



Professor: State aid program too costly

By IVETTE MENDEZ
 Alligator Contributing Writer

If it were up to a UF professor, fewer students would be eligible for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

David Denslow, a UF economics professor, co-wrote a 461-page report stating the Bright Futures scholarship should be harder to obtain so it could last longer.

"Right now, you have to be more or less literate," he said about the qualifications for the scholarship.

The Florida lottery pays for the scholarship, and the state budget is constrained by other programs including Medicaid, the pre-kindergarten-to-12th-grade amendment and maintaining jails, he said.

"We are going to fall further and further behind," he said about Bright Futures funding.

The amount used on these programs restricts the amount that can be put into education.

"We were concerned that the state might be avoiding some issues," Denslow said.

The report analyzed many aspects of college funding and tuition from an economic standpoint.

Denslow also supports raising tuition at UF, saying the university's goal to be Top 10 is not realistic with tuition and financing constraints.

UF tuition eventually will lower the quality of the school because classes are getting larger and faculty don't have the resources to individually address students, Denslow said.

If the legislature allows schools to charge higher tuition, the legislature ends up pay-

SEE BRIGHT, PAGE 4



Denslow

UF lab studies 'the meat we eat'

THE UNIVERSITY'S MEAT PROCESSING CENTER OFFERS CLASSES ON NUTRITION AND HYGIENE.

By CHRISTA WAGERS
 Alligator Contributing Writer

UF's Meat Processing Center handles everything from the farm to the fork when it comes to meat.

As part of the Department of Animal Sciences, meat lab staff strive to educate both students and the community about meat in the small processing plant, where mostly cattle and pigs are slaughtered, cut and sold to individuals and businesses.

The meat lab is located off Shealy Drive just south of campus and has been selling meat since the late 1980s.

Michael Lamb, a 22-year-old political science major, worked at the meat lab for a year.

"I look at my experience at the meat lab as the biggest learning experience I could ever have," Lamb said.

Before working at the meat lab, Lamb was scared to eat his meat rare. Now, with a better knowledge of meat processing, he prefers it rare.

Because technology has pushed society away from production and toward consumption, few Americans know what they are eating, especially when it concerns meat, Lamb said.

The processing center offers five classes on meat. ANS 2002, "The Meat We Eat," which is open to all students, is an overview of meat nutrition, grading, selection and processing.

The center is inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Byron Davis, one of three full-time staff employees at the meat lab, said the center also gives free tours to the public.

"It's kind of like your house," Davis said. "If you keep your house clean, you don't mind if anyone comes to see it."

The tour shows how the animal is killed and processed before it becomes a cut of meat.

"It's more like a disassembly line," Davis said.

SEE MEAT, PAGE 7



Tim Hussin / Alligator Staff

Tom Estevez, 45, saws the side of a pig that was slaughtered Tuesday morning in half at UF's Meat Processing Center.

House offers boost to area homeless

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ
 Alligator Contributing Writer

In a warm, bare room, Iman McCullough lies on a couch waiting for a phone call from the Florida Department of Children & Families.

She hopes that DCF's assistance will be able to provide her with the chance she said she never had.

McCullough, 27, has no job or house and two small children — Destin, 1, and Destiny, 3 — with another baby due Dec.

6. She is one of the women receiving temporary accommodation at St. Francis House, 413 S Main St.

She moved from Atlanta to Gainesville three months ago in hopes that her family would help support her, but they didn't.

Now her name lingers on a state waiting list.

"I'm just trying to figure out what to do," she said. "All I have is my children."

McCullough is one of about 900 homeless people in Alachua County, said Kent Vann, executive director at St. Francis

House. Among them are 90 families, which include single or expectant mothers.

The average age of a homeless person in the United States is 9 years old, and most have never had a home, he said.

St. Francis accommodates about 18 people on average, and usually about 26 on a cold night, Vann said, providing them with food, clothing, a shower and shelter, as well as job and learning programs.

SEE HOUSE, PAGE 7

Joakim Noah will return home tonight as UF faces Wake Forest in New York's Madison Square Garden. He has dreamed of playing at The World's Most Famous Arena since his childhood. See story, pg. 25.



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Ra'anan Gissin, senior adviser to the Israeli prime minister, will defend his belief in Israel's responsibilities as a democracy in the Middle East at UF today. See story, pg. 5.

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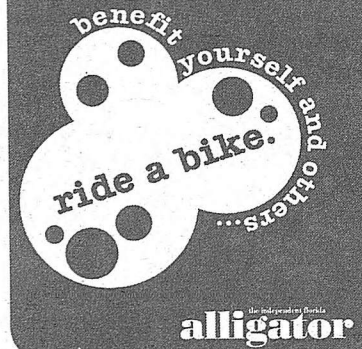
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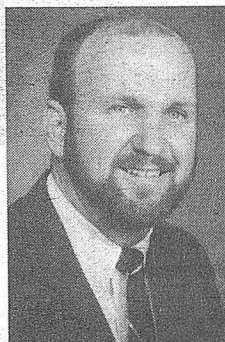
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YOUR PROFESSORS' WAR AGAINST THE MIND: THE BLACK HOLE OF POST-MODERNISM AND MULTICULTURALISM

Multiculturalism and deconstructionism — the twin doctrines of academia's latest assault on reason — are working to destroy students' ability to think and to value. These two movements teach that objectivity is a myth and that all ideas are distorted by the lens of “race, class, and gender.”

In this talk, Dr. Gary Hull of Duke University explains the essence of Post-Modernism and how philosophers for the past 200 years have systematically divorced reason from reality, culminating in today's rejection of objectivity.

Talk by Dr. Gary Hull
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Religious beliefs waive vaccinations for students

■ EXEMPTIONS ARE MADE ON A CASE-BY CASE BASIS.

By **WILL PAFFORD**
Alligator Contributing Writer

UF may say students need the needles, but exceptions can be made for those who answer to a higher authority.

Before attending UF, all students are required to show they have received measles, rubella, Hepatitis B and meningitis vaccines.

The exception is when a student is granted a religious exemption.

Diane Pecora, a nurse specialist for UF student immunizations at the Student Health Care Center, has talked with many of the students who have requested religious exemptions.

"Exemptions are case-by-case," Pecora said. "In the past, students have actually stated they are 'the governor of their [bodies]' and therefore decline vaccines, or they are 'chemical free' and wish to remain so."

However, throughout the major religions, it is difficult to find a group that opposes or forbids vaccinations.

Historically, the Christian Scientist faith has been contro-

"There's nothing mandated by the church that says you cannot have immunizations. Each Christian Scientist would handle that differently based on their different beliefs."

Rob Vanderlike
Ocala First Church of Christ, Scientist spokesman

versial because of cases in which parents would deny medical treatment for their children, instead relying on faith-based healing through prayer.

"There's nothing mandated by the church that says you cannot have immunizations," said Rob Vanderlike, spokesman for First Church of Christ, Scientist in Ocala. "Each Christian Scientist would handle that differently based on their different beliefs."

One religion that does forbid certain medicines based on beliefs is the Jehovah's Witnesses faith.

Many vaccines are made by using animal cells to grow viruses, and this process has had complications within the Jehovah's Witnesses' belief system.

"The Bible says not to take blood," said the Rev. Larry Clark

of Kingdom Hall-Jehovah's Witness. "Some medicines are derived directly from blood."

Clark said he was immunized as a child and that his children are immunized.

The request for religious exemptions from immunizations by students is a personal matter for each student.

However, these choices can put the student body at higher risk.

If students were to travel to an undeveloped country and they had not been immunized, they could come back with the measles or rubella virus, Pecora said.

Denslow: State scholarship program too easy to attain

BRIGHT, from page 1

ing the tuition for Bright Futures students, but the state can limit the scholarship, he said.

Theresa Antworth, director of the state scholarship and grant program, said there will be sufficient funds for Bright Futures as long as the legislature continues to appropriate funds for it.

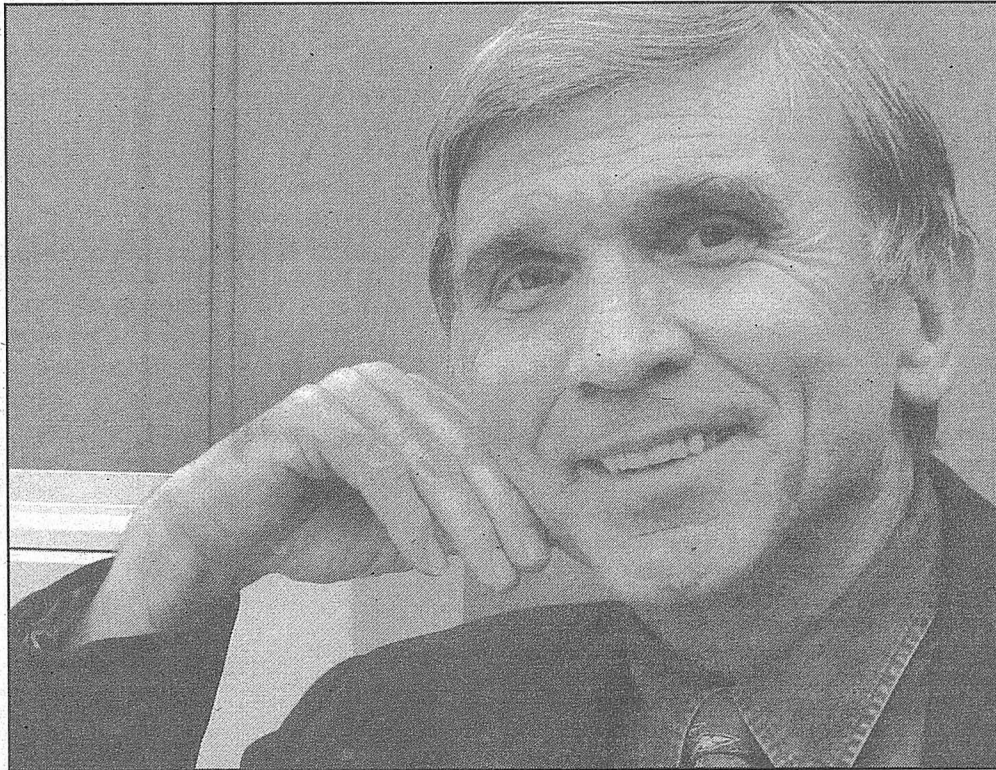
Last year, about \$268 million of the \$1 billion available from the lottery was awarded in scholarship money to students. The rest of the funds were used for other educational programs.

Antworth said the legislature discusses changes to qualification standards every year, but no changes have been made since it was enacted.

"I think they are pretty committed to the current standard," she said.

The effect of more students receiving the scholarship is that less money will be given to other educational programs.

"That is the result of it being so successful," Antworth said. The report was commissioned by the Jessie Ball DuPont Foundation, a charitable organization that deals with political policy in Florida.



Tricia Coyne / Alligator Staff

David Denslow, UF economics professor, said he believes the standards for the Florida Bright Futures scholarship are too low.

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SG and students chat over lunch

By **STEPHEN MAGRUDER**
Alligator Writer
smagruder@alligator.org

More than 100 students ate up the chance to grab free food Wednesday as they chatted with Student Government leaders. The lunch event, held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the President's Dining Room on the fourth floor of the Reitz Union, allowed students to casually address SG officials one-on-one about student-group budgets, on-campus dining, student fees and parking, among other concerns.



Cosimi

Journalism student Trevor Freimuth, like many of the students who trickled in and out, said he was there for the free food but wanted to learn more about the officials in charge of more than \$11 million in student money.

"The role of Student Government is a bit vague to me," he said. "I can't find any correlation to myself in them — they just kinda handle my money."

SG Advocacy Director Kyle Epting said the lunch was the first of what leaders plan as monthly informal dining sessions with Student Body President Joe Goldberg, Vice President Joyce Medina and Treasurer Lindsay Cosimi.

The lunch started with students asking questions one at a time but quickly broke up into smaller group discussions, which all three officials said they preferred.

"That's just how I am. I'm very informal," Cosimi said.

She said she hoped students attending the meetings would see that SG leaders are no different from other students.

Several trays of sandwiches, a vegetable platter, a large basket of chicken strips, various desserts and assorted Pepsi products were available until about noon.

Officials said that, in the future, the event most likely would be reduced to a 90-minute session so enough food will be available to feed the initial rush of students.

ON CAMPUS

Israeli adviser to address beliefs

By **ALEX TIEGEN**
Alligator Contributing Writer

The senior adviser to the Israeli prime minister, will defend his belief in Israel's responsibilities as a democracy in the Middle East at UF today.

"He works in the government, so of course he's pro-Israel," said Josh Sachs, co-coordinator for Caravan for Democracy, the group funding Ra'anán Gissin's visit. "But if you mean by being pro-Israel he's anti-Palestine, then that's not true. I am obviously pro-Israel, but I think this is a good way to show there's a chance for a Palestinian democracy and that Israel and Palestine can exist side-by-side."

"I think this is a good way to show there's a chance for a Palestinian democracy and that Israel and Palestine can exist side-by-side."

Josh Sachs
Caravan for Democracy co-coordinator

Gissin worked as a strategic analyst and spokesman for the Israeli Defense Forces during the late '70s and most of the '80s. In 1991, Gissin advised members of the Israeli delegation at the Madrid Conference for Peace and participated in negotiations in the following years.

Though unaware of Gissin's visit to UF until Tuesday, Nakba '48, a UF group advocating Palestinian rights, argues against Caravan for Democracy's claim that Israel is "the only democracy in the Middle East" and plans to boycott the event on the Reitz Union Colonnade on Thursday.

