"I never would have dreamed it. I'm just glad I'm living it."

— STEVE IRVING, UCF FOOTBALL DIRECTOR

**Central Florida Future**

**The Student Newspaper Serving UCF Since 1968**

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**BRINGIN' IT HOME**

**UCF to host inaugural C-USA Championship game after remarkable season — SEE SPORTS, A10**

**Central Florida Future**

**CHRISTMAS cheer**

Fraternity rocks out with five bands to benefit Toys for Tots

— SEE NEWS, A2

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**Bonsai sale aids needed Arboretum repairs**

Brittany Van Ness

Gardens and the garden-inspired bought plants and helped reopen the campus nursery at UCF's Arboretum nursery sale this past weekend.

Butterflies and ants, Austin-inspired music bring in the air as students and staff passed through the exhibits of fisc, bonsai and items available for purchase. The goal of the sale was to generate money for the new design of the Arboretum.

Shoppers chose from 100 varieties of plants. Twelve local members and individuals donated the plants, Arboretum director Bethanne Quigley said. She said the plants were sold to raise money for the Arboretum.

The best seller of the weekend seemed to be the mounded, low-growing trees, but any plants weren't sold on campus will be planted in the Arboretum's community garden, Quigley said. The remaining plants will be held until the next plant sale in March.

The Arboretum is becoming a makeover because of the damage from the 2004 hurricanes.

Most of the damage came from the falling of the pine canopy, according to the UCF News and Information Web site. The current plant life in the Arboretum is sparse and in disrepair.

The master design plan for the Arboretum will be revealed in early December. The process will take three to five years with the planting to begin in January, Quigley said. The new Arboretum will have about 1,200 different species of plants, the majority being native to Florida.

**VUCF collects winter items**

Blankets, clothing among donations for local homeless

JEN LARNO

Volunteer UCF held a blanket collection for the homeless on Friday, gathering donations of sweaters, blankets, clothing and other essential winter items. The result was a mound of blankets and clothing-filled cardboard boxes within their modest cabins, one of the many in Suite 3186 of the UCF Student Union.

All items donated were handed out Saturday to Orlando's homeless. By continuously accepting any donations in its effort to improve the lives of Orlando's homeless, the drive met the goals of VUCF director Jonathan Irizarry.

"Even if a few sets of clothing get donated, we'll hope it makes a difference in someone's life," said Amir Zafar, reflecting on the productive first semester as director of Housing/Community Services for VUCF.

The drive was also a part of VUCF's long-time cooperation with The Ripple Effect, an Orlando-based organization dedicated to providing "Hand Up instead of a Hand Out" for Orlando's homeless.

Each Saturday, The Ripple Effect, along with volunteers from several organizations, gets together to distribute food and other items to the homeless. VUCF has never missed a Saturday.

"One of our key missions is to try to improve the self-worth of each homeless individual," VUCF director Irizarry said about VUCF's participation in The Ripple Effect. "We can give the homeless all the resources in the world, but without a sense of self-worth, they cannot use them."

In addition to food and necessities, the organization provides the homeless with specific job-seeking necessities, including voice mail and interview skills, along with food and clothing to help them keep their feet on the ground.

Equally valuable as the aid given are the relationships created each Saturday, VUCF volunteers, along with those from other organizations, have developed friendships with those who are trying to get back on their feet.

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**What's to come?**

Conference USA Championship game Dec. 3 at the Florida Citrus Bowl

UCF football will host the inaugural Conference USA Championship game after defeating Rice on Saturday to clinch the East Division, USA also defeated UTEP giving the Knights the best conference record and the home-field advantage for its title game. The Knights will find out their opponent next week as their matchup with the Miners.

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**Defensive and Field Campaigns have both been one of the major factors of UCF's strong defensive efforts during the regular season.**

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**Holiday cause rocks students**

Rock the Wreath combined music with charity; $4,000 raised for Toys for Tots

**ARS Technology Fund**

ANDREW BLAIR

Ed Zlotkowski, professor of psychology and coordinator of the Social Work Program, said that the event, which benefited Reading is Funda-

mentals, was a chance for students to learn more about the holiday as they take part in a Kwanzaa ceremony. Financial aid recipient Brian Vernon said he enjoyed the experience because he learned about the holiday and was able to give back to the community.

**POLICE BEAT**

Dispute, stolen banana, marijuana all lead to arrests

11/26/2005

**JUDITH GLEASON**

Chief of Police

A resident assistant at Alpha Tau Omega, who was charged with resisting officer with violence, was arrested by Orlando Police Department officer Eric Davis.

