



Fla. board approves statewide tuition hike

■ **THE BOARD ALSO APPROVED ENROLLMENT LIMITS.**

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

TALLAHASSEE — In an unplanned move at its meeting Thursday, the Florida Board of Governors approved an 8 percent tuition increase for Florida's 11 state universities next

year. The money was earmarked to hire more faculty and advisers and to fund need-based financial aid. It is unknown whether the Florida Bright Futures scholarship program would cover the hike.

The board, the State University System's highest governing body, also decided to set enrollment limits at Florida universities to brace for impending budget cuts due to state revenue shortfalls.

Both measures will go into effect in the fall.

Bill Edmonds, spokesman for the board, said an 8 percent tuition increase would bring in an extra \$93 a semester, or about \$186 a year, from every student.

State News

UF's tuition currently costs about \$3,300 a year, according to the UF admissions' Web site.

The tuition increase is projected to bring in an extra \$32 million statewide, Edmonds said.

According to the board, 70 percent of the revenue from the tuition increase would fund

more faculty and adviser hiring, and 30 percent would provide need-based aid.

UF, Florida State University and the University of South Florida were already expecting tuition increases because of the previously approved the Tuition Differential Program, which was passed by the Legislature last year and will go into effect in the fall.

Those three universities can raise tuition up to 40 percent over four years, as long as the

SEE BOG, PAGE 8

Student gets inked for concert tickets

By **KRISTEN HUFF**
 Alligator Contributing Writer

When listeners of the Kevin and Casey morning show on KISS 105.3 FM were asked what they would do to meet Disney's Hannah Montana, they gave some interesting responses.

Someone promised to eat bugs. A woman said she would shave her head.

"I think I'm crazy, but it's worth it."

McCall Blanchard
 ticket winner

But when two listeners convinced the DJs they were the most deserving to go to Tuesday's sold-out show in Orlando — and agreed to tattoo the station's logo on their bodies live on the air — they knew they had their winners.

That was how McCall Blanchard, a 20-year-old SFCC student, found herself in Bodytech Tattooing and Piercing on West University Avenue Thursday morning.

After an hour and a half, a 5-by-5-inch, open-jawed alligator with "KISS 105.3 FM" above its head was displayed prominently between her shoulder blades.

"I think I'm crazy, but it's worth it," Blanchard said.

She won the hearts of the

DJs when she told them her story.

The tickets would be for her 7-year-old niece, Brianna Blanchard, who was born

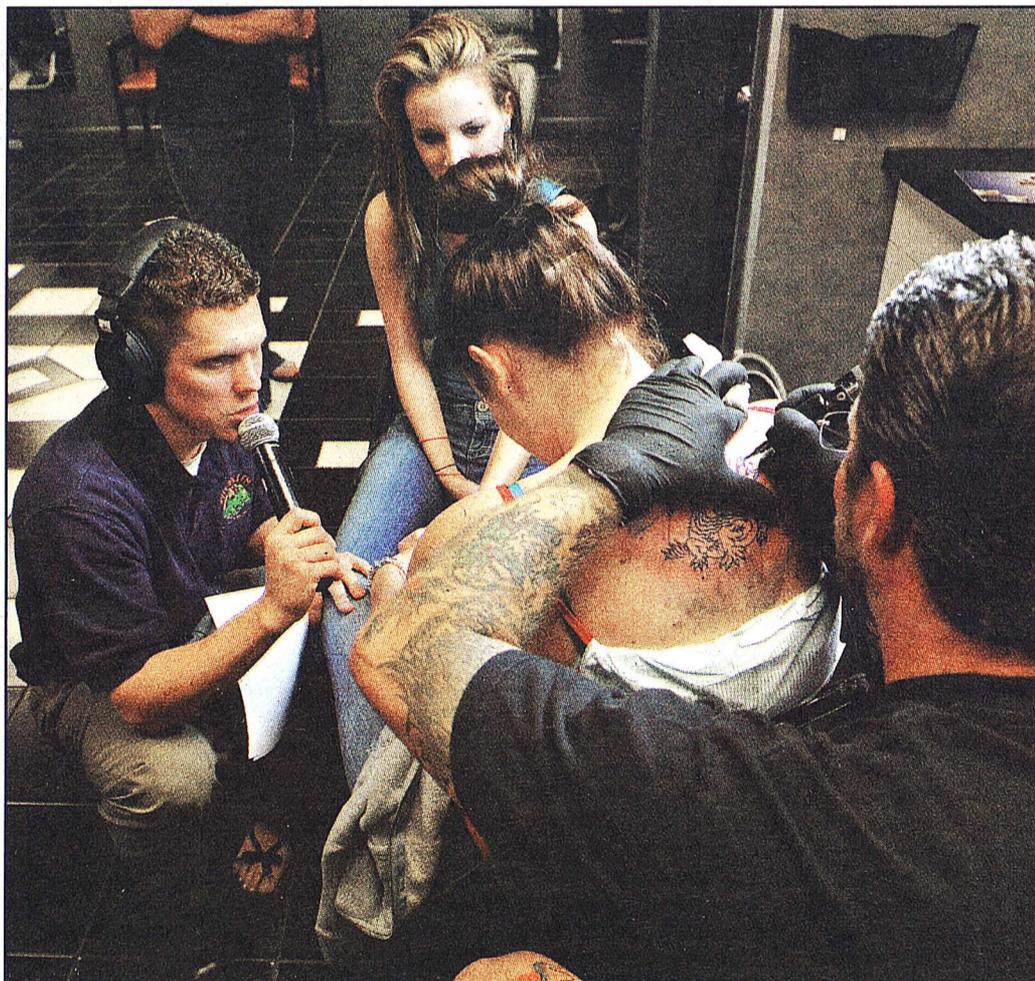
with a birth defect called spina bifida, which affects the spinal cord.

Brianna is confined to a wheelchair most of the time,

Blanchard said.

"My niece has been through a lot," she said as the

SEE TATTOO, PAGE 8



Harrison Diamond / Alligator

SFCC student McCall Blanchard gets a radio station's logo tattooed on her back by Bodytech Tattooing and Piercing owner Wayne Lessard for Hannah Montana tickets.

UF starts campaign in Miami

UF President Bernie Machen pitched Florida Tomorrow, UF's newest capital campaign, to an audience of about 450 on Thursday night in Miami.

The speech was the first of several upcoming events making up UF's regional campaigning efforts for Florida Tomorrow.

The campaign, similar to The Gator Nation promotion, was created by the UF Foundation to attract donations to the university.

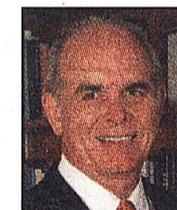
Florida Tomorrow's overall goal is to raise \$1.5 billion during the next five years. Machen announced the campaign's official kickoff in September.

Chris Brazda, spokesman for the UF Foundation, said UF has set monetary goals for each region Machen visits, and UF hopes to raise \$65 million in donations from the Miami-Dade area.

Machen's audience on Thursday was comprised mostly of UF alumni and friends, Brazda said.

His next two destinations will be Orlando on April 2 and New York City on May 15.

— LIA GANOSELLIS



Machen

■ **UF center Marreese Speights is beginning to live up to the lofty expectations he received after playing sparingly last season. He will lead the Gators against Vanderbilt Sunday. See story, pg. 24.**



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■ **University Police is the first department in the U.S. to be accredited at the international, state and university levels. See story, pg. 5.**

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News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

AmeriCorps — Alachua County Reads

Room S 236/237 SFCC Northwest campus, 5 p.m., 6 p.m., tonight
Alachua County Reads will be hosting two training and orientation sessions for students interested in getting involved with the program, which offers reading tutoring for students in at-risk elementary schools.

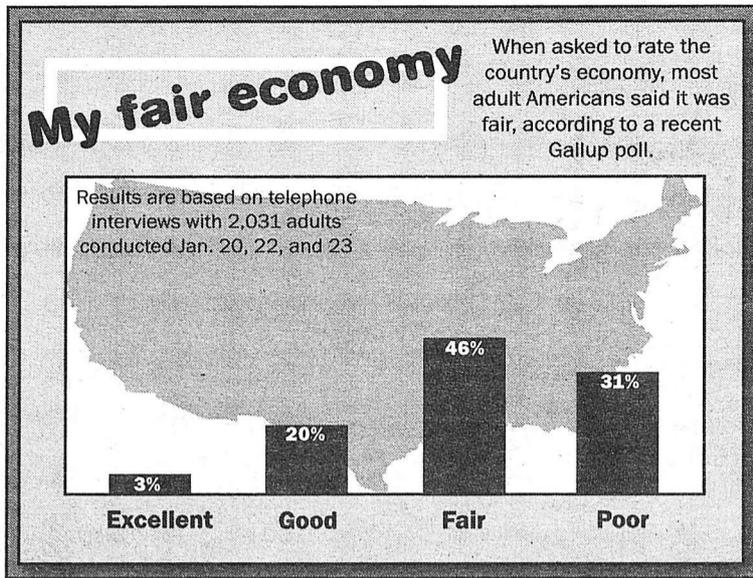
Poker Tournament

UF Hillel, 8:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., Saturday
Alpha Epsilon Pi will host its fourth annual "Poker All Night Long," a No-Limit Texas Hold 'Em tournament. All money raised will benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma society. Entry is \$5.

Contemporary Art Discussion

Harn Museum, 3 p.m., Sunday
UF professor Celeste Roberge will present a gallery talk of the exhibition "Vision/Revision: Contemporary Art from the Harn Collection."

NATIONAL



Kim Wilmath / Alligator Staff

FORECAST

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
PARTLY CLOUDY 59/41	RAIN 63/43	PARTLY CLOUDY 66/38	PARTLY CLOUDY 67/43	PARTLY CLOUDY 71/54

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LOCAL

FHP troopers arrest man with 1,400 prescription pills

By **JESSICA PONN**
Alligator Staff Writer
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Florida Highway Patrol troopers arrested a man just south of Gainesville on Wednesday afternoon after they found a loaded gun and more than 1,400 prescription-drug pills in the car he was driving, according to an FHP news release.

Stephen Douglas Griffin, 56, was pulled over on Interstate 75 near milepost 380 because his windows were unlawfully tinted and because he had improperly passed another vehicle, according to his arrest re-

port.

After running a computer check, an FHP trooper found that Griffin had a suspended and expired Kentucky driver's license.

The trooper then began to search the 1994 red Buick that Griffin was driving and found six empty prescription bottles inside, according to Griffin's arrest report.

The trooper then opened the trunk of the car and discovered two black boxes that held a .380-caliber semi-automatic gun and 15 pill bottles, the report stated.

Five of the bottles were unlabeled and contained five different

drugs, according to the report and an FHP news release.

The drugs included Hydrocodone and Oxycodone, both of which are pain killers that can be abused as opiates, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Web site.



Griffin

Methadone, a drug often used today for the treatment of narcotic addiction, according to the DEA site, was also found in Griffin's car.

Xanax, an anti-anxiety drug, and Amoxicillin, an antibiotic, were found as well.

In total, 1,466 pills were found. According to the press release, the street value of those pills is estimated around \$30,000.

Troopers also found \$5,424 on Griffin, mostly in new \$100 bills, and an application for a birth certificate from Ohio under his name with a different date of birth. Troopers also found a list of people named Stephen Griffin of different ages and with different addresses from the Web site People Finder.

Florida Department of Law

Enforcement agents questioned Griffin and a passenger he was driving with.

Griffin said he was from Fort Lauderdale, but the passenger told the FDLE agents that Griffin was coming to Florida to get the prescriptions, which he was planning to sell in Kentucky.

The passenger, who was not identified and not charged with any crime, said Griffin brings people down to Florida to meet doctors in exchange for half of their prescriptions. Griffin is being held in the Alachua County Jail on several misdemeanor and felony charges.

Departing dean a finalist for provost at U. of Arizona

■ **KHARGONEKAR HAS BEEN UF ENGINEERING DEAN FOR 7 YEARS.**

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

Pramod Khargonekar, the outgoing dean in UF's College of Engineering, is one of three finalists for the position of provost at the University of Arizona.

Khargonekar, who is finishing his seventh year as dean of the engineering college, announced his resignation in December.

Although he had planned to stay at UF to teach and conduct research, he said Thursday he is considering the job at UA.

"If everything works out, certainly it's a very attractive position," he said.

He graduated from UF in 1981 with a Ph.D. in electrical engineering.

After all the time he's spent at UF, he said it wouldn't be easy to leave.

"I'm a UF graduate, and I've been here for seven years, so I have a lot of attachment to Florida," he said. "But it's an exciting opportunity."

He began his career as an assistant professor at UF. In 1984, he took a position at the

University of Minnesota, where he taught for five years as an electrical engineering professor.

He was also a professor at the University of Michigan for 12 years before returning to UF in 2001.

UF Administration If Khargonekar is chosen for the position at Arizona, he said it would be the highest and most prestigious position he's held yet.

"I expect it will be a challenge, but I think I'm well prepared for it," he said.

Khargonekar said he will visit the UA

campus in Tucson next week to meet faculty members and participate in a campus forum.

Johnny Cruz, a UA spokesman, said the three candidates were narrowed down from about 60 applicants.

The other two finalists are Meredith Hay of the University of Iowa and the University of Utah's Robert Newman.

UA President Robert Shelton will make the final decision, Cruz said.

If Khargonekar isn't chosen for the position, he said it wouldn't be a setback.

"I could stay at Florida for the rest of my career, and I could do it happily," he said.

