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VOLUME 100 ISSUE 116

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2007

# New UF assoc. provost to start in summer

## Wubah works at James Madison

By **CHAD SMITH**  
 Alligator Staff Writer  
 csmith@alligator.org

Daniel Wubah has been to six universities — from Ghana to Maryland — to study and work, and this summer, he will come to UF as the new associate provost for undergraduate affairs.

Wubah, the special assistant to the president at James Madison University, will take over the post July 1 and will be paid \$150,000 a year, UF officials announced Thursday.

Part of his responsibilities will be to help oversee transfer students and student advising, UF Provost Janie Fouke said.

Last week, during his second visit to UF in his interviewing process, Fouke said she and Wubah determined that UF would be a good fit for him.

"He's energetic," Fouke said. "He was diagnostic. He immediately saw opportunities that could enhance the experience for students here at UF."

In a telephone interview, Wubah said he is excited about his new position.

"Students at UF are the best in Florida and potentially the best in the nation," he said.

At James Madison, he started a program that pays the full cost of attending the university for students from low-income backgrounds — similar to UF's Florida Opportunity

Scholars Program, which started in the Fall. UF's program, which Fouke said has about 440 students, pays for tuition, books and living costs for students, who must be the first in their families to attend a four-year college.

**"Students at UF are the best in Florida and potentially the best in the nation."**

**Daniel Wubah**  
 newly hired associate provost for undergraduate affairs

Fouke said she's excited about what Wubah can bring to UF's program.

"We need a strong academic piece or guid-

ance to that program, and I think he can provide that," she said.

Originally from Accra, Ghana, Wubah earned undergraduate degrees in botany and education from the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. He then earned his graduate degrees at the University of Akron and the University of Georgia. Fouke said that Wubah's experience in Africa will benefit the university by bringing a more global perspective.

He said he knows about UF's drive for top-10 status but said administrators are more concerned about education, and that's one of the reasons he took the job.

"What is most important is the focus they have in elevating the quality of education," Wubah said. "That was most attractive to me."

# Starbucks plans for Reitz OK'ed

■ IT WILL COST ABOUT \$500,000 TO OPEN.

By **AMRA ZEJNELI**  
 Alligator Contributing Writer

A full-service Starbucks is expected to replace the Java City in the Reitz Union Food Court by Fall, said Robert W. Miller, UF's associate vice president of finance and administration.

With the Starbucks in Library West and the one opening in the Hub in April, this would be the third full-service Starbucks on campus.

The Java City at the Reitz will move to the Orange & Brew. The difference is that while the restaurant now sells Starbucks coffee and pastries, the corporation is not associated with it.

Miller said the demand for Starbucks came from the Reitz Union Board of Managers, which is composed of students and faculty who oversee the planning and direction of the Reitz.

The Food Service Advisory Committee, which includes students, faculty

and staff, also asked for the new chain. This committee meets every other month at different food locations on campus. They try the food, give feedback and present some ideas on what services they would like to have added on campus.

Miller said the estimated cost to open a Starbucks in the Reitz is about \$500,000.

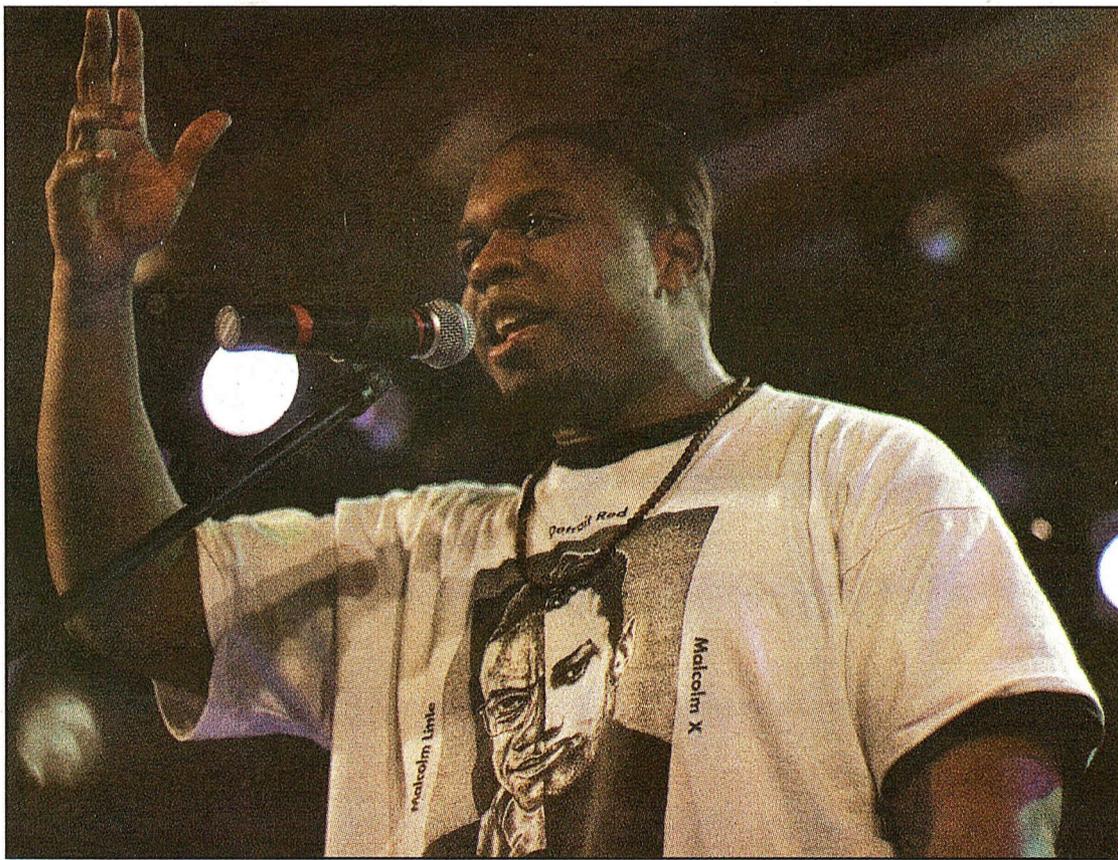
The Starbucks on campus are part of UF's food service contract.

Some universities do their own contracts, but UF uses a national company, which is known at UF as Gator Dining Services.

The company gives UF a commission of its sales for operating the food service on campus. This money is put in an account and used for renovations and constructions, such as the new Starbucks.

After the two Starbucks open, Miller said there are no plans to build more on campus.

He said a location is needed for any new plans, so they are trying to use buildings they already have.



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator

### A prolific poet

Amir Sulaiman recites a poem Thursday night in the Orange & Brew during a spoken-word poetry night sponsored by Islam on Campus. Sulaiman, known for his eloquent rhymes about life, talked to the audience after each poem for reactions and comments. He has performed twice on HBO's "Def Poetry" and is releasing an album of his poetry in May titled "Like a Thief in the Night."

■ The top-ranked UF gymnastics team heads west this weekend. Melanie Sinclair (right) and Co. have a first-year assistant coach to thank for their uneven bars success. See story, pg. 14.



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# News Today

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Weaving and Guitar Performance

Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, Black Box Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

UF Performing Arts presents "Woven Harmony." Classical guitarist Robert Bluestone and his wife, tapestry artist Rebecca Bluestone, collaborate for a multimedia performance.

### Saturday Dance Show

Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, 2 p.m.; 7:30 p.m.

Danscompany presents the Spring Dance Concert. Tickets are available at the Phillips Center Box Office.

## SFCC

### After tussle, budget passes

SFCC student senators passed the school's 2007-08 budget, but only after a row over club money.

The \$206,000 Student Government budget had been sent back for revision in previous weeks because senators said student clubs were expected to

## FORECAST

**TODAY**  
RAIN  
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**SATURDAY**  
THUNDER STORMS  
79/53

**SUNDAY**  
SUNNY  
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**MONDAY**  
THUNDER STORMS  
80/57

**TUESDAY**  
THUNDER STORMS  
77/55

receive more money than they required. Despite attempts at revision, because consensus could not be reached in committee, the budget was passed amid some dissent.

Student Sen. Ben Marcus voted against the budget.

"I think that it's a good start, but it is underdeveloped, and it still needs a lot more work," he said.

For the second time in three weeks, Marcus made efforts to cut 2.8 percent of the money budgeted for student clubs and transfer it to the Senate overflow budget, which is a separate account set aside for general fund requests.

"That would take around \$2,009 out of the total amount of the clubs," Marcus said. "The club with the smallest amount of money would only be losing \$7, while the club with the largest amount would be losing under \$100."

The 34 clubs will receive \$74,535 for this upcoming school year, according to an SFCC 2007-08 SG budget sheet handed out at a meeting Wednesday.

The executive board will receive \$8,100, Senate will receive \$18,500 and SG programming will receive \$33,000.

"I don't think that the clubs deserve this much money because they can fundraise, whereas Student Government cannot," said Sen. Kristen Bedard.

Senate President Pro-Tempore Audrey Couprie said some clubs were willing to give a portion of their money back to the Senate if needed.

— KATIE EMMETS

The Alligator strives to be accurate and clear in its news reports and editorials. If you find an error, please call our newsroom at (352) 376-4458 or send an e-mail to editor@alligator.org.

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2-Delta Zeta-40	2-Delta Zeta-28%	2-Pi Kappa Phi-74	2-Pi Kappa Phi-72%
3-Phi Beta Phi-29	3-Sigma Kappa-27%	3-Kappa Alpha-37	3-Kappa Alpha-61%
Tied for 4th	4-Pi Beta Phi-18%	4-Pi Lambda Phi-34	4-Sigma Nu-56%
4-Delta Gamma-28	5-Kappa Alpha Theta-17%	5-Sigma Nu-25	5-Pi Lambda Phi-55%
4-Kappa Alpha Theta-28	6-Kappa Kappa Gamma-16%	6-Delta Tau Delta-24	6-Alpha Gamma Rho-51%
Tied for 5th	7-Delta Gamma-15%	7-Alpha Gamma Rho-21	7-Delta Tau Delta-39%
5-Kappa Kappa Gamma-25	8-Alpha Epsilon Phi-13%	8-Sigma Chi-13	8-Delta Upsilon-27%
5-Sigma Kappa-25	Tied for 9th	9-Sigma Pi-17%	9-Sigma Pi-17%
6-Alpha Epsilon Phi -24	9-Alpha Chi Omega-11%	10-Tau Kappa Epsilon-16%	10-Tau Kappa Epsilon-16%
7-Kappa Delta-19	9-Kappa Delta-11%	11-Sigma Chi-12%	11-Sigma Chi-12%
8-Alpha Omicron Pi-16	Tied for 9th	12-Theta Chi-11%	12-Theta Chi-11%
Tied for 9th	10-Alpha Omicron Pi-10%		
9-Alpha Delta Pi-15	10-Chi Omega-10%		
9-Chi Omega-15			
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Kappa Alpha Theta-5	Beta Theta Pi-1	Beta Theta Pi-1	Sigma Chi-2
Lambda Chi Alpha-5	Chi Phi-1	Chi Phi-1	Sigma Nu-4
Pi Kappa Phi-5	Delta Tau Delta-5	Delta Tau Delta-5	Sigma Phi Epsilon-1
Sigma Chi-5	Delta Upsilon-1	Delta Upsilon-1	Sigma Pi-1
	Kappa Alpha-2	Kappa Alpha-2	Lambda Alpha Upsilon-1
	Lambda Chi Alpha-27	Lambda Chi Alpha-27	Pi Beta Phi-1
	Pi Kappa Alpha-1	Pi Kappa Alpha-1	Phi Sigma Phi-1
	Pi Kappa Phi-8	Pi Kappa Phi-8	
	Pi Lambda Phi-8	Pi Lambda Phi-8	

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## CITY ELECTIONS

## Students absent at polls

By **DREW HARWELL**  
Alligator Staff Writer  
dharwell@alligator.org

If votes are like a voice, UF students are keeping pretty quiet.

Only about 1 percent of voters who were registered for the Reitz Union's on-campus polling site voted in Tuesday's city elections, according to an unofficial statement released Thursday by the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections Office.

Out of Gainesville's 31 voting locations, the three precincts with the lowest turnouts — the Reitz Union, the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts and the Harn Museum — were all on campus.

Each of the three locations saw less than 4 percent of their registered voters. The average turnout for all of the

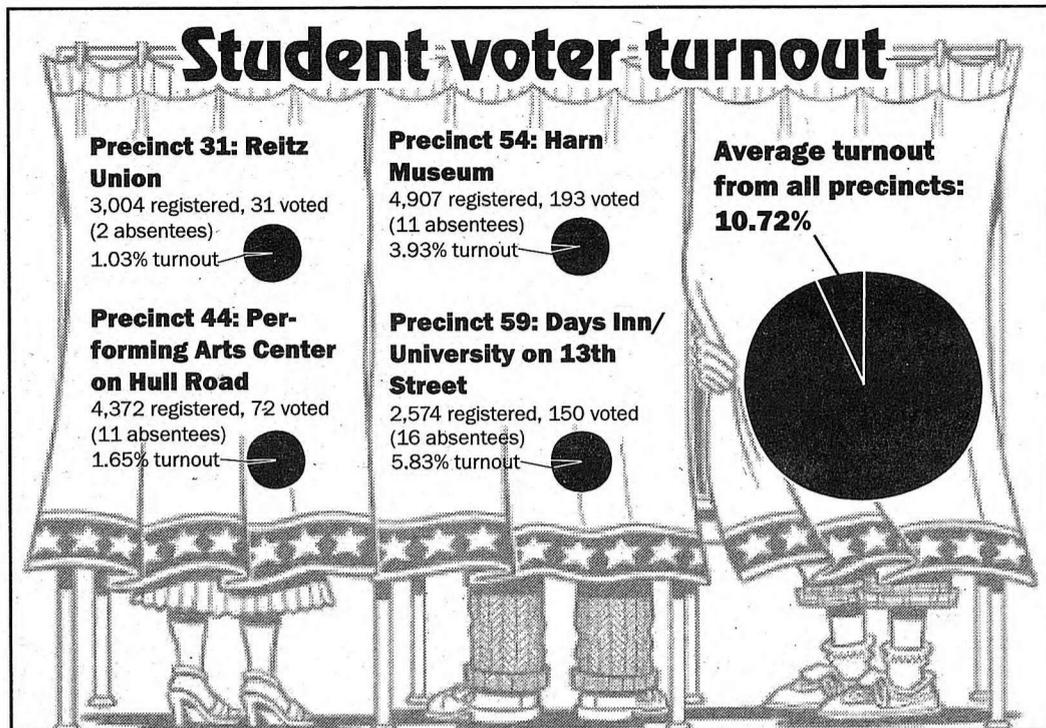
city's precincts was about 11 percent.

