Clinton proposes tax deduction for college tuition

MATT BERGER (U-WIRE) (DC BUREAU)

(WASHINGTON) - President Clinton will ask Congress to make college tuition-tax deductible as part of his 2001 budget proposal, the president announced Thursday.

The proposal calls for $30 billion to be invested in the College-Opportunity Tax Cut, which would provide up to $2,300 in tax relief for a student.

Search starts for fall '00 Resident Assistants

JENNIFER MAZZOLI

It is a position that requires leadership, commitment and the ability to be a role model. Applications for on-campus housing resident assistants for the fall of 2000, will be accepted until Feb. 7.

Approximately 400 applications will be distributed and the area coordinators are expecting about 150 to 180 applications to be turned in for consideration. Out of these applications only 12 to 17 will be chosen for the positions.

Applicants must have a 2.5 grade point average and must have at least two semesters of residential living experience to be considered for the position. Round one interviews are for all applicants, providing they meet the requirements. Only a select group will advance to round two interviews.

The second round of interviews will consist of a weekend-long program which includes group activities where the area coordinator and other RAs can interact with the applicants. In addition, they will have individual interviews with the area coordinators and current RAs in which they are asked a series of serious and humorous questions.

Tricia Panarello, area coordinator of the Apollo Community, said that she is looking for responsible, approachable people to fill the positions.

"We look for people with excellent leadership abilities. They must present themselves as capable of being a role model. They must be approachable, especially for the incoming freshmen who might need that extra help and guidance," said Panarello.

Notification letters for people selected will be sent on March 15.

Current freshman, LEAD Scholar and Sumter Hall resident, Erica Lonergan plans on applying for a position for the fall.

"I think it will be a great experience. It will provide me with leadership opportunities and I can learn a lot from this. I want to make housing and living experiences enjoyable for the students, especially the incoming freshmen," said Lonergan, when asked why she wanted to be considered for a position.

Senior and second year resident assistant Andrea Scheurer feels that being a RA on campus is a very rewarding job.

"I love being an RA. It is so rewarding being able to guide these kids and watch them grow. One of my most memorable experiences during my years of being an RA was the time I prevented a student from dropping out of college," said Scheurer.

Interested applicants are encouraged to call the Libra Community Center at 823-5015 or the Apollo Community Center at 823-5016 for more information.

Chief Speaks for Council's Actions

SHELLEY WILSON

Managing Editor

The Judicial Council made its decision of returning Andrew Cupicha as the Student Body President and Jaime Halscott the Vice President final on Jan. 20.

The Council held an open meeting that day to discuss this issue and to end speculation that the informal meeting it held the week prior did not comply with a group of statues commonly referred to as the Florida Sunshine Law. According to the Chief Justice Laura Wharton, the Council did not break the Florida Sunshine Law that states that meetings should be posted and open to the public.

Wharton wrote in a memo on Jan. 18 that the Sunshine Law does not apply to the Judiciary and the Council was not in violation for the deliberations held on Jan. 13."It was understood that deliberations were closed," said Wharton. "The Council was just deliberating on memos we had received. There have been issues raised on the format of that meeting so we decided to make our decision stand firmly and so we held an open meeting. I think people think this was a big issue for us just to have a deliberation on," Wharton said.

The Council originally held the due process hearing for former SG President Darin Patton in December and ruled his rights could have been violated at his impeachment trial in July. Wharton at first did not want to hear the appeal, but the Council felt differently.

"It couldn't be heard because there was no appeal process for impeachment outlined in our Constitution and statutes so I brought the issue before the Council and they felt since Darin was a student and his rights could've been violated we should at least hear the case," Wharton said.

Wharton added that the Director of Judicial Programs Dr. Garth Jenkins, felt that it shouldn't be a decision that Wharton should make on her own, but the whole council would rule on it and the appeal coming from administration to hear it was a factor.

"The Council felt since it was handed by Administration it carried some weight and was an influence in that decision to hear it," Wharton said.

Wharton also believes that administration has been partly to blame for the confusion surrounding these issues.

"I feel administration has been giving different views. I think they shouldn't have got involved to begin with. They are there to advise not to influence. Administration has decided to tell SG they would respect our decision because we have the right to be wrong." Many argued that the Council overstepped its boundaries by reinstating Patton and removing Jaime Halscott from office. Wharton believes there are certain checks and balances that are appropriate for the Council to step in, but they did not apply to this case.

"In regards to impeachment the Judiciary does not have to power to go in there and change the process unless they were doing something ridiculous like let's impeach him since he's wearing a green shirt," Wharton stated.

Since the Council ruled that Patton's rights could've been violated and then ruled that they shouldn't heard his case at all. The Council's
Greek Beat

UCF fraternities and sororities earn higher GPAs than general student body

UCF's fraternity and sorority members earned higher grade point averages this fall semester than UCF's general student body. The cumulative grade point average of all Greeks averaged a 2.725, compared with the general undergraduate GPA of 2.719. Grade point averages were even higher among sororities, achieving a 2.815 in comparison with UCF's undergraduate females, who averaged a 2.821. In addition, 27 percent of sorority women were named to the Dean's List and 8 percent earned a 4.0.

UCF chapters and Disney bring national conventions to Orlando

This summer, Orlando will host several national fraternity and sorority conventions including Pi Kappa Phi, Alpha Tau Omega and Chi Omega. UCF's chapters have been delegated the honor of serving as hosts during the conventions. Pi Kappa Phi fraternity will host "Supreme Chapter 2000" at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort. Alpha Tau Omega fraternity will host the 74th Congress at Disney's Hilton for the second consecutive year due to last year's positive evaluations. Chi Omega sorority will hold its annual convention at the Marriott World Center.

Pi Kappa Phi earns national awards

Last March, the Eta Phi, chapter of Pi Kappa Phi, was chartered a year after it became an associate chapter with a total of 50 men. In that short time, the chapter was named Associate Chapter of the Year at Pi Kapp College. Founding father and UCF student Joe Sarrubbo was voted Vice Anchor of the Year for the entire national fraternity.

Alpha Delta Pi grants graduate study scholarship

Melissa Hinson, a 1999 UCF graduate and Alpha Delta Pi member, received Alpha Delta Pi Foundation scholarships worth $1,000 for graduate studies in journalism or communications. Hinson served as Alpha Delta Pi President, member of the President's leadership council and was named Greek Woman of the Year. The Alpha Delta Pi Foundation awarded over $36,000 in scholarships this year alone in an effort to assist women in achieving education and career goals.

Delta Gamma preserves COB

Delta Gamma sorority is holding continuous open bidding (COB) throughout the spring semester. "Our chapter is doing excellent," said Delta Gamma President Jen Greene. "We have nothing but the highest expectations that our chapter will succeed in accomplishing all our goals." Delta Gamma will hold its next event on February 15 at 7 p.m. in the Student Union.

Correction

The news staff of the Future would like to apologize to Zeta Tau Delta for a misprint of its name in the Jan. 19 issue.

compiled by Krista Zilizi, Staff Writer

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January 26, 2000

$400 million proposed for programs to plan for college

FROM PAGE 1

per year, once the program is fully functional in 2003. It would give students and their families the choice of either a tax deduction or a 28 percent credit for tuition, fees and other expenses. The plan would cover up to $5,000 in expenses for the next two years and $10,000 after that.

"This has never been done before," President Clinton said in an announcement ceremony in the Old Executive Office Building. "We will really be able to say anyone who wants to go to college can go."

Clinton was joined by First Lady Hillary Clinton and Sen. Charles Schumur (D-N.Y.), who said the program gives students a "real fighting chance.

"A college education is a necessity for the economic survival of every family today, but it is priced beyond the realm of nearly new scholarship opportunities."

In addition, $400 million has been proposed to get students in middle and high schools to plan for college and understand higher education is affordable to them, through the TRIO program, to encourage more students at an earlier age to see it as a degree of Clinton said.

A similar tax deduction proposal, sponsored by Schumur and Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine), received some bi-partisan support last year, but did not pass Congress. Riley said he believed, as part of Clinton's balanced budget proposal, this program will be passed by the Republican-controlled legislature.

Rep. Bill Goodling (R-Penn.), chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, said he believes the Pell Grant program should be the government's highest priority for higher education spending and should be funded to the maximum extent allowed in the budget.

"The president's commitment to spend more money on Pell Grants, the TRIO program and work study is a step in the right direction," Goodling said in a press release. "I am disappointed, however, that the president still sees the need to create new federal programs and new bureaucracies for proposals when existing programs could be used."

WWW.INTOTHKIGHTS.COM

Say something sweet, creative, and crazy to your loved one for Valentine's Day right here in the Central Florida Future!

On February 2, 2000 stop by in front of the Student Union at the Central Florida Future table from 10:00 to 2:00 to fill out your declaration of love for that special someone.

Your loved one can read your valentine in the February 9th Issue of the Central Florida Future.

Prizes will also be given to the most creative, craziest, and sweetest valentines submitted. The winners will be published along with the valentines in the February 9th issue.

UCF Senator wants SG to move forward

FROM PAGE 1

still believe Patton received due process.

"We didn't really talk about that. I don't see that opinion really changing. We just looked at the whole jurisdiction to originally hear it and we decided we didn't."

Wharton, who has been a Justice for a previous full year, before becoming Chief Justice this past year has held 16 hearings in the fall compared to 6 in the spring. She stated that even though she enjoys her job and learned not to take as many things personal, she was shocked and thought it was unprofessional for personal attacks to be made about her by Patton.

Some members of the 32nd Student Senate feel that SG helping students should take precedence over internal issues.