The Bigger The Hit The Harder They Fall.

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On amendment, governments and homeowners split

Proposal would decrease property taxes

By **KATIE GALLAGHER**

Alligator Writer
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Get put on hold by Gov. Charlie Crist's office these days, and you won't hear easy listening music.

Instead, the phone plays a voiceover praising the controversial Amendment 1, a proposal to decrease property taxes on the ballot on Tuesday.

Crist set out on a bus tour Jan. 16 encouraging voters around the state to vote "yes" on the amendment to the state constitution, and he's been promoting it for much longer than that.

If the amendment passed, it would save each Florida homeowner an average of \$240 a year in property taxes — \$336 in Alachua County — and allow owners to keep a percentage of their tax breaks if they move.

But not everyone is pleased. Alachua County Commissioner Rodney Long announced Tuesday the county is officially opposed to the amendment, stating that it imposes on local governments and budgets.

"Amendment 1 makes a broken tax system even worse," Long said.

Financial Relief

The value of houses nationwide has increased dramatically over the past five years, according to Global Insight, a global economic forecaster.

But under a 1995 Florida amendment called Save Our Homes, homeowners have only had to pay taxes on a 3 percent increase in their homes' values each year, said Bryan Pollak, a South Florida mortgage broker.

So, if someone bought a home for \$100,000, and the market value skyrocketed to \$200,000 the next year, Save Our Homes guaranteed the owner could only be taxed on \$103,000, Pollack said.

"If you're a widow and you're on a fixed income, it's not your fault if the value of your house goes up," he said. "It's a very nice social welfare thing, so to speak."

But owners who move lose that tax break and have to pay taxes on the complete and inflated value of their new homes. So why would anyone move, and who can afford to?

Not many, and that's the problem Amendment 1 aims to solve. It would allow people to take a percentage of their savings with them when they move.

The idea is to spur property sales in a stagnant market.

Michael Kitchens, executive vice president of Bosshardt Realty Services, said he thinks the amendment would encourage both movers and first-time buyers.

"Affordability is becoming more and more of an issue," Kitchens said, "especially for a first-time home buyer."

Alachua County has one of

the highest property taxes in the state, he said. He said he hopes this amendment, if passed, brings financial relief.

"They're taxing us at just about the highest rate they possibly can," he said. "In order to afford housing in Alachua County, for some people, this is a necessity."

State Rep. Larry Cretul, who represents parts of Alachua County, said he's in favor of the amendment and would support even more cuts.

"Affordability is becoming more and more of an issue."

Michael Kitchens

executive vice president of Bosshardt Realty

"I don't know if it's going to do enough to generate the kind of recovery we need in the housing market at this moment," he said.

Pollak agreed that this particular amendment might not be the most effective solution to the housing problem.

He said he thinks all homes should be reassessed at current market values, so that taxes are more fair. Doing that would allow the state to collect the same amount of tax revenue, while encouraging people to buy homes.

Homeowner and UF law student Jason Boffey said he planned to vote in favor of the amendment.

He said he wants to sell his

house soon, and thinks he can save a few hundred dollars in taxes with the new amendment.

"I think it's going to be a worthwhile thing," he said. "It may cost the local government, but they'll adjust."

Budget Woes

Though Gainesville has not issued an official statement against Amendment 1 like Alachua County has, city spokesman Bob Woods said the city cannot afford the tax cuts.

Property tax cuts could carve at least \$3 million out of the city's budget, he said.

The city currently has a budget of about \$95 million, he said, but \$18.9 million of that is untouchable, set aside for credit, insurance, vehicle upkeep and utilities. About \$47 million is budgeted for public safety — police and fire departments — which the city would rather not touch, he said.

That means the \$3 million would come out of the remaining \$29.3 million, which is budgeted for social services and "niceties."

Woods said the city commission hasn't decided what to cut yet.

"They're going to look across the board at all the city departments," he said. "I don't think any department is exempt from consideration."

City Commissioner Scherwin Henry said that while the city will not cut from public safety departments, it may have to institute a "fire assessment fee."

"Fire service needs to be pro-

vided," he said, "but it doesn't come free."

The new cuts would be on top of \$4 million that was trimmed from the budget last year as a result of other tax cuts. At the time, Woods said, the city was able to make most of its cuts internally. He's not sure they can do it again.

"Undoubtedly some of those cuts will begin to affect the service level to taxpayers," he said.

Alachua County Commissioner Mike Byerly said now is a bad time for a tax cut.

"There aren't a lot of frills left for us to cut," Byerly said. "And of course, one person's frills are another person's top priority."

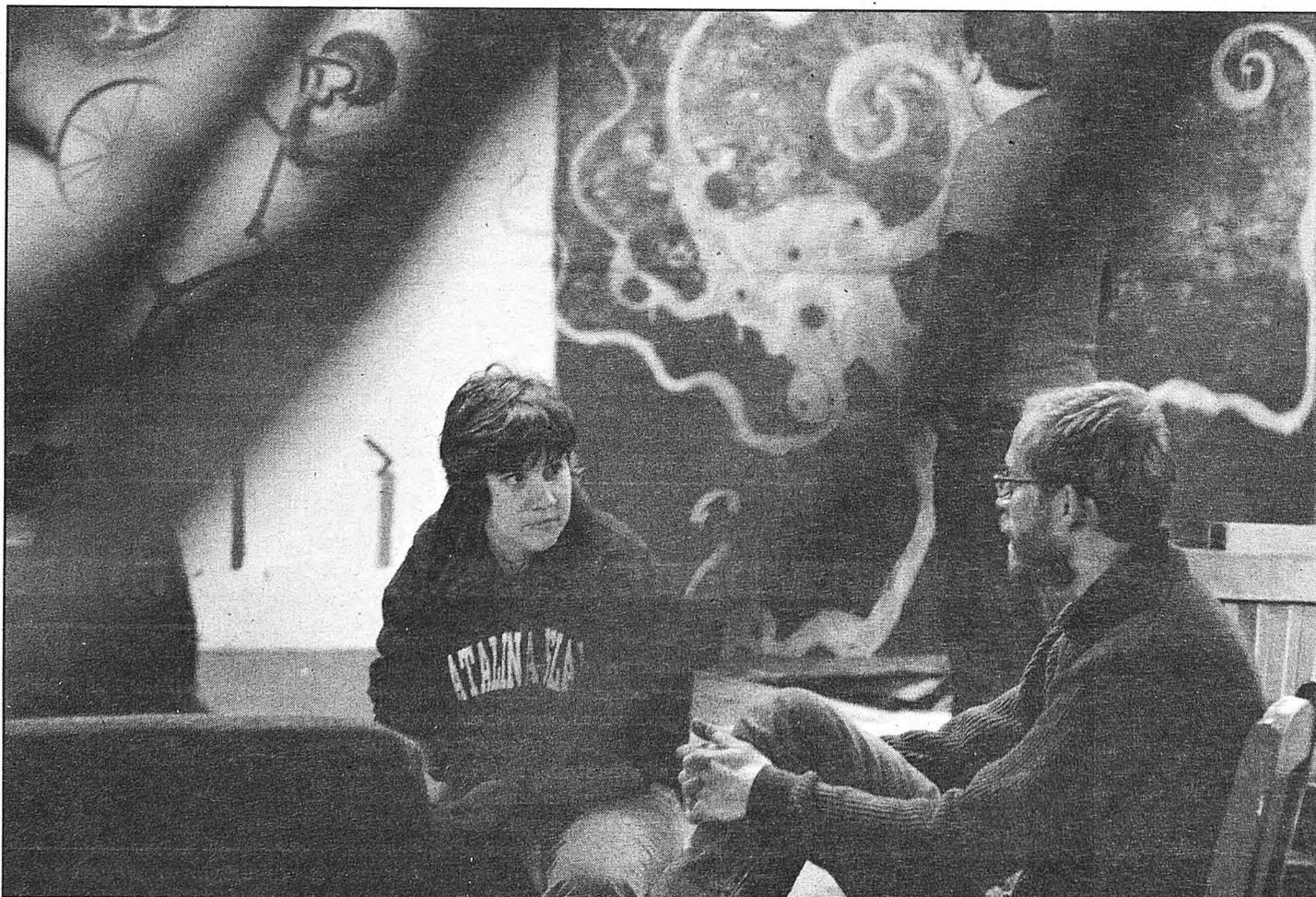
Not the End

To be voted into the constitution, the amendment must be approved by 60 percent of voters, rather than a traditional simple majority.

But even if the amendment doesn't pass, voters could see more property tax proposals on the ballot in November. The Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, a committee appointed by the governor and Legislature, is studying Florida's property tax structure to come up with its own recommendation.

The House will be back in session in March and discuss whether more needs to be done, Cretul said.

"There are other things moving along at the same time, and I don't know who's going to make it to the finish line," he said.



Nicole Saffer / Alligator Staff

Framed with spare bike rims, SFCC student Vyki Englert speaks with Andy Lievertz, an SFCC systems analyst, during the Gainesville Community Bicycle Project meeting Thursday at The Kickstand off South Main Street in Gainesville.

Bicycle group opens new HQ

A Gainesville bicycling organization is introducing its new headquarters and bike repair shop with several events today.

The group, called The Kickstand, will host a bike ride starting at 5:30 p.m. on the Plaza of the Americas on the UF campus and ending at the shop at 722 South Main St.

The finish line will feature a reception with free veggie chili and live performances by bands such as Umoja Orchestra, Team Mascot, The Impossible Shoelace and Dirty Fist, said Ani Previc, director of The Kickstand.

Previc said the organization provides Gainesville bicyclists with free bike repairs, community service opportunities and biking information.

"The spirit behind the project is that riding bicycles provides anyone from any background a chance to feel like part of community," she said. "This is a community that is health conscious, sustainable and non-partisan."

The Kickstand is accepting donations of old bicycles and parts, Previc said.

However, she said her favorite donations are volunteers.

"Coming here shows people that they belong somewhere," Previc said with a smile. "It's empowering."

— ELIZABETH LEVA

UPD first to be accredited at intl., state, univ. levels

Accreditations came at 'bad time'

By **ELIZABETH LEVA**
Alligator Contributing Writer

University Police is the first department in the nation to achieve "Triple Crown" status after receiving accreditation on international, state, and university levels.

Each accreditation requires that the department pass an inspection of every nook and cranny of the agency, said Robert Wagner, UPD administrative support lieutenant.

UPD is also the only campus law enforce-

ment agency in the state of Florida to be given an international award, Wagner said.

The major benefit of the recent achievements is the credibility UPD has gained, he said.

"I think it's nice there is positive press out there to offset some of the negative press since the Andrew Meyer situation," he said, referring to the UPD Taser of Meyer, a UF student, in September at a public forum.

UPD heard the news of its success in the middle of a five-day inspection process from the international accrediting agency, he said.

"It came at a bad time because it didn't get a lot of attention," he said, "but it came at a good time because it provided us with a diversion and boost during a stressful time."

He said UPD has received calls seeking advice on its successful policies since the attention the "Triple Crown" status has brought it.

Public Safety

"When you see the University of Florida name associated with an accreditation policy, that gives it some serious weight," he said.

Capt. Jeff Holcomb, UPD spokesman, said the standards required to receive these accreditations prove that UPD officers are

performing at their highest potential.

With 160 employees, UPD is one of the largest campus law enforcement agencies in the country, Wagner said.

UPD and the Gainesville Police Department also work closely together, Holcomb said. The two agencies team up in difficult situations off campus or when extra security is needed on campus, he said.

Wagner said no amount of recognition would encourage UPD officers to stop trying to improve even more.

"UF ought to be leading the way for the nation," Wagner said. "So we should do that too."

Study: Stress, anxiety may increase risk of heart disease

■ ACADEMIC PRESSURE PUTS STUDENTS AT RISK.

By **GABRIELLE FALCONEIRI**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Most college students realize that stress and anxiety can take a toll on their nerves. What they might not realize is that it's also taking a toll on their hearts.

The Journal of the American College of Cardiology recently added chronic anxiety and stress to a list of psychological factors that increase the risk of heart attacks.

The list also includes anger, hostility and depression.

While triggers for stress can vary between individuals, there seems to be a trend of academic pressure that affects the majority of college students with anxiety issues, said Roberta S. Seldman, psychologist at UF's Student Mental Health Services.

"There is an extreme and unusually high need not to get a degree, but get straight A's," she said.

Todd Broder, a third-year psychology resident at Shands at UF, said that 30 to 40 years ago the expectation was just to graduate high

school. Now graduating college and participating in master's or doctoral programs is expected.

"We believe mind and body are one."

Roberta Seldman
UF psychologist

While worrying about an assignment won't cause lasting damage, living in constant worry can quickly result in serious physical problems.

Seldman said panic attacks are the top physical issue she sees brought on by stress.

"Developing heart irregularity is also a big one," she added.

There also seems to be a cultural phenomenon in the U.S. that equates a certain amount of normalcy with stress, Seldman said. With the release of this information, cardiologists have started to examine both physiological and psychological aspects of a patient when deciding upon treatments.

Seldman said this will benefit overall patient care.

"We believe mind and body are one," she said. "There isn't a separation."

Students can learn to cope with

stress and anxiety through programs offered by the university.

Student Mental Health Services offers both individual counseling and group courses.

Although there are plenty of programs available to UF students, Seldman said that participation levels are "terrible."

"We have 50,000 students at this university and maybe 15 in a class," she said.

