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Published by Campus Communications, Inc. of Gainesville, Florida
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VOLUME 102 ISSUE 160

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2009

SPECIAL REPORT

Researcher studies alligator growth rates

By **ALEXANDRA LAYOS**
 Alligator Writer

Growing up in Tampa, Ph.D. candidate Ashley Boggs enjoyed Florida's wildlife and often played with lizards and turtles.

However, graduating to alligators didn't cross her mind until later, she said.

"I never thought about the bigger animals like alligators," Boggs said. "Other than canoeing down the Hillsborough River as a kid, I never really ran into them."

Boggs now studies alligator growth at the Guillette Lab at UF to assess the effect of toxins on the ani-

mals in the wild.

As an undergraduate zoology student, Boggs began volunteering in the lab where she was paired with a graduate mentor, a position she now holds.

The eggs used in her study were collected from Lake Woodruff, a relatively clean site, Lake Apopka, which is considered a contaminated area and their test site, near Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral.

"Everything that the embryo needs to develop is packed into the egg by the mother," Boggs said. "We wanted to see if the mother was putting anything into the egg that might

SEE GATOR, PAGE 10



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

An almost year-old alligator looks up from a pen on the roof Bartram Hall where UF biologists are studying whether alligators' differing growth rates are due to their home environments.

Carvey picked for Growl

By **THOMAS STEWART**
 Alligator Staff Writer
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Dana Carvey, of "Wayne's World" fame, will perform at the Oct. 16 Gator Growl, organizers announced Monday.

Carvey was the second most popular comedian in the student poll conducted by Gator Growl staff earlier this year, said show spokesman Bryan Griffin. Jimmy Fallon got the most votes.

Other comedians on the ballot were Darrell Hammond and Demetri Martin.

The poll received about 500 responses.

Griffin said the staff tried to snag Fallon for the show, but his schedule didn't allow it, likely because of his new NBC show "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon."

Matt Sloan, the show's producer, said staff aimed for a bigger name this time, not an up-and-comer like Jon Reep, last year's

headliner.

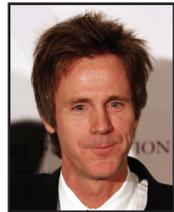
He said with the football team winning championships and the senior class one of the best in the nation, the staff felt Carvey was worth the extra money.

"We wanted to up our game because they upped their game," he said, adding that he wasn't able to release Carvey's payment for the show because it hasn't been finalized yet.

He said in recent years the show has alienated students.

"I feel like we've really lost a lot of traction with the students, and we're trying to get that back."

But it's tricky picking acts, he said, because of the wide variety of people who attend the show — about 40,000 students,
SEE GROWL, PAGE 10



Carvey

Former student may face murder charges

■ **THE VICTIM DIED MONDAY AFTERNOON.**

By **KATIE EMMETS**
 Alligator Staff Writer
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The Gainesville Police Department will request a murder charge against a former UF student after her boyfriend died from a gunshot wound to the head Monday afternoon.

Yasmin Linder, 19, was arrested Sunday night and charged with attempted murder after shooting Torrey Blalock, 20, at their apartment in The Estates, 3527 SW 20th Ave.

When Linder was booked at the Alachua County Jail, Blalock was in critical condition at Shands at UF. He died at about 3:40 p.m. Monday, said GPD spokesman Keith Kameg.

When officers arrived at the apartment Sunday night, they found

Blalock unconscious but breathing on the floor of the bedroom, Kameg said.

According to Kameg, he was shot once above his left eye with a .22-caliber semi-automatic handgun.

Linder told officials that after finding text messages Blalock sent

to other women, she went into the bedroom closet with the gun and threatened to kill herself. Blalock then came into the closet, turned the gun toward him and told Linder to shoot him, according to the report.

After a brief struggle, Linder told police she pulled the trigger.

"We will be contacting the State Attorney's Office and requesting for the charges to be changed or increased from attempted murder to murder," Kameg said.



Linder



■ **The Alligator reveals its No. 8 and No. 7 selections on its list of Top 10 UF Athletes of 2008-09. Francesca Enea (left) and Sha Brooks (right) led the Gators to successful seasons. See Story, Page 23.**

Man shot in face at mobile home park after party

A man was shot in the face by robbers at a Southwest Gainesville mobile home park Saturday morning.

When deputies arrived to Cornerstone Mobile Home Park, they found Travis Gallon, 21, lying on the floor with a head wound, an Alachua County Sheriff's Office release stated. Six people were in the mobile home at 431 Squire Drive at about 2:30 a.m. when it was robbed. Witnesses told deputies that a party had just ended when two to three men kicked

in the front door of the residence and demanded money. The six people were ordered by the men to get on the floor, and Gallon was shot in the face, the release stated.

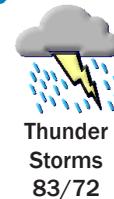
According to the release, Gallon was taken to a local hospital where he had emergency surgery for the gunshot wound.

The suspects are described as medium-build, black men. Two of the men were armed, and at least one had dreadlocks.

— **KATIE EMMETS**

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Thunder Storms
 83/72

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Got an event?

Send an e-mail to bdavis@alligator.org with 'What's Happening' in the subject line. Please include a one-to two-sentence event summary.

Volunteers Wanted

Volunteer With The Elderly Florida's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program seeks volunteers to advocate for people in nursing homes. To apply, call 888-831-0404 or visit <http://ombudsman.my-florida.com>.

Party On The Plaza

Thursday, 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Plaza of the Americas
As part of Weeks of Welcome, Student Government will have free food, games and a library scavenger hunt.

NATIONAL

Elephants to crash Staples before Jackson memorial

LOS ANGELES (AP) — As if the atmosphere outside the Staples Center didn't promise to be circus-like enough come Tuesday morning, they're sending in the elephants.

A herd of 11 Asian elephants

FORECAST

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
THUNDER STORMS	THUNDER STORMS	THUNDER STORMS	THUNDER STORMS	THUNDER STORMS
83/72	85/73	84/73	88/73	92/74

and seven horses is scheduled to lumber into a side entrance of the complex before dawn Tuesday in preparation for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus opening there Wednesday.

Depending on when the Michael Jackson fans arrive, pachyderms and King of Pop buffs could come face to face. A circus spokeswoman said crowds wouldn't faze the animals.

"The elephants are very comfortable around people," said Amy McWethy, spokeswoman for Ringling Bros.' parent company, Feld Entertainment. "They have their handlers with them all the time. They're used to light and other factors, and they're used to noise."

It's a decades-old tradition to parade the giants through the streets of the circus's host

city, and Ringling Bros. arranged a permit with city Animal Services to usher them three miles from their train in Union Station to the arena.

Despite the memorial service and road closures near the Staples Center, the circus will use the same arena as the Jackson event. But the animals — which also include big cats — will be stowed in a barn until the crowds clear out, McWethy said.

Animal Services is working with the police department to escort the mammals during their march, which will begin at 3:30 a.m. PDT and last for about two hours.

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The applications for these positions are available at the reception desk at the entrance of the first floor of *The Alligator* Building at 1105 W. University Ave., **each weekday between 1:00 and 4:00pm from now until July 21.** 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 **2:00 pm, July 22. 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 **2:00 pm, Friday, August 7.** 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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The Independent Florida Alligator is a student newspaper serving the University of Florida, published by a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) educational organization, Campus Communications Inc., P.O. Box 14257, Gainesville, Florida, 32604-2257. *The Alligator* is published Monday through Friday mornings, except during holidays and exam periods. During UF summer academic terms *The Alligator* is published Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Alligator is a member of the Newspaper Association of America, National Newspaper Association, Florida Press Association and Southern University Newspapers.

Subscription Rates: **One Semester (Fall or Spring) \$18**
Summer Semester \$10
Two Semesters (Fall or Spring) \$35
Full Year (All Semesters) \$40

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UF grad pleads no contest to DUI manslaughter

Prison and parole time will total 15 years

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

Recent UF graduate Amanda Boyd, 24, has pleaded no contest to a charge of DUI manslaughter for a crash on University Avenue in September.

The crash killed Gainesville resident Betty Hinson, 74.

Boyd, who graduated from UF in December with an economics degree, had a blood-alcohol level of 0.21, according to toxicology results described in a Florida Highway Patrol crash report. In Florida, a driver is considered impaired with a blood-alcohol level of 0.08 or higher.

She was a senior at UF at the time

of the crash.

Though she could have legally faced up to 15 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, the state has agreed to seek a penalty of no more than eight years in prison, according to court documents.

Boyd's sentencing is scheduled for Aug. 14.

