



Economy changes break plans for students

By **EMILY FUGGETTA**
 Alligator Writer

Spring break for college students is always eagerly awaited, but in tough economic times when not everyone can jet off to Colorado for a week in the snow, students are finding other options for this year's break.

Some students are staying local, like

UF sophomore telecommunications major Andrew Suarez, who plans to spend Spring Break in his hometown, Tampa, relaxing and taking advantage of the nearby beaches.

"Not only living in Florida, but living in the Tampa area is amazing," he said.

Luckily for Suarez, he doesn't have to go far for a good time.

In addition to the beach, this year's

Southeastern Conference men's basketball tournament will be held in Tampa, and Suarez said his tax refund money will cover his tickets.

Student Life "That way, I can treat myself and not feel guilty because it's money that's coming back," he said.

Other spring break options available to students are service trips, where travelers sacrifice their downtime to help others.

UF organization Florida Alternative Breaks matches students with service trips based on what social issues interest them.

Andrew Perrone, staff adviser for the organization, said that more than 200 students are going on 15 spring break trips.

Perrone said the issues dealt with range from working with prison inmates in Ten-

SEE BREAK, PAGE 12

Carnival honors cancer fighters

■ **FRIENDS FOR LIFE OF AMERICA SPONSORED THE EVENT.**

By **MARISSA LYONS**
 Alligator Contributing Writer

The Friends for Life of America held their fifth annual Chomp Cancer Spring Carnival Thursday afternoon on the Reitz Union North Lawn in order to spread cancer awareness among UF students.

The free food and games drew students in, but the cause made them stay. Fact sheets hung from the tents with various statistics on cancer. There was also a memorial board for students to sign in memory of those lost to cancer or in honor of those fighting cancer. The club, which holds fundraisers throughout the year, works with cancer patients.

Alicia Garcia, a UF accounting junior and active member, described it as a place where students can get together and talk about how cancer has affected them.

Madison Beerbohm, a UF journalism junior, came to the carnival to have her hair cut for Locks of Love.

"My uncle and my grandfather both died of cancer, so it's a way for me to give back," Beerbohm said.

Brittany Shaara, a hairdresser at the Reitz Union Hair Company, volunteered to run the Locks of Love booth.

"I am here just to raise cancer awareness and for the cause itself," Shaara said. "Any little bit helps when you are going through such an extreme process."



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

Jeremy Pelto, a UF mechanical engineering freshman, is knocked down by his brother, civil engineering senior Kurtis Pelto, while they joust at the Chomp Cancer Carnival on the Reitz Union North Lawn on Thursday.

ON CAMPUS

Reitz Union closes Capeesh, prepares for Pollo Tropical

By **YVONNE AYALA**
 Alligator Contributing Writer

UF students and faculty said, "Arrivederci" to Capeesh Italian Restaurant at the Reitz Union and will say, "Hola" to the Pollo Tropical restaurant.

Pollo Tropical, a Latin-Caribbean restaurant that first opened in Miami, will re-

place Capeesh Italian Restaurant on June 30. Capeesh closed Thursday afternoon.

Pollo Tropical offers marinated chicken, pork and ribs with sides like rice, beans, yuca and corn.

"Students have expressed an interest in bringing Pollo Tropical to campus since late 2007," said Jill Rodriguez, the marketing manager for Gator Dining Services.

"I'm so tired of eating just fast food on this campus."

Nekeshia McInnis
 UF health science sophomore

Claudia Murray, a UF law student, played a lead role in bringing Pollo Tropical to the Reitz Union.

"I can eat at Fritanga [Latin Grill], but it's not the same," Murray said. "When we ordered food out, we didn't get pizza, we didn't get Taco Bell, we got Pollo Tropical — that's my comfort food."

Murray researched and found Pollo Tropical restaurants on the Florida Inter-

SEE POLLO, PAGE 12



■ **Marshae Dotson** (left) and the UF women's basketball team have drawn a meeting with Tennessee in today's second round of the Southeastern Conference Tournament. See Story, Page 24.

Gandhi items auctioned for \$1.8M

NEW YORK (AP) — Mohandas Gandhi's eyeglasses and other items sold for \$1.8 million Thursday at an auction that drew outrage from the Indian government, a last-minute reversal from the seller and a frenzy of bidding won by an Indian conglomerate that said the pacifist leader's possessions will be coming home.

The lot included Gandhi's wire-rim eyeglasses, worn leather sandals, a pocket watch, a plate and the brass bowl from which he ate his final meal. The Indian government protested the sale, saying the items should be returned to the nation and not sold to the highest bidder.

■ Before entering the UF football ticket lottery, undergraduate students must now complete a 25-minute survey. See Story, Page 4.

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STATE

Publicist: Robin Williams needs heart surgery

MIAMI (AP) — Robin Williams needs heart surgery and must cancel the remainder of his one-man comedy show, "Weapons of Self-Destruction," his publicist said Thursday.

The 57-year-old actor needs an aortic valve replacement, according to a news release issued by his publicist Mara Buxbaum. Williams' representatives would not give any more information on Williams' condition.

"I'm so touched by everyone's support and well wishes," Williams said in the statement. "This tour has been amazing fun and I can't wait to get back out on the road after a little tune-up."

Williams was already in Florida when he canceled four shows in the state earlier this week after experiencing shortness of breath.

Since September, Williams had been on the sold-out, 80-city tour, which is expected to resume in the fall, his publicist said. Tickets will be honored once the new dates are scheduled, or people can contact their place of purchase for refunds.

The Academy Award-winning actor got his start as a standup comedian in the 1970s. He has appeared in dozens of feature films — both comedies and dramas — over nearly three decades.

Williams won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for his role in the 1997 film "Good Will Hunting."

Fla. man gets 30 years in murder-for-hire plot

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The owner of a central Florida construction company is going to prison for 30 years for trying to hire a hit man to kill an IRS agent.

Federal prosecutors say Randy Nowak agreed to pay an undercover FBI agent \$20,000 to kill agent Christine Brandt. Brandt was auditing Nowak's business in Polk County, east of Tampa.

The 50-year-old Nowak was sentenced Thursday in federal court. A jury found him guilty in December.

Prosecutors say Nowak was afraid the government would find more than \$3 million he stashed in offshore bank accounts. He was arrested in July after going to meet

FORECAST

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the undercover agent, whom he thought was a hit man, at a restaurant in Lakeland.

Investigators found \$10,000 in his car.

2 Fla. students challenge school's gay club ruling

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — An attorney for two gay students at a north Florida high school told a federal judge Thursday they should be allowed to form a campus club promoting tolerance toward gays, despite a school prohibition.

But a lawyer for the Nassau County School Board said the group's name, Gay-Straight Alliance, is against school policy.

Yulee High School students Hannah Page and Jacob Brock, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, are suing the school board to overturn its decision banning them from forming the club. Yulee is about 25 miles north of Jacksonville, near the Georgia state line.

U.S. District Judge Henry Adams Jr. said he would issue a ruling on a motion for a preliminary injunction "as soon as I can," but gave Nassau County three days to submit additional written arguments. The students want an injunction to allow them to meet until the case goes to trial.

ACLU Attorney Robert F. Rosenwald Jr. argued that Page and Brock had been the target of anti-gay epithets and threats of violence at school and wanted to start the Gay-Straight Alliance to open a discourse among students.

Attorney Frank Sheppard, who represents the school board, said the district's main complaint is the name of the group, saying it does not approve of groups dealing with sexual orientation and noted the school has an abstinence-based sex education curriculum.

"If they change the name and comply with Nassau County School Board policies they can

meet," he said.

The judge questioned Sheppard over the school's objection to the name.

"A Gay-Straight Alliance, that covers everybody doesn't it?" Adams asked.

After the hearing, Page said the group doesn't want to change its name because it represents what the club is about.

"This school is ashamed of using the word 'gay' in this environment," she said.

School officials had no problem with the idea of tolerance and rejecting bullying, Sheppard said, but they believe the club will be disruptive.

Rosenwald noted that the Fellowship of Christian Athletes meets on campus. He told the judge that an FCA booklet includes references to sexual issues, including a student pledge to remain sexually pure and an article about dealing with homosexuality in the locker room.

Sheppard said he was unaware of the document and Adams said he could have three days to respond to it.

Rosenwald asked for the injunction, noting that Brock, a junior, and Page, a freshman, might be out of school before the case is decided.

"These students are in a short window on this," he said.

The ACLU recently won a similar case in Okeechobee. A judge there ruled schools must provide for the well-being of gay students and cannot discriminate against a Gay-Straight Alliance.

Rosenwald said the Okeechobee County School Board paid \$326,000 in attorneys fees in the case.

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Students must take survey to qualify for football tix

By **CHELSEA KEENAN**
Alligator Writer

Students hoping to score tickets in UF's football lottery will need to enter more than just a credit card number this year.

To be eligible for football tickets, students must take the Student Experience in the Research University survey, or SERU, which will ask students about their academic experience, social activities and further career goals.

The survey, which can be taken online through ISIS, will begin March 16 and will take about 25 minutes to complete, wrote Ma-

rie Zeglen, assistant provost and director of Institutional Planning and Research, in an e-mail.

Students can complete SERU in one sitting or break it up into sessions.

According to Zeglen, there will also be questions about civic engagements, student development and student services.

"The survey will help UF leaders and administrators learn more about the undergraduate student experience on campus," Zeglen wrote. "Actions can be taken in areas where students express less satisfaction."

Unlike other types of surveys, SERU will

get feedback from the majority of the UF population instead of just a sample, because all undergrads will be required to take the survey.

Graduate students and incoming freshmen are exempt.

Student Life "Academic departments will get extensive feedback from their student majors," Zeglen wrote.

"Many of these colleges and departments have not had this type of detailed feedback."

A similar survey was created by the University of California at Berkeley Center for Studies in Higher Education in 2003 and was used by eight Californian universities, Zeglen

wrote.

In 2008, the University of California invited other colleges to administer the survey.

UF, along with five other schools including the University of Michigan and Rutgers University, took them up on the offer.

"Best practices can be shared among all the universities administering the survey," Zeglen wrote.

Zeglen wrote that students taking the survey should know there are more benefits than just being eligible for football tickets.

"SERU is not just a survey," she wrote. "It's your vote."

SPECIAL REPORT

UAA may make 'larger than average' contribution to UF

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

The success of UF's sports teams has led some students and faculty members to wonder why the University Athletic Association can't step in and rescue UF's academic programs from big budget cuts next

year.

But the UAA, which has donated about \$48 million to UF since 1990, has, in fact, considered making a larger than average contribution to UF this year, UF spokesman Steve Orlando said.

"There have been discussions about that, but I don't think they've reached any final decision on it," Or-

lando said.

Steve McClain, a UAA spokesman, said the association usually won't know how much it will donate until the end of the fiscal year, when revenues are tallied.

"Some of it is contingent on licensing and royalty fees, so I can't give you a number right now," McClain said.

Orlando argued that the UAA has been the subject of some unfair criticism.

"You hear people say, 'Gee it sounds like the athletic association is so successful. They really should contribute more to the university,'" Orlando said.

The UAA contributes a lot, he added.

"They've been very generous with their help," he said. "More than they get credit for, I think."

He also said the UAA's \$83 million budget is smaller than some people might imagine.

"People think they're rolling in money," he said. "The fact of the matter is, they run a very lean operation."

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Local students react to anti-Semitism in Venezuela

■ ONE STUDENT MOVED TO GAINESVILLE BECAUSE OF THE ATTACKS.

By **LEORA ARNOWITZ**
Alligator Contributing Writer

For many students in Gainesville, hearing the news of a bomb exploding inside a Jewish Community Center in Caracas, Venezuela, on Feb. 26 hit too close to home.

This marked the second anti-Semitic, or anti-Jewish, attack in Caracas within a month.

The first attack, vandalism of a major synagogue in late January, pushed 19-year-old Samuel Cohen to move to Gainesville two weeks ago.

"As soon as that happened, my mom told me I had to get the hell

out of Venezuela," he said. "That's why I started really looking to come to a university here."

Cohen enrolled at Santa Fe College and started classes on Monday.

Eduardo Fleischer, a UF industrial and systems engineering junior, moved to the U.S. from Venezuela in 2006. He said the recent attacks go against the country's history of tolerance.

"I think it's a shame because Venezuela is a country that has always accepted all people and immigrants," he said.

Fleischer said many speculate the government was involved in the attack on the synagogue, and he thinks the attacks are linked to President Hugo Chavez's anti-Israel sentiments.

"We don't say he does the attacks, but it's his motivational

"Good people everywhere need to be aware of what is happening and need to condemn these senseless acts of violence."

Berl Goldman
Rabbi

speeches that produce the attacks," he said.

Jossie Buzaglu, a UF industrial engineering senior who moved from Venezuela in 2007, said it is important to understand this was not the first time anti-Semitism had been felt in Venezuela. But he said the situation is worse now than ever.

"Anti-Semitism always arises when there are conflicts in Israel," he said. "Chavez takes the Pales-

tinian side, and he has such good speeches that he convinces everyone the Israelis are wrong."

Rabbi Berl Goldman, of the Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student and Community Center, described the situation as not only a Venezuelan concern, but a Jewish one as well.

"Thankfully, Chavez has come out and said publicly, at least, that he condemns the attacks, and that he will help the situation," Goldman said. "Whether or not he does that will be a true testament to his role as a political leader."

Esther Benchimol, a UF student and president of the Venezuelan Student Association, said since the conflict in Gaza and the violence in Caracas began, she has worried daily about her family members who still live in Venezuela.

"My mom is already nervous because of the general dangers in Venezuela, and now we have to worry about being Jewish?" Benchimol said.

She found out about the synagogue attack from her mom, who was crying hysterically after hearing the news. Benchimol said her family used to attend weekly services there.

