Many students at the University of Central Florida unknowingly risk strokes, heart attacks and other diseases by taking ephedra, an herb found in more than 200 popular dietary supplements.

Products such as Metabolaid 356, Metaboloid, Ripped Fuel, Diet Fuel and Xenadrine contain ephedra, also called ma huang. Drug stores sell these supplements to customers who want to lose weight or gain muscle.

Ephedra is the herbal form of ephedrine, an amphetamine-like stimulant sold in asthma and cold medications regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. The only difference is that ephedra is herbal while drugs like Sudafed are synthetic, said Dipta Srinivasan, an Eckerd pharmacist. "Sudafed is okay because you stop taking it when your cold goes away, but ephedra is not safe because it is taken continuously."

Ephedra first gained publicity in 1996 when a healthy 20-year-old college student died after taking it. Since then, the FDA has investigated more than 1,200 cases of people who took ephedra and experienced severe side effects, including strokes, heart conditions, kidney disease and other diseases. At least 14 deaths have been associated with the use of ephedra.

Ninety-six percent of the UCF students interviewed know other students who have taken ephedra. Rosalin Scarfo, a nutritionist at the Campus Wellness Center, said she sees at least one to two clients a day who have taken it to lose weight.

Of 25 students polled at random, four men and five women said they took ephedra. The women said they took it to lose weight, while the men said they used it to gain muscle. "It took it because the guy next to me was ripped," senior culinary arts major Richard Simon said. "I wanted to look like Arnold Schwarzenegger."

All the students said they knew ephedra was dangerous, but were unaware of the extent of its dangers. The U.S. Army said 75 percent of her clients do not realize how severe the consequences are. The label on a bottle of Xenadrine says you should discontinue use if you experience dizziness, sleeplessness, tremors, nervousness, headache or heart palpitations. However, all the students who took ephedra experienced one or more of these side effects.

EPHEDRA, Page 3

Students voice concern over effects of diet supplements

LINNEA BROWN
STAFF WRITER

July 18 will be the closest Mars has been to Earth since 1996. That telescope is awesome," said John Boggs, senior hospitality major. "I transferred from FAU, and we didn't have anything that high-tech there...I've never seen the stars so clearly in my life."

Mars will be just over 401 million miles from the Earth on July 18, the closest it has been since 1996. "This means that more detail can be seen on the planet, such as its polar caps and dark markings, as well as the red color of the planet," said Nanaz Babow, director for the observatory.

Bairou, who has been researching Mars for 19 years and has received funding from NASA to analyze spacecraft imagery, will be available during the observing sessions to answer any questions.

Sophomore computer science major Kim Callwood said, "I went to the Robinson Observatory for the first time last month, and the staff there was so helpful. I didn't even know how to look through a telescope, and they explained everything and showed me what to look for. They completely got me interested in astronomy."

The Robinson Observatory opens to the public on the first and third Wednesdays of each month between September and July, from 7:30-10:30 p.m. During the summer they open half hour after sunset. The observatory does not accept reservations, and people can look through the telescope on a first-come, first-serve basis.

John Hyslop, junior psychology major, said, "I always bring my dates to the Robinson Observatory. I like to impress girls with my knowledge of the solar system." The Observatory staff will cancel observation sessions by 8 p.m. if clouds impede the use of the telescope. The Observatory is located past the police station on Neptune Drive. For more specific directions or additional information, call the Observatory at 407-823-2805 for a recorded message.
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Ephedra investigated by FDA in over 200 cases

FROM PAGE 1

Simon said, "Ripped Fuel made my stomach hurt and made me shifty. I don't know why I kept taking it for a year, but I feel like I took five years off my life."

Jennifer Osgood, a senior marketing major, said she used to take nine Ripped Fuel pills a day for energy. "I stopped after high school, but one day in college I took four pills, which was less than half of what I used to take," Osgood said. "And it felt like I'd just smoked crack or something. I couldn't take it and I had to leave class."

Senior psychology major Sue Lynn Chu experienced severe side effects after taking the recommended dosage of Metabolife for six weeks. "I would black out all the time, I felt light headed and weak, and I felt like my heart was going to jump out of my chest," she said. "I felt so heavy, but only because I felt too nauseous to eat anything. I felt like I was going to die."

Chu stopped taking Metabolife two weeks later. "It just wasn't worth it. I felt like I was going to hurt myself if I kept taking it," she said.

Becky Williams, a junior accounting major, said she took Xendra occasionally to boost her energy level before working out. Williams said, "I came to it like it more than anything else. I just have an appetite at all when I take it, but then I have a huge appetite when I'm coming down from it and I get really bad headaches." Williams added that she never slept well and had mood swings after taking it.

"I always have trouble going to sleep when I take it," said junior journalism major Mackenzie O'Bannon. "It gives me the jitters, but at least I can stay awake in class. I'll never forget the time two years ago, when I had just taken a pill and I tried to take a nap. My heart was beating so loud I could hear it."

Ericka Williams, a sophomore advertising/public relations major, described her experience with Xendra: "The first time I took it, I had so much energy. I was really talkative and efficient at work, I was running all over the place, bumping off the walls at three in the morning. After a few weeks of taking the pills, though, I noticed I was feeling a lot of stress and I felt like I was wearing a black cloud. I was still feeling heavy, but only because I felt too nauseous to eat anything. I felt like I was going to die."

Williams received no warnings about dangerous side effects. After a month of taking the pills, she called the Metabolife hotline and asked if her symptoms were normal. "The woman told me there was nothing wrong with me and said I just lower your dosage if you feel dizzy or shake."

Smart said ephedra causes a noticeable increase of blood pressure in all users. "Smart warned against taking ephedra with other medications. "About six months ago a guy came in who was taking anti-depressants and took Ripped Fuel," Smart said. "He had an abnormally high pulse of 150, so I had to send him to the emergency room."

"Both Windsor and Becky Williams took ephedra with other medications. "About six months ago a guy came in who was taking anti-depressants and took Ripped Fuel," Smart said. "He had an abnormally high pulse of 150, so I had to send him to the emergency room."

Employees at the UCF Wellness Center prohibit students from taking a fitness test if they take ephedra. They also give out a flyer warning students about the dangers of it.

In April 1996, the Food and Drug Administration issued a statement warning consumers not to consume ephedrine-containing dietary supplements because these products pose "significant health risks" to consumers.