"We stand on a rocky ledge and some of us have one foothill on our right and one on our left and we don't know which one we will go to. We need to focus on the mountain which is the student body that stands before us and overcome our foothills," Arts and Sciences Senator, Joe Hilton, said.

PHOTO BY JASON KOKOTOFF

Under Construction Forever...the scene outside of the Business Administration building shows how UCF gets its endearing nickname.
Broadway vet combined with UCF cast and crew debuts Pulitzer Prize winning play

ELAINE LEBLANC
STAFF WRITER

Guest director Gilbert Lewis will direct Theatre UCF’s production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning “A Soldier’s Play.”

Lewis has appeared on both Broadway and regional stages. His works have also included television guest appearances on programs such as “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air,” “Alien Nation,” “Cheers,” and “Pee Wee’s Playhouse.” He previously visited UCF for the production of “In the Well of the House.”

Cast and crew have been rehearsing with Lewis nearly every day and on weekends since Nov. 19. Lewis has also hosted master acting workshops and delivered lectures for theater students and staff.

Written by Charles Fuller, “A Soldier’s Play” chronicles the murder investigation of a black Army sergeant in an all-black Louisiana regiment. Most blame the killing on a member of the local Ku Klux Klan.

“The play is really a look at how we damage and diminish ourselves when we decide someone, including ourselves, is less than human because of some characteristic. This concept of a lesser other has always been an impediment to human development,” Lewis said.

Many others involved in the theater program appreciate his guidance in this production.

“It’s been an invaluable life-learning experience both for myself and the students in a professional working environment,” said Tony Magaro, an associate professor who plays one of the lead characters.

Others involved in the production agreed that Lewis has been a major asset.

“He is the best thing that ever happened to the program,” Actor Andy Dardaine said.

“I feel really confident about this play because it is really tight. I think it will be one of the best, if not the best, plays this season,” said fellow cast member Robert Beharry.

The Campus Activities Board will be offering free tickets for tonight’s show. These tickets are available on a first-come, first-serve basis in its Student Union Office. Tickets for other performances range from $4.50 - $8.75.

Formal MIT student jailed in Peru on hunger strike to protest conditions

FRANK DABEK
THE TECH
(MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)

(U-WIRE) CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Lori Berenson, a former MIT student convicted of high treason by a Peruvian military tribunal, has begun a hunger strike to protest the conduct of her trial and draw attention to the conditions under which she is serving out her life sentence.

Gail Taylor, national coordinator for The Committee to Free Lori Berenson said that the hunger strike began on January 11, the fourth anniversary of Berenson’s conviction on charges treason. Berenson was allegedly involved with the Marxists Tupac Amaru terrorist group.

Taylor said that Berenson has not made any demands but was protesting the conditions of her incarceration. “The prison conditions are absolutely horrendous,” Taylor said.

Berenson was initially jailed high in the Andes mountains but was moved to a lower altitude jail when her health declined. Now she has been “taken out of contact with humans,” Taylor said, and the incarceration has affected her mental state.

Berenson has not set a timeframe for her strike and Taylor expects her to continue “as long as she physically can,” perhaps several weeks.

On the same day that Berenson began her hunger strike, supporters held vigils across the country.

Berenson’s mother, Rhoda, in an interview in the New York Daily News, said that she was not surprised that Lori had begun the hunger strike and was anxious about her health but respected her decision and commitment.

The House of Representatives defeated legislation in July that would have withheld all but humanitarian aid to Peru if Berenson was not freed.

The American ambassador to Peru, John Hamilton, has also been in negotiations with the Peruvian government concerning Berenson.

The Peruvian government seems unwilling to grant Berenson a new trial, however. Prime Minister Alberto Bustamante said recently that Berenson will not receive a new trial unless she can produce new evidence of her innocence.

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Since its formation in 1978, Sawtek’s goals were to become the leading supplier of both military and commercial high-performance surface acoustic wave (SAW) components and to advance SAW technology. Sawtek is now recognized as the industry leader for high-performance SAW components and SAW-based subsystems.

Headquartered in Orlando, Sawtek employs nearly 500 employees in the United States and 275 in Costa Rica. Sawtek’s primary focus is custom-designed, high-performance bandpass filters, resonators, delay lines, oscillators, and SAW-based subsystems. These products are used in a wide array of microwave and radio frequency (RF) systems such as GSM and CDMA-based digital telephone systems, digital microwave radios, wireless local area networks, cable television, and satellite systems.

The worldwide expansion of wireless telecommunications systems and emerging applications in digital data and video systems have resulted in rapid revenue and profit growth for Sawtek. We are seeking talented professionals to add to our team.

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Job fairs are exciting and can be fun. The "open air market" atmosphere produces a relaxed environment where you can interact with employers and sharpen your interviewing skills without the anxiety associated with the closed door, one-on-one formal interview. For candidates who know how to "work" them, job fairs can be extremely beneficial; and in today's super-competitive job-market, there is no more efficient way to promote your availability to employers.

Where else can you find such a concentration of potential employers in one place? Where else can you interact with hiring officials and company executives, identify available opportunities, collect company literature and business cards for future networking and possibly get a lead, application or an invitation for an interview? These events are good not only for the job seeker, but also for the employer. Where else can they see such a concentration of potential candidates in one place?

It is essential that you study the job market. Having an understanding of your field of interest can help you in approaching a job fair table even if you know nothing about that employer except the fact that they have a function for which you are qualified and are interested in performing.

As an example, if you are pursuing a career in retail management you should approach all employers at the fair that are in that field. In the 30 or so seconds that you have to make a positive and lasting first impression, approach with a firm handshake and introduce yourself. Demonstrate your enthusiasm through a quick, convincing, one-sentence statement about your intent to pursue a career in retail management and your desire to learn more about Company X's management training program.

You have to be able to hit the right button with that person, very quickly, convincing them that you can be useful to that company. Now is when you present your resume with a smooth, confident motion. Compare this approach to "What do you have to offer me?", which is what most job fair attendees say. Imagine if you will for a moment that you are an employer at a job fair lasting about six hours. Anywhere from 300 to 1,000 job candidates could stop at your display. That's about 50 to 150 per hour! Some candidates will demonstrate their initiative, job experience, training, enthusiasm, confidence and job search preparedness; however, others will present themselves passively and be guaranteed instant failure.

Listen very carefully to what the recruiter says, whether there is hope for further discussion and how you can follow-up. Now is the time to pick up their literature - annual reports, brochures, etc. Being prepared is the key to getting the most out of a job fair.

Let's assume that you know all about dressing for success. Remember you may have only 30 seconds to make your case. Imagine how important that first impression must be to the employer. If we are talking non-technical fields here, the employer has to assess the personalities and obvious strengths of potential candidates.

Your resume will be your strongest and most useful tool at the job fair. Prepare a crisp and eye-catching, one-page resume that starts with a well-defined career objective. Make sure that you establish a firm linkage between your goals and your experiences. Your resume must reflect your excellent communication skills as well as your attention to details - no typos, misspellings or bad grammar.

It is up to you to get what you want out of a job fair. If you want it to be more than just wandering from table to table with empty handshakes, you better plan a strategy and be prepared.

Source: UCF Career Resource Center
January 28-30, 2000

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January 26, 2000

Central Florida Future • 7

What Do They Want?

No matter what qualifications you possess, no matter how stellar your GPA, there are some skills that can make or break your candidacy. The charts below show how employers rank specific skills and personal characteristics (notice the overlap). Increasingly in today's workplace, employees work together to complete projects successfully. Many of the skills and characteristics relate to how employees work, indicating the importance employers place on work style.

Your ability to demonstrate to an employer that you have these qualities and skills is just as important as actually possessing them. In some cases, you'll be able to point to specific activities or course work. You'll want to make use of such information on your resume and in the interview. And remember — the interview is a showcase of your interpersonal and oral communication skills, so be prepared!

Desired Skills Employers Seek

Interpersonal skills 4.67
Teamwork skills 4.65
Analytical skills 4.56
Oral communication skills 4.53
Flexibility 4.52
Computer skills 4.32
Written communication skills 4.12
Leadership skills 4.08
Work experience 4.05
Internship experience 3.77
Co-op experience 3.37

Top 10 Personal Characteristics Employers Seek in Job Candidates

1. Honesty/integrity
2. Motivation/initiative
3. Communication skills
4. Self-confidence
5. Flexibility
6. Interpersonal skills
7. Strong work ethic
8. Teamwork skills
9. Leadership skills
10. Enthusiasm

Source: Job Outlook '98, National Association of Colleges and Employers, Bethlehem, Pa.
Interview crucial step in hiring process

You may receive a brief informal interview at the job fair, but you could also be scheduled for a more formal interview with a potential employer later. If this is the case, it helps to know what to expect. The typical interview will last 30 minutes, consisting of:

- five minutes - small talk
- fifteen minutes - a mutual discussion of your background and credentials as they relate to the needs of the employer
- five minutes - employer asks you for your questions
- five minutes - conclusion of interview

Interviewing skills are crucial to job seekers because prospective employers base employment decisions largely on information and impressions obtained during interviews. The interview is the most significant criteria in making hiring decisions.

Before the hello – The typical interview starts before you even get into the sanctuary. The recruiter begins to evaluate you the minute you are identified. You are expected to shake the recruiter’s hand upon being introduced. Don’t be afraid to extend your hand first to show assertiveness. Plan on arriving at least 15 minutes early, using the extra time to relax.

Small talk – Many recruiters will begin the interview with some small talk. Topics may range from the weather to sports and rarely focus on anything that brings out your skills. Nonetheless, you are still being evaluated.

Recruiters are trained to evaluate candidates on many different points. They may be judging how well you communicate on an informal basis. You must do more than just smile and nod.

