



VOLUME 102 ISSUE 122

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2009

Residents forced from housing

■ SEMINARY LANE COMPLEX
 WILL CLOSE MAY 27.

By EMILY FUGGETTA
 Alligator Writer
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Children ride bicycles on the cracked pavement of the parking lot at Seminary Lane Apartments, and the lawns are hardly more than leaf-strewn patches of dirt, but Calvin Bryant said he remembers a time when it seemed luxurious.

"When I first moved in, I loved it," he said. "I had never lived where there were two bathrooms. I had my own grass."

Bryant, 64, who has lived at the subsidized housing complex for exactly half his life, used his grass to plant a tree, which still stands.

But in less than two months, the tree, along with the rest of the complex, will be torn down, and Bryant worries that he won't be able to find another place he can afford.

"You gotta be dirt poor to live here," he said. "People are scared. We need a place to stay."

Karen Godley, vice president of the board that oversees more than 50 duplexes at Seminary Lane, 1019 N.W. Fifth Ave., said the apartments have been losing money for five years.

"It's no longer feasible to continue to rent them," she said.

Godley said the residents will receive their vouchers in April, which will give them about a month to find new housing before the May 27 move-out date. Most low-income complexes won't reserve an apartment until potential tenants present a Section 8 voucher from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Usually vouchers are distributed only two weeks in advance, she said.

Godley, who also cited the condition of the buildings as a reason

SEE HOUSING, PAGE 11



Ana Goni-Lessan / Alligator

Children play outside the Seminary Lane subsidized housing units on Thursday afternoon. Residents must move out by May 27.

■ UF senior Sha Brooks (right) is one of only three Gators with experience in the NCAA Tournament. The rest of the team will get a taste of the tourney Sunday against Temple. See Story, Page 22.



Astronauts successfully install solar wings

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Spacewalking astronauts installed the last set of solar wings at the international space station Thursday, accomplishing the top job of shuttle Discovery's mission.

Steven Swanson and Richard Arnold II struggled with some cable connections, but managed to hook everything up.

"It wasn't quite as smooth as we had hoped, but those guys did a great job," astronaut Joseph Acaba told Mission Control.

Mission Control radioed its praise: "We're delighted to accept delivery and installation."

The next milestone will be Friday, when the folded-up solar wings are unfurled.

■ Gainesville residents are turning to hydroponic gardening in order to lessen their grocery bills. See Story, Page 4.

Today

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News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

12 Hours of Improv

Today, noon to midnight
Orange & Brew
Theatre Strike Force will perform improv for 12 hours to raise money for Relay for Life. If you like "Whose Line is it Anyway?", you'll enjoy more than 700 minutes completely made-up comedy. Admission is free, and students can stop by any time during the entire day. Audience participation is encouraged.

Workshops for Social Change

Today, 2 to 7 p.m.
Presbyterian Student Center
Creative Tactics Training, Non-Violent Direct Action Basics, and DIY silk-screening workshops will be offered as part of the Backbone Campaign Tour's free social change workshop series.

Talk: "Ethnic Residential Segregation: Inter-Ethnic Contacts & Anti-Minority Attitudes in European Societies"

Today, 2 p.m.
Dauer Hall, Room 219
A talk by Moshe Semyonov, Tel Aviv University. Sponsors: the Center for European Studies and the Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law.

VISA International Month Movie on the Lawn with Gator Nights

Presents "Rush Hour"
Today, 8 p.m.
Reitz Union Ampitheatre
Come out and celebrate VISA International Month's Opening Ceremony. The mov-

FORECAST

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
PARTLY CLOUDY 78/52	PARTLY CLOUDY 73/48	PARTLY CLOUDY 75/51	PARTLY CLOUDY 77/53	PARTLY CLOUDY 78/54
78/52	73/48	75/51	77/53	78/54

ie Rush Hour will be shown. There will be free food and give aways.

VISA International Month presents: Penn Masala

Saturday, 8 p.m.
Phillips Center for the Performing Arts
Doors Open at 7:30. Come out and enjoy the sounds of Penn Masala, a group of students from UPenn that sing a mix of Indian and American music A Cappella.
Tickets available all day at the CPA Box Office. This is a free event and open to the public.

Procession for the Future Parade and Rally for Social Change

Saturday, Parade at noon, rally from 2 to 4 p.m.
Plaza of the Americas to the downtown Bo Diddley Plaza
The parade will deliver a compelling progressive vision for the country as it marches from the Plaza of the Americas to the downtown plaza for a rally with progressive speakers and music.

Got something going on?

And want to post it in this space? Send an e-mail to kbjornsen@alligator.org

with 'What's Happening' in the subject line. Please include a one- to two-sentence synopsis of the event.

NATIONAL

Congress votes to tax AIG

Denouncing a "squandering of the people's money," lawmakers voted decisively Thursday to impose a 90 percent tax on millions of dollars in employee bonuses paid by troubled insurance giant AIG and other bailed-out companies.

The House vote was 328-93. Similar legislation has been introduced in the Senate and President Barack Obama quickly signaled general support for the concept.

"I look forward to receiving a final product that will serve as a strong signal to the executives who run these firms that such compensation will not be tolerated," the president said in a statement. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., told colleagues,

"We want our money back now for the taxpayer. It isn't that complicated," she said.

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

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AROUND GAINESVILLE

Locals turn to hydroponics to keep grocery bills low

By CHELSEA KEENAN

Alligator Writer

More Gainesville residents are giving their green thumb a shot these days, in line with a national trend aimed at lowering the grocery bill.

A survey released by the National Gardening Association found that as the economic recession continues to grow, the number of household gardens is spreading, too.

The number of Americans cultivating home-grown veggies rose by 7 million, up 19 percent from 2008, according to the survey.

Sydney Park Brown, a UF extension specialist for the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, said alternative gardening is a good choice for college students who may not have a backyard.

Hydroponic gardening, which does not require soil, is one of those options.

"People are trying to feed their families without spending so much at grocery stores."

Shannon Ivins

manager of Simply Hydroponics

Shannon Ivins, manager of Simply Hydroponics, said she's seen a major increase in the number of customers in her store since the start of

the year.

"People are trying to feed their families without spending so much at grocery stores," she said.

Ivins said although hydroponic gardens are a bit pricier, they produce higher yields.

"You can get a good garden going for about \$50," she said, adding students receive a 10 percent discount.

She also said nutrients can be sold for as low as \$7 a pound. When

diluted, this makes about 100 gallons of plant food.

However, Park Brown said hydroponic gardens can be tricky to maintain, since the water's pH levels and nutrient levels must be checked regularly.

"Students shouldn't only consider hydroponics as the only alternative gardening solution," she said. "There are several above-ground options like growing plants in containers."

GPD announces decrease in crime between 2007, 2008

■ NUMBER OF LARCENIES ROSE.

By KATIE EMMETS

Alligator Writer
kemmets@alligator.org

Despite the faltering economy, recent Gainesville crime statistics paint a surprising picture.

The number of homicides, robberies, rapes, aggravated assaults, burglaries and auto thefts in Gainesville decreased between 2007 and 2008, with larceny — theft of personal property — being the only crime that increased, according to a GPD report.

Crimes are divided into two types: violent crime and property crimes.

Violent crime is down from 1,117 in 2007

to 1,044 in 2008, said GPD spokesman Keith Kameg.

Local News

Fighting violent crime is the highest priority, he said, because people are being harmed.

"Our ultimate goal is no violent crimes at all," Kameg said. "But the reality is we live in a city where crime is prevalent. It is how we react to these crimes

is what we are focusing on."

Burglary and auto theft, both property crimes, are also down. Kameg attributes the drop in crime to new police strategies.

When Police Chief Norman Botsford saw the numbers from 2005, he started the Violent Crime Task Force, which assigned more officers to work "the worst hours in the worst areas," Kameg said.

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More information is available for an applicant's mandatory reading at the time an application is picked up. Applicants should allow themselves 10 to 15 minutes of reading time when picking up an application. The application must be returned to the same office before **3:00pm April 1. This is an absolute deadline**. All returned applications will be copied and available to be read at *The Alligator* building prior to the selection meeting. Interviews and selections by the Board of Directors will be held at *The Alligator* offices in a meeting open to the public, **Friday, April 17** beginning at **2:00pm**. Applicants must be present to be considered. Applicants must be currently enrolled, degree-seeking college or university students. Board of Directors applicants cannot be current or recent past employees or trainees of Campus Communications, Inc.

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Act benefits volunteers

■ NEW ACT SHOULD CREATE 175,000 NEW SERVICE JOBS.

By KATHERINE BEIN
Alligator Contributing Writer

The federal House of Representatives voted 321-105 to expand funding for volunteer programs Wednesday.

As part of President Obama's goal to alleviate America's economic crisis through service, the GIVE Act should create 175,000 new service jobs, bringing the national number of volunteers to 250,000. The act will create four new service corps: a Clean Energy Corps, an Education Corps, a Healthy Futures Corps and a Veterans Service Corps.

And there is further good news for U.S. college students, who are serving in record numbers.

Students who volunteer will be eligible for the maximum authorized Pell Grants, which should help them keep up with rising tuition.

Amy Panikowski, campus recruiter for the Peace Corps at UF, said she's seen an "explosion of interest" from students in recent years.

To Panikowski, it seems the "Facebook generation" is ready to mobilize and bring about positive change at home and around the world.

"They're tired of reading about it," she said. "They want to see it."

Lily Darnell, a junior psychology major at UF, said she volunteers at the Sidney Lanier Center in Gainesville, helping teach children with learning disabilities such as blindness and cerebral palsy. Darnell said working with those children helps put her life into perspective and makes her feel good.

"If I can provide three hours of my time and have any impact on their life, it means a lot to me," she said.

Darnell thinks it's the same for the thousands of other student volunteers.

"I feel like a lot of times, what's placed on us makes us feel helpless," she said. "Any way we can provide to another group, if you help a little part, it makes a difference."

Tracey Reeves, director of the UF Center for Leadership and Service, said legislation like the GIVE Act is more important than ever.

The center organizes trips, such as Florida Alternative Breaks, which allows students to volunteer in other states or countries during spring and winter breaks.

"I think with the economy, it's especially important for folks to give back and give a helping hand," she said.

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STUDENT LIFE Skilled immigrants leave US

By ALEX CHACHKEVITCH
Alligator Contributing Writer

rope for higher education rather than to U.S., he said.

"Down the road, this might result in less skilled population, which means less economic growth," Flores-Lagunes said.

The recent recession in the U.S. also might have been a catalyst. Though crisis is going on everywhere around the world, countries such as India and China are still in the middle of rapid economic growth, Flores-Lagunes said.

"But getting a visa in a company is a lottery."

Puneet Dwivedi
UF Ph.D. candidate in forestry policy and economics

Wadhwa, also a senior research associate at Harvard Law School and a professor at Duke's engineering school, said people start blaming the immigrants for their financial problems when economic crisis occurs.

"Americans lose jobs and wonder why that foreigner should have a job but not me," he said.

Wadhwa received a backlash of hundreds of derogatory e-mails in response to his research paper, attacking him for supporting immigrants.

One reader stated "I, for one, am glad that these 'skilled' workers are returning to their respective homes. Perhaps my husband will once again be able to work."

According to the research, immigrants help fuel the U.S. economy, contributing disproportionately to the high-tech sector. They co-founded firms such as Google, Intel Corp., eBay and Yahoo. Between 1990 and 2007, 45 percent of the growth of the work force consisted of immigrants.