The FDA cannot regulate ephedra use because it is considered a herb. However, the FDA suggests that people should not take more than 24 milligrams of ephedrine per day. The manufacturer of Metabolife 356 recommends a daily dosage of 86 milligrams. Ripped Fuel contains a daily dose of 60 milligrams. It is not illegal for supplement companies to falsely label their products. The label on a bottle of Ripped Fuel says a daily dose contains 300 milligrams of caffeine and the "ephedrine-free" formula contains 900 milligrams of caffeine, or the equivalent of 6 to 8 cups of coffee.

Both Windsor and Becky Muse, a junior communications major, said they bought their ephedra supplements at a General Nutrition Center and were told nothing about the product being unsafe.

Freshman business major Brian Goldberg, an employee at the University Avenue GNC, said he warns ephedra buyers of its side effects and strength, even. So, he said, he 12 or 13 people returned it in two and a half months. "They come back saying things like, 'It made my heart race,' 'I was never hungry,' and 'I can't sleep,' but I had told them all that already," Goldberg said.

Goldberg said about 35 percent of his GNC's female customers and 15 percent of their male customers buy ephedra supplements. "We once sold 13 bottles of Ripped Fuel in two hours," Goldberg said. He said one bottle of an ephedra supplement contains about a month's supply and costs between $30 and $40 a bottle.

One UCF professor who would like to remain nameless said his son has been addicted to ephedra for two years. He said, "He calls it 'legal speed' and his scariest symptom has been paranoia. He's terrified and confused, and he has tried to go off it but got so sleepy he couldn't work."
How far would you go to have a pet?

Linnea Brown
Staff Writer

Despite apartment leasing agreements limiting the possession of pets, UCF students continue to keep animals.

Many students own cats for companionship. Sophomore finance major Christopher Gustafson said, "It's nice to have somebody around when no one else is there."

Geoff Steinger, a senior marketing major, disagreed with Gustafson. "Cats are a waste of space," Steinger said. "You spend all this money and they don't come to you when you call them. All they want is attention."

Steinger, who lives in a house, prefers the company of his dog. Steinger said: "Dogs are happy to see you. If they're well behaved, they listen and do what you tell them to do, and they have the ability to exhibit their own personalities.

Although a pet may have rewarding qualities, they can also be a big responsibility. "Having a pet is almost like having a child," Steinger said. "It's going to take a lot of your time and money. I don't feel that someone should have a pet unless they're willing to put the time and effort into raising it properly. A lot of people neglect their pets."

Many students said they don't own pets because they don't like the smell. Matt Zorn, a sophomore television/radio major, said: "We had a dog in our fraternity house, which is off-campus. The owner of the dog never cleaned up after it and it wasn't housebroken. The dog smelled horrible, so we had to spray it with lysol and vinegar every time. Eventually we found a new home for it, somewhere else."

Senior interpersonal communications major Jon Melton commented that although he's glad he has his pet ferret, "It smells really bad!"

"One girl kept a hamster in her bathroom and it stank up the whole apartment so much that her roommates complained," said Shirley Enriquez, who works at the front desk at University Club.

On-campus housing at UCF only allows residents to keep fish, and they must be kept in a tank under ten gallons. Melton said, "Fish are the best kind of pet anyway, because it's not that sad when they die, and they're the easiest to get rid of. You can't really flush a cat!

Many area apartment complexes have strict rules enforcing their 'no pets' policy. Apartments such as Boardwalk, The Gatherings and Collegiate Village run give a notice informing the resident that they have 7 days to get rid of the animal, or they will be evicted.

Some apartments fine their residents immediately. College Park fines residents $100 the first time they discover a pet. $200 the second time and the manager evicts the resident if a third offense occurs.

University Club fines residents $150 the first time, and $10 for each additional day that they continue to keep the animal in the apartment.

The apartments' maintenance staff, roommates or neighbors usually report the animals. "One dog ran out and attacked a maintenance guy," said Enriquez. "It turned out we had people raising pit bulls here. They just tore up the whole apartment."

Tiffany Castro, director of marketing and advertising for Collegiate Village, told of a particularly noisome incident at the CVI apartments. Castro said: "This guy was keeping a dog on the second floor, and he would let it go outside, so no one upstairs and then just throw the 'foul material' into the parking lot where people keep their cars. The housekeepers saw it, and he got evicted."

Some students take extreme measures to keep their pets concealed from complexes that don't allow them. Sophomore business management major Crystal Peti lived in College Suites and managed to keep her dog, a miniature pinscher, hidden for six months. "She couldn't go out because they'd see her, so I had her litter-box trained," Peti said. "I took her out to Blanchard Park every day in a suitcase, and I'd let her out of the bag as soon as we were past the College Suites gate...but it was totally worth it!"

Peti said that she thinks students are most likely to get caught with their dogs on weekends, beginning or end of a lease agreement, because the maintenance people are more likely to come into the apartments. "There are so many animals in College Suites," said Peti.

Some students prefer pets of the 'non-traditional' variety. Junior public relations major Megan Fox, who works in the front office at Boardwalk, talked about the discovery of a pet prairie dog. "One of our maintenance people alerted us that there was a 'very unusual animal' in a certain apartment, so I went and took a look at it...and I had to ask the owner what it was!"

John, who did not want his full name published, works in the office at College Park and told of another unusual animal: "Someone moved out and we went in the apartment to do a maintenance check, and sitting in the middle of the bedroom floor was a big 2-1/2 foot iguana. The maintenance guy wanted to keep it, but the person actually came back for it a few days later."

Jefferson Arbour allows pets, but they charge a $300 deposit for pets 50 pounds and under, and a $500 deposit for pets over 50 pounds. Both charges are partially refundable at the end of a lease. There is no charge for rodents or reptiles, and pet-buried paws are the only animals that are not allowed.

Gustafson said his apartment complex, The Harbour in Casselberry, allows pets. Summit apartments, on Memo West Blvd., also allow residents to keep pets.

Activities for students around Orlando plentiful

Restaurants, Spas, night clubs and attractions round out list of things to do on nights and weekends

Danielle Dapari
Staff Writer

Boredom has the ability to attack college students on those much appreciated study free nights and weekends, causing frustration. However, there are an immense amount of things to do in Orlando, which do not include movies, clubs and bars. The following places are activities available to all ages, regardless of proof of birth required.

XS Orlando Point Orlando, International Drive

The new entertainment complex has all new multimedia entertainment. XS has the ability to bring out the kid in everyone. The building is filled with video games, slot machines that award tickets, pool tables and various computer simulation games. For instance, there is a rock-climbing simulator where the wall actually moves as you climb, and a state of the art game called the Dance Dance Revolution Third Mix Game. This game is a dancer simulator that teaches all new steps. An hour of play costs $20 and two hours costs $35, the prices increase as you go up in hours.

