



UF among top 100 most-Tweeting schools

■ THERE ARE 24 ACCOUNTS TIED TO THE UNIVERSITY.

By **ANDREW NORRIS**
Alligator Contributing Writer

When it comes to communicating with its students, UF is all a-Twitter.

In a recent study conducted by UniversitiesandColleges.org, UF is near the top of the list of the 100 most-Tweeting schools.

The study showed that UF had 24 Twitter accounts officially associated with the university — more than any other on the list. Schools were also ranked based

on number of tweets per day, number of followers and number of users they're following.

UF ranked third on the list for the number of tweets per day at 45.8, about 10 fewer than George Washington University. For the number of followers, UF fell toward the middle of the pack.

UF Twitter pages range from pages for individual colleges to the university's news bureau.

Sarah Hill uses Twitter to follow Gators football and news about the university.

"Being able to follow UF on Twitter definitely keeps you up to date with lots of current events,"

Hill said.

She said she recently used the Gators football Twitter page to stay updated on Tim Tebow's injury and news on whether he would play against LSU.

The fact that Twitter is free and takes so little effort to set up

SEE TWITTER, PAGE 4

ON CAMPUS

Students rally in rain for public health care option

By **JARED MISNER**
Alligator Writer

A little rain didn't ruin this rally.

In the aftermath of the Senate Finance Committee's approval of legislation to revamp the country's current health care system, the UF College Democrats and the Alachua County Young Democrats held a rainy rally Wednesday on the Plaza of the Americas.

"We really hope to show Congress that young people care about and want health care reform," said Ben Cavaturo, UF College Democrats' vice president for political affairs.

Gainesville city commissioner and mayoral candidate Craig Lowe also took the microphone. Lowe spoke without the protection of an umbrella, and his words were frequently cut short by the echoing microphone.

"Health care reform is definitely something that benefits all of us, regardless if we're in good health or bad health," Lowe said. "It's something that impacts the economy. It's something that affects our ability to do the best we can."

As Lowe concluded his speech, the Gainesville city commissioner asked rally participants to demand a public health option from their representatives in Washington.

The Senate Finance Committee's version of the health care legislation, which Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., voted to pass Tuesday, does not include a public option. The approval readies the bill for the floors of the House and Senate and faces heated Republican opposition.

Bryan Griffin, chairman of UF College Republicans, said the current legislation provides little oversight.

"Any reform that goes through with the public option, we as conservatives and Republicans cannot support," he said, citing veterans and government-run hospitals as some of most imperfect in the country.

Eric Conrad, editorial chair of UF College Democrats, reminded students that just because the Senate Finance Committee approved the health care bill does not mean the yet-to-be-finalized plan is in the clear.

"We can't stand by and let [our elected officials] decide how we live," Conrad said.

As the rain wore down to a drizzle and the rally ended, Ferdaouis Bagga, UF College Democrats vice president for community out-



Cavaturo



Juliana Jimenez / Alligator Staff

Craig Lowe, a city commissioner running for mayor, speaks about a public option in health care legislation on the Plaza of the Americas Wednesday.

SEE RALLY, PAGE 4

UF alumnus to document Gainesville gang activity

By **JOHN J. BOOTHE**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Gabriel Tyner can hardly believe there is a gang problem in Gainesville. After all, this is Tim Tebow's town; home of the Gators, not the Bloods and Crips.

The WCJB TV-20 director and UF alumnus is now trying to inform the rest of the city on

just how dangerous a growing gang population can be for Gainesville. Tyner, along with the Boys & Girls Club of Alachua County, has teamed up to make a documentary about Gainesville's gangs.

Currently titled, "Chasing Ghosts: Fighting Gangs in Schools," the film will also target the role the media and greater community play in facilitating a gang by failing to

acknowledge its existence early on.

"If you put your head in the sand right now, it's just going to get worse," Tyner said.

Local News Keith Blanchard, president of the Boys & Girls Club of Alachua County, said he has seen national "blood-in, blood-out" type criminals infiltrate Gainesville neighborhoods with

memberships as high as 20 people per gang.

The big ones are all present, including the Bloods, Crips, MS-13, Gangster Disciples and Latin Kings, according to Gainesville Police Detective James McCollum.

McCollum said the problem has become so widespread that a walk around the Santa Fe College campus would result in sightings

SEE GANGS, PAGE 4

■ Quarterback Ryan Mallett (right) has given Arkansas' offense a big boost from 2008. The Razorbacks rank 11th in the country in scoring and tops in the SEC in passing offense. See Story, Page 18.



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Today

FORECAST	2
OPINIONS	6
AVENUE	8
CLASSIFIEDS	13
CROSSWORD	17
SPORTS	18



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News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

"Spiritualities in Circulation: Faith, Migration and the Social Construction of the Global Islamic Ummah"

Today, 6 p.m.
Dauer Hall, Room 215
This talk by Kristen R. Ghodsee from Bowdoin College explores how new religious beliefs and practices can reshape ethnic identities and national allegiances.

RUB Entertainment Presents: Local Brew

Today, 8 p.m.
Orange & Brew
This week features performances by See The World (ambient pop), My Lady 4 (indie rock) and the Matt Hobbs Band (indie rock). Entry is free. Check out www.union.ufl.edu/rub for more info.

Later Growl

Friday, 9:15 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Baptist Collegiate Ministries
1604 W. University Ave.
Stop by to enjoy free food, games and music.

Got an event?

And want to post it in this space? Send an e-mail to bkelly@alligator.org with "What's Happening" in the subject line. Include a one- to two-sentence event synopsis.

CORRECTIONS

An article in Wednesday's Alligator incorrectly identified Margot Wilder as the spokeswoman for the Child Advocacy Center. She is

THIS WEEK IN GAINESVILLE HISTORY

By KATHERINE BEIN
Alligator Staff Writer
kbein@alligator.org

October 14, 1962: The first five patients are admitted to the new \$2 million General Clinical Research Center at UF's teaching hospital. Established by a grant from the U.S. Public Health Service, the center makes it possible for researchers to study and treat difficult diseases under controlled conditions. Researchers are studying virus infections of the eye, chronic kidney disease and kidney stone formation.

FORECAST

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
THUNDER STORMS 87/72	THUNDER STORMS 82/56	SUNNY 74/48	SUNNY 71/47	SUNNY 75/55

the development coordinator.

A cutline in Wednesday's Alligator incorrectly spelled Allen Jackson's name. The cutline also stated that he is running for Black Student Union Homecoming prince. He is running for BSU Homecoming king.

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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Man drops shades, runs truck into bus

By **KATHERINE BEIN**
Alligator Staff Writer
kbein@alligator.org

A local man ran his father's Chevy Silverado 1500 into the back of an RTS bus on Southwest 20th Avenue at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Shane Chiarell, 32, said he had just turned out of the Sweetbay parking lot and was driving west when his sunglasses fell off his head. He bent down to pick them up without realizing that the bus in front of him had stopped until it was too late.

When asked if he'd been injured, Chiarell said, "Physically, no. Mentally, yeah. My dad's gonna kill me."

By the time police arrived, the bus passengers had left the scene, presumably uninjured, said GPD officer Al Moore, who responded to the scene.

Chiarell said he was driving about 30 mph when the crash happened.

The front end of the truck took the brunt of the damage and had to be towed from the street. The bus appeared to be undamaged.

Local News

HEALTH CARE

Senators prepare to merge bills

By **ROBERT HARRINGER**
Alligator Contributing Writer

The Senate Finance Committee passed its version of health care legislation without a public option Tuesday.

Only one Republican, Sen. Cynthia Snow of Maine, joined the committee's 13 Democrats to pass the legislation in a 14-9 vote.

Andre Koop, a biology junior, wasn't supportive of the committee's bill, but was glad it didn't include a public option.

"I'm against the public option because it would take away freedom from the doctors," Koop said.

Nearly 63 percent of physicians support a public option, according to a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation study.

Health care reform now falls into the hands of Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who will merge the Finance Committee's bill with the Health, Education, Labor and Pen-

sion Committee's proposal, which includes a public option.

Cynthia Braasch, a UF sophomore, hopes the final version has a public option.

"I'm against the public option because it would take away freedom from the doctors."