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Editorial

After struggling to reacclimate ourselves to the oh-so brutal grind of work and school, the Department of Darts & Laurels can't help but smile now that the weekend is finally upon us.

While your activities this evening may pale in comparison to the absurdities of last week, we'll go out on a limb and safely assume that your body could use a break.

Unless of course, you happen to enjoy that whole lifestyle of self-destruction – more power to you.

As we dread tackling the mountain of laundry bearing badges of Spring Break honor, we proudly present you this week's don't-even-bother-calculating-how-much-dough-you-dropped-in-Mexico edition of...

Darts&Laurels

While bowling barely qualifies as a sport given the fact that a player's performance actually increases after consuming alcohol (trust us), there is evidently a degree of danger involved. For punching a fellow bowler in the mouth with a 16-pound bowling ball and knocking a tooth out, the Department of Darts & Laurels chuck a dude-it's-just-bowling **DART** at lane lunatic Ryan Scott David. And to think, they were arguing over who held the right to bowl first.

Do you remember where you were when you heard Tim Tebow echo the words that will now forever live on in Gator history? The Department of Darts & Laurels presents a lot-of-good-has-come-out-of-this **LAUREL** to UF for commemorating Tim Tebow's "The Promise" speech with a plaque featuring every word he uttered in the wake of last season's upset loss to Ole Miss. We bet even the biggest Florida State fan won't be able to walk past the Bill Heavener Football Complex without stopping to take notice.

Science fiction geeks everywhere collectively shuddered upon hearing news that major changes are in store at their destination for the latest in space odyssey programming. For rebranding themselves as SyFy to expand their horizons to include more mainstream shows, the Department of Darts & Laurels launches a why-mess-with-a-good-thing **DART** at the artist formerly known as the Sci Fi Channel. What's next, adding syndicated episodes of "Sex and the City" to the lineup?

Somewhere a Trekkie sheds a tear.

Channeling his inner Andy Dufresne, one Missouri inmate concocted a scheme seemingly worthy of a "Shawshank Redemption" redux. The Department of Darts & Laurels presents a get-busy-living-or-get-busy-dying **LAUREL** to David Rocklage for escaping from a hospital after tricking officers into taking him to get medical assistance for his persistent chest pain. While we certainly don't condone criminal activity, there is something undeniably laudable about a man going to extreme lengths to regain his freedom.

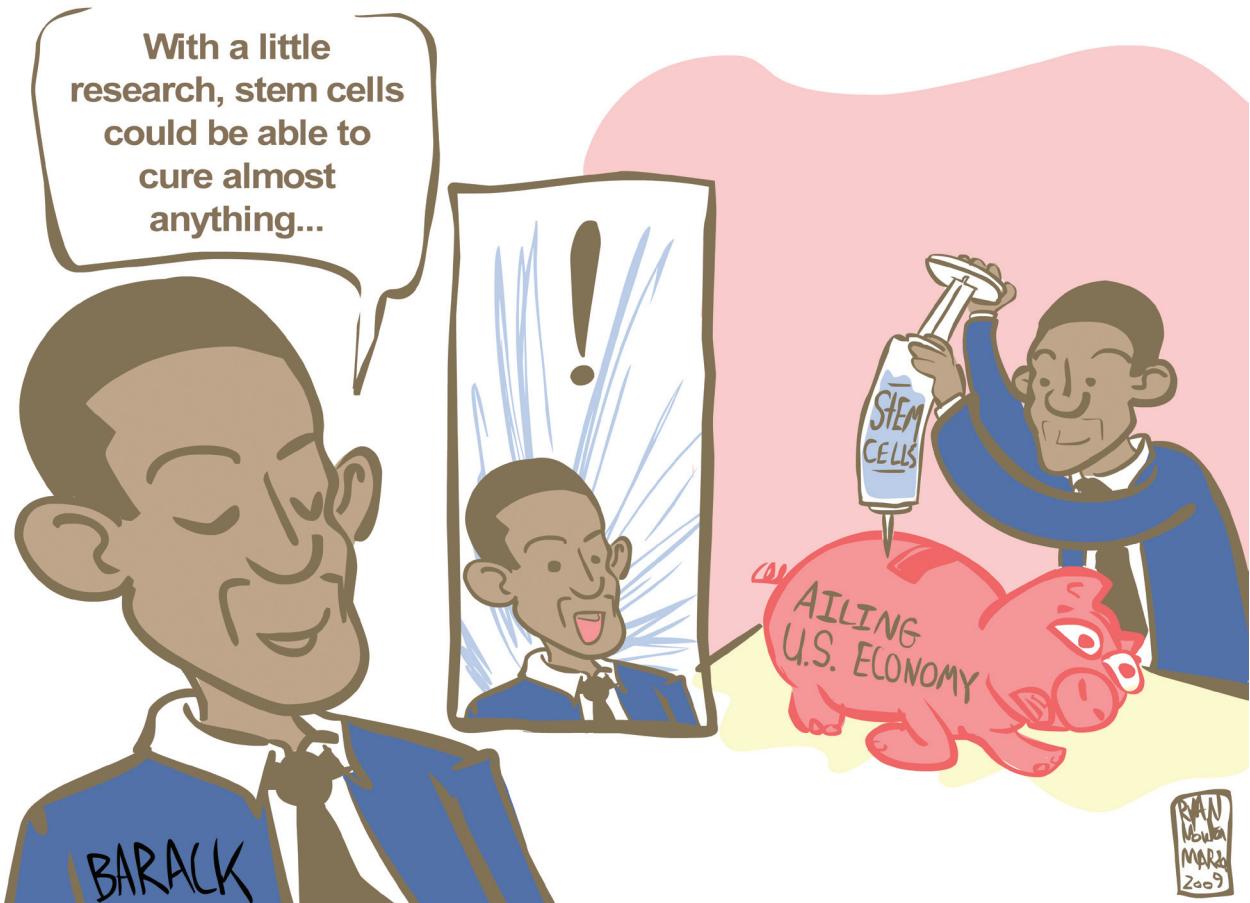
Word out of Rhode Island informs us that 30-year-old women are susceptible to behavior that even a diaper-donning preschooler would deem immature. For biting and punching her son's principal after learning he had been suspended from school, the Department of Darts & Laurels tosses a why-didn't-you-just-get-a-five-dollar-footlong-if-you-were-that-hungry **DART** at Aleyda Uceta. Maybe it's just us, but when we think of our parents, we tend to think of people who tend to set far better examples than ourselves.

So much for the mom having any leverage to ground her son.

With the men's NCAA basketball tournament in full swing, office workers no longer have to worry about getting caught watching all of the madness thanks to the friendly folks at CBS Sportsline.com. The Department of Darts and Laurels graciously extends a thanks-to-you-we-can-safely-watch-the-games-in-class **LAUREL** to the "Boss Button," for allowing a seamless escape plan to avoid having to explain why you were watching Maryland crush California when TPS reports were due by 5. With one simple click of the mouse, you can safely change your screen from Dino Gregory dunking on some overmatched Cal player to a nondescript Excel spreadsheet.

Tenuous situation totally avoided!

That's all for this week. Go catch up on some sleep.

Opinions**ALLIGATOR**www.alligator.org/opinions**Column****America must shed two-party politics**

I have a strong stomach. Only a handful of things consistently turn my stomach contents into a downtown sidewalk display: catching a ride post- or mid-drinkathon, all songs Nickelback and when, like, people, like, say "like" all the time. Other than those three things, I rarely get to taste my stomach acid.

Lately, though, I've recognized a trend starting to give me the cold sweats that have always foreshadowed the aforementioned unhappy time. Words like "taxes," "bailout," "aid" and "bonuses" have flooded print headlines and TV top stories. These words too frequently lead to arguments about the overall effectiveness — or lack thereof — of President Barack Obama's policies. At this stage, I'm not quite ready to let the chunks fly because honest debate can present previously unconsidered opinions. My beef arises when the argument devolves from honest debate to senseless brand loyalty.

"George W. Bush is to blame for the failing economy," whines the aging, liberal, hippie douche. "He made us fight a war that sent us all to the poor house."

"Nuh uh," retorts the pissed off, redneck conservative. "You damn Democrats just keep spending and spending. Obama's stupid bailout is only going to make things worse."

"I'm still not really sure," mumbles the spineless Independent.

From this point on, each combatant returns to the comfort of his respective political corner. The argument goes on for a while as each fighter simply parrots the words of those standing behind him.

Solid work, fellas. You've talked each other out of compromising in any way and effectively killed off any hope for a sensible agreement. At least you can go home and brag to your ladies about how you held your ground



Adam Wynn
letters@alligator.org

against that sissy tree-hugger or the greedy Nazi.

How far we've come in the past 233 years.

Political parties were not the intention of the founding fathers, and the above hypothetical situation shows why. Competing factions help express a few views, but the larger they get, the more divisive they become. Nevertheless, political parties are necessary evils. They garner support for candidates for offices at all levels of government, and they help educate otherwise-uninformed voters. Unfortunately, there's always an agenda. Nothing is unbiased. Ever.

What we all need to realize is the closer we cling to our preferred political party, the farther we get from ourselves. Rather than compromising with our opposition to achieve a reasonable outcome, we slight our personal ideals by bending to meet the party norm.

Guys like Rush Limbaugh and Jon Stewart contribute to the political polarization of society. Limbaugh says the word "liberal" like anyone else would say "pedophile". These guys peddle exaggeration and entertainment as if it were governmental action, and it works because we're largely an instant-gratification society that prefers to be told what to do.

We're privileged enough to be able to support whatever whack job we deem the man for the job, and party should not be as important as policy. Both parties are cowering organizations that can do good or evil, so define yourself as a voter, not as a Republican or Democrat.

Adam Wynn is a journalism senior. His column appears on Fridays.

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

Reader response

Today's question: Did you make an NCAA tournament bracket?

Thursday's question: Do you practice safe sex?

68% YES

32% NO

177 TOTAL VOTES

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alligator**

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The Alligator encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 150 words (about one letter-sized page). They must be typed, double-spaced and must include the author's name, classification and phone number. Names will be withheld if the writer shows just cause. We reserve the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel. Send letters to letters@alligator.org, bring them to 1105 W. University Ave., or send them to P.O. Box 14257, Gainesville, FL 32604-2257. Columns of about 450 words about original topics and editorial cartoons are also welcome. Questions? Call 376-4458.



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FFOU1

Guest Column

Pro-Amendment 1 group doesn't deserve benefit of doubt

I'll be up-front: I think Charter Amendment 1 is abhorrent, and I hope it's defeated. But I don't think that anybody who feels differently is automatically a bigot.

This issue is one that lends itself to an honest, meaningful conversation about discrimination and the role of city government, but that's a conversation Citizens for Good Public Policy, the local group pushing for the amendment's passage, has made clear it isn't interested in having.

Take their two TV commercials, available at youtube.com/humandecencynow.

The first ad shows a small girl — blonde-haired, cheerful and innocent — walking into a restroom at the playground. The screen goes black and white, then a sketchy-looking, unshaven man walks towards the bathroom, looks around to see if anybody is watching, and follows the girl in. Ominous text appears: "On January 28, 2008, your City Commission made this legal... Is that what you want in Gainesville?"

The implication is that the man intends to violate the girl; saying that the gender identity ordinance "made this legal" — as if a clause that made molestation lawful was

written into the ordinance — directly links transgender people with child molesters.

