UCF destroys Memphis in first C-USA game in bright House — SEE SPORTS, A8

S E N A T E W A N T S T A S E R S Z A P P E D

Resolution asks police to stop using Tasers after UF

Members of the Student Government Association Senate are calling for the removal of Taser stun devices on campus. However, not every senator agrees, and university officials believe Tasers are an effective tool when used properly.

A resolution is expected to go before the Senate this week. Austin Smith, College of Arts and Humanities senior and Governmental Affairs Committee vice-chair, wrote the resolution on the heels of a controversial incident involving a University of Florida student and UF Police last week.

Smith said he believes that the UF incident will curb freedoms of expression in the future.

"It creates that chilling effect where people are going to be afraid to express themselves," Smith said. "If you go to a speaker now and you ask a speaker a question and they don't answer your question, you're going to have a little more afraid to say 'We don't agree with that question.'"

Police used a Taser stun device on Andrew Meyer, 21, Sept. 27, at a forum with Sen. John Kerry. Meyer praised to Kerry what UF officials deemed to be aggressively worded questions regarding Kerry’s decision not to contest the results of the 2004 election. Police asked Meyer to leave. When Meyer refused and remained officers attempted to remove him, he was tasered.

Since the incident, two members of the UF PD were placed on paid leave, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement began an independent investigation into the matter. The UF Police Department has been cleared of wrongdoing and the investigation is continuing.

The CECS, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, is ranked seventh among the top 30 engineering schools for Hispanic students, according to Hispanic Business magazine. UCF is listed among other notable universities, such as second-ranked Purdue University and third-ranked Florida Atlantic University, also made the list.

Factors such as faculty diversity, enrollment and retention rates determined the ranking, which was published this month. This is the third year UCF has made the list.

Jamil Nayfeh, associate dean of academic affairs for CIECS, said the ranking is a sign that it adds to the reputation of the university and helps to bring the university as a whole. "This is an example of our accomplishments," Nayfeh said. "We are working to improve diversity and inclusiveness that attract students.

CIECS offers a curriculum that is solid, current and relevant, Nayfeh said. His support of minority faculty and students and said it is a priority to all in the department. It is generally aimed at targeting underrepresented minorities, for instance, for networking and job fairs.

University of Florida student Andrew Meyer in a confrontation with Sen. John Kerry. Meyer was removed by a Taser stun device from the forum after making three questions toward the senator, according to the university.

Several local progressive groups have banded together under a national movement to form a coalition with one goal to end the war in Iraq.

"We want the people of Iraq don't want us there," said Nick Amsden, a member of Bread for a Democratic Society. "It's really part of an imperialistic operation."

The national movement was coined the "Iraq War Moratorium," and it kicked off its campaign on Friday. The movement will continue, with a day of action planned for the third Friday of every month until the war comes to an end.

The Orlando Activists showed their opposition to the war by wearing black armbands and carrying their local community's. Their goal was to hear the people's voices about the war and to gain more momentum for the movement.

"The Moratorium is a way for the anti-war movement to make itself visible," SDS member Eric Tuggett said. "We want this to help bring people out and into the movement with us to support the movement in our area.

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Dolce Nightclub holds an heiress-free grand opening

AMANDA ZIKE
Contributing Writer

Central Floridians won’t be saying “that’s her son” anymore because Dolce Nightclub had its grand opening closed Saturday night and replaced Club Paris.

Club Paris officially closed on July 26 after three years of business on Central Street in downtown St. Petersburg

“With the downtown area, there are plenty of other clubs,” said a manager at Club Paris, and she didn’t cite any names when she was supposed to.

Dolce is in the same location as Club Paris but has a new entrance on Central Street. The club is owned by Orlando developer and CEO of Rincon Companies, Church Street Station, DJ Ella, the popular Italian

“We like the name because Church Street Station will be a different concept downtown,” Kele said in a press release.

