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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2008

'I Will Be Your President'

Sen. Barack Obama to be first black president after historic election

By **ANDREA ASUAJE**

Alligator Writer
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After months of traveling, campaigning and debating, Sen. Barack Obama of Chicago, Ill., was chosen as the 44th president of the United States on Tuesday night.

Obama has served as a senator for Illinois since 2004. He will be the country's first black president.

"I expected Barack to win," said Mark McShera, editorial chairman of UF College Democrats. "I didn't think it would be such a blowout."

To win, Obama needed to receive 270 electoral votes. He received 37 as of press time, according to 73 percent of precincts accounted for nationwide. He also took the popular vote, with a 51.3 percent win over the 47.5 percent received by Sen. John McCain.

Obama took Florida in a 51

percent win over McCain, with 93 percent of precincts accounted for. Florida, a swing state known more recently for leaning Republican, had 27 electoral votes at stake.

By press time, Alachua County had counted 122,366 votes, though not all early votes had been counted.

Obama received 59.94 percent of votes, and 38.54 percent went in support of McCain.

One group of Obama supporters celebrated the news outside Bishop's Tavern, where they held signs and sparklers and cheered at passing cars and chanted "No more Bush!" on the corner of West University Avenue and Main Street. Soon after, police broke up the crowd.

McShera said Obama's win shows the unity of a country brought together through his campaign for the last two years and the strength of the people to change the federal government.

Patrick Kavanaugh, spokesman for the Florida Campaign for Change, said Tuesday night was the culmination of a campaign full of people who love this country and want to see it change.

Kavanaugh said he attributes the campaign's success to its volunteers who worked endlessly for Obama.

"It would never have happened without them," he said.

Pam Carpenter, supervisor of elections for Alachua County, said this year's election was unprecedented in voter turnout.

More than 78 percent of the county's 156,746 registered voters cast votes in the election.

A record-breaking 53,556 voters cast their ballots early.

Political groups on campus, such as the UF College Republicans and UF College Democrats, held election-watching parties in Gainesville on Tuesday night.

As polls closed, students involved in UF Students for Barack Obama continued to call potential



Obama



Sarah Hsu / Alligator Staff

Students react to Sen. Barack Obama being elected president at the Student Government-sponsored 2008 Election Bash in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom on Tuesday night.

voters in other time zones to reach last-minute voters across the country. The group's meeting was closed to the media.

Republicans, both young and old, gathered at the Alachua County Republican Executive Committee Headquarters at 1210 N. Main Street to watch the results.

The room was filled with red, white and blue decorations, and the guests munched on salad, pasta and finger food while watching the results on a big-screen TV.

Katherine DeCesare, a McCain volunteer, and her dog, Chloe, both donned McCain-Palin shirts and stickers. DeCesare said she attended the party to support the candidates and the campaign.

She said making phone calls for the campaign and discussing McCain's view for the country was rewarding and made her feel like she was part of something bigger.

"This is my government," she

said. "This is my country."

Democrats watched results at Gator's Dockside at 3842 W. Newberry Road.

As the results projected on the screen showed victories in states for Obama, partygoers raised their glasses and cheered loudly for each of the senator's wins.

Randi Cameon, a volunteer for the Obama campaign, said she came to the results part after a long day of canvassing.

"I wanted to be with my people to see the results come in," Cameon said.

She said although she knows it will take a long time to reverse the changes to the U.S. in the last eight years, she knows it can be done.

"If Obama can govern the way he has campaigned, it will be brilliant," she said.

Meanwhile, at the Student Government Elections Bash in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom,

between 550 and 600 students gathered to wait for the results.

As students trickled in starting at 7:30 p.m., they followed ABC news updates on a big screen while ObamaBot jostled around a buffet table with pizza and other snacks.

Student Government President Kevin Reilly welcomed students, acknowledging the "incredible" turnout among young voters.

Nearing full occupancy, students stood or sat around 22 round tables decorated with red and blue balloons from Chomp the Vote, chatting, occasionally erupting into cheers when a candidate was shown on the big screen.

As votes came in, Adam Prom, UF political science junior, said he still had hope McCain would pull through despite the growing gap in Obama's favor.

"We've all known it's a long

SEE PRESIDENT, PAGE 1

Election Winners

President:

Barack Obama

Congress (District 6):

Cliff Stearns

House of Representatives

(District 23):

Charles Chestnut IV

County Commission District 1:

Mike Byerly

County Commission District 3:

Paula M. DeLaney

County Commission District 5:

Rodney Long

County Judge:

Denise Ferrero

Amendment 2:

Passed

School Board Tax:

Passed

Wild Spaces and Public Places:

Passed

Annexation:

Passed

■ UF freshman safety Will Hill (right) has become an integral part of the Gators' defense after struggling earlier in the season. He is part of a three-man rotation at safety. See Story, Page 14.

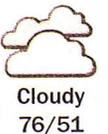


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■ For an audio slideshow of election events around the city and a photo gallery of the election night gathering in the Reitz Union, see Alligator.org.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Forgetting the Freshman 15

Today, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Reitz Union Colonnade
 The Health Affairs Cabinet of Student Government will be hosting the event "Forgetting the Freshman 15."

Sen. Bill Nelson media analysis

Today, 2 p.m.
 Pugh Hall, the Bob Graham Center for Public Service
 U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson will be in Gainesville speaking to the media. Students are welcome to attend.

Free advanced screening of "Role Models"

Today, 8 p.m.
 RUB Entertainment and Universal at UF present "Role Models" before it hits theaters.
 The behavior of two energy drink representatives (Paul Rudd and Seann William Scott) forces them to enroll in a community service program where they mentor two young boys (Christopher Mintz-Plasse, McLovin of "Superbad" fame, and Bobb'e J. Thompson).
 Advance ticket pick-up is available at the Center for Student Activities and Involvement information desk, the Reitz Union information desk and the University Box Office.

Women Empowered: the Guatemalan Experience

Today, 8:30 p.m.
 Reitz Union, room 282
 Recurso presents Ben and Guadalupe Belvins, founders of The Highland Support Project, who will be speaking about the progress made in gender equality in developing nations. Following the speakers, there will be a screening of the film "New Directions: Women of Guatemala."

Talk: "Judging the Success of Electoral Reform in Italy"

Thursday, 11:45 a.m.
 Turlington Hall, room 3312
 Sandwiches, soda, and chips provided. Sponsored by the Center for European Studies.

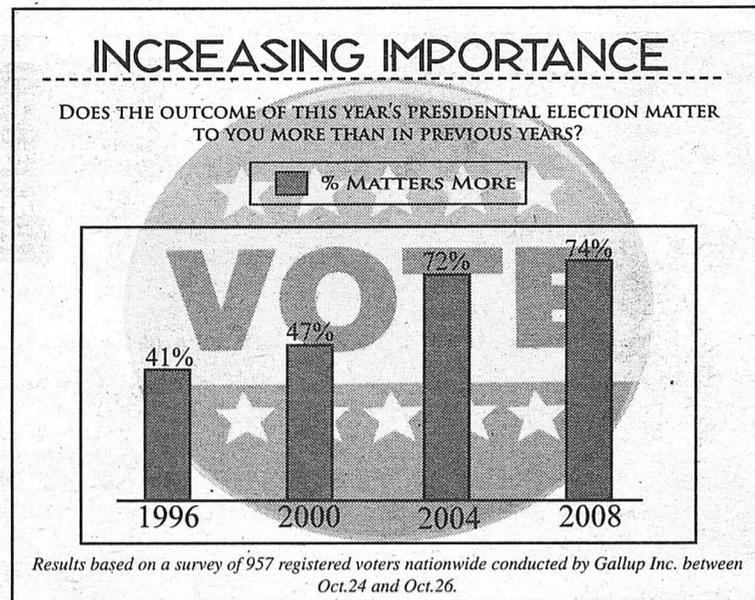
Air Force Career Day

Thursday, 2:30 p.m.
 Reitz Union Colonnade
 The Air Force ROTC will be holding a career day. There will be officers from various career fields found in the Air Force.

Miami Spice at Museum Nights

Thursday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 Harn Museum of Art
 The program will focus on the new Promises of Paradise exhibition at the Harn Museum. The exhibition highlights the

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art, architecture and culture of Miami during the 1950s. The museum is free and open to both students and the general public. Tropical refreshments will be provided.

Flight Training

Sunday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Gainesville Regional Airport
 The University Air Center will be hosting its third annual open house. It will be offering discovery flights. There will be aircraft on display and tours as well as food available throughout the day.

Like What You See?

If you have an event that you would like to see posted here, please e-mail it to hlehman@alligator.org and put "What's Happening" in the subject line. Please send announcements a maximum of one week before the event.

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78 percent of local registered voters cast ballots

No major problems at polls

By **ANDREA ASUAJE, RENEE COLE and KYLE MAISTRI**
Alligator Writers

Although some voters met with problems on Election Day, officials said long lines and faulty ballots weren't the norm around Gainesville.

Including the record-breaking 53,556 votes that were cast early, about 78 percent of Alachua County's registered voters took part in the election.

Some students who said they had registered on campus were unable to vote when precincts showed their registration to be incomplete or nonexistent.

Pam Carpenter, Alachua County Supervisor of Elections, said the students had registered with the New Voters Project by Student Public Interest Research Group, or Student PIRG.

About 10 to 12 students were required to vote on provisional ballots and will have until 5 p.m. Thursday to confirm their registrations, Carpenter said.

Poll workers at the Reitz Union reported that a lawyer from the Obama for America campaign appeared inquiring about complaints that workers were having difficulty finding proof of registration from a few students.

Other people received a text message stating incorrectly that

voting had been extended until today.

"No one was taking that original text message seriously," Carpenter said. "They pretty much knew that Election Day was today."

