



INCUMBENTS SWEEP ELECTION

Amendment 1 fails; About 20,000 vote

By **HUNTER SIZEMORE** and **JACQUELYN WEINER**
Alligator Writers

Both Gainesville city commissioners who were up for re-election will serve another term, voters decided in Tuesday's citywide election.

At-Large Commissioner Jeanna Mastrodicasa and District 1 Commissioner Scherwin Henry will both serve their second three-year term.

"I wasn't fully expecting this big of a win, but I'm delighted to have it," Mastrodicasa said. Mastrodicasa gained a clear majority of the At-Large votes at 58.13 percent.

Entering the room where candidates, their supporters and a bevy of anti-Amendment 1 volunteers waited for the results, Mastrodicasa was greeted with a celebratory uproar.

"Whoa," she said, looking at the results on the projector screen. "Whoa."

Sitting nearby was At-Large candidate Robert Krames, who came in second place with 25.08 percent of the vote.

Krames, somber-faced in a blue-collared shirt and tie, stared at the screen as his wife gripped his index finger.

"I worked really hard to get my name out there," Krames said in an interview a few moments later.

Tom Cunilio, another of the five At-Large candidates, also looked unhappy as he watched the election results.

Cunilio received 6.27 percent of the vote.

"I quite frankly didn't expect such a strong trend toward

SEE ELECTION, PAGE 14



Sarah Hsu / Alligator Staff

Liz Hartwell, left, and other citizens cheer after seeing the election results for Amendment 1 at Brophy's Irish Pub downtown Tuesday night. About 58 percent of voters voted against the amendment, preventing its passing.

GAINESVILLE CITY ELECTIONS

Number of student voters increases

By **EMILY FUGGETTA**
Alligator Writer
efuggetta@alligator.org

The number of people who voted on campus in city elections Tuesday more than quadrupled those who voted in 2006.

More than 1,500 registered on-campus voters turned out at the polls on Tuesday as opposed to 363 in 2006, according to a Supervisor of Elections statistics report.

UF business management senior Nicole Joury said her motive for voting was to fight Amend-

ment 1, which, if passed, would have removed Gainesville's civil rights ordinance.

Joury said if she didn't feel so strongly about the amendment, she would have remained a registered voter in West Palm, where she has voted in the past.

"They're covering it up with this bullshit about protecting people in bathrooms or whatever," she said. "No one should have the ability to take away people's rights like that just because they don't agree with

SEE CAMPUS, PAGE 13

Vietnamese offered again

UF officials said Tuesday they plan to offer the Vietnamese classes taught by laid-off assistant professor Andrea Pham next year.

Pham, however, wrote in an e-mail that she hasn't decided yet if she will teach them.

Pham was scheduled to be laid off in June as a result of budget cuts, but an arbitrator overturned her layoff more than a week ago, ruling that UF violated its contract with the faculty union when it decided to let her go.

Since Pham is the only faculty member who teaches UF's two Vietnamese courses, they were originally scheduled to be eliminated.

Ann Wehmeyer, interim chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, said her department plans to add the courses to the schedule for next year, pending confirmation from Pham.

But Pham wrote she has not made up her mind.

"Whether I will teach these classes next year is (s)til not clear," she wrote. "I need to solve some complications that this layoff has created for me."



Pham

UF spokesman Janine Sikes said Pham has not been officially reinstated yet, though she said the process is under way.

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Paul D'Anieri and UF Provost Joe

Glover did not respond to an e-mail asking about her reinstatement.

— **THOMAS STEWART**



■ Erving Walker (left) and the UF men's basketball team's season came to an end Tuesday night in the with a 71-62 loss to Penn State in the NIT quarter-finals. See Story, Page 22

Priest sentenced in theft case

WEST PALM BEACH, (AP) — A Florida priest who pleaded guilty to stealing more than \$370,000 from his church was sentenced Tuesday to 14 months in prison.

The Rev. John Skehan, 81, acknowledged taking the money from St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church in Delray Beach during his 40 years as a priest there.

During his sentencing hearing last week, Skehan and supporters pleaded

with the judge for leniency. Skehan had faced from 22 months to up to 30 years in prison.

"I humbly ask this court to consider the whole of my life in pronouncing this judgment," Skehan told the judge.

On Tuesday, Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Jeffrey Colbath sentenced Skehan to 14 months in prison.

The sentence will be followed by seven years probation for the first-degree grand theft charge.

Today

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News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Peace Corps in Latin America

Today, 6:30 p.m.
Returned volunteers will discuss their experiences living and working in Latin America as Peace Corps Volunteers. A recruiter will be available to talk about the application process. All majors and community members welcome. E-mail peacecorps@ufic.ufl.edu for questions.

Final Relay for Life Team Captain's Meeting

Today, 6:30 p.m.
Little Hall, Room 113

Gator Smiles Third Annual Band Party

Today, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Bishop Tavern,
1 W. University Ave.
Help raise money for children with cleft lips and palates by coming to a local band night. The money raised will help pay for their surgeries. Performances by: The Rooze, Kellen Malloy and High Life. Visit www.gatorsmiles.com for more information.

"Neither National nor Global: Immigrant Spaces and Subjects" Talk by Saskia Sassen

Thursday, 7 p.m.
Pugh Hall Ocora
Sponsored by the Center for European Studies.

International Brown Bag Lunch "CHINA: Perspectives of a Study Abroad Student and an International Chinese Student"

Thursday
11:45 a.m. to 12:25 p.m.
The Hub International Center, Room 145
Attendees should feel free to bring their own lunches. Call 352-273-1536 for more info.

FORECAST

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
PARTLY CLOUDY 80/58	PARTLY CLOUDY 83/59	PARTLY CLOUDY 85/62	PARTLY CLOUDY 87/60	THUNDER STORMS 78/50

Jewish Student Union General Meeting

Today, 7 p.m.
UF Hillel
Come and enjoy free food while hearing what events the group has in store.

Islam on Campus at the University of Florida presents: "Laughing Is Not Haram"

Saturday, doors at 7:30 p.m., Event begins at 8:15
MSB Auditorium, Health Science Center
A night of Muslim comedy featuring Hamzah Moin (ManiacMuslim), Gandaghee and Asif Ali (Brown Man Group). The event is free. Must be at least 15 years old to attend.

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. Be sure to include a one- to two-sentence synopsis of the event.

STATE

Miami vets get procedures with unsterile equipment

MIAMI (AP) — A Veterans Affairs hospital in Miami has notified thousands of patients that their colonoscopies were performed with improperly sterilized equipment, officials said Monday.

The hospital urged about

3,260 patients who had colonoscopies between May 2004 and March 12 of this year to get tests for HIV, hepatitis and other diseases.

The VA insisted the risk of infection was minimal, saying the tubing that was improperly cleaned didn't make contact with patients. It was the second recent announcement of errors during colonoscopies at VA facilities.

"The very notion that veterans have to contemplate this new reality now before them and visit special care clinics to undergo blood testing is stomach-turning," U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek, D-Fla., said in a letter Monday to the VA's inspector general. "This information is shocking."

CLARIFICATION

An article in Monday's article reported the College of Education's Higher Education Administration degree will be closing beginning fall 2009 under the draft of the dean's 10 percent budget cut proposal. A higher education administration concentration will be offered in its place. Class offerings are not expected to change.

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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St. Francis House Special Permit Renewal Meeting

Thursday, March 26

6:30 pm

City Hall Auditorium

St Francis House would welcome a large turnout from the community supporting the renewal of the permits.

Questions: 378-9079

Email: sfhdire@stfrancis.cfcocmail.com



St. Francis House, Inc.

HOMELESS SHELTER AND SOUP KITCHEN

Congratulations, Carly Donnellan!

Panhellenic Woman of the Month



Congratulations to Carly Donnellan of Kappa Alpha Theta. Donnellan is a sophomore and a business administration major. She is her chapter's Panhellenic Delegate and has boosted their participation in many philanthropies. She is also a DM Hospitality Staff Member and has encouraged many of her sisters to participate alongside her.

Congratulations, Elizabeth Akerman!

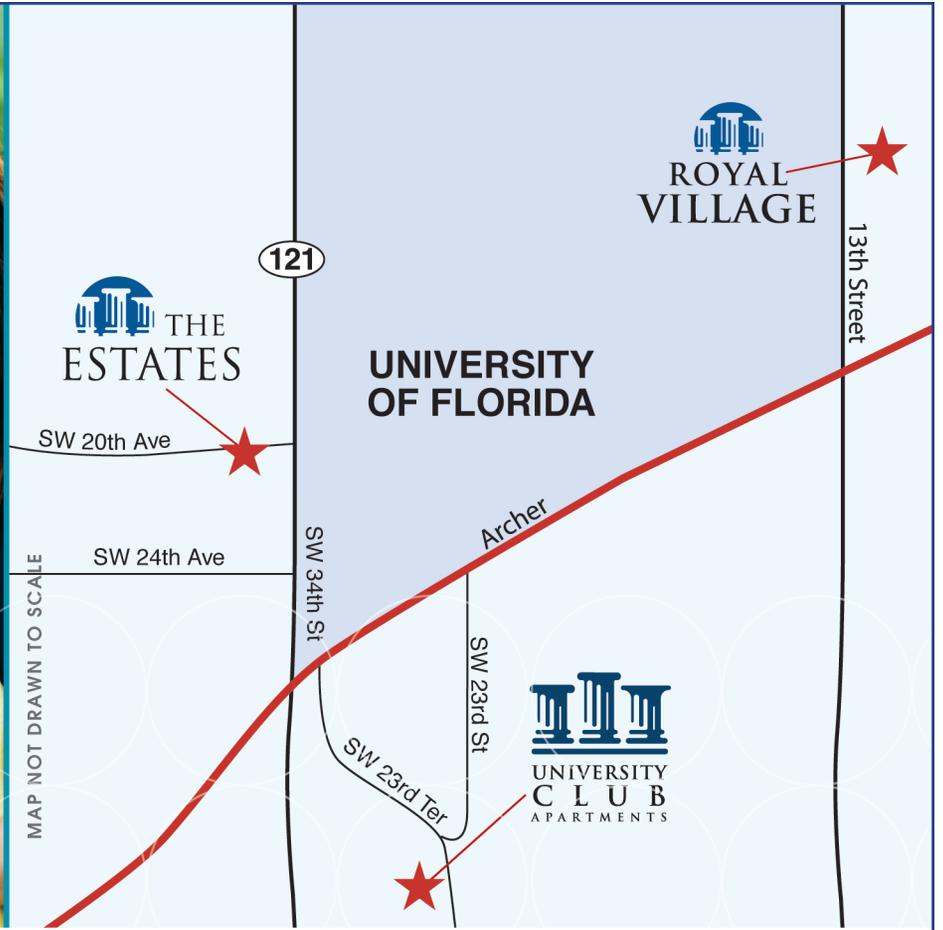
Panhellenic Scholar of the Month



Elizabeth Akerman will be graduating in May with a 4.0 grade point average and will be a part of the Harvard Law School class of 2012. In the fall semester, Elizabeth was in Tallahassee as a member of the 2009 class of the Florida gubernatorial Fellows Program.



"she sets the standard.
she's a Panhellenic woman."



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UF ACADEMICS

Large animal surgeon appointed to interim chair

By KRISTEN HUFF

Alligator Contributing Writer

UF announced the appointment of the chief of large animal surgery at UF to interim chairman of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences on Tuesday.

Dr. David Freeman, an equine surgeon, was appointed earlier this month to the position, which is in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Freeman said his greatest challenge has been deciding where to

suggest the department trim its budget, as UF President Bernie Machen has requested of all university colleges and administrative units prepare for a 10 percent cut of their budget.

However, he said he could not comment on the specific areas he's considering because the final decision will come from the dean.

Freeman was appointed to fill the space left by former chairwoman Dr. Eleanor Green, who left to become the dean of Texas A&M University's

College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.



Freeman

Freeman said he will hold the position for at least a year so the department can sort out budget issues before its structure is re-evaluated to determine specific needs. Once that is done, a national search will be conducted for a per-

manent department chair.

