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TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2005

UF experts predict future of Supreme Court

By **CHUCK BAER**
Alligator Contributing Writer

The Bush administration may use Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's recently announced retirement as an opportunity to place another, more staunchly conservative member on the Supreme Court, UF professors said.

O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the Court, was seen by many to be a moderate and a swing vote on issues such as abortion and the death penalty, leading UF experts to wonder about the politics of her replacement.

"I think President Bush will try to find someone who's a more solid conservative, someone who's easier to predict," law professor Sharon Rush said. "The president has the prerogative to appoint justices, and he can appoint people with similar views on the constitution and the law."

O'Connor's retirement — the first Supreme Court retirement in 11 years — gives the Bush administration a chance to appoint a justice who will lean to the right on issues important to Bush's conservative base.

"I would expect Mr. Bush to do what he

said he would do in his campaign speeches and choose someone in regard to right to life and the death penalty," said professor Joe Little, who teaches constitutional law at UF's Levin College of Law. "I believe he may choose someone stronger than O'Connor has been."

O'Connor's retirement came as a surprise to many who believed Chief Justice

cancer, would retire first.

Several candidates have been suggested already to replace the ailing chief justice.

"People nominated to replace O'Connor would be different from people nominated to replace Rehnquist," Little said.

No matter who is chosen to replace O'Connor, a bitter Senate confrontation is expected. Senate Democrats are not expected to be enthusiastic about confirming a conservative justice.



O'Connor

William Rehnquist, who suffers from thyroid

SEE O'CONNOR, PAGE 5



Jonathan Greenwood / Alligator

UF senior Ryan Chase, 20, works at the Reitz Union Hotel desk Friday. Leadership of the Reitz Union was reorganized after the appointment of Eddie Daniels as its new executive director last week.

ON CAMPUS

Reitz has two leaders

By **JUSTIN RICHARDS**
Alligator Writer
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In the past, the Reitz Union has been under the day-to-day control of an executive director and two associate directors.

Since early March, Mike Mironack has done the work of all three. In the Spring, he also taught a class.

"Fortunately, I have a very understanding and supportive spouse," he said.

However, Mironack did not earn the union's top administrative spot when the interview process to find a replacement for David Kratzer, who left the position in March, concluded last week.

Instead, when new Executive Director Eddie Daniels arrives Aug. 31, Mironack will be his director of operations, assuming the responsibilities that formerly belonged to both associate directors.

Mironack has been serving as interim executive director since

Kratzer vacated the position to become an assistant to Vice President for Student Affairs Patricia Telles-Irvin.

Myra Morgan, a Reitz associate director, also left for Telles-Irvin's office in March as part of a general restructuring of Student Affairs.

"Fortunately, I have a very understanding and supportive spouse."

Mike Mironack

Reitz Union director of operations

Mironack was the other associate director at the time. He oversaw the union's marketing and retail sector, which includes STA Travel, Lange Eye Care and other ground-floor offices.

As director of operations, a new title that combines both associate positions, Mironack will also be in charge of maintenance, custodial service, productions, reservation of

SEE UNION, PAGE 8

Citrus canker stops research at UF teaching grove

By **CRYSTAL HENRY**
Alligator Writer
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Dozens of citrus projects underway at UF's Indian River Research and Education Center have been soured by a setback of at

least six to eight years, center Director Brian Scully said.

A destructive disease called citrus canker was found in the facility's groves Friday. Employees from the facility went Friday to the infected "millennium block" of the research grove near Fort Pierce to remove and

burn the infected plants, he said.

UF Research

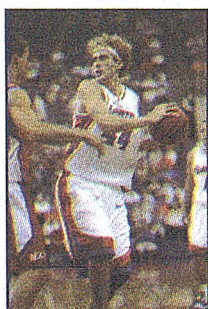
destroying the trees Wednesday morning. About 10,000 trees will be destroyed, offi-

cialists said, as well as all plants within a 1,900-foot radius of the infected area.

"It will take us a number of years to recover, but ultimately this setback will offer us a fresh start and improved groves in

SEE CITRUS, PAGE 5

■ The criticism continues for Matt Walsh after the UF guard was not selected in the NBA Draft. Walsh says he will make the NBA. See story, pg. 20.



NSF: Good work FAMU, we won't stop grants

Florida A&M University, which has struggled with financial problems, has convinced the National Science Foundation that it will manage properly millions of dollars in grants, Interim President Castell Bryant said Friday.

The decision means the flow of funds, which was stopped 14 months ago, should resume next week, Bryant said.

The school — Florida's only historically black public university — has 14 grants from the foundation totaling about \$11 million.

The news came just one day after a meeting of the Board of Trustees that included details of a payroll audit, which showed 41 university employees had been fired because of irregularities.

■ The recent wake caused by shark attacks in the waters off the coast of Florida's Panhandle should do little to impact tourism to the state, UF's resident shark expert said. See story, pg. 3.

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STATE

Shark attacks won't take bite out of tourist season

By **ALEJANDRA CANCINO**
Alligator Contributing Writer

The recent wake caused by shark attacks in the waters off the coast of Florida's Panhandle should do little to impact tourism to the state, UF's resident shark expert said.

George Burgess, director of the Florida Museum of Natural History's shark-research program, said that although difficult to predict, past experience reveals that tourists will not fear the vicious attacks enough to avoid coming to Florida this year.

"The public understands that shark attacks are rare events less likely to happen if they honor the dos and don'ts," he said.

Shark Safety

- ☞ Always swim in a group
- ☞ Don't wander too far from shore
- ☞ Avoid the water at night, dawn or dusk
- ☞ Don't swim if bleeding
- ☞ Don't wear shiny jewelry
- ☞ Don't go into water containing sewage
- ☞ Avoid water being fished and schools of fish
- ☞ Avoid an uneven tan and brightly colored clothing
- ☞ Don't splash a lot
- ☞ Use care near sandbars or steep drop-offs

Information from the International Shark Attack File at the Florida Museum of Natural History

Burgess noted a study conducted by the museum in 2001, which concluded that tourism was not affected significantly despite more than 35 shark attacks that year.

About 30 such attacks on average occur each year in Florida, but because of the intensity of the hurricane season only 12 were recorded last year, Burgess said.

However, he added that the increasing number of people visiting Florida beaches every year could lead to more attacks.

"There are so many people in the water that we are forcing a human-shark interaction," Burgess said.

Burgess has become a hot commodity for newspapers and television programs after three shark attacks occurred in a matter of days in the northern Gulf of Mexico.

The latest incident occurred Friday, when a 19-year-old Austrian tourist was bitten on the ankle by a shark while standing in chest-deep water.

Armin Trojer was upright in the water when he was bitten, said Lee County sheriff's spokeswoman Ileana LiMarzi. He was airlifted by helicopter to a Fort Myers hospital, where he was reported to be in good condition.

"People on the beach saw that he was in distress, but first they thought he was clowning around," said Jim Tucker, publisher of The Boca Banner.

Paramedics treating Trojer indicated the wound was consistent with a shark bite.

The third such attack in less than a week, this incident was about 280



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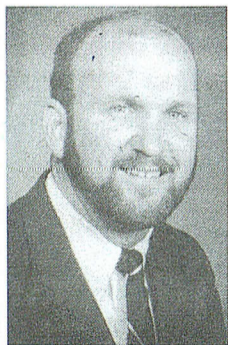
miles from a June 27 attack on a 16-year-old boy who lost his leg and about 350 miles from the spot where a 14-year-old girl was killed June 25.

