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Published by Campus Communications, Inc. of Gainesville, Florida
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VOLUME 101 ISSUE 103

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2008

SFCC
Student with gun alarms SFCC campus

By **JESSICA PONN**
 Alligator Staff Writer
 jponn@alligator.org

Less than a week after five students were killed at Northern Illinois University, an SFCC student pointed a gun at another student on the college's campus Tuesday, sparking a five-hour manhunt that

ended in a peaceful arrest.

The search involved 70 local law enforcement officers and ended with the arrest of 21-year-old Talon Deante Jackson.

Police began looking for Jackson around noon after witnesses reported seeing him point a gun at another student inside the SFCC food court, said Art Forgey of the

Alachua County Sheriff's Office.

Witnesses told police the two students had been in a prior confrontation.

After learning of the threat, campus administration and law enforcement decided the best response would be to call for additional police help instead of lock down the campus.

"It comes down to a judgment call," Larry Keen, SFCC spokesman, later said. "All the information led us to believe that overwhelming police presence would do the trick."

Around 2 p.m. SFCC administrators sent out an e-mail informing students, faculty and staff of the incident and urging them "to exercise caution."

Thirty minutes later, another e-mail was sent instructing them to remain indoors until police finished searching the campus.

The administration called students and employees to alert them.

Meanwhile, officers from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Gainesville Police Department, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, the SFCC Police Department and the University of Florida Police Department went from building to building with shields and body armor to look for the suspect, Forgey said.

Periodically, they called Gov. Charlie Crist's office to update him.

After using SWAT teams, canine units and a helicopter, police announced around 5 p.m. that the campus had been completely searched and that the suspect was no longer on the premises.

Shortly thereafter, police announced that they had apprehended Jackson at Melrose Apartments, located at 1000 SW 62nd Blvd. He was charged with one count of

aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and one count of possession of a weapon on a school campus.

Both are felonies. Police said he turned himself over voluntarily, and his bond was set at \$800,000.

Tuesday's incident came a little more than a week after Jackson, who is originally from Miami, was arrested on UF's campus for hitting his fiancée.

"It could happen anywhere. I mean, literally anywhere. Virginia Tech. Illinois. University of Florida."

Kimberly Wootton
 UF junior

Keen estimated that there were between 8,000 and 9,000 students on campus at the time the gun was displayed.

Everyone was evacuated without incident, though some said they did not receive e-mail warnings and others were upset that the school's emergency text-message system, which is still in its prototype phase, was not used.

Rachel Friedlander, an 18-year-old SFCC student, was in a communications class when her teacher told her the news.

"He just said, 'There's a gunman on campus,'" Friedlander said. "Then we continued class."

SEE SFCC, PAGE 10



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

Police officers prepare to enter an apartment in the Bivens Cove Apartments complex in search of evidence related to SFCC student Talon Deante Jackson on Tuesday evening.

Cuban President Fidel Castro announces resignation

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

Fidel Castro, the Cuban president who overthrew the government on the island 90 miles south of Florida in 1959, resigned Tuesday. Still, as some celebrated the news, UF experts predicted relations between Cuba and the United States would remain strained.

Castro's brother and expected successor, Raul Castro, has hinted that he may loosen

restrictions on the Cuban economy, but Terry McCoy, a political science and Latin American studies professor, said no drastic changes will happen overnight.

America has had a Cuban trade embargo in place since 1962 with the intention of pressuring the country to become democratic. Any travel to Cuba is also forbidden.

McCoy said Raul Castro, who temporarily took over his brother's presidency in July 2006 after Fidel Castro's intestinal surgery,

may attempt reconciliation with the U.S. But American policy on Cuba won't hasten until the Castros are out of office and the government holds free and fair elections, he said.

International News
 "It's a Cuba we'd all love to see," he said. "It's a pretty high bar."

The U.S. Department of State restricts travel to Cuba with a few exceptions — including for students studying abroad — but students in Florida can't travel

there at all under state law.

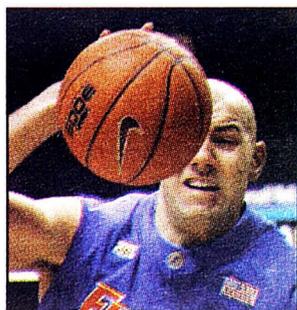
He said Castro's resignation shouldn't have an effect on travel regulations because the Cuban government has never opposed the idea of Americans visiting the country.

Julio Fajardo, a computer engineering senior who was born in Cuba, said in order to freely travel to his home country, the U.S. government will have to make some changes.

"It's good for the people living there, but it's

SEE CUBA, PAGE 10

■ Sophomore forward Dan Werner shaved his head in hopes of breaking out of a shooting slump. The UF basketball team will get a chance to end its losing streak when South Carolina comes to town tonight. See story, Page 29.



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■ The State Board of Education approved science standards Tuesday that acknowledge the "theory of evolution." See story, Page 8.

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News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Game Night

Orange & Brew, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., tonight
The Black Student Union will host a game night, where students are invited to form teams and display their knowledge of important black figures and events for a chance to win a prize.

'Gone Baby Gone'

Reitz Union Cinema, 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., tonight
The Reitz Union Board will present Ben Affleck's directorial debut about two private investigators following the case of a missing girl.

ON CAMPUS

UF student group hosts entrepreneurship workshop

In response to the UF Warrington College of Business eliminating its entrepreneurship minor this fall, the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation ambassadors hosted an "Entrepreneurship for

FORECAST

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RAIN
73/60

FRIDAY
THUNDER STORMS
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SATURDAY
THUNDER STORMS
76/52

SUNDAY
SUNNY
74/47

Dummies" workshop Tuesday night at Stuzin Hall.

During the first half of the presentation, ambassadors gave presentations about entrepreneurial basics.

The workshop also featured guest speakers Geoff Wilson, CEO of 352 Media Group, and Matt Hintze, CEO of TutoringZone and the GIN System, who talked about business growth and how they started in the business world.

"I want to encourage entrepreneurship ideas and ventures," Wilson said.

Navid Zolfaghari, executive director of the student ambassadors, said he's disappointed that the college cut the minor.

"Entrepreneurship is a way to be innovative and think out-

side the box," Zolfaghari said.

"It's a mindset, and you come to college to gain a mindset." More than 50 students attended the event.

—STEPHANIE ROSENBERG

CORRECTION

The winners of the Miss UF and Miss Florida Gator pageants will have the chance to compete for the title of Miss Florida, which is a part of the Miss America competition. We reported otherwise in Tuesday's Alligator.

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

Not officially associated with the University of Florida
Published by Campus Communications Inc., of Gainesville, Florida

NEWSROOM

352-376-4458 (Voice), 352-376-4467 (Fax)

Editor: Chad Smith, csmith@alligator.org
Managing Editor / Print: Devin Culclasure, dculclasure@alligator.org
Managing Editor / Online: Megan Taylor, mtaylor@alligator.org
University Editor: Kim Wilmath, kwilmath@alligator.org
Metro Editor: Jessica Ponn, jponn@alligator.org
Enterprise Editor: Yudislaidy Fernandez, yfernandez@alligator.org
Freelance Editor: Noel Sanchez, nsanchez@alligator.org
Opinions Editor: Panagiota Papakos, ppapakos@alligator.org
Sports Editor: Mike McCall, mmccall@alligator.org
Sports Assistant Editor: Phil Kegler, pkegler@alligator.org
alligatorSports.org Editor: Evan Drexler, edrexler@alligator.org
Editorial Board: Chad Smith, Devin Culclasure, Panagiota Papakos, Don Kershaw, Leigh Shapiro
Photo Editors: Nicole Safker, nsafker@alligator.org
Andrew Stanfill, astanfill@alligator.org
David Low, dlow@alligator.org
Mikala Kuchera
the Avenue Editor: Andrea Asuaje, Kimberly Fulscher, Mike Harkins, Jennifer Shepard
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Online Staff: Rylan Moulton, Carmen Osorio-Rodriguez

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

352-376-4482, 800-496-0265 (Voice), 352-376-4556 (Fax)

Advertising Director: Brad Smith, bsmith@alligator.org
Retail Advertising Manager: Rose Sierra, rsierra@alligator.org
Advertising Office Manager: Victoria Livingston, vivingston@alligator.org
Office Assistant: Sarah Buckwald, Caitlin Wilcox
Intern Coordinator: Lauren Solomon
Sales Representatives: Wendy Alexaitis, Mirian Bobodilla, Jessica Doren, Donna Gurnic, Jonathan Hsu, Troy Johnston, Ashley Moore, Madeline Ross, Jenna Turaniczo,

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Classified Advertising Manager: Ellen Light, ellight@alligator.org
Classified Clerks: Marianne Cooper, Wildivina Rosario, Cassia Sookhoo

CIRCULATION

Operations Manager: Scott McKearnan, smckearnan@alligator.org
Circulation Assistant: David Carlson

BUSINESS

352-376-4446 (Voice), 352-376-4556 (Fax)
Comptroller: Ramona Malloy, businessoffice@alligator.org
Accounts Receivable Supervisor: Sharin Sexton
Bookkeeper: Melissa Bell

ADMINISTRATION

352-376-4446 (Voice), 352-376-4556 (Fax)
General Manager: Patricia Carey, tcarey@alligator.org
Administrative Managers: Rebekah Hudder
Administrative Assistant: Lenora McGowan, lmcgowan@alligator.org
President Emeritus: C.E. Barber, cebarber@alligator.org

PRODUCTION

Production Manager: Stephanie Gocklin, sgocklin@alligator.org
Editorial Production Supervisors: Kristin Björnsen, James Hibbs
Advertising Production Staff: Erica Bales, Aki Chang, Briana O'Sullivan, Jonathan Quigley
Editorial Production Staff: Billy Bender, Kelley Coggins, Kevin Hart, Prissy Nelson

The Independent Florida Alligator is a student newspaper serving the University of Florida, published by a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) educational organization, Campus Communications Inc., P.O. Box 14257, Gainesville, Florida, 32604-2257. The Alligator is published Monday through Friday mornings, except during holidays and exam periods. During UF summer academic terms The Alligator is published Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Alligator is a member of the Newspaper Association of America, National Newspaper Association, Florida Press Association and Southern University Newspapers.

Subscription Rates: One Semester (Fall or Spring) \$18
Summer Semester \$10
Two Semesters (Fall or Spring) \$35
Full Year (All Semesters) \$40

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ELECTIONS 2008

Poe rebounds, defeats Mott in District 2 runoff

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

District 2 voters chose Lauren Poe as their next city commissioner in a close runoff election Tuesday.

Poe's win of about 53 percent of the votes was an abrupt change from the initial election on Jan. 29, in which opponent Bonnie Mott gained about 7 percent more than Poe but did not claim a majority, forcing the

runoff.

About 19 percent of registered voters in the district, which includes most of northwest Gainesville, reported to the polls.

Poe and about 20 supporters celebrated the win at The Top Restaurant on Main Street — the same eatery his group visited after the January election.

"Three weeks ago, we expected a runoff," Poe said. "Going into this, we had no idea how to feel."

For his excited supporters, the

"I wouldn't want to quit teaching. I love it too much."

Lauren Poe
District 2 city commissioner-elect

surprise may have sweetened the win. His group hugged each other, exchanged congratulations and toasted Poe's election with champagne.

Poe also got into the festivities. Within 15 minutes of arriv-

ing at the bar, he was holding a glass of Guinness and a shot of Jameson whiskey.

Though Poe said he was relieved to win the seat, he added that he planned to continue working as an economics and government professor at SFCC.

"I wouldn't want to quit teaching," he said. "I love it too much."

A few blocks away at the downtown Harry's Seafood Bar & Grille, Mott, too, joined with about 20 of her supporters.

Mott, the owner of a local real-estate company, said the loss brought with it a "sweet bitterness." She was saddened by the results but relieved the election was over.

"I'm going to sleep in tomorrow," she said with a laugh. "I haven't slept the last three nights."

Though Mott said she will continue to stay involved at city meetings, she added that she was unsure whether she would run again.

UF student arrested after setting fires, fighting police

■ **MAN SWINGS TENNIS RACKET, BASEBALL BAT AT OFFICERS.**

By **WILL PAFFORD**
Alligator Writer
wpafford@alligator.org

A UF student was arrested Tuesday for setting two fires in his apartment and fighting with the officers who responded, according to the Gainesville Police Department.

James Chambless, 21, was charged with battery on law enforcement officials and arson, GPD spokesman Lt. Keith Kameg said.

An off-duty officer was called to Brandywine Apartments at 10:30 a.m. after the apartment manager noticed water leaking from Chambless' second-story apartment into the apartment underneath, Kameg said.

The officer saw a fire on the balcony and called additional police. When Chambless refused to answer the door, officers forced their way in, Kameg said.

Once inside, they saw an aerosol can in the middle of a fire that was burning on the stove, Kameg said. Police also saw a handgun on the stove.

Chambless began swinging a tennis racket

and baseball bat at the officers once they were inside, as well as throwing light bulbs at them, Kameg said. One officer suffered minor cuts, he said.

Local News Chambless then ran to a room in the back of the apartment and fought with officers as they tried to force their way into the room.

During the struggle, Chambless punched one officer in the face multiple times, Kameg said. An officer then Tasered Chambless, and he immediately stopped struggling.

Police found a loaded shotgun in the room, Kameg said. Police aren't sure why

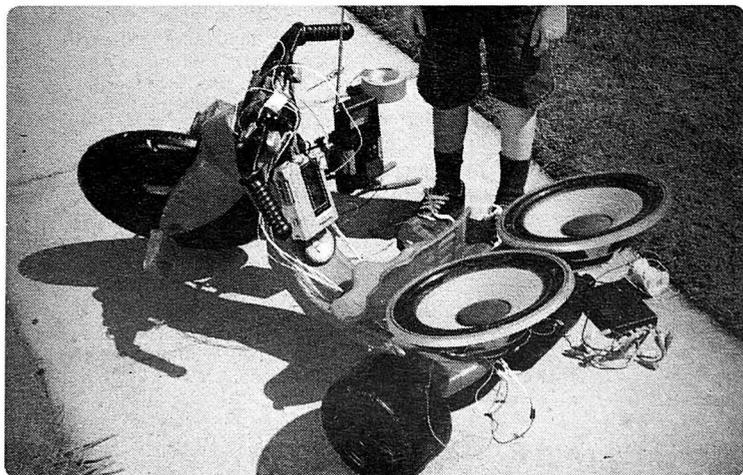
Chambless started the fires or fought with officers.

Joseph Venegas, Chambless' neighbor, said Chambless' roommate saw him filling the bathtub up with water and toilet paper around 9 a.m. Tuesday. Chambless told his roommate, "Don't worry; there's a method to my madness," Venegas said.

Chambless was a good neighbor, friendly and talkative, Venegas said.

"He's a good guy; he just snapped," he said.

Chambless is currently being held at Shands at UF for treatment.



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ON CAMPUS

Student nabbed for drugs

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

A UF student was arrested as he left his history class Tuesday on charges of selling and possessing drugs.

John Edward Vermazen, a 21-year-old history junior from Largo, was arrested by deputies from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office at about 1:30 p.m., according to a report from the sheriff's office.

Vermazen was charged with a second-degree felony for selling cocaine, a third-degree felony for possessing cocaine and a first-degree misdemeanor for possessing marijuana, according to the report.

He was also charged with a third-degree felony for selling prescription

drugs. The report did not specify which prescription drugs he was arrested in connection with.

Capt. Jeff Holcomb, spokesman for the University Police Department, said UPD officers assisted sheriff's office deputies in Vermazen's arrest.



Vermazen

They waited outside his class, constitutional history of the U.S. since 1977, until his professor was finished lecturing, Holcomb said.

A warrant for Vermazen's arrest was signed by an Alachua County circuit judge Feb. 8, according to the report.

He was booked at the Alachua County Jail at about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday with a posted bond of \$27,000.

UF Greek director resigns

The director of UF's Office of Sorority and Fraternity Affairs stepped down Feb. 13 in an unusually quick fashion.

Chris Bullins submitted a resignation letter Wednesday and sent an e-mail to his staff Thursday night.

"Effective immediately I will no longer serve in my role working with the Florida Greek Community," Bullins wrote in his e-mail. "Since 2004, the partnerships, respect, trust and commitment from all of you has amazed me."

Bullins could not be reached for comment. Lisa Kendall will take over as interim director. Eddie Daniels, executive director of the Reitz Union, which oversees the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Affairs, said Bullins voluntarily resigned

from UF completely, but he was technically still an employee as of Tuesday.

"He is continuing to do some work," Daniels said. "He's just no longer in the director position. He has resigned, but he is not gone yet."