"Historically, the statistics show that (UF students) do get involved in gubernatorial or presidential elections, but not in the local municipal elections," Supervisor of Elections Pam Carpenter said.

Those statistics hold true for recent votes, too. For November's elections, which decided Florida's governor and a U.S. senator, more than 500 people showed up to the Reitz Union.

Voters in Tuesday's election re-elected Pegeen Hanrahan as Gainesville's mayor and Craig Lowe as city commissioner for District 4, whose jurisdiction covers most of the UF campus.

The polling site with the highest turnout, Lighthouse Baptist Church, had about 23 percent of its registered voters turn in ballots.



## UF, city to discuss ties

By **DANIELLE TORRENT**  
Alligator Writer  
dtorrent@alligator.org

While many students leave Gainesville for Spring Break, UF's Office of University Relations will host a discussion on how the university's success is linked to that of the city.

The discussion, which will be held over \$5 breakfasts in the Reitz Union Arredondo Room at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, will be led by City Manager Russ Blackburn. The event aims to align the objectives of UF and the city in light of UF's efforts toward top-10 status.

However, some top UF and Student Government officials won't be attend-

ing. SG President John Boyles said as of Thursday, he had not been given notice of the event, and UF President Bernie Machen will be on vacation leave Wednesday, said Beth Boone, his assistant.



Blackburn

According to a press release, the event is called "Vision Alignment: City and University Collaborative Efforts to Achieve Top-10 Status."

Florida Bridgewater-Alford, UF's community relations director, was not available for comment Thursday.

## Faculty race toward fitness

■ THE PROGRAM IS SPONSORED BY UF'S LIVING WELL CENTER.

By **LAUREN STOOPS**  
Alligator Contributing Writer

UF faculty and staff are racing for prizes, recognition and better health.

Living Well, the wellness center in Yon Hall that is open only to UF faculty and staff, is offering its members a six-week workout incentive program called Living Well 150 to keep its members on track with their New Year's goals.

"Studies have shown that New Year's resolutions start to fade after six weeks, so this program hopefully will encourage them to continue exercising and develop a lasting fitness routine," said Cassandra Howard, the center's director.

The cardio fitness program, which began in mid-February, has a NASCAR theme, said

Brian Suggs, a fitness supervisor for the center and a UF senior. Every 30 minutes of cardio completed is the equivalent of one lap around the Daytona International Speedway. Each of the 47 participants was given a stock car that monitors his or her progress by moving down a racetrack board in the wellness center.

"The top 10 finishers will get grand prizes, such as a gift certificate to a restaurant or Sports Authority, and everyone that participates will get some smaller prize," Suggs said.

This is the first year the center has tried this program, he said.

"The turnout so far has been very impressive," Suggs said. "All the members involved seem to really be enjoying it."

Glenn Ketcham, a risk manager for environmental health and safety at UF, joined Living Well 150 with his wife.

"I'm kind of rooting for her," Ketcham said. "She's in first place right now."

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## STUDENT GOVERNMENT

## SG Supreme Court hears case against Pants Party

By ERIN EHRLICH  
Alligator Writer

The Student Government Supreme Court met Thursday to hear the appeal of the Pants Party in the case of a Gator Party supporter who accused Pants of passing out "I Voted" stickers to help its campaign in the SG Spring elections.

Chief Justice Jessica Gavrich said the court would try to make its decision today.

During the elections, Pants members passed out the stickers. Former student senator and Gator supporter John Clayton Brett filed a complaint with the SG Elections

Commission, saying the stickers could deter party campaigners from approaching the students.

The commission ruled that the stickers were campaign materials that weren't properly registered and suggested Pants be disqualified from the elections, in which only one Pants candidate won.

UF students Thomas Jardon and Rosemarie Clouston, who represented Pants in the hearing, argued that the stickers could not be considered campaign material because they don't help or oppose either party.

"It doesn't confer any sort of political speech," Jardon said.

He argued that if the stickers were consid-

ered campaign material when Pants passed them out, then the "I Voted" stickers that poll workers handed out must also be considered campaign material.

"It doesn't confer any sort of political speech."

Thomas Jardon  
Pants Party representative

Jesus Suarez, who represented Brett, argued that because the words "paid political advertisement" weren't printed on Pants' stickers, there was no telling the difference be-

tween students wearing the sticker who voted and those wearing the sticker who didn't.

He said this stopped Gator campaigners from targeting students wearing the sticker. In turn, the party potentially lost votes, he said.

Jardon said an "I Voted" sticker doesn't promote voter apathy because students know they are free to vote with or without the sticker.

He also said that Pants handed out the stickers in a passive manner and didn't force them onto people, qualifying as free speech.

Suarez argued that the issue isn't about free speech because Pants broke the rules of a "fair and balanced election in accordance with Student Government statutes."



Nicole Saffer / Alligator Staff

A passerby stops to read about an Arabic Cultural Association exhibit using paper doves to illustrate lives lost in 2006 in Palestine and Lebanon. The exhibit was on the North Lawn on Thursday afternoon.

## Doves of peace fly for Middle East deaths

By LAINEY JOHNSON  
Alligator Contributing Writer

In the afternoon sunlight on the North Lawn, William Shwayri let out a mournful sigh.

"It is heartbreaking, and, as the son of a Lebanese father, this demonstration hits way too close to home for me," said Shwayri, a sophomore and treasurer of the Arabic Cultural Association at UF.

Folded paper doves were placed on the lawn by the association Thursday. The doves were there to remind passersby of the 1,342 lives Shwayri said were lost in Palestine and Lebanon last year.

The 2006 Israel-Gaza conflict consisted of a series of battles between Palestinian militants and the Israel Defense Forces.

"Our dove peace demonstration is just one of the ways we are working to raise University of Florida stu-

dents' awareness of happenings in the Middle East, along with Middle Eastern culture," said Nadine Sfeir, the president of the association and a UF sophomore.

"As educated young adults, UF students have the awesome opportunity to promote peace and highlight the role of Arab Americans in U.S. society to others," Sfeir said.

The peace demonstration marked the fourth and final event of Arabic Week.

Annie Higgins, a UF professor of Arabic language and literature, has lived in Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan and enjoyed participating in the week's events.

"I want people to see the human face of Arabic culture," Higgins said. "After this week, I hope UF students will be able to look beyond the politics."

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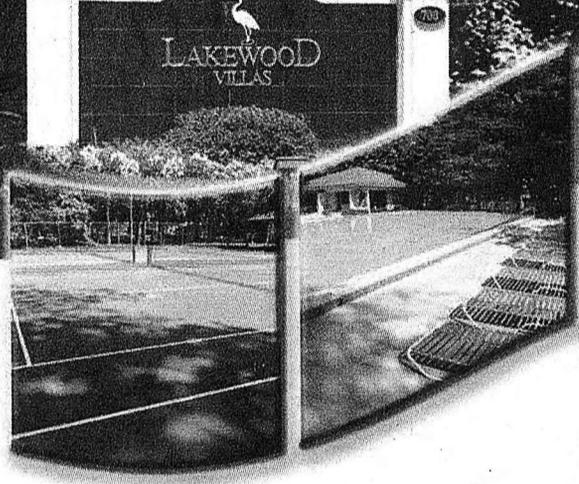
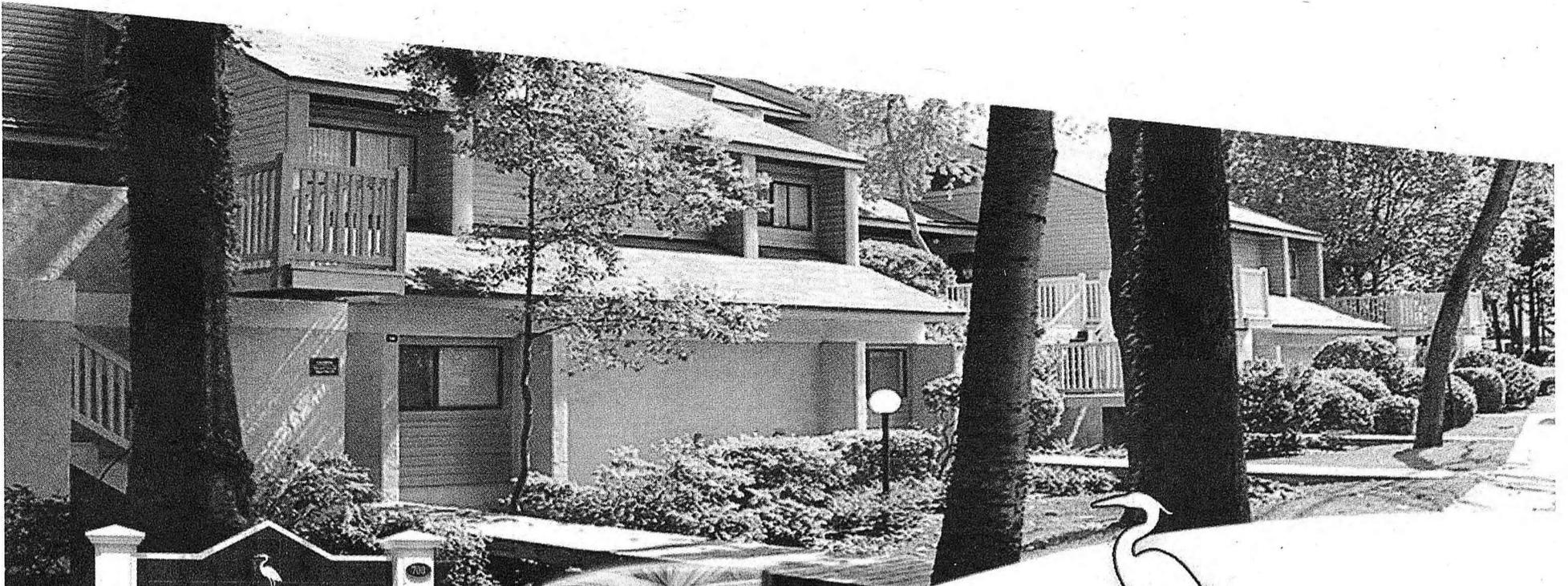
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**TODAY, March 9th, by 4 pm**

These deadlines apply to both Display and Classified advertising, as well as all customers wishing to renew their classified ads for March 20th.

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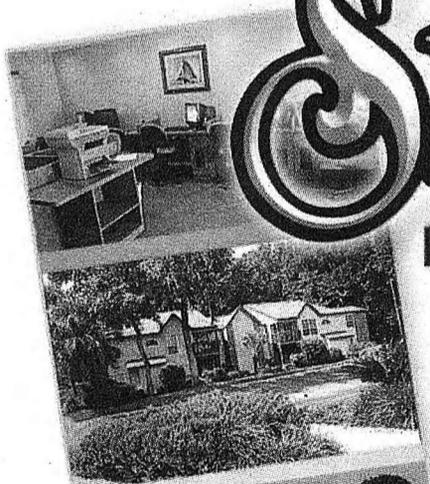
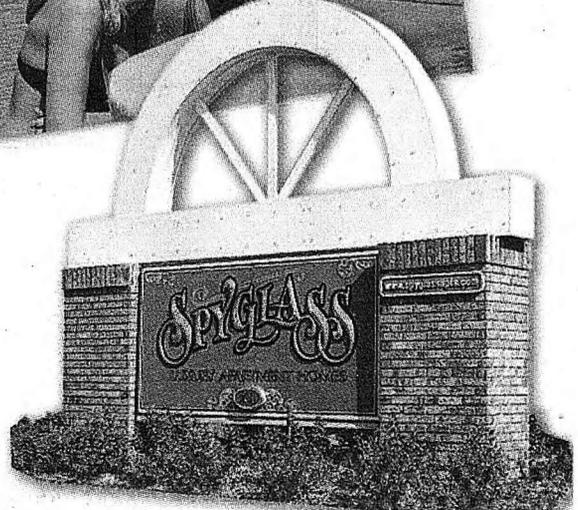
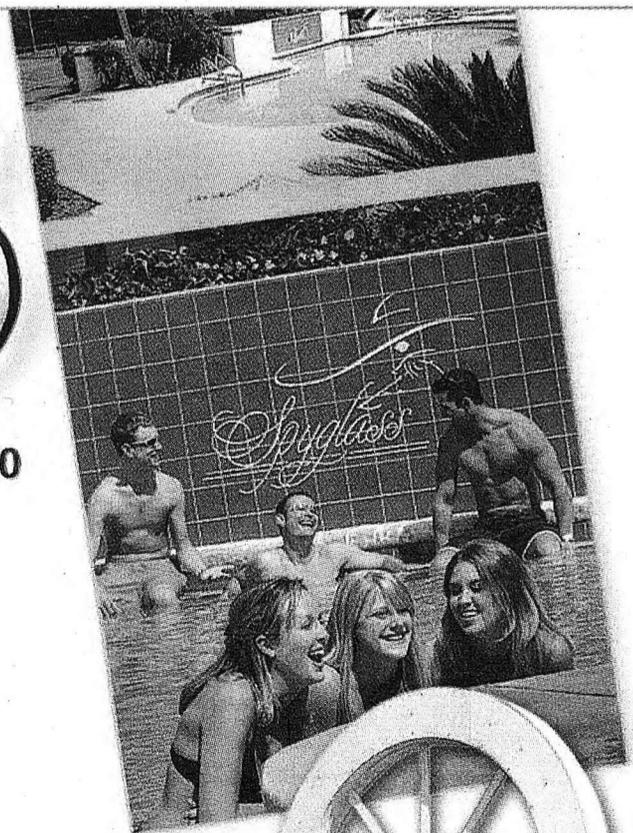
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## Editorial

We know no one is even reading this today. Unless your teachers were mean enough to schedule a test the day before Spring Break, you have already skipped town. We here at the Darts & Laurels Department wanted to leave a big blank space on Page Six, but our curmudgeonly editors would have nothing of the sort. "Just because no one's going to read it doesn't mean you don't have to write it," they said. So as we sat in our office, staring out at an eerily deserted West University Avenue, our minds began to wander...

