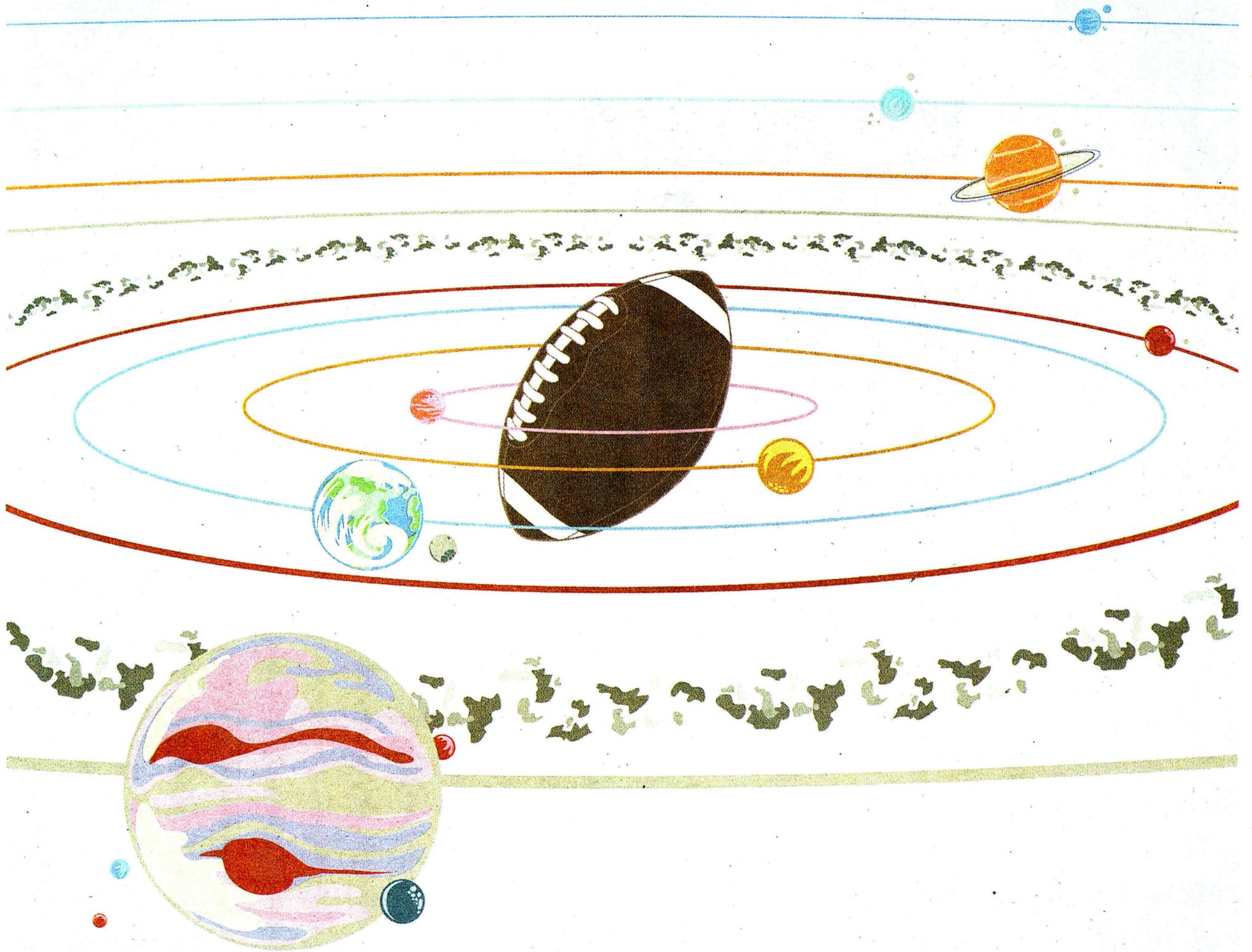


HOMECOMING EDITION 2007



the independent florida
alligator

News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Gator Gallop

Percy Beard Track to Southwest Second Avenue, 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., today
There will be a two-mile run prior to the Homecoming Parade.

Homecoming Parade

University Avenue, noon to 2 p.m., today
The UF Homecoming Parade will include participation from local businesses, high-school bands and UF and SFCC student organizations.

Gators Soccer

James G. Pressly Stadium, 7 p.m., today
The UF soccer team will be playing the University of South Carolina.

Gator Growl

Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., today
Gator Growl will include comedian Frank Caliendo and the band Lynyrd Skynyrd.

Alumni Barbecue

O'Connell Center, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday
The Homecoming Alumni Barbecue is open to UF alumni and their families and will include performances by the UF cheerleaders and Albert and Alberta.

Gators Football

Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, 12:30 p.m., Saturday
The UF football team will be playing Vanderbilt University.

Halloween Party

Rion Ballroom, 7:30 p.m. to 11:35 p.m., Saturday
The Indian Students Association will be holding a Halloween party.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police lock up stadium

For police, Homecoming weekend isn't much different from a weekend with a home football

FORECAST

TODAY  SUNNY 76/55	SATURDAY  SUNNY 75/48	SUNDAY  SUNNY 73/51	MONDAY  SUNNY 74/56	TUESDAY  PARTLY CLOUDY 77/55
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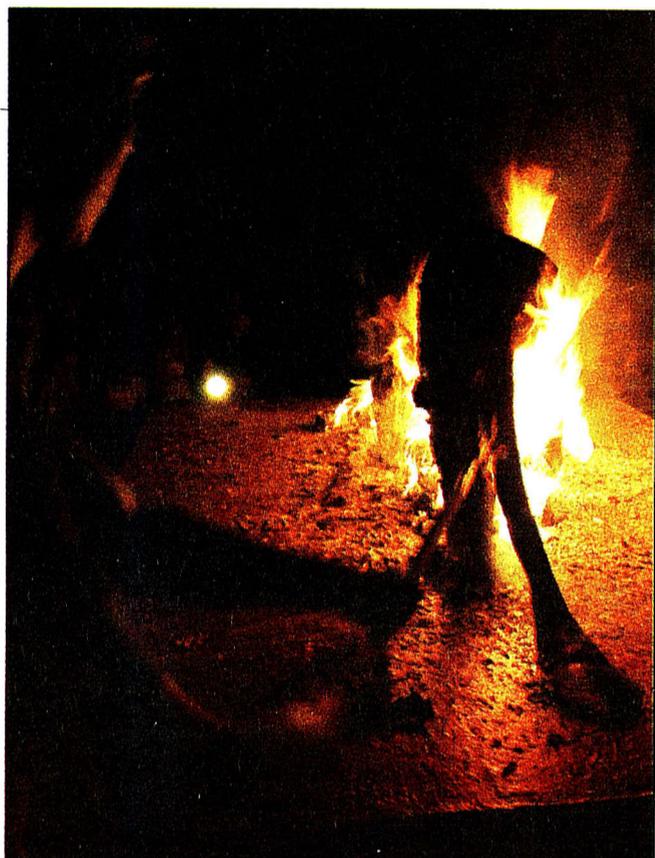
game, said Capt. Jeff Holcomb, University Police Department spokesman. Still, officers are taking some precautionary measures.

UPD locked up Ben Hill Griffin Stadium on Thursday night to ensure the safety of the stadium. Typically, UPD would

lock it up on Friday nights, he said.

— ANDREW TAN

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.



Jeremiah Stanley / Alligator

Deep Cleaning

Hastings Westphal, a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, scrapes paint off of "Leo," the lion statue in

the independent florida alligator

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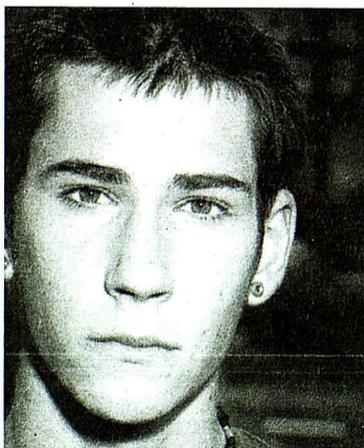
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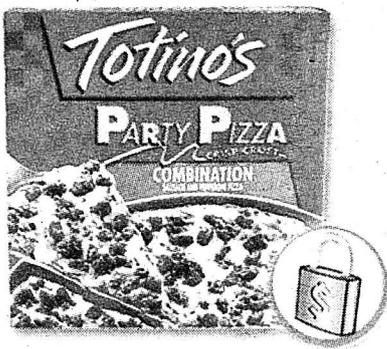
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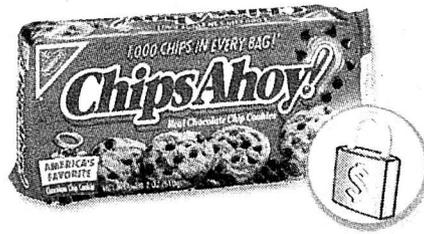
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Student groups shell out money for intricate floats

■ THIS YEAR'S PARADE WILL FEATURE 70 FLOATS.

By **STEVEN WEINER**
Alligator Writer

With 70 floats entered in UF's Homecoming parade, crowds can expect to see live music, local celebrities and colossal robots rolling down University Avenue today.

Local businesses, fraternities, sororities and student organizations spent weeks designing and building the floats.

Max Weiss, UF's Homecoming parade director, said both the Benton Engineering Council and UF Surf Club have a history of making great floats.

Bentley Zephirin, a UF civil engineering junior, is the Homecoming director for the Benton Engineering Council, which helps coordinate laws and standards among engineering organizations on campus.

Last year, Zephirin was the designer for the council's "Back to the Future" float. It featured the time-traveling DeLorean car crashing into a 10-foot-tall model of UF's Century Tower.

The scene included the characters Marty McFly, Doc Brown and Mr. Two Bits.

Like most floats, the council's was primarily made of wood, cardboard and chicken wire, but it featured two smoke machines to create the effect of the car's engines, Zephirin said.

The cost was \$1,100, which is about the same expected cost for this year's float, he said.

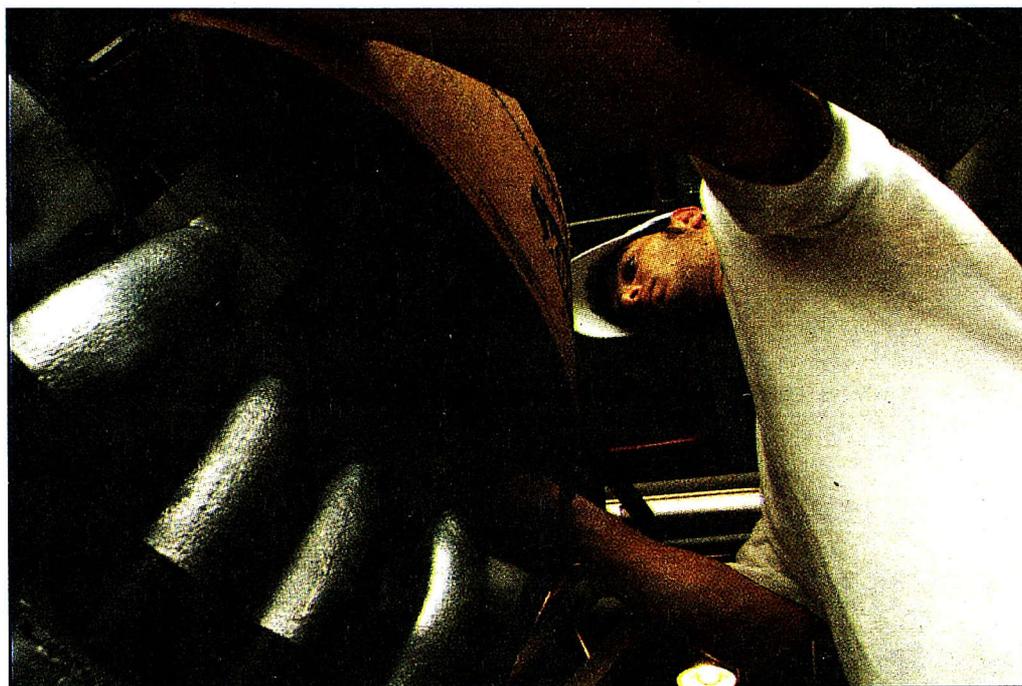
Todd Kinsey, UF Surf Club president, said his group's float is not about elaborate designs but about getting the crowd excited and having fun.

Last year's float featured the local reggae band "Juice" as its main attraction, said Kinsey, a UF telecommunication senior.

Along with the band, more than 40 people packed onto the truck bed, turning the float into a traveling party.

For fraternities and sororities, the Homecoming parade represents the culmination of a week filled with social events boosting school spirit, said Brian Engel, Homecoming float chairman for the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity.

Twelve fraternities and sororities have paired up and entered six floats into today's parade, he said.



Scott Robertson / Alligator Staff

Robert Moore, a UF freshman, moves a cardboard piece into place while assembling a parade float for the Benton Engineering Council.

Parking problems can intensify during Homecoming

Some lots are set aside for students

By **MARY MANCONE**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Days before the Homecoming game, the hunt begins. People start searching, swerving and weaving in and out in search of the right parking spot.

"When you get a parking pass, it's not, 'You have a spot,'" said Mark Ray, a resident assistant at Murphree Hall. "You have the right to hunt for a spot."

During Homecoming, the number of people wanting to park on

campus will drastically increase while the number of available spaces significantly decreases, said Ron Fuller, assistant director for Transportation and Parking Services.

Students can be displaced by the lack of parking, but UF's transportation division sets aside parking lots outside of Tigert and Criser Halls specifically for those students, he said.

Students have a chance to park in those spaces until midnight before the game, after which anyone can park there.

Ray said that the Wednesday before the Homecoming game, he will search for spots in these designated areas.

He said he does not always find a parking spot and ends up moving his car to a friend's apartment complex, where he can get a visitor's pass.

After students have been given the opportunity to find other parking spots, any remaining cars in reserved areas are towed.

Transportation services is only

responsible for the certain parking lots on game day, Fuller said.

At the large commuter lot on Gale Lemerand Drive, remaining cars are towed, but only to the grass area. Cars are then ticketed, but the owners are not charged a towing fee. Transportation services pays the fee.

"You're being inconvenienced," Fuller said. "We're not trying to find a way to get more money out of students, but we've got to clear the lot."

On game day, when tailgaters start appearing on campus, transportation services transfers almost all responsibility to the University Police Department and the

University Athletic Association.

"The closer you get to game time, Ocala may be the next option," Fuller said.

Lt. Chuck Snowden, of the parking unit and special services at UPD, said that with thousands of people coming to campus, parking does become an issue.

Usually, though, UPD has few problems with tailgaters. Tailgaters do a good job of cleaning up after themselves, he said.

As long as they stay out of restricted parking lots, fire and bike lanes, taped off areas, service drives and sidewalks, they will not be ticketed or towed.

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HOMECOMING

Growl skits expected to top last year's

■ THE SKITS ARE NOW PRERECORDED.

By **SARA RUBIN**
Alligator Contributing Writer

It may be hard to imagine Steve Spurrier having a direct effect on the production of theatrical skits, but like his playbook, the Ol' Ball Coach is full of surprises.

Gator Growl skits changed from live performances to video recordings at Spurrier's behest.

When Spurrier had natural grass laid on Florida Field in 1990 to replace the AstroTurf, performers were prohibited from running on the field, said Aron Weingard, producer of Gator Growl.

As a result, performers began videotaping skits and have never turned back.

"I'm maintaining a poker face, but it's going to be great," Weingard said of the skits.

Weingard said even though the main theme of the skits is always based around campus jokes and athletic rivals, new technology has created opportunities for the highest quality of production.

The staff is willing to do whatever it takes, no matter how much time is involved, to create the best possible skits, he said.

"For every minute of footage, we probably spend over an hour of filming time," said Michael Jordan, creative co-director of Gator Growl.

The process of creating a skit begins with the seven-member creative team brainstorming ideas, writing and editing a script, casting actors, filming and editing, Jordan said.

An element of surprise is important for the success of the skits.

For that reason, the skits are only pre-screened by a select few directors on staff

before the show.

No more than 10 directors will have seen them before they are viewed by thousands of people.

"The show as a whole is going to be one of the best shows that students, alumni and the Gainesville community is ever going to see."

Michael Jordan
creative co-director of Gator Growl

Jordan said different video elements, including songs, sound effects and footage, give pre-recorded skits an advantage over live ones.

"When you see a musical, it's one-dimensional," Jordan said.

"But on screen you can really accomplish a new look that isn't possible on stage."

Video can be taken from

five of 10 different views at once, which gives the staff flexibility to choose the funniest or most creative version for the audience.

The screening process for actors was more intense this year, and the overall quality is the highest ever to be seen at Gator Growl, he said.

No individual characteristics of the skits make them the best yet, he said, but rather a combination of factors.

"Our video editor shoots so tight and makes it so crisp that each of our skits are like short films," Jordan said.

Commercials will also be acted out, he said.

Instead of showing cameos all at once, as the 2006 show did, they will be spread out during the entire Gator Growl show.

"The show as a whole is going to be one of the best shows that students, alumni and the Gainesville community is ever going to see," Jordan said.

Growl nets sponsor

By **EVA MAE SMITH**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Gator Growl is taking on a private title sponsor for the first time in its 84-year history.

Thanks to this year's Verizon Wireless sponsorship, Growl will feature increased lighting and fireworks, said Aron Weingard, producer of the event.

Sponsorships for Gator Growl have been sought for the past three years, he said, but this year, a team was able to increase the amount of money brought in by a single sponsor from about \$5,000 to \$50,000.

Paul Drayton, chairman of the Student Senate's budget committee, said SG typically provides about \$11,000 through ads to Gator Growl.

This year it provided about \$5,000.

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Editorial

Ah, Homecoming weekend. The grills are lit, the RVs are parked, the beer is on ice. We'd be lying if we said we don't enjoy it. Even though Archer Road is more packed than a tin of sardines and our favorite bars are at capacity, we wouldn't trade this three-day weekend for anything.

But who are we kidding? The Department of Darts & Laurels knows this weekend is about one thing and one thing only: football. So enjoy the parade, laugh your butt off at Gator Growl and yell out "Free bird!" when that band comes on. But most of all, we're looking forward to the game. Until then, we present the touchdown edition of...

Darts & Laurels

First up, a Tebow-style-stiffarm-run-for-a-first-down LAUREL to the Panhellenic Council's Junior Panhellenic Division for its annual "Ghouls, Goblins, and Greeks" event. The Halloween extravaganza provided Gainesville residents a safe place to bring their costumed kids where they could play games, meet SpongeBob SquarePants and of course, collect tons of candy. Plus, what could be cuter than all those adorable kids in costume?

Next we have to give a fake-punt-trick-play LAUREL to Graduate Assistants United and Students for a Democratic Society for staging a protest about giving teaching and research assistants more time to pay their fees. As much as it pains us to say that SDS actually protested something worthwhile, we'll give them credit for this one.

As we said in Thursday's editorial, it's not fair for our TAs to have to shell out for all of their fees at a time when money is invariably at its tightest. It makes much more sense for them to be able to have their fees deducted from their paychecks throughout the semester. We go to a university, for crying out loud — someone should be able to figure out how to make this happen.

Perhaps someone like a chief financial officer? We give a dem's-mad-recruiting-skillz LAUREL to UF administrators for hiring Matthew Fajack to be UF's new CFO. The title may sound like something more appropriate for Morgan Stanley, but it's time we realize UF is basically a corporation — and a multi-million-dollar one, at that. Fajack will have to analyze UF's finances and make recommendations pertaining to them.

As much as it makes UF seem even more impersonal, in this time of budget cuts and financial woes, UF must have a CFO if it wants to stay on top of its game.

We've got a the-play-clock-is-winding-down-and-thank-God LAUREL to the end of the Andrew Meyer ordeal. Now that all the investigations are complete and the punishments meted out, hopefully we can all get back to normal. And who knows, maybe Meyer will be able to, as well. Then we can go back to thinking about the first Meyer: Urban.

In case you're a little hungover after partying all night on Halloween or Thursday night or even Friday, have we got a cure for you. We have a better-than-spaghetti-and-Gatorade LAUREL for Starbucks, which is churning out mochas at its newest Gainesville location in the Reitz Union. While we hate that Starbucks is taking over UF — not to mention the world — we know it's a damn good way to make some much needed moolah.

Finally, we close with a Tebow-throws-to-Harvin-who-runs-in-for-a-TD-to-beat-the-Commodores-by-about-100-points LAUREL to the Gators football team. We're confident they'll win this one and make us bowl-eligible. We'll see you Saturday in the Swamp.

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Opinions

ALLIGATOR
www.alligator.org/opinion

WOULD SOMEBODY PLEASE JUST LET
THE GATOR GROWL ALREADY!?! WE'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR 84 YEARS!



Column

Study abroad can come home to you

I don't know about you, but spending a semester abroad is something I've been thinking about doing since arriving at UF.

It's such an appealing option for students because studying in a far-away country is like embarking on a really long vacation that just happens to get you college credit.

Every time I strike up conversation about study-abroad opportunities with my family, I usually get the same response: My parents suggest places I should spend a semester so it will give them an excuse to visit, and my little brother recites the same joke — and I use the term joke in the loosest way possible.