She attributes the lack of involvement to low levels of publicity and university support.

"We're just Band-Aids," she said. "We clean up the mess."

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Global Coffee House
Orange & Brew, 5:30pm to 7pm

XBox DDR Competition
Orange & Brew, 8pm to 12am

Retro Photos
2nd Floor Lobby, 8pm to 12am

Miniature Disco Balls
Studio, 9pm to 11:30pm

Magic Candle Art
1st Floor Lobby, 9pm to 1am

Gator Well Hunt
1st Floor Lobby,
9:30pm to 11:30pm

Barry Drake's Rock & Roll Tour
Rion Ballroom, 10pm to 11pm

Free for UF students with Gator 1 ID

union.ufl.edu/gatornights
visit for other events

Reservations with Global Coffee House required. Reservations for the event must be made by 12:00pm on 1/24/08 or 302-2567 (TDD) or e-mail reservations@ufl.edu or visit the Florida Fwy System at 1-800-955-8771 at least 72 hours prior to the event.

Editorial

There may be a logical explanation for why you woke up feeling like crap Tuesday. Yes, it did signal the end of the only long weekend we have until Spring Break, but it may very well be because the third week in January is among one of the most depressing of the year, according to a researcher from Cardiff University.

So while you look forward to this weekend to banish thoughts about the cold weather and your mounting holiday credit card debt, we hope you'll crack a smile with this week's edition of...

Darts & Laurels

We begin on a positive note with a way-to-rally-the-most-apatetic-demographic LAUREL to Chomp the Vote.

Their efforts to increase awareness about the importance of voting may not be as flashy as years past, when they drove students to polling places in limos, but the fact that they are willing to spend hours on the Reitz Union Colonnade to help voters find their polling locations says something about their dedication. We appreciate their attempts to make sure students have their voices heard in the primaries, even if we don't get a sweet ride to the ballot box this time.

Next up, we've got a maybe-you-were-confused-about-your-job-but-you-actually-do-represent-the-university DART to President Bernie Machen.

His public announcement that he would endorse Sen. John McCain for president this week was inappropriate and misguided. And with McCain scheduled to make a campaign stop in Gainesville on Sunday, Machen can't reasonably expect us to believe that he just randomly decided to announce his presidential preference now.

While we're on the subject of confusion, we have to hand a so-what-exactly-is-your-story-again DART to UF gymnast Maranda Smith.

In an interview earlier this month, she said she spoke with football coach Urban Meyer "every day" about coming to UF in hopes of luring her wide-receiver boyfriend, Carl Moore, to Gainesville.

Smith changed her story Wednesday, saying that she may have exaggerated after her statements sparked an investigation by the UF compliance department. So either she's a drama queen or she's trying to get Meyer out of hot water. Whatever it is, we're hoping she learned the value of thinking before you speak.

We couldn't go without mentioning what many news organizations continue to dub the biggest story of the week — the sad, untimely death of 28-year-old actor Heath Ledger.

When Ledger was found dead in his Manhattan apartment Tuesday, rumors swirled around cyberspace of the actor's history of drug use. We are so disgusted that we have to hand over a don't-you-understand-what-rest-in-peace-means DART to the Best Buy in San Diego for putting up a display urging people to honor the actor by purchasing his movies on DVD just hours after his death.

And let's not forget the radical Westboro Baptist Church in Kansas and its plans to protest Ledger's memorial service because he played a homosexual character in "Brokeback Mountain."

Not to depress you any longer, the future of higher education in Florida saw a glimmer of hope this week. Our final thank-you-for-finally-taking-steps-to-make-a-positive-change LAUREL goes to the Board of Governors.

Although it may be disappointing for high school seniors statewide, the proposal limiting the number of incoming freshman next fall is a responsible move to ensure that all UF students get the education they expect — and pay for — from a flagship university.

the independent florida
alligator

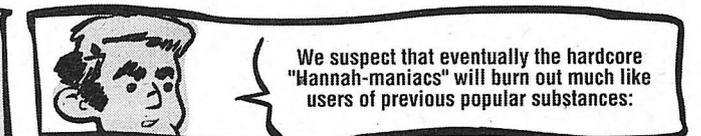
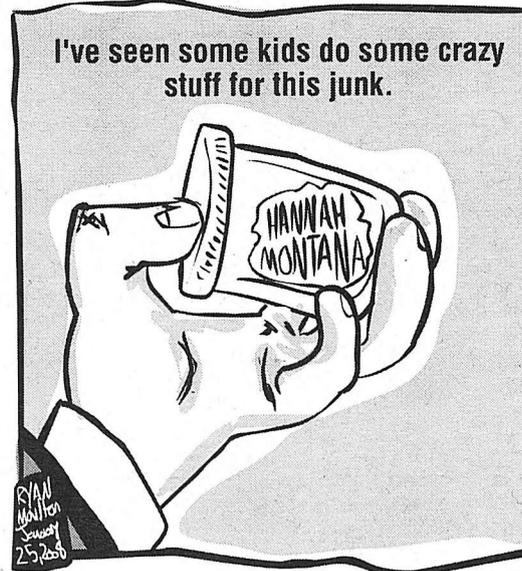
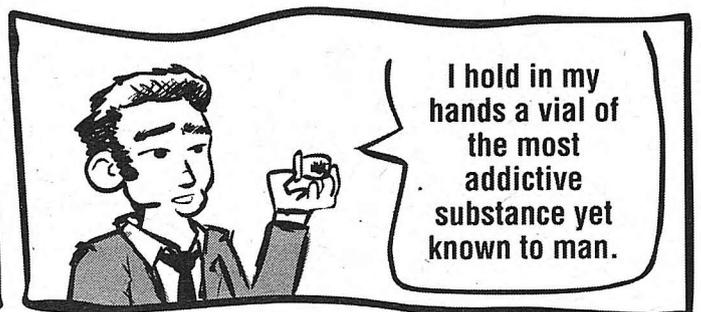
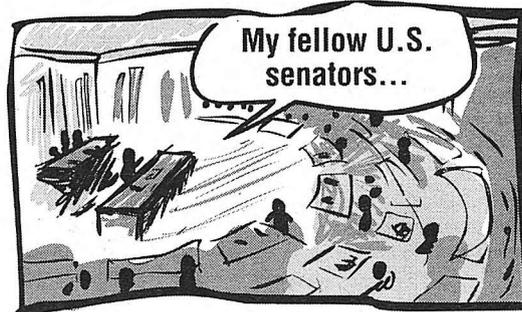
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Opinions

ALLIGATOR
www.alligator.org/opinion



Column

Respect for all women still not reality

I spent this past weekend in Las Vegas with my mom and a friend celebrating my 21st birthday. My social status as a young female has never proved so beneficial. I skipped hour-long lines, scooted my way into VIP areas and received free lap dances from Australian male strippers (no, seriously).

I was impressed by how easy it was to get special treatment as a woman. Then I realized how ridiculous that is. The only time in my life that it's actually been advantageous to have two X chromosomes was during a weekend trip to the Strip. I don't think Gloria Steinem would be very happy.

This got me to thinking about women in the 21st century.

We like to believe that respect for gender, if not complete equality, has finally come to fruition. But has it?

Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has definitely endured her share of ridicule as a female.

At a recent speech given by Clinton prior to the New Hampshire primaries, two male attendees proved that sexism still exists.

The men, positioned near the front of the auditorium, interrupted her speech by chanting, "Iron my shirts," until escorted away by security guards. Clinton spoke of breaking a glass ceiling and cleverly concluded her speech by saying, "If there's anybody in the audience who wants to learn to iron his own shirt, we can talk about that." Although the event has been named as a factor in Hillary's growing popularity, it is still unnerving as a female to hear men so certain of women's inferiority.

Here's another example of how far we still have to go. This week on Yahoo News there was an article about the growing prominence of female CEOs in Fortune 500 companies. Neato, I thought. Then, I read on. There are



Carly Hallam
letters@alligator.org

currently 10 female CEOs. Wow, 10, really? This is news?

I'll do the math to save you the trouble. Two percent of the top 500 companies in the U.S. are run by women. This information is neither astounding nor encouraging. In fact, it saddens me. Is that really newsworthy? If women were truly as respected as men in

the workplace, there would be more like a few hundred powerful ladies on the list.

I understand there are many working women who quit their jobs at one point or another to raise children, thus preventing them from moving to the top of the corporate ladder.

But I don't believe this is the reason that 98 percent of Fortune 500 companies are run by men — just as I don't think Hillary's starched, wrinkle-free shirts are the reason male protestors asked her to iron theirs.

I'll admit I'm guilty of joking about marrying for money and spending my days on the tennis courts. But honestly, I plan to have a successful career as well as a family. I want to drop my kids off at school and then kick off my pink heels beneath my oak desk in the corner office.

In order to do both, I have to be seen as an equal or at least be revered for more than my ability to bake Funfetti cupcakes.

In this particular instance, what happened in Vegas must not stay in Vegas. I hope that some day respect for women will be as common as bottles of bronzer in a Thunder From Down Under dressing room.

Carly Hallam is an advertising senior. Her column appears on Fridays.

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

Reader response

Today's question: Would you ever get a tattoo to win a contest?

Thursday's question: Should the Board of Governors cap the number of freshmen next fall?

82% YES
18% NO
33 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

Letters to the Editor

Bush has done a lot for the country

I'm disheartened by the majority of our students' determination to bash President Bush. In the wake of terrorist attacks, natural disasters and skyrocketing oil prices, we're living a quality of life similar to before all of these things took place. This fact speaks volumes about the president's policies, both foreign and domestic, because no other country's economy could boast such resilience.

Despite how many close calls we have had, there has not been another major attack on the United States since our government has taken the proactive steps to prevent them.

If anything, Bush has defended the interests of our generation better than any other president in history — by keeping us safe, lowering taxes and initiating reform for the

entitlement programs that stand to run dry under our watch.

Kate Wallace
UF alumna



Tights are for wrestlers and bimbos

On Thursday, Avenue writer Vanessa Dimaggio said that wearing tights is fashionable for women. As a staunch, heterosexual male, I beg you women out there, don't wear tights. This is not the '80s. No one wants to feel like a virgin. And Madonna has hit menopause, so quit trying to look like her. All the celebrities Dimaggio named — Hilton, Holmes and Lohan — are the three biggest bimbos in Hollywood.

Contrary to what magazines may say, men actually prefer women who have minds and wear attire that shows that. What you wear on the outside reflects what you are on the inside, so don't wear something that belongs in a tackle box or a music video.

You are not a material girl and you are not going to a wrestling match, so please look to The New Yorker for fashion advice and not Cosmopolitan or the Alligator.

A good rule of thumb: don't follow the Confederate Railroad song "Trashy Women."
Michael Walker
4LS



Machen's endorsement troubling

UF President Bernie Machen is in no way obligated to keep his politics to himself.

What the students and faculty of Florida should question, however, is his endorsement of a candidate who advocates teaching creationism in public schools, encourages a continuing war in Iraq, considers singing "Bomb Iran" at a campaign stop witty, is rated low for his support of civil rights by the NAACP, votes against protecting homosexuals from discrimination and supports a state ban on gay marriage. Considering his endorsement of these positions, it is the judgment, wisdom and integrity of your college president that should be questioned.

Charles Bittner
Academic liaison, The Nation Magazine

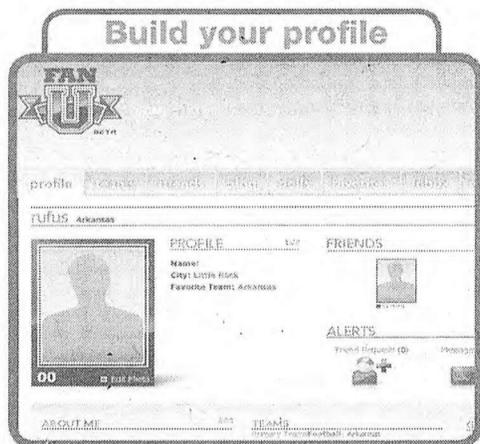
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In high-def format war, Blu-ray trumps HD DVD locally

Reminiscent of VHS-Beta battle

By **VANESSA DIMAGGIO**
Alligator Contributing Writer

After more than a year of playing tug-of-war with HD DVD, or High Definition DVD, it appears that Blu-ray Disc may have emerged as the front-runner in the format war.

The two companies have been dueling for domination of the high-definition DVD market since they released their first movie titles in 2006.

"Blu-ray is definitely winning the war," said Andrew Cohen, the general manager of the three Gainesville Blockbuster locations.

Of the Blockbuster stores and two Hollywood Video stores in Gainesville, only one store carries HD DVDs.

All three Blockbuster stores carry Blu-ray Discs, and about a dozen people come looking for Blu-ray rentals on a weekday, while close to 20 come in on the weekends, Cohen said.

They get three to four new titles each week, and he expects that number to continue growing in the future.

This comes after parent company Blockbuster Inc. announced last June that it would expand Blu-ray Disc inventory to 1,700 Blockbuster stores by mid-July. It announced it would continue to offer HD DVD titles through its online rental service and in a select number of stores, according to its press release.

Cohen said his stores carry close to 100 movie titles in Blu-ray Disc.

That number has grown significantly from when they first started offering them last June, Cohen said. They started out with about a half-dozen titles, but are now constantly adding new movies and expanding their catalog of older titles.

Blu-ray Discs are winning the format war among movie studios as well.

Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. announced on Jan. 4 that it would start releasing its high-definition DVD titles exclusively in the Blu-ray Disc format this June, according to a press release.

