Students receive a TASTE of HUNGER

Banquet addresses real-world poverty

DENISE BLOOM
STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Sarai Tormes, 19, doesn’t know what it’s like to be poor. But Friday night she was sitting on a pile of newspapers eating rice with her fingers and suddenly she was.

Other students sat a few feet from Tormes, feasting on a four-course meal complete with chocolate cake.

Tormes is one of many UCF students who chose to participate in the Volunteer UCF Hunger Banquet, an annual event that is designed to teach students about world hunger and poverty. Each year the event is held close to the Thanksgiving holiday when most Americans are focusing on and wasting food excessively.

During the banquet, students were able to experience the different social classes by being placed within them. Students were randomly assigned to the lower, middle and upper classes and served dinner within their economic boundaries.

The majority of students, who represented the lower class, ate plain white rice and drank brown water, while a few who represented the upper class, were served chicken, rice, salad and ice tea. Colored-coded nametags categorized the students into different socio-economic classes that represented a real sample of the world’s class divisions — and that evening 15 percent of UCF students enjoyed the privileges of the upper class, while 55 percent represented the lower class.

“It’s a very real and physical representation of the wealth distribution around the world,” said Laura Waltrip, a staff adviser for Volunteer UCF. “We hope that students’ awareness will change, and that they will

PLEASE SEE Local on 4

Higher athletic fee to improve sports teams

SARAH DOWNES
STAFF WRITER

The athletic fee will jump by $1.10 per credit hour beginning next fall after the UCF Board of Trustees unanimously approved the increase Thursday.

The athletic department will use the additional funds, about $3 million a year, to bolster itself and raise its profile. With the money, UCF will recruit athletes and coaches and offer more athletic scholarships. The money will also provide more tutors for athletes, purchase new equipment and build advanced athletics facilities.

Gail Strong, the women’s basketball head coach, said the extra money would put UCF in the same category as the state’s prominent universities.

“Anytime we have a chance to add to the budget it enables us to move to the next level,” Strong said. “We want to be able to compete with top 50 teams that

PLEASE SEE Students on 3

+$93,000 raise

Krista Ziliz
STAFF WRITER

In one of its last acts before being dissolved and without hearing any public comment, UCF’s Board of Trustees voted Thursday to give President John Hitt a 40 percent pay raise, making him the highest-paid university president in the state.

The vote to award the $93,000 raise, which boosts Hitt’s annual salary to $256,000 starting Jan. 1, was 6-2. Student Body President Marco Peña, who initially said he was uncomfortable with the raise in light of expected tuition increases, abstained.

Yet even one of the “no” votes was cast grudgingly by a trustee who is otherwise a big supporter of the president.

“My concern has to do with timing,” said trustee Harry Rosen, an Orlando hotelier and benefactor of UCF’s Rosen School of Hospitality.

UF and FSU night in and night out.

Increasing the salaries for coaching positions will enable the athletic department to hire a highly qualified and motivated staff. This, in turn, will lead to better performance on the field, Student Body President Marco Peña said.

Peña, who serves on the board of

PLEASE SEE Students on 3

Higher athletic fee to improve sports teams

“Taste of Hunger”

At this year’s Volunteer Hunger Banquet, students experienced first-hand the division of social classes, poverty and hunger.

Conditions

Driving me crazy

Why did flies add salt and pepper when they die?

—OPINIONS, 12

Block scheduling coming to UCF

New system means earlier classes for some students.

—NEWS, 4

Index:

Letters 10

Gail the Gopher 10

Ask the Doc 12
2003 All New GTI
Lease for $269 per month +
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* Leases are calculated with $0 total down, includes
1st payment, 0 sec. deposit, tags, title and license. See sales person for details.

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Student senate passes a resolution backing Sudia

No sale: Activists fight shopping rush

As the latest trendy GAP commercial flashes to black, the image of a chubby ginger girl pops into my head. A voice is heard saying: "Kweshi's middle name isn't typical for an American-born Muslim - it's a name that means 'safety.'"

Kweshi's story is a part of a larger trend in American youth culture - drinking, dating, and getting into trouble.

But in many ways, he is like the typical college student. He goes to school during the day and studies at night. He wears stylish cargo khakis and sleek black sweaters like the one he's wearing today.

And even though the holiday season can be the time of year when Muslims are supposed to avoid things like shopping, Kweshi has never been a part of that. He said, "I don't see any reason why we can't enjoy the season, even as Muslims." He added, "It's not about restrictions and punishment; it's a personal priority to me."
Leaves not only things changing next fall

Morning shift may alleviate some traffic on campus

KATRINA HAMMER  
STAFF WRITER

With the implementation of a new block-style schedule set for August of next year, students and faculty members can expect to see less traffic problems on campus.

To make UCF more efficient and help alleviate traffic problems, UCF’s academic leaders have proposed and approved a new schedule that will take effect beginning with the fall 2003 semester. Classes will begin at 7:30 a.m. rather than at 8 a.m., when a majority of the university’s workers arrive on campus.

The half-hour shift in the schedule will bring student commuters to campus earlier and keep them from clogging UCF’s roadways when administrators and office assistants make their way to campus.

Vice Provost Ed Neighbor, who helped develop and approve the new schedule, said that time is not the important aspect. “The driver behind this change is greater efficiency in classroom utilization,” he said.

This change allows for a more balanced schedule, one that will make use of classes evenly throughout the week. Neighbor said that the need for greater efficiency was inescapable, and something had to be done.

This change could not come at a better time, with UCF receiving negative attention for its lack of utilization of classrooms on Fridays, Neighbor said. “If we schedule Friday classes, students will come to them,” Neighbor continued.

Neighbor said UCF would not force colleges to schedule classes after 4:30 p.m. on Fridays, although colleges have the option of scheduling them. Administrators realize that both students and faculty do not want Friday evening classes.

The choice is left to each college when to schedule classes. Scheduled blocks will last roughly three hours, which colleges can use in one of three formats. Classes can be held in one 150-minute segment or three 50-minute segments.

One of the benefits of the new schedule is that each college will have to schedule the entire three-hour block. For instance, “block 1” begins at 7:30 a.m. and continues until 10:20 a.m. The college will have to schedule classes for the entire block, rather than just portions of it. The college can schedule classes in one of the three previously mentioned formats.

Also, students should have no problems

Please See Earlier on 7

Local volunteers dispel stereotypes about homeless

FROM PAGE 1:

realize even a little helps.”

Students had to donate two canned goods to participate in the event, but many felt it was a small price to pay for the experience.

“We might be taking a few things for granted,” said sophomore Magol- 

mari Desizard, 19, “but experiences such as this one help point out the things we should be grateful for.”

The Hunger Banquet also showed a documentary and slides to help reinforce its message.

Kelly Caruso, the founder and president of The Ripple Effect, hoped to convince students to fight world poverty and hunger by helping out locally.

“I am here to inspire you to say ‘no’ to the status quo,” Caruso said. “You can make a difference — you just have to start doing it. Although it may not seem like you are impacting the whole globe, you may affect one life and that’s huge.”

The banquet also tried to dispel stereotypes about the homeless. Steve Davis, a member of the Homeless Volunteers in Action, shared his story with the students.

“I am not the stereotype,” Davis said. “I was a cab driver who lost his job after Sept. 11.

Davis, who is currently homeless, is working with The Ripple Effect and planning to attend Valencia to earn his degree.

A documentary and slides were shown to further emphasize the message of hunger and poverty (above). While some students were selected to represent the upper class and served four-course meals, the majority ate their rice dinners on newspapers (bottom).
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Funded by Activity and Service Fee through the Student Government Association.
46 percent raise makes Hitt highest-paid president

From Page 1

Management. "If we were in a vacuum, you would have my unmedicated opinion.

"Right now we are at war, sending sons and daughters into harm's way; unemployment is at 6 percent; and trillions of dollars are being lost out there," he said. "Philosophically, I can't feel comfortable in today's world appealing for this. The right thing to do is not to be oblivious to the world around us."

But trustee Tom Yochum, who was chairman of the compensation committee that researched and recommended the pay raise, said it was needed to make Hitt's salary more competitive with peer salaries and would help retain the man who has led UCF for the past 10 years.

"With the numbers this university has put up within the last few years — the top university in the state like Dr. Maidique, who is paid $21,367 for health care, long-term disability deferred compensation, and a year, followed by Florida Genshaft, at $32,267 — there was no way he was way below the marketplace.

"First, we don't want to pay below market median," said Yochum. "Second, President Hitt has been at this university longer than any presidents, and third, his performance has been pretty good.

Within the state, the top earner is Florida International University President Modesto Maidique, who makes $28,500 a year, followed by Florida State University President Susan D'Ambron, $24,000, and University of South Florida President Judy Genshaft, $25,000.

Yet while the current pay for Hitt, $31,875, is below the national and state averages, he enjoys several perks that other university presidents do not. He lives for free in a house on campus and receives a car, a country club membership and $21,676 for health care, long-term disability and retirement. He receives $24,250 of deferred compensation from the UCF Foundation.