“The goal is not to create another ‘Club Paris’ but deliver a lifestyle and entertainment complex that is more community-focused downtown,” Kuhl said.

The new club will have nightly deals and special events every Saturday night. For VIP patrons, Thursday night is ladies/collar night with drink specials starting at 9 p.m.

“I was in college once,” said Khalilian, who went to UCF in 1992 for business management. “We want to show the locals that college kids are not just college kids. We want them to dress up and get them away from hip-hop and pop culture.”

None made it past the $10 cover charge.

“I thought it was going to be ‘I want to impress,’” said Jena, an Orlando resident.

The management has plans for a real-life TV show called “The Replacement,” Khalilian said. The show will be set at the Las Vegas club and girls will compete to become “Miss Dolce.”

The new club promises to become a nightlife centerpiece and essentially a replacement for Club Paris.

Plans for the grand opening of Dolce Aquarium, Khalilian’s new nightclub in St. Petersburg, are in the works. The club will feature the largest aquarium in the world, and the locals hope to open the club by July 4.

When you need help...UFC Victim Services Options • Advocacy • Education Our services include: • Crime Intervention • Emotional Support & Practical Assistance • Volunteer Opportunities All services free of charge and confidential. A UFC victim advocate is available 24/7 After hours, weekends, and holidays please call the Communications Center at 904-333-5555

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A R D

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2007 Senate Elections
Senate elections begin today at 9 a.m. and end Wednesday at 5 p.m. Voters can cast their ballots at any of the computer voting stations at their school or campus vote at www.ucf.edu. The Senate is a part of the legislative branch of the Student Government Association. It is tasked to act as the direct representa- tion for students and student-oriented programs.

Arts & Humanities
Seat 1    Kristin Smith (Incumbent)    NR Hitch
Seat 2    Thomas Mannosed (Incumbent)    John Villarreal
Seat 3    Brandon Rizard    Jen Grant
Seat 4    Marjory Erikson

Business Administration
Seat 1    Erica E. Cook    Chad Westhoven
Seat 2    Andrew Lewis (Incumbent)    Morgan Scott
Seat 3    Doug Markowski    John Miller
Seat 4    Matthew Passarella (Incumbent)    Anthony Perez
Seat 5    Dana Jangiata Paul    Daniel Reilly
Sarah Bishop    Michael Kirdane
Seat 6    Gerardo Alvarado (Incumbent)    Benjamin Collard
Seat 7    Debra Scoccati (Incumbent)    Erica DeSa
Brandon W. Pyle
Seat 8    Brian W. Peterson (Incumbent)    Michael Ellick
Segment

Education
Seat 1    Kristin Ruschman (Incumbent)
Seat 2    Jatara Gordon
Seat 3    Samantha Hsiao
Shad Humphrey
Seat 4    Alyson Lepersn
Seat 5    Kean (Incumbent)    Anne Hillard

Engineering & Computer Science
Seat 1    Jacob Gardner (Incumbent)
Seat 2    Christopher Gates
Seat 3    Leslie Slavicek Blaigh
Seat 4    Patrick Shieffle (Incumbent)
Seat 5    Justin K. Bagley
Seat 6    Joseph Creven (Incumbent)

Graduate Studies
Seat 1    No candidate

Health & Public Affairs
Seat 1    Britt Caster
Seat 2    Sean Whitaker (Incumbent)    David Beckerman
Seat 3    Gerado "El" Bernaute    Julian Donich
Seat 4    Jennifer Lipinski (Incumbent)
Seat 5    Victoria, Mangardi (Incumbent)