Cohen said this leaves the already strug-

gling HD DVD with two major movie studios, Paramount Pictures and Universal Pictures, still making their movies in the HD DVD format.

He attributes the growing popularity of Blu-ray Discs to the large population of students who own PlayStation 3s, which can be used as Blu-ray Disc players.

"Technology comes around that's just better than the last one."

Peter Zory
UF professor

HD DVD lacks the added support of having a popular game console equipped with the ability to play the format. It does offer an attachment to turn an Xbox 360 into an HD DVD player. Other than that, customers must purchase specifically designed HD DVD players.

The feud between the two formats originates with the invention of the blue laser, said Peter Zory, a professor in the department of electrical and computer engineering at UF.

Zory, who worked with Philips Electronics

on the first CDs in the 1980s, likens the format war between Blu-ray Disc and HD DVD to a similar situation in the 1980s.

"It's exactly the same conflict," he said. "VHS won, and Beta is no more."

Zory is not entirely convinced that the battle lies between the two high-definition DVD formats. After seeing Apple CEO Steve Jobs unveil the new MacBook Air laptop last week, Zory believes there is a bigger threat looming on the horizon.

A computer as tiny as the MacBook Air can't even play discs.

Zory thinks the future of home video watching lies in flash memory drives and that Blu-ray Discs, HD DVDs and DVDs alike are doomed.

"I'm sorry to say that," Zory said. "I was in the beginning of all these things, working on the lasers, so I don't like to see laser applications go down the tubes, but this is such an amazing thing," he added, holding the tiny memory stick in his hand.

He believes Blu-ray Discs will win out the format war and that people will use them for long-term storage. But for short-term, flash drives are the way to go.

Students will see 8 percent increase this fall

BOG, from page 1

yearly increase does not exceed 15 percent.

Regardless of the new hike, they are still capped at 15 percent, Edmonds said. He said this is the second time the board has exercised its right to set tuition.

Members approved a 5 percent increase, which went into effect this semester, at the board's July meeting.

Whether the board actually has tuition-setting authority is still unclear.

The Florida Legislature instituted its own 5 percent tuition hike this semester, as well. A pending lawsuit from the board against the Legislature will decide which body has that power.

A judge threw out the lawsuit earlier this month, stating that the board failed to show standing in the case.

The board has until Feb. 4 to resubmit the suit with further evidence.

Edmonds said the board hasn't resubmitted additional evidence yet, but in the meantime it will continue to act under the belief that it has the power to set tuition.

The board will do so "until the court says no," he said.

Despite the ongoing lawsuit, Mark Rosenberg, chancellor of the board, downplayed concerns about the Legislature's reaction to the board's increase.

"I'm confident the Legislature understands that we want to work with them," Rosenberg said.

He said he didn't want to raise tuition, but he said the board was left with almost no choice.

"The rubber band is stretched as tight as it can be stretched," he said. "We are slowing down as a system. In essence, we're

running out of gas."

However, Rosenberg said he wasn't worried about negative student reactions to the increase because of complaints about a lack of faculty, advisers and course availability — all problems the hike intends to solve.

Florida currently ranks last in terms of nationwide student-teacher ratios, according to statistics presented at the meeting.

Originally, one of the board members proposed an annual 13 percent tuition increase for the next five years, but it was reduced to the one-time 8 percent hike.

After the meeting, Sheila McDevitt, the board member

who proposed reducing the amount of the hike, said she wanted to fix budget problems in the short term by setting an increase for only the fall.

UF Student Body President Ryan Moseley, the only student on the board, voted against the motion in a budget committee meeting before the full board meeting. Moseley said he didn't have enough time to consider the issue. But the motion passed after about 45 minutes of discussion at the budget committee meeting.

Moseley said he wanted the board to postpone further dialogue on the proposal until the next board meeting in March.

The board also unanimously passed a motion advising Florida's public universities to limit enrollment.

"We've reached a point in this state where we can no longer do more with less," said board member Tico Perez. "We're beyond cutting to the bone, and we're starting to cut off limbs."

Carolyn Roberts, board chairwoman, said the board would not assign each university a quota on how many students it can enroll.

Instead, she said trustees at each school would submit an enrollment plan to the board for approval.



Justin Moraczewski / Alligator

UF Student Body President Ryan Moseley speaks during a Board of Governors meeting in Tallahassee on Thursday afternoon. Moseley voted against a tuition increase.

Student got tattooed for her niece

TATTOO, from page 1

tattooing machine buzzed on her back, completing what would be her fourth tattoo.

The station decided to award Blanchard both the front-row tickets and the backstage passes because the other contestant did not show up.

The station did not explain why.

Additionally, the **Local News** DJs told Blanchard on the air that a limousine will take Brianna from her home in Tampa to the concert.

Brianna is excited by the thought of meeting Hannah Montana in just four days.

"I love her," she said over the phone. "She's my favorite pop star in the world."

Wayne Lessard, Bodytech's owner, tattooed Blanchard himself after the station approached him with the idea.

"I thought it was such a nice story," he said.

"I wanted to be involved in it."

Blanchard, who is a Georgia-raised Bulldogs fan, was hesitant to have her back permanently tattooed with a gator.

"Can we make the gator red and black?" she asked, smiling.

In the end, Blanchard was happy with Lessard's work.

"I'm just glad it's not ugly," she said. "Wayne did a really good job on it."

LOCAL

Survey to evaluate Gainesville services

■ 1,200 HOUSEHOLDS CHOSEN FOR FEEDBACK.

Randomly selected Gainesville residents will get the chance to strongly agree or disagree on city services by completing a new survey.

City Strategic Planner Lila Stewart said 1,200 households were selected to participate.

Next week, the residents will get a cover letter and a survey to complete.

They will receive multiple copies of the survey to remind them to complete it, Stewart said.

"It's basically a mechanism to obtain feedback from our citizens," she said.

The data will be collected from Jan. 28 to Feb. 29.

Residents will get the chance to rate how much they like living in Gainesville, as well as

how effective the city has been in tackling issues like housing, healthcare and transportation.

They are also asked how important some of the provided city services are to them, Stewart said.

The city is using The National Citizen Survey, which is sponsored by the International City/County Management Association in cooperation with the National Research Center.

It's the first year the city has used the survey, and it costs \$8,900 to implement.

About 20 other cities in Florida have used the survey, such as Melbourne, Oldsmar and Sarasota.

In April, city officials will receive a report that they can compare with results from other similarly populated areas.

— APRIL DUDASH

Blood drive exceeds average

By **ABBY SNYDER**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Local LifeSouth Community Blood Centers collected about 100 more donations than expected for their local blood drive, helping to ease the pressure of a recent blood shortage.

The blood drive, which ran Friday through Monday, was held to restock centers that are experiencing shortages due to a decline in donations over the holidays.

During the four-day blood drive, 338 donations were collected at the bloodmobile outside the Butler Plaza Regal Cinemas and at local collection centers, said Wendy Hill, LifeSouth branch manager for the Civitan region.

This far exceeds the average collection of 231 donations from

previous years, Hill said.

Because the blood shortage is nationwide, collection centers low on blood can't import supplies from other centers, she said.

"People take vacations, their kids are out of school, and they're rushed with shopping and preparing for the holiday season," Hill said. "Blood doesn't take a vacation."

Although all blood types are still needed, the success of the blood drive helped relieve the shortage of blood types A and B in local LifeSouth centers, she said. An emergency shortage of blood types O and O-negative is still in effect, however.

Neon signs placed around UF's campus reading "Critical Blood Shortage" have been

notifying students about current needs. Students contribute more than 50 percent of the local blood supply, Hill said.

UF Spanish junior Cedar Lane went to determine his blood type and donate Tuesday at an on-campus bloodmobile after seeing a sign advertising the shortage of type O blood.

After learning he was type A, Lane said, "I heard it's a good thing to know for emergencies, and I thought that if I was a type O, I'd definitely donate. But I decided to do it anyway."

If the blood shortage persists, local hospitals could have to cancel surgeries, Hill said, but she doesn't think it's likely.

"We haven't put our hospitals in any critical shortages yet," she said. "Hopefully we'll pull out of it."

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LOCAL

Roundup targets invasive potatoes

Volunteers of all ages are fighting back this Saturday against a deadly threat — air potatoes.

More than 1,400 people have signed up for the Ninth Annual Great Air Potato Roundup to uproot the invasive species *Dioscorea bulbifera*, which can smother native plants.

"It actually kills," said Ludovica Weaver, marketing technician for Gainesville's Nature Operations Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, the city organization coordinating the roundup. "It has killed three perfectly healthy trees in my yard."

In the event's eight-year history, volunteers have picked more than 60 tons of the misshapen gray tubers.

This Saturday they will pick from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 33 sites scattered around Gainesville, including schools, parks and neighborhoods, before meeting up at Morningside Nature Center for a celebration.

"It actually kills."

Ludovica Weaver
marketing technician

Lunch will be served, prizes given away and free t-shirts featuring a colorful Seuss-like character doled out to volunteers.

"It's a celebration of taking back our natural areas," Weaver said.

Registration for the event began in the fall and closed in early January.

— KATIE GALLAGHER

Web site groups Gators sites

By **KATIE SANDERS**

Alligator Writer
ksanders@alligator.org

A new Web site created by a UF freshman aims to help students navigate their most-visited UF sites by grouping links on one customized Gators home page.

Johnny Jackson launched www.iSwamp.net on Jan. 16, providing quick links to UF and community resources, local and national newspapers, sports sites and social networking sites on a single Web page for UF students.

The site has averaged about 200 to 300 visits a day since its debut, and about 50 students have already created accounts with iSwamp, he said.

He said www.iTarheel.com, the University of North Carolina site that iSwamp is modeled after, was

around for a year before it started attracting nearly 20,000 hits a day.

Jackson said he expects his site to gain popularity soon.

"We're always looking to improve on it," he said. "We want the Gators to tell us what they want."

Alex Musser, a UF biology junior, took the photographs of common UF landmarks that appear on the page, such as Ben Hill Griffin Stadium and Reitz Union Amphitheatre.

Musser said he likes that users can customize their own links on the page. He added links of his online banking service and car forums.

"One of my favorite links is the Gator-1 Central because my vending account has been out of money for a very long time," he said.

Emily Plank, a UF freshman, set

iSwamp as her homepage on Jan. 16. Plank said she personalized her page with links to the sites of her hometown newspaper and sorority.

She said the page helps her locate all of the resources she regularly uses, such as TutoringZone, ISIS, movie times and the UF basketball ticket lottery.

Jackson said he and Brandon Clark, the UNC student who created iTarheel.com, have developed similar sites for Florida State University, Appalachian State University and North Carolina State University.

Creating sites such as iSwamp is a budding business for Jackson, but he said he has not reaped any benefits yet.

"It's always been a hobby for me, so I'd probably do it without pay anyways," Jackson said.

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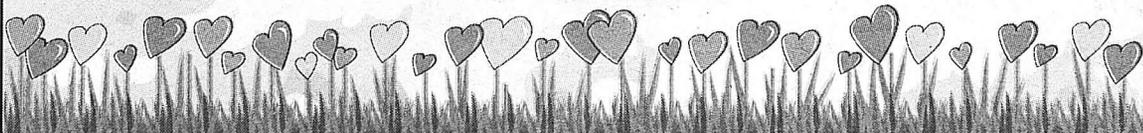
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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

SG discounts dated yearbooks

UF Student Government will sell old UF yearbooks next week to benefit the Institute of Black Culture and the Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures, known as La Casita.

Nicolette Nowak, SG sponsorship secretary, said SG would sell about 500 yearbooks from 2006 and 2007 on the Reitz Union Colonnade from Monday until Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Nowak said both cultural institutes' buildings need to be revamped.

Helping restore them is an ongoing SG project and part of Student Body President Ryan Moseley's platform.

"It's not like we're selling 1995 yearbooks."

Nicolette Nowak
SG sponsorship secretary

Nowak said she was confident SG wouldn't have trouble selling the books, but she couldn't estimate how

many students might buy them.

"They're from both championship years," Nowak said. "It's not like we're selling 1995 yearbooks."

She said she thought leaders of UF organizations might want them.

"It's a good thing to have," Nowak said. "It will help commemorate and celebrate that time in UF's history."

The 2006 yearbooks will be on sale for \$10 and the 2007 yearbooks will be on sale for \$15.

