UCF club joins medical marijuana debate

TODD MCF Li KER, STAFF WRITER

Last month, UCF’s Pi Sigma Alpha, a national political science honor society, hosted speakers to discuss both sides of the debate over the legalization of marijuana for medical purposes in the state.

“As a political science honor society, we want to bring information on current political topics to the students at UCF,” said Pi Sigma Alpha President Rod Skinner. “If the Coalition Advocating Medical Marijuana succeeds in getting medical marijuana on the year 2000 ballot, these same UCF students will be asked to vote on this issue. We just want our voters to be properly informed.”

Marijuana has been declared an illegal drug in the United States since 1914. Today, however, there are over 40 million Americans who are occasional users. Some of these users are suffering from cancer, AIDS, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and even athlete’s foot. Users say that marijuana has tremendous medical value.

“Marijuana has been declared illegal all over the country, but this doesn’t mean it’s not beneficial to people,” said Janet Hawkins, a speaker from the Libertarian Party. “Our goal is merely to protect the tens of thousands of medical marijuana users.”

Scientists are currently studying whether marijuana’s THC or related chemicals called “cannabinoids” may have medical uses. Some claim that marijuana’s chemicals could be beneficial for treating severe pain.

Experts from around the globe claim that marijuana’s potential for therapeutic purposes is in five areas; analgesia, glaucoma, neurological disorders, appetite stimulation in patients suffering from diseases or ailments, and for the nausea associated with chemotherapy for cancer.

Marijuana as therapy may also be considered for treating nocturnal spasms for people suffering from multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injuries, some forms of dystonia, and for treating people with neuropathic pain.

“Some Americans view medical marijuana as total legalization,” said Nick Ruica, a forensic scientist. “But that’s a different issue. Medical marijuana is one of the safest ways to relieve patients from suffering.”

Marijuana comes from the hemp plant and contains more than 400 chemicals, some of which are harmful to one’s health. It is not exactly clear how the drug’s THC.

Program assistant works to give back to students

TAYLOR SIKES, ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

When Michele Badie, 23, finished her undergraduate studies at UCF in August 1998, she decided she wanted to stay and give something back, so she became a program assistant for the African-American Studies Program.

Badie said her time at UCF was special because teachers invested time in her and were always available to help her with any problems she had. Some of these teachers include Mary McKinney, Kathy King, and the faculty she encountered in her public administration major.

“They have always been willing to stop and express concern for me,” she said. “I have never felt that someone was waiting for me to fail. The faculty and staff at UCF really supported me. Even though I am an Orlando native, I still needed support.”

College is a decision-making and life-changing time, Badie said.

“I think the college period is the time to find out who you are,” she said. “You have to find out who you are. You have to find out what you are living your life for.”

Badie said she enjoys working in the 2-year-old African-American Studies Program because she likes seeing students get excited about their studies. She also said she agrees strongly with the ideas of the program’s chair, Dr. Gladstone Yearwood.

“I believe in Dr. Yearwood’s vision,” Badie said. “He wants to make students more aware of the program. It is nice to see a part of it and make some changes. I can break down barriers, that won’t be there in the future.”

Badie said she wants to go to graduate school at UCF for her master’s degree in public administration. She said she eventually wants to be a mentor to high school students because she believes they can relate to the confusing times associated with high school. Working with students would be another way she could give back, Badie said.

“A lot of people when I was in high school at that confusing time of life, really supported me,” she said. “I want to give back.”

Badie said her mother, a teacher, has been her encouragement in life and her model.

“She is my inspiration and the joy in my world,” she said. “She loves her job and finds joy in every day.”

“SHE TAUGHT me that you should live to love, and love to serve the day.”

TEN, Page 7

 Clubs to SGA: show us our activity money

SHELLEY WILSON, STAFF WRITER

For months, the UCF clubs and organizations that needed funding have been told that the Senate is out of money. They were also told that when the addendum budget was approved, money would become available for them. The addendum budget has been signed by state officials and passed by the Senate, but some clubs and organizations still have not received any money, and they want to know why.

“We came to an Organizations, Appropriations and Finance (OAF) meeting about 4 weeks ago,” said Teresa Roberto, an officer of the Potters Guild.

“We had a proposal for $1,500 to bring in an artist here for 3 full days of workshop, lecture and trade information. We told them we had the $1,500 to bring her here, but if we use that money, the organization would not have enough money for supplies. The OAF stated the bill looked fantastic. The problem was that they had no money, but they were going to receive an addendum budget and we would be first in line (for money). It was stated that all the government had was money for supplies up to $150. We made a request for the office supplies. The authorization for the supplies was given 3 weeks ago, but somehow Student Government knows nothing about it now.”

The Potters Guild is not alone in waiting for funding. More than 10 clubs and organizations are waiting for their funding.

Student Spotlight

Our question of the week (pg 5) is also featured online at ucfuture.com

NEW! Online

Students and faculty at UCF must now pay to use the internet on campus. This has caused controversy on campus. The $1 per day has already caused some students to get angry over the cost, especially those who use the internet all the time. This has led to protests by some students, who believe the fee is too much.

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Women's basketball team gains berth in NCAA Tournament - See Sports

Destination diversity

Commissions set up to make recommendations for campus changes.

—I Fought the law

Underage student arrested after running from police.

—I Fought the law

Underage student arrested after running from police.

—I Fought the law

Underage student arrested after running from police.

—I Fought the law

Underage student arrested after running from police.

—I Fought the law

Underage student arrested after running from police.
Student arrested after running from police

TAYLOR SIKES
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

David Chancey King, a 20-year-old UCF student, was arrested and charged with obstructing justice and possession of marijuana after running from officer Joseph Ingerham.

Ingerham saw King and a friend standing in front of Seminole Hall with a plastic cup in his hand. According to police reports, King tried to hide the cup by his bag of marijuana in his right left pocket.

Police found a bag of marijuana in King's hand. According to police reports, King approached Ingerham, he ran inside the building and up the stairs. Ingerham ordered him to stop and then followed him to the second floor.

There, King was arrested because he ran from police and discarded the cup Ingerham wanted to check. Police found a bag of marijuana in his right left pocket after searching him. The bag tested positive for possession of marijuana under 20 grams.

IN OTHER POLICE REPORTS:  
• Police arrested Erick J. Peyton on Jan. 30 and charged him with driving under the influence and driving with a suspended license. According to police reports, Cpl. Hugh Carpenter witnessed Peyton pulling into a UCF parking lot and when parking, pulled in too far forward and collided with a concrete ground parking space barrier.

Carpenter arrived on the scene and when he approached Peyton, smelled alcohol on him. He then checked his license which came back as suspended for failing to pay fines.

Officer Jeannette Ennett, also on patrol with Carpenter, conducted a field sobriety test on Peyton and placed Peyton under arrest for D.U.I. after he failed it. A search of Peyton's car turned up a 1.5 liter bottle of vodka.

During Peyton's transport to the D.U.I. center, he stated that he had not been drinking and that he smelled like a brewery because he had recently been at a bowling alley. While at the alley he said a girl threw a rock at him and he carried her to the bathroom. He said he failed the tests because he was nervous and that they were not fair. He also said he had been sick earlier in the week and had taken medication earlier in the day.

Peyton's breath tests showed a .00 alcohol level. He subsequently submitted urine samples for further testing.

On Feb. 15, officer Allan Darcey was dispatched to the on-campus residence of Yonatan Mintz concerning obscene and harassing phone calls. According to police reports, Mintz returned home from a concert around 1 a.m. and four messages, amounting to about 20 minutes, had been left on his answering machine. The messages contained derogatory and ethnic slurs toward him, his ethnicity and his girlfriend.

The victim was unable to give any leads toward who might have made the calls. Police said the voice sounded like a white male, approximately 21-25 years old, with a "New York-type accent" talking through a cellular phone. Mintz is willing to press charges.

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Interview Location: Career Resource Center

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
Commissions to study the status of UCF women, minorities

NICOLE KING
NEWS EDITOR

Members of UCF’s President’s Commission on Status of Women and the President’s Commission on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities are asking for input from students, faculty and staff to be part of its two-year study. The commissions were established by President John Hitt last year and are comprised of members of the faculty and staff as well as students. The commission on racial and ethnic minorities has 18 members; the commission on women has 16.

Debbie Reinhart, associate dean of the College of Engineering, is leading the women’s status commission. Reinhart said three graduate students will collect data until June on various issues at UCF, from the average SAT scores of undergraduate applicants to the distribution of UCF employees by gender and race. The commissions’ recommendations are due to President Hitt by April 2000.

The commissions will use data collected from surveys and forums with students and faculty. The forums will be like focus groups, offering participants an opportunity to share their opinions about issues on campus. Data will also be collected from visits and phone calls to other institutions.

Rebekah McCloud of UCF’s Minority Programs in Education, is a member of the commission on race. McCloud said some of the areas the commission will focus on are recruitment and retention, faculty representation, salary equity and the minority presence on campus.

McCloud said she hopes the commission will further diversify UCF. “My personal objective is to help make UCF a model campus that is truly inclusive and diverse.”

Dr. Maria Blanes, of the Exceptional and Physical Education Program, is also on the race commission. Blanes said the commission’s ultimate goal is to provide recommendations that, if implemented, will ensure equal participation, appropriate support and recognition of contributions of minority faculty, students and staff.

“As a minority faculty, I am concerned about the dramatically low representation of women and minorities among our faculty,” Blanes said. “A campus that is becoming so diverse in the student population needs role models to represent and mentor them. I hope that our work will enhance the richness and value of human diversity at this university.”

