**UCF police find home in Wild Pizza for now**

Health problems caused by an air conditioning system forced the department out of its 10 year residence and into an old UCF hangout.

**Adam Shiver**

Staff Writer

Recently the UCF police department was forced to relocate much of its staff and many of its officers because of health problems experienced by people working within the department.

Many of the officers were complaining of headaches as well as breathing problems. These health problems occurred only inside the station. This lead to suspicion that there was something wrong with the air-conditioning system.

The causes of the problems were finally linked to the air-conditioning system set up.

"The way the air-conditioning system was set up was not conducive to the environment from what they had come," said Officer Kellie DeArmas. "It was set up properly to begin with. It needed to be redone totally."

While these reactions were unnoticed at first, many voiced their problems more than others did. Some simply chalked it up to getting older, while others who were newer to the department blamed it on a different environment from what they had come.

"We moved everyone out of the building because we felt it was in all of the officers' best interest," said Sgt. Tom Gorbas of the UCF Police Department.

Many of the reactions that the officers and staff had to the faulty air-conditioning system were allergic reactions.

**Topsy-turvy Judicial Council reverses itself in Patton case**

After ruling in December that Darin Patton received an unfair deal, the Judicial Council has come full circle and thrown the ruling out.

**Shelley Wilson**

Managing Editor

The Judicial Council overturned its own decision Thursday of reinstating Darin Patton as the SG President. The officers in SG now are Andrew Cupicha as president, Jaime Halscott as vice president and Amy Florin as the second-year SG senator.

In a memo that was handed out Friday, the council wrote that its decision was based on new information regarding two issues that Darin Patton received an unfair deal.

The council wrote that it has set up its base in the Wild Pizza building because it was not conducive to the environment from what they had come.

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Many of the reactions that the officers and staff had to the faulty air-conditioning system were allergic reactions.

**Huddleston heads student development, enrollment division**

UCF has become nothing short of a self-sufficient community with services such as student health services, legal services, career resources, Student Outreach and others that cater primarily to the needs of UCF students. All of UCF's special programs, administrative affairs, academic development, campus life, undergraduate admissions, and student financial assistance provide countless assistance to students and are all under the command of one man, Dr. Thomas Huddleston.

Appointed Vice President of Student Development and Enrollment Services this past spring, Huddleston heads the student development, enrollment division.

**Krista Zilizi**

Staff Writer

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New IFC, PHC members elected; former TKE speaks on drunk driving

KRISTA ZILIZI
top writer

UCF Greek Fast Facts

Close to 10 percent of UCF's undergraduates are involved in a fraternity or sorority, while over 50 percent of UCF's Alumni Board of Directors and 80 percent of student leaders at UCF are members of a fraternity or sorority.

UCF's fraternities and sororities managed to perform over 6,000 hours of community service between 1998 and 1999. This year, UCF sororities also reached a pledge quota of 64, higher than both Florida State and the University of Florida. The average sorority chapter size is currently 150, showing that there is a need for more chapters at UCF.

Greek Park provides 1,400 students. With over $8 million in real estate development and Greek Park houses, UCF's Greek Park provides spaces and programming space for 4,000 students.

The Newly Elect

New executive board members were elected to both the Inter Fraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council in late November of last semester. Each elected board member completed an application and an interview process with three delegates from each chapter at UCF. Each member will serve a one-year term and all currently hold sophomore or junior standing. Executive board members are responsible for overseeing all fraternities at UCF.

Pi Kapp Princess

The Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity is hosting its first annual Pi Kapp Princess pageant Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. in Room 132 of the Visual Arts building. One representative from each of the following sororities will compete in the pageant: Alpha Xi Delta, Alpha Delta Phi, Kappa Delta, Zeta Tau Delta, Pi Beta Phi, and Delta Delta Delta. Each contestant completes an application with essay, interview process, service project as well as a talent, including a creative project presentation that emphasizes Pi Kapp and UCF spirit. The pageant will include beach wear, formal wear, talent, and question sessions.

Books are being collected, and will be donated to both UCF's library and the Creative School for Learning. Baby supplies have been collected to be given to the Coalition for the Homeless, and school supplies will be presented to A Gift For Teaching. Sororities are encouraged to participate in campus blood drives throughout the weeks to earn points for their sorority.

Scholarships

Alpha Xi Delta member Jacy Bloom and Kappa Delta member Jen Copertino were both awarded $300 book scholarships from the Orlando Panhellenic Alumni Association.

Tau Kappa Epsilon Speaker

The Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, in collaboration with REACH Peer Education, will be holding an awareness seminar in the Student Auditorium on Jan. 26 at 7 p.m.

Greek letters adorned the campus this week as fraternities advertised for Spring 2000 Rush.

Former Tau Kappa Epsilon member Mark Sterner will discuss his life and experiences after he was convicted of killing his three friends in a drunk driving accident in 1994 while vacationing in Sanibel Island. Sentenced to 45 years in prison, Sterner was released on the condition that he would speak about his experience and become active in drunk driving awareness programs to educate other students.

Greek letters adorned the campus this week as fraternities advertised for Spring 2000 Rush.

Coming Tuesday, February 1, 2000 to the UCF Arena...

The University of Central Florida's

SPRING 2000 CAREER EXPO

A chance for UCF students to meet with 200 EMPLOYERS to discuss career and employment opportunities

Tuesday, February 1, 2000 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A list of employers is posted on the CRC's website:

www.crc.ucf.edu

PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE RECOMMENDED

Sponsored by the Career Resource Center
Better services key, Huddleston says

FROM PAGE 1

December, Huddleston has been an influence at UCF since October 1993. Huddleston began his career at UCF as provost for Academic and Enrollment Services. In May of 1998, he was appointed interim for Student Development and Enrollment after the individual Enrollment and Development services merged under one title. At this time units were restructured, a new staff was hired and Huddleston, in collaboration with six SDES Council members, is now directly responsible for providing students with an optimal learning environment here at UCF.

Prior to Huddleston’s career at UCF, he was involved with all aspects of student affairs at Pennsylvania’s St. Joseph’s University, Spring Hill College in Alabama, and Bradley University in Illinois. Huddleston received his doctorate form Oklahoma State and served as international president to the Delta Tau Delta fraternity during his years at Oklahoma.

“I came to UCF for several reasons,” said Huddleston. “I was intrigued with the university’s potential for growth. I liked the people. I liked the location. I saw a lot of value at this university and felt it wanted to grow and develop.”

Huddleston and his SDES Council have incorporated this thought into the division’s goals that focus on developing the best student development and enrollment services division in Florida. But Huddleston also recognizes the need for major improvements as well.

“Services are paramount for a university of 32,000. Good operational services are what make the environment positive,” said Huddleston. “We need strengthening of communication among students and must form collaboration with academic faculty and deans because it is a cooperative environment.”

Huddleston feels that the efforts and success of SDES depends primarily on enrollment quality, customer satisfaction, and student success.

“If we do our job, we are creating two things; for students, a competitive advantage, for the university, an increase in the demand of people who want to come here. “I believe this is a student friendly environment. We work hard for students to ensure this is the best student environment for the best collegiate experience,” said Huddleston.

Wrong way, right to jail

A Massachusetts man was arrested Jan. 4 on drug charges after being seen driving in the wrong lane on University Boulevard.

According to police reports, Jose Ortiz, 33, of Framingham, Mass., was spotted by police driving onto campus in the westbound lane of University Boulevard. After he flagged down an officer, Ortiz was pulled over and asked for his driver’s license and registration.