— ILEANA MORALES

Treasure hunters fight to keep loot

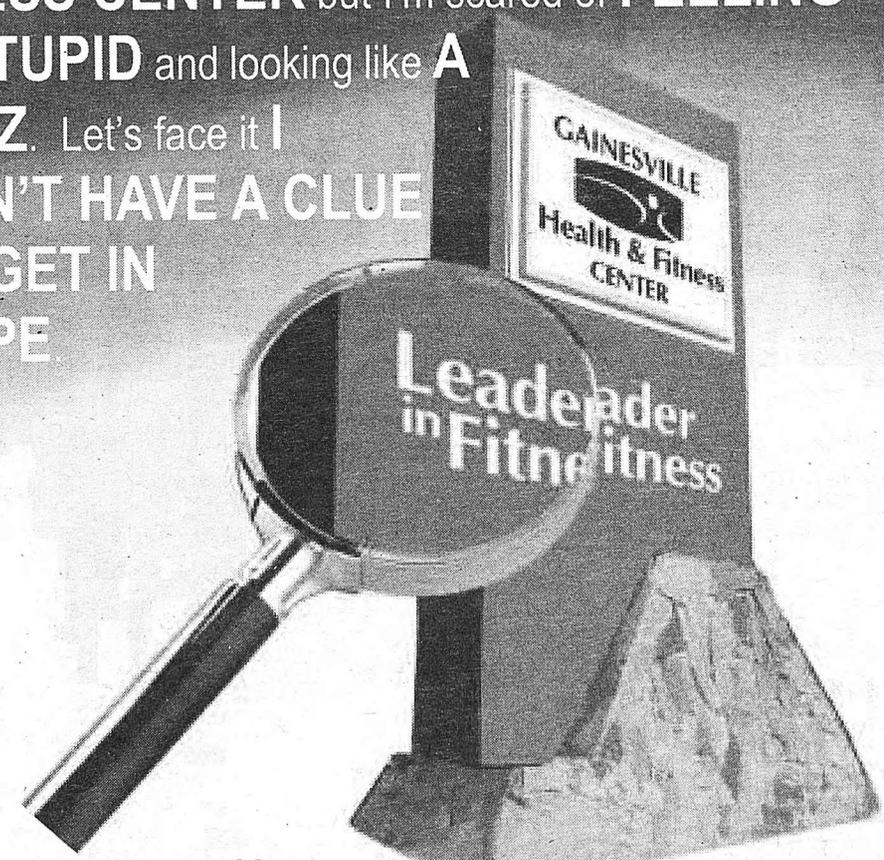
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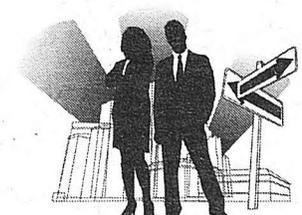
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◆ HAPPENSTANCE ◆



Street-side Strumming

Soft strumming floated down the street as Rob Kowalski, a UF natural resources student, sat on his porch lit by an old bulb and a string of Christmas lights hanging over his head.

Kowalski sat in the arch of a doorway, playing music when his friend, UF philosophy student Erich Burton, toting a shiny banjo, walked outside and joined in.

The plucking, strumming and singing accompanied Kowalski's bluesy harmonica, and the pair drew second glances from passersby Wednesday night.

"We're just having a porch jam," Kowalski said.

They began playing a folksy tune. Erich relaxed in his chair as he plucked his banjo's strings.

Kowalski alternated singing and playing his harmonica.

Together the two form a band, though its name, Sasquatch With Mildred On Top, is still in question.

"That's a horrible band name," Kowalski said.

"Yeah, but I thought we settled on it," Burton replied.

— NICOLE SAFKER

Hard Rock introduces Vegas-style gaming

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that is news.

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- John Bogart
City Editor, 1890

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area, Walk to YMCA, Shops & Restaurants,
Bus to UF/Shands, Lrg LR W/ Woodstove,
DR, Carport W/ Util.room, Nice big fenced
backyard, \$1200, 352-378-2837, 281-7045
1-30-08-15-2.

HOUSES & APARTMENTS AVAILABLE
FALL 2008. Several properties VERY close
to UF. Check out new project COTTAGES
AT NORMAN. For details visit our website
www.bellaproperties.net or call 335-5424.
2-6-08-20-2

Beautiful Townhouse/Condo
2BR/2.5BA, W/D, quiet, only 1 year old, 35th
Pl. Close to UF & Shands. On bus route.
\$1100/mo. Available immediately. Call 352-
335-3786 2-21-08-30-2

3 bedroom Across from UF!

Available fall 2008
ONLY \$505 per person!
Open late and weekends
371-0769 collegeparkuf.com
4-23-08-69-2

MOVE IN TODAY!

Studios and 1/1s
From as low as \$629/person!
Open late and weekends
371-7777 collegeparkuf.com
4-23-08-69-2

Available Aug 1 - 4BR/3BA beautiful mod-
ern house only 3 years old, dishwasher,
fireplace, wash/dryer, nice quiet street. Call
for directions. \$1550/mo. 2108 NW 8th Ct.
339-2342 1-25-08-10-2

HOUSES NEAR UF

3Br-6Br houses for rent. Walk to UF.
Hardwood flrs, fireplaces, huge rooms
Photos at: www.ForRentNearUF.com
Tour Today! Few left 352-376-6223
4-23-59-2

1 Website: 50 Apts Near UF

Choose from Studios, 1,2,3&4BR
Avail Fall. Specials from \$474/mo
Lofts, wood flrs & more. Some pet
friendly! www.TrimarkProperties.com
Tour today! 352-376-6223
4-23-68-2

\$650 roommate needed avail immed.
2/2 luxury apt. walk to campus(Heritage
Oaks).Internet access incl. in rent. Parking
space avail only w/apt. Call 813-833-6926 or
dking@mewilson.com 2-11-08-20-2

Close to Campus. 1/1 Guesthouse, tile floor,
fenced yard, high ceilings. Great for grad
student. \$575.00 + sec. 909 NW 9th Ave. Call
Chad 407-230-2423 1-28-08-10-2

● SUN ISLAND APT ●

●●Walk or Bike to Campus●●
1-1 from \$560/mo●●2-1 from \$660/mo
www.sunisland.info●●●376-6720
4-23-58-2

ANTIQUE HOUSE
1 and 2BR/1BA apt in old house. High ceil-
ings. \$475-\$575/mo. Also 3BR/2BA house in
Micanopy. Huge bathroom, large yard, in city.
Call Greg 214-3291 1-31-12-2

**** LUXURY APTS ****

CLOSEST TO CLASS

2bd/2ba available for Fall
www.LookingGlassApartments.com
111 NW 16th St. #1, Call 376-1111
4-23-59-2

SPACIOUS DOWNTOWN 1BR/1BA. 1 mile
from UF, 2 blocks from bars. Hardwood
floors, walk-in closet, cats allowed. Sublease
thru July. Rent \$600. Feb. rent free. Move-in
costs negotiable. Call Jenny 378-3806. 1-
25-08-7-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

1br/1ba apart on #12 route to campus. Full
kitchen, walk-in closet, no W/D hookups.
\$539/mo includes free water. \$250 lease
transfer + \$39 app fee, up front negotiable.
Lease Feb.-July '08. Call Zach 941-518-4542
1-28-08-8-2

Brand New luxury 2 bedroom units with gran-
ite counters, crown moldings, etc. located by
The Oaks Mall. Units start at \$975.00. For
more information or to take a tour of the unit
contact Hampton Oaks Apartments at 352-
333-8643. 2-5-08-14-2

NW 39th Ave 2BR/2BA With loft, large, open,
bright \$740-750 without loft \$635-650. Gated
patio, trees, costly laminated floor, part utils
paid. Convenient, good neighborhood. 373-
8310, 219-3937 1-28-8-2

APTS for rent close to UF!
www.merrillmanagement.net
Merrill Management Inc.
352-372-1494 x10 1-25-6-2

2BR 1BA Home off NW 6th St.
Terazzo Floors, Window A/C, Nat
Gas ht. 750 sq. ft. \$600/Mo
404 NW 28th Avenue
Call Merrill Management Inc
352-372-1494 x 10 1-25-6-2

1BR 1BA 1 BLK TO UF!
Grad II Apts, Carpet,
Central H & Air, Laundry
1236 SW 4th Avenue \$575
Includes Utilities. Call
Merrill Management Inc
352-372-1494 1-25-6-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

2BR 1BA Apt 1BLK to UF!
Wood Floors, Window A/C
Nat Gas ht. \$625/Mo
1210 SW 3rd Avenue
Call Merrill Management Inc.
352-372-1494 1-25-6-2

2BR 1BA Garage Apt, 1 BLK
to UF! Wood Floors, Central H & Air
Includes all Utilities \$850/Mo
1014 Sw 2nd Place #B
Call Merrill Management Inc. 1-25-6-2

1BR & 2BR 1BA Apt near Sams & Walmart
Terazzo Floors, Window A/C, Nat gas ht
\$425 to \$550/Mo /Mo 2901 NW 14th St.
Call Merrill Management Inc
352-372-1494 x 10 1-25-6-2

Looking Glass Apartments
2/1 Luxury Apartment
immediate occupancy
115 steps from campus
376-1111 or 111 NW 16th St. #1. 4-23-58-2

SLEEP IN! WALK TO UF!

2/1 from \$395/room
Luxury 2/2.5 from \$650/room
Wood floors avail. Pets loved.
Steps to UF! 372-7111
4-23-08-58-2

Available Aug 1st - 4BR/2BA house. Wood
floors, fireplace, wash/dry, fenced yard for
privacy. \$1400/mo. Call 339-2342. 830 NW
16th Ave. 1-25-08-5-2

WEEKLY SUDOKU

By Linda Thelen

8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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2 For Rent unfurnished

Available Aug 1st - 1BR/1BA studio with own private entrance, fireplace, wash/dryer provided, hardwood floors. Very nice. 106 SW 12th St. \$500/mo. Call 339-2342. One block from campus. 2-1-08-10-2

Sun Island Summer Rates Plus July free on 15 month lease May 08 - July 09 1.1 from \$560 2.1 from \$650 376-6720

4-23-58-2

PET'S PARADISE

\$375 - \$650 No app or pet fee. 1 & 2BR, most units have privacy fence & fireplace. SW. Short lease some units. 352-331-2099 2-1-08-10-2

Cute 2BR home in NE. AC, W&D hookups, fenced yard. \$675/mo. No pets. Available now. 1105 NE 10th Place. Realtor - 262-4546. 2-5-08-15-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

FEM. ROOMMATE NEEDED FOR SPR or SPR & SUM in Tivoli \$355+Util - 4BR/4BA, fully furn, washer/dryer, 24hr gym, great bus route, close to campus - Call Meredith ASAP: 386-316-7769 1-28-08-5-2

Cute cottage 2 bedroom 1 bath, with study, nice yard 310 N.W. 20th Avenue \$795/mo call Barbara 317-4392, Green Tree Realty, Inc. 2-18-08-20-2

Magnolia Place 2 bedroom 2.5 bath, new, mint condition cable and internet included \$900/mo 4872 N.W. 42nd Rd. #107, call Maria 494-2407. 1-28-08-5-2

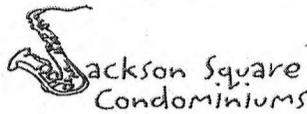
Brandywine 2 bedroom 2 bath 2811 S.W. Archer Rd #S-156 \$695/mo appliances will be replaced for new tenant call Maria 494-2407. 2-4-08-10-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

★★★DOWNTOWN★★★ Coolest apt in Gainesville. Spacious 2 or 3BR w/wood floors & high ceilings. 237 SW 2nd Place. \$1100/mo UTIL INCL. Call 371-3260 2-11-08-15-2

Beautiful Spacious 1BR/1BA \$575. 786-325-3512 2-18-20-2

2BR/1BA apt avail now. Cent A/C, W/D hookups. 1 mile from UF & Shands - off Archer Rd & SW 23rd. 2629 SW 31st Pl. \$600/mo. Call 407-363-7198 or cell 407-234-1380 1-29-5-2



3 BLOCKS to UF
1, 2, & 3 Bdrms

The Nicest Luxury Apts in Gville
www.jacksonsquarecondominiums.com
Call 352-375-8256

4-23-58-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

MACINTOSH - Experience the serenity of country living in historic home just 1/2 hour south of campus off 441. Living, dining, family rooms, 2+BRs, 1+BA, kit & util rm. No pets. \$750/mo. Call 941-953-2407 1-29-5-2

3bd 2ba townhouse \$825
2bd 1ba Waldo \$650
4bd 1.5ba Hawthorne \$650
3bd 1ba downtown \$925
2bd 1.5ba Cedar ridge \$550
352-336-4342 1-29-5-2

Available NOW though July 31. 2 bedroom 1 bath apartment in Pine Rush Villas. \$689 including alarm system. Furnishings also available for a great price. Call Greg at 386-754-8610. 1-30-08-5-2

Walk/bike to class. Summit House Condos, across the street from the VA on 16th Ave. 2/1, available 8/1, quiet, safe, renovated, added features: micro, DW & island counter. Call 352-843-0862. 2-1-7-2

****ONE MONTH FREE****
Private Single-story Villas
****1BR ONLY \$529****
****2BR ONLY \$669****
2 Pools*Pond*Laundry
Alarms Avail*Small pets ok
Move-in Today*375-1519 4-23-60-2

2BR + BONUS ROOM
TODAY Only \$699
POOL*GYM*POND
ONE MONTH FREE
Move in TODAY!! 376-0828 4-23-60-2

****HUMONGOUS VILLAS****
WD HU*Storage*Large Kitchen
2BR/2BA ONLY \$759
3BR/2BA ONLY \$864
****ONE MONTH FREE****
Near Oaks Mall & Tower Rd.
****NEWLY RENOVATED****
Move-in TODAY*333-1120 4-23-60-2

Affordable 4, 5, & 6BR Houses for rent!
Close to Campus!! Rooms are just \$400-500/mo!! Contact Eric at 352-682-7424, email emanin@premierparties.com 2-6-10-2

2BR/2.5BA for rent in Brighton Park (next to The Laurels). Contact Eric at 352-682-7424, email emanin@premierparties.com 2-6-10-2

1BR Studio Apartment for rent, blocks from campus & 1BR in a 4BR Home for rent, also near campus. Both available immediately!! Contact Eric at 352-682-7424, email emanin@premierparties.com 2-6-10-2

Apt in Historic Duckpond
Large 2BR/1.5BA 2 blocks from downtown. Amazing location. W/D. Quiet. Avail now. 508 NE 4th Ave. \$750/mo. 379-4952 2-7-08-10-2

3 Subleases

DON'T WAIT TO PLACE YOUR SUBLEASE AD
Last spring semester paper published on April 23rd.