It goes something like this: "So, uh, I think I wanna study abroad when I get to college, too. I just don't know what her name is yet."

Baa-dum-tchhh.

I know, hilarious.

But anyway, in preparation for my study-abroad excursion, I opted to live with an international student this year in order to form friendships with overseas students and become more culturally inclined.

My roommate is from England, so I thought it wouldn't be too different from having an American roommate because of two very important factors: We both speak English, and we both love Harry Potter.

It just so happens that our cultures aren't completely alike, but we enjoy spending time comparing and contrasting.

Often, my English roommate, her English friends and I sit around for hours and play a heart-thumping, jaw-dropping, riveting game of "What's It Called?" The premise is quite simple: Say a word, and then name all the possible cultural variations of that same word.

This game can become quite lengthy, even rivaling epic Monopoly sessions. Some terms, though, like "creeping Jesus," have no cultural equivalent, while



Colleen Shea

letters@alligator.org

others could spark a lengthy list. For example, "fries" to us are those wonderfully golden strips of greasy potato that we technically shouldn't eat, because they are what doctors and fitness gurus deem "unhealthy" and possibly deadly.

To the English, "fries" are called "chips," and "chips" are called "crisps" except, under certain circumstances, "chips" are actually "chips" and not "crisps" — but we'll ignore that for now. It's too advanced.

Speaking of chips, my new English friends are constantly shaking their heads in shame at America's unaddressed national crisis known as the Fish-and-Chips Situation.

They do not believe in fish fingers or fast-food fish because "Fish does not belong in a drive-thru and should be served with real crisps, not soggy fries." I agree wholeheartedly, and we should really do something about this grave situation.

Speaking of drive-thrus, my English friends have also pointed out just how many fast-food joints we have in America — one for nearly every letter of the alphabet. That struck me as kind of sick and twisted, until I remembered that the alternatives to fast food are either going to a sit-down restaurant, where you have to wait for food, or cooking.

So the moral of this story is, if you want to study abroad, it would be a good idea to live with international students. And if you don't want to study abroad, that's OK, as long as you at least visit a country where they sell fish and chips that don't come from a drive-thru.

Colleen Shea is a sophomore majoring in journalism. Her column appears on Fridays.

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

Reader response

Today's question: Will you participate in the Homecoming festivities?

Thursday's question: Have you observed discrimination in Gainesville?

47% YES

53% NO

38 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

Letters to the Editor

Greek event great for Gainesville's children

My husband and I wish to express our gratitude to all of the sororities that participated in the "Ghouls, Goblins, and Greeks" event on Halloween. All of the girls were so caring and wonderful with our kids, and the effort spent decorating the houses, making costumes and creating games for the kids' enjoyment was so appreciated by our family. Our children, who are ages 3 and 1, had a fantastic time, and we all hope to participate again next year. Thank you again for the wonderful Halloween experience.

Kelly Kirkpatrick
Gainesville resident

■ ■ ■

SG deserves praise when merited

The Alligator editorial board should give credit where credit is due. When our Student Government leaders got library hours extended for finals, the editorial board decried SG for not doing more.

Apparently it's easy getting the administration to fork over \$5,000 per semester, and apparently you're damned if you do and damned if you don't. Yesterday's editorial faulted the Student Senate for not working harder. The truth is, senators cannot pass a bill extending library hours.

Their responsibilities lie almost exclusively in allocating the Activity & Service Fee to fund things such as the Reitz Union, the gyms and student organizations. While an individual senator can sponsor resolutions in support of an idea, these are rarely effective.

Passed Senate resolutions may theoretically carry power, but in practice they have proven to be almost worthless. Instead, the administration regularly seeks approval from the Student Body president, who holds the mandate of the greater student body.

I recognize SG's flaws should be elucidated by a vigilant press. However, when our leaders succeed, they deserve a mature press corps that doesn't criticize for the sake of criticism.

Ryan Nelson
former student senator

Alligator unfairly criticizes groups' good works

These past few weeks I have seen continuous negative coverage by the Alligator editorial board wantonly slamming whole groups of students, namely Greeks and SG, for mostly negligible offenses.

Heck, even in SG's case they did something, yet the Alligator felt it necessary to continue its mudslinging campaign. In the case of the Greeks, the councils took steps to help safeguard Homecoming, and the Alligator responded by writing what seemed like a fair editorial but ended in a tongue-in-cheek jab.

Yes, the Greeks and SG do fall short, but they fall short while aiming higher than all those around them. I applaud them for striving valiantly in the face of ridicule and criticism. However, I hope the Alligator editorial board rises to new heights and leaves this deplorable, immature smear campaign to lesser individuals.

Tommy Rodriguez
secretary, Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity

■ ■ ■

Free speech essential for democracy

I don't understand some people's view of "freedom of speech." It is evident to me that people who publicly violate the law during peaceful, political discourse are met with praise rather than scorn.

I'd like to live in a place where, if I'm disappointed with my government, I can freely question my leaders in a public forum without being silenced by other attendees. I want a place that can use legal precedent to remove those who violently infringe upon my freedom. Also, if a person violently resists, my law enforcement has an effective, non-lethal response.

Luckily, I live in a place like that at UF. It's nice to know that if someone like Andrew Meyer keeps an entire room full of people from freely discussing their political views, he can be removed. Maybe now our community is free to ask "the hard questions" without such unlawful interruption.

Wesley Kokomoor
4EG

TOP

5

Best
Things
About
Homecoming



5. We love a parade. When else do we get to see politicians wave as if they were the queen of England?
4. Let the Gator Growl. Skits, celebs, surprises. What more could we need?
3. Fireworks. There's something about explosives that warms us inside.
2. A day off from school. As if we needed another reason to get drunk.
1. Football! Enough said.



Molly Telfer / Alligator Staff

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Performers look forward to large crowds at Growl

By **DEVIN CULCLASURE**Alligator Writer
dculclasure@alligator.org

UF students can expect a mix of up-and-coming talent as well as tried-and-true success at tonight's Gator Growl.

The 84th annual Gator Growl, billed as the world's largest student-run pep rally, will kick off at 7 p.m. at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

Comedian Frank Caliendo is the headlining act at Gator Growl, and Southern-rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd will also perform.

Caliendo is an impressionist known for his imitation of political figures and celebrities such as John Madden, George W. Bush and Robert De Niro.

He will receive \$50,000 for his performance.

Caliendo's credits include a role on "MADtv" as well as frequent appearances on "Fox NFL Sunday" and "Late Night with David Letterman."

On his Web site, Caliendo describes his show, "Frank TV," as a mix of "The Muppets," "The Simpsons," "Saturday Night Live" and "Second City Television," a Canadian comedy show from the late '70s and early '80s.

Aron Weingard, Gator Growl producer, said Caliendo's comedy appeals to a wide variety of people.

"His brand of humor relates to a broad audience," he said.

"Frank can reach into the audience's world and use voices

and facial expressions to make common stuff funnier."

Caliendo wrote in an e-mail that he couldn't wait to perform.

"It's going to be a crazy experience," he wrote. "I've never performed in front of so many people before."

Caliendo said he practiced impressions his entire life before he seriously pursued his hobby during his sophomore year of college.

"It's going to be a crazy experience. I've never performed in front of so many people before."

Frank Caliendo
comedian

He said students can expect some of his older impressions, such as Madden, as well as some new ones that could include Charles Barkley and Jeff Goldblum.

Dancing would be another prominent feature of his performance, he added.

Caliendo also compared the perks of performing in different mediums and venues.

While his role on "Fox NFL Sunday" allowed him to make fun of Terry Bradshaw, and his own TV show lets him dance to his heart's desire, Caliendo said live stand-up is "fun because you get to have that immediate reaction."

While Caliendo might be a relative newcomer, Gator Growl's second main act, Lynyrd Skynyrd,

has been playing Southern-rock hits for nearly 40 years.

Lynyrd Skynyrd, which will receive \$150,000 for the performance, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in March 2006.

Though a 1977 plane crash in Mississippi killed three members of the original band, which is based in Jacksonville, four original Lynyrd Skynyrd members still play today.

Johnny Van Zant, brother of original lead singer Ronnie Van

Zant, took over as lead singer in the late '80s.

In an October e-mail, Van Zant said the band is excited to play in Gainesville.

"We are looking forward to playing Gator Growl!" he wrote. "We've always been big Gator fans."

Van Zant said Gainesville is one of the first areas the band played outside of Jacksonville.

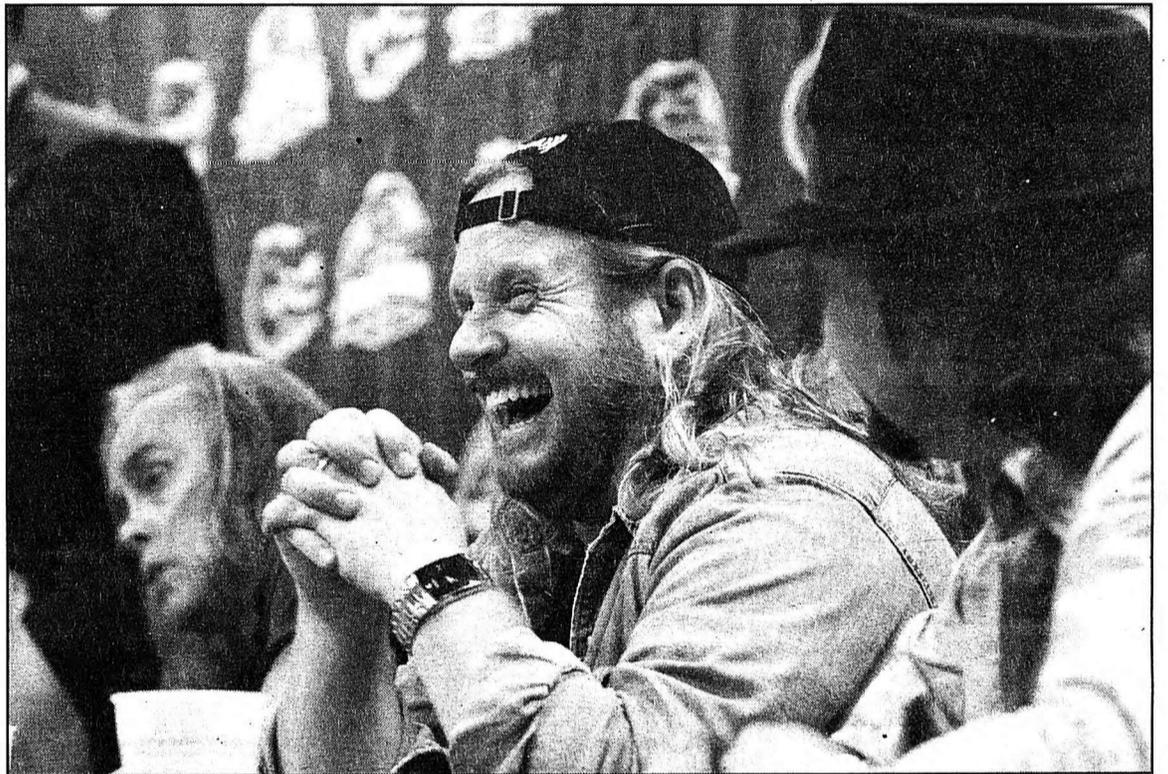
A favorite venue was the Great Southern Music Hall, he said.

"My favorite memory of

Gainesville would be as kids," Van Zant wrote. "We went there a lot and had friends that lived there."

Van Zant said UF students could expect to hear hits such as "Free Bird," "Sweet Home Alabama" and "What's Your Name."

When asked why he thinks Lynyrd Skynyrd's music has held appeal for nearly 40 years, Van Zant wrote he thinks it's because the group's music "is real songs about real life."



Charles Roop / Alligator Staff

Johnny Van Zant, center, laughs with fellow Lynyrd Skynyrd band members Ricky Medlock, left, and Gary Rossington during the Gator Growl news conference Thursday night.

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Options exist for a Homecoming-free weekend

■ STUDENTS CAN AVOID THE TRAFFIC AND CROWDS.

By **APRIL DUDASH**
Alligator Writer

While Gainesville residents may be decked out in orange and blue on Homecoming weekend, not every event in town will be about football.

The Alligator has created a list of events for those who want to stay away from the twirling batons, huge floats and flying pigskin.

GATORS SOCCER VS. SOUTH CAROLINA

Go cheer on the Gators on Friday night when they battle the University of South Carolina Gamecocks.

Where: James G. Pressly Stadium
When: Friday, 7 p.m.

OLIVER, A MUSICAL

The Gainesville Community Playhouse presents a musical based on Charles Dickens' novel "Oliver Twist."

Where: Vam York Theater
When: Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.
Tickets: \$15
www.gcplayhouse.org

NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD

Seven strangers take refuge in an abandoned farmhouse as they try to escape the undead. Based on the horror film by

George A. Romero.
Where: The Hippodrome State Theatre
When: Friday, 8 p.m.
Saturday 5 p.m., 8:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$30 regular admission
\$20 seniors
\$10 students
www.thehipp.org

AMERICAN GANGSTER

A drug kingpin (Denzel Washington) from Harlem smuggles heroin into the country by hiding it in the caskets of dead soldiers who come back from Vietnam. A cop (Russell Crowe) starts an investigation.

Around Gainesville

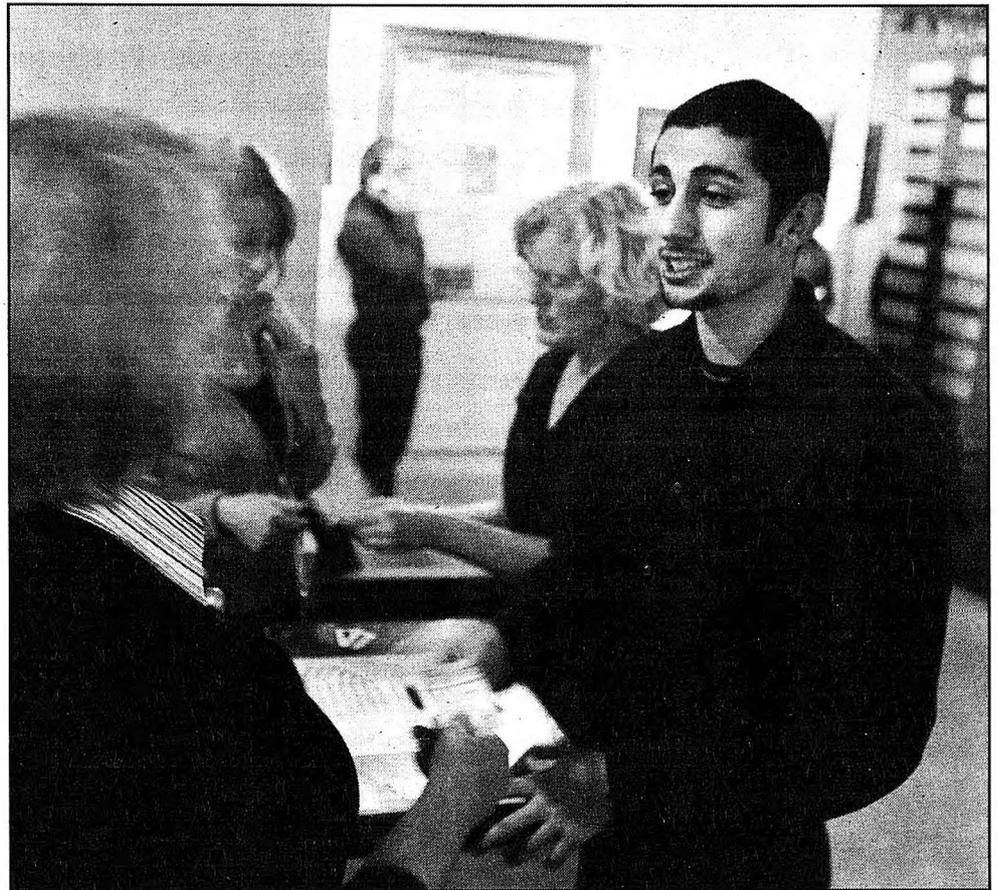
Where: Regal Cinemas Royal Park Stadium 16 (Newberry Road)
When: Showings on Friday and Saturday, noon through 11:30 p.m.

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Where: Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art
When: Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

LIVING HISTORY DAYS

Morningside staff interprets day-to-day life on a rural Florida farm in the 1870s.
Where: The Morningside Nature Center
When: Saturday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Free admission.

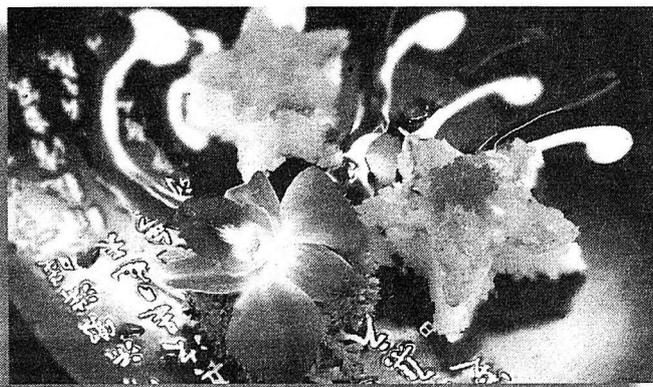


Laura Heald / Alligator

Yossi Shuman, a UF student and a Hippodrome volunteer, directs people to their seats at the Hippodrome State Theatre on Thursday night.

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Unlike FSU, UF's pep rally caters mostly to families

■ FSU'S HOMECOMING SHOW, CALLED POWWOW, FEATURED SARAH SILVERMAN THIS YEAR.

By NINA MAHMOUDI
Alligator Contributing Writer

It's that time of year again. It's the time of year when University Avenue shuts down for the colorful floats parading around town.

It's the time when alumni flood city streets and parking lots for the big game.

And, of course, the time for guests to pile into Ben Hill Griffin Stadium for Gator Growl.

Growl staff members say they are trying to get back to the Growl traditional image — a family-oriented pep rally — for all of The Gator Nation by featuring comedian Frank Caliendo, a star of the TV show "Madtv," and Southern-rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd.

While some students are excited for the acts, others are disappointed.

Kayla Kurtz, a UF animal science junior, said she will bypass the show this year and

go home for the weekend instead.

"Lynyrd Skynyrd, I know them," she said.

"But they aren't actually the original Lynyrd Skynyrd."

Anna Murphy, Growl spokeswoman, said Caliendo has a "broad" appeal for audiences.

Lynyrd Skynyrd was also invited to create a traditional pep rally while honoring the recent success of Gators sports, she said.

Murphy said organizers tried to keep the diversity of attendees in mind when deciding who is going to perform at Growl. "The Gator Nation is not just students," she said.

"We are trying to register to an audience that incorporates younger siblings to grandparents."

In contrast to Gator Growl, Florida State University's Homecoming rally, called PowWow, is organized exclusively to the desires of students.

Comedian and actress Sarah Silverman was featured this year, and Stephen Colbert appeared last year.

Adam Sterritt, associate director of stu-

dent activities at FSU, said the university normally tries to get a big name or the hottest comedian at that time.

He said students are polled months before the show to see which comedians students want to see.

"We have a really student-heavy show," he said.

Murphy, the Gator Growl spokeswoman, said having Dane Cook as a performer in 2004 was a turning point for the "largest student-run pep rally."

Cook used vulgar language and seemed to entertain only students, said Murphy.

His performance was not received well by some members of the audience.

Randy Talbot, executive director of the UF Alumni Association and a member of the Class of 1975, said shows like that one "run the risk of offending the very people that are supporting the show in the first place."

Murphy said that alumni are not the only demographic considered when discussing what act to feature.

Murphy explained that when a per-

former who is popular at a particular time is brought in for a show, organizers can run the risk of that person no longer being in fashion by the time the show comes around.

She also said performers these days seem to be genre-specific.

Somebody like Justin Timberlake would only appeal to some audience members of Gator Growl, Murphy said.

She said Lynyrd Skynyrd was a great choice because the band's music is timeless and not pigeon-holed to one type of person.

"When I told my little brother that Lynyrd Skynyrd was coming to perform, he was so excited," Murphy said.

Other students are also excited about the event.

Nika Merta, a mechanical and aerospace engineering graduate student, said she plans to attend.

She said she will also include her family in the festivities.

"I got tickets for everyone before I even knew who was going to perform," she said.

"I've gone every year, and it's fun."

