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#### Recommended Citation

"Central Florida Future, January 12, 2000" (2000). *Central Florida Future*. 1524.  
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# CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Jan. 12

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## Hitt talks about presidency, UCF's future

SHELLEY WILSON  
MANAGING EDITOR

Dr. John C. Hitt is the fourth person to serve as the president of the University of Central Florida. He became the president on March 1, 1992. He is originally from Houston, Texas and received his psychology degree in 1962 from Austin College. He went on to Tulane University to earn both his master's and a doctorate in physiological psychology.

Hitt began teaching at Tulane and then at Texas Christian University. He received the position of Associate Dean at TCU and later was appointed Vice President of the TCU Research Foundation until he became

Dean of the graduate school in 1975. He was Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Psychology at Bradley University, Peoria, Ill., from 1977 until 1987. He held a similar position at the University of Maine, until he was appointed Interim President in 1991. Here's a look at some of Hitt's thoughts about UCF and being president.

Q. Did you always want to be a University President?

"No. I got my Ph.D. when I was 25, and was focused on finding a good position as a faculty member so I could teach and do research. My interest in a university presidency did not develop until many years later."

Q. You have worked in the education for over 20 years. How have you seen it changed in that time?



Hitt

"I have been a full-time faculty member and/or administrator in one or another university for 33 years. Many trends have come and gone during that time. Today's undergraduate students, and the universities that serve them, are more career-oriented than was the case when I began teaching at Tulane University in the fall of 1996. This is partially explained by the

fact that a larger percentage of the population now goes to college than did then. The significant debt burden that many students take on in college is another factor in this change."

Q. What are some of your job responsibilities as being the university president that many students would be surprised to know?

"Most students would likely be surprised by the amount of time a UCF president must spend on off-campus matters, such as fund-raising, lobbying at all levels of government and being involved in the communities our university serves. I generally work 10 to 12 hours per day, and these responsibilities take 40 to

50 percent of my time."

Q. As UCF enters the next millennium, what are some of your goals to help UCF become a leading University?

"When I became UCF president in March of 1992, I published five goals for UCF:

To offer the best undergraduate education available in Florida,

To achieve international prominence in key programs of graduate study, and research,

To provide an international focus to our programs of teaching and research,

To become more inclusive and diverse, and

To be America's leading

HITT, Page 5

## Art shines in CREOL building

ELAINE LEBLANC  
STAFF WRITER

"Sail," an original glass sculpture by contemporary artist Christopher Ries, was donated to UCF's Center for Research and Education in Optics and Lasers and unveiled during a reception Friday night in the CREOL building.

Schott Glass Technologies, a leading manufacturer in fiber optic materials, contributed the nearly-400-pound sculpture. According to M.J. Soileau, UCF Vice President for Research, the sculpture is a symbol of the new partnership between UCF and Schott Technologies. It is also a result of UCF and CREOL's old partnership with Analog Module.

Ries offered his perspective on his piece and the increasing importance of light. "We are actually living in the age of photonics, the age of light. This university and the programs here are vital to the future of mankind. Light is the future," he said.

Ries' fascination with glass began in the 1970s when he built a glass facility from a kiln shed at Ohio State University. With Harvey Littleton, the sculptor co-founded the American Glass Movement. Ries works as Schott Glass' artist-in-residence, and his works are displayed in various museums, including those in Cincinnati, Chicago, and New Orleans. Ries resides in rural Pennsylvania, a place that inspires much of his work. "Nature has been the single most influential thing in my art," Ries said.

GLASS, Page 2

## Exchange offers alternative to bookstore

CAMERON JAHN  
THE CALIFORNIA AGGIE  
(U. CALIFORNIA-DAVIS)

(U-WIRE) DAVIS, Calif. -- As the bell tower chimed nine times Wednesday morning, students swarmed into the ASUCD Book Exchange tent on the east side of the University of California at Davis Quad looking for bargains and a chance to sell their books.

The Book Exchange - located in the white tent on the Quad - offers students an opportunity to receive more money for their used books than traditional used-book buyers. In addition, the Exchange allows students to set their own prices for the texts.

Book Exchange Director Lambert Shiu said the Book Exchange functions like a consignment shop.

"There's no middle man," he said. "Students come and sell their books to other students."

Shiu said the economics behind the Book Exchange benefit students in ways that traditional used bookstores cannot. However, the no-refunds policy ensures that only books slated for use this quarter can be sold at the Book Exchange.

The Book Exchange, Shiu said, is attractive to students because they can sell their textbooks at higher prices and buy at lower prices than at commercial book-



PHOTO BY JASON KOKOTOFF

Students have been constantly filling the UCF Bookstore, trying to get ready for classes. Some schools have tried book exchanges as an alternative to book buying.

stores.

"At most, a book buyer will pay (students) 50 percent of the new price in order to resell the book for a profit," he said.

Based on last quarter's sales receipts, students have indeed embraced the Book Exchange as a viable alternative to traditional bookstores. In the past, the Book Exchange generated merely \$2000 or \$3000, Shiu said. But last quarter the Book Exchange brought in over \$97,000 and he said he expects this quarter's sale to break \$100,000.

"Each quarter we are getting more popular because we are here through wind, rain and cold providing a great service to students," he said. "Plus, the money we generate goes directly back into the students' pockets."

The Book Exchange, however, is not without its flaws.

"The lines are usually slow - I waited 30 minutes to buy my books," UCD junior Nick Maioriello said. "But it's worth it

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## Glass artwork gets shattering response

FROM PAGE 1

"Sail," completed in 1988, stands over 49 inches and is the tallest glass sculpture Ries has ever created. According to Schott Glass president Bruce Jennings, the piece has almost a 100 percent high light transmission.

Many were amazed by the complexity of the glass.

"This is the most stunning thing I have ever seen," said Senior Viviana Hampers. "If you take just one step in another direction, the dimensions and colors of the piece are radically different. I am so grateful that UCF acquired such a remarkable piece of art."

Jennings is extremely pleased with the work

"Really, this is fulfillment of a dream to have his work as an adornment in this building."



PHOTO BY JASON KOROTOFF

Christopher Ries' 'Sail' is unveiled at a special reception in the CREOL Building. The sculpture was donated by Schott Glass Technologies.

## Virtual U Puts You In Role Of College Administrator

SPECIAL TO THE FUTURE

CHICAGO (TMS) -- Do you have what it takes to run a university? If you're sure, consider sharpening your administrative instincts on Virtual U, a soon-to-be-released simulation game modeled after the popular SimCity series.

In Virtual U, the player controls major aspects in the creation of their very own school, such as whether it'll have pri-

vate or public status, its student-body size, and curriculum. But the game's focus is not just to entertain.

"There's a lack of understanding about the systematic character of a university," William F. Massey, the developer of Virtual U, said.

Massey, who is a higher-education researcher at Stanford University, says he and others associated with the project hope that it gives a realistic view of how major universities are run. Players must organize spending for the univer-

sity, while at the same time trying to maintain enrollment and faculty morale.

Though creators of Virtual U say that it will not be as action-packed as SimCity, it will help the average person and college student understand the peaks and valleys of higher education.

"It makes you say, 'Thank God I'm not an administrator,'" Neil Salkind, a psychology professor at the University of Kansas said.

Virtual U will be released in March.

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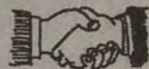
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## Oklahoma college students to receive financial aid bonuses

MATT WELCH  
OKLAHOMA DAILY  
(U. OKLAHOMA)

(U-WIRE) NORMAN, Okla. -- For 449 Oklahoma college students, \$305,300 sounds like a nice way to ring in the new year. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education distributed financial aid bonuses Dec. 10 and will award Oklahoma college students an additional \$1.6 million in the next six months, said Laura Callahan, executive director of communications for the state regents.

The U.S. Congress donated \$20.5 million to Oklahoma's "Gear Up" (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) program.

"It's a federal program designed to help students better prepare for college, specifically students from low-income families," Callahan said. "We're looking for students with the greatest need and helping them by providing funds."

The financial aid bonuses are limited to those students who are on an Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program scholarship and are also eligible for a Pell grant.

"This OHLAP plus award will help more Oklahoma students achieve their educational goals by helping to fill the gap between a student's financial aid package and the actual cost of attending college," said State Regents Chancellor Hans Brisch in a statement. "Oklahoma higher education applauds the state's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., which helped to make this financial award possible."

Callahan said that in determining a student's potential for receiving a financial aid bonus, the state regents com-

pare the student's need for financial aid to what the student currently has.

The five-year grant was awarded by the federal government in August, Callahan said.

She said she was thrilled at the amount of the grant. Oklahoma received the highest per capita award in the nation and the third largest award, exceeded only by California and Texas, she said.

Callahan said a component of the grant is financial aid, specifically enhancing the Oklahoma higher access program.

"That is the reason we're able to distribute the financial bonuses to Oklahoma college students who have the greatest need," she said.

Callahan said the grants awarded by Congress will only last for five years. A portion of the grant will go toward the OHLAP funds, she said.

"Gear Up is providing funding to help us expand OHLAP," Callahan said.

The bonus is not limited to student loans.

"It's a check that can be used to purchase books or living expenses," Callahan said.

She said a conglomerate of public, private and governmental organizations and public industries have matched the \$20.5 million awarded to Oklahoma "Gear Up."

Eighth, ninth and 10th grade high school students are the only students who can apply for the OHLAP scholarship, but current Oklahoma students who are receiving the OHLAP scholarship are eligible to benefit from the bonuses.

"OHLAP is an outstanding program that is making college a reality for many Oklahoma students," said state regents Chairman Bill W. Burgess Jr. in a statement.

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## High-Speed Internet Access Comes to UCF

ANDY LURIG  
STAFF WRITER

Time Warner Cable's Roadrunner service is now available for most people living in the UCF area. It is available to any apartment or home with cable hookups. The service provides high-speed Internet access up to 50 times faster than a standard 56k modem.

Roadrunner came to Central Florida in the summer of 1999, and has slowly expanded its service area throughout Orange, Seminole, and Brevard counties. Recently, in December 1999, they expanded to include residence around UCF. According to one of their cable technicians, "I've been surprised that there hasn't been many

requests from UCF students."

The service costs roughly \$100 for installation, and \$40 a month for service. These prices will vary depending on your computers current hardware, and whether you subscribe to Time Warner's standard cable service.

The Roadrunner service has many benefits compared to a standard modem connection like speed, a phone line that is not occupied, and an constant connection. The cable modem can also be linked to a single computer on a network and allow all individuals on that network to use the same cable modem.

This is comparable to the computer labs on campus, since they are all connected to the same Internet backbone. However, it is important to note that the bandwidth, or

how much data can travel at once across the connection, of the UCF campus is much larger than that of a single cable modem. So trying to branch off more than a few computers would leave you with the same slow connection you have been trying to avoid.

With high-speed access becoming more available, the Internet provides many more opportunities to make use of this connection, including such things as watching movies online. While these things are still possible on a standard 56k modem, most users are not willing to wait for a long time or sacrifice picture quality.

Roadrunner service can be reached on the World Wide Web at <http://www.twcentralflorida.com/rr/> or at 1-877-TWC-FAST.

## Exchange wins out over bookstore

FROM PAGE 1

because the prices are great."

Wednesday's lines did not seem to deter students from searching through the Book Exchange's shelves for books.

A cell biology major who wished to remain anonymous said she always starts off the quarter with a trip to the Book Exchange.

"Sometimes you get lucky and find a book for half-off," she said. "And other times you just get \$1 or \$2 off."

This year, the Book Exchange is better

equipped to serve its patrons with 10 new computers.

"There's less of a paper process now that we are equipped with more computers," Shiu said. "We even accept credit cards now."

More technology also allows the Book Exchange easier access to enormous list of the books to be used during the quarter.

"The UCD Bookstore was really helpful in lending us its database of the texts the professors plan to teach with," Shiu said.