Still, an e-mail from Patricia Telles-Irvin, vice president of Student Affairs, was sent out to students informing them of the illegitimacy of the text message.

Steve Orlando, UF spokesman, said UF was unsure of who sent the message but felt it was important to publish a correction, particularly because it was many students' first time voting.

"We wanted to set the record straight," Orlando said.

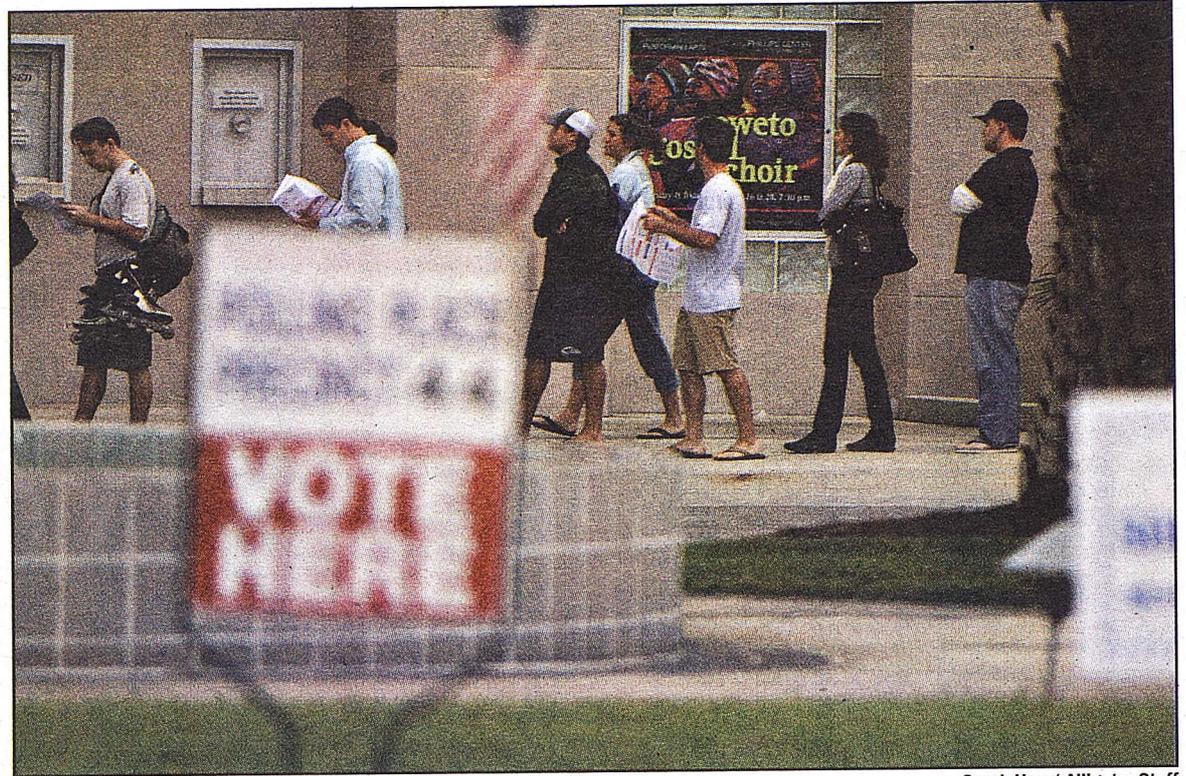
Despite the slips-ups, Carpenter said polling stations throughout Gainesville and Alachua County faced no serious problems Tuesday.

Lorin Johnson, a UF freshman who voted in the early afternoon and brought a book to read while waiting in line, said the process was quick and painless, not at all what she had expected.

With this being the first election she was eligible to vote in, Johnson felt it was important to get out and choose a candidate.

"We have the ability to vote, and we should take advantage of it," she said.

A few stragglers came rushing



Sarah Hsu / Alligator Staff

People wait in line to vote at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts shortly after the polls opened Tuesday morning.

into their polling places just before closing time at 7 p.m., said Bob Casey, a poll worker and former Florida House representative.

"The last guy came running up and I told him, 'Man, you just made it,'" Casey said. "And he said, 'Yeah, I had to run several red lights to get here.'"

Other voters got an early start.

Margaret Harris, an assistant clerk at precinct 12, said 139 ballots were cast in the first 10 minutes of voting and that people were lined up at 5:45 a.m.

Obama volunteers, who were stationed outside polling centers throughout Gainesville, also arrived early. Volunteers handed out Democratic sample ballots

and encouraged voters to select Obama as president.

Volunteer Kathi Vellinga, who was at a polling place at the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge on Southwest 16th Street at 10 a.m., said she had seen many students voting that morning.

"It's good to see the energy on both sides," Vellinga said.

SFC student dies after crash

The Santa Fe College flag was at half-mast Tuesday in memory of a student who died Saturday morning before the UF-Georgia game following a car accident in Jacksonville.

Robert McCoy, 21, was a first-year liberal arts major at SFC, spokesman Larry Keen said.

McCoy and four others were traveling home from a Halloween party at 1 a.m. in a 2002 Honda when the car was struck by a 2007 Acura, a report from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office stated.

According to the report, the Acura, which had two passengers and was driven by Tri Nguyen, was heading north on South Kernan Boulevard and crossed over into the southbound lane.

At the time of the crash, it was raining, and the road was slick and under construction, the report stated.

The Honda was being driven by UNF student Matthew Samra, 20. The other passengers in the car were UF student Hailey Zielinski, 19; Sabrina Shields, 19; and Laura Milton, 20.

According to the report, both drivers and all passengers suffered serious injuries. Shields is in the intensive care unit at Shands Jacksonville.

A memorial service for McCoy will be held today at 10 a.m. at The First United Methodist Church of Ocala at 1126 E. Silver Springs Blvd.

— KATIE EMMETS

JUDICIAL AFFAIRS

Fraternity faces investigation for hazing

UF's Tau Epsilon Phi Fraternity is under investigation by University Police for hazing.

Details of the hazing incidents were not available because the investigation is ongoing. No arrests were made as of Tuesday afternoon, said UPD Sgt. Scott Summers.

Interim Dean of Students Paige Crandall said similar allegations against TEP were made in spring, but there was not enough concrete evidence to substantiate the claims.

Chris Loschiavo, director of UF's Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Office, said the hazing allegations are among the worst he has ever seen. He said hazing charges could result in an organization's suspension or expulsion.

Loschiavo said once a report is finalized, the matter would go to the Greek Conduct Committee, which would then make a recommendation for punishment to Crandall.

The fraternity's chancellor, Adam Fischer, declined to

comment when reached by phone.

Crandall said she was disappointed by the fraternity's reported actions given the precedent of discipline used in the Pi Kappa Phi case.



Loschiavo

In summer, the Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity was suspended for four years for allegations of forcing members of its fall 2007 pledge class to do hours of physical activity and consume large amounts of alcohol.

"I guess what's disappointing and frustrating is that the Greek community, which is very close-knit, may not have heeded the results, the actions, that were taken with the other group," Crandall said.

— KATIE SANDERS

UF student could face assault charges

■ HE MAY HAVE PERFORMED SEX ACT ON ROOMMATE.

University Police arrested a UF student Tuesday on suspicion of sexual assault.

The student, a 19-year-old sophomore who lives in Springs Residential Complex, could face a first-degree felony charge after his roommate told police he woke up to find the student performing a sexual act on him in his bed without his consent, according to a UPD arrest report.

The defendant's name is not published to protect the roommate's identity.

UPD Detective Jeff Moran said the roommate came to the department on Tuesday **On Campus** to file a report about the incident, which took place at about 2:30 a.m. Monday, according to the report.

The defendant said in a Tuesday interview with Moran that he performed the act and felt like he "forced himself" on his roommate and "felt remorse for

his action," according to the report.

The arrested student was taken to the Alachua County Jail at about 2:15 p.m. Tuesday without posting bail. A jail official said he was being held overnight.

Spencer Mann, State Attorney spokesman, said if convicted, the offense is punishable by up to 30 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Paige Crandall, interim dean of students, said students found guilty of felony charges could face expulsion.

— KATIE SANDERS

Actor Kal Penn campaigns for Obama on campus

■ HE RETURNED AFTER GIVING A SPEECH IN AUGUST.

By DAVID CUMMING
Alligator Writer

Hungry Krishna lunch patrons got more than their \$4 worth when actor Kal Penn walked through the crowded line to make sure people headed to the polls.

Penn, star of the "Harold & Kumar" movies, zipped around Turlington Plaza, the Reitz Union, Pugh Hall and even a few classrooms where he passed out precinct fliers and encouraged students to cast their ballots Tuesday.

"Gainesville and the county itself is such a swing county, and it's going to be close no matter how you look at it," Penn said.

Penn, who returned to UF for a second time after his August appearance for voter registration, is a volunteer for the Obama campaign.

Although his acting takes up four to five days a week in California, Penn said he volunteered most of his weekends touring campuses around the country.

At UF, Penn stayed after 7 p.m. when the polls closed, encouraging people to stay in lines at various

voting locations. Penn called people in Colorado and Nevada, states in which polls wouldn't have closed for a few more hours.

He also helped Yes We Van! drive people to voting booths.