At the sentencing, the victim's family members will be allowed to describe the impact the crash has had on them, and Boyd will be allowed to offer evidence to support their defense.

The minimum sentence Boyd could face is four years.

Under a deal formed between Boyd and the state, she will also serve probation.

The probation length will depend on her prison sentence, totaling 15 years between the two.

While on probation, she will not be permitted to drive a car or possess or consume alcohol. She will also be required to wear an alcohol-monitoring bracelet and may have to undergo mental health and substance-abuse counseling.

According to the FHP report, Boyd told officers she had one Michelob Ultra draft beer at the Applebee's on Northwest 13th Street on the night of Sept. 21. She was unsure of the size of the beer, she said.

She had also taken Wellbutrin

XL, prescribed for depression and anxiety, that morning.

Boyd said she had the beer around 4 p.m. and left Applebee's between 5 and 5:30 p.m. to visit a friend in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., the report stated. About 15 minutes later, Boyd's vehicle collided into Hinson's after Boyd reportedly had trouble navigating around the curve at the intersection of East University Avenue and State Road 26, near Southeast 55th Street.

Boyd's car struck the driver's side of Hinson's car at at least 54 mph, according to the report.

Boyd's car then hit two road signs before flipping.

Boyd told officers she was traveling between 45 and 50 mph, but speed calculations determined she was going at least 60 to 68 mph

when she applied the brakes. The speed limit is 45 mph.

Hinson was pronounced dead at the scene.

Paul Doering, UF pharmacy professor, said Boyd's 0.21 blood alcohol level likely meant she had the equivalent of eight to 10 alcoholic drinks in her body at the time the sample was taken.

"That alcohol had to have come from somewhere," he said. "And there just simply isn't that much alcohol in a Michelob Ultra draft, no matter what size it is."

He also said Wellbutrin XL would not have affected her blood alcohol level.

One of Boyd's two lawyers, Craig DeThomasis, declined to comment on the case until the sentencing was complete.

Organization seeks to raise Fla. education rankings

■ **FLORIDA CONSISTENTLY RANKS AMONG WORST STATE IN COUNTRY.**

By **ROBERTA O. ROBERTS**
Alligator Writer

Florida consistently ranks among the worst states in the country on issues such as child health and education, a position which Worst To First, a social action organization, seeks to reverse.

Toward this goal, Worst to First is partnering with the Lawton Chiles Foundation to host the first Lawton Chiles Leadership Corp. conference.

Gainesville's Mayor Peegen Hanrahan is serving as an honorary director for the program, which will take place Aug. 8 and 9 at the University of Central Florida.

Rising high school juniors, seniors and college students who attend will be taught how to organize educational funding awareness campaigns on their own campuses.

"[State legislation] is dismantling university education," said Lawton "Bud" Chiles, founder of Worst to First. "Unless we take higher education funding more seriously, without public involvement, we will continue to see the degradation of these systems."

UF students are already starting to take a stand for their education, such as when they held rallies against UF budget cuts, Chiles said.

"We want to focus that energy to the almost 1,500 high schools and dozens of colleges in the state," he said. "Because of their locations, these campuses affect every community in the state. By focusing around these campuses we will really affect the broader population."

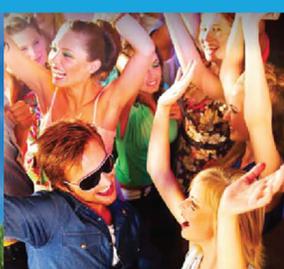
Chiles hopes to engage at least one million Floridians to take action, because "right now, we're spending more to lock up our teenagers than to graduate them," Chiles said.



State News

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INTERNATIONAL

Police arrest 1,434 after riots

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

URUMQI, China — Police have arrested 1,434 suspects in connection with the worst ethnic violence in decades in China's western Xinjiang region, which killed at least 156 people, state media reported Tuesday.

The arrests come amid a security clampdown on the region, with hundreds of paramilitary police with shields, rifles and clubs taking control of the streets of the capital, Urumqi, where the riots took place on Sunday.

The violence does not bode well for China's efforts to mollify long-simmering ethnic tensions between the minority Uighur people and the ethnic Han Chinese in Xinjiang — a sprawling region three times the size of Texas that shares borders with Pakistan, Afghanistan and other Central Asian countries.

Mobile phone service and the social networking site Twitter have been blocked, and Internet links also were cut or slowed down.

A nonviolent protest by 200 people was broken up in a second city, Kashgar, and the official Xinhua News Agency said police had evidence that demonstrators were trying to organize more unrest in Kashgar, Yili and Aksu.

It said police had raided several groups plotting unrest in Dawan township in Urumqi, as well as at a former race course that is home to a transient population.

The unrest in Urumqi began Sunday after 1,000 to 3,000 protesters gathered at the People's Square and protested the June 25 deaths of Uighur factory workers killed in a riot in southern China. Xinhua said two died; other sources put the figure higher. Internet and social networking reports on the incident had raised tensions in Xinjiang over the last two weeks.

Many Uighurs (pronounced WEE-gers) haven't been wooed by the rapid economic development. Some want independence, while others feel they're being marginalized in their homeland. The Han — China's ethnic majority — have been flooding into Xinjiang as the region becomes more developed.

The government often says the Uighurs should be grateful for the roads, railways, schools, hospitals and oil fields it has been building in Xinjiang, a region known for scorching deserts and snowy mountain ranges.

A similar situation exists in Tibet, where a violent protest last year left many Tibetan communities living under clamped-down security ever since.



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

Blooming Boom

Fireworks explode over Alachua's Hal Brady Recreation Complex during the city's Fourth of July celebration that saw high attendance after UF's annual fireworks show was canceled for the first time since 1990.

Engineering college appoints dean

■ SHE WILL BE THE COLLEGE'S FIRST FEMALE DEAN.

The College of Engineering announced a new dean on Monday — the first female dean in the history of the college.

Cammy Abernathy, who has been at UF since 1993, will take over on July 17, replacing Pramod Khargonekar, who just finished his eighth year as dean.

Khargonekar announced his resignation in late 2007. Due to budget uncertainties, the search process was cut short in March of 2008 and resumed in January.

"It's not really about me," Abernathy said of her selection as the first female dean in a UF news release. "It's a sign of

where engineering has to go in the future. We have to change the way engineering is perceived, and we have to change the

way it is introduced to potential students. This is especially important because engineering — and educating the next generation of engineers — is so critical to our country today."

Abernathy attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology as an undergraduate and earned her master's and doctorate degrees at Stanford University. She also worked for AT&T Bell Laboratories, ac-

ording to a memo sent to administrators Monday.

She is currently the associate dean for the Office of Academic Affairs and a professor of materials science in the engineering college. Her husband, Steve Pearton, is a UF distinguished professor of materials science and engineering.

Abernathy couldn't be reached by press time, but Khargonekar's salary is listed as about \$302,000. Abernathy currently earns about \$233,000, according to UF's Web site.

Khargonekar said he plans to continue teaching and researching in the electrical and computer engineering department.

— THOMAS STEWART



Abernathy

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UF RESEARCH

Coffee may have competition

By **STEPHANIE LEVANTHAL**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Move over, quad latte.

Researchers at UF are developing a new caffeinated beverage that serves as a pick-me-up and an antioxidant.

Made from Yaupon Holly, a plant native to the southeastern United States, the drink resembles a beverage consumed by European explorers and the Timucua American Indians three centuries ago.

Yaupon Holly contains caffeine and antioxidants, said Matt Palumbo, who received a master's degree from UF's botany program and co-authored the UF study on the plant.

To formulate the drink, Palumbo cuts the leaves from the stems and places them on a heating skillet. Then he crushes the dry, crispy leaves with his bare hands before tossing them in a pot, adding boiling water and letting them simmer.

He said the taste of the dark brown drink is similar to green tea and could be especially popular among the health-conscious, though milk or sugar could be added to make it tastier.

"It's a matter of convincing

people to drink something that might actually be good for them," he said.

Professor Linda Bobroff, who holds a doctorate in nutrition, said antioxidants help rid the body of free radicals that can build up and damage cells. They can be found mostly in green tea, fruits and vegetables, and it is believed that they can prevent cancer and aging, she said.

"I grew up with coffee, and that to me it is as important as drinking water."

Andres Duarte

UF aerospace engineering major

Focusing on a selectively bred cultivation of Yaupon called Nana, the researchers found it had about half the antioxidant content of green tea, according to the press release.

On the other hand, the leaves only contained between 0.65 percent and 0.85 percent caffeine by weight. This is significantly less than coffee beans, which have 1.1 percent, and tea leaves, which have 3.5 percent.

