Central Florida Future, December 6, 2000

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Inside

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 Crossing.

"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 equipment.

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. Woolson 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

Online shopping eases holiday headaches

RUTH HEIDT  STAFF WRITER

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."

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* 1 p.m. Colleges of Education, Engineering & Computer Science, and School of Optics
2001 Jetta GLS
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*Leases are calculated with $1750 total down. Includes 1st payment, 0 sec. deposit, tags, title, and license.

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7 to Choose
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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 not only purchase items in their stores, but 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 home 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-copyrightable items and international orders are usually not guaranteed. Christmas is not the only holiday that has guaranteed shipping dates. Eboys.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'

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 final approaching, Marion said he has very few scheduling conflicts. "Finals finish right about the time when The Nutcrackers start," 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, 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 nimble.

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.

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Holiday season made easy with meager budget

Christmas season doesn't cost a fortune

Adrian 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 no college student wants.

"Any gift from the heart is good," suggested Valencia Community College sophomore, Leon Terry.

Many students invest in a large box of Christmas gifts. With a personalized message in each this can cut costs as long as there is 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 not use 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 aged. You can get everything from tools to appliances, VCRs to vases, and even collectible memorabilia.

Gifts bought at the thrift store are going to run you quite a bit more than the dollar store of course, but perhaps not as much at the mall. It is always a good idea to thoroughly inspect your purchase to insure it works properly before you leave the store. Most thrift stores have no return policy.

If you visit the flea market you can find everything from Playstations to TVs and cell phones for nearly a third of their regular price.

Although the prices are low, you have to expect to be getting something that is most likely used very used.

While these are all great ideas, you can also be innovative and create your own gifts. For those good with a needle and thread, you can pick up a spiffy cross-stitch pattern, which can be sewn and framed in the nick of time for the holidays. If you’re not handy with the hands, but still looking for a relatively inexpensive create-your own gift, you might try something like making your own flavored liquors and schnapps. Doing so is as cheap as buying a cheap $6.00 bottle of vodka, some fruit and a book on making your own liquors. With a variety of fruits or candies are also a very nice gift that cost hardly anything.

Other gifts you can find everywhere from picture frames, to sports gifts baskets and lots of other homemade things for Christmas," said Sara Vargas.

If you're not the handy type you might just stick to the dollar store. Either way you are sure to find an inexpensive way to give gifts on your college-student budget. As they say "It's not the gift, but the thought that counts."

Around Campus

Holiday purchases benefit College of Education

Jennifer Paterson
STAFF WRITER

Shopping the Zany Brainy? Do it this Saturday

Zany Brainy in the Waterford Lakes Shopping Center is donating 10 percent of all purchases made on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9 a.m.-9:30 p.m. to the College of Education. In addition, shoppers should state that they are there for UCF when they step up to the register, to ensure their purchase benefits the College of Education.

SARC open for finals 24-hours a day

The Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) is currently open 24-hours and will continue through this Friday, December 15th, until 5 p.m. During the 24-hour "finals exam period," SARC can provide students with the following services:

1. A copy of the formal charges in writing.
2. Video tape recording of the hearing.
3. All staff memos and/or data submitted.
4. All items of physical evidence submitted, provided such items are not deemed to be exhibit evidence. In that case, photographs or other facsimiles shall be made before return.
5. The recommendation by the hearing panel. In the event:
   a. The Director of Judicial Services' decision.

Student Eligibility for Leadership Positions

1. During fall and spring semesters, be currently enrolled as a student activity fee-paying half-time student (currently defined as at least six (6) credit hours as an undergraduate degree-seeking student or a post-baccalaureate student, or at least five (5) credit hours in a graduate degree-seeking program). During summer session, be currently enrolled for at least three (3) credit hours in at least one of the terms.
2. Have a minimum overall grade point average of 2.3 for all hours earned while enrolled at UCF.
3. A student who is considered by the Student Judicial Process will be evaluated not less than every three (3) calendar years by a university committee composed of three (3) student members appointed by the student body president of Student Government to the vice president for Student Development and Enrollment Services and three (3) faculty and/or staff members appointed by the vice president for Student Development and Enrollment Services.

Student Record Guidelines

Students may request directory information be withheld by completing the necessary forms in the university Registrar's office.
**Copper levels on the rise at UCF**

**FROM PAGE A-4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Copper Level (mg/l)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>2.100 mg/l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>1.400 mg/l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Union</td>
<td>2.200 mg/l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print Shop</td>
<td>1.550 mg/l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility Plant</td>
<td>1.500 mg/l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Center II</td>
<td>1.700 mg/l</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 of water in copper piping 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. The time 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.

**Retractions 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 Hoogums rocked out and fought evil. Shop 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 ruled the side¬walks of neighborhoods every¬where.

Pac-Man and Asteroids were our first teachers in hand¬eye coordination only to be taken over 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 engross ourselves in He-Man, Gummi Bears, Pee¬Wee's Playhouse and Garfield and Friends.

Michael Jackson taught us how to moonwalk and that wearing only one glove could be cool. He also showed us over the years that chameleons are not the only thing that could change their color.

Catch phrases such as "Where's the beef?" and "Help, I've fallen and can't get up" were repeated and joked about by everyone.

Ronald Regan and George Bush were living in the White House running our country. MTV premiered with the video "Video Killed the Radio Star" and became a staple of life for youngsters across the nation. It piped in their favorite music and made parents wonder what was wrong with the youth of the time.

The Rubik's Cube confussed us all, until the day we decided to remove all the stickers and rearrange them so we could brag to all our friends. Desert Storm was the first war of our time and Scud¬Buster shirts were worn by many in support of the war in the Middle-East.

Such hits as Indiana Jones, Ferris Bueller's Day Off, E.T., The Breakfast Club, Ghostbusters and Caddyshack lift up the silver screen. These movies provided us with some of our favorite actors and actresses of the time such as Molly Ringwald, Harrison Ford and Ally Sheedy.

We learned some of life's lessons from ABC's afternoon television show "After School Special," while Mr. Rogers and Sesame Street helped us learn to spell, count and to be a good friend.

We all longed to drive cars just like those we watched on the Dukes of Hazard and Knight Rider and fantasized about 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 Alanis Morissette's start in show-business.

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 Michael J. Fox 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 crane-kick while Michael J. Fox made us all believe in time travel and bug our parents for a Hover-board for Christmas.

For breakfast we feasted on Count Chocula, Rice Krispies (when Snap, Krackle 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 dreams. The Southeast Team Handball Conference is looking to add both a men's and women's club team from UCF.

Check out www.usateamhandball.org for more exciting team handball information.

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John Richards is a junior at FSU and third-year member of the Marching Chiefs. He is among the youngest Chiefs ever to win the role of drum major, having been elevated to co-drum major as a sophomore following the expulsion of the then-drum major in a hazing scandal last year. Richards won the position as sole drum major this year, and will audition for it again next year.

The drum major of the Marching Chiefs is the student leader and on-field conductor of the 400-member band. A gifted French horn player and top student who hopes to become a professional musician, Richards has earned nothing but praise for his performance in that role.

"Jon is that model student and musician everyone aspires to be," said Patrick Dunnigan, director of the Marching Chiefs. "He was a stabilizing factor during a time that tested our mettle (as a band). He's dependable and resilient. He's thoughtful and reflective. He's just a super talent, top to bottom."

Dunnigan told Richards to take off the Florida game, and Richards missed all but one day's practice as his father neared death. But Saturday morning, after attending his father's funeral the day before, Richards showed up at rehearsal ready to go.

After the tribute to his father, the 6-foot-3 Richards completed his normal drum major routine: He picked up his "mace," stubbed it into the Seminole logo at midfield, then raced to his podium to lead the Marching Chiefs in playing the national anthem. He later conducted the Chiefs' halftime show.

Throughout his illness "my father told us we're not going to stop life. That was his attitude and it became my attitude," Richards said. "If I hadn't gone to the game, I would have letting him down."

Don Richards was a devoted husband and father. He and his wife of 32 years, Nancy, built a multi-racial family with three children they adopted as infants. White parents, they adopted Anne, 25, who is white; Jon, 20, who is biracial; and David, 18, who is half-Lebanese.

Jon said his father was heavily involved in his children's lives. He fostered their religious faith, attended their games and performances and encouraged all three children to reach for the top in school, athletics and music.

"My father always gave me a lot of advice. He said life was competitive and to succeed as an individual, you have to be competitive," Jon said. "His biggest advice was that you really only compete against yourself. He taught me to worry about how I feel, and to be comfortable with what I chose."

His father's final years were eventful. Daughter Anne was married two years ago, now lives in Alabama and operates a home marketing business. Son David was a star running back at North Florida Christian School and member of three state championship football teams, who now attends Tallahassee Community College.

Jon was an all-state musician at Lincoln High, and is now a top concert performer as well as the FSU drum major, "which was Jon's goal since the fifth grade," said his mother.

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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Politics disgusting**

Politics is disgusting. 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, its governmental agencies, its leaders, and of course its citizens. Just for not voting and casting the decision in their hands.

The Democrats need Al Gore to fight the fourth time. I don't know why, leaders, and of course its citizens. I can't do anything about it. The State of Florida fell between the aim of the Democratic and the Republican vote. Now the fighting has moved a little closer to the edge of a civil war again. It's political nuclear war, and the law sucks. Crow Florida, and she gave everything she had to vote - she's earned her vote. Fascism, Communism and waged an epic battle against Racism. If you think I'll whip your butt for talking about my own country and see what happens.

But think about it for a moment, this was the most boring Presidential campaign since "Superfriends was on TV in the afternoon. This election day is won, and it's all stated. 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 unsmoothe Vice President showed his tendency to white insidious. He insisted all we have to do is a fair and accurate count. Yeah right. He wanted to concede when CNN got the call wrong the first time. Like Smokey said, "You think I'll get right? Not this time. And definitely not accused in Florida. Be mindful of your discarded electoral rights my fellow citizens. Rights discarded by rules enacted by both parties. These rules caused this election to be a disaster for race relations and the overall image of our state. Remember the carjackings and the killing of the foreign tourists. It's "OJ Not Guilty" all over again. And for what, everybody knows more people in the state of Florida voted for Gore than for Bush.

We should all recognize that this fight is about the power of the national political parties and everyone knows it.

**Can cheesecake get you out of a ticket?**

Why is it that when selling textbooks back, I get only a $1.50 for a book that originally cost me $80? What is the point of us even selling our books back? The money we get for these, pardon the pun, paper weights is ridiculous. You can't even get lunch for that $1.50. Unless you live off the Weekly's $0.99 value menu.

**Who started the Punch-Buggy game?**

I'd like to meet him and show him what I think about his little game. I always get waxed on who's play and end up with a sore arm for weeks. (slap) Punch Buggy white!

**Insidp Thoughts**

**Adam Shiver**

**STAFF WRITER**

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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.

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 Cliff's 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 hockey sticks do I really want. Don't ask me what that could be. It's not a little pill and you don't have to pay $5.95 for it. Wait, maybe I should sell the back of my mind; until after Christmas.

Picking the perfect present still remains overwhelming for most, I have found out the secret. No, it's not in a little pill and you don't have to pay $5.95 for it. Wait, maybe I should sell the back of my mind; until after Christmas. The best gift of all: Christmas. The best gift of all: Christmas. The best gift of all: Christmas.

One of the most important senses in buying the perfect gift is listening. Listen to what the recipient has to say throughout the year. Remember to write down those items that they really want and will forget about by the end of the year. Remember to write down those items that they really want and will forget about by the end of the year. Remember to write down those items that they really want and will forget about by the end of the year.

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 $5.95 for it. Wait, maybe I should sell the back of my mind; until after Christmas.

Presents are meant to mean something. Yes, sometimes that underwear you get is for a reason. Don't ask me what that could be. It can take a great amount of time and study to find that perfect gift, but I have made it much simpler.

Presents represent the person you are buying them for, mind and soul. Just think of the person you are buying for. What are their likes, dislikes, favorites and special something's. After making this list in your mind, remember what your price range is. Porsche's, BMW's and poisons are typically not in the average college student's price range but I would be glad to take anything other than the poxy off your hands if you have the money. Money is not an important factor in buying a gift. Some of the best gifts come from some weird, off the wall place, but only cost half of what you would pay for them at the mall.

One of the most important senses in buying the perfect gift is listening. Listen to what the recipient has to say throughout the year. Remember to write down those items that they really want and will forget about by Christmas. The best gift of all is the one that they never expect you to remember; especially when they don't remember themselves. Listen to what they have to say about their favorite television show or the cartoon character that they love to death. These items can make finding a great gift easier.

One of the best gifts that I still hear about today was a screenplay of "Clarks" 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.

Next is the fact that the search needs to begin earlier then Dec. 23 at 2 p.m. Look early on or keep an eye out during the year for that special something. Sometimes to get that extra rare or special gift it might take longer then just a trip to the mall. You don't have to buy the gift right then and there, but keep a note of it. Gifts that make others go, "Wow, where did you find that," are the best gifts of all. As long as it is not a bag of two-week-old Taco Bell that was sitting under your front seat.

Remember that it is the thought that counts when you get someone a present, but also remember to put some thought into it. Presents are in no way the most important thing during the holiday, but putting your heart and soul into making someone smile might be. And please, no more fruitcake, "You paid too much!"

Why is there braille on the drive-thru ATM machine? I mean come on now, when was the last time you saw, or wanted, a blind man driving down the road?

Is it just me, or is cheesecake is one of the greatest aphrodisiacs around? Better than oysters, that is for sure.

Why is it that movie previews have evolved so much lately as to give away what the movie is all about? I thought it was supposed to just be a teaser. Why should the ending and content of a movie be given away and ruined if I am going to be forking out $7.50 for a visit to the theater?
Failure to teach tolerance can have tragic consequences

Debbie Woodell  
Knight-Rider Newspapers

Haverford, Pa.
Spencer County, Ky.
Minersville, 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's Gay Straight Alliance has 40 members and has created a space of tolerance and acceptance amid a sea of hate, at worst, or a sea of indifference at best. That began to be threatened after a student put up a handmade sign on National Coming Out Day that said it was a day to beat up gays. The ensuing uproar included a meeting attended by more than 100 people, with most speakers backing the student group.

The student who hung the flyer was charged with disorderly conduct, harassment and making terrorist threats. It's extremely dismaying that Supervisor Leonard Vender said that including National Coming Out Day on the morning announcements "probably was not an appropriate announcement" and that it "slipped through." But it's satisfying to see such support for the Haverford community.

Alma McGowan would have appreciated the level of acceptance exhibited in Haverford. From sixth grade into high school in Spencer County, McGowan endured repeated sexual harassment and sexual assault from classmates because she was perceived to be a lesbian.

Students did everything from call her names to hit her to ask for sex on a regular basis. She was stabbed with a pencil and, as a seventh-grader, threatened with rape. School officials did nothing to stop the harassment yet said they acted "appropriately."

For its wholly inappropriate response to this sickening behavior, the Spencer County School District was ordered to pay McGowan $220,000. A federal appeals court upheld the ruling earlier this month.

McGowan, who left high school at age 15 to be home-schooled and now attends college in Washington state, praised the decision but said she knows young people still face problems.

"What bothers me is that I know a lot of kids dealing with the same thing. I would like to reach out to them and let them know they are not alone," she told the Louisville Courier-Journal, which, interestingly, downplayed the gay angle in its latest report, when that clearly was a significant factor when the suit was filed in 1996.

Unfortunately, $220,000 won't buy back the life of Marcus Wayman, a Minersville teen who took his life in April 1997 after a police officer allegedly ordered him to tell his family he was gay. According to court papers, Officer F. Scott Wilinsky found Wayman and a friend in a car outside a beer distributor that recently was robbed. Wilinsky allegedly lectured them about biblical warnings against homosexuality and demanded Wayman tell his grandfather he was gay. If he didn't, Wilinsky threatened to "do it for him," according to court papers. Wayman was arrested, released, went home and shot himself.

Wilinsky has testified that as a small-town police officer, his role "has paramount overtones, thus reducing the citizen's expectation of privacy," according to court documents. An appeals court here in Philadelphia ruled last week that Wayman's mother, Madonna Sterling, may bring her wrongful-death suit against the Schuylkill County borough, the police department and officer Wilinsky and Thomas Hobbs.

What else is common about these situations in Haverford, Spencer County and Minersville? All of them are moving through the courts. That's another tragedy.

These lessons belong in the school, where it is time to teach acceptance. And even beyond that, the lessons should be taught at home.

On first anniversary of Seattle, student movement is alive

Bhumika Muchhal
ANCHORAGE PRESS TRIBUNAL

Nov. 30 is the first anniversary of the Battle of Seattle. As thousands of students joined with trade unionists, environmentalists and others to demonstrate against the World Trade Organization, a new era of protest was dawning.

Many in the media have tried to portray the student protesters as thrill-seekers with little understanding of the issues and a questionable level of long-term commitment. Interviews I've conducted with nearly 50 student activists from national and campus organizations suggest a different picture.

Over the past year, these new young leaders have remained committed to their causes and have begun a process of addressing some difficult challenges, such as the lack of racial inclusion in the protests and the absence of a unifying vision.

"What we've got going thrives on 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 approaching African-American students. It is time to teach tolerance and respect for different cultures. The student movement is aware of the importance of this.

What else is common about these situations in Haverford, Spencer County and Minersville? All of them are moving through the courts. That's another tragedy.

These lessons belong in the school, where it is time to teach acceptance. And even beyond that, the lessons should be taught at home.
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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 1999

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

quarterback after Vic Penn suffered a sep­ arated shoulder, and performed beyond any expectations that the coaching staff had for him. Senior wide receiver Tyrion Hinshaw turned out to be the best pound­ for-pound football player in America, get open and make tough catches even

Clark and Eddie Mack to graduation, they

Hinshaw turned out to be the best pound­ wowing us all with his uncanny ability to

had for him. Senior wide receiver Tyson

the best individual defensive seasons in

physical prowess. Sophomore defensive ·

UCF history. Linebacker Tito Rodriguez

nents record. The fourth compo­

quarterback after

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Colado excited about next season

From Page A-16

Q: What are you expecting from the three new freshmen [Tanya Jarvis, Sara Judy, and Amanda Stout(eds)] next year?

A: I’m expecting them to challenge right away for starting positions, like I expect form all my freshmen every year. Each one of them brings something different then what we currently have. I’m looking forward to them coming 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 one 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.

UCF gets verbal commitment from Top RB

The St. Petersburg Times reported last week that Keith Williams, one of the most prolific running backs in Hillsborough High history, gave UCF a verbal commitment to play football for the Golden Knights.

Williams rushed for 1,135 yards as a junior and has 813 so far this season, scoring 14 touchdowns as a senior. In 1999, he led Hillsborough County with 21 touchdowns and 128 points. In Hillsborough’s 45-27 victory over Charlotte High in the first round of the state playoffs this year, Williams rushed for 127 yards on just nine carries.

“In a 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 alumus and UCF fullback Sean Gaudion 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 Omari Howard trying to win the starting job.

Seven Golden Knights named to All-Independent Team

Seven UCF football players, including record-setting receiver Tysson 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 Beorlegui, 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 separated shoulder in practice the Tuesday prior to the game.

Lorenti also made the squad last year.

UCF men’s basketball drops TAAC opener

Mercer senior Korey McCray hit a running jump shot with less than a second remaining to give Mercer (2-2, 1-3) 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 trailing 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 inbound play and Thornton hit a short bank shot to tie the game at 67 with 5.7 seconds remaining, setting up the play by McCray, who took the ball the length of the court to beat the buzzer. It was his only basket of the game.

Senior forward Mario Lovett led the Golden Knights with 18 points, while junior forward Paul Reed added 14 points and six rebounds. Thornton had 15 points, while Miller had seven points and two assists.

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BCS has too many letters in its title

**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 21-24 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 game, against Florida State. But the BCS doesn't take Oklahoma's spot as champions in the Orange Bowl, the sight of this year's National Championship game. The Sooners were undefeated and 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. The third component is comprised of the following eight computer rankings. The fourth component is comprised of the following eight computer rankings. The BCS Page A-14

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 year.

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 (Eason), 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.

COLADO, Page A-15
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 MarVeazony 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 Adreinne 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 Yernn 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 20%, the worst in school history. The previous low was 29%.

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

UCF's wins over Samford and Jacksonville State moved the Golden Knights into first place in the TAAC standings with a 2-0 conference record. Behind UCF are Georgia State and Campbell at 1-0, Samford and JSU at 1-1, Troy State and Mercer at 0-1, and Florida Atlantic at 0-2.

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 0-20 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 only trying to figure out how to beat them, that's why we have 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 Tinsville 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 step in right away like she did,” said UCF Head Coach Gail Striegler. “Everybody knew she was going to be a talented freshman succeed at the college 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 to see me every week,” she said. She also has all the “necessities” 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 and 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.

“With all she needs to survive college life and 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.

“With all she needs to survive college life and 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.

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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 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.

Following a loss to Florida State, UCF began the 2000-2001 TAAC regular season last week with away games at Samford and Jacksonville State. The Golden Knights started against Samford, a team that was picked to finish third in the preseason conference polls. That did not matter for Dunson and UCF, however, as the underdog Golden Knights scored the first six points of the game and would trail only once in a 66-51 victory over the Bulldogs. Dunson, a freshman guard, scored a career-high 20 points, including four three-pointers to lead UCF to the win. Dunson was five of nine from the floor and six of six from the free throw line. Junior guard Laterra Cooks 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, added 11 points for the team and its fans into the UCF two TAAC wins last week.

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

An ‘Ace’ in the hole

Billings living up to her nickname sooner than expected

KRISTY 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 expectations.

BILLINGS, Page A-18

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Fall, Page A-14
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, a man who wasn’t for her, she decided to try her hand as a Tallahassee lobbyist. After 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 posed for Playboyr. While Date is undoubtedly writing a comedy here, the satire also takes on 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? Is it any of the government’s business what the tobacco companies do? Eventually, however, like everyone else in the story, Date does pick a side, which results in an ending that is both funny and poignant.

While looking through RJH documents, Jeena comes across MRKS-1331, an incriminating memo that proves RJH marked up Larry Llama (think Joe Camel) cigarettes to children under the age of 18. This piece of evidence would sink RJH financially, and its discovery triggers a wild chain of events leading up to the day of the vote including attempted murders, blackmail, a pornographic website called “Taste Tallahassee” that is the brainchild of a Florida legislator and involves hidden cameras under the desks of female employees, and two senators attempting to enter the chambers while wearing only blazers and strategically placed socks. Each character will stop at nothing to get their way, providing for some very interesting conflicts. The book moves at a lightning quick pace, jumping from storyline to storyline without being too confusing. There are several “laugh-out-loud” places in the story, and the dialogue is always sharp and witty — “Then you’ll leave a nice inheritance for your wife and kids”… “I don’t have a wife, sir. Or kids…” “Poor planning on your part does not constitute a crisis on mine. Now get up!”

While Date is undoubtedly writing a comedy here, the satire also takes on the...
It takes no great feat of intelligence to figure out that in the movie industry has grown, much like that of its musical colleagues. Typically these genres are action, science fiction, comedy, horror and drama. Most movies fit one of these five archetypes, 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, fantasies 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 Dragonslayer, a fatal blow to the fantasy genre.

Perhaps movies like Dragonslayer, a special-effects film devoid of a solid plot or characters, are what make people so biased to the genre. Without a doubt, many horrible fantasy films have been released over the years such as Beastrace 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 stupid, thereby feeling comfortable passing arbitrary judgments without giving the film an opportunity to present itself. Perhaps this is why decent fantasy films such as Willow and Eragon 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 Dangerous 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 Telegraph. 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 fictional 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 magic 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 then again one never knows 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 The English Patient. These two films were made for the public, with a very "screw the critics!" attitude it seems. Anyway, Dangerous Dragons and Coming is coming up 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.
Tupac Shakur
The Rose that Grew From Concrete, Volume I

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 Phipps

Picture the Spice Girls singing with the voices of All Saints. This is kind of what L15 (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, L15 can pull off these songs for a younger audience while remaining good role models with a great message; people from diverse backgrounds make decent music and have a good time. However, it still comes across as being slightly synthesized. (B) -- Ken Lindquist

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'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

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 WJRR and O-Rock, as well as being advertised on MTV. Other songs include "Paperwork," 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-) --K.L.

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 guitars, 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*. There is something on this album for just about any mood, and each song is well played and has its own distinct style. *Can't Breathe* is a new sound. (B-) --M.P.
Nelly Furtado
White 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, White 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," 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.

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 tion. That Skribble is an Moby’s "Bodyrock." Many of the lyrics are quite socially conscious such as "Imagine all the words we’re spinning, would be killing inside. Being trapped in a jungle, it could 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.

Guano 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 spinning, would be killing inside. Being trapped in a jungle, it could 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, three and five are some of the best on the CD. While is a good album, it certainly comes nowhere close to their past works Gordon. Born on a Pirate Ship and Maybe You Should Drive. (C- – A.S.

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 lead from Dinosaur Jr., J Mascis’s 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 not entitled to anything. All we want is our fair share.” The lawsuit asks for actual and statutory damages, attorney’s fees, and at least 10 percent of the profits from sales of the souvenir puppets.

Cindy Crawford bids ‘Adieu’ to Revlon

Supermodel Cindy Crawford will be leaving Revlon after 11 years in 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 I’m not, and you let me go.”

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 negotiations for a $4 million contract with Scottish company JML 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...

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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 act 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 pro-wrestling's Chyna. Janssen played telekinetic Jean Grey in X-men this past summer, who she'll play again in the sequel. She also played Russian villainess Xenia Onatopp in GoldenEye.

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Top Five Movies of 2000

DAVID TAYLOR,
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1. American Psycho

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 richly 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 that many would think of a young Roman emperor, but also plays his role with such emotion that the audience cannot help but pity his character's evil soul. The violence of the movie is ever present, but never excessive, and in the end, it has a much deeper meaning than a simple, well-gladiator movie. Adding to the mix is Scott's brilliant visual direction and an awesome score which saw all of the elements together making a truly Oscar worthy film and a timeless classic.

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 yuppie that seemingly is the American dream in the flesh. He has it all, money, power, and women, yet at the same time he feels empty of his life and is forced to push out in violent murderess frenzies. American Psycho is not only a commentary on the human psyche, but also a black comedy. Bateman'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. 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 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 short-wave 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. 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 centered around a troubled, yet close community. The film has its scary moments, but the suspense and drama far outweighs its flaws.

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4. X-Men

There are many firmly established principles in Hollywood, just one being that movies based on comic books will more than likely bite the big one. Just look at history. Judge Dredd, The Phantom, Steel, and three of the four Batman movies have all shared this fate. Fortunately, rules were 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 short, it still managed to entertain without becoming too much like its predecessors.

5. Ghost Dog: Way of the Samurai

Leading the pack in best independent movies of the year comes Ghost Dog: Way of the Samurai, an almost straight to video cinematic gem. When I first saw the trailer to this film, like most people I thought it looked incredibly stupid. After all, the movie stars Forest Whitaker, who while is a good actor, I cannot picture being any sort of samurai. However, do not let the title fool you because this is essentially a hilarious movie. Whitaker's character Ghost Dog lives by the way of the ancient Japanese samurai, through simple means and loyalty to a crime syndicate hires him to eliminate their rivals. However, when the same crime syndicate turns against him the crooked Ghost Dog follows forces him to take revenge. What follows is an in-depth portrayal of Eastern philosophy combined with the harsh realities of the Western world, not to mention some serious ass kicking on the part of Forest Whitaker. Ghost Dog: Way of the Samurai has a simple plot but some complex messages intertwined. Not all action movies have to be full of John Woo style pyrotechnics and endless summer action, and Ghost Dog proves this beyond a shadow of a doubt. Cost does not determine quality, something that Hollywood may someday learn.
The worst five movies of 2000

**David Taylor**

**Worst Five Movies of 2000**

1. **Mission Impossible 2**
   - There are some actors who should just not be action heroes. For instance, Marlon Brando in his current state would not be a good action hero, neither would James Earl Jones. Now I used to think the same for Tom Cruise, 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. 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 main 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. Also, how many times did they do the virus thing away from bad guy? By the time this movie was almost over 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 them. The time this movie was almost over I was hoping the virus would kill everybody. 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 they drawn down in every one of John Woo's films? I found nothing redeemable about this movie, except for the slight possibility they may not make another.

2. **Nutty Professor 2: The Klumps**
   - One simple message: Eddie Murphy start making funny movies again! After all, even 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 laced, 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 flattened jokes you could make in one film, but apparently the filmmakers involved in The Klumps do not share my same 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 (I was so naive). 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, where the film turns into a classic Hitchcock technique. As far as the story, it is simple ghost fair; the wife sees things, a couple of scares, Harrison Ford walks around showing his mostly sixty-year old neck. Speaking of Ford, he is hardly even in the movie! Most of the film is Michelle. Pfeiffer running around screaming and jumping into water. Granted the films climax is pretty good, but just like bad, boring sex, it took way to long to get there.

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 every 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 film, since I followed all the cliches of horror movies. Kevin Bacon dies about 20 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 this movie 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 a year later and here comes Romeo Must Die, a martial arts, romance, gangland mess with about as much acting talent as a "QO15" episode. 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, Aaliyah belongs to another, and she shops around. The two meet and fall in love or something like that. Hmm, hmm, hmm. Jet Li is about as good of an actor as a trained dolphin. Sure, it can do lots of stunts, but the emotional 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 pissed 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.

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Samantha Mumba

Gotta Tell You

After being a regular on TRL for a short time with her hit “Gotta Tell You,” you would think that Samantha Mumba is headed for success. The sad truth is that there are just too many of this brand of singer for any newcomer to achieve the success of, say, Britney Spears. Not only that, but Mumba just isn’t original enough. Her voice sounds like T-Boz’s from TLC and her music sounds exactly like the other girl singers of our time: poppy and synthetic. I’m not saying that the girl doesn’t have talent, but how many tightly-clad teeny boppers can we stand? Granted, Mumba’s music is slightly different than other stars’. “Body II Body” is mellower with an almost jazzy feel to it. “The Boy” has the same feel to it, but a little more upbeat. The true treasure of this album is “Isn’t it Strange?” done in an old-fashioned vocal styling of the ’50s, but incorporating the beats and sounds of the ’90s. Therefore, this isn’t a bad CD; it’s just unoriginal CD. If you can’t get enough of the female pop stars of today, I suggest checking this CD out. Otherwise, don’t end your search here. (C) – K.L.

Mom says
Eat your greens...

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 modern 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.

Submarine

Skindiving

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 mmmmm 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.

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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 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 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.
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 you can't believe it! 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 that 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. 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

DO YOU NEED
A STUDY BREAK?

What: MidKnight Breakfast Where: Wednesday, Dec. 6th and Thursday, Dec. 7th

When: Wednesday, Dec. 6th and Thursday, Dec. 7th

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(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 one is cute, but can get rather dictatorial sometimes. A good sense of humor is a valuable addition to your tool-box. 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 6 50, just barely. You’re pretty evenly matched.

If You’re Having a Birthday This Week: Dec. 5: Risks are appealing, but don’t go too far. A friend who’s affectionate now could be of the fair-weather kind. Dec. 6: A loved one demands your attention, curtailing your freedom somewhat. Don’t abandon old friends in the meantime; when it’s right it won’t be either. Dec. 7: A gold-digger is revealed, and true friends come through in a pinch. A fantasy fades, as the new reality starts to emerge. You’re on a quest. Dec. 8: Don’t give up, even if hope seems gone. Your goal just takes longer to reach than you thought. Dec. 9: You’re paying dues this year, but don’t complain. The experience you gain is the most valuable ever. Decide what to study, soon. Dec. 10: You and a mate have a few tough battles, but all turns out well in the end. Learn from each other, and grow.

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MANNY MESSNER, General Mgr.
Twas the night before Christmas
(Bell Out the Creek remix)

Twas the night before Christmas
(And this may seem unlikely)
But, not a room mate was stirring,
Not even Mikey!
And as the guys slept away,
Filling the house with their snoring,
There came suddenly (Oh, yes, suddenly)
A knock at the door,
The knocking was met
With curses and shoes.
But the guys finally rose
To see who was there.
It was Felicia 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!"
(Felix, you heard what he said)
"Bah humbug to Christmas!
I'm going to bed!"
"Christmas? he continued
(Though no one had asked)
"This isn't all it's meaning, it's a thing of the past!
Enormous that you turn
Into Buy me shirts! Buy me that!
Hey, look, Christmas 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 tinsel,
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 starred in weird 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, so all of you geeks,
Hermits, and eccentrics,
To all of you gringos,
Hustlers, and scroungers.
Loosen up! Have some fun!
It WILL be alright!
Merry Christmas to all,
And to all a good night.

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The grove @ CityWalk
December 28
Sandra Collins, Tranceport 111
9:00pm - 3:00am, tickets $10

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Model Includes Apple Pro Keyboard, Apple Pro Mouse, modem cable, MAC OS 9, QuickTime, Appleworks, Microsoft Internet Explorer, Microsoft Outlook Express, Netscape Communicator, Quicken Deluxe 2000, Palm Desktop, FAXstt, Bugdom and Nanosaur software; complete setup, learning and reference documentation; Limited warranty; 30 days of free internet service through Earthlink. All offers with approved credit. Excludes prior purchases. All prices and payments include factory rebates, owner loyalty rebates and lease loyalty rebates where applicable. All leases to qualified buyers with 740 beacon score. Leases are 12,000 miles per year. Lease per mile thereafter. No dealers or brokers. Vehicles subject to prior sale. See dealer for details.