Even so, Yochum and other trustees stated that while Hitt's pay raise seems drastic, it is necessary to boost him to the national average. Because for so many years, Hitt did not receive any raises.

Hitt's last raise, $3,500, came last month — a result of a pay increase for all state employees across the board that bumped him up to $35,070. That $5,000 is inclusive of the $2,500 that was endorsed by the board Thursday. Before that, the board last year approved a $6,000 raise for Hitt in October 2000.

Even with his raise, Hitt will remain at the bottom of the totem pole nationwide, and may even become one of the lowest-paid presidents in the state again within a few months as retiring presidents are replaced, said trustee Geraldine Ferris.

"There are five universities in Florida now hiring, and he can go to any one of those and still make more, even with the compensation," she said. "Indeed, if Hitt were to leave, Yochum said UCF might have to shell out over $80,000 to hire a replacement.

Besides, said Yochum, several UCF professors already earn as much as $50,000 more than Hitt did. He did not identify those professors or their departments.

Board Chairman Dick Nunis agreed that it was important to keep Hitt at UCF to ensure the continued success of the university for the next three years. "He's a guy who will pay more than what he's making to help this university grow," Nunis said.

Several trustees praised Hitt for his achievements on the fiscal and state level, including his elected position as president of the State University Presidents' Association, the organization designed to unite Florida's 11 public university presidents.

Despite the near-unanimous support from trustees, however, Hitt's raise drew pans from students who expressed their outrage over an expense that some said could otherwise fund a dozen raises for faculty and academic assistants to help overwhelmed professors teach over-crowded classrooms, or improve or add student computer labs on campus.

Emily Tuff, co-chairman of the Progressive Council, had asked to formally address the board on Thursday before trustees took a final vote. She was denied because Nunis said she submitted her request too late.

"Their major point they were talking about was how they wanted us to be the best university, but cutting budgets is not increasing the president's salary by 40 percent won't facilitate that," she said.

But some think Hitt's raise is unjustified because his performance is based on commendable state involvement. But Hitt has not granted the same attention to student concerns, such as a lack of funding for recycling program, outdated equipment in classrooms, computer labs, class shortages, financial aid delays and rising tuition costs.

SIAA senator Mike Tiner, 25, said afterward that the decision to grant Hitt a raise was politically driven.

"The board of trustees is made up of local business operators, and furthering the relationship with the private industr 

y is the main thrust of this university," he said. "[But] that doesn't provide a better education for us. Those billion-dollar corporations don't invest in UCF like UCF does in those companies."

"They keep highlighting Hitt's involvement with the community, the private sector and state politics," he added. "They forgot to consider the 30,000 students he works for. How do they propose to cover this without it affecting students?"

SIAA senator Josh Edmundson, 20, was alarmed by the study that evaluated Hitt's current salary, claiming the results were manipulated.

"They're comparing us to universities that spend twice as much as we do, and to universities with more students," he said. "This is one of the most shabby cases of research I have ever seen."

Edmundson contends that the board's claim that Hitt would likely leave if he wasn't paid more is unfounded.

"This pay is not going anywhere," he said. "He's been here 10 years. He's got everyone in the palm of his hand here."

"There are probably people both in line and who would want to run this university who, no doubt, can do the job better," he said. "But they're not going to be around keeping him here, then [his motives] are about greed."

Edmundson was frustrated that the board didn't consider any public input before the vote.

"They were withholding information from the student body and students who pay to come here," he said. "The difference is, we pay to come here. Hitt's paid to be here."

Peña, who sits on the board of trustees, said he was disappointed by the increase.

"It's going to be tough for me to justify to students, 'You're going to have a 5, 10, 20 percent increase in tuition, yet you are giving someone a raise,'" he told trustees before the vote. Yet by voting time, Peña had backed down from his opposition.

"I don't feel that such an increase was appropriate at this time when there are most likely going to be budget cuts this year," he said after the vote. "If anyone deserves an increase in what they get paid, at any university, it's President Hitt. He does a great job here. He's an invaluable leader, and I think we did it two years ago, when the economy was doing well, it would have been warrant ed. I don't think it was a good thing for us to do [now] at that amount."

The meeting was the last for the board of trustees before the year-end group is dissolved and he is replaced in January and replaced by a new board — part of a stipulation of the last passed by voters on Nov. 5.
Earlier classes don’t excite many students

from page 4

with classes overlapping. The new schedule does not allow classes to overlap, since it is based on a strict block format.

Students may not like the change in or around school. Many do not enjoy waking up early to attend class, especially after late nights of working or socializing.

Junior Sabat Kohli, 19, commutes to UCF. The new schedule change may make her morning drives even earlier. “If I lived on campus I would take early classes,” she said. “I could have the rest of the day without school.” However, as a commuter, she feels the morning shift asks too much, and she does not want to wake up earlier.

For others, such as sophomore Shantone Studford, 19, morning classes are not an option. “In college you’re supposed to choose your classes,” she said. “I wouldn’t choose one that early.”

While students may not enjoy the idea of early classes, professors like creative writing instructor Debbie Weaver do not seem to mind the idea. “If students would be willing to come, then I would be willing to teach,” Weaver said.

Foreign language instructor Allen Korey agrees with Weaver and would be willing to teach a 7:30 a.m. class. “You have professionals attending who have a vested interest,” he said. “Those classes usually turn out to be a lot of fun.”

While students may grumble at first, the new schedule may solve many problems that have developed in the past. The old schedule was inconsistent; therefore, the university had to develop one overall option.

Neighbor said that the new schedule preserves the flexibility of the old schedule, but the new blocks will add structure. “Everyone can do what they want, as long as is done in an orderly way,” he continued.

Neighbors said the highly centralized scheduling would bring many benefits for both faculty and students. He added, “Without question, it will be better than what we had before.”

Homemade gifts better for environment, heartfelt

from page 3

“I like making stuff for people as gifts anyway,” she said.

The Adbusters web site also provides a link for creative alternatives to holiday shopping. Some suggestions include compiling meaningful photos into a collage, giving a valued personal possession to someone or filling a basket with homemade goodies.

However, making the wrapping paper, as well as the gift it comes in, can also help cut back on unnecessary waste.

“I’ll make the box; I put it in or wrap it in some creative way,” Bolin said. “Otherwise, you just end up with a pile of wrapping paper or store-bought wrapping paper on the floor.”

Bolin is not the only one who feels this way. “So much of what we buy goes to waste,” Dorsch said. She believes the excess consumption devastates the environment, and she generally tries to keep her holiday purchases to a minimum, as well as avoiding purchases on Friday to support IND.

“All that unnecessary packaging, it’s all a waste. I will at least do my part to help.”

Adbusters Media Foundation’s IND campaign asks people to recognize the negative impact consumerism has on the environment. They mainly rely on their activists to spread the word on the streets.

Junior Zachary Moldoff, 21, considers himself one of these activists.

“People need to cut back on mindless spending,” he said. “I will promote the event locally.”

Adbusters refers to public protest demonstrations as “culture jamming.” Culture jamming often uses performance art as a way to raise awareness.

“I might hang up artwork or posters,” Moldoff said. “Sometimes you have to challenge others’ behavior, especially when you see something they don’t want to see.”

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Doorside trash pickup
Muslim holiday clashes with American culture

FROM PAGE 3

me morally," he said. "I am doing the bare minimum of what I'm preached to do. I look at all the things I am allowed to do, and tend not to look at the things I can't do."

For Kureshi, doing the things he's allowed to do is a lot. He is vice president of the Muslim Student Association on campus, a member of Volunteer UCF's board of directors, a member of UCF's President's Leadership Council and is studying molecular biology to earn a pre-medical degree.

Kureshi is also a body builder. And while fasting seems contradictory to the lifestyle of a body builder, where large amounts of food and drinks are mixed with exhaustive workout sessions, Kureshi doesn't sweat that, either.

"It's only 12 hours from very early in the morning till about 5 p.m. [that you can't eat or drink]," he said. "Then you can eat as much as you want. Every evening I'll eat a meal, go play and then work out. It's not a big deal to eat enough to sustain." And Kureshi admits without meals to worry about during the day, he finds himself more energetic and productive.

"Honestly, I am more productive in this month than any other months during the day," he said. "I can go to the library and study and not have to worry about getting something to eat."

Mubeen Ahmad, a UCF junior, thinks Americans misinterpret the meaning of Ramadan and the Muslim religion.

A lot of people try to make this religion harder than it is. People think I am starving myself, being punished," said Ahmad, who has also fasted for nearly a month. "But I tell them it is a test of my faith. Once you actually understand, it all falls into place."

Like Kureshi, Ahmad, 19, considers himself a Muslim and has grown up surrounded by American culture.

He calls himself a die-hard Chicago Bulls fan and a San Francisco 49ers enthusiast. If he can't catch the games in person, he reads sports magazines to stay on top of scores.

While his interests are similar to those of many American men, Ahmad realizes his religion and beliefs set him apart from conventional culture.

