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VOLUME 102 ISSUE 115

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009

STATE
UF spends over \$100M on federal lobbying

By **THOMAS STEWART**
 Alligator Staff Writer
 tstewart@alligator.org

As lawmakers started the spring legislative session Tuesday, they were joined by lobbyists from

around the state, including about six of UF's own lobbyists.]

Those six are part of a team of 11 lobbyists employed by UF on the federal and state level to help shore up funds for research projects and other causes near and

dear to the university.

On the federal side of things, UF was one of almost 300 colleges, universities and other educational groups in 2008 that spent over \$100 million on federal lobbying for the first time since the Center for Re-

sponsive Politics began compiling numbers in 1998. In 2008, UF used BGR Group, the same lobbying group as Abercrombie & Fitch, Lockheed Martin and Pfizer, according to the center

From 1998 to 2008, UF's federal

lobbying expenses climbed from \$80,000 a year to \$240,000, hitting a peak of \$300,000 in 2005, according to the center's database on opensecrets.org. Those numbers don't tell the whole story, though.

SEE LOBBYING, PAGE 10

Old senators give tearful goodbyes

By **CHELSEA KEENAN**
 Alligator Writer

Tuesday night's back-to-back Student Senate meetings were filled with tearful goodbyes and words of encouragement, as old senators left and new senators sat through their first meeting.

Independent Sen. Audrey Goldman and Gator Sen. Suzanne Hershman were chosen as the new Senate president and Senate Pro-tempore, respectively, following the departure of Senate President Jordan Johnson, who was elected as UF's next Student Body president last week.

Between goodbyes, senators also got down to business, passing one bill and one resolution.

The bill, which passed unanimously, gave \$35,130.86 to the Board of College Councils, which is responsible for divvying up funds and distributing them among various college councils on campus.

The passed resolution was in support of Gator Ride, a student organization that hopes to provide transportation to UF students around Gainesville who are unable to drive responsibly because of alcohol consumption.

A resolution is a piece of legislation which presents an opinion but takes no action.

Gator Ride was denied funding from the Senate several weeks ago because of liability issues.

A copy of the resolution will be sent to Tigert Hall and given to UF's General Council to access, before SG reconsiders allotting funding.

Jared Hamil was also approved to fill the empty District E seat.

Stephen Lawson, chairman of SG's Elections Commission, also stopped by to validate the results from last week's SG election, which included the results for Student Body president and the 50 filled Student

SEE SENATE, PAGE 10



Matt Trip / Alligator

Ante Up

Seth Zebrick, 20, Hussain Khalid, 19, Shirak Zakaryan, 19, and others consider their bets at the Texas Hold 'em Tournament on Tuesday evening in Orange and Brew. The tournament was held by the Student Finance Group as a fundraiser for the club.

Years of experience create bonds among UPD officers

By **APRIL DUDASH**
 Alligator Contributing Writer

Two men lounging at the Patrol Division front desk said I was in for some good stories that night.

"He's going to tell you stories about

the war," the man wearing a baseball cap joked.

"What war?" his friend asked.

"The Civil War." The baseball-cap wearer grinned.

As if on cue, an older gentleman in uniform strolled out of the back room and in-

troduced himself as Officer Ray Metrick. He had a gray mustache, and his gentle face was etched with laugh lines.

Special Report

As he ushered me out of the chipped and weathered brick building on UF's campus, 40-degree wind

hit our cheeks, reddening them instantly. I was accompanying Metrick on a five-hour patrol for the University Police Department, where we would scour campus for law breakers and mischief mongers. The streets were already bustling due to Friday

SEE UPD, PAGE 9

■ UF women's basketball coach Amanda Butler (right) is stressing defensive effort as the key to victory for her team as it enters the Southeastern Conference Tournament on Friday. See Story, Page 32.



Man arrested after crashing car into house, fleeing scene

A man was arrested after he crashed his car into the side of a house Tuesday night.

At about 10:30 p.m. a Gainesville police officer attempted to pull over a black Cadillac STS for a traffic violation said GPD Sgt. Stephen Hayes.

Hayes said instead of pulling over, the man sped up, losing control of his car and crashing it into the house at 1202 NW 4th Ave. The man crawled out of the passenger side of the car and ran north, but the officer caught him, Hayes said.

The man was carrying crack, Hayes said.

— KATIE EMMETS

■ A photo exhibit that provides a glimpse into the lives of Muslim-Americans is on display in the Reitz Union until Monday. See Story, Page 5.

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Sunny
66/40

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News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Candlelight Vigil

Today, 7:30 to 9 p.m.
In front of Norman Hall
This candlelight vigil will be a demonstration of support for the undergrad education that UF has to offer.

Gainesville Green Drinks

Today, 6 to 8 p.m.
Ti Amo! Restaurant
12 S.E. Second Ave.
Gainesville Green Drinks meets on the first Wednesday of every month for those interested in or involved with environmental issues. Attendees are welcome to share news about their green projects or something they'd like to see in Gainesville. The meeting is open to anyone interested in environmental issues.

Venezuela: Political and Economic Realities

Today, 4 p.m.
Smathers Library (East)
Room 1A
Presented by Teodoro Petkoff (Editor-in-chief, *Tal Cual*, Venezuela), who will be presenting a lecture about the current situation of Venezuela. The lecture is open to everyone and will be presented in Spanish.

UF's Psychology Club/Psi Chi Honor Society Meeting

Today, 7:20 p.m.
New Physics Building
Room 1001
Featuring guest speaker Dr. Rowland S. Miller, Professor of Neurobehavioral Psychology and Department Chair. Krispy Kreme donuts will be served at the beginning of the meeting.

"The Founding of Colonial Georgia: For the Glory of God and the Wealth and Trade of Great Britain"

Today, 11:45 a.m.
Turlington 3312
A talk by Nate Herrod in the Brown Bag Series of the Center for European Studies. Snacks and sodas provided.

RUB Entertainment Free Movie:

FORECAST

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
SUNNY	SUNNY	SUNNY	SUNNY	SUNNY
66/40	74/46	78/46	79/51	79/52

"Man on Wire"

Today and Thursday, 8 and 10:30 p.m.
Reitz Union Auditorium
"Man on Wire" is a documentary film on Philippe Petit's 1974 high-wire walk between the Twin Towers of New York City's World Trade Center.

RUB Entertainment Presents: Karaoke Night

Thursday, 8 p.m.
Orange & Brew

Islam in Europe Workshop

Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dauer 215
Six internationally known scholars from California, the United Kingdom and Sweden will present their work on aspects of Islam in Europe. Sponsored by the Center for European Studies.

Got something going on?

And want to post it in this space? Send an e-mail to kbjornsen@alligator.org with "What's Happening" in the subject line. Please include the title, date and a one- to two-sentence summary of the event.

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

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LOCAL

County unveils first solar panel project

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

The first Alachua County Government large-scale solar panel project was unveiled Tuesday.

There are now 128 solar panels at the Leveda Brown Environmental Park, said Ron Bishop, Alachua County solid waste engineer.

The energy provided by the panels will be sold to Gainesville Regional Utilities for 32 cents a kilowatt-hour under the new feed-in tariff bill that was implemented March 1.

"By the end of the year, Gainesville will have produced twice as much energy as the entire state," he said.

Bishop said that the park expects

the panels to produce enough energy to power three or four houses per day.

"Sunlight is free. It's delivered to your door without any shipping and handling fees."

Ron Bishop
Alachua County engineer

Bishop said he started thinking about ways to use alternative energy more than 25 years ago, but because it was too expensive he didn't begin thinking realistically about it until four years ago.

"Sunlight is free," he said. "It's delivered to your door without any shipping and handling fees."



Sarah Hsu / Alligator Staff

Gainesville County Commissioner Mike Byerly cuts a ribbon for the solar panel ceremony during the "Solar Power On! Ceremony" at the Leveda Brown Environmental Park and Transfer Station Tuesday.

Utility rate decrease could mean fewer UF budget cuts

By **THOMAS STEWART**
Alligator Staff Writer
tstewart@alligator.org

Progress Energy, which sells electricity to UF, has requested a decrease in electric rates that could soften UF's budget cut by between \$2 million and \$3 million, according to Matt Fajack, UF's chief financial officer.

The request must still be approved by

Florida's Public Service Commission. It would go into effect for the April billing cycle. Tim Leljedal, a spokesman for Progress Energy, said the company requested the rate cuts because fuel prices have come down and because it decided to postpone some charges for a nuclear power plant being built in Levy County.

The proposed rate decrease follows a few other decreases in UF's original utilities pro-

jections for the current fiscal year.

UF factored in about \$10 million for increases in its utility bills into the potential \$72 million to \$75 million budget cut that UF President Bernie Machen announced in January, Fajack

said.

With the proposed rate decrease and other developments, the size of that cut is now

expected to be about \$5.5 million, he said.

The increases in utilities would normally be paid by the state, which pays utilities for UF's educational buildings.

This year, the state didn't pick up the tab for the extra costs.

And it may not shell out the money next fiscal year either, so UF is still factoring about \$11 million for next year's increases into the potential budget cut, Fajack said.

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ON CAMPUS

UF may replace E-Learning system with upgrade

By KRISTEN HUFF

Alligator Contributing Writer

After this week, it may not be long before blogs and Wikis become regular parts of the UF curriculum.

Today, a committee will finish reviewing new-and-improved E-Learning systems, which will include more up-to-date features than the current system.

E-Learning is UF's curriculum management system, which allows professors to teach all or parts of their courses online.

"Part of what we're looking for as we're looking for a new system

is a way to get to new technologies and put them into the hands of teachers and students to enhance learning. That's what it's all about," said Doug Johnson, the manager of E-Learning Support Services.

It is likely that UF would have switched to a newer course management system soon anyway, but a pressing matter sped the process along, Johnson said.

Vista, the vendor which supports UF's current course management system and branded E-Learning at UF, announced last fall that as of October 2011 it would no longer support the program.

A 17-member committee com-

"I don't know whether students are going to particularly like that or not."

Doug Johnson

E-Learning Support Services manager

prised of 12 faculty members from different UF departments and five online program support employees was established to evaluate different systems used by peer institutions.

During the past year, the committee has reviewed three possible systems.

UF has been using a course

management system since 1997. The Vista version has been in use since 2003.

Johnson said the current system, which has 30,000 live sections this semester, functions well, but each of the three new systems will allow instructors to do more. For example, improved tools in all of the considered systems will allow teachers to more easily build tests and quizzes online.

"I don't know whether students are going to particularly like that or not," Johnson said.

Other features will cater to students and professors, such as a class blog to make learning more

interactive.

While the committee hopes to make a recommendation to the chief information officer by the end of March, Johnson said it is unclear when the new system will be implemented.

With the current budget situation, it may be more cost effective to renew the Vista contract for 2010 and save the costs of installing the new system for 2011. Johnson said he would like to have the system installed by August 2010.

"That's one of those funding issues," he said. "If we're given funding to get enough staff, we can definitely make the move."

Anti-Amendment 1 group to premier two TV ads today

■ EQUALITY IS GAINESVILLE'S BUSINESS RAISED \$59,015 SO FAR.

By HUNTER SIZEMORE

Alligator Writer

jhsizemore@alligator.org

Joanne is a lesbian firefighter.

She protects all Gainesville citizens equally, she says through the TV screen.

And she asks that on March 24, voters allow Gainesville to do the same by voting

"no" on Amendment 1.

The commercial is one of two by Equality is Gainesville's Business, which will hit cable channels today and run until the election.

The same commercials will air Thursday on network TV, including WCJB TV-20 and the CW.

"I could be fired from my job, or denied a home, for no other reason than my sexual orientation," Joanne says of Amendment 1 in the commercial.

The amendment would nullify Chapter 8 of the Gainesville Code of Ordinances,

titled "Discrimination." Instead, protections would be provided by the Florida Civil Rights Act at the state level. In effect, this would remove protected status for transgender, lesbian, gay and bisexual Gainesville residents and loosen protections for other classes.

Local News

The second commercial features a group of eight people, each providing a few words to an overall message against the amendment.

A UF student, a reverend and Michael Bowie, the president of the local branch of

the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, speak in the commercial.

"The NAACP, for a long time, has fought discrimination and is opposing Amendment 1," Bowie said.

Craig Lowe, a city commissioner and founder of Equality, declined to comment on the commercial's cost. As of February 13, Equality raised \$59,015, the most money of any political action committee in Gainesville's history, according to the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Commission candidates discuss economy, Amendment 1

By JACQUELYN WEINER

Alligator Contributing Writer

Although they clearly have their differences, there is one thing all candidates for the Gainesville City Commission can agree on: spending must be cut.

"We have a deficit right now, and we need to be looking for ways to cut back, not ways to spend more money," said At-Large 1 candidate Robert Krames at a forum Tuesday night.

Krames, along with the six other candidates running for the Gainesville city commission, spoke to about 40 people in a Gainesville commission candidate forum.

Two city commission seats, District 1 and At-Large 1, are up for reelection March 24.

Tuesday's forum was held at the Alachua County downtown library at 401 E. University Ave.

A major point of discussion was what to do in these tough economic times.

District 1 Commissioner Scherwin Henry spoke about the need to diversify the local economy and attract industry to Gainesville.

Henry cited the green jobs that will be generated by the new solar feed-in tariff as an example of success.

Gainesville is the first city in the U. S. to implement a solar feed-in tariff, which pays citizens for solar energy production.



Sarah Hsu / Alligator Staff

District 1 City Commissioner Scherwin Henry, up for re-election at the end of this month, answers a question during the Gainesville City Commission Candidates Forum while opponent Marcia Wimberly listens, at the Downtown Library on Tuesday evening.

Marcia Wimberly, Henry's challenger for the District 1 seat, said it would be wiser to help existing Gainesville businesses.

"I actually would like to see retention of the businesses we have, because many of them are closing," Wimberly said.

"The mom-and-pop businesses are still the No. 1 employers," she added.

Wimberly suggested implementing additional tax credits and creating new-business incubators to help struggling Gainesville businesses.

The candidates for the At-Large

1 commission seat also voiced opinions on how to handle the city's fiscal pains.

Krames emphasized the need to cut back on unnecessary city services, potentially merging similar services with the county.

Tom Cunilio, also running for

the At-Large 1 seat, also called for an end to wasteful city spending.

"I'm amazed at the money we throw around," he said.

At-Large 1 incumbent Jeanna Mastrodicasa suggested a freeze on raises and a reduction on the number of projects.

Another of Mastrodicasa's challengers, James Schlachta, said the city must decide what projects are important and what can be cut.

"There are some things that we will just not be able to fund," Schlachta said.

Another hotly debated issue on the ballot was Charter Amendment 1, which would remove legal protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Both District 1 candidates, Henry and Wimberly, voiced disapproval of the amendment.

"As a city commissioner, I must protect all the citizens of Gainesville," Henry said.

Among the At-Large 1 candidates, all but Mastrodicasa are for it.

"I'm a very conservative person," said At-Large 1 candidate Richard Selwach. "I'm an advocate for a traditional marriage and family."

Selwach said he has spoken to women and children that have expressed concern about the possibility of men using women's restrooms.

"They're telling me that they don't want men in the bathroom," Selwach said. "I'm going to support those women and children."

ON CAMPUS

Photo exhibit aims to curb stereotypes of Muslims

By **CHELSEA KEENAN**
Alligator Writer

The 28 photos displayed on the wall of the Reitz Union show the faces and lives of people who, according to some, often face adversity in society.

The photos, which depict the lives of Muslims, were taken as part of a nationwide photography project called Unseen America and will be on display until Monday.

Liz Gottlieb, the coordinator of UF's exhibit, said the project first started in New York City, when immigrant workers were prompted to start documenting their lives through photography.

Now the project is used by minority groups who have had to fight stereotypes and prejudice in the past, she said.

The five UF students who took the photos were all members of Islam on Campus and hoped to dispel the different stereotypes placed on Muslim-Americans in a post-Sept. 11 society.

The pictures display different aspects of the photographers' lives, using family and friends as muses. Many center on the Islamic religion showing moments of prayer and time spent in celebration dur-

ing various Islamic holidays.

"Overall we wanted to show that Muslims are like everyone else," said UF graduate student Muhsin Aziz Ahmad.

Although Ahmad, who is studying food science and human nutrition, said he was an amateur when it came to photography, he carried his camera with him everywhere in case he came across the perfect moment.

"There is a basic stereotype that Muslims are terrorists."

Asaad Musda
UF electrical engineering graduate student

He said he went "picture crazy," taking about 1,000 pictures between August and December before he found the six pictures he wanted to submit.

Aziz, who said his theme was family, took many pictures of his father, who is a doctor.

Asaad Musda, a UF graduate student studying electrical engineering, said he has always been interested in photography and saw the project as a way to show off his skill as well as the daily lives as



Katie Tschopp / Alligator

Shirley Hiney pauses to look at photos taken by Muslim-American students as part of the exhibit by Unseen America in the Reitz Union on Tuesday.

Muslims.

"There is a basic stereotype that Muslims are terrorists," he said.

Graduate student Mohammad-Eslam Mohammed agreed.

"People usually see our religion as violent and full of hatred," he said.

Mohammed hoped to break this myth by showing pictures of Mus-

lims celebrating Eid, the holiday that signifies the end of Ramadan and fasting.

"They're greeting one another warmly," he said.

UF student to appear on Wheel of Fortune tonight

By **AMBER EHRKE**
Alligator Contributing Writer

When she was 7 years old, Krystina Gustafson would slide into her mom's high heels, saunter in front of the television and pretend to be Vanna White, "flip-

ping" the letters on the screen.