Sun, sand, the surf. Seagulls wrestling over Doritos. Ah, there's no place nicer than the beach. But we are yanked back to reality by looming deadlines. So in honor of all those students who are still stuck in town, we present to you this week's fun-in-the-sun edition of...

## Darts & Laurels

First up, it's a wow-someone-in-Student-Government-actually-listens-to-his-constituents **LAUREL** for **Student Sen. Thomas Harrington**. He is working with graduate students and sociology department Chairwoman Connie Shehan to help sort through the mess. He plans to present his findings to the Senate, hoping it will effect positive changes.

It's nice to know we can have some faith in SG. Sure, it may occasionally propose crazy things like suspending open-container laws on football gamedays, but sometimes, when it truly matters, it does its job.

But someone hasn't done her job. We have a if-you-want-to-quit-all-you-have-to-do-is-say-so **DART** to **Hannah Hillman**, director (or is she?) of Chomp the Vote. Hillman has been AWOL for nearly a year now and no one from SG has been able to contact her. We determined that she is still alive, at least. But we wonder how in such a gotta-have-it-now society, Hillman couldn't return a phone call or an e-mail. For months.

Maybe Hillman could pick up her phone and call SG Vice President Arturo Armand, giving him her resignation. Then SG can appoint someone to the post who will actually fulfill the duties.

On the note of voting, we hand a getting-those-election-results-in-quickly-really-helped-out-our-reporters **LAUREL** to Alachua County Supervisor of Elections **Pam Carpenter**. But election results only came in so fast because just 7,386 people voted — less than 11 percent of registered voters.

This leads to a thanks-for-taking-10-minutes-out-of-your-busy-days **LAUREL** to **everyone who voted**. Less than 4 percent of registered voters came out to the three polling locations on campus — which are where most UF students vote. We know it wasn't the closest race — or even a close race — but a high student turnout would send a message loud and clear to our politicians that they need to listen to us.

Next up, it's a better-late-than-never **LAUREL** to Democratic presidential candidate **Barack Obama** for paying 15 parking tickets — \$375 worth — 17 years after they were issued to him. It's a good thing he got that black mark off his record.

That sort of thing might come back to bite him on the ass, just like Bill Clinton's "But I never inhaled" ordeal when he ran for president in 1992. Oh wait — Obama has already admitted he dabbled in cocaine when he was younger, and it doesn't seem to bother anyone.

The Coronas with limes are beckoning, so we close out this week with a have-a-great-week **LAUREL** to all you **Spring Break revelers**. And after you finish this page, the crossword puzzle is on page 13.

the independent florida  
**alligator**

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The Alligator encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 150 words (about one letter-sized page). They must be typed, double-spaced and must include the author's name, classification and phone number. Names will be withheld if the writer shows just cause. We reserve the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel. Send letters to letters@alligator.org, bring them to 1105 W. University Ave., or send them to P.O. Box 14257, Gainesville, FL 32604-2257. Columns of about 550 words about original topics and editorial cartoons are also welcome. Questions? Call 376-4458.

# Opinions

ALLIGATOR  
www.alligator.org/opinions



Guest column

## Gainesville needs new developments

Gainesville needs a makeover.

As the city that was named the No. 1 Best Place to Live in the United States by Money Magazine in 1995, it seems like Gainesville has become more like a former beauty queen who has developed a crack addiction.

Or maybe the city is like a teenager: It wants to grow up and become one of Florida's premiere cities, but its acne keeps it from becoming the prom queen.

It's the week before the big dance, and Gainesville thinks it's ready to compete with places like Orlando and Miami. But then it looks in the mirror and realizes its once-rosy cheeks are covered with blemishes. It's going to take a whole lot more than concealer to hid these zits.

With Tuesday's mayoral and city commissioner races decided, city leaders need to work together to do what the electorate chose them to do — make Gainesville a better place to live.

But Gainesville's date with destiny is walking up the stairs to drive her to the dance. She must think of some quick solutions. Otherwise, next election day won't be so easy for incumbents on the City Commission.

First, the city needs to renew its commitment to work with the university to bring new economic development to the city, and not just those areas around campus. Since UF opened its East Gainesville campus a few years ago, there have been no new developments between the city and the university.

The two need to work together to revitalize the deteriorating strip along West University Avenue between downtown and 34th Street. A thoroughfare with such potential shouldn't be a one-sided endeavor.

Just imagine, with university-sponsored housing above shops that line the street, students would be able to roll out of bed, get breakfast, shop and walk to class — all in an hour.

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

### Reader response

**Today's question:** Did you go to class on Friday, the day before Spring Break?

**Thursday's question:** Should UF ban Wikipedia.org as a source?

**49% YES**  
**51% NO**  
65 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at [www.alligator.org](http://www.alligator.org)

Letters to the Editor

**Freedom of speech prized value of U.S.**

Thursday's article regarding ROTC morale in light of the nation's war involvement quoted Ben Ruffner as saying what can only be described as deplorable. Mr. Ruffner said peacefully protesting the war "should be against the law" and that it's "treason."

The soldiers Mr. Ruffner speaks for are supposed to be fighting for democracy. How can he then turn around and argue that one of the most prized freedoms — the freedom of speech — of a democratic nation ought to be illegal.

I support our troops and hail from a family which has had a member in every American war. Mr. Ruffner should learn the values of the country he is committed to defending.

Max Wolson  
4LS

**OK to disagree with war, support troops**

I think it is sad that ROTC students feel they do not get the support they deserve from the community and their fellow students. I completely disagree with the war in Iraq, but I still support our troops, including my stepfather, a gunnery sergeant in the Marines who is currently on his third deployment in Iraq.

As a country, we need the military. It is not the institution of the military that I find disagreeable but the way our government chooses to use it that is disappointing. I hope that most people know the difference. You can disagree with the war without being rude to men and women who are willing to do what most of us would not.

Whitney Green  
1LS

**Officer oath includes First Amendment**

This letter is in response to Thursday's article on UF's ROTC. I believe Army officer Ben Ruffner, who equates protest with treason, needs to take another look at the U.S. Constitution he took an oath to uphold and defend.

The First Amendment protects all speech, including speech that neither Mr. Ruffner nor I would agree with. The difference between us, apparently, is that I still remember the oath I took. In fact, by trying to outlaw speech, people like Mr. Ruffner are more of a threat to our way of life than the protesters on 13th Street he wants censored.

Tom Crosby  
veteran; 3LS

**Stickers led to decreased harrassment**

I am writing in response to James Hagan's Thursday's guest column. Anyone who spends time on the UF campus during elections would see the Student Government political machine in action. Greek pledges are asked to get a certain amount of stickers for their houses. They may deny this, but just about everyone has seen sorority women and fraternity men ask their friends — and even total strangers — for "I Voted" stickers.

The term "voter suppression" is bandied about by Mr. Hagan, who needs to watch where he swings his diction. Students who received my stickers were not confused about whether they had voted or not. There was no suppression. If fewer students were harassed by pledges hunting for stickers for the machine, then I was successful.

Will Foster  
4LS

Guest Column

**Steer clear of that 'wacky tobaccy,' kids — it kills**

First things first. Dan Burroughs is a hippie. I mean, he supports legalizing marijuana. Marijuana? That most insidious plague upon our nation's youth? Good heavens! Don't you realize that smoking a joint immediately leads to snorting cocaine and shooting heroin? Dan claimed he's never smoked pot before. That makes sense, because if he did, he'd know that just one hit can turn you into an addle-brained junkie, begging for another hit — of crack.

What's next? Suggesting that we lower the drinking age to 18? Preposterous. We all know the correct order: You drive at 16, go to war at 18 and drink at 21 — as long

as you didn't die in said war. Or maybe we should raise the speed limit to 90 on the highways. Then Waldo and every other speed-trap city would lose 90 percent of its revenue. Is that what you want?

What do you think this is, Amsterdam? This is America. We don't support logical legislation, you liberal dope. Next you'll be saying that we legalize all drugs and put a tax on them so that we can reduce the national debt.

Don't you know that we have prisons to fill? If weed is legal, who will we throw in jail? In your nonsensical leftist rant, did you ever stop to consider the damage done to the pocketbooks of this nation's lawyers and jailers? Thousands of

**Andrew Meyer Speaking Out**

inmates in the federal prison system are locked up primarily for weed. What would we do with all those empty cells? Keep in the murderers, rapists and child molesters that we release early because we don't have the space to house them? Forget that. We need to lock up the real criminal elements of society — the pot smokers. They're the ones doing the real harm, with their getting high and watching TV on couches. If anything, we need more police busting down dorm rooms and confiscating more bongos. We can't have them doing real police work, like hunting down criminals. We

need them to take down every ultimate Frisbee-playing, Barack Obama-loving, liberal, hippie freak in this country, slap the cuffs on them and send their candy-asses to jail.

And let us not forget the alcohol and tobacco industries. You'd be hurting their pocketbooks as well. This country runs on booze and cigarettes. Do you think the alcohol and tobacco lobbyists would allow legislation to pass that would legalize a major competitor? Of course not. They are and will continue to be the voice of moral purity in this country. How dare you malign their products, saying they're more harmful or addictive than grass? That's plain

ridiculous. Just because alcohol causes more than 75,000 deaths a year or because tobacco causes more than 440,000 deaths a year in this country, these are harmful products? That's not harmful — marijuana is harmful. Smoking marijuana leads to something called "the munchies." I don't know if you know this, but some people smoke weed, and then get really hungry and eat too much food. Now that is harmful.

Legalize marijuana? Sheesh. What's next, suggesting that we should hold elections in Iraq and find out if the Iraqis want us there or not?

Andrew Meyer is a journalism junior.

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open late and weekends!  
371-7777 collegeparkuf.com  
4-25-72-2

**SIGN A LEASE, WIN A PS3!**  
Luxury 1, 2, and 3s!  
Cable\*Tanning\*Gated\*Sauna  
24-Hr Gym\*Ask for Furn and RMM  
Leasing NOW and FALL! (352) 335-4455  
4-25-72-2

**\*NOW LEASING FOR FALL\***  
1BR \$639, 2BR \$739, 3BR \$929  
Great location\*Spacious\*Includes some utils  
Alarms\*Park FREE @ UF\*Pets welcome  
www.SpanishTrace.org 373-1111  
4-25-72-2

**TREMENDOUS TOWNHOMES**  
2/2 & 3/3 townhomes Avail Summer/Fall '07  
Cable w/HBO, tanning, gym  
Private Dog Park\*All the extras!  
Call for specials 377-2801  
4-25-72-2

**Get yours before it's gone!**  
Spacious 1, 2, 3, or 4BR close to UF.  
Includes water, sewer, 2 pools,  
On-site laundry, gym, & we love pets!  
Call 376-2507 or www.BivensCove.com  
4-25-72-2

**THE LUXURY YOU WANT... AT THE PRICE YOU NEED**  
Remodeled HUGE 2 & 3 Beds  
Cable\*W/D\*Tanning\* We Love Pets  
Why spend more? 372-8100  
4-25-72-2

**We've got BIG ONES!!!**  
Huge 1, 2, & 3 BRs  
Great bus route, Pets welcome  
ONLY 1.3 miles to UF  
377-7401 www.boardwalkapt.com  
4-25-72-2

**2 For Rent unfurnished**

Be the BIGGEST on the block!  
1 or 2brd this FALL. We love ALL pets!  
Pool, Gym, Park @ UF, Bball, Tennis  
Call 4 Specials! 352-332-7401  
4-25-72-2

**STUDIO APT**

60 sec walk to UF. Short term avail. 1 or 2 rooms \$425 & up. Call 352-538-2181 4-25-72-2

**We Love Pets**

1,2,&3 BR Flats w/Screened Porches  
**FREE Alarm\*FREE Tanning\*W/D**  
Gated Entry\*Cyber Cafe\*Pool w/ Sundeck  
24hr Gym & Sauna\*Only 1.5 miles to UF  
Hurry, they won't last long\*\*372-0400  
4-25-72-2

**Live at a Legend!  
The Polos of Gainesville**

will give you the best college experience with Spacious Apartments, Three Pools with Jacuzzis, HUGE Gym, Billiards Room, and many more amenities! Minutes from UF, shopping and Shands. On all major RTS bus routes. All at a rate that won't break your bank! Call now for specials: 335-7656 4-25-72-2

**Affordable & Quiet Living**  
~1 & 2 BR Apartments ~  
Close to UF and Shands,  
Butler Plaza, Great Dining  
\$549-\$835 Call 376-1248  
4-25-72-2

**GOT SPACE!**  
We do! Currently leasing  
1,2,3, & 4BRs for FALL  
Pool, Alarm, Free UF Parking!  
pinetreegardens.com 352-376-4002  
4-25-72-2

**MINUTES FROM UF!!!**  
3/3's from only \$486 per Bdrm  
4/4's from only \$452 per Bdrm  
**FREE** Cable w/ HBO/SHOWTIME  
**FREE** Tanning, 24hr Fitness Center  
**Ask About our Huge 2/2.5 Townhouses**  
336-3838 TheLandingsUF.com  
Convenient Bus Route!  
4-25-72-2

**FORGET YOU HAVE ROOMMATES!**  
Huge 4BR townhomes w/W/D. 1662 sq.ft.  
FREE gym membership and FREE cable!  
352-332-7401 4-25-72-2

**LIVE THE GOOD LIFE**  
Without breaking the bank!!!  
1, 2, & 3BRs for now or Fall  
ONLY 1.3 miles to UF  
377-7401 www.boardwalkapt.com  
4-25-72-2

Live in Luxury  
**\*Leasing Now and Jan!\***  
2/2\*3/3\*4/4  
Ind. Lease \* All Inclusive  
373-9009  
4-25-72-2

Sign a lease, Win a PS3!  
Luxury 2/2 and 3/2!  
Cable\*Tanning\*Gated  
24-Hr Gym\*Furn Avail  
Leasing Now and Fall! 367-9910  
4-25-72-2

**1st MONTH FREE**  
1BR Villas Starting @ \$499. Please call: 352-375-3077 or 352-373-2818 4-25-72-2

**BIG AND CHEAP**  
2/1.5 apt 1100 sq ft \$650  
3/2 apt 1300 sq ft \$725  
1800 NW 4th St. Over 20 houses also available 373-4423 www.maximumre.com 8-15-168-2

**ACTION REALTY**  
Furnished apartments close to UF  
Individual bedroom leases  
Semester leases  
\$399 - \$725  
www.Action-realtors.com  
352-331-1133 3-30-54-2

**www.LiveNearCampus.com**  
See virtual tours, photos, specials, floorplans online! From: Studios \$565, 1BR \$689, 2BR \$779, 4BR \$469/m. ALL just steps from UF 4-25-72-2.