The aerospace and mechanical engineer chooses not to date or drink either and not just for the holy month, but throughout life.

"This month is designed to be a purification process," he said. "If you think you can do it for 30 days, you should do it for the whole year."

And like Kureshi, Ahmad doesn't consider those to be restrictions, but rather personal choices.

He says when he finds the time to become intimate, he will, and he will consult his parents about his decision to date.

"There are basically no restrictions on us, we're allowed to do what we want, and we make our own decisions and have our own beliefs," Kureshi said.

But both Kureshi and Ahmad admit there are challenges posed by their faith, which has been stereotyped by media as a religion that is restrictive towards women and related to terror. It is difficult to dispel those stereotypes, they say.

"Ted Koppel doesn't get on the news and announce 1 million Muslims lived in peace today," he said.

Likewise, the media facilitates what Kureshi considers a restrictive portrayal of women — in American culture, that is. "I think American women in those rap videos who are flaunting half-naked are the repressed ones," he said. "They don't say anything, they're just used for their bodies. It's so funny that people say Muslim women are so repressed because they actually want to be covered up."

Both Muslim students say they are strong in faith and firm in their beliefs, more now than ever before, something that happened when they entered college.

"In high school I went through this thing, I knew I was Muslim because my parents raised me that way, but I wanted to really know about the religion before I said this is what I believe in," he said. "I studied other religions in a very objective way and my heart led me to Muslim."

Ahmad admits he had to do personal soul searching before he could completely embrace his Muslim faith.

"I am much more of a practicing Muslim now than I was in high school," he said. "Back then I didn't know why I was doing certain things that my parents taught me. I did a lot of studying on my own to understand my religion."
Scholars make a difference with sibling setup

Rachel Zall, Staff Writer

At some point while growing up, students who have a younger brother or sister have wished that their sibling was never born. But for sophomore Jordana Lashin, 20, being a big sister to someone is one of the most valuable qualities she could have.

Lashin and Monica McCormack recently started Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS), an organization to help emotionally deprived children, in their LEAD Scholars class.

Second-year students in LEAD Scholars have the option to do a practicum, instead of taking a class, for a grade. "We originally wanted to work with rape victims, but chose Big Brothers Big Sisters because of the serious issues that face young girls today such as sex, drugs and body image," Lashin said.

The assistant director of LEAD Scholars, Stacy Lasure, is not only overseeing their coursework, but is BBBS's program adviser as well.

"Jordana and Monica felt that the Big Brothers Big Sisters program was a good choice for this project, and I agree," Lasure said. "As their professor, I have oversaw their progress with the program and wanted it to grow from an idea to a dream come true. No grades have been given out yet, for they still have a final paper and presentation to do, but I am very proud of their accomplishments thus far."

BBBS of UCF currently has about 15 active members, as well as members that participate in the organization through e-mail service, Lashin said.

"By the end of the semester, we would like to have enough members in BBBS to be able to pair up every child that the [local] chapter of BBBS can give us," said 20-year-old junior Kristen Witten, who is vice president of the new campus organization. "Men are especially in high demand."

The children in this program come from many different situations.

"Some [children] have been abused or neglected, while others are just in family situations where their parents think they could benefit from some one-on-one time from another adult," said Faith Hulker, BBBS program manager.

"We have a lot of single parents with two or more children who work full-time and go to school. There are also parents who both work and just do not have the time they would like to have to be able to spend with their child," she added.

BBBS recently had a bake sale for its first fundraiser, said BBBS's public relations chairman, 20-year-old Elizabeth Barzunick.

"We raised $340 and it was a huge success," Barzunick said. "We will be having another one in the spring and also plan on doing a raffle in January where anyone can buy tickets to try to win prizes such as gift certificates to food and clothing places."

The only requirement to become a member of BBBS is to meet all the Golden Rules. Students must also go through an interview process with the Central Florida chapter. The student must consent to a background check as well. A child is then matched with the student to fit each other's personalities. However, the students are not the only ones who have to go through this process. The big brother/sister has to go through the same interview process as well.

Although the difficulties of starting a new club are inevitable, Lashin has nothing but confidence in the club's success.

"This is an important time because many students can't handle the discrimination of a club getting off the ground and it's important to try to keep people interested and active," Lashin said. "I have amazing people working with me and I feel very lucky to be around them. We all work really well together, and it's great to see that.""
**Opinions**

**Monday November 25, 2002**

**OUR STANCE:**

**Wrong time for lavish raise**

T he UCF Board of Trustees ignored the sentiments of UCF students and faculty and irresponsibly approved a $39,000 raise for President John Hitt. Yes, UCF has flourished during Hitt’s ten-year presidency, but to reward a single man for the university’s successes makes no sense at all. Hitt will get this raise on top of the free home, transportation and health care he already enjoys; not to mention the additional compensation and country club membership. Hitt already makes $292,100 a year. A man with a high salary and no expenses does not need a raise.

The board of trustees tried to justify the raise by comparing Hitt to CEO’s of a successful corporation. This logic is inherently flawed, as university presidents’ main responsibility is to educate, not to make money. Money should not be the bottom-line in higher education.

If the UCF faces a budget crisis, students’ tuition continues to rise, the university cuts back the services it offers students and professors go without raises, UCF cannot afford to give such a large pay hike to a figurehead. Hitt has numerous assistants and vice presidents who do the work actually running the university. Meanwhile, Hitt sits in his office, inaccessible to the students whom he serves.

UCF can afford to give raises, many university employees deserve them more than Hitt.

For example, UCF’s janitorial staff, the people who keep UCF looking beautiful, make pennies compared to President Hitt and do much more work. At an open forum earlier this year, Hitt told students the university cannot afford to pay these workers more, even though they are severely underpaid. The money just is not there, he explained.

UCF Board also describes UCF’s professors, who ask for paltry raises but often receive nothing. Professors represent the front-line in the university’s main mission, educating students. They certainly deserve raises more than Hitt.

It is clear that UCF will now give to Hitt could fund many more pressing needs around the university. That money could go into the computer budget, so that the university would not have to pay for printing services—a measure that UCF will implement because of the supposed budget crisis. The university could use the $39,000 to hire more professors, or at least compensate current professors better. Or UCF could offer more financial aid, especially to students who have had to wait months to receive their money.

The student voice on the board of trustees, Student Body President Marco Pena, raised many of these concerns at Thursday’s meeting. Unfortunately, when the time came to vote, Pena betrayed the students he’s elected to serve by abstaining from voting. Granted, Pena’s dissenting vote would not have prevented the measure from passing, but he wasted an opportunity to represent UCF students, who certainly do not think that Hitt deserves such a hefty raise.

**Hitt deserves top pay**

I feel that President Hitt deserves his raise $39,000 raise proposed for Hitt, published Nov. 11. If someone took a picture of the school the first day I came here four years ago and compared it to the school now, one would be shocked.

Look at what he has done for the school. Look at UCF: the construction of Rosen College of Hospitality and Public Affairs, 1 and 2; Raymond Hall, Engineering 1, the athletic center and two gardening ranges, with Rosen 2 and Education 2 on its way.

The student population has grown in quality in the last few years. Student housing expanded dramatically with the addition of this community. Student life and the purchase of Knights Landing and College Park. The amount of UCF organizations have doubled since my first day.

We are in the NAC, for football, the biggest thing since Dutch’s Garage. The campus maintains an amazing safety record. Hitt’s job comes great responsibility. It is responsible for the safety and well-being of all 90,000 students. If Hitt’s job was easy, everyone would be able to do it. I don’t think any of us would complain about getting that raise. We understand that financial aid has been crazy. I also have the President’s request with UCF this year and I’ll admit that every one of you has nightmares with registration. If President Hitt’s good qualities continue, he’ll have to pay for printing services.

**Letters to the Editor**

**Energy companies buy right to destroy land**

Once again, financial backers have dictated public policy for the Bush administration. Money has bought the seats of power, and these industries are basing, will suffer the most from these new measures, as the air they breathe will almost certainly become dirtier. Apparently the health of the American people and the sanctity of the environment matter little to Bush compared to the interests of political donors.

Bush and the Republican Party were the main beneficiaries of donations from the utility, coal and oil industries during the 2000 and 2002 campaigns. Energy executives and the electric and mining industries donated millions of dollars to Bush’s successful presidential campaign.

In return for their largesse, Bush appointed donors to his transition team, which helped determine energy and environmental policy for the Bush administration. It is no surprise that the Bush administration has adopted policies beneficial to these industries.

**Calling students to protest financial aid delays**

My fellow UCF students, it is the week of Thanksgiving in the fall 2002 semester and some people, including myself, have not received the financial aid that rightfully belongs to us. This is due to a lack of preparation in the implementation of the PeopleSoft software throughout campuses. We have been in financial aid every week of this semester to inquire on the status of my verification and have always been told, “You should be getting your money shortly.” Unfortunately, we cannot give you a definite date.”

I have reached the end of my rope, I propose that we meet at 12:15 p.m., the students affected by financial aid and the people that compete with them take part in a non-violent demonstration outside and inside Millican Hall. We are a group that reflects your thoughts on the financial aid situation. The more people there are, the louder and louder our voice as students will be heard.