After using small quantities of

nitrogen fertilizer, Nana production increased by 35 percent, and caffeine content rose by 265 percent, Palumbo said. However, antioxidant quantity was unaffected.

Palumbo said negativity surrounding the plant may have prevented it from widespread use. "Yaupon eaters," a derogatory term used in North Carolina, described someone who did not have enough money to buy high-class products like coffee, Palumbo said.

Palumbo also said the drink could have a social impact — having a local caffeine source could alleviate pressure on coffee-farming regions worldwide.

Asia, Malaysia and Indonesia have faced high rates of deforestation due to coffee farming, he said.

"This is a way to expose Floridians to a plant that can be grown in their backyard and that can produce a tea that is caffeinated and has antioxidants," he said.

But Andres Duarte, UF aerospace engineering major, said he would not replace coffee with any other caffeinated beverage.

"I grew up with coffee, and that to me it is as important as drinking water," he said. "I just love the aroma and the taste."

Rwanda story retold on stage

By **STEVE JOHNSON**
Alligator Writer

After spending two weeks in Rwanda providing aid to genocide survivors, UF students will take their experiences from the country and bring them to the stage.

"Where Can We Run? The AIM for Rwanda Project" will include local stories of genocide victims and their journeys toward healing, according to a press release from the College of Fine Arts.

Working with the American Red Cross, the UF Center for the Arts in Healthcare Research and Education took 10 students to Rwanda in March to provide health care education and insurance to the people of Rugerero, a village on the western border of the African country.

"We are honoring the

memories of those who were lost by telling their stories," said Jill Sonke, director of the Center for the Arts in Healthcare Research and Education.

Directed by associate professor Mikel Pinkney, the production will debut **Local News** at the Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion's Black Box Theatre at 7:30 p.m. The show runs from Wednesday through Saturday.

Additional showings will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets cost \$14 for the general public and \$10 for students and senior citizens. They can be purchased at ticketmaster.com or at the University Box Office, located in the lobby of the Constans Theatre.

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Editorial

Sarah Spice

No explanation for Palin's resignation

If resigning from a post like governor of Alaska is hailed as a potentially "brilliant strategy" for a career, the Editorial Board might as well consider Sarah Palin the Geri Halliwell of the political world — Gubernatorial Spice, if you will. Not as catchy as "Killa from Wasilla," but we've gotta keep it current.

Palin announced Friday that she will leave the governor's office 18 months early, saying that she didn't want to serve as a lame duck governor (she doesn't plan on running for another term — hint, hint) and that she wanted to protect her family from media scrutiny.

The Editorial Board doesn't understand what makes Palin believe that the end of her gubernatorial tenure will cause all media attention to cease and desist. For one, she is an extremely polarizing and captivating figure, the kind people will listen to even if they can't stand him or her (sort of like Ann Coulter, except that she has — or wait — had, a day job). Secondly, running for the leader of the free world is a pretty big deal.

Regardless, some politicians are saying the move could be a brilliant tactical maneuver that we just don't "get" at this time.

We disagree, but with a tiny bit of reservation; the whole two-third-of-a-term-in-office-will-catapult-me-into-a-bigger-office strategy seemed to work for Barack Obama.

But if Palin's quitting parallels Ginger Spice, Obama is like the Michael Jordan of quitters in an I'm-so-good-at-everything-it-doesn't-even-matter kind of way. We think Palin's "strategy" will backfire (assuming she does plan on running for president in 2012), but, hey, maybe she'll end up with four No.1 singles as a solo artist. Or, at the very least, because a source close to Palin told ABC News that the soon-to-be ex-governor was planning on campaigning for other candidates, Palin could parallel the quitting of Jerry Seinfeld and leave an illustrious, high-profile career for a job that is basically a "TV commercial star."

Overall, no one knows what will come of Palin's resignation or which "famous quitter from history" she will resemble in a few years. But, if Karl Rove is left speechless by her "architectural" skills, her decision was probably not in the best interests of the Republican Party.

Hope for Honduras

The Editorial Board would like to make note of the political crisis in Honduras, an event upsetting the lives of millions of the country's citizens.

The Honduran coup took place after now-ousted President Manuel Zelaya conducted a public poll on whether or not to vote to change the country's constitution. Proposing a change was ruled unconstitutional by the Honduran Supreme Court, and so Zelaya was placed under arrest and exiled.

The Editorial Board would like to point out the hypocrisy in this chain of events. Zelaya was not attempting to alter the constitution himself but rather asked the public's opinion. A rule that declares proposing constitutional changes as il-

legal seems like a convenient excuse for a coup and, worse, anathema to democracy.

After the coup, the new leaders stated that Honduras was now safe from Hugo Chavez. This statement underlined the real reason for the coup: Zelaya's leftist stance as opposed to that of the hard-liners who got rid of him. A broken rule, which ultimately amounted to nothing more than the stating of an opinion, should not be used as an excuse.

We would like to express our hope that this situation is quickly resolved. After Zelaya returns, if his opponents want him out of office, then let it be done by a vote in the democratic way. After all, Honduras is a democracy, and opinion is not thought crime.

the independent florida
alligator

Kristin Bjornsen
EDITOR

Brittany Davis
Andrew Stanfill
MANAGING EDITORS

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
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Column

War-weary Americans turn to tabloids

Sometime last week in between the earth-shattering news that Michael Jackson, the OxiClean pitchman and Farrah Fawcett had all actually died within the same cosmic time frame, two significant news items went largely unnoticed.

First, on June 30, American forces officially withdrew from major cities in Iraq, giving control of security to the Iraqi National Guard. Sure, 130,000 troops may still remain in the country, but for many Iraqis the day was one of celebration, a day of independence much like our own, marked with national flags and even parades.

Around the same time, President Barack Obama's administration deployed 21,000 additional troops to Afghanistan to stomp out Taliban resistance. In the period of a week, one war theater saw the cue for the end credits, and another theater found itself with a few thousand more moviegoers demanding more popcorn.

Few Americans seem to notice the movement of hundreds of thousands of their fellow citizens deployed abroad in the Middle East, anymore. And who could blame us? Cable news networks haven't given much attention to Iraq or Afghanistan for a long time.

Instead, CNN, Fox News and the likes have all been playing to the ratings. The biggest shows on television right now: Death and Despair. This combination made the Iraq War the big ticket for cable news ratings, but now celebrity deaths and the despair of our economy are bringing in the dough. Jackson's death has been given coverage even a pope can't bring. Bernie Madoff, who, like the King of Pop, needs no introduction, gave news networks hours of airtime to first anticipate what the disgraced financier would receive for punishment and then to speculate how he would handle his 150-year sentence.

For some, Madoff's final judgment represented an al-



Matthew Christ
letters@alligator.org

most biblical reckoning. Madoff would be sacrificed for the sins of Wall Street, and money would again flow from the spigots of capitalism. Yet, when he was finally punished, nothing of great significance ensued to calm our financial worries. Madoff went to prison, his wife Ruth published a written statement and

the world was still in a recession.

The talking heads on television, the stately smiles in newspapers and the booming voices on talk radio all clamored for information that could somehow fuel their nonstop appetites, but news of an Afghanistan surge and the beginning of a long awaited Iraqi withdrawal did nothing for them. Then, speculation about Jackson's drug abuse and on-call doctors erupted onto the scene, and the talking heads were once again saved.

It seems that we no longer live in a post-Sept. 11 world. News about a war abroad no longer takes precedence in headlines, and our enemies are no longer turban wearing fundamentalists, but greedy and unprincipled financiers. The Age of Osama has been replaced by the Age of Bernie, and few have noticed.

Perhaps it's because we're tired of war, or because our shrinking pocketbook really hits home. But for millions of Americans, the wars overseas are not mere side notes but a terrible reality. Yet, in between the circus that has been South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford's "Appalachian Trail" hike, Madoff's sentencing, and Jackson's death, our national appetite for tabloid fodder has hit the fan.

Don't stop till you get enough.

Matthew Christ is a political science sophomore. His column appears weekly.

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

Reader response

Today's question: Was Sarah Palin's resignation a good political move?

Thursday's question is unavailable due to technical error.

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

Column

Web site offers tips for lazy folks

So if any of you are like me, you're probably an incredibly lazy person. And I don't mean ordinary, run-of-the-mill lazy — I mean you elevate it to an art form. There's nothing wrong with laziness, by the way, so don't let anyone tell you otherwise. Laziness — the desire to exert the least possible effort — has given rise to our most wonderful human ingenuities. If someone hadn't been too lazy to walk, we probably wouldn't have cars. If someone hadn't been too lazy to try and make a genuine connection with a woman, we probably wouldn't have such brilliant pick up lines as "Was your dad a baker, because your buns are out of this world!" The bottom line is that laziness keeps us sharp. Because of it we are ever-vigilant for the next thing that will make our lives easier and, in our own twisted way, richer.

