Facelifts and wireless uplinks:
UCF steps boldly into the future

SARA WIDBOOM
STAFF WRITER

A wave of change is sweeping across campus. Computers and construction have arrived and are working hand-in-hand to improve the lives of the student body. The most noticeable difference is the recent addition to the Student Union, known as Project 2000. In the midst of the infamous construction, the impressive 11,500 square foot Pegasus Grand Ballroom has risen. It stands two stories high and is able to comfortably serve up to 1000 people. The new addition also boasts expansions of STA Travel, Knightwear, and KnightStop, as well as a new arrival at UCF, College Optical. The only new retail store, it will reduce rates. Even more important are the new food choices: Steak Escape; Nectar's, which sells smoothies, wraps and rice bowls; and Mrs. Field's/Pretzel Bowls; and Mrs. Field's/Pretzel Gourmet pretzels. But something else has been added to the Student Union. No, not a new store, another ballroom, or even more foliage. Technology. The Student Union now has wireless Internet ports. These ports are located on the third floor, the Grand Pegasus Ballroom, and the front and back patios. The connections in the ballroom will mainly be used for Laptops, Page 2.

President John Hitt sits down with a checked out laptop from the library to surf the web in style. The laptop is part of the library’s new laptop check out program which allows students and faculty to check out a wireless internet laptop for up to four hours at a time.

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The new technology boasts many new features such as special lighting, multi-media classrooms and tech-ways to provide 24 hour access to the multi-media components of the building.

“Technological tools that the new building has to offer,” said junior Avi Hartman and Director of the Student Union.

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Engineering students dominate competition

JENNIFER PATTERSON
STAFF WRITER

Recently, five University of Central Florida undergraduate and graduate engineering students participated at the southeast regional American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronauts (AIAA) competition. UCF walked away with two of three awards given at the competition. A total of fifteen schools competed, which included the University of Florida, Emory and Georgia Institute of Technology to name a few. The competition was hosted by UCF in Savannah, Georgia. Graduate students, Jennifer Huddle and Anabel Marcos, won the only graduate level category, Technical Paper, with their paper concerning thermal control of laser diodes. "A laser diode is..."
meetings, functions, and conferences. The ports have a range of a couple hundred feet inside and 300 feet outside, depending on the surroundings. Anyone with a laptop equipped with a wireless Internet card can use this service. It’s a benefit if students know it’s there, and they use it, but other than that it’s a waste. It’s no use to me because I don’t have a laptop. You don’t see too many students walking around with laptops,” said junior Laura Hunt.

One place to find them is the UCF Computer Store. Conveniently located in the Student Union, they offer the Airnet cards for under $200.

UCF is breaking ground in another area too, because we are now one of the few schools in the nation whose library offers laptops with wireless Internet service. Checking out one of these laptops is like checking out a book. However, these “books” have a four-hour time limit, and they can’t be taken outside the building.

“It’s about time. It’s a good thing, but I’m not sure it’ll work,” said senior Sara Elliot.

The laptops were purchased to give UCF students an advantage as the world’s technology changes and improves. Using them should make each library patron more comfortable with the new technology.

“This new feature will help students on campus and be beneficial when the new classroom building becomes fully operational later this summer. There is an estimated one-year plan in effect to have one-fourth to one-third of campus equipped with wireless Internet capabilities. The laptops offered for checkout have an advantage over the library computers used to search the catalogues and database for books. On the laptops, WebLuis can be accessed through the Internet, but they also have word processing capabilities. This is because UCF has an agreement with Microsoft that only students can use their products in the computer labs. By only loaning laptops to people with valid UCF identification cards, the school is upholding the end of the deal. Although printers are not available, work can be copied to a disk and printed in one of the computer labs.

Even as this amazing new technology is being offered inside, the outside of the library is being modernized as well. From the construction on the entrance the library will be finished, and an updated lobby will greet library visitors. Using funds donated by the Chesley G. Magruder Foundation, the renovation will improve the appearance of the entrance by completely redesigning the ceiling and floor, as well as adding new lighting, exterior landscaping, an improved front desk, and devices to monitor foot traffic. The project is scheduled for completion later this summer.

