



STATE NEWS

Lawsuit to clear up tuition control tossed

By **KIM WILMATH**
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Former Florida Gov. Bob Graham and the Board of Governors, the State University System's highest governing body, now face a stumbling block in their fight for tuition-setting power.

The board joined Graham's lawsuit against the Florida Legislature in July. The suit asks a court to clarify

which body has authority to set tuition at the state's 11 universities.

On Thursday, a Leon County circuit court judge ruled that Graham and the board failed to show standing in the case. They have until Feb. 4 to submit evidence proving the Legislature has violated the board's rights by controlling tuition.

Bill Edmonds, the board's spokesman, said the judge's ruling surprised the board.

Still, members of the board



Graham

would have no problem providing more specific examples of the Legislature's overreaching by the February deadline, Edmonds said.

The board was created by a constitutional amendment in 2002. Florida voters approved the amendment by referendum.

The board has continually asserted that the amendment made it independent from the Legislature. However, Edmonds said it has not been able to perform its duties adequately because of the Legislature's interference.

"It seems clear that the voters did not want business as usual to continue, but that's what happened," Edmonds said. "There's ambiguity over who's responsible for the uni-

versity system's future." In a July news release, Florida Senate President Ken Pruitt, R-Port St. Lucie, called the lawsuit, "an attempt to get unbridled tuition increases."

"God help our students if they win," Pruitt wrote.

Pruitt could not be reached for comment.

The most recent clash between the two bodies occurred when the

SEE BOG, PAGE 13

Wright gets 10 yrs. in officer's death

■ AUSTIN WRIGHT WAS DRUNK WHEN HIS CAR HIT GPD LT. COREY DAHLEM IN APRIL.

By **JESSICA PONN**
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Head hung, hands clasped loosely on the table in front of him, Austin John Wright's hazel eyes peered down at his lap. He waited anxiously for the hearing to begin, knowing that in a matter of hours, he might be trading in his neatly pressed slacks for a jumpsuit and a pair of handcuffs.

After pleading guilty to manslaughter, Wright, 22, waited to be sentenced in an Alachua County courtroom.

Judge Peter Sieg entered the room at 2 p.m. on Dec. 12. His job was as simple as it was profoundly difficult.

He did not have to decide whether Wright went barhopping the night of April 2, 2007.

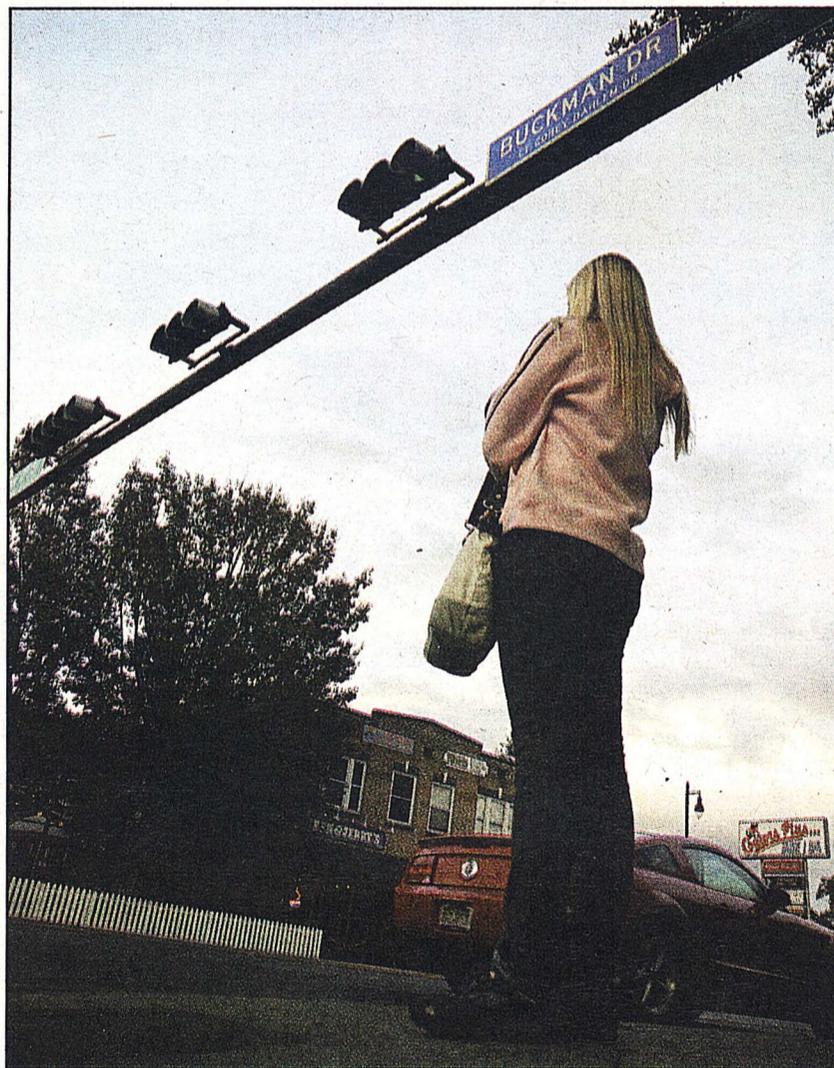
Nor did he need to determine whether it was Wright who drove a truck into Gainesville Police Department Lt. Corey Dahlem on University Avenue around 2 a.m. the morning of April 3.

Wright had already admitted he was behind the wheel that night. He'd had so much to drink that when police cars finally boxed him in after he had plowed through a barricade and sent Dahlem's body flying across the street, Wright was unaware of what he had done.

His blood alcohol level was 0.271 – more than three times the legal limit.

Dahlem died the next afternoon.

Both Wright and the prosecution agreed on these facts. Now it was up to Sieg to punish him.



Jeremiah Stanley / Alligator

A UF student waits to cross University Ave. at Buckman Drive Saturday. The road was recently dedicated to the memory of GPD Lt. Corey Dahlem.

UF transfer student dies in crash

By **KATIE EMMETS**
 Alligator Writer
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A newly enrolled UF transfer student died Dec. 29 in a motorcycle accident in Dunnellon, a small city in Marion County.

Cory Altman, 28, was killed when Donna Brown, 70, made a left hand turn out of a Winn-Dixie parking lot onto U.S. 41. Brown did not yield to oncoming traffic, according to a Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles crash report.

State News

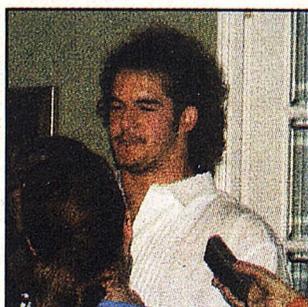
The front of Altman's Suzuki motorcycle crashed into the left side of Brown's Pontiac, throwing Altman onto the pavement. He was traveling at 45 mph.

UF Dean of Students Eugene Zdziarski said Altman was from Coral Gables and was transferring from Miami-Dade Community College as a junior biology major.

The 2007 calendar year held the largest number of UF student deaths in recent history, Zdziarski said. Car and motorcycle accidents cause the largest number of deaths when it comes to students.

Students should remember to get a lot of rest before they travel, Zdziarski added. "Students should not be pushing themselves too hard, so they can be attentive and not find themselves in a bad situation."

■ UF added a five-star prospect to its 2008 recruiting class on Saturday. Matt Patchan, a 6-foot-7 offensive lineman will help protect Tim Tebow next season. See story, pg. 35



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■ A UF fraternity is set to move into its brand-new, \$5 million mansion, but city inspections and paperwork have kept members from moving in. See story, pg. 11.

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News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Karaoke Night

Orange and Brew, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Free karaoke.

Bingo Night

Orange and Brew, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., Wednesday.
New games will start every hour, and prizes will include video games and movies.

Republican Primaries

Reitz Union Room 282, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., Thursday.
UF's Student Government will be hosting a free showing of the Republican candidates' debate. Chips and salsa will be served.

Presidential

Museum Nights Spring Kickoff

Harn Museum of Art, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday.
Visitors will be able to enjoy complimentary refreshments and explore the Harn Museum's art galleries. Trivia games with prizes will begin at 6 p.m.

Deadline to Remember

UF Drop/Add and late registration for the spring will close Friday at 11:59 p.m.

Like What You See?

If you have an event you would like to see posted here, please e-mail it to dculclasure@alligator.org, and put "What's Happening" in the subject line.

FORECAST

TODAY



SUNNY
78/55

TUESDAY



PARTLY CLOUDY
79/54

WEDNESDAY



SUNNY
78/54

THURSDAY



PARTLY CLOUDY
77/56

FRIDAY



THUNDER STORMS
74/54

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UF ADMINISTRATION Machen's salary hiked up

By ILEANA MORALES
Alligator Writer
imorales@alligator.org

In 2012, UF President Bernie Machen's salary will be bumped up to a cool million.

UF's Board of Trustees approved a four-year extension of Machen's contract on Nov. 30. In 2012, the last year of his contract, Machen will receive a long-term bonus — an additional \$400,000 to his salary.

Machen receives a base salary of \$415,000 and \$285,000

in performance bonuses annually, bringing his total annual paycheck to \$700,000.



Machen

In his original contract, he had the option to take a one-year paid leave and receive \$450,000 in addition to

his salary.

Instead of the vacation, Machen chose to take \$100,000

each year for four years beginning in 2009. Along with the \$400,000 long-term bonus, this will bring his compensation to \$1.2 million in 2012.

Trustee Al Warrington, chairman of the board's Committee on Finance and Facilities, was the only trustee who did not approve the contract extension.

Warrington was also the only trustee to vote against Machen receiving nearly \$300,000 in performance bonuses.

UF Trustee Fernandez resigns

■ MANNY FERNANDEZ PLANS ON SPENDING TIME WITH WORK, FAMILY.

By KIM WILMATH
Alligator Staff Writer
kwilmath@alligator.org

Manny Fernandez, a UF trustee and former chairman of the university's top governing body, announced his resignation on Jan 2.

Fernandez served on the Board of Trustees since 2001 and was chairman from 2003 to 2007.

In a letter to Dianna Morgan, present chairwoman of the board of trustees, Fernandez wrote that his time at SI Ventures, an investment firm Fernandez co-founded and co-manages, is coming to an end. He'll now be spending less time in Florida and more time in California with his family.

In addition, he wrote, his service on four Fortune 500 boards takes up a significant amount of his time.

Gov. Charlie Crist will nominate a replacement for Fernandez, and he has not announced any prospects yet.

The next meeting of UF's Board of Trustees is

March 13.

"I can't tell you how difficult this decision process has been for me," Fernandez wrote. "I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to serve my alma mater in this meaningful way."

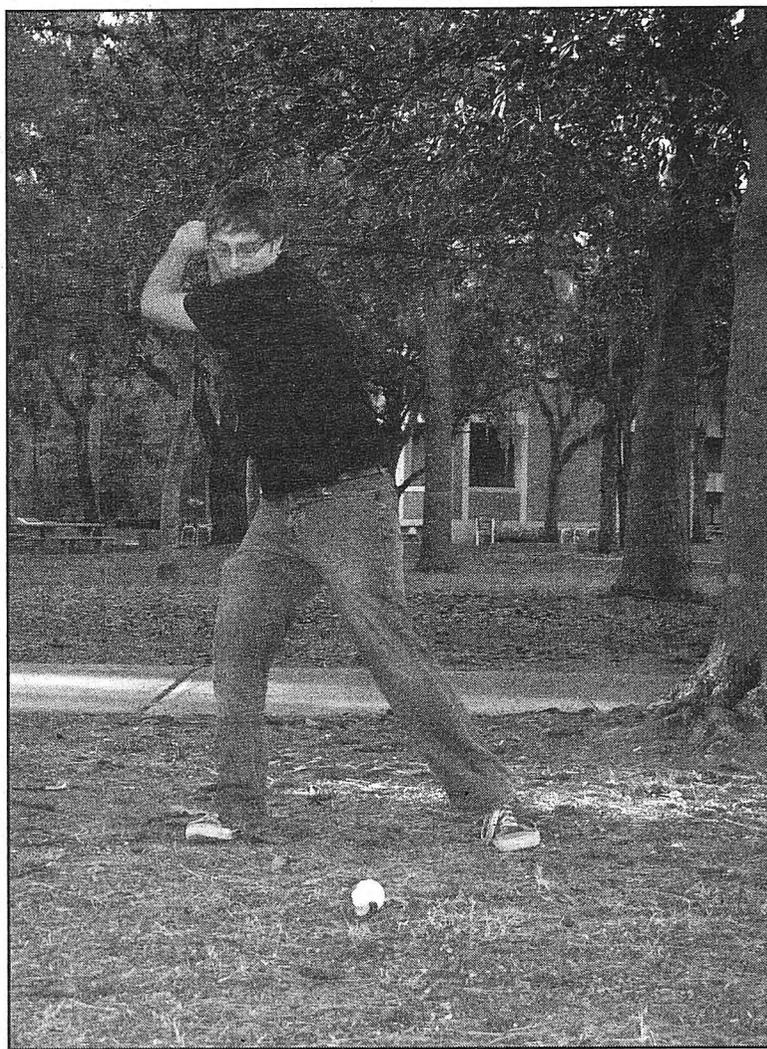
In a letter to the rest of the board members, Morgan wrote that Fernandez helped establish some of UF's most important programs, such as the Tuition Differential Program and Florida Opportunity Scholars Program.

The Tuition Differential Program will allow UF to incrementally raise tuition 40 percent over four years. UF will use the money raised to hire more faculty members and academic advisers.

The program will go into effect fall 2008 and is expected to bring in about \$17 million.

The Florida Opportunity Scholars Program awards scholarships to students who are the first in their families to attend college.

"Manny's leadership and contributions to our university are too numerous to list," Morgan wrote. "The greatest honor we can bestow upon him is our continued commitment on all the initiatives which are so important to him."



Charlie Doerner / Alligator

FORE!

Jeremiah Tattersall, a UF senior, plays urban golf on the Plaza of the Americas Sunday afternoon. Tattersall said he gathers with friends to play every Wednesday. Urban golf is a sport where people choose their own tee-off area and hole in an urban or unconventional location.

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Editorial

Still In Doubt

Judge throws out tuition case, fight continues

On Thursday, a Leon County circuit court judge tossed out a lawsuit intended to clarify who has the right to control tuition – the state Legislature or the Board of Governors, the governing body of Florida's public universities.

State Senate President Ken Pruitt, a Republican from Port St. Lucie, declared the judge's ruling – or lack thereof – "a victory for students and their families."

We don't.

When the board was created by a voter referendum in 2002, the language in the amendment was ambiguous about the board's powers.

Since then, board members and lawmakers have gone back and forth on tuition. The matter culminated last year, when the board and the Legislature independently raised tuition by 5 percent.

What if one had raised tuition by 10 percent and the other by 5 percent?

The judge, Charles Francis, left it open for the board – which joined former Gov. Bob Graham in the lawsuit – to try again by early next month by proving the board has standing in the case.

We're not sure if the board figured its standing would be obvious to Francis or if Francis just wasn't paying attention.

In any event, the plaintiffs have indicated they plan to submit the evidence Francis requested, so eventually, we hope, he will take up the case.

And when he does, we hope he will keep this in mind:

Under the Legislature's control, tuition in Florida has sunk to the bottom of the barrel compared with other states.

So while Tallahassee lawmakers enjoy the good public relations of being able to tout affordable higher education, the state's two most important institutions – UF and Florida State University – are in self-imposed hiring freezes.

Compounding the issue are budget cuts for the state's universities from – guess who – the Legislature.

Don't get us wrong. Affordable college is a great thing, and we've been skeptical in the past when UF officials and others wanted to jack up tuition.

But by keeping tuition so low, the Legislature has made it virtually impossible for UF – and the rest of Florida's universities – to keep up with its peers.

In a 2006 USA Today survey of tuition rates at flagship universities in all 50 states, UF came in at 75. Who came in at No. 74? FSU.

UF can't maintain its top-20 public university status with tuition that low. And a top-20 public university is critical to this state for so many reasons.

A crucial one: a top-tier university keeps top-tier high school graduates in the state.

In turn, their money – and intelligence – stays in the state. See how this works, Legislature?

We applaud our lawmakers for implementing a plan that would allow UF, FSU and the University of South Florida to raise tuition by 40 percent over the next three years.

They've finally acknowledged that all of the State University System's institutions don't serve the same purpose. (Florida International University doesn't need the funding UF does, so it shouldn't charge the same rate. Pretty cut-and-dry.)

But we're not sure that lawmakers have caught on.

That's why Francis, when he finally takes this case, should side with the Board of Governors and Graham.

They understand what the universities need, not only to survive but to thrive.

And, as UF President Bernie Machen would be quick to tell you, it's hard to even survive by scraping the bottom of the barrel.

