourteen out of the 15 buildings showed significantly reduced levels of the metals after the 30-second flushings. Only the UCF Print Shop, next to the water tower, showed no improvement.

Whatever it takes to get in compliance (with EPA standards), we’re prepared to do that.

—Dean McFall, University Relations

The EPA and UCF’s Physical Plant are taking a drink until further notice. Organisms are copper levels. "Whatever it takes to get in compliance (with EPA standards), we’re prepared to do that," he said. "This is getting very tiresome."
Why bother: defending students with no fight left

Gregory Elwell
College Press Exchange

I woke up today, went to Wal-Mart, ate a chili dog and did layout for the editorial page. I did not, however, fight for anything. I'm not pro-choice. I'm not pro-life. I'm not for women's liberation. I'm not for anything. What is it about our culture that dictates that each of us must believe in something? Why must we be obsessed with fighting for a cause? People act like your cause is your identity, that each of us must believe in something, or else they don't exist.

And persistence is next to cleanliness, and cleanliness is next to godliness. So I'm only two steps from godhood. Not bad for a columnist.

As soon as I reach that goal, I will turn my emaciated might upon the cause-heads. No more rallies, no more petitions and no more marches; that will be my legacy.

It's not because causes aren't worthy. No, there are lots of things that need to be done. We ought to clean up the planet, make peace with our neighbors and give equal rights to all. Now those, those are great causes.

I, however, was born and bred apathetic. I have lazy blood in my veins. I used to have a lazy eye before the glasses, and they did all the work. I might even have lazy sperm, who knows? Years of anti-nuke protests and socially-conscious episodes of “Family Ties,” have rendered me immune to all things important. “Blossom” nearly made me catatonic, but apathetic nonetheless.

I'm not a cheerleader. I'm not an activist. I'm just good old Greg. That's what Lord knows it gets lonely on my side of the fence.
Don’t be ‘taken in’ by Coyle’s latest

Mark James Staff Writer

I could be almost any town in Florida, a small community with a small college and complete, nuclear families. In her novel, *Taken In*, Beverly Coyle introduces what appears to be an idyllic model family: two teenage kids with a touch of bizarre, the hulking father and a strong mother that binds the family together. They live in a small neighborhood, have nice jobs, and the children go to nice schools. That is all torn apart when, after a string of bizarre events, the mother is shot to death and the family is left to sort through their emotions and fears.

*Taken In* is a strong story that unfortunately fails because of weak writing. Although the advertisement for the book is not geared towards adolescents, the writing unfortunately is. Coyle goes to great lengths in attempts to construct characters, but only succeeds in constructing sophomoric clichés.

Malcolm Robb, the father is described as feeling “...boiled down to his own self-righteousness.” When Malcolm, who works at the small college, muses about a suicidal student, he concludes that the student should “…stop and smell the coffee.”

Worse, it not for Nickelodeon, “Leave It to Beaver” would be nothing but a question in a trivia game.

Coyle, unfortunately, raises her writing several levels in touching the reader with the grief experienced by the survivors.

Coyle does exhibit a sense of humor in describing Oren Abel, a reclusive neighbor who inadvertently invites the murderer into his house across the street from the Robbs. When pondering the possibility of sex, Oren remembers that “The last time he’d tried anything—physical, he’d been impotent, and the woman had gotten so hysterical about it (about herself) that none of it had seemed worth it to him anymore, especially now that there was cable.” But Coyle allows flaws to creep into her character development of Abel, an emotionally weak man who suddenly becomes stronger after the death of his neighbor.

Coyle shows flashes of excellent writing, particularly in her treatment of the Robb’s grieving process and development of Oren Abel. Unfortunately, these few flashes are not enough to save what otherwise could be a very good story. The reader would be well advised not to be ‘taken in’ by this book.

Beverly Coyle

MALCOLM ROBB'S GRIEVING WIFE

Dear Dr. Daphne,

I think my friend has gotten too deep into drugs. How do I pull him out?

—Caring Friend

Dear Caring Friend,

I know you are in a tough place because I have been there. I like most of you out there, have friends obsessed with ecstasy, marijuana, opium, Xanax, etc. You have to be there for your friend to support them when they want to get out. For most in college, it is just a phase they will at some point fall out of, but it could end up serious. Unfortunately, casual drug use is trendy right now. Tell your friend how they are affecting you and make them understand that your friendship can only go so far. If you feel the time is right to seek professional help, there are a multi-tude of resources available both on and off campus.

—Mama's Kid

Dear Dr. Daphne,

My mom has been all friendly to me lately. She always wants to hang out and know what’s going on in my life. What I do to make it stop?

—Mama's Kid

Dear Mama's Kid,

Your mom is going through what is known as “Empty Nest Syndrome.” She misses having you around; you are a big part of your parent’s life. No worries though, it won’t last forever. Your mom will find hobbies and probably a new found interest in your father. You must communicate with your mama and let her know you only have so much time in a day, but you will make time for her. You are fortunate to have a mom who wants to be close so appreciate it while you have it.

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Making a splash for Spring Break

VICKI DESORMIER
STAFF WRITER

It's not too early to start planning for Spring Break. Oh, just
because you're here in Orlando and it's just over there in
Daytona Beach, doesn't mean you don't have to plan. There's
a lot to get ready for. And if you're busy with classes, you don't
have time to be sending off for brochures, calling about details and
getting information to make
the plans. So, here's what you've got to do.
Get online and check out www.daytonabreak.com, and find out everything
you've ever wanted to know about Spring Break at Daytona and then some.
The site is bright and fun and filled
with lots of pictures of good looking beach
bunnies and stunning guys just like us and our friends. And it's so
easy to navigate you'll get your plans made in no time. (If only it
would be so easy to navigate the beach and A1A during Spring
Break.)

With a click of your mouse you can bounce from page to page
and make plans while having a little fun looking your way around
the many aspects of Spring Break and Daytona Beach. From your
typical press release "Hot Flashes" about what there is to do
around town, there's a little something for everyone here.