**Send your letter**

Don’t agree with our columnists? Let us know! Send e-mail to: editor@ucffuture.com or log on to www.annual.internet

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**OUR STANCE:**

**Energy companies buy right to destroy land**

*When they discover the center of the universe, a lot of people will be disappointed to discover they are not it.*

—SHeldon Elye
**Fries with your lawsuits?**

**MENTAL DOODLES**

**Christopher Arnold Cali Writer**

If you really are what you eat, can you say what you become because of what you are? Apparently, some lawyers in New York think so.

They recently filed a class-action suit against McDonald's, Burger King, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and Wendy's—wait, for it, wait for it—their food is making them fat. Daniel modern? I was too. Going by these lawyers' logic, I am now able to see the magnets of television and computers because my vision is so terrible! If so, look out Bill Gates—I'm gunna for you.

High blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, already fast food? I would have never thought it possible.

For some, frequenting some of those places more readily than I should. But at the same time I must say, my lifestyle is unhealthy! I am not under any false impression about the socio-economic atmosphere.

I understand that what they serve is fatty food, but do I have a choice? Sometimes, going to see Fast Factors! I also realize that, even though McDonald's permitted them to eat on their premises, they were vouching for the food in which they cook their fries, it is still not a super serum that is going to transform me into Mr. Universe. It's green. Just saying the word usually adds a dozen pounds to the average person.

Sometimes I have to wonder whether I've slipped through a sheath in the fabric of space and time and handed myself right into Elavure World. Growing up I was never under the impression that a steady diet of Big Macs and Frosties wouldn't make you fat. Before Subway came along, it was probably McDonald's where dined six meals.

Despite the frivolity of this lawsuit, it is really sadly and apparent that lawyers will use it if a client comes calling.

With that understanding, we are forced to reevaluate the larger issues that this lawsuit brings to light—among them being the lack of proper involvement in their children's well-being, as well as accountability for personal decisions.

In pursuing this matter, the plaintiffs cite the growing numbers of obese children within the last 20 years. That trend is alarming, certainly. But to sue fast-food restaurant chains in an attempt to rectify it only does a disservice to those trying to reverse the trend.

While some may contend this lawsuit can open up the public's eyes and reveal the distinctly dels behind some of our families' decisions, the greater likelihood is that it will drive people further into denial about the issue of obesity in children.

For a moment, let's just suppose the case went to trial and the restaurants are found at fault—this is Elavure World, after all, right? We would never see The Colonel or The Crown banished to an unemployment line; their businesses are too lucrative and their services too desired. But even if such an extreme measure were to result, guess what?

Those same obese children would most likely continue to be obese. Unfortunately, obesity is the result of a combination of factors—diet, activity and, sometimes, genetics. For the sake of our discussion, however, let's set aside the element of genetics and look at the first two.

Let's imagine a person whose diet consists of absolutely no fast food. Could that person be healthier than someone regularly feasting on drive-through window and value meals? Sure. But it could just as easily be the same or worse.

Unfortunately, there is just enough garbage in superhero cartoons for today's children to eat that there is beneath the Golden Arches. And we have not even taken into consideration their levels of activity. I shouldn't have to say this—but after reading about this lawsuit I feel as might well—regular physical activity of any kind is vital for anyone's health, but much more so during the formative years of youth.

Parents need to realize that "parent" is not always synonymous with "friend." Don't let children make Burger King their second home. Make them "eat their vegetables" and "clean their plate," as I often heard throughout my youth.

Don't let them watch 12 hours of television planted to a set and then come down and offer how important good health is. And more don't teach them the art of eating and leaving by example. If you're a parent, then responsibility is not an option.

Filing this lawsuit is not going to help these children lose weight. And it most likely will not shed new light on fast-food nutrition. At its core, it is not thrown out of court—which it very well should be—this case can only provide the defendants with a monetary reward.

The issue of childhood obesity is too serious to be mocked by such recklessness.

Gustave Dorphier Arnold can be reached a dorphierarnold@yahoo.com

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**Throwing stones at jailhouse rock**

**Danielle DePari Staff Writer**

Prisoners are gaining more media freedom these days. They are free to watch cable television, earn an education in prison and now they'll be free to express themselves artistically and promote their talents in a reality show that glorifies real life rock bands behind bars.

Call it Jailhouse Rock with a little real-life twist. That's what I said! It's not! The reality series, "Music Behind Bars," features a prison band and portrays the life of criminals in prisons of all sizes and security levels and their musical triumphs. Sure, it describes the lonely life and less than optimal conditions of prison. However, through all this they are given what they want—faith and security levels are being punished for their actions. VH1 and sponsors of the series seem to have forgotten that.

The fact that they do not have their freedom is nothing to pity them for. It's the only way society can fairly punish criminals and ensure that justice is served. There's a distinguished line between what constitutes basic human rights and what constitutes privileges and liberties.

And while prisoners should be guaranteed basic human rights, they should only be successful and their right to "the pursuit of happiness" when they become convicted thieves.

It starts with reality TV shows, but where does this trend stop? Soon prison musicians will have their songs playing on the radio, while Americans sit home and wonder why they have to spend their time in jail. Who knows? Maybe producers create an "American Idol" behind bars with the prize being less prison time. We'll allow fans to decide when the winning inmate should make parole.

What do you say about them? We need a little more practical and allow inmates to express themselves through art and obtain an education, but in a very modest and humble way? No camera crew, no reporters, no book deals or recognition.

VH1 has once again jumped into the reality show bandwagon and come out with the ultimate proof of America's unhealthy obsession with the genre. That's why I hate to watch television.

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These geezers drive me crazy

Stephen Hirst  Staff Writer

While driving the short distance from Jefferson Commons to Bubbalous's Hedonous Barbecue, I spotted an elderly man driving his massive Cadillac on Alafaya. I probably wouldn't have noticed him, except for the fact that he was driving at a suicidal-insulting speed of 25 miles per hour. Now I know what you're thinking — this opinion article is going to be another incoherent, hateful rant against old people. How illogical it is, I thought, that I should be allowed to drive; how slow and blind they are, how no one ever the age of 70 should be allowed a driver's license. Bah, blah, blah. Well, rest assured, that's not what this is all about.

Instead of becoming frustrated with the driver of the Cadillac hampering my journey, I decided to put myself in his position. I pictured myself at 81 years of age. My basal cell carcinoma is setting up, I've taken my daily dosage of Deremerol and I'm wearing pants up to my armpits. Just another typical day for this senior citizen. I'm realistic — I know I'll be lucky if I make it to 80. So I'll be driving to my grandson's little league game at a brisk 25 mph.

Good God, no. It's something that's puzzled me more and more as I've stopped to really think about it. As you age, there's less and less time left to accomplish what you want to in life. Each day contains precious hours you could spend writing your memoirs, traveling to foreign countries, or teaching your grandkids how to shoot a rifle.

When you're getting up there in years, can you really afford to take an extra hour on the road, just getting from point A to point B? The clock's ticking, man — step on it. While a college newspaper might not be the ideal place to reach the senior citizen segment of the population, I would like to issue this challenge to geezers (and I mean that in the most non-offensive way possible) everywhere — put the pedal to the metal. Yes, you'll be doing me and everyone else who is needed to suffer in traffic behind you a favor, but most importantly you'll be doing yourselves a favor.

My childhood next-door neighbor had the right idea. She was a soft spoken, seemingly timid little old lady with a lot of grandkids. But my earliest memories of the woman are of her heedlessly backing out of her driveway like a bat out of hell. She whizzed along the streets of our neighborhood in her tank of an El Dorado Cadillac fast enough to put any of the kids with sports cars to shame. I realized she was the true terror of the neighborhood. And it wasn't because she was senile and incapable of estimating her own speed; she purposely meant to drive that fast. She might have been a senior, but she had things to do, and she wasn't going to let her age become an obstacle to her busy schedule.

What I'm saying doesn't just apply to driving. As I get older and older, you better believe I'll be getting faster and faster, or at least as fast as my body will allow. If anything, the present is the time to kick back a little. There isn't any reason to rush things now — not while I'm young. I've got about three hundredths of my life left to live, and that should give me plenty of time to do things here in the present. It's towards the end of the race when I'll really be putting on the gas, trying to cram every last bit of enjoyment I can into the remainder of my life.

So look me up when I'm about 80. I promise you, I won't be one of those duffers sitting in a rocking chair, sipping Metamucil and dispensing my life's wisdom to the children. I'll be the old buzzard who took out the back seat of my car and replaced it with a tank of nitrous, peeling out of the nursing home parking lot while I'm sneaking down a race of Red Bull.
UCF starts season 2-0

Chris Bernhardt

The UCF women's basketball team opened its 2002-2003 campaign last weekend with a sweep of the Golden Knights classic at the医科大学 Civic Center.

