



CLAS faculty want laid-off profs reinstated

■ ABOUT 100 FACULTY ATTENDED.

By **STEPHANIE ROSENBERG**

Alligator Staff Writer
rosenberg@alligator.org

An air of discontent lingered in Dauer Hall on Wednesday as about 100 UF faculty members from the College of Liberal Arts and

Sciences took a stand for what they wanted. Faculty members came together as the College Faculty Assembly and took a standing vote in favor of reinstating three tenure-track CLAS faculty members and three tenure-track CLAS language lecturers — all of whom are to be laid off in June due to budget cuts.

As faculty members expressed disheartenment, all eyes turned to Andrea Pham, assistant professor of Vietnamese and linguistics.

Pham said she was a year away from tenure but was one of seven laid-off faculty in the college.

UF Academics Pham said she was told she was laid off for financial reasons, but after an investigation into the matter, she heard differently. She said six of the seven faculty laid off were women, and all seven were foreign-born.

“When I don’t know why I’m laid off and given that fact, I just have to draw the conclusion that I’m laid off because I’m foreign-born and I’m a woman,” she said.

To meet the college’s 6 percent share of UF’s \$47 million budget crunch in summer, Joe Glover, UF provost and former interim CLAS dean, made the decision to lay off the faculty

SEE STORY, PAGE 9



Sarah Hsu / Alligator Staff

John Gregory holds a saw after cutting down one of the Christmas trees on his 14-acre farm, Unicorn Hill Christmas Tree Farm, for a family Monday afternoon.

Former UF prof grows Xmas trees

By **ANDREA ASUAJE**

Alligator Writer
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No snow, sleds or Santa Claus are required: for John and Cathryn Gregory, it’s always Christmastime. John, a former UF professor, and Cathryn, a former Spanish teacher, both 64, have been growing trees at the Unicorn Hill Christmas Tree Farm since 1981. Unicorn Hill, at 3605 N.W. 69th St., is the only Christmas tree farm in Gainesville.

The Gregorys bought the 14 acres in 1977 — a decision John said many people questioned because of the old car parts scattered around the land.

“A lot of people thought we were crazy,” he said.

They started growing Christmas trees in 1981, after a UF

graduate student working on his thesis suggested that hogs, blueberries or Christmas trees could make the land profitable.

“A lot of people thought we were crazy.”

John Gregory
former UF professor

When it was time to make a decision, the couple was sure about one thing.

“We didn’t want to raise hogs,” Cathryn said. They sold their first tree in 1984 and have been in business ever since, selling trees to families that come to chop them down.

The farm sells seven kinds of trees, including the Southern red cedar — what Cathryn calls the traditional Christmas tree of the

SEE FARM, PAGE 8

STATE Florida university system receives an F for affordability

By **PHIL KEGLER**

Alligator Staff Writer
pkegler@alligator.org

Florida’s State University System got its report card, and the returns aren’t pretty.

The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education released the latest edition of its biennial report Wednesday and gave the state of Florida mediocre marks overall, including a D in participation and an F in affordability.

Florida earned F’s in the affordability categories in the 2004 and 2006 reports, as well. Other states did not fare much better. Forty-nine states earned F’s in affordability this year, with the lone exception of California, which was given a C.

UF spokesman Steve Orlando said it was odd the state received the low mark just two days after the College Board released data for the 2007-2008 school year that shows Florida having the lowest average tuition and fees among all 50 states, coming in at \$3,361.

“When basically every state in the country gets a failing grade, what are they saying?”

Bill Edmonds

Board of Governors spokesman

Bill Edmonds, Board of Governors spokesman, harshly criticized the study. The board oversees Florida’s 11 public universities.

“When basically every state in the country

gets a failing grade, what are they saying?” Edmonds said.

No one from the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education was available for comment Wednesday evening.

According to the report, higher education has become less attainable for students, and poor and working-class families must devote 24 percent of their income to pay for the costs of a four-year public school, even after all aid has been disbursed.

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■ Alabama signal-caller John Parker Wilson (right) cares more about being a team manager than racking up stats. His running game and wide receivers help him guide the Tide. See Story, Page 21.



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■ To see the Unicorn Hill Christmas Tree farm and hear John and Cathryn Gregory’s talking about its history and their experience growing the trees, visit Alligator.org.

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News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Holiday Silent Auction

Thursday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Reitz Union Colonnade
Recurso will be auctioning artwork, jewelry and other holiday gifts. All proceeds benefit Recurso's 2009 International Service Trip to Nicaragua.

Santa's Visit

Friday, 6:30 p.m.
Lambda Chi Alpha House, 4 Fraternity Row
Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and Alpha Delta Pi Sorority will host the fourth annual Santa's Visit. Visiting children will make candy-cane reindeer, decorate holiday stockings and Santa hats, and have the chance to meet Santa Claus.

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SPECIAL REPORT

Alligator lacks editor applicant; staffers frustrated

By **THOMAS STEWART**
Alligator Writer

Newsrooms across the country have been hit hard by the nation's troubled economy, and the Independent Florida Alligator is not immune to the industry's dip in morale.

Members of the staff said at a Tuesday night meeting that over the past few years, they have become increasingly frustrated over a number of issues, with long hours and low pay at the top of the list.

As a result, no one has applied for the position of editor-in-chief for the first time that Ed Barber, president emeritus of the student newspaper, can remember in his four decades with the Alligator, he said.

It is unclear what will happen if no one applies. Mike Foley, UF journalism professor, said it would be tough to put out a newspaper without an editor.

"You can't fly a plane without a pilot," Foley said.

Although the application deadline has been extended once, which isn't uncommon, the new deadline to pick up an appli-

cation ends today. As of Wednesday, there have been no takers, said Tricia Carey, the Alligator's general manager.

The Alligator's Board of Directors will meet Dec. 12 to choose a new editor. Jean Chance, chairwoman of the board, said members could be forced to delay a decision until a qualified applicant is found. She thinks it's possible that someone will step up in time for the board's meeting.

The lack of interest in the position, along with the need to address a number of other issues within the organization, prompted Editor in Chief Jessica DaSilva to hold a meeting between the board and student staff members Tuesday night, where emotional reporters, editors and production staff aired their grievances with the paper.

Nicole Saker, the Alligator's photo editor, said staff members do the work of three to four people and are feeling burned out. The lack of money to pay its entire editorial staff minimum wage and buy equipment are also huge issues, Saker said.

"I feel like the job itself is still a lot of fun, but the overall experience isn't fun anymore," she said.

Students have to use their own laptops and software to edit photos and videos because the Alligator's equipment is so old, she said. She also said she calculated earlier this semester that she was making about \$3 an hour.

"You can't fly a plane without a pilot."

Mike Foley
UF journalism professor

"It's getting to the point where I can't do it anymore for financial reasons," she said.

Carey said decreasing advertising revenue is mainly to blame. The Alligator is entirely dependent on money from advertising, and companies have less money to spend at the Alligator, she said.

The paper's financial situation is not bad enough that it is in jeopardy of collapsing, she said.

"It's a bump in the road," she said. "We'll get through this."

Barber said the Alligator has survived

a fire, hurricanes, demonstrators and even death threats, and the newspaper will get through this rut.

"I'm hoping the same sort of grit and same determination will continue among the student staff in this instance," he said.

DaSilva said she knows the Alligator could be much better if given the proper resources and if it could recruit more staff.

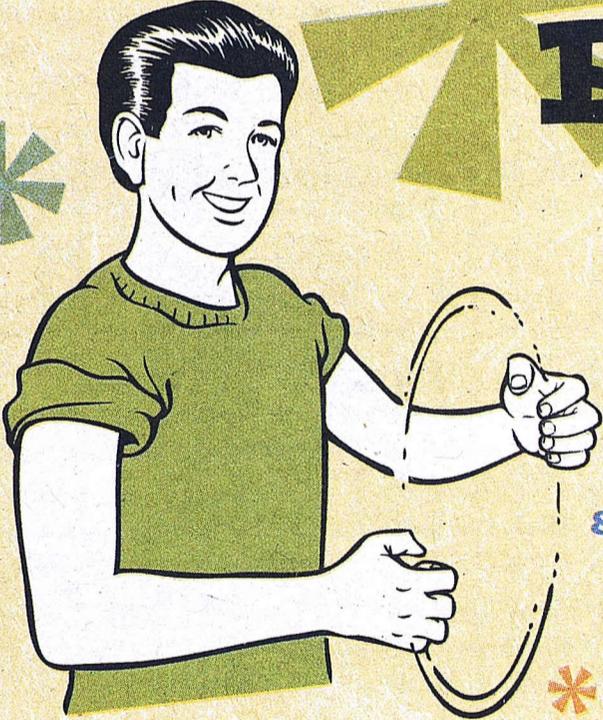
"I know my staff would blow everyone away with what they could produce if they had the equipment and the means and the pay and the time to do it," she said.

She said she would also like to see the Alligator focus more on online content and get more support from UF's College of Journalism and Communications and from the board.

DaSilva said the current state of the Alligator is upsetting.

"It hurts as an editor," she said. "It makes you feel like a parent who can't bring home enough money to, you know, feed your family."

"I just feel so powerless that I can't help my family because that's what these people have become to me," she said.



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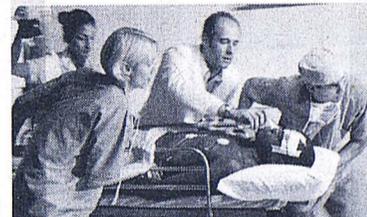



According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the majority of college students are of legal drinking age. However, those under 21 should not drink at all.
*Source: American College Health Association, Fall 2006



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Indian student group holds vigil for Mumbai victims

■ ABOUT 200 STUDENTS ATTENDED CEREMONY.

By **CHELSEA KEENAN**
Alligator Contributing Writer

About 200 students stood silently at the Reitz Union Amphitheater on Wednesday night in the midst of flickering candlelight.

The crowd stood in remembrance of those who died in the Mumbai, India, terrorist attacks last week.

The candlelight vigil, which was organized by the Indian Graduate Students Association, offered a place for UF's Indian students to grieve together in a time of tragedy.

During the memorial, students lit candles that formed a peace sign silhouette with the word "Mumbai" in the middle. One student read a poem written in Hindi, which is spoken by many Indians.

"India has been tolerant," said Navin Goyal, president of the association. "But now it is time to take action."

Indian students make up the largest number of UF's international students, according to UF records.

"This is like someone entering through my front door," said Vijay Jagdale, a graduate student from Mumbai. "They tried to create fear, but India is a growing power."

Like Jagdale, Ameya Ganchha is also from Mumbai, and his parents work near the area that has seen the most destruction.

Ganchha said he did not initially realize the magnitude of the attacks.

"It hit me a few hours later," he said. "I was really worried."

He said it is too early to blame or hate a particular group.

"If we give into hatred, then the terrorists have already won," he said.

"It'll take more than this to scare us."

Students had the opportunity to speak out about the attacks during the ceremony.

Ajoy Saha, a UF graduate student, said it is necessary for



Sarah Hsu / Alligator Staff

Students light candles during a candlelight vigil at the Reitz Union Amphitheater on Wednesday night to honor the victims of the Mumbai, India, terrorist attacks.

the Indian community to come together. "We should stand up and not cower to these terrorists," Saha said.

as the students sang India's national anthem proudly into the night. The service ended with hope

UF ADMINISTRATION

E-cards allow UF to spread earth-friendly holiday cheer

By **LAUREN BAKER**
Alligator Writer
lbaker@alligator.org

Those among The Gator Nation who are making a list and checking it twice this season can cross off finding a card to send out for the holidays.

For the second time, UF is offering a selection of electronic cards adorned with Gator and holiday spirit that anyone can download and e-mail.

Last year, UF President Bernie Machen encouraged the switch to electronic exchanges of holiday merriment to save trees and money.

In addition to the nine new cards offered this season, there is an animated card available in which snowflakes flutter in front of Century Tower, outlined in a string of lights.

"It adds another element of fun," said Dan Williams, UF's director of marketing communications in University Relations.

The cards can be found at <http://identity.ufl.edu/gatorNation/cards.html>.

While the free, ready-made cards won't put a damper on a holiday budget, there is a price for those seeking a personalized touch.

The University Relations Publication Group, which designs the cards, can create

a custom-made card with a personal message and design, Williams said.

While some may feel paper cards are more personal, Williams said the economy has made cost-cutting cards acceptable.

"There was a time when I think an electronic card would have been considered less sensitive," Williams said.

Williams said he includes a message on his card touting UF's earth-friendly commitment to sustainability to show recipients that his e-card isn't prompted by

cheapness.

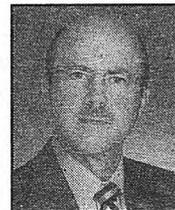
Chris Brazda, UF Foundation spokesman, said thousands of dollars were saved on printing and postage last year by making the transition to online.

Of the 55,000 members in the UF Alumni Association, about 30,000 will receive holiday cheer via cyberspace.

Those with no e-mail on file will get nothing, Brazda said.

Williams said he has yet to select his e-card.

"I should probably be giving that thought fairly soon," he said. "To be honest, I haven't even gone holiday shopping yet, so I'm in trouble."



Brazda

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UF holiday traditions continue

■ UF'S HOLIDAY TRADITIONS BEGAN WITH 'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' READING IN 1929.

By **LAUREN BAKER**
Alligator Writer
lbaker@alligator.org

Santa Claus is still welcome in college towns.

After the president of Florida Gulf Coast University banned holiday decorations from campus last week, he received so much backlash from employees that he reversed the decision six days later.

