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VENGEANCE

Men's basketball return to their winning ways with a victory against Lipscomb Saturday.

—SEE SPORTS, B1

MAYHEM

UCF's baseball and softball teams kick off their 2004 season.

—SEE SEASON PREVIEW, B3

Tuition increase

SGA presidential slates

Candidates discuss Gov. Bush's tuition hike, administrative raises and athletic fees



Aduloju & Buchanan

Bush tuition hike:
Opposed because past hikes haven't shown results

Administrative raises:

Said they didn't help students

Athletic fee:

Oppose removal of cap, but supports athletic programs

Buchanan & Aduloju

Peters & Bentley

Bush tuition hike:

Says tuition shouldn't be rising every year

Administrative raises:

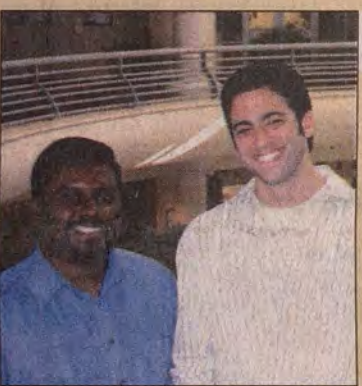
Question timing but supports quality administration

Athletic fee:

Would only support fee increase when all other options exhausted



Peters & Bentley



Talakala & Sigal

Bush tuition hike:

Opposed

Administrative raises:

It's a good incentive, but not the right time

Athletic fee:

Sports are a good part of student life, but fees should not increase

Talakala & Sigal

SGA candidates tackle rising cost of college

HEIDI A. DE VRIES
Senior Staff Writer



Tuition has been steadily rising for several years, and all three candidates for SGA president agree that raising tuition and the shrinking budget are both vital issues to every student.

"Since I began here [at UCF] my tuition has almost doubled," said SGA presidential candidate Pavan Talakala.

Olu Aduloju, another candidate, pointed out that despite increases as high as 15 percent last year, UCF still has the lowest tuition in the state. He added that we need to see more results for all the extra money students pay. "The problem is we're not seeing the results of the tuition hikes," Aduloju said.

Presidential hopeful Kevin Peters said, "Education should be offered at the lowest amount that's possible without compromising the integrity of education."

Aduloju and Talakala both agree that the university needs to better manage the funds it currently has. "We're looking to have a fiscally conservative plan," Alex Sigal, Talakala's running mate, said. Aduloju looks forward to working

with the budget, should he become president.

"We need to maximize the money we do have," he said.

Referring to Gov. Jeb Bush's proposed state-wide 7.5 percent tuition hike for in-state undergraduate students this fall, Aduloju pointed out that it should be the responsibility of the university to raise tuition fees, not the state. Talakala agrees, saying that the legislature "shouldn't punish students and look to them to make up the deficit."

"The money's going to good things, but tuition shouldn't be rising steadily every year," Peters said.

He used the Recreation and Wellness Center as an example of something good that's come from the increasing cost of education.

He also said a planned expanded health center will also benefit students, despite its cost. Another project recently announced, the replacement of the grass on the intramural fields with artificial turf, exemplifies the good that the extra money can bring to UCF.

"Take the new turf — it's safer and will have lower maintenance fees. It's a great investment," Peters said. He knocked a proposed

PLEASE SEE CANDIDATES ON A2

Teacher shortage forces scramble

College of Arts and Sciences hit hardest by budget troubles

ANDRES HEALY
Senior Staff Writer

UCF faculty members say their departments don't have enough money this semester to replace professors who have recently retired or left, making it necessary to increase professors' class load and increase class sizes to meet demand.

"We're always playing catch-up," said Glenn Cunningham, professor and chairman of the Chemistry Department. According to Cunningham, UCF has always been behind on the number of faculty members that it has needed; he believes this year's budget shortfall just brought attention to the situation.

"We aren't seeing fewer students," Cunningham said. "In reality, we see more every semester. If we fail to offer them the classes they need, there will just be an even bigger backlog next semester."

He explained that his department had to scramble to cover the class load normally taught by a professor who went on sabbatical this spring. Four full-time professors had to split up that pro-

fessor's load and add it to their own, he said. Otherwise, it wouldn't have been available.

Roger Handberg, chairman of the Political Science Department, said that his department is currently short two professors this term because there's no money to hire replacements. He expects to lose another professor to retirement at the end of the spring semester.

"The College of Arts and Sciences has been hit the hardest because we offer a large number of general education program classes," Handberg explained. "We see more students than any other college."

"[The Chemistry Department] has had to add people into existing sections to maximize the use of our [professors'] time," Cunningham said. "Unfortunately, with the bigger classes, it's much harder to give help where help is needed."

He emphasized that he supports faculties' efforts to meet students' needs, which both he and his department have done, but says many students don't understand how little time many professors have.

"Faculty members have a lot to keep up with,"

PLEASE SEE ADMINISTRATORS ON A5

Teachers working longer hours to stretch budget

ANDRES HEALY
Senior Staff Writer

Money is tight this year and many colleges at UCF have been feeling the squeeze. Campus-wide, students have complained of a growing gap between the classes they need and what's being offered.

Faculty members and administrators from the College of Arts and Sciences are trying their best to bridge that gap. This semester, many are teaching extra classes and giving more of their time to make up for budget shortfalls.

None of them will receive any extra compensation for their efforts.

"We know what we have to do," said Glenn Cunningham, professor and chairman of the Chemistry Department. "Nobody has told us that we have to do this. We know the demands of the students, and we are trying to meet that. Of course, there are limits to what we can do."

Cunningham is teaching an extra undergraduate laboratory class this semester in addition to the senior-level biochemical class that he normally teaches. Professors in his department are also shouldering extra class loads so that students can get their prerequisite classes.

On top of his normal workload, Roger Handberg, chairman of the political science department, is teaching a graduate course this spring that he normally teaches every summer. "I would have taught it eventually. Instead I'm basically doubling up," he said.

Kathy Seidel, dean of the college, is credited by many to be the inspiration for many faculty members' efforts.

She first presented the idea to other faculty adminis-

trators in the CAS during the fall term. She said she wanted all faculty members, like chairs who are paid on a 12-month basis, to start teaching extra classes so the college wouldn't have to cut as many sections in the following semesters.

Many of these faculty administrators already

"Nobody has told us that we have to do this. We know the demands of the students, and we are trying to meet that."

—GLENN CUNNINGHAM
CHAIRMAN OF CHEMISTRY DEPT.

taught during the school year in addition to doing their administrative duties, but Seidel wanted them to make every effort to do more.

"I told all of my administrators that because of the budget, every one of them ought to be teaching during the spring and summer terms," Seidel said. "This is one of the ways [the college] has chosen to deal with a tight budget year. It helps the students, and it helps the university."

Seidel is teaching Literature of the South this semester. The 4000-level class has 40 students in it who need the class to graduate.

She said she made it clear that she wanted faculty to

PLEASE SEE SACRIFICES ON A5

Pricey mural unveiled at Rosen School campus

TERESA CAMPOSECO
Staff Writer

UCF unveiled a \$30,000 mural Thursday at the Rosen School of Hospitality Management, painted by art teacher Carla Poindexter.

Since the school is suffering from a tight budget year, the expenditure could be seen as questionable, but the state requires art in all new government buildings.

Art department chairman Madison Ke Francis said failure to use the allotted \$30,000 for art in the Rosen

building would have only resulted in the return of the money to the state program in Tallahassee, to be spent on art in some other state building. "The money would not have been given to UCF to use for educational purposes anyway," he said.

"Infinite Possibilities," an 8-by-28 foot acrylic-on-canvas painting in seven panels, is described as an abstract confrontation of interlocking space, shape and color.

Hotelier and UCF trustee Harris Rosen named the piece, which was influenced by

Japanese masters such as Hokusai.

The mural is a permanent fixture of the new Rosen School on International Drive, which had its grand opening in January.

The mural was funded under the Florida Art in State Buildings program, which requires that 0.5 percent of the total budget for construction of new state buildings, not to exceed \$100,000, be set aside for the creation of artwork that is to be permanently displayed in or outside the build-

PLEASE SEE STATE ON A4



The newest addition to the Rosen School of Hospitality Management is an 8-by-28 foot mural painted by art teacher Carla Poindexter.

Ephedra faces possible ban in March

MIKE RIEGEL
Senior Staff Writer

Possible Ephedra side effects

- Insomnia
- Dry mouth
- Nervousness
- General weakness
- Poor digestion
- Irritability
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Increased blood pressure
- Increased heart rate
- Heart palpitations
- Stroke
- Death

SOURCE: FDA

Once popular for its ability to help students lose weight and stay up late, the now infamous herb Ephedra may be banned by the Food and Drug Administration in March.

The FDA first began receiving reports that the drug could have dangerous side-effects more than eight years ago. Federal paperwork will keep the amphetamine-like supplement on the market for at least a few more weeks, but Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson and the FDA have already urged people to avoid consumption of Ephedra.

Current federal law makes it very difficult for health officials to ban sales of dietary supplements that may be harmful, Thompson said. The burden of proof, he explained, is on the FDA to show that a supplement is dangerous. With prescription drugs, the manufacturer must prove the product is safe.

Student Health Services at UCF devotes an entire page on its Web site to the dangers of taking supplements that contain Ephedra. According to the site, side-effects of ingesting Ephedra include stroke, heart attack, high blood pressure, seizures, fast heartbeat, nervousness and insomnia.

The attempt to ban Ephedra marks the first time the FDA has gone through the necessary steps to have a dietary supplement taken off the market. In 1997, the FDA proposed the placing of warning labels and a dosage curb on Ephedra, but the move was blocked by the supplement industry.

The dosage, according to SHS, is the problem with Ephedra. "People have died or had seizures and strokes at relatively low dosages (12-36 mg.) [of Ephedra]," according to the Web site.

Supplements known to con-

PLEASE SEE HERB ON A2

Around Campus

Author to discuss globalization
 Amy Chua, a professor from Yale Law School, will present "Globalization: The Peril Behind the Promise" from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. today in the Student Union Cape Florida Room. Her speech is part of an open forum on globalization.

This presentation is free and open to the public.

The Office of Global Perspectives will also co-sponsor a Justice and Democracy forum from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday in the Student Union Cape Florida Room.

The four-panelist forum is titled "Justice and Democracy: The Role of the Judiciary in Promoting a Free and Open Society." This forum is free and open to the public.

For more information visit <http://www.ucfglobalperspectives.org> or call 407-823-0688.

Greek blood drives, fundraiser
 Zeta Tau Alpha will host several blood drives for Generation Donation with the Central Florida Blood Bank mobiles from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today in front of the Student Union. ZTA will also hold blood drives from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 1, 15 and 16 and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 4, 5 and 6.

The UCF Panhellenic Council raised money for a local women's shelter by selling Valentine's Day cards with conversation candy for \$2.

Library awash with art
 The following will be on exhibit in the UCF Library in February:

- "Study Abroad," Library Art Wall, by the Office of International Studies
- "Mardi Gras," by Hal Mendelsohn, Reference Department, UCF Library
- "The Lesdema Silver Artisans," by Marcella Farina, Center for Multilingual Multicultural Studies
- "NSBE Famous Black Engineers Art Contest," by Ted Simpson, UCF Minority Engineering Organization
- "Student Alumni Association," by Carla Cordoba, director of Student/Parent Programs, UCF Alumni Association
- Distinguished Alumni Awards, by UCF Alumni Association

The exhibits are located the main floor of the UCF Library. For more information call 407-823-2756 or e-mail libex@mail.ucf.edu.

Jewish scavenger hunt
 Hillel invites students to a scavenger hunt on International Drive at 7 p.m. Wednesday. The group will provide cameras and clues to figure out the mysteries. Participants can win one of five \$20 Simon mall gift certificates. Hillel will provide pizza at the end of the night.

The cost of the event is \$5. For more information e-mail Lauren Proctor at TuCute4u12@aol.com.

Let us know

The *Future* wants to hear from you! If you have a club, organization or event and want your information to be considered for the Around Campus column, send an e-mail to editor@UCFnews.com or send a fax to 407-447-4556. Deadlines are 5 p.m. Monday for the Thursday edition, and 5 p.m. Friday for the Monday edition.

Candidates: Spending needs control

FROM A1

golf course in the southeast corner of campus, a part of UCF's long-term Master Plan. A college is not a place for a golf course, he said.

"It's irresponsible at the present time," Aduloju said of the golf course. Aduloju does support the funding towards the health center and a proposed medical school announced last fall.

Administrators decided to proceed with studying the feasibility of building a medical school at UCF at the Board of Trustees meeting Nov. 13. The school plans to seek state funding to build Florida's fourth medical school.

Talakala agreed that adding new facilities like a medical school will help draw more students to UCF and increase its prestige, but he also said that money could be better spent on services like the Writing Center and the Math Lab, both of which have suffered budget cuts recently.

Sigal said he hopes the administration will "improve these things first, then take care of future endeavors. We need to

postpone the other things or make some sort of compromise."

Many students blame administrative raises for aggravating the budget crisis. According to the United Faculty of Florida, the average administrative salary rose 9.4 percent last year, from \$107,506 to \$117,833. In total, the raises cost the school more than \$756,000.

"It's an incentive to award them for what they have done ... but the raises were not warranted," Talakala said. The case is different with President Hitt, said Talakala's running mate, Sigal. "The fact that there wasn't a budget crisis when [Hitt] accepted the raise — I think that's overlooked." However, both agreed that any raises now would be irresponsible.

The raises only help administrators, Aduloju said. "They don't serve the student body," Peters disagreed, saying the raises are warranted because of the skill-level of the leaders running the school. "Administrators provide an invaluable service to students here at UCF," Peters said. "I only question the timing."

The candidates also differed on the wisdom of the athletic fees

UCF took on last fall.

UCF agreed to shift all of its sports except for women's rowing into the same athletic conference in 2005, at a cost of \$2.6 million. Though the money will come from athletic coffers, all students still pay \$11.09 per credit hour to support athletics. This is the third-highest rate in the state.

Regardless, no candidates would recommend that the amount be lowered.

"Sports and activities are a part of student life," Talakala said. "It's nice to have that community."

Sigal added that sports let everyone come together to encourage the team. The pair would not support raising the athletic fee further. "It's fine where it is. Show us that we have something we should be paying for," Sigal said.