"Israel is not a democracy," said David Reznik, vice president of Nakba '48. "A state that upholds the majority of a cultural or ethnic group is undemocratic and, I would even go so far as saying, is apartheid. This speaker is an embodiment of Israeli repression."

The speech will be in the Reitz Union Rion Ballroom at 7 p.m. tonight.

SFCC offers new internship course

By **ALEXIS LLOYD**
Alligator Writer

SFCC students will get a jump start on interning beginning in the Spring, and they'll earn college credit for it.

SFCC is adding an Internship and Career Building course to its curriculum to help with growing demands for more job experience.

"Students will walk away from this class with confidence to find a job in a field they feel good about," said Mary Short, business programs professor.

Students attend two hours a week at SFCC and are required to complete at least 60 hours of an internship.

"It's important and valuable for students to have work experience before they enter their working place

after college," said Bruce Gordon, SFCC career and job placement coordinator.

More than 25 paid and unpaid internship opportunities are available for course participants.

Santa Fe Community College

The openings range from marketing and accounting offices and travel agencies to an international archery instruction agency.

However, students are able to find their own internship opportunities.

"The emphasis is not on whether the internship is paid or not, but to give the students a feel for what they are planning of going into," Short said. "It will help them make better decisions on their future classes, or even decide if that is truly what they want to go into."

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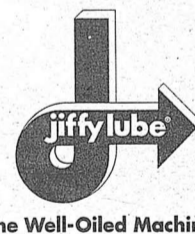
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Editorial

Testing cruelty

United States can help image with torture bill

We lose trust in President Bush almost every day. His stubborn behavior, thinly veiled lies and alarming inability to address problems within his administration cause us to doubt how well our government really is protecting the United States.

But while Bush constantly tests our patience, Republicans sometimes emerge as a reasonable group.

The anti-torture bill has illuminated this division between moderate Republicans and the insane executive branch. The bill, championed by Republican Sen. John McCain, would ban torture of prisoners in U.S. custody abroad.

Most senators wisely support the move — how could anyone deny that torture is bad? — but Bush and Cheney are fighting against it.

The bill is largely for show — torture is already banned by several international agreements. But the implementation of such a law would send an important message to the world during a time when U.S. interrogation methods are under serious attack.

We're not experts on public relations, but even we know it's political suicide to oppose banning torture. Why is the Bush administration fighting the bill so publicly? Cheney even tried to add a provision that would exempt the CIA. But most of the CIA's actions are already secret, and laws already broken. Why play by the rules now?

The most popular argument against the bill is that torture is needed in "ticking timebomb" situations, when officials must get information out of an informant to stop imminent attacks. In this case, some argue, torture of one prisoner could save hundreds or thousands of innocent lives.

But how do we know when this situation arises? Officials can easily claim they thought the danger was imminent. The exception to the rule might become the rule.

Writing an exemption to the rule within the law opens dangerous doors. It could turn this bill from a positive message into a justification for torture.

The war on terrorism is a war of ideas, and the United States is struggling to keep up an image of goodwill and justice.

Although officials might consider the bill pointless or damaging, they can't oppose it without losing ground ideologically. And appearing as the savior to Saddam Hussein's devil is increasingly important in Iraq. When our image becomes smeared with questionable ethics, we empower the insurgents we fight.

Furthermore, prisoners under torture will say anything to stop the pain. It's uncertain whether such methods actually work.

The United States' image is under attack. Abu Ghraib left the world questioning how many U.S. soldiers exercise methods of torture. Rumors of secret CIA prisons made us wonder what was being done in places invisible to the law. And the recent acknowledgement that the United States uses phosphorus bombs gave human-rights groups a reason to suspect civilian endangerment.

The torture bill isn't really about stopping torture. It's about showing the world that our government is against torture and dedicated to cleaning up its image.

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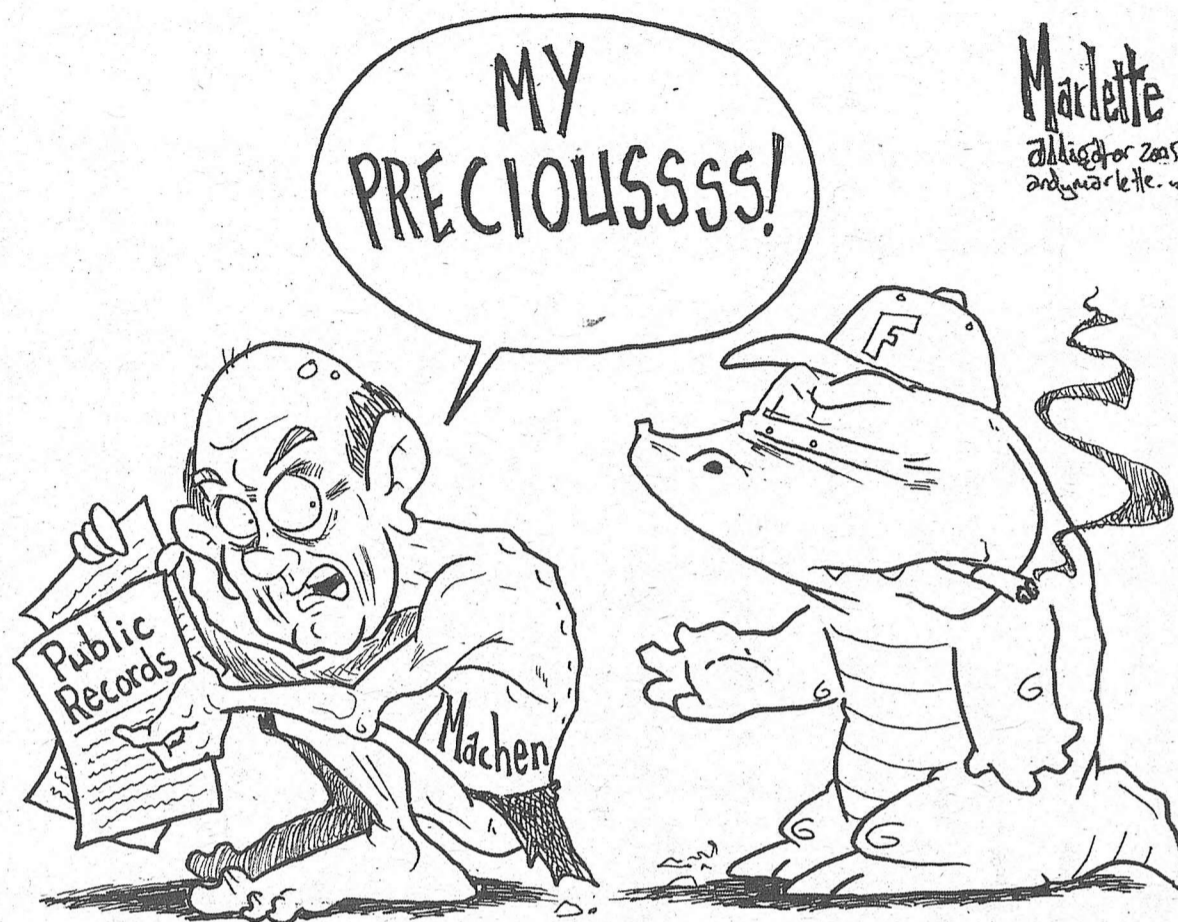
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Opinions

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Guest column

Discrimination embedded in society

On Friday morning, a woman called the Starbucks that I manage and demanded some of our cups be removed immediately. She said the cups had a quote on them that was extremely offensive, and she didn't want her teenage daughter or any other patron to see such distasteful material. She said she had already written to the company, voicing her complaint, but she was calling all nearby stores in an attempt to have the cups removed as soon as possible.

At this point, my curiosity was aroused. What could good-natured Starbucks possibly have put on a cup that could have caused this much controversy? Was it a vulgar word? Was it something about dirty, trailer-rocking sex? I could hardly wait.

But when I found the quote that had this customer's panties in a bunch, I was shocked. The first line read, "My only regret about being gay is that I repressed it for so long."

In an era saturated with diversity, it seems as though our society is still plagued by overwhelming intolerance and ignorance. I speak only for myself, though I'm certain there are many who would agree, when I say this absolute disrespect for human beings disgusts me. I find bigotry toward any person or group based on their gender, sex, race, class, ethnicity or sexual orientation utterly revolting.

The woman who complained about the quote was terrified of having her daughter see it. But why was she so scared? Did she think her daughter was going to read the quote, catch the infamous queer virus and become a lesbian?

Pardon my naivete, but I was completely unaware that homosexuality was a disease, and a contagious

Amie Ward
U-Wire

one at that. I wonder if they have a vaccine out for that yet? Maybe if I hurry, I can get it this year with my flu shot.

My remarks are condescending and patronizing, and that is exactly what I mean them to be. Sadly, this is the kind of whacked-out mentality that too large a portion of our population is walking around with today. I fear that the complaining customer's daughter, along with numerous other young adults, are going to continue to be raised by closed-minded families that condone prejudice like another would advocate brushing one's teeth three times a day.

Homophobia is socially constructed. Boys and girls are expected to behave in particular ways and are harshly criticized when they falter even slightly.

Gender and sex are not the same thing, but because our culture has historically linked femininity to females and masculinity to males, we have been raised to believe these factors are assigned and inseparable. This is why little girls can't play war and Barbie dolls can never touch the hands of a young boy. It just wouldn't be prudent.

Being raised with these biases translates to discrimination in a variety of contexts.

These uneducated mindsets are the reason why well-groomed men and male figure skaters are "fags" and women with short hair who play a sport other than cheerleading are "dykes." These attitudes are disgusting, nauseating and vile.

Change is necessary — that much is obvious. However, making a change must start with you.

Amie Ward attends the University of Maryland

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

Reader response

Today's question:

Should the federal government pass a law banning torture?

Wednesday's question:

Has Urban Meyer's first season been disappointing?

55% YES

45% NO

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Staff hold beef jerky-making sessions with local elementary school students

MEAT, from page 1

Students perform all work not handled by the full-time staff. They begin by learning how to keep the area clean during and

after the kill and later help with specialized activities, such as the actual cutting of meat.

Brian Estevez, who has an undergraduate degree in animal sciences and is working on his master's degree in agricultural

leadership, has worked at the meat lab for five years.

During Spring, Estevez visited Archer Elementary School in conjunction with the Florida Agriculture in the Classroom program to teach pupils how to

make beef jerky.

"I think people should be educated younger," Estevez said.

Alvin Warnick, 84, worked at UF for 47 years helping producers make a more efficient meat product. Warnick researched the

genetics behind meat tenderness and needed a place to slaughter animals.

"If we had not had a meat laboratory here, my work would have been greatly hindered," Warnick said.

St. Francis shelter tries to counteract Gainesville's mean-to-homeless reputation

HOUSE, from page 1

On cold-weather nights, when the temperature drops below 45 degrees, as many as 200 people will walk into the shelter seeking food or other help. Last year, there were 69 cold-weather nights, Vann said.

"It doesn't matter if you are a man, woman, child or senior," he said. "We will take you."

Around Gainesville

Vann noted that the Salvation Army only takes men, and that other shelters discriminate as well.

All a person needs to stay at St. Francis is police clearance, which means a person must show some form of identification to Gainesville Police to verify that he or she has no criminal record.

This requirement is what keeps most people from being able to stay at St. Francis, Vann said.

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless 2004 annual report, Gainesville is the fifth "meanest" city in the country toward homeless people. And Florida ranks second among states.

In some places, laws exist against camping, panhandling and loitering

that the report stated were enacted specifically to target the homeless.

"I always try to be nice to homeless people," UF junior Jennifer Lamien said. "But I have seen the occasional college student mess with them."

Gainesville City Commissioner Jack Donovan said the coalition's allegations are "extremely arbitrary."

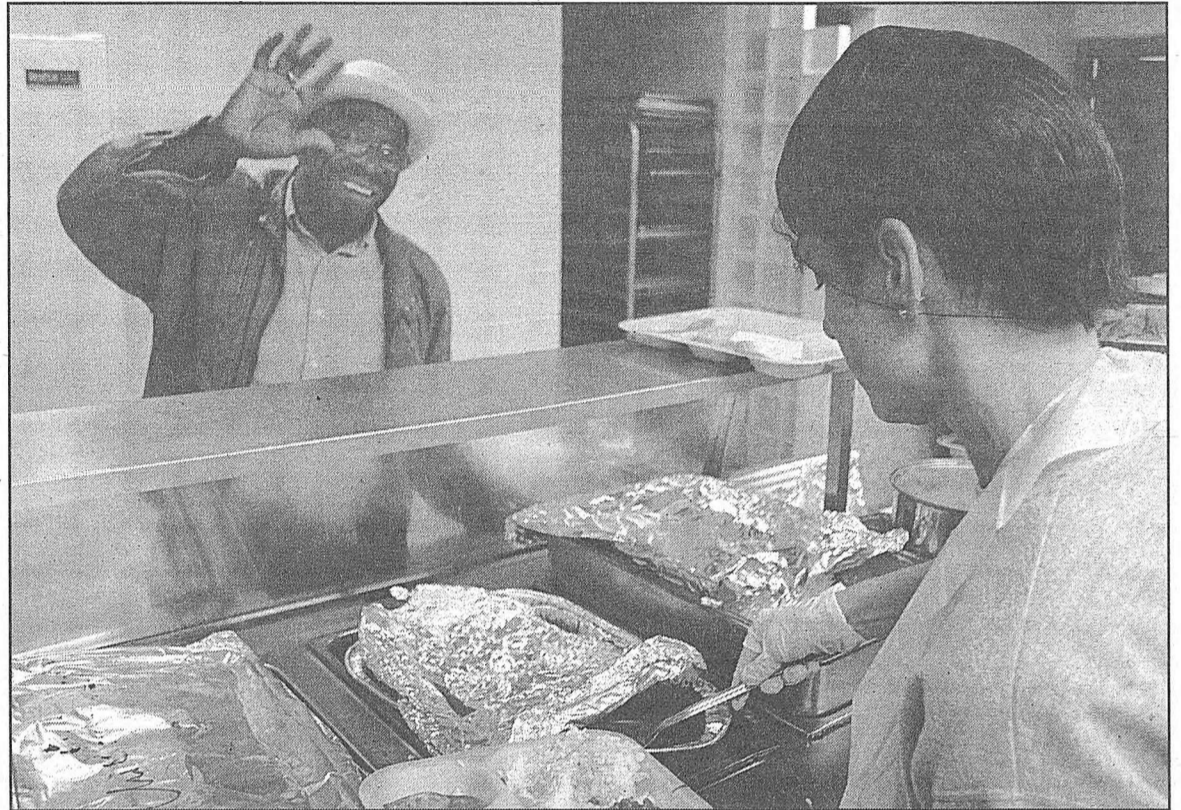
He added that Gainesville is one of the cities that realizes the federal government isn't going to address the issue. Just this week, the commission approved the donation of up to \$210,000 to local organizations benefiting the homeless.

