Hitt talks about presidency, UCF's future

SHELLEY WILSON  MANAGING EDITOR

Dr. John C. Hitt is the fourth person to serve as the president of the University of Central Florida. He became the president on March 1, 1992. He is originally from Houston, Texas and received his psychology degree in 1962 from Austin College. He went on to Tulane University to earn both his master's and a doctorate in physiological psychology. Hitt began teaching at Tulane and then at Texas Christian University. He received the position of Associate Dean at TCU and later was appointed Vice President of the TCU Research Foundation until he became Dean of the graduate school in 1975. He was Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Psychology at Bradley University, Peoria, Ill., from 1977 until 1987. He held a similar position at the University of Maine, until he was appointed Interim President in 1991. Here's a look at some of Hitt's thoughts about UCF and being president.

Q. Did you always want to be a University President?

"No. I got my Ph.D. when I was 25, and was focused on finding a good position as a faculty member so I could teach and do research. My interest in a university presidency did not develop until many years later."

Q. You have worked in the education for over 20 years. How have you seen it changed in that time?

"I have been a full-time faculty member and/or administrator in one or another university for 33 years. Many trends have come and gone during that time. Today's undergraduates, and the universities that serve them, are more career-oriented than was the case when I began teaching at Tulane University in the fall of 1966. This is partially explained by the fact that a larger percentage of the population now goes to college than did them. The significant debt burden that many students take on in college is another factor in this change."

Q. What are some of your job responsibilities as being the university president that many students would be surprised to know?

"Most students would likely be surprised by the amount of time a UCF president must spend on off-campus matters, such as fund-raising, lobbying at all levels of government, and being involved in the communities our university serves. I generally work 10 to 12 hours per day, and these responsibilities take 40 to 50 percent of my time."

Q. As UCF enters the next millennium, what are some of your goals to help UCF become a leading University?

"When I became UCF president in March of 1992, I published five goals for UCF:

- To offer the best undergraduate education available in Florida.
- To achieve international prominence in key programs of graduate study, and research.
- To provide an international focus to our programs of teaching and research.
- To become more inclusive and diverse, and
- To be America's leading..."

HITT, Page 5

Art shines in CREOL building

ELAINE LEBLANC STAFF WRITER

"Sail," an original glass sculpture by contemporary artist Christopher Ries, was donated to UCF's Center for Research and Education in Optics and Lasers and unveiled during a reception Friday night in the CREOL building.

Schott Glass Technologies, a leading manufacturer in fiber optic materials, contributed the nearly 400-pound sculpture. According to M.J. Silleau, UCF Vice President for Research, the sculpture is a symbol of the new partnership between UCF and Schott Technologies. It is also a result of UCF and CREOL's old partnership with Analog Module.

Ries offered his perspective on his piece and the increasing importance of light.

"We are actually living in the age of photons, the age of light. This university and the programs here are vital to the future of mankind. Light is the future," he said.

Ries' fascination with glass began in the 1970s when he built a glass facility from a kiln shed at Ohio State University. With Harvey Lavinett, the sculptor co-founded the American Glass Movement. Ries works as Schott Glass' artist-in-residence, and his works are displayed in various museums, including those in Cincinnati, Chicago, and New Orleans.

Ries resides in rural Pennsylvania, a place that inspires much of his work. "Nature has been the single most influential thing in my art," Ries said.

Exchange offers alternative to bookstore

CAMERON JAHN THE CALIFORNIA AGGIE (U. CALIFORNIA-DAVIS)

(U-WIRE) DAVIS, Calif. -- As the bell tower chimed nine times Wednesday morning, students swarmed into the ASUCD Book Exchange tent on the east side of the University of California at Davis Quad looking for bargains and a chance to sell their books.

"Each quarter we are getting more popular because we are here through wind, rain and cold providing a great service to students," said Nick Maioriello, Book Exchange Director Lambert Shiu said the Book Exchange functions like a consignment shop.

"There's no middle man," he said. "Students come and sell their books to other students."

Shiu said the economics behind the Book Exchange benefit students in ways that traditional used-bookstores cannot.

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Glass artwork gets shattering response

“Sail,” completed in 1988, stands over 49 inches and is the tallest glass sculpture Ries has ever created. According to Schott Glass president Bruce Jennings, the piece has almost a 100 percent high light transmission. Many were amazed by the complexity of the glass. "This is the most stunning thing I have ever seen," said Senior Viviana Hampers. "If you take just one step in another direction, the dimensions and colors of the piece are radically different. I am so grateful that UCF acquired such a remarkable piece of art."

Jennings is extremely pleased with the work. "Really, this is fulfillment of a dream to have his work as an adornment in this building."

Virtual U Puts You In Role Of College Administrator

CHRISTIAN (TMS) -- Do you have what it takes to run a university? If you’re sure, consider sharpening your administrative instincts on Virtual U, a soon-to-be-released simulation game modeled after the popular SimCity series.

In Virtual U, the player controls major aspects in the creation of their very own school, such as whether it will have private or public status, its student-body size, and curriculum. But the game’s focus is not just to entertain.

"There’s a lack of understanding about the systematic character of a university," William F. Massey, the developer of Virtual U, said. Massey, who is a higher-education researcher at Stanford University, says he and others associated with the project hope that it gives a realistic view of how major universities are run. Players must organize spending for the university while at the same time trying to maintain enrollment and faculty morale.

Though creators of Virtual U say that it will not be as action-packed as SimCity, it will help the average person and college student understand the peaks and valleys of higher education.

"It makes you say, ‘Thank God I’m not an administrator,”’ Neil Salkind, a psychology professor at the University of Kansas said. Virtual U will be released in March.

PHOTO BY JASON KOKOTOFF

Christopher Ries’ ‘Sail’ is unveiled at a special reception in the CREOL Building. The sculpture was donated by Schott Glass Technologies.

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Oklahoma college students to receive financial aid bonuses

Matt Welch
OKLAHOMA DAILY
(U. OKLAHOMA)

(U-WIRE) NOR-
MAN, Okla. -- For 449
Oklahoma college students, $105,500 sounds like a nice
way to ring in the new year.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education distrib­
uted financial aid bonuses Dec.
10 and will award Oklahoma
college students an additional
$1.6 million in the next six
months, said Laura Callahan,
executive director of communi­
cations for the state regents.

The U.S. Congress
donated $20.5 million to
Oklahoma's "G​​ear Up" (Gaining Early Awareness and
Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) program.

"It's a federal program
designed to help students better
prepare for college, specifically
students from low-income fam­
ilies," Callahan said. "We're
looking for students with the
least need and helping them
by providing funds."

The financial aid
bonuses are limited to those stu­
dents who are on an Oklahoma
Higher Learning Access
Program scholarship and are also
eligible for a Pell grant.

"This OHLAP plus
award will help more Oklahoma
students achieve their educa­
tional goals by helping to fill
the gap between a student's
financial aid package and the
actual cost of attending col­
lege," said State Regents
Chancellor Hans Brisch in a
statement. "Oklahoma higher
education applauds the state's
congressional delegation in
Washington, D.C., which
helped to make this financial
award possible."

Callahan said that in
determining a student's poten­
tial for receiving a financial aid
bonus, the state regents com-
pare the student's need for
financial aid to what the student
currently has.

The five-year grant
was awarded by the federal
government in August, Callahan
said.

She said she was
thrilled at the amount of the
grant. Oklahoma received the
highest per capita award in the
nation and the third largest
award, exceeded only by
California and Texas, she said.

Callahan said a com­
ponent of the grant is financial
aid, specifically enhancing the
Oklahoma higher access pro­
gram.

"That is the reason
we're able to distribute the
financial bonuses to Oklahoma
college students who have the
least need," she said.

Callahan said the
grants awarded by Congress
will only last for five years. A
portion of the grant will go
toward the OHLAP funds, she
said.

"Gear Up is providing
funding to help us expand
OHLAP," Callahan said.

The bonus is not limited to stu­
dent loans.