UF
Administration

It's up to each employee to determine how quickly resignation will take effect, but Daniels said it's unusual for someone to submit his or her resignation and leave his job so quickly.

"I think it's probably fair to say that in general, it's unusual that it happens in that kind of time frame," he said.

—DEBORAH SWERDLOW

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Jennifer R. Cincinnati, Ohio

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Vote Orange and Blue for change

Student Government doesn't matter.

About 50,000 students are enrolled at UF, and in a good year, only about 8,000 of them vote. Therefore, SG must not matter, right? Except that's not the whole story. Students don't vote because the system is flawed. UF uses paper ballots and the machines that scan them were cutting edge when Ferris Bueller took his day off. Loyalty — nay, obedience — is

Tommy Jardon rewarded over competence, Speaking Out blind faith over intellectual honesty.

Why should voters care to participate in a system so broken?

SG cannot fix itself. It will not. Not alone. Some disclosure: I've never held a position within SG. How can I be qualified, you ask? Because I never sold out. I was happy to exist outside of SG. I've made it a habit to find organizations in need of reform and making it happen.

In spring 2005, I was elected the College Republican State Chairman of Florida. As part of that job, I sat on the Board of the College Republican National Committee. This is the organization that saw Jack Abramoff work in his early days. Countless others and no less-infamous back-room dealers passed through the halls of the CRNC. I walked into the middle of a fundraising-fraud scandal that claimed millions of dollars from unsuspecting elderly donors. After two years of hard work and truth-telling, the CRNC is now reformed both from within and without. I'm proud of that record and intend to repeat it.

Likewise, I realize reforms must also take place within for any real, long-term change. As a gay Republican, I know I face an uphill battle struggling to let others within my own party realize the error of their ways. That doesn't mean I have to quit and walk away.

Engagement, activism and truth are the best weapons to fight ignorance. SG refuses to allow online voting, not over fears of coercion or voter secrecy, but because of fears of transparency and accountability. SG cannot defend Bright Futures because it doesn't represent students. It represents its resumes. SG can't defend free speech on campus because it's the first one to abuse it.

So few students vote in SG elections because the options presented to them in the past have been so mediocre. Orange and Blue presents a bold change. Positions will not go to legacies, but talents. Senate will not speak to students, but will speak for students. Orange and Blue knows students depend on free printing, and we want it all over campus. We know how frustrating it is checking UF Webmail, so why keep it one day longer and not switch

SEE ORANGE, PAGE 7

Viewpoints

ALLIGATOR
www.alligator.org/opinions



THESE ARE THE ISSUES. IF YOU CARE ABOUT ONE OR MORE OF THEM, GO VOTE NEXT WEEK.

Gator Party offers SG diversity, experience

The Gator Party is proud to offer UF an executive ticket and a spring Senate slate that is not only qualified but diverse and talented.

Student Body presidential candidate Kevin Reilly has a strong record of student service to the university, having advocated for the student body in the Student Senate for the past three years. As the current Student Senate president, Reilly has worked with administrators and student leaders to extend library hours during exam week and was responsible for negotiating the installation of credit-card machines across campus. He has also served as Senate president pro tempore, reaching out to those who want to be involved in Student Senate.

Steven Hoffstetter
Speaking Out

Yooni Yi, the Gator Party's vice presidential candidate, has spent the past year as the presidential chief of staff and was responsible for leading and coordinating the cabinet secretaries as well as the SG agencies. Yi works closely with Student Body President Ryan Moseley on both standard and special projects that come across the president's desk, which guarantees she has sufficient knowledge of the policies and procedures of the executive branch to affect positive change for the student body. As the current chairman of the Student Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, Student Body Treasurer candidate Paul Drayton

has a more sophisticated and advanced knowledge of the current SG budget than anyone else on campus. Drayton has spent three budget cycles working with this committee and is the first chairman to use a mid-year review to analyze organizations' spending habits. In doing so, he streamlined the budget process and helped student groups use their budgets to the best of their abilities.

The combination of skills and experience brought to the table by these three candidates is the foundation of the Gator Party platform. The Gator Party Senate slate draws on the unique talents of student leaders from all walks of campus. We were able to achieve this only be-

SEE GATOR, PAGE 7

VIEWPOINTS

This extended Opinions section appears the first and third Wednesday of every month, giving two members of the community the opportunity to share their opposing views.

OF INTEREST

It's not the best idea for fresh-out-of-rehab Lindsay Lohan to try to revive her sinking movie career by posing in a nude pictorial that replicates the last one done by Marilyn Monroe before she died.

alligator.org Comment Corner

"It's ok Bern, at least you got a fat raise! *high five*" — ikicklocals, on UF President Bernie Machen

describing a gloomy budget outlook

Editorial

Devolution

State science reform
cowers to religious right

Well, it looks like Florida is finally making an effort to get up to speed with the rest of the country — at least when it comes to education.

Education officials voted Tuesday to add evolution to required course work in state public schools.

But unfortunately, the victory ends there.

The State Board of Education gave in to pressure from religious conservatives and voted to include the words “scientific theory of” in the revisions that are part of the reorganization of the state’s science standards.

Well, maybe we can’t complain about this decision too much.

The small change, despite its meaningless compromise, actually represents progress for state science standards.

In the past, Florida students were taught evolution in an embarrassingly ridiculous and roundabout way, with teachers using code words like “biological changes over time” to discuss the contested issue.

In 2005, the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, a respected science think tank, gave Florida an F for its science standards, describing them as “sorely lacking in content,” “thin” and “nebulous.” It specifically criticized the state’s “superficiality of the treatment of evolutionary biology.”

Maybe we’ll do a little better this time.

Nevertheless, the opponents of this new teaching requirement have promised to take their case to the Legislature. In Tallahassee, they will attempt to get lawmakers to back their proposal to add “academic freedom” language into the new standard. That language would define evolution as a “fundamental concept underlying all of biology and is supported by multiple forms of scientific evidence.” But, “teachers should be permitted to engage students in a critical analysis of that evidence.”

If multiple forms of scientific evidence support it, then why include the critical analysis provision? Isn’t the very nature of a classroom discussion already open to questioning and critical thinking?

Perhaps these conservative opponents are pushing for the teaching of intelligent design, a theory used to initiate faith-based ideology under the guise of theory.

If that’s the case, we need to give Florida students a little more credit. If they read about an “intelligent designer,” students would soon recognize the implication and some may feel they must make a choice between science and religion, which would do a great disservice to their education.

But it’s not like the debate over teaching evolution is anything new. We’re just hoping the controversy doesn’t turn the next legislative session into something reminiscent of the 1925 monkey trial.

When Orange County-based TV evangelist John Butler Book told the Orlando Sentinel that “evolution is an educated guess. That we came from an ape is absolutely ridiculous,” he compounded our fears that some in the state would rather students not explore their own views about evolution, but adopt those of misinformed creationists.

And arguing over whether to include certain language in standards seems counterproductive. With the knowledge that Florida’s students are already behind on national tests, even though the United States falls behind other countries, we would think that lawmakers would want to create more scientists, not discourage scientific thought.

If there’s anything biology teachers should focus on, it’s giving their students whatever information they need to better understand scientific theories, not tip-toeing over contentious language to appease faith-based initiatives.

If Florida parents really want to inject religion into their children’s education, they would be better off sending them to private schools.

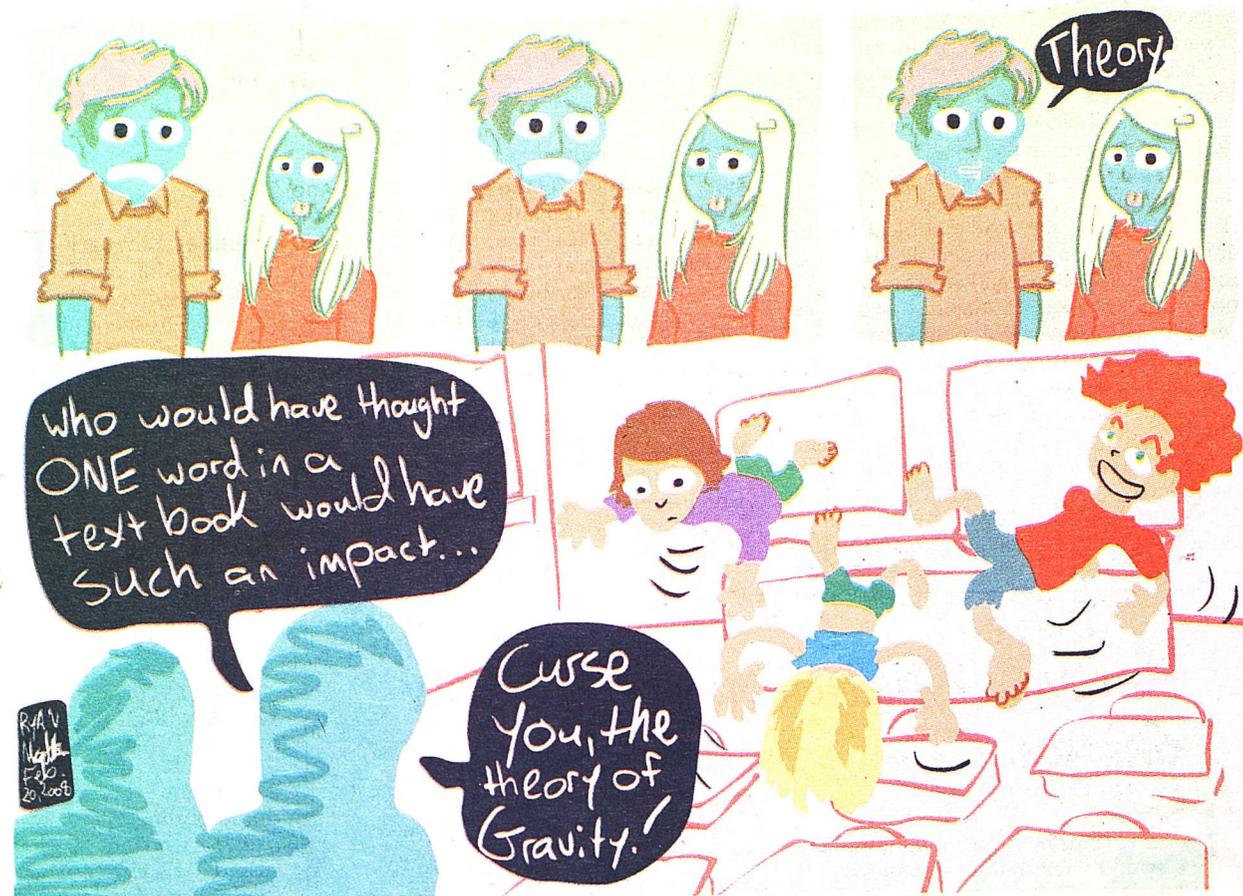
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The Alligator encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 150 words (about one letter-sized page). They must be typed, double-spaced and must include the author’s name, classification and phone number. Names will be withheld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

Opinions



Column

U.S. ignores Saudi human rights issues

With increasing frequency, I am beset by excruciating reminders of the world’s inexorable descent into pure insanity.

Last week’s news from the Middle East provides one of the most glaring examples to date.

It was reported that Saudi Arabia — purportedly one of America’s closest allies in both the Middle East and the so-called War on Terror — plans to execute a woman convicted of “witchcraft” by publicly beheading her.

The woman is accused of causing a man to become impotent, among other instances of scientifically unprovable bewitchery. The basis of her conviction rests on a coerced confession that was “signed” with her fingerprints because she’s illiterate.

Such flagrant miscarriages of justice are commonplace in Saudi Arabia, a land where women are subjected to unparalleled oppression and are treated more like livestock than human beings. Saudi women aren’t allowed to vote, drive or even be in the company of a man who isn’t a relative. When in public, they must sport traditional Islamic dress that allows only their eyes to go uncovered.

Saudi Arabia lacks a defined penal code. Legal decisions are guided instead by strict adherence to a puritanical and militant brand of Islam known as Wahhabism.

Under this rubric of “law,” rape victims are subject to punishments including flogging and imprisonment. Last year alone, 156 persons were publicly beheaded. Of those, one man’s crime was bringing a copy of the Quran into a restroom.

The enforcement of this fundamentalist interpretation of Islam is the job of the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice — sanctimonious morality police who employ tactics reminiscent of the Soviet Union’s infamous secret police force, known as the KGB.

In 2002, these upstanding defenders of Saudi morality prevented schoolgirls from escaping a fire and barred firefighters from putting out the blaze because the girls

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



Joshua Fredrickson
letters@alligator.org

lacked the proper dress to be seen in public. Fifteen died as a result.

How does the U.S. react to such blatant human rights violations? A sweetheart arms deal, of course! Last month, President Bush celebrated a \$20 billion arms accord with our strongest Arab ally.

What? You were expecting the same vociferous condemnations, saber-rattling and economic sanctions routinely directed toward Iran? No, sir.

Iran is in the “axis of evil,” you see. It supports terrorism worldwide, violates human rights and dreams about the annihilation of Israel. Iran shares nothing in common with Saudi Arabia.

I mean, it’s not like 15 of the 19 perpetrators of Sept. 11 were Saudis. Saudi school kids aren’t taught to hate the “infidel” — meaning all who aren’t Muslim.

And security experts haven’t said that Saudi Arabia is “active at every level of the terror chain, from planners to financiers, from cadre to foot-soldier, from ideologist to cheerleader.”

Oh, wait. All those things are true!

Why the hell are we selling them sophisticated weapons then? In a word: oil.

Saudi Arabia boasts 25 percent of the world’s oil reserves. Without friendly relations, Americans would no doubt pay exponentially more at the pump. And it’s not like we could use an energy revolution in this country. That would cut into the profits of American oil and motor corporations.

Thus, it’s a no-brainer for our leaders to choose political expedience above national security and moral integrity again. After all, what’s a little support for terrorism and a few human rights violations between friends?

Joshua Fredrickson is a political science senior. His column appears Wednesdays.

Reader response

Today’s question: Should teachers have to introduce evolution as a “scientific theory?”

Tuesday’s question: Should the United States have recognized Kosovo’s independence?

79% YES
21% NO
43 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

Letters to the Editor

Gator Ride step in right direction

Drunken driving is a problem in Gainesville. As the death of Gainesville Police Department Lt. Corey Dahlem in April 2007 reminds us, this is not a problem of simply underage drinkers. It affects everyone. Solving this serious safety concern should be a priority for the entire community.

What we really need is a change in culture — police enforcement focused on keeping these drivers off the roads, student groups and the city giving students viable, advertised transportation options, and an administration focused on student accountability rather than trying to eliminate alcohol completely.

The newly formed Gator Ride program seems to be a step in the right direction. These concerned students providing an alternative to driving drunk will keep dangerous people off the roads at night and should be lauded for their efforts.

I challenge the police, student leaders, the city and the administration to focus their ef-

forts on stopping the most prominent safety concern facing our community today: drinking and driving.

G. Tyler Parramore
2LW



Guns on campus would allow self-defense

I would like to thank the Alligator for the marvelous bit of backward thinking displayed in Monday's editorial. First after Virginia Tech and now after Northern Illinois University, I have read this paper's disparaging remarks toward those who would take responsibility for their own safety by carrying the means to defend themselves.

It is nothing short of irresponsible for a paper that is supposed to represent the best interests of students to collaborate with an administration that cares more about how its emergency preparedness sounds in a press release than what happens during an attack.

While weapons, laptops and lattes may terrify certain closed-minded editorialists, I am certain the lives of the students of this university are worth more than whatever funds UF can scrape together for its security budget.

Alex Bayer
4LS



Budget accusations were misleading

A misinformed UF student made a few false accusations Tuesday against the way SG chooses to spend its funds. It is vital for the student body to know facts, not opinions.

Elizabeth Stinson claimed that each year, SG uses student funds to purchase new furniture for its executive officers. Before making accusations, it is important for a student to take five minutes out of his or her day to verify the facts. A trip up to the third floor of the Reitz Union, where accessible records may be found, will show that the last time

Student Government purchased furniture for the executive branch offices was more than three years ago during Joe Goldberg's administration. Additionally, to say that FSU fully funds its Model U.N. is just not true. A call to FSU Model U.N. would have provided Stinson the following information: Each of the traveling team members at FSU is required to pay \$100 to \$200 per trip. Their group also receives funds from their school's administration, whereas our administration does not fund our Model U.N. and thus is forced to be dependent on SG. I am proud to be part of an administration that selflessly works in order to provide a tangible product to the students that we represent every single day.

Stinson is also unaware of the hours that the budget committee spent in the past two weeks hearing budget requests from student organizations to accomplish their goals.

Jordan Johnson
Student Senate Budget and
Appropriations Committee vice chairman

Party will fight for SG honesty

ORANGE, from page 5

to Gmail?