Want to spend the day? There's a bunch of information about
daily events. Want to spend a week? There's information about
hotels and motels in the area. There's even information from the
Daytona Beach Visitors and Convention Bureau about which are
the most "student friendly" accommodations... and which are not.

There's information about the rules of conduct on the beach.
For instance, there's no drinking allowed on the beach (a rule that
is strictly enforced), but they suggest there are plenty of other
things to do while the sun is up. And when the sun goes down?
There's lots of information on this site about the clubs and the
activities that take place around the area after dark.

There's a lot of fun to be had and the easiest way to find out
about it is to plan ahead of time through this site. Or,
you can go and hang out and hope you can latch on to someone who knows all
the great party spots. Of course, as you'll learn here, they're
expecting 250,000 guests this year at Spring Break. With that many
revelers, there's bound to be enough nightlife to go around.

For those who neither want to burn nor use sunscreen there are
some links to indoor daytime activities as well.

And, finally, if you insist on being responsible while your
friends are off making fools of themselves on the beach there's
even information about a job fair where companies from AT&T to
Vail Resorts and everything in between including the U.S. Secret
Service will come to woo students who are looking for work when
they go out into the real world.

Go out and check out the jobs, but don't forget to have a good
time. After all, that's what Spring Break is about!

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Dog was hired as the kitsch, bon vivant star for a Daft Punk video. House music, which had seemed anti-human, was now funny and damn right on. After countless competitions, Paris is Burning Vol. I & II, Source Lab Vol. III- and two of the most critically and commercially successful House records to date, the French have arrived as the millennial answer which newcomers will be judged against.

This critical eye can focus on those records released within the French scene as well. Cassius, as many already know (due to the aggressive pre-album media campaign) are producers of many seminal House and hip-hop jams of the past decade (Motorbass, Me So Za et al), find themselves in an enviable position, releasing what may well be the only album of their career. I say this because they have eclectically covered more ground on 66 minutes than most dance producers and DJ's will over their entire careers. Taking themselves more seriously than say, Daft Punk (who rarely appear in their human costumes) come press time and are often quoted using lyrics such as "Fight for your right to party." "I wanna rock with you..." Cassius has allowed themselves to inherit a Chemical Brothers type storm of hype which, when settled, will leave early, midday, even late bandwagoners quite pleased with their musical mementos.

Playing By Heart appears partially heartfelt, but somehow worthwhile compliment to its similarly chaste film, but only when listening with a cynical callousness; any other way would draw blanks on your emotional reserves. The simulacrum, that place where the real is the simulated, stands beyond the chaste film, but only when listening with a cynical callousness; any other way would draw blanks on your emotional reserves. The simulacrum, that place where the real is the simulated, stands beyond the simulacrum, that place where the lyrics are direct description of film scenes, by Brian Van's 2000 sound melodic, punchy, perhaps witty, but leave the listener with the same affectless cynical smirk on their face when the CD began?

The quest for emotional ingenuity lead soundtrack producer, Jon Butby, to Australia for a shot of invigorating angst via Ben Lee (Grand Royal indie talent) who, perhaps even more so than Barry's own six driven wacky scores - might as well mention the classic track by Charlie Haden and Chet Baker too — are too easily eclipsed by a 20 year old who likes a cigarette to the demise of romance proper. The simulacrum, that place where simulation is the real, seems very far away from the rest of the tracks enclosed. Some promising moments by Gomez, Morcheeba and PJ Harvey come up to bat, but falter in Lee's smoke stained shadow. As the assaulit boy wonder sings, "Because I want a TV embrace," anything less would be quite a disappointment. An uneventful CD, the demise of romance proper.

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For everyone in TV land who thought there was something about Mary, who broke through "The Waterboy" and chortled at "South Park," MTV would like you to meet Tom Green.

The name is normal. Green himself, a lanky, goatee'd Gumby of a guy, host and star of "The Tom Green Show," is anything but.

Here is in a full scuba suit, flippers and oxygen tank, scooping fistfuls of pennies and bringing them, still dripping, to a nearby bank.

"Here he is adorning the hood of his car," says MTV exec John Miller. "Being Canadian, we're right next to this superpower, there's a certain national insecurity which makes us a little more self-deprecating and slightly different," Green says.

"I'm not used to being able to go out without strangers coming up to me, wanting to talk about the show," says Green, who sounds like fellow Ontarian native Peter Lennon's little brother on the phone. "I'm not sure that will last too long."

The Tom Green Show" looks a lot like a regular talk show: desk, sidekick, studio audience, host in a suit. But the similarities end there.

"There's a lot of different elements to the show," says Green. "There's a lot of slapstick and practical jokes, but the consistency is that it's a reality-based comedy show. It's not skins between myself and other actors."

The show moves quickly from the studio audience and the desk to taped bits, which generally find Green in full gross-out mode, alternately embarrassing himself and others.

So why aren't we horrified? Maybe because there's something disarmingly sweet about this sad-eyed, skinny boy who winds up being chased by beefy, irate security guards at least once per show. Or something heartwarming about how he's hired a bunch of his buddies.

That guy in the plaid shirt looking a tad uncomfortable on the chair next to Tom is no hired Hollywood second banana. That's Green's college friend, Glenn Humplik, who flies down from Canada each weekend to be stars a place to stretch, to grow, and to try and discard the things that don't work before becoming international household names. "You can develop in Canada for a long time before anyone's even heard of you, and try things that you'd never try again,"

Green's college friend, Glenn Humplik, who flies down from Canada each weekend to be stars a place to stretch, to grow, and to try and discard the things that don't work before becoming international household names. "You can develop in Canada for a long time before anyone's even heard of you, and try things that you'd never try again."

His newest star has given Miller an unexpected new duty: feeding the talent.

"Green is a foodie, with 140 pounds of "(I'm the Ally McBeal of male comics," he deadpanned), and often forgets to eat.

So Miller winds up trying to tempt his palate. "I don't really think he has a problem, but he gets so fixated on the show, and he's working so hard ... so I make sure he eats. I'll offer him 10 different things I know he likes, and just keep going until he picks one."

And, for the question we just had to ask: Tom, did you disinfect that cow?