Peters said he'd support a hike in athletic fees only if the administration had exhausted all other options.

Aduloju notes that the athletic program is a money-making venue. He doesn't support a scaling back of the athletic fee, but a halt on further increases. "The caps need to be there," he said.

Candidates also discussed the budget UCF received from the state this year. Gov. Bush's proposed budget allots \$207 million for UCF, \$23 million more than last year.

Talakala said he'll be happy if UCF gets the proposed budget, but he said that the school could use more money to be prepared for a future budget crisis.

Aduloju echoed Talakala's sentiments, adding, "There needs to be more focus on university ... I don't think [the money allotted by Gov. Bush] was sufficient." Aduloju believes this is one of the reasons that lobbying should be the president's top priorities. "This unilaterally affects all of us."

Peters, as the current director of Governmental Affairs, said that lobbying will be especially important to him. Through the people he's met through his job with the SGA, Peters said he'll be effective in campaigning for legislative funding.

Talakala summed up the general consensus among the candidates: "I would be for raising the tuition if our education was positively affected. We need to focus on things that support a quality education."

Week in Science

NASEEM SOWTI
Senior Staff Writer

Virus naturally targets tumors
 In a recent study, researchers at New York University School of Medicine found that one mosquito-borne virus automatically targets and kills tumor cells in mice.

Most importantly, it does so while leaving healthy cells alone, a feature that may make it a promising treatment for some forms of cancer. The study shows that the virus is effective in killing tumors in mice at every location tested. The amount of time and number of injections needed to cause tumor remission varied.

The virus is named Sindbis after the Egyptian town where it was first identified. It is transmitted exclusively by mosquitoes and causes cold-like symptoms in humans, such as fever and muscle ache, which quickly subside.

More work still needs to be done before the virus is shown to be safe for human application.

Transgenic animals produced with modified sperm

A Japanese-U.S. team reported last week the successful creation of transgenic animals using sperm genetically modified and grown in a laboratory dish.

This achievement has implications for a wide range of research, from developmental biology to gene therapy. This is the first time sperm cells have been cultured under laboratory, or "in vitro" conditions and used to produce a transgenic animal.

The team has developed a system that enables immature sperm cells, or spermatogonia, taken from male zebrafish to survive long enough "in vitro" that they can receive foreign genes inserted by a retrovirus. Those cells go on to develop into mature, functional sperm cells. Those sperm cells are then used to fertilize zebrafish eggs in a laboratory dish, resulting in the production of transgenic embryos and, ultimately transgenic zebrafish.

This new technique has the potential to speed the production of many different types of transgenic animal models that will shed new light on human development and disease.

Two new superheavy chemical elements created
 A team of Russian and American scientists report that they have created two new chemical elements.

These elements are called "superheavies" because of their enormous atomic mass. Element 113 will be given the temporary name Ununtrium (Uut), and element 115 will be designated Ununpentium (Uup).

The two elements fill a gap at the farthest edge of the periodic table and hint strongly at a landscape of undiscovered elements.

Herb linked to heart attacks faces ban

FROM A1

tain Ephedra include Metabolife, Metabolite, Xenadrine, Diet Fuel, Shape-Fast Plus, Ultimate Orange, Ripped Fuel and Ripped Force.

The supplement industry, which is made up of more than 1,000 companies, sees more than \$19 billion in business a year.

In 2002, Ephedra-based products made \$1.3 billion. The *Nutrition Business Journal* estimates that number fell to \$500 million in 2003 because of negative press about the possible side effects.

Ephedra made national news

last February when Baltimore Orioles pitcher Steve Bechler, 23, died from Ephedra-related causes. Bechler collapsed with heatstroke at the Orioles' spring training camp in Florida and never woke up.

At the time of Bechler's death, the National Football League, the NCAA and the International Olympic Committee had already banned its athletes from using supplements with Ephedra. Major League Baseball has since taken steps in that direction.

"I used to take one of the supplements with Ephedra," said junior Casey Lee, 21. "I didn't think it could be that dangerous

if [retailers] sold it out in the open."

Soon after taking Ephedra, the business major was warned of the dangers by a doctor. "I don't have high blood pressure or an irregular heart beat, but it wasn't worth the risk to keep taking it."

Lee, who still uses a dietary supplement, is now much more careful. "I check the ingredients to make sure there isn't any Ephedra or Ma Huang," Mu Huang is a pseudonym for Ephedra.

Overall, supplements containing Ephedra have been linked to a total of 155 deaths, along with

several heart attacks and strokes.

Three states — New York, California and Illinois — have already banned the controversial substance. A majority of retail chains in the remaining states have taken Ephedra-containing products off the shelves. Most of the supplements, however, remain readily available to anyone with Internet access and a credit card.

For more information about Ephedra and dietary supplements, contact the Campus Wellness Center at wellness@mail.ucf.edu or 407-823-5841.

Police Beat

Cocaine, a vacuum cleaner and hair spray

ALEX BABCOCK
Managing Editor

A call about a burglary in Pegasus Pointe at about 7:15 p.m. Wednesday led to the arrest of a 19-year-old female student charged with grand theft, cocaine possession, cannabis possession and burglary, along with other crimes.

Officer Donald Massey responded to the call and took statements from two witnesses who said they had left their apartment at 2 a.m. and returned around 4:30 p.m. to notice some items were missing.

The list of items included a \$150 Samsung cell phone, \$1,230 worth of jewelry, \$400 worth of CDs, \$50 of prescription Sonata capsules — used as a sleep aid for insomniacs — and \$200 in cash.

One of the victims went to the defendant's apartment, asked if

she could see if her stuff was there and looked around with permission. She found everything she said was hers and had gone missing, except for two pairs of earrings, a gold bracelet and the \$200 in cash.

Massey then called in Corporal D. Dennany and Officer Mario Jenkins to make contact with the possible suspect. According to the report, she allowed them to enter her apartment and spoke with them after being read her Miranda warnings. She also gave written consent to search her apartment.

The corporal and officer found cannabis buds on a living room table, cannabis in the defendant's desk and a bag of what appeared to be cocaine on the defendant's bedroom floor. In a jewelry box they also found a bag from a cigarette pack with a white powder that appeared to be cocaine and a wood and

metal pipe that appeared to have marijuana in it.

A further search of the apartment revealed a plastic bag in a Popsicle box in the freezer that had what appeared to be cannabis, a cigar cutter also in the freezer, four rings found under the living room rug, two bracelets and a green hair band under the couch cushions.

Once the victims completed their statements, Massey asked the defendant if she had any other illegal drugs in her apartment. According to the report the defendant said she didn't know, but that they could look together. She went to her bathroom medicine cabinet and retrieved eight Ambien pills — another insomnia medication — from an antidepressant pill bottle.

The Ambien pills were mixed in with antidepressant pills.

The defendant also went to her vacuum cleaner and

removed a pill bottle with more Sonata capsules that belonged to one of the defendants.

A review of the prescription records by Massey revealed that those pills didn't belong to the victim, either.

The defendant also retrieved a "Got2b Dazzling Shine Spray" bottle from the vacuum, along with a "bea container" that had some cannabis bud and cocaine in it.

After the defendant was fully questioned, she was taken to the UCF Police Department where she asked for an attorney. She also asked if she could get the bottle of "Got2b Dazzling Shine Spray" back when they were done with it.

One of the officers told her that she couldn't, and the defendant responded, "Oh yeah, because I stole it."

Jessica Ann Lord was charged and booked at the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

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35 Celebrating 35 years

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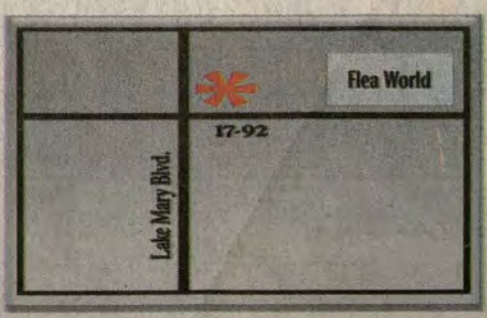
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MAUREEN SCHAEFER, RN
UCF Health Services

Recently, I've noticed some small bumps on my genitals. Coincidentally, my boyfriend has similar bumps on the lower part of his stomach.

Initially, I feared they may be genital warts, but my Health Care Provider at the Student Health Center diagnosed it as Molluscum Contagiosum.

Can you give me more information on this condition?

Many of our patients with Molluscum fear they have genital warts, otherwise called Human Papilloma Virus. With an untrained eye the two may appear quite similar and do tend to gravitate to similar regions of our bodies. Different types of viruses cause Molluscum and HPV. They are both commonly spread by close intimate contact and to a lesser degree they also may be spread manually and by clothing or other items. Fortunately, unlike some strains of HPV, Molluscum does not create precancerous or cancerous changes in our cells. Treatment regimes are sometimes similar.

This disease is a common, contagious, non-painful viral infection of the skin. It appears as small, flesh-colored, elevated bump on the skin and often appears in clusters. The bump is round, firm and smooth in texture. If you look closely you may see a "pit" in the center. The diameters of the bumps range from 1 mm to 15 mm. It may take anywhere between 2 weeks to 6 months after exposure for the bumps to manifest.

They can occur on just about any part of your body. Adults often find them on their genitals, thighs, buttock, groin and abdomen. They can also be found on children, especially on the trunk, face and arms.

The virus seems to be more prevalent in warm, moist climates. Scratching can especially spread this virus. It may be resolved without treatment due to an immune response.

Molluscum is often treated with liquid nitrogen. This treatment is mildly uncomfortable. After the skin is treated, it may become red, irritated and mild blistering can occur on some people. Eventually this domed lesion will disappear and the skin will heal. Keeping your skin dry and clean is essential, and clothing may irritate them.

Shaving in the pubic area can spread the virus and cause new bumps to develop. Anyone diagnosed with Molluscum should have close contacts examined to determine exposure to this virus.

Many students ask me how can they prevent Molluscum or help to heal it faster.

Students should:

- Screen sexual partners for Molluscum.
- Wash hands frequently.
- Keep skin clean and dry.
- Eat well-balanced meals with lots of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains and low fat protein sources.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Get adequate rest and exercise daily.
- Eliminate daily stressors and implement stress-reduction techniques such as yoga, meditation and focused breathing.
- Take a multi-vitamin with antioxidants.

E-mail your questions to
AskADoc@mail.ucf.edu

State law mandated art piece

FROM A1

ing. This means the art expenditure for a building is built into the total construction budget and cannot be taken away, unless the funding for the whole building is cut too.

The law may have been written to ensure art wouldn't be overlooked in the building design process, said Theo Lotz, director of UCF's Art in State Buildings program. "It's not that the arts aren't as important, they just aren't as quantifiable as a business venture, for example," he said. "They aren't as tangible but are no less important."

The importance of the Art in State Buildings program is obvious to Francis, though. "The tradition of

placing interesting and challenging art in public buildings has so many distinguished precedents, going back to Egyptian and Roman times, that I feel the argument for public art is one I really don't have to make," he said.

Specifically, though, public art can be important for the university culture, according to Americans for the Arts communications director Lori Robishaw. It could engage students and faculty in a civic dialogue over pertinent issues, it could teach students about diverse cultures or it could cause students to consider the role of art and artists in society, amongst other things.

Having contemporary art at UCF does more than

just beautify the main entrance to the campus auditorium, said Ryan Burkhart, a UCF printmaking instructor.

"It offers our own students the opportunity to experience contemporary art in a place aside from the museum or gallery setting," he said. "It also greatly enhances the overall presence of UCF, and on a more practical note, it overtly effects the environment of the people who will use the Rosen Center on a daily basis."

Burkhart said that in spite of those kinds of benefits, inevitably people focus on money, missing the whole picture. "Many times people have a conflict about spending money on art, no matter what the amount," he said.

New Miss UCF is crowned



Newly crowned Miss UCF Christine Cooper joins Mr. UCF 2004 Charlie Reuter. Cooper won the title Saturday night at the Miss UCF 2004 Scholarship Pageant in the Student Union.

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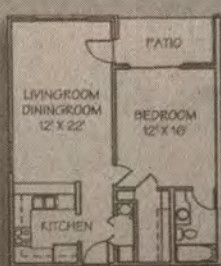
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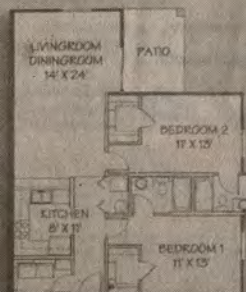
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Sacrifices saved classes

FROM A1

concentrate on general — education and required courses, because that would help the most students.

"Still, we went on a case-to-case basis for the extra workload," she said. "Some asked me if they could teach graduate courses. I know that they are going over and above their normal duties, so they get a lot of freedom."

She added, "I never had to force anyone to teach. They are all very generous with

their time and energy."

Dean Vittes is the director of the Liberal Studies Graduate Program. He said, "We do it because we enjoy it. It's part of the job we do."

He pointed out that because his students take their classes in many different departments, he's a good barometer of what's going on across campus.

"The college is making an extreme effort to make sure that classes are there in a way that makes sense to students," he said. "They have spent an

extraordinary amount of time figuring out how to best serve students, including doing their best to make as many seats available as possible."

Though none could say just how many sections were being held together by their efforts, the idea seems to be working. CAS offered 78,308 total seats this spring, which is a 5.5 percent increase over last spring.

It also provided 111 more sections this spring, though officials were unsure how that compared with what was offered during the fall term.

Administrators going back to classroom

FROM A1

Cunningham explained. "Many are expected not only to teach, but also to generate external funding. That is true of many departments across this campus."

Handberg added, "Chairs at UCF end up doing many of the tasks that other universities have staff doing. Time is an issue. Also, many faculty move into administrative positions because they don't want to teach anymore."

He added that he believes it's healthy for faculty in administrative positions to teach at least one course a year. "It should be expected so that they can maintain their credentials," he said.

Elliot Vittes is the director of UCF's Liberal Studies Graduate Program. He said that many of the difficulties exist because "UCF is trying to maximize its services with finite resources. It's a difficult process."

Some professors expressed

concerns that the shortage of professors might force some administrators to teach, even though they might hate being in the classroom. As a student, you are best served when your professor enjoys teaching and feels they are providing you a service, they said.

Vittes disagrees. "[Faculty administrators] are all teachers," he said. "Being in the classroom is a natural thing. Many already are, but now some are teaching more. That's to be applauded."

