Business and Administration

MBA cuts core requirements

Amy Pavuk
STAFF WRITER

The MBA program for business administration will change its core undergraduate requirements from 28 hours to 10.5 in August.

The change will come as the result of several factors. Among them are the cost of books and tuition to classes and professors, there is little change in the experience entirely. But with these differences, why do students attend a community college and a university.

The MBA program is the requirement of work experience, such as an internship, said Ford. “Students need a frame of reference to be successful.”

“Students without the graduate business experience who are in the graduate program find graduate courses very difficult,” said a first year graduate student. “It is frustrating when you have stu-

Plus, minus system to be implemented in Fall 2001

Jennifer Paterson
STAFF WRITER

Starting this fall, a new grading system will be put into practice at UCF. The scale currently used applies four points for an A, three points for a B, two for a C and so on. The new system has a finer point value system.

Originally proposed by the Faculty System over two years ago, the new scale lets teachers more accurately reflect a student’s grade.

“Often times you have students who fell just shy of a B and worked really hard, and then there was the person who just did not work as hard and their average in a 71 is reflective,” said a professor. “In the old system they both get a C and 2 points. This system allows us to reward that C+ student.”

Why was a system that has such an enormous impact on students, never mentioned until its inception?

“We wanted Student Government to get involved,” said a student.

3 NEW, Page 7

Transfer students choose between spring and fall

Ruth Heidt
STAFF WRITER

Every year thousands of students nationwide transfer to a university setting from a community college in their area. Hundreds of applications are submitted and accepted at UCF alone each semester.

There are several differences between a community college and a university. From the price of books and tuition to classes and professors, there is little change in the experience entirely. But with these differences, why do students attend a community college...

CLASS, Page 3

College students are at a higher risk of bouncing checks

Krista Zilizii
STAFF WRITER

It’s not a major problem if only one check bounces, even though the account holder will end up paying extra fees.

Huntington Bank, said Crouse, who works at the University of Central Florida branch of Huntington Bank, said there are two reasons why college students bounce checks more often than the average adult does.

“Whoever is raising them [students] has not spent the time preparing them for the financial responsibilities that come into play when they leave home,” said Crouse. “The public school system does not do enough to educate them either.”

“Students without the graduate business experience who are in the graduate program find graduate courses very difficult,” said a first year graduate student. “It is frustrating when you have stu-

New grade scale

SYSTEM, Page 7

PHOTO BY FERNY VALENCE

Spring Rush is taking place all over campus. Fraternities have placed signs advertising themselves in front of the Math and Physics buildings, as well as the entrances to campus and the university bookstore.
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Class credits for some students don't all transfer

From Page 1

prior to attending a university? If they do and then decide to transfer, is it better to transfer in the fall or in the spring?

To many students a university setting can seem a bit overwhelming and frightening coming directly out of high school. When attending a community college prior to the university, the transition from high school is a little less stressful because the classes are still a smaller size compared to a lecture courses with 400 seats and there is more of a personal feeling because there are less people for the professor to handle.

"When I was first coming out of high school it was easier to go into a community college because it wasn't as intimidating as a university," said UCF student Matt Davis.

In some cases students will go to community college prior to a university because of cost. With the lower costs students are able to work and save in order to attend a University after receiving their AA degree. With the flexibility of schedule time, the students are able to create a schedule that will also allow them to work extra hours to save for the tuition in university of their choice.

"I went to a community college before I came to UCF because I didn't have the funds to afford going to a university," said UCF student Carly Bond.

One problem with receiving an Associates degree from a community college is the possibility that some of the credits will not transfer as the same exact course. Transferring students should check with the university that they plan to attend to make sure their credits are transferable.

"I received my Associates Degree from a community college in north Florida, but once I transferred to UCF I ended up having to retake some of my courses because they didn't transfer over," said Bond.

Some transferring students enter in the spring while others will wait until fall, but is there an advantage to waiting for the full semester of the following year?

"Since I entered in the fall, it gave me a feeling of getting a fresh start," said Davis.

Transferring from a community college in the fall gives the students the advantage of starting off with everyone else. A large percentage of the student population begins in the fall.

After receiving an Associates degree from a community college at the end of a spring semester, a good portion of the students are ready to enter the university the following semester. Entering in the spring would require waiting and taking a semester off from school. This opens the possibility of deciding not to go to a university.

"In my situation, it was easier for me to take off a semester and go in the fall because it gave me a chance to work and save up money for the following semester," said Bond.

Whether a student chooses to enter a community college prior to a university or entering a university directly, the situation depends on each student's situation entirely.

"Each person has to make their own decision on where they should go because they know themselves better than anyone else," said Davis.

The average verbal SAT score for an incoming UCF student was 567.

There are 56 masters programs offered at UCF.

There are 97 permanent buildings on the main campus.

2,145 students live on campus (counting resident assistants.)

Useless facts of the week

Most American's car horns beep in the key of "E."

Lemons have more sugar than oranges.

In the U.S. more Frisbee discs are sold each year than baseballs, basketballs and footballs.

Alma mater means bountiful mother.

In ancient Egypt, killing a cat was a crime punishable by death.

Quote of the week

What lies behind us and what lies ahead of us are tiny matters compared to what lives within us.

- Oliver Wendell Holmes

Web Sites of the Week

www.intoth80s.com/index.shtml

Exactly what the link says. This web site is dedicated to all things 80's. It includes music, television, movies and a list of fads that most will probably remember.

www.intotheknights.com

The website for all you UCF sports needs. Log on today and catch up on basketball, baseball, football and more.
Communications students promote Blood Bank

Paul Wilson
Staff Writer

When UCF associate professor Frank Stansberry gave his writing for public relations students their class project in Spring 2000, he had some very lofty goals. The project was to support the Central Florida Blood Bank by getting more UCF students, faculty and staff to donate blood.

"We decided to work on a major awareness campaign," said Stansberry. "Most people are not aware of the critical blood supply problem. In Florida alone, there is an annual shortage of 10,000 pints of blood."

Stansberry knew that if just one-third of the UCF student population gave blood, they could eliminate the statewide shortage. "Our original goals were probably too lofty. We just don't have the resources to physically take that much blood, but we knew we could make a big difference."

Stansberry's class needed an angle. They decided they wanted to dispel the notion of Generation X as being a lazy group and redefine it as Generation Donations. "Generation Donation was an idea we had in class, we also came up with the slogan "giving for life" because most people who who give blood continue to do it," said UCF senior, Susan Emnis, an Advertising and Public Relations major.

The project was a major success. In its first year, the efforts of Generation Donation increased blood donation 65 percent on campus. Their efforts were not overlooked by America's Blood Centers (ABC), that selected Stansberry to receive their 2000 Gold Award for National Blood Drives for his efforts and the work of his class.

"You would be amazed at the quality and commitment my students put in, I am very proud," said Stansberry. "This award isn’t really for me. The students did all the work. It is an honor for them."

ABC is the national network of nonprofit, independent community blood centers that represents almost half of the nation's blood supply. The Central Florida Blood Bank nominated UCF for the award.

"We nominated UCF because of the outstanding commitment they have shown in making this an ongoing effort and for incorporating this into the curriculum," said Lori Wilson, marketing manager for the Central Florida Blood Bank. "We are grateful for Professor Stansberry’s effort and the efforts of his students and for understanding the need for blood donation."

Generation Donation has been established as a student organization at UCF and volunteers are needed. "Students will learn a lot about how non-profit organizations are run because we work very closely with the Central Florida Blood Bank," said Emnis. "It is also a chance to get involved in a community project where you can see the results. "Interested students can contact Stansberry at (407) 823-2199.

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Not balancing checkbook, big reason for bounced checks

"Each transaction that the account can't cover receives an insufficient fund fee, just as a regular check would."

The check card, which works like a check by directly deducting the balance from the checking account, is signed for like a credit card. Diaz continued, "If students aren't recording checks they've written in their checkbook, chances are they will be less likely to record their check card purchases."

Diaz said he's seen insufficient fund fees climb as high as $700 on bounced check card transactions.

Dawn Henry, 20, accrued over $200 worth of insufficient fund fees bouncing transactions on her check card.

"I continuously charged things on my check card and didn't record it. I didn't think I needed to, but I do balance a checkbook now," Henry said.

"A lot of students get into trouble because they're not used to dealing with money situations because their parents always did it for them. That's what happened to me," Henry said.

Students like Suazo and Rosa, who say they prefer to use their check cards, have not run into financial problems using their check card.

"I use the ATM to check my balance before any big purchase," Suazo said. "That's all I need to do to keep track."

Rosa said: "I assumed that if there was not enough money to cover my purchase using the check card, it would automatically decline. I've never bounced on my card so I don't know for sure how it works."

Diaz said the simplest ways to track finances, whether using a check card or writing checks, is by balancing a checkbook, going through receipts, reviewing monthly statements, and using banking software programs.

"Internet banking is ideal. You can balance a checkbook on the Internet with something called web banking," said Diaz.

"Many banks offer free web banking accounts and students particularly should have no problems using it. It's fairly easy and self explanatory."

"Students should always be on top of their spending," Diaz said. "A lot of college students leave the bank to tell them how much money they have. What they don't realize is, banks can make mistakes too. Students should only trust themselves."

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From PAGE 1

bounced checks.

“When a check bounces, the account holder is charged insufficient fund fees, which run anywhere from $25 - $60 per check. It's not a major problem if only one check bounces, even though the account holder will end up paying extra fees."

“It does become a problem if someone has written four or five bad checks because each one will receive an insufficient fund charge. Merchants can and will usually deposit the same check up to two times, meaning the same check can collect two fees.”

“Bouncing checks is not a good habit for several reasons. First, it tells the bank that someone is unable to balance their checkbook and keep track of their money,” said Diaz. If someone’s made a mistake and collects several insufficient fund fees, their credit could be smudged if they can’t pay it."

The account holder will be notified by phone and letters will be sent through certified mail, said Diaz. Ordinarily, they are allotted 11 days before they are referred to a collection agency. Account holders who do not pay off bounced checks are referred to check systems, a process which notifies the next bank the account holder tries to open an account with. Ultimately it is impossible for them to open another bank account as long as their check debts remain unpaid.

Huntington banker Peter Henry said that most students simply act irresponsibly when it comes to managing their bank accounts.

“The majority of students know how to balance checkbooks, but choose not to. Whether it be laziness, or lack of time, they eventually have to learn to do it, because it is important to have their checkbook balanced for important items like rent, phone bills and credit cards,” said Aboli.

Alex Suazo, 20, has never bounced a check and said he doesn’t think it is necessary for him to balance a checkbook.

“Maybe when I make more money, I will find it necessary to keep track of my finances,” said Suazo. "When I have tried to balance my checkbook in the past, it never came out right. I assume it’s my fault because I don’t write things down, so I’m like screw for the next two months of rent.”