Recruiter has the floor – The main part of the interview starts when the recruiter begins discussing the organization. If the recruiter uses vague generalities about the positions and you want more specific information, ask questions. Be sure you have a clear understanding of the job and the company.

As the interview turns to talk about your qualifications, be prepared to deal with aspects of your background that could be construed as negative, such as a low grade point average, no participation in outside activities, or no related work experience. It is up to you to convince the recruiter that although these points appear negative, positive attributes can be found in them. It is also likely you will be asked questions to determine your direction and motivation, for instance, why you chose the major you did or what your career goals are.

Your turn for questions – When the recruiter asks, “Now do you have any questions?” it’s important to have a few ready. Ask intelligent, well-thought-out questions to show the employer you are serious about the organization and that you have done your homework. Questions should always elicit positive responses from the employer.

The end counts – The interview isn’t over until you walk out the door. It is important to always remain enthusiastic and courteous. Often the conclusion of the interview is indicated when the recruiter stands up. However, if you feel the interview has reached its conclusion, you can stand up first.

Shake the recruiters hand and thank him or her for considering you. Being forthright is a quality that most employers will respect, indicating that you feel you have presented your case and the decision is now up to them.

Expect the unexpected – During the interview, you may be asked some unusual questions. Don’t be too surprised. Many times, questions are asked simply to see how you react.

For example, surprise questions could range from, “Tell me a joke” to “What time period would you like to have lived in?” Your reaction time and the response you give will be evaluated by the employer, but there’s no way you can anticipate questions like these. While these questions are not always used, they are intended to force you to react under some stress and pressure. The best advice is to think and give a natural response.

Successful Interviewing

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ORGANIZING A JOB SEARCH

Can’t attend the 1999 Statewide Job Fair or not ready for employment just yet? Planning for your career should still be on your mind. Following is a long-term strategy guide:

The job search can be an overwhelming and time consuming process. What do you need to do and where do you begin? Planning and organization are key elements to a successful job search. It’s a good idea to begin about six months before your targeted employment date. The Career Resource Center (described on pages 4-5) can help you develop and implement an effective job search campaign.

Self Assessment - Take time to better know yourself. Identify your interests, skills, and work values and evaluate your strengths and weaknesses. Emphasize those which connect most directly with your current goals. Identifying this information will help you articulate your career objective, which will assist you in targeting employers and ultimately marketing yourself in the interview.

Research & Explore Career Options - Become knowledgeable about the job market. Explore occupations related to your skills and education. Know what is required to compete for these positions.

Target Employers - Use a variety of methods to identify potential employers and research their organizations. Utilize employer directories, the Internet, the CRC Career Information Library, professional associations, trade journals, and similar sources to develop a list of employer names and addresses. Find out as much as you can about prospective employers through employees, visits, company literature and reference books. Prioritize your list of employers in order of preference.

Prepare Job Search Material - Develop a dynamic resume and cover letters targeted to the needs of potential employers. Consider developing several versions of your resume, depending upon the positions or organizations you are pursuing.

Conduct Your Job Search Campaign - This part of the process requires daily attention. Develop a schedule and record keeping system. Your records should include prospective contacts, companies contacted, follow-up dates and status of contact. Access all possible job listings and contact employers of interest for potential hiring needs. Be persistent and follow through.

Interview - Organizations usually hire based on face-to-face interviews. Practice your interviewing skills and set a goal of gaining an interview with all organizations on your list even if some do not have current openings. Personal contact improves your chances of being remembered once an opening does occur.

New Job - When all the terms have been agreed upon, request an employment letter/contract stating salary, starting date and benefits. After reviewing and accepting the offer, relax and enjoy your new job!

Review Your Decision - Career development is an ongoing process. Review your job search experience and determine successes and problems. Keep your resume current — you never know when you may need it!

Chilfish actions have no place in Florida politics

DAVID PITTMAN
NEWS EDITOR

Think about 3-year-olds and their general behavior. Often, children at this age feel that the entire world is there to serve their needs. They might whine, kick, scream and throw tantrums until they get what they want. And telling them "no" rarely seems to work.

But we expect this from a 3-year-old - not a governor.

Early last week, Gov. Jeb Bush threw what amounted to a temper tantrum when he took his two black state legislators, Sen. Kendrick Meek (D-Miami) and Rep. Tony Hill (D-Jacksonville), had a sit-in at the governor’s suite to protest the end of affirmative action in university admissions. When the protest attracted national attention, Bush became even more infuriated, reportedly saying, "If you care, you wouldn’t act out," a reference Bush says was directed at the media, not the legislators.

I won’t even touch on the fact that Bush’s “One Florida” initiative, a plan to eliminate racial preferences in college admissions and state contracts, received little, if any, input from minority legislators.

But ever since taking office in 1999, he has had the luxury of Republican legislature and a large budget. So, whatever Jeb wanted, he got - school vouchers, a billion-dollar tax cut and even the starting phases of a medical school at Florida State University.

Sen. Buddy Dyer of Orlando is amazed at the disrespect that Bush has shown the legislature. But what is even more alarming is disrespect for minority representatives. If Republican Party members hope to eventually court a strong Black or Hispanic vote, they must remember these groups in the decision-making process.

But Inclusions weren’t made, and when someone finally spoke up about it, Bush began to act like a 3-year-old, cursing, yelling and kicking people out.

We, as responsible constituents, must demand more from our elected representatives. Bickering, infighting and name-calling shouldn’t be tolerated (SGA take note).

Maybe Hill and Meek didn’t go about the correct procedures for getting the governor’s ear. But he should have offered it from the beginning.

NICE GUYS WHO TRY NOT TO FINISH LAST

ADAM SHIVER
STAFF WRITER

Have you ever listened to girls talk about what kind of guy they are looking for? If you have, then you have probably heard the same things I have in and taken note of while listening to just what they really want.

Apparent though, they must just make these things up, so it would seem.

A girl explained to me recently that I was too nice because I did these things, "Too nice?" I asked, is there such a thing as being too nice? I don’t think so. In fact, I don’t think there is enough niceness in this day and age.

I try to practice most of these things in my life. I open doors for girls, almost always put their needs and wants before mine. I pay for dates, I am caring and sweet, but it seems like this gets me nowhere. A gentleman just can’t think that doesn’t think all of this is too nice, it seems she takes advantage of it and walks all over me.

A gentleman just can’t think that there can ever be someone "too nice", that’s for sure.

Girl’s seem to settle for whatever they come across, and this bothers me.

So what is it girls are really looking for? I have no clue myself. But if they aren’t looking for all these good things, than what are they looking for? Maybe they are looking for a guy that treats them badly, or someone who expects them to pay for everything, or maybe they are looking for a guy that plays hard to get. I must say that these things just are not me.

Now this is not always the case, but when I do find a girl that doesn’t think all of this is too nice, seems she looks for ability and walks all over me. A gentleman just can’t win for losing.

I don’t know whether I should bring my standards down, or keep searching but I don’t think there can ever be someone "too nice", that’s for sure.

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Dumbing down of game shows is response to American

JEREMY STILES
DAILY EVERGREEN
(WASHINGTON STATE U.)

(U-WIRE) PULLMAN, Wash. -- A new quiz-show scandal exists in these United States. Nobody has suggested criminal wrongdoing on the part of ABC, NBC, Fox or whoever else is foisting a dumbed-down version of "College Bowl" on America's TV viewers, but only because it's not a crime to insult people's intelligence.

Evergreen stated, "The idea that today's mass entertainment must be challenging only to the mentally dormant or it won't sell is the scandal. It insults the intelligence of the viewing public."

Network executives feed us swill, but they're not stupid. The continuing popularity and advertiser support of shows such as "Jerry Springer" all but confirm an audience willing to allow idiots to strut and fret upon the television stage and tell tales of relationships with cousins gone bad.

Yes, dumb TV sells, but it's hard to say why.

This piece may be getting boring, so let's play a game I'll call "Who Wants This Column To End?"

The item about the revised version of an old 1950s game show suggests network television producers assume today's audience is only interested in (a) doesn't want to think, (b) is moronic or (c) just wants to see people act like morons and sweat over what amounts to a multiple-guess exam on TV.

Take it as a 50/50 and eliminate choice b. The choice between a and c is up to the individual. Viewers do have the power to add a choice d to the list. Ruin dumb TV's ratings by refusing to watch shows that consider insulting people's intelligence a "concession for the times."

Nothing is inherently wrong with easy game shows. The fate of the republic does not depend on Joe from New Jersey listing the "Rocky" movies in the correct sequence.

The idea that today's mass entertainment must be challenging only to the mentally dormant or it won't sell is the scandal. It insults the intelligence of the viewing public.

Network executives feed us swill, but they're not stupid. The continuing popularity and advertiser support of shows such as "Jerry Springer" all but confirm an audience willing to allow idiots to strut and fret upon the television stage and tell tales of relationships with cousins gone bad.

Yes, dumb TV sells, but it's hard to say why.

Africa’s plagues, our problem

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY ILLINI (U. ILLINOIS)

(U-WIRE) CHAMPAIGN, Ill. -- While only 11 percent of the world's population lives there, a majority of the epidemics to have plagued humanity this century have plagued the continent of Africa.

In some countries, the HIV infection rate is as high as 25 percent of the population. Entire villages are in ruins, and teenage children are heading households where now-dead parents once lived.

Some countries must institute an AIDS tax on already poor citizens to bolster meager health care budgets.

There is some hope. Not much, but some.

According to The New York Times, Vice President Al Gore said the United States would pledge an additional $150 million to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations, an organization charged with serving the Third World's drug needs.