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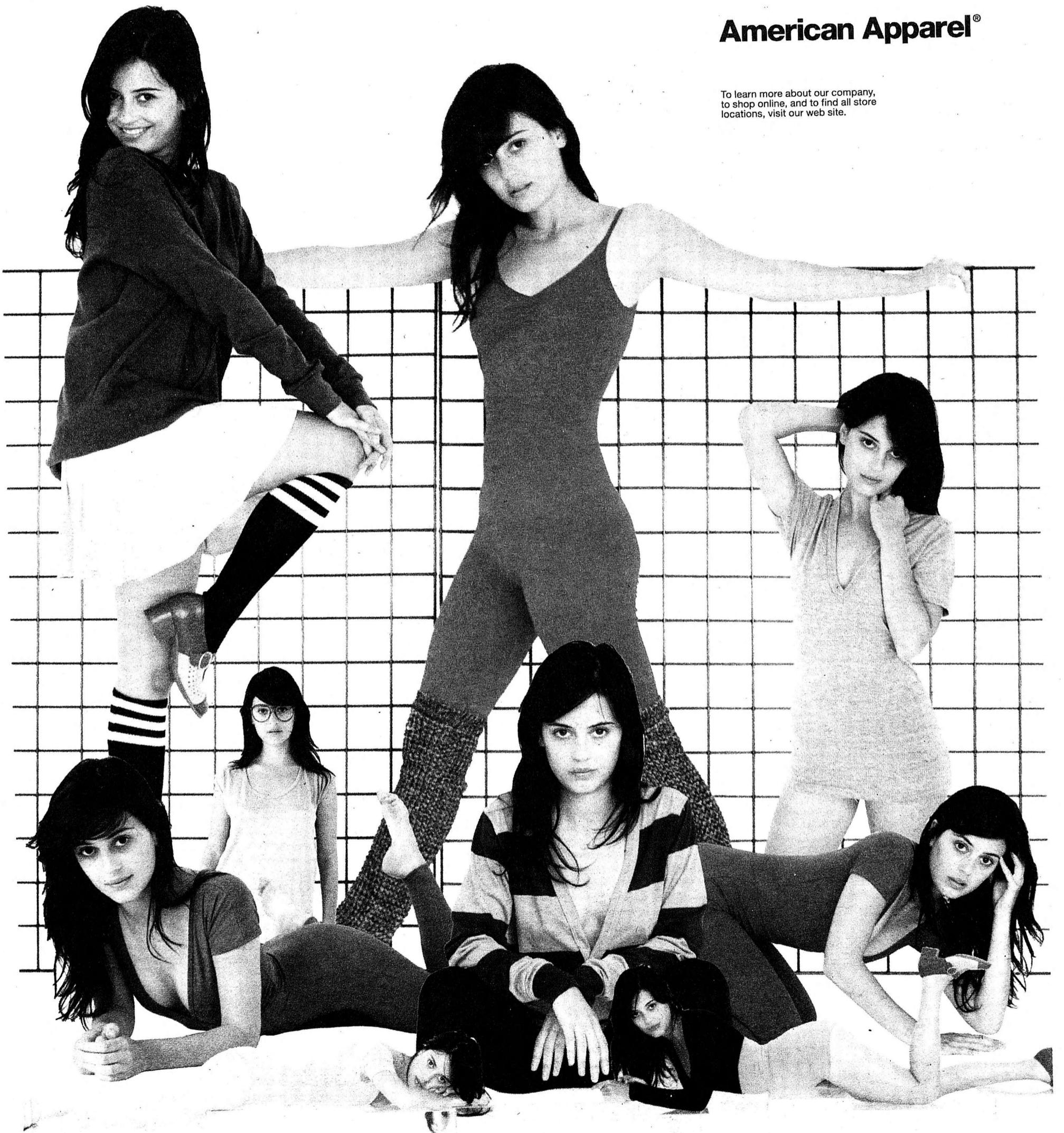
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Parade brings road closures

By **KATIE GALLAGHER**
Alligator Writer

Large portions of University Avenue will be closed today for Gator Gallop and the Homecoming parade.

University Avenue will be shut down from East Third Street to West 22nd Street, according to the Gainesville Police Department.

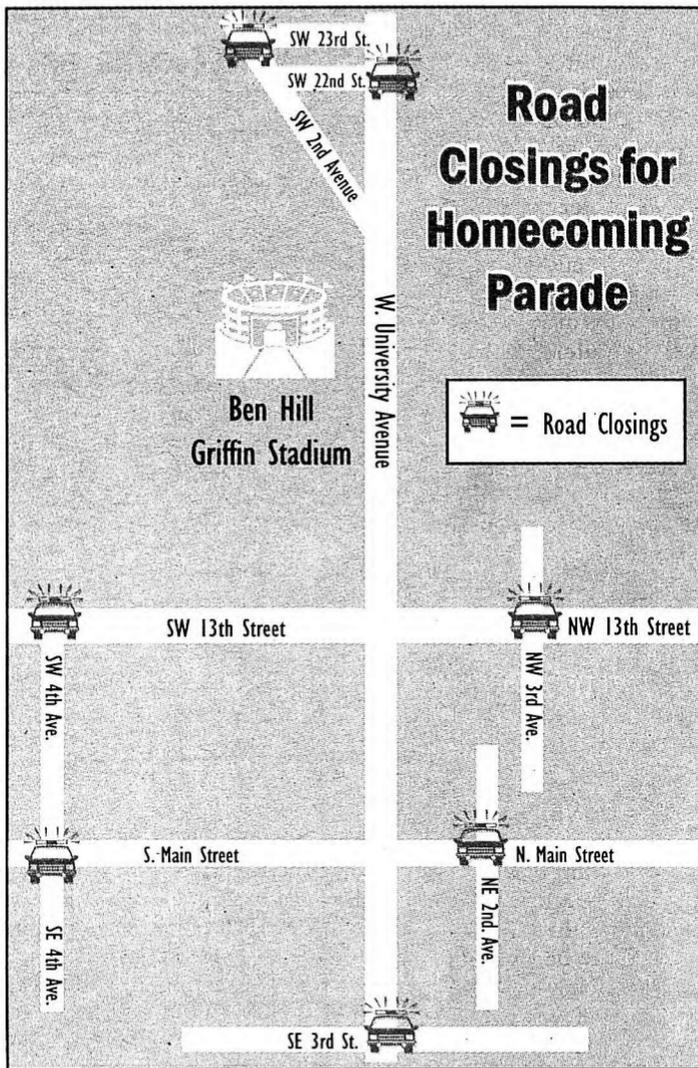
In addition, Main Street will be blocked off between North Second Avenue and South Fourth Avenue.

Thirteenth Street will also be closed between Northwest Third Avenue and Southwest Fourth Avenue.

The roads will close around 11 a.m., but the time will vary for each one, wrote Sarah Wilson, a GPD special events coordinator, in an e-mail. Gallop is scheduled to start at 11:30 a.m., and the parade is set to start at noon.

The closures are the same ones typically used for the Homecoming parade but are still subject to minor changes, Wilson said.

Road closures for Gator Growl have yet to be determined, but Northwest 16th Avenue will be closed near University Avenue afterward for Later Growl at Baptist College Ministries, according to Wilson's e-mail.



Diverse performers featured at Growl

By **DEVIN CULCLASURE**
Alligator Writer
dculclasure@alligator.org

Before UF battles Vanderbilt University in Saturday's Homecoming football game, students will have a chance to celebrate with plenty of fireworks, music and comedy at tonight's Gator Growl.

The 84th annual Gator Growl, billed as the world's largest student-run pep rally, will kick off at 7 p.m. at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

Shelley Meyer, wife of UF football coach Urban Meyer, will host the event.

Comedian Frank Caliendo, who is known for impressions of a wide variety of political figures and celebrities, will receive \$50,000 to be Gator Growl's headlining act.

Caliendo has appeared on "MADtv" and "Fox NFL Sunday." His own weekly variety show, "Frank TV," will premiere Nov. 20.

Also performing is Southern rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd. The

Jacksonville natives, famous for hits such as "Free Bird" and "Sweet Home Alabama," will receive \$150,000 for their performance.

Verizon Wireless, Gator Growl's primary corporate sponsor, is giving \$50,000 to the production this year to help cover costs.

Aron Weingard, Gator Growl producer, said students could also expect plenty of jokes at the expense of Florida State University and Ohio State University during the pep rally's usual student-produced skits.

Other student performances will include the winners of Gator Growl's Talent Night on Oct. 18.

UF freshman Brooke Helvie will perform several country hits, and Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority members will dance.

Musical group Unsigned Hype — an eclectic mix of rappers, guitarists, trumpeters, a drummer and a saxophonist — will also perform.

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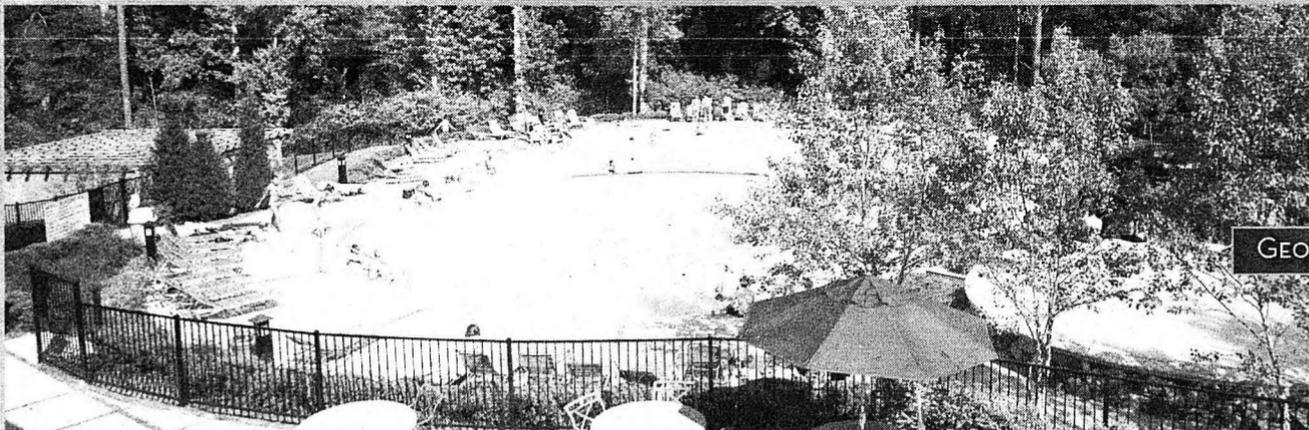
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GEORGIA

New fireworks mean Gator will go out with a bang

By **STEVEN WEINER**
Alligator Writer

In addition to the traditional overhead fireworks display in tonight's Gator Growl, this year's show will be brought to a new and more personal level by using indoor fireworks.

Although he said he didn't want to give away any of the show's details, John Feigert, who works for the company taking care of Gator Growl's fireworks show, dropped a few clues about some new effects in tonight's show.

Feigert said this year, audience members should keep their eyes not only on the stage but in the stands as well.

To ensure the safety of the audience and to bring the fireworks closer to the spectators, Arthur Portnoy, associate director of operations for Gator Growl, said some of the technology being used is fundamentally different than what's been used in the past.

Portnoy said the show will cost between \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Because of the new indoor technology, the cost has not been determined.

"We're not necessarily spending more money than last year," Portnoy added. "We're trying

something different, and investing our dollars in this new technology."

Feigert works for Pyrotecnico, one of the oldest and most established fireworks companies in the United States.

"We're not necessarily spending more money than last year. We're trying something different, and investing our dollars in this new technology."

Arthur Portnoy
Gator Growl associate director of operations

Pyrotecnico has done shows for the Superbowl and Monday Night Football, as well as the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

Feigert said Pyrotecnico designs dozens of kinds of fireworks, all made to achieve different effects.

"We have custom effects for fast music or slow music, utilizing shells, roman candles, comets, crossheads — the list goes on and on," he said.

Two computers coordinate to ignite the fireworks in time with a musical soundtrack to present a synchronized display of light

and sound.

"Our computers know exactly how long it takes for a specific firework to reach its target height," Feigert said. "If it takes three seconds to get up in the air, the computer will know to launch it at the right time so it will explode on cue."

The timing and sequences of the display are all programmed into the computer, so the show begins with the touch of a button.

Responding to spectator concerns, Feigert said the Gator Growl show has been designed with audience safety in mind.

Audience members are at least 140 feet away from the launch site, Feigert said.

"You might think so, but you don't ever have fireworks exploding over your head," he added.

The addition of the indoor fireworks will supplement the technology of the traditional outdoor show.

Although computer technology and new pyrotechnic chemistry will dictate the indoor show, the basic science behind the outdoor fireworks has not changed for more than 800 years.

Generally, a cardboard shell called a mortar holds chemicals in powder form, some of which

How fireworks get their color

These are the chemicals used to create a few of the various colors in fireworks displays:

Blue

copper compounds + chlorine producer
copper (I) chloride, CuCl

Yellow

sodium nitrate, NaNO₃
cryolite, Na₃AlF₆

Red

lithium carbonate, Li₂CO₃
strontium carbonate, SrCO₃ (bright red)



Molly Telfer / Alligator Staff

act as explosive fuels.

By adding large grains of certain chemicals to the fuel mix in the firecracker, the fuel burns longer, producing a bright sparkle. The kind of fuel is also important to how a firework looks.

For example, when the element strontium is burned, it produces a red color while cooling. Meanwhile, copper produces blue.

By combining elements in certain proportions, chemists and pyrotechnicians can create a spectrum of designs and colors.

Feigert said Gator Growl would also feature a wide variety of fireworks.

"We have a different style and presentation than we've had in the past two years," Feigert said. "There will definitely be a wow factor."



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OFF THE AVENUE Local celebs star in parade

By **KIM WILMATH**
Alligator Staff Writer
kwilmath@alligator.org

Several UF notables will join sports teams and Florida politicians in today's Homecoming parade that starts at noon.

The honored guests include U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, state Sen. Steve Oelrich, several state representatives and two Alachua County commissioners, wrote Max Weiss, UF Homecoming parade director, in an e-mail.

UF President Bernie Machen, all of UF's trustees, Gainesville Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan and Student Body President Ryan Moseley are also among the university's VIPs.

Other UF groups, such as sororities and fraternities, will participate as well, said Elizabeth Davlantes, UF Homecoming chairwoman.

Any group that creates a float for the parade must stick to the Homecoming theme of "Nation of Champions," Davlantes said.

"It's a great way to unite the whole city in Gator spirit," she said.

The parade starts at University Avenue and Gale Lemerand Drive and ends at Main Street.

"I've been told I'm not a good waver," Moseley said. "I've got to start practicing."



Hanrahan

This is his second time participating in the parade.

This year, he said, he's excited to meet Lynyrd Skynyrd.

"Free Bird," he said, summing up why he's a big fan.

Moseley said he's got a lot to do before the big event, including picking out an outfit.

"It'll probably be something orange and blue," he said.

Davlantes said parade participants would not be allowed to throw beads or any other objects to the crowd because of Gainesville rules.

Donations may get boost

By **KIM WILMATH**
Alligator Staff Writer
kwilmath@alligator.org

UF alumni are coming home, and university fundraisers are ready with open arms — and pockets.

While it's unlikely UF will receive an influx of cash and checks over Homecoming weekend, it gives the UF Foundation, UF's fundraising organization, the opportunity to mingle with potential donors.

"A single event like a football game or Homecoming doesn't necessarily bring in a huge amount of money," said Chris Brazda, a spokesman for the foundation. "The donations we get come in over time."

However, Brazda said any event that brings UF alumni back to campus allows UF fundraisers to show them places where the university could use monetary help.

Each of UF's colleges usually hosts

some kind of Homecoming event, such as tailgate parties or special lectures.

The events raise awareness about UF's accomplishments and goals, which usually encourages future donations, he said.

In addition, the Florida Blue Key banquet, Homecoming parade and football game always attract a large alumni crowd, he said.

Brazda said he couldn't estimate how many donors the foundation expects to rub elbows with during Homecoming festivities, and he didn't know how much extra money might come in.

The foundation collects a range of gifts from \$50 to more than \$100,000, he said.

He added that the foundation does not have a list of VIPs for donors to charm this weekend.

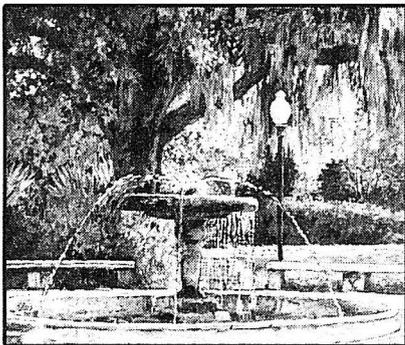
He said as far as he's concerned, "everybody's a potential donor."

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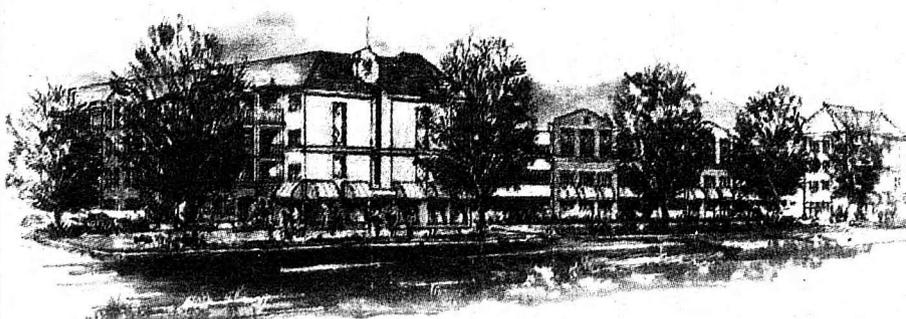
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Royalty Among Us

For the first time, there will be both a Homecoming queen and king

Jillian Yoerges spent most of her days during spring break on her hands and knees working on a farm in Costa Rica.

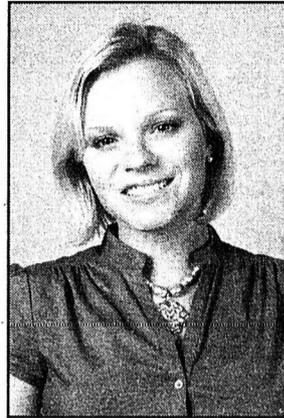
In the afternoons, she taught children English.

With her work during her Florida Alternative Break and a glut of other activities, her sorority, Pi Beta Phi, nominated her for Homecoming queen.

Yoerges, a UF anthropology senior, was excited for a pageant that focused on leadership and involvement. A few friends she admires had been in the pageant in previous years.

"I'm definitely not a pageant girl whatsoever, but I think these role models drove me to do it," she said.

Her list of at least 12 activities includes



Jillian Yoerges

working as a Florida Opportunity Scholar mentor last year, a morale captain for Dance Marathon and assistant director of Gatorship.

"What a lot of students don't realize is when you move to a new university, you are moving to a new community," she said.

"It involves really diving in and not just taking these opportunities for granted."

Yoerges hopes to work in urban elementary education for Teach For America once she graduates.

After working at a summer camp for terminally ill children, she said she questioned whether she had the energy to handle being a

teacher every day.

"It made me realize it's never going to be easy, but I think I can do it," she said.

If Joshua Jackson wants a vacation, he said, he doesn't need to go anywhere.

He can just take off the Red Sox cap he's worn since the ninth grade.

No one will recognize him, he said. No one remembers he has hair under that hat.

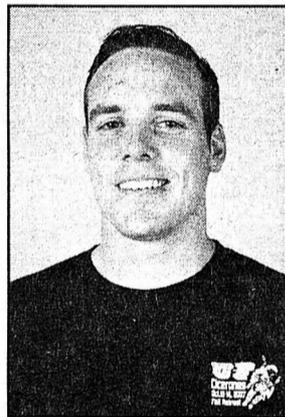
But he said he rarely does that.

His dedication is not only shown in his hat-wearing but school involvement as well.

"You can't have a day off," Jackson said. "You can't have any time to slack off."

Jackson is executive vice president of Florida Cicerones, a Student Government cabinet chair, and a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity.

When his friends finally convinced him to apply for Homecoming king, he said



Joshua Jackson

they probably just wanted to see him on stage wearing a suit.

He didn't expect to be one of three finalists for UF's first-ever Homecoming king competition.

"I thought I was just doing this to appease my friends," said Jackson, a UF political science and classics senior.

If Jackson is announced the winner, he said, he plans to set a precedent for Homecoming kings and queens to hold community-service programs each year.

"I'd put it to use," Jackson said.

"Don't let it be a title. So many people strive to get a title and once they get it, that's it."

It's not about the crown, he said.

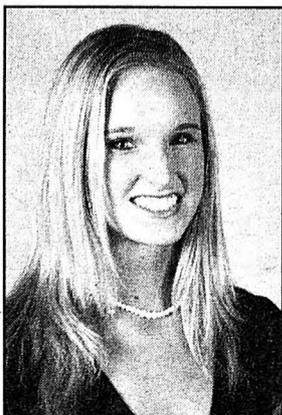
Katie Darst has directed The Traveler's Camp, a summer camp for children with special needs, for the past two years.

When the other summer camps she worked for no longer seemed to satisfy the needs of older children, Darst decided to create a new camp for them in Tampa.

Darst, a UF homecoming queen finalist, has decided she wants to continue helping children with special needs throughout her career.

"I absolutely fell in love with the work and the kids," said Darst, a health science senior.

Darst planned daily lessons for her campers. During the final week, she helped the children host a bake



Katie Darst

sale to raise money for a man whose house had burned down.

"I have gained so much from helping these kids," she said. "It's just given me so much, and I want them to know what it's like to help others."

Twice a week, Darst helps a 12-year-old autistic child by working through the Behavioral Assistant Support Services.

She was nominated to run for homecoming queen by her sorority, Delta Gamma.

As the oldest of six siblings, Darst has always interacted with younger children.

"It's so much love and support," Darst said. "You have your own cheering section just bring your family."

As a trombone player and former member of the UF marching band, Ryan Merkel is no stranger to the stage.