“The Library is the heart of our university and our new entrance will reflect the dynamic direction in which both the university and the library are moving,” said Barry Baker, director of University Libraries. “We are very grateful for this gift from the Magruder Foundation.”

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New building to bring UCF into the future

Sometimes all the construction here can be annoying, but stuff like this makes it all worth the inconvenience,” said sophomore Chris Bernhardt.

Efficiently merging technology with architecture, Ewing was responsible for defining the project's technical needs. As a result of his work, many special features have been incorporated into this building. A particular kind of lighting was installed to provide optimum viewing of display screens. ample space was allotted for the cabling needed for the buildings multimedia systems. Tech-ways were also installed within the building to house every component of the building's multimedia and computer systems. 24 hours a day. This also keeps these high-tech components out of reach of tempering hands.

In a facility where all other components have been moved around like a chess piece, you could wait days to find a break in a class schedule before gaining access to a system, or have to resort to doing whatever technical tasks need to be done in the wee hours of the night. With this arrangement, everyone's life is easier and less complicated,” said Ewing.

Another feature Ewing and his staff call e-Control technology also sets this building apart from others at UCF. e-Control provides total technical support to faculty members in all 25 classrooms of the building. A multimedia help desk allows a single operator to troubleshoot problems from anywhere in the building.

Perhaps the most innovative aspect of this project is that all operating hardware out of sight, and away from tampering hands. In a facility where all other components have no other choice than to be stored in the classroom itself, you could wait days to find a break in a class schedule before gaining access to a system, or have to resort to doing whatever technical tasks need to be done in the wee hours of the night. With this arrangement, everyone's life is easier and less complicated,” said Ewing.

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UCF rates number one in Greek Community

**ADAM SHIVER STAFF WRITER**

The University of Central Florida was recently named best in the state of Florida for it's outstanding Greek community by Leader Magazine. UCF's Greeks lead the way in a large number of its programs. Some include, but are not limited to the Greek Student Success programs, and the annual step show competition. The university's Greek system is comprised of 33 fraternities and sororities who are made up of 2,200 plus students.

**Campus construction**

Under Construction

Forever is not just a catchphrase it seems, but reality. Over the next five years, UCF has 65 building projects scheduled. These plans include a new baseball stadium, the realignment of Central Florida Boulevard, Recreational services building, academic villages, an addition to the Student Union, a new parking garage.

**Theatre UCF begins summer run**

'Tinytots' is to open May 25, beginning Theatre UCF's summer season. This summer musical celebrates the optimistic years in the United States at the beginning of the last century. The musical is to feature songs by greats John Philip Sousa, Scott Joplin and George M. Cohan.

Those looking for information regarding the play may contact Theatre UCF Ticket Office at (407) 823-1500. And for a line up of plays and musicals being put on visit http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/-theatre/season.html on the World Wide Web.

**Exhibitions to take place in library**

Throughout the month of June, the following items will be on display in the campus library:

'Botanical Bounty', by artist Redenta Cunningham. 'You can not read this', by Leif Johnson of Central Floridians Against Censorship. 'Excellence in computer science', presented by Charles Hughes from the department of Computer Science.

**Give blood, help blood supply**

The Central Florida Blood Bank is going to be holding a blood drive on May 30 and June 5-7 from 10:00am - 4:00pm in front of the Student Union. Students are encouraged to come out and donate, and will be given a free T-shirt for their participation. Students are eligible to donate every 56 days, or 8 weeks. Supplies are low and the blood bank can use all the help they can get. Contact Karline Cunningham with the Central Florida Blood Bank at (407) 999-8485 for more information. The Blood Bank asks that all students eat before they donate.

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**ADRIANA KEEGAN STAFF WRITER**

Lightning strikes Arboretum

On May 9, an officer on patrol observed flames in the tree line of the Arboretum. A lightning bolt had struck and ignited the fire. The officer contacted UCF dispatch to have the fire department respond to extinguish the fire. Orange County Engine 81 responded and successfully put out the fire before any structures or vehicles were damaged. Only a small patch of bushes were burnt in the Arboretum.