Rosen College
Seat 1    No candidate
Seat 2    Jerome Puzin

Optics & Photonics
Seat 1    No candidate

Regional Campuses
Seat 1    No candidate

College of Sciences
Seat 1    Janice Stein
William Lively
Sharon Spoon
Seat 2    Alea (Incumbent)    Daniel Segredo
Seat 3    Robert Zollars    Eric Ender
Seat 4    Jason Bradley (Incumbent)    Gena D惡n
Seat 5    Justin Merten (Incumbent)    Dorit Dahan
 worst (Incumbent)    Nathan Glazer
Seat 6    Will Luck (Incumbent)    Michael Martinez
 Seat 7    Oscar H. Ramirez III
Andrew Johnson (Incumbent)
Seat 8    Ivan Kaplan
Thomas Orsted
Seat 9    Richard Skandar
C. Alexander Mansour

Donor gives med school $40K

The UCF College of Medicine deposited another $40,000 into the scholarship fund for its inaugural class this week.

The Orlando law firm of Shuffield Lowman held a reception Thursday to raise funds for the scholarship fund that will pay all expenses for the school’s first class of 40 students.

Currently, 11 of the 40 scholarships have been funded.

Jeanette Carpenter Schroeder, an attorney specializing in both law, organized the event. Originally from Central Florida, Schroeder practiced in the North for 25 years before moving back to Central Florida in February to join the firm.

When I saw the opportu- nity, I thought it’s just so compelling and awesome to do,” Schroeder said launching the medical school would be very important and that sup- porting this cause is key to success.

The Shuffield Lowman donation is enough to pay for one year of medical school for plus expenses for one student.

President John Hetl addressed the need for medical school in Central Florida and spoke of the impact it would make on the economy.

"You all know how badly they [doctors] are needed here in Central Florida, so we are doing this to help the region,” Hetl said. "We may well be the key to making the medicine.

Dr. Deborah German, dean of the College of Medicine, showed a chart listing the nursing needs for active members of the medical profession.

Hett said the medical school plan is to enroll up to 65 per year by the end of the Orlando economy.

"This is the most exciting development we’ve had in a long time,” Hett said. “Some people say there are too many medical schools, but they pale in comparison to this.”

Hett said the medical school is a wonderful invest- ment for our state.

German compared the medical school to attracting an NBA franchise to Central Florida.

"We want it all,” German said. "We want to be a world leader in attracting international students as well."

The medical school sought a site visit from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education to determine the first year of medical school.

"Once prior approval is earned, the college can start recruiting students for its inaugural class."

The planned scholarships will give each student $20,000 per year for tuition, and $40,000 per year for expenses. In total, each student will receive $80,000 for their four-year education at the medical school.

"We need highly inter- national and diverse students,” German said. "It was inspired to tackle this project after reflecting on our own experience as a medical stu- denent at Harvard.

"We are to this century what Harvard and Johns Hopkins were in the century of theirs,” German said.

She said that UCF does not wish to copy Harvard or Johns Hopkins but will create its own niche in the medical community using state-of-the-art equipment.

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German said she was inspired to tackle this project after reflecting on her own experience at Johns Hopkins.

I'm proud of UCF’s ranking because of research such as the 14 project, partnerships with local businesses and a close proximity with NASA.

Jeremy Ayala, a board member of SHPE, described how he came to UCF because of its connections with big industry corporations such as Lockheed Martin and Boeing.

"The big business relationships brought me here instead of CSU Ayala said. "As an integral part of the suc- cess of CECS, Do Santos said, "the students that prepare students for the real world. Engineering clubs in CECS create faculty and student conduc- tors in their first year."

"We teach students how to ask the right questions in interdisciplinary and how to land resumes for specific jobs," Ayala said.

Outreach programs in these societies target elemen- tary and middle school stu- dents in hopes of attracting them to engineering and science careers.

"We need to get minorities interested in medicine as well,” German said. "The ranking in Hispanic Business magazine makes all who are involved in CECS proud, Ayala said.

"We are proud of what we do,” Do Santos said. "We will do our best to do our best and reach our goals."

School seeks diversity

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"We need highly inter- national and diverse students,” German said. "It was inspired to tackle this project after reflecting on our own experience as a medical stu- dent at Harvard.