Frank Rosa Jr., 20, had a similar experience. Rosa has bounced two rent checks since he’s been in college.

“The first time I didn’t know I didn’t have enough in my account to cover my rent. The other time I kind of expected it,” Rosa said. "The first bounced because I read my balance wrong. The second check bounced because I was too lazy to transfer money from one account to the other."

Rosa says he was charged several fees by both his bank and apartment complex. The bank charged him a penalty fee of $30, two separate times for each check, because the apartment complex attempted to deposit his check twice.

Diaz warns students to practice even more caution when using check cards. He said that students may get into the most trouble using check cards as opposed to writing checks.

"People use it everywhere, to buy lunch, gas, snacks. The trouble is people forget to write those transactions down. Most people won’t write five checks a day, but they might use their check card five times a day," said Diaz.

"Each transaction that the account can’t cover receives an insufficient fund fee, just as a regular check would.”

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"Students should always be on top of their spending," Diaz said. "A lot of college students leave the bank to tell them how much money they have. What they don’t realize is, banks can make mistakes too. Students should only trust themselves."
Drug study numbers clash at UCF

Andre Beauchage
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Thirty-four percent of the University of Central Florida’s students admit using marijuana in the past year, according to a new study.

The annual Core Alcohol and Drug Survey also found that 23 percent of UCF students have tried an illegal drug other than marijuana as in the past year. Those statistics are in sharp contrast to ones compiled by the UCF police department, showing that there were only 12 on-campus drug arrests in 1999.

“The number of residents on campus compared to those off campus makes for a discrepancy in numbers,” said Sergeant Troy Williamson, crime prevention coordinator at the UCF Police Department. “We’re going to see our numbers jump up as we take over more responsibilities. We’re at 8 percent (of students at UCF living on campus) now, and we’re going up to 25 percent.”

UCF police reported that only two of the 12 on-campus drug arrests were in residence halls.

“I think most drug use takes place off campus,” said Jan Wilson, area coordinator for Libra Community of residence halls. “We don’t have a high issue with it in the halls. My great concern is the party culture off campus, and how the residents come home. It’s very easy to detect on campus, so I think our students go elsewhere.”

Elsewhere might be to frat houses. According to the Core study, 92 percent of the 912 UCF students surveyed said “they saw drinking as central in the social life of fraternity.” The overdose of three Kappa Sigma members on GHB (Gamma Hydroxy-Butyrate) the morning of October 1 is still fresh in many minds.

“This is the third incident of GHB (on campus), and all three of them have been related within theGreek park system,” Williamson said. “The first two were related to fraternity parties. The first was an overdose, the second was a person who was not a student attempting to bring the drug into the fraternity house.”

Erin Vertolli, peer educator for Responsible Education & Action for Campus Health or REACH thinks the drug use on campus is not limited to the fraternity.

“I believe the GHB incident at Kappa Sigma is commonplace, but it is not isolated to the Greek system,” said Vertolli. “I think it happens within the general population, mostly off campus and, of course, UCF police don’t have jurisdiction over those areas, so we don’t hear about it. There are a lot of things that happen to UCF students on and off campus when it comes to drugs and alcohol that we don’t hear about.”

The drug problem among UCF students may be much higher than even the Core statistics indicate. Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a UCF student says that she expected the number of people that had tried marijuana in the past year (34.4 percent) to be much higher. The student also said that she thought the reported number (23.5 percent) of students who had tried illegal drugs other than marijuana to be low as well.

“A lot of people use pot as a calming effect when they are high on ecstasy,” the student said. “I doubt the people that filled out survey counted that times they used pot toward their overall use.” The student also guessed the percent of students that have driven under the influence to be almost double what was reported (24 percent).

Alcohol related crime is down sharply among UCF students, but drug possession offenses are up in the past year according to Substance Abuse, Prevention, Education and Enforcement, or SAPEE statistics.

“We have a higher rate of substance abuse in the state of Florida, almost 10 percent higher than anyone else nationally,” Vertolli said.

The dance club drug ecstasy, seems to be the drug of choice among UCF students. Alcohol is still the most widely used, but ecstasy and GHB are increasing.

“Alcohol is the No. 1 drug of choice at this campus, as it is nationwide,” Vertolli said. “However, we’re looking at the general area of Orlando, ecstasy and GHB are definitely the ones we’re focusing on.”

“As far as controlled substances, ecstasy is probably really heavy in the university community,” said Williamson. “I heard that marijuana use had dropped but ecstasy use is up, and I would say that is very accurate within the UCF community.”

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CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE • 7

JAMES NUNEZ
STAFF WRITER

Stolen vehicle

Erin Volz, 23, filed a police report on January 8, after she discovered that her black 1995 Honda Accord EX was missing from the lot. She reported to Officer Allan Darcey that she had given no one permission to take the car, that it had been locked and that she was in possession of the keys. Not only did Volz lose her car, but also a few items of value were within the car, such as a portable CD player, a basketball, soccer balls, cassette tapes, tennis rackets and E-pass transponders.

Call your bluff

On the night of Dec. 27, Officer Allan Darcey attempted to stop a silver Toyota who had run a stop sign on Gemini Blvd. After a pursuit, the driver of the Toyota stopped at Andromeda Circle and fled the scene on foot. It was here where Officer Darcey encountered Vanessa Irizarry standing beside the stranded vehicle. She claimed that the car was hers and that the driver was supposed to be picking her up. At the scene, Officer Darcey reported that Irizarry identified the driver of the Toyota as Anthony Carro. Later, a man who Irizarry claimed was William Anthony Carro was arrested.

Upon further investigation, Officer Darcey learned from the defendant’s mother that the name Anthony Carro was false and that the wrong son of hers had been taken into custody. Irizarry was placed under arrest and charged with making a false report and resisting and officer’s obstruction without violence.

Parking Services has moved

The Police Department would like to make all UCF faculty and students aware that the Parking Services department has moved. It is no longer located behind the water tower, next to the police station. Beginning this semester, you will be able to purchase parking decals, pay parking fines and everything in the South Parking Garage. The south garage is located on South Gemini Blvd., across from Jay Bergman Field.

System to be used after 2 years of deliberation

FROM PAGE 1

involved, and we sent multiple letters, but Student Government never responded, and after two years of this the committee decided to go forth without their input,” said a member of the Faculty Senate.

“I’m just glad I graduated before this went into effect,” said former UCF student Charlie Todd. “I can recall a number of times that I worked really hard and although my average hovered just below an A, teachers rewarded me. Now that they only reward 3.25 GPA points for a B+, my GPA would be significantly lower.”

3 new specialized courses required

FROM PAGE 1

dents who are from other colleges holding the class back.” “I can see classes being very frustrating for both students, those who were business undergraduates, and those who weren’t,” she said. Members of the faculty, however, seem to think the program is a good idea.

“The college of business administration is very pleased with the new program,” said Ford. The revised MBA program would help put talented students with a variety of undergraduate degrees into the community and be successful added Ford.

More online...

For more campus news, opinions, entertainment and sports, log on to www.UCFfuture.com
Web music is still a free-for-all, users vow

Lou Carlozo
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

By his own account, 20-year-old Bradley Coleman, a junior at Rutgers University in New Jersey, is a clean-cut college kid. "I'm a very moral person," he said. "I never steal, I don't gossip. However..."

Mention the Internet — music in particular — and the computer-science major dishes a guilt-ridden confession: "I'm a die-hard pirate on the Net."

Coleman has downloaded nearly 2,000 free songs in the form of MP3s — musical files that can be sent from one computer to another, much like e-mail. He plucked a good chunk of those cuts from Napster, a service that allows its users to trade music without paying a cent.

And while Napster is the most prominent target of the record industry's anti-piracy efforts on the Internet (and, much as a Tootsie Roll in the history of a good chunk of those years, he'll just grow another one), another much more moral... but greedy, money-grubbing record companies, and who minds ripping them off? Maybe they don't want to recognize is when they (use Napster), the artists, the studios, the engineers — the entire food chain that's involved in this — is harmed. And we've got to sensitize people to that fact."

Still, Greene acknowledges that the record industry has created a lot of ill will over the last two decades by overcharging consumers for mediocre CDs — and that free music sites, legal or not, are likely here to stay.

"It's coming off a friend's tail; he'll just grow another one," Greene said. "I don't think we should spend a whole lot of money trying to come up with secure digital music. It'll just get backdropped. What we've got to do is give consumers more value for their money and give people six or seven good cuts on a CD instead of loading it up with filler material."

What the music moguls seem to overlook is that free music, somewhere down the line, can translate into a big pay-off. Such is the logic when Tom Petty gave out his single "Free Girl Now" on MP3.com last year. His record label, Warner Brothers, pulled the plug after a few days. But some 120,000 people downloaded the song — meaning that Petty can target merchandising efforts directly to those listeners. It's also likely that he picked up thousands of new (and record-buying) fans in the process.

For a more old-fashioned example, consider the Grateful Dead, a band that not only allowed but encouraged fans to make unauthorized "bootleg" recordings of all its live concerts. Years of tape swapping spread the band's renown and won it one of the most loyal followings in rock history.

A key element in those cases is that the artists themselves authorized the giveaways. Anti-Napster acts such as Metallica argue that it amounts to piracy when others do the giving away on a grand scale, without permission. Still, it's equally possible that prior to suing Napster, Metallica benefited from free exposure on the exchange.

"I have bought some artists' CDs that I had never heard of, all because of the free service on Napster," said Shannon Biehl, 22, a college student from Rockingham, N.C. "You only have to download what you want and if something is trashy, you can delete it."

Like many Napster fans, Biehl fears that if another free site gets a lot of publicity and traffic, "the greedy, money-grubbing record companies will go after them." Yet a big reason free music will continue on the Internet is that unlike Napster, exchanges such as Freenet and Gnutella operate without central server computers. That means they cannot be intercepted and silenced by authorities.

However, such freedom (or at least free music) comes with other costs: time and frustration. Near gridlock conditions often await visitors to Gnutella, and learning the ropes of the service is much harder than on Napster.

"The saving grace is that those systems are very complex and some don't work very well,"
AmeriCorps gears up for a busy 2001

BILLY O'KEEFE
TRAVIS CAMPUS

Contrary to conventional wisdom, there are some things upon which both Democrats and Republicans can support. Take ice cream, for example. Both Democrats and Republicans agree, for the most part, that it tastes good. Likewise, the abilities to read, write and count are popular on both sides of the political fence. And then, of course, there’s AmeriCorps, a national service program founded by President Clinton that has empowered more than 200,000 young adults through volunteer projects and community service programs.