The Signature Strawberry Salon & Clinical Day Spa

The Winter Park Village 400 North Orlando Avenue Suite 112, Winter Park, 407-644-6534

A beautiful little hot spot, this salon and spa, can be a weekend haven for females or males alike. This location offers a variety of hair and nail services, as well as facials, body wraps, massages, clinical massages and specially created female and male packages. For more information, the salon can be reached at 407-281-8005.

SAK, Page 6
Some students wary of new Board of Trustees

FROM PAGE 1

versity system. In theory it seems helpful, but UCF students either haven’t a clue about this major administrative overhaul or think that it won’t live up to its promises.

Robert Francis, a 20-year-old electrical engineering major, isn’t feeling any positive effects from the transition. Indeed, it is very likely he stands to lose a great deal.

“Currently I am receiving the minority program scholarship for minority students. Every year I have to renew. Up until two weeks ago I was assured that the applications would come out and then the board of trustees was instated and I heard from certain counselors that this scholarship is not 100 percent there anymore. In fact it’s most likely not going to be there.”

Approximately 10 students receive this scholarship ranging from $2,500 to $5,000 dollars per year.

“Concerning the scholarship, they did not go out of their way at all to discover what our situation was. They just went ahead and did it. What is local about that? And I am certain that the counselors didn’t go about saying that we would like to get rid of this. I just think it’s a bunch of politicians out there trying to cut money, without looking at what they are cutting.” said Francis.

Thoai Nguyen, a 22-year-old Computer Science student, also has his reservations about the board of trustees. “I don’t like it. I think the governor has too much power now.”

In this new system, the governor of the state appoints the members of the local boards of trustees who serve four-year terms and can serve up to two times. Also, the governor is able to elect and remove board members at anytime.

“I saw a news story that said the minority rate at UF went down 45 percent for blacks, 15 percent for hispanics, and whites went up 15 percent as a result of Bush getting more power. If he got that power and increased it up and gets that power over the board of trustees, I think he will abuse that power,” Nguye said citing the recent drop in minority admission rates that resulted from Bush’s “One Florida” executive order that eliminated the state’s affirmative action policy. “I think that too much power by one person will reach no harm.”

While some students seem to have a definite opinion, the majority lingers in the zone of apathy. “I don’t know anything,” said one student. “What’s the difference?” said another.

Some students wary of new Board of Trustees
Aiguelle Rock Climbing Center 999 Charles Street, Longwood, 407-332-1439

The Aiguelle Rock Climbing Center offers a memorable experience with indoor rock climbing. This provides an opportunity for a safe and entertaining introduction for beginning rock climbers. A day pass with student identification is only $10, and climbers may leave and come back with this pass at their leisure. A rental package, which consists of all essential equipment, costs $6. The rock climbing center is open Monday - Friday, from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., on Saturday from 10 a.m. to midnight and on Sunday 12-7 p.m. The Orlando Science Center is open daily, to find out the schedule of concerts just call 407-934-5283.
JOSHUA GROSSMAN
STAFF WRITER

Over the years college loans have been the way that students pay for their college tuition and other expenses. This seems the easy way out, but the student will not be able to make ends meet after graduation. The Federal Government offers two types of loans, subsidized and unsubsidized. The subsidized loan provides that the student must still sign a certificate statement so that the students understand the loans are for educational purposes and not for other reasons. The unsubsidized loan is also a long-term, low-interest loan, but it is not on a need-based system. However, the student is responsible for the interest incurred while the student is in school. The eligibility requirements are the same as the subsidized loan.

The Annual Aggregate Loan Limits are the same except that independent student may borrow up to $66,250 in the first year, $7,500 the second and $10,500 years three, four, and five. Graduate students can borrow $18,500 per year. The maximum amount that the students can borrow is the same except that graduate students can only borrow $12,000. The school year that the repayment period is same at 10 years. Principal payments are not due until the student is no longer in school at the bottom of every six month grace period. However, interest is due while you are in school and during any periods of unemployment. The interest payments can be postponed and capitalized at the start of repayment.

Natalie Booze feels “the money I owe to the government is not a concern at this moment, but as long as it is used for educational purposes it is well worth it.”

An alternative to the federal loans that is not as popular to students is to take out a private loan with a bank. Mary McKinney, the executive director of Student Financial Assistance, said “that many students who are attending out of state colleges have taken advantage of the private loans due to the low cost of tuition. The students who do take out private loans need to understand the higher cost and interest rates.”

Risk necessary in life, business

FROM PAGE 3

The “loans help pay for my education and my GPA instead of my car payments and lowing my GPA. The loans give me more time to spend on schoolwork and less time thinking about paying off my tuition. The loans are also fair and they don’t support my business and a job.”

Senior Mary Hanly feels the

Risks necessary in life, business

“money I owe to the government is not a concern at this moment, but as long as it is used for educational purposes it is well worth it.”

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Microsoft network, the idea allowed users to check their mail from any computer, anywhere in the world. The brilliant idea here was to take advantage of the marketing ideas I have ever seen and be known as one of the elite providers of free email, one of the only profitable ideas of our generation came from any computer, anywhere in the world. The brilliant idea here was to take advantage of the marketing ideas I have ever seen and be known as one of the elite providers of free email, one of the only profitable ideas of our generation came from any computer, anywhere in the world. The brilliant idea here was to take advantage of the marketing ideas I have ever seen and be known as one of the elite providers of free email.
Irresponsible voters, foolish Americans

AMY PAVUK
STAFF WRITER

I'm not sure what point in American history we stopped holding politicians and the leaders of our country accountable for their behavior, but I think it is obvious to everyone that the USA is morally going down the crapper. And why shouldn't it — look at our leaders.

In a recent Gallup poll, 91 percent of Americans agreed that adultery and extramarital affairs are wrong and should not be tolerated. Yet in the same poll, only 34 percent of people agreed that voters should know if a politician was having an affair. Does anybody notice something a little odd about this?

I think our past president is a good example of this. Bill Clinton lied under oath, lied to all the voters, and now, everyone is worried and surprised that such a terrible thing could happen.

Really, what do people expect? Our leaders are dishonest, money and power corrupt the soul, and as a nation, we continue to tolerate it day in and day out.

We complain about politicians, saying they are all the same. We say they lie, steal and cheat. Yet, we do nothing about it. Despite scandals, unethical practices and illegal acts, the same politicians are re-elected into office.