## Spring Rush 2000 kicks off Fraternities gear up for Spring Rush

MAYA LAZAROVITZ  
STAFF WRITER

As the new semester begins, the various fraternities on campus get ready to gear up for Spring Rush, which starts with Kickoff on Jan. 12 in the Student Union.

"Kickoff offers potential new members an opportunity to meet chapter members. It's like an orientation to recruitment," said Greg Mason, Director for Greek Affairs. Individual chapter events for recruitment take place Jan. 13-15. All except the National Pan-Hellenic Council groups will be participating.

At Sigma Chi, doors open on Wednesday, with food and drinks for potential new members.

"Spring rush is usually more relaxed, because we have fewer guys," said Kevin Amrhein, Sigma Chi Vice President.

"Fall is usually a lot more hectic." On average, Sigma Chi usually receives about 15-20 pledges during Spring Rush. In the fall the fraternity usually get about 35-50 new members.

For Delta Upsilon, Rush plans include a Fun in the Sun Day for potential new recruits on Saturday at Lake Claire. The event will include an

afternoon of sports and a barbecue.

"We're working hard to have a successful and fulfilling spring pledge semester," said Ygal Bar-av, Executive of Public Relations for the UCF chapter of Delta Upsilon Fraternity. "We'd like to welcome everybody to come out and support Greek life at UCF. Best of luck to all."

Sigma Alpha Epsilon's rush recently began on Saturday with Rush Retreat, an all day event for active members to prepare for recruitment. Their rush events will include a visit from Disney's Indy 200 racers, which Sigma Alpha Epsilon is promoting.

"We're looking for quality, for people who can be future leaders in our fraternity, not numbers," said Scott Blinkhorn, Sigma Alpha Epsilon President. "This semester, we're looking to focus less on parties and more on what we can do to get involved in the community. We're also focusing more on campus involvement." Sigma Alpha Epsilon looks forward to a new philanthropy in the spring, as well as various seminars scheduled for later in the semester. In addition, they recently held their officer retreat initiation on Sunday.

## Attention: UCF Registered Clubs & Organizations

The Activity and Service Fee (A&SF) budget request packets are available for pick-up in the Student Government (SG) Office located in the Student Union, Room 214. Clubs and organizations must be registered with the Office of Student Activities prior to January 24, 2000, in order to receive A&SF funding.

The completed budget requests are due back from the clubs and organizations on January 24, 2000, by 5:00 p.m. They must be turned in at the front desk of the SG Office and date-stamped with the date and time received.

Information workshops for clubs and organizations will be held on Thursday, January 13, at 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday, January 19, at 10:00. These workshops will be held by members of the A&SF Committee and will provide information and guidance on filling out the budget request forms and other budgetary guidelines. Please call the SG Office (823-2191) for the location of the workshops.



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## President Hitt candid about presidency, self

FROM PAGE 1

Partnership University. I liked these five goals in 1992, and I like them even more today."

Q. What's the best and worst part about being a university president?

"The best thing about being a university president is that one has an opportunity to influence one of society's most important institutions in ways that allow it to fulfill its potential to allow people to build for themselves better, more productive, and more satisfying lives. It's a very demanding complex and challenging job, but it has strong, deep intrinsic worth.

Although it's fashionable for university presidents to complain about the burdens of the office, I don't find any aspects of the presidency particularly unpleasant or distasteful. When asked about the bad aspects of the job, groups of university presidents almost invariably mention the fact that it is difficult to have friendships within the university and that the presidency is an all-consuming job that never ends. It is a 24-hour-per-day, seven-day-per-week, fifty-two-week-per-year responsibility. While one retains the office, wherever one goes, whatever one does, there is never a time when one is not the president. I would add to that list the fact that there are so many different things that a president must do that there is very little time that can be spent on any one task. That means that a president must almost always get his or her sense of accomplishment through the efforts of others. Those who can't accommodate to these facts often become unhappy with the job."

Q. Why do you think UCF has grown so much since it was founded?

"Since classes were first offered in 1968, UCF has offered the academic programs most needed to support the citizens and economy of Central Florida. Couple that fact with the tremendous growth of

Orlando and Central Florida, and one has a good formula for explosive growth."

Q. If you could give a piece of advice to a student about their education, what would it be?

"Remember that your education should prepare you for a life as well as a livelihood. I'd offer four admonitions:

Find something you like to do that has intrinsic worth and work as hard as you must to get really good at it.

Become a good writer and an effective speaker.

Find time for courses in the arts and humanities.

Take all the math you can manage."

Q. Do you have any regrets about your own education life that you wished looking back you could change?

"I didn't take enough math and science courses as a freshman and sophomore. When I got to graduate school, and decided that I wanted to be a physiological psychologist, I faced a much greater challenge than did my classmates who had taken these courses."

Q. How has UCF gained from being in Orlando?

"Being in and of Orlando has always been a tremendous asset to UCF. We are truly blessed to be in a city and region whose economy and population are growing and diversifying at a rapid rate. With our commitment to partnerships, UCF has an unending stream of opportunities to develop programs of teaching, research, and service that increase opportunities for our faculty, students, staff, and community."

Q. What do you do to relax in your spare time?

"I enjoy reading, golf, fishing, and spending time with my wife of 38 years, Martha. We just returned from a four-day visit with our children and grandchildren in Wisconsin, and it was very rejuvenating."

## Have a story idea?

E-mail us:  
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## Harvard murder suspect caught after 23 years

MARLA B. KAPLAN  
HARVARD CRIMSON  
(HARVARD U.)

(UWIRE)CAMBRIDGE, Mass. -- Nearly 24 years after the shooting death of Edward Paulsen, then a 28-year old Harvard University graduate student studying economics, police in Canada arrested a man long sought as a suspect in the murder.

Around 9 a.m. Wednesday, officers of the Canadian Immigration Task Force, working with both the FBI and Cambridge homicide detectives, arrested James Anthony Martin, 51, at his home in Montreal, according to the Cambridge Police Department (CPD).

Martin left Massachusetts after the crime and had lived in Florida, New York and Montreal under assumed names since then. When asked if he was James Anthony Martin, the suspect just shrugged and surrendered.

"He believed he would never be caught," said CPD Sergeant Patrick Nagle Thursday.

The Sept. 9, 1976 murder was the result of a botched drug deal, according to police. Paulsen and his brother were trying to purchase one kilo of hashish from Martin at a location on Webster Street in East Cambridge.

According to Nagle, Martin, along with Gordon Kent Brown, were planning to take Paulsen's money but not actually give him the drugs. When the plan backfired, Martin shot Paulsen.

Brown spent six years on the run before he was captured in New Jersey in 1982 and later convicted of murder. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Martin was picked up on drug charges in New York shortly after the murder but

used an alias and was able to leave town before his trial, according to Silverio Ferreira, a CPD detective.

He was indicted in absentia for the murder in December 1976.

According to the CPD, periodically detectives reopen old files and look for new leads. When they did so with Martin's file, they found him using the same alias, Bruce Benjamin, while living in Canada.

"Martin was very good," Ferreira said. "He used 60 different aliases, knows the system well and was able to get out of the country fast."

Martin had also spent five years in a Canadian jail on drug-related charges.

When police tracked Martin down, they found he had fathered a child with a common-law wife and was living on public assistance in Montreal. Though Martin was originally not home, Canadian police monitored his residence and picked him up when he returned.

Massachusetts authorities plan to return Martin to the Bay State to face murder charges, although it's not clear when that will happen, Anson Kaye, a spokesperson for the Middlesex County district attorney's office told the Associated Press.

Paulsen's family has stayed involved in the case over the years.

Last year, they attended a parole hearing to make sure Brown was not released.

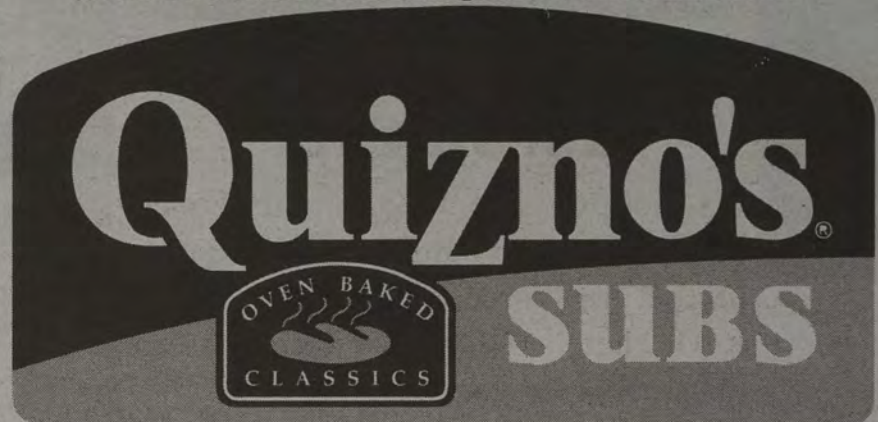
In unsolved murder cases, Nagle said, it is often the family who periodically stirs up interest, usually around the holidays or the anniversary of the death.

## Write the Future

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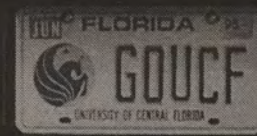
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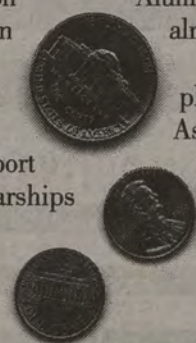
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# Bradley intensifies campaign as first primary battles approach

**RYANN MANNING**  
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(PRINCETON U.)

(U-WIRE) PRINCETON, N.J. -- With only weeks to go before the first contests of the primary season, Princeton alum Bill Bradley's campaign play-book hinges on two key states more than 1,000 miles apart: Iowa and New Hampshire.

In the all-out scramble that the race for the Democratic presidential nomination has become, both Bradley and Vice President Al Gore have intensified their efforts in anticipation of the Jan. 24 Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary Feb. 1.

The two have stepped up campaign appearances this week and debated head-to-head from Durham, N.H. Wednesday night in a nationally televised event. They plan to debate again

on Saturday.

## CRUCIAL PRIMARIES

For Bradley more than for the vice president, success in these early contests is viewed as essential to the survival of his White House bid.

"New Hampshire is the be-all and end-all of Bradley's campaign," said Curtis Gans of the Committee on the Study of the American Electorate, a Washington, D.C. think tank.

Winning New Hampshire, Gans explained, would give Bradley "a month of good publicity to carry him into March 7," the pivotal day on which 13 states -- including party delegate powerhouses New York and California -- hold primaries.

Although Bradley's campaign is riding a wave of optimism into the new year, par-

ticularly with recent polls showing him ahead of the vice president in New Hampshire, his national poll ratings still lag well behind Gore's.

Wins in New Hampshire and Iowa will be essential to propel the campaign into the next stage. The publicity of early wins is especially key to challengers, like Bradley and Republican Sen. John McCain, who do not have the institutional strength of their main adversaries.

Bradley, for instance, "doesn't have the foot soldiers from the labor unions" that will prove essential in key industrial states, Wilson School professor Fred Greenstein said.

## FREE PUBLICITY

Success in New Hampshire and Iowa enabled Jimmy Carter, previously a rela-

tive unknown, to win his party nomination and subsequently the presidency in 1976, Greenstein explained. The national publicity Carter received was the equivalent of millions of dollars worth of advertising, he added.

After New Hampshire, the candidates will be bombarded with national attention as they prepare for the early March primaries. At this point, television advertisements will become the campaigns' primary tool, and face-to-face contact will be much more rare.

"There won't be time for hanging around in diners," quipped Larry Bartels, a Wilson School professor and scholar of presidential primaries.

February's rush is driven by the fact that the nomination could be determined by mid-March if either candidate fails to perform well in either California or New York.

Gans cited California as the second main hurdle for Bradley's campaign, after New Hampshire. "I believe California is critical to sustain his drive beyond March 7," he said.

Some Democrats disagree, believing New York to be a more important symbolic win for Bradley because of his years as a New York Knickerbocker.

If Bradley manages to survive through the March primaries, however, Gans said he will give Gore a strong challenge for the party nod. "He will have at least as good a chance of winning the nomination as Gore does."