"It's a check that can
be used to purchase books or
living expenses," Callahan said.

She said a conglomera­
tion of public, private and gov­
ernmental organizations and
public industries have matched
the $20.5 million awarded to
Oklahoma "G​​ear Up."

Eight, ninth and 10th
grade high school students are
the only students who can apply
for the OHLAP scholarship, but
current Oklahoma students who
are receiving the OHLAP schol­
arship are eligible to benefit from
the bonuses.

"OHLAP is an out­
standing program that is mak­
ing college a reality for many
Oklahoma students," said state
regents Chairman Bill W.
Burgess Jr., in a statement.

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For information call 407-823-3453.
High-Speed Internet Access Comes to UCF

ANDY LURIG
STAFF WRITER

January 12, 2000

Time Warner Cable's Roadrunner service is now available for most people living in the UCF area. It is available to any apartment or home with cable hookups. The service provides high-speed Internet access up to 50 times faster than a standard 56k modem.

Roadrunner came to Central Florida in the summer of 1999, and has slowly expanded its service area throughout Orange, Seminole, and Brevard counties. Recently, in December 1999, they expanded to include residence around UCF. According to one of their cable technicians, "I’ve been surprised that there hasn’t been many requests from UCF students."

The service costs roughly $100 for installation, and $40 a month for service. These prices will vary depending on your computer's current hardware, and whether you subscribe to Time Warner's standard cable service.

The Roadrunner service has many benefits compared to a standard modem connection like speed, a phone line that is not occupied, and an constant connection. The cable modem can also be linked to a single computer on a network and allow all individuals on that network to use the same cable modem.

This is comparable to the computer labs on campus, since they are all connected to the same Internet backbone. However, it is important to note that the bandwidth, or how much data can travel at once across the connection, of the UCF campus is much larger than that of a single cable modem. So trying to branch off more than a few computers would leave you with the same slow connection you have been trying to avoid.

With high-speed access becoming more available, the Internet provides many more opportunities to make use of this connection, including such things as watching movies online. While these things are still possible on a standard 56k modem, most users are not willing to wait for a long time or sacrifice picture quality.

Roadrunner service can be reached on the World Wide Web at http://www.twcentralflorida.com/ or at 1-877-TWC-FAST.

Exchange wins out over bookstore

FROM PAGE 1

because the prices are great.”

Wednesday evenings did not seem to deter students from searching through the Book Exchange’s shelves for books.

A cell biology major who wished to remain anonymous said she always starts off the quarter with a trip to the Book Exchange. “Sometimes you get lucky and find a book for half-off,” she said. “And other times you just get $1 or $2 off.”

This year, the Book Exchange is better equipped to serve its patrons with 10 new computers.

“There’s less of a paper process now that we are equipped with more computers,” Shiu said. “We even accept credit cards now.”

More technology also allows the Book Exchange easier access to enormous list of the books to be used during the quarter. “The UCD Bookstore was really helpful in lending us its database of the texts the professors plan to teach with,” Shiu said.

Spring Rush 2000 kicks off

MAYA LAZAROVITZ
STAFF WRITER

As the new semester begins, the various fraternities on campus get ready to gear up for Spring Rush, which starts with Kickoff on Jan. 12 in the Student Union.

“Kickoff offers potential new members an opportunity to meet chapter members. It’s like an orientation to recruitment,” said Greg Mason, Director of Greek Affairs. Individual chapter events for recruitment take place Jan. 13-15. All except the National Pan-Hellenic Council groups will be participating.

At Sigma Chi, doors open on Wednesday, with food and drinks for potential new members.

“Spring rush is usually more relaxed, because we have fewer guys,” said Kevin Amrhein, Sigma Chi Vice President.

“Fall is usually a lot more hectic.” On average, Sigma Chi usually receives about 15-20 pledges during Spring Rush. In the fall, the fraternity usually get about 35-50 new members.

For Delta Upsilon, Rush plans include a visit from Disney’s Indy 200 racers, which Sigma Alpha Epsilon is promoting.

“We’re looking for quality for people who can be future leaders in our fraternity, not numbers,” said Scott Blokhorn, Sigma Alpha Epsilon President. “This semester, we’re looking to focus less on parties and more on what we can do to get involved in the community. We’re also focusing more on campus involvement.” Sigma Alpha Epsilon looks forward to a new philanthropy in the spring, as well as various seminars scheduled for later in the semester. In addition, they recently held their officer retreat initiation on Sunday.

Attention: UCF Registered Clubs & Organizations

The Activity and Service Fee (A&SF) budget request packets are available for pick-up in the Student Government (SG) Office located in the Student Union, Room 214. Clubs and organizations must be registered with the Office of Activities prior to January 24, 2000, in order to receive A&SF funding.

The completed budget requests are due back from the clubs and organizations on January 24, 2000, by 5:00 p.m. They must be turned in at the front desk of the SG Office and date-stamped with the date and time received.

Information workshops for clubs and organizations will be held on Thursday, January 13, at 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday, January 19, at 10:00. These workshops will be held by members of the A&SF Committee and will provide information and guidance on filling out the budget request forms and other budgetary guidelines. Please call the SG Office (823-2191) for the location of the workshops.

Funded by Activity and Service Fees through the Student Government Association.
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AIR FORCE ROTC

President Hitt candid about presidency, self

FROM PAGE 1

Partnership University.
I liked these five goals in 1992, and I like them even more today.”

Q. What’s the best and worst part about being a university president?

“The best thing about being a university president is that one has an opportunity to influence one of society’s most important institutions in ways that allow it to fulfill its potential to allow people to build for themselves better, more productive, and more satisfying lives. It’s a very demanding complex and challenging job, but it has strong, deep intrinsic worth.

Although it’s fashionable for university presidents to complain about the burdens of the office, I don’t find any aspects of the presidency particularly unpleasant or distasteful. When asked about the bad aspects of the job, groups of university presidents almost invariably mention the fact that it is difficult to have friendships within the university and that the presidency is an all-consuming job, more satisfying lives. It’s a very demanding complex and challenging job, but it has strong, deep intrinsic worth.

Q. If you could give a piece of advice to a student about their education, what would it be?

“Remember that your education should prepare you for a life as well as a livelihood. I’d offer four admonitions:

1. Find something you like to do that has intrinsic worth and work as hard as you must to get really good at it.
2. Become a good writer and an effective speaker.
3. Take time for courses in the arts and humanities.
4. Take all the math you can manage.”

Q. Do you have any regrets about your own education life that you wished looking back you could change?

“I didn’t take enough math and science courses as a freshman and sophomore. When I got into graduate school, and decided that I wanted to be a psychologists, I faced a much greater challenge than did my classmates who had taken these courses.”

Q. How has UCF gained from being in Orlando?

“Being in and of Orlando has always been a tremendous asset to UCF. We are truly blessed to be in a city and region whose economy and population are growing and diversifying at a rapid rate. With our commitment to partnerships, UCF has an unending stream of opportunities to develop programs of teaching, research, and service that increase opportunities for our faculty, students, staff, and community.”

Q. What do you do to relax in your spare time?

“I enjoy reading, golf, fishing, and spending time with my wife of 38 years, Martha. We have a four-day visit with our children and grandchildren in Wisconsin, and it was very rejuvenating.”

Here’s to a great Knight out.

(Armor checked at door.)

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Harvard murder suspect caught after 23 years

Marla B. Kaplan
HARVARD CRIMSON (HARVARD T.

(UTWIRE) CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Nearly 24 years after the shooting death of Edward Paulsen, then a 28-year-old Harvard University graduate student studying economics, police in Canada arrested a man long sought as a suspect in the murder.

Around 9 a.m. Wednesday, officers of the Canadian Immigration Task Force, working with both the FBI and Cambridge homicide detectives, arrested James Anthony Martin, 51, at his home in Montreal, according to the Canadian Police Department (CPD).

Martin left Massachusetts after the crime and had lived in Florida, New York and Montreal under assumed names since then. When asked if he was James Anthony Martin, the suspect just shrugged and surrendered.