"She had the walk down perfectly," said her mother, Mary Gustafson.

In December, the UF journalism senior accomplished what she said was one of her lifelong goals — to compete on "Wheel of Fortune."

The show will air tonight on CBS at 7 p.m. Gustafson said she is not revealing details about her success, so she can surprise her friends when it airs.

She began the tryout process, which consisted of two auditions, in

October.

She got the call three weeks after her second audition.

"I didn't really think I'd make it," she said. "It had always been a dream, but I just went on a whim without expecting any results."

ATTENTION! ALLIGATOR ADVERTISERS



Due to Spring Break, the Alligator will have the following advanced deadlines:

Deadline for **Monday, March 16** paper:
THURSDAY, March 5, by 4 pm

Deadline for **Tuesday, March 17** paper:
FRIDAY, March 6, by 4 pm

These deadlines apply to both Display and Classified advertising, as well as all customers wishing to renew their classified ads March 17 or March 18.

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376-4482

GRADUATION 2009



The Alligator's Graduation 2009 section is the perfect place for advertisers to either thank students for their support during their years in Gainesville, or advertise for graduation gifts, products or services suitable for graduates.

Run Date: Monday, April, 6th

Deadline: Monday, March, 30th

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Editorial

Slow News Day

Online news sources add to cultural illiteracy

No news isn't necessarily good news.

When the Editorial Board sits down each day to go over fodder for the next day's editorial, we usually have a few strange, funny or otherwise relevant news stories to choose from. We try not to focus on trivial news or ignore big issues, especially when they impact UF students in some way.

But today, when we were scouring national headlines trying to find something to opine on, it became apparent that either nothing interesting happened today, or the United States has become completely ignorant of what's actually going on in the world.

CNN.com, an otherwise reputable news source, has the option of ranking stories by popularity.

The most popular headline? "Sexy tot mom pics!"

Following that are stories about Michael Jackson, the television show "Wife Swap," an asteroid perched precariously close to the Earth and a few missing person and plane crash stories that the cable news is currently obsessing over.

To be fair, a story about President Barack Obama overturning a Bush law that weakened the Endangered Species Act is also high up on the list, but that's the only story pertaining to national or world issues out of the ten.

This ignorance is nothing new — scholars have published several journal articles on the concept of "American privilege" — the idea that Americans feel that they can disregard the rest of the world just because they sit in a position of power and relative wealth. American high school students don't know a world map from a hole in the ground, and UF students probably know more about drink specials in midtown on Wasted Wednesday than about U.S. foreign or economic policy, let alone international relations.

News is digested in bullet points and sound bites, which gels with the fast pace of our society. Americans want their news now, and they want it on computers, BlackBerrys and Kindles alongside broadsheet newsprint.

Opposing technology is nothing less than curmudgeonly, and the Editorial Board embraces the positive effect the Internet has had on journalism and storytelling.

But in breaking up the news by story, people can read exactly what they want to read and disregard the rest.

Unfortunately, most of the time people would rather read stories about kittens being stuffed in smoky bongs (also on CNN.com's top 10 list) than Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's recent envoy in Israel.

And the current crisis in the journalism industry doesn't bode well for in-depth investigative stories or international perspectives.

As more and more great papers like the Rocky Mountain News close their doors, fallen victim to the faltering economy and years of negative revenue, people will become less and less informed.

They will get their news from several national online sources like CNN.com, and small yet significant issues will go unnoticed.

Newspapers exist to serve the community. They are charged with exposing corruption and keeping local government officials honest. Local newspapers are already struggling to keep reporters on staff to cover crucial local issues like City Commission meetings, and predictions for the future are less than bright.

As more news moves online, many will give up their morning newspaper-and-breakfast rituals. Maybe they'll skip breakfast altogether and just head in to work, where they can browse PerezHilton.com from the safety of their cubicles. But one thing is certain: As more newspapers go under, Americans will become less informed, and a great service to society will be lost.

the independent florida
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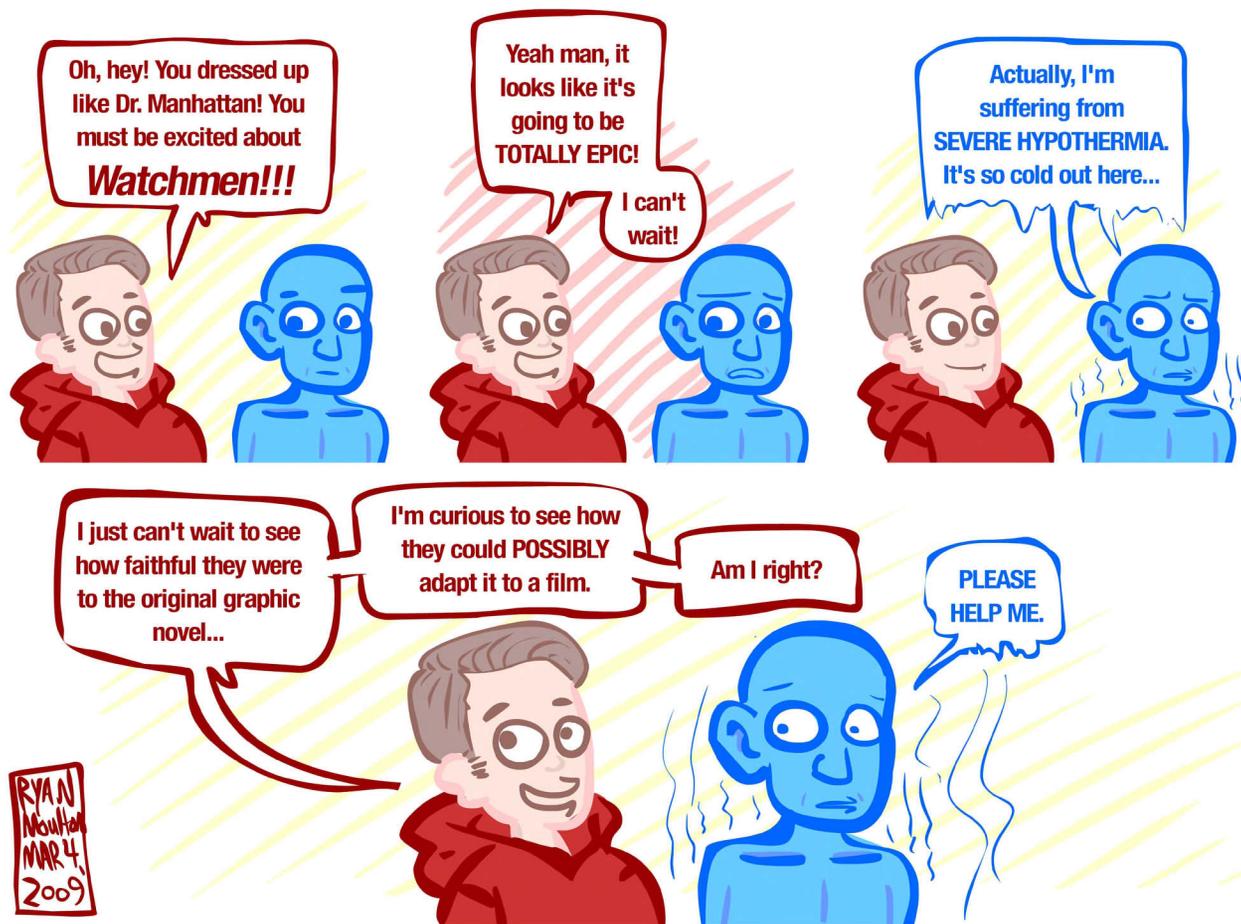
MANAGING EDITORS

Dan Seco
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 450 words about original topics and editorial cartoons are also welcome. Questions? Call 376-4458.

Opinions

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Column

Body image issues transcend 'Barbie'

Before Carrie Bradshaw, there was Barbara Millicent Roberts. She turns 50 years old this week, and she's never looked better.

You may know her as Barbie — that doll with flawless skin, the toy that never has to excuse herself to the little doll's room to touch up her eyeliner or lipstick, the one with the feet that come stiletto-ready. In five decades, she's managed to have over one hundred careers, each one with its own accessories. She even has her own pinked-out aisle in the toy stores.

I have to admit: I'm impressed.

Barbie is the doll America loves to hate. Feminists have held dear their right to blast the half-inch-shy-of-a-foot-tall toy, blaming her for low self-esteem and eating disorders among girls.

All that blame can't be placed on her tiny shoulders, though.

The problem is that it's almost too easy to blame Barbie for negative body images. We're a society that just loves to blame others for our problems, and it doesn't matter who takes the blame — so long as we don't have to answer for our own shortcomings.

I grew up with the support of strong, encouraging women who embody what I believe Barbie stands for, not as a fashionista, but rather as a strong feminine icon that has stood the test of time.

Family members, friends, even teachers: The people we interact with on a regular basis are who shape our self-images in the end, not some molded piece of plastic covered in pink frills.

A scene from "Mean Girls" comes to mind, where the Plastics are standing in front of a mirror pointing out their flaws. When they get to Cady Heron, all she can say is "I have really bad breath in the morning."



Naudia Jawad
letters@alligator.org

One can look at the character of the head Plastic, Regina George, and draw links between her and Barbie: the dream house, expensive car and huge wardrobe — but Barbie never wistfully sighs, wishing her thighs had a little less jiggle to them or saying that her hairline looks weird. Therein lies the problem with the "girl world." It's okay to want to spend a day in Barbie's teeny-tiny shoes, but the obsession with perfection goes way beyond a doll.

Yes, I've skipped meals before. And yes, I've also stood in front of a mirror analyzing everything I disliked about myself (huge pores and sucky nail beds included). It took a while before I realized how harmful that negativity was, and perhaps I am still grappling with the issue of my body image. Many girls are, whether they play with Barbie dolls or not.

Let's give Barbie a break. She has had her superficial shortcomings along the way, but she's managed to stay classy since her 1959 debut in a black-and-white striped swimsuit. Instead of shouting about how sexist her body proportions are, how about we work to use positive reinforcement to boost the body images of those around us?

But as we head out for Spring Break, perhaps we should all embrace the Barbie within us. Ladies, go out and flaunt what your mommas gave you.

Save the negativity for that term paper due on the 16th.

Naudia Jawad is a journalism graduate student. Her column appears on Wednesdays.

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

Reader response

Today's question: Do you own a pair of jorts?

Tuesday's question: Are you going to Mexico for Spring Break?

12% YES
88% NO
170 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

Guest column

Fashion Week doesn't represent real-life Gainesville fashion

When you throw a festival of some sort, typically it is supposed to be in a location that has something to do with what the festival is about.

Like Coffee Week in Seattle or Mugging Week in Detroit. Things synonymous with that city.

This must be the logic, then, behind the first annual Gainesville Fashion Week. Because Lord knows, when I think haute couture, the first place that comes to mind is North Central Florida.

Now, I understand that some of the party promoters here in Gainesville like to try to give our little college town the occasional upscale vibe. This is why I am constantly getting Facebook invitations to events claiming to be "High Society," while the next sentence tells me there are \$2 shots of Old Crow if I go before 11. But honestly, folks, Fashion Week? That's kind of like having West Virginia Culture Week or the Utah Diversity Festival. Out-

side of a handful of kids I've met here from Miami and our inexplicable Long Island transplant population, I haven't met a whole lot of people in Gainesville who could tell a Prada loafer from a ProWing.

So given the fact that our city has about as much fashion sense as an emu double-fisting handles of Jack Daniels, one has to ask, "What exactly is Gainesville Fashion Week going to entail?"

I mean, a seven-day collection of No. 15 jerseys and Urban Meyer gameday polos doesn't exactly constitute a Fashion Week. Nor does bringing in models to sport whatever Tim Tebow fellatio the university has decided would look good on a T-shirt. Heidi Klum rocking "The Promise"? I'm thinking cover of next month's Vogue. And really, can any town that has more jean shorts per capita than it does cell phones really be mentioned next to the word "fashion"? Even if it could, you really think all the A-list designers are immediately

Matthew Meltzer going to start embracing the monumental regression in fashion that is the jort? I don't even think there's a word for it in Italian. It's too horrific a thought.

Why do I get the feeling that a year from now we're not going to be seeing models strutting through Miami in \$1,000 Versace jorts and a pair of Cavalli flip-flops? Why am I thinking that "frat boy couture" is not going to be the next big thing in Milan?

"Hello, Harry? This is Salvatore Ferragamo. How soon can we come out with a line of T-shirts from frat parties that happened two years ago? That long? OK, what about leg warmers and Uggs? Think we can do that faster? I have to get on this before de la Renta, or we'll be a laughingstock next month in New York."

Perhaps someone is hoping Vera Wang will decide to come out with a line of blue and

orange sundresses, who knows?

Maybe this will be the start of something big. Maybe Donna Karan will see the fashion revolution that is the jean short and decide to set up shop at Oaks Mall right between the beauty supply store and Gator Mania. Maybe Gucci will follow suit and open a location next to Balls. And maybe those expensive ads with shop locations on the bottom will someday read "Rodeo Drive, Bal Harbour, Butler Plaza." But somehow, I doubt it.

Somehow I think this column is really more of a collection of all the jokes that have been going through everyone's heads since they heard the term "Gainesville Fashion Week."

Whoever is promoting this, I appreciate your effort. But maybe next time take a clue from the people who tried to promote Ohio Championship Month, and pick something a little more appropriate.

Matthew Meltzer is a journalism graduate student.

Letter to the Editor

Gym's weight room not just for men

Joshua Nederveld is a chauvinistic, pea-for-a-brain, wannabe meathead. As a woman who regularly uses the bench (with her measly 70 pounds), I am outraged by his delusional "unwritten laws" of the weight room.

Nederveld and gym bros like him need to stop comparing their paltry triceps in the mirror wall and take a good look around. He needs to realize that not all women are the 2.5 pound-lifting, nail-breaking, elliptical-revolving girls he so eloquently speaks of. Sure those girls can be annoying, but I can name plenty of others who squat just as much as most guys.

Every member of the Student Body contributes funding to Rec Sports through the activities fee. Therefore, women — pretty girls and tomboys alike — have an equal "right and privilege" to use the "good" side of the gym as do the gorillas. As far as Nederveld's unsubstantial comments about the gym music selection, don't be fooled. I am quite sure he is guilty of knowing more than a few of the words to "Since You've Been Gone" (and liking it).

Listening to endless amounts of Rage Against the Machine while curling 30s won't make him more of a man. If Nederveld simply can't stand the mood Akon puts him in, I have one simple tip for the beefcake — get an iPod, and while he's at it, a life, so he can find something better to do than rag on the ladies in the weight room who he and his puny pecs don't stand a chance with.

Emily Congdon
3LS



Column

Conservative movement reduced to spiteful, whiny children

I was once informed that the only way to gain a clear understanding of a political group or a movement is to hear what one of their die-hard partisans has to say on the subject.

A liberal, even when trying to be objective, will mischaracterize a conservative and vice versa — but let one of a group's very own firebrands take the stage and then you begin to find out what they're really about. Such instances are guaranteed to be entertaining, if not educational, and one occurred very recently at the Conservative Political Action Conference, a meeting of conservative luminaries that parallels the worst excesses of the Chautauqua tent.

Since the Obamanon, the conservative movement has been experiencing a malaise — Sean Hannity has even gone so far as to open his show with the proclamation of "Conservatism in Exile!" Clearly, these lost souls need a

leader. So, which firebrand rose to the occasion and gave an impassioned (and more than twice as long as allotted) speech in defense of conservatism?

None other than the current poster-boy of the conservative movement, Rush "The Doper" Limbaugh. The radio personality called out the president during his speech, thundering "President Obama: Your agenda is not new, it's not change and it's not hope." It goes without saying that this remark was well-received. Limbaugh's speech can give some valid insight into the current incarnation of the conservative movement.

For example, an uncomfortable amount of his speech was dedicated to that old pastime of his: self-aggrandizement. He even included a painfully unfunny joke about how God likes to imagine that he's Rush Limbaugh. Additionally, the luminary pointed out to his somewhat jangled audience that he believes Presi-



Eric Chianese
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dent Barack Obama has the power to destroy the conservative movement.

Limbaugh's speech was heavy on criticism and hysterics, but weak on ideas. This, to me, seems to be the primary problem with the current conservative movement.

The loss of powers so long enjoyed and so poorly used seems to have unhinged them a bit and reduced today's conservative movement to a histrionic, spiteful gang of children.

There is, undoubtedly, a power vacuum in the conservative movement as it exists and the GOP in general. Gov. Bobby Jindal, it was hoped, would be able to step up to the plate as the Republican answer to Obama, but his

speech went over about as well as Limbaugh's draft-dodging at a meeting of the Vietnam Veterans of America. Gov. Sarah Palin, against all logic, is performing well in current polls, but the idea of Palin 2012 is a joke and most conservatives know it. With no one to fill the shoes which are feeling increasingly empty since the days of Reagan, naturally the conservatives are paying some heed to the bold and confident Limbaugh.

They would do well to practice caution, however, as this particular pied piper might very well lead them off a cliff and actually succeed in destroying the movement. For their own sake, conservatives need to hitch their outdated covered wagon to a figure more interested in ideas and less in...well...himself.

And preferably one who has never referred to Obama as a "magic negro."

Eric Chianese is an English junior. His column appears weekly.

Documentary on civil rights struggle airs this month

By **EMILY FUGGETTA**
Alligator Writer

When thinking of the Civil Rights Movement, Gainesville doesn't immediately come to mind.

But "Freedom Ride 2008," a 25-minute documentary that surveys Alachua County's Civil Rights Movement, proves that Gainesville played an important role.