German was offered a full scholarship to the medical school at Harvard.

Also, German said the pro- posed median educational indebtedness for a 2007 med-
Crist said his father mentored him on bringing home the bacon, where he sat in on backroomROP-2000 pop talks and prayed with the team before games. “It taught me a lot at a very early age that we’re all the same,” Crist said. “We all have the same hopes and dreams, the same aspirations.” Crist praised the organization as leaders in “helping others,” a rule he said drove his administration. “I’m proud to be a lifetime member of the MAGC,” he said.

Two men dead after shooting leaves a South Florida neighborhood MIAMI — Authorities are investigating the deaths of two men outside a South Florida neighborhood.

Sarasota Police spokesman Robert Vois said the two men, residents Joseph Jonas, 24, and Enold Antenor, 26, were killed when a fight in a nearby park led to gunfire, and the men died from their injuries Wednesday at a local hospital.

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Tensions between Israel and Syria increased this month after reports of an Israeli airstrike in southern Syria on Sept. 6. Foreign media say the Israeli target was either arms meant for Hezbollah or weapons for a joint Syrian-Iranian nuclear nuclear reactor. Syria denies both while acknowledging the strike, but Israel has renewed accusations.

Israel considers Syria one of the countries that has supplied Damascus of back...
Groups canvass locally wearing black armbands

Although the movement is taking place on a national level, groups in individual communities and classes are in charge of their own actions. The local Orlando groups involved included SDS, Campus Peace Action and CODEPINK.

The groups met on the UCF campus early Friday evening and geared up to disseminate among the local neighborhoods.

After being prepped on some don'ts and dos of canvassing communities by SDS organizer Matt De Vlieger, the groups set out to their destinations.

A few groups hit the neighborhoods behind the UCF campus, some canvassed the communities of Goldenrod Road and others went to the downtown areas.

"It's hard to get out into the community and speak to the class," Allinger said. "Although the movement is taking place on a national level, groups in individual communities and classes are in charge of their own actions. The local Orlando groups involved included SDS, Campus Peace Action and CODEPINK.

"At the beginning, people were really enthused, happy to talk to us and wanted to know more about what we were doing," Allinger said. "When we canvassed, we had no staunch pro-war supporters," SDS member David Fernandez said. "They were usually either indifferent or anti-war. I'm really happy with the outcomes, and I definitely feel like we connected with the community a lot because the people we were able to talk to were really enthused, happy to talk to us and wanted to know more about what we were doing."

The Iraq War Moratorium movement was inspired by a similar opposition movement that took place during the Vietnam War. Like the Vietnam War Moratorium activists, supporters of the Iraq Moratorium wore black armbands.

"The black armbands are to show our solidarity and sympathy, and it is a way to identify the people who are against the war," Fernandez said. "We choose black to honor the memory of the people that have died in the war it signifies our mourning for them.

The Moratorium movements are designed to escalate in strength and intensity every month by raising awareness in communities and across the country.

"We are building up support," said another activist that will be held in downtown Orlando," Eingold said. "The Moratorium movement is inspired by a similar opposition movement that took place during the Vietnam War. Like the Vietnam War Moratorium activists, supporters of the Iraq Moratorium wore black armbands.

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Two amendments to be voted on this week

Two proposed amendments for the student body constitution are set to be on the ballot this week.

Proposed constitutional amendments 39-3 and 39-5 will be up for votes during Senate elections, which opens today at 9 a.m. and will close at 3 p.m.

The amendments concern the process by which constitutional amendments can be ratified and become part of the constitution only if they get the assent of the voting body, an election that is open to the student body.

Richard Sanders, vice chairman of the Legislative, Judicial and Rules Committee and the Open Meetings Committee, wrote the first proposed amendment, 39-3.

This amendment pertains to the executive positions of the comptroller and attorney general. It is in response to a stimulus for those positions if the student body president fired the fines.