Andre Koop
UF junior

Her father was provided insurance through his work, but for many years of her life, she and her siblings went uncovered due to cost.

"Everyone deserves health care," Braasch said. "I think it's a right."

Democrats, with the independents who caucus with them, have 60 members in the senate, enough to block a filibuster. However, some, like Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., said they will not vote for a final bill similar to the Finance Committee's.

According to a press release issued by the committee's chairman, Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., the committee's proposal prevents insurance companies from discriminating against people based on health status, denying coverage because of pre-existing conditions or imposing annual caps or lifetime limits on coverage.

The bill would also establish a mandate for most legal residents to obtain health insurance and significantly expand eligibility for Medicaid.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office determined the bill would result in an \$81 billion net reduction in the federal budget deficit.

Some Democrats and Republicans are unhappy with a new tax included in the bill.

Cadillac Insurance Plans, those with premiums costing more than \$8,000 for individuals and \$21,000 for families, would be taxed.

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The advertising campaigns for Yaz/Yasmin in the last three years may have minimized the serious risks of these oral contraceptives while exaggerating the benefits.

The direct-to-consumer advertising has even raised red flags with the FDA prompting Bayer to be required to run new ads clarifying the serious health risks of Yaz and Yasmin. Sadly, the corrections are too late for many women who have already suffered heart attacks, strokes, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, or even death.

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UF ranks No. 3 for most daily Tweets

TWITTER, from page 1

made the creation of a Twitter page for the College of Journalism and Communications relatively effortless, said Craig Lee, who is Web administrator for the college and in charge of the college's Twitter account.

"It was an easy way to provide another channel to get news about the school out there," Lee said.

The account, which was set up this spring, has

more than 600 followers.

"The page has been positively received," Lee said. "No one has responded negatively or said, 'That's a waste of time.'"

Lee said other schools have followed in UF's Tweeting footsteps and set up pages because of its success.

"They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery," Lee said. "The fact that other schools are doing this too means something."

Documentarian hopes to finish film by 2010

GANGS, from page 1

of several gang members, all of them easily distinguishable by the colors they wear.

In relation to the number of gang members in Gainesville, McCollum admits his department is understaffed. Along with Richard LaLonde of the Alachua County Sheriff's Department, they make the only two full-time gang inves-

"We've got a growing problem. I want to make a documentary that stops it now before it gets out of control."

Gabriel Tyner
WCJB TV-20 director

the GREAT anti-gang education program to create the groundwork for a true gang prevention curriculum.

"Chasing Ghosts" is looking for more funds in order to finish the film by early next year.

"We've got a growing problem," Tyner said. "I want to make a documentary that stops it now before it gets out of control."

For more information visit, www.chasing-ghosts.com.

tigators in the county.

Blanchard said that he would like the documentary to work with

City commissioner Lowe spoke in support RALLY

, from page 1

reach, directed rally participants to sign a petition to urge Sen. Bill Nelson to support a public option plan. Bagga said more than 50 petitions were collected during the rally.

"We just need people to get involved. We need people to volunteer."

Pat McCullough

Democratic National Committee regional field director

Pat McCullough, regional field director for the Democratic National Committee who also spoke at the rally, gave advice to UF students as she urged them to call upon their elected officials.

"We just need people to get involved. We need people to volunteer," she said. "What we need is boots on the ground."

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Dozens rally downtown for health care reform

They called for a strong public option

By **WILLIAM O'CONNOR**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Rosemary Piazza, 70, lost her house because of medical bills. Drollene Brown, also 70, was denied health care coverage because of a pre-existing condition. Lee Auerbach said for the first time in almost 65 years, she just felt helpless.

The three women braved a rainy Gainesville afternoon and a few drive-by hecklers to rally with more

than three dozen others Wednesday on University Avenue and First Street. They held signs urging Sen. Bill Nelson to fight for health care reform with a strong public option.

Passing drivers honked their horns in support as the elderly crowd lined the road with signs that read, "Big insurance paid \$380 million to fight the public option," "45,000 dead annually because of no health care" and "You can't be caught dead without insurance."

The "We're Counting on You"

rally was sponsored by political action group MoveOn.org. Fred Pratt, MoveOn.org spokesman, said the only way to get a public option is by reminding Nelson that 77 percent of Americans want it.

Local News Pratt was born with spina bifida and voiced his opinions from a wheelchair. Although his medical bills are covered by Medicare and Medicaid, he chose a career in social services to help people who have no health insurance — people

he considers less fortunate.

The crowd gathered as speakers told stories of injustice at the hands of private insurance companies.

Terry Grayson, who organized the rally, said insurance companies are wealthy because they deny coverage to people who have paid for it. Grayson also said the competitive nature of a strong public option will drive down the price of insurance.

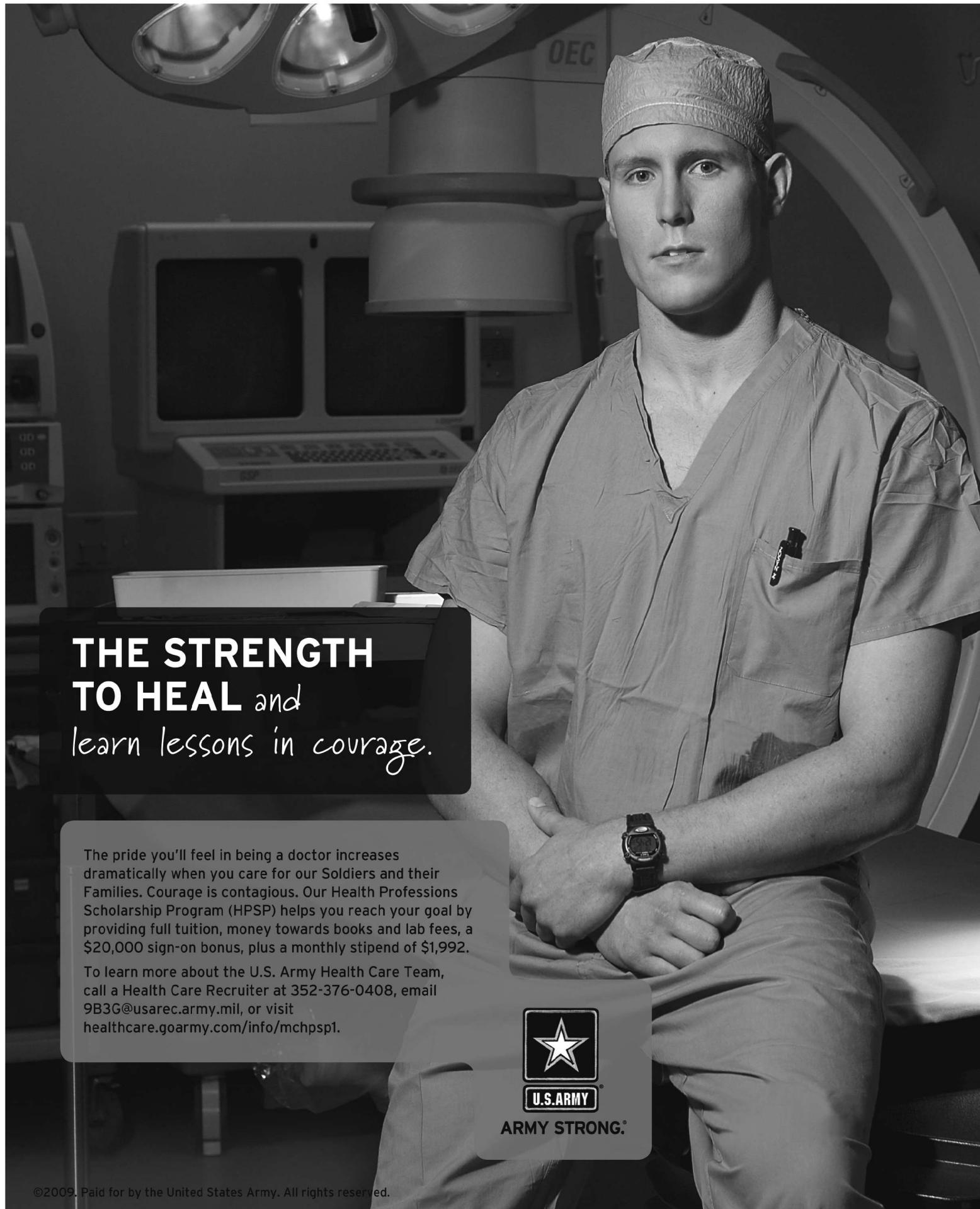
"Opponents of the public option call competition that drives prices down socialism. I call it capitalism," Grayson said.