**Computer equipment vanishes**

On May 8, a report was made by Anthony Travaglini advising that sometime between 5:00 pm on Friday May 5 and 9:00 am Monday May 8 someone(s) unknown entered room 104-B of the Visual Arts building and stole a Macintosh G4 computer and a monitor. The computer and monitor belong to UCF and are valued at $3150.

The room was not secured on May 3 because of a seminar going on in room 104 and the need for access into room 104-B. No pry marks were found on the doors leading into room 104-B and all areas dusted for fingerprints turned up negative results.

Travaglini reported on May 12 that he discovered a HIP (6300) CXI scanner valued at $323 missing as well.
Love bug virus’ sting packs little punch

Earlier this month, the "love bug" stung computers all around the world, including ones at the University of Central Florida.

Jim Ennis, systems administrator for Computer Science at UCF, said that "UCF had a few cases (10-15) of the Love Bug trojan [virus] actually being run, but most of our users did not execute the code or get affected by the trojan being mailed to them. The primary e-mail platforms that the Love Bug virus uses are not in wide spread use at UCF, so running the virus would not spread it to other users."

Trojan programs are named after the Trojan Horse that delivered soldiers to the city of Troy. They appear to be useful programs, but they contain hidden code that can destroy certain computer files, as the horse contained soldiers in the Trojan War. The Love Bug virus began at the AMA Computer College located in Manila, Philippines. The virus, originally sent through e-mail under the subject ILOVEYOU with an accompanying attachment, was designed to destroy files located on the receiver's computer. After opening the attachment using Microsoft software, a copy of the virus is sent to everyone in the user's address book, hence mailing itself to many other unsuspecting individuals.

There are ways of protecting your computer from viruses though. "The most important safety precaution is to simply practice safe computing," said Ennis. "If you receive e-mail from an unknown person, do not open it. Delete any attachments unless you know exactly what it does, who sent it to you, and if you were expecting it. If you receive a suspicious e-mail, contact the Help Desk at helpdesk@mail.ucf.edu or at (407) 823-5117. Never open an attached file that has .vbs in end of a file name. Keep your virus software updated. Most anti-virus companies have websites where you can download updates on the most current viruses. Always make backups of important documents and files.

JENNIFER PLANTE
STAFF WRITER

Summertime Blues
Mark Bromann, senior, spends a relaxing, summer afternoon playing his guitar near the reflecting pond.

A few steps you can take towards protecting your computer are as follows:

- If you receive e-mail from an unknown person, do not open it. Delete any attachments unless you know exactly what it does, who sent it to you, and if you were expecting it.
- Never open an attached file that has .vbs in end of a file name.
- Keep your virus software updated. Most anti-virus companies have websites where you can download updates on the most current viruses.
- Always make backups of important documents and files.
Opinion

Who is actually a true friend?

Beth Shaw

State Writer

It was Ciero who once said, “As friends we found nothing false or insincere: everything is straightforward and springs from the heart.”

This is undoubtedly true, however is there any real way to tell that a person is truly your friend?

Recently I have been looking at my friends and the people I choose to surround myself with. Never have I noticed what an eclectic group of people they are, and never have I noticed how much petty arguing goes on between us.

Okay so maybe I exaggerate a little. But, who cares if you or one of your friends starts to hang out with your “girl friends”? They were your friends from the beginning and it won’t change unless you start acting like a jealous five-year-old. Oh, and who really cares if I decide to go to sleep early instead of, dare I say it, go out on a Friday night? And why is it that a lot of sentences begin with the phrase, “You know, I really like her but...”

I am the type of person who has a different friend who doesn’t all know each other, and I like it this way. I have a friend who is perfectly content to sitting at home and watching MTV for hours on end. I have another friend who absolutely refuses to sit at home, and I have yet another friend who refuses to watch MTV. I love all of them for different reasons, but mostly because they understand me and don’t bother me with their random annoying me.

However lately I have noticed that a lot of my friends, mostly girls, can’t go along. They are BF (that’s high school girl-talk for Best Friends Forever) one minute and ready to scratch out each other’s eyes the next.

A good friend of mine and I were talking and she brought up the fact that our mothers never fight with their girlfriends. Maybe this childish bickering is growing on everyone. Then again the fact that 40-year old women are married and have jobs probably shows just how little time they have for this brutus-type behavior.

Not only is this constant铭记 the start of a new one. Goopy. Goopy. Goopy. Goopy. The way most of the sentences formed in cat fighting is ignorant and highly unintelligent. They are so warped and without point that they seem to be gibberish forms of self-promotion.

Now, no one is above talking crap. Everyone does it, some more than others. However, think about this: Is the ‘golden rule’ so lost in archaic proverbial meaning that it has lost meaning altogether? I would like to think not.

My message is just this: “You can’t be a friend sporadically.” Can you believe she is wearing those shoes with that dress? Sounds pretty stupid doesn’t it?”

False Justice:when a student’s rights are violated

Patty Canedo

Staff Writer

Imagine you’re out on a Sunday night when you decide to call your apartment to see what your roommates are up to. Your roommate answers the phone and informs you that there is an officer who works for your apartment complex in the apartment making accusations of you smoking pot in your room. The officer stated that there was a drug complaint made against you, he witnessed your usage through a pair of binoculars looking into your bedroom window, could smell the pot coming from your window and it was time to question you.

How could this be true, you have never been out to dinner with your parents all night? You tell your roommate to call your cell phone back but when he/she calls you back you are told that the cop not only threatened to spray pepper spray into your apartment to get you out of lay the table and search you. The officer witnessed your usage of the roommates. The situation is becoming worse and stranger, you are told that the cop not only threatened to spray pepper spray into your apartment to get you out of your room. The entire incident was conveniently not reported on the officers duty sheet for that night. But then the question is raised if he knew the person was smoking pot. Didn’t he report it so that an arrest could be made when he knew that he was going to find the alleged pot on the premise? Perhaps because the entire performance of the officer was illegal and a violation of the resident’s rights.

If an officer observes a situation where the resident is ignorant and highly unin­

The situation is becoming stranger and stranger, when you call the leasing office back you find out an officer of the description given by your roommates doesn’t even work for them.

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ATTENTION CLASS OF 2000
what is the #1 reason your class is logging on to
UCF.eograd2000.com

- to register to win a free trip for 10 to europe
- to get career advice
- to create an online grad gift registry
- to send online graduation announcements
- to get special deals just for grads
- to network with the class of 2000

(well, what are you waiting for... log on and decide for yourself!)

GRAY MATTERS
by CHRISTOPHER ZAPATIER

The Mouse Trap

This settles it once and for all: Orlando is a conservative, myopic, podunk city, and Florida bears the dubious honor of being "the most progressive bible belt in the south." Sunday, May 7 marked the last day of the Fringe Festival, one of Central Florida's scarce legitimate displays of cultural/artistic entertainment. One of the Fringe's scheduled shows, "The Naked Guy," was a theatrical performance about art and censorship, which featured one naked male character on stage for a few seconds.

"The Naked Guy" was set to perform in a venue located on Church Street Station. However, when Church Street discovered that there really was a nude man in "Naked Guy," they informed the troupe that the show would not be held at family-oriented Church Street Station "under any circumstances."

The police were on the premises, and the mind that the venue was indoors, tickets had to be purchased at the performance, and warnings about the content of the play were clearly posted on all advertisements for the show. And never mind the Church Street Hoosiers, or that Terror On Church Street (with graphic displays of gore) used to be located a stone's throw from the "Naked Guy" venue. At the last minute, another Fringe production agreed to switch venues with "The Naked Guy," and the play moved to an alternate location. But that was not enough for the prude small-minded gray-haired suits who run The City Beautiful. The police, apparently having no serious crime anywhere in the city to attend to, were sent to the new location to warn the performers that any display of nudity would result in arrest(s).

Apparently, the human body in its most natural form is morally reprehensible and something to be ashamed of, and if a show doesn't run at the Bob Carr or the Civic it is not genuine performance art/ theatre. Am I the only educated, adult male in this resident.

Without the University of Central Florida, East Orange County would still be nothing more than orange groves, but residents in the surrounding area are opposed to the university's expansion. I wonder if they will be opposed to the increase in property values over the next few years. We live in a city whose transit system is grossly ill-equipped to handle its traffic volume (much less the exponential growth expected to arrive in the coming years), but has roadway systems that would make the Romans envious leading to every tacky, tourist-trap attraction one could ever hope to avoid.

And it is not just Orlando; other counties have done their part to ensure that Central Florida never becomes more than a cross-up derby for tourists in rented mini vans. Residents of Seminole County who oppose legislated morality sat inert while the Casselberry Decency Act was passed. As a result, adult entertainment fixtures Club Juana and Rachel's, the two finest gentlemen's clubs outside of Tampa, were converted into Victoria's Secret with music.

Orlando will never be a "player" as long as we bill ourselves as the world's greatest (cheesiest) family-friendly tourist destination, and that is exactly what our political leadership wants for this city. So VOTE, support the arts (not the theme parks) and indulge in vice, because without these things, Orlando will never become anything more than the house of the mouse.

Rights students should know

FROM PAGE 1

responsible for it.
7) Always remember that if a situation arises UCF provides free legal advice by skilled attorneys in this or any situation that may come up.

Generally, police officers serve and protect people but every so often a situation comes up when a citizen is not treated in the lawful way that they should be treated. The officer will not even be given a slap on the wrist for the harassment and fear that he unjustly caused this resident. Though at this point there is nothing the resident can do about the situation, this does not mean that others should not be aware of it and without the proper knowledge it could very well happen to you.
I've been assessing my life over the last couple of years—album, but there are others that are about questioning life. Like what I am doing. There are a lot of love songs on the paced description of a person's life. The album, and it's somewhere between Duke Ellington and reggae, "like old No Doubt, but it sounds like us at the age we are now. It's one of my favorites and it's somewhere between Duke Ellington and reggae," said No Doubt guitar player, Tom Dumont.

The track 'Six Feet Under' is a fast paced description of a person's life. The song begins with a birthday and ends with: "I'll be buried six feet under ground. I'll be dead and gone, no longer around." The catchy beat makes the song sound very uplifting and hard by about death.

Stefani said: "This record is for me— I'm being selfish. I've been assessing my life over the last couple of years—like what I am doing. There are a lot of love songs on the album, but there are others that are about questioning life.

"Six Feet Under" is all about the cycle of life for instance. There is a lot of admission on it. I don't really know who will be able to relate. My dad?" The Return of Saturn also contains the song 'Ex-Girlfriend', which has received a lot of airplay on MTV. As well as the track "New" from the hit movie "Go." Some of the less popular songs such as 'Suspension Without Suspense,' "Comforting Lie" and "Marry Me" all sound basically the same. The words just don't seem to click with the music.

Although Stefani has a unique voice, which is almost hypnotic, it doesn't seem to help these songs at all. The words just don't seem to click with the music. Of the 14 tracks on this album more than half have potential to do well on the billboard charts if they are marketed properly. The personal tracks on this album again are what make it so powerful. Stefani has tapped into her emotion to produce some extremely beautiful ballads and it shows in 'Magic's In The Makeup.'

"Simple Kind Of Life" is the band's newest single. The song seems to reflect every person's wishes for a simple kind of life. The beginning of the song talks about Stefani's relationship with bassist Tony Kanal. Stefani sings about how all she ever wanted was a simple kind of life, however by the end of the song, all the simple things become too complicated for her life.

'The Return of Saturn' has a diverse musical style, which gives the ska band a unique type of sound. I'm being selfish. I've been assessing my life over the last couple of years—album, but there are others that are about questioning life.
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The Gladiator is an Academy contender

Lisa Applegate
Staff Writer

What elements characterize an epic film? Various opinions state that it should contain a stellar cast with amazing sets, a huge budget, an amazing story, and have a lasting impact on its audience. Not only does this adventure display these key traits, it is the first Oscar-worthy movie to grace the big screen this year.

Let me introduce you to the first epic film of 2000—"Gladiator."

The beautiful and gifted Russell Crowe plays the title role of ‘Maximus’ in ‘Gladiator.’ Crowe will undoubtedly be robbed by the Academy if he is not nominated for his passionate role and performance as the hero of this film. Let me introduce you to the first epic film of 2000—"Gladiator."

The mental and physical battles seen in this adventure will have you cheering from the seats of the arena you witness them from. Director Ridley Scott, who also directed the blockbuster ‘Alien’, weaves a tale of treachery, triumph, and tragedy that will both inspire and impress all who see it.

The only downfall to this otherwise perfect cinematic victory is the sketchy script and its blurriness characters’ motions. The fact that this usually key item does not kill this film is commendable. It’s visual effects and emotional pulls will make you forget that you never did see what happened to the dog in the beginning of the movie or that you still can’t figure out what happened between Commodus’ sister, Lucilla, and the hero warrior Maximus. This epic story will leave you in a state of wonderment that only movies of this high caliber can. A film of its genre and era has not been attempted on the big screen since ‘Spartacus’ forty years ago; it was well worth the long wait.

Feed your curiosity by visiting the official website at www.gladiator-thefilm.com, and don’t miss out on this historical masterpiece.
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**Chuck Shepherd's NEWS OF THE WEIRD**

-- In April, Japan’s ultra-serious Sebato Balders easily beat a more relaxed European team in the finals of the Kajmvit international snowball championship in Finland, and afterward, several Japanese players urged Winter Olympics officials to recognize their sport. (Teams start with seven players and 270 snowballs on a field just large enough to a tennis court, with some protective barriers; a direct hit eliminates a player, and the first team to seize the other’s goal flag wins.)

-- Punch-Drunk From Litigation: The Brown & Williamson Tobacco company recently added another quickfix 800-number telephone message, this time featuring a male disc jockey serving callers with "Ouch, the tobacco plant is a lovely plant! / Its leaves are broad and green / But you shouldn’t think about the tobacco plant / If you’ll still be too keen." A 1999 message featured a sexy male voice intoning: "Brown & Williamson Tobacco is in love. We’re a great corporation, and you make us feel like a little kitten."

"Thank you, lover."

Active Seniors

At a January hearing in LaCrosse, Wis., child molester Elfie A. Jellison, 95, was ordered to remain confined beyond his sentence because experts said he was still incorrigible. Mr. Deo Dobb, 86, was sentenced to probation only in April in Sarasota, Fla., for helping a crook escape, which he said he told him "no" in. In April, first-time arrestee Ruth A. Goelt, 81, was charged in Hollywood, Fla., with running a $200,000 Ponzi scheme. Retirees Charles John Swanson, 71, was arrested in January for two armed bank robberies, allegedly committed because he was having trouble affording his rent in Palm Alto, Calif.

Cultural Diversity

-- Canal Zone: A January New York Times report from Belgrade, Turkey, described the massively popular sport of camel-fighting (in which one camel anon another) as "spectacle, pure and simple," with some fans even coming from Istanbul. The most famous camel is Sultan, a 10-year-old male, who has been fighting in the last months to his home. "We've been playing to kill him first."

-- Well-Put

Sang Lee, the owner of a custom slaughterhouse near Minneapolis-St. Paul that serves the Hmong-American community (and speaking to a St. Paul Pioneer Press reporter in January concerning complaints about heavily slaughterhouse traffic: "We (Hmong, natives of Laos and Thailand) have a complex culture, and we have to sacrifice animals a lot."

Learning to Live Before They Learn to Shave

In February, an 8-year-old boy, coming to his mother’s aid, stabbed her abusive boyfriend to death in Coker Creek, Tenn. And in an Islamic public execution in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in February, a 10-year-old boy, now the oldest male in the family, took a rifle and killed the honors to the man who had killed his father. And in Bangladesh, a 45-year-old man, a 10-year-old boy, argued with his father over missing chocolate icing and then, when the father sarcastically suggested the kid just take a knife and kill him, the kid complied.

Update

In the five years since Bill Davis made News of the Weird by settling his 20-year dispute with Idaho over the pike of 10 million used tires (he says it’s 30 million), his property in Sandpoint, contractors have gradually removed 4 million tires, at 79 cents each, and sold them as fuel. Federal and state officials still believe that a fire on the land would cause catastrophic environmental damage to the surrounding area.

Well, Sure

-- Male Stereotypes Come to Life: In January, Quebec resident 45-year-old Paul Martineau reported that the rat is the "ultimate example" of the male mammal always on the lookout to copulate with new females and that when given alcohol, male rats notoriously resist attempt sex with females who had just rejected them. And schoolboys driver Alexandre Balve, 31, was arrested in Brooklyn, N.Y., in March for taking three kids on a ride that lasted eight hours because he couldn’t find their school and apparently would not stop to ask directions.

Update: Ethnic Stereotypes Come to Life: In March, police chasing an escaped circus tiger in a suburb of Warsaw, Poland, accidentally shot and killed the vet-
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Knights focus in on second chance

FROM PAGE 16

The Hatters actually became UCF’s ally in taking the conference tournament title, keeping an upset like Campbell from gaining the automatic bid. Now, like Batia, all of the Golden Knights are rearing to take full advantage of their second life.

“We’re rejuvenated now. We were definitely disappointed with how we played in the AAC Tournament because we were a better team than what we showed,” said starter Casey Kennedy, whose lone loss this season came in that final loss to Georgia State. “We’re just glad that the committee gave us another chance to go out and prove ourselves and not say that our whole regular season meant nothing.”

The Knights had quite a regular season, claiming their first regular season conference title in five seasons, winning over 40 games for the first time in three seasons, and being consistently in and out of the national polls. The team gained victories against the likes of NCAA participants Wake Forest, Clemson, LSU, Alabama, Bethune-Cookman, Florida Atlantic, and Stetson.

“I believe going into the AAC Tournament that if we had won the AAC Tournament we would have garnered some consideration for a number one seed. I didn’t think that losing the AAC Tournament would knock us out,” Assistant head coach Greg Frady said. “Again, I think the NCAA rewarded us for all the right reasons. We had a strong RPI through the course of the year. We won 41 games, won our conference by a couple of games, and I’m glad to get that number two seed.”

Perhaps most telling of all, the Knights won the games they had to win down the stretch, taking eight in a row to end the regular season and wrap up the AAC crown.

“I think those last two weeks of the regular season we were pumped up because we knew we had to win those games and I think we kind of had a set back in the conference tournament,” Batia said. “Now we’re in a must-win situation to keep our season alive so I think we’ll come back with that attitude in this regional because if not this season is over.”

UCF understands what is at stake and what can happen when it isn’t totally focused. Preparation and a lack of concentration won’t be a problem at this stage, as the Knights hope to redeem their high seeding and show that the conference tournament struggles were only an aberration.

“I have the utmost respect for the kids who play on this team and put on the line for us every single game,” said Frady. “We’ve had some soft spots in our season, but when you’re 41-17 there’s not that many soft spots. These are human beings, these are kids, and they’re going to play well the majority of the time because of who they are, and they’re going to have a down spot from time to time, but toughness has prevailed. I can’t say enough good things about the way they played and their mental toughness.

“I wouldn’t classify it a two-game losing streak as a slump. I don’t see how what we did in the AAC is going to have any effect on us in this regional tournament. For us and those kids that’s water under the bridge and we’re moving on. Our goal is now to get to Omaha.

Assistant head coach Greg Frady smiled after this year’s selection show, remembering the pain of being snubbed the past two seasons.
UCF surprised by No. 2 seed

FROM PAGE. 16

ator and we need to be ready for that. They’re a good baseball team that steals a lot of bases, they’ve got a good national reputation in baseball and I think that’s one of the reasons they got in,” Frady said. “I know they’re not going to be easy, but we’re going to stay positive and play our game and focus on our team rather than focus on someone else.”

What the Golden Knights are focused on looms a lot larger than just a solid showing at the Tallahassee regional. The bid was just the beginning.

“I don’t feel like we’ve accomplished our goal and that’s it. I feel like we’ve accomplished the first part of what we set out to do,” said Frady. “Florida State, Evansville, and Bethune-Cookman will be a good challenge for us and it will be a good regional, but we also think that we’re capable physically of winning that regional if we play well and that’s what we’re going to prepare to do.”