In times of economic prosperity, other industrialized nations should do the same. While the poor and afflicted in Africa should be allowed access to decent medical care for simple humanitarian reasons, the era of globalization also means that Africa's plagues are potential problems for Western countries.

Global transport is continuously becoming faster, easier and cheaper. The drug cocktail currently used to treat AIDS patients is beyond the means of many Africans and their governments.

At one time, South Africa let inexpensive AIDS drugs into the country. They were soon hit with a lawsuit from pharmaceutical companies that insisted that the cheaper drugs were unlicensed, and therefore against free market rules.

A pirated CD is one thing, but denying cheaper drugs from dying people smacks of greed and arrogance. We must ask ourselves: How much profit is enough for pharmaceutical companies that are already making money off the tragedies of others? A recently released congressional study showed that drugs from a veterinary office are much cheaper than the very same drugs at a pharmacy. The only difference is that the pharmacy drugs are beyond the means of many African and their governments.

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...
Movies are like pizza. Even when they’re bad, they’re still pretty good, or at least good enough to satisfy you until something better comes along.

That said, I’ve seen some crappy movies in my day, but many of them have some sort of redeeming factor to them, a semblance of spark or imagination that at least allows it to entertain me for the duration of the film.

For instance “The Mummy,” a dismal letdown, had some dry humor to spur it along a little way.

“Supernova,” in theatres now, has nothing like that. In my Views of the Earth and Planets class two semesters ago, I learned that supernovae are stars that blow up.

In the movie “Supernova,” I learned that sometimes stars just blow.

If you’ve seen “Sphere” or “Event Horizon,” you know the premise of the story. People in a spaceship, blah, blah, blah, meet a mysterious alien presence, blah, blah, blah, crew in distress ... you get the point.

If you haven’t seen these movies, here’s the skinny on “Supernova.” The Nightingale 229 is a medical rescue vessel patrolling in deep space.

The crew consists of six members you’ve seen in sci-fi movies before. The Captain, The Medical Officer, The Computer Guy, etc. The crew receives a distress signal from an abandoned mining facility and have to dimension jump to the site.

Once there, they pick up a strange man with even stranger cargo, a purple-glowing alien artifact.

The man (Karl Larsen, played with Glade-candle intensity by Peter Facinelli) isn’t really hurt, just looking for a way to get the artifact home so he can make some bucks off of it.

Darn the luck, though, the ship is disabled from its dimension jump and the crew has to deal with its problems and can’t go anywhere.

The purple artifact they find apparently harbors some ninth dimension material, and even though it seems to be the centerpiece of the film, it doesn’t clear up the fact that there are barely two dimensions to the movie.

“Supernova” fails miserably on several accounts. The above-mentioned “plot” isn’t enough to hold you for the duration of the film.

It misses out on some great points, that could have been developed, such as the love affair between Yerzy (Lou Diamond Phillips, a big miss after “The Big Hit”) and Danika (Robin Tunney, whose taste in scripts must have magically vanished after “The Craft”), but it boils down to nothing more than zero-gravity sex scenes, which weren’t even that good.

Plus, crew members are killed off in a none too entertaining fashion, and too quickly.

You’d think by now Hollywood would have more ways to kill spaceship crew members than shunting them out of airlocks.

Guess not.

Acting-wise, the characters are as boring as a dental hygiene safety video, and about as lovable.

Kudos to James Spader for delivering the same icy cool as he did in “2 Days in the Valley,” but it doesn’t help the screenplay one iota.

The person with the most personality in “Supernova” isn’t even a person. It’s the ship’s wise-cracking computer voice Sweetie (yes, it’s name is actually Sweetie).

“Supernova” should never have been made. The screenplay should never have been written, the actors should never have been hired and unimpressive SGI special effects should never have been booted up.

Easily the most bland concoction ever spun since Metamucil, “Supernova” isn’t even as good as that cardboard-tasting week old frozen pizza in your fridge.

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NEWS OF THE WORLD

LEAD STORIES

In the December Medical Journal of Australia, an authority on in-vitro fertilization predicted that sexual intercourse will largely fade away as a means of procreation, in favor of technology that can achieve genetic preferences and avoid genetic risks. Such technology, noted another author in the issue, would eventually render males unnecessary for reproduction, and in fact, given the growing weakness of X chromosomes, alternative reproductive methods such as cloning would be necessary even to ensure males’ continued existence.

In January, Recanati, Italy (population 20,000), enacted animal rights regulations that are among the world’s toughest, including requiring people to respect domestic animals’ need to socialize with their own breed and for their “legitimate sexual needs.” Also, pets’ living quarters must be at least 9.6 square yards, lighted, ventilated, and kept at a comfortable temperature.

The Green Protein

— Because jellyfish contain genes that a protein that turns green, scientists have used them frequently in recent years in genetic modification work, including the protein’s introduction into a potato to enable the plant to grow when it needs water (Scottish Agricultural College, June) and its proposed introduction into a Douglas spruce to create Christmas trees with glowing needles (Herfordshire University, England, October). A similar process can be done with firefly genes, which was proposed for the Douglas spruce project and is also now being done with zebras to order in produce organisms that light up when they detect certain water pollutants (University of Cincinnati, December).

Creme de la We

— The 287-gun collection of legally blind Philadelphia psychiatrist John Ingui was briefly confiscated by police in August after his landlord discovered the animal on a visit to collect overdue rent. Federal officials said Ingui’s 69 assault rifles, 150 semiautomatic pistols and 50,000 rounds of ammunition were properly registered and returned to him.

— Connersville, Ind. (population 15,500): tooth decay rate 20 percent higher than the state average, is by far the largest town in the state not to have fluoridated water, but the new city council elected in November is expected to change that. Until now, anti-fluoride activists had scored the town with claims that “fluoride” was really disguised as an exacting tax by federal government needed to discover and that it is got into Connersville’s water supply, it would kill townspeople’s brain cells.

Despite his criminal record (his fault), the police pull to the income tax and his bizarre testimony, former world heavyweight boxing champion Trevor Berbrick had won his deportation hearing in Toronto in December and can remain in Canada for at least five more years. At the hearing, Berbrick insisted that his criminal record was the result of a conspiracy masterminded by boxers Larry Holmes and that he lost his title to Mike Tyson only after someone put a bullet into his hotel room before the fight. At one point in the hearing, Berbrick yelled out, “Power nap!” and abruptly fell asleep for a few minutes at the table.

Government in Action

— In November, U.S. Customs finally decided to let in 20 tons of birdseed from Canada after having detained it in Detroit since August. Because records indicated it had been processed from industrial hemp, which is a variety of the Cannabis sativa plant from which marijuana is derived (even though hemp is notoriously nonpsychoactive and, according to an October-New York Times report, the Detroit hemp had 1/200th the potency of even the weakest marijuana).

In November, following a crime wave pushed through by the Labor Party, the seats of the 755 members of Britain’s House of Lords who inherited their titles were eliminated, but the members were allowed to elect 92 among them to continue, with each candidate’s “campaign” limited to a 75-word written statement. Among the platforms: Viscount Munchnock of Bren chloride’s proposal to put legal limits on human cloning; anti-tobacco, and Lord Colwyn’s highlighting his experience as chairman of the Refreshment Subcommittees.

According to a paper leaked to reporters in September, the city of Christchurch, New Zealand, was fully prepared in the event of the Second Coming of Christ at New Year’s. City Manager Mike Richards, a devout Christian, had prepared the paper for his religious brethren, noting that the city’s swimming pools could be used for mass baptisms, while a newly refurbished Jade Stadium was available for services; and the recently completed downtown Cathedral Square symbolized a defeat of Satan, who had tried to delay construction.

The 100 Best Small Companies in America

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— The Boston Globe reported in November that a woman recently evicted from public housing for assaulting a neighbor was temporarily put up for three nights free of charge at a four-star hotel in the Boston area (Burlington, Mass., December) and then at a Holiday Inn. The city of Christchurch, New Zealand, was fully prepared in the event of the Second Coming of Christ at New Year’s. City Manager Mike Richards, a devout Christian, had prepared the paper for his religious brethren, noting that the city’s swimming pools could be used for mass baptisms, while a newly refurbished Jade Stadium was available for services; and the recently completed downtown Cathedral Square symbolized a defeat of Satan, who had tried to delay construction.

People Who Are Not Like You and Me

— In December, Leonard Oak, 51, was convicted of aggravated assault in St. Johnsbury, Vt., for shooting Richard Lavoie in the shoulder. According to eyewitnesses, Oak and Lavoie were "playing chicken" with their rifles at Lavoie's home by firing rounds as close to each other as they could without hitting anything. After Lavoie missed Oak's head by no more than six inches, Oak shot out a clock on his head with his newly refurnished Jade Stadium and caused him to threaten Oak, who then shot Lavoie to show that he was not intimidated.

Recurring Themes

The Classic Middle Name (All-New)


Least Justifiable Homicides

Music Kills: Dario Bongo, 36, admitted in September that he killed Carlos San Miguel in Carlson, Minn., stabbing him 80 times, because Mr. K. had insulted him by playing the music of Stevie Ray Vaughan. And Robert Chaulk, 30, admitted in December that he stabbed to death a Bosnian refugee couple he was visiting in Winnipeg, Manitoba, because they wouldn’t let him put on a Joe Cocker album.

(For more than 15 stories, call (602) 230-3850, ext. 2177.)
Dear Nancy,

I've been dating my boyfriend for about three months and we get along great. I only have one complaint, he never compliments me. We always go out together, downtown or wherever and no matter how good I think I look he doesn't say anything. I've even tried wearing different types of clothes to get a reaction out of him, but still no response. What do you think this means?

