UCF loans an unaccounted for $7.4 million to Athletics without a repayment agreement.

“We send bills to them, and they pay the bills. We just use the university as a bank. It’s just a cash flow thing for us.”

Over the course of several years, UCF has loaned $7.4 million to the UCF Athletics Association, a nonprofit entity. The money, according to the Office of the Auditor General, violates the Florida Statutes and cannot be accounted for.

Since 2003, the university also transferred $4.9 million of student athletic fees to the association from money charged to students’ accounts at $17.72 per credit hour. "We send bills to them and they pay the bills. We just use the university as a bank,” said Brad Stricklin, assistant athletics director for business and finance.

“It’s just a cash flow thing for us,” Stricklin said. However, the revenue wasn’t sufficient to meet the start-up expenses.

At the time the money was being given to and loaned to the association, the UCF football program was in the midst of being revamped and the Knights’ hangar, which cost $85 million, was in its conception phase. None of the money used to build the stadium was tax-payer money, university officials have said.

Requests for budget documents were denied by the Athletics Association and deferred to UCF News and Information. Those documents weren’t available before deadline.

In a nutshell, the university is only giving money to its athletics department, and there is no schedule for repayment. It is in place. More than $966,000 should have already been repaid.

UCF Football player dies at workout

Coaches suspend spring practice

A UCF football player died Tuesday morning after a strength and conditioning drill.

Ereck Flowers died at Florida Hospital in East Orlando after rescue personnel spotted him about 11:50 a.m. in Room 218 of the UCF Fieldhouse.

"Emergency personnel were called and transported Flowers to Florida Hospital. We had his fiancée of his passing at 11:51 a.m.,” said Tom Hickey, interim athletics director.

UCF Police Department officers were at Flowers’ fiancée’s side Wednesday morning after a strength and conditioning drill. The officers believe Flowers died of a heart attack.

UCF President John Hitt said the team was being given their day off Wednesday due to the tragedy.

Some colleges try to match genders

JENNY FESCOR, Contributing Writer

In an effort to maintain balance between male and female students, universities may be relaxing admissions standards for male applicants, according to an NRC report.

Forty-seven percent of the nation’s college students are female, according to the recent NRC report. In an effort to promote gender balance, some schools are lowering their standards for male applications and admissions, even when there are more qualified women applicants.

"I think in our environment, and particularly in a private environment for higher education, we have not moved in that direction to skew our admissions program toward men to make up gender balance,” said Gordon Chavis Jr., associate vice president of UCF Admissions.

The Office of Institutional Research and Planning showed that UCF has a student body of 54.5 percent women and 45.5 percent men. About 45 percent of the university’s graduate students are women and 55 percent are men, and 85 percent are non-graduates.

"Colleges are admitting more women, with lower grades and lower scores relative to the men that they’re admitting,” said Chavis. "In essence, that’s rewarding boys for underperformance,"
Local & State
Keep local with headlines you may have missed

Office Depot urges shareholders to reject new directors
DELRAY BEACH — Office Depot has launched a last-ditch effort Tuesday to reject the efforts of a dissident shareholder to elect two directors to the office-supply retailer’s board at its annual meeting April 23.

The Florida-based firm will oppose the election of Edward Woodbridge and Levitt Corp., a homebuilder, whom the group is nominating to replace Chairman and CEO Steve Odell and interim President and CEO David Fonzo.

The battle before judge is needled to revitalize the struggling company’s sales.

“Office Depot believes that removing two of the most experienced retailing executives from the Office Depot board would be highly disruptive and destroy the company’s growth momentum and would put our shareholders at risk,” said a statement.

President John Hitt, Provost of the University of Central Florida, said the university has struggled with the death of a student in a parabolic flight.

Students enjoy Zero G flight
JILLIAN KROTKI
One of the main events of the weeklong event was Acknowledging Islam Awareness Week in the UCF community.

For more information, contact student affairs/MSA.

Students enjoy Zero G flight
JILLIAN KROTKI

Many people have wondered what it would be like to be completely weightless, but few ever experience it. A group in Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS) at UCF took it a step further than wondering and experienced weightlessness through a program sponsored by Space Florida.

Space Florida is a state agency that is trying to expand the space industry in Florida. Their goal is to try to get commercial activity in the state.

Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS) at the University of Central Florida (UCF) recently had the unique opportunity to experience zero gravity through a program sponsored by Space Florida.

The students were selected from a group of over 60 students from the university.

The flight was a huge success for the students and it provided them with a unique experience.

Many students who went on Zero G flights said they felt like they were floating, and they were able to do many things that they couldn’t do on Earth.

In the future, the students said they plan to continue to do similar experiences and they hope to have more students go on future flights.

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In the future, the students said they plan to continue to do similar experiences and they hope to have more students go on future flights.
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New nonstop service to Austin starts May 1!

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Fares starting from each way:
- Cancun $51
- San Juan, PR $89
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- Austin $99
- (New nonstop service starts 5/1)
- Santo Domingo, DR $99
- New York JFK $104
- Boston $114

Starting from Orlando
$99 each way

Sincerely,
JetBlue Airways

Passenger Facility Charges of up to $9 each way, September 11th Security Fees of up to $5 each way, and a Federal Segment Tax of $3.50 per domestic segment. Additional fees may apply on international and Puerto Rico fares.
County police said Monday. Four men in their car apparently hospitalized in critical condition. No arrests have been made.

Bendross was on probation for his role in the death of 39-year-old Dutch tourist Thomas Dopirak at a nearby gas station.

"I think it's ironic - tragically bogged tragedy," said Miami-Dade police Sgt. Ryan Bogan, who helped investigate the 1996 case. "It's terrible anything anymore. If I had to guess, it was tragic for the Dopirak family. And I'm sure it's tragic for the Bendross family."

Dopirak was shot in the chest while sitting in a parked car. He and his husband had pulled into the gas station, seeking directions to a mall.

Two young men pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and attempted murder, charges dating from decades-long prison sentences.

Bendross, then 16, was the driver of their getaway car and pleaded guilty to a robbery charge in exchange for his cooperation with prosecutors.

He was sentenced to 12 years probation, starting in September.

Dopirak's death rekindled Florida's tourism industry, which at the time was still struggling to recover from losses of 10 billion dollars in the state in 1992 and 1993.

Miami-Dade County jury foreman the rental car company to pay Dopirak's family 52 million.

not settling the couple about the high-crime Liberty city neighborhood.

HIGHER EDUCATION

What's in the word of college around the country

Bill aims at tampering down 'FCAT shake-ups'.

The bill would add social studies to prepare for the FCAT.

and it determines whether more than.

studies.

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The measure also would add professional development to the state's next round of teacher evaluations.

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Christmas was adopted on account of the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

The other part of the program is an "easy-out" offer for time.

The memo from Chief Executive Richard Andrews.

He brushed off concern raised by one analyst that robust international expansion may be the wrong approach while many corporate rivals are cutting back on travel as the economy weakens.

Doral Lama threatens to step down if Tibet violence continues.

DORHAMSULA, India - The Dalai Lama threatened Monday to step down as Tibet's government-in-exile if violence committed by Chinese soldiers killed a Tibetan monk in a helicopter crash out of control of the Chinese government.

Demonstrations in Tibet turned increasingly violent last week, and the Dalai Lama, speaking to reporters, urged his countrymen to remain calm.

He said that "all things being out of control, the only option is to completely keep the Chinese government from inflicting violence on Tibetans.

Obama confronts national legacy of racial division.

PHILADELPHIA Barack Obama unexpectedly criticized his longtime pa.

His words while strongly defending the man he defeat in Tuesday in a politically charged speech that appeal to the nation's desire to overcome racial and class divisions and white resentment it sparks.

Former a more pointed outreach "requires all Ameri.

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March 11, 2008 - Oviedo Office

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A Delta Air Lines plane-MP crew at the runway at Washington’s Ronald Reagan.

Refurbished to the 18, 26 inch plane, Delta has 10 more after voluntary, non-reimbursable

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Supreme Court seems favorable of gun rights

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court appeared ready Tuesday to endorse the view that the Second Amendment gives individuals the right to possess handguns for protection at home.

Chief Justice John Roberts, speaking for the District of Columbia's ban on handgun ownership, asked the justices: “Does that make it unreasonable to go to a city with a very high crime rate, to say there are no hand­guns here?” Breyer said.