The lore of playing against the state’s top-ranked team is an added form of motivation for UCF. The Knights lost each of their two games in their last regional appearance at Florida State in 1997, and have hungered to redeem themselves. Taking on a Seminole team that was ranked No. 1 in various polls during the season is a quest the team doesn’t mind undertaking.

“Playing them is big for all of us. Every one knows Florida State is pumped up throughout the state, and we would have had to beat them to get to Omaha regardless, so better to get them now,” senior starter Casey Kennedy said. “We’ve all wanted this. I think it’s going to be great to play at Florida State, because they are one of the best teams in the country and you have to beat the best to be the best.”

Casey Kennedy won 11 games and lost just one start this season, in the second game of the TAAC Tournament. He’ll try to start a new winning streak at the NCAA Tournament.
Team returns tournament-tested tennis players

FROM PAGE 16

"We want to look to win the first round (of the NCAA tournament) and us be the ones playing the 50th ranked teams," Allison said, hoping for a reversal of UCF's fortunes this year. "We have established tremendous credibility in the tennis coaching community."

Defending this year's achievements will not satisfy next year. The UCF Women's Tennis Team expects to reach the next level of competition and advance.

Robin Rice/Florida Today

Ann-Jeanette Svantesson was able to successfully move up to the No. 1 position late in the season, leading the team to a MAC title and preparing herself for a senior season in that slot.

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CFT File Photos

Coach Patrick Allison led a nice transition in her first season as head coach, winning a conference crown and earning Coach of the Year honors.
Regular season performance enough to merit NCAA bid

By TONY MEJIA
SPORTS EDITOR

UCF was the first team eliminated in last weekend's TAAC Tournament, putting their NCAA Tournament hopes in jeopardy despite a regular season that featured over 40 wins and a conference championship.

However, when the NCAA regional pairings were announced on ESPN's live broadcast, the Golden Knights were the first of three TAAC teams unveiled, earning a No. 2 seed in a regional hosted by Florida State at Dick Howser Stadium in Tallahassee.

"I'm very happy that we're in. The kids played very hard this season, came out and executed all year long," Assistant head coach Greg Frady said.... Our season

Women's Tennis team takes positives out of 2000

By NATASHA BERK
STAFF WRITER

Despite losing in the first round of the NCAA Women's Tennis Regional, the UCF Women's Tennis Team has a positive outlook for the future. The Golden Knights fell to No. 15 South Alabama, 5-0, yet the score was not indicative of UCF's performance in the match.

"We went three sets at one, two and five. Number three was a close match and our number four and six players played extremely well," -stated first-year Coach Patricia Allison.

"The team played with integrity. They gave an outstanding effort!"

UCF finished the season with a 19-6 record and myriad of accomplishments. Allison was named the TAAC Coach of the Year and the TAAC championship was the team's fourth in as many years. Senior Gaelle Gouttefarde, junior Ann-Charlotte Svantesson, and sophomore Marieke Gunawan each received All-TAAC honors.

"We had a very successful season," said Allison. "It is apparent in that we were ranked 39th, the best in UCF history, we won the TAAC, and we had three players named to the TAAC All-Conference Team. We went from being ranked 76th to being ranked 50th, after having fallen out of the rankings completely."

Although UCF is losing two key players, Allison anticipates another prosperous season next year, with the majority of the team is returning.

"We have two players leaving in Veronica (Widyadharma), who was dismissed earlier in the season, and Gaelle Gouttefarde, who has played her years.... BASEBALL page 15

Knights sweat it out before gaining bid

By TONY MEJIA
SPORTS EDITOR

UCF saw its TAAC Tournament title hopes extinguished briefly by the bottom two seeds in the tournament as the Golden Knight bats managed only five runs in 18 innings. As they walked off the field after a 6-5 loss to Georgia State in an elimination game, players had to wonder whether it would be the final time they would suit up in uniform this season.

"The night we were eliminated, I was down. I was upset, because I really didn't think we'd get the bid," said outfielder Mark Batia, who missed the final part of the season with a severe hand injury. "But then I started thinking about it and once Sexton won the conference I thought we..."