Benchimol said she wants to help the situation by increasing awareness about what is happening in Venezuela.

Goldman said throughout their history, Jews have never been able to be unaware of anti-Semitic threats, even in countries like Venezuela.

"Good people everywhere need to be aware of what is happening and need to condemn these senseless acts of violence," he said.

International exhibition to feature 97 Japanese kimono

By **KATIE EMMETS**
Alligator Writer

The Harn Museum of Art will be hosting an international loan exhibition featuring the kimono, Japan's national costume.

"Fashioning Kimono: Art Deco and Modernism in Japan" will run free of charge to the public starting Sunday through May 17.

The exhibit features 97 kimono from the 1890s to the 1940s and 49 photographs.

The kimono, which are on loan from the Montgomery Collection of Lugano, Switzerland, are free-standing throughout the room categorized by season, gender and style, said Jason Steuber, Cofrin curator of Asian Art at the museum.

Steuber said he designed the exhibit to re-

semble how the kimono are worn, instead of just hanging them on a wall.

Because the kimono was the attire of choice for men, women and children in Japan from the late 1800s to the mid-1900s, the kimono range from casual everyday wear to formal wedding wear.

Some garments mimic traditional Japanese

history and famous Japanese literature, while there are some with a modern feel, he said.

One kimono in the exhibit, made for a young boy, is decorated with army images of guns and planes reflecting the World Wars.

"The shape of the kimono never changes," Steuber said. "But the design and textural detail absorb what is happening in contemporary society."



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Editorial

Get out the polka-dot bikinis and bottles of grain alcohol – The Department of Darts & Laurels officially declares Spring Break 2009 open for business.

From taking home the BCS Championship during the first week of school to Girl Talk's epic performance at The Venue on Wednesday, it's been one heckuva first half of the semester. Sure we'll miss Bernie, the creatures that lurk on Turlington Plaza and of course Krishna lunch, but trust us when we say March 16 will rear its ugly head far too soon.

Before we print out our boarding passes and pack our "Bananas in Pajamas" suitcases (adorable, we swear), the Department of Darts & Laurels proudly presents this week's we-wonder-if-an-Alligator-paycheck-can-buy-a-cup-of-Starbucks-in-Los-Angeles edition of...

Darts & Laurels

Crashing a car can be an extremely stressful ordeal, but when houses are involved, you've just opened up a whole new can of worms. The Department of Darts & Laurels launches a why-are-you-driving-around-with-seven-large-pieces-of-crack **DART** at **Eric Wade** for causing \$5,000 worth of damage by driving his vehicle into a Gainesville home. To make things even worse for Wade, he fled the scene to avoid being arrested – only to be caught by police mere blocks later.

With budget cuts on the horizon at UF, one group of students staring down the elimination of their program is taking a stand. For holding a vigil protesting the proposed cut of the undergraduate education program at UF, the Department of Darts & Laurels extends a way-to-stand-up-for-your-field-of-study **LAUREL** to students from UF's College of Education. While budget cuts are not going away anytime soon, there are better ways to remedy the situation than by cutting an entire curriculum.

While a rumbling in the tummy can cause people to do crazy things, one woman from Fort Pierce, Fla., set a new standard for ridiculousness. The Department of Darts & Laurels tosses a why-the-hell-didn't-you-just-go-to-Checkers? **DART** at **Latreasa Goodman** for calling 911 three times after learning McDonald's ran out of her beloved chicken nuggets. When hunger pains hit us, you better get out of our way, but we certainly aren't going to call GPD if Gyros Plus just so happened to run out of hummus (oh no).

News from the world of sports often informs us of the latest slugger suspected of steroid use or a player arrested for off-the-field troubles – unless you're the Orlando Magic. For building a new playground for the youth of Orlando to enjoy, the Department of Darts & Laurels presents the **Orlando Magic basketball team** a you-guys-are-studs-on-and-off-the-court **LAUREL**. While the players taking one day out of their schedules to lend a helping hand isn't too much to ask, we're sure more than one child walked away from meeting Dwight Howard grinning ear to ear.

Working as a mascot is nothing short of back-breaking work – especially when dealing with unruly customers. The Department of Darts & Laurels chucks a take-it-easy-on-the-Red-Bull-big-guy **DART** at **Trahan Pires** for ripping off the head of the Chuck E. Cheese mascot after thinking the giant rat had pinned his son against a video game console. For his absurd reaction, Pires was fined \$500 – more than enough to have covered a new Xbox360 and ROCKSTAR for his son who was at the restaurant celebrating his birthday.

Maybe it's just us, but we can never understand the mystery voice behind the intercom at drive-through restaurants. For manipulating the frequency at a Taco Bell squawk box and greeting customers with vulgar messages, the Department of Darts & Laurels laughs as we give **two Missouri teens** a mad-props-for-pranking-unsuspecting-fast-food-fans-as-they-attempt-to-get-their-grub-on **LAUREL**. We can only imagine the look on the faces of Taco Bell employees as two kids sat in the parking lot transmitting unsavory one-liners over the intercom.

"Hey slim, do you really need five gorditas?"

That's all for this week. Have a safe Spring Break!

the independent florida
alligator

Nicole Safker
EDITOR

Kristin Bjornsen
Rachel Roy

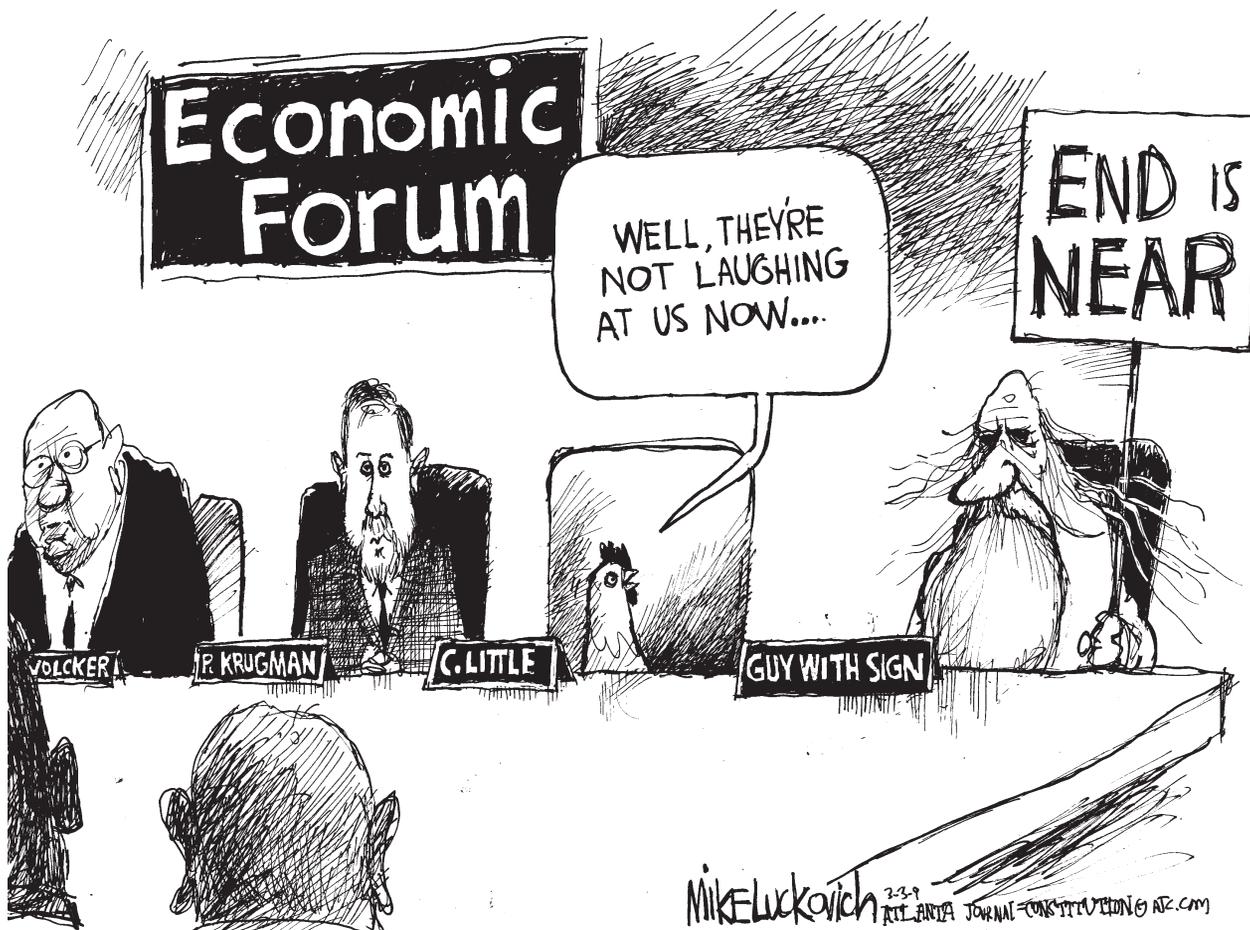
MANAGING EDITORS

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

ALLIGATOR
www.alligator.org/opinions



Guest column

Capitol Hill spending isn't the answer

It is no secret to anyone (except maybe Florida State economics students) that the economy is in its worst state in years.

Economists expect the economy to have shed over 750,000 jobs over the course of February – 400,000 more than in January.

America's Insurance Giant, the lifeblood of the American insurance and financial industry, is burning through cash faster than Gator basketball is throwing away its season, losing more than \$62 billion of taxpayer money in less than three months. And it's not just the United States that is experiencing an economic boom. Europe's unemployment levels are rising to historic highs, and Chinese growth has slowed almost 4 percent in the past year and a half.

Although the problem is easily identified and diverse in its causes, the government is taking a one-size-fits-all approach to shoring up our ailing economy – spend, spend, spend and don't forget more spending.

Let me premise this by saying that I am a staunch Democrat and a believer in the recent economic stimulus package, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, despite the fact that money provisions simply are not going to "stimulate" the economy. But there comes a point at which spending more will fail to fix our economy, and we are rapidly approaching that point.

Many easily forget that this is not Congress' first attempt to shore up the economy via a stimulus bill. Right before leaving office, former President George W. Bush pushed through Congress another stimulus package that gave American families hundreds of dollars in disposable cash, thinking that they would spend it and put it back into the economy. Not only did this bill fail to restore con-



Kyle Robisch
letters@alligator.org

sumer confidence, it did nothing to help us as most Americans simply put the money into savings.

It is time that both President Barack Obama and Congress took a history lesson – you cannot spend your way to prosperity.

In the '60s, '70s and '80s, when the economy was booming, presidents from Kennedy all the way

through Nixon and Carter were concerned with expanding an already-booming economy. Along with the Federal Reserve System, they supported fiscal and monetary policies that increased the money supply and lowered the interest rates, like the Fed and Congress are doing now. The result?

Politicians and economists learned very quickly that it's nearly impossible to control the natural boom and bust cycles of the economy, as runaway inflation rampaged America. It took a federal-induced recession, led by Paul Volcker to whip inflation and bring prices back into check. Unfortunately, the laws of economics don't simply change overnight.

Runaway spending and near-zero interest rates still induce hyperinflation, and spending has a limited effect on stimulating the economy. Maybe the best solution is the easiest, yet the most difficult – let the economy be. Programs like the Troubled Assets Relief Program are a good idea if the proper oversight is in place.

But increasing spending across the board is a dangerous, short-sighted policy that will only leave Americans hurting more later than they are now.

Kyle Robisch is an economics sophomore.

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

Reader response

Today's statement: Have a great Spring Break!

Thursday's question: Do you have faith in the two-party system?

30% YES

70% NO

87 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

Letter to the Editor

Columnist stands by satire

For those of you who don't know me, or for those of you who I have offended, I apologize if you took the meaning of my column to be anything but satire. As an effective satire only mirrors reality, I stand by what I have written for a few reasons.

First, as you'll notice, I picked on both sides, stereotyping both into wild exaggerations,

which included picking on the "good" side of the room. Second, everything from the Little Rascals to the Boston Tea Party was a joke.

So for that, Kelly Korman, I wouldn't change the gorilla line for accuracy. If I wrote "a flannel shirt-wearing tomboy" instead of "girl" as I did in a later draft, Emily Congdon would be hurling eggs at my window.

As for my distinguished rivals, they dis-

tinguish themselves only by the amount of mud they sling back. Korman and Congdon churned offhand remarks into cannon fodder and ought to keep their hands from such villainous slander. Rock beats scissors, and journalism beats the English department.

For me, you see, it's the little things in life that are the great injustices. Like having to put up with bad music. If you devote your time

to trying to solve the most miniscule of issues, the most mundane debates, such as this one, you will be left empty-handed. There's a quote that goes: "Analyzing a joke is like dissecting a frog. Few people are interested, and the frog dies of it."

The defense rests. I'm going to the gym.

Joshua Nederveld

3/JM

Guest column

Support Daily Emerald staff

On Wednesday morning, the entire editorial staff of the Daily Emerald — the student-produced newspaper at the University of Oregon — went on strike in protest of the attempts of its board of directors to install a publisher with unprecedented control over the newsroom.

Today, college newspapers across the country stand in solidarity with the editorial staff of the Daily Emerald in support of the independent collegiate press and student-controlled editorial content. We are deeply dismayed by the short-sighted actions of the Emerald's board of directors and strongly support the strike until the staff's demands are met, and independent student journalism can be safeguarded from such attacks at the Emerald and on college campuses nationwide.

In Thursday the board of directors had the audacity to publish their own version of the Oregon Daily Emerald using content from The Associated Press and a front-page statement from the board. This move is as offensive as it is unwise.

In November, the board of directors hired Emerald alumnus Steven A. Smith as a consultant, and he drafted a plan which included a call to hire a publisher. Smith then authored the publisher's job description as well as his own terms of employment for the position, which the board approved without negotiation.