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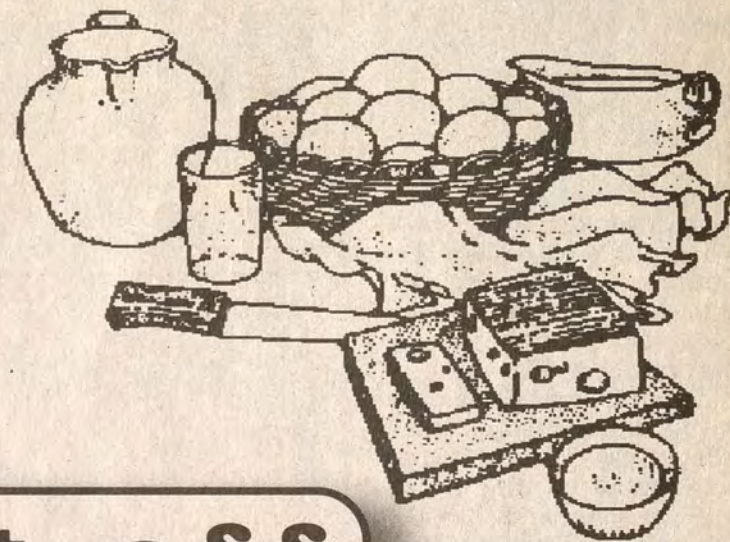
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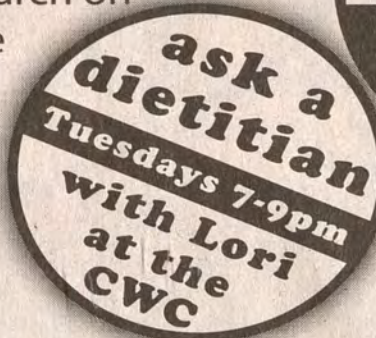


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Nation and World

Tenet defends CIA, says agency gave Bush accurate intelligence

WASHINGTON — CIA Director George Tenet declared Thursday that his agency's analysts "never said there was an 'imminent' threat" from Saddam Hussein.

Tenet, stepping openly into a heated battle over blame for faulty assessments of the danger from Hussein, acknowledged that the CIA might have overestimated some of Iraq's weapons programs, particularly its quest for nuclear arms.

But he seemed determined to subtly retarget the blame toward top Bush administration policy-makers who urged an invasion of Iraq and, in some cases, exaggerated what U.S. intelligence said or used data that the CIA hadn't vouched for.

He said the agency's spies and analysts generally provided White House policy-makers with an accurate portrayal of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction based on information available at the time.

"No one told us what to say or how to say it," the CIA chief said.

Tenet's unusually public and impassioned defense of the CIA's record in Iraq and around the world was a clear attempt to protect the spy agency, which has come under withering criticism since weapons inspector David Kay said recently that Iraq had no caches of chemical and biological weapons at the time of the U.S. invasion.

Dean says he'll quit if he doesn't win Wisconsin

FLINT, Mich. — Howard Dean told his supporters Thursday that he would quit the race for president if he doesn't win the Wisconsin primary Feb. 17. He abruptly cut short a campaign swing through Michigan and flew to Milwaukee to begin what may be his last stand.

"We must win Wisconsin," Dean wrote in an e-mail to supporters early Thursday morning. "All that you have worked for these past months is on the line in a single state, on a single day. We have come so far to change our political process and restore our democracy — we can't stop now."

The former governor of Vermont wrote that he needed to raise \$700,000 by Sunday to advertise in Wisconsin, and urged supporters to contribute \$50 right away so the campaign can reserve television airtime there. His campaign aides said they'd raised \$400,000 over the Internet by midafternoon. The message was sent to more than 600,000 supporters.

Grisly student politics at West Bank university glorify violence

BIR ZEIT, West Bank — Student politicians at Bir Zeit University no longer stump on simply better library services and cheaper lunches. They also campaign on which party claims to have killed more Israelis.

"For the Islamist bloc, it is 135," said Rami Barghouti, a leader of the student bloc formed by militant Palestinian factions Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Barghouti said that figure, which is all but impossible to confirm, is the number of Israelis who have been killed by Bir Zeit students associated with Hamas.

The political picture at Bir Zeit captures a broader evolution in the Palestinian balance of power. Like their parents, today's young Palestinians are increasingly inclined to support radical groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, at the expense of Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah Party, which has steadily lost ground on campuses across the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

For the past three years, Bir Zeit had scrapped its campus elections, citing the ongoing violence between Palestinians and Israelis. But, with students demanding a chance to vote, the university relented, and by the time ballots were counted Dec. 10, the campaign had revealed an inflamed student body.

Teach For America: From Ivy League to inner city

So you were captain of your college tennis team? You were president of Columbia's Student Council? You spent your summer building homes in Haiti? Plus you had a job at the United Nations and served as the editor of your school newspaper?

If so, you just might have a

shot at working in the one of the most impoverished corners of the nation with a minimum wage salary, 10-hour work days and little time to socialize with people of your own age.

Despite what you're thinking, this job description has been alluring enough to merit the two-year commitment of 10,000 graduates who have served as part of Teach For America since its inception in 1990.

Perhaps a more appropriate name for TFA is "Peace Corps in the Classroom," as the purpose of this program, the brainchild of Princeton student Wendy Kopp, is to place recent grads from the nation's top universities in low-achieving schools.

The hope is that TFA participants' energy and scholarly achievements will be enough to make a positive impact on elementary and secondary education — even though the grads are unaccredited as teachers and likely have never had an education course.

Dispute over morning-after pill likely to stir again

It's Friday night and you have unprotected sex. Or your condom breaks. Your doctor won't be in the office until Monday.

Should you be able to pick up the "morning-after pill" — which can help to prevent pregnancy if taken within 72 hours, the sooner the better — in the aisles of your local drugstore?

The Food and Drug Administration's advisory committee recently answered yes, recommending that a regimen called Plan B be available without a prescription (the only way to get this type of pill in most states). The FDA is slated to take up the issue this month.

Morning-after pills have been sold by prescription in the United States for six years. More than 30 countries allow them to be sold without prescription, including Britain and France.

Proponents say emergency contraception could prevent 1.7 million unintended pregnancies and 800,000 abortions each year in the United States.

In 1999 Wal-Mart made national headlines by not filling prescriptions for emergency contraception.



CHUCK KENNEDY / KRT
U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Director George Tenet denied Thursday that his agency tailored information on weapons of mass destruction to build a case for war in Iraq.

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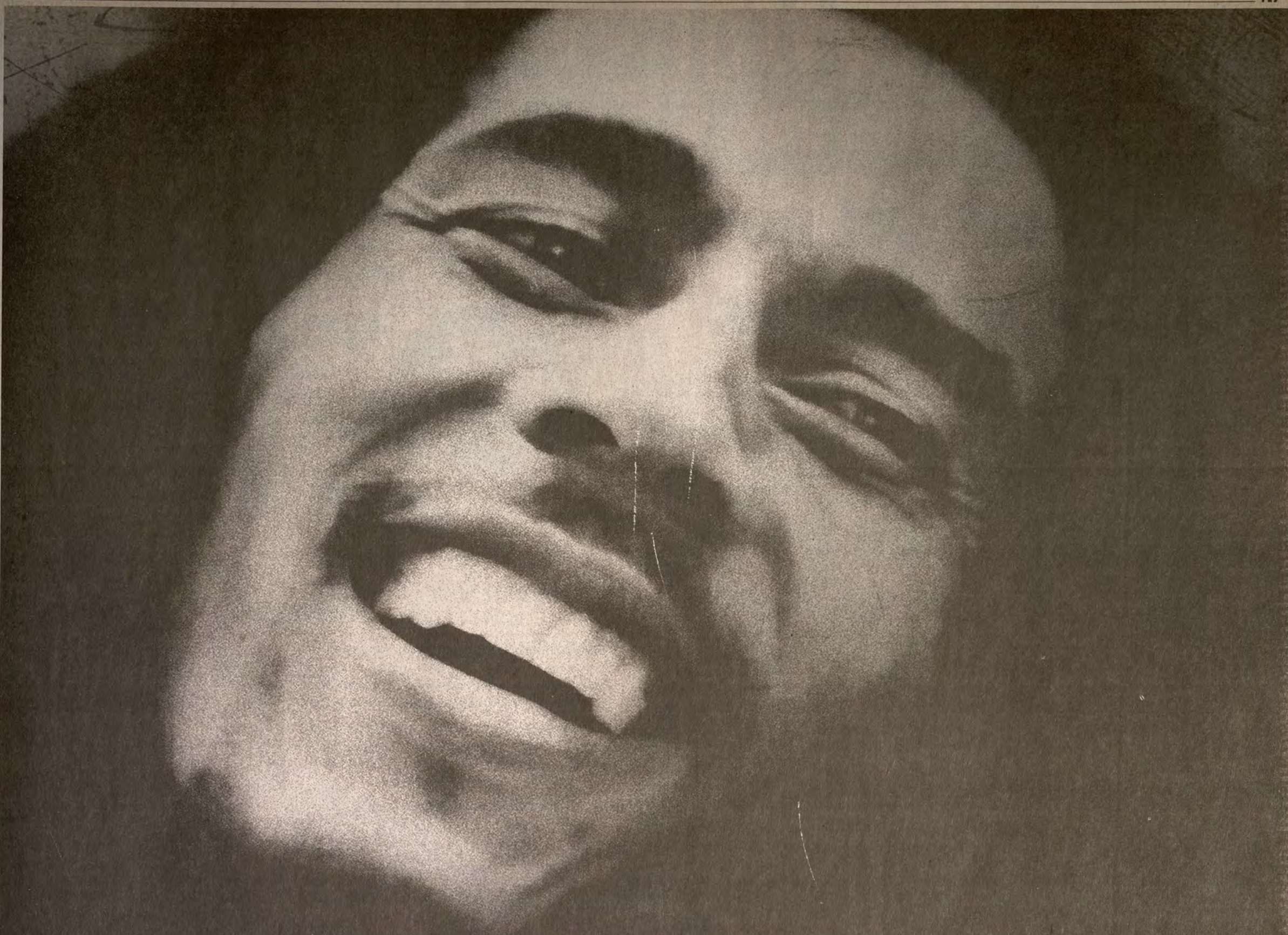
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OUR STANCE

Students get new hope, fee hikes

The UCF administration on Wednesday announced its approval of a plan to guarantee students they can graduate in four years.

In the last issue of the *Future*, the Student Government Association presidential candidates weighed in on the contract, which at the time was just a proposal.

Under this so-called contract, freshmen agree to take all classes necessary to graduate, and in return the school promises to ensure that all the necessary classes will be available.

The catch for students is that the system could require they attend 7:30 a.m. classes. Some students won't be willing to take these, and that means they'll probably have to violate the contract.

Candidates for the Student Government presidency have all said they favor the contract to an extent.

Olu Aduloju and Kevin Peters agree that the program has its flaws — it might not be possible to implement as the administration has described it, and it could pose a problem for students who change majors.

Of course, the idea of changing majors isn't new. When students first get to college, they may think they know what they'll do with the rest of their lives and pick the major that fits that career path. The odds say that major won't work out and the student will end up picking another one.

Regardless of the cause of a major switch, the change shouldn't disrupt a student contract. If students change majors, they should get the chance to start over with a new contract. From what Hickey has said, it seems like this is possible, at least in the future. Without a new contract, students could feel forced to finish a major they don't like, so that they can ensure they are still able to graduate on time.

Coincidentally the birth of the student contract came at the same time Gov. Bush proposed a new punishment for students who take longer to graduate. This proposal charges out-of-state tuition to students who take more than 110 percent of the required credit hours to graduate.

This idea has drawn the ire of both student presidential candidates and administrators. It's basically punishment for taking too long to graduate.

This model requires two things: that students accept higher education as an assembly-line procedure, and that they know for the full extent of their college education exactly what they're here to learn.

Neither of which is probable. This means Gov. Bush isn't thinking like college students do, or he's hoping to force students out quickly and cash in on those who stay.

Hopefully Bush's proposal will fail under the weight of administrative criticism, but the

screws could get put on UCF students in still another way.

President John Hitt has proposed removing the caps on some student fees, one of which is the athletic fee.

UCF students already pay \$11.09 per credit hour in athletic fees. This money goes to support all sanctioned athletic programs, including football. We pay the third-highest amount in the state, just a cent below a tie for second.

This is a lot of money. At the in-state undergraduate rate, it's about 10 percent of the tuition cost.

Compare this to the University of Florida, which makes so much money from its football program that its athletic fee is only \$1.90.

Naturally it takes money to make money, and we're paying to expand our athletic program. Eventually, UCF hopes to make \$1 million a year from its switch to Conference USA, and hopefully it will reduce its need for this athletic fee in the process.

Though our presidential candidates all feel the fee shouldn't go down, none of them supports an increase, either. At third in the state for this fee, they all say students pay enough already.

At UCF and schools throughout the state, we're paying more every year to support schools and the individual components therein, including sports. It's time we saw an end to increases and a start to results from them.



BEN HENDERSON / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

READER VIEWS

On-campus shuttles are a waste

I'd never really paid much attention to the on-campus shuttles until I read the recent story on them ["Shuttle struggling to find passengers," Feb. 5].

Yes, I knew they existed, but I'd never used them. I don't even think I know anyone who does. And then I read that they might be discontinued. Well isn't that a good thing? Who really uses them?

The on-campus shuttles are a complete waste of money. Why would a school that is already having budget problems implement something so useless? We survived before the shuttles. Does UCF really think its students are really so lazy that they need to ride a bus around campus? We have legs. We should use them.

Spend the money wasted on the on-campus shuttles on something more beneficial to students, like classes. Isn't that why we're here in the first place?

—STEPHANIE GIBBS

Forum made light of painful issues

I must say that the president's forum was an absolute farce!

Instead of students getting genuine answers from the administration, they got "canned" statements telling them about legislation, appropriation committees and other such bureaucrat-speak.

The panel was rude to the point of totalitarianism, literally laughing off people and statements that did not appeal to it, while offering circular answers with no solutions to the more palpable issues. Take, for example, the plight of the College of Arts and Sciences, and specifically the University Writing Center, which turned out to be a major theme throughout the two-hour forum.