-Dressed up

Dear Dressed up,

What do you mean you try wearing different types of clothing? Are you a fire fighter one night and a show girl the next? No wonder why your boyfriend doesn't say anything, you look ridiculous.

Although he is with you so he must think there's something good about you. He probably just isn't that great at expressing himself. Some people don't know how to give a compliment. Why don't you set an example for him? If you do this often enough sooner or later he should catch on and start doing the same to you.

I also suggest you ask yourself why you need reassurance from him. You already think you look good, and that's all that matters.

Dear Nancy,

I've been broken up with my ex-girlfriend for about 6 months but I can't stop thinking about her. I haven't seen or talked to her but I constantly wonder how she is and what she's doing. I don't get it because I'm the one that broke it off and I know she's not the one. How do I get her out of my head?

—Can't forget

Dear Can't,

Six months is usually more than enough time to get over someone. Right about now you should be dating or have already ended it with the transitional person, according to my relationship time line. Have you considered trying Paxil for your obsessive compulsive disorder?

The hard part is over, you know she's not the one. What's next? Overkill. You can binge then purge the urge, just complete these easy to follow steps: Dig up every last remnant you have of her and your relationship together; pictures, letters, etc, and make them visible. Hang her pictures everywhere, on your rear view and bathroom mirrors, on the walls of your kitchen and bedroom, anywhere your eyes happen to look throughout the course of a day. Begin to sleep with her picture under your pillow. If you had a special song play it over and over again until the words become a part of your normal speech. Talk about her constantly, if your friend says he has to use the bathroom remind him of how your ex would also have to use the bathroom. Date only girls that have her name and that look, walk and sound exactly like her. Chant her name out loud every night before you fall asleep and before you get out of bed in the morning. Within one week you should be so disgusted with the thought of her and with yourself that you never think of her again.
Paul Cella
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Former National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger once said that the Vietnam War was the impetus for the greatest rift in American culture since the Civil War.

Mach has been written about the United States' role in Vietnam, and personal feelings aside, it is generally regarded as one of the critical events of the second half of the 20th century.

Mainstream journalism and historical analysis usually conclude that the entire war effort hinged on a series of terrible mistakes and often advance the tendentious assertion that all of the war's participants disdained themselves by their very involvement.

Robert Timberg, in his contemporary classic The Nightingale's Song, paints Vietnam with a different brush.

Vietnam with a different brush.

Timberg's work is unusual and impressive because it takes the perspective of the professional soldier, the junior officers whose leadership is absolutely crucial in infantry warfare.

Perhaps the greatest tragedy of war is the toll it takes on these men, the natural leaders, and thus the toll it takes on a generation of youth.

All of Timberg's primary sources are in similar ways, but just as in distinctively individual ways, reflect the irresistible qualities that mark true leaders intelligence, style, charisma and sheer physical courage.

Yet the legacy of Vietnam stained their service to America with disgrace and their personal contributions have been ignored.

Most controversial, yet most cogent, is Timberg's insight into the anti-war culture of the 1960s liberal movement. Though he acknowledges it is at least fundamentally admirable, he harshly condemns the vulgar popularization of the "counterculture," especially as it was manifest in correlating irresponsibility and weakness.

For many draft-dodgers, and particularly the political leaders who drove them, there was little of the widely heralded ideological pacifism, the pristine "give peace a chance" conviction.

Rather, these opportunists, indoctrinated by a culture of success, often used the anti-war movement as a vehicle to mask unqualified cowardice.

A majority of the 1960s youth, using a variety of legal and illegal means to avoid military service, institutionalized a systematic and subtle, but utterly profound and far-reaching corruption of the values and tenets that had made America strong, while the heroes of that generation fought and bled in Southeast Asia.

Timberg's exquisite and assiduous research and shrewdly insightful understanding of the reader through this haunting and tender tale of courage, tragedy, dignity and above all humanity.

At times he seems the fierce ideologue, bitter at those who betrayed and abandoned him and his fellow-servicemen. Other times, he is conservatism's gentle but forceful critic, whose understated disaffection focused principally on Ronald Reagan, whose patriotic song drew in and persuaded millions to their cause, and whose primaries were thoroughly embroiled in the scandal.

The examination is yet another example of Timberg's journalistic talent and his masterful grasp of the subject matter.

While The Nightingale's Song is specifically relevant today in its biographical prominence of McCain, the analysis of each of the primaries is insightful and at times inspiring, and taken as a whole, it stands in acute opposition to the doctrinaire and pervasive attitudes of America's historical establishment about Vietnam.

The men who fought and died there were not fascists or baby-killers, save in the most terrible and sensationalized exception.

They were men who took their duty to this country, and all the freedom and opportunity it affords, and their duty to those who served before them, very seriously.

Their sacrifice should never be forgotten.
January 26, 2000

www.UCFfuture.com

Morphine

Morphine founder and frontman, Mark Sandman, once compared his music to cooking: "For years, I made myself a red sauce for pasta with oregano, some thyme, some basil, black pepper, salt, some of this, some of that. I thought that's an unlikely lineup for Morphine: drums, sax and Sandman's two string bass. Over

the minimalist groove created by this trio, Sandman sang fragmented urban tales in a dead-past, guttural baritone.

His lean and suggestive lyrics carried more weight than their simplicity suggested, as in this couplet from 1993's "Cure for Pain": "If I am guilty so are you/ It was March 4, 1982."

Like the drug they were named for, Morphine exerted a powerful physical effect with their deep, dark grooves.

The band had a knack for bypassing the brain and appealing directly to the spinal chord.

Part of this physical effect was due to their harnessing of bowel-nailling lower registers. They prowled the lower register as if it were their own nocturnal empire. In a parody of publicists' need for gimmicky labels, Sandman even dubbed their sound "low rock."

But Morphine's beguiling power was created not only by their deep, overlapping tones, but also by the forward propulsion of their rhythm. Groove was central to Morphine.

Prince, one of Sandman's all-time favorites, was an unlikely but important influence. But unlike Prince, Morphine's sound evoked not a party, but a menacing film-noir world.

Morphine's sometimes low-fi production values made their music sound weirdly muffled, as if it emanated from another, darker world, separated from this one by only a layer of cheap drywall.

The Night is Morphine's fourth and final album. Mark Sandman suffered a fatal heart attack while performing in Italy last July.

The album features a mix of tracks from the band's career, with contributions from a number of Morphine's friends and associates from the Boston music scene.

Though the instrumentation is more elaborate, restraint remains the guiding principle.

It is, in fact, startling to read the album's credits and see how many instruments were used to create the spare sound of these songs: guitars, piano, cello, vocals, a second bass, a second set of drums, and an organ, as well back-up singers.

The Night opens with the dark, Leonard Cohen-esque title track that sets the tone.

This track also introduces the deliberately mismatching minor piano chords that recur to great effect throughout The Night. Things become even more mesmerizingly bleak in "Rope of Fire," a piece which has Sandman casting a spell of sensuously bent bass notes behind a stripped-down percussion groove.

But Morphine refused to become a caricature of themselves, puncturing the deliciously gloomy mood with the almost celebratory "Top Floor, Bottom Buzzer."

Though the death of Mark Sandman ensures this will be Morphine's last studio album, there is a live album in the works, as well as a new project called The Morphine Orchestra.

The Orchestra was formed by Morphine drummer Billy Conway and saxophonist Dana Colley to honor the memory of Mark Sandman and to give life to the material from The Night which has never been performed live.
Interactive fiction picks up steam on the Net

ANTHONY FREEMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you want to use the time machine, turn to Page 76. If you wish to return home, go to Page 121. We all remember those books that let you choose your own destiny.

They were nuggets of gold in the endless dirt pile of textbooks in grade school. This genre of books has made its transition to the Web in a movement called interactive fiction.

The history of interactive fiction has yet to be written, however, an online community was established in 1992 with two newsgroups (rec.arts.int-fiction and rec.games.int-fiction). The forums discuss all in text.

Interactive fiction works just like their spine-bound predecessors. You play the main character and type commands that determine the actions of the character and the flow of the story; all in text.

Think of it as a role-playing game without graphics.

Each piece of interactive fiction presents locations, items, characters and events. You move about, exploring and learning. As you do so, you will encounter puzzles that impede your progress.

Part of the fun of interactive fiction is solving these puzzles. Some puzzles will require you to use items in unusual ways; some will require you to get other characters to do things for you.

Aside from this basic foundation, the emphasis of the adventure depends on the author. Planetarium (www.beholder.co.uk/planetarium) is an online storytelling experience that concentrates on the puzzle aspect of gaming.

The game runs throughout a 12-week time span. Although most players try to solve the riddles, it's not necessary in order to continue with the story.

Paula Martinez, freshman-architectural engineering agrees the graphics are nice, but said she couldn't get into the story line.

"It's about a girl that receives a love letter from her future," she said. "It sounds interesting, but they present it so ambiguously that after a while you lose interest." Massive interactive novels is another category of interactive fiction.

Its popularity is due to its multiplayer aspect. It takes all the elements of a basic interactive novel and allows the player to interact with literally hundreds to 1,000-plus other online players at one time.

With gaming technology growing rapidly in the 21st century, many people wonder what chance text-based adventures have against mainstream graphic games.

Thus a graduate student at Duke and the About.com guide to interactive fiction, said there's an audience out there for these kinds of games. "There are a lot of people who had never seen an adventure game before," he said. "You mean computer games aren't all about blowing stuff up?"

The answer may lie in a representative or a princess perhaps, Hercules & Xena: Alliance of Heroes, the new multiplayer game based on the popular TV shows, proved to be a breakout hit for interactive fiction.