Freeman has continued to be chief of large animal surgery, as he was before his appointment. Additionally, now that he is interim dean, he is also chief of staff of UF's Large Animal Hospital. Freeman said he has been able to handle both positions in part because the hospital has had about one-third fewer animals due to the economy.

"We've been affected in the same way every business has," he said.

Although Freeman is excited to

work with faculty members in his temporary position, he said he also looks forward to being able to conduct more research and surgery once the position has been filled. Because of the demands of the position, he's had to cut back on clinical work, research and grant writing, he said.

"Probably from an early stage my goal was to be an equine surgeon," Freeman said. "That's what brought me to where I am today, and it still remains what I'm most interested in doing."

Undergrad nursing programs saved from budget cuts

■ THE COLLEGE MAY SEEK TO REDUCE ENROLLMENT OVER TIME.

By THOMAS STEWART

Alligator Staff Writer

The undergraduate programs in UF's College of Nursing will not be eliminated under a 10 percent budget cut proposal scheduled

to be released today by the college, said Tracy Wright, college spokeswoman.

However, the college might seek to reduce enrollment in the programs over time.

"Like the university as a whole," she said, "we're focusing more on graduate education."

Of the 734 students in the college, 340 are undergraduates, with another 333 freshman and sophomores hoping to get in when they

become juniors.

Under the proposal, no tenured faculty or faculty who would eventually be eligible for tenure would be cut, Wright said.

UF Administration

The number of temporary faculty might be cut, however, which would affect the number of undergraduates the college could teach, she

said.

In addition to the 10-percent budget cut proposal that was requested of all colleges and administrative units, the college was asked to present the pros and cons of cutting its undergraduate programs.

The College of Education was asked to do the same. It announced Friday that its undergraduate programs would also be spared.

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announces the openings for the positions

Editor,

a paid position as head of the Editorial Division
and as an unpaid member of the Board of Directors

Managing Editor/Print

AND

Managing Editor/Online,

Paid positions. Unpaid member of the Board of Directors.

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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FRIDAY

Beat the Clock

Live DJ

ACADEMICS

UF student one of 16 to win nationwide ad contest

By MARA RUDOLPH

Alligator Contributing Writer

One UF student got a taste of commercial success after creating a new advertisement for a nationwide Hardee's contest.

The commercial, which was conceived by UF telecommunications senior David Cohen, is one of 16 chosen to promote Hardee's' latest creation, the Little Thickburger.

Cohen was watching the Victoria's Secret fashion show in December when he saw a commercial for Hardee's requesting user-submitted advertisements.

"I thought to myself, 'I bet you I could make one of those,'" Cohen

said.

He logged onto the company's Web site and decided to play around with the site's ad generator.

Cohen created several joke commercials and sent them to his friends just for fun before finally submitting one to the company with the words "Just Fasted" over the Thickburger and "Just Hungry" over the Little Thickburger.

Though Cohen was worried his commercial might have too much of a religious connotation, he decided to sleep on it.

The next day, when he was walking back from class, Cohen had a flash of inspiration.

"I don't know what it was —

maybe it was somebody talking on a cell phone nearby or something, but my mind finally put together what it had been working on for the past day," he said.

"It's cool, beating out all those people with something I did overnight."

David Cohen

UF senior

He rushed home and typed the words "No room for dessert" over the Thickburger and "Vanilla or Chocolate?" over the Little Thickburger and submitted his idea.

At the time, more than 30,000

commercials had been submitted to Hardee's.

More than two months later, Cohen got an e-mail requesting his permission to use his concept as a commercial.

"Apparently one of the Hardee's representatives said I hit the marketing concept dead-on," he said. "It's cool, beating out all those people with something I did overnight."

As there are no Hardee's restaurants in Gainesville, Cohen said he has not yet had an opportunity to try the Little Thickburger.

Meanwhile, his commercial has aired several times.

Though Cohen has yet to see it, he said some of his friends saw it

aired during "American Idol."

He has remained humble about his accomplishment, citing it as "one of those things that you would write in a '10 things you don't know about me' fact list."

Cohen said he writes regularly for bleacherreport.com and co-hosted a sports talk show in St. Augustine last summer, but he has no plans to switch over to advertising.

Instead, Cohen said he is interested in a career in sportscasting. He hopes his commercial will be a stand-out piece in his portfolio.

"If it gets me through a door somewhere, then great," Cohen said. "Maybe it will open up a new door for me."

Group supports merge, not cuts

About 30 students enrolled in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders gathered on the Plaza of the Americas on Tuesday to protest the potential cut of their program from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Students handed out fliers to those passing by for about four hours and held posters reading "CSD Deserves to Stay."

During a meeting last week, dean of CLAS Paul D'Anieri announced a proposal, which would cut \$9.3 million from the college's budget. The geology department, religion department and Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders could all be on the chopping block.

Kelsey Wallace, a UF graduate student, said the proposal outlined two outcomes for the communication sciences and disorders department — to be merged into the College of Health and Human Performance or to be cut completely.

"Our program isn't more important than any other program," Wallace said. "The merger would be good for us but not a cut. I know cuts have to happen, but I want them to make sense."

Wallace said the CSD program helps veterans, stroke patients and those who suffer head injuries overcome speech problems, as well as children with speech impediments or dyslexia. Students also learn how to assist elderly with hearing problems in the audiology department. She added that the department has two nationally ranked programs, the speech pathology program is ranked No. 10 in the Association of American Universities and the audiology program is ranked No. 3.

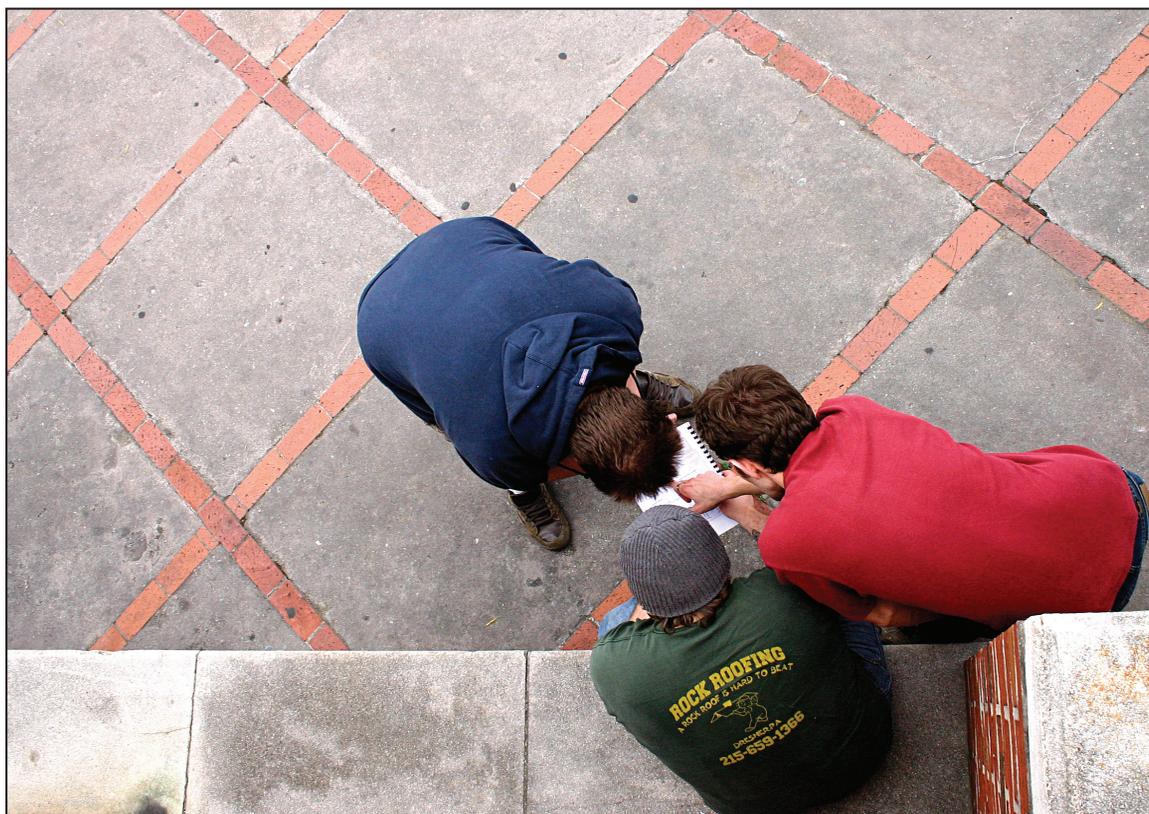
Graduate student Kristy Lewandowski agreed and said she has a Wednesday meeting set up with D'Anieri to discuss the possible cut.

"We're not trying to attack him," she said. "We're just confused as to why we're on the top tier to be completely cut."

Wallace said Tuesday's goal to raise awareness was successful and felt the majority of students showed support.

"A lot of people understand what we're going through because a similar thing is happening to their program," she said.

— CHELSEA KEENAN



Logan Jaffe / Alligator

House Hunting

Jason Froehlich, Chris Law and Drew Green check a Gainesville apartment guide Tuesday on the corner of University Avenue and 13th street. The self-proclaimed "rambling men" arrived in Gainesville at 4 p.m. Monday after about a 950-mile drive from Sellersville, Penn. "We keep traveling because we can't find a reason not to," Froehlich said.

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Editorial

Out of Mexico

Increasing security along border a good thing

News from Washington reveals word of critical steps being taken to increase security along the Mexican border, with hopes of controlling drug cartel-related violence.

According to an article in The New York Times, the presence of federal agents will be increased, along with more surveillance equipment to deter illegal traffic moving on both sides of the border. This marks the first time in U.S. history that attention will be paid to movement into Mexico by the federal government. Specifically, highly modernized X-ray machines will be installed at various entry points along the border, and \$30 million from the economic stimulus has been allocated to provide support to law enforcement based in the region.

The Editorial Board applauds the Obama Administration for taking a proactive approach to increasing the security along the Mexico border. With a great deal of violence among the drug cartels in cities such as Tijuana, located right on the U.S. border, inaction on the part of the U.S. government would have resulted in negative effects for American communities just a stone's throw away from the mayhem. Tuesday's revelation comes in the wake of Congress already setting aside \$700 million to aid Mexico in the war on drugs with sophisticated aircraft and education on how to improve the country's current legal system.

While we generally think of Spring Break when talking about safety concerns in Mexico, we must mention that more than 7,000 people have been killed during the last 14 months — a bit more important than drugs, sex and house music.

Sweet Spot

While the U.S. economy continues to sing a sour note, one sector of industry has left business owners with a sweet taste in their mouths.

According to an article in The New York Times, candy sales across the country have skyrocketed in the wake of the current financial crisis.

From inexpensive chocolates to classics such as Mary Janes and Gummy Bears, the masses have turned to sugary delights for an afternoon pick-me-up.

Most surprising is the revelation that consumers are adding candy to their shopping lists, rather than the usual impulse buy of a Reese's Fastbreak bar screaming "eat me" at the checkout line.

If Americans can boost their spirits with a Snickers bar chased with a handful of Nerds, more power to them.

Though the Editorial Board tends to parade the fact that we all belong to AlterEgo Fitness and keep tabs on each other's diets, we do concede candy remains commonplace around the Alligator newsroom.

Hell, you should have seen the way our eyes lit up just after Valentine's Day, when an arrival of leftover chocolates resulted in nothing short of a feeding frenzy.

Rumor has it that a vending machine chock full of sweets used (ahem) to exist at the Alligator back in the day until parents started to complain about having to buy new wardrobes for their budding writer or editor, thanks to an ever-expanding waistline.

Excuse us while we, uh, go hit up the Kangaroo for, umm, "bottled water."