When my colleague Meghan Flick and the Writing Center's Coordinator Anastasia Bojanowski approached the microphone to inquire about the Writing Center, President Hitt referred them to the head of the College of Arts and Sciences and the dean of the English Department! Beth Young, director of the University Writing Center, has been extremely vocal to the powers-to-be concerning the center's budget cuts.

Where have they referred her? Provost Terry Hickey! When Bojanowski made this clear, Hickey interjected and made Kathryn Seidel, the chair of the College of Arts and Sciences, and English Department Chairman Patrick Murphy out to be incompetent by saying that CAS had been allocated "sufficient" funds and it is up to them to decide where the money goes. How can they allocate money that is simply not there?

After further prodding, Hitt then conceded matter-of-factly that the funding CAS had received did not meet its growth or cover the sheer amount of classes that it offers. He said he hopes that this would change in the future. That is great, president. Hope and \$2 will get you a cup of coffee at Starbucks!

I have been a writing consultant at the Writing Center for the past year and a half and have seen the not-so-subtle changes throughout my time there. As stated in Morgan Moeller's article, ["Writing Center Services Gradually Disappearing", Feb. 2] the University Writing Center has been forced to cut back 18 hours from its weekly schedule! On top of that, it is no longer able to give out handouts, which provide extra help for students once they leave. Instead, the Writing Center has one mere "desk copy" of each handout on the literature racks that used to be full of free copies.

As I saw the Writing Center, the place I regard as my home on campus, crumble around me, I could not sit still. Some fellow writing consultants and I drafted a constitution and chartered an organization known as Writers INK. It stands for Writers In Need of Kare.

We submitted all the necessary paperwork to SGA at the end of last semester and as of last week, we are officially registered and recognized! Our goal is to help the Writing Center out in any way possible, whether by raising funds for basic office supplies or giving in-class presentations about the Writing Center's serv-

ices to composition students. This is an outreach program that has been discontinued due to the budget crisis, because the presenters are required to be paid for their time.

Basically, Writers INK is a way for the students to get involved in saving one of UCF's best resources. If you are interested, send an e-mail to uwclub@hotmail.com and we will contact you about meeting times and upcoming events! Also, the next time you walk in to the University Writing Center, there will be a donation jar sponsored by Writers INK, and I encourage everyone to give what they can. If UCF will not provide its students with the services they need to succeed, then the students need to do it themselves. Applying Isaac Newton's Third Law of Motion to our situation, for every budget cut, there is an equal and opposite fundraiser!

Let us show the administration that the days of standing in front of a half-filled room once a semester with pre-packaged responses and calling it an "open forum" are passé!

—ALEX GARCIA
VICE-PRESIDENT OF WRITERS INK

Kucinich offers free tuition

As college tuition costs continue to rise, so do students' stress levels. We have to hold down jobs and find our loans piling up, all while dealing with the usual stressors of college. Additionally, many capable students never make it to universities, because they can't afford it. Meanwhile, Bush and Co. want to raise tuition costs, as they spend billions elsewhere.

Students can't give the education system the money it needs — we barely get by as it is! So, where will the money come from? Democratic presidential candidates Howard Dean and John Kerry want to solve the problem by repealing Bush's tax cuts. But why give more money to the government, when it's already there?

That's right, the money is already there in the Pentagon's bloated budget. The Bush administration pours billions of dollars into ineffective military programs, such as the National Missile Defense system. Our military budget nearly equals that of all other nations combined.

If elected, Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich will cut excess military spending and put the money into education, where it belongs. With Kucinich as president, millions of people will have access to a tuition-free college education. So, not only will we be less stressed out, but poverty levels will drop as more Americans can attend college and get better jobs. As students, we can give money to the education system without taking it out of our own pockets. We can do it by electing Dennis Kucinich president in 2004.

—DOUGLAS COUSMINER

Breast baring sends wrong message

I fear that most are missing the real issue with Justin Timberlake ripping off Janet Jackson's tear-away costume, revealing her breast.

Their song was great and the little courtship that took place on stage was fun to watch. It was a little suggestive, but fun nonetheless.

I was not offended by the exposure. We've all seen a woman's breast — be it your own, your mother's or your girlfriend's. I resent the angle that it is somehow immoral for us to view a breast or that a woman's breast is ugly. My problem is with the method.

A horrible message was sent to many boys and men — that if you want something, you should just take it.

Come on girls, haven't we been dealing with this long enough? A male student I work with, while discussing the incident, said that "it was every man's dream" to do what Timberlake did. I asked him: "What, to rip her clothes off like some junior high school boy lookin' for a peek?" Wouldn't every man's dream be to have that woman's body be given to him by her like a gift, rather than taken by him?

I am most appalled that Jackson would initiate such a violation, even if it was just for a half-time "show."

—CONNIE WASHAM

OUR STANCE

Bush's commission mocks independence

President George W. Bush has started an independent investigation into the intelligence gathering that led to the war in Iraq. That's a good thing, but there's a problem: Bush is calling all the shots.

Just weeks into the investigation's inception, the Bush administration has started dragging its feet on handing over pre-Sept. 11 intelligence briefings.

That's happening despite claims by the administration that members of the commission will have "access to any information they need to conduct a thorough review," as reported by CNN.

Those documents could be strong evidence for or against going to war, but the commission may never see them.

Another curious choice in the forming of the commission is how members will be picked — primarily by Bush.

A good example of how this process has already failed is the appointment of Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz), but no appointment of former U.S. lead weapons inspector David Kay.

Both had recently called for an independent investigation into prewar intelligence, and both are very qualified.

McCain has shown himself to

be an honorable senator who sticks to his guns and tends to do what he feels is right, sometimes defying his own party. He has also shown that, like during the last presidential election, he can be levered by his own party to fold on important issues. Let's hope that he sticks to his guns and lets himself do the thinking.

On the other hand, Kay did his job in Iraq, said he found no WMDs or evidence of WMDs, but won't be a part of the commission. Though he wasn't exactly independent of intelligence gathering, since he was responsible for much of it, he would seem a good voice to have on the commission since he had valuable first-hand experience in Iraq.

Let's hope Kay's comment about WMDs — that "It turns out we were all wrong, and that is most disturbing" — wasn't what swayed Bush's choice.

If it was, and Bush is making all of his decisions concerning the commission based on who he thinks will find things his way, then we already know what the commission will find. Some bombs that weren't there before will suddenly turn up on paper, and we'll have come up with "sufficient evidence" for a preemptive war about a year after it

already started.

If the current Senate committee investigation into prewar intelligence is any indication of how the president's commission will act, then bad blood is on the horizon. It was also charged with finding flaws in intelligence gathering. Unfortunately, due to the nearly even split in Congress, led slightly by Republicans, the panel is strongly divided.

After reviewing intelligence reports and other evidence, they can't manage to agree on what they've seen. Though the Republican majority of the commission has declared that they've found no evidence that political pressure caused changes to intelligence reports, Democrats on the panel disagree. That's not independent, and that's not cooperative. That's partisanship at its most predictable. Why would a Republican-led commission find evidence of political pressure from a Republican-led administration? In this political climate of fierce partisan politics, it's not going to happen.

Based on Bush's choices for this new commission so far, we can't help but expect more of the same.

Central Florida Future

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Multicultural Student Center
BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

- Tuesday February 10**
8 pm Movie Night "Sarafina" with free pizza, SU rm. 218C
 - Wednesday February 11**
11 am - 1 pm AASU Valentine Pictures on the yard, SU South Patio

3pm AASU General Meeting, SU 316A
 - Thursday February 12**
7 pm Valentine Gala, Radisson on Alafaya/Colonial.
RSVP to ucf_aasu@yahoo.com.
 - Friday February 13**
7 pm Funny Fridays Comedy Show, Pegasus Ballroom
 - Tuesday February 17**
8 pm Forum, SU 218CD. Refreshments will be provided.
 - Friday February 20**
7 pm Tribute to Black Artists, TBA
 - Saturday February 21**
9 pm - 12 pm Community Service with Hands On Orlando.
Carpool meets in front of VAB at 8:15 am.
- For more information visit
<http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~aasu1969>



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THE OFFICE OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT THIS WEEK AND NEXT



- Monday February 9**
7 pm Dance Marathon Competition, Pegasus Ballroom
- Wednesday February 11**
11 am - 2 pm VUCF Green Ribbon Day providing information on organ and tissue donation Student Union South Patio

12 pm - 2 pm VUCF Interest Table Student Union South Patio

1 pm - 2 pm VUCF V-Craft Day. Come make crafts with residents of Bridge Assisted Living Center. Carpool meets at 12:30 pm in front of Millican Hall.
- Thursday February 12**
10 am - 2 pm SGA Candidate Forum, SU Patio Stage
- Saturday February 14**
Valentine's Day
- Monday February 16**
SGA Elections on Polaris

7 pm CAB Culinary Series Pastry Knights, Natura Tea and Coffee. Sign up in advance at SU rm. 208.
- Tuesday February 17**
SGA Elections on Polaris
- Wednesday February 18**
SGA Elections on Polaris

7 pm CAB Coffee Tasting, Natura Tea and Coffee. Sign up in advance at SU rm. 208.

8 pm CAB Cinema presents "Grosse Pointe Blank" and "Say Anything," Garden Key rm. 221
- Friday February 20**
12 pm - 2 pm VUCF Arts and Crafts at Community Care for the Elderly. Carpool at 12 pm from Millican Hall.
- Saturday February 21**
10 am - 2 pm VUCF Chill with Children Sports Jam, Lake Claire

9 pm - 2 am Late Knights featuring Hypnotist Tom DeLuca, Student Union

Funded by the Activity and Service Fee as allocated by SGA.



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INSIDE THE
NUMBERS

9
Hits recorded by new UCF players in this weekend's sweep of FIU.

14
Runs the UCF baseball team scored in two games without hitting any home runs.

10
Strikeouts recorded by pitcher Matt Fox in just five innings Saturday.

0
Amount of runs allowed by UCF's bullpen in 10 innings of work against FIU.

Briefs

UCF football coach George O'Leary announced another replacement to his coaching staff Saturday. D.J. McCarthy heads to UCF from the University of Nevada to take over as the Knights' new receivers coach. McCarthy had been with Nevada since 2000. Also joining O'Leary's staff is Joe Gilbert, who will take over offensive line coach duties in the wake of Dave DeGuglielmo's departure for the New York Giants. Gilbert formerly coached in the same capacity at the University of Toledo.

Upcoming

Women's basketball looks to find some winning ways tonight as they head to Belmont. ... Women's golf will host the UCF Invitational tomorrow. ... Men's tennis will host Stetson in the season's first A-Sun action Wednesday. ... Softball heads to Gainesville Wednesday to take on the Gators. ... Men's basketball returns home at 7:30 p.m. Thursday to host Jacksonville at the UCF Arena.

Quotables

"Who cares right now? Let's see how it is at the end of the season."

—UCF CATCHER RYAN BONO ON THE PRESEASON A-SUN COACHES' AND MEDIA POLLS

"I always saw myself as a UCF coach. I love the staff I was on and I loved being under Coach O'Leary. I know they'll win games."

—FORMER UCF RECEIVERS COACH AND FOOTBALL PLAYER SEAN BECKTON ON HIS RECENT TERMINATION

Fox trottin'



Junior pitcher Matt Fox earned his first win of the year in his first start as UCF knocked off FIU 6-2 on Saturday. Fox struck out 10 Golden Panther batters in only five innings of work.

BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Baseball opens the season with a sweep of FIU

FRANK KOSHEL
Staff Writer

UCF baseball appears poised to have a dominant 2004 season, as the Knights swept their opening two-game series against Florida International University in Miami.

UCF (2-0) cruised past FIU (1-4) 6-2 in the opening game and fought back in the second game from a 6-2 deficit to win 8-6.

UCF junior pitcher Matt Fox struck out ten batters in only five innings to earn the win. Fox struck out the first four hitters he faced until the second inning, when FIU hitter Bryan Pullin knocked a solo homer to right field. Despite the temporary setback, Fox remained steady and did not allow a single walk.

UCF center fielder Clay Timpner sparked UCF's offense in the fourth as he reached base on a triple. Dee Brown scored Timpner in the next at-bat with a single, tying the score at two apiece.

Pullin hit another solo homer in the fourth, but that was the only offense the Golden Panthers would muster in Saturday's game.

Designated hitter David Mann scored Ryan Bono in the fifth to tie the game again with a single.

"The offense is based around team speed this year," UCF first baseman Ryan Bono said prior to Saturday's game. "We also have guys that don't have home run power, but they have line drive power. It's team speed; getting on base, stealing bases and moving runners around. We're playing small ball."

The Knights broke the game wide open in the sixth when Bridger Hunt earned his first hit as a Knight, an RBI double that gave UCF its first lead of the night. Dave Lambert and Mann also picked up RBIs in the sixth.

Kyle Bono pitched three innings of relief to notch the save and secure the Knights' first win of the year.

Hopes dimmed for the Knights in Sunday's

game, however, as the Panthers leaped out to a 6-2 lead by the fourth inning.

FIU catcher Adrian Casanova belted a two-run home run to give the Panthers a 2-1 advantage. Luis Rivera added another RBI to push FIU's lead to 3-1. FIU had another 3-run inning in the fourth inning, despite only managing one hit. The Knights committed two errors, allowing FIU to extend its lead to 6-2.

An FIU error in the fifth inning gave way to a 3-run inning for UCF Ryan Bono, Brown and Timpner all scored as unearned runs, bringing the Knights within one run.

Mann tied the game in the sixth with a single, scoring Lambert. The Knights took the lead for good when catcher Drew Butera knocked in Brown.

Tim Bascom pitched two scoreless innings to close the game for UCF.

UCF's home opener is Friday night at 6pm at Jay Bergman field against second-ranked LSU.

Junior center fielder Jania Shinhoster batted 3-for-4 with 2 runs and 2 RBIs against McNeese State on Friday. Shinhoster also had 3 hits and 2 runs scored against Indiana University on Saturday.



BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Softball falls in St. Augustine

Sawyer, Whitley shine despite falling to Stetson

ASHLEY BURNS
Sports Editor

The UCF softball team fell to Stetson 8-6 yesterday at the UCF Triple Crown Classic in St. Augustine.

Despite the close loss to the Hatters, UCF softball pulled off three wins at this past weekend's tournament and is off to the team's best start in its three-year history.