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Opinions

ALLIGATOR
www.alligator.org/opinion



Guest column

Lost phones make for lots of stress

There are two kinds of people in the world: those who lose their cell phones and those who do not.

Until recently, I never thought I'd find myself in the first category.

(By the way, there are another two kinds of people in the world: those who say there are two kinds of people in the world and those who do not. Once again, I never thought I would find myself in the first group.)

I went to Busch Gardens last month to cash in on a year-long pass I purchased during the summer.

I went on the Montu for the second ride of the day, and afterward, I realized that my cell phone was gone.

See, I know I had my phone with me when I got off a kiddie roller coaster earlier. Maybe a goat from the petting zoo pickpocketed me when my mom was adjusting my shirt collar.

But more than likely, my link to the universe fell to its demise as I flew upside-down and sideways above an artificial Egyptian archeological site.

Now, you may be wondering why I still had a cell phone after swearing against them in a November column for microwaving my brain.

Unfortunately, it proved nearly impossible to kick the habit. For one thing, I needed some way to call 1-800-Ask-Gary in case of an emergency, and payphones are hard to find.

A decade ago, there were 2.6 million pay phones nationwide. Now, only about 1 million can be found. Last month, AT&T announced it would be phasing out all of its pay phones by the end of 2008.

Where will superheroes change into tights?

Anyway, after my dear friend went MIA, cell phone separation anxiety ensued in its five horrible stages: antsy thumbs, talking into stray bananas, uninterrupted bathroom



Vincent Massaro

letters@alligator.org

breaks and paying attention to the people in the surrounding area.

Finally, there was the drinking, which actually wasn't too bad seeing that Busch Gardens gives out free beer samples.

But the real blow came later when I realized I didn't have any of my sacred contacts written down.

They were stored only in my phone, which is lost somewhere in Africa, which is somewhere in Busch Gardens.

I never write down anyone's number because I can just type it into my phone. I only have a few of my friends' numbers memorized, and that's only because I didn't feel like typing out their names.

I had the numbers for at least a dozen take-out restaurants programmed. What about all of my friends' old cell phone numbers that I never deleted? And I can't forget about those 1-800 numbers I saved from my favorite Billy Mays commercials.

I had something close to 350 contacts in my phonebook, which is absurd. There are probably only a few dozen people I talk to on a regular basis, and that's only when I feel like talking to them.

It reminds me of the 700 closest friends Facebook says I have.

Speaking of Facebook, now I have to create one of those events where people who don't want to talk to me will be forced to give me their phone numbers. I'll call the event "A roller coaster killed my phone."

Now, if only Web sites could fall out of amusement park rides.

Vincent Massaro is a journalism senior. His column appears on Mondays.

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

Reader response

Today's question: make sure this font is not bold.

Monday's question: make sure this font is not bold.

89% YES

11% NO

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Guest Column

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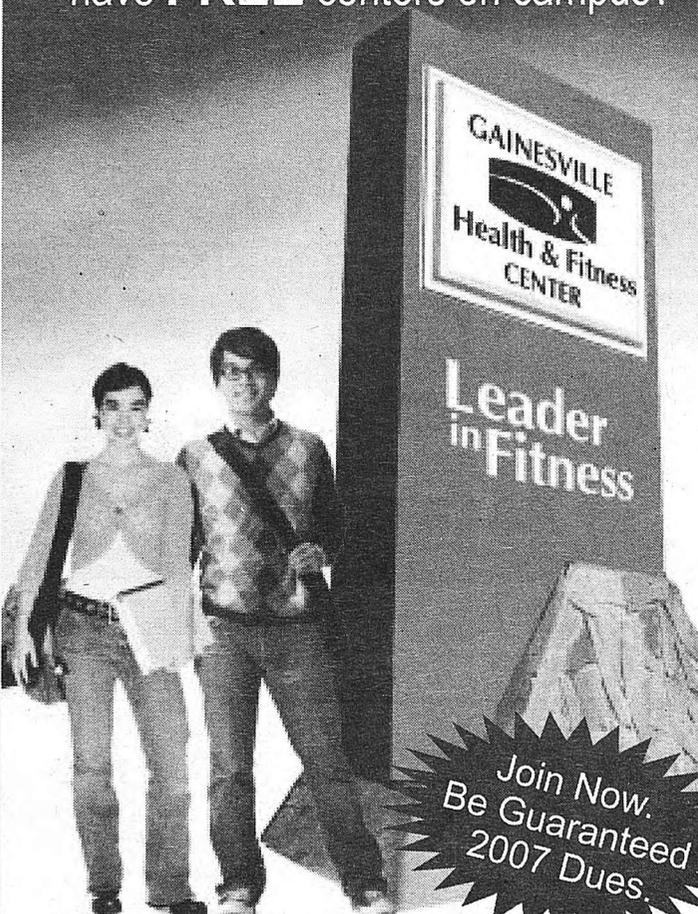
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We wanted to know too. So we sat down with groups of students and asked. This is what we heard. “Everything is easy to access like the cardio machines, classes and free weight area. And, we get help if we need it, for free. It’s a comfortable place where I see all my friends and it’s affordable too. Cool.” Yep, that’s what we said too.

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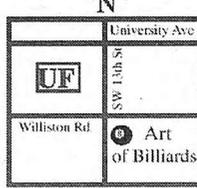
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Students, bookstores prepare for semester rush

By **ALYSSA LARENZIE**
Alligator Writer

Lines are getting longer, and wallets are getting emptier.

It's semester rush at local bookstores.

First-year UF students Michelle Decentececo and Molly Koozer have quickly learned how to shop around for the cheapest books.

Koozer found the statistics book she had already purchased was \$40 less at another bookstore. She immediately considered returning it to save money. Price was an important factor for the friends.

"You just have to learn how to bargain shop," Decentececo said.

Many students spend about \$300 in textbooks per semester, said Gator Textbooks Inc. employee Mike Giampietro.

Graduate student Ashley Croom has come to terms with the high textbook prices.

"I've kind of just sucked it up," she said. "It's going to be expensive, so whatever."

Croom has been a patron of local bookstores for five years. She said usually she spends \$300 to \$500 a semester in books.

The biggest problem with textbook shopping for her is finding the books required for her smaller graduate classes because each store only carries a few copies, Croom said.

To save time, students can call bookstores first to get book prices or check availability. Gator

Textbooks Inc. even boasts that they will give buyback quotes over the phone or online, said Duane McMahan, co-owner of the store.

McMahan also recommends buying textbooks after attending the first day of class to make sure students buy the right ones.

"I always went to class first," he said. "Professors change their minds."

For local bookstores, rush seasons are when owners make most of their yearly profits, McMahan explained.

"If you don't make it now," he said, "you don't make it."

Students use book buyback to exchange textbooks they no longer need for cash. Buyback is generally determined by half of the value paid for the book.

Other factors can impact the price paid to students, such as how many classes use the book or how many the store has in stock, said Orange & Blue Textbooks store manager Todd Williams.

Some students like David Borrego have mixed feelings about book buyback because they feel they are getting back pennies compared to what they spend.

Borrego, a nuclear engineering sophomore, has to buy some expensive textbooks for his classes. He said he once paid \$150 for one book and got back only \$40.

"I feel like I'm getting ripped off when I sell books back," he said.

Borrego said he saves textbooks



Nicole Saffner / Alligator Staff

Students line up to buy textbooks at Textbook Brokers on Sunday afternoon. Bookstores across Gainesville have been busy with students buying textbooks before their classes start.

that will be useful in future classes or his career, such as his calculus book.

Though students often complain about the cost of textbooks, stores set prices based on what they are charged by the publisher, Williams said.

"It's not like we apply a secret formula for buyback," said Orange

& Blue Textbooks employee Ryan Schaufert.

Working his second rush season, Schaufert said students generally accept the money they are offered for buyback.

Another option is for students to sell their books online on Web sites like Amazon.com, Half.com and Facebook's marketplace,

where they buy books directly from the owner, said bookstore co-owner McMahan.

Though students may like to think that bookstore owners are making a fortune, McMahan said that he isn't in it for the money.

"We're definitely not becoming millionaires by any means," he said.

It's not
nice to
fool with
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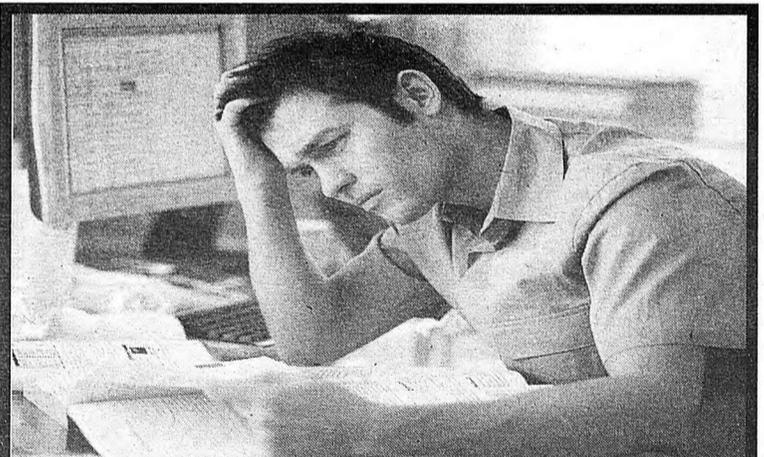
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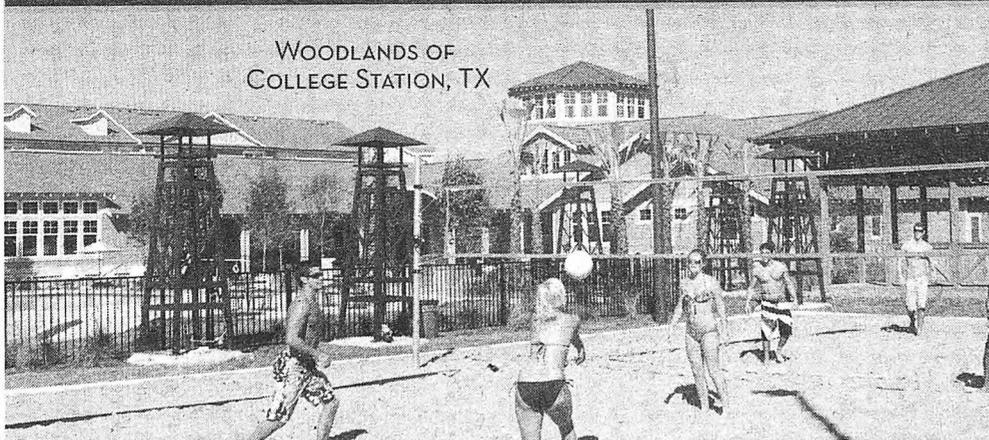
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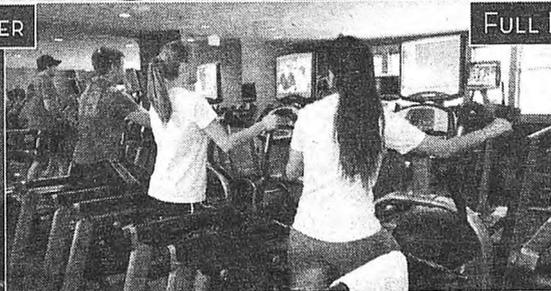
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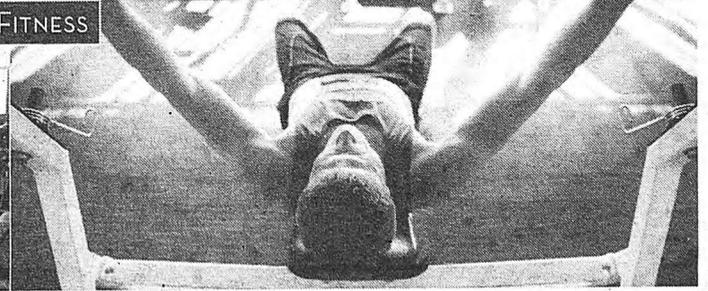
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Journalism school bumps interim dean to dean

■ **WRIGHT AIMS TO FOCUS ON DIGITAL COMMUNICATION.**

By **DEBORAH SWERDLOW**
Alligator Writer
dswerdlow@alligator.org

John Wright, who served as the interim dean of the UF College of

Journalism and Communications for more than a year, was named the college's permanent dean last month.

UF Provost Janie Fouke made the announcement Dec. 18 after a yearlong national search.

"I think Dr. Wright's vision and energy excited the faculty, search

committee and me," Fouke said.

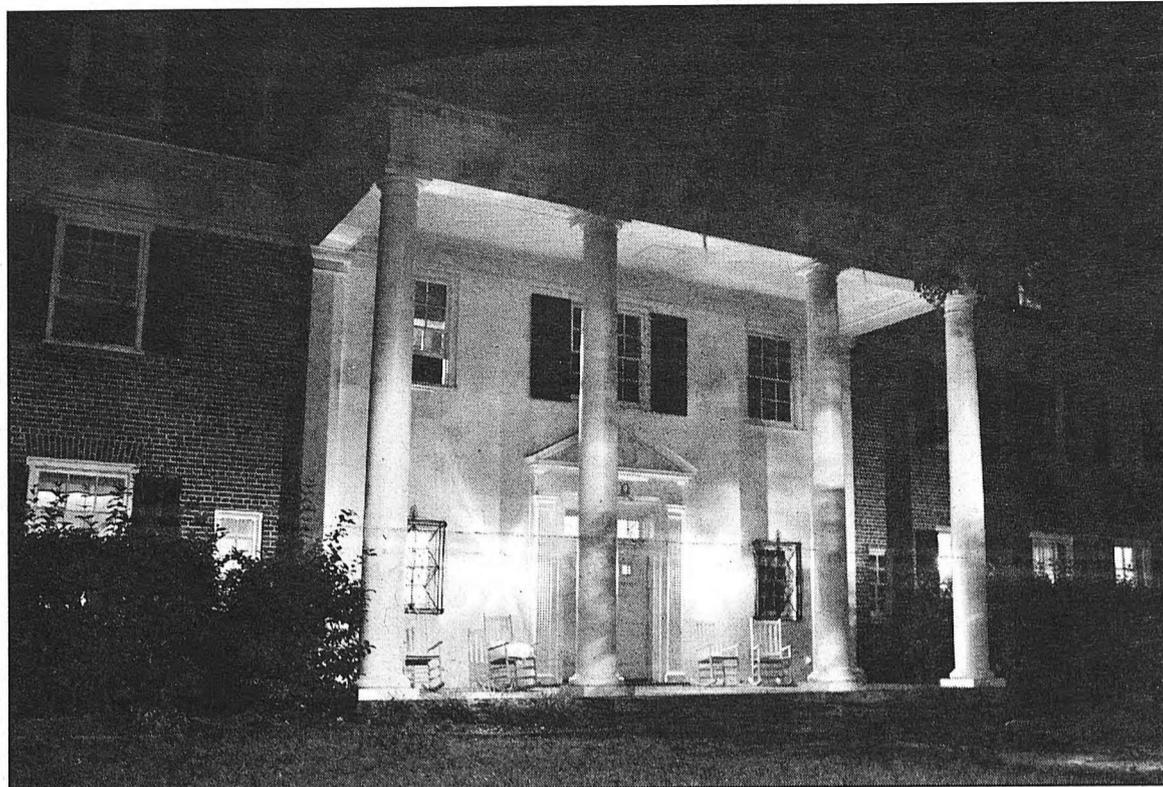
Wright, who has been the interim dean since July 2006, said he plans to build a digital communications center that will house two labs to connect students, professors and researchers.

While classes won't be taught in the center, he said students will have access to stations outfitted with the latest technology to complete projects assigned in class.

"The idea here is to become, if not a global leader, the global leader in digital communications," he said.

Wright joined the UF telecommunication faculty in 1982 and later served as associate dean for graduate studies and executive associate dean.

"This college has just a great history and a great tradition, and it's truly an honor to have a chance to take over leadership," Wright said.



Jeremiah Stanley / Alligator

Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity was placed on conduct probation stemming from hazing allegations in the Fall.

Hazing allegations land ATO on probation

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

For accusations of hazing, UF's Greek Judicial Board recommended that Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity be placed on conduct probation for the spring semester.

At a hearing on Dec. 7, the board decided that the fraternity's cooperation with the spring sanctions would determine its fate for the spring semester.

Alpha Tau Omega, known as ATO, was suspended from social and recruitment privileges for fall. Members are allowed to hold two social events in the spring, but the events must be alcohol-free.

ATO must also participate in five philanthropies and a seven-week new-member education program. New members are not

allowed at the fraternity house, located at 207 SW 13th St., after 10 p.m.

In November, ATO was accused of depriving its new members of sleep and forcing them to be designated drivers for older members.

"There's always a gray area as to what goes on."