Sigh, you caught us.

the independent florida
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EDITOR

Kristin Bjornsen
Rachel Roy

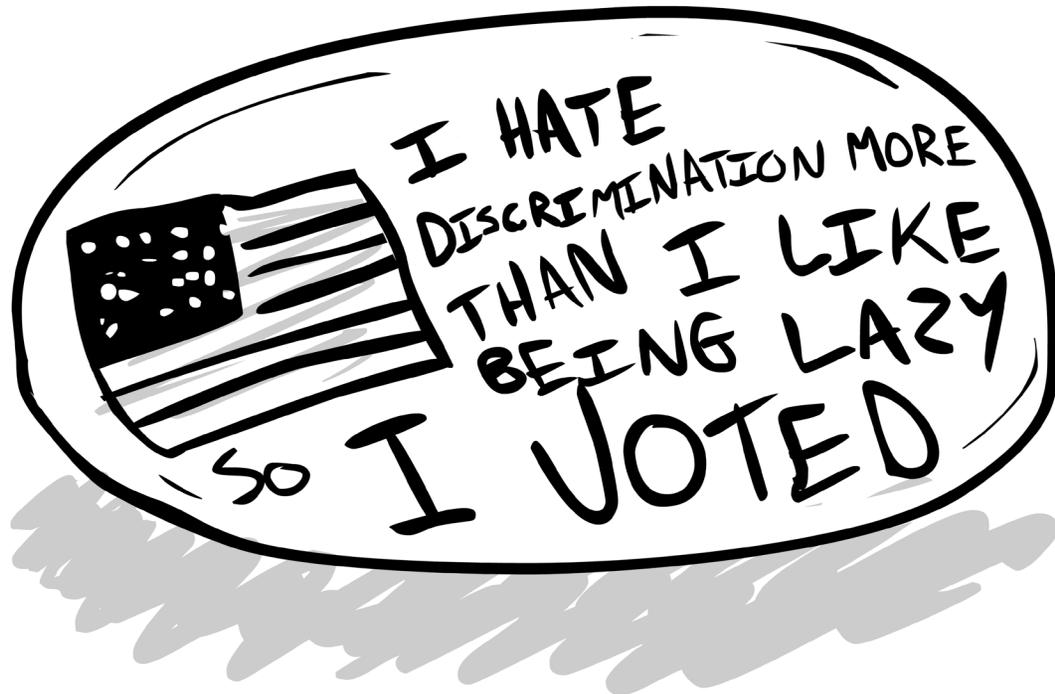
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Dan Seco
OPINIONS EDITOR

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

Opinions

ALLIGATOR
www.alligator.org/opinions



DID YOU GET YOUR STICKER?

Column

Octomom just another attention whore

She's a spectacle, and just like rubberneckerers passing a five-car pileup, Americans can't seem to look away.

The sensation that is the Octomom, otherwise known as Nadya Suleman, has been gracing television sets all over the country. Suleman spoke to Radar Online, an online entertainment magazine, through dangerously full lips about what it's like to be her — and undoubtedly collected a fat check in the process.

Shame is a foreign concept to Suleman, the woman who was catapulted to fame for being irresponsible enough to give birth to octuplets on top of her six previous children with no way to support them. So far, Suleman has reveled in the televised fanfare, milking her 15 minutes of fame for all they're worth. The Octomom did, however, draw the line at starring in an X-rated film even though she was offered a whopping million dollars.

Either she does have a shred of decorum left, or the price just wasn't right.

Suleman knew without a doubt that she wouldn't be able to financially support her brood of children, so what was her plan had she not been offered "a couple of little opportunities" from the likes of Dr. Phil and nonprofit organization Angels in Waiting?

Government assistance, of course!

Yes, the answer was quite simple to the single mother of 14: Mooch off a system meant to help people who actually desperately need financial help.

Looking a gift horse in the mouth, Suleman already fired the nannies from Angels in Waiting who were taking care of her children, saying she would find her own help.

It's anybody's guess as to how she will afford to find



Naudia Jawad
letters@alligator.org

the care for enough little ones to form her very own basketball team.

Never once did this woman stop to think that if she couldn't raise her children, perhaps she should not have had them. Suleman claimed that she was living in a state of denial and has just

begun to see the reality of being the single mother of 14 children. Ever the irresponsible drain on society, Suleman has simply decided to revel in a system that time after time has fallen prone to being easily manipulated.

Suleman was supporting her other six young children on food stamps, student loans and disability payments. Unemployed before giving birth to her octuplets, Octomom apologized to her imaginary legion of fans for what she calls a "mess," but she shows absolutely no signs of remorse or restraint.

In fact, she's certainly been hamming it up for all the cameras.

While this ordeal is the perfect example of why America desperately needs to have some sort of discourse on welfare reform, it has been portrayed as nothing more than one selfish woman's obsession with the spotlight.

Regardless of how outrageous Suleman's actions are, her children never asked to come into the world this way.

For the sake of the children, taxpayers may just have to stomach the whole ordeal and sit by as those like Suleman work the system for their own benefit.

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

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

Reader response

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Tuesday's question: Did you vote in today's election?

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Letter to the Editor

UF needs geological sciences

As a current undergraduate student, OPS research assistant and future applicant to graduate school at the University of Florida's Department of Geological Sciences, I urge Dean Paul D'Anieri, Provost Joe Glover, the Board of Trustees and President Bernie Machen to reconsider the taking a cleaver to the geological sciences department.

It is obvious that I am biased, but even when I try to put my bias aside, I cannot fathom how one of the largest universities in the country can maintain its prestige without a Department of Geological Sciences.

The proposed "worst case scenario" budget cuts to the Col-

lege of Liberal Arts and Sciences would, among other things, cut the departments of geological sciences and religion by about 50 percent.

It seems (and has been suggested by various faculty members who will remain unnamed) that this would be to slowly phase out the departments.

What needs to be done is to carefully remove certain positions at every department college-wide, rather than focusing the blunt force of the red pen on a few departments.

I cannot speak for the Department of Religion, but the Department of Geological Sciences is performing cutting-edge research that

is important to the state and the nation.

In the past few years, the Department of Geological Sciences has brought in approximately \$7 million from external sources to fund some of this research.

These research topics range from groundwater flow to possible carbon sinks, reconstructing supercontinent breakup and ocean sediment isotopes, among many other research topics.

Such components would not only add to the prestige of the very well-known department but also help better our understanding of current world problems, such as global climate change, environ-

mental issues and energy solutions.

The faculty of the Department of Geological Sciences is comprised of many very well-known scientists who are molding us budding scientists to follow in their footsteps.

These faculty members are comprised of tenured as well as nontenured faculty who are all important for the department to function.

Cutting nontenure-track and tenure-track faculty members would greatly diminish the amount of research our department could perform, slash the number of students (undergraduate and gradu-

ate alike) that the department could take in, greatly diminish the quality of education of any remaining students and almost surely lead to the phasing out of the department.

Especially with the current growing concern over our environment, the energy crisis and quickly diminishing potable water supply, not having a thriving geological sciences department would be absurd.

The Department of Geological Sciences is crucial to the success of The Gator Nation, and the proposed budget cuts would handicap our program to the point of no recovery.

Robert E. Hernandez
4LS

Guest column

Future of CLAS needs to include strong religion program

Last Wednesday College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Paul D'Anieri revealed possible CLAS budget cuts which, if implemented, would reduce funding for the Department of Religion at UF by 65 percent. This would leave the department with a mere four faculty members and would likely end the graduate program.

As graduate students from the UF religion department, we whole-heartedly concur with his vision that a liberal arts education strives to change lives and to "ask the hard questions." As students, researchers, teachers and teaching assistants, we can attest that our classes foster a space for undergraduates from across disciplines to ask "hard questions" about religious diversity. These questions will be invaluable to their futures as citizens of a global society. In order to continue to offer such a space and to contribute to the interdisciplinary relationships, we have forged within the university and beyond. It is crucial for us to retain a strong religion department.

The dean made clear that the proposed cuts are partially based upon the small number of religion majors. This criterion overlooks the wealth of resources that our department offers the students who enroll in our classes as non-majors. Our students are future scholars, but they are also future

diplomats, lawyers, public administrators, scientists, health care workers, teachers and engineers. Our introductory classes, such as Introduction to Islam, American Religious History or Environmental Ethics, allow students to engage in lively, intelligent debate as they critically analyze the complex and ever-changing place of religion in human life. They leave our classes better equipped to live, work and thrive within a globalized world. As the comments we receive on teaching evaluations can attest, our courses have changed lives.

Our students are bridge builders, forging lasting relationships within UF and on the national and international scene. Combined, we have made 13 presentations at international conferences and 98 presentations at the national or local level. We have also been published in 72 academic publications. In addition, we have been awarded 13 outside grants, fellowships and scholarships. Our graduate program, which is split into three unique tracks — Religions of Asia, Religion in the Americas and Religion and Nature — has influenced or served as an example for other graduate programs, such as the University of Texas at Austin.

We have worked with religion faculty, along with faculty from the School of Building Construction and Design, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, the

Speaking Out Budget Crisis

departments of political science, agriculture, music, world languages, history and anthropology, the McKnight Brain Institute, the Harn Museum of Art, the Water Institute, Florida State University and Fordham University, to secure several large grants and research projects, such as a \$300,000 National Science Foundation grant and a Ford Foundation grant. We have also helped faculty form organizations, such as the Center for the Study of Hindu Traditions and the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature & Culture, which has a global membership of over 300. We have given lectures or taught classes at venues around Gainesville, such as the public schools. Students have also served other departments, such as Latin American Studies, by developing and teaching new cross-listed courses. Dismantling the religion department would sever these ties that make an invaluable contribution to our university's vitality.

The dean has suggested that students can be educated about religion by other departments. Many of us have worked with scholars in other departments whose research deals with religion, and we have the utmost respect for their endeavors. Nonetheless, we maintain that a strong religion

department is crucial to the strength of the entire university.

Gaining skills over years of having religion as our central focus, we make a deep-reaching and rigorous analysis of the diverse ways that people negotiate their relationships with one another and with the nonhuman world in light of their ultimate concerns. We offer a comprehensive approach that grapples with radically diverse ways of thinking and being the world — as expressed through sacred texts and everyday, embodied cosmologies — and explores how these ways of thinking and being derive from and play out in collective action. While we do not relegate religion to a realm divorced from human life, neither do we reduce it to a simple calculus of economics, politics or neuroscience.

When religion enters the public sphere, there is often a burst of media interest. Religion appears with visible force at particular moments in history and otherwise lurks behind the scenes. The academic study of religion makes visible the continual and commonplace presence of religion in multiple arenas of life.

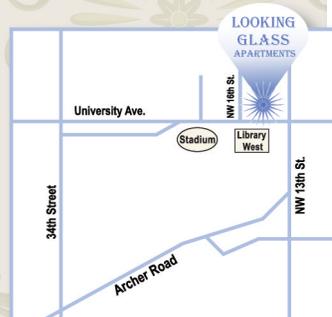
Eleanor Finnegan, Leah Sarat, Clinton Bland, Bridgette O'Brien, Sean O'Neil and Caleb Simmons contributed to the column. The above has been agreed upon by all 31 graduate students from the UF's Department of Religion.

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LOCAL UF alum arrested in crash that claimed local woman

By **THOMAS STEWART**

Alligator Staff Writer
tstewart@alligator.org

Amanda Boyd, 23, who graduated from UF in December, has been charged with DUI manslaughter for a crash in September.

Gainesville resident Betty Hinson, 74, was killed in the crash.

A warrant for Boyd's arrest

was served Monday. She was booked into the Alachua County Jail the same day, and bond was set at \$25,000.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol report, Boyd had a blood alcohol level of .21. In Florida a driver is considered impaired with a blood alcohol level of .08.

Boyd told police she left the Applebee's on Northwest 13th

Street on Sept. 1 between 5 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. after having one Michelob Ultra draft around 4 p.m.

While traveling east on University Avenue in a 1996 black Ford Ranger, Boyd veered onto the shoulder of the road at a curve.

The truck then traveled into the opposite lane, striking the left front side of Hinson's 2008 Chev-

rolet Impala at the intersection of University Avenue and State Road 26, according to the report.

The crash occurred at 5:45 p.m., according to the report.

Boyd's car continued down the road, striking a stop sign and a bike lane sign before turning over onto its right side.