"He believed he would never be caught," said CPD Sergeant Patrick Nagle.

The Sept. 9, 1976 murder was the result of a botched drug deal, according to police. Paulsen and his brother were trying to purchase one kilo of hashish from Martin at a location on Webster Street in East Cambridge.

According to Nagle, Martin, along with Gordon Kent Brown, were planning to take Paulsen’s money but not actually give him the drugs. When the plan backfired, Martin shot Paulsen.

Brown spent six years on the run before he was captured in New Jersey in 1982 and later convicted of murder. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Martin was picked up on drug charges in New York shortly after the murder but used an alias and was able to leave town before his trial, according to Silverio Ferreira, a CPD detective.

He was indicted in absentia for the murder in December 1976. According to the CPD, periodically detectives reopen old files and look for new leads. When they did so with Martin’s file, they found him using the same alias, Bruce Benjamin, while living in Canada.

“Martin was very good,” Ferreira said. “He used 60 different aliases, knows the system well and was able to get out of the country fast.”

Martin had also spent five years in a Canadian jail on drug-related charges. When police tracked Martin down, they found he had fathered a child with a common-law wife and was living on public assistance in Montreal. Though Martin was originally not home, Canadian police monitored his residence and picked him up when he returned.

Massachusetts authorities plan to return Martin to the Bay State to face murder charges, although it’s not clear when that will happen, Anson Kaye, a spokesperson for the Middlesex County district attorney’s office told the Associated Press.

Paulsen’s family has stayed involved in the case over the years. Last year, they attended a parole hearing to make sure Brown was not released.

In unsolved murder cases, Nagle said, it is often the family who periodically stirs up interest, usually around the holidays or the anniversary of the death.

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The UCF license plate... make the change.
Bradley intensifies campaign as first primary battles approach

RYAN MANNING
DAILY PRINCETONIAN
(PRINCETON U.)

(PRINCETON U.)

(U-WIRE) PRINCETON, N.J. -- With only weeks to go before the first contests of the primary season, Princeton alum Bill Bradley's campaign playbook hinges on two key states more than 1,000 miles apart: Iowa and New Hampshire.

In the all-out scramble that the race for the Democratic presidential nomination has become, both Bradley and Vice President Al Gore have intensified their efforts in anticipation of the Jan. 24 Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary Feb. 1.

The two have stepped up campaign appearances this week and debated head-to-head from Durham, N.H., Wednesday night in a nationally televised event. They plan to debate again on Saturday.

CRUCIAL PRIMARIES

For Bradley more than for the vice president, success in these early contests is viewed as essential to the survival of his White House bid.

"New Hampshire is the be-all and end-all of Bradley's campaign," said Curtis Gans of the Committee on the Study of the American Electorate, a Washington, D.C., think tank. Winning New Hampshire and Iowa will be essential to propel the campaign into the next stage. The publicity of early wins is especially key to challengers, like Bradley and Republican Sen. John McCain, who do not have the institutional strength of their main adversaries.

Bradley, for instance, "doesn't have the foot soldiers from the labor unions" that will prove essential in key industrial states, Wilson School professor Fred Greenstein said.

FREE PUBLICITY

Success in New Hampshire and Iowa enabled Jimmy Carter, previously a relative unknown, to win his party nomination and subsequently the presidency in 1976, Greenstein explained. The national publicity Carter received was the equivalent of millions of dollars worth of advertising, he added.

After New Hampshire, the candidates will be bombarded with national attention as they prepare for the early March primaries. At this point, television advertisements will become the campaigns' primary tool, and face-to-face contact will be much more rare.

"There won't be time for hugging around in diners," quipped Larry Bartels, a Wilson School professor and scholar of presidential primaries.

February's rush is driven by the fact that the nomination could be determined by mid-March if either candidate fails to perform well in either California or New York.

Gans cited California as the second main hurdle for Bradley's campaign, after New Hampshire. "I believe California is critical to sustain his drive beyond March 7," he said.

Some Democrats disagree, believing New York to be a more important symbolic win for Bradley because of his years as a New York Knick.

If Bradley manages to survive the March primaries, however, Gans said he will give Gore a strong challenge for the party nod. "He will have at least as good a chance of winning the nomination as Gore does."

Bradley will be helped in the long term by his recent fund-raising success. He now has approximately the same amount to spend as Gore, so money will not likely be the deciding factor in enabling the longevity of his campaign.
Holiday shipping leaves 2 day burn
Shipping Goods Can Be More Trouble Than It Is Worth

ANDY LURIG
STAFF WRITER

While I was riding my high horse of superior judgment, throughout high school, I found out the joys of shipping. It's service costs a little more, but is promised by 3 p.m. on the second day. UPS offers UPS ground, a larger array of options, including UPS ground, the cheapest option.

When you choose your shipping online, you usually just consider your budget and how long you want to wait. Even though you are buying from a location nearby (same state), the USPS ground can be as fast as the 2-3 day service, depending on your personal needs. UPS ground is pretty good if you don't really care when it gets shipped to you, and that you are a poor college student who just wants the lowest price. So you send it in USPS ground. Excellent, they get you. You may begin weeping.

UPS requires a physical being to sign for the goods, and if no one is at home, is subject to stop pressing the button as I heard every wrong answer until it was at 450 volts - a lethal level. I would expect almost every subject to stop pressing the shock button as soon as they heard any signs of pain. Common people wouldn't put others lives in jeopardy simply because they were told to. There will always be that small group of psychiatric serial killers.

Interestingly, according to Milgram's results, 65 percent of the subjects had that serial killer mentality. They increased the voltage to the highest, most deadly level. They did it because they were told to do it. It was not an experiment, it was not a personal thing, it was a test of how many people would go along with this as an isolated event. Milgram told his subjects they were teachers, and instructed them to send an electric shock to learners in the room next door. Every time they answered a question incorrectly, with every shock, the voltage increased until it reached fatal levels. That's what the subjects believed, but the "teachers" were actually only pretending to be shocked. They banged on the walls, screamed in agony and even yelled about heart problems. They begged the teachers to stop. But the person conducting the experiment simply told the teachers to keep increasing the voltage, every wrong answer until it was at 450 volts - a lethal level. I would expect almost every subject to stop pressing the shock button as soon as they heard any signs of pain. Common people wouldn't put others lives in jeopardy simply because they were told to. There will always be that small group of psychiatric serial killers.

The sheep is responsible for the successes of Chicken Soup books, George W. Bush, boy bands, dot-com stocks and Clipps Notes. The sheep resists urges to run away when an older fraternity member points a gun at his head and gun. The sheep doesn't stand up for the students. Everyone makes fun of high school, because he's terrified of becoming the outcast. The sheep attacks affirmative action without knowing its definition. The sheep defends affirmative action without knowing its definition. The sheep applies to the Business School in his senior year. The sheep is just a part of us that wants to follow the leader. It's convenient to do and scary not to do. How many times have you mindlessly obeyed an authority figure without any other reason than that person's status or your insecurities? We've all done it, and it's because of that sheep who lives in our psyches.

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**January**

Yun-Fat) who can carry the show.

musical

ANY GIVEN

stars. - M.C.

director

clastic, pile-it-on All-American melodrama from

Machiavellian owner (Cameron Diaz).R. 2:42. 3-

Portman

mother and daughter who quarrel and bond, but

and

BEING

dark comedy of original means reflecting our

13. 1:54. 3-1/2 stars. - M.W.

superficial

and high-voltage staging,

Theater

DEUCE BIGALOW:

Williams is a robot who wants to be human and

who, over the course of the movie's

2:09. 2 stars. - M.C.

THE CEDAR HOUSE RULES. This is a coming-of-age tale about New England orphan Horror Wells (Tooby Maguire) trio into the world.

Michael Caine costars in this boldly old-fashioned, yet successful film about first love, the World War II Home front and sexual consciousness. R. 2:09. 3-1/2 stars. - M.W.