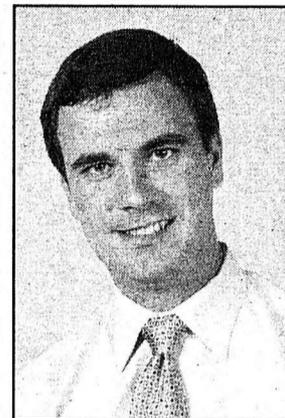
But he said he's still nervous for the moment when UF's Homecoming king and queen will be announced.

"If I trip or something, all my friends are going to see it," said Merkel, a UF marketing senior and one of three finalists for Homecoming king.

Merkel devoted 15 to 20 hours a week to the UF marching band during his freshman and sophomore years.

"I had a great experience, but I kind of wanted to move into other areas," he said. "I'm all about trying new things."

Merkel is a Florida Cicerone and member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and Florida Blue Key.



Ryan Merkel

He said he's been involved in so many activities at UF that he can't remember them all.

If he wins king, he said, he wants to convince students to be more active in the community.

"I'll maybe use that title to promote student involvement and student leadership to other people," Merkel said. "Especially younger people. It makes the college experience a lot more fulfilling."

Merkel is proud of his latest project: rebuilding the Kappa Sigma Fraternity house.

"This will be enjoyed by hundreds of students after," said Merkel, who helped design the house. "This is a project for the future."

Sara Hartmann has a passion for education that started when she was young. At the time, she was as young as the middle-school student she now tutors and mentors each week.

"I think just having someone she can talk to who is older and kind of a role model has helped," said Hartmann, a UF history senior.

By influencing young students, she hopes to inspire them to make significant differences in other people's lives, too.

Now, with a one-in-three chance of being UF's Homecoming queen, she hopes to expand this opportunity to be a role model.

"I think all the girls are already role models," Hartmann said of her opponents. "They've contributed and given a lot of themselves. I think it's just a matter of taking that title to take opportunities further."



Sara Hartmann

Running for Homecoming queen is something Hartmann said she had always considered.

"I thought the women were amazing who were crowned every year," she said.

Before she applied, she wanted to "refine her involvement," she said.

Hartmann is a member of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority and Florida Blue Key and is part of the Emerging Leaders Conference.

She is now in the application process for Teach For America. She hopes to teach at an inner-city school to "help with the education gap."

"I'll try to instill in (students) the personal belief that you can do anything you put your mind and heart to," Hartmann said.

Nicholas Baragona visits his favorite place in the world at least three times a week.

The UF Homecoming king finalist takes his breaks at The Swamp Restaurant with friends and some bourbon and Coke.

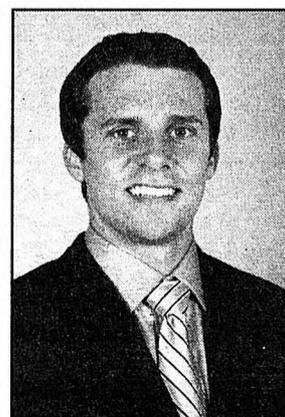
But for Baragona, it's all about time management and waking up early.

"School comes first, next involvement," said Baragona, a marketing senior.

"Social life comes last," he said.

Baragona is the assistant director of special events for Florida Blue Key, the president of Sigma Chi Fraternity and a member of Florida Cicerones.

He said the application for Homecoming king was no trouble for



Nicholas Baragona

him. "I'm so involved with the university and know so much about it that I was able to talk about it," Baragona said.

He added that he's enthusiastic about the possibility of being the first Homecoming king in UF history.

"It's an opportunity for gentlemen involved at this university to represent the university well," Baragona said.

Meanwhile, he said, he is enjoying his time representing UF as a finalist for the title.

"I have to uphold those high standards the university has set before me," he said. "To represent past, present and future Gators."

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police officers expect few problems over weekend

By **KATIE GALLAGHER**
Alligator Writer

For people who don't want to get arrested during Homecoming, University Police Department Lt. Robert Wagner said to remember three things:

- Don't have an open container in public.
- Don't drink if you're under 21.
- Don't urinate in a public place.

"Those are the three things I'm sure we'll end up dealing with the most," he said.

Otherwise, he expects Homecoming weekend to be "relatively easy."

UPD does not allow vacation time during football weekends, he said, so there will be a full staff of 13 officers at all times.

Extra officers will work the parade and Gator Growl and watch over the TV trucks.

Gator Growl is "a breeze" to work, he said, because crowds are lighter than at games.

Wagner said he expects cooler weather and fewer dehydration issues for the game.

Lt. Keith Kameg, Gainesville Police Department spokesman, said he also expects little trouble.

"It's nothing compared to a Tennessee weekend or a Florida State weekend," he said.

He doesn't expect any fights to

break out.

"Homecoming, other than being busy, is an easy event for us," he said. "People come back, and they don't really come back to be mad at the opponent. They come back to see their friends."

This means GPD expects more small house parties than big blow-outs, Kameg said.

Still, he said, GPD will have larger party patrols out and be on the lookout for drunken drivers the

day of and night before the game.

UPD does not have party patrols on campus, Wagner said, but will help GPD with drunk driving checkpoints as needed.

UPD will also be on the lookout for drunken drivers at a Driving Under the Influence/Traffic Safety Checkpoint, a UPD press release stated.

The checkpoint, which is just east of the intersection of Museum Road and Radio Road, started Thursday at 10:30 p.m.

Police will be checking for driver's license, registration, seatbelts and alcohol and drug use.

The checkpoint will be conducted by UPD with the help of GPD, the Alachua Police Department, the Florida Highway Patrol and the city's Public Works Department.

Despite his good outlook, Kameg said Homecoming is busy because it is the only football game that involves a pep rally and a parade.

Traffic is always an issue during the event.

GPD will be readily available just as during any football weekend, he said.

Wagner agreed, saying, "There's nothing specific we do that's different."

S

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safety tips for
homecoming weekend

- ⊘ Don't drink if you're under 21
- ⊘ Don't have an open container of alcohol in public
- ⊘ Stay with friends
- ⊘ Don't drink and drive

Molly Telfer / Alligator Staff

Some UF employees must work during Homecoming

THE PHYSICAL PLANT DIVISION WILL HELP SET UP FOR THE PARADE.

By **ILEANA MORALES**
Alligator Writer
imorales@alligator.org

Not everyone at UF will have the day off to watch the Homecoming parade today.

Steve Orlando, UF spokesman, said some Physical Plant Division employees

would be working to set up for the parade and Gator Growl. The University Police Department will also have its officers on duty, he added.

Jeff Chorlog, an associate director of the Physical Plant Division, said employees working today would receive eight hours of holiday pay.

Hours worked can also be credited for vacation time later in the year.

Three employees will function as a high-reach support group for the Homecoming

parade. This crew will be in charge of a 120-foot-high lift for cameras to film the parade on University Avenue between Gale Lemerand Drive and Main Street.

Paul Vlahos, maintenance specialist for the Physical Plant Division, said he expects a busy day, particularly during the setup and dismantling of the high lift.

"I imagine it's going to be hectic," said Vlahos, who will be on the ground super-

vising the operation of the high lift. "I've heard the stories from the other people here. This is my first time doing this parade."

Some Physical Plant Division employees will also work during Gator Growl and the Homecoming football game.

Crews are assigned to tasks including setting up trash cans, bleachers and barricades for the events.

"We gear for this parade all week long," Vlahos said.

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After graduation, alumni return to changes at UF



Jeremiah Stanley / Alligator

The University Corners project, which is in the works, is an example of changes in Gainesville in recent years.

By **KORI FREDERICK**
Alligator Writer

With a student population of 30,000 and a football team that once went 0-10-1 during her enrollment, UF alumna Sharon Taylor never thought her alma mater would come this far.

Now, with the student body swollen to 50,000, the football team is the defending national champion, and the town bleeds orange and blue seven days a week.

"Football was nothing like it is now," said Taylor, who completed her undergraduate degree in 1979.

"We never wore orange and blue to the games."

With the kickoff of Gator Growl 2007, Taylor reminisced about how the city and university have changed since she attended UF.

"It was a lot of fun," said Taylor, who completed her law degree at UF in 1982. "There was usually a big-name comedian, lots of skits, we'd cheer on the football team and there were fireworks at the end."

Taylor said she got to see headliners like Bill Cosby, Bob Hope and Robin Williams at Gator Growl.

Gator Growl has remained mostly unchanged over the years, Taylor said.

It still features up-and-coming comedians, spotlights the football team and ends with fireworks, but the live skits have been replaced by videos.

After Growl ended, Taylor said she would usually attend a fraternity party with

her now-husband Mark Taylor, also a UF alumnus.

When she was in college, the legal drinking age was only 18, she said.

"So you can imagine what that was like," she laughed.

There were often dances after Growl, which she said she loved to attend.

Her favorite bar was a disco place downtown called Nichol's Alley, which had a lighted dance floor.

After she and her husband graduated — they married in 1981 — they continued to come back to Gainesville for Homecoming.

"We came up a few times after we graduated, but after we had kids, we stopped coming up," she said. "But we've always

been season football and basketball ticket holders."

Over the years, she's watched the city grow. She said the traffic congestion is much worse, and there are a lot more apartment complexes and restaurants, especially on Archer Road.

She's also watched the campus grow. While only a few new buildings have been added to the main campus, she said the entire southwest area of the campus is new.

"I used to live in married housing down there," she said. "The gym did not exist."

But she's especially watched the pride in the university grow.

"It's been so much fun to watch these teams do so well," she said. "We've loved it."

Around Gainesville

Homecoming can mean big business for local retailers

■ GATORS GAMES BRING MORE PEOPLE TO GAINESVILLE.

By **APRIL DUDASH**
Alligator Writer

As Gainesville prepares for an influx of visitors on Homecoming weekend, so do local businesses.

Brent Christensen, Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce president, said the increase of people in the area causes a ripple effect in the local economy.

Gators home football games have a large impact on the community, Christensen said.

Home games affect a variety of businesses,

including hotels, restaurants and retail outlets, he said.

Lynne Vaughan, director of the UF Bookstore, said Homecoming is a great time to draw in traffic to the bookstore.

It took less than two weeks for the store to sell out of Homecoming T-shirts, and it is ordering more, Vaughan said.

The store may also do pre-sales for a new book called "University of Florida Football Vault," a scrapbook of Florida football over the years.

The bookstore should have a strong business weekend thanks to the parade and football game, she said.

"I think it's going to be a very fun November," Vaughan said.

Sam Rappa, manager for Larry's Giant Subs on West University Avenue, said extra people work during Homecoming in order for the store to be ready.

"We sell out a year in advance."

Karl Kaufmann

Holiday Inn University Center general manager

However, not everyone sees a significant change during the Homecoming weekend.

Karl Kaufmann, general manager of the Holiday Inn University Center on West University Avenue, said Homecoming is not very different from other home football

weekends.

"We sell out a year in advance," Kaufmann said.

People are allowed to book 50 weeks in advance.

Four game weekends are already sold out for next season, he said.

The Holiday Inn offers a lot of activities around the hotel during Homecoming.

"We'll let families and kids up on the pool deck so they can see the parade," Kaufmann said.

Kaufmann said he appreciates the energy of the Gators fans during home game weekends.

"Everyone who's coming here is coming here for the same reason," he said.

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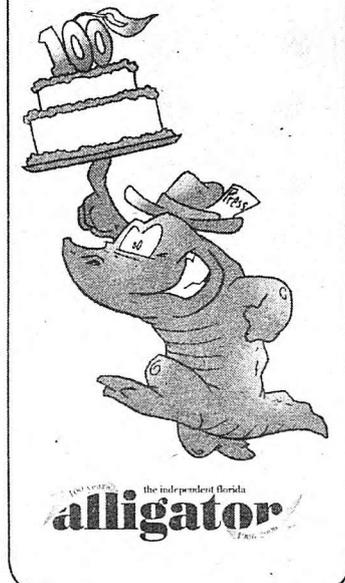
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PHILANTHROPY

Donovan set to help raise money during GatorWalk

By **NICOLE FINEO**
Alligator Contributing Writer

After winning two national titles, UF men's basketball coach Billy Donovan is working for another repeat triumph — this time for premature babies.

Donovan and his wife, Christine, are working with GatorWalk to double the money raised to benefit the March of Dimes.

More than 1,000 people walked in the 2006 GatorWalk, which contributed around \$50,000 in donations, said Amanda Casciotti, the GatorWalk director.

This year, the fourth annual five-mile walk hopes to raise \$100,000 and increase involvement to more than 2,000 participants, she said.

Casciotti, a UF industrial and systems engineering senior, said this year is going to be bigger and better with many changes from previous years.

A live performance by The Pearly Whites, an Orlando hip-hop group, will provide musical entertainment this year,



GatorWalk by the numbers

2006 event:

- Raised \$50,000
- Featured more than 1,000 walkers

2007 event:

- Aims for \$100,000
- Aims for more than 2,000 walkers

Molly Telfer / Alligator Staff

she said.

Local radio stations have provided the music in previous years, she added.

The event will also focus on Ambassadors, which are families that have been affected by the premature birth of a child or are strong supporters of the

March of Dimes.

Betsy Trent, the North Central Florida March of Dimes assistant division director, said she's enjoyed working with the Donovans.

"They are fantastic, very supportive and very passionate about March of

Dimes," she said.

The Donovans will host the five-mile walk as the honorary chairs, according to a news release.

Casciotti said students who are interested in participating can register individually or as part of a team.

Trent encouraged all students who are interested to get involved with this year's event.

"It is so important for students to get involved because the statistics are only rising for the chances of having a premature baby," Trent said.

The walk is scheduled for Nov. 18 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and will start on Turlington Plaza.

Registration must be completed online, and the deadline is 1 p.m. on the day of the event, she said.

Prizes will be awarded to top individual and team fundraisers.

Paradigm Properties is also supporting GatorWalk by providing a 12-month lease for a three-bedroom apartment to the top fundraiser.



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HOMECOMING

Gator Growl continues evolving

■ THE PEP RALLY STARTED IN 1916, AND IN 1932 IT BECAME GATOR GROWL.

By **NINA MAHMOUDI**
Alligator Contributing Writer

What started out as a simple Homecoming tradition at an all-male school has now blown up what is billed as the largest student-run pep rally in the nation.

Today, UF students can celebrate 84 years of the UF Homecoming tradition Gator Growl.

The pep rally was started in 1916, wrote Anna Murphy, spokeswoman for Gator Growl, in an e-mail.

As a tradition for the original pep rally, freshmen contributed the equivalent of their weight in firewood for a giant bonfire, she wrote.

This tradition was known as "firing up" for the football game, she wrote.

In 1925, the pep rally expanded to include skits and performers, Murphy wrote.

It was known then as a variety show.

The show evolved into Gator Growl in 1932.

That was also the first year the pep rally was put on in the stadium.

WRUF sports announcer Red

Barber was the first emcee of Gator Growl.

Now, with more technology available to produce digital skits, along with live performances by bands and dancers, more than 500 students work to put the show together.

"It has now escalated to a professional level, but still maintains the spirit of what a traditional pep rally is," Murphy said in an interview.

"(Gator Growl) has now escalated to a professional level, but still maintains the spirit of what a traditional pep rally is."

Anna Murphy
Gator Growl spokeswoman

Unlike shows decades ago, this year's show will feature "elaborate pyrotechnics," light shows and a celebration of many recent national titles for UF's sports teams.

The show has gained prestige because of the reputation of past Growl successes.

Past performers, including Bill Cosby, Robin Williams, Jerry Seinfeld and Billy Crystal, have helped escalate the show's reputation of being more than just a regular university pep rally, Murphy

said.

Randy Talbot, executive director of the UF Alumni Association and member of the class of 1975, was at Growl when Robin Williams headlined.

"When he came, I laughed so hard I sweated," he said.

"He was 'raunchy,' or at least what was considered to be the definition during that time frame."

The show traditionally had two comedians, but this year the staff of Florida Blue Key, which puts on Growl, has decided to change the format.

This year, comedian Frank Caliendo, who was a cast member on the TV show "MADtv," and band Lynyrd Skynyrd will headline the show.

The stage will also be set on a different side of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium this year.

It will now be in the stadium's north endzone.

Talbot said the purpose of Gator Growl is not outdoing what was done before but just producing a good show.

This year, ticket sales are not the only thing funding the production.

Verizon Wireless is sponsoring the event, bringing even more attention to an already hyped show.

This is the first year Gator Growl has boasted a corporate sponsorship.

City cleanup crew will follow parade floats

By **KATIE GALLAGHER**
Alligator Writer

The last trucks to go by in the Homecoming parade Nov. 2 won't be part of the entertainment. They'll be filled with city employees to clean up the mess.

"The parade's not over until our trucks go by," said Gina Hawkins, a public education specialist with Gainesville's Public Works Department.

The trucks usually consist of two street sweepers and a large vacuum, said Steve Joplin, interim director of the solid waste division.

Twenty to 30 people usually participate, he said.

The cleanup crew comes mostly from Public Works and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs departments.

Hawkins said it takes them about three hours to get all the way down University Avenue.

They pick up litter and empty trash containers on both sides of the street, but they don't cross far into UF territory.

The same employees also clean up before and after football games and other major events in Gainesville.

"They've gotten plenty of practice with these championship wins," Hawkins said.

The crew usually cleans up bottles and household-type trash.

The arrangement is part of a deal with UF, which in turn contributes monetarily to the city, Hawkins said.

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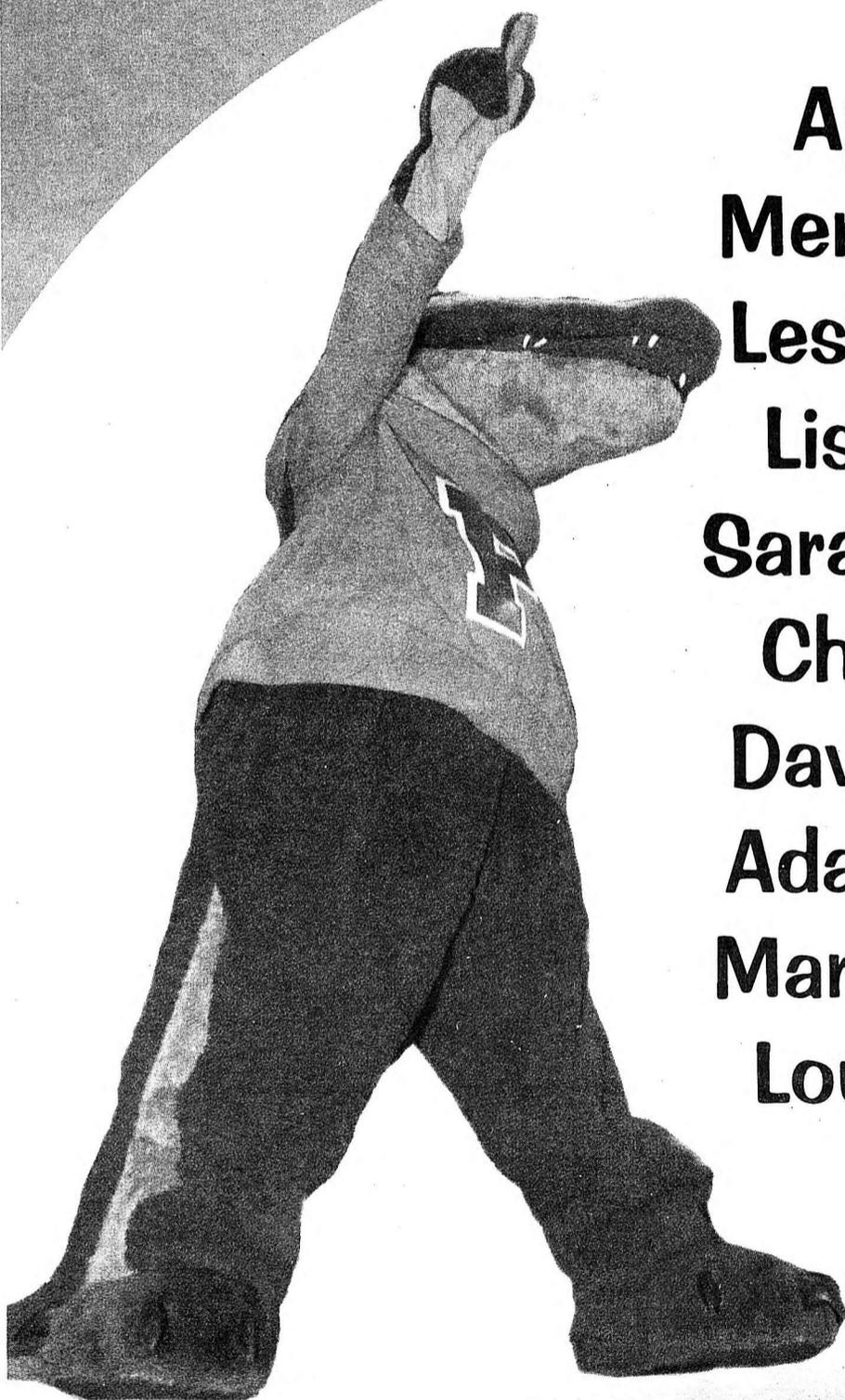
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LOCATION
Ben Hill Griffin Stadium at Florida Field