Experts believe that bull sharks attacked the first two teenagers in the Florida Panhandle, but Burgess said the kind of shark that attacked

the 19-year-old man is still unknown.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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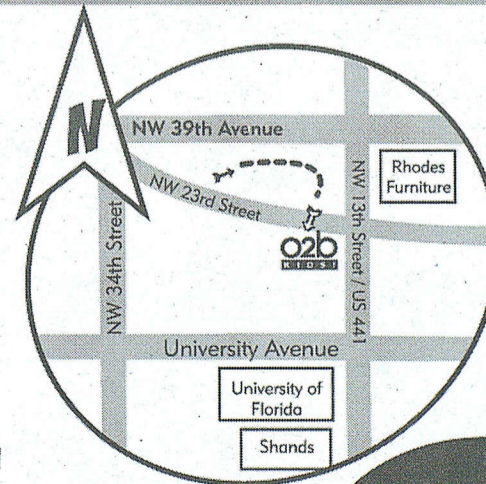
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AROUND GAINESVILLE

Times starts newspaper to serve East Gainesville

By **STEPHEN MAGRUDER**
Alligator Writer
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The first black newspaper published by the New York Times will find its home in Gainesville — a move that already has upset nearby competing publication The Florida Star.

The New York Times Company, which owns the Gainesville Sun and the Ocala Star-Banner among several other newspapers throughout the Southeast, has made arrangements to start The Gainesville Guardian, a weekly newspaper specifically targeted to the black community in East Gainesville.

The newspaper, which could start printing as early as late August or September, is expected to have a steady circulation of about 10,000.

"Papers of this kind are very much neighborhood- [and] community-oriented," Gainesville Sun Executive Editor Jim Osteen said.

He said the Guardian will serve the news needs of East Gainesville, where the Sun has the lowest concentration of readers.

Despite the impending launch date of the newspaper, Osteen said further research still needs to be done.

"We are still trying to look at models of good weekly newspapers," he said. "All of the questions haven't been answered."

Florida Star Publisher and Editor-In-Chief Clara McLaughlin Criswell said she would be more supportive of the Guardian if a black company owned it.

"We really have black news," Criswell said, adding that her Jacksonville-based newspaper already reaches the Gainesville market.

The Star is one of more than 20 black newspapers in Florida belonging to the National Newspaper Publishers Association, a black news service with more than 200 member papers, according to its Web site.

Osteen said focus groups working out of the Sun's headquarters told publishers that there was no newspaper serving East Gainesville.

The publication will be brought out in an era of rising niche-market news publications.

"I talk with the people, the readership, to find out what they like and what they want. What they're buying is what we're selling."

Clara McLaughlin Criswell
Florida Star editor-in-chief

Newspaper companies like the Orlando Sentinel and The Miami Herald have created Hispanic-targeted papers such as El Sentinel and El Nuevo Herald to reach the growing Hispanic community in Florida.

Information gathered from the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau report estimated that of Gainesville's 95,477 residents, 22,181 residents, or more than 23 percent, were black.

Statewide, almost 15 percent, or more than 2.3 million, of Florida's 16 million residents were black.

Criswell, a former Gainesville resident, said she would have welcomed the opportunity to work together on marketing the new newspaper.

"Why couldn't they come to me?" Criswell said, adding that neither the Sun nor the Guardian consulted her or her

newspaper before planning to start the Guardian.

Criswell said the Florida Star, which has been in business for 54 years, has an audience of loyal readers because it understands the black community.

"I talk with the people, the readership, to find out what they like and what they want," Criswell said. "What they're buying is what we're selling."

Statistics from the Newspaper Association of America show that since 1970, daily newspaper readership by whites, blacks and Hispanics has dropped between 10 to 20 percentage points.

In the past six years alone, each race lowered its daily readership by at least 6 percentage points.

"It's not easy to start a newspaper," Criswell said, adding that revenue from advertising is the most important part of a newspaper's survival.

An advantage, she said, that the Guardian may not necessarily need starting out, given its parent company.

"It may not be difficult for them (the Gainesville Guardian) in that they're owned by the New York Times," she said.

UF hires PR man

By **CASSIDY MILLS**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Leaving burnt rubber and churned-up water in his wake, former Harley-Davidson and Sea-Doo executive Joe Hice joined UF's staff as associate vice president of marketing and public relations Thursday.

Besides directing the university's news bureau, Hice is now responsible for internal communications at the university, according to a release.

Hice has a history with UF, having earned both a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree in communication from the university.

"I enjoy Gainesville," Hice said. "Ever since graduation I've been attached to the university."

Hice came back to UF after a long career in the corporate world, where he worked with Harley-Davidson, Segway, Sea-Doo Watercraft and others.

Despite his new job, Hice doesn't plan to leave his toys behind.

"I'm not giving them up," he said. "I'm going to ride a Segway on campus and a Harley on the weekends."

Hice feels he has done all he can in the corporate world and is ready to move on, but it wasn't all bad wearing black jeans and leather to work, he said.

Hice said he plans to use the experience he has gained in corporate settings

to help further UF Administration

President Bernie Machen's goals, one of which is becoming a Top 10 national public research institution.

"I look at the university like a Fortune 500 Company because that's where I have been," Hice said.

One of the projects Hice is most interested in is the development of two new TV commercials to be aired during UF football games and a similar ad to be printed in football programs.

"Florida football will be on TV 13 times this year, and we have a commercial spot each game," Hice said. "That airtime probably amounts to millions of dollars, and we have an opportunity there to tell our story to the nation."

"I think it's going to be a lot of fun," Hice said. "There's just something about being a Gator."

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Bush will wait to offer nominee

O'CONNOR, from page 1

"There's going to be a huge battle in Congress," Rush said. "But it really depends on who he nominates. If he nominates someone like O'Connor, it will be easier."

Rush believes that Bush could use the appointment to leave a legacy by appointing the first Hispanic or the first black woman to the court, making the short list of possible successors even shorter.

National News Bush said Friday he would nominate his first Supreme Court justice quickly enough that O'Connor's vacancy could be filled by the time the court resumes work in the fall.

The White House said there would be no announcement before he returns from Europe next Friday.

"I will be deliberate and thorough in this process," said Bush in the Rose Garden, where he praised O'Connor's 24 years on the court.

Bush will consult with Republican and Democratic senators about his selection, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

The president plans to review briefing material on potential nominees on his flight to Denmark next Tuesday and during his stay Wednesday through Friday at a summit of leading industrialized nations in Scotland.

Anticipating what could be a tough battle in the Senate when he returns from Europe, Bush called for civility in the confirmation process.

"The nation deserves and I will select a Supreme Court that Americans can be proud of," Bush said. "The nation also deserves a dignified process of confirmation in the United States Senate characterized by fair treatment, a fair hearing and a fair vote."

McClellan said the White House would consult with Majority Leader Bill Frist and Minority Leader Harry Reid as well as leaders of the Judiciary Committee, and he expressed hope that Democrats would not block a vote on the president's pick.