Until now, the only other mainstream hit was Myst and it's not like the purest games with all text because it has graphics. Whether you know these games or not, it's apparent someone is buying into interaction fiction.

Recently in Inc. magazine, Simutronics, the leading developer of multi-player Internet games, was named one of the fastest growing privately held companies in the country.

Simutronics has experienced a 973-percent growth in sales since 1994. Simutronics' text-based role-playing games, including Hercules & Xena, attract more than 40,000 subscribers and generate more than 2 million hours of game play per month.

According to the magazine, "No other online pursuit comes within a broadsword's reach."
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Kennedy continues ACC connection at UCF

TRAVIS BELL
SELF-WRITER

Senior pitcher Casey Kennedy thought he had broken all ties with the Atlantic Coast Conference after transferring from the University of Virginia for his final year of eligibility. However, his UCF career will begin with an ACC connection.

Kennedy will make his first start as a Golden Knight in UCF's third contest against former ACC-rival Clemson on Dec. 30 at the ACC/Disney Blast at Disney's Wide World of Sports.

"It's pretty neat that after just leaving I get to play them again," Kennedy said. "They know what I've got and I know what they've got."

Not only will Kennedy be facing a familiar foe in Clemson, but Tigers pitching coach Kevin O'Sullivan was the man three-day tournament.

we have him pitching against Clemson Cozart said that had something to do with the rotation the Golden Knights will UCF in the three-day tournament.

"That could be some of the reason that we have him pitching against Clemson because it will be somewhat of a motivational factor," Cozart said. "It should be interesting for him."

Kennedy was a surprise addition for Cozart's staff. After playing summer ball in Virginia with UCF pitchers David Rankin and Justin Pope he expressed interest in transferring. A few months later, Kennedy has joined Rankin and Pope in the starting rotation.

"It's a luxury, especially from the inexperience that we had on last year's staff," Cozart said. "Now we have a senior who's played three years in the ACC to step in and secure up one of your rotation spots right away."

Kennedy amassed a 13-19 record with a 4.71 ERA, but his most impressive numbers were: 42 appearances, 37 starts, and 213 innings pitched. Kennedy is a control pitcher who is not overpowering. His numbers are evident of that fact. He struck out only 144 in his 213 innings, but only walked 63 batters and allowed 14 home runs.

"I just try to keep hitter off balance. I'm gonna get a lot of ground ball outs, so I need a lot of range in the middle infield," Kennedy said. "I'm like a damage control pitcher. It's a matter of making the big pitches when I need to and usually I'm able to do that."

Kennedy thrived in the ACC (ranked as the third best conference by Baseball America) and should fare favorably in the Trans America Athletic Conference (ranked 13th). He hopes to use that experience gained from playing in the ACC to his advantage.

"I think it will help because every week in the ACC you're gonna be facing a good team no matter what," Kennedy said. "So if you're not sharp at all you're gonna get hurt. You have to be on your game every game. There are a few teams in the TAAC that are as good some ACC caliber teams."

But with the depth of UCF's pitching staff, Kennedy knows he can't take anything for granted. Although he's been put in the rotation to begin the season, he understands that it could be taken away at any time.

"I was hoping that I would get a chance to pitch on the weekends. I know that we have a lot of good pitchers here, so I still haven't earned anything and I still need to prove myself," Kennedy said. "Nothing is in stone, so whoever pitches good is gonna stay there. If you start slacking then somebody else is right there to jump up."

Cozart doesn't see Kennedy slipping up, and says Kennedy has already shown signs of being a very capable pitcher.

"He's got three solid pitches," Cozart said. "He has a better idea than anybody about what he wants to do when he's on the mound. He has a game plan for himself going in, and he knows what his strengths are because he easily identifies them, which is the sign of a good pitcher."

Kennedy has always had the tools to be a good pitcher, but he was just always on sub-par teams. He knows the reputation that UCF has for players getting drafted and admits that getting recognized at a respected program was a major factor for transferring. Another was UCF's expected success.

"I want to be on a winning team. Last year at Virginia we had a 20-36 record and it was a bad season. I wasn't happy because I didn't like losing," Kennedy said. "I just wanted to get back into a winning program. We never made a regional up there, and I really want to make a regional. Then possibly at the end of the year I hope I can get drafted in June."
Watching tape

As the top assistant at Stephen F. Austin State University, women's basketball coach Gail Striegler adopted several methods to keep the Ladyjacks among the nation's best team's. Her six route to helping guide SFA to a Sweet 16 appearance in 1996 and NCAA Tournament appearances from 1994-98, one technique Striegler instituted was a tape review session with her players.

Prior to meeting with the player, Striegler would grade each player's performance in several categories including boxing out, defensive play and offensive play. From there, she would review the tape with the player to not only point out mistakes, but to also allow the player to pick up on things they didn't quite get right in a particular game.

Based on the review, Striegler and her staff would select the players with the highest scores as the starters. She has instituted the same system at UCF and the players have found the technique useful.

"I never watched tape of myself like how I have to do it now," freshman small forward Erin Paige said. "Now, we go in with coach Striegler and she really shows you. The tape doesn't lie, it still get in trouble for not getting to mid line on defense and I swear I'm there, but the tape doesn't lie. It's a good teacher too."

To yell or not to yell?

Striegler has not been confused with being a tight-lipped coach on the court, often yelling out advice and strategy to her players as games go on.

While being vocal hasn't Striegler from being effective, she said when coaching female athletes, she has to be careful how loud she gets with her players.

"It's hard sometimes coaching females," she said. "You get on to them on the court about something, but once I get off the court, I forget about it. If they played horrible in practice and I get on them about it, as soon as I get off the court, I'm able to say, 'Hey, how are you doing? How's school going?'

Sometimes girls get a little bit upset once you yell at them and until something happened with this season is defense. Holding Campbell and Georgia State, two of the best teams in the TAAC, to 64 points apiece something Striegler was very happy with.

"The one thing the I can say has gotten consistently better all year has been our man-to-man defense," she said following the win over Campbell. "Man-to-man defense has stepped up and its the reason we won the game tonight and the reason we've been close in all the rest of the games. If you ask any coach in America, defense and rebounding are what win games."

Even following the loss to Georgia State, Striegler remained positive about the team's defensive effort.

"I thought our defense was excellent again tonight," she said. "We're holding teams down to very few points and it would have been lower tonight if had hadn't started fouling at the end."

-Janette Case & David Marsters

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LaToya Graham, now the team's leading scorer. Those likely to see more playing time as a result of Richter's injury are sophomore guard Yvette Ash and senior forward LaDonna Larry. "All the post players become more important now," said Striegel. "You're looking at a lot of minutes for those players. They've got to play smart and be able to play hard and get in good enough shape to play at least 30 minutes per game."

Without so many of their key players, the Golden Knights could have a tough time staying fresh on the road next week, something that won't help them against second place Samford. The Bulldogs lead the conference in field goal percentage (.433) and turnover margin (+3.00), and they boast three of the conferences top ten scorers. Jodi Morris leads the list, averaging 16.6 points per game, followed by Aimee Cochran's 15.3 ppg and Clarissa Tomlinson's 12.1. Tomlinson also averages 6.07 assists per game, second best in the TAAC.

Knock off another one of these two teams next week and continue to play like this. We've just got to step up while Camille's out to help the team keep experience being one of the main reasons for their success this year.

UCF and JSU have undergone a number of changes in their lineup, and both have struggled as a result. No matter who is on the court, however, the Golden Knights will face an uphill battle as they try to overcome their many injuries to win their first road game of the season.

"We played the one and two top teams in the conference tough," said Striegel. "So we should be able to beat the teams at the bottom or towards the middle if we continue to play like this. We've just got to step up and knock off another one of these two teams next week and be able to come back home against teams that we can beat at home for sure."

---

**Guillory gets UCF attack in gear**

David Marsters

Sophomore forward Khaliah Guillory had just led the UCF women's basketball team to a 69-64 upset of Campbell, the TAAC's top team. The atmosphere in the UCF arena is more one of relief than anything else, but that doesn't stop Guillory from celebrating.

While her team gathers at midcourt, she runs around frantically in an attempt to ignite the crowd - just in case her 23 points and nine rebounds, both career highs, weren't enough to get them to notice. It seems as though she wants the whole world to know what just happened. Where does the emotion come from?

"It just comes from within," says Guillory, who goes simply by "K." "I don't know how to describe it. I have a lot of emotion. I feel like if I have enthusiasm on the court, it will rub off on my teammates."

And on this night it did, as the slumping Golden Knights got a much needed win. They had lost five of their last six games and a good portion of their roster to injury. With four players currently missing significant time due to injuries, including Camille Howard, who is the team's leading scorer and rebounder. Howard underwent arthroscopic surgery last Wednesday to repair a meniscus tear in her left knee and will be out for three weeks.

"I just felt like I needed to produce more while Camille's out to help the team keep going," said Guillory. "I don't know how to explain it, my shots were just falling. They just kept falling and falling. It was a natural high."
Guillory takes control of game

FROM PAGE 21

The game was a big step forward for Guillory, whose role has been ever-changing since she arrived at UCF last season. As a freshman, she started only one game, averaging 4.4 points and 2.6 rebounds. That was a big change for someone who was an honorable mention on USA Today's All-American list as a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School in Texas.

"It's different because in high school I was the person they depended on to score," she said. "In college, everyone is the cream of the crop. Everyone around you is at just about the same level; it's just about how bad you want it."

There has never been any question about how bad she wants it. Her work ethic has set her apart, winning the team's Iron Woman award as a freshman for her preseason workout progress. This season, she has seen considerably more playing time, starting in nine of the team's 16 games. Her 9.7 scoring average is third best on the team, and her 5.3 rebounds per game is fourth.