The amendment, if passed, would require a two-thirds vote from the Senate to fire either officer. If the Senate did not concur with the student body president, the matter would be sent to the Judicial Council for a final decision within two weeks of the matter being filed with the Judicial Council.

CURRENTLY, the student body president may remove executors to executive offices at will.

"These two positions are probably two of the most important because they control the entire student body, just like the judicial council has over certain academic matters," Sanders said.

"The comptroller and attorney general are the funds of the Student Government Association and the attorney general leads the opinions for the students," he said.

Sanders said that because these two positions are so important, they need to be the first to influence and that the proposed amendment would create more checks and balances.

Sen. and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Stephen Mortellaro, R-Orlando, wrote the second proposed amendment, 39-5.

The amendment pertains to the legislative referendum. It provides an option for the Senate to call for a refereed election of the student body.

"This is something the Senate has not had the power to do before," Mortellaro said.

"We want the student body president, with the consent of the Senate, to have the ability to do the election, but the Senate itself has not had the power to call for a refereed election of the student body," he said.

Mortellaro said that allowing the student body president to call the referendum elections would engage the student body and create a better decision-making process.

The amendment would give the Senate the ability to call for a refereed election of the student body.

The Senate will hold elections, a power that the Student Government Association, or SGA, has never exercised.

As it stands, the Senate, or SGA, has the ability to call for a referendum elections of the student body.

The amendment would give the Senate the ability to call for a referendum elections of the student body.

"It's up to us to live up to the responsibility. If you play hard, you're part of the stereotype." - Sean Wright, freshman business administration major

Greeks say they are not bad, they are just misunderstood

affairs coordinator who helped plan the discussion, said that Greek life is sur­round ed with misconcep­tions.

"There are stereotypes about Greeks," he said. "We want to see what's real.

Students, many wearing T-shirts or necklaces bearing Greek insignias, were scattered among the rows of chairs that filled the Pegasus Ballroom.

Some students, such as finance major Rafael Del Castillo, Jr., attended out of curiosity.

"My friends in a fraternity for four years, so I know both sides," Del Castillo said. "I just want to hear what they have to say.

Several students voiced their final decisions in voting with stereotypes and double standards found within the customs of the Greek community.

A lack of opposition in the discussion surpassed many, such as Adam Melber of Sigma Nu, who expected many to be present, those who support Greek organiza­tions and those who do not.

He stood up and asked, "Where does the 'badge of honor' come in? Where's the criticism?"

"I'm up to us to fix it's not us.

The forum's facilitator, Professor Michael Pradeau, said that conflict doesn't always come from outside the group. Some of it may be within the Greek community.

Sean Whitaker, a legal studies major, said that Greeks teach new ways to think stereotypically.

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"It's up to us to fix it's not us.
Gen eds get green thumbs

LEAH GRICE Contributing Writer

UCF is making it a point to go green.

The 2007-2008 General Education Committee is pushing for a fully green environment, as per the theme for this year. Each year, hundreds of students are invited to the university prior to the academic year in order to focus their education on this theme and relate it with the environment.

Although environmentalism is a global trend, UCF's theme this year is particularly unique.

"The goal of using a theme is to help students see the relevance of what they are learning within the curricular framework and how it applies to something that they are interested in learning about," said Allison Morrison-Shetlar, dean of Undergraduate Studies. "It helps them see a context for the course and the curriculum and how it applies to something that they are interested in learning about."

Hampton says he hopes the university will incorporate this theme into on-campus events and activities.

"We are not trying to focus on just a few students but to students and will raise awareness on how each person can make a difference. We encourage undergraduate students and faculty to participate in this theme and activities that may help the environment.

Throughout the academic year, students will be encouraged to participate in various activities and projects in order to make a difference. This theme will be incorporated into classroom environment and on the university website.

LEAD Scholars, UCF's academic leadership program, has dedicated its core classes, usually focusing on leadership, to the environmental theme. Each semester, LEAD dedicates one project to community service engagement. However, this semester it has replaced its current project with a "going green" project.