Hinson was pronounced dead at the scene, the report stated.

Boyd told police she was trav-

eling about 45 mph to 50 mph, but speed calculations indicated she was traveling 60 mph to 68 mph when she applied the brakes.

A toxicology report determined Boyd had no drugs in her system but had taken prescription Wellbutrin XL, for depression and anxiety disorders.

Boyd majored in economics at UF, according to UF's Office of the Registrar.

Military girlfriends prepare for upcoming deployments

■ **PRESIDENT OBAMA IS PREPARING TO SEND 17,000 REINFORCEMENTS TO AFGHANISTAN.**

By **RACHEL KOPEC**

Alligator Contributing Writer

President Barack Obama's foreign policy hits close to home for some women. They are the few, the proud, the military girlfriends.

President Obama is preparing to send 17,000 reinforcements to Afghanistan in addition to about 35,000 troops already there.

Most of them will be deployed to small, remote bases in the most violent parts of the country, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Some deployments will happen in April, so military girlfriends at UF are preparing to say goodbye to their loved ones now.

For Jess Custer, a UF political science senior, this means postponing her wedding date an entire year.

"Things I used to read about in textbooks are now affecting whether I can order flowers for my wedding," she said.

First Lt. Brandt Anderson proposed to Custer in November, and the two planned to be married this summer before he left, until his deployment date was moved to April 12.

She said it is difficult to come to terms with the idea of him being at war for the next 12 months and to accept the Obama administration's decision to push up the date for the troop surge.

When you marry into the military,

Custer said, you marry the political administration's ideology also.

"It makes you not want to like whoever is in office," she said.

Thousands of couples have been separated in wartime, and she said there is a sense of romance to it. She will be sending care packages full of books, food and love letters.

"But the reality is, you are going to bed alone at night," she said.

Amanda Hines, who will also say goodbye to her boyfriend in April, has lived with deployment anxiety before. Her boyfriend, Greg Rigdon, a corporal in the Marine Corps, served eight months in Iraq last year.

Hines, a UF public relations junior, said she couldn't drive him to the airport last

time because it was too hard to say goodbye.

"When he left I felt numb and shaky," Hines said. "I went inside and collapsed."

While he was gone, she was always by her phone waiting for his call. She said she was always scared that the call she received wouldn't be from him.

Though his phone calls were rare, Hines was able to send him daily e-mails or Facebook messages.

But in Afghanistan, he will not have regular access to the Internet. Rigdon is set to leave mid-April and won't be home until after Thanksgiving.

Custer said the next year will be a balance between making her life choices while understanding his are on hold.

"It would be nice to have him home," she said. "It would be nice to be normal."

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Student coalition plans rally against UF budget cuts

■ RALLY TO BE HELD ON APRIL 7 ON THE PLAZA OF THE AMERICAS

By CAROLYN TILLO
Alligator Contributing Writer

Some UF students are taking a stand against budget cuts to higher education and subsequent layoffs by joining forces with faculty.

A rally designed to create a united front on the issue will be held in the Plaza of the Americas on April 7 and is organized by the student-run Coalition Save Our Schools and the United Faculty of Florida.

Save Our Schools is a coalition of student groups dedicated to raising awareness about budget cuts and encouraging students to take action.

"We're basically trying to start a dialogue between students and UF administration," said UF anthropology junior

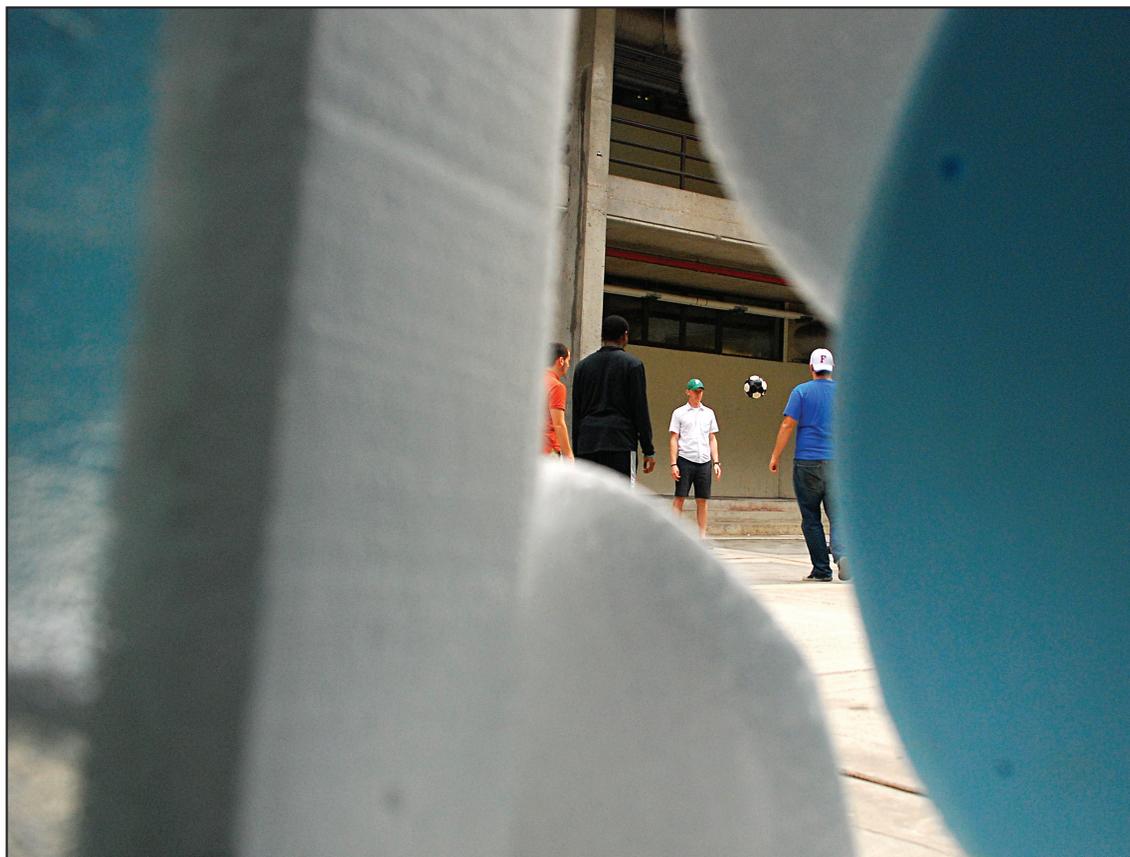
Kathryn Ranhorn, a founding member of the coalition.

The rally will feature speeches from faculty and will give students the chance to write letters to state legislators about the cuts.

The event follows the start-up of a student group at Florida State University, which has a similar goal.

On Campus The organization, known as Protect Our Professors, hopes to raise \$100,000 to donate to FSU's provost in an effort to help professors and boost their morale, said Jill Chandler, the senior class president at FSU.

Leah Rosenberg, the membership chair of the United Faculty of Florida and an associate professor of English at UF, said faculty members and students have a different understanding of impacts the cuts will make, adding they must work together to counter the cuts.



Bea Diehl / Alligator

Structural Soccer

Architecture students take a break and play a pick-up game of soccer, seen through a luminous chamber. Professor J.T. Lawton's Design 2 class built several luminous chambers that can be seen throughout the architecture building.

NATIONAL

Obama claims gains in revival from economic chaos

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama claimed early progress Tuesday night in his aggressive campaign to lead the nation out of economic chaos and declared that despite obstacles ahead, "we're moving in the right direction."

At the second prime-time news conference of his presidency, Obama also toned down his criticism of bonuses to executives at bailed-out AIG, and shot back at Republican critics of his budget.

In office for 64 tumultuous days, Obama cast his budget — now under review in Congress — as essential if the economy is to recover. The tax and spending plan "is inseparable from this recovery because it is what lays the foundation for a secure and lasting prosperity," he said.

The president also defended the U.S. dollar in the wake of China's suggestion for a universal currency, saying: "The dollar is extraordinarily strong right now," and "I don't believe that there is a need for a global currency."

The news conference, lasting 55 minutes, came at a pivotal, early moment in Obama's young presidency.



Obama

proposals to solve the nation's economic crisis and the administration is struggling with

public and congressional outrage over bonuses paid to executives of bailed-out AIG.

Additionally, Obama departs next week for his first European trip as commander in chief, with the global economy a major focus.

Flexible on some points, Obama was unyielding on others.

Pressed on why he seemed to delay before condemning the AIG bonuses, Obama said, "It took us a couple of days because I like to know what I'm talking about before I speak."

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ON CAMPUS

Band to fuse bluegrass, classical music on campus

By YVONNE AYALA

Alligator Contributing Writer

The Punch Brothers will strum and pluck a unique fusion of bluegrass and classical music at UF's Phillips Center for the Performing Arts Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

The band is the new venture of composer, singer and mandolinist Chris Thile, showcasing some of the most popular bluegrass, folk and traditional performers.

"We don't really have a certain sound that we're going for," band member Noam Pikelny said. "We love trying to create something new, and we try to create things

that really kind of utilize all of our best talents."

In addition to Thile and Pikelny, the band is made up of guitarist Chris Eldridge, bass player Paul Kowert and fiddle player Gabe Witcher.

First named The Tensions Mountain Boys, the group changed its name to the Punch Brothers, inspired by the Mark Twain short story "Punch Brothers, Punch."

Pikelny said the story is about a jingle that gets stuck in the listener's head, and the only way to get rid of it is to pass it on to someone else.

"Boy, it would be nice if our

music could get caught in people's heads," Pikelny said.

Band members share a history of exploring different musical styles.

"We don't really have a certain sound that we're going for."

Noam Pikelny
Musician

Witcher's music has been featured in films like "Brokeback Mountain" and "Toy Story."

While some may know Thile from the band Nickel Creek, he

released his first solo bluegrass album when he was just 13 years old.

"Chris Thile plays the mandolin, but he plays it in a way that is sort of taking it out of the bluegrass box... and the Punch Brothers do that with their music," said Amy Douglas, the marketing director for the Phillips Center.

Thile's newest creation is a 40-minute composition featured on their debut album "Punch."

"The concept of 'Blind Leaving the Blind' was really kind of Chris Thile coming to terms with his life," Pikelny said. "A life where he got divorced before he was 25, and a life where he was trying to

figure out what religion means to him."

The Punch Brothers will perform songs from their new album in addition to works in progress and some covers.

"We want people who love good music to come to the show and focus as intensely, or more intensely than they would if they were sitting silent in a movie theater," Pikelny said. "We want people to take it in and challenge themselves in the way that we're challenging ourselves."

Ticket prices for the general public range from \$25 to \$45. UF students may purchase balcony-level tickets for \$10.

Two arrested in stealing spree

■ THEY WERE CHARGED WITH GRAND THEFT.

Two men were arrested Monday and accused of stealing chairs, signs and flags.

At about 2:45 a.m., Gainesville Police officer Crystal Castor was patrolling Southwest 39th Boulevard and saw two men taking a wooden sign and a flag that belonged to the Greenwich Green apartment complex.

When she approached them they ran to a car and drove away, the GPD arrest report stated.

Local News According to the report, when Castor pulled the men over, she handcuffed them and saw several other signs sitting in the back of the car.

When she asked them why they were stealing signs, Travis Jones, 20, said he and Matthew Clark, 18, did it because they were bored.

From the Greenwich Green apartment complex, they took a "Car Wash" sign, an "Office" sign, an orange flag and a handicapped-parking sign, the report stated.

Jones told Castor he and Clark had taken lawn chairs from patios and a "No Exit" sign from the Woodlands of Gainesville apartment complex, the report stated.

He also told Castor he and Clark took a "Slow: Children Playing" sign, a "Make Offer" sign and a "Welcome" flag from the Fairmont Oaks apartment complex.

Jones and Clark were charged with grand theft.

— KATIE EMMETS



Emmanuel Gamor / Alligator

Study Seat

Drew Golbin, a UF sports management graduate student, studies in one of the wooden chairs on the Plaza of the Americas Tuesday morning. The chairs are part of a "Vessel Project" assigned to students in Prof. Bradley Walters' Design 2 class. Students were given a week to design wooden structures that had a component of tension and could hold something — in this case, human bodies.