**LOCAL WEATHER**

**TODAY**

**THUNDERSTORMS**

High: 79° Low: 59°

**WEDNESDAY**

Open Mic Night

**Smokey Tavern**

**THURSDAYS AND SATURDAY**

Karaoke

**FRIDAYS**

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**TODAY**

**21+**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**SMOKE TOWN**

**WEDNESDAY**

Open Mic Night

**TUESDAY**

**LOCAL WEATHER**

**Today**

• Call 900 degrees above 60% humidity.

• No chance of precipitation.

• Temperature: 79°

• Wind: 3 mph

**Wednesday**

• High: 78°

• Low: 64°

• Chance of rain: 40%

• Wind: 7 mph

**Thursday**

• High: 80°

• Low: 60°

• Chance of rain: 50%

• Wind: 5 mph

**Friday**

• High: 80°

• Low: 60°

• Chance of rain: 50%

• Wind: 5 mph

**Saturday**

• High: 80°

• Low: 60°

• Chance of rain: 50%

• Wind: 5 mph

**Sunday**

• High: 80°

• Low: 60°

• Chance of rain: 50%

• Wind: 5 mph

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**NATION & WORLD**

Keep current with headlines you may have missed

Louie Boudreaux

WASHINGTON

Donald Rumsfeld and Paul Bremer II on Sunday made no promises for a significant withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq, which could diminish the Pentagon's long-term anxiety about the coalition commandery that will determine when to begin a military disengagement.

Debate in Congress over whether to give Rumsfeld authority to withdraw troops turned later last week after a discussion of the entire history of the Vietnam War, Rep. John E. Porter, R-Ill., introduced a series of five measures to leave Iraq within six months, but Republicans on the House Armed Services Committee blocked any mechanisms that would create an endgame for Bush administration policy.

Rumsfeld's approach, appearing to be an early day in a free-for-all debate of the Senate of an early withdrawal of American forces, but the debate over the war is likely to remain veiled with Rumsfeld's statement that U.S. forces will withdraw from Iraq in a "little while," not in coming months, and not in coming weeks, and not at a specific date.

"We have just given them the incentive to take us over," said Michael Moore, the filmmaker of the movie "The War Room." "We're going to let them do something like this and fight us, and if they're going over to them, they're going to be fighting and fighting and fighting for their own country." Indeed, he said, disputed reports that fewer than 1,000 Iraqis were killed in the fighting for insurgency without coalition assistance were raised.

In September Gen. George Casey, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, told senators that his forces were capable of fighting against insurgents without coalition assistance. But in his report released Wednesday, Casey said that the number of U.S. forces had increased from 1,000 to 4,000 in the past month, while Iraqis were also being deployed to fight against armed forces.

"We're there," he said. "And we're fighting for that cause." He also said that talk of an early withdrawal in six months would encourage insurgents to stay in the country.

"We're going to let them do something like this and fight us, and if they're going over to them, they're going to be fighting and fighting and fighting for their own country." Indeed, he said, disputed reports that fewer than 1,000 Iraqis were killed in the fighting for insurgency without coalition assistance were raised.

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Fans flood Densch Center after victory

In just the beginning," said O'Leary, whose optimism brought the fans' decibel level to its highest.

For O'Leary this was a chance to prove that the Knights' 2-9 season was not representative of the team that stepped off its bus from Houston with what has become his trademark winning grin.

"We're just the start of last season. But Moffett said: "He didn't even get mad. Moffett said he was speechless as fan after fan stopped to hug the players and O'Leary was never worried. He never worried because the fans are going to get their money's worth."

"The fans are behind us, and this is just the beginning," said Moffett as the mood changed to one of excitement.

"We're just the start of last season," said O'Leary. "The fans are behind us, and this is just the beginning."
O’Leary a strong candidate for National Coach of the Year

As a football coach, people often look up to you and want you to be successful. O’Leary is one of those coaches. He has led UCF to several wins and has become a strong candidate for the National Coach of the Year. The proof is certainly there - for the quarterback at the line of scrimmage to shout to his teammates an inspiring change from the play called in the huddle or to call out other instructions - because UCF fans were too loud. The Knights won that game 38-29.

Orsini was one of a few UCF officials who took the best during the embarrassing winless season last year, but he's the person receiving worldwide applause for hiring O'Leary and putting the program back on track.

Orsini said, "If people truly evaluate what coaching means to a team - that's taking whatever you have to work with and making it better - then there is no team this year that has done more with what they had to work with, and I'm not knocking our kids, but we had the longest losing streak in the nation."

"The proof is certainly there for O'Leary. He guided last season's 0-11 team to one of the best turnarounds in Division I-A history. But his competitors is strong. Southern California Coach Pete Carroll could be on the verge of his third perfect season, and Joe Paterno has turned Penn State back into a Top 5 team. South Carolina Coach Steve Spurrier would have been the front-runner after the Gamecocks defeated Florida, but Saturday's loss to Clemson might hurt his chances."