"I can't imagine that the Democrats would want to engage in controversial tactics when it comes to a nominee for the Supreme Court," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Facility also harbored many exotic plants

CITRUS, from page 1

which to conduct research," Scully said.

The eradication will halt all research at the center, Scully said, including more than two dozen experiments using trees planted 30 to 50 years ago.

Scully said the loss will hit the facility hard because more than 250 specimens, including very rare varieties of plants — some that are more than 40 years old — must be destroyed. One of the species is a rare orange used in the Mediterranean as a perfume, he said.

Trees affected by citrus canker develop small brown lesions on the leaves, stems and fruits and eventually reduces tree productivity if left unchecked, according to a press release.

Canker is one of the most destructive disease threats to Florida's \$9 billion citrus industry. The bacteria that cause canker can affect all citrus varieties, including grapefruit, oranges and tangerines, all of which are grown at the Indian River facility.

The bacteria can be spread through the air, rainwater and via people, animals, plants and farm equipment, Scully said.

The center primarily researches grapefruits, and there is a two-year waiting period before they can be replanted.

Even after replanting, Scully said it will take from three to five years before the trees bear fruit again.

The scientists plan to shift their studies into commercial groves.

The experiments affected at the Indian River grove focus on plant breeding, entomology, pathology and virology, soil and water science, plant nutrition and irrigation and post-harvest physiology, Scully said.

Scully added that the center's grants will probably be affected due to the lack of ongoing research.

He said the center is working closely with the Division of Plant Industry to rid the grove of this disease, and that he is "very appreciative of the help of DPI" and looking forward to recovering from this loss.

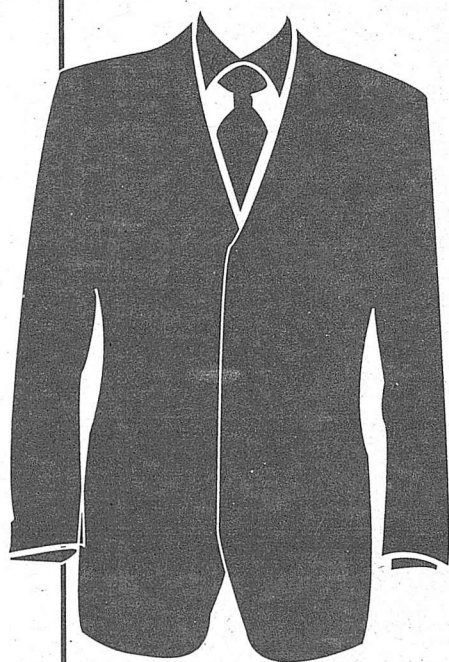
Officials also plan to step up efforts to protect citrus research centers in Lake Alfred and the Southwest Florida Research and Education Center in Immokalee.

Information from the Associated Press was used in this report.

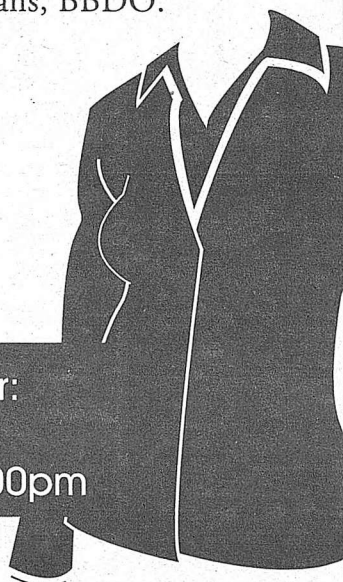
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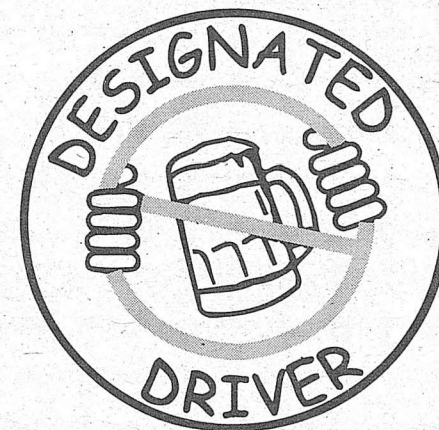
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Editorial

High society TV coverage of missing children favors the rich.

In the United States, two children disappear every minute. But stay tuned to Aruba, the island nation slightly larger than Walt Disney World, where a high-school graduate from a well-to-do family has created a media frenzy with no signs of slowing.

The tragedy surrounding the case fulfills many a mother's nightmare: Natalee Holloway disappeared while traveling abroad, in a place with an unfamiliar language, different laws and lacking proper resources to adequately respond to the situation.

It's unfortunate, and it's hard not to feel for her family, but is it a story of enough importance to dominate the headlines?

No.

We want a poor person to disappear and get 15 minutes on CNN. Or, at least, we want those organizations that made Holloway a household name to give us a minimum income level for the same treatment.

We'd like to know how much our lives have to be worth to merit investigation by agencies such as the FBI, the Royal Netherlands Marines, Coast Guard and Forensic Institute, a fully mobilized foreign police agency and thousands of natives, with search efforts only being scaled back a month after our disappearance.

To have our picture constantly broadcast on network news. To have the U.S. Senator from our home state make demands of another country's government. To receive the kind of investigation that results in three suspects in 10 days in our case, too.

Because we were under the impression that it didn't matter, that our lives were equal because we're all loved as someone's sibling, grandchild, aunt, son and so on.

Apparently not.

Remember Brendan Kieran Dobbins, the UF exchange student from Australia who disappeared during a Spring Break trip to Costa Rica with four friends?

Maybe if you were reading newspapers in Gainesville during the Spring. Would you recognize him?

Of course not.

Instead of a swarm of federal agents and cameras, his friends stayed behind in an effort to encourage local media coverage.

Within four days, they were frustrated with local authorities in charge of the search, which they instigated after appealing to the U.S. Embassy to list Dobbins as a missing person. He was given up for dead just a few days after that.

When they returned, his friends raised money in Turlington Plaza to aid search efforts.

Five weeks after he disappeared, Dobbins' skeleton was found scattered in a Costa Rican rainforest.

We can't say for sure that things would have gone differently with the kind of best-that-money-can-buy full-scale fine-tooth combing taking place in Aruba.

But where were the Anderson Cooper special reports for Dobbins? And for that matter, where are they for the four children lost while you read this editorial?

Not that we're too surprised – we learned a similar lesson in the first week of Social Psychology: If you're in trouble, it helps to be a pretty young woman, preferably white.

We're picking on one example, but look at some other cases that were given incessant coverage – Carlie Brucia, JonBenet Ramsey. They have money in the bank in common.

As precious as we are in the eyes of those who love us, when it comes to foul play, we better hope our great grandparents left a trust fund or our parents can afford the kind of invaluable exposure that having one's picture on national television can mean.

Though authorities are beginning to make grim statements, we hope Natalee is found alive, same as all the others whose families will miss them quietly at their dinner tables tonight.

