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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2009

AROUND GAINESVILLE

Haunted house doors creak open today

By **HILARY SHEINBAUM**
 Alligator Contributing Writer

Walt Disney World has fairy-tale princesses and a haunted house. Now Gainesville does, too, but with a scary twist.

The Gainesville Junior Chamber of Commerce, or Jaycees, will hold its 14th annual Haunted House at the Alachua County Fairgrounds starting tonight and ending on Halloween.

In groups of five or six, people will enter a 1,500-square-foot house in the depths of the woods and make their way through 13 rooms, numerous hallways and a maze, according to Kristen Rabell, Jaycees community director and haunted house head chairwoman.

"I have seen a grown woman wet her pants, and someone actually ran out of their shoes."

Kristen Rabell
 Jaycees community director

This year's event, The Enchanted Castle, is inspired by fairy tales and Disney stories twisted into frightening tales, she said. For the past three years, the house's themes were movie-based, asylum-inspired and decorated to resemble the horror movie genre respectively.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door, cash only. A portion of the funds will

SEE HAUNTED, PAGE 5

Dorms test shower timers

■ **THE YULEE AREA PLACED THE DEVICES IN 86 SHOWERS.**

By **JENNIFER BATE**
 Alligator Contributing Writer

When Yulee Area residents take a shower, they are not alone.

They have shower coaches.

The small, \$2.80 timing devices, called Shower Coaches, are suction-cupped to the walls of 86 showers in Yulee, Mallory and Reid, which comprise the Yulee Area.

"I really like them," said Haley Merritt, a freshman Yulee resident. "They really help. I definitely take a five-minute shower now."

The timers were placed in the showers to

help save water and are sponsored by the committee that oversees sustainability efforts within the Department of Housing and Residence Education.

Sharon Blansett, chairwoman of the Housing and Residence Education Green Team, wrote in an e-mail that the program is designed to educate residents on sustainability issues.

The targeted shower time is five minutes. Every minute spent showering uses 2.5 gallons of water, so a five-minute shower uses 12.5 gallons.

"I'm a lot more conscious of the amount of water I am using with the timers around," Merritt said. "It's something major that

SEE SHOWER, PAGE 4



Ana Goni-Lessan / Alligator Staff

Flying Flowers

UF B.F.A dance majors Courtney Baron, 21, and Olivia Ruggieri, 20, pass out fliers at lunchtime on the Plaza of the Americas. Ruggieri dressed as an orchid to promote the group's showcase, which will take place at the Constans Theatre from Oct. 29 through Nov. 1.

UF student realizes dream of naming 'right price'

Episode will air this morning at 11 a.m. on CBS

By **ALISON SCHWARTZ**
 Alligator Writer

Reminiscent of the days when he skipped school to watch "The Price Is Right" on TV when he was younger, Gonzalo Barcia skipped work July 27 to take

his best shot at making it to contestant row.

Today is Barcia's 23rd birthday, and most people will have a difficult time topping the gifts he'll be receiving in prize-form after competing on the show.

"I can't complain," Barcia said.

That's all the fifth-year mechanical and aerospace engineering student can say until his episode airs this morning at 11 a.m.

While interning at Raytheon Co. in Los Angeles last summer, Barcia found himself with a little extra time on

his hands. He and a colleague made their ways over to the CBS studio in Hollywood bright and early, waiting in line from about 4:45 a.m. to 6:30 a.m.

"I woke up that morning with a smile on my face, and it didn't wear off at all," he said. "I just believed it at the bottom of my heart that I was going to make it to contestant row."

SEE PRICE, PAGE 5

■ **Aaron Hernandez (right) and UF's offense will get a chance to prove itself as Florida faces Mississippi State on Saturday night after averaging 25 points per game in SEC play. See Story, Page 13.**



Police: 225-pound man elbows pregnant woman twice, believes child is his

A man was arrested early Thursday morning for elbowing and pushing a pregnant woman during an argument.

Jabari Bell, who is 6 feet, 3 inches tall and weighs 225 pounds, was gathering his things to leave the house he shares with his girlfriend when they got into an argument over items that belonged to her, including sports cards, according to an Alachua County Sheriff's Office report.

She told police that Bell elbowed her

twice and pushed her into the bedroom wall, according to the report.

Bell told police he was trying to take his things and leave with his cousin. He said he did not hit the woman and "pivoted" to get around her.

The woman told police she was not injured.

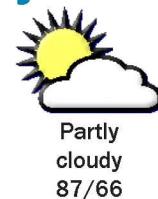
Bell said he knew she was 6-months pregnant and believes the child is his.