Fletcher Rush
ATO president

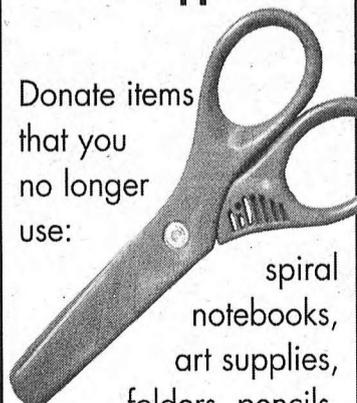
Fletcher Rush, ATO's president, said the fraternity would accept the sanctions.

At the hearing, Rush said he was not present during any of the alleged hazing and did not have knowledge of it.

"There's always a gray area as to what goes on," Rush said.

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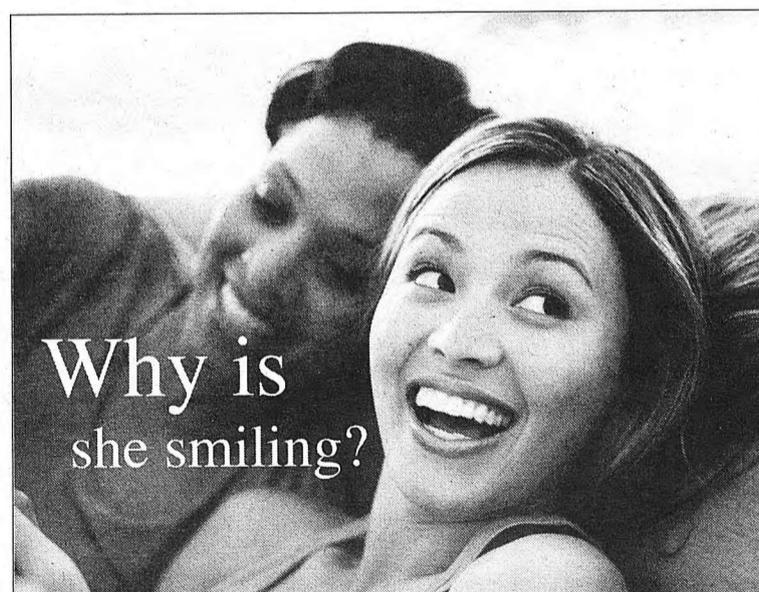
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ON CAMPUS

Kappa Sigma set to move into \$5 million mansion

By **KATIE SANDERS**

Alligator Writer
ksanders@alligator.org

After a year of building, decorating and testing couches for the right balance of comfort and durability, members of Kappa Sigma Fraternity at UF are prepared to move into their new \$5 million Southern-style mansion — but they can't call it home just yet.

Pending city inspections and last-minute paperwork prevent members from moving into their new headquarters until midweek, said Ryan Merkel, Kappa Sigma's student housing director and UF marketing senior.

Many members are left with little choice but to crash on friends' couches for a few nights.

The brick and stucco mansion, 1120 SW Ninth Road, sits behind the mostly female turf of Sorority Row and covers almost 24,000 square feet of land. The fraternity purchased the plot in 2002.

Kappa Sigma is a member of UF's Interfraternity Council and is independent from UF's housing department.

Merkel said the new headquarters can house up to 50 people, and 47 members will occupy 20 double and nine single rooms in the house this semester.

The double bedrooms were designed with Hume Hall in mind. One bathroom separates two bedrooms shared by shared by four suitemates.

For every three single bedrooms, members will share a common room and bathroom.

In addition to a mortgage, members raised nearly \$1.25 million in donations from more than 130 donors to pay for the house, Merkel said. The goal is to raise \$2 million, according to the Kappa Sigma Web site.

"It's fun to have dinner with someone and ask for \$100,000," Merkel said.

The manor's facade features four sturdy columns stretching from the porch to the second floor, rising above a small white balcony. The fraternity's letters, which cost \$4,000, and its crest overlook the massive entranceway.

After passing through the elegant foyer, visitors will enter the chapter room, a 1,100-square-foot space where 123 members will gather for weekly meetings. A huge, bright orange-and-blue wall adorns one side of the rectangular room.

The first floor also features a grand dining room capable of entertaining 175 people around a \$13,000 dining room set, which, like most of the furniture and

all of the residents, has not been moved in.

The house also has a large ladies' sitting room and restroom for neighboring sororities to use when visiting for dinner.

The second floor contains mostly bedrooms and a 1,400-square-foot game room, which will soon contain pool tables, a foosball table, several couches and a huge TV.

The third floor is designated as the quiet area of the house, with a large merlot-carpeted library to be equipped with four long conference tables and beige wrap-around couches. There is also office space for five of the fraternity's executive officers to share and a suite for the president.

"There's been a great renaissance in Greek housing."

Ryan Merkel

Kappa Sigma's student housing director

The suite consists of a bedroom, bathroom, walk-in closet and office. It is the only place in the house with bright-blue carpet and is part of the fraternity's efforts to incorporate a "professional aspect" in the house, Merkel said.

With the inclusion of an elevator; fireproof, wood-like vinyl flooring inside the house; and a few 50-inch, flat-screen TVs, the house boasts many technological innovations that other fraternity houses do not.

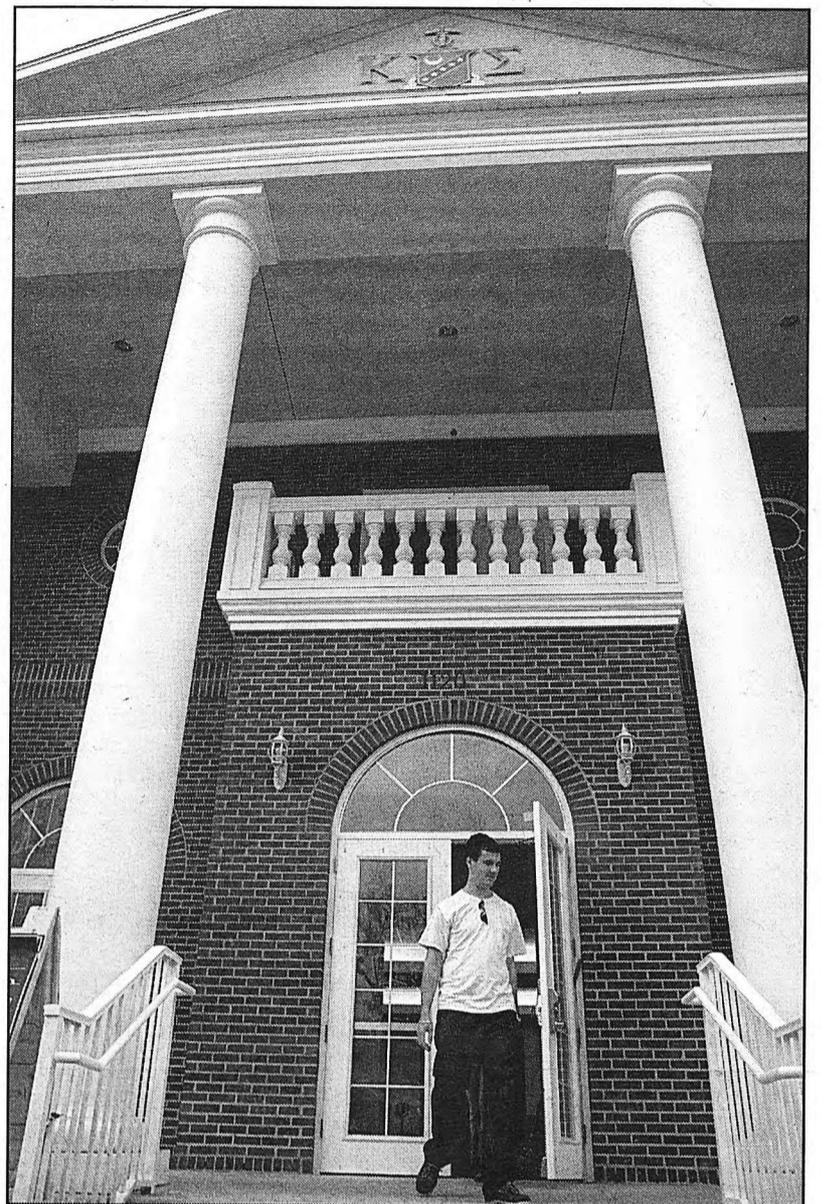
"There's been a great renaissance in Greek housing," Merkel said.

Motion-detecting light sensors in most of the mansion's rooms, hallways and large meeting halls ensure an illuminated path without the flip of a switch.

It may take a few weeks for the fraternity to appreciate the cool value of its \$500,000 air-conditioning system, but Merkel said the top-of-the-line system will be worth a more expensive utilities bill because every room has its own computerized air-conditioning zone.

Mike Jones, Kappa Sigma's recruitment chairman this semester and UF sophomore, said he thinks the house will attract more members during recruitment week than in past years, when the fraternity recruited members from Lake Alice Field.

"This is really going to be advantageous for our rush, but I think that our brotherhood will really be what attracts them to Kappa Sigma," Jones said. "Sorority Row isn't exactly a disadvantageous location either."



Jeremiah Stanley / Alligator

Kappa Sigma Fraternity Student Housing Director Ryan Merkel exits the fraternity's recently built house on Saturday-afternoon. Fraternity members hope to move in sometime this week.

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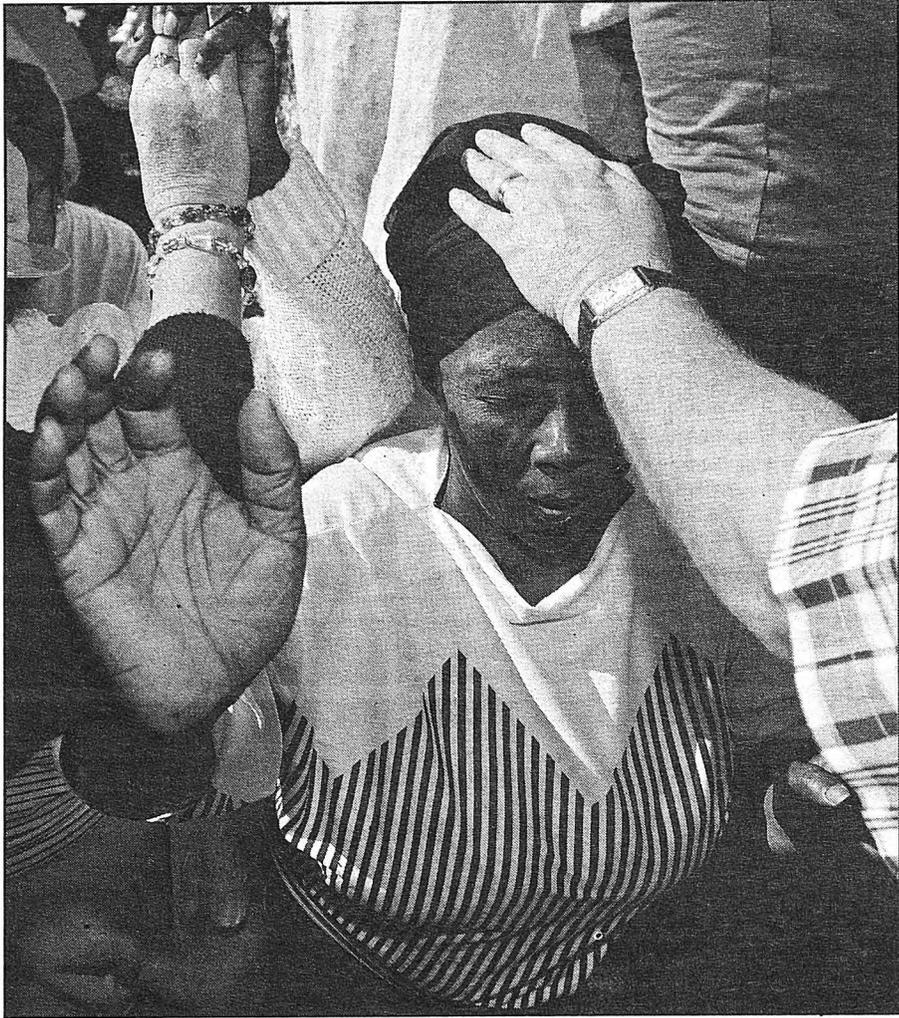
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Scott Robertson / Alligator Staff

A woman raises her hand in prayer in Immokalee, Fla., as a member of the "prayer team" from the First Assembly of God church in Gainesville places his hand on her head on Dec. 22.

UF ADMINISTRATION Audit reveals problems

By **LIA GANOSELLIS**
Alligator Writer
eganosellis@alligator.org

A state audit report recently revealed problems with UF's budgeting, spending, documentation and other financial issues.

The report, which reviews the operational activities of each Florida university every two years, was released Nov. 29 by the Florida Auditor General.

There were 21 problems at UF. The problems include UF's failure to document its authority to charge a fee to students studying abroad. UF responded that it does have the right to charge the fees because of regulations from the Board of Governors, the State University System's highest governing body, as well as Florida Statutes. UF also lacked documentation that students in the Masters of Business Administration programs were not being overcharged in fees, and the money generated from the fees was not used to help finance any additional programs, the report states.

The report also noted problems with the proper documentation of UF's employee payroll. UF's chemistry department, in particular, needs improvement. Ed Poppel, vice president of UF business affairs, said problems are bound to arise because of staff turnover and procedure changes.

Staff members often remain uninformed of updated processes and changed regulations, Poppel said.

"Not everyone gets the message," he said. State auditors also found that UF needed to improve its efforts to col-

lect money owed to the university through contracts and grants. However, UF has already reduced the amount of money owed to the university from about \$16 million to about \$10 million, UF's response states in the findings. That's not the only area in which UF has shown improvement.

"I would be worried if the auditors didn't find anything."

Ed Poppel
vice president of UF business affairs

State auditors found fewer problems in the past year than in 2005, when 25 findings were reported for the 2004-2005 budget year. "Audits are done so you can make improvements," Poppel said. "I would be worried if the auditors didn't find anything." UF has already started addressing each issue, including the ongoing budgeting battle of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which was the first problem listed in the audit report.

CLAS has been in debt since 2006. The university has already taken measures to prevent overspending by making enhanced monitoring tools, available to staff, which allow colleges and departments to keep an eye on revenues and expenditures, UF's response states. If expenditures exceed budget, each budget officer of that college or department is notified by e-mail so appropriate measures can be taken, the response states. Poppel said UF needs to focus on educating staff to prevent these problems.

"It's a very complex institution with ever-changing processes and procedures," Poppel said.

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STUDENT LIFE

Social networking Web site geared toward Gators

By **DEBORAH SWERDLOW**

Alligator Writer
dswerdlow@alligator.org

Move over, Facebook.

The Gator Nation Network, known as GNN, is a professional networking site for UF students, alumni and friends.

Although GNN was started in 2005, the UF Alumni Association recently stepped up its marketing efforts - especially to current students - beginning with a Gators luggage giveaway earlier this month.

Katie Marquis, director of membership and marketing for the association, said almost 30,000 people are registered on GNN, making

it the second-largest school-networking site—second only to the University of Michigan.

In some aspects, GNN is similar to Facebook. Users can add friends, send messages and join groups, and the site keeps track of birthdays, too.

But Marquis emphasized that professional networking, not socializing, is the primary purpose of GNN.

Justin Rees, a UF graduate student who joined GNN when it first started, said the site became more helpful as he got older.

When Rees started looking for jobs in September, he found the group for New York Gators on GNN and e-mailed one of the members.

"That Gator Nation Network is the perfect way to be connected."

Lauren O'Hara

UF early childhood and special education senior

Within five hours, the member e-mailed Rees with his phone number and told him to call right away.

Although they had never met, Rees said they spoke for an hour and a half.

"That just kind of blew me away," Rees said.

Lauren O'Hara, a UF early childhood and

special education senior who is also in charge of the UF Student Alumni Association, also joined GNN when the site first became available, but she said she doesn't use it that often.

However, she said if she moves after graduation it could be helpful, since there are groups for every city.

Although she doesn't use the site much, O'Hara said she encourages students to join because of the benefits after graduation.

"When you graduate, you have access to over 200,000 alumni and all of them are so nice and just want to be your friends because you went there," she said. "That Gator Nation Network is the perfect way to be connected."

Judge left it open for the Board of Governors to refile its lawsuit

BOG, from page 1

Legislature and the board separately called for the state's public universities to raise tuition.

The board approved a 5 percent increase for each of Florida's 11 uni-

versities in September, and Florida Gov. Charlie Crist approved the Legislature's own 5 percent increase in October.

"That doesn't seem to be good for the universities," Edmonds said. "It's hard for them to move forward with some question about which

tuition increase is legitimate."

The schools will institute a 5 percent tuition hike in spring, which will generate a total of about \$9.5 million.

UF's share will be about \$1.4 million.