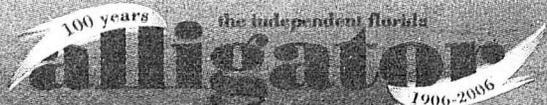
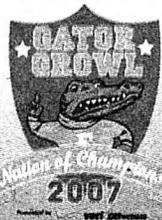
LOCATION
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LOCATION
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LOCATION
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 Conveniently located near shopping, restaurants and SFCC. For more info. Call:
 888-509-4649
 M-F 9-6, Sat b, Sun 1-5
 12-5-71-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

NANTUCKET WALK
 Walk to UF
 Luxury 2/2 condos.
Starting @ \$1200
 Corner of NW 3rd Place & 14th Street
MODEL NOW OPEN
 www.nantucketwalk.com
 866-650-8069
 12-5-71-2

Available Now and November - Walk to UF
 1 BR washer/dryer free
 cox cable internet \$775
 3BR house cent AC/H \$925
 Gore-Rabell Realty 378-1387
 www.gore-rabell.com 12-5-07-71-2

2BR for LESS!
 Private single-story Villa
 ONLY \$669 PLUS
 September FREE
 2 Pools*Laundry*Alarm
 Only 1 left! 375-1519 12-5-07-71-2

**** LIVE ALONE ****
1BR VILLA ONLY \$539, Sept FREE!
 1/2 mile to UF & Butler Plaza
 Walk-In closet! Alarms avail
 375-3077 Avail NOW & FALL. Open Sat.
 12-5-71-2

1BR apt. w/pvt gated courtyard in small quiet professional complex. Close to Shands/VA
 Single quiet prof/serious Grad student only.
 \$540/mo, 1 pet < 50 pounds at \$25/mo arranged. 352 377-2150 Please leave a msg.
 11-9-07-55-2

PETS PARADISE
 No app or pet fee. 2BR/1BA, fireplace, privacy fence, modern appliances. 4501 SW 71st Terr. Other units available. Short lease ok some units \$575/mo. Leave detailed msg
 331-2099 11-2-07-50-2

CLOSEST to UF/Shands
 Enjoy privacy & convenience
1BR Villa ONLY \$529
Duckpond*POOL*Alarm avail
 Leasing FALL Fast! 372-4835
 12-5-70-2

HISTORIC APARTMENTS
 Available in Fall. 1-2-3 bedrooms, Hardwood floors, fans, porches, downtown. No dogs.
 1st-last-security. 378-3704 11-6-07-38-2

ONLY 1 MILE to UF!
 Across from NEW Starbucks!
 HUGE apts*Pool*Laundry
 2br \$699 * \$869
 Open Afternoons*378-1755
 12-5-70-2

HUGE 1BR ONLY \$499
 Single-story Villa in NW
 Private patio*Full kitchen
 Alarm avail*Pool*Laundry
 Lease Now/Aug 372-3826
 12-5-70-2

2 For Rent unfurnished



5BR/2BA Near UF \$1295/mo
 4BR/4BA Univ. Terr. \$1525/mo
 2BR/2BA Townhouse \$850/mo
 30 + Properties Available!
 www.Bosshardtpm.com
 352-371-2118 12-5-68-2

UNBELIEVABLE
 Nice 1BR Villa

 September FREE
 October only \$295

 Alarm*Pool*Pets
 Call today 375-3077 12-5-51-2

ONE MONTH FREE
 HUGE 2br & 3br!!
 Just renovated!!!
 Its a MUST SEE!
 333-1120 Call NOW!
 12-5-51-2

LARGE STUDIOS
 Only \$485 FREE water
 September FREE
 October only \$295
 Alarm*Pool*Laundry
 Great Location next to Butler Plaza
 Call TODAY**377-2596 12-5-51-2

3BR for 2br price!
 Huge 3BR ONLY \$879
ONE MONTH FREE
 Newly renovated
 Available NOW**333-1120 12-5-40-2

STUDIOS & 1BR
 Walk to Butler Plaza
 From ONLY \$485
 Laundry*Alarm*Pets
 Available NOW**377-2596 12-5-40-2

RIGHT Place, RIGHT Price, RIGHT NOW!
 Across street from VA hospital. Walk to Shands, UF, Vet school. 1 & 2 BR condos-homes from \$625 available for immediate move-in. Grad student & hospital employee discounts. Renovated units avail. Cats OK. Union Properties, Summit House 376-9668
 12-5-07-45-2

1920's Bungalow NE 10th St. W/D hk-ups. Hardwood, fans, large backyard, excellent condition, \$900/mo No Dogs 373-3736 11-6-07-20-2

ARBOR
 Ask about 1 month
FREE RENT
 1BR/1BA starting at \$635
 Close to UF & Shands
 2411 SW 35th Pl
 866-650-8069
 M-F 9-6, Sat. 10-2
 12-5-35-2

Northridge 3BR/2BA for rent immediately - \$1325/month Hardwood floors, pool community & fireplace Call American Dreams Realty, LLC (352)338-7505 11-23-28-2

Palm Grove 2BR/2BA split plan \$1200/month Located in pool community, undergoing renovations! Call American Dreams Realty, LLC (352) 338-7505 11-23-28-2

Luxury on Sorority Row
 1/1 or 2/2.5 TH for Jan 2008
 W/D*, dishwasher, pets loved!
 Park FREE and walk to classes!
 Call today! 372-7111
 12-5-07-30-2

Large room in NW home. Great neighborhood. \$450/mo includes utils., DSL, DVR, no pets! Prefer Mature, Responsible, non smoker, Prof/Grad student. Call Scott 335-8209. 11-2-10-2

2BR/1.5 BA townhouse less than 5 miles from UF. End unit with a view, new wood floors and new carpet, fireplace, W/D, fresh paint, & plenty of closet space. In excellent condition. 875/mo Call 904-608-8521 or email rcgoff@hotmail.com 11-9-07-13-2

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THE GATORS TAKE ON THE ZOMBIES IN NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD

YOU'VE GOT TO SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT!
 TONIGHT AT 8PM
 SAT AT 5 & 8:30 / SUN AT 2 & 7:30
 UF STUDENTS \$10 WITH ID
 FULL SERVICE BAR
 THE HIPPODROME THEATRE
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HIPP 25 years cinema

MILAREPA
 The early life of a Tibetan Buddhist saint.
 Fri 7 & 9pm / Sat 4:30, 6:30 & 8:30
 Sun 2:30, 4:30 & 6:30
LA VIE EN ROSE
 Heldover! Sat at 2pm

2 For Rent unfurnished

Christian Female wanted to share 2BR/2.5BA Condo 19th Ave Alarm INet incld Bus in wlk dist \$415/mo \$500dep. 407-256-5218 12-5-07-28-2

*****TWO HOUSES*****
First house 3BR/1BA large lot in Micanopy, Bath is huge \$700/mo. Next: 3BR/1BA on Archer near Publix \$600/mo 1st, last, deposit. Call 376-3291 11-9-13-2

GREAT DEAL
3BR/2BA \$1200/month
1116 2nd Ave.
Walk to campus / No Dogs
Available now Call 352-337-9600 11-7-10-2

\$850/mth or sale price \$132K OBO, 2 bdrm/2 bth in Las Pampas Loft Townhouse, NW Gainesville near NW 39th Av and NW 34th St, community pool/laundry pets ok call 561-662-7026 or 352-335-0440 11-27-20-2

upstairs master w/ walk-in closet and own bathroom in cobblestone. minutes from UF, internet and cable included. pool, hot tub, 24hr gym. move in mid-dec. \$598+utilities email:kj.dunn12@gmail.com 11-9-07-10-2

2BR/2 BA townhouse less than 5 miles from UF. Gated community, pool, new wood floors and new carpet, fresh paint, & plenty of closet space. In excellent condition. 875/mo Call 352-328-6447 email goyakla21@yahoo.com 11-6-7-2

Brand new - townhouse in Hailey Forest - 3BR/2.5BA, cent heat/air, screened back porch, well equipped kitchen, washer & dryer; close to Archer road shops, UF, AGH, & Shands. \$1300/mo \$1400 sec. deposit. Ready for move-in. Edbaumanagement.com 1731 NW 6th St. 375-7104 12-5-25-2

First Month Free!
3bd/1ba Walk to Law School
1bd/1ba Walk to Law School
2bd/1ba Walk to UF
Union Properties, Inc.
352-373-7578
www.rentgainesville.com
12-5-30-2

Malibu Cove Apts.
Walk to UF!
Spacious Loft 1bd/1ba
Reduced to \$625/mo!
Union Properties, Inc.
352-373-7578
www.rentgainesville.com
12-5-30-2

Female Roomate Wanted for \$550.00/month 2BR/2BA Luxurious Condo for Rent located 2 minutes away from UF Campus. Furnished Living Room Area/ Unfurnished Bedroom. If interested please contact 352-246-7828. 11-5-5-2

1BR in 2BR Historic House \$475
3 blocks from UF / 10 blocks from UF
Tall Ceilings, Fireplace & Large Porch
Call Eric 352-682-7424 11-5-5-2

Master suite for rent in 3BR/2BA house. 2.2m from UF. Remodeled house with new appliances, W/D. Quiet neighborhood! One roommate, young professional w/dog. \$550/month Call (954)263-9287 for more info. 11-6-5-2

2/2 in a 3/3 \$450/mo
All inclusive. 352-246-3975 11-14-07-10-2

ATTENTION UF & SFCC Students:
Available Now! Nice 1BR/1BA apt. Close to UF & convenient to everything. \$385/mo. Call Richard at 371-4367 11-15-10-2

LIVE ON UF LAKE
2BR/2BA, pristine Biven's Arm Condo, large den/3rd BR, hardwood floors, W/D, pool incl. canoe. 1.6 mi from Shands/UF. Bus stop. \$1275/mo. Call 321-231-1505 11-30-07-19-2

SHANDS AREA TOWNHOUSE APT
2BR/1.5BA. Amenities, privacy backyard, bike to campus. \$535/mo. Leave message. 386-328-6229. Cell 386-972-4115 11-16-10-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

Available January 1. Walk to UF. new complex 1BR \$999
2BR 2.5 BA washer/Dryer
\$1400 pets allowed
Gore-Rabell Realty 378-1387
www.gore-rabell.com 12-5-07-20-2

QUIET 2BR,1BA Garden Apt @ CENTER COURT Jan 1, \$749/mo, + Sec Deposit. Leave detail message @ 352-371-6226 11-8-07-5-2

3 Subleases

Apartments Sublet & Roommates
Browse FREE!
www.SUBLET.com
1-877-FOR-RENT/201-845-7300
8-13-149-3

1BR/1BA; Jan 1-Jul 31; EXCELLENT location on NW 2nd Ave right behind midtown; good size apt; 550/mo; contact JB @ 813-966-3699 11-8-07-15-3

GUARANTEED SEAT ON BUS
1BR w/pvt BA fully furn. Full security. Female only. Dec paid for. Avail after 12/16 util Aug '08. Call 772-260-1471 or email palmcity@ufl.edu. 12-5-07-29-3

SUBLEASE MASTER 1BR/1BA MUSEUM WALK. Big room, walk-in closet. \$599/mo util, internet, cable all included. Next to UF Gym. Bus access. Avail Jan to Aug. Please call Piero 305-785-8257, Piero05@ufl.edu. 11-2-07-5-3

1BR/1BA \$529/mo util incl.
Clean, furn apt, close to UF! Bus stop, pool, gym, etc. Avail Jan 08 - Aug 08 - Aug PAID!!
Contact Jessica 571-271-1803 11-6-7-3

October November free, lease ASAP! Apt in Hidden Lake rent \$545 plus util. 1000 sq ft! All amenities, 2 min to UF. Call Jennifer 239-331-0431 or chaos3113@comcast.net to come look. 11-20-07-15-3

1 BR Sublease at Museum Walk Apts (Behind UF Hilton SW 34th) available Spring/Summer. Private bath. Cable included. Convenient bus to UF. \$565/month 321-282-8038. 11-5-14-3

\$475/mo. SUBLEASE 1BR/1BA in 4BR/4BA Campus Lodge apt. Fully furnished, utilities, digital cable, high-speed internet included, great gym. Jan. to Aug. (flexible). Call 561-445-2071 or email mcgrady1@ufl.edu 11-6-4-3

1BR/BA in 3BR in Museum Walk Apts. 30 sec walk to Park n' Ride 2 and 2 min walk to SW Rec. Great location and cool roommates. Avail. Spring/Summer. \$450/mo. Call for more info, Ryan, (941)809-3019, ryanroll@ufl.edu. 11-9-7-3

1BR in 3BR apt at Greenwich Green. \$367/mo cable/water incl. Female only. Avail end Dec '07/Jan '08 to Aug '08. Call Amy 772-215-0456 11-15-10-3

SUBLEASE FOR JAN-JULY '08. CENTER COURT APTMNT. 15 MIN WALK FROM CAMPUS. \$720 TOTAL RENT. UTILITIES NOT INCLUDED. QUIET NEIGH. THIS SUBLEASE IS FOR THE WHOLE APTMNT. CONTACT CHRIS-561-307-4336 11-7-5-3

The Polos Apts.; 1/1 in 2/2; HUGE room, W/D, walk-in closet, screen patio, appliances; next to pool/weight room/tennis; 1 male rmmate, quiet, clean, student; \$470 + util.; 9, 35, 36 bus res.; call 813-843-7131 11-08-07-5-3

3 Subleases

Spacious 1 BR/1 BA on NW 2nd Ave available now - 8/14/08. Close to UF campus. Email mykamartin@hotmail.com or call 386-527-4654. 11-26-07-14-3

Univ. Club Apts- 1/1 in a 4/4- 3 female student roommates- \$435 inc. EVERYTHING (furniture, W/D, fast internet, utilities, cable, etc)- good amenities & bus route- starting Dec 1- more info call (386)216-5954 11-8-07-5-3

1/1 in a 4/4 apt. LEXINGTON CROSSING. Female. \$584/mo util incl. W/D. Contact Lindsay lcb924@hotmail.com 11-7-4-3

4 Roommates

Roommate Matching HERE
Oxford Manor 377-2777
The Landings 336-3838
The Laurels 335-4455
Cobblestone 377-2801
Hidden Lake 374-3866
12-5-72-4

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 12-5-71-4

FEMALE ROOMMATE NEEDED
1BR for 4/2.5 new townhouse. 10 min away from UF by car or bus. All included \$425. 954-557-4769 / baezwpa@bellsouth.net. 11-16-07-23-4

4 Roommates

1BR w/pvt entrance
in 2BR CONDO. Walking distance to UF. 2 pools in complex. Central Heat & Air. Avail now. \$395/mo. Call Mike at 352-316-3930. 11-6-07-15-4

Excellent condition 1BR/1BA avail in a 3BR/3BA condo in Rockwood Villas. W/D, great pool, volleyball courts. \$475/mo + 1/3 utils. Must see. Avail now. Call Mike @ 352-339-6176 11-6-15-4

ENJOY A ROMANTIC OLD HOUSE
Near library downtown. \$285-\$370/rm + utils. Free internet access. Short term No pets. No smoking. 378-1304 11-8-15-4

the Worship Guide

Baptist
Westside Baptist Church
Sunday School and Services
9:15a & 10:45a
10000 W. Newberry Rd.
352-333-7700 x110
westsidebaptist.org

Parker Road Baptist Church
3200 SW 122nd Street.
Dr. James Jackson, Interim Pastor
332-4991. 9:45 Sunday School
Worship @ 11am & 6pm
Wednesday
Worship @ 7pm and Youth WOW @ 6:30pm

MONTEOCHA BAPTIST CHURCH
Reformed and Evangelical
Worship Sunday 11AM & 6PM
9420 N. County Road 225
monteochabaptist.org; 377-4446
Collogee Bible Study Mon. 8PM @ the BCM, 1604 W. Univ Ave.

Christian Study Centers
Christian Study Center
Studying Religion Oct. - Nov.
Mon. @ 7:30pm. Home of Pascal's Coffeehouse
Open M-Th 8am-11pm
F 8am-6pm
112 NW 16th Street
christianstudycenter.org

Episcopal
Episcopal Chapel House
http://www.ufchapelhouse.com/
Communion Services on Sun. at 6:30pm, Wed. at 5:15pm, and Fri. at 12pm. Oasis in the city garden (with free wireless) open 9am to 9pm, fellowship, and more!
352.372.8506

Evangelical
Creekside Community Church
Sunday Service 10:30a.m.
College Bible Study Wed 7pm at the Christian Study Center
2640 NW 39th Avenue for more information call (352) 378-1800
www.creeksidecc.org

Jewish Student Centers
Chabad Lubavitch Jewish Student Center
-Your home away from home.
-Friday Night Live!
-Services & Shabbat Dinner.
-Fall/Spring 7:30pm
-352-336-5877; 2021 NW 5th Ave. -www.JewishGator.com
-(5 blocks north of the stadium)
for more information on the worship guide
Contact Ashley Moore at Alligator advertising at 376-4462

Lutheran
First Lutheran Church
Anti Gravity Campus Ministry
1801 NW 5th Ave.
Services @ 8:30 & 11
Free College Lunch After!!!
www.fallingupward.org 376.2062
College Worship Wed. 8 pm

University Lutheran Church & Campus Ministry
1826 W University Ave.
Student Bible Study - Wed 5:30
Worship 10:25am Sundays

Methodist
First United Methodist Church
Traditional Sunday Worship
8:25am and 10:55am. All Ages
Sunday School Groups- 9:45am.
Wednesday Dinner (\$2 Students) and Classes- 5:30 - 7:30pm.
419 NE 1st St. www.fumcgnv.org
(352)372-8523

University United Methodist Church
The Wesley Foundation meeting at the Presbyterian SC
1402 W University Avenue
Sunday Worship Cafe
Traditional Blend 9:15 am
Free breakfast 10:15 am
Modern Worship 11:00 am
Thursday evening 8:00 pm
ufwesley.com for more info

Presbyterian
First Presbyterian Church
Missing your home church? Come worship with us at 10:55am and then be our guest at The College Cafe for a nutritious lunch.
www.1stpc.org/collegegroup
106 SW 3rd Street 352-378-1527

Faith Presbyterian Church
10:00 AM Worship -- 8:45 AM
Sunday School
5916 NW 39th Avenue,
Gainesville
Phone: 352-377-5482
www.fpc-gnv.org

Presbyterian & Disciples of Christ Student Center
Open, affirming and spiritually diverse. Taize worship Sun. at 7pm. \$1 Dinners Weds. at 7pm. Theology on Tap Tues. Stubbies Pub Downtown 8pm
1402 University Ave, 376-7539
pdcc.org

The Rock of Gainesville
The Rock is a non-denominational Christian Church, making a revived effort in the college scene in 2007. Our college group RockUF is now meeting by campus Wednesday nights (8PM) at the Baptist Student Center (on University Avenue). For details & campus activities, visit www.rockuf.com. Weekend services are Sundays at 8:45am and 11am; call 352-331-ROCK or visit www.therockonline.org.

Trinity Metropolitan Community Church
Offering truly open and inclusive Christian worship. Sunday worship, 10:15am. 11604 SW Archer Road for info, call 352-376-1100 or visit mccgainesville.com. "Tearing Down Walls Building Up Hope"

University City Church of Christ
Gators for Christ campus ministry — college group meets at University City church on Sundays at 9:30am and Wednesdays at 7pm — practical application from God's word, plus service projects, large group events, free meals and much more... (directions and fall calendar at www.gatorsforchrist.org)

PASSAGE Family Church
PASSAGE Family Church
2020 NE 15th Street
www.passageministries.org
8AM 9:30 AM 11AM Sundays
7PM Wednesdays Prayer & Bible Study. PASSAGE is a progressive non-denominational ministry that is Word-based and vision driven. Come soar with us.

Unitarian Universalist
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Image a religion where people of different beliefs worship as one faith. Sunday worship & Sunday school: 11am 4225 NW 34th St. 3 miles north of UF
Information: 377-1669 or www.uuf.org

the independent florida
alligator

Available from Commercial News Providers

4 Roommates

PERFECT 4 GRAD/MED/INTL STUDENTS
 Avail immediately, large room w/pvt bath in large quiet home 5 min to UF. \$550/mo + utils. Newly decorated, W/D, CHI/AC. Call 284-0979 11-20-07-20-4

Seventh Street Station. 5 min from UF. Privacy and your own room and bathroom in a beautiful condo. 450.00 per month + 1/2 utilities. \$500 security and first month rent required to move in. Available Dec 20th. 11-16-15-4

A WIN-WIN!