On Feb. 24, the board voted to hire Smith as the Emerald's publisher, and to give him unprecedented control over the full paper's operation, including supervising the editor in chief. Smith could also have been concurrently employed by the university, creating a clear path for the university to control what

Bryan Thomas Speaking Out

should be student editorial content.

In the face of the strike, Smith has decided to withdraw his decision to accept the position. Today the Emerald staff demands a nationwide search for a new publisher, whose authority would not extend over the editor and who would not be employed by the university.

The Emerald, like many papers across the country, is in dire financial straits and faces the possibility of closure. This financial reality, however, should not force the staff to compromise their guiding ethics as journalists or to sacrifice the paper's autonomy. The decision seems to be a callous overreaching by the board and the university, and an attempt to take advantage of a financially struggling, but influential student organization.

We are living in a tough time for the newspaper business. Now more than ever, we must stand strong and stand together to maintain our editorial independence — any measure of overarching interference in content undermines our journalistic standards and is unacceptable, no matter the financial situation.

Practicing journalism under the possibility of censorship and the meddling influence of an administration undermines the purpose of a free press — we hope that the Emerald's board will recognize this undeniable fact and immediately meet the staff's demands. Until then, we stand with the Oregon Daily Emerald.

Bryan Thomas is the editor in chief of the UC Berkeley Daily Californian. Thirty-four college newspapers, including the Alligator, stand in solidarity with the Daily Emerald.

Guest column

Fashion Week fits Gainesville

And ignorance claims another victim — Matthew Meltzer.

In his bashing of Gainesville Fashion Week, Meltzer failed to recognize the point of the event. He claimed that festivals have to do with the city they're located in, and that Gainesville isn't synonymous with "fashion."

All right then, let's test his logic. If this isn't Gainesville, Germany, why do we have a beer festival? If it isn't the 16th century, and we don't live in Eastern Europe, why have a Hoggetowne Renaissance Faire? Sounds to me like Meltzer wants to get rid of all the fun.

The purpose of Gainesville Fashion Week is not the same as "America's Next Top Model" or "Project Runway." Models aren't walking the catwalk to get noticed by Vogue, and designers aren't auditioning for Heidi Klum. The purpose of GFW is to provide an outlet for artists to showcase their work.

Besides that, GFW presents an opportunity for members of the community to come together and celebrate, just as an art show would. Make-up artists paint on dramatic faces; stylists sculpt outrageous hairdos. Professional models and local faces alike strut down the runway. Local painters and photographers gather to display their artwork around GFW venues and cheer each other's hard work.

While all of this is going on, both student and professional photographers are

Nicole Dambro Speaking Out

shooting photos. Why, you ask?

Certainly not for compensation or recognition, but just for one common goal — the right to express themselves.

The point is that these people who are contributing to Gainesville Fashion Week are doing something great for the community without any ulterior motives. After all, art and the freedom of expression bring people together and unite the community. GFW is promoting harmony between the people and businesses involved, and it helps local artists gain feedback and experience.

By stereotyping GFW as "a seven-day collection of No. 15 jerseys and Urban Meyer gameday polos," you are not only cheapening a wonderfully done event, but contributing to the small-mindedness this town needs to get away from.

Seriously, what ever happened to the idea that college towns are supposed to represent the truest marketplace of ideas? After all, Gainesville isn't just a small town; it's a collection of people from all walks of life. I challenge you, Matthew Meltzer, and those who think like you, to step outside of your bubble and realize that just because we live in a small town, it doesn't mean we have to act like we're going to be stuck here forever.

Nicole Dambro is a journalism and communications senior.

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TODAY by 4 pm**

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GAINESVILLE CITY COMMISSION

Family petitions law to commissioners after tragedy

By **JACQUELYN WEINER**
Alligator Contributing Writer

The family of the man who was found dead in a car near UF's campus is taking a stand.

Kristina Torres, the daughter of John F. Waldo, and Monica Kraft, Waldo's fiancé, addressed city commissioners at Thursday's meeting.

"We can't bring him back, but we can sit here and try to pass a law," Kraft said.

This law, proposed to commissioners as a petition, requests that city, county and state police agencies collaborate more with one another.

It also asks that police run the vehicle identification number and tag any car that is ticketed.

As Waldo lay dead for 12 days, the car he was in was ticketed seven times.

Waldo was reported missing Feb. 11. His body was found Feb. 23.

Waldo's family said they hope that by requiring further measures when ticketing vehicles, situations like the one they experienced could be avoided.

"We would like to see it go into effect as soon as possible so no other families suffer," Kraft said.

The commission referred the

"Roam towing has been a real can of worms. I'm wondering if we're, without realizing it, opening up another can."

Craig Lowe
Gainesville City Commissioner

matter to the Public Safety Committee.

The committee will bring back a recommendation after reviewing the family's requests.

After the conclusion of public comment, the commission proceeded with other business.

This included an ordinance

that allows tow companies to boot vehicles parked on private property.

The ordinance passed unanimously on its first reading with Commissioner Jeanna Mastrodicasa and Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan absent.

Similar to the city's roam towing law, the ordinance provides guidelines for booting in Gainesville. The fee to remove the boot is set at \$60.

There is currently no city ordinance governing booting. To become law, the ordinance must be approved a second time at the March 19 meeting.

If passed at that meeting, the

ordinance will be effective immediately. Some commissioners expressed concern that booting guidelines would only create more headaches, similar to issues surrounding roam towing.

"Roam towing has been a real can of worms," said Commissioner Craig Lowe. "I'm wondering if we're, without realizing it, opening up another can."

Other commissioners said the important thing was that property owners be given the right to boot vehicles, regardless of their opinions of it.

"It's good public policy to have the option," Commissioner Thomas Hawkins said.

World's heaviest man gets specialized van for transport

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONTERREY, Mexico — The world's heaviest man still can't walk, but he will soon be able to roll.

Manuel Uribe said Thursday he is having a 1989 Chevrolet Astrovan outfitted to support his record-breaking weight, giving him mobility after more than six years of being confined to his bed.

Uribe earned the Guinness World Record as the world's heaviest man in 2006, when he tipped the scales at 1,230 pounds (560 kilograms.) He claims to have since shed more than 500 pounds after making a public call for help. Uribe, known as Meme to his friends, even has a name for his new ride.

"My friends call it the Meme-Mobile, just like the Batmobile," he said.



Uribe

The minivan is being converted into an open-air, flatbed pickup of sorts. Manuel says he will put a bed on the back of the van to drive around town, with his new wife at the wheel.

When at home, he will hang out in a remodeled garage that will

include a forklift to help raise his regular bed up to the level of his car bed, allowing him to switch locations from time to time.

Uribe said with the new car he plans to start up an auto parts business. And Uribe's wife, Claudia Solis, said the two are thinking about making a trip to the beach in May. Uribe married Solis in October, and the wedding was one of the few times he has left his home in recent years.

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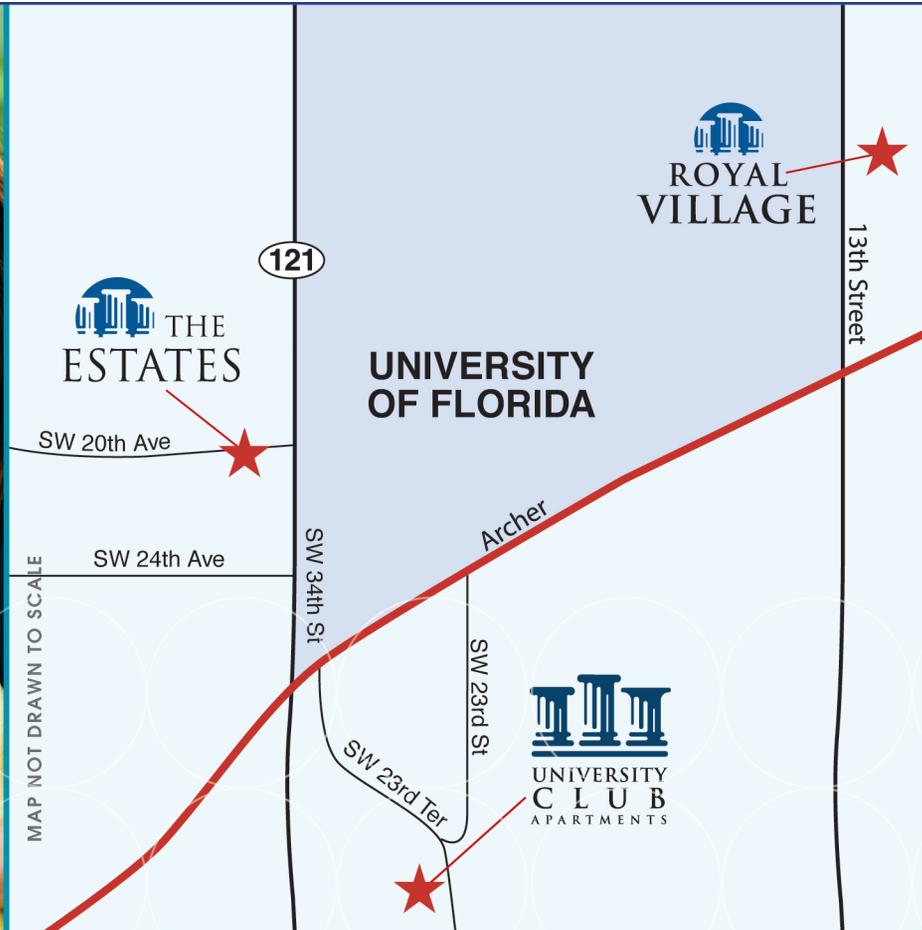
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Venezuelan journalist speaks to locals about Chavez

Venezuelan journalist, politician and economist Teodoro Petkoff spoke about the Venezuelan media and Hugo Chávez's government during an informal discussion Thursday.

About 25 Gainesville residents, students, faculty and staff participated in the bilingual discussion.

Petkoff, the founder and editor-in-chief of the Venezuelan newspaper Tal Cual, which is critical of Chávez, described the Venezuelan media's history of censorship and violence.

"Between media and governments, always there are frictions, always, and our country was not an exception," he said.

Petkoff said that freedom of the press has gradually increased in Venezuela, but the press must remain cautious.

On Campus

He said Chávez is also trying to create a block of tax-funded state-run TV channels. Private channels still exist, but Chávez aims to

dominate the country's viewpoint, Petkoff said.

He said the government uses his taxes to attack him, and Chávez does not have the legal or moral right to do that.

"I am very critical of the government, very irreverent even," he said.

— CAROLYN TILLO

ON CAMPUS

More than 1,000 attend symphony

Powerful music filled the air and the audience sat with awestruck expressions as the UF Symphony Orchestra performed Thursday night.

Under the baton of conductor Matthew Wardell, the UF Symphony Orchestra played for about 1,000 people at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, the best-attended UF orchestra concert ever, Wardell said.

The first half of the concert showcased concerto competition winners Yefim Romanov and Anastasia Naplekova.

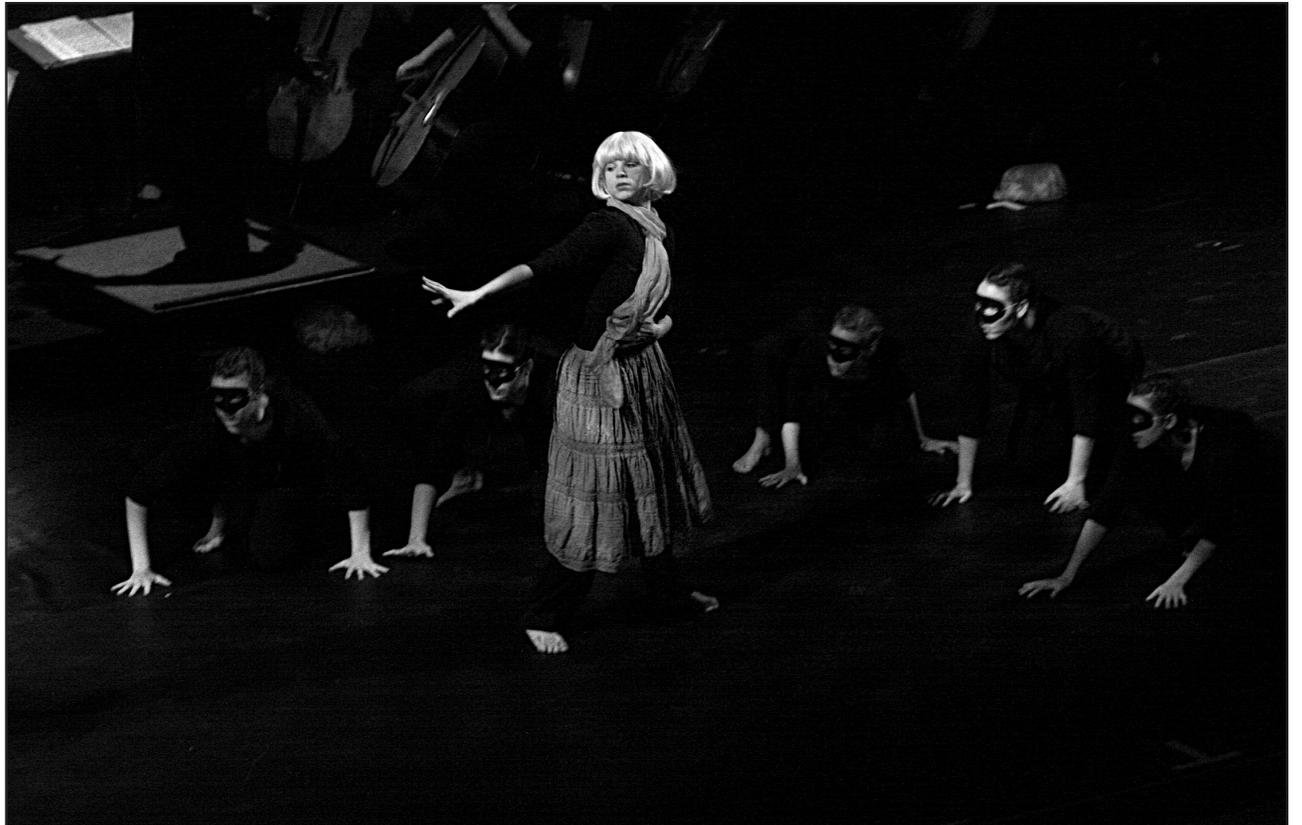
Romanov, the undergraduate winner, performed Tchaikovsky's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra and Naplekova followed on piano with Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. Both pieces resulted in an encore and a standing ovation for the soloists.