"I did wash that cow first, but I have been in situations where I forgot to wash the cow. I did it live on the street once in Canada... it was kind of this set-up situation, where the cow showed up first, and the cow wrangler wasn't told to wash the cow's udder, so there was stuff on it. I showed up, there were 200 kids screaming, "Suck! Suck! Suck!"

Trotter that he is, Green did.

"Now I try to be more careful."

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**MTV's Tom Green latest Canadian comedy import**

Green
Lead Stories

- According to a January report in the San Francisco Chronicle, the percentage of gay men who go to gay bars (without considering "backrooms") is growing, and a tiny minority of these men have taken their passion a step further. There are now gay "Russian roulette" parties publicized on the Internet; the latest scheduled for February in Houston in which HIV-negative men ("bug catchers") invite HIV-positive men ("givers") for anonymous sex so that every act carries the possibility of death. A gay writer told the Chronicle that he has spoken to participants and is certain that the parties are not just another Internet fad.

- The Louisville Courier Journal reported in February that the Louisville Free Public Library is tied up in probate with the family of the late Audrey Jean Knauer over a $250,000 bequest and that the outcome might depend on whether the actor Charles Bronson wants the money. Ms. Knauer died in 1997 and inexplicably willed her money to Bronson, whom she labeled a "talented character actor" but whom in all likelihood she had never met. Ms. Knauer's mother wants the money; the library says it could buy 20,000 books; and Bronson has not yet responded.

- In February, Henry Lyons, head of the nation's largest organization of black Baptists, went to trial in St. Petersburg, Fla., in January, accused of defrauding two firms that thought they were purchasing an $8,000-name-mailing list from Lyons' National Baptist Convention. Prosecutors insist the number was wildly inflated, and Lyons' former administrative assistant testified that after one such mailing was made, Lyons instructed her to use a telephone-book software program to create a membership list by selecting names that sounded black. The assistant said she eliminated last names that began with "z" and all names that ended in "ski." Among the names that wound up on the list was an imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.

First Things First

- In December, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, police said they had arrested the owner of most of the school's English composition teachers out of the campus's historic Housenius House and into a group of double-wide trailers in order to make room for a new Consciousness Studies Program, which investigates near-death experiences and other new-age topics. That program was recently cremated with a large donation from a prominent real estate developer.

- In January, Fort Worth, Texas, murder defendant Robert William Greer Jr. agreed to plead guilty to a 1988 killing if the judge would keep him in the local jail for two more weeks before sending him to the penitentiary so that he could be assured of seeing the Super Bowl on TV. (Greer thought TV privileges in prison were less certain.)

- In January in Modesto, Calif., Bernardo Arroyo, 26, was convicted of distributing methamphetamine and faces a minimum 10 years in prison at his sentencing in April. Before the trial, Arroyo rejected a plea bargain that would have given him 18 months in prison because a psychic he consulted had assured him that he would be acquitted. (In fairness to the psychic, however, Arroyo had an opportunity to purchase an additional case on the prosecutor, for $8,000, but declined.)

- The Litigious Society

- In August, the family of the late Russell U. Shell filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against The Other Side nightclubs in Fitchburg, Mass., charging that Mr. Shell choked to death on a miniature plastic penis that allegedly had been placed into his drink glass as a prank by an employee. (The club owner said Mr. Shell merely suffered a seizure and that the charm was found on the floor beside Mr. Shell's body.)

- In January, Susan Sykes (a.k.a. Busty Sykes), owner of six eggs by a turtle in Thunder Bay, Ontario (June), after veterinarians used a dentist's drill on them.

Least Competent Criminals

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Update

- Bennie Casson made News of the Weird in 1997 when he filed a $100,000 lawsuit against PT's Show Club in Saginaw, Ill., for its negligence in allowing stripper Susan Sykes (a.k.a. Busty Heart) to repeatedly "slam" her allegedly 88-inch bust into his neck and head during her performance, thus aggravating an old neck injury. In January 1999, a judge dismissed the lawsuit because Mr. Casson still couldn't find a lawyer to take the case, and a few days later, Mr. Casson died of a self-inflicted gunshot.

(Read your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 8306, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33738, or Weird@compuserve.com.)
February 24, 1999

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15. Scorch
17. Dury
18. Enthusiastic opera
19. Goopy stuff
20. Boxes (plural)
22. Zaro
23. Divisive
24. Mexican shawls
25. Exited in importance
31. Mudslide
32. Loyd
33. Actor Nessus
35. Canadian tree
39. Woodman and Plumber
40. Fanny car
42. Satellite of Saturn
43. Verminoid stiles
45. Devon
49. Tumor and Milieu
47. Covered up
48. Fat odds
51. Requested
55. Heifer
56. Ghoul of “Faust”
57. Blackened writer
63. Bombhecy
66. Japanese city
68. Subway route
70. Trolley
71. “The Glass Bead Game” author

5. Reaping tool
6. Loomer and border
7. The one... got away!
8. Pole’s overhang
9. Lock in the dials
10. 1215 chapter
11. Lowest deck
12. Make right
13. Uses a keyboard
21. Stirs up liquid
22. Outer edge
23. Singer Redding
24. Dr. Ruth
25. Does a turn
26. Capricorn
27. Caspian feeder
28. Dr. Ruth
29. Dr. Ruth
30. “The Glass Bead Game” author
31. Metal strip
32. Goose
33. Actor Neeson
34. Source of transport
35. “Frasier” character
36. I’m glad that’s over!
37. Swan lady
38. Bonded
39. Synthetic fabric
40. Man’s title
41. I’m glad that’s over!
42. Tread on
43. Slangy negative
44. Man’s title
45. Put aside
46. Turner and Clanton
47. Covered up
48. Break of
49. Break of
50. Center
51. Council member
52. Center
53. Slangy negative
54. Put off
55. Heifer
56. Gilpin
57. Metal strip
58. Corker
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60. Frail
61. Nautical assets
62. Slangy negative
63. Does a turn
64. Copper
65. Slangy negative
66. Muscle spasm
67. Iridescent gems
68. Bind again
69. Diviner
70. Jekyll’s alter ego
71. “The Glass Bead Game” author

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1. Flaccid
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Knights finish season on strong note

Despite a six-game winning streak, UCF was unhappy with its play heading into the season finale against Florida Atlantic last Saturday night. Sleppy play had nearly cost the Golden Knights against Jacksonville in their previous game, so Kirk Spreaw’s team was determined to end the season emphatically.