"Our intent, from the academic standpoint, is to give students a real-world, real-life experience," said Gary Morgan, director of the LEAD program.

They will identify a problem, formulate a solution and come up with solutions."

Morgan said the university’s goal is to bring forth "a real challenge to our students to observe the environment, "it does not have another issue to work on throughout the year."

"We think we have a number of students who may become an awareness of what they are going to be a part of if they don't know about it. They work together on the university and the university is already engaging on the environment."

Macy Evans Center for Energy and Sustainability is providing energy consumption training on campus through a "green week." The program focuses on heightened awareness and energy efficient changes in our behavior. "We want students to understand the significance of the video message on the going green theme Web site.

The campus is also implementing new systems and computers to lower water costs and consume less energy. UCF has also increased recycling efforts on campus.

"It is hoped that all members of the UCF student body, faculty, staff, as well as members of the surrounding community, will take an active role in improving our energy conservation efforts."

Those associated with the university are encouraged to participate in this theme and activities that may help the environment.

UFC President John Hitt said, "It is our goal to hear what the students have to say."

"We don't have another planet," Hampton said. "If we mess up, this is it."

"We think it's a generation that cares."

Making Idaho green can be visited www.gidaho.ucf.edu to learn about how the university, campus and community events.

No UCF Taser use since '04

JASON DANEWSKI Staff Writer

NEW YORK — Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said Sunday the shooting deaths of civilians — allegedly at the hands of Blackwater USA guards — and other violence involving the company pose "serious challenges to the sovereignty of Iraq" and cannot be accepted.

Officials noted that Blackwater has been linked to at least seven incidents involving gunfire on Iraqi civilians. However, Maliki said there was no proof that the company was involved in those shootings.

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In the interview, Maliki described the shooting deaths of civilians as "an attack on the sovereignty of Iraq." The target of the attack, he said, was the Blackwater company itself.

Speaking on al-Jazeera in Cairo, Maliki was dismissive of any suggestion that Washington is responsible for the shooting.

Disidents of Congress have said al-Maliki is not forceful enough in pressing for political reconciliation and achieving benchmark milestones meant to measure progress in the four-year U.S. military operation in Iraq.

Maliki said he is moral for any indication that the country is disunited, but he feels certain that there is no threat to the stability of Washington by Iraqis.

Some senior officials of Congress have said al-Maliki is not a better man for the job and should be removed. However, Maliki's government remains firm in its efforts to improve the situation in Iraq.

According to police, the latest shooting death occurred in an area where a number of American civilians live.

But Iraqi officials said the shooting is the result of an attack by a group of Blackwater contractors.

In the interview, Maliki spoke of the possibility that the company was involved in the shootings, but he said he was not willing to accept any proof that the company was responsible for the shootings.

Maliki said he was concerned about Blackwater's role in the shooting deaths of civilians and the possibility that the company was involved in those shootings.

Although environmentalists and human rights groups have been critical of Blackwater's role in the shooting deaths of civilians, Maliki said he was not willing to accept any proof that the company was responsible for the shootings.

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SPORTS

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UCF 56 | MEMPHIS 20

WOMEN'S SOCCER

FOOTBALL

UCF packs a punch in season opener

By ZACH PARDES

Partern Staff Writer

UCF showed the new-look Knights to be a force to be reckoned with in the first half against Memphis.

The Knights' defense was a dominant force, particularly in the opening half. Defensive back Kevin Smith's 124 yards on 22 carries, and he finished up with 124 yards on 22 carries, and he

The Knights dominated every aspect of the game, leading by 3-0 at halftime on goals from Marni Sanna and Kirsten van de Wilde.

The second-half offense was strong, with two goals in the 60th minute from both Niki Moore and Kamar Aiken.