In her nine years of working for UF, Mutlu Citim-Kepic said this was one of the best Symphony Orchestra concerts she has been to.

After intermission, the orchestra performed Béla Bartók's Miraculous Mandarin, accompanied by a ballet with the UF school of Theater and Dance.

The Mandarin tells a story of a girl forced to seduce men so her thugs could beat them and steal their money. In the end, the message that all beings deserve satisfaction was portrayed through the character of the Mandarin, who repeatedly defies death to gain the girl's acceptance.

— KATIE EMMETS



Emily Fuggetta / Alligator

Students from the UF School of Theatre and Dance perform Bela Bartok's "Miraculous Mandarin" at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday night.



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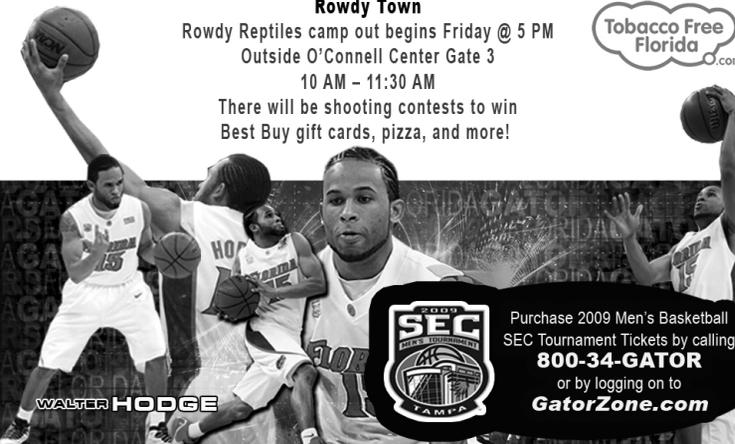
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Facebook petition helped add Pollo Tropical to Reitz

POLLO, from page 1

national University and Florida State University campuses that also use Aramark for campus dining services. She started a Facebook group called "Bring Pollo Tropical to the Reitz Union" in February 2007 and set up a site for students to petition for the Latin cuisine.

Murray was surprised when about 1,200 people joined the group and 307 students petitioned, she said.

Pollo Tropical's construction is set to begin March 10, Rodriguez said.

Students can still access the UF Bookstore from the food court during construction.

Some students will miss the Italian restaurant.

"I've been to Capeesh probably

a handful of times since I came to UF, and I haven't had any complaints," said Ethan Kopelman, a telecommunications junior. "It's actually kind of disappointing that they're changing it."

Nekeshia McNinnis, a health science sophomore, never found Capeesh appealing but is excited about Pollo Tropical.

"I'm so tired of eating just fast food on this campus," McNinnis said. "There needs to be more variety."

Rodriguez didn't respond to an e-mail question about the cost of constructing the new restaurant. But she said the restaurant will bring more variety to the campus community.

"Gator Dining Services is always looking for ways to meet the needs and preferences of the students," Rodriguez said.



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

The entrance to the Capeesh restaurant in the Reitz Union food court on Thursday, its final day of operation. The restaurant will be replaced by Pollo Tropical, a popular chain originally from Miami.

UF Student Affairs's warning about Mexico attacks does not worry travelers

BREAK, from page 1

nessee to helping New Orleans continue its Hurricane Katrina recovery.

Florida Alternative Breaks, which began in the early '90s to help Hurricane Andrew victims, finds free or cheap housing at different destinations. Volunteers usually sleep at churches or community centers.

FAB also helps students raise money for their trips. The money is distributed evenly so that all domestic trips cost the same, regardless of destination.

"That way, someone doesn't pick a trip

based on the cost," he said. "They choose based on what issue they want to work on or learn about."

Perrone said that the things students see when they travel abroad can make them aware of issues facing Gainesville, such as poverty.

"There are benefits you get out of this type of experience that you wouldn't get out of other types of spring break," he said.

Florida Alternative Breaks is not the only way to have a selfless spring break.

Jenna Harris, a freshman journalism major at UF, is going to Monterrey, Mexico with the Theta Alpha Christian sorority to

"There are benefits you get out of this type of experience that you wouldn't get out of other types of spring break."

Andrew Perrone
Staff adviser

work with Back to Back Ministries helping Mexican children.

Harris said she sent out letters asking for financial support from people in her community and local businesses, which helped her pay for the trip.

"If I didn't have the money, I wasn't go-

ing to be able to go," she said.

Despite a recent e-mail from the UF Division of Student Affairs warning students to be careful if traveling to Mexico during spring break, Harris said she isn't worried.

The e-mail said that there has been a recent increase in violent attacks.

Harris said she and her friends will stick together and use common sense to stay out of danger, and that they won't let the warning stop them from carrying out their plans of helping people and having fun.

"God said go," she said. "So that's what we're going to do."

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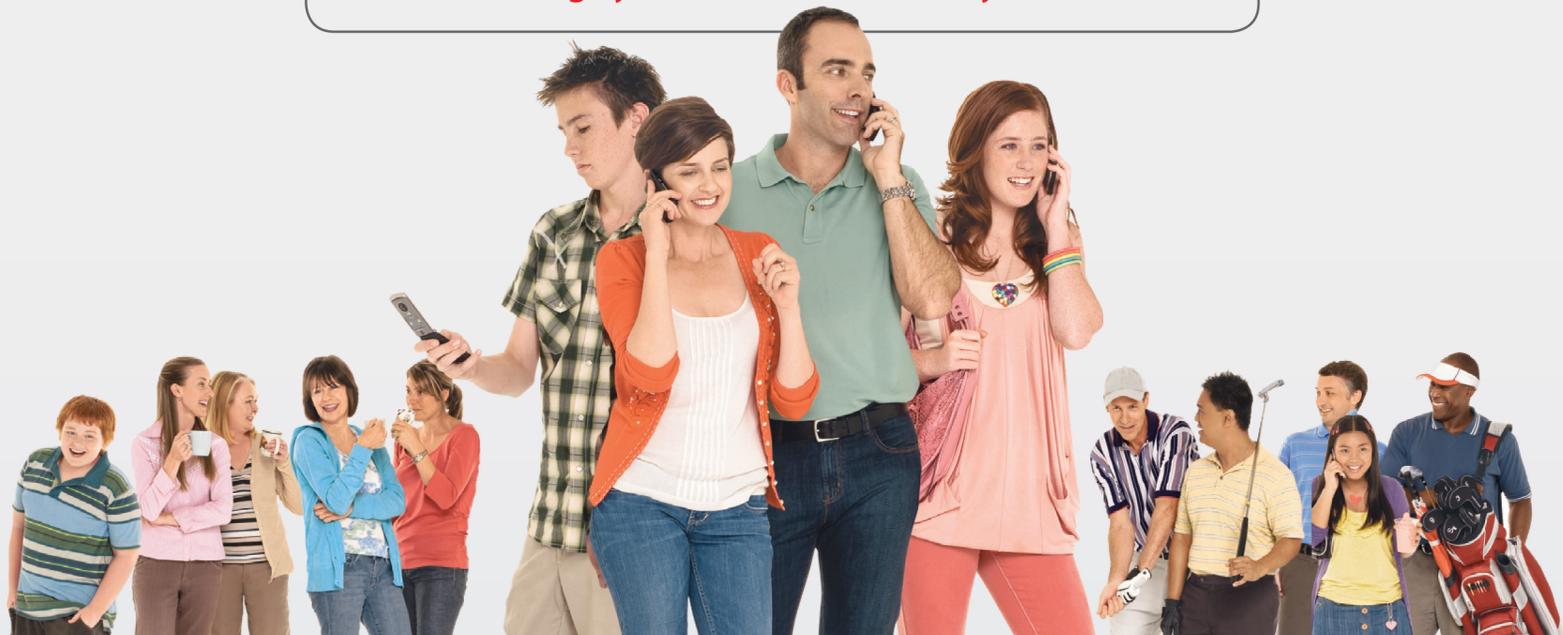
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Calif. Supreme Court hears lawsuits on Proposition 8

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — As thousands of demonstrators chanted slogans and waved placards outside, California's highest court on Thursday skeptically grilled lawyers seeking to overturn the state's ban on gay marriage.

Attorneys for same-sex couples argued the public's right to change the constitution doesn't extend to depriving an unpopular minority of the right to wed.

But questions and statements from the justices indicated a wariness to override what Associated Justice Joyce Kennard called the people's "very, very broad, well-established" authority to amend the state's governing framework at the ballot box.

"What I am picking up from the oral arguments is that this court should willy-nilly disregard the will of the people," said Kennard, who just 10 months ago voted that prohibiting same-sex marriages violated the civil rights of gays. "The people established the constitution; as judges, our power is very limited."

The justices heard three hours of arguments on the gay marriage ban, known as Proposition 8, which was approved in November with 52 percent of the vote. It effectively reversed a 4-3 Supreme Court decision that legalized gay marriage 4½ months before the election.

Gay rights advocates argued the proposition is such a sweeping change to the constitution's equal protection clause that it was a constitutional revision, not just an amendment. A revision requires legislative approval before it lands on the ballot.

Chief Justice Ron George, who also ruled last year to strike down a pair of laws that limited marriage to a man and a woman, echoed Kennard's qualms about denying the public its voice.

George noted that the state constitution has been amended at least 500 times compared with the 27 times the U.S. Constitution has been altered, and said it was up to the Legislature or voters — not the court — to make the process more difficult.

"It seems what you are saying is, it is just too easy to amend the California Constitution," George told Raymond Marshall, an attorney representing the NAACP and other civil rights groups trying to overturn the ban. "Maybe the solution has to be a political one."

Minutes into Thursday's proceedings, the justices peppered a lawyer representing unwed same sex couples with tough questions over how the 14 words of Proposition 8 represent a denial of fundamental rights when same-sex couples still have the legal benefits of marriage through domestic partnerships.

"Is it your argument in this proceeding that

the passage of Proposition 8 also took away in addition to the label of marriage, the core of substantive rights of marriage this court outlined in its decision last year?" asked Kennard.

"One of the core constitutional rights is to be treated with equality, dignity and respect," replied Shannon Minter, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Supporters of the gay marriage ban, represented by former Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr, said it would be a reversal of the Supreme Court's own precedents for the court to overturn the results of a fair election.

"Under our theory the people are sovereign and they can do very unwise things that tug at the equality principle," Starr said.

He also argued that California voters have an "inalienable right" to amend the constitution and that taking away rights through the initiative process is not a revision that alters

the structure of government.

"There must be far-reaching change in the basic structure of government," said Starr.

The court also heard arguments on how the gay marriage ban affects the 18,000 marriages of same-sex couples performed before it passed. Many of the justices appeared skeptical that Proposition 8 could be applied retroactively.

National News

George suggested the validity of the earlier marriages was purposely omitted from the ballot initiative as a campaign strategy to increase the likelihood of its passage.

Starr, dean of Pepperdine law school, said the intent of Proposition 8 was to prevent the state from recognizing any same-sex marriages, noting that it was drafted before the high court legalized gay marriage on May 15.

The Supreme Court's seven justices have 90 days after the oral arguments in which to

issue a ruling.

The crowd outside the court grew steadily throughout the hearing, with many watching the proceedings on a giant television screen erected across the street in front of City Hall. Demonstrators were evenly split over the gay marriage issue and took turns drowning out each others chants after the hearing.

Dana Tibbits, who drove 400 miles from her home in Ventura County to join the crowd of Proposition 8 supporters, said she there for the "approximately 7 million voters whose voices need to be heard."

"I'm concerned about the justices, the weight of our vote and the weight of our decision," Tibbits said.

Gay marriage supporter Chris Bospuz, 23, said after the hearing: "I was pretty disheartened at the beginning, but I'm optimistic," he said. "It's a civil right and they can't just strip away civil rights."



AP Photo

Doug Williams, right, a student at UC Berkeley, holds a rainbow flag, a symbol of gay pride, during a demonstration on Proposition 8 in San Francisco on Thursday. California Supreme Court justices heard arguments seeking to overturn the Proposition.

NATIONAL NEWS

Foreclosures sweep nation, Fla. especially impacted

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) — Foreclosures are spreading by epidemic proportions, expanding beyond a handful of problem states and now affecting almost 1 in every 8 American homeowners.

It's an economic role-reversal: The economy, driven down by the collapse of the housing bubble, is causing the housing crisis to spread.

Figures released Thursday show that nearly 12 percent of all Americans with a mortgage — a record 5.4 million homeowners — were at least one month late or in foreclosure at the end of last year.

That's up from 10 percent at the end of the third quarter, and up from 8 percent at the end of 2007. In

addition, the numbers now include many once-qualified borrowers who took out fixed-rate loans.

Data from the Mortgage Bankers Association also showed that a stunning 48 percent of homeowners who have subprime, adjustable-rate mortgages are behind on their payments or in foreclosure.

The reckless lending and borrowing practices in states like Florida, California and Nevada that were the epicenter of the problem are no longer driving up the nation's delinquency rate.