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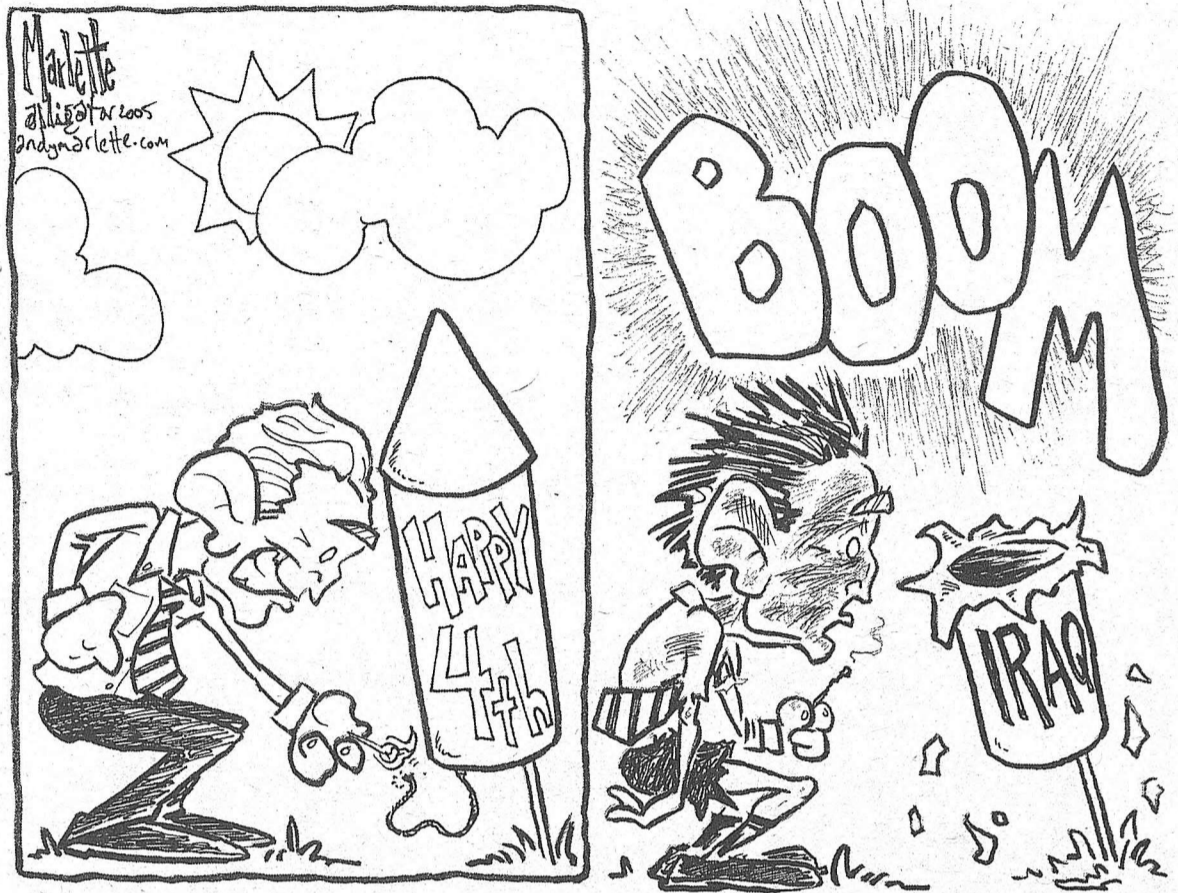
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Guest column

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KENT, Ohio

Older people say young people are angry. They think anyone under 30 is angry because they're ignorant.

I think the truth is the younger we are, the more educated we are, the angrier we are.

That's right. I said being angry correlates with education.

The truth is the more I learn, the angrier I get. As I sit in classes and hear the truth about all those myths I've heard since I was a child, it rattles me.

The worst part is, the people who often call others ignorant are doing so out of their own kind of ignorance.

One of my biggest problems is with the slogan "Buy American!"

Easy, Seabiscuit.

Put down that pen and paper for your letter to the editor and read on before you judge me.

I agree with the concept of buying American. With a growing number of multi-national corporations, downsizing is the way of the future. I know what it's like to deal with job cuts in the family.

Buying American-made goods helps our own economy. Slow down, though, before you buy everything with an American name because you're "helping the economy."

Sometimes, to be socially conscious we must do a little research. Take, for instance, the largest case for buying American: cars.

My boyfriend has been told to buy American because he drives a Honda Accord. He was even told on a visit to the Ford plant that he couldn't park in their lot with a "foreign" car.

Now let's examine that. Four of every five Hondas (those bastard "foreign" cars) sold in America are made in America and with 90 percent American-manufactured parts.

Kelly Mills
U-Wire

In Ohio alone, Honda has four plants. Nissan, Hyundai and Toyota also manufacture cars in the United States for domestic sales.

Many of General Motors, Chrysler and Ford's cars are either manufactured abroad or made of foreign-produced parts, especially from Canada and Mexico.

So really, who is giving more jobs to the Americans? Chances are, in manufacturing, it's the foreign companies. That's the big stink in the manufacturing process.

What many people don't realize is that just because the company has its offices and administrative staff in the United States, that doesn't mean that any other part of the company is located on U.S. soil.

Car companies are far from the only industry outsourcing jobs, especially in manufacturing, while foreign companies are grabbing at the chance to use U.S.-made products as a foothold in our American market.

Now that communication is at the touch of a button on the Internet, companies are expanding, and it takes a lot more than an "American name" to tell if the purchase of that product is supporting the American economy.

Like I said, I have no problem with anyone and everyone buying American and supporting our slow economy. In fact, I encourage it.

All I ask is that all of you college students and graduates, and for that matter anyone else, think for a moment before you speak.

A college education is a horrible thing to waste on sounding like an idiot.

Don't let the words coming out sound ignorant. Don't tell someone driving a CRV most likely made in Marysville, Ohio, to buy American while you're sitting in your made-in-Canada Hummer.

Kelly Mills is a columnist for the Daily Kent Stater of Kent State University.

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the Alligator.

Reader response

Today's question: Do you feel that UF administrators make an effort to be accessible?

Thursday's question: Will the recent Supreme Court decision affect your use of filesharing programs?

12% YES
88% NO
91 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

Guest column

Social Security faces dangerous drop in students' futures

When Social Security was created in 1935, America was truly a different world. The Great Depression dominated our society, and average life expectancy was 62.

One of the programs designed to protect seniors against poverty was Social Security.

While our nation has changed greatly since those days, this critical program has not been updated to meet the needs of retirees in the 21st century.

Think how different your world is from your grandparents' and great-grandparents'. They thought that a blackberry was a fruit they put on their breakfast cereal. The palm was nothing more than a tree in Florida.

Telephones were considered luxury items, and people were just coming to learn about cells — not the ones you carry in your pockets, but the parts of your body.

Today, life expectancy in the United States is 77, and the retirement age is 67. People are living longer, healthier and more active lives.

Unfortunately, Social Security has not kept pace with the many advances in our society and is becoming less reliable for today's younger workers.

There are several reasons why Social Security is not sustainable, but one statistic tells the tale: In 1950 there were dozens of workers supporting each retiree; today, there are about three.

When you retire, there will only be two.

This is significant because Social Security is paid by current payroll taxes that fund current retirees.

As the number of workers supporting each retiree continues to decline, so does the ability of the government to pay out benefits.

Although the Social Security Trust Fund has been running surpluses for 70 years, in 2017 the government will begin to pay out more in Social Security benefits than it collects in payroll taxes — and shortfalls then grow larger with each passing year.