In that same vein, I've recently found a Web site that has become my own labor-saving Mecca. Lifehacker.com, created in January of 2005, is a brilliant spot to find tips to make your life less draining. The advice and wisdom distributed on Lifehacker runs from the sort of esoteric thing that you'll only use once in your life to stunningly simple little ideas that you'll kick yourself for having never thought of before. For example, I've always been far too lazy to sit through movie credits in hopes of some funny after-credits scene — well, thanks to Lifehacker, I've now discovered MovieStinger.com, which tells whether a movie has anything worth watching after the credits. More than that, I was also turned on to Runpee.com. Tired



Eric Chianese
letters@alligator.org

of sitting in a movie theater staring sullenly at your emptied large soda while you furiously cross and uncross your legs, desperately needing a bathroom break but unwilling to miss any of the riveting action of the cinema?

Well, some latter-day Edison has solved that problem.

Runpee.com lists all the movies in theaters and suggests points during the movie at which you should, well, run and pee, without missing anything too important or awesome. It even tells you how long you have until the movie picks back up again, and what you'll be missing while you're gone.

This is just one of the brilliant tips I found on Lifehacker, and I regret not having discovered this hub of labor-savers sooner. Other wisdom waiting to be mulled over by those bold enough to seek it out include things like "how to have fresh baked bread in five minutes," and, my personal favorite, "amplify your speakerphone with a cereal bowl."

Some of the tips might not strike you as immediately helpful — but on that one absurd day when you need to amplify your speakerphone and all you have handy is a cereal bowl, all of the sudden you'll be MacGyver!

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

Letter to the Editor

UF should keep station

While I understand that our slowing economy forces even UF to make difficult cutbacks, I do not understand why the leaders of our largest employer in Alachua County have to behave like any other arrogant, big-city CEOs when considering the fates of employees. I am particularly upset about the recent treatment of the staff of WRUF.

WRUF offers UF students the opportunity to work in a real-world business and creative environment while they study. While no one is above being considered for cutbacks, WRUF is a strange place to begin looking because it funds itself through revenue generated by commercials, unlike many other branches of UF.

Nonetheless, the UF employees who maintain these operations have been told they will soon learn who among them is losing his or her job, as WRUF has been targeted for layoffs.

While layoffs at WRUF are upsetting, that is not what moved me to write this letter.

What is truly upsetting is the fact that these employees will learn their fates from a group earning combined salaries of at least \$200,000. Also, this expense is being held against WRUF.

Why does UF have hundreds of thousands of dollars to spend freely on consultants, but it cannot shield the jobs of 15-plus-year employees from this economic downturn?

Rita E. Patterson
Jacksonville resident

LAW SCHOOL INSIDER

How does today's economy impact law school admissions?

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Agenda

- Panel discussion: featuring JD admissions officers, alumni and students
- Audience Q&A Session
- Panelist Meet & Greet
- Seminar: Secrets of the LSAT*

Tuesday, July 28th
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
UF Levin College of Law

Guest Panelist:

Jake Henry
Associate Director of Admissions
University of Florida Frederic G. Levin College of Law

Anne Richard
Associate Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid
The George Washington University Law School

Stephanie D. Powell
Director of Financial Aid/ Asst. Director of Admissions
Mercer University School of Law

Joann Grages
Stetson Law Alum and Recruiter
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Hondurans praise president's ouster

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — Hondurans in the U.S. organized rallies Tuesday supporting the ouster of Honduran President Manuel Zelaya, even as Zelaya prepared to return to his country accompanied by U.N. officials.

A group of about 100 demonstrators gathered Tuesday outside the Honduran Consulate in Atlanta.

In Florida, home to the nation's largest Honduran community, organizers staged rallies Monday in Miami to show their support for the new government. Another rally was scheduled for Wednesday in Tampa. And still another demonstration was scheduled over the weekend for New York.

"The situation is complex. For

the world, for those who aren't Honduran, it's worrying that the military ousted Zelaya and four hours later there was a new president," said Jose Lagos, head of the Miami-based nonprofit Honduran Unity. "But there was no other path. Unfortunately, President Zelaya himself created this situation," he said.

Unfortunately, President Zelaya himself created this situation."

Jose Lagos
Head of Honduran Unity

Lagos maintained the international media are misinformed about what led to Zelaya's exile. He says Zelaya was trying to violate the Honduras constitution by seeking to extend his rule.



AP Photo

Carla Chirinos, 7, joined about 200 Honduran demonstrators waving flags and chanting "Zelaya must go," outside the country's consulate in Miami Monday to show support for their interim government.

THIS WEEK IN GAINESVILLE HISTORY

By **KATHERINE BEIN**
Alligator Contributing Writer

July 4, 1972:

A group of UF architecture seniors presents its year 2000 projection of development in Gainesville and at UF to the Chamber of Commerce Gainesville Redevelopment Council.

According to the students, Gainesville will be "a skyline of open-air megastructures, each of which constitutes a town and neighborhood within the city, connected by a streamlined monorail that provides speedy access to each of the towns," by the turn of the millennia, according to Alligator archives.

The goal was to control the city's growth into a planned and manageable metropolis, shifting away from the uncontrolled sprawl, which continues to be a problem for local developer's today.

"The model is certainly exciting and feasible and is necessary for the future," Commissioner Joe Little had said at the meeting.

July 10, 1973:

Dr. Robert Cade, who developed Gatorade in 1965, is busy promoting Super-Gator, a yellowish drink similar to orange juice.

The product, designed as a breakfast protein supplement, contains "one-half the daily adult requirement for protein," according to Cade's claims.

Cade has also invented a hydraulic football helmet, a protein-infused milk product called Gator Go! and Hop N' Gator, a beer-like drink that the body absorbs quickly to get partiers drunk faster and sober sooner.

July 8, 1980:

Phyllis Bleiweis becomes the first woman to sit on the Alachua County Commission.

The position was offered to her by Florida Gov. Bob Graham via phone after Perry McGriff vacated his spot to run for senator.

"I know nothing about it," Bleiweis said of her newly appointed position. "I will give it a try and see if I like it."

NATIONAL

Palin's departure sparks rumors

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Gov. Sarah Palin spent Monday fishing with her family and away from the spotlight as her lawyer insisted that legal troubles did not drive her to announce her stunning resignation over the holiday weekend.

Palin's early departure has fueled rumors that some legal entanglement not yet known to the public may have compelled her to resign. Sixteen ethics complaints have been filed against Palin in the last year, most of which have been dismissed as baseless.

But Palin's lawyer, Thomas Van Flein, said the Republican governor and former vice presidential candidate has no legal problems whatsoever.

In an interview with The Associated Press, he said that Palin believes that the hostile political climate and legal bills have become too much of a distraction for the state.

"She is leaving now because I think she believes that she has become the issue, rightly or wrongly, with all these ethics complaints and with the issues involving the Legislature, the combativeness they've been demonstrating toward her since she returned from the campaign," Van Flein said of Palin, still widely believed to

be a possible presidential candidate in 2012.

"I think she believes it's in the best interest of the state to progress forward, for her to move on to other issues."

Palin has become a lightning rod for partisan politics in Alaska since her return from the 2008 presidential campaign after John McCain selected her as his running mate. She has racked up an estimated \$500,000 in legal bills defending the flurry of ethics complaints, including one filed Monday that alleges she is violating ethics law by taking per diem payments when she stays in her Wasilla home instead of the governor's mansion in Juneau.

In addition, her relationship with Senate Democrats — once among her staunchest allies — deteriorated in the last session.

Palin has made only one brief public appearance — watching part of the July 4th parade in Juneau — since her bombshell announcement Friday that she will resign from office at the end of the month. She is scheduled to appear at a bill-signing on Tuesday in Kotzebue, an Alaska village north of the Arctic circle.



Palin

Utah man pleads guilty to dumping

■ HE WAS ON THE MOST-WANTED ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENDERS LIST.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KEY WEST — A fugitive who was shot in the Florida Keys after confronting law officers with an assault rifle pleaded guilty Monday to charges stemming from that case and to environmental charges he faced in Utah.

Larkin Baggett, 55, was shot and wounded March 10 when federal agents and local sheriff's deputies arrested him at a marina in the Keys town of Marathon. Baggett was among the most-wanted environmental offenders sought by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA began publishing the list of fugitives last year.

Court records show that Baggett brandished a .308-caliber Bushmaster assault rifle at officers and ignored commands to show his hands.