The average person stays at St. Francis for about two weeks, Vann said. Because St. Francis is designated as a special use shelter, not a permanent one, residents are evicted after 90 days.

"A lot of them are very hardworking," he said. "They just need a little boost to get them back on their feet."

McCullough is scheduled to leave St. Francis House sometime this week. She said she plans to live with her mom in Gainesville while waiting for support from the state.

"Things were real bad for a while," McCullough said. "But it's all up from here."



Tim Hussin / Alligator Staff

Cheryl Kennedy, 46, a volunteer at St. Francis House, serves salad, rice, fried chicken, beans, two slices of tomato and Kool-Aid. St. Francis staff serve food daily to the homeless and hungry.

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Holiday Gift Guide II comes out Dec. 2

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Fest Frenzy

Gainesville holds fourth annual music festival

By JACQUELINE DAVISON
Avenue Writer

Just when you were running out of excuses to drink Pabst Blue Ribbon for three days straight, it's time for The Fest 4. A staple of Gainesville's music community for the past four years, attendees should brace themselves for the sequel to last year's The Fest 3, also known as "three more days of falling down."

For those out of the know, The Fest is a yearly multiple-venue, multiple-style music festival that will feature downtown Gainesville hosting 111 bands at

six venues for three days straight this weekend.

"That's what it is on paper, but it's so much more than that," said Tony Weinbender, Fest mastermind. "I think it's a big family reunion. Bands from Gainesville travel a lot, and bands from everywhere else travel to Gainesville. So it's kind of a homecoming."

Bands from as far as Sweden have booked their flights to Gainesville; attendees from as far as Japan and Germany have reserved passes. Big acts this year include Ted Leo + the Pharmacists, Against Me!, The Bouncing Souls, The

Epoxies plus many bands that may become some of your new favorites.

Matt Sweeting, three-year record-holder for being in the most Fest bands, said it's Gainesville as a host that attracts so many people.

"Everybody's so nice and so friendly," Sweeting said. "There's a party every late night. There's a smiling face in the morning. There's food everywhere. People just having fun and getting along the whole time."

Over half of the bands attending have molded their current tours just to make it to The Fest.

"The Bouncing Souls weren't going to tour," Weinbender said. "They're playing a couple shows on the way up and a couple on the way down. If it wasn't for this, everyone would be just sitting at home."

What separates The Fest from larger festivals like Hellfest and Bonnaroo is the fact that it's not held in the middle of a field, but in the heart of Gainesville and its music community. Shows take place at downtown venues like Common Grounds and The Atlantic. Weinbender created The Fest with the attendees in mind, giving them something to do the entire weekend.

"I hated going to festivals and being stuck for three days in one field watching bands. If you don't like that band, what do you do? You walk away and you still hear them and you're walking around (merchandise) tables," Weinbender said.

"There's no pretension. It doesn't

seem like a rock-star festival," he added. "Everyone's just having a good time, and we try to make it a party. As long as people come with a positive attitude, they're going to leave happy and positive."

Of course, when you put a few thousand people in downtown Gainesville who drink from a seemingly never-ending stream of beer, things get interesting. Last year, attendees were scaling walls to get into full venues, jumping off the second-floor balcony into the pool at the Gainesville Lodge and slip 'n' sliding down what Weinbender claims to be the "world's largest slip 'n' slide."

"I definitely saw a guy pee into his (own) mouth last year on the porch of Common Grounds in the middle of the afternoon - twice," Weinbender said. "It never gets out of hand. There's never fights at The Fest."

Last year's problem of people not being able to get into headlining shows, such as the Blood Brothers and Against Me!, has been remedied by a cap of 1,000 weekend arm-bands.

"We don't have venues big enough in Gainesville," Weinbender said. "It's either that or move it to a field, and I don't want to move it to a field. It's gross out in the field."

Today, tickets can be purchased in cash for \$35 at Wayward Council until midnight. No tickets can be purchased Friday, but 300 Fest passes will be available Saturday at Wayward Council from noon to 6 p.m. for \$35. Some shows will have tickets available at the door. Check thefestfl.com for more information.



Conte Bosch Studio s

Matt Bellinger, Planes Mistaken for Stars' guitarist, plays last year's Fest 3 at Common Grounds on Oct. 31. This year's Fest features 111 bands at 6 different venues.



The Fest's most common band member aspires to play for every group

By JACQUELINE DAVISON
Avenue Writer

Matt Sweeting might as well be in the "Guinness Book of Gainesville Records." For three years, he's accomplished the feat of being a member of the most Fest bands.

Last year, Sweeting was a part of five bands - Asshole Parade, Strikeforce Diablo, True North,

Deadsure and Stressface. He managed to play with all of them in the same day.

"I think I just am in a lot of bands and all the bands want to play The Fest," Sweeting said.

During The month leading up to last year's The Fest 3, Sweeting had been on tour with one of his bands, True North, making it unrealistic to practice beforehand.

"I get back and there's a bunch



Sweeting

Sweeting said.

"So it was just kind of a mess."

of weirdos running around, and I have to find my friend to figure out what songs we're going to play, where everyone's going to be,"

Sweeting, unfortunately, will only be able to play with four bands this year due to a Deadsure technicality. He came close to performing with six, but it didn't come together.

"I definitely have it in my sights," he said. "It's definitely doable. What I want to do is have my own show, where it's like, 10 bands, and I play in every single band. That's my dream."

Catch Matt Sweeting playing at The Fest 4

True North Saturday, The Atlantic, 11:40 p.m.
Stressface Sunday, Common Grounds, 7 p.m.
Strikeforce Diablo Sunday, Common Grounds, 7:40 p.m.
Asshole Parade Sunday, Club Red, 8:10 p.m.

INSIDE

■ Devastated that The Fest 4 has taken over Gainesville for the weekend? Check out the Improv festival instead. See story, pg. 11.

GIVEAWAY

■ Be the first to e-mail the Avenue editors at theavenue@alligator.org to win a copy of the "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" soundtrack.

QUOTABLE



"Nobody is everything to everybody. I don't like Mother Teresa. See? Somebody doesn't like her. Ugly old [expletive] in sandals."
Sharon Osbourne
talk show host

BOX OFFICE BEST

- 1. "Chicken Little"
2. "Zathura: A Space Adventure"
3. "Derailed"
4. "Get Rich or Die Tryin'"
5. "Jarhead"

THE FEST Club Red picks up Midtown's shows

By **RACHEL RYALS**
Avenue Writer

As quickly as local music venue Midtown opened in the former Purple Porpoise location, it has been shut down.

Midtown owner Joe Lezcano said he did not want to let The Fest 4 down, but he had to close the venue because the expenses were too high.

"We were losing more than gaining," Lezcano said.

One problem for the venue was the fact that a liquor license never came through Nov. 1 as was promised in the rental sales pitch, Lezcano said.

"Just selling beer doesn't cut it," he said.

A new location for Midtown should open in January, Lezcano said, but he cannot say where because no papers have been

signed.

The Fest 4 will not be affected by the loss of one of its venues, event organizer Tony Weinbender said.

The bands scheduled to play at Midtown have been shifted to Club Red, 102 SE Second Place, in the Sun Center. Club Red, which has been open for only one month, has about the same capacity as Midtown, Weinbender said.

Club Red owner Reese Brown said he books shows three months in advance and had to change a whole weekend's worth of shows to accommodate The Fest 4.

"We thought about it and decided to help out," Brown said. "They really needed the venue, and we wanted to help."

For more details in the change of venues or any other Fest questions, visit thefestfl.com.

the fest recs

STRIKEFORCE DIABLO
"Do you like French fries? Beer? You'll like these guys."
- James Hernandez/The Beat Buttons/Bass

DILLINGER FOUR
- Billy Werner/Hot Cross/Vocals

Radon - "If there wasn't a Radon, there probably wouldn't be a Fest."
- Richie Lawler/VaginaSore Jr./Vocals

Tiltwheel
- Jason Lay/Billy Reese Peters/Vocals

This Bike is a Pipe Bomb - "If you like fun sing-a-longs, make sure you watch these guys. It is sure to be a great party!"
- Annie Holoien/The Soviettes/Guitar and Vocals

PAINT IT BLACK
- Jason Black/The Draft/Bass

Savage Brewtality - "Possibly the drunkest band we've ever played with. They make us look straight-edge. That's all I need to say."
- Joe McMahon/Smoke or Fire/Guitar and Vocals

Michelle Stewart / Alligator Staff

Sean Wilentz THE RISE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

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AUDIOLOGY 

Souls teach others how to rock



Bouncing Souls
Bouncing Souls Live
Chunksaah

The Bouncing Souls' new live, double-disc recording is too good to be used as you would an average album. Instead, bands should pick it up and consider it a step-by-step inspirational "Chicken Soup for the Punk Soul" guide on how to rock.

Step 1: Don't bother warming up a crowd. The beauty of the Bouncing Souls is they grab you right away without apologizing. The first two songs on the first disc, "Here We Go" and "Sing Along Forever," are anthemic and immediate. Top-40 artists would kill to be so legitimately catchy.

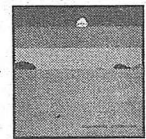
Step 2: Intimately know your fans and your music. The songs are about how they could be you and you could be them, and even songs that are just about making songs. "Kids and Heroes" has the crowd interaction Green Day strives for. Once the Souls hit a breakneck pace, they refuse to let up.

Step 3: Pay homage to your past. Old tracks like "Joe Lies" showcase a much younger group, made up of guys from New Jersey who intuitively know a great riff

when they play it. A collection like this makes it obvious that the Bouncing Souls is one of the few bands that were good from the get-go.

Step 4: Have fun. What could possibly be a more satisfying live experience than hearing everyone sing back to you, "I like your mom and it's not so bad/I want to marry her and become your dad?" The band constantly interacts with each other and the audience, particularly on the second disc.

Step 5: Be consistent. Every single track on "Bouncing Souls Live" is full of energy and excitement. Unlike the case for most double albums, in this collection neither disc lags behind the other. Each is a quality recording of a band at its tightest, celebrating 19 years of great music.



Bear vs. Shark
Terrorhawk
Equal Vision Records

Michigan-based indie band Bear vs. Shark swaps instruments and sounds like it was concocted on eBay, with four of its five members playing multiple instruments.

Part Fugazi and part At the

Drive-In, the band has high-energy, driving appeal with infinite live potential. The first track on "Terrorhawk" showcases the band's ability to maul its prey live through unconventional melodies set against basic song structures.

Oddly, the band's choice of less obvious chords and strangely formed hooks and accents, as heard in "5, 6 Kids" makes it all the more enjoyable, though sometimes the band goes overboard with its noisy rock.

The song "India Foot" is like the Beatles' "Revolution 9" compressed into 25 confusing seconds.

The band's choice of song titles on "Terrorhawk" is also bizarre, ranging from "The Great Dinosaurs with Fifties Section" to the strangely serious "I F****d Your Dad."

The band reaches its peak with "Song About Old Roller Coaster," which features the most focused guitar track on the album along with the most honest vocals and a solidly driving bass line.

"Rich People Say Yeah Hey Hey" wraps up the album just like it began: full of energy from a band with a lot of promise in the not-so-distant future.

— DANIELLE LUCEY

OFF THE PRESS

Eco's 'Queen' delights, retains brilliant mystery



The Mysterious Flame of Queen Loana
Umberto Eco
Harcourt Inc.

I've liked Umberto Eco's work ever since I was about 15. I read his novel, "The Name of the Rose," in one mind-bending weekend, and I've been hooked ever since.

I'm not aware of any other contemporary novelist capable of being simultaneously as intelligent and downright entertaining as Eco. Every novel is an artistic and intellectual delight (a word I rarely ascribe to a piece of literature, so take heed), and his latest, "The Mysterious Flame of Queen Loana," is no exception.

Eco's narrator is Yambo, a 60-year-old antiquarian bookseller in Milan who suffers from a form of segregated amnesia. He can't even remember his own face in the mirror.

Though his entire past has been erased from his memory, Yambo's textual past, his knowledge of history and the arts, is left perfectly intact. This makes him capable of quoting Shakespeare, Dante and Rimbaud in their original languages at random and at length, though he still can't recognize his own wife.



James Fleming
Off the Press
theavenue@alligator.org

With his memory gone, Yambo sets out to rebuild and recall his life through the many books he has read.