The fact is: it's our own fault. We conveniently overlook issues when we feel it has little significance to our personal lives. We don't hold people responsible, because we in return don't want to be held responsible for our own actions. The old saying is true: what goes around comes around. We support the immorality of our leaders, and in time, we too, will get what is coming.

Who and what's next with federal interns?

CASY MCCORKLE
STAFF WRITER

Anyone with a television, magazine or for that matter a life has heard about the not-so-recent disappearance of Washington, D.C. intern, Chandra Levy. Everyone has their own theories: adultery or murder. By now, we've heard it all. But as an upcoming intern, heading to D.C. this spring, I just have a few concerns...

What is with our country and interns? We have serious issues. As the Monica incident wasn't embarrassing enough, now we (possibly) have an intern of a prominent politician sitting at the bottom of the Potomac (that's my theory). What is wrong with America?

It is now understood that Congressman Condit (for those of you who haven't been around the past few months, he is the democrat from California accused of having an affair with 24-year-old federal intern Chandra Levy) has finally admitted to an extra-marital affair with Levy and about ten other girls. So we can establish that Condit had a considerable amount to lose from the sudden and public revelation of his infidelities.

A few other important facts:

- Levy had told several of her close friends that she was having an affair with Condit.
- Apparently, she felt there might be a “future” with the congressman and believed he would leave his wife. However, he did not return her feelings and allegedly broke off the relationship.
- She was planning a trip home, never made it. Her packed suitcases were sitting untouched by the door with no sign of foul play or break in.
- Condit recently passed a lie detector test, denying any sort of involvement with Levy’s disappearance.
- Police have performed DNA tests and continue to maintain Condit is not a suspect at this point.

Now, I’m no detective and I certainly have no background in criminal justice, but something about all of this just does not add up.

Go to any major news site and you will find pages and pages of articles addressing the sudden and mysterious disappearance of the intern, but very little leads as to what actually happened to her. Publicly, so many key pieces of evidence, but still no sign of Levy. A gigantic game of “Where’s Chandra” and the police are not releasing any significant details — at least not to the public any way.

And then suddenly, a sense of alarm washes over when you think to yourself, “How much are they hiding from us?” Is it possible that a person can simply vanish, with no clear evidence, no signs of a struggle, no witnesses, leaving us with virtually no clue of what actually happened to her?

As many people, so many key pieces of evidence, but still no sign of Levy. A gigantic game of “Where’s Chandra” and the police are not releasing any significant details — at least not to the public anyway.

And then suddenly, a sense of alarm washes over when you think to yourself, “How much are they hiding from us?” Is it possible that a person can simply vanish, with no clear evidence, no sign of a struggle, no witnesses, leaving us with virtually no clues as to where the girl has gone? There is no way that Chandra Levy vanished on her own. Something is seriously wrong with this situation, and it’s more than just the fact that Levy is missing. Either we have incompetent local and federal police agencies, or we have corrupt and deceitful government officials. Take your pick, we lose either way.

We need a better track record with our interns, especially since I will soon be one of them. I value my life so I shall stay far, far away from presidents, senators, congressmen, aides, egars and oval offices.
Do we have an obligation to old friends?

Joshua Murdock  
Staff Writer

High school was just a few years ago for most of us. If you went to a Central Florida high school you might just run into an old classmate while wandering around campus.

Questions run through your mind when you think you recognize that classmate whom you haven’t seen since high school. Should I talk to them? Will they recognize me? What should I say? Just hope you didn’t forget their name or it makes things a lot more complicated.

There really is no reason why you should avoid them, unless you owe them money or had a fling with their significant other. Why don’t they make the first move if they really want to talk to you? They could be having those same exact questions running through their mind, they might not recognize you, or just haven’t even noticed you yet.

Why don’t you make the first move to talk to them; or are you too good for them now? Let’s hope you are not that self-centered at this time.

Some people might rather totally forget who you are and not make an attempt to chat, while others will want to reminisce about old times and hear about the new. People will change a great deal in college, whether it is in looks, actions or attitudes. People who snub you can leave a terrible impression in your mind, but don’t worry, they will gain 200 pounds and go bald before the high school reunion comes around.

I recommend catching up with old friends from high school, if that person were a true friend. Sometimes it’s just fun remembering the past and laughing about the good old days when you didn’t know better. It’s not like most of us know much better now a days. It’s good to keep friends from throughout your life. Maybe the acquaintance from high school will become your new best friend. Just saying “hi” doesn’t hurt, and catching up with a friend can’t be worse then that math class your taking.

Making your vote count

Last week we asked you online: “Which genre of music would you like to see CAB host this year?” You let us know that UCF students love to rock:

- Rock/Alternative: 35%
- Classic/Jazz: 19%
- Hip Hop/Rap/R&B: 14%
- Country: 09%
- Other: 05%

We want to know what you think. You can let us know by logging on to www.UCFfuture.com and participating in the Online Polls, Letters to the Editor and reader forums.

Every week we will publish your Letters to the Editor and the results of your Online Poll. We will also make it a point to respond to your Letters to the Editor each week.

Editorial Cartoon

Wow! Castro has a daughter who lives in Miami....she could be circulating right here among us and we wouldn’t even know it.
We should consider ourselves lucky. It’s not every day that we get to bear witness to the birth of a new artform. And with computer animation, that’s exactly what we’ve been doing for the past 15 odd years since its inception.

Computer animation builds on the techniques, ideals and visual power of traditional, two-dimensional animation. And by standing on the shoulders of this limitless visual language, computer animation has the ability to reach further, to show the audience images never before dreamt of and to immerse us in worlds never before imagined.

Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within stretches and expands the limits of computer animation while giving new credibility to this burgeoning artform.

The beauty and detail of Final Fantasy’s computer-generated world is simply astonishing. Spacecraft, laser guns and other sci-fi accoutrements exist in a believable world of buildings, trees and cars without looking out of place. This digitally crafted universe seems so tangible and touchable that you’re immediately engrossed by its surroundings.

The character design is amazing as well. Human characters are rendered so naturally that you can see individual strands of hair blowing in a breeze and freckles on a face when a character smiles. The characters are animated with a technique known as “motion capture” which uses special body suits and sensors to trap all the subtleties and nuances of a real live actor’s movements. This translates into incredibly fluid motion never before seen in animation, whether computer-generated or hand-drawn.

But, as with most great leaps forward, Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within may have jumped too far ahead. While pushing the boundaries of the artform of animation, Final Fantasy left behind most of the disciplines of its chosen medium: cinema.