The report states that while one officer went to check his registration, another officer witnessed Ortiz put something in his wallet. The officer instructed Ortiz to get out of the vehicle. As Ortiz got out, he grabbed a soda can from between his legs.

The officer performed a field test, which resulted in a positive match for cocaine.

Ortiz was arrested and charged with possession of cocaine and drug paraphernalia. He was also issued a traffic citation for going the wrong way on University Boulevard.

AM traffic stop turns up drugs

An Orlando man was charged with possession of narcotics on Jan. 10, after being stopped for a traffic violation on Central Florida Boulevard.

According to police reports, John Summers, 22, was pulled over on a traffic stop at 1 a.m. The officer told Summers that he would not receive a traffic citation, however he would like permission to search his car.

While searching the vehicle, the officer found two partially smoked joints in the ashtry, A field test on the joints proved positive for marijuana.

Summers was issued summons and charged with possession of marijuana.
Spring 2000 Student Activities

January:
11: Knights of the Roundtable, 3p, SU Room 218
12: KnightLife 2, details TBA
18: Oscar Lopez, Student Resource Center Auditorium, 8 p.m.
19: Volunteer UCF Expo 2, details TBA
26: Senior Year Experience, 11a-2p, Student Union
Theatre Knight, “A Soldier’s Play”, 7:45 p.m., Theatre UCF
UCF College Bowl, TBA

February:
1: Knight of the Roundtable, 3 p.m., SU Room 218
4: Black Comedy Tour, 9 p.m., VAB Auditorium
10: Hypnotist Tom Deluca, 8 p.m., UCF Arena
14-15: Volunteer UCF Blood Drive, 8a-2p, Student Union
15: Jane Elliot, 8 p.m., UCF Arena
16: Poetry Plus, 8 p.m., VAB Auditorium
17: Thursday Knight Live, 7:30 p.m., details TBA
18: The Hermanators, 8 p.m., details TBA
22: Tuesday Knight Live, Bryan Tucker, 8 p.m., Loco’s
28: Leadership Week Starts Though March 2nd
29: Volunteer UCF “Get Carded Banquet”, 6:30p-9p, SU Room Cape Florida
Deanna Latson, 8 p.m., SRCA

March:
2: Thursday Knight Jive, 7:30 p.m., details TBA
Leadership Awards, details TBA
7: Knights of the Roundtable, 3 p.m., SU Room 218
8: Theatre Knight, “Anything Goes”, 7:45 p.m., Theatre UCF
Volunteer UCF “Get Carded” Fair, 11a-3p, SU South Patio
21: Tuesday Knight Live, 8 p.m., Michael Dean Ester, Loco’s
24: Netane Polynesian Dancers, 12:30 p.m., SU Patio

April:
1: Miss UCF, 8 p.m., UCF Arena
1-2: Symphony Under The Stars, 7:30 p.m., Reflecting Pond
4: Knights of the Roundtable, 3 p.m., SU Room 218
Tuesday Knight Live, 8 p.m., Loco’s
8-9: 4th Annual Dance Marathon, noon to noon, UCF Arena
12: Theatre Knight “Toy In the Attic”, 7:45 p.m., Theatre UCF
13: Thursday Knight Live, 7:30 p.m., details TBA

** Programs are subject to change without notice, contact the Office of Student Activities at (407) 823-6471 or stop by in the Student Union room 208 for further details.
NU students should decide if Hale comes to campus

FROM PAGE 1

free speech in society.

"Free speech rights are indivisible," said Shaman, a DePaul University law professor. "Restricting one person's rights could be turned around to affect all."

Although he didn't dispute the need for free speech, Loeb said people must be held accountable for the actions that free speech provokes.

"What is the consequence for those who spout hatred and provoke measurable damages?" he asked.

The danger Hale represents is illustrated by last year's "summer of hate," when Benjamin Smith, a former member of The World Church of the Creator, went on a killing spree in the Midwest, Loeb said. In July, Smith injured nine Orthodox Jews and killed former NU basketball coach Ricks Byrdson and a Korean-American graduate student at Indiana University.

Loeb compared Smith to a drug addict, saying his dealer, Hale, supplied "the drug of hate." Loeb blamed Smith's killing spree on an uncontrollable need for the fulfillment of this "drug," provided.

"He had smoked the crack, by analogy," Loeb said. "And he thought, 'What is the next step? Martyr myself for the cause of white supremacy.'"

The student body must tell the administration if it wants Hale to speak on campus, he said.

"It's your party," he said. "You decide who is invited."

But the techniques Loeb suggested to keep Hale off campus, such as circulating a petition, amount to the "tyranny of the majority," Shaman said.

"You can't decide for me what I want to hear."

Racism, sexism and homophobia, not hate speech, are examples of society's real problems, he said.

"Attempts to ban hate speech are attractive as a quick fix to racism," Shaman said. "But banning hate speech does not make racism go away."

One of the benefits of hate speech is that it provokes a response of positive ideas, he said.

"The answer to bad speech should be more speech," he said. "Let them say what they want to say, then answer them."

Both men said NU's administration should let Hale know his ideas are "deplorable." But as long as Hale is peaceful he should be allowed to distribute his ideas on campus, even without an invitation, Shaman said.

"One place where there should be no censorship is a university," he added.Kristen Allison, a Speech sophomore, said both men made good points. But she disagreed with Shaman when he compared banning Hale's views to banning the views of Martin Luther King Jr. in the '50s and '60s.

"I don't think there is a connection between Matt Hale... and Martin Luther King," Allison said. "All of King's stuff supported a group of people. Matt Hale is about repressing people. It's unacceptable to allow him to speak on campus."

Council blinded to truth, fails to uphold student's rights says Patton

FROM PAGE 1

went about making this decision.

"In my opinion, Ms. (Laura) Wharton has failed to recognize her conflict of interest and as a result has become blinded to the truth instead of serving blind justice as she should do. The Judicial Council is to uphold student's rights and it seems that Ms. Wharton has failed to do so," Patton said.

Capicha, who has served in both the executive and legislative branches for the past six months, believes in working together and realizes that SG is here for a main purpose, to serve students regardless of what position you hold.

"Life is full of uncertainty. Whatever I can do to calm the waters, than that's what I'm going to do. I'm going to sit down with people and say, 'Look we've got four months, let's make the most out of it.'" Capicha said.

Halscott, on the other hand, believes students were not treated fairly in the whole process.

"I wish the law was followed. It gave Darin false hope and it gave me the stigma of being removed. It seems as time goes by there are less things I get to say about these things," Halscott said.

The Administration is looking into how the informal meeting last Thursday of the Judicial Council was held in regards to the Florida Sunshine Law. An administrator or Wharton could not be contacted as of late Friday afternoon.
NCAA should spread the wealth to athletes

David Cissneros  
DAILY TROJAN  
(U.C. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA)

(U.WIRE LOS ANGELES) — Something just doesn't seem right in college sports lately. How would Dr. James Naismith have reacted to find out that the game he invented in a small gym in Springfield, Mass., more than a century ago to give snow-bitten students something to do would be worth $6 billion? Well, believe it. If you recall, the NCAA godfathers, living off the sweat and toil of their big-money basketball and football players, signed a $6 billion, 11-year deal to broadcast the NCAA tournament starting in 2003.

Six billion dollars. That's more than some countries make in a year. Roughly, that comes out to a whopping $545 million a year — more than twice its current deal. You can't escape the pressures of money in college sports anymore.