Like the team, however, Guillory has not been without her own adversity this season. She has played with bone spurs in both of her feet, an injury which is more severe than she might let on. "She's gone through some rough times," said Striegler. "Her feet are all messed up. If you ask our trainer, it looks like they are almost backwards, and that's causing her to have big bone spurs."

Whether it was the losses or the pain that was getting to her, she struggled during the team's recent losing streak. Striegler knew that Guillory had to get back to her strengths if she was going to turn things around. "K's one of those ones that's excited and when she plays excited she makes the rest of the team excited," said Striegler. "I said 'K, you haven't been having any fun lately and that's why you're not playing well. You've got to go out there and get your confidence back, put the smile back on your face, and play hard.'"

The win over Campbell was just a start for "K" and the team, and she knows it. Her attitude about the rest of the season is one of enthusiasm and urgency; just like her attitude about the game of basketball. "We're not looking back," said Guillory. "We have a team full of hard workers, determination, and motivation. Everyone believes we will turn things around. We got the win that we needed and all we can do is run with it now. There's no turning back right now."

Sophomore Khadijah Guillory has stepped up due to injuries and will be counted on by Coach Gail Striegler to provide a strong presence down low.

PHOTO BY JASON KOKOFOFF

"K's one of those ones that's excited and when she plays excited she makes the rest of the team excited.

--Coach Striegler"
At halfway point, UCF hopes its best ball lies ahead

KNIGHTWRITER

TONY MEJIA
SPORTS EDITOR

A game-winning 3-pointer by Cory Perry in UCF's first TAAC game this season, a 74-73 loss to Troy State, went long, barely getting any iron.

That close loss has served as painful foreshadowing for a conference season that to date, has been riddled with disappointing defeats.

Nearly at the midway point of its conference schedule, UCF finds itself at 5-0, having dropped four games which each could have had different outcomes.

Considering the obstacles the Knights had to overcome this season, mainly the loss of star forward Mario Lovett and top backup Beronti Simms, its probably good the Golden Knights didn't push the panic button. Despite being three games behind Troy State and Jacksonville State, UCF still has a great chance at securing a solid seeding for the conference tournament still remaining, the one-point loss to JSU last two seasons, the one-point loss to Troy in an extra period.

This season has certainly been trying for Kirk Speraw's team. At home, attendance is slightly down, as some fans and students decided to turn away from a team that fell on hard times. Memo to those who left: the times weren't that hard, and better things are ahead.

For the most part, UCF has struggled dealing with changes brought about by injuries. Aside from Lovett and Simms, guard Cory Perry and center Davin Granberry have faced injuries that have limited their effectiveness, sending the Knights scrambling for quality depth. Different lineups and even freshmen have been too large a part of this year's season but the newness is over now.

Entering the latter stages of January, point guard Al Miller is no longer a freshman and his increased maturity will be a key to UCF's success. Paul Reed, after not playing for over a year, has emerged as one of the team's top threats, although it took a while. Still, Reed has emerged as one of the conference's best big men, teaming with Roy Leath to give the Knights one of the top post threats in the conference.

Things are certainly looking up for UCF, which seems to be coming together. Recently, Granberry told me that he believes no Golden Knight, with the possible exception of sharpshooter Jason Thornton, has played up to their potential. That's starting to change. D'Quarius Stewart has picked up his game, dropping in over 25 points in three of his last five games. It all starts from there, and everyone has picked up their games as well.

With ten conference games and the post-season tournament still remaining, UCF may peak, as they did last year, at the most opportune time. For those who have turned their backs, performance another face. Come back to the arena. There is plenty of quality basketball still worth watching.

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Got questions?

Dr. Craig Ullom,
Associate V.P., Campus Life

"Being the suits isn't easy but, hey, someone has to do it."
Why would all these recruits come to UCF?

As I looked over the latest offering of potential signees for the 2000 football season, I couldn't help but wonder what is enticing so many prep stars to choose to don the black and gold for four seasons. A winning tradition? No, three losing seasons in four years makes it kind of hard to play the winning card as a recruiter.

Is it conference affiliation, a chance to play against the FSUs, Floridas and Tennessees of college football? As Knight fans well know, major conferences such as the ACC, SEC or Big East have as much to do with UCF as Golden Knights have to do with Orlando.

Okay, if it's not conference affiliation or winning tradition, then it's gotta be glittering facilities. What? UCF doesn't have those either! In fact, the Knights sport some of the most insufficient on-campus weight room facilities and training rooms, as UCF coaches will tell you themselves.

The Knights also have no on-campus football stadium rich with tradition to grab the shine-oriented eye of a recruit.

So it's not tradition, it's not conference affiliation and it's not pretty, shiny facilities, then what is it that gets these prep-sters to UCF? It's things that can't be seen by the average fan, but are things that recruits can pick up on. Things like quality coaching, an opportunity to make an impact immediately and one of the best schedules an Independent school such as UCF can have.

Coach Mike Kruczek, in his first season as Knights coach, saw quarterback Daunte Culpepper become a Top 15 pick in the 1999 NFL Draft. Before taking over as head coach, the former Pittsburgh Steelers' quarterback was the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach for UCF. He took a player with unlimited potential, Culpepper, and molded him into the greatest player in school history and a promising pro in just four years.

Kruczek could get his shot at the next Culpepper if Melbourne High standout Tracy Thorpe signs with the Knights as planned. Thorpe, rated among the Top 20 quarterback prospects in the nation, has tentatively given UCF the nod over established, conference-affiliated teams such as Minnesota, Iowa State and Miami.

Thorpe could have chosen to sign with the aforementioned teams, but the thought of playing in a wide open, pass-happy offense such as UCF's helped him pack his bags for Orlando instead of Minneapolis. Plus, the prospect of being coached by Kruczek shouldn't turn anyone away. He's already put one quarterback and a defensive back (Paul Miranda, Indianapolis Colts) into the pros while at least a dozen of his players have been invited to NFL scouting combines and team camps in his two seasons.

Aside from Kruczek's coaching, the rest of the coaching staff is doing admirable job of attracting talent.
UCF faces nation’s best in tournament

From Page 28

be their pitching staff, which is anchored by Ryan Snare and Derrick DePriest. Snare is a Preseason Third Team All-American following a 6-5 record with a 2.94 ERA last year. He also struck out 82 batters in 80 innings. DePriest led the nation with a 1.71 ERA and finished 7-6 with seven saves, while fanning 72 in 74 innings.

"It's always nice being ranked but we're not looking at that because right now we're on the border," senior third baseman Dustin Brisson said. "We can easily fall from the rankings, so right now we're just focused on North Carolina."

Wake Forest, ranked 21st by Baseball America, is an unproven team after losing a number of starters from last year's team that lost in the Super Regional against Miami. They feature two All-ACC selections. Utility player Danny Borrell hit .365 with 20 home runs and 73 RBIs, while appearing in 13 games on the mound. Shortstop Chase Voshell hit .353 with nine home runs.

The Demon Deacons gained from the loss of Providence College's baseball program, adding catcher Dan Conway, who hit .312 for the Friars with 10 home runs and 50 RBIs, and first baseman James Athas, who had 42 RBIs with a .325 average. Providence advanced to a NCAA Regional last year before losing their program.

Clemson has the most recognizable player of UCF's three opponents. Centerfielder Patrick Boyd is ranked by Baseball America as the No. 2 professional prospect and is a First-Team All-American selection. Boyd batted .390 last year with 17 home runs, 70 RBIs, and 20 stolen bases.

The No. 1-ranked recruiting class anchored by shortstop Jeff Baker and first baseman/pitcher Jarrod Schmidt join Boyd. Baker was a fourth round selection by Cleveland and is picked to be Freshman of the Year in the ACC. Schmidt led his high school team to the national high school championship.

"I know a couple guys from the other schools, and we have a feel for who we're gonna be facing," Brisson said. "But the only thing we need to do is go out there in the first game and see what happens."

Bergman is familiar with all three opponents, as his Golden Knights have faced each school once since 1996. UCF beat North Carolina and Wake Forest in 1996 and lost 7-6 against Clemson in 1998. He thinks this will be a good start for his team.

"They're all good, and if our school has aspirations of joining the Atlantic Coast Conference then this will be a nice little setup to see how good our baseball program fits into the ACC," Bergman said. "It will be a good barometer to see where we're at."

Duke University won the inaugural ACC/Disney Baseball Blast in 1998 with a 3-0 mark. Auburn University captured last year's event by winning all three of its games.

General admission tickets for the ACC/Disney Baseball Blast are $9 for adults and $7 for children (ages 3-9) and may be purchased at the Disney's Wide World of Sports box office. All-Tournament tickets are also available at prices of $21 and $15. Groups of 10 or more may purchase discount tickets by calling (407) 939-GAME.
of the Knights’ staff has plenty to offer a recruit. Wide receivers coach Sean Beckton has helped UCF’s catching corps stay among the nations’ best each year. Defensive coordinator Gene Chizik kept his defense hungry and scrambling last year, even when it was getting blown out by the likes of Florida, Georgia Tech and Purdue.

Not to be forgotten among this bunch is assistant coach and resident UCF recruiting guru Scott Fountain. Fountain is one of the best kept secrets in college football recruiting as he consistently gets top recruits (see former FGCU player of the year Terrance Williams and former New York prep player of the year Omari Howard) to choose the Knights over the big boys. Not only do prospective Knights get great coaching when choosing UCF, they probably get more of a realistic shot to play. Several potential recruits in this year’s class, such as Thorpe and Palm Bay High star Gerard Jackson, could put on a Golden Gopher, Cyclone or Hurricane uniform each Saturday. While the prospect of playing in storied rivalries each weekend sounds fun, it’s likely most of UCF’s future Knights wouldn’t get to play with those schools.