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NATIONAL

N.Y. senator announces support for gay marriage

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Sen. Charles Schumer reached out to gay leaders earlier this month and convened a meeting at an upscale Manhattan restaurant to make an important announcement: He was supporting gay marriage after years of opposing it.

The response from the crowd was swift.

"The room applauded," recalled Alan Van Capelle, the executive director of Empire State Pride Agenda, who helped organize the dinner at Gramercy Tavern.

The reversal marked a significant shift for the Democratic senator and gave further momentum to gay marriage in New York, where every other statewide Democratic official supports such unions.

Schumer's change, some political observers suggested, stemmed from pressure to bring his position on gay marriage in line with the other officials, while coming at a time when support for same-sex unions

is strong in New York. Also, it's likely New York's gay rights interest groups, which played a role in Democrats retaking control of the state Senate last November, were pressing Schumer to change his position.

"At this point we have a fair amount of knowledge that supporting gay marriage in the Northeast is not the kiss of death politically" that it could be as recently as a decade ago, said Lee Badgett, director of the Center for Public Policy and Administration at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and research director at the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy at UCLA.

If anything, Schumer's support for gay marriage is likely to bolster momentum for legalizing gay marriage in New York, where a gay marriage bill passed the Assembly in 2007.

Massachusetts and Connecticut legalized gay marriage, while New Jersey and New Hampshire allow same-sex civil unions. In Vermont, where civil unions also are legal, the

state Senate on Monday passed a same-sex marriage bill.

Although support of gay marriage is less damaging than it used

"His support could not have come at a better time in our community."

Alan Van Capelle
Empire State Pride Agenda

to be, the normally publicity hungry Schumer did not really promote his change, quietly issuing a three-sentence press release instead. It was Empire State Pride Agenda that made the announcement Monday, followed by a brief statement later that night.

Schumer declined a request for an interview to discuss the change, but spokesman Josh Vlasto released a one-paragraph statement the next day that read: "I have thought long and hard about it. I have always believed that one of the great traits in America is we seek equality and should always strive to achieve it.

We may not have been ready in 1996 when this issue first arose in Congress but I believe we are now."

In addition to supporting gay marriage, Schumer said he supported a repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act, which he had voted for in 1996.

"I'm surprised he didn't make more of a splash about it," said Tom McClusky, vice president of the Family Research Council's legislative arm. "Chuck Schumer likes cameras."

McClusky suggested that former Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's ascension to Secretary of State had something to do with the change of heart. Clinton opposed same-sex marriage, but her replacement, Kirsten Gillibrand, favors it. McClusky said that Clinton provided Schumer "cover" on the issue that disappeared after Gillibrand's announcement.

"He wasn't the only statewide elected Democrat who didn't support same-sex marriage," he said.

But even with his newfound pub-

lic position, Schumer's reversal isn't likely to have much impact nationally, political scientists say. The Defense of Marriage Act denies federal recognition of same-sex marriages and gives states the right to refuse to recognize such marriages.

"You'll need 60 votes in the U.S. Senate (to repeal the law)," said Justin Phillips, an assistant professor of political science at Columbia University. "It's hard to imagine at this point where those 60 votes would come from. I couldn't identify 60 senators who would support that right now."

The Empire State Pride Agenda said Schumer told gay leaders he would work "in the interim" toward changing federal laws and regulations to benefit legally married same-sex couples. Such an example would be tweaking federal tax codes to allow gay couples to file joint returns.

"His support could not have come at a better time in our community," said Empire State Pride Agenda's Alan Van Capelle.

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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.

Campus Communications, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Be sure to fill out the common application and turn it in to 155 Tigert Hall by the deadline of Friday, April 3 with a resume. You must prepare a separate application for each board you wish to apply for.

For applications and more information, see
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NATIONAL

Health insurance industry to eliminate risk rating

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The health insurance industry offered Tuesday for the first time to curb its controversial practice of charging higher premiums to people with a history of medical problems.

The offer from America's Health Insurance Plans and the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association is a potentially significant shift in the debate over reforming the nation's

health care system to rein in costs and cover an estimated 48 million uninsured people. It was contained in a letter to key senators.

In the letter, the two insurance industry groups said their members are willing to "phase out the practice of varying premiums based on health status in the individual market" if all Americans are required to get coverage. Although the letter left open some loopholes, it was still seen as a major development.

"They have never in their history offered to give up risk rating."

Len Nichols
Health economist

"The offer here is to transition away from risk rating, which is one of the things that makes life hell for real people," said health economist Len Nichols of the New America Foundation public policy center.

"They have never in their history offered to give up risk rating."

"This letter demonstrates that insurance companies are open to major insurance reform, and are even willing to accept broad consumer protections," said Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., a moderate who could help bridge differences on a health care overhaul. "It represents a major shift from where the industry was in the 1990s during the last major health care debate."

Insurers are trying to head off the creation of a government insurance plan that would compete with them, something that liberals and many Democrats are pressing for. To try to win political support, the industry has already made a number of concessions.

Last year, for example, insurers offered to end the practice of denying coverage to sick people. They also said they would support a goal of restraining cost increases.



Shemuel Arrindell / Alligator

Kissing For Amendment Awareness

Third year anthropology major Corey Brown, right, kisses another participant to try to bring awareness to get students to vote no on Amendment 1 as part of a Pride Student Union demonstration on Turlington Plaza Tuesday afternoon. Each couple had a sign that read "FIRED" for the lesbian and gay couples and "HIRED" for the heterosexual couples. They represented the gay couples getting fired from their jobs if the amendment were to pass.

Seventy-eight percent voted against Charter 1

CAMPUS, from page 1

how you live your life."

Seventy-eight percent of those who voted at UF's two campus precincts voted against Charter Amendment 1.

UF freshman Christen Downing also voted because of her strong opinions on the two amendments but said she didn't vote for a commission candidate.

"I didn't think I could make an educated vote there," she said, "so I just voted for the amendments."

Eighty-one percent of on-campus voters voted yes on Amendment 2, which requires the passing of a state referendum before converting land currently used for recreational or conservation purposes

to other use.

Out of those who voted, only 75 percent of students voted for a commission candidate, as opposed to 100 percent in 2006.

Garrett Garner, a UF history senior and campus coordinator for Equality is Gainesville's Business, said he thinks the controversy over Amendment 1 was the biggest cause of student turnout.

"Students just don't support taking rights away, so they turned out en masse today," he said.

Garner said that Equality is Gainesville's Business pushed its cause on campus because a lot of students didn't know what the amendment meant for the civil rights of Gainesville residents.

Once they learned about it, Garner said, most wanted to take a stand against the discriminatory amendment.

"They stepped up today and overwhelmingly said, 'We do not support discrimination,'" he said.

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GRAD CUP WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY, MARCH 23 AND LAST UNTIL FRIDAY, MARCH 28

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Senators postpone vote on amended lobbyist bill

By **CHELSEA KEENAN**
Alligator Writer

Senators dished out funds to student organizations at Tuesday night's meeting but disagreed when it came to determining the future of Student Government's lobbyists.

Senators decided not to vote on a bill that would hold SG's two lobbyists more accountable because the majority argued they lack the power to alter the lobbyists' contracts.

Together the lobbyists are paid \$55,000 a year to represent student interests in the state Legislature, a salary drawn from UF students' Activity and Service Fee.

The bill, which was first presented at last

week's meeting, was originally intended to fire the lobbyists, but it was amended to increase the position's accountability.

If passed, lobbyists would have to submit a written report four times a year and appear before the Senate twice a year.

"It's a real multi-partisan amendment," said Orange and Blue Party Sen. Jonathon Ossip, an author of the amendment. "It keeps the lobbyists, but it keeps them accountable."

Unite Party Sen. Ashton Charles, who motioned for the bill's postponement, said she agreed with holding the lobbyists more accountable but did not think SG had the power to approve specific contracts.

"I think it's disappointing that we keep de-

"It's a real multi-partisan amendment. It keeps the lobbyists, but it keeps them accountable."

Sen. Jonathon Ossip
Orange and Blue Party

laying action, but if one more week means the bill will pass, then I'm OK with that," said Orange and Blue Party Sen. and bill author Ben Cavaturo.

Two student organizations were also unanimously approved for SG funding during the meeting. The Billy Mitchell Drill Team received \$2,599.55 so that the group can par-

ticipate in a national drill meet next month in Colorado. The team was originally denied funding six weeks ago but, after raising \$2,700 on their own, resubmitted their request.

Roots and Shoots, a community service group that focuses on environmental issues, was given \$191.64. The money allocated to them will be used to purchase tools for service projects done around UF and Gainesville.

Earlier in the meeting, recently elected Senate President Audrey Goldman addressed the senators and vocalized goals she would like to accomplish throughout her term.

Goldman's agenda includes improving the SG Web site and having district senators organize town hall meetings for their constituents.

Charter Amendment 2 will require a vote to convert conservation land

ELECTION, from page 1

Mastrodicasa, he said. "It just reflects how powerful she is with the university and having that base."

Richard Selwach, another At-Large candidate, came in fourth with 6.19 percent of the vote — which was quite unexpected, he said.

"I thought for sure it was going to be a runoff," Selwach said. "I thought it was going to be a toss-up between Krames, Mastrodicasa and myself."

While other candidates met with supporters or congregated at the Supervisor of Elections Office to watch results, Selwach was at Mark's Prime Steakhouse, where basketball was on TV.

Selwach attributed his loss to Gainesville's "liberal democratic" constituency, he said. However, Selwach said he's not ready to retire from politics.

"You haven't seen the last of me," he said, wiping sweat off his forehead with a white cloth napkin. "I'll take District 4 or I'll take the mayor's seat."

James Schlacta, the remaining At-Large candidate, garnered the least votes at 4.34 percent. Schlacta was not at the Supervisor of Elections Office to watch the results come in.

Celebrations were also in order for Commissioner Scherwin Henry, who held a reception at the Matheson Museum.

Henry won the District 1 seat with 68.21 percent of the vote. However, Henry said the most important thing is that his constituents are satisfied and want him to remain their commissioner for another term.

Henry's challenger, Marcia Wimberly, lost with 31.79 percent.

However, much of the attention surrounding the election focused on Charter Amendment 1. About 61 percent of the voters opposed the amendment, which would have eliminated Chapter 8 of the Gainesville Code of Ordinances, titled "Discrimination."

As election results rolled in at Brophy's Irish Pub, anti-Amendment 1 advocate Daniel Roberts "had his fingers crossed" for a "no" vote.

"My faith in Gainesville has been restored," he said after the final precinct reported that Charter Amendment 1 had failed.

Its passage would have removed



Matt Tripp / Alligator

Jeanna Mastrodicasa, the At-Large City Commissioner incumbent, speaks to reporters after winning the election Tuesday night. Supporters of Mastrodicasa and Gainesville residents against Amendment 1 gathered at the Supervisor of Elections Office to follow the results.

protected status for transgender, lesbian, gay and bisexual residents.

Roberts feels that the amendment's failure sends a message to the rest of the country.

"Perhaps, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people are equal citizens of this nation," he said.

Citizens for Good Public Policy, the pro-amendment group, stated their disappointment in the results

in an e-mail sent Tuesday night.

"We remain mindful of the tens of thousands of women and children whose privacy and safety have been compromised by the substandard legislative work of the Gainesville City Commission," Mark Minck, Citizen's chairman wrote.

At Brophy's Pub, about 150 Anti-Amendment 1 supporters crowded around televisions during an ad-

dress from President Barack Obama, who spoke on the economic crisis, but they seemed more focused on the bottom of the screen, where news tickers showed updated election results.

Cheers and raised glasses greeted each precinct as it became clear that Amendment 1 would fail.

Chris Ott, who volunteered with anti-amendment group Equal-

ity is Gainesville's Business, said he canvassed, made phone calls and cut down the wire from about 400 Obama signs to fit the smaller "No on 1" signs.

"I'm just glad that it's over," he said.