President Wilson G. Bradshaw wrote in a Nov. 26 campuswide memo that the ban was made in an effort "to achieve a difficult balance" with various beliefs among FGCU employees.

UF's own holiday traditions, which were originally developed in accordance with Christian belief, aim to accommodate the diversity of the campus crowd.

UF spokesman Steve Orlando said UF has no ban on its holiday traditions.

UF's holiday festivities began at a private fraternity party in 1929, when Dean Walter J. Matherly performed a reading of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" at the Sigma Nu Fraternity.

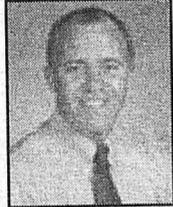
The reading grew into a campuswide event and moved to the University Auditorium in 1957, according to UF records.

The reading ceremony joined Christmas on

Campus, a tradition that started in 1949 and is today known as Sounds of the Season. The original program, which narrated Christ's birth, was interspersed with musical pieces from Florida's Choral Union.

Sounds of the Season, also performed in the University Auditorium, features seasonal music from various cultures.

In 1957, the wife of then-UF president J. Wayne Reitz suggested there be a Christmas tree-lighting procession outside of the auditorium. When the cedar tree became too large to decorate in 1987, the ceremony was moved to the fir tree on the Reitz Union North Lawn, said Joyce Dewsbury, special collections coordinator of Smathers Library.



Orlando

It doesn't take much to deck UF's halls these days. Eddie Daniels, Reitz Union executive director, said decorations take about an hour and a half to set up, and about \$30 was spent on holiday decorations this year to replace the bulbs for the tree lighting.

Orlando said garlands wrapped around the Union's staircase banisters and tree lights may be associated with Christmas tradition, but they are meant to carry a general holiday feeling.

"It happens to be the one that many people identify with at this time of year," he said. "You don't see signs that say 'Merry Christmas.'"

County cuts costs with four-day week

Taking a cue from the city of Gainesville, the Alachua County Department of Public Safety will be switching to a four-day, 10-hour a day workweek beginning Monday.

Carol Davis, spokeswoman for the department, said by cutting Friday hours and extending the length of the workday, the department would conserve energy and save money in utilities.

Employees will continue to work a 40-hour workweek by opening the office at 7:30 a.m. and closing at 5:30 p.m.

The department, which is composed of Public Safety Headquarters and Emergency Operations Center, handles

financial and administration matters for the countywide emergency services.

The shortened workweek will not affect fire or medical services that operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The department is following suit of the city of Gainesville, which launched a four-day workweek Sept. 29.

The city anticipates \$90,000 in savings this year because of the cut in electricity.

Bob Woods, city spokesman, said the changes were made with minor disruptions.

— FAITH REAVES

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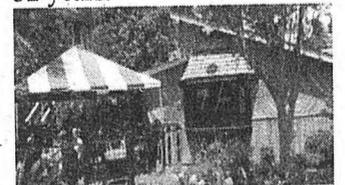


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"Where It Pays to Care"

Progressive?

CLAS firings reflect bias, not diversity

Here at the Editorial Board, we have noticed that the repeated appearance of a few key factors in the Alligator has actually presented us with a defined cycle.

The failing economy leads to budget cuts. Budget cuts lead to layoffs. Layoffs lead to finger-pointing and angry protesters. And we get to document all of it.

This time around, the cycle is affecting the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. UF's recent budget cuts have been widely reported locally, so it was not a surprise to see a large portion of the cutbacks aimed at UF's largest college.

It was also not a surprise to see the resistance presented by CLAS students and faculty at the time these budget cuts were announced.

What was surprising, though, was which CLAS faculty members were chosen to be laid off.

In total, seven faculty members are scheduled to be laid off in June. Six of the seven are women. All seven were born outside of the U.S.

Folks, that's not a good thing.

The CLAS Faculty Assembly — with professional expertise spanning from physics to foreign language — voted 113-to-1 to reinstate six of the seven ousted CLAS members.

That's a resounding majority. We can't help but believe that something was afoot in the former CLAS dean's decision to trim the budget via these seven conveniently similar people.

The Editorial Board truly hopes the decision to let go of these people was not based on their gender or ethnicity. UF is supposed to provide a diverse education; deciding layoffs in this manner would terribly contradict one of UF's core ideals.

As much as we don't want to believe it, it's hard to ignore the cries of the 100-plus people directly involved in the situation.

'F' is for fail

Congratulations college students of Florida (the state, not the university of), your state's educational report card isn't refrigerator-worthy.

In fact, according to the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, Florida's higher education system is lagging behind many other states.

Florida's grades were unremarkable, including a C for the percentage of residents who have bachelor's degrees and an F in affordability.

You heard it right. The state that is home to some of the lowest tuition rates in the nation failed to make the affordability grade.

It isn't all that perplexing, really.

Tuition is not the sole factor in determining an institution's affordability. The percentage of income per

family dedicated to higher education is also taken into account.

Florida's "relatively meager state investment in need-based financial aid" helped to grind down the state's affordability grade.

There's no need to panic and head for the out-of-state university hills, though. Florida wasn't the only state to be dubbed unaffordable. Actually, only one state — California — received a passing grade, and they only got a C.

We aren't sure how accurate these report cards are, but it's important to remember that the entire state is evaluated, not single institutions.

We have nowhere to go but up in terms of affordability, which you and your wallet will be thankful for in the future.

the independent florida
alligator

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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

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Column

Transition to new school hard, lonely

When people search for the cause of a problem, the last place they generally look is in the mirror.

Maybe my willingness to stereotype and open my column with a cliché reveals another problem I ought to add to the ever-growing list.

The last few months have been some of the most trying times of my life as I've attempted to adjust to my new existence as a graduate student.

What I am dealing with now truly pales in comparison to some of the "real" problems I have faced in my lifetime. Monday marks the fifth anniversary of my father's death — nothing short of a sucker punch to the gut. No high school senior should have to face the prospect of burying a parent.

There is no big crisis currently bogging down my life: No immediate family member battling cancer, no parent facing unemployment or friend struggling with substance abuse. Instead, I am left to be selfish about the shortcomings in my own life and to dwell on the fact that I am deeply alone living in Gainesville as a graduate student.

I never realized what a privileged life I led as an undergrad until my time at the University of Maryland had passed. Sadly, I can recall family members and older friends warning how seemingly overnight I would be walking down the aisle to receive my diploma. Simply put, I failed to grasp the importance of living in the moment.

I didn't know what to expect when I first arrived in Florida. I never expected things would be the same as they were at Maryland, where I lived, ate and attended class with my fraternity brothers. Maybe electing to live by myself was a bad idea. A nerdy roommate, or even a messy one, would have been better than having no one to talk to sans making a call on my cell phone.



Daniel Seco
letters@alligator.org

Things have been rough from the start: I found myself striking up conversations with cashiers, even going so far as to break up my shopping list over a few stores with hopes that I would meet new people.

How's that for candor?

You don't need to tell me to get off my fat, lazy ass and stop feeling sorry for myself. I'm just in a position where I really don't know what to do. Maybe I expect too much out of a friendship. Maybe I set my standards too high when looking for a friend. Or maybe I'm just not nearly as fun or interesting as I perceive myself to be.

I look around the classrooms of my graduate courses, but I fail to see anyone who is similar to me. Sure, I talk to some of my colleagues on Gchat or Facebook, but it's hardly what one could deem a genuine friendship.

To be fair, I have found myself on the cusp of friendship, only to act overbearing and expect too much out of the still-budding relationship. Unrealistically, I want my newfound friendships to mimic those I enjoyed just months ago as an undergrad.

Grad school has me on the fast track to E.D. and senility, but all I want is for my life to unfold a little bit more like "Entourage."

I hardly fit the typical perception of a grad student: I rock Jordans; I can still date undergrads without it seeming creepy; and I toss academics to the back burner more often than not.

So, what are you doing this weekend?

Daniel Seco is a journalism graduate student. His column appears on Thursdays.

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

Reader response

Today's question: Will your report card be better than Florida's?

Wednesday's question: Would you defend yourself using a candy cane?

64% YES
36% NO
123 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

Letters to the Editor

Dorm rent increase not a surprise

This spring, on-campus residents will pay a midyear increase in rent.

As the president of the Inter-Residence Hall Association (IRHA), the student organization that works year-round to represent residents to the Department of Housing and all other parts of UF, I can say that the article in Tuesday's Alligator was not the first time residents have heard about this, despite some who thought otherwise.

Norb Dunkel, director of housing, spoke to IRHA in October about this very likely increase.

IRHA leaders asked questions and gave feedback to the department on the increase, and I want to thank Dunkel for being so direct with residence hall leaders on this very sensitive matter.

With the recent increases in utilities, even with maintaining our current utilities use, costs will soar after January. Salary increases, wage increases and administrative costs to UF will affect rent increases for next year as well.

These increases make living situations

more difficult, but as I have seen in the past, I know the housing department will work closely with IRHA to make sure residents fare well.

If you have any concerns about the rental rate increase or anything else, IRHA meetings are at 6:15 p.m. on Mondays, and all are welcome.

Jon Sheffield
IRHA President, 4LS



On-campus smoking not end of world

I graduated last semester, and I'm wondering if the smoking habits on campus have changed. Is it really that big of a problem?

When I saw smokers on campus, they were never right in the doorway of a building or standing somewhere so I couldn't pass without breathing in smoke.

In fact, they were usually somewhere out of the way, even if they might have been within the 50-foot designation.

I'm not a smoker, and I dislike the smell of cigarettes, too, but smelling a cigarette every once in a while is not a reason to ban it completely.

You won't get cancer from smelling the occasional cigarette for a brief moment.

Philip Weber
UF alumnus



UF students should celebrate SEC win, attend BCS championship game

Every UF student in Gainesville should storm University Avenue when we win against Alabama in the Southeastern Conference Championship Game so we can get it out of our systems.

This will allow us to go to Miami for the national championship game, and we will have no regrets on missing out on a championship riot on University Avenue.

Alex Barbag
4LS

Public debate meant for public

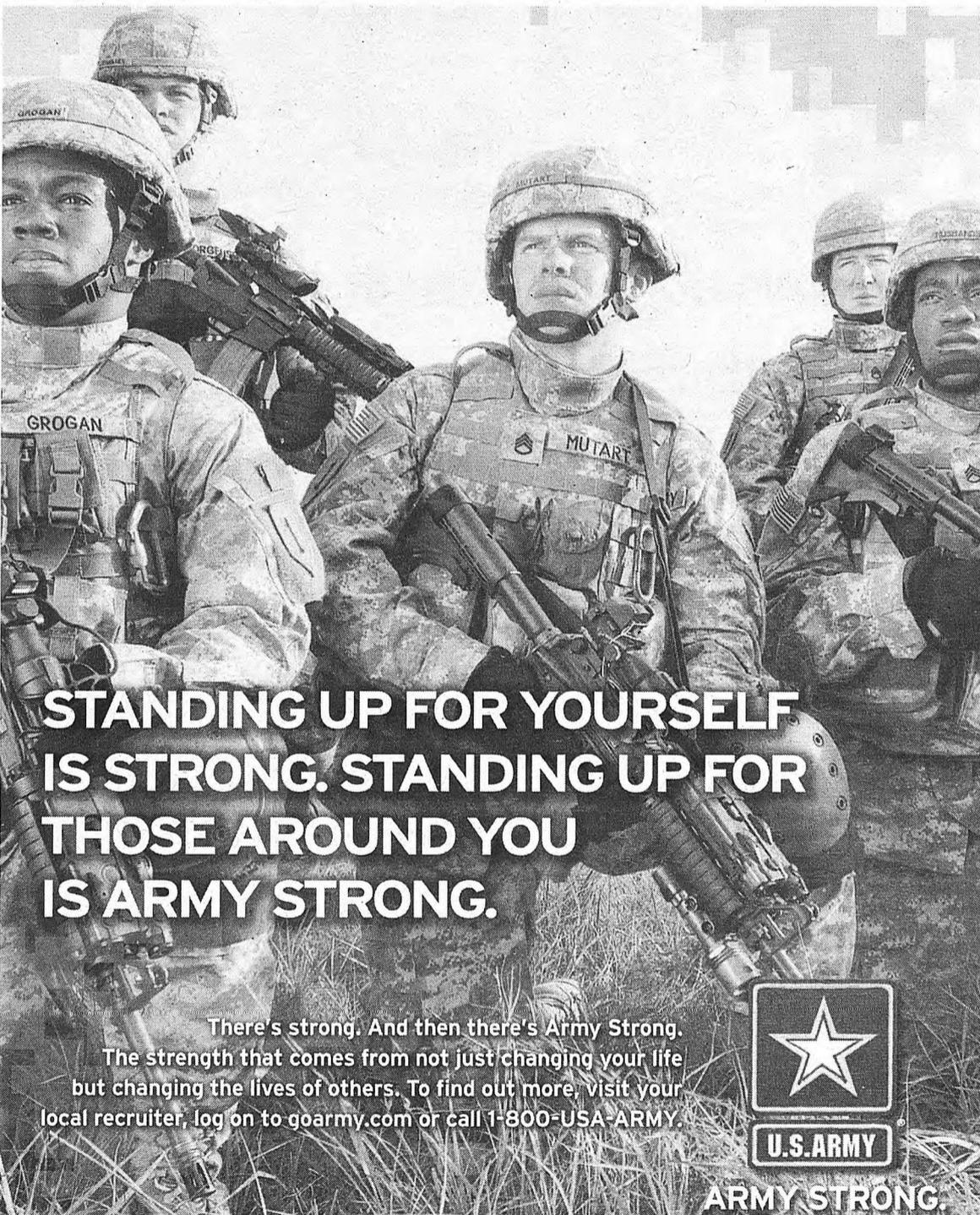
In response to the article about this week's Senate meeting and the limiting of public debate, I would like to clarify a few things. Public debate exists to give students input in Senate, and that is what it should be used for.