The documentary will air three times per day on Alachua County's Community 12 Television through mid-March. The documentary aired in early February for Black

History Month.

Community 12 TV producer Alan Yeatter said the station has done special programming for Black History Month since 2005. Yeatter said he saw the re-dedication of the Gainesville bus depot in Rosa Parks' honor as the perfect opportunity for this year's filming.

"It's important to understand our history so we have a better understanding of our present," he said.

The film opens with Alachua residents singing and clapping to the word "freedom" as they ride a Regional Transit Sys-

tem bus with same word flashing on a display at the front of the bus.

Leslie Cosby, Gainesville High School's first African American teacher, said it's important for younger generations to understand what happened during the '50s and '60s.

On Campus

"If you have no idea what's going on, then you don't realize the opportunities you have because of what someone else sacrificed," she said.

"It's nice to know both sides of the coin," she said.

Yeatter said that because Gainesville has

a large student population and sees a lot of people coming and going, the area's history may not be widely known.

"People might think of the civil rights movement in more national terms without really thinking about what things were like within our own community," he said.

According to Cosby, experiencing the Civil Rights Movement in Gainesville was different than it would have been in a big city because of the tight-knit community developed by UF.

"Gainesville is a unique town," she said. "Always has been, always will be."

LOCAL NEWS

Hot line offers help with food stamps

By **AMANDA HINES**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Gainesville residents are giving positive feedback on a customer service call center hot line in which people can learn about applying for food stamps.

The line was funded by a \$14,973 allocation from the Alachua County Board of Commissioners.

The Department of Children and Families added the hot line to their list of services, said Lynn Dann, an operations management consultant for the department.

Contacting the center is the only way to ask about food stamp benefits. The hot line is for all calls, not just those about applications, she said. It is the only county-funded line in Florida, Dann said.

Before the hot line, 24 percent of people who called were waited on, and 55 percent of those eligible for benefits got them, according to a press release from the County Manager's office.

Dann said the department advertised for the hot line to reach people who haven't had to apply before and might be hesitant to go to the center in person.

It's too early for updated statistics, but Dann said the hot line has been popular.

About 600 people have registered for food stamp applications since the hot line's launch.

"Unfortunately, many are eligible," she said.

The department is scheduled to display the results of the service to the Alachua County Commissioner's office in April.



Emily Fuggetta / Alligator

Teamwork, Teamwork

Joyce Connors of Micanopy and Robert Puzio of Gainesville practice a team-building exercise at a Certified Emergency Response Team program session Tuesday. See Story at alligator.org.

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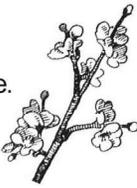
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AROUND GAINESVILLE

Man eats 30 wings in under 3 min.

■ THE CONTEST RAISED MONEY FOR RED CROSS.

By ANA GONI-LESSAN
Alligator Contributing Writer

It took Kyle Myers only two minutes and 51 seconds to eat 30 wings at Gator's Dockside on Tuesday night.

The two-time Newberry watermelon-eating contest champion beat 23 other contestants in the "Wing of Fire" wing-eating competition, which included his roommate, Steven Langston.

"I thought for sure that I had him. And then I looked over and he was done."

Steven Langston
Wing-eating competitor

Contestants, hands and faces covered in orange wing sauce, struggled to beat Myers as the Rocky theme song played in the background.

"I thought for sure that I had him," Langston, who won second place, said. "And then I looked over and he was done."

Contestants paid \$25 to compete. The event raised \$750 for the American Red Cross, including donations.

The winner won a \$25 gift certificate to Satchel's and a trophy with a gold rooster on top.

A chicken wing trophy was too obnoxious, said Casey Schmelz, an emergency services specialist for Gainesville's American Red Cross.



Ana Goni-Lessan / Alligator

Brett Morgan, general sales manager for Wade Raulerson Buick Pontiac GMC, scarfs wings at the Wing of Fire wing-eating contest at Gator's Dockside Tuesday.

Gardens are focus of new art program

By YVONNE AYALA
Alligator Contributing Writer

While many students buzz along Gale Lemerand Drive as they make their way to class, few may give a second glance toward the shady oaks that conceal UF's Wilmot Gardens.

The gardens, which sit behind Shands Medical Plaza, have become the focus of a new Art in the Gardens program. The program offers art, music and meditation workshops and performances, all free and open to the public.

For example, Shands Arts in Medicine, or AIM, has hosted a weekly flora and fauna art series in the five-acre site since January.

During the series, Shands patients have worked with local artists to create their own art.

AIM also hosts a weekly meditation series and monthly musical performances.

"We'd like to see students studying, reading, relaxing and staff and physicians to take a walk and get away from everything in their day," said Linda Luecking, the UF Wilmot Gardens project coordinator. "We want the university to want to use that space as a green space."

AIM was one of only four statewide applicants to receive a Culture Builds Florida grant for \$25,000 from the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs.

Officers consider law enforcement an opportunity to help students

UPD, from page 1

night festivities.

As soon as I slid into the passenger's seat of the patrol car and attempted to warm my hands, we were winding down Museum Road, and he began to share his 17 years in law enforcement with me. During casual conversation, he carefully monitored the positions of the other officers on duty on his computer screen, making sure his patrol car wasn't far from them in case they ran into an emergency situation.

"I always was with a good team," he said. "I knew that someone had my back."

The recent career switch from covering narcotics and violent crimes with different law enforcement teams in South Florida to patrolling a college campus hasn't fazed him at all.

"I'm new, and they've been very good to me," he said, grasping the steering wheel.

Metrick, 57, has been with UPD for about 10 months, but his almost 20 years of adrenaline rushes and team training put him on par with seasoned UPD officers. He was on the road Friday night with officers who have put in the same amount of time into UPD that he has with various agencies across Florida.

He holds a certain respect for officers who have stayed with UPD for almost two decades.

Officers who have been in law enforcement for many years have formed a trust that mentally assures everyone they are going to go home safely after the shift ends.

That connection with his fellow officers kept Metrick alert late Friday night as he intently listened to the outdoor festivities through his open car window, even though the temperatures were in the 30s.

After about 15 minutes of waiting in his patrol car near Fraternity Drive, a yellow Ford Escape zoomed past a stop sign, oblivious to Metrick's presence in the shadows.

He shifted into drive and sped after the guilty driver, who kept hitting the brake lights out of nervousness. The patrol car's red and blue lights flickered and reflected off "It is Unlawful to Feed the Alligators" signs posted by Lake Alice.

After both cars were parked in the right-hand lane on Museum Road, Metrick exited the car with calm and collected professionalism, and he strolled over to the driver's side window.

After issuing a ticket for an expired registration instead of running the stop sign, Metrick scooted back into his vehicle and

added a copy of the ticket to a collection shoved in the sun visor.

"Both students stuck out their hands and thanked me for bringing it to their attention," he said. "I felt like I was getting through to them and that something was accomplished."

Patrolling with compassion

Other UPD veterans who have been a part of the Patrol Division have also turned these types of positive interactions with students and Gainesville residents into important career memories.

UPD Lt. Stacy Ettel sat in his chair back at the UPD Administration Office, surrounded by routine paperwork and manuals. He had a sharp chin, broad shoulders and a voice that commanded attention and discipline.

Ettel, who has served 16 years at UPD, remarked that he considers law enforcement to be an opportunity to help students.

"You get a few minutes to show compassion," he said.

He recalled a moment when he helped a man who skidded on his bicycle and smacked his face on the pavement. Ettel ran into the same man years later at graduation, and the man remembered how he

had washed his face and held his hand.

"Those are the things you remember," Ettel recalled. "They see you later on, and they remember."

Just like the student who got his wallet stolen at UF's Southwest Recreation Center will probably remember the empathy Metrick showed Friday night when he spent part of the evening looking through bushes with a flash light near a Hull Road bus stop, hoping to find the wallet discarded in the leaves.

The lanky student, with disheveled blond hair and a UF pre-med T-shirt, paced as he made multiple phone calls, distress lacing his voice. Metrick gave him advice about leaving personal belongings on the basketball court.

After taking his information, Metrick was back in his patrol car, and he parked in the lot next to Keene-Flint Hall. It was nearing 1 a.m., and people were starting to filter out of the bars. A woman in a short clubbing outfit stumbled past Metrick. As she clung to her friend, she shouted and waved with a smile, "Heyyyy! Heyyyy!"

Metrick didn't even flinch. He seemed used to the unexpected, drunken greetings, and focused more on spotting potential drunken drivers than humoring the extroverted bar-hopper.

Student organizes candlelight vigil for education

By **THOMAS STEWART**
Alligator Staff Writer
tstewart@alligator.org

A UF graduate student in the College of Education has organized a candlelight vigil scheduled for today to protest the possibility of cutting the college's undergraduate programs.

The vigil is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m. in front of Norman Hall.

UF recently asked the college, along with the College of Nursing, to present proposals with the pros and cons of cutting their undergraduate programs.

Kali Davis, the student who is organizing the event, said a number of speakers have been lined up.

The list includes students from the college, the vice president of the Florida Education Association and UF professor Dorene Ross.

There will be about 240 battery-operated candles available at the event.

The event has been called a funeral, but Davis said she's reluctant to use that word.

"We don't want to convey any messages around death or anything, but it is a time of mourning for public education," she said.

On Tuesday in Tallahassee, students held an event of their own to kick off the

start of the legislative session, protesting the possible cuts to Florida's higher education system.

Julie LeBlanc, an FSU sophomore who attended the event, said about 600 people showed up to hear legislators and educational leaders speak.

"There's this preconceived notion that students don't really give a damn, and I think this showed that that's not necessarily true," LeBlanc said.

Sen. O'Mara resigns, questions fraternity's campaigning methods



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

Incoming Student Body President Jordan Johnson applauds an outgoing student senator during a senate meeting filled with farewell speeches and gifts Tuesday night in the Reitz Union.

SENATE, from page 1

Senate seats as well as the three referendum questions and the one initiative that passed.

At the beginning of the meeting, many senators stood to speak.

Unite Party Sen. Will Harrell summed up his thoughts by means of a short quote.

"I thank my God in all my remembrances of you," he said, referring to the past memories and friends he made inside of Senate. Harrell also thanked his parents, who supported him throughout his four years at UF and even came to hear his remarks.

Meanwhile, Progress Party Sen. Dave Schneider welcomed the new senators by laying out the tasks and challenges ahead of them.

"We have work to do," he said. "We are facing budget cuts on the horizon, and now more than ever Student Government needs to be the soap box that speaks out to administration."

After a nearly four-hour meeting, old senators representing various

UF colleges and classes departed. Their newly elected replacements joined senators who were elected to represent on- and off-campus living areas in the fall, to start the second meeting of the night.

About an hour of public debate ensued, where senators voiced opinions about who should become the new Senate president and Senate pro-tempore.

During the discussion, re-elected graduate representative Sen. Ryan O'Mara stood to announce his resignation and to speak about the methods used by his fraternity when he was an undergraduate to sway elections at UF.

O'Mara said he was forced to collect at least two "I-Voted" stickers and that members would be fined \$50 if they failed to vote and recruit a friend to do the same.

O'Mara, who recently ran in the Progress Party this semester, ran with the Gator Party in the past.

"I knew my speech would piss people off but it's because it's the truth," he said. "If it wasn't, people wouldn't have an issue with it."

Compared to other Fla. universities, UF ranks fourth in federal lobbying

LOBBYING, from page 1

UF will also spend almost \$334,000 in the current fiscal year lobbying on the state level, and UF's Student Government will spend almost \$113,000 lobbying on the state and local level.

All that money pays for the services of about 11 lobbyists, two on the federal level and nine on the state level.

The UF Foundation, which handles UF's donations, pays for six of those lobbyists and the costs to maintain an office in Tallahassee, with private money. The money for three of the lobbyists comes out of UF's budget and the two SG lobbyists are paid for through student fees.

UF colleges and administrative units may also incur some lobbying expenses when they send faculty or administrators to Washington or Tallahassee to talk with lawmakers. Sometimes a college, like the College of Medicine, may even pay to send students to a rally.

Those funds, if they are spent, may come from various places like travel expense accounts or external affairs budgets, according to information from UF officials.

It's not clear how much those costs might add up to in a single year.

Jane Adams, UF's vice president of university relations, said UF's lobbying costs may seem like a lot, especially in tough budget times, but she argued UF would be in

much worse shape without its lobbyists.

On the federal level, for example, Adams said UF's lobbyists helped secure about \$23 million in earmarks for research last fiscal year.

The projects that were funded range from termite research to research on renewable energy.

The project that saw the most money, \$7.1 million, was for tropical and subtropical agriculture research, or T-Star, which includes research on reducing and eliminating invasive species.

"As you can see," Adams said, "a \$240,000 annual fee versus last year they helped us get \$23 million. That's an excellent return on investment."

For the current fiscal year, she said UF knows of at least \$15.5 million in earmarks, though it is still combing through the recently passed federal budget for 2008-2009 for other projects that got funding.

As was the case last year, T-Star got the biggest share of federal money, about \$6.7 million, according to the most recent information.

But \$15.5 million is only a fraction of what UF actually requested from Washington this fiscal year.

UF actually lobbied for about \$79 million for projects. Adams said that's more of a wish list.

"We don't expect to get anywhere near all of these proposals funded," she said. "We have a long list of projects to let members of

Congress pick which ones appeal to them."

That list is culled from an even longer list of research projects presented to administrators by UF's faculty. A panel of vice presidents determines which of those make the cut and are included in the final request.

Adams said UF's lobbyists have been especially important this year, with government funds scarce during the state and federal budget crises.

"We have to be very studious; we have to be very careful," she said. "We have to look for any opportunity we possibly can in order to get money in these times."

There are many sources of funding that can be tapped for various projects, she said, but sometimes the trick is knowing where to look.

The recently passed economic stimulus package also put UF's lobbyists to the test this year, she said.

She said one of the most important things they helped accomplish was to make sure Florida wasn't excluded from education funding because of recent budget cuts.

Some funds in the stimulus are contingent upon prior spending levels but, with universities slashing their budgets in recent years, they may not have been eligible for these funds.

Luckily for UF, she said, a waiver was placed into the bill which allows U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to exempt specific states from the spending require-

ments.

Gov. Charlie Crist recently sent a letter to Duncan asking that Florida be given that exemption, she said.

As for how UF's federal lobbying expenses compare to other universities in Florida, UF ranks fourth. However, the reliability of the data was called into question when it was revealed that FSU, which, according to opensecrets.org, spent \$520,000 in 2008, actually spent about \$62,000, according to Ray Bye, FSU's director of federal relations and economic development at FSU.

It appears the database added the salary of the State University System's lobbyist onto FSU's list of lobbying expenses when, in fact, that lobbyist is paid directly from state funds.

According to the database, UF also lagged behind the University of South Florida, which spent \$280,000 and Florida International University, which spent \$351,000.

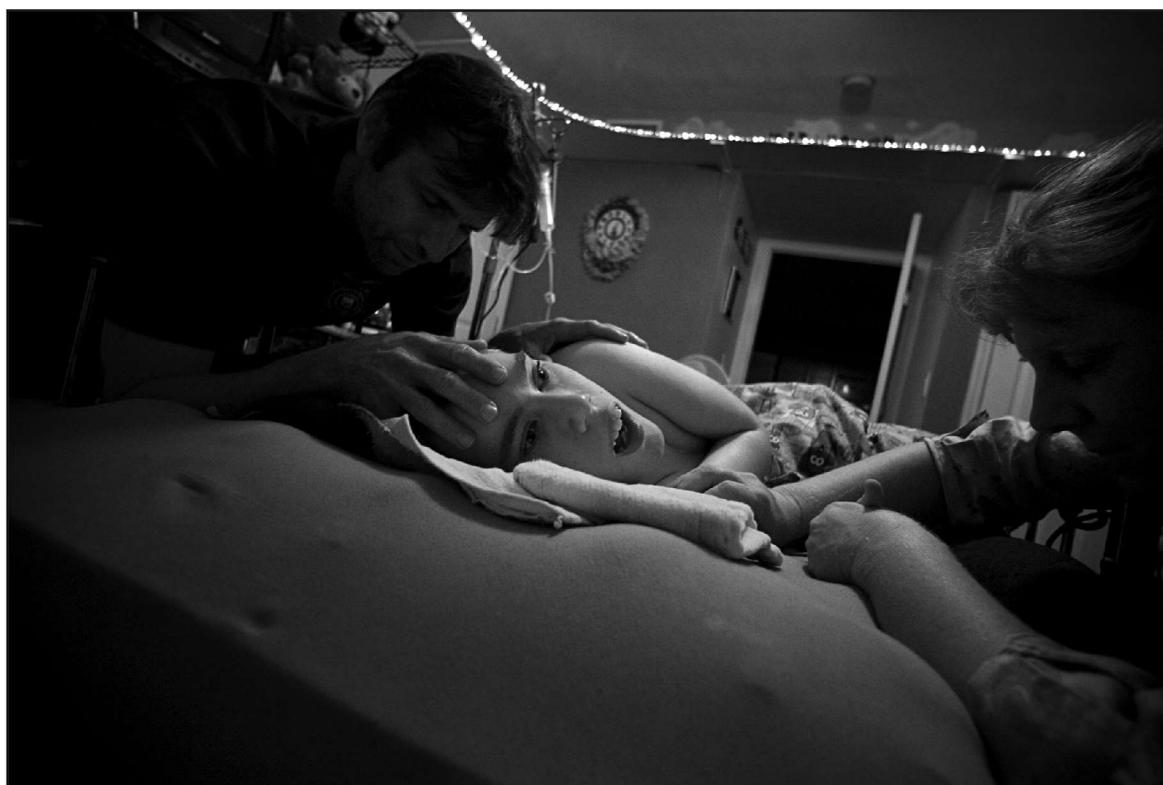
Adams said the budget crunch has caused UF to reduce its lobbying costs this year. On the state level, UF is slated to spend about \$100,000 less this year and the federal lobbying contract is up for renewal, which means UF will be shopping around for a better deal, though she said UF probably won't end up paying less.