"He was heard to state words to the effect 'I won't go' and 'take this' as he attempted to raise the assault rifle to firing position, sweeping the barrel toward several of the exposed agents," prosecutors said in one court document.

After Baggett was shot twice and wounded, officers found four rifles and four handguns in his travel trailer. The assault rifle had two fully loaded 30-round magazines.

Baggett pleaded guilty to four counts of assaulting a law enforcement officer with a deadly weapon and one count of being a fugitive in possession of a firearm. He also

pleaded guilty to the original Utah charges of violating the federal Clean Water Act and illegally disposing of hazardous waste.

The combined charges carry a maximum prison sentence of 98 years. U.S. District Judge K. Michael Moore set sentencing for Oct. 14.

Baggett fled Utah before his scheduled June 2008 trial on charges that his company, Chemical Consultants Inc. of North Salt Lake dumped hazardous chemicals into drains, a paved alley and into grates leading to a sewer district.

After appearing on the EPA's wanted list, court records show that Baggett bought a satellite phone that agents were able to trace to locations in Marathon. Baggett had a copy of The Salt Lake Tribune newspaper containing a story about him in his truck when he was arrested, prosecutors said.

STATE

Disney monorail crash kills operator

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORLANDO — A witness to the monorail accident that killed a train operator at Walt Disney World over the weekend described it in a 911 call released Monday as “a head-on collision” between two trains.

“A monorail was waiting to come into the station ... or it did not leave the station, and the other one cleared through the station, and there was a head-on collision,” the male caller said.

The accident occurred as the park resort was closing early Sunday and one train was being transferred off the rail line, said Zoraya Suarez, a Disney spokeswoman. She declined to describe the circumstances of the

crash further.

Austin Wuennenberg, 21, died of multiple traumatic injuries in what’s being considered an accident, said Sheri Blanton, a spokeswoman for the medical examiner’s office in Orlando.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration said Monday it will investigate whether workplace safety rules were broken before one monorail train crashed into another, said Mike D’Aquino, a spokesman in Atlanta for the federal agency. The investigation could take as long as six months.

If citations are issued, Disney World could be fined thousands of dollars. The Orange County Sheriff’s Office in Orlando also is investigating the death.

Obama meets Russian leader

■ THEY RENEWED PLEDGES TO IMPROVE U.S.-RUSSIAN RELATIONS.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — Presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev confidently committed to a year-end deal to slash nuclear stockpiles by about a third on Monday, but the U.S. leader failed to crack stubborn Kremlin objections to America’s missile defense plans — a major stumbling block to such an agreement.

Both men renewed pledges to pull U.S.-Russian relations out of the dismal state into which they had descended during the eight years of the Bush administration. And to that end, they signed a series of agreements and joint statements designed to enliven and quicken contacts on a broad range of issues — including cooperation on Afghanistan, a key Obama foreign policy objective.

Obama said the leaders both felt relations had “suffered from a sense of drift. President Medvedev and I are committed to leaving behind the suspicion and rivalry of the past.”

His host expressed similar good will.

“This is the first but very important step in improving full-scale cooperation between our

two countries, which would go to the benefit of both states,” the Russian leader said. But he injected a note of caution, saying discussions so far “cannot remove the burden of all the problems.”

There was no statement of Russian readiness to help the United States persuade Iran to abandon its nuclear ambitions, even though Obama’s top Russia adviser, Michael McFaul, told reporters in a post-meeting briefing that Iran dominated the two leaders’ private meeting that opened the summit. Talks continued in an expanded session that included 12 advisers for each president.

For all the upbeat public statements, a pall of disagreement on missile defense and NATO expansion lingered over the glittering Kremlin hall where Obama and Medvedev answered reporters’ questions. Obama said the meetings had been “frank,” diplomatic speak for difficult.

Obama sits down on Tuesday with Medvedev’s patron and predecessor as president, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, the target of a verbal poke from the U.S. president last Friday. In a pre-summit interview with The Associated Press, Obama said Putin still had one foot in the old, Cold War way of doing things.

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alligator

Source: University of Florida

Ph.D. candidate's alligator study may reveal space center impact

GATOR, from page 1

be harmful."

In particular, Boggs is curious to see what effects the space center may have on the alligators.

"[Cape Canaveral] is still fairly wild, and there's a decent sized alligator population out there. We've been looking at chemicals like flame retardants, heavy metals and perchlorate, which makes up a large part of rocket fuel," Boggs said.

According to Boggs, some of these chemicals can reduce the production of thyroid hormone, which alters metabolism and development.

High levels of perchlorate have not yet been detected in the area. The chemical has a very hot, intense burn, and most of it may be burned up during launches, with little of it escaping into the environment when the shuttle takes off, Boggs said.

However, perchlorate may enter surrounding waterways at other points on the space center.

"We're very interested in the areas where they're washing the shuttles down afterwards or maybe where they're loading or unloading the fuel, and there might be some sort of spillage there," Boggs said.

Once the eggs were collected, Boggs' job was to make sure that all of the eggs, and the alligators hatching from them, experienced the exact same conditions.

The more than 250 alligators being studied are housed in greenhouses on the rooftops of Bartram and Carr halls. All reptiles are packed

in about six tubs, which resemble the natural crowding behavior of young alligators in the wild.

Boggs records each alligator's length every two weeks, first measuring from snout to tail and again without the tail.

"This is more indicative of their actual length because tail size can vary," Boggs said.

Finally Boggs takes the weight and measures the tail girth; the size of the tail girth is generally an indication of health.

"There is a wide difference in the growth rates of these animals. Whether or not it's significant from lake to lake, we don't know yet. But just visually we know that some animals aren't doing as well as others," Boggs said.

The alligators are almost one year old, and the largest are around two feet, the smallest are less than half that size.

To prevent bias in the study, Boggs is purposely unaware of the origins of any particular alligator, however each alligator was fitted with an electronic chip so that data can be stored on a computer system.

When the study is complete, she will look at the computer and be able to match the groups of alligators with their original home.

Alligators were chosen as the subject of this study because they are a "sentinel species."

"They can tell us things about the environment. They're kind of like our watch dogs," Boggs said.

Because alligators are aquatic, any toxins in the water will end up in them. Additionally, alligators eat a lot of fish, which increases their exposure to contaminants.

The irony of a UF Gator working with alligators has not been lost on Boggs.



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

UF graduate student Ashley Boggs holds two young alligators that were born during hatching season last year. The study she is working on is seeking to find out why they are so different in size.

"It's a joke that I have to deal with a lot," she said. "Really the benefit of being in Florida is being in an environment where my study species is easily accessible."

Two of the most important things that Boggs has learned while studying alligators are confidence and respect.

"You can't hesitate and be scared when you're out there trying to catch an alligator," she said.

On the other hand, the creatures command

respect.

"You just have to understand that this is a powerful animal and even though you get used to handling them, they're still wild," Boggs said.

But, Boggs sees her work extending beyond alligators.

"What we do to the environment, we're doing to ourselves as well. There's not a separation between the two; we are a part of our environment," Boggs said.

Carvey's claims to fame include 'Wayne's World,' 'Saturday Night Live' skits

GROWL, from page 1

15,000 locals and 15,000 alumni and football fans in town for the game the next day.

Carvey is a former "Saturday Night Live" cast member and played Garth in the "Wayne's

World" movies. He also has a recent HBO special called "Squatting Monkeys Tell No Lies."

Many students surveyed on campus weren't familiar with Carvey, but recent UF graduate Rob Castellucci was excited to hear the news.

It's a "massive improvement" over last year's comedian, he said.

On Campus

"I think he's really funny compared to a lot of the crap they usually bring in," he said.

He said the band organizers

are trying to lock in for the show is young and fresh and should also appeal to students, though he declined to say who it is.

The musical act will likely be announced next month.

The bands on the ballot in this year's poll were Sugarland, ZZ

Top, O.A.R. and Third Eye Blind.

Steve Miller Band played at last year's show.

Tickets can be purchased by UF students, faculty and staff for \$15 at gatorzone.com.

The general public can purchase tickets for \$25 starting Aug. 24.

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7 U.S. troops killed throughout Afghanistan Monday

■ **OBAMA HAS ORDERED 21,000 ADDITIONAL TROOPS TO THE COUNTRY.**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL (AP) — Bombs and bullets killed seven American troops on Monday, the deadliest day for U.S. forces in Afghanistan in nearly a year — and a sign that the war being fought in the Taliban heartland of the south and east could now be expanding north.

Separately, Taliban militants claimed on a militant Web site that they were holding an American soldier whom the U.S. military says insurgents might have captured last week. The Taliban statement, however, did not include any proof, such as a picture or the soldier's name.