Heavy skepticism and massive budget cuts from congress nearly killed AmeriCorps following its 1993 launch. Conservatives in particular bashed the program’s structure, which called for members to get paid a salary for performing what congress saw as volunteer work.

Today, however, the picture is much different. Heavy criticism of the program has disappeared, and some of its biggest detractors, including Sen. John McCain and Gen. Colin Powell, are now huge supporters. In essence, with programs in every state around the country and a membership base that increases each year, AmeriCorps is a poster child for what bipartisan support can accomplish. “It’s been a stunning change,” said spokesperson Sandy Scott of the program’s surge in support on Capitol Hill. “There was a point when we were targeted for elimination. Now, though, we have widespread support.”

This level of support is not expected to change even as the program’s founder leaves the White House this month. This past fall, President-elect George W. Bush, along with all but one of the country’s governors, signed a petition urging congress to continue its support for the program. “As governors, we recognize the value of national service as a tool in meeting important needs in our states,” read the petition. “We have seen national service at work in our states. We do not want to lose this force for good in our communities, states and country.”

Scott said that AmeriCorps, working under the new slogan of “Your World, your chance to make it better,” expects this year to count 50,000 young Americans among its ranks—a total even the Marines (38,000) and the Air Force (34,000) cannot match.

For the most part, the program gathers its troops through word of mouth and down-to-earth campaigns. “We know that there’s a lot of competition for young minds’ attention,” he said. “The best way to get people motivated to join is for them to see other young people in action, so they can see for themselves how they, too, can make a difference.”

So with widespread support for its programs and a higher headcount than ever before, what’s AmeriCorps to do for an encore? Get online, that’s what. AmeriCorps plans to train 1,200 of its members to help people in struggling communities overcome the increasing disparity between those who do and don’t have access to computers and the Internet.

Additionally, the program will operate for the first time under a president other than the one who created it. But with Bush’s support and a healthy amounts of public sentiment in tow and in writing, AmeriCorps expects the new year to be its strongest yet. “We’re very optimistic about the Bush administration’s plan for national services,” Scott said. “Public service is, and always should be, non-partisan.”

Students interested in joining AmeriCorps are encouraged to visit AmeriCorps online, located at americorps.org, for a list of available programs in their area. Students may also create a program in their community if no such thing already exists.

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PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE RECOMMENDED

Sponsored by the Career Resource Center in the...
Well, everyone, your wait is over. Or should I say my wait is over? I have finally met someone that I can stand being with for a full day. What exactly does this mean for my column? What grouschy words will you turn to now? Will I run out of bitter rant every week? Doubtful.

Anyway I have met someone who fits my list. Weird huh? Lately I have been giggling, doodling and watching cheesy romance movies. It’s strange what love can do to a person. People fall in love all the time and right away you can tell who they are. They are always in a good mood and they constantly have a strange look in their eyes. However, I don’t even know if I can explain it. Now as cynical as this may seem, I am not cynical. But it’s almost as if this whole love business LESSONs if. Yeah I still curse at people who drive around like they’re in a high school parking lot and I still want the classroom talker to shut-up. But now it’s like I think they are funny and annoying at the same time.

Sorry to disappoint any of you this week with my grously talk. I can almost assure that by next week I will have plenty to complain about. Hey classes have just started.

GRAY MATTERS

Colonize, cannibalize, consume: The human way

CHRIS ZAPATIER

In rural Seminole County where I live, oppossums frequently fall victim to automobiles. What happens to the animal’s carcass in the days following is always the same. The expired creature turns undulating in the roadway shoulder until nature’s remarkably efficient system of consumption begins. Sometimes the process starts with another oppossum cannibalizing the corpse, then solar desiccation takes its toll. Nature’s decomposition hierarchy then initiates the putrification process by stripping all traces of organic matter from the skeleton of the once living, breathing biological entity.

The wizardry that runs the world is no different. We colonize, cannibalize and consume. The difference is that Homosapiens are no longer part of the harmonious recycling collective commonly referred to as “the circle of life.” We are the most selfish, avaricious consumers of Mother Nature’s resources. We consumed the Passenger Pigeon and the Arawak Indians until there was simply none left to consume. We possess a conscience and the ability to reason, yet we act with reckless disregard towards our future and never contemplate the consequences of our actions until the repercussions are staring us in the face, by which point the damage has already been done. We consume oil, natural gas, fish, fauna and trees, and then deposit our waste in the very soil and oceans that sustain the very life we’ve attempted to destroy. We are parasitic microorganisms on earth’s celestial body and we are bleeding our host dry with our insatiable appetites. But one other parasitic colony, our population will continue to grow until our needs exceed our host’s ability to provide and our host perishes.

Can the recitation of the Oath of Office top events of this year’s election?

DAVID MARSTERS

Oh, the irony. The 2000 presidential campaign was one of the most boring races for the White House in recent history. The wizards that run the Democratic and Republican parties gave us two candidates that we really didn’t like that much. There was George W. Bush, the friendly, goofy looking guy who didn’t really know much about, well, anything except some of his friends wanted him to run. And then there was Al Gore, the career politician who we all knew was smarter than us, but just couldn’t bear to listen to. G.W. was a drunk with a personality. You just wanted to get Al Gore drunk to see if he had a personality. We had an election to top all elections. Florida went Gore, then Bush, Florida went Bush, no wait, Florida, shi forget Florida, let it float down to Cuba where it belongs. More people in America now know what the Electoral College is than ever before, and we all want to strangle the next person we meet named “Chad.” In the end, Gore got more votes but G.W. got more electoral votes, so this Saturday we will inaugurate our second shrubbery in last three inaugurations. Perhaps the entire cast of characters involved in Election 2000 could be assembled to take part in the festivities. How much would fun it be if Chief Justice William Rehnquist had to administer the oath to a group of G.W. Al Gore, Dick Cheney, Joe Lieberman and even Bill Clinton himself, since we all know he wants a third term?

REHNQUIST: Mr. Bush, please raise your right hand, place your left hand on the Bible and repeat after me.

BUSH: Excuse me, Mr. Chief Justice, but what does “repeat” mean?

CLINTON: That depends on what the meaning of the prefix “re” is.

REHNQUIST: Ignore him. Mr. Bush, say what I say back to me.

BUSH: Oh, ok, um, Dick, should I be doing this?

CHENEY: Yes, George.

REHNQUIST: I do solemnly swear or affirm... BUSH: I’m a reformer with results.

REHNQUIST: What?

CHENEY: George, repeat what the Chief Justice is saying.

BUSH: But you told me to repeat what my advisors told me to say.

CHENEY: That’s all over now; it’s ok to repeat what the Chief Justice is saying.

BUSH: Ok. Um, Dick, should I say, “I am reforming the Office of the President of the United States!”

GORE: Are you kidding me? Do you actually believe this guy can be the real president anyway.

CHENEY: Ah, forget it; let me take the flapping oath, I’m going to be the real president anyway.

REHNQUIST: Preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

CHENEY: Preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

BUSH: That I will faithfully execute the thirteen death rows in, err... the Office of the President of the United States.

REHNQUIST: And will to the best of my ability.

BUSH: And will to the best of my subliminally.

CHENEY: The word is “ability,” George.

BUSH: But no one has ever used word in reference to me before.

CHENEY: Ah, forget it; let me take the flapping oath, I’m going to be the real president anyway.

REHNQUIST: Preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

CHENEY: Preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

GORE: I wrote the Constitution of the United States.

CLINTON: Who wants to party?
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The end is near
Scheduled to open Feb. 5 in Orlando FL is the HolyLand theme park. The $16 million bible story on oxygen is going to cover Israel's history from 1450 AD to '66 AD. It is going to include Moses, Exodus, Herod's Temple, and 'courtyard, street markets, Jesus' garden tomb, a Bedouin tent and much more. What exactly is the point of this HolyLand park though? The only thing I see here is a $16 million controversy. Something for every religious group around to complain about.

The sign: of the apocalypse is upon us. Scientists have cloned a monkey that has the DNA of both a monkey and a jelly-fish. This is too weird. A glowing green monkey swinging around a night is simply an invitation for predators. God and Darwin both must think we are a bunch of morons.

Oldies, but goodies
Movie theaters do not release old movies very often, but recently there has been a release that can't be beat. Theaters brought back the Beatles' first movie, A Hard Days Night. While whoever put out that Beatles 'One' CD wasn't thinking quite clearly, whoever decided this re-release of A Hard Days Night is great.

What ever happened to that great, old television show, "Land of the Lost"? It was great. The poorly done stop animation dinosaurs, the very acting and awful story line. How could you cancel such a wonderful piece of programming? I miss it terribly.

'She don't eat meat, but she sure likes the bone'
Am I the only one whose family fed the 'pizza bones' to the dogs? Actually, come to think of it, am I the only person whose family called the left-over crust of the pizza 'a pizza bone'? Dogs love 'pizza bones.'

Chemicals that are legal
Florists have the greatest thing— When they sell you flowers now you they give you a small pack of chemicals you mix in the water. The powdered mix keeps your flowers alive forever. I wonder though what kind of chemical it is they put in that little packet. It is always great to wake up to beautiful fresh flowers, and with this stuff it helps you enjoy them so much longer.

Freshen up
If you have ever chewed Clamaburst gum, you have probably heard the rumor that it is possible to add the wrapper to your gum when it begins to lose its flavor and it will freshen up your gum. Is this just a rumor, or is it true? Chewing wax-paper sounds like a blast to me.

Quote of the week
"The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work." · Emile Zola

Making your vote count
We were interested to see what you thought about the ever increasing price of textbooks. We polled you and other students online last week when we asked "Do you think textbook prices are too high?" This is the results of our poll:

YES. - 96%
NO. - 4%

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Waking up to the drug war's failure

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

For years, the nation has been trying to combat drug use and addiction with tough law enforcement - aggressive policing, firm prosecution and long prison sentences. But the results have been mixed at best. And all across the country, doubts about the drug war are not only surfacing but leading to changes in policy.

In November, Californians approved a ballot initiative mandating treatment instead of incarceration for those guilty of drug possession or use, something Arizonans endorsed in 1996. Last week, Republican Gov. George Pataki of New York moved in the same direction when he said he wants to "dramatically" reform the state's notoriously harsh drug laws, begun in the 1970s by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller. In New Mexico, Republican Gov. Gary Johnson has strongly endorsed the proposals of a commission that urged an even sharper change of direction.

The New York laws, though not quite the most Draconian in the country, gained public notice because they were among the first to impose long mandatory sentences for the possession or sale of relatively small amounts of hard drugs. Someone convicted of a single sale of two ounces of narcotics can get a decade or more behind bars.

Those mandatory minimums and the enormous leverage they give to prosecutors are a big reason that New York has 21,000 inmates serving prison time for drug offenses, with the burden falling heavily on poor and minority defendants.