Unfortunately, last week's Senate meeting was used to stall the proceedings. We were forced to adjourn due to the Reitz Union closing, leaving several bills held over to the next meeting.

Dilatory tactics like this have become the hallmark of the Orange and Blue Party, and they are impeding the efficiency and proper functioning of Senate.

Simply look at their response to a measure intended to expedite the meeting: another hour of rhetoric that resulted in nothing more than another five-hour meeting.

Jonathan Fager
Gator Party District A Senator, 4LS



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ALL-NEW DODGE RAM

SUNTRUST

High food prices cause locals to turn to gardening

By **SARA HORN**

Alligator Contributing Writer

As a result of rising food costs around the world, some people have resorted to growing their own food as an affordable alternative to grocery shopping.

An experienced gardener can produce a harvest for much less than it can be bought in stores and with improved nutritional value, said Bala Rathinasabapathi, a UF horticulture professor and plant physiologist.

"You're growing something yourself, and that is fun," Rathinasabapathi said.

By growing their own vegetables, people also eliminate two of the reasons for the high prices: gas and fertilizer, which increase production costs.

For students and residents who have limited space for a garden at home, the best option is a community garden, such as the UF Organic Garden Cooperative, on Southwest 23rd Terrace.

The cooperative is a large space maintained by community members where everyone pays \$15 dollars, plus a refundable \$5 dollar deposit for a plot of land for six months.

It also provides tools, seeds and the best gardeners in town,

Rathinasabapathi said.

Gainesville resident Laura DiGruttolo has been a member of the compound for a year.

"I've grown up with a green thumb," DiGruttolo said. "It's my therapy. It's cheaper than psychotherapy."

In the summer, she grew beans, eggplants and tomatoes.

DiGruttolo's vegetables take the place of store-bought veggies and allow her to save money in the grocery store, she said.

It's important that people don't let high prices stop them from getting in their fruits and vegetables, as they're important sources of nutrition, Rathinasabapathi said.

Within the past 10 years, research done by medical and food scientists has shown that chemicals in plants have disease-preventing qualities and can potentially reduce the chance of cancer, heart problems and Alzheimer's disease, he said.

"In the past, it was thought we needed vegetables for vitamins," Rathinasabapathi said. "But now we know they have a bigger role in disease prevention."

alligator ONLINE

To view an audio and photo slideshow about the garden, see Alligator.org



Nicole Saffker / Alligator Staff

People work in their gardens at the UF Organic Gardens Cooperative on Southwest 23rd Terrace on Wednesday afternoon.

Unicorn Hill Christmas Tree Farm sells about 300 to 400 trees a year

FARM, from page 1

South.

After 25 years of operation, John and Cathryn plant, prune and sell the trees on their own with some help on the weekends from their two daughters, ages 30 and 31.

Now retired, John was a professor with the UF College of Education for 35 years — his first and last job. He taught mathematics for educators and said he still does some consulting. Although the job was wonderful, he said the pressures from the university just melted away when he left work and arrived home at his farm.

"All my cares were gone," he said.

Both John and Cathryn said a love of the out-

doors and agriculture is just part of their lives. John grew up on a dairy farm, he said, and Cathryn loved spending time at her grandfather's farm.

"This is what we love to do," he said.

Cathryn, who is now also retired, taught Spanish at Buchholz High School for 36 years. Now that she has time, she waters the six fields of Christmas trees by hand. The farm does not have an irrigation system and the rows of trees were previously watered only by the rain.

The farm is also home to wildlife, including deer, hawks and turkeys, John said.

"We can't figure out how many flocks of turkeys we have out here," he said. "We try to live in harmony with them."

Not so with the armadillos, he said, which dig deep holes underneath the trees.

"They have really become a nuisance,"

John said.

The holes must be filled before families arrive at the farm so children running through the rows don't get their feet caught and hurt themselves.

"We can't figure out how many flocks of turkeys we have out here."

John Gregory
tree farmer

The farm sees returning families every year, the couple said, some who travel from as far as St. Augustine and Orlando to chop down trees or picnic on the farm.

The trees run about \$4 to \$5 a foot, with the

average tree costing a bit less than \$30.

The most expensive tree they've sold this year was \$62.50. It was 12 feet tall.

Cathryn said the farm parts with 300 to 400 trees a year, though as many as 7,000 may be growing each year.

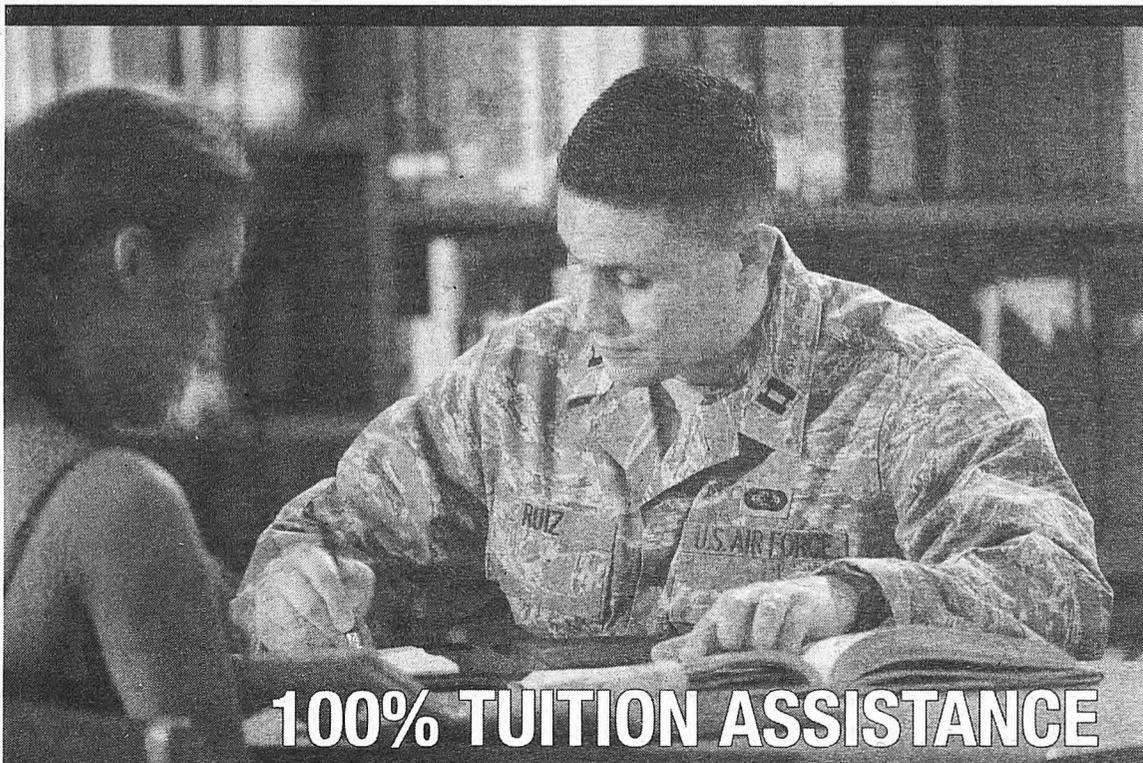
They replant about 2,000 each year. Last year was their biggest selling year, and they sold about 30 percent of the trees, she said. They are unsure how many will sell this year.

John said selling trees is only the beginning.

"I think we're selling an experience," he said.

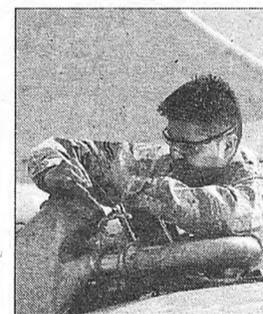
Although the farm is a business, John said it's much more than a moneymaker — it's his life.

"It's everything," he said.



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UF says more layoffs to come

CLAS, from page 1

members. Originally, 16 CLAS faculty were pegged to lose their jobs.

Although the faculty assembly does not have the power to reinstate laid-off members, Glover said in an interview he and new Dean Paul D'Anieri would take the assembly's proposals into consideration.

He said reinstatements would be hypothetically possible if funds to cover the reinstated faculty members' salaries were found. Neither Glover nor D'Anieri attended the meeting.

D'Anieri wrote in an e-mail that he will continue to work with faculty and department chairs on this unprecedented budget crunch. He said he will focus on developing principles to guide decisions if further cuts are necessary.

John Leavey, UF English professor and chairman of the CLAS Faculty Council, addressed the lack of funds in the meeting, saying a committee investigated the causes of CLAS finances in April and found them to be problematic.

Leavey said the committee found funds in UF's reserves that would allow the college to keep its laid-off faculty members.

UF spokeswoman Janine Sikes said the university is doing its best to avoid layoffs.

"But the bottom line is we cannot dwell on what has already happened, and that's not to minimize the loss of faculty," she said. "That's a terrible human toll."

UF Academics

Sikes said future layoffs are imminent given the constraints of the state's budget.

Also concerned about faculty layoffs were about 40 members of the Asian American Student Union who rallied outside of Dauer Hall in favor of reinstating the faculty members. Some carried posters that said "Save Languages."

"The student population here at UF is really diverse. They're all different heritages and cultures," said Alyssa Wang, the organization's campus affairs chairwoman. "And these languages were really a good way for these students to learn about their family."

Florida receives B-plus for completion

REPORT, from page 1

Orlando said the Florida Opportunity Scholars program helps about 1,100 first-generation students afford to come to Gainesville who otherwise could not.

College opportunities for young and working-age adults are poor, according to the report. Forty schools earned a C or lower in the participation category. Only 33 percent of people in Florida from ages 18 to 24 are enrolled in college.

The report did give Florida a B-plus in

completion, stating that 53 percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.

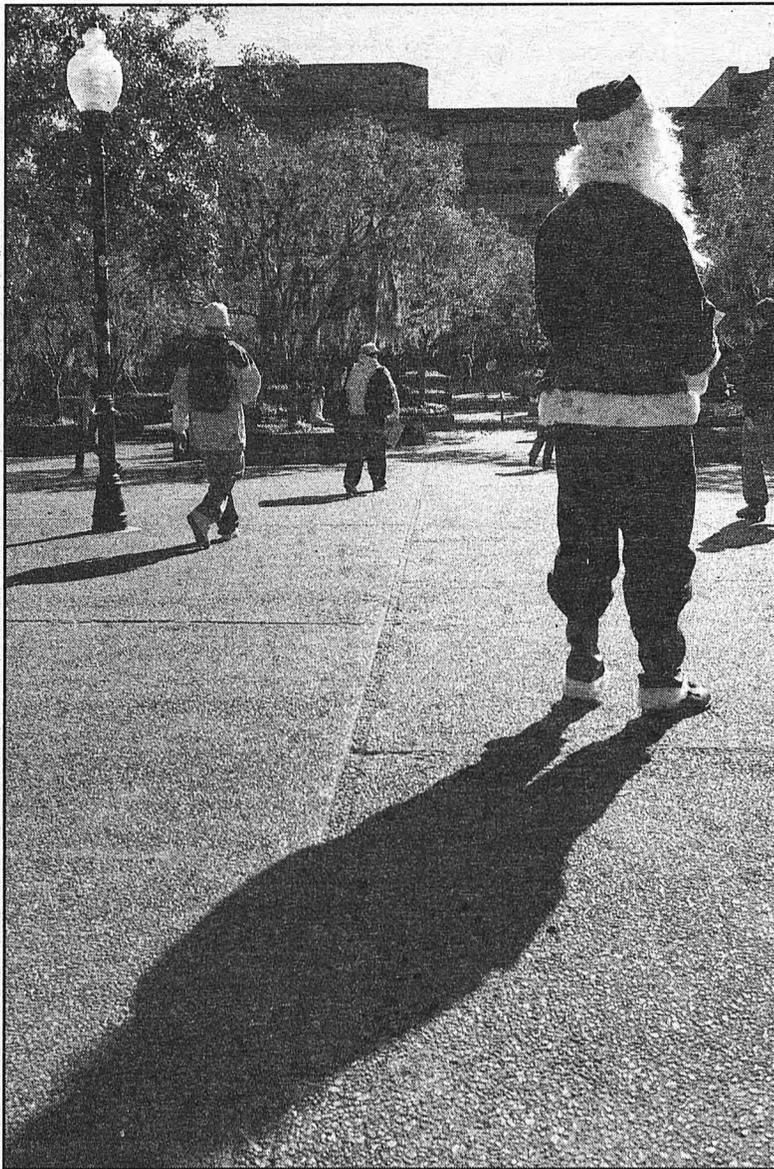


Orlando

Both Edmonds and Orlando said the report card would not directly lead to any new proposals.

"The Board of Governors knows what we need to address," Edmonds said.

"This kind of analysis doesn't help us in any way."



Sarah Hsu / Alligator Staff

Santa on the Plaza

UF student Chris McCarthy, dressed as Santa Claus, passes out cards on Turlington Plaza on Wednesday afternoon to encourage students to donate to Toys for Tots in association with Gator Stompin'.

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Crew club rows for fundraiser

■ TEAMS ARE RAISING MONEY FOR BOATHOUSE.