UCF pitcher Taylor Sawyer kicked off the tournament in strong fashion Friday as the senior dominated McNeese State, shutting out the Cowboys and holding them to

only two hits. Sawyer also cleaned up at the plate, as she batted 2-for-3 with two RBIs.

"It's actually gotten stronger," Sawyer said of this year's pitching staff. "Last year we only had three pitchers and this year we have four. We're bringing a better work ethic and the want and desire to actually play. We have more variance between the pitchers. No two pitchers are the same."

The Knights' offensive star in the 11-0 victory was center fielder Jania Shinhoster, who was 3-for-4 at the plate with two runs and two RBIs. Second baseman Crystle Krafft also had a big day at the plate, as she went 2-for-4 with an RBI.

UCF gave up no runs in the second game

After falling to Belmont, men beat Lipscomb

Speraw's squad ditches skid after benching starting four

FRITZ LORISTON
Staff Writer

Entering this weekend two-game road trip, there were two things that was expected from UCF basketball.

One, Roberto Morentin would be in the starting line-up. After all, the senior started UCF's last 51 games.

And two, the Knights would respond after having their longest winning streak in nearly two decades snapped in front of their first-ever sellout crowd at home.

Neither happened.

Speraw gave only one regular, senior forward Josh Bodden, the starting nod on Thursday after the rest of the usual lineup was tardy leaving the hotel. Leading scorer Dexter Lyons sat out the first five minutes along with Morentin and the Knights fell 77-61 to Belmont. "It's all about discipline," said Lyons, who led UCF with 16 points on 6-of-13 shooting. "If we abide by the rules, there won't be a problem."

The Knights allowed the Bruins (15-5, 10-3) to shoot 58 percent from the field, the highest percentage against them all season.

"Our defense as a whole — that's been the staple to our success," Speraw said. "And we allow them to score 77 points and shoot 58 percent from the field."

The Knights scored two points over the final



ASHLEY BURNS
Sports Editor

My funny valentine

This diamond won't be my ladies' best friend

If you didn't know by now, I'm a softball groupie.

Normally when you think of softball, you're thinking 40-year-old beer guts hanging over incredibly short shorts, or nuggers as my buddy Budgete calls them.

Maybe if you threw the ladies of UCF fastpitch into a fraternity for four years, they might learn a thing or two about beer guts. But my girls are machines. I'm telling you, I can't get enough of them.

That is until last week.

As I wrapped up a conversation with Coach Renee Gillespie and all-star shortstop Stephanie Best at Media Day, I was issued a challenge. They want me to step up to the plate.

On Friday I will stare down a fastball from Taylor Sawyer. As a member of a special press and parents team, I will take part in the inaugural 100 Innings of Softball. While the rest of the participating students will have the luxury of hitting against a pitching machine, I get the real deal.

Well guess what, ladies. I've got a fever, and the only prescription is the long ball. Toss me the heater. Give me the breaking junk. I scoff at your feeble attempts.

They think it'll be cute to watch the dorky-yet-charming sports editor strike out against the professionals. What they don't know is that I'm going to turn their smiles upside down in one swing.

While most guys will be taking their ladies to an upscale restaurant like Denny's or Waffle House for Valentine's Day, I'll be taking my girls to the fences. There's going to be embarrassment and decaying pride on that diamond, and it won't be coming from this roundball Romeo.

Instead, the women that I have shown love to for the past two years will feel my wrath. Cupid's arrow will be replaced by a devastating frozen rope that won't only clear the fences at the UCF Softball Complex, but will touch the scoreboard on Jay Bergman Field as well.

As Kevin Costner said in *Bull Durham*: "Anything that travels that far ought to have a damn stewardess on it." Well somebody better get an entire flight crew organized because this ball is going on a long journey.

This challenge is almost laughable. Forget about my 24-inch pythons and washboard abs. My decades of experience on the baseball field will send our third-year softball program back to the Stone Age.

I almost feel bad for them. The girls that have had a tight grip on my heart will need to get a new grip of reality.

To make it fair, I'll offer some advice to the softball team right now. Rachelle Schmidt and Jania Shinhoster better play at the warning track. Otherwise, I'll go opposite field all day long.

Whether it's Sawyer or Lindsay Enders on the mound, they might need to give me a little sweet chin music. Brush me off that plate early, or I'll own it.

I'm the Hercules of the hardball. I'm the dominator of the diamond. I'm the Frankenstein of the fastball.

Maybe I'll bat with a blindfold or one arm tied behind my back. Maybe I'll say, "Forget you, Jobu," and I'll do it all myself.

I'm not even going to prepare. I'm going to sit back and enjoy the few days leading up to my shining moment. There's no need for me to even pick up a bat before Friday. Like Christopher Reeve in a 50-yard dash, they don't stand a chance.

Now that I think about it, there's a pretty clear reason why I haven't had a date on Valentine's Day since Reagan was in office.

When all is said and done, I don't want any hard feelings between me and the softball team.

Just don't tell me I didn't warn them.

Bisons dominate women with rally

MATT DUNAWAY
Staff Writer

The UCF women's basketball team dropped its second decision in ten days to Lipscomb 62-51 at Allen Arena on Saturday afternoon. This is the first defeat for the Knights on the road in A-Sun play.

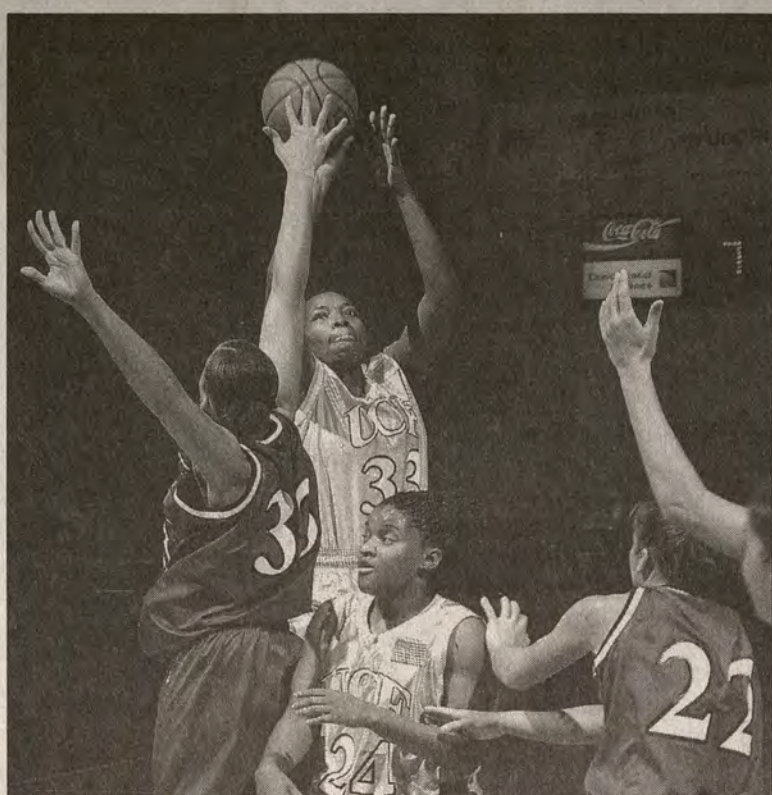
Lipscomb center Katie Beth Pate posted a career-high 28 points and grabbed 20 rebounds as part of the Homecoming festivities.

"Katie Beth played well on both ends of the floor," said Lipscomb coach Frank Bennett. "She was shutting down the middle defensively and getting defensive rebounds. She was very aggressive scoring on the offensive end and on the offensive boards."

The Knights attempted to spoil the party, and were able to jump out to an early 14-8 lead on a lay-up by forward Adrienne Billings with 10:37 remaining in the first half.

UCF (8-11; 7-5 A-Sun) was able to maintain its 28-24 lead going into the locker room behind 20 points in the paint. The Knights knocked down 38.7 percent from the field.

"I just tried to reassure everyone at halftime," said Bennett. "We were getting some good looks, and we knew if we got a couple things would be contagious for us."



Senior forward Adrienne Billings scored 8 points and totaled 5 rebounds against Lipscomb.

And contagious it was. LU shot 41.9 percent from the floor in the second twenty minutes, and held the Women of Pegasus without a field goal in the first ten minutes of the half.

Lipscomb (11-9; 8-4 A-Sun) was able to gain a 45-34 advantage on a lay-up by forward Monica Blake with 9:39 to go. Blake would finish with 12 points.

UCF limped to only five field goals, and shot 17.5 percent in the final half.

Guard Celeste Hudson scored 15 points on four of seventeen shooting while forward Takira Allen drove home 13 points and snatched a team-high 8 rebounds.

The Knights would cut the

PLEASE SEE WOMEN ON B7

Peppers scores career-high 11

FROM B1

10:25 of the first half but only trailed 26-25 at intermission. The Bruins, who converted most of their 10 of 23 from behind the arc without hands in their faces, took control of the game with four 3-pointers in the opening four minutes of the second half.

Lyons, who finished with a team-high 16 points, hit a deep three-pointer from the left wing to cut the Bruins' lead to 51-47 at the 8:40 mark, but the Knights would get no closer.

On Saturday, three players scored in double figures as the Knights ended a two-game skid, defeating conference doormat Lipscomb 73-57.

"Our guys had good focus defensively, on our slides [defensive positioning] and helping one another out," Speraw said.

Morentin, who returned to the starting lineup, scored game-high 20 points along with six rebounds. Lyons added 14 points, including 2-of-4 shooting from long range.

"We went inside to him [Morentin] early in the second half, executed some plays very well, and

he responded," Speraw said.

"They did a great job of defending him early, but we wanted to come out in the second half and establish that inside game."

Freshman Joshua Peppers recorded his first double-digit-scoring outing, registering 11 points. He scored seven points during a 25-8 run in the second half.

Less than a week ago UCF was not only one of the hottest teams in the Atlantic Sun Conference, but in the country.

The Knights owned a 14-game winning streak, then fourth-longest in the nation, that spanned for nearly two months and seemed to have the conference's regular-season title all wrapped up.

That was before the Knights (17-4, 12-2 in Atlantic Sun) hit the bulk of their schedule.

UCF fell into a tie for the league lead with Troy State, which defeated the Knights handily in ending their winning streak at the UCF Arena in front of the Knights' largest home crowd ever.

With Thursday's win, Belmont moved to within a game of first.

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Longtime Knight terminated

New football coach George O'Leary has put the finishing touches on his new coaching staff after the release of wide receivers coach Sean Beckton. Beckton has been a part of the UCF coaching staff since 1996 under former coach Mike Kruezek. Beckton, a former wide receiver for the Knights from 87-90, was the only coach retained after O'Leary's arrival. O'Leary cited philosophical reasons for releasing Beckton. Beckton has been replaced by former University of Nevada receivers coach D.J. McCarthy. McCarthy spent his previous four seasons with the Wolfpack.

Men's tennis falls to Seminoles

The 75th-ranked UCF Knights men's tennis team dropped a 5-2 decision to the 36th-ranked Florida State Seminoles Saturday. Bright spots for the Knights came in the second match of singles play when Catalin Bradu defeated Jonathas Sucupira, winning his final two sets 6-2 and 6-2 after falling behind early 2-6 in the first set. Rhett Rosen turned away Jarrod Owen in the sixth round of singles play, winning in straight sets 6-3 and 6-2. The Knights' only victory in doubles play came after a resilient comeback from doubles partners Catalin Bradu and Ener Gursoy after falling behind early

6-1. The two took the match 8-6 over Jarrod Owen and Chip Webb.

Loan to aid women's facilities

The UCF Athletics Association received a loan for \$7 million this week that will help build new facilities for four women's sports. Already completed, the women's track team has received a new track surface. Future projects include the completion of the Softball Complex, as well as the construction of a brand new boat-house for the women's rowing team at Lake Pickett and an aquatics center for women's swimming and diving.

—COMPILED FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS BY MARK LENNOX

at 6:00 p.m. as Coach Kirk Speraw and his assistants face Get at Us Productions, the student team who won the intramural 3-on-3 basketball tournament this past fall. Come cheer on your fellow students as they try to beat Coach Speraw for the first time ever!

Volleyball game of the week

Pi Kappa Phi took on Pi Kappa Alpha last Monday to determine who would win the Fraternity Black League and move up to Gold next year. PiKapp lost the first game 22-25 but then came back to win a close one 25-24 to send it to game three. Winning game three 15-11, Pi Kappa Phi will move up to Gold League in next year's Fraternity Division.

Softball deadline

Today is the last day to sign up for softball teams that will consist of 10 players. Leagues

are offered Monday through Thursday with various divisions of women's, men's, co-ed and open recreational. Want to play but don't have a team? Come out to a free-agent meeting today at 7:00 p.m. and tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. in the Recreation and Wellness Center Room 206.

Deadline update

Softball - Feb. 9
4-on-4 flag football - Feb. 16
2-on-2 sand volleyball - Feb. 16
Ultimate frisbee - Feb. 16

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How to Help a Friend 12:00pm
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Supplement & Steroids 2:00pm
Body Image by REACH 5:00pm
Supplements & Steroids 6:00pm
Fitness (TBA) 7:00pm
Weighty Matters 8:00pm

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RWC FRONT LOBBY @ 11:00 - 1:00PM & 4:00 - 8:00PM
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UCF IM SPORTS corner
imsports.ucf.edu

AYA FUNAHASHI
Contributing Writer

Fourth annual Speraw challenge championships

UCF's men's basketball team is having a great season so far, and even though they had an impressive winning streak this year, it's nothing compared to Coach Kirk Speraw's three-game winning streak against the UCF student body. The Fourth Annual Kirk Speraw Challenge Finals will take place on Wednesday at the UCF Recreation and Wellness Center

WHO WILL SAVE US?