CGPP's insistence that the ad refers to those who would exploit the law, and not transgender people, rings hollow. There's nothing in the ad that suggests that level of nuance, and 30-second TV commercials are hardly the medium by which nuanced political messages are communicated.

Rather, political TV spots are used for creating quick, visceral reactions and simplistic associations, and this one was no exception. Any suggestion by CGPP to the contrary is just posturing and an exercise in half-hearted plausible deniability. The damage is already done as soon as the association is formed, and no amount of, "We didn't mean transgender people, honest!" can reverse that.

The second ad features footage from a Gainesville Home Depot security camera on Feb. 18 of a man who entered the women's bathroom and tried to take cell phone pictures of a woman in a stall. A voiceover says, "What the city commission told us never would happen just did, right here in Gainesville."

Except that, once again, it's a sleight-of-

Joe Dellosa
Speaking Out

hand trick. There's no reference to gender identity in the GPD incident report, and the suspect didn't attempt to cite the ordinance in his defense. According to a January 2009 Associated Press article, GPD hasn't reported a single problem in public restrooms resulting from the ordinance.

On its Web site, CGPP lists about a dozen incidents from across the country about men acting lewdly or violently after entering women's bathrooms as evidence that "restroom crimes are common occurrences." They do mention that none of the incidents have anything to do with transgender people.

But none of them have anything to do with transgender protections, either. In fact, the list winds up inadvertently making an argument against CGPP's position — these crimes take place irrespective of whatever anti-discrimination laws are or are not on the books.

I know advertising is a dirty business, and political advertising doubly so. But

there's something especially repugnant about advertising that exploits people's fears and magnifies their worries for their children and grandchildren. It foments an atmosphere of paranoia that makes the stigmatization of minorities a lot easier.

I'm against Charter Amendment 1 because I believe anti-discrimination protection for Gainesville's LGBT community is important, both as a practical matter and as a show of compassion and decency.

The rejection of the amendment will protect Gainesville's reputation in the eyes of prospective students, residents and businesses.

After all, it's one thing simply never to have had these protections, but it sends an entirely different — and horrible, and inaccurate — message about what kind of city Gainesville is to revoke them after the fact.

But a "no" vote on Charter Amendment 1 would also be a repudiation of CGPP's manipulative, fear-mongering campaign and a statement that we expect a higher level of discourse.

Because we're better than this. And more importantly, Gainesville deserves better.

Joe Dellosa is an advertising junior.

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The applications for these positions are available at the reception desk at the entrance of the first floor of *The Alligator* Building at 1105 W. University Ave., **each weekday between 1:00 and 4:00pm from now until March 27**. Please do not call. Further written information is available at the time an application is picked up. Please allow up to 15 minutes at that time to read information you will need for the application process. The application must be returned to the same desk by **3pm, April 1. THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE DEADLINE**. Interviews and selections by the Board of Directors will be held at *The Alligator* offices in a meeting open to the public beginning at **2:00pm April 17**. Applicants must be present at that meeting to be considered. Applicants must be degree-seeking college or university students. Preference will be given to those who have experience at *The Alligator*.

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UF RESEARCH

Stem cell ban reversal may bring research funding

By CHELSEA KEENAN

Alligator Writer

Although President Barack Obama recently lifted restrictions that previously denied federal funding to medical research institutions studying embryonic stem cells, UF won't be seeing an immediate impact, experts say.

Dennis Steindler, executive director of the university's McKnight Brain Institute, said adult stem cells, which can come from brain, bone marrow and organ tissue, will continue to be the main area of focus for research purposes.

This is because most of the conditions researchers at the McKnight Brain Institute are trying to cure are more prominent in adults, he said.

"We're looking for cures for all the main diseases and injuries," he said. "Pretty much everything is on our radar."

Steindler also pointed out that stem cell research was still an option in the past.

"The previous executive order did not stop stem cell research,

it just said embryonic lines starting after 2001 must use private funds," he said.

Even though the McKnight Brain Institute will not experience an immediate impact from the lifted ban, it will still see benefits from Obama's legislation.

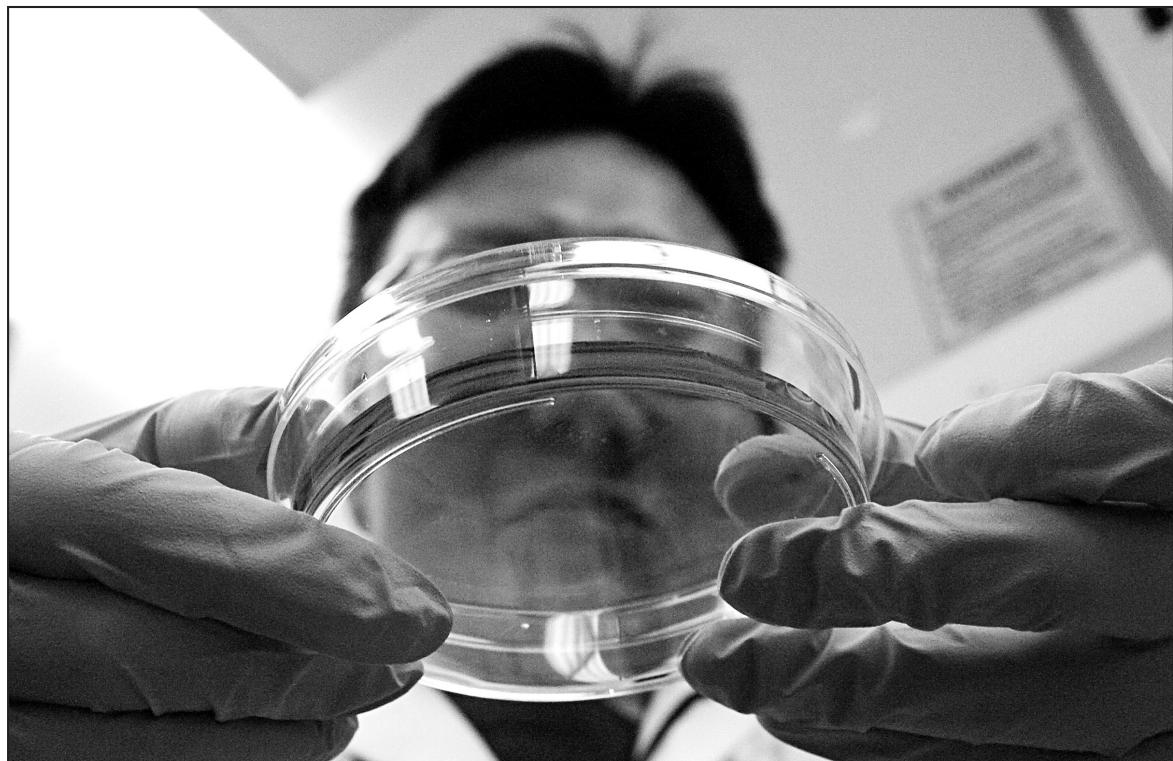
"The president's stimulus package has a variety of stem cell initiatives as well," he said, adding he plans to apply for several types of grants.

One particular grant Steindler said he is interested in will provide funding for research involving induced pluripotent stem cells.

"This is an alternative to embryonic stem cells," Steindler said. "We can reprogram adult cells to become embryonic-like."

He said adult stem cell and induced pluripotent stem cell research will be the main focuses of the McKnight Brain Institute for now, but he said he can not predict how Obama's decision will affect UF's research in years to come.

Whether the McKnight Brain Institute chooses to take part in



AP Photo

Stem cell researcher Tadashi Sato holds a dish containing stem cell growth medium on March 9.

using embryonic stem cells for research, Steindler said he thinks Obama's decision will have a pos-

itive impact.

"It will raise attention and hopefully increase funding," he

said. "With President Obama's orders, hopefully all types of stem cell research will be supported."

Dallas schools shocked by allegations of cage fighting

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — The Dallas school system was rocked by allegations Thursday that staff members at an inner-city high school made students settle their differences by fighting bare-knuckle brawls inside

a steel cage.

The principal and other employees at South Oak Cliff High knew about the cage fights and allowed the practice to continue, according to a 2008 report by school system investigators.

"More than anything, I'm in shock and disbelief—shocked that

this could ever occur and shocked

that it would be condoned by a professional administrator," said Jerome Garza, a member of the Dallas school board.

The report, first obtained by The Dallas Morning News, de-

scribes two instances of fighting in an equipment cage in a boys' locker room between 2003 and 2005. It was not clear from the report whether there were other fights.

Superintendent Michael Hinojosa told the newspaper that there were "some things that happened inside of a cage" and called the

fights "unacceptable."

No criminal charges were ever filed, and there was no mention in the report of whether anyone required medical attention or whether any employees were disciplined.

A district spokesman would not comment.

Web site enables Floridians to track spending of tax dollars

By YVONNE AYALA

Alligator Contributing Writer

Floridians can now track how the state spends their tax dollars on a new Web site.

Gov. Charlie Crist and Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink announced Tuesday the launch of Sunshine Spending, a Web site that allows Floridians to see where the state spends tax dollars.

"Taxpayers are able to look at the amount paid to specific vendors within a particular fis-

cal year," said Debra Evans, a spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Financial Services' Bureau of Accounting. "Clicking on the agency provides the individual payments and a contact phone number for additional information about the payment."

The Web site aims to make state spending more transparent to taxpayers and make the state more accountable for its spending. Citizens can check payments to vendors dating back to the 2004-2005 fiscal year, including detailed information about each payment and the

agency requesting the information. Sunshine Spending was planned six months ago and is updated daily by the Florida Department of Financial Services.

The site is maintained at no extra cost to the state by using existing resources and employees, Evans said.

The Sunshine Spending Web site was produced by the Department of Financial Services in coop-

eration with representatives from the Governor's office, Americans for Tax Reform and the James Madison Institute.

"The Web site is a positive step, though at present it still needs more development to be user friendly," said David Denslow, a UF professor and research economist. "It is a positive step partly because voters are more willing to support the services government provides if they are confident waste is under control."

Floridians can visit the site at www.FLGov.com/SunshineSpending.

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GAINESVILLE COMMISSION**Commissioners discuss proposed ordinance, funding**

By HUNTER SIZEMORE and JACQUELYN WEINER

Alligator Writers

Gainesville has been promised about \$7.8 million in economic stimulus funding, according to Thursday's city commission agenda.

The announcement comes just over a month after President Barack Obama signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law. Money was awarded through a population-based formula.

"The dollars are appreciated, but the vast majority of them are capital investment," said Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan, referring to controls set on the funds.

Much of the money can only be spent on buildings and items and may not be used to fund programs, said Jeanna Mastrodicasa, a city commissioner.

About \$3 million will go to buying new buses for the Regional Transit System, as awarded through Transit Capital Assistance, according to a presentation given during the meeting. Additionally, there are 22 state and federal grants that Gainesville will compete for.

"I think we'll be really competitive on these things," Mastrodicasa said.

Commissioners also discussed a possible new ordinance that would create stricter safety rules for bicycle taxis that patrol the streets near campus on game days.

The ordinance, which would regulate carriages pulled by bikers or pedestrians, passed first reading unanimously. To become law, the ordinance must pass a second reading on April 2. Currently, there are no safety rules governing bike taxis in Gainesville, according to a Public Safety Committee report.

"They've been running around wild for quite a while," Gainesville Police Department Corporal Fernando Zaragoza said in an interview.

Under the ordinance, bike taxi providers would be required to obtain insurance, permits and limit passenger loads.

In addition, rates must be displayed and bikes have to be equipped with a horn, lights and other safety features.