Against Eastern Illinois on Saturday, UCF made sure to capitalize on a halftime advantage for a 77-47 win. The Golden Knights used a 10-2 run midway through the first half to take a 28-22 edge at the break. But coming out of the half the Knights made a run, with a three pointer by guard Lauren Dayley at the 14:34 mark pulling them within one point, 38-37.

On the ensuing possession UCF guard Jessice Sala answered with a three pointer. When Dayley hit a layup two minutes later to again put her team within one point, the Golden Knights used some hot shooting to finish the game on a 9-4 run. They shot 41 percent from three-point land in the second half and 56 percent for the game.

Sophomore center Takira Allen paced the team with a career-high 16 points and 13 rebounds, 10 off the offensive glass. Freshmen Brooke Gossett and Rachel Karve lead the Panthers with 11 and 10 points respectively.

"I'm happy to get the season underway, ready to play some people besides ourselves and see what the kids can do in a real game situation," UCF Coach Gail Strieper said.

On Friday night the Golden Knights began with a contest against Monmouth. UCF got off to a quick start, with forward Marvelous Washington scoring 13 points and helping the Golden Knights to a 32-22 halftime lead.

Yet they couldn't pull away in the second half, as Monmouth forward Rasharnah French scored 11 of her team's 56 points.

The volleyball team won its second consecutive Atlantic-Sun Championship

Kristy Shonka

The women's soccer team did it. The men's soccer team did it. When it was the volleyball team's turn Saturday, those Knights did it, too.

The volleyball team became the third UCF team this academic year to win the Atlantic Sun Championship with a thrilling 3-2 victory over Georgia State. It was the Knights' second consecutive title and 10th overall, better than any other A-Sun school.

The win gives UCF the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Championships.

Freshmen Emily Watts and Chaz Arac combined on a block at match point in the fifth game to give UCF the win after a season sweep of the Year. Lexie Santos Sante

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

The Golden Knights turn up the heat

Chris Bernhardt

Oxford, Ohio — The UCF football team was on a mission Saturday.

Obviously that mission involved beating Miami, but more importantly, it involves beating Miami in Ohio in the cold. The Knights wanted to prove they could survive in the cold-weather Mid-American Conference.

Consider mission accomplished as the team, comprised almost entirely of Florida natives, beat the RedHawks 48-31 with the kickoff temperature a brisk 36 degrees.

"All off-season we've been hearing we

Opposites attack

Chris Bernhardt

Finally they are complete. With its impressive victory over a belligerent Miami of Ohio last weekend, UCF's Golden Knights played a well-rounded game from beginning to end for the first time all season. Unfortunately, it has come too late.

UCF's season of highs and lows, a season of history and redundancy, will come to a close this Saturday at the Citrus Bowl. From the exuberance of their first season in the Mid-American Conference to the bitterness of yet another slow of close calls to a huge turn-around during the stretch run, the Golden Knights turn up the heat. But coming out of the half the Panthers made a run, with a three pointer by guard Lauren Dayley at the 14:34 mark pulling them within one point, 38-37.

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Jimmy Fryzel show continues

CHRIS BERNHARDT STAFF WRITER

Doug Gabriel isn’t the only wide receiver who should garner some attention by NFL scouts. Fellow senior Jimmy Fryzel continued his roll against Miami, working towards putting an exclamation point on his solid four-year UCF career.

For the fourth straight game, Fryzel went over 100 yards receiving. He achieved that before halftime, mostly thanks to a career-long 76-yard touchdown catch for UCF’s first score in the first quarter. Fryzel added a 20-yard scoring catch in the second quarter. It was the first time in his career he has registered more than one touchdown catch in a game.

He went over 1,000 yards for the season when he reached behind himself for a catch in the third quarter. And he had a 54-yard reception falling backwards with a defender draped all over him in the fourth quarter.

He finished the game with six receptions for 174 yards and two touchdowns. If he surpasses the 100-yard barrier in his last collegiate game, he could surpass the 1,000-yard rushing yards in Miami when UCF’s defense held Miami to.

107 The number of rushing yards
UCF’s defense held Miami to.

2 The number of interceptions by the UCF defense.

7,962 The announced attendance—UCF played in front of fewer than 10,000 people for the third consecutive week.

Inside the Numbers

2,103 The combined receiving yards for wide receivers Jimmy Fryzel and Doug Gabriel for this season.

57 The length of freshman cornerback Omar Lawrence’s first career interception return.

156 Alex Haynes’ rushing yards, eclipsing his career mark for the second consecutive week.

113 The number of yards Haynes needs for 1,000 yards rushing this season.

8.4 The number of yards UCF averaged per offensive play.

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“It feels good to get this win and it feels good to be inside right now.”
—PUNT RETURNER DUG GABRIEL

“They’re, in my opinion, the two best receivers in the MAC.”
—WIDE RECEIVER COACH INTERVIEWS ON DUG AND GABRIEL

“I love Ohio. It’s a little too cold, but I love Ohio.”
—BRENNEN BECKTON ON HIS HOME STATE.

“It’s one of those myths that Florida teams can’t play in the cold weather.”
—WIDE RECEIVER COACH INTERVIEWS ON DUG GABRIEL

“They need to turn that on super blow.”
—GABRIEL ON THE SURFING VIKINGS

“Cold.”
—GABRIEL ON THE SURFING VIKINGS
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BACK TO SCHOOL!
THURSDAY NIGHTS
High-flying UCF should stop grounded Ohio

Knights’ season has turned into a roller coaster any local theme park would be proud of. Despite winning over Miami put the Knights 65 and ensues no worse than a 500 record. It also made them 8-2 in conference, guaranteeing a successful inaugural season in the MAC. Now after filling their stomachs with Thanksgiving turkey, the Golden Knights will play in front of the home crowd one last time in an attempt to make this a winning season and salvage a somewhat disappointing year. Appropriately they’ll take on another MAC team that can sympathize.

New teams have gone through the extremes of the Ohio Bobcats. This is a team that lost 72-21 to Bowling Green earlier in the season then three weeks later won 500 at Kent State without completing a single pass. They began the season 1-5, though they played Bowling Green, Florida, Pittsburgh and Connecticut during that stretch. Still, they managed a humiliating 31-0 loss in their home opener to the Division I-AA Northern Hawks.

But somewhere along the line Ohio turned its season around. It won three out of its next four games, all I- conference, to give itself a slimmer of hope in the East Division. That divisional office is shrouded in a 24-21 loss at Marshall last weekend, leaving the Bobcats at 4-7 overall with a respectable 4-0 in the MAC.

The similarities end there. Because this game features one of the greatest offensive mismatches imaginable. Going into last weekend, UCF had the sixth best passing offense in the nation and the 57th best rushing offense. Conversely, Ohio has the country’s seventh best rushing offense and 157th best passing offense. For those keeping score, only 175 teams play FIA football. That means the Bobcats have literally the worst passing attack in the nation.

Part of that comes from the fact they run an option offense. Quarterbacks Fred Ray and Donnell Jackson have thrown for a combined 720 yards. They’ve run for a combined 499 yards. By comparison, Ryan Schneider has thrown for 3,456 yards.

The Bobcats will try anything to stop the Knights. Ohio’s two signal callers have 11 touchdowns on the ground this season, in just four in the air. Schneider has 27 scoring tosses this season and six rushing touchdowns in three years at UCF.

But while Schneider might wake up at the ever dream of playing in the Bobcats offense, Golden Knights running back Alex Haynes might not want to wake up at all. Certainly the sophomore is no slouch, gaining 897 yards and seven touchdowns on the ground in a pass-happy offense. But his Ohio counterpart, Chad Brinker, has benefited greatly from his team’s preference to run. He has 1,042 yards running and 115 more catching. All together he has 11 touchdowns, 10 of them rushing.

Want more statistical disparity? The Bobcats leading receiver, Stafford Owens, has 14 receptions for 226 yards. But he has 50 catches for 358 yards. What about UCF’s leading receiver, Doug Galahad? He has 68 catches for 1,006 yards and just seven rushes for 52 yards.

All at least on defense the comparison is a lot closer. Both teams have been middle of the pack, though UCF has the edge in both passing and rushing defense. Teams had much success running against the Golden Knights early, but they have stiffened up lately. Over the past three games they’ve allowed an average of just 16.6 yards. And they won’t exactly have to concentrate too much on defending the pass in this game.

The most interesting match-up will be Ohio’s two talent cornerbacks, Gary O’Berry and Jiminy Frye, against Gabriel and Jimmy Frye. While, arguably the best cornerback in the MAC, has a team-leading six interceptions and ranks among the MAC’s all-time leaders in that category. O’Berry is just one pick this season, but leads the team in pass break-ups.

Both teams have their special teams high points. The Bobcats are the conference leaders in kickoff coverage; the Golden Knights have the best net punting average. Because UCF has more balance on offense and the ability to make big plays downfield, Ohio will need the field position more.