**CAN
BASEBALL
TOPPLE
GODZILLA?**

-PG. 84

**WILL
SOFTBALL
FOIL
MOTHRRA'S
PLANS?**

- PG. 85

**CAN UCF
TAKE IT
ALL THE
WAY TO
VICTORY?**

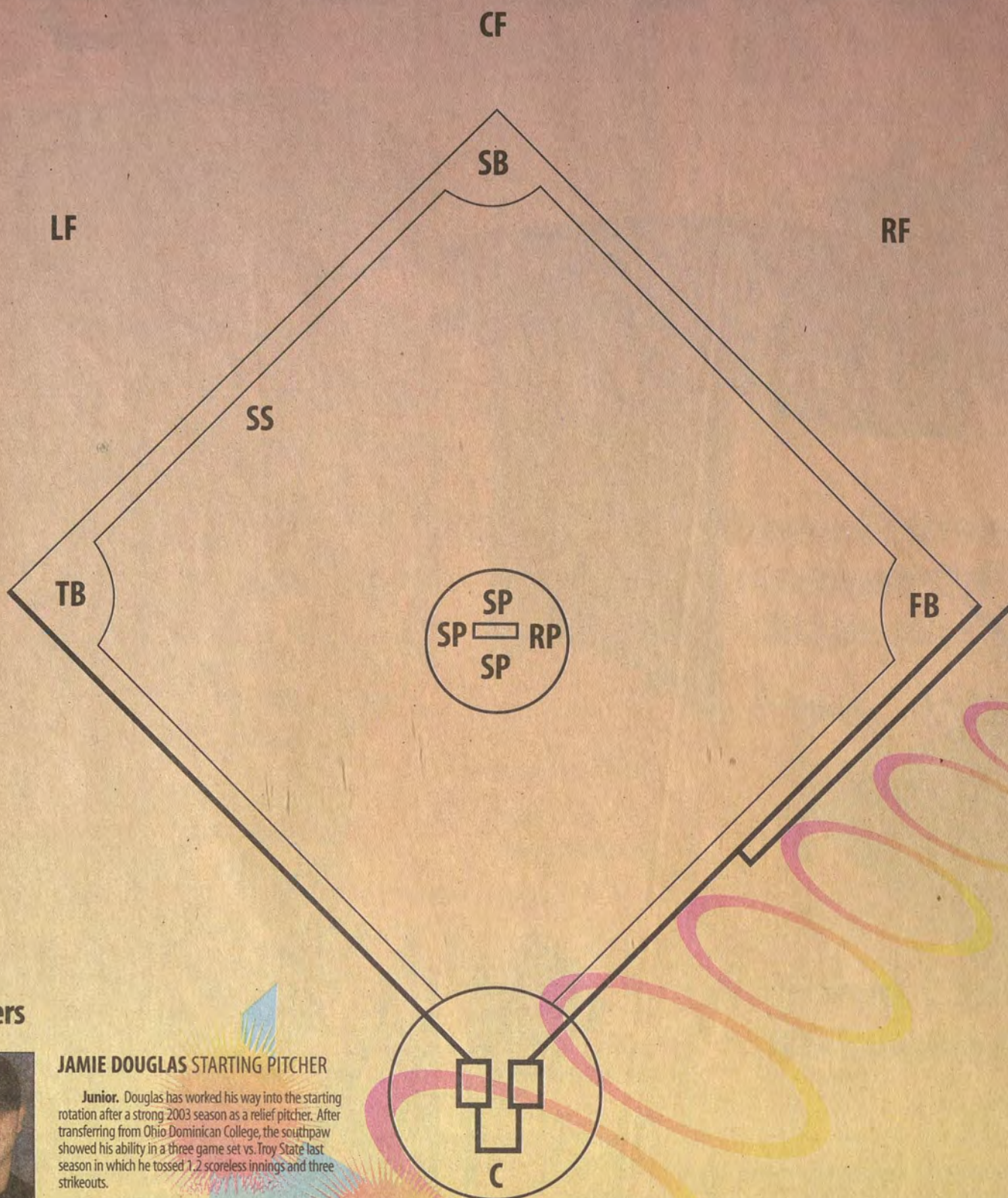
**FIND OUT INSIDE THE...
SEASON PREVIEW!**

February 9, 2004

Central Florida Future

ILLUSTRATION BY JERROD ROCKHILL / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

2004 SEAS



A look at the baseball roster

While the Knights lose big bats from recent graduates Ryan Bear and Rich Wallace, a number of transfers have taken charge. While Burt Clark and David Mann are the only seniors on the roster this year, a few of the juniors are already familiar with assuming leadership responsibilities. Clay Timpner, who was named to the A-Sun Preseason All-Conference Team, and Dee Brown will look to improve upon their 2003 seasons. Newcomers Drake Wade, Kevin Richmond and Marshall Bernhard should make immediate impacts for the Knights.

Outfielders



DEE BROWN LEFT FIELD

Junior. Brown returns to the outfield for his junior season after compiling a .297 batting average and 34 RBIs for the 2003 season. Brown holds a career .346 batting average for the Knights. Brown was named to the Collegiate Baseball News Freshman All-American team after batting .397 and drove in 57 runs.



DRAKE WADE RIGHT FIELD

Junior. Wade transfers in from Polk Community College as the projected starter in right field. During his freshman campaign, Wade batted .275 and drove in two home runs. His batting average improved during his sophomore season, climbing to .295.



CLAY TIMPNER CENTER FIELD

Junior. All-American candidate Clay Timpner comes off of a stellar 2003 campaign in which he was second on the team with a .347 batting average. Timpner was also second on the team with 35 RBIs. As a freshman, Timpner batted .364 with five home runs and 47 RBIs. He was named to the Collegiate Baseball News Freshman All-American team.

Basemen



RYAN BONO FIRST BASE

Sophomore. After spending last season splitting time as catcher, Bono is projected to start at first base for the Knights. He batted .265 last season through 46 games. Bono had 14 RBIs on the season and 1 home run. He came on strong at the end of last season, going 2-2 and accounting for three runs scored against Monmouth. His twin brother is also the starting relief pitcher.



KEVIN RICHMOND SECOND BASE

Junior. Richmond is a transfer student from Florida State. He is touted as a great base runner with excellent speed. He batted .267 with 13 RBIs in his first season with Florida State. Richmond batted .143 through 35 games last season, including 5 RBIs. Richmond is the projected starter at second base.



CHANDLER ROSE SHORT STOP

Junior. After missing all of last season with an arm injury, Rose makes his UCF debut as the projected shortstop. Rose was touted as the best defensive shortstop during his time at University of New Orleans. In 2002, Rose had an outstanding .959 fielding percentage to go along with his three home runs and 10 RBIs. He batted .281 as a freshman with two home runs and 29 RBIs.



MARSHALL BERNHARD THIRD BASE

Junior. Bernhard is a junior college transfer out of Central Florida Community College. Last season for CFCC, Bernhard batted .292, tallying 30 RBIs and six home runs. Bernhard had a slugging percentage of .456 with 57 hits through 50 games. He showed strong presence at bat, hitting 10 doubles and two triples for the season.

Pitchers



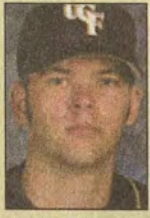
JAMIE DOUGLAS STARTING PITCHER

Junior. Douglas has worked his way into the starting rotation after a strong 2003 season as a relief pitcher. After transferring from Ohio Dominican College, the southpaw showed his ability in a three game set vs. Troy State last season in which he tossed 1.2 scoreless innings and three strikeouts.



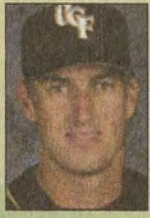
BURT CLARK STARTING PITCHER

Senior. Clark split time last season as a designated hitter and pitcher. He batted .133 with one home run and one RBI. Clark won his only start of last season against Pace tossing four strikeouts. Clark rounded out the 2002 season with a 3-3 record and a 5.03 ERA. One of only two seniors on the Knights roster, Clark has big game potential.



KYLE BONO RELIEF PITCHER

Sophomore. Bono turned in one of the best seasons in Knight history last year. Bono went 4-2 with a 0.83 ERA. Opposing batters managed only a .173 batting average against the closer, who also recorded 45 strikeouts. Bono gave up only 20 hits during 32.2 innings in 2003. He tied the team lead last season with two saves. Bono is considered the key to the relief pitching staff. His twin brother Ryan is starter at first base.



MATT FOX STARTING PITCHER

Junior. Fox has secured a spot in the starting pitching rotation and is touted to possess the best fastball in the conference. Last season, Fox had 48 strikeouts through 45 innings pitched. Fox also started 17 games at shortstop last season and collected one home run and 3 RBIs. Fox's best game of last season came against South Florida, where he struck out 11 batters in 6.2 innings pitched.



DREW BUTERA CATCHER

Sophomore. Hailed as one of the top catchers in collegiate baseball, he had an outstanding freshman year. Through 49 games last season, Butera batted .305 and batted .429 with runners in scoring position. He landed a spot on the 2003 A-Sun All-Freshman team. Gained a reputation as a clutch hitter with the game on the line, including a game-winning 12th-inning RBI single versus Campbell last season.



DAVID MANN DESIGNATED HITTER

Senior. Mann returns as one of only two seniors on the UCF roster. The designated hitter and utility outfielder has an astounding .366 lifetime average in the leadoff role. Last season Mann hit .321 and led the Knights with 41 walks. Mann's speed led him to 17 stolen bases on the season, raising his career total to 27 in two seasons.

Small ball baseball's key to taking A-Sun

FRANK KOSHEL
Staff Writer

It's time for another great season of UCF baseball, and the possibilities are endless. Already ranked third in pre-season Atlantic Sun polls behind last year's A-Sun regular season champs FAU and Stetson. UCF looks to regain the conference dominance it had the previous two years, and all indications show that will happen.

Last season, UCF fell short of expectations and finished 31-25, 14-16 in conference play. UCF has been a traditional conference powerhouse in recent history. UCF has won at least 30 games a season for nine straight seasons, averaging 42 wins a season. Last year four seniors signed on with Major League teams: right-handed pitchers Von David Stertzbach, David Torres, Mark Michael and Verizon Academic All-American Ryan Bear.

The team is eager to get back on top and make some noise in this year's A-Sun tournament, which will be played at Stetson University May 26-29. "Everybody is more focused on winning after last year's disappointment. We're excited about playing," sophomore pitcher Kyle Bono said. "This year the guys know what it takes to get over the hump."

UCF is a team build on speed, pitching and defense. UCF is very strong up the middle with Clay Timpner and Drew Butera, along with infielders Kevin Richmond, Jon Cooper, Chandler Rose and Matt Ray. The outfield is solid with junior UCF fullback Dee Brown in left field, Clay Timpner calling the shots in center and freshman Bridger Hunt in right field. Clay Timpner is a member of the A-Sun's all conference team. Timpner batted .347 as a sophomore last year, a feat Timpner attributes to "hard work, dedication, keeping a

positive attitude and the good Lord upstairs." One of the fastest players on the team, Timpner was 22 out of 24 in stolen base opportunities and starts the 2004 season as the starting center fielder. Catcher Drew Butera is said to have the best throwing arm in the conference and is working hard on all the other facets of his game, such as "being more of a leader on the field" and "taking more control of the game."

Certainly one of UCF's strengths is its pitching staff made up of juniors Taylor Cobb, Jamie Douglas, Matt Fox, Mike Mercadante, Darren Newlin and Matt Rhodes; sophomores Mike Billek, Kyle Bono and Rob Braleski; freshmen Derek Abriola, Tim Bascom, Brett Bordwine, Brian Brooks and Taylor Meier; and senior LHP Burt Clark.

Sophomore pitcher Kyle Bono from local Lake Mary High is poised to have a dominant season

and is pleased to begin the season as a starter after spending a lot of time last season coming out of the bullpen. When it comes to the different roles of starting or coming in out of the bullpen Kyle Bono uses the same mentality throughout. "Every inning I go out there as like it's the closing inning," Bono said. "Over the summer I had the opportunity to start. I got two wins this summer. I'm looking forward to the spring." Kyle's brother Ryan is also a valuable member of the Knights team and playing together in college has always been a goal of theirs. "We've always wanted to do it, it worked out here and we're close to home and we got two or three more years together," Bono said.

Added to all of this is the ability that Coach Jay Bergman brings to the team. Bergman just recently worked out a five-year contract extension and Bergman doesn't think a radical change in direction

or philosophy is needed to get UCF back to its powerhouse ways. "We just didn't get timely hits," Coach Bergman said of the team's troubles last season. "Pitching was all right and defense was all right. There were 18 one or two run ball-games last year that we were involved with, and came out on the short-end of those. That's the difference between having a good season and a great season."

UCF's first home game of the season comes against Louisiana State University, the second-ranked team in the nation and a College World Series contender every season. For tickets to all UCF home games call 407-823-4653. UCF's first game is on the road Feb. 7th at Florida International University. Sunshine Network will televise the March 27 doubleheader against rival Stetson, and look for the UCF Game of the Week this season on Bright House Network channel 81. Listen to the Knights on 740 AM.

LINEUP PREVIEW

A look at the softball roster

The Knights enter their third season of NCAA play with their deepest roster yet. While the loss of last year's ace pitcher Dottie Cupp left a hole in the rotation, the acquisition of transfers Lindsay Enders and Dana Gilmore should help resident ace Taylor Sawyer fit nicely into the lead role. Preseason A-Sun "Player of the Year" Stephanie Best has a solid lineup around her for the first time ever. Best will benefit from Bryttani Lindheim in the leadoff spot, as well as outfielders Rachelle Schmidt and Jania Shinhoster.

Outfielders



RACHELLE SCHMIDT RIGHT FIELD

Senior. Schmidt started 66 games in the 2003 season in right field. She ranked second in batting average (.307) and RBIs (37) and ranked third in the conference with 46 runs scored. Schmidt also knocked four out of the park. Schmidt started 39 games in the 2002 season at right field and was fourth on the team with a .500 slugging percentage.



JANIA SHINHOSTER CENTER FIELD

Junior. Shinhoster started all 68 games last season at center field and was selected to the Atlantic Sun All-Conference team. She tied for the team lead with 14 stolen bases last season and had a batting average of .284. Shinhoster was also named to the Atlantic Sun All-Freshman team in 2002.



CICI ALVAREZ LEFT FIELD

Freshman. Alvarez is beginning her first campaign as a Knight after compiling a .480 batting average and 16 RBIs. Alvarez also turned in 29 stolen bases while playing for McArthur high school.

Basemen



NIKKI GREEN FIRST BASE

Junior. Green returns for her junior season after having the second-best fielding percentage with .992 in 2003. Green only gave up four errors last season. Green had a .268 batting average and scored 42 runs, which ranked 4th on the team. She also had the second highest on-base percentage of .395.