Lee Auerbach, who owns a phys-

ical therapy practice and serves patients on Medicare, said calling it a public option is confusing; everyone should simply have health care.

"People can supplement Medicare with private insurance, and everyone will be happy," Auerbach said. "It is a federal program that works."

But Mark H. Werner, a neurologist, complained that in 1994 his insurance premiums were \$8,000 a year, and now they are \$24,000 a year. He said the only way insurance companies will reduce cost is by reducing care.



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Editorial

Jailed Gymnast

Lack of logic put Sinclair behind bars

After UF gymnast Melanie Sinclair's arrest Tuesday, a lot of questions remain unanswered.

The nine-time All-American gymnast found herself tangled in the web of the Gainesville Police Department's crackdown on a local burglary and gun-dealing ring.

It seems implausible at best that a standout college athlete, who by virtue is expected to set a moral example for the student population, finds herself on the business end of three felony charges.

But let's pause before we lump Sinclair in with the others involved in this crime ring and think about how someone with so much to lose even gets into this sort of situation.

In a convoluted, murky chain of events, police used taped phone conversations between Sinclair and her two-time felon of a boyfriend, Bud Williams, 21, to trace the stolen goods. Williams told the gymnast to deny any knowledge of the nine firearms that were apparently stashed in her home at Brandywine Apartments, 2811 SW Archer Road.

It's a shame that Sinclair's boyfriend didn't have the foresight to realize he didn't have the luxury of privacy in, you know, jail.

But this is the same guy who was arrested earlier this month for brandishing a loaded shotgun around his apartment complex, so realizing the consequences of actions are clearly not his strong point. In fact, he was in jail on 11 counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, one count of armed burglary and two counts of grand theft from a dwelling.

It's hard to imagine what it must be like to be in Sinclair's position, and it's even harder to imagine how she got there.

It seems strange that Sinclair, who has been a standout gymnast on UF's highly competitive gymnastics team, would leave practice at the end of the day, sweaty and covered in chalk, and drive to a home full of stolen guns and a cracked safe.

It's hard to imagine her waking in the morning and walking past a stack of ripped-off computers and not questioning how they got there.

Sinclair told police she knew something was wrong with the activities going on in her apartment, but didn't know what it was.

While we would love to give her the benefit of the doubt, we find it hard to believe that Sinclair wouldn't have at least wondered about the mysterious stash of high-ticket items accumulating in her house.

And with a boyfriend who has past felony convictions, we think this may be a classic case of someone getting in with the wrong crowd and losing sight of her goals for the sake of her social life.

Additionally, her boyfriend even offered her a pearl necklace from the safe, according to the police report. It is at this point that Sinclair should have put on her thinking cap and realized that her boyfriend may have been up to no good.

Either way, we feel bad for Sinclair, who has been suspended from the team indefinitely and is being held without bail.

the independent florida
alligator

Kristin Bjornsen
EDITOR

Brian Kelley
Jennifer Jenkins
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
www.alligator.org/opinions



Column

Right finds peace in war against Obama

Definitions of peace largely assume that it must revolve around an end to conflict or hostilities. The kind of peace the Nobel Prize Committee rewards has always stood out as a more organic whole than simply the humanitarian vibes that immediately follow human conflict — freakin' Ghandi never even won a Nobel Peace Prize despite five nominations.

Besides, nobody actually expects Nobel Peace Prize winners to make real and lasting peace. Every 10 years or so, somebody wins for getting Jews and Arabs to sit down and shake hands.

Thus, President Barack Obama wholly deserves his Nobel Prize for the transcendent work he has done to restore the vitality and vitriol of a conservative movement sapped by the heavy demands of the legislative and executive process.

Obama restored balance to the political spectrum. The yin now flows evenly with the yang in American politics.

Lost in the wilderness of dominant political power for close to eight solid years, the American right gleefully tore their tailored suits off and jumped back into a dusty bomb shelter when Obama won the election. For a group of politicians who routinely run on an anti-government platform, being able to attack with sniper rifles instead of defending their policies and spending has to feel like a little slice of Heaven.

Like an uncle who feels most at peace with the world when perched in a deer stand and smelling of fresh deer urine for 36-hour stretches, the American right has found a lasting peace in their war against Obama. An "other" straight out of central casting, our tall and left-leaning mixed-race President immediately achieved a



Tommy Maple
letters@alligator.org

level of mistrust some take years to earn.

Sean Hannity walks with a pep in his step nowadays, and the sanguine look in Glenn Beck's eyes either means that he is about to start crying again or he knows that Obama has brought him a level of serenity few achieve outside of

Buddhist monasteries. Even President George W. Bush now clears brush with a lighthearted giggle he used to break out only at the bottom of a nude fraternity pile-up. This kind of inner peace could only come at the hands of Barack Obama.

The most amusing part of the Nobel Peace controversy is that Bill Clinton has to be absolutely livid at the whole damn spectacle. After brokering more talks than Tyra Banks and even posing for a picture with batshit-insane North Korean dictator Kim Jong-il, Billy the Kid thought he had this Nobel in the bag. Jimmy Carter and Al Gore won their Nobels with far lesser works than sitting down and talking with Supreme Leader Crazy-pants.

With the emergence of President Obama and the other results of the 2008 election cycle, Democrats again get to hold the purse strings of Washington wide open — a position which also brings them quite a bit of contentment and harmony. Nothing says unanimity and brotherhood like a few trillion dollars in the hands of lobbyists — in fact, I believe that is a direct quote from the Dalai Lama.

Tommy Maple is a graduate student in international communications. His column appears on Thursdays.

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

Reader response

Today's question: Do you think it will rain on the Homecoming parade?

Monday's question: Are you going to Gator Growl?

40% YES
60% NO
180 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org



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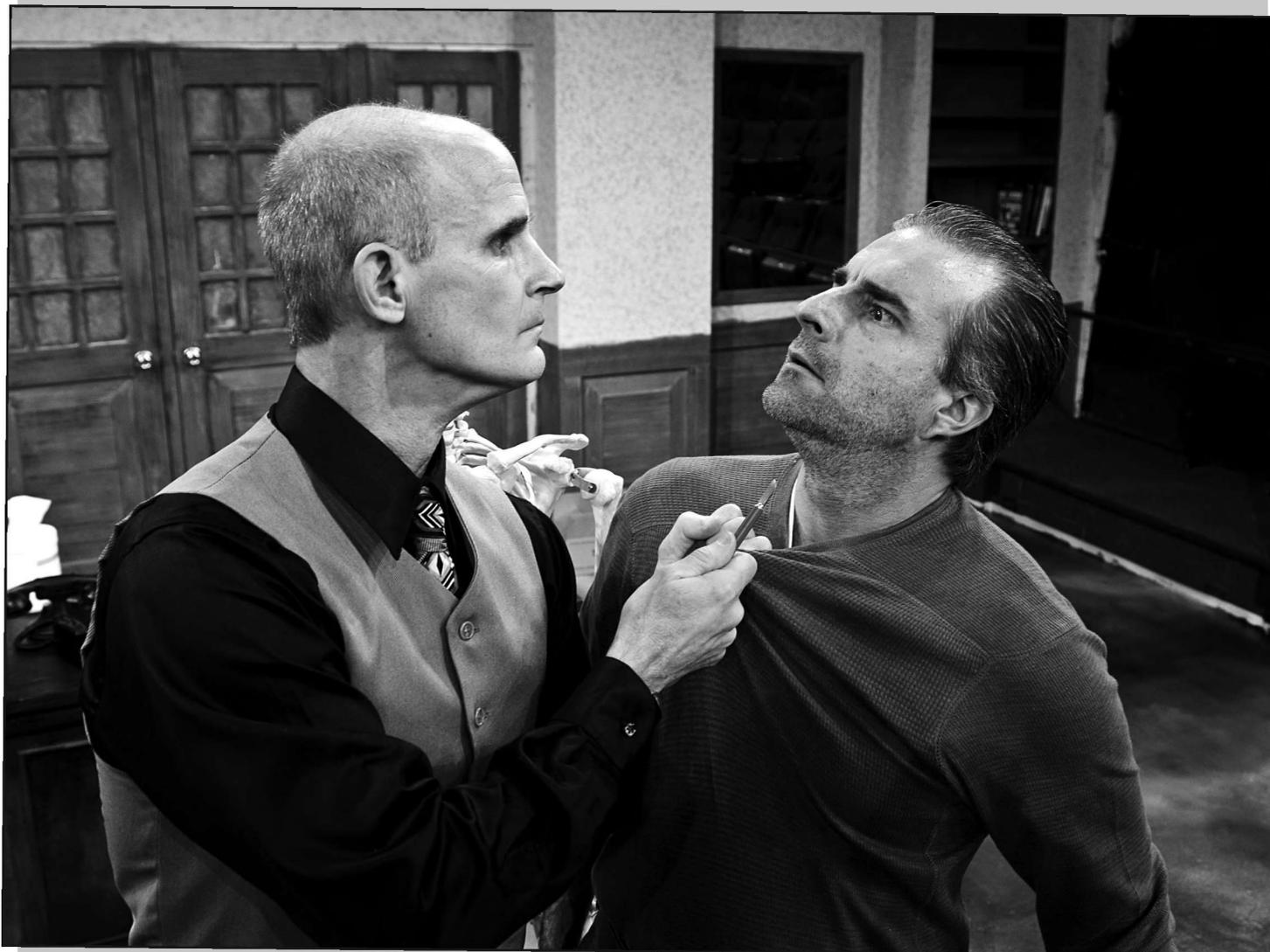