Dr. Jose Fernandez, interim associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said he is personally interested in the race commission’s findings on the retention and recruitment of minority students and faculty. As head of the commission, Fernandez said he is also interested in studying the opportunities for advancement for minority staff members. “I believe that the commission is going to make very positive recommendations that will be good for all,” Fernandez said.

As one of two student members on the women’s commission, Carmen Shrum said she would like to see the commission’s work improve services and forms of safety and sensitivity for women at UCF. “This committee’s issues and concerns cover a wide range of subjects,” Shrum said. “Sexual harassment is one. We’re looking for an umbrella policy that will cover everyone on campus from faculty to students to staff.”

Shrum said the commission will also be working to discover the perceptions of gender and expectations by enhancing UCF’s awareness of gender issues and the inclusiveness through education, outreach and training.

Harmony Gillett, the other student member on the women’s commission, said her focus of being on the commission is to increase the awareness and improve gender issues in the classroom and throughout the campus. “Gender issues are often overlooked or not recognized by most people,” she said. “I would like to see a campus-wide awareness of the difference between men and women, especially in the learning environment.”

Dr. Richard Tucker, also of the women’s commission, said that despite the diversity present at the university, concerns have been raised about barriers against full opportunities at UCF. “If inequities are found,” Tucker said, “it is the purpose of the commission to provide constructive recommendations to address those concerns.”

Reinhart said the commissions are seeking input from all who are associated with UCF. “We’re a very small group of people,” she said, “so we need other ideas and help with these issues.

“From a faculty standpoint, this is an opportunity to learn more about ourselves.”

The commission on the status of women will hold a focus group from noon-1:30 p.m. on March 22 in the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning in the Health and Physics Building. For more information, contact Debbie Reinhart at reinhart@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu.

I would like to see a campus-wide awareness of the difference between men and women, especially in the learning environment.

—Commission member Harmony Gillett

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Doctoral student to present paper at Scotland convention

Maria Chandler

A UCF graduate student will be present her paper at the 16th International Conference on Technology and Education held in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh.

Maria Lorna A. Kunnath, doctoral candidate in instructional technology in the college of education, will present her paper, titled "Computer Users and the Need for Multimedia Interface Design."

The conference runs March 29 through 31. Kunnath will be joined by other technology-using educators from around the world and how the interface will have several attributes that the user will be tested on while using it. The attributes include the interface's learnability, flexibility, usefulness, intuitiveness and likability.

Kunnath defines users as concrete learners (those basing judgment on experience) as opposed to those who are abstract learners (more logical people who use a rational approach when problem solving), and expert to novices, and field independent (individuals relying on intrinsic motivations), and field dependent (those who rely on external environments).

By using a survey instrument, she was able to classify learning styles inventory for concrete and abstract adult learners. She classified adults as novices or experts by the Windows Computer Experience Questionnaire. She said learners are defined by how they react to problem-solving situations, such as in a computer-learning environment.

Kunnath said she is honored to have been recognized for her work. "I feel honored having my paper accepted and I wish to share the honor with the University of Central Florida, whose library facilities have made it possible for me to delve through this topic end­lessly."

Better late than never

Vicki DeSormier

Sally Herndon said she has always been late. The 43-year-old mother of five said she isn't an older student, she's just getting a late start.

"I always meant to finish school," she said. "I just got distracted and I never quite got here. Now that I'm here, I think I can finish in a reasonable amount of time. I was just a little late."

"No more domestic engineer for me," she said. "I was going to be a college student now that we were here in Florida."

She said her oldest son teases her a little more. "I think older people make better students," she said. "There are quite a few of us older students here at UCF, and I think almost all of us are a lot more serious about our studies than those kids who are out here on 'mom and dad's credit card.'"

Herndon said she sees a lot of the younger students skipping classes or ignoring assignments; things she would never consider doing because she knows she will never get another chance at college. She admits though that she probably would have been just like her younger classmates at their age.

She said she has never pressured her children to enroll in college, but she the three who have finished high school have begun their post-secondary education. Two are enrolled in junior colleges in Massachusetts and the other goes to a four-year school in Vermont.

"They take school seriously enough," she said. "But I'm the best student out of all of us."

Herndon said she has chosen to major in business because there are more opportunities with such a degree.

"I can go to work for a big company or start a business of my own. With a degree in business, I think I can write my own ticket.

She said she believes it will take her about five years to finish her degree because she is "not quite full time," but she is not in a hurry. After all, she said, she's always been late for everything.
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Q: What do you like about UCF?

A:

"The location is great, the students are friendly and it has one of the best Greek systems in the state."
—Amy White, 21, senior, English literature

"The open atmosphere. Everybody is easy to talk to and willing to listen."
—Matt Crawford, 19, freshman, business management

"My professors and the people here are very friendly."
—Julie Sego, 24, graduate student, accounting

"I like the fact that the university promised to preserve some of the wonderful nature on campus."
—Mike Scismhorn, 22, senior, computer science

"I like the fact that UCF is very culturally diverse. In addition, UCF has a close relationship with the local technical industry."
—Ken Ethos, 22, senior, mechanical engineering

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Studies have shown marijuana’s effects can relieve cancer pain

Effects are produced in the body, but radioactive tracing has proved that THC binds to the receptors in the brain that recognize it. Although usually smoked in a cigarette, pipe, or water pipe (bong), marijuana can also be eaten.

Once taken, THC is then quickly absorbed into the bloodstream and is rapidly distributed throughout the body. In a matter of weeks, the liver converts THC into waste products that are eliminated through urine and feces. THC manufactured into a pill can be used for treating the nausea and vomiting caused by chemotherapy. No scientific evidence has been produced that definitively proves the efficacy of marijuana in these areas.

There is currently an amendment in Florida to legalize medical marijuana with zero risk of criminal prosecution. "Legalizing marijuana for medical purposes sends the wrong message to our children," said a representative for the Drug Free America Foundation. "It tells them that smoking grass is OK because it’s medicine. Florida’s future leaders deserve better. They deserve one clear message: No legal marijuana. Nor now. Nor ever."

An admitted user said, "As an individual with chronic pain due to post-Polio Syndrome, I am well aware of the benefits offered by marijuana for pain. As a father, I deny myself that benefit because I would never want my son to become confused about what illegal drugs are OK and what illegal drugs are killers."

Medical marijuana not only dulls the physical pain, but also the mental stress of illnesses," said one UCF student. "It’s no surprise that there is a strong relationship between smoking and an individual’s increased amount of eating. A strong majority of users tend to experience the munchies, while they enjoy eating more food, more often. The ‘wacky tabacky’ is reported to enhance the sensory appeal of foods. Body weight goes up, and stays up, it is possibly due to marijuana’s fluid retention."

Marijuana seems to enhance the appetite in the evening. This is a benefit to both AIDS and cancer patients who report having their appetite only in the mornings. Increased appetite and gaining weight are psychologically helpful to patients.

"When I was 24 years old, a doctor told me that if I didn’t start smoking pot, I would go blind, and I didn’t believe him. Once a doctor instructed me to bake marijuana brownies and now it’s the only medicine that has ever worked for me," said Ebey Mussika, one of only eight patients who receives medical marijuana from the government. "The other millions who are using it are called criminals. People are desperate for medical marijuana."

Some UCF students have also found support for the idea. "I talked about all of marijuana’s uses in my persuasive speech class," said biology major Lisa Repa. "Every student was interested and gave positive feedback to ‘medicinal marijuana.”

Many Americans feel that it is unjust and unfair to make criminals out of millions of nonviolent medical marijuana users. The FDA Guideline for the Clinical Evaluation of Analgesic Drugs; printed in 1992, notes that “evidence is still inadequate to establish that any experimental pain model will consistently and accurately predict the clinical efficacy of new analgesics [and] they cannot substitute controlled trials in patients with pathological pain.” However, one cancer patient said, "I never believed the way I do about marijuana until I began taking it [for pain relief] for my brainstem tumor. It has been like a magic pill for me. I can be in agony with dizziness and nausea one minute, then 20 minutes later I will be raiding the refrigerator and smiling instead of crying.”

Epilepsy sufferers may also experience positive effects from smoking marijuana. Due to the distribution of cannabinoid receptor-bearing neurons, epilepsy treatment corresponds with marijuana’s clinical effects.

Both smoked marijuana and oral THC have also been tested in the treatment of Parkinson’s Disease and Huntington’s chorea. Neither produced positive results.

"If there’s something out there to relieve the pain and stress for the ill, why deprive them of it?” asked political science major, Kathy Diaz.

What some people don’t think of is the negative side of marijuana’s smoke. It contains some of the same cancer-causing compounds as tobacco, sometimes even in higher concentrations. Studies have shown that a person who smokes five joints a week is equal to a ‘pack a day’ cigarette smoker.

Both marijuana smoke and tobacco smoke work together to alter the tissue lining of the respiratory tract. Smoking marijuana may also effect sexual characteristics and reproductive functions, delay the onset of puberty in some children, and have an adverse affect on sperm production in men. In women, smoking can disrupt the normal monthly menstrual cycle. The discharge of eggs from the ovaries can also be altered.

An individual taking medical marijuana may experience mental clouding, thinking impairment, disconnected thoughts, disorientation, slowed speech and muscle impairment. Prolonged use leads to deficiencies of the immune system. The patient may have many of the same respiratory problems that tobacco smokers have. They suffer from daily phlegm, along with frequent chest colds.

Marijuana smoke can lead to the dysfunction of both the lungs and the airways. The smoke then continues to destroy a smoker’s lung tissue.

However, concerns regarding the long-term risks associated with smoking are less important in conditions where short-term marijuana use is being proposed for patients who are terminally ill.