Four of the deaths Monday came in an attack on a team of U.S. military trainers in the relatively peaceful north, bringing into focus the question of whether the U.S. is committing enough troops to secure a country larger than Iraq in both population and land mass.

On a visit to Moscow, President Barack Obama said it's too soon to measure the success of his new strategy in Afghanistan. He said the U.S. can take another look at the situation after the country's presidential elections on Aug. 20.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said in some respects, progress has been "insignificant" in Afghanistan. He said it's hard to say how quickly the situation will

improve.

Obama has ordered 21,000 additional American troops to this country, mainly in the south where Taliban militants have made a violent comeback after a U.S.-led coalition toppled them from power in late 2001. The U.S. expects 68,000 troops here by year's end, double last year's total but still half as many as now in Iraq.

The four American soldiers killed in the north died in a roadside bombing of their vehicle in Kunduz province, said Navy Chief Petty Officer Brian Naranjo, a U.S. military spokesman. The soldiers were training Afghan forces, he said.

Two Americans were killed in a roadside blast in southern Afghanistan, Naranjo said. And another American soldier died of wounds

in a Monday firefight with militants in the east, a U.S. military spokesman said.

There were no further details on the incidents in the south and the east.

It was the deadliest day for American troops in Afghanistan since July 13, 2008, when 10 soldiers were killed — nine of them when militants using small-arms fire and

rocket-propelled grenades attacked a remote outpost in the village of Wanat near the Pakistani border.

The Taliban claim about holding a captured U.S. soldier came six days after a soldier was noticed missing during a routine check of his unit June 30. His body armor and weapon were found on the base.

Two U.S. defense sources have said the soldier "just walked off" post with three Afghans after he finished working. They had no explanation for why he left.

In southern Afghanistan, meanwhile, thousands of U.S. Marines continued with their anti-Taliban offensive in Helmand province. Some 500 Marines out of 4,000 participating in the operation moved into the Khan Neshin area, a Marine statement said Monday.

"This is the first time coalition forces have had a sustained presence so far south in the Helmand River valley. Khan Neshin had been a Taliban stronghold for several years before Afghan, and coalition forces arrived and began discussions with local leaders several days ago," the statement added.

In the southern province of Kandahar, meanwhile, a suicide car bomber blew himself up outside the outer gate of the main NATO base in the region, killing two civilians and wounding 14 other people.

Those wounded near the gates of Kandahar Airfield included 12 civilians and two Afghan soldiers, said Gen. Sher Mohammad Zazai, the top military commander for southern Afghanistan.



AP Photo

Afghan National Army soldiers and U.S. Marines from the 2nd MEB, 1st Battalion 5th Marines patrol in the Nawa district of Afghanistan's Helmand province on July 6.

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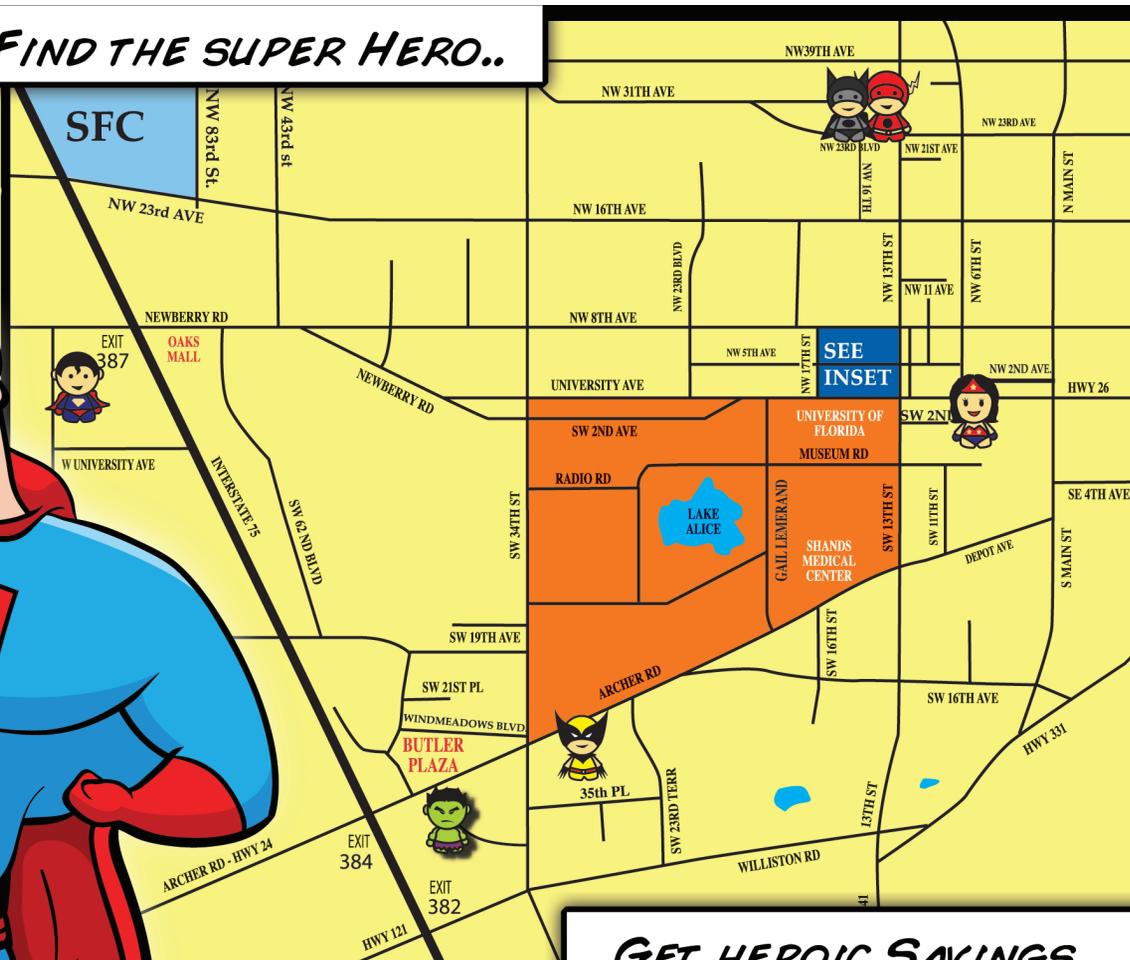
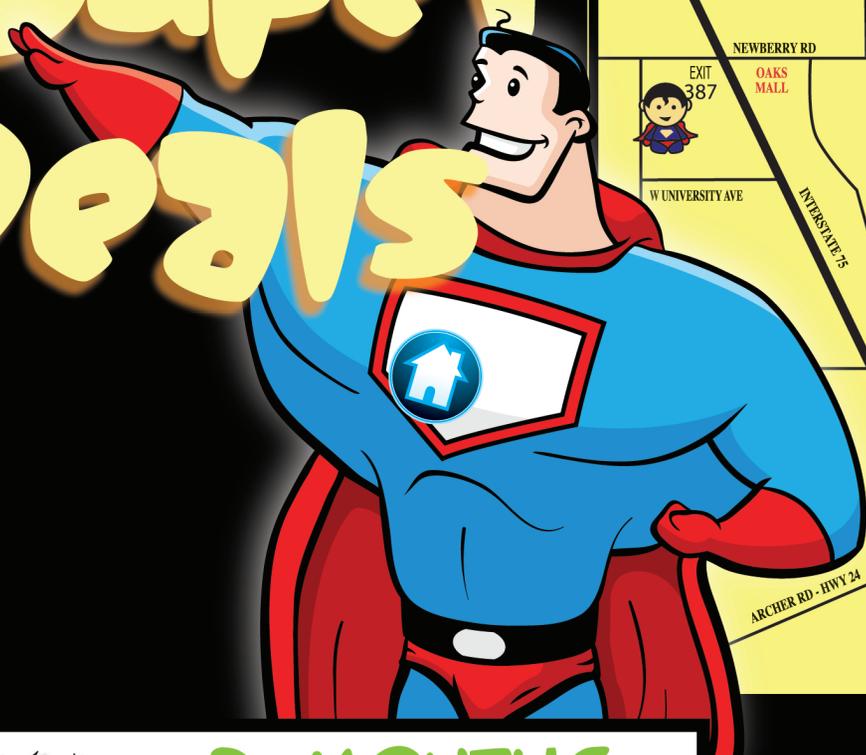
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AP Photo

Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (right) watches with Utah Jazz forward Carlos Boozer during Game 4 of the NBA Finals between the Los Angeles Lakers and Orlando Magic on June 11. Wade wants the Heat to become championship contenders before he will commit to staying in Miami.