State News

"Fortunately, the tuition increases are identical, but that might not be the case next year," Edmonds said. "If we impose a 3 percent increase and the Legislature imposes 6 percent, what's Bernie Machen going to do?" UF spokesman Steve Orlando said UF was not ready to comment

about the recent ruling.

Edmonds said the board hopes the lawsuit would clear up all the confusion over who's really in charge. The judge's recent ruling isn't a major setback, he said.

"We don't see this as a closed door," Edmonds said.



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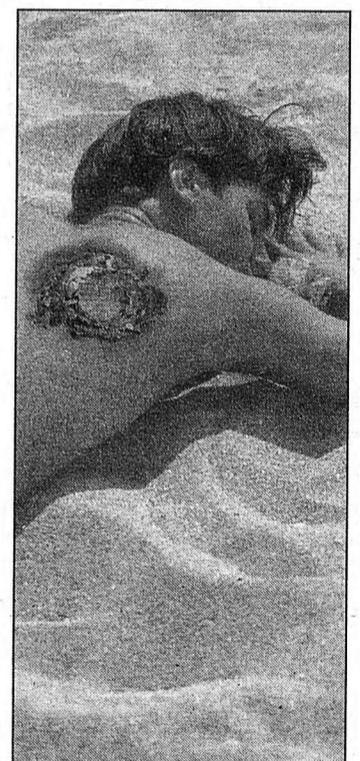
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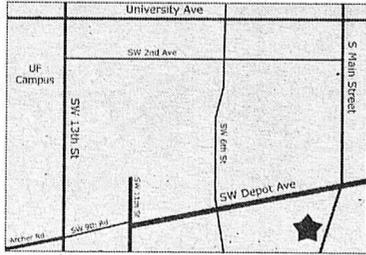
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Friends and family members of Wright, Dahlem speak on their behalfs

DAHLEM, from page 1

Depending on the judge's discretion, Wright could walk out of court with his family that night and pay for his crime with community service. Or, he could spend up to 30 years in prison.

The next six hours would make clear that no matter how the judge ruled, both the Wright and Dahlem families would be imprisoned by Wright's actions for the rest of their lives.

Death: A Life Sentence for Dahlems

State prosecutor Geoffrey Fleck was first to present his side.

He introduced witness after witness, who shared fond memories of Dahlem.

Several themes emerged as Dahlem's friends and family spoke.

Dahlem was a true family man.

Nothing came before his wife, Sally, his daughter, Katie, and his son, Brandon. Nothing.

Lt. Scott Meffen remembered that after his fellow GPD officers had nicknamed Dahlem "Spoon," he proudly introduced his newborn son Brandon to the force as "Teaspoon."

Wanting to spend more time with his young children, Dahlem asked to work night shifts so he could stay at home during the day.

Dahlem was an officer of impeccable integrity. He moved up quickly in the department's ranks because he was a good policeman. For years he was trusted to train young officers, teaching them to be thorough and fair.

He was an invaluable leader.

Dahlem's father, Ted, said he had no mercy for Wright.

"In my mind the driver is a murderer and his passengers accomplices, and no one will ever change my mind," he said, pausing to stare sharply in Wright's direction.

After listening to hours of painful testimony, Sally Dahlem finally rose to speak.

With a shaky voice she recounted the night her husband was hit. As soon as she met with the doctors, she knew he wouldn't survive.

She remembered making the phone calls no mother should ever have to make. First was to Katie.

"How would I tell her that her father was

going to die?" she remembered thinking. "I have never felt so hopeless or lost as I did in that moment."

All she could do was hold her children as they cried inconsolably in the hospital room.

Twenty people were with her, she said, but she felt completely alone.

The pain was almost unbearable on Father's Day, which Katie and Brandon spent changing the flowers and crying at their father's grave.

The pain would be felt every day for the rest of their lives, she said, some days more sharply than others.

Katie and her father had already chosen "Butterfly Kisses" as the song they would dance to on her wedding day.

"What will it be like for Katie to be crying for her dad on her wedding day instead of dancing with him?" she said.

DUI Ended Promising Future

Mary Wright was the first person to speak in her son's defense. She stood between her husband and her oldest son, with a tissue in her hand and a cross around her neck.

"Your loss is beyond my comprehension," she began, turning to face Sally Dahlem.

Yet, she continued, her son deserved compassion.

"Your Honor, Austin is not a criminal," she said.

More than 15 people would make the same argument in the hours that followed.

His friends, family members, psychologist and minister saw Wright as a caring, friendly young man, not a killer.

In the summertime he taught children how to play soccer. During his Spring Break he volunteered in New Orleans, helping rebuild homes that had been destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Megan Boone, Wright's longtime friend, spoke of his integrity.

"For a gentle soul like Austin, living with the fact that he has taken another life is punishment enough," Boone said.

Finally it was time for the young man whose life once held such promise to explain to Sieg, the Dahlem family and the Gainesville community why he deserved mercy.

He began by taking full blame for his ac-

tions and for Dahlem's death.

"But," he said, "I did not mean it."

"I have no idea what you are all through," he told the Dahlem family, but as he sniffled and paused to regain his composure, Wright tried to imagine.

"This past Father's Day I couldn't help but think about you all day," he said. "Thanksgiving was the same thing. I know that this Christmas you won't have your dad."

"I wish there was some way I could take it all back."

Sentence Leaves No Winners

After more than six hours of patient listening, Sieg was prepared to announce his decision.

Certain factors supported a light sentence, he said. Wright's actions were isolated, he was clearly remorseful, and he could use his influence toward a positive end.

Certain factors supported a heavy sentence.

Dahlem was a uniformed police officer on

duty at the time of his death. Wright had made a series of bad choices, not least of which was his choice to consume an excessive amount of alcohol.

Sieg's decision, he warned, would leave 95 percent of the courtroom dissatisfied.

Matter-of-factly, Sieg looked out into the courtroom and announced that Wright would spend the next 10 years in a state prison. After eight and a half years, he would be eligible for parole.

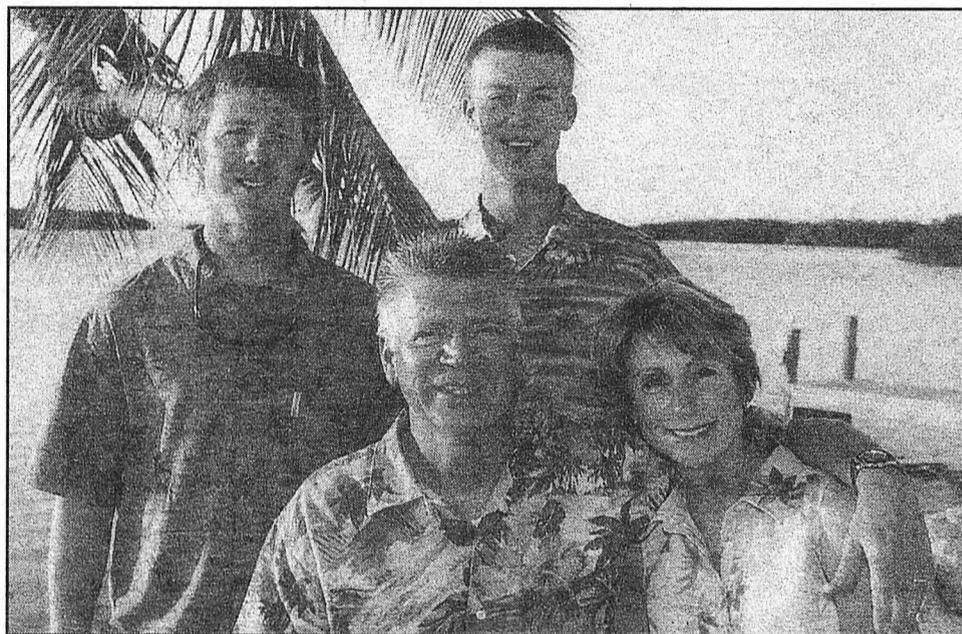
Sally, Katie and Brandon left the courtroom immediately. They later said they had hoped for a longer sentence, but felt he got what he deserved.

Wright removed his jacket. He loosened his tie, took one final look into his family's drained faces, and disappeared behind a courtroom door. Dozens of people filed into the lobby. Most hugged more than they spoke.

As Wright's supporters left, his parents were sure to thank them for making the trip.

Mary Wright left her friends and family with two simple words.

"Drive safely," she said.



Austin Wright poses with his family during a Summer 2006 vacation to the Florida Keys. Photo courtesy of Alachua County Clerk of the Court

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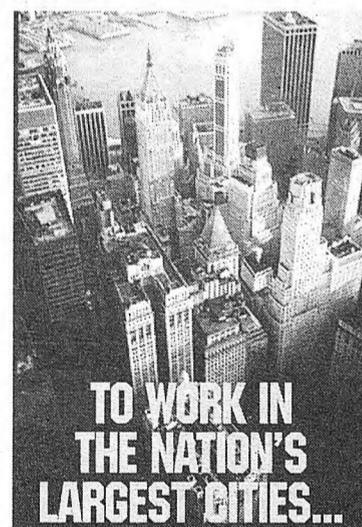
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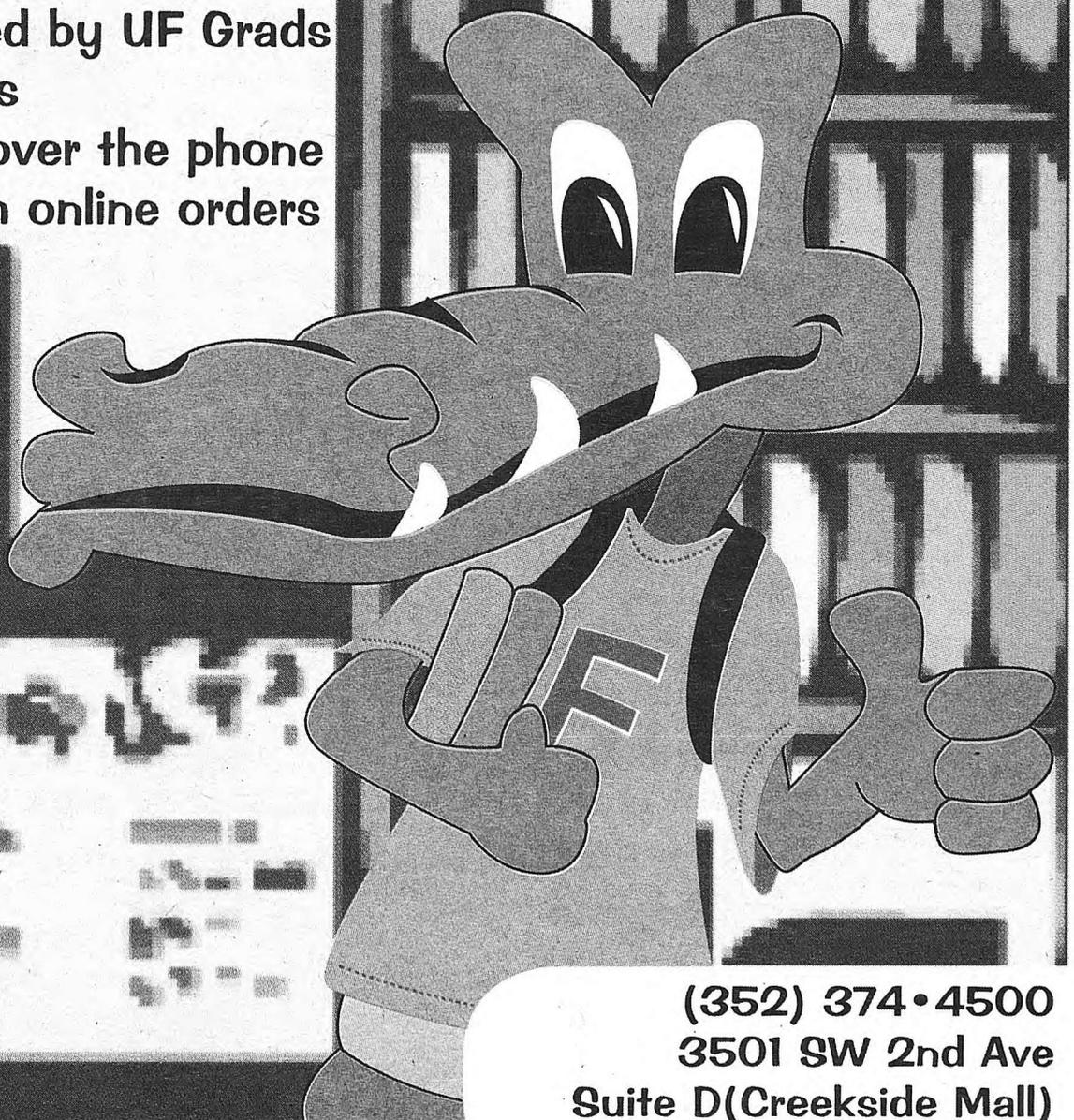
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LOCAL COURTS

Plea deal in UF student murder

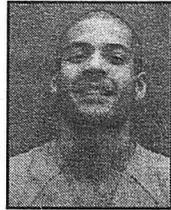
By **KATIE EMMETS**
Alligator Writer
kemmets@alligator.org

A Gainesville man pled guilty last month to the second-degree murder of a UF student in 2004 after originally pleading not guilty.

On Dec. 18, Frankie Silvestri pled guilty to the second-degree murder of Premal Dinesh Dagly.

According to Silvestri's arrest report, police found Dagly's body

beaten and stabbed near his partially burned car.



Silvestri

Silvestri, 26, was originally charged with first-degree murder, armed robbery and tampering with evidence.

According to his arrest report, his fingerprints were found in blood on the outside window of Dagly's car.

After his trial ended in a hung jury in October, the State Attorney's Office and Silvestri's attorneys reached a plea deal, allowing Silvestri to plead guilty to second-degree murder.

He faces up to 35 years in prison, according to official court documents.

A violation of parole hearing for Silvestri will be held on Feb. 19, according to a court clerk. A sentencing hearing has not yet been set.

Iraqi accused in shooting

[Faded text from another article, likely related to the 'Iraqi accused in shooting' headline]

Ruptured Levee Leaves Town Flooded

[Faded text from another article, likely related to the 'Ruptured Levee Leaves Town Flooded' headline]

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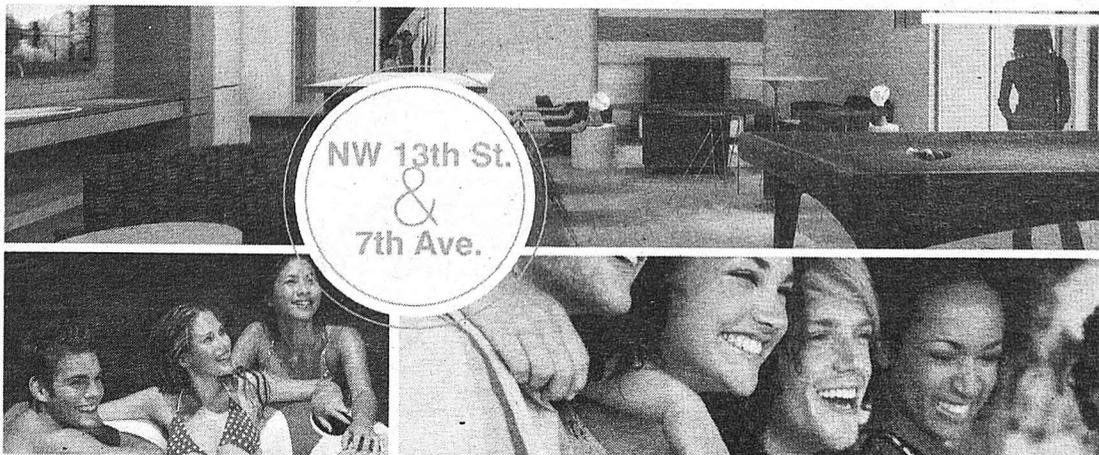
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UF ACADEMICS

College of Engineering dean resigns after 6 years

By DEBORAH SWERDLOW

Alligator Writer
dswordow@alligator.org

Pramod Khargonekar, the six-year dean of UF's College of Engineering, announced his resignation Dec. 4.

In a phone interview, Khargonekar said he has not specified a date to step down, but it could be as late as August depending on how the search for a new dean progresses.

Khargonekar has led the college since 2001.

The college's associate dean for student affairs, Jonathan Earle, also retired in

December, and Angela Lindner, an engineering professor, filled the position Jan. 1.

"I really want to confirm what I suspect most people do know here at the university — that the College of Engineering very much values our undergraduate student population," Lindner said.

After stepping down as dean, Khargonekar said he intends to return to the UF faculty as a professor and researcher.

In his career as dean, Khargonekar hired 90 new faculty members and developed UF's biomedical engineering program and an institute for nanoscience and nanotechnology.

The on-campus institute, which is almost finished, will facilitate research in nanotechnology with biomedical applications, Khargonekar said.