The Social Security Trustees project that the trust fund faces deficits in 12 years and will be exhausted fully by 2041, the year

Adam Putnam before I am eligible to retire.
Speaking Out

In fact, for people born this year, Social Security will run out of money by the time they reach the sixth grade.

You're probably wondering why you should be interested in this debate. Here's the reason: If you are 20 years old, you are eligible to retire in the year 2052, 11 years after the Social Security Trust Fund has been depleted.

If you are finishing your master's degree, you are eligible to retire eight years after Social Security benefits have been reduced by approximately one quarter.

Keep that in mind the next time someone tells you that we have plenty of time to address the looming Social Security crisis.

We are now faced with the task of ensuring that Social Security can responsibly meet the growing financial demands of a longer-living population.

Social Security is sound for today's seniors and for those nearing retirement, but it is not sound for your generation and beyond.

A recent national poll found that more than two out of three Americans under 40 do not expect Social Security benefits to be there for them when they retire.

Further, more than two-thirds of young people believe that Social Security is either in crisis or has major problems. They are right.

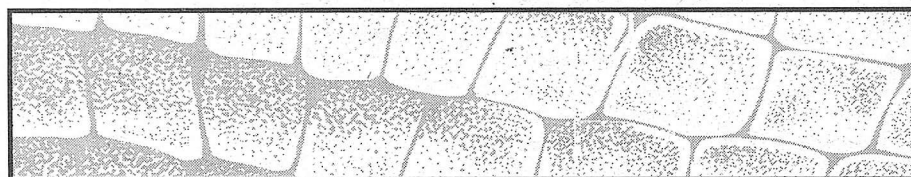
Conventional wisdom says that young Americans are disengaged from public-policy discussions because they don't believe that changes in the law have any effect on them.

Well, if ever there was an issue to engage and motivate young people, it is this.

Your generation must bear the brunt of any change in benefits or increased payroll taxes, so it is only fitting that you have a seat at the table and that your voice is heard.

Learn more about the plans under discussion, and then let your representatives know your views.

Your retirement security depends on it.
U.S. Rep. Adam Putnam (R-Polk County) is a 1995 UF graduate.



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More information is available for an applicant's mandatory reading at the time an application is picked up. Applicants should allow themselves 10 to 15 minutes of reading time when picking up an application. The application must be returned to the same office before **3 p.m., by July 21. This is an absolute deadline.** All returned applications will be copied and available to be read at *The Alligator* building prior to the selection meeting. Interviews and selections by the Board of Directors will be held at *The Alligator* offices in a meeting open to the public, **Friday, July 29** beginning at 10 a.m. Applicants must be present to be considered. Applicants must be currently-enrolled, degree-seeking college or university students. Board of Directors applicants cannot be current or recent past employees or trainees of Campus Communications, Inc.

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Both finalists named by national search committee will continue at UF

UNION, from page 1

meeting rooms and ballrooms, and other operational duties.

Daniels will take over from Mironack

when he arrives in August responsibilities such as overseeing student activities, budgeting and relations with Student Government.

Mironack and Daniels were the two finalists chosen out of 48 who applied

for the Reitz executive-director spot in a national search.

Mironack has been with UF for 16 years and has worked at the Reitz Union for 10 years.

Kratzer said Daniels was chosen be-


cause Daniels, who has more than 20 years of experience, is one of the most qualified student-union directors in the country.

“We’ve found a way to retain both of them,” Kratzer said, “and keep both of their strengths in the union.”

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'Doug Dickey has no class' — Miami coach Curci

By PAUL SHEA

November 29, 1971

MIAMI — Fran Curci is one mad man.

For most of his 45-minute conference after the UF-UM football game, Curci said nothing but bad things about Florida coach Doug Dickey.

After watching the Florida players flop to the ground on their own eight yard line to give John Reaves the ball back Curci said this:

"It was the worst thing I've ever seen in football. I thought a lot of Doug Dickey and have always admired him. But tonight I lost all respect for the man. What he did shows absolutely no class."

Curci was sure that the call to let the Hurricanes score came from the bench. He didn't sympathize with the passing record that Reaves was shooting for.

"There was still enough time left (1:10) for them to get the ball back and give him another chance

at the record," the UM head coach said. "I was watching Dickey the whole time and I saw him send the boy in with the call."

Curci walked off the field disgusted and refused to shake hands with Dickey.

"I have shook hands with every one of my opponents," Curci said. "But tonight I just couldn't. He didn't come out either so I guess the feeling was mutual."

"Dickey must have a bad memory. Things like this come back to haunt you. I may never beat the man again but I'll never forget tonight."

Trying to get away from the subject, Curci had nothing but good things to say about the Florida team and the quarterback.

"Reaves is the greatest quarterback ever to come out of this state," Curci said. "Too bad he didn't play for a winning team or he would have won the Heisman Trophy."

Curci was asked again about the free-bee touchdown.

"They gave us a good country beating," Curci said about the Gators. "Our linebackers were all crippled and they threw a lot of flat passes. Florida finally put it all together, both offense and defense."

"Once you get ahead you can do what you want. They had us against the ropes like a beaten fighter. We had to stand and fight but we just never could recover."

The Hurricanes came out in a wishbone offense and stuck with it the whole game.

"I believe Florida knew we were going to use the wishbone because they certainly adjusted to it quickly," Curci said. "But once you are committed to it, it's best to stick with it the whole game."

"We only had seven healthy linemen. We had to stick with them. They just took a crippled team and beat the hell out of them."

Curci was asked again about the free-bee touchdown.

"Actually I feel sorry for Doug Dickey," he said. "I think he made a fool out of himself, if he thinks that's the spirit of the game he's got a long way to go."

"That's just another trick play you can use when you've got another team on the ropes," Curci said about the Durrance to Reaves TD pass. "Florida beat us in every way possible. I guess that play was one more way to insult us."

Curci said that the Hurricanes went to the new offense because they had seen that the Gators