By **KYLE MAISTRI**
Alligator Writer
kmaistri@alligator.org

Members of UF's crew club wrapped a two-day mission Wednesday to row 554 miles without leaving the Reitz Union Colonnade.

The sports club launched its Rowing Across Florida fundraiser Tuesday with the hopes of collecting enough money to build a \$30,000 boathouse.

The club, which consists of men's and women's teams, concluded its 554-mile row — the longest straight line across Florida — Wednesday on three ergometers, or stationary rowing machines.

Two years ago, Tacachale, the company that owns the land where the current boathouse is located, informed the team that its building was not up to code and would have to be renovated or rebuilt.

"They threatened to kick us off the property and sent us eviction notices and everything," said Raf Crowley, head coach of the women's crew team.

The team, which was on UF's short list to become a varsity sport before women's lacrosse was eventually added, came to an agreement with the company and began fundraising for the new boathouse.

The 87 members of the team are halfway to their goal and are raising more money to hire a contractor.

"A boathouse is a place to store our equipment, build tradition and a good meeting point for our team," said Matthew Kuhl, president of the UF crew club team.

The team usually raises money by sending letters to parents and others associated with the program, but the team thought it would be a good idea to set up shop on campus, Kuhl said.

The women's team enjoyed its most successful fall ever, taking home two gold medals at the Head of the Hooch competition in Chattanooga, Tenn., in November. Crowley said he hopes the team will be able to raise enough money to make the program even better and win the state competition.

"We've done a lot in recent years with very little," he said. "We need help, and we need to get this done."

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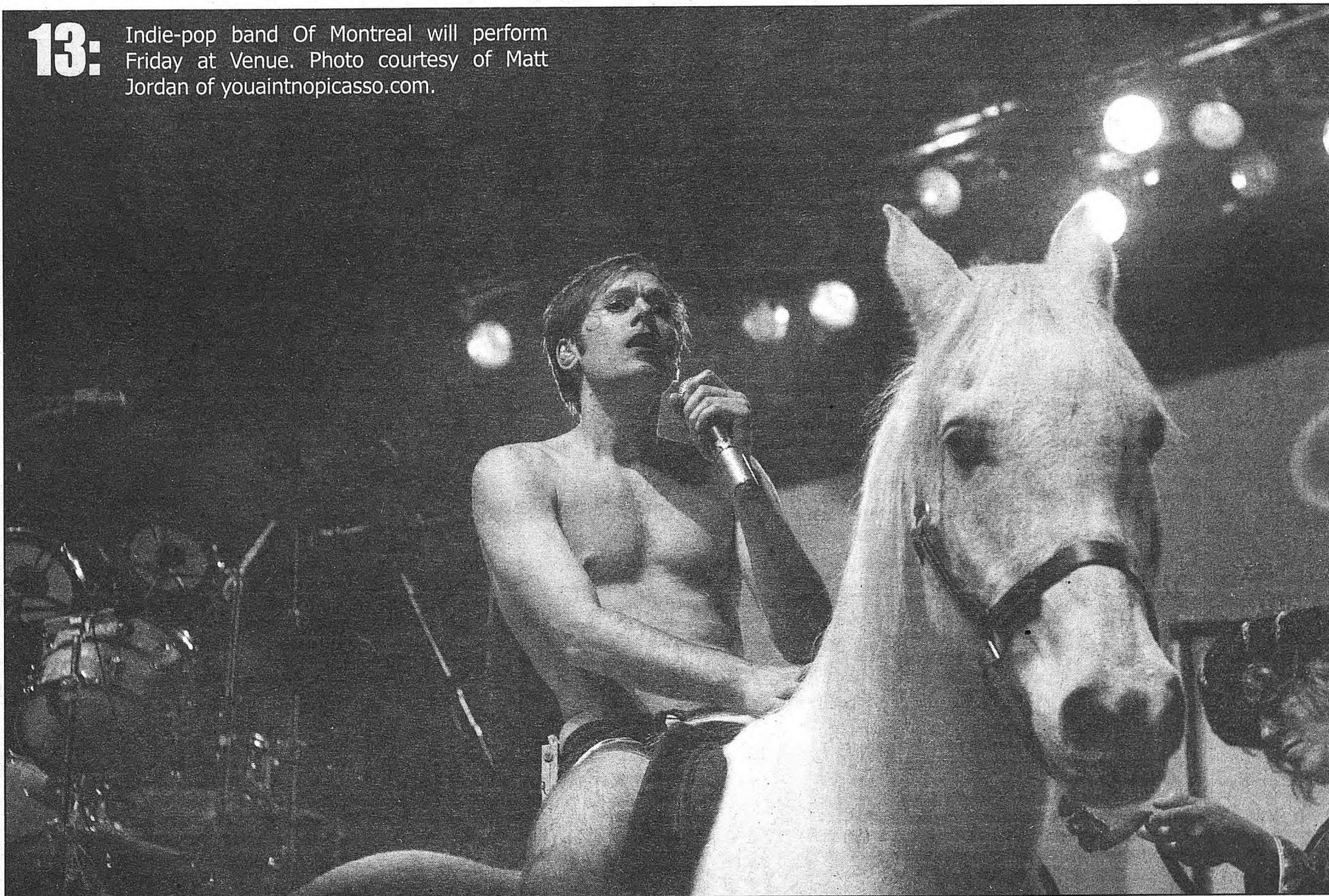
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13: Indie-pop band Of Montreal will perform Friday at Venue. Photo courtesy of Matt Jordan of youaintnopicasso.com.



"He doesn't get it from us. He must get it from his daddy [Kevin Federline]. I say it, but not around my kids."

Britney Spears on her son dropping the f-bomb

14: Check out album reviewer Robert Hilson's latest views on new releases. For a bonus review, visit the Alligator Web site. Also, Stephanie Dunn explains the type of people you should not do. Ever.

online

For more Avenue columns, read Erik Voss's perspective on children, Regina Stuzin's latest fashion findings and David Stuzin's movie review of "Four Christmases." Also, bartender Gabrielle Falconeiri explains the influx of Gainesville locals at bars during the holiday season.

Also featured on the Web site is an article about local Beatles cover band The Shoddy Beatles, along with an article with insight into the growing trend of TV on the Internet.

the A - LIST [Finally]

'Tis the season of distractions, and one, maybe more, of your classes is simply not going to get the prep time necessary to help out your GPA. These methods aren't exactly tried and true, but if you get your exam and you find yourself hopelessly screwed, process of elimination just won't cut it.

Bluebook blues:

1. Write what you know: In the event you are not completely brain-dead, take advantage of your artistic freedom and interpret the essay topic. Asked to describe the repercussions of the Civil War? Substitute a different war that suits your expertise. Vietnam? Close enough.

2. Express yourself: Professors are people too, which means they are vain, narcissistic and generally ready to embrace your admiration and affection. Use your Bluebook to write a love letter, junior-high style, because you love this class — you might even be in love with this class. Write that down.

Scantron madness:

1. Know your ABCs: You were always told when in doubt, pick "C." It's basically the equilibrium of the choices — sort of like a compromise between the other answer hopefuls. Sounds friendly enough, so why not? Because it's never "C." Period.

2. Merry Christmas tree: This method is just classic, and since it's December, it's also festive. Besides, you have probability on your side.

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A walk on the dark side

HENRY TAKSIER
AVENUE WRITER

Bryan Poole, guitarist and singer for the indie-pop band Of Montreal, said the band recorded its latest album with the help of Georgie Fruit, a "64-year-old black she-male who's been in and out of prison a couple times."

"He wrote a lot of the songs," Poole said. "We met him toward the end of our previous record."

Poole said Fruit was previously part of a '70s band called Arousal, has no concern for what people think and refuses to filter his words or actions. What Poole didn't say was that Fruit is not a real person, but a dark alter ego of the band's songwriter and frontman, Kevin Barnes.

Of Montreal will perform Friday at The Venue with The Fiery Furnaces and Fire Zuave.

Poole described the band's latest album, "Skeletal Lamping," as a journey into the dark side of the human psyche. Skeletal lamping, a method of hunting nocturnal

“There are certain things in your psyche that you probably don't want to admit to, that you need to delve deeper to see

Bryan Poole,
guitarist for Of Montreal

animals in the dark, metaphorically describes the illumination of hidden thoughts and desires.

"There are certain things in your psyche that you probably don't want to admit to, that you need to delve deeper to see," Poole said. "A lot of them are dark, sexual things. Some of it's the feeling that people are against you. There's thoughts of hurting people that you love."

Some inspiration for "Skeletal Lamping" came to the band when they entered a mosque in Istanbul. The locals took them out to dinner and bought a special liquor for Dottie Alexander, the band's bass player. Her reaction was weird and adverse, Poole said.

The band's other members took her back to the hotel. She started babbling things they had never heard before, like "I'm a fruit zombie puppet" and "the licorice nipple is always lasting." The band asked her what she meant and wrote it down.

"There were some darker things she said too that I can't say," Poole said. "They may have been from deep in her childhood or maybe even past-life experiences or something."

Poole said Of Montreal's performances resemble surrealist tragedies.

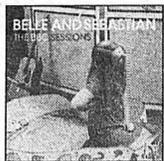
"If Apollinaire had written a Greek tragedy, that's what we would sound like," he said.

Doors at The Venue, located 233 W. University Ave., open at 9 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online for \$16.

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CD REVIEWS

ROBERT HILSON ◆ AVENUE WRITER



**BELLE & SEBASTIAN
THE BBC SESSIONS**

From the first endearingly fragile a cappella notes of classic "The State I Am In," a bashful Stuart Murdoch symbolically declines an invitation from England's prying radio ears: No thanks, we're staying in today. You see, back in the mid-90's, Belle & Sebastian was the would-be prom queen still too shy and self-aware to realize her own beauty. "The BBC Sessions" dusts off a snapshot of the sleepy collective in their formative years, before Isobel Campbell fell for the bad boy, and when the singer nervously laughed at himself just in case you thought he was a joke. These tracks are unnervingly intimate, even for this band, and that's why this rare look-in is, so special — because B&S, a bedroom act if there ever was one, was never meant for the light of day.



**RAPHAEL SAADIQ
THE WAY I SEE IT**

Temptations disciple Raphael Saadiq just beat out 007 and ice cubes in a cool contest. His throwback style has more soul than a shoe factory. Soda fountains think this guy has retro down pat. You get the point — the man is fly, and on "The Way I See It," he channels a radiant, doo-wop-era rhythm and blues that tips a suede top hat to Berry Gordy and Phil Spector. "Keep Marchin'" reconnects with the effortless groove of early Motown classics, exuding a lighthearted confidence laced in tambourine percussion and backing falsetto. "Just One Kiss" pops with orchestral flourishes and female harmonies, but neither element matches the zeal of the show-stopping lead vocal. How does one account for Saadiq's silky delivery? Like satin pajamas and other sides of pillows, some things are naturally smooth.



**THE KNUX
REMINDE ME IN 3 DAYS**

How about some role play with your rap music? A technique long ago mastered by those cheeky Wu-Tang lads, the tempting habit of cramming one's album with scripted banter and wink-wink inside jokes occasionally sidetracks the Brothers Lindsey. Yet when Al and Krispy focus on the actual songs, the young duo confirm themselves as genre-bending hip-hop impresarios. "Bang! Bang!" would make a devastating TV on the Radio cut as it begins a Matrix-worthy techno rocker before exploding into electric, rhyme-heavy verses. Likewise, side one of "Remind Me" is an exercise in style-mashing precision, but when the half-assed skits creep in during the second half hour, one gets the sense that The Knux could be truly great if they could only consistently answer the classic actor question: What's my motivation?

● *Do yourself a favor and don't*

STEPHANIE DUNN ◆ AVENUE WRITER

● There are categories of people you just shouldn't sleep with, ever.

● One distinct type is The Mess. This is the girl who calls you sobbing because she can't remember the night before and insists it's because someone slipped her something. It had nothing to do with the 12 kamikazes she inhaled at the bar, and the person who saw her licking a random guy's face on the Later Gator is a liar. The male version of The Mess can quaff a keg, yet he is miraculously cool to drive then grabs your arm and hisses slurred, nonsensical insults at you if you suggest otherwise. This guy has soiled himself publicly, but he doesn't know that.

● Another bad idea is the "It's Over For Good" person. These people have broken up with their boyfriend or girlfriend and reconciled every other day for the past two years, but tonight "it's over for good." You're mid-conversation when the so-called ex calls. They silence the call with a roll of their eyes. Soon, their ringtone blasts every 30 seconds with maniacal desperation. They moan that they have to take the call from their psycho ex and make a speedy exit.

● Once hidden in another room, the tough act dissipates instantaneously. Their voice drops to a pleading whimper and the whining commences: "Baby, I swear I'm not with anyone. My phone was on si-

lent. Listen, I'm about to watch a movie, and then I'll probably pass out. Love you too, talk to you — who's that? No, I heard someone. Who are you with? WHO ARE YOU WITH?" When they return, coolly nonchalant, they explain how difficult it was to have dated such an insecure stalker. "Thank God it's over," they sigh while snuggling up to you. The morning after, "It's Over For Good" will be back with their girlfriend or boyfriend, and the cycle will repeat every other day for the next two years. It's annoying enough being friends with "It's Over For Good." Don't make the mistake of sleeping with them.

When dating, be aware of Douchebaggery. It's an oft-referenced concept, but it's one that nevertheless exists in rampant abundance. Your standard Douchebag can be found demanding respect (it's a sick fixation), bragging, hitting on girls he has no chance with, insulting the girls he does have a chance with, mocking a gay guy's outfit without realizing he's wearing the same thing and commenting on other guys' lats or bedazzled T-shirts. He swears he was a walk-on for the Gators until he injured his leg. Yet a Douchebag can also be the snotty pseudo-intellectual who

references Foucault one time too many, which is once.