Bradley will be helped in the long term by his recent fund-raising success. He now has approximately the same amount to spend as Gore, so money will not likely be the deciding factor in enabling the longevity of his campaign.

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# OPINION

## Holiday shipping leaves 2-day burn

### Shipping Goods Can Be More Trouble Than It Is Worth

**ANDY LURIG**  
STAFF WRITER

Through the holiday season, I found myself buying a few things online. With this, I found out the joys of shipping. United Parcel Service, Federal Express, Airborne Express, and the U.S. Postal Service are some of the most popular shipping choices, but we'll just deal with UPS and FedEx.

The main difference between the two is that FedEx (in its most common form) is an airborne network, and therefore the shipping for FedEx is two days. Its service costs a little more, but is promised by 3 p.m. on the second day. UPS offers UPS

Ground, a larger array of options, including UPS Ground, the cheapest option.

When you choose your shipping online, you usually just consider your budget and how long you want to wait. Sometimes, if the store you are buying from is located nearby (same state), the UPS Ground can be as fast as the 2-3 day service... for a fraction of the cost. On a personal note, this is possibly the only time I'd use UPS.

So you are done right? Wrong. You figured out you don't really care when it gets shipped to you, and that you are a poor college student who just wants the lowest price. So you send it UPS Ground. Excellent, they got

you. You may begin weeping.

UPS requires a physical being to sign for the goods, and if no one is at home, you get the pretty yellow slip. I hate this slip. Your options now are to drive to Longwood to pick-up your delivery (anyone else find this ironic?), or put it in the hands of your neighbor. Most of us barely trust our roommates, let alone our neighbors. FedEx allows you to sign a paper that has them leave it at your door. Okay, this isn't perfect either, but I still prefer it.

Oh wait, there is still another option. You can ask the company to deliver the package at a different time. I suggest this be done in a polite respectable manner. Bribery works well, too.

Here is my own personal horror story. When calling UPS to request an earlier delivery time, or even a later one (just not 3 p.m. AGAIN), they said to me, "We can request an earlier time to our drivers, but they are not required to follow it, and probably will not." What? I didn't know whether to laugh or to cry. For the record, the next two delivery attempts were at the exact same time, around 3 p.m.

Then I called FedEx, and they said that they will put the request through, and it shouldn't be a problem. Sure enough, the actual delivery time changed. I got my package on day two.

Ever since then, I've

spent the extra money to have my items shipped Federal Express. I learned that I might be paying a little more now, but I will receive my package, and won't end up with a notice on my door that says that due to it being undeliverable, it was shipped back. That, my friends, is the ultimate let down.

Make your choice, as you will, I'm just telling you my experience. If you live a busy life, and can't be home (or have someone there every waking minute), then choose FedEx. If you are strapped for cash, and can be there to receive it, then I guess UPS is okay... I'm just not willing to take that chance.

## I live in a school of flocks, herds, packs and gaggles

**JEFFREY KOSSEFF**  
MICHIGAN DAILY  
(U.MICHIGAN)

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. -- I never thought I had anything in common with fraternity pledges who allow others to torture them in the name of hazing.

Another group of my white-capped fellow students face allegations of duct-tape-related hazing. Throughout winter break, as my friends at home teased me about last month's nationally publicized charges of hazing that resulted in a BB gun shot to the groin, I wondered what was going through these people's minds. How did these sheep get into the University? Don't they have any common sense?

I just couldn't understand their actions. I would never let my friends near me with duct tape, BB guns or any other threatening objects. I would question authority. That sets me apart from them.

While I was riding my high horse of superior judgment,

my friend pointed me to an experiment conducted by psychology researcher Stanley Milgram published in 1974. In "Obedience to Authority," Milgram told his subjects they were teachers and instructed them to send an electric shock to learners in the room next door every time they answered a question incorrectly.

With every shock, the voltage increased until it reached fatal levels. That's what the subjects believed, but the "learners" were actors only pretending to be shocked. They banged on the walls, screamed in agony and even yelled about heart problems. They begged for the teachers to stop. But the person conducting the experiment simply told the teachers to keep increasing the voltage with every wrong answer until it was at 450 volts - a lethal level.

I would expect almost every subject to stop pressing the shock button as soon as they heard any signs of pain. Common people wouldn't put others' lives in jeopardy simply because they were told to. There

will always be that small group of psychotic serial killers.

Surprisingly, according to Milgram's results, 65 percent of the subjects had that serial killer mentality. They increased the voltage to the highest, most deadly level. They did it because an authority figure told them to. I started to think about what I would have done. It's tough to tell, now that I know the outcome. I've often blindly accepted and obeyed authority. Sometimes I believe what my professors say without critically analyzing their claims. I watched my peers in high school ridicule other students without standing up for them. So I might have felt pretty safe following a researcher's instructions. I don't know if I would have continued to press the button as I heard screams of agony and death. I'd like to think I would have stopped even before I heard the first shriek. But the sheep in the back of my mind says otherwise.

Sheep live within all of our personalities. There's a part of each of us that wants to follow the

leader. It's convenient to do and scary not to do. How many times have you mindlessly obeyed an authority figure without any other reason than that person's status or your insecurities? We've all done it, and it's because of that sheep who lives in our psyches.

The sheep is responsible for the successes of Chicken Soup books, George W. Bush, boy bands, dot-com stocks and Cliffs Notes.

The sheep resists urges to run away when an older fraternity member points a gun at his head and groin.

The sheep doesn't stand up for the student everyone makes fun of in high school, because he's terrified of becoming the outcast.

The sheep attacks affirmative action without knowing its definition.

The sheep defends affirmative action without knowing its definition.

The sheep applies to the Business School in his sophomore year, satisfying his parents' wishes, even though

he'd love to study great books, political philosophy or biological anthropology.

The sheep fears Arabs because media "experts" brand them terrorists.

The sheep sheds blood in a war he doesn't understand.

The sheep never takes the first slice of pizza, even if he's starving.

The sheep votes along party lines because family members, employers, union leaders and local political bosses tell him who and what are fair and just.

The sheep, fearing Y2K meltdowns after an in-depth report by Barbara Walters, buys every bottle of water and can of soup available.

As much as we don't like to admit it, we're all part sheep. The sheep mentality shatters any illusions of free will and helps us understand the roots of tragedies such as the Holocaust and successes such as the stock market boom. While I have little in common with fraternity pledges, I'm probably just as obedient to authority.



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KNIGHT PUBLISHING, INC  
120 ALEXANDRIA BLVD, SUITE 17  
OVIEDO, FL 32765

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# GUIDE TO THE NEW MILLENNIUM

# ENTERTAINMENT

**ANNA AND THE KING.** An update of the 1956 musical "The King and I," this new movie offers old-fashioned kinds of pleasures: sumptuous scenery, unhurried pacing, easy-to-chart conflicts and two charismatic leads (Jodie Foster and Chow Yun-Fat) who can carry the show. PG-13. 2:29. 3 stars. — M.C.

**ANY GIVEN SUNDAY.** A loud, explosive, iconoclastic, pile-it-on All-American melodrama from director Oliver Stone, "Any Given Sunday" is a football-as-social-microcosm account of a failing football team, an embattled coach (Al Pacino), a last-gasp quarterback (Dennis Quaid), a cocky rising young phenom (Jamie Foxx) and a Machiavellian owner (Cameron Diaz). R. 2:42. 3-1/2 stars. — M.W.

**ANYWHERE BUT HERE.** Susan Sarandon plays Adele August, a divorced Bay City, Wis., mother with big dreams of the West Coast. Natalie Portman is Ann August, the daughter steeped in home and friends. It's an archetypal tale of a mother and daughter who quarrel and bond, but Sarandon takes the palm for sheer heart and guts and Portman wins us over with subtle, natural grace. It's a funny, less cutting "Terms of Endearment," and it features two of the best-looking, most appealing actresses on the planet. PG-13. 1:54. 3-1/2 stars. — M.W.

**BEING JOHN MALKOVICH.** An unforgettable dark comedy of original means reflecting our times and place to a fault. Craig Schwartz (John Cusack) discovers a "portal" into John Malkovich (as himself) through which various characters enter and exploit Malkovich for 15-minute periods. The funniest episode reveals that Floor 7-1/2 of their office building is between Floors 7 and 8, created by its first owner who wanted to create a comfortable space for his wife, a midget. R. 1:52. 3 stars. — M.W.

**BICENTENNIAL MAN.** In this sentimental but superficial Chris Columbus-directed movie, Robin Williams is a robot who wants to be human and who, over the course of the movie's 200 years, gets well on his way to altering himself completely from machine to man. PG. 2:12. 2 stars. — M.W.

**THE CIDER HOUSE RULES.** This is a coming-of-age tale about New England orphan Homer Wells' (Tobey Maguire) initiation into the world. Michael Caine co-stars in this deliberately old-fashioned, yet successful, film about first love, the World War II home front and social consciousness. R. 2:09. 3-1/2 stars. — M.W.

**CRADLE WILL ROCK.** Despite its great cast and high-voltage staging, "Cradle Will Rock" is an infuriating Tim Robbins-directed retelling of the story of a theater troupe (John Houseman's and Orson Welles' Project 891, part of the WPA Theater Project) that defied its government patrons to put on a show that mirrored the harsh conflicts of the Depression. R. 2:12. 2-1/2 stars. — M.W.

**DEUCE BIGALOW: MALE GIGOLO.** Rob

## On the Screen

Schneider plays Deuce Bigalow, a Los Angeles fish tank cleaner who becomes a gigolo in order to earn enough money to repair the damage he causes to an acquaintance's luxurious Malibu Beach apartment. Adam Sandler executive produces this post-"Saturday Night Live" effort, that's laden with broad sight gags, gross sound effects and a bowlful of potty jokes. R. 1:24. 1-1/2 stars. — J.P.

**DOUBLE JEOPARDY.** A movie based on a flawed premise leaves one thinking this must be just an exercise in rolling film. A shocked Libby (Ashley Judd) is sent to prison for her husband's murder. When she discovers he is alive and with their son and another woman, she plots to kill him. Of course, the rest of us would seek to have our sentence overturned, a quick release from prison and to be reunited with our son. Go figure. R. 1:45. 1-1/2 stars. — M.C.

**THE END OF THE AFFAIR.** An intelligent, beautifully acted and stylish film (starring Ralph Fiennes and Julianne Moore) that chronicles the passion and loss that occurs when an abandoned lover discovers his rival may not be flesh and blood but something more irresistible, mystical and deadly. R. 1:45. 3 stars. — M.W.

**FANTASIA/2000.** Though not as good or even as massively innovative as its predecessor, "Fantasia/2000," boasts seven new sequences set to pieces ranging from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony to Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," mostly performed by James Levine and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and featuring a cast of all-star "hosts" (from Itzhak Perlman to Bette Midler). G. 1:15. 3 stars. — M.W.

**GALAXY QUEST.** This comedy is a postmodern parody of "Star Trek," a kind of PG-rated "Scream" for Trekkies. Tim Allen and Sigourney Weaver star in a movie that ambles rather than builds momentum, and whose characters are overly familiar with a certain genre's formula. PG. 1:42. 2 stars. — M.C.

**THE GREEN MILE.** Writer-director Frank Darabont ("The Shawshank Redemption") creates another inspirational prison picture with his adaptation of "The Green Mile," starring Tom Hanks and big-screen neophyte Michael Clarke Duncan. Hanks plays Paul Edgecomb, a good-natured prison guard who develops a strange relationship with convicted rapist-murderer John Coffey (Duncan). Edgecomb gradually comes to believe that Coffey, whose burly physical stature is overshadowed by his gentle demeanor, is not only innocent of all of his crimes, but a hero and a mystical healer. R. 2:57. 3 stars. — M.W.

**THE HURRICANE.** Denzel Washington gives an outstanding performance in this offbeat sports docu-drama with a keen contemporary edge that

tells the story of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, a middleweight boxer of the mid-'60s who was wrongly convicted of a triple murder and unjustly imprisoned for 22 years. R. 2:26. 4 stars. — M.W.