Ott had praise for student voters of Gainesville. "The student vote was amazing," he said. "They have open minds, not closed ones."

Speaking from a barstool amidst the crowd gathered at Brophy's, Joe Saunders, Equality's campaign manager, gave a victory speech.

"We have set a model here in Gainesville," he said.

Charter Amendment 2, which will require a state referendum vote to convert city-owned land used for conservation, recreation or cultural purposes to another use, passed with 80.69 percent of the vote.

Election Results

At-Large 1	District 1	Amendment 1
Jeanna Mastrodicasa: 10,281, 58.13%	Scherwin L. Henry 1,940, 68.21%	YES 8,375 41.68%
Robert Krames: 4,435, 25.08%	Marcia Wimberly 542, 33.25%	NO 11,717 58.32%
Tom Cunilio: 1,108, 6.27%		Amendment 2
Richard Selwach: 1,094, 6.19%		YES 15,226 80.69%
James Schlacta: 767, 4.34%	Cards Cast: 20,210	NO 3,643 19.31%

Travel time builds team bonds

■ UF'S FIVE ROAD MEETS HAVE GIVEN THE GYMNASTS A CHANCE TO GROW CLOSER.

By **EUGENIO TORRENS**
Alligator Writer

For the UF gymnastics team, travel isn't all business en route to the next meet. There is certainly some leisure to be found.

Whether it's by plane or bus, the gymnasts have racked up some travel stories along with the mileage.

From the Southern hospitality in Nashville, Tenn., to the maybe not-so-hospitable confines of Athens, Ga., a season of traveling provides bonding, some stress and some stress-relieving games.

On the way back from the Southeastern Conference Championships this weekend, the team played charades before the plane ride.

"We did the category of animals, and then we did a category of movies," junior Courtney Gladys said. "(Melanie Sinclair) doing the animals was hilarious. She did a hippo, a chicken, a baboon. There were some other ones. It was definitely worth the entertainment."

It's sorely needed entertainment when they're dealing with a three-hour layover for a 30-minute flight.

"The layovers are probably the worst part of traveling," senior Corey Hartung said. Hartung admitted she's the first one to suggest a game when boredom kicks in, especially on the bus, even if it means being the guinea pig.

"One time I would climb up into the cabin part (of the bus) because everyone's like, 'Corey you'd fit up there,' and I would crawl up and crawl through the cabin," Hartung said. "I get bored, and I can't sit there."

Freshman Amy Ferguson was used to traveling with her parents and other club gymnasts before

coming to UF but said she was nervous going to the first couple of meets. The sudden change of traveling with just her teammates for a dual meet required an adjustment.

"At first I was so nervous on the way there. I was always really quiet," Ferguson said. "But once the first couple away meets came and we got there, you really have so much fun because you bond with the team. It turned into something I definitely look forward to."

With five road meets under her belt, Ferguson now has some road trip stories to tell, including one from the drive back from Athens on March 1.

"Halfway through, everyone is starting to get cramped up, and we stopped at a gas station, and five or six of us just went outside and had the most ridiculous races — one leg, hopping on one leg, skipping, jumping jacks," Ferguson said. "At that point we were just so tired of sitting on the bus, we had to let it out."

Traveling as an orange-and-blue troupe naturally brings attention, and the airport is no exception.

"Sometimes we get everything but gymnastics," Gladys said. "We'll get, 'Oh are you a golfer, volleyball player?' I'll give them the golfer, but volleyball player? I'm like five-foot here."

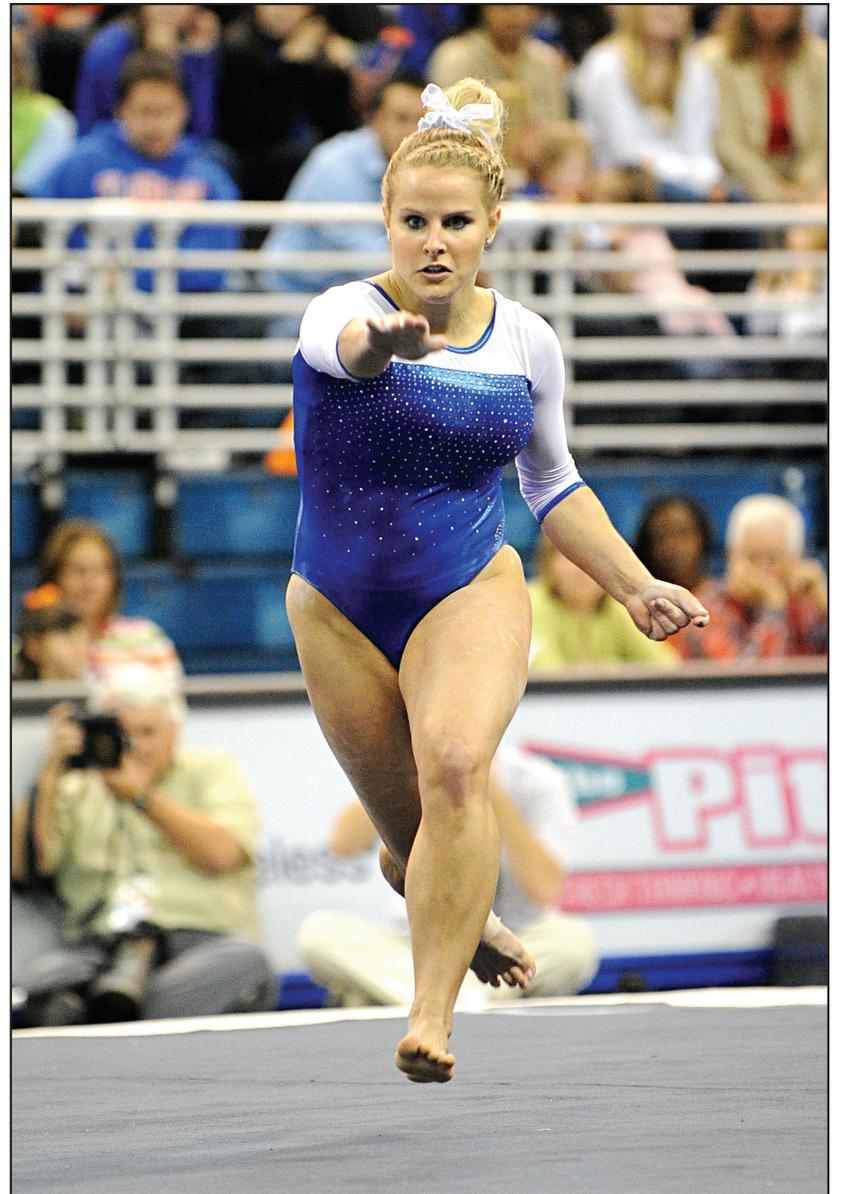
GATORS HEADED TO IOWA CITY: No. 6 UF was selected to the NCAA North Central Regional as the top seed in Iowa City, Iowa, on April 4.

"We were just hoping we wouldn't get sent all the way across the country," UF coach Rhonda Faehn said. "We're happy about Iowa, still fairly close. We've never been there, so I think that'll be something that's new and exciting."

Faehn knew heading into the grouping her team wouldn't be sent to closer sites Raleigh, N.C., or Tuscaloosa, Ala., because the Gators are too closely ranked to some of the other schools in those regions.



Gymnastics



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

UF gymnast Courtney Gladys performs her floor exercise routine during the Gators' 196.5 to 196.25 home win against Auburn on Jan. 16.

GRADUATION 2009



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

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Huge 1/1's 2/2's 3/3's
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W/D in each unit!*Tanning!
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Luxury 3/3TH Perfectly Located Downtown!
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Wood floors avail! Pets loved!
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Studios - \$549, includes electric!
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1BR/\$495 to \$550/mo
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4-22-08-72-2

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Lower deposit for grad students!

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1s, 2s, 3, & 4s for Fall

Prices from \$305 - \$629/bedroom
Select units are townhomes & include w/d
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Close to UF, Oaks Mall, Butler Plaza
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4-22-72-2

★1 Bdrm- 1BA w/ Loft★

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MASSIVE Townhomes!
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2 BR with bonus room from \$577
Two blocks south of Archer Rd. & 34th St
Homestead Apts. 376-0828

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Downtown Luxury & Cash Back 4 Fall!
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Great parking-walk to bars-bike to UF
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1BR, living room, kitchen, dining room, full
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1BR apt. w/pvt gated courtyard located in
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Hardwood floors, fireplace, new baths,
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quiet areas, yards \$725-\$1260
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From \$506 per person
\$0 MOVE IN FEES
Pets Loved! W/D Available
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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

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Union Street Station apt - above Starbucks
2BR/2.5BA, den/study room, bambo floors,
granite counters, up-graded kitchen. Available
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2,600 sq ft house
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Very Nice Townhouse
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Only \$375/room or \$1125/month
Large BRs & large closets Quiet area.
Great for Pro. students 941-737-6997
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Campus View North Steps from campus &
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2 For Rent unfurnished

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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

\$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

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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

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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

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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

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Houses, Duplexes, Condo, Townhouses. Walk/Bike/Bus to UF Neat, clean, quality. 3-31-09-13-2

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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

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

2 For Rent unfurnished

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

★2/1 Apt. 3 Blocks to UF★
HW Floors, Large Rooms
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★2/1 Apt-HW Flrs-UF 4Blks★
Newly Remodeled, W/D hookups
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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

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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

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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 appt. 4-7-09-14-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

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

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, slated 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
W/D. Tile throughout, front gated patio. 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 hkps, 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

2 For Rent unfurnished

CLOSE TO UF 2BR/1BA duplex hdwd flrs, yard, W/D, pet ok \$825/mo 1010 NW 3 Ave 2BR/1BA home, parking, W/D, yard, pet ok \$975/mo 618 NW 14 Ave 1.5BR/1BA, yard W/D hk-up. pet ok \$595 608 NW 24 Ave Avail 8/1/09. 561-350-1552, 561-703-8490 4-22-09-21-2

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2BR/1BA Central heat, mobile home from \$375-\$450/mo, incl water. No pets. 4546 NW 132th Street. 376-5887 4-22-23-2

Available Now or Fall: Cute & Clean Vintage 4bd/2.5ba behind Applebee's. Bike to UF! Wd flrs, CH/AC, W/D, fans, blinds. Huge rooms! 907 NW 11th Ave \$1760/mo Others avail! www.cozygator.com 352-338-7670 3-27-09-5-2

Available Fall: Several Cute & Clean 2 & 3 BR homes near UF. Some wood floors, all with CH/AC, W/D, fans, blinds, & lawn upkeep. Rent @ \$850-\$1350/mo. Others available! www.cozygator.com, 352-338-7670 3-27-09-5-2

Available Fall: Several Cute & Clean Studio & 1-BR vintage apts. near UF & downtown. All have wood flrs, fans, & blinds. Pets possible. Rent from \$595-\$750/mo. Others available! www.cozygator.com. 352-338-7670 3-27-09-5-2

HAILEY GARDENS 2335 SW 22nd, Newer 2 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, Bike to Vet school/ Shands/UF. 904-501-5100 \$900 6-30-09-33-2

Home for rent in NW Gville \$1200 month 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage fire place, big backyard, pet friendly Off NW 39 Ave & 13 St. Avail starting Sum/Fall 262-2933 Meli41082@aol.com 4-13-09-15-2

NEAR NORMAN HALL
One bedroom in beautiful brick house. Female only, no pets. \$410. Avail 8/16 Go by 1118 SW 5th Avenue, then call 377-3110. 3-30-5-2

MOVE-IN SPECIAL-NO DEPOSIT!!
SPACIOUS 3bd/2ba from \$750/mo and 2bd/1.5ba from \$675/mo. 2 mi to campus. On bus route. W/D hookups avail. Tile flooring option. Community Pool and Lush Green Space. Call 352.373.4423 or email GranadaApts@CrescentMgmtCo.com. 6-4-09-30-2

Summit House 1 BR/1BA Available Now
574 Sq Ft Near Shands & VA \$605 per mo. \$250 security. Pls. call 352-672-1482 7-2-09-35-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