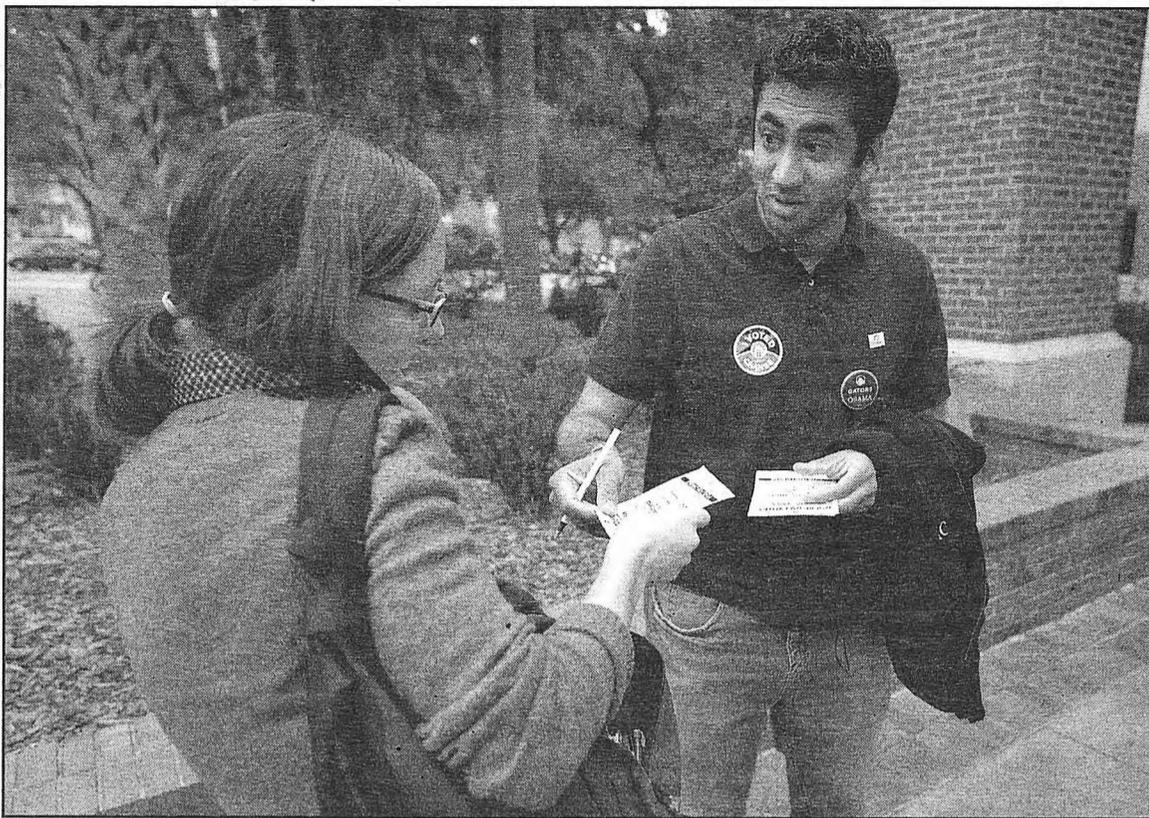
"Polls are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and that doesn't mean that a last-minute change of heart can't take place," said Jamie Mann, a UF freshman. "So it's good that he's out here all day."

Penn, an Independent, said he met a student-volunteer in Minnesota who returned from Iraq after being hit by an explosive, leaving him in a wheelchair.

"He said he's volunteering every day for the Obama campaign because, as he put it, 'I don't want anyone else to go through what I went through,'" Penn said. "They want a better solution for the direction of our country. It's the most moving thing I've ever seen in my life."

Although an Obama-Biden victory would be nice, he said, students should keep the same attitude after the elections.

"So many college students have gotten involved in a campaign of their choice," he said. "It would be a shame after today, no matter who wins, if we didn't continue to participate in the political process."



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

Actor and Obama supporter Kal Penn hands a signed information leaflet to a student talking on a phone during his walk around UF's campus on Tuesday.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Byerly, DeLaney, Long win commission re-election bids

By FAITH REAVES and
KATHRYN WATSON
Alligator Contributing Writers

Three Alachua County Commissioners will keep their seats from 2008 to 2012 after running for re-election.

Democratic incumbents Mike Byerly of District 1, Paula DeLaney of District 3 and Rodney Long of District 5 retained their positions on the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners in Tuesday's election.

A nervous crowd, dominated by Democrats, watched the results come in on the second floor of the downtown County Administration Building.

DeLaney and Byerly watched together.

DeLaney said she had butterflies as early results from rural precincts showed Republicans in the lead.

But with 86.7 percent of the precincts reporting at about 7:45 p.m., DeLaney had pulled ahead.

Byerly broke into a smile as he and Long both surpassed their opponents when early voting numbers started to come in.

"That was a tough hour," Byerly said.

By midnight, not all early votes had been counted, but numbers from the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections showed Byerly with 57.3 percent of the vote and DeLaney with 58.7 percent. Rodney Long was ahead with 54.22 percent.

Surrounded by family and friends, Long celebrated his re-election formally at the

Sweetwater Branch Inn.

"It's a historic night," he said, celebrating his victory and the results of the presidential election.

At Gainesville's Republican Headquarters on North Main Street, more than 150 candidates and supporters watched the results over food, beer and disappointment.

Candidate Lloyd W. Bailey Jr., who had run for District 3, said goodbye to fellow candidate Ward Scott, who had run for District 5, inviting him to share "tears in our beers."

A three-time candidate, Bailey, who ran against DeLaney, said he plans to run again.

"The County Commission is not my ambition, but it is my duty," he said. "I don't have an agenda. I'm a scuba instructor. I should be sitting on a boat listening to Jimmy Buffett."

In his second run for county commission, Scott said he felt that his campaign was better informed about the community's needs.

"We did our homework," he said. "We felt like we made good contact with the community."

Scott said his campaign used scientific research to better prepare for the election.

Kevin Riordan, candidate for District 1, remained optimistic until the end as he waited with a crowd at Dragonfly restaurant downtown.

The incumbent Democrats have years of experience on the County Commission.

Long, the current chairman, has been on the Commission for eight years.

He said his focus is on helping the less fortunate in his district. He also has supported the construction and growth in East Gainesville.

Long said his campaign ran smoothly, though he said negative campaign ads from his opponent did not help.

This will be Paula DeLaney's second term on the commission.

The first campaign had a completely different feel, with three major hurricanes occurring and President George W. Bush running for re-election, she said, adding that this year has had a difference in the dynamic because of that strength of influence.

She said her opponent, Bailey, has been charming and her most fun opponent so far.

DeLaney has served as Gainesville's mayor and said she has spent her years as a local politician focusing on the poverty in the community, the increasing cost of energy, criminal justice and taxes.

Byerly, a Gainesville resident for almost 30 years, has been on the commission for eight years.

He said his campaign has been similar to past campaigns, staying volunteer-oriented and being outspent by his opponent, Kevin Riordan.

Byerly said he will continue to make energy and water conservation his main issues, in addition to making investments that will counteract the declining revenues.

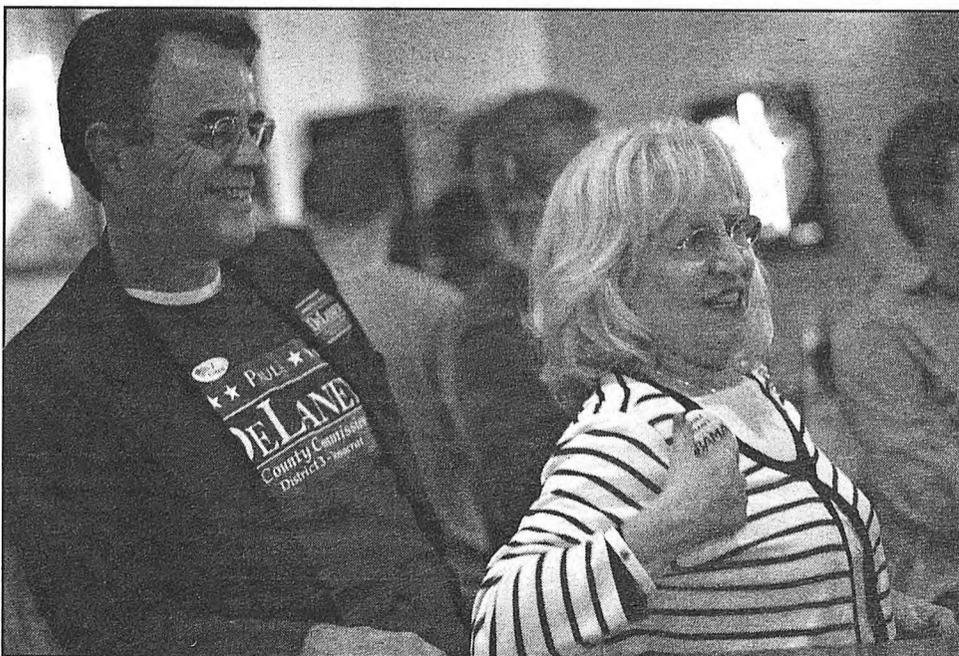
He said he appreciates the huge turnout this year and hopes it is a new trend.

Laura Bresko, a member of the Alachua County Democratic Executive Committee and the chapter president of Judy Levy National Organization for Women, said she was confident that the Democrats would win the County Commission races, saying it would be a "huge mistake" if they were to lose.

"We are truly fortunate to have such an intelligent, diligent commission," she said.

Bailey disagreed. He said it's important to keep putting conservatives in the race against liberals, even if there doesn't seem to be a chance to win.

"The county's not ready yet. But it will be. Eventually we will win," he said.