Street restrictions for bike taxis were discussed at



Ana Goni-Lesson / Alligator

Gainesville Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan, center, reads papers during Thursday's City Commission meeting at City Hall.

length. The streets that will be off-limits to the bike taxis have yet to be chosen, GPD Capt. Ed Posey said. "We do want them off University Avenue," Posey said.

The commission moved to have the list of streets discussed at a Public Safety Committee meeting before becoming law.

Catherine Ojeda, speaking for Redi Pedi Cab Company, a bike taxi service based out of Orlando, expressed concern as to which streets would be blocked from bike taxi use.

Ojeda said the taxi service benefits many game goers, especially those who can't walk for long.

"Without us, they wouldn't find a way to the game," she said.

Alex Ramos, president of Gainesville Rickshaws, added that bike taxis can be a safe alternative to drunk driving.

"We stop them from getting their cars and taking the risk," he said.

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Ana Goni-Lessan / Alligator

Shagari Phipps, 13, a resident of Seminary Lane, holds her new puppy, Angel, outside the subsidized housing units on Thursday afternoon.

GRADUATION 2009



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Residents worry about vouchers

HOUSING, from page 1

for the closing, said she hopes to see the current tenants return once the property is redeveloped, but she can't guarantee the possibility.

"If they'd like to come back, we hope they qualify. We really do," she said. "But you know what? They're moving on to better housing than what they have now."

But for Takarra Moore, the transition will be no luxury.

Moore, 24, lives with her two sons, 4-year-old Titus and 1-year-old Philemon, and fears that the cost of moving will be too steep.

"If you get the voucher and you have no money, you're still homeless," she said. "You still need to pay moving expenses, transferring utilities, security deposits."

Moore worries that she won't even qualify for the voucher because criminal records affect eligibility.

According to Section 8 counselor Gyra Bossle, vouchers are not given to anyone who has been arrested — even without conviction — in the past five years.

This may be a problem for Moore, who has been arrested, though never charged.

"I got a letter that said 'congratulations,'" she said. "But I don't think I'm through yet."

Moore said the arrests also haunt her in job applications. She is a certified nursing assistant, but she said her criminal record comes up immediately in most interviews.

"I'm as honest as possible," she said. "But they see the arrest and never look any further."

Moore said she took a class through the Florida Department of Children and Families that made her eligible for a \$108 monthly stipend. But because of her pregnancy, it hurt to sit all day, and her car is too old to rely on.

"I know it's excuses," she said. "But it was just too much for me. That's life, I guess."

Moore plans to join the army reserves af-

ter she has her third child.

"I need some sort of stability," she said. "I need a way to support my sons."

Moore, who has lived at Seminary Lane for more than a year, said she thinks the closing of the complex has to do with UF.

"They want to make the area nice for the students. We know. We understand," she said. "But don't sugarcoat it for us. We just want a place to live."

"I've been around here all my life. We've built a community, and it's just not right to take it away."

Calvin Bryant

Seminary Lane Apartments resident

Moore, who has gone to town meetings to plead her case to city officials, said she thinks that if the tenants of Seminary Lane worked together, they could influence the city to step in and help them.

"If we really grouped up — a force to be reckoned with — we could convince them to do something. I really believe that," she said. "But if we act like we don't care, then they don't care."

Gainesville City Commissioner Scherwin Henry said the commission is looking for a way to use city grants to give money to those who don't qualify for the vouchers, though he agrees that the complex needs to be torn down.

"It's in great disrepair," he said, and he fears it would become a health and safety problem if the apartments were left in place.

"I'd hate to see it get to that point," he said.

Bryant said water leaks through the roofs, and the sidewalks are cracked and jagged.

"One day I had my grandbaby in my arms, and I tripped and fell," he said.

But despite the deterioration, Bryant calls Seminary Lane home.

"I've been around here all my life," he said. "We've built a community, and it's just not right to take it away."

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Vets save whale

■ THE WHALE WAS TRAPPED IN FISHING LINE.

Two UF veterinarians took part in a rescue mission on March 6 in order to free an endangered species of whale from about 1,000 feet of fishing line.

Dr. Michael Walsh, an aquatic veterinarian, and Dr. James Bailey, a veterinary anesthesiologist, helped make up the team of experts whose mission was to free right whale No. EG3311, which was first spotted in January.

Walsh said the whale had its left eye and shoulder entangled in fishing net as well as its mouth, which prevented it from eating. The assembled team to help free the whale was made up of veterinarians and employees from national agencies.

"It was a huge team and coordinated a bunch of very capable organizations that worked together and came up with a plan," Bailey said.

Because of the right whales' evasive nature, Bailey said sedation had to be used to free it from the netting, with caution so as to not drown the whale.

"We had to create a cocktail to make the whale cooperative but still do what a whale needs to do, which is surface and breath," he said.

The team made many attempts to sedate the whale before a strong enough mixture of sedatives was created and executed.

Walsh said trips were made in January and February before the final effort on March 6, and said the team was worried time was running out.

"Everyone knew that (final) trip needed to be successful," he said. "If we weren't, it wouldn't have been able to survive much longer."

Walsh said the team traveled on four boats to the area where the whale was swimming in order to sedate it. After the dart, about 2 feet long, was fired successfully, the team was able to cut about 400 feet of line off in about 45 minutes.

—CHELSEA KEENAN



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

Puppet Procession

Led by drummers, a large puppet polar bear, operated by two people hidden inside, walks down Southwest 4th Avenue on Thursday night. The puppet will be part of the Procession for the Future presented by the Backbone Campaign on Saturday.



Free Speechless

Skyler Kern and Spencer Hamilton act as First Amendment police and shush participants who were talking during the First Amendment Free Food Festival Thursday. The festival was held on the Plaza of the Americas and was presented by the Society of Professional Journalists.

Lidia Dinkova / Alligator

LOCAL

UF first lady vows to save healthy strays

By KRISTEN HUFF

Alligator Contributing Writer

UF first lady Chris Machen is working like a dog to save healthy animals from euthanasia in Gainesville.

Tonight, Machen is hosting an event at the President's Mansion to thank donors who have given \$150 or more to No More Homeless Pets, a local organization working to stop euthanization of healthy animals.

Machen became a board member of the year-old organization about six months ago.

Machen's interest in helping local animals was put into action about a year and a half ago when she helped to start the St. Francis House Pet Care Clinic, which offers free veterinary care to homeless and low-income people.

The No More Homeless Pets organization is trying to build a facility that would control the over population of dogs and cats by providing a high quality, high volume, low cost spay and neuter center for Alachua and surrounding counties. The goal for the facility is to service about 6,000 animals annually. Donations will fund the daily operations.

"The only way to stop it is to have less litters. It's a pretty easy concept," Machen said.

Last year, philanthropist Gladys Cofrin gave the group a \$250,000 donation, which the Alachua County Commission then matched, Machen said.

With donations from Cofrin and the city, the organization has enough

money to build the facility but still needs more to purchase equipment and hire employees, said Julie Levy, organization president and UF College of Veterinary Medicine professor.

The group will soon operate temporarily out of a donated semi trailer equipped to spay and neuter up to 120 cats and small dogs per day, Levy said.

The trailer, called the Big Fix Rig, was originally used in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina to help control the stray animal population.

Humane Alliance, a North Carolina spay and neuter clinic, donated the rig to No More Homeless Pets because of the organization's favorable reputation, Levy said.

Some of the money donated by those attending tonight's function will go toward the \$12,000 cost to bring the rig to Gainesville and adjust it to service big dogs as well.

In 2008, of the 7,598 animals brought to Alachua County Animal Services, 3,011 were euthanized, said director David Flagler.

However, compared to other counties, Gainesville has a relatively low euthanization rate because of the efforts of organizations like No More Homeless Pets, Flagler said.

"I really count myself blessed in this community because this is a place that people really do care," he said.



Machen

Local pawnbroker vies for seat, vows to protect kids

■ HE CAMPAIGNS TO PASS CHARTER AMENDMENT 1.

By HUNTER SIZEMORE

Alligator Writer
jhsizemore@alligator.org

Holding his hands in a pantomime of the scales of justice, Richard Selwach weighs the rights of a "45-year-old pervert" against those of a "10-year-old girl" while standing in his pawn-

shop on Thursday.

"I'm going to side with the little girl," he said of his support for the controversial Charter Amendment 1.

Selwach is one of three challengers to the At Large Gainesville city commission seat of Jeanna Mastrodicasa.

He describes himself as a conservative libertarian and campaigns primarily on the removal of Mastrodicasa from the City Commission and support for

Amendment 1.

The amendment would nullify Chapter 8 of the Gainesville Code of Ordinances, titled "Discrimination," removing protections for transgender, lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

Gainesville would then rely on the Florida Civil Rights Act to

provide anti-discrimination protections at the state level.

Selwach feels that the ordinance currently leaves women and children open to sexual predators in public bathrooms. He is also skeptical of transvestites, he said.

"I don't want men with breast implants and 10-inch dicks using the bathroom next to little girls," he said, after pointing out his distaste for media censorship of his admittedly harsh viewpoints.

On student issues, Selwach opposes recent restrictions placed on bars, which were largely championed by Mastrodicasa.

The ordinance places stricter age restrictions on bars which habitually receive underage drinking violations.

He feels that the ordinance punishes well-behaved students for the mistakes of a few, Selwach said.

"It's gonna kill downtown," he said.

GAINESVILLE ELECTIONS

Candidate promotes city innovation, safety, Chater 1

By AMANDA HINES

Alligator Contributing Writer

Backed by his passion for Gainesville's community and public safety, Robert Krames said he is ready for change.

Krames said he will implement that change if elected to the City Commission At Large Seat 1 on March 24.

Krames, 26, works in graphics and Web site design. He said his background in technology would drive him to increase innovation in the city.

He said the current city commission is

out of touch with what people want and need.

Spending more than \$1 million on a new golf course was unnecessary, Krames said.

He said understands the need for tax breaks because of the current economy, but the money should be spent elsewhere, like on public safety.

He said smart spending is especially important when the city government is in a \$1.2 million budget deficit that is projected to increase to \$3 million by 2010.

"The current government focuses on

the wrong priorities and has poor spending habits," he said.



Krames is in favor of the controversial Charter Amendment 1, which would remove the city ordinance entitled "Discrimination," which protects gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people from discrimination.

If passed, the amendment would also prohibit the local government from creating new protected classes,

such as veterans.

The law would then revert to the Florida Civil Rights Act.

A father himself, he said the ordinance began with good intentions, but present wording leaves women and children vulnerable to pedophiles.

If elected, Krames said he will make decisions after considering all of the parties' ideas.

"[Gainesville's] a great place to raise a family and live," he said. "I will fight to keep it that way."

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ON CAMPUS

Study: Dressing room lighting matters to shoppers

By JACQUELYNE SMITH

Alligator Writer

The secret to looking good in the clothes you buy might be right in front of you.

A recent UF study suggests female consumers have a preference for dressing rooms with frontal lighting — those installed along the sides of the mirror — instead of overhead lights mounted on the ceiling.

Anne Baumstarck, a UF interior design master's student who conducted the study, said retailers often overlook the importance of how dressing rooms are lit.

The lengths apparel stores go to lure customers, like deep discounts and colorful interior designs, are likely to fall short if shoppers don't like how they look in the mirror. It's not all about the clothes, she said.

"What woman doesn't go into a dressing room and engage in a dialogue with herself about how attractive she is? You don't want to give her any opportunity to feel badly about herself," Baumstarck said.