A 16-2 run early in the first half set the tone for an 84-57 victory over the Owls, who finished in last place in the TAAC. D’Quarius Stewart scored 23 points for UCF, while Cory Perry set the school record for assists in a game with 14, breaking Mike Clark’s 27-year-old record.

Seniors Brad Traina and Bucky Hodge played their final games in front of their hometown crowd and were honored in a pre-game ceremony. Traina scored 16 points, while Hodge added six points and three rebounds. No Golden Knight played more than 28 minutes.

Perry passes way into UCF history

UCF’s junior point guard Cory Perry knew he had a lot of assists. So, when he asked assistant coach Don Burgess exactly how many he had, was it exactly surprised to hear he was near the 25-year-old school record of 13. Having come one shy of tying the mark last year, Perry was determined not to let this opportunity slip by.

I was close last year. Could have tied it. When I asked Coach Burgess how many I had, and he said 14, I was looking forward,” Perry said.

So, Perry went back in the game and his UCF teammate had made sure he got the mark. Everyone he passed them the ball, they shot.

“That was the plan,” Perry said. “Shoot the ball.”

Good plan.

Perry fed Beniti Simms for a short jumper for assistance number 12, and Traina helped him tie the mark with a 3-pointer, ironically his final basket ever at the UCF Arena. Perry finally achieved the feat when he stole the ball off of a poor pass by FAU’s Ryan Herock, and fed Stewart for a layup with 5:09 remaining to give UCF a 10-point lead. Perry UVF’s in the contest shortly afterwards and the Golden Knights never scored again, winning by just 27.

Senior Day evokes emotions

As Hodge and Traina were honored for their tenure with the basketball team, one couldn’t help but reflect on what they meant to the program and how much the duo has developed.

“This was special for me,” Traina said. “I think I take it to heart that I spent so much time in these gymns and with these baskets. It’s been a kind of home away from home.”

Stewart, a junior, will miss Traina and Hodge when they are gone, and admits that in the back of his mind were thoughts of next year, when he’ll be in the same position.

“It’s funny, when I was a freshman they honored Perry Kennedy and I remember thinking, ‘oh I’ve got a long way to go’,” Stewart said. “But now, with Ben and Bucky leaving, guys that have been here so long, it’s real sad. And in the back of my mind I was thinking, ‘wow, that’s gonna be me next year. Time goes by so fast.”

—TONY MEJIA

Final Four hopes fuel new coach

JEFF CASE

STAFF WRITER

When new UCF volleyball coach Meg Fitzgerald strode into her office, she began working on something few volleyball players accomplish in their careers. Fitzgerald, who coached at nearby Rollins College last season, will begin by laying the foundation for a trip to the NCAA volleyball Final Four.

The Golden Knights have never reached the Final Four in their history, with their furthest trip in the tournament coming two seasons ago, when it defeated Clemson in the first round. Fitzgerald, who played at the University of Florida from 1992-96, reached two Final Fours with the Gators, in 1992 and 1993.

Now, Fitzgerald faces the challenge of getting UCF volleyball back on track. Last season, the Knights (7-15, 4-4 TAAC) failed to win a TAAC title for the first time in six years. UCF has plenty of upside, as 8 of 10 players are underclassmen. I learned a lot as a player and as a coach,” she said. “You see a lot of different [coaching] styles there that maybe you didn’t see as much as a player.”

Despite her youth, Fitzgerald is quick to deny any notion she will be youthful to motivate UCF’s youthful squad.

“Being a player’s coach, I’m not sure what that means, I want this run as a certain way,” she said. “I guess I’ll be a little different from a coach that has been coaching for 20 years, but that’s probably why I think there are a lot of coaches that have been at it for a long time and still get it done today.”
Traina moves into a class all his own

Senior forward Brad Traina came to UCF in 1995 as an undersized and unrecruited player in a freshman class that included two big time recruits from Indiana and Wisconsin. Four years later, he is the only one remaining and has moved into a class of his own.

"He's self-motivated and puts a lot of pressure on himself," Coach Kirk Speraw said. "He has made himself into a great player, and it's a joy to coach somebody like that."

Traina has worked relentlessly on improving his game, and it has been reflected in his offensive performance each season. He has improved each year in nearly every statistical category while waiting his turn to be the team leader.

He waited and took his share of knocks playing behind Harry Kennedy and Mark Jones during his first three seasons, before being named co-captain this season along with junior D'Quarius Stewart.

"I always wanted to be one of the top players during my senior year," Traina said. "After my sophomore year, I thought maybe I would be the best player my junior year, but then Mark (Jones) came in. I just had the attitude that I would work as hard as I could to be the best player my senior year."

Traina has yet to disappoint. He averaged nearly 18 points per game while leading the Knights to their best finish ever in the Trans America Athletic Conference at 13-3. He set career highs in field goal percentage (.533), three-point percentage (.466), and free throw percentage (.809) this year. More important, all of these career highlights have come while playing through a variety of injuries.

In the first few games, Traina played through back spasms that hindered his jumping ability. Then he suffered a stress fracture in his left foot that eventually forced him to miss his first collegiate game after playing in 102 consecutive contests since his freshman season.

"It's tough because I want to be out there and play every game that I can," Traina said. "But when I would leave and try to come back, it's tough for the team and tough for me personally to get back and play the same way I was before I left."

Traina returned from a five-game absence that saw the Knights struggle to a 2-2 stretch. During that span, the Knights lost their first two games but developed better as a team. Stewart led the team in scoring in four of the five games. And when Traina returned to continue playing through the pain, it provided UCF with much needed motivation and leadership.

"Just watching him play through the pain gave me motivation," Stewart said. "It made me step up my game. It gave motivation to the team."