Photo courtesy of Michael Eaddy

David Sitler (who plays Dr. Farquhar) and Tod Zimmerman (who plays Mark Styler) act out a scene in the Hippodrome's production of "Mindgame." The play, directed by Lauren Caldwell, opens on Friday at 8 p.m.

THIS WEEK:

PG 9: Profile of the Gator Growl talent night winner and story on Krista Boyer, a UF student who received a fashion scholarship

PG 11: Transform summer clothing into fall ensembles with a few easy tricks

www.alligator.org/avenue

REGULARS:

SEX: Dancing differs between generations, page 11

FASHION: Create DIY halter tops for game day, page 12

COMING UP:

Next week, avenue writer Karina Galvez will report about the opening of H&M in Orlando.

A-LIST

The Avenue is excited to meet Scott Michael Foster and Amber Stevens from ABC Family's series "Greek." They will be part of the Homecoming parade and signing autographs at the UF Bookstore to let students know about the "Pledge Yourself to Do Something" campaign.

theater

Mystery tale, thriller keeps audience in suspense

Attiya Anthony
avenue writer

Carpet. Envelope. Wallpaper. Cigarette. Jelly.

Does that make any sense? Am I the crazy one, or are you?

Friday at 8 p.m. the pieces will fall into place at the Hippodrome during Anthony Horowitz's play, "Mindgame."

"Mindgame" is a psychodrama filled to the brim with serial killers, intrigue, sex, bondage and violence.

The cast of characters includes a true crime journalist named Mark Styler, played by Tod Zimmerman; Easterman, the serial killer whose tale holds the key to Styler's next big story; Dr. Farquhar, an eccentric and contradictory psychiatrist, played by David Sitler; and Nurse Plimpton, played by Sara Morsey.

"It is all about the nature of perception. What we see is not always what we get," director Lauren Caldwell said.

The play is set in an office at the Fairfields Institute for the Criminally Insane. As the story progresses, Styler realizes that no one can be trusted, no one knows who they are, and nothing is as it seems, not even things he witnesses with his own eyes.

"Once you see the twists and the turns and everything else, it's a real roller coaster ride. It's a lot of fun," said Sitler, who also performed as Neil in "The Pursuit of Happiness" on the Hippodrome stage and traveled with Broadway's "Frost/Nixon." "I was sold on my first line."

The script is Quentin Tarantino-inspired. There are songs from "Pulp Fiction," moments that remind you of "Reservoir Dogs" and

"Kill Bill"-esque abuse that doesn't cease throughout the play.

Bottles are broken on the backs of heads, scalpels come dangerously close to faces and the heat from lit cigarettes threatens the flesh.

"It is all about the nature of perception. What we see is not always what we get."

LAUREN CALDWELL
hippodrome director

"The script is just a framework. This is our show; we don't know how it's done in New York or anywhere else." Caldwell said. "The music choices, the staging, the actor's intentions, the characters and all that, that comes from our own show."

"I'm in rehearsal making choices and seeing what works and what doesn't - it's the process of com-

ing up with who I am," Zimmerman said.

In true mind game spirit, the story ends, but somehow it doesn't feel like it's finished. The cat is still chasing the mouse once the curtains are closed.

Caldwell's goal is not to tell us what to think, only to get our synapses working.

"If four people walk out and they have four different opinions, they'd have something to talk about over a glass of wine," she said. "If that's what you think, then that's what happened. The conclusions are your decisions."

Tickets are \$30 on opening night, and reduced pricing for each night after. There is an advance screening tonight that costs \$12 for students and \$15 for adults.

"The play's not finished until the audience is here," Sitler said.

Mindgame Events

◆ Oct. 16 at 8 p.m.
"Mindgame" Opening Night Gala

◆ Oct. 25 at 3:30 p.m.
Discussion with the actors and artistic team after the matinee

◆ October 23 & 30th at 9:30 p.m.
Ghost Tour of the Hippodrome

awards 

FSF opens doors to fashion world

By **MARY MANCHESSE**
avenue writer

Being surrounded by executives from high-end fashion labels such as Ralph Lauren, Kenneth Cole and Tommy Hilfiger is every fashionista's nirvana.

Krista Boyer, a senior marketing major, got a chance to rub elbows with these fashion powerhouses in April when she won the Fashion Scholarship Fund's \$5,000 scholarship.

"I was actually in the car on the way to the beach over Spring Break when I found out," she said. "It was a great addition to that week."

According to its Web site, the FSF is a national nonprofit association consisting of influential members from the fashion community who are dedicated to promoting education of

the fashion arts and business. They award about 80 \$5,000 scholarships annually and provide internship opportunities and career guidance for students.

Boyer used her winnings to live in New York City over the summer and intern with Tommy Hilfiger, an opportunity that the FSF set up for her. About 20 or 30 different companies participate in the internship program.

"At Tommy Hilfiger, they have this huge apparel closet where celebrities come and get clothes for photo shoots," she said.

"Katy Perry came in a couple of times, and some of us were like, 'Is that who I think it is?'"

This opportunity for Boyer has been surreal because prior to entering college, she wanted to go to design school but wasn't accepted. Her

parents then encouraged her to go to business school at UF.

"I really wish every person on this campus would apply," Boyer said. "It opened a lot of doors I didn't think were accessible, and I have met so many high-end executives that have personally given me their card and said, 'Send me your resume when you graduate.'"

While UF doesn't have a fashion design or merchandising program, the FSF still recognizes the David F. Miller Center for Retailing Education and Research as an important component of the fashion industry.

According to FSF administrator Debra Malbin, the FSF doesn't require applicants to be majoring in fashion design but to have a passionate interest that they could invest in the industry.

"We are looking to get the best and the brightest who want to be in the fashion industry, and we try to help groom their careers and get them involved in the business to become new leaders," Malbin said.

"We want the students who apply to the FSF to be liberal arts majors, math majors, business majors, in the fashion industry or whatever, we don't care. We just want to have our next group of leaders in the fashion industry."

Boyer is graduating in May, and she already has two possible job opportunities with Tommy Hilfiger and Neiman Marcus.

"In this economy, having the possibility of multiple job opportunities for just winning a scholarship speaks for itself," she said. "It has changed my life."

Now Boyer is applying for the FSF's Geoffrey Beene National Scholarship, which awards \$25,000 to four recipients.