In the study, 60 female shoppers between 18 and 35 years old who tried on clothes in the dressing rooms at the Gainesville clothing boutique Wolfgang, showed a clear preference for frontal lights.

Lighting was so important that it was mentioned in 51 percent of comments by the women in the study, she said. Twenty-five of the 36 comments made about overhead lights were negative, while only 14 of the 34 comments about frontal lighting were negative.

Women complained that overhead lighting created shadows

on their faces, which made them look unattractive.

The frontal lighting was described as soft and flattering, giving their skin a healthy glow and making cellulite less visible, Baumstarck said.



Turner

Whitney Jacob, 19, said she is much less likely to buy items in a store if the dressing room lighting is lousy.

Despite being more expensive, she said she prefers to buy clothes from small, intimate boutiques because of their atmosphere.

"Big department stores freak me out with overhead lighting," said Jacob, a nutrition science major at Auburn University. "Sometimes it's worth it to buy

from a boutique."

Matthew Turner, owner of Wolfgang, said he agreed that frontal lighting made fewer shadows on customers, but that typically there's overhead lighting in store fitting rooms.

Turner said he has both types of lighting in Wolfgang's dressing rooms, and that he often switches between the two. He said not all customers prefer frontal lighting, as some customers have commented that the frontal lighting is too intense and distracted from the clothes.

"The goal is to reduce the light intensity because it can be overwhelming," Turner said.

Christy Morgan, owner of Dahlia, another Gainesville clothing boutique, said warm, soft light makes dressing rooms more pleasant. The store has small chandeliers hanging low

in front of its dressing room mirrors, which Morgan said she likes because they give a soft, romantic feel.

Because customers often spend a lot of time trying on clothes, it's important each room is cozy and inviting so customers don't mind spending time in them, she said.

"You want to feel comfortable and not threatened when trying to find something flattering," Morgan said.

Baumstarck said overhead lighting makes rooms seem smaller — even cramped — creating a need to escape. With frontal lighting, dressing rooms appear roomier, and shoppers said they were willing to stay longer and try on more clothes, she said.

"You never want a consumer to be thinking 'I hate this lighting' instead of 'I like this dress,'" Baumstarck said.

Improv group to perform in 12-hour event for charity

■ THEATRE STRIKE FORCE RAISED \$3K FOR RELAY FOR LIFE THIS YEAR.

By ALEIGHA BROWN

Alligator Contributing Writer

When couches appeared on the North Lawn of the UF's campus, people stopped and looked.

On Thursday, Theatre Strike Force, a student improvisation troupe, camped out for 12 hours by the Reitz Union Colonnade, complete with two couches, a book-

shelf and blankets, to promote its 12 hours of improv event today.

TSF is hosting the comedy event, which started in 2005, from noon until midnight to raise money for Relay for Life.

It will take place at the Orange & Brew and in Reitz Union room 282.

TSF members asked anyone making the trek between Weimer Hall and the Reitz Union to write 12 on a white board on display.

Gus Laguna, a UF economics junior, said the five seconds it takes someone to write on the board gives him just enough

time to make his pitch.

TSF member Jessie Ervolino, a UF sophomore, said the group has been doing things with the 12 theme to promote today's event all week, including a 12-minute make-out session and eating an entire pie in 12 minutes.

Laguna said the group improvises for fun, but behind the jokes and games, it is all for a good cause.

The event starts at the Orange & Brew with open improv from all members of TSF.

When TSF moves to room 282, there will be scheduled troupe performances of both short and long form improv. The finale will be held back at the Orange & Brew.

Katie LeBlanc, a UF sophomore and TSF member, said it is a free event, but there will be jars for attendees to donate money.

Last year, TSF raised nearly \$5,000 for Relay for Life and placed third in overall fundraising.

So far, it has raised about \$3,000 this year, according to Ervolino.

Obama vows to recoup AIG bonuses in 'Leno' appearance



AP Photo

President Barack Obama, left, appears on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno in Burbank, Calif., on Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BURBANK, Calif. — President Barack Obama told Jay Leno on Thursday that he was stunned when he learned of the bonuses that bailed-out insurance giant AIG was paying its employees.

Obama told "The Tonight Show" host the payments raise moral and ethical problems and vowed again to try to recoup the cash for taxpayers.

"We're going to do everything we can to get these bonuses back," he declared.

Leno asked Obama what he thought when his staff first advised him of the payments, many made to traders in the very division that brought American International Group to ruin.

"'Stunned' is the word," Obama replied in a taped appearance on "Tonight." He said he found it hard to fathom how anyone would accept lavish payments in those circumstances. "People just had this sense of entitlement. We must be the best and the brightest."

But Obama staunchly defend-

ed Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, who's increasingly come under fire for failing to block the bonuses.

"I think Geithner is doing an outstanding job," Obama said. "He is a smart guy. He is a calm and steady guy. I don't think people fully appreciate the plate that was handed him."

Obama added **National News** Geithner's carrying on "with grace and good humor. He understand that he's on the hot seat."

Too many in Washington are trying to figure out who to blame for things — when they should be focused on fixing them, Obama said.

According to NBC, Obama was the first sitting president ever to appear on "The Tonight Show." He'd already appeared twice as a candidate.

Obama spoke with little interference or challenge from Leno, who clearly was enthused about snaring the president as a guest and pronounced it "one of the best nights of my life."

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Ave on bus rte.#43, hardwood/tile,
W/D, well-lit, big yard, 222-4020 3-23-09-
21-1

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

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

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

Prof/Grad Student. All amenities. Studious &
quiet. Safe & secure. Short term. \$350/mo.
Leave message 333-8300 3-26-09-10-1

1 For Rent furnished

\$485 per bedroom-All inclusive!
3/3 TH!! Roommate match avail
<1 mi from UF! Huge 24hr gym!
free tanning,freeHBO/showtime
Oxford Manor(352) 377-2777
these apts kick other apts in the teeth
4-22-72-1

NEED ROOMMATES?
One Month Rent Free!

Inclusive 3's-\$535, 4's-\$482;
HUGE 2/2.5 Townhomes at \$530/person.
FREE UF Parking, Cable, Water!
FREE Roommate Match, Tanning
FREE Alarms, W/D, 24hr Gym
Sparkling Pool, Tennis, BBall
336-3838 TheLandingsUF.com
Great Bus Routel 2 Miles to UF
4-22-72-1

Low Rates+One Month Free!

W/D in unit * We love Pets!
FREE Cable*Free Tanning!
Waived Move-in Fees!
HUGE 1,2,&3 Beds! 372-8100
4-22-72-1

1 For Rent furnished

\$487 Roommate Match!
Free \$1100 Scooter! 1 Month Free!
***CASH BACK! No Signing Fees!**
Luxury 2's & 3's! W/D

2 **For Rent**
unfurnished**SPYGLASS**

Individual Leases: Furniture Packages
Incl Washer/Dryer, FREE Hispeed Internet;
Rates start at \$485
Every Unit is an End Unit
Mon-Fri 10:50-30, Sat 11-2
701 SW 62nd Blvd 888-267-5078
www.spyglassapts.com
4-22-08-72-2

ACROSS FROM UF!

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

HUGE Luxury 2's & 3's

Luxury 3's from \$397 a Room!
Ask how to get a FREE \$1100 Scooter.
FREE Cable, Internet, Tanning, W/D.
Luxury 2/2's from \$490/rm; 3/3's \$397/rm
All Inclusive 2/2's-\$588/rm; 3/3's \$487/rm
Sparkling Pool with Water Fall
Only 2 Miles from UF on bus route.
HiddenLakeUF.com 374-3866
4-22-08-72-2

2 BLOCKS TO UF

One Month FREE!
Studios and 1/1 as low as \$559
2/1 and 2/2 from \$380-\$599 per person
CollegeParkUF.com 371-7777
4-22-08-72-2

Walk to Class!

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

GREAT ODIN'S RAVEN:
Our 4/4's are classy!!
SIGN TODAY and get \$720 off your lease!!
Rates starting at \$509!!
CALL: 352.271.3131
GainesvillePlace.com
4-22-08-72-2

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

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

**Now you can easily
submit your classified ad
for print and/or web editions
right thru our website!**
Just go to
www.alligator.org/classifieds
Visa and Mastercard accepted.

1320 JACKSON SQUARE condominiums
2 bed luxury condos for rent.
Granite tops, tall ceilings, private balcony,
super quiet construction. \$1600/mo.
Call Eric Wild at 352-870-9453
4-22-72-2

★2-BR/2BA APT IN HISTORIC HOUSE★
10 blocks to UF. Near downtown. High ceiling,
wood floor, W/D, tons of character. 404
SW 2nd St. \$700/mo 352-214-9270 4-22-
09-72-2

WALK TO UF - AVAILABLE NOW & FALL
1BR/\$495 to \$550/mo
2BR & 3BR \$560 to \$1050/mo
Gore Rabell Real Estate
[378-1387 Gore-Rabell.com](http://378-1387.Gore-Rabell.com)
4-22-08-72-2

2 **For Rent**
unfurnished

SUN ISLAND
1BRs from \$575 2BRs from \$655
Sun Bay • Sun Key • Sun Harbor
352-376-6720 sunisland.info
Lower deposit for grad students!
4-22-08-72-2

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

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

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

NO FEES and One Month Free!
On Bivens Arm Nature Preserve

Inclusive 2's, 3's, and 4's
MASSIVE Townhomes!
W/D and Jumbo Microwaves in Every Unit
Free Water, Cable, Tanning, Alarms, Pool
336-3838.TheLandingsUF.com
Great Bus Route! 2 Miles to UF
4-22-63-2

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

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

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

One month FREE!
Zero move-in cost!
1 & 2 BR Villas from \$463
Close to Oaks Mall and Archer Road.
Pine Rush Villas 375-1519
4-22-09-59-2

One month FREE!
Zero move-in cost!
2 BR with bonus room from \$577
Two blocks south of Archer Rd. & 34th St
Homestead Apts. 376-0828
4-22-09-59-2

One month FREE!
Zero move-in cost!
HUGE 2 & 3 BRs from \$664
Close to Oaks Mall & Newberry Rd.
Ashton Square Villas 333-1120
4-22-09-59-2

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

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

★CAMPUS EDGE CONDO★
2/2 Walk to UF, Shands & VA. Tile floor, W/D
in unit. Avail fall. \$1050/mo. 239-250-6149
3-31-09-36-2

2 **For Rent**
unfurnished

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

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

2/1.5 Newly Renovated Townhouse. Avail
Now or Fall 09. Close to Shands, Park N
Ride 2, & Shopping. Incl W/D, A/C, Pvt Patio,
& Pool. \$745/mth & \$500 Dep. No Pets
Pls. 772-538-5792 or ltsao12@hotmail.com
3-24-09-30-2

Very Nice Mother-in Law Suite Near Haile
1BR, living room, kitchen, dining room, full
bath, W/D, cable, utilities all included. \$750/
mo. 367-0372 4-10-09-42-2

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

1BR apt. w/pvt gated courtyard located in
small professional complex @ 3320 SW 23d
St. Single, mature applicants only. \$550.00/
mo small pets ok @ \$25.00/mo 352 377-
2150 Please leave a msg. 4-3-09-36-2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\$385-4/4 University Terrace Condo; available
immediately. Free internet, cable, and
utilities! On bus routes 12 and 35; minutes
to UF campus and shopping on SW 34th St.
Call 352-514-3398 3-31-25-2