**2 For Rent unfurnished**

3BR/2BA Triplex--1 block from campus.  
Major reduction in rent  
to lease up immediately!  
Looking Glass Apartments  
111 NW 16th St. Office 376-1111  
4-26-72-2

2BR/1.5BA Bellamy Forge, clean, new kitchen & baths, W/D, pool, tennis, ceiling speakers, water & pest control inc. & more. No pets, smoke free. \$850/mo 352-495-0101 3-19-50-2

Available in April  
Walk to UF Studio \$390  
1 Br \$450 2 Br house \$550  
Gore-Rabell Realty 378-1387  
www.gore-rabell.com 4-25-65-2

**2BR Wood floors**  
Across from UF!  
Pets welcome  
Open weekends and late  
371-7777 collegeparkuf.com  
4-25-60-2

**MOVE IN TODAY**  
Walk to UF!  
Studios & 1 bedrooms  
From only \$699  
Open Weekends 371-7777  
4-25-60-2

Large room in NW home. Great neighborhood. \$400/mo includes utils, DSL, DVR, no pets. Prefer mature, responsible non-smoker. Avail now, flexible. Call Scott 335-8209 3-22-45-2

**LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!**  
Live downtown & have it all!  
Spacious studios, 1/1s, 2/2s, & 3/3s  
W/Ds\*Huge Closets\*We Love Pets!  
Going fast - don't miss out! 338-0002  
4-25-58-2

**Save \$\$\$! Move-in TODAY!**  
2BR, 3BR or 4BR Ask about our 2006 rates!  
376-2507 or www.bivenscove.com  
4-25-62-2

**BLOCKS TO UF** 3BR houses from \$1400  
4BR houses from \$1600 3BR patio homes from \$1300 4BR patio homes from \$1600 1-2BR apts from \$475 Ample parking. DalyProperties.com, Carol 377-3852 3-30-39-2

**\*\*LUXURY APTS\*\***  
**CLOSEST TO CLASS**  
2BR/2BA available for Fall  
www.LookingGlassApartments.com  
111 NW 16th St. #1. Call 376-1111  
4-25-56-2

Historic Duckpond  
1BR/1BA in vintage house. Hardwood floors.  
W/D Quiet area, large yard. 3 blocks to downtown. 304 NE 6th Street. \$525/MO  
379-4952 Available April or May 3-26-30-2

1BR & 2BR/1BA apts with W/D, cent H/AC, DW, ceramic tile, private patio. Pets arranged. Off SW 34th St. Near bus route. From \$615/mo. 377-1633 3-30-33-2

**1 BED and STUDIOS ACROSS FROM UF**  
Wood floors, pets ok  
Open late and weekends  
371-7777 collegeparkuf.com  
4-25-62-2

**SW 20th AVE CONDO**  
2BR/2.5BA. Perfect for Roommates.  
Pool, bus route, W/D, \$800/mo  
904-382-0286 3-30-29-2

**\*ABSOLUTE LUXURY\***  
2/2 Town Homes & 3/3 Flats  
**FREE** Water \*Cable \* Tanning\* Gym  
Roommate match available  
**Leasing Now/Fall \* 379-9255**  
4-25-20-2

www.10houses.com  
2 & 3BR houses for August in quiet areas. cute, clean, cent. H/AC, W/D, wood floors, nice yards. Bike to UF. \$775-\$1300 email nancy@10houses.com or call 352-336-6116 4-2-25-2

\*Cozy 2/2 rental: Haile Village\*  
Avail April Contact: 352-337-1740  
\$1200. Large, Sunny, Bright, & Many Upgrades. Walk 2 cafes, stores & restaurants Many running trails! Pets Allowed 3-29-20-2

**2 For Rent unfurnished**

1 Blk to UF. 1017 SW 1st Ave., 2Br/2.5 Ba TH. Lg. kit, parking, W/D, D/W, over 1100 sqft. Avail. Aug 1, 318 NW 14th St - 1Br/ 1Ba efficiency w/ bonus room or 2nd BR., wd flrs., window a/c, Call 333-0800. 3-9-5-2

2158 sq ft 4/3 home rent/sale NW Gville mins from campus. Appliances stay, remodeled, wd flrs, 2 car gar, deck, 1/2 acre, beautiful landscaping, low utils, fenced. \$1,550/m, \$2K SD. 3120 NW 31st Blvd, 352 466-0358 4-12-30-2

**MASTER BR W/BA IN 4BR/3BA HOUSE**  
5 mins to SFCC & 10 mins to UF.  
Low utilities divided by 4. W/D, RTS bus routes. \$325/mo. Short term leases available Small pet okay. 352-428-0500 Evan. 3-30-20-2

Houses, Duplexes, condos or Townhouses Walk/Bike/Bus to campus. Neat, clean, good quality. Visit www.gatorpads.com for available units or call 284-0316 or 281-0733 4-25-36-2

Space, Solitude and Disposable Income Beautiful, Spacious home on wooded landscaped lot, 8rms + 400 sq ft porch. 3BR/1BA, bike to UF, W/D, \$1270 + util. No pets. Available August. 275-1259 3-19-10-2

● DOWNTOWN 2BR/1BA w/loft available March. \$600/mo ● ALSO GARAGE/STUDIO APARTMENT. Avail in April. \$390/mo. Off-street parking central. 1st + last + deposit. Call 373-6551 3-20-10-2

House 3BR/1.5BA, large screened private porch, alarm, W/D, close to downtown, \$900/mo. \$2400 down. Call 352-466-7091 3-20-10-2

Beautiful 3BR/2BA house for rent next to Butler Plaza. \$995/mo. 352-359-4438 3-20-10-2

Available Aug 1st. Several large older houses near UF. Students/pets ok. Year lease. Low rents. 352-371-9409 3-20-10-2

**LIVE THE DOWNTOWN LIFESTYLE**  
Luxury 3 Bedroom Townhouses For Fall W/D\*Loft Spaces\*Walk In Closets\*Pets OK Walk to everywhere-bars, shopping, dining Call now! Only 10 left! 338-0002 4-25-30-2

2BR/1BA apt Upgraded throughout. Tile: liv. rm, kitchen, BA. New carpet BRs. New stainless kit. appls, all new BA. Cent H/AC. Cable/hi spd internet avail. Separate laundry rm. <1 mi to UF, Shands, shopping. \$735/mo. jglackin@yahoo.com or call 727-423-9463. Bkgrd & credit check reqd. Sorry, no pets. 3-22-10-2

**Luxurious Victoria Station Condo**  
Avail fall. Less than 1 mi from campus 2BR/2.5BA. W/D, interent incl. Pool, w/3 convenient bus rts avail. \$875/mo. 352-222-4235 3-30-16-2

**PETS FREE AVAIL NOW OR FALL 3 BED 2 BATH LARGE MASTER WOOD FLOORS BEHIND OAKS MALL \$1050 MONTH 262-7462 FOR MORE.** 4-25-34-2

**PETS FREE AVAIL NOW OR FALL WOOD FLOORS 2 BED 2 BATH TOWNHOME PRIVATE DECK 2871 SW 38TH PLACE \$875 MONTH 262-7462 FOR MORE** 4-25-34-2

**DOWNTOWN CRACKER HOUSE**  
2BR/1BA in private cul-de-sac. Lots of trees. Dogs ok. \$525/mo. Avail immed. Laundry incl 316-6667 3-9-5-2

**CUTE 2/1 & 1/1 Apts**  
\$600/mo Walk to UF. All new int, wood floors, tile kitchen & bath. NW 9th St. Chris 871-7707 avail now. 3-9-4-2

**PETS PARADISE**  
No app or pet fee. 2BR, fireplace, privacy fence, W/D hookup. 4511 SW 71st Terr. \$540/mo. Call 352-331-2099 3-26-10-2

●●●●1BR APT, \$550/mo●●●●  
Quiet nohd; greenspace, trees, private patio, near UF, busline, parking, spacious rooms, adorable kitchen, carpeted fans, no dogs. 1825 NW 10th St. 376-0080 4-9-20-2

**2 For Rent unfurnished**

**University Area rentals!**  
Watch our Website!  
www.rentgainesville.com  
Union Properties, Inc.  
373-7578 4-25-32-2

**Hawthorne Reserve** off University Ave. New 1, 2, and 3 Bedroom Condos, Completely Refurbished, Quiet Wooded Setting. Pool, Clubhouse and Cardio Center. W/D in each unit, Short Term OK. Close to Mall and Royal Park. \$750-\$1200.

**Garland Condos** off NW 13th Street. End unit Townhouse w/Alarm System, W/D hookup and Pool onsite. 2BR 2.5Bath @ \$1,000/mo.  
**Union Properties, Inc. 373-7578 4-25-32-2**

1BR/1BA, no lease. Courtyard, 2 mi to UF, on bus line, quiet neighborhood, next to park. Free water, no pets. \$440/mo + \$440 sec dep. Call 374-7175 3-19-5-2

**1BR in a 2BR/1BA. \$275/mo.**  
Avail now. No smoking. Must love cats. 328-4682 3-27-10-2

**HUGE 3 BED HOUSE FREE UF PARKING**  
AVAIL FALL, pets ok  
ONLY \$430/bedroom!!!  
Open late! 371-7777  
4-25-30-2

**2BR/2BA over 1500 sq ft.**  
Monticello. Across from Gainesville Health and Fitness. Pool, tennis court, clubhouse. \$950/mo. 371-8337 3-21-5-2

**CUTE COTTAGE**  
in NE Gainesville. Bike to downtown and campus. Fireplace. Big yard. 2BR/1BA. \$700/mo. Call Jackie Davis, 219-3789 3-21-5-2

**\*\*\*GOTTA SEE\*\*\***  
Remodeled 900 sq ft clean 3BR/1BA duplex on quiet NE street. Bike to UF. New carpet/paint-tile bath & kitchen! CH/AC. Laundry rm W/D. NS. \$895/mo 376-7529, 219-2399 l/m. 4-4-15-2

**1 & 2 Bed Cottages & Apts. \$580/MO. Central AC., W/D hookups. Close to downtown & UF. Cute & MUST SEE! See photos & info @ www.rentalworkshop.com 352-870-0904, 318-4553 3-21-5-2**

**HOUSES! 1 to 4 beds \$450-\$1500. All close to UF & on bus routes, W/D hookups, Hardwood, central AC, porches, pets OK, See photos @ rentalworkshop.com 870-0904, 318-4553 3-21-5-2**

**DUPLEX FOR RENT**  
3215 SW 26 Terr. 1 mi from UF & Shands. 2BR/1BA flat, 850 sq ft. Cent AC, private front patio & backyard. \$550/mo. 407-363-7198 or cell 407-234-1380 3-20-3-2

**LIVE ON UF LAKE**  
Pristine Biven's Arm condo. Huge 2BR/2BA, large den (possible 3rd BR), hardwood floors, pool incl. \$1295/mo. Call 321-231-1505 4-25-29-2

**★★★10 BLOCKS TO UF★★★**  
1BR/1BA apts in quaint historic Victorian house. Huge rooms, screened porch, wood floors, high ceilings, pvt entrance. \$525/mo. 376-2184. 225 SW 3rd Ave. 3-22-5-2

**3 Subleases**

**LARGE 1BR THE POLOS** Apr 1 - Jul 31. I will pay \$300 fee. Pets ok. Rent \$600/mo. Bus routes 9 & 35. Screened patio, Fitness center, pool, computer lab, tanning salon & more. Call Jason 219-1826 3-20-21-3

Avail May-July, 1B/Ba, \$665/mo  
Very quiet, 2 bus routes, Pool  
Close to campus/Butler/1-75  
Front porch, Laundry in apt  
570 sq ft, 321-946-9955 3-9-17-3

**WALK TO CLASS IN MINUTES!**  
1BR avail in 4BR/2BA house across from the law library. Rent \$365 plus 1/4 utilities. Email jbrar7@yahoo.com or call 407-461-0355 3-28-25-3

**3 Subleases**

Available NOW through Dec. Secluded furnished 1BR/1BA in 3BR/3BA @ Melrose Apartments. \$487/mo. Neg. All utils. incl. Quiet roommates. Will pay cash to take over lease.. Female only. Call 813-464-1936 3-20-15-3

MAY-AUG, TIVOLI  
4BR/4BA, \$360/each + utilities, negotiable. Great bus, no towing, quiet, spacious, washer/dryer & balcony. chinooke@ufl.edu, 407-701-7352 3-19-10-3

Sublease May-Aug. 1BR/1BA in 4BR apt. Lexington. Female only. Close to UF. Several bus routes \$425/mo incl util. & furn. Call Kristen 813-601-9285 kstone1@ufl.edu 3-9-10-3

Sublease March- July Boardwalk apt 2 min from UF 2BR/2BA sunken living room. \$839 + cable & internet. 1st month FREE! Call 850-509-5077 3-20-10-3

**MOVE IN NOW - March FREE**

1BR/1BA unfurn townhouse Sun Harbor. Avail Mar 1-Jul 31. \$510/mo, \$200 deposit needed. 850-585-5632 amirabal@ufl.edu 3-19-10-3

AVL NOW THRU SUMMER IN 3/2 HOUSE  
Lrg mstr BR w/BA fits 2 \$500/mo. Reg BR \$350/mo. Share Utils plus Wireless/cable. Near bus route by Univ Ave & SW 34 St. 727-421-2213 3-21-10-3