All students applying must have been previous recipients of the \$5,000 scholarship. They must also write a 20-page research paper on how to deal with the changing consumer in reference to men and women's sports lines.

Boyer isn't sure what she would do with the money if she won the scholarship, but in the future she would like to start her own store that would produce a unique retail format and compete with companies like H&M.

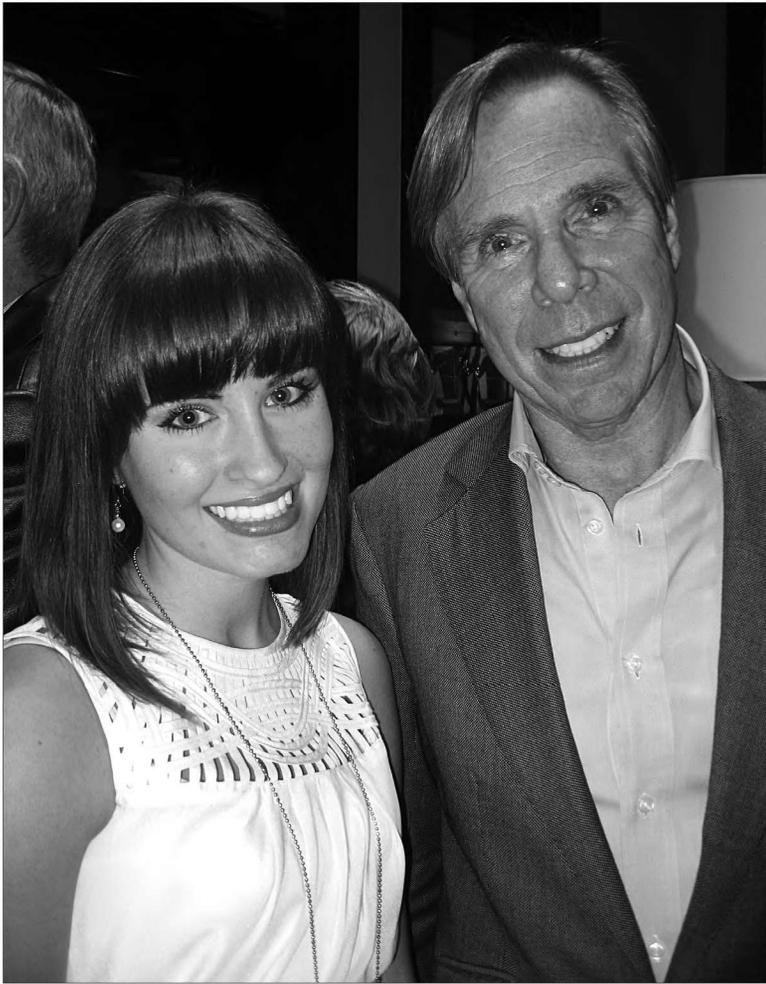


Photo courtesy of Krista Boyer

Krista Boyer with Tommy Hilfiger at the YMA Fashion Scholarship Fund intern social at the Tommy Hilfiger store in SoHo.

Band creates song for Gator Growl

By **ASHLEY ROSS**
freelance editor

Sipping a Blue Moon and munching on sweet potato fries on the front lawn of the Swamp Restaurant wouldn't be nearly as enjoyable without the charming sound of two cute guitar-playing guys strumming and singing to some of your favorite songs.

Between Swamp Fridays, this year's Gator Growl talent night winner, will open for headliner O.A.R. on Friday with their first original single, "University Avenue."

While band members Chris Blackburn and James Deininger, both UF seniors in the business school, have known each other since preschool, they didn't start collaborating until late into the college experience.

"About a year ago we just said, hey, we can do what those guys at Swamp do," Blackburn said.

The two learned a set of popular songs and played a demo for the managers at Swamp.

Since then, they've been playing regularly to excited football fans, girls in sundresses and returning alumni on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Deininger, who plays electric guitar, said the band almost missed talent night because of misreading the date on the Web site.

"We thought talent night was a week later than it actually was," Deininger said. "When we realized it was in two days we literally sat down with a handle of vodka to write the song."

But with a poetic buzz and the help of their Phi Delta The-

ta fraternity brothers, the two musicians created the perfect marriage of chords and lyrics.

Blackburn, who's on vocals and acoustic rhythm, said their first single is a reflection and celebration of their last four years at UF.

"We knew what people responded to, so we mirrored our experiences at UF," Blackburn said.

The original band name was The Big Black D, which was a way to combine their last names in a sly yet racy fashion. After winning talent night, they decided to choose a more appropriate band name for the event.

Aside from the chance to meet O.A.R. backstage at Gator Growl, the band is also playing

a special VIP reception after the event where they'll have the opportunity to meet Dana

Carvey, Danny Wuerffel and others.

They draw inspiration from Oasis, Nirvana, Eric Clapton and 311. So expect a soft rock sound on Friday night.

The two have plans to continue writing music together and will try to get more gigs around Florida while they're still in school, but as far as their future in the music industry is concerned, everything's up in the air.

"We've thrown around the idea to move down to Key West and be beach bums and play music for a couple of years," Deininger said.

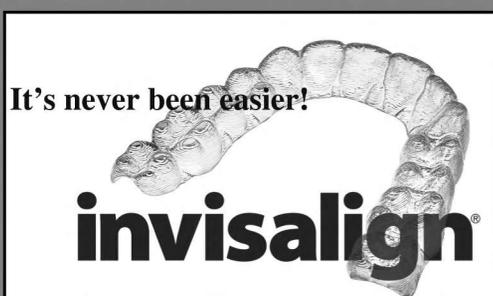
But Blackburn said they'll still continue to prepare for life as if they're not rock stars.

Gator Growl tickets are \$15 for students.



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THE GUIDE TO DINING OUT

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ASIAN

Liquid Ginger Asian Grille & Teahouse

101 SE 2nd Pl. (behind Hippodrome Theater Downtown) Offering Asian Fusion Cuisine in a relaxing atmosphere. Wed and Thurs night \$5 martinis. Open for lunch: Mon-Fri 11:30-2:30 Sun 12-5 and dinner Sun-Thurs 5-10pm Fri-Sat 5-10:30pm. Call 371-2323 for a reservation.

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For more info on the guide to dining out, contact Brittany Fayne, alligator advertising, 376.4482

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Dancing is sexual, lacks coordination

By **MEAGAN MCGONE**
venue writer

I think the dance floor is one place where humans can be seen actually de-evolving. If you don't believe me, go to XS on a Friday night. Spot the girl adorned in 6-inch heels and a mini dress, grinding so furiously on a stranger that he has to grip the pole on the stage to stay upright. Observe the guy with his shirt unbuttoned, un-rhythmically dry humping the girl in front of him for three '80s jams in a row.

What was once a venue for artistically moving our bodies has become a place to unleash our pent up inner-freaks.

Last weekend, I went to my younger sister's birthday party to chaperone. I completely expected to break up kids making out in the hallways and was not fooled by the contents in their "water bottles," but I nearly choked on the birthday cake when I saw a 16-year-old girl fully bent over between two boys on the dance floor. There are few people who actually look good booty-dancing, and the rest look like a bunch of sexually peaking cavemen. Call me old-fashioned, but I miss the days of slow dancing and "The Electric



Meagan McGone
Columnist

Slide." During the party, I stepped out of the ballroom and into a nearby bar to catch a glimpse of the UF-LSU game (and to grab a well-deserved gin and tonic). I must have walked through a time machine. The bar was full of gray-haired men and women swing dancing to jazz on the dance floor. The 70-year-olds were twisting and twirling like they were in their primes, using more coordination and class than I have ever seen in a bar full of 20-year-olds.

I stayed to admire for a while until I realized I should probably get back to babysitting the horny teens. I got up, braced myself for what I would see next and pushed the door to the ballroom open. I walked right into more than 100 teens bent over and shaking their asses in what they call a "grind line."

I'm scared to see what that will look like when they are 70.

Key pieces transform wardrobe for winter

By **KARINA GALVEZ**
venue writer

Mornings and evenings are greeting us with chills, but balmy Florida afternoons aren't going anywhere - and neither are our tank tops and skirt dresses.