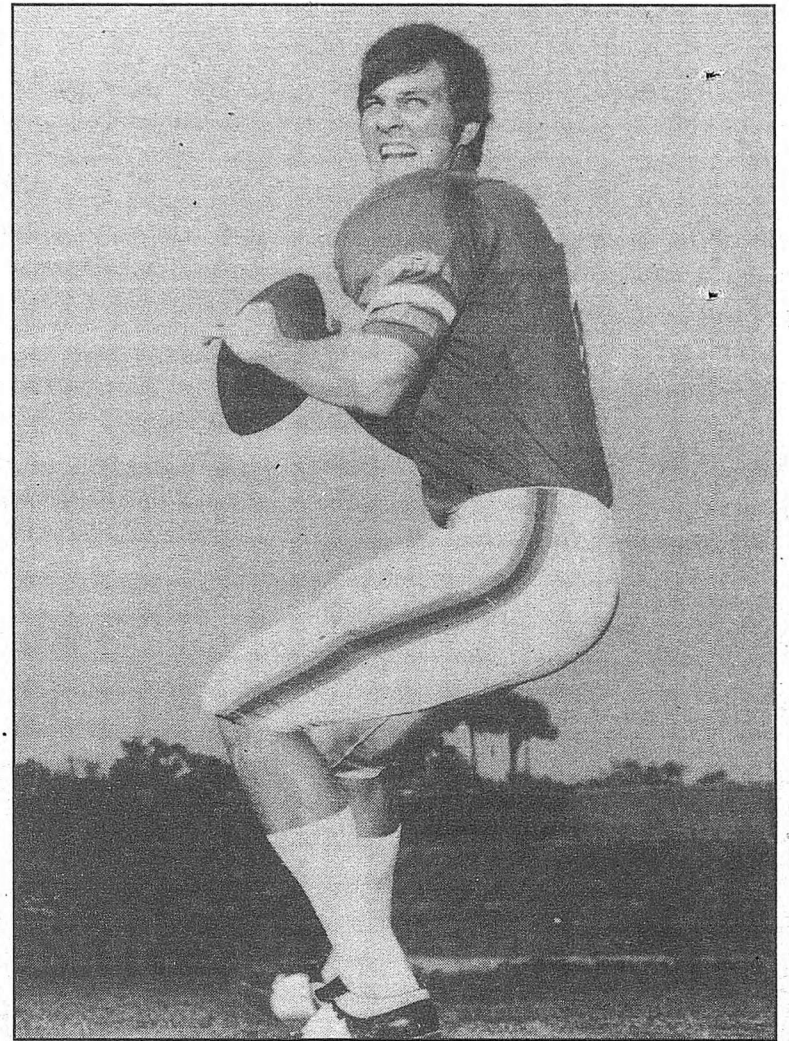


Photo courtesy of UF Sports Information

John Reaves looked to break the NCAA passing record in the 1971 UF-Miami game. Coach Doug Dickey took an unorthodox approach.

were vulnerable to the run and he thought they could control the ball. "It was taking candy from a baby," Curci said. "But I didn't think it would be that bad."

Editor's Note: After 34 years, the legacy of the Florida Flop lives. On November, 27 1971, UF quarterback John Reaves attempted to break the coveted NCAA career passing yards record in the UF-Miami game. With 1:10 remaining and UF holding a 45-8 lead, Reaves needed just 14 yards for the record. But with little time remaining, it seemed unlikely UF would get the ball back. So UF coach Doug Dickey ordered the Gators defense to "flop" to the ground and allow Miami to score. UF got the ball back and broke the record. The Gators defended the decision — it was the only way the record could be broken. This classic Alligator story reveals a different angle. Enjoy this story exactly as it ran in 1971.

Confident Walsh: 'It's not like I'm begging teams in the NBA to take me'

WALSH, from page 20

the Miami Heat would have drafted Matt had Wayne Simien not been available with the No. 29 pick.

"After Matt declared, even [UF] coach Billy Donovan was aware of first round interest and he even talked to [NBA] teams on [Matt's] behalf.

"Matt had very strong workouts. If he would have been picked by Miami and Simien had been off the board then it would have been hailed as great move."

Levien brought up the case of Providence's Ryan Gomes — a possible first round pick last year who stayed in school and wasn't picked until late in the second round this season — as the perfect reason why it was in Matt's best interest to declare for the draft now.

Levien also mentioned the case of a former UF guard.

"Ask Brett Nelson about the Draft," Levien said. "As a sophomore he had the chance to get drafted in the first round and he wasn't even on the radar as a senior."

"Evidence shows that it benefits a player not going back to school. Players that

go back to school generally love being in college and enjoy the experience."

But the Walsh-Nelson link isn't really a perfect comparison. Nelson played a senior year at UF. Walsh doesn't have that option.

Still, Walsh refuses to feel sorry for himself and believes that come opening day 2005, he will be on a NBA roster.

"It's not my personality to feel sorry for myself," Walsh said. "I don't feel sorry for myself one bit. I knew there was a chance [I wouldn't be drafted]. I think everything happens for a reason, and I'm just looking forward to the future."

Walsh also said that he continues to be a hot item on the NBA landscape.

"It doesn't change what NBA people were saying about me," Walsh said. "It's not like I'm begging teams in the NBA to take me."

Mike Walsh says nobody in the family regrets the decision.

"Based on everything that's happened, I wouldn't change a thing," Mike Walsh said. "This wasn't about Florida at all. Matt loved Florida."

"It remains to be seen whether it's going to work out, but I'm not the type that looks back."


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BASEBALL

Three Gators named to 2005 USA National Team

STAFF REPORT

DURHAM, N.C. — After representing UF in its first-ever College World Series championship appearance, a trio of Gators will represent their country in international competition this month.

Sophomores Adam Davis, Brian Jeroloman and Matt LaPorta were named to the 22-man roster for the 2005 USA Baseball National Team announced on Friday.

The selections were made after a four-day trial period in which 39 players participated at Doak Field on the campus of North Carolina State.

The trio played a major role in the Gators enjoying the best season in school history, a runner-up finish at the NCAA College World Series and the squad's first Southeastern Conference regular-

season crown since 1998. Coach Pat McMahon's club finished with an overall mark of 48-23 and finished with a No. 2 national ranking in all four of collegiate baseball polls.

In the final intrasquad game of the USA Baseball National Team Trials on Thursday, LaPorta pushed the Red team to a 12-10 win against the Blue team, going 4-for-4 with three home runs and four RBI.

The Blue team jumped to an early 3-0 lead thanks to an RBI groundout by Jeroloman and a two-run homer by Rice sophomore Josh Rodriguez. However, LaPorta started the Red team's rally with a two-run homer in the top of the third, adding a solo

homer in the sixth and another two-run shot in the eighth.

A consensus first-team All-American and SEC Player of the Year, LaPorta hit .328 and set a single-season UF record with a Division I-leading 26 homers, and his league-best 79 RBI were the second-most in UF history, trailing only Ryan Shealy's total of 80 during the 2002 season.

LaPorta also paced the SEC with 185 total bases and seven sacrifice flies, scored a league-second-most 75 runs and finished with a third-best .698 slugging percentage.

A first-team All-SEC recipient and third-team All-American pick at second base by Baseball America, Davis batted .306 with 75 runs, 63 RBI, 15 doubles and 12 homers and led the Gators for the second consecutive season, tying for fourth in the SEC with 24 stolen bases.

A second-team All-South Region choice, Davis hit .545 at the NCAA Gainesville Regional to earn all-tournament accolades and later slugged homers in CWS wins against Nebraska and Arizona State.

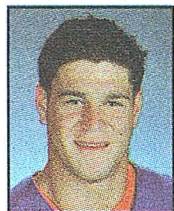
Another member of the Gainesville Regional all-tournament team, Jeroloman garnered second-team All-SEC recognition and finished with a .298 average and notched career highs across the board with 74 hits, 49 RBI, 48 runs, 11 doubles and eight home runs.

Having started all of UF's 71 games from behind the plate, Jeroloman led the SEC with 37 opposing runners caught stealing this season.

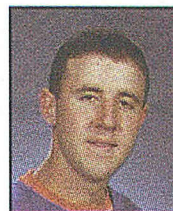
The sophomore trio will find a few familiar faces, joining Florida State centerfielder Shane Robinson, Collegiate Baseball's national player of the year, Miami leftfielder John Jay and pitcher Chris Perez and Tennessee catcher J.P. Arcencibia on Team USA.

The team begins action on Saturday at 7 p.m. against the Torrington Twisters at Fuessenich Park in Torrington, Conn. After two more games against teams from the NECBL, Team USA will travel to Japan to participate in the 34th annual USA vs. Japan Collegiate All-Star Series. The Americans will be looking to capture the series overseas for the first time since 1979.