Traina returned to the lineup on February 9 against Stonestreet after a three-game winning streak; and the Knights didn't skip a beat. They won the final four regular season games after his return, but Traina didn't return to form until the season-finale Saturday against Florida Atlantic.

Traina played 20 minutes and connected on 6-of-9 field goals, including 4-of-6 from three-point range. He totaled 16 points and added two rebounds as he and center Bucky Hodge were honored during senior night.

"I think I did pretty well (against FAU), I started shooting the way that I was before I left," Traina said. "It's been hard to get back in my groove because we're trying to get everyone else the ball. But I think that as we play tougher teams the guys know that I'll be there and shoot a good percentage. They'll be able to rely on me."

He will have the opportunity to play some tougher competition this weekend as UCF enters the TAAC Tournament beginning on Thursday. The Knights, who are seeded second, face Troy State in the first round. Traina missed the only matchup between the Knights and Trojans, a UCF 107-82 win.

The Knights have the best chance to make the NCAA Tournament since Traina's freshman season. They have made it twice before, and Traina had the opportunity to play against Massachusetts in 1996. But now is his last chance to return to the big dance.

"We've faced a little adversity, but hopefully in the end we'll come back as strong as ever and do well in the (TAAC) tournament," Traina said. "I think it's extremely important (to reach the NCAA Tournament). It's important for the university."

While Traina has led the team during games, he has also tried to help develop the younger players, as they become the leaders in the future for the Knights.

"It's hard to be a leader when you're on the bench with injuries," Traina said. "I've taught some of the guys what they need to know, and how to play their game. Hopefully they'll be able to step up and be leaders and have a great season next year."

One player who has taken Traina's words to heart is his co-captain. Stewart, a junior guard, has learned from Traina on and off the court what it takes to become a better player and how to prepare himself for his senior season.

"Being a co-captain, I have seen how he voices his opinion, and he backs it up with everything that he does," Stewart said. "He plays hard in whatever we do. He's a good player to follow behind."

Traina has left his mark on the UCF basketball program. He has worked his way into the record books with a great work ethic and persistence.

"When we took him, we knew that he had a great work ethic. We knew that he was a competitor, and we thought he was gonna be a very good shooter," Speraw said. "We knew that he would work and develop over the course of time. I think he's met every one of those expectations. We couldn't have asked for more out of Brad Traina than what he's given us over the course of time."

And neither could anybody else, expect maybe himself.

Traina moves into a class all his own.
Hodge’s journey ends at UCF

TONY MEJIA
SPORTS EDITOR

It took five long years and two different schools for senior center Bucky Hodge to arrive at halfcourt last Saturday for Senior Day festivities. As the home crowd chanted his name and saluted him with a standing ovation, the smiling Hodge waved and sheepishly received the love. He’d made the right decision to come here. This was home.

Hodge originally committed to Georgia Tech out of high school and played two years under Bobby Cremins before deciding to transfer due to a lack of playing time. He needed to feel wanted. He needed a night like Saturday night.

“Coming here, I anticipated more playing time, but I didn’t really know what to expect,” Hodge said. “Then everyone was looking forward to me coming here and welcomed me with open arms. It felt like home again.”

Hodge has become a pivotal part of UCF basketball, strengthening the post and serving as a key factor on a team hoping to return to the NCAA Tournament. This year especially, Hodge has come into his own. He recorded his first two double-doubles, especially, Hodge has come into his own. He recorded his first two double-doubles, ranked among the TAAC’s top shot-blockers.

Further due to a lack of playing time.

“Then I didn’t need a night like Cremins before deciding to transfer to UCF,” Hodge said. “I’ve enjoyed myself. My school has really helped me learn a lot. I’ve learned a lot.”

One of those intangibles is Hodge’s attitude. He’s always there to pick up his teammates, and true to his soft-spoken nature, never causes any problems. Hodge works hard and has never said a single word about splitting time with fellow centers Davin Granberry and Roy Leath.

“He’s so team-oriented. Bucky has never worried about personal accolades. That kind of stuff doesn’t enter his mind,” Spraw said. “His only interest is the team doing well. We’re very fortunate we got him to come here after his time at Georgia Tech.”

Hodge had to sit out a season at Georgia Tech before transferring to UCF because of the NCAA transfer rules. Coincidentally, that was UCF’s toughest season since ’90, as a young bunch of Golden Knights went 7-19 while Hodge sat by helplessly watching his new teammates’ minutes adjust to college life.

“That had to be the toughest year for me. There were so many freshmen. So young,” Hodge said. “You felt so helpless wanting to go in and play with them but because of the rules you couldn’t.”

Hodge finally saw action at UCF after his long layoff and has been a fixture in the middle since. After playing sparingly at Georgia Tech and sitting out a year at UCF, Hodge was understandably rusty at first, but progressed as the season went on.

“Over the years, I’ve enjoyed myself. My only regret is that it came so quick and left. As for the ovation, it’s something I never worried about personal accolades. That kind of stuff doesn’t enter his mind,” Spraw said. “His only interest is the team doing well. We’re very fortunate we got him to come here after his time at Georgia Tech.”

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“This school has really helped me out,” Hodge said. “I’ve learned a lot. Over the years, I’ve enjoyed myself. My only regret is that it came so quick and left. As for the ovation, it’s something I never pictured. I kind of thought about it, but it seemed so far away.”

Coliseum.
Young UCF team still learning

Coach Jay Bergman has made it through the early part of the season getting what he expected from his team: development. The development has came much to his liking, but he understands it is a trying process.

"We're coming along," Bergman said. "We take two steps forward and one step back. But like I said, we're not a good February team. We've done better this month than I thought.

Young development has came much to his liking, but he understands it is a trying process.

"It was kind of a silent game," Bergman said. "I thought it was a real good break before an important two-game series against Rollins. The Tars had three errors, one wild pitch, one passed ball, and hit batsman. UCF added nine hits and six walks at the plate to help put Rollins away.

Bergman looks at this part of the schedule as a welcome sight for the Knights after the early season struggles. The shutout by Satterfield lasted only 3.2 innings with six hits and three runs allowed against Rollins on Saturday.