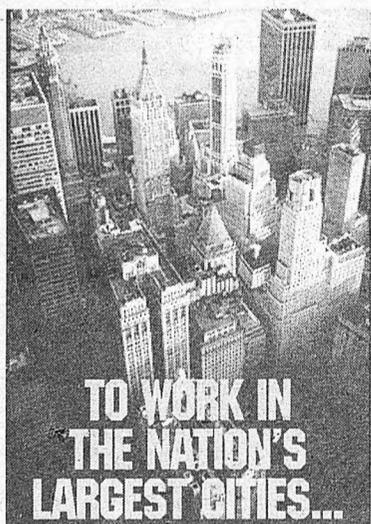
Douchebagettes, the female counterparts, tilt their head at the same 45-degree angle while flashing a peace sign, maybe two, in every. single. picture. These girls complain about how much they hate drama, then throw an arbitrary tantrum moments later when another girl makes the grave mistake of glancing in the prima donna's direction. All forms of Douchebags thrive on

“ Don't make the mistake of sleeping with them. ”

their own egos. If they feel bloated, there will be no sex that day. Any matter you deem personal will become public fodder on their Facebook status. Don't do a Douche.

These are just some basic types to watch out for when dating, although there are definitely more. They range from The Leech, an ill-conceived one-night stand who transforms into an agonizingly dependent tagalong, to The Bipolar Babe/Beefcake, who might be both the sexiest and most psychotic person you know. Shameful as it may be, we can all identify with at least some of the aforementioned unbecoming elements. Drunk dialing, for instance, is just a person briefly embracing their inner Mess, which is perfectly permissible. Just make sure you don't become the source of a new definition.

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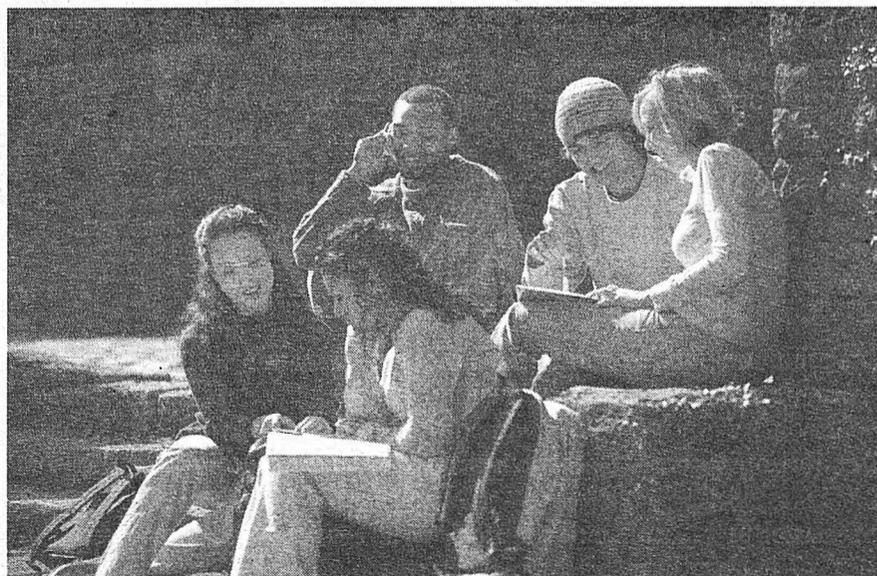
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Less than 1 mi from UF!!!
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 Huge 1&2 Beds*Great LOW rates
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 Full W/D in each unit!*Free Tanning!
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ALL THE SPACE YOU NEED!
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 Granite tops, tall ceilings, private balcony,
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 Check out our newly renovated 1, 2, or 3
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 with gas fireplace, hardwood floors &
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★★★4BR/2BA HISTORIC HOUSE★★★
 10 blocks to UF. Near downtown. High ceiling,
 wood floor, cent A/C, W/D, tons of character.
 Avail Now 237 SW 4th Ave. \$980/mo
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 \$450/mo 1BD/1BA close to UF
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 1 mo. FREE RENT
 1BR Loft Style Starting at \$600
 Gated Community 6400 SW 20th Ave.
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WALK to UF Available January.
 2BR/2.5BA \$1000. 1BR/1BA \$600. No
 pets, no smoking. Contact 352-870-7256 or
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1/1, Ridgeview, free water, next to park, on
 the bus line, cent H/A, courtyard, 2 miles to
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 pets. \$470 SD, \$470/mo 562-2824 12-10-
 08-30-2

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Duckpond
 2 bd 1 ba 1200 sq ft townhouse in heart of
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 town shops & restaurants. 528 NE 4th A ave
 avail Jan \$795/mo 379-4952
 12-10-08-35-2

STUDIO & 1BR - Walk to UF
 Available Dec & Jan 1st.
 \$410-\$495/mo.
 Gore Rabell Real Estate
 378-1387 Gore-Rabell.com
 1-6-08-27-2

Walking Distance to UF Law School!!!
 419 NW 25th Street. Clean, beautiful new-
 er home 3 bd/2ba w/d included! \$1650/mo.
 Avail. end of Dec./early Jan. Call Anne @
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2b, 1b * 1 block MidTown *
 2 Car Decal WiFi-Internet * Washer & Dryer*
 Jan-July 204 NW 18 St Manny 352 317 4408
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 Bike to UF 4BR/3BA, over 2000 sf, nice area
 1 mi to UF. 2816 W Univ Ave. \$1500/mo 1st,
 last mo & 1 mo SD 376-6183, 352-327-2931
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HISTORIC HOME 4BR/2BA near UF. 1105
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HOME FOR RENT 3BR/2BA, 1 car garage, screened porch, fenced yard, new carpet & paint. \$995/mo. Call Fred 352-375-2900. www.AndreeRealty.com 12-10-08-22-2

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Spacious 1 & 2 & 3 bedrooms.starting at \$525. \$625 & \$795. Different floor plans some with enclosed patios or balconies. Italian Tile, bedrooms carpeted, D/W, W/D hookups, verticals Central Heat & air. Lots of storage space. Near bus route .332-7700 1-30-38-2

2MasterBr/2Ba Luxury end unit condo in The Gables. Vaulted ceilings, granite & custom cabinets throughout, stainless appl, garage, scr patio, comm pool, cable w/HBO&SHO MUST SEE!Call 4 pics!\$1250 727-492-9836 11-19-5-2

2 BED / 2 BATH CONDO \$800/MONTH Located in Capstone Quarters near the corner of Archer Rd. and 34 St. Great location for school and shopping! www.gainesvillecon do.info or 630-390-6612 1-6-08-19-2

SW University area, bus, bike, walk to UF. 1BR/1BA in 4/4 condo available now & for spring. \$450/mo all utils incl. Call Nalini Pandey 352-514-3398 or email nalinijoshi21@gmail.com 12-10-08-18-2

2 & 3BR on shady lot. AC/heat. From \$400/mo. Water included. No pets. 4546 NW 13th St. Call 376-5887 12-10-08-18-2

SUN ISLAND

1BRs from \$580 2BRs from \$650
Sun Bay • Sun Key • Sun Harbor
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4-22-08-72-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

2 Rooms Avail. In 4 Bedroom House Avail. Dec 08' or Jan 09' \$450 a room Short term lease Avail. Other 4 bedroom houses available for Spring Sublease Or Year Lease Starting Aug 09' Email ericmanin@yahoo.com or 352-682-7424 12-10-08-18-2

Wonderful Historic Apartments Walk to UF from these 2BR/1BA 1215 SW 4th Avenue up or down avail. \$600/mo Hardwood floors, parking Union Properties 352-373-7578 www.rentgainesville.com 12-10-17-2

SERENOLA PINES APTS Off SW 34th St near post office 1BR \$515, 2BR \$580 Call for daily specials 352-335-0420 1-6-08-18-2

WOODLAND TERRACE APTS Off SW 34th St near post office. 2BR \$535 Call for daily specials 352-335-0420 1-6-08-18-2

Historic Duckpond 1 bd,1ba or studio apt. in vintage house.hardwood floors, W/D, blocks to downtown ,large yard,very peaceful 306 ne 6th st. avail Dec 1st,\$480 379-4952 12-10-08-17-2

Luxurious 2/2 located at Campus Edge. Minutes from Shands and UF. Wood floors and upgraded cabinets. 6 bus stop routes available. Call 954-325-6375 for special pricing. 12-8-14-2

PERFECT LOCATION! VERY NICE 1bd/1ba condo. Walk or bike to campus and Shands. W/D, pool & fitness ctr. Large walk-in. Vaulted ceiling. \$695/mo. Call for details. 321-543-8142 12-10-08-16-2

SUBLEASE - 2 BEDROOM! BRAND NEW KITCHEN AND BATHROOM!! MINUTES FROM UF!

*** NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED!!!!** \$675 A MONTH!! CALL NOW 305-333-5701 12-5-13-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

Walk to UF 5 Blocks Apt avail 12/15. Large BR/BA w/kitchenette, cent A/C, ceiling fan, W/D on site. No pets allowed. \$575/mo. Call 609-513-6383 1-6-08-17-2

Bike to UF! Available Now! 4/2.5 \$1600/rent. Lots of storage, 2433 sq ft two story home includes washer/dryer, dishwasher, screened porch and fenced back yard. Call Campus Realty @ 352-692-3800 1-6-08-18-2

* FORGET THE CAR * SAVE THE GAS* WALK TO CAMPUS 3/2 1351 sq ft 1118 NW 3 Ave \$995 3/2 1500 sq ft 403 NW 25 St \$1100 4/2 1736 sq ft 5 NW 25 St \$1150 Edbaumanagement.com-1731 NW 6th St-375-7104 12-10-15-2

Brand New Campus View Condos- maple cabinets, all appl. incld., w/d, 9ft ceilings, cwn molding, int.hlwy, alarm 2/2 \$1000 w/1 decaled pking space & 3/3 \$1500 w/2 decaled pking spaces Edbaumanagement.com 1731 NW 6th St-375-7104 12-10-15-2

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 12-10-27-2

★★★ANTIQUE 1BR APT★★★ Large 1BR, hrdwd flrs, clawfoot tub, 1908 house. Downtown near Waldo Rd. Pets arranged. \$475/mo. Avail now. Greg 214-3291 12-10-14-2

★★★★★MICANOPY HOUSE★★★★★ 3BR/1BA, bathrm is huge, large yard, in Maconopy city. Pets arranged. Cool old house. \$600/mo 1st/last/dep. Avail now. Greg 214-3291 12-10-14-2

★★NEAR SUPER WALMART★★ Large 1BR apt, walk to Walmart. No pets. \$375/mo. 1st, last, dep. Avail now. Greg 214-3291 12-10-14-2

3/2 w/2car carport 1901 sf huge liv. room, din. rm, fam.rm, eat-in kitch, new d/w, w/d hkups, wood/carpet, hge corner lot, great location avail now \$1050 edbaumanagement.com-1731 NW 6th St-375-7104 12-10-08-13-2

2/2 townhse-newly remodeled from ceiling to floor incl w/d & a/c/heat pump, save on energy costs. Walk or bike to Shands avail now \$800 edbaumanagement.com-1731 NW 6th St-375-7104 12-10-08-14-2

\$500 - \$550 2 BD Apartments Historical Downtown, W/D hookups, porches, Bike to UF 10-15 mins. Great Size! Cute! Must See! \$99 Deposit special rentalworkshop.com 505-9264, 870-0904 12-10-08-13-2

Available TODAY!
No move-in fees & 1 mo free
1/1 : 620 sq ft - \$649
2/2 : 975 sq ft - \$769
3/2 : 1096 sq ft - \$945
pinetreegardens.com * 376-4002
4-22-08-72-2

House 4BR/3BA Fenced yard Garage Lndry Rm Wsh/dry incl. 2 master suites North off 34th. \$1300/mo. 954-340-2732 tander@bellsouth.net 12-10-08-13-2

1 unfurnished bedroom in a 4BR house. W/D. Avail Dec 1st. \$350/mo + 1/4 utils. First and last. 2100 NW 54th Terr. 941-724-0261 12-12-08-13-2

REAL 1/1s for Jan 2009 at GATORNEST Where you can kick the roommate habit & walk to campus! 575 sq ft big for only \$585. Just 3 blocks to UF @ 300 NW 18th St. No application fee. Most pets welcome! Call EFN Properties @ (352) 371-3636 or email Rentals@EFNProperties.com 12-10-08-13-2

PET'S PARADISE

\$375 - \$650. No app or pet fee. 1 & 2BR, privacy fenced. Svv. 352-331-2099 12-10-08-11-2

★★ARCHER ROAD HOUSE★★ 3BR/2BA, fenced backyard, tile floor, nice. \$775/mo. Call Greg 214-3291 12-10-12-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

Room in 3br house includes all utilities,internet and washer/dryer. Ten minutes from campus. One at 400 and one at 350. 3331 nw 29th ave Call 850-803-5342 1-9-08-15-2

DOG FRIENDLY 3BR/2BA HOUSE

New Tile Flrs, Washer/Dryer, Large Yard. \$1100 mo., Avail Jan.1st Call(339)224-8094 No extra security deposit for pets. 12-5-08-8-2

House for rent 2 mi from UF. 2BR/1BA/1 car garage. 100% renovated. New kitchen appliances, new tile, carpet, fixtures & window treatment. W/D Large fenced lot. Grad or prof only. \$995/mo. Available now. 386-295-8488 12-10-08-10-2