CALL TODAY!!!
OR
PLACE YOUR AD AT WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG!

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

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

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

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

1BR in 2BR/1BA sublease avail. Walk to SW Rec Center. \$400/mo incl utils. Also free cable & wireless internet. Lots of buses passing by. Call 352-262-6912 1-30-15-3

LAW STUDENT seeking 2 roommates in 3BR/3BA new house located across from law school. Rent negotiable. Call 813-924-8721 2-6-20-3

Sublease 2br/2ba Polos of Gainesville \$750 or need 1 female roommate \$375/mo. W/D, ref, pool bus lines. Avail now to 7/31/08. Call Helen 904-641-6219, 904-563-6134 2-12-08-30-3

579/mon 1bd 1bth College Manor Sublet 32601 on 2ndAve - till Aug08. 1st floor, right near the front door, brand new flooring, across st. from Univ. No security dep. spy_squirrel87@yahoo.com 352-281-7559 1-30-10-3

JANUARY RENT & UTILITIES FREE
Rent 1 Bedroom in Huge Spacious 3/3 with private bathroom. Right next to campus. Only \$450/mo (\$100/mo savings) Furnished living room and bedroom, cable & internet, & 24hr mtce. Pet Friendly. Andrew 954-242-8805 2-8-15-3

MALE ROOMMATE WANTED, THE CROSSINGS AT SANTA FE across from SFCC, upgraded 1/1 shared living room, kitchen, laundry room. rent \$499/mo utl. incl. \$150 sublease fee, Jeremy (863) 529-7350 2-8-08-14-3

2/1 bath available now for sublease. Pet deposit already paid. \$689/month w/pet; \$669 without pet. Pine Rush villas. \$39 application fee. Call (352)214-5530 or email stephanielo ng25@yahoo.com. Jan free!!! 1-29-08-5-3

JANUARY RENT & UTILITIES FREE
1bd/1ba available in 3bd/3ba thru summer. Only \$495 utilities included, finished bdrm & living rm, cable & internet incl. Must be pet friendly. WOMAN ONLY. Call 510-717-0079 1-29-08-5-3

February \$200 OFF! 2BD/2Bath, W/D, cable TV, in-room internet, & more. Need 1 male to take over lease thru Aug08. \$575/mo, water/util incl. 321-276-1278 for more info. 1-29-4-3

the Worship Guide

Baptist **InterFaith** **Presbyterian**

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

MONTEOCHA BAPTIST CHURCH
Reformed & Evangelical
Sunday Worship 11am & 6pm
9420 North County Road 225
monteochabaptist.org; 377-4446
Campus Bible Study Wed. 6:30pm @ the BCM, 1604 W. Univ. Ave.

Victory Church
A contemporary Christian church touching Gainesville and the University of FL. Victory UF is our campus ministry. Sunday 10:30am Wed 7:00pm Friday 7:00pm. Call for a ride. victorychurch.us (352) 371-7800

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

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

Radiant Light Church of All Worlds
An InterFaith group with NeoPagan roots. Meets Sundays at noon. Call 378.9659 for directions & info.

Chabad Lubavitch Jewish Student Center
Your home away from home.
Friday Night Live!
Services & Shabbat Dinner.
-7:30pm Spring semester
-352-336-5877; 2021 NW 5th Ave.
-(5 blocks north of the stadium)
www.JewishGator.com

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

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

University United Methodist Church
The Wesley Foundation meeting at the Presbyterian SC
1402 W University Avenue
Sunday Worship Cafe
Traditional Blend 9:30am
Free breakfast 10:30am
Modern Worship 11:00am
Thursday evening 8:00pm
ufwesley.com for more info

First Presbyterian Church
Missing your home church? Come worship with us at 10:55am and then be our guest at The College Cafe for a nutritious lunch. College Bible Study Wed. night 9pm. www.1stpc.org/collegegroup 106 SW 3rd Street 352-378-1527

Faith Presbyterian Church
8:30 AM Worship -- 11:00 AM Sunday School -- 10:00 AM
5916 NW 39th Avenue, Gainesville
Phone: 352-377-5482
www.fpc-gnv.org

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

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

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

For more information on the worship guide
Contact Ashley Moore at Alligator advertising at 376.4482

3 Subleases

1BR/1BA @ the Laurels, \$425.00 + utilities per month. Includes cable, washer, dryer, 24hr gym, and pool. Living room is furnished roommates and apartment are quiet and clean. Pets allowed. Call (941)447-5951. 2-1-08-7-3

College Manor Studio
for sublease through Aug 7, 2008. Rent \$430 (original fee - \$534) i'll make up \$104 per mo w/rent includes utilities. Call 352-328-1075 (after 8pm) email insuelee@ufl.edu 2-7-10-3

Need someone to sublease my lex. crossing apartment ASAP! only \$509/mo and it is all-inclusive. part of a 4/4 with 1bed/1bath up for rent. for more info, please call Doran @ (954)661-3615 1-31-08-5-3

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

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 2-4-08-24-4

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

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

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

Male to share furn house 3BR/2BA w/young prof. \$400/mo+1/2 utils Directv, ph, wireless, vonage, elec, W/D incl 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

Attractive 1BR/1BA in 3BR/3BA in Rockwood Villas. Walking distance to pool. Easy access to bus rts to SFCC & UF. \$475/mo + utils. A great place to live. Call 352-339-6176 1-28-08-14-4

Rooms for rent in Nice NW home. \$370. 2-3 m to university and Santa Fe. Near bus route. W/D. Internet/Cable included. Utils incl. Call 352-262-1560 2-6-20-4

Quiet, county employee seeks roommate for 2BR/1BA apt. All deposits are paid. \$450/mo incl rent, elec, local phone, cable & high speed internet access. Seeking clean, quiet person. Call 352-374-7158 2-22-08-32-4

CAMPUS EDGE condo, adjacent to campus, walk to Shands and Vet school. \$475, top story, vaulted ceilings, pook, washer & dryer. Call 352-262-2871 2-6-08-20-4

Female roommate, own bed/bath, furnished, Windsor Park, close to UF on bus stop, pool, hot tub, tennis, gym, \$495, 1/3 utilities; avail now. Katie 407-361-1154 1-30-15-4

Female UF ROOMMATES wanted by UF student to share great 3 bedroom 2 bath house walking distance to campus. Own room. 2008-9 school year. \$450 month plus util Call Lauren 305-322-0139 2-1-08-15-4

Immediate availability at The Laurels Apartment on SW 34th St. for \$500/mo. Includes apt washer/dryer, wifi, and utilities. Over \$150/mo savings. Call Mike 561-301-8791, mjiladd@ufl.edu 1-25-08-10-4

4 Roommates

ENJOY A ROMANTIC OLD HOUSE
Near library downtown. \$285-\$370/rm + utils. Short term. No pets. No smoking. 378-1304 1-29-10-4

Room in nice 4BR/3BA home. Cox cable & ethernet, DW, W/D, non-smoker, no pets. 21 or older please. \$330/mo util incl. 328-4995 1-29-15-4

● \$280-\$310/mo Nice rooms. Walk to UF. Short term ok. Low move-in. Small pet possible.
● ALSO 5BR house, bike to UF. \$1000. 352-371-9409 2-14-08-20-4

Two roommates wanted to share a three bedroom/2 bath house near SFCC with a female UF student. Nice house, in good condition and neighborhood. \$325/month + 1/3 utilities each person 870-3975. 1-25-5-4

FEMALE roommate SW estate lrg pvt rm pvt bath&pvt 2carG wifi hi spd cable W/D utli big scrn hotub fireplace 10min to UF \$450/mo 213.2933 lv mssg 2-15-08-20-4

WANTED: Clean male/female to share fully furn really nice 2BR/2BA 14x70 mobile home with male on Archer Rd 4 mi from UF. Pool, cent H/AC, W/D. No pets. Rent \$300 + 1/2 utils. 352-281-1415 1-28-5-4

Avail Immediately. Perfect for Grad/Med/ Intl students. Large room w/pvt bath in lrg, quiet home 5 min to UF. \$550/mo + utils. W/D, CH/AC. Newly decorated. Call 352-284-0979 Short term available. 2-19-08-20-4

Two roommates wanted to share a three bedroom/2 bath house near SFCC with a female UF student. Nice house, in good condition and neighborhood. \$325/month + 1/3 utilities each person. 870-3975 1-25-5-4

\$595 incl all utils. 1 college student needed to fill a room in house off NW 16th and 34th. 2 story - 2500 sq ft. Fenced yard. Call Michael 904-502-7733 or Michelle 904-707-5225 Immediate occupancy 2-8-20-4

Female roommate needed for nice, big room. Private bath, W/D, Wi-Fi, cable, parking included. \$430+half utils. No pets, no smoking. Call Delia (352) 359-2243. 2-1-08-7-4

Roommate wanted for immediate move in at Homestead apts 2 bed 1 bath. \$350+ utilities. contact Elizabeth at 786-395-8928 or Elimela@ufl.edu 1-30-08-5-4

3 rooms avail. Furn/unfurn. Balcony with a pool view. bus routes (12 and 35). Large washer/dryer. New washer. 35" TV. Tiled floor. Leather reclining couch. Incl util! FLEXIBLE Lease! 352-870-7393 2-1-08-7-4

1BR/1BA Available Now
in 4BR/4BA at Countryside. Females only. \$450/mo includes everything. Call 727-510-9346 or 727-542-8155. 1-30-08-5-4

two room available immediatly in a 3/2. 450 & 500 a month utilities, high-speed Internet, wireless Internet, and cable INCLUDED!!! one room has a private entrance. Right off of Tower rd. 10 min drive from condo to Reitz union. Complex has gym and beautiful pool. Quiet community. Great place!! Please call Kristy 3522752654 1-31-08-6-4

Looking for student/professional to share large 2BR/2BA condo at the Oaks. On local bus route, fully furnished, washer/dryer, internet, cable TV. \$600/month includes rent and all utilities. Call 954-3268423 1-30-08-5-4

NICE ROOM IN DUCKPOND HOUSE
\$320-\$420 + utils for responsible, honest person. Opportunity to work off rent doing service projects. Pvt garden entrance, pvt bath. 374-7038 2-6-08-10-4

3Bd/2 Bath in MADISON POINTE
Master Bedroom w/ private bathroom. Looking for responsible student to share with 2 students and a beagle. Room Available starting May 2008.
\$400 for rent incl. Utilities. 386-212-9042 1-31-5-4

4 Roommates

Great Deal, Poolside Condo, 1 Female student needed to share 4BR/4BA Condo. W/D, Cable/I-net, close to UF/SFCC. Bus rte 35&9. \$435/mo Furn, \$410 w/o. Util w/cap. Jan-July, 386-676-9703 or email nukken1@aol.com. 1-31-08-5-4

5 Real Estate

Sell your house, condo, acreage, mobile home and much more in the ALLIGATOR CLASSIFIEDS! Reach thousands of possible buyers! Mastercard and Visa accepted over the phone, by fax, email or CHECK OUT PLACING YOUR AD ONLINE AT www.alligator.org. or please call 373-Find

SEE ALL CONDOS
WWW.UFCONDOMINIUMS.COM
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



Contact Coldwell Banker M.M. Parrish Realtors at 1.800.755.0086 or visit the all new mmparrish.com for more information on our many condominium communities. There's something for every lifestyle!. 1-31-08-18-5

I BUY PROPERTY
Divorce, Bankruptcy, Foreclosure Anytime, anywhere. Quick closing. Let me buy your problem. 352-278-9347 www.bogartproperties.com/referals 1-31-18-5

GATOR PLACE CONDOS
2/1, w/d, 800 sq ft, 1 1/2 miles to Shands. 3600 SW 23rd St. \$84,900 or rent for \$650/mo 352-372-0507 4-23-72-5

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5 Real Estate

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6 Furnishings

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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

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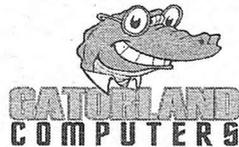
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the independent florida **alligator**

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Gladys' return adds depth

■ THE NO. 1 GATORS HOST NO. 17 AUBURN TONIGHT.

By **BOBBY CALLOVI**

Alligator Writer
bcallovi@alligator.org

Five years ago, Courtney Gladys quit gymnastics.

Now, she is one of the top competitors on the UF gymnastics team and will be a key contributor in Friday's meet with No. 17 Auburn.

Gladys hurt her elbow at age 12, and eventually the injury forced her to retire from the sport

when she was just 14.

While in high school, she participated in tennis and track, but there was always something pulling her back to her first love.

"I was like, 'Well, I really do miss the sport, but it has been almost three years since I've been out,'" Gladys said.

"But something was telling me to go back to it, just in the back of my mind. It's always been my passion."

A few months into her comeback, she reinjured her elbow, which left her with a tough decision.

"I went to the doctor, and the

choice was to either lay off of it for three months or get arthroscopic surgery on it," Gladys said. "I didn't have three months, so I was like, 'Okay, I came back to this sport and I'm going to do everything in my power to get back, and if it doesn't work, then it's not meant to be.'"

Once again, Gladys was forced to start over, except this time she was attempting to impress UF coach Rhonda Faehn enough to be allowed to walk onto the Gators gymnastics team.