In football alone, the Bowl Championship Series takes in $100 million. Face it: It's a touchy subject — just over a decade.

If you haven't noticed, aren't all those impressive in the NCAA? The NCAA champs at the University of Connecticut only graduated 29 percent of its team from 1994 to 1997. It's worse for minorities than whites. Current No. 1 Texas, and schools like Texas, Temple and Ohio State — all members of the tournament last season — didn't graduate one black player.

So what if more than a century ago to give the game he invented in a small gym, Dr. Naismith had the vision to take in $6 billion for the revenue to its Division I schools, but even then, under the current system, the further a school goes in the tournament, the more it gets. Small schools that don't reach the tournament won't see a great deal of that money.

So why not pay, for instance, the football players more? The NCAA has long held that it doesn't pay extra money to revenue-generating sports because it would take away money from smaller, non-revenue-generating sports.

And that theory should go right out the window with a deal worth more than $6 billion for just over a decade. John Jackson of the Chicago Sun-Times pointed out in a column last November that even if the NCAA were to award its roughly 4,000 Division I scholarship players an annual stipend of $3,000, it would cost the organization only $12 million — a $5,000 stipend would be about $20 million.

Maybe if the players had a little more to go with, they wouldn't be so susceptible to accepting money and gifts from aggressive agents and boosters, eager to have that top recruit in their corner.

And that's a big reason why so many kids jump to the NBA as underclassmen.

How many press conferences have you heard from the next hoops stud at a big-time program who's ready to turn pro because he can't resist the instant money lavished on him by the NBA? Maybe they should give out extra money in stipends on a need-only basis — like they do in financial aid.

If a player's family is well off, that person might not need extra money, but if their family has less, it might make sense that they deserve a little more.

Or perhaps they could reward money to players if they graduate — a reward for years of basically being entertainment for entire campuses and legions of fans.

It might not be the millions of the pros, but at least it can encourage those less talented players who will never play beyond college to stick to school.

Graduation rates, in case you haven't noticed, aren't all that impressive in the NCAA. That's more than some schools, but even then, under the current system where I'm going with this. Maybe it's time the NCAA recognizes that and starts spreading the wealth.

The NCAA champs are still the NCAA champs are still Central Florida.

Take a chance — write the Future

Letters to the editor should be typed and must include a name, address and phone number for confirmation. The Future reserves the right to edit for length, style, grammar and libel. Submit to:

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State is damaging, not fixing, death penalty

From the death penalty's capricious application based on race, geography and other factors to the inadequate legal mechanism available to death row inmates, Florida's Legislature merely paid lip service to or simply ignored the persistent flaws that plague capital punishment in this state.

Instead, lawmakers hastily passed legislation substituting lethal injection for their beloved electric chair as the state's primary method of execution. The Legislature also passed new restrictions on the capital appeals process, hoping to speed up a process Florida has proven itself incapable of implementing competently.

House Speaker John Thrasher, R-Orange Park, said of the lethal injection measure: "It's a great day for the state of Florida. We won a great victory for victims and their families."

A great victory for victims and their families.

But what about the victims of Florida's system of capital punishment? What about the 20 men and women since 1972 - with a 2.4% chance on the way - who have been freed from Florida's death row when it became clear to even the judicial system that they were either innocent or subject to serious prosecutorial mistakes? Doesn't Florida's dubious distinction as the nation's leader in the number of men and women freed from death row indicate that serious problems plague the system by which we assign men and women to die at the hands of the state?

And what of the well-established racial bias inherent in the current system of capital sentencing? What was Gov. Bush's answer to the fact that Florida has never, after more than 230 years of executions, executed a white person for killing a black person? Or that a 1991 study conducted by UF sociology professor Michael Ruleet and a colleague concluded that the odds of a death sentence for someone who kills a white person is 3.4 times higher than the odds of a death sentence for someone who kills a black person?

A task force to "study" the issue. We can only hope that one day political leaders who possess the courage and dedication to moral governance that it takes to see and publicly declare the obsceneness of capital punishment will emerge in Florida and the rest of the nation. Until then, the death penalty is a shameful injustice for which we all must bear responsibility.

Internet intoxication' absurd defense, at best

KA LEO O HAWAI
(U-WIRE)
Honolulu - Eighteen-year-old Michael Ian Campbell, a Florida resident, has pleaded innocent to making a threat against Columbine High School, on the grounds of "Internet intoxication."

The Florida teen is accused of using an online media - AOL's "Instant Messenger" - to threaten a Columbine High School student. The message said he planned to "finish what began." In reference to the Columbine massacre last April, when a teacher and 12 students were killed by two gunmen "posing" themselves as the "Trenchcoat Mafia."

The threat caused the recipient to transfer schools and the Columbine administration to cancel school for two days.

Campbell faces felony charges, and could serve up to five years in prison and a $250,000 fine if found guilty. He will be tried as an adult.

The catch is this: Campbell claims he was "intoxicated" by the Internet when he made the threat, and that he didn't mean any harm.

A ridiculous defense at best.

While the law grants certain allowances for insanity - and even temporary insanity - as far as felony offenses are concerned, "Internet intoxication" is a stretch.

People fail to realize that they are held accountable for what they say or write online. Fake names are used to mask identities, but those digital masks don't erase personal responsibilities for words and messages. Campbell lost sight of his responsibility for his words when he sent those messages. This is a personal error, not something that can be blamed on the Internet.

It is most apparent that Campbell is disconnected from the gravity of the Columbine incident, and disconnected from reality itself. Columbine sent America into a state of shock, forcing people to re-evaluate gun laws, education and the way children are treated. The Columbine tragedy is too serious, too real to be treated with the stupidity and irresponsibility that Campbell has demonstrated.

The Future
welcomes your ideas.

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• Private balconies
• Peep hole at entry door

DIRECTIONS:
University Blvd. east to Alafaya Trail. Right on Alafaya Trail. Boardwalk is .8 mile on the left.
“Magnolia” is writer/director Paul Thomas Anderson’s follow-up to the critically acclaimed cult-favorite “Boogie Nights.” Like his previous film, some may find “Magnolia” too long or strange; however, those who are fans of “Boogie Nights” will love “Magnolia.”

The film develops over one day in Los Angeles. As the day goes by, a series of interlocking stories unfolds. Some of these stories seem unrelated, but by the time the final credits roll, it is revealed how each story and character interconnect.

Anderson displays one of the best scripts from the past 10 years. No one character is overshadowed by another. Even the bit parts seem well-rounded because of both superb writing and acting.

Anderson creates a film that is much like a work of literature. Like a great novel, the film is full of symbolism, both in the words and images. This creates an in-depth film unlike the majority of movies made today.

“Magnolia” is a film about relationships, those that are broken and those on the threshold of being born. The broken relationships between fathers and children are the centerpiece of the story. Each father in the film has caused tremendous pain to his offspring in the past, and each child has chosen a different way to deal with this pain.

In his best performance since “Born on the Fourth of July,” Tom Cruise plays Frank “T.J.” Mackey, son of television producer Earl Partridge (Jason Robards) and creator of “Seduce and Destroy,” a series of books and seminars on how to conquer women. Cruise is able to take Mackey from being a cocky, headstrong, bitter man to becoming the prodigal son who returns home after a long absence to visit his dying father.

The rest of the cast, including Julianne Moore and William H. Macy is equally impressive. The amazing script guides the talented actors to create an impressive cast that will be remembered for years to come.