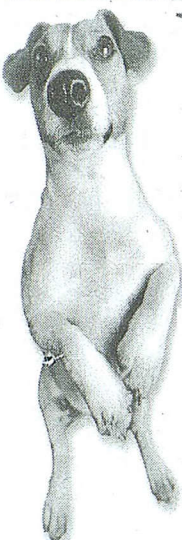
Team USA will also play a five-game series in Taiwan before returning to the United States for series against Italy and Nicaragua.



LaPorta



Jeroloman



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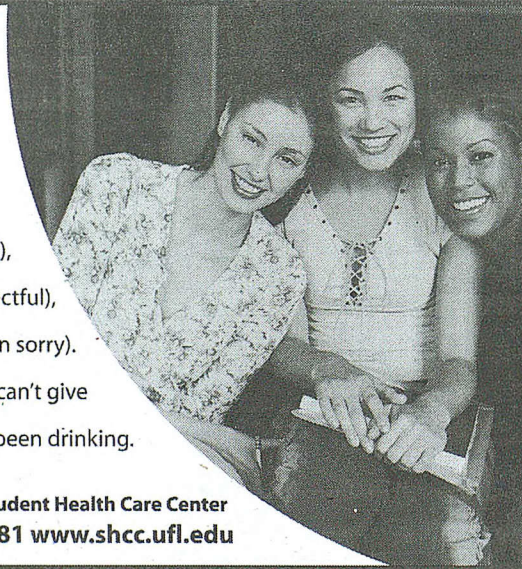
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COUNTDOWN TO KICKOFF

UF linebackers ready to take on aggressive role

■ SILER LOOKS TO LEAD REVISED LINEBACKER CORPS AFTER CROWDER'S EXIT.

By **ERIC ESTEBAN**
Alligator Staff Writer
eesteban@alligator.org

It happened during the Gators first spring scrimmage.

In less than four seconds, linebacker Brandon Siler had reached Chris Leak in the pocket, running full speed and pulling up right before impact.

Siler, a sophomore and reigning Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Year, was all smiles after the scrimmage because he knew what would happen in a real game situation.

"It's frustrating because in the game, if I get one step from the quarterback, I'm hitting him and he's going to end up on his neck," Siler said.

In most situations, a team losing two starting linebackers would suffer defensively in the following year, but the Gators find themselves with enough potential at the position to make 2005 an improvement.

Siler is the heir-apparent to the recently departed Channing Crowder at the middle linebacker position and has demonstrated the ability to be the leader of the defense when it comes to energy, drive and performance.

New outlook

Siler should lead the linebacker corps this year in a more aggressive defense that features plenty of blitzing packages from the position.

"We do believe in blitzing and we do believe in being aggressive," co-defensive coordinator Greg Mattison said. "I think as long as the kids understand that and execute it we are going to be fine."

The defense's top two tackle

"We do believe in blitzing and we do believe in being aggressive. I think as long as the kids understand that and execute it we are going to be fine."

Greg Mattison
co-defensive coordinator

leaders return. Siler recorded 77 last year while junior Earl Everett racked up 74.

Everett returns

Considered one of the top athletes on the team, Everett was called out by Meyer during the spring as one of the best football players he's ever seen.

At 6-foot-2, 228 pounds, Everett's off-season focus was on gaining weight.

"I wanted to [gain weight] while maintaining my speed and foot-

work," Everett said. "I'd like to play at 230 or 235."

The most important thing for him will be how well he can gel with two new starting linebackers, and if he can develop into one of the SEC's best in his junior year.

McCullough healthy

Joining the talented duo at the other linebacker spot will be senior Todd McCullough.

McCullough — who has suffered numerous injuries, reducing his time on the field throughout his career — will need to prove he can stay healthy in 2005. When 100 percent, his experience could be a perfect compliment to the corps.

After that, inexperience comes into play. Meyer admitted he is concerned with depth issues at linebacker.

Uncertainties

Fullback-turned-linebacker Billy Latsko and Brian Crum could pro-

vide quality depth at the position after demonstrating some skill in the spring.

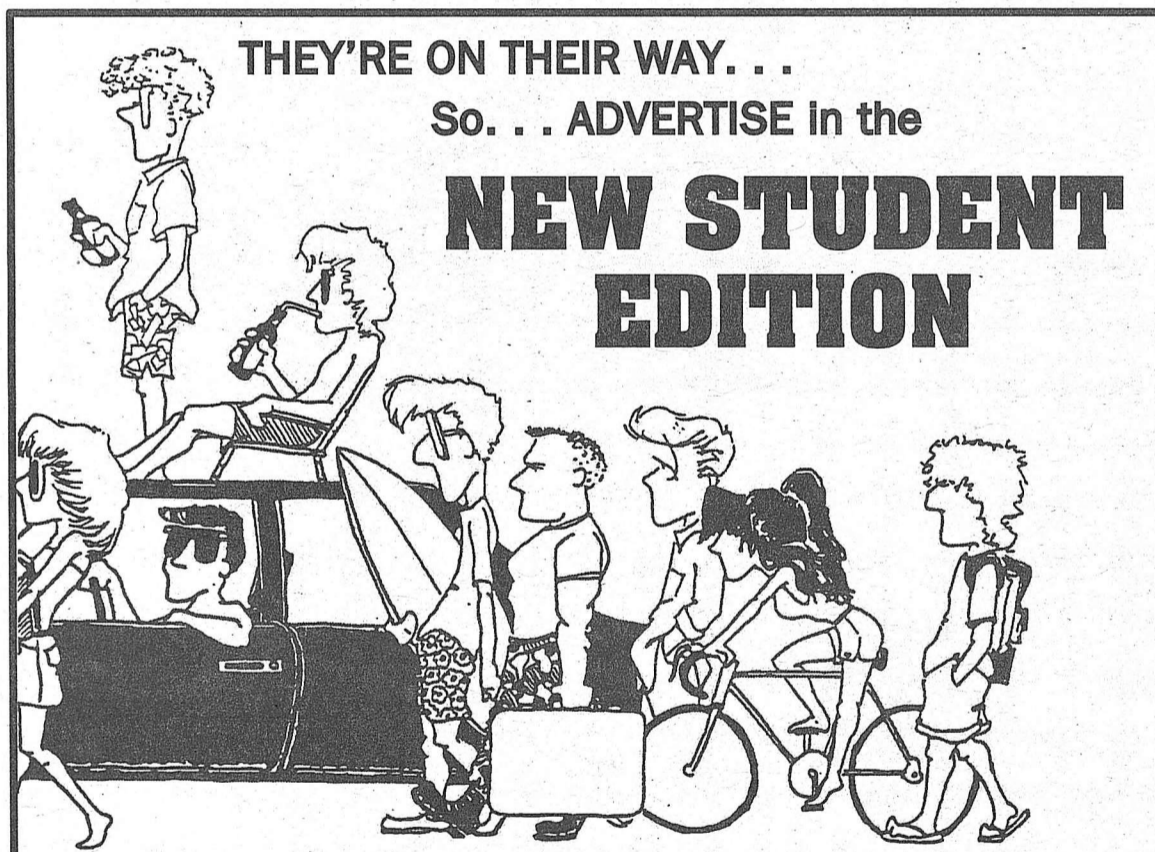
"I think Todd McCullough, Brian Crum and Billy Latsko are starting to separate themselves," Meyer said. "I'm very pleased with that position."