3BDR/2BA Creekside home w/fireplace; H/A. Lg fenced yd. Pets ok. New carpet/vinyl. 18 mi to UF or SFC. Non-smoking. 895 1st/last/dep 1st mo free 352-336-3566. manlover@bellsouth.net 4-3-09-8-2

2br/2ba condo at Nantucket Walk.
close to UF. private balcony, comes with couch, bar stools, washer/dryer, parking space, etc. 700/mo. email carab@ufl.edu or call 2566981203 4-7-09-10-2

3311 NW 30th Ave (4/2) \$1200
600 NW 54th Ter (3/2) \$1200
520 NW 52nd Ter (3/2) \$1100
3700 NW 12th Ave (4/2) \$1300
Email: SBR@Jacksonllc.com
Call: 352-316-1893 for appt. 4-22-09-22-2

3 Bd/ 2 ba quiet upstairs condo in Creeks Edge. Recent remodel washer & dryer, central a/c, minutes to campus on busline, incl cable & internet. Avail Sept. \$1500 furnished or \$1400 unfurnished 727-410-3617 6-9-09-30-2

5 MINUTES TO UF
3/2. Excellent condition. Vaulted ceilings, spa bath, 2 car garage. Newer home in area. 3647 NW 7th Place. \$1350/mo lease. No smokers. Avail Aug. 352-373-6080 4-14-09-15-2

3 Subleases

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3 Subleases

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May-Aug. Windsor Hall. wood floors, ceiling fan, a/c, internet, pool, 2 blks from campus, furnished, suite bath, kitchen, male mmate \$395/mo.incl.util. 904-607-3549 4-13-15-3

\$365/mth all-inclusive furnished 1/1 in a 4/4 may-july. includes all fees, utilities, wireless internet, ethernet, cable, etc. on 2 bus routes, pool, hot tub, gym, etc. countryside apartments 4000 sw 23rd st. call max at 9543037498 or email maxtip@ufl.edu 3-30-5-3

Summer Sublease Towne Parc Apts 1BR/1Ba \$550/mo OBO Pets ok. Internet & Cable inc. Call Camille @ 8133403168 4-10-14-3

Apr-Aug Sublease. \$640/mo for 1BR/1BA apt in Stoneridge. 800+ sq. ft. w/no roommate. Will leave security deposit. Call 352.870.3395 or email missbhart@gmail.com 3-31-09-5-3

Summer Sublet, large bedroom w/ private bath and walk-in closet in Creeks Edge condo, minutes to campus on busline, incl cable & internet & utilities \$500/mo (furn or unfurn) 727-410-3617 4-22-09-21-3

4 Roommates

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4 Roommates

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1BR/1BA avail march 1st in 2BR/2BA for responsible mature individual. \$390-\$400/mo + utils. Barandywine on Archer Rd. yttek@ytttek@hotmail.com or 305-332-6566 3-31-09-38-4

FEMALE ROOMMATE NEEDED! 4BR/4BA Clean & Quiet condo at University Terrace West.\$450 rent includes: Cable, HS Internet, and ALL utilities Fully furnished. MUST SEE! Call Dory @ (954)816-1468. 3-26-09-15-4

Master BR w/ new carpet & ceiling fan in 4BR/3BA house off NW 16th Ave on bus route. DW, W/D, Cox cable & network internet. No cats or dogs. \$375/mo. Call 328-4995 3-26-15-4

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

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Roommate wanted for 3/2 house on 1+ Acre w/ pool. Quiet neighborhood great for grad student or working professional. \$495 plus half the electric. 15 min to UF & Shands. Move in Today! 772-201-9933 4-10-09-20-4

Room for rent in 2/1 available May 1st - 3 blocks from midtown, walk to campus, 16 NW 20th Dr. \$450/month + 1/2 utilities (negotiable). Contact Mike mschwartzseid@aol.com or 352-514-6114 5-21-09-30-4

\$400-Female roommates needed for beautiful 4/4 University Terrace condo on SW 34th St. All utilities included, available starting immediately/summer/fall. On bus routes 12 and 35, minutes to UF and walking distance to food and shopping! Call 352.262.0628. 4-9-15-4

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

4 Roommates

Female wanted to share brand new 3br/3ba home near campus. Washer & dryer included. \$500 plus 1/3 utilities. non-smoking, serious students only. 813-610-1698 3-31-7-4

1/1 avbl in 2/2.5 townhouse in fall semester.2 blocks from UF by midtown. 645/mth + utl, GREAT LOCATION. w/d. 7276470523 3-31-09-5-4

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5 Real Estate

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6 Furnishings

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

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

MICROFIBER SOFA & LOVESEAT - \$400
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BED - KING - \$170 PILLOWTOP
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SOFA & LOVESEAT 100% Italian leather. Brand new in plastic w/warranty. Retail \$2650. Sacrifice \$750. Call 352-377-9846 4-22-08-72-6

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

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

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

6 Furnishings

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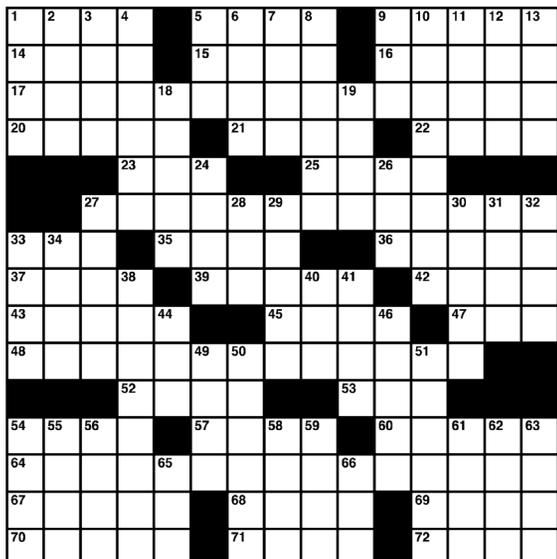
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Blue or brown follower
 - 5 Rubik creation
 - 9 Dalmatian marks
 - 14 City north of Carson City
 - 15 Jet-black gem
 - 16 It's prohibited
 - 17 Valley girl's "lck!"
 - 20 Senator Hatch
 - 21 Wagon pullers
 - 22 Hard to hold
 - 23 Donizetti aria "Regnava — silenzio"
 - 25 Storyteller
 - 27 Cliché framed above many a hearth
 - 33 Finance major's deg.
 - 35 When repeated twice, "et cetera"
 - 36 Regal home
 - 37 Latticework piece
 - 39 Fish order
 - 42 Eye drop
 - 43 Sweater synthetic
 - 45 Unheeding
 - 47 "Washboard" muscles
 - 48 Spaceflight management center
 - 52 Proximate
 - 53 007 creator Fleming
 - 54 Eager
 - 57 Realize
 - 60 Jacket type worn by several Bond villains
 - 64 Yellow-skinned apple
 - 67 "A cat must have three different names" poet
 - 68 Savings choices
 - 69 Give sparingly
 - 70 Play area?
 - 71 Voice quality
 - 72 Impressionist
- DOWN**
- 1 As a result
 - 2 Century unit
 - 3 Caltech sr.'s goal, often
 - 4 Rectangular game piece
 - 5 Holy animal?
 - 6 Mile or meter
 - 7 Eight bits
 - 8 Breathe out
 - 9 MA and PA
 - 10 School play prop
 - 11 Philharmonic reed
 - 12 Kit thing
 - 13 Discman maker
 - 18 Foe
 - 19 Yves's girlfriend
 - 24 Table section
 - 26 Bank feature
 - 27 "They'll Do It Every Time" cartoonist Jimmy
 - 28 Star Wars letters
 - 29 Hard-to-find guy of kids' books
 - 30 "Love Story" costar
 - 31 Land where Moses died
 - 32 Goofs
 - 33 Internet opinion piece
 - 34 2008 Libertarian presidential candidate
 - 38 Elvis classic
 - 40 Tennyson's twilight
 - 41 Jacques of "Mon Oncle"
 - 44 22.5 deg.
 - 46 Old French capital?
 - 49 Put in stitches
 - 50 Recognition
 - 51 New York tribe
 - 54 Grows up
 - 55 Electrical unit
 - 56 Hip bones
 - 58 Prefix with sol
 - 59 Blueprint
 - 61 Slam dunk site
 - 62 Govern, or word that can follow the first word of the four longest puzzle answers
 - 63 Rehab admission
 - 65 When the French fry?
 - 66 Expert ending?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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C O L O R A D O B O U L D E R
E T A O U T P O S T S
M I C H I G A N F L I N T
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W A L L E N D A S U I
G E O R G I A P L A I N S
E S P S U I T C A S E
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xwordeditor@aol.com 03/25/09



By Jack McInturff (c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc. 03/25/09

What does being a UF senior mean to you?

Tell us with an essay, photo or video and you could win a framed photograph from the 2006 Football National Championship autographed by Urban Meyer and Chris Leak!

Deadline for entries: Noon, Thursday, April 2, 2009. Finalists will be selected by a panel of Alligator and Community judges and voted on by Alligator readers. Online polls will be open from midnight Monday, April 6 to 11:59 p.m. Thursday, April 9.

Submit entries to contest@alligator.org
Visit www.alligator.org/gradtab for official rules.

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Hodge's career ends with loss to PSU

By **MIKE DiFERDINANDO**

Alligator Staff Writer
mdiferdinando@alligator.org

The Gators' season and senior Walter Hodge's career came to an end Tuesday night.

Penn State (25-11) beat UF (25-11) 71-62 and eliminated the Gators from the National Invitation Tournament in the quarterfinal round.

Hodge scored 7 points in his final game at the O'Connell Center.

"I'm always going to remember this day. And these fans, I really appreciate what they did," Hodge said. "I think I had a great career."

Senior forward Jamelle Cornley, who did not play in Penn State's second-round win against Rhode Island, led the Nittany Lions with 23 points and 12 rebounds.

Cornley partially separated his left shoulder in Penn State's first-round victory against George Mason last week.

Stanley Pringle scored 15, and he and Cornley combined for more than half of the Nittany Lions' offense.

"I thought we were going to do it for Walt," sophomore guard Nick Calathes said.

"This is Walt's last home game, and he's been like a best friend to me, and I've known him for so long."

The two teams traded baskets for most of the first half.

But with just over four minutes to play, freshman guard Erving Walker knocked down his third 3-point basket of the first half and brought UF's lead to 7 points — the Gators' largest of the game up to that point.

Penn State rallied back, knocking down back-to-back threes and took a 33-32 lead into the locker room.

The Gators failed to score a basket in the final four minutes of the half.

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 23



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

UF guard Erving Walker gets stopped by two Penn State players during the Gators' 71-62 loss to Penn State in O'Connell Center on Tuesday night.

Home-court advantage not fair

Last time I checked, Goliath didn't have home-turf advantage against David.

New York Giants receiver David Tyree didn't make one of the best plays in Super Bowl history with New England snow flurries falling on him.

Former Valparaiso guard Bryce Drew didn't make a game-winning 3-pointer against Mississippi with a stadium full of fans booing him.

The idea of having any single-game championship match on neutral court is obvious.



Brian Steele
Steele-ing Bases
bsteele@alligator.org

It's fair. It's right. It's common sense.

That's why women's college basketball has it so, so wrong. It wouldn't have mattered if UF had played Connecticut in Storrs, Conn., Gainesville, Tallahassee or Djibouti. The Gators would have lost.

Did the NCAA really have to gift wrap the Huskies a Final Four berth? A team that goes undefeated doesn't need any more help. That is, however, just the way the women's tournament works. And the sad part is, it's not just with Connecticut.

How would you feel if you were a No. 8 seed — technically the home team — and you had to go play on the No. 9 seed's home court in the first round. That's just what happened to eighth-seeded Middle Tennessee State when it traveled to East Lansing, Mich., to play Michigan State. The Spartans downed the Blue Raiders by 1 point, 60-59, with their home crowd behind them all the way. Call it a hunch, but you'd think playing on your home court gives you more than 1 point.