NBA Wade's future depends on Heat vying for ring

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — Dwyane Wade will remain in Miami on one condition. He wants the Heat to become a championship contender again, the quicker the better.

Otherwise, he might need moving trucks next summer.

The reigning NBA scoring champion, who can opt out of his Heat contract after the 2009-10 season, said Monday that simply getting to the playoffs "is not enough" to satisfy him anymore, and that his long-term commitment to Miami hinges entirely on the franchise getting back into the mix for the title trophy he hoisted just three years ago.

"I'm going to listen. I owe the Miami Heat that much. I'm going to listen to what they have to say, and I'm going to think about it," Wade told The Associated Press. "But right now, the way I feel, I want to make sure that we're on track to where I want us to be on track to before I sign back."

Wade made it clear that he would like to stay with the Heat, reiterating something he has said countless times in recent months. There's no acrimony between the 2006 NBA Finals MVP and Heat president Pat Riley either, and Wade said that the jump Miami made this past season — from 15 wins and the league's worst record in 2007-08 to 43 wins and the No. 5 seed in the East in 2008-09 — was thrilling.

"I'm good with that," Wade said, "for one year."

Another season around .500, though, won't be as enticing.

"That's not enough for me," said Wade, who set career bests last season in scoring average (30.2 per game), 3-pointers (88, three more than his total from his first five NBA seasons combined), steals (2.2 per game), blocks (1.3 per game) and games played (79).

At 27, he feels like he's just entering his prime — and doesn't want to miss any opportunity for more titles.

"I've told coach Riley this: All my life, all I've ever wanted to do is win and be put in a position where I can win and succeed," Wade said. "Build me a team. Put the pressure on me to win a championship. Give me a team and say, 'All right, you've got to go do it,' and I'll take that pressure. Give me

guys that we feel can compete every year to win a championship. I don't want to go anywhere else."

Wade's contract status is the biggest issue facing the Heat this summer. He could sign an extension as early as next week.

His destination after next season has been an oft-discussed topic, especially since he and good friend LeBron James structured their last contracts the same way to have the flexibility to become free agents in 2010.

"I want to make sure that we stay competitive and we have an opportunity to win championships, like I've done before," Wade said. "I don't want to be content with winning games. I don't want to win games. I want to win championships. That's what I'm all about."

"I'm going to listen. I owe the Miami Heat that much. I'm going to listen to what they have to say, and I'm going to think about it."

Dwyane Wade
Miami Heat guard

Already this summer, the Heat have seen plenty of teams in the East make big moves. Shaquille O'Neal — Wade's former superstar teammate — was traded to Cleveland to play alongside James. Orlando landed Vince Carter, Boston reportedly agreed to a deal with Rasheed Wallace, Detroit picked up Ben Gordon and Toronto seems poised to sign Hedo Turkoglu.

The Heat have yet to make a splashy move, hoping young players like Michael Beasley, Mario Chalmers, Daequan Cook and Dorell Wright can help Miami make more strides this season.

"D-Wade wants what's best for the Miami Heat, period," former Heat center Alonzo Mourning said last week. "Obviously, he wants more help for the Heat to get to that next level again. He feels like we've got good pieces around us. We just need a little bit more."

Wade sees it the same way. "My talents can help a team compete for a championship," Wade said. "I've proven that."

Ranking UF's rivalries: FSU, Georgia, Tennessee top list

No matter which players take the field, what year it is or which sport is being played, rivalries will always exist in college sports.

It's what truly sets them apart from pro sports — the players may not always be the same, but the emotions are unchanged. In the big leagues, teams' identities often change as players come and go, and rivalries tend to transform as the balance of power shifts.

In college, though, that's not generally the case. The only thing that can really dissolve a rivalry is when the teams no longer play on a regular basis. It doesn't matter if Michigan's football team is having a down year — the Wolverines will always be ready to play their best game when Ohio State comes to town. The same goes for Duke and North Carolina in basketball or Alabama and Auburn on the gridiron.

The UF football team is particularly interesting when it comes to this topic.



Adam Berry
Bad News Berry
aberry@alligator.org

ESPN's Pat Forde wrote about the hottest rivalries in college football right now, and the Gators had two appearances in the top three spots: against Tennessee at No. 2 and against Georgia at No. 3.

So even without mentioning one of the biggest in-state rivalries in the country in any sport, UF will play two of the most anticipated games when the college football season starts in just under two months.

The Gators have a number of strong rivalries in every sport — not just football — for a number of reasons. First of all, the Southeastern Conference breeds intense competition. Football is a religion in the south, a way of life for many people. Sec-

SEE ADAM, PAGE 22

UP NEXT IN OUR TOP 10 UF ATHLETES

■ No. 6 on our list became a powerful spokesperson for the Gators on and off the field and had one of the most memorable plays of the year. Our No. 5 pick lived up to the preseason hype and delivered a record-breaking season.

FORMER GATORS

■ Softball pitcher Stacey Nelson pitched two scoreless innings and scored a run in her second outing with Team USA as it defeated Venezuela 8-1 on Sunday in 2009 Canada Cup round-robin play.

POLL QUESTION

Today's question: What do you think of our picks for No. 8 and No. 7 in our list of the Top 10 UF Athletes of 2008-09?

Previous question: What do you think of our picks for No. 10 and No. 9 in our list of the Top 10 UF Athletes of 2008-09? (results at right)

	Percent (Votes)
Both right	58% (32)
Both wrong	22% (12)
Cusack wrong, Black right	15% (8)
Cusack right, Black wrong	5% (3)
55 TOTAL VOTES	

CYCLING

Armstrong moves into third at Tour

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LA GRANDE-MOTTE, France — If age is Lance Armstrong's enemy, then experience is his friend.

With a savvy sense of the pack and a touch of luck, the 37-year-old Texan surprised some of the younger Tour de France contenders Monday to move within striking distance of the yellow jersey.

He made up for what his legs lack in power with road smarts during the breezy third stage along the Mediterranean, rising from 10th to third place.

Armstrong hitched a ride with a breakaway group led by old sidekick George Hincapie's Team Columbia. Mark Cavendish, a Columbia rider from Britain, won the stage for the second straight day. Race leader Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland kept the yellow jersey for the third day in a row. The Swiss rider with Saxo

Bank extended his lead and is ahead of Tony Martin of Germany by 33 seconds and Armstrong by 40.

"Good positioning, experience, a little bit of luck."

Lance Armstrong
Seven-time Tour de France winner

Most of the favorites were trapped by the wind during the 122-mile ride from Marseille to La Grande-Motte. Sensing the gusts were causing havoc ahead of a turn with about 18 miles to go, Armstrong simply stayed in front, outfoxing riders like Alberto Contador of Spain, the 2007 Tour winner and favorite this year.

"Good positioning, experience, a little bit of luck," Armstrong said. "Just before that corner I was 20 guys back, and I decided just that idea to move up enough to be on their wheel. And there it went."



AP Photo

Lance Armstrong reacts as he rides during the third stage of the Tour de France on Monday. It covered 196.5 kilometers (122 miles), which started in Marseille and finished in La Grande-Motte, France.

ADAM, from page 21

ond, all three in-state college sports powerhouses — UF, FSU and Miami — have been rivals with each other at some point or another. Although the UF-UM relationship has dulled recently, it had its moments.

So, UF is in an overly competitive conference and an overly competitive state, and rivalries are generally built by either geographical convenience or in-conference power struggles.

We discussed this issue on the Alligator Sports Podcast way back on April 14, and none of the four participants had identical lists of UF's top three rivals.

That's what makes this topic interesting: Everyone has different qualifications in

terms of what makes a great rivalry.

For some, football is king, and everything else is secondary. For others, the schools must be competitive in every sport. For some, in-state rivalries are more compelling because of the competing fans and the fact that many of the players grew up together. For others, conference matchups matter more simply because they have a larger impact on the team's postseason destiny. For some, it's all about how much history the schools have. For others, today's hottest rivalries are more interesting because they are shaping the future.

I tried to take all that into account when making this list of UF's top three rivals:

1) FSU: To me, this will never be toppled. It has the right combination of all of the above

factors, with the obvious exception of the conference rivalry. It doesn't matter if it's football or tennis — players, coaches and fans on both sides know the importance of this game in every sport.

2) GEORGIA: In one of my first classes at UF, my TA (whose other job was a priest, mind you) told us he generally saved the word "hate" for the devil, but he wanted everyone to hate anything and everything that came out of Athens, Ga. That's a pretty strong statement, and it reflects the amount of hostility the UF-Georgia rivalry contains. Whether it's at the event formerly known as the World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party in Jacksonville, at a gymnastics meet in the O'Connell Center or in a profanity-laced conversation about jean shorts, this is

a deeply rooted, intense rivalry.