Neither team will play for more than pride this weekend, but UCF at least has the chance of finishing with a winning year. The Knights need that extra motivation, because the holiday weekend will make for a small turnout at the Citrus Bowl. Though Ohio’s corners might make it difficult for Schneider to connect with his primary receivers, UCF has too many weapons to get held down by 6-2 the Ohio and Chip Cox, playing extremely well as late, the Bobcats’ run, run and run and put the shutout on defense, has no chance of hanging with UCF’s passing barrage.

UCF, Ohio
Brown and Rhule return from injuries

FROM PAGE 14

game against Ohio this weekend he’ll tie the school record of five consecutive games set by Ted Wilson in 1985. Coming into this year Fryzel had only passed the century mark twice but has done it five times this season.

Patterson closing in on sack record

With his takeaway of Miami quarterback Ben Roethlisberger near the goal line late in the first quarter, defensive end Elon Patterson creeped within one sack of the school’s career record. Darrell Rudd holds the record of 31.5.

The senior, currently tied with Greg Jefferson for second on the all-time list, has one more game to set a new mark. But he might have a hard time doing so; Ohio, who runs an option offense, had allowed the least amount of sacks in the MAC coming into Saturday.

Blocked punt makes big difference

The play that turned the game around for UCF came in first quarter when Patrick Holland blocked a Miami punt inside the endzone. Every Gaskins recovered the block, but was stripped. Alphonzo Hopkins pounced on it for a score that gave the Golden Knights the lead for good.

That was the first time UCF returned a blocked punt for a touchdown in over two years. Elliot Shorter did it against Eastern Kentucky on Oct. 14, 2000.

No problem in cold weather

Early in the week UCF quarterback Ryan Schneider said he hoped the Golden Knights would face a cold weather situation so they could prove themselves to their critics. He got his wish; the thermometer read 36 degrees at kickoff. Though it warmed up to 46 degrees by game’s end, UCF showed no ill effects throughout as it recorded its first road win against a winning team since joining Division I-A.

This time they throw

In a game against Akron a few weeks ago, the Golden Knights started a drive inside their 1-yard line and decided to run on first down with Alex Haynes. He barely got out of the endzone, saving a safety by only a few inches. After that game UCF Coach Mike Kruczek said he wouldn’t run it out of the endzone again.

In the second quarter Saturday, UCF again had a drive begin inside its own 1. True to his word, Kruczek called a screen pass on first down. As Schneider hit Gabriel for a 15-yard gain.

Haynes gets career-high, again

For the second straight game, Haynes set a career-high in rushing yards. Last week he ran for 149 yards, passing his old mark of 148 by just a yard. This time he got a little more space, running for 156 yards and two touchdowns.

Haynes stands just 113 yards shy of the 1,000-yard mark. If he accomplishes that goal, he would be just the fourth Golden Knight to do it. No one has since Marquette Smith set the school record of 1,511 yards in 1995.

Etc.

Sophomore defensive end Rashad Jeanty recovered the first fumble of his career on a bad pitch by Miami in the second quarter.

Freshman cornerback Omar Laurence got his first career interception deep in UCF territory in the third quarter and returned it 38 yards.

Noose guard Larry Brown and wide receiver linebAcker Standont Rhule, who both missed last week’s game with a finger and ankle injury respectively, returned to action Saturday. Fryzed wore a large cast around his left hand, which he had surgery on the ring finger of last week.

Left guard David Ashkinaz, who left last week’s game late with a leg injury, played as well.

Fryzel, Gabriel reach milestone

FROM PAGE 13

can’t play in the cold weather games. I said this week I hoped it would be cold so we can prove to people we’re just as good in 30-degree weather as we are in 70-degree weather,” UCF quarterback Ryan Schneider said.

Schneider led a UCF offense that averaged 8.4 yards per play, gaining 550 total yards. He was 20-of-30 for 374 yards and three touchdowns, while tailback Haynes gained a career-high 156 yards on the ground.

The Golden Knights started off a little slow, but showed little affects of the cold. “Once the blood flows and the adrenaline is going, you forget about cold weather,” UCF coach Mike Kruczek said.

Miami jumped out to a 14-10 UCF lead early in the first quarter. After that game UCF Coach Mike Kruczek said he wouldn’t run it out of the endzone again.

Patrick Holland recorded his first career pick during that stretch.

True to his word, Kruczek called a screen pass on first down. As Schneider hit Gabriel for a 15-yard gain.

This was a statement game for our program,” Kruczek said. “To let people know how far we believe we’ve come.”

Coming into the game UCF still had a 10-point lead at the Mid-American Conference East Division title. A Marshall win over Ohio eliminated that chance, but the win was still huge for the Knights.

Having to go into this situation with the weather being what it is, is going to give future teams at UCF confidence that yeah we can go into cold weather and play and win football games,” Kruczek said.

UCF turned the ball over just once in the Knights’ most solid offensive game of the year; UCF was up 46-17 with 2:34 left in the game, before Miami scored two touchdowns to make the game look closer than it was.

Fryzel’s 174 yards on six catches and Gabriel’s 90 yards on seven catches put both receivers over the 1,000-yard mark for the season, making them the most prolific receiving tandem in UCF history.

Peter Sands (4) set his second career high in as many weeks, rushing for 156 yards against Miami.

Left guard David Ashkinaz, who left last week’s game late with a leg injury, played as well.

Holland said.

The kick went straight up, then landed in Miami’s endzone, setting up a Miami 20-14 lead.

Four plays later, backup free safety Omar Laurence intercepted a pass in the endzone, setting up a Knights’ touchdown.

“I finally got some YAC [yards after catch]” Fryzel said.

Golden Knights’ goin’ slow, but showed little affects of the cold.

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Peter Sands (4) set his second career high in as many weeks, rushing for 156 yards against Miami.
high 15 points to keep the game close. But UCF answered every run despite getting outscored 39-37 in the second for a 83-81 victory. Washington paced the team with 16 points and forward Erin Thighe scored 10 points and grabbed seven rebounds off the bench. "I thought we did a nice job of getting it out in front of them but did not do a good job of taking them out," Striegler said. "We got to do a better job when we're ahead, really closing the door on them." 

Scala OK

Though still not 100 percent following offseason back surgery, Scala started and played in both games.

On opening night the ill effects showed, as she hit just 2-of-10 shots and scored just four points in 29 minutes. She rebounded well on the tail end of the back-to-back literally dishes out three assists and getting two steals in 23 minutes. "She's OK," Striegler said. "Her back is hurting a little bit, but when you start playing this many games in a row she's going to be sore. I think her shot was a little off [against Monmouth] but she does all the other things for us that don't show up in the papers."

Too many freebies

One of the few flaws in the first two games was the Golden Knights penchant for fouling. Their opponents went to the line a combined 35 times.

"(The refs) are just calling it really tight," Striegler said. "They're calling some of the other way too, so it wasn't necessarily I thought they did a bad job. If we see the refs are going to call it tight we have to back off." 

Still, UCF didn't do a bad job getting to the line itself. The Knights shot 38 free throws in the two contests.

Freshman shine quickly

On the heels of a strong pre-season, freshman Shayla Smith started at point guard in both contests. She made the most of the opportunity scoring six points and grabbing four rebounds despite foul trouble in 15 minutes. On the second night she had five points to go along with six assists in 19 minutes. Johnson, another freshman, had two impressive performances off the bench despite an ankle injury suffered Friday night that kept her on crutches before and after the second game. She scored seven points in just seven minutes against Monmouth to go along with her hot shooting display against Eastern Illinois. Her 10 points in that game came in just 10 minutes. LaShay King, another first year guard, played limited minutes in both games. She had four points, four rebounds and two steals against Eastern Illinois. "Shayla Smith played well, got in foul trouble early but she did a good job later on," Striegler said after Friday night's game. "(Johnson) can really fill it up. LaShay King did a nice job of what we asked her to do, and that's to go in and give us some quality minutes without having any turnovers and making any major mistakes." Forward Shelby Weber missed the first game after not meeting Striegler's required time in a conditioning drill during the pre-season. She had four points and four rebounds in seven minutes versus Eastern Illinois. The last freshman, Celeste Hudson, missed both games for the same reason but will be available in the next game against New Orleans.

Takia Allen scored a career-high 16 points off the bench Saturday in a 77-47 win over Illinois. 

Navy escapes Knights

Kristy Shognea Staff Writer

UCF trailed Navy by just one point at halftime, but after an early lay-up by Ed Dotson, the Midshipmen held the Knights scoreless for five-and-a-half minutes and held on to win 68-66.

The Knights pulled to within five with just over nine minutes to play, but they could not get any closer in their season opener. With 1:47 left Navy held a 10-point lead and the Knights had to send the Midshipmen to the line eight times in the final 46 seconds. Both teams struggled offensively in the first half as they combined for 20 turnovers. The score was tied at 10 almost 10 minutes into the game. The Knights had nine of their 12 steals in the first half.

Dotson led UCF with 14 points, but the forward had just one rebound. Marinos Boyd led the team with nine rebounds and added four steals. Point guard Al Miller recorded six steals, while Ray Abellard had 12 points off the bench. Josh Bodden had eight rebounds.

The Knights play their home opener tonight at 7:30 against Niagara.