I've done nothing but fight for honesty and integrity in a system that has forgotten what that means. Students have a student government to represent

them and fight for them. That's why I'm running for Student Body president. SG matters to all students and belongs to all Gators. It's time we take it back.

Tommy Jardon is the Student Body presidential candidate for the Orange and Blue Party.

Gator Party will fulfill responsibility

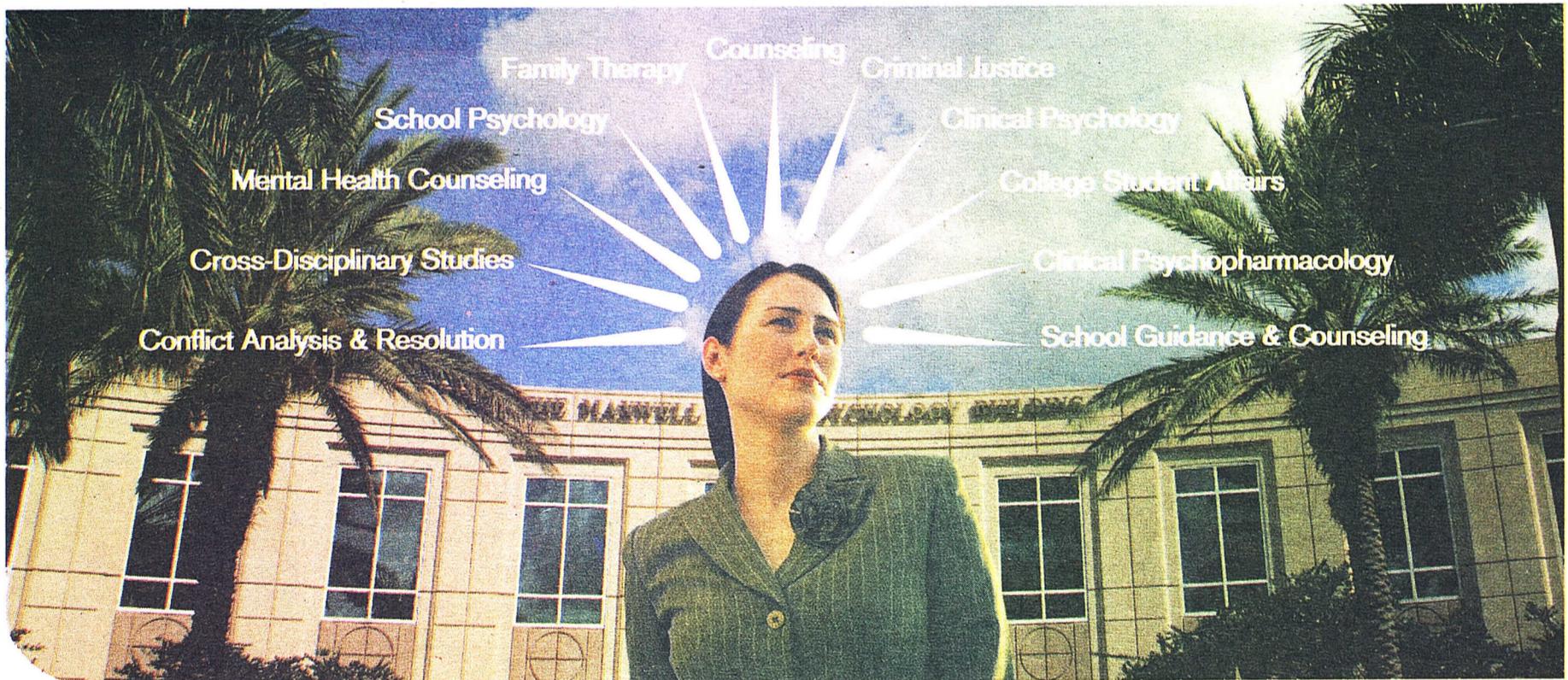
GATOR, from page 5

cause of the extraordinary turnout we received during slating interviews. The more than 500 students who interviewed with the Gator Party shared our vision. They were a motivated group of students who believe achieving the dreams of a better tomorrow starts today. Central to this vision is a commitment to an inclusive student government that represents the culturally and ideologically diverse university

community.

The Student Body deserves a public dialogue focused on the merits of each party's platform and candidates. What they deserve more, however, is a student government that has the means to fulfill its responsibilities beyond students' expectations. With the Gator Party's knowledge, experience and diversity, this vision will become a reality when students vote Gator on Feb. 26 and 27.

Steven Hoffstetter is the president of the Gator Party.



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'Theory of evolution' added to science standards

Board revises standards written in 1996

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

Reflecting a difference of opinions in Tallahassee, local school board members and UF employees are split on the new evolution education standards.

By a 4-3 vote, the Florida Board of Education approved new Sunshine State Standards for science on Tuesday. The revised standards require for the first time that the "scientific theory of evolution" be taught in public schools.

The board wanted to revise Florida's science-education standards, written in 1996, to improve students' science performance compared to the rest of the country. In 2005, a national review of science teaching gave Florida a failing grade.

The previous standards allowed for the teaching of evolution but without calling it "evolution."

The first draft, written by scientists and science teachers, described evolution as the "fundamental concept underlying all of biology." But the board approved

an alternate version that placed the phrase, "scientific theory of" before every mention of evolution.

"I don't think it's going to solve anything."

Frederick Gregory
UF history professor

While including evolution in Florida's science standards may seem like a step forward, Frederick Gregory, a UF history professor, said the word "theory" makes the standards arguable.

Gregory, who studies the relationship between science and religion, said evolution opponents argue the word "theory" implies a flimsy, uncertain idea. Meanwhile, supporters claim that the theory of evolution is as sound as the theory of gravity, he said.

"It sounds like an improvement," he said. "But I don't think it's going to solve anything."

Janie Williams, Alachua County School Board chairwoman, said she's comfortable with the word "theory" because it leaves room for students to make their own choices.

"I just know that students now,

they have their own convictions, and it doesn't matter about the words that much," Williams said.

But Eileen Roy, another school board member, said words matter. Roy said the word "theory" weakens the standards.

Wesley Eubank, a county school board member, said he thinks the entire evolution issue was blown out of proportion, and it doesn't have anything to do with science performance.

"In terms of catching up with other countries in terms of our science level of our kids, that's not going to make a difference," Eubank said.

Total lunar eclipse to appear for first time since 2004

■ **ECLIPSE WILL START AT 8:30 P.M.;**
SFCC WILL HOLD VIEWING.

By **ALEXANDRA BIZARES**
Alligator Contributing Writer

For a show that requires no reservations or tickets, people can look up to the sky to witness a total lunar eclipse tonight.

At about 8:30 p.m., viewers can begin to see the full moon change colors and

brightness as it enters Earth's shadow, said Howard L. Cohen, UF associate professor emeritus of astronomy.

This "near-perfect" eclipse is special to Florida because it is the first time since 2004 that residents can see the complete duration of a total eclipse, Cohen said.

The next occurrence will be December 2010.

SFCC will host a free viewing open to the public from 8 p.m. to about 12:15 a.m. that will begin in its astronomy laboratory

in Building X.

At 8:43 p.m., when the moon is predicted to enter Earth's darkest shadow, visitors can watch the eclipse from the SFCC parking lot off North Road, where telescopes will be available, or at the astronomy lab through a live NASA webcast, said SFCC astronomy professor Sally Hoffman.

Hoffman, who created the event, said the webcast will show a detailed image of the

moon.

Cohen, a founding member of the Alachua Astronomy Club, said telescopes and binoculars enhance the view but are not necessary.

People will want to pay attention to the colors of the moon, he said. The moon can become copper, deep red, orange or even have a bluish tint. The atmosphere scatters sunlight into the shadow, which is why the moon is visible and usually colorful during an eclipse.

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Don't miss the next Gator Hotline with Kevin O'Sullivan at Beef O'Brady's (NW 43rd Street) on Monday, February 25 @ 6 p.m.!

Head Coach Kevin O'Sullivan

if a man bites a dog that is news.

John Bogart
City Editor, 1890

UF fair celebrates engineering week

Student organizations filled the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom on Monday and Tuesday with fake snow, oozing slime and ice cream to attempt to attract kids to science careers.

The Engineering & Science Fair, sponsored by the UF College of Engineering, boasted a record-breaking turnout of more than 1,300 elementary, middle and high school students, said Kathryn Kearns, director of the fair and an engineering junior.

UF, SFCC and Lake City Community College students also visited the exhibition, Kearns said.

"The great thing about (the fair) is that it really is appropriate for every age," she said.

She said the exhibition, which featured 37 science organizations, is the biggest event of National Engineers Week, which lasts from Feb. 15 through Saturday.

The American Institute of

Chemical Engineers, which showcased ice cream frozen by liquid nitrogen, won the Visitors' Choice award.

The Center for Catalysis earned the most outstanding overall exhibit, which featured crystal gardens, imploding soda cans and slime.

"The great thing about (the fair) is that it really is appropriate for every age."

Kathryn Kearns

UF Engineering & Science Fair director

Adam Veige, a faculty member of the center, said his team developed experiments that appeal to children, parents and teachers.

The center went through about 20 liters of slime during the two-day fair, he said.

— KATIE SANDERS



Carlos Baez / Alligator

Abbey Foster looks at slime she created at a workstation at the UF Engineering & Science Fair in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom Tuesday.

New Counseling Center director addresses Senate

■ SHERRY BENTON DISCUSSES ANXIETY, DEPRESSION.

Sherry Benton, the new director of UF's Counseling Center, introduced herself to student senators on Tuesday night after more than two weeks of being on campus.

Benton came to UF following an 18-year counseling career at Kansas State University.

She said she is most well-known for her research of changes in the mental health of college students during the past 20 years.

Through her studies, she found that the prevalence of anxiety and depression has tripled on campuses, and college students with higher grade-point averages are at a higher risk, she said.

Benton acknowledged the tough budget

year ahead, but she said she would like to create a stress-and-anxiety lab to provide counseling services for more students. She did not

estimate how much the lab would cost.

Student Government

"It's very difficult to perform academically when you're feeling anxious," she said.

After Benton spoke, the senators approved

giving \$12,240 to the School of Music to pay for music shows. This amount was based on attendance from fall performances.

Senators voted to increase SG emergency funds from \$1.2 million to \$2 million to cover damages to SG-sponsored facilities in the wake of a catastrophic event, such as a hurricane.

— KATIE SANDERS

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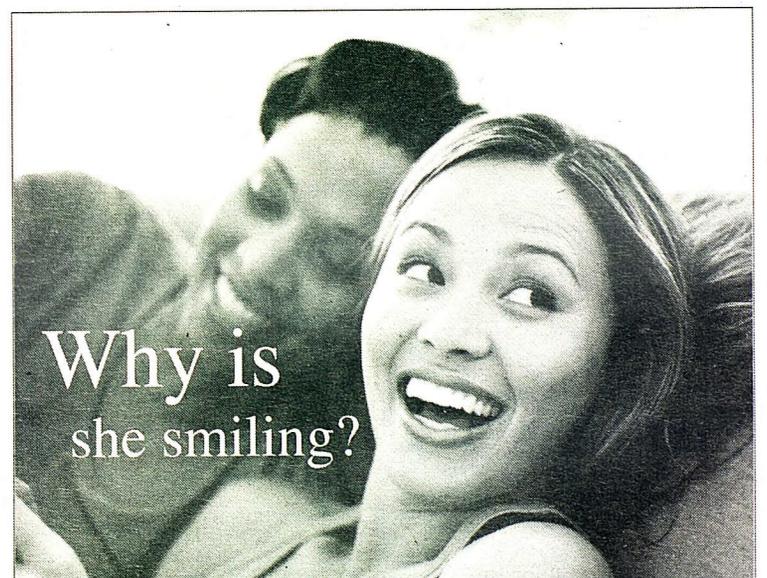
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Students express fear, concern about SFCC gunman

■ UF OFFICIALS DECIDE TO NOT SEND TEXT MESSAGE.

By **ELIZABETH LEVA**
Alligator Contributing Writer

UF students expressed concern about an SFCC gunman Tuesday, but UF officials said there was no reason to worry — and no reason for an emergency text message. Rumors on campus spread

throughout the day with radio reports and phone calls from parents, but some students said they never received solid information from the UF administration.

"Holy smokes," said Mike Strahl, a UF sophomore, upon hearing the news. "Why didn't UF send out one of those texts they talk about?"

After last week's shooting at Northern Illinois University,

Strahl said he's especially nervous on campus because gunmen always inspire copycats at other schools.

Local News Steve Orlando, UF spokesman, said UF officials considered sending out a campus-wide text, but because UF was in no direct danger, a message was posted on the UF home page instead.

In addition, UF did not increase campus security because the University Police Department was assisting SFCC, Orlando said.

He said UPD's involvement guaranteed that UF would be immediately informed of any impending danger and there was no threat to UF.

Capt. Jeff Holcomb, UPD spokesman, said there was no

need to panic students who were in no danger by sending a text message.

Holcomb was at SFCC with officers for most of Tuesday, and he said while he hopes nothing similar ever happens at UF, the experience helped UPD officers prepare in case it does.

Alligator staff writers Kim Wilmath and Jessica Ponn contributed to this report.

Campus reopens at 7 p.m.

SFCC, from page 1

She said that while several of her classmates "were freaking out," she was not concerned.

Kimberly Wootton, a UF political science junior, said while the gunman was across town, the incident still made her nervous.

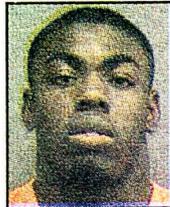
"It could happen anywhere," Wootton said. "I mean, literally anywhere. Virginia Tech. Illinois. University of Florida."

The SFCC campus reopened for classes at 7 p.m.

Maj. Tom Terry of the SFCC Police Department said at the end of the day he

was satisfied with the way law enforcement handled the scare.

Still, Terry said, the administration would meet with police to discuss areas they could improve in case of a future threat.



Jackson

"When you think about it, we had an active person with a gun on campus," he said. "We have no injuries and we have a successful apprehension of the subject,"

he said.

"Can't get much better than that."

Alligator writer Katie Gallagher contributed to this report.

Students react to Castro's resignation

CUBA, from page 1.

not good for people living here," Fajardo said. "For them, it's kind of a message of hope — that things can move."

He said he moved to the U.S. in 1995 and hasn't been able to visit his family in Cuba since.

Enrique Gomez, a civil engineering junior, said he moved to the U.S. from Cuba after his family won a visa lottery in 2001. He said he didn't think Raul Castro would convince the U.S. to relax the travel ban.

"I believe what Americans think of Raul is that he's just another communist."