**MAGNOLIA.** The lives of nine San Fernando Valleyites become intertwined during a 24-hour period in this eccentric, personal, whimsical yet wildly ambitious movie by Paul Thomas Anderson ("Boogie Nights"). Cast includes Tom Cruise, Julianne Moore, John C. Reilly, William H. Macy. R. 2:59. 4 stars. — M.W.

**MAN ON THE MOON.** Jim Carrey stars in this heartfelt and sympathetic, yet uninspired, tribute to the all-time master of the deadpan put-on — Andy Kaufman. R. 1:58. 2-1/2 stars. — M.W.

**MANSFIELD PARK.** "Mansfield Park" is one of the most radical and social-minded of the Jane Austen movies so far. It's a sort of Cinderella story about poor relation Fanny Price (Australia's Frances O'Connor) and the way she perseveres in a household of snobs and adventurers. It's the most consciously political and the sexiest. The film whisks us back to that early 19th Century stretch of gentry-laden British countryside so beloved to fans of fine English literature — and it's another more-than-pleasant trip. PG-13. 3 stars. — M.W.

**POKEMON THE FIRST MOVIE.** This Japanese import will be a must-see for Pokemon fans — your kids. The film is broken into the 20-minute "Pikachu's Vacation," which plays like a psychedelic kiddie dream, followed by the 76-minute feature, "Mewtwo Strikes Back." Mewtwo is more linear and filled with moral stories played out by trainers and their adventurous Pokemon. A shameless plug for Pokemon merchandise? You betcha. G. 1:36. 2 stars. — M.C.

**PRINCESS MONONOKE.** An English-language translation of Hayao Miyazaki's animated film of people and nature trying to coexist. Young warrior Ashitaka (voiced by Billy Crudup) is wounded when he kills a boar transformed into a bloody, wormy beast when shot in another country. Ashitaka must find the source of that evil lest his wound fatally envelops him. He soon encounters San, Princess Mononoke (Claire Danes). It's one man's vision of an ancient forestland with startling beauty that at times unfolds like a psychedelic nightmare. PG (images of violence and gore). 2:13. 3-1/2 stars. — M.C.

**ROSETTA.** Many movies try for an illusion of reality, but few capture it as well as "Rosetta" — this year's surprise Grand Prize winner at the Cannes Film Festival. Watching this fierce little film about a poor Belgian trailer camp girl, Rosetta, desperately trying to gain a foothold for a "normal life," you constantly have the sense of

eavesdropping on real life, real people. And, more than that, of experiencing real pain and fear, of being trapped, maddeningly, on society's lower rungs — which is what the movie is all about. R. 1:35. 3-1/2 stars. — M.W.

**SLEEPY HOLLOW.** Director Tim Burton uses "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" as a stepping-off point for a radically reimagined ghost story. Ichabod Crane (Johnny Depp) is an upstanding New York City constable sent to investigate a series of mysterious decapitations. Ichabod poo-pooes the Sleepy Hollow folks' tale of a Headless Horseman (Christopher Walken) until he himself encounters the ghost. The movie is visually sumptuous and playfully creepy. R. 1:45. 3 stars. — M.C.

**SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS.** An excruciatingly serious — yet almost unbearable — film adaptation of the David Guterson novel about racism and its effect on American society and the justice system. Stars Ethan Hawke. PG-13. 2:10. 2 stars. — M.W.

**TUART LITTLE.** Rob Minkoff ("The Lion King") directs this patronizing and predictable film based on E.B. White's episodic book about a lively, humanlike mouse named Stuart Little. In Minkoff's adaptation, a couple adopts Stuart (voiced by Michael J. Fox) so their son George can have a younger "brother," only George isn't happy about it. Stuart devotes his energy to trying to win over his cranky new sibling. PG. 1:32. 2 stars. — M.C.

**SWEET AND LOWDOWN.** Woody Allen's latest is a comic valentine to '30s jazz; its subject — a fictitious jazz guitarist named Emmet Ray (Sean Penn) — is a self-destructive natural talent, America's best jazz guitarist, but cursed by the fact that he'll always be second in the world to the great Django Reinhardt. PG-13. 1:35. 3 stars. — M.C.

**THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY.** Anthony Minghella's "The Talented Mr. Ripley" is a partly brilliant, partly overreaching movie thriller starring Matt Damon as Tom Ripley, a con artist and murderer who steals the identity and girlfriend (Gwyneth Paltrow) of his rich victim (Jude Law), then races across Italy, cashing the dead man's checks, forging letters to his family and trying desperately to stay a step ahead of the police and the victim's friends. R. 2:20. 3 stars. — M.W.

**TOY STORY 2.** You can't ask for a family film to do more than "Toy Story 2." It's smart and playful enough to entertain adults, yet it never aims above the heads of kids. "Toy Story 2" is essentially a raucous tale about toy mortality, and the lead characters — plastic spaceman Buzz Lightyear (voiced by Tim Allen) and lanky cowboy Woody (Tom Hanks) — are back for more adventures with new toy mates. G. 4 stars. — M.C.

(M.C. — Mark Caro; M.W. — Michael Wilmington; J.P. — John Petrakis; M.R. — Maureen Ryan; R.K. — Rick Kogan; M.E. — Monica Eng; B.S. — Barbara Shulgasser; A.J. — Allan Johnson.)

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# Sega's NBA 2K puts you inside the game

MIKE ANTONUCCI  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There is a vaguely Frankenstein-ish quality to NBA 2K (\$50), a powerful Sega Dreamcast game that blends reality and fantasy. It vied for my attention during the recent holidays with another Dreamcast title, Rippin' Riders, and easily won the monster share of my time.

Some of the NBA 2K eeriness is in the players' eyes. Much has been made of how lifelike the pro basketball players appear, not only in terms of their facial features but in their animated expressions — like an in-your-face scowl after a ferocious dunk. During pregame introductions, though, their eyes sometimes slide from side to side like loose basketballs.

There's a little freakishness in that, but it fits the game's persona. That's because with NBA 2K, published by Sega, you can create fictional players. You can stick to using NBA personnel — Latrell Sprewell looks so good when he's your guy — or you can make a player. And, if you're feeling like a mad sports scientist, a Frankenstein-ish one at that.

You shape the face and body type by first picking from some preset categories, then "tweak" your player's appearance right down to the size of his ears. If you want a pear-shaped, bald and

humongous-nosed point guard who can shoot the lights out, you can have him. Give him a profane nickname, a couple of tattoos and 128 bits of life.

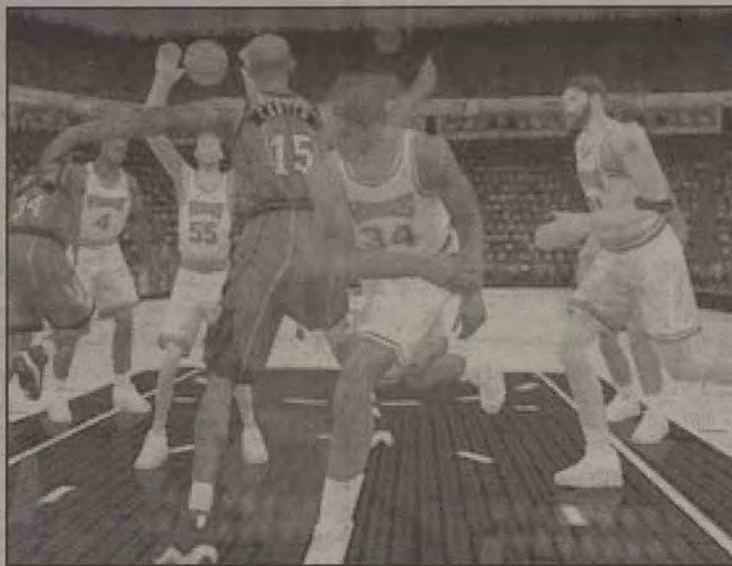
Don't get me wrong, NBA 2K isn't basketball made strange. It's more like alternative reality. Visually stunning, ingeniously creative, deliciously challenging and incredibly detailed alternative reality. You feel as if you're transported inside the NBA, and you have to keep reminding yourself: "It's just a game, it's just a game."

Big factors in the game's attractiveness are the speed and fluidity of the action — heightening the challenge, because you have to be able to select that much more quickly and smoothly from a rich array of play-calling options and player movements.

You not only need a mental command of your choices, you need to master all parts of the controller — joystick, directional pad, buttons and triggers. You want to play big-time hoops, you need good hands.

Some reviews have focused on passing and free-throw shooting as the trickiest, and slightly hinky, elements of the game. No question, the free throw system, which requires simultaneously even pressure on both triggers, is more irritating than useful.

In general, though, I found offense far more manipulable than defense. In fact, over the first five hours I spent with NBA



2K, I was no factor on defense. I had Hakeem Olajuwon posting up and jamming home points at a pace of about 30 points a game. But my half-court set defense was only good for watching the opposition make uncontested layups — and having the announc-

ers comment on my team's lack of D.

The commentary is another aspect of the game's richness. It acknowledges and reacts to the game's developments and trends with the same realism and near-naturalism that defines NBA 2K

and makes it such a state-of-the-art achievement.

That's not so with Rippin' Riders (\$50), another Sega-published Dreamcast title. It's a racing game, using snowboards instead of cars, and it features what is supposed to be ooh-aah scenery that left me cold, no pun intended.

The snowboarding action is fine. Indeed, the controls are very "tight" — responsive and proportional, with a fine movement of the analog stick producing only fine movement on turns. But there's a commentator who's a jerk, chiming in repetitively with insipid critiques, such as "What are ya doin'?"

You can learn and improve reasonably quickly in Rippin' Riders. In the free ride mode, which for the single player is the heart of the game, you work your way from a starter course up to fancier routes.

It took me about a dozen runs to get past course 1, but that was me. I kept trying to jump some massive boulders instead of realizing that everything was scaled to let my boarder slide right through some space between them.

The game is cute, not thrilling. That's true of the characters who do your racing, too. They include — really — "Tia," a high schooler who "is one fine trickstress" and Bob, the "laughing Rastafarian."

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# Reon Shannon earns high praise after 'Hurricane' of a performance

IAN SPELLING  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Denzel Washington can't stop raving. "The kid is amazing," he says. "He is the story."

"The Kid" is Vicellous Reon Shannon, who shares the screen with Washington in "The Hurricane," a knockout reality-based drama about boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter (Washington), who spent two decades in prison after being convicted of three murders he did not commit. His only crime was being a black man in the wrong place (Paterson, New Jersey) at the wrong time (June, 1966). Shannon portrays Lesra Martin, an African-American teen from Brooklyn who lived with and was educated by a group of Canadian activists. After reading his first-ever book, "The Sixteenth Round," which happened to be Carter's autobiography, Martin led the charge that finally saw Carter vindicated.

Shannon, a 28-year-old whose friends call him "Vi," knew the instant he read the script that he wanted to play Martin. "Normally, I'll read 50 pages of a script, put it down, take a little break and then go back to it," the actor says during a conversation at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills. "Not this one. This one I read through in two hours. Then I re-read it. I said, 'OK, I've got to read ('The Sixteenth Round'). There's a Hurricane song (Bob Dylan's 'Hurricane') I never heard. I've got to get that.' I'm getting all these things and thinking, 'Wow, all this stuff happened and they're just NOW telling his story?'"

"After reading the book I felt the same way Lesra did. I thought, 'Whoa, what's going on?' So, I felt a lot of passion about the story. You can't write anything better than this. It's just great. The movie is about hope. It's about love. It's about faith. Just because someone can't read or write, you shouldn't be afraid to ask for help. That's where hope comes in. I remember talking to a single mother who saw the movie and she told me, 'Watching the movie inspired me to talk to my son, to help him and to make sure he gets everything he needs. It really moved me.' It shows a positive side of African-Americans."