Keep your breezy, warm wardrobe in action by adding simple cover-ups that are easy to slip on over dresses and shorts and easy to slip into schoolbags. Oversized shirts, snuggly cardigans and vests, and pashmina scarves are perfect solutions for the cool mornings leading to winter.

The "boyfriend" look is in this season, so throw on your boyfriend's comfy oxfords over tanks and shorts or dresses and tie them with a knot or a belt for a fitted look. Don't have a boyfriend? Don't fret - a brother, taller friend or bigger sizes do the trick. Look for a neutral color like white, shades of blue or a muted plaid palette to accessorize a greater variety of outfits.

Cardigans are small enough to keep in your schoolbag without taking up too much space and can provide the right amount of warm comfort in the morning. The bus is still blasting air conditioning like in August, so these little sweaters are great for commuting

or for days when you leave the house without checking the weather. Blacks, browns, grays and dark shades of navy blue go with almost every outfit and can stay in your bag for days without getting dirty.

Sweaters or button-down vests can act as dresses or cover-ups over plain or graphic T-shirts. For a cover-up solution, opt for a long, open vest that won't cover your printed top or can be belted around a form-fitted dress. Wearing a sweater-vest as a

dress is best done by taking the boyfriend-look approach - selecting vests one or two sizes larger than normal. American Apparel offers unisex vests that work well both as dresses and cover-ups for \$5 to \$40.

Keep your neck warm and in style with a silk or cotton scarf. Choose a longer pashmina scarf to use as a shoulder cover on cold mornings or in chilly classrooms. When the temperature rises, the scarf can come off and become an effortless accessory by tying it to the straps of your schoolbag.

The gradual shift toward winter does not mean covering prints and texture. Keep your breezy summer flare for as long as possible by adding the right pieces to your autumn wardrobe.

Fashion Sense

do it yourself

with Rebekah Geier

Gators T-shirts have hidden individuality—it just takes a pair of scissors to cut it loose. Follow these simple steps to transform your old gym shirt into a custom-made halter-top for Game Day!



1. Pick a shirt and size you will use. Most cotton T-shirts, like the one pictured, will not have a skin-tight fit, which is fine.



3. Cut straight down the center of your shirt from the neckline until it meets the cut you just made. Remove the tag.



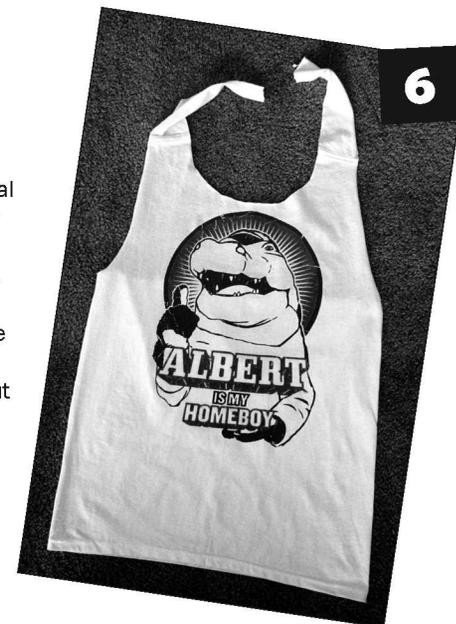
2. Flip over your shirt and cut from the corner of one sleeve to the other. Make sure you are only cutting through the back side of your shirt.



4. Cut off both sleeves next to the seam. If you lift the pieces still connected to the shirt, you can begin to see the straps.



5. This is where you can customize your shirt. Try it on to see how low you'd like the neckline. Depending on the image on the front of your shirt, you can cut it into a V-neck, swoop, square or any other cut you imagine. Follow the cut of your neckline into the straps. You can make them as thick or thin as you'd like. Fold the shirt in half so that you can make them even.



6. Admire the final product. Remember that each halter-top is unique and will fit every body type differently. Once you've tried it on, mess around with each cut to perfect it. Enjoy!

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW*

Lesson Four: ON TAILGATING

Tailgating is an art form, a well-honed, celebratory practice that takes years to refine. But who's got that kind of time? Here's what you need to know now: Yes, you need a special sauce and, no, you should never underestimate the wet wipe. While we're at it, here's something else: there's really no need to wait for your team to suit up—for that which we call a tailgate on any other day would taste as sweet. So stock up on supplies and head for an empty parking spot. Bring something to throw around if that makes it better.

*You go to college to learn stuff. But to make it at college you have to know stuff. These things can be difficult. We're here to help.



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Cricket Club II-2/2- upgrd kitchen, w/d. many amenities. 7180 SW 4 rd. \$900/mo 1 mnth free!

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3/2.5 near off NW 13 St. Walk to UF/midtown. 3 off strt parking. New stove. 626 NW 13th terr. Reduced rent \$850/mo.

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3 ROOMS FOR RENT

\$525-\$650/mo All utils incl. Near SFC, Oaks Mall & UF 786-325-7941 10-15-09-10-2

FIRST MONTH FREE MILLRUN CONDO

Close to UF, cute & clean 2BD/2BA, 1000sq ft, storage/laundry room with W/D hk-ups, pool. Pets considered. Rent \$695/ mo Phone (352) 359-8311 11-2-09-20-2

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WOODLAND TERRACE APTS

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2 For Rent unfurnished

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2/2 \$1007, 3/3 Townhome \$1092 Vaulted Ceilings--Screened Patio Garage--W/D--Microwave 2701 NW 23rd Blvd 352-372-0400 madisonpointe.org 12-9-48-2

HOUSE avail now. 4BR/2BA, 1.5 miles to UF, near the Landings Apts. On UF bus rte. Bike to UF. Fenced backyard, fireplace, cent H/A.C. 3627 SW 15th St. \$1000/mo. Call 327-2931 or 376-6183 10-30-09-18-2

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1Bdrm 1 bath apt, \$499/mo. 3320 SW 23rd Street. Each unit has a private gated court yard. On bus routes & within 2 miles of Shands, VA & College of Vet Med. 352 377-2550 or e-mail paloverde3320@yahoo.com 10-28-09-15-2

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HISTORIC APTS Pleasant Street Historic District. 2BR \$850, two 1BRs \$625 & \$575. one efficiency \$475. Hardwood floors, ceiling fans, high ceiling & porches. 1st, last, security. No dogs. 378-3704 sallyville@aol.com 11-5-09-20-2

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2 For Rent unfurnished

Campus View Almost Brand New Mple cab, all appl incld, w/d, 9' clngs, cr. Molding int corridor, alrm, dcl pkg sp \$800 mo Edbaурmanagement.com-1731 NW 6th ST- 375-7104 10-19-09-5-2

PET'S PARADISE

\$390 - \$600. No app or pet fee. 1 & 2BR, privacy fenced. SW. 352-331-2099 10-26-09-10-2

2 BR, Great location near UF, Cent AC/Ht, W/D conn, private storage, pool, \$620/mo, no pets, 870-5815/333-7721 10-20-09-5-2

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3 blocks to UF, near the Swamp. 3BR/1BA house. \$900/mo Andree Realty 375-2900 10-30-09-14-2

2/2 downtown townhouse(Arlington Square) sublease for spring. Within easy walking distance to downtown bars/clubs. Comes with washer/dryer for \$1095. 352-870-5004 10-27-7-2

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2BR/1.5BA, 1200 sq ft twnhse in heart of Duckpond. W/D, great location, very quiet, great for grad student or prof. 508 NE 4th Ave. Avail. now. \$750/mo. 352-379-4952 11-3-09-15-2

STUDENTS 1 bedroom apt in historic building between UF & downtown. Walk or bike everywhere. 116 NW 7th Terr. \$485/ mth. Call 870-2760. Others available 11-4-09-15-2

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4 Roommates

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COLLEGE ROOMS STARTING AT \$395.00 MONTH, UTILITIES INCLUDED NO MOVE IN COST Call Frances 352-375-8787 Rent Florida Realty 10-28-09-60-4

Female roommate needed for 4/2.5 townhouse, all utilities included, no pets/no smoking, nice environment, Newberry & I-75, baezwp@bellsouth.net 954-557-4769 10-27-09-15-4