Khargonekar

He earned his Ph.D. in engineering from UF in 1981.

He said he is proud of the college's undergraduate programs, which were reaccredited in August and continue to rank at the top of the nation.

"It's a very satisfying thing for students to come back as deans and have all the suc-

cesses that I've had," he said.

"I consider myself very, very lucky that all these really wonderful things have happened while I was dean."

UF Provost Janie Fouke said a search committee to fill Khargonekar's spot would be formed later this month.

Fouke said she's already received a few nominations from the engineering faculty, but that's as far as the search has gone.

She said she expects the search to take about a year or less because of the position's high desirability.

"It's going to be a hard job to fill — hard shoes to fill," Fouke said.

Student Democrats, Republicans respond to caucuses

Both groups focused on Florida

By KATIE SANDERS

Alligator Writer
ksanders@alligator.org

The victories of Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., and former Gov. Mike Huckabee, R-Ark., in Friday's Iowa caucuses have earned support from some UF student political organizations on campus.

The Iowa caucuses jump-started the presidential nominating process for the race to the Oval

Office, ending with the national election in November.

UF College Republicans Chairman Ben Grove, a UF political science senior, said Huckabee's first win, where he earned 34 percent of the Republican vote, came "out of nowhere."

"I think Huckabee really had an exuberant personality and could relate to the common man as the good ol' man from Arkansas," Grove said.

He said he does not know what

the former Arkansas governor's victory in Iowa means for the rest of the primary season.

"While it's important, I think honestly the biggest primary is going to be on January 29," he said, referring to Florida's primary.

On Campus The College Republicans and the College Democrats are planning to educate students about the candidates on the Reitz Union Colonnade and Turlington Plaza all month.

"Our voters just really don't know which direction we want to

go," he said. "It's a great opportunity for us because we have so much variety and choice."

UF College Democrats want Floridians to demonstrate the "same zeal for the political process" at the Florida primary as Iowans, the group wrote in a news release.

All of the major Democratic candidates have boycotted Florida's primary election because the national party deemed the primary's date too early, which has given the Republican candidates a head start to campaign.

The date was changed in May

from March to January.

"We feel the state is being neglected, especially since it is a battleground state," said Mark McShera, the group's editorial chairman and UF sophomore.

McShera said the College Democrats will have a better understanding of who the front-runner will be starting next week.

But they are focused on supporting the Democratic candidate-centered groups until then.

"We congratulate Senator Obama, but it's the first fight out of 50," McShera said.

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2 bed 2 1/2 bath townhouse in HAMPTON OAKS. Sublease until July 2008. 868 a month and requires a one year rental history. Contact Alexis @ 239-734-0602. 1-7-08-7-2

UNIQUE RENTAL-WOODEN OASIS IN CENTER OF TOWN! Porches-Privacy fence-complete remodel! Bus @ driveway. Looking for like minded people to share amazing space! Rooms \$350-\$425 Call Now! 5143690 1-17-08-14-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

SPACIOUS 2/2.5 TOWNHOUSE 1250 SQ FT, BUS RT 4 UF/SFCC. FREE INTERNET & CABLE W/HBO, W/D, POOL, CLUBHOUSE, 24-HR GYM, THEATRE RM, TENNIS CRT. READY NOW! ONLY \$1050, 262-5262. 1-8-08-7-2

2B/2B Townhouse - SW G'ville - Avail. Jan. Spacious rooms - Quiet apt. complex Pet friendly - \$850 + util.
Call (352)278-0728 1-8-08-6-2

Available NOW, 2BRs in a large 4/2 house. TWO blocks from campus (Norman Hall) Rent is \$400 a room. If interested please contact Katherine 850-699-2950 or Karyn 813-299-4797 1-7-08-5-2

New 4BR house less than 1 mi from UF. Looking for roommates \$475/mo + 1/4 utils. W/D, sewer, water, internet, cable incl. Avail 1/1/08. Call 954-410-0024 or email jburke@ryanfl.com 1-7-08-5-2

DUCKPOND STUDIO
Everything brand new cent H/A, tile floors, vaulted ceilings, quiet area, nice yard. Available Jan \$525/mo 316-0888 1-7-08-5-2

CASABLANCA WEST! 3BR 2.5BA TH, Porch, w/d hookups, pool, \$895/rent 2735 SW 35th Place #201
Carl Turlington Real Estate, Inc. 372-9525
www.TurlingtonRealEstate.com 1-11-08-3-2

BIKE TO CLASS! 3BR 2BA Ceramic tile, large fenced yard, pets considered, \$595/rent, 3801 SW 17th Place
Carl Turlington Real Estate, Inc. 372-9525
www.TurlingtonRealEstate.com 1-11-08-3-2

BIKE TO CAMPUS! Private 2Br duplex, Ceramic tile, large fenced yard, pets considered, \$595/rent, 3801 SW 17th Place
Carl Turlington Real Estate, Inc. 372-9525
www.TurlingtonRealEstate.com 1-11-08-3-2

CONVENIENT TO SHANDS/UF! Quiet, 2BR 1.5 BATH, wood laminate flooring, newer carpet, washer/dryer, \$825/rent, 4536 SW 44th Ln
Carl Turlington Real Estate, Inc. 372-9525
www.TurlingtonRealEstate.com 1-11-08-3-2

NEW 2/2 CONDO -10 minutes to UF in golf course comm. Gated, W/D, pool, garage, alarm, screened porch, comp room, skylight and more. \$1200 call Jessica 352-318-4464 or 494-6567. kemelian@ufl.edu 1-9-08-6-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

Walk to UF: Cozy and Renovated Campus Point Apt for Rent. 1BR/1BA with all new appliances! For more info, please call 352-359-0711 1-7-08-3-2

Great place for students!
3 BR 2 BA 1300 sq.ft. condo
Minutes from oaks mall and UF
\$1,000/month
Call 352-317-5444 1-22-08-12-2

Room for Rent in Madison Pointe \$496 Utilities incl.
Townhouse 3/3.
321-987-4533
Ask for Jess 1-8-3-2

DELUXE POOL HOME
4.5BR/3BA on 5 acres. 4900 sq ft, huge 40,000 gallon pool, giant bedrooms, W/D, 2 car garage, aviary, 2 miles west of Santa Fe. \$2K/mo 332-6024 Craig 1-7-08-2-2

Quiet area - House on large lot, 4025 SW 20th Drive, right off Williston Rd. Lg eat-in kitchen, 2 good sized living areas, porch, utility room, shed 3BR/1.5BA. \$850/mo. 1 yr lease. Call 352-372-3131 1-7-08-2-2

3BD 2 BTH, 2300 SQF Huge home on 1 acre best location (behind NFRMC) Pets ok short term lease avail. Move in ready!
Call (352)284-0116 jglas2003@hotmail.com 1-24-08-14-2

2BR/1.5BA \$535
Shands/UF area. Leave message please 386-328-6229, cell 386-972-4115 or email: e1999wheat@bellsouth.net 1-18-08-10-2

FREE RENT FOR REMAINDER OF JANUARY
2/1 Apartment Pine Rush Villas off SW 24th Ave: \$549 to March \$669 April to July 31 Current tenant vacates 1/6/08
(352)246-2426 or (321)223-1432 1-9-08-3-2

1br/1ba w/kitchen, walk-in closet, #12 bus route to UF. \$539/mo, unfurn, 1 occpnt, \$250 lease transfer + \$39 app fee. Available 1/7/08 or later. (1/08 rent paid) Ends 7/31/08. Fees negotiable. Call Zach 941-518-4542 1-11-08-5-2

Mill Run - 2 BR/1.5 BA, Tile, new carpet & paint, master balcony. DW/W/D hkup. Pets OK. Avail Now. \$715 mo + \$715 sec.
(352) 871-7460. 1-29-08-11-2

2 bdrm/bath sublet avail 01/03/08 thru 08/07/08 Oxford Manor \$949/mo 352-684-3535 352-263-4638 1-11-08-5-2

8 Blocks to UF
*Unique and spacious 5/1 with 3 half-baths, central a/c, 3,000 sq. ft, **extra parking, high ceilings, lots of glass, plant atrium, WD hook-up* **\$2,300* 352-375-8256
4-23-72-2

★★CAMPUS EDGE 2BR/2BA★★
W/D in unit. Walk to class/gym. Penthouse unit. Ample parking. Reasonable rate. Available fall. 239-992-2449, 239-250-6149. 1-28-08-15-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

2 BLOCKS TO UF!
2 and 3 bedrooms for FALL
As low as \$380/person
Pets welcome! Wood floors available
Open late! 371-7777
4-23-08-72-2

NW 39th Ave 2BR/2BA gated patio, trees, costly laminated floor, part utils paid. Convenient, good neighborhood. \$630-650. With loft, large, open, bright. 373-8310, 219-3937 1-11-5-2

3 Subleases

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

1BR/1BA in a 2BR/2BA apartment. Rent is \$524/mo include utilities, cable, internet, fully furnished. From 12/12/07 - 8/10/08. Call me at 772-214-4113 or gzhou0203@gmail.com 1-23-21-3

Sublease Pvt BR/Bath in 2BR condo at Museum Walk. Available Now! 1ST MONTH FREE \$650/mo all utiilities included. Great amenities. Call now for great deal. 352-634-5427 or Kristen.L.Bare@sfcc.edu 1-18-10-3

The Polos Apts.: 1/1 in 2/2 HUGE room. W/D, walk-in closet, patio, appliances; by pool/gym/tennis; 1 male rmmate, quiet, clean, student; \$470 + util; 9/35/36 bus res; STARTS ASAP; call Chris 813-843-7131 1-8-08-8-3

need 1 male roommate in 3bedroom house. Less than 2 miles from UF golf course. Non smokers. \$425m exc utilities. Call Frank at 850-519-2180. Jan 08 to July 08 2-8-08-30-3

December Free! 1bd/1bth available now through July in SunBay. Quiet, close to campus, \$560/month. Call or email Josh for more details 352-213-1559 jbodenweiser@ufl.edu 1-7-08-5-3

RENT GREAT HOUSE OR JUST A ROOM. Fantastic 3/1 in great neighborhood. HUGE screened porch, office, W/D. Close to everything. \$1270, price neg. Avail. mid-Dec.- July 31. 705 NW 10TH AVE. (336)255-7530. 1-7-08-5-3

Studio apt, kitchen, 1BR, water incl, close to UF, on bus route, quiet location, pool. \$0 move in fees, \$499/mo, avail now - 7/08. Can renew. Call Michelle 378-2935 between 8am & 1pm. 1-7-5-3

2 BLOCKS TO UF/SHANDS DEC FREE 1BR in 4BR/1.5BA only \$390/mo furnished w/ FREE utilities, cable & ethernet, night security, avail now-06/08. Tam: 727-641-2638, tevon123@ufl.edu 1-7-08-5-3

HUGE BR available to share 2/2 in Museum Walk Apts. Behind Uf Hilton. Dec 20-Aug 8th. Split level, private bath, fitness room, tanning bed, bus route to UF Campus. Cable included. Rent \$500. 321-282-8038 1-7-08-5-3

** 1/1 in 4/4 apt. Sublease Spring 08. Clean apt, friendly roommates. 3 bus stops in complex. \$500 CASH at signing!! - Call (863) 324-3565 or (863) 224-6523. 1-14-9-3

3 Subleases

Studio apartment \$599/month
Starts January
Walk to campus - SW 1st Ave & 13th St
Refurbished hardwood floors
Water and electricity included in rent
256-656-2074 1-8-08-5-3

Jan 08 1br/1ba in spacious 4/4. Campus Lodge \$509, EVERYTHING INCLUDED. close to bus route. 24 hr Gym, tanning bed. Move in as early as Mid dec. call 407-342-3693 or email aeni@ufl.edu 1-8-5-3

GREAT DEAL! 1br 1ba \$799 obo. Many Amenities! Washer/Dryer, Pool, etc. Avail Dec thru July. Dec Free, July Free. Pets ok. Call Robyn @ 941-374-0064 or email RCainPhoto@gmail.com for more info 1-8-08-5-3

I WILL PAY YOU \$200! Female for 1/1 in 3/3 @ The Estates. Furnished, priv bath, HUGE room. \$580/mo all-inclusive. Call Lili @ 954-829-6741 1-18-08-11-3

Arlington Square 2 br 2 bth. Huge closets, w/d, dw, pool, downtown. Rest of Dec free. Lease to 7/31/08. \$1010. Call Kyle 414-507-2944 1-9-08-4-3

Great, unfurnished 1/1 in a big 2/2.5 townhouse for Spring and Summer. THE LAST MONTH'S RENT IS ALREADY PAID! Located off 8th St & University Ave. \$462.50 plus utilities. Please call 305-903-9810 if interested or if you have any questions. 1-8-08-3-3

Great room for rent, 4 minute walk to campus. NW 14th st. and NW 4th ave at college park, just north of campus. location is perfect and rent is cheap! 1 room in a 3bd 2bath, call for details 239 849 4488 1-29-08-16-03

Room at Spyglass for rent. \$475/mo, utilities inc, male only, living room furnished, own bathroom, walk-in closet. Take over lease, expires 07/31/08, \$125 credit for signing. Bus route(20) to UF. Bruce 941-716-3554. 1-18-10-3

The Polo's 1BR/1BD FREE TANNING, fireplace, vaulted ceiling, Pets Welcome, Gym, comp lab, study rm, (3)pools, (2)hot tubs, great maintance help, screened in porch \$730/per mo avail NOW! Kerri 561-306-6871 2-1-08-19-3

GREAT DEAL! 1br 1ba \$615. Many Amenities! Towne Parc Apt. # 501. Washer/Dryer, Pool, Gym, etc. Avail Jan thru July. Jan Free. Pets ok. 3 mi from UF. Call LaVette @ 305-467-4191 or email britt87@ufl.edu 1-18-08-10-3

2BR/2BA Sublease for 7 months \$740/mo. Pets allowed. Call 954-736-8442 1-11-5-3

FREE FIRST MONTH RENT AND UTILITIES! AVAILABLE NOW THRU 7/31/08. NO MOVE IN COST. \$605/MONTH. 1/1 WITH ENCLOSED PORCH. 5 MINUTE WALK TO UF.COMMUNITY POOL. (772)9717897 1-15-08-7-3

4 Roommates

Roommate Matching HERE
Oxford Manor 377-2777
The Landings 336-3838
The Laurels 335-4455
Cobblestone 377-2801
Hidden Lake 374-3866
4-23-72-4

1BD/1BA avail NOW in 2bd/2.5ba condo. Everything incl. (except BR furnishings). Cable, internet, 4 bus routes, near campus. \$515 + 1/2 utils. Must see, great condition. Call Chris (561)445-9034. 1-29-07-30-4

non smoking male to share a nice, unfurnished 2/1 close to campus at Summit House on SE 16th Ave, \$400/month + half utilities. Available Jan. through July. Call 843-0220 to see. 1-7-14-4

Female grad student wanted to share spacious 3/2 house. Convenient to UF, Shands & vet school, very quiet neighborhood, large privacy fenced yard. Clean/friendly pets may be considered - sorry no cats. 352-359-3165 1-18-08-19-4

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Chicken Sawamura.....	10.95	Sukiyaki and Chicken.....	11.95
Shrimp Tempura.....	10.95	Sukiyaki Steak	12.95
Combination Tempura....	10.95	Sukiyaki and Shrimp.....	12.95

1624 SW 13th St. Gainesville, FL
352.373.1076

4 Roommates

Roommate needed to share 2/2 Greenwich Green apartment with 1 male student. Quiet. Responsible. Dog lover. \$500 includes utilities. Avail now. Call Zack 904-535-2472 or 904-534-9270 1-14-08-14-4

Female student(s) to join female for own BR in attractive 3BR house near NW 8th Ave, 3mi. from UF on bus rte. #43, tile/hdwd \$300/mo smaller BR & \$350/mo master BR, + 1/3 GRU & HSInternet-digital cable, 332-3852 1-7-08-9-4

Private BR in nice 3 BR home, Wifi & util. incl. Close to Royal Plaza, UF Law & bus. Prefer grad student. No pets or inside smoking. \$575. Avail. Jan. 1 561-339-1568 1-9-08-10-4

1 BR/BA in 2 BR/BA. BRAND NEW. Jackson Square. 30 second walk to campus. 10 ft. ceilings, prvt balcony. Cable, Internet, Utilities incl. \$850/month. Call 561-912-0190 ASAP 2-8-08-30-4

Female roommate for 3/2 with DW, W/D. Aprox 3 mi N of UF. \$450/mo utilities included. 352-207-6430 1-10-08-10-4

1/1 of 2/2 in Looking Glass, 575 a month + half of utilities. Bedroom is unfurnished with large closet & bay window, 2 blocks from library west. Lease is until mid Aug. No dogs. 111 NW 15 Ter call Chris 904 307 3237 1-7-08-7-4