CREAL WILL ROCK. Despite its great cost and high-voltage staging, "Creal Will Rock" is an inaccurate Tom Brands-directed rendition of the story of a theater group (Howard Jeaner and Glenn Welles) Project 891, part of the WPA Theater Project.

- M.C.

DEUCE BIGALOW: MALE GIGOL0. Rob

Schrade plays Deuce Bigalow, a Los Angeles fish tank cleaner who becomes a gigolo in order to earn enough money to repair the damage he caused to his grandmother's luxurious Malibu apartment. Adam Sandler executes this post-"Saturday Night Live" effort, that's拙劣 with broad sight gags, gross sound effects and a bomb of putrid jokes. R. 1:24. 1-1/2 stars. - J.P.

DOUBLE DECEPTION, a movie based on a flawed premise leaves one thinking this must be just an exercise in rolling film. A skewed Libby (Ashley Judd) is sent to prison for her husband's murder. When she discovers he is alive and with their son and another woman, she plots to kill him. Of the rest of us would seek to have our sentence overturned, a quick release from prison and to be reunited with our son. On figure. R. 1:45. 1-1/2 stars. - M.C.

THE END OF THE AFFAIR. An intelligent, beautifully acted and stylized film (starring Ralph Fiennes and Julianne Moore) that chronicles the passion and loss that occurs when an abandoned lover discovers his rival may not be flesh and blood but something more irredeemable, magical and deadly. R. 1:45. 1 stars. - M.W.

FANTASIA 2000. Though not as good or even as massively innovative as its predecessor, "Fantasia 2000," boasts seven new sequences set to pieces ranging from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony to Grateful Dead's "Raggedy Blue." The film is broken into the "Portal" to outer space and "The Edge of the World." Chicago Symphony Orchestra and featuring a cast of all-star "stars" (from Axl Rose to Ellen DeGeneres). R. 2:12. 2 stars. - M.W.

GALAXY QUEST. This comedy is a postmodern parody of "Star Trek," a kind of PG-rated "Scream" for Trekkies. Tim Allen and Sigourney Weaver in a movie that amuses rather than builds momentum, and whose characters are overly familiar with a certain genre's formula. R. 1:15. 3 stars. - M.C.

THE GREEN MILE. Writer-director Frank德拉罗 Noah's Ark" is an upstanding, a good-natured guy who develops a strange relationship with an elderly man (played by Tim Allen). He is a robot who wants to be human and

who, over the course of the movie's

2:09. 2 stars. - M.C.

THE HURRICANE. Deuce Washington gives an outstanding performance in this offbeat sports drama, two men with exceptionally good chemistry who
tells the story of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, a mob-affected author of the mid-60s who was wrongfully convicted of a triple murder and unjustly imprisoned for 22 years. R. 2:26. 4 stars. - M.W.

MAGNOLIA. The lives of nine San Fernando Valleyites become intertwined during a 24-hour stretch. This period in this eccentric, personal, whimsical yet wildly ambitious movie by Paul Thomas Anderson ("Hardcore Hollywood," Nice.

includes Tom Cruise, Julianne Moore, John C. Reilly, William H. Macy. 2:59. 4 stars. - M.W.

MAN ON THE MOON. Jim Carrey stars in this biographical/syndrome, yet somewhat lacking, tribute to the all-time master of the deadpan put-on - Andy Kaufman. R. 1:52. 3-1/2 stars. - M.W.

MANSFIELD PARK. "Mansfield Park" is one of the most radical and social-minded of the Jane Austen movies so far. It's a sort of Cinderella story about poor relation Fanny Price (Australia's Princess Oftern) and the way she perseveres in a household of snobs and adventure. It's most consciously political and the settings. The film whisks us back to that early 19th-Century stretch of genteel English countryside to beloved fans of fine English literature and - it's another more-than-pleasant trip. PG. 1:3 stars. - M.C.

POKEMON THE FIRST MOVIE. This Japanese import will be a must-see for Pokemon fans - your kids. The film is broken into the 20-minute "Pikachu's Village," which plays like a psychedelic kids' dream, followed by the 76-minute feature, "Mewtwo Stricks Back." Mewtwo is more linear and filled with moral stories played out in a cartoon manner and the film. Though not as good or even as another more-than-pleasant trip. PG. 1:3 stars. - M.C.

PRINCESS MONONOKE. An English-language translation of Hayao Miyazaki's animated film of 1997, "Princess Mononoke," for the American audience. Young Ashitaka (voiced by Billy Crudup) is wounded when he kills a bear who is feeding on a bloody, womb-beast when shot in another country. Ashitaka must find the source of this evil lest his world remain forever his. He soon encouters San, Princess Mononoke (Claire Daines). It's one man's vision of an ancient forestland with startling beauty that at times unfolds like a psychedelic

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Sega's NBA 2K puts you inside the game

M. ANTONUCCI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There is a vaguely Frankensteinish quality to NBA 2K ($50), a powerful Sega Dreamcast game that blends reality and fantasy. It vied for my attention during the recent holidays with another Dreamcast title, Rippin' Riders, and easily won the monster share of my time.

Some of the NBA 2K eeriness is in the players' eyes. Much has been made of how lifelike the professional basketball players appear, not only in terms of their facial features but in their animated expressions — like an in-your-face scowl after a ferocious dunk. During pregame introductions, though, their eyes sometimes slide from side to side like loose basketballs.

There's a little freakishness in that, but it fits the game's persona. That's because with NBA 2K, published by Sega, you can create fictional players. You can stick to using NBA personnel — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar looks just so good when he's your guy — or you can make a player. And, if you're feeling like a mad sports scientist, a Frankenstein-ish one at that.

You shape the face and body type by first picking from some preset categories, then "tweak" your player's appearance right down to the size of his ears. If you want a pear-shaped, bald and hunchbacked point guard who can shoot the lights out, you can have him. Give him a preface nickname, a couple of tattoos and 128 bit of life.

Don't get me wrong. NBA 2K isn't basketball made strange. It's more like alternative reality. Visually stunning, innovatively creative, deliciously challenging and incredibly detailed alternative reality. You feel as if you're transported inside the NBA, and you have to keep reminding yourself: "It's just a game, it's just a game."

Big factors in the game's attractiveness are the speed and fluidity of the action — heightening the challenge, because you have to be able to select that much more quickly and smoothly from a rich array of play-calling options and player movements.

You not only need a mental command of your choices, you need to master all parts of the controller — joystick, directional pad, buttons and triggers. You want to play big-time hoops, you need good hands.

Some reviews have focused on passing and free-dribble shooting as the trickiest, and slightly hinky, elements of the game. No question, the free throw system, which requires simultaneously pressing two buttons and triggers, is more irritating than useful.

In general, though, I found offense far more manipulable than defense. In fact, over the first five hours I spent with NBA 2K, I was no factor on defense. I had Hakeem Olajuwon posting up and jamming home shots at a pace of about 30 points a game. But my half-court set defense was only good for watching the opposition make uncontested layups... and having the announcers comment on my team's lack of defense.

The commentary is another aspect of the game's richness. It acknowledges and reacts to the game's developments and trends with the same realism and near-naturalism that defines NBA 2K and makes it such a state-of-the-art achievement.

That's not so with Rippin' Riders ($50), another Sega-published Dreamcast title. It's a racing game, using snowboards instead of cars, and it features what is supposed to be ooh-ahh scenery that left me cold, no pun intended.

The snowboarding action is fine, indeed, the controls are very "tight", responsive and proportional, with a fine movement of the analog stick producing only fine movement on turns. But there's a commentator who's a jerk, chiming in repetitively with insipid critiques, such as "What are ya doin'?

You can learn and improve reasonably quickly in Rippin' Riders. In the free ride mode, which for the single player is the heart of the game, you work your way from a starter course up to fancier routes.

It took me about a dozen runs to get past course 1, but that was me. I kept trying to jump some massive boulders instead of realizing that everything was scaled to let my boarder slide right through some space between them.