UF's depth will be lacking, but that will give the four true-linebacker freshmen ample opportunity to make an immediate impact in the SEC.

Fresh blood

Meyer netted several top prospects at the position. Darryl Gresham, a three-star recruit from Roanoke, Va., will compete with four-star recruits Jon Demps (Pensacola), Calvin Baker (Columbus, Ga.) and Ryan Stamper (Jacksonville).

At 6-foot-4, 219 pounds, Demps is probably the most poised of the group to receive immediate playing time, but all four could see time on the field this year.



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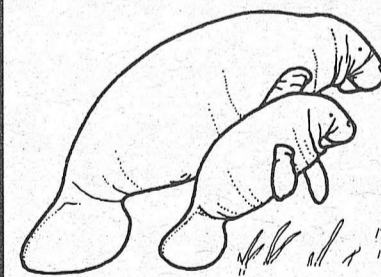
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OPERATE WITH CARE

Walsh not giving up on NBA

By **ANDREW ABRAMSON**
Alligator Writer
a Abramson@alligator.org

Don't believe all that you hear.

At least that's what the Matt Walsh camp is saying days after the UF junior was shut out of the NBA Draft.

Many people have been criticized — including Matt's father Mike Walsh and agent Jason Levien — for possibly convincing Matt to forgo his final year at UF and give the NBA Draft a chance. But both Mike Walsh and Levien say it was solely Matt's decision.

"Matt didn't want to play college basketball anymore," Levien said. "It wasn't bad advice, he was ready to go. He wanted to take a shot at the NBA. Evidence proves that had he stayed in school his chances [at being drafted] would have diminished. They don't draft seniors. The longer you're in school, the more your game gets criticized."

Walsh reiterated the same comments late Friday night.

"It wasn't like I got coerced into entering the Draft," Walsh said. "I knew exactly what I was getting into, and I knew it was a risk. But I felt it was a calculated risk. I felt it was worth it, and I'm going to play on two NBA sum-

mer teams and I plan to make a roster."

Ideal situation

After Walsh, as well as teammate Anthony Roberson, seemingly blew an opportunity to lead the Gators next season by entering the Draft that they weren't selected in, the Walsh camp says Matt is actually in a relatively ideal situation right now. As a second round pick, Walsh would have been at the mercy of the team that drafted him.

"Matt had very strong workouts. If he would have been picked by Miami and Simien had been off the board then it would have been hailed as a great move."

Mike Walsh
Matt Walsh's father

Now, Walsh has options. He will play for the Miami Heat's summer league team in Los Angeles on July 5, before playing for the Seattle Supersonics' summer team in Salt Lake City, Utah, the following week. Walsh can only hope that one team will sign him as a free agent.

Mike Walsh said the New Jersey Nets called the Walsh fam-

ily on draft night and wanted to select Matt No. 42 overall. But the Nets wanted Walsh to agree to go Europe if he did not make the team — second round contracts are not guaranteed.

"Matt had made that decision [prior to the draft, that he wouldn't do that] and it wasn't just popped on him," Mike Walsh said. "It was something he was not interested in doing."

"[Matt] feels like he'll make a team and this actually worked out better. He'd rather have a choice."

Walsh admitted that it was tough not hearing his name called on Draft night, but a day later he realized that he wasn't in such a bad situation.

"Obviously you want to hear your name called," Walsh said. "I think it's one of those things that it would have felt good to be drafted by New Jersey or whoever at the time. But the next morning I realized I could [possibly] play for a year [without having to go to Europe]. Looking back it's probably better that I [wasn't drafted in the second round]."

NBA aspirations alive

There was plenty of buzz surrounding Walsh leading up to the draft and Mike still believes that

SEE WALSH, PAGE 17



Matt Marriott / Alligator Staff

The criticism continues for Matt Walsh after the UF guard was not selected in the NBA Draft. Walsh says he will make the NBA.

Reality television gives former Gators newfound publicity on FOX

Breaking news from the people at FOX.

We regret to inform you that American Idol will not be shown this season. Idol judges Paula Abdul, Simon Cowell and Randy Jackson have been kidnapped by Iraqi insurgents. The hostage takers reportedly have attempted to return the Idol judges to the United States because "we can't stand these lunatics," but the American government has refused to let them back in the country.

So Idol will be replaced by yet another star-studded reality show from the brains behind "The Surreal Life" and "Wife Swap."

Get ready to follow the lives of three unique individuals who have embarked on different paths to end up together, in a small studio apartment in Kazakhstan.

Former University of Florida basket-

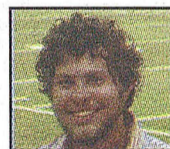
ball guards Anthony Roberson and Matt Walsh will be reunited with Gators castoff Christian Drejer.

The catch? While all three were invited to play basketball in Kazakhstan, they thought they were doing it alone. Now these three former stars will have to share a 300-square foot studio while a war is being fought in their own backyard.

Here's some excerpts from the pilot episode.

Roberson, distraught from not being able to locate any NBA throwback jerseys in Kazakhstan, hears a knock at the door. Since nobody has ever visited the studio, the three players look at each other cautiously before opening the door. In comes Walsh's agent Jason Levien.

Levien: Matt, I just received some great news. If you had entered the NBA Draft in



Andrew Abramson
Drew's Control
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I can make them out. Marcin Gortat, Uros Slokar, Cenk Akyol.

Roberson: Damn, those are the dudes that were picked late in the second round of the Draft.

Levien: Guys, don't feel bad about your decision. If you had waited until next year

1974, you would have been a guaranteed first round pick!

Later that day, Walsh notices strange engravings on the wall of the studio.

Walsh: It looks like names of former tenants. Wait, I think

to enter the Draft, your chances of being selected would have been greatly diminished.

Roberson: But we weren't drafted.

Levien: Yeah, but next year it would have been worse.

Early in the evening, Walsh and Roberson take a stroll down a war-torn street and see a little Kazakhstani boy named Kossor wearing a Miami Heat jersey with Walsh's name on the back. A puzzled Walsh finds out that his dad had thousands of Heat jerseys created, assuming Walsh would go to Miami. Red Cross donated them to third world countries.

Kossor: Don't worry, Matt. We get bad advice all the time, that's why we're third world.

INSIDE

■ It's been nearly 34 years since the infamous Florida Flop, but the story still lives. See page 17 for the classic Alligator story of 1971 UF-Miami football game.

UP NEXT

■ Don't miss Thursday's Alligator for a preview of UF football's defensive line as well as another classic story from the Alligator archives.

THIS WEEK IN UF SPORTS HISTORY

■ July 6, 1998: Junior UF closer Josh Fogg signs a contract to play in the Chicago White Sox organization. Fogg recorded 13 saves and led the SEC in ERA his junior year. Today, he starts for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

ON TELEVISION

■ NL Baseball: Milwaukee Brewers vs. Florida Marlins. FSN, 7 p.m.
■ AL Baseball: New York Yankees vs. Baltimore Orioles. ESPN, 1 p.m.