3) TENNESSEE: Having lived in the Volunteer State for nearly two years, I'll admit I'm a little closer to this rivalry than most UF students. However, Lane Kiffin really took it to another level, without even coaching a game. With the controversial recruitment of Nu'Keese Richardson and public taunting of Urban Meyer, Kiffin has stoked the flames of this in-conference rivalry, and it's showing across all sports. When Tennessee's softball team came to Gainesville for a two-day series, Meyer was in the press box one day, and Tim Tebow was there the other day. Although Senior Day against FSU will be the most exciting experience in The Swamp this year, it's hard to argue against Sept. 19 being the most anticipated day of the season.

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Top 10 UF Athletes of 2008-09

Consistent Brooks leads to standout season



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

UF senior guard Sha Brooks' 29 points led the Gators to their third-ever victory against Tennessee on Feb. 8.

By **PHIL KEGLER**
Alligator Staff Writer
sports@alligator.org

Four years ago, Sha Brooks may have wanted to play basketball for Tennessee.

It is the inclination for many women's basketball players since Pat Summitt has made Knoxville, Tenn., a hot spot for the game, winning eight NCAA Championships and earning a berth in every NCAA Tournament since its inception.

But the 5-foot-7 guard from Jackson, Tenn., wasn't wanted by the Volunteers, who play roughly five hours from where she grew up.

She became a Gator instead but always saved her best performances for when Rocky Top was blaring.

With ESPN coming to the O'Connell Center for a women's basketball game for the first time in seven years, Brooks scored 29 points to lead the Gators in a 66-57 win against the Volunteers on Feb. 8.

It was only UF's third-ever win against Tennessee and resulted in an AP Poll Top 10 ranking for the first time since February 2001.

And when the Gators trailed 50-43 with 7:29 remaining, Brooks would come through with one of her finest moments.

She came down the court and drilled a 3-pointer from the top of the key. Then she did it again. Next, she drew a charge on Tennes-

see sharpshooter Angie Bjorkuland, sending the game to a media timeout and bringing the crowd to its feet as it erupted.

Two more free throws from Brooks cut the deficit to 1 before yet another 3-pointer from the top of the key gave UF a lead it would not surrender.

For a nearly six-minute stretch, the senior guard scored 12 points and was her team's entire offense.

It was the brightest in a season of many shining moments for the four-year starter.

She pushed her teammates to one of the best seasons in program history, setting new school records with 15 straight wins and seven consecutive Southeastern Conference victories.

UF returned to the Big Dance after a two-year absence and won a first-round game against Temple before falling to eventual national champion Connecticut.

And she was certainly a part of the action every night, starting all 32 games, and finished her career having been on the floor for the opening tip 123 straight times.

Brooks led the team in scoring, averaging 16.4 points per game, but upped that total to 18.8 per contest in eight matchups against nationally ranked opponents.

The senior earned SEC Player of the Week honors on three separate occasions en route to being a unanimous First Team All-SEC selection by the coaches and media.

She will leave Gainesville as one of only two Gators (Brandi McCain, '98-'02) with 1,500 points, 275 assists and 200 steals.

Brooks was also selected in the WNBA Draft in April.

The Phoenix Mercury selected her in the third round as the 31st overall selection. She became the 15th overall Gator to be drafted and the first since Dalila Eshe in 2006.

Consider the record books rewritten as well.

Brooks leaves UF as No. 1 in consecutive starts (123), made free throws (430) and free-throw attempts (550). She also ranks No. 2 in minutes played (3,882), No. 3 in steals (242), No. 3 in 3-pointers made and attempted (212/703), tied for No. 4 in games played (126) and No. 5 in points (1,820) and free-throw percentage (78.2 percent).

For her dependable scoring, clutch performances and leading the Gators to one of their best seasons ever, Sha Brooks is the alligatorSports No. 8 UF Athlete of 2008-09.

BY THE NUMBERS: Brooks earned one sixth-place vote, two seventh-place votes, one ninth-place vote, one 10th-place vote and was left off one ballot.



Brooks



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

UF left fielder Francesca Enea overcame a preseason ACL injury to break the Gators' single-season home run and RBI records.

Enea rips through records on torn ACL

By **ADAM BERRY**
Alligator Staff Writer
sports@alligator.org

During her junior year, Francesca Enea broke the UF career record for RBI, set the single-season RBI mark and shattered the school record for home runs in a career and a single season. And she basically did it all on only one good knee.

Enea suffered a partially torn ACL for the second time in her three years at UF during the team's preseason workouts in the fall. However, the doctor told her she could play without missing any time if she wore a brace, as she did during her freshman season.

UF coach Tim Walton told the Alligator that Enea made her mind up and presented him with the options.

"She said, 'There's no way that I'm not playing this season,' and that was it," Walton added.

Despite the injury, Enea started the season as one of the best offensive players in the country and had a record 71 RBI in 2009.

In a Feb. 14 doubleheader — the seventh and eighth games of the season — the left fielder

launched two grand slams and drove in 10 runs.

Part of a lineup so deep and effective that Walton once described it as "murderer's row," Enea was consistently the biggest all-around threat.

She finished the year with UF's highest on-base percentage (.494), the most home runs (18), the most RBI (71), tied for the highest slugging percentage (.713), the second most walks (48) and had the fifth-highest batting average (.339) on the team.



Enea

The UF softball team set record after record while going 133-10 over the last two years, and Enea shattered several career milestones in just three years. Her 41 home runs and 157 RBI are both high marks for the program, and she still has another season to add to those numbers.

Her record-breaking 18 homers helped UF break its single-season home run record in just 49 games, 26 fewer than the Gators played in the entire season that they set the mark.

One of Enea's most memorable longballs came on April 8 at Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium against FSU.

Two innings after Megan Bush's homer sent the game to extra frames, Enea led off the ninth with a towering walk-off bomb to give the Gators the 4-3 victory.

"When I was running around the bases, I was like 'I hope they dogpile me. I've never been in one,'" Enea said after the game. "Then I saw Kristina (Hilberth) bounding toward me, hands in the air ready to tackle me, and I was like, 'Do it!'"

Enea picked up two Southeastern Conference Player of the Week honors early in the season, and she was one of the top 25 finalists for the 2009 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year.

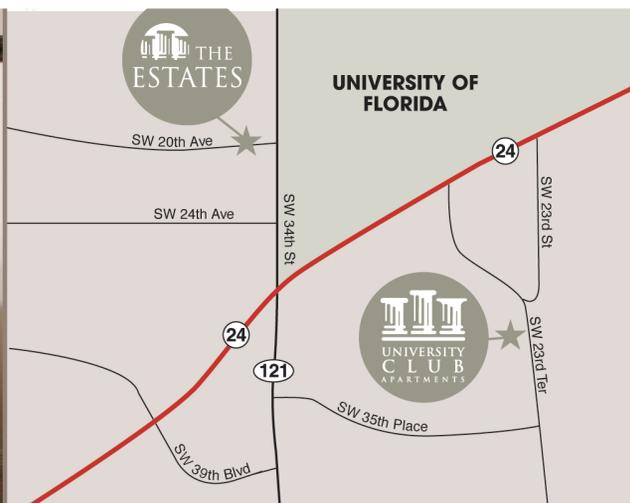
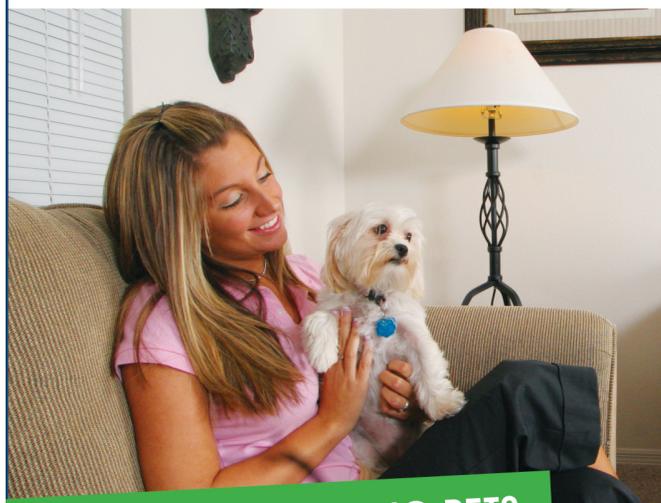
For lighting up the scoreboard and rewriting the UF record books — all while dealing with a serious injury — Francesca Enea is the alligatorSports No. 7 UF Athlete of 2008-09.

BY THE NUMBERS: Enea earned two fifth-place votes, two seventh-place votes, one ninth-place vote and was left off one ballot.



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