"I find it bizarre that marijuana is not used with more chemotherapy patients to relieve the side effects," said Literature Professor Louise Weiner. "People used morphine to ease suffering before laws went into effect.

“Treatment decisions should be made in doctors’ offices, not government offices,” Janet Hawkins said. "How can the government have any credibility? The government tells you what to do, and the government takes your money. As a nurse, I feel that any drug-use problem should be in a doctor’s office. The government should stay out. It’s cruel for them to do what they are doing. It’s time for people to stand up and say ‘The government is wrong.’"
Ten clubs waiting for $15,000
FROM PAGE 1
waiting for more than $15,000 in funding, which Roberts said has nothing to do with the bills.
"For some reason, Student Government, notoriously over the past 3 years, has never got the handle of how to put together a correct budget," she said. "This year they spent money assuming that they would get an addendum budget, but you wouldn't just assume something like that and then spend money in the real world."
Some clubs, such as the Pre-Professional Medical Society, have had to pay their own way instead of receiving help due to the lack of funds.
"In November, we submitted a request for funds for a CPR Certification class to be offered," Gordon Olde, Jr. said. "The bill was approved, but there was a wait for the addendum budget. The club ended up paying for the class because every time I've checked on the funds, the response was 'We're working on it.'"
"I don't expect to get the money back because it's not a big surprise the budget's not there."
According to Student Body President Jason Murphy, the funds not being allowed to go to clubs was a decision made by officials in Tallahassee.
"The state made a mandate by memo that the funds be used the way it was allocated, so there is no funds for them," he said.
A memo sent with the budget only supported the completion of projects listed on the budget.
Does that mean that some funds can be used for clubs and organizations?
OAF Chair David Siegel said that the position of clubs and organizations has not changed.
"There is no money in any of the Senate accounts," he said. "We can look at flexibility out of the original budget, but the state's position is that the money for the addendum budget is to be spent the way it was allocated. The next guaranteed funding for clubs and organizations is January 3 on the annual budget.
Mary Lynn Cossler, advisor for Phi Beta Lambda, said July 1 is too far off for the clubs and organizations that need the money for scheduled events before then.
"If you don't think about the fact that the clubs and organizations would need the money later and give all of the money away in the beginning, then some clubs will not get funded later," she said.
Cossler said communication and feedback of the budget's position of when, and even if, clubs will receive money is the key element that is missing.
"Our request was received in late January by Student Government and while it was said that the government had no money, the contact person, given to me was the student body president," she said. "I wrote him a letter explaining our situation and left messages for him to call me back. There have been no responses back. I understand busy schedules, but the addendum budget does not directly affect students and there is no explanation of why those requests were made to begin with."
Murphy said that his office was making regular contact with Tallahassee about the budget.
"This occurrence is nothing new between clubs on campus and Student Government according to Teresa Roberts."
"Two years ago, the (Peten's) Guild had over a year long battle with the government to receive money," she said. "The reason then was if we received $10,000, then everyone else was going to ask for $10,000. If they had looked at the percentages of money given to the arts as opposed to business and engineering, then they would have realized that less than 1 percent of money over the last 10 years has gone to funding for any of the arts programs here on campus.
"It's very frustrating when we as a student organization come to the Student Government very prepared and have it all laid out for them and run into a brick wall every time."

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Panhellenic and IFC to vote on Homecoming changes
KELLY BRYANT
STAFF WRITER

Panhellenic and the Interfraternity Council (IFC) are currently voting on proposals to change the Homecoming traditions within UCF's Greek community.
In past spring semesters, it has been customary for fraternities to saturate the sorority that they would most like to be paired with for the following year's Homecoming events. While this tradition has become a highly anticipated one in Greek Park, it has also evoked some competitiveness among organizations. A committee has formed that would like to eliminate these conflicts by changing the way fraternities and sororities pair off.

The proposed solution is to have each organization rank their choices for Homecoming partners on a sanction sheet and have the teams electronically paired. This system has proven successful at other universities and will be voted on at upcoming Panhellenic and IFC meetings.

IN OTHER NEWS FROM GREEK ROW:

The Greek Leadership Conference is accepting applications for chair positions to help plan their fall conference.
Volunteers are needed to coordinate speakers and events.

(GAMMA (Greens Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol) will be holding a Safe Sex Workshop to educate chapters on the facts and myths behind contraceptives and intercourse. The group is also looking for an Eating Disorders chair to assist them with investigating and teaching others about the dangers of this subject.

Greek Week teams helped to beautify Orlando on Feb. 28 when they worked together to clean up areas surrounding Orange Blossom Trail. Teams were credited with spirit and service points for contributing to the clean up, and managed to fill two dumpsters with litter.
James Combs
STAFF WRITER

I have always been a person who makes very quick decisions in life without exploring other options. It didn't take me long to choose my first vehicle—I picked the first one that I thought looked cool. I chose major in journalism because I got an article printed in my community college newspaper. After seeing my byline, there was no way I would major in political science. Why I am attending UCF? That's simple. UCF was the first college that accepted me into its journalism school.

Fortunately, I am very pleased with my vehicle, my major, and the university I attend. However, not all of my quick decisions have turned out to be so rosy.

In the summer of 1997, I received a brochure from Collegiate Village Inn. The content of that brochure instantly caught my eye. There was a picture of a chef serving a delicious-looking meal. The brochure further explained that I could get an unlimited meal plan that included hot dogs, cheeseburgers, and ice cream in every meal. This sounded like it could rival any fast-food restaurant. Not only do I love to eat, but also, I wouldn't have to cook.

The brochure also showed a beautiful woman in a bathing suit sitting next to a huge swimming pool. OK, I was sold at that point. Who cares what other residential places have to offer? This was the place for me. Or was it?

Before moving in, I filled out a roommate questionnaire that was supposed to match me with a person who shared some of the same interests. After a week of living there, I realized that my roommate and I had about as much in common as Howard Stern and Richard Simmons. He liked rap music, but I prefer classic rock and country. I stay up late to study, whereas he couldn't smoke because he specifically asked us that on the questionnaire. He absolutely loathed cigarette smoke, so I had no choice but to smoke outside.

The biggest problem, however, was that neither of us had enough space to ourselves. Not only do I love to eat, but I also have my own telephone line. No longer do I have to endure eating food that I don't like. I buy and cook my own food. Moreover, we have four bedrooms, a kitchen, a living room, and three bathrooms. Quite a difference from the rat hole I lived in last year. And let's not forget that we have a dorm-like atmosphere.

I would recommend that all college students living away from home to experience what living in a dorm-like atmosphere wasn't the thing for me. After 21 years of having my own bedroom to fall back on when I needed some peace and quiet or rest and relaxation, sharing a pint-sized room with someone who was totally different than me just didn’t cut it.

To add insult to injury, the food, which looked so tasty in the brochure, often wanted to make me puke. Pardon me if I can't get too excited about eating ham with pineapple on top of it.

This year I'm much happier. I am living in an apartment and cannot begin to describe how much better the living conditions are here. No longer do I have to make an occasional trip to the library to study in peace. I can do that in my bedroom. No longer do I have to wait for my roommate to get out of the bathroom. I have my own bathroom. No longer do I have to endure my feet hanging over the end of the bed. I have my own bed. No longer do I have to wait for my roommate to get off the Internet before I can use it. I have my own telephone line. No longer do I have to endure eating food that I don’t like. I buy and cook my own food.

Moreover, we have four bedrooms, a kitchen, a living room, and three bathrooms. Quite a difference from the rat hole I lived in last year. And let’s not forget that we have a full-sized refrigerator. You could barely fit anything into my old refrigerator.

I would recommend that all college students living away from home to experience what living in an apartment or townhouse is like. Believe me folks, it’s much better than living in a dorm-like atmosphere.

JAMES COMBS
STAFF WRITER
If you're one of the 99.9% of all college students who could use a little extra spending money during Spring Break, stop by T.J. Maxx before you go. We have everything you need from swimsuits to sandals, sunglasses to beach towels. All at incredible savings. That's it, class dismissed.
The Cerulean Group consists of (from left): Julia Granacki, Jennifer McCrae, Jason Moyer, Abigail Paul, Laura Oliver, and Melissa Perry (not pictured).

The Cerulean Group is the first product of The Cerulean Group, Moyer, 22, and Jennifer McCrae, 26 chant "beautifully written and preached by Moyer and McCrae, the show is a slam-(no pun intended). exposed and even a little angry that carries the show from one quite possibly the smallest space around.

Last weekend 7th Chakra was exposed at Performance Space Orlando, quite possibly the smallest space around. Beautifully written and presented by Moyer and McCrae, the show is a slam-styled wake-up call to the coming 21st century. Drugs, self-image, greed, Buddhism, counts of controversial themes, and even a little S&M are thrown into the mix without any beating around the bush (no pun intended).

The delivery is fueled by intense passion and anger that carries the show from one emotional peak to another. Both performers spewed lines out at a hundred miles a minute, cramming society's biggest annoyances into short sweet statements you could wrap up and put a bow on. What results as a whole is something that you could wrap up and put a bow on.

"I was a Pentecostal and Jason was Catholic," confesses McCrae after a show when asked the source of their Eastern philosophy. "After studying many religions, and doing a little soul searching, Buddhism really stuck out, as well as other personal experiences that inspire the elaborate vocabulary of 7th Chakra.

"Our goal is to produce interesting and original theatre," says Julia Granacki, 23, member of The Cerulean Group and director of 7th Chakra.