1BR/1BA or 2BR/2BA avail Jan 1st. for responsible mature individual. \$400-\$800/ mo OBO + utils. Brandywine on Archer Rd. yttek@hotmail.com or 305-332-6566 10-20-09-9-4

\$500/mo incl rent,utilities,cable,internet for 1BR in 3/1 house to live w/one female. Some pets ok. New floors, huge yard, garage for storage. By Newnan's Lake, 10 mins to downtown. Call 352.870.8320, lv msg. 10-23-09-10-4

4 Roommates

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\$525/mo incl rent and utilities in 2/2 Fairmont Oaks Apt to live w/one female. GLBT friendly. Great apt complex!!! Call (352) 246-1338, lv msg. 10-28-09-10-4

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Spacious 2br/2.5b condo close to UF/ Shands for only \$95,000. Unit is clean and ready for immediate occupancy. Call Jennifer McIntosh, agent ERA Trend Realty 352-262-1808. 10-15-09-5-5

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6 Furnishings

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Bed- All New King! 3pc Orthopedic pillowtop mattress set. Brand NEW, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver. \$200 352-333-7516. 12-9-74-6

BEDROOM SET- \$300 BRAND NEW Still in boxes! 6 pieces include: Headboard, 2 Nightstands, Dresser, Mirror, Chest. Must sell, can deliver. 352-377-9846. 12-9-09-74-6

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

SOFA \$185 Brand new! Love seat \$150 still in pkg. Can del 352-333-7516 12-9-74-6

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 DEADLINE: January 29
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 DEADLINE: March 18
 RUN DATE: March 24

GAINESVILLE REAL ESTATE MAP
 DEADLINE: April 2
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12 Autos

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13 Wanted

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 Please call
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14 Help Wanted

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14 Help Wanted

MEDICAL OFFICE

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ARKANSAS FOOTBALL

Mallett leads SEC's top pass offense

By **BOBBY CALLOVI**
Alligator Staff Writer
bcallovi@alligator.org

It's not hard to see a big reason why Arkansas' offense has improved since last season.

It's 6 feet, 7 inches tall, 238 pounds and takes the snaps at quarterback for the Razorbacks.

Sophomore Ryan Mallett transferred to Arkansas in January 2008 from Michigan after the Wolverines hired Rich Rodriguez to run a spread-option offense, which is not suited for Mallett's style of play.

"We were fortunate that Ryan Mallett was here for a year and a half and was able to go through two spring footballs and a fall while redshirted, so he understands the offense, understands what we are doing,"

Bobby Petrino
Arkansas football coach

The big-armed quarterback had to sit out last season due to NCAA transfer rules, but the year holding the clipboard has helped him succeed quickly in his first season as UA's starter.

"We were fortunate that Ryan Mallett was here for a year and a half and was able to go through two spring footballs and a fall while redshirted, so he understands the offense, understands what we are doing," Arkansas coach Bobby Petrino said.

Through his first five games, Mallett has been one of the best in the nation. Currently, he is in the top 15 in several passing categories, including passer rating (15th), yards per game (13th) and touchdowns (6th).

His performance this season has helped increase Arkansas' passing yards per game to 318.2 from 259.6 in 2008.

Mallett has gotten help on offense from run-

SEE ARKANSAS, PAGE 19



AP Photo

Arkansas quarterback Ryan Mallett was tutored by UF quarterbacks coach Scot Loeffler when they both were at Michigan.

Florida may be as dominant as '08

It's hard to look at Florida's dominant close to the 2008 season and say the Gators made any mistakes, but apparently they did. They won by too much.

Everyone got used to gaudy point totals, so much so that last weekend's extremely dominant performance in Baton Rouge has been turned into an indictment of UF's offense.

The receivers are garbage. The running game is being misused. The playcalling isn't aggressive enough. Tim Tebow should have stayed on the bench.

These are all complaints I've heard since Florida's 13-3 win, and I can see where the sentiment comes from. I'd change some things if

I were running the show, too (Moody!), and it's always good to look for improvement, but let's take a closer look at what happened Saturday.

Florida outgained then-No. 4 LSU 327-162, holding the Tigers to 12 first downs and just one of nine third-down conversion attempts. They forced four punts, made five sacks and dominated time of possession by 13 full minutes.

Let's compare that to Florida's 51-21 spanking of LSU in The Swamp last year.

Then, UF outgained the Tigers by 11 fewer yards, gave up seven more first downs while

SEE MCCALL, PAGE 20



Mike McCall
McCall-in' It
Like I See It
mmccall@alligator.org

Scoring rules changes help even SEC playing field

SETS WERE SHORTENED TO 25 POINTS IN 2008.

By **ANTHONY CHIANG**
Alligator Writer
achiang@alligator.org

The Gators have dealt with more changes to the scoring rules than regular-season conference home losses under coach Mary Wise.

During her 19-year tenure at Florida, there have been three changes to the scoring format and only two such losses. But the

adjustments to a match cannot be overlooked; they have transformed the strategy involved.

When Wise first arrived at UF in 1991, each set was scored up to 15, but a team could only score off a serve. In 2001, there was a monumental shift to sets that would end at 30 points and rally scoring — meaning a team could score even if it was not serving. Then, in 2008, the current scoring format was adopted, each set was lowered to 25 points and rally scoring was kept.

The only thing that stayed

constant through the whole process was the fifth set, which has always been up to 15 points.

"If the match is shorter, does that give the underdog a better opportunity to beat a better team? I think that answer is yes," Wise said. "That's why you are seeing matches with wins and losses that you just would not see in the olden days."

The 30-point system privileged the favorite because it is

harder for an underdog to maintain a lead in a longer set. Under that format in 2003, the Gators did not even drop one set against an Southeastern Conference opponent all season.

Now, an unforced error made by a team is magnified because of the length of a match.

"Errors are huge. Giving other teams points in such a short game, they're huge," junior setter Brynja Rodgers said. "They're not a fraction of the game anymore. They're a big chunk of the game."

Just this season, No.9 UF (12-3, 6-2 SEC) was pushed to five sets by Ole Miss (7-11, 1-7 SEC) because of 14 service errors that helped keep the Rebels in the match.

In the one-and-a-half seasons the new system has been in place, the underdog has been at an advantage. UF has already lost four conference matches and 23 total sets in conference play during that time.

"I think the 30 points kept the separation, but now at 25, one er-

SEE VOLLEY, PAGE 20



TEERING OFF WITH MIKE DiFERDINANDO

■ When asked why he was dropped from a group bidding to buy the Rams, Rush Limbaugh said it was an "ongoing effort by the left in this country, the Democrat Party, or wherever, to destroy conservatism." ... The Amazing Grace Baptist Church in N.C. made an Index of Ungodly Athletes on its Web site. Among them — Joakim Noah. The reason: long hair, which is disobedient to the Word of God.

UF MEN'S BASKETBALL NEWS

■ Coach Billy Donovan will receive the "Legends of Coaching Award," given out by the Wooden Award Committee, at the Los Angeles Athletic Club in April 2010.

POLL RESULTS

Previous question:

Which player should be most prominently featured in the Gators' offense other than Tim Tebow?

	Percent (Votes)
A. Hernandez	31% (136)
E. Moody	29% (126)
J. Demps	24% (103)
R. Cooper	9% (37)
D. Thompson	4% (19)
C. Rainey	3% (14)

435 TOTAL VOTES

Strong earning praise for D

UF No. 1 in total defense

By **MIKE DiFERDINANDO**
Alligator Staff Writer
mdiferdinando@alligator.org

As Florida coach Urban Meyer put it Wednesday, "It's the Charlie Strong show" in Gainesville these days.

The defensive coordinator has built one of the nation's most dominating defenses, and with the offense sputtering through three games of South-eastern Conference play, it's been Strong leading the march toward another national title.

The Gators lead the nation in total defense (202.6 yards per game), passing defense (115.2 yards per game), scoring defense (6.4 points per game) and passing defense efficiency (78.32 rating).

"He's on top of his game right now as a coach ... He calls a really fine defense for us," Meyer said.

"The way he relates. The way he motivates. The way he gets a group of 11 to play like one. That's what makes a coach."