FIU ends UCF's record season

Tom Alexander Staff Writer

As the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. The UCF men's soccer team found out the hard way Friday night in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Just five short days after winning their first-ever Atlantic Sun Conference title, the Golden Knights fell to Florida International 2-0 in Miami.

The Knights' fairy tale postseason ended on a shot by Florida International's Juan Rivera that came from 20 yards out. Rivera was set up by a deflection from Oscar Culi just after halftime. The Knights scored first in the match when defender Brian Malec headed in an indirect kick from Jaimo Planells just under 33 minutes into the match. FIU would tie the game later in the first half on a bicycle kick by Billy Bowwell that caught UCF goalkeeper Ryan McIntosh off guard.

The Golden Knights were out shot 20-7 by FIU, and only three of those came in the second half. UCF seemed to have nearly every break go its way in the postseason this year, but despite the team's valiant effort, its luck ran out Friday. The Golden Knights finished the season 10-5-3 overall, and now look toward next season, when they will look to defend their conference title.
Lopez routmarts field
Celebrating Thanksgiving veggie-style

I think the world would be so much healthier if everyone was a vegetarian.

—STEVE GORDON

Students give thanks even without the family

BECKA KULCHAK
STAFF WRITER

Senior Michelle Day, 22, will not see her Wisconsin-born brother Tommy or play with the border collie she has had since she was a child this Thanksgiving. Like many students, Day would like to be with her family this holiday season, however, she can’t afford the $240 plane ticket back home to Moline, Ill.

Many students who attend out-of-state colleges find it difficult to go home as often as they would like because of factors such as work or finances, especially during the holidays.

Said Day: “Every year my grandparents come down from Wisconsin and Canada. Since I do not get to see them on a regular basis, it is awesome to see them at Thanksgiving.” Now I can’t go because I’m broke, and it stinks because I’m going to miss out on the duck my grandson makes.”

But junior Shannon Fitzpatrick, only consists of vegetables, Hornack said. Vegetarians can celebrate Thanksgiving just like anyone else, with the exception of eating animal products, she said. Indeed, Hornack is only one of many students at UCF who are giving up meat at their Thanksgiving celebrations.

Some vegetarians eat tofu-turkey, a product made from tofu, instead of the traditional turkey, while others may enjoy vegetable side dishes.

Senior Heidi Davis, 22, has found plenty of alternatives to eating meat at Thanksgiving, such as vegetable lasagna, green rice casserole, corn, pudding, bread and pie.

Although Davis’ family eats meat, she still cannot imagine the thought of killing an animal for food. Nevertheless, they
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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26
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SU South Patio
9 pm CAB Cinema “The Nightmare Before Christmas,” SU Cape Florida Ballroom

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27
11 am - 2 pm VUCF Interest Table,
SU South Patio

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28
Thanksgiving Holiday

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Hanukkah lights up students’ homes

K R I S T I N D A V I S S T A F F W R I T E R

Not all UCF students deck their halls with Christmas trees, stockings and Santa Claus decorations during the holiday season.

Instead of baking Christmas cookies and gingerbread men, Jewish students will gather together to eat latkes, potato-pancakes and sufganiot — jelly donuts — in celebration of the holiday of Hanukkah.

Hanukkah, an eight-day celebration created to remember the Maccabees and the destruction of the temple, begins Friday and concludes Dec. 6.

Freshman Julie Varcoryi, 18, said she has always enjoyed celebrating Hanukkah. She said the holiday commemorates the miracle of an oil lamp that was only expected to last for the duration of one night, but instead burned for eight days.

The miracle followed the military victory of the Jews over the Greeks during the second century before Common Era.

Varcoryi will celebrate Hanukkah away from home for the first time this year. She said she will miss being at home during the holiday, but she is happy to be celebrating it with her sukkah, who is also Jewish.

Varcoryi does not feel that she misses out on anything by not celebrating Christmas.

“I’m proud to celebrate Hanukkah,” Varcoryi said. “When I was growing up many of my friends who celebrated Christmas wanted to celebrate Hanukkah with me.”

Some of her family’s favorite holiday traditions include playing dreidel and singing songs together.

For other Jewish students, growing up in a society in which most people celebrate Christmas created some jealousy.

Junior Gabrielle Wolf, 20, has grown accustomed to creating her own version of a Hanukkah bush, rather than the typical Christmas tree found in other college settings.

She grew up celebrating the traditional Christian holiday, although her extended family celebrated Christmas. Celebrating the holiday season with her extended family growing up was difficult for Wolf because of the diversity in beliefs.

Said Wolf: “It was hard for me to watch my parents open presents from underneath a Christmas tree while I was young because I didn’t celebrate the same things. We had a Hanukkah bush and would light a menorah.”

Wolf said it is not easy being at college and celebrating Hanukkah without her family since the celebration starts before winter break breaks.

“I have no one to light the menorah with,” Wolf said.

But she has found alternative methods to celebrating the Jewish holiday at home.

Wolf is president of a club called Jews, which consists of Jewish Greeks. She will be attending their Hanukkah party at Wagacko’s at 10 p.m. today. The admission is $3 or an unwrapped toy to be donated to Jewish Family Services for Hanukkah gifts.

Junior Rachel Feinman, 20, also participates in Hanukkah celebrations at UCF. She is a member of the Jewish Student Union-Hillel, which lights candles together every year.

The Jewish Student Union also hosts its own Hanukkah party each year, which featured a band and a dance auction at Wagacko’s yesterday.

Feinman’s Sisterhood Club from her synagogue at home sends her care packages filled with things like an electric menorah to light up her dorm room.

She improvised last year when she had forgotten to bring a menorah with her. “My boyfriend made a menorah out of aluminum foil for me,” Feinman said.

Although she has adjusted to celebrating the holiday away from home, she said she misses her family’s Hanukkah parties, in which each family member traditionally played a role.

“My mom would plan the Hanukkah party, my dad books the entertainers, my brother helps serve the food, my uncle plays the keyboard and sings, and I run the games for the kids,” she said.

Feinman did not mind growing up without a Christmas tree. She said her mom would come to her class every year in elementary school and explain the meaning of Hanukkah to the other children.

Her mom even brought in gelt — chocolate coins — to share with the class.

Freshman Matthew Spievak, 18, is not deprived for not having a Christmas tree.

Spievak grew up in an all-Jewish community in Cooper City, Florida.

“My community was 90 percent Jewish people,” Spievak said. “There were no Christmas lights here and there, but they were greatly outnumbered by the menorahs people would light in their windows.”

In a two-mile radius, Spievak said there were probably about 3,000 Jewish people.

He plans to travel home for Hanukkah because most of his classes will conclude on Wednesday.

Freshman Rachel Collah, 18, will not be able to go home for Hanukkah. However, she does still plan to celebrate the holiday at UCF with her older brother, who also attends the university.

Collah said her family is very close and believes that spending quality time together is important, especially during the holidays. Her family plans to visit her on the first day of Hanukkah to eat traditional food, spin the dreidel and trade gifts at her apartment on campus.

“Each night we always exchange gifts, as a family tradition, we always save our best gifts for the final day of Hanukkah,” Collah said.

Collah was raised to respect other religions, but also to take pride in her own.

“I always felt that Hanukkah was even more special growing up because not everyone celebrates it. Besides, I get eight days of presents. What’s so bad about that?”

Hanukkah, the festival of lights, begins Dec. 16 and ends Dec. 23. Each night during the eight-day holiday, a new candle is lit on the menorah.

In celebration of the holiday, Jewish students at UCF will be giving back to the community.

On Wednesday, Hanukkah’s final night, the Jewish Student Union will host a Menorah lighting event outside of the Student Union. Attendees can team up with campus organizations such as Volunteer UCF, LEAD Scholars, Service Learning, Honors Congress and Greeks.

As a hospice volunteer, fundraiser for New Hope Center for Grieving Children and camp counselor for terminally-ill children at Boggy Creek, Nesmith devotes time year-round and truly wants to better peoples’ lives.

“It’s so addicting and the people are so appreciative of the help,” she said.

In December Nesmith plans to attend and help organize the holiday party for the children and families of Boggy Creek.

While not all students are veteran volunteers such as Nesmith, junior Jennifer Cooper, 20, finds the work just as rewarding. Recently teaming up with Volunteer UCF, Cooper spent last Valentine’s Day playing with the foster children of Great Oaks Village and now helps with The Ripple Effect’s weekly meal for the homeless Saturday mornings at Lake Eola.

“Spending time with these people has made me feel really lucky for what I have,” Nesmith said.

UNSING HEROES OF THE HOLIDAYS

CHRISTINE DELLERT STAFF WRITER

While a typical Thursday night for many UCF students involves taking advantage of the dollar-drink specials at upscale locations like Underwood, this is not how Senior Nechelle Nesmith spends her time.

This 20-year-old travels to a different section of downtown — the lower-income neighborhoods — devoid of bright lights and laughter.