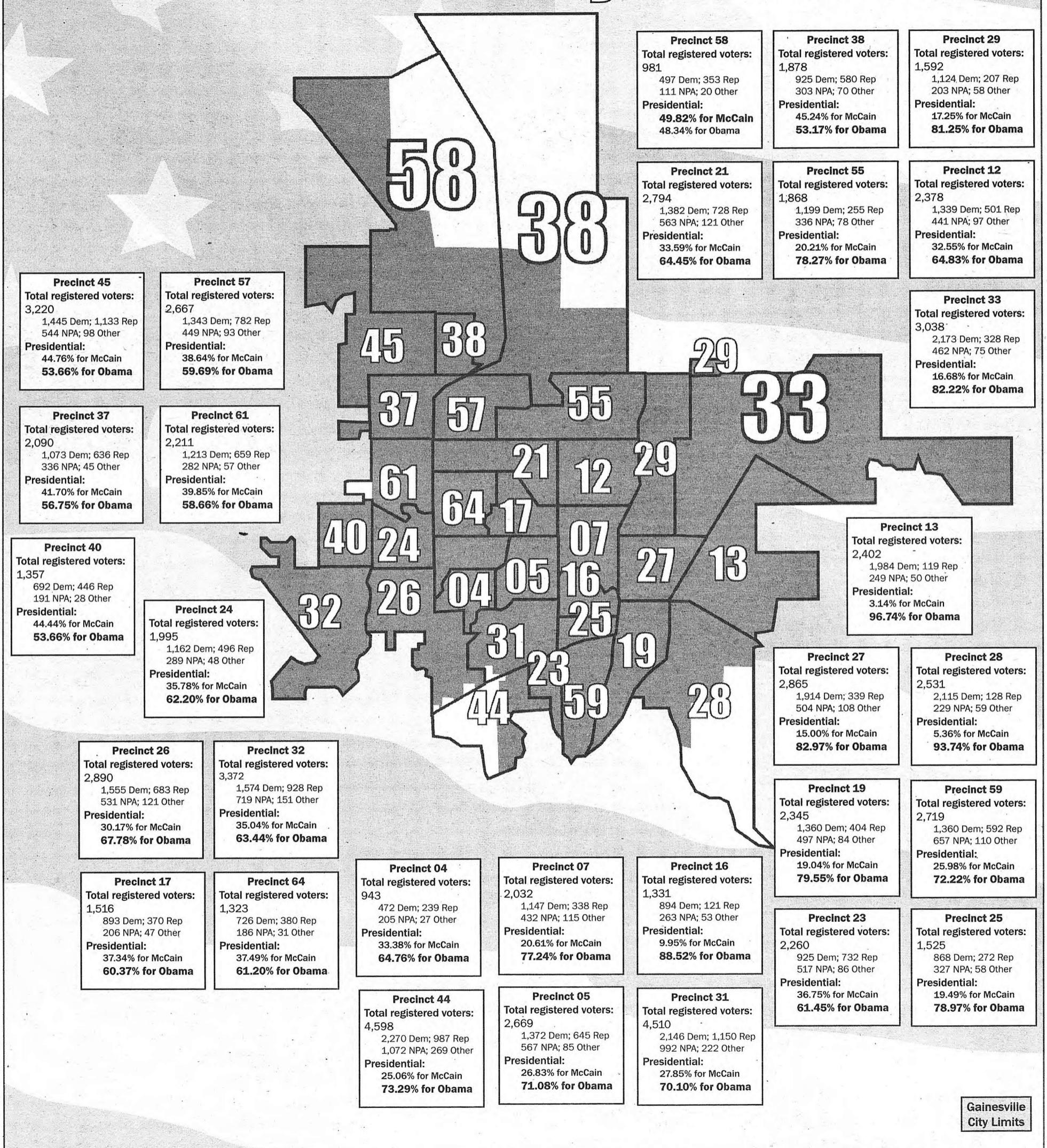


Erin Green / Alligator

Commissioner Paula DeLaney celebrates with her husband, Bruce, after the announcement of Sen. Barack Obama's win at Gator's Dockside on Tuesday night.

Gainesville Voter Breakdown

By Precinct



Precinct 45
Total registered voters: 3,220
1,445 Dem; 1,133 Rep
544 NPA; 98 Other
Presidential:
44.76% for McCain
53.66% for Obama

Precinct 57
Total registered voters: 2,667
1,343 Dem; 782 Rep
449 NPA; 93 Other
Presidential:
38.64% for McCain
59.69% for Obama

Precinct 37
Total registered voters: 2,090
1,073 Dem; 636 Rep
336 NPA; 45 Other
Presidential:
41.70% for McCain
56.75% for Obama

Precinct 61
Total registered voters: 2,211
1,213 Dem; 659 Rep
282 NPA; 57 Other
Presidential:
39.85% for McCain
58.66% for Obama

Precinct 40
Total registered voters: 1,357
692 Dem; 446 Rep
191 NPA; 28 Other
Presidential:
44.44% for McCain
53.66% for Obama

Precinct 24
Total registered voters: 1,995
1,162 Dem; 496 Rep
289 NPA; 48 Other
Presidential:
35.78% for McCain
62.20% for Obama

Precinct 26
Total registered voters: 2,890
1,555 Dem; 683 Rep
531 NPA; 121 Other
Presidential:
30.17% for McCain
67.78% for Obama

Precinct 32
Total registered voters: 3,372
1,574 Dem; 928 Rep
719 NPA; 151 Other
Presidential:
35.04% for McCain
63.44% for Obama

Precinct 17
Total registered voters: 1,516
893 Dem; 370 Rep
206 NPA; 47 Other
Presidential:
37.34% for McCain
60.37% for Obama

Precinct 64
Total registered voters: 1,323
726 Dem; 380 Rep
186 NPA; 31 Other
Presidential:
37.49% for McCain
61.20% for Obama

Precinct 04
Total registered voters: 943
472 Dem; 239 Rep
205 NPA; 27 Other
Presidential:
33.38% for McCain
64.76% for Obama

Precinct 07
Total registered voters: 2,032
1,147 Dem; 338 Rep
432 NPA; 115 Other
Presidential:
20.61% for McCain
77.24% for Obama

Precinct 16
Total registered voters: 1,331
894 Dem; 121 Rep
263 NPA; 53 Other
Presidential:
9.95% for McCain
88.52% for Obama

Precinct 44
Total registered voters: 4,598
2,270 Dem; 987 Rep
1,072 NPA; 269 Other
Presidential:
25.06% for McCain
73.29% for Obama

Precinct 05
Total registered voters: 2,669
1,372 Dem; 645 Rep
567 NPA; 85 Other
Presidential:
26.83% for McCain
71.08% for Obama

Precinct 31
Total registered voters: 4,510
2,146 Dem; 1,150 Rep
992 NPA; 222 Other
Presidential:
27.85% for McCain
70.10% for Obama

Precinct 58
Total registered voters: 981
497 Dem; 353 Rep
111 NPA; 20 Other
Presidential:
49.82% for McCain
48.34% for Obama

Precinct 38
Total registered voters: 1,878
925 Dem; 580 Rep
303 NPA; 70 Other
Presidential:
45.24% for McCain
53.17% for Obama

Precinct 29
Total registered voters: 1,592
1,124 Dem; 207 Rep
203 NPA; 58 Other
Presidential:
17.25% for McCain
81.25% for Obama

Precinct 21
Total registered voters: 2,794
1,382 Dem; 728 Rep
563 NPA; 121 Other
Presidential:
33.59% for McCain
64.45% for Obama

Precinct 55
Total registered voters: 1,868
1,199 Dem; 255 Rep
336 NPA; 78 Other
Presidential:
20.21% for McCain
78.27% for Obama

Precinct 12
Total registered voters: 2,378
1,339 Dem; 501 Rep
441 NPA; 97 Other
Presidential:
32.55% for McCain
64.83% for Obama

Precinct 33
Total registered voters: 3,038
2,173 Dem; 328 Rep
462 NPA; 75 Other
Presidential:
16.68% for McCain
82.22% for Obama

Precinct 13
Total registered voters: 2,402
1,984 Dem; 119 Rep
249 NPA; 50 Other
Presidential:
3.14% for McCain
96.74% for Obama

Precinct 27
Total registered voters: 2,865
1,914 Dem; 339 Rep
504 NPA; 108 Other
Presidential:
15.00% for McCain
82.97% for Obama

Precinct 28
Total registered voters: 2,531
2,115 Dem; 128 Rep
229 NPA; 59 Other
Presidential:
5.36% for McCain
93.74% for Obama

Precinct 19
Total registered voters: 2,345
1,360 Dem; 404 Rep
497 NPA; 84 Other
Presidential:
19.04% for McCain
79.55% for Obama

Precinct 59
Total registered voters: 2,719
1,360 Dem; 592 Rep
657 NPA; 110 Other
Presidential:
25.98% for McCain
72.22% for Obama

Precinct 23
Total registered voters: 2,260
925 Dem; 732 Rep
517 NPA; 86 Other
Presidential:
36.75% for McCain
61.45% for Obama

Precinct 25
Total registered voters: 1,525
868 Dem; 272 Rep
327 NPA; 58 Other
Presidential:
19.49% for McCain
78.97% for Obama

Gainesville
City Limits

Editorial

Long Journey

Election's afterglow

won't last forever

On Oct. 23, 2006, Time Magazine introduced us to Illinois Sen. Barack Obama. The publication allowed the face of a first-term U.S. senator to engulf the whole cover with the headline, "Why Barack Obama Could Be the Next President."

Two years and 12 days later, Obama locked up the presidential election in a decisive victory over Republican candidate Sen. John McCain.

He is no longer Sen. Obama. He will be sworn in as 44th president of the United States.

There was little controversy at the polls, and there have been no cries of foul play. Despite the familiarity of the campaign techniques, this election has delivered an electoral result that hasn't been seen in more than a decade.

Obama wasn't named president by a U.S. Supreme Court majority; he walloped his Republican counterpart.

En route to doing so, Obama won crucial victories in Florida, Ohio and Indiana, each of which were pegged as "battleground states" by major national news outlets.

We should all be aware of the electoral importance of the Sunshine State. If our voters are able to properly cast their ballots — we're looking at you, Palm Beach — then the winner of the state is rewarded with 10 percent of the 270 electoral votes needed to become president.