Besides the human cost to non-violent offenders, this policy has a fiscal bite: A recent study found that the state could save $96 million a year by being more selective in whom it locks up. Gov. Pataki and key legislative leaders all agree on the need for a less punitive approach, including expanded treatment.

The New Mexico governor, whose commission has expanded the boundaries of the debate. Its recent report proposed eliminating all penalties for possession of small amounts of marijuana, making other first and second drug offenses misdemeanors that would not carry jail time, getting rid of mandatory minimums, and making it easier to sell syringes over the counter. At the same time, the panel called for spending more on education, prevention and treatment. Such measures, it said, are a more effective way to reduce drug use than incarceration.

In the United States, people addicted to tobacco or alcohol are seen to be in need of therapy, not punishment. For many drug users, a similar approach offers the hope of better outcomes at lower cost. The drug law reformers in New York, New Mexico and elsewhere may not have all the answers, but they're on the right track.
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Look back in humor

**Look back in humor**

JONATHAN BERKHARDT
THE BLOCKER HERALD, UCF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Two years ago, I had the fortune of witnessing and experiencing the first of two sweatshop sit-ins that led to a national level of UW student activism. These were my experiences with the sweatshops, and how the student body was able to organize against the evil empire of corporate exploitation.

For those who do not know, the sit-in involved UW apparel, which is produced in sweatshops. I went to the sit-in because I agreed with the cause, and because I had a close friend who was involved in planning it. I arrived at Bascom Hall relatively late and found the lobby looking like a scene from "Animal House."

There were open pizza boxes, crates, bottles, and cases strewn about the room, and several people were passed out in corners. As I later found out, most of this food and drink had been donated by local businesses that supported the activists’ cause.

In addition to the food, various magazines, books and board games had also been donated to occupy the activists’ time. Two international Socialists Organization members had passed out an open "Monopoly" box. They slept like babies, blissfully unaware of the irony.

Those people who had not fallen asleep were outside smoking cigarettes and arguing about various issues. A few of them mentioned the sweatshops, but most conversation revolved around their contempt for the UW campus: How the student body "needed to be more active" and how "they didn’t understand how everyone could be so f-ing stupid and apathetic."

The most entertaining part of this gathering was a schoolyard squabble about whose parent had been more active during the ‘60s and ‘70s. It sounded an awful lot like the argument over whose daddy was bigger and stronger.

Several had mommies and daddies who had taken over government buildings, others had parents who had organized sit-ins. Apparently, the target of these protests was unimportant, as it never was mentioned. In proving one’s radical pedigree, it seems the means justified the ends.

Midway through a heated argument about whether Vizetti (of Sacco and Vizneti fame) or Mother Jones said "Don’t mean, unite," a smiling-faced police officer strode in. Most glared at him, except for one person who asked how he was doing, and what he thought of the sit-in. He told everyone that they shouldn’t worry about the police bothering them, because Chancellor Ward had told him that the protesters were "a great bunch of kids."

For reasons they never discussed, there was a general consensus that the officer’s remark was "pretty messed up." Perhaps they felt the remark was patronizing, or perhaps he had thrown them a curveball by not acting like their adversary. Most of them did not seem to have a well-organized sense of their complaint. The police officer’s smile and a few kind words from their foe had blown a mystical dog whistle that only the most radical of ears could hear.

Conversation soon died down and everyone went to sleep. Several hours later, everyone awoke to find coffee bags and various condiments in the corner of the room for breakfast.

Munching on their hearty breakfast, the group then formed a circle and began their democratic session. For those who don’t know, the sitting opened proceedings for a summer campfire or group therapy session.

It began when we went around the circle and told our names, the reason we had come and what we hoped for the future. After these AA-esque introductions, we discussed our new strategy.

An old man was the first to raise his hand. With thick skin, a flannel shirt and faded jeans, he looked like a character from a Steinbeck novel, the prototypical New Deal union organizer — which, in a sense, he was. Prior to the introductions, he told me that he had been involved with union issues and that he had traveled to Madison to "observe and lend a hand."

With a didactic tone the older man explained to everyone that it was standard sit-in procedure for the protesters to vote on several representatives who would go to negotiate terms with management — in this case the UW administration.

These representatives would then discuss further action with the rest of the protesters. After that discussion, representatives would go back.

Strangely, this man’s comments seemed to blow the dog whistle again — many scowled as they realized he had offended their family heritage.

One person angrily protested that there should be no negotiations and that they should run through Chancellor Ward’s office, knock on doors and stand in the halls. And then stand with their arms crossed, getting their teeth above him until he agreed to their terms.

Some even had philosophical justifications for this approach. Pulling phrases from the song of Marx and Chomsky, they displayed their utter contempt for all authority. "We live in a patriarchal society," said one person, "and are used to being patronized. If we are going to get anywhere, we can’t speak or act on our terms."

For these people, ideology had virtually replaced the causes, and causes were as far from their experience as ideologies — halfway around the world in fact.

After about 20 minutes, the old man got up and left. He didn’t seem angry. But as he passed me on his way out, I heard him mumbling to himself: "We’re just going to get arrested if we act like we’re in damn paramilitary group."

I never stayed to see whether the aggressive tactics prevailed. But it was a way of passing an enjoyable evening — and not feeling I could offer any help or insight, I left for class.

For those who, like me, had virtually run out of things to say...
To pit the angry rock/rap music of Limp Bizkit nominees in twenty categories, example. The three nominees were Creed, Red Hot Chili Peppers. Hello? The three nominees didn’t even belong to the Pop/Rock category that was also in the Pop/Rock category to begin with. especially the cringing Melissa Etheridge. It off, Creed won. This was awarded to a band presented at the 28th Annual American Music Awards on Jan. 8, there wasn’t that much to watch and enjoy. This awards show has three categories of the whole show. The other superior moments of the night were the performances. Jennifer Lopez put on an amazing show with her hit “My Love Don’t Cost A Thing” after LeeAnn Rimes ironically introduced her with the phrase “a woman with great assets.” Billy Gilman, the youngest country artist with a platinum-selling album, performed his hit “One Voice” and received a standing ovation. Pink performed “Most Girls” energetically out of tune, and Toni Braxton sang her hit “Spanish Guitar” with a slew of back-up dancers, probably a result of her injured leg. Despite these few perks, the night was a boring one, definitely not up to MTV standards. The only viewers who could have truly appreciated it were Britney Spears’s fans. This definitely wasn’t MTV’s Video Music Awards. First of all, Britney Spears as a host? This choice was screaming for viewer approval, especially when Britney tore off her classy pink gown to reveal more of a bikini than a dress. This was quite entertaining if you paid attention to her fellow artists’ reactions, especially the cringing Melissa Etheridge. Once you got past the emphasis on image presented at the 28th Annual American Music Awards on Jan. 8, there wasn’t that much left to watch and enjoy. This awards show has three nominees in twenty categories, all of which begin with the word “favorite.” The problem with this structure is that only three nominees don’t build much of a suspense level, and the audience can usually predict who will win. Take the Favorite Alternative Artist award, for example. The three nominees were Creed, Limp Bizkit, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. To pit the angry rock/rap music of Limp Bizkit against the more mellow, classic sound of the Red Hot Chili Peppers makes no sense. To top it off, Creed won. This was awarded to a band that was also in the Pop/Rock category twice? Hello? The three nominees didn’t even belong under the same category. Another predictable category was Favorite Soul/R&B Female Artist. Toni Braxton won over Kelly Price and Whitney Houston. This wasn’t a huge surprise considering not many people listen to Kelly Price on popular music stations, and Whitney Houston hasn’t come out with a true hit in a long time. This annoying trend took away much of the enjoyment out of the awards show. However, it still built in choice moments. Fans of the Backstreet Boys undoubtedly appreciated the moment when they won the Favorite Band/Duo/Group award over *NSYNC, which was probably one of the only suspenseful categories of the whole show. The other superior moments of the night were the performances. Jennifer Lopez put on an amazing show with her hit “My Love Don’t Cost A Thing” after LeeAnn Rimes ironically introduced her with the phrase “a woman with great assets.” Billy Gilman, the youngest country artist with a platinum-selling album, performed his hit “One Voice” and received a standing ovation. Pink performed “Most Girls” energetically out of tune, and Toni Braxton sang her hit “Spanish Guitar” with a slew of back-up dancers, probably a result of her injured leg. Despite these few perks, the night was a boring one, definitely not up to MTV standards. The only viewers who could have truly appreciated it were Britney Spears’s fans.
As Snatch can show you, no one will ever really deem Guy Ritchie as being an original. Starting a few years ago with his first work, the subject of unnecessary comparisons stateside with that of Quentin Tarantino's, to more recent example of having a baby with the world's most recognizable woman, he has yet to find anything that resembles unclaimed territory. That is not to say it is due to the lack of a creative vision, it's just proof of the fact that many have come and gone before him, laying a foundation (and in some personal cases laying it way before, over and over and over again). Professionally, there has always been that nagging hindrance associated with Ritchie that has him being the UK version of a cinematic wunderkind who makes stylized, over-the-top, post-modern gangster flicks, much like our own. He didn't get his education from inside a video store, but for the Brits, he is just as cool.

The similarities between the two filmmakers were, and still are, quite frail; from Reservoir Dogs, Tarantino went on to make one of the best movies of the nineties in Pulp Fiction. When Ritchie's debut, Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels, came to the U.S. in 1998 one of the reasons it was causing such a fuss was that it held into question as something that might even challenge how good Pulp Fiction really is. Ritchie's hard-boiled story structure was more unorthodox, his irony just as refined and his coincidences even better. Besides that, it was Ritchie's first go round with feature filmmaking, if Lock, Stock was just the beginning we all suspected that this guy was about to kick our @ss.

So in Snatch, his second outing as both writer and director, you would have thought that this would be his Pulp Fiction. Uh, well, nope—not quite—in fact, one has to wonder whether this was an entirely new idea or just the unused draft of Lock, Stock that had to wait a little while longer to be filmed. Not only does Ritchie employ the same techniques used in his first feature; he goes on to make, in essence, the same film. And you know, that might have worked with Sam Raimi and his first pair of Evil Dead movies but then again, they were about flesh-eating zombies, a little known exception to the familiarity rule. In this version we get Brad Pitt and a big fat diamond, instead of Sting and a couple of shotguns. Not a good thing, not really a bad thing either, just the same thing. As a director, this Guy makes the most out of his commercial background bag o' tricks. He employs the editing and visual gimmickry that hooked us in his first picture with grand effect; once again the camera is a character. As a writer, he's like an inebriated rugby player: fast, furious and pissed as hell. Sarcasm can never really run dry in any sort of genre, Ritchie working in the only genre he feels comfortable, knows that, runs with it and keeps us mindful even when it is spoken over a beer or even a dismembered corpse.