Instead, foreclosures are being fueled by a spike in defaults in places such as Louisiana, New York, Georgia and Texas, where the economy is rapidly deteriorating and unemployment is climbing.

"It's jobs. People are losing their

jobs left and right," said Houston real estate agent Michael Weaster.

On Thursday, the Labor Department said new unemployment claims last week totaled 639,000, lower than expected, but still at elevated levels.

"It's jobs. People are losing their jobs left and right."

Michael Weaster

Houston real estate agent

That trend highlights one of the biggest challenges confronting the Obama administration's mortgage-relief plan launched this week. While the \$75 billion plan could help change the loan terms or refinance up to 9 million homeowners, unemployed borrowers will have a

hard time qualifying.

The key to the housing market is what kind of workers are losing their jobs. Unemployment for people with college degrees, some college education or technical training — those most likely to own homes and have prime fixed-rate loans — has nearly doubled over the past six months, according to the bankers association.

To give debt-burdened homeowners a little more muscle to negotiate with their lenders, the House on Thursday passed a bill 234-191 that would give bankruptcy courts the power to reduce mortgage payments.

The legislation would give bankruptcy judges — who now can modify loans for cars and student loans but not for primary residen-

ces — new power to cut the interest rate and principle on a home mortgage.

The Senate is expected to take up the measure in a couple of weeks.

The only bright spot in the foreclosure report was that the devastation wrought by subprime ARMs is waning. Their 30-day delinquency rate continues to fall and is at the lowest point since the first quarter of 2007.

Most of those types of loans have made their way through the system as lenders stopped originating them in the first half of 2007.

That offers little comfort to Florida, where 60 percent of homeowners who have a subprime ARM are at least one payment behind and 1 in 5 of all mortgage holders are not current on their loans.

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2 For Rent unfurnished

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CollegeParkUF.com 371-7777
4-22-08-72-2

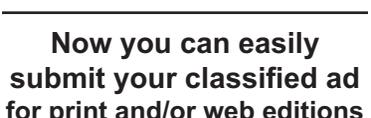
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1BR/\$495 to \$999/mo
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Studios \$625+ * 1BR \$689+ * 2BR \$839+
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★1/1 Studio 3 Blocks to UF★
Tiled, 313 NW 11th st
Pet Friendly, Fenced Yard
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★★2/1 House w/ Big Yard★★
4 Blocks to UF, HW Floors
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4-22-76-2

★1 Bdrm- 1BA w/ Loft★
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1 & 2 BR single-story villas
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Pine Rush Villas 375-1519
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Two blocks south of Archer Rd. & 34th St
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in unit, avail fall. Reasonable rate.
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1BR, living room, kitchen, dining room, full
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mo. 367-0372 4-10-09-42-2

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2BR \$550 1BR \$500
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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

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From \$506 per person
\$0 MOVE IN FEES
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Studios, 1BRs, and 2BRs
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Lic. Real Estate Broker 3-6-10-2

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1220 NW 12 St-530 sq ft big, only \$475!
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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

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

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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

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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

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4 - 5 - 6 Bedroom Houses
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Great Sizes & Locations
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3 Subleases

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or
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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

Short-Term Sub Lease. One Bedroom Apartment partially furnished until June 30th. Immediate move-in available. \$545.00 month Summer Place Villas. Contact Tal for information 407-430-5825. 3-6-3-3

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4 Roommates

Roommate Matching HERE
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The Landings 336-3838
The Laurels 335-4455
Greenwich Green 372-8100
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- :: 2 Blocks To UF :: -
Room in 4br condo incl utils, internet, cable TV, pool. Very Nice \$375. 283-8777
www.Gainesville-Rooms-4-Rent.com 4-22-09-62-4

Move in Today! Huge Beautiful House!
Seeking 2 roommates-1.5 miles to UF easy ride2 SFCC off-NW 16th-HUGE house, PoolTable,65"TV Large rooms!sayNo2apts \$450/MONTH per room 561-756-5368 3-6-18-4

1BR/1BA avail march 1st in 2Br/2BA for responsible mature individual. \$425-\$450/mo + utils. Barandywine on Archer Rd. yttek@ytttek@hotmail.com or 305-332-6566 3-17-09-28-4

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@ufl.edu. 3-6-10-4

Enjoy A Romantic Old House
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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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| 9 | 6 | | 1 | | | | | 3 |
| | | 3 | | 8 | | 1 | | 7 |

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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4 Roommates

Male roommate needed. Share furn 3BR/2BA house w/ynf prg \$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

2 Females, 2BRs in 3/2 beautiful 5 yr old house. 2 car garage, fully furn, except BRs. W/D. 7 mins to UF on bus rte. Very safe community \$440/mo incl utils, cable, internet, security system. Call 321-662-1772 3-17-09-10-4

\$350-House by UF 2 students looking for roommate in Aug '09. NW 7th pl.w/d,fire pit,huge yard, big screened porch,new appl,fireplace. Email:c123@ufl.edu 3-6-09-7-4

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

FEMALE ROOMMATE NEEDED! 4BR/4BA Clean & Quiet condo at University Terrace West.\$450 rent includes: Cable, HS Internet, and ALL utilities Fully furnished. MUST SEE! Call Dory @ (954)816-1468. 3-19-09-10-4

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 3-19-10-4

FIRST MONTH RENT FREE! \$450/Month FULLY FURNISHED rooms available in 4 BEDROOM 2 BATH condo units. All utilities included with wireless internet and free cable! Contact EDDIE at 305-712-3608 3-26-14-4

HOMES FOR SALE/RENT
Cash or financing. No application fee.
Only a few left. Pay as little as \$569/mo.
Low interest for qualified buyers.
Call now 352-378-4411 EHO 3-31-15-5

\$200 MOVE IN SPECIAL!!! 1st Month Roommates wanted for 4BR/2BA house. 1.3 miles from UF. Walking distance to bus transit. Cable + internet incl in rent. Call Quin 352-225-3543 3-18-5-4

5 Real Estate

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

SEE ALL CONDOS

WWW.UFCONDOS.COM
Matt Price Campus Realty, 352-281-3551
4-22-72-5

NEW CONDOS -WALK to UF

3 Blks to UF. For Info on ALL 1, 2, 3, 4 Bedrooms for Sale, Call Eric Leightman, Campus Realty at 352-219-2879. 4-22-72-5



Brand new luxury condos starting at \$220k. Granite tops, tall ceilings, private balcony, steel & concrete construction, alarm system. Call Eric Wild at 352-870-9453 4-22-72-5

AFFORDABLE LUXURY NEW CONSTRUCTION NEAR UF, SHANDS, LAW SCHOOL 2Bed/3 Full Baths + Office. Granite Counters, 2 Direct Bus Stops to UF. **Matt Price, Campus Realty 352-281-3551** 4-22-72-5

WALK TO UF & DOWNTOWN!
THE PALMS - New Ultra-Luxury Condos. Granite, Huge Closets, Pool, Call Eric Leightman, Campus Realty, 352-219-2879 5-21-49-5

5 Real Estate

COUNTRYSIDE 4BR/4BA CONDO
1.5 mi to UF on bus route. 1st floor, W/D, security gate, pool. Fully rented until July 31st. Rent 3 rooms and you live for free. \$181,900. 386-672-6969 3-24-09-15-5

HOMES FOR SALE/RENT
Cash or financing. No application fee.
Only a few left. Pay as little as \$569/mo.
Low interest for qualified buyers.
Call now 352-378-4411 EHO 3-31-15-5

A Bank Repo for Sale! 4 Br 25,000! Only \$225/Mo! 3 Br \$12,500! Only \$199/Mo! 5% down 15 years @ 8% apr. for listings (800)366-9783 ext 5853 3-6-1-5

6Br 5Ba Foreclosure! \$29,900! Only \$238/Mo! 5% down 20 years @ 8% apr. Buy, 4 Br \$326/Mo! for listings (800)366-9783 ext 5760 3-6-1-5

Florida Land- Investment Opportunity! 2 acre waterfront homesite only \$89,900 (was 169,900). Private, gated community with 2 recreational lakes. Municipal water & sewer. Low taxes. Just 90 minutes south of Orlando! Excellent financing. Call now (866)352-2249 FLlandbargains.com 3-6-1-5

LAND BARGAIN! 105 AC- \$199,900 Subdivide, hunt, raise/ ride horses, build your dream home! Only 60 min to beach. BONUS: investment grade timber. Endless possibilities! Excellent financing Call owner (800)898-4409, x 2176 3-6-1-5

NC Mountain Land 5+ acres w/10ft waterfall, in estab comm, great views, lots of options, only \$99,500, owner (866)789-8535. 3-6-1-5

6 Furnishings

BED - QUEEN - \$120 ORTHOPEDIC
Extra thick, pillow-top, mattress & box. Name brand, new, still in plastic. Call 352-372-7490 will deliver. 4-22-08-72-6

BED - FULL SIZE - \$100 ORTHOPEDIC
Pillow-top mattress & box. New, unused, still in plastic w/warranty. Can deliver. Call 352-377-9846 4-22-08-72-6

MICROFIBER SOFA & LOVESEAT - \$400
Brand new still packaged w/warranty. Must sell. Can deliver. Retail \$1600. 352-372-7490 4-22-08-72-6

BED - KING - \$170 PILLOWTOP
mattress & box springs. Orthopedic rated. Name brand, new, never been used, in plastic with warranty. Call 352-372-8588. Can deliver. 4-22-08-72-6

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

Sofa \$175 Brand new in pkg 333-7516 4-22-72-6

BEDROOM SET. 7pc Cherry, Queen/ king
bed, dresser w/mirror, 2 nightstands, chests avail. Dovetail const. New, in boxes. Can deliver. Retail \$6500, must sell, sacrifice \$1100 (352) 372-7490 4-22-08-72-6

SOFA & LOVESEAT 100% Italian leather.
Brand new in plastic w/warranty. Retail \$2650. Sacrifice \$750. Call 352-377-9846 4-22-08-72-6

DINING ROOM Beautiful cherry set w/table,
6 Chippendale chairs, hutch & buffet. New, still in boxes. Retail \$5200, sacrifice \$1100. Must sell. Can deliver. 352-372-8588 4-22-72-6

FUTON Solid oak mission-style frame w/
mattress. New, in box. \$160 332-9899

DINETTE SET 5pc \$120 Brand new in box.
Never used. 352-377-9846 4-22-08-72-6

****BEDS - ALL BRAND NEW****
****Full \$100 Queen \$125 King \$200****
Orthopedic pillow-top sets. Brand name matching sets not used or refurbished. Still in plastic, direct from factory! 352-333-7516. 4-22-72-6

BED- QUEEN New orthopedic pillowtop
mattress and boxspring set. Brand name, brand new, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver. \$130 352-377-9846. 4-22-72-6

6 Furnishings

Bed- All New King! 3pc Orthopedic pillowtop
mattress set. Brand NEW, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver. \$200 352-333-7516. 4-22-72-6

BEDROOM SET- \$300 BRAND NEW
Still in boxes! 6 pieces include: Headboard, 2 Nightstands, Dresser, Mirror, Chest. Must sell, can deliver. 352-377-9846. 4-22-08-72-6

FUTON - \$60 Solid Oak Mission Style. With plush mattress \$160. All brand NEW still in box. Can deliver. 352-333-7516 4-22-72-6

6 Furnishings

Bed-FULL size pillowtop mattress & box. New in plastic, warr. Can del. \$100 317-4031

SOFA \$185 Brand new! Love seat \$150 still in pkg. Can del 352-333-7516 4-22-72-6

14" Slip-On Florida Gator Bar Stool Covers,
\$24. buy Now! 727-530-7300; www.CoolBarStools-Covers.com 3-18-09-10-6

COUCH - LIKE NEW \$375
Originally \$900. Call 352-333-8256 3-17-09-5-6

●Full & Queen Mattress Sets - \$60/set
●Nice Recliner \$75
●Dining Room Table w/4 Chairs \$95
Call 352-215-3403 3-16-09-3-6

7 Computers

CASH PAID FOR LAPTOP'S
Buy - Sell - Trade Any Condition
336-0075 www.pcrecycle.biz Joel 4-22-08-72-7

Computer Help Fast Gatorland Computers House/Dorm Fast response. No waiting/unplugging/hassels. \$30 Gator discount w/ ID. Certified MCSE Technicians. 338-8041. www.GatorlandComputers.com 4-22-70-7

COMPUTER & LAPTOP REPAIRS
Network specialists
We buy computers and laptops
Working and Non-working
378-4009, 607 NW 13th Street
4-22-08-72-7

Worship Guide

Baptist

Monteocha Baptist Church
Reformed & Evangelical
Sunday Worship 11am & 6pm
9420 North County Road 225
monteochabaptist.org
377-4446
Campus Bible Study TH 12:45
@ BCM, 1604 W. Univ. Ave.