Some Thursdays she goes by herself, meeting up with local church groups and other nonprofit volunteer organizations. At an abandoned recreation center they sort the food items and wait. The evening is spent distributing dinner to the homeless who reside in the shelters and on the streets of Orlando.

“There are always twice as many people who come for food than there are resources,” Nesmith said. “It’s so sad to see women come with children and be turned away when the food runs out.

Nesmith is one of the numerous UCF students who volunteer their time and efforts to benefit the community through philanthropic programs.

The end of the fall semester comes with an increase in campus volunteer efforts for the holiday season. Yet countless students also devote their time and help year-round.

To participate in volunteer activities, students can team up with campus organizations such as Volunteer UCF, LEAD Scholars, Service Learning, Honors Congress and Greeks.

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Please see Volunteer on 25

Unsung heroes of the holidays

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Please see Volunteer on 25.
Diabetes

Q: Diabetes runs in my family. Can you tell me a little bit about the disease and its symptoms?

A: Diabetes is a chronic disease characterized by abnormalities in the body's ability to use or produce the hormone insulin. Insulin is a hormone that plays a crucial role in regulating blood sugar levels. There are two main types of diabetes: Type 1 and Type 2.

Type 1 Diabetes:

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease where the immune system attacks and destroys the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. This results in very high blood sugar levels. The symptoms of Type 1 diabetes are often acute and can include:

- Frequent urination
- Excessive thirst
- Fatigue
- Unexplained weight loss
- Blurred vision
- Numbness or tingling in the hands and feet

Type 2 Diabetes:

Type 2 diabetes is a more common condition, affecting millions of people worldwide. It occurs when the body either doesn't produce enough insulin or doesn't use insulin effectively, leading to high blood sugar levels. The symptoms of Type 2 diabetes may be subtle and can include:

- Fatigue
- Frequent infections
- Numbness or tingling in the hands and feet
- Unexplained weight loss
- Increased appetite
- Unusual thirst

Both types of diabetes are serious medical conditions that can cause long-term complications if left untreated. Regular check-ups and lifestyle modifications are crucial for managing diabetes and preventing complications.

Got a question you’d like to ask a Doc?
Email: Askthedoc@mail.ucf.edu

A TV dinner replaces Thanksgiving turkey

FROM PAGE 20

21, doesn't feel the same as Duy. Even though her family only lives 40 minutes away. Fitzpatrick said the drive is not worth it to her.

"I see them all the time anyway; they live in Cocoa Beach. It's not like I'll be missing out on anything. My mom can just as easily call me up and critique me over the phone. I don't need to go home for that," Fitzpatrick said.

Fitzpatrick is actually happy she is not going home for the holiday this year.

"Thank God I got out of it this year. I had to my parents and told them I had some big group project that was due directly after Thanksgiving and that no one in my group had done anything," however, it is not just her parents that annoy her, it is sitting with her cousins at the kid’s table as well.

"I'm 21 — it's not like I can't have an adult conversation with them," Fitzpatrick said. "I don't know why I get stuck there. The cousins are so weird; they still wear New Kids on the Block T-shirts."

But senior John Stone, 22, feels differently.

"My family is awesome, so it really sucks I can't see them this year. My mom, dad and sister are going over to London, but I can't join them because I can't get out of work. While they're looking at Big Ben, I'm going to be staring into my Healthy Choice microwave dinner," Stone said.

However, there are other options for people like Duy and Stone, who can't make it home to be with family. The Meal Plan will host a Thanksgiving lunch at 11 a.m. Tuesday that consists of traditional holiday foods and even offers a vegetarian alternative.

Since Stone cannot be with his family, this option does not seem like such a bad idea.

"I think I will definitely hit up Meal Plan, even though it's not on Thanksgiving, it will still be great to have turkey," Day agreed that if she can't be with her family, she will have to settle for the next best thing.

"I'm not the only one who isn't going home for Thanksgiving. My friend Amanda can't make it home either, so we're going to get together and cook a turkey. Even though I can't spend the holiday with my family, at least I can spend it with my friends."

Yet, it still does not compare to being with family this Thanksgiving, Stone said.

"It's just too bad I can't eat with my family. We got along, which is rare for a lot of families, so I really cherish the time we spend together.

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Volunteer efforts reward students during the holidays and year-round

...from page 23

Crews said, "We complain about things like not having a car, but it makes you think, 'Hey, at least I've got clothes.'" The Ripple Effect is a nonprofit volunteer organization working to provide social and moral support to Orlando's homeless population.

Additional services of The Ripple Effect include providing the homeless with self-help education, housing, a recreational bowling league, and cooking.

The founder and president of The Ripple Effect, Kelly Caruso, has seen an increase in UC student volunteers over the past year and a half. Regularly recruiting UCF students through presentations and speaking on campus has become routine in the planning of volunteer events.

"I've always found the students extremely impressive," Caruso said. "They are upbeat, open-minded, and express genuine concern for the people we help.

Students abandon meat, turn to tofu and turkey

From Page 23

have learned to compromise at meals, Davis said.

"My family is very understanding of my decision not to eat meat. They eat turkey, but they still make other dishes for me to eat at Thanksgiving dinner."

Junior Steve Gordon, 22, used to love meat until he learned how the animals were treated.

"I don't like the way farming is done," Gordon said. "It pollutes the earth." Gordon is a vegan, which means that he not only refuses to eat animal products, but any products that comes from animals as well, such as eggs or cheese.

Although Gordon's mother is a vegetarian, his father still tries to tempt him into eating a piece of steak when he visits home. However, he has been able to stand firm in his belief not to eat animal products for over two years now. Instead, he usually fills his plate with mashed potatoes, biscuits, cranberry sauce and stuffing during Thanksgiving.

"I think the world would be so much healthier if everyone was a vegetarian," Gordon said.

Student volunteers often work with the various nonprofit volunteer organizations in the Orlando area. After joining Lambda Theta Alpha a year ago, sophomore Adriana A. Rivera, 19, was elected as the sorority's community chairman and frequently plans community service events for her sisters.

Volunteering alongside local Boy Scout troops, the sorority participated in Second Harvest Food Nov. 9-10, working with the Second Harvest Food Bank to package donated cans to be distributed to low-income families for Thanksgiving.

Their last project of the semester includes ringing the Salvation Army's bells outside of businesses to collect money for those in need.

Community service work is so fulfilling and it's such a big part of who we are, Rivers said.

Many student volunteers become involved with philanthropic projects through the university's extracurricular clubs. However, sophomore Amanda Ramos, 19, introduced her own high school service project HERO (Honors Educational Reach Out) in downtown Orlando's Hillcrest Elementary School.

For the past three years, Ramos has made and distributed Thanksgiving cards to patients of local nursing homes in Lakeeland.

Ramos' desire to help others is influenced by her family. Currently, she has eight siblings, five of whom are foster children.

"Being raised in an environment where I daily witnessed small deeds changing others' lives so dramatically, I have come to value the simple gift of giving," she said.

Ramos carries on her family's tradition of helping those in need by volunteering her time with people of all ages. Because of her interest in health care and gerontology, she particularly enjoys her weekend volunteering with nursing-home patients.

"These people need someone to sit with and talk to because many of their families never come to see them," she said. "You'd never believe how not sleeping in on a Saturday morning could mean so much to someone."

Ramos now spends her afternoons making Thanksgiving cards with the second- and third-graders of Hillcrest. The cards will be handed out by Ramos to patients of local nursing homes.

As a reward for her time devoted to helping the elderly, Ramos acquired an "adopted" grandmother a few years back. After becoming good friends with a lady from the nursing home, Ramos volunteered in, the two continued to correspond after the woman left the home. The Ramos family now seats an extra plate at the table for all family holidays and special occasions.

"I just want to improve the quality of care that people are seeing," she said. "It's only two hours of my time a week, but it's worth it to see how grateful they are."
Bar & Grill
227 S. Semoran Blvd., Winter Park
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Lipos - Hair

Type A

HIV Care Women.

Natural/herbal

Write tests/essays

Schoo1s:

Private Sessions.

Hassle

Student Trained.

Think Sun

Friendly Birthday

Assistance.

Gotta Have Money

Sisterhood

Shorts/Rocks/Jeans

Take care with your health.

Cheesecakes.

Let's Talk Sports

Cakes

Mugcakes,

Guacamole,

Gotta Have Money

Multi-vel

Guacamole,

Friend's Birthday

Birthday Cake?

Cakes?

Hassle

Hassle

Eating/Drinking

Any Stand or Surface. Great for Center

Objects and Furniture for Stability .

Any Stand or Surface. Great for Center

Exit 228:B.Villa

Roommate to share 2bed/2bath

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- Grilled chicken breast with pecan sauce
- Corned beef
- Mashed potatoes with gravy
- Cornbread stuffing
- Cranberry sauce
- Candied sweet potatoes
- Fresh steamed broccoli florets
- Pumpkin pie
- Pecan pie
- Apple pie
- Chocolate cake

UCF Dining Services
Business Office 407-823-2651

The Marketplace is located on the UCF campus in the Student Resource Center (SRC), near the South Parking Garage.

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