This time around, the ruckus is raised by a stolen diamond that "is bigger than a fist." First in the swollen hands of Franky Four Fingers (Benecio Del Toro, who is the..."
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

front-runner to win the 2001 "I'm-in-every-other-movie award," it finds its way into the grips of Bullet Tooth Tony, One-Punch Mickey, Boris the Blade and other's who's monikers retain the belief that criminals (or just witty screenwriters) look towards old Dick Tracy comics for nickname inspiration. Added to the ingredients are a pack of wandering Gypsies, a maladjusted pig farmer/gangster and a duo of England's most inane pawnbrokers, under-ground brawling and a real hungry dog. Do all play out in unison? No not really, but then the absurdity surrounding them is the something to be expected. Lock, Stock didn't make much sense either. The style over substance approach is a welcomed change in that this time the substance is, for lack of a better word, pulp. With all the bullets, bloodletting and bad attitude it is fun to watch these blokes pull off another caper movie. Just don't try to find hints of an individual's attempts in achieving higher film evolution. He is following the exhausted mantra; he sticks to what he knows. So, if the first film worked for you, all bets are that you'll like the second. Much like a pint of Guinness, his films are taken with an acquired taste.

Ever notice the problem with hip-hop and rap CDs? First you hear a song you love. Let's take "Forgot About Dre" by Dr. Dre, for example. Then you go out and buy the CD, Life Story, for that one song, only to find that the rest of the songs suck. Now you're stuck with a CD that you paid fifteen bucks for just because of that stupid song, probably one that you're sick of by now anyway. How do you solve this recurring problem? By purchasing a compilation CD such as The Source Hip Hop Music Awards 2000. For those of you who don't know, The Source is a magazine that covers the rap/hip-hop music industry. They also hold an annual awards show. This CD was released after the awards had already taken place on Aug. 26th, shifting out the pointless songs that didn't cut it and keeping the most driven energetic beats in the mix. Therefore, since rap artists seem to have one or two big hits off of each album, you won't be missing out on anything. This CD has nearly all of the big hip-hop hits of the year 2000, including "Forgot About Dre." There's also "What's my Name?" by DMX, "Bling Bling" from B.G. and the Hot Boys and "Wild Out" by the L.O.X. Other songs include the chart-topping hit "Forgot About Dre" by Dre, who was the Source Award's big winner of the ceremony, and featuring Eminem, the second prize winner of the Source's Lyricist of the Year Award. Perhaps Dre's biggest accomplishment at the awards was being hailed as Solo Artist of the Year, making him a staple on this CD. The Source Hip Hop Music Awards 2000 is, in fact, a great CD for this reason. It combines some of the one-hit wonders, such as Black Rob, with the more experienced artists of the genre, such as Jay-Z, DMX and, of course, Dr. Dre. If you listen to 102 Jamz on the radio, then you're not going to have any weird surprises with this album. They're the same songs you know and love, and you don't have to deal with the other garbage on the artists' individual CDs. It's a good buy for the average rap fan and a good start if you're just getting into rap and/or hip-hop. So, if you were one of the ones who made the bad investment into the Life Story CD, you may want to recommend The Source Hip Hop Music Awards 2000 to a friend, or just buy it yourself.
There's nothing like hearing your favorite song played live, but you didn't have to be an REM aficionado to appreciate Saturday night's tribute show, "Our Rich Pageant" at Dante's. Over a hundred REM fans squeezed into the close quarters of the club/Italian restaurant to listen and sing along to six local bands who played short, but quality sets covering one of modern rock's greatest bands.

Proverbial Load, a duo composed of Ryan Ongena on guitar and Matthew Wesser on guitar and bass, started the evening off right with vocals that sounded eerily similar to REM lead singer Michael Stipe. Of all of the performers, Ongena had the closest match to Stipe's honest and yearning voice by far. They did a terrific job of covering 'Belong' but quality sets covering one of modern rock's greatest bands.

A one piece band followed the duet with a set of covers sung by lead singer Michael Wagner. Guitarist Jargon Hint and bassist Jason Pierce provided a great acoustic accompaniment to Wagner's sexy vocals. Wagner admitted to messing up some lyrics halfway through the band's last song, but the crowd, who sang along with every cover, didn't seem to mind. The Diplomats are scheduled to play at Sapphire Supper Club on Thursday night, it should be a good show based on their short, but fine performance.

By this time, the crowd had grown so much that people were pressed against the walls, squeezing together to stand on the floor space in front of the stage and leaning over other people eating dinner at the club's few tables. Luckily, the crowd seemed to be in a good mood and no one seemed to mind the crammed, but friendly conditions. Popsicle Dynamite, a four-piece band from St. Cloud features Josh Henson on vocals and guitars, Larry Fulford on drums, Nick Kessler on bass, and Jed Johnson on guitar. The band has a very polished sound, especially for playing material that isn't even their own. Johnson's electric guitar work was amazing, and Henson's vocals were full of Stipe's plaintive longing. The band covered songs dating all the way back to REM's first EP, not surprisingly, many members of the crowd still knew every line of the songs. "Don't Go Back to Rockville," a more upbeat song with a country twang had the crowd singing and shouting for more.

The talented guitarist Steve Burry played a few solo acoustic songs although he was missing in action for several minutes. After being located somewhere in the crowds, Burry made his way to the front and the show went on.

Pop-rock band Thaddeus Crumb and The New Lows rounded out the evening with local favorite Blue Meridian, who unlike most of the bands, did not play an acoustic set.

With the exception of Blue Meridian, many of the evening's bands are relatively unknown in Orlando's local music scene, but each performer exceeded expectations and put on a really entertaining and professional show. Shows like the REM tribute provide an excellent showcase for bands who need a larger audience, and after this weekend's show, I'm sure many of them, like Popsicle Dynamite and Real Love Diplomats, have earned plenty of new fans.

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CALLING ALL CLUBS!

To an informational & motivational gathering and an opportunity to interact with other club officers.

MEETING

Special Guest Presenters
Consultants for Effective Leadership

Topic: Leadership Styles, Stress & Time Management

Thursday, January 18th, 2001
SU 211, Garden Key, 1pm

For more information call (823-6471), or come by the Office of Student Activities, SU 215.

Funded by the Activity & Service Fee as allocated by the Student Government Association.

CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE PRESENTS

Thursday Knight Live

The mic is open... is your mind?

- featuring "HOT LUNCH" Jazz Band
- open mic session for spoken word & music

SU, South Patio
7:30 - 10pm
January 18th, 2001

Funded by the Activity and Service Fee as allocated by the Student Government Association.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM THE DEPTHS

DAVID TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

In the age of doggy big-budget Hollywood films (ala Con Air and Mission Impossible II), the public is being presented with formulaic, overly expensive piles of elephant dung. For some reason, as the years have passed, big budget has somehow become synonymous with hit film. Looking at atrocities like Wild Wild West, it is easy to see that this logic is fundamentally flawed. This is a persistent problem with today's Hollywood system, a problem that draws itself from several sources. What results overall is a second-rate film spawned with the equivalent GOP of a small country.

One of the biggest reasons the problem exists is the fact that actors now seem to dictate what does and does not go into the film. Take the disgrace Last Action Hero for example. The initial screenplay and concept called for a moderately budgeted action movie with some "coming of age" concepts. However, when Arnold Schwarzenegger signed on this all changed as the script was rewritten and the budget was pushed up by millions of dollars (several of which went to Arnold's salary). What resulted was the initial screenplay getting ripped to shreds in order to suit Arnold's tastes, not to mention a huge bomb since no one went to see the completed film because it was so moronic.

The lesson to be learned here is that actors are simply there to do a part, not to dictate how the movie should be created. Suggestions are fine, but the task should fall to the screenwriter and director to make the film, two individuals who hopefully know what they are doing. Films should not be vehicles for an actor's ego but rather entertainment that does not insult an audience's intelligence.

A second fault lies in the reliance of CGI, or computer generated images. Sure, they are great special effects, but they are also costly. Besides that, special effects in general are not used to further the plot of a movie anymore. Take Star Wars for instance (the original), almost every special effect moved the story along to a certain extent, the same with Jurassic Park. However, many films now just use special effects to make up for plot rather than add anything to it. Look at The Cell, sure it was a pretty movie, but was it good? Hell no, and the reason being that while museum pieces may be pretty, they do not garner a strong reaction.

The fact that Hollywood cannot seem to come up with an original idea is extremely irritating. After all, how many times does one have to see an airplane hostage movie before it becomes boring? Hollywood relies on a winning formula and keeps using that same formula to death. It is because of this that major studios are unwilling to take major risks on films anymore.

Consequently, all of these things combined may be some of the reasons as to why independent cinema has become so popular in recent years. Without big budgets, stars or special effects, independent filmmakers have to rely on things now largely foreign to major studios such as "plot" and "acting ability." Just like films of old, the story sold the ticket, and with the current trash being recycled in Hollywood today, perhaps some studio execs should take a look at their independent brethren.
LEAD STORIES

In December, NBC News, citing Pentagon and intelligence sources, reported that thousands of Sony PlayStation 2s may have been purchased by Iraqi sources recently, to capitalize on the device's powerful computer processor and video cards, possibly in support of computer-based weapons systems.

One expert told the World Net Daily news service that an integrated bundle of 12 to 15 PlayStation 2s could provide enough power to control a chemical-weapon-delivering, Iraqi aircraft. (A Sony spokesperson said it was unlikely anyone could buy thousands of units. And among similarly alarming, everyday products described in an October New York Times Magazine report were the 2001 Cadillac Deville (whose sophisticated night-vision system is prone to failure), and automobile airbags (whose compact explosive charge might be useful to terrorists).

In December, CNN founder Ted Turner offered to donate $35 million to cover the shortfall in U.S. dues to the United Nations that Congress is so far unwilling to pay. Two months earlier, however, Turner had offered to pay the UN's $106 million bill for its intercontinental jet. And in Hartford, Conn., Terry Bush beat out Johnny Gore in November voting to become homecoming king of Weaver High School.

Family Values

Child-protection officials removed a 6-year-old boy from the home of his 25-year-old mother in Champaign, Ill., in December after they concluded that she had forcibly breastfed him until just recently. The mother defended her "parenting philosophy," telling the Chicago Tribune that society was too uptight about breastfeeding—and denied that she coercion.

London's Observer newspaper reported in November an increasing number of artificial inseminations in which a woman is impregnated with sperm from her husband's father, in order to improve the chances of continuing the genetic line when her husband is too uptight about breastfeeding—and denied that she coercion.