He returns to his childhood home and discovers a trove of old comic books, magazines, adventure stories, news articles, movie stills and records that he figures must have enchanted him as a boy. He goes on to consume them yet again in an effort to rediscover himself.

What's really cool (yet another word I rarely ascribe to a piece of literature) is how Eco provides samples throughout the novel of Yambo's reading materials, including entire pages from children's books and frames from old comic books.

Of course Yambo's desperate experiment proves ultimately to be something of a failure, for it's not his personal memory that he's able to rebuild but the collective memory of his entire generation.

But to what does it all amount? To be honest, I'm not sure. And I'm not sure I want to be sure.

In one respect, Eco seems to remind us how much we're tied up in what we've consumed, how our popular diversions go far beyond mere entertainment, serving to make us who we are in some fashion or another.

On the other hand, the novel also strikes me as a love story of sorts.

Eco's novel reminds us that, like Yambo, we tend to love what we possess, what entertains us and stimulates us.

At the end of the novel, the fantasy figure of Queen Loana serves as a counterpart to Lila, Yambo's first love, whose face he can no longer recall.

I can't help wondering if it's actually the other way around, if the impossible fantasy figure of Queen Loana is truly Yambo's long-lost first love.

I don't know what to make of it all, and that's exactly what's so great about Eco, both in this novel and others.

He doesn't provide simple, ready-made conclusions to the ideas he presents and relationships he forges.

This is the kind of novel you read with an open, clear mind, willing to make your own conclusions only to change them along the way.

Author dreams up next Civil War



DMZ
Brian Wood
DC/Vertigo

America is a war zone. At least it is in Brian Wood's new monthly comic from Vertigo, "DMZ," which depicts the second American Civil War. Issue No. 2 makes its way to Gainesville on Dec. 14.

"DMZ" is absolutely my way of talking about some aspects of current events, although very fictionalized," Wood said in an interview. "At its core, it's a book about people. People placed in horrible circumstances, but firmly 'people stories,' or 'New York stories.'"

Manhattan is a demilitarized zone crunched between New Jersey, where the free armies lie entrenched, and what's left of the U.S. government to the east.

Matty Roth is an ignorant undergrad and intern for a Nobel Prize-winning journalist who dares to enter the zone and broadcast from the city cut off from the world.

After the cease-fire abruptly, well, ceases, Matty finds himself stuck in the zone, his entire crew dead. With the help of a resident, Zee, Matty lives to see another day and decides to stay in the zone and show the world the challenging lives of Manhattan's inhabitants.

Bill Hatfield, 52, manager of Florida Bookstore Volume II, which sells comic books, said that he picked "DMZ" because he tries to read most of the new titles that come through the store.

"I found it interesting, although a little sketchy in the background," Hatfield said. "It kind of implies that the entire United States is Long Island, and the rest of the country are the free states, although I'm sure that's not the case."

Wood said he has encountered "a very vocal minority" who say the story is very "left," that Wood is like Michael Moore forcing his "message" and that "DMZ" is "incredibly antagonistic."

But Wood said he is confused by this accusation as the first issue of the book portrays both sides of the conflict as equally nasty and sheds little light on the bigger picture behind the violence.

"If the book is taking a firm stand in anything, it's a general anti-war, anti-violence stance, and that's a position I suspect the vast majority of the world agrees with," he said.

Painting the grim picture of war-trodden New York City is Riccardo Burchielli, an Italian artist making his American comic book debut, and Wood couldn't be more pleased with the results.

"For a guy that's never set foot in NYC, not yet anyway, he's off and running, doing a great job," Wood said. "DMZ" is such a world-building project: set in the future, in a very different sort of reality than what exists now, and he's really helping me build that world."

So how long will Matty, the ultimate embedded journalist, avert death on a monthly basis?

"I firmly believe that all stories need to come to an end, and eventually 'DMZ' will, but I hope to keep it going for a number of years," he said.

Wood, who lives in New York, said he loves the city even though he's decimating it page by page.

"I hope non-New Yorkers can get a feeling from the book about the city, about the diversity of people and story and my real love for the place," he said.

Hatfield said he would recommend "DMZ" to others.

"I enjoyed the art, and I like having strong female characters," Hatfield said. "I'm interested in seeing the second issue."



Karolena Bielecki
Get Graphic
theavenue@alligator.org

Get in line now- the new Xbox 360 is coming to town

By **BRETT KELMAN**
Avenue Writer

Bill Gates might not be able to move Christmas, but he's made Nov. 22 look a lot like Xmas.

That magic day will be the first in a chain of release dates that will make Microsoft's Xbox 360, the most advanced video-game console ever, available for the worldwide.

While international console releases are normally staggered by months, Microsoft will attempt an unprecedented feat with the 360. The new system will become available in North America, Europe and Japan all within a period of three weeks.

Globally, that means 360s come sooner for all. Locally, it means dedicated gamers may have to wait.

"When a new system comes out, people always end up waiting," said Rhino Video Games Marketing Director Eric Oria.

"And there are not going to be a lot of these out there."

Oria said the international release will lessen the number of 360s in the first shipment, and while he couldn't divulge how many 360s Rhino would have for sale, he admitted that some customers would walk away empty-handed.

"My biggest concern is meeting all the expectations," he said. This theme of demand clobbering supply seems to run rampant down Archer Road.

Best Buy will stock the most systems in town. Even Wal-Mart, whose Archer Road location will have 75 Xbox 360s available for sale at exactly midnight, is expecting an all-night rush. Sales associate Mike Jaber said gamers who hope to buy one of those first consoles should get in line at 9 the evening before.

It all may sound like a lot of waiting, but UF freshman Dallas Diaz digs this kind of stuff.

He has camped out for the PS2 and hung out for the midnight showings of two "Star

Wars" films. On Nov. 22, he plans to spend eight hours lingering outside Best Buy to get his hands on one of the first Xbox 360s.

"I've already waited five years for the next 'gen' systems," he said. "I want to have it first. The sooner the better,"

And while you might think Diaz has the Xbox bug as bad as it gets, others are worse.

When the PS2 came out, Don Harris, 30, of Gainesville, was offered \$400 for his spot at the front of the line and he refused. This time around,

Harris is so serious about getting a 360 that he would not reveal where he plans to buy his system for fear of flooding it with other buyers.

Oria will also be caught up in the opening-day rush.

"You'd think working for Rhino corporate, you'd get a free 360, but that is just not the case. And I'm not going to buy one off our shelf and take one from a customer," he said.

I've already waited five years for the next 'gen' systems. I want to have it first. The sooner the better.

Dallas Diaz
UF freshman

IMPROV FESTIVAL

Eddie C's hosts first ever Gainesville Improv Festival

By **MELISSA THOMPSON**
Avenue Writer

Chicago and New York City have long been heralded as the meccas of improvisational comedy. Not for long. Gainesville is edging in on the national improv action.

The first Gainesville Improv Festival will kick off at 8 tonight at Eddie C's, 1315 S Main St.

Through Saturday night, the national festival will showcase premier improv talent as 15 comedy troupes from across the country take to the stage.

"You can go to any town and see an improv show, but the sheer number of people performing improv in Gainesville is huge compared to most cities," co-executive producer Skyler Stone said.

The festival is the brainchild of Stone and co-executive producer Tom O'Donnell. Both men recognize Gainesville as the growing center of improv comedy in Florida and hope

to expand the city's recognition nationwide by starting the festival they plan to hold annually.

"Gainesville is really a unique environment to learn improv because we approach it like we are training for an Olympic sport or a religious rite," O'Donnell said.

Each of the five shows will feature three comedy troupes performing 25-minute sets showcasing a variety of improv styles.

Audience members will be able to make suggestions for a "Whose Line is it Anyway?" style of short-form comedy.

Other styles in the lineup are sketch comedy and long-form improv where the troupes will act based on a single suggestion from the audience.

"It's almost like improvising a one-act play," Stone said.

Stone and O'Donnell are alumni of UF's Theatre Strike Force improvisational troupe. According to Stone, students who participate

in the improv class as well as the comedy club are provided with superior training that enables them to go on to more prestigious improv hubs such as Chicago's Second City and New York's Upright Citizens Brigade.

Stone has directed Theatre Strike Force's touring troupe, the Sunday Group, for five years and praises the Gainesville improv community for its dedication to teaching the unsung art.

"You can come to Gainesville not knowing anything and advance farther in improv because there is always something going on and someone willing to teach you," Stone said.

On Saturday, students and the Gainesville community can take advantage of an improv workshop at noon and 2:30 p.m. for \$20.

The workshops will feature guest instructor Jeff Griggs from Chicago. Griggs, a veteran of the professional improv scene, teaches comedy

workshops for a living.

"We have 10 instructors who will be covering everything from basic improv concepts, such as listening and scene work, to more complicated concepts such as long-form improvisation," O'Donnell said. "So there will really be something for everyone."

According to Stone, the workshops offer quality training at bargain prices.

"You can go to another city and pay at least \$50 for a professional workshop," Stone said.

"We're flying a professional in from Chicago, and participants will

only pay \$20."

Ultimately, Stone said he will measure the festival's success through audience reaction.

"It'll be successful as long as everyone has a good time," he said.

Stone and O'Donnell hope to have the festival annually to pay back Gainesville's improv community for everything it has taught them.

"Skyler and I learned our craft in Gainesville. We are extremely proud of that," O'Donnell said. "We will always do anything we can to help continue to grow the improv community."

Gainesville Improv Festival

Eddie C's, 1315 S Main St.

When: Today - Saturday 8 p.m.

Tickets for the festival are available at the door and are \$7 for students and \$10 for general admission. Passes available for \$28, a listing of performers and show times can be found on the festival's Web site at myspace.com/gainesvilleimprovest.

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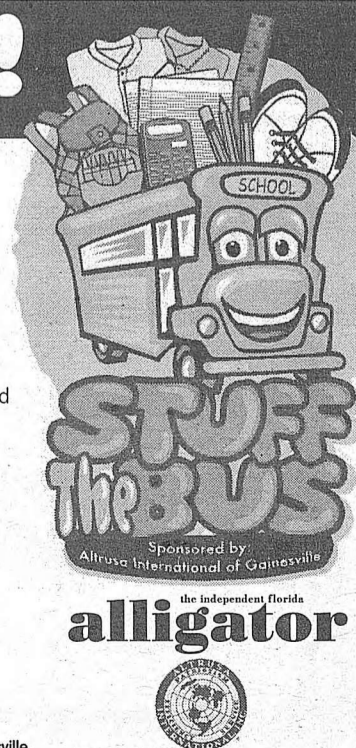
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HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Potter fans restlessly anticipate the fourth film

By BRETT KELMAN
Avenue Writer

Feel the pre-movie magic in the air.

Ecstatic fans have spent weeks preparing for their fourth cinematic trip to Hogwarts. On Friday, both Regal Gainesville Cinema 14 in Butler Plaza and Gator Cinemas in the Oaks Mall Plaza will begin showing "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."

The cinematic adaptation of the fourth book in the largely popular series by J. K. Rowling.

UF history major Daniel Elwart said he, like many of his fellow fans, has reread the book again in preparation for seeing it on the big screen. Elwart is founder of the Facebook.com tribute group "I've Read The Harry Potter Books, Instead of Waiting For The Movies."

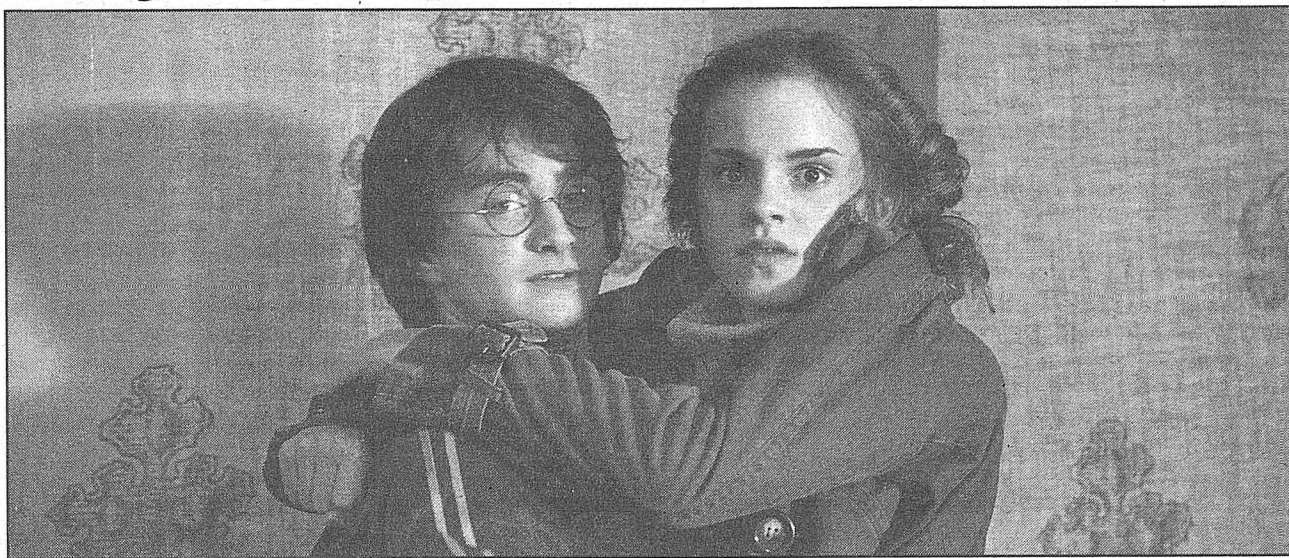
"I read the books all the time, whenever I get a spare minute," he said. "I'm just glad this movie is PG-13, because the book is much darker."