Now til Aug or longer! Fully furnished, w/d in apt, cable, water, electric, internet all included! gym, biggest pool in g-ville (campus Lodge), computer lab, free tanning, tennis & b-ball courts. Great roomies. female only. call 352-283-9999 Christine 3-30-16-3

Female sublease 1BR/1BA in 2BR/2BA Campus Lodge, \$510 furnished, WD, and all util. included. In bus route. Close to UF. Avail now thru Aug. 07. Call 352-281-3154 3-20-8-3

Quiet 1BR on SW 20th - Low rent. On the busline, easy walk/bike to UF Sublease anytime May-Jul Apt includes security system. Call Christopher 859-630-9353 3-26-11-3

Avail Now - Aug. Furnished 1BR/1BA in 4BR/4BA @ Gainesville Place. All utils incl. Great deal \$150 off rent only asking \$350. Call April 305-393-7561 3-19-5-3

\$375/mo 1BR/1BA in 2/2.5 twns. Avail Mar 25-July 31. Rent incl internet, cable, water, utils! W/D in apt. quiet complex & roommate, pool, scr porch, personal parking spot, cats ok. Female only. Amy 352-359-2189 3-19-5-3

Subleasing unfurnished 1BR/1BA @ Sunrise Apartments. \$370/mo, on bus routes 9 and 35. Available March 5th through July 31st. Call 305-401-7874 3-9-4-3

Sublease ASAP Female needed Spring-Summer 3BR/2BA furnished. Free wireless and cable. Archer & 34th St. \$360 all inclusive negotiable. Call Elena 352-328-6954 3-19-5-3

Sublease at Gainesville Place Apts  
2800 SW 35th Place  
Early May - August 7 \$509/mo  
Pool, Tennis, Weights and More  
727-439-7094 3-27-10-3

**CABANA BEACH APTS**

1BR/1BA in a 4BR/4BA. Furn, poolside, util incl. Move in ASAP. \$500/neg. No move in fee. Call 727-364-6981 4-11-21-3

Summer Sublease  
Greenwich Green Lux Apts. 1BR/1BA in 3BR/3BA Townhouse, ALL 3 AVAILABLE. W/D, water, cable, Pool, Gym, hot tub, incl \$360/mo each negotiable. 352-216-2261 3-20-5-3

Move in NOW - MARCH FREE  
1BR/1BA @ Pine Rush Villas - 20th Ave. No deposit, No fees.  
Rent \$529 U pay \$499 until August + Utils  
Erika 352-226-1332 3-27-10-3

Sublease May-Aug 2BR/2BA @ Hidden Lake w/walk-in closets, screened balcony, w/gym, pool, tanning bed, W/D in unit. \$480/BR indiv or joint lease avail. Call 305-962-2714 or 305-970-1619 3-20-5-3

**3 Subleases**

WALK TO CLASS, NOW!  
Spacious unfurn. 1BR/1BA  
3Blocks from campus behind Swamp  
Available NOW till Aug  
\$470 Call Rick 727-458-9545 3-28-10-3

PINE RUSH OFF 20th Ave. 1BR/1BA, \$449/mo. Sublease March 23-July. Pets ok. 20 & 21 Bus routes to campus. No security deposit. \$35 application fee only. 352-256-1819 3-29-10-3

SUBLEASE  
For Summer Session  
Large 1BR apt. Wood floors, appliances, W/D. 2 blocks from stadium. April thru mid-August. \$700/mo. 352-275-9112 3-9-1-3

Sublease 1BR/1BA unfurnished apt @ SUNRISE Apts. Available now thru July 31st. \$400/mo. On 2 bus routes 9 and 35. Call Shir @ 347-385-1793 3-29-10-3

**4 Roommates**

Roommate Matching HERE  
Oxford Manor 377-2777  
The Landings 336-3838  
The Laurels 335-4455  
Cobblestone 377-2801  
Hidden Lake 374-3866  
4-25-72-4

Female roommate for one/two female UF students. Quiet. Responsible. 60 second walk to UF. Old house charm with all amenities. Avail Now. \$400 - up. 352-538-2181. LV message. Private Owner 4-25-72-4

FEMALE ROOMMATES NEEDED  
(2) for 4/2.5 new townhouse, 10 min from UF by car or bus, all included \$425 954-557-4769/baezwp@bellsouth.net. 3-9-64-4

Master BR avail in huge home. 2 profs need mature 3rd. Digital, wireless, W/D, yard serv, 2 bus rts, quiet area. SW G'ville. Avail Mar-Jul \$450 + utils. davem@ufl.edu 3-9-20-4

**Rockwood Villas**

2BR/2BA for rent, W/D, all appliances, \$425/room + sec dep, call Abby 352-281-5617 4-9-60-4

Mature professional to share 3BR/2BA pool home. Near UF - safe neighborhood across from Plaza Royale movie theater. No alcohol or drugs. \$325/mo + 1/3 utils. Furn or unfurn. Call 371-3837 3-9-11-4

Quiet roommate: master br in 1000 sq ft 2BR/2BA \$335/mo + 1/2 util. On 6th Street. Full-time UF, pref male. Move-in Aug must cosign. Call Charles 407-342-8940 3-9-10-4

ROOM! Huge Home 1.5 Miles to UF  
65" HD TV, Pool Table, Nice Yard  
Big Room 13'x12' ?Furnished?  
NW 16 & 22. Easy access to SFCC  
\$450/Month 1/4 Util. 561-756-5368 3-9-10-4

Br & pvt BA available for female roommate in /2 Treehouse Village condo. Incl W/D. 1.5 mi from UF. \$318/mo plus 1/2 of utilities. Call 813-340-8982 or email cindy.choate@comca.st.net. Unit is furnished except for bedroom. 3-19-10-4

\$295/mo Available now. UF close. Great student roommates. Month-to-month or lease thru July. 352-371-9509 3-20-10-4

Available now. Quiet private BR/BA in Southfork Oaks condo near UF. No smoking/ no pets. \$425/mo + 1/3 utils. \$300 deposit. Lease length negotiable. 284-3961 3-19-7-4

2BRs in wing of new 4/3 house, avail now. BR have deadbolt locks, monthly maid service utils incl \$525/BR, cable, wireless, parking and on bus line. Club has hot tub, gym. Lori 305-867-8399 UFGatorHome@aol.com 3-21-10-4

Female roommate needed for 2BR/2BA furnished townhouse. Next to pool. Clkose to Oaks Mall. \$400/mo which includes cable, internet, and utilities up to \$100. Call 386-795-4360 3-22-10-4

Grad or prof to share 2/2 apt at Rocky Pt. \$390/mo + 1/2 util. Non-smokers only. Call Monty @ 352-256-1949 3-9-5-4

**4 Roommates**

Room for rent Downtown area \$350 includes everything! Rent, high speed internet cable & electric. No deposit. NEED ASAP!! Call Natasha 682-4628 3-9-5-4

Roommate needed for 3/3 twnhse in gated comm. Lg BR w/pvt BA & walk-in closet. New appliances, carpet & paint. All amenities & utils incl. 24hr gym, pool, Bball, HS internet, cable w/HBO/SHO \$550 954-483-4597 3-23-10-4

Avail now. Huge BR 17' x 11', private BA upstairs in 2BR/2BA townhouse. Close to campus. On routes 4, 12, 35. Quiet student/professional pref. Only \$390/mo + half utils. We'll work a deal for March. 772-214-8179 3-9-5-4

Roommate needed for 4BR/4BA condo @ University Terrace West. \$425/mo w/\$125 dep. W/D, wireless internet & cable all incl. Please call 407-719-1699 3-30-14-4

Need female student in University Commons 4BR condo. Non-smoker, poolside view, game room & amenities. \$379/mo. Please call Haydee Clark @ 352-871-8577. Available August. 3-19-5-4

BRAND NEW spacious condo needs female roommates 3/3 avail in 4/4 starting 8/1. 2 blocks from UF! \$530/mo, all incl. Call Amy 954-536-2052 3-26-10-4

Room for rent \$475/mo  
all utils, cable, hi-speed internet incl Male only. Near 43rd & Newberry 256-7227 3-28-10-4

UF Student needs roommate to share 2BR/2BA condo 1.5 mile to campus. Steps to bus/pool/gym/com lab. \$520. 770-429-3999, 352-381-7362 Private Owner 4-4-15-4

Roommate needed for Aug 2007. 3BR/3BA @ Stoneridge Apts. \$375/mo + utils w/\$200 dep. W/D incl. Unfurnished room. Call Ryan @ 863-441-0643 3-22-5-4

Female roommates wanted for 4BR furnished pool.house. \$450/mo + utils. 1 mile from campus on bus route. Non-smoker. No dogs. Avail June. Call 954-899-7197 4-25-29-4

**5 Real Estate**

Sell your house, condo, acreage, mobile home and much more in the ALLIGATOR CLASSIFIEDS! Reach over 24,000 possible buyers! Mastercard and Visa accepted over the phone. Please Call 373-Find

PRE-CONSTRUCTION, NEW, & EXISTING CONDOS & HOUSES FOR SALE NEAR UF AT AFFORDABLE PRICES. SEARCH HERE OR RECEIVE A FREE AND COMPLETE LIST VIA E-MAIL. Visit [www.mattpricerealtor.com](http://www.mattpricerealtor.com) or Call Today, 352-281-3551, Matt Price, Campus Realty. 4-25-72-5

**Summit House condominiums**

Newly renovated 1 & 2 BR units starting at \$99,900 (as-is at \$86,900). Steps from Shands, VA, Dental School, New Cancer Center & more! Visit [mmparrish.com](http://mmparrish.com)/serv.construction15.cfm or Call Coldwell Banker, MM Parrish, Realtor 352.372.5375. 3-30-37-5

**Magnolia Place**

A peaceful, sophisticated lifestyle. 1, 2 & 3 BR luxury townhomes in pool community with many amenities. Priced from \$159,700. Great upgrades and bonuses available. Call Coldwell Banker, MM Parrish, Realtor 352.377.4977 or visit [MagnoliaPlaceTownhomes.com](http://MagnoliaPlaceTownhomes.com). 3-30-37-5

**5 Real Estate****Cazabella CONDOMINIUMS**

Completely renovated 1, 2 & 3 BR condos literally across 34th Street from campus. Visit [www.cazabella.com](http://www.cazabella.com) or Call Coldwell Banker, MM Parrish, Realtor 352.373.3583. 3-30-37-5

Pre-Construction Pricing next to campus! Oxford Terrace II - Walk to UF from a brand new condo! [www.oxfordterrace.com](http://www.oxfordterrace.com). Call Eric Leightman with Action Real Estate 352-219-2879 4-25-72-5

1BR 3 blocks to UF & Shands. Newly remodeled, central A/C, W/D, luxury kitchen, tile/Pergo, DW, very clean & private, big BR, ample parking, first floor, on bus route. \$105,000. 352-362-6410 3-9-50-5

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Stop Renting, BUY NOW!  
FREE List of Condos 24/7  
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NEW 1,2&3BR Condos Starting at \$159K By UF. Gated. Covered, assigned parking  
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**Jackson Square Condominiums**

Walk to UF and stadium from luxurious Jackson Square Condominiums.  
Built to last a lifetime Priced from mid-\$250s  
Call 352-870-9453  
4-25-72-5

Need to buy or sell you home/condo? Call Kate Wallis, ERA Trend Realty, 352-359-1112 or visit [www.katewallis.com](http://www.katewallis.com) for more info. UF Alum... Gooooo Gators! 4-19-60-5

2/2 off Archer between campus & 34th St. Just \$129,900! Fully furnished with washer/dryer & all appliances. Eric Leightman Action Realty 352-219-2879 4-25-60-5

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New 2BR/2BA condos. Prices starting in the \$260,000's. Guaranteed Parking. Completion Spring 2008. Reserve Yours Today! Call Coldwell Banker, MM Parrish Realtor 352.372.5375. Great Financing Opportunities Available. Visit [www.mmparrish.com](http://www.mmparrish.com) for information on other available properties! 3-30-37-5

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Newly renovated 2BR/1.5BA end unit condo desirable Casablanca East. Newer AC, W/D, scr porch, Tile dnstairs kitchen, hall & 1/2 BA. Comm pool & bus rt on site. Quiet conv to Shands/UF. \$139,900. 352-246-5958 3-28-30-5

**5 Real Estate****ALEXANDRA AT GRANTWOOD CONDOMINIUM**

BRAND NEW CONSTRUCTION  
CLOSE TO UF AND SHANDS  
Starting in the mid \$170's  
2BR/2.5BA Townhomes  
Gated Community on Bus Route  
2508 SW 35th Place  
OPEN HOUSE Tu-F 2-5, Sat & Sun 1-4  
Contact Birdie Murnane, Venture Realty of North Florida at 352-222-8888 or visit [WWW.ALEXANDRACONDOS.COM](http://WWW.ALEXANDRACONDOS.COM)  
3-23-20-5

OWN AT COUNTRYSIDE 4/4 CONDO  
Tiled living area & kitchen. Owner occupied. Clean and well maintained. Price \$179,900. Owner is licensed realtor with ERA Trend Realty. Call 352-870-8459 for details. 3-21-15-5

**3BR/2BA ANGLEWOOD**

3826 SW 6th Pl; \$273,500; bamboo & carpet; LR; DR; FR w/fireplace; cedar screened porch. Mary Fletcher, Realtor 352-332-3000 3-9-10-5

**UNIQUE RANCH HOME**

3/2. Close to UF. 2359 sq ft. Enjoy lounging by pool in private courtyard w/cabana bath. Call Francine Milam 352-214-1722. Coldwell Banker MM Parrish. 3-20-10-5

University Terrace West 4BR/4BA condo. Ground floor, fully furnished \$187,000. W/D, pool, on bus route, 3800 SW 20th Ave. Near Butler Plaza. Call Steve @ 352-586-6468 3-30-16-5

2BR/2BA Oakbrook Walk Condo. WALK TO UF/Shands. Laundry rm, W/D incl, night security. Cathedral ceilings. Balcony overlooks pool. \$173,000. Call 321-217-6991 3-22-10-5

Condo for sale in BRANDYWINE 2BR/2BA. \$115,000. 1226 sq ft for sale by owner. Excellent condition. New tile & wood floors. Call 352-562-4091 3-22-10-5

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CASABLANCA EAST 2BR/1.5BA 2 mi to UF on bus rte. Wood flrs, 2004 appliances, util room incl W/D. Pool, security sys. Avail mid-May. \$135,000. Call 352-804-6169 3-29-15-5

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**5 Real Estate**

**WANT TO OWN CLOSE TO CAMPUS?**  
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Close to UF, walk to campus!  
Go to [HomesAtUF.com](http://HomesAtUF.com) or call Steve Barry, Campus Realty 352 494-4996! 3-30-13-5

If you would like to contribute to building a home for homeless school children in our community, please call Ken at 352-339-1746. 4-25-29-5

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**1/1 CREEKSIDE VILLAS**  
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Extra thick, pillow-top, mattress & box. Name brand, new, still in plastic. Call 352-372-7490 will deliver. 4-25-72-6

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Bed - All New King! 3pc Orthopedic pillowtop mattress set. Brand NEW, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver. \$170 352-333-7516. 4-25-72-6

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**6 Furnishings**

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**13 Wanted**

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## Batters take HBPs in stride

■ LAPORTA HAS BEEN HIT NINE TIMES THIS SEASON.

