UCF growing in more ways than one

JENNIFER PATerson STAFF WRITER

The evolution of UCF from a small, specialized institution by the name of Florida Technological University in a buzzing metropolitan university is apparent to most. New structures added to the campus in the last few years such as three parking garages, the Student Union, numerous classroom buildings, dorms and more have changed the face of UCF from a small, regional and mostly commuter school into one of the largest universities in Florida.

When I came to school here in 1973, there was only the Administration Building, Math and Physics, Phillips Hall, Biology, and some on-campus housing," said Ano Suizer, a graduate, full-time employee and current Graduate student at UCF.

While it is evident that UCF is undergoing tremendous growth in number of buildings and student population, what is not as obvious is that academically, UCF is booming more than ever.

Dr. Whitehouse, President of Provost, maintains that the primary goal of UCF is to maintain its commitment to undergraduate education. "We are unique for a large institution because we have a higher percentage of faculty in teaching courses as opposed to other schools where many graduate students do the teaching," he said. "Also we want to keep spending dollars on programs that enhance teaching and learning such as the Teaching and Learning Center in the new classroom building."

The center, he says promotes new ideas and creative teaching, something which UCF feels is very important. UCF is also working to expand in the area of research.

Last year, the school had an increase in funding to $52 million, up 40%.

Interestingly enough, the top two fund-earners were the College of Engineering and the College of Education," said Whitehouse. "While it is commonly known that our areas of expertise are in the technological arena, the funding to the College of Education shows that our school is more diverse in its research than many may think."

The drive to expand the research role of UCF is twofold: while on the one hand the school wants to strive to meet the needs of greater Orlando through research, on the other hand President John Hitt emphasizes that it is research driven.

UCF, Page 4

GOLDEN KEY, Page 3

Three film makers make UCF their home

PAUL WILSON STAFF WRITER

With the success of the "Blair Witch Project," created by UCF students, some might say the film program at UCF was making great strides. But with some new additions, the program is getting even better.

Fox Television's "American High," Warner Brothers' "Opposite Sex," and the Academy Award winning film "As Good As It Gets" are just some of the credits of three nationally known filmmakers joining the faculty of UCF's Department of Film: Jonathan Mednick, Mark Gerstein and Lori Ingle.

"We want a nationally competitive film school," said Carl Patton, President of the Florida State University, speaking of the event..."
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HFA and Administration buildings to receive new names

DARCY ELENA RODRIGUEZ STAFF WRITER

The recognition of former UCF presidents, Charles Millican and Trevor Colbourn will mean name changes for two of UCF's buildings. The Humanities and Fine Arts (HFA) Building and the Administration Building will receive new names in honor of these past presidents.

The Administration Building will become Millican's Hall in recognition of his groundwork in the founding and establishment of UCF. The HFA Building is to become Colbourn's Hall, honoring Colbourn's work following Millican and his prominent accomplishments.

Governor Jeb Bush recently approved a state legislature bill recommending the renaming of the buildings. Any name changes to university buildings must be approved by the state. It is yet unknown when the changes will take place however.

Millican was UCF's first president. He gave the university its foundation as he guided it from the beginning of its planning and establishment in June 1963 to its inauguration in September 1968.

"Millican was the founding president of the university," said Dean McFall, spokesperson and director of news and information at UCF. Millican also conceptu-alized UCF's circular design and adopted the Pegasus as its logo.

Colbourn became UCF's second president in 1978 and continued where Millican left off. Under Colbourn, the football program was created and Research Park was established.

"He also put in place a graduate program," said McFall. During Colbourn's presidency, the university's name was changed as well. The Florida Technological Institute became the University of Central Florida.

After their presidential tenures ended, Millican and Colbourn remained at UCF. Millican is an officer with the UCF Foundation, promoting UCF in his belief that it will become one of America's greatest universities.

Colbourn returned to UCF in 1999 as a history professor. Currently, Colbourn is compiling a history of the university.

Golden Key hopes to induct close to 600 new members in November

FROM PAGE 1

Golden Key hopes to induct close to 600 new members in November.

gates from around the world attended the event. In fact, membership has grown so significantly worldwide that a name change was in order. The Golden Key Council and Board of Directors announced at the conference that the honor society will no longer according to Advisor, Marc Ziegenfuss, Golden Key hopes to induct close to 600 new members in November. "Increased membership will allow us to participate in more community service projects and reach our goal of 800 service hours this year," she said. Events and activities for this school year include, Make a Difference Day on October 28, induction ceremony on November 4, Sophomore Recognition, and a chapter birthday celebration in the spring.

Marching into 2000-2001 with the Knights

Amy Pavuk STAFF WRITER

With football season just around the corner, the Marching Knights are preparing for a new year.

Band camp was held Aug. 16-21, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., and consisted of both indoor and outdoor practices. This grueling week of camp included the marching band, Color guard, and UCF's dance team—the Starlet Knights, a total of over 200 members.

Following UCF tradition, on Aug. 20, new members joined the upperclassmen for the first public appearance of the 2000 Marching Knights. Alumni, faculty, friends, and family gathered at the Reflection Pond to see their first appearance as whole.

"We were all excited. We played pre-game music, the Fight Song, and a couple cheers. The Starlet Knights performed along with us, and together it was a great success," said Lori Hickey, a Marching Knights member.

Despite the long days of

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The Marching Knights dedicate countless hours during both football and basketball seasons and members say they need everyone's support. The first performance of the football season will be Sept. 2, as the Golden Knights play Georgia Tech in Atlanta.

Catch the Marching Knights at the Citrus Bowl! Sept. 9th when UCF takes on NW LA State!
UCF hopes to go from Intensive to Extensive classification

**FROM PAGE 1**

that is, "a critical component of UCF’s ascension to the top echelon of the country’s research institutions."

"As UCF and Orlando continue to grow, our research goals will reach new heights. Classification as a Research 1 institution by the Carnegie Foundation, an objective for the new millennium, will bring a sharper focus on UCF and the community," said Vice President of Research, M.J. Soileau.

Currently UCF is classified as a Doctoral/Research University - Intensive meaning that it awards at least ten doctoral degrees per year across three or more disciplines, or at least 20 doctoral degrees overall. The most prestigious ranking in this system is the Doctoral/Research University - Extensive. These institutions award 50 or more doctoral degrees per year across at least 15 disciplines.

"Last year we awarded 89 doctoral degrees in 14 fields," said Dr. Whitehouse. "So you can see how close we are."

While Dr. Whitehouse admits that the new growth in research and development is exciting, he maintains that UCF will not waiver in its commitment to quality and inexpensive undergraduate education. In 50 years he sees UCF as one of the leading metropolitan universities in the world.

"With the resources and growth of the area around us it is hard not to envision this."
Money goes missing from Huntington

UCF Police are looking for the individuals pictured below who may have information concerning missing money from the UCF Huntington Bank, which occurred on August 9 at approximately 3:37 p.m. If you have any information please contact Detective/Sgt. Hugh Carpenter at 407-823-6268.

**Andrea Keegan**
STAFF WRITER

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**UCFPD vacates Wild Pizza building**

**James Nunez**
STAFF WRITER

After a nine-month stay in the old Wild Pizza building, the University Police Department’s main office staff moved back into building 49 on Aug. 16. The department’s original office was moved because of air conditioning system, paint job, and carpeting renovations needed on the old building located on Libra Drive.

Because of the extraordinary yearly growth of the UCF, the Police Department is finding it difficult to obtain adequate space. At present time, the Campus Police, Victim Services Unit, and the Crime Prevention Unit all share the same trailer. “We grow every year, and with that growth, we lose space,” said Kellie DeArmans, Senior Property Manager for the Police Department, on the need for continual property renovations.

DeArmans emphasized the fact that much preparation went into the move in order to eliminate problems. Numerous e-mails were sent out, as well as reminders and updates to all employees. DeArmans said of the difficult move back, “We’ve got to get organized again. Obviously, it was an inconvenience, but it was an inconvenience that we were happy to incur, because [the renovations] made our building better.”

The Police Department experienced no problems with immediate victim aid, because the campus officers continued to operate out of building 49 for the duration of the renovation. Furthermore, the officers were able to remain in close contact with the campus and community, as they were not directly involved in the actual move. “They still responded to calls, as usual. Emergency services were not hindered in any way. They weren’t even threatened,” said Officer DeArmans. In fact, not only did the campus officers operate adequately during the move, but they were able to upgrade their radio system to an extremely powerful 800 megahertz.

The only change that students and faculty must be aware of is that the finger printing office has been moved to the Specialized Patrol Division office in the West Parking Garage. However, contacting the Police Department and its services can still be done by calling (407) 823-5555. Student Escort Services, a program that escorts students and faculty around campus after dark, can still be reached by calling (407) 823-2424.

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**FBC Oviedo’s Collegiate Ministry**

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**Monday Night Football** - 8:45pm
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**Real Life**
**Real People**
**Real Questions**
**Real Answers**
UCF Employee of the Year chosen, Blood bank returns

JENNIFER PATERSON
STAFF WRITER

At the annual Awards Banquet for USPS in July, President John Hitt gave Kay West, an administrative assistant at the UCF Arena, $2500 in recognition of her Employee of the Year Award. West was chosen from among this year’s 12 Employee of the month award winners.

Nearly 1,900 graduate in August

On Aug. 5, nearly 1,900 students received degrees in three ceremonies at the UCF Arena. 623 students were from the College of Engineering and Computer Science, College of Health and Public Affairs, and the School of Optics. The College of Arts and Sciences and College of Education had 712. And 588 were from the College of Business Administration.

Kudos for UCF faculty

Jeanne Leiby, assistant English professor, published her poem “Decisions at the Edge of the Light” in Sundog: The Southeast Review. She presented the short story “Henrietta and the Headache” at the Berkeley Fiction Review.


Martha Marinara, assistant English professor, published “Writing Outside the Lines: Stories of Literacy” and “Voices from the Outside: A Collection of Nontraditional Writing by Nontraditional Writers,” and the poems “The Frame Shop” and “Walking the Dead.” She presented “National Invention, Local Changes: How can Part-Time Faculty Empower Themselves?” and “Adult Literacy Women Returning to College” at conferences and “How Can Part-Time Faculty Empower Themselves?” at the 17th International Social Philosophy Conference in Canada.

Did you know?

UCF ranks in the top 100 schools in the nation that confer the most degrees to minority students. UCF ranked 24th in the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded to Hispanics, 33rd to African Americans, and 38th to minority students as a whole.

Money Magazine ranks UCF among the nation’s 25 best public education values for in-state students.

The College of Engineering and Computer Science at UCF ranks among the top 15% of the nation’s largest engineering colleges.

Professor Donna Baumbach, College of Education, was named the nation’s “Outstanding Technology Leader in Education.”

UCF offers a total of 149 degrees.

United Nations of instruction

The “United Nations of instruction” is how President John Hitt described Classroom Building 1 because it will be used by all six of the university’s colleges.

“This building offers our students truly a new way of learning, and has already set [new standards]. There’s no going back to the old type of classroom,” he said during its open house on Monday. “The way technology is being implemented is the story. It says something about what we say about teaching in a research university. This building is a testament to the importance we place on undergraduate studies.”

Blood bank back

The Central Florida Blood Bank is having a blood drive Wednesday, Aug. 30 and Thursday, Aug. 31 in front of the Student Union. Call 407-999-8485 for more information.

Jazz Quartet featured in artist series

The Music Department Artist Series featuring the Jeff Rupert Jazz Quartet is tonight at 8 p.m., in Rehearsal Hall. Call 823-2869 for more information.

New exhibits in library for month of Sept.

Art exhibits in the UCF Library for September are “Haiti Via Miami: The Collection Memory of Don Shoemaker,” "International Student Fair 2000," "Black Books Galore," and "Sexual Assault Awareness Month."

Don’t miss this rally.

Due to the rain out at the Welcome Expo, the First Year Advising Office, CAB, Huntington Banks, SGA and The Future will be hosting the 1st Knight Spirit Rally to make up for mother nature last week. The rally will be on September 8, from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. on the Green next to the Chemistry building. Two of the prizes to be given away are a $250 UCF Bookstore Gift Certificate and two football game tickets to Alabama.

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To vote or not to vote

**KATHY FORD** STAFF WRITER

Crowded classrooms, fraternity parties, endless homework, and where to find a parking space. These details make up most college students’ lives. Registering to vote is falls short of making it on most college students’ list.

The Student Government Association (SGA) at UCF is hoping to make students interested in not only taking the time to register to vote, but also to vote and make their voices heard.

While the effort is being made to encourage students to vote, statistics show that college students are the worst age group for voting. Professor Aubrey Jewett agreed with this fact. “We have to get students interested in government again. Not just in college but at the high school level,” said Jewett. “There just isn’t enough there for students to be interested in politically although there was a spark or two when Ross Perot and Jesse Ventura entered the political arena.”

He also noted that there is almost always an upswing in political interest during an election year.

Rill Cowles, Orange County Supervisor of Elections, does presentations several times a year at UCF. His goal is to educate students about voting. While the 18-25 age group is the worst at voting, he was quick to point out that those same non-voters at the age of 30-35 become the most interested voters.

“Holding a full time job and a mortgage catch up with them and they recognize the need take an interest in their government,” said Cowles.

Following the path of other colleges and universities, UCF’s SGA is working on making online registration easy and available for students.

“We want to make registering to vote a life changing event for students,” said Kristian Cosme, Senate President pro tempore of the SGA at UCF. They have in the planning stages, an event that would enable students to register to vote in person, which will be along the lines of a block party that will include food and entertainment. Politicians like Representative Bill Sublette and former Orange County Chairman Linda Chapin have been asked to speak to the students about the importance of making their voices heard.

“Getting the students registered to vote is just the beginning of the battle. We also have to keep them voting,” added Jewett.

RAD shows women how to protect themselves

**FROM PAGE 5**

Over 100 Universities offer RAD, and the students can take their completion certification to any of those institutions to take a refresher course or practice techniques.

“We want the females to learn that you don’t have to be 6’2” 180 lbs., even the smallest woman has the ability to defend herself,” said Smith.

Added Lowen, “The best defense is common sense, we just want to give them something to add to that.”

Anyone interested in the course or who would like additional information can contact either Officer Kelli Smith at 823-6185 or by email at kjsmith@mail.ucf.edu or Officer Scott Lowen at 823-0341 or by email at slowen@mail.ucf.edu.
Gainesville remembers murder victims

KRISTEN MOCZYNSKI
INDEPENDENT FLORIDA ALLIGATOR (U. FLORIDA)

Five budding sabal palm trees stand tall in a median on Southwest 34th Street. Five benches that can hold the weight of losing a loved one sit in Gainesville's Victim Park off Williston Road. Five trees planted by Student Government for the first anniversary grow beside a plaque near the Smathers Library. One tree and one bench for each of the victims. And then there is the memorial on the 34th Street Wall that bears the names of the five victims.

These four creations are Gainesville's way of saying goodbye. And they are Gainesville's way of reminding itself to never forget. Friday [Aug. 25] the Wall will be the focal point of a memorial dedication ceremony at 10 a.m. on the fifth hole of the University Golf Course, which was attended by representatives of all the victims' families, some flying in from as far as Ohio and Massachusetts. Priscilla Prince, a Gainesville police employee, sang "Wind Beneath My Wings" and "The Way We Were" during the ceremony. Speakers included the families of the victims and Mayor Paula DeLaency.

Meanwhile on campus, a concert of carillon music from Century Tower began at 10 a.m., just as was done for the first anniversary. The ceremony will bring to light memories of the tragedy that painted the 34th Street Wall for a decade. The Wall, which is home to birthday wishes and marriage proposals, is known for not holding on to memories long. The Wall's quick face-lifts beg the question why one panel has lasted so long. Before the 34th Street Wall Memorial was created, local landscaper Nick West made plans for a median memorial, which was put on the back burner. West said he is glad his plans were not fulfilled at the time because the Wall "became a meeting point, focal point, an emotional point for students and families." The Wall, and more deeply the memorial honoring the victims, has become a way to remember and a way to hold on.

"We think about them now, and we'll continue to think about them the rest of our lives," he said of the five 1990 victims, recalling the red, black and white panel that appeared just days after the murders.

And the memorial has had its share of visitors, especially during the weeks leading up to the anniversary. People have stopped to look and take pictures of the painted remembrance. But the memorial has had signs that it's losing its significance. It has been marred several times in the past decade. Spicce Bergman, manager at Point West Apartments on Southwest 34th Street, watches out for the Wall, but said she has never caught anyone vandalizing the memorial. "I think sometimes they don't know the meaning," she said of those who deface the memorial. "Sometimes I think they just don't care."

Like when Tony Mekael, a Santa Fe Community College student who lived across from the Wall, caused five people who claimed to be UF freshmen in 1996 as they started painting over the memorial. The group said they did not know what the memorial meant, having just moved to Gainesville.

Sometimes the memorial was chosen because the message would be noticed by all, like in March 1998 when someone painted an ode of love to "Carlos" over the panel. But sometimes the message was intended for the memorial because the memorial stands, even 10 years later, as the most permanent fixture in a town known for its transience.

Last year, someone named Matt painted over the memorial with a red bubble that had the words "People die" in white, skeleton letters. Each time the memorial has been defaced it has been restored with fresh paint within a day's time. But each time there is a sense that the meaning of the memorial is being chipped away. To set the memorial apart on the Wall, George Paules, Tracy's father, framed it in coquina rock in 1993.

Last month, the 10-Year Anniversary Committee organized the refurbishment of the 34th Street Wall Memorial and the landscape medium memorial. The Wall was given a coat of sealer that allows for just a spray of water to erase the ignorance or hate of those who paint over it. West was able to get local businesses to donate plant supplies, irrigation equipment and their time to complete the landscaping project. Bergman said she thinks the five palm trees and the landscaping will make newcomers more aware of the significance of the Wall.

"It is a reminder of what happened," she said. "Five lives were tragically snuffed out before they ever had a chance to really live."

Gainesville Police Capt. Sadie Darnell, who was a key figure during the murders as the city's police spokeswoman, said the anniversary has come at the right time.

"It's a time to remind people to be safe and to be conscious of their environment and to not sit so far away from victims of violence," she said. West said he hopes the ceremony will provide some closure and a way for the community to remember the victims. He added that he hopes the Wall will be a lasting figure telling the families that Gainesville will never forget.

"Our lives will never be the same because of the murders," he said.

In recent tests, 4 out of 5 college students preferred free stuff.

(The rest didn't understand the question.)

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There’s enough nookie for everybody

DIANNE IRVING
FSPFW & FLORIDA FLAMBEAU (FLORIDA STATE U.)

If you don’t think you’re having enough sex raise your hand. Hearing complaints about lack of sex or abundance seems to be common among a college-aged population.

My roommate is always complaining about he never gets laid. It’s annoying,” Florida State University senior Paul Carlise said. While the South may have the image of being a conservative and well-mannered area of the nation, sourtherners seem to be getting luckier than anyone else.

According to a survey conducted by Yankovich Partners for Adam and Eve, the South has the highest percentage of sexually active Americans. Forty-eight percent of the South reported to be sexually active and 10 percent reported to have sex once or more a day.

Overall, the survey results showed the majority of Americans having sex between one and four times per week, regardless of what part of the country or in what type of setting they live,” Katy Zvolenik said. “One noticeable difference was between the northern sections of the country and southern and western regions. On average, southerners are having sex less, and those having sex are doing it less often.”

While the South had the highest percentage of people having sex regularly, those who lived in cities proved to be the most sexually active. People who live in cities were found to have sex three or four times per week.

“Living in the city is a faster-paced lifestyle, which adds tension, which, when coupled with the close proximity of people within cities, can contribute to increased sexual activity,” said Peter Kanaris, Ph.D. and director of sexualhelp.com. "Also more temperate climates, like the West and the South, are more conducive of all physical activity -- including sex." While the south may be the most sexually active region of the country, as a nation the United States doesn’t seem to be doing too badly. According to a survey done internationally by Durex condoms, America was the second most sexually active nation, beaten only by France. The French, however, were the most considerate lovers. Fifty percent of the French surveyed said that partner satisfaction was their top priority.

"I can believe that. There is something very sensual about a French man,” junior Carice Vismah said. It seems that no matter where you go around the world there are drawbacks to finding a happy medium for how much sex to have. The French outdid Americans in the number of times that they had sex each year, having sex 151 times a year compared to Americans’ 148 times. While Americans may have sex, they go a lot longer, spending an average of 25.3 minutes in the bedroom compared to 12.3 minutes in Hong Kong and 13.8 minutes in Italy.

"That’s surprising,” senior Kristen Prentiss said, “Italian men have this reputation of being these wonderful, built-in lovers.”

Law prohibits N.Y. schools from using Social Security numbers for ID

MATTHEW McGUIRE
FSVJEW & FLORIDA FLAMBEAU (FLORIDA STATE U.)

Social Security numbers and student ID numbers are often synonymous, however, a new law designed to prevent identity theft will restrict New York colleges and on how they can use a student’s Social Security number.

The law restricts colleges using from Social Security numbers for public identification purposes, such as on student IDs, cards, rosters, grade posting and student directories.

For the last two years Cornell has been re-issuing student ID cards with new 16-digit identification numbers, rather than the previously used Social Security numbers. During the next six months the university will conduct an ID card blitz, replacing all old cards that display Social Security numbers.

While no major incidents of identity theft have been linked to the use of student Social Security numbers in New York, problems have surfaced on the opposite coast. An English instructor at a California community college allegedly used student Social Security numbers to open fraudulent credit card accounts in 1996. After allegedly stealing $43,000 in merchandise, the instructor was arrested.

The law, which also covers public and private elementary and secondary schools, won’t go into effect until July 1, 2001, giving institutions time to comply with the law.
I can do anything you can do, better!

KIEL KEAR
STAFF WRITER

In this day and age of Saturday Night Live and MTV most members of the male species are totally oblivious to the subject of gender discrimination. I myself, as a proud member of the male species, was not even aware of it until I was caught right in the middle of it a few weeks ago.

So not to offend anyone we’re going to say that the person involved in this incident were Mrs. A, Mr. B, and Mr. C. OK, now that we know who our participants are let’s layout the scenario for you. Mrs. A and Mr. B are computing for a job packing those little peanut Styrofoam things into boxes. Mr. C will be the person evaluating Mrs. A and Mr. B. He is supposed to evaluate them on nothing but performance. Mrs. A out performs Mr. B in every aspect of peanut things packing. So the choice of who to hire should be easy. You would hire the more qualified worker right? In most cases one would think so, but before Mr. C worked in the peanut things packing plant he worked in an all male bubble wrap packing plant and therefore is extremely prejudiced toward females. So even though Mrs. A was more qualified than Mr. B, Mr. B was hired just because he was a guy. The kick in the gut though was when Mrs. A asked Mr. C why she wasn’t hired he told her it was because she wasn’t packing peanut things. If I heard of this series of events I would be outraged. Not since I was in the fourth grade and my mom tried to return to work I had heard of such blatant gender discrimination.

Frank R. Stansberry, APR
Visiting Instructor, Public Relations University of Central Florida

DIANA MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

With my fingers alternating between grabbing a fry from the Styrofoam container and sipping the coordinating cup of sweet tea, I sit there at the cluttered worktable with my eyes glancing down to both my organizer’s calendar and the notepad besides it. As I skim through the heavily filled-in calendar pages to see what activities needed to be worked on, interruptions from all directions distract me from writing what I needed to accomplish on the notepad. Although I again start to feel myself being pulled in all directions, I know that this is part of my well-rounded college experience. Playing an active role on campus through my participation in numerous clubs and organizations.

I remember being nervous but excited about finally leaving home for college that I couldn’t sleep the night before my flight out. Before leaving for the airport, I looked through the depending darkness at my house last one time and felt a wave of sadness and uncertainty wash over me as tears began streaming down my face. At the airport I couldn’t even look at my mother and sister for fear of deceiving them by the façade of excitement that I had been wearing for several weeks. When my father managed to tear me away from my mother’s and sister’s shaking arms as the final boarding call was announced, I looked ahead, aware that I was closing that chapter of my life and about to begin a new one.

Several days after we arrived in Orlando, my father left me. Feeling loneliness and uncertainty, I fell to the floor limp and sobbing, not knowing what to do next. I stayed in my room for a few days after that, scared of beginning that new chapter. When I realized how weak and ridiculous I was being, I gathered my composure and thought what I needed to do to get through.

I had always been an involved student on high school that actually took part in every activity. Not only did I work hard in my classes while working several jobs, I was seen leading my class as their President, playing Varisty Volleyball, reviving and editing the school newspaper, participating in the Honor Societies, and other activities. I am the type of person who can not sit still and do nothing during the free time that I get. I need to stay busy, always doing something. I enjoy working with and being part of something, a team.

Realizing that I needed to break through the dark shadow of loneliness and uncertainty, the words of my Orientation-Team Michelle Fernandez rang true... GET INVOLVED! From my breakthrough I came out of my miserable self and went straight into the Office of Student Activities.

Being involved has helped me make friends that are there for me. So even though I closed one chapter of my life after graduating from VAHS and opened a new one here at UCF, I chose to continue my extreme involvements in extracurricular activities, taking several leadership positions.

I am continuing my involvement with the Campus Activities Board as the Cultural Arts Director. The Campus Activities Board at UCF is a student-run organization that provides the majority of the shows and events on campus to the students. Made up of eleven different committees that cater to the diverse student population, C.A.B provides various events and shows from playing songs on stage to outdoor movies to comedians.

Two recent endeavors that I have gotten involved with are the Consultants for Effective Leadership and Emerging Knights. The Consultants for Effective Leadership provides UCF with interactive training through professional, educational and leadership consultations. CEL assists the student club and organizations, as well as their own members, to reach their most effective level of leadership. The Emerging Knights program is designed to enlighten and provide both incoming freshmen and transfer students the knowledge and lead its leadership opportunities. As a mentor for this particular program, Emerging Knights helps new students to discover and develop their own special interests and abilities through the interaction with their mentors, other student leaders and university staff members.

UCF Student Government Association is another organization that I have recently become involved with, taking part several aspects of SGA. SGA represents the campus population’s views on issues that affect UCF and promotes changes to create improvements in campus life.

I also take part in UCF’s Student Alumni Association (SAA) and its executive board, the Student Alumni Affairs Council (SAAC). Members of this organization not only are pre­ferred for graduate school, but they are honored offers to interact with alumni who can advise them in their career choices.

Why have I chosen to actively take part in a variety of activities?
Excuse me?

This past weekend I was watching TV and was able to catch the tail end of that Survivor show. I'm sure that you all know the show that I'm talking about. It's the one where the big broadcasting corporation put 20 people on an island and then told them to "survive." Of course what they don't tell you is that they give them food, water and, heck, they don't need shelter because there isn't anything alive on the island that could hurt them. Plus, to top this all off, the island is in a tropical climate, I'm absolutely sure that all the cast members were boo-hooing about that.

So when I started watching the show I figured it would be something like MTV's The Real World, but boy was I in for a shock. This show is just short of pathetic and the only reason that I'm not calling it pathetic is because it doesn't DESERVE that title. You mean to tell me that to not die all they have too to do is stand on a post and hold a totem pole and the last person standing and holding the totem pole is the winner? To make matters worse, we have some moron who is standing on the sidelines and giving recaps to the cast members. He's asking them stuff like, "What is this man's wife's name?" Then when one cast member had to get off the totem pole for not holding onto it, he was asked, "So do you think that this means that you are out of the running for the million dollar?"

Excuse me? One million dollars? What the heck kind of show is this? You call a show survivor and you offer a million dollars as a prize but in the running there is no chance of any of the cast members dying, getting mauled by bears or losing limbs? At this point in the show, when the dolt on the side asked the "million dollar" question, I about lost it. So I decided that if there is going to be another show like this, that I should definitely write the plot for it because, let's be frank folks, what kind of a challenge is it to sit around and blame me for what was said or done here, I was sneezing half of the time from the fumes. You don't even want to see what my monitor and keyboard look like.

So if I were to use the name "Survivor," this is how the story would go. Take an even number of people and split that down the middle, half are male half are female. Strip them naked and give them each; a toga, thong flip flops, one gallon of water, a loaded Smith & Wesson 9 mm pistol some of those nifty blue glow sticks and a box of MRE's (that's military food). For the setting, I'd fly them to some place desolate and dead-like the arctic, Northern Canada, Siberia, Bill and Hillary's room in the White House or the Sahara desert and then tell them that they have to survive until only one of them is left alive. For the grand prize we have a Mr. Coffee filled with the winner's favorite brew, a shower and a warm bed.

With all of these great prizes and the chance to see some far off places, I'm sure that my show would do a ton better than what some corporate bigwig's idea of putting them backstab each-other for what he found hiding in the cracks of his plush leather couch.

Oh and by the way, while I was watching the show and writing this article, I was coloring my hair a deep shade of red. So don't blame me for what was said or done here, I was sneezing half of the time from the fumes. You don't even want to see what my monitor and keyboard look like.

Involvement key in making difference

FROM PAGE 11

In order for any college career to be a fun-filled, rewarding and, most importantly, well-rounded experience, it has to be more than just classes, jobs and a social life. I believe that it is extremely important for students to get involved around campus because it is that make a difference to the school. A few students can't do everything and the more involvement the school has the more outstanding it will be, enriched with spirit and diversity.

Through all the interruptions that I experience daily from my involvements, I do not regret taking on so many activities. I wouldn't have been able to get through my first semester at UCF if it wasn't for that breakthrough. Now that I am a junior majoring in Journalism with three minors and my foot in "millions" of clubs and organizations, I look back to that first week and wonder why I even felt alone. Now I can honestly say that the past two years and the years to come here at UCF have and will be the best years of my life, thanks to staying involved around campus. I then leave you with two powerful words: GET INVOLVED!
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Overcoming differences: ‘Should Russia have asked for help?’

TARA SMITH
STAFF WRITER

When the Russian submarine Kursk went down, it raised a lot of questions about the morality of the Russian government. People started asking questions. How could a government just leave those men down in the submarine to die? How could the government lie to the Russian population about what was going on? Why would they refuse help from other nations that had the capability to rescue the rest of the crew?

While I agreed that the Russian government should’ve accepted some help, I still don’t done just that. But what doesn’t last thing you want to do in the Russian government should’ve the Western powers would have the enemy. Accepting help from military is open yourself up to the crew?

Another thing that bothered me was the fact that Russia tried to hide the truth from the world in efforts to hide what had happened. According to MSNBC, the Russian government lied about efforts being made to rescue the submarine, the condition of the crew, they claimed to be pumping down air and power to the sub, and even the truth about the nuclear reactors that had been on the sub.

Naval authorities claimed they had established contact with the crew, but was later forced to admit that the noises they had heard were faint, incoherent, and nothing close to the SOS messages they had said they heard. According to MSNBC, the noises could’ve been caused by the changes in temperature of the submarine in freezing water.

Russia’s pride has always been in their military, and the fact that something of this nature happened, was an embarrassment. They were too ashamed to ask for help to save the crew, but now they are making an international plea for money to bring up the submarine.

“There is a single country on its own can handle such an operation,” said Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov. So in short, it’s an embarrassment to ask another country for help to bring up the living sailors, but it’s not embarrassing to ask for money?

In 1963, the United States lost a submarine carrying 129 men. The joints in the piping of the submarine were faulty, and the ship flooded and fell below crush depth. Everyone was killed instantly. As a result, the United States built a Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle that could perform rescue operations on disabled submarines. So my next question is, why is it that after the numerous problems that Russia has had with their submarines, have they not built something like the DSRV? Lack of funding is one of the major reasons. According to Dana Lewis of NBC News, the Russian military is practically bankrupt.

“For ten years, the Russian military stubbornly resisted in trying to keep a very heavy, big army and now they’re in a fix,” said Pavel Felgenhauer, a Russian military analyst. “They don’t have the money.”

It would only make sense that if you didn’t have the money to take care of the necessities, like a back-up plan, then you shouldn’t be sending out submarines.

And the whole time this has been going on. I have been wondering about how the United States would have handled the same situation. If we didn’t have the means, would we have accepted foreign aid?

This was tested in 1998 when Florida was faced with wildfires that were out of control. MSNBC’s Michael Moran uncovered that Russia had offered the United States two of its IL-76 tanker aircraft, the largest aircraft in the world. It can carry four times the amount of the C-130 Hercules, the largest aircraft in the world. It declined their offer, and again declined when they offered to help with the wildfires that are spreading across the mid-west as we speak. The reason?

“In the past, we have never had a situation that exceeded our capability to handle,” said Pat Entwisle, a fire information officer.

Doesn’t that sound familiar? Russia didn’t want help from us, and now we don’t want help from them.

So what is the price of independence? Russia puts their sailors at a larger risk because they are too proudful to ask for help. The United States needlessly lets thousands of acres burn, houses are demolished, and lives ruined because they are too proudful to accept help from the Russians. Are human lives that expendable that we can just let them die because of political differences?

Until we can put the past behind us and move forward thinking of the entire world as one, this is the type of policy that we have to deal with. How can we expect to overcome our differences if we are too stubborn to admit our mistakes and learn from them? Until we do, we as nations are nothing more than pawns in the game of politics.
The latest boy group to come out of Orlando’s very own Transcontinental Records Company is Take 5. This group is already riding the same wave of success that other groups such as Backstreet Boys and *NSYNC have. Take 5 formed in 1997 and for almost two years, the group has been on tour in Europe and Asia. Their U.S. debut album “Against All Odds” is scheduled for release on August 29.

This is not just another boy band. Their current single “Shake It Off” blends beats that are not familiar to the pop world, resulting in music that sounds fresh and surprisingly mature. Their mix of pop with R&B tunes sets this group apart from others. With producers like Missy Elliot, Timbaland, Shekspeare, Delite and Flavahood, Take 5’s album is sure to give a new sound to pop music.

Currently, the group is on tour with Britney Spears. Their welcome back concert will be at the House of Blues on September 30. Take 5’s members are (as they appear in the picture from left to right): Tilky Jones, Clay Goodell, Stevie Sculthorpe, T.J. Christofore and Ryan Goodell.

Musically, how are you different from other groups?

Tilky: When you hear pop music today, a lot of it is starting to sound the same. Much of it is written by the same writers and produced by the same producers. Our record label, Elektra, hooked us up with different producers and writers so we could create our own sound and do our own thing.

Stevie: We are bringing a new sound to the industry and pop music to a new level.

What can we expect from your album on August 29?

Stevie: Expect some great tracks by Missy Elliot, Timbaland and Flavahood. Our next single called “Can I Come Over” is written by Diane Warren. Expect a totally different sound.

What are your thoughts about the tour with Britney?

Tilky: We hope the tour opens a lot of doors for us. It starts on August 21 and finishes September 18. We’re really excited.

What’s your rehearsal schedule like?

Stevie: We do five hours of dance and three hours of vocal training.

Do you guys have any rituals or traditional things you do before a performance?

Ryan: We have a stretch time. A half hour before each show we sit down and try to block out all of the distractions. We spend time together and try to get the mentality we need before going on stage. We think about the performance and say a prayer.

Stevie has been quoted as saying: “There’s no reason for any sort of racial barrier in music. We want white listeners, black listeners, Hispanic listeners, any age and any race. We think everyone could like us.” Do you guys think about that type of stuff when you are choosing which songs to put on your album?

Ryan: We went in to make the best album we could. We don’t sit down and say ‘Okay, what is going to make us the most money?’ We’re happy with the album we made and how far we have come. There are so many barriers that people have broken down. Music crosses all those barriers. We have traveled all over the world. We’ve been in Asia and Europe for a couple of years. There are a lot of stereotypes against groups. I think this album will break down some of those stereotypes.

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For those of you who read my last article about the band Agent Felix, you probably heard me mention a place called DIY Records a few times. Over three years ago, Jeff Hogan had a dream of opening up a record store that has concerts there also. He originally opened the store on Mills Avenue. The location then changed to Edgewater Drive.

Last July, the store moved to a bigger space that is located on the northeast corner of University Boulevard and Goldenrod Road (in between the Jiffy Lube and Mobil). There lies one of the most unique record stores in Central Florida. DIY (Do It Yourself) Records specializes in underground music. You can find punk, ska, hardcore, emo, indie and metal there. What makes this store so unique is the fact that you can buy your CDs and see concerts in the same place. Along with new CDs, the store also has some great prices on used CDs. All used CDs are between $2.99 and $5.99. College students can definitely appreciate that.

During the month of September, they also have some great deals going on. There is a September Ska Sale. All ska CDs are 25% off. Also, if you buy $15 worth of merchandise, you get two free stickers that usually sell for $1.25 a piece.

The store consists of two rooms: the front room is a regular record store that sells vinyl, CDs, posters, t-shirts, and more; the back room is a room that holds about 150-200 people. In the back room, you can find both local and national bands showcasing their talents there about three to four times a week.

It's often hard for local bands to get shows because almost every venue wants a big "promo pack" with pictures, biographies and CDs. All DIY Records asks for is a demo tape, and the chances of your band playing there are very good. For booking info, e-mail Toby Brown at ubersnort@aol.com. To check out the website, go to www.diyrecords.com.

Here are the upcoming shows at DIY Records for the month of September:

**ALL THESE SHOWS ARE $5**

- **September 2nd** - Boxing Water, Blind Luck, Life in General and No Such Thing... 7:30 PM
- **September 7th** - Jeremiah's Grotto, Stalemate and Nothing Back East... 8:30 PM
- **September 8th** - DIY BENEFIT featuring Bring Back Joel, Peterbuilt and Polly Esther... 7:30 PM
- **September 9th** - Riverside, Unsung Zeros, This Year's Model and Saturday Supercape... 7:30 PM
- **September 12th** - Foolproof, Slingshot and Jr. Claud... 7:30 PM
- **September 15th** - Dark Angel Divine, Five O'Clock Shadow and Pronounced Dead... 7:30 PM
- **September 16th** - The Hybrids, Nutrajet, All That's Left and Third Grade... 7:30 PM
- **September 21st** - The Enkindels and Keepsake... 8:30 PM
- **September 22nd** - Jumpstart, Cutaway, Summerlane and The Tim Version... 7:30 PM
- **September 23rd** - Fullerton, Brownie Points and Hopping... 7:30 PM
- **September 28th** - Agent Felix, Hollywood Beach Brian, Beefcake and Luckie Strike... 8:30 PM
Dear Sexpert,

My girlfriend wants me to have a threesome with her and her best friend. Other guys would probably jump at this chance, but I am hesitant to try it. I really care about her, and I think we have a good thing going. I just don’t feel that this would be good for our relationship. What if she gets jealous watching me with her friend? What if she leaves me for her friend? What if she wants to try it with another guy next? I guess my question has two parts: Will this ruin our relationship? and Does her wanting to try this mean that having “just me” in bed doesn’t excite her anymore?

-Troubled in Orlando, male, 20

Dear Troubled in Orlando,

It appears to me that you aren’t very confident of her feelings for you. Yes, a threesome usually means instant death for most relationships, but what stood out to me most about your letter were your insecurities: “what if she leaves me” and “don’t I excite her.” If this is someone you are serious about, you should be open enough to discuss these fears with your partner.

What you also need to do is dig deeper into this relationship and find out what is missing. You are obviously interested in sex, but what about the emotional aspects? Does she want to share a more intimate experience? Does she want to feel loved and appreciated? Is there something missing in your relationship that you both need to work on?

Love,

Emily Pratt

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Sacred or Forbidden... Tabu

Emily Pratt, Staff Writer

You can feel the darkness around you as easily as you can feel the music, which creates a bone-rattling heartbeat under the floor. Smoke billows from small balconies above as sweat traces the back of your neck. The tension builds and the heartbeat under the floor intensifies, climaxing into an explosion of light and sound. This is Tabu.

While you were away, students, Downtown Orlando’s historical Beacham Theatre, more recently known as Zuma Beach Club, underwent a serious face-lift. The club was taken over by multiple investors (including Howie Dorough of the Backstreet Boys) back in June, upon which the club underwent a 19-day renovation. It was stripped and redressed to restore some of the class and antiquity of the old theatre and quickly opened to the public again as Tabu in early July.

Surprising for more of a South Beach feel, Tabu enforces a strict dress code and except for Thursdays, which are 18 and up for ladies, the club is 21 and up. Inside the dress code is blatantly justified by your surroundings. Immediately inside the door a DJ spins to entertain you as you pay the cover and even draws a small crowd out from the main room.

But simply passing into the main room is an impressive sight; the sheer size of it is awesome. The dance floor is in the center of the room, pulsating with people even early in the night. The DJ stage is at the back of the room, where they spin by candlelight with huge television screens lining the wall behind them. On either side of the main floor extend two staircases, spanning the length of the club, leading to a posh VIP area upstairs.

This is Tabu.

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School resumes and it's welcomed chaos on campus with wide-eyed students, worried parents in tow and Greek Rush in full swing. I'm moseying along, taking care of business as usual when suddenly, I realize I haven't had lunch and it's already three o'clock. I silently apologize to my stomach and haul butt to my Civic.

Where to eat, where to eat? I didn't feel like driving far and the storm clouds were rolling in, so, I went across the street, to the UC7 plaza. And there it was. I had to look twice. The Chili Hut? What's that I wondered. Didn't recall that being there before.

"Hi, how are you?" "Fine, thanks and yourself?"

I was almost immediately greeted upon entering the dimly lit restaurant.

"You can order up there," Karla tells me, pointing to the register area. I grabbed a menu and couldn't believe it. Man, this stuff is priced rather nicely...The most expensive thing on the menu is six-fifty. I looked around the uniquely decorated restaurant. The idea for The Chili Hut started about three years ago, but Mr. Mark A. Gray, Chili Hut's owner, has a lot more experience involved: Yet, my concerns were quickly assuaged.

That's what this restaurant is based on. Great food, great atmosphere, and great service. I noticed this mantra on the menus. Well, the Taco Salad and the Chili Sandwich, more. I chose The Chili Hut Taco Salad and a bowl of chili with sour cream, shredded cheese, and Jalapeno relish. It also came with corn muffins (man, those are good). You might be wondering what the heck "Spuds" are. Basically, it's a seasoned baked potato topped with sour cream and chives. You can add toppings like Monterey Jack or Sharp Cheddar Cheese, among other choices.

It's hot as hell and I'm having chili.

According to Gray, "Chili is great any time of day, any season. Many people think it's only spicy or it only comes hot." Ah, a common misconception I also fell for. "It's often eaten as a side dish or as a whole meal, with the trimmings." I had no idea it could be served cold. Don'tuckles and spicy chili go together like peanut butter & jelly. I sat down and took a load off, watching some television and sipped on my lemonade, in less than five minutes, the food arrived. This is truly an unheard of feat—unless the microwave is involved. Yet, my concerns were quickly assuaged.

"We make the chili in large quantities, it takes several hours and the food is cooked fresh every day. That's what this restaurant is based on. Great food, great atmosphere, and great service." I noticed this mantra on the menu. Well, the Taco Salad would have been enough for most, but tingly with a hint of spice, the Chili bowl was too good to resist.

"I wondered if my mouth might have been made with heat or cold. Don't worry, chili isn't made with heat. And, if you really want it, they also have tuna salad, egg salad sandwiches, chili Hut desserts are anything but cliche. I helped myself to one of these cupcakes with peanut butter frosting and a Reese's Pieces Peanut Butter cup on top.

Overall ambiance was quaint and it's the type of joint where you can rush to in-between classes (not to mention, it's close so you don't have to worry about traffic). And it's a healthier alternative to Burger King and McDonald's.

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Women Tell PEOPLE What They Think

An upcoming issue of PEOPLE magazine surveyed women on how they see themselves physically and on the hardship they face in trying to measure up to Hollywood's ideal. The results were interesting: 21 percent say Cindy Crawford has the body most of them want, 37 percent can identify with Oprah Winfrey's bizarro diet; 31 percent think Drew Barrymore's weight is perfect; 40 percent think that Hillary Clinton has the body most like "the average woman." The runner-up for that title was Sarah Ferguson. According to 27 percent, Goldie Hawn, 54, is the gamine among women 50. Tim Turner was next with 25 percent. The poll also asked about dieting. Seventy-two percent of women have tried to lose weight, 33 percent have bought a celebrity diet in order to lose weight, 50.

Emotional Betrayal

The couple is expecting their first child in November. Watkins says she'll take the next two years off as a mother and wife.

T-Boz Ties The Knot

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Entertainment

Chick Shepherd's

Entertainment

NOTE: Two weeks ago, some editions of News of the Weird contained an item that was, to my embarrassment, made up (the strip-club owner who had never heard of Rev. Billy Graham, I apologize to readers. -- Chuck Shepherd)

LEAD STORIES

-- In a July hearing in Akron, Ohio, Judge James Murphy briefly remanded a 1994 case to take testimony from the victim, who was only 7 at the time but who now claims to remember the incident much better. His recollection has been torn by (according to police) his mother's antics, with the boy accusing her because he had soiled his pants or (according to the mother) a sexual attack by the family's pit bull (corroborated, perhaps, by the fact that dog semen was found in the recollection). The mother is serving a life sentence, but her son (who was reticent at the trial, because of trauma) is now positive that the dog did it. A week after the hearing, Judge Murphy let the conviction stand, relying on other 1994 testimony.

-- In August, entrepreneur Adam Bliski received a license from the city of Oswiecim, Poland (aka Auschwitz), to open a disco on the spot of a World War II-era tarnery that "employed" concentration-camp workers and became a gravesite for many of them. And in September, "Stalin's World," a tourist attraction devoted to themes of the World War II-era Soviet police state, is scheduled to open near Gdansk, Poland, which was a gateway through which 200,000 Lithuanians passed on route to Soviet labor camps. The developer said he even plans to have visitors eventually enter the park on cattle cars and eat oat gruel and fish broth, just as the prisoners did.

Use Columbus' Libraries at Your Own Risk

In Columbus, Ohio, on July 12, Lester DeLord, 36, was sentenced to five years in prison for being an 11-year-old girl to a far corner of a public library, where he had fondled her feet. (He faces a similar charge in a library fondling in nearby Worthington, Ohio.) Four days later, police arrested Dwight D. Pannell, 40, for the assault of a 33-year-old female student (a stranger to him) in the main library at Ohio State; with a motive he is keeping to himself, he allegedly pricked her foot with a syringe containing an unknown substance.

The Entrepreneurial Spirit

-- The same engineering firm responsible for the notoriously wobbly Millennium Bridge in London, England, which has been closed as unsafe, was identified as the consultant for the soon-to-be-released Bioform brassiere, according to an August report in the London Daily Telegraph. The Ove Arup company found that replacing the bra's underwire with plastic bands would more comfortably distribute the load and reduce stress; it is also working on shock absorbers to make the Millennium Bridge once again usable.

-- In May, the Food and Drug Administration approved the prescription product Eros Cilaterial Therapy Device, a suction-pump instrument that increases blood flow for the purpose of improving sexual responsiveness. (Radurnitary blood-flow suction-pump devices for men, not approved by FDA, have long been on the market and sell for far less than $595 price tag, and in fact were illegal to possess in Alabama, Texas and Georgia, which ban devices sold for the purpose of stimulating sex organs.

-- In July, engineer Roman Kanknov gave a public demonstration in Ulfa, Russia, of his gasoline-powered boot, which would enable elderly walkers to jump around at about 12 feet per stride and run at a pace of about 25 mph. The boot, not yet on the market, weighs about 2 pounds each, including fuel.

Weird Science

-- While U.S. sewage plants efficiently screen out bacteria and solid waste, many other facilities cannot break down certain chemicals and hormones in pharmaceuticals, including pain killers, caffeine, antibiotics and birth control pills, which, as they spread into wastewater, cause environmental harm, including mutations in the reproductive organs of fish. Findings presented at the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society in Detroit (including studies blaming perfumes), along with recent studies from Europe's waterways (involving antidepressants, estrogen mimetics and cholesterol-lowering compounds) warn that certain species of fish are in jeopardy of extinction.

Update

News of the Weird has reported several times recently on the "sport" of cockfighting. Cockfighting is legal only in Oklahoma, New Mexico and Louisiana, and is under constant criticism from state legislators and animal-rights activists. However, according to a June New York Times story, the cockfighting infrastructure (33-state breeding industry plus designer-drug developers to enhance roosters' fighting performance) is flourishing, and cockfighting continues illegally in many other venues (for example, police raided events this year in Philadelphia and New York City). Furthermore, an anti-cockfighting bill in Congress, with broad bipartisan support, has been delayed, according to a July Washington Post story, because of the influence of the breeding industry.

Least Competent Criminals

T'Chacka Mshinda Thope, 25, was arrested in Lynchburg, Va., in May and charged with possession of cocaine after a brief chase; police caught up to him after Thope tripped on his low-riding baggy pants, fell, and fractured his femur. And in March, Edney Raphael, 39, running from a stabbing in Philadelphia with a bloody knife in his hand, was captured following a foot chase; he had turned his head to see where the officers were and run smack into a parking meter.

Also, in the Last Month...

A 49-year-old man shot up a bar, wounding five people, on orders from "the Locd," who said subsequent instructions would come from "Nash Bridges" (Topeka, Kan.). A 30-year-old Danish soccer fan returning at night from the Copenhagen-Viborg game in a fan's van perched out of the streetlight and was decapitated by an overpass. And separate power outages in New Orleans and Philadelphia have left many people enduring three days each, precariously trapped and hidden in rural isolation without food or water (an 85-year-old woman in her car, which ploughed off an overpass and hung in a tree above a swamp in Broward County, Fla., and a 75-year-old man in Carroll County, Va., stuck 15 feet down in his house when the floor collapsed.

( Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 18177, Tampa, Fla. 33617-0177, or to Weird@compuserve.com. Or go to www.NewsoftheWeird.com)
Comedy Central Brings "Battlebots" to the Airwaves

DAVID TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

As it stands today on American television, reality-based shows have stolen the ratings once held so dear by generic sitcoms and hour-long hospital dramas. Shows like "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" and "Survivor" are prime examples of this growing trend in the television entertainment industry, a trend that takes viewers away from fantasy and into the real world. It is with this in mind that Comedy Central plans to launch its own reality-based show, known as "Battlebots," a competitive sport that the station hopes to turn into a profitable franchise.

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FROM PAGE 20

occurs is that an individual constructs him or herself a robot, designed to specifically destroy other robots in battles to the death. The radio-controlled automatons are directed by their masters in a 48" by 48" arena. Their sole objective is to have their be the last bot standing, or at least not pulverized or annihilated. This, however, is much more difficult than it sounds, for each robot is equipped with instruments such as saws, spikes, and even sledge hammers that would put Gallagher to shame. Additionally, there exist several weight classes, light all the way up to heavyweight. This is especially important considering that some of the robots weigh in at almost 500 pounds, and would smash the smaller bots to pieces. Think of a sumo wrestler in a match against Mini Me and you might get the picture.

As for the show itself, it will premiere Wednesday, August 30 at 10:30 PM. Additionally, there are a few celebrity hosts of the show including Bill Nye the Science Guy (an appeal to the nerdy crowd perhaps) and Donna D’Errico of "Baywatch" (a definite appeal to the male crowd).

Apparently, they will provide commentary as the match goes on, much like announcers on wrestling shows such as WWF and WCW.

All in all, Comedy Central hopes the show to be as successful as others it has spawned such as "South Park" and "Win Ben Stein's Money." There are high hopes for the series, especially since the TV Critics Association voted it one of the top ten most original shows of 2000. Original or not, only ratings will determine whether the show is a success or an abysmal, Godzilla-type failure.

The show may be a success, however, for there is a certain comedic value in watching small robots annihilate one another, a value somewhat reminiscent of burning ants with a magnifying glass or watching "Dukes of Hazard." Okay, maybe that's going too far.

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NOW HIRING Flower Girls to work in Orlando's hottest night clubs part-time hours, minimum wages. 360-400/week. Contact Chris Giordano at 407-277-9100.
Gouttefarde, Prokopec earn academic honors in women’s tennis

The UCF women’s tennis team picked up a pair of presea-
on honors last week, as senior team captain Gaelle Gouttefarde and junior Sonja Prokopec were named Scholar-Athlete All-Americans last week but the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, the go-

vating body of colle-
giate tennis. The ITA also presented the Golden Knights with the All-

Academic Team honor for the teams combined 3.625 GPA.

“This again was a total team effort,” said UCF coach Patricia Allison. “When our latest recruit came in and was having difficul-
ties with the language, being an international student, the entire team stepped up and assisted her. She improved greatly.”

Gouttefarde, a native of Chambonieres, France, trans-
ferred to UCF from the University of South Alabama in 1998, and went 16-10 in singles and 22-3 in doubles last season, her final sea-
son as a Golden Knight.

“As captain of the team, Gaelle demonstrated her competi-
tive spirit and a solid 4.0 GPA average,” said Allison. “I’m proud of what the team accomplished.”

Prokopec, who came to UCF from Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, has finished all three of her years at UCF with a 4.0 GPA. She went 16-11 in singles and 14-7 in doubles last season, and will be expected to be one of the team leaders this year.

“Sonja is a tremendous example of how to make the most of a difficult situation,” said Allison. “Coming from a war torn, where opportunity is very limited, she has demonstrated her desire to play great tennis and to really excel in the classroom.”

Michelle Akers to retire from international competition

Michelle Akers, who played her collegiate soccer at UCF and now serves as an assistant coach with the National Team, has decided to retire from international competition after a long battle with injuries and chronic fatigue syndrome. Akers retires as the career leading scorer of the Women’s World Cup, and as one of only four players in women’s soc-

cer history with 100 or more career goals in intern-
tional competition. Her 105 goals, 37 assists and 247 total points trail only Mia Hamm in career scoring for the U.S. nation-

tal team. She has made 153 appearances for the United States, and holds U.S. records with five goals in a game, 39 goals in a year, and nine consecutive games with a goal. Akers had planned to play for the U.S. National Team in the upcoming Sydney Olympic Games, but after reinjuring her shoul-

der earlier this month, she decided not to play.

“I finally said to myself, ‘This is insane,’” she said. “I was battling at my absolute gut level to just get through the day, and finally, the last straw was that I reinjured my shoulder. I just said, enough is enough. I am no good to myself, the team, and I am certainly no good to my team.”

She still plans to play for the new WUSA franchise in Orlando, which starts play in April of 2001. There was no word regarding who her replacement would be with the Olympic team.

“After battling back from a messed up shoulder and mak-

ing the Olympic team, I found myself at the end — physically and mentally — with a body ready for a M-A-S-H unit,” said Akers. “It has been a hard-

fought year, and the decision not to go to Sydney was just as agonizing, but gave huge peace in knowing I fought to the very end and have nothing else to give.”

UCF Volleyball picked #1 in pre-

season TAAC poll

The UCF volleyball team was picked to finish first and to win the Trans America Athletic Conference championship in a preseason poll of the confer-

ence’s ten head coaches. The Golden Knights received four of the ten first-place votes, with Georgia State getting three and Florida Atlantic receiving two.

“We’re pleased to be ranked no. 1,” said UCF head coach Meg Colado. “It’s a lot to live up to, but we are looking forward to the challenge.”

UCF won the TAAC regu-

lar season title in 1999, but lost in the conference champi-

onship match to Florida Atlantic University, preventing them from earning a berth in the NCAA Tournament. This season, the Golden Knights return sophomore setter Becca Saldaña, who set a UCF record for assists last season, and junior middle blocker Piper Morgan, who ranked among the 1999 TAAC leaders in kills and blocks. The Golden Knights also brought in three prior recruits, including outside hitter Leyre Santalla Santí, who is a member of the Puerto Rican National Team.

UCF will begin the season with a trip to top 25-ranked Colorado on Sept. 1, in the first game of the Colorado PowerBle Invitational. Their first home game will be against Florida International University on Sept. 8 at 2:30 p.m., as part of the UCF Fall Invitational. The Golden Knights will face FAU at home on Sept. 26 at 7:30 p.m., in a rematch of last year’s TAAC Championship Match. The game will be tele-

vised live on the Sunshine Network.

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Beorlegui looks to bounce back from ‘99 season struggles

JOE MANZO
STAFF WRITER

One of the most experienced units of the UCF football team this season will be the special teams. Junior kicker and punter Javier Beorlegui is back, and has put last season’s disappoint­ ing performance behind him and will be counted on to make all of the important kicks for the Golden Knights this year.

Beorlegui converted on only half of his field goal attempts (10 of 20) in 1999, but did well on short kicks, making 9 of 12 on attempts of less than 40 yards. He fared better in the punting game, averaging over 40 yards per punt, and landing the ball inside the 20-yard line 15 times. Beorlegui has worked on his accuracy this off-season, and has shown it in fall practice. At the end of many of the practices, UCF Head Coach Mike Kruczek put Beorlegui into a pressure situation where if he made a field goal, the team would not have to run sprints. If he missed, however, the team would have to run. Beorlegui nailed a majority of those field goals, much to the delight of his teammates.

Joe

Weave, the Pro Bowl kicker for the Miami Dolphins, missed two field goals in a game last season when he also had to punt because of an injury to the team’s punter. Miami signed a new punter the following week and Mare connected on all of his field goal attempts. Despite having all three kicking responsibilities, the coaches are confident that Beorlegui will be able to handle his job.

“He’s the best kicker, and he’s the best punter, so he’s going to be doing both,” said special teams coordinator Charles Huff.

The fact that Beorlegui’s backup, redshirt freshman Gabe Leavitt, is out with an ankle injury takes away the possibility of Beorlegui becoming a punter exclusively. Beorlegui has done well thus far in practice, and his reps have been cut down to prevent fatigue.

Also returning to the special teams unit this year is junior Ricot Joseph, who had a UCF record three blocked punts last year, as well as kickoff returner Edward Mack and punt returner Britt McGriff. Joseph was the main reason why UCF’s eight blocked kicks ranked third in the nation last year, and two of his punt blocks were returned for touchdowns by junior Thad Ward, who is also back this season. Joseph also had a touchdown of his own on special teams, returning a punt blocked by junior linebacker Elliot Shorter. Mack was the team’s best kickoff return man with an average of over 21 yards on his 24 returns, with a long of 51 yards. McGriff, who returned 10 punts in 1999 for 82 yards, has been sidelined for most of fall camp with a hip flexor strain, possibly leaving the job of punt returner open to true freshmen Taveris Capers and Luther Huggins, both of whom are from Miami Jackson High School. Capers, who has already drawn comparisons to former UCF receiver Siaha Burley, has also been sidelined with an ankle injury, opening the possibility that he may redshirt and not play this season. Huggins is one of the fastest people in the country, winning this year’s National High School Championship is the 200 meters, and finishing second in the 100 meters. If neither of them redshirt, Capers will likely see time as a punt returner, and Huggins as a kickoff returner.

“If [Capers] does things most other young men can’t do,” said Huff. “He catches the ball real well, and has the ability to make people miss and take it the distance.”

Though they don’t see much actual time on the field, a special teams unit can make or break a football team’s chances of winning. This year, UCF will look to continue their kick blocking and returning success, while trying to improve the kicking game. If a game comes down to a late field goal kick, the Golden Knights want to know that they are going to win.

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Linebackers forced to shuffle due to injuries

Secondary healthy and experienced

Joe Manzo
Staff Writer

On of the biggest question marks for the UCF football team this season is at linebacker. Loss of players to graduation and injury has left the coaching staff scrambling to put enough players on the field.

Gone are Deaubrey Devine, Edwin Ferguson, and Chris Gunn, who combined for 120 tackles and six sacks last season, leaving junior weakside linebacker Tony Hardman as the only returning starter. Hardman led the team with five sacks in 1999, and had 47 tackles. Junior Tim Rodriguez was expected to fill the void left by Devine at middle linebacker, but had arthroscopic knee surgery two weeks ago and will be out until at least the second game of the season. Because of Rodriguez’s injury, the Golden Knights have been forced to move strongside linebacker Willie Davis into the middle, and moved former safety Elliott Shavers to the strongside linebacker position. Even sophomore Sean Gaudion, who was expected to be the backup fullback, has been moved to play middle linebacker. But despite a lack of experience at two of the linebacker spots, linebackers coach Bill Gaudion is happy with the newcomers’ progress.

“Shavers has had a great camp,” said D’Ottavio. “We play a lot of spread offenses and his speed will help. [Gaudion] has been getting better each day, and is getting comfortable with the position.”

Shavers’ speed should help in passing situations, but at 5’9”, 200 pounds, he may have trouble taking on the run head on. One of the bright spots for the linebacking corps this fall has been the emergence of freshman Aminie Poc Pou, who enrolled at UCF last spring, made 16 tackles and forced a fumble in a recent intrasquad scrimmage. He will be listed on the depth chart as Hardman’s backup, but will likely playing time this season in a number of situational defenses.

In contrast with the linebacker position, the defensive secondary is one of the most solidified on the team. Three of the four starters are returning this year, and there is plenty of depth behind them. The only starter gone from last year’s squad is cornerback Jeff Fye, who had 54 tackles last year, seven of those for losses, two interceptions, and 11 broken up passes. The leading candidate to replace Fye is junior Travis Fisher, who earned to spot in spring practices. That rest of the secondary is filled with experienced players.

“We have three guys who have played in a lot of football games, and all three are very good football players,” said Defensive Coordinator Gene Chizik, speaking about seniors Davin Bush and Damin Demps, and Junior Ricot Joseph.

Strong safety Demps is the leader of the secondary. He is attempting to lead the team in tackles for the third consecutive year. Demps also had two interceptions last year and a blocked kick to go along with his 72 tackles.

Senior FS Tommy Shavers brings UCF a strong leader. His teammates voted him team captain.

Linebackers & Secondary

Along with his 72 tackles. Junior Ricot Joseph will again start at free safety, besting out senior defensive captain Tommy Shavers for the position. Joseph had 35 tackles in 1999, including 7 for a loss, and two interceptions. He also blocked a UCF record three punts, two of which were returned for touchdowns. Though Joseph will start, Shavers has also done well in fall camp and will see playing time in the nickel defense.

The speedy Bush started all 11 games last year at strongside corner back and had 35 tackles and deflected six passes. Sophomore Asante Samuel may push Bush for playing time in that position, having broken up seven passes in limited action as a freshman and having played well in camp this year.

The strength of UCF’s linebackers and defensive secondary is the team speed, which will come in handy when having to cover the faster players of teams like Georgia Tech, Alabama, and Virginia Tech. The Golden Knight defense struggled for much of last season, and this year’s team will look to improve upon that and lead UCF to its first ever upset of a big conference team.

Gooch excited about depth at RB

Joe Manzo
Staff Writer

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Offensive line set to anchor high-powered offense

Brian Hanks
STAFF WRITER

During the 1999 season, the UCF football team had difficulty converting first downs in short yardage situations, and gave up 10 more sacks than their opponents. These problems were in large part due to a young and inexperienced offensive line, a problem that the Golden Knights are looking to fix in the upcoming season.

In the offseason, UCF hired Robert McFarland, who had been offensive line coach at Stephen F. Austin University since 1991, to be the Golden Knights new offensive line coach. McFarland brings with him almost 15 years of coaching experience, including three years as a graduate assistant at Notre Dame.

Anchoring this year’s line will once again be senior center Chris Lorenti, who earned Football News All-Independent honors last season, and is projected to go in the early to middle rounds of the NFL Draft this year. He is also generating plenty of attention from the scouts because of how well he moves for his size (6’5”, 320 pounds). He will make all the calls and adjustments on the front line and leads the team down the field. Injuries to possible starters Taylor Robertson and Kurt Baumann have put the Golden Knights in a bind, but a tentative depth chart right now has Lorenti at center, JuCo transfer Steve Edwards and sophomore Brian Huff at the tackle positions, and senior John Beauchamp and sophomore Garrett McCray at the guard spots. Sophomore Mario Jackson will start at tight end, after prize recruit Michael Gaines failed to qualify academically. Also pushing for playing time will be tackle John Wunberly and guard Willie Comerford. Baumann and Robertson both returned to practice this week, but their status for the Sept. 2 season opener is still uncertain.

“We need to cast up and be ready to go,” said McFarland. “It will just take a little time. This group showed up to camp in shape, ready to practice and they are a hard working bunch of guys.”

All of the offensive line showed up in shape except for JuCo transfer Patrick Jenrette, who showed up in the fall at over 400 pounds, which despite his 6’8” height is considerably overweight. Jenrette had been expected to come in and start right away, but the coaching staff fears for his health and the Golden Knights could be on their way to a quality academically. Also pushing for playing time this year. The remainder of the offensive line has worked very hard to improve upon their performance of a year ago, with McFarland teaching and motivating at every step of the way.

“The determination these guys show is great,” said McFarland. “We should be able to do our job up front and protect the pocket well enough for our offense to be able to produce plays and points.”

UCF’s high powered offense will need for the offensive line to give quarterback Vic Penn plenty of time to throw, and talented running backs Eddie Mock and Corey Baker plenty of holes to run through. If they are able to accomplish that, the Golden Knights could be on their way to a very good season.

“Our attitude and approach to each and every game should make us a good team,” said McFarland. “And that will ensure the success of the offense.”
Receiving corps deep and talented

KRYSTI SHONKA  STAFF WRITER

Despite losing standout wide receiver Charles Lee to the NFL’s Green Bay Packers after the 1999 season, UCF’s receiving corps is full of talent once again. As has been said about some other college football teams in this state, they don’t rebuild— they just reload.

Leading the way for the Golden Knights this year will be seniors Kenny Clark and Tavaris Capers both of whom gained experience last year.”

CLARK HANDS OFF TO FRESHMEN

“Despite losing standout wide receiver Charles Lee to the NFL’s Green Bay Packers after the 1999 season, UCF’s receiving corps is full of talent once again. As has been said about some other college football teams in this state, they don’t rebuild—they just reload.

Leading the way for the Golden Knights this year will be seniors Kenny Clark and Tavaris Capers both of whom gained experience last year. Clark and Capers have shown skills on the field that will make it tough for the coaching staff to rest them, but Capers has been sidelined with an ankle injury for the past week, decreasing his chances of making the team. Higgins, however, will likely be on the roster come the season opener. According to Head Coach Mike Kruczek, Higgins may be on the kick return unit.

"I don’t think we’re going to redshirt Higgins,“ said Kruczek. "I think we want to take him with us as a kick returner. But I get a little leery about putting a freshman back there in a big ball game. He’s a very talented kid, but I just don’t know how he’s going to take a hit—he may cough that ball up. There will be some detailed discussion about that guy."

No matter what receivers are on the field, Kruczek’s pass-happy offense will likely put the ball into their hands numerous times and give each wideout a chance to shine. Beckton said that this year they want to try to outdo the receivers from last year.

"They have shown skills on the field that will make it tough for the coaching staff to rest them,” said Kruczek. "Both Huggins and Capers have shown skills on the field that will make it tough for the coaching staff to rest them, but Capers has been sidelined with an ankle injury for the past week, decreasing his chances of making the team. Higgins, however, will likely be on the roster come the season opener. According to Head Coach Mike Kruczek, Higgins may be on the kick return unit."

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This year’s receiving corps will catch a lot of passes from the right arm of quarterback Vic Penn, who is expected to build on his success of last season. With a talented receiving corps and offensive backfield, the Golden Knights will once again be high scoring and fun to watch.

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Culpepper's follow-up almost He threw for more certainly an unenviable position as Daunte separate occasions, and was the first quarter­back to rush for over 100 State. Now said Hinshaw. "We would like having 158 yards on just 12 carries dur­ing one scrimmage. True freshman Alex Penn will be handing the ball off to a number of players coming out of the backfield. Senior Eddie Mack, who led UCF in rushing last season, will be the starter, but will be pushed by redshirt freshman Corey Baker. Baker has been nearly unstoppable in fall camp this year, gaining 158 yards on just 12 carries dur­ing one scrimmage. True freshman Alex Haynes may also be in the mix at tail­back, although the coaching staff still could decide to redshirt him for the sea­son.

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Penn, Mack bring senior leadership

KRISTY SHONKA
STAFF WRITER

Last season, starting quarterback Victor Penn was put into what was cer­tainly an unenviable position as Daunte Culpepper's follow-up act at UCF. Penn, however, responded to the challenge, throwing for 3,078 yards and completing nearly 60 percent of his pass attempts. He threw for more than 300 yards on four separate occasions, and was the first quar­tback in UCF's history to throw for over 100 yards in a single game when he car­ried the ball 11 times for 122 yards and a touchdown against Middle Tennessee. Now that Penn has cemented his own place in Golden Knights history, quarterbacks coach Darin Hinshaw is expect­ing the senior to have another suc­cessful season.

"Vic is very confident right now," said Hinshaw. "We've thrown a lot at him. We've put in a lot of new stuff, dif­ferent things and he's adapted very well to it. I think he feels comfortable with it and he's ready to go. He looks good, he's throwing the ball sharp."

"We would like him to be a top quar­terback in the country all year, My goal is to have no turnovers and for us to win the turnover ratio every week," Hinshaw said that if Penn can keep his com­pletion percentage at about 70 per­cent, UCF will win a lot of games this season. Penn has looked sharp so far in fall practices, now having had a full year to learn the offense. When Penn came to UCF as a transfer last fall, he had only fall camp to learn UCF Head Coach Mike Krzyzewiak's in­ciate passing schemes.

"After meeting with Coach Hinshaw for so long and him giving me keys and pointers, I definitely am starting to under­stand defenses and where I need to be with the ball with certain plays against certain coverages," Penn said. "It definitely help me against Georgia Tech."

Backing up Penn will be redshirt freshmen Ryan Schneider and Brian Miller. Schneider won the back up job with an impressive showing in spring practices, and has held onto it despite some nagging injuries during fall camp. If something happens to Penn, Hinshaw feels that Schneider and Miller can win for the team, but both still have plenty of room for improvement.

"I think they both can get a lot better and they need to continue to work on their own getting ready," said Hinshaw. "If Vic goes down, we have to have somebody ready to go in and back up. Right now it's Ryan Schneider and the next guy is Brian Miller."

Penn will be handing the ball off to a number of players coming out of the backfield. Senior Eddie Mack, who led UCF in rushing last season, will be the starter, but will be pushed by redshirt freshman Corey Baker. Baker has been nearly unstoppable in fall camp this year, gaining 158 yards on just 12 carries dur­ing one scrimmage. True freshman Alex Haynes may also be in the mix at tail­back, although the coaching staff still could decide to redshirt him for the sea­son.

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PHOTO BY JASON KOKOTOFF

After battling some injuries last season, tailback Edward Mack looks to stay healthy in his final season at UCF.

PHOTO BY JASON KOKOTOFF

UCF heads to Atlanta on Saturday for the third time, looking for win No. 1.