Florida had voted Republican in 11 of the 14 elections before 2008, but Obama was able to eke out a slim victory.

For two years, since his face showed up on the cover of Time, America has been submerged in Obama exposure.

We have heard his story, which has often been equated to the American Dream, and we have been fed tales of his dedication to both America's impoverished and its working class.

We have been subjected to the bad and the cloudy, too. Apparently, the cliché that all publicity is good publicity holds true for our president-elect.

It now seems that no amount of anti-Obama sentiment, whether spewed by Joe the Plumber or Sen. Hillary Clinton's PUMAs, could have derailed what we have been calling the Obama train.

Don't fret, McCain fans. The election may not have turned out how you wanted, but there is still some comfort to be had in McCain's losing effort.

Obama is entering the Oval Office in the midst of terrible economic circumstances, a war on terror that won't seem to end and a nation emerging as powerful enough to rival the longtime hegemony of the U.S.

Obama does not have years of D.C. politics under his belt like McCain, so stumbles are likely on the way, but do not take pride in a faulty piece of Obama-generated tax or foreign policy legislation. Instead, be proud that McCain will not have to be the Hector to the economy's Achilles. McCain's war hero status will long outshine his political defeat, which will preserve the reputation of a man who commands the nation's respect. For that, conservative voters should be happy.

The rest of us should be watchful of our new president. Obama has begun his honeymoon with the U.S., but it will only last for so long. The nation's infatuation will quickly wear off.

Congress and the public offer newly elected presidents a very small window of opportunity to ride the coattails of electoral success before they start to clamp down on a new commander in chief.

Obama's legacy could end as quickly as it began when Time featured him on its cover. The problem for Obama is that a fall as sudden as his rise would leave him with half of his term as president to wallow in the contempt of a disappointed public.

the independent florida
alligator

Jessica DaSilva
EDITOR

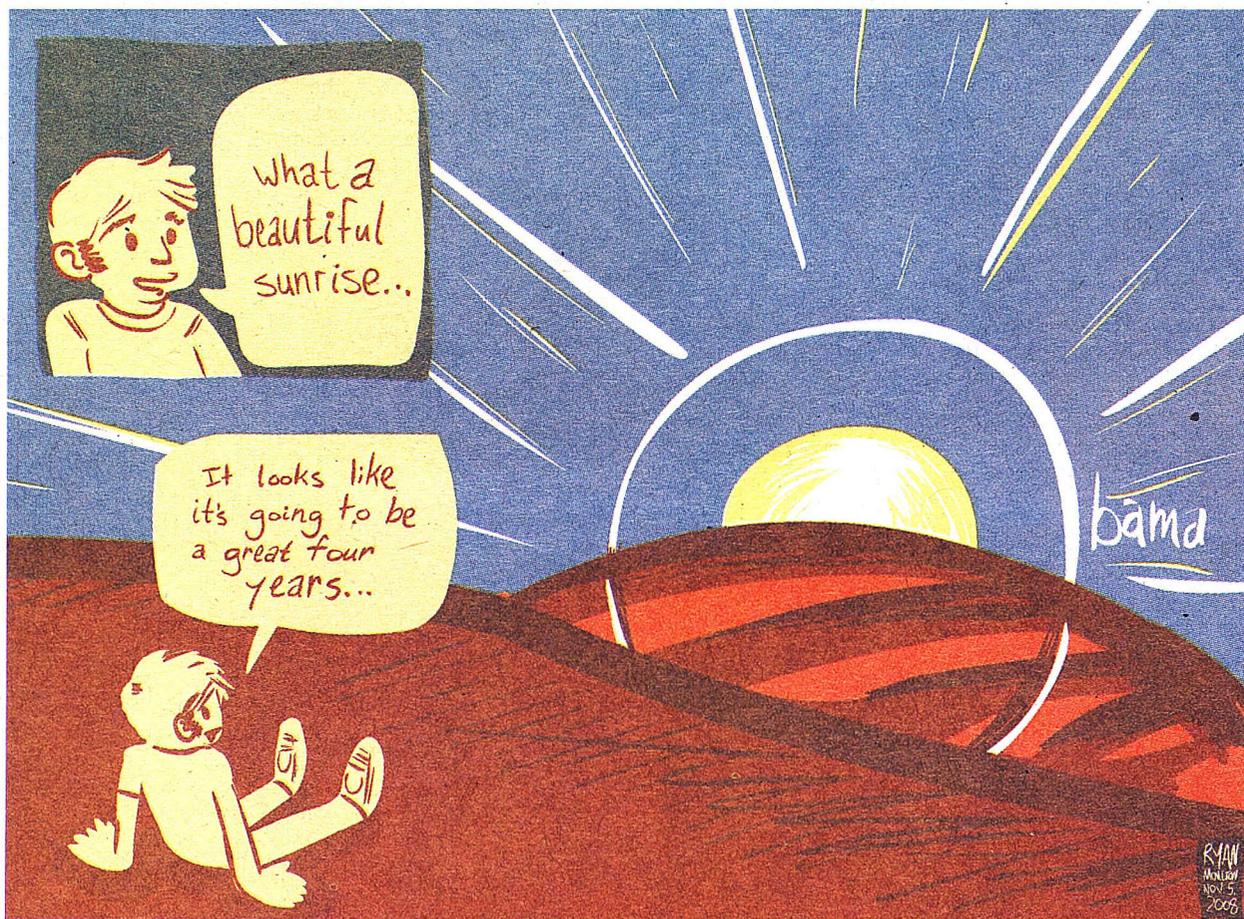
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OPINIONS EDITOR

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

Opinions

ALLIGATOR
www.alligator.org/opinion



Column

Rental bicycles won't lower car use

When I first saw a front-page story about a UF program encouraging bicycle use, I was more than excited. I am a huge cycling advocate.

I sold my car and bought a bicycle six years ago while living in Washington, D.C., because I couldn't afford the gas, parking and insurance costs. Mostly though, I couldn't afford the stress of driving around the nation's capital.

When I first told friends what I was doing, they begged me to reconsider. My workplace was more than a dozen miles from where I lived, and winter was fast approaching. I was naively locking myself into a world of suffering.

Fortunately, my coworker in the cubicle next to me was a cyclist in his 50s. He and his girlfriend lived close to our workplace. They both went on 50- to 60-mile cycling trips in the area on the weekends. She biked to D.C. everyday and worked close to where I lived. He explained to me that, with the right equipment and a knowledge of the bikeway system, cycling is an extremely realistic and inexpensive mode of transportation.

He commended the bikeway system in the tri-state area and showed me a map of the bicycle paths through and around D.C.

In most places, cyclists had their own road and weren't forced onto the same roadway as 2-ton death machines. My experience as a cyclist in D.C. was a carefree, fulfilling one.

When I moved back to Gainesville, I thought it would be ideal for cycling. After all, the weather is warmer and the land is flatter. Gainesville calls itself the most bicycle-friendly city in Florida, but it took no time for me to realize the stark difference between the cities for a cyclist.

I have been hit by cars on three separate occasions in my harrowing adventures around Gainesville.

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



Michael Belle

letters@alligator.org

Anyone who looks at a map of the bikeways in Gainesville realizes right away why students choose not to ride their bicycles. Although there is a nice system of bikeways on the edges of the town and far away from UF, the area connecting off-campus life to UF is not safe for cycling.

Alachua County has had a Bicycle Master Plan on the books for years now. Bikeways providing alternatives to risking life and limb on Archer Road, Newberry/University Avenue and 20th Avenue are at the top of the list.

Unfortunately, there has been very little funding to make it happen. Road maintenance is expensive and behind schedule. I think it could be quite a while before we see even the beginning of the Alachua County Bicycle Master Plan put into action.

In the meantime, it is laughable to suggest that renting cheap bicycles to students on campus for a short period of time promotes cycling as an alternative mode of transportation. How many students are really driving their cars around campus?

The transportation issue is off campus, where cars idle in clogged roads and contribute filth to the air.

If President Bernie Machen really wants to convert students from motorists to cyclists, he would team up with the county and find the money to implement the Bicycle Master Plan. Machen has more clout in the state than any county commissioner and could speed up the process if he so chooses. This is aside from the funds that UF already has to throw away on cheap bicycles no one will use.

Michael Belle is a political science graduate student. His column appears on Wednesdays.

Reader response

Today's question: Are you satisfied with the election results?

Tuesday's question: Will you use your "I Voted" sticker to get free stuff?

57% YES

43% NO

116 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

Letters to the Editor

Abortion jargon hinders debate

We know political discourse is mostly rhetoric, not debate. Abortion is the only major issue in which the words used to identify your point of view are meaningless rhetorical euphemisms.

We know the meanings of "pro-universal-health-care" and "anti-gay-marriage," but what is "pro-life"? Who could be against life? Who could be against choice?

For pro-life, the problem is many of those identifying themselves as such (Republicans) are not even

close to consistent in supporting life. Those claiming to value life are OK with bloody wars and executions. Pro-life is acceptable when it applies to the few people who consistently oppose abortion, the death penalty and war. However, if you oppose abortion but are OK with capital punishment and non-defensive wars, you are not pro-life.

As for pro-choice, it's not so much inherent hypocrisy, but it's such an astoundingly broad, meaningless euphemism. Vague euphemisms indicate that you are on

some level ashamed of your beliefs. It smacks of the antebellum South's "peculiar institution." If you think abortion is OK, which is a perfectly reasonable position, then don't be afraid to say it.

The abortion debate will never turn into real dialogue with both sides recognizing each other's good points, rather than shouting at each other's brick walls, until we start by using direct and honest language.

Michael Barbieri
UF Alumnus

Voter registration groups have serious responsibility

I am new to Florida, and I have recently registered to vote here because I knew my vote would mean a lot more in Florida than in my home state of Texas.