— EMILY FUGGETTA

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News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Come ski with TriP!

West Virginia Winter Break
Deadline to sign up: Friday, 5 p.m.
Outfitter, in the Reitz Union
The trip will take place from Dec. 27 to Jan. 1.

Shabbat at Hillel

Friday, 7 p.m. and Saturday, 10:30 a.m.
2020 W University Ave.
Hillel will celebrate Shabbat Friday with Orthodox, Conservative and Reform services, plus an alternative learners service about the different branches of Judaism. Kosher dinner will be served at 8:30 p.m.

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

LOCAL

Saturday event offers service opportunities

UF students can make a difference Saturday.
Actions!, a community service and leadership organization that is part the Center for Leadership and Service, will host Make a Difference Day Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The annual event gives students an opportunity to give back

Local Restaurant Hosts Gators for 1/3 Century!

Way back before the National Championships, before Florida had won even the first SEC Championship, before the Spurrier Era, yes even before the 0 - 10 & 1 season Café Gardens opened in 1976 just across from campus to serve the best burgers, freshest salads and coldest beer in town. Knowledgeable Gator fans that can't make the trip to Starkville for the Mississippi State game plan to celebrate another Florida victory at **Café Gardens** Saturday. Arrive early to get a good seat in front of one of the many TV's and enjoy the beer specials. \$1.50 domestic pints or longnecks and \$2 bottles of selected imports are featured along with the fantastic food and service that has made Café Gardens a Gator landmark since we ran the wishbone offense with Head Coach Doug Dickey! For more info call 376.2233.



Fans enjoy the food and cool weather on the patio at Café Gardens.

FORECAST

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
PARTLY CLOUDY	THUNDER STORMS	PARTLY CLOUDY	THUNDER STORMS	THUNDER STORMS
87/66	86/60	84/65	85/67	84/66

to Gainesville.

Make a Difference Day is a national event dedicated to helping others through service and education projects. UF students will be volunteering at Idylwild Elementary School and Gainesville Harvest, a food bank. Pizza will be served afterward at each site.

Registration is online and open to all UF students. Students can register individually or as part of a group.

"These are issues that students can relate to," said director Nicole Jackson, a family, youth and community sciences junior. "They can act on them now."

— MARISSA LYONS

Apartment fire leaves more than 20 homeless

The American Red Cross of North Central Florida is providing food and housing to more than 20 people affected by a fire Thursday in southwest Gainesville.

Six apartments in Building L of the Majestic Oaks apartment

complex, 5800 SW 20th Ave., were damaged after a small kitchen fire started, according to Gainesville Fire Rescue spokeswoman Carol Davis. Most of the fire damage was cosmetic, Davis said.

Things got worse for the residents of Building L when a water main burst unrelated to the fire, Davis said. Six apartments had heavy water and smoke damage, according to a press release by the North Central Florida Chapter of the Red Cross.

Due to the damages, Gainesville Regional Utilities had to cut power to the building, forcing residents out of the building until power can be turned back on.

— ROBERT HARRINGER

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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UF ADMINISTRATION

UF's Board of Trustees receives two new members

BY CAROLYN TILLO
Alligator writer

The Florida Board of Governors appointed two members to UF's Board of Trustees, UF's highest governing body, in a meeting Thursday.

Board of Governors spokesman Bill Edmonds said Marshall Criser III, of Coral Gables, and Carolyn King Roberts, of Ocala, will join the board Jan. 6.

"Both appointments for University of

Florida are very strong individuals," Edmonds said.

Criser is the president of AT&T Florida and the son of former UF President Marshall Criser, who served from 1984 to 1989, Edmonds said.

Roberts also brings business experience and knowledge of university government. She owns Roberts Real Estate Inc. and served as a member on the Florida Board of Education.

She also served as the chairwoman for

the Board of Governors and is a member of the Board of Governors.

Edmonds said Roberts' term on the Board of Governors will end before she begins serving her term with the Board of Trustees.

UF spokesman Steve Orlando said the board's newly appointed members have strong ties to the university, and they are well-

respected in the Florida business community.

Criser and Roberts will replace board members Courtney Cunningham and Jolen Merkel.

Gov. Charlie Crist will also appoint two new members who will start their terms in January and replace members Roland Daniels and Earl Powell, Orlando said.

According to a press release, the Board of Governors made 21 appointments Thursday for the 11 state institutions.



Edmonds

SFC students raise awareness of carbon dioxide emissions

■ RALLY BEGINS SATURDAY.

By CAROLINE LEWIS
Alligator Contributing Writer

The Saints for Sustainability club at Santa Fe College hosted an event Thursday to increase awareness about the maximum safe amