UCF and UF partner with NASA

Diana Hennig
STAFF WRITER

Upon its opening in 1968, the University of Central Florida was nicknamed the Florida Space Institute. However, not until now has this nickname really held true. Toward the end of 2000, the Florida Board of Regents created the National Alliance for Aerospace Science and Education, which gave state blessing to a partnership among UCF, UF and NASA. The partnership was proposed by UCF's Dean Martin Wanieklista, the BOR-R.E. LeMom and UF's Research Vice President Wm. Phillips. "This partnership is a vision of expansion of any Florida university or university. UF plans to bring its Space education and Research Laboratory to the partnership. The university plans to build a $28 million

OPINION

Whether or not including the "My questions the value about the Central Florida have fallen head Hyperspectral imaging, research bioterrorism and percent increase in direct federal funding for this year. was just recently announced to the public.

From the Sports Desk

Margaret Lee Hue, a loan

Jen Schneider, a 20-year-old sophomore who has 12 credit cards got her one years ago. I got my first credit card when I was only 17," Schneider said. "My credit card debt is now about $5,000," she added. "That does not include the $3,500 I owe the IRS and in hospital bills.

Margaret Lee Hue, a loan officer at the UCF Federal Credit

Fact or fiction?
Student questions the validity of tarot and astrological readings.

- OPINIONS, pg. A-10

Did you know? pg. A-3

Roonmote Problems? pg. A-10

OPINION

Groomey need go to? pg. B-2

ENTERTAINMENT

Hopeswell: New music pg. B-5

RANK REVIEW

Mark's b-ball home win pg. A-24

SPORTS

Around Campus... pg. A-5

News of the Weird... pg. B-4

Sealot Advisor... pg. B-8

From the Sports Desk... pg. A-21

UCF receives part of $100 million federal funding

Becky Panoff
STAFF WRITER

The Florida State University System received a 50 percent increase in direct federal funding for this year. This bill was approved last month by Congress, but was just recently announced to the public.

UCF will be receiving $2.5 million for forensic science, $175,000 for food, drinks and gas on his credit card, $3,500 (the lowest it bas ever been), $375,000 for sus share research biblioterrorism and $175,000 SUS share research workforce development.

UCF students deep in credit card debt

Taylor Clark
STAFF WRITER

Students at the University of Central Florida have fallen head over heels. No, not in love, but in credit card debt. Jen Schneider, a 20-year-old sophomore who has 12 credit cards got her one years ago. I got my first credit card when I was only 17," Schneider said. "My credit card debt is now about $5,000," she added. "That does not include the $3,500 I owe the IRS and in hospital bills.

Margaret Lee Hue, a loan officer at the UCF Federal Credit

Union said students in particular experience debt often. "Most people are in a spot where they can't find the means," she said. "They use the card to live on."

According to Hue, a student's income is not enough to cover basic living expenses. As a result, many students buy every- thing, including groceries on their credit cards. Schneider agreed she could simply not afford everything she needs without the help of her credit cards.

Andrea Commons, a senior history major, puts predominately food, drinks and gas on his credit cards. His debt amounts to $1,555-the lowest it has been in years. To him having a credit card is like having cash, and he uses it accordingly. Schneider's spending is different. She con- siders herself responsible because she will not charge any- thing perishable to her cards. "If something won't last more than three months, I refuse to put it on my card," said Schneider.

Tom Messina, associate vice president and executive director of the UCF Alumni Association, agrees that credit card companies prey upon college students, offer- ing them introductory interest rates and free gifts. Messina noted, ten years ago UCF was crawling with credit card compa-

Back to the books

Students filled the aisles and check- out lines of the UCF bookstore for the week leading up to the beginning of the Spring semes- ter. Many students try to buy their books before the first day of classes, while many put it off later.

Elissa Jacobs
STAFF WRITER

Perhaps you didn't fre- quent her hot dog stand on a regular basis, or ever, but when Lynette Permaid retired from UCF at the end of the fall semester she left behind a lot more than hungry students—she left behind a family of students that came to know her over the years and will dearly miss her.

Lynette's hot dog stand, known as Ray Lyn's Food Cart, named after herself and her late husband Ray, was located on campus behind the Math and Physics building. For 18 years the couple served students a mix of American and Caribbean food that was fast, fresh and always served with a warm smile. "I'm going to try to start this hot dog stand, he didn't even know how to boil a hotdog," Lynette said. She continued, "I was working as a media technologist at the time, and had to take a week off just to help him get it started." She explained that UCF was interested in the Permaids, because they needed a minority business on campus.

"I'll miss the students the most—they've made it really worthwhile," she said.

Over the years, she has acquired many adopted "sons" by talking to them, day after day, and getting to know students on a personal basis. "I have no complaints about the students, they've always been kind, courteous and funny—those boys used to always tease me. They were sweet." She explained that one year, an ROTC student used to come and take the broom right out of her hand and sweep in front of her stand for her. "He wouldn't even let me take my own trash out," she said. "They were sweet and looks for me to this day, and keeps in touch."

"One grown man walked up to my stand and said, "Do

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Little known services offered on-campus

Jennifer Paterson
Staff Writer

At the beginning of every semester, most students feel the weight of tuition. Although relatively inexpensive, throwing out anywhere from $500 to $1500 to pay for the cost of classes can still seem like a huge chunk of change. What many students don't know is that UCF offers a wealth of extra services that are included in the bill, services that if paid for individually, could easily add up to the dollars forked out by a student for a higher education every semester.

"Ever since I have come to UCF, I have taken part in the aerobics classes," said junior Jenny Jordan. "There are always a lot to choose from and they have beginner, intermediate and advanced levels of classes so anyone who wants to do it can." Indeed, every semester the UCF Fitness Center offers aerobics classes, as well as other services. Just over a year ago they introduced their yoga classes and kickboxing.

"It's a really great place," said Jordan. "If I paid for a gym like Bally's, it would easily cost me $50 a month, plus I'd have to take time to drive there."

The Fitness Center falls under the care of Recreational Services which offers a number of programs to students every semester including team volleyball, basketball, swimming, football, softball and more. For more information about their services the number is 407-823-2408.

Another little known service at UCF is the Wellness Center. Matt Csoka, a business major at UCF went to the dietitian at the UCF Wellness Center to evaluate his eating and choose a diet that would optimize his energy.

"It's not like I am fat or anything, but between work and school, my diet tends to lack substance and I get low on energy," Csoka said he kept track of his diet for three days and then the dietitian counseled him on how to better improve what he ate.

I mean, its crazy, Hollywood stars pay hundreds of dollars for someone to tell them this, and we get it free," said Csoka. "People don't realize there are services like this on campus."

Other services provided by the Wellness Center include massages at much lower prices than would one pay off-campus and free mental health counseling. "The counseling is great," said Mandy Lobo, a graduate of UCF. "During my sophomore year I got slightly depressed and went to the counselor. I didn't have to pay, appointments were easy to make, and it was close to campus."

For more information about services offered by the Wellness Center including career testing and counseling call 407-823-2817.

Although the price of tuition may seem to burn a huge hole in your pocket every semester, remember the perks of a campus life. In a few years, a health center at minimal cost and appointments that can usually be made within a week will be a part of your dreams.

Partnership will further industrial development, space exploration

from page A-1
lab at the space center in the coming years.

"UCF has been engaged for the last ten years delivering courses at the cape through the Florida Space Institute (FSI). Last year, around 400 students took courses. FSI also operates a substantial research program and has rental space at the astronaut memorial foundation as well as at the airforce facility on the cape," said Wanielista.

UCF's portion of the space partnership will be built around the FSI, which focuses on launch and space travel research and education. "Already, the BOR has given us permission to establish a type I institute," said Wanielista. A newly approved information program will also be opening, which will provide new opportunities to more than 600 UCF students annually. The bachelor's degree program would draw from computer science, engineering and information systems management.

"It is important to our school and its students because this partnership will further industrial development, space exploration and make opportunities for students to gain experience while attending UCF as well as career opportunities for the future. We are the fuel for economic development and human performance," said Jordan.

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Permaul inspired, influenced students

FROM PAGE A-1

you remember me?" He was a student years ago, and had brought his daughter to meet me. "It's things like that, that really make me feel good."

Besides influencing students' lives, the Permauls also inspired them to be proud of who they are individually; in particular, the minority students. Ray Permaul encouraged the Caribbean students many years ago to form an organization. "They used to hold their meetings at these tables next to our stand, and its grown into something big now," Lynette said. Today that group has transformed into the UCF Caribbean Student Association, who has helped Lynette over the years with the upkeep of her stand.

Lynette says that although she liked UCF when it was smaller and less crowded back in the early 80's, she knows that its growth has been beneficial to students. "The university has grown immensely," she said. "Over the years, I just saw buildings go up. There were 14,000 students when I started here and it was not so thickly populated." She added that not all of UCF's changes were beneficial to students though. "Later as the university grew, people tried to raise my rent and told me to just raise my prices, but it's not the rich students who buy from me - there was no need to overcharge my students."

Lynette said that she is sad to be retiring from her job at UCF. "I've really enjoyed my years here. He (Ray) is truly the founder our business. It's hard to give it up. It's not monetary gains that I'll miss, but the students - they kept me active and young at heart. For everything there is a season and a time... and now is my time to leave UCF. I'm ending on a good note."

Minimum payments do not let students pay off debts

FROM PAGE A-1

Taylor Clark
STAFF WRITER

logo card, the alumni association receives one-half of 1 percent of sales. Messina said, this revenue funds over $40,000 in scholarships each year for UCF. The revenue also goes towards sporting events, homecoming, pre-game parties and Pegasus, the association's magazine.

Messina said UCF chose MBNA because it wanted a company that has students' best interest at heart. MBNA holds seminars to teach students how to budget money and handle credit card debt. Twice a year the alumni association advertises the seminar via mass e-mails and through the Central Florida Future.

Commins said many students are ignorant about interest rates and do not understand that the minimum payment will never allow a person to pay off their debt. If you pay the minimum balance you are only paying the interest off each month, he added.

Commins said a seminar at orientation would be a good way to teach kids how to use credit responsibly. Although there is not yet a seminar offered for incoming freshmen during orientation, both Messina and Joe Ritchie, director of orientation agree it would be beneficial and feasible.

"Credit card management and debt is something we need to address at the beginning, not the end," said Ritchie. "It's not something every student wants to hear, but we need to put it out there."

According to Hue, despite the initial low credit limit, first and second year students rack up large debts. When seniors are about to graduate and have a good job, they become serious about wanting to pay off their credit cards, she noted.

Messina is a proponent of credit cards for students. He said you do not know when an emergency is going to happen and you will need it. He noted the importance of establishing good credit for the purpose of buying cars and getting apartments.

For students in debt, Hue suggests a loan consolidation program. Loan officers look at repayment potential and income to create one payment.

Once a student's debt has gotten too high to successfully manage, Hue offers this advice:

- Cut up all credit cards.
- Look at income versus expenditures.
- Pay as much down on your principal each month as possible.
- Be willing to make sacrifices.
- Know and understand that the more credit cards you obtain, the more in debt you will become.

new eats

The Baja Burrito Kitchen and Mr. Field's Pretzel Time are welcome additions to the Student Union and the long list of eatery choices on campus. Mr. Field's is already open for business. Baja Burrito Kitchen is scheduled to open early in the Spring Semester.

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For information leading to the whereabouts of of two UCF Alumni banners stolen from the Arena area during December's graduation.

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### Around campus

**State employees raise record number of dollars**

**Jennifer Paterson**

STAFF WRITER

The 2000 Florida State Employees Charitable Campaign grossed $154,240 on the main campus, for surpassing the goal of $142,000. Thirty UCF employees pledged at least $1,000 each. Orlando Magic owners Richard and Helen DeVos matched those donations. The UCF Brevard and Daytona Beach campuses also added more than $12,000 to the donations.

Employee of the month

Lourdes Emanuelli, an office assistant for the Department of Management for the College of Business Administration, was UCF's employee of the month for December. Emanuelli has thoroughly enjoyed the nine years she has worked at UCF. "I like the environment," she said. "It's a youthful environment and the co-workers are nice and friendly." A native of Puerto Rico, Emanuelli grew up spending much of her time gardening a hobby that she continues today—growing peppers and herbs. She also likes to watch movies and sew in her spare time.

On display in the library

Library exhibits through the month of January are "Jackets Not Required: But Desirable: A College of Glorious Bookjackets from UCF Library Books"; "Martin Luther King, Jr."; "Theater UCF: Seeing the Stars of Tomorrow"; "UCF Arboretum"; "The Essence of India"; "Florida's Pre-History."

Art of India next at UCF gallery

An exploration of the contrasts between Hindu and Muslim architecture at two cities in India will be on display during the next exhibition at the University of Central Florida Art Gallery. The exhibition, which uses watercolors, photographs, maps and other documents is the result of 16 years of research by UCF art professor, Jagdish Chavda. The exhibit opens Jan. 13 with a reception from 6 - 9 p.m. and runs through Feb. 4. The gallery is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Jan. 14, 21, 28, 1-5 p.m. and Jan. 14 at 3 p.m. Chavda will present a slide lecture on his work, which will be followed by a program of traditional classical and folk dance by performers from the Institute of India Art and Culture.

All gallery programs are free and open to the public. Call (407) 823-2676 for further information.

Campaigning to fix voting problems

The Institute for Simulation and Training located in Research Park has launched a program to evaluate changes in the electoral system that could range from ballot redesigns to the scrapping of the Electoral College. Institute officials have assembled a multidisciplinary team of experts from throughout UCF to systematically analyze proposed changes for effectiveness and unintended consequences in a program known as the Voter Integrity Program. "The institute will function as a testbed, or underwriter's laboratory, for ideas to improve the mechanisms and procedures of elections," said Dennis McBride, IST executive director.

Longtime Purchasing Boss dies

Jan. 10, at 11 a.m., there will be a memorial service in the Arena for UCF's longtime director for Purchasing, Jack Winstead, who died Dec. 23 of kidney cancer. Winstead had been with UCF for 13 years. "He was a great leader, true professional, compassionate and understanding, yet purposeful in accomplishing the task at hand," says Ray Puskas, interim director for Purchasing. "Jack was a true mentor for many of us. The lives he touched will always be blessed from the positive relationships, experiences, humor and stories that he shared."

Winstead is survived by his wife, Kathy, and a number of children and grandchildren.

Tight job market has students calling shots

KATY MARQUARDT
KNIGHT-RODIE TRIBUNE

University of Texas senior Dianna Lucio is a part-time waitress, but she's a hot commodity for employers in a variety of fields when she graduates next year.

Lucio, who is double-majoring in communications science and disorders and speech communication, has her internship lined up for the spring with the Texas attorney general's office and is already thinking about graduate school.

"I know that just because I'm graduating doesn't mean I'm going to get a good job, but I feel pretty comfortable about getting out there," she said. "I think there is a need out there for what I do."

The job market for graduates such as Lucio is so tight that employers are projecting a healthy 23.4 percent increase in college hiring next year, according to Job Outlook 2001, an annual survey of nearly 500 employers by the National Association of Colleges and Employers. They expect to make one-fifth of their job offers to new grads.

Career counselors at area colleges say the Seller's market is responsible for new attitudes among job seekers. Although many graduating seniors already have job offers, others are waiting longer to apply and are being more choosy. Some are even taking detours before entering the professional world.

"It's a fascinating work world right now. Students are really riding the tide," said Curt Schaffer, director of career services at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos.

Although the job market is lucrative for almost all majors, the demand is highest for candidates with degrees in computer science, accounting, business administration and engineering, according to the survey.

The demand is fueled by companies such as Austin-based National Instruments Corp., which plans to hire 20 percent to 25 percent more recent graduates next year. Mark Finger, vice president of human resources, said the company hired more than 200 from the Class of 2000.

"All the big boys are flexing their muscles, the IBMs, the Microsofts ... we're all seeing a significant increase in hiring bonuses and options," he said. "I've been in the game 20 years and haven't seen anything like it."

Many employers recruiting through UT's College of Engineering are making job offers earlier in the academic year, said Michael Powell, assistant director of the Engineering Career Assistance Center.

"We have undergrads working at places like Applied Materials in Austin that pay $13 or $14 an hour, and we have to constantly remind them about the importance of a degree and the reality of working outside Austin," Young said.

Although internships and other forms of part-time work are meant to supplement education, they can also lead to permanent employment. Employers reported that one-fourth of their Class of 2000 hires held an internship with the company, according to the National Association of Colleges.

Ken Sun, a 1999 University of Washington graduate in electrical engineering, landed his job at Applied Materials after interning with the company in Taiwan. Although he received offers from several companies after interviewing with job fairs, Sun chose Applied.

"It's still necessary for engineering majors to intern to get a good job," said Sun. "It really increased my chances."

But not every prospective graduate is picking and choosing between offers. Students in communications fields, for example, must network more to land a job in the industry, said Amanda Seftas, a UT senior in advertising, who has two internships under her belt.

"Companies that always hire, but I haven't had an abundance of offers," she said. "I guess it's better than it has been in the past, but for me ... I've been worried.

There's still hope for those who want a job by May but haven't started their job search, said Roger Young, director of career services at Southwestern University in Georgetown.
Court yearbook ruling a landmark victory

BILLY O'KEEFE
TMS CAMPUS

Should free-speech restrictions applicable to high school students apply to college students as well? The Society for Professional Journalists doesn't think so. And now, neither does the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

The court ruled on Friday that officials at Kentucky State University were out of line in confiscating and censoring some 2,000 copies of the 1993-94 edition of the Thorobred, the student-produced yearbook. The decision to apply a high school official's right to censor student publications that do not fall in accordance with the school's educational philosophy.

The decision to apply a high school law to a college publication outraged students around the country, who saw the decision as a threat to what they felt were basic rights.

"It is ludicrous to assume that a 13-year-old is similar in judgment to a 22-year-old college senior," read an editorial that appeared in the Student, Miami of Ohio's student newspaper. "Moreover, virtually all college students are adults who enjoy inherent rights and responsibilities. Hood has implied that college adults are no more capable than are juveniles."

Lawyers for the students, with funding from the SPJ, sought last year to reverse the decision. They argued that, contrary to the high court's opinion, Kentucky State's status as a public university makes it a public forum, and that students' rights are not subject to the same standards of censorship as their high school counterparts.

In his ruling, Judge R. Guy Cofrer concurred.

"Given the university's stated policy and practice with regard to the yearbook, the nature of the yearbook and its compatibility with expressive activity, and the university context in which the yearbook is published, there can be no question that The Thorobred is a journal of expression and communication in the public forum sense," read the decision. "The university's confiscation of this journal of expression was arbitrary and unreasonable. As such, it violated Kincaid's and Coffner's First Amendment rights."

SPJ president Ray Marciano called the ruling "a major victory for those who fight for free speech and against censorship attempts."

"The court has sent a very strong message to all those who would even consider prohibiting publication of materials simply because they don't like them," Marciano said.

"The Sixth Circuit wisely saw through Kentucky State officials' disgraceful efforts to protect the university's public image even at the expense of students' First Amendment rights," said Christine Titum, chairwoman of SPJ's Legal Defense Fund. "By hiding those books, the university has done more damage to its reputation than it would have by releasing them. Officials at the university could not be reached for comment."

When asked about the university's reaction to the decision, a KSU spokesperson declined comment.

Yearbook editors Capri Coffier and Charles Kincaid sued the university, arguing that the university's actions were unconstitutional.

In 1997, U.S. District Judge Joseph Hood, citing a U.S. Supreme Court ruling on a similar case involving high school students, ruled in favor of the university. Hood pointed to Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, a case that granted high school officials the right to censor student publications that do not fall in accordance with the school's educational philosophy.

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Firms selling bogus degrees increase on internet

Jennifer Radcliffe
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

With the click of a mouse and a few thousand dollars, anyone who can operate a computer can get a college degree without ever attending a class.

In many cases, the student does not have to study, take tests or write papers.

Internet-based diploma mills are producing a record number of phony degrees on a daily basis that are being passed off as college degrees, experts said.

Teachers, doctors and government officials are among those using phony degrees to secure jobs, and little is being done to stop the multimillion-dollar international industry, experts said.

Advertisements for diploma mills show stately buildings and boast of accredited programs that offer flexibility for working adults. But in many cases, there are no buildings, no professors and no legitimate accreditation, officials said.

"It's worse than it's ever been, and it's growing exponentially," said author John Bear, founder of www.degree.net.

The latest edition of "Bear's Guide to Earning Degrees Nontraditionally," which is scheduled for release in January, will include 481 phony schools. That is an increase from 320 listed in the 1998 edition.

The Internet makes it easy for companies to spread the word about their services. At least one diploma mill sends up to a million e-mail messages a week advertising its business, said Bear, who co-authored the book with his daughter, Mariah Bear.

The e-mail often falls in the hands of desperate people who know that degree holders have a greater chance of succeeding in the job market, he said.

An equal number of people are honest victims of diploma mills as they look for ways to benefit from the expanding distance-learning network that was established by traditional, legitimate universities, experts said.

There are several legitimate non-traditional universities that are trying to establish themselves on the Internet.

"The public has no criteria for separating the sheep from the goats," said professor Barry Lumsden, who has taught a doctorate-level class about diploma mills at the University of North Texas in Denton for 15 years.

Web sites for phony universities can be deceptive, he said. People tend to think that Web addresses that end in ".edu" are legitimate, but there are no prerequisites to register for those addresses, Lumsden said.

In addition, many diploma mills boast accreditation from agencies that also are invented, making it crucial for potential students to do a lot of homework before they sign up or send money, he said.

"Most of the people who run these schools are pretty slick operators," Lumsden said. "They know how to use words in their advertising that laypeople don't understand."

Lumsden said he is concerned that numerous ministers nationwide are among those using diploma mills to "earn" doctorates.

Such misuse puts employers in danger of hiring unqualified workers and may also cheapen the value of legitimate degrees, he said.

"God only knows how many people are in positions of power right now based on fraudulent credentials," he said.

Allen Ezell, a retired special agent who oversaw the FBI DipScam task force to investigate phony universities in the 1980s and 1990s, said there are some telltale signs that a university is bogus.

"When a school sells you a degree and a transcript with no work at all, and you have courses on your transcript that you don't know anything about, and you're able to negotiate your GPA, and they're willing to backdate your diploma, something's wrong," he said.

Potential students must ensure that schools are accredited by recognized agencies, Ezell said.

Few agencies have taken a role in monitoring diploma mills, experts said.

Private watchdogs such as Bear and his Web site keep an eye on fraudulent companies, and government agencies do what they can.

Ray Grasshoff, a spokesman for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, said his office has a full-time employee responsible for monitoring the sites, as well as several other duties.

"It's a consumer-protection issue for us," he said.

Online universities that lack recognized accreditation and a certificate of authority to operate in Texas could face fines of $1,000 to $3,000. If an unauthorized university is offering degrees, the fines could reach $5,000, Grasshoff said.

Unauthorized universities also could be reported to the state attorney general, he said.

Figures about how many institutions had been fined were unavailable, Grasshoff said.

It is difficult to find perpetrators, he said.

Larger phony institutions often have parts of their business in several different countries, Bear said. They take telephone calls in one country, deposit money in banks in another country and print advertisements in another.

"We've got a gigantic, but not at all visible, fraud going on," Bear said. "The harm is extraordinary."

He estimates that the revenue of the diploma mill industry exceeds $200 million a year.

Steps must be taken to regulate it, he said.

"If somebody holds up the 7-Eleven for 50 bucks, they're going to be in jail before their Sherpa mills, but these guys are stealing millions every month," Bear said.

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Astrology and Fortune-Telling... Fact or Fiction?

What does the future hold? Millions seek the answer through forms of astrology and fortune-telling.

Darcy Elena Rodriguez

Astrologers study how events on earth correspond to movements of astronomical bodies such as the sun, planets, moon and stars. They then make predictions by interpreting the positions of the bodies. Individuals are given a sign based on the location of the body at the time of their birth. These bodies are then applied to the planets controlling my destiny. But wait there's more.

Roommates:

Can't live with them, can't afford to live without them.

When it comes to bad roommates, I have had them all. I have lived with accomplices to grand theft, drug dealers, cross dressers, strippers and just overall psychotics. Yes, college has definitely been an interesting experience for me.

Insipid thoughts: Head deep in a toilet-bowl

Adam Shiver

Have you ever heard so loud that you wake yourself? How sad is that?

What has happened to MTV? It seems like they play a total of only 10 or 15 different videos. The only time there is a video on is on Carson's Total Request Live show. The other 23 and a half hours of the day are devoted to things like Daria, Real World, Makeover Model Mission, Tom Green and other useless programming. Show some videos on Music Television.

New Year's resolutions are a great idea... it is too bad that no one ever follows through with them. There should be a contract that you have to sign New Year's Day. Perhaps that would help us commit ourselves to that goal we've said we're going to stick with for an entire year.

Roommates: Can't live with them, can't afford to live without them.

Andrea Keegan

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Normal’ roommates hard to find
From PAGE A-10

plain as day, downright thieves. Yes, for anyone who has been here a while and remembers the big theft ring that occurred at the Fashion Square Mall with the night security guards. I remember the thousands of dollars in stolen merchandise in my apartment. I did have thieves, but I also had people to share the grocery bill with and to split the phone bill with because when I lived there we had to pay for phone. So in the end I had one third of the bills and the priceless experience of living with the dishonest.

After that I moved to Winter Park with three normal people. Four of us to split the grocery bill, the phone bill, the electric bill and the cable bill. That is until my roommate got pregnant and I had to move again. Not before I found out that the spare room where my impregnated roommate used to live was being used to sell various illegal substances. Nice huh? Well, needless to say, I moved away from there and the smoked out friends who I no longer talk to. But I spent a lot less money because of splitting the bills with those crazy druggies.

My next adventure in housing was at another fine collegiate establishment, Northgate Lakes. My short stint there afforded me the enjoyment of having my male roommate dress up in my clothing and steal my purses all the time. He especially liked my wrap-around plaid skirt. Three months later I was moving onto my next experience. My only advice from this place is to find people you can relate to and that way you will be safe. The separation that went on in the kitchen was comparable to the segregation we read about in history. I had my shelf and they had theirs and nothing touched.

Next I moved in with an older friend, not old just older. I figured maybe the motherly type wouldn't have any psychotic tendencies. Wrong! She liked to pretend she was a mother figure needed a hobby and maybe the motherly type wouldn't. So she decided to talk to me on the phone as loudly as she could in front of my door, turn on the tea kettle and let it whistle, let slams on her door, turn on the tea kettle and let it whistle, let slams on the door, I was at another fine collegiate establishment, Northgate Lakes. My short stint there afforded me the enjoyment of having my male roommate dress up in my clothing and steal my purses all the time. He especially liked my wrap-around plaid skirt. Three months later I was moving onto my next experience. My only advice from this place is to find people you can relate to and that way you will be safe. The separation that went on in the kitchen was comparable to the segregation we read about in history. I had my shelf and they had theirs and nothing touched.

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For a new year of success, try ancient science

Maria Ferrari
DALLS NORTHWESTERN
(U-WIRE) EVANSTON, ILL.

The fifth day or so of a new year is always significant—at least in my experience—as the time my New Year’s resolutions crawl off in search of a place to die.

Fortunately, I’ve discovered an art that takes the “self” out of self-improvement. I offer it to you as the ultimate New Year’s resolution: This year, promise your c’hi that you’re going to give feng shui a chance.

Feng shui is the ancient Chinese art of placement, used for centuries to enhance health, wealth and relationships. It boils down to the concept that if something in your life is not working out well, you should rearrange your furniture. It is a great system.

As a person who wants to increase my prosperity without having to leave my apartment, I found feng shui easy to incorporate into my Western lifestyle.

One of the best things about feng shui is that you don’t have to believe in it per se. It’s not a religion or philosophy, it’s just the way you’ve set up your dorm room.

Refusing to “believe in” feng shui is like refusing to believe in college a cappella groups. You might choose to ignore them, but they’re there, influencing your life in subtle ways. Because feng shui is universal, getting a book on feng shui is a good chance to go around correcting things you really hate about other people’s rooms. When bad things happen to those who don’t let you repaint their walls, you can nod in a way that suggests you tried to protect them from just this sort of misfortune.

Another good thing about feng shui is that it’s rooted in common sense. For example, it requires you to get rid of clutter—a principle that suggests you tried to protect your space from fire and that relies on the common sense that requires clear thinking.

We can blame Marilyn Manson for Springsteen’s “American Skin (41 Shots)” and Ice-T’s “Cop Killer” and pretend that police brutality and intimidation toward African-Americans is a figment of black America’s imagination. We can get Tipper Gore, a woman who has been named for herself as the First Lady of Censorship, to shut up already about her struggle with clinical depression, which is what so much music is about, and pretend that everything’s always hunky-dory.

As I said, I’m all for censorship. We can censure all that stuff, everything that makes us feel squeamish or uneasy or anxious. We can shove it all underground, airbrush it over with a smirky-face finish, and then when we look in the mirror, all objects will appear to be more perfect than they actually are.

Censorship in music? My, what a wonderful idea!

Jim Walsh
KNIGHT-RIDDER TRIBUNE

Me, I’m all for censorship in music because it would make everything a heckuva lot simpler.

If everyone would just get on the same page, we could ban Eminem and every other rapper or rocker who has ever used the word “nigger” and pretend that homophobia doesn’t exist and that gay-bashings and hate-crimes don’t happen.

And why stop there? We could ban all the songs that use the word “nigger” and “jigga” with affection and not explore their meanings or contexts because that takes too much time and thought, and then we could lump them in with all the hateful usages and flush ‘em all down the same toilet.

We could ban gangsta-rap, which tells some truly truthful truths with more lucidity than any would-be president does those days, and pretend that one in four young black men really isn’t in prison.

We can blame Marilyn Manson for Columbine and everything else wrong with kids today, pull his records from the malls and rest easy, knowing that the NRA and Christian Coalition are watching over us.

We can boycott teen-age lust songs and put a cork in teen-age suicide songs, and then teenagers won’t ever have sex or get sad.

We can dismiss Ani DiFranco as a self-righteous party-pooper because she has suggested we “blow up MTV,” even though hers is an entirely rational reaction to the most influential, mind-deadening tool in the history of youth culture.

We should make sure that the words “cocaine,” “weed” and “pot” are bleeped out on the radio because if we do that, then no one will ever get in their heads to do drugs.

We should protest Bruce Springsteen’s “American Skin (41 Shots)” and Ice-T’s “Cop Killer” and pretend that police brutality and intimidation toward African-Americans is a figment of black America’s imagination.

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Central Florida Future
Season begins at Jay Bergman Field Feb. 3

FROM PAGE A-24

College Basketball preseason All-America team. Kurella was named as a third-team stopgap. Last season, Kurella was a second team All-American at Northwestern University, hitting .345 with four home runs, 36 RBIs and 41 stolen bases. The three-time All-Big Ten selection transferred to UCF for his senior season.

"First off, it’s an honor," said Kurella. "I wasn’t really expecting it. I try to play as hard as I can to show people that I can play. It’s very nice to be recognized on a team with so much talent. Coach Bergman can only start nine players on the field at once, but I feel that a lot of the players that won’t be able to start here could start at most Division I schools in the country with..."

Despite the talent of which Kurella speaks, he was the only Golden Knight to receive pre-season All-America honors. Three other Trans-Am American Athletic Conference players made the list, including Stetson’s Lenny DiNardo and Frank Corr, and Florida Atlantic’s Petersen Benjamin. DiNardo and Benjamin are pitchers, while Corr is an outfielder.

UCF begins the season with the inaugural game at Jay Bergman Field, a Feb. 3 contest with intrastate rival and 31st-ranked Florida International.

Give Speraw time to develop young talent

FROM PAGE A-17

Have there been coaching mistakes? Sure. In the loss to Warburg, UCF looked completely disorganized and it seemed that the necessary adjustments to fix what was wrong were never made. Joey Graham should almost certainly be playing more. And Speraw should stand up and take the heat for the team’s struggles, instead of deflecting some of the fault to his players.

Most coaches, however, make mistakes like these. The good ones are able to pull a team together after bad starts and make successful seasons out of early struggles. A judgment on Speraw should not be made now, but at the end of this season, when all the talent on this year’s Golden Knight squad should have reached its potential. UCF men’s basketball has a bright future with the players that Speraw has brought in. If he can’t guide these players to the level that UCF athletics is trying to achieve, only then should people talk about his firing.

Until then, do something constructive and bring a friend to the game. Even if you don’t support the coach, let the players know you are behind them.

UCF trails only Campbell

FROM PAGE A-18

well behind the three-point line and hit the shot, tying the game at 69-69. Stintégrig said that was just good basketball from her freshman standpoint.

"She pretty much did that herself," said Stintégrig. "My plan was for (McGriff) to penetrate and try and kick. They didn’t come up and get her and she took the shot. That was a very smart play on her part. If somebody’s not going to come take you, you’re going to have to take the shot, especially at the end of the game like that.”

McGriff also made her first career start late week in UCF’s 76-69 win over Florida Atlantic.

News and notes

At 3-0 in conference, UCF trails only Campbell (4-0) in the conference standings. Georgia State is right behind at 3-1...Freshman guard Nicole Donson ranks 11th in the conference with 10.5 points per game, third in three-pointers made and eighth with a .365 shooting percentage from three-point land...Adrienne Billings ranks eighth in the conference with seven rebounds per game, while LaToya Graham ranks 10th with 6.5 points per contest...Billings also ranks fifth in the conference with a .529 shooting percentage...UCF ranks third in the conference in rebounding and first in scoring defense against conference opponents...The 50th TAAC start is the best for UCF since 1998, when the Golden Knights started the conference season with four consecutive victories.
Timing is bad for talk of firing coach

Commentary by
David Marsters
staff writer

The grumbling about the slow start of the UCF men’s basketball team has reached a low roar, questioning everything from the coaching to the uniform color. Many alumni and fans have taken up a campaign to get Head Coach Kirk Speraw fired, filling up answering machines, email boxes and message boards with their complaints. But is firing the coach really the best solution to the team’s current problems? Probably not.

Certainly some of the points made by the aforementioned dissenters have merit. UCF is trying to sell itself into a major athletic conference, and how can it do so with a men’s basketball program that is currently ranked in the 200s out of 318 schools? This team has so much talent, why can’t it reach its potential? The UCF athletics program should be gaining credibility as quickly as possible, and if Speraw can’t bring his team along, then he should be left behind.

Valid arguments, especially the last one.

The timing, however, is not right for pulling the plug on UCF’s coach. A good comparison to draw here is to the fate of soon to be ex-Boston Celtics Head Coach Rick Pitino. Pitino has spent four years in Boston making all the wrong moves, bringing in all the wrong personnel and never producing a winning or playoff season. For him to step down mid-season, as he is expected to do at the time of this writing, is inappropriate. The figurative “ship” in Boston has been sinking for a long time now.

But the “ship” is not sinking at UCF. Speraw has brought in the right people. Convincing players like Kevin Lee, Joey Graham and Al Miller to come to UCF could not have been easy. Do you think it’s a simple task to convince a big time recruit to come to a school that plays in what looks like a high school gym in front of a crowd that is smaller than the ones they saw in high school? Not quite. And while Pitino has never had so much as a sniff of the postseason, Speraw has guided the Golden Knights to appearances in the TAAC Championship Game in each of the past two seasons, just one step away from the NCAA Tournament. In both finals, UCF has lost to a Samford team that, quite frankly, could have been very competitive in most of the major conferences. Last season, an injury-ravaged UCF team made its run to the conference finals with barely enough players field a team. That was a good coaching job.

Firing a coach mid-season occurs when a team has been on a consistent downward spiral for a long period of time. Such is not the case at UCF. The slow start this season is not reason enough to jump to hasty conclusions. The biggest problem for the team this season has been inconsistency. Beating East Carolina was a very impressive win, but losing to Wartburg may have been the low point in UCF basketball history. It seems as though a different team is showing up every night.

But inconsistency is to be expected from this squad. To consider the players who are on the court night in and night out. Kevin Lee and Joey Graham are freshmen who are just adjusting to the college game. Mario Lovett and Beronti Simmons didn’t play at all last season, both taking redshirt years. Unlike last year’s team, which featured four seniors, this year’s team has never played together and is still forming team chemistry. Jason Thornton, who led the nation in three-point shooting last season, has been a slump. All that is a formula for inconsistency.

Give, Page A-16
Women's Basketball Notebook

Billings named TAAC Player of the Week

DAVID MARSTERS
STAFF WRITER

UCF freshman forward Adrienne Billings was named TAAC Player of the Week for the final week of the year 2000. Billings earned the honor following a career-high 30-point performance in the Golden Knights' 87-84 victory against Appalachian State in the UCF Holiday Classic on Dec. 23. She also had nine rebounds, one block and two steals. The following night, in a 71-69 loss to Middle Tennessee State, she had seven points and seven rebounds.

Billings is second in UCF scoring with 9.9 points-per-game and leads the team with seven rebounds per game.

Larry, Ballance leave team

Freshman guard Ashlee Ballance and senior guard/forward LaDonna Larry have both left the UCF team. Ballance saw limited action early in the season, but was hampered by a recurring abdominal injury that made it difficult for her to play. "Ashlee has decided she is not going to play anymore because of her preexisting medical condition," said UCF Head Coach Gail Striegler. Larry graduated after the fall semester and decided not to continue with her basketball eligibility.

McGriff made her first career start last week in UCF's win over Florida Atlantic.

"LaDonna has quit the team," said Striegler. "She graduated at Christmas and decided that it wasn't worth the time she was putting in, so she will no longer be with the team."

Ballance had been expected to carry much of the load at the point guard position this season, while Larry was one of the team's best defensive players.

McGriff progressing rapidly

Freshman point guard Molly McGriff, after seeing limited playing time early in the season, has become an integral part of the UCF rotation. In the Golden Knights' 71-69 loss to Middle Tennessee State on Dec. 22, McGriff played a career-high 29 minutes and dished out a career-high four assists.

"I'm very happy with the progress (from McGriff)," said Striegler. "She's getting better and better. Her and Yvette (Ash) are doing a good job of (flip-flopping) at point guard. Yvette comes in and gives us a little more defense, and Molly comes in and gives a little bit more offensively. Both of them are doing a better job of handling the ball."

Along with her passing skills, McGriff hit a key shot with under a minute to play in the game against MTSU. UCF trailed 69-66 when she pulled up from

UCF TRAILS, PAGE A-16

UCF remains unbeaten in conference this year

FROM PAGE A-20

This win was made even more impressive because UCF did it without senior forward LaToya Graham, a preseason All-Conference team selection, who was out on Dec. 23.

"The other day in practice she went to the basket and one of our kids took a charge on her and she went to catch herself and popped her shoulder out of place a little bit," said Striegler. "She should be playable next week."

Billings, Paige and Kristy Colligan filled in for the injured Graham at the post and Striegler was pleased with their performances.

This week the Golden Knights host Troy State on Thursday and Mercer on Saturday, both of which are Trans America Athletic Conference opponents. UCF is now 3-0 in the TAAC and will look to continue that winning streak.

"I think almost everybody in the conference this year is very evenly matched," said Striegler. "I would say Georgia State, Campbell, and probably Stetson, since Stetson knocked off Georgia State today, probably have a little bit of an advantage on the rest of us. The key that I told our kids was we have got to win all of our home games."

Along with winning their games at home, Striegler wants them to steal a few away games. So far they have done as she's said, by winning their only home conference game and by beating Samford and Jacksonville State on the road.

The rest of UCF's schedule is comprised of TAAC teams, so each game is critical to the outcome of the season. The game against Troy State is on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the UCF Arena.
UCF football gets early commitments

David Marsters  STAFF WRITER

With National Signing Day just around the corner in February, the "second season" of college football recruiting is heating up. Here is a summary of the early commitments that UCF has received so far.

James Cody - Cody is a 6-foot-2, 215-pound safety out of Butler County Community College in El Dorado, Kansas. He will have two years of eligibility as a Golden Knight.

Jeff Harper - Harper is a 6-foot-10, 315-pound offensive lineman out of Palm Bay High School in Palm Bay, Florida. He is projected to play offensive tackle at UCF because of his pass protection abilities.

Mark Morris - Morris is a 6-foot-4, 225-pound tight end out of Lake Region High School in Eustis, Florida. Caught 11 passes for 219 yards and five touchdowns as a senior, and was also contacted by Georgia, Georgia Tech and Florida. Said his decision came down to UCF and Florida. Runs a 4.7 40-yard dash and possesses a 31-inch vertical leap.

Omar Laurance - Laurance is a 6-foot-1, 190-pound corner back out of Largo High School in Largo, Florida. Runs a 4.6 40-yard dash. Plays a number of positions for his high school team, including wide receiver. Clemson and South Florida were also in the running.

Terrance Bell - Bell is a 6-foot-1, 190-pound corner back out of Dodge City Community College in Dodge City, Kansas. Was a JUCO All-American and led nation in interceptions at Middle Georgia in 1999. Also had offers from Mississippi State, Nebraska, Iowa, Oklahoma State and Kent. Runs a 4.4 40-yard dash. Will have two years of eligibility remaining.

Carlos Thompson - Thompson is a 5-foot-10, 180-pound receiver out of Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit, Mississippi. Played free safety as a freshman and cornerback as a sophomore. Also in the running were Arkansas State, Kentucky, Marshall and Tulsa.

Doug Gabriel - Gabriel is a 6-foot-3, 218-pound wide receiver out of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Perkinston, Mississippi. Chose UCF over Florida State because FSU wanted him to play defensive back instead of receiver. Had 1,206 all-purpose yards and scored 17 touchdowns last season. Played in high school at Orlando's Dr. Phillips. Originally signed with Miami after high school, but failed to meet admission requirements. Runs a 4.23 40-yard dash. Will be able to join team for spring practices.

Lamont Stringfield - Stringfield is a 5-foot-11, 225-pound linebacker out of Jackson High School in Miami, Florida. Could also play strong safety at UCF. Runs a 4.5 40-yard dash and possesses a 33-inch vertical leap. Also received interest from Syracuse, Iowa State and Louisville. Stringfield's high school coach says he bench presses almost 400 pounds.

Craig Waters - Waters is a 6-foot-5, 210-pound linebacker out of Astronaut High School in Titusville, Florida. Will likely redshirt and play defensive end at UCF. Also received interest from Clemson and Marshall.

Log on to www.UCFfuture.com and click "Letter Submissions" to send your thoughts and opinions to the Sports Editor or send email to sports@ucffuture.com
Women's basketball defeats Florida Atlantic, 76-69

KRYSTY SHONKA
STAFF WRITER

The UCF women's basketball team had five players score in double figures in a 76-69 win over Florida Atlantic on Saturday. Adrienne Billings, Khaliah Guillory, and Marvelous Washington each had 12 points, while Erin Paige and Nicole Dunson added 10 points apiece in a game in which the Golden Knights got points from eight of the 10 players who stepped onto the court.

FAU scored first on a lay-up, but Billings quickly tied things up with a lay-up of her own on UCF's first possession. The place to save money on your textbooks.

FAU's Lanetra Cooks (left) goes up for a shot against Appalachian State.

UCF's Kristy Colligan (right) and Adrienne Billings (left) battle for a rebound.

UCF remained close for most of the first half, but the Golden Knights pulled away with under two minutes to play when Dunson hit back-to-back three-pointers to give the team a 38-30 lead. UCF would score once more before the end of the half, taking a 40-30 lead into the locker room.

Lanetra Cooks began the second half for the Golden Knights with a three-pointer and for the next 13 minutes UCF's lead ranged from 14 to seven points, but with 6:52 left in the game a Florida Atlantic three-pointer cut the lead to five. FAU managed to take the lead momentarily, but a Diana Hill three-pointer with 2:58 to play put the Golden Knights ahead 68-67, a lead that they would not relinquish.

UCF Head Coach Gail Striegler was proud of the way her team came together at the end to ensure the victory.

"The difference in this year's team and last year's team, if we would have given up the lead that we gave up this time, last year we would have folded and let the team have it," she said. "Those kids showed heart, they fought back in it, and hit the shots they had to hit. They're going to learn from that experience. They're going to learn to slow down when they're ahead, and take care of the basketball instead of going down and letting the other team dictate the pace."

UCF remains, Page A-18

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**Sports**

**From Page A-24**

Men’s basketball has won three of four early season struggles.

“This is a team that’s searching for something to be positive so that we can build on that,” said Sparrow. “We seem to be a team right now that’s taking a couple of steps forward and then taking a step back. We’ve got to eliminate the step back. I’m proud of our kids for hanging tough and staying positive. Hopefully we can get it totally turned around in the not too distant future.”

The first of the string of TAAC games came on Monday against Samford, the team that beat UCF in the finals of last year’s TAAC Tournament. Despite having lost a number of players to graduation, Sparrow says the Bulldogs remain a dangerous opponent.

“They’re in a very good position,” he said. “The (1999-2000) TAAC Player-of-the-Year Marc Salyers is still with them and they have some good players on the wing. They execute their offense very well and they’re going to come in here pumped up and ready to go.”

Following that game will be contests this week at Campbell on Jan. 11 and TAAC-favorite Georgia State on Jan. 13.

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**From the Sports Desk**

Cromwell drafted by the WUSA

The Washington Freedom, one of the eight new teams in the new WUSA women’s professional soccer league, drafted UCF women’s soccer head coach Amanda Cromwell.

Cromwell, 30, was drafted in the sixth round, the 42nd pick overall. She was a two-time All-American at the University of Virginia before moving on to play for the U.S. National Team from 1991-1998. During that time, Cromwell helped the U.S. win the Gold Medal at the 1996 Olympics.

As a midfielder in college, Cromwell led the Cavaliers to the Final Four in 1991 and was a Soccer America MVP twice in 1990 and 1991. She also was a finalist for the coveted Hermann Trophy in 1991. Upon entering college, Cromwell earned Soccer America’s Freshman-of-the-Year award and went on to make the All-NACC for four consecutive years.

Cromwell joins current U.S. National Team players Mia Hamm, Sue Mulenix and Michelle French on the Freedom. The WUSA will begin play in April.

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**Tennis Rankings**

Cromwell’s women’s tennis team was voted 50th in the preseason edition of the WinsideBank.com Collegiate Tennis Rankings for the 2000-2001 season as announced by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).

In the individual rankings, senior Sonja Prokopeck claimed the 74th spot. Prokopeck recently won the Yellow Jacket Invitational (Flight B) in Atlanta, Ga., posting a 5-1 record in the tournament, which was hosted by Georgia Tech.

Culpepper wins first career playoff start

Former UCF quarterback Daunte Culpepper moved one step closer to the bowl game he never played in as a Golden Knight, but this time it’s the Super Bowl.

Culpepper completed 17 of 31 passes for 302 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Minnesota Vikings to a 24-16 victory over the New Orleans Saints, advancing the Vikings to this week’s NFC Championship Game.

“Being a quarterback on this offense, all I have to do is be calm and know what we’re trying to do, and get the ball in the right guys’ hands,” said Culpepper, who played in the game despite suffering from a sprained ankle.

Culpepper threw two of his touchdown passes to Randy Moss and the other to future Hall-of-Famer Cris Carter. His 120.7 quarterback rating was the highest ever by a Vikings quarterback in a playoff game.

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**Rage acquire former UCF lineman**

The Orlando Rage of the XFL acquired former UCF offensive lineman Marcus Jenkins last week with one of their 14 “territorial draft picks.” Jenkins, who came to UCF as an offensive tackle, started every game at strong-side guard since his sophomore season as a Golden Knight. The Rage will open their season on Feb. 3 against the Chicago Enforcers.

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**For more UCF sports briefs and stories, log on to www.UCFFuture.com.**

All stories are updated every Wednesday.
UCF basketball swings into spring

Sophomore guard Marvelous Washington attempts a foul shot.

Left: UCF assistant coach Craig Brown works in the post against sophomore Jeremy Swan.

Below: UCF's most vocal fan.

PHOTOS BY JASON KOKMOV
Kristy Colligan in practice.
Left: UCF women's basketball gathers for a pregame huddle.

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Top-20 preseason ranking · Great expectations

Jay Bergman Field, the Golden Knights received more
than good news with the announcement of the Baseball America
poll, including No. 7 Rice (Feb. 18), No. 16 Wake Forest (Feb. 16) and No. 31 Florida International.

But, it’s a great Christmas present,” said UCF Head Coach Jay Bergman. “But, it’s like anything else, it doesn’t really mean anything except respect for the program.”

Five of UCF’s opponents are ranked in the Collegiate Baseball poll, including No. 7 Rice (Feb. 18), No. 20 Stetson (May 5-6), No. 24 Alabama (Feb. 23-25), No. 28 Wake Forest (Feb. 16) and No. 31 Florida International (Feb. 3-4). Of those teams, only Rice made Baseball America’s Top-25, coming in at No. 12. Georgia Tech is currently the consensus top-ranked team in the country.

“It’s great to be in baseball’s limelight,” said Bergman. “The players and coaches should be congratulated for their effort and hard work.”

Another preseason highlight for UCF baseball is the naming of senior shortstop Jeremy Kurella to the

David Masters
Staff Writer

UCF baseball receives
Top-20 preseason ranking

UCF baseball is the consensus top-ranked team in the country.

It certainly seems to be shaping up as a banner year for the UCF baseball team.

To go along with the completion of the long-awaited Jay Bergman Field, the Golden Knights received more good news with the announcement of the Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball preseason polls. UCF starts the season ranked 17th by Baseball America, and 19th by Collegiate Baseball, the highest preseason rankings ever for a Golden Knight team.

“Another preseason highlight for UCF baseball is the naming of senior shortstop Jeremy Kurella to the Big East’s Page A-16

Khaliah Guillory’s performance in the Golden Knights’ two pre-season games left the coaching staff and her teammates anxiously awaiting the regular season, anticipating similar performances to her 25-point showcase against the Smokey Mountain Swarm and the double-double she had against the Oklahoma City Thunder, scoring 15 points and grabbed 12 rebounds.

Those expectations were crushed immediately after the Golden Knights’ first regular season game began on Nov. 17, however, when Guillory stepped on a Wofford College player’s ankle and sprained her own just three seconds after tip-off. She was out for the remaining 39 minutes and 57 seconds of that game, did not play in the team’s second outing against North Texas, and has spent the last

Great expectations

UCF’s Khaliah Guillory is healthy again and predicting big things

Kirsty Shonka
Staff Writer

UCF junior forward Khaliah Guillory’s performance in the Golden Knights’ two pre-season games left the coaching staff and her teammates anxiously awaiting the regular season, anticipating similar performances to her 25-point showcase against the Smokey Mountain Swarm and the double-double she had against the Oklahoma City Thunder, scoring 15 points and grabbed 12 rebounds.

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Before I even ventured off to go see Steven Soderbergh's _Traffic_, I artistically assumed on what I generally knew about the world of illegal drug distribution. And aside from the occasional talking head informing me that there has been a major interception along the Florida Straits and the repeated viewings of Brian DePalma's remake of _Scarface_, my knowledge concerning the subject added up to about nil. Rightfully so, I concluded, since I don't spend my free time in an underground lab harvesting rows of magical crops and afflicting enough white powder to make small bricks. But excluding Barry McCaffery and the other countless political pundits who schlep our rhetoric to an impatient public, who really does? Everyone with an opinion can safely concede that the so-called war on drugs has always been an abysmal failure, that argument has never been hard to win over; but for a battle waged against a societal ill, why aren't the specifics lodged in our collective memory banks?

For being such an epidemic, we sure look upon such important knowledge, it isn't in the slightest, hard to find coming out of Hollywood. While not wanting to supply us with an answer, _Traffic_ still communicates a comprehensible message without ever preaching; the film is cognoscente, like the rest of us it isn't sure of what should be done.

By taking a panoramic approach of this trade, we see the personal conflicts, the societal differences and the economics of it all. In some ways it has moments of a political picture, but at no time do the filmmakers make a stand on what is right and what is wrong. There are scenes that make the most impact due to fact that they are smaller in scale compared to others throughout the film; a confrontation in a bathroom, a conversation between two people across bulletproof glass, and a jump into an AA meeting may say that the first thing we should all do is just listen. Saving ourselves sounds a lot easier than saving the world.

For those reasons it is a great film, an ambitious film and an important film, one that is so hard to find coming out of Hollywood - heightening the awareness while equally entertaining us at the same time. Aside from the spectrum of intelligence that _Traffic_ ultimately is, it is also a fantastic thriller and impressive character piece. The research alone that was put into the script to make the picture feel authentic is something that should be commended in and of itself. Soderbergh and screenwriter Steven Gaghan tell their story by examining different facets, about four in all, in parallel continuity. The technique used, which reminds the viewer of other great ensemble directors, such as Altman and Kasdan, allows us to see how the distribution of illegal substances does affect the many walks of life in this country. Not limiting itself to a specific class or specific problem sector, we see the dilemmas it creates from the dust barriers of Mexico City all the way up to the corridors of power in Washington D.C. Along the way, confidence is shattered, promises are not kept, innocence is lost and lives are taken.

In the center is Ohio State Supreme Court Justice Robert Wakefield (Michael Douglas), a conservative by nature he is appointed the new drug czar as the film opens. In a sad ironic turn, Wakefield's own teenage daughter abuses drugs may come from. Outside Mexico City, Javier Rodriguez (Benecio Del Toro) is trying to do his job despite the heavy concentration of drug flow between his country and ours. Fully aware of the growing futility of his duties, Rodriguez also has to deal with the ever-present corruption of Mexican law enforcement. Across the border, Helena Alaya (Catherine Zeta-Jones) hasn't the faintest idea that her husband (Steven Bauer) is one of the leading drug kingpins in the Southwest, that is until her house is raided by the sure-footed gentlemen of DEA and "father knows best" is being tried for drug trafficking and money laundering. While awaiting the outcome of the trial, Helena is watched by two federal agents (Don Cheadle and Soderbergh regular Luis Guzman) to see if she plays a role in her husband's business. With this display of such marvelous talent, it just goes to show how Soderbergh, as a director, knows exactly how to use human emotion in telling a story. From a script with 100 speaking roles, it can only be fathomed as something impalpable and still hold us as a cohesive story. He knows how to make people respond, period. His abilities as a filmmaker seem to be boundless.

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If there were any doubts about what music dominates America's listening habits, they were trampled Wednesday with the announcement of the 43rd annual Grammy Awards nominations.

For more than a decade, hip-hop and R&B artists have been providing the soundtrack for inner-city parties, suburban shopping malls and top-40 radio stations. But the Grammys -- the province of one of the industry's most respected institutions, the 16,000-member National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences -- have been slow to recognize that shift in popular taste.

Two years ago, rap-singer Lauryn Hill broke through with five Grammys, and the first victory ever for a hip-hop recording in the prestigious album of the year category. But with her socially conscious lyrics and melodic songs, Hill fit the classy, upscale image that the academy tries to cultivate.

This year, however, the usually conservative academy pushed its own envelope for acceptability by nominating gangsta-rap producer Dr. Dre for five awards and his nasty-as-a-pitbull protege Eminem for four. Never has the academy nominated a more divisive recording for album of the year than Eminem's The Marshall Mathers LP, containing songs of dread, violence and paranoia riddled with explicit lyrics, misogynist sentiments and homophobic epithets. It also contains stunningly poignant songs such as "Stan," about an obsessive fan, that carried it to an audience far bigger than the typical hard-core rap listenership.

Besides Dre and Eminem, the other key nominees were Beyonce Knowles, of R&B group Destiny's Child, with five nominations, including song and record of the year for "Say My Name," and gritty-voiced chanteuse Macy Gray, who lost the best new artist Grammy last year to Christina Aguilera, with three (including song and record of the year for "I Try"). Other three-time nominees included soul crooners D'Angelo, Joe, Jill Scott, Sisqo and Brian McKnight. The awards will be distributed Feb. 21 and televised on CBS.

Rap wasn't even recognized by the recording academy until 1988, even though the music had been a best-selling force for at least a decade. At that time, Dr. Dre was an underground producer in South Central Los Angeles and the architect of what would become known as gangsta rap with the group N.W.A.

The commercial success of N.W.A. and other Dre projects, such as his solo album The Chronic and rapper Snoop Dogg's debut, established Dre as the most influential producer of the last decade. He has had his most spectacular success with his latest discovery, the Detroit rapper Eminem, who has been both celebrated for his tart-tongued delivery and reviled for his...
In contrast, the Grammys bestowed a nomination on Chicago native Common for best rap solo performance for "The Light," honoring a strain of hip-hop that strives for a level of social consciousness diametrically opposed to the Dre-Emerson school of thug-rap. Common's latest album, *Like Water for Chocolate*, has sold nearly a million copies, a major success after three albums that were widely acclaimed but made little commercial impact.

"I offer something new," Common said during a news conference Wednesday at the Chicago branch of the recording academy. "I got frustrated for a while when I wasn't getting recognition. I wasn't trying to counteract what Dre or Eminem do, but I wanted to stay on my own path. And now with (socially conscious R&B performers) Erykah Badu, the Roots, D'Angelo and me having gotten recognition, we're bringing the truth to light."

Common joined a batch of Chicago artists receiving their first recognition from the recording academy in long, distinguished careers.

"I'm completely shocked," said Mars Williams, a mainstay of the city's underground music community and the founder of acid-jazz dance group Liquid Soul, nominated for best contemporary jazz album with *Here's the Deal*. "I never thought they'd find a category for us," he said.

Also in jazz, the oft-nominated Chicago singer Kurt Elling was cited again, for *Live in Chicago* in the best jazz vocal album category.

Maurice Joshua, a 20-year veteran of house music, was nominated for remodel of the year, including his work on Destiny's Child singles "Independent Women," "Jumpin' Jumpin'" and "Say My Name."

"I'm reaching an audience I never had before because my remixes are being over to pop radio," he said.

Nominated for the second time was Wilco, whose collaboration with Billy Bragg on *Mermaid Avenue Vol. II* was named for best contemporary folk album. "It's like being in People magazine," said singer Jeff Tweedy. "It validates my career for my parents."

Blues matrixxerox Kokko Taylor took her seventh nomination, for best contemporary blues album for *Royal Blue*, in stride. "I'm just as excited today as I was the first time," she said. She was joined by Billy Branch, nominated for the "Superharps" album in best traditional blues, in representing the city's venerable blues scene. Three-time winner R. Kelly was nominated for best R&B vocal performance for "I Wish."

Two-time winners the Smashing Pumpkins, who closed their 13-year career with two of their strongest albums, including one available only on the Internet, received one nomination, for best recording package.

Chicagoan Eddie Blazynzky picked up his 13th nomination, and the one-time Grammy winner was accompanied in the best polka album category by Chicago-native, but Massachusetts resident, Lenny Gomulka who, along with his band Chicago Push was nominated for their cheekily named 2000 album *Mi Lenny Um.*

Faring poorly on the classical front were the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and its principal guest conductor, Pierre Boulez, a seemingly invincible Grammy duo for much of the 1990s. The CSO turned up in only one category, that of best compilation soundtrack album, for its disc of music for the Walt Disney film Fantasia 2000, with James Levine conducting.

The CSO's splendid archival set, the *Chicago Symphony Orchestra in the 20th Century*, was inexplicably snubbed in the best historical album category. Boulez was shut out in every category in which his recordings were eligible.

On the other hand, CSO music director Daniel Barenboim's Teldec set of the nine Beethoven symphonies with the Berlin Staatskapelle headed the list of nominees for best orchestral performance.

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LEAD STORIES

-- The debut CD from the Thai Elephant Orchestra (Lampang, Thailand) was scheduled for December release, featuring six pachyderm prodigies playing crude versions of traditional instruments (drum, gong, bass, xylophone) and recorded interact, with out overdubbing, to create music that (in the words of the producer, Geoff Marks, in a recent writer’s strike(s) song, “Western listeners as haunting, others as monotonous.” The CD’s American producers, pointing to much academic research on elephants’ natural musical abilities, said they plan a second album (“easy-listening,” engineered, they said, to make it more accessible to a wider audience).

-- In November, federal drug officials bust what one agent called “the world’s largest LSD lab,” run from an abandoned missile site near Waukegan, Ill. Indicted were two educated establishmentarians as the alleged principals: William L. Pickard Jr., 55, deputy director of a University of California Drug Policy Analysis program (and an expert on the illegal drug trade in Russia and a vegetarian, non-smoking, marathon runner with a master’s degree in public policy from Harvard) and Clyde Apperson, 45, a San Valley computer consultant. Pickard obtained personal bail recommendations from the San Francisco district attorney and from a British lord.

Names in the News

-- The leader of the organized crime family that allegedly controls prostitution in part of southern California (nine of whose members were arrested in October in Los Angeles) Mr. Hung T. Dong. Two University of Nebraska dentistry professors—profiled in an October Lincoln Journal Star report—Dr. Jeffrey Payne and Randy Toothaker. Arrested in September for threatening an insufficiently pious participant in a police chase —with a 15-year-old girl he had met on the Internet, lived in the girl’s bedroom for nearly a month before her parents found out (Mount Vernon, N.Y.).

The Entrepreneurial Spirit

-- Federal investigators in November charged Lake Forest, Ill., physician Krishnaswami Srimat with Medicare fraud, based on records indicating that at least twice Srimat worked 70-hour days and once saw 187 patients in a single day, 131 of them in house calls. Records also showed, according to prosecutors, that he saw 32 patients subsequent to their dates of death and 49 patients one day in January 1999 while the city was virtually closed by a blizzard.

-- Engineer Masaki Fukumoto, 36, of the Japanese firm NTT DoCoMo, announced in October that he finned a system for converting audio signals into vibrations. That system, which is done by the user’s sticking his finger in his ear.

-- A CD released in September registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission to make a public offering of shares in an ancillary real estate venture, which will start by developing land adjacent to the church.

Chutzpah!

-- Massachusetts inmate Frederick Ford, serving eight years for paying a hit man $1,000 in 1999 to kill two former associates (and convicted after the “hit man” turned out to be an undercover federal agent), petitioned a court in Boston in September to have the money returned to him, since the killings were never carried out.

-- In October, Ohio inmate Donald Harmon filed a $500,000 lawsuit against his former attorney Martin Enrich, whom Harmon says was supposed to bribe a judge with $10,000 of Harmon’s money to get establishment for a favorable sentence. Harmon, however, wound up with a sentence almost double what he expected and now complains that he didn’t get his money’s worth from the bribe.

It’s Not Over ‘Til It’s Over

-- In December, a man in Kazakhstan turned up alive at his own funeral after surviving a makeshift burial by friends in a shallow grave after he appeared to be electrocuted on power lines. And in October, Ben Holmes, 46, missing and declared dead in 1986, was shot by his ex-wife in Youngstown, Ohio, when he dropped in on her after a 20-year absence to claim half of her furniture.

Recurring Themes

-- News of the Weird has kept track over the years of the perp faced by insufficiently dowried wives in India and Bangladesh, noting burgeoning rates in 1994 and 2000, and noting in 1999 the preference for sulfurous acid attacks as the way Bangladesh husbands (and their mothers) deal with such wives. A December 2000 New York Times dispatch from Bangalore, India, reported that the new weapon of choice in mother-in-law attacks on wives is kerosene and that hospital burn wards are filled with “thousands” of grotesquely disfigured wives whose primary aim was either to bring too paltry a net worth to the marriage or to underper- form household chores.

Least Competent Criminals

-- In October, Dot Blyth reported a burglary of her home in Chadwell Heath, Essex, England, in which thieves had helped themselves to what they thought was her stash of cocaine (“Charlie” in local slang), leaving behind the distinctive residue of cocaine “lines” on a table after lifting several electronic appliances and jewelry worth about $3,500. However, as Blyth told police and reporters, gleefully, the container of powder on her mantle (labeled “Newfoundland Charlie”) was not a coke stash but was an urn containing the ashes of her late dog, whose name the label bore.

Also, in the Last Month...

-- A 26-year-old soldier, going AWOL, to have sex with a 15-year-old girl he had met on the Internet, lived in the girl’s bedroom for nearly a month before her parents found out (Mount Vernon, Ohio). Among the fore-flight curriculum now in Oberlin College’s Experimental College is a course on the “life and times” of Drew Barrymore. A baby was “born” in the snowy debris of an auto collision, healthy except for a skinned knee, rescued by a paramedic who found it attached by its umbilical cord after the pregnant mother’s abdomen was fatally sliced in half by the juggled windshield (Louisville, Ky.), Spain, which finished third over- all in September’s Paralympic Games in Sydney, returned some medals after an investigation revealed that 14 of its 200 participating athletes were not at all disabled. [Louisville Courier-Journal, 12-16-00] (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 12-3-00).
"Experimental" is used to describe modern rock music so often that the word itself has almost become obsolete. What is experimental these days? Something futuristic, something electronic, something edgy, something that changes the way we look at a genre of music. Is it Thom Yorke crowing over a blaring orchestra on Radiohead’s Kid A? Is it Beck breaking it down Motown-style on “Midnite Vultures”? How about Eminem’s bold new style of rap?

Independent rock band Hopewell has been branded with the “experimental” nomenclature, but instead of breaking new barriers of sound, they stick to the more mellow side of the genre, favoring spacey layers of noise, pretty guitar work and choruses that grow until they explode, à la the Flaming Lips.

Hopewell loves a dramatic build of sound. “Safe as Milk” starts off slowly until it builds into raw layers of guitar and wailing vocals. It’s powerful, but still incredibly lovely. The opening track, “The Angel is My Watermark” sends sweeping tidest of guitar crashing into each other over an anthem-like chorus of vocals. Electronic beeps and blips and static fuzz dot tracks throughout the album giving it less of an organic sound.

Halfway through The Curved Glass, Hopewell changes its mind and trades their loud guitars for a softer, more acoustic sound. “Christmas Now” features additional vocals from the band’s only female member, Dalia Garih. Garih’s strong, bluesy voice is a welcome change of pace that seems to come out of nowhere. It’s a lovely and sad song that proves the band can very their sound well.

“Lazy Day” rounds out the rest of the album with its slowed-down atmospheric pace. The band mixes lackadaisical guitars and drums with delicate synthesizers. It blends seamlessly into the next song “Watermark” so much that it seems like an endless track. But it’s a song that rolls pleasantly along—you’re not quite sure when it’s going to end, but you’re happy to go along for the ride.

The Curved Glass does not push the experimental envelope, but it’s a quality album from an up-and-coming band who hopefully have a lot more music in them.
3 Jocks In
The Chips
In Bahamas

Michael Jordan,
Tiger Woods and
Alex Rodriguez
hooked up to
play on the
green grass - and green felt - over the holidays. The sports superstars indulged in their love of golf and blackjack at the Atlantis Resort on Paradise Island in the Bahamas.

New Year's Eve found the high-rolling trio smoking Cuban cigars at the casino table, with Jordan betting $5,000 a card, according to spies. They can all afford the stakes - especially A-Rod, on his first vacation since signing his $252 million contract with the Texas Rangers.

Woods may be setting out to become the Dennis Rodman of golf. The self-proclaimed "Cablinasian" - Caucasian, black, American Indian and Asian - has bleached his hair blond. Conspicuously missing was his girlfriend Joanna Jagoda, fueling rumors that they've parted, though some say the law student is buried in her books. Whatever her whereabouts, Woods was in great spirits - scuba-diving, hitting the New Year's party on movie producer Ted Field's yacht and giving an impromptu golf clinic to about 50 fans one day.

The fairy prince, who celebrated his 26th birthday on Saturday, also joined Rodriguez, sportscaster Ahmad Rashad and Jordan for a few rounds at the Tom Weiskopf-designed course at the Ocean Club, where Jordan will have his Celebrity Invitational tournament Jan. 11 to 14.

Also ringing in 2001 at the resort were boxer Oscar de la Hoya, L.A. Dodger Gary Sheffield and New York Yankee Paul O'Neill, actresses Angie Everhart and Lela Rochon, CBS-TV President Les Moonves, private eye Bo Dietl, "View"-mistress Star Jones, and World Club impresario Joey Morrissey.

Elsewhere in the celebrity holiday atlas...

In Mustique, Mick Jagger chilled with daughter Jade and his grandchildren - but without ex-wife Jerry Hall or any apparent girlfriend. Jagger and designer Tommy Hilfiger had New Year's Eve dinner with Hilfiger's partner, Lawrence Stroll, who bought the Great House estate once owned by Mustique founder Lord Glenconner and Christina Onassis' ex-husband, Sergei Kassov. (Word is Stroll paid over $20 million for the spread.)

Afterward, everybody headed to Basil Charles' Beach Bar...

In Jamaica, Cindy Crawford and hubby Rande Gerber and their family took over Goldeneye, the former estate of 007 novelist Ian Fleming. Magic Johnson and wife Cookie were at Couples in Negril. Patsy Kensit, spurned wife of Oasis member Liam Gallagher, checked into one of Chris Blackwell's resorts just after Meg Matthews, spurned wife of Oasis member Noel Gallagher, had checked out...

In St. Barts, Puffy Combs and Jennifer Lopez cruised on their yacht. J Records mogul Clive Davis threw a lunch at his St.
No matter the cold. The funnymen guard your heart. 

Colin Quinn and Lisa Snowden: Don't get too close to the flame. "Just love affair while it lasts," says a spy. "And he never went blue."

Curious About George? 

Advice for George Clooney's new woman, model Lisa Snowden: Don't get too close to the flame. "Just enjoy the love affair while it lasts - and guard your heart," advises one of Clooney's ex-girlfriends, Kimberly Russell. "Eventually, a woman finds that George simply ain't the marrying type."

Russell, who dated Clooney in the mid-'90s, says she hoped he'd eventually come around. "I was just devastated. I thought after more than three happy years together, his attitude might have changed."

Nevertheless, she says, "God, I defy any normal, red-blooded woman to resist those chocolate-brown eyes. You melt into them," she says. But, she warns, "don't mention the words 'marriage,' 'commitment' or 'babies.'"

That aside, there will be some great times under the covers. "He is a strong and passionate lover," Russell raves. "He's possibly the last person on Earth who needs Viagra." She tells London's Daily Mirror: "Whoever taught him the art of lovemaking, taught him well."

Some New Watering Holes 

Reps for Kim Basinger and Alec Baldwin were mum yesterday about reports that the two are having trouble. Whatever the future holds, they'll always be united in a pair of water features.

The Performing Animal Welfare Society is using the couple's $250,000 donation (won on the celebrity version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire") to create two lakes near Sacramento, Calif., for elephants. "We're calling the elephant lake Lake Baldwin, and we're thinking of calling the bear lake Lake Basinger," said the group's co-founder, Pat Derby.

Surveillance 

New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani had dinner on New Year's Eve with Sen. John McCain and Fred Thompson and Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik at Rush's Chris Steak House in Manhattan. Giuliani later met up with gal pal Judi Nathan at Times Square, where they watched the ball drop and danced till 2:30 a.m. at Planet Hollywood.

Monica Lewinsky and a female friend stopped by a New York City Taco Bell on New Year's Day, then headed to see Miss Congeniality at the Loews Village, where Monica ordered a medium bucket of popcorn...

Lauren Bacall shared memories of Jason Robards, her ex-husband and father of her son Sam, with pals of the late, great actor who turned out for Betty Comden's annual New Year's Day party at her Manhattan home. On hand were Hal Prince, Arthur Schlesinger, Sidney Lumet, Kitty Carlisle Hart, Wendy Wasserstein, Elaine Kaufman, and Phyllis Newman and Adolph Green.

An Upper East Side crowd had some unexpected company for lunch yesterday when firefighters responded to a small blaze at Swift's on E. 72nd St. Dominic Dume, Nan Kempner and Deeda Mele were among those who made a quick exit as smoke drifted into the back room. Co-owner Robert Caravaggi said the place will reopen tomorrow.

Got a hot tip? Send confidential e-mail to rushmolloy@edit.nydailynews.com

Catch Rush & Molloy live on eYada.com weekdays 3-5 p.m. EST
Dear Sexpert:

A few weeks ago my boyfriend and I had protected sex, but somehow I got pregnant. How could this have happened?

-Protected but pregnant, 18

Let me first start off by saying I hope your partner is going to take some responsibility and stand by you through this even though it was an accident. Protected sex does not always guarantee that pregnancy will be avoided. The majority of people use condoms when having protected sex, but condoms have only an 80 percent efficiency rate because of defects. These defects can occur to the latex due to heat, misuse and even a microscopic sized hole on the condom that is bigger than the natural pore of the latex. That is why it is wise to use back-up methods.

In other words use multiple contraceptive devices. For example, using a cervical cap, a condom and spermicidal jelly reduces the rate of failure to about one percent. Or using the pill or a Norplant implant with a condom and spermicidal jelly would reduce it to only a fraction of a percent. Talk to your gynecologist. He or she can educate you on the best methods for you and your partner. Then take that information and talk to your boyfriend about it. Guys need to be told about the different options that are out there because stereotypically most guys just go to Eckerd or a gas station and pick up a box of condoms and think that their job is done. Then when the condom fails to work, they shrug their shoulders and say "oops it was supposed to work," or worse, they deny responsibility for their part in the act and leave. I wish you the best and hope both sides parents can be understanding in this situation.

Dear Sexpert:

I just started going out with this great girl and I really like her a lot. I want to start a sexual relationship, but I would like her to go and have a health screen for sexually transmitted diseases. She has told me she's had unprotected sex with several different guys. I don't know how to bring the subject up. Is there anything I could say so that she doesn't get offended?

-Walking softly but carrying a big question, 19

Well, Walking softly, your concern is a rational one. In women most sexually transmitted are asymptomatic, which means there are no visible symptoms. Diseases like Chlamydia and Gonorrhea can go unnoticed for a long time. HIV can also be undetected by the Anti-body blood test for as many as three months.

The way to go about asking her if she would participate is to say something along the lines of "I would like it if we both went down to the clinic and got tested. I care about you, and I want to make sure nothing will happen to you during this relationship." Saying it like this will make it sound like your reasons are isolated to this relationship only and you're just looking out for her well being. This avoids dragging the fact that she had unprotected sex with several guys back up and thrusting it in her face. Instead of her thinking you're a very caring person, she would hate you for implying that she's a dirty skank.

If she answers you with a resounding "no," (even after the kind way you offered to take the test with her), respect her answer, and don't nag her - it will only make things worse. Take her decision seriously. If you still feel uneasy, as well you should, then you might want to consider moving on to someone new.

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Felix
by Steve McCain
@2000

And you're constantly having to prove him wrong, huh?

No. He's right about all that.

I just hate knowing that he's right.

He feels that my decision to be a writer means that I'll never be the rich, successful, productive member of society that he is.

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