She said she's OK with that, though, considering the amount of money UF's lobbyists bring in.

"I'm satisfied with where we are," she said.

An Unexpected Gift

14-year-old with cerebral palsy brings joy to his family



TOP: Before bed, Scott and Tammy place their hands on Caleb and pray for him.

RIGHT: Scott, Tammy and Caleb's nurse sit in the back of the church with Caleb. The other children sit in front of them.

LEFT: Six-year-old Jeremiah, one of Caleb's younger brothers, watches Caleb.

BOTTOM LEFT: Tammy adjusts Caleb's feeding tube to make sure it is well-connected.

BOTTOM: Tammy gets a drink in the kitchen for her children while watching Caleb.

Fourteen-year-old Caleb is one of the 11 children of the Hutchinson family. Caleb has had athetoid cerebral palsy and been critically blind and deaf since birth. He is fed through a feeding tube and requires constant monitoring.

His parents, Tammy and Scott, said they don't think of him any differently than any of the other

kids in the family.

They say Caleb is a gift from God and the center of the family. They laugh together, pray together and go to church together.

"We've done everything that we know to make his life the best that it can be given the circumstances that he has," Tammy said.

Photos and Text by Chen Wang



UF SOFTBALL

Senior out until postseason

By ADAM BERRY

Alligator Staff Writer
aberry@alligator.org

UF coach Tim Walton announced at his weekly press conference Tuesday morning that senior center fielder Kim Waleszonia suffered a tibial plateau fracture in her left knee and will likely not be back on the field for the No. 2 Gators until the postseason.

"We're probably looking at the earliest return for her being post-season," Walton said. "If we get her back for the postseason, it's going to be a good thing."

The injury occurred during the first inning of UF's 7-3 win against Texas Tech on Saturday, when Waleszonia dropped a bunt and was tripped by the Red Raiders second baseman, who put her foot across the bag while covering first base.

Waleszonia tripped and flew through the air, landing in obvious pain. After spending several minutes on the ground, she was carried off the field by her coaches.

A day before suffering the injury, Waleszonia got her 261st career hit, making her the career hits leader at UF.

Prior to Sunday's games, which she watched from the dugout while on crutches, Waleszonia had started all 234 games of her college career.



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

UF center fielder Kim Waleszonia celebrates after an out in the Gators' 8-0 win against Baylor on Feb. 7 at Pressly Stadium.

Search over, three presumed dead

■ TWO NFL PLAYERS AND ONE FORMER SOUTH FLORIDA PLAYER ARE STILL LOST AT SEA.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEARWATER — The Coast Guard called off the search Tuesday for two NFL players and a third man lost at sea off the Florida coast after their boat capsized during a fishing trip.

Officials said the search would end at sundown, with Oakland Raiders linebacker Marquis Cooper, free-agent defensive lineman Corey Smith, who played with the Detroit Lions last season, and former South Florida player William Bleakley still missing in the rough, chilly seas.

"We're extremely confident that if there are any survivors on the surface of the water that we would have found them," said Coast Guard Capt. Timothy Close, who added that searchers scoured the equivalent of 24,000 square miles

over more than 60 hours.

Hopes were raised Monday when crews found a fourth man who was aboard, 24-year-old former South Florida player Nick Schuyler, who managed to stay with the boat after it overturned Saturday evening.

"We're extremely confident that if there are any survivors on the surface of the water that we would have found them."

Timothy Close
Coast Guard captain

William Bleakley's father said he felt comfortable with the Coast Guard's decision and that his expectations lowered after only one survivor was found.

"I think they did everything that they could," Robert Bleakley said of the Coast Guard.

No. 9 Gators complete in-state sweep
Corace earns first 2009 dual-match win

By JOSEPH R. HOLZER

Alligator Writer

The No. 9 UF men's tennis team continued its dominance over in-state opponents with a 5-2 win against FSU in Tallahassee on Tuesday.

The Gators' victory over the No. 15 Seminoles was their third consecutive against a team from Florida, following a pair of dual-match wins over South Florida and Miami.

The initial point was collected by the Seminoles, as they won two of the three doubles matches. Only the newly ranked No. 80 duo of Car-

los Cueto and Alex Lacroix won its match 9-8 (7-1).

Every first set in singles was won by UF.



Corace

The Gators (9-3) received some help from courts 5 and 6, where Jeff Dadamo and Eric Corace earned a point apiece in back-to-back sets

for the Orange and Blue.

FSU fought back in the second sets, taking Courts 1 through 4 to a deciding set. The UF players were able to return to the forms of their

initial sets and win matches on Courts 2, 3 and 4.

Only Cueto, the Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Week, lost his match, though it was after the Gators clinched the win.

"We have a good team," UF coach Andy Jackson said. "It's two months until the NCAA, where it really counts.

"We've got to just keep getting better. We're excited for the victory. It's obviously a big one to beat Florida State."

The Gators will begin SEC play Friday, hosting No. 11 Kentucky at 3 p.m.

Gymnasts try to swing scores with smiles

By EUGENIO TORRENS

Alligator Writer

You know the feeling you get when you're trying to impress somebody, and you're hoping more than anything else you don't mess up?

Gymnasts know that feeling too well. Their sport depends on it. The UF gymnastics team has to impress two judges for dual meets week after week.

In a subjective sport where even a "hello" between gymnast and judge prior to the meet is considered a no-no, sometimes it's all about giving off a good vibe and hoping the right judge picks it up.

UF junior Melanie Sinclair has been growing up with judges from the state of Florida and has established a natural rapport with them — even though it hardly affects the scores they give her.

Some judges have been evaluating her since she was young, and it has helped establish a natural, back-of-the-mind home-field advantage.

It's nearly impossible to say if that extra smile or displaying team camaraderie helps for an extra hundredth of a point, but it's worth trying every time.



Gymnastics

"Every time I see a judge, I always make sure that I'm laughing or smiling," Sinclair said. "Judges like it whenever you're happy and carry that personality."

Even though gymnastics is a sport where perfection is measured, gymnasts say they aren't really paying attention to a numerical score after their dismount.

"You do leave it up to the judges' hands whenever you do your stuff," Sinclair said. "But by me being me and trying to be a good performer, I feel that should be enough in the judges' eyes to give me what I need in order to have a good score."

Alicia Goodwin said she simply sees her routines as either good or bad, and from there it's up to the judge to determine what to score a good or bad routine. The sophomore said she's not focused on the judge as much as she is on carrying out her routine.

Goodwin also said that for small things, she would try to blend in artistry to cover up any mistakes.

"If I have a little wobble, I try to cover it up with a pose and pretend that it's supposed to be there," Goodwin admitted.

She said that while it may be aesthetically pleasing to the crowd, it doesn't get past judges.

UF coach Rhonda Faehn said gymnasts sometimes try to engage the judge along with the crowd.

The best event for that engagement is floor exercise, which is the longest event and gives the gymnast the greatest chance for artistic and personal expression.

"The time that they really get to interact with judges is on floor," Faehn said. "On the floor, they actually have opportunities where they feel like they can perform and look the judges in the eyes."

So how would Sinclair and Goodwin fare as judges?

"I think I'd be pretty picky, but I wouldn't be the judge everyone hates," Goodwin said.

Sinclair said she'd be a wholly unbiased judge, albeit the fun judge.

"I'm going to be fair, when it comes down to it," Sinclair said. "Whoever is doing their gymnastics and doing it right, I'm going to give them what they deserve."

B E L L A M A Y



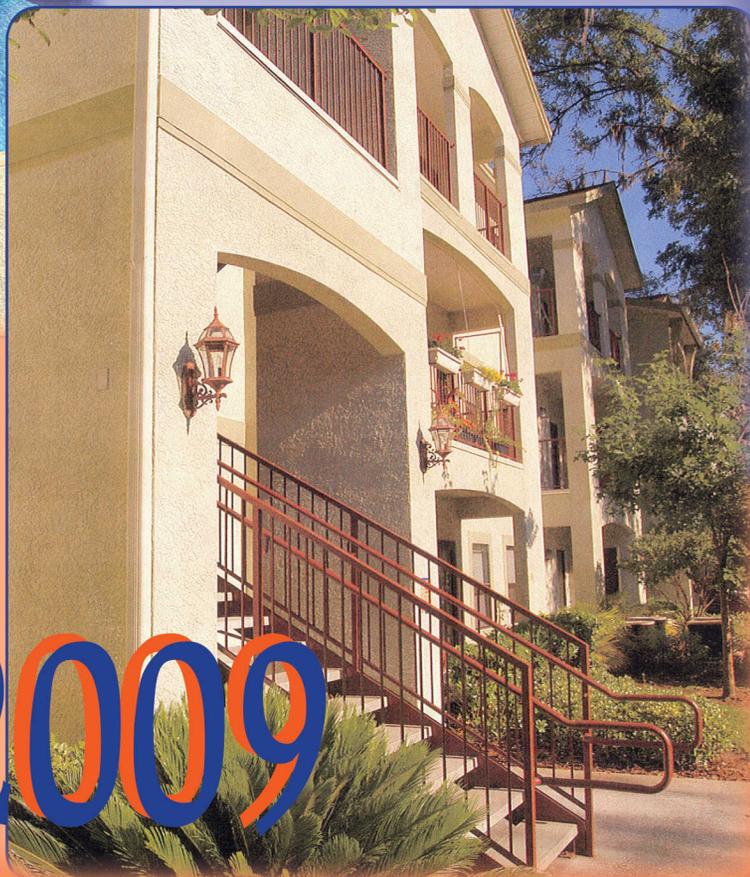
G R A N D

APARTMENT HOMES

Student

Living

Guide



Spring 2009

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

CAVEAT

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

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

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

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

DISCLAIMER

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

GETTING STARTED

How Do I Find An Apartment?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What Should I Look For In An Apartment?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appearance: Is it clean? Do the carpets look worn or smell bad? Has the apartment been painted recently? Do the walls have nail holes?

In some Gainesville neighborhoods, only

See next page...

Legal Assistance
 UF Students (full-time)
 Student Legal Services
 368 J Wayne Reitz Union
 Gainesville, FL 32611-8505
 352-392-5297

All others:
 Florida Bar Referral Service
 Tallahassee, FL 800-342-8011

State Assistance
 Complaints: Security Deposits, Sanitation
 Department of Business Regulation
 Division of Hotel and Restaurants
 7960 Arlington Expressway
 Jacksonville, FL 32211
 904-727-5540

Complaints, all others:
 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
 407 S Calhoun St
 Tallahassee, FL 32299
 850-488-3022

Local Assistance
 Complaints: Repairs
 City of Gainesville Codes Enforcement
 200 E University Ave
 PO Box 490
 Gainesville, FL 32609
 352-334-5030

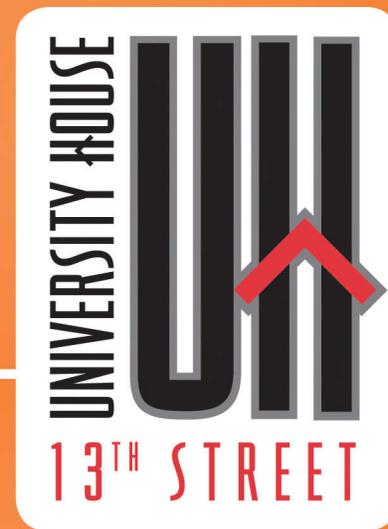
Alachua County Codes Enforcement
 352-374-5244

Off-Campus Housing Information
 Nora Kilroy
 Off-Campus Life
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Information provided by Student Legal Services



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three unrelated persons may live together. Check with the city if you plan on having more than two roommates.

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

Get clear written permission for any pets.

What Can Happen If I Don't Pay Rent?

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

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

Can I Be Evicted For Any Other Reason?

Yes! Your lease can be terminated if you violate any lease terms, rules and regulations, or the Act. If your lease is terminated and you do not vacate the apartment, the landlord may file for your eviction immediately.

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

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

Curable Violations

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

Noncurable Violations

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

or a continued, unreasonable disturbance.

GETTING EVICTED

What Are My Duties As A Tenant?

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

What Exactly Is An Eviction?

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

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

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

How Do I Find A Good Roommate?

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

See next page...

What Should I Do Before I Sign a Lease?

DO

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

DON'T

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

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3 

Cottage Grove
4600 SW 13th St.
See ad on page 19.

4  **WILDFLOWER**

Wildflower
1210 SW 11th Ave.
See ad on page 18.

5  **UNIVERSITY HOUSE**

University House
725 NW 13th St.
See ad on page 14.

6  **BELLAMAY GRAND**
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Bellamay Grand
Bus Route 75
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7  **ROYAL VILLAGE**

Royal Village
710 SW Depot Ave.
See ad on page 17.

8  **LEXINGTON CROSSING**
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Lexington Crossing
3700 SW 27th St.
See ad on page 20.

9  **TOWNE PARC**
APARTMENTS

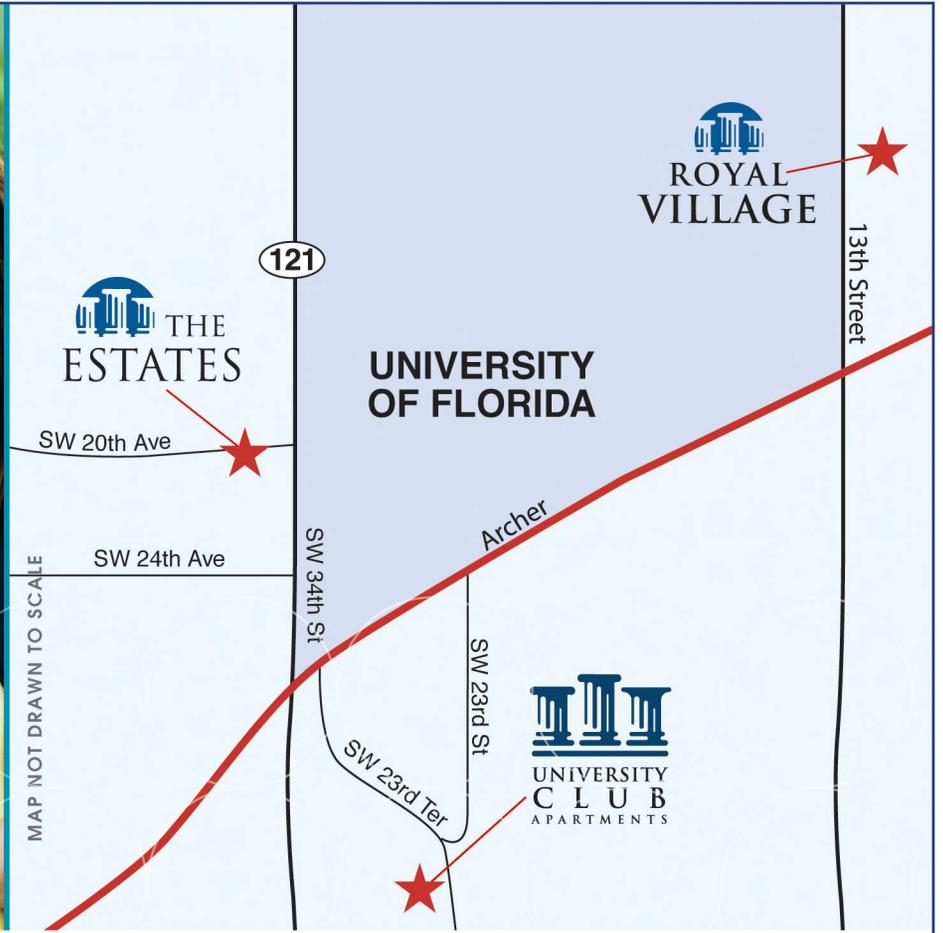
Towne Parc
2930 SW 23rd Terr.
See ad on page 23.

10  **THE POLOS**
of Gainesville

The Polos
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See ad on page 21.

11  **WINDMEADOWS**
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fied ads as additional sources.

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

Do I Really Need Insurance For MY Personal Property?

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

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

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

GETTING ALONG

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

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

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

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

Can I Deduct Repair Costs From My Rent?

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

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

No. Landlords can legally evict you for non-payment of rent even when your "security deposit" is equal to your last month's rent. The purpose of the security deposit is to protect the landlord against damages to the apartment.

Does the Law Require Interest Payments on Security Deposits?

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

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

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

If the landlord fails to give the required notice within the 30-day period, he or she

forfeits the right to impose a claim upon the security deposit.

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

GETTING IT BACK

What Steps Can I Take To Protect My Security Deposit?

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

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

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

What Can I Do About Noisy Neighbors?

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

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

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



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

Discuss the matter with your roommate immediately. Don't ignore the problem with the hope that it will go away. A little give and take may result in a livable compromise.

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

Can My Rent Be Increased During My Lease Term?

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

Can My Landlord Enter My Apartment Without Notice?

No. Unless there is an emergency or you have abandoned your apartment, the landlord must provide reasonable notice and ob-

See next page...

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Gainesville City Codes

Noise:

One of the most common complaints the university receives about off campus students concerns noise disturbances. Gainesville does have a noise ordinance and the city takes a very active approach in the enforcement of noise complaints. The noise ordinance gives police the authority to issue a citation to those in violation.