The game is cute, not thrilling. That's true of the characters who do your racing, too. They include — really — "Tia," a high schooler who is "one fine trickster" and Bob, the "laughing Rastafarian."

Don't think about it. Just race.
Reon Shannon earns high praise after 'Hurricane' of a performance

IAN SPELLING
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Denzel Washington can't stop raving. "The kid is amazing," he says. "He's the story."

"The Kid" is Vicellous Reon Shannon, who shares the screen with Washington in "The Hurricane," a knockout reality-based drama about boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter (Washington), who spent two decades in prison after being convicted of three murders he did not commit. His only crime was being a black man in the wrong place (Paterson, New Jersey) at the wrong time. (June, 1966). Shannon portrays Lesra Martin, an African-American teen from Brooklyn who was with and was educated by a group of Canadian activists. After reading his first-ever book, "The Sixteenth Round," which happened to be Carter's autobiography, Martin led the charge that finally saw Carter vindicated.

Shannon, a 28-year-old whose friends call him "Vi," knows the instant he read the script that he wanted to play Martin. "Normally, I'll read 50 pages of a script, put it down, take a little break and then go back to it," the actor says during a conversation at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills. "Not this one. This one I read through in two hours. Then I re-read it. I said, 'OK, I've got to read ('The Sixteenth Round'). There's a Hurricane song (Bob Dylan's "Hurricane") I never heard. I've got to get that. I'm getting all these things and thinking, 'Wow, all this stuff happened and they're just NOW telling his story?'"

"After reading the book I felt the same way Lesra did. I thought, 'What's going on? I know a lot of passion about the story. You can't write anything better than that. It's just great.' The movie is about hope. It's about love. It's about faith. It's about right and wrong. You can't write anything better than this." It's just great."

Shannon conferred often with the real-life Martin and also met Carter on several occasions. In fact, Shannon, Martin, Carter, Washington and others involved in the film dined together a few time before, during and after the film went before the camera. Shannon was struck each time he met Carter by the man's serenity. "With everything that happened to him you would think he'd be bitter, upset, have a chip on his shoulder," Shannon says. "But he's sweet, gentle and full of knowledge. He's still giving. I'm looking at him and I said, 'Aren't you mad about what happened? You were hate put him in prison and love busted him out. That's the movie inspired me to talk to my son, to help him and to make sure he gets everything he needs. It really moved me.' It shows a positive side of African-Americans."

Shannon's friends call him "Vi," and Shannon can usually be found at home with his wife, an aspiring chef with whom he lives in Los Angeles. There's a warm grin on Shannon's face as he notes that she's six-feet-tall and gorgeous, while he's five-foot-seven and baby-faced. "I get carded a lot," he says. "When I was in New York one time I wanted to see "The Siege." And they carded me. They said, 'Are you not over 17?' I said, 'Oh, man! He saw my ID and said, 'This is a fake.' When I have people come out to my house to fix stuff, they say, 'Are your parents home?' I smile and say, 'I'm the man, OK?'"

"I get a lot of that."
A false feel To 'Magnolia'

HENRY SHEEHAN  CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You would never guess how young filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson is from the way he structures his movie.

From his initial, low-budget crime drama, “Hard Eight,” through the attention-getting porn-biz saga “Boogie Nights” and up to his latest, “Magnolia,” the director has displayed remarkable finesse in juggling a large cast of characters.

Anderson quickly and memorably introduce us to a character, move onto the next one and next one, double back and tie several of them together, split them up and pair them off in other ways. And then somehow he ends up with all these creations both convincingly changed in outlook but realistically the same in self by movie’s end.

On top of all that, he’s able to lead an ensemble of players through the action so that star and supporting player alike share in the spotlight.

The biggest star in “Magnolia” is Tom Cruise, who Anderson has handed a real plum of a part. With his hair knotted back pseudo-ninja style, Cruise turns up the volume (literally and figuratively) on his dark plum of a part. With his hair knotted back pseudo-ninja style, Cruise turns up the volume (literally and figuratively) on his dark plum of a part. With his hair knotted back pseudo-ninja style, Cruise turns up the volume (literally and figuratively) on his dark plum of a part.

There’s another story line involving an adult who had been on the show as a kid and in particular one featuring children as intense people, rather than one of those intense people, rather than one of those intense people, rather than one of those intense people.

The show, “What Do Kids Know?” has been on for decades and always hosted by the same MC, Jimmy Gaitor (Philip Baker Hall). Jimmy is not only the father of the cocaine addict, Claudia Gaitor (Merola Walters). Poignantly, Kurring is so wanting he just thinks Claudia is one of those intense people, rather than one of those intense people, rather than one of those intense people.

Magnolia,” like “Boogie Nights,” is set in Los Angeles’ suburban San Fernando Valley and, like “Boogie Nights,” involves loosely around a subsection of show biz, in this case quiz shows and in particular one featuring children as intense people, rather than one of those intense people, rather than one of those intense people.

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**CHUCK SHEPHERD's NEWSPAPER**

**LEAD STORIES**

- Patrick J. Murphy, deputy superintendent of schools in Cambridge, Mass., resigned in December after admitting that he solicited two of his staff members to write papers on Shakespeare for his 19-year-old daughter's literature class at Stonehill College in nearby Easton, Mass. The scheme blew up on Murphy when one of the papers received a D, and he tried to get the employee to rewrite it.

- Among the new dog designer fashions unveiled at the 12th Pat Pet Friend Festival in November in Rialto, Calif., taped a disruptive student's head to the wall of the classroom. And seventh-grade teacher Carl White was fired in Oakland, submitting a dictionary and a calculator at two disruptive students in Lodi, Ohio. In June, high school substitute teacher Steven M. Catanese was fired in Kennebunk, N.J., after reports that he wrapped one student in masking tape and butcher paper in class and implored students to give another classmate a "swirly" (tucking in a toilet). And in Burbank, South Africa, in May, a high school teacher and a principal pulled guns and opened fire on students who were protesting higher fees.

**SCHOOLS THAT NEED ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICIES FOR TEACHERS**

In October, a first-grade teacher in Rialto, Calif., taped a disruptive student's head to the wall of the classroom. And seventh-grade teacher Carl White was fired in Oakland, submitting a dictionary and a calculator at two disruptive students in Lodi, Ohio. And in June, high school substitute teacher Steven M. Catanese was fired in Kennebunk, N.J., after reports that he wrapped one student in masking tape and butcher paper in class and implored students to give another classmate a "swirly" (tucking in a toilet). And in Burbank, South Africa, in May, a high school teacher and a principal pulled guns and opened fire on students who were protesting higher fees.

**INEXPLICABLE**

In August, according to reports, a first-grade teacher in the United States was found dead near her home with a noose around her neck. In September, a first-grade teacher in England was found dead in her classroom with a noose around her neck. In October, a first-grade teacher in Australia was found dead in her classroom with a noose around her neck. In November, a first-grade teacher in Canada was found dead in her classroom with a noose around her neck.

**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

- In October, Argentina exiled former Peruvian military leader Luis Oviedo to remote Tierra del Fuego for violating the terms of his political asylum, which it had given him six months earlier. Oviedo had unsuccessfully requested a stay of his banishment, arguing that he had recently undergone a heart transplant and felt the windy, sunny weather in Tierra del Fuego would disrupt his new lungs.

- In November, Robert Horton, 52, walked into a Phoenix bookstore carrying his wife, Belinda, who was bound at the legs, arms and mouth with gray duct tape. He told a security officer that she was due in court that day on a charge of assaulting a police officer, that he had posted bail for her, that she had threatened to skip the court hearing when she had been taped and dropped her downtown to make sure he got his bail money back. Unknown to the Hortons, the charge against Belinda had been dismissed earlier that day, but her lawyers were still deciding whether to file charges against Robert for kidnapping his wife.

Ewwwww, Grosse!