Another standout performance is that of one of the least recognizable faces in the film: Melara Walter, who portrays Claudia Gator, the junkie daughter of game show host Jimmy Gator (Phillip Baker Hall). Her performance of Claudia is simultaneously mesmerizing, disturbing and inviting. Like Mackey, Claudia hates her father. The way these two characters foil each other as the film develops is one of the most interesting concepts in the picture.

As a film, “Magnolia” realizes the past, coming to terms with it, growing from it, and eventually learning to live through it. The audience leaves the theater deep in thought, trying to unravel all that the film offers. Keep your eyes peeled for a win on Oscar night and an acceptance speech from Tom Cruise.
January 19, 2000

Central Florida Future • 9

www.cecfuture.com

Chuck Shepherd's
NEWS OF THE WEEK

LED STORIES

-Munich, Germany, physiotherapist Franziska Weber told reporters in December that her supercold (minus 230 degrees Fahrenheit) walk-in freezer therapy, originally designed to relieve chronic pain, now is used more frequently by clients who want merely to relieve stress. Once to three minutes in the chamber (cost: about $11), Weber reports, gives patients a huge energy burst and is especially popular among business executives in condition themselves for important meetings.

-In December, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service ordered Maria Wigent, age 57 and a 52-year resident of New York City, deported (thus breaking up the home she shares with her husband and two teen-age sons) after her third shoplifting conviction, involving about $25 worth of items. And a December New York Times story recounted the plight of a Guatemalan-American in Virginia facing deportation this month for the single act of biting her husband ("domestic violence") during a fight.

People Who Are Not Like You and Me

Police in Pittsburgh identified a 31-year-old man as the person who was too-lazy to lug his Christmas tree down to the street and thus simply tossed it out his sixth-floor window on Christmas Day. The tree hit a power line on the way down, knocking out electricity to about 400 customers and deadening the 911 line briefly until a backup generator kicked on.

Not My Fault

-Feen a report by psychologist N.G. Berrill, to a New York City court in November, quoting former police officer Justin Volpe on how he came to brutalize Abner Louima's rectum with a mind-of-its-own toilet plunger in the notorious 1997 assault: "I couldn't believe that (Louima) didn't apologize for cursing him, Volpe said. The next thing I know, the stick was in (Louima's rectum)." Volpe continued: "I was terrified. When the stick seemed to pop in, I said to myself, 'I cannot believe this.'"

-Born-again Christian David Stein, 44, announced in November that he would appeal his 1998 dismissal from a New Mexico state government job for misusing his computer because he was actually powerless to stay away from Internet pornography. Stein contended that after he first discovered online porn, "Satan told me to check it out some more." Also, said Stein, once at a porn site, he was trapped on a virtually endless loop of sex sites that had taken over his computer. (The administrative law judge had ruled that Stein had visited too many sites and given them his credit-card number too many times to have been blameworthy.)

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Chuck Shepherd's NEWS OF THE WEEK

Improperly missing 203 days during a 244-day period. And English chauffeur John Forbes, 55, won an employment tribunal ruling in September that he was unfairly fired by his employer because he had twice dressed in women's clothing on the job and flashed his underwear to passing motorists.

-In a September profile of a purgatory-like room at Tokyo's Sega Enterprises building, The Wall Street Journal described the daily activities of disfavored employee Toshiyuki Sakai during the four months between his first negative evaluation and his ultimate firing. Sakai was assigned to an empty room with a desk, chair and incoming-calls-only telephone, where he was expected to remain every day, with no assignments yet also without personal diversions. Observers cited by the Journal called Sega's room a compromise between the U.S. preference for open office arrangements and the Japanese commitment to stick with workers longer.

The lawyer for a former Fort Lauderdale, Fla., phone-sex worker told reporters in November that he had won a workers' compensation settlement for his client based on her claim of carpal tunnel syndrome due to masturbating on the job as much as seven times a day. Sally A. Stoskys said his client accepted the settlement to avoid the embarrassment of testifying, even though the money is not enough to reimburse her for the surgery she required on both hands.

Kids Growing Up Fast

Three times during the last two months of 1999, a parent passed away unexpectedly, leaving a small child alone in the house to figure out what to do next. Travis Butler, 9, Memphis, Tenn., went to school as normal for a month, trying to hide his mother's body because he feared being put in a foster home. Lydia Hanson, 7, Peabody, Mass., told her teacher the next day of her mother's death, but the teacher just shrugged, forcing the girl to spend another night caring for the body before finding a grow-up-to-believe her. Karina Peterson, 4, Oklahama, attempted to nurse her dead father through the Christmas weekend before the police came, having been called by her father's friend's concerned that he was missing. (No foul play is suspected in any of the deaths.)

Also, in the Last Month...

A lifeguard was rushed to intensive care after drinking from an open Coke bottle in a clubhouse refrigerator, having overlooked the label "Do not drink / Jellyfish tentacles" (Cairns, Australia). On Christmas Eve, Patrick White Bull, 42, abruptly awoke from a 16-year coma and regained most of her faculties (Albuquerque).

Twelve people in a high-rise for seniors were hospitalized on Christmas Eve after a woman took Oprah Winfrey's advice and lit an "inspirational" candle, which toppled over and started a fire (Chicago). A noodle-making shops were closed after inspections revealed they were preserving their inventory in formaldehyde (Hanoi). Tim Book beat a DUI charge by telling a judge that he had just returned from his holiday and was still in a trance when police stopped him (Bruderheim, Alberta).

(Stuff Weird@compuserve.com, or go to www.NewsoftheWeird.com.)

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Ashley M. Wilborn  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In Those Bones Are Not My Child, Toni Cade Bambara takes us through one family’s disaster with a vanished son, Sundiata “Sonny,” Spencer, in Atlanta, Ga., during 1980-1981. Zala Spencer and her estranged husband, Spence, quickly join together to bring back their son from the darkness. Zala immediately hits a brick wall of antagonism, condescension and barely veiled racism. The (mostly-white) police and authorities are either purposely unaware or blind to the (mostly-black) children being abducted from homes and playgrounds en masse.

Those Bones... is based on a true story. More than 40 children vanished for months or years only to be found brainwashed at best, dead, sexually assaulted and mutilated at worst. During that time, Atlanta was ironically dubbed, “The City Too Busy To Hate.” Once the reader gets into Bambara’s work, that name takes on an entirely different significance.

Although I have some serious issues with the length of this tome of literary nonfiction, I think it appeals to readers who enjoy reading true crime stories. For those of us who would rather pull a tooth than read true horror, it satisfies the soft spot we have for family sagas.

However well written this book may be, it is not quite a page-turner. As I read it, I found myself bogged down in each character, how they dealt with Sonny, Spence’s struggle with too many memories of Vietnam and the endless strategies and second-guessing. I got lost just explaining it all.

She goes into detail about each of the characters, Zala, her children: Kofi, a boy, Kenti, a girl, and Sonny, the oldest. She assumes the reality of these characters and puts each of them into significant events over the two-year time-span of the book.

Bambara has a true gift for storytelling, despite her long-winded report. The book is full of excellent turns-of-phrase, like this reference to Zala’s Mama Lovey, who always needed everything perfect.

Sit tight... act normal. But ‘normal’ had always been a threadbare throw rug Mama Lovey slung over the snake pit and called wall-to-wall deluxe... then gathered her brood around her to pose for family portraits.

Yet again, I must say this book does too much justice to all the stratagems and theories of the period. Of course, this was also during McCarthyism when government had just begun to accuse innocents of communism.