Noise disturbance, as defined by the ordinance, is any sound which:

- 1) Disturbs a reasonable person of normal sensitivities;
- 2) Exceeds the sound level units set forth in the ordinance; or
- 3) Is plainly audible defined as any noise or sound that can be clearly heard by a person using his/her faculties, at a distance of 200 feet or more from the real property line of the source of the sound or noise.

Occupancy:

The number of unrelated people allowed to live together in a single family zoned district is regulated by the city of Gainesville. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the integrity and character of the residential areas. The Gainesville Code of Ordinances restricts the number of unrelated people living in a residence to no more than three. When you plan to share housing with roommates you are required to either restrict the number of occupants to three or seek appropriate housing in a multi-family district.

Household Garbage and Trash:

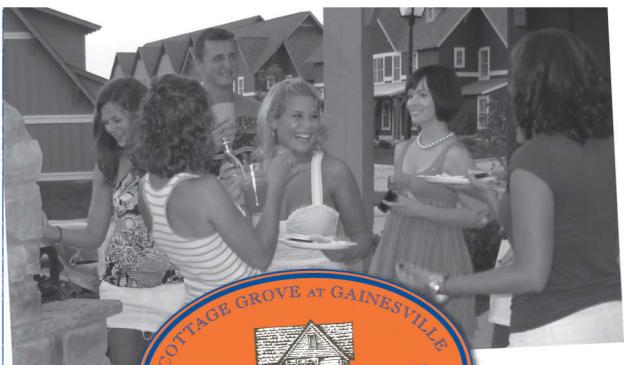
Gainesville has a curbside pick up of household garbage as well as curbside pick up of recyclable materials. The containers for these services tend to clutter the right of way and are not aesthetically pleasing. Therefore, the times that containers can be left out are regulated. Containers may be placed in front of your residence or at the curb, but not on the street, no earlier than the evening before your scheduled trash collection. Following the trash service, containers must remain behind the building, screened from view or placed in an enclosed structure. For information on pick-up of garbage, recycling or yard trash, contact the Gainesville Solid Waste Division at (352) 334-5040.

Disorderly Conduct:

Your actions and behavior that is viewed by the public is subject to the Gainesville Code of Ordinances. Public conduct that creates a disturbance or is disorderly is prohibited. Behavior prohibited by the Disorderly Conduct Ordinance includes promoting or provoking disturbance, brawl, assault, or nuisance. Included under disorderly conduct are fighting words, unlawful congregation that hinders pedestrian or vehicular traffic, resisting or hindering the performance of duties by a police or city official, or damaging or destroying personal or private property.

Parking:

In Gainesville residential areas, passenger vehicles are permitted to be parked on approved driveways only. Parking in the front yard of a residence, other than on an approved surface, is prohibited by the Gainesville Code of Ordinances. If you have any questions about the parking regulations you can contact the City of Gainesville Code Enforcement Division at (352) 334-5030. Apartment complexes may have regulations regarding parking or may require you to place a decal in your vehicle identifying you as a resident. Contact the office of your apartment complex to inquire about parking regulations for your complex.



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tain your consent prior to entering your apartment.

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

How Soon Must I Renew My Lease?

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

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

Getting Out

Can I Break My Lease Because...

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

Under the Act, you can only terminate the lease if the landlord is materially violating

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

Can I Sublet My Apartment?

Usually. The landlord cannot unreasonably withhold consent to an assignment or sublease. The landlord may require potential replacement tenants to submit an application including a credit check. The landlord may also charge a reasonable sublet fee even when you provide the replacement tenants. Normally you remain liable under your lease if the replacement tenants do not pay rent or damage the apartment. Some landlords will release you from the obligations of your lease. If you are being released, get it in writing.

Can I Just Move Out and Forfeit My Security Deposit?

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

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



Information provided by Student Legal Services



Roommates:

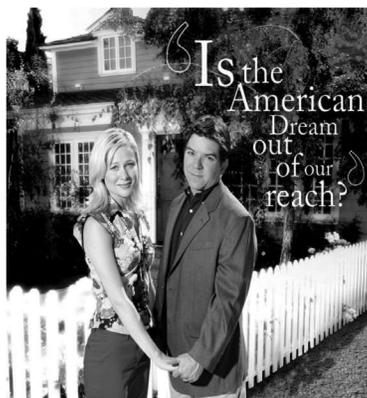
Having a roommate is a great way to divide the cost of living off campus. But, if you don't find the right person or persons to live with then living off campus could be challenging. Below are some tips that will help you if you are thinking about living with a roommate.

- ♦ Start with a friend or sibling, these are often good options for roommates.
- ♦ Consider a person you went to high school with or a friend you have made while here at UF.
- ♦ Communication is key...talk about your budget for housing, expectations for safety, expectations for guests and what your needs are for housing before you even begin your search.
- ♦ Before moving in come to an agreement about who will get what bedroom.
- ♦ Also discuss how payment of rents and other costs will occur.

Don't have someone you want to live with? Well don't worry...some apartment complexes offer "roommate matching" or "roommate placement."

- o Roommate matching – you fill out a survey and management attempts to match you with like roommates based on the form
- o Roommate placement – apartment management places you in any open space they have available
- o Make sure you can make a switch if the complex places you with roommates you are not compatible with.
- o You can also look for roommates on the Off Campus Housing Locator at www.offcampushousing.dso.ufl.edu
- o Also visit the Gator Guide to Off Campus Life for some great tips on how to stay friends while living together. www.dso.ufl.edu/offcampus

Information provided by Off Campus Life



We have some solutions that might be easier than you think. We're the National Endowment for Financial Education, a nonprofit foundation with nothing to sell and a lot to tell. For over 30 years, we've helped people just like you get smart about their money. Come to us for sound advice and practical information on how to start achieving all your financial goals. For everything from getting out of debt to managing your money wisely to saving for the future - we're here to help. www.smartaboutmoney.org

It's time to get smart about your money.

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- Fully Furnished Apartment
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Community Features

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- 3 Sand Volleyball Courts
- 2 Tennis Courts
- 24 Hour Gym
- Cyber Cafe
- Game Room
- Free Tanning
- 3 Bus Routes (9,34,36)

Safety Tips:

Both personal and property safety is really important as you search for off campus housing. Contact local law enforcement before signing a lease with the addresses of where you are looking to live and they can give you crime statistics for that area, call 352-955-1818

Use these five tips when looking at safety during your apartment search:

1. Go back to the complex at night
 2. Is the place well lit?
 3. Look if the complex has security gates or guards and if they are in use
 4. Check the surrounding area – is it close to a bus stop, etc.
 5. During the tour, check for dead bolts on the outside door, locks for individual doors, alarm systems, etc. and ask lots of questions
- Also visit the Off Campus Life website www.dso.ufl.edu/offcampus for more personal and property safety tips.



Information provided by Off Campus Life

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RECREATION & PARKS FACILITIES

PARKS DIVISION OPERATIONS PARK AREAS	LOCATION/ADDRESS	BALL FIELDS	EXERCISE/ JOG TRAIL	BASKETBALL # of GOALS	PICNIC AREA	PLAY GROUND	RACQUET BALL CTS	RECREATION CENTER	SWIMMING POOL	TENNIS COURTS
A.N.N.E. PARK	6224 NW 28 TER			2	X+	X				
NORTHEAST COMPLEX	1400 NE 8 AV	SOCCER 3						MLK, JR x2305	2191	
FRED CONE PARK (PAR/DEVELOPED)	201 SE 27 ST	X-1*		4-L	X+	X-B		2714		
GREENTREE/KIWANIS CHALLENGE	1900 NW 39 AV	X-1	440 YD TRACK	2						
LINCOLN PARK	900 SE 15 ST	X-2	440 YD TRACK	4-L		X				
T.B. MCPHERSON PARK	1717 SE 15 ST	X-2		4-L	X**	X	X-2	2188	2190	X-4L
NE COMMUNITY CENTER	1700 NE 8 AV			2-L				2195		
NORTHEAST PARK	400 NE 18 AV	X-3			X**	X	X-4			X-4L
NORTHEAST 31ST AVE. PARK	1700 NE 31 AV			4	X**	X				X-2
NORTHSIDE PARK	5725 NW 34 ST				X**	X	X-4			X-4L
PORTER'S				2-L	X			X		
ROSA B. WILLIAMS/UNION ACADEMY	524 NW 1 ST			4-L	X	X		2193		
SMOKEY BEAR PARK	2300 NE 15 ST				X**	X				
SPRINGHILL PARK	900 BLK SE 4 AVE		X		X	X				
SPRINGTREE PARK	2800 NW 39 AV				X**	X				
SWEETWATER PARK	500 Blk E. Univ. Ave.				X	X				
TUMBLIN' CREEK PARK	600 SW DEPOT AV		X	4-L	X+	X				
WESTSIDE PARK	1001 NW 34 ST	X-3	X	4-L	X**	X	X-4	2186	2187	X-8L
WOODLAWN PARK	1900 SE 4 ST	X-1*		4-L	X**	X-B				

**** = GRILL PROVIDED**
+ = SHELTERS
X-L = LOCKED RESTROOMS

B = BUILDING
L=LIGHTS
*** = NON-REGULATION**

07/09/03

For more park locations visit:
www.cityofgainesville.org



Clauses to LOOK FOR in a Lease:

- ✓ Specific dates of occupancy.
- ✓ Amount of monthly rent and the date it is due each month.
- ✓ Amount of Security Deposit.
- ✓ Responsibility for payment of utilities.
- ✓ Responsibility for general maintenance and repairs.
- ✓ Sublease: If you sign a 12 month lease but think you may need the dwelling for a shorter period of time, make certain the lease allows you to sublease (rent your dwelling to another person who will assume the remainder of your lease).
- ✓ Whether or not pets are allowed.
- ✓ Automatic renewal clause.
- ✓ Type of lease: joint vs. individual.

Clauses to AVOID in a Lease:

- ✗ At management's discretion, the tenant may be asked to leave within three days.
- ✗ Tenant waives all defects in the building.
- ✗ Landlord shall not be responsible for injury to person, including tenant and guests, as a result of any cause.
- ✗ Tenant is responsible for all repairs to premises.
- ✗ Landlord may enter dwelling without notice.
- ✗ Landlord has a lien (a legal claim on the property of another as security for the payment of a debt) on all personal property of tenant.

A great University of Florida resource available to full time students is Student Legal Services. So if you aren't sure if you should sign a lease, contact Student Legal Services and set up an appointment with a lawyer to help review your lease BEFORE you sign it.

Visit <http://www.sg.ufl.edu/organizations/sls/>
or call 352-392-LAWS for more information.

Information provided by Off Campus Life

Leases:

Make sure you read and understand ALL leases fully before signing. A lease is a contract between you and your landlord that spells out specific details of your living arrangement. Leases often involve policies about pets, deposits, legal entry and other important information. Typically leases in Gainesville are for 12 months. If you know you only need an apartment for 10 months or less, talk with the management about whether they can provide you a shorter term lease. There are two types of leases that are usually available, Joint Leases and Individual Leases.

Joint Lease: All roommates are held responsible for the lease, if one person breaks the lease, the other roommates are held responsible for paying the TOTAL rent. This tends to be the lease more prominent when renting a house or single family dwelling.

Individual Lease: Each person is held responsible for his or her own actions. For instance, if one roommate breaks the lease that person is still responsible for paying their own rent. For most college students, individual leases are the best choice. Each person in the lease is responsible for his or her own actions and not the actions of a roommate.

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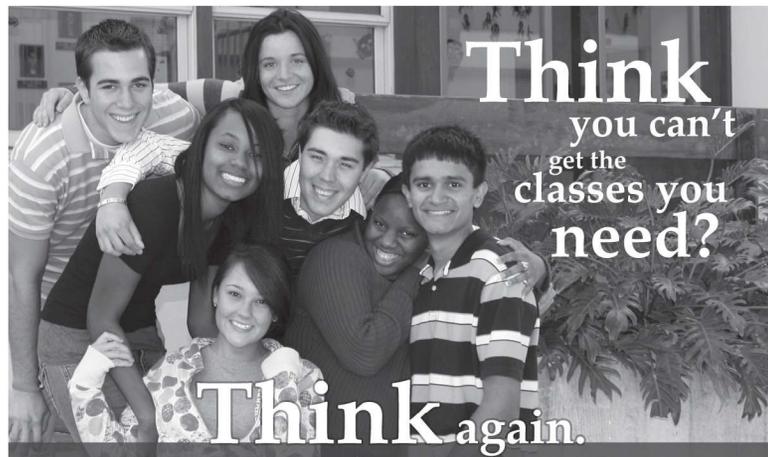
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Insurance:

If you are thinking about renting a house or apartment, renters insurance provides important coverage for both you and your possessions. A standard renter's policy protects your personal property in case of theft or damage and may pay for temporary living expenses if your rental is damaged (including loss of use). It can also shield you from personal liability. Anyone who leases a house or apartment should consider this type of coverage.

There are several types of residential insurance policies. Read your policy information carefully and ensure you have full coverage. Policies should include the following items:

- Fire or lightning
- Windstorm or hail
- Explosion
- Aircraft
- Vehicles
- Smoke
- Vandalism or malicious mischief
- Theft
- Damage by glass or safety-glazing material that is part of a building
- Falling objects
- Water-related damage from home utilities
- Electrical surge damage

Floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes aren't on the list. If you live in an area prone to one or more of the three, you'll need to buy a separate policy or a rider. In areas where hurricanes can pose a threat you might also need to buy a separate rider to cover wind damage. Ask your insurance agent about this extra coverage. Gainesville is prone to hurricanes and in some areas flood.

TIP: If you are still financially dependent on your parents and they own a home then they might be able to cover you under their homeowner's policy. Some homeowner policies will cover a dependant's rental property while in college. So talk with your parents before getting your own renter's policy.

Information provided by Off Campus Life

American Cancer Society's
RELAY FOR LIFE

at the University of Florida



Join the fight against cancer!

March 27 & 28, 2009
O'Connell Center

Find out how to get involved TONIGHT!
Little Hall 113, 6:30pm

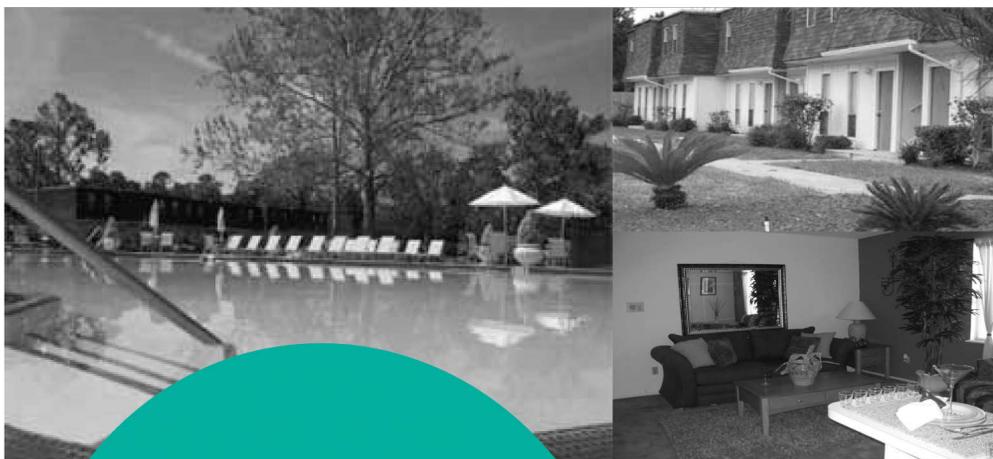
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10 hours and 200 pets
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Budgets:

You can't find the right place to live until you know how much you are able to spend. Here are some budget questions you should ask and think about when you are touring an apartment/house:

1. What is the monthly rent?
2. What's included in that rent...utilities, gas, water, cable, internet?
3. What's not included and what is the average monthly cost for gas, electric, water, garbage disposal? If management doesn't know, contact GRU www.gru.com and they can give you average costs of utilities for the previous year.
4. Want to have a pet...factor in the deposit and monthly cost for food, medical, and grooming care.
5. Don't forget the insurance...before you sign your lease...call your insurance company and see how much it will cost monthly to insure your apartment or house.
6. Are you going to need fuel for your vehicle or are you going to use the bus?
7. How much do you spend monthly on groceries or meal plan?
8. Have some fun...don't spend so much on rent that you can't go to dinner with your friends or maybe see a movie.
9. What do you spend monthly or yearly on clothing, shoes, accessories?
10. It's really good to save some money every month to cover those unexpected emergencies. How much money can you save every month? Even \$20 a month saved is good...every little bit counts.

To help you with your budget the office of Off Campus Life also has a budget spreadsheet in the Gator Guide that can be found online at www.dso.ufl.edu/offcampus.