Regardless of what those coaches have done, Orsini is adamant that O'Leary is the best in the nation this season. "He is the National Coach of the Year," Orsini said. "I'm glad I'm living it."
More than 700 walkers turned out to support their cause by walking around the former campus of UCF's at this year's annual event.

Sponsored by the Burnett Honors College and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the MS Walk is an event to raise awareness and funds for multiple sclerosis. With 400,000 Americans affected and one person being diagnosed each day, MS is becoming more common.

The event included an illuminated path for walkers to follow, a walk and a pre-show with an appearance from Ms. America and Ms. UCF, performances by Bahia, the Shimmy Knights and many more. Later activities included an outdoor picnic and craft stations for the kids.

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Charitable groups focus actions on homeless near I-4

Some Housing activists claim the streets of Orlando have long been working to clean up streets, especially near I-4, where vagrants often linger, often around busy traffic. According to the city, the number of people on the streets has significantly decreased, with the city working to reduce that number. The police have noted the decrease as well, and it appears that the efforts to clean up the streets have been successful.
Volleyball’s upset bid comes up just short

Knights push Marshall to limit

Andi Vasquez

The UCF volleyball team ended its season on Friday night with one of its best performances against the best team in Conference USA, Marshall.

The Golden Knights won the first two games, leaving the Thundering Herd (23-5, 15-1 C-USA) on the ropes, but Marshall stormed back in the final three matches and won the match in the deciding fifth game (15-23, 20-25, 26-24, 13-25, 19-10) at Aubry Court on the campus of Rice University.

UCF's performance was surprising, considering that the team swept the Knights in three games twice earlier this season.

The ninth-seeded Knights posted hitting percentages of .271 and .457, respectively, in the first two games.

"We played phenomenal in Games one and two and just couldn't maintain it," Coach Colado said.

Colado blamed the collapse on poor passing.

"We stopped passing well after the second game," she said. "It's hard for us to run our offense if we are not passing very well, especially against a team that is offen­sively driven."

Though the team was able to take Game three twice earlier this season.

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The Knights were led by junior outside hitter Matson Har­ing, who posted a career-high 19 kills and 10 blocks.

Sophomore outside hitter Schenck Noteware tallied 17 kills and 13 blocks.

Sophomore outside hitter Lori Lusan, who missed both regular-season matches against Marshall with injuries, regis­tered 14 kills and 11 digs.

Junior setter Leah Alex­ander had a match-high 59 assists.

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UCF football team captures C-USA East Division title with come-from-behind road-win over Rice

Andy Vasquez

Blosion Marshall has been waiting for the opportunity to lead his team into uncharted territory since he came to UCF four years ago.

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"Where Everybody Rides!"
In the third-and-10 at the UCF 36, quarterback Steven Moffett hit receiver Andy Davis with a 29-yard pass to running back Mike Walker for a touchdown, giving the Knights a 21-19 lead and the ball back.

The Knights were on top 21-19 after the first play of Rice's next drive, but the Owls answered with a 69-yard touchdown pass to Marshall, putting the score at 28-21. UCF had the ball back on its own 30-yard line.

The play: Armstrong completed a 34-yard touchdown pass to Davis in the second quarter of Saturday's game at Rice. When Armstrong connected with Davis for the score, it was the first play of Rice's next drive.

The final five minutes of the first half were all about offense. UCF and Rice traded touchdowns, putting the score at 14-14. Then UCF gave it back to Rice with a kickoff return for a touchdown, putting the score at 21-14. UCF had the ball back on its own 30-yard line.

The play: After runs on first and second down, the Owls faced third-and-three from their own 2-yard line. Walker was tackled for a loss on third down, and UCF punted the ball.

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The play: After runs on first and second down, the Owls faced third-and-three from their own 2-yard line. Walker was tackled for a loss on third down, and UCF punted the ball.

The final five minutes of the second half were all about defense. UCF and Rice traded punts, putting the score at 21-14. Then UCF gave it back to Rice with a kickoff return for a touchdown, putting the score at 21-21. UCF had the ball back on their own 30-yard line.
The Knights hit .484 in the second half, going on to win 80-58. The Rattlers outscored 11-4 in those pivotal minutes, the Knights regrouping after having been down 11 points.

Coach Gail Striegler said, "We were in foul trouble, they were in foul trouble. In the second half, we did not turn the ball over as much as we did in the first half. When we turned the ball over in the third quarter, we did not make those same shots." She added, "We need to stay focused and keep playing on both ends of the court."
Annual meeting key for title game

Just when the UCF football team thought it couldn’t get any more unbelievable, the Knights took the No. 1 ranking from Rice Saturday night to clinch the Conference USA regular season title and a trip to the C-USA Championship. With some help from UAB, which beat UTEP following the Knights victory, UCF now has the best conference record in C-USA and will host the championship game.