According to Felipe Pimentel, manager of the Blockbuster Video located on Archer Road, all three of the previous Harry Potter films have been flying, no pun intended, out of the store recently.

Pimentel said that Blockbuster normally stocks large numbers of a film immediately after its release, then sells off unneeded copies as the movie becomes old news. But with the Harry Potter films, Blockbuster held onto its extra copies in anticipation of their becoming popular again as sequels were released.

"We know people will see exciting trailers and want to check it out and catch up," he said.

In fact, the buzz is so big that besides sending employees garbed in Hogwarts attire to each movie theater on Friday, local costume shop Center Stage Costumes & Magic has ordered more Harry Potter costumes so it can supply fans who want to dress up for the film.



Courtesy Photo

Daniel Radcliffe, as Harry, and Emma Watson, Hermione, embrace in fear. The cinematic adaptation of the fourth Harry Potter novel "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" opens in the United States Friday.

Surprisingly, Sarah Hensley, assistant manager of Barnes & Noble, said she hasn't noticed a significant spike in sales of the "Goblet of Fire" book in response to the movie.

"I think a lot of people already caught the Harry Potter train. When you're already on top, it's hard to surge any higher," she said Friday.

Hensley explained that anyone who would have bought "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" in preparation for the movie probably did so to prepare for the sixth book in the series, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," released in July.

Hensley still expected to sell a lot of copies of "Goblet of Fire" the last few days before the film's release. She also men-

tioned she had noticed a sudden boom in the sales of a separate fantasy series, "The Chronicles of Narnia" by C.S. Lewis, which she attributed to the action-packed trailer now appearing in theaters.

But one UF student no longer needs movie prep. Potter superfan Hannah Castillo already saw "Goblet of Fire" at a fan sneak preview in Miami, but she plans to see it again on opening day.

Hesitant to reveal spoilers, she did promise that the crucial "graveyard scene" every avid reader is waiting to see is portrayed absolutely right. "I just hope people can keep in mind it's only a two-hour movie and like an 800-page book," she said.

Coffee fuels UF students

By CHAN TRAN
News Bites

Some of us can't wake up without it. Some of us can't study if we don't get it. When the final exam is less than 10 hours away, students often turn to a good cup of caffeine, and luckily, there are plenty of cafés in Gainesville where students can study and drink coffee.

Good coffee doesn't necessarily imply a White Chocolate Mocha Frappuccino from Starbucks. Students can get a freshly brewed cup from places like a book shop, an organic coffee company or a random kiosk.

The smell of books and tofu greets customers at Book Lover's Café. The vegan- and Krishna-friendly restaurant inside the store brews organic, fair-trade coffee. Organic coffees are grown without the chemical pesticides and fertilizers that are often used on large commercial plantations.

While the coffee selection may be small, Book Lover's Café has plenty of studying space inside and outside the store. Aside from the music playing faintly through the speakers, Book Lover's Café reminds me of a library where people will shoot you dirty looks if you raise your 6-inch voice.

If organic is your cup of coffee, Sweetwater Organic Coffee Company is Florida's first and only organic and fair-trade coffee roaster. Fair-trade means workers are guaranteed

a fair price for their labor to earn a living wage and their communities benefit as well, according to Sweetwater Organic Coffee's Web site. The coffees come from around the world — Indonesia, East Timor, Ethiopia and Central and South America.

Sweetwater was opened only as a wholesale company, but it is in the process of turning into a coffee bar. In the meantime, customers are welcome to a complimentary cup from the free-sample pot.

Late-night studying won't happen at Sweetwater Organic Coffee, though. The shop closes at 5 p.m.

For the nearest off-campus coffee shop, Deja Brew, inside Target Copy, is open every day until 12:30 a.m. If the humming sound of the copy machines doesn't faze you, Deja Brew provides some studying space with its high bar stools and tables. However, the numbers of chairs and tables is limited.

Although nothing too extraordinary, Deja Brew does serve specialty coffees like vanilla lattes and chocolate raspberry mochas along with its regular brewed house coffee.

Maude's Classic Café caters to the social facet of drinking coffee. With live jazz music on some nights, outdoor seating and wittily named gourmet desserts, Maude's is for the relaxed, chilled crowd or the post-dinner-and-a-movie daters. At Maude's, it's all about the atmosphere — and the Berliner (cocoa, coffee, vanilla ice cream and whipped cream).

North on 13th Street is Coffee Culture. Located next to Gainesville High School, it appears to be a hangout for the younger crowd, but there are plenty of booths for studying.

Those often pressed for time can get a cup via drive-through at Bay Island Coffee Company, the "random" kiosk in Butler Plaza.

Coffee shops in Gainesville are more than studying rooms and social gatherings. They provide the resources to help you pass that final.

Gainesville Coffee Shops

Book Lover's Cafe	505 NW 13th St.
Sweetwater Organic Coffee Company	1202 NE Eight Ave.
Deja Brew	1412 W University Ave.
Maude's Classic Cafe	101 SE Second Place
Coffee Culture	2020 NW 13th St.
Bay Island Coffee Company	3270 SW 35th Blvd.

Calendar

today

Eddie C's, comedy: Gainesville Improv Festival, 8-11 p.m.

University Auditorium, concert: UF Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 p.m., free

Florida Museum of Natural History, Museum Nights: "In Search of the Giant Squid" exhibit, 6-8 p.m., free

Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Museum Nights: "Asian Art: Culture and Context" and "Sense, Style, Presence: African Arts of Personal Adornment," 6-8 p.m., free

friday

Reitz Union Rion Ballroom, live music: Bobby Shakespeare, Go-Go Pod, Mr. Antonym, On*Tic, r_garcia, 7 p.m., free

UF School of Music Room 120, concert: UnBalanced Connection 34, "Quantum Mechanics," 7:30 p.m., free

The Pontiac Tavern, live music: Omi Ajamu Trio/Quartet, 7-10 p.m.

saturday

McGuire Pavilion Black Box Theatre, play: "Dating & Mating in Modern Times," 8 p.m.

sunday

University Auditorium, live music: Ahn Trio, 4 p.m., \$35/\$30/\$25/\$10

McGuire Pavilion Black Box Theatre, play: Dating & Mating in Modern Times, 2 p.m.

monday

Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, opera: "Madame Butterfly," 7:30 p.m., \$50/\$45/\$40/\$10

University Auditorium, concert: Symphonic Band, 7:30 p.m., free

Reitz Union Cinema, movie: "Cinema Paradiso," 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m., free

tuesday

Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, performance: "Chi," 7:30 p.m., \$35/\$30/\$25/\$20/\$10

Eddie C's, karaoke: 8-11 p.m., free

wednesday

Eddie C's, live music: Canne, Hell Within, I Killed The Prom Queen, Everything Stripped Away, 10 p.m.

PLAYLIST

Life-threatening illness renews band's musical zeal

Omi Ajamu's life-threatening encounter stimulated her vocal chords.

After Ajamu survived an aneurysmal dilatation sometime near 2000, said she became reconnected with the importance of music in her life.

"When I came out of it, I felt better than I had in years," said Ajamu, vocalist for the Omi Ajamu Trio. "It was truly a new lease on life."

Ajamu and her longtime friend Howard Wapner, who plays piano/guitar in the band, started playing jazz music together around the time of Ajamu's release from the hospital.

"After her recovery, she knew

she needed the music," Wapner said. "She has the talent, and she needed to bring that talent to the world."

Ajamu, mother of eight children and grandmother of 17, grew up with music in her life.

"Music was a central activity in the home," Ajamu said.

Ajamu, classically trained in piano and knowledge of music theory, first encountered jazz and blues music when she stumbled across an open jam session. She took the stage and started singing some traditional songs — she

took a step away from her classical training.

"The guys at the jam were like, 'How does she know those songs?'" Ajamu said. "It was like

Vera Hadzi-Antich
Playlist
thevenue@alligator.org



I didn't even remember that I remembered those songs until we started going through the book (of songs to play)."

Ajamu not only sings traditional jazz and blues music but performs some of her original work. She put her own words to a song called "Footprints" by Wayne Shorter.

In this song, she sings about

things that have happened in her life.

"We are here doing what we are ushered to do," Ajamu said. "When we leave here, we leave our mark — our footprints."

Ajamu said she feels a special connection with jazz as a form of expression.

"A lot of people think jazz is about a bunch of people sitting in a room looking strange," Ajamu said. "You need to get to the point where you understand the expression of it. There is no such thing as a wrong note. It's the ability to make all notes and intonations blend."

There is a chance to experience the emotion Ajamu refers to

Friday at the Pontiac Tavern, 232 SE First St. The Omi Ajamu Trio will start at about 7 p.m.

"This is perfect for right after work," Wapner said. "No cover, nice meal, nice atmosphere and wonderful jazz — it's something different."

The Pontiac Tavern's diverse menu and intimate setting mesh well with the trio's music.

"This place is so nice," Ajamu said. "I get a peaceful vibration from it."

Who: Omi Ajamu Trio
Where: Pontiac Tavern,
232 SE First St.
When: Friday, 7 p.m.

New play chronicles women's dating, mating woes

A hot Latin mama, an in-your-face Jewish girl, a Friday night television watcher, an actress with an abusive boyfriend and a proud, plus-sized black woman. These are the main players in Elizabeth Wong's "Dating & Mating in Modern Times," opening Friday at the Black Box Theater.

The play consists of 11 monologues performed by 10 very different women who describe unique situations with men in intriguing and provocative ways.

"In essence, it's 11 different plays in one," said director Kevin Marshall, who is also

director of the UF School of Theatre and Dance.

The play starts off with the discussion of ejaculation and ovulation and ends with an ode to the penis.

Marshall said the play is wicked-naughty and follows the school's mission of diversity, discovery and risk.

The performance addresses a number of modern dating dilemmas: online romance, speed dating, jealous boyfriends and falling for men who turn out

to be gay.

"I could have done a much safer play, but I felt it was important to stretch ourselves," Marshall said.

Gabriella Vigier
Curtain Call
thevenue@alligator.org



The coziness of the year-old Black Box Theater, which seats 200, adds a sense of intimacy to the performance.

The setting also enhances the play's minimalist realism. The only props in the performance are a rollaway desk and chair interchanged between scenes.

"To only have the audience to relate to is a new, dynamic experience," said Robyn Berg, who plays Arlene in the first monologue.

The play strives to address the difficulties women face when dealing with the opposite sex.

"What I want people to take away from this are the struggles of women dating," said Candice Alexis Newsum, who plays Jojo.

Marisol Sánchez-Biez, Rosaura, agrees, hoping the entire audience will get something out of the performance.

"I think it is to open up minds," she said. "It's not just a bunch of chicks talking."

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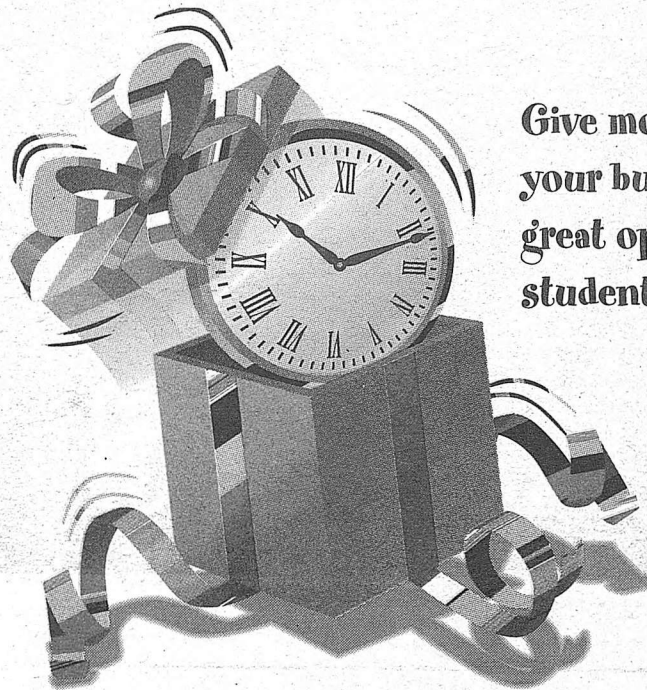
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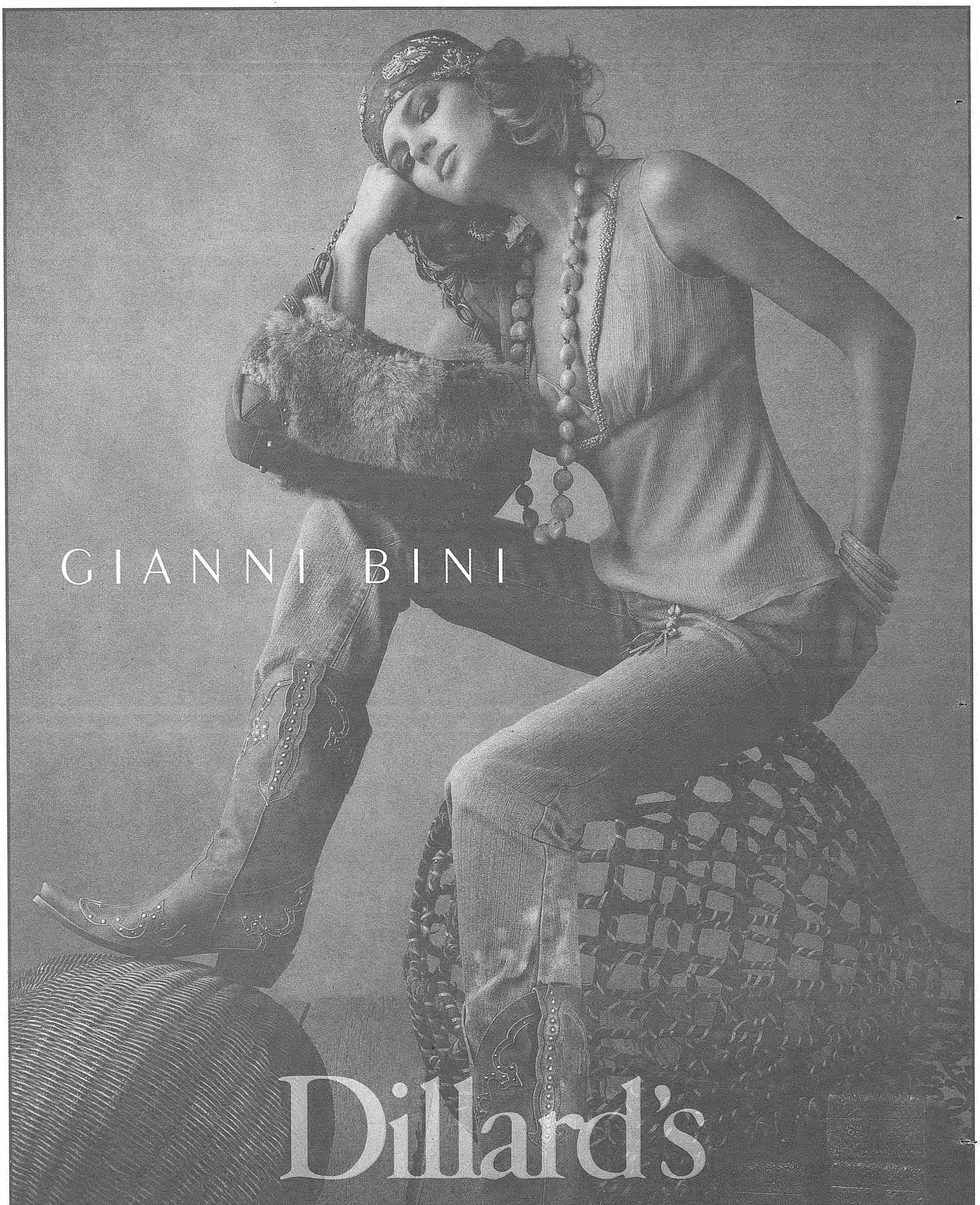
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DVR owners watch more TV