Information provided by Off Campus Life

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\$485 per bedroom-All inclusive!
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free tanning,freeHBO/showtime
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\$ign now and pay \$0 fees. Nicely fur-
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MORE!! Hurry will not last at these rates.
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\$425/mo. 2 rooms avail in well maintained
home in safe & peaceful nrhd close to UF.
\$475 for rm w/private bath. Rent includes ev-
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Call for more info- 561-212-5410 3-17-9-1

1 For Rent furnished

Looking for female roommate to live in beau-
tiful 2/2 Millpond condo. It is a quite neighbor-
hood directly across from Gainesville Health
& Fitness. Bus stop right in front of house,
comes every 20 min to Campus. Ashley @
(305) 323 9742 3-24-09-14-1

Newly renovated luxury victorian 1BR/1BA,
clawfoot tub, washer/dryer, dishwasher,
cent. a/c, wd floors, high ceilings w/ fans,
big windows, fireplaces. NO PETS 424 NE
6 St \$895/mo 1st + last + sec. 352-317-8282
3-5-5-1

2 BLOCKS TO UF--\$349/MO
Everything Incl- Fully Furn!
Call Drew, 352-275-8555 4-22-34-1

Room for rent in brand new 2/2 condo. Own
room and bath. Grantwood off of 34th and
35th St. Just a bus ride away from campus.
Fully furnished starting Summer or Fall until
the end of Spring. call 954-494-0041 3-6-
5-1

4/2 House for rent available in Fall 2009.
Walk to campus. Huge rooms, Big Yard,
Extra Large Kitchen, 2 Living Rooms. Comes
fully furnished with all appliances. Must see!
Responsible inquiries only. 561-289-4759
3-26-09-14-1

2Bd/2Bth BRANDYWINE Apt
0.5mi to campus. On bus routes
1200sq ft, quiet, A/C
Pool, Laundry, rec rm
Non-smoking. \$775/mth. Ph 352-262-1454
3-6-5-1

\$470 SUMMER sublease 1 room in a 3/3
(OTHER 2 ROOMS EMPTY)@ Gateway @
Glades, Furnished, utilities, cable and inter-
net included. More info call (407)721-6910 or
isabel15@ufl.edu 3-6-3-1

Looking for 3 roommates for '09-'10 school
year, \$500/month includes all utilities, fully
furnished, good neighborhood, nice house,
new washer and dryer, wireless internet, tree
swing and fire pit, call (561) 236-8153 for
more details. 3-6-3-1

Individual BR w/full bath & walk-in closet in
4BR Countryside. Util, DSL, cable, W/D, 51"
TV, year lease from 8/09. \$400/mo. 352-281-
4588 3-17-09-5-1

2 For Rent unfurnished

●QUIET, CLEAN, LOTS of GREEN SPACE.
Rustic 1BR apt. \$375/mo.
●1BR cottage \$435/mo. Call 378-9220 or
mobile 213-3901. 4-22-08-72-2

LUXURY 2/2 ACROSS FROM UF!
From \$599/person! W/D
Pets welcome! Free Parking!
\$0 MOVE IN FEES
371-7777 CollegeParkUF.com
4-22-08-72-2

★LYONS SPECIAL★
\$99 1st month's rent 377-8797
4-22-08-72-2

1, 2, & 3 BR- Live Life Big!
* Available Today & August!
* HUGE Floorplans! Pets Loved!
* 1BR \$655 & 2BR \$755 * 3BR \$889
* Bike to UF/Shands * 335-7275
4-22-08-72-2

Terrific Two Bedrooms For Fall!
W/D*huge walk-in closets*park free
Downtown location - Close to UF
Steps from everywhere you want to be!
Sign now, don't miss out - the best location!
No fees & get \$350 cash back! 338-0002
4-22-72-2

Apartments off SW 20th Ave. Close to shop-
ping, bus line and a few miles from UF. Price
range \$445 to \$665. Includes water, sewer,
garbage and pest control. Sorry no pets al-
lowed. Call 335-7066 Mon-Fri. 4-22-08-
72-2

1 & 2 BRs - Now & August!
* Quiet, Convenient, Affordable
* 1 BR \$560 ** 2 BR \$639
* Walk/Bike to UF/Shands
* Pets OK * 372-7555
4-22-08-72-2

Deluxe, Large 3, 4, 5, 6, 7BR apt/house, 60
second walk to UF. Remodeled, Old House
charm. Central AC, washer/dryer included.
Wood floors. With Parking. By Private Owner.
538-2181 lv message 4-22-08-72-2

Affordable, Spacious, Comfortable
2br Townhomes from \$650 w/W/D
3's from \$850, Pet friendly
Close to UF, Oaks Mall, Butler Plaza
pinetreegardens.com*376-4002
4-22-72-2

How To Place A Classified Ad:

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Cash, Check, MC, or Visa
The Alligator Office
1105 W. University Ave.
M-F, 8am - 4pm

Online: w/ Visa or Mastercard
www.alligator.org/classified

By Email: classifieds@alligator.org

By Mail:

Use forms appearing weekly in The
Alligator. Sorry, no cash by mail. MC,
Visa or checks only.

By Phone: (352) 373-FIND

Payment by Visa or MasterCard ONLY.
M-F, 8am - 4pm

By Fax: (352) 376-4556

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but there can be no refunds or credits for
cancelled ads.

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the first day will not be further compensated.

Customer error or changes: Changes must be made BEFORE NOON for the next
day's paper. There will be a \$2.00 charge for minor changes.

1 For Rent: Furnished	6 Furnishings	11 Motorcycles, Mopeds	16 Health Services	21 Entertainment
2 For Rent: Unfurnished	7 Computers	12 Autos	17 Typing Services	22 Tickets
3 Sublease	8 Electronics	13 Wanted	18 Personals	23 Rides
4 Roommates	9 Bicycles	14 Help Wanted	19 Connections	24 Pets
5 Real Estate	10 For Sale	15 Services	20 Event Notices	25 Lost & Found

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2 For Rent unfurnished

Deluxe, large one or two bedroom, 60 second walk to UF. Wood flrs, washer dryer included, fireplace, patio deck. Can furnish. Short term available. Private Owner. \$595-up. 352-538-2181. Lv msg 4-22-08-72-2

No deposit, No move-in fees!!!
Huge 1/1's 2/2's 3/3's
<1 mi from UF! Giant 24hr gym
FREE tanning/FREE cable
Oxford Manor (352) 377-2777
These apts kick other apts in the teeth
4-22-72-2

★★ ELLIE'S HOUSES ★★
Quality single family homes. Walk or bike to UF. www.elliesshouses.com 352-215-4991 or 352-215-4990 12-11-171-2

**HOUSES ACROSS FROM UF
3 BLOCKS TO CAMPUS**
2-5 BEDROOM AVAIL FALL
AS LOW AS \$450/person
371-7777 CollegeParkUF.com
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FREE Cable w/HBO and Showtime
All Amenities plus **FREE** Tanning
Gated*Alarms*Pet Friendly
Sign Today, Get 1 MONTH FREE
www.thelaurelsuf.com 352-335-4455
4-22-09-72-2

2 & 3 Br's available now
Behind Butler Plaza
Close to UF, Pet friendly
Move in today & get 1 Month Free Rent *
373-1111 www.SpanishTrace.org
4-22-09-72-2

COBBLESTONE
Luxury Townhomes
Private Dog Park! Free Cable
Gated, Garages, Gorgeous!
Immediate Move-in Specials!
(352)377-2801
4-22-72-2

\$400 Target Gift Card? Free School Books?
No Pet Rent? Sound good?
It's 1st come 1st serve at Bivens Cove!
These great specials & more avail for fall!!!
Come by today & view our 1s, 2s, 3s, & 4s!!!
www.bivenscove.com 352-376-2507
4-22-08-72-2

Move in Today!
Rates starting at \$329 per bedroom!
Waived Move-in Fees! *Tanning!
W/D in each unit! *FREE Cable
We love pets: 372-8100
4-22-72-2



Move In Today!
One Month FREE & \$0 Move In Fees
1/1-from \$649*2/2-from \$759*3/2-from \$899
(352) 377-7401 * www.theboardwalkapt.com
4-22-09-72-2

ALL THE SPACE YOU NEED!
At the price you want
No Move-in Fees! Move in TODAY!
1, 1 w/den & 2 BRs - Reduced Rates!
FREE UF parking * FREE Gym
Pets Welcome * 352-332-7401
4-22-72-2

●●●PARKING●●●
Private, Secure, Guaranteed. 60 sec to UF.
Reserve now! Reasonable rates. 352-538-2181. Can leave mssg. 4-22-08-72-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

YOUR MOM...
...wants you to live here!
AMAZING DEALS!
1, 2, & 3 bdrms, W/D
Gated, Pet friendly,
Immediate Move-in Specials
(352)372-0400
4-22-72-2



Three Pools! Three Bus Routes!
Two Jacuzzis! Business Center!
Billiards Room! Fitness Center w/ Free weights! Sand Volleyball!
Tennis Courts! Basketball Courts!
Close to UF, Shands, I-75, & Shopping!
1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms for NOW & Fall!!!
GREAT SPECIALS!!!
1/1-\$754 2/2-\$565w/all util 3/3-\$452w/all util
2330 SW Williston Rd.
www.ThePolosUF.com 352-335-7656
4-22-72-2

Affordable, Quiet, Comfortable
1's from \$550 * 2's from \$375/person
Close to UF, Shands, Butler Plaza
Pet Friendly * 376-1248
www.hiddenvillageapt.com
4-22-08-72-2

AS BIG AS A HOUSE!
Huge 4BR TH W/D inc.
FREE UF Parking*FREE Gym
Call for specials 332-7401 4-22-72-2

A LOT for A Little
Rates as LOW as \$329 per bed!
Free Cable w/ HBO*Tanning!
Huge 1,2,3 Beds*W/D in unit!
Waived Move-in Fees: 372-8100
4-22-08-72-2

LOVE GOING OUT?
Luxury 3/3TH Perfectly Located Downtown!
1 month free for fall &
no move-in fees from \$500/person!
W/D*Free Parking*Pets Welcome
Live where you play!! 338-0002
www.arlingtonsquare.org
4-22-72-2

MUSEUM WALK
Gainesville's Best Kept Secret
Leasing for Fall & NOW!
Luxury 2/2 THs and 3/3 Flats
FREE Cable, **FREE** Tanning, **FREE** Alarms
Walk to UF *379-WALK
4-22-72-2

THREE BLOCKS TO UF!
2br/1ba from \$700
No Move-in Fees! Water included
Wood floors avail! Pets loved!
FREE Parking! 372-7111
4-22-08-72-2

LAKWOOD VILLAS
Large 1, 2 & 3 bdrm Floor Plans;
Starting at \$695
Furniture Packages Inc. Washer/Dryer;
Workout Rm, Tennis Court; Swimming Pool;
Sauna etc. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 10-3
700 SW 62nd Blvd 877-781-8314
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4-22-08-72-2

● SPYGLASS ●
Individual Leases: Furniture Packages
Incl Washer/Dryer, FREE Hspeed Internet;
Rates start at \$485
Every Unit is an End Unit
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701 SW 62nd Blvd 888-267-5078
www.spyglassapts.com
4-22-08-72-2

ACROSS FROM UF!
No Move-in Fees! Pets loved.
Studios - \$549, includes electric!
Wood floors available. FREE parking.
372-7111 Collegemanor.org
4-22-08-72-2

* Where in the world is Hidden Lake?
You may want to find these luxury apts!
3/3's start at \$425 person for Immediate
2/2's are \$490 person, Includes Cable &
Internet
Call Now 352-374-3866
4-22-08-72-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

2 BLOCKS TO UF
Studios and 1/1 as low as \$559
2/1 and 2/2 from \$380-\$599 per person
CollegeParkUF.com 371-7777
4-22-08-72-2

Walk to Class!
1brs from \$599 - 150 ft from UF!
\$0 move-in fees! Move-in Today!
FREE parking! Pets Welcome!
372-7111 CollegeManor.org
4-22-08-72-2

GREAT ODIN'S RAVEN:
Our 4/4's are classy!!
SIGN TODAY and get \$720 off your lease!!
Rates starting at \$509!!
CALL: 352.271.3131
GainesvillePlace.com
4-22-72-2

Action Real Estate Services
Houses to Condos
1-4 BR, Starting at \$450
www.action-realtors.com
352-331-1133
4-22-08-72-2

Stop staring at my Apts!
It's hard not to now that
we are furnished/all-inclusive
Brand NEW, Close to campus, 4 bus routes
Large, luxury 1br-4brs with TVs in kitchen
Beach-entry pool*free tanning*pet friendly
*352.376.0696 * www.EnclaveUF.com*
4-22-08-72-2

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submit your classified ad
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Visa and Mastercard accepted.



2 bed luxury condos for rent.
Granite tops, tall ceilings, private balcony,
super quiet construction. \$1600/mo.
Call Eric Wild at 352-870-9453
4-22-72-2

★★★4BR/2BA HISTORIC HOUSE★★★
10 blocks to UF. Near downtown. High ceiling,
wood floor, cent A/C, W/D, tons of character.
237 SW 4th Ave. \$1200/mo 352-214-9270 4-22-08-72-2

1/1, Ridgeview, free water, next to park, on
the bus line, cent H/A, courtyard, 2 miles to
UF, convenient to shopping, no smoking, no
pets. \$470 SD, \$470/mo 562-2824 3-17-09-75-2

WALK TO UF - AVAILABLE NOW & FALL
1BR/\$495 to \$999/mo
2BR/2.5BA \$1499/mo
Gore Rabell Real Estate
378-1387 Gore-Rabell.com
4-22-08-72-2

SUN ISLAND
1BRs from \$580 2BRs from \$650
Sun Bay ● Sun Key ● Sun Harbor
352-376-6720
4-22-08-72-2

Affordable, Spacious, Great Value!
Leasing for Fall - 1s, 2s, 3s, & 4s
Prices from \$305 - \$629/bedroom
Close to UF, Oaks Mall, Butler Plaza
Select units are townhomes, include w/d
Pet friendly, Pool, Tennis/Bball Courts
pinetreegardens.com*376-4002
4-22-08-72-2

100+ Apts: Walk to UF
On 1 website: www.ForRentNearUF.com
Photos & Virtual Tours for 100 apts near UF
Studios \$625+ * 1BR \$689+ * 2BR \$839+
3BR \$650/br+ * 4BR \$479/br * 352-376-6223
4-22-72-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

**** Across From UF ****
\$1150/mo Special!
2br/2ba Limited Time Offer for Fall
Luxury Apts w/ Internet & Parking Incl.
www.LookingGlassApartments.com
111 NW 16th St. -- Call 376-1111
4-22-09-59-2

★★2/1 House w/ Big Yard★★
4 Blocks to UF, HW Floors
Pet Friendly \$1200/mo
352-375-8256
4-22-76-2

★1 Bdrm- 1BA w/ Loft★
4 Blocks to UF, Cent AC, No Tow Parking,
Pet Friendly, \$850/mo
352-375-8256
4-22-68-2

★2/1 Apt, 1000 SF★
8 Blocks to UF. Island Kitchen, WD hookups
Centr. AC, Pet Friendly \$700/mo
352-375-8256
4-22-68-2

NO FEES and One Month Free!
On Bivens Arm Nature Preserve
Inclusive 2's, 3's, and 4's
MASSIVE Townhomes!
W/D and Jumbo Microwaves in Every Unit
Free Water, Cable, Tanning, Alarms, Pool
336-3838 TheLandingsUF.com
Great Bus Route! 2 Miles to UF
4-22-63-2

Huge 1BR Loft w/Skylight
3 Blocks to Mid-Town/Univ Ave*Walk to UF
Cathedral Ceilings*Only \$799 at Arbor Lofts
www.ForRentNearUF.com * 352-376-6223
4-22-59-2

Studios and 1/1s ACROSS FROM UF
As low as \$559
\$0 MOVE IN FEES
Open late and weekends
371-7777 CollegeParkUF.com
4-22-09-59-2

Summit House 1BR/1BA Available Now
\$605 per month \$250 security Walk to VA or
Shands Call 352-672-1482 3-6-09-30-2

One month FREE!
Zero Redec Fee
1 & 2 BR single-story villas
starting from \$529
Move in costs starting at \$139
Close to Oaks Mall and Archer Road.
Pine Rush Villas 375-1519
4-22-09-59-2

One month FREE!
Zero Redec Fee
1 & 2 BR flats starting from \$599
Move in costs starting at \$139
Two blocks south of Archer Rd. & 34th St
Homestead Apts. 376-0828
4-22-09-59-2

★1/1 Studio 3 Blocks to UF★
Tiled, 313 NW 11th st
Pet Friendly, Fenced Yard
352-375-8256 \$450/mo
4-22-72-2

One month FREE! \$189 Moves you in!
HUGE 2 & 3 BR single story villas
starting from \$759
Close to Oaks Mall & Newberry Rd.
Ashton Square Villas 333-1120
4-22-09-59-2

Downtown Luxury & Cash Back 4 Fall!
Sign now for studios, 1/1, 2/2, 3/3st Perfect
Location-Great Price-No Move-in Fees
W/D*Wood Floors*Bring Your Pets!
Great parking-walk to bars-bike to UF
Reserve now! 338-0002
4-22-09-53-2

Bivens Cove is everything you're looking for.
Close to UF and downtown! Two pools!
Free tanning! Pet Friendly!!!
1, 2, and 3 bedrooms ready right NOW!
Move in today & get One Month FREE plus
\$0 move in fees.
www.bivenscove.com 352-376-2507
4-22-58-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

★CAMPUS EDGE CONDO★
2/2 Walk to UF, Shands & VA. Tile floor, W/D
in unit, avail fall. Reasonable rate.
vinyeung@ufl.edu 3-17-09-26-2

Why Pay More??
2/2 - \$819; 3/2 - \$959
W/D Included*Pet Friendly*FREE Tanning
(352) 377-7401 * www.theboardwalkapt.com
4-22-09-56-2

★Live on UF Lake★
Huge 2/2 with Den - 3/2
Fully Remodeled \$1275/mo
352-375-8256
4-22-53-2

2/1.5 Newly Renovated Townhouse. Avail
Now or Fall 09. Close to Shands, Park N
Ride 2, & Shopping. Incl W/D, A/C, Pvt Patio,
& Pool. \$745/mth & \$500 Dep. No Pets
Pls. 772-538-5792 or ltsao12@hotmail.com
3-17-09-25-2