Shannon conferred often with the real-life Martin and also met Carter on several occasions. In fact, Shannon, Martin, Carter, Washington and others involved in the film dined together a few times before, during and after the film went before the camera. Shannon was struck each time he met Carter by the man's serenity. "With everything that happened to him you would think he'd be bitter, upset, have a chip on his shoulder," Shannon says. "But he's sweet, gentle and full of knowledge. He's still giving. I'm looking at him and I said, 'Aren't you mad about what happened? You were in jail for 22 years.' He said, 'I'm out now. I don't want to shake things up.' Hate put him in prison and love busted him out. That's why that line in the film is so important."

Shannon was born in Memphis, Tennessee and raised in California, mostly in Anaheim. At age 20 he decided to give acting a shot and hopped on a bus to Hollywood. He found an agent, took acting lessons and soon thereafter appeared in TV commercials and made guest spots on such shows as "NYPD Blue," "Moesha," "Chicago Hope" and "Party of Five." He was also a regular in the short-lived series "Dangerous Minds" and turned up in such films as "The Mighty Ducks 2" and "Can't Hardly Wait."

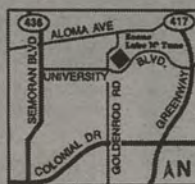
"Acting is therapy," says Shannon, who just completed production on an upcoming TNT movie entitled "Freedom Song," which co-stars Danny Glover and revisits the beginnings of the civil rights movement via the formation of SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee). "You're able to act out your anger. You're able to act out emotions that you normally can't, which aren't politically correct to do (in public). If you're mad at something, you have to suppress a lot of it. Acting lets me put it out there."

When he's not putting it out there, Shannon can usually be found at home with his wife, an aspiring chef with whom he lives in Los Angeles. There's a warm grin on Shannon's face as he notes that she's six-feet-tall and gorgeous, while he's five-foot-seven and baby-faced. "I get carded a lot," he says. "When I was in New York one time I wanted to see 'The Siege.' And they carded me. They said, 'You're not over 17.' I said, 'Oh, man!' He saw my ID and said, 'This is a fake.' When I have people come out to my house to fix stuff, they say, 'Are your parents home?' I smile and say, 'I'm the man, OK?'"

"I get a lot of that."

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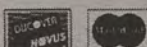
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# A false feel To 'Magnolia'

**HENRY SHEEHAN**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You would never guess how young filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson is from the way he structures his movies.

From his initial, low-budget crime drama, "Hard Eight," through the attention-getting porn-biz saga "Boogie Nights" and up to his latest, "Magnolia," the director has displayed remarkable finesse in juggling a large cast of characters.

Anderson can quickly and memorably introduce us to a character, move onto the next one and next one, double back and tie several of them together, split them up and pair them off in other ways. And then somehow he ends up with all these creations both convincingly changed in outlook but realistically the same in self by movie's end.

On top of all that, he's able to lead an ensemble of players through the action so that star and supporting player alike share in the spotlight.

The biggest star in "Magnolia" is Tom Cruise, who Anderson has handed a real plum of a part. With his hair knotted back pseudo-ninja style, Cruise turns up the volume (literally and figuratively) on his dark side to portray Frank Mackey, an aggressive evangelist of sex.

Using TV and girlie magazine ads, Mackey targets guys who get the brushoff from women to sign up for seminars that teach his hard-edged seduction approach

called "Seduce and Destroy."

But as satanically fascinating as Mackey is, he doesn't draw any more attention — and certainly less sympathy — than a hapless policeman, Jim Kurring, played by the relatively unknown John C. Reilly. A would-be tough cop, Kurring is actually one of the world's lost souls, looking for love and finding it in the person of a cocaine addict, Claudia Gator (Melora Walters). Poignantly, Kurring is so wanting he just thinks Claudia is one of those intense people, rather than one of those hooked ones.

"Magnolia," like "Boogie Nights," is set in Los Angeles' suburban San Fernando Valley and, like "Boogie Nights," revolves loosely around a subsection of show biz, in this case quiz shows and in particular one featuring children as contestants.

The show, "What Do Kids Know?" has been on for decades and always hosted by the same MC, Jimmy Gator (Philip Baker Hall). Jimmy is not only the father of the cocaine addict having a halting relationship with the policeman but features in his own story, as does a young contestant, Stanley Spector (Jeremy Blackman) in his own.

There's another story line involving an adult who had been on the show as a kid and ever since, Donnie Smith (William H. Macy) has been unable to hold a steady job or have a satisfactory romantic relationship.

Seemingly outside this show-biz

nexus is another pair of closely connected stories. In one, male nurse Phil Parma (Philip Seymour Hoffman) tends to a wealthy dying man, Earl Partridge (Jason Robards). In the other, Partridge's much younger wife, Linda (Julianne Moore), scurries madly around town, scoring prescription drugs and trying to get herself written out — yes, written out — of Earl's will.

Anderson begins the lengthy film with a fairly droll trio of vignettes that illustrate the sometimes-macabre conjunction of crime and coincidence, a happenstance a narrator then suggests is not always merely coincidence. This alerts us to two facts: That something bad is going to happen in at least one of the story lines and that somehow everyone is going to turn out to be connected.

As it happens, none of that really matters because the movie is overtaken by Anderson's overriding and just about fatal flaw as a filmmaker: his emotional immaturity. It's not so much that he has a dark vision of the world as that vision seems unearned, free-floating, more affected than learned from experience. Because Anderson is juggling so many characters and stories, you might not notice that his main rhetorical device isn't inclusion but exclusion.

The whole movie is set up to prove that we are all strangers, doomed to walk along until we blunder into a tenuous relationship with someone as pathetic as ourselves. And if we run into someone who is

not pathetic, then we're in real trouble because it probably means he or she is a monster.

Any attitude, any human adjustment, any living arrangement that might suggest otherwise is ruthlessly excluded, until you get the feeling that the San Fernando Valley is no more than an anguished vale of tears, full of wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Those biblical allusions are appropriate because, in a desperate attempt to end on an optimistic note, Anderson relies on a miracle plucked from the Old Testament. I suppose that, like the opening, this is an attempt at drollery, but it plays largely like panic.

When you get down to brass tacks with the characters, as often as not, they turn out to be thin creations, occasionally brought to life by the exertions of the cast. Cruise's Mackey is a good case in point: As played by the actor, he is almost hypnotic. But the more you see him, the more you realize there's not much to him.

In the end, we get three hours of Anderson setting up straw men just so he can knock them over — and pick them up and knock them over. The pity he displays for the worst off of them — Kurring, Claudia, Parma, Smith — is clearly edged with contempt, and there's a sourness to the whole film.

This kind of exaggerated melancholy may play like worldliness in a college dorm room, but in the real world it just looks like inexperience.

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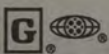
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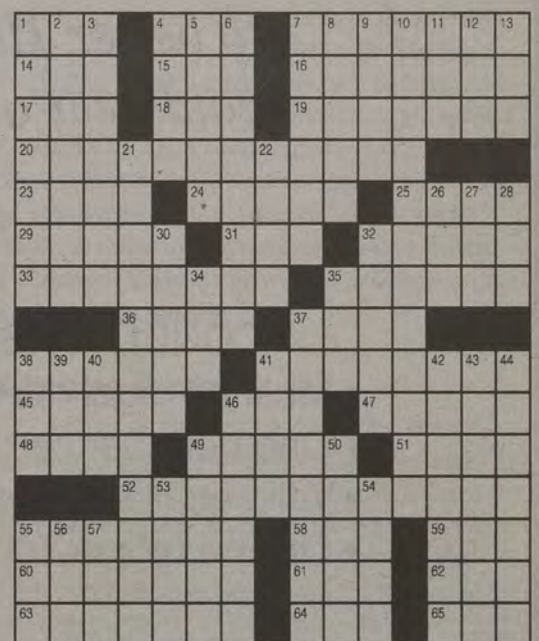
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# Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Light knock
- 4 Soak (up)
- 7 Pulverizer
- 14 Pres. Lincoln
- 15 Boxing great
- 16 Panamanian dictator
- 17 Daystar
- 18 Clan members
- 19 Accepted humiliation
- 20 TV intermission
- 23 Sicilian volcano
- 24 Merchant's figures
- 25 Opera song
- 29 Deficiencies
- 31 Mongrel
- 32 Knot on a tree
- 33 Icier, weatherwise
- 35 Emblems
- 36 Mineo and Maglie
- 37 Impudent
- 38 Fill with dismay
- 41 Gulls and skuas
- 45 Term of tenancy
- 46 Opie's aunt
- 47 Bay window
- 48 Gone by
- 49 Lively dance
- 51 Writer Ferber
- 52 Without warning
- 55 Horse breed
- 58 Open receptacle
- 59 Earlike projection
- 60 "Palooka" star, Jimmy
- 61 Morsel for Dobbin
- 62 Night before
- 63 Small sofas
- 64 John's Yoko
- 65 Scarlet, e.g.



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1/12/00

DOWN

- 7 Trapper
- 8 Small specks
- 9 Field of study
- 10 Fed up
- 11 That woman
- 12 Pride in oneself
- 13 Uncooked
- 21 Guesses
- 22 Obscure
- 26 Gossip sheet
- 27 Cholera
- 28 Gore and Jolson
- 30 Past prime, breadwise
- 32 "Camille" star
- 34 Off one's feed
- 35 Actress Arthur
- 37 Game with baby
- 38 Mont Blanc, e.g.
- 39 Shell-game item
- 40 \_\_\_ de deux (dance duet)
- 41 Individual
- 42 Gorshin to Batman
- 43 "Repulsion" star Catherine

Solutions

RED	ONO	SEES	SEITLES
EALE	AVAT	ELNTE	DUBARRE
FLUG	BINAV	AVRABAR	AVRABAR
NEDD	USVOTLV	VALLOFAS	DDEN
AVNA	ELKVA	POLT	PAST
LEL	ORIE	BE	LEASE
S	AVES	LVV	APPV
SE	VDV	H	STLETS
LVH	NG	HUC	SKOVL
AVIA	AVAS	LS	AVNTE
K	AVK	BN	AVNTE
MOH	CELV	NIK	NUS
AV	AVR	LV	BE
S	AVS	AV	AV

- 44 Used casual language
- 46 Daniel and Pat
- 49 Serving dish
- 50 Laotian or Mongolian, e.g.
- 53 Merchandise category
- 54 Do-others separator
- 55 Want
- 56 Be penitent
- 57 Expertise

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# Chuck Shepherd's NEWS OF THE WEIRD

## Lead Stories

• Patrick J. Murphy, deputy superintendent of schools in Cambridge, Mass., resigned in December after admitting that he solicited two of his staff members to write papers on Shakespeare for his 19-year-old daughter's literature class at Stonehill College in nearby Easton, Mass. The scheme blew up on Murphy when one of the papers received a D, and he tried to get the employee to rewrite it.

• Among the new dog designer fashions unveiled at the 12th Pat Pet Friend Festival in November in Bangkok: a red-and-black, Michael Jackson-style military coat; a yellow-and-black bike racing jacket with bike-style helmet; a silver space suit-like cape; and a blue silk gown. According to designer Vasinee Apornpanit, the biggest market by far for dressing up dogs is Japan, where pet owners are now asking for cell phones and other high-tech gadgets to be sewn onto the dogs' outfits.

## Schools That Need Zero-Tolerance Policies for Teachers

In October, a first-grade teacher in Rialto, Calif., taped a disruptive student's head to the wall of the classroom. And seventh-grade teacher Carrie White was accused in October of flinging a dictionary and a calculator at two disruptive students in Lodi, Ohio. And in June, high school substitute teacher Steven M. Catena was fired in Keansburg, N.J., after reports that he wrapped one student in masking tape and butcher paper in class and implored students to give another classmate a "swirly" (dunking in a toilet). And in Durban, South Africa, in May, a high school teacher and a principal pulled guns and opened fire on students who were protesting higher fees.