"And Troy just got locked in there in that one (fourth) inning (against Rollins)," Bergman said. "And he gave up three back-to-back hits, but he struckout four in the final two frames. But the key number between the three pitchers was no runs scored."

"Pope came in, got the game under control, and got the win," Bergman said. "Satterfield pitched the last three innings with one strikeout and one hit allowed. Starting catcher Brett Spooner added two innings with two hits and three strikeouts before Arnold struck out four in the final two frames."

Bergman said he understands it is a trying process.

"We're working with bases loaded, and got some key hits from Dustin and Pete (Gavillan)," Bergman said. "That's what we've been trying to emphasize and work on is getting key hits with bases loaded."

Rollins committed a variety of mistakes to help in the Knights victory. The Tars had three errors, three wild pitches, one passed ball, and hit batsman. UCF added nine hits and six walks at the plate to help put Rollins away.

Bergman described the match up as a win-win situation for Rollins and a lose-lose for the Knights because Rollins is a Division II team. But the game allowed Bergman to see most of his team play to begin preparation for conference play in less than two weeks.

"We got a chance to play a lot of people. Guys that hadn't had a chance to play all season," Bergman said. "I thought it was a real positive day. It was kind of a silent game."

The Knights stranded the bases loaded eight times in the first 10 games, but they were able to capitalize when the situation arose against the Tars. With two outs in the fourth inning, Matt Bowser came up with the bases loaded and reached on an error by the shortstop to score a run. Dustin Brisson then doubled with the bases loaded to score two runs.

"I think it's good the way our schedule is set up," Bergman said. "We'll be fully rested by the time we go to LSU.

Freshmen Pete Gavillan and Jeremy Frost have provided some necessary help for the Knights as they still recover from the loss of 10 players from last year's team. Both players went 2-for-4 against Rollins. Gavillan is hitting .265 with two home runs and eight RBIs, while Frost is batting .370 with two home runs and nine RBIs.

Bullpen improvement a good sign

The bullpen has gotten some quality innings throughout the season, but has also provided some trying times for the Knights. However, the game against Rollins gave Bergman some confidence from other pitchers besides closer Jason Arnold.

Justin Pope, who started his first three collegiate games, came in the game in the fourth inning after Rollins regained the lead. He threw 1.1 innings with one strikeout and one hit allowed. Starting catcher Brett Spooner added two innings with two hits and three strikeouts before Arnold struck out four in the final two frames. But the key number between the three pitchers was no runs scored.

"Pope came in, got the game under control, and got the win," Bergman said. "Satterfield pitched the last three innings with one strikeout and one hit allowed.

On the flip side for the pitching staff, the starting rotation has struggled at times thus far. The starters have failed to get past the fifth inning in five of the first 11 games. Troy Satterfield lasted only 3.2 innings with six hits and three runs allowed against Rollins on Saturday.

"And just got locked in there in that one (fourth) inning (against Rollins)," Bergman said. "And he gave up three back-to-back hits to their seventh, eighth, and ninth hitters. He simply can't do that.

In their first 11 starts, Satterfield, David Rankin, Justin Pope, and Brian Freeland combined for a respectable 4.57 ERA, but they have allowed an additional 21 unearned runs. They have combined for only 55.2 innings with 62 hits allowed and 48 strikeouts.

Starting pitchers struggle to find niche

Excluding Arnold, the bullpen has combined for a 4.70 ERA in the first 10 games, allowing 41 hits and 18 runs in 30.2 innings. So the help for Arnold against Rollins was a welcome sign for Bergman.

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For more insight into February fever sound? Whatever you want to call it, the University of Central Florida is very much involved, holding the second seed in the TAAC Tournament and a legitimate chance at an NCAA bid.

Someone asked me the other day if anything short of a conference championship and subsequent NCAA bid would be a disappointment. I was about to say ‘of course not, this year has been a success regardless’, but actually heard myself say, ‘yeah, that’s accurate’. Expectations are high as UCF takes the court at the Jacksonville Memorial Coliseum this week. 

Slowly, but surely, people are beginning to crawl out from under rocks to peek their heads in at what’s going on in the UCF Arena. The basketball is exciting and most important, the results are favorable. With seven consecutive victories, the Golden Knights are making both fans and opponents take notice. Wouldn’t it be fitting for an ESPN national-viewing audience to see the Knights’ coronation?

Three years ago, fans stormed the court at the Edmunds Center on the campus of Stetson University as UCF recorded three consecutive upsets to earn its second trip to the Dance in three years. Only Brad Traina and the coaching staff remain from that squad, and this current bunch of Knights are hungry to get back.

"Coach has told us what it takes to get back," said junior guard D’Quarius Stewart. "We know it’s not going to be easy, but we have a great chance."

The best chance since their last bid, as the College of Charleston has moved on to the Southern Conference after sweeping through the last two TAAC Tournaments. The Cougars eliminated UCF in Charleston last year, but this season the tournament returns to Florida, giving the Golden Knights an advantage.

"We won both our tournaments in Florida here in ‘94 and at Stetson in ‘96," Coach Kirk Speraw said. "It certainly helped that our fans came out to support us. It gave us the edge we needed."

With Jacksonville being only two hours away, it’s expected that UCF will have a big following in this year’s tournament. After opening against #7 Troy State, who UCF beat 107-82 earlier this month, the Golden Knights should advance to Friday’s semifinal round, facing either third-seeded Georgia State or tournament host, JU, seeded sixth. That contest takes place at approximately 8:15.

UCF fans travelled to Stetson and provided the difference in an 80-68 win on Feb.9. Rowdy and draped in black and gold, the following provided a nice back-drop for UCF's come-from-behind victory. I would be nice for the golden, the following provided a nice back-drop for UCF's come-from-behind victory. I would be nice for the
gold, the following provided a nice back-drop for UCF's come-from-behind victory. I would be nice for the
Tennis continues resurgence with solid play

David Masters

The UCF women's tennis recorded convincing wins over TAAC opponents Florida Atlantic and rival Florida International. The Knights came into the weekend with a 2-1 record, losing only to a nationally ranked South Florida team last Saturday. They were scheduled to take on Boca Raton to take on FAU in an important conference matchup.