Very Nice Mother-in Law Suite Near Haile
1BR, kitchen, dining room, full bath, W/D,
cable, utilities all included. \$750/mo. 367-0372 3-6-22-2

Sorority Row Apts
Luxury Apts Steps from Sorority Row & UF
New 1BR to 4BR * Virtual Tours & Photos *
www.SororityRowApts.com * 352-376-6223
4-22-50-2

1BR apt. w/pvt gated courtyard located in
small professional complex @ 3320 SW 23d
St. Single, mature applicants only. \$550.00/
mo small pets ok @ \$25.00/mo 352 377-2150
Please leave a msg. 3-5-09-20-2

WOODLAND TERRACE APTS
Off SW 34th St near post office.
2BR \$550 1BR \$500
Call for daily specials
352-335-0420 3-6-09-20-2

3BR & 4BR/2BA HOUSES
Hardwood floors, fireplace, new baths,
screened patio, big yard, carport, storage
shed. Minutes to UF, on bus route, \$1400-
\$1500/mo First, last security. 954-899-7197
4-3-09-35-2

BLOCK FROM UF
Available Aug 1st. Houses - single family &
attached. Apts. Rent directly from owners. No
middle agent. Flexible terms. 352-377-3852
www.dalyproperties.com 3-31-09-29-2

4BR 3BA. Spacious house on corner of 34th
St. and University. Close to Publix, dining,
movies and shopping. Only 5 min. bus ride to
campus. W/D. \$1,500/mo + util.
1st mo. + last month to move in. Available
now. Call 321-459-3700. 3-4-09-14-2

www.10houses.com
2 & 3 bd houses for August
cute,cent H/A/C, WD,wood fls
quiet areas, yards \$725-\$1260
352-336-6116 nancy@10houses.com
3-25-09-22-2

WE HAVE IT ALL! GIVE US A CALL!
Union Properties 352.373.7578
Walk to UF from our many properties!
1,2,3 and 4 Bedrooms
www.rentgainesville.com
4-22-09-44-2

CAMPUS VIEW PLACE IS THE BEST!
Forget the Rest and call us today!
Brand New! Located off of SW 13th St.
Union Properties 352.373.7578
www.campusviewplace.com
4-22-09-44-2

ONE YEAR TUITION AT UF - \$22,000
Textbooks & Supplies - \$2,000
Calling Union Properties for your new apt.
PRICELESS! Call - 352.373.7578
www.rentgainesville.com
4-22-09-44-2

Finding it hard to choose your next rental?
No Worries, We Can Help!
Rentals going fast near UF so call today!
Union Properties 352.373.7578
www.rentgainesville.com
4-22-09-44-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

Night out on us when you lease one of our amazing 1 br./1ba apts untis available with tile, fenced in yards, w/d conn. from \$395 mo. Hurry while it lasts. 352-332-5070 3-30-09-30-2

\$400-4/4 University Terrace condo; Some utils incl. On routes 12 and 35. Immediate occupancy. 352.514.3398 3-6-13-2

PET'S PARADISE

\$375 - \$650. No app or pet fee. 1 & 2BR, privacy fenced. SW. 352-331-2099 3-17-09-15-2

2BR/2.5BA townhouse condo, 1 mi from UF. On bus route. Incl W/D. Community club-house, pool & fitness center. Wired for internet & security system. \$895/mo 332-8841, lindalu@gatorhomes.com 3-17-09-15-2

Union Street Station 2br/2ba luxury condo. Beautiful 3rd floor corner unit with alarm, nice appliances, w/d, balcony, and free parking. \$1400/mo. call Eric Wild at 352-870-9453. Live in style downtown! 3-17-20-2

Large and beautiful 3bd/2ba house near law school. Avail. 8/1. Hardwood floors, screened porch, wood deck, garage, w/d, bonus room w/built-in bar, large fenced yard. \$1600/mo. Call Eric at 352-870-9453 3-17-20-2

2BR/1BA SPACIOUS
7209 SW 45th Pl. Gainesville. Cent H/AC, W/D hk-up. \$600/mo, \$500 sec dep. No pets. Call 386-462-0994 3-4-09-10-2

3 and 4 BR STEPS TO UF!
From \$506 per person
\$0 MOVE IN FEES
Pets Loved! W/D Available
371-7777 CollegeParkUF.com
4-22-09-41-2

Near UF 4BR/3BA house
wood floors, washer & dryer, central A/C 3514 NW 7th Place. Available for August
Call Manny 352-317-4408 3-19-09-16-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

Downtown Gainesville
Union Street Station apt - above Starbucks 2BR/2.5BA, den/study room, bambo floors, granite counters, up-graded kitchen. Available for August. Call Manny 352-317-4408 3-19-09-16-2

Near UF 5BR/3BA
2,600 sq ft house
630 NW 36 Street. Available for August
call Manny 352-317-4408 3-19-09-16-2

Very Nice Townhouse
3/3 in Rockwood Villas
Only \$375/room or \$1125/month
Large BRs & large closets Quiet area.
Great for Pro. students 941-737-6997
3-11-14-2

Quiet, Clean, Lots of Green Space
2BR/1BA house. \$650/mo. Call 352-378-9220 or mobile 213-3901 3-26-09-20-2

3BD/3BA LUXURY CONDO, 2 YRS OLD
Campus View North Steps from campus & sorority row. All appliances, W/D, tile floors, alarm system, 1st floor, patio/porch, dogs ok w/dep. Avail. Aug 1, \$1800 407-694-0692 4-3-30-2

HURRY HORSE PROPERTY!
Cabin, 20 acres, 7 miles south of Newberry. Paddocks, Riding trails. \$575 + \$100 per horse, u-feed. Dogs welcome 330-329-8834, writer777@att.net 3-20-15-2

Luxury Living 3 Blocks from UF!
Brand New, All-Inclusive
Studios, 1BRs, and 2BRs
Call (352) 240-6961 CMC LLLP
Lic. Real Estate Broker 3-6-10-2

We have REAL 1/1s
3 blocks to UF - GATORNEST
300 NW 18 St-Large, 575 sq ft only \$585!
Bike to UF - CENTERPOINT
1220 NW 12 St-530 sq ft big, only \$475!
No Application Fee, Most Pets OK. For info call E.F.N. Properties, (352) 371-3636 or email Rentals@EFNProperties.com 3-27-19-2

4/2 HOME PLUS STUDY
Available 3/1/09. Corner lot, H/D 2385 sq ft for \$1500 + \$1500 deposit. 3608 NW 22nd Pl. Call 352-214-1956 3-16-09-10-2

3bd/2ba, N.W. very clean, walk/ bike to law school, w/d, fenced b.y., bonus room, central H/AC, ceiling fans, entertainment center, lots of closets. Sale or year lease. No section 8/ realtors. 352-375-6754. 3-30-09-20-2

Room and board in a very clean 3br/2ba, central H/AC ceiling fans, w/d. N.W. walk / bike to law school, \$590. Bring roommates pay \$395 per room (just rent) plus \$295 for bonus room. 352-375-6754. 3-30-09-20-2

1BR/1BA \$495/mo 3 blocks to UF. Apt in vintage house. 112 NW 9th St.

2BR/1BA house \$575/mo. Fenced. 2016 NW 35th Ave 514-6281 3-16-09-10-2

Close to UF 2BR/1BA duplex hdwd, yard, W/D, pets ok \$835/mo 1010 NW 3 Ave 2BR/1BA home. Parking, W/D, yard, pet ok Water incl \$1075/mo 618 NW 14 Ave 1.5BR/1BA yard W/D hk-up Pet ok \$635/mo 608 NW 24 Ave Avail 8/1/09 561-350-1552 3-16-09-10-2

2 Bedroom/2 Bath condo. 1 car attached garage & screened lanai. Vaulted ceiling with fireplace. Very private & quiet with pool. Less than 5 miles to UF and SFCC. \$1,000 month. Perfect for Prof. Call 352-514-4805 3-16-8-2

POOL HOUSE AVAILABLE NOW!
Bike to UF 4BR/3BA, over 2000 sf, nice area 1 mi to UF. 2816 W Univ Ave. \$1400/mo now then \$1700/mo in fall. Pool svc extra 376-6183, 352-327-2931 3-6-09-6-2

NW HOME, 3BR/2BA, 2 car carport, large family room, fenced yard, additional storage, washer & dryer. \$980/mo. Irene Larsson Mgmt Service. 352-373-2605 3-19-10-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

First months rent free or \$300 cash! 1/1 available today! \$650/mo, lease sign-over, lease runs until July 09. 2 miles from Reitz union bus route 9,35,36 run past the complex. Complex is off SW 23rd Terrace. Call 973-534-3788 or email me at freiden@hotmail.com if interested! 3-6-09-5-2

FIRST TWO MONTHS FREE. 4 bdrm/4ba. Available NOW and/or August 1, 2009 to July 30, 2010. Living Room/Dining Room Furnished. ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED. (Electricity, Cable, High Speed Internet, Water & Sewer) Unit located on ground level. Newest Building at Countryside. Screened porch, washer, dryer, dishwasher, new carpet, paint and tile. On bus route. Plenty of Parking, Pool and Basketball court. NO PETS. Locked gate to buildings. \$475/mo. E-mail at moekash@bellsouth.net for more info. or call 904 571-0860 3-6-09-5-2

4 - 5 - 6 Bedroom Houses
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Close to Campus
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Great Sizes & Locations
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\$1,600!! HUGE & Beautiful 2 story 4bd/3.5 bath home off of NW 39th Ave! All lawn care paid, pets OK, rent to own option at \$229,900 available. Call Dana Fults at 352.318.0686 to see today! \$1,600!! 4-6-20-2

Huge 5/3 MH, 2000sf, W/D, 12 miles/minutes to UF/SFCC, no pet fees, \$1600 mth. 352-213-3943 3-17-5-2

3 Subleases

DON'T WAIT TO PLACE YOUR SUBLEASE AD
Last spring semester paper published on April 22rd.

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

1/1 sublet in a 2/2, \$400/mo, W/D in unit, cable-int-utilities-elec included, 10 min walk to campus, available May 1, call 561-310-3783 3-4-5-3

1BD/1BA Less than a block to campus near 13th and Univ Ave. \$555/month May 1- July 31st email Stacy at sls22@uf.edu 3-4-09-5-3

1 BLK ACROSS FROM UF/Library West!
\$410/month for 1BR/1BA in 2/2 at Looking Glass Apts. Great location, price greatly reduced! Can lease through August. 561.261.2249 3-6-6-3

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3 Subleases

\$515 Room Sublease for Spring and Summer semesters in a cozy 3/3 Furnished Apartment. April-August For more info call 904-535-3976. 3-19-09-8-3

4 Roommates

Roommate Matching HERE
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The Laurels 335-4455
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4-22-72-4

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Roommate needed for this summer and/or upcoming '09-'10 school year. House located in upscale subdivision of Capri located off 34th street. \$350/month includes EVERYTHING(utilities, internet,gym...!) easy commute with bus route directly to campus. female student, non-smoker, no pets is preferred. call (863)521-2078 or email aloha75@uf.edu. 3-6-10-4

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Near library downtown. \$295-\$375/rm + utils. Short term. No pets. No smoking. 378-1304 3-6-09-12-4

Room for rent. 2/2 in Brandywine on Old Archer. Available immediately, flexible duration. \$360 + 1/2 util. Call Shane 941-932-1189. 3-20-20-4

Looking for male college student (preferred) to share 4BR/4BA condo with same. Own bathroom. W/D, high speed internet. Includes utilities \$350/mo (available immediately) 863-634-1893 3-16-09-10-4

Male roommate needed. Share furn 3BR/2BA house w/young prof \$400/mo +1/2 util Directv, ph, wireless, Vonage, elec. W/D, ofc space pvt BA (morn) lg yd fenced, pets ok, trees, wooddeck, hottub, pond. UF-15 min drive, near bus, Lakeview Ests 352-682-6297 3-16-10-4

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Female \$490 Mo, 1BR/1BA in 2BR/2.5BA townhouse, furn, new construction, near UF, direct bus line to UF, incl all utils, cable TV, Wireless Internet, pool, exercise room, prof/grad students pref. Rita 904-608-7609 3-18-09-10-4

4 Roommates

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2 ROOMS /w shared bath avail Aug 09 - July 10. At 34th & University Ave in a 4/3 house with 2 males. Rent \$315/mo/each + utils. Call 352-328-4805 or Larson87@uf.edu. non-smoking. 3-4-4-4

Master BR w/ new carpet & ceiling fan in 4BR/3BA house off NW 16th Ave on bus route. DW, W/D, Cox cable & network internet. No cats or dogs. \$375/mo. Call 328-4995 3-5-5-4

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8 Electronics

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9 Bicycles

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10 For Sale

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12 Autos

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14 Help Wanted

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Attorney needed for will contest. Florida Bar certified. Preferably someone new and affordable. 352-332-0515 or 352-222-0267 3-4-09-20-14

14 Help Wanted

LEASING AGENT PT
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SENIOR SACRIFICES

Gymnast takes long journey from home to compete for four years at UF

By **EUGENIO TORRENS**
Alligator Writer

A white Hyundai Sonata cruises onto the turnpike blaring country music through scenic Pennsylvania.

Breezewood. Halfway there.

For UF gymnast Corey Hartung, it's a drive she and her mother, Karen, have made dozens of times.

Corey knows that once they get on the Pennsylvania turnpike, it's time to count down to magic exit No. 7, now mile-based exit 67. To most commuters, it's the exit to Irwin. To Corey, it's the exit to her friends, brother, Justin, sister, Ashley, her father, Jeff, and to a special kiss with her dad — one that's been routine since kindergarten.

The three-hour drive up from Gaithersburg, Md., to Pittsburgh is something Corey became accustomed to in eighth grade. She had no other choice. She loves gymnastics so much that she was willing to be three hours away from her family. It's a sacrifice the whole family, not just Corey, made so she could pursue the love of her life.

From Irwin to Gaithersburg

Mix two parts innate skill and one part chance, and you get the beginnings of Corey's gymnastics career.

Corey, then 8 years old, along with her then-10-year-old sister Ashley, had always been active. Corey was a promising softball player with a strong swing before she even set foot on a mat.

But it was Kasomon's Gymnastics, a gym 10 minutes down the road from Corey's house in Pittsburgh, that changed everything.

What had started out as a channel for cartwheels, flips and bottled-up energy turned into the beginnings of a lifestyle for Corey.

"Gymnastics kind of seemed to fit her, and she seemed to fit it," Jeff said.

After a while, expenses piled up, and Ashley quit. But not Corey.

"I knew I didn't want to quit. I knew I had a talent for it, and I had a dream to go further, so I convinced my parents to let me stay in it," Corey said.

Sure enough, she did have talent, and soon Kasomon's couldn't contain her. One day, Corey, perched on her dad's lap, pleaded to her parents to let her pursue gymnastics.

"I remember just crying to (my dad) and just telling him, 'I don't want to do it here anymore. I want to go somewhere where I trust the coaches, and I know that there's success there, and I know that I can follow my dreams,'" Corey said.

And the winner for most determined 12 1/2-year-old ... Corey Hartung.

In just three quick months,

Karen had a new job, and she and Corey were making the first of many drives to their new home, new school, new job and new life in Gaithersburg.

How do you spell sacrifice?

G-A-I-T-H-E-R-S-B-U-R-G.

"It was a big sacrifice," Karen said. "Not only me, but very much (Corey) because she gave up all her friends and her sister and her brother and her dad. But she said, 'This is what I want.'"

This is a girl who gave up her family, her home, her best friend since first grade and her school in Pittsburgh for gymnastics.

Leann DeMuzzio couldn't believe her best friend was leaving her.

"I was really upset," DeMuzzio said. "That just shows how dedicated she was to gymnastics. She left everything and left her comfort zone."

Corey's middle school even made a banner for her that was signed by the whole school as a farewell to Corey.

Tough? Sure. Worth it? Definitely.

"The main thought going through my head was, 'I'm going to become a better gymnast here at Hill's, and I can't wait to get started and achieve my goals and win competitions,'" Corey said.

From Level 10 to Top 18

"The first year was tough, I'm not going to lie about that," Corey admitted. "But after I knew I was going in the right direction, after I figured out it was worth moving, everything fell into place."

Hill's Gymnastics was tough on Corey mentally, emotionally and physically, demanding nearly 40 hours a week of practice.

"With Kelli Hill (Hill's Gymnastics founder and coach), it was a very big wake-up call," Corey said. "I was sore, I think, every day for the first six months because the intensity and conditioning was so hard."

During Corey's first year at Hill's, Kelli didn't think Corey could be an elite gymnast.

She even told Corey she would be demoted to level 10, the ranking below "elite" for gymnasts.

"I remember her telling me that, and I was so determined to be an elite," Corey said. "I was like, 'No, Kelli, I'm going to work my butt off to be an elite.' There was no way I was going to be a level under what was the top level."

In 2003 and 2004, Corey not only proved she was an elite gymnast, but that she was one of the top 18 gymnasts in the country, landing a spot on the U.S. Senior National Team.

"It just helped you realize what you worked for your whole life, the sacrifices you made," Corey



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

UF gymnast Corey Hartung, the team's lone senior, performs on the balance beam during the Gators' 195.925 to 193.85 win in their meet against Kentucky in the O'Connell Center on Jan. 30.

said. "My family went through a lot of sacrifices for me, more than most others would. We had to go through some hard times for me to get there."