I filled out a registration form and turned it in with a student group that had a table set up on the Plaza of the Americas.

When I went to vote on Friday, I was not in any of the databases as being registered.

I was told that several other people had come in with the same situation: registered on campus, but not in the system.

These groups need to be held accountable in some way if they're going to be in charge of a person's ability to vote.

I don't know if they were affiliated with a particular campaign, but they should be identified as such.

Katie Saunders
5LS



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Sen. McCain concedes presidency

Sen. McCain concedes the 2008 presidential election to Barack Obama, saying he is proud to have served the country and that he will support Obama's administration.

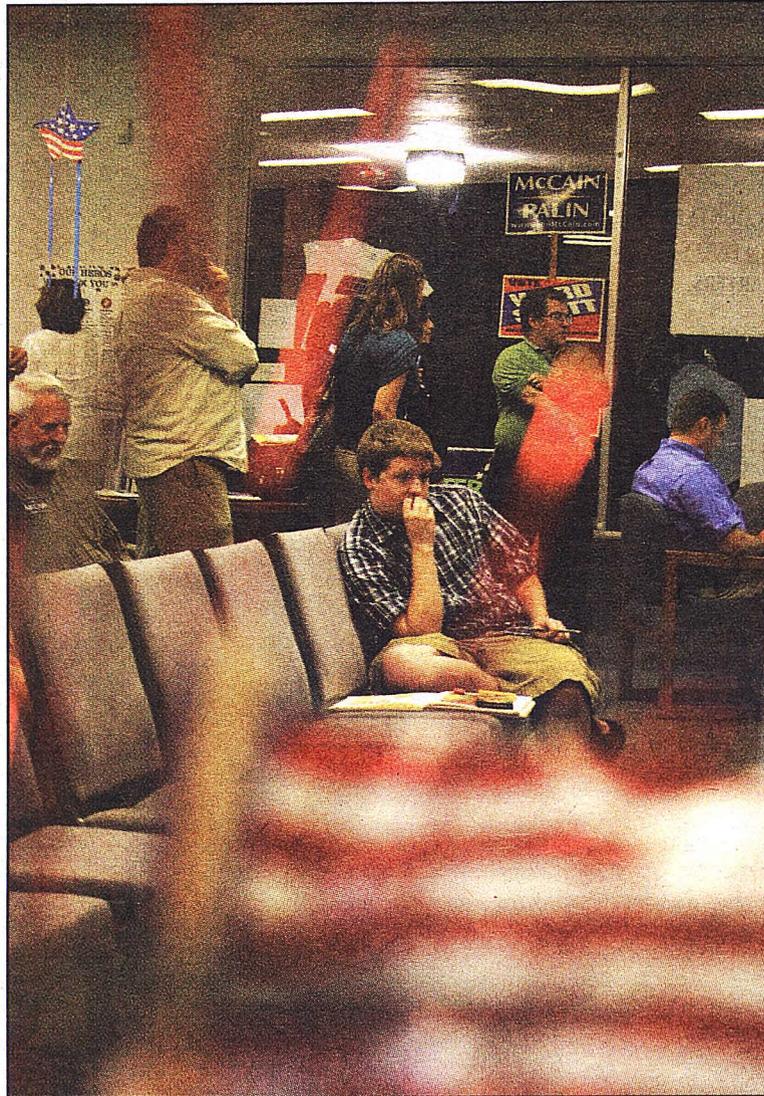


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McCain said he was proud to have served the country and that he will support Obama's administration. He said he was disappointed that he did not win the election but that he was proud to have served the country and that he will support Obama's administration.

Party supporters gather to watch results



Lara Hickox / Alligator

McCain supporters watch the general election returns at the Alachua County Republican Headquarters on Tuesday night.

PRESIDENT, from page 1

shot because the country's enamored by Barack Obama," he said.

Political science experts at UF said this election was set apart from previous ones, both in activism and voter participation.

Daniel Smith, an associate professor of political science specializing in political campaigning, called voter turnout monumental. Turnout is expected to be more than 60 percent nationwide, he said.

Michael Heaney, an associate professor at UF, said he thought this year was more clear-cut than recent neck-and-neck elections.

He said both candidates ran disciplined campaigns with no major mistakes committed by either party, which focused the race on the issues.

"This election was not really about the candidate, but more about who does the public trust more on the economy," he said.

As results slowly trickled in, both parties rejoiced and booed at the decided states.

And as polls started showing Obama's lead in the polls, Republicans slowly filed out of the headquarters, though some remained to rejoice in the party's wins in Congressional seats and in McCain's state wins.

At Gator's Dockside, Democrats hugged and clapped and raised their hands in happiness as they chanted "O-ba-ma!"

One man banged on a drum; some attempted phone calls within the noisy crowd; and many cried tears of joy as they embraced loved ones.

McShera said he hoped Obama would start implementing his platform and making changes in the first 100 days of his administration.

Overall, McShera said this win was a huge victory for the party he supports.

"It's a fantastic day to be a Democrat," he said.

The Associated Press and Alligator Writers Lauren Baker and David Low contributed to this report.

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5 Real Estate	10 For Sale	15 Services	20 Event Notices	25 Lost & Found

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2 For Rent unfurnished

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 2BR-\$759/mo 3BR-\$959/mo
NO MOVE-IN FEES! Great Bus Route
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ALL THE SPACE YOU NEED!
 At the price you want
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 1, 1 w/den & 2 BRs - Reduced Rates!
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 Wood floors avail! Pets loved!
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 Large 3BD/2BA home, w/wd
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 Pets OK w/fee
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GO GATORS!
 Enjoy ample parking onsite
 Walk to campus, w/d hook-ups
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WALK to UF Available January.
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1BR/1BA Close to UF
\$450/mo Pets ok.
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1/1, Ridgeview, free water, next to park, on the bus line, cent H/A, courtyard, 2 miles to UF, convenient to shopping, no smoking, no pets. \$470 SD, \$470/mo 562-2824 11-7-08-15-2

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2 bd 1.5 ba 1200 sq ft townhouse in heart of historic neighborhood.w/d Blocks to downtown shops & restaurants. 508 & 528 NE 4th A ave avail Dec or Jan \$795/mo 379-4952 11-17-08-20-2

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2BR/1BA Spacious townhouse, cent H/AC, W/D hk up. \$650/mo, \$500 sec dep, 7209 SW 45th Pl. Gainesville. Call 386-462-0994 11-5-08-10-2

1BR/1BA in golf course community. Newly refurbished, tile floors, granite counter tops, new appliances, W/D. 12065 Turkey Creek Blvd. 386-462-0994 \$650/mo, \$500 security deposit. 11-5-08-10-2

1st MONTH FREE! CASABLANCA WEST
2 BR 2.5 BA townhouse, w/d hookups, pool, ceramic tile, \$815/rent 2735 SW 35th Place #904
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BIKE TO UF/WALK TO DOWNTOWN
Large 5 BR house in historic Duckpond, wood floors, w/d hookups, \$1895/rent 406 NE 7th Street
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2 For Rent unfurnished

MARCHWOOD! 1st MONTH FREE!
2 BR 2 BA townhouse, New flooring & paint, w/d hookups, Vaulted ceilings, pool, \$695/rent 4385 SW 20th Lane
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WALK TO UF! 3 BR 2 BA, new flooring
Before move-in! vaulted ceilings, garage, Washer/dryer, \$1400/rent, 2624 NW 4th Ave
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CLOSE TO OAKS MALL! 3 BR 2 BA,
New ceramic tile & paint, carport, w/d Hkups, \$925/rent, 1410 NW 55th Terr
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BRIGHTON PARK! 2 BR 2.5 BA townhouse,
Separate dining, high ceilings, Jacuzzi tub, pool, \$795/rent, 4415 SW 34th St #609
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3 BR 2 BA Duplex, wood floors, lawn/water included, Washer/dryer, \$1025/rent, 220 SE 8th St #2
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1st MONTH FREE! 3 BR 2 BA,
Living & family room, 2 bonus rooms, w/d hkups, fireplace, \$895/rent, 3305 NW 46th Pl
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READY FOR MOVE-IN! 2 BR 1 BA, new
flooring/paint w/d hkups, CH/AC, courtyard, \$575/rent, 535-A NW 26th Avenue
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2 miles from campus. W/D, wood floors, large fenced-in yard. Pets ok. \$1250/mo + utils. 352-514-0264 11-5-5-2

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NW 39th Ave Fancy lg 3/2 w/loft. Open, bright, laminated wd looking flr \$750-775. Xtra lg loft, ceramic tile flr \$900. Nice 2/2 gated patio, trees \$600-640. laminated flr \$675 Good area, 373-8310, 219-3937 11-10-8-2

Walking Distance to UF Law School!!
419 NW 25th Street. Clean, beautiful newer home 3 bd/2ba w/d included! \$1650/mo. Avail. end of Dec./early Jan. Call Anne @ 810-610-0110 for more info. 12-10-26-2

2b,1b * 1 block MidTown *
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Mexican tile floors, private bath, private entry. Incl utils & cable. \$550/mo. 1st month + sec. 352-375-6063, cell 352-256-0999 11-12-08-5-2

POOL HOUSE AVAIL NOW!
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3 Subleases

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11-12-20-3

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Arbor Lofts Sublease. Available Jan 09- July 09. 1 BR/1Bath loft style apartment at \$789/month. Very close to campus at NW 3rd Place. contact Kristine schiavonek@ufl.edu or 386-214-9910
11-12-08-7-3

SPRING/SUMMER SUBLEASE!!! Females only, 1 br/1 bath in a 3/3 in The Polos! \$392/month + utilities and cable, comes with a free full sized bed!! Call 941-468-6219 or email kat12194@ufl.edu for more info 11-5-08-5-3