The Classic Middle Name (All New, Unless Noted)

Charged with murder, Edgell County, S.C., October: Steven Wayne Bowman. Charged with murder, Tucson, Ariz., November: Bryan Wayne Padd. Charged with murder, Sequoyah County, Okla., October: Jeffrey Wayne Leal. Now reported in a marital-estate fight while on death row for murder, Scott Wayne Blystone (who is housed at the State Correctional Institution in Waynesburg, Pa.). Transferred against his former partner, Tavares, Fla., October: convicted murderer Terry Wayne Johnson. And in a double-suicide pact in October, another man died of carbon monoxide poisoning when his wife, his 68-year-old grand­mother, in front of him as a shield and opened fire, hitting one officer before being captured.

Recurring Themes

In March, Nathan King, 12, of Helena, Mont., made News of the Weird by surviving a huge for a football that resulted in his falling on the point of a pencil, which penetrated his heart; if anyone had removed the pencil before he reached the hospital, he would have died almost instantly. Then, in October, Ms. Destiny Lopez, age 6, survived the same fate when she tipped on the way to her first grade teacher's desk and fell on her pencil; her teacher talked calmly to her until paramedics arrived, and surgeons later removed the pencil, which had penetrated 3 inches into her heart.

News of the Weird has reported over the years on prisoners' sometimes-prodigious aptitudes for safekeeping valuable things in their rectums. A man arrested on drug charges in Amarillo, Texas, in November 2000 allegedly was rectally housing $5,000 bills (along with two $50s and money orders totaling $4,200), easily beating the record of $2,000, kept by a Florida State Prison inmate in 1991 (though that man also had six handcuff keys, seven hacksaw blades and 34 razor blades in a pouch in his rectum).

Welcome Back Students!

4 pm - 7 pm & 10 pm - Close

$1.00 off
Appetizers
1/2 Price Mixed Drinks
Daily Beer Specials

Don't Miss These Specials!

Welcome to Applebee's

Charles S. Downey's
ties of the Weird

* Make what you're worth!
* Set your own hours!
* Be your own boss!

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CAB Presents...

**cultural arts**

**HIPHOPFEST AUDITIONS**

Open for anyone who wants to share their talent (steppers, graffiti artists, music, breakdancing, etc.) for the HipHopFest on March 5 & 6, 2001.

**JANUARY 16-17, 2001**

Student Union, rm 220

5-8pm

Those who make it through the auditions can showcase their talent in the afternoon or evening performance.

**CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE • 21**

**entertainment**

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**Crossword**

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**Solutions**

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**Sign up for interviews in SU 215**

**For more info, call or come by the GSA office at 407.823.6471 or SU room 215**

**funded by the Activity & Service fee**
Dear Sexpert:

My girlfriend is considering getting her clitoris pierced. I have my objections though because I’ve heard some complications may arise from it. I just don’t want to see her get hurt just for some stupid piercing. I was wondering if you had any information about this subject.

-Problems with piercing, 21

Well, Problems, there can be difficulties in getting this piercing done. First, before she can even have this done, her clitoris has to be at least a quarter of an inch wide. Also, if it is well hooded (cover by the clitoral hood), she cannot have this procedure done at all.

If she can still get it done then problems can occur afterwards as well. One problem is nerve damage. If pierced wrong, she may never have feeling in her clitoris again, which is a very risky gamble to take just for added pleasure. If she still really wants to get it pierced, try to talk to her about getting her clitoral hood done. It can either be pierced horizontally or vertically. If pierced horizontally, a ring will be placed so that the bead rests on the clitoral head. If pierced vertically, the ring will be placed so that it rests on the clitoral shaft. Either way arousal is still accomplished without the unwanted and unnecessary problems associated with a pierced clitoris occurring.

Dear Sexpert:

I’ve been this relationship for only a little while. A couple nights ago we had sex, and I have to say it wasn’t really the best. In fact it was pretty bad. It was too quick and there wasn’t nearly enough foreplay. How should I confront him about this?

-Wham. Bam. That was bad man, 19

Before you confront him, at least give him a couple more chances. There could lots of reasons why that happened. He could have been nervous, tired, not used to you and your sexual quirks or inexperienced at having sex. Give him another go to see if he comes around or if he is just that bad.

A new survey taken this December should give you hope in the foreplay issue. Thirty-eight percent of men taking this survey, compared to thirty-two percent of females, want foreplay to last longer. Out of this thirty-eight percent about half were between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four. This means men are starting to become aware that good sex doesn’t just include sex, but the actions that lead up to it as well. And now that more men are figuring this out, finally, they actually want it to last longer. So, have heart; hopefully he was just having a bad day.

If he doesn’t come around after the next couple times you have sex, sit down and talk to him. When you sit him down though, don’t just blurt out “You are awful in the sack.” Instead, try to ask first if any thing is wrong (i.e. school or his job) that sort of thing. If that is not the problem, then tell him you are not happy with the sex life of this relationship and would like to try to fix that. Ask him if he is nervous or doesn’t quite know what you like or want. If this is the case next time in the bed show what you like. All girls like different things so tell him not to be embarrassed by this. That way you’re on the same page. After this, the nervousness should go away and your sex life should be better. I hope everything goes well, and be patient -- frustration only leads to more problems in bed.

Applications are available for:

Homecoming Director 2001
Spring Semester Concerts Director

You can pick up application in SU 215.
Due Tue. Jan. 30th.
For more info call (407) 823-6471 or stop by SU 215.
HELP WANTED

Nearly $3,000 - $2,000 for connector with the easy ConnectInfections.com team for fluarning event. No sales required. Fundraising dates are filling quickly, so call today! Connect: ConnectInfections.com at 407-433-3228 or visit www.connectinfections.com

Receptionist needed - Veterinary Office in Orlando. Part time or full time. Morning, Saturdays. Parent must be experienced preferred. 407-666-3221. Apply in person or bring resume to 435 Aedleys Woods Blvd., Orlando.

Valet Parking Positions available for friendly, outgoing and responsible people. Must be available to work at least 24 hours per week. We have full time & part time, 407 & 567 positions available at a high level in the Downtown Orlando and Disney World areas. Starting pay is $8 - $10 per hour. Please call 407-421-2255 Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. After hours and weekend, please leave a voice mail message and we will return your phone call ASAP.

Looking for Mother’s Helper for 4 month old and 3 yr. old. Afternoon hours 12-15 hours per week, 38.80%. 10 minutes from campus. Please call Shay at 407-651-9336.

Help spread the word:
Existing your student data technology! $500 for Flexible Scholarships for Students. Do you need it as a refreshing voice? Stickerless can teach you the rest! For more information please call 407-651-8191.

STAFF INSTRUCTORS WANTED
Need energetic people with high SAT scores to teach on weekday evenings or weekends.

3:00-3:30 p.m. Call Breanna at 407-207-8050.

Teachers Certified, dependable to teach math and reading, K-12, East Orlando, weekdays 4-7. Call 407-359-0964.

Warehouse - Shipping, Receiving, Stock, Delivery. Must have valid driver’s license, able to lift up to 75 lbs. Fast paced work environment. Longwood area. $6.50/hr. Previous experience preferred. Call Breanna at 407-422-8097.

Clerical/IT for local Telecommunications company. 10-25 hours per week, $9.50/50/hr. available. Call 407-359-0964 for interview.

Part time Orpiment’s, and various other offices. Tues. and Thurs. 10:00 - 7:30 pm, necessary - other hours Flexible. Front reception at 407-699-5051 or call 407-699-4000.

TRAINS TO BE A SWIM INSTRUCTOR

Will teach fine, reliable and energetic people to teach International Gymnastics classes & both partners are kid’s gym. Call MF Gym at 407-350-3223.


After school care needed for our 8 and 10 year old girl. Must be dependable, responsible and non-smoker. Light housekeeping and off weekends required. Light bookkeeping. Tues, Thurs, Fri 3:30 - 5:00 and West 2:30 - 7:00 p.m., Lake Mary area. Call 407-202-7977.

HELP WANTED

Fundraising dates are filling quickly, so call today! Connect: ConnectInfections.com at 407-433-3228 or visit www.connectinfections.com

We are hiring brand new drivers for our Miami-Dade mailman! 1993 Mazda MX-6 LS Hunter Green, V-6, 55,000 miles, good condition, $3,000. Orig. owner, great condition. Call Rebecca at 407-699-4000.

1993 Mitsubishi Eclipse RS, Black w/ tan interior 20,000 miles, oil change, original owner, great condition. Call Rebecca at 407-699-4000.


Portion II computer, 4.2 gig 17” monitor, scanner, flip drive, printer, Kodak 2000, computer desk ($600), 17” VDU, chair and desk ($150), desk ($100), TV ($150), handtrak treadmill ($250), 407-572-0354.

1993 Ford Fairdance, Excellent condition, good student car; ($750), Kenmore Heavy Duty Dryer, Whirlpool Heavy Duty Washer ($50), both excellent condition, antique washboard ($150) 407-477-0354

1988 Nissan 510x, auto, all power, ladder, ac/air warranty. Excellent warranty on engine, chassis, wheels has included. $2,500.00. 407-773-7260

1993 Honda 4-L 5 Horsepower, V-6, quiet, smooth, leather, power to & CD. 50,000 miles, good condition, $7,500 407-359-0715


HELP. Currently living at home 45 minutes away. Searching for room with including utilities close to UCF area Orlando. Will take best offer. Call us at 407-240-8014 with info.

We are located in MOD 608, behind the Communications Building
TelephoneNumber: 407.823.2197
On the Web: http://reach.ucf.edu/~uwc
TAAC Standings and Stats

TAAC Men's Basketball Standings

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Scoring

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TAAC Women's Basketball Standings

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KICK OFF IN THE STUDENT UNION
PEGASUS GRAND BALLROOM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2001

7:00PM UNTIL 10:00 PM

AND DON'T FORGET...

Chapter Recruitment Parties

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JANUARY 18 – JANUARY 20

BEGINNING AT 9PM EACH NIGHT ON GREEK PARK DRIVE

OFFICE OF GREEK AFFAIRS: (407) 823-2824

Student Union Room 305
Newcomers will be key for success of UCF baseball

get the rankings and you are able to enjoy that for a brief moment before the season, then you just move on."

"<Last week’s practices marked the first time the team has assembled together since before Christmas. The Golden Knights practiced Tuesday through Friday, lifted weights on Saturday, had Sunday off and then participated in an intrasquad scrimmage on Monday, Frady said the team definitely looked rusty at the beginning, but improved as the week went on."

"We looked really, really poor defensively in Day One, as we expected coming back out and getting back under us," he said. "I felt we had really good days of practice on Wednesday and Thursday. (Friday’s) practice was sluggish and I can tell they’re tired. Coming out of Christmas and Thanksgiving, having not played baseball for that amount of time, four days in a row is a lot."