By ALEX WEINTRAUB  
Alligator Writer  
aweintraub@alligator.org

Getting hit by a 90-plus mile-per-hour fastball can be a painful experience.

Many hitters prefer ducking out of the way, as opposed to taking one on the back.

"One of our most important statistics and goals is on-base percentage. A way to accomplish that is by being unselfish."

Pat McMahon  
UF coach

But for UF coach Pat McMahon, a hit by pitch is well worth the pain.

"HBPs are a huge part of our offense," McMahon said. "One of our most important statistics and goals is on-base percentage. A way to accomplish that is by being unselfish."

So far this season, Gators batters have been hit 29 times, third-most among Southeastern Conference teams.

No player has taken McMahon's advice to heart more than first baseman Matt LaPorta, who has been hit nine times.

This strategy has not pleased everyone in the LaPorta family.

"Apparently, my Dad has a problem with it," LaPorta said. "He called me up and was like, 'Why don't you just jump out of the way?'"

"That's just the way it is. I have to find a way on base."

SEE BASE, PAGE 15

## Burde becomes unsung hero for No. 1 UF

By RACHEL ROBINS  
Alligator Writer  
rrobins@alligator.org

When Melanie Sinclair scored both of her 10s on the uneven bars, Adrian Burde displayed his high-jump potential and leaped off the ground.

Burde, a first-year assistant coach of UF's No. 1 gymnastics team (12-0-1, 5-0-1 Southeastern Conference), has been in the sport for 27 years and knew they were perfect performances. No judge had to tell him.

"Everyone knew she was going to get a 10," Burde said. "Getting a 10, that's every coach's dream. When they're perfect, I feel that I am perfect too."

He specializes in training UF gymnasts on bars and his addition has helped make the Gators the top-ranked team in the event. They will need to continue to be sharp in order to have a successful weekend away from Gainesville against No. 7 Utah on Friday and Boise State on Sunday.

After arriving in Gainesville less than a year ago, it didn't take long for Burde to implement a coaching style that encourages perfection. At the end of every practice, he awards stars to the top gymnasts of the day. He designated a spot by the bars to post the stars along with the names of the gymnasts who earned them.

"Gymnastics is always perfection," Burde said. "Practicing, it has to be exactly as you compete. It's not a big thing, but it's like, 'Yes, my coach thinks I was so good today.' It's just a game, but it helps."

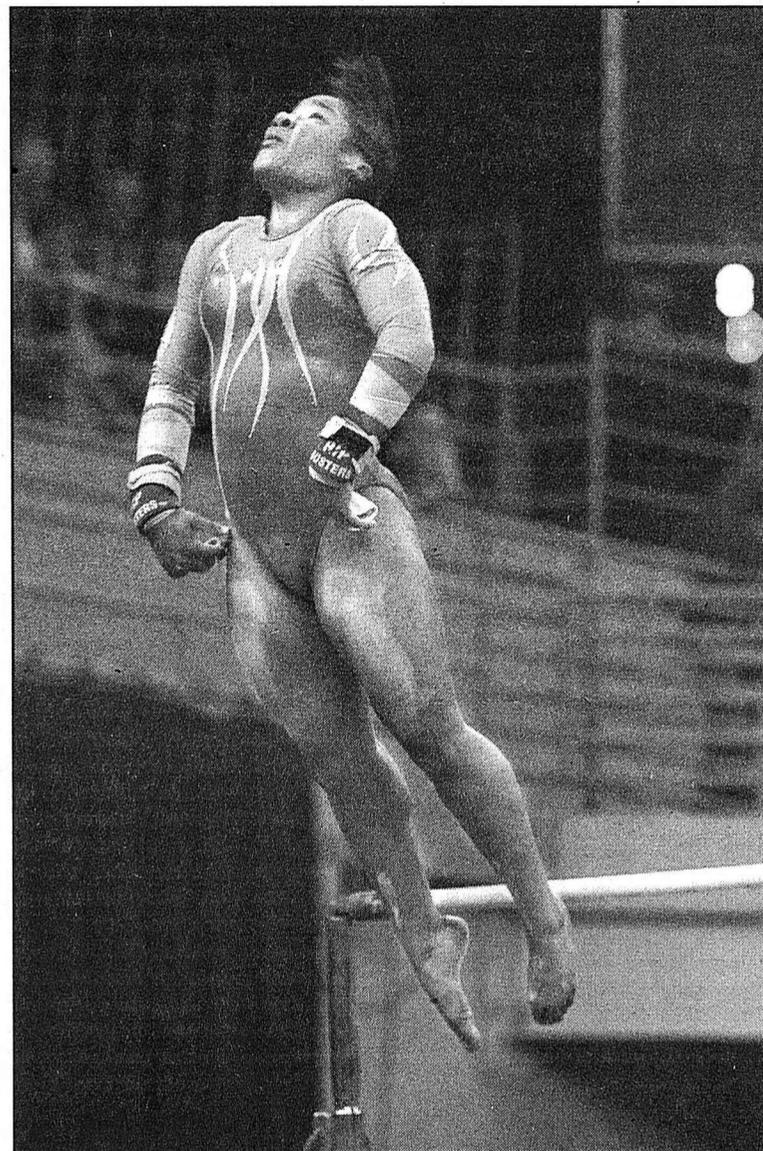
Burde said Breanne King, Ashley Reed and, of course, Sinclair have earned the most stars. Even though Burde doesn't like to take any credit for the team's success on bars, UF coach Rhonda Faehn has no problem throwing praise his way. Faehn and Burde coached together at Nebraska, and four years later, he joined her at UF.

"He's phenomenal," Faehn said. "He is so disciplined with those athletes and brings out the best in every single one of them. We do have this unbelievable bar team, and I give all of the credit to Adrian for that."

UF opened 2006 with a score of 49 on bars, while this year it posted a 49.575 in its first meet at the Super Six Challenge.

Against Kentucky, UF scored a 49.7 in the event, the highest in program history. Even the gymnasts, who used to

SEE GYM, PAGE 15



Tim Casey / Alligator Staff

UF redshirt freshman Melanie Sinclair dismounts from uneven bars during a routine that earned her a 10 against North Carolina State.

## UF SOFTBALL

### Stevens gets chance versus No. 1 Vols again

By KARL HYPOLITE  
Alligator Writer

In Stacey Stevens we trust.

Though she has been somewhat overshadowed by sophomore Stacey Nelson's hot start, the No. 19 UF softball team is looking for the senior right-hander to lead it into Southeastern Conference play. The Gators open against No. 1 Tennessee on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Stevens — UF's all-time leader in starts and strikeouts — has won three of her last four regular-season starts against the Volunteers (22-0), and the Gators (18-8) are confident despite Tennessee's gaudy record.

"The past two years we've done really well against them," Stevens said. "We're excited to play them and happy to open against them."



Stevens

that you don't always have when you play other teams."

More important than her knowledge

Tennessee's No. 1 ranking doesn't concern them either.

"We don't worry about rankings," she said. "I've played Tennessee maybe 15 times in my career, so we have a unique knowledge about them

entering this series is Stevens has rebounded after shaky performances. In the Stacy Winsberg Tournament last weekend, she struck out eight and allowed just two runs in two starts.

Coach Tim Walton believes it was Stevens' best weekend of the season, but don't tell him she struggled earlier, because he's not buying it.

"I never see Stacey Stevens as struggling," he said. "She can beat anyone on any given day, and she has. She hasn't struggled with her confidence all year, she's been making pitches and people have been hitting them."

SEE SOFT, PAGE 15

#### SCOREBOARD

##### SEC Tournament

Alabama	67
Kentucky	79
South Carolina	52
Arkansas	82

#### ON TELEVISION

■ SEC Tournament : Georgia vs UF  
Lincoln Financial, 7:30 p.m.

■ SEC Tournament : Kentucky vs. Mississippi State. Lincoln Financial, 1 p.m.

#### alligatorSports.org

■ The UF women's swim team headed to Minnesota for NCAA competition Thursday. For a full recap, as well as previews for the men's tennis and women's track teams, check the Web site.

#### UP NEXT

■ For all updated coverage of the SEC Tournament, as well as updates on the men's tennis action this weekend, check out alligatorSports.org during Spring Break for recaps.

# Golfers look to defend Gator Invitational crown

■ THE WOMEN'S TEAM HAS TAKEN THREE TOP-FIVE FINISHES IN A ROW.

By **DANNY KLEIN**  
Alligator Writer

Starting this weekend, it's the women's turn.

Looking to follow in the footsteps of the UF men's golf team, winners at the Gator Invitational earlier this spring, the women will now take the tees and hope for the same.

The men will also be in action this weekend, taking part in the Southern Highlands Collegiate Championship in Las Vegas.

But the No. 17 women's team will stay in Gainesville for its only home tournament of the spring and look to defend a victory in last year's event.

"Our mindsets are pretty confident right now," junior Tiffany Chudy said. "We all know we've played well here at least once."

The team will look to continue its momentum.

The Gators have carded two consecutive top-five finishes after failing to do so once in the fall.

"Pretty much at this point, with my girls it's mental," UF coach Jill Briles-Hinton said. "They have the skills, they know they can win. The fall was a learning curve and now we're getting ready for postseason play."

This year's field will include four teams

ranked in the top 25, including No. 13 Tennessee, No. 19 North Carolina and No. 23 Florida State.

In last year's event, the Gators won by 14 strokes.

Junior Sandra Gal recorded her first ever individual medal, and sophomore Mallory Blackwelder finished tied for third.

Gal, coming off a final round score of 69 (3 under par) in the UCF Challenge, sees the Gator Invitational as a chance to continue her strong play.

"Last year definitely boosted by confidence," Gal said. "But this year I can't control what other people do, so I'm just going to go out there and do my best, hopefully something good will happen."

On the road to recovery, Blackwelder continues to improve. The sophomore shot a 74 (2 over) in her last round and looks to be returning to her old form.

"She's very close to getting back to her potential and then some," Briles-Hinton said. "She has the mind, the golf mentality, all the tools to be successful."

After a rough spring, Blackwelder feels she's ready to make an impact.

"I went from the fall season where I thought I could win every tournament to the spring when I wasn't even sure if I was going to play," Blackwelder said. "I'm finally getting back to being in the swing of being competitive again."

The rest of the Gators look to start strong,

a problem that has plagued the team in recent matches.

The Gators began the UCF Challenge with a combined 313 (25 over) in the first round, before improving by 20 strokes in the final day, ending with a 293 (5 over) and a fifth-place finish.

"The girls know they need to play hard from start to finish," Briles-Hinton said. "It's just a matter of putting it all together."

"I went from the fall season where I thought I could win every tournament to the spring when I wasn't even sure if I was going to play."

**Mallory Blackwelder**  
UF golfer

**WOMEN'S TENNIS SHOWDOWN:** Two of the three remaining unbeaten teams in women's tennis will square off this weekend when No. 1 UF takes on No. 3 Georgia.

The Gators (10-0, 1-0 Southeastern Conference) head to No. 16 Tennessee (6-3, 1-1 SEC) Friday before traveling to face the Bulldogs (9-0, 2-0 SEC) on Sunday at Dan Magill Tennis Complex, site of the 2007 NCAA Championships.

UF coach Roland Thornqvist likes the idea of playing at the same spot where the Gators hope to contend for a title later this spring.

"I do think it helps," Thornqvist said. "It gives you the visual, when we're back here in April and May practicing for it. Our younger players (will) have an idea of what the venue looks like and you can sort of mentally prepare for it."

UF will look to perform better on the road than in its only other away match of the year, a 4-3 win against Florida State on Feb. 28.

Thornqvist gave his team a B or C rating for the trip to Tallahassee.

"We found ourselves in a little bit of a hole there, but once again our guys really stepped up," Thornqvist said. "When the pressure was turned on, that's when some of our players really seemed to be at their best."

The Gators will also be coming off a long layoff, having not played a full match since FSU, due to weather issues and a forfeit by Mississippi State.

"We would've liked to play, especially from a doubles standpoint," Thornqvist said. "It's always better to play and learn. Hopefully (the layoff) won't be too bad."

**MEN HOST NO. 1 BULLDOGS:** The UF men's tennis team, which fell out of the top 25 this week, will host Tennessee at 3 this afternoon at the Ring Tennis Complex.

On Sunday, the Gators take on top-ranked Georgia at 1 p.m. before taking on Miami on Tuesday.

— PHIL KEGLER

## UF hopes to exact revenge at Texas A&M

**BASE**, from page 14

It has not been pain-free for the All-American slugger either.

At South Florida on Feb. 27, he was nailed on his left leg, inches from where he was nursing a rolled left ankle.

In his first game back after missing two games with the injury, LaPorta limped to first base.

Senior Austin Pride doesn't like to get hit as much as LaPorta gets hit, but he notices the offense improves in innings when guys take one for the team.

"We practice that at-bat a lot in practices," Pride said. "And it works. It seems like every time we get hit, we get a run out of it."

The Gators will need all the offensive help they can get this weekend as the squad travels to College Station, Texas, to take on No. 18 Texas A&M.

The Aggies dropped their last game in College Station against defending national champion Oregon State on Monday.