Following the 2004 Athens Olympics, under the tutelage of Hill, an Olympic coach, college gymnastics entered the picture, and Corey was a hot commodity.

"We just said, 'You decide where you feel more comfortable,'" Jeff said. "We'll support you again."

Letters poured in from a slew of schools. Corey's first instinct was Georgia, where she had family. There was also UF, LSU and Alabama to choose from.

All of them wooed her, but UF coach Rhonda Faehn won the recruiting competition — by a landslide.

From Recruit to Role Model

People say Faehn and Corey look alike. They talk alike. Even their gymnastics are alike.

"I just fell in love with (Faehn) right away," Corey said.

Corey was able to relate to Faehn, whose gymnastics background closely mirrors Corey's.

The feeling was mutual.

Faehn still remembers grilling hot dogs and hamburgers on her recruiting visit and the immediate comfort level between the two.

"I just kept thinking, 'Wow, if she comes to Florida, that would be amazing,'" Faehn said.

It didn't take long for Corey to commit to UF.

Once again, Corey had a hill to climb as the only freshman in her

class.

She may have been the lone freshman, but her work ethic was that of a decorated veteran.

Practice had ended, other gymnasts had left, but Corey was still there, whether it was for conditioning, extra conditioning or anything else.

It paid off.

"I'm not scared to get dirty doing a man's job but still enjoy looking good doing it."

Corey Hartung
UF senior gymnast

"It was one amazing competition after another," Faehn recalled.

In her freshman year, Corey was named a three-time All-American on balance beam, floor exercise and in the all-around category.

"I was just really proud of her," Faehn said. "I thought she did an unbelievable job, especially going it alone."

Nine All-American titles later, Corey is on the verge of ending her career as one of the greatest gymnasts at UF.

Her picture hangs in the Ted Cromm Gymnastics Studio as the model of hard work and determination.

Long after Corey is done at UF, her legacy will include more than just her competitive nature, awards, ballet-like gymnastics or event titles.

She'll be remembered for her down-to-earth, unabashed person-

ality.

"I'm a girl who will cut my own grass wearing a dress," Corey said. "I'm not scared to get dirty doing a man's job but still enjoy looking good doing it."

She'll be remembered as the girl who never accepted anything less than the absolute best.

And she'll surely be remembered as the girl who, come meet night, had a Michael Jordan-esque fire in her eyes that burns you to the core.

Don't let that glare intimidate you though.

It's reserved only for meet nights.

Any other day, that fiery gaze is replaced by a warm, sincere expression, and that competitive scowl is swapped with a fun-loving, caring smile.

"I want people to come to me if they want help," Corey said. "I enjoy doing things for others."

Don't believe her? Take it from someone who's known her longer than she's been doing gymnastics.

"If I ever need anything, I know she would be there for me," DeMuzzio said.

So when Corey is honored Friday against Michigan in her last home meet, know that it's been a 14-year roller coaster ride with ups unmatched by any vault jump, downs worse than any beam-biting fall and sacrifices greater than any three-hour drive.

"It's been an amazing journey for us and for (Corey), and I'm just sorry that it's over," Karen said. "She's really going to miss it."

UF BASEBALL

Barfield gives up 1 run in first start

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

For someone who was projected to be the closer, Jeff Barfield turned in an impressive start.

The junior college transfer went 6 2/3 innings in his first start as a Gator and set the tone for a 5-2 road victory against Stetson on Tuesday night.

UF coach Kevin O'Sullivan said before the season that Barfield was the likely candidate to close games for the Gators (6-3), but the junior right-hander found himself on the mound from the opening pitch against the Hatters (2-7).

"The truth of the matter is, we went through two weeks and used him only one time," O'Sullivan said of his decision to start Barfield.

"We needed to get him out there."

Barfield didn't disappoint.

He allowed five hits and 1 run while striking out four and only walking one.

O'Sullivan said Barfield could earn a regular spot in the rotation, but he is not worried about defining his pitchers' roles right now.

Junior Billy Bullock was once again used in the closer's

role against Stetson, as he picked up his second save of the season in 1 2/3 innings of work.

Offensively, the Gators recorded only six hits, but they were able to score runs by hitting for extra bases.

UF freshman Preston Tucker put the first run on the scoreboard in the fourth inning when he deposited his first career home run over the right-field wall.

The next inning, freshman Jerico Weitzel led off the fifth by stretching a single to left-center field into a double.

"We always tell them, 'You better be sure you can make it with nobody out,'" O'Sullivan said. "I held my breath there."

Shortstop Michael Mooney, who was back in the nine hole after a brief stint in the No. 2 spot of the lineup, laid down a sacrifice bunt, and senior Avery Barnes drove Weitzel in with a sacrifice fly.

The Gators would increase their lead to 5-1 by the end of the sixth, and that was more than enough run support for Barfield and the bullpen.

"These midweek games make you nervous. We have a lot of young pitchers, and we need them to show up," O'Sullivan said.

UF heads back to Gainesville for a game against Florida Atlantic tonight at 6:30 in McKethan Stadium.

A radio broadcast contributed to this report.



O'Sullivan

Defense must improve for tourney success

SEC, from page 32

powerhouse Volunteers.

Then things went bad in a hurry.

Butler attributes much of her team's failures to its inability to defend.

UF, which prided itself on defense in its early-season victories, allowed 84, 66, 83 and 84 points in its last four losses.

The Gators had only given up 45 points to Georgia in Gainesville during the teams' first meeting, but let the Bulldogs put up 84 on Sunday.

"We could play better defense," Butler said. "We, in all of those losses, gave up way, way, way too many points."

The reason for UF's difficulties may very well have been playing some pretty good teams away

from home.

But the Gators better get used to that and learn how to adjust quickly if they want make a run in the postseason. UF will likely face No. 5-seed Tennessee on Friday night in North Little Rock, Ark. — another good team away from home.

Butler is confident her team will answer the challenge this time around.



Women's Basketball

has really responded to this year is the opportunity to practice and improve," Butler said. "I fully expect that's what we'll see from them this week as well, knowing that the stakes are even higher and there aren't going to be second chances, there aren't going to be next games."

"The one thing that this team

BRIAN

from page 32

minuscule, outside chance that the Gators get an NCAA Tournament berth by winning the Southeastern Conference Tournament.

"Even if I had to play on one leg, I was going to play on one leg. It's a mental thing," she said. "If you don't think about it then it don't hurt."

Brooks entered her junior year with a new coach, a new system and expectations to be one of the best players in the SEC.

There was improvement, sure, but Brooks had now spent three years in Gainesville with no NCAA Tournament wins and only three victories in the SEC tourney.

Now comes the grand finale, her senior season

Brooks deserves an standing ovation for this season. The Gators are headed back to the NCAA Tournament on the shoulders of Brooks, and they may even have a shot at winning

their first-ever SEC Tournament. She lit Tennessee up for 29 points in arguably the program's biggest win in three years.

"Her level of play just really elevates the bigger the game and the implications of the game," Butler said. "That's really special. She doesn't shy away from the pressure. She tightens up her laces and goes to another level."

"She's already led us to some things that have not happened here before. As many great teams as there's been here, there haven't been a ton that have had that top-four seed (in the SEC Tournament)."

That's a scary thought for the rest of the tournament field. The bigger the game, the better Brooks plays.

It's true. Twenty-five points in a 79-78 upset against No. 2 LSU her freshman year. Twenty-one against No. 21 Kentucky that same season.

"She's our little beast," senior forward Marshae Dotson said. "She doesn't take no crap."

Now the opportunity is here. This little beast could catapult herself to the top of the "Gator Greats" if she leads UF deep into March.

"It's players that understand how to compete and compete over a long period of time," said Tennessee coach Pat Summitt when asked what goes into making a player have an impact on her program. "When postseason comes, they're not going to give in to fatigue."

This is the team that could set the tone for the program.

And if it goes deep into March after perhaps winning the SEC Tournament, there will be recruits hoping to talk to Butler and UF, not the other way around.

"Whether people think I'm a good point guard or one of the worst point guards ever, I just try to stay focused and stay composed," Brooks said.

Whatever she's doing, it has worked for her, maybe better than any women's basketball player ever to play in Gainesville.

Team feels sense of urgency heading into regular season's final stretch



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

UF forward Chandler Parsons calls out to his teammates as he looks to pass during the Gators' 79-75 loss to Tennessee in the O'Connell Center on Sunday.

HOOPS

from page 32

UF follows up the game at Mississippi State with its season finale against Kentucky at home Saturday in what will most likely play out like a tournament elimination game.

The Gators are currently tied for third with the Wildcats in the SEC East.

"We're worried, but in a good way," Parsons said. "I'm nervous, but yeah, everyone's nervous before a game, especially how big this game is."

In a similar situation last year, UF failed to finish out the season strong, losing eight of its last 11 games.

It was a stretch that saw the Gators lose their last four games of the season — including a first-round loss in the SEC Tournament — and miss out on the Big Dance for the first time in a decade.

"Of course we're fired up to get out there and win and play ourselves into the tournament," guard Erving Walker said. "And

then, honestly, there probably is a little sense of panic. Not in a bad way, but just knowing that it's coming to an end and we've got to get it done."

After last season's end-of-the-year collapse, UF rebounded to play its way to the semifinals of the National Invitation Tournament.

This time around, the Gators hope to stay as far away from Madison Square Garden as possible.

UF is No. 49 in the latest RPI rankings, has a strength of schedule that ranks 94th in the country and has just one quality win outside SEC play (against Pacific-10 Conference leader Washington).

"I would say the team, myself and as a team, nobody wants to go to the NIT. So there probably is, knowing that there's two (regular-season) games left, panic," Walker said. "Not in a bad way like scared. But just some type of urgency, wanting to win and get back out there. I think that can be good."

UF WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Gators enter postseason in slump

By **CHRISTOPHER YAZBEC**

Alligator Writer
cyazbec@alligator.org

Some may be searching for what went wrong all of a sudden or when everything just went bad.

How did the Gators go from 22-2 and tied for first place in the Southeastern Conference to the No. 4 seed in the SEC Tournament and a major losing skid?

If you ask UF coach Amanda Butler about why her team has lost four of its last five games, she'll give you a pretty straightforward answer.

"We just played some really good teams, and we played some really good teams on their home floors," Butler said during the SEC Tournament teleconference on Monday. "We ran up against some teams that were really, really ready to play and took very seriously home-court advantage."

The list of the Gators' defeats includes road losses at SEC Tournament No. 2-seed Vanderbilt by 16, at No. 3-seed LSU by 19 and at No. 7-seed Georgia by 9.

Throw in their only home loss of the season to No. 8-seed Arkansas, and people are wondering if the wheels have fallen off at the worst possible time.

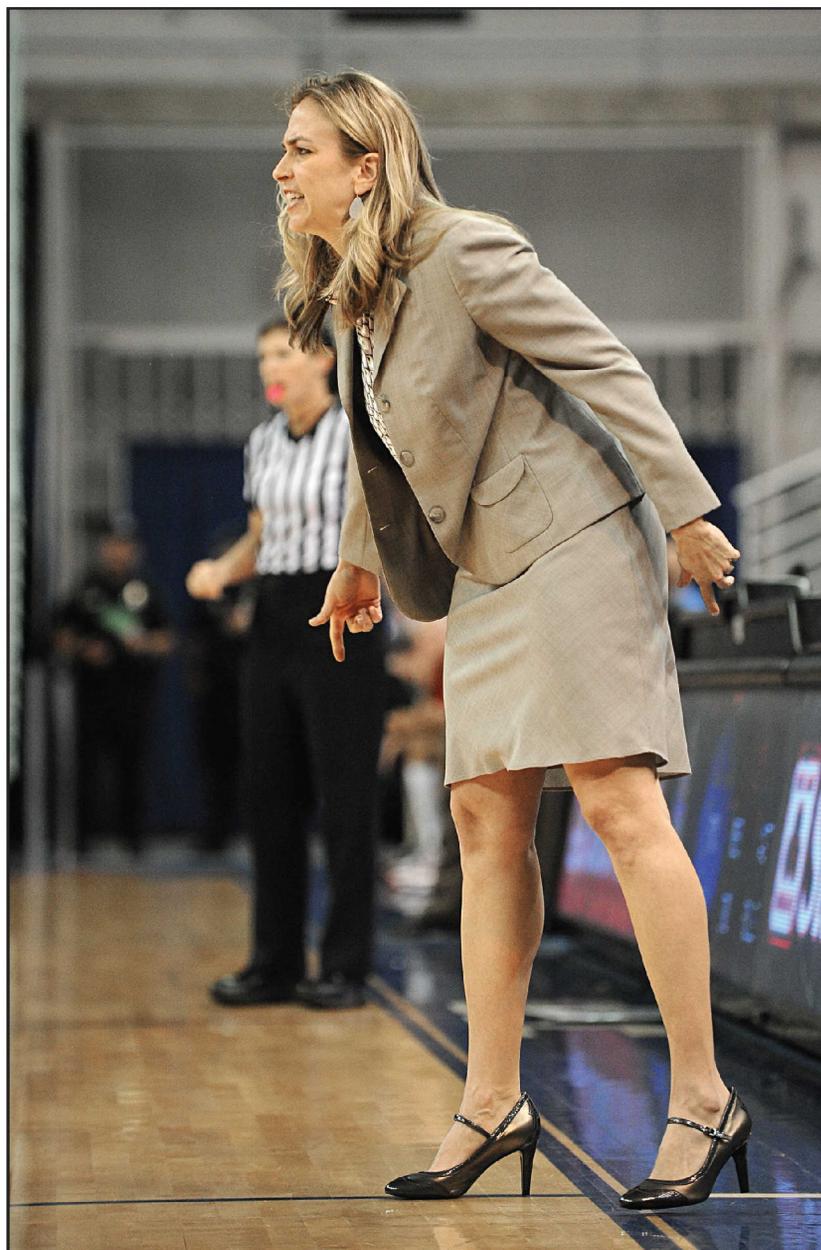
"When you get to February in the SEC, you're going to see great talent and great coaching combined," Butler said. "Nobody's going to have an easy win."

Nothing has come easy for the Gators since Feb. 8.

That's the day UF had what appeared to be a monumental win against then-No. 12 Tennessee.

The Gators were sitting at 8-1 in the conference and appeared to be on cruise control following their toppling of the

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Katie Tschopp / Alligator

UF coach Amanda Butler yells orders at her team during the Gators' 83-74 loss to Arkansas in the O'Connell Center on Feb. 19.

Brooks could leave as legend

It's hard to see it behind her meek smile. Or maybe it's her small 5-foot-7 frame that keeps you from catching a glimpse.

It could be her quiet, shy demeanor that makes you wonder if she's capable of more than a five-minute chat.

Perhaps it's the fact that there's not much of a strut or a presence that overwhelms you.

You don't see Sha Brooks and think "star athlete." Even after talking to her, you still don't see it. All-Southeastern Conference from this girl? Really?

You have to wait to see that until she plays. Then you're convinced. And it has been a very convincing



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ing four years in Gainesville for Brooks.

You probably won't recognize her on Stadium Road or at The Hub. She's too quiet and small to draw attention.

When she puts on her sneakers and dons orange and blue, however, she becomes someone who will go

down as one of the best players in UF history.

Brooks has her name all over the Gators record books, but other players have put up better numbers than she has. That's not why she should be listed among the "Gator Greats," as UF coach Amanda Butler calls them.

It's because she has gone through as much as one college athlete can.

She helped the Gators earn an NCAA Tournament berth her freshman year on a senior-laden team where she was the second-leading scorer, only to get blown out 83-59 in the first round by 11-seed New Mexico.

Then came a sophomore year where she played with a torn meniscus in her left knee on a team that was dreadful and got then-UF coach Carolyn Peck fired. But Brooks refused to shut it down on the

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Calathes thinks UF will 'definitely' make tournament

By **MIKE DIFERDINANDO**

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No one is confusing Nick Calathes with Joe Namath, but this as close to a guarantee as you're going to get from the Gators this season.

"I think that we will definitely make the tournament," Calathes said. "I think we can

do it. That's just my opinion. I just know our team. I know we need these two games, and we still got the SEC Tournament. I've got confidence in our team."

The Gators (21-8, 8-6 Southeastern Conference) have lost four of their last six games and have lost two straight.

With time slipping away, UF can't afford another loss when it plays Mississippi State (17-12, 7-7 SEC) tonight at 8 p.m. in

Starkville, Miss.



Men's Basketball

Mississippi State also poses problems in the paint for UF with 6-foot-9 shot blocker

The Bulldogs lead the conference in 3-point shooting (246 made this season), and the Gators are second to last in defending the three.

Jarvis Varnado.

ESPN's Joe Lunardi, who predicts the NCAA Tournament bracket, had UF as one of his first four teams out of the tournament Sunday night.

"I would definitely say there's a sense of panic, a sense of urgency," forward Chandler Parsons said. "Everybody will be on edge understanding what's at risk here."

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INSIDE

■ For an update on UF center fielder Kim Waleszonia's leg injury, a story about gymnastics judging and a recap of the men's tennis team's win against FSU, go to Page 12.

TODAY IN UF SPORTS HISTORY

■ 1948: The UF men's basketball team suffers its worst loss in school history, falling 87-31 to Kentucky. The Gators' second-worst loss also came against the Wildcats, 102-48 in 1981.

POLL QUESTION

Today's question: How many games will the women's basketball team win in the SEC Tournament?

	Percent (Votes)
Yes	80% (32)
No	20% (8)

Previous question: Should freshman forward Ray Shipman be more involved in UF's offense? (see right for results)

40 TOTAL VOTES