2BR/2.5BA townhouse condo, 1 mi from UF.
On bus route. Incl W/D. Community club-
house, pool & fitness center. Wired for inter-
net & security system. \$895/mo 332-8841,
lindalu@gatorhomes.com 3-24-09-20-2

2 **For Rent**
unfurnished

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

Near UF 4BR/3BA house
wood floors, washer & dryer, central A/C
3514 NW 7th Place. Available for August
Call Manny 352-317-4408 4-2-09-26-2

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

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

We have REAL 1/1s

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

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

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

4 - 5 - 6 Bedroom Houses

Don't Miss Out- You Must See

Great Housing Opportunities

Close to Campus

Call 352-682-7424/ ericmanin@yahoo.com

3-23-09-10-2

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

3					4	1	9	
			4	7				1
		2			3			6
5					6			8
			6			8		7
	1			3		2		4
4		2	6			5		
	8				2			9
			5	9			8	

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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2 For Rent unfurnished

2 Bedroom Units
Great Sizes & Locations
Close to Campus
Call 352-682-7424/ ericmanin@yahoo.com
3-23-10-2

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

2160 sq ft home on large 1/2 acre lot near UF Campus and Glenn Springs Elem. Deck on rear of house, exquisite trees, fenced in back yard. Minutes from everything. 3120NW 31st Blvd. 352-466-0358 3-30-09-13-2

3BR/2BA HOUSE
Hardwood floor, fenced yard, large storage space. Convenient to UF. 807 NW 15th Ave. \$1050/mo 1st/last/deposit. Call 331-6844 or 317-1638 3-25-09-10-2

2/1 Newly upgraded w/ Stainless appl. New tub/toilet/vanity Porcelain tile in liv rm kit bath New carpet in bdrms. Ceiling fans W/D in unit Cable/Internet avail. \$735/mo. \$600 deposit Call 727-423-9463 3-31-09-13-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

★★★LUXURIOUS 1800 SQ FT HOME★★★
SECLUDED, UPSCALE NEAR UF. 3/2, SUN ROOM, COVERED PATIO W/D. \$1400/MO
PERFECT FOR GRAD. AVAIL AUG. 1607
NW 12 RD 352-466-4171 LV MSG 4-1-09-14-2

\$525/mo Very spacious 1BR apt. Living room, fully furnished kitchen, large BR, carpeted, full BA. Private, gated patio. Cats allowed. Avail 4/1. 1807 A NW 10th St. Call 376-0080 4-9-09-20-2

One BR apt. for rent. 1 person, 1 car, no smoking, no pets, no fleas. Its is small but has it all. All util pd. \$360/mo, unfurnished. Call Charlie or Jim 352-642-4772. Stop by 1215 NE 20th Ave. 3-26-09-10-2

★★★POOL HOME NEAR CAMPUS★★★
1500SQ FT. 3/2 WOOD FLOORS, W/D,
HUGE PATIO & SCREEN PORCH
OVERLOOK POOL. \$1600/MO AVAIL AUG.
1325 NW 10th Ave. 352-466-4171 LV MSG
4-1-09-14-2

Visit www.gatorpads.com
for available units or call 352-284-0316
Houses, Duplexes, Condo, Townhouses.
Walk/Bike/Bus to UF Neat, clean, quality.
3-31-09-13-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

1BR/1BA NEXT TO UF CAMPUS
W/D incl in unit. Small pet ok. Pool/exercise room. \$800/mo 352-378-5801 x5 3-26-09-10-2

2BR/1BA SPACIOUS
7209 SW 45th Pl. Gainesville. Cent H/AC, W/D hk-up. \$600/mo, \$500 sec dep. No pets. Call 386-462-0994 3-27-09-10-2

Bike or walk to UF. Summit House Condos, SW 16th Ave. 2/1 recently renovated and nicely decorated.Quiet/safe. \$800/mo + utilities. \$200 deposit. 2 Pools, laundry. No pets per complex. Call 352-843-0220 to see. 3-27-10-2

2BR 1 BA duplex, near duck pond, CH/CA, stove, refrig, carport, utility room. \$600 per month. Call 352 281-4528. 3-20-09-5-2

HISTORIC HOMES
1-3BR apts + 2 houses 923 SE 4th St, 18 NE 10th St. High ceilings, porch, wood floors. \$500-\$1100/mo. No dogs. 1st, last, sec. Call 378-3704, sallyville@aol.com 4-3-09-20-2

410 NW 26th Street. 3BR/2BA house. Walk/bike to UF. Small pet ok. No smoking, W/D. \$1295/mo. Showing it March 21st from 11am to 3pm. 352-371-0601 3-20-09-4-2

Walk to UF. Avail in May. 2BD 2.5BTH: central ac/heat, laundry, full kit \$1000. 2BD 1BTH: wall ac/heat, water incl \$750. 1BD 1BTH: wall ac/heat, water incl \$580. 1 yr lease, SD, and NS. Contact 352-870-7256 or gvil32601@gmail.com 4-22-09-26-2

★2/1 Apt, 8 Blocks to UF★
Tiled Throughout
Pet Friendly \$700/mo
352-375-8256
4-22-26-2

★2/1 Apt. 3 Blocks to UF★
HW Floors, Large Rooms
Pet Friendly \$850/mo
352-375-8256
4-22-26-2

★2/1 Apt-HW Flrs-UF 4Blks★
Newly Remodeled, W/D hookups
Pet Friendly, \$1200/mo
352-375-8256
4-22-26-2

4/2 Close to campus, 3962 West Univ. Ave. liv, din, & family rms. Fireplace, all appliances, cent. Heat & Air, washer/dryer. Hot tub. Available August 1. \$1475 call 333-9874 3-31-09-10-2

**Summer Rates + July Free
on 15 mo lease.**
Sun Island 376-6720 sunisland.info 4-22-09-26-2

\$550 - 2BR/1.5BA TOWNHOUSE
UF, Shands area. Private parking & backyard; W/D hook-ups, laundromat, buses. Quiet, safe. Private owner. Ceramic/carpet option. 386-972-4115, moritae@yahoo.com 3-31-10-2

WOODSIDE VILLAS off Tower Rd. 7200 SW 8th Ave. 2BR/1BA + bonus rm. Flex leasing terms. 1072 sq ft. Vaulted ceiling, W/D, DW, fans, pool, newer carpet/tile, bus rte, NS, no pets. \$750/mo. Quiet area 352-339-6502 3-24-09-5-2

2br/2.5 ba townhouse for rent! \$750.00 a month. First month free!! Pet friendly! W/D included! Close to UF and Santa Fe. Bus stop in front of neighborhood. Call (727)-243-4688 or (813)-833-3495. 4-8-09-15-2

\$550.00 large 1 bedroom condo for rent.
Parquet floors & screened balcony. 2nd floor end unit close to UF, VA & Vet School. No pets or smokers. Community pool. Call Vicki at 352-316-3636 for more info. 4-1-09-10-2

2BR/1.5 BA townhouse w W/D. \$750/month. Some utilities included. Two blocks south of Archer Rd. & 34th St. Rent directly from owners. No middle agent. 786-399-4592 for apt. 4-7-09-14-2

2BR 1BA Apts \$650/MO
5 Blks to UF, Central H & Air
Laundry Fac. Carpet, Pets Allowed.
829 SW 5th Avenue
Call Merrill Management Inc.
352-372-1494 3-31-9-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

1BR 1BA Near Sams Club! \$400/Mo
Window A/C, Tile Floor, Laundry
Facilities on site. 2901 NW 14th St.
Call Merrill Management Inc.
352-372-1494 3-31-9-2

BIKE TO UF! HUGE luxury 2006 2bd/2ba condo for rent, 1.5 mi. from campus. Vaulted ceilings, slatted balcony, W/D, walk-in closets & more. 1,410 sqft! Avail. May 2009. \$1,100/mo. 359-1112 or katewallis83@yahoo.com 5-26-09-30-2

1 & 2BR/1BA
Tile throughout, front gated patio. Off of 34th St. On bus #12. Pet friendly. From \$689/mo. Call 352-377-1633. www.lenoxcorner.com 4-22-25-2

10 BLOCKS TO UF 2 story cottage. Very private. Large, fenced yard. Pets ok. 2 car parking underneath. Quaint 1BR/1BA, Lg kitchen, dining room, living room. 226 SW 4th Ave. \$675/mo. Avail 8/1 352-376-2184 4-1-09-10-2

10 BLOCKS TO UF Quaint 1BR/1BA apt in historic Victorian house. Large rooms, wd flrs, high ceilings, fans, AC/heat, scrn porch, huge fenced yard. Most pets ok. 225 SW 3rd Ave. \$550/mo Avail 8/1 352-376-2184 4-1-09-10-2

LARGE ROOM
Mexican tile floors, private bath, private entry. Incl utils & cable. \$550/mo. 1st month + sec. 352-256-0999 3-26-08-5-2

PET'S PARADISE

\$375 - \$650. No app or pet fee. 1 & 2BR, privacy fenced. SW. 352-331-2099 4-2-09-10-2

LARGE 4BR HOUSE, 2 blocks to UF/Sorority Row area. Ample parking. Totally remodeled. Cent AC/Ht., wood floors, dishwasher, icemaker, W/D, 1BA. Pets ok. \$1840. 665-8166 5-26-09-30-2

2BR HOUSE, 3 blocks to UF/Sorority Row area. Central AC/Ht., wood floors, parking, fenced yard. Pets ok. \$950. 665-8166 5-26-09-30-2

NW 1br minutes from UF, dwntwn, Shands, cent air/heat, deck, w/d hkp, some util incld \$495 Edbaurmanagement.com -1731 NW 6th St 375-7104 4-16-09-20-2

1/1 EFFICIENCY FOR RENT. \$450/mo w/ utils & wireless incl. Bike to campus or downtown. 250 sq ft, no stove. Semi-furnished. Call 352-219-3608 to inquire. Avail May 1st. 3-26-09-5-2

WWW.BELLAPROPERTIES.NET
Luxury Apartments at a great price!
Call 335-5424
4-2-09-10-2

3 Subleases

**DON'T WAIT
TO PLACE YOUR
SUBLEASE AD**
Last spring semester
paper published on
April 22nd.
CALL TODAY!!!
OR
**PLACE YOUR AD AT
WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG**

3 Subleases

Sublease in Looking Glass Apts. 1Br/1Ba in a 2Br/2Ba apartment. Great location (Very close to UF campus), reduced rate. Furnished and roommate is very quiet. \$400 a month - reduced from \$570. Call 727-742-6610. 3-20-09-7-3

Spacious 1BR apt to sublet \$500/mo. Money saved. 4117 SW 20th Ave. #249. Pine Rush Villas. Private bath, private BR. All furniture is for sale - bargain priced! 352-226-8959, 352-221-0119 3-23-09-5-3

SUMMER SUBLEASE - COURTYARDS
\$469 - Directly across street from UF
Multiple rooms available
Completely Furnished/Utilities Included
Mike: mbiemann@ufl.edu 949-981-5012
3-24-5-3

Summer Sublease: 1 bedroom / 1 bath in 3/3 townhouse. In a great location. available furnished. Will sacrifice for only \$300 a month. Call 954-288-5889 4-10-09-18-3

**1 BLOCK FROM UF/LIBRARY WEST! 1
BR/1BA IN 2/2 IN LOOKING GLASS APTS.
FREE INTERNET. WASHER/DRYER,
DISHWASHER. AVAIL 5/1-8/15. \$499/
MONTH OR BEST OFFER. (850) 525-4532.
3-31-10-3**

Royal Village Sublease \$325
One or Two bedrooms available
Walk to UF. Near Sorority Row.
On Bus Route
(985)-249-9061 3-24-5-3

SUMMER SUBLEASE 3/3 @ University
House Apts, May-August. Brand new. Private
balcony, wash/dry, totally furnished, close to
campus. For more info, call 954-558-3017.
3-24-5-3

**SUMMER SUBLEASE: JEFFERSON 2ND
AVE.** \$500/mo., reduced from \$600. Available
May- August. Walking distance from cam-
pus & Downtown. Fully furnished, 42 in. flat
screen, washer/dryer/dishwasher. Unlimited
internet & cable, with pool and balcony.
Leave message for Dan at 727.267.5608
3-20-09-3-3

**SUMMER SUBLEASE @ Windsor Park:
MAY-AUGUST.** Master Bedroom w/ private
bath. Wash/dry. PETS WELCOME. 3 diff bus
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Corner of 13th & University. Lg rm w/pvt BA
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4 Roommates

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4 Roommates

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8	1	9	3	7	5	2	6	4
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18 Personals**HIV ANTIBODY TESTING**

BIGGER AND BUTLER

Second-year coach responsible for turnaround in team's attitude, record

By CHRISTOPHER YAZBEC

Alligator Writer
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Amanda Butler says she bleeds orange and blue, and it's hard not to believe her.