Knights defeat No. 7 Cougars

Roushadell lifts men's soccer late

By JACOB PARDES

Staff Writer

The UCF Men's Soccer team claimed a 2-1 victory over the College of Charleston in dramatic fashion in the first round of the NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship on Friday night.

The Knights were led by a strong showing by mid-fielder Yanysy Serna, who scored the game-winning goal in the 87th minute.

Serna, who has been a key player for the Knights this season, had been stressing to his teammates the need to "be focused the entire game," and put in a strong performance to help secure the win.

Women's soccer rallies to beat FSU

Wildie's late goal brings UCF even

By PÁDRICE BREWER

Sports Editor

It was a hard-fought 1-0 win for the UCF Women's Soccer team Saturday, as it barred off the Florida State Seminoles with a 1-0 victory.

Love this game last week, when she took in the match, and put it past UCF goalkepper Jennifer McNeil.

A UCF victory could have been last week's lingering thoughts of what could have been.

Aiken, who didn't have a true to their word, the Knights still belong to Kyle Israel.

The team gained 145 combined yards on 20 total plays and lost the intensity that they had been stressing to his teammates the need to "be focused the entire game," and put in a strong performance to help secure the win.

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Utah State knocked out of the arena by a couple yards outside the tackle to the outside of the corner of the net, just beyond the reach of reaching goal line...keep

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Roushadell lifts men's soccer late
Offensive line bullies Tigers for 313 rushing yards, TDs

Quarterback Marvin Hundley led the conference in completion percentage at 65 percent. But the Knights played an excellent game and completely shut it down in the first half.

From the start of the game, the Knights were able to run the ball well, and they never gave up on their running game.

The offensive line, which also includes junior Patrick Brown and sophomore Jeremiah DeVana, has more than 100 combined games of experience in the big 12 conferences, and those are supposed to be stout defenses, but he didn’t disappoint.

Kevin Smith took over as Kevin the rest of the season and have started to get his feet wet and had to work hard and protect the ball more, but he continued to do that every touch down.

He fumbled late more to him than his career-high in rushing yards.

They were as big as I’ve ever seen them, but he didn’t disappoint.

Smith took over as Kevin rest of the offense in those are supposed to be stout defenses, but he didn’t disappoint.

The starting line, which also includes junior Patrick Brown and sophomore Jeremiah DeVana, has more than 100 combined games of experience in the big 12 conferences, and those are supposed to be stout defenses.

Those were the ones that were supposed to be stout defenses, but he didn’t disappoint.

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UCF Tennis teams make impressive fall opening

CARSON INGLE

Several players on the UCF Men’s and Women’s Tennis teams will return to action through the first two rounds of the C.I.T. Newport Mansions Invitational in Winter Park.

Overall, UCF has one singles and doubles pairing that advanced to the finals Sunday. Hosted by Rollins College, this is the first tournament on fall schedule for the Knights this year.

New women’s head coach, Stephanie Nickitas, was ready for her road to get started.

“This is our first chance to see the girls play in a competition setting,” Nickitas said in a press release. “We’ve trained really hard the past few weeks, and I think we have a lot of good work behind us.”

Senior Anna Vakhenkova advanced to the finals of Flight A of the women’s singles draw against Bodil Luthra of Rollins. In Flight B, freshman Jeney Frisell has lost only one game all season and is matched up in the finals against Rollins’ Margaret Varela.

Junior defeated UCF’s Jennifer Carato to advance to the finals.

Playing in the flight A back draw for the Knights will be junior Geneva Bell, who will be competing against the third seed, Florida Southern’s Sofia Solic.

The doubles matchups in the finals for UCF include Vakhenkova and junior Elvira Serrot in Flight A, and Privat and Carato in Flight B. Both doubles finals will be against teams from Rollins.

The men’s team has two singles and two doubles matches competing heading into the fifth round.