One phrase in particular could sum up the entire Conspiracy Theory element of this book—“Klan-cult-porn view.” Among the too-many-to-name theories dredging through this book, that was the one which Bambara seemed to latch to her last chapters.

The Ku Klux Klan, occults dabbling in black magic and porn rings were the topics of many community organizations’ meetings.

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I will leave with this excerpt which I think encompasses the aura within Those Bones...

“It was a weird state of affairs, psychopaths coming to a city of psychopaths. What else could be call the up-and-comers who smiled how-I got-over smiles on the screen and on magazine covers, the I-made-it photos never having to be airbrushed, for the whole city was touched up...meanwhile spending half their income on pills, booze, doctors, psychiatrists, sex manuals, sleeping potions, and assorted witch doctors to help them un-mismanage their lives.”
Fox's 'Malcolm' joins juvenile humor bandwagon

LONNIE HARRIS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The time slot between "The Simpsons" and "The X-Files" on Sunday nights proves itself time and time again to be a launching pad for other successful series. Shows such as "King of the Hill," "Futurama," and "Family Guy," all of which have moved to lead other nights of programming, each debuted at 8:30 p.m., between Fox's two most reliable hits.

Unfortunately, the first live-action series to debut in the winning time slot, newcomer "Malcolm in the Middle" demonstrates that it takes much more than a fortuitous spot in the schedule to become a standout hit.

Based solely on the premiere episode, which ran last Sunday night, it could be said that "Malcolm in the Middle" does little else than attempt to exploit the recent craze for gross-out juvenile humor. No, not everyone, however, has the talent and wit of the creators of "South Park." "The Simpsons," the film "American Pie" and other beneficiaries of the public's demand for fart jokes. The writers of "Malcolm in the Middle" use off-color humor to make up for a severe lack of any sort of originality or creativity.

Right away, the show attempts to build upon the success of already-established television shows and movies. Our hero, Malcolm, is the adorable, precocious middle child (hence the overly-cute title) in the world's wackiest, loneliest, and most unlikely family. Malcolm's family is so zany that there are multiple reasons in the debut episode alone for his parents to be completely naked in the living room.

Malcolm, of course, is the only savvy member of this motley crew of lead characters, along with his two indistinguishable brothers and one other sibling who's been sent to military school for no apparent reason.

We know of Malcolm's survivability by the way, because he repeatedly speaks directly into the camera, like Ferris Bueller, only much more precious. And did I mention savvy? And adorable?

Like so much television at the close of the century, "Malcolm in the Middle" seems more the by-product of some committee than a real premise for an amusing sitcom. It's not too difficult to imagine a bunch of suits in an office on the Fox lot, sitting around chewing their pencils, sipping machacinnis and trying desperately to think of a good idea for a new show.

Then suddenly, someone stands up and says, "I've got it! We'll make a new version of 'Married With Children,' only with more movie references like 'The Simpsons' and a narrator who talks to the audience like in 'The Wonder Years' and gross-out humor like 'South Park,' and all the people who like those good shows will watch it!"

So as not to be too rash in judgment, it is only fair to consider that many shows take a long while to blossom, and networks should give promising shows a head start to find an audience and fine-tune its voice.

Shows such as "The Practice," "Picket Fences" and others masterminded by David E. Kelley demonstrate that often all a show needs to flourish is enough time that and the name David E. Kelley in the credits.

Unfortunately, "Malcolm" shows little promise of ever rising above the level of unashamed toilet humor. Why bother giving more time to a show that manages to insult the disabled, include numerous references to boobs and anatomically female parts in the world's wackiest sitcom, and seems more the by-product of some committee than a real premise for an amusing sitcom?

Fox bets in yet another new teenager-inspired comic show, "Malcolm in the Middle," airs Sundays at 8:30 p.m. on FOX.
Presidential Elections...

The Presidential Elections are upon us once again, but not everyone may be informed of what the Student Body President and Vice President’s official duties are. Composed of 3 branches, Student Government is responsible for administering the Student Activity and Service Fee, providing a voice for the Student Body, and many other important functions.

Primarily, the President and Vice President is responsible to “effectively carry out the business of Student Government,” (Article III, Student Body Constitution). This includes enforcing the laws of the Student Body, appointing administrative and executive officers, call and preside over meetings of the Student Body, and grant, withhold, and withdraw registration of any organization under the jurisdiction of the Student Body. The Vice President presides over the Senate and is required to assume the powers of the President upon his request or removal.

Because of the importance of Student Government positions, a commission (Election Commission) has been set up to administer a fair and impartial election. The first step by statute in the presidential elections is the declaration of candidacy. If you are interested in running, you must pick up a petition in the SG office (SU Rm 214) after 9am on January 24 and have 300 students currently enrolled at UCF sign your petition. These petitions must be turned in by 5pm on February 3. Elections will then be held February 21 through the 23rd. Runoff elections, if necessary, will be held February 28th through March 1st.

There will be three informational meetings hosted by the Election Commission to answer any questions. Times, dates, and locations will be announced soon. Call the SG office at 407-823-2191 or stop by the office for details.

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From the Director of University Services...

What does Student Government do for you? What is the Activity and Service Fee? How does Student Government spend your money? Many students ask themselves these questions daily and unless they are involved in clubs, Greek organizations, or Student Government, those questions go unanswered. With the new millennium, Student Government has made it a priority to inform the student body the broad array of services available to you. As the Director of University Services, I have always felt that communication and education is an integral part of providing the best services for the student body.

With this goal in mind, we have planned our first Services Expo. It will take place February 7th from 11am - 3pm in front of the Student Union.

During this Expo we will be showcasing all of our services including Knightro’s Copy Kingdom, the new Recreational Services Building, Student Legal Services, and many more. It will provide an opportunity for you to receive information on the various agencies while allowing suggestions for improvement. Food, drinks, and entertainment will also be provided for free.

As a part of the Expo, we have created a survey that will enable us to continue to expand, improve, and change our services. To thank you for your input, we will be raffling prizes to those who complete the surveys.

Be sure you come out to the University Services Expo on February 7th and check out what YOUR Student Government is doing for you.
News From YOUR Senate...

It's been a busy few months here at your friendly Student Senate. We kicked off the 32nd Senate with a retreat in Tampa where we were able to get to know each other a little better and form our short and long-term goals for the year. Since then, we have all been working hard to accomplish these goals, and make UCF a better place for all of us.

We all know that parking is a major issue for everyone and we want to ensure you that we are doing everything we can. The parking garage currently under construction is due to open in September, and another will begin as soon as that is finished. We have spoken with administrators and are still looking into setting up a tram system to run from the arena to the Student Union.

As many of you know, the budget is also a major concern for us. There was an abundance of money available this year because of unused trust funds, but we won't have those next year. The Activity and Service Fee Committee is currently meeting to take requests for money for the 2000-01 school year. With the lack of surplus money from the trust funds and the increasing costs of running the Student Union, we will be left with a significantly lower amount of money to distribute than we had this year. As a result, we will be more critical of all of the requests that come before us for funds, only to ensure that the students’ money is spent on worthwhile projects that benefit as many people as possible. There is a help session on Thursday, January 20th from 2-4pm in the Pensacola room in the Student Union where some of your senators can help you fill out these forms to get funding.

Aside from all of this business, did you get your free final exams pack? Senators were distributing them during finals week! The packs contained scantrons, pencils, a planner, and a coupon book to help you survive finals week. If you didn't get one, stop by the Student Government office for extras.

