UCF PD to make major position changes

JAMES NUNEZ  STAFF WRITER

Because of their continual program and technological growth, the UCF police department is now making some important personnel changes for its future.

Detective Sergeant Randy Mingo, who has been with the department since 1988, became the department’s third lieutenant on Dec. 1.

“There is some good growth here, and a lot of changes taking place in the department that are really geared to servicing the community. So, I’m real positive about it,” said Sgt. Mingo.

As Lieutenant, Mingo will be overseeing all police activities during the evening hours, as well as such Special Service programs as the Bicycle Unit, SAPEE and Special Events. His patrol will also be providing direct supervision over the student housing facilities of Knight’s Court and Knight’s Krossing.

“We are no longer just an eight-to-four university. We have a lot of activities that occur out here at night, and we want to offer the same amount of service to the evening students,” said Mingo.

Mingo’s experience in investigation goes back a long way. He was one of the main detectives investigating the theft of $35,000 of laser equip-

Fall commencement to be held Dec. 15-16

ELAINE LEBLANC  STAFF WRITER

Commencement ceremonies for the fall 2000 semester will be held Dec. 15 - 16 at the UCF Arena. The procession of the students and the platform party will begin five minutes prior to the start of each ceremony.

Tickets will be available for pick-up at the UCF bookstore Dec. 4-9 with a photo ID during bookstore hours. Doctoral candidates and platform party guests can pick up their tickets in the Office of Constituent Relations (AD 328) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Although many students enjoyed their time at UCF, graduation is an event to which most look forward. Phil Donato said, “I am most excited about the idea of coming home at night and having absolutely no homework to do.”

Students are not the only Knights anticipating the commencement ceremony. Thomas Keon, dean of the College of Business, said: “I love graduation. It’s a very exciting time. People are happy; Parents are happy, and students are happy.”

The graduation exercises are scheduled as follows:

Students due their decorated caps and gowns at Fall graduation last year. This year’s tickets are available at the UCF Bookstore located in the John T. Washington Centre.

Dec. 15, 2000

* 10 a.m. College of Business Administration
* 1:30 p.m. College of Arts and Sciences

Dec. 16, 2000

* 9:30 a.m. College of Health and Public Affairs
* 1 p.m. Colleges of Education, Engineering & Computer Science, and School of Optics

The holiday season is upon us, fast paced shopping, crowded malls and agitated shoppers surround the stores looking for the perfect gift for a loved one. But does the holiday shopping season have to be so stressful?

There is an alternative to fighting this madness - online shopping. Although some people may be uncomfortable with shopping online, it can be both a convenience and a way to save money.

“At first I was hesitant on using my credit card online,” said UCF student Crystal Pittman.

“But many of the sites have secured links.”

DELIVERY, Page A-1

UCF student performs in Nutcracker

The cast of the Southern Ballet Theatre’s production of “The Nutcracker” dressed for a holiday performance. UCF senior Lee Marion juggles being a dancer with the Southern Ballet Theatre as well as a part of the marketing department and a student.

- For story, see page A-3

INTERNET SHOPPING Eases Holiday Headaches
Choose

*Leases are calculated with $1750 total down. Includes 1st payment, 0 sec. deposit, tags, title, and license.

2001 Jetta GLS
$215 mo/39 mos.*
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7 to Choose
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**All payments + tax, 39 months through Lender. 10,000 free miles per year (except 2000 Golf GLS). Lessee responsible for insurance. All leases w/ approved credit. Excessive miles at 15 cents per mile at lease end. Total of payment on 2001 Jetta GLS, $8,385; 2001 New Beetle GLS, $7,761. Residual at buyout: 2001 Jetta GLS, $11,452.75; 2001 New Beetle GLS, $11,467.50. 2000 Golf GLS: All payments plus tax, 42 months through Lender, 12,000 free miles per year. Total of payment: $10,878. Residual at buyout: 10,186.60. No dealer discount required. $250 termination fee. Offer ends December 20, 2000.

http://www.aristocrat.vwdealer.com • see salesperson for details
Delivery a main problem of online shopping

FROM PAGE A-1

A good majority of the stores online offer a secure web site to post your credit card number. When purchasing items from a specific site, it will inform the customer whether or not the site is secure. A warning will appear on the screen with specific information regarding the status of the web page.

The companies who sponsor web sites want their customers to not only purchase items in their stores, but they also want them to use their online services. This tactic increases profits for each company. One way to grab the attention of the shoppers is to have promotional sales that are for online users only.

For example, American Eagle offers free shipping and handling for orders $75 and higher while fogdog.com doesn’t give free shipping and handling until the orders are $100 or higher.

Many other online stores offer different promotions other than just free shipping. Oldnavy.com gives out a $10 holiday gift card with every $50 purchase, while others eliminate taxes from their products.

"Many of the products that I order online never have tax included which helps in the long run," said Pitman.

Ordering items online also offers the customer the convenience of not having to leave his or her house and fighting the crowds. In one afternoon a person can finish all of their shopping while enjoying the comfort of their own home. There are no lines and shoppers don’t have to worry about finding something in the right size, shape or color because all of the items are listed on each web site.

"Sometimes I worry that the package won’t arrive on time for the holidays," said Pitman.

One of the biggest problems with ordering online is the delivery service. When compared to shopping in a store, where items are guaranteed to be shipped immediately, online stores have to worry about shipping. Many of the companies that support web pages have a cut-off date for specific orders to guarantee delivery. For example, the Disney Store cuts off their standard shipping orders on Dec. 17. Any orders after this date are not guaranteed to arrive for the holidays. A web site will usually have a listing of the cut-off dates if applicable.

In some cases there are also restrictions as to the type of delivery that can be made. Personalized, non-rushing items and international orders are usually not guaranteed. Christmas is not the only holiday that has guaranteed shipping dates. Toys.com offers guaranteed arrival dates for Kwanzaa and Hanukkah gifts as well.

Before shopping online, a person should check for delivery deadlines and for any hidden promotions before committing to the online stores. There are pluses and minuses to going to the store versus shopping online, but using the Internet has a higher level of convenience for the stressed-out shopper.

"Shopping online is so much of a convenience because all of your shopping can be done in one afternoon without ever leaving the house," said Pitman.

"Besides, it’s also a lot of fun!"

Dancing through college

UCF senior to perform in ‘The Nutcracker’

AMY PAVUK // STAFF WRITER

While senior Lee Marion juggles classes and studying, he spends countless hours practicing, warming-up and rehearsing for performances of The Nutcracker.

Marion has worked with the Southern Ballet Theatre in the marketing department and performance area for six years. He will be involved with several acts in this year’s performance of The Nutcracker. In a feature role, Mother Ginger, Marion will walk on stilts making him 11 feet tall and wear a 40 pound hoop dress.

Despite finals approaching, Marion said he has very few scheduling conflicts. "Finals finish right about the time when The Nutcrackers starts," he said.

With time-consuming schedules for school and the Southern Ballet Theatre, Marion said, "This is pretty much it right now for jobs."

An average day for Marion consists of many daunting tasks. His day begins with a course at UCF’s South Orlando campus, followed by a private ballet class. At 1 p.m., Marion has another course, at UCF’s main campus. After class and a few hours break, Marion goes to work for the marketing department of the Southern Ballet Theatre. Marion then squeezes in time for a workout, just when the day is almost over, he attends an additional ballet class at 7 p.m.

Performing is a year-round activity for Marion. "I am always at a dance practice or studio; three, four, five, sometimes six days a week." The practice keeps him sharp and in tune.

Marion said some dancers retire at the age of 30, while others take character parts in performances or become artistic directors. There is no specific age a performer retires, said Marion, if it all depends on how much their body can handle.

Marion said he does not have plans to retire soon. "My body still says I can perform."

Marion wants to stay involved with the performing arts after graduation. With a degree in communications and minor in dance, he would like to work in an administrative position with a performing arts group.

The Southern Ballet Theatre is under the artistic direction of Fernando Bujones, a world-renowned performer. Marion said Bujones is known as one of the greatest dancers of the 20th century.

The Nutcracker performances will be held Dec. 8-23 at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center, Orlando. Tickets and information can be obtained for the event by calling the box office.
Holiday season made easy with meager budget

Christmas season doesn't cost a fortune

**ADAM SHIVER  STAFF WRITER**

Christmas is that special time of the year when everyone gathers together for the holidays to celebrate and be joyous. It seems that the exchange of gifts for Christmas is the focus of the whole holiday. For a college student, this means spending money that most do not have.

Christmas does not have to be on our wallets though. There are many different ways to avoid racking up those high interest credit card bills and emptying that purse; things college students want.

"A present from the heart is good," suggested Valencia Community College sophomore, Leon Terry. Many students invest in one of the large box of Christmas cards. With a personalized message in each this can be used as a simple gift to those with little or no money at holiday time.

Lots of students feel, though, that this is not acceptable. "How can you not give someone something at Christmas?" many students ask.

Another easy way to save a little money is to shop in places like the dollar store or thrift shops. There are many things you can get at the dollar store that are the exact same items you would buy somewhere like Wal-Mart or Target. The only difference is it costs just a dollar. The dollar store is an especially good place to shop for children.

Buying a toy for a small child can be an expensive undertaking. It is often a waste, considering they are going to lose interest in a few days or tear the toy apart to discover how it works.

Thrift stores are great in that most items are in relatively good condition and at least half the price of the department stores. Here, like the dollar store, you can find many toys as well as things appropriate for more or less. You can get everything from tools to appliances, VCR's to vases, and even collectibles and memorabilia. Gifts bought at the thrift store are going to run you quite a bit more than the dollar store, of course, but you will avoid what is sold at the mall. It is always a good idea to thoroughly inspect your purchase to ensure it works properly before you leave the store. Most thrift stores have no return policy.

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Where’s my keys? Where’s my car?!

On Monday, Nov. 20, Brenda Aroche, 21, parked her 1998 Ford Taurus in what is known by police as parking lot six hundred. Upon exiting the vehicle, she used her remote control key system attached to her key chain to lock it.

During the course of the day, Aroche somehow lost her key chain. When she returned to the parking lot, she found that her Taurus was missing as well. Officer James Meeks, who investigated the crime, believes that Aroche lost her key chain in the parking lot, where the thief found them. Aroche could name no possible suspect, but said that she will press charges.

Another day, another DUI

Officer Joseph Ingerham conducted a routine traffic stop on Michael Grecz as he drove his Honda on Gemini Boulevard North. As he followed Grecz’s car, Officer Ingerham noticed that the noise abatement devise on the vehicle had been modified to sound louder than normal. Grecz slowed his car to twenty mph in a thirty-five mph zone.

Upon making contact with Grecz, Officer Ingerham could detect a strong smell of alcohol coming from the car. According to Ingerham, Grecz was having trouble locating his vehicle registration. Then, when Ingerham asked Grecz for his license, he reached into his back pocket before realizing that it was in his front pocket. Grecz was taken to the Orange County DUI Testing Center.

Copper levels on the rise at UCF

Copper is a naturally occurring metal and is also a nutrient to the human body. However, the Environmental Protection Agency has set an action level of 1.3 ppm for copper. Water systems that exceed this level must notify their users and institute a copper control plan. Corrosion control in drinking water is the primary means of eliminating copper in water. Interim measures are simply to flush your water taps as detailed below.

To reduce exposure to copper in drinking water let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking anytime the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. Flushing the tap means running the faucet until the water gets noticeably colder or for 15-30 seconds. Try not to cook or drink with hot water from the tap. Hot water can dissolve copper more quickly within the pipes than cold water.

The physical plant is working with Dr. James Taylor of UCF’s College of Engineering to improve our corrosion control system and correct the copper levels that exceed the acceptable level of 1.3 mg/l.

If you have questions or need additional information please call 407-823-2471.

Refrainations and corrections

An article in the Nov. 22 issue of the Central Florida Future titled “Bacopoulos crowned as Mr. UCF 2001” stated, through information provided by CAB, that last year’s Mr. UCF, John Santo, had been stripped of his title three days before the pageant. The former Mr. UCF had actually been pulled from the pageant due to attending practices for the event. Hence Chris Riehl, the first-runner-up of last year’s pageant became the emcee for the event.
Leg warmers and GI
Joe take student back

ADAM SHIVER
STAFF WRITER

Recently I reached the ripe old age of 21. I was realizing all of the things that have come and gone during my short 21 years. I have been going over things I remember from yester-year that we were all quite fond of. So I decided to share this list in an effort to reminisce...

In our time GI Joe was our All-American hero, while Jim and the Holgramons rocked out and fought evil. Ship bracelets, jelly shoes and Hyper Color shirts were donned by kids in elementary schools across the nation. Pogo-Balls, Skip-Its, Roller Racers, Big Wheels and Nash skateboards rule the sidewalks of our neighborhoods everywhere.

Pac-Man and Asteroids were our first teachers in hand-eye coordination only to be over taken by Mario and his friend Luigi.

Everything was a bright Day-Glo color including the leg warmers and headbands which so many of us were wearing. Cartoons ruled the Saturday morning airwaves. We rolled out of bed early each weekend to engulf ourselves in He-Man, Gummibears, Pee-wee's Playhouse and Garfield and Friends.

Michael Jackson taught us how to moonwalk and fighting bad guys like Mr. T did on the A-Team. For some reason our parents wouldn't let us watch Nickelodeon's show titled You Can't Do That On Television. This led to many of us missing out on Alain's Morrisette's start in showbiz.

Clear Pepsi and New Coke came and went just as the special candy-bars that did not melt in extreme heat that were sent too the troops in Desert Storm.

Huey Lewis and the News, Vanilla Ice, Pearl Jam and Metal Hammer were some of our very first concerts.

The Karate Kid made us all want to run out and sign up for karate lessons just so we could learn that cool kite kick while Michael J. Fox made us all believe in time travel and bug people's parents to make a Hover-board for Christmas.

For breakfast we feasted on Count Chocula, Rice Krispies (when Snap, Crackle and Pop were cool), Captain Crunch and Lucky Charms.

Garbage Pail Kids cards were just as popular as baseball cards and comic books were for reading, not just collecting.

We didn't even know what the Internet was and Publix supermarkets used that gold colored receipt tape that elementary schools collected to trade in for Apple II computers. It was a time when, unlike today, not everyone had a computer in their homes.

My Little Pony and Strawberry Shortcake were favorite toys among girls and Thundercats and Silver Hawks were popular with boys.

Lego blocks and Lincoln Logs let us build whatever our minds could imagine.

Larry Bird was a player of basketball, not a coach, and the Braves were constantly made fun of for being such an awful baseball team.

While this list just barely scratches the surface, it contains some of the most memorable things that I, and many of you, grew up with. If there is something you remember from the 80's and 90's that you were fed of or stands out in your mind, email it to me at adam@ufufuture.com.
FSU drum major holds onto father's dying lessons

Gerald Ensley
Knight-Rider Newspapers

More than 80,000 spectators saw Florida State drum major Jon Richards strut to midfield last Saturday night, then quietly kneel and pray. The significance was probably lost on most viewers—though not on the man Richards was honoring.

"I knew my father would still be watching," Richards said. "I wanted to let him know I was thinking about him."

Richard's father, Don, died two days before the Florida-Florida State football game after a 6-year battle with cancer. Don Richards, only 53, was a Jacksonville, Fla., native, FSU graduate and ordained minister.

He and his family moved back to Tallahassee in 1989, after he accepted a job as a counselor at Turnabout Inc., a youth counseling agency. In 1998, he became director of youth ministries at Killearn United Methodist Church.

His son's gesture at the Florida-Florida State game was honoring "a man Richards' father, Don, died last December 6, 2000. www_.expresswayauthority.com

KNIGHT-RIDDER

expressway

[LEFT]

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KNIGHT-RIDDER

expressway

[LEFT]
Every time I hear a pundit say your vote counts I’m disgusted. Enough already of this election stuff, I can’t stand it anymore. The eyes of the world are upon us, and we, the citizens of Florida, are being roasted like a tourist in July’s open season on Florida’s institutions, governmental agencies, its leaders, and of course its citizens. Guess what, we can’t do anything about it.

The State of Florida fell between the aim of the Democratic and the Republican parties who are locked in a struggle to control the federal government. None of them seem to care that the people they are fighting to control are tired of this election stuff. We should all recognize that this election is about the power of the national government. None of them seem to care that the people they vote what. We can’t hear these words, when you thought political ple have spoken.

Now the fighting has moved a little closer and we heard these words, “America, the election Who. And West Palm Beach was ground zero. Now the fighting has moved a little closer to home in Seminole County, and just when you thought it was over...

Think about for a moment, this was the most boring Presidential campaign since “Superfriends” was on TV in the afternoon. This election took place at all and it all started. Day two of this boring saga, we heard these words, “America, the people base spoken.”

Both announced his victory in the middle of the recount. He insisted he won the election. Who knew?

The usually smooth Vice President showed his tendency to white insinuating all he wanted was a fair and accurate count. Yeah right. He wanted to concede when CNN got the call wrong the fourth time. I don’t know why, I stopped listening to CNN for the weather last year. They can’t even get that right.

We should all recognize that this fight is about the power of the political national parties and everyone knows and-capable of voting? Some very stupid people vote, and some very limited people vote. Damn right – their votes are as important to this nation’s heritage and democratic tradition as 5,000 PhDs. We don’t have the right to say that any one group won’t, or any singular group’s vote is more important than anyone else’s.

I’m saddened and disgusted by those who laugh at turnip heads from NYC or LA state. Remember the carjackings and help the people sometimes the law sucks. Crow Florida, and she gave everything she had to her church. She was a beautiful woman – inside and out. She needs an honest vote to – she’s earned it. That is the least we can do for those who defeated fascism. Count every vote and help the people.

Anyway, I just wanted to say “One man, One vote, Yeah right.” Not this time. And definitely not in Florida. I would have voted for the candidate who would have done away with the recount and helped the people. It’s all good, we’ll get it right next time. Like Smokey said, “when you say you’ll be quiet, I’ll be quite. But when you leave, I’ll talk again.” We will never forget what has happened this year, in this state, and to our fellow citizens. Thanks Democracy, We appreciate it. Keep up the good work. Maybe you can bring the nation to the edge of a civil war again. I’m sure Al Gore and I won’t be there.

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'Twas the night before Finals

'Twas the night before finals, when all through the university,
The students were cramming, one of them being me.
My roommate was nestled all snug in her chair,
While visions of A's hung in the air.

And she in her do-rag, and I in my cap,
Had just studied so much we thought our brains would snap.

On the way to the window, I tripped on a rind,
I got up quickly and opened the blind.
The moon on my car reflected in the new rain,
It gave luster to my crappy car which made me insane.

When what to my wandering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.
From far away I saw ·a driver so quick,
I thought in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled and shouted and called them by name.
''Now Scantron; now Pencil, now Essay, and Paper!
On Sharpener, on Pen, on Ruler, and Eraser!"

"To the top of the complex, to the top of the wall!
Now dash away, dash away, dash away all!"

So up to the top of the apartment they flew,
And back down they came when they learned what I already knew.

And then in a twinkling I heard a sound,
This alleged Santa came in the door with a bound.
"We don't have a chimney?" I jokingly asked.
"I guess not, chimneys are a thing of the past."

He was dressed in all silver,
From his head to his toe.
And from my first glance,
I began to know.

It wasn't St. Nick as I first thought so,
It was none other than our dear Knightro.
His eyes how they twinkled.
His smile so merry.
To poor Alabama,
He had been so scary.
A bundle of study aides he flung on his back.
And he looked like a knight just opening his pack.

He spoke no more words,
And went straight to his work.
He passed out coffee and Cliffs Notes,
And turned with a jerk.

And laying his hand on his jousting stick,
He flew out the door so very quick.
He hopped in his sleigh,
And his system it roared.
He played some Method Man,
And my heart soared.

Over the beats I heard him exclaim
As he drove out of sight,
"Good luck to all, and to all a good Knight."

Happy Holidays
Picking the perfect present

JOSHUA MURDOCK
STAFF WRITER

Picking the perfect present is a pain in the derriere. Especially when holiday time comes around and present shopping is on everyone’s mind. Finding that perfect gift may not be as hard as most think.

Yes, we all hate the person that says get me whatever, it’s the thought that counts. Not true, the person is really thinking, what in H-E-double-6 is this person going to wear. Their underwear you get is for a reason.

“Clerks” and “Chasing Amy.” What made this gift so special is that the author Kevin Smith signed the screenplay. Even my buddy’s friends were amazed at the fact that I got the book signed. Even though the book was not that expensive, the extra thought of getting it signed was the kicker. Little things that not just anyone can get makes a gift much more special.

As long as it is not a bag of two-week-old Taco Bell that was sitting in the back of your mind; until after Christmas.

While the thought of finding that perfect present still remains overwhelming for most, I think I have found out the secret. No, it’s not in a little pill and you don’t have to pay the back of your mind; until after Christmas. The best gift of all is the thing that you really want also remains in the back of your mind; until after Christmas.

While the thought of finding that perfect present still remains, what you really want also remains in the back of your mind; until after Christmas. That’s because they have no idea what you really want. Most people really have no idea what you want for any kind of present. That’s because what you really want also remains in the back of your mind; until after Christmas.

Remember that it is the thought that counts when you get someone a present, but also remember to put heart and soul into making someone smile. As long as it is not a bag of two-week-old Taco Bell that was sitting under your front seat.

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Opinions

Failure to teach tolerance can have tragic consequences

Debbie Woodell
KNIGHT-RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Haverford, Pa.
Spencer County, Ky.
Minneapolis, Pa.

What links these seemingly disparate communities is news involving young people, some good, too much of it tragic.

Take Haverford, for instance. Haverford High School is in Philadelphia, where marches and protests have become the norm. The school has a student newspaper, the Templeton, that has been forced to cover the protests, and the absence of a unifying vision. “What we're going through is a diversity of visions,” says Dale Weaver, a graduate student organizer with United Students Against Sweatshops at San Jose State University. “Having one vision could exclude potential allies.” Student groups that organize around sweatshops, the environment and corporate accountability are often stereotyped as “privileged white kids.” Many students are acutely aware of this criticism and are making constructive efforts to be more inclusive, such as appointing national African-American organizations on campus. “At the protest against the World Bank and IMF, I was talking to two black deputy officers who said that if we were marching in the streets for urban poverty, they would be happy to march with us,” says Jesse Dickerman, co-founder of Rice Students for Global Justice at Rice University. “For the movement to be inclusive, organizing on the community level needs to be done by the same people who show up at the protests.”

What will the students who were protesting the World Trade Organization in Seattle do once they graduate? Cynics expect that their activists will drift away as they grab the first job that offers stock options. By contrast, 36 out of 40 students I interviewed said they plan to join social justice, labor or environmental- rights organizations in the United States and abroad. William Winter, a member of the Student Environmental Action Coalition at Louisiana State University, says, “Through organizing in minority communities my contribution will be getting people from different cultural, racial, and economic backgrounds involved in the movement.”

Rachel Grad, a writer for Rookie, a social-justice magazine at the University of Washington, says, “Through progressive journalism, I want to enable everybody to have an audible voice.”

During the past year, these young activists—organizers in “Seattle” have demonstrated staying power and sophistication. They — and the movement against corporate globalization — are not going away anytime soon.
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FOR RENT

Mystery Shopper needed for Orlando area businesses. Call to shop Pubs, Pet, fine restaurants, and more! To receive free meals, call 407-574-5735 or fax 407-585-3080.
TRUE OR FALSE?

25% OF PEOPLE SAY THEY CAN DETECT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOW EACH NOSTRIL PERCEIVES SMELL.

AMERICANS EAT APPROXIMATELY 350 SLICES OF PIZZA PER SECOND.

7 OUT OF 100 AMERICANS HAVE FLOSSED THEIR TEETH WITH THEIR HAIR.

MEN BURP 4.7 TIMES PER DAY WHILE WOMEN BURP 2.1 TIMES PER DAY.

8% OF COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE NOT WATCHED T.V. IN THE LAST WEEK.

NEARLY 2/3 OF COLLEGE STUDENTS DRINK ON AVERAGE LESS THAN ONE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE PER DAY.*

ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR AMERICANS HAS APPEARED ON TV.

3.9% OF WOMEN DON’T WEAR ANY UNDERWEAR. 6.4% OF MEN GO COMMANDO.

*SOURCE: CORE INSTITUTE 1990

GUESS WHAT? EVERY ONE OF THESE IS TRUE. MOST IMPORTANTLY, COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE MAKING RESPONSIBLE CHOICES ABOUT DRINKING. THANKS FOR MAKING INTELLIGENT CHOICES THE NORM.
Fall sports have bright future in store

FROM PAGE A-20
quarterback after Vic Penn suffered a sep­ arated shoulder, and performed beyond any expectations that the coaching staff had for him. Senior wide receiver Tyron Hinshaw turned out to be the best pound-for-pound football player in America, end Elton Patterson's get open and make tough catches even Clark and Eddie Mack to graduation, they had for him. Senior wide receiver Tyson Gain players like Terrance Williams, Alex Haynes, Atari Bigby, Tevaris Capers, Luther Huggins and Derek Poerner for the 2001 season. Next year's team might be the most talented group of players to ever don the Black and Gold. Who wouldn't be encouraged?

The women's soccer and volleyball teams were both picked in the preseason to win their respective TAAC Championships this season, but both fell short. The volleyball team went all the way to the finals of the TAAC Tournament, while the women's soccer team bowed out in the semi-finals. Still, there are plenty of things to be encour­ aged about. The volleyball team benefitted from the unbelievable play of freshmen Leyze Santauela Sante, Lindsey Whalen and Jenny Frank, and they are only going to get better. Add to that TAAC performers Piper Morgan and Becca Saldana and another great recruiting class and you get a team that once again will contend for a conference title. The women's soccer team loses only four seniors to graduation, and has a stable of talented players just waiting to get their chance. Walk-on freshman goalie Carol Lewis was the biggest surprise on the team, going from making the final spot on the roster to starting goalie in the sec­ ond half of the season. It is likely that the Golden Knights will once again be picked to win the conference at the begin­ ning of next season.

In Cross Country, junior Sonja Shedden won the TAAC Runner-of-the-Year award and became the first Golden Knight ever to qualify for the NCAA Championships, and will be back next year to headline good squads on both the men and women's sides.

One can even be encouraged about the men's soccer team, even though they suffered through the worst season in school history. The Golden Knights took the field with so many young players that it almost could have been a high school team, and with all of the playing time those young players get this season, they will be seasoned veterans next year. Among those who especially impressed were freshman midfielders Risto Koskimies and Chris Beaulac. Koskimies earned All-TAAC freshman team honors, while Beaulac was one of UCF's top scorers.

All of UCF's full sports are looking up. The talent level is getting higher and higher as the school establishes itself as a major university. The school is capable of earning a Top 25 ranking system. Eventually the football gods will come to their senses and recognize that Florida State is the nation's best team, and the team with the most talent and best coaching. The future is bright for UCF's sports teams.

FROM PAGE A-16
opponent's record and one-three is based on the opponent's oppo­ nent's record. The fourth compo­ nent is based on the team's won/loss record. Teams receive one point for each loss. All the points are added together and the team with the lowest point total at the end wins. In this case it’s Oklahoma and Florida State in the Orange Bowl, playing for the National Championship. Miami still does have a chance at sharing the title, however. If Florida State beats Oklahoma and Miami beats Florida in the Sugar Bowl, Miami will share the National Championship with Florida State. If that were to happen it should make for an interesting FSU-Miami game next year.

As for the BCS ranking sys­ tem, it's far too complex, and obviously has its flaws. The only fair way to determine a National Champion is through some kind of playoff series, but for now college football fans are stuck with the BCS system, err, the BCS sys­ tem. Eventually the football gods will come to their senses and come up with a more appropriate and fair way to determine who reigns supreme in college foot­ ball, but until then, it looks like FSU will get the benefit of the doubt.

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hair on both men and women."
Terrance Williams, Alex Haynes and back position will be quite crowded with Omari Howard trying to win the starting job. Playing time next year. The running back position in the Golden Knight backfield is productivity. ‘I’ve had a Hilltopper coach Earl Gaudion in the Golden Knight backfield is productive. Be it the one-year span, his team is the most prolific running backs in the Golden Knights. Keith Williams, one of the most prolific running backs in the Golden Knights. Rushed for 1,135 yards with 21 touchdowns and 126 points. In his senior, scoring 14 touchdowns as a senior. Hillsborough High history, giving the most prolific running backs in the Golden Knights. Seven Golden Knights rushed for 127 yards on just nine carries. In the two-year span, he is the most productive back ‘I’ve had at Hillsborough,’ Terrier coach Earl Garcia told the St. Petersburg Times.

Williams will join Hillsborough alumnus and UCF fullback Sean Guidon in the Golden Knight backfield, but is not likely to see much playing time next year. The running back position will be quite crowded next season, with Corey Baker, Terrance Williams, Alex Haynes and Omini Howard trying to win the starting job.

Seven Golden Knights named to All-Independent Team
Seven UCF football players, including record-setting receiver Tyson Hinshaw, have been named to the 2000 Football News All-Independent Team, which will be printed in that publication’s Dec. 9 issue. UCF, which finished with a 7-4 record, has more representatives on the team than any other school, including Notre Dame (6), Middle Tennessee (3), Connecticut (3), Louisiana Tech (2), Navy (1), Louisiana-Lafayette (1), and Louisiana-Monroe (1).

Joining Hinshaw on the team are center Chris Lorenti, kicker Javier Beorelguai, defensive tackle Josh McKibben, defensive end Elton Patterson, linebacker Tito Rodriguez and safety Damian Damps.

Hinshaw set a school record and finished second in the nation with 89 receptions, despite being slowed by a knee injury. He caught eight passes for 14 points and six touchdowns in UCF’s 40-38 win at Alabama despite suffering a separated shoulder in practice the Tuesday prior to the game.

Lorenti also made the squad last season. Hinshaw, Beorelguai, McKibben, Patterson, Rodriguez and Damps are all first time honorees.

UCF men’s basketball drops TAAC opener
Mercer senior Kerry McCray hit a running jump shot with less than a second remaining to give Mercer (2-2, 1-0) a 69-68 victory against UCF (1-3, 0-1) last Saturday. After McCray hit the shot with sixth-tenths of a second remaining to put the Bears up 69-67, fans from the stands rushed the court, resulting in a technical foul call. UCF junior guard Jason Thornton made the free throw, but the Golden Knights were unable to connect on a desperation full-court shot. After trilling by four at the half, Mercer shot 68.2 percent in the second half to earn the victory.

In the final minute of the game, a three-pointer by Thornton cut Mercer’s lead to one point, but Rodney Kirtz hit a jumper to put Mercer ahead by three with 31 seconds remaining. After a foul shot by the Bear’s Bobby Hansen, UCF sophomore point guard Al Miller scored and made a free throw with 11 seconds left to cut the lead to 67-65. UCF forced a turnover on an inbounds play and Thornton hit a short bank shot to tie the game at 67 with 31 seconds to play in the second half. A technical foul called on the Bear’s coach Hewitt set up the free throw, but the Golden Knights couldn’t convert and were given a foul to shoot a second. Udofia made both free throws and Mercer was up 69-67. Mercers junior forward Kimani Lawrence hit a jump shot with less than a second to go and the Bears took home a 69-68 victory.

Robert Reid added 14 points and five rebounds. Thornton had 15 points, while Miller had seven points and two assists.

Colado excited about next season
FROM PAGE 16
Q: What are you expecting from the three new freshmen [Tanya Jarvis, Sara Judy, and Amanda Stoutjesdyk] next year?
A: I’m expecting them to challenge right away for starting positions, like I expect for my freshmen every year. Each one of them brings something different then what we currently have. I’m looking forward to them running with the current players, challenging the current players, and giving us a little more depth.

Q: With three freshmen coming in and nobody graduating, who is most likely to play considerably less?
A: I don’t know right now. I leave that up to the gym. On paper you can say that “this person’s hitting this” and “this person’s better,” but training camp really distinguishes people apart from another. It’s six hours a day plus conditioning in the gym, and people separate themselves in training camp. I determine who’s going to play based on that.
**Commentary by Kristy Shonka**

**Staff Writer**

It looks like Miami is going to be left out of this year's National Championship game following Oklahoma's 22-14 win over Kansas State in the Big XII Championship game. This is all thanks to the Bowl Championship Series Poll or, more appropriately, the BCS poll, which uses some cryptic computer formula to determine which two teams play for the national title. This year, the BCS poll matches up Oklahoma, a worthy pick considering the fact that they went undefeated and won the Big XII Championship against Florida State, a not-so-worthy pick. FSU, Miami and Washington each have one loss this season. Washington beat Miami in their regular season meeting, and Miami beat Florida State. But the BCS doesn't take those into account head-to-head ranking. Oklahoma beat Nebraska when they were number one and beat Kansas State twice. Had they lost Saturday in the Big XII championship game, FSU and Miami would have likely ended up playing a rematch for the national title. But that didn't happen, so Oklahoma will play FSU in the Orange Bowl while Miami has to settle for playing Florida in the Sugar Bowl.

The BCS rankings worked fine during their first two years of existence, benefiting from the fact that in each of the past two years, exactly two teams have finished undefeated. Making them the obvious choices for playing in the national title game. The 1999 National Championship game saw Tennessee beat FSU, and in 2000 FSU got their revenge when they beat Virginia Tech.

But this year it's hard to make a solid case for who should really be number two. There are five teams in the top 10 with only one loss, and each team can make their own case as to why they should be playing Oklahoma in the Championship game. But the BCS has spoken and somehow it's chosen Florida State.

For those of you who have no idea what goes into the BCS rankings, here's the breakdown. There are four major components to the rankings. The first is the average ranking of each team in the USA Today/ESPN coaches poll and the Associated Press poll. The second component is comprised of the following eight computer rankings: New Year Times, Jeff Sagarin's USA TODAY, The Andersen/Hester/Seattle Times, Richard Billingsley, Dunkel Index, Kenneth Massey, David Rothman, and the Matthew/Scripps-Howard rankings. The top seven rankings are averaged for the computer component. Strength of schedule is the third component. This part is calculated by comparing the cumulative win/loss records of the team's opponents and the cumulative win percentage of the teams' opponents. Two-thirds of this component is based on the

**Bowl Championship Series**

**Q & A with Volleyball Coach Meg Colado**

**Joe Manzo**

**Staff Writer**

The UCF women's volleyball season had another successful season, but the Golden Knights fell just short of an NCAA Tournament berth when they lost in the finals of the TAAC Championships. After the season, the Central Florida Future sat down with Head Coach Meg Colado for a session of Q & A.

Q: Were you satisfied with the team's accomplishments this year?

A: Overall I think we did some really good things. In the beginning of the year, we set as our goal, to go the NCAA Tournament and win our conference tournament. That's the only way to get to the NCAA Tournament. The girls and I were disappointed that we did not beat Georgia State in the finals. However, there were a lot of good things that were accomplished throughout the year.

Q: What players, if any, played above your expectations this season?

A: I thought that (freshman outside hitters) Leyre (Santaella Sante) and Lindsey Whalen did a fantastic job for us. They were the most steady players throughout the season.

Q: Did any players disappoint you this season?

A: I think that some of our players aren't strong enough yet to last through an entire season. I think the off-season and the summer training program is really crucial to all players, but I think that some of them lack the strength to be able to play consistently throughout the year.

Q: What is the outlook for next season?

A: I'm excited to get everybody back. I think a year of lifting with Dan (Eison), our strength coach who is wonderful, is really going to show. This team is going to be stronger and faster, and they'll have a year under our belt of playing together, so that's a good thing.
golden knights hold first place in TAAC standings

FROM PAGE A-20

scoring 10 points, Graham added five points and eight rebounds, while freshman guard Marvallas Washington scored nine points. The Golden Knights shot 43 percent, while holding JSU to just 25 percent for the game.

Earlier in the week, UCF lost 68-37 to Florida State at the UCF Arena. The game was out of reach for the Golden Knights shortly after it started. FSU took a 25-4 lead with 6:21 to play in the first half, and UCF was never able to recover. The Seminoles then increased their lead before halftime and went into the break with a 37-15 lead. That was the closest UCF would come. Despite the loss, however, UCF Head Coach Gail Striegler was optimistic about how the team played.

"We played the best defense we've played all year," said Striegler. "We'll win lots of games in our conference if we continue to play that type of defense."

That defense was lead by freshman forward Adrienne Billings, who had a blocked shot to go along with a game high nine defensive rebounds. Senior forward LaToya Graham and freshman Nicole Dunson also had blocks. Junior point guard Yvette Ash and Kristy Colligan had steals. Ash led last year's team in that category.

Offensively, UCF was without sophomore forward/guard Erin Page for most of the game after she injured her knee early in the first half, something that disrupted the team's offense, according to Striegler.

"That [the loss of Page] hurt us a lot," said Striegler. "We run about four of our special plays for Erin, and that took about four of our plays out of the offense."

Graham led the team with 13 points, and Dunson had 10. However, only Colligan shot over 34%. The shooting percentage for the team was 29%, the worst in school history. The previous low was 22%.

UCF (3-3, 2-0 TAAC) returns to action on Dec. 9, when they will travel to Gainesville to take on the University of Florida Gators.

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UCF to play Gators on Dec. 5

PHOTO BY JASON KOKOTOFF

UCF’s starting point guard so far this year, Junior Yvette Ash has been UCF’s best perimeter defender this season, averaging 4.9 blocks per game.

UCF travels to Gainesville

UCF will play at the University of Florida this Tuesday, trying to pick up the school’s first ever win over the Gators. The Golden Knights are 0-21 all time against UF. UCF has already lost its first two intrastate rivalry games, dropping decisions to South Florida and Florida State. The in-state games do get easier after UF though. They are at Bethune-Cookman next Friday and play at home against Florida Atlantic in early January.

"They’re out sizing us at every position so we have to do the fundamentals," said Striegler about UF. "In order to beat them, we’ll have to play a perfect game."
Billings leads UCF in points and rebounds

FROM PAGE A-20

nickname, and she had to do so earlier than anyone expected. When junior forward Khaliah Guillory went down with injury in the first three seconds of the first regular season game, Ace was left with some pretty big shoes to fill. Guillory's experience and talent were expected to lead this Golden Knight team, but when she went down Billings came in and recorded a double-double in her first ever collegiate game.

Since then, Ace has been the team's leading scorer, averaging 12.25 points per game, and is close to averaging a double-double with nine rebounds per game.

Billings was an All-State player her senior year at Timsville High School, but she wasn't expected to be this big of a contributor this early in her freshman year.

"I don't think anyone expected her to go down in her first game back," said UCF Head Coach Gail Striegler. "Everybody knew she was going to be able to play. But to come in, especially after suffering the injury in first game, to contribute this early on is pretty phenomenal."

And though you don't notice it in her play, Billings recognizes some differences with nine rebounds per game.

"I guess it's the pace, because in high school it's slower," she said. "College is like an all-star team. In high school people make the team and you go from there. You do what you can do. You always have a star player. In college everybody's a star player, but it's a good competition.

Since Guillory went down, Billings has started every game. She is looking forward to when Guillory comes back at 100 percent. Her first game back was Nov. 28 against Florida State, but it was clear she wasn't completely healthy.

"I think it will be good (when Guillory is back full-strength)," said Billings. "If we're both in double figures on points scored it'll be great for us because we'll win. I'll be happy when she comes back because that just makes us a stronger team."

That team-oriented mentality will help this talented freshman succeed at the collegiate level, along with a little help from her mother and the comforts of home. Although Ace is away at college, she's still her mother's baby.

"My mom comes and cooks for me every week," she said. She also has all the "privileges" for college life. According to Ace and Striegler, Billings has a DVD player, VCR, TV, stereo, Nintendo 64, brand new Gameboy, computer, scanner, and printer. All of which are in her tiny dorm room, making her a very popular teammate.

With all she needs to survive college life, the talent and determination to succeed at collegiate basketball, you can expect Billings to contribute great things to the Golden Knight women's basketball program for the next four years.

"She's learning," said Striegler. "She's an artwork in progress and she'll continue to get better."

Women's Basketball Notebook

Joe Manzo

Staff Writer

Guillory returns

Junior Khaliah Guillory returned from an ankle injury last Tuesday and played 15 minutes in UCF's loss to Florida State.

She got her first rebound of the season with four minutes left in the first half, and went 0-4 from the field. The 5'10' forward was clearly not at 100 percent, but is expected to make a full recovery after suffering the injury in first minute of the team's season opener two weeks ago. Last year, Guillory was second on the team with 182 points per game, and was the team's leading scorer and rebounder in nine games.

"(Guillory) was obviously not at full speed," said UCF Head Coach Gail Striegler.

Paige and Washington hurt, Larry misses game

Sophomore forward Erin Page was injured only two minutes into the Florida State game. She had a "busted sac in her knee" and did not play in UCF's subsequent games against Sanford and Jacksonville State. The loss of Paige was detrimental to the Golden Knights offense which scored only 37 points on a school-record-low 20 percent shooting.

In the fourth quarter of the FSU game, freshman Marcelle Washington took a hard fall to the head. She had to be helped off the court by trainers, but returned to action in UCF's two AAC wins later in the week. Prior to the injury, Washington had four points and four rebounds in 27 minutes of action.

Senior LaDonna Larry, one of only two seniors on the team, was not available for the Florida State game, because she had a class that she needed to attend. That problem should not recur.

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UCF, Page A-17
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UCF women's basketball starts 2-0 in conference

JOE MANZO STAFF WRITER

Last season, the UCF women's basketball team started the TAAC regular season 0-2, a start they never recovered from, going on to finish last in the conference regular season standings. But last season, the Golden Knights didn't have Nicole Dunson.

Dunson was five of nine from the free throw line. Junior guard Lauran Cough added 11 points for UCF, while LaToya Graham contributed nine points and eight rebounds and Adrienne Billings had eight points and eight rebounds. The Golden Knight defense held Samford to a 38.8 shooting percentage, while shooting 50 percent themselves, and outrebounded the Bulldogs 44-26.

Next up was Jacksonville State, and Dunson wasn't finished. This time, she scored 15 points as the Golden Knights jumped out to a 32-14 halftime lead and held off a late rally by JSU to win 64-54. Junior forward Khaliah Guillory played her best game since injuring her ankle in the season opener.

ожден, Page A-17

Fall 2000 up and down for UCF sports

COMMENTARY BY DAVID MARSTERS STAFF WRITER

Mixed emotions.

That is how one can describe what happened to UCF sports during the Fall 2000 semester. There were high expectations, but there were some disappointments. There were moments of brilliance, but there were moments of ugliness. Young players emerged, but some were only given the opportunity because of injuries to veteran players. Following the Golden Knight athletic teams was often exciting, but it was sometimes painfully frustrating. In the end, however, there is only one emotion to take away from what has happened during the past four months, and that is encouragement.

The UCF football team entered the season with dreams of going to a bowl game, but disappointing losses to Akron and Northern Illinois put the team and its fans into an emotional black hole. The team could have given up at that point, but they didn't. The Golden Knights went on to win four of its last five games, including an historic 40-38 upset win at Alabama. Redshirt freshman Ryan Schneider emerged at

FALL, Page A-14

An 'Ace' in the hole

Billings living up to her nickname sooner than expected

KRYSTY SHONKA STAFF WRITER

Freshman forward Adrienne Billings is the new "Ace" of the UCF women's basketball team. The star freshman's nickname also happens to be Ace, given to her by her uncle when she was younger. Billings isn't sure why she was given the nickname, but she likes it because the Ace is the highest card in the deck.

Billings, so far, has lived up to her nickname.

BILLINGS, Page A-18

UCF women's basketball starts 2-0 in conference

Joe Manzo Staff Writer

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FALL, Page A-14

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Kristy Shonka Staff Writer

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Billings, Page A-18
In 1998, the tobacco industry was forced into a $246 billion settlement with 46 states, having to pay for the states' health care costs of treating sick smokers. And while this was certainly an historical legal battle, Florida author and journalist S. V. Date apparently thought he could spice up the story even further—and he was right.

Date's new book, Smokeout, is a fictional account of the days leading up to a vote of the Florida Congress regarding the issue of big tobacco. It seems as though Governor Bolling Waites snuck a law through the Florida Congress last year that effectively allowed the state government to sue big tobacco companies. Realizing that they were tricked, the state legislature has just recently repealed the law, but Waites vetoed their appeal. Now, the Florida Senate is attempting to override the veto, but will need a two-thirds vote to be successful. Add to this situation a wild cast of characters including the school wasn't for her, she decided to try her hand as a Tallahassee lobbyist. After sever­

posed for Playboy back in the day, but has since become one of the best lobbyists in Florida without giving in to the overzealous desires of her male superiors. The job is as a consultant for Roger-Joyner Holdings Tobacco Company ( eerily reminiscent of the

issues that the subject matter brings up, and presents the case for both sides of the tobac­co argument. Is it wrong for tobacco companies to target minors with their advertising? If so, who is responsible for making sure the companies do not do this? And what about the health consequences of smoking? These are just a few of the many questions that Smokeout addresses.

While looking through RJH documents, Jeena comes across MRK.93-1321, a

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Though the story is an ensemble piece, the plot centers primarily on the travails of Jeena Golden, the aforementioned Whammy, etc. (Hiassen's brilliant comedic crime novels [Striptease, Stormy Weather, Double Whammy, etc.]).

Altho­ugh several unsuccessful job interviews that ended in indecent proposals from potential male bosses, she is given a position by Ruth Ann Bronson, a sexy female lobbyist who

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David Masters

S. V. Date

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Smokeout:
A Wicked Satire of
Government and Big Tobacco

David Masters

S. V. Date

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It takes no great feat of intelligence to figure out that in the movie industry there are genres, much like that of its musical colleagues. Typically these genres are action, science fiction, comedy, horror and drama. Most movies fall into one of these five categories, for they are typically the most successful financially. However, there exist several genres that are not widely seen on the movie screen, just one being the fantasy movie.

Fantasy films are defined as movies, which deal with very far-fetched, imaginary elements, things of legend such as magic, dragons, and knights. With such intriguing subject matter it is a wonder why many of these films are not made. The answer to that is, at least until recently, fantasy films have not been deemed financially or critically favorable. That may be largely due to the fact that only a very specific sort of audience enjoys such films, while the rest of the public considers them hokey or stupid due to the subject matter within. Such opinions are evident considering the amount of fantasy movies that have been made over the last couple of years. As far as this reviewer can recall, the last big mainstream fantasy movie to be released was the abysmal Dragonheart, a film below in the fantasy genre.

Perhaps movies like Dragonheart, a special effects film devoid of a solid plot or characters, are what make people so hesitant to the genre. Without a doubt, many horrible fantasy films have been released over the years such as Reamde master 2 and Dragon Slayer (at least in this reviewer’s opinion), which have caused such a bias. People generally believe that fantasy films are hokey and simplistic, thereby feeling comfortable passing arbitrary judgments without giving the film an opportunity to present itself. Perhaps this is why recent fantasy films such as Willow and Excalibur have been overlooked so often by the mainstream public, becoming both financial and critical disasters.

In response to this feeling, movie studios have stopped producing fantasy films, at least until now. With the new millennium comes new changes and once again it seems that major studios are willing to experiment. After all, it seems that the average moviegoer is growing weary of the cookie-cutter action film or pulp fiction rip-off. Therefore, two upcoming fantasy films have been created, perhaps in hopes that audiences will respond to a few changes in scenery.

The first of these two films is Dagoes and Dragons, which opens nationwide Dec. 8, 2000. The movie is based on the popular role-playing game which has so often been denounced by the anti-Christ himself Jerry Falwell as promoting Satanism. At any rate, it seems that certain individuals affiliated with TSR, the creators of the game, have been trying to create the movie for quite some time but have just now developed the available resources. The use of CGI and other effects have truly made the movie a feasible venture; not to mention that the controversy surrounding the game has toned down a bit in favor of the Tolkien books. Nevertheless, the movie has been made, and apparently with great effort on part of the writers. Rumor has it that the screenwriters were forced to watch several fantasy movies from Labyrinth to Conan, in order to figure out what works and what does not work with the audience. With this in mind, perhaps the movie will not go the way of many of its failed predecessors. At any rate, the movie is about a power struggle inside a fascist kingdom involving a war between dragons. Sure it sounds corny, but screenings of the film have actually been fairly positive, so who knows?

The second fantasy movie is the Fellowship of the Ring, the first portion of the Lord of the Rings trilogy that director Peter Jackson (Dead Alive, The Frighteners) is filming. The story is based on the classic Lord of the Rings novels by J.R.R. Tolkien, who in many ways is the founding father of fantasy. Once again, this movie has been long in the making, for much like D&D the special effects were simply not available until now. As far as the story goes, the film is supposed to follow the book very closely, involving some sort of dark fantasy and little people known as hobbits. Well, anyway, the book was entertaining so if it can translate well to the screen than so shall the film. Fellowship of the Ring is going to be released at some point in 2001, with the two others stories, The Two Towers and Return of the King, in 2002 and 2003 respectively.

With two large fantasy movies on the horizon, who knows what the future may hold for this long dead genre. With any luck, both films will be good, but time will tell. I never know how the audience will respond. All the same, give the films a fair chance, you might be surprised. Also, do not listen to what the critics say for most typically despise anything that does not immediately make them think of Tolkien’s work. These two films were made for the public, with a very "screw the critics" attitude it seems. Anyway, Dagoes and Dragons is coming up very soon, Dec. 8, with Fellowship of the Rings in the distant future. Both might be good, and both might be bad, but the only way of finding out is experiencing them individually and not letting previous fantasy movies nor critics prevent you.
In life, Tupac Shakur was one of the most compelling figures in all of music, and now, in death, he continues to have a strong influence on the musical world. The Rose that Grew From Concrete is a group of musical interpretations of Tupac's poetry by various artists and stars. Among the collaborators are Mon Def, Q Tip, Outlawz and even Danny Glover. The musical interpretations of Tupac's poetry are extremely well done, doing justice to his deep and well-written prose. His ability as a poet might even rival his ability as a lyricist and rapper. This album also includes a second CD that contains a discussion by Tupac's mother, Afeni Shakur, about Tupac, his poetry and the musical interpretations. (A) -- David Marsters

Political Blockheads
Help! I'm Stalin.... And I Can't Get Up

Help! I'm Stalin.... And I Can't Get Up has a wonderful sound mixing the folk punk style riffs of the Dead Milkmen with the satirical political lyrics of the Dead Kennedys. This album is their second album to date. A third is expected to come out in 2002. If you are a fan of political punk or just a little bit cynical about our government, then this album is for you. With songs like "Military Moron," "Black Fascist Boots" and "Carbon Monoxide Radical," you will be very impressed with this little known punk band from Maryland. (A) -- Matt Lindquist

Picture the Spice Girls singing with the voices of All Saints. This is kind of what 15 (or "International Five") is like: trying to be too trendy, but gifted with smooth voices. Each member comes from a different area of the world and, thus, has a different identity. So instead of Scary Spice and Ginger Spice we get Andi from London, Christina from the United States -- well, you get the point. Think of the dolls from "It's a Small World" singing about girl power and dominance over men. As for the music, it conveys the same message in the same musical styling as the Spice Girls' did. We get "Ladidi Ladida," a song about how girls shouldn't wait for the Prince Charming to rescue them. Finally, we get the sweet harmonies of "Distracted," which is probably the best song on the CD. Unlike the Spice Girls, 15 can pull off these songs for a younger audience while remaining good role models with a great message; people from diverse background make decent music and have a good time. However, it still comes across as being slightly synthesized. (B) -- Kim Phipps

Enya
A Day Without Rain

While Enya may never make Billboard's Top 10, they will certainly always be a favorite of mine. The melodic instrumental and vocals of Enya's latest CD, A Day Without Rain, are superb. Great music to relax to, and great music to make that romantic setting for you and that special someone. Tracks two, three and 10 are three of my favorites on this, unfortunately too short, 35-minute disc. This new CD is a must for any Enya fan, and a great CD to start out with for those in search of simply superb musical and vocal tracks. (A) -- Adam Shaver
Bette Midler

Bette Midler’s newest album, *Bette*, is a departure from what she is most notably known for. While her older ballads, especially “Wind Beneath My Wings” and “From a Distance” have heart, this record is filled with nothing but songs with no soul. Most of the songs are slow, and none have anything that make them stand out from one another. The usual brassiness of her work is tarnished by ballads that are tired and lifeless. The “Divine Miss M” is less than divine this time around, her songs sounding more and more like they should be played on radio stations that have commercials touting their “soft hits of the 80’s and today.” This is a very disappointing album from someone used to know what she was doing. (D) --Becki Panoff

Linkin Park

Hybrid Park

Can you talk in rhythm? If so, you may want to consider joining the band Linkin Park. After all, Chester Bennington does just this in most of their songs. However, he, along with the rest of the band, also proves that you don’t have to have the voice of a choir boy to succeed in the music industry; you need good music. That is what meets our ears when we listen to Hybrid Park. The music can be compared to a mixture of Godsmack, Papa Roach and Disturbed. The CD's first single, "One Step Closer," has been getting airplay on WRJR and O-Rock, as well as being advertised on MTV. Other songs include “Papered,” a flatly-spoken (not sung) alternative ballad, and "A Place for my Head," which demonstrates some singing ability and has a relatively soft rock feel to it. This CD is different from the alternative rock we are used to, but in a very good and revolutionary way. (A-) --D.M.

Ben Trexel

Under the Radar

Ben Trexel's *Under the Radar* is an excellent album of strictly instrumental music. Trexel and sidekicks John Williams and Geoff Sides combine the sounds of acoustic and electric guitars, bass guitar, keyboards and drums to create a wide range of music, ranging from hard driving rock (“Hard Drive”) to southern twang (“Alligator Waltz”) to musical ballad (“March Moon”). Some of the guitar playing will remind you of Eric Clapton, an obvious influence of Trexel’s. There is something on this album for just about any mood, and each song is well played and has its own distinct style. *Under the Radar* is quality music. (A-) --D.M.

Boiler Room

Can’t Breathe

Boiler Room, a New York based alternative metal band who first got noticed in the public eye while touring with Orgy, has put out a debut album this month entitled *Can’t Breathe*. The album came out on Tommy Boy Music, which is comprised of artists like Everlast, House of Pain, Coolio and Naughty By Nature. Boiler Room sound could be compared to the Deftones. Some good songs were "Insomnia," "Can’t Breathe" and "Hopeless," but all in all nothing very attention grabbing in the area of new sound. (B-) --M.P.
Nelly Furtado
What Nelly

Furtado, who sounds like a cross between Fiona Apple and Gwen Stefani of No Doubt, belts out track after track of self-written material on her debut album, What Nelly. The songs, some tinged with a jazzy beat and some more dance-influenced are original and catchy. One in particular, “I’m Like Bird,” is the first single released to radio, is an up tempo song that starts with a melancholy intro, going into Furtado’s throaty lyrics. The Portuguese-Canadian singer continues her unique style of music through each cut of the album, with “Hey Man,” “Party” and “Legend” as some of her standout songs. Overall, it’s an impressive start for an up and coming star from the north. (B+) — B.P.

Guanos Apes
Proud Like a God

The Guano Apes are a difficult band to classify. From the album cover Proud Like a God, one might deduce that they are a hard rock band, and that is probably the closest to an accurate description that can be given. Some of the album sounds like Metallica, other parts sound like Limp Bizkit. Many of the lyrics are quite socially conscious such as “Imagine all the words we’re spitting, would be killing inside. Being trapped in a jungle, be cool don’t fight.” Proud Like a God is a good mix of different types of rock music, so fans of all different styles of rock and alternative music should be able to find something to like on this album. (B-) — D.M.

Barenaked Ladies
Maroon

With their Beatle-esque harmonies how could you not like these guys? They are hilarious in concert and on their albums. Their latest CD however is certainly not the best out of past works. When you first pop it in the CD player you immediately want to toss it out the window. But, fortunately, it grows on you quickly. Tracks one, two, and five are some of the best on the CD. While it is a good album, it certainly comes nowhere close to their past works Gordon, Born on a Ship and Maybe You Should Drive. (C-) — A.S.

DJ Skribble
Essential Dance 2000

Essential Dance 2000 is a compilation of remixes of popular songs done by MTV’s DJ Skribble. Some of the songs that get the Skribble treatment are Cher’s “Believe,” Paula Cole’s “I Believe in Love” and Moby’s “Bodyrock.” While there is no question that Skribble is an extremely talented DJ, this album is basically a bunch of inane noise. The beats are repetitive and annoying, and most of the songs weren’t particularly musically creative sense to begin with. This isn’t quite rave music, but now I understand why people at raves take so many drugs… you’d have to be high to enjoy this. (D) — D.M.

J Mascis + the Fog
More Light

If you liked Dinosaur Jr. then J Mascis + the Fog is just what you’ve been looking for. Featuring the leadman from Dinosaur Jr., J Mascis’ newest solo album, More Light, keeps alive the great indie/grunge sound of his former band. An excellent album comprised of some great songs like “Same Day,” “Buck Before You Go,” and “I’m Not Fine.” A great gift idea for those who love indie rock or Dinosaur Jr. (A) — M.P.
any merchandise related to the puppets were manufactured. After merchandise was made with the puppets on them for the group’s tour, Wright did not follow through on his agreement. Krofft has the exclusive rights to the puppets with the exception of the January show. Krofft’s attorney, Bruce Isaacs, said: “(Wright) promised that if they made any exclusive work, they would pay. But when we contacted [*NSYNC for payment], we were told we were pets on them for the group’s tour, Wright did riot follow through on his agreement. Krofft has the not entitled to anything. All we want is our fair share. “ The lawsuit asks for actual and statutory damages

Cindy Crawford bids ‘Adieu’ to Revlon

Supermodel Cindy Crawford will be leaving Revlon after 11 years as their spokesperson. Revlon’s president, Jeffrey Nugent, said that Crawford’s time was up and the company wants to head in a new direction. Crawford’s response to Nugent’s statements was: “They don’t want the story out there that they’re firing me because I’m too old, that alienate a lot of customers. I kind of knew what I needed [in the deal].”

Hurley may become highest paid model

In other model news, Elizabeth Hurley just renewed her contract with Estee Lauder for $3 million. Despite rumors that said Gwyneth Paltrow may become the new face for the cosmetic company, Hurley is also in negotiation for a $4 million contract with Scottish company M&M International. It is responsible for creating the Ultimo gel-bra, which enhances a woman’s cleavage with more comfort than a regular push-up bra. If she signs the deal she would become the world’s highest paid lingerie model.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B-7
ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS...

"Forty years after the Beatles, Radiohead have reinvented the idea of the rock group." - Rolling Stone

"A post rock masterpiece, Kid A is not only Radiohead's bravest album, but it's best one as well." - NME

"A genuinely challenging work in a generally unchallenging time." - Entertainment Weekly

"Brilliant!" - NME

...is the most groundbreaking album to debut at #1 worldwide in decades.


John Travolta's IRS troubles

John Travolta owes some serious dinero to the Internal Revenue Service. Travolta will be paying $607,400 in back taxes to the IRS in end dispute which dates five years back. According to the Los Angeles Times, the actor will be paying back losses he claimed from 1993 to 1995. The IRS disputed Travolta's claim that he had $2.27 million in losses for a company called ATLO Inc. According to the Times, that company is an "S corporation," a business that rich people employ to get a tax break. Travolta will not be paying any penalties. The amount he'll pay in back taxes is $150,000 from 1993, $248,096 from 1994 and $208,757 for 1995. Travolta is a high-profile member of the Church of Scientology, a controversial organization that wants to do away with the IRS.

Spade stunned by assistant

"Just Shoot Me" star David Spade literally was. The actor was attacked in his Beverly Hills home by a stun gun carrying assailant, who turned out to be his assistant. The assistant, David Malloy, was trying to rob his wealthy boss. Spade suffered minor injuries, but was okay. Malloy fled the house by the time the police arrived. He was caught a few hours later. He is accused of suspicion of burglary, assault with a deadly weapon and assault with a stun gun, police said. Malloy's bail was set at $50,000.

The next terminator

X-Men co-star Famke Janssen may become the next Terminator. Rumor has it that Janssen is the number one choice over professional services networking job fair

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1. Gladiator

 Ridley Scott's ancient Roman epic was undoubtedly one of the largest box-office and most critical hits of the year and for good reason. The plot is excellent and does not insult the intelligence of its audience while staying reasonably accurate to its historical basis. There is something for everyone in Gladiator, from bloody combat all the way to romance, political scheming to betrayal. The characters are all portrayed by very talented actors that give the audience an insight into even the most minor role. Russell Crowe is a masterful actor and has become a major star in the wake of this film. However, the real acting nod in this film goes to Joaquin Phoenix, who not only looks the part but portrays the character's evil soul. The violence of the movie is ever present, but never gratuitous; instead, it is used to enhance the story, not detract from it.

2. American Psycho

 American Psycho was a much-overlooked film released in early 2000. The movie is a social satire of the late 1980s, personifying all the greed and materialism of that time into one character, Patrick Bateman. Christian Bale, perhaps one of the best actors working in Hollywood, plays Bateman, a Manhattan yuppy that seemingly is the American dream in the flesh. He has it all, money, power and women, yet at the same time he feels the emptiness of his life and is forced to lash out in violent murderesses. American Psycho is not only a commentary on the human psyche, but also a black comedy. Bale's portrayal of the narcissistic Bateman is amusing, not to mention people's relationships with one another. Speaking of which, the acting is also very good. Dennis Quaid plays Frank Sullivan, while the relatively unknown Jim Cavaziel plays his son in the future. The two act beautifully, although they have very little screen time together. Overall though Frequency is a thriller disguised as a science fiction film. While the latter is a strong component, Frequency is really about a murder mystery, not to mention people's relationships with one another. Frequency made to be broken and Bryan Singer succeeded this summer with X-Men, the movie based on the infamous comic book. The movie made the monetary equivalent to a small country and for good reason: The film was low budget, emphasizing characters rather than just special effects. While it was a hit, it still managed to entertain without becoming too much like its predecessors.

3. Frequency

 Frequency proves the point that not all science fiction has to be set in a galaxy far, far away. Instead, Frequency is a much more "down to earth" sort of story. The story involves a father and son able to communicate almost thirty years across time by means of a shortwave radio. While this might at first sound corny, it is quite the opposite. Frequency is at heart a thriller disguised as a science fiction film. For while the latter is a strong component, Frequency is really about a murder mystery, not to mention people's relationships with one another. Frequency is more to as out m...
1. Mission Impossible 2
There are some actors who should just not be action heroes. For instance, Martin Brando in his current state would not be a good action hero, either. Would James Earl Jones. Not to be ^a relay for the sake of Tom Cruise, apparently John Woo and I do not see eye to eye on this matter. Mission Impossible 2, this has to be the worst movie I saw this year. The plot of this movie is practically nonexistent. At the start of the film, Anthony Hopkins wants Tom Cruise to get some sort of virus thing away from bad guy Dougrey Scott. Now our most protagonist does this by blowing up everything in sight, killing more people than Jeffrey Dahmer and somehow developing a romantic relationship within the first fifteen minutes of the movie. Me? I had no plot that I could tell, just one gun scene after another, and so far as characters you may as well forget about it. By the time this movie was almost over I was hoping the virus would kill everyone. Also, how many times did they do that mask thing? I counted five, but the plot was so intriguing I may have missed one. And why are there doves in the movie? I always thought that there was some sort of bird that could make in one film, but apparently John Woo and I do not see eye to eye on this matter. Mission Impossible 2, this has to be the worst movie I saw this year.

2. Nutty Professor 2: The Klumps
One simple message: Eddie Murphy start making funny movies again! After all, what happened to the Eddie Murphy we all loved? The Eddie Murphy of 48 Hours, the Eddie Murphy of Beverly Hills Cop, the Eddie Murphy of Vampire in Brooklyn, well maybe not that one. Point is, Eddie Murphy may be talking, but his latest outing, The Klumps is about as humorous as getting a root canal. I always thought that there was a limit to the amount of fat and foolish jokes you could make in one film, but apparently the filmmakers involved in The Klumps do not share my philosophy. This is the type of movie I would have found humorous back in the sixth grade. When I thought that Return of Swamp Thing was cool, it was so naïve. At any rate, even Janet Jackson's breasts could save this film, which is a sure mark of mediocrity.

3. What Lies Beneath
Wow, a movie with Harrison Ford and Michelle Pfeiffer that is directed by Robert Zemeckis? How can that be bad? Survey says, quite a few ways. What Lies Beneath has to be the most predictable movie I have seen in a long time, most likely because the stupid trailer tells us the entire film. This of course ruins the apparent, "plot twist" that occurs about thirty minutes into the movie, when Kevin Bacon tries to replicate a classic Hitchcock technique. As far as the story, it is simple ghost stuff; the wife sees things, a couple of scares, Harrison Ford walks around showing his newly sixty-year old pecks. Speaking of Ford, he is hardly even in the movie! Most of the film is Eddie Murphy fighting his manly sixty-year old movies. Kevin Bacon dies about seven times before they finally kill him. Also, why does Bacon feel the need to act as several no-name actors get shamelessly killed. Once again, I felt that I had ESP during this entire film, since we were followed all the clichés of horror movies. Kevin Bacon dies about twenty times before they finally kill him. Also, why does Bacon feel the need to show his penis in every movie? This one was no exception as he shows off his goods about five times before they finally end this awful "movie."

4. Hollow Man
The concept of this movie is that when Kevin Bacon is mixed with invisibility, insanity results. The writers of Hollow Man certainly rushed through the script fast enough, thinking apparently that if a killer is invisible that somehow that makes up for bad characters and dry dialogue. The plot of Hollow Man is as follows: a group of scientists headed by Bacon's character discovers how to turn people invisible. Power-hungry Bacon tries it out for himself and in a matter of about a week is driven insane by his invisibility. What could be a psychological thriller turns quickly into a slasher flick as several no-name actors get shamelessly killed. Once again, I felt that I had ESP during this entire film, since we were followed all the clichés of horror movies. Kevin Bacon dies about twenty times before they finally kill him. Also, why does Bacon feel the need to show his penis in every movie? This one was no exception as he shows off his goods about five times before they finally end this awful "movie."

5. Romeo Must Die
I can just picture it as now, somewhere in the depths of Warner Bros. Studios, shortly after Lethal Weapon 4, a producer is trying to convince others that an American Jet Li movie would be a good idea. Flash-forward about a year later and here comes Romeo Must Die, a martial arts, romance, gangland mess with about as much acting talent as a "K9" film. The film is a lame rip-off of Romeo and Juliet, where two rival families compete for supremacy over fishing rights off the coast of California. Jet Li belongs to one family, he kills, people, Assassin belongs to another, and she shops around. The two meet and fall in love or something like that. Mub, blub, blub. Jet Li is about as good of an actor as a trained dolphin. Sure, it can do lots of stunts, but the normal just has no personality. The plot is predictable. I could see what was going to happen five minutes into the film. The one thing that proved this movie over the edge is the presence of DMX in it. The man got fourth billing! He probably got paid a lot more than some of the other actors, and he only had about four lines! This movie is not a good martial arts film and was definitely not a good romance. Next time they bring a Chinese action star over to America, make sure the script is good.

Worst Five Movies of 2000
DAVID TAYLOR, WRITER

Entertainment

We've Created a Monster.

KRAKEN:
ORLANDO'S TALLEST, FASTEST,
ONLY FLOORLESS ROLLER COASTER.
In the tradition of Chumbawamba, Submarine has released Skindiving, another installment of a sort of a techno-pop with a message. Skindiving combines clever beats with lyrics that go beyond the usually incessant techno repetitions, making for an album that is not only catchy but also intelligent. There is a very introspective tone to the lyrics, exemplified best in a song called "Sunbeam." The lyrics say: "The lies I told every sucker sold. Down the river for a profit. Makes me wonder mmmm what if Jesus won't want me for a sunbeam, won't want me for his dream team. He might not want me at all." Skindiving is definitely a triumph. (A+) —D.M.

Kasey Chambers

The Captain

This Aussie import brings a new sound to the country music scene. Kasey Chambers' debut CD, The Captain, is a collection of songs that at times sound like mod country and at times reminiscent of the past. Her voice at first takes a bit to get used to, but after you listen to the CD a few times, it's addicting. Chambers' single, "Cry Like a Baby," is the opening track, which is vivacious and makes the listener sit up and listen. "Well if my life was long enough to pack up everything I love, I would do just that and give it all to you." Chambers uses simplistic lyrics like these to convey what she wants to get across to listeners. She should have a long stay in as a "different" kind of country singer in the usually conservative town of Nashville. Chambers brings new sound to old genre. (B-) —B.P.

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Lead Stories

A court in Council Bluffs, Iowa, will rule in early December on whether to admit "brain fingerprinting" evidence that might free Terry Harrington, who has been in prison for 22 years for a murder he says he did not commit. Iowa psychiatrist Lawrence Farwell developed the technique, which he says measures brain activity (or inactivity) following attempts to trigger memories. Tests on Harrington showed him with no memory of the murder or the crime scene but with memories of attending a rock concert with friends on the same night.

High school student Brandi Blackbear filed a federal lawsuit against the school district in Broken Arrow, Okla., in October for suspending her twice during the previous school year, once for her Stephen King-type writing journals and once after the assistant principal implied that Blackbear's Wiccan "curse" actually caused a teacher to become ill. "I, for one," said the Oklahoma director of the American Civil Liberties Union, "would like to see the existence that a 15-year-old girl made a grown man sick by casting a magic spell."

Some of the More Obscure Election Unfairness

An Atlanta Journal-Constitution database match proved that 5,412 dead Georgians had voted since 1994, with 1,300 more suspects this year. Tom Watson, an Anglo running for constable in Dallas, lost but even though he had given himself an edge by resuming his campaign after Edward Wesson. Karl Brandenburg, the Albuquerque district attorney, won re-election easily over a man who had sent her a sympathy Hillsboro e-mail message in October but later claimed it was really meant for his wife. To comply with residency requirements, a school board candidate in Miami tried to claim he lived in a 9-by-11-foot storage shed on his father's property, but a judge dropped him from the ballot.

Leading Economic Indicators

France's communist party, once serious opponents of capitalism and religion but lately in serious organizational decline, hosted a glamorous fundraising party in Paris in October with the fashion house Prada (featuring supermodels and other trendy guests), and then a week later staged an art show featuring 30 works portraying a heroic Jesus Christ.

The Birch KV Health & Fitness Centre opened earlier this year in Heywood, England, providing hydrotherapy, whirlpool, treadmill and aromatherapy to dogs under the direction of trainer Dave Burdon, according to an August report in The Washington Post. Despite the club's success in rehabilitating dogs' natural muscles that have weakened through dog owners' indulgence, one British newspaper quipped that Birch KV is the kind of thing that only happens in America.

So important is the vodka industry to the Russian economy that in August, police in Moscow forcibly entered the Krystal (Stolichnaya Vodka) factory, ostensibly to seek tax documents but actually to install an insurgent board of directors to come under the direction of trainer Dave Burdon, according to an August report in The Washington Post. Despite the club's success in rehabilitating dogs' natural muscles that have weakened through dog owners' indulgence, one British newspaper quipped that Birch KV is the kind of thing that only happens in America.

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Recurring Themes

News of the World has reported cases of severe motherhood envy in 1992 (Texas), 1996 (Alabama) and 1998 (Illinois), when pregnant women were killed and their abdomens slashed open so that the fetuses could be stolen. In September, 2000, according to police in Ravenna, Okla., Michelle Bica killed a pregnant woman and stole her baby, but because police suspected her, Bica shot herself to death several days later. In all four cases, the babies survived.

In Their Own Worlds

Retiree Neal Terry, 78, profiled in an October Dallas Morning News story about his "hobby," "I've dedicated my life to irritating people. It's a special gift that I have." "I tell my grandchildren, 'You're not going to like everybody you run across, so go ahead and irritate them.'" (Terry insisted that no one has ever gotten really angry at him, even the times he sang the Partridge Family song, "I Think I Love You." over and over at work.)

Law of the Jungle

Troy Carlisle, 28, was sentenced to 20 years in prison in October after being convicted in Brandon, Miss., of forcibly taking the life jacket of a 7-year-old girl and leaving her to drown in a Arkabutla Lake. Carlisle told police, "I was thinking I was gonna die or the was gonna die." And in July, Albert Latham was charged with second-degree murder after he survived the sinking of a shrimp boat in a reef off of the Louisiana coast; police said Latham stabbed the captain to get the ship's only life vest.

Also, in the Last Month...

The president of the Carsons Atlantic City casino resigned, seeking treatment for compulsive gambling. A married couple, both with doctorate degrees, shot each other to death in a gunfight while their young daughters were watching TV in another room (Sacramento). Home-intruding robbers tied up a family on Halloween night and loaded up their car with jewelry, diligently passing several times to pass out candy to trick-or-treaters (Westminster, Calif.). Jailer confronts Dennis Rodman's artificial leg after he tried to beat a cellmate with and said they probably wouldn't give it back until he is released (Peoria, III.).
Sunna
One Minute Silence
The singles "O.D." and "Power Struggle" from One Minute Silence were featured in the recent Kevin Bacon movie Hollow Man. This album by Sunna is anything but a "one-minute silence," coming at the listener with songs and lyrics that mostly have to do with life's excesses. Along with "O.D.," a song about a drug overdose, there are also songs called "Power Struggle," "Too Much," "Insanity Pulse" and "I Miss," which opens with the lines "I miss hate, I miss war. I miss killing people, and I miss the point." Some of the music on the album is quite good, but you are unlikely to find One Minute Silence appealing unless you can stomach the strong lyrics. (C) --D.M.

Debelah Morgan
Dance With Me
I know, I know: another girl singer. Ahhh! Well, there’s no doubt that you have heard Debelah Morgan’s first single, "Dance With Me." This catchy tune is followed by a surprising array of songs. They don’t sound like they were made in the era of "Oops...I Did It Again." In fact, they sound a lot like the music Whitney Houston sings to (notice I say the "music" and not the vocals). "Take The Rain Away" combines a piano with other brass instruments to sound more like a choir song than a pop song. "Think Of You" is a cutey tune that sounds like it's being sung to the music of a Casio keyboard. Besides the "cutey," there are also slower songs. "Bring Back The Sun," for example, is a beautifully sung ballad with pretty, simple lyrics that can be considered a theme song for any sappy movie. What is truly annoying about Debelah Morgan is her need to demonstrate her vocal range in the same fashion as Mariah Carey. Once in a while, you will hear that high-pitched "scream" in her songs (think of that last part in "Dance With Me"). This is a halt to the otherwise decent music of the CD. (C) --K.L.

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Aries (March 21-April 19). Take care of old business on Monday, so you can launch a new project on Tuesday. Don't make promises to meet your sweetheart for a long, luxurious date then or on Wednesday, however. You're more apt to be busy, maybe even traveling. Financial difficulties Friday inspire you to stick to your budget. If you play by the rules, and insist others pay back what they owe, the pinch will be over on Saturday. Playing outside's tempting on Sunday. You'd better get errands done first. And, if anything's about to break, it will. Take along a spare.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). You're trying to balance the budget on Monday, but friends want to lure you out to play. If you get an early start on the work, there'll be time for both. Tuesday and Wednesday are difficult, due to a hot-headed associate. Find some privacy on Wednesday so you can get the assignment finished in peace by Thursday. There'll still be confusion all that day, too. Keep hiding out if you can. You're likely to disagree with an older person's orders on Friday. It might be best to keep that opinion to yourself a while longer. The boss may discover the error on his or her own, the first part of next week. Meanwhile, look around for other ways to augment your income. On Saturday and Sunday, one idea's so brilliant and simple you'll wonder why you never thought of it before.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Just do whatever your partner suggests on Monday. You'll save yourself a lot of trouble. If you don't have a partner or mate, you're apt to find at least one likely prospect on Tuesday and Wednesday. Don't get all upset if romance doesn't blossom by Thursday, however. It doesn't necessarily mean it won't. It's just that it's hard to get together then, for everybody. It'll be easier after Friday, especially with intellectual types. Don't travel far on Friday though, if you can help it. There'll be less congestion on the highways late Saturday and Sunday. Don't take an argument too seriously on Sunday, either. Think of it as fun, even if you agree to disagree. One (or both) of you might change your mind(s) later anyway.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). You're swamped with work on Monday, but make time for romance, too. Ask a good friend to help with some of your chores. Tuesday and Wednesday won't be as easy. The boss is watching, and you may feel he or she has it in for you. Actually, he or she is being like that with everyone. Thursday could be miserable if you let somebody else's immensity get to you. Don't. You have plenty of friends who understand, although they may not be able to do much about it on Thursday or Friday. Get their practical advice instead, to help you make a wise purchase. Saturday, finally, you can relax. On Sunday you may remember homework that has to be done by Monday. Now that you've been warned, do it in advance. (If you can find the time!)

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). You're in the mood for love on Monday, but the timing's not quite right. You don't quite have all the money you'd like to have, either. So stick to your work instead, and pretend you enjoy it. Actually, your workload isn't bad this week. It should be mostly things you like. But from Tuesday through Thursday you could take a direct hit from Cupid's arrow. All sorts of complications keep you and your sweetheart from actually running off to Tahiti, as is your wont. You might be able to work in a good adventure movie on Saturday night, however. Write letters or e-mail notes to each other in the meantime. A fantasy takes a real beating on Thursday night, so don't schedule your date for then. On Friday it looks like there's some sort of mechanical breakdown. Nobody said it was always going to be easy! Saturday night and Sunday should be pretty good for romance, however. Once you can get away from the crowd of other friends who'll be hanging around.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Discuss your living arrangements with your roommate on Monday. There are changes to be made, and they'll be much easier once you agree on what they are. You may think you've found the funding you're after on Tuesday, but take care. This could turn out to be more expensive than you thought. A shortage creeps in on Wednesday, and all sorts of heck breaks loose on Thursday. Although you settle down somewhat on Friday, a problem at work could keep you there late. Don't dismay if it's the weekend before you can really take action. All that time you've spent thinking about these changes was a good investment, you'll realize once all is said and done.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B-14
(Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Creative work could keep you busy most of Monday. If you can arrange your own schedule, set it up that way. Around Tuesday a very assertive partner comes around. This person is cute, but can get rather dictatorial sometimes. A good sense of humor is a valuable addition to your toolkit. Do not plan a cozy and romantic evening at home on Wednesday. That is unlikely to happen. It could on Thursday, if you ignore a comment about how much money you've spent recently. That topic's likely to come up again on Friday, so be prepared. Explain the reasons behind your investment, with lots of technical data, and you might convince your interrogator that you were right. Take care of shopping and errands first thing on Saturday so you have plenty of playtime that night and on Sunday. Travel should even go well then, thank heaven!

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Something you have is worth more or less than you thought. Better stop by the appraiser's on Monday. The value of your holdings is increasing on Tuesday, through your own hard work. Use something someone else said in anger to better your position on Wednesday. Advise your partner to keep his or her thoughts about the boss private on Thursday and Friday. There's nothing to be gained by blowing up then, and quite a lot that could be lost. Let your mate cook you breakfast or take you out on Saturday. That shouldn't be too hard to accomplish. Your house is the best place for entertaining and for romance this weekend. No problem, right?

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're dragging an anchor on Monday. You'll get more accomplished on Tuesday, but don't fret. Even if you're feeling better, you should still watch where you're going on Wednesday and Thursday. There'll be all sorts of complications popping up. A technical breakdown at work could botch things on Friday. Make sure to have copies of all important documents. You may have to take work home Saturday to get the most pressing stuff done. Stick close to your own neighborhood over the weekend. A get-together with siblings or close relatives would be just about perfect. You can talk freely with them.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Love and learning are linked for you on Monday. So go ahead and be the teacher's pet! (Oops, is that legal anymore?) Anyway, you'll think of something. Better do it, too, 'cause Tuesday's better for launching into a household project. Plan each change you'll make carefully, before ripping the house apart. This is likely to take longer and cost more than your initial estimate. And it could be hard on a relationship, if your place stays messy through Thursday and even into Friday. That's likely to happen, by the way. Knowing ahead of time might help. Love triumphs starting on Friday and definitely by Saturday. On Sunday you may choose to do some paperwork. Not a bad idea, if you don't want to pay overdue charges.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb 18). Somebody's apt to be looking over your shoulder on Monday, but don't fret. This could be an admirer, and the result could be an increase in your pay. Get into your studies on Tuesday. At first it seems like everything's going fine. Then something you learn on Wednesday contradicts something you already knew. On Thursday the plot thickens. You're fascinated, though. By then, you can't put the book down! A strange twist of fate on Friday makes you question your own judgment, but that's a waste of time. Sleep in on Saturday. You won't get any good ideas until later, anyway. Invite your favorite intellectual stimulator over for dinner on Saturday. That conversation could go all the way through Sunday, if you decide it's appropriate. You get to stay in charge, thankfully, but just barely. You're pretty evenly matched.

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(From the Grinch's point)  

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(And this may seem unlikely)  
But all the roommates were snoring,  
Not even Mikey!  
And as the guys slept away,  
Filling the house with their snores,  
There came suddenly (Oh, yes, suddenly)  
A knock at the door.  
The knocking was met  
With curses and oaths,  
But the guys finally rose  
To see who was there.  
Mr. Collins and Tracy  
Sitting there in the light  
(And two strippers that Mikey  
Had met the previous night).  
"Merry Christmas!" they said.  
With holiday cheer,  
"We've brought no money, no presents,  
But we did bring the beer!"  
The party began!  
Mikey and JoJo were down!  
But what's that on Felix?  
Why, is that a frown?  
"This won't do at all,"  
"Folks, you heard what he said!"  
"Bah humbug to Christmas!"  
I'm going to beast!  
"Christmas," he continued  
(Though no one had asked)  
"No, no, it's all meaningless.  
It's a thing of the past!  
Everywhere that you turn  
In the night, the frown is coming!  
Better get to the GAP..."  
As Felix continued  
His angry tirade  
Something began stirring  
Inside Mikey's brain.  
"Now wait, just a minute!"  
Mikey said, with a shout.  
"That's not what Christmas  
is really about!  
Christmas isn't bell-bottoms  
Or some fancy brand.  
It's a 12-pack of beer,  
Surrounded by friends.  
It's that time of the year.  
We put difference aside,  
And the cheer that we feel  
Is from the love deep inside."  
Then Mikey leaned in,  
As Felix stared in shared silence.  
"And if you argue with that,  
I'm resorting to violence."  

So Felix joined in,  
And a great time was had.  
And he started to think,  
"Maybe Christmas isn't bad."  
So, to all of you grinchies,  
Hermits, and eccentrics  
To all of you gimpies,  
Lamplighters, and eccentrics  
Loosen up! Have some fun!  
It WILL be alright!  
Merry Christmas to all,  
And to all a good night.

- Steve McCain

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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS, EVERYBODY!!**

- Felix and the crew

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**the groove**

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