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
DVR owners watch more TV
A study by the University of Florida's Center for the Study of the Entertainment Industry has found that DVR owners watch more TV than non-DVR owners. The study, which surveyed 1,000 households, found that DVR owners watch an average of 10.5 hours of TV per week, compared to 8.5 hours for non-DVR owners. The study also found that DVR owners are more likely to watch pay-per-view programming and to watch TV during the day.

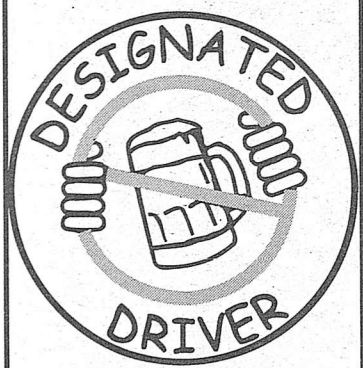
Beer battle brews

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
Beer battle brews
A battle between two Florida breweries is brewing. The University of Florida's Center for the Study of the Entertainment Industry has found that Florida's two largest breweries, Heineken and Miller, are competing for market share in the state. Heineken is currently the market leader, but Miller is making significant gains. The study found that Heineken's market share is 35%, while Miller's is 25%. Other breweries like Budweiser and Coors are also competing for market share.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
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util, cable, tivo, internet, fully furnished, 3
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mates. Call 201-456-2803 11-18-5-1

M/F, NS, Grad student/Professional wanted
to rent gorgeous furn room in new home.
1.5 mi to Shands. Kitchen, living room, laun-
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Sublease available now-May 2006 Apt fully
furnished (4/2). Great female roommates.
Within 1 mi from UF..Rent \$390 + util. 305-
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1 For Rent furnished

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G-ville, bball, carwash, screened patio w/fan,
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11-18-4-1

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SPACE. Rustic 1BR apt. \$345/mo.
●1BR cottage \$375/mo. Call 378-9220 or
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1BRs from \$460
Laundry on site, pets ok.
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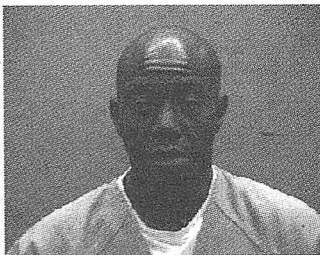
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Wanted for:
Perry is currently wanted for
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6 Furnishings

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BED - FULL SIZE ORTHOPEDIC Pillow-top mattress & box. New, unused, still in plastic w/warranty. Can deliver. Sacrifice \$85. Call 352-377-9846 12-7-72-6

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Sofa \$185 Brand new in pkg 333-7516 12-7-72-6

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FUTON Solid oak mission-style frame w/ mattress. New, in box. \$160 332 9899

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6 Furnishings

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Bed - \$100 All New Full size orthopedic mattress set. Brand new, still in plastic, w/ warranty. Can Deliver. 352-376-1600 12-7-72-6

Bedroom Set - Brand New! Still in boxes! HB - \$125, NS - \$75, Dresser \$135, Mirror - \$75, Chest - \$135. Can Deliver. (352) 264-9799 12-7-72-6

Dinette Set - \$125 Brand New 5 pc set in box, never used! Can Deliver 494-0333

Sofa - \$225 Brand New! Loveseat - \$170 Still in package, never used. Can Del. 376-1600 12-7-72-6

Pool Table - Gorgeous 8' All wood table. Leather pockets, Italian 1" slate, carved legs. Br: New still in crate. Cost \$4,500. Sell \$1,350. Can Deliver. 264-9799 12-7-72-6

Hot Tub/Spa - \$1795.00 Brand New Loaded! Waterfall, LED lights, cup-holders, 110v energy efficient with warranty. Free Delivery. 264-9799 12-7-72-6

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BED- QUEEN New orthopedic pillowtop mattress and boxspring set. Brand name, brand new, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver. \$115 352-377-9846. 12-7-72-6

Bed- All New King! 3pc Orthopedic pillowtop mattress set. Brand NEW, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver. \$170 352-333-7516. 12-7-72-6

Bedroom Set- \$325 BRAND NEW. Still in boxes! 6 pieces include: Headboard, 2 Nightstands, Dresser, Mirror, Chest. Must sell, can deliver. 352-377-9846. 12-7-72-6

Futon - \$160 Solid Oak Mission Style with plush mattress. All brand NEW still in box. Can deliver. 352-333-7516 12-7-72-6

Pool Table - Gorgeous 8" All wood table. Leather pockets, Italian 1" slate, carved legs. Brand new still in crate. MUST SELL Retail \$5500. Sell \$950. Can deliver 352-377-9846 12-7-72-6

Hot Tub/Spa - \$1295 Brand New Loaded! Waterfall, LED lights, cupholders, 110-v energy efficient with warranty. Free delivery, MUST SELL 352-372-8588 12-7-72-6

Bed-FULL size pillowtop mattress & box. New, in plastic, warr. Can del. \$90 317-4031

Sofa \$185 Brand new! Love seat \$150 still in pkg. Can del 352-333-7516 12-7-72-6

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6 Furnishings

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9 Bicycles

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10 For Sale

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13 Wanted

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THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY
NEEDS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS
Transport patients to/from treatments
Must have valid driver's license, safe driving record & attend training session.
Call 352-376-6866 ext 114 for more info.

13 Wanted

On-going volunteer needed: Blind lady needs trans on Sundays only to Mass @ Queen of Peace Catholic Church or St. Augustine Catholic Church. For more info call 219-6948. I live in the Tower Rd area. 11-30-93-13

Blind lady needs health majors interested in walking at least three times a week. Call 352-219-6948. Thanks. 11-30-93-13

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14 Help Wanted

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the independent florida
alligator

INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGER

The Independent Florida Alligator is seeking an individual whom will have the sole responsibility for operations of our computer systems. This individual will be involved in the planning and implementation of our technology, and must be able to communicate and work with students and staff. Must have experience with Linux (Fedora Core3), Samba3, Apache, Sendmail, Squirrelmail, Mailscanner (spam and virus), Http and IP table updates. Familiar with Dell Power Edge Servers Raid1, a plus. Good networking skills to support up to 100 machines. Must be able to troubleshoot and repair PC hardware and software. This is a full time position with the largest student-run newspaper in the country. Please send your resume and salary requirements to Campus Communications, Inc. P O Box 14257, Gainesville, FL 32604-2257 attention Vern Bean or email to vbean@alligator.org. We are an equal opportunity employer.

the independent florida
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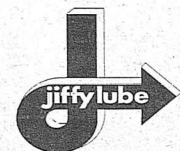
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UF MEN'S BASKETBALL

Gators to take on Wake in NYC

By **DAN TREAT**
Alligator Writer

Before Billy Donovan was the dean of Southeastern Conference coaches, before he led UF to the Final Four or a SEC Tournament championship, he was a stock broker.

Really.

For six months between his playing days in the Continental Basketball Association and before joining the coaching staff at Kentucky with Rick Pitino, Donovan spent his time, as he describes it, in a room with a stack of cards.

It was an experience during high school, however, that set him on a different path.

"My high school was right next to a Long Island Railroad station," Donovan said. "And I could remember all the time guys just lined up in rows waiting for the train doors to open up, and in the middle of February, December, January—it's freezing out there. You can see the smoke from guys' breathing."

"The Garden is another arena. [It's still] 94 feet, two goals, ten people. We can go play it in a park and it will be the exact same basketball."

Adrian Moss
UF senior

"I just said 'Everyone looks so miserable, like no one's happy, everybody is miserable every day. And I just said I don't want to do this, this is not what I want to do.'"

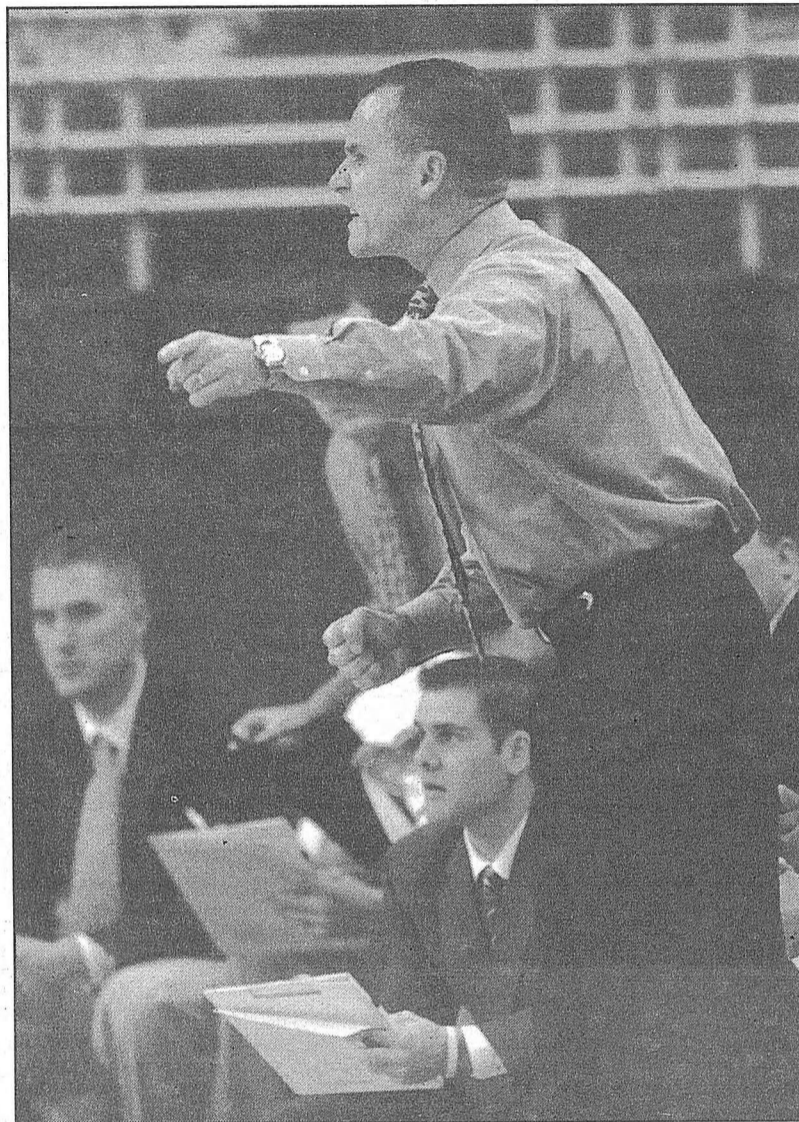
That led Donovan to an assistant's job at Kentucky, a head coaching gig at Marshall and eventually the head job at UF.

And for the third time in Donovan's tenure, the job has led him back to the financial capital of the world as the Gators prepare to square-off against No. 18 Wake Forest tonight in the semifinals of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

The Deacons are coming off less-than-impressive wins against Mississippi Valley State and George Mason—the latter in overtime—in their regional last week.

They are also dealing with the early departure of guard Chris Paul, who was selected by the New Orleans Hornets with the 5th pick in the NBA Draft.

"Wake Forest has lost some really good players," Donovan said. "When



Tim Casey / Alligator Staff

Coach Billy Donovan earns a technical during the Gators' win against Albany on Thursday. He's returning home to New York tonight.

you lose an NBA top-five pick as your point guard, there's always going to be an adjustment."