Sublease 1BR apt @ College Manor. Walk to UF in seconds. 1BR/1BA, pets allowed, smokers allowed. Contact maryana@ufl.edu (Normally \$600/mo, but subleased at \$500/mo + utils) 440-864-0982 11-10-5-3

\$495/month for a female roommate in a 2/2 fully furnished apartment for spring semester including all the utilities! Located on 62nd Blvd and bus route 20. email casde06@ufl.edu for more information. 11-6-2-3

460+share of utilities: Master bedroom with private entrance in 4/2 house from January to August, with option to renew. 1 mile from UF Campus, large backyard and bicycle or storage room, clean and quiet roommates. Furniture available if interested. Call Phil at 770-833-0814 11-19-10-3

4 Roommates

Roommate Matching HERE
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The Landings 336-3838
The Laurels 335-4455
Cobblestone 377-2801
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4 Roommates

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Room in 4br condo incl utils, internet, cable TV, pool. Very Nice \$425 283-8777 www.Gainesville-Rooms-4-Rent.com 1-6-08-614

Walk/bike to VA, Shands, Vet School & UF. Summit House on SW, 16th Ave. Share 2/1, 400/month + 1/2 low utilities & \$220 dep. Renovated, clean & nice. Call 352-843-0220. 11-6-10-4

\$550/mo, utilities inc. 4/4 house, pet friendly. Male preferred. 5 min from campus next to HTU. Call 239-225-5259 11-6-08-10-4

Near everything! Drink/dine downtown! Walk to campus! Room in a Spacious remodeled 2 level modern house.\$550/All inclusive. Yes everything.email wjregan00@yahoo.com for pics/more info. 11-21-14-4

Female needed for a 1/1 in a 2/2 at Cabana Beach apts, runs to Jul 31, \$525/mo. NO SEC DEP. Includes furn, elec, high spd intrnet, was/dryer, cable. Must have Guarantor. Call 352-281-2055. 11-21-08-15-4

Female roommate needed in condo 1 mile from UF, \$450/MO includes cable, internet, utilities, pool + more, renovated, furnished and on bus route, 352 262-2871 11-14-08-10-4

Roommate wanted in nice 4BR/3BA house on 16th Ave between SFC & UF. On bus rte. DW, W/D, new stove & AC unit. Cox cable & network internet. No cats or dogs. \$375/mo. All utils incl. 328-4995 11-7-5-4

Roommate needed for Spring, 2/1 Piccadilly on SW 34th near Sweetbay. \$408/MO. Contact Travis 386.717.3419. 11-19-10-4

5 Real Estate

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2Bed/3 Full Baths + Office. Granite Counters, 2 Direct Bus Stops to UF. Matt Price, Campus Realty 352-281-3551 12-10-16-5

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6 Furnishings

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BED - KING - \$170 PILLOWTOP
mattress & box springs. Orthopedic rated. Name brand, new, never been used, in plastic with warranty. Call 352-372-8588. Can deliver. 12-10-08-74-6

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

Sofa \$175 Brand new in pkg 333-7516
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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 12-10-74-6

FUTON Solid oak mission-style frame w/
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DINETTE SET 5pc \$120 Brand new in box.
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Full \$100 Queen \$125 King \$200
Orthopedic pillow-top sets. Brand name matching sets not used or refurbished. Still in plastic, direct from factory! 352-333-7516. 12-10-74-6

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Bed- All New King! 3pc Orthopedic pillowtop
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Hill improves 'disappointing' play to find role on UF



Marianne Lijewski / Alligator

UF safety Will Hill tackles Kentucky receiver E.J. Adams in the second quarter of the Gators' 63-5 win against Kentucky in Ben Hill Griffin Stadium on Oct. 25. Hill finished with a team-high 11 tackles.

■ HE HAS EARNED A SPOT IN THE SAFETY ROTATION.

By **BRIAN STEELE**
Alligator Staff Writer
bsteale@alligator.org

Will Hill probably never heard the word "disappointed" associated with his name before.

When you score 28 touchdowns while also being one of the hardest hitting safeties in the country in your senior year of high school, "disappointed" doesn't come to mind.

Until you come to a program with athletes who have those same type of stats and accolades, that is.

When Dorian Munroe was lost for the season with a torn ACL in his right knee over the summer, it appeared Hill, who decided to play safety full time at UF, would be the favorite for the starting strong safety job next to Major Wright.

A lack of sound practice habits and not understanding UF's defensive system showed otherwise.

"We were all kind of — I hate to say disappointed — but we were at first," UF coach Urban Meyer said of Hill when he arrived in

the fall.

So, like many other Gators before him (think Reggie Nelson, Louis Murphy and even current freshman Jeff Demps), Hill had to make an impact on special teams before he would see any quarterbacks throwing his direction or running backs rumbling toward him.



Heater

"The rite of passage for us for a young player is special teams," safeties coach Chuck Heater said. "(Hill) started making all those tackles on kickoff, and then he was kind of turning the corner. That's validation for us when he's being productive on special teams, and then you feel like he's ready to make that move (to defense)."

It's official. The Gators have a three-safety rotation with Wright, Hill and Ahmad Black.

"It's exactly like we thought (he would be)," Meyer said.

Hill is not going to be taking a starting spot from Wright or Black anytime soon, but he will be get-

SEE HILL, PAGE 16

UF FOOTBALL

Rickerson arrested, off team

By **BRIAN STEELE**
Alligator Staff Writer
bsteale@alligator.org

UF sophomore cornerback Jacques Rickerson was arrested early Tuesday morning on charges of domestic battery by strangulation and obstruction of justice, both felony charges, by the Gainesville Police Department.

Coach Urban Meyer released a statement Tuesday releasing Rickerson from the program.

"Jacques Rickerson is no longer part of our team — that is not what our program is about," Meyer said. "My focus and our team's focus is with the players who are part of the program and preparing for the Vanderbilt game."

The incident occurred at Lexington Crossing Apartments, and Rickerson was later booked at 7:51 a.m.

When Rickerson was asked to leave the residence, he became upset and struck the victim on the side of her face, according to the arrest report. Rickerson then went on to use his hand to choke the victim, and when the victim called for help, Rickerson pushed her face deep into a mattress and covered her face with a pillow, according to the report.

After Rickerson let go of the victim, he blocked

her exit out of the room and prevented her from calling the police by holding her cell phone, the report stated.

The victim sustained visible injuries to her arm, neck and upper chest, according to the report. The report said Rickerson and the victim had been dating for over a year.

"Jacques Rickerson is no longer part of our team — that is not what our program is about."

Urban Meyer
UF football coach

He was still in jail as of 11:30 p.m. Tuesday. Rickerson is a backup cornerback and has played sparingly this year after coming in as a four-star cornerback, according to Scout.com.

After Monday's practice, Meyer would not comment on Rickerson other than saying the situation was "disappointing." When asked if his absence would impact the depth of the secondary, Meyer said it will have "no impact at all."

Junior linebacker Brandon Spikes said the team has not yet met to discuss Rickerson's incident.

Please, don't do a playoff

It's best if I just come out and say it.

I love the BCS.

There you have it, and before you lambast, let me explain. I was nothing more than a casual college football fan before I came to UF just more than four years ago. I'd watch the big games and catch the Hurricanes or Gators whenever I got a chance, but it wasn't "Must See TV" for me.

Today, I won't allow myself to miss a game, and there are few things I enjoy more than debating all the different permutations we could end up with.

Now, don't take this as me saying the BCS is the best way for a champion to be crowned. It's far from it, actually. I'm a huge fan of the NBA, and I stand by the notion that a seven-game series is the best way to learn who the best team in a league is.



Karl Hyppolite
Hy-Lite Reels
khyppolite@alligator.org

Such a thing is impossible in football, which leads everyone to say that college football should switch to an eight-team, single-elimination playoff.

As recently as a few years ago, I was a proponent of a system like that, but as time moves on I feel like it may be a little less satisfying than the BCS, which allows for endless debates and makes every week feel like the fate of the world lies in the balance.

We would lose that if college football went to a playoff, and, I have to admit, I'd be a bit disap-

SEE KARL, PAGE 16

ON TELEVISION

■ **NBA: Chicago vs. Cleveland**
ESPN, 8 p.m.

■ **NBA: Denver vs. Golden State**
ESPN, 10:30 p.m.

TODAY IN UF SPORTS HISTORY

■ **2005: No. 13 UF defeats Vanderbilt 49-42 in double overtime in the Gators' homecoming game. UF cornerback Reggie Lewis intercepted Jay Cutler on the Commodores' first play of the second overtime to seal the game.**

alligatorSports.org POLL QUESTION

Today's question: Who did the majority of the UF football team vote for in the presidential election?

Candidate	Percent (Votes)
16-20	39% (27)
Unranked	33% (23)
21-25	19% (13)
10-15	10% (7)

Tuesday's question: Where should the No. 19 men's basketball team be ranked? (see right for results)

70 TOTAL VOTES

SEC Tourney starts with 'Bama

By **BOBBY CALLOVI**
Alligator Writer
bcallovi@alligator.org

For Jazmyne Avant, the Southeastern Conference Tournament isn't just a way to get an automatic bid in the NCAA Tournament. It's also a way to get redemption for poor performances in previous matches.

The freshman defender was thrown right into the college soccer world since arriving on campus, starting every game this season — the only freshman on the Gators to do so.

She helped silence any questions about No. 7 UF's inexperienced defense entering the season with her strong play, but there are still games she wishes she could play again.

Today, the SEC All-Freshmen Team member will get her second chance at one of those games when No. 1 seed UF (16-2-1, 11-0 SEC) takes on No. 8 seed Alabama (9-8-2, 4-6-1) in the opening match of the SEC Tournament.