Great location, great roommates, great price. Excellent condition with all the hook-ups, 1 bedroom. Please call 352-231-9226 11-2-5-4

Roommate needed for University Terrace West starting January. Private BR/BA, common living area. Cable, hi-speed internet. Convenient to UF and SFCC. Call 352-283-1198 or 352-318-0399 11-9-07-10-4

Very nice and clean room for rent in Cricket Club! 2/2, nice wooden cabinets and marble countertops throughout apartment. Brand new, no one lived in room before. \$490/month. Two pools, tennis courts, basketball, and gym. Call Sebastian at (786)-290-3244. 11-5-5-4

Rooms for Rent in Nice NW Home \$400. 2-3m to university and santa fe. Near bus route. W/D. Internet/Cable included. Call 352-262-1560 11-13-10-4

Roommate needed to share 3/2 house with 1 female 1 male student. Quiet. Responsible. 2 minutes from Oaks Mall. \$500 includes utilities. 1st, last, and security to move in. Avail now. Call Christina (561)373-2999 11-21-07-15-4

Roommate needed in 1BR in 3BR/2BA house. Close to downtown and UF. \$390/mo plus 1/3 utilities. Call 352-256-2880 11-7-5-4

FEMALE ROOMMATE NEEDED ASAP. Rent Only\$310 +1/3 util. Close to UF,W&D,D/W, Free Cable& free highspeed internet.Room is hugh there is refundable \$100 sublease fee. Call 352-328-9941. 11-2-2-4

F roommate wanted for 2/2 Rockwood Villas townhouse behind mall.\$500 w/ utilities. W/D,pool,v-ball and tennis courts, patio, unlimited parking,wi-fi,and fully furnished. Call Yesenia at 786-556-0137 11-28-16-4

4 Roommates

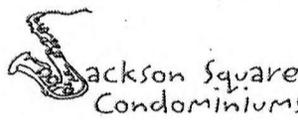
MONTHLY RENTAL
 Large BR in nice Hawthorne home. New carpet, 5 acres. No smokers or drinkers. Outside pets ok. \$475/mo utils incl. Call Rick 386-916-8070 11-8-07-5-4

MASTER BR w/BA AVAIL IN 4BR/3BA home off 16th Ave between SFCC & UF. New carpet & ceiling fans, DW, W/D, new flat-top stove, Cox cable & ethernet. \$450/mo utils incl. Call 328-4995 11-8-5-4

5 Real Estate

Pre-construction, New, & Existing Condos, Townhomes, & Houses For Sale Near UF at Affordable Prices. Search here or receive an Email list: www.mattpricerealtor.com or Call 352-281-3551, Matt Price, Campus Realty. 12-5-98-5

New Condos 3 blocks from UF!
 Walk to UF. 1,2,3,4 Bedrooms For Sale. For details on ALL condos Call Eric, Campus Realty at 352-219-2879 12-5-98-5-5



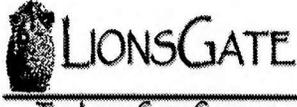
Walk to UF and stadium from luxurious Jackson Square Condominiums. Built to last a lifetime Priced from mid-\$250s Call 352-870-9453 12-5-71-5

Foreclosures Bank Owned As Is Condos. Walk to UF, 4BR/2BA. Some with furniture. Call Bettye Allen @ 352-318-3931 or Janice Arinson 352-215-4882. Century 21 John Merrill, Inc. 12-5-28-5



Contact Coldwell Banker M.M. Parrish Realtors at 1.800.755.0086 or visit the all new mmparrish.com for more information on our many condominium communities. There's something for every lifestyle! 12-5-71-5

5 Real Estate



NEW 1,2&3BR Condos Starting at \$159K
 By UF. Gated. Covered, assigned parking
Matt & Tiffany Thomas - Realtors
Bosshardt Realty Services, Inc.
 352-494-0194 & 352-316-5556
 1-14-73-5

I BUY PROPERTY
 Divorce, Bankruptcy, Foreclosure Anytime, anywhere. Quick closing. Let me buy your problem. 352-278-9347 www.bogartproperties.com/referals 11-8-50-5

● **FOR SALE OR LEASE WITH OPTION** ●
 3BR/1BA 1 car garage House. 3 mi north of UF 1951 NW 31st Ave. Fully remodeled, cent H/A, nove-in ready. \$131,900. Broker/ Owner 352-331-0590, 352-514-5060 cell. 11-6-10-5

SUMMIT HOUSE CONDOS OPEN HOUSE
 Thurs. 11/1 & Fri. 11/2 from 1-4. Newly renovated condos starting at \$99,900 (as-is at \$86,900). Steps from Shands, VA, Dental School & New Cancer Center. Model located at 1700 SW 16th Court. Visit www.summithousegainesville.com or call Tom Bellucci or Steve Clark at 352-372-5375. 11-2-7-5

Gator Place Condos
 2/1, w/d, 800 sq ft, 1 1/2 miles to Shands. 3600 SW 23rd St. \$84,900. 352-372-0507 12-5-27-5

1BR/1BA CONDO
\$104,500. Call 352-213-3943
 11-5-5-5

\$301/Mo! 4BR/2BA HUD Home! (5% down 20 years @ 8% apr) More Homes Available from \$199/Mo! For listings call (800)366-9783 Ext 5669. 11-2-1-5

NEED A LAWYER? INJURED? Auto Accident? All personal injury and wrongful death cases. Protect your rights. Call now, 24 hours..... A-A-A Attorney Referral Service (800)733-5342. 11-2-1-5

Prime Real Estate Auction- Western North Carolina, Nov.17th, 12PM. 72+/- acres in ten tracts only, located on Sheepstamp Knob, Marshall, NC- (Near Asheville). Gorgeous long range views, easy access, private, serene, gated and restricted. Limited number available. www.rogersrealty.com, (336)789-2926 NC LIC.#685. 11-2-1-5

3BR/2BA Foreclosure! \$14,000! Only \$199/Mo! 5% down 20 years @ 8% apr. Buy, 5/BR \$298/Mo! For listings (800)366-9783 Ext 5798. 11-2-1-5

HUD HOMES! 3bdr 2ba \$199/mo! 5/BR Foreclosure! \$298/mo! Stop Renting! 5% dw, 20 yrs @ 8% apr For Listings (800)366-9783 Ext 5853. 11-2-1-5

3BR/2BA Foreclosure! \$12,000! Only \$199/Mo! 5% down 20 years @ 8% apr. Buy, 4/BR \$301/Mo! For listings (800)366-9783 Ext 5760. 11-2-1-5

FLORIDA LAND OWNER FINANCED - 10-acre estates, homes only, paved, underground electric, \$89,900, great value. Limited time offer, www.1800flaland.com Florida Woodland Group, Inc. (800)352-5263 Lic RE Broker. 11-2-1-5

BEAUTIFUL N. CAROLINA. ESCAPE TO BEAUTIFUL WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA MTS FREE Color Brochure & Information MOUNTAIN PROPERTIES with Spectacular views, Homes, Cabins, Creeks, & Investment acreage. **CHEROKEE MOUNTAIN GMAC REAL ESTATE...** cherokeemountainrealty.com Call for free brochure (800)841-5868. 11-2-1-5

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5 Real Estate

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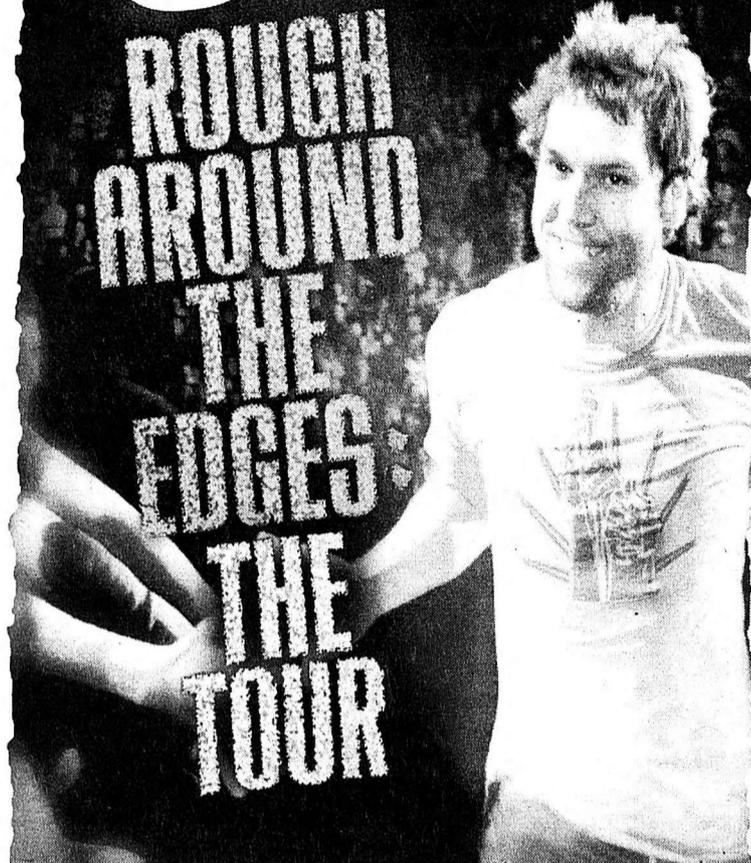
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LIVE NATION

UF women dominate 106-28

■ ANEIKA HENRY LED THE GATORS WITH 19 POINTS.

By PHIL KEGLER
Alligator Staff Writer
pkegler@alligator.org

It may not have counted in the record books, but the UF women's basketball team did everything it could to erase the memories of last season.

The Gators wiped out NAIA Division-II Warner Southern 106-28 Thursday night.

"Obviously we're very pleased with the outcome," an understated UF coach Amanda Butler said.

"I thought we played really hard and whenever you can spread the ball around and get everybody an opportunity to play and ... you feel like you get better by the end of the game, it's a great opportunity."

Junior transfer Aneika Henry led the way for the Gators with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

"I think you got a glimpse of what Aneika's impact is going to be," Butler said. "Obviously with that size, the catches she makes, and the plays that she finishes, and the rebounds she grabs, a lot of other people just can't do those things."

Junior guard Sha Brooks, who contributed 14 points, loves the post presence the 6-foot-3 center

brings.

"We've got someone who's almost 7 feet tall, so you can just lob it up there and she'll catch it," Brooks said.

Henry started in place of sophomore forward Sharielle Smith, who is out four to six weeks after suffering a stress fracture in her right foot.

An injury bug that's already knocked out two Gators almost got worse when Brooks dived for a loose ball and got up slowly, limping to the bench.

The junior did not return during the final 7:48 of the first half,

but she started the second half and didn't seem to favor the leg.

"I'm good, I'm good," she said. "I'm a soldier."

Butler didn't worry too much when she saw Brooks on the ground.

"You hold your breath a little bit because we're a little thinner than we would like to be," Butler said. "But we're not going to compromise how hard we play because we're scared we're going to get injured."

It seemed only appropriate that this game would start with the Gators scoring before any time ran off the clock.

Warner Southern was charged

with a technical foul for not turning in its lineup on time. Brooks stepped to the free-throw line and made both shots to give the Gators a 2-0 lead.

UF scored the first 12 points before Warner Southern guard Ivana Soberal finally scored with 16:55 left in the first half.

UF ran up a 57-16 lead by halftime on 64.7 percent shooting from the floor.

The Gators totaled 57 points or fewer in five regular season games last season.

One thing Butler did stress at halftime was rebounding, as they led Warner Southern only 21-19 at the break.

The team responded, out-rebounding the Royals 39-15 in the second half for a 60-34 final margin.

"When you go in the locker room and issue a challenge and your team responds like that, then you certainly have to be pleased," Butler said.

She slowed down the pace in the second half, dropping the team back into a two-three zone.

"We could've continued to run, but we didn't feel that was the classy thing to do," Butler said. "For us, we weren't getting better shooting layups. So we felt it was an opportunity to work on our half-court execution and even specific options out of our half-court execution."

PICKS, from page 39

So far, the connotation doesn't seem to be rubbing off. In its 118 years of existence, the robber baron's football team holds a dismal record of 546-538-50.

With a record like that, is it really possible for the Rowdies to get rowdy?

"Absolutely, and especially we'll be rowdy for Florida because we felt we got robbed two years ago," Davis said. "We're a small school, so there aren't as many of us, but we can pack a mighty punch when we need to."

That's a pretty bold statement, and Davis has the proof to back it up.

We asked Davis, if a robber baron squared off with Tim Tebow, who would win the fight?

"A robber baron, hands down, because he could outsmart him," Lucas said.

But even that kind of trash talking seemed to be a little too much for a Commodores fan, who pointed out that Vanderbilt is all about the love.

"We don't necessarily have massive rivalries, and nobody really hates us, and we don't really hate anyone besides Tennessee," Lucas said. "So we look forward to beating Florida on Saturday, but we're also happy about the success they've brought to the SEC."

What great sportsmanship. No wonder Vanderbilt is horrible at football.

With that, on to the picks!

Tied for first with the guest pickers with a

46-34 record is Brian "I tried to pick up Georgia chicks last weekend but scared them off with my macramed pair of jean shorts" Steele, who likes to belt out the lyrics to the Spice Girls' "Wannabe" while in the shower. We just hope he's not fantasizing about Baby Spice.

Batting second with a 43-37 record is Bryan "My nickname in high school was big, fat goalie" Jones, who likes to eat sandwiches with his only friend, an imaginary space cowboy named Maurice.

In third at 42-38 is Jenna "Dan Werner is the next Larry Bird" Marina, who would rather watch a Lifetime original movie instead of the Patriots-Colts game Sunday.

Batting cleanup, with a record of 41-39, is Nick "I wish I were sponge-worthy" Zaccardi, who plans on spending his "Summer of Nick" by watching Seinfeld re-runs while eating a block of cheese.

In dead-ass last with a piss-poor record of 40-40 is Mike "I tried to dress up as Timon for Halloween," McCall, who ended up settling for a Rafiki costume when he couldn't convince anyone to be his Pumbaa.

NW-Iowa	BJ	JM	MM	BS	NZ	CL
Ark-S.Car	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa	NW	NW
UConn-Rut	S.Car	S.Car	S.Car	Ark	S.Car	Ark
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UF-Vandy	ECU	ECU	ECU	Mem	ECU	ECU
NZ: UF 27-16; CL: Vandy 20-17	BJ: UF 45-21; JM: UF 28-10; MM: UF 38-24; BS: UF 31-21;					

Wise persuaded hesitant McCray to follow sister to Gainesville

MCCRAY, from page 32

blocker, played a different position at UF than Amber would.

Wise also played up the fact that Amber knew a lot about how the program worked, considering she had been around it for the last five years.

Amber began to think it over, and as time went on she realized UF had many of the qualities she desired.

A few weeks later, while playing out of the country with the US Junior National Team, she made her decision.

"She called me and said, 'Mom, I want to go to Florida,'" Darlene said.

The outcome was unexpected, even to her sister.

"Until the day she committed, I thought she was going to Texas," Nicole said. "So when she told me she was going to Florida, I was ecstatic."

Torn from the Game

If Amber thought the recruiting process was hard, she had no idea what was to follow.

During the spring of her freshman year, she tore her anterior cruciate ligament and

her medial collateral ligament in her right knee.

She said practice started out just like normal.

"I just jumped to hit a ball and landed off-balance on one leg, and it just buckled," Amber said.

The injury posed her greatest challenge yet.

"That was most definitely the hardest thing I've ever had to do," Amber said. "Because I've always been playing, whether it was high school, club, summer league with USA — I've always been playing volleyball."

Nicole knew just what her younger sister was going through, having been forced to redshirt her freshman year after a rotator cuff injury.

The toughest part might have been the fact that Amber had seen action in 25 of 38 matches her freshman year, playing a key role on a team that went all the way to the national final before losing to Southern Cal.

The injury forced her to spend her second year watching from the sidelines.

"I just told her to stay positive," Nicole said. "I told her that (the) year was going to go by fast."

Darlene also had an idea of what her

daughter was going through, having had a similar but less-serious injury during her basketball playing days.

Despite hearing that it was an injury that might force Amber to quit playing volleyball, she stayed positive.

"I still wouldn't say 100 percent, but I'm really working on getting better every week."

Amber McCray
UF opposite hitter

"I always felt she was going to come back," Darlene said. "I never felt any negatives or spoke any negative statements to her about her possibly not playing volleyball anymore. It was just a known to me that she was coming back. I felt like God would bless her to continue her volleyball career, and He did."

Leaving her Legacy

Amber returned to the floor in spring 2005 in a scrimmage at Louisville.

She remembers trying to make up for it all in one play.

"I was over-running every ball," she said. "Mary could tell me, 'Amber you're really,

really anxious because you're so anxious to be back."

It hasn't exactly been smooth sailing from there, however.

All those volleyball swings over the years took their toll on Amber's rotator cuff, and she developed a tear last season. She sat out some games, and Wise makes sure not to overwork her these days.

"There's good days and bad days," Amber said. "I still wouldn't say 100 percent, but I'm really working on getting better every week, so that by the end of the season and the postseason when it's really counted, I'll be ready."

Still, she played well enough last season to be named a second-team All-America by both the American Volleyball Coaches Association and Volleyball Magazine.

With her final season winding down Amber will look to lead UF back to national prominence.

The Gators have not returned to the Final Four since her freshman season.

However it ends, Wise knows Amber has made her mark at UF.

"Amber McCray's injuries — she's had the short end of the stick there," Wise said. "But the legacy she'll leave is the perseverance. I've never seen anything like it."

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UF BASKETBALL

Gators test lineups in victory

By **DANNY KLEIN**
Alligator Staff Writer
dklein@alligator.org

When UF coach Billy Donovan said the Gators starting lineup was due to change, he wasn't kidding.

After beginning the game with the expected setup of Marreese Speights, Dan Werner and the three-guard combination of Walter Hodge, Nick Calathes and Jai Lucas, Donovan began an early-season experiment in UF's 97-51 victory over Flagler College on Thursday night.

Donovan used 13 different lineups in the first half alone.

He used the same five on the court only twice.

Donovan said the changes were more a result of fatigue than anything else.

"We don't have quite an understanding of how hard we have to play at this level to have a chance to win," Donovan said. "I didn't want guys to be playing to keep themselves fresh. I want them to play to exhaust themselves."

"I think guys were giving everything they had out there. So the lineups tonight were more predicated on fatigue than anything else."

Where Donovan will head from here is hard to determine, as the game against Flagler may have left more questions than answers.

The Gators got off to a slow start in their exhibition opener. At the 12-minute mark in the first half, the lead was a mere five points.

"I think guys were giving everything they had out there. So the lineups tonight were more predicated on fatigue than anything else."

Billy Donovan
UF men's basketball coach

The Gators began to pull away afterward, hitting a few outside shots before forcing Flagler to take a timeout trailing the Gators 34-17.

Sophomores Jonathan Mitchell and Dan Werner both failed to score.

Donovan did note after the game that he thought Werner played well without scoring, which was evident by his seven assists.

Mitchell was a different story. He seemed shaky at times and

elected to pass rather than look for his own shots.

Freshman Nick Calathes proved he can compete at the college level in his first outing.

Donovan downplayed the guard throughout the preseason, but the coach showed his level of confidence in Florida's two-time Mr. Basketball.

Calathes played 33 minutes, the most of any player.

He showed his versatility by playing point guard, shooting guard and small forward.

The freshman chased history but came up two assists shy of a triple-double in his first game.

Calathes scored 18 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and dished out eight assists.

Corey Brewer is the only player in school history to achieve a triple-double.

He recorded 15 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds in a blow-out win against Jacksonville on Dec. 18, 2005.

"I just try to fill the stat sheet like coach tells me to do," Calathes said. "Just go out there and play hard, do what I can to win."

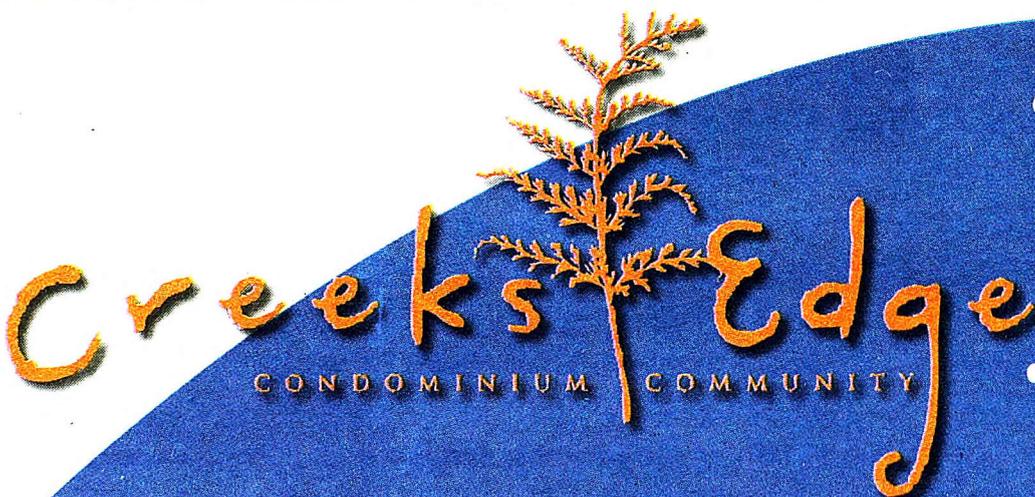
Speights led all scorers with 22 points.

All five freshmen tallied double figures.



Casey Brooke Lawson / Alligator

UF guard Nick Calathes goes up for a shot in the second half of the Gators' 97-51 exhibition victory over Flagler College on Thursday.