Christian

Victory Church
An upbeat church with focus on college life. Victory UF in Turlington Thurs/Fri 12-2pm. Friday Night Live variety show @ 8pm. Sunday Service @ 10:30am. Call for a ride. 352-371-7800
victorychurch.us

The Christian Missionary Alliance

New Life Community Chapel
New Life Community Chapel Westside Park Rec. Center Sundays at 10:30 AM
www.newlifecommunitychapel.org Phone: (352) 214-4462

Earth Spiritualities

Church of All Worlds, Florida
Interfaith family with Neopagan roots. Meets Sundays @ 11am. 352-378-9659
cawflorida@yahoo.com
www.cawflorida.org

Episcopal/Anglican

Episcopal Chapel House
Chapel of Incarnation
www.ufchapelhouse.com
2 weekly communion services, lovely garden, sweet fellowship, holy fun! 352-372-8506

Methodist

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

Jewish Student Centers

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

Methodist

Grace United Methodist Church
Sunday Bible Study 9:30am
Sunday Worship 9:00 & 10:45
9325 W. Newberry Rd.
352-332-8770 gracefl.org
www.facebook.com/dj/passport

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

For more information, contact
Shaun O'Connor, Alligator Advertising,
at 376.4482.

the independent florida
alligator

7 Computers



4-22-70-7

8 Electronics

FREE DTV Converter Box
Box has a \$40 Value
free w/ \$40 NTIA Coupon
free shipping
goto: dtv2009.gov for 2-Coupons
www.FREETVSIGNAL.com

3-6-5-8

9 Bicycles

In the market for a new set of wheels or just looking to add a second to that collection? Want personalized handlebars or a fitted seat? Check in the Alligator Classifieds

NEW & USED BIKES FOR SALE
WE REPAIR ALL BRANDS
* Best Prices in Town *
SPIN CYCLE 373-3355
424 W UNIV AVE (DOWNTOWN)
4-22-72-9

10 For Sale

PARKING:
Private, Secure, Guaranteed. 60 sec to UF.
Reserve now! Reasonable rates. 352-538-2181. Can leave mssg. 4-22-08-72-10

UF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AUCTIONS are underway...
bikes, computers, printers, vehicles & more.
All individuals interested in bidding go to:
http://www.surplus.ufl.edu/online/ 392-0370
4-22-08-72-10

YARD SALE- EVERYTHING MUST GO!
65" HD TV (not flat screen), glass brass table, 2 bar stools, office supplies, 32" TV, & Kitchen/BA/Living rm accessories 214-4745
Starts Sat 9AM - all day. 613 NW 2nd st
3-6-09-1-10

METAL ROOFING. 40yr Warranty-Buy direct from manufacturer 30/colors in stock, w/all accessories. Quick turn around. Delivery available. Gulf Coast Supply & Mfg, (888)393-0335 www.GulfCoastSupply.com 3-6-1-10

"BUILDING SALE!..."UNPRECEDENTED LOW PRICES" REDUCED DEPOSITS. LIMITED INVENTORY. 25X40 \$6,844. 30X50 \$7,844. 35X60 \$12,995. 40X60 \$15,995. 60X100 \$37,400. OTHERS! Pioneer Steel. (800)668-5422. Since 1980 3-6-1-10

10 For Sale

GIGANTIC 3-DAY Auction March 11, 12, 13, 2009 Montgomery, Alabama. (104) Single, Tandem & Tri-Axle Dumps, (2007-2008) Mack, Truck Tractors, Lowboys, (68) Crawler Loaders & Tractors, (54) Excavators, (41) Motor Graders & Scrapers, (38) Backhoes, (27) Rubber Tired Loaders, Articulating Dumps. Compactors Grinders, Forklifts, Paving, Skidders, Feller Bunchers, Log Loaders, Farm Tractors. J.M. Wood Auction Co., Inc. (334)264-3265. Bryant Wood AL Lic# 1137. 3-6-1-10

100% RECESSION PROOF! Do you earn \$800 in a day? 25 Local Machines and Candy \$9,995. (888)629-9968 BO2000033 CALL US: We will not be undersold! 3-6-1-10

11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

●●●●● SCOOTERS ●●●●●
RPM MOTORCYCLES INC
SALES, SERVICE, PARTS
Many Brands Available 518 SE 2nd St.
www.RPMmotorcycles.com 377-6974
4-22-08-72-11

★★★★★New Scooters 4 Less★★★★★
Motor Scooter Sales and Service!
Great Scooters, Service & Prices!
118 NW 14th Ave. Ste D, 336-1271
www.NS4L.com
4-22-08-72-11

★★★GatorMoto★★★
Largest Scooter Store in Town! Run by Gator Grads! New scooters starting at \$999. No legit shop can beat these prices! 1yr Warranties included. 376-6275GatorMoto.com 4-22-08-72-11

SCOOTER SERVICE
New Scooters 4 Less has LOW service rates! Will service any make/model. Close to UF! Pick-ups avail cheap oil changes!! 336-1271 4-22-08-72-11

www.BuyMyScooter.com
Buy A New Scooter, Buy A Used Scooter
All on one site! Check the website or call 336-1271 for more info! 4-22-08-72-11

GATORMOTO Gville's #1 service facility. We repair ALL brands of scooters. Pickups available. Lowest labor rates around. Quickest turnaround time. Run by Gator Grads so we know how to treat our customers! 376-6275 4-22-08-72-11

SWAMP CYCLES
Closest to Campus. Largest selection, Best Customer Service.
Motorcycles, Scooters, Accessories, and Service.
633 NW 13th Street www.swampcycles.com
4-22-72-11

★★★★SOLANO CYCLE★★★
Scooters from \$799. Largest selection from KYMCO, Daelim, Hyosung, Adly, Genuine, Established 10 yrs, 2 yr warranties
1024 S Main St 338-8450 solanocycle.com
4-22-08-72-11

12 Autos

●FAST CASH FOR ALMOST ANY CARS ●
●Running or not!●
●NEED HONDA, TOYOTA, PICKUPS
●Over 15 yr svc to UF students
●Call Don @ 215-7987 4-22-08-72-12

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| 3 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
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| 9 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
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12 Autos

CARS - CARS Buy●Sell●Trade
Clean BMW, Volvo, Mercedes
Toyota, Honda, Nissan cars
3432 N Main St. www.carrsmith.com
CARRSMITH AUTO SALES 373-1150
4-22-72-12

\$500! POLICE IMPOUNDS!
HONDAS, CHEVYS, TOYOTAS, ETC.
For listings 800-366-9813 ext 4622
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CARS FROM \$29/MO!
Hondas ● Chevys ● Jeeps and more!
\$0 Down, 36 Months @ 8.5% apr.
For listings call 800-366-9813 ext 9765
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For any running cars or trucks. 1995 and up.
Clean or ugly. Segovia 352-284-8619 4-22-72-12

★★★★ATTENTION★★★★
●●●●● SUN CITY AUTO SALES●●●●●
WHY PAY MORE? YOU COULD PAY LESS!
300+ vehicles @ wholesale prices 338-1999
4-22-08-72-12

All Vehicles Must Go!
Liquidation Sale Special
60 Days Payoff on Cash Vehicles
(Payoff time negotiable)
Sun City Auto 352-338-1999 4-22-09-62-12

Over 250 Vehicles Will Be Sold At
Wholesale Prices to the Public
Including Cars, Trucks, Vans & SUVs
Sun City Auto 352-338-1999 4-22-09-62-12

Bring Your W-2 and Ride Home Today
Why Wait for Your Refund?
File Your Taxes Here and
Drive Off in Your Vehicle
Sun City Auto 352-338-1999 4-22-09-62-12

Sun City Auto
No Credit Check
All Vehicles \$0 Down
Buy Here — Pay Here
352-338-1999 4-22-09-62-12

\$\$ CASH TODAY! \$\$
For Your Unwanted Cars
Junk!! Trucks, RVs, & Wrecks!!!
TOP DOLLAR PAID!
386-234-0072 & 386-234-0075
3-23-09-10-12

2003 TOYOTA COROLLA S
Black, in good condition. \$5990. Call 352-235-4196 3-17-09-5-12

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE RECEIVE \$1000 GROCERY COUPON UNITED BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION Free Mammograms, Breast Cancer Info www.ubcf.info FREE Towing, Tax Deductible, Non-Runners Accepted, (888)468-5964. 3-6-1-12

Police Impounds! 97 Honda Civic \$500! 97 Honda Accord \$700! 97 Toyota Camry \$700! for listings call (800)366-9813 Ext 9275 3-6-1-12

Police Impounds for Sale! 97 Honda Civic \$500! 92 Acura Integra \$600!!! for listings call (800)366-9813 Ext 9271 3-6-1-12

13 Wanted

LOCAL ARTIST NEEDS:
★ Gold ★ Diamonds ★ Gems ★ Class Rings ★ ETC ★ Top Cash \$\$\$ or Trade ★
OZZIE'S FINE JEWELRY 373-9243. 4-22-72-13

UF GRAD PAYS MORE
for gold jewelry, scrap gold, Rolex, diamonds, guitars, etc. Top \$\$\$ Get my offer before you sell! Call Jim 376-8090 or 222-8090 4-22-08-72-13

13 Wanted

The American Cancer Society
Road to Recovery Volunteers Needed!
VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED
to transport cancer patients to treatment.
Flexible schedule.
Training and liability insurance provided.
Please call
352-376-6866 ext. 5079 if interested.

BE AN INSPIRATION!
Take a blind lady to Mass on Sundays and for walks and shopping as needed. We'll have lots of fun! And you will make a new friend! Contact 219-6948 3-16-09-74-13

14 Help Wanted

This newspaper assumes no responsibility for injury or loss arising from contacts made through advertising. We suggest that any reader who responds to advertising use caution and investigate the sincerity of the advertiser before giving out personal information or arranging meetings

LIKE TO WORK WITH LUXURY CARS?
Bright? Enthusiastic? Like people? Must be over 22, stable work history, clean driving record, drug-free, personal references.
www.carrsmith.com for details. 4-22-72-14

EARN \$60 THIS WEEK!
Donate Plasma & Save a Life
\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$
Best part-time job you'll ever have.
NEW DONORS
Bring this Ad and Earn an
Extra \$5 on Your 2nd Donation.
DCI Biologicals 150 NW 6th St.
352-378-9204
4-22-08-72-14

\$STUDENTS GET CASH ON THE SPOT\$
For gently used clothing/accessories & furniture. No appt.necessary! - Sandy's Savvy Chic Resale Boutique 2906 NW 13th St. 372-1226 4-22-08-72-14

BARTENDING
\$250 A DAY POTENTIAL
No experience necessary, training provided.
800-965-6520 ext 138 4-22-08-72-14

CNA TRAINING CLASS: \$250! Work at your own time & pace in your own home! To get program on DVD's call 352-597-2559. For online program visit www.lapcnatraining.com Get started right away! 4-22-72-14

Paradigm Properties
Leasing Specialist, PT
Sales & Customer service exp.
EOE, DFWP
Apply on-line at: www.teamparadigm.com
352-375-2152 ex 301 4-22-67-14

Earn extra money. Students needed ASAP. Earn up to \$150/day being a mystery shopper. No experience required. Call 1-800-722-4791 4-22-09-65-14

400+ Counselors/Instructors Jobs!
3 Coed summer camps in PA.
Travel Paid, Top Salary.
Cool Nights & Warm Days!
1-800-488-4321, www.lohikan.com 4-22-09-59-14

STUDENTPAYOUTS.COM
Paid survey takers needed. Gainesville. 100% FREE to join. Click on Surveys 4-22-09-59-14

DANCERS NEEDED
For adult entertainment company. Make \$1000/wk. Flex schedule 378-3312 4-22-54-14

An awesome summer job.
If you're looking to spend this summer outdoors, have fun while you work, and make lifelong friends, then look no further. Camp Mataponi, a residential camp in Maine, has female/male summertime openings for Land Sports, Waterfront (small crafts, skiing, life guarding, WSI, boat drivers), Ropes Course, Tennis, H.B. Riding, Arts & Crafts, Theater, Cooking, Gymnastics, Dance, Videography, Group Leaders & more. Top salaries plus room/board & travel provided. Call us today toll free at 1-561-748-3684 or apply online at www.campmataponi.com. 3-19-09-28-14

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Second-story man
 - 5 Pianist
 - 9 Lead
 - 14 Purim's month
 - 15 Marching band burden
 - 16 Muhammad's daughter
 - 17 Biker's sentiment?
 - 20 Mideast bigwig
 - 21 System developed at Bell Labs
 - 22 Out of the park
 - 23 Atlanta Braves' div.
 - 25 Top server
 - 27 Mechanic?
 - 33 Heavy weight
 - 35 Antiquated oath
 - 36 Microscopic menace
 - 37 Charity
 - 39 Spam, sometimes
 - 42 Comfort
 - 43 Con
 - 45 Two-strippers, e.g.: Abbr.
 - 47 Part of a support group
 - 48 Pawn shop visitors from some plantations?
 - 52 Blunt-tipped blade
 - 53 Mer land
 - 54 Recipe direction
 - 57 Trading center
 - 60 Stars at the Colosseum?
 - 64 Disaster at a flooded smokehouse?
 - 67 Childish comeback
 - 68 Lebanese designer Saab
 - 69 City north of Oakland
 - 70 Snap
 - 71 Sheltered spot
 - 72 Rhyme runaway, and how this puzzle's theme answers are formed?

- 2 Land south of Moab
- 3 Compromised
- 4 What some keepers keep
- 5 Bolted down
- 6 Doozy
- 7 Blake's black
- 8 Fancy spread
- 9 Danube city
- 10 Something to do before dinner
- 11 Sunshine cracker
- 12 Christian East Coast university
- 13 Blood pressure raiser, usually
- 18 The Bobbettes' only Top-40 hit
- 19 NYSE part: Abbr.
- 24 Sidle
- 26 Big foot?
- 27 Yet to be satisfied
- 28 Engine part
- 29 Hersey's bell town
- 30 Doesn't work
- 31 Supermodel
- Benitez
- 32 It means nothing to René
- 33 It's 1 on the Mohs scale
- 34 Mixed bag
- 38 16th century Moab
- 39 Carmelite reformer
- 40 Former RR regulator
- 41 Mischievous deity
- 44 Rider of Dinny the dinosaur
- 46 Psalms interjection
- 49 Nautilus captain
- 50 Bliss
- 51 Respond to "I didn't get it"
- 54 Booty
- 55 Poi, basically
- 56 News
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xwordeditor@aol.com 03/06/09

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DOWN
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16 Health Services**HIV ANTIBODY TESTING**

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Burton takes recruiting for 2010 into own hands

By TYLER JETT
Alligator Writer

Between the Gators bedspread, the closet full of UF apparel, the national championship Wheaties boxes and the posters, it's clear why Trey Burton's college decision was easy.