Female roommate wanted 1br/1ba of 2br/2ba Polos of Gainesville, 2330 SW Williston Rd 455+45(1/2 utilities 80-90/mo), W/D ref pool bus lines. Avail 12-20 to 7/31/08. Move in free end of Dec. Call Helen 904-641-6219 2-12-08-30-4

Female for private room in spacious, furnished Duck Pond house with 2 other female UF students. \$375 or \$425 with priv bath. Pay 1/3 util. Free WiFi. No pets/smoking. (305) 304-4588. 1-14-08-10-4

2 female roommates NS/ND to share a new 4/2 house in a quiet neighborhood 3 mi W of I-75. Cable, internet, security alarm. \$440/mo util incl No pets. Call 352-331-8794. Avail immediately 1-7-08-5-4

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 uitts incl. Call 328-4995 1-7-08-5-4

Nice house 4 bed 2 bath. \$300 a month excluding cable and utilities. \$300 deposit. 352-267-4102 2-13-08-30-4

M or F Roomated needed at Point West Apt. Rent is 345\$ plus cable/electric. VERY close to campus!! Move in Dec, pay no rent until Jan 321-750-3632 1-8-5-4

Master BR, private bath. 1 year old upscale, top floor unit. Safe complex with elevator. Washer and dryer. 2 blocks to UF. \$565.00 plus 1/3 of utilities. 770-355-9571 404-216-5758 1-23-08-15-4

2 rooms avail in 4BR/3BA huge 2500 sq ft beautiful home. Jacuzzi, wireless, hd plasma, 1 mi N of UF & much more! \$420 + utils. Trust us, this will be your 1st choice. Call now! 813-244-8472, 813-714-4202 1-8-08-4-4

Great House <1mi from campus! Roommate needed starting Jan 7th. 3/2, woodfirs, fireplace. Int/Cbl. Dogs allwd. No smokers. \$625/mo total. Danielle 305-785-2894 1-7-08-2-4

PERFECT 4 GRAD/MED/INTL STUDENTS Avail immediately. Large room w/pvt bath in large quiet home 5 min to UF. \$550/mo + utils. W/D, CH/AC. Newly decorated. Call 352-284-0979 1-17-08-10-4

Seven Street Station. 5 min from UF. Privacy and your own room and bathroom in a beautiful condo. 450/mo + 1/2 utilities. \$500 security and first month rent required to move in. Avail Dec 20th. 352-318-3830 1-7-08-2-4

WALK to SHANDS/UF! Serious female roommate wanted Somerset condos spr/sum08 loft br, 1.5 bath, laundry rm, \$400 + 1/2util 352-201-0734 1-7-08-2-4

4 Roommates

Roommate needed in Marchwood 2/2. Close to UF & Butler Plaza, reserved parking, wood floors, w/d, cable tv & internet. \$550/mo util incl. (321)591-7067 1-11-08-5-4

Room for Rent 4.6 mi from UF. 3bd/1ba house between 8th & 16th Ave N of 34th St. Fenced backyard. Tile floor. Screened in patio. Washer & Dryer Avail. Cox Cable/Internet. \$400 mo. + 1/2 util. \$450 sec dep. Avail Jan 1st. Call Clint at 727-417-9698. 1-11-08-5-4

room for rent 3BD/2BA house in High Springs own bath. \$600/month includes all tilities etc. \$400 deposit, 6 month lease terms flexible. Very quiet neighborhood 352-222-1215 1-11-08-5-4

NS Female to share 2/2 condo in Treehouse Village on bus line. Newly remodeled. Fully furn. except for bedroom. WD. Avail. nov. \$430 per month + 1/2 util. Prefer short term rental. 321-266-7069 or 321-213-5059. 1-15-08-7-4

Horse Property! Share house on 10 acres just west of Newberry with 25 year old female. \$300 per room (2 rooms avail) or \$500 for both rooms. Rent includes utilities and board of one horse. Additional horses and other animals negotiable. 978-729-9365 angel@angelsanimals.com 1-11-08-5-4

Spring Sublease Roommate wanted, 4 bdrm/2 bath house across street from UF law school. Make money on gamedays in the fall for football parking \$500/mo inc. utilities, call Alison 260-515-1871 1-25-08-14-4

Great Deal, Poolside Condo, 1 Female student needed to share in 4 Bdrm/4bath Condo. Own room, bath, closet. W/D, Cable/Internet, close to UF/SFCC. Bus route 35&9. \$435 Mth Furn, \$410w/o. Util w/cap. Jan-July, 386-676-9703/386-233-0011 1-11-5-4

Non-smoking F roommate needed for 1/1 of 2/2.5 townhome condo in very nice private neighborhood 2 mi from UF. W/D in condo. Rent incl cable, hi speed internet, water, elec, \$500/mo w/\$500 dep. 904-703-7262 1-18-08-10-4

Male to share furn house 3BR/2BA w/yng prof. \$400/mo+1/2 utils Directv, ph, wireless, vonage, elec, W/D inclcl w/office space & pvt BA morn lg yard fenced pets ok trees, wood-deck, hottub, pond, 15 min drive to UF, close to bus, lakeview estates 352-682-6297 Ken 2-4-20-4

5 Real Estate

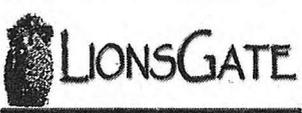
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Matt Price Campus Realty, 352-281-3551 4-23-72-5-5

NEW CONDOS -WALK to UF
3 Blks to UF. For Info on ALL 1, 2, 3, 4 Bedrooms for Sale, Call Eric Leightman, Campus Realty at 352-219-2879. 4-23-72-5



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2/2 w/garage; designer-remodeled
new appliances. 1928 SW 73 St. \$152,900. Call (352) 331-1617. 1-14-07-15-5

GRADUATING AND MOVING TO NEW YORK CITY?? CALL BRYAN HARR, CLASS OF '98 FROM THE ACOCELLA GROUP AT 646-300-5017. SAY YOU WERE REFERRED BY THIS AD AND SAVE!!! 1-31-21-5

Vintage House For Sale
226 NW 19th Ave - 2br 2ba
Great location close to the Univ & Shands, Everything New, New kitchen with new appliances including dishwasher, Central heat & Air, All electric. Fresh paint inside & out. Large fenced manicured yard, shed with dog pen in back. Canopy carport. Must see!!! Asking \$86,500.00. Call 352-281-5482 1-11-5-5

6 Furnishings

BED - QUEEN - \$110 ORTHOPEDIC
Extra thick, pillow-top, mattress & box. Name brand, new, still in plastic. Call 352-372-7490 will deliver. 4-23-08-72-6

BED - FULL SIZE - \$85 ORTHOPEDIC
Pillow-top mattress & box. New, unused, still in plastic w/warranty. Can deliver. Call 352-377-9846 4-23-08-72-6

MICROFIBER SOFA & LOVESEAT - \$375
Brand new still packaged w/warranty. Must sell. Can deliver. Retail \$1600. 352-372-7490 4-23-08-72-6

BED - KING - \$170 PILLOWTOP
mattress & box springs. Orthopedic rated. Name brand, new, never been used, in plastic with warranty. Call 352-372-8588 Can deliver. 4-23-08-72-6

CHERRY SLEIGH BED solid with Pillowtop
Mattress & Box. All new still boxed. Cost \$1500, sacrifice \$450 352-333-7516

Sofa \$175 Brand new in pkg 333-7516 4-23-72-6

BEDROOM SET. 7pc Cherry, Queen/ king bed, dresser w/mirror, 2 nightstands, chests avail. Dovetail const. New, in boxes. Can deliver. Retail \$6500, must sell, sacrifice \$1100 (352) 372-7490 4-23-08-71-6

SOFA & LOVESEAT 100% Italian leather.
Brand new in plastic w/warranty. Retail \$2650. Sacrifice \$750. Call 352-377-9846 4-23-08-72-6

DINING ROOM Beautiful cherry set w/table,
6 Chippendale chairs, hutch & buffet. New, still in boxes. Retail \$5200, sacrifice \$1100. Must sell. Can deliver. 352-372-8588 4-23-72-6

FUTON Solid oak mission-style frame w/
mattress. New, in box. \$140 332-9899

DINETTE SET 5pc \$85 Brand new in box.
Never used. 352-377-9846 4-23-72-6

****BEDS - ALL BRAND NEW****
Full \$80 Queen \$100 King \$170
Orthopedic pillow-top sets. Brand name matching sets not used or refurbished. Still in plastic, direct from factory! 352-333-7516. 4-23-72-6

BED- QUEEN New orthopedic pillowtop
mattress and boxspring set. Brand name, brand new, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver. \$120 352-377-9846. 4-23-72-6

Bed- All New King! 3pc Orthopedic pillowtop
mattress set. Brand NEW, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver. \$200 352-333-7516. 4-23-72-6

6 Furnishings

BEDROOM SET- \$300 BRAND NEW
Still in boxes! 6 pieces include: Headboard, 2 Nightstands, Dresser, Mirror, Chest. Must sell, can deliver. 352-377-9846. 4-23-08-72-6

FUTON - \$60 Solid Oak Mission Style. With plush mattress \$140. All brand NEW still in box. Can deliver. 352-333-7516 4-23-72-6

Pool Table - Gorgeous 8" All wood table. Leather pockets, Italian 1" slate, carved legs. Brand new still in crate. MUST SELL Retail \$5500. Sell \$950. Can deliver 352-377-9846 4-23-72-6

Hot Tub/Spa - \$1295 Brand New Loaded! Waterfall, LED lights, cupholders, 110-v energy efficient with warranty. Free delivery, MUST SELL 352-372-8588 4-23-72-6

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

Sofa \$185 Brand new! Love seat \$150 still in
pkg. Can del 352-333-7516 4-23-72-6

7 Computers

CASH PAID FOR LAPTOPS
Working or not, Joel
www.pcrecycle.biz 336-0075 4-23-72-7

8 Electronics

2005 Golden Tee Arcade System. Excellent
Condition. \$950 OBO. (772)473-9461. 1-7-07-4-8

10 For Sale

PARKING:
Private, Secure, Guaranteed. 60 sec to UF. Reserve now! Reasonable rates. 352-538-2181. Can leave mssg. 4-23-08-72-10

UF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AUCTIONS
are underway...
bikes, computers, printers, vehicles and more. All individuals interested in bidding go to: <http://www.surplus.ufl.edu/online/> 4-23-72-10

\$2300-STORE CREDIT
SOLUTIONS BRIDAL DESIGN HOUSE
will sell at substantial reduced price. 904-502-7929 1-8-5-10

●Erving K, COIN OP. POOL TABLE \$600
●51" PHILLIPS WIDESCREEN HDTV \$500
352-473-8037 1-11-5-10

11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

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by Chris Richtreik

1. Who was the last Chicago White Sox pitcher before Mark Buehrle (2001-07) to have double-digit victories in seven consecutive seasons?
2. Who managed the St. Louis Cardinals in 1995, the last season before Tony La Russa took the reins?
3. When Mark Brunell completed 22 consecutive passes in one game for Washington in 2006 to set an NFL record, whose mark did he break?
4. When was the last men's basketball NCAA Tournament final decided by 20 or more points?
5. Who was the last Boston Bruins coach to have the job for more than three full seasons?
6. Name the last NASCAR driver before Jimmie Johnson in 2007 to have 10 or more victories in a season.
7. How many Grand Slam tennis singles titles did Billie Jean King win in her career?

Answers:

1. Billy Pierce (1955-1961).
 2. Joe Torre and Mike Jorgensen.
 3. Rich Gannon completed 21 consecutive passes for Oakland in 2002. Houston's David Carr tied Brunell's mark later in 2006.
 4. It was 1992, when Duke beat Michigan, 71-51.
 5. Gerry Cheevers, 1980-1984.
 6. Jeff Gordon had 13 victories in 1998.
 7. She won 12 — six at Wimbledon, four at the U.S. Open and one each at the French Open and Australian Open.
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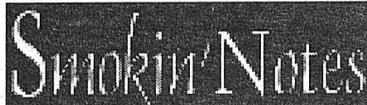
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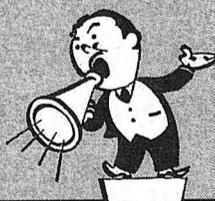
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Manning helps Giants continue success on road

THE NEW YORK GIANTS continued their success on the road as quarterback Eli Manning led the team to a 27-10 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday.

Manning, who has now thrown for 10,000 yards in his career, completed 20 of 30 passes for 277 yards and three touchdowns. He also ran for 15 yards and a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

The Giants' defense was also stellar, holding the Buccaneers to 17 points on 300 yards of offense. Defensive end Jason Taylor had a career-high 1.5 sacks, and linebacker Brian Urlacher had a career-high 1.5 sacks.

The win gives the Giants a 2-0 record in their first two games of the season. They will travel to the Carolina Panthers on Monday night.



The New York Giants' Eli Manning (12) runs with the ball during the first half of a game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday.

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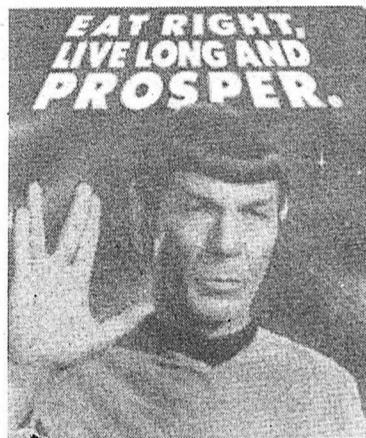
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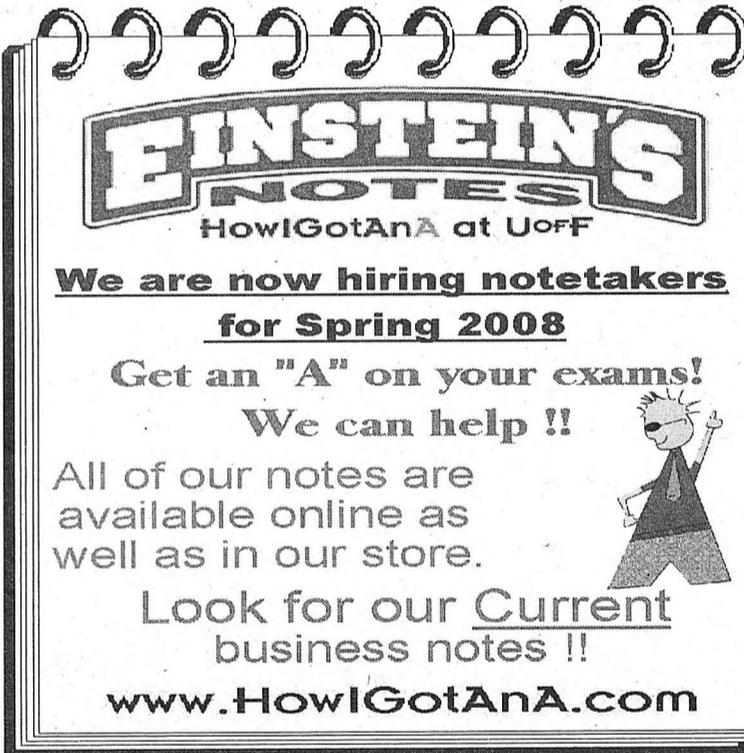
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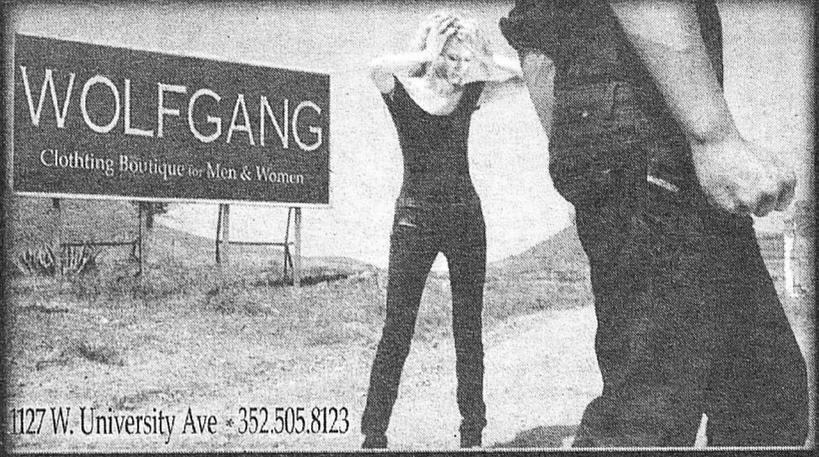
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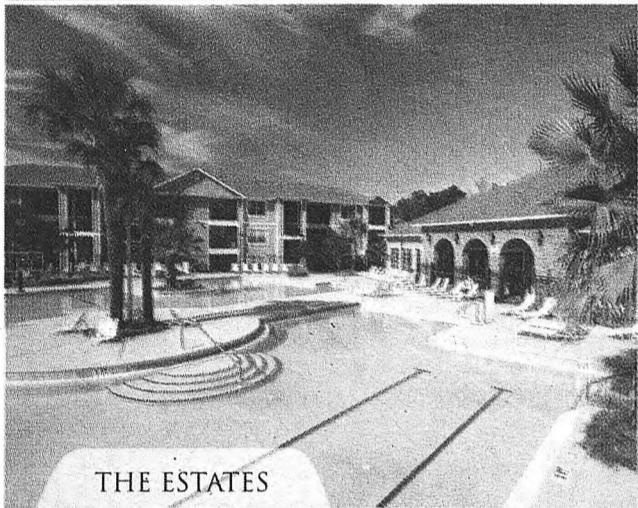