KAYCEE CLARK SECOND BASE

Senior. Clark was selected to Atlantic Sun All-Tournament Team after going 3-3 with three RBIs. Clark will finish out her career as a Knight after starting 62 games last year, splitting time at second and third base.



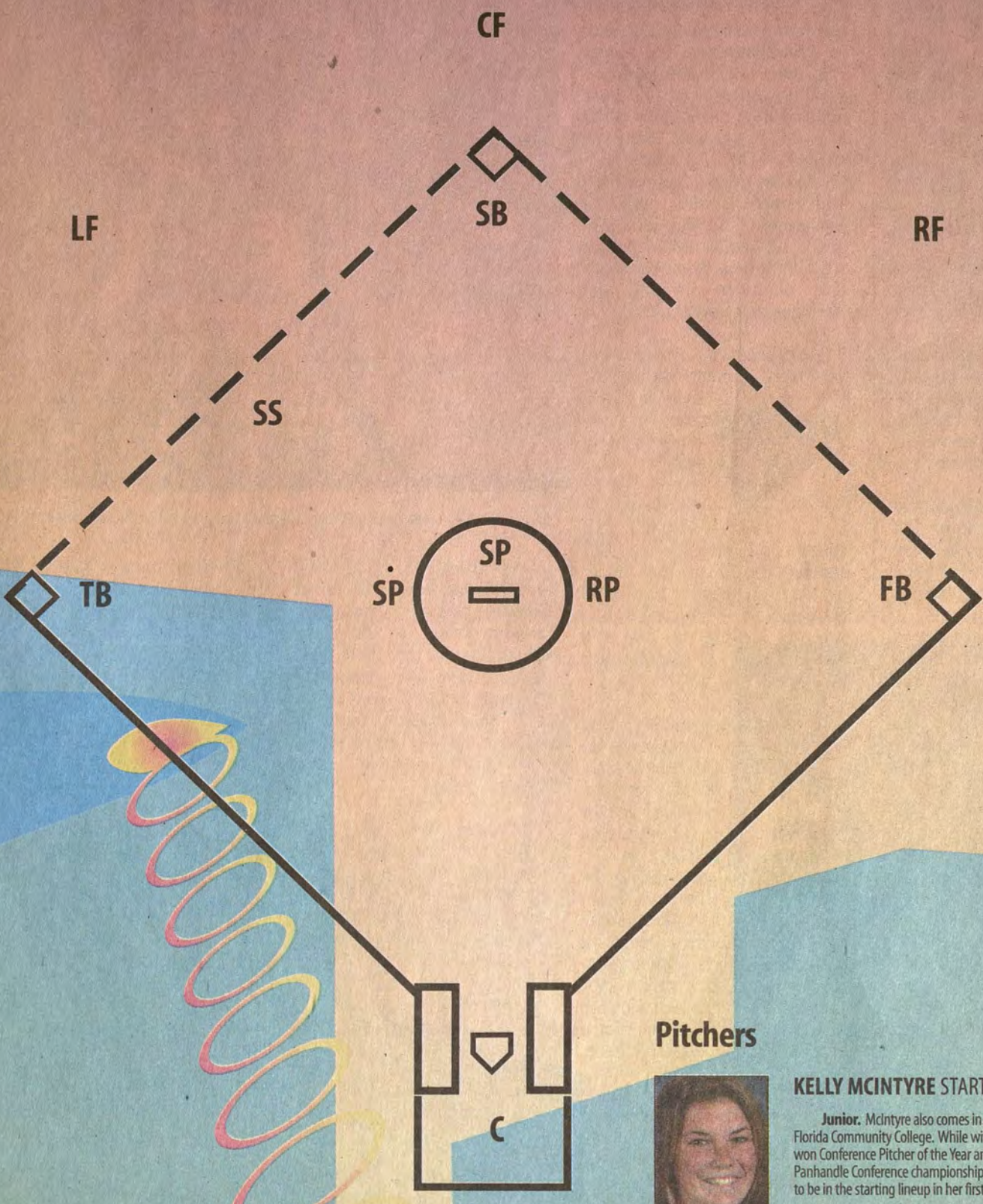
STEPHANIE BEST SHORT STOP

Junior. Last year's Atlantic Sun Conference Player of the Year returns for her Junior campaign after seeing action in all 68 games last season. Best is the all-time leader in batting average (.403), hits (83), home runs (18) and runs scored (57). Last season she held the team-high in batting average at .403 — was second in A-Sun.



BRYTTANI LINDHEIM THIRD BASE

Junior. Lindheim transfers in from Florida State after two years with the Seminoles. She finished her freshman campaign with a .423 batting average and a .913 field percentage. She also participated in the 2002 College World Series against UCLA. Lindheim is the projected starter at third base.



Pitchers



KELLY MCINTYRE STARTING PITCHER

Junior. McIntyre also comes in as a transfer from North Florida Community College. While with the Sentinals, McIntyre won Conference Pitcher of the Year and helped NFCC to the Panhandle Conference championship. McIntyre is also projected to be in the starting lineup in her first year for the Knights.



TAYLOR SAWYER STARTING PITCHER

Senior. Last season for the Knights Sawyer pitched 174 innings in 27 starts and posted a 2.09 ERA and a 16-12 record. Sawyer saw her best performance of the year last season against Jacksonville State, where she pitched a complete game shutout and six strikeouts.



LINDSAY ENDERS STARTING PITCHER

Junior. Enders transfers in from North Florida Community College where she was a two-time all-state honoree. She was also voted to the Florida Junior College Tournament team. She is projected to be in the starting pitching rotation in her first year for the Knights.



JENNIFER WHITLEY CATCHER

Senior. Whitley was third on the team last season with a batting average of .285. Whitley also drove in 32 RBIs and five home runs. Whitley spent most of her time last season at third base. However, this season she will start as catcher.



DANA GILMORE DESIGNATED HITTER

Junior. Gilmore transfers in from Pensacola Junior College where she batted .346 with 63 RBIs. As a pitcher, Gilmore posted a 40-12 record with an outstanding 1.06 ERA. Gilmore was previously selected to the First Team All-Panhandle Conference.

New faces add power to softball's lineup

MATT DUNAWAY
Staff Writer

Last year the UCF softball team was one game away from winning its first Atlantic Sun Tournament, but Florida Atlantic was able to come back and steal the championship out from under UCF's nose.

"On the way home from Troy and the tournament last May everyone was upset," pitcher Taylor Sawyer said. "It was a bit of shock. We talk about it every day and have grown from it."

"It was a hard thing to swallow last year," shortstop Stephanie Best said. "It was our second year falling short to FAU in a championship game, but this year more than ever it will be something we will be prepared for."

In just two short seasons, manager Renee Luers-Gillispie has built a winning softball program in east Orlando. The Knights will look to

improve on a 37-31 mark and a 13-7 record in the A-Sun.

"This team is the most athletic and versatile since the establishment of the program," Gillispie said. "They are the ones that are motivated to build the winning tradition."

The team returns seven players from last season's squad, and has brought in 10 new faces, a nice mix of freshmen and junior college transfers.

"Everyone on the team can get it done, and we are nothing but a strong team," Sawyer said. "Coach [Gillispie] has a really tough decision on who to play but it's a good decision because we are that deep."

"We have 17 players on the roster, and I feel confident in every one of them," said Gillispie. "It's great to see the old and the new come together."

The 2004 edition is ready to take the program to the next level.

"Our goals this season are plain and simple," said Gillispie. "Number

one is to qualify for the A-Sun, but to get out of our conference tournament. That allows us to get to the NCAA regionals."

"It was a lot of almosts and a lot of maybes and what ifs last season. But this we are going to clean that up," Sawyer said. "That won't be a problem this season."

Pitching

On the mound the Knights will have to deal with the loss of all-conference performer and power pitcher Dottie Cupp. UCF will rely on the talents of Sawyer along with two transfers from North Florida Community College — Lindsay Enders and Kelly McIntyre.

"Being the number one starter has occurred to a lot of people except for me," said Sawyer. "We have a really great pitching staff, and I wouldn't label anyone one, two, three or closer."

Enders earned all-state honors both years she attended NFCC and

was selected first-team all-state last year.

"Each of our pitchers have a different style so they will complement each other very well," catcher Jen Whitley said. "They each have a couple pitches that they are really good at. It will keep the other teams off balance."

Infield

You can't start talking about the infield at UCF without starting with shortstop and A-Sun Preseason Player of the Year Stephanie Best.

"There's a little pressure, but it is also a little flattering to be honored," Best said. "I just hope that I can take on that responsibility, and help out the team."

The junior led the squad with 124 assists and was instrumental in turning a school-record 12 double plays.

At first base junior Nikki Green returns with her second-highest field of 0.992, while across the field at the hot corner is Bryttani Lindheim, a

transfer from Florida State. Lindheim will replace Whitley who moved in to do the catching, and will provide a strong offensive threat.

Second place will be split amongst senior Kaycee Clark and newcomers Crystle Krafft and Amber Lamb.

Outfield

UCF also boasts some veteran leadership in the outfield thanks to all-conference performers Jania Shinhoster and Rachelle Schmidt. Shinhoster is coming off back surgery, but she says she is pretty much at 100 percent.

I think a key for us is to have people returning in the outfield. It especially helps for our younger players to see a veteran play that spot, said Shinhoster.

Schmidt returns to right field where she started all 66 games last season and provides punch in the Knight batting line-up where she was second in the team in batting average (.307), and RBIs (63).



ASHLEY BURNS
Sports Editor

Spring is in the air

And on the eighth day, God said, 'Let there be baseball'

I don't wait for any groundhog to tell me when spring begins. I don't need some glorified sewer rat to see his shadow.

All I need is a sound. The sound of aluminum tapping metal cleats means spring is here. The sound of crackling speakers blasting "Centerfield" by John Fogerty means spring is here.

It's baseball. It's our national pastime. When pitchers and catchers report, a new year begins. No matter how my team finished the year before, there's a new season for a new hope.

But as much as I love professional baseball, nothing beats college baseball. It's the last pure form of the sport. I've always said that the difference between professional baseball and college baseball is that the big boys already have their contracts. They sit back and let the fat checks roll in. The college guys have to prove themselves to get the Major League respect.

That's why I love UCF baseball.

There aren't any stars on this team. There are no big names. When I asked some of the players a week ago who they thought the breakout players would be, each of them named at least six guys.

But baseball is no stranger to underdog teams lacking superstars. Remember the 2003 Florida Marlins? The Cinderella squad that stole our collective hearts last season toppled the mighty Yankees with only one marquee player. They played small ball and they won.

That's what the theme of UCF baseball is this year: small ball. Our boys plan on winning with speed and base hits. Maybe a year ago I would have been a tad concerned, but now the possibilities are endless.

I love being the underdog. I love knowing that the whole Atlantic Sun world is looking past the UCF baseball team right now. They think we're young and inexperienced. They think we're a team of unproven nobodies and unheard of transfers.

Big mistake, boys. I learned last year that I have a tendency to get over-hyped about preseason prospects. But with baseball it's an entirely different story.

In baseball, the impossible becomes possible. Like Ozzie Smith hitting a game-winning home run in the sixth game of the 1985 World Series, anything can happen in baseball. Last season the Knights pulled off a 10-run come-from-behind victory over Campbell in just one inning.

Whether it's Peyton Manning leading a fourth-quarter charge against the Buccaneers or Michael Jordan draining a three at the buzzer, nothing compares to a 10-run comeback.

Some people criticize baseball for being too slow and boring. Well some people are fools. Baseball is the only sport where an underpaid team of nobodies can win it all. Baseball is the only sport where men can dominate past the age of 40. There are storylines and history behind baseball that no other sport can match.

That's why the spring is so beautiful.

From spring training to the World Series, there's always something exciting. Diving catches, monster home runs and blazing fastballs. You can't find it anywhere else.

I feel empty when each season ends. But I wouldn't trade the feeling I get when a new season starts for anything else in the world ... not even the Olsen twins.

Grab a seat, Knights, and enjoy the sport of kings.

Play ball, fellas.

Ashley Burns can be reached at
sports@UCFnews.com

Big matchups could mean big upsets

ASHLEY BURNS
Sports Editor

Baseball

Louisiana State - Feb. 13-15 - UCF is in for no picnic against the LSU Tigers. LSU is the third ranked team in the nation and is favored to win its 14th Southeastern Conference title this year. Led by junior left fielder Ryan Patterson, the Tigers will travel to Orlando intent on proving why year in and year out they are among the best in the nation in baseball. Patterson earned SEC All-Conference First Team, NCAA Regional All-Tournament Team, Louisiana Newcomer of the Year and First-Team All-Louisiana honors in 2003. Patterson is joined by fellow offensive threats Jon Zeringue and Clay Harris.

At Lipscomb - March 5-6 -

While the Lipscomb Bisons don't exactly offer a huge challenge in baseball, this series does represent the Knights' first series of Atlantic Sun play this season. The Bisons join the A-Sun after an abysmal 16-31 2003 campaign. UCF should have no problem fighting the first and easiest of its conference matchups.

Stetson - March 26-27 - The

Stetson Hatters will travel to UCF this season, continuing the greatest rivalry in Atlantic Sun competition.

Last season the Hatters took two of three from the Knights and had a strong hand in eliminating UCF from tournament contention. Anchored by junior pitcher Cy McCuen, the Hatters will certainly look for a repeat of last year's dominance.

At Florida Atlantic - April 9-10 - FAU is the

preseason favorite to run the table in the Atlantic Sun, favored by both the media and coaches to win the regular season and conference tournament. Led by pitcher Matt O'Brien and outfielder Rob Horst, the Owls provide a solid balance of fast pitching and strong bats. Last season FAU outscored UCF 19-9 in three games, winning two of those games.

South Florida - April 13, 20,

May 4 - UCF's biggest non-conference rivalry continues three times this season, once in Tampa and twice at Jay Bergman Field. The Bulls were picked to finish fourth in the Conference USA preseason polls. Led by Jeff Baisley, Devin Ivany and Myron Leslie, the Bulls look to repeat last season's success against UCF as they took two of three from the Knights.

At Clemson - May 7-9 - The Tigers enter the 2004 season as the 11th-ranked team in the



This year the UCF baseball team will face off against four preseason nationally ranked teams, but both baseball and softball have their eyes set on all-out preseason A-Sun favorite, FAU.

nation. Clemson and UCF haven't faced each other since 2000 and have only shared the diamond twice. In 2000, the Knights upset the then 24th-ranked Tigers 5-0. Clemson is predicted to finish third in the ACC this season and is anchored by the bat of sophomore third baseman Brad McCann.