The loss snapped a 14-game win streak and was the team's first home loss of the year.

The chance to play at Olsen Field — the Aggies' home stadium — has McMahon very excited.

"Texas A&M is one of the outstanding places to compete in," he said. "It's a great test for this club. It's a double-deck stadium and one of the unique (venues) in college baseball."

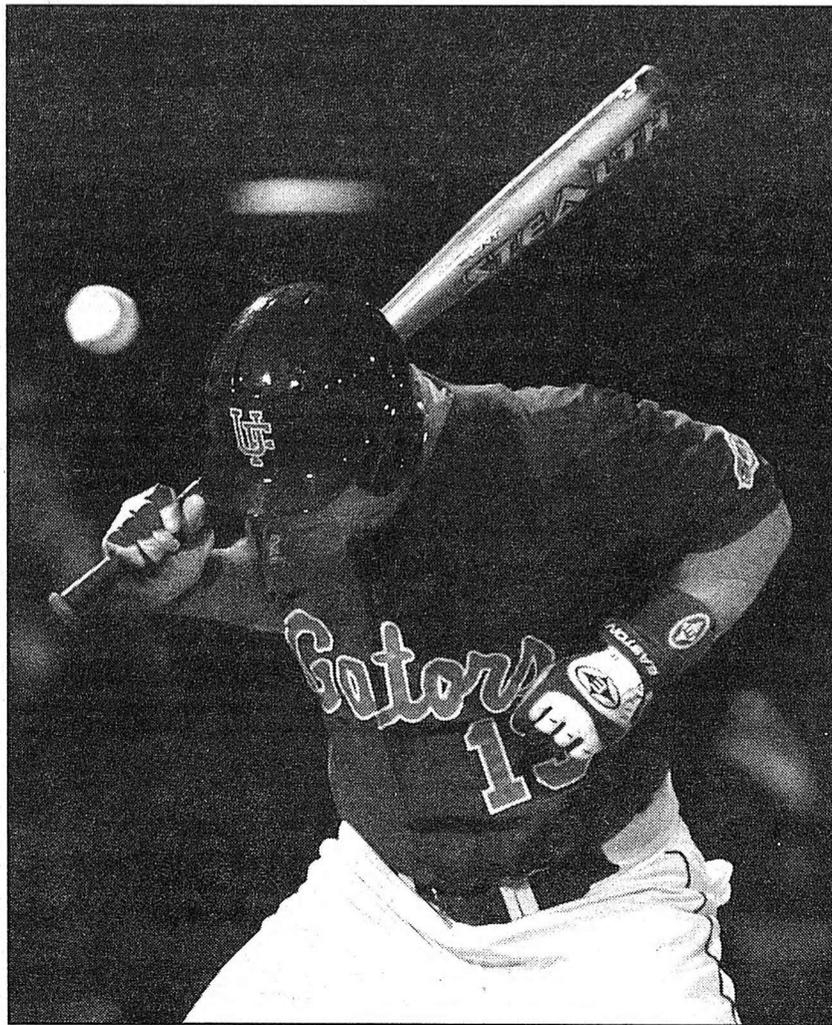
UF will be looking to exact some revenge on the Aggies, who took two out of three from the Gators in a series in Gainesville last year.

In that series, UF was shut down by the Texas A&M pitching staff, which blanked the Gators in both Aggies wins.

If that's the case this series, the Gators might need to crowd the plate a little more.

And McMahon knows he can count on LaPorta for that.

"Matt is one of the most unselfish players on the club," he said. "If the ball is on the inner half (of the plate), he'll try to help the ballclub by getting on base."



Tim Casey / Alligator Staff

UF senior Matt LaPorta gets hit by a pitch during the Gators' 24-4 win in the second game of a doubleheader against George Washington on Saturday.

## Hartung likes change

**GYM**, from page 14

despite the apparatus, have taken a liking to flying in the air. Corey Hartung dreaded the exercise, but Burde has changed her mindset.

"It was always my weaker event," Hartung said. "I credit him a ton (for getting me to like the bars). He's very goal-oriented. He pushes us through every day."



Hartung

Burde, who was born in gymnastics Mecca, Romania, wants his gymnasts to love the attention they receive when performing on the bars.

"I always told them, 'when you compete, it's show time,'" Burde said. "It's like driving a nice car in campus and see all those eyes look at you or going to a party and have the best dressed, and you have that feeling that people are looking at you. It's a good feeling. So I told them, 'that's exactly the same thing when you compete.'"

## Pitchers have friendly rivalry

**SOFT**, from page 14

Stevens, though, admitted that she went through a rough stretch, but the key was never getting down on herself. She knew if she stumbled, there'd be someone to pick her up.

"The good thing about this early season is that you get to work out the kinks," she said. "And knowing that if I struggled, Stacey Nelson would be there for me made it easier."

"She's completed some of my games and really helped us out."

Walton enjoys the luxury of having two quality pitchers.

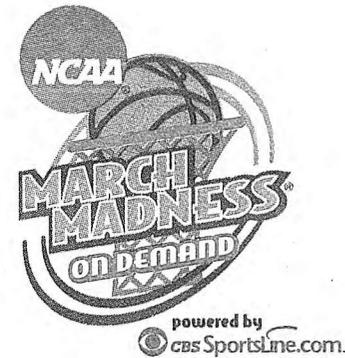
But, unlike Stevens, he sees their relationship as more of a friendly rivalry.

"[Stevens] realizes that we have two pitchers," he said, "and with two pitchers you can win a lot of games. She's got Stacey Nelson to push her, and I think that's more important. Stacey Nelson is pushing her to be the better pitcher."

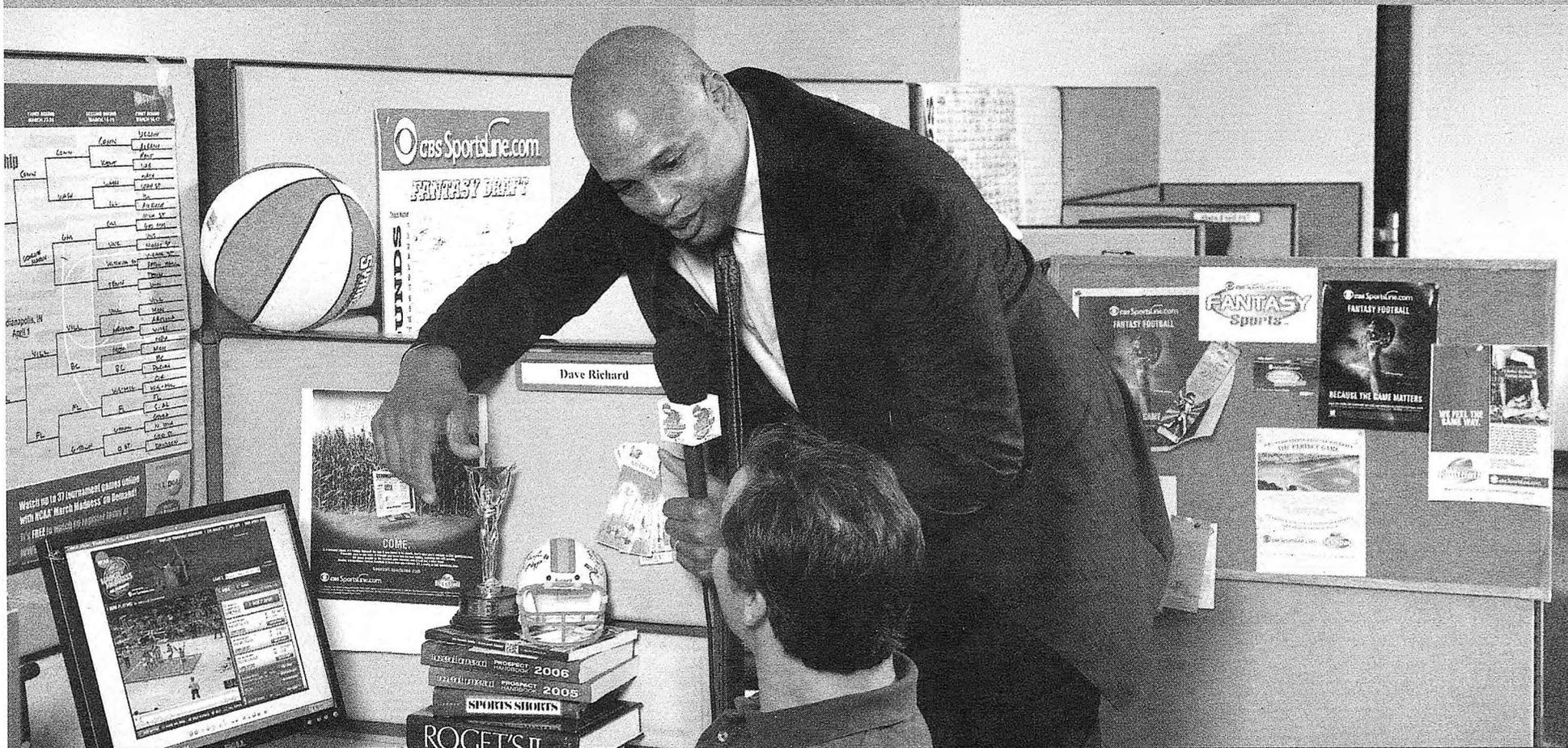


Softball

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# CENTER OF ATTENTION

2007 SEC Tournament Preview



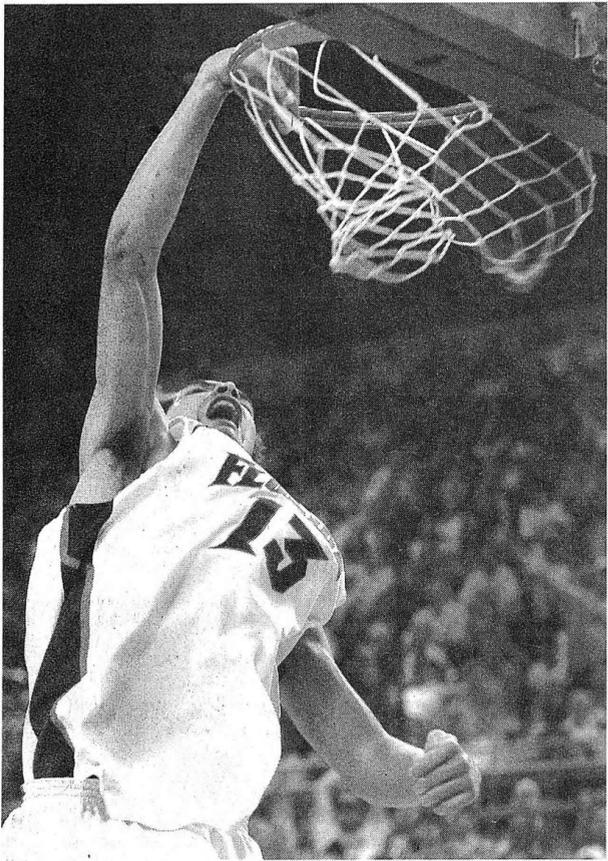
# Center of Attention

Cover photo Andy Apicella  
Alligator, Friday, March 9, 2007

## Noah faces greater fanfare, expectations in third season **LOVE HIM OR HATE HIM?**

By JENNA MARINA  
Alligator Staff Writer  
jmarina@alligator.org

Former international tennis star Yannick Noah isn't a basketball expert, but he knows it doesn't take one to understand what his son brings to the court. Yannick has only attended a handful of games during his son's career at UF, but he's seen enough of the Noahisms to realize the energy they evoke.



Tim Casey / Alligator Staff

UF forward Joakim Noah dunks during the Gators' 85-72 win against Kentucky on Sunday at the O'Connell Center.

"It's good," Yannick said. "He's getting the people into it. But it takes away a lot of energy from him. It takes a lot of energy to do that. You need one guy like this on the team. I like what he does. It's natural when he does it, just natural."

While the chest pounding and the screaming and the bouncing ponytail and the swagger come naturally to Joakim Noah, his passion has made him college basketball's most despised and beloved player.

No matter what city the forward is in, he hears and sees it. On the streets of Nashville, Tenn., a Vanderbilt fan walked with his homemade poster — "Tim Hardaway hates Joakim Noah" — referring to the retired NBA star's public declaration of his aversion for homosexuals.

In Baton Rouge, La., the student section tossed crumpled newspapers at the forward during pregame introductions.

They tell him he sucks and he's garbage, and when they can't come up with anything else to rattle him, they insult his girlfriend, his mother and his sister.

"There's a line of abuse, that to me, crosses the line," UF coach Billy Donovan said. "When you have 25,000 people doing things, some of that I think is unfair. I think people don't know what he's going through. Nobody does. I don't."

And then there's the other side. There are the fans who line up by the dozen outside of UF's locker room after a game in hopes of snapping a picture with him.

There are the girls who walk up to his table at a restaurant, interrupting his meal periodically to ask for an autograph.

There are the students who chant his name before every tipoff in the O'Connell Center and erupt into a frenzy with every glance he shoots their way.

"I have to bring more energy and more passion to the game," Noah said. "It helps our team, and sometimes I feel like I've been letting the team down a little bit."

Noah finished last season as the MVP of the NCAA Tournament and king of college basketball.

He returned to school for the love of the sport. But then came the new season and new levels of expectation for the Gators big man.

Noah averages 12.2 points and 8.1 rebounds per game, far from the lofty numbers some fans anticipated.

"I made this comment before the season started: Joakim Noah is never going to live up to expectations," Donovan said. "But no one seems to want to listen to me. They all want to pump up Joakim Noah, and when he doesn't play well, they tear him down."

After three games of uninspired play against South Carolina, LSU and Tennessee, critics questioned where Noah's spark had gone.

They tried to offer advice to the junior, and then Donovan would undo the talking they had done.

"It's amazing to me how everybody thinks they have everything figured out," Donovan said. "They know Joakim Noah. They know what's wrong. And they have no clue what they're talking about."

Yet they try to, offering their thoughts and opinions so openly that Noah's inbox is inundated with e-mails after games.

"If I need advice, I like to ask for the advice," Noah said. "I don't like it when everybody has something to say because I feel like nobody really understands what I'm going through."

After flying under the radar last season, Noah learned he had to adjust to the way teams were trying to take him out of the game.