This year’s team will have to deal with the loss of star players Matt Bowser, Dustin Brisson and Casey Kennedy, who were all taken in the most recent Major League Baseball Draft. Bowser and Brisson combined to make up one of the greatest power-hitting tandems in UCF history, while Kennedy was the team’s number one starter last year."

"After a team finishes the season, the next team is not the same team," said Frady. "If you lose one or two players, it’s a different team. This year, it’s just a different team than last year. While (Bowser, Brisson and Kennedy) were the key players, there’ll be other players now to step up and take the roles that those guys had."

UCF has a lot of new-comers that will be vying to fill those roles. Over half of the Golden Knight roster is filled by players in their first season at UCF. The most prominent of these new players is senior shortstop Jeremy Kurella, who transferred to UCF this season from Northwestern University. Last season, the three-time All-Big Ten selection hit .345 with four home runs, 36 RBIs and 41 stolen bases. This year, he was named as a third-team shortstop to the Collegiate Baseball preseason All-America team."

"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 the loss of Kennedy, the new starting rotation will likely be comprised of converted closer Jason Arnold, Justin Pope and Georgia Tech transfer Brad Bushin. Newcomer Abe Gonzalez, a side-arm righthand­ed pitcher who led Gardner-Webb to the key College World Series and was named II College World Series last year as a starter, will fill Arnold’s spot in the bullpen. Senior Greg Good and freshman Blaine Schulte will attempt to take Bowser’s place at first base, while Ohio State transfer Chad Ehrenberger will fill the hole at the third base left by Brisson.

Frady said these players, along with the other transfers he has done a good job assimilating themselves to the UCF program. "Our new players have adjusted well," said Frady. "I can tell that we’re much more together as a team coming out of the fall than where we were in the fall. It’s been very nice to start the spring with everybody understanding what they’re roles are, so now we’re just practicing what we’re going to be attempting to do during the game.”

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

Young players making significant contributions for UCF basketball

UCF junior forward Bernard Simms has played well since being academically ineligible in the fall semester.

from the three-point line last season. In order to be eligible for the award a player must have attempt at least 100 shots from behind the arc. Thornton attempted 190 last year.

This season Thornton has struggled, shooting only 34.1 percent, going 28-82 from three-point range. Spearr attributes this decline to defenses knowing how big of a threat Thornton is from beyond the arc, and the fact that he isn’t a player who can create his own shot on a regular basis.

Golden Knights Undergoing Youth Movement

The Golden Knights appear to be in the middle of a youth movement. With only two seniors on the roster, young
Paige undergoes MRI on right knee

FROM PAGE 29
from the line, going 16-24, a big improvement on their conference
worse 56.6 percent average.
“I can’t go down the line and
say that really anybody played
very well tonight,” said Striegler.
“I did not have them apparently
prepared to play, if I would have
they would have played.”

Striegler did have the team
ready to play Saturday, however,
as Dr. Jekyll showed up against
Mercer. UCF pulled off a dra­
matic 54-53 win over the Bears,
with Marvelous Washington hitting
two of two free throws with 0.9
seconds left in the game for the
victory.

“I figured we could either go
into overtime or we could get out
of here and win this game,
because coach had promised us
that we could have two days off,”
said Washington.

With the pressure of giving
her 12 teammates a day off on
her shoulders, Washington hit the
game winning shot for what she
said was the first time in her
career.

“Very well prepared to play, if
what was the first time in her
said was the first time in her

Turnovers were the story of
the game. The 19 turnovers were
the second least committed by UCF
this season.

“They looked like two totally
different teams,” said Striegler.
“I mean we, by no means, played a perfect game
tonight, there’s no doubt about that,
but the difference is that
they came out and played hard
the whole time. Defensive intens­
ity was not what it needed to be
in the first half, but in the second
half our defensive really picked up

Paige’s knee gave out Friday
in practice when she went up
for a rebound and came down on it.
There was no contact involved.

“They think it’s just a menis­
cus tear, which is a cartilage
 tear,” said Striegler. “How bad it
is and where it’s at will deter­
mine whether she has to have
surgery or not right away.”

Striegler and the Golden
Knights are hoping the injury
will heal in time to allow Paige
to play again this season. Paige, a
versatile player who plays both
the small and power forward
positions, is averaging seven
points per game in conference
play.

(“Paige being out of the line­
up) does hurt us because she
gives us minutes at the post and
at the guard and can do a lot of
really nice things for us,” said
Striegler. “She causes mismatch­
es for some people.”

UCF will know more about
when or if Paige will be able to
return to the lineup when the
doctors get the results of the
MRI, but until then the team will
have to continue to find ways to
win without her.

UCF adds much-needed height
for next year
It was announced last week
that Striegler signed two post play­
ers for next season, both of which
have the kind of height UCF is
lacking.

Takira Allen comes from
Quincy Shanks High and is 6-foot-
2, the same height as Kristy
Colligan, who is currently the
tallest player on the Golden
Knights.

She’s very athletic, a lot like
Toya Graham), a little bit better
fundamentally than Toya is
though,” said Striegler of Allen.

“She can jump out of the gym.
She’ll definitely come in and help
us.”

Striegler also signed Ali
Roberts from Pensacola Catholic
High, who is 6-foot-5, which will
make her the tallest player on
UCF’s team next year. Striegler
was impressed by her strong fun­
damentals.

“She does a lot of fundamen­
tal things,” said Striegler. “She’s 6-
foot-3 and can hit the elbow shot,
can hit the baseline shot, she’s
going to have to get stronger
though. She’s not real big, but she
does an awful lot of nice things.
She can put it on the floor with her
left hand. She can put it on the
floor with her right hand.”

Striegler is expecting both of
these players to come in and make
a significant contribution to the
team, much like Nicole Dunson
and Adrienne Billings have done
this season as freshmen.

“They’re going to bring a lot
to our game,” said Striegler.

News and notes
With a 4-1 conference record
UCF is third in the TAAC behind
Stetson, also at 4-1, and Campbell,
an undefeated 5-0. UCF leads the
conference in defensive rebounds
a game with 27.92... Adrienne
Billings is seventh in the confer­
ence with 7.2 rebounds a game,
third in offensive rebounding
with 3.66 a game and tenth in defensive
boards with 3.77... LaToya Graham
is ninth in the TAAC aver­
aging 6.6 rebounds a game and
does a lot better with 4.58 defensive
rebounds a game... Nicole Dunson
is third in the conference in triple
point percentage with 35.2 percent
and she’s tied for third for number
of three-point shots made per
game with an average of
1.92... Billings is also tied for
nineth in the TAAC with 77
blocked shots a game.

Student Government Association
Student Government is currently hiring:
• 4 Elections Commissioners
• Comptroller
Pick-up an application in Student
Government Office Rm. 214, Student Union
Applications are due January 22, by 5 p.m.

* Applicant must maintain a 2.3 GPA
The UCF men's basketball team won one and lost two in Trans America Athletic Conference play this week. Last Monday, the Golden Knights suffered a 76-62 loss to Samford in the UCF Arena. Samford hit 14 three pointers in the game, while the Golden Knights made only four. UCF also shot poorly from inside the arc, shooting just 37.1 percent for the game, and only shooting 29.4 percent in the second half.

"You know they're going to throw up a lot of threes, especially with what we were doing defensively," said UCF Head Coach Kirk Speraw. "Our concepts in what we were doing I think were fine, our execution of the concept was not what it needed to be. You can't give up 14 threes against them, if you do you've got to shoot better than 29 percent in the second half."

The game was tied at 31 at the first half, a half in which UCF led most of the way. In the first half the Golden Knights also managed to hold Samford's Marc Salyers scoreless. Salyers was the TAAC player of the year last year and is averaging 17.5 points and 6.2 rebounds a game this season.

"You know they're going to do something," said Coach Kirk. "It doesn't pretty."

Unfortunately the victory was not the beginning of a winning streak for UCF, who fell 79-70 to Georgia State on Saturday. GSU leads the TAAC with a 5-1 record and proved why against UCF.

The two teams tied six times during the game, but the Bulldogs were too much for the Knights, but UCF would bounce back on the road on Thursday with a 73-60 win over Campbell.

The Knights had four players scoring in double figures for the Knights. Simms, a junior, recorded a double-double with 14 points and 11 boards. Paul Reed scored 11 points, and Inyo Cae, Joey Graham and Josh Bodden each added 10 points of their own.

UCF had a 36-27 lead at halftime and the closest Campbell would come in the second half was 44-40. The Golden Knights' shooting percentage improved dramatically from their game against Samford, as they shot 51.7 percent compared to 35.5 percent for the Camels.

For more information on E-PASS, call (407) 823-7277.

It's game day, and you've been waiting all week. Cooler is packed...car is ready, only question is...what's the best way to get there? The answer is simple: take the 408 (East-West Expressway). It's quick, it's easy, and with E-PASS, there's no fumbling for change and no waiting in line — just clear sailing to the end zone. When the big day arrives, make sure your game plan includes the Expressway Authority and E-PASS.

Jeff Dolanack
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

K.B.C. cruises to 11-2 victory in baseball recreational final

K.B.C. finished off an undefeated season for the Recreational Championship with an 11-2 win over the Aces. K.B.C. won the game with the long ball, putting up five runs in the third and fourth innings with home runs from Greg Mills, Joe Mindy and Adam Damijano.

"After 3 years of hustle, we finally pulled together as a team and won it all," said K.B.C. after the game.

The Aces were looking to finish off a perfect season of their own, but admitted after the game that they left their "A" game at home. One highlight for the Aces was Sean Fornis, who stole second base, third base and home in the second inning. K.B.C. ended the year with a 6-0-2 record.

For more information on E-PASS, call (407) 823-7277.

www.expresswayauthority.com
Freshman Dunson is UCF's leading scorer

FROM PAGE 32
as the all-time leading scorer. She was named USA Today Honorable Mention All-American twice, as well as receiving first team All-State honors from Texas Basketball Magazine.

UCF Head Coach GaI Striegler recognized Dunson's talent as a freshman in high school.

"I watched her since she was a freshman in high school because I recruited her when I was at Stephen F. Austin," said Striegler. "I've seen her progress through high school.

Dunson came to UCF from Mary Carroll High School in Texas.

She is one of the kids that when we called her, while doing recruiting stuff, her dad would say that she was at the gym playing. We would call her at ten o'clock at night and she would be at the gym with her dad playing. She is a workaholic.

Unfortunately, about a month ago Dunson was diagnosed with Scoliosis, which has altered her shot dramatically. Luckily, Striegler reports that she is still doing a lot of nice things for the team and is optimizing that and her shoulders even out. The court will start coming back.