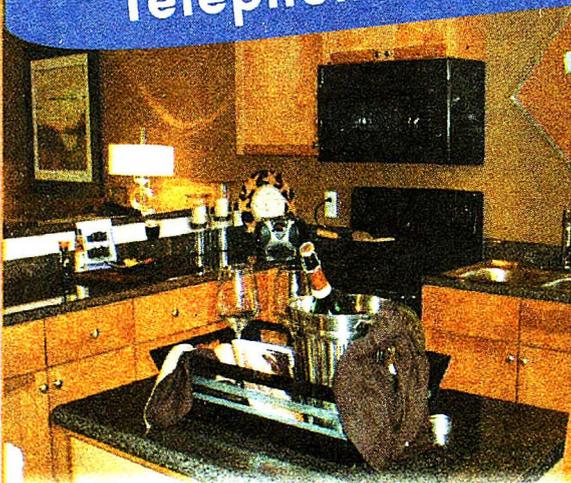
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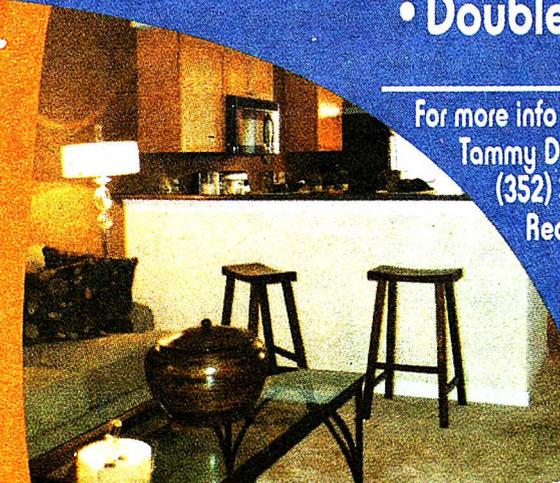
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Lasting Impression

McCray decade comes to an end

By PHIL KEGLER
Alligator Staff Writer
pkiegler@alligator.org

For the last 10 years, there's been a McCray on the UF volleyball roster.

But that legacy is nearing its end.

First it was All-American middle blocker Nicole.

Now it's her younger sister and the Gators' starting opposite hitter, Amber.

"[My teammates] joke around and call me 'Grandma,'" Amber said. "Partially because I've been here five years and partially because they always say I'm old and falling apart."

Either way, it's clear she's left an imprint on the program.

Athleticism in the Genes

The McCray sisters seemed destined to play sports as they grew up in Longview, Texas.

Their parents met playing basketball at Panola Junior College in Texas.

"We were constantly around some sort of sports or watching sports," said Nicole, Amber's older sister by five years, now the volleyball coach at Georgia Southern. "Our parents wanted us to play basketball, so when we started playing volleyball, it was kind of weird. But they jumped on board and loved it ever since."

An athletic background helped McCray's parents understand what their daughters were going through.

"We knew about working hard, working out, going to the gym, getting home late," said Darlene McCray, Amber's mother. "It was really just the family continuing on."

Amber remembers watching Nicole join the East Texas Juniors, a club volleyball team, at age 12.

The next year, she wanted in.

"I begged my mom, because I just wanted to be on a team," she said. "I didn't care that I didn't play. I just wanted to travel and

be on a team."

So Amber began her volleyball career playing on the 12-and-under team at 8 years old.

"My whole memory from that year is watching the game from the sidelines," she said. "I was awful. I might have got in to serve a couple times in a year, and I missed my underhand serve, but that was pretty much my memory from that whole year."

Amber took a year off from club ball during the sixth grade to play city-league basketball, but she still played volleyball in school.



Volleyball

Taking the time off from club may have actually helped her game.

"It was funny, because I'd say that was actually the year I made the most improvement because I went to my sister's (high school) practices whenever I could," she said.

While she played basketball and ran track throughout high school, she always returned to volleyball, her favorite sport, her first love.

Tough Sell

With her older sister playing at UF, it may have seemed natural that Amber would become part of the Gators when Nicole graduated.

While Amber had known UF coach Mary Wise since the seventh grade, it wasn't the quick decision Wise might have hoped.

"It was a really up-and-down process," Amber said. "For the longest time, I didn't want to come to UF because [Nicole] came here, and I didn't want to live in her shadow."

Nicole did not try to sway her sister one way or the other.

"Amber's her own person," Nicole said. "I only talked to her if she needed me to or if she asked for help with anything."

Darlene had watched one daughter play

out of state for four years and had bought many plane tickets for Nicole to come home.

As any mother might, she hoped Amber would be different.

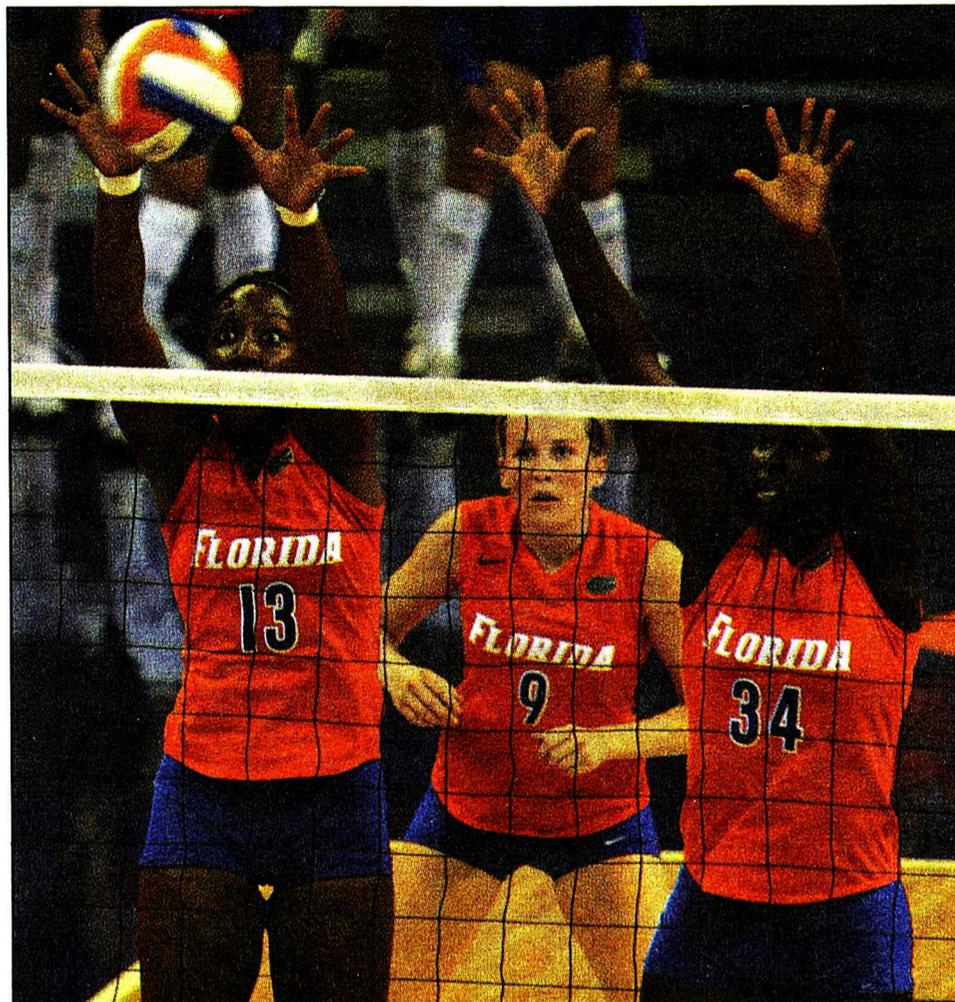
"I was trying to get Amber to stay in Texas because that was my baby and I wanted her to be close," Darlene said.

Darlene said Coach Wise's visit to the McCray home was a big factor in Amber's decision.

Wise addressed Amber's concerns about coming right in after Nicole.

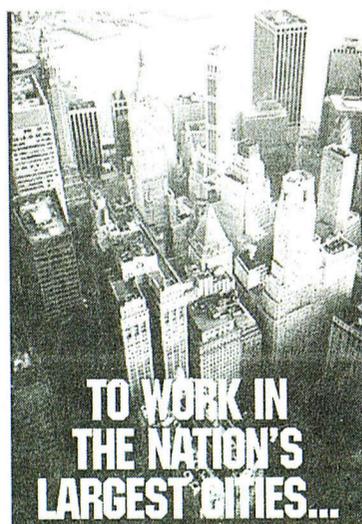
She stressed the fact that Nicole, a middle

SEE MCCRAY, PAGE 30



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

UF senior Amber McCray (left) goes for a block against Georgia on Sept. 14. McCray followed her sister to UF, creating a 10-year family dynasty in Gainesville.



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SEC sack leader Vanderbilt to test Tebow's mobility

By **MIKE MCCALL**
Alligator Staff Writer
mmccall@alligator.org

Last week, UF proved that one bruised shoulder can change an entire season.

With quarterback Tim Tebow's right shoulder hampering his running abilities, Georgia was able to blitz early and often to disrupt the Gators' offense.

The Bulldogs racked up six sacks — more than UF had allowed all season — in the win that knocked the Gators from the top of the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division.

This week will carry the same concern as No. 18 UF faces Vanderbilt, which leads the SEC in sacks.

The Commodores are known for blitzing opponents often, and the formula has worked so far this season.

"On three out of four snaps, they are bringing either four or five men," UF coach Urban Meyer said. "They're bringing five-man pressure a lot of times, they move their front and they're disruptive."

"You have to be very disciplined when you play a team like that because they cause a lot of lost-yardage plays."

If the threat of Tebow running is absent for the second straight week, the Gators can expect even more pressure from the Commodores.

"We like to get pressure on the quarterback," said Vanderbilt linebacker Jonathan Goff, who leads the team with 71 tackles. "I'm really not sure how the coaches are going to call it, but we obviously want to get to the quarterback any way we can."

What makes Vanderbilt's blitz scheme hard to stop is its diversity — alternating between three and four down linemen and sending different linebackers on each blitz.

In a 17-6 win against then-No. 6 South

Carolina two weeks ago, the Commodores tallied seven sacks for a loss of 50 yards.

Regardless of Tebow's status, Vanderbilt will bring the same pressure they have relied on all year.

"We usually mix it up a little bit," Goff said. "We have a game plan coming into the week, and I don't think it will be anything too different from what we normally do."

UF's offensive line was somewhat blindsided by Georgia's persistent pressure last week, but it is expecting pressure against Vanderbilt.

"With Georgia, they don't blitz a whole lot from the outside," UF center Drew Miller said. "That's why it hit us as a surprise in the beginning of the game, because they're not a blitzing team."

"Vanderbilt is known for blitzing anyway. That's just what they do. They bring blitzes about 50 percent of the time, so we're just preparing for all of that this week."

Meanwhile, Goff and the Commodores aren't sure which Tebow they will see Saturday.

"If he's not going to run as much, I definitely expect him to try and spread the ball around to those wide receivers and backs," Goff said. "He has a lot of offensive weapons to work with."

"I just look for them to spread the ball around to their athletes in open space, where they can take advantage of their athleticism and speed."

The best way to utilize that speed is still with a healthy, mobile Tebow, and Meyer is staying optimistic about Tebow's ability to run this weekend.

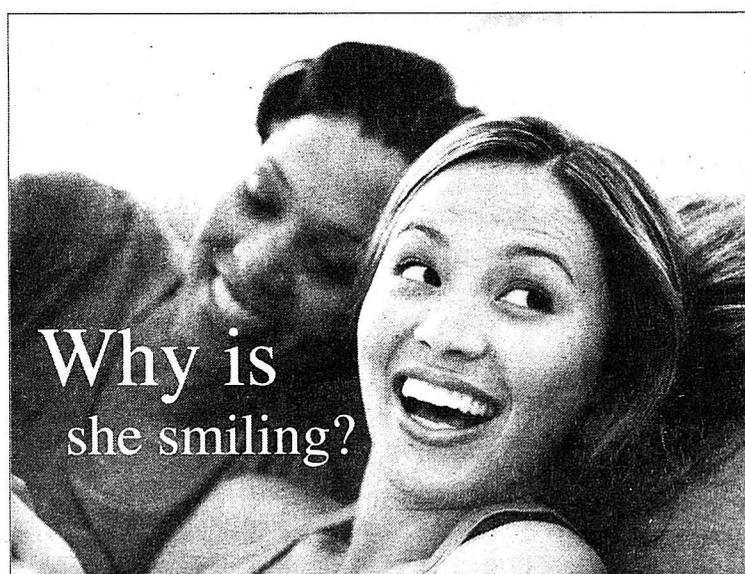
"His shoulder is a lot better, so I hope he will," Meyer said.



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Vanderbilt linebacker Patrick Benoist, top, celebrates with linebacker Jonathan Goff during their 24-13 win against Miami (Ohio) on Saturday.



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UF focused on record, not revenge against Arkansas

■ THE RAZORBACKS HANDED THE GATORS THEIR ONLY LOSS.

By **EVAN DREXLER**
Alligator Writer

UF's defeat at the hands of Arkansas was only three weeks ago, but it's a fading memory for the Gators.

"We lost to them the first time, but that's because our team didn't come in focused," senior middle blocker Kisya Killingsworth said.

"They beat us, but what are you going to do? That loss has already come and gone."

Though the players may not feel like they have to get revenge on the Razorbacks, their opportunity comes Sunday at 1 p.m. in the O'Connell Center.

If not for Arkansas' (10-14, 4-10 Southeastern Conference) win in Fayetteville on Oct. 12, UF (21-1, 14-1 SEC) would be undefeated.

"I think more important than [revenge] is maintaining our lead in the [standings]," UF coach Mary Wise said. "And a win will do

that. Any loss brings us closer back to the pack, and we're trying to win this outright."

UF currently holds a two-and-a-half-match advantage over Alabama for the best record in the SEC.

The Gators have more time to prepare for Arkansas than they did back in October. Instead of only getting one day off between matches, UF had three days of preparation and decided to take Thursday off to relax.

"The weird schedule kind of bit us in the butt last time," senior outside hitter Marcie Hampton said.

Since the loss, UF has played five matches and lost only one game.

The Gators have swept their last four opponents.

Still, Wise and the Gators know better than to take the Razorbacks lightly.

"Arkansas gives us matchup problems," Wise said. "The first time we played them, we did not do a very good job preparing the team."

UF SOCCER

Seniors prepare for final home matches this weekend

By **KARL HYPOLITE**
Alligator Writer

It will be bittersweet when the Gators take the field this weekend.

UF (11-4-2, 7-2 Southeastern Conference) hosts South Carolina (13-4-2, 5-3-2 SEC) tonight at 6 and Vanderbilt (6-8-3, 3-4-2 SEC) on Sunday at 12:30 p.m. in what will be the final home contests for the

Gators' eight seniors.

"It's actually really sad," senior Daniela Sanchez said. "I was talking to Shana (Hudson) the other day and she said she can't believe four years have flown by. It's sad and exciting at the same time. It's our last game, and hopefully we come out with a win."

The seniors aren't the only players who want to go out on a high

note. UF's underclassmen intend to put in extra effort to give them a proper sendoff.



Fraine

"We have a lot of seniors this

year and we love our seniors, and we really want to give them a bang."

Senior Night is generally on Friday for UF. Inclement weather forced the Gators and the Commodores to move their match on Oct. 5 to Sunday.

The seniors will be honored in a daytime ceremony Sunday instead of under the lights tonight.

Though the senior class has recorded several big victories, there's still one thing missing from its resume: a national championship.

"A perfect ending would be a national championship," forward Ashley Harris said. "Having the national championship ring ... that's the bling bling. A national championship would make it the perfect season."

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UF FOOTBALL

Pouncey impresses at DT

By **BRYAN JONES**
Alligator Staff Writer
bjones@alligator.org

Freshman Mike Pouncey continues to impress UF coach Urban Meyer on the defensive side of the ball.

A day after confirming the converted center would play at defensive tackle against Vanderbilt, Meyer left the door open for a possible start by Pouncey.

"I've seen energy, I've seen a young guy that loves football, I've seen a tough guy and a big guy," Meyer said. "He's got that big ol' rear end you need in there to stop some runs."

Meyer said it would be a game-time decision as to who will start alongside senior Clint McMillan at defensive tackle.

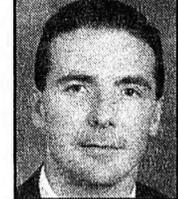
Pouncey's only experience on the defensive line until this week in practice was playing in goal-line situations in high school, Meyer said, so he still has a lot to learn about the position.

"He's really smart," Meyer said. "There is not an issue as far as football smart. Understanding scoop blocks and understand-

ing what goes on on offense has actually helped him."

Pouncey is filling in due to season-ending injuries to Javier Estopinan and Brandon Antwine.

Meyer hasn't decided whether the position switch will be permanent.



Meyer

The coach expects Carl Johnson, Maurice Hurt and Marcus Gilbert to help replace Pouncey in the offensive line rotation.

Pouncey's twin brother, Maurkice, starts at guard on the offensive line.

TAILBACK BY COMMITTEE: After declaring the starting running back job "wide open" earlier this week, Meyer said the Gators will go with a committee approach Saturday against Vanderbilt.

He said sophomores Brandon James, Percy Harvin and Jarred Fayson, as well as junior Kestahn Moore, will all carry the ball.

Moore lost his hold on the starting job after a mistake-riddled performance last week against Georgia.

Tennis team depleted

By **CHRISTOPHER YAZBEC**
Alligator Writer

The women's tennis team might have the greatest ratio of injured players of any UF team right now.

Only two of the seven Gators on the roster will travel to the Southeastern Conference Fall Coaches' Championship at Auburn, which lasts today through Sunday.

The rest of the team is nursing injuries ranging from pulled muscles to wrist and foot injuries.

Sophomore Megan Alexander and senior Lolita Frangulyan will represent the team in what will be the Gators' last tournament of the fall.

Coach Roland Thornqvist hopes to see improved play from the duo, as each player lost close matches in the first round of the ITA South Regionals.

"It's going to be interesting to see ... if they can translate that good play (in practice) into good play in the

match," Thornqvist said.

The competition will be challenging at the tournament because most of the elite players in the conference did not qualify for the ITA National Indoor Championships and will play in Auburn instead.

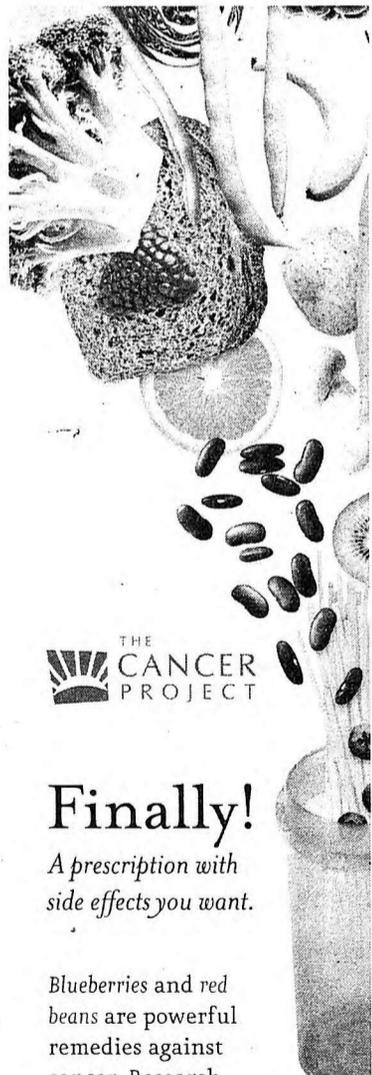


Men's Tennis

Along with competing in singles play, the UF duo will team up on the doubles court, where Thornqvist would like to see them continue fundamental and aggressive play.

"They're very explosive," he said. As Alexander and Frangulyan finish up the fall schedule, Thornqvist is already focusing on the spring season.

"We're hoping to get everybody healthy at the right time," Thornqvist said. "We just got to try to get healthy, and that's probably our main concern."



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Commodores employ injured QB tandem with Adams, Nickson

ADVANCE, from page 39

into it, and we've still got to get some continuity in the recruiting and continuity in the development. And that's why I think, you look at a Vanderbilt, you look at teams that have had that consistency, that's what everyone is looking for."

Vanderbilt may use two quarterbacks against the Gators — Mackenzi Adams

and Chris Nickson.

Nickson played well against the Gators last year, but Adams took the starting job from Nickson earlier this season.

Both players suffered injuries last week against Miami (Ohio), but both are expected to be ready for Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Gators will have to fend off a tough Vanderbilt pass rush with an injured quarterback of their own.

Tim Tebow's bruised right shoulder is feeling better, Meyer said, but the injury

still could continue to restrict Tebow from running as much as UF would like.



Football

"How Tim handles [the pressure] is going to be about how the offensive line handles it and how the receivers get open," Meyer said. "[Vanderbilt's] personnel is

SEC-caliber personnel, especially their defense. I think their defensive personnel is really good."

Despite the Commodores' improvement this season, a loss to Vanderbilt would still be embarrassing for a Gators team that still has hopes of an SEC title.

"I think they still fit in that category where we say we shouldn't lose to them," Caldwell said. "We have the better talent, better athletes and we are more confident, so they are still in that category for us."