The women were playing for the first time in nine days, but the layoff didn't affect their play as they defeated the Owls 9-0. With the win, they put themselves in good position for a high seed in the TAAC tournament. They are 3-0 in conference and have only one remaining TAAC match, playing Jacksonville State at home on March 29.

On Thursday, the women continued their tour of southern Florida, taking on Florida International. Despite FIU's depth, the Knights didn't fare much better against UCF, as the Knights came away with a 7-2 victory. The win improved their season record to 4-1.

The UCF men weren't quite as successful on their road trip. They also played Florida Atlantic last Saturday, losing a tough 4-3 decision to the Owls, who also beat them last year. They bounced back, however, on Sunday to pick up a big win over #64 Florida International, 5-2. The win was sweet revenge for the Knights (6-1, 2-1), as FIU knocked them out of last year's TAAC tournament before moving into the regionals of Miami, Ohio, playing New Orleans University on Feb. 25. On Sunday, Feb. 24, they travel to SE Louisiana, before returning to the10 regionals of Miami, Ohio, playing New Orleans University on Feb. 25. On Sunday, Feb. 24, they return home for a match against Purdue, who boasts the nation's #57 singles player, Jason Marshall.

The women's team has no matches this week, but returns to action on Mar. 2 at 1:00 pm, taking on Hampton at the UCF Tennis Courts. This begins a month-long homestand for the Knights, during which they will play against a number of nationally ranked opponents.

Knights win inaugural UCF Invitational

David Masters

UCF sure knows how to start a tradition. This past week, on February 15-16, the women's golf team took advantage of playing on their home turf, and set a school scoring record in the process of winning the first annual UCF Invitational.

Playing at nearby Stonehedge Country Club in Orlando, the Knights shot an all time low two day total score of 601, 25 over par, which was eight shots better than their closest competition. Individually, UCF's Line Berg shot a one over par 145, including a 1-under par-71 on the last day, placing her second overall in a field of 41 golfers.

In a challenging field that consisted of teams from Mississippi, Florida, Miami, Florida, Southern, South Alabama, Florida International and Florida Atlantic, UCF got off to a good start by taking a seven shot lead after the first round of play on Tuesday.

UCF's Pedro Pacheco finished in a tie for fourth place for UCF, shooting a two day total of 149. Freshman Oliver Harvey shot a second even par 110 on Monday, leading the Knights on their home course to a 15-16, the women's golf team took the upset win with a total of 154. Chrissy Atkinson shot a two-day total of 155 to finish in 13th place for UCF, while Beate Fanes and Monica Gunderson finished in 15th and 23rd places, respectively, Robyn Randal of Mississippi took the individual title with a two day score of 143, 1 under par. Mississippi also took second in the team competition, while Florida rounded out the top three.

This is a strong start to a tough spring season for the Knights, who will take on tough field in the Lady Gator Invitational, and then south to the Dominican Republic on March 12-13 to play in the Casa de Campo.

HOW TO LAND YOUR DREAM INTERNSHIP

Every now and then, you might think about your career, even at an early age. It may be time to focus on finding a summer internship. Following are some tips for finding your dream internship in some of today's fast-growing industries like media, entertainment, fashion and high-tech.

What are your interests? Are you more comfortable with a fast-paced environment or a quieter one?

What are you passionate about? Are you passionate about helping others or enjoying a comfortable lifestyle?

What kind of boss do you want? Do you want a boss who is always available and willing to help you, or do you want a boss who is more hands-off and lets you work on your own?

What kind of colleagues do you want? Do you want a team that is diverse and inclusive, or do you want a team that is all about the boss?

What kind of company do you want? Do you want a company that is small and local, or do you want a company that is large and national?

What kind of work do you want? Do you want to work on projects that are challenging and exciting, or do you want to work on projects that are more routine and predictable?

What kind of location do you want? Do you want to work in a city or a rural area, or do you want to work in an area that is close to home?

What kind of compensation do you want? Do you want a salary or an hourly wage, or do you want a combination of both?

What kind of benefits do you want? Do you want health insurance, retirement benefits, or vacation time?

What kind of work/life balance do you want? Do you want a flexible schedule or a more structured one?

What kind of professional development do you want? Do you want to attend conferences or workshops, or do you want to take online courses or attend webinars?

What kind of work/life balance do you want? Do you want a flexible schedule or a more structured one?

What kind of professional development do you want? Do you want to attend conferences or workshops, or do you want to take online courses or attend webinars?
Knights tackle challenge of LSU

FROM PAGE 24

tion. "They lost their entire pitching staff, so they're trying to rebuild that," Bergman said. "But LSU is LSU every year, so it doesn't make any difference because they're gonna be good."

The Tigers have very little to worry about at the plate after leading the nation in home runs for the third consecutive season with 157 blasts last year. Despite losing Eddy Furniss (.403 average-28 home runs-76 RBIs) as last year's leader, the Tigers have plenty of offense returning. Catcher Brad Cresse (.322-29-90) leads this year's squad and was selected Third Team Pre-Season All-America by Baseball America. Third baseman/designated hitter Troy McClure (.325-27-84) and outfielder Cedrick Harris (.398-10-56) add offense to an explosive lineup. All three players were selected First Team Pre-Season All-SEC by Baseball America.

Surprisingly, LSU is off to a 3-2 start this sea­son. They lost their first home series since 1996 against Texas, who won two of three in Baton Rouge to open the season. But LSU has rebounded with an 8-2 victory over Southern Mississippi and a 13-6 win against Southwestern Louisiana. The Knights will hope to find the Tigers sleeping at home, but chances of that are slim since LSU was 29-3 at home last season.

UCF will try to do what few people have been able to do by taking two of three in Baton Rouge and keeping the Tigers under .500 this season. The Knights have some work to do at certain positions, but have a long ways to go with the quarterback question which has not been answered. Bergman takes this series as a great opportunity for his young team before beginning conference play at Troy State March 6-7.

"It's a great test at the end of the month to get us ready to start our conference schedule the next week at Troy State," Bergman said. "The timing of this game is perfect."