At Notre Dame - May 18-19 -

The Knights and the Fighting Irish have met three times in baseball, but not in the past 11 years. The last time UCF and 19th-ranked Notre Dame matched up was in 1993 and the Irish pounded UCF 12-3. However, UCF leads the series all-time 2-1. Shortstop Greg Lopez and Matt Edwards look to lead the Irish back to College World Series prominence.

Softball

At Florida - Feb. 11 - Only in their third season, the Knights have their toughest schedule yet. Included in that tough schedule is an early season challenge in Gainesville against the Florida Gators. Senior pitcher Jenny Gladding and company look to add to their winning ways against UCF. Last season the Gators took two straight against the Knights to open 2003.

At Jacksonville - March 21 -

UCF will see its first weekend of Atlantic Sun action in late March against a below-average

Jacksonville University. The Dolphins were tabbed as the seventh-best team in the Atlantic Sun preseason polls. Led by shortstop Dianna Korcak and catcher Janine Palumbo, JU hopes to change its fortune against UCF as the Knights swept last year's doubleheader against the Dolphins last season.

Florida State - April 10 -

The Seminoles enter the 2004 season as the 19th-ranked team in the nation. Pitcher Jessica van der Linden and the bats of Elisa Vasquez and Veronica Wooten lead the 'Noles this season. Last season FSU dominated the Knights, taking both games of a doubleheader away from UCF.

At Troy State - April 14 -

The Trojans are predicted to finish ahead of UCF in the coaches' poll and tied with the Knights in the media poll. This series will be crucial for the Knights in their conquest of the Atlantic Sun. TSU's lineup is led by junior Jenny Boyd, who hit 371 in 124 at bats last season. The Knights outscored the Trojans 11-3 last season, sweeping the regular season doubleheader.

Stetson - April 27 - Last

season's doubleheader between the Hatters and Knights was cancelled due to weather; however UCF knocked Stetson off 8-5 in the first round of the A-Sun tournament. Senior power hitter Blake Hoorelbeke leads a Stetson offense picked to finish second in the Atlantic Sun.

At FAU - May 5 - There is

no love lost between FAU and UCF after last season's Atlantic Sun tournament finals. The Owls knocked off the Knights in their breakout season, after FAU had already swept the regular season doubleheader in Orlando. FAU is once again picked to run the table in the A-Sun, and the Knights would love nothing more than to be the team that stops them.



Right fielder Rachelle Schmidt is one of four seniors on this year's softball squad.

USF - May 7 - As in all of UCF's other sports, this matchup between the Knights and Bulls is a huge non-conference rivalry. Last season the Bulls pounded the Knights by a combined score

of 14-4 to take a doubleheader in Tampa. This time around, the Knights only get one shot at the Bulls, and will need a win to keep momentum heading into the A-Sun tournament.

Bergman's team ready to come out swinging

FRANK KOSHEL
Staff Writer

Jay Bergman's career mark is 1043-587-3 and 827-474-3 at UCF. He is only the 25th coach in NCAA history to reach the 1,000-win mark. Bergman has led UCF to six Atlantic Sun titles and eight NCAA appearances. As last season ended with a disappointing-for-UCF 31-26 overall record with a 14-16 A-Sun record, Bergman and his staff and players have been chomping at the bit for this season, to regain their place back among the top.

There is much to be optimistic about this season, and Coach Bergman knows that things weren't as bad as they seemed last year. "We didn't get timely hits," explains Bergman. Coach Bergman's secrets of success are quite fundamental and sensible. "You gotta pitch well, and you gotta play good defense and get timely hitting," he said. "You have to have good chemistry as a baseball team and all of those things is what makes a team successful. It's a combination of those things you have to do and when that happens everything will fall into place."

Coach Bergman believes the 2004

UCF baseball team is a very flexible one, with many versatile players. "Last year we couldn't make any moves at all in the middle of a game to pinch hit or get another left-handed hitter in the lineup. We have more [versatility] and over the long haul that will be our strength."

UCF is known for producing good major-quality pitchers, such as the Detroit Tigers' Mike Maroth and highly drafted minor-league pitchers like Justin Pope and Jamie Arnold. This year's team can be as good as any in UCF history, but it is also an in-experienced staff. There are big games to be played this year, and many of UCF's pitchers have not pitched a lot of those quality innings against major opponents. "We don't have returning pitchers with a lot of quality innings. We have a lot of guys that are going to have to get thrown to the wolves so to speak in February. If we can be .500 at the end of February, I'll be a happy camper, Bergman said. He preaches a very solid fundamental style of play that produces winning baseball. "We're a very fundamental team. The accent for our organization for years has been pitching

and defense. Well be patient at the plate, we'll get runners on."

Coach Bergman has spent over two decades building a program that both he and UCF can be proud of, a big reason he loves coaching at UCF. "Most coaches are coming into jobs and patching up mistakes. This has been a labor of love; you have built your own foundation. We've built a house the way we've wanted it." Coach Bergman is pleased with the way things have become. "I like the direction we're going. I've never allowed myself to get into a rut. [Coaching here is] a great challenge." Coach Bergman builds relationships with his players. Former players call Bergman often for advice and to maintain a great player/coach relationship. "Two of my [former] players called me this morning," says Bergman. Coach Bergman does many things throughout the community, with speaking engagements and baseball camps in the Orlando area year round. "We do a nice job in communication, to develop a relationship with your players and that relationship goes on. It's a lot of fun." UCF has fall baseball camps for

around dozen area high schools. Coach Bergman realizes the responsibility that comes with being the manager of a high-profile collegiate baseball program, noting that you are a "PR guy" and communicating with all the people you meet in a community. "We do baseball camps year around, and we do fall leagues for ten or twelve high school teams in the fall," Bergman said. "You try to speak to as many of the organizations in the community as you can. You're not just Jay Bergman, you're the baseball coach at UCF and that means a lot."

Jay Bergman has recently negotiated a long contract extension with UCF, as Bergman will no doubt spend the rest of his career at the program he has helped build for the past 22 seasons. When it is his time to retire, Coach Bergman will know what he will miss the most. "The things I'll miss the most are the bus rides. Those are fun. I love to ride on the bus with the guys, the chatter, to be part of it, the camaraderie. Not many people in life can have that much fun. I'm enjoying being with the players, my assistants and our support staff. They're just fun people. I'm gonna hate it when we go on the planes in a couple of years."



Bergman

Softball off to best start in short history of program



FROM B1

of the day, as the Knights shut out Boston College 5-0. Dana Gilmore and Kelly McIntyre combined for the three-hit shutout. Catcher Jen Whitley drove in three runs, with two of them coming off a huge double in the fifth inning. The Knights managed five runs on only six hits and three walks against BC.

The Knights (5-2) cruised through the first two days of the tournament with their only snag coming in a 2-1 loss to Marshall University (3-1).

UCF shortstop Stephanie Best broke up a pitcher's duel in the fifth as she dropped a single in shallow right that scored Bryttani Lindheim from third. Herd third baseman Leigh Wintter tied the game in the sixth inning with a solo home run to center field.

Marshall second baseman Lauren Scott scored the winning run for the Herd in the top of the seventh inning on a UCF fielding error. UCF pitcher Lindsay Enders pitched the complete game and gave up only one earned run while striking out five. Marshall pitcher Randi Nielson gave up one run on eight hits and struck out 11 UCF batters.

Prior to the Marshall loss, the Knights slaughtered Indiana University 11-3. Whitley and Shinhoster both had huge games again, as they combined for five hits and four runs scored.

"It's rock solid," Sawyer said of the Knights' starting lineup. "If we have a runner on and you look at the next batter, if she doesn't get it done than the next will. There's no real sign of someone not being able to put the ball in play and hit it hard."

Right fielder Rachelle Schmidt sparked a nine-run eighth inning with a three-run triple. Eight players in UCF's starting lineup had at least one hit against Indiana.

The Knights travel to Gainesville this Thursday to take on the Florida Gators.



PHOTOS BY BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE
Third baseman Bryttani Lindheim, top, had a double and scored twice in Saturday's rout of Indiana University. Catcher Jen Whitley, above, drove in three of UCF's five runs against Boston College. Pitcher Taylor Sawyer, right, pitched a complete game, two-hit shutout against McNeese State in the first game of the UCF-Triple Crown Classic Tournament.



Women fall to sixth-place tie in Atlantic Sun Conference standings

FROM B2

spread down to seven with 3:23 on a lay-up, but LU went on another run to close the game.

The Bisons also were able to turn it around in the interior 'outscored the Knights 22-4 in the paint.

"This (UCF) is one of the better teams in the league," Bennett said. "Getting two wins against them is a great accomplishment."

UCF continues its stay in the Music City with a trip across town to Belmont on Monday night.

Scouting Belmont

Despite five players scoring in double figures the Bruins fell in overtime to Florida Atlantic 82-79 on Saturday afternoon at the Curb Event Center.

Belmont (9-10; 7-5 A-Sun) is sparked by guard Brandi Miller who averages a double-double averaging 15.1 points and

10.8 rebounds per contest. In addition guard Hollie Davis is right behind Miller scoring 12.8 points.

UCF was able to win the first meeting this season 67-55 on January 31st at UCF Arena. The Knights used a 21-0 run in the second half to gain the victory as guard Celeste Hudson poured in 27 points. Forward Takira Allen contributed 12 points of her own.

For the Bruins, Miller was able to torch the UCF defense for 25 points.

The Knights led the all-time series 4-1, and have the last three meetings.

Depending on what happens around the league on Monday, the winner of this game will have the upper hand for fourth position in the standings.

Around the Atlantic Sun

It may be early February, but it is not too early to start talking tiebreakers and seedings for the tournament in the A-Sun. Two games continue to separate

second place from eighth place, and each week provides new surprises in the conference. Even though Lipscomb (11-9; 8-4 A-Sun) is all alone in the number two position, but the Bisons as well as Gardner-Webb (3-16; 2-10 A-Sun) are not eligible for the conference tournament. It is all but academic that Jacksonville (2-16; 0-13 A-Sun). So let the battle begin as teams jockey for position on their way to Dothan.

Two more heartbreaking defeats for JU

Even though the Dolphins have lost 15 straight, and have not posted a win since all the way back on December 7th against Eastern Illinois no one in the A-Sun wants to play JU right now. At this point in the season, Jacksonville is playing for pride. Unlike most teams in their predicament JU is actually doing just that. After losing 62-57 in overtime at Stetson (9-10; 7-5 A-Sun) on Thursday night the Dolphins fell short 64-63

against Campbell (8-11; 6-6 A-Sun) Saturday afternoon. Gardner-Webb comes to Swisher Gym on Monday night as JU looks to break the streak.

Upset of the weekend

Troy State over Georgia State, 60-57.

For the second time this season Georgia State (13-6; 10-2 A-Sun) drops a conference game on its home floor. This time to Troy State (7-11; 6-5 A-Sun), a team that the Panthers had defeated 13 previous times. The Women of Troy fended off 36 points from GSU guard Patechia Hartman while three Trojans found themselves in double figures led by guard Laura Lee Holman's 18.

"The difference between this win and four of our five conference losses is that we made plays down the stretch," TSU head coach Michael Murphy said. "There is no doubt that Georgia State is the class of this league and for us to

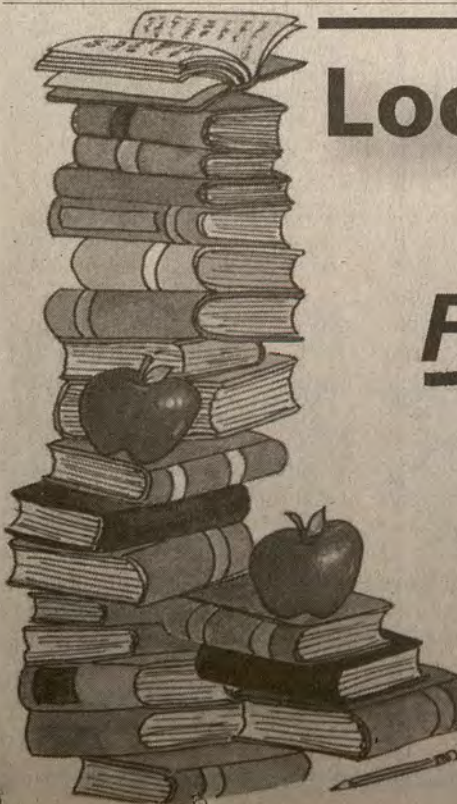
come in here and win in a place we've never won says a lot about the resiliency of our kids."

Troy State opens a three game home stand on Monday night against Mercer.

Game of the mid-week

Mercer (9-9; 7-4 A-Sun) at Troy State (7-11; 6-5 A-Sun).

Other than UCF and Belmont this Monday night match-up is huge for both squads. Mercer is coming off a bye this weekend, and will look to rebound from a 59-41 defeat to Georgia State on rivalry Wednesday. On the other hand, Troy State will look to build on its upset of Georgia State on Saturday afternoon. The Bears were able to win the first meeting between the two schools 43-40 back on January 31st. That was the Mercer's first game in the new University Center. If TSU can hold the home floor it was create more of a log jam in the middle of the conference.



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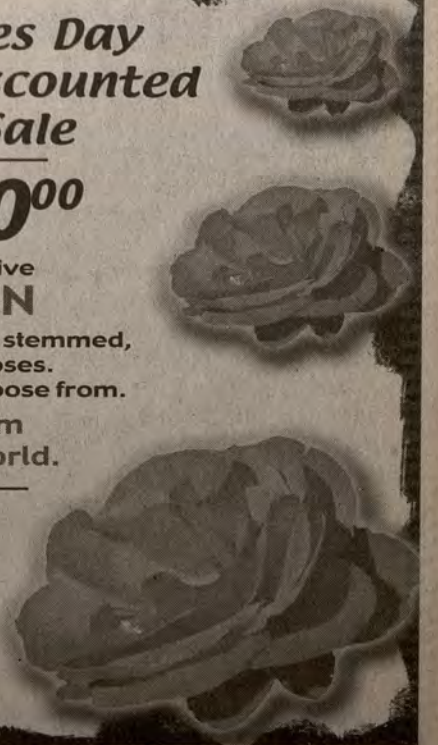
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