It gets worse. No. 6-seed Arizona State got to travel to Duluth,

SEE BRIAN, PAGE 23

UF WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Gators bounced from NCAA Tournament

By **CHRISTOPHER YAZBEC**

Alligator Writer
cyazbec@alligator.org

The Huskies did not look very sharp by their standards against the Gators on Tuesday night.

Still, No. 1 Connecticut (35-0) defeated No. 8-seed UF (24-8) 87-59 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament in Storrs, Conn., to advance to the Regional Semifinals.

The Gators put up all the fight they had, trying to stay as close as possible throughout, but it was going to take a lot

more than effort for them to pull the upset.

"UConn put it out of reach there in the first half," UF assistant coach Susie Gardner said.

"We fought back in the second half, but they're an awfully good team."

UF was hampered by foul trouble early on.

Senior point guard Sha Brooks played sparingly in the first half after picking up three quick fouls in the first seven minutes, including two offensive fouls in the first 1:32 of the game.

All she could do was sit on the bench

and watch, a look of disappointment in her eyes she hadn't yet shown this season.

"That was probably, if you want to script something, the worst-case scenario that could have happened," said Gardner, who added that she could see tears in Brooks' eyes after she picked up her third foul.

With the Gators' best player on the sideline, senior forward Marshaé Dotson did all she could to spark her team, scoring 12 points before the break.

SEE NCAA, PAGE 23

ON TELEVISION

NBA: Boston vs. Orlando
SUN, 8 p.m.

NBA: Utah vs. Phoenix
ESPN, 10:30 p.m.

I DID NOT KNOW THAT

UF golfer Billy Horschel was named the Southeastern Conference Male Golfer of the Week on Monday. Horschel has led the Gators to two straight top-five finishes in their last tournaments.

POLL QUESTION

Today's question: How would you rate the UF men's basketball team's season?

Previous question: What will be the result of the UF women's basketball team's game against Connecticut? (see right for results)

Percent (Votes)
Con. **11-3251% (25)**
Con. ≥32 20% (10)
UF wins 18% (9)
Con. <11 10% (5)

49 TOTAL VOTES

UF GOLF

Gators off to fast start in first rounds of Dixie Classic

By ANTHONY CHIANG
Alligator Writer

Fast starts haven't been one of the Gators' strengths this season.

But on Tuesday in St. George, Utah, the No. 26 UF women's golf team made it a strength and got off in a hurry with a team score of 36 over par in the first two rounds of the BYU Dixie Classic.

"In the first round we had three good scores and in the second round we might have gotten a little

too comfortable with the course and when that happens it can come back to bite you," coach Jill Briles-Hinton said.

Their score was good enough for third place, which marks the first time the team has been in the top five after the first day of an event all spring.

Freshman Andrea Watts shot 5 over par during the first two rounds. Both were played Tuesday. She is currently tied for the seventh-best individual score and is seven



Briles-Hinton

shots behind first place.

Meanwhile, sophomore Jessica Yadloczky had a first-day score of 8 over par. In the first round, she shot 1 over par but could not maintain her strong play in the second round of the day when she shot 7 over par. The wind grew stronger during the second round of play

which did not help Yadloczky.

"The wind really picked up in the second round, it was like we were in wind tunnels," Briles-Hinton said.

The other three UF golfers, Nicole Schachner, Evan Jensen and Lauren Uzelatz, shot a combined score of 48 over par.

Jensen could not escape her early tournament struggles and now has a troubling combined score of 52 over par after two rounds of every event this spring.

With this being the first time playing on this course for most of the team, Tuesday was an encouraging sign.

"They learned a lot about a mountain golf course today and they learned a lot about themselves," Briles-Hinton said. "Hopefully they can put everything together tomorrow and we can have an excellent finish."

The Gators will be back on the golf course in the final round of the Dixie Classic on Wednesday.

Calathes will wait to speak to family, Donovan to make NBA decision

HOOPS, from page 22

Penn State jumped out to an early second-half lead, but UF managed to cut the deficit to a single point after two Calathes foul shots with just more than 12 minutes to play.

The Nittany Lions answered, going on an 8-0 run that saw Penn State take their biggest lead of the game.

Down 10 with 5:29 to play, UF went on a 9-1 run that brought the Gators to within 3 points with a little more than a minute to play.

Penn State stopped any hopes UF had of a comeback with back-to-back baskets and six foul shots in the game's final 60 seconds.

Walker led the Gators with 16 points, and center Alex Tyus finished with 15 points and eight rebounds.

With the season now over and the NBA within his reach, Calathes will have to make a decision about his future.

"I'm not really thinking about that right now," Calathes said. "But when it's time, I'll sit down with Coach and my family and decide from there."

Donovan said he was unsure about his all-conference point guard's future.

"I have no idea (about) any of those

things. I think last year in New York someone asked me about Marreese (Speights), and I was being honest. I have no idea," Donovan said. "I'm supportive of Nick. Nick has always worked hard. He is a really, really good competitor. Certainly we would love to have him back here, and I would love to coach him again. But if that decision is in front of him, it's probably up to him and his family."

UConn pulls away with 13-point run

NCAA, from page 22

She finished with 22 points.

"We felt like if we could get the ball to her, she could use her quickness inside," Gardner said. "Marshae kept us in the game."

Dotson did not get much help elsewhere, however, with only three other Gators getting on the scoreboard in the first half.

The Gators hung tough for the first 12 minutes of the game.

After UF cut the lead to 6, Connecticut's Renee Montgomery hit back-to-back threes — including a 4-point play — to ignite a 13-0 Huskies run that put them up 39-20 and all but sealed the deal.

The Huskies never looked back.

Steffi Sorensen was a small bright spot for the Gators.

The junior guard hit a three from near-

ly half court at the buzzer of the first half, and UF trailed 47-26 at the break.

Sorensen finished with 9 points on 3-of-9 shooting from 3-point range.

UF, overmatched at every position on the floor, was dismantled on the boards 34-13 before the half.



Women's Basketball

The Huskies were unstoppable on the offensive end as well, with three players scoring 20 or more points.

Montgomery led all scorers with 25 points.

Junior center Tina

Charles added 22 points and 10 rebounds, while sophomore guard Maya Moore finished with 22 points and 14 rebounds.

The game marked the end of the careers of Brooks, Dotson, Aneika Henry and Kim Critton.

A radio broadcast contributed to this report.

BRIAN, from page 22

Ga. Their opponent was No. 11-seed Georgia, and Athens is about 50 miles from Duluth. Then there was 10th-seeded San Diego State playing DePaul — in San Diego. Even No. 6-seed LSU got a home game in the first two rounds.

Then there was No. 12-seed Gonzaga getting to play in nearby Seattle against No. 5-seed Xavier, and Gonzaga won. Perhaps the worst part was watching as No. 2 Auburn had to play No. 7 Rutgers in its home gym and seeing the Scarlet Knights wreck them.

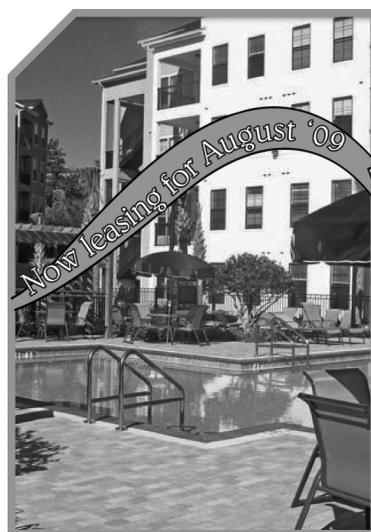
I understand the selection committee wants fans at the game, and the average person won't pay to go see women's college basketball. You don't, however, sacrifice the sanctity

of the game to get fans there. That's what this is doing.

It's very debatable if the Gators are one of the 16 best teams in the country, but they don't deserve to be given a slap in the face by the selection committee, which is exactly what they did by giving them a second-round matchup against Connecticut — on the Huskies' home court.

If UConn loses at any point in this tournament, it'll be a historic upset. It doesn't matter where the game is played. There's no reason to make their likely road to a championship as smooth as a Porsche riding down I-10 with no traffic.

The Gators aren't good enough to beat a powerhouse this year. It's just too bad they didn't have a fair chance to prove it. In the NCAA Tournament, a fair chance should be a given.



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North Florida uses 3-run eighth inning to down UF

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

With three players listed as catchers in the starting lineup, it's no surprise offense gave way to pitching and defense in UF's Tuesday night matchup with North Florida (9-15) in Jacksonville.

The Gators (14-8) started Hampton Tignor at catcher, Buddy Munroe at designated hitter and Teddy Foster at first base and played the Ospreys 0-0 into the bottom of the eighth inning when UNF scored 3 unearned runs and defeated UF 3-0 in the first game of the midweek home-and-home series.

Freshman Greg Larson took the mound for UF in the eighth inning and UNF catcher David Eldredge pinch-hit to lead off the inning.

Eldredge hit a ground ball to second baseman Clayton Pisani, who allowed the hitter to reach base on an error.

Robbie Collier laid down a sacrifice bunt, which moved Eldredge to second base before Larson got the next batter to pop up to Tignor for the second out. A wild pitch moved him to third and UF coach Kevin O'Sullivan brought in junior Tony Davis to try to keep the Ospreys off the board.

Davis walked a batter then gave up the go-ahead run to senior Brian Wilson, who singled through the

left side.

UNF added 2 more runs against Davis before the lefty was able to get out of the inning.

Pisani reached on an error to lead off the top of the ninth, but the next three hitters went down in order to end the game.

UF's best chance to score came in the first inning when it loaded the bases with two outs, but Foster flied out to right to end the threat.

The Gators wasted a solid start from freshman Anthony DeSclafani, who went five innings while allowing just two hits and one walk.



Baseball

The teams will meet again tonight at 6:35 in McKethan stadium.

LOCKE BACK WITH TEAM: A UF spokesman released a statement before Tuesday's game saying that senior pitcher Stephen Locke rejoined the team before the home-and-home series with UNF.

Locke was kicked off the team before the season after being charged with a DUI, but the charges have been dropped and he has been placed back on the team's official roster.

He did not pitch Tuesday night. Locke posted a 5-2 record and 3.17 ERA while starting 12 games last season, the second most on the team.



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

UF pitcher Tony Davis throws a pitch during the Gators' 8-5 loss to Miami on Feb. 27. Davis gave up the go-ahead run in the bottom of the eighth inning Tuesday against North Florida.

SANTA FE SOFTBALL

Saints swept by state's No. 1 team in doubleheader

■ **SCC SCORED 5 OF ITS 12 GAME-1 RUNS ON HOMERS.**

By **KELSIE HOECHERL**
Alligator Writer

The Santa Fe College softball team, four-time Mid-Florida Conference Champions, had two swept from under it in a doubleheader against Seminole Community College on Tuesday.

The Saints (33-5, 8-4 MFC) lost to the Raiders 12-6 in the first game and 2-1 in the second.

"(It was) disappointing," SFC coach Chris Ahern said.

"They weren't at their best. There were errors at bad times, no hits, and runners were left on base — and with bases loaded, more than once. They (SCC) came to play. They outthit us."

SCC, ranked No. 1 in the state,

was too much for SFC to handle. A second-inning home run by catcher Kelly Karshner set the tone for the game.

Bitzer and Karshner couldn't keep the ball in the park. Bitzer had a 3-run homer in the top of the fourth and a 1-run homer in the top of the sixth.

Home runs by the Raiders accounted for 5 of the first game's 12 runs.

Sophomore third baseman Kristina Cruz tried to invigorate the Saints offense in the bottom of the third with a home run that made the score 5-3, but the momentum never caught on.

Cruz went 2 for 3 with two RBIs.

In Game 2, the Saints held their own, keeping the game scoreless until the third, when the Raiders went up 1-0.

Freshman pitcher Kimberly Squires (17-3, 0.71 ERA) tied the score in the sixth with a home run, but the Saints fell short in the eighth inning, giving up another run.

"We need to hit better," freshman shortstop Morgan Fortson said.

"We need to play as a team and realize there are teams out there that are better than us."

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