- Convicted killer Kenneth D. Williams escaped from prison in Arkansas in October by hiding in a 500-gallon barrel of hog slop being towed to a prison farm; he was apprehended 36 hours later. And two weeks later, ex-Big Brother Roderick King, 19, was found in a Dumpster full of fetid garbage in Knoxville, Tenn., where he had been hiding from police who chased him after he had gone to the home of the victim's aunt to convince her he was innocent.

- Diana Thomsen's government-support ed art exhibit, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in September, consisted of 12 dead rabbits, hung from trees and roting, in the woods outside town; said the artist, "I'm celebrating the gloriousness of putrefaction." And in November, an unnamed African American invented a new form of transportation at various Central Florida locations.

**PEOPLE WHO SHOULD'VE HELD IT UNTIL THEY GOT HOME**

Elderly Margaret Barrs filed a lawsuit in Houston in November against Jack in the Box restaurants because she lost a finger tip when a heavy restroom door slammed on her hand in 1998. And Toronto lawyer Edward Skwark, 37, filed a $1.5 million lawsuit in November against Starbucks for his restroom injury in one of the chain's New York City restaurants: Skwark said he was seated on the commode, and when he turned to reach for toilet paper, the seat slipped and trapped his penis between it and the top of the bowl, mangling it.

**CURING THEMES**

- News of the Weird has reported several times on successful surgeries to remove unusually large benign tumors, most recently in February 1999 in women in Baltimore (80-pound tumor) and Lancaster, Pa. (75 pounds). In December, doctors at the University of Chicago hospital, working for 18 hours, removed a 200-pound tumor from a 40-year-old woman who weighed 120 pounds just 12 months earlier when the tumor's growth began. The largest tumor-removal on record, 303 pounds, occurred at Stanford Medical Center in 1991.

**LEAST JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES**

- Insufficient Reasons to Kill Someone: Resisted taking a shower (Joseph Mashon, charged with strangling his son, 8, Toronto, November). Violated chess etiquette by moving a knight to a new square but then moving it back, even though he did not own the piece. Ruth Ratha, charged with clubbing his opponent to death with a wooden pestle, Prey Veng, Cambodia, July. Got accepted to Kindergarten while her playmate did not (Mitsuko Yamada, 35, mother of the rejected, charged with strangling the accepted child, Tokyo, November).

(Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 18737, Tampa, Fla. 33679, or Webmaster at various Central Florida locations.)
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TRAVIS BELL
STAFF WRITER

When the UCF baseball program finished 38-21 last year, many people may have viewed that as a bad season for Coach Jay Bergman. It was the first season since 1994 that UCF has won less than 40 games, and it was also the second consecutive season the Golden Knights didn’t win the Trans America Athletic Conference championship.

But, what needs to be remembered is that UCF lost 10 players, including seven juniors, to the Major League Baseball Draft following the 1997 season. Despite those major losses, Bergman still produced a 38-win season with numerous freshmen and sophomores being thrown into the fire and being counted on in clutch situations to produce.

At times they succeeded and at times they failed. But what needs to be known is that those freshmen and sophomores are now a year older, and they have the advantage of already having been in tough situations. And with the loss of only one underclassman in last year’s MLB Draft, this year holds nothing but promise for the Golden Knights.

Bergman, who is entering his 18th season as the Golden Knights head coach, has been the reason for the success of the UCF baseball program. Since 1993 he has led UCF to four TAAC titles and five NCAA Tournament appearances, but this year’s team could provide him with his best chance of getting to Omaha.

Omaha is the ultimate goal for all coaches and players in college baseball because the Nebraska city’s Rosenblatt Stadium plays host to the College World Series, and every year only eight teams are fortunate enough to make it there. Bergman has been as a spectator and administrator, however, he has not reached it as a coach and Florida pro-Pat Bergman has been as a spectator and administrator, however, he has not reached it as a coach and Florida pro-

But as I said, this year’s team provides the best chance for Bergman to make a visit to Omaha because of who is returning to the team beginning with senior Dustin Brisson. Fortunately for UCF fans, Brisson wasn’t picked until the middle rounds of the draft, so he and his single-season records of 17 home runs and 76 RBIs return to anchor an impressive lineup.

Along with junior Matt Bowser, who belted 13 home runs last year, they make a scary middle lineup for the Golden Knights. Brisson and Bowser are the strongest 3-4 hitters that Bergman has had since UCF broke onto the national stage in 1995 with 29 consecutive wins.

The only losses that could hurt the Golden Knights are the loss of leadoff hitter Tim Boeth and catcher Brett Spoor. Both provided speed at the top of the lineup and dependability to get on base, and Spoor brought a calming effect to pitchers that was seen toward the end of last season.

However, the key to UCF’s success this year comes with the pitching staff. Pitchers were the hottest commodity to leave UCF in the 1997 draft, and the effects were severely seen last year as the Golden Knights ERA approached 5.00.

With the return of senior David Rankin and sophomore Justin Pope to anchor the rotation, very little concern should be made of the pitching staff’s stability. And with the addition of Casey Kennedy from Virginia, UCF should have the best rotation in the TAAC. Then you throw in All-TAAC closer Jason Arnold, and you’re already looking at a stellar staff.

The Golden Knights have been to the NCAA Tournament, but now is the time to make the next step to the College World Series. This is the best UCF team I’ve seen since coming here in 1995 for a few simple reasons: experience and depth.

It has a solid 11-man pitching staff, who can all throw well when called upon, and this is the strongest lineup from top to bottom that Bergman has ever had while at UCF. With all those things going for Bergman, I predict that this team will not only return to win the TAAC championship but could if all goes well- give Bergman that first trip to Omaha.
Blue chip tight end among five recruits to enroll at UCF

SPECIAL TO THE FUTURE

With national signing day still a month away, the University of Central Florida got a big shot in the arm on the recruiting front on Jan. 6 when tight end Detric Golden from Tallahassee enrolled in school.

Gaines (6-3, 265) originally signed with Alabama last year after graduating from Florida High School, but did not meet NCAA academic requirements. He is now a full academic qualifier and is eligible to play.

UCF's best recruits since Daunte Culpepper, was not the only addition to the football roster to enroll at UCF this semester. December signee Patrick Gaines (6-3, 265) originally enrolled at Culpepper, was not the only addition to the football roster to enroll at UCF this semester. December signee Patrick Gaines (6-3, 265) originally

Gaines, a precision All-American as a high school senior, did nearly everything on the football field during his high school career. In addition to playing tight end, he played linebacker, kicked field goals, punted, was a backup quarterback and also played some at offensive tackle. He made 20 catches for 535 yards and nine TDs and had 110 tackles during his senior season and was chosen to play in the Florida-Georgia High School All-Star Game.

Points per game

1. Detric Golden - Troy State 17.2
2. Marc Salyers - Samford 17.0
3. Adam Fellers - Campbell 15.9
4. Calvin Slaughter - Jacksonville St. 15.6
5. Reed Rawlings - Samford 15.1
6. Brandon Williams - Jacksonville 14.9
7. Anton Reese - Georgia State 14.9
8. Sebastian Singletary - Stetson 13.8
9. Scott Emerson - Mercer 13.9
10. D'Quarius Stewart - Central Florida 13.8

Rebounds per game

1. Sebastian Singletary - Stetson 9.6
2. Santos Hampton - Stetson 8.9
3. Mike McDaniels - Jacksonville St. 8.5
4. Scott Emerson - Mercer 8.4
5. Marc Salyers - Samford 7.1
6. Paul Reed - Central Florida 7.0

Assists per game

1. Detric Golden - Troy State 5.6
2. Rashard Willie - Jacksonville St. 5.0
3. Ravi Givens - Stetson 4.5
4. Marlo Lopez - Samford 4.2
5. Cory Perry - Central Florida 4.2
6. Shawn Plante - Jacksonville 4.1
7. Al Miller - Central Florida 3.7

3-point FG Pct.