## Inexplicable

• In an August dispatch from Katy, Texas (near Houston), the San Francisco Chronicle featured "Forbidden Gardens," P.H. Poon's 80-acre, \$20 million, 1/20th replica of the Forbidden City in Beijing (shown as life-size in the 1987 film "The Last Emperor"), "what must be," according to the Chronicle, "one of the world's least known theme parks." The reporter noted only one vehicle in the parking lot and only a group tour of 16 kids in attendance.

• After arresting Teri Harrington, 31, and Deana Watson, 28, in September, Sacramento, Calif., police told reporters that the women had apparently stolen large numbers of items from local stores at least 14 times in the previous two weeks, casually walking out each time with 20-gallon bins filled with clothes, videos, CDs, games and cosmetics.

• In Windsor, Ontario, in August, the small wheel of a man's wheelchair got stuck on railroad tracks as a train was heard in the distance, and a female passerby in a wheelchair rolled out to help him, but her small wheel got stuck in the same rut. Both suffered minor injuries when the oncoming train could not completely stop.

## First Things First

• In October, Argentina exiled former Paraguayan military leader Luis Oviedo to remote Tierra del Fuego for violating the rules of his political asylum, which it had given him six months earlier. Oviedo had unsuccessfully requested a stay of his banishment, arguing that he had recently undergone a hair transplant and felt the windy, sunny weather in Tierra del Fuego would disrupt his new plugs.

• In November, Robert Horton, 52, walked into a Phoenix courthouse carrying his wife, Belinda, who was bound at the legs, arms and mouth with gray duct tape. He told a security

officer that she was due in court that day on a charge of assaulting a police officer, that he had posted bail for her, that she had threatened to skip the court hearing, and that he had taped and lugged her downtown to make sure he got his bail money back. Unknown to the Hortons, the charge against Belinda had been dismissed earlier that day, but prosecutors are still deciding whether to file charges against Robert for kidnapping his wife.

## Ewww, Gross!

• Convicted killer Kenneth D. Williams escaped from prison in Arkansas in October by hiding in a 500-gallon barrel of hog slop being towed to a prison farm; he was apprehended 36 hours later. And two weeks later, robbery suspect Roderick King, 19, was found in a Dumpster full of fetid garbage in Knoxville, Tenn., where he had been hiding from police who chased him after he had gone to the home of the victim's aunt to convince her he was innocent.

• Diana Thorneycroft's government-supported art exhibit, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in September, consisted of 12 dead rabbits, hung from trees and rotting, in the woods outside town; said the artist, "I'm celebrating the gloriousness of putrefaction." And in November, an unnamed male artist, submitting a project for an Accrington, England, show aiming to revitalize the local village, acceded to sponsors' wishes and redesigned his live-maggot exhibit, which was opposed by environmental officials.

## People Who Should've Held It Until They Got Home

Elderly Margaret Barrs filed a lawsuit in Houston in November against Jack in the Box restaurants because she lost a fingertip when a heavy restroom door slammed on her hand in 1998. And Toronto lawyer Edward Skwarek, 37, filed a \$1.5 million lawsuit in November against Starbucks for his restroom injury in one of the chain's New York City restaurants; Skwarek said he was seated on the commode, and when he turned to reach for toilet paper, the seat slipped and trapped his penis between it and the top of the bowl, mangling it.

## Recurring Themes

• News of the Weird has reported several times on successful surgeries to remove unusually large benign tumors, most recently in February 1999 in women in Baltimore (80-pound tumor) and Lancaster, Pa. (75 pounds). In December 1999, doctors at the University of Chicago hospital, working for 18 hours, removed a 200-pound tumor from a 40-year-old woman who weighed 120 pounds just 12 months earlier when the tumor's growth began. The largest tumor-removal on record, 303 pounds, occurred at Stanford Medical Center in 1991.

## Least Justifiable Homicides

Insufficient Reasons to Kill Someone: Resisted taking a shower (Joseph Meehan, charged with strangling his son, 8, Toronto, November). Violated chess etiquette by moving a knight to a new square but then moving it back, even though he did not lift his hand (Mr. Buth Ratha, charged with clubbing his opponent to death with a wooden pestle, Prey Veng, Cambodia, July). Got accepted to kindergarten while her playmate did not (Mitsuko Yamada, 35, mother of the rejected, charged with strangling the accepted child, Tokyo, November).

(Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 18737, Tampa, Fla. 33679, or [Weird@compuserve.com](mailto:Weird@compuserve.com).)



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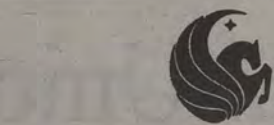


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Wed. January 12, 7:00pm

Chapter tables on the patio of the Student

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Sign up for Rush today!



## Blue chip tight end among five recruits to enroll at UCF

### SPECIAL TO THE FUTURE

With national signing day still a month away, the University of Central Florida got a big shot in the arm on the recruiting front on Jan. 6 when tight end Michael Gaines from Tallahassee enrolled in school.

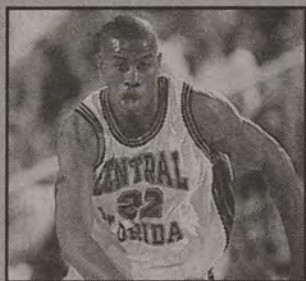
Gaines (6-3, 265) originally signed with Alabama last year after graduating from Florida High School, but did not meet NCAA academic requirements. He is now a full academic qualifier and is eligible to play.

Gaines, considered by recruiting analysts as one of UCF's best recruits since Daunte Culpepper, was not the only addition to the football roster to enroll at UCF this semester. December signee Patrick Jenrette (OT) is now on campus

as well as 1999 signees Antoine Poe (LB), Derek Ponder (WR), and Chris Weeks (DT), who delayed their enrollment for various reasons. They will all participate in spring practice which begins Feb. 16.

Gaines, a preseason All-American as a high school senior, did nearly everything on the football field during his high school career. In addition to playing tight end, he played linebacker, kicked field goals, punted, was a backup quarterback and also played some at offensive tackle. He made 20 catches for 535 yards and nine TDs and had 110 tackles during his senior season and was chosen to play in the Florida-Georgia High School All-Star Game.

## TAAC Mens Basketball Leaders



### Points per game

1 Detric Golden	Troy State	17.2
2 Marc Salyers	Samford	17.0
3 Adam Fellers	Campbell	15.9
4 Calvin Slaughter	Jacksonville	15.6
5 Reed Rawlings	Samford	15.1
6 Brandon Williams	Jacksonville	14.9
7 Anton Reese	Georgia State	14.9
8 Sebastian Singletary	Stetson	14.5
9 Scott Emerson	Mercer	13.9
10 D'Quarius Stewart	Central Florida	13.8

### Rebounds per game

1 Sebastian Singletary	Stetson	9.6
2 Santos Hampton	Stetson	8.9
3 Mike McDaniel	Jacksonville St	8.5
4 Scott Emerson	Mercer	8.0
5 Marc Salyers	Samford	7.1
6 Paul Reed	Central Florida	7.0

### Assists per game

1 Detric Golden	Troy State	5.6
2 Rashard Willie	Jacksonville St	5.0
3 Ravii Givens	Stetson	4.5
4t Mario Lopez	Samford	4.2
4t Cory Perry	Central Florida	4.2
6 Shawn Platts	Jacksonville	4.1
7 Al Miller	Central Florida	3.7

### 3-point FG Pct.

1 Shawn Platts	Jacksonville	.500
2 Jason Thornton	Central Florida	.494
3 Matt Holman	Troy State	.474
4 Rashard Willie	Jacksonville St	.473
5 Marc Salyers	Samford	.462
6 Robert Rushing	Troy State	.446

### Steals per game

1 Ravii Givens	Stetson	2.2
2 Reed Rawlings	Samford	2.1
3t Tony Lee	Florida Atl	2.0
3t Kevin Morris	Georgia State	2.0
5 Cory Perry	Central Florida	1.8
6 Marques Williams	Florida Atl	1.8

# UCF MEN'S BASKETBALL

Thursday, January 13 vs Georgia State 7:30pm  
Saturday, January 15 vs Campbell 8:00pm

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# Women's BASKETBALL

## Notebook

### Women's Basketball Notebook

#### A Tale of Two Games

In their two home TAAC games last week, the UCF Women's Basketball team put together performances that were polar opposites of each other. In a 50-36 loss to Mercer, the Golden Knights played what might have been their worst game of the season, shooting 24 percent from the field and getting outrebounded 48-30. Against the Bears' zone defense, UCF was unable to establish an inside presence, with post players Camille Howard, LaToya Graham, and Erin Paige combining for only eight points and 12 rebounds. The guards were not able to deflect any pressure from the post players, making only two of 16 three-point attempts.

"They took away our strength tonight, which was our post players, and our guards could not hit the shots," UCF coach Gail Striegler said. "You just can't win a game when you shoot 24 percent. Every team has a night like tonight. We couldn't hit the broad side of a barn. We had open looks left and right that we just couldn't hit."

The Golden Knights turned things around against Troy State, taking an early lead and holding off the Trojans' full-court-press defense in the second half to preserve a 78-70 victory.

Facing the same zone defense, UCF's post players would not be denied for a second straight game. Camille Howard posted her fifth career double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds, while Erin Paige scored 19 points and Graham added 14. The trio also combined for 21 rebounds as the Golden Knights outrebounded TSU 53-25. "LaToya and Camille both came out to play tonight, and those are the type of stats they should have every night," Striegler said. "They're probably two of the best post players in the conference when they come to play every night. Erin plays inside and out so she gets some of them inside and some of them on the outside. She's been our most consistent player as far as scoring goes."

In contrast to their poor shooting performance against Mercer, the Golden Knights shot 49.1 percent against Troy State. The game was a must win for the team according to Striegler. "I came in before the game and told our assistants

that we really needed to win this one," she said. "I think it was huge for us. That's the first game we've played that we've played for 40 minutes. We had a few little dry spells in there, but we came through and every time we had a dry spell we answered with something."

#### Three-Point Woes

In games against Florida Atlantic, Mercer, and Troy State last week, the Golden Knights shot a combined five of 29 from beyond the three-point arc.

Junior guard Nancy Richter, who ranks second in school history for three-point shots made, went one of 10 on tree-pointers during that span.

The team's lack of success at shooting from the outside has allowed opposing teams to double and triple team UCF's post players, who have had problems getting open shots because of that.

"I'm sure that all year long, the only thing we are going to see (from opponents) is a tight 2-3 zone," said Striegler. "I told the girls that. I said to them, 'You're getting the open shots, and you're

going to hit them.'

The post players are only going to get a couple of looks (per game). On the flip side of that, I told the post players that if (opposing teams) are double-teaming and triple-teaming, they're going to have to go rebound and get their points."

#### Around the TAAC

Samford (9-4, 4-0), Campbell (8-4, 3-0), and Florida Atlantic (5-7, 3-0) are all tied atop the TAAC standings with undefeated conference records. UCF, with a 1-2 record in TAAC play, sits in sixth place in the conference.

Last week, Samford picked up wins over Stetson and Jacksonville, while Campbell defeated Georgia State. Florida Atlantic won three conference games against UCF, Troy State, and Mercer.

This week, the Golden Knights play two road conference games at eighth place Stetson (5-8, 1-3), and last place Jacksonville (1-11, 0-4).

-David Marsters

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ARENA

# Knights fall short in upset bid at Samford

TONY MEJIA  
SPORTS EDITOR

Down by as many as 13 points in the second half, UCF fought back to lead the defending conference champs with just over five minutes remaining, but Samford proved to be too much down the stretch, defeating the Golden Knights, 75-67 at Siebert Hall in Birmingham, Ala.

UCF fell to 1-2 in conference play while the Bulldogs improved to 3-1. Both teams had games on Monday evening that were not completed prior to press time. UCF's encounter was against TAAC leading Jacksonville State.

Against Samford, the Golden Knights struggled early and found themselves behind 19-8 at the 8:08 mark of the first half. A pair of dunks by Paul Reed and a 3-pointer by D'Quarius Stewart highlighted a 9-0 run that pulled UCF within two, but as was the trend for the majority of the day, the Knights failed to take the lead. Samford scored 13 of the game's next 17 points, and ended up taking a 35-25 lead into the locker room at halftime.