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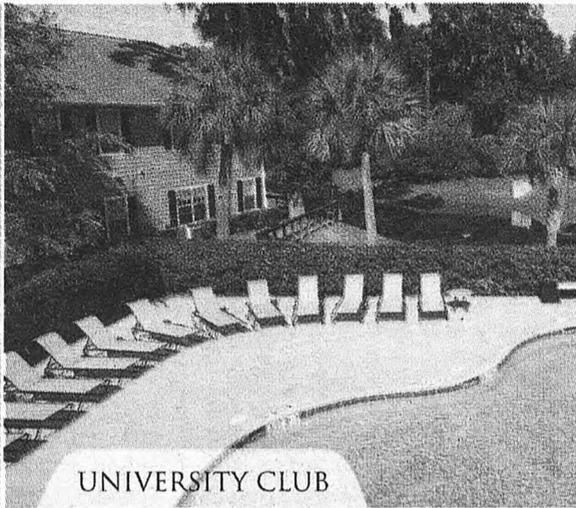
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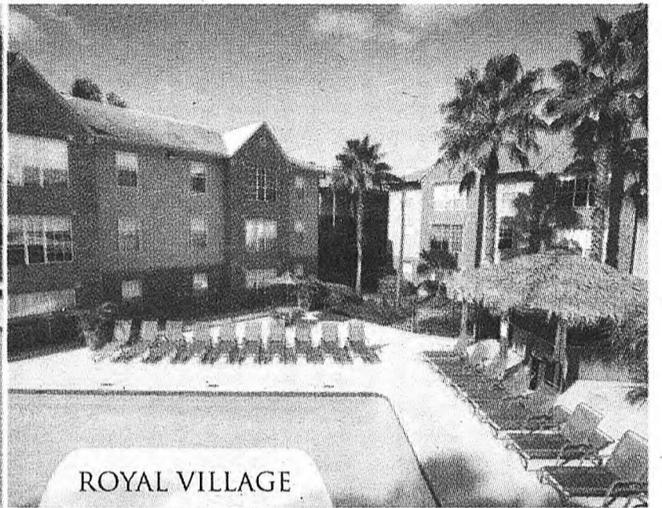
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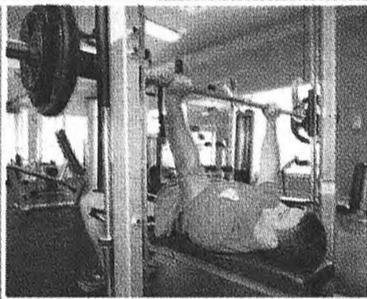
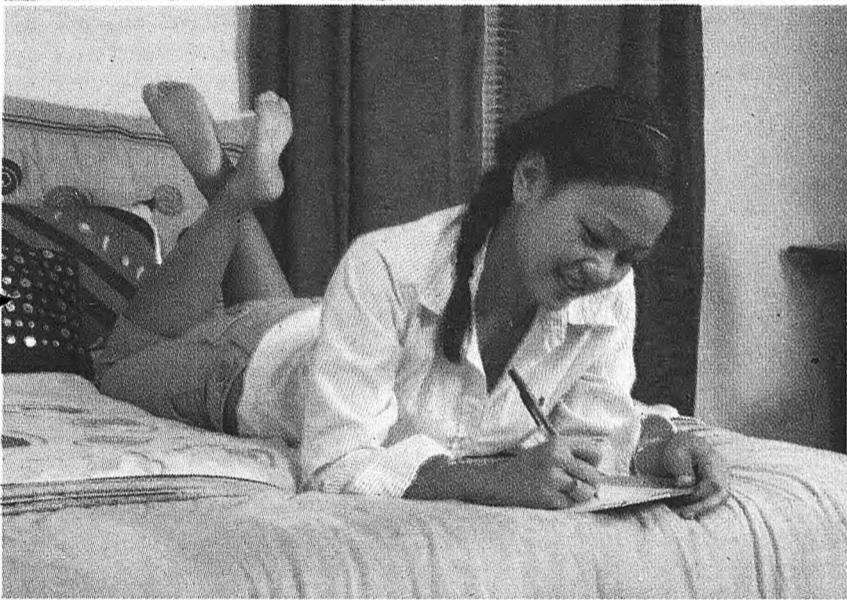
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UF loses top in-state defensive back prospect to LSU

RECRUIT, from page 35

in the game, the most prestigious among high school all-star games.

Patchan said UF met all the criteria he felt were important for his school of choice, the priority being talented teammates to compete against in practice.

"That was my number one thing — the talent level," he said. "I felt like there was great talent on both sides of the ball at Florida.

"I think this was the best decision I could have made for myself."

He was also spurred by the impacts of freshmen linemen Torrey Davis — who played alongside Patchan at Armwood — and Mike and Maurkice Pouncey this season for the Gators.

"It's encouraging," he said. "It's a very young team, and I'm going to get my shot to play early just like everybody else is. We'll see where I go from there."

Patchan didn't have much time for a post-announcement celebration. He graduated from high school early and will show up for classes in Gainesville on Monday.

Urban Meyer hoped that defensive back Patrick Johnson would make the trip with Patchan, but the nation's No. 1 corner chose LSU instead.

Johnson — from Pompano Beach Ely High — told NBC that he felt comfortable with Tigers coach Les Miles, leading him to Baton Rouge instead of UF or FSU, his other two finalists.

Losing Johnson was big for the Gators, who are, to put it kindly, in need of help in the secondary. Johnson (6 foot 1, 197 pounds) is considered by most to be an instant playmaker.

"That was my number one thing — the talent level. I felt like there was great talent on both sides of the ball."

Matt Patchan

Seffner Armwood lineman

Johnson's recruitment was a wild one as he was rumored to have committed to several schools throughout the process. He withdrew an early commitment to Miami.

"That kid has basically committed everywhere he's been, but it's always surprising when a kid leaves the state of Florida," Newberg said.

Even without Johnson, UF should bring in a talented crop of defensive backs. Two of the highest-rated safeties — Will Hill and Dee Finley — along with four-star Pahokee High corner Janoris

Jenkins have pledged to join the Gators for next season.

All three played in Saturday's Under Armour All-America High School Football Game and turned in solid performances, with Hill making an interception near the end of the first half.

Center Sam Robey, from Louisville (Ky.) Trinity High, also committed over the holiday break, and junior college prospects Carl Moore (receiver) and Troy Epps (defensive tackle) signed letters of intent on Dec. 19, national signing day for junior college players.

Moore is the most exciting prospect of the three. At 6 foot 4, 220 pounds, Scout rates him at five stars, and he will be more experienced than many of the Gators' young wideouts.

"(Moore) will have a chance to make a big contribution next season," Newberg said. "He's already there and he'll have a chance to learn the offense."

Among the five-star players that still list UF as possible destinations are running backs Darrell Scott and Jamie Harper, receivers Julio Jones and DeAndre Brown, quarterback Terrelle Pryor, defensive tackle Omar Hunter, and cornerbacks T.J. Bryant and Brandon Harris.

Verbal commitments are non-binding until a national letter of intent is signed on or after Feb. 6.

STEELE, from page 35

time, that's serious progress. UF hasn't proven much yet, but the Gators are winners of seven straight and if they had had a streak like that last season Peck may still be here. Going into conference play last season UF was 6-9; this season it's 11-4.

• Did you know there's still a title contender here?

If you thought Joakim Noah was crazy, I suggest you go watch this gymnastics squad. Imagine Noah on a sugar rush, and that gives you an idea of what this team's warm-ups look like. They're just as talented as the '04s were, too. UF's the No. 2 preseason team and should've won it all last year. This year that "should've" will be taken out. And they just added UCLA transfer Maranda Smith, a two-time junior Olympic champion.

• How do you respond to the best season in school history?

That's what softball coach Tim Walton is about to find out. Last season, Walton proved that he was the right hire three years ago and took the Gators within one game of the College World Series. UF lost slugger Melissa Zick and senior pitcher Stacey Stevens, but they still have little do-it-all dynamo Kim Waleszonia (who is generously listed at 5-foot-4 in the UF media guide) and emerging pitching sensation and hackey-sack wiz Stacey Nelson. The SEC is as tough in softball as it is in football, and the Gators are still a half step below the elite. But that gap is closing, and — depending on how much it closes — this team could make a serious national run.

Quick hits:

In case you just want to see a beatdown by a UF squad, go check out a women's tennis match. They dominate nearly every season. The men aren't too shabby, either... Put the women's swim team senior class in that same category. I covered these ladies their freshman years, and they were already beating high-level swimmers. I imagine you'll be hearing Caroline Burckle's name at the Olympics this summer. UF's senior class has five All-Americans... Ever heard of Ryan Lochte? You know, one of the best swimmers in the world who is still training in Gainesville for the Olympics? Well, freshman Matt Norton might be even better in a few years. Oh, and he was coached by Lochte's dad in high school... Talking about great athletes, junior golfer Billy Horschel is one of the best around... The women's golf team was a title contender, until Sandra Gal left. That's like taking Tebow from the Gators.

Gardner, Gators survive Owls' second-half surge

WHOOOPS, from page 35

said. "She's the best free-throw shooter in the SEC. If she can continually get fouled and go 10-for-10, we're going to have some success."

The Gators opened the game with a dominant 13-1 run, holding the Owls without a field goal until the 13:19 mark of the first half.

"My biggest fear tonight was not that they were prepared, but whether or not we would start strong," Gardner said. "I feel like it was important for us being on the road. Even though we didn't bring it up, they might have that in the back of our minds, that we can't let this slip away."

Temple would claw their way back into the game, scoring the last 5 points of the first half to cut the lead to 11.

While UF committed only 14 turnovers on the night, there was a stretch in the second half where Temple scored 6 straight points and seemed to gain momentum with their full-court press.

It was the moment where the Gators had crumbled in the past on the road, allowing the home team to keep gaining con-

trol and cutting down the lead.

Saturday was different, however, as Gardner called a timeout and reminded her team that they were winning.

She said she saw a different look in the team's eyes this time around, a confidence that hadn't been there in the past.

"I do remember saying we are still in control," Gardner said. "I told them don't play not to lose. We had had leads in the past and tried to just hang on. I said let's keep attacking."



Women's Basketball

The Gators stayed aggressive and held off the Owls' charge by trading baskets.

Brooks hit a 3-pointer with 3:25 remaining to put UF up by 17, which seemed to close the door.

"We faced adversity well," said senior guard Depree Bowden, who had 12 points on 5-of-9 shooting. "When they made a run, we came back and answered."

Brooks said the difference compared to the past three road losses was desire.

"We just wanted it more," Brooks said. "We went out and played hard, played for Coach Butler. We just played our A-game."

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UF WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Butler misses team's road win

By PHIL KEGLER
Alligator Staff Writer
pkegler@alligator.org

PHILADELPHIA — Amanda Butler calls her Nema.

Viola Draper is her formal name, and she is the woman the UF coach credits for much of her upbringing.

Draper, in her late 90s, had been in the hospital the past few days, so

last week Butler had changed her recruiting schedule for today and tomorrow so she could go visit her after the team's game at Temple Saturday afternoon.

But when Butler's father called her Friday afternoon and told her that she needed to come home sooner, she did just that for the woman she cares so much about.

She took a 10 p.m. flight from

Philadelphia to Nashville on her way to her hometown of Mt. Juliet, Tenn., to spend Draper's last days with her.

Her day job as coach for the UF women's basketball team would be put on hold.

The team was notified late Friday night by the assistant coaches, just before a team meal.

Assistant coach Susie Gardner filled in for Butler in Philadelphia Saturday and will assume her responsibilities until she returns.

No timetable has been set, but it's doubtful she will return before Wednesday.

For Gardner, the chance to bring home a win Saturday, the team's first in four games on the road, meant a lot, especially in Butler's absence.

And she did, as the Gators defeated Temple 68-54.

"One, I know how much she loves Nema, and two, how much she loves coaching this team," Gardner said. "In a way I didn't want to let her down."

Senior guard and co-captain Depree Bowden made a point of addressing the team herself.

"I just told them that we've got to play hard for her and get this win," Bowden said.

Gardner credits the work of fellow coaches for the team's success.

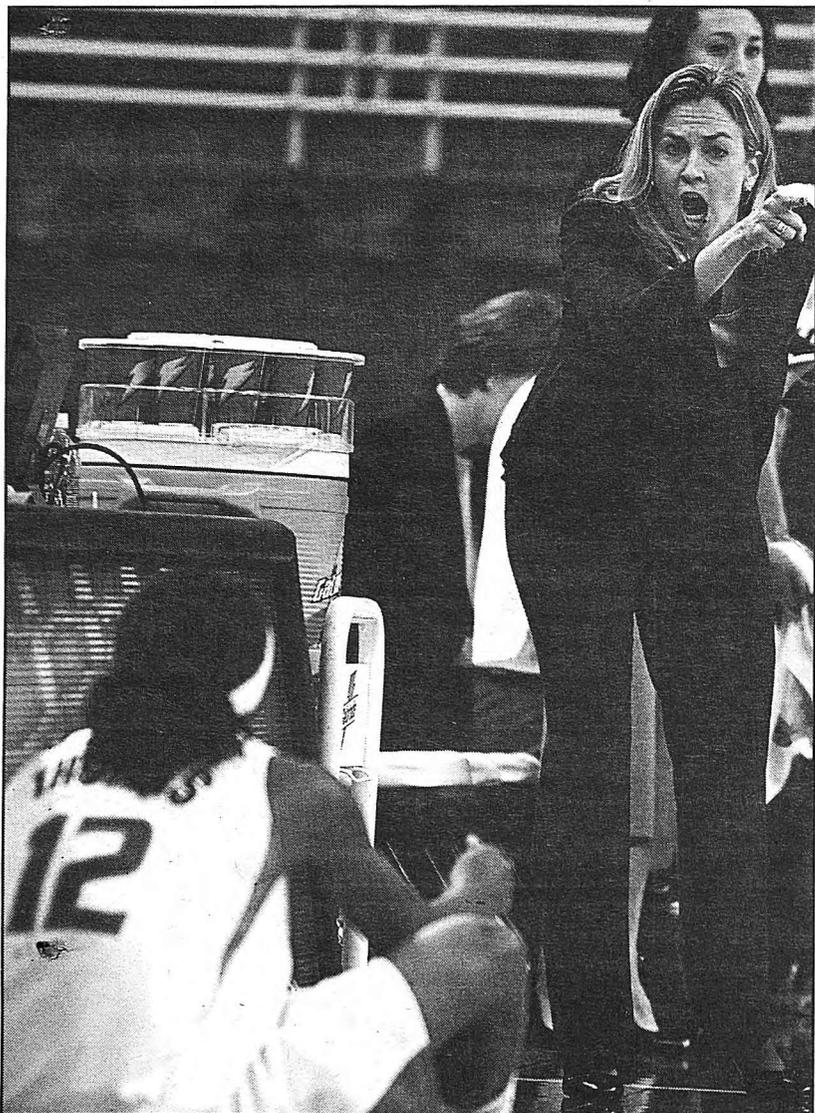
Assistant coach Brenda Mock Kirkpatrick was responsible for scouting the Owls and stayed up all night with Gardner to prepare her for Saturday's game.

"She prepared me exceptionally well last night and then again this morning just so I could have it in my mind," Gardner said. "(Assistant coach) David (Lowery) and those guys on the bench were feeding me (during the game)."

This wasn't just another game, or another chance to vanquish past road disappointments playing away from home.

It was a chance for the team to give back to the coach who works so hard for them.

"I think that in their hearts and in their heads, we wanted to win this game for Amanda," Gardner said.



Jeremiah Stanley / Alligator

Gators head coach Amanda Butler traveled to her hometown in Tennessee to visit her sick grandmother. The trip caused her to miss her team's 68-54 win against Temple.

UF rides 14 first-place finishes to weekend wins

STAFF REPORT

The UF men's and women's swimming and diving teams used a combined 14 first-place finishes and 5 NCAA provisional qualifying times over the weekend to each pick up wins against Indian River Community College, while the No. 5 men also defeated No. 12 Purdue twice and the No. 7 women topped Arkansas at the O'Connell Center.