On Friday the Gators will face either Syracuse or Texas Tech.

Bobby Knight-led Indiana to a victory against Syracuse in the 1987 NCAA title game, and Syracuse defeated Billy Donovan's Providence squad in the National Semifinals to get to the title game.

This weekend provides a reunion between the three.

And while the Gators may be the least regarded team of the four, they're eager to crash the party.

"Why not?" senior Adrian Moss said after he was asked if UF can win the tournament. "Executing our style of play, we're going to run, we're going to press, we're going to defend, we're going to rebound and we're going to

be unselfish. We do that, [and] we can win."

And for his part, Moss isn't buying into the hype surrounding Madison Square Garden.

"I'm from Texas, so the Astrodome is the big thing for me," Moss said. "The Garden is pretty much another arena to me...I went my freshman year, it smells like old beer to me."

Moss said what he most remembers is wanting to take the Jimi Hendrix poster off the wall on the way to the locker room because he's a big fan.

When it boils down to it, Moss said, the players are still playing the same game.

"The Garden is another arena," he said. "[It's still] 94 feet, two goals, ten people. We can go play it in a park and it will be the exact same basketball."

Random thoughts fill Tenacious E's brain

Did you hear that? I swore I heard the Century Tower play the old-school WWF Undertaker theme song after the Gators' conference hopes were tombstoned in Columbia. Cue Steve Spurrier with urn and Paul Bearer ensemble, because here are some random thoughts of the week.

■ With a campus and football team reeling about the disappointment of yet another season without a trip to Atlanta, I choose to look at the glass as half full.

When the griping is all said and done, Coach Urban Meyer is still in his first year in the toughest college football conference in the nation with only one class of players that he recruited for his ideal system.



Eric Esteban
Tenacious E

eesteban@alligator.org

Fans' expectations called for the Rose Bowl at the beginning of the season, but the reality of the situation is this for Gator Nation: quit hating.

The football team has its own issues to deal with, but at this rate of complaining, it could turn into the next Alabama and Bear Bryant situation, where no coach is good enough for a program disillusioned with title hopes,

but really engulfed in a lack of leadership.

It wasn't Meyer who missed key tackles and committed 11 penalties, and while he should be blamed for slow dancing through an offensive drive late, it's up to the players to step their game up for FSU and head into the bowl/recruiting/spring season on a high note.

■ UF won't be in a conference championship, but on Dec. 3 history will be made. The Miami Hurricanes will likely play against the Florida State Seminoles once again, but this time it'll be in Jacksonville for the ACC Championship. Honestly, does Jacksonville call this the World's Largest Outdoor Criminal Party? Will complimentary orange jump suits be passed out at The Landing before the game? Are all 14 of Miami's fans going to attend the game or will they even be aware it's happening? Did Bobby Bowden get his 16 hours of sleep last night? These are things I need to know.

■ Tonight will be the first chance for everyone to get a look at the real Spread'n'Shred on campus — the men's basketball team. When the unranked Gators tip off at 7 p.m. on ESPN against No. 18 Wake Forest, it is safe to say this team will be more fun to watch than the Roberson-Walsh-Lee centered group of a year ago.

Coach Billy Donovan sports four sophomores and a junior in his starting lineup, but without the aforementioned trio, the Gators are playing a new fast-break conducive brand of Billy Ball.

Through two cake-walk games, UF is playing unselfish basketball, getting assists on 71.1 percent of their field goal attempts. It was a normal occurrence for center Al Horford or small forward Corey Brewer to start the fast break, and Chris Richard looks like he can be a force off the bench. If shooting guard Lee Humphrey can continue to shoot lights out from beyond the arc (9-14), it will be interesting to see how this team does with their first challenge of the year.

SFCC HOOPS WIN

■ The Santa Fe Community College men's basketball team struggled early, but outscored Melbourne by 18 in the second half en route to a 76-57 victory on Wednesday. Torrance Walker led SFCC with 21 points.

'COCKS PROBATION

■ The NCAA placed South Carolina football on three years probation for violations under former coach Lou Holtz. The 'Cocks will lose four scholarships but will remain bowl eligible.

TODAY IN UF SPORTS HISTORY

■ 2001: In Steve Spurrier's final game against FSU as UF coach, the Gators defeat the Seminoles 37-13. A week later they would face Tennessee with national title hopes, and fall 34-32 in the Swamp.

ON TELEVISION

■ Basketball : UF vs. Wake Forest
ESPN, 7 p.m.

■ Syracuse vs. Texas Tech
ESPN, 9 p.m.

Featured Attraction

Noah returns home in a starring role

By DAN TREAT
Alligator Writer

biggest stage.

"That's everybody's dream in New York is to play in the Garden," Noah said. "Even when I talk about it with some of the guys, they don't realize how big it is to play in an arena with so much tradition. Muhammad Ali fighting there, all the great games over there, there's just so much tradition."

Famous Roots

Noah was born in the Big Apple to 1978's Miss Sweden Cecilia Rodhe and 1983 French Open Champion Yannick Noah, a recent inductee into the Tennis Hall of Fame.

Noah moved across the Atlantic Ocean to Paris when he was 3, only to return to the Big Apple 10 years later.

And despite his natural athleticism, he wasn't very polished as a

player.

"He was pretty raw," said Bill McNally, who coached Noah for two years at Poly Prep Country Day School in Brooklyn. "But he was very enthusiastic, and you could tell that he was athletic, and he was very coordinated. But in terms of basketball skill and basketball I.Q., that wasn't really there yet."

Noah already stood 6-foot-6 when he transferred to Poly Prep for his sophomore year from the United Nations International School, but McNally said it was his effort and willingness to learn that most aided in his development.

"He's the hardest worker I've ever had," McNally said. "He was like a sponge. He really wanted to learn every little drill, every little thing he could do to get better."

McNally credited a tremendous amount of Noah's desire to his

upbringing.

"He kind of has an individual athlete's approach to a team game," McNally said. "I think that's a big asset to him."

"His father being such a great tennis player — if you're a tennis player, it's not like you have other people around you to push you as much. It's got to really come from inside, and I think his self-motivation is a big part of his development."

— And his background also landed him the nickname of "The Noble One" as he played alongside NBA players Ron Artest, Jason Terry and Jamaal Tinsley at New York's famed Rucker Park this past summer.

"It's a great experience every single time playing in New York," Noah said. "They have a survival-of-the-fittest mentality, and I feel like being out there for a month definitely helped me get my swagger back. It was just a great opportunity."

A Tough Start

That swagger may have evaporated last season when Noah saw little action in UF's crucial games down the stretch and barely played in the Southeastern Conference and NCAA tournaments.

UF coach Billy Donovan remembers Noah's disappointment.

"He was a kid at the end of last year that was completely devastated, and he was very, very emotional," Donovan said. "He was so competitive and passionate and he wanted to play."

Noah's play earlier in the season had been slowed after he contracted mono, and he was also buried behind David Lee, Al Horford and others on the depth chart.

After not playing in UF's NCAA opening-round victory against Ohio, he watched film with Donovan in his hotel room, distraught that he didn't get an opportunity to play in the game.

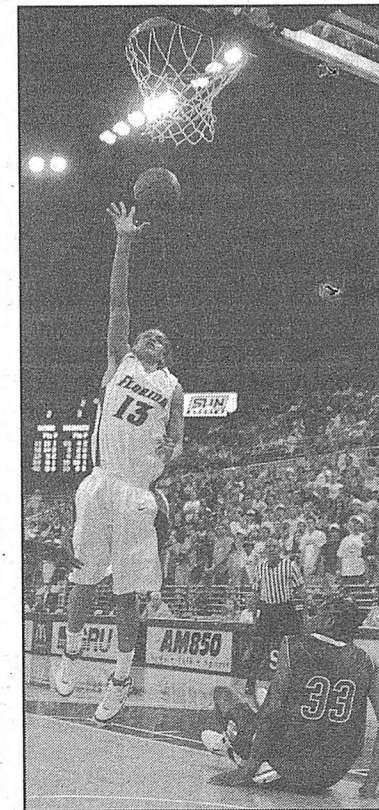
"I told him last year when we were sitting in the hotel room, 'Jo, this season is going to end,'" Donovan said. "And David Lee is going to be gone, and right now it's about you learning, it's not about you getting playing time."

"He wanted to play, but he understood why he wasn't...and I think ever since that talk, his focus has totally changed because I think he realizes that [he's] going to be relied upon now."

Homecoming

Now, with Noah being counted on to produce on a night-in night-out basis, he has responded in the early going. He poured in a career-high 17 points against Albany last week to secure UF's place in The World's Most Famous Arena.

"I've been dreaming about this for a long time," Noah said after that game. "It's finally here, and



Tim Casey / Alligator Staff

Bruno Silva can only watch as Joakim Noah goes for the layup in UF's exhibition win against West Florida on Nov. 4. After a year on the bench, Noah is a starter and has a chance to shine.

it's just a great feeling to be able to go home. I'm going to need a budget for tickets."

His enthusiasm for the experience has not been lost on his teammates.

"That's all he's been talking about ever since we beat Albany," Taurean Green said. "In the locker room, he was like, 'We're going to New York! We're going to New York!'"

And since Noah already plays with heightened emotions, Donovan is concerned that he may try to do too much in front of the hometown crowd.

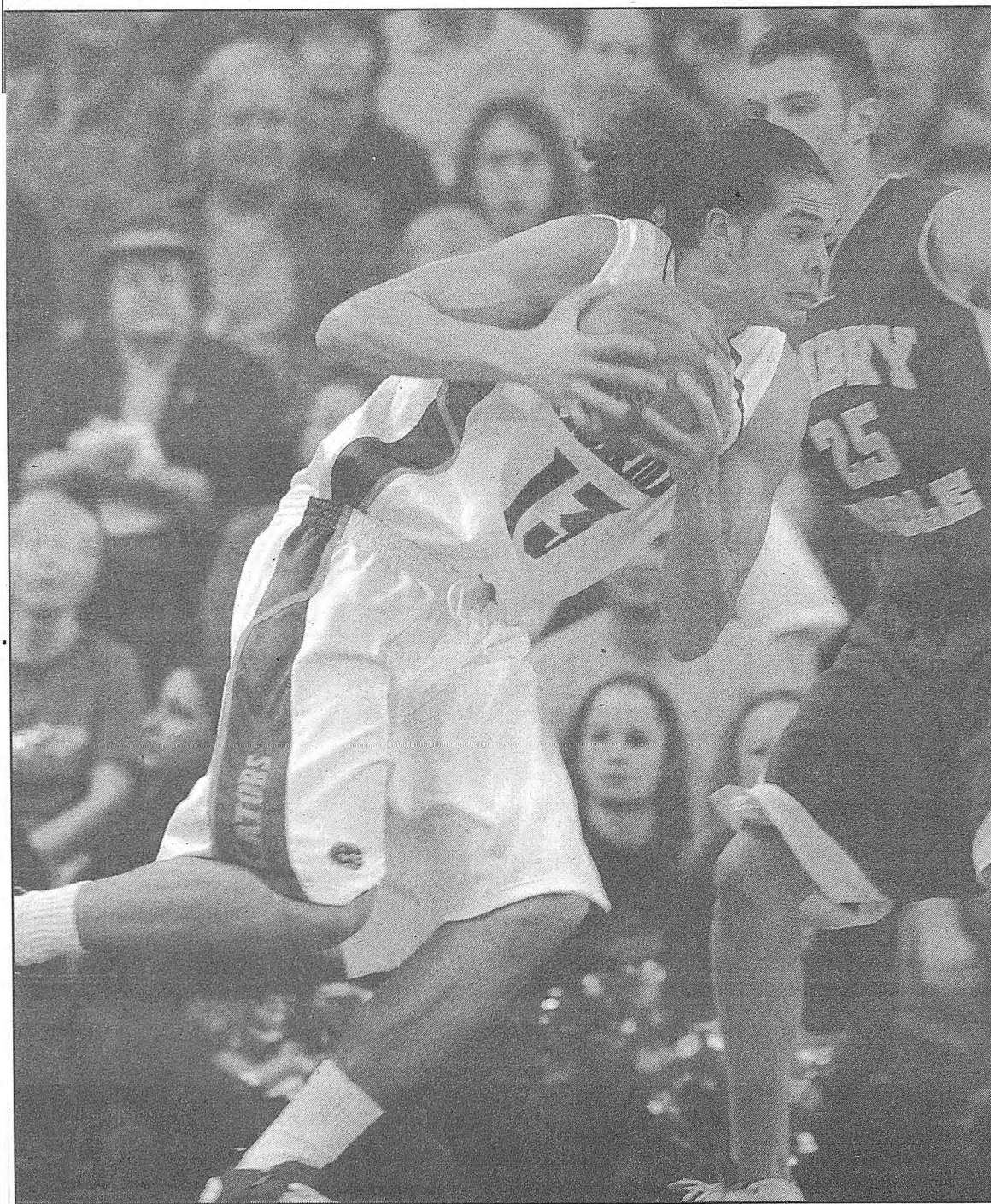
"He is a guy I'm somewhat concerned about," Donovan said. "I think anytime a player goes home for the first time and you get a chance to play in front of family and friends, sometimes you really add some pressure on yourself."

"Jo's an excitable guy, and I think he can sometimes get too emotional. So keeping him on an even keel here will be important."

For a kid from New York, however, there is nothing bigger than playing on this stage, and Noah, who received about 35 ticket requests, will be living the dream the next two days.

"That's the dream, for a New York City kid to play in the Garden," said McNally, who will be attending both games. "You grow up going there, and obviously Joakim would go there to watch the Knicks, so that's kind of like the Mecca of New York City. That's the ultimate court to play on."