UCF ended up pulling to within 44-43 on on of senior Cory Perry's four 3-pointers on the afternoon, but again, Samford managed to pull away.

Finally, at the 5:06 mark of the second half, a pair of Davin Granberry free throws ended a 6-1 run that gave the

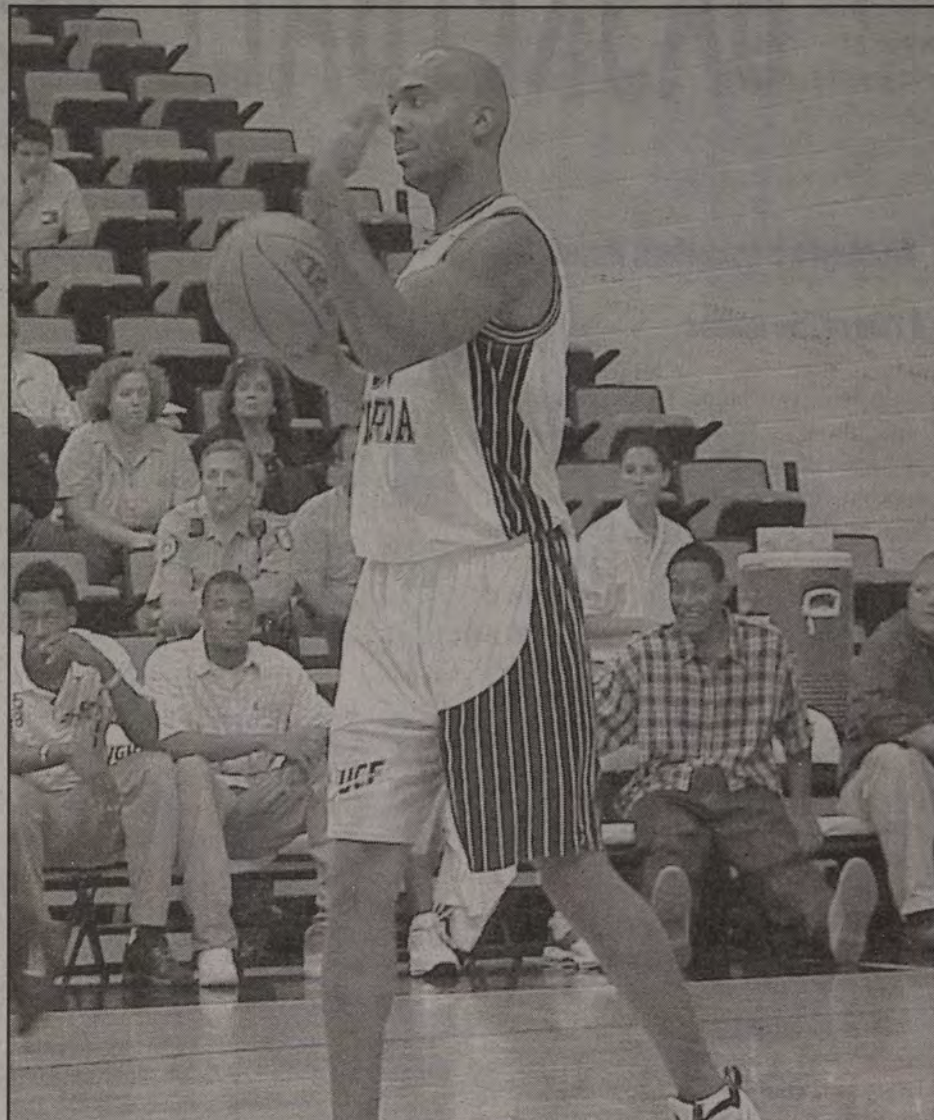
Golden Knights a 53-52 lead, its first since the opening minute of play.

Unfortunately for UCF, it only enjoyed the lead for 14 seconds before reigning TAAC Player-of-the-Year Reed Rawlings connected on a 3-pointer to give Samford a two-point lead. Stewart, who finished with a team-high 15 points, took it in for a game-tying layup before Marc Salyers, who ended up with a game-high 20 points and 13 rebounds, put Samford ahead to stay with a layup of his own at the 4:23 mark.

Forward Jason Thornton had an opportunity to tie the game at 57 with 3:59 left, but missed the second of two free throws, allowing Mario Lopez's 3-pointer on Samford's next possession to stretch the lead to four.

Samford seemed to answer every UCF rally with a 3-pointer, and eventually wore the Knights down. UCF outshot the Bulldogs, 47.4 percent to 45.1, but the Golden Knights struggled from 3-point range by making only five of 18 attempts. Samford also benefitted from 20 UCF fouls, making 20 of 27 free throws. UCF was eight of 12 from the line.

Samford improved to 13-2 all time against the Golden Knights, who have never won at Siebert Hall and last beat the Bulldogs in the 1998 TAAC Tournament. The Bulldogs will play UCF in Orlando on Feb. 19.



Senior center Davin Granberry's two free-throws with 5 minutes remaining gave UCF a 1 point lead before the Bulldogs turned it up to avoid the upset

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# BASEBALL NOTEBOOK

## Collegiate Baseball Selects Bowser TAAC Preseason Player of the Year

Collegiate Baseball Newspaper named UCF's Matt Bowser its choice for Trans America Athletic Conference Player of the Year. According to the newspaper, other Golden Knight players that bear watching include first baseman Dustin Brisson, pitcher Jason Arnold and Casey Kennedy, who transferred to UCF from Virginia for his senior season.

Bowser, who made the '99 Preseason All-TAAC team as chosen by the conference head coaches and earned first team status for his regular season performance, moved up to fourth in school history with 24 career home runs after only two years. His .346 career batting average

is seventh among the Golden Knights all-time leaders.

"For two years, Matt has demonstrated that he's a strong force on this team and in the conference. I look forward to him continuing that way," Coach Jay Bergman said.

UCF was chosen to finish second in the TAAC by Collegiate Baseball behind Florida Atlantic, last year's regular season champion. The Golden Knights tied for third at 19-11 in the TAAC regular season and wound up fourth at the TAAC Tournament.

## UCF baseball practice gets underway with new-look pitching staff

Jay Bergman's University of Central Florida baseball team resumed practice on Jan. 10 in

preparation for the 2000 season. The Golden Knights have been members of the Trans America Athletic Conference for seven years and won four championships in that time. The team should be extremely competitive in the TAAC this year.

"Our early focus will be on getting ready for the Disney Blast," said Bergman. "Everybody reported healthy after the holidays and there are no major injuries to report."

Early January conditioning will involve daily throwing for the pitchers, weight room workouts, and agility training for everyone.

Even though UCF ranked second in the TAAC last season in team earned run average (4.67), Bergman revamped the pitching staff in the offseason. He acquired transfers Casey

Kennedy from Virginia, Jesse Marlo from LSU, Scott Ridenour from Potomac State, Dan Stillman from Pasco-Hernando Community College and Clint Wells from conference rival Mercer.

Freshmen Von David Stertzbach and Mark Smietana also joined a staff that should be anchored by David Rankin (8-5, 3.94 ERA), Arnold (Palm Bay/Melbourne HS) (7-4, 2.67, 8 saves) and Kennedy (4-6, 3.86 for the Cavaliers).

Practices are open to the public and will generally begin at 2:30 each day through the start of the season.

The season gets underway Friday, Jan. 28 against North Carolina at the ACC/Disney Baseball Blast hosted by Disney's Wide World of Sports.

## Recruits make headlines in Collegiate Baseball

Golden Knights prospect Dane Artman (Key West/Westminster Academy) was selected a 2000 Louisville Slugger TPX Preseason High School All-American. The left-handed pitcher who transferred from Key West High School highlights the group of six committed to UCF on national letters of intent.

Collegiate Baseball publisher Lou Pavlovich writes, "[Artman is] another super-talented southpaw from Florida who has played for national teams. The 6-foot-3 hurler has been clocked in the low 90s."

"That's a great honor," Bergman said. "I certainly hope that he'll wear the Black and Gold next year."

The other five players that UCF inked in the early signing period received honors as CB blue-chip high school stars in the state of Florida. They are left-handed pitcher Troy Bowden (St. Augustine/Nease HS), left-handed pitcher Paul Lubrano (Winter Springs/Oviedo HS), outfielder/first baseman Blaine Schulte (Oviedo/Oviedo HS), outfielder Scott Carmichael (Orlando/University HS) and right-handed pitcher Justin Cerrato (Clearwater/Clearwater HS).

"It shows the hard work of Greg Frady and his recruiting, a real feather in his cap," Bergman added.

## UCF baseball to appear twice on Sunshine Network

Sunshine Network will televise two University of Central Florida baseball games live during the upcoming season. As part of the school's ongoing agreement with the network, UCF appears on television in events of most major team sports.

Sunshine will broadcast Golden Knights baseball action statewide Saturday, Jan. 29 at 11 a.m. when UCF faces Wake Forest in the ACC/Disney Baseball Blast from Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex. That game will be replayed on the network Monday, Jan. 31 at 2:30 a.m.

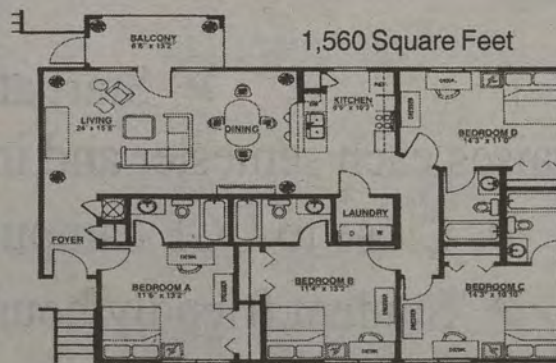
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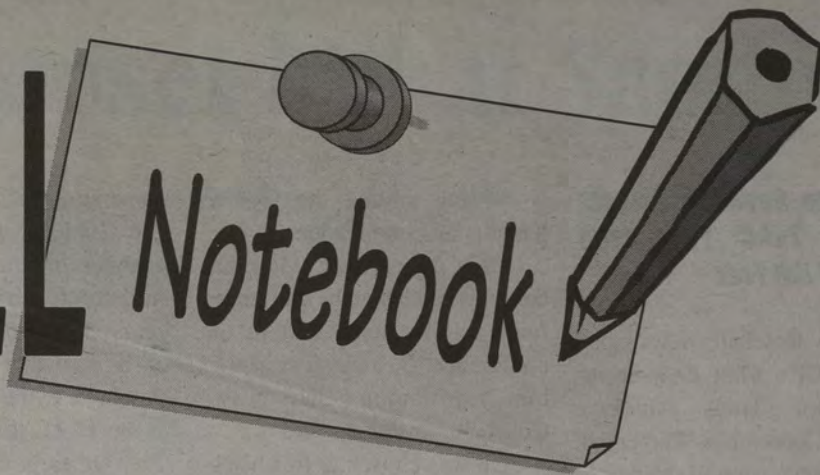


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# BASKETBALL



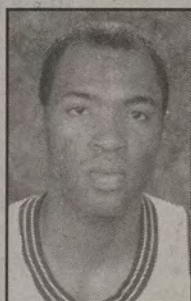
## MEN'S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

### Golden Knights claim first TAAC win

Utilizing a hot-shooting perimeter attack, the Golden Knights built a huge lead against conference rival Mercer, leading by as many as 25 points to claim their first TAAC win of the season, evening their record at 1-1.

Jason Thornton scored a career-high 25 points, the most scored by a Golden Knight this season, to lead UCF to a 93-77 win against the Bears.

Paul Reed added 21 and 14 rebounds in the win, helping the Knights bounce back from a 74-73 loss in their TAAC opener to Troy State.



Leath

The Knights never trailed after a Roy Leath layup put them up 10-9 with 15:40 remaining.

"This was a game coming in that we thought we had to have," Coach Kirk Speraw said. "We were going to do whatever it took to win. It was certainly a ballgame we controlled."