There's no place she'd rather be than UF.

If being a Gator means being the best, as the UF women's basketball coach believes it does, why would she want to go anywhere else?

For a coach who inherited a team on the brink of disaster, Butler has turned her dream job into an unforeseen reality.

She has made her mark on the women's basketball program inexplicably fast.

When Butler stepped to the podium after being named the Gators' new leader on April 13, 2007, the questions came.

How long? How long will it take to turn this team around?

Nearly two years later, the answer has arrived, as Butler has held true to the team's motto — "Bigger and Better" — and led the team to the NCAA Tournament.

"This is my expectation: I think this is the best university in the best conference in the country," Butler said. "To be able to call yourself a Gator, it means that you have championship expectations. That's how we're going to live. That's how we're going to work. That's how we're going to play."

"As far as we've come, I think we've seen that. But I also think we've just scratched the surface."

The rest of the teams in the Southeastern Conference will not like that idea.

In Butler's eyes, the well of potential at UF is endless.

Toughness

Butler played for UF from 1990-94 as the Gators' point guard, helping lead the team in her senior year to the best record in school history at the time while also compiling an undefeated record at home.

Anyone who saw her play knew she was tough as nails.

Legend has it that one time she popped her shoulder back into place by banging it up against a wall.

Talk about toughness.

It's the one thing seniors Sha Brooks and Marshae Dotson could think of when asked what quality their coach has instilled in them.

"Toughness," Brooks said. "She preaches about toughness all the time. She says you have to be tough. I believe that if you're tough, you can do anything."

"Just be tough," Dotson added. "Don't take no crap from anyone. That's just her mindset. She's very aggressive and very straightforward."

When Dotson broke her nose in the season opener against Xavier last year and chipped her tooth a couple weeks later — she needed a root canal and a crown — Dotson said Butler was on her case about

missing time in practice.

Dotson not only played in each game after her injuries, but she led the team in scoring with 25 and 18 points in those two games.

Freshman center Azania Stewart, who was experiencing kidney pains in September, said Butler — uncertain of Stewart's illness — tried to console Stewart by telling her she'd be fine.

Stewart later had to have her kidney removed a month before the season began.

It's safe to say there are no excuses with Butler.

She never made excuses as a player, and she has carried that same attitude into coaching. It seems to have worked so far.

Gator First, Coach Second

Butler, Dotson and Brooks can all remember the first time Butler addressed the team after being introduced as the Gators' new head coach.

"One of the first things I told them was that I was not addressing them as their new head coach, that I was addressing them as a Gator," Butler said. "I was addressing them as someone who had worn the uniform, and them understanding the opportunity for me to be here is maybe even more personal than professional."

Butler had to sell herself to a room full of players she hadn't recruited, players who hadn't chosen her to be their coach.

"I wanted to know two things from them, and I wanted them to see two things from me and from my staff," Butler said.

"I wanted to know how hard they were going to work and that I could trust them, and I was going to do my darndest to show them how hard I would work and that they could trust me. And that if we could prove those two things to each other every day, then we had a chance to make something special happen."

It didn't take long for the players to buy in to her message.

"This lady is all about business," Dotson said of her first impression of Butler. "She's a very direct person, and you've just kind of got to respect that."

The Eyebrow

But even in Butler's most serious and intense moments, there's humor.

Picture this: A screaming coach calls a timeout because her team just made a terrible mistake in a game. Butler glares into the faces of players scared to look her way as they make their way to the bench, and then Fred comes out.

Yes, Fred — the name players gave Butler's hunched over, raised eyebrow that strikes fear in their hearts.

"Fred comes out sometimes," Dotson said. "(Butler) came to practice sometime last week with a hat on and we're like, 'Yeah,

we like that. We can't see Fred.'"

Brooks said her coach has a commanding presence when she enters a room.

"I tell her all the time she scares me because when you walk in the room, it's like the President has just walked in," Brooks said. "It's like you know you better step it up, or either you're going to be in the locker room crying or you're going to be on the bench."

Butler has a slightly different take on Fred.

I tell her all the time she scares me because when you walk in the room, it's like the President has just walked in.

Sha Brooks
UF senior guard

"I don't know really the look," she said while laughing. "I don't even know how to do it. It's clearly an expression that just happens, probably in the more intense moments. But it has become a characteristic that gets their attention, and I think that's probably a good thing."

As high as Fred might be raised sometimes, that height doesn't come anywhere near the level of Butler's expectations for her team.

Butler said if anything about her has changed since she took the job, it's only that her expectations have risen.

Quick Turnaround

Assistant coach Susie Gardner has a theory on why Butler has been so successful at UF so quickly.

There were already some players in place, Gardner says, although she's quick to point out they were the same players who had won just nine games the year before Butler's arrival.

Combine the talent with change, a chance to spark a new fire and — most importantly — adding Butler to the equation.

"She made them from Day 1 believe that they were a special team, that they were special players," Gardner said. "We can talk about X's and O's, but the main part of coaching is to make your players believe, and she did that in a very positive manner."

Butler was hesitant to believe she could take this team to the NCAA Tournament early in her time at UF. She was more concerned with working hard every day and setting a high standard for her players.

"What we've seen, the progress we've seen and how quickly it's been made is a demonstration of the work ethic of the young ladies who've committed to an idea of trying to be the best," Butler said.

It's almost certain they have modeled their own work ethic after that of their head coach.

It's the mentality that enables Butler to fly in from a recruiting trip, head to a morning press con-

ference and be in the practice gym in time to scout UF's next opponent on film while riding an exercise bike and answering reporters' questions — all at the same time.

The players see that effort from their coach and want to replicate it.

The result: a top-25 ranking this season and a ticket to the Big Dance.

"Has it happened quicker than I thought it would? I don't feel like we're where we want to go yet," Butler said. "Have we made tremendous strides? Absolutely. But we're not at the top of the mountain, and that will be probably the greatest measure of how quickly things happen."

For someone who wears her passion for this program on her sleeve — and under her skin — the question may now become how long it will take UF to win a national title.

"It has everything to do with a mindset," Butler said.

"It has everything to do with having championship expectations, because to me that's what being a Gator is about. You want to be the best. You don't want to finish in the top half of the conference. You're not trying to be a top-four seed. You want to be No. 1. Clearly we're not quite there yet, but hopefully taking steps in the right direction."

With Butler at the helm, UF might reach that pinnacle sooner than anyone could have imagined.



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff
UF coach Amanda Butler signals to her team during their 66-57 win against Tennessee in the O'Connell Center on Feb. 8. Her team will make its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2006 on Sunday.

Sports

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2009

ALLIGATOR

www.alligatorSports.org

UF back in NCAA Tournament after 2-year layoff

By CHRISTOPHER YAZBEC

Alligator Writer
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Only three of them know the feeling.

When No. 8-seed UF (23-7, 9-5 Southeastern Conference) steps on the court Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in Storrs, Conn., for the first round of the NCAA Tournament against No. 9-seed Temple (21-9, 11-3 Atlantic 10), postseason experience will not be on the Gators' side.

Of the 15 names on UF's current roster, seniors Sha Brooks, Marshae Dotson and Kim Critton are the only players who have ever tasted an NCAA Tournament game, and even their experience was brief.

The lone matchup they took part in — a forgettable 83-59 loss to New Mexico in 2006 — seems so distant now.

"It's still kind of new to me," Brooks said. "We made the tournament my freshman year. That was so long ago. I'm pretty sure I'm going to be nervous the first game."

It's clear UF will not be relying on its postseason experience if it wants to generate a deep run in the tournament.

The Gators will focus on what got them to this point and how they can take advantage of the opportunity.

"Experience does factor in some, but I think what factors in a whole lot more to that is readiness, excitement and what your expectations are," UF coach Amanda Butler said.

UF doesn't want to settle for simply making it to the Big Dance.

In fact, the Gators feel like they have something to prove after not getting the higher seed they thought they deserved.

"We have a chip on our shoulder right now," Brooks said. "We're ready to go out there and play."

The team they'll face has two common opponents with the Gators. The Owls fell to Auburn and FSU early in the season by double-digit margins.

UF went 1-1 against those two teams on the road, knocking off the Seminoles in November by 15 points but losing to Auburn by 16 in January.

"One of the things that's been special about this team all year long is no matter who we were playing or where we were playing them, we've expected to win," Butler said. "And I don't think that will change in postseason."

The Gators will be playing on No. 1-seed Connecticut's home floor, and Brooks expects the home crowd to be pulling for the underdog Owls to knock off the Gators, something she hopes her team will use to its advantage.

"I think our team will feed off of that," Brooks said.

All Butler is concerned about at this point is beating Temple, no matter how little familiarity the Gators have with the tournament.

"We have a few players that have some postseason experience, some NCAA experience. Most of our team does not," Butler said. "But I think when you're doing something for the first time, it's really exciting when you combine a little bit of experience with a whole lot of excitement."

"I'll take that result."

Donovan shakes up lineup

By MIKE DIFERDINANDO

Alligator Staff Writer
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UF coach Billy Donovan shook up the starting lineup in the Gators' opening game of the National Invitation Tournament, giving freshman Erving Walker the nod over Chandler Parsons.

Both players scored in double figures, and Parsons registered just his second double-double of the season.

"Coming out of the SEC tournament, it was pretty obvious that Chandler could be playing a lot, and I was trying to help him a little bit," UF coach Billy Donovan said.

Parsons went for 17 points and a career-high 14 rebounds against Jacksonville.

"Maybe being in a lot less pressure-, stress-

related role is something he is a lot more comfortable with," Donovan said. "He did play well yesterday."

Parsons is averaging 9.4 points and 5.7 rebounds per game this season and is shooting just 30 percent from 3-point range.

"I haven't been playing as well as I should be this year," he said.

Donovan said Walker will start again tonight at 7 when UF (24-10) takes on Miami in the second round of the NIT.