Urban Meyer
UF football coach

The Gators have given up just 32 points through five games this year and have allowed only two touchdowns. Florida had given up 47 points through the first five games in 2006.

Tennessee's Montario

Hardesty rushed for 96 yards against UF on Sept. 19, but no other opposing player has rushed for more than 53 this season. And cornerbacks Janoris Jenkins and Joe Haden held LSU's Brandon LaFell and Terrence Toliver, two of the SEC's most talented receivers, to a combined six catches for 58 yards.

"It's much deeper than a guy who calls a play," Meyer said. "The way he relates. The way he motivates. The way he gets a group of 11 to play like one. That's what makes a coach."

INJURY UPDATE: Defensive tackle Jaye Howard was seen on crutches Wednesday.

Meyer said Howard is suffering from a bruise below his knee and the injury is not serious.



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

UF defensive coordinator Charlie Strong leads a unit that has allowed only two touchdowns so far this season.

Razorbacks look forward to another matchup with elite SEC defense

ARKANSAS, from page 18

ning backs Michael Smith and Ronnie Wingo Jr., who average 6.5 and 7.3 yards per carry, respectively.

The running duo brings a balance to an offense that has become one of the premier units in the conference.

The Razorbacks' offense is 11th in the nation in scoring and has scored at least 40 points in four of its five games this season.

The only exception came against No. 2 Alabama, when Arkansas was held to just seven points and Mallett had his worst

game, throwing for 160 yards on 12-of-35 passing with one touchdown and an interception.

Petrino hopes his team can learn from that game and be better prepared to face great defenses like the Crimson Tide's. Saturday, the Razorbacks will get to see how much they have improved since the Alabama game when they go against the best defense in the country.

"Bama's speed and strength took us out of our game and took us away from using our techniques, our fundamentals and hurrying and rushing everything, and hopefully that

experience against that fast and that physical of a team will help us," Petrino said.

Arkansas' passing game looks similar to the gameplan from last season, but with Mallett under center, it has been more successful.

"They are way more improved. They run a lot of the same plays, but with Mallett.

That's why they are doing so well now," UF linebacker Ryan Stamper said. "It's going to be one of the best offenses we'll see all season."

Stamper said the biggest flaw to exploit

in Mallett's game is his dislike for running the ball, so the Gators' defense will be trying to pressure him to force him to tuck the ball and run.

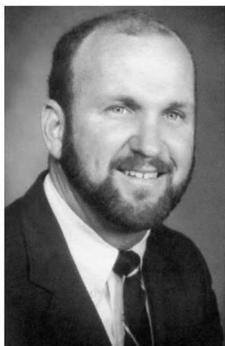
Mallett has carried 17 times for negative-21 yards this year.

But if Mallett gets going, it is no easy task bringing down the big quarterback.

"You got to hit him pretty hard," Stamp-er said. "We watched the Georgia-Arkansas game, and the linebacker from Georgia, No. 35 [5-foot-11 Rennie Curran] — he actually ran on the blitz and had to jump to tackle him."



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Round-robin schedule adds to parity

VOLLEY, from page 18

ror is magnified," Wise said.

Last season, the first year under the new scoring system, the Gators did not clinch the SEC until the final conference match — the longest they have ever had to wait.

This season, UF is already two matches behind conference leader Kentucky in the loss column.

"If the match is shorter, does that give the underdog a better opportunity to beat a better team? I think that answer is yes."

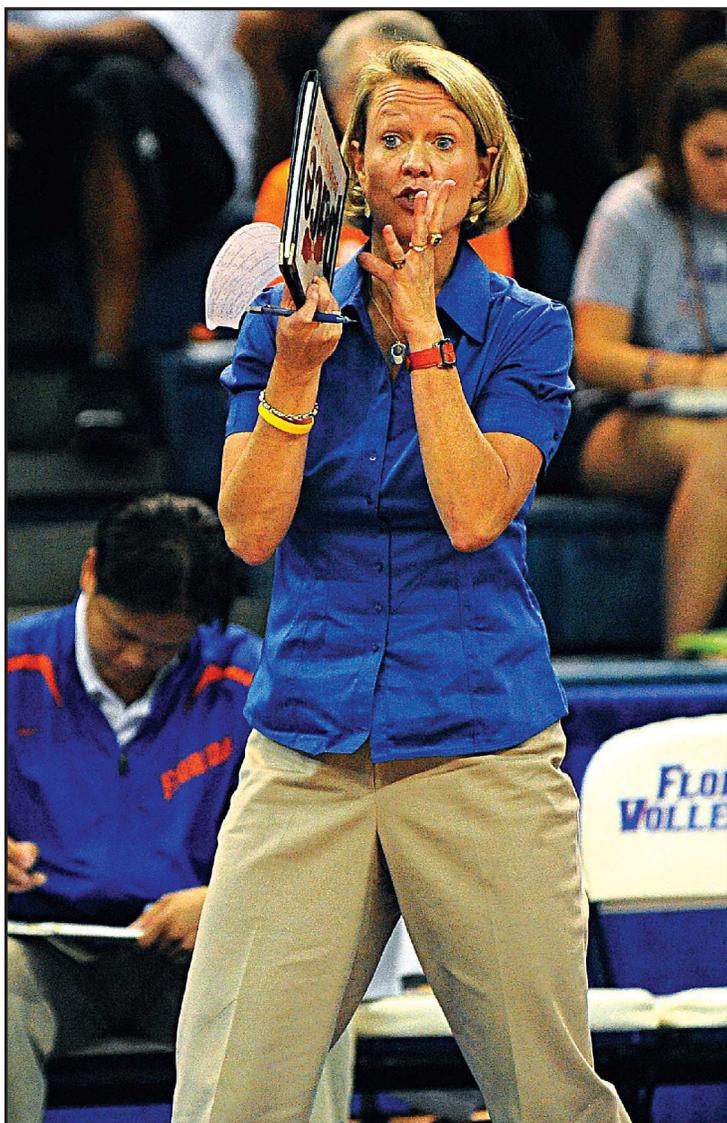
Mary Wise

UF volleyball coach

The 25-point sets have helped increase the competition in the SEC, a conference the Gators have dominated for the last 18 years.

All that, coupled with the fact that the SEC switched to a double-round-robin scheduling format in 2006 (each team in the conference plays each other twice), has made it tough for UF.

Increased familiarity between conference teams and a scoring system made for upsets has diminished the gap between UF and the rest of the SEC.



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

UF volleyball coach Mary Wise thinks 25-point sets give underdogs a better chance to pull an upset.

MCCALL, from page 18

picking up the same number (22), allowed four of 11 third-down tries and led time of possession by 4:40.

Everyone agreed it was a shellacking, but this year's meeting went better.

Beatdown 2K9 happened inside Tiger Stadium on a Saturday night, a situation where LSU had won 32 straight.

The Gators imposed their will. Take a look at their drives: 82 yards (field goal), 45 yards (turnover on downs), 80 yards (touchdown), negative-1 yard (kneel before halftime), 76 yards (missed FG), 15 yards (punt), 44 yards (field goal), 3 yards (interception), 12 yards (running out the clock).

There are three bad drives in there, and the interception could have been a touchdown, but at any rate, the game was never really in jeopardy after the Gators stopped running back Charles Scott on third and goal from the 2.

Florida is just as dominant as last year, maybe moreso. It's just being done in a different way now.

This is a defensive team. The offense still has explosive capabilities, and I expect some blowouts, but this team isn't

equipped for the type of show it put on last year.

The loss of Percy Harvin was and is a big deal, and I credit Urban Meyer for tightening up and using his team's strengths rather than risk sure wins by playing a different style to impress pollsters.

A year and a week ago, everyone was tripping over themselves to criticize the Gators' waste of talent. Subsequent events led to a massive change of heart, and I can see the same thing happening this year.

From a look at the stats, they don't even have as much room for a dramatic turnaround as they did last year.

Compare their stats now to after five games last year, and they're getting 106 more rushing yards and three more points per game with just 10 fewer passing yards per game.

They rank best in the nation in four defensive categories and third in passing efficiency. The only major steps backward are in turnover margin and punt returns, but the most important difference is they haven't lost.

And based on the way they overcame the toughest challenge of the season last week, I can't see them losing for quite a while.



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