Founded a year ago, The Cerulean Group consists of McCrae, Moyer, and Granacki, along with Abigail Paul, 22, Melissa Perry, 23, and Laura Oliver, 23. All theatre majors at UCF, they went through numerous meetings and brain-storming sessions to put everything together, including researching Orlando's blossoming theatre scene and creating their name, something Granacki will only say comes from "an affinity for the color blue. We decided blue was a happy color."

7th Chakra marks their first production and serves as a fundraiser for their coming season.

Dear Dr. Daphne,

Spring Break is approaching and I haven't made any plans yet. Any suggestions?

—In Need of Direction

Dear Lost,

It's kinda late to be making plans oh procrastinating one. There's good news. You can stay local and see Central Florida attractions or drive to the other scenes. If you stay in Florida there are the world's best beaches: Clearwater, Pt. Myers, Key West, Panama City, etc. If you head your lazy as out, I suggest you call hotels for reservations since it is season in most of Florida. If you're looking for something a little more exotic, you'll have to wait for summer to do it right. Take time to either look through the paper for deals, or call your travel agent. If you don't have one, the school does. It's in the Student Union, been there yet? Party on dude and remember to safe during the break.

Dear Dr. Daphne,

I live with my older brother because my parents thought it would be a good idea. He's getting on my nerves. He checks out all my girlfriends and gives the third degree to all the guys I bring home. How do I tell him to quit?

—Family Tied

Dear Sis,

Siblings are funny things; usually they are okay, but sometimes a pain in the ass. I sympathize over your frustration. You need to COMMUNICATE with your brother. Guys naturally look at your friends. They do that, fact of life little girl. That, you'll just have to deal with. About the guys, just how many boys are you bringing home you shut? You must discuss with your brother that his interrogation makes you uncomfortable. He's just being protective because he cares about you. You are fortunate to have that. Think about all the other students who have no one to look out for them. And if doesn't work, go to the boy toy of the week's place.

Got a problem? Nothing is too big or small for Dr. Daphne! Just e-mail her at DrDaphne@hotmail.com
Not as “cruel” as intended

B. W. EARL
STAFF WRITER

The trailers for Cruel Intentions, the latest spin on Choderlos de Laclos’ Les Liaisons Dangereuses, advertise a truly nasty, malignant ride of manipulation and double crosses. Therein lies the disappointment of trailers. If done well enough, at the service of a mediocre film, the let down is all the more substantial.

This isn’t to say that Intentions is a film that shows its few moments of mean glory in its trailers. It would be no better or worse if it was. Indeed, in the first half of the film, the bitter and cynical exchanges between stepsiblings Sebastian Valmont (Ryan Phillippe, in a surprisingly spirited performance) and Kathryn Merteuil (Sarah Michelle Gellar, who heads back to the soap operatic territory after nabbing a Daytime Emmy for her role as “Cybil,” is likewise decimated by her part, as Cecile’s overly snobby mother. Witherspoon, despite playing her part with a certain sincerity, is done in by the inconsistencies of her ill-drawn character.

The reason that Intentions gets as high a rating as it does is the wickedness of the scenes including Phillippe and Gellar, which make you say, “If the rest of the scenes were like this, this would be a pretty good film.”

The film opens with the betting man’s challenge that is quickly becoming a staple in teen films (see She’s All That for a similar circumstance). The mission: for Sebastian to bed the virgin (and proud of it) headmaster’s daughter (Reese Witherspoon). Should he lose, Kathryn wins Sebastian’s vintage Jaguar. And should he emerge victorious, Sebastian gets the one girl he “can’t” have: Kathryn. (And they’re stepsiblings. Mm-hmm. We’re getting into a weird area here.)

A thoroughly extraneous subplot involves Kathryn attempting to reclaim her ex from a new attendee, the dense-as-a-London-fog Cecile (Selma Blair). A couple of questions arise. Why the ex would decide to take it upon himself to go out with this character, who exhibits zero likable traits, is beyond me. Blair turns in one of the new year’s most annoying performances, although this has more to do with her luscious character than with her strategy in tackling it. A second questionable choice involves Cecile’s hopeful relationship with her black violin teacher (Sean Patrick Thomas). Each of the scenes that the teacher is involved in is clumsy in splaying the racial aspects of the relationship, and the actors look embarrassed in uttering the stilted dialogue given to them by writer Roger (National Lampoon’s Senior Trip) Kumble. It’s doubly shameful because Thomas is an actor who can be quite effective with the right material.

Each of the scenes that the teacher is involved in is clumsy in splaying the racial aspects of the relationship, and the actors look embarrassed in uttering the stilted dialogue given to them by writer Roger (National Lampoon’s Senior Trip) Kumble. It’s doubly shameful because Thomas is an actor who can be quite effective with the right material.

Kathryn (Sarah Michelle Gellar) and Sebastian (Ryan Phillippe) take a break from a long hard day of being rich, spoiled bony brats in the hormonal teen drama Cruel Intentions.

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Nebraska river
7 Postal Sound
11 Valise
14 Movie dilling
15 Conversation line
16 Right angle
17 Trigger
18 Holy grace
19 Agile door
20 Ring in London
21 Patricia
23 Rushing stadium
25 It of
26 Scale notes
29 Garnish钿et
32 Actress
36 McDowell
39 Clear-cutting wrench
39 Mob mole
40 Hot or Passions
41 Gentleman
42 Aircraft streaks
43 Puffy shi
46 Log joint
47 Fuller Ellis
48 Poised
49 "I shangri" lady
51 Son of Isaac
53 Adress Suzanne
55 Weep incantation
61 Hang loosely
62 On the briny
63 More expensive
64 Junkyard
65 11th president
66 Literature phase
67 Part of shrub
68 Porous weather
69 Faina aves
81 Eifel Tower
82 Motion picture
83 Two
84 Centre
90 Radio Metal
91 Refrigeration
92 Eastert and
93 Blower
94 Hamilton
95 Popping lobon
97 Valley
101 Thought of trumpets
120 Ernando Rim
24 Put up
25 Newly hitched stage
26 Thai or Korean, e.g.
27 Thai or Korean, e.g.
28 Merchant
29 Army
30 Encryption device
31 Entry level
32 Employment
33 Neighbor of Asia
34 Neighbor of China
35 Neighbor of Sudan
37 Island, NY
38 Pom
39 Thrust
40 Chamber
41 Medical
42 Disaggregate
43 Invited
44 All or none
45 Saltwater
46 deciduous
47 Wood
48 Red
49 Bitter
50 Orange
51 Decade opener
52 Decade topper
53 Thumbs down in a word
54 Decide not to
55 Deuce topper
56 Decide not to
57 Decade topper
58 America fruit
59 Last home
60 Decade topper
61 Decade topper
62 Decade topper
63 Thumbs down in a word

Check your Crossword on Page 14

SATURN

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A little stomach with your love

March 10, 1999
Central Florida Future • 12
www.UCFfuture.com

MARK JAMES
Staff Writer

Geographically speaking, Jackson, Mississippi is a long way from Central Florida. Culturally speaking, they could be in the same neighborhood, and the advice served up in The Sweet Potato Queen’s Book of Love (Three Rivers Press) is global in nature.

The Sweet Potato Queens consist of a group of "somewhat augmented female forms enveloped in green sequins, towering over men". The Queens have become fixtures in the annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Jackson where they ride in the back of a pickup truck and toss sweet potatoes to the crowds. There are eight Sweet Potato Queens who all go by the name Tammy, and a long-waiting list of Sweet Potato wagon drivers.

The author, Jill Conner Browne, is the "founder and a self-proclaimed fallen southern belle. Having spent her life in and around Jackson, her insights are those that could only be gained from first hand experience. With chapter titles such as "The True Magic Words Guaranteed to Get Any Man to do Your Bidding," "Men Who May Need Killing, Quite Frankly," and "What to Eat When Tragedy Strikes, or Just for Entertainment," it is at times a "how-to" manual, a "conduct" book, and a cookbook with tongue planted firmly in cheek.

Browne writes in a southern style of storytelling and culture where women "could be marse(s) or teacher(s), but only if you had to work because your husband turned out to be a worthless piece of shit, but even if he did, he was still your husband for life, the King of you, and you were damned lucky to have him." She covers the expanse of southern idiosyncrasies from a woman’s place to food to sex and back again, and does so in purely back fence gossip jive e-spot.

The Sweet Potato Queen’s Book of Love is not serious literature, but it is a keeper, a book to keep by the bed for some light reading before turning in, or keep in the living room for a rainy weekend, or keep in the kitchen if you’re overcome with a desire for something sweet. It won’t make the top one hundred book list, but it is infinitely more enjoyable to read than most that would.

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GEOGRAPHICALLY SPEAKING, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI IS A LONG WAY FROM CENTRAL FLORIDA. CULTURALLY SPEAKING, THEY COULD BE IN THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD, AND THE ADVICE SERVED UP IN THE SWEET POTATO QUEEN’S BOOK OF LOVE (THREE RIVERS PRESS) IS GLOBAL IN NATURE. THE SWEET POTATO QUEENS CONSIST OF A GROUP OF "SOMewhat AUGMENTED FEMALE FORMS ENVELOPED IN GREEN SEQUINS, TOWERING RED HAIRYs, PROVOCATIVE DANCES, AND THE LAUNTING REFRAIN OF "TINY BUBBLES," AS ONLY DON HO COULD ... DELIVER IT." THEY BALL FROM SMALL TOWNS AROUND JACkSON WHERE "GRAVELED ROADS ... ARE CONSIDERED TO BE NEWFANGLED IDEAS. AS ARE TEETH." THE QUEENS HAVE BECOME FIXTURES IN THE ANNUAL ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE IN JACKSON WHERE THEY RIDE IN THE BACK OF A PICKUP TRUCK AND Toss SWEET POTATOES TO THE CROWDS. THERE ARE EIGHT SWEET POTATO QUEENS WHO ALL GO BY THE NAME TAMMY, AND A LONG-WAITING LIST OF SWEET POTATO WAGON DRIVERS.