Watch for the Student Government Expo coming up on February 7th! Come and find out how you can get involved and fill out one of our easy surveys to help us serve you better, and you can even turn it in to win some great prizes in a raffle!

Please don't forget that you elected us to serve you! If you need help getting funding for your club, are upset with some aspect of UCF and haven't been able to resolve the situation yourself, or have any suggestions for improvement, please come to the Student Government Office in the Student Union room 214, and ask to speak to a senator! Our phone numbers and e-mail addresses are available to you also! Speak your mind! Get involved!

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**Tickets**

Tickets are $13 and $11 available at the UCF/SGA Ticket Center

**Friday and Saturday**

**February 11, 12**

Both games at 7:30pm versus the Manitoba Moose

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**SGA Events**

- **January 19**
  - Pickup tickets for Theatre Knight, “A Soldiers Play”

- **January 21**
  - RSVP to CAB for Theatre Knight, “A Soldiers Play”

- **January 24**
  - Activity & Service Fee Request Forms due

- **January 25**
  - CAB Tuesday Knight Live
    - Comedian Robert Kelly
    - 8pm @ Loco’s

- **January 26**
  - CAB Theater Knight “A Soldiers Play”
    - 7:45pm UCF Theatre

- **January 27**
  - Thursday Knight Jive Poetry Reading
    - 7:30pm Student Union 313, Charlotte Harbor
Dave Matthews Band

Listener Supported

It has been nearly three years since the Dave Matthews Band released a new studio CD. Their catalog, however, continues to grow. Live at Redrocks went online at www.UCFfuture.com on Monday, January 19, 2000.

Now, the band regroups to capture the tail end of three years touring since Before These Crowded Streets. Will Smith is back to the Continental Center in New Jersey on Monday, January 31, at 7:30pm.

Matthews can tour for so long without recording new material. This CD focuses on recapturing the material more seldomly heard in concert - the un-radio songs that Matthews and his jazz-rock-folk-funk band slide into their sets as they tour the same city a second and third time. Recent additions from Streets, like “The Stone” and “Rapunzel,” wander into high-energy jam sessions that previously filled classics like “Dancing Nancies” and “Seek Up.”

Even the classics that remain on Listener Supported are not the same we hear on Redrocks or even on their distant studio relatives. “Warehouse” takes on a new rhythm that sounds almost more definitive than the other three times we’ve heard it on official releases. For the steadfast ear, Bob Dylan’s “All Along the Watchtower” is much the same fireside anthem as always, and the core of Matthews’ style is impervious to any rendition he may make of it.

Will Smith

Will Smith is the one and only fresh master rapper of the mass media. He keeps up with world happenings, so it strikes one’s curiosity as to why his new release, Willennium, samples so much music from the ’70s and ’80s.

Smith has always been the king player when it comes to changing music trends, and I think he purposely chose to sample songs from the yesteryears.

Currently all artists and their grandparents are making discs with futuristic techno themes at the dawn of the new millennium.

Smith, instead, decided to take the best out of the past millennium and transform it into his own musical hip-hop smorgasbord.

From the very beginning of the flavor-packed album, he shows his knowledge of current events, and self-knowledge. On “I’m Comin’,” this former Fresh Prince shows off his confidence with lines like, “I’m the hip-hop Moses.” “Ain’t the second coming of Christ-the first coming of me, “I’m so hot, you’re all burning up” and “My life stats make Jordan’s stats seem common.”

Some people might say he sounds conceited, but there’s nothing wrong or conceited about high self-esteem. His confidence has made Smith the multimillionaire that he is.

The first single, “Will 2K” has quickly become the anthem for the turn of the millennium. It has party written all over it, and I personally would rather listen to his song than Prince’s stale “1999.” Big Will sure knows how to get people partying and moving with this creative ditty.

Other noteworthy songs on the CD are “No More,” “La Fiesta” and “Pump Me Up.”

On “No More,” the jiggly man shows off his serious side with this bitter-sweet song about a romance ending up in heartbreak. It starts out with Will trying to call his ex who isn’t home, and the lyrics are the message he leaves on her answering machine.

He sums up regret by explaining what he’ll miss most about their togetherness.

“No more late nights watching TV/No more talks on the phone till 3A.M/No more playin’ in the leaves in the fall/No more piggy back rides in the mail/No more ice cream cones to share/No more sitting just playin’ in your hair/No more peace out by the sea/ Ain’t no more nothin’ and it’s all because of me.”

The souful R&B beats and the lyrics make this song a classic for any millennium.

Smith is keeping up with the Latin movement with “La Fiesta,” a modern day “Conga.” Its salsa feel will make your feet merge across a dance floor.

“Pump Me Up” is pure old school music. Will’s best bud, DJ Jazzy Jeff gets his chance to shine with his echo scratches.

“Pump Me Up” will make you reminisce of break dancing in the streets during the mid ’80s.

“Da Buttta” and “UHHHH” are the only two disappointments on the new disc because “Da Buttta” is stale and not even butter could add a pinch of taste.

Will’s fun music will keep you partying way into the new millennium, excuse me, Willennium.
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Improved pitching staff expected to anchor Knights

TRAVIS BELL
CENTRAL FLORIDA

UCF Coach Jay Bergman has always been a big believer that chances are that good pitching is going to beat good hitting.

If this year's pitching staff stands up to their potential, UCF should have a good shot at proving Bergman's philosophy while winning a lot of games.

While UCF returns 28 of its victories from last year, a lot of numbers actually look better.

Success should come in bundles with the pitching staff that has been assembled for Bergman's 18th season. The return of starters David Rankin and Justin Pope and closer Jason Arnold is just the tip of the iceberg.

The key addition to this year's rotation is senior right-hander Casey Kennedy, who transferred from University of Virginia with only one year of eligibility remaining. Kennedy's 4-6 record is not eye-catching, but what is important to note is that he had a 3.36 earned run average while throwing 70 innings in the Atlantic Coast Conference, arguably one of the best conferences in college baseball.

Kennedy joins Rankin and Pope in the main three-man rotation that will be used during a three-game weekend series. The two returnees did their part last year, but Bergman admires that something was missing from last year's rotation that amassed a 4.67 ERA, compared to the conference-leading 3.94 from 1997.

"Our third pitcher we didn't get anything out of last year," Bergman said. "If you take those (Rankin and Pope) and throw Kennedy in the mix, now all of a sudden you have three pretty experienced starters."}

Rankin was the ace of last year's staff as a junior left-hander, going 8-5 with a 3.94 ERA. He started 17 games and struck out 95 in 102.2 innings.

He's not an overpowering pitcher, but he uses his off-speed pitches to his advantage to keep batters off-balance.

Right-hander Pope started 16 games and threw six more out of the bullpen as a true closer.

UCF's Jason Arnold was awesome as a freshman and spent last season as an effective spot starter and strong closer. He should continue to flourish in that role in 2000.

When Bergman says his pitching staff has potential, he means it.

While Bergman's staff has the potential to put up a similar win total, the numbers actually look better.

"If this year's staff stands up to their potential, UCF will win a few more than 38 this year," Bergman said. "If you subtract out the statistics of the players who transferred out last year's team, the numbers actually look better.

The batting average increases to .334 for the players coming back this year and those returning were responsible for 52 of the 63 home runs. However, Coach Jay Bergman has set up a schedule that will challenge his lineup with quality SEC and ACC pitching to help prepare it for conference play.