Enrique Gomez
UF civil engineering junior

"In order to change that, things have to change here," Gomez said. "I believe what Americans think of Raul is that he's just another communist."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



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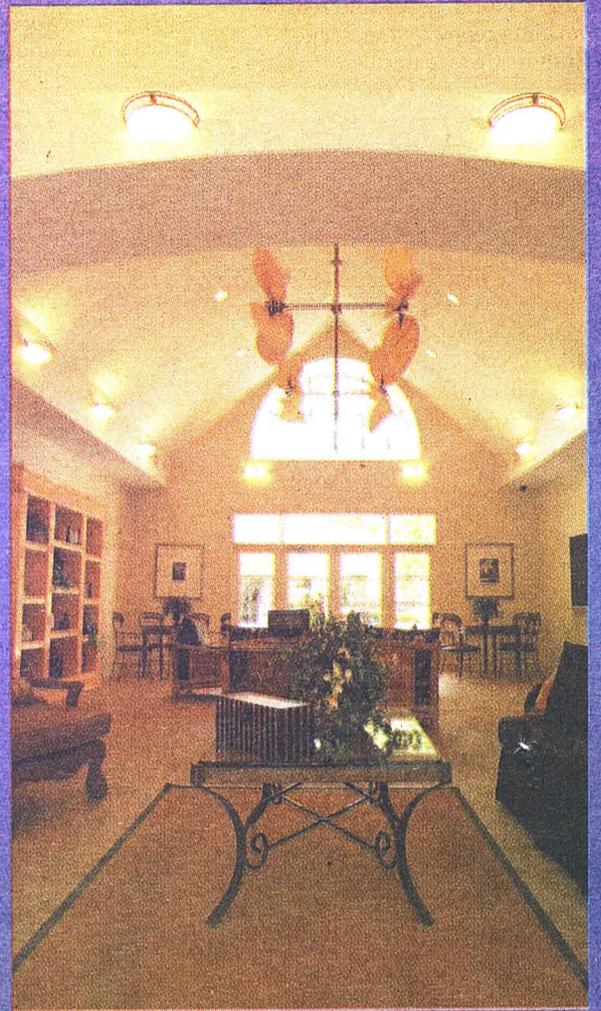
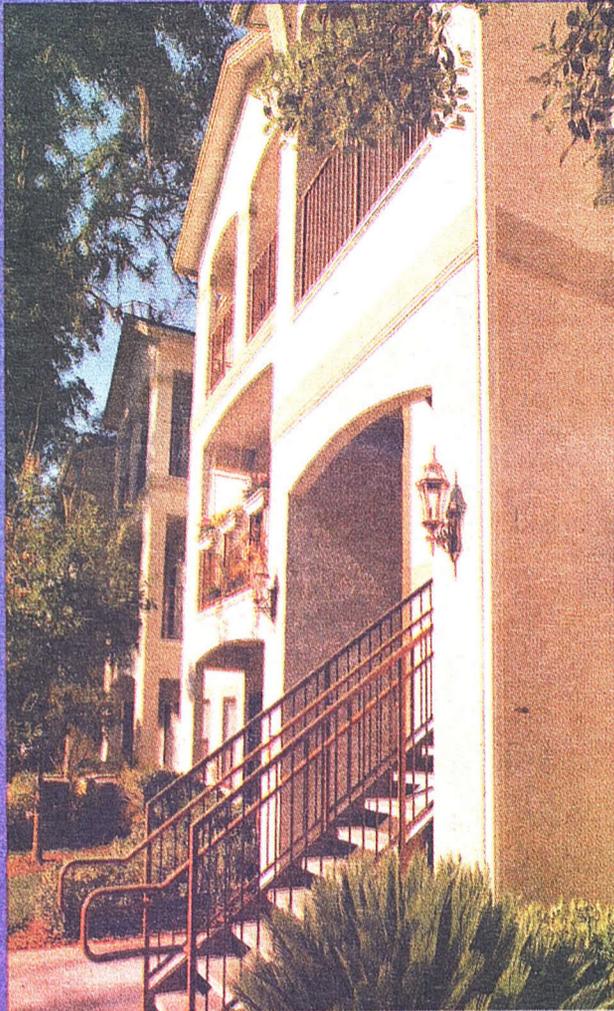
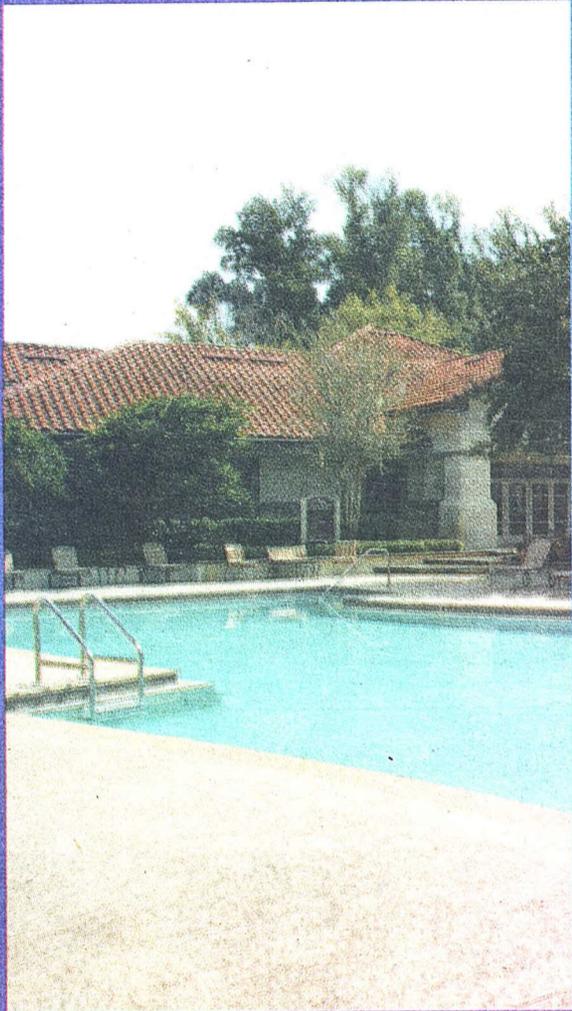
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B E L L A M A Y



G R A N D

APARTMENT HOMES

Spring 2008

INTRODUCTION

Florida's Residential Landlord and Tenant Act, Sections 83.40 to 83.682, Florida Statutes (2007), is referred to as "the Act" in this publication. Most libraries have copies of Florida Statutes if more specific information is needed.

Florida Statutes are also available online through the Florida Legislature's website, (www.leg.state.fl.us). Explanations of the Act have statewide applicability, but any specific references to Gainesville or Alachua County applies only to those areas.

The rental of mobile homes or mobile home lots is not covered in the Act. If you have a problem in this area, you should contact an attorney.

CAVEAT

This is an educational tool and not a guide for the practice of law. Once a problem has been identified, an attorney must be contacted to obtain specific advice.

Full time University of Florida students can receive free legal advice from Student Legal Services. The office is located at 368 J Wayne Reitz Union. Call 392-5297 for further information.

If you are not a full time student, contact the Florida Bar Lawyer Referral Service at 800-342-8011. They can give you a list of attorneys who can represent you for a lowered fee.

Law is subject to change. All material is correct as of June 2007.

DISCLAIMER

This original publication was written by Student Legal Services attorneys. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the University of Florida, Student Government, the Board of Trustees, or the State of Florida.



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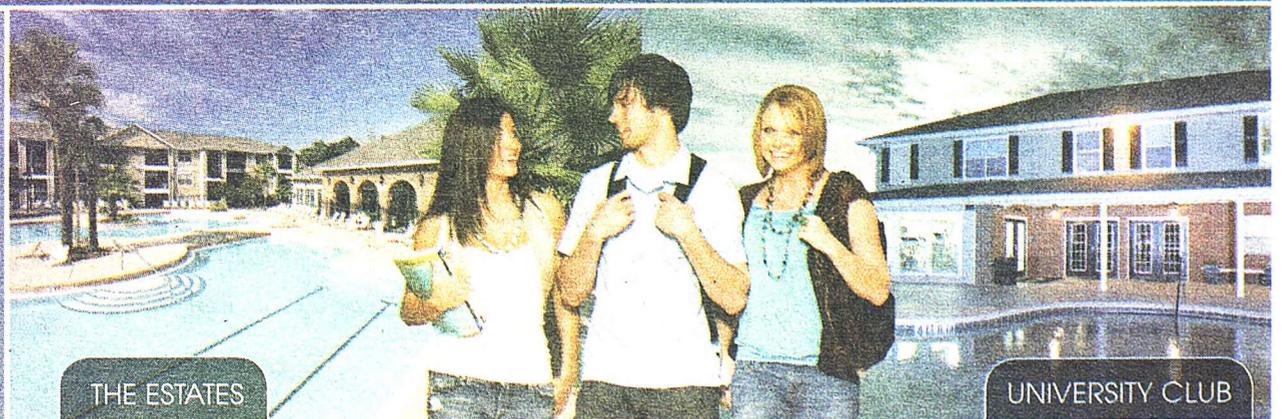
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GETTING STARTED

How Do I Find An Apartment?

Check with the office of Off-Campus Life at 352 392 1261 x 214 or their website at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/offcampus> for assistance.

Rental opportunities may also be found in the classified sections of The Gainesville Sun, The Independent Florida Alligator, and bulletin boards around campus.

Can I Be Evicted If I Pay "My" Rent and My Roommates Don't?

Usually, most leases provide that the tenants are jointly and severally liable for the entire rent. This means the landlord can evict you unless the full rent is paid.

It is possible for you to sue your roommates in small claims court to collect their share of the rent and utilities. A written roommate agreement will be helpful in proving your case in court.

Given the difficulty of collecting money on a judgment quickly, the best thing you can do is obtain new roommates.

So What If I Get Sued? I Have No Money!

Any judgment for money damages is enforceable for at least 20 years and earns interest. A judgment may be enforced by seizing your wages, bank accounts, or your personal

property. A judgment will also adversely affect your credit rating.

What Should I Look For In An Apartment?

Application Deposits: Never put down a deposit to hold an apartment unless you have a written agreement indicating whether it is refundable.

Model Apartments: Never sign a lease based upon a model. Insist on seeing your actual apartment.

Cost: Can you afford it? Even if your roommates leave?

Safety: Inspect the locks on the doors and windows — is there a deadbolt on the front door? Do sliding glass doors have adequate locks to deter forced entry? Are the hallways and parking lots well lit? Make sure tree limbs and shrubs in front of the apartment are well trimmed.

You can contact the Alachua County Sheriff's Office or the Gainesville Police Department for information on crime in the area.

Function: At move-in, check all plumbing and appliances. Run water in sinks, showers and tubs, flush toilets, and check air conditioning and heating.

Inventory: Note all defects on the inventory sheet or check-in list signed by the landlord or an impartial witness. Photograph or videotape the apartment at move-in.

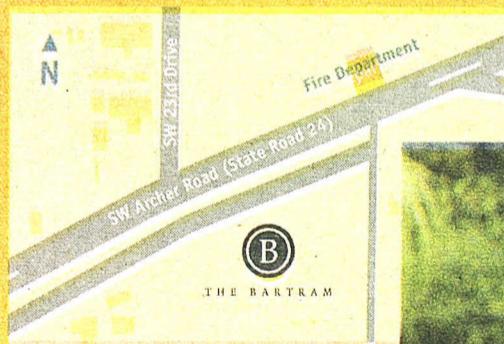
Appearance: Is it clean? Do the carpets look worn

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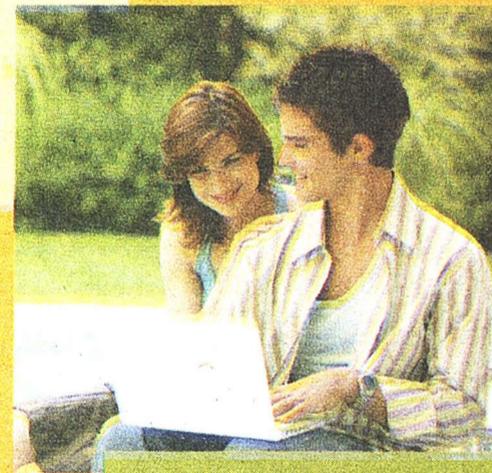
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All others: Florida Bar Referral Service Tallahassee, FL	800 342 8011
State Assistance	
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Complaints, all others: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services 407 S Calhoun St Tallahassee, FL 32299	850 488 3022
Local Assistance	
Complaints: Repairs City of Gainesville Codes Enforcement 200 E University Ave PO Box 490 Gainesville, FL 32609	352 334 5030
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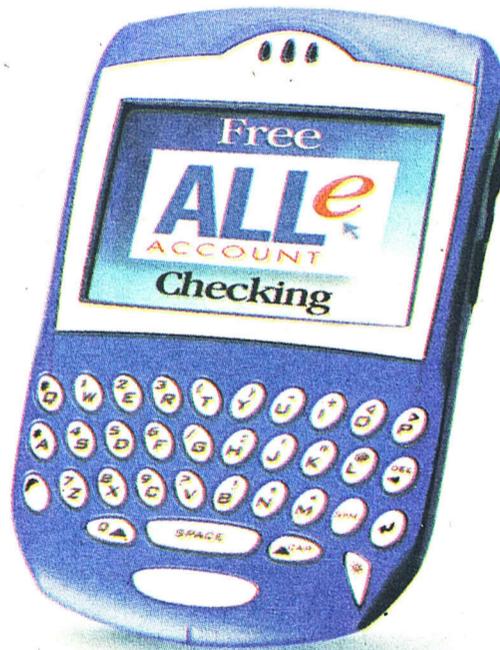
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or smell bad? Has the apartment been painted recently? Do the walls have nail holes?

In some Gainesville neighborhoods, only three unrelated persons may live together. Check with the city if you plan on having more than two roommates.

Retain a copy of the lease and all attachments or addendums to the lease for your records. Have all promised repairs and improvements written into the lease and signed by the landlord.

Get clear written permission for any pets.

What Can Happen If I Don't Pay Rent?

Failure to pay rent is the quickest way to be evicted! The landlord will serve a notice demanding payment of rent or possession of the apartment. If you fail to comply with the demand within three days, excluding weekends and holidays, eviction proceedings

may be started. Neither surrender of the apartment or eviction ends your liability for rent! You should contact an attorney immediately upon receipt of a three-day notice.

Can I Be Evicted For Any Other Reason?

Yes! Your lease can be terminated if you violate any lease terms, rules and regulations, or the Act. If your lease is

terminated and you do not vacate the apartment, the landlord may file for your eviction immediately.

Termination begins with a 7-day notice. Your options depend on whether the violations are classified as "curable" or "noncurable".

If you receive either type of notice, you should contact. Neither termination of your lease, nor your eviction from the apartment ends your liability for rent!

What Should I Do Before I Sign a Lease?

Dos

- Read the lease and make sure you understand it.
- Review a copy of the lease with an attorney prior to signing it.
- Expect to pay full rent, not just your share. This is what "joint and several" liability means, a term included or implied in nearly all leases.
- Obtain a copy of the lease and all attachments or addendums to the lease, and put everything with your personal records.
- Have all promised repairs and improvements written into the lease and signed by the landlord.
- Insist on seeing your actual unit.
- Get clear written permission for any pets.
- Check for maintenance responsibilities when renting a house or duplex.

Don'ts

- Do not sign a 12-month lease unless you are willing to pay rent for 12 months.
- Do not sign a 12-month lease with roommates unless all roommates are willing to pay rent for 12 months.
- Do not have your parents signed the lease or a parental guarantee agreeing to be responsible for rent, if possible. See if the landlord will accept an additional security deposit instead.
- Do not sign a lease with automatic renewal clause.
- Do not sign a lease that gives the landlord unlimited access to the apartment without notice or consent.
- Do not sign a lease based upon a model apartment.
- Do not sign a lease before visiting the neighborhood at various times during the day, at night and on weekends.
- Do not sign a lease until all agreements negotiated with the landlord are in writing.

Curable Violations

You will be given seven days to correct a curable violation. Curable violations include unauthorized pets, guests, parking, or the failure to keep the apartment clean and sanitary. If you repeat the violation within 12 months, you will not be given another chance.

Noncurable Violations

The landlord may terminate your lease with a 7-day notice without giving you a chance to correct a noncurable violation. Noncurable violations include deliberate destruction or misuse of the landlord's property or a continued, unreasonable disturbance.

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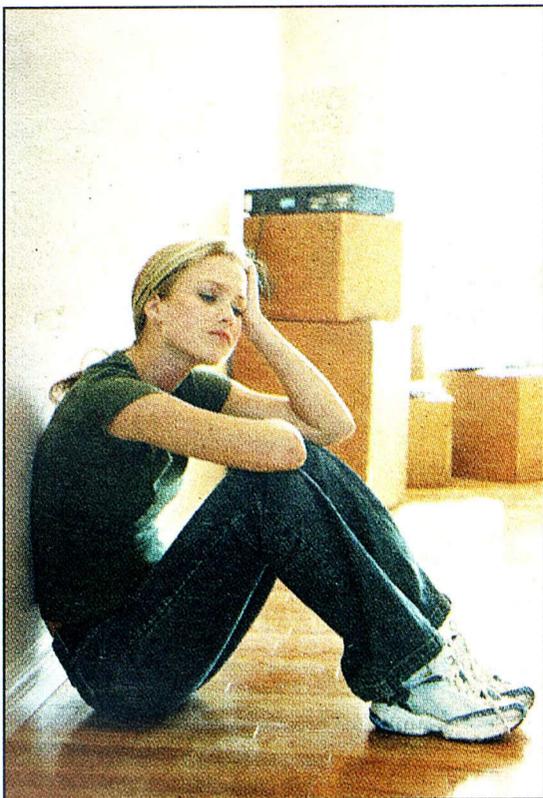
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GETTING EVICTED



What Are My Duties As A Tenant?

- ☑ First, last and always, PAY RENT!
- ☑ Comply with all other lease terms.
- ☑ Comply with all rules and regulations.
- ☑ Comply with housing and health codes.
- ☑ Comply with all zoning restrictions.
- ☑ Keep the apartment clean and sanitary.
- ☑ Keep plumbing fixtures sanitary.
- ☑ Do not damage the apartment.
- ☑ Do not disturb your neighbors.

What Exactly Is An Eviction?

An eviction is the formal end to your right to occupy the apartment. It does not end your duty to pay rent.

An eviction starts with a Summons. You must file an Answer within 5 days.

Contact an attorney immediately.

If the court rules against you, a judgment for possession of the apartment, unpaid rent, late fees, interest, court costs and attorney's fees will be entered for the landlord. The sheriff will post a notice at the apartment that requires you to vacate within 24 hours. If you do not vacate within 24 hours, the sheriff will remove you and your personal property from the apartment.

How Do I Find A Good Roommate?

Check the Off-Campus Life website at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/offcampus>. Check bulletin boards around campus and classified ads as additional sources.

Discuss with potential roommates preferences in food, music, personal habits, sleeping and study hours, friends and finances. An open and frank appraisal of each other's likes, dislikes, and expectations will increase the chances of an enjoyable shared living experience. A written roommate agreement is advisable.

Do I Really Need Insurance For MY Personal Property?

Yes. Unless you are financially able to replace all your belongings, you should have insurance. Proper insurance coverage will protect you against the loss of your valuables in most circumstances. Landlords are legally responsible for such losses only under very specific, limited circumstances that may be very difficult to prove in court.

If you are a resident-relative of your parents, your personal property may be insured through their homeowner's policy. Have your parents confirm the coverage in writing with their insurance agent.

If coverage is not available through your parents' homeowner's policy, you may be able to purchase renter's insurance. Even with insurance, there are certain precautions you should always take. Always lock your apartment securely even if you are only going next door. Never leave jewelry, cameras, cash, checkbooks, credit cards, electronics, or other valuables in plain view.

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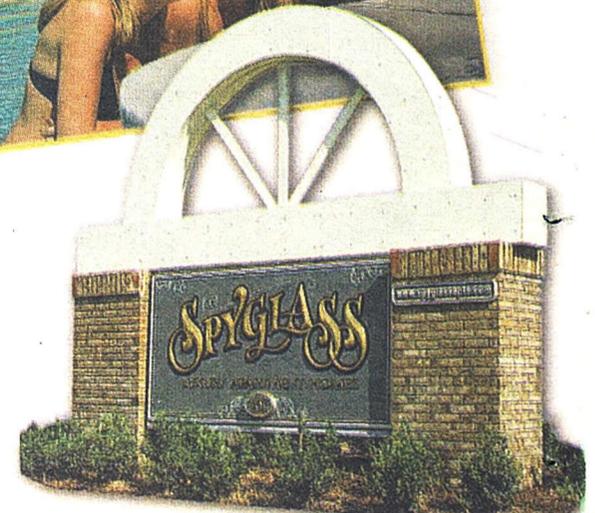
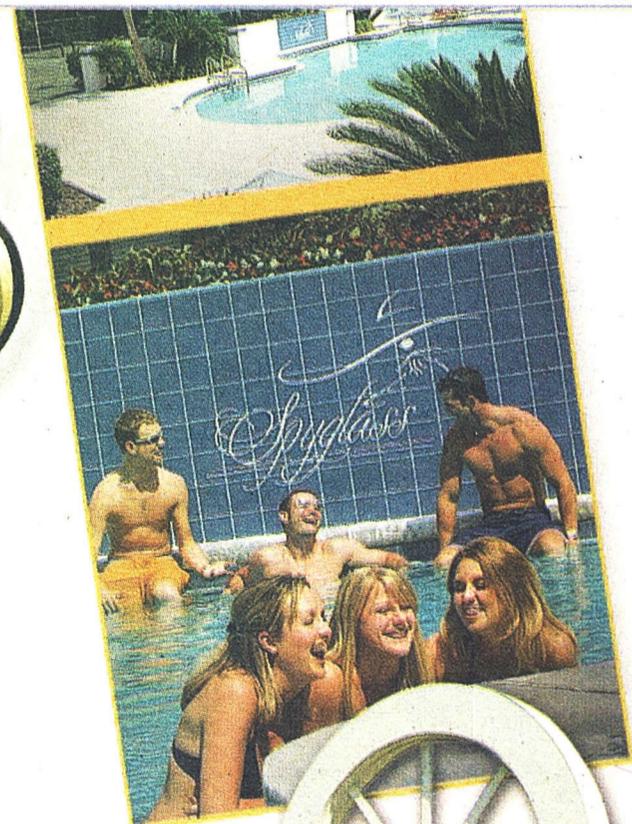
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GETTING ALONG

My Landlord Refuses to Make Repairs, What Can I Do?

You **MAY** be able either to withhold your rent or terminate your lease if the problem constitutes a material breach of the lease or the Act. You must follow the exact requirements of the Act.

You must give the landlord a written notice demanding the repairs be made in seven days. The notice must indicate to terminate the lease or withhold rent if the repairs are not made.

This is a complicated process and the legal consequences are very serious. Do not attempt to terminate your lease or withhold rent without first obtaining legal advice.

Can I Deduct Repair Costs From My Rent?

No. The Act does not authorize you to make repairs or to recover the cost of such repairs. In fact, most apartment leases prohibit repairs by tenants. When the landlord refuses to make repairs, the Act gives you a qualified right to terminate the lease or withhold rent. As previously indicated, you should consult an attorney before attempting to terminate the lease or withhold rent.

Can I use My Security Deposit for the Last Month's Rent?

No. Landlords can legally evict you for non-payment of rent even when your "security deposit" is equal to your last month's rent. The

purpose of the security deposit is to protect the landlord against damages to the apartment.

Does the Law Require Interest Payments on Security Deposits?

Landlords must hold security deposits in one of three methods. Two methods of holding the deposits require interest to be paid. The method which does not require interest payment is the one most landlords use. The landlord is required to inform you in writing how your deposit is being held, where it is held, and whether you will receive interest.

What Can I Do If My Landlord Doesn't Return My Deposit?

A landlord shall have 15 days after termination

of the lease to return the security deposit together with interest if otherwise required, if he or she does not intend to impose a claim on the security deposit. If the landlord intends to impose a claim in the security deposit, he or she shall have 30 days to give the tenant written notice by certified mail, stating how much is going to be deducted and why. You must object to the deduction in writing within 15 days from the date you receive the notice, or the landlord will be authorized to deduct his or her claim from your security deposit.

If the landlord fails to give the required notice within the 30-day period, he or she forfeits the right to impose a claim upon the security deposit.

However, if you damaged the apartment, the landlord can sue you even when the 30-day notice is not given. Because the landlord can also get court costs and attorney's fees, you should consult an attorney before filing any lawsuits.

GETTING IT BACK

What Steps Can I Take To Protect My Security Deposit?

When you take occupancy of the apartment, complete a thorough written inventory of the apartment's condition and have the landlord or an impartial witness sign the inventory. Make sure you keep a copy of the inventory. This helps protect you from the landlord claiming you caused pre-existing damage.

When you move out, clean the apartment completely and thoroughly. Some landlords provide a checklist outlining the cleaning they expect you to do. Keep all your receipts for cleaning supplies and

professional carpet cleaning as evidence.

Before you leave, ask the landlord to inspect the apartment with you. Complete a move-out checklist and make sure the landlord signs and dates it. Use an impartial witness if the landlord is not available or refuses your request. Move-in and move-out photographs or videotape are strongly recommended in case there is a dispute.

What Can I Do About Noisy Neighbors?

Try to reason with the neighbor to reach an acceptable compromise. Thin walls and conflicting schedules make some amount of noise disturbance an unavoidable reality of apartment living.

Ask the landlord for assistance. If the landlord refuses to correct the problem, you may be able to break your lease. Because the law in this area is so poorly developed, legal representation is a necessity.

In extreme cases, call the police and report the matter. Unfortunately, this can lead to revenge and reprisals.

I Can't Stand My Roommate. What Can I Do?

Discuss the matter with your roommate immediately. Don't ignore the problem with the

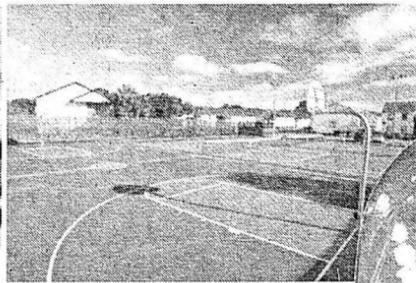
hope that it will go away. A little give and take may result in a livable compromise.

Under the Act, your landlord is not responsible for most roommate disputes. If your roommate is violating the lease, you should consult an attorney.

Can My Rent Be Increased During My Lease Term?

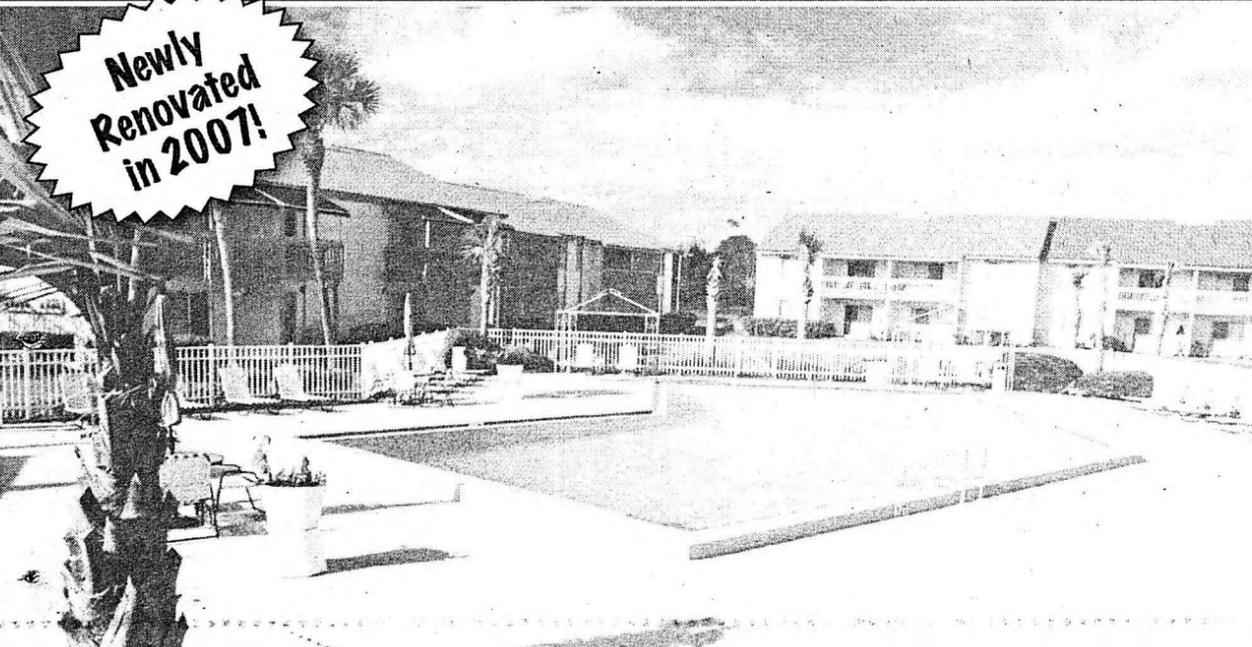
Not unless the lease contains a specific provision allowing for a rent increase. From the tenant's perspective, one of the primary reasons for having a written lease is to lock in the rent for the rental period. Normally, you should not sign a lease providing for a rent increase.

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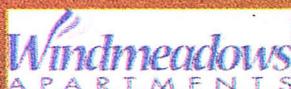
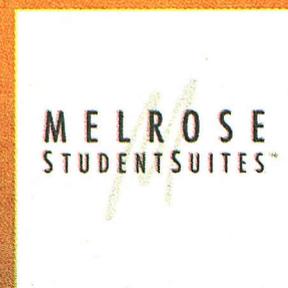
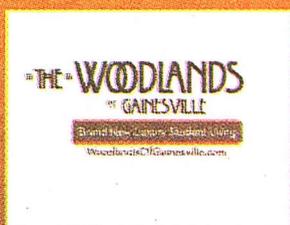
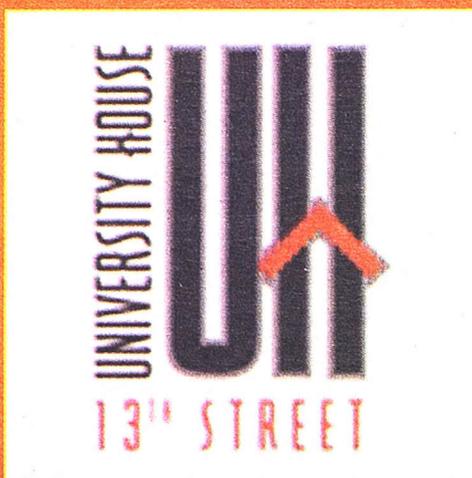
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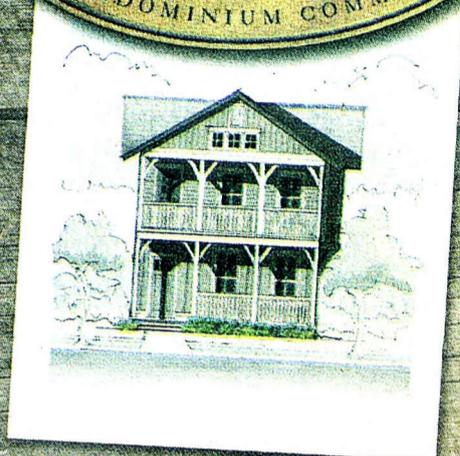


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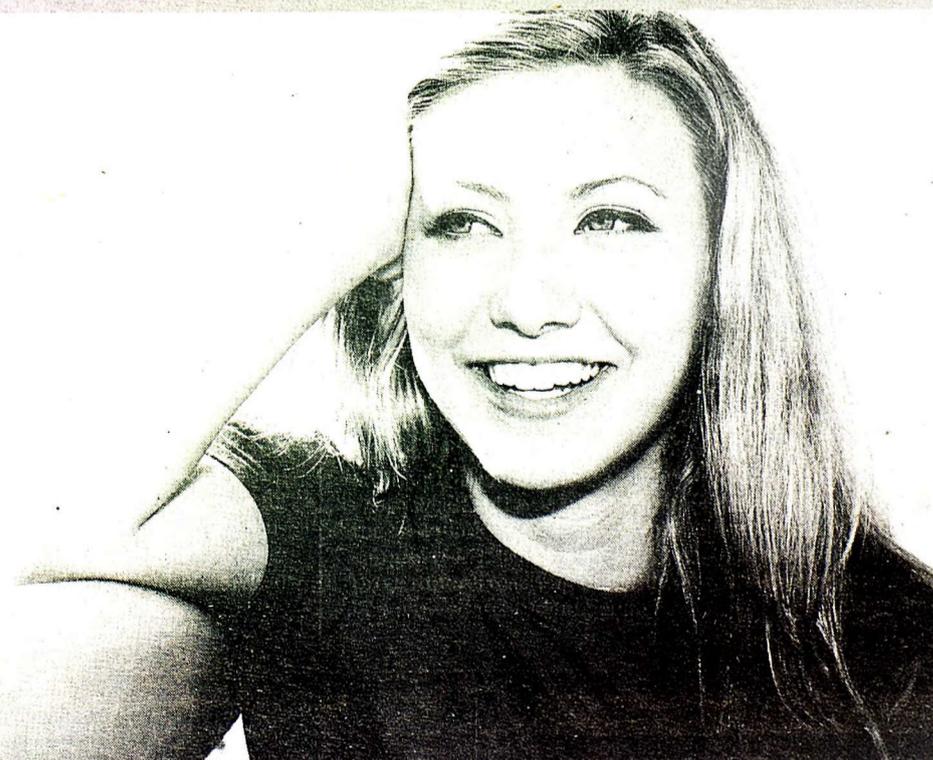
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GETTING IT BACK

Can My Landlord Enter My Apartment Without Notice?

No. Unless there is an emergency or you have abandoned your apartment, the landlord must provide reasonable notice and obtain your consent prior to entering your apartment.

You cannot unreasonably withhold consent. If the landlord persists in entering without notice or consent, contact an attorney.

How Soon Must I Renew My Lease?

There is no time period established by the Act. You should not sign a lease that provides for automatic renewals of requires you to give the landlord a notice of nonrenewal. If you do sign such a lease, you must strictly comply with the notice requirements imposed by the lease.

If the lease does not specify otherwise, renewals are a matter of general contract law. The landlord cannot force you to renew prior to the end of your lease. However, if you do not renew by the landlord's "deadline," the landlord may rent your apartment to someone else.

Can I Break My Lease Because...

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| I am graduating? | No! |
| My roommate left? | No! |
| I cannot afford the rent? | No! |
| I need to work this summer? | No! |
| The neighborhood is unsafe? | No! |

Under the Act, you can only terminate the lease if the landlord is materially violating your lease or the Act. You should obtain legal advice before attempting to terminate your lease. In many cases, the best thing you can do is find replacement tenants.

Can I Sublet My Apartment?

Usually. The landlord cannot unreasonably withhold consent to an assignment or sublease. The landlord may require potential replacement tenants to submit an application including a credit check. The landlord may also charge a reasonable sublet fee even when you provide the replacement tenants. Normally you remain liable under your lease if the replacement tenants do not pay rent or damage the apartment. Some landlords

GETTING OUT

will release you from the obligations of your lease. If you are being released, get it in writing.

Can I Just Move Out and Forfeit My Security Deposit?

No. Some tenants will walk out on a

lease and receive no adverse action, while others will be pursued to the fullest extent of the law. In Gainesville's current rental market, the odds are that you will be sued unless you supply acceptable replacement tenants.

Your losses in court will not be limited to your security deposit, but will include rent for each month the apartment remains vacant during the term of your lease, plus court costs and the landlord's attorney's fees.



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Now leasing for
Fall 2008
Ask about our
construction
guarantee.

Taking student living to a whole new level.

This is how college life should be--freedom, comfort and lots of friends living, learning and socializing together. You deserve the best possible college experience. Living in a University House off-campus apartment is a great way to make it happen.

1, 2, 3 & 4 bedroom plans available	Individual leases w/utilities included	Garage parking deck & elevators	State-of-the-art Fitness Center	Controlled key-card access	
Six blocks from UF campus	Stand-up tanning	Fully Furnished	Resort style pool & courtyard	Multi Media Clubroom	



UNIVERSITY HOUSE



13TH STREET

Temporary leasing office located at NW 13th St. and 5th Ave.

www.universityhouse.com





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2 YEARS IN THE MAKING.
\$100 MILLION DOLLAR COMMUNITY.
1 GREAT TIME... PRICELESS.



MISS THE BEACH

Enjoy our Sand-Beach & Rock Waterfall the first day you move in!

community amenities:

Gainesville's only Pool w/ Sand Beach and Rock Waterfalls, State-of-the-art Fitness Center, HD Theater, Foosball, Ping-Pong, and Pool Tables, Sand Volleyball, Basketball Courts, Club House, Cabana Lounge, Private Study Rooms, Computer Centre, Tiki Huts with Hammocks, Bar-B-Q Grills, Picnic Tables, and all with Semester, 9, and 12 month Individual Leases.

unit amenities:

42" Plasma, Walk-in Closet, Fully furnished, Intrusion and Security Alarm, Cable TV with HBO's, Energy Efficient Washer & Dryer, Frost-free Refrigerator, Self-cleaning ovens

**BRING IN
THIS AD &
RECEIVE
\$150 OFF
YOUR FALL
LEASE!**

ONE PER LEASE

Welcome to Paradise, Welcome Home.

Cabana
BEACH

1601 SW 51st Terrace | (352) 335-2000 | www.thecabanaapartments.com

Classifieds

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2008

ALLIGATOR
www.alligator.org/classifieds

1 For Rent furnished

SICK OF SHARING A BATHROOM?
Get your own this fall!
2Br/2Ba flats, *3Br/3Ba townhms
FREE Tanning, W/D, 24hr gym
PC Lab, Gated, All Amenities, Pt Friendly
Leasing for FALL*377-2777
4-23-72-1

GET HOOKED UP!
Luxurious 3's and 4's.
Giant 2/2.5 Townhomes.
No Hassle Roommate Matching!
Get it All!--Furniture, Utilities, & Internet!
FREE Cable-HBO/Shtime, Tanning, Alarms
24 hr Fitness Center, W/D in Every Unit!
336-3838 TheLandingsUF.com
Great Bus Route 2 Miles to UF
4-23-72-1

"Live in the Moment"
Massive-Lavish 1,2&3 Beds
Pool*Hot Tub*Tanning*PC Lab*W/D
FREE Cable with HBO*Most Utilities FREE
One Month Free/Immed. Move! 372-8100
4-23-72-1

1, 2, 3, 4BR Apts.
www.ApartmentsInGainesville.com
4-23-72-1

Don't Be The Only One Out!
The FINEST in student living
2/2 & 4/4's starting @ just \$529
All inclusive, PC lab, Tan, Soccer field
3 Buses & RM Match! Going Fast!
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Roll Out of Bed & Into Class
\$469 - \$499 Gets you all this!
Fully Furnished, Free Ethernet, Free Cable
w/HBO, FREE UTILITIES, W/D,
Roommate match. 379-9300
4-23-72-1

Let's Face It
Size Does Matter!
Huge Floor plans
Huge Parties
Huge Savings
Lexington Crossing...Don't Miss Out!
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4-23-72-1

Roommate wanted-Beautiful Mill Pond
Condo 2/2 furnished, minutes from UF bus
stop right in front to UF., no smoking! \$600
month, 441 NW 48 Blvd, directly across from
Gainesville Health and Fitness. If interested
call Ashley at 305-323-9742. 1-20-7-1

Two block to UF. Furn room in 4BR condo.
Rent includes all utilities, internet, cable TV,
pool, laundry, TV & microwave. Very nice.
\$395 378-4626 2-29-08-45-1

2BLKS to UF-\$360/Mo
4Br-\$360/Rm Museum Rd-cable, internet,
water incl! Move in now or fall. 281-3551.
4-23-72-1

Windsor Park. 2BR/2BA Furnished. New
washer/dryer. Clubhouse, fitness & computer
center. Cable-Internet included. \$600/ea.
1BR ready for occupancy. Call for pets.
(305)788-5681 or Windsor515@gmail.com.
3-4-08-30-1

La mancha 914 SW 8th Ave
2 blocks two UF, cable tv,utilities,wifi internet
all incl. Laundry,security,& pool also. Rooms
rent as low as \$385 mo. 352-284-7304 2-
20-08-10-1

Windsor Park. 3BR/3BA Furnished. New
Kitchen App. Clubhouse, fitness & com-
puter center. Electric,Cable-Internet in-
cluded. \$550/ea. 1BR ready for occupancy.
(239)229-3609 or lynnintdesign@aol.com
2-27-08-15-1

1 For Rent furnished

Female roommate, own bed/bath, furnished,
new appl. w/d. Windsor Park, close to UF on
bus stop, pool, hot tub, tennis, gym, \$495,
1/3 utilities; avail now. Katie 407-361-1154
2-20-30-1

3bdm/3b nicely furnished townhouse,
Rockwood Villas \$425+elec/rm/mo. w/d,
cable, internet. On bus route.Non-smoker,
no pets. Call Caroline (321)544-4250 2-
29-10-1

NEW OXFORD TERRACE II CONDO. 3
blocks from campus, 2BR/2BA of 4BR/4BA
condo, furn. W/D, cable/internet, 1 year
lease, \$550/mo + util (954)937-8080 3-
19-08-16-1

Haile Family Home 6 bedroom 4 full baths.
Large screened in pool area. Formal living
dining room. Laundry room with washer
and dryer. Three car garage. 367-2522
rcraigs@bellsouth.net \$3200/month 2-26-
08-5-1

2 For Rent unfurnished

●QUIET, CLEAN, LOTS of GREEN SPACE.
Rustic 1BR apt. \$375/mo.
●1BR cottage \$435/mo. Call 378-9220 or
mobile 213-3901. 4-23-72-2

2 BLOCKS TO UF! WOOD FLOORS!
1 and 2 bedrooms for Fall 2008
As low as \$535/person
We love pets!
Open late! 371-7777
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★LYONS SPECIAL★
\$199 1st month's rent 377-8797
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MOVE IN TODAY OR AUGUST!
1 BR Available Now!
1's, 2's, 3's For Fall!
HUGE Floorplans! Great Rates!
Bike to UF * 335-7275
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DOWNTOWN-THE PLACE TO BE
Why only come Thursday & Saturday Nights
Now Leasing for 2/2 & 3/3 Townhouses
Luxury Living For Only \$515 per person
Pool*Washers & Dryers*Pet Friendly
Sign now! Brand New Apts! 338-0002
4-23-72-2

Apartments off SW 20th Ave. Close to
shopping, bus line and a few miles from UF.
Price range \$435 to \$550. Includes water,
sewer, garbage and pest control. Sorry no
pets allowed. Call 335-7066 Mon-Fri. 4-
23-08-72-2

WELCOME HOME!
LEASING FOR FALL!
1BR \$560 * 2BR \$619
Pets Loved * Walk/Bike to UF
Quiet * Peaceful *372-7555 4-23-08-72-2

Deluxe. Large 3, 4, 5, 6, 7BR apt/house, 60
second walk to UF. Remodeled, Old House
charm. Central AC, washer/dryer included.
Wood floors. With Parking. By Private Owner.
538-2181 lv message 4-23-08-72-2

Home Sweet Home
Huge 3 BR open NOW!
Alarm, patio, D/W, tennis, pool!
Call today! 352-376-4002
4-23-72-2

Deluxe, large one or two bedroom, 60 sec-
ond walk to UF. Wood flrs, washer dryer
included, fireplace, patio deck. Can furnish.
Short term available. Private Owner. \$595-
up. 352-538-2181. Lv msg 4-23-08-72-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

SLEEP IN
GET TO CLASS ON TIME
Close to UF!!!
Luxury 1/1, 2/2 flats & 3/3 TH
FREE cable HBO/Show & Tanning
Gated * Alarms * Pet Friendly
Oxford Manor, 377-2777
4-23-72-2

★★ ELLIE'S HOUSES ★★
Quality single family homes. Walk or bike to
UF. www.elliesshouses.com 352-215-4991 or
352-215-4990 12-6-71-2

APTS ACROSS FROM UF
Available FALL 2008
Rooms, Studios and 1/1s
From only \$589 per month!
371-0769 Collegeparkuf.com
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A SWEET DEAL
on our Luxury 1/1, 2/2 & 3/3 townhomes
FREE cable w/HBO & Showtime
All Amenities plus FREE Tanning
Gated*Alarm*Pet Friendly 335-4455
www.thelaurelsuf.com
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Right where YOU Want to BE!
HUGE 1, 2, & 3 BRS!
Pet Friendly*FREE Parking @ UF
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Up your Game! Live large!
Stunning 2/2 & 3/3 twm hms
Garages avail. Prvt Dog Park,
Tanning bed, Bus stop, Sauna
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4-23-72-2

BIVENS COVE - Leasing for Fall & NOW!
1BR-\$729, 2BR-\$453/person,
3BR-\$385/person, 4BR-\$395/person
FREE TANNING! TWO POOLS!
W/D in select units. 376-2507
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Knock Knock, Whose there?
1,2&3 Beds From \$367/bed
One Month Free - Move Now
Cable*Full W/D*Tanning*Pool
We love pets! * Call Now: 372-8100
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The Boardwalk-Leasing for Fall & Now!
1BR-\$709, 2BR-\$425/person,
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W/D in select units. FREE Tanning!
377-7401
4-23-72-2

Be the BIGGEST on the block!
2Bdrs for FALL \$839. We love ALL pets!
Pool, Gym, Park @ UF, Bball, Tennis
GREAT Specials! 352-332-7401
4-23-72-2

STUDIO APT
60 sec walk to UF. Short term avail. 1 or 2
rooms \$425 & up. Call 352-538-2181 4-23-
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Biggest Town homes in Titledown!
1600 + SQF of awesomeness!
Garages/ 10ft ceilings/ Gated
Best kept secret in Gville- For Fall!
Must see to believe, 372-0400
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Live at a Legend!
The Polos of Gainesville
will give you the best college experience
with Spacious Apartments, Three Pools
with Jacuzzis, HUGE Gym, Billiards Room,
and many more amenities! Minutes from UF,
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bus routes All at a rate that won't break
your bank! Call now for specials: 335-7656
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2 For Rent unfurnished

SIGN NOW FOR FALL!
1/1 and 2/1 Apartments
As low as \$555 per month
352-376-1248 Hiddenvillageapts.com
Laundry On Site, Pets Welcome!
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LUXURY STUDENT CRIBS
All Inclusive 3's and 4's.
GINORMOUS 2/2.5 Townhouses
Roommate Matching Available
FREE Cable, Tanning, Alarms, W/D
FREE 24 hr Fitness Center.
Furniture, Utility and Internet Packages!
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FORGET YOU HAVE ROOMMATES!
Huge 4BR townhomes w/W/D. 1662 sq.ft.
FREE gym membership and FREE cable!
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LIVE THE LIFE!
All Inclusive Ind. leases
Big 2/2s 3/3s & 4/4s
Filling fast - Lease now
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Who Would Have Thought?
HUGE & COZE 1 & 3 Beds
From \$323/bed
One Month FREE - Move Now
Call now: 372-8100* We love pets!
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BIG AND CHEAP
2/1.5 apt 1100 sq ft \$675
3/2 apt 1300 sq ft \$750
1800 NW 4th St. Over 20 houses also
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Tired of the Same Boring Apt?
Sign now for Downtown Living!
Luxury Studios, 1/1, 2/2 & 3/3s
Washer & Dryer*Pet Friendly*Alarm
www.arlingtonsquare.org 338-0002
4-23-72-2

MUSEUM WALK
Gainesville's Best Kept Secret
Leasing for Fall & NOW!
Luxury 2/2 TH & 3/3 Flats
FREE Cable, FREE Tanning, FREE Alarms
Walk to UF *379-WALK
4-23-72-2

Move-in TODAY
All inclusive studios from \$575
2bms from \$395/room
Walk to class, free parking!
Pets Welcome! 352-372-7111
4-23-08-72-2

YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT IT
NOW EXPERIENCE IT
Live the Condo lifestyle in one of our
1, 2, or 3 bdrm apts.
Open Sat 10-5/sun by appt.
Windmeadows Apartments
3700 Windmeadows Apts
(behind Butler Plaza)
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LAKWOOD VILLAS
NOW LEASING FOR AUGUST
Large 1, 2 & 3 bdrm Floor Plans;
Furniture Packages Inc. Washer/Dryer;
Workout Rm, Tennis Court; Swimming Pool,
Sauna etc. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 10-3
700 SW 62nd Blvd 877-781-8314
www.lakewoodvillas.com
04-23-08-72-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

● SPYGLASS ●
NOW LEASING FOR AUGUST
Individual Leases: Furniture Package,
Incl Washer/Dryer, FREE Hspeed Internet;
Every Unit is an End Unit
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NOW LEASING
Brand new 1, 2, & 3 bdrm
Luxury apartments
Conveniently located near
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and SFCC. For more info. Call:
888-509-4649
M-F 9-6, Sat b, Sun 1-5
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ARBOR
Ask About Our Move In Specials
1BR/1BA starting at \$655
Close to UF & Shands
2411 SW 35th Pl
866-650-8069
M-F 9-6, Sat. 10-2
4-23-08-72-2

ACROSS FROM UF!
All inclusive studios from \$575
1BRs from \$599 - Avail Fall 2008
Pets loved. Wood floors available
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Available Now & Fall
Visions South Apts.
Walk to UF. new complex 1BR \$999
2BR 2.5 BA washer/Dryer
\$1499 pets allowed
Gore-Rabell Realty 378-1387
www.gore-rabell.com 4-23-08-72-2

Your new home is here & waiting!
Fall openings for 1,2,3, & 4 BR's
HUGE BR's, alarm, patio, d/w, tennis, pool
Call 352-376-4002 or pinetreeregardens.com
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BEAUTIFUL AND LUXURIOUS
Ceramic tile, maple cabinets, TV in Kitchen
Huge Scr. Porches, W/D, Walk-in Closets
Only 1.5 miles to UF
2/2's & 3/3's Starting at \$500/per person
Hidden Lake 374-FUNN 4-23-72-2

★★CAMPUS EDGE CONDO★★
2/2 walk to class/gym. Tile floor, WD in
unit. Penthouse unit. Ample parking. \$1075.
Available fall 239-250-6149, 239-992-2449
3-24-08-22-2

LUXURY 2/2 STEPS TO UF!
LEASING FOR FALL 2008
Private baths, W/D, monitored alarm
From under \$650 per person! Pets OK
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4BR/4BA Furnished \$1099
5BR/2BA Near UF \$1095
3BR/2BA Duckpond \$995
Ask about Move-In Specials!

30 + Properties Available!
www.BosshardtPM.com
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1 Block to UF 1BR apt \$600/mo.
2BR apt. \$650/mo NW 15th Ave & 5th St.
3BR home \$975 NW 7th Ave.
Call Michael 331-2100 3-7-44-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

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 352-337-2786 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
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SORORITY ROW APTS
Brand new luxury apts w/gourmet kitchens, balconies & swings. Walk to UF classes & sororities next year! Tour today 352-376-6223. Virtual tours: www.SororityRowApts.com. 4-23-59-2

60 Apts Near UF
on 1 website: www.Trimarkproperties.com
Photos & Virtual Tours for 60 apts near UF. Studios \$615+ * 1BR \$659+ * 2BR \$829+ * 3BR \$617/br+ * 4BR \$474/br *352-376-6223 4-23-68-2

●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

**** 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

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
4-23-58-2

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 2-29-08-30-2

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. 3-24-08-40-2

Jackson Square Condominiums
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

Walk/bike to class. Summit House Condos, across the street from the VA on 16th Ave. 2/1, avail 8/1, quiet, safe, renovated, added features: micro, DW & island counter. Dep \$200/person, Rent \$900/mo 352-843-0862. 2-25-21-2

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

2 For Rent unfurnished

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

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 2-21-08-20-2

Walk to UF. May: 3bd 2bth house \$1300. 2bd 2.5 bth twn house \$1000. 2bd 1bth \$700. 1bd 1bth \$550. Studio \$400.00 Aug: 2bd 2.5 bth twn house \$1000. 2 bd 1 bth \$700. 1bd 1bth \$550. 1 yr, SD, NS, No pets. gvll32601@gmail.com or 352-870-7256. 3-28-08-40-2

Huge bedroom suite with separate sitting/study area, private home on 20 acres, private entrance. All utilities, cable, internet. \$595/mo 1602 SW Williston Rd 332-1429 Kathy 2-29-08-25-2

BRAND NEW 2/2 TH AVAILABLE NOW!
2 BLOCKS TO CAMPUS
JACKSON SQUARE!
W/D, DW, Granite! Pets welcome!
Call Today! Open late! 371-7777
4-23-08-57-2

Haile Plantation Villa 2/2 garage
\$1,100 per mo. avail. Feb. 2008
9779 SW 52 Rd. Call 305-542-4650 3-18-08-30-2

BLOCKS TO UF - Houses & Apts w/ample parking. Rent directly from owner. No dealing w/brokers or agents. Houses from \$1500/mo; apts from \$525/mo. See dalyproperties.com or call Carol 352-377-3852 2-29-08-23-2

SW GAINESVILLE
2 bed/1 baths Avail. Now!
\$575/mo. On busline,
Mins. To Shands, VA & UF.
Union Properties 352-373-7578
www.rentgainesville.com
4-23-55-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

Walk to UF from our many Locations, 1,2,3, or 4 bedrooms Behind Norman Hall or Along Univ. Ave. Don't Wait, Call Today! Union Properties 352-373-7578 www.rentgainesville.com 4-23-55-2

Union Properties of Gainesville, In. Friendly, Professional Service. Call us today so we may help you find your next home. 352-373-7578 www.rentgainesville.com 4-23-55-2

CALLING ALL GATORS!
Walk to campus from our many Properties close to UF. 1,2,3 & 4 bedrooms for FALL. Union Properties 352-373-7578 www.rentgainesville.com 4-23-55-2

WINDSOR TERRACE APTS.
3520 SW 20th Avenue
1bd/1bath \$475/mo
Bus Route, close to shops
Private courtyards
Union Properties 352-373-7578
www.rentgainesville.com
4-23-55-2

MALIBU COVE APTS.
1114 SW 7th Avenue
Spacious Loft Style
Behind Norman Hall
Union Properties 352-373-7578
www.rentgainesville.com 4-23-55-2

AVAIL AUG 1st - 5BR/2BA nice house. Large fenced yard, country setting close to town, fireplace, wood floors, wash/dry, dishwasher, game room, 1803 SW 43 Ave \$1600/mo pets ok 339-2342 for directions. 2-21-08-15-2

>>>>> Renovated 2BR/1BA, pool, walk to Shands, VA, Dental, Vet. Med, Health Sci. & heart of UF, 1700 SW 16th ct. \$750/m call 262-0444 Avail. now. 2-21-08-15-2

Move In TODAY...
Start LIVING Tomorrow!
Huge 2BR w/Patio
Located behind Butler Plaza
373-1111 * spanishtrace.org
4-23-54-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

2158 sq ft 4/3 home in NW Gville. Minutes from campus. Appl. included. Remodeled. Ceramic tile throughout, 2 car gar, deck, 1/2 acre lot, fenced. \$1,550/m. \$2,000 sec. dep. 3120 NW 31st Blvd. 352 466-0358. 3-21-30-2

2br 2ba 1 car gar Home on 1 acre. Millhopper \$875 or we do lawn \$1000. 1br 1 ba each a garden apt SW \$540 Pets ok both locations mature only. 352-377-2150 Please leave us a msg. 3-4-08-20-2

Moving/living off campus? Use UFL's improved off-campus housing service. Go to www.offcampushousing.dso.ufl.edu to find housing, roommates, and more. 4-23-48-2

2/1 Completely upgraded throughout All new kitchen stainless appliances All new bath Cable/high speed internet avail Separate laundry room 1 mile from UF, Shands, shopping \$765/mo. Sorry, no pets e-mail jglackin@yahoo.com or 727-423-9463. Bckgrd/credit check required. 2-21-08-10-2

1BR & 2BR/1BA APTS
with W/D, cent H/A/C, DW, ceramic tile, private patio, pets arranged. Off SW 34th St near bus rte. From \$689/mo 377-1633 www.lenoxcorner.com 2-29-16-2

spacious 2BR 2 1/2 BA Sparrow Condos,tower rd,near mall \$750/mo+ \$750 deposit available asap. 352.219.5603 2-22-08-10-2

COTTAGE GROVE
2, 3, 4 br. Upscale condos for rent
Sign a lease by Feb 29th
& receive a \$500 signing bonus.
Visit our website:
www.cottagegroveatgainesville.com
352-373-7959
4-23-47-2

Raise Your Standards
Why settle for less than you deserve?
FREE Utilities, FREE Cable, FREE Internet
Luxury 2s & 4s starting at just \$499
RM Match & 1 Mi from UF - 271-3131
4-23-47-2

Creek Forest, NW 1br minutes from shopping, downtown \$ UF, central air/heat, back deck, w/d hookup, includes some utilities, \$500/mo. www.edbaurmanagement.com 1731 NW 6th St. - 375-7104 x 113 4-23-47-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

Whispering Pines, brand new units convenient to hospitals and vet school, 2br/2ba, fully equipped kitchen, icemaker, washer and dryer, monitored alarm system, \$1000/mo, now renting for summer/fall semesters, ask about our specials! www.edbaurmanagement.com 1731 NW 6th St. 375-7104 x113 4-23-47-2

Amazing 2-2 condo in The Links @ Haile Plantation. Freshly painted, New Fixtures, PC Room, Storage Space & Screened porch w/stunning view, W/D incl. 870-8210 2-25-08-10-2

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Escape complex living at Palm Villas Apt. Luxury Apartments targeting grad students and young professionals. Very quiet, yet convenient to shopping. On RTS Bus Route #12. See web page for photos and floor plans. www.bellaproperties.net or 352-335-5424 3-7-08-18-2

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●1BR Huge close to UF/SFCC, flex lease, water incl. \$400/mo.
Both off NW 6th St. Call 352-318-8822 2-22-8-2

4/2 house avail Fall'08. Spacious house with fenced in back yard. Pets welcome. Quite neighborhood. Mins to campus. Bus route. \$1100 a month. Avail August 6! 5402 NW 25th PL. Call April 352-514-1441 2-28-08-11-2

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\$580 plus sec. All painted, new kit counters, new frig, 10 min. from both malls and town. SW off 20th Ave. Central H/AC, energy saving windows, semi enclosed back yard, picnic table. Call Mr. Kristoff 332-5030 2-22-5-2

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www.gore-rabell.com
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3035 W. University Ave (House with kegraid, bar, 64 inch DLP), right next to the university/ checkers/ publix. Starting March 1st through the end of July Rent \$475, and utilities are \$90. Call 352-262-8786 (Lance) 2-22-5-2

Room for sublease in 3/3 apt @ Spyglass Apts by oaks mall. \$480 per month, includes utilities/cable tv/internet. No deposit and pets OK. Looking for March - July, call 386-344-6543 if interested. 2-29-08-10-2

4/2 Family Home in Duckpond
Wood floors, new kitchen, big fenced yard. \$1350. Jeffrey 352-246-5801 3-7-08-15-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

\$599 Studio apartment. All utilities excluding cable and internet included in the price. FEB rent is free! Located right across the street from UF. Pets allowed. Call 904-673-9798 or email hellcat@ufl.edu for more info. 2-21-08-4-2

2BR/1BA Spacious, new carpet, cent H/AC, W/D hk up. \$650/mo. \$500 sec dep. 7210 SW 45th Pl, Gainesville
Call 386-462-0994 2-29-08-10-2

\$200/mo Available 3/1. Summit House. Large 2BR/1BA. Call cell 1-480-790-4528 2-22-08-5-2

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2 & 3 bd houses for Aug in quiet areas. Cute, clean, cent H/AC, WD, wood floors, nice yards, bike to UF, \$690 to \$1200. 352-336-6116 or email nancy@10houses.com 3-18-08-16-2

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NE 10th St. W/D hk-ups. Hardwood, fans, large backyard, excellent condition, \$900/mo No Dogs 373-3736 No Section 8. 3-3-10-2

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2 For Rent unfurnished

Spacious and Affordable 4BR/3BA House. Located near campus on Archer Rd across from bus route and Best Buy. \$900/mo. 352-281-0099 3-18-15-2

3 Subleases

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Quiet house on 17th St behind Swamp! Huge pvt BR. 3 min walk to UF! Hi-spnd internet, cable tv, W/D, wood floor, fireplace! Females only. Negotiable rent! Call Prissy @ 386-688-3071 or pnelson@alligator.org 2-25-08-20-3

FREE TO MOVE IN! FEB. RENT PAID! 1/1 in a furnished 3/3 @ the Polos. Male roommate needed. Homemade Kegerator always on tap, washer/dryer inside, 3 pools/hot tubs, gym, bball court. \$392/mo. (239) 826-2914 2-25-15-3

SUBLEASE Madison Pointe 1BR 1 BA Apt. with W/D, dishwasher, & screen porch. Pool, exercise room, sauna tennis, Bball court, security guard on-site. \$795/mo. + utilities. Available April or May 1st-July 31st. Call Jen 651-263-5195 4-1-30-3

1bd/1br in the polo's, fireplace, vaulted ceilings, washer and dryer included, walk-in closet, Great Amenities, Great Location AVAILABLE NOW! \$730/mon. Call Kerri 561-306-6871 4-4-08-30-3

Apr/May-Aug. sublease. 1 room in a 2/1 apt @ Univ. Commons. Rent paid thru May, \$489/mo, negotiable. Bldg next to pool. Furnished, W/D, DW, balcony. 2nd room also avail. Call Sarah 704-299-6451 3-4-08-10-3

4 Roommates

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

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 2-29-08-43-4

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

● \$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 3-28-08-40-4

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. 2-21-08-21-4

4 Roommates

1BR/1BA Available Now
in 4BR/4BA at Countryside. Females only. \$400/mo includes everything. Short term lease avail. 727-510-9346 or 727-542-8155 2-27-25-4

Quiet Nw neighborhood near UF \$375-\$475 3Br/2Ba house, large 2 car garage, Washer/Dryer, fenced backyard, screened porch. Bus route 8 & 29
352-214-9548 or ern009@hotmail.com 3-3-08-22-4

Room for rent 2/2 Brandywine - Old Archer. Furnished, big screen TV. Short or long term OK. Call Shane 941-932-1189 \$390 + 1/2 util. 2-29-20-4

SW Gainesville 4 bed 2 bath house. 2 rooms for rent \$450/\$425 Includes all util. cable and wireless. Five min. from campus. 352-339-1781 2-25-08-15-4

1 bed/bath in a 3/2 house. Mins. from campus. Only have 1 other roommate! Only \$300/month + 1/2 utilities. Avail Aug 6th. Prefer Female Grad Student or older. Call April at 352-514-1441. 3331 NW 30th PL 2-28-08-17-4

Female grad/professional for furnished 3/1 vintage home. Downtown, bike to UF.
\$495 inc. utils, cable, phone, housekeeping. Kayla 328-7474. 2-20-08-10-4

1BR in 3BR/2BA home
in NW. Quiet student or professional. \$500/mo + 1/2 utils. Call 443-845-4294 2-20-08-10-4

ENJOY A ROMANTIC OLD HOUSE
Near library downtown. \$285-\$370/rm + utils. Short term. No pets. No smoking. 378-1304 2-22-10-4

1 bdrm/pvt bath - NE GVL home. Prefer Grad Student/Prof. Many amenities. 15 min drive to UF. No Pets. \$300/mo + 1/2 util. 1st, last \$200 Security Home: 375-5377 Cell: 352-871-2472 Work: 373-6066 ask for Sue 2-21-08-5-4

\$275 or \$300/month for female student(s) to join a female UF student in sharing attractive 3BR house near NW 8th Ave, less than 3mi. from UF and on bus rte. #43, tile/hardwood, large yard, \$275/mo for smaller BR and \$300/mo for larger BR, + 1/3 GRU & Cable HInternet-TV, call 332-3852. 3-31-08-30-4

One room for rent in a 3 bedroom house just one block from UF. All students. Comfortable. Central air. Living room, dining room. Low rent. Share utilities. Call Brian 352-871-0415 2-25-08-5-4

\$410-1 BR for rent in 3BR condo in MARCHWOOD. Live with 2 male students, near archer, bus routes, mall. Call 352-514-4124. 2-21-5-4

Roommate to live with two females in 3/1 house on 9th Ave one mile from campus. 367+ util and cable. Backyard, garage, W/D, wood floors. Avail Aug 1 (or May if needed). 352.317.4849. 2-29-10-4

Roommate needed ASAP
2BR/1BA house at 1012 NE 1st Ave.
\$375/month + utilities
Dog friendly huge backyard
contact Jeff (850)777-0970 2-22-10-4

Male roomie needed. Share furn 3BR/2BA house w/ynp prof \$400/mo + 1/2 util Directv, ph, wireless, Vonage, elec. W/D, office space pvt BA (morn) lg yd fenced, pets ok, trees, wooddeck, hottub, pond. 15 min drive to UF, near bus, Lakeview Ests 352-682-6297 Ken 3-7-15-4

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NS Male to share a 2br 1.5 ba condo near UF. \$500 mo plus \$200 deposit. Includes all utilities, cable, internet with washer, dryer and pool. No Lease. (352) 373-8712 or send e-mail to Pacomanauf@aol.com 2-26-5-4

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2/1 condo, walking/biking distance to UF, VA, Vet School, Summit House on SW 16th Ave. \$135,999. Call 352-843-0862 See photos and description at forsalebyowner.com, listing #20885030 3-5-30-5

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4BR/4BA LUXURY CONDO-NR SORORITY ROW-BLT AUG 05 \$275K INCL ALL APPL AVAILABLE SUMMER 2008 ELEVATOR ON PREMISE 2-28-11-5

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6 Furnishings

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



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6 Furnishings

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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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Mattress & Box. All new still boxed. Cost \$1500, sacrifice \$450 352-333-7516.

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

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

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

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

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

Bed- All New King! 3pc Orthopedic pillowtop
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BEDROOM SET- \$300 BRAND NEW
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12 Autos

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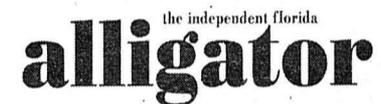
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Werner hopes new 'do will help break shooting slump

By **DANNY KLEIN**

Alligator Staff Writer
dklein@alligator.org

When things go bad, just go bald.

If you missed Saturday's game against Vanderbilt, ready yourself for a Dan Werner you haven't seen before.

Looking to reverse his poor shooting, Werner decided to go bald in hopes that removing his hair would rid him of his troubles.

"I had to change something," Werner said. "So I started with my hair."

The new 'do didn't help.

Against the Commodores, Werner shot just 4 of 11 from the field, including 1 of 6 from 3-point range. He is shooting just 26.1 percent from beyond the arc this season.

Werner admitted after the game his plan didn't work. Unfortunately, his bag of tricks has run out.

"That was plan A," he said. "I don't have a plan B."

Werner's decision to go smooth came as a surprise to his teammates.

Freshman Chandler Parsons was rooming with him at the time

and was surprised when he saw the transformation.

"He came out of the bathroom and I said, 'Oh my gosh,'" Parsons said. "I was just like, 'Wow, what did you do? Hopefully, you got some money for that.'"

"He came out of the bathroom and I said, 'Oh my gosh.' I was just like, 'Wow, what did you do? Hopefully, you got some money for that.'"

Chandler Parsons
UF freshman forward

Parsons said Werner used a "Con Air"-like hair trimmer to initially cut his hair before putting shaving cream on his head and using a disposable razor to finish the job.

"Coach has been talking about change and how we need to change," Parsons said. "That guy took change to another level."

The rest of Werner's teammates had trouble holding back their laughter.

At first, guard Nick Calathes said



UF forward Dan Werner grabs a rebound in front of Vanderbilt's Darshawn McClellan during the Gators' 61-58 loss in Nashville, Tenn., on Saturday.