"She came and was basically in a tryout situation for a few weeks to see if her body could get back in the groove of things and start being able to do gymnastics again after her time off," Faehn said.

"We definitely saw in that short amount of time that she had tremendous potential, and that she could, with time, get her skill back."

Faehn said that a positive attitude and strong work ethic were other reasons for her wanting Gladys on the team.

Despite all her hard work, Gladys only competed in an exhibition last year at Boise State.

Since last season, her skills improved greatly, and she was able to break into the Gators lineup in their first meet this season.

"Over the summer she trained very hard, and this year she has been breaking out," Faehn said. "Everything has been clicking for her."

Gladys will once again compete on the vault Friday against Auburn as the Gators try to rebound from their first regular season loss since Jan. 27, 2006.

Two falls on the bars event by Nicola Willis and Ashley Reed hurt the Gators in their loss to No. 2 Georgia, but Faehn doesn't expect falls to be a problem again this meet.

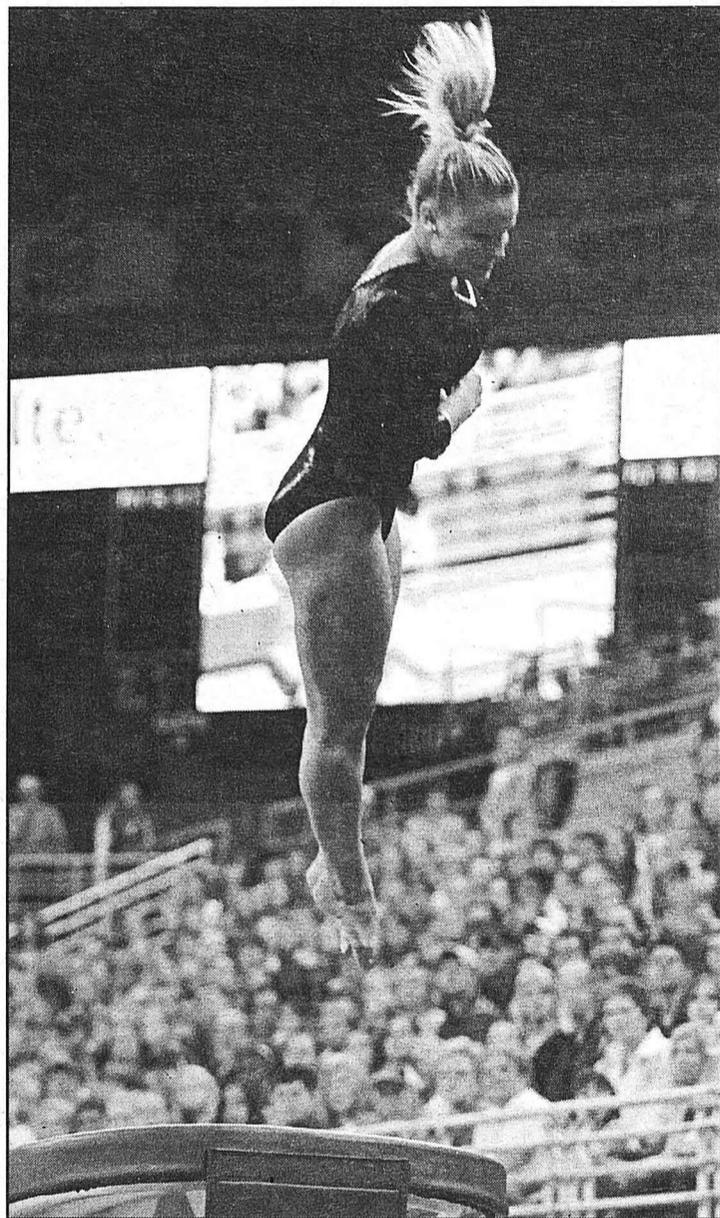
"Nicola's was not typical of her; it was very random, so I don't think that will affect her at all," Faehn said.

Reed tried a new skill during her fall but has decided to go back to her routine from last year.

If history is any indication, Gladys and the Gators won't have any problem against the Tigers — UF is 50-11 all-time versus Auburn.



Gymnastics



Casey Brooke Lawson / Alligator

UF gymnast Courtney Gladys competes on the vault against Illinois-Chicago on Jan. 11. She scored a 9.775 on the attempt.

No. 4 Gators top UCF, stay undefeated

By **CHRISTOPHER YAZBEC**

Alligator Writer
cyazbec@alligator.org

Not much changed between the first two matches for the UF women's tennis team, except, of course, for the opponent.

The No. 4 Gators scored another 7-0 shutout Thursday night, this time against in-state foe Central Florida.

The Gators faced a slight challenge on the doubles courts but slammed the door on the Knights in singles play.

Sophomores Megan Alexander and Marrit Boonstra responded to being down 3-2 and a break in their doubles match by winning six consecutive games to close out the set. The duo clinched the doubles point for the Gators.

Freshman Julia Cohen and senior Lolita Frangulyan routed their opponent 8-0 in just 33 minutes.

Senior Whitney Benik and sophomore Csilla Borsanyi looked to be rolling in their doubles match at 6-2, but UCF reeled off three straight games to cut the lead to 6-5. The Gators' pair responded by winning the next two games to complete doubles play.

Borsanyi admitted to looking ahead during her doubles match instead of concentrating on the task at hand.

"I was focusing more on my singles match, but I think we got it done right in the end," she said.

Borsanyi's result in singles affirmed her statement. She knocked out her opponent 6-0, 6-0 in just 48 minutes and was the first Gator to finish.

"In my singles, I felt so much better," she said. "My game was together. I tried to play offense. I tried to go up to net. I just tried to play my game."

UF coach Roland Thornqvist

said he didn't think the team played as well as it could have in doubles, but he was proud of the way his players responded when they were pushed to be more competitive.

"I'm happy to see that we could elevate our game to get out of that jam, but I'd much rather not even get to that point," he said.

Boonstra shut out her opponent on the singles court for the second day in a row, and Cohen and Frangulyan lost just two games each.

Thornqvist has been pleased with his team's play two matches into the season, but he noticed something equally important the last couple of days.

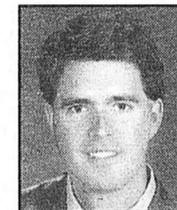
"The best thing about

these two days in my opinion — obviously we've won, we've won easy and we've played pretty well — but we've had championship body language up and down the courts," he said. "We've looked like pros, and that's what it's going to take for us to have a chance."

Now UF will get a day off before taking the court again on Saturday. The Gators will face South Alabama at 1 p.m. at the Ring Tennis Complex. The No. 14 UF men's tennis team will also compete this weekend for the first time. They will play Furman at 1 p.m. on Sunday at the Ring Tennis Complex.

Men's coach Andy Jackson said his team is looking forward to finally stepping on the courts in a dual-match setting.

"The thing that's exciting about NCAA tennis is the dual-team matches," Jackson said. "They're really eager to get going, and so am I."



Thornqvist

Heat guard Wade named to fourth straight All-Star squad

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UF WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Gators endure reality check at hands of Bulldogs

By PHIL KEGLER

Alligator Staff Writer
pkegler@alligator.org

The Gators talked all week about the opportunity a game with No. 17 Georgia held.

They called it a chance to see where they matched up with one of the nation's best, one year removed from a disappointing 9-22 season, and playing at home, where they'd won eight straight.

Instead, UF (13-6, 2-2 Southeastern Conference) tried its hardest to imitate last year's team as Georgia (16-3, 3-2 SEC) dismantled them 82-55 Thursday, tying UF's largest margin of defeat this season.

"In SEC play, if you don't come ready, you're going to get embarrassed," UF coach Amanda Butler said. "If you don't come out and throw the first punch, you might find yourself lying flat on your back. That's what we did."

Senior guard and co-captain Depree Bowden didn't have much to say after a game like this.

"It's very disappointing," Bowden said. "We just couldn't get our offensive flow early."

Honestly, UF couldn't get an offensive flow during any part of Thursday's game.

For a Gators team that prides itself on an up-tempo, high-octane offense, and was just a game removed from scoring a season-high 92 points, Thursday's near-season-low offensive output spoke as much to Georgia's stifling defense as it did UF's troubled offense.

"It's one thing to come out and play hard and play well. It's another thing to play hard and play well for 40 minutes," Georgia coach Andy Landers said. "That was the most impressive piece."

The Bulldogs continued their

dominance against the Gators. They have now won eight straight in the series and the victory snapped UF's home win streak. Coincidentally, the last time the Gators had an eight-game home winning streak, back in January of 2003, the Bulldogs ended that one as well.

Thursday's win was an extra special one for Landers, his 700th victory at Georgia.

"If you don't come out and throw the first punch, you might find yourself lying flat on your back."

Amanda Butler

UF women's basketball coach

"They all didn't come against Florida, did they?" Landers joked in the postgame press conference. "Is it 700 overall or 700 against Florida? ... If we have Florida's number, that's a good team and a good school for us to have the number of."

Georgia's dismantling of UF started around the 14-minute mark of the first half.

That's when the Bulldogs held the Gators scoreless for more than four minutes, allowing them to score 11 straight points.

After Jennifer Mossor scored to bring the score to 19-8, Georgia clamped down the defense again, keeping UF without a field goal for more than six and a half minutes.

"They're just aggressive and confident on the defense end, which is something that to this point is something I thought we had displayed," Butler said. "They expected to make plays. They expected to take the balls out of our hands."

Statistically, the first half was an

offensive nightmare for UF.

It tied a season-low with 21 points, shot just 23.3 percent from the field and made only one of eight shots from behind the arc.

Those two scoreless droughts allowed Georgia to hold a 43-21 halftime lead, putting the game out of reach by the break.

Junior guard Sha Brooks showed some frustration just before the break when she was given a technical foul for throwing the ball after being called for a foul. "You can't dig a hole with a team that's that talented and fight back from that sort of a deficit," Butler said. "We just started the game way too timid."

It was so bad on both ends for UF that Georgia guard Ashley Houts matched UF's first-half output singlehandedly, scoring 21 of her career-high 25 points in the opening 20 minutes.

With teammate and All-American Tasha Humphrey stuck on the bench with two fouls, Houts put a bigger focus on looking for her own shot.

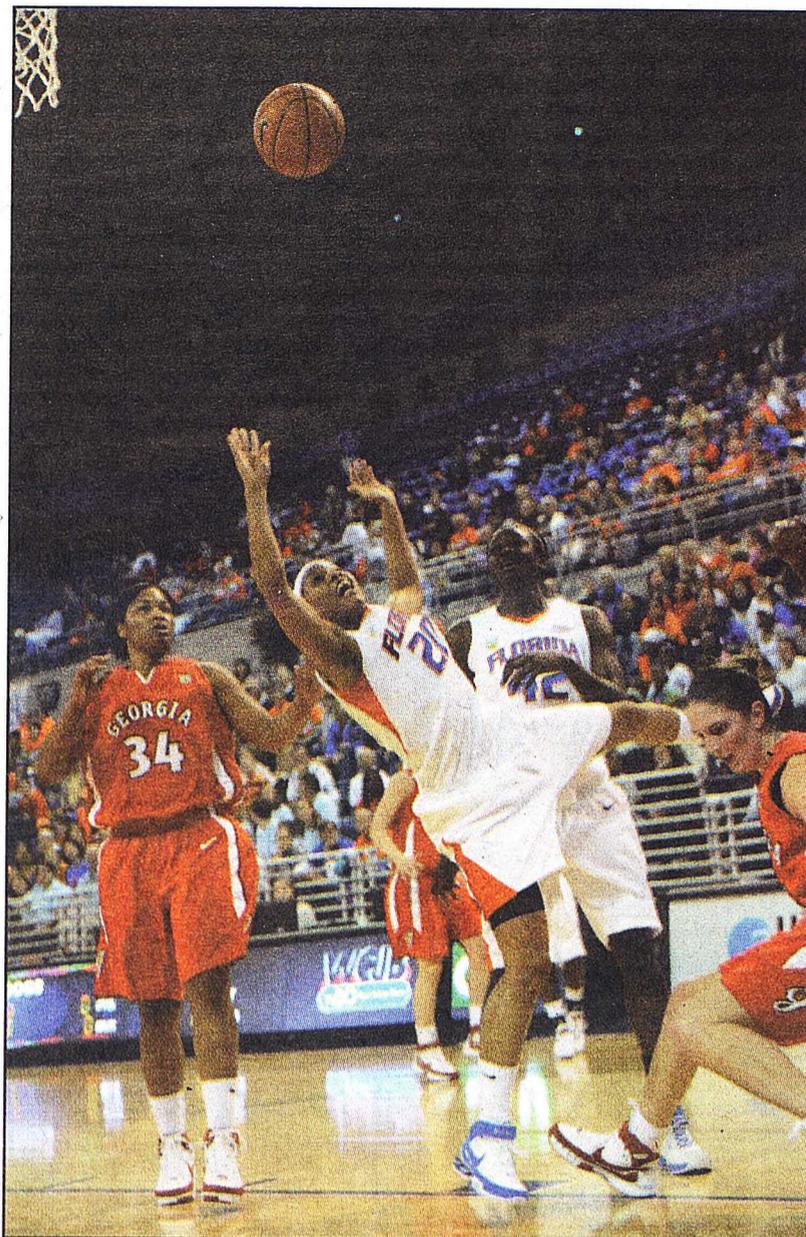
"That's been a common case this season, and my shot was kind of falling for me tonight," Houts said. "I was feeling good about it so I wasn't afraid to take it."