At first glance, Final Fantasy’s visual progressions may seem to have left other CG-films such as Toy Story, A Bug’s Life and Shrek to choke on its dust. But after just a few minutes of watching Final Fantasy, the viewer begins to sense that something’s missing. The character smiles. The characters are animated with a technique known as “motion capture” which uses special body suits and sensors to trap all the subtleties and nuances of a real live actor’s movements. This translates into incredibly fluid motion never before seen in animation, whether computer-generated or hand-drawn.

The animation is less like a film and more like incredible eye-candy. Moving away from the strict animation’s strict discipline of time, space and sequence. Animation as an artform can do anything. Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within is optically mesmerizing, but, unlike previous digitally animated films, that’s all it has to offer. Produced and directed by Square Films, which is part of SquareSoft (the company responsible for the ultra-popular Final Fantasy line of video games), Final Fantasy forges all of the cinematic conventions that are integral to film in favor of incredible eye-candy. Plot, character development, action, pacing and performances are handled so haphazardly as to be rendered non-existent and arbitrary. This animated feature is less like a film and more like a gloriously overblown video game.

The “story” takes place 60 years in the future on a much more technically advanced but nearly annihilated Earth. Dr. Aki Ross (voiced by “ER’s” Ming-Na) is working with her mentor Dr. Sid (Donald Sutherland) to find seven mysterious spirits that will aid the remaining survivors of our ravaged planet in their quest to repel an invading and hostile alien force.

What exactly these “spirits” are is never truly explained, setting the stage for audience confusion that finally culminates in utter disappointment and anger at the weak script, numerous plot holes, lack of character depth and numerous other cinematic pratfalls.

And as spellbinding as the animation is, it’s non without its share of faults. Ironically, it’s the film’s hyperrealism that lingers. During the Golden Age of traditional, hand-drawn animation, Walt Disney was tempted to use “rotscoping” on his first feature film Snow White. Rotoscoping is the 2-D equivalent of 3-D “motion capture,” in which a human actor is filmed and traced onto acetate to produce a hyper-fluid movement in animation. Disney realized that though animation and film belonged to a similar medium, they were completely different artforms. Why constrain animation’s potential for boundless motion by saddling it with the limited movements of the human body?

Final Fantasy, the movements of the characters, especially during action sequences, look too subdued and subtle in a world where rockets soar with ease and multi-armed aliens are a dime a dozen. Exaggeration and elasticity are trademarks of American animation and are sadly lacking in this film.

After Final Fantasy’s gorgeous and engaging opening sequence, the film quickly switches from an exciting joyride to a bitter chore not even worth sitting through. A world that seemed so inviting and impressive quickly becomes cold and sterile in its quest for style over substance. Animation as an artform can do anything and be anything, but as part of the larger, more encompassing medium of cinema, it has to give more to the audience than just a series of pretty pictures. Final Fantasy is a truly marvelous product of art and technology, but sadly devoid of a soul. And, in terms of technology, it bypasses its predecessors in visual design. But whereas Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within will only exist in the minds of viewers till the next prettier, more technologically advanced fluff piece comes along, films like Toy Story and Shrek will continue to thrill audiences with wonderful characters and engaging storylines.

Though we are fortunate to stand alongside the creation and development of an exciting artform, giant leaps forward are also accompanied by giant falls backward. Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within is a technological achievement in its own right, but it extends its reach too far to compensate for its obvious flaws. The film is not only a big-budget video game. It’s also a wax apple. Beautiful on the surface, hollow at the core.
Aries (March 21-April 20)  
**Image:** "On a misty evening, a brightly lit Gothic castle"  
**Message:** Firm structures.  
Home relations, family promises and romantic intimacy may require delicate discussions early this week, Aries: expect close relationships to now progress toward solid commitments. Single Aries natives may soon pursue an unusual or unexpected relationship. If so, Aries, all is fine: creative ideas, social invitations and romantic opportunities are now highly rewarding. After Friday carefully study new duties or instructions. Older teachers, mentors or authority figures may be misinformed: go slow.

Taurus (April 21-May 20)  
**Image:** "A crisp, new five dollar bill"  
**Message:** Fresh starts.  
Social announcements and home decisions are accentuated early this week, Taurus: before Thursday expect loved ones to be highly motivated to change their lifestyle, improve relationships or increase financial security. For many Taureans this will mark the beginning of several weeks of important change in key relationships. Expect loved ones to no longer be absorbed in yesterday's family disappointments or business restrictions, Taurus: it's time to plan solid home and romantic goals.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)  
**Image:** "At the bottom of an ancient well, three bright coins"  
**Message:** New desires, new hopes.  
Nostalgic ideals and messages from past lovers may be distracting this week, Gem: late Tuesday expect outdated relationships or dreamy romantic moments to be a strong theme. Many Geminis will this week experience a brief but intense phase of romantic optimism, vivid memories and returning emotional strength. Let the past fade quietly away. Gem: this is your time to make peace with yesterday's disappointments and establish positive growth in present relationships.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)  
**Image:** "At the corner laundromat, Superman washing his cape"  
**Message:** Preparing for something great.  
Monday through Thursday close relatives or family friends may be unusually critical of your life decisions, future goals or business outlook. Remain graciously detached, Cancer: this is not the right time to publicly struggle with the opinions or social observations of others. Rather, use this time to quietly further positive ideas and private dreams: recent choices will soon be proven accurate. Avoid controversy, Cancer, but follow your own unique path: loved ones will soon offer approval.

Leo (July 23-August 22)  
**Image:** "After a thunderclap, a rabbit bolting through the woods"  
**Message:** Making strides.  
Older officials will expect powerful gains this week. New assignments or daily expectations may change dramatically before Friday: watch for authority figures or managers to reveal controversial contracts, ideas or business information. All will eventually work in your favor, Leo, so not to worry. Do, however, expect temporary delays and group disagreements. Late Saturday romantic attractions are unmistakable. Trust your instincts, Leo: new love is now possible.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)  
**Image:** "Backstage at the theatre, a bouquet of fresh roses"  
**Message:** Celebration.  
Brief love affairs, social triangles and romantic
If you are in any way connected to the art world in Orlando, you have most likely heard the name Elton Bracey. For the last seven years Elton has been making a name for himself by putting his own touch to the experience of art. He awed the Sapphire Supper Club with his "Somnambuline Produkt," showing his unique style of artistry as well as producing two 1st Thursday events at the Orlando Museum of Art Associates.