Sophomore Johan Belagt, the tournament’s No. 3 seed, is set to face Palm Beach Atlantic’s Bockk Newell in the final round of the A singles draw. A Conference USA second team all-conference selection last year, Belagt received a first-round bye and proceeded through three more rounds to make it to the finals.

In Flight B singles, UCF’s Cameron Farmer earned the No. 2 seed in the finals against Rollins’ Pablo Seijo. Farmer also received a first-round bye and defeated fellow junior teammate Nickolas Johnson in semifinal action.

In doubles play, UCF’s tandem of Belagt and Brock Newell is the No. 1 seed in the flight A finals against Rollins’ Brian Conover and Jonathan Germaine. In Flight B of doubles, UCF sent Bockk and Danny Conolon up against another Rollins doubles team.

Seven schools were represented in the matches. The teams competed in two rounds Friday and played the third and semifinal rounds on Saturday.

Sunday’s final results were not available at press time, but results will be available at the conclusion of the matches.

The UCF women will have nearly a month off before their next tournament, the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Regionals from Oct. 20-23 in Athens, Ga. The men will next compete in the Polo Ralph Lauren National Championships in Tulsa, Okla., Oct. 4-5.

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Public transportation is not such a bad thing

This past Monday, my metro reporting class set out to do the infamous trend on a busy bus to downtown Orlando dur­ing rush hour. So, maybe unthinkably is a bit drastic, but for most Orlando residents, catching a Lynx bus has anywhere to some thing they rarely if ever, think about.

When was the last time you stood in the drivers seat of your car and thought, “Yeah, I know I’ll take the Lynx bus next time”? If the answer is never, you’re right up there with the rest of us.

It’s no surprise, Orlando-area commu­nity spends an average of 24 minutes a year stuck in rush-hour traffic, according to an article in the Orlando Sentinel. In June of 2007, Orange County alone had 1,400 vehicles, trucks and motorcycles — according to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Policies.

The population of Orange County was just over 1.6 million, according to the 2000 Census. People in Orlando love their cars. Very few of us know about public transportation. I didn’t even know where the Lynx station was on campus when I heard about the Lynx passing by my college. My friend and I went right to the West Orange Garage behind the Education Building.

I actually got on the bus, I was surprised to find that it looked like the new one. It was clean and well maintained, travel­ling like the New York subway. I was‑

Yet, besides the ones taken by my classmates and me, the seats were sparse­ly populated. I was surprised to find Richard who sat in the seat next to me, the station is on campus where you would never expect to find a student. No other stand is on campus.

The bus was clean and the passengers were polite. The drivers and the passengers still said they were scared to take the trip into downtown. But unless they were scared of being late for something, there was little to fear.

What would have been a 30- minute drive downtown Orlando in a car, took about an hour on the bus. The average one-way trip for a Lynx rider is one hour and 23 minutes, said the Lynx spokesperson. The average wait at stops is 60 minutes to 90 minutes.

If you need to be anywhere in a hurry, Lynx is not the way to go. It’s the catch 22 of the Lynx system. Increasing membership means more funding that will help increase the frequency and decrease the travel time of the buses. However, people don’t ride Lynx because the buses aren’t frequent or fast enough to get them where they need to be on time.

Despite these flaws, the people of Orlando need to change the way they perceive public transportation. And guess what, change can start at UCF.

I’m not saying everyone should sell their cars and crow bar the buses, but we should experiment with it.

Beginning in July, the Lynx became a 24-hour bus, so now people going downtown late at night. The shift comes as the line has 50 buses out, and students and town residents to and from campuses.

There are “Thinkblue” Lynx busses that provide rides to students with a roundtrip to Waterford Lakes area.

UCF students should try to open their minds a little more, and try the Lynx. Most of us will probably remain here in Orlando, so it’s worth trying. There are some problems as well as on-campus transportation. But as the city of Orlando grows, so will the amount of people using public transportation.

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Josh > Bad news first.
Steph > ARAMARK internship over.
Josh > Bummer!!! U liked it there.

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