Several justices were skeptical that the Constitution, if it gives individuals' gun rights, would allow a complete ban on handguns when, as Chief Jus­

tice John Roberts pointed out, those weapons are most suited to service in a state security force.

The court has not conclu­
sively interpreted the Second Amendment since its ratifica­
tion in 1791. The basic issue for the justices is whether the amendment protects an individ­
ual's right to own guns or whether that right is somehow tied to service in a state security force.

The amendment reads: “A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

But Justice Stephen Breyer said the District's public-safety concern could be served in evaluating the 72­

year-old ban on handguns, per­
haps the strictest gun control law in the nation.

“Does that make it unreason­able for a city with a very high crime rate, to say there are no hand­guns here?” Breyer said.

Solicitor General Paul Clement, the Bush administra­
tion's top Supreme Court lawyer, supported the individ­
ual right but urged the justices not to decide the other ques­
tions. Instead, Clement said the court should allow for reason­able restrictions that allow ban­
ting certain types of weapons, including military­
trained federal forces. He did not take a position on the District ban.

The court's high first examina­tion of the Second Amendment since 1998 grew out of a challenge to the Dis­

crict of Columbia's ban on handgun ownership.

The court accepted the District's official position at the time it accepted the case in 1998, as Justice Anthony Kennedy, left little doubt about his rule on gun rights when he was asked early in the proceedings that the Sec­
d Amendment gives “a general right to bear arms.”

Anese Jenkins, president of the District of Columbia's ban on hand­
guns and opponents of gun control laws.

The local Washington govern­
ment argues that its law is neces­sary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

While the arguments ended, the justices asked questions of advocates of gun rights and opponents of gun violence, demonstrated outside court Tuesday.

Dozens of protesters mingled with tourists and waved signs saying “The Washington Police can't keep us out of guns!” or “The NRA helps criminals and terrorists buy guns.”

A line to get into the court for the historic arguments began forming two days earlier and extended more than half a block, by early Tuesday.

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sity believes it has legal authority to provide funding to its various programs, which is what the athletic association is. We disagree," Sauerbeck said.

"The university does not have the legal authority to provide funding to its various programs," Sauerbeck said.

Sauerbeck said the university was cited on two different occasions in the 2007 audit concerning the university's dealings with the Athletic Association, both of which have been repeated in each of the audits dating back to the 2003 fiscal year.

"It's not something we want to gild," Sauerbeck said. "We don't look for any reason to make that happen."

In July 2003, the university's Athletic Department incorporated as a separate entity and became the UCF Athletics Association Inc. under Florida law. The statutes, the university had previously used to operate its transactions with the association, Sauerbeck said.

"A department is part of the school with employees of the university, and the monies that were handled were subject to all internal controls and limitations that all university public moneys are subject to," Sauerbeck said. "But when the money goes to a separate incorporated entity that is subject to the same controls that we would if they were if those employees were working for the university," Sauerbeck said, "then they understood the statutes and regulations that apply to them in that setting."

"The university believes it has the legal authority to make those monies. There is no basis for the University of Central Florida, President and General Counsel Mark Stricklin to say," he added.

"They're a DSO, and by definition, you can transfer funds to a DSO, but only for the proper purposes. Here, the university is not transferring money for the proper purposes, but it was being transferred by that DSO for your personal benefit. The employees of the actual university, which includes the university's athletic association, which includes a football program, are not being retained by the university, so the records don't reflect its uses.""
GET A HIT OFF MITCH HOUCk OR AUSTIN HUDSON?

OH, NO-NO

UCF 6 | WAGNER 0

UCF pitcher Mitch Houck delivers a pitch during Monday's game against Wagner. Houck pitched seven innings of hitless baseball before being taken out due to a high pitch count. He was replaced by Austin Hudson, who ended the game with an out to give the Knights their first 2-0 victory over their Conference USA opponent.

BRIAN MURPHY

The UCF baseball team has been successful in nearly every scenario in the 2008 season, but the Knights' third win of the season was headlined by one of the most spectacular accomplishments in baseball: a no-hitter.

Sophomore Mitch Houck and Austin Hudson combined to throw the program's second no-hitter and its first complete-game, one-hit shutout in 35 years during the Knights' 2-0 victory over Wagner on Monday night.