His newest venture is an attempt to combine art, jazz and spoken word poetry into an upscale social event. The O2 Elements oxygen bar on Orange Avenue downtown is where this smorgasbord of class will be held on July 19 and will be called C-NOTE. The jazz band King Tet will be the musical guest for the evening to go along with the viewing of the exhibits. To accompany the music and art, there will also be readings from a collection of spoken word poetry called "Art-Verse" composed by Bracey himself that is meant to combine the words, music and artistry to transform the viewing into a full sensory experience. While it sounds like a radical approach to art, it does sound very interesting.

The best thing about this event is that it isn’t the traditional stuffy art show. Past the music and the art, there will also be food and beer available for those who like more than just paint thinner with their art. It isn’t a party though; it is strictly 21 and up and has a business casual dress code. The name C-NOTE comes from the pricing of the art, ranging in denominations of $100 for purchase. While that might sound a little high for a college student, an art buyer would find it very reasonable and with the added benefit of a good conscious because part of the proceeds of the night go to the arts and music programs of Ferncreek Elementary School. A $7 cover will be charged at the door to the show but there is a free upstairs gallery that everyone is invited to visit. O2 Elements is at 49 N. Orange Ave. downtown between Washington and Central Boulevar, so any of you who are art-o-philes, looking for culture, or just trying to impress a date, C-NOTE might be something you should check out.
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

attraction will be unavoidable over the next 11 days, Virgo: early this week watch for powerful romantic passions and rare social invitations. Although controversial, new relationships will rapidly expand, Virgo: over the next few weeks many Virgos will take obvious emotional control over their private lives. Lifestyle decisions, public image and new social introductions are highly favored at this time, Virgo: don't avoid positive emotional change.

Libra (September 23-October 23)
Image: "In early September, three school girls opening their lockers"
Message: New combinations.

Early this week, Libra, cancelled plans or quick social changes may create minor tensions between friends and lovers. Late Monday expect a sharp increase in gossip, controversy and social speculation. For many Librans this period of scattered information will initiate a 3 week period of intense social change. Before mid-August expect business and social relationships to quickly expand. Past history will be key, Libra: thoroughly check all facts, statements and records.

Scorpio (October 24-November 21)
Image: "Two jugglers, a bulldog, four sailors and a parrot"
Message: A circus of fools.

Work and social relationships will this week be easily confused by minor disagreements, Scorp: watch for colleagues and friends to be focused on unimportant details. Facts, numbers or promises may be a strong concern, Scorp: expect others to challenge social information and public ideas. After Thursday, however, your ability complete difficult tasks will dramatically increase. Work on your own, if at all possible, Scorp: all will be well. Early Sunday home finances will improve: expect steady gains.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)
Image: "Flying over snow capped mountains, a small white dove"
Message: Graceful balance.

Family decisions and delicate social discussions are accentuated this week, Sage: over the next few days your emotional insight will be helpful to loved ones. Tuesday through Friday expect friends and relatives to request advice, ask probing questions or publicly dismiss the ideas of a mutual friend. All is well, Sage: so not to worry. Do, however, expect financial disputes to continue until mid-August. Late Friday a friend or lover may reveal new family information. Patience is key, Sage: stay focused.

Capricorn (December 22-January 20)
Image: "Deep in the woods, a gathering of young foxes"
Message: Fresh ideas, new alignments.

Before mid-week financial details and official contracts may present misleading information. Over the next 19 days postponed assignments or neglected tasks may demand special attention: spend extra time finalizing minor duties and verifying obligations, Cap: all will be well. After Wednesday a refreshing romantic and social outlook is due to arrive: watch for recently troubled love relationships to become almost effortless, Trust your inner voice, Cap: romantic promises are genuine.

Aquarius (January 21-February 19)
Image: "Outside a church, a priest blessing the faithful"
Message: Promise, trust, loyalty.

Long-term relationships and marital commitments are a strong theme over the next few days: expect romantic partners to now ask for further dedication or return to old habits, ideas and patterns. All is well here, Aquarius: in fact, for many Aquarians this brief period of romantic discussion will lead to rewarding romantic decisions and rekindled intimacy. Listen closely to the needs and observations of loved ones, Aquarius: important social and romantic changes will soon be delightfully unavoidable.

Short-term projects may now require a special effort, Pisces: late Tuesday expect previously silent colleagues to express new opinions and ideas. Although temporarily draining, Pisces, creative input is worthwhile and will soon restore positive relations: don't avoid difficult workplace triangles. Later this week romantic communications will also increase: expect lovers and close friends to end a recent silence with a gentle declaration of attraction, loyalty and friendship. A strong week, Pisces: enjoy!

If your birthday is this week...recently strained relations with colleagues and new co-workers will soon improve: before early August expect new assignments, revised work habits or complex instructions to capture group attention. Team efforts will be greatly rewarding in the coming months: use this time to create unique friendships and re-establish a positive alliance with fellow workers, students or business partners. Some Cancerians will also experience a dramatic expansion of romantic commitments in the coming few months: by mid-February 2002 expect reliable long-term proposals and passionate romantic overtures.

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LEAD STORIES

Military researchers will soon try to combine the two awfullest smells ever engineered, in an attempt to develop the ultimate nonlethal weapon, a magnificent stink bomb. According to a July report in New Scientist, the winning stenches (excrement and rotten foods/carcases, with each technologically "improved" to even fouler levels) would be mixed, with the result a fetidness so overpowering that not only would it disperse people in a panic, but would also act on brain tissue in the same fear-provoking way that other unrecognizable stimuli do.

In July, the city council of La Verkin, Utah, passed an anti-United Nations ordinance (soon to be copied by the city council of Virgin, Utah) that not only prohibits the municipal government from recognizing any UN activities but also requires any private citizen engaged in such activities to file an annual report with the city and to post a sign on his property informing the

Neighbors

— So powerful is the fear by Los Angeles high school administrators that they to select a single valedictorian for a school, it would hurt other students' feelings, that Granada Hills High had 44 valedictorians this year, Chatsworth High 31, Cleveland High 20, Monroe High 17 and North Hollywood High 10, according to a New Times Los Angeles report in July. Said one dissenting teacher, sarcastically: "If one person got very, very good grades and was singled out as valedictorian, we might bring the Tahoma Veterinary Hospital, Michelle Ford made it clear that she expected a jury award equivalent to that for the loss of a human family member, though the "wrongful death" in this instance was that of her beloved 220-pound Saint Bernard, Elizabeth, who died during her third-time Cesarean-section procedure (from which 15 puppies resulted). And in May, a judge in Northampton, Mass., dismissed Lamar Peoples' lawsuit against Massachusetts Electric Co. after his cat, Venus Viola, was electrocuted on an uninsulated company wire; Peoples was demanding $250,000, which is the value of the good luck he said the cat was expected to bring him, but the judge shipped the case to small claims court.