1. Shawn Plante - Jacksonville .500
2. Jason Thornton - Central Florida .494
3. Matt Holman - Troy State .474
4. Rashard Willie - Jacksonville St. .473
5. Marc Salyers - Samford .462
6. Robert Rushing - Troy State .446

Steals per game

1. Ravi Givens - Stetson 2.2
2. Reed Rawlings - Samford 2.1
3. Tony Lee - Florida Atl. 2.0
4. Kevin Morris - Georgia State 2.0
5. Cory Perry - Central Florida 1.8
6. Marques Williams - Florida Atl. 1.8
Every team has a night like tonight. We coach Gail couldn't hit the broad side of a barn. We had open looks left and right that we just win a game when you shoot 24 percent.

The Golden Knights turned things around against Troy State, taking an early lead and holding off the Trojans' full-court-press defense in the second half to preserve a 78-70 victory.

Facing the same zone defense, UCF's post players would not be denied for a second straight game. Camille Howard posted her fifth career double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds, while Erin Paige scored 19 points and Graham added 14. The trio also combined for 21 rebounds as the Golden Knights outrebounded TSU 53-25. "LaToya and Camille both came out to play tonight, and those are the type of stats they should have every night," Striegler said. "They're probably two of the best post players in the conference when they come to play every night. Erin plays inside and out so she gets some of them inside and some of them on the outside. She's been our most consistent player as far as scoring goes."

In contrast to their poor shooting performance against Mercer, the Golden Knights shot 49.1 percent against Troy State. The game was a must win for the team according to Striegler. "I came in before the game and told our assistants that we really needed to win this one," she said. "I think it was huge for us. "That's the first game we've played that we've played for 40 minutes. We had a few little dry spells in there, but we came through and every time we had a dry spell we answered with something."

Three-Point Woes

In games against Florida Atlantic, Mercer, and Troy State last week, the Golden Knights shot a combined five of 29 from beyond the three-point arc. "I told the girls that. I said to them, 'You're getting the open shots, and you're going to hit them.' The post players are only going to get a couple of looks (per game). On the flip side of that, I told the post players that (opposing teams) are double-teaming and triple-teaming, they're going to have to go rebound and get their points."

Around the TAAC
Samford (9-4, 4-0), Campbell (8-4, 3-0), and Florida Atlantic (5-7, 3-0) are all tied atop the TAAC standings with undefeated conference records. UCF, with a 1-2 record in TAAC play, sits in sixth place in the conference.

Last week, Samford picked up wins over Stetson and Jacksonville, while Campbell defeated Georgia State. Florida Atlantic won three conference games against UCF, Troy State, and Mercer.

This week, the Golden Knights play two road conference games at eighth place Stetson (5-8, 1-3), and last place Jacksonville (1-11, 0-4).

-David Marsters
Knights fall short in upset bid at Samford

TONY MEJIA
SPORTS EDITOR

Down by as many as 13 points in the second half, UCF fought back to lead the defending conference champs with just over five minutes remaining, but Samford proved to be too much down the stretch, defeating the Golden Knights, 75-67 at Siebert Hall in Birmingham, Ala.

UCF fell to 1-2 in conference play while the Bulldogs improved to 3-1. Both teams had games on Monday evening that were not completed prior to press time. UCF's encounter was against TAAC leading Jacksonville State.

Against Samford, the Golden Knights struggled early and found themselves behind 19-8 at the 8:08 mark of the first half. A pair of dunks by Paul Reed and a 3-pointer by D’Quarius Stewart highlighted a 9-0 run that pulled UCF within two, but as was the trend for the majority of the day, the Knights failed to take the lead.

Samford scored 13 of the game’s next 17 points, and ended up taking a 35-25 lead into the locker room at halftime.

UCF ended up pulling to within 44-43 on one of senior Cory Perry's four 3-pointers on the afternoon, but again, Samford managed to pull away.

Finally, at the 5:06 mark of the second half, a pair of Davin Granberry free throws ended a 6-1 run that gave the Golden-Knights a 53-52 lead, its first since the opening minute of play.

Unfortunately for UCF, it only enjoyed the lead for 14 seconds before reigning TAAC Player-of-the-Year Reed Rawlings connected on a 3-pointer to give Samford a two-point lead. Stewart, who finished with a team-high 15 points, took it in for a game-tying layup before Marc Salyers, who ended up with a game-high 20 points and 13 rebounds, put Samford ahead to stay with a layup of his own at the 4:23 mark.

Forward Jason Thornton had an opportunity to tie the game at 57 with 3:59 left, but missed the second of two free throws, allowing Mario Lopez's 3-pointer on Samford’s next possession to stretch the lead to four.

Samford seemed to answer every UCF rally with a 3-pointer, and eventually wore the Knights down. UCF outshot the Bulldogs, 47.4 percent to 45.1, but the Golden Knights struggled from 3-point range by making only five of 18 attempts.

Samford also benefitted from 20 UCF fouls, making 20 of 27 free throws. UCF was eight of 12 from the line.

Samford improved to 13-2 all time against the Golden Knights, who have never won at Siebert Hall and last beat the Bulldogs in the 1998 TAAC Tournament.

The Bulldogs will play UCF in Orlando on Feb. 19.
Collegiate Baseball Selects Bowser TAAC Preseason Player of the Year

Collegiate Baseball Newspaper named UCF's Matt Bowser its choice for Trans America Athletic Conference Player of the Year. According to the newspaper, other Golden Knight players that bear watching include first baseman Dustin Brission, pitcher Jason Arnold and Casey Kennedy, who transferred to UCF from Virginia for his senior season.

Bowser, who made the '99 Preseason All-TAAC team as chosen by the conference head coaches and earned first team status for his regular season performance, moved up to fourth in school history with 24 career home runs after only two years. His .346 career batting average is seventh among the Golden Knights all-time leaders.

For two years, Matt has demonstrated that he's a strong force on this team and in the conference. I look forward to him continuing that way,” Coach Jay Bergman said.

UCF was chosen to finish second in the TAAC by Collegiate Baseball behind Florida Atlantic, last year's regular season champion. The Golden Knights tied for third at 19-11 in the TAAC regular season and wound up fourth at the TAAC Tournament.

UCF baseball practice gets underway with new-look pitching staff

Jay Bergman's University of Central Florida baseball team resumed practice on Jan. 10 in preparation for the 2000 season. The Golden Knights have been members of the Trans America Athletic Conference for seven years and won four championships in that time. The team should be extremely competitive in the TAAC this year.

"Our early focus will be on getting ready for the Disney Blast," said Bergman. "Everybody reported healthy after the holidays and there are no major injuries to report."

Early January conditioning will involve daily throwing for the pitchers, weight room workouts, and agility training for everyone. Even though UCF ranked second in the TAAC last season in team earned run average (4.67), Bergman revamped the pitching staff in the offseason. He acquired transfers Casey Kennedy from Virginia, Jesse Marlo from LSU, Scott Rudin from Potomac State, Dan Stillman from Pasco-Hernando Community College and Clint Wells from conference rival Mercer.

Freshmen Von David Sturzbach and Mark Smietenka also joined a staff that should be anchored by David Rankin (8-5, 3.94 ERA), Arnold (Palm Bay/Melbourne HS) (7-4, 2.67, 8 saves) and Kennedy (4-6, 3.86 for the Cavaliers). Practices are open to the public and will generally begin at 2:30 each day through the start of the season.

The season gets underway Friday, Jan. 28 against North Carolina at the ACC/Disney Baseball Blast hosted by Disney's Wide World of Sports.

Recruits make headlines in Collegiate Baseball

Golden Knights prospect Dan Armitage (Key West/Winchester Academy) was selected a 2000 Louisville Slugger TPX Preseason High School All-American. The left-handed pitcher who transferred from Key West High school headlined the group of six committed to UCF on national letters of intent. Collegiate Baseball publisher Lou Pavlovich writes, "[Armitage is] another super-talented southpaw from Florida who has played for national teams. The 6-foot-3 hurler has been clocked in the low 90s."