Houck pitched the first seven innings, using a combination of big, breaking curveballs and slipping sliders to strike out a career-high 13 batters.

"It was one of those things where they never really got around to seeing it out of my hand," Houck said. "I was just devoting them to tonight... It's definitely the greatest thing that's happened in my college career, no doubt about it."

Houck wanted to come out for the eighth inning, but his coach decided against it, pointing to Houck's pitch count of 99. Instead, Houck took the final two innings from UCF's August, where he said he tried not to think about the game because "I didn't want to kill myself trying to have a solid summer in the Cape Cod League."(Follow this link to read more about Houck's performance.)

Wednesday night was the culmination of a long road for Houck, who fought through inconsistency on the mound to secure the Knights' 17th victory of the season.

"I don't know if I've ever jumped that high before, to be honest," Houck said, who was wearing the remnants of the shaving cream pie he teammate had thrown into his face during a postgame interview. "I feel like I got a couple feet off the ground there. I was just beyond ecstatic."

Monday was the culmination of a long week for Houck, who fought through inconsistency on the mound to see his season last year was cut short due to an arm injury.

The emotion was quite a bit different from Houck after recording just his second shutout in which he struck out 8 and allowed just 1 hit in recording his 10th victory.

Houck rehabbed in time for the start of the season that Houck was throwing as well as anyone on the staff. And with the helping of Cozart, this season has been successful in nearly every scenario in the 2008 season, but the Knights' third win of the season was headlined by one of the most spectacular accomplishments in baseball: a no-hitter.

THE KNIGHTS' OFFENSE IS A HIT

UCF pitcher Allison Kime throws seven shutout innings in the Knights' 2-0 win over the Blazers on Sunday. Kime struck out 8 and allowed just 1 hit in recording her 10th victory.

"I was excited," Hudson said. "I know what was going on and I was just happy that I could finish it out for Mitch and the rest of the team."

The Knights' bats were surely extra hungry from the look on the pitchers' faces, as the Knights' offense delivered in a big way against the Blazers.

Knights burn Blazers

MELISSA NEYDOR

The UCF Softball team has a lot of momentum heading into its third Conference USA series of the season against Tulsa. And the Knights found it in the form of a one-hit shutout that helped them take their first conference series of the season.

After splitting its first two games against UAB the Knights were the winning pitcher in a 2-0 victory over their C-USA rival.

"It was a hard-fought weekend, and the team came up with key hits to give us the upper hand in the series win," UCF coach Renee Luers-Gillig said in a press release. "Being able to take this series from a good UAB team was important for us to stay on track in meeting our goals this season."

Senior pitcher Allison Kime was nearly untouchable against the Blazers, throwing a complete-game, one-hit shutout in which she struck out eight batters and walked just one.

Aside from improving her record to 10-7 on the season, Kime also recorded 125 strikeouts, second in the nation and her third shutout. The Knights' bats were silenced through the first four innings until a leadoff single from Tiffany Lane in the top of the third started the Knights offense.

Kime said she was proud of her team's performance, especially after losing two of the past three games to help the Knights improve to 22-22. Wins at both levels of the NCAA to reach the regional. They want to be one of the top teams in the Cape Cod League.

GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT

TWO NO-HITTERS IN ONE WEEK

When Austin Hudson finished the final out against Wagner on Monday night, he not only became a part of UCF's no-hitter history, but he did so in the span of just two weeks.

Yet as the last out was recorded, UCF's victory didn't silence the crowd. And with the helping of Cozart, this season has been successful in nearly every scenario in the 2008 season, but the Knights' third win of the season was headlined by one of the most spectacular accomplishments in baseball: a no-hitter.

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Game times are set for 5 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., respectively. The Knights will round out their weekend on Friday with a three-game series against the Golden hurricanes, who are coming off a three-game sweep of the UTEP Miners. Tulsa currently sits in second place in the C-USA standings with a 5-4 conference record and a 14-5 record overall. Houston is fine with an unblemished 3-0 record in conference play, 21-2 overall.

UCF and Tulsa will play a doubleheader Friday at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., and finish the series Saturday with a start time of noon.

Men’s tennis
The UCF Men’s Tennis team dropped a close contest in California against the University of California-Irvine on Wednesday.