Dunson is known for being a leader. In high school, she held records for most three-pointers in a game and in a season, as well as the record for most three pointers at the state tournament her junior season. Her ability to hit the outside shot has helped UCF tremendously on offense.

"I guarantee that if anybody watches the tapes from the beginning of the year now, he knows that we have an outside shooting game and a very big part of that is due to Nicole Dunson," said Striegler. "It changes the way a lot of people look at us, because we can hit a couple of shots outside and they can no longer double down on the post players. They can no longer pack in a zone because they know we have outside shooters. It changes the way people have to guard us.

Most people would think that coming to another state and adjusting to life away from home for the first time would be difficult. Dunson looks at this period in her life as a time to develop as an individual.

"I think I've adjusted pretty well," said Dunson. "I've never gotten home sick. Everybody said you're going to miss your parents, and I miss them and love them with all my heart. But, this is the time to be a little independent, have a little freedom and try to grow up and mature. A lot of people come to college and they really aren't used to the changes. I know a lot of my friends that have gotten scholarships. They start slacking off and they start feeling the pressure from basketball, school or being away from home. Slacking off is not a Dunson characteristic. She strives to be the best both on and off the court.

Currently, she is leading UCF with an average of 10.2 points per game and 31.2 minutes. Dunson's versatility has also shown, as she has made appearances at the point guard, shooting guard and even small forward position.

Academically, her goals go beyond wanting a 4.0 grade point average.

"I want to graduate with honors and eventually attend medical school," said Dunson. "I either want to be a cardiologist or an anesthesiologist. I don't know which one yet.

Well, Dunson has a few more years to make that decision.

In the meantime, she is looked upon to lead the Golden Knight team in the future. Striegler has great expectations for Dunson and is certain that she will meet them.

"She has the chance of being the best player here if I can get her to get a little bit of a more well rounded game," said Striegler. "She has done everything I've asked her to do and will continue to do it. I knew that she was a great player coming in. I expected those things out of her when we signed her last year. I expect her to be able to hit the three-point shot. I expect her to be able to play defense and come in and be the leader and do the things she has been able to do. She will be a very well rounded player and be one of the best players to ever play here. I really believe that."
From the Sports Desk

UCF women's track and field begins season

The UCF women's track and field team began the 2001 season last Saturday at the University of Florida Indoor Intercollegiate in Gainesville, Florida. The Golden Knights faced a number of nationally ranked teams at the meet, but still managed to come away with eight top-ten finishes.

Four of the top-ten finishes came in jumping events, including sophomore Kelly Roloff's third place finish in the high jump. Roloff cleared a height of 5' 5". Reigning junior college national heptathlon champion Jamie Pew made her UCF debut in the high jump, finishing sixth with a height of 5' 1". While sophomore Jaime Perez finished seventh at the same height.

LaTricia Firby earned an eighth-place finish in the triple jump with a jump of 38' 9" and finished 11th in the long jump with a distance of 17' 5.25".

Two Golden Knights also finished well at the meet. Three-time TAAC shotput champion Katura Beard finished seventh with a throwing a distance of 42' 8.25", while classmate Kellie Marzetta finished sixth in the 55-meter low hurdles with a time of 8:37.

The Golden Knight 4x400 meter relay team of Marzetta, Pew, Firby and Miklia Riddlesworth came in eighth with a time of 4:01.32, and the 4x800 meter relay team of Sonja Sheddien, Brianne Harrington, Jennifer Mackey and Sarah Kureshi placed seventh in 10:03.52.

The Golden Knights will return to action on January 26-27 at the Sprint Indoor Invitational, which is hosted by East Tennessee State University.

Four Golden Knights take part in Gridiron Classic

The third annual Tyco Gridiron Classic took place Saturday at the Florida Citrus Bowl, and four UCF seniors took the field for the final time at college players. Offensive lineman Chris Lorenzi and Kurt Baumann, along with wide receivers Kenny Clark and Tyson Hinshaw were part of Team Florida.

The game pitted Team Florida, made up of seniors from Florida colleges and high schools, against Team USA, made up of players from everywhere else in the country. Former NFL coach Cindy Infante coached Team Florida, while former NFL coach Buddy Ryan led Team USA. In a game that did not feature much offense at all, Team Florida won 10-0, with all 10 points coming in the second half.

Lorenzi played both the second and fourth quarters at the center position, while Baumann also saw action in those quarters. Clark returned punts throughout the first half and played receiver in the fourth quarter, while Hinshaw played receiver in both the second and fourth quarters. Both Clark and Hinshaw each had one ball thrown to them, but neither made a catch. Hinshaw's ball was poorly thrown and did not give him a chance to make the catch, while Clark dropped an out pattern that would have gained about 10 yards. The record-setting duo suffered from an out of sync passing offense led by Team Florida quarterbacks Jesse Palmer (University of Florida) and Rashad Casey (Penn State).

Howard transferring to Northeastern

UCF junior running back Omari Howard has decided not to return to UCF next season, opting instead for a transfer to Division I-AA Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts.

UCF Head Coach Mike Kruczak granted Howard a release from his scholarship, saying that he was sad to see him go, but wanted the best for his player. Howard had 144 carries for 605 yards and nine touchdowns in three seasons as a Golden Knight, but did not want to spend his senior season plateauing with Terrance Williams, Corey Baker and Alex Haynes. Kruczak has said that he would like for one player to win the starting job outright and play a majority of the time, and it was unlikely that Howard would have been that player.

The move will put Howard close to his family in Syracuse, New York, where Howard came to UCF as a Parade All-American out of Corcoran High School.

UCF also has lost redshirt freshman cornerback Commer Ricker and freshman wide receiver Derek Ponder to academic problems. Both have lost their scholarships and will likely enroll in junior colleges next year in hopes of returning to UCF with better grades following the season. Ricker saw playing time in UCF's nickel and dime defenses last year, along with becoming a very good special teams player. He made 21 tackles in the 2000 season and also blocked a punt. Ponder spent the year on the scout team, and was expected to compete for a job at the wide receiver position next year.

Women's Basketball Notebook

UCF Splits Two Home Games

The UCF women's basketball team performed a Jekyll and Hyde act this week, splitting games with Troy State and Mercer at home. Thursday's game against Troy State definitely featured Mr. Hyde. UCF lost to the Trojans 63-42 in an ugly, turnover plagued game. The Golden Knights turned the ball over 33 times in the game and only had eight assists. Khaliah Guillory was the only UCF player to reach double figures with 11 points; the next closest player was Adrienne Billings with seven.

"We just didn't come out and be the aggressors tonight and we were just pushed around the whole night and instead of using our quickness we just let them out-muscle us," said UCF Head Coach Gail Striegler. "We've got to use our quickness when we play bigger teams. I thought the whole night they pretty much just dominated us and they do have a very good team."

UCF trailed only 23-24 at halftime, but was outscored 38-18 in the second half, shooting only 25.5 percent from the field. One positive aspect was free throw shooting. The Golden Knights shot 66.7 percent from the free throw line.

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UCF players participate in third annual Rotary Gridiron Classic

Above: Team Florida's defense scores Team USA on route to a shutout.

Left: Chris Lucetti snaps the ball to game MVP Richard Casey.

Right: Kenny Clark returns a punt. Clark also played wide receiver for Team Florida.

Senior wide receiver Tyson Hennes did not catch a pass in the Gridiron Classic, but set a school record this year with 89 receptions.

UCF offensive linemen Chris Lucetti (left) and Karl Reinman (right)

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Women's basketball faces two conference road tests

KIRSTY SHONKA STAFF WRITER

This week the UCF women's basketball team is facing two tough Trans America Athletic Conference teams in Jacksonville University and Stetson, and both games are on the road.

The Golden Knights play Jacksonville on Thursday. Last season was the first for the Dolphins' women's basketball team. They finished the season 6-22, with two of those wins coming over UCF. This season the Dolphins are 4-10 on the year, and are wireless in the TAAC.

Jacksonville's record, however, has no impact on how Head Coach Gail Striegler is going to prepare for them. "Jacksonville probably runs the toughest zone in America to score against," said Striegler. "It's a very good match-up zone. We had horrible problems with it last year. We could stop them on the offensive end, but we had a really hard time scoring. We ended up basically running our man-to-man offenses against it because it was such a good match-up it was almost man-to-man." The Golden Knights are coming off a last-second win over Mercer on Saturday in which they took care of the ball. Against the zone UCF will need to spread the offense in order to open up the paint for easy shots. If the Knights make their lay-ups, something they seem to be struggling with, they will have a better chance of defeating the struggling Dolphins.

On Saturday UCF will travel to Deland to take on Stetson, who has a 12-2 record overall and, like UCF, is 4-1 in this TAAC. With a win the Golden Knights could take over sole possession of second-place in the conference.

History is on the side of the Golden Knights in this heated rivalry. UCF leads the series 24-20 and they recorded a two-point victory in the teams' last meeting last March.

"When I first got here last year I didn't think it was a rivalry," said Striegler. "I've been here for a year and all of a sudden it's a rivalry now because I want to beat them really bad."

Striegler knows this won't be an easy game to win. It will take a near perfect performance on both sides of the ball to knock off the Hatters.

"They are one of the top three teams in the conference," she said. "I think we are too, but we're going to have to play great basketball for 40 minutes, not for 20 minutes. We're going to have to execute and we're going to have to play great defense the whole game to be able to win that game. We can't have 30 turnovers to win that game. We can't get out-rebounded. We're going to have to be on all cylinders and play really, really well to win that basketball game."

Winning both of those games would move the Golden Knights to 6-1 in the conference play and into second place in the conference standings behind undefeated Campbell. With each win, UCF moves closer to securing a first-round bye in the season-ending TAAC Championships, which will be hosted this year by the Golden Knights on March 8-10 at the UCF Arena.

UCF baseball begins 2001 practice

DAVID MARSTERS STAFF WRITER

The countdown to the 2001 college baseball season has begun.

Last week, the Golden Knight baseball team began spring practice in preparation for the upcoming season, and officially moved into the facilities at UCF's brand new Jay Bergman Field. Assistant Coach Greg Frady says has been nothing but a positive experience for the players and coaches.

"It's just been absolutely wonderful," said Frady. "We've enjoyed the new facility and our players have been very happy here. Everyday seems like a bright, sunny day to be out here. It certainly changes the mood and tempo of things."

The Golden Knights enter the season ranked 17th in Baseball America's preseason rankings and 19th in Collegiate Baseball, the highest preseason rankings ever achieved by the UCF baseball program. Frady says that while preseason accolades are great to receive, the team is not getting caught up in all the hype.

"I think preseason rankings are just a publicity tool and something that we can all take pride in," said Frady. "It's a symbol of national respect and we certainly strive for that. However, after that it's really not that meaningful. It's a measure of where other people think you are, but it's not a measure of where you really are. After you

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