He is double- and triple-teamed, and Sunday's game against Kentucky was no different.

Lee Humphrey fed Noah the ball in the post on UF's first possession, and 34

**JOAKIM NOAH is never going to live up to expectations. But no one seems to want to listen to me.**

— Coach Billy Donovan



Tim Casey / Alligator Staff

UF forward Joakim Noah goes up for a shot during the first half of the Gators' 63-49 win against South Carolina on Feb. 21 at the O'Dome.

seconds after he lost the tipoff, Noah was forced to call a timeout so the Wildcats would release their claws on him.

"It's a great sign of respect as a player if someone is going to play defense on you like that," Donovan said. "There's more notoriety around Joakim. Too many teams and coaches have too much pride to just let the guy come down and just catch the ball and do what he wants to do."

When it all becomes too much, Noah turns to his roommates — Taurean Green, Al Horford and Corey Brewer.

"They're with me all the time," Noah said. "They know what's important to me."

"I'd rather talk to people who understand my situation, and not a lot of people do. But my roommates do. I appreciate them because I know they're there for me regardless."

Horford has tried to support his teammate through the inner-battle of his slump in the last month.

"Jo feels that if you're going to support us, you've got to support us through the ups and downs," Horford said. "Some people make him out to be like he's going to change everything. It's obvious that he's going to have some down games. I think he's figured it out for himself. He's going to step up at the right time. I'm not worried about him."

Luckily for the Gators, Noah received his epiphany just in time for UF's last game of the regular season.

In his 17-point, 10-rebound effort against the Wildcats — or the Kitty Cats, as the junior calls them — Noah exhibited the fire fans had missed and helped the Gators rise above the fog they had been walking through.

The 22-year-old will continue to play the only way he knows, regardless of what the experts or the fans or the haters or anyone has to say about it.

"I realized in the last couple weeks, I'm not here to please anybody," Noah said. "I (returned) for myself and for my teammates. I didn't do it for anybody else."

"I'm learning from all these different experiences. I don't regret anything. I love being here."

## Gators look for SEC Tournament three-peat

By JENNA MARINA  
Alligator Staff Writer  
jmarina@alligator.org

The Madness is beginning and as long as the Gators can hold it together, forward Joakim Noah expects nothing less than climbing to the top of college basketball again.

"We lost to the worst team in the league (LSU)," Noah said. "It's all about mindset with this team. When we're focused and we're ready to go, I feel like that's when we're the best team in the country."

The Gators (26-5, 13-3 Southeastern Conference) embark on their journey to the title when they face East Division fifth-seeded Georgia in the quarterfinals of the SEC Tournament tonight.

Georgia moved on thanks to an 80-65 first-round win against Auburn on Thursday night.

The Gators, the East's top seed, defeated the Bulldogs by a combined 26 points in two regular season meetings.

As the hype swells about a repeat, UF intends to play with blinders on,

focusing solely on itself and winning the game in front of it.

"Last year, we had those expectations, but this year everybody else has them," forward Al Horford said. "It's always about keeping it in ourselves and knowing what we've got to do. We can't live up to what people make us out to be."

"I can't live to score 30 points, getting 20 rebounds. I'm trying to get the team to win."

If anyone knows how to be successful in this tournament, it's the Gators.

All of the returning champions know what it's like to play in an SEC Tournament Championship Game.

In the previous three years, UF has made it to the final round, and in the past two, the Gators have won it all.

"The past shows we're a great tournament team, but this is the poison I'm talking about," Noah said.

"If we listen to, 'Oh, we're a great tournament team, we have it all figured out,' that's when the big dogs get bumped out of the first round."

The Gators have assumed the big-dog role for the entire conference season.

"Last year, we had those expectations, but this year everybody else has them. It's always about keeping it in ourselves and knowing what we've got to do. We can't live up to what people make us out to be. I can't live to score 30 points, getting 20 rebounds. I'm trying to get the team to win."

Al Horford  
UF forward

They won their first 11 SEC games before losing at Vanderbilt.

"We've had a target all year long," UF coach Billy Donovan said. "We're dealing with the same exact thing, and it's not going to change for us. It's about us. It's about where we need to get to. It's about our fo-

cus level. It's about us being the best we can be."

With the Gators gaining momentum off their last regular-season victory against Kentucky, other SEC coaches believe their teams will have a difficult time dethroning UF this weekend.

"Florida is the odds-on favorite," said Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings during Monday's SEC coaches' teleconference. "I don't think just any team can win it. I think it will take something fairly monumental to upset Florida."

It may not take something monumental, but a test of wills.

In all three of its losses last month, including the Commodores loss, UF came out flat and paid when its opponent's fierce intensity fueled leads that proved insurmountable for the Gators.

"It shows that we're not invincible," Horford said. "That was important for our team, and I think it's going to help us in the long run."

If UF gets past Georgia, it could run into LSU, one of the three teams to knock off UF in SEC play.

Vanderbilt and West top-seed Mississippi State are probable finals opponents.

To rest for the long haul, the Gators took two days off following the Kentucky win Sunday.

"I wanted to get them back mentally and physically to be fresh and be excited going into Atlanta," Donovan said.



**Who:** Georgia vs. UF  
**Tipoff:** 7:30 p.m.  
**TV/Radio:** Sun Sports, Gator Radio Network 103.7.  
**Where:** Georgia Dome, Atlanta  
**Series:** The Gators defeated the Bulldogs twice, 71-61 on the road and 67-51 at home.  
**Notes:** UF is going for its third straight SEC Tournament title and have reached the title game the past three seasons. ... The Gators have won seven consecutive games against Georgia.

## Fans should enjoy UF's greatest hoops team before it's gone

Enjoy the show while you can, folks.

Peel yourself off the beach, or take up a good seat on the deck of your cruise ship.

Hell, get off your ass and drive to Atlanta or New Orleans to catch one of the best acts to ever hit this town.

Only two more performances are promised, and there's no guarantee of an encore.

Only a Southeastern Conference quarterfinal and the first round of the NCAA Tournament are ensured for the UF men's hoops team, a team we will likely never see again.

There won't be anyone who can be expected to knock down almost every three, like Lee Humphrey.

There won't be any 6-foot-9 forwards who can guard the opponent's best player, like Corey Brewer.

There won't be a big man who has enough bravado to flex for the cameras after a big play, like Al Horford.

And there sure as hell won't be anyone remotely resembling Joakim Noah.

I know what you're thinking: The '04s are juniors and haven't said they'll leave, but let's be realistic.

They did everyone a favor by returning this season and risking injury, being under a microscope every day to defend their title.

Don't get greedy. You can't begrudge these guys if they decide to take their games to the next level.

All three have potential to be lottery picks, and I wouldn't be surprised to see Taurean Green follow his friends out — whether he's ready for the NBA or not.

His stock will never be higher, and he may not want to go



Dan Treat  
Dan in Motion  
dtrat@alligator.org

through his last year of college without his roommates.

I'm not sure if anyone

has formed an official appreciation society for these guys, but they should.

The only standard this group hasn't set is being the first team in school history to garner a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

A victory in this weekend's conference tournament would likely give them that.

In the last two seasons, the Gators have won an NCAA title, a conference tournament, the SEC regular-season title, been ranked No. 1 multiple times and set the school record for wins and regular-season wins.

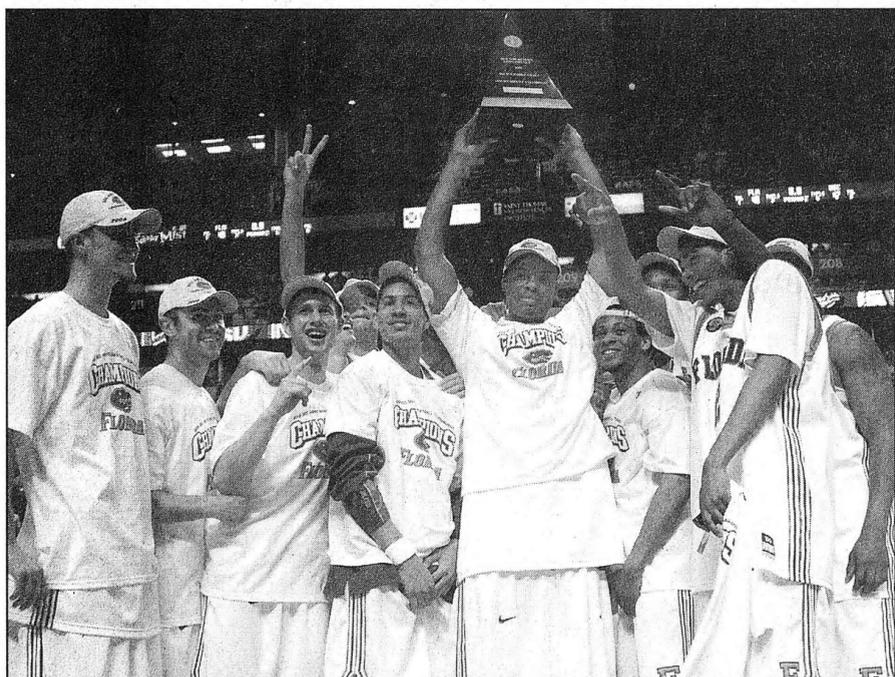
Billy Donovan's third-wave of players were not the most heralded entering Gainesville, but they will leave the most revered.

It is an absolutely awful cliché, but they've played the game as the consummate team.

They've had just enough swagger to not be viewed as cocky, they've connected with the fans, they've been personable and — perhaps most of all — they've finally earned UF basketball the respect it has craved since the program's inception.

So rather than expect things of this team over the next several weeks, simply enjoy something that you're never going to see again.

Oh, and guys — be sure to turn the lights off when you leave.



Andy Apicella / Alligator

Senior Adrian Moss raises the SEC Tournament Championship trophy after the Gators' win against South Carolina in the finals last season. UF begins its quest for a three-peat tonight against Georgia.

# 2007 SEC MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Thursday, March 8    Friday, March 9    Saturday, March 10    Sunday, March 11



**[W5] Alabama**

Game 1 1:00 PM (Lincoln Financial)

**[E4] Kentucky**

**[E4] Kentucky**

Game 5 1:00 PM (Lincoln Financial)

**[W1] Mississippi State**

**[E6] South Carolina**

Game 2 3:15 PM (Lincoln Financial)

**[W3] Arkansas**

**[W3] Arkansas**

Game 6 3:15 PM (Lincoln Financial)

**[E2] Vanderbilt**

Game 9 1:00 PM (Lincoln Financial)

**CHAMPIONSHIP**

Game 11  
1:00 PM (CBS)

SEC Tournament Champion  
NCAA Tournament Automatic Qualifier

**[E5] Georgia**

Game 3 7:30 PM (Lincoln Financial)

**[W4] Auburn**

**[E5] Georgia**

Game 7 7:30 PM (Lincoln Financial)

**[E1] UF**

Game 10 3:15 PM (Lincoln Financial)

**[W6] LSU**

Game 4 9:45 PM (Lincoln Financial)

**[E3] Tennessee**

**[W6] LSU**

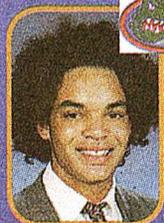
Game 8 9:45 PM (Lincoln Financial)

**[W2] Mississippi**

March 8-11  
Georgia Dome  
Atlanta, GA  
All times Eastern

Kim Wilmath / Alligator Staff

## PLAYERS TO WATCH



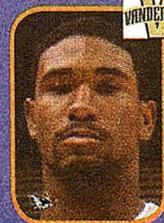
**Joakim Noah** (UF), Jr., 6-11, 230 pounds, 12.2 ppg, 8.1 rpg  
Noah brings passion to the Gators with his scrappy play and his vibrant enthusiasm. The forward is the only Southeastern Conference player represented on the Oscar Robertson Trophy finalists list.



**Al Horford** (UF), Jr., 6-10, 245 pounds, 13.1 ppg, 8.9 rpg  
As leading scorer for the Gators, Horford is a solid post player with polished moves and a strong outside jumper. He recently scored his 1,000th career point and his consistent play has led to 13 double-doubles this season.



**Glen Davis** (LSU), Jr., 6-9, 289 pounds, 17.8 ppg, 10.4 rpg  
Finishing at the bottom of the SEC West, LSU had a letdown after making a Final Four appearance last year, but Davis continued to be a bright spot for the Tigers. As the league's leading rebounder, Davis earned a nod to the SEC's First Team.



**Derrick Byars** (Vanderbilt), Sr., 6-7, 230 pounds, 16.9 ppg, 3.3 apg  
Byars fell a close second for AP SEC Player of the Year honors, but took the honor in the coaches' vote. The senior scored 24 points, dished eight assists and snagged five steals to upset then top-ranked UF, breaking the Gators' nation-best 17-game winning streak.



**Randolph Morris** (Kentucky), Jr., 6-11, 259 pounds, 15.3 ppg, 7.3 rpg  
Morris does it all for the Wildcats, leading them in scoring, rebounds and blocked shots (two per game). Even when Morris did not start this season, the junior still scored 17 points in both games, proving his worth as an SEC honorable mention..



**Jamont Gordon** (Mississippi State), So., 6-4, 225 pounds, 15.8 ppg, 7.2 rpg  
Gordon tallied the second triple-double in Mississippi State history to single-handedly lift the Rebels to victory over then-No. 17 Vanderbilt, who was fresh off upsetting the Gators. A physical performer, Gordon was chosen as an SEC Second-Team pick.



**Patrick Beverley** (Arkansas), Fr., 6-1, 172 pounds, 14.3 ppg, 4.4 rpg  
Don't let his freshman status fool you; Beverley is a major player. He leads the Razorbacks in scoring and steals, and he ranks sixth in the league for 3-point percentage. His all-around production earned him the SEC's Newcomer of the Year award.



**Clarence Sanders** (Mississippi) Sr., 6-1, 180 pounds 16.5 ppg, three 3-pointers per game.  
Sanders' game speaks higher than his 6-foot-1 frame. He led the surprise Rebels in scoring this season en route to his Second Team All-SEC appearance. This is the first winning season since 2002 for the Rebels, and they look to continue that in the SEC Tournament.

Kim Wilmath / Alligator Staff