2 bed 2 bath condo in Capstone Quarters on Archer Rd and SW 34th ST. New paint and carpet, washer and dryer included. Plenty of parking and close to campus, shopping and entertainment \$800/mo. (352)672-0917 12-10-08-10-2

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2 bed / 1 bath in NW Gainesville. \$600 per month. Quiet neighborhood near NW 39th ave and 13th street. Central AC/Heat. New paint & carpet. W/D hookups. Sorry, no pets. Call 352-375-5250. 12-4-5-2

1BR/1BA studio apt, 7th floor of Seagle Building, 6 blks to UF. W/D, DW, garbage disposal, garage parking, storage room. Beautiful view of downtown G'ville. 472-9273 billconradconstruction@yahoo.com 12-10-9-2

1 room in beautiful 2BR/1BA Downtown condo. Vaulted ceilings, sky lights, Italian style floors. Close to library, UF, Shands, and shopping. \$450/mo mo to mo. Pets ok. walk to popular spots dwntn festivals. 262 1351 1-6-08-9-2

2BR 1BA Apts \$600/Mo 5 Blks to UF, Central H & Air Laundry Fac. Carpet, Pets Allowed. Short Term lease Avail. 829 Sw 5th Avenue Call Merrill Management Inc. 352-372-1494 12-10-7-2

2BR 1BA Garage Apt in the DUCKPOND AREA. Wood Floors, Central H & Air, Laundry Facilities 726 NE 4th Street \$800/Mo Call Merrill Management Inc. 352-372-1494 12-10-7-2

7BR/5BA House, 2 blocks to downtown, 3/4 mile to UF. Cent. A/C, wood floors, W/D, large living room. Great for group or use as 3-1BR/1BA apartments with 2 studios. 224 SW 3rd. Avenue, \$1,800/mo. (386)266-9147 12-9-08-5-2

Mill Run Townhome for rent. End unit, 2bd, 1 bath, washer/dryer, fire pl, new carpets, 2005 appl, move in cond, \$725 mo, 1st mo & 1 mo security. Call 352-214-2022 or 305-788-8233. 12-9-08-5-2

3BR 2BA Home near UF! \$850/Mo Tile and Carpet Floors, Central H & Air, Xtra Rm could be used as a 4th BR, carport, Nice Back Yard. 319 NW 16th Avenue Call Merrill Management Inc 352-372-1494 12-10-6-2

1BR 1BA 1BLK to UF! \$525/Mo Carpet, Central H & Air, Laundry Facilities on site. 1236 Sw 4th Ave Call Merrill Management Inc 352-372-1494 12-10-6-2

Large 2BR/1BA

Close to Shands. \$550/mo \$400 deposit. No W/D. 352-372-3131 12-10-08-6-2

3BR/2BA House. Hardwood floors, fireplace, new baths, screened patio, big yard, minutes to UF, on bus route, carport, storage shed. \$1400/mo. 1st/last/sec. 954-899-7197 1-6-08-7-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

★★★NEW HOMES NEAR UF★★★
●Victorian 3BD/2BA hardwd, granite \$1295
●Ranch style 4BD/2BA tile, law schl \$1395
●2 blocks 2 UF! HUGE 1BD hardwd \$625
All Renovated with W/D, DW 373-5295 12-9-5-2

★★★GORGEOUS HOME★★★
3BR/2BA Bike To UF! Just redone w/ new appliances, hrdwd, tile, granite, deck, private acre yard plus lawn service, on RTS line \$1295 Call 373-5295 1-6-08-7-2

★★★BIG HOME NEAR UF★★★
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1/2 mile off Archer Rd. Close to UF, Shands, VA Hospital on SW 31st Pl. 2BR/1BA apt. Ceramic tile, cent AC/heat, W/D hook-ups. \$590/mo. 407-363-7198, 407-234-1380 1-6-08-6-2

3BR 2BA House for rent. Privacy fence, new wood floors, fireplace and attached garage. Quiet neighborhood, Off Tower Rd. ONLY \$950/mth 352-494-6485 1-16-08-14-2

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MONTICELLO CONDO 2BR/2BA 1 car garage. Pool & tennis court privileges. Across from GHFC. No pets. \$1000/mo. Call 331-6872 1-20-08-15-2

Immaculate NW 3br/2ba home on lge lot, convenient to dtwn & UF, wood flrs, den/fam.room, yard care 3726 NW 36th St \$1100/mo Edbaumanagement.com-1731 NW 6th St-375-7104 12-10-08-5-2

3 br/2ba doublewide on 6.75 acre, fenced & cross fenced, includes pole barn, great for horses \$1000/mo Edbaumanagement.com-1731 NW 6th St-375-7104 12-10-08-5-2

New 3br/2.5 ba in NW near dwntwn & UF, wood & cer tile flrs, bkshelves, screened porch, pool \$1100 Edbaumanagement.com-1731 NW 3th St-375-7104 12-10-08-5-2

2 br/2ba in Whispering Pines, SW near UF, high ceilings, lge all equipped kitchen w/cer tile \$1000/mo-1 month free! Edbaumanagement.com-1731 NW 6th St-375-7104 12-10-08-5-2

3br/2.5ba, SW near UF, screened prch, W/D, includes some utilities \$750/mo Edbaumanagement.com-1731 NW 6th St-375-7104 12-10-08-5-2

CONDO in upscale Charleston Place, 2/2 both BR's are masters, W/D in unit, ceiling fans, tile throughout,storage locker, like new,\$1,275/mo, available immed, 352-335-3787 1-6-08-5-2

Lge 2br/2.5ba twnhse in NW golf & gated community, W/D, screened prchs, walk-in closets, comm. pool & tennis \$1150 Edbaumanagement.com-1731 NW 6th St-375-7104 12-10-08-5-2

3 Subleases

Apartments Sublet & Roommates Browse FREE! www.SUBLET.com 1-877-FOR-RENT/201-845-7300 12-10-08-74-3

oxford manor 2/2 sublet. 1 month free w/ lease. gated entry, w/d in unit, free cable and tanning, large gym, 2 pools, sauna \$906mo lease exp. 7/30/09 #863-381-7182 12-10-30-3

1 BR / 1 BA apartment sublease from January to August. Fully furnished apt. @ The Estates includes internet, cable & alarm at almost 600 sq. ft. Contact (813) 679-4946. 12-10-08-22-3

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3 Subleases

\$635/mo. 1BR in 2BR/2.5BA townhouse with W/D, D/W, full kitchen, private balconies, large closets. 5 min walk to campus. Pets with deposit. Available now. Call 904.484.4156 or email cavguns@ufl.edu 1-6-08-21-3

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Gainesville Harvest

4 BLOCKS FROM UF Large 1/1 in College Park. W/D & DW, wood floors, central AC. Apt is brand new. Next to Library West & pool. Contact 786-326-8593 Brian. 12-8-15-3

1BR/1BA sublease in a 4/4 HBO, internet & utils incl for just \$454/mo. Call Karl at 954-554-8461 12-5-08-13-3

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) 440-263-3013 12-10-08-13-3

ONE MONTH FREE! 1BR/1BA in 3/3 Luxury Townhouse. \$550/ month. (Starts Jan 09). All utilities (Premium Cable, HS internet, Electric, etc) INCLUDED. Further, the room is fully furnished! Call 954-483-4597. 12-9-08-12-3

Live without roommates across the street from campus! College Manor spring 2009 sublease. 1 BR/1 BA apt. \$565/mo + Utilities. Will leave apt furnished. Pet-friendly complex. 352-328-9518 danilizaso@ufl.edu 12-10-08-12-3

ONE BLOCK FROM CAMPUS/LIBRARY WEST! Spring/Summer. 111 NW 16th St. Looking Glass Apts. 1 Br/1 Ba. Big BR. Free internet, Washer/dryer, dish washer. \$545/month. Call (850) 525-4532. 1-6-14-3

Cabana Beach Sublease! WILL GIVE \$500 NOW or 1st Mo. Rent Free! Jan 09-Jul 09. Private 1BR/1BA in 4/4. furnished w/walk in closet. internet, tv/cable, pool, & gym. \$530/mo. 904-536-9690 or andrea87@ufl.edu 12-10-9-3

1BR/1BR deluxe in a 4/4 at the Estates for Spring/Summer. \$575 obo. Female. Close to campus. Go to TheEstatesUF.com for amenities. Call Kellie at 352-283-0860 12-10-9-3

WALK/BIKE TO UF! 1BR in 4/2 @ Royal Village Apts. Spring & summer. W/D, parking decal, furnished, awesome roommates! \$499/mo. incl utils.. Call 727-214-7192 12-4-5-3

\$500-1/1 available in 2/2 townhome 4 spring/summer. Cable, internet, water & sewer incl. Pets welcomed. W/D in unit. Furnished/Unfurnished. Price negot. Dec 15th avail. Call 352-792-5995 12-10-8-3

1 room in beautiful 2BR/1BA Downtown condo. Vaulted ceilings, sky lights, Italian style floors. Close to library, UF, Shands, and shopping. \$450/mo mo to mo. Pets ok. walk to popular spots dwnntn festivals. 262 1351 1-6-08-9-3 -

Furnished 1br/1ba @ University Heights available for spring semester. \$659/month includes water and electric. 2 blocks from UF campus, 1 block east of Norman Hall. Contact by email: katschl@ufl.edu 12-5-4-3

\$425-Male roommates needed for 4/4 Univ. Terrace condo (SW 34th St.); utilities included; on routes 12 and 35. Call 352.514.3308. Negotiable. 12-10-7-3

3 Subleases

awesome sublease 2br/2ba furnished spglass townhouse.monthly 1013.00 utilities extra lease till 5/09 optional to extend.gated, pool.tennis close to uf santa fe call 772-486-3432 12-8-08-5-3

First month FREE 1BA/1BR in 4/4 spring/summer Gainesville Place apt. Discounted rent \$499(negotiable)Includes all utilities. Move in ready in December. Call to see Apt and meet female roommates 727-422-7705 12-9-08-5-3

\$789 Arbor Lofts Sublease Jan 09-July 09. 1br/1bath. 3 blocks from stadium, quiet neighborhood, tons of parking. contact kris tine at schiavonek@ufl.edu or 386-214-9910 12-10-08-6-3

\$525 Utilities FREE! for master bedroom W/ private bathroom in 4b/2b house.SE 2nd PL walk down town in 3 min bike to campus in 7 min buses 1 block away (321) 591 7007 or E_G270@msn.com 12-9-5-3

Arbor Lofts. Only 3 blocks from UF by the football stadium!! 1bed/1bath w/a large living room and kitchen. Parking included. Available now thru end of July. \$749/month. Please call, text, or email: (239)249-0216 or eweyl@ufl.edu 12-10-08-7-3

Arlington Square (2b/2ba) - \$1025/mo-UF Campus/Downtown Gainesville. Avail 12/18/08. Utils not incl. Must be willing to take over existing lease. Security deposit free. Contact sean6cly@ufl.edu or 239-410-1603 2-9-08-30-3

1BR/1BA in a 2/2. \$455/mo Includes private study, full kitchen & washer/dryer. 941-356-6672 12-10-08-6-3

\$390 + util. 1/1 avail now til 8/1 in 3/3 POLOS APTS. SW GV Williston Rd. bus to campus quiet unfurn w/d in unit. \$300 sublet fee + \$45 appl fee - no sec. deposit - disc.for Dec. (thepolosuf.com) (352)262-6515 12-8-08-4-3

1BR in Lexington Crossings. Have your own bathroom with fully furnished room. Located in 4/4 male apartment. December rent FREE. \$499/mo price is negotiable. Desperate to sell. 321-947-0077. Spring sublease 12-10-08-6-3

LEASE TAKEOVER Mount Vernon Apartments, 1B/1B \$630 a month, partially furnished, less than 1.2 miles from the stadium, good until 07/09, option to extend, call or text 386-589-5987 or jedi1987@ufl.edu 12-10-08-5-3

EXTREMELY QUIET 1BD/1BA LIVE ALONE Jan 1- May 31 \$595/MO and NO DEPOSIT spacious bedroom with walk-in closet Nice Kitchen w huge pantry Call Chris at 407-587-6774 12-10-08-5-3

\$330 1/1 in a 4/4 @ Gville Place! female only; all utilities incl'd! close to amenities (pool/gym/bus..) sublease available now - july 31,09 fully furnished; call 352-414-6550 12-10-5-3

1 BR/1 BA in 3/3 townhouse available for spring/summer sublease. Great location close to campus. Available furnished or unfurnished. Oversized bedroom with double closets, washer/dryer included. Rent is \$425, will sacrifice for \$300 954-288-5889 12-10-08-5-3

Spring Sublease for one bedroom in a 3/3 furnished apt. at Gateway at Glades. \$485 includes all utilities. Two female roommates. Bus Routes 12 & 35. Available on Dec. 11th. Call 727-236-0042. 12-10-5-3

CLOSE TO CAMPUS, SHANDS, VA! Only \$310/mo! Less than \$380 for EVERYTHING! Nice, quiet roomie! Jan 1st - July 22. Pets OK! Please e-mail for more info! karolk@ufl.edu 12-5-2-3

3b/3b, apt sublease at the estates. can start now-aug. fully furnished,3 pools,free cable, free wireless in my apt, close to campus, gym. etc. 550/mo(negotiable) includes utilities. 305-586-7322 or zmr@ufl.edu 12-4-1-3