Tough Times for Gays

— In May, two anti-discrimination bills were voted out of the Illinois House; the bill prohibiting public administrators that were they to select a single valedictorian for a school, it would hurt other students' feelings, that Granada Hills High had 44 valedictorians this year, Chatsworth High 31, Cleveland High 20, Monroe High 17 and North Hollywood High 10, according to a New Times Los Angeles report in July. Said one dissenting teacher, sarcastically: "If one person got very, very good grades and was singled out as valedictorian, we might bring the Tahoma Veterinary Hospital, Michelle Ford made it clear that she expected a jury award equivalent to that for the loss of a human family member, though the "wrongful death" in this instance was that of her beloved 220-pound Saint Bernard, Elizabeth, who died during her third-time Cesarean-section procedure (from which 15 puppies resulted). And in May, a judge in Northampton, Mass., dismissed Lamar Peoples' lawsuit against Massachusetts Electric Co. after his cat, Venus Viola, was electrocuted on an uninsulated company wire; Peoples was demanding $250,000, which is the value of the good luck he said the cat was expected to bring him, but the judge shipped the case to small claims court.

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That must be gratifying, isn’t that your favorite part of your day? To be able to share these stories and help make good things happen.”

As one of many long-term employees, what do you think keeps people here?

“For one thing, it’s a very open environment, very open to new ideas. Everyone has been supportive in everything I’ve tried. Orland Sentinel has helped me feel my own strengths.”

What do you see for the future?

“Of course, change. We’re a multimedia company, so we’re redefining ourselves, doing a lot of things on the move, doing a lot of things that are exciting.”

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“Versatility, it’s what we all admire. Particularly in the workplace. Because employees who do many things well enable their company to do the same. The fact that the Orlando Sentinel has grown into Orlando Sentinel Communications - a multimedia company with Web sites, a 24-hour cable news service, direct mail, database marketing, and more – it’s a testament to the diverse talents of employees like Angela. An award winning photographer, Angela has also done her share of diversifying – becoming an accomplished teacher, mentor, dancor and more during her years with the Sentinel. And like Angela, the Sentinel has many exciting plans for the future. But we can’t get there without individual vision and versatility.

Maybe you have those qualities. And like Angela, you long to discover more about yourself. If so, think Orlando Sentinel Communications. Because we know the only way to achieve our company’s full potential is to help our employees achieve their.

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Recruiting gaffs result in penalties for Clemson

FROM PAGE 18
ments the names of the staff members who had been pun­ished or were involved in viola­tions.
A second member of the football staff had his salary frozen and received a letter of reprimand for providing an impermissible snack during the Jan 12-14 recruiting weekend in January.
On that same weekend, another secondary violation occurred when fans were permit­ted to interact with a recruit out­side the football stadium. The reduction in official visits was a response to the contact outside the stadium.
All told, three members of the football staff received letters of reprimand for their actions that weekend.
An additional assistant coach was required to attend an NCAA rules-compliance semi­nar in a letter which Robinson said the coach used the dock and the Hilton Head residence of the booster.
In a May 29 letter to President James Barker, NCAA Director of Enforcement Mark Jones indicated that the infrac­tions are being processed as sec­ondary violations. NCAA Committee on Infractions mem­ber Dick Dunn will review that decision.
The NCAA will rule on the matter, but in most cases, the recommendation of secondary violations is accepted.

Syracuse receiver charged with false impersonation

MATTHEW McGUIRE
TIM CAMPUS

Authorities charged a Syracuse University football player with false impersonation after he gave state troopers sever­al fake names during a traffic stop.
Johnnie Morant, 19, was pulled over in Cortlandville, N.Y., about 30 miles west of Syracuse, in the early morning hours Monday, June 18, police said. He had been traveling 89 mph in a 65 mph zone.
Morant told police he had no identification and gave several false names, police said. He had been driving on a suspended license.
Morant, a 6-foot-4, 218­-pound wide receiver, had just completed his freshman year at the university, where he played in three games for the Orangemen.
The university had not yet administered any disciplinary measures against Morant, said Sue Edison, director of athletic communications. The university and athletic department would work together to administer any discipline, she said.

Ex-Coach decries proposed bet ban

TIM CAMPUS

Former Georgetown University men's basketball coach John Thompson lashed out recently at the NCAA's effort to outlaw legalized betting in Nevada on college sports.
Thompson, who resigned in January 1999, said a ban on Nevada sports books would leave college sports wagering unregulated and totally con­trolled by illegal bookies.
"If you legalize (college sports) gambling in Nevada ... you're not going to stop it," Thompson said June 28 at a convention in Baltimore of The Associated Press Sports Editors.
"We need to learn how to monitor it, learn how to deal with it," he said. "I'm not advoc­ating somebody should (gam­ble). But it's foolish to say it's not a part of our society. If you take it out of Las Vegas, every illegal bookie in this country will still be running books, and every kid that has no supervi­sion will be vulnerable to it." Thompson, a frequent visi­tor to Las Vegas, raised eye­brows when he applied for a Nevada gaming license in 1995. He had hoped to acquire 10 percent of a subsidiary headed by Coast Resorts Chairman Michael Gaglione that has the slot-machine concession at McCarran International Airport.
Thompson decided not to pursue the application after receiving complaints from the Rev. Leo O'Donovan, who was the president of Georgetown, and NCAA President Cedric Dempsey.
"We're not going to stop it," he said.

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Women's crew team announces signings

FROM PAGE 20

Clemson head coach also was required to be reduced from seven to six, his residence in Gaffney on Clemson ceased recruiting RECRUITING, football players from Gaffney committed while recruiting two rules seminar to frozen salaries, booster stem from violations.

Five members of Clemson football staff disciplined for violations

Ken Tysiac
KENNYKIRK THOMAS
CLEMSON, S.C. - Five members of Clemson's football staff received penalties ranging from mandatory attendance of a rules seminar to frozen salaries, and a booster has been disassociated from the athletics program for one year in response to secondary NCAA violations, the school announced recently.

Clemson Chief Public Affairs Officer Cathy Sams said the penalties involving the booster stem from violations committed while recruiting two football players from Gaffney High School. The assistant coach also was required to attend a rules seminar at his own expense and will not be eligible for a salary increase or a bowl bonus until Sept. 1, 2002.

That coach also will not be allowed to recruit off campus until Feb. 6, 2002, and has received a letter of reprimand.