For the first time since 1995, Bergman has the kind of depth that it takes to put together a consistent winner. The 1995 squad won 29 consecutive games en route to a 49-win season, and this year's team has the potential to put up a similar win total.

Bergman's team could easily field two quality teams because the team is at least two deep at each position, and the capability to move players around is at Bergman's disposal.

Senior Dustin Brison returned for his senior year after turning down the New York Mets after following the Major League Baseball Draft. Brison has moved from first base to third base this season after leading the Golden Knights in batting average (.335), home runs (23), and runs batted in (76), and then started in (76), and Brison now needs 12 home runs and 70 RBIs to set the career marks.

Bergman feels the chance for career records at Brison will motivate him more this year.

But Brison will not be alone in the middle of the lineup. Junior Matt Bowser returns after hitting .371 with 13 home runs and 62 RBIs. Bowser also is making a position change from left field to first. However, Bowser and Bisson haven't moved from the familiar middle part of the lineup.

Sophomore Mark Stowe returns as backup at first base after playing in 29 games last year, and he is joined by junior college transfer Greg Good from Plano, Texas. Backing up Bisson at third will be sophomore Justin Pope, who transitioned at third last year while hitting .302 with 18 RBIs.

Bisson.

Gainsford and freshmen Robert Van Kirk and Rich Wallace. Gavillan hit .325 with six home runs as a freshman, and he's being counted on as the right-handed hitting counterpart to Bowser and Brison.

"Pete is on a similar level defensively with (Brent) Spooner (who caught last year)," Bergman said. "But we're not gonna have to count quite as heavy on our defensive catcher to catch pitching staff. He'll be batting in the middle part of our lineup, which is a big threat as well.

The middle of the infield and the entire
One goal: College World Series

FROM PAGE 17

outfield position. Batia will mainly DH because of the depth in the outfield, but he has played all the outfield positions to give Bergman another option.

Senior Ivan Trujillo, junior Darrell Stephens, and sophomore Jeremy Frost look to be the starting outfield to begin the season. Trujillo has the combination of speed and the ability to drive the ball, and he hit .329 with 25 RBIs and 18 stolen bases. Trujillo will start in right field, while Frost will play in the left after hitting .275 with five home runs and 32 RBIs. Both players provide punch from the right side of the plate. Stephens will man center field after showing surprising power last year in limited action. He hit .295 with four home runs and 21 RBIs in only 95 at-bats from the left side. Sophomore Jason Graham has speed to bum and will battle for playing time after transferring from University of Kentucky. Freshman Brian Stephens will also challenge for playing time.

Bergman’s only concern at that position will be Batia’s other half at designated hitter from the right side of the plate. Johnson batted .386 in 83 at-bats last year, and he could provide added depth at any
UCF trounces Campbell, evens TAAC record

DAVID MARSTERS

UCF took a commanding first-half lead against Campbell and coasted to its second consecutive conference victory, 90-63. D'Quarius Stewart led the Golden Knights with 25 points, including 18 in the first half.

Leading 14-11 with 13:32 to play in the first half, UCF (5-12, 3-3) went on a 14-0 run, eventually pushing its lead to as many as 36 points before emptying the bench in the second half.

"It was big that we got active early," UCF coach Kirk Speraw said. "We were very active defensively and that created some good looks for us on the offensive end and some fast-break opportunities. It was just a good, solid, 40-minute effort."

Campbell (6-9, 4-2) was on a five-game winning streak, led by Adam Fellers' 16.9 scoring average. But UCF held the Camels to 35.5 percent from the floor, and Feller scored only nine points on three of 10 shooting.

"This is one that we jumped out and got control of," said Speraw. "(Campbell) made a response, but we had an answer for their response. We were able to extend on our lead and not let them feel like they were going to get back in the game."

Inyo Cue contributed 16 points off the bench for the Golden Knights, while Jason Thorton scored 15 and Paul Reed had 13. Al Miller led UCF with eight assists and Cory Perry tied a career high with eight rebounds.

"Inyo had what I thought was his best game of the season," said Speraw. "He gave us a great defensive effort and his good defense resulted in good offense."

Another key for the Golden Knights was taking care of the ball. UCF had a season-low nine turnovers, something that pleased Speraw.

"I think not turning the ball over is very critical," he said. "It's something that we've had problems with for a long time. It's good to see that we only had nine tonight."

UCF coach Speraw "I think not turning the ball over is very critical," he said. "It's something that we've had problems with for a long time. It's good to see that we only had nine tonight. That's a big, big turnaround."

UCF now is in a tie for fifth place in the TAAC standings. The Golden Knights travel to Jacksonville University (4-10, 1-5) on Jan. 19, followed by a Jan. 22 game at Stetson (7-8, 2-4).
Paige imprints lasting impression in freshman campaign

JEFF CASE
SPORTS WRITER

As one of the standout recruits in women's basketball coach Lynn Bria's class of 1998, Erin Paige came to UCF expecting to help an already successful team. The Golden Knights, coming off their first TAAC title in three seasons, had just completed a 20-win season in 1998 and seemed to be a rising team in women's college basketball.

Then, things changed quickly for Paige. Then-assistant coach L.J. Jordan called Paige late at night at her parent's home in West Palm Beach to tell her that Bria had accepted the head coaching position at the University of Ohio. Paige says she was faced with a difficult decision at the time, knowing the coach that had recruited her.

"I was sitting out could have left Paige on the bench. Having already signed to play with Carolina and Florida International, Paige probably would have had a lot of talent in her starting small forward. While coming off a summer AAU league team last summer and said she saw a lot of talent in her starting small forward, but wasn't sure how she'd fit into the Knights' plans.

"To start the season, I wasn't sure exactly what I was going to do with her because I didn't know what players I had coming back. She's probably been the shining star that I wasn't expecting, she's come out and really played well," Striegler said.

"I knew that she would get minutes because she could do so many things, but if somebody were to tell me she'd be averaging 10-12 points a game, I never would have expected that. She does all the little things and the big things too. She's been a very big surprise for us."

She's been so much of a surprise that Striegler hasn't removed Paige from the starting lineup all season. Paige said starting for the Knights was a goal she set for this year, but in her first start, she couldn't help but get a little choked up. "I started our first game and we played South Florida. I was kind of hyped and I got out there and by the time the first 30 seconds had gone by, I was tired. I was chocking on my mouthpiece and my eyes were wide open. "Honestly, I didn't know the kind of talent we had. I thought maybe in the beginning I'd come in off the bench and work my way in to start and play more minutes. Now, my teammates rag on me a lot because I'm the youngest on the team and I'm starting. They're all like 'Who do you think you are, coming in and starting? Now if my head's down or I mess up, they'll say 'E, we need you, play your game.'"

While starting as a freshman has surprised her teammates, Paige also has three other surprises to share. Paige has three tattoos, one on her left leg, one on her right leg near her ankle and one near her tailbone. She got her first tattoo, a symbol with her initials E.C.P. above it, two summers ago after months of pleading with her father to get the tattoo. "He said go ahead but he told me it had to be an inch. I was like, 'yeah whatever. I'm going to get an inch tattoo,'" Paige said. "When I came back I told him, 'I told the lady it was supposed to be an inch down around my ankle and do it down by the ankle, but she told me she wasn't going to put me through that much pain.'"

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-Coach Striegler

PAIGE, Page 22
game. Williams, a pure shooter, is averaging 13 points per game and gets the majority of his baskets from beyond the arc. Point guard Shonn Platts has also stepped up his level of play.