Major conference schools recruit players to use in the future, just as UCF does, but unlike the Knights, many of those players are redshirted in their first year. Last season, the Knights redshirted only a handful of players and saw several freshmen, including Josh McKinben, Jimmy Fyler and Mario Jackson make an impact in their first season.

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UCF becoming a blue chip attraction

FROM PAGE 24

of the Knights’ staff has plenty to offer a recruit. Wide receivers coach Sean Beckton has helped UCF’s catching corps stay among the nations’ best each year. Defensive coordinator Gene Chizik kept his defense hungry and scrambling last year, even when it was getting blown out by the likes of Florida, Georgia Tech and Purdue.

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GOLDEN KNIGHT TENNIS

Men’s tennis replenishes roster with skilled recruits

DAVID WINDBERG
STAFF WRITER

When head men’s tennis coach Bobby Cashman was hired in August 1999, he faced a problem: the team carried only five players. Next problem appeared when Canadian sophomore Greg Novak (Smokey Cornick, Ont.) transferred to Eastern Michigan in early September. Left with only four players in the fall, the former assistant and recruiting coordinator at the University of Kansas inked five players in November and December.

Australian duo Gryaden and David Moore (no relation), Floridians Ryan Winters and Adam Kanaan, and Costa Rican Fernando Martinez will try to make an immediate impact on the young UCF squad that also consists of juniors and co-captains William Guerin (Lyon, France) and Federico Camacho (San Jose, Costa Rica), sophomores Johan Westin (Eskilstuna, Sweden) and freshman Augusto Sanabria (San Salvador, El Salvador).

A true freshman from the Goldcoast, Australia, Guerin is currently ranked number six in his home country on the junior circuit. Equipped with a big serve and a sound volley game, the 19-year-old Australian right hander will bring a much-needed offensive style to the Golden Knights.

Moore’s compatriot David Moore is currently ranked as number 21 on the Australian junior circuit.

A native of Brisbane, Australia, Moore is an all-round player who should have the opportunity to play both singles and doubles.

"Gryaden and David bring a new dimension to the team with their attacking style. We should be very solid in doubles this year," said Cashman.

Orlando resident Ryan Winters joins UCF as the 15th best player in the state of Florida. Winters possesses a solid back court game with a big forehand as a weapon that handed him several wins over top 10 opponents in the state last year.

"Ryan is a tough player and he will be an excellent addition to our team," said Cashman.

Martinez sat out last season is back on the team after a team-best 21-3 record in doubles and a 12-10 campaign in singles.

Fernando is a complete player who should make an impact for us both in singles and doubles," said Cashman.

UCF’s fifth recruit is junior Adam Kanaan. A transfer from the Liberty University, Kannan resides in Nokomis, FL and played primarily number four singles at Liberty.

With one sophomore and four freshmen, the Golden Knights are one of the youngest teams in the Trans-America Athletic Conference, which doesn’t trouble Cashman.

"We are a young team, but I expect our upperclassmen to step up and show the younger guys some leadership," Cashman said. "Perhaps, we are a little bit inexperienced, but we are going to be a dangerous team with the capability to upset ranked opponents."

UCF opens up its season at home against Idaho State on Jan. 30. The Golden Knights, ranked 18th in the southeast region, will face their toughest non-conference schedule in school history, including a trip to New Mexico in March to play No. 31 New Mexico, No. 54 San Diego State and No. 58 New Mexico State. UCF is also scheduled to square off against in-state powerhouse South Florida, ranked 30th, Miami, ranked 45th, and Florida State, ranked 69th.

These new Knights also get to try their luck at the task yet to be accomplished by a UCF team, an upset of a major opponent. In the next four years, UCF has games scheduled against Alabama, Virginia Tech (three times), Georgia Tech, Penn State, Arizona State, Syracuse (three times), West Virginia and rival Louisiana Tech (three times).

It shouldn’t be surprising to anyone to see the Knights landing some of the best recruits in the nation after four years at the Division I-A level. As recruits have seen, playing at UCF means being getting to play a part on a team with a bright future. The secret to UCF’s recruiting success is easy to see, as long as you’re looking at it the right way.
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Knights look to "Blast" off in 2000 debut

Travis Bell
STAFF WRITER

UCF Coach Jay Bergman commented that he’d like to see how well the Golden Knights would be early on this season. Challenge number one presents itself this weekend.

The Golden Knights, ranked 23rd by Baseball America, face three Atlantic Coast Conference teams in three consecutive days, Jan. 28-30 in the ACC/Disney Blast at Disney’s Wide World of Sports. UCF faces North Carolina Friday at 7 p.m., Wake Forest Saturday at 11 a.m., and finish with Clemson Sunday at 12:15 p.m.

"I like to play good people early to see how well we’ve prepared our team," Bergman said. "And what we need to do in March will be dictated by how well we do in (January and) February."

This is the first year the Golden Knights are not competing in the Olive Garden Classic at Osceola County Stadium, which it helped host from 1990-99. The Olive Garden had been competing with the Disney tournament since it began in 1998.

Joining UCF and the three ACC schools will be the defending national champion, Miami, and Rice. Both Baseball America or Collegiate Baseball ranks all six schools in their respective Top 25 polls.

However, the level of competition in the Disney Blast is not much different compared to what UCF had faced since beginning the Olive Garden Classic. UCF faced a similar situation to this years. In 1996. The Golden Knights played host to Wake Forest, North Carolina, and Georgia Tech, and came away with a 3-0 mark in that tournament. Bergman knows what another 3-0 start would mean to this team.

"We’ve very anxious about the season," Bergman said. "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 are.

UCF’s competition in the Disney Blast has reason to be equally as optimistic as the Golden Knights are about the 2000 campaign. All three opponents are expected to compete for the ACC title after finishing second, third, and fourth in last year’s conference race behind Florida State.

North Carolina is the least respected in the pre-season polls, despite the fact that Baseball America selected five Tar Heels for their All-ACC First Team. Led by All-American outfielder Tyrell Godwin. Godwin hit .371 with 58 RBIs and 29 stolen bases. Joining Godwin as position players selected to All-ACC are catcher Dan Moylan and first baseman Ryan Earey. Moylan hit .339 with six home runs, while Earey hit .362 with 15 home runs and 63 RBIs.

However, UCF’s biggest strength could

Key road contests face Knights

David Marsters
STAFF WRITER

Having split a pair of games with TAAC frontrunners Campbell and Georgia State, UCF (5-11, 2-5) travels to Alabama this week to play conference games against Samford and Jacksonville State. Samford (10-6, 5-2) is another of the TAAC’s best teams, sitting in a second place tie in the conference standings. Jacksonville State (5-10, 2-5) is near the bottom of the standings, but beat Samford 55-48 last week.

Injuries have hampered the Golden Knights so far this season, and they will play this road trip with only nine healthy players. Camille Howard, the team’s leading scorer and rebounder, underwent arthroscopic surgery last Wednesday to repair a lateral meniscus injury. Freshman Erin Striegler. "My knee injury and didn’t return.

Senior guard Nancy Richter, UCF's junior guard Nancy Richter left the Golden Knights’ Jan. 22 game against Georgia State with a first half knee injury and didn’t return. Richter, a key component to UCF’s success, is one of the team’s top shooters and ball handlers.

UCF hopes to continue FAU woes

Tony Mejia
SPORTS EDITOR

When UCF visits Boca Raton on Jan. 26, the Golden Knights may find their conscience bothering them. After all, shouldn’t everybody get their moment in the sun at least once?

Florida Atlantic has yet to beat a Division I opponent this season and have won on just one occasion, squeaking past NAIA school Nova Southeastern, and losing every single game this season by double-digits.

No, it hasn’t been a smooth transition for first-year Coach Sidney Green, who took over for Kevin Billerman this past month.

Internal struggles aside, UCF won’t plan on helping it go any smoother.

The Knights will enter their contest against the Owls in a fifth-place tie with Stetson and Campbell, three games behind TAAC leaders Jacksonville State and Troy State. However, they do benefit from having a pair of games remaining with the last place Owls, and prior to a Jan. 22 two-point loss at Stetson, were playing arguably the best basketball of anyone in the conference.

Senior D’Quarius Stewart has enjoyed a recent scoring spurt that has placed him among the conference’s leading scorers, while sophomore Jason Thornton, the TAAC’s leading 3-point shooter, comes off a career-high 30-point performance. Point guards Al Miller and Cory Perry have complimented each other expertly, while Paul Reed and Roy Leath have gotten used to controlling the boards in recent contests.

The Golden Knights will hope to get back the services of reserve center Davin Granberry, who missed the game at Stetson with recurring back problems that have bothered him all season. UCF is already playing without frontcourt standouts Mario Loretto and Beneto Simons, both out for the season, and will be forced to play redshirt freshman Ikechi Nnakwe considerably more than Granberry is unable to return.

Florida Atlantic’s front line is its strength, featuring athletic youth such as Frank Boxley and Marques Williams, the team’s second and third leading scorers. Both are freshmen. Boxley has really come on of late, leading the team in scoring despite coming off the bench. He scored a career-high 28 points in a loss to Georgia State and will present a challenge for the Golden Knights to be aware of.

FAU’s lone senior, guard Ryan Herrick, is Green’s top shooter and scoring threat, and has the ability to handle the ball if point guards Emmet Murphy or Tim Grover struggle with turnovers, as has happened plenty of times this year.

Following UCF’s road contest against the Owls, it will return home to host.