"I didn't have one of my best games against Alabama, so I feel I have something to prove," Avant said. "That goes for a lot of people, maybe not against Alabama, but we have other reasons to play hard other than just winning."

The Gators won the first meeting 6-1, but they need to forget about that and the other 10 wins in conference play because the seven other teams competing in the tournament are waiting for their chance for payback.

With a 23-game winning streak — including going undefeated this season — against conference opponents, they can expect teams to be gunning for them a little harder to knock the Gators off.

This has them feeling a little paranoid.

"We feel like every one is out to get us, and a lot of teams have something against us that they didn't have before," Avant said.

Other teams in the SEC need the automatic bid

more than UF. The Gators' resume is already good enough to qualify them for the NCAA Tournament, one of the few SEC teams able to say that.

Having a possible berth into the NCAA Tournament up for grabs should lift the energy levels of the rest of the conference.

"Every team from here on out is going to bring it because they know their NCAA is on the line, and this may be their last game," first-team, All-SEC midfielder Ashlee Elliott said.

Seniors Ameera Abdullah and Megan Kerns were the other two Gators on the first team with junior Lauren Hyde getting second-team honors, which were announced on Tuesday.

"I didn't have one of my best games against Alabama, so I feel I have something to prove."

Jazmyne Avant
UF freshman defender



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

UF freshman defender Jazmyne Avant juggles the ball in the second half of the Gators' 5-1 win against Tennessee on Sept. 28.

UF WOMEN'S GOLF

Gators, Jensen close out fall season with loss to Tulsa

By **EUGENIO TORRENS**
Alligator Writer

At least there's a spring season.

The UF women's golf team finished its fall season on a disappointing note, losing to 16th-seeded Tulsa 3-1-1 in the last round at the Match Play in Orlando on Tuesday.

On a positive note, it was no surprise as the Gators were led by their freshmen — again.

Freshman Evan Jensen swiped UF's sole victory from Tulsa's Shu-Yin Liu in thrilling fashion.

Liu led for 14 consecutive holes before Jensen tied it up on the second-to-last hole. Jensen got the win on the last hole.

At one point, Liu held a 4-hole lead against Jensen.

"(Liu) made a few putts early on that put me down quick," Jensen said.

Jensen said she buckled down and stopped worrying about what her opponent was doing.

Jensen, the Gators' best player this tournament, boasted a 2-1 record in her three matches.

"Mentally tough," coach Jill Briles-Hinton said when describing Jensen. "She won quite a few holes when she was down, and that shows mental toughness."

The next best golfer was fellow freshman Andrea Watts.

Watts halved her match — meaning her

and her opponent finished the match tied.

Watts and Tulsa's Woori Shin traded holes throughout the match before Watts gained the upper hand in the second-to-last hole.

It was a fleeting lead, as Shin saved face for the tie.

For her three rounds, Watts finished 1-1-1.

"One of the best swings in golf," Briles-Hinton said about Watts.

Nicole Schachner, Brittany Nelson and Lauren Uzelatz didn't fare as well against their respective opponents.

Schachner, who was filling in for top golfer Jessica Yadloczky dropped her match

6 and 4.

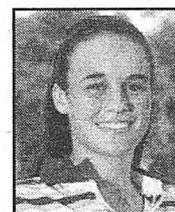
Nelson kept it a close affair but couldn't escape a 3 and 2 loss.

Uzelatz had momentum in the early stages but squandered it and never got it back as she lost 4 and 3.

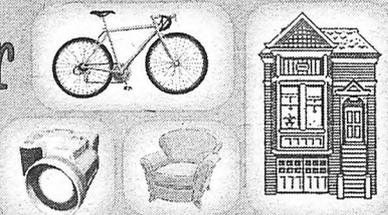
Now the Gators will have until Feb. 9 before seeing the greens again, when they'll travel to Palos Verdes, Calif., for the Northrop Grumman tournament.

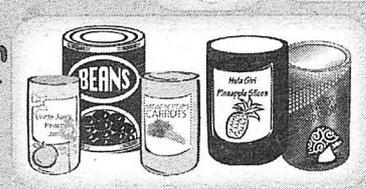
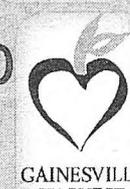
Briles-Hinton said the team will focus on one thing this offseason.

"We, without a doubt, have to work on our short game," Briles-Hinton said. "That was a lesson learned this week for these girls: 'My short game needs to be better than anybody's.'"



Jensen

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UF VOLLEYBALL

Hampton finds assistant coaching job at P.K. Yonge

By KYLE MAISTRI

Alligator Writer
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For Marcie Hampton, there are no more long practices with 13 other players who she has come to call "sisters."

No more road trips to Fayetteville, Ark., or Starkville, Miss.

No more launching miniature volleyballs into the O'Connell Center stands during the blacked-out player introductions.

Though her storied four-year career with UF came to an end after she suffered a ruptured left Achilles' tendon in the Gators' final regular season match against Long Beach State in 2007, Hampton isn't done with volleyball in Gainesville.

The former outside hitter has taken an assistant coaching job at P.K. Yonge High, where she and current UF standout Elyse Cusack once graced the same hardwood.

"It's really cool being in the old gym that I used to play in," Hampton said. "The pictures of our state championship teams are up. It's neat to go back to where it all began."

The step backward into her past was made, in part, because fate took away her ability to step forward into her future.

Hampton had aspirations of going out on top, winning UF's first-ever national championship and then making a seamless transition to a professional career overseas.

But recovering from the injury has proven to be a long and taxing process she has yet to complete. In the meantime, Hampton's competitive nature — and need for a job — made high school coaching a perfect stop.

UF coach Mary Wise frequently teased her during her playing days that she would become a coach because she loved the game too much.

"It's a lot different," Hampton said of coaching and playing. "I've enjoyed coaching

more than I thought I would, it's a lot more than sitting there telling the girls what to do."

The girls she works with make the job fun for her, and it's allowed her to stay around the sport that was taken away from her, something she's only recently come to grips with.



Hampton

"I try to tell myself everything happens for a reason," Hampton said. "You put so much of your life, blood, sweat and tears into it, and you finally get to the point where you're playing well, and your team is playing well, and it doesn't work out."

Hampton and the Gators were robbed of one last postseason run, something her teammates never saw coming.

"To have her go down was really hard for our team and for me," said Cusack, who first played with Hampton as an eighth

grader. "You can look back and say maybe we could've gone farther."

In the end, UF was unable to capture a national title before losing Hampton, Amber McCray, Angie McGinnis and Kisyia Killingsworth to graduation. Some thought that nucleus of players had what it took to finally bring home that championship, but Hampton is optimistic the new group of Gators will be able to get it done.

"It's just a matter of time," she said. "They have the talent, and they have the coaching."

Cusack said that if the team is able to pull it off in her time at UF, the feat would be something for everyone to share.

"It would be an honor for me, but it would mean so much to all the previous players, doing something that they worked so hard for but just couldn't get," she said.

If they ever do hoist that elusive banner into the rafters, you can bet Hampton will have a front-row seat.

Former five-star recruit feels best is yet to come from him

HILL, from page 14

ting his fair share of snaps now in addition to his special teams work. Wright called Hill, who is seventh on the team with 28 tackles, "grown up."

Hill's dreadlocks don't make him look like an old man, but his newfound maturity has been seen on the field.

"At first he was playing a little timid, but now he's playing like the five-star he is," cornerback Joe Haden said.

Playing like a five-star high school prospect is apparently just the start.

"I feel that I can play better," Hill said after UF's 63-5 win against Kentucky, a game in which he had a team-leading 11 tackles. "Coming in with all the accolades, it didn't mean anything to me. I just knew I had to wait my turn, and when I got my turn, make the most of

it."

The Monday after the Kentucky win, Heater's wife even told him he needs to find a way to get the trio of Wright, Black and Hill all on the field at the same time. That usually doesn't happen with safeties, but Heater said they did it last year with Tony Joiner.



Football

"He's come a long way," Heater said. "It took him a while to acclimate and learn how to go, and then about the time he was about to get going he strained his hamstring and that set him back. Now he's back in a situation where we're trying to find some ways to get him out there."

With the way he's played recently, getting him out there would be a good idea.

KARL, from page 14

pointed by it.

Also, there is no guarantee a playoff would truly crown the best team in the country. College football is based entirely upon making as much money as possible for the NCAA and the college presidents.

This means that in a pretend playoff, the winners of the six BCS conferences would receive automatic bids, and Notre Dame would have some loophole created so it could get into the championship. That leaves two at-large bids available at the most.

Using this season as an example, let's pretend Texas Tech, UF, Penn State, Southern Cal, Georgia Tech and West Virginia lock up their respective conferences. And let's also imagine Utah, by virtue of being an undefeated mid-major, and Texas receive the at-large bids.

We still would have a screwy playoff with

two teams (Georgia Tech and West Virginia) that have no business being in the tournament while great teams like Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Alabama would be left out in the cold. Any of those three teams would be good enough to win an eight-team playoff, but none would be given the opportunity.

You might say the solution would be to just take the top eight teams in the BCS and ignore conferences altogether, but that's just unrealistic. I don't think there's any way college football will ever move to a playoff. There's too much money to be lost from bowl games, but even if they did, the only way they would consider it is if the six BCS conferences received automatic bids.

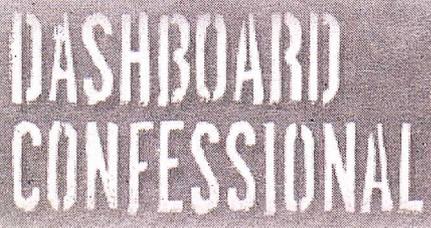
With the possibility that a playoff could be nearly as unsatisfying as a bunch of dudes in front of a computer crunching numbers, why not simply enjoy the endless possibilities of the BCS?

I definitely am.



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