BASES, from page 39

are not well suited to stop a wide receiver like Bennett.

In this college football season, everything has been wack, sure.

But did you really see UF standing at just 5-3?

The Gators are more talented than Georgia.

They're more talented than Auburn.

They showed that talent against LSU — arguably the most talented team in the nation — and had a respectable road loss.

After that game, Coach Urban Meyer said the Gators will be back "smokin'."

Sorry, Coach, but there hasn't even been enough smoke to roast a marshmallow lately.

UF isn't losing this game, but the point is that you can't be sure.

Yes, I think the Gators will win out. But I said the same thing a week ago.

As talented as UF is, Vanderbilt could conceivably come in and knock off the once-called "Mighty Gators."

Even though UF is better than

both the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in America — Ohio State and Boston College — it doesn't even deserve to play in its conference championship game.

Where has the team that obliterated Tennessee gone?

Even if the Gators sneak into Atlanta for the SEC title game, they got there through the help of other teams.

They will have earned the chance if other teams lose — I've never bought into the "you got lucky" ordeal — but you can't say they're better than the other contending teams.

Fact is, when South Carolina, FSU and Vanderbilt look and see UF on their schedule, they don't cringe.

Instead, they see it as just another opportunity. There's nothing intimidating about a three-loss team.

It's weird that Arizona State losing a game is more of an upset than UF losing one.

Even with all the roster turnaround the Gators have this year, you still expect a defending champion team to have some aura around it. This team doesn't have that anymore.

UF's defense had a trademarked toughness to it last year. This year, you can tell they're still a bunch of kids wondering how prom went by so fast.

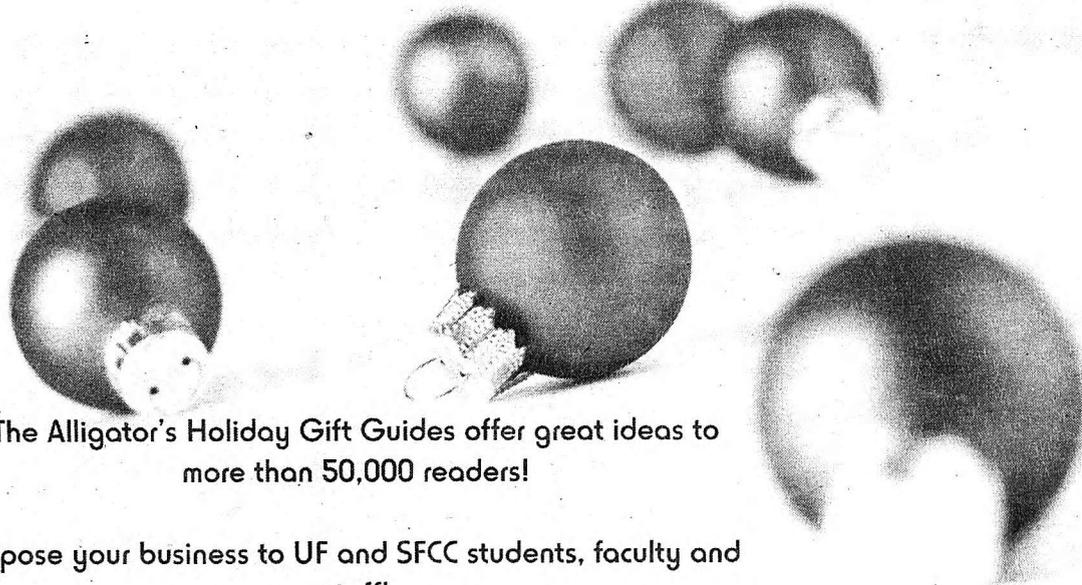
These underclassmen have been through a lot — a captain getting arrested, a teammate's death and three losses — but they have to put all that behind them. That's over.

UF needs to figure out its problems somehow.

Please, don't send fans to the Liberty Bowl in Memphis, Tenn., for a matchup against a Conference USA team.

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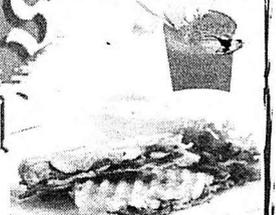
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UF RUN vs. VANDERBILT RUN DEFENSE

UF rushes for 186.9 yards per game. Vanderbilt allows 113 yards per game.
KEY PLAYERS: UF: So. QB Tim Tebow (138 attempts, 563 yds, 4.1 avg, 12 TDs). So. WR Percy Harvin (43 att, 329 yds, 7.7 avg, 2 TDs). Vanderbilt: Sr. LB Jonathan Goff (71 tackles, 4 TFL). Sr. LB Marcus Guggs (47 tackles, 9 TFL).
ANALYSIS: Sophomore Brendon James could get the start at running back over Kestahn Moore, but it doesn't really matter. It's apparent the Gators' running game is powered by Tebow and Harvin. With Tebow's shoulder still ailing, it looks like Harvin will lead UF in rushing yards for the second straight week. Like with UF Georgia's Knowshon Moreno terrorized Vanderbilt's defense three weeks ago.
ADVANTAGE: UF



UF PASS vs. VANDERBILT PASS DEFENSE

UF passes for 246.5 yards per game. Vanderbilt allows 183 yards per game.
KEY PLAYERS: UF: So. QB Tim Tebow (1,947 yds, 18 TDs, 3 INTs, 65.8 pct, 176.3 rating). So. WR Percy Harvin (36 rec, 604 yds, 16.8 avg, 3 TDs). Sr. WR Andre Caldwell (15 rec, 250 yds, 16.7 avg, 1 TD). Vanderbilt: So. CB D.J. Moore (59 tackles, 5 INTs). So. S Ryan Hamilton (45 tackles, 5 BFBs).
ANALYSIS: A week after Georgia sacked Tebow six times, the sophomore quarterback could be in for more hits. The Commodores lead the Southeastern Conference in sacks, and Tebow's bruised right shoulder will likely continue to hinder his mobility. Still, Vanderbilt's secondary cannot hang with the Gators' receiving corps, which will welcome Riley Cooper back this week.
ADVANTAGE: UF



VANDERBILT RUN vs. UF RUN DEFENSE

Vanderbilt runs for 185.4 yards per game. UF allows 107.1 yards per game.
KEY PLAYERS: Vanderbilt: Sr. TB Cassen Jackson-Garrison (103 att, 409 yds, 4 avg, 5 TDs). UF: So. LB Brandon Spikes (74 tackles, 8 TFL). So. LB Dustin Doe (59 tackles, 2 FR).
ANALYSIS: UF needs a statement game to shut down the run after what happened in Jacksonville. Luckily for the Gators, Vanderbilt's running back does not pose much of a threat. However, both of the Commodores' quarterbacks are runners. With a battered interior defensive line, it will be interesting to see how UF rebounds against a multi-faceted running attack.
ADVANTAGE: UF



VANDERBILT PASS vs. UF PASS DEFENSE

Vanderbilt passes for 161.2 yards per game. UF allows 251.6 yards per game.
KEY PLAYERS: Vanderbilt: So. QB Mackenra Adams (488 yds, 4 TDs, 3 INTs, 56.8 pct, 121.68 rating). Jr. QB Chris Nickson (763 yds, 6 TDs, 5 INTs, 53 pct, 116.15 rating). Jr. WR Earl Bennett (54 rec, 639 yds, 11.8 avg, 4 TDs). UF: Jr. DE Derrick Harvey (31 tackles, 6.5 sacks). Sr. SS Tony Joiner (36 tackles, 1 INT).
ANALYSIS: Adams was replaced Nickson, last year's starter, as Bobby Johnson's No. 1 thrower. But Adams suffered a chest injury and had to exit last week's game against Miami (Ohio). It's up in the air as to who will start Saturday, but Adams seems to have progressed well enough to practice, so he should get the first crack. Bennett, the SEC's all-time leading receiver, is a Gator killer. Joe Jelen has his hands full.
ADVANTAGE: UF



SPECIAL TEAMS

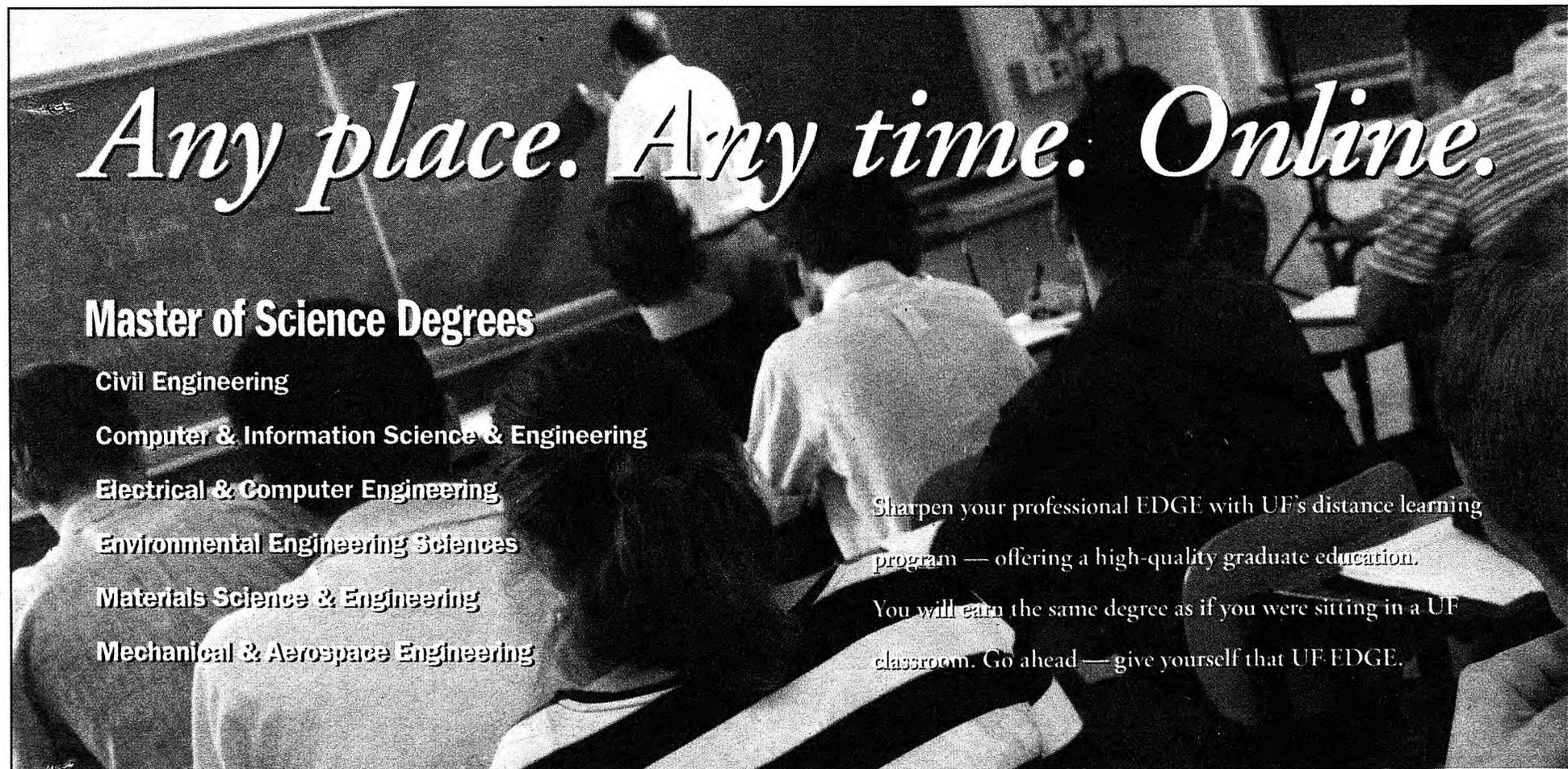
KEY PLAYERS: UF: Sr. Kicker Joey Ijas (7-9 FGs, long 43). Fr. Punter Chas Henry (25 punts, 38.8 avg, long 53). Vanderbilt: Jr. Kicker Bryant Hahnfeldt (10-14 FGs, long 45). So. Punter Brett Unson (38 punts, 38.3 avg, long 55).
ANALYSIS: Ijas and Henry showed improvement in the loss to Georgia. For the first time in his career, Ijas made a field goal more than 32 yards. Henry punted as consistently as he has all year. And with Brandon James returning, the special teams could be a real asset for UF moving forward.
ADVANTAGE: UF



INTANGIBLES: Can you imagine what would happen if UF lost this game? From a desperation perspective, it might be Urban Meyer's biggest must-win game in three years. Vanderbilt has come close to beating Meyer the last two seasons, and it would not surprise anyone if Saturday's game were another nail-biter. But Meyer, a master motivator, will have his team ready after losing three of its last four games.
ADVANTAGE: UF

How They Match Up
UF and VANDERBILT

Nick Zaccardi and Molly Telfer / Alligator Staff



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Vanderbilt isn't exactly known for its football, but we at the alligatorSports brand picks column were determined to find someone who considers himself a Commodores fan.

Meet Conrad G. Lucas II, co-founder of Vanderbilt mega-fan group, the Robber Baron Rowdies.

So apparently, there is more than one fan. Who knew?

The Robber Baron Rowdies were formed this season by Lucas and four of his friends, who decided to throw Vandy's version of a tailgate every week for home games.

Each Saturday, the group and its mascot, Jack Whodat the dog, set up tent in Vandyville and construct a top-10 list for the Commodores' opponent.

Past top-10 lists include "Lies Told by Nick Saban" and "Hotty Toddy, Gosh Almighty, These Ten Things Would Suck."

Now, for those who don't know what a robber baron is, let's take a timeout for a little history lesson.

Robber barons were American capitalists of the latter part of the 19th century who became wealthy through exploitation. Cornelius Vanderbilt made his fortune more than a century ago by controlling numerous ferry, steamship and railroad lines.

Lucas and his buddies decided their university's namesake made the perfect source for the title of their tailgate.

"Robber barons were successful and aggressive and well known for being very good at what they did," Lucas said. "We want Vanderbilt athletics to have those traits."

SEE PICKS, PAGE 29

UF FOOTBALL

Gators look to rebound against Vandy

By **BRYAN JONES**
Alligator Staff Writer
bjones@alligator.org

By now, the Gators should have learned there are no easy victories in the Southeastern Conference, but they will still get their yearly reminder of that Saturday.

While Vanderbilt (5-3, 2-3 SEC) is tra-

ditionally supposed to be the conference's bottom-feeder, UF (5-3, 3-3 SEC) has struggled against the Commodores recently.

And this may be the best Vanderbilt team yet.

The Commodores, who haven't been to a bowl game since 1982, are just one win away from being bowl eligible.

And at 5-3, they enter Saturday's game

with the same overall record as the Gators and are just a half game behind UF in conference play.

"They have some athletes out there that make plays, and they're coached well," UF wide receiver Andre Caldwell said. "They're a challenge to any team they face."

Last season, the Gators needed to recover an onside kick to ensure a six-point victory against the Commodores.

In 2004, UF trailed Vanderbilt at halftime before rallying in the second half.

But the Gators' biggest scare came in 2005, the last time the Commodores visited The Swamp and UF coach Urban Meyer's first game against Vanderbilt.

"They have some athletes out there that make plays, and they're coached well."

Andre Caldwell
UF wide receiver



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

UF wide receiver Andre Caldwell runs past a Troy defender during the the Gators' 59-31 victory over Troy on Sept. 8 in The Swamp.

After squandering a 14-point lead with less than three minutes remaining, the Gators needed double overtime to pull off a 49-42 victory.

"Whenever they play us, they come ready to play," Caldwell said. "They strap it up and get ready for us. We have to be more ready and prepared than them this week to win this game."

Meyer said Vanderbilt's improvement comes as a result of Coach Bobby Johnson's ability to build a consistent program over time.

"Programs develop and recruit, we're not a program," Meyer said. "We're three years

SEE ADVANCE, PAGE 37

UF's championship aura no longer present

Watch out — here come the mighty Vanderbilt Commodores!

Well, maybe not, but the Commodores certainly shouldn't be intimidated by the Gators.

Not anymore, at least.

After the LSU loss, the Gators had paved themselves a path to win out. They'd likely return to the Southeastern Conference title game and probably would've been favored to win it.

Then the Gators' defense let a third-string redshirt freshman crush them for 188 yards and three touchdowns.

I don't care if Knowshon

Moreno is going to be one of the most talented backs in the nation next season — he was making just his second career start. Moreno and his offensive line outmanned, outhustled and out-just-about-everythinged the Gators on Saturday.

Now the intimidation factor of being a defending national champion is gone.

To any remaining Gators opponents, the glimmer of those championship rings means nothing.

Any banners and signs commemorating last season's David-like championship victory against Ohio State are simply gathering dust.



Brian Steele
Steele-ing Base
bsteele@alligator.org

about going against this defense.

UF is still one of the most talented teams in the nation, but that hasn't transitioned to the field.

The talent level between UF and Vanderbilt is huge, but the standings don't reflect that. The Gators are 3-3 in conference,

and the Commodores are just a half-game behind at 2-3. Vandy even made a closer game of it with Georgia in a 20-17 loss than UF did.

The only opponent left on the Gators' schedule that will be lacking confidence against them is Florida Atlantic, and its mascot is an owl. Something about a chubby bird whose best asset is its keen eyesight doesn't scream intimidation.

I'd even feel confident if I were Vanderbilt. Who's going to cover wide receiver Earl Bennett? Joe Haden has done well for a true freshman, but UF's soft coverage techniques

SEE BASES, PAGE 37

ON TELEVISION

■ **NBA:** Washington at Boston
ESPN, 8 p.m.

■ **NBA:** Los Angeles at Phoenix
ESPN, 10:30 p.m.

TODAY IN UF SPORTS HISTORY

■ **2002:** UF quarterback Rex Grossman completes a school record 36 passes in the Gators' 20-13 win versus Georgia.

I DID NOT KNOW THAT

■ **Former UF and current Denver Broncos defensive end Jarvis Moss broke his right shin in practice Thursday. He is scheduled to have surgery in the next few days and will be out for three to four months.**

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Detroit	91
Miami	80

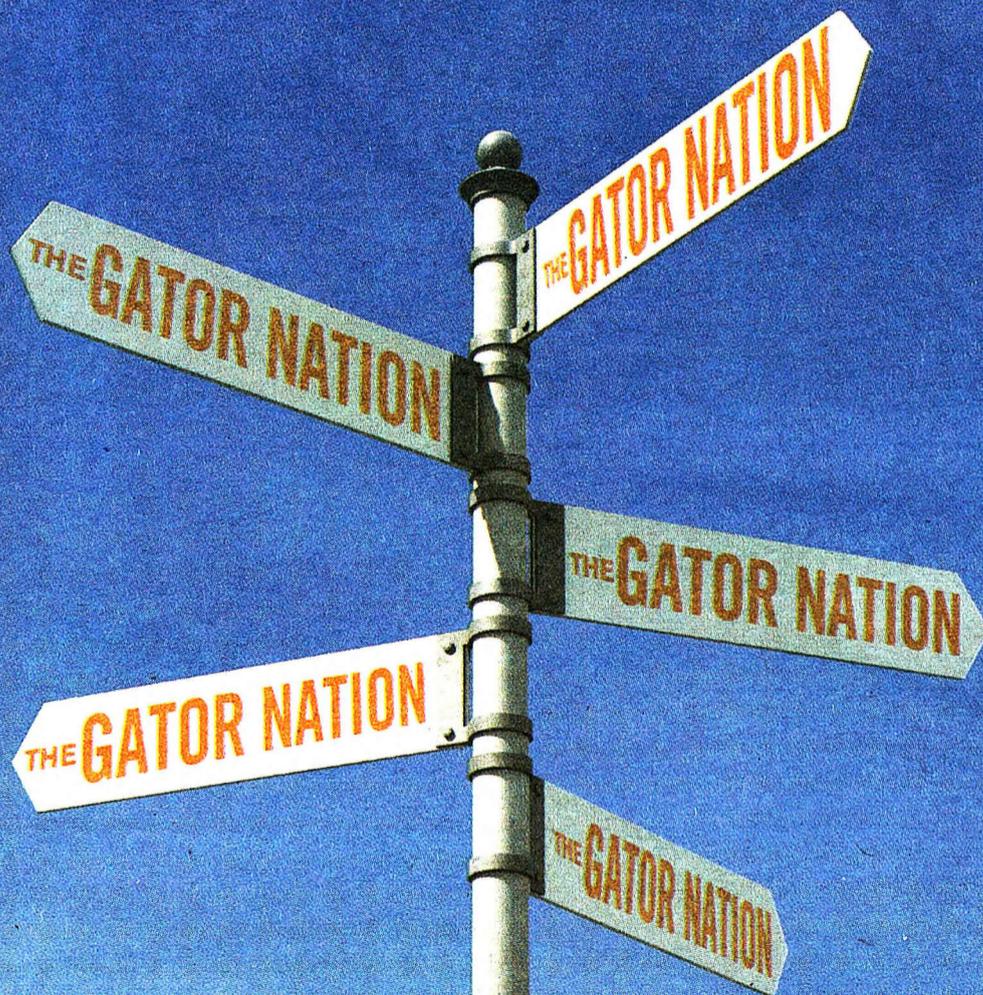
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