3 Subleases

Female to sublease 1 bedroom in 2 bedroom apt in The Estates on 20th Ave, spring/summer 2009. \$600/mo, furnished, poolside, 2nd floor, gated community. Call 321-431-3390 or 321-431-6052 12-10-08-5-3

2 MONTHS FREE RENT! NO MOVE IN FEES! 1/1 IN 2/2 @ HIDDEN LAKE \$520 month w/ cable/internet. Washer/dryer, Dogs ok, Pool, gym. Individual lease. Call Arthur at 401-595-0588 www.hiddenlakeuf.com 12-10-5-3

4 Roommates

Roommate Matching HERE Oxford Manor 377-2777 The Landings 336-3838 The Laurels 335-4455 Cobblestone 377-2801 Hidden Lake 374-3866 4-22-72-4

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MUST SEE 1bd/1Ba in nice 2/2.5 condo 1.5 mi from UF. W/D, internet, newer appls, pool, open parking, condo fully furnished. \$550/mo + 1/2 utils. call Chris 5614459034 12-10-08-21-4

RENT LAKE HOUSE \$400 security deposit, \$400 rent/mo + utils. Call 352-246-1637, egonskinny@gmail.com 12-5-15-4

Walk/bike to class.Clean, quiet, engineering student needs roommate for a 2/1 at Summit House Condos on SW 16th Ave. \$400/mo + 1/2 elec. & cable. \$200 dep. Call Tim, 352-843-0220 12-10-17-4

Non-smoking roommates to share 4/2 home. \$350/mo washer/dryer wifi cable office & utils. 352-337-2937 or ssechat@aol.com. 12-8-08-15-4

3 bdrm 2 bath condo,2 more female roomies needed \$400.00 each all utilities paid 10 min from U of F 10 min.from Santa Fe, swimming pool,tennis,weight room etc. bus stop out front. call 850-974-0686 12-5-08-10-4

ROCKWOOD VILLAS ROOM FOR RENT M/F clean/mature needed ASAP for 3/3TwnH HUGE br PRVT bath PetsOK wifi,NewApps,rte20,pool/ten/voll 450/mo+1/3util**NEG**3013056206 12-9-10-4

Female roommate needed in condo 1 mile from UF, \$455/MO includes cable, internet, utilities, pool+ more beautifully renovated, on bus route, Available 1/1/09, ?262-2871 12-10-08-9-4

\$325/month rent room in 3/2 @ Boardwalk Apts SW 13th St.Great room mates, nice room, pool, free tanning, walk/bike to UF. Prefer clean/mature individual. \$333 deposit. Call Emily 704-223-0423 12-5-5-4

Roommate needed SPRING ONLY \$535 SPRING-SUMMER \$425.4BR/4BA Fully furn. Util incl +internet,cable, private bath,W/D,pool. 2 Bus rts short ride to UF 954-593-3063 12-5-5-4

1 room in beautiful 2BR/1BA Downtown condo. Vaulted ceilings, sky lights, Italian style floors. Close to library, UF, Shands, and shopping. \$450/mo mo to mo. Pets ok. walk to popular spots dwnntn festivals. 262 1351 1-6-08-9-4

Quiet! Close to UF! Close to Downtown! 1/1 in a 2/2 avail Dec 15 no rent until Jan! Unfurnished bedroom with 2 closets No pets Treehouse Village (SE 16th Ave & Main St) Call Christina at (561) 762-4711 12-5-4-4

4 Roommates

HANDYMAN NEEDED Disc 4 wk Share 2/2 MH Furn rm avail now \$200 N/R dep. \$300/m \$75/wk incl util. 2 wk adv. laun/cook svc avail N/A, N/S, N/D. Car a+ 30 day notice 2 vacate. Nr bus/shops Sm caged pet ok 331-3666 12-10-6-4

FREE December Rent \$475/MO - M or F roommate needed for Unfurnished room in furn 3/2 condo @ Campus Edge, util cable & wireless included. Complex has pool & gym. laundry room in unit! Available now! 954-554-6059 or aldraper@ufl.edu 12-10-08-6-4

Roommate needed 2BR/2.5Ba furn townhome in Brighton Park on bus route to UF every 15 mins. \$400/mo + utils. Call Babby 352-665-0751 1-6-08-7-4

Walk to Shands, VA & UF campus. 2/2 first floor corner, W/D, part furn. Avail Jan 09. \$800 + util. Flex terms. SW 13th St & SW 16th Ave. 561-373-0979 1-6-08-6-2

5 Real Estate

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CONDOS AT UF www.CONDOSatUF.com Matt & Tiffany Thomas, Bosshardt Realty (352) 494-0194 or (352) 316-5556 2-17-60-5

Rare condo 2350sf,3br/2.5b,ba/den Lg 2car gar,new 2-zone hvac, mins to UF,Shands,VA-Immaculate \$309K/Call C.Z. Essoe 328-6946 Matchmaker Realty 372-3930 12-8-08-10-5

1BR/1BA CONDO \$85,000. 352-213-3943 12-8-5-5

Female needed for a great 4/2 house. DW, W/D, and pool. Also includes utils. Very nice neighborhood location. \$390 to \$495. 6 or 12 mo lease. Please call Mr. Kristoff 332-5030 1-6-08-7-4

6 Furnishings

BED - QUEEN - \$110 ORTHOPEDIC Extra thick, pillow-top, mattress & box. Name brand, new, still in plastic. Call 352-372-7490 will deliver. 12-10-08-74-6

BED - FULL SIZE - \$90 ORTHOPEDIC Pillow-top mattress & box. New, unused, still in plastic w/warranty. Can deliver. Call 352-377-9846 12-10-08-74-6

MICROFIBER SOFA.& LOVESEAT - \$400 Brand new still packaged w/warranty. Must sell. Can deliver. Retail \$1600. 352-372-7490 12-10-08-74-6

6 Furnishings

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

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

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

BEDROOM SET. 7pc Cherry, Queen/ king bed, dresser w/mirror, 2 nightstands, chests avail. Dovetail const. New, in boxes. Can deliver. Retail \$6500, must sell, sacrifice \$1100 (352) 372-7490 12-10-08-74-6

SOFA & LOVESEAT 100% Italian leather. Brand new in plastic w/warranty. Retail \$2650. Sacrifice \$750. Call 352-377-9846 12-10-08-74-6

DINING ROOM Beautiful cherry set w/table, 6 Chippendale chairs, hutch & buffet. New, still in boxes. Retail \$5200, sacrifice \$1100. Must sell. Can deliver. 352-372-8588 12-10-74-6

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

DINETTE SET 5pc \$120 Brand new in box. Never used. 352-377-9846 12-10-08-74-6

****BEDS - ALL BRAND NEW**** **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

BED - QUEEN New orthopedic pillowtop mattress and boxspring set. Brand name, brand new, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver. \$120 352-377-9846. 12-10-74-6

Bed- All New King! 3pc Orthopedic pillowtop mattress set. Brand NEW, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver. \$200 352-333-7516. 12-10-74-6

BEDROOM SET- \$300 BRAND NEW Still in boxes! 6 pieces include: Headboard, 2 Nightstands, Dresser, Mirror, Chest. Must sell, can deliver. 352-377-9846. 12-10-08-74-6

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SOFA \$185 Brand new! Love seat \$150 still in pkg. Can del 352-333-7516 12-10-74-6



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10 For Sale

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11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

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Wilson leads Crimson Tide with game management

■ HIS STATS ARE SMALL, BUT HIS IMPACT IS LARGE.

By **EVAN DREXLER**
Alligator Staff Writer
edrexler@alligator.org

Most of the hype in the Southeastern Conference Championship Game around quarterbacks may be surrounding Tim Tebow's all-time greatness, but the quarterback from Alabama is no slouch either.

John Parker Wilson, a senior, will be leading the Crimson Tide into Atlanta the best way he knows how — as a team manager.

Just ask one of his offensive linemen.

"I know Tebow gets a lot of (hype), which is well-deserved, he's a great football player," senior Antoine Caldwell said. "But we have a lot of confidence, the utmost confidence in the quarterback that we have."

Sure, his numbers have dropped this season as Alabama has evolved into a run-first team, but Wilson comes through when his team needs him.

In the Tide's closest game of the season, Wilson threw a 24-yard pass to start its first overtime possession against then-No. 15 LSU on Nov. 8.

Alabama scored two plays later and won the game.

If he makes plays like that to save Alabama's undefeated season, he doesn't mind if his numbers are down.

"I'm taking care of the ball, making good decisions and keeping our team in a good chance to win," Wilson said. "I think I'm just going to go out there and try to do that. Let our players make

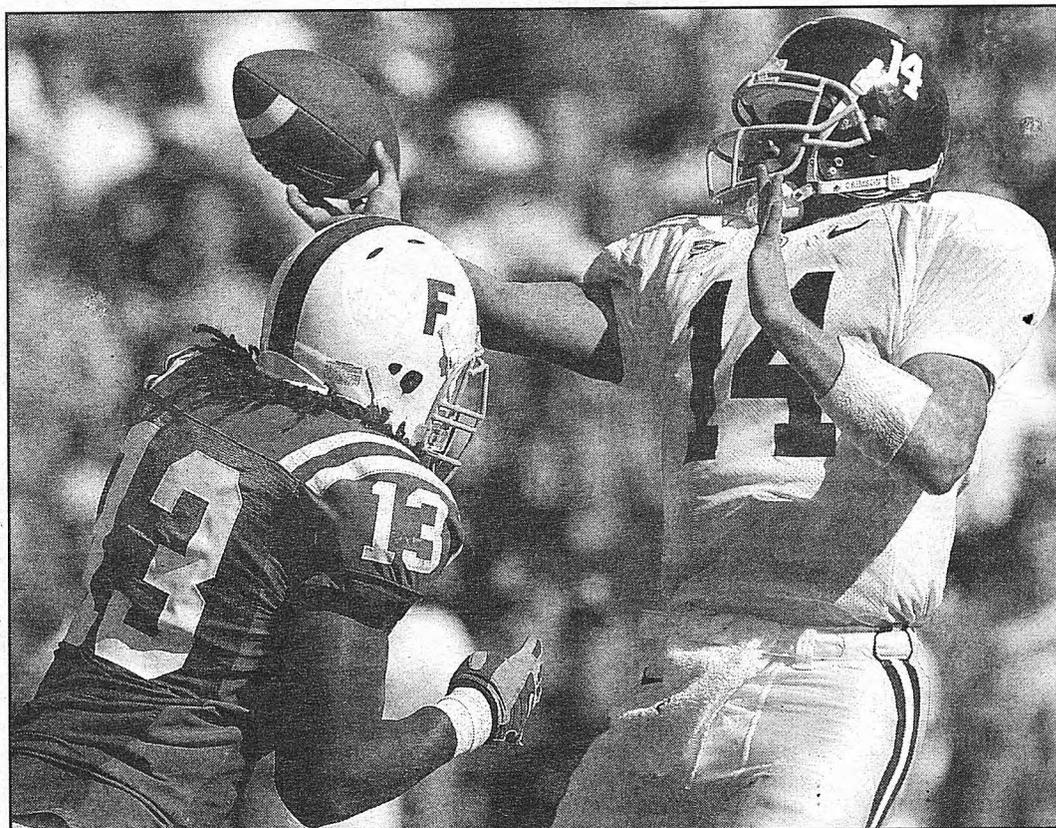


plays and not try to do too much. ... Everything's going to take care of itself after that."

He's on pace for about 11 touchdowns after throwing 18 last season, and he has thrown 194 fewer passes so far in 2008 compared to 2007. But numbers more indicative of his consistency are on the rise.

His interception total this year stands at just five after throwing 12 picks in 2007. And while he completed 55.2 percent of his passes last season, that number has risen to 58.6 percent. Not exactly Heisman-caliber numbers like Tebow attains, but they're plenty for what coach Nick Saban wants from his signal-caller.

When mistakes go down and ef-



Courtesy to the Alligator

Alabama quarterback John Parker Wilson throws over UF linebacker Brian Crum during the Gators' 28-13 home victory against the Crimson Tide on Sept. 30, 2006.

SEE WILSON, PAGE 22

Tebow's degrees of separation

I owe Tim Tebow a big thank you. On Dec. 13, 2005, I sat in Nease High's performing arts center, waiting for Tebow to announce his college decision, when one of my friends tapped me on the shoulder.

"Uh, I think that's David Garrard," he said.

Sure enough, my hero — who at the time was inexplicably still Byron Leftwich's backup — was standing in the back of the room. I floated over to talk to him (I even had my East Carolina hat on) and got a picture with him while a friend tried to convince Garrard to autograph his face.

All in all, it was a great day, and though I was too happy to ask questions at the time, I later wondered: "Why the hell was David Garrard there?"

Looking back on it, I have my answer. It turns out Tebow's college decision was a turning point in Garrard's career, as well as a huge moment for UF and Alabama.



Mike McCall
McCall-in' It
Like I See It
mmccall@alligator.org

Meyer — then finishing his first season in Gainesville — the perfect quarterback for his spread offense.

It came at a good time, too, since Meyer's other quarterback recruit, Jevan Snead, had already decommitted and signed with Texas. A few days after Tebow's decision, a receiver from Virginia Beach, Va., signed on with UF, citing a desire to play with Tebow as a reason why.

His name? Percy Harvin.

SEE MIKE, PAGE 22

UF FOOTBALL

Harvin still questionable

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

The Percy Harvin watch continues.

UF's junior wide receiver still isn't practicing because of a sprained right ankle, and his status for Saturday's game against No. 1 Alabama is still up in the air.