The Knights grabbed the doubles point with victories by Enzo Romano and Shira Sadeh and Johan Belbacha and Brock Sably, but were unable to finish off the Anteaters in singles competition.

Unlike other sports teams over Spring Break, the UCF Women’s Rowing team dominated its event over the break at the Rolling Spring Break Race on Saturday.

Facing Rollins, George and Washington College, the Knights swept all six events.

In the Varsity 8+ race, the lightweight and novice crews finished first and second, respectively.

In the Varsity 4+, the Knights beat Rollins by 15 seconds, UCF also won by 34 seconds in the Varsity 4-1 race.

The largest margin of victory for the Knights came in the Lightweight 4+, in which they beat Rollins by 32 seconds.

The Knights return to action this weekend with one of the team going to Austin, Texas, for the Longhorn Invitational from March 21-23, while some of the squad shooting a combined 12-over-par for the first two rounds.

Men’s golf
UCF’s men’s golf team opened its season against big-name schools in the LSU/Cleveland Golf Challenge, the UCF Women’s Golf team finished the tournament Sunday at the 18th hole place with South Carolina.
UNC tops in classroom

Members of the University of North Carolina's basketball team pose with the Atlantic Coast Conference trophy Sunday after winning the ACC Tournament.

TRAVIS REED
Associated Press

North Carolina was the lone school among the four top seeds in the NCAA men's tournament to graduate at least 50 percent of its players.

The study was conducted by Richard Lapchick, head of the University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport. It evaluated four different freshman classes for a period beginning in 2005-06 and ending with 2009-10.

Though the players evaluated are no longer on campus, the report intends to provide a preview of academic trends.

Lapchick's primary concern was the disparity between black and white players. Thirty-five schools graduated at least 70 percent of their white basketball student-athletes, but only 45 percent of black basketball student-athletes.

The NCAA has collected since 2004 under the Non-Athletes' Academic Progress Rate. Lapchick has been arguing to use that data, collected since 2004 under the NCAA's academic reform, instead of current data. But the report said the NCAA's academic reform results for men's basketball aren't available until April.

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From A7

"It's kind of maturity because (Carroll) and I have talked a little bit about it," Hocutt said. "He just tells me "you're too good to be walking people like that, so just go out there and throw strikes and see what happens." And it's been working for me." To make the night even more eventful, it was UCF coach Jay Bergman's 1,200th career victory, his 1,200th at the Knights, and his 36th in the NCAA Tournament. Also, the game was the first to end with a single to left field, which scored Colin Arnold. One bat­ tyder, Brown scored from third on Matt Watson's walk. Brown and Josh Siebenaler combined for four hits, three runs and three RBIs.

Watson allowed four runs in the first three innings before he was taken out. A lack of control wasn't the only issue for Watson. He walked five and threw three wild pitches. It wasn't as impressive as Monday night's Biggie. Markie Herold turned in another great outing from a UCF pitcher in the Kittens completed a sweep of Siena on Sunday 12-1. Herold pitched a career-high seven innings, allowed no runs and with eight strikeouts.

The Kittens were just con­ cerned with keeping their first shutout since Feb. 29, but con­ cerned with the pitching perform­ ance, UCF's 17 hits and one error. It may have been the Kittens' most complete victory of the season.

Dwayne Bailey had three hits and three walks while Siebenaler scored two runs and drove in two runs. Two of the biggest reasons why the Kittens were averaging more than nine runs per game at 19-29-1. They led the table with 36. The offensive pace was faster than 300. Today's average is more than 400.

UCF played game two of its three-game series against Wag­ ner on Tuesday night. Not results were not available at press time. A recap will be in Friday's edition of the Sun. The teams conclude the series tonight at Jay Bergman Field. First pitch is set for 6:30.

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Florida Legislature is proposing a measure aimed at combating the illegal loaning of tuition money by UCF. It would expand the definition of "loan" to include any transfer of money made at any time by any means. This would make the university more accountable and subject to prosecution. The measure is not without its critics, however, who argue that it could lead to an increase in administrative costs and burdens. The university has been facing scrutiny over the illegal loaning of tuition money to students, which has resulted in a series of controversies and investigations. The legislature's proposed measure is seen as a step towards ensuring transparency and accountability in the educational system. However, it remains to be seen whether the measure will be effective in preventing such practices in the future.
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