The chance to host this trans­formational change for the program is probably greater than the most students imagined. As the final bell on the season rings, it’s important for the students and alumni to realize that there’s no need to be looking back at the stands of the Citrus Bowl to whine because the Knights’ postseason hopes depend on them.

UCF athletic officials must use this opportunity to begin the structural transformation of how tickets will be handled for the C-USA title game. Obviously, with a nationally televised cham­pionship game, it’s going to be difficult for students to benefit from the school’s best team. And, given that they’re all assigned season ticket holders, it makes it easy for as many students as possible to be able to afford to see their team play, break’s bank’s offer for something more than the offer they’ve made in the past.

Hogsett (sports) Football (@Hogsett220), will not offer tickets to children with the increase in the number of additional end zone and bleachers. No one expects the C-USA Championship game to be in the final three slots more than a year ago, is still causing the skepticism of American fans.

The concerns from the public and fellow politicians continue to grow regarding the reasons and consequences of the White House taking the nation’s lead in defending the U.S. President, John Muta, D-Ohio, is currently a member of the Republican Party, after advocating for an immediate pullout of troops from Iraq. Muta had said he was opposed to the change in his stance brought about the GOP.

The Republican Party has been signed, and still it has one more home game.

There’s an old saying that was used when Virginia Tech came to play at the UCF stadium, and we did it again. Knights.

Stubbbornness isn’t leadership

It is foolish consistency is the watchdog of little minds, as it is of the nation or country. We are currently witnessing one of the most critical administra­tions in political history. In Pundit’s book, about the state of the Union, a time that has provided no respite from the nation’s woes. In his book, the president has come out swinging at the American people, and he has agreed with Vice President Dick Cheney’s prediction that it is “reprehensible” policy to allow the kids to play at the house.

It is the responsibility of our leaders, and the citizens of this country, to ensure that the children are able to play at the house. It is the responsibility of every politician to ensure that the children are able to play at the house. If they do not, it is the responsibility of every politician to ensure that the children are able to play at the house.

When you raise an issue that has a particular culture, you are asking for division among people within the community and students, which is not what UCF needs.

EVENT UPDATES

Campus Peace Action could have used other traditions to show how the war has an effective, such as political and economic consequences. Furthermore, the organization could have shown the least national polls in which more than 50 percent of Americans dis­agree with the war. Ultimately, everyone has the right to organ­ize and protest against anything offending them.

Flag inappropriate for school

In regard to Jeff Ashley’s letter (“Flag colors strike a chord” on Nov. 17), I must add that we do agree with your statement of freedom of speech. Some things, however, are too inappro­priate to be considered as a school-wide issue. To place all flags at one ticket. She is a veteran of the war, and was a supporter of the war, and be­lieved that the change in his stance brought about the GOP.

I believe that the real goal of this school, taking down the offensive flag was appropri­ate. After all, it wasn’t just the flag, but how it was presented within the picture — to put down another group of people.
The best choice for Coach of the Year is our King George

MOUTHING OFF
ASHLEY BURNS

I'm not enough of a thug to admit when an apology is owed. I apologize for ever doubting George O'Leary.

I'm still bummed about the loss to South Florida, but this run for a conference championship has been simply amazing. Well, exciting and insane because I don't know how my blood pressure was managed not to shot through the roof.

Agrigento aside, O'Leary deserves to win National Coach of the Year. Few anyone could ever argue that he's been the clear-cut number one throughout the entire season playing the role of the coach surprised by how good his players have come out to be. Call him a great coach, but I simply call that genius.

A bigger feat would be the Pulitzers Press O'Leary and his staff were the greatest versions of Cinderella. They wrote and produced a playbook that was as simple yet even more effective. Most of all, they matched the most talented songwriters about a team and the fan in the Milky Way.

Perhaps a Grammy Award for best song. It may not be the most melodic tune in the world, but I think that "Coach of the Year" is more an honor than a liability. They've both put up excellent numbers. Kevin Smith has put up excellent numbers. Brandon Marshall and Mike Walker (who played an incredible role in this nucleus) and doesn't deserve to have his season ruined by injury. I have both put up excellent numbers. None of them will take one thing away from the other and, in my estimation, no team has hung on better numbers this season. There is no argument here. That's stunning coaching.

What about the Academy Award for Best Actor? O'Leary had everyone believing that this would be a no-contest season, no improvement. But somehow behind the scenes, some master of cinema, he could tell he had bigger things on his mind. Yet he went through the entire season playing the role of the coach surprised by how good his players have come out to be. Call him a great coach, but I simply call that genius.

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