"He was moving around," coach Urban Meyer said. "I'd tell you guys if I knew, but right now I don't (know his status). ... I think he's averaging over 10 hours a day in the training room."

Meyer said junior receiver David Nelson, who doesn't have nearly the explosiveness Harvin does, has done well in practice this week. Harvin has 16 total touchdowns on the season.

POUNCEYS' FATHER MAY MAKE GAME: Twin sophomore offensive linemen Mike and Maurkice Pouncey's stepfather, Rob Webster, may be able to get to the Southeastern Conference Championship Game after he had his leg severed in a train accident at work last week.

"Whenever it first happened," Maurkice Pouncey said, "he was just like, 'Man, I ain't Superman no more.' It just brought tears to my eyes."

Maurkice said Webster is expected to receive a prosthetic leg.

"He said he feels like Lieutenant Dan from 'Forrest Gump,'" Maurkice said. "I just hope he makes it to the game."

FINESSE VS. POWER: With Alabama's reputation built on the power of its offensive and defensive lines and the Gators developed their name as a team based on speed, talk has arose of this game as a contest between finesse and power.



Meyer

"At the end of the day, I think we both believe in the same things," Meyer said. "You watch them play and you watch us play, and it looks similar. ... They're very efficient on offense. They're, I think, close to us in third-down efficiency. It's very similar."

ON TELEVISION

■ **NCAA Football: Louisville vs. Rutgers**
ESPN, 7:30 p.m.

■ **NCAA Basketball: (12) UCLA vs. (8) Texas**
ESPN2, 9 p.m.

TODAY IN UF SPORTS HISTORY

■ **1999: Alabama blows out UF 34-7 in the SEC Championship Game behind a defense that gave up just six first downs to the Gators. UF also lost the first meeting between the teams that season 40-39 in overtime on Oct 2.**

alligatorSports.org POLL QUESTION

Today's question: What is more important to a football team: speed or power?

	Percent (Votes)
Yes	74% (128)
No	26% (44)

Tuesday's question: If Percy Harvin had played in every game this season, would he be a Heisman finalist? (see right for results)

172 TOTAL VOTES

Jones sparks passing game

WILSON, from page 21

efficiency goes up, wins go up. For that, Wilson has two units on his team to thank.

First, he has a terrific offensive line and a running game that puts up 201.5 yards per contest to thank for his better efficiency numbers.

"We've done a great job running the football," Caldwell said. "He really hasn't had to make any spectacular throws or had to come from behind as much. You know, that makes it easy on the quarterback."

The addition of freshman wideout Julio Jones doesn't hurt Wilson's ability to manage a game

either.

Jones, a 6-foot-4 athlete out of Foley, Ala., has 461 more receiving yards than his closest teammate and is tied for fifth in the SEC in receiving yards per game (60.2).



Jones

His yards make up almost 36 percent of Alabama's passing offense, and he was responsible for the 24-yard catch in overtime against LSU.

"He's one of the best players I've ever played with," Wilson said. "He works hard during practice, he's a good guy, he makes everybody else around him better."

The John Parker Wilson Files

Parker, John Wilson

#14

- Named the 2007 Independence Bowl offensive MVP

- Led Hoover High to state titles in 2002 and 2003



Sr., 6'2" Quarterback Hoover, Ala. (Hoover High)

- Crimson Tide career leader in pass attempts, completions, passing yardage, touchdown passes and all-purpose yards

- Has an Alabama-record 16 games with 200+ yards passing

- Named Alabama Gatorade Player of the Year and The Montgomery News Player of the Year in 2003

Vicky Cabrera / Alligator Staff

MIKE

from page 21

So, Tebow helped bring in Harvin, giving Meyer two weapons that helped him win the national title in 2006. The Gators could have won that championship without either player, but Tebow definitely helped out that recruiting class and many more to come. Not landing Tebow would have had drastic consequences for Meyer, who never would've been forgiven for losing the immensely talented kid with a Gators helmet for a mailbox.

Just look at what not getting Tebow did to Alabama's Mike Shula, the runner-up in the sweepstakes for The Chosen One.

Alabama fans were crazy for Tebow, even naming proposed legislation in the state to allow homeschooled kids to play sports for high schools "The Tim Tebow Bill."

Tebow grew close to Shula through the recruiting process, and he cried when he called the coach to tell him no. Shula was fired after the 2006 season, despite being given a six-year extension for going 10-2 the year before.

Landing Tebow would have bought Shula more time, and

Tebow said this week that his impact in recruiting might have given Shula a chance to last longer.

So if Shula had stayed at Alabama for just one more year, Nick Saban may have never become the Crimson Tide's coach, and even if he did a year later, he would have been less likely to have Alabama in the position it's in this season.

And if Saban had stayed with the Miami Dolphins, who knows if they would be better or worse off than they are today?

Meanwhile, Shula probably wouldn't have landed as the Jaguars' quarterbacks coach for the 2007 season, when he immediately turned Garrard into a force, setting franchise records for touchdown passes, passer rating and completion percentage while posting the second-lowest interception percentage in NFL history among passers with 300 attempts or more.

So, it seems Tebow made the right decision for all involved parties, as UF, Alabama and Jags fans are all better off for it.

As for me, I'll hold back my gratitude for another year or two, just in case Tebow gets drafted by the Jaguars and takes Garrard's job.

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Coming to America

LaCaze makes fast friends during first year away from Australia

By **ADAM BERRY**
Alligator Writer

As the women's cross country team exited its plane in Indianapolis two days before the NCAA Championship, Genevieve LaCaze dashed to the front of the crowd.

LaCaze, the Southeastern Conference Female Freshman of the Year, knows a thing or two about leading the pack.

But this time was different.

She wasn't rushing to prove that she could beat someone, to lower her team's score or to top a personal-best time.

She was running to see her parents.

LaCaze moved to Gainesville from Australia and hadn't seen her family since she settled in at UF.

Her mother and father came to America to watch their 19-year-old daughter lead the Gators to a 17th-place finish in the NCAA Championship and to spend Thanksgiving with her.

Although not every part of her transition to the United States has been easy, the Queensland, Australia native has fallen right into place on the women's cross country team — on and off the course.

Leaving Home

Living in America wasn't something LaCaze had always dreamed of. In fact, it took quite a bit of convincing to get her to leave Australia, where she had lived her entire life.

"To be honest, I didn't consider coming to America until about a month before I came," she said. "I was just so nervous about leaving home. I have never left home for this long in my life. So coming over here wasn't really an option to me."

But her parents, Tony and Donna LaCaze, encouraged their daughter to attend an American university. LaCaze said her dad did a lot of the "behind-the-scenes work" without her knowing, because he was well-aware she wasn't interested.

UF coach Todd Morgan, who had dealt with LaCaze's high school coach while recruiting another athlete, worked with her father when trying to get the young Australian to join the Gators.

"(The hardest part) was getting her to take a chance," Morgan said. "She was really comfortable over there, with lots of friends and a great family. In her school, she was very well-liked, so leaving that was the biggest challenge."

Morgan's primary focus when recruiting LaCaze was obviously different than it was with most runners. He didn't just have to



Courtesy to the Alligator

UF freshman Genevieve LaCaze, a native of Australia, runs in the 20th Annual Mountain Dew Invitational on Sept. 20 in Gainesville. LaCaze won her first-ever college race with a time of 17:34.79.

convince her UF was where she belonged, he had to show LaCaze America was the right place for her.

"It was almost more about selling that than selling the University of Florida," he said. "I really didn't know what to expect when she got here. I was hopeful that she would fit in and like it, but she was close to her family, so I really didn't know."

LaCaze received offers from several schools, but her final two options were UF and Texas A&M.

Fortunately for Morgan and the Gators, her home state of Queensland has a lot in common with Florida, including a shared nickname: "The Sunshine State."

"Being in this atmosphere, it's so much more like home," she said. "The weather's like home. And Americans, I've noticed, are so welcoming to Australians, so I've found it quite easy to settle in."

London native Charlotte Browning said LaCaze made an immediate successful transition on the course, but had some trouble at first being so far away from home.

"I know she's very close to her family, so she found it hard to start with," Browning said. "From her racing, you wouldn't be able to tell. She obviously sees that this is a great opportunity, and she's really happy to be here. And that just comes out in her racing."

LaCaze said she had never left

Queensland for longer than a week before college.

In just four months away from the comfort of home, she's already made her presence felt in America.

A Successful Transition

On Sept. 20, LaCaze ran her first cross country race as a Gator, taking first place and clocking in at 17:34.79, the fifth-fastest time ever recorded on the UF Golf Course.

She kept that pace up through the entire season. Her lowest finishes were third on the team and, in the national championship, 75th in the country. With her help, the women's team never finished lower than fifth place in a regular-season meet in which she participated.

It took a while, however, for LaCaze to understand how her performances were helping the team — even in the most basic sense.

"I didn't realize how late in the season it was that she started to really grasp how we score cross country meets in the United States," Morgan said. "It's a little frightening that I took it for granted. She obviously ran as hard as she could in every meet and did the best she could, so it didn't hurt us. But it was a little funny."

There are several different

scoring systems used around the world, but runners who attended American high schools grew up with the system used in the NCAA, which scores the team's top five runners.

It wasn't until the Pre-NCAA Invitational, halfway through the season, that LaCaze began to make sense of the new system. Not that it really mattered, as her consistent performances led to her being named the SEC Female Freshman of the Year.

LaCaze said the reactions to her success — back home, in Gainesville and even in class — have been overwhelming. She's had teachers congratulate her, friends living in Australia text her, saying, "You're a superstar back home," and children sing her praises.

"Even with little kids, one of them went, 'This girl, she got SEC Freshman of the Year,'" LaCaze said. "And they're all like, 'Oh, wow, so you're fast!'"

The team never had any doubts about her speed, even as a freshman starting her first college season. Senior Jacy Kruzel, one of the team's leaders and top runners, approached her after a practice and said, "It was good of you to take the lead in one of our reps, because freshmen never take the lead. They're either too scared, or they're too slow."

LaCaze has shown no signs of being too slow on the course, and

she certainly hasn't been afraid — even as a new freshman on a campus of more than 50,000 people.

A New Home

Fortunately for LaCaze, the women's cross country team was coming off a successful year that they were hoping to capitalize on. After placing 11th at the 2007 NCAA Championship, the Gators had an opportunity to establish their program on a national level with the right mix of talent and chemistry.

"Our girls want to be good, and they know the only way to do that is to get good people here," Morgan said. "It was just such a bonus that her personality and character were so great, and that's why the situation's gone so well."

LaCaze's teammates welcomed her with open arms. Browning, a sophomore who transferred to UF after one year at UNLV, has been particularly close to the freshman.

"She formed a quick bond with Charlotte because they were both new and both going through orientation together," Morgan said. "And that was a blessing because they both connected."

LaCaze, who has three brothers but no sisters, said they look out for each other like family.

"She's been probably the best influence settling in," LaCaze said. "All the girls have been great, but Charlotte's been more like a sister to me because we're so close."

Browning, who had already made the adjustment to America, said she and her teammates have done whatever they can to make LaCaze feel at home in Gainesville.

"Even if we're not traveling, we try and go out as a team and do things," Browning said. "She left her family at home, obviously, so we've tried to create a family atmosphere over here for her."

So where do they take the Australian to remind her of home? Outback Steakhouse, of course.

"Oh, we've taken her to Outback," Browning said, laughing. "She's very happy, very content when she's there."

LaCaze admitted she lights up whenever someone brings up going to the restaurant, but probably not for the same reason most people do.

"I don't think it's anything like home," she said. "It's just the name and the fact that people there will say this is the Australian side of America. I just get excited. I feel like I'm close to home."

Even though the country with the real Outback will always be home to LaCaze, she's quickly established herself as the future of the cross country program at UF, her home away from home.

Brooks' late layup gives UF tight win in Alabama

■ THE GATORS HAVE WON THEIR LAST SEVEN GAMES.

By **CHRISTOPHER YAZBEC**

Alligator Writer
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In a game that didn't look too frightening on the schedule, UF got more than a scare Wednesday night at Alabama-Birmingham and had to survive late.

The Gators (7-1) needed a layup by Sha Brooks with 5 seconds remaining to help them escape with a 77-75 win against the

Blazers (2-5), extending their winning streak to seven.

UF coach Amanda Butler had no doubt what would happen with the game on the line and Brooks leading the way.

"There's no question that's whose hands we wanted the ball to be in," Butler said. "She wanted the ball. Her teammates wanted her to have the ball, and we truly expected her to make that play."

Brooks struggled in the first half and was not able to match the effort of her counterpart, Blazers guard Britney Jones, before responding to her coach's challenge by finishing with 15 points and six assists.

"I am especially proud of Sha because I went at Sha pretty hard at halftime," Butler said. "I was not pleased with her fight in the first half, and Britney Jones was just, quite simply, outplaying her. (Brooks) really stepped up her game and took over, especially on that last play."



Women's Basketball

UF trailed for much of the game and was down by as many as 11 midway through the second half.

The Gators were fueled by back-to-back threes from guards Lonnika Thompson and

Trumae Lucas. Those deep shots sparked a 20-0 run that gave the Gators a 69-60 lead with about 8 minutes left.

Alabama-Birmingham fought back to tie the game at 75 with about 32 seconds on the clock before Brooks' layup sealed the contest.

Despite struggling defensively and starting slow, the Gators added another tough road win to their resume, something Butler thinks will help her team down the line.

"I suppose you should be pleased when you play poorly and you're still able to win somehow," Butler said.

A radio broadcast contributed to this report.

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