Despite the improvement, Jackson-Hille has failed to win a conference game after upsetting Samford in the TAAC opener. The Dolphins have been victimized by two-point losses against Campbell and Stetson, and could easily have said the same record boast by the Golden Knights.

After facing the Dolphins, UCF makes the short trip over to Delaware for a Saturday matinee against Stetson. The Golden Knights and Hatters take the court at the Edmunds Center for a 3 p.m. affair that will also be televised on Sunshine.

Stetson, coming off a 71-69 victory over Jacksonville, is 2-4 in the conference and freshest the TAAC's top rebounders per game, and form a solid post tandem.

What has held Murray Arnold's team back has been the inexperience of freshmen guards Ravivi Givens and Derrick Devitt, his starting backcourt. Givens and Devitt have both been surprising in their inaugural collegiate seasons, but have logged more minutes, than Arnold may have anticipated entering the season.

Senior point guard Marlo Hayes was injured earlier in the season and just returned to the lineup, bolstering the Hatter depth. If last year is any indication, the Golden Knights will be in good shape against Stetson, as they always seem to play their best against their cross-town rival. UCF won by 19 and 12 points in the teams' two meetings last season, but Lowery, who averaged 20.5 points in the two victories last season, will be gone from the lineup.

Stewart picks perfect time to snap out of slump

Stewart feels there's a lot more talking and communication on the floor, and a lot more movement on defense, just things like that only makes them stronger.

The New Year has been a metaphor for a new team, one that no longer accepts the mediocrity in which it has been mired, but has raised its level of intensity and dedicated itself to winning.

And as the Golden Knights look to build on their recent successes, they will once again look for a spark from their leader, D'Quarius Stewart.
Back on Track

After starting their TAAC schedule 1-3, the UCF men’s basketball team turned things around last week with conference wins over Georgia State and Campbell. In two previous losses to Sanford and Jacksonville State, the Golden Knights were unable to hold leads late in the game. Against Georgia State, however, the team did not waste another opportunity, coming from behind to beat the Panthers 72-67.

Samford record to 3-3, good enough for a fifth-place tie in the TAAC.

Taking Care of the Ball

Entering last week, the Golden Knights were averaging 17.4 turnovers per game, fourth worst in the TAAC. UCF did a better job of holding on to the basketball against Georgia State and Campbell, however, which was one of the reasons they were able to win both of those games. Against GSU, the Golden Knights committed only 13 turnovers, and then had a season-low nine against Campbell.

“I don’t think turning the ball over is very critical,” said Sporaw. “It’s something that we’ve had problems with for a long time. It’s good to see that we only had nine tonight.”

Thorton has been a bright spot for the inconsistent Golden Knights this season. He leads the TAAC in 3-point shots made and 3-point shooting percentage, and his 13.4 scoring average ranks in the top 10 in the conference.

“None of us, with the exception of Jason, has been consistent,” said Davin Granberry.

Career Highs

A number of UCF players have set or tied career highs in the team’s recent stretch of games. Against Jacksonville State on Jan. 10, DQuarius Stewart set a career-high with 28 points, while freshman forward Ikechi Nnakwe grabbed a career-high nine rebounds. Also against JSU, Jason Thorton made a career-high eight 3-pointers. In the win over Georgia State, senior guard Cory Perry sunk a career-high eight free throws. Perry also tied a career-high in the win over Campbell with eight rebounds. Freshman point guard Al Miller dished out a career-high eight assists against Campbell.

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Golden Knights square off against nation’s best

An old saying goes, "to be the best, you have to beat the best." If that’s the case, then UCF is baseball team will get that opportunity early and often to see if they can be near the top.

The thing about baseball that is so interesting is that everybody is pretty optimistic in January and February, and then the reality in March sets in about how good you really have to beat the best. "We’ll find out how good we are in February," Coach Jay Bergman said. "We’ll find out how good we are in February."

An interesting matchup occurs when Tennessee Tech visits Orlando for a three-game series February 18-20. Tech Coach Mike Maack returns to UCF after departing as pitching coach following the 1996 season to take a coaching position at University of Tennessee.

Then the true test for UCF begins on successive weekends. First, the Golden Knights make a trip to Tuscaloosa, Alabama to face the third-ranked Alabama Crimson Tide in a three-game series February 24-27.

Alabama has always had a Top 10-caliber program, and the trip will provide a similar hostile crowd to what UCF faced at Louisiana State last year.

Then the following weekend March 3-5, LSU makes a trip to Orlando for the hopeful grand opening of new Bergman Field. UCF lost both games at LSU last year in front of more than 7,000 fans per game.

The Golden Knights hope to steal a couple games from the Tigers, ranked eighth by Baseball America.

UCF looks to continue conference winning streak against in-state rivals

With consecutive TAAC victories under their belt, UCF ventures on the road for in-state conference contests at Jacksonville and Stetson this week. The Dolphins and Hatters are near the bottom of the conference standings, giving the Golden Knights a good chance at continuing their recent surge.

First up are the Dolphins, who completed a season-opening two-game series against Jacksonville on February 13 by winning the return game in Jacksonville, 10-5. Stewart, who had a season-high 28 points in the victory, was named to the preseason All-TAAC first team. Stewart is also one of the top returnees for the Golden Knights, and his scoring ability will help guide the team in its quest for a TAAC title.

Tony Mejia, sportswriter

STEWART. Page 21

Stewart regains stroke to lead surging Knights

The 1999-2000 season was supposed to be a banner year for senior guard D’Quarius Stewart. One of UCF’s co-captains, D’Quarius was expected to shoulder much of the offensive load for a team that had lost its scoring leader, Brad Traina, to graduation. He was named to the preseason All-TAAC first team, and was expected to continue his strong play from the TAAC Player of the Year award.

Most importantly, the Stewart-led Golden Knights were supposed to once again be one of the top teams in the conference, fighting for the TAAC’s automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

But things didn’t go as planned for Stewart or the team, each experiencing the difficulties of living up to high expectations. UCF limped to a 5-12 start, and Stewart was unable to provide the spark that the team desperately needed. Despite leading the team in scoring with 13.8 points per game, his shooting percentage was down from a year ago, and he led the team with 47 turnovers. Especially disconcerting was his lack of success from three-point range, a category in which he ranks fourth all time in UCF history. As the season progressed, Stewart was not only missing three-pointers, he was missing them by a lot.

In the last two weeks, however, Stewart seems to have regained his touch. With a career high 28 points in a 90-73 overtime loss to TAAC leader Jacksonville State, Stewart reinstated his presence as a lethal scoring threat. He followed that game up with 18 and 25 points against Georgia State and Campbell, respectively, leading the Golden Knights to victory in each contest. Coach Kirk Speraw thinks that Stewart has been due for this season.

“Stewart is getting the most out of his game, and his confidence is rising,” Speraw said. “He’s shooting a much higher percentage, and he’s making his shots at a higher rate. He’s playing great defense, and he’s really playing well as a team player.”

Speraw also noted that Stewart has been more willing to make the extra passer, which is helping the team’s offense.

“I think DQ has been playing a good floor game for a long time now,” Speraw said. “He’s been a leader on the court, and he’s been a leader in the locker room. He’s a great teammate, and he’s been a great leader for us.”

With the return of Stewart, the Golden Knights have won four of their last five games, including a 74-64 victory over LSU on February 25.

“Stewart is the difference between us and them,” Speraw said. “He’s really stepped up his game, and he’s really been a leaders for us.”

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