In addition, Clemson reduced its number of official, on-campus visits by potential recruits for 2001-02 from 56 to 42, and will be allowed 83 scholarships rather than the NCAA maximum of 85 for the 2002-03 school year.

The number of coaches permitted to recruit off campus between now and Feb. 6 has been reduced from seven to six, and the evaluation period from April 25 to May 31 of this year was shortened from four weeks to two weeks.

"I think they are appropriate," Clemson Athletics Director Bobby Robinson said of the sanctions. "It's a judgment call, and I made the judgment."

The sanctions are the result of a joint investigation conducted by the NCAA and Clemson's NCAA compliance staff. In October, NCAA investigators interviewed Gaffney High School players Jeff Littlejohn and Roger McIntosh, reportedly regarding their association with Clemson booster Lamar Greene.

Efforts to reach Greene at his residence in Gaffney on Wednesday night were unsuccessful.

Ultimately, Clemson self-reported three secondary violations in the case, according to documents released Wednesday by the university:

• Improper contact by the assistant coach and the booster when they had lunch with the prospects at a restaurant during a recruiting "quiet period."

• Use of the booster's boat by the recruits.

Clemson ceased recruiting the players in January because of concerns that NCAA rules had been violated. Both players had given commitments to Clemson, but signed with the University of Miami in February.

"We intend to win and win with integrity," Clemson coach Tommy Bowden said in a statement. "I will tolerate nothing less. The integrity of this university, our team and my good name are of paramount importance. They will not be compromised."

Citing statutes in the state's Freedom of Information laws that allow personnel information to be kept confidential, school officials redacted from docu-

RECRUITING, Page 17

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CB’s Scramble Freeballers 30-18

The CB’s rolled over the Freeballers 30-18 as they won the 3 on 3 Basketball Recreational Title. Jason Adams had 10 points and 11 boards to lead the way, and Joshua Ward added 10 points securing the victory. The Freeballers advanced to the final by beating Delta Upsilon in the semifinals, led by Danny Wayland’s 18 points. Lawrence Miller scored a tournament high 22 in the loss for Delta Upsilon. The CB’s capped their championship run with a perfect 10-0 record.

Triple Threat goes Back-to-Back

In the Competitive Tournament, the Defending Champions Triple Threat overcame an early 11-0 deficit against Supreme Clientel to win their second straight 3 on 3 title, 30-22. Matt Krzesinski lead the way with 14 points, including 5 baskets from beyond the arc. Triple Threat received a scare in the Semi-Finals, pulling out the victory in overtime against Talent, 29-26. They finished the year with an 8-0 record.

Flag Football Championship

Mike Harris connected with Bill Ogle for three touchdowns, as the Moose capped off an undefeated Summer season. “We’d been trying for 3 years, through suspensions and triumphs”, said Ogle, “and now we’re champions, so we got that going for us, which is nice”.

Those Guys sack Eastsiders, 29-8

Those Guys got out to an early lead and never looked back against the Eastsiders, taking Coed Soccer Title. Swank cranks it up a notch, taking Coed Soccer Title. Those Guys get out to an early lead and never looked back against the Eastsiders, winning the Competitive 4 on 4 Championship. The Barcelonas tied the game up 29-8. William at 2 after halftime, but saw Swank catch two of Steven Brown’s four TD passes en route to a convincing 29-8 victory. Jason Swank finished the season undefeated at 8-0.

In the first ever Intramural Coed Soccer Final, Swank defeated The Barcelonas 5-2. The Barcelonas tied the game up 3 after halftime, but Swank scored 3 unanswered goals to seal the victory. Jason Urbanski and Ryan McGaughey provided much of the offense for Swank, while David Thompson was a force in net. Swank finished the season undefeated at 8-0.

On behalf of the entire Future staff, we want to say thank you for your continued support and readership throughout the years. Be sure to pick up our back to school issue on August 22 as we continue to be your source for campus news, entertainment and sports. Have a great rest of the summer!

Sincerely,
Heissam Jebaili
Publisher

P.S. - We welcome your comments and suggestions for the upcoming year. E-mail: Publisher@UCFfuture.com
After a breakout season in 2000, UCF football is earning some national respect. The Golden Knights placed seven players on the Football News Preseason All-Independent team released last week.

Four players, including defensive tackle Josh McKibben, linebacker Tito Rodriguez, placekicker/punter Javier Beorlegui and offensive end Elton Patterson, received repeat selections. Each of those players earned 2000 All-Independent postseason honors.

Joining them on the team are quarterback Ryan Schneider, wide receiver Jimmy Fryzel and offensive tackle Steve Edwards.

Last season, McKibben had 80 tackles, including 14 for loss, five sacks, 10 quarterback hurries, one interception and one blocked field goal. Rodriguez, after missing the first two and a half games of the season, went on to lead the team with 121 tackles, finishing second in the nation with 13.44 tackles per game. Patterson had one of the best individual defensive seasons in UCF history, registering 88 tackles, including 19 for lost yardage and 10 sacks.

Beorlegui, who struggled in 1999, developed into one of the top kickers in the nation in 2000, connecting 29 of 40 extra points and 14 of 18 field goal attempts. His 37-yard field goal with three seconds left gave UCF a 40-38 victory over Alabama and will long be remembered as one of the greatest plays in Golden Knight history. His longest field goal of the year was 48 yards, and he was named a semifinalist for the Lou Groza Award given to the nation’s best kicker. Beorlegui also averaged 40 yards per punt, and sent 17 of his punts inside the opponents’ 20-yard line.

Schneider took over the starting quarterback duties in 2000 after an injury to Vic Penti, and made the most of his opportunity. He went 5-2 as a starter, completing 177 of his 286 pass attempts for 2,334 yards, 21 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. He ranked ninth in the nation with a pass efficiency rating of 147.0, and passed for over 300 yards on four different occasions.

Fryzel picked up the slack last year for the often-injured Kenny Clark, finishing second on the team with 36 catches for 506 yards, scoring three touchdowns. He also is one of the fastest players on the team, running the 40-yard dash in 4.35 seconds.

Edwards made a huge impact in his first season at UCF, taking over the starting strong tackle position after transferring from West Hills Community College in California. He had a winning grade of better than 80 percent in eight of his nine games, and his best game against Virginia Tech with a grade of 87 percent. He registered 55 knockdowns on the year, including a season-high 11 against Eastern Michigan. His size (6-foot-5, 350 pounds) gives him a chance at being selected in the 2002 NFL Draft.

The seven UCF selections trail only Notre Dame, who had nine players named Preseason All-Independent. The Golden Knights led the 2000 postseason list with seven players.