Burton, a junior quarterback at Venice High, wasted little time orally committing to the Gators last July, almost two years before he was scheduled to graduate from high school.

"Ever since I was around 6 years old, I've always loved Florida," Burton said.

Not only did such an early de-

cision keep other coaches off his phone line, it allowed the option quarterback to become the de facto head of UF's recruiting class.

The day he orally committed, Burton sent a text to Ian Silberman, then the only other player in the Gators' 2010 class.

Silberman is an offensive lineman who moves exceptionally well, a characteristic often seen in left tackles — the protector of a quarterback's blind side. Burton estimates that they text three or four times a week.

Now, the dual-threat quarterback's attention is more on swaying uncommitted players.

"I'm a big competitor, and I

want to win. I'll do pretty much whatever it takes," Burton said. "I know that bringing some of these kids in, they're going to make me better and I'm going to make them better."

When Burton heard the UF coaching staff was looking at Lithonia (Ga.) Martin Luther King running back Mack Brown, he made it a priority to meet him at the Under Armour All-America Combine in January.

Burton and Brown became fast friends — they text message frequently — and Burton let Brown know where he should commit.

"I told him straight up, he's one of the kids I want to play with

when I get up there, and that's it," Burton said.

Burton said he won't force Brown to make a decision, but he knows a backfield consisting of him and Brown could make for an exciting offense in the future.

"I'm a big competitor, and I want to win. I'll do pretty much whatever it takes."

Trey Burton
UF quarterback commit

Like any good recruiter, however, Burton knows not to focus on just one player.

He has been friends with linebacker Christian Jones for two years.

Burton met Jones at a summer basketball tournament and found out first-hand what the 6-foot-4, 220-pounder is capable of doing.

"He dunked on me pretty good," Burton said with a laugh.

Jones' flash of athleticism left such an impression on Burton that he urged UF coaches to take a look at the Winter Park Lake Howell linebacker. The Gators offered Jones a scholarship on Feb. 27.

"Every kid that has a pretty good shot, that's a really good player, I tell them about," Burton said.

This is not new for UF. Tim Tebow's commitment to UF in December 2005 paved the way for commitments from Percy Harvin — who declared six days after Tebow — and Brandon Spikes, and the Gators' 2007 recruiting class featured seven players from Lakeland High. That group was essentially recruited to Gainesville by running back Chris Rainey, who committed in May 2006.

The trend of high-profile recruits using text messaging to persuade other players to join their class began about five years ago. According to the wireless trade

association CTIA, 40 percent of teens owned cell phones in 2004.

That is about the time highly touted Penn State commitments Justin King and Derrick Williams started convincing other nationally ranked recruits to become Nittany Lions. The next year, a young Penn State team captured a share of the Big Ten Conference title.

And as the number of teenagers with cell phones rises (CTIA estimates 80 percent now own them), so does the number of stories of high school players recruiting each other.

"That is what spurred it on more than anything, the technology," said Rivals.com recruiting analyst Jamie Newberg.

Even with technology, Burton's effort has been extraordinary. In addition to Silberman, Brown and Jones, the athletic playmaker consistently talks with Ocala Trinity Catholic wideout Kadron Boone, Royal Palm Beach receiver Chris Dunkley and Bradenton Southeast safety Jonathan Dowling, UF's latest oral commit.

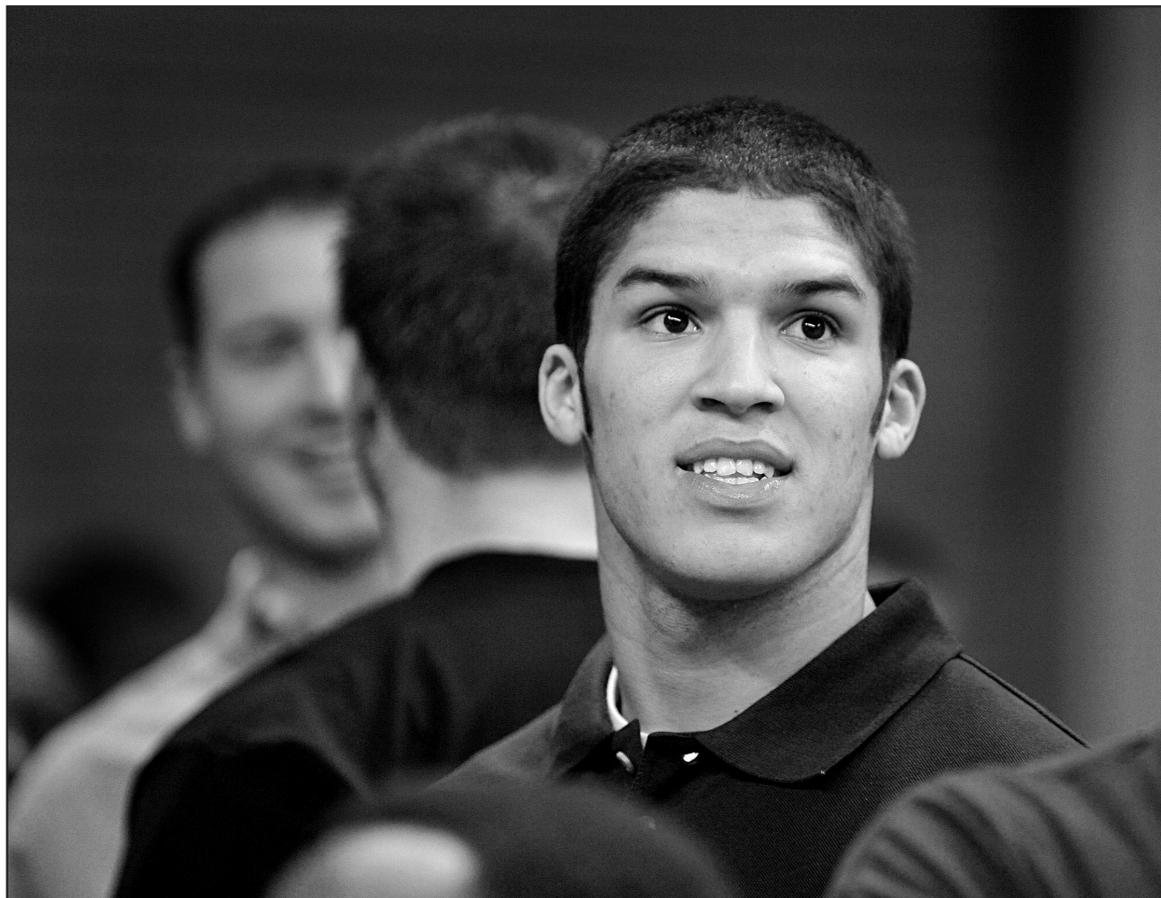
The defensive back said Burton asked over and over when he was going to become a Gator.

"I like to recruit," Burton said. "I definitely want the best class in 2010."

Oral commitments are non-binding until a national letter-of-intent is signed on National Signing Day on Feb. 3, 2010.

Get to know Trey Burton

Position: Quarterback
High School: Venice High
Height: 6-foot-3
Weight: 203 lbs
40-yard dash time: 4.62 seconds
Bench press maximum: 280 pounds
GPA: 3.5
Status: UF verbal commit
Date committed: July 31, 2008



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

Gators oral commit Trey Burton takes in the atmosphere during Sunday's basketball game between the UF and Tennessee in the O'Connell Center. The quarterback will be in the 2010 recruiting class.

UF GYMNASTICS

Hartung to sit on Senior Night with torn calf muscle

By EUGENIO TORRENS
Alligator Writer

On a night Corey Hartung envisioned waving to the crowd after her floor exercise, she instead will face the harsh reality of not competing, waving to the crowd from the floor with her family, dressed up to cheer and coach while wearing a protective boot.

Hartung, the lone senior on the team, will be honored tonight in the O'Connell Center as No. 4 UF (5-3, 3-3 Southeastern Conference) hosts its last home meet of the season against No. 14 Michigan (13-3), but she won't be competing because of a tear in her left calf muscle.

UF coach Rhonda Faehn wants to rest her until the start of the SEC Championships.

Not only will the night, one focused on Hartung, be emotionally tough for the

team, it will also impact the team's lineup.

Hartung, an all-around competitor, performed against Georgia last week on uneven bars and balance beam, but has even been scratched from those two events tonight in hopes to get her healthy for the postseason.

While looking back on Hartung's career, Faehn said she didn't remember dual meets. Instead, she remembered the big meets, such as the national championship and regional meets.

It's a point she has been trying to stress to Hartung, as hard as it's been for Hartung to accept in the heat of the moment.

"Really what I was trying to do was just trying to give her some perspective," Faehn said.

"I really just wanted her to try and focus on all the unbelievable things she did so far and still all the great things that lie

ahead."

Hartung realizes she is being honored for her four years at UF and that, as hard as it will be not to compete, it doesn't outweigh the four years of competitions she has been a part of.

"It's not about one night being able to perform, it's about your experiences you had," Hartung said. "I'm not being honored for competing against Michigan (tonight), it's just a meet. It happens to be Senior Night."

If the Gators want to push their home record to a perfect 5-0, other gymnasts will need to fill the void left by Hartung, something the team has had to do all year while battling injuries.

Juniors Ashley Kerr and Courtney Gladys will see more duty, with Kerr fill-

ing the sixth spot on the vault lineup and Gladys performing in every event.

The team is also welcoming back junior Amanda Castillo, who competed on floor for the first time this season in Athens, Ga., after recovering from bursitis.

"You don't want to be pulled out of the lineup. You don't want to be hurt," Castillo said.

"You know the team is struggling and you know you can help. And then when you can't, it's one of the worst feelings in the world."

Castillo, who is familiar with the feeling of being hampered by an injury, said she's dedicating her performance tonight to Hartung.

"I'm going to compete from my heart, for Corey," Castillo said. "We need to make it fun. We need to go out there and get the crowd rowdy and do it for our lone senior."



Hartung

UF WOMEN'S GOLF Gators head to UCF tournament

By **ANTHONY CHIANG**
Alligator Writer

Although the UF women's golf team will be a couple hours away from Gainesville, it will feel very much at home in this weekend's tournament.

The No. 28 Gators will make the short drive to Orlando and play in the UCF Challenge on Sunday.

The tournament will feature four of the top five ranked teams in the country: No. 1 Arizona State, No. 2 UCLA, No. 3 Southern Cal and No. 5 Alabama.

After two inconsistent performances to start the spring, coach Jill Briles-Hinton believes the Gators must have a short memory in order to stay consistent and contend in this tough field.

"In order to mentally be stronger, you have to take it one shot at a time," Briles-Hinton said. "Forget about the shot you hit, forget about the past and move on."

One thing UF will have on its side is the advantage of playing close to home.

The previous two events for the team were in different states — one in California and the other in South Carolina.

The Gators are excited to finally play a tournament in Florida.

"The girls like to play in front of their fans, so that is going to be fun," Briles-Hinton said.

Sophomore Jessica Yadloczky grew up close to Orlando and has experience on the tournament's golf course.

"Jessica has seen the course before, and it's in her backyard," Briles-Hinton said.

"In order to mentally be stronger, you have to take it one shot at a time."

Jill Briles-Hinton
UF women's golf coach

The Gators' lineup for the tournament will comprise Yadloczky, Evan Jensen, Andrea Watts, Lauren Uzelatz and Nicole Schachner.

With four of the five UF golfers being Florida natives, playing in the state could work to the team's advantage.

However, that won't be the only thing the Gators will rely on.

Hard work and a difficult early schedule have quickly toughened up this young team.

"They've been challenged this year, and they've been working hard," Briles-Hinton said.

15 athletes try to qualify for NCAAs

■ **UF WILL USE ITS SEC EXPERIENCE THIS WEEKEND.**

By **TONI-ANN MILLER**
Alligator Writer

In a way, UF was victorious in the Southeastern Conference Indoor Championships. The team didn't win the championship trophy in Lexington, Ky., but it got the next best thing — experience.

With the NCAA Indoor Championships coming up on March 13-14, UF's SEC Championship performance had an impact beyond the final standings. It gave the Gators confidence and a sense of where they stand among some of the elite teams in the country.

To qualify for competition in College Station, Texas, next weekend, 15 of UF's athletes will participate in two last-chance meets this weekend.

Nine of the 15 athletes will head to Blacksburg, Va., for the Virginia

Tech Qualifier, while the remaining six will travel to the Alex Wilson Invitational in South Bend, Ind.

In Kentucky, UF's men faced seven of the top 25 teams in the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association poll and placed second, while the women went up against five of the top 25 and finished fourth.



Holloway

When the NCAA Indoor Championships begin in Texas, UF will face some of those SEC teams, and their experience at the SEC Championships will prepare them for the most important part of the season.

"The SEC meet is great preparation for the NCAA meet," coach Mike Holloway said. "We're, in my mind, easily the toughest league in America, and if you can get through the SEC, when you get to the NCAA meet, it's the usual suspects, the

same characters that you see all the time."

When UF faces those familiar opponents at the NCAA Championships, the team knows a little bit of what to expect and can focus on the things that prevented them from finishing in first place against SEC teams last weekend.

Holloway said the team is pleased but not satisfied with its efforts in Kentucky, so it is "just working on the small technical things" before the NCAA Championships begin.

When the Gators arrive in Texas next weekend, they will shift their attention to the task at hand — the NCAA Championships — but Holloway wants them to maintain the same focus that carried them to SEC Championship success.

"The thing that we have to understand is that when we get to the NCAA meet, we have to just go there and do what we've always done," Holloway said. "We can't go there and worry about other teams and what they're doing."