The Hurricanes (19-12) are led by senior guard Jack McClinton, who is averaging 19.5 points per game this year and scored 25 against

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 23



Men's
Basketball

ONLINE

The women's track and field team is heading to Orlando for a weekend meet, and the Gators will use Mariam Kevkhishvili's leadership as an example. For more on that story, go online to alligator.org/sports.

TODAY IN UF SPORTS HISTORY

2005: No. 4-seed UF loses its second-round game in the NCAA Tournament to No. 5-seed Villanova 76-65 in Nashville, Tenn. Senior David Lee had 20 points, but it wasn't enough to overcome the Wildcats.

POLL

Today's question: Is your bracket busted after the first day of the NCAA men's basketball tournament?

Help
Hurt

Percent (Votes)
56% (20)
44% (16)

36 TOTAL VOTES

Previous question: Did Percy Harvin and Louis Murphy help or hurt their draft stock by not running the 40-yard dash on Wednesday? (see right for results)



Katie Tschopp / Alligator

UF guard Sha Brooks drives toward the basket during the Gators' 83-74 loss to the Razorbacks in the O'Connell Center on Feb. 19.

UF GYMNASTICS

Gators limp to SEC meet

By EUGENIO TORRENS

Alligator Writer

You may have heard, but in case you haven't: The UF gymnastics team is hurting. Bad.

More than a third of the team is injured, with Alicia Goodwin and Amanda Castillo the latest to fall. Goodwin sprained her left knee during practice Wednesday and is out for the Southeastern Conference Championships while Castillo partially tore her left Achilles tendon and is out for the season.

Already on the physically-unable-to-perform list: Nicole Ellis, Kailey Tissue and Rebekah Zaiser.

UF (6-4, 3-3 SEC) is fully aware and has no choice but to take the injuries in stride as it preps for the SEC Championships starting Saturday.

SEE GYM, PAGE 23

Infield in flux at start of series against Tennessee

■ JOSH ADAMS HAS BEEN MOVED TO SHORTSTOP.

By BOBBY CALLOVI

Alligator Writer
bcallovi@alligator.org

Who's on first, What's on second, I Don't Know's on third.

Lately, predicting who will start in the Gators' infield has been as confusing as Abbott and Costello's famous sketch.

UF coach Kevin O'Sullivan has put out seven different lineups in the infield in the last eight games with mostly the same faces, just in different spots.

When UF (11-7, 0-3 Southeastern Conference) opens its three-game series against Tennessee (9-9, 1-2 SEC) at 6:30 tonight in

Gainesville, the infield could have a new look again.

"Good infielders can usually play anywhere you ask them to play as long as they have practiced there," O'Sullivan said. "It's not like we're asking a guy to play second who hasn't taken ground balls there."

The infielders — Josh Adams, Jerico Weitzel, Mike Mooney, Clayton Pisani, Brandon McArthur and Preston Tucker — have been inconsistent. They have committed an error in 11 of the 18 games and have had some of their worst games lately.

On Sunday at Arkansas, the infielders made four errors, and they booted another three balls Wednesday night against Central Florida.

With only two practice days

a week, they often have to correct their problems in games, but the best remedy is usually a short memory.

"Baseball is a sport where you just got to forget about stuff," Weitzel said. "You have to learn

from your mistakes, but you got to let them go and move on to the next day and the next ground ball."

They are making the most of the extra time they have to improve, though, taking over 200 ground balls at practices and getting to the field early on game days to get in as many grounders as they can.

To help solve some of the prob-

lems in the infield, O'Sullivan has replaced Mooney at shortstop, moving Adams to take over as the leader of the infield.

Adams describes his style of leadership as lead-by-example, but the sophomore is now being asked to be a vocal leader as well, something he is still learning how to do.

As the shortstop and one-half of the double-play duo, it is crucial for Adams to communicate with whoever is playing second base that game.

"We're leaning on Josh to direct traffic at shortstop," O'Sullivan said. "It's the same old baseball philosophy that you have to be strong up the middle to be a good team, and that's why we moved Josh there."

While Adams is finding a home

at short, O'Sullivan plans on taking advantage of the versatility of his other players to find a lineup that consistently works.

He has used Mooney at short and third, Pisani at second and third and McArthur at first and third.

Mooney and Pisani, along with Adams and Weitzel, have all seen time in practice at second, short and third to keep as many options open as possible.

And the Gators' skipper isn't planning to stop mixing up his infield anytime soon.

"It's your responsibility as a coach to keep trying different things to see what works," O'Sullivan said.

"It would be silly to run out the same lineup every game if things aren't clicking."



Weitzel

Walker tries to take charge of freshman class, become team leader

HOOPS, from page 22

Providence on Wednesday.

"McClinton is a lot like (Kentucky guard) Jodie Meeks," Donovan said. "He's a great shooter. He can go for 30 or 40 on any given night."

The Hurricanes missed out on the NCAA Tournament despite wins against No. 16 FSU, No. 12 Wake Forest and Maryland.

"We're playing a team that was preseason in the top 10, top 15, that's in the (Atlantic Coast Conference) and has one of the best players in the country," Donovan said. "I think our guys will understand that."

"Blake Griffin's my boy. I talk to him almost every day."

Chandler Parsons
UF sophomore forward

Donovan said his decision to put Walker in the starting lineup had as much to do with what the point guard brings to the team off the court as on it.

"There's just a natural competitiveness and toughness that I see inside of him," Donovan said. "We need more of that."

Donovan said he hopes Walker can develop into the kind of

leader his team has been missing.

"It's a little tougher as a freshman," Walker said. "You don't want to step on anyone's toes. It's a work in progress."

Walker has tried to ease into the new role by taking charge of the freshman class.

"There's a trust and a bond we can create," he said. "I feel like we can talk to each other about anything."

PARSONS PULLING FOR OKLAHOMA: While Parsons said he is going to have a hard time watching this year's NCAA Tournament, the sophomore will be cheering for Oklahoma.

"Blake Griffin's my boy. I talk to him almost every day," Parsons said. "He had a senior trip to Orlando (in high school), and he stayed at my house for like a week."

Hartung to return to lineup for SEC Championships on bars, beam, but not floor

GYM, from page 22

three heavy hitters."

She also mentioned big contributions from all-arounders Elizabeth Mahlich and Courtney Gladys.

The Gators welcome back Hartung, who has been sidelined the last two meets with a third-degree strain of the soleus muscle in her left calf, to the competitive lineup.

She will be performing on uneven bars and balance beam, and Faehn said Hartung would probably be in the vault lineup as

well.

She still won't compete on floor exercise in an effort to get her fully healthy for the NCAA Regional competition on April 4.

Courtney Gladys, who has competed in the all-around in the last two meets, will make it three straight in the SEC Championships.

"I enjoy doing all-around, to be able to step in for a teammate. I was more than happy to do it," Gladys said.

Given the injuries, Faehn said the team is

re-evaluating how it heads into the meet. The main focus is to have every gymnast hit every routine possible.

Winning isn't out of the question, but the Gators will need some help from other SEC foes, including Georgia, which beat UF 198.2 to 196.65 earlier this season.

The No. 1 Bulldogs' score is the nation's highest this season.

For a team running on fumes, UF is also running on team unity — something not to be overrated on the competition floor.

"Almost every other week there was another person going down," Gladys said.

"Our team has come together closer this year because of it. Staying strong and staying as one unit is going to help us get through the year."

With such a close-knit group, it hasn't been easy for the healthy ones to see their teammates' seasons cut short.

"It's definitely taking a toll on us," said Ashley Kerr, who unexpectedly filled in for Amanda Castillo on beam during the Utah meet on March 13.

"It's really cool that I can be out there, but I hate the reasoning. I love that I'm able to step up, but at what cost?"

Alfred A. McKethan Stadium

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UF SPORTS ROUNDUP

No. 1 softball enters toughest stretch of SEC season

By ADAM BERRYAlligator Staff Writer
aberry@alligator.org

The UF softball team is ready for a little March Madness of its own.

The No. 1 Gators (29-2, 8-0 Southeastern Conference) are entering one of the toughest stretches of the season with back-to-back series against two highly ranked conference rivals ahead.

With No. 2 Alabama coming to town next weekend, UF will face No. 6 Tennessee (24-3, 2-0 SEC) in a three-game home stand at Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium this weekend, starting with a doubleheader Saturday at 1 p.m.

"We're in the toughest part of our season," UF coach Tim Walton said. "This is probably where the SEC will be won and lost — in the next two weeks."

UF only dropped one conference matchup last season — a 1-0 loss at Alabama — and although the team knows the next few weeks will be the biggest test so far this season, Walton wants his players to take a more emotional

outlook on the two SEC showdowns.

"The winning ways are almost becoming expectations and becoming part of a businesslike mentality," he said. "The majority of players on this team are 99-7 over a two-year period, and you can't argue with the success that they've had. I just want them to play with a little more enthusiasm and play with a little more excitement."



Walton

UF might also want to play with more aggressiveness at the plate after their slow start against Florida International on Wednesday. The Gators were outhit 7-4 by the Golden Panthers in their first game.

"If we're going to be successful against Tennessee, we're going to have to do a much better job swinging the bat and swinging at good pitches and putting a team away really, really early," Walton said after Wednesday's games.

Sophomore pitcher Stephanie Brombacher (14-0, 0.72 ERA) said she expects her team-

mates to return to their early season form at the plate in the upcoming conference series, but the team's performance out in the field will be most critical to its success.

"It's going to be a fight to the end. Every game's going to be close, and we need to play defense like we did (against FIU)," Brombacher said. "We need to hit the ball a little bit better, but I think our hitters are ready, and I know our team's ready for Tennessee."

MEN'S GOLF TRAVELS TO GEORGIA FOR E-Z-GO INVITATIONAL: While students are looking forward to the relaxation that comes with the end of the semester, the No. 5 UF men's golfers are looking forward to the end of school for a different reason.

To them, late April means one thing: the postseason. With only two events remaining in the regular season, the Gators want to make the most of their last two tournaments.

The team travels to Statesboro, Ga., to play in the Chris Schenkel E-Z-Go Invitational today, the first of those final two regular-season events.

"The challenge for us is to keep improving

and play well," coach Buddy Alexander said. "We have to try to focus on the little things, on where we might improve, rather than just going up there with the sole goal of winning the golf tournament," he said.

Creativity and decision-making on the course are two of the key areas Alexander said his team must improve before season's end.

UF's previous two tournaments featured some of the top competition in the country. In this tournament, however, UF will be the top-ranked team participating.

"I think our kids are going up there with the idea that we have a pretty legitimate chance to win the golf tournament," Alexander said.

Senior Billy Horschel added to his coach's statement, saying that his team does not want to settle with a top-five national ranking.

"People can say we are playing well, but what we want to do here in Florida is win tournaments," Horschel said.

The five golfers who will play for UF this weekend are Horschel, Tim McKenney, Will Strickler, Tyson Alexander and Mu Hu.

- ANTHONY CHIANG

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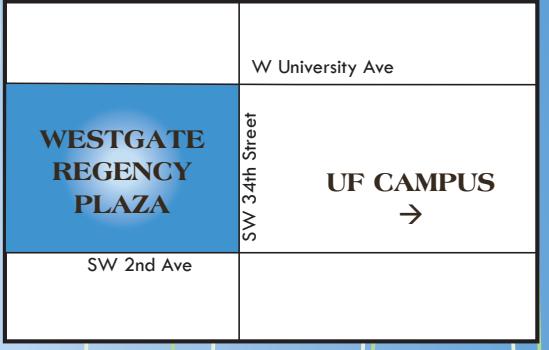
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