The women defeated Arkansas 114-86 and IRCC 136-54 Saturday.

The men defeated Purdue 137-125 Friday and 106-97 Saturday, while also topping IRCC 140-59 Saturday.

"We were better (Saturday) than (on Friday)," Coach Gregg Troy said. "We've been going through some training cycles, so everyone was a little tired, but we got honest efforts from everyone. Cody Kauffman and Bradley Ally were real consistent and we got a

solid effort both days from Shaune Fraser. On the women's side, Gemma Spofforth looked good and Samantha Vanderbilt had a lot of consistency."

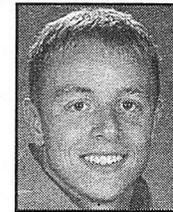
A third-place finish in the 500 and 1,000-yard freestyle events highlighted Kauffman's performance.

Fraser was one of the most consistent swimmers for the Gators, swimming his way to three first-place finishes while Ally added another two. Spofforth added a win of her own in the 200-yard backstroke, and Vanderbilt turned in a second-place finish in the 100-yard freestyle.

UF divers traveled to Athens, Ga. to compete in the Georgia Diving Invitational over the weekend.

The Gators were led by Monica Dodson, who dove to a fourth-place finish with a total of 235.75 points. She was followed by Sarah Ellerby and Jennifer Funch, who finished right behind Dodson in fifth and sixth place with 223.70 and 211.60, respectively.

The Gators will be in action next on Jan. 12, when the swimming and diving teams host LSU at 2 p.m. in the O'Connell Center.



Kauffman

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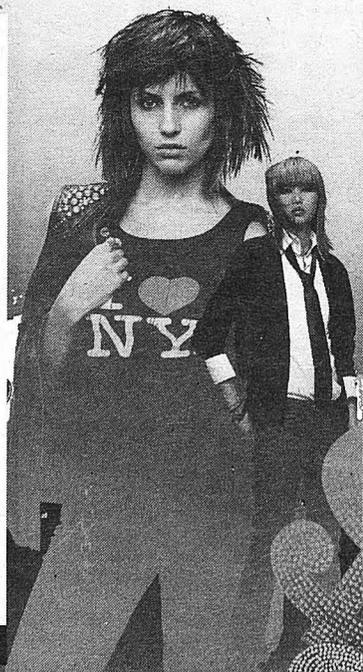
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Clemens denies drug use in '60 Minutes' interview

By [illegible]

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball slugger Adam Clemens has denied using performance-enhancing drugs in an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" on Sunday.

The interview was the second in a series of interviews with Clemens since he was named to the "60 Minutes" list of players suspected of using performance-enhancing drugs in the steroid era.

Clemens also denied the use of these performance-enhancing drugs in an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" on Sunday.

"I am saying that I am not taking any performance-enhancing drugs," Clemens said. "I am saying that I am not taking any performance-enhancing drugs."

Clemens was named to the "60 Minutes" list of players suspected of using performance-enhancing drugs in the steroid era.

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Former New York Yankees pitcher Adam Clemens speaks with CBS' "60 Minutes" on Sunday. It was the first interview since he former player was named to a list of players suspected of using performance-enhancing drugs in the steroid era.

Wade misses key free throws as Heat drop 7th straight

By [illegible]

Miami — LeBron James scored 25 points and Dwyane Wade added 18 as the Miami Heat fell to 0-7 on the season in a 97-90 loss to the Boston Celtics on Sunday.

Wade missed two key free throws in the fourth quarter, including one that would have tied the game.

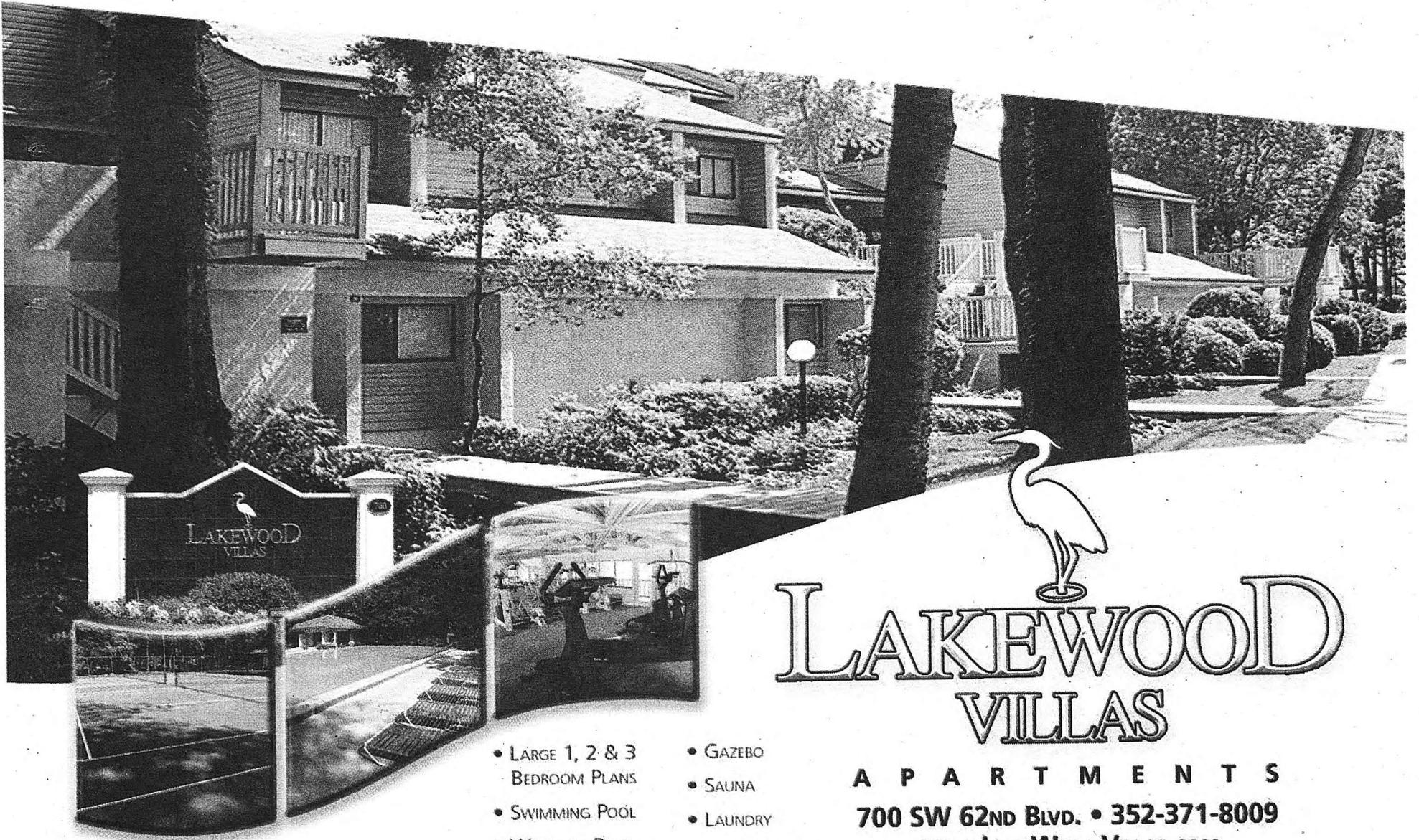
The Heat's offense was stagnant in the second half.



Wade missed two key free throws in the fourth quarter, including one that would have tied the game.

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Wade missed two key free throws in the fourth quarter, including one that would have tied the game.



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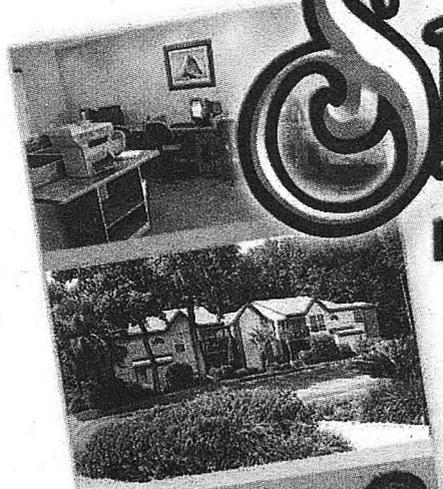
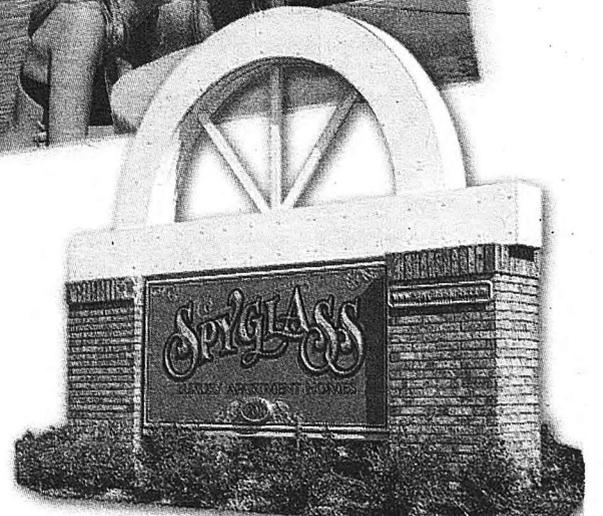
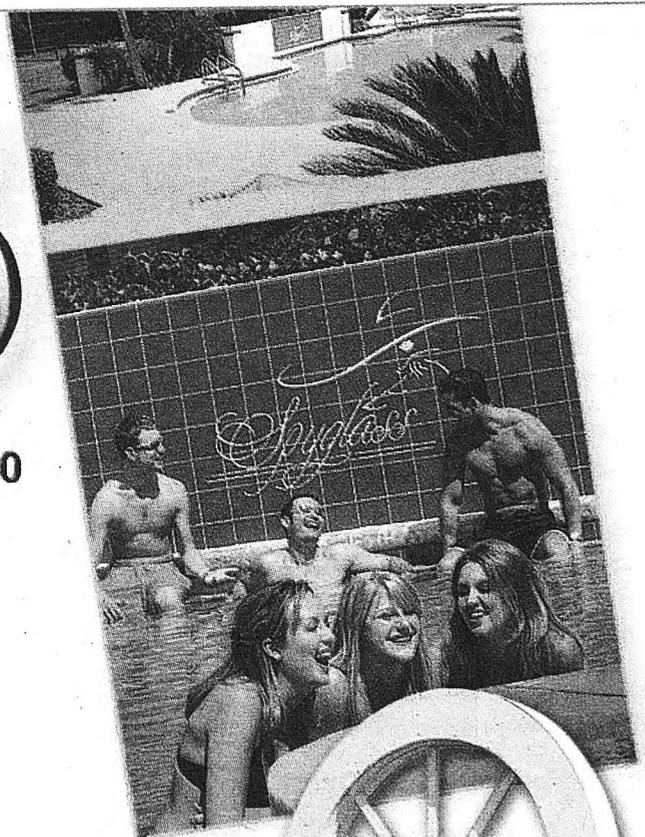
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Ask About Our Specials



Gators land five-star lineman prospect

■ **MATT PATCHAN CHOSE UF OVER MIAMI.**

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

UF's 2008 recruiting class got a big boost Saturday with the verbal commitment of Matt Patchan.

Patchan, a 6-foot-7, 265-pounder from Seffner Armwood High, is the No. 4 offensive tackle in the country according to Scout.com. The five-star prospect is just the second offensive lineman to commit to the Gators this year.

"It's huge because, obviously, the Gators need help on both lines of scrimmage," Scout.com recruiting analyst Jamie Newberg said. "He's a high-motor, high-energy kid. He's tenacious, nasty and kind of old school."

"As a tackle, I think he has as much talent as anybody in the country."

Patchan played both offense and defense in high school, but is expected to perform as a blocker for the Gators.

He chose UF over Miami, where his father, also named Matt, was an offensive lineman from 1984-87 under Coach Jimmy Johnson.

"My dad took it well," Patchan said. "He backs me 100 percent."

"I'll always have a little spot in my heart for Miami. They're a great team. I grew up a big fan, but I'm a Florida Gator now."

Patchan came to his decision

shortly before making it public from his neighborhood clubhouse Saturday afternoon, a deviation from his original plan to announce from the Army All-American

Bowl in San Antonio.

That plan was derailed when he came down with mononucleosis and was told he couldn't play

SEE RECRUIT, PAGE 31



Seffner Armwood High lineman Matt Patchan speaks with the media Saturday at the Club at Tampa Palms following his announcement that he will attend UF.

Rick Harmon / Tampa Tribune

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UF conquers road demons in final tune-up

By **PHIL KEGLER**
Alligator Staff Writer
pkegler@alligator.org

PHILADELPHIA — The UF women's basketball team had been here before.

The Gators had played well on the road in spurts and always let the victory slip through their fingers.

This time, with Temple gaining momentum and looking to erase a 16-point deficit early in the second half, UF held off the Owls for a 68-54 victory in its' final non-conference game Saturday afternoon.

The Gators, 11-4 and winners of seven straight, gained plenty of confidence as they head into their Southeastern Conference opener Thursday, having taken the first step to quieting notions that they can't achieve success on the road.

They did it without head coach Amanda Butler, who flew to her hometown of Mt. Juliet, Tenn., late Friday night to be with her sick grandmother.

Assistant coach Susie Gardner assumed the head coaching responsibilities in Butler's absence, and she tried to keep past failures on the road out of the players' thoughts.

"We tried to not make that a big deal for our players obviously," she said. "We looked at it more as keeping our winning streak healthy and then going into SEC play with momentum, which I think we did."

But the Gators did have guard Sha Brooks, and the Owls (7-9) never found much of an answer for her.

"Make sure (Dawn Staley) knows who Sha Brooks is."

Susie Gardner

UF assistant coach to guard Sha Brooks

The junior went off for a season-high 23 points in just 29 minutes, shooting 6 of 18 from the floor and going 10 of 10 from the free-throw line.

Gardner challenged Brooks to play well in

front of Temple coach and former WNBA star Dawn Staley.

"I told her almost in jest before the game, 'Listen, Dawn Staley is down there, one of the best players to ever play the game. Make sure she knows who Sha Brooks is when you leave this court,'" Gardner said.

Assistant coach Brenda Mock Kirkpatrick watched game footage with Brooks earlier in the weekend and noticed she was settling for 3-pointers too often.

The junior took the message to heart, showing glimpses of her play last season when she averaged more than 15 points per game on her way to being named to the All-SEC second team.

Brooks averaged just 10.1 points per game coming into Saturday's game and had scored less than 5 points in three contests this season, including the previous two.

"It was good to see Sha looking more confident, more like Sha, and attacking," Gardner

SEE WHOOPS, PAGE 31

Plenty to look forward to this spring

Grab a Snickers, Urban Meyer.

Take time to find a suitable place for your Heisman Trophy, Timmy Tebow.

Oh, and if you're lucky, go on a growth spurt, Joe Haden and Markihe Anderson.

So, the football season is over and the UF's men's basketball team is heading into Southeastern Conference play acting like an NIT team.

What to do then, Gators



Brian Steele
Steele-ing Bases
bsteele@alligator.org

fans? Here are some story lines that are worth following this spring, even if the two-time champion

hoops squad fails to have any postseason significance.

• Is new baseball coach Kevin O'Sullivan more like Carolyn Peck or Billy Donovan?

There's no doubting that UF athletics director Jeremy Foley is the Tebow of college athletic directors, but even Foley has had his slipups (see Peck and Ron Zook). After the firing of popular Pat McMahon, O'Sullivan inherits a team that lost slugger Matt LaPorta, top ace Bryan Augenstein and catcher Cody Neer. Good luck, coach. In other words, this is going to take time. The Gators still have talent, and a quick turnaround is conceivable, but expecting more championship celebrations on University Avenue is too much. O'Sullivan was a good hire, but so was Peck at the time.

• The I-don't-believe-what-I'm-saying theory, but is the women's basketball team not completely horrible?

Listen, the Gators are a bubble team at best, but if their name is even in the national picture come NCAA Tournament

SEE STEELE, PAGE 31

ON TELEVISION

■ **NCAA Football: LSU vs. Ohio State**
FOX, 8:15 p.m.
■ **NBA: Spurs at Warriors**
NBA TV, 10:30 p.m.

INSIDE

■ The Southeastern Conference basketball season gets underway this week, and there are several teams in the East division that seem destined for the NCAA Tournament. For a closer look at UF's division, see pg. 29.

I DID NOT KNOW THAT

■ UF football coach Urban Meyer will be part of the FOX broadcast team for tonight's BCS National Championship Game. He will serve as a guest analyst and will appear during the pregame, halftime and postgame coverage.

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Illinois 64
Women's Basketball
No. 7 Georgia 55
Xavier 65

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