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 31

Fans should've seen this coming

All of a sudden, there is a panic spreading throughout Gator Nation, and I just don't get it.

Sure, the Gators have just lost four of five games and are in danger of missing the NCAA Tournament. But did nobody see this coming, uh, I don't know, like nine months ago?

When UF's top six players all left Gainesville last summer, did anyone really believe a group of freshmen and former benchwarmers were going to be an immediate rock-solid lock to be headed back to the field of 65?

Or maybe your encouragement stems from the Gators' performance in the non-conference schedule, a slate featuring only one team (Ohio State) who will even bother watching the tournament selection show, and the Buckeyes are basically a bubble team as it stands now. The Gators were pummeled in Columbus, and they were blown out at home by Florida State, which is in 11th place out of 12 teams in



Bryan Jones
Bryan Out Loud
bjones@alligator.org

the Atlantic Coast Conference.

I know they can only play the teams on their schedule, but just for kicks, go ahead and look at the teams the Gators have played and

their records and try to decide what UF's best non-conference win was.

So why did it take a string of bad losses in conference play to finally trigger those doubts about the Big Dance?

Perhaps Billy Donovan leading the team in a rendition of the NIT Shuffle would've helped?

Look, the Gators have an abundance of talent and are an excellent offensive team, but they've overcome a lot just to get to the point they're at. They have no depth in

SEE BRYAN, PAGE 31

UF SOFTBALL

Junior follows dad's legacy

By **KYLE MAISTRI**

Alligator Writer
kmaistri@alligator.org

Like father, like daughter.

At least that's how the saying goes for UF junior first baseman Ali Gardiner.

Gardiner's father, Wally, pitched for the Gators from 1970-73 and has had a big influence on her career.

"When I was little, he was the main reason I started playing the sport," said Gardiner, who also played volleyball and basketball at John Jay High School in Cross River, N.Y.

Gardiner said it was her dad's baseball background — he played in the Chicago White Sox system after college — that helped prepare her for playing Division I softball. Wally warned her that it would be tough and that there would be times when she would want to quit, but he assured her that in the end it would all be worth it.

Learning a strong work ethic helped prepare Gardiner for the years of time-consuming practice that were ahead of her.

"My pitching coach was an hour and a

half away in Connecticut, and my hitting coach, who I still work with, was a half-hour away, so it was a lot of driving," she said.

In addition to receiving instruction on all parts of her game, Gardiner took travel ball to a whole new meaning.

"I played on a travel team out of Virginia, so every weekend my dad and I would drive five and a half hours to D.C. and back."

Gardiner, who will lead No. 7 UF against Hofstra on Wednesday, said the team from Virginia, which she played on with a friend from New York, was a nationally competitive team — a far cry from the girls athletics programs near her hometown.

Where Gardiner was from, girls weren't even thinking about playing college sports until the end of their high school careers,

SEE SOFT, PAGE 30



Gardiner

ON TELEVISION

■ **Men's basketball:**

No. 3 North Carolina vs. N.C. State
ESPN, 7 p.m.

■ **NBA:**

LA Lakers vs. Phoenix
ESPN, 9 p.m.

FORMER GATORS

■ **NBA:** Minnesota recalled rookie forward Chris Richard from the NBDL's Sioux Falls Skyforce on Monday, according to a Timberwolves press release. Richard averaged 10.2 points and 11.5 rebounds with the Skyforce.

I DID NOT KNOW THAT

■ UF sophomore Amanda Castillo earned Southeastern Conference Gymnast of the Week honors Tuesday. Castillo won her first all-around title of the season Friday. Junior Carlos Phillips also earned SEC Male Runner of the Week.

SCOREBOARD

Men's basketball:

(14) Purdue	68
(15) Indiana	77
NBA:	
Orlando	103
Detroit	85

UF SWIMMING

Gators ready for SEC Championships

By **EUGENIO TORRENS**
Alligator Writer

Natalie Pike captured it perfectly.

"This is the one that counts," she said. "This is the big one."

Pike and the UF swimming and diving team begin the 2008 Southeastern Conference Championships in Tuscaloosa, Ala., on Thursday.

Altogether, 42 UF swimmers and divers made the trip to Alabama, with the men (3-2 SEC) bringing 20 swimmers and the women (5-1 SEC) taking 18 swimmers and four divers. While the teams have winning records, they know the SEC Championships is a different monster than dual meets.

"You want to go there and, hopefully, step it up a notch and actually perform to a higher level than you have in any of the dual meets all year," said diving coach Donnie Craine.

Pike added: "Well, it kind of creeps up on you real fast, but on the other hand, it is what we prepare for all year long."

The SEC Championships is one of the last chances for swimmers to qualify for the NCAA Championships in March. That will just be another thing on swimmers' minds as they compete against other top-ranked schools, including Georgia (No. 1 women's team) and defending national champion Auburn, as well as dealing with the exhaustion a four-day marathon meet brings.

"It's pretty grueling, but we've all been through it, and

everyone, not just us, every single team's been through the same thing. Everyone's feeling as tired as you are," Pike said.

Swimming coach Gregg Troy added: "We tend to get better as we go through the meet, and our best events are at the end of the meet. I think it's real key for us to stay in the meet, because the last day is our big day."

Troy is firm in his belief that he's made the right decision as to who will be swimming this week. He believes the women's team will have its best shot in the backstroke events and the mid-distance freestyle events. The diving will also come in handy for points.

The men's team, which Troy believes is better suited for a championships-style meet than a dual meet, will rely upon the individual medleys and distance freestyle events.

"The men's team has some guys that are a little higher-profile," Troy said.

The meet may bring flashes of déjà vu, as the Gators have seen every SEC team in swimming action and every team except Alabama and South Carolina on the diving boards.

"You have to know before you step up on the block whether you know you can beat the person next to you or not and that's just what it comes down to," Pike said.

Freshman diver Monica Dodson added: "You never know what other teams are going to bring to the plate. You just have to be prepared for ev-

erything, but I think with what we have seen, we have a good chance of doing well."

Dodson, along with divers Jeana Bartell and Sarah Ellerby, will be making their first appearances at the SEC Championships.

"I actually got to watch the

SEC meet my freshman year because it was here, and it was a really exciting meet to watch," Ellerby said. "It's sort of bitter-sweet to be in my last year and be going (for the first time), but I'm really excited that I made the team."



Casey Brooke Lawson / Alligator

UF swim coach Gregg Troy is looking for his first Southeastern Conference team title since 2002.

Gardiner's bat boosts UF lineup

SOFT, from page 29

which she said was far too late to actually succeed.

"In eighth grade, I knew I wanted to play softball in college," she said.

Gardiner achieved her goal when she signed to play softball with North Carolina-Wilmington.

"When I went to college, I wanted to be able to play first, hit and pitch," she said.

But after her freshman season, Gardiner, who admitted she wasn't good enough to pitch at UF, decided that she was more than willing to sacrifice pitching — just like she sacrificed hours of driving — in order to come to a university where she could play a higher level of competition and win more games.

"I always had Florida at the back of my mind."

Ali Gardiner

UF junior first baseman

So she packed her things and headed south to play for the Gators.

"I always had Florida at the back of my mind," she said. "I told my coach at Wilmington if they didn't want me I would come back, so it was Florida or (no transfer at all)."

In her second season as a Gator, there is no doubt that Gardiner is plenty good enough to hit for the No. 7 team. The left-handed slugger is hitting .469 with a .585 on-base percentage. Gardiner has followed up a team-leading 40-RBI performance last year by leading the Gators in RBI this year. Each time she comes to the plate she'll try to follow a piece of advice that her dad always told her.

"See the ball. Hit the ball."

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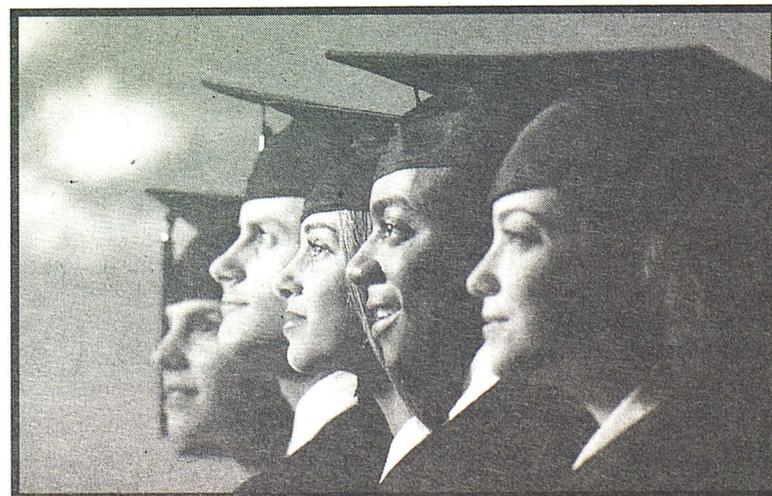
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UF WOMEN'S TENNIS

No. 6 Gators face tough test against improved Seminoles

By CHRISTOPHER YAZBEC

Alligator Writer
cyazbec@alligator.org

It had never happened before.

For 46 straight times, the No. 6 UF women's tennis team had defeated in-state rival Florida State, most of the time by a comfortable margin.

Then last season, the Seminoles pushed the Gators to the edge.

"Last year at their place, we were very injured," UF coach Roland Thornqvist said. "We played a little scared, and they had nothing to lose, you know, and they almost took us."

UF was able to sneak by FSU 4-3,

its closest decision in 24 years, and pushed its all-time win streak to 47.

Now the two teams will meet again on Wednesday at 5 p.m., this time in Gainesville, and the Gators (4-1) will be sure not to sleep on their rivals this time around.

"I think we'll approach this match a little differently this year in that we know they're dangerous," Thornqvist said. "I'm hoping that we'll be just as ready [Wednesday] night as we were Sunday (against North Carolina)."

FSU (7-0) entered last year's match ranked No. 50 and has since improved its ranking to No. 22 this season, just another sign of how far the Seminoles have come.

"This is probably the best team Florida State's had, I think, in the years that I've been coaching women," Thornqvist said. "(It's) the first year they have high-level talent all through the lineup."

"I think we'll approach this match a little differently this year in that we know they're dangerous."

Roland Thornqvist
UF women's tennis coach

UF is coming off a split weekend, falling to No. 15 Duke on Friday before throttling No. 5 North Carolina

on Sunday.

Thornqvist doesn't think it will be difficult for his team to maintain the high level of play it displayed in the 6-1 win against the Tar Heels.

"Just the mere fact that we're playing quality teams now every time out is really helping us," he said. "We definitely got better after the Friday match going into Sunday, and so I'm hoping we'll continue that just by the fact that we're playing matches now instead of practicing all the time."

UF dropped the doubles point to the Seminoles in last year's match, but doubles play has been the Gators' strong point this year.

UF has yet to lose a doubles

match in its five dual matches, including the loss to Duke.

The Gators' doubles performance on Sunday against their highest-ranked opponent thus far was one of their most assuring of the season. UF won all three courts by scores of 8-3, 8-5 and 8-3.

"We are playing well in doubles," Thornqvist said. "On each court, we're playing the style of tennis that we're supposed to play, which is very important."

Despite UF's exceptional doubles play against North Carolina, Thornqvist said there's always room for improvement.

"You're always in search for that perfect match," he said.

UF ignores thoughts of postseason

HOOPS, from page 29

he wasn't sure what to do, but then he figured there was only one thing he could.

"I had to feel it, because I didn't know what it would feel like," Calathes said. "It didn't look that bad, to be honest with you. I think it would look a lot worse on me."

How effective this stunt will be for Werner remains unknown. Yet regardless of how odd it seems, the message behind the cut is worth taking into consideration.

The Gators (19-7, 6-5 Southeastern Conference) have lost four of their last five games and are in need of a drastic change. When UF hosts South Carolina (12-12, 4-6 SEC) Wednesday at 8, the Gators will hope to right a ship that seems to be sailing farther and farther away from the NCAA Tournament.

"They're (South Carolina) a team with great balance," UF coach Billy Donovan said. "They've gotten some tremendous road victories, so this will be a great challenge for our guys."

UF has little room for error in this one.

If the Gators plan to partake in this year's

March Madness, they have to capitalize against the teams in the lower echelon of the SEC. South Carolina and Georgia — UF's next two opponents — are the bottom two squads in the SEC East and likely must-wins at this point.

The last time these two teams met, the Gators barely squeaked by the Gamecocks. UF took the road contest 73-71 and scored 8 of the game's final 12 points.

The Gators trailed by as many as 9 in the second half and 2 with just four minutes remaining.

All the expectations and pressures of this game seem to elude Donovan, who said his team remains focused on the task ahead.

For the Gators, any idea of a postseason run is hardly worth mentioning.

"I don't think that we, the team, or me as the coach need to buy into all the drama, because it comes down to, simply, we have got to win basketball games," Donovan said. "The most important game on the schedule is South Carolina right now. All our energy and focus needs to go into that."



Donovan

BRYAN, from page 29

their frontcourt and no defensive presence outside of Dan Werner, who has done a nice job playing out of position for the entire season. I know he has proven to be a good defender, but forcing Werner to guard opposing centers isn't exactly a recipe for success.

And I don't need to tell you how young this team is. I know you fondly remember the '04s for cutting down nets, but if you can reach all the way back into the deep, dark crevices of your memory to the 2004-05 season, you might recall that Joakim Noah and company didn't exactly light the basketball landscape on fire in their rookie seasons.

While Corey Brewer had a fine freshman season and Al Horford was solid as well, Noah and Taurean Green rode the bench most of the year. Without David Lee, Matt Walsh and

Anthony Roberson, it's hard to believe that team would have made the NCAA Tournament.

So why would you expect Nick Calathes and company to stroll into March like it was a foregone conclusion?

I'm guessing a lot of Gators fans carried tempered expectations early in the season but got sucked into all the hype of an empty but nonetheless impressive winning percentage and a strong start to the conference schedule.

That said, the Gators are hardly out of the tournament picture. In fact, they are right in the thick of it and are more than capable of earning a spot, assuming they can turn things around in the conference and maybe even pull an upset or two. Who knows? Maybe they'll even play a little defense.

So this is hardly the time to be panicking. You're about nine months too late for that.



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Gators answer with tourney's low round to finish fifth

■ JUNIOR WILL STRICKLER FINISHED TIED FOR SECOND AS AN INDIVIDUAL.

By **ANDY HUTCHINS**
Alligator Writer

As usual, the UF men's golf team did something unusual.

For Coach Buddy Alexander, though, it was unprecedented.

"I don't remember being low round of the day and high round of the day on consecutive days in 30

years of coaching," Alexander said.

Yet after his Gators blistered the Sawgrass Country Club course on Tuesday for an even-par 288 that vaulted them to a fifth-place finish at the John Hayt Invitational, that dubious honor was theirs.

Still, it wasn't totally unexpected — Alexander himself predicted it.

"(Tuesday) morning, I told them we shot high round of the day yesterday and that we were going to shoot low round of the day today," he chuckled. "Go figure."

That phrase sums up much of the topsy-turvy season to date.

The latest head-scratcher is juniors Will Strickler and Billy Horschel seemingly swapping games for a week.



Golf

Strickler, who played sparingly in the fall, finished tied for second, a career best, after a one-under 71 Tuesday. His two-under led all Gators golfers, but since he competed as an individual, his score was not factored into the team tally. Alexander was only mildly taken aback.

"He wiggled his way into a couple tournaments in the fall and then played in an amateur tournament in January, tied for third and caught my eye," Alexander said. "He's coming on."

Horschel failed to submit a round in red numbers during the tournament, though his even-par 72 on Tuesday brought him to a tie for 38th that he shared with freshman Bank Vongvanij, who shot a 73.

Alexander is surprised by the two-time All-American's struggles.

"I don't think there's any question that there's some concern," he

said. "So far, on the season, we're not seeing the Billy Horschel we saw the first two years here."

He's confident Horschel will return to form as UF sets its sights on conference and NCAA crowns.

"Big-timers usually step up in big situations," Alexander said.

Going forward, UF's newest visionary sees more silver linings than clouds.

"We've got a lot of horsepower, and we're capable of some pretty violent inconsistencies," Alexander said, "(but) I think we're headed in the right direction."

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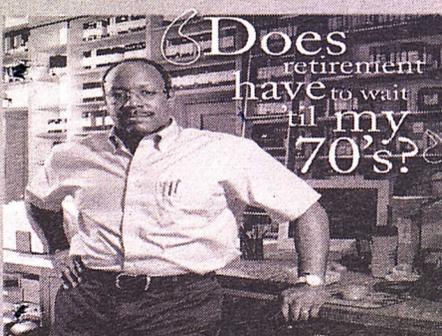
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