"I think for a kid from New York, if they could play anywhere in the world, that would be where they would play."



Tim Casey / Alligator Staff

Joakim Noah muscled his way to the paint in UF's exhibition win against Embry-Riddle on Nov. 1. Noah's hometown family and friends can watch the New Yorker up close tonight when the Gators face Wake Forest at Madison Square Garden in the semi-finals of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

UF SWIMMING

Swimmer making waves at UF

By **RACHEL ROBINS**
Alligator Writer

As he leaps into the water, he takes one deep breath and focuses only on the wall ahead. Once he finishes the race, he gets out of the pool, quietly goes about his business and jumps in again.

This is a typical scenario for UF swimmer Darian Townsend. Traveling under water, Townsend has gone almost unnoticed as he has become a premier athlete on UF's swim team, and that suits him just fine.

"I am quiet, focused, calm, and I try not to let things bother me," Townsend said.

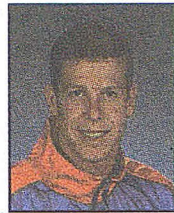
A sophomore, Townsend was part of the South African 4x100 freestyle relay team that took gold and broke a world record at the 2004 Olympics.

"It was unbelievable just to qualify, and to win a gold medal and break a world record," Townsend said.

As a high school student, Townsend dabbled in many sports besides swimming. He played rugby, cricket, hockey and soccer.

Genetically, however, it was almost predetermined that he would compete in water polo and swimming. His mother is a swimming instructor and his dad played water polo. Eventually, Townsend had to decide which parent's passion to pursue whole-heartedly.

"Even though swimming is small, water polo is even smaller in South Africa," Townsend said.



Townsend

Townsend began to focus on swimming full time.

Soon, his coach in South Africa e-mailed UF, and then

Townsend began corresponding with UF by e-mail.

"I am not a cold climate person, so Florida was a logical place," he said.

Becoming a United States resident and a UF student was not an easy transition for the now 21-year-old athlete.

"I miss my mom's food," Townsend said.

Adjusting to UF's coaching staff wasn't any easier.

"If I had a bad day in South Africa, they left me alone," Townsend said. "Here coaches let me know I am having a bad day and don't leave me alone."

However, Townsend said that he now understands the coaches here and the situation has improved.

"He's very intense and directed," UF swimming coach Gregg Troy said. "He knows what he wants to do and is very much a perfectionist."

Townsend also has figured out how to balance sports and academics.

He wakes up before the crack of dawn and practices twice a day — once at 6 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. He also likes to fall asleep to Nip/Tuck.

However, there are days when he's just like every other UF student. He attends UF football games, although he admits he leaves early.

After college he hopes to compete in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing and then turn professional. One person already thinks that Townsend will leave permanent waves in UF's swim program.

"He has the skills to be the best," Troy said. "He is just scratching the surface."

Football Practice Report



NO SATISFACTION: Strapped by injuries and personnel issues, UF coach Urban Meyer hasn't seen his spread option offense blossom the way he intended at season's beginning.

With UF ranked No. 5 in the SEC in total offense, things could be worse for the Gators, but Meyer admitted Wednesday he'll never really be satisfied with any offensive system.

"I can't remember ever really being satisfied with an offense," Meyer said. "You're always trying to get better and stay ahead of the curve of people catching you, and I don't think we're ahead of the curve right now." Meyer attributed some of the Gators' offensive woes this season to a lack of receivers due to injuries to Andre Caldwell (broken leg) and Dallas Baker (broken rib), which forced the coaching staff to rely on more of a downhill running game and deviate from its horizontal running and passing attack.



Meyer



LET 'EM PLAY: For the second consecutive day, UF starters left field early, as freshmen and reserve players faced off in a lengthy scrimmage. Meyer said the off-week before the Nov. 26 Florida State game provides him with time to evaluate some of his younger players for the first time since summer practices.

"I think you get the young guys, let them enjoy the game and try to toughen them up a little bit and play," Meyer said.



INGRAM TO WR?: Meyer said he's contemplating moving third-string QB Cornelius Ingram to another position at the end of the season. Florida State tried recruiting the Hawthorne High all-state football and basketball player as a receiver in 2003.

Michelle Stewart, Bryan App / Alligator Staff

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UF VOLLEYBALL

Seniors say 'bye' to O-Dome

By **BRYAN JONES**
Alligator Writer

As the volleyball fans at the O'Connell Center showed their appreciation for four years of hard work and success, tears began to stream down Jane Collymore's face.

"It was emotional," said the two-time All-American. "I told myself that I wasn't going to cry, but when I stepped out there it felt right."

Collymore and fellow senior captain Rachel Engel were honored prior to last Sunday's match against Mississippi State—the last regular season home match of their UF careers.

"Both of them are playing the best volleyball of their careers, which is exactly what we want as coaches—by their senior year to be playing their very best volleyball," Wise said.

"As I told their parents when their parents talked before the match about how much they

are going to miss being here, I said, 'I'll know when I will really miss them—next year, come next August when they are not on the court.'"

Presented with framed replica jerseys, the O-Dome fans roared in appreciation for the two seniors.

"We just want to really go out, play hard and try to let them go out with a bang."

Amber McCray
UF opposite hitter

"You get chills in a situation like that," said Engel, who is on pace to break the Southeastern Conference record for digs in a season.

But don't try telling Wise they have played their last home game.

"We hope not," Wise said.

Should the Gators impress the selection committee for the NCAA Tournament, UF would host the opening rounds of the tournament,

which would give Collymore and Engel an opportunity to clinch a Sweet 16 berth in their O'Connell Center finale.

The Gators will head into the SEC Tournament with the knowledge that an impressive showing would all but seal the deal.

"Our seniors have been so special to us throughout their whole careers," opposite hitter Amber McCray said. "We just want to really go out, play hard and try to let them go out with a bang."

Collymore's goals for the Gators range far beyond being an NCAA Tournament host, however. Collymore thinks this could be the team that finally brings UF its first national championship.

"This team is the best I have played on," Collymore said. "[Winning a national championship] is something Florida has never done, and everyone wants to go out saying that they have done something that no other team has been able to do. That would be a great legacy to leave behind."

Stolen trophy found

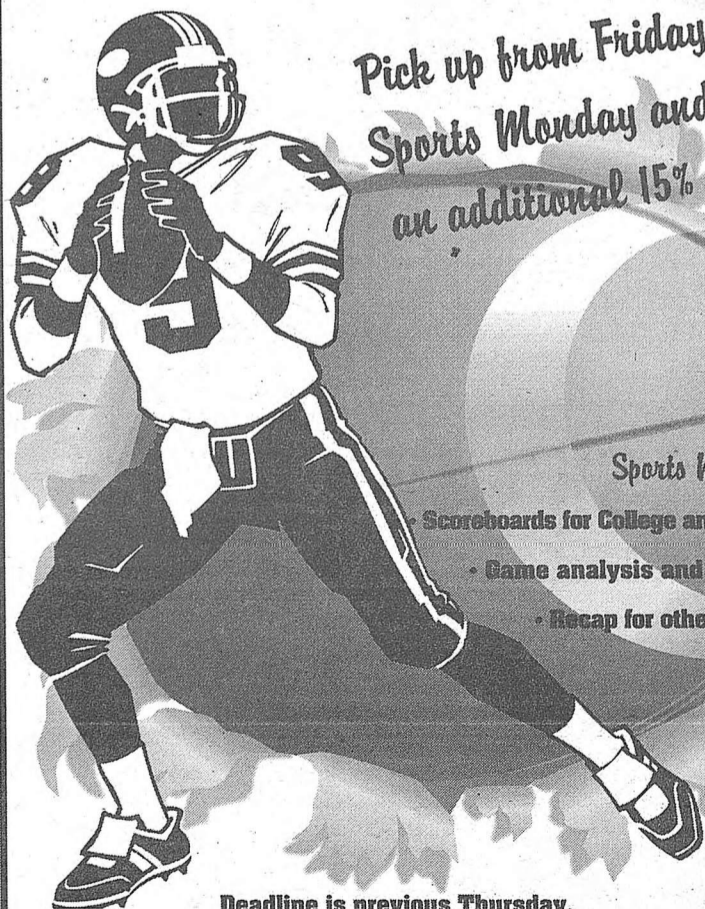


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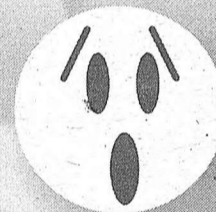
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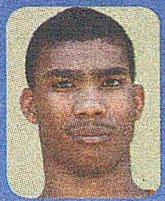
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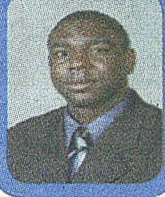
UF vs WAKE FOREST

PREMIER MATCHUP



SMALL FORWARD

Florida: Corey Brewer - So., 6'8" 185 pounds, 18.0 ppg., 6.0 rpg., 2.0 spg. The Gators don't have or need a go-to scorer, huh? It should come as no surprise that Brewer has already emerged as UF's No. 1 scoring option during the young season. Not only is Brewer getting to the basket, but he ranks second on the team with five 3-pointers. Brewer will continue his mission to become a household name against Wake Forest.



Wake Forest: Trent Strickland - Sr., 6'5", 216 pounds, 17 ppg., 11.5 rpg.. Strickland could match Brewer dribble for dribble and shot for shot. In fact the two are mirror images of each other. Strickland is a solid slasher, leaper and defender - just like Brewer. Not only that, but he's a more physical rebounder as well. However, Strickland has spent most of his career playing limited minutes, so it's unclear whether he can keep up this production.

ADVANTAGE: FLORIDA



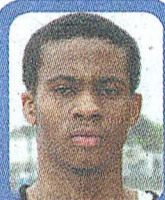
SHOOTING GUARD

Florida: Lee Humphrey - Jr., 6'2" 192 pounds, 14.5 ppg., .643 3PT%, 2 apg. So Lee, shooting isn't all that bad is it? Heeding the advice of Coach Billy Donovan, Humphrey has been firing away so far this year and he's been right on target. Though his ridiculous 3-pt percentage has to fall, Humphrey has the opportunity to prove he can score against a legitimate team.



Wake Forest: Michael Drum - Jr., 6'6" 204 pounds, 4.0 ppg., 2.0 apg., 1.0 rpg. Drum isn't exactly the imposing player. The guard/forward is entering his first season with the Demon Deacons after transferring from Presbyterian and sitting out last year. Drum is a decent 3-point shooter and rebounder but even as the star at Presbyterian, he managed just 11.9 points per game.

ADVANTAGE: FLORIDA



POINT GUARD

Florida: Taurean Green - So., 6'0" 177 pounds, 7.5 ppg., 5.0 apg., 2.0 spg. Green has started his season nicely, passing first yet knocking down open jumpers when needed. The real surprise occurred during the St. Peters season opener when Green held defending NCAA scoring champ Keydren Clark to just 11 points. It doesn't get any easier against Wake Forest when Green will be asked to control the dangerous Justin Gray.



Wake Forest: Justin Gray - Sr. 6'2" 194 pounds, 13.5 ppg., 6.5 apg., 6.0 topg. Filling in Chris Paul's sneakers would be a formidable task for almost anybody. But Justin Gray won't be phased. Moving from shooting guard to point guard, Gray could give UF fits with his refined dribble penetration. Add good vision, an above average 3-point shot and solid defense and Gray poses a plethora of problems.

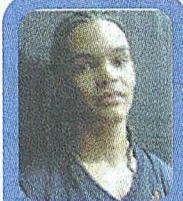
ADVANTAGE: WAKE FOREST

INTANGIBLES:

Florida is a young team with plenty of potential, so this is a perfect test early in the season. On paper, it looks like the Gators could defeat Wake Forest. However, the Deacons' top two players are seniors and you can never underestimate veteran leadership.

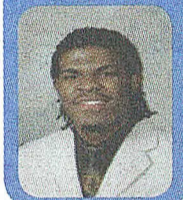
ADVANTAGE: WAKE FOREST

Michelle Stewart, Louis Anastasis / Alligator Staff



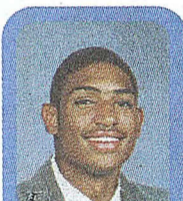
POWER FORWARD

Florida: Joakim Noah - So., 6'11" 227 pounds, 13.5 ppg., .722 FG%. No one knew exactly what to think of Noah entering this season. And while Noah will confront his first true test against the Demon Deacons, he has exceeded all expectations so far. Not only has his energy sparked the Gators defensively, but Noah has been more than adequate around the basket as well.



Wake Forest: Eric Williams - Sr., 6'9" 280 pounds, 20.5 ppg., 7.5 rpg.. If someone can put Noah in his place, it's Williams. An efficient post player who can back down defenders in his sleep, the meaty power forward should have his way with Noah. Expect Wake Forest to look inside all game long.

ADVANTAGE: WAKE FOREST



CENTER

Florida: Al Horford - So., 6'8" 235 pounds, 7.5 rpg., 2.0 bpg., 4.0 apg. Horford hasn't done anything emphatic so far, but he continues to provide the blue-collar work the Gators need in the interior. The center will have an adequate body to bang against in Kyle Visser but Horford should do just fine against Wake Forest.



Wake Forest: Kyle Visser - Jr., 6'11", 244 pounds, 8.0 ppg., 7 rpg., 1 bpg. Visser will tower over Horford, but his 6-foot-11 frame is deceiving. A scrappy player, Visser prefers jumpers over hook shots although his post game scoring has been on the rise. Don't expect much in the points department, but Visser could give Horford fits at times.

ADVANTAGE: FLORIDA

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