Tennis teams open SEC play

By **JOSEPH R. HOLZER**
Alligator Writer

Following its first road win of the spring, the No. 9 UF men's tennis team returns to Gainesville as the best in the state.

The Gators' 5-2 victory over FSU on Tuesday was the latest addition to their dominating run against Florida teams. The Seminoles joined Central Florida, South Florida and Miami on UF's victims list.

Today, the team meets a whole new beast. UF has its sights set on the entire southeast as it starts conference play against No. 11 Kentucky at 3 p.m.

The Gators (9-3, 0-0 Southeastern Conference) are one of six SEC teams ranked in the top 25. Coach Andy Jackson said any team can win on any given day.

"(Kentucky has) already been to Tennessee, who is No. 5, and won," Jackson said. "So it's going to be a big test, and we're looking forward to it."



Jackson

The Wildcats bring the No. 2 singles player, Bruno Agostinelli, with them to Gainesville. UF's Carlos Cueto will likely meet him on Court 1. Cueto defeated the nation's No. 2 player — LSU's Michael Venus — at the SEC Indoor before the regular season began.

The Gators will get a day's rest before hosting Vanderbilt at 1 p.m. Sunday.

WOMEN PREP FOR SEC PLAY: The UF women have had it tough recently. In their loss at FSU, the Gators had only five scholarship players on the roster.

They've been through a brutal schedule and have been missing Megan Alexander on Court 3. The junior sat out the last four matches with a sore back.

They have lost four of their last six, three of which were at a 4-3 final score and all to top 25 opponents on the road.

Now they will have to claw their way back up the rankings after falling 18 spots from 13 to 31. They'll have to do it against the SEC starting at 1 p.m. today in Kentucky.

The No. 14 Wildcats are followed by Vanderbilt on Sunday. UF's conference schedule has the team playing the same opponent as the men on the same day at the opposite venue.

"We got a little taste of the indoors playing indoors (on Feb. 13-15), and more than likely those two will be indoors," coach Roland Thornqvist said.

"Our players are confident now that they can make the transition. That was certainly accomplished up in Madison."

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Senior's injury forces lineup changes

■ MICHELLE MOULTRIE
WILL START IN CENTER.

By ADAM BERRY
Alligator Staff Writer
aberry@alligator.org

The UF softball team will have to face more than just the start of its Southeastern Conference season this weekend at South Carolina. The Gators will also have to try to fill the hole in their lineup left by injured center fielder Kim Waleszonia.

No. 2 UF (19-2) will be without Waleszonia, who went down with a tibial plateau fracture in her left knee Saturday.

Waleszonia had not missed a start in her 234-game career before missing two games after sustaining the injury.

Waleszonia hit second in the lineup and led the outfield from her spot in center field, so making up for the loss of the senior won't occur overnight.

"I don't think we can ever replace Kim," second baseman Aja Paculba said. "The best thing we can do is just continue to play how we've been playing and fill the void by doing the things we know how to do."

Fortunately for the Gators, they have been doing a lot of things well lately. The team is

riding an eight-game winning streak into the three-day, conference-opening series against the Gamecocks (12-2) and has scored 59 total runs during the streak, allowing only 13 combined runs in those games.

For UF coach Tim Walton, though, none of that matters, as he views Friday as a new beginning for his team.

"19-2 — that's a good mark, but everything's kind of 0-0 now as we get ready for the SEC," Walton said.

Walton said he is still unsure of a long-term solution for replacing Waleszonia, but he plans to start freshman Mi-

chelle Moultrie in center field this weekend.

While Walton believes Moultrie is talented enough to perform at the plate, he still intends to take a wait-and-see approach on the fielding situation.

The coach is confident that Moultrie has the speed and athleticism to get on base, but the freshman's lack of experience in the field could be an issue in conference play, leading Walton to consider splitting time between Moultrie and senior Brooke Johnson.

"(Moultrie's) super fast. Anything that's on the ground, it's a hit," Walton said. "I think she's going to be the piece, and where we put her is yet to be determined."

If Moultrie does move up in the lineup, it will allow right fielder Kelsey Bruder to move back to her previous position in the middle of the order.

Bruder, who has four home runs this season and is tied for second on the team with 18 RBIs, hit second Sunday in the Gators' first games without Waleszonia.

"I still need to provide protection for Francesca (Enea)," Walton said. "Kelsey provides that home-run power, that home-run threat. Whether she's struck out two times before or not, she's still going to potentially hit the next ball out of the ballpark."

Although Bruder won't be able to look over to center field to see Waleszonia, she thinks the senior's leadership will still help guide the team through the season.

"She'll be in the dugout with us, so we'll still have her loud voice and all her cheers and her enthusiasm," Bruder said.

SEC title within Gators' reach

TOURNEY, from page 24

Dotson was the only other player in double figures (10).

What stands out to Brooks just as much about that game was her team's defensive effort.

UF held Tennessee to 57 points.

"That wasn't my best performance," Brooks said. "I know I missed a lot of free throws, a lot of layups. But we're going to have to be really tough on defense and stop their shooters and stop the penetration and stop them from scoring in the paint."

"The SEC Championship is right there. We can literally grab it if we wanted to. We've just all got to fight for it."

Sha Brooks
UF senior guard

The winner of Friday's quarterfinal will advance to take on the winner of No. 1-seed Auburn and No. 9-seed Mississippi on Saturday night at 6:30 in a semifinal matchup.

"It's a big opportunity because it's so wide open," Brooks said. "Anybody can beat anybody in the SEC. Nobody is undefeated. You have to look at the teams that are really working hard this year to be a champion. That's what we're working towards this week."

"The SEC Championship is right there. We can literally grab it if we wanted to. We've just all got to fight for it."



Edward Izquierdo / Alligator

UF sophomore Aja Paculba bunts during the Gators' 7-2 win against Illinois on Sunday. Paculba, who now bats leadoff, switched spots in the batting order with Kim Waleszonia early this year.

Guard hopes to pursue professional career in Europe after graduation from UF

HODGE, from page 24

my last game at the O'Dome. I want to finish it the right way."

While Hodge, a member of both of the Gators' national championship teams, has remained in the starting lineup this season, he has often played fewer minutes than Erving Walker late in games.

"Erving is playing really well down the stretch against Tennessee. And as a senior, he's sitting

there watching and cheering for Erving Walker to do it and help us win," Donovan said. "He never says a word, never cops an attitude, doesn't pout. He's always put Florida above himself."

Hodge says once his basketball career at UF comes to an end he hopes to pursue a professional career overseas.

"I want to go pro and probably go to Europe, but that's all in God's hands," he said.

That's months away, however. Right now, Hodge is still focused on the task at hand.



Hodge

says a run in next week's SEC Tour-

namment is still not out of the question either.

"It's possible," Hodge said. "Georgia did it last year, so why can't we do it?"

CALATHES' BENCHING A LEARNING EXPERIENCE: Nick Calathes watched from the bench as his team failed to rally from behind against Mississippi State in the game's closing minutes Wednesday.

Donovan said he wasn't punishing the point guard, and he thought

watching would be a good learning experience for his leading scorer.

"He has an incredible drive to make an effort at the end of games, but he has to understand how to incorporate other people," Donovan said Thursday.

"When you're the best player on the team, you feel like you have to do it. But you have to be thinking about time and score, who has the hot hand, what's the best situation."

Fielding, offense struggling since victories against Eastern Michigan last week

BASE, from page 24

it happened tonight."

Using Keating to finish up the remaining innings was a clear sign of the importance of the bullpen and its lack of dependability to this point in the season.

The pitchers understand that their responsibility is to perform when called upon whether as a starter or reliever.

"(O'Sullivan's) just trying to put things

together to where we can win ball games," Keating said.

Welcoming a winless Duquesne team to McKethan Stadium should give UF the chance to do exactly that.

The Gators have struggled in all aspects of the game and have failed to put together a complete showing since romping Eastern Michigan by a combined score of 29-6 over a two-game series last week.

In the last five games, UF has committed

12 errors while scoring just 19 runs.

"We got to have some older guys step up and stop the bleeding, and we got to have some younger guys grow up in a hurry," O'Sullivan said.



Baseball

Freshman Nick Maronde is scheduled to start Saturday's game, and Keating will take a few extra days off after his relief appearance, moving to Sunday's spot in the

rotation.

Keating said there won't be any finger-pointing after the recent skid and that the entire team has simply "been playing bad lately."

"Everybody's been upset, but you can't focus on bad things all the time," Keating said. "Baseball is a tough game both mentally and physically. There's a lot of games. You're out here everyday, and that's where the mental toughness comes in."



Katie Tschopp / Alligator

UF forward Marshae Dotson looks to shoot over Arkansas defenders during the Gators' 83-74 loss to the Razorbacks in the O'Connell Center on Feb. 19.

UF, UT to meet again

By **CHRISTOPHER YAZBEC**

Alligator Writer
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The Gators aren't exactly used to this.

No. 4 seed UF sat and watched No. 5 seed Tennessee and No. 12 seed Alabama duke it out on Thursday night in the first round of the Southeastern Conference Tournament, waiting to see who it would play.

The watching and waiting is over.

No. 21 UF (23-6, 9-5 SEC) will face No. 19 Tennessee (21-9, 9-5 SEC) tonight at 7:30 in the quarterfinals of the SEC Tournament in North Little Rock, Ark.

The Gators held the head-to-head tiebreaker with the Volunteers for the first-round bye, having already defeated Tennessee 66-57 during the teams' first meeting this season in Gainesville on Feb. 8.

"Being able to earn that bye is a big deal," UF coach Amanda Butler said.

"We've got to feel good about putting ourselves in the position

where on Thursday we get to watch and hopefully get an upper hand on the team that we'll be playing the next day."

There won't be any home-court advantage for the Gators this time against the Volunteers, but if there is anything UF will have an edge in, it's rest and preparation.

"This is a great thing because, what is it, four games you have to play if you don't (have a bye)?" senior forward Marshae Dotson said. "That'll take a toll on you."

"I can remember from last year getting in a tub of ice-cold water and getting massages and trying to get ready and enough sleep for the next day. Hopefully we can use that to our advantage when we get in the tournament."

In the first meeting between the Gators and Volunteers, senior point guard Sha Brooks single-handedly willed her team to victory, scoring 29 points.

SEE TOURNEY, PAGE 23



Women's Basketball

UF MEN'S BASKETBALL

Hodge nears career's end

By **MIKE DiFERDINANDO**

Alligator Staff Writer
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Even tears couldn't wash away the disappointment.

As time runs out on the Gators' season, and his career, senior Walter Hodge is left to wonder where it all went wrong.

The guard has won more games (113) than any player in the history of UF basketball.

"He's on the bench last night crying. Like emotionally crying, because he wants to win and he's trying to implore our guys," UF coach Billy Donovan said. "When you see someone like him care that much, you want that to be a reflection of what your program is about."

With their loss to Mississippi State on Wednesday night, UF's (21-9, 8-7 Southeastern Conference) tournament hopes are all but dashed.

For the second time in two years, it's likely that Hodge and the Gators will be watching March Madness in between their own National Invitation Tournament games.

"It's hard when you put everything into this program and you don't get the results you want," Hodge said. "But that's life. You have to keep going."

Hodge will play his last regular-season home game Saturday when UF finishes up the SEC season against Kentucky (19-11, 8-7 SEC) at 2 p.m.

"It's hard when you put everything into this program and you don't get the results you want."

Walter Hodge
UF senior guard

The Wildcats haven't fared much better in recent weeks, matching the Gators' loss with one of their own to Georgia on Wednesday night.

The losing team is not likely to receive an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament.

"It's going to be crazy. I got a lot of family coming. It's going to be a big day," Hodge said. "A lot of emotions — this is

SEE HODGE, PAGE 23

O'Sullivan shuffles staff

By **KYLE MAISTRI**

Alligator Staff Writer
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If things continue to go poorly for UF in this weekend's three-game home series with Duquesne, it won't be because coach Kevin O'Sullivan has been unwilling to shake up the pitching staff.

The Gators (6-4) have lost four of their last five contests, prompting O'Sullivan to make some changes with his hurlers.

Junior Jeff Barfield, who was projected to be a reliever, made his first start for UF on Tuesday against Stetson, earning a victory in 6 2/3 innings. No. 1 starter Patrick Keating made a relief appearance against Florida Atlantic on Wednesday, picking up the loss despite allowing just 1 run over the final three innings of the game.

As a result, freshman left-hander Alex Panteliodis (1-1, 3.09 ERA) will take the hill tonight against the Dukes (0-8), making the first Friday-night start of his young career.

"Pitching is pitching," Panteliodis said. "You just have to get out there and do your job."

The pitching staff has struggled to produce consistent results, and the bullpen let the game slip away against Florida Atlantic after UF built a 4-0 lead through five innings.



Panteliodis

Veterans Tony Davis and Billy Bullock were credited with allowing 3 runs in 2/3 of an inning after starter Anthony DeSclafani was taken out of the game. In addition, all three inherited runners came across to score for Florida Atlantic, resulting in a 6-run inning that proved to be the difference in the contest.

"It's frustrating," O'Sullivan said after Wednesday night's loss. "It's not what you typically see from older pitchers, but

SEE BASE, PAGE 23

ON TELEVISION

■ **NBA: New Jersey vs. Orlando**
FSN, 7 p.m.

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

ONLINE

■ **The Santa Fe College men's basketball team lost in the opening game of the FCAA State Tournament last night. For a recap of the game, and a lengthy alligatorSports Podcast, check out our Web site.**

UP NEXT

Today's question: Which athlete's injury this year has hurt his or her team most?

No
Yes

Percent (Votes)

91% (71)

9% (7)

Previous question: Will the UF men's basketball team make the NCAA Tournament? (see right for results)

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