### Redshirt season for Lovett seems likely

With the season heading into mid-January, its becoming clear that the only sight UCF fans will have of Mario Lovett this season will be of him cheering on his teammates in street clothes on the bench.

The senior forward from Tampa had



Lovett

surgery in the off-season and has been unable to respond to treatment and therapy, leaving him hobbled and unable to play. His presence in the post on both the offensive and defensive end is sorely missed, as is his versatility and leadership.

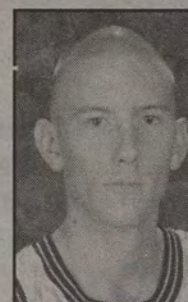
"Mario Lovett is probably not going to play this year," Speraw said. "We're probably going to appeal for a hardship ruling for him. His ankle is not in a position to be able to participate at the intensity level that he needs to participate."

Lovett played as a true freshman and has a redshirt season available, making it likely that he'll return in 2000-2001 as a fifth-year senior.

### Thornton falls one trifecta short of school record

Senior Forward Jason Thornton hit a long jump shot in the second half that appeared to tie UCF's school record for 3-pointers made in a single game, but

referees ruled that his foot was on the line, leaving the sophomore forward one shy of Brad Traina's mark of eight in a game.



Thornton

"I was really hoping they would give it to me, but they said my foot was on the line," Thornton said.

"It took me about six or seven minutes to get into the flow of the game. Then I hit

the first shot and the rest of the game I was on. Every open shot I took I knew was going in." Thornton connected on seven of 10 3-point attempts on the night, and is second in the conference in 3-point percentage. "Jason's obviously a very good shooter," Speraw said. "We were able to get him open shots tonight and he knocked them down."

-Tony Mejia

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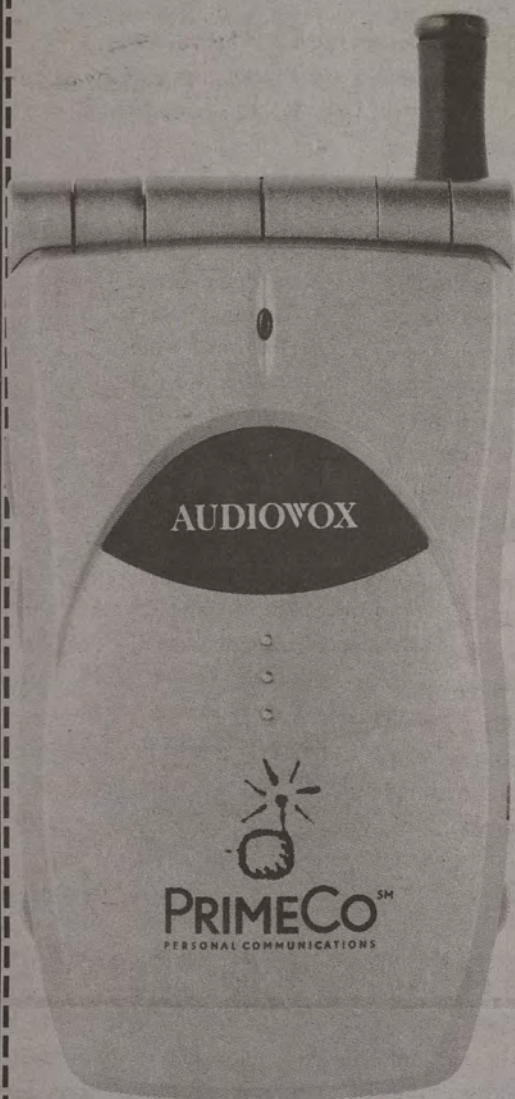
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## SPORTS

## Golden Knights crack preseason top 25

**Travis Bell**  
STAFF WRITER

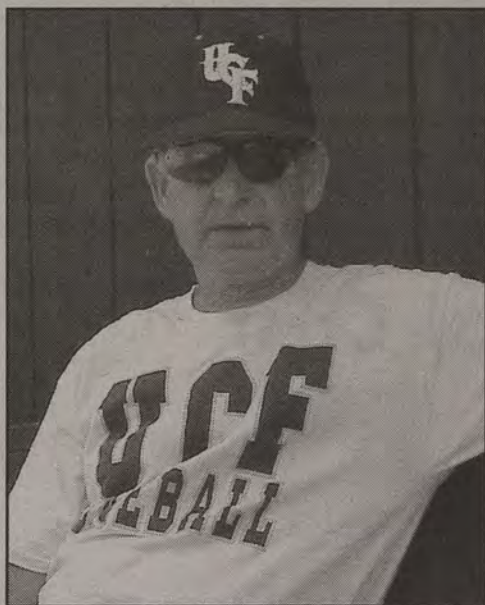
The UCF baseball program has built itself into one of the most respected programs in the country, and it has also proven on the field that it belongs among the best. Baseball America agrees that UCF is a team to watch as they ranked the Golden Knights 23rd in their preseason poll.

The ranking marks the first time UCF has been included in the Baseball America poll since the week of April 13, 1998 (No. 25). UCF was No. 28 in the preseason poll that year. Collegiate Baseball had the Golden Knights at No. 25 on March 23, 1998.

"It's nice to be recognized in the national media as a solid team before the season gets started," said Coach Jay Bergman.

The reason for UCF's ranking can be attributed to the nucleus that is returning from last year's team that went 38-21, including a third place 19-11 mark in Trans America Athletic Conference play. Bergman lost senior second baseman Tim Boeth and senior left-hander Troy Satterfield, and the only junior that was lost to the Major League Baseball Draft was catcher Brent Spooner.

The Golden Knights had no problem scoring runs last year with over eight runs per game, and this year will be no different because senior Dustin Brisson and junior Matt Bowser return to anchor the middle of the lineup. They combined to hit 30 home runs and drive in 138 runs.



Coach Jay Bergman may have his best chance ever of making a trip to Omaha for the College World Series.

America Baseball Coaches Association All-Region picks Brisson and Mark Batia, both seniors, led a cast that hit for a school-record .325 average in 1999 with 63 home runs. Brisson shattered the Golden Knights' single-season records in home runs (17) and runs batted in (76) last year.

The pitching staff also returns the bulk of the rotation as senior David Rankin and sophomore Justin Pope come back after combining for 33 starts last season. The addition of starter Casey Kennedy from Virginia and the return of All-TAAC closer Jason Arnold give Bergman a solid staff.

UCF kicks off its season Jan. 28 in the Disney Blast against 24th-ranked Clemson. The Golden Knights will be tested early as two of its first three opponents are ranked in the Top 25, and all three hail from the Atlantic Coast Conference.

The Golden Knights will also face North Carolina and 21st-ranked Wake Forest, who is one of four ranked teams from the ACC along with Clemson. UCF's first three opponents competed in the NCAA Tournament last year, along with two other schools from the ACC (North Carolina State and national runner-up Florida State).

### Baseball America's Preseason Top 25 Poll

Team, 1999 Record

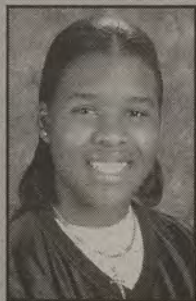
1. Stanford, 50-15
2. Cal State-Fullerton, 50-14
3. Alabama, 53-16
4. UCLA, 31-31
5. Miami, 50-13
6. Houston, 40-24
7. Florida State, 57-14
8. Louisiana State, 41-24
9. Georgia Tech, 38-20
10. Baylor, 50-15
11. Southern California, 36-26
12. Auburn, 46-19
13. Wichita State, 59-14
14. Rice, 59-15
15. Texas, 36-26
16. Tulane, 48-17
17. Loyola Marymount, 33-28
18. Florida, 31-25
19. Arizona, 33-23
20. Notre Dame, 43-18
21. Wake Forest, 46-16
22. Arizona State, 39-21
23. UCF, 38-21
24. Clemson, 42-27
25. South Carolina, 35-23

## Paige leads UCF to first TAAC win

SPECIAL TO THE FUTURE

Freshman forward Erin Paige led all scorers with 19 points as UCF (4-8/1-2 TAAC) won its first conference game of the season defeating visiting Troy State University (4-7/1-3 TAAC), 78-70 on Jan. 8 at the UCF Arena.

Paige went 6-of-11 from the field and 7-of-9 from the line while pulling down six rebounds for UCF, which outshot Troy St. 49.1% to 36.5% from the field and had 53 to rebounds to the Trojans 25.



Paige

Junior center Camille Howard recorded her fifth double-double of the season with 17 points and a team-leading 10 rebounds. Junior forward LaToya Graham scored 14 points, while freshman guard Diana Hill chipped in 10 points for UCF, which held a 37-30 lead at the half. Sophomore forward Khaliah Guillory finished the game with eight points and junior forward LaDonna Larry scored six and had nine rebounds.

Troy State freshman guard Sharin Milner led the Trojans with 17 points followed by sophomore center Sarah DeGrandi's 11.

UCF hits the road this week for a game at Stetson University on Jan. 13 at 7:00 p.m. and at Jacksonville University on Jan. 15 at 5:15 p.m.

## UCF hosts critical conference contests

**TONY MEJIA**  
SPORTS EDITOR

UCF knew the TAAC would be a lot tougher this year, but what's happened thus far in conference play probably belies even its lofty expectations.

The Golden Knights, going into a Monday night contest at Jacksonville State, are 1-2 in TAAC play and are one of a couple of perennial powers looking up at former doormats Troy State, Jacksonville State, and Campbell.

That puts home games at a premium, and UCF will host a pair this week against Georgia State, which like UCF were a pre-season favorite currently struggling, and against Campbell, which has recorded upsets over Georgia State and Stetson and were just behind reigning conference champ Samford with a 2-1 mark heading into Monday action.

Georgia State, UCF's Jan. 13 opponent, has struggled despite having three major Division I transfers in its starting lineup and a former JuCo All-American on its bench.

Georgetown transfer Shernard Long leads the team in scoring but doesn't appear on any leaderboards due to the fact he's only played a handful of games with the Panthers. Former Georgia Tech point guard Kevin Morris, last year's TAAC leader in assists, has struggled all season, averaging nearly three assists less than he did last year, while his scoring numbers have decreased as well. Meanwhile, former Alabama transfer Anton Reese, continues to struggle with the consistency of his shot. If they get things clicking, which at this point is a big if, they have the weapons to be the TAAC's best. GSU defeated Jacksonville by ten points on Jan. 8, getting a big game from Morris, which is something Coach Lefty Driesell hopes will continue.

On Jan. 15, the Golden Knights host Campbell, one of the TAAC's hottest teams. Shooting guard Adam Fellers has single-handedly shot Coach Billy Lee's Camels into conference contention. Fellers, a dangerous sharp shooter, found his stroke just in time for conference play and has been punishing the opposition from the outside. After a humiliating 71-39 loss to Samford in December, the Camels have registered a pair of upsets against Georgia State and Stetson, with Fellers leading the team in scoring on both occasions.

Fellers has had help however, as senior forward Jamie Simmons has picked up his game after struggling early during the non-conference portion of the schedule. Newcomer Damien Hannibal has also added a boost to the frontcourt, while the depth opposite Fellers, led by

junior Eddie Walker, senior Matt Mardis, and sophomore Wes Layton allows Lee to employ a pressing attack while keeping his players fresh. A victory over the Golden Knights would keep the surprising Camels on track for a run at the TAAC's top tier.

For UCF, these two games are key considering the team will be coming off a trip to Alabama in which it lost at Samford and had a tough test against Jacksonville State. Additionally, following these two home games, the Golden Knights face their next three on the road despite not leaving the state, playing at Jacksonville (Jan. 19), Stetson (Jan. 22), and Florida Atlantic (Jan. 26). Despite not leaving the state, playing at Jacksonville (Jan. 19), Stetson (Jan. 22), and Florida Atlantic (Jan. 26).



UCF sophomore forward Jason Thornton connected on seven 3-pointers, one shy of the school's single-game record, and scored a career-high 25 points to lead the Golden Knights to their first conference win, over Mercer.