"That's a great honor," Bergman said. "I certainly hope that he'll wear the Black and Gold next year."

The other five players that UCF inked in the early signing period received honors as CB blue-chip high school stars in the state of Florida. They are left-handed pitcher Troy Bowden (St. Augustine/Nease HS), left-handed pitcher Paul Labrano (Winter Springs/Oviedo HS), out­fielder/first baseman Blaine Schulte (Oviedo/Oviedo HS), outfielder Scott Carmichael (Orlando/University HS) and right-handed pitcher Justin Cerrato (Clearwater/Clearwater HS).

"It shows the hard work of Greg Frady and his recruit­ing, a real feather in his cap," Bergman added.

UCF baseball to appear twice on Sunshine Network

Sunshine Network will televise two University of Central Florida baseball games live during the upcoming season. As part of the school's ongoing agreement with the network, UCF appears on television in events of most major team sports.

Sunshine will broadcast Golden Knights baseball action statewide Saturday, Jan. 29 at 11 a.m. when UCF faces Wake Forest in the ACC/Disney Baseball Blast from Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex. That game will be replayed on the network Monday, Jan. 31 at 2:30 a.m.

Special to the Future
MEN'S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

Golden Knights claim first TAAC win

Utilizing a hot-shooting perimeter attack, the Golden Knights built a huge lead against conference rival Mercer, leading by as many as 25 points to claim their first TAAC win of the season, evening their record at 1-1.

Jason Thornton scored a career-high 25 points, the most scored by a Golden Knight this season, to lead UCF to a 93-77 win against the Bears.

Paul Reed added 21 and 14 rebounds in the win, helping the Knights bounce back from a 74-73 loss in their TAAC opener to Troy State.

The Knights never trailed after a Roy Leath layup put them up 10-9 with 15:40 remaining.

“This was a game coming in that we thought we had to have,” Coach Kirk Speraw said. “We were going to do whatever it took to win. It was certainly a ballgame we controlled.”

Redshirt season for Lovett seems likely

With the season heading into mid-January, it's becoming clear that the only sight UCF fans will have of Mario Lovett this season will be of him cheering on his teammates in street clothes on the bench.

Thornton falls one trifecta short of school record

Senior Forward Jason Thornton hit a long jump shot in the second half that appeared to tie UCF's school record for 3-pointers made in a single game, but referees ruled that his foot was on the line, leaving the sophomore forward one shy of Brad Traina's mark of eight in a game.

“I was really hoping they would give it to me, but they said my foot was on the line,” Thornton said.

“It took me about six or seven minutes to get into the flow of the game. Then I hit the first shot and the rest of the game I was on. Every open shot I took I knew was going in.”

Thornton connected on seven of 10 3-point attempts on the night, and is second in the conference in 3-point percentage.

“Jason’s obviously a very good shooter,” Speraw said. “We were able to get him open shots tonight and he knocked them down.”

Tony Mejia

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Golden Knights crack preseason top 25

Travis Bell
STATE WRITER

The UCF baseball program has built itself into one of the most respected programs in the country, and it has also proven on the field that it belongs among the best. Baseball America agrees that UCF is a team to watch as they ranked the Golden Knights 23rd in their preseason poll.

The ranking marks the first time UCF has been included in the Baseball America poll since the week of April 13, 1998 (No. 25). UCF was No. 28 in the preseason poll that year. College Baseball had the Golden Knights at No. 25 on March 23, 1998.

"It's nice to be recognized in the national media as a solid team before the season gets started," said Coach Jay Bergman.

The reason for UCF's ranking can be attributed to the nucleus that is returning from last year's team that went 38-21, including a third place 19-11 mark in Trans America Athletic Conference play. Bergman lost senior second baseman Tim Bohr and senior left-hander Troy Satterfield, and the only junior that was lost to the Major League Baseball Draft was catcher Brent Spooner.

On Jan. 15, the Golden Knights host Campbell, one of the TAAC's hottest teams. Shooting guard Adam Fellers has single-handedly shot Coach Billy Lee's Camels into conference contention. Fellers, a dangerous sharp-shooter, found his stroke just in time for conference play and has been punishing the opposition from the outside. After a humiliating 71-39 loss to Samford in December, the Camels have registered a pair of upsets against Georgia State and Stetson, with Fellers leading the team in scoring on both occasions.

Fellers has had help however, as senior forward Jamie Sequence has picked up his game after struggling early during the non-conference portion of the schedule. Newcomer Damien Hannibal has also added a boost to the frontcourt, while the depth opposite Fellers, led by junior Eddie Walker, senior Matt Mardis, and sophomore Wes Layton allows Lee to employ a pressing attack while keeping his players fresh. A victory over the Golden Knights would keep the surprising Camels on track for a run at the TAAC's top tier.

For UCF, these two games are key considering the team will be coming off a trip to Alabama in which it lost at Samford and had a tough test against Jacksonville State. Additionally, following these two home games, the Golden Knights face their next three on the road despite not leaving the state, playing at Jacksonville (Jan. 19), Stetson (Jan. 22), and Florida Atlantic (Jan. 26).

Golden Knights crack preseason top 25

Paige leads UCF to first TAAC win

SPECIAL TO THE FUTURE

Freshman forward Erin Paige led all scorers with 19 points as UCF (4-8/1-2 TAAC) won its first conference game of the season defeating visiting Troy State University (4-7/1-3 TAAC), 78-70 on Jan. 8 at the UCF Arena.

Paige went 6-of-11 from the field and 7-of-9 from the line while pulling down six rebounds for UCF, which outshot Troy St. 49.1% to 36.9% from the field and had 33 to 22 rebounds to the Trojans 25.

Junior center Camille Howard recorded her fifth double-double of the season with 17 points and a team-leading 10 rebounds. Junior forward LaToya Graham scored 14 points, while freshman guard Diana Hill chipped in 10 points for UCF, which held a 37-30 lead at the half. Sophomore forward Khaliah Guillory finished the game with eight points and junior forward LaDonna Larry scored six and had nine rebounds.

Troy State freshman guard Shamin Miller led the Trojans with 17 points following by sophomore center Sarah DeGrandi's 11.

UCF hosts critical conference contests

Tony Mejia
SPORTS EDITOR

UCF knew the TAAC would be a lot tougher this year, but what's happened thus far in conference play probably belies even its lofty expectations.

The Golden Knights, going into a Monday night contest at Jacksonville State, are 1-2 in TAAC play and are one of a couple of perennial powers looking up at former doormats Troy State, Jacksonville State, and Campbell.

That puts home games at a premium, and UCF will host a pair this week against Georgia State, which like UCF were pre-season favorite currently struggling, and against Campbell, which has recorded upsets over Georgia State and Stetson and were just behind reigning conference champ Samford with a 2-1 mark heading into Monday action.

Georgia State, UCF's Jan. 13 opponent, has struggled despite having three major Division I transfers in its starting lineup and a former JuCo All-American on its bench.

George town transfer Sharmar Long leads the team in scoring but doesn't appear on any leaderboards due to the fact he's only played a handful of games with the Panthers. Former Georgia Tech point guard Kevin Morris, last year's TAAC leader in assists, has struggled all season, averaging nearly three assists less than he did last year, while his scoring numbers have decreased as well. Meanwhile, former Alabama transfer Anton Reese, continues to struggle with the consistency of his shot. If they get things clicking, which at this point is a big if, they have the weapons to be the TAAC's best. GSU defeated Jacksonville by ten points on Jan. 8, getting a big game from Morris, which is something Coach Lefty Driesell hopes will continue.

On Jan. 15, the Golden Knights host Campbell, one of the TAAC's hottest teams. Shooting guard Adam Fellers has single-handedly shot Coach Billy Lee's Camels into conference contention. Fellers, a dangerous sharp-shooter, found his stroke just in time for conference play and has been punishing the opposition from the outside. After a humiliating 71-39 loss to Samford in December, the Camels have registered a pair of upsets against Georgia State and Stetson, with Fellers leading the team in scoring on both occasions.

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