Spring practice starts early for UCF

TONY MEJIA
SPORTS EDITOR

It's ironic that Daunte Culpepper travelled to Indianapolis last week for the NFL scouting combine, hoping to impress the front office figures of the professional ranks. In Orlando, the search for his replacement began, with UCF's quarterback prospects hoping to impress the Golden Knight brass.

"(The players) understand the same thing I do: Daunte's gone," Kruczek said. "It was great while he was here. But I got over Daunte leaving. That's part of college football. Kids go through their program, graduate, leave and go on. I've been in college coaching for 18 years.

You get kind of accustomed to the four-year, five-year rollover type of thing."

So, Kelvin Robinson, Brad Banks, and Chris Ryan look to raise a few eyebrows this spring, with transfer Victor Penn coming in this summer along with freshmen Brian Miller and Ryan Schneider, who will probably redshirt.

"If I can stay away from getting too frustrated because of key people being missing, things will work out," Kruczek said. "For the most part, we have a pretty strong nucleus of people coming back, better than most people perceive us to have."

Although the quarterback question mark will be the most talked about affair this spring, UCF's defense and offensive line size are two areas where the Golden Knights may be stronger than ever. Still, replacing Culpepper is a premium.

"I take it as a challenge to make these kids as good as Daunte. That's what I'm going to put on my shoulders as far as statistics and proficiency. We have to make the best of the situation and it could be a great situation.

NOTE: Kruczek named Billy D'Ottavio linebackers coach on an interim basis. Defensive coordinator Gene Chizik coached the linebackers last season but will move to the secondary this year, replacing the departed Danny Crossman, who left for Georgia Tech.

D'Ottavio, 36, has known Chizik for years. Both coached at Middle Tennessee State but never together. Yet, they have stayed in contact through the years.

"He's a very strong guy," Kruczek said of D'Ottavio. "He knows how to coach, he knows how to recruit and he brings a lot to the table knowledge-wise about scheme. His terminology and Gene's are very similar because of having constant dialogue together the last six years.

D'Ottavio leaves a defensive coordinator's job at Division II Millersville (Pa.) University where he made tremendous strides in his two seasons, helping the team finish 15-5. He also coached at Pittsburgh and Indiana University at Pennsylvania.

"I'm very happy with him," Kruczek said. "He's very dedicated from all the information I got from coaches recommending him, people who I respect. This guy fits (the staff's) temperament and personality. It seems like he wants to be a part of something that is growing very quickly. I think he'll stick around a while. I know he's going to work out."

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UCF surges into TAAC Tournament

Tony Mejia
SPORTS EDITOR

UCF's buses were the last thing on the minds of TAAC coaches and players. For UCF Coach Kirk Speraw, he doesn't even want to think about the Golden Knights' opening round opponent, Troy State. The Knights, seeded seventh, staved off elimination on the final day of the regular season. Despite a 107-82 loss to UCF in its only game against them this year, Troy State is a team that concerns Speraw. It's a matchup I fear," Speraw said. "I don't think it's a great matchup for us because of the quickness of their guards. It strengthens our kind of our weaknesses." Troy State, led by 6-foot-3 swingman Joey Raines and Eugene Christopher, is the highest-scoring team in the TAAC. On the flip-side, the Trojans give up more points than they score, meaning they'll try to go up-tempo against the Knights. That failed miserably in their first meeting, a 25-point loss, but things could change because of the environment this time around. A tournament setting sometimes makes a big difference.

"It's a very dangerous game. If you come in tense and tight, you're at a huge disadvantage in the post-season. Sometimes makes a big difference. Depth will also play a part in a tournament setting. With three contests in less than 72 hours, teams with the most quality parts tend to go farther. UCF's injury problems may end up being a blessing in disguise, as Golden Knights had to step up at key times during the season. Meanwhile, Troy State has eight active players on its roster, having lost players to disciplinary actions and one player being home-sick. In addition, on Dec. 23, forward Nick Cherry died in a tragic two-car auto accident. Don Mueser's team has achieved the opportunity to shine in the spotlight.

Not to mention, prepare to test Golden Knights this week, the Knights have won seven straight games and face Troy State, seeded seventh, staved off elimination on the final day of the regular season. Despite a 107-82 loss to UCF in its only game against them this year, Troy State is a team that concerns Speraw. It's a matchup I fear," Speraw said. "I don't think it's a great matchup for us because of the quickness of their guards. It strengthens our kind of our weaknesses." Troy State, led by 6-foot-3 swingman Joey Raines and Eugene Christopher, is the highest-scoring team in the TAAC. On the flip-side, the Trojans give up more points than they score, meaning they'll try to go up-tempo against the Knights. That failed miserably in their first meeting, a 25-point loss, but things could change because of the environment this time around. A tournament setting sometimes makes a big difference.

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Non-conference battle to test Golden Knights

Travis Bell
STAFF WRITER

UCF's baseball team has played 12 games this season, including one against Rice, currently Baseball Weekly's No. 2 ranked team in the nation. They have also faced NCAA Regional participants South Alabama and Nicholls State.

But the Knights face arguably biggest game in school history, despite playing schools like Florida, Florida State, and Miami. UCF travels to Louisiana State this weekend for a two-game series in Baton Rouge.

This will be a real challenge for us," Coach Jay Bergman said. "It will get us ready to play on the road against an NCAA College World Series-type team. It will be a hostile environment." LSU has competed in seven College World Series this decade. The seventh appearance came last year and ended in consecutive losses against eventual champion Southern California. The Tigers defeated USC 12-10 in the first game of the series, and then defeated Mississippi State 10-8. But USC beat LSU 5-4 and 7-3 to eliminate the Tigers.

However, LSU is favored to defend their SEC West Division title and win their fourth straight crown this year. The Tigers finished last season 48-19 overall and 21-8 in the SEC. They are looking for their 13th conference championship and eighth in the 1990's. The chance of the Tigers continuing their dominance relies heavily on their pitching staff. They only have nine wins returning from last season. Sophomore Kurt Ainsworth (0-4, 4.50 ERA) threw only eight innings but struck out 14 last year. His junior-college transfer Trey Hodges will be the anchors of the depleted rotation.

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