THE AUTHOR, JILL CONNER BROWNE, IS THE "FOUNDER AND A SELF-PROCLAIMED FALLEN SOUTHERN BELLE. HAVING SPENT HER LIFE IN AND AROUND JACKSON, HER INSIGHTS ARE THOS THAT COULD ONLY BE GAINED FROM FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE. WITH CHAPTER TITLES SUCH AS "THE TRUE MAGIC WORDS GUARANTEED TO GET ANY MAN TO DO YOUR BIDDING," "MEN WHO MAY NEED KILLING, QUITE FRANKLY," AND "WHAT TO EAT WHEN TRAGEDY STRIKES, OR JUST FOR ENTERTAINMENT," IT IS AT TIMES A "HOW-TO" MANUAL, A "CONDUCT" BOOK, AND A COOKBOOK WITH TONGUE PLANTED FIRMLY IN CHEEK.

BROWNE WRITES IN A SOUTHERN STYLE OF STORYTELLING AND CULTURE WHERE WOMEN "COULD BE MARSE(S) OR TEACHER(S), BUT ONLY IF YOU HAD TO WORK BECAUSE YOUR HUSBAND TURNED OUT TO BE A WORTHLESS PIECE OF SHIT, BUT EVEN IF HE DID, HE WAS STILL YOUR HUSBAND FOR LIFE, THE KING OF YOU, AND YOU WERE DAMNED LUCKY TO HAVE HIM." SHE COVERS THE EXPANSE OF SOUTHERN IDIOSYCRASIES FROM A WOMAN’S PLACE TO FOOD TO SEX AND BACK AGAIN, AND DOES SO IN PURELY BACK FENCE Gossip JIVE ESPOT.

THE SWEET POTATO QUEEN’S BOOK OF LOVE IS NOT SERIOUS LITERATURE, BUT IT IS A KEEPER, A BOOK TO KEEP BY THE BED FOR SOME LIGHT READING BEFORE TURNING IN, OR KEEP IN THE LIVING ROOM FOR A RAINY WEEKEND, OR KEEP IN THE KITCHEN IF YOU’RE OVERCOME WITH A DESIRE FOR SOMETHING SWEET. IT WON’T MAKE THE TOP ONE HUNDRED BOOK LIST, BUT IT IS INFINITELY MORE ENJOYABLE TO READ THAN MOST THAT WOULD.

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March 10, 1999
Central Florida Future • 13
www.ucffuture.com

LISTEN UP!

Old School vs. New School
Various Artists
(Jive Electro) www.jiverecords.com

Jive, the house label of A Tribe Called Quest, Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince for those with cultural amnesia: Will Smith). Boogie Down Productions, R. Kelly, Kool Moe Dee, has always been on the coat tails of unequivocal creative as well as commercial breakthrough success. They've always found themselves spinning on the second deck, the minor fading, forever fleetinging in and out of public view. Now with the A.T.C.Q. calling it quits, Jive has decided its time to historicize their modest accomplishments. It seems this moment in Hip Hop is ripe for a resurgence of its "Old School" creative high points. The flavor of the moment, which looks more and more like the hypostatized Dnce movement, is House. The most prominent DJs and producers of the international scene are enlisted here to re-mix Jive's quiet feats. The results are surprisingly mixed—whether the most memorable coming from the tracks least familiar to their roots. One track, "In The Mix" boneless sizzles over A.T.C.Q.'s "Nice Once." The Bassbin Twins literally scan the career of KRS-One's philosophical platform B.D.P. in "Crate Burnin'" Grooverider takes on the lone Jive artist included here who was never Hip Hop—even in the most creative sense of the word, the Stone Roses—to transform the dream poppers "Fools Gold" into a dance floor conflagration the laid eared boys probably never dreamed of. And Rabbit In The Moon take the same original and turn the Manchester Acid House sound into the transiently, but familiar, Tampa-Manchester Acid house. Memory residue may vary but the "New School" Remixes by Norman Cook, Pimp Juice and Doc Martin of A.T.C.Q (who is, perhaps, over-represented with 5 of 14 tracks) far diminish the factor of one of the most witty and stylistic groups "The Old School" has yet to produce.

—Marcel Spinadel

Message In A Bottle
Soundtrack: Various Artists (Atlantic)

First off, if Liloquist Fair was ever this CD would incorporate the lineup of artists. The sappy love songs and tear jerking ballads that make up the soundtrack cause just the emotional whirlwind descriptively characteristic of the artists associated with the event. The high priestess of Lilo is even present with her raspy single, "I Love You". The movie has been called "a great date movie" and a lot of it must lend itself to the collection of songs included in the soundtrack. Romantics everywhere need to add this album to their collection. Edwin McCain's contribution is surprisingly not his single "I'll Be", one of the biggest wedding songs of the past year, but a new song off the same album called "I Could Not Ask For More", which, though a great song, have vocals that sound strangely like Hootie and Blowfish headman Darius Rucker at parts. But nonetheless it is not, and Rucker did make the cut and the groups single "Only Lonely" is also included. Faith Hill single "Let Me Let Go", off her new album "Faith" was an excellent choice of song to add color to the plot and the struggle of Costner's character, but for those of you who are waiting for it to hit Blockbuster, Faith Hill is an amazing female country artist and is rightfully getting the attention she deserves from her latest album by having her song included on the soundtrack. Grammy winner Sheryl Crow is also featured, however, not with her most notable hit. Her song "Carolina" has a lounge singer air about it, well performed but not well received. Another displaced song would be Marc Cohn's blues guitar ballad "Fallen Angels." Other songs on the album are: Sinead Lohan's "No Mermaid", Clannad's "What Will I Do", Don't" by Vee.N.Adam, and "Somewhere in the Middle" performed by Nine Sky Wonder.

—Andrea Keegan

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The Orlando Sentinel

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Prince Paul
Prince Among Thieves
(Tommy Boy) www.tommyboy.com

Prince Paul's second album is a lot like a Rock Opera, but only just so. Whereas The Who's Tommy (arguably, the most recognized of the contemporary "Operatics") is a romantic tale, Prince Among Thieves is more an amalgam of porn par-
tiche and insinuated love themes. In other words, Paul's second album in more than 3 years is a the-
tre of the absurd: hip hop gone flaky John Waters camp, gangsta stupidity acted out like a Troop of Wayans insulat a kind of tragi-comedy if you will. Spread over 35 brief tracks, Prince Among Thieves yanks up a bloated Hip-Hop urbanscape, satirizes the mockery of gangsta cinematics, and even manages to squeeze in a few radio-friendly "Jamz." With Biz Markie, Chris Rock, Rza, De La Soul, Everlast, Kool Keith et al... the pals of Prince of Paul along for the ride of voices, jokes, micro-
phone splatters, even a few mucous heavy tears are somehow pastiched into a semblance of continuity. Prince Among Thieves is a tale of two young men, Larry and True, heavily borrowing equal measures from the existential grief of Boyz in the Hood and the ghetto circus Don't Be a Menace... as they ren-
devour through the Black Cinema of the 90's. Paul's sound world mirrors, rather imaginatively, the visceral theatre experience. Quite a feat, but not outside of Paul's ambitions, as his altruistic liner notes say: "I made this album to encourage art, cre-
ativity, and sincerity, which is now at an all time low." Which truly makes Paul a Prince among (excuse me...) Puffed Thieves.

—Marcel Spinadel
Lead Stories

* A French study, appearing as a February Archives of Internal Medicine article, reported that one of every nine persons admitted to intensive-care units is there because of illnesses caused else-where (including infections or inappropriate drugs or excessive doses). Also in February, Claudia Archer, 52, settled her malprac­tice lawsuit against Walter Reed Army Medical Center for $4.5 million. Archer entered the hospital to have a benign tumor removed from her neck, but over the next four months, allegedly because of errors and infections, both her legs had to be amputated below the knees and tubes inserted in her body to help her eat and breathe.

* In January, North Dakota legislators decided against a proposal to crack down on impatient motorists who relieve themselves while driving and then toss their urine- (and even feces-) filled plastic containers to the side of the road. The containers create hazards when cleanup crews accident­ally smash them with vehicles and now, says Rep. John Mahoney, "We want to promote tourism, and (such a new law) might be offensive."

* Installation of the first escalators ever in November Shopping mall in Managua in December, has terrorized many shoppers who have encountered them, according to a February Miami Herald report. Among the incidents: A frightened middle-aged woman who, fearing her departure at middle of the escalator, lost her balance, and staggered through the food court, knocking over tables and landing against a wall.

Koreans Who Really Want Money

In December, Chung Kyu-chil, 22, reportedly confessed in a scheme to collect on his disability insurance policy by having both feet severed at the ankles by an acquaintance to whom he promised $50,000. And in September, Mr. Kang, Chong-ryol, 42, was arrested and charged with trying to cheat an insurance company out of about $40,000.

* In October in the Dent de Crolles region in France, shepherder Christian Raymond, 23, was rescued from a cliff from which he had been hanging by his fingers for about 20 minutes. He had called the emergency rescue operator on his cell phone earlier in the day and managed to make another call from the cliff by pressing "redial" with his nose against the phone, which had fallen down the mountain with him but had landed right beside him.

* Shirley Lawton, 59, of Marysville, Teri­, survived her Jeep's overturning in Whitley County, Il., in September. Even though the vehicle came to rest on top of her with the 3-inch-diameter drive shaft sticking through her abdomen and both legs.

* Recent Episodes of Car Surfboarding: Hampton, Va. (November); William Vaughn, 29, jumped onto a car's roof during a dispute to pre­vent his friend from leaving, but the friend drove off anyway (distance surfaced 416 miles, at speeds up to 60 mph). Chicago (November); Charles Gardner jumped onto his SUV's roof to prevent its curving up, but the suspect drove off anyway (time surfaced 3½ hours). N.J. (January): Gas station attendant Matt Thomas jumped onto the hood of a car to try to prevent the customer from leaving without paying, but she drove off anyway (5½ minutes, at speeds up to 80 mph).

* Mathematics professor David Liu of the University of Alberta was named Canadian Professor of the Year in January. The award was based partly on the math clubs he has established for disadvantaged youth, but also partly on his having taught himself to work out equations upside down. A high school student could follow his explanations from across his desk.

Least Competent Criminals

Steve and Michelle Chambers pled guilty in August in Charlotte, N.C., to stealing $17 million from the Loomis, Fargo & Co. armored car firm in 1997, a scheme which hit the headlines again in February 1999 when the Chambers' post-theft purchases were auctioned off to help Loomis recover its money. While on the lam from the FBI, the couple shared a sex adventure with a woman they met when Michelle walked in to a Belmont, N.C., bank with a suitcase containing $200,000.

* According to a December Denver Post story, Katy Emery, 27, agreed to a second straight abortion. She has been estranged from her husband in January, but in February, her daughter was fathered by yet another man, whose parents filed the custody petition.

* Continuing an occasional reader-advisory series of recent stories that were reported elsewhere as real news but which were probably just made up:

A late-1998 story in the Internet pipeline, attrib­uted to the "Associated Press," described a current craze in Japan of breweries' replacing carbon dioxide in beer with hydrogen, which leads to such side effects as being able to blow soprano parts in karaoke bars and (with a cigarette) being able to blow flames from one's mouth. As the story goes, stockbroker Toshira Otoma lost a bar­room football-blowing contest and retaliated by firing bullets one of the judges, singing her hair apparently the episode got Otoma fired, and he is reportedly using the Asaka Beer Co. and the Take-Take bar. Weird, but not true.

* (Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 8306, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33738, or Weird@computerve.com.)
The laughs come fast and furious in "Analyse This." They hit so often at points that the audience at a recent screening missed jokes; they were too busy laughing at the previous line. What's amazing is that it's the unlikely combination of Billy Crystal and Robert De Niro — with Crystal as a shrink treating troubled mobster De Niro — generating the laughs.

Who'd a thought it? Consider that Crystal teamed in 1997 with pal Robin Williams for "Father's Day." Despite the talent involved, that thunderous dud boasted a slow process, but it's getting clearer.

Nearly five years passed before "This" became a reality. A spec script landed in the hands of producer Paula Weinstein, who passed it onto Crystal, who liked it and tinkered with it. Crystal picks up the story: "I sent the draft to Bob. Paula said, 'Oh God, he won't... Do you think?"' I said, 'He SHOULD do this. It's great for him. He'd be hilarious.' When you want scary, there's no one scarier. I thought, 'If he'd do this and be funny? Oh, my God.' Bob called me and said — Crystal slips into perfect De Niro-ese — 'Hey, you know, this is good. I like this. This could be.' I said, 'Bob, why don't we read it?' So, I got a terrific group together and he flew out to L.A. and did it. People were dying. "Our chemistry felt good, even when the story wasn't working. Things changed as we got closer to doing the film, but we could tell it felt nice and would be an unusual pairing. He said, 'OK, let's go to work.' We talked about directing it together. Then, we hit an impasse. We almost had too many good ideas. That's when (director) Harold Ramis came in. He took the various drafts, pulled lines and unified it. We got to New York, had a reading and I didn't like it. It wasn't working. It was 10 days from shooting and I'm thinking, 'I may have to not do the movie. This is horrible after all this time.' "Barry, Levinson (another producer) was there. Barry and I, Paula, Harold and Jane Rosenthal (De Niro's production partner) sat down and mapped out a whole new story, mostly for my character. Originally, I had a wife and kids, and we made me single and going to get married (to Lisa Kudrow). It all fell into line and it made the whole story work. In 10 days we rewrote 55 pages and then started shooting."

And now the big question: How did Crystal and De Niro get along? "He's very open and honest," Crystal replies. "You can kid Bob. I spoke to people who'd worked with him. I spoke to Dustin (Hoffman), to Penny Marshall. I've never seen anybody on the phone more than Robert De Niro. It's unbelievable how many people he knows. I'd try to make him laugh. He does a lot of movies, so when he'd say, 'I'll be back in a one minute,' I'd say, 'Oh, you going to do another movie?' He'd say, 'Yeah, I'm going to sneak one in and then I'll be back.' That got to be a running gag. We giggled a lot. We laughed through a lot of good takes."

Opening March 5, "This" should slay at the box office, unlike Crystal's more recent efforts, from "Mr. Saturday Night" to "City Slickers 2," "Forget Paris" to "Hamlet," and "Father's Day" to "My Giant," all of which slept with the fishes. Despite the misfires — and a couple of the films, notably the Crystal-directed "Mr. Saturday Night," were well-meaning, entertaining confections — Crystal swears that he never panicked. "I don't get desperate," he says, "I thought, 'Hey, the last couple weren't great.' You get concerned, but you don't go, 'Oh, what am I going to do?' Hopefully, you know you've got something good coming up. And you hope people trust you."

Right now, Crystal's laying low. He passed on hosting this year's Oscar ceremonies, is spending time with his family and toying with a couple of film concepts. More pressing, though, is a one-man show he hopes to stage next year. It would mark a return to Crystal's stand-up roots. "It would be for Broadway," he says. "It's a slow process, but it's getting clearer. I just feel like I want to be in front of people again."
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Bria the difference in UCF's successful return to NCAA's

FROM PAGE 24

second most TAAC wins in school history (33).

During her tenure at UCF, Bria has established a "no limits, no regrets" mentality to the Knights, giving them a mental edge over other TAAC teams. Even after UCF got out to a 5-1 TAAC start this year (on route to a school and conference best 13-3 finish), Bria never seemed satisfied with her success.

"It doesn't come overnight," Bria said. "I think (the success) is just a lot of hard work and it just takes players. I think you've got to have a solid recruiting base to build the program and we're trying to do that."

Bria is right, it does take players to succeed, and she's had the privilege of coaching three of UCF's best. Seniors Charity Davis, chat McClendon and Kate Fetzek were members of the last three TAAC teams and have helped the Knights survive Richardson's death. Although all were freshmen at the time of Richardson's death, the senior trio has matured into a solid reserve for the Knights. While she isn't too happy about returning to Ruston, La., for her possibly her final college game, McClendon has learned from Bria's teaching.

"Coach Bria brought a lot of discipline to the program and that's pretty much what we needed," McClendon said.

"That's what we needed after we lost our coach, we needed some focus, so that's been key." While UCF is not expected to defeat LaTech on Friday, the Knights' accomplishments this season outweigh the game's result. On Sunday, Davis said her fondest memory of LaTech was of the team's pregame meal. A rat ran across the floor while the team was eating at a Ruston, La., steakhouse, prompting the team to immediately leave. While Davis and her teammates try to make a new memory on Friday, Bria has no doubt made a lasting impression in her players' minds.

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Tennis teams start busy stretch with victories

David Marsters
Staff Writer

The UCF Men’s Tennis team won a pair of games last week, bouncing back after a loss to nationally ranked Purdue. The Knights defeated both Hampton University and Winthrop University by the score of 4-3, raising their season record to 10-3.

Against Hampton, UCF got off to a quick start by taking all three doubles matches. Seniors David Winberg and Pedro Pacheco then picked up quick singles victories, putting the Knights within one point of victory. Hampton earned easy victories at the #2 and #3 singles spots, but UCF put the match away when freshman Johan Westin beat Shawn Criciaw of Hampton 6-4, 6-3.

Houston Muzio, playing in only his third singles match of the year for the Knights, lost in three sets to Hampton’s Allan Ely.

Winthrop came to town last Sunday, but its trip was over almost as soon as it started. UCF won the doubles point by taking two of the three doubles matches, and then won the first three singles matches to claim the victory. Federico Camacho ended a personal two-match losing streak by defeating Layrisse. Wilson Khoo of Winthrop 6-3, 6-1, and we got the job done,” said Pacheco. The Knights faced Miami (Ohio) University on Monday and host Murray State on Sunday. Next week they take on Northern Iowa at home and go to Georgia State in a very important conference matchup.

The next two weeks are the toughest part of the season,” said coach Michael Dublin, “We have some individual growth that needs to take place, but we have momentum and I am confident that we will do well.”

The UCF Women’s Tennis Team picked up a win in their only match of the week, defeating Hampton. The victory was the fourth in a row for the Knights, improving their season record to 5-1.

Veronica Widyadharma led the Knights with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Christina Ferreira at the #1 singles spot. Ann-Jeanette Swinton remained undefeated in singles for the year with a 6-1, 6-2 win in the #2 spot, while Gaile Gouttefarde and Hadas Ronen also won their matches. Widyadharma and Gouttefarde teamed up to win in #1 doubles, clinching the victory for the Knights.

Daniela Okal and Rachna Ashar of UCF were both forced to default in their singles matches due to injury.

The Knights began a grueling stretch of 11 matches in three weeks against St. Louis on Thursday, March 9, and play four more matches this week against Marquette, Miami (Ohio), Louisville, and American. “Everyone’s going to be tired, and if we go undefeated this week it means we are very strong,” said Gouttefarde.

Coach Dublin had a positive outlook on the upcoming matches.

“They’re going to step right up and give good things will come their way,” he said. “This is what we have been working for these last two months.”
Baseball team enters five-game non-conference stretch

TRAVIS BELL
STAFF WRITER

After struggling to a 1-2 start in Trans America Athletic Conference play, the Knights have five non-conference games to figure out what went wrong against Troy State this weekend.

"It's a good time to regroup a little bit and let the players look at where we are," Coach Jay Bergman said. "But (we can) still keep our pitching rotation like it is. You just have to keep playing."

UCF played a game against Lehig on Tuesday, and Siena College comes to town for a three-game series on Friday and Saturday. UCF plays Siena in a single game on Friday at 7 p.m., and the two teams play a doubleheader on Saturday at 3 p.m.

Siena is led by Tony Rossi, who is in his 30th year as coach of the Saints. He is 415-447-4 during that stretch, including a tough 17-32 finish last year. His team came to UCF in 1997 for back-to-back doubleheaders, and the Knights won all four games by a combined score of 32-4, including a 19-0 opening victory. UCF is 13-1 all-time against Siena, but expect nothing to be easy when the Saints arrive this weekend.

"They'll be very competitive," Bergman said. "They have a lot of players back from last year. They're certainly not gonna come in here not prepared because of playing time."

The Saints return seven starters from last year, and were picked to finish third in the North Division of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference by Baseball America.

Siena has started the season 2-5, but hung tough against 14th-ranked Mississippi State over the weekend, losing 5-1 and 7-3.

Senior first baseman Mike Outlander (.327-4-23) and junior outfielder Todd Donovan (.307-5-32) lead the Saints after solid offensive seasons last year. Both players were selected as Pre-Season All-MAAC honorables, and Baseball America listed Donovan as the number one MAAC pro prospect. They are joined by infielder Nick Spora who hit .366 last year with 17 stolen bases.

A pair of right-handers anchors the Saints pitching staff. Senior Kevin Brown finished with a 3.30 ERA and threw five complete games, Junior Jeff Reardon was 5-4 with a 5.76 ERA as the number two starter behind Brown.

UCF will travel to Bohlin-Cookman on March 17 for its third game against the Wildcats. UCF won the first two games 13-8 and 15-4, but the importance of non-conference victories weighs heavily on Bergman.

"(Non-TAAC games) is extremely important," Bergman said. "Last year, basically we don't get in the NCAA Tournament because we're one win away. You don't want to sit house in May because you lost some games get away that you should win. We need to win good and strong."

The five non-conference games will hopefully prepare the Knights for their second consecutive TAAC road trip; a March 13-20 three-game set against Samford in Birmingham, Alabama.

"We're the only team in the conference to play our first two series on the road," Bergman said. "It's gonna be three tough games. It's gonna be that way every weekend end from here on out."

Second-year coach Tim Parenton, who had to cope with a 13-43 finish last year after coming from Mississippi State, leads Samford. He returns seven starters and nine pitchers, but was still picked to finish 10th in the TAAC by Baseball America.

Samford is 7-7, including tough losses at Auburn (7-4) and Alabama (5-1). They had their first conference series last weekend and lost two of three against Stetson. The Bulldogs won the opener 7-4 on Friday, but lost the Saturday double-header 5-4 and 6-4.

They are second in the TAAC in hitting (.346) and scoring (9.57 runs per game), but have had trouble on the mound with 16.92 ERA, ninth in the conference. UCF is fourth in average (.308) and fifth in scoring (8.00), while ranking sixth with a 5.54 ERA.

Junior Brian Hitchcox leads Sanford with a .339 average and has eight doubles and 20 runs scored. Two freshmen, Grant Caldwell and Cory Summer, are second and third in hitting with .410 and .396, respectively. Major Allen is the power threat with six home runs and 18 RBIs, while Jason Barnett leads the TAAC with 16 stolen bases and 26 runs scored. Robert Aaron leads the team with a 4.12 ERA and has 20 strikeouts in 19.2 innings. Charlie Crabbe is 2-0 with 18 strikeouts in 19.2 innings.

"They got a new coach last year, and he had to play with the players that were there last year, and they struggled," Bergman said. "But they've already had some good wins."

UCF needs to take advantage of the opportunities when they arise and should learn from its mistakes at Troy State. If not, it could be a long road trip home from Birmingham after being the pre-season favorite to win the conference.

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UCF drops two of three at Troy State

The Knights, pre-season favorite in the Trans America Athletic Conference, lost two of three games at Riddle-Pace Field in Troy, Alabama against the Troy State Trojans over the weekend.

UCF (10-8 overall, 1-2 TAAC) won the first game of the series, but struggled as it lost the final two, 4-3 and 11-10, respectively.

"When you have a 10-2 lead (in the final game), you have to shut them down," Coach Jay Bergman said. "It's hard in a ball park like this, but it's the park that you have to play in. We just didn't close it at the end and get it done."

In a park that measures only 305 feet down the lines and 390 to center, both teams took advantage of the hitter friendly conditions. The two teams combined for 15 home runs in three one-run games, including nine in the final game.

Matt Bowser and Dustin Brisson led the Knights in the rubber match with TSU (11-9, 2-1), but the Trojans pulled out an 11-10 victory after trailing 10-2.

Brisson was 3-for-4 with two home runs and four RBIs, while Bowser went 3-for-5 with two home runs and three RBIs.

"It was a great day for them (Bowser and Brisson)," Bergman said. "But 10 runs is not enough to win in this ballpark, particularly in the third game of a series."

Justin Pope held the Trojans to only two runs and two hits through six innings, but he gave up back-to-back home runs to lead off the seventh. Ray Paul came in and gave up a grand slam to Jorge Soto to cut the Knights lead to 10-8.

Troy Satterfield gave up a game-tying two run home run to Ricky Rowe in the ninth. Then with the bases loaded, Brent Spooner gave up the winning run on a sacrifice fly with one out in the inning.

"I'm not gonna fault anybody's effort, but we still have to get it done," Bergman said. "We just need to find the right combination, because we didn't have (Jason) Arnold to get in there and get that game for us. I'm kind of perplexed about the whole thing."

In Saturday's double-header, the Knights won the opener 8-7 before falling in the night-cap 4-3. Jason Arnold had a nice opportunity in the double-header as he closed the opener for his third save of the season, and then started the next game but got the loss. He allowed one hit and one unearned run with one strikeout in the first game. In his first career start after 35 relief appearances, he struck out eight Trojans in 5.1 innings yielding only four hits, but five walks contributed to four TSU runs.

"He pitched great," Bergman said. "With 120 pitches, what else could you ask for out of a guy?"

UCF fought from behind in both games as they trailed 4-0 in the opener after one inning, and 3-1 in the night-cap after four innings.

Unfortunately, the Knights only capitalized on its opportunities in the opener.

"We had a great win in the first ball game," Bergman said. "We came back and played really well. I was real proud of everybody."

The same effort could not be applauded the next two games, however, as errors and a lack of clutch hitting led to UCF's demise.

The Knights had the bases loaded in the first inning with no outs, but after a Brisson sacrifice fly, Frost and Bill Oakley struck out. Troy led 1-0.

UCF's last two hits were in the third game of a rubber match with Troy State and left fielder Mark Batia is 2-for-13 in the past five games. Center fielder Matt Bowser is 10-for-20 during his last five appearances.

UCF plays in its first three one-run games of the season this weekend against Troy State. The 15-game stretch to start the season without a one-run game is the longest in school history. The previous long was 12 in the first year of the program in 1973. The Knights are 128-100 in one-run contests.

Rare one-run games come in bunches

UCF played in its first three one-run games of the season this weekend against Troy State. The 15-game stretch to start the season without a one-run game is the longest in school history. The previous long was 12 in the first year of the program in 1973. The Knights are 128-100 in one-run contests.

Who's hot...who's not

First baseman Dustin Brisson has a 14-game hitting streak that began Feb. 6 against Nicholls State. Brisson is 23-for-49 (.469) during the streak with 14 runs scored and 14 RBIs. He also has four home runs and six doubles during that stretch. The longest streak in school history is 19 held by Mike Josephina. Left fielder Matt Bowser is 10-for-20 with five home runs, 13 RBIs, and 12 runs scored over the past seven games. Outfielder Ivan Trujillo has hit safely in eight of the last nine games and is 14-for-31 with eight runs and seven RBIs. He also hit his first career home run last Wednesday against Western Michigan. Bill Oakley was 0-for-5 against Troy State and left the bases loaded twice with two outs during the 4-3 loss on Saturday. Infielder Tim Boeth is one for his last 12, and shortstop Mike Fox is 2-for-14 over the past five games. Center fielder Mark Batia is 2-for-13 during his last five appearances.

"We don't have the mental maturity to step up and bury somebody," Bergman said. "You don't get a chance to win double-header on the road too often. We literally gave the game away."

TAAC woes continue

The Knights have won four TAAC titles since joining the conference in 1993, but its regular season record in the TAAC is not so-spectacular 70-51 over the first six seasons.

Troy State (11-9, 2-1) is 1-2 in the Trans America Athletic Conference in 1999, but its regular season record in the TAAC is not so-spectacular 70-51 over the first six seasons. 

If you take away the 23-7 conference mark from 1995, the Knights barely hover above .500. Also, the 1-2 start at Troy State is not so unusual, as this was the fourth time in seven years the Knights have lost its opening series. Opening three-game series to start conference play, UCF is only 9-12 in seven seasons.
Brisson’s maturity at plate pays dividends

TRAVIS BELL
STAFF WRITER

UCF first baseman Dustin Brisson’s career began in grand fashion. On February 1, 1997 at Rollins College, Brisson hit a grand slam in his first collegiate game during a 10-3 win, and added his second career home run the next day at home in another victory over Rollins.

"It was amazing," Brisson said. "That first game against Rollins, I just wanted to come out and get a couple hits. The guy gave me a pitch in the zone, and I still remember it like it was yesterday. It was unbelievable. That was one of the best experiences for me."

Brisson cruised through the first month of his freshman season, but then pitchers figured out how to throw to him. This change affected him mentally, which, in turn, put him in a huge slump that lasted nearly two months.

"They really didn't know how to pitch me the first month or so, and I hit really well," Brisson said. "But then they started throwing me a lot of change-ups and started throwing me away. My average dropped off a lot because I wouldn't commit to the opposite field."

Brisson learned from his mistakes and began to take what the pitchers gave him, and that philosophy has not only helped his offensive numbers, but has also made him a better player.

"Dustin has really matured, and that is the biggest thing," Coach Jay Bergman said. "That's a freshman's dream to come in and do things like that. But in some ways, that can also be a nightmare because freshmen don't realize that you can't do that every time out. Although he had a good freshman year, I thought that delayed some of his maturity. Part of the maturity of a baseball player is accepting failure."

Brisson has learned to accept failure, and has reaped the benefits from that mindset. He is currently on a 14-game hitting streak which he is 23-for-49 since the February 6 game against Nicholls State. He has four home runs and six doubles along with 14 runs scored and 14 RBIs during that stretch. The streak has propelled him to the team lead in batting average (.414), while also tying him for the personal single-season records, and he attributes that to his mentality for this year.

"You always look to all returning players for leadership, and leadership comes in a lot of different ways," Bergman said. "From Dustin, we felt like it had to come from his play. He's not a real verbal type of guy, so his leadership role is evolving as his play improves."

His play has drastically improved from his first two seasons in which he hit .298 as a freshman and .308 as a sophomore.

"He had a rather disappoint­ ing sophomore year, although his numbers remained the same," Bergman said. "His average was over .300, but I still felt that his power numbers were down. I think a lot of that was emotional maturity. He's at a point now where he should be putting up big numbers, and I think he has."

There is one goal that Brisson wanted to meet for this season. He wants to return to the NCAA Tournament after last year’s heart-breaking season-ending loss in the TAAC Tournament against Troy State.

"Even though we were two (losses) and out of the tournament, my freshman year, that was one of the best experiences," Brisson said. "I would really like to get another chance before I leave here. Last year, we were probably one win away from going there, and it was a tough break. This team has grown so much in the first month, and I think we have a real legitimate shot of going to a regional this year."

Brisson has worked long and hard in the weight room and in practice to better his game. He is on pace this year to break all of his personal single-season records, and he attributes that to his mentality for this year.

"I think that I've matured a lot since my freshman year," Brisson said. "That’s the biggest stride that I’ve taken. I’ve always had the ability, but the mental approach was not there the first couple years. This year, the mental approach is there."

And so are the results.
UCF’s defense now
its biggest strength

From Page 24

is an introduction to offense, defense and special teams.

Robinson was 17 of 33 for 161 yards and one TD in last Saturday’s scrimmage. The position figures to be up for grabs for a long time, as no one seems to be separating himself from the pack.

“There’s no starter,” Knuczek said. “I’m rotating them. I don’t know who it’s going to be. One day it’s one guy, the next day it’s the next guy. They all get the same amount of reps with the same people. It’s the only way I can make a judgment until someone steps up and takes charge. That hasn’t happened. We’ll have to wait and see.”

The offensive struggles have been intensified by the play of the defense, who at times has looked dominant. Fans who make the trip to the Citrus Bowl this Saturday will be in for a pleasant surprise when they see the play of Gene Chizik’s defense. Throughout the spring, it has given the offense all it can handle.

“Chiz is throwing the defense kitchen sink, at them with twists and turns and blitzes,” Knuczek said. “It’s good for (the offense). They’re going to make the offense look bad but that’s the way it goes. They’ll better themselves because of it.”

“I’m not going to tell Gene not to do something. If he has a plan to put something in, he has to stay with it. We just have to make sure we pick it up and do the things we need to do. You’re going to have to make adjustments in games when people give you something you’re not expecting, so it’s good for (the offense) to see that stuff.”

Fans can get an early glimpse at the Golden Knights on Saturday, starting at 1 p.m. A defensive-minded Golden Knight squad! This should be a sight to see.

Injuries: Starting linebackers Deaubrey Devine and Tito Rodriguez are likely out for the remainder of spring. Rodriguez damaged knee cartilage and was scheduled to have arthroscopic surgery on Tuesday. Devine suffered a knee sprain at Wednesday’s practice and is undergoing therapy. Neither player is expected to be doubtful for the start of fall practice.

The defensive-minded Golden Knight defense now will be in for a pleasant surprise when they see the play of Gene Chizik’s defense. Throughout the spring, it has given the offense all it can handle.

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Monday March 15, 1999
7:00 pm: Philadelphia 76’ers @ Orlando Magic (LIVE)

16-3 conference record by season’s end, including a regular season and TAAC Tournament title. UCF’s early growing pains were tough to watch, but the Knights reached their goals on route to their best-ever TAAC record.

“We wanted a 20-game winning season, we wanted to be first in the conference and win the conference tournament, and that’s what we did,” McClendon said. “That was the beginning [against MSA] and you have to grow as a team and we’re happy and we did good.”

Davis, the only player to start against Tech in 1996, will be counted on to help the Knights have a better showing than they did three years ago. Davis scored two points while adding two assists and eight rebounds in the 1996 game, but has matured as a player since then.

She won the TAAC Player of the Year award this season and was named TAAC Tournament MVP on Sunday. Davis is averaging 18.7 points, 5.3 assists, 6.0 rebounds and 2.5 steals a game, all of which lead the team.

But, it is Davis’ memory of the 1996 game that should fuel the Knights. While UCF’s opening round game will not be televised, the second round game will be televised on ESPN2 at 6:07 on March 14. If UCF can pull off the unthinkable, it may give Brax another reason to stay tuned.
**SPORTS**

**NCAA BOUND!!**

UCF gets rematch against Louisiana Tech

JEFF CASE
STAFF WRITER

Coach Lynn Bria turned up the volume on her TV so loudly on Sunday night, you could barely hear yourself think. But, then again, Bria had good reason to blast the news she was about to hear.

Bria, the coach of UCF's women's basketball team, had just finished guiding the Knights to a 20-9 season and their first TAAC Championship in three seasons. UCF, which defeated Jacksonville State 80-59 last Saturday to win the conference title, would be learning its fate for the NCAA Tournament, which begins on Friday.

In a gathering of her players and local media, the ESPNU-television tournament selection special announced Bria's fate first. The Knights will play Louisiana Tech on Friday in Ruston, La., on the Lady Techsters' home court, the Thomas Assembly Center.

"It's nice to be a part of the tournament," Bria said. "They have a great atmosphere there. It's going to be an atmosphere we have never played in before, but we're excited to go. I know they're a good team, they don't lose too many at home and they were in the Final Four last year."

Louisiana Tech (26-3) hasn't done much losing this year at all. The Lady Techsters are the third ranked team and have one of the best women's college basketball programs in the nation. They have won national titles in 1981, 1982 and 1988 and boast the all-time best winning percentage in NCAA basketball (.879, 614-119 overall) for both men and women.

Meanwhile, UCF has made only one trip to the Big Dance, a 98-41 loss to LaTech in 1996. Only three UCF seniors—Charity Davis, Bria McClendon and Kate Fetek—have ever played during March Madness before. Regardless of their inexperience, the Knights have come a long way to reach the NCAA Tournament this season.

First came an exhibition loss to a group of former college players known as the Mississippi All-Stars. Then, came a 1-3 start, including a near-upset of Southeastern Conference competitor South Carolina. The Knights evened out to a 4-3 record before backup center Kristy White and freshman point guard Rhonda Oosten quit the team in a six-day span.

UCF raced to a 5-1 start once it entered TAAC play and ended up with a

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**SPRING GAME COMES AROUND WITH QUARTERBACK SITUATION UP IN AIR**

TONY MEJIA
SPORTS EDITOR

Saturday's Black and Gold game, the annual end to the spring football season, will have added intrigue this year, as seniors Chris Ryan and Kelvin Robinson, and red-shirt freshman Brad Banks compete for a starting job they'll have to defend against incoming transfer Vic Penn, who arrives this summer.

Ryan, who entered the spring as the third-string quarterback, has been elevated to number one. Kruzek said Kelvin Robinson is No. 2 and Brad Banks, who did not practice last Saturday for the second consecutive day because of a sore arm, is No. 3. Ryan completed 23 of 44 passes for 328 yards and two TDs. He was intercepted twice. Ryan's two TDs were 70-yarders, one on a deep route to Kenny Clark and the other a screen to Charles Lee, who turned it upfield and outran everybody.

Kruzek lacks the mobility of the other quarterbacks, but has shown he can take a hit. "He gets knocked down quite a bit," Kruzek said. "He's a tough kid. He does not move the way you would like obviously. He doesn't have the athleticism you want back there to make things happen when it breaks down." Still, the development of the quarterbacks is coming along, giving Kruzek hope that the situation will be resolved by fall.

"We're limited, but we'll be fine when we open up the season," Kruzek said. "We're not getting ready for anybody right now. Spring UCFS, Page 23