Landers called Houts' performance "incredible."

"Basketball is a game of opportunity," Landers said. "What Ashley did tonight was take advantage of the opportunities."

It's not pretty, but the game may serve as a reality check for Butler and her team.

"There's still a lot of ball games left to be played," Butler said. "A lot of times in a loss, things are revealed to you, where you're more vulnerable than maybe you realized."



Harrison Diamond / Alligator

UF guard Depree Bowden misses a shot during the Gators' 82-55 loss to Georgia at the O'Connell Center on Thursday night.

Passing out is humiliating!

Consuming fewer
drinks may
reduce your risk of
embarrassment.

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Patriots jokingly dodge questions about Brady's ankle

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UF seeks revenge for last season

HOOPS, from page 24

shape,” he said. “I’m just starting to feel out the ropes, and I’ve got myself ready to play.”

UF coach Billy Donovan has been one of Speights’ biggest critics all year. Donovan knows he needs his big man if the Gators plan to compete in the Southeastern Conference and said he thinks the potential is there if the focus is right.

“I think once you do it once, you believe you can do it again,” Donovan said of Speights’ solid back-to-back games. “A lot of it is mental focus and comes with the right mindset. When he has that, he’s a really good player. When he doesn’t, he moves into a category of being very, very mediocre.”

Speights will have to play a key role Sunday if the Gators (17-3, 4-1 SEC) have any chance of beating No. 14 Vanderbilt (17-2, 2-2 SEC) at home.



Men's Basketball

Vanderbilt comes into Gainesville as one of the top teams in the conference. The Commodores began the season by winning their first 16 games but then dropped back-to-back conference games, leaving many Vanderbilt fans skeptical moving forward.

Vandy lost to Kentucky 79-73 in two overtimes on the road and were dominated 80-60 by No. 7 Tennessee in Knoxville.

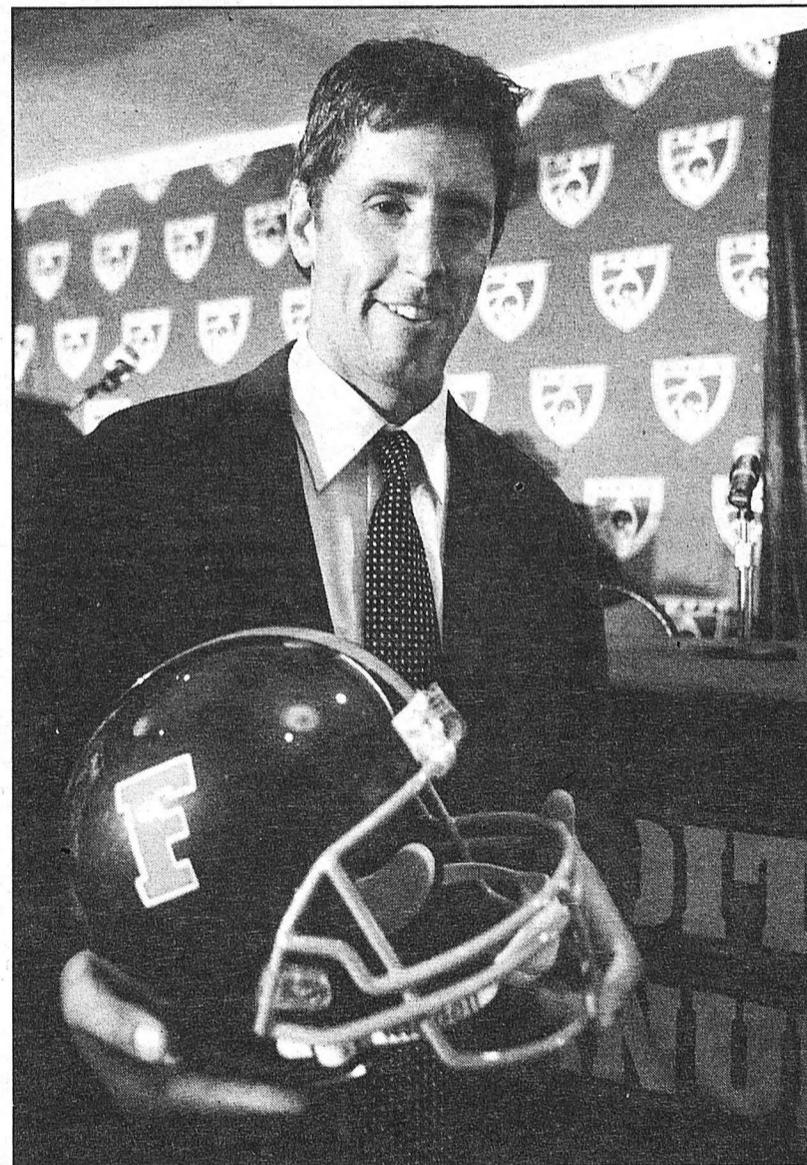
This year’s matchup has more on the table than usual, as last year’s embarrassing loss still lingers for the Gators.

Vanderbilt defeated UF 83-70 in Nashville, ending the Gators 17-game win streak and leading to an incident in which former UF player Brandon Powell punched a fan during the post-game bedlam. Powell has since transferred and currently plays for Marshall.

Speights, Powell’s former roommate, said the Gators will plan for Vanderbilt accordingly, and he has no intention of letting up any time soon.

“We just play whoever comes in,” he said. “We’re not even looking at it like that. We just play to win.”

Former FSU star Warrick will compete for Team Florida



Laura Heald / Alligator

Former UF quarterback Shane Matthews will coach Team Florida with the same brand of offense Steve Spurrier used in Gainesville.

JENNA

from page 24

with his skill.

“[Even though] my name is on the back of my jersey, I don’t think they really know who I am,” Werner said in between gulps of his Gatorade. “They can’t even read my name. They’re calling me something else.”

But there were hardly any jeers at Marreese Speights, only one mention of Chandler Parsons’ baby face (they said

he looked like he was 8) and zilch about Nick Calathes.

It looks like Dan’s their man, and all I have to say is it’s about time.

I spent the better part of last year and the earlier part of this season defending my and my father’s faith in Werner’s capabilities and skills on the court.

Editors note: Jenna’s father has repeatedly compared Werner to NBA legend Larry Bird.

True, Werner didn’t have a particularly great shooting night at 3-for-10 against South Carolina, but he hit a big three

FOOT

from page 24

rounds has the last pick in even-numbered rounds.

In-state alums already on the team like Leak will technically be drafted as “protected players” in the middle rounds, leaving the early and late rounds for Florida to draft new players.

If Florida nabs Kresser, it could look for somebody the quarterback can hand off to in subsequent selections.

Elijah Williams, who played in Gainesville from 1994-97, is the top player with running back experience among about 20 athletes already on the team.

But Williams played defensive back in the NFL, so the team is looking for a stronger runner with some recent experience, too.

“It’s kind of a nice window for them to play, get some exposure, let NFL people watch them.”

Travis McGriff

AAFL player spokesman

“If there’s one giant priority, it might be that one,” McGriff said. “That’s where we might want some guys. Elijah, when he was here at Florida, was moved to defensive back his senior year. He was splitting time with Fred Taylor and really was a dynamic runner. He’s perfect for our offense. But you need a big guy.”

Florida seems pretty set at wide receiver with McGriff, Willie Jackson, Chris Doering and former Miami Hurricane Ryan Moore. Former Gator Reidel Anthony is the receivers coach.

But the biggest star at wideout is a former Seminole, the explosive Peter Warrick.

The team opens training camp in March, and the season opener is April 19 at Michigan.

The league will undoubtedly face an uphill battle to stay alive, but the most important thing for players like Warrick is being able to show their skills again.

“It’s kind of a nice window for them to play, get some exposure, let NFL people watch them,” McGriff said.

when it counted in addition to the four steals he snatched.

He produces consistently, he has amazing court vision and the Gators gain something from his scrappy and energetic presence on the floor — sound familiar?

Noah used to shout “Keep hatin’” when the Gators were making their way through March Madness last year, and Werner might as well adopt the mantra.

Now that he’s finally getting insulted, he’s finally getting some respect.

Sports

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008

ALLIGATOR
www.alligatorSports.org

Speights playing with renewed vigor

■ CENTER WILL LEAD UF AGAINST VANDERBILT AT HOME SUNDAY.

By **DANNY KLEIN**
Alligator Staff Writer
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Sometimes success has no timeline.

In Marreese Speights' first season, fans and scouts marveled at his potential. Coming off the bench, he averaged 4.1 points, 2.6 rebounds and 0.5 blocks in just 5.7 minutes per game, which projects to a jaw dropping 28.7 points, 18.2 rebounds and 3.5 blocks per 40 minutes.

With that in mind, it's easy to see why Speights walked into his sophomore season saddled with expectations. Speights began the year as one of 50 players elected to the prestigious Naismith Preseason Award Watch List and was projected by many to be an early first-rounder in this year's NBA Draft.

Men's Basketball

The road for Speights, however, has been littered with ups and downs so far.

He began the season well, averaging 16.6 points in his first five games. But then the competition came, and Speights disappeared. The sophomore garnered just 4 points against Florida State, 6 against Alabama and a mere 4 against Mississippi.

But then something happened. Kentucky came into town and Speights erupted, playing his best game when the lights shined the brightest. He had 20 points and eight rebounds lined up against Patrick Patterson, perhaps his toughest competition to date.

Speights then dominated South Carolina with an impressive 22 points and 13 rebounds on a night when he only missed three shots.

In Speights' eyes, he's finally arrived.

"I feel way better. I got myself in better

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 23



Casey Brooke Lawson / Alligator

UF forward Marreese Speights blocks Kentucky's Mark Coury during the Gators' 81-70 victory against the Wildcats on Saturday.

Werner replaces Noah as UF's most hated player

One of my very favorite comedians is the late Rodney Dangerfield, who always complained he never got any respect.

After a few road games in the Southeastern Conference, I'm betting that the young Gators are grasping that concept.

But earlier this week, UF coach Billy Donovan said getting ripped by fans is one of the best forms of flattery.

"They're not doing it to bad players," Donovan said. "I think you have to keep it in perspective of the player. If they're doing that, then chances are you're pretty good."

While all players may suffer an equal amount of jabs, every team has that one



Jenna Marina
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guy who stands out from all the rest to take the most hate.

And after attending Wednesday night's South Carolina game, I think I figured out who this year's

target is — Thunder Dan.

Yes, it seems that Dan Werner is this season's Joakim Noah, taken down a couple notches.

Every time Noah entered an arena last year, I heard the chant: "NO-AH'S UG-LY" or the ridiculously popular "Noah's

gay."

On Wednesday I had the pleasure of sitting in front of two strapping Gamecocks gentlemen who proceeded to scream throughout the entire night, "You're trash, Werner" and "Werner, you're so ugly."

I'm not even going to touch on the fact that the originality of the SEC astounds me.

Werner, who was around last year to hear all the negativity aimed at Noah, acknowledged that he's noticed the taunts are starting to be directed more his way.

Still, he modestly declined to acknowledge that it has any correlation

SEE JENNA, PAGE 23

Team Florida ready to draft

By **NICK ZACCARDI**
Alligator Staff Writer
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The All American Football League will hold its inaugural draft on Saturday, and Team Florida already knows who it wants with its first-round pick.

Player spokesman Travis McGriff, a former UF wide receiver, said the team will likely select former Gators quarterback Eric Kresser with the fourth overall choice.

That prediction is somewhat of a head-scratcher, given the fact that the most recognizable player already on the roster is also a quarterback, Chris Leak.

Coach Shane Matthews, also a former UF quarterback, hopes Kresser and Leak can forge a training-camp battle for the starting job in March.

Kresser would come in with an edge since he played at UF under Matthews' offensive system, which mirrors Steve Spurrier's Fun 'N Gun.

"(Kresser) is one of the most talented quarterbacks ever to play here at Florida, one of the best pure passers I've ever seen."

Shane Matthews
AAFL coach

"(Kresser) is one of the most talented quarterbacks ever to play here at Florida, one of the best pure passers I've ever seen," Matthews said. "He knows the system. With Chris being a talented quarterback as well, you need more than one."

The AAFL is a new six-team professional league based in college cities with the caveat of only taking players with college degrees, hoping to cash in on the nostalgia factor of the last 15 years of college football.

The draft is similar to the NFL's version in that it will be tediously long, lasting 50 rounds (eight picks per round) with a few minutes between picks for the first four rounds and two minutes per pick for the remaining rounds.

It begins at noon, and a television broadcast will last until 3 p.m., though the draft is expected to go on past the broadcast window. It will be televised on Cox Sports, according to the league's Web site.

The format is a snake draft where the team with the first pick in odd-numbered

SEE FOOT, PAGE 23

ON TELEVISION

■ **NBA: Orlando vs. Detroit**
ESPN, 7 p.m.

■ **Australian Open Final:**
Maris Sharapova vs. Ana Ivanovic
ESPN2, 9:30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

NBA	
San Antonio	90
Miami	89
NHL	
Ottawa	8
Tampa Bay	4

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■ The UF swimming and diving teams will take on perennial national title contender Auburn on Saturday at home. Also, Danny Klein and Brian Steele discuss this week in UF men's basketball in our Sportscast. See our Web site for the content.

POLL

■ Do you think UF football coach Urban Meyer committed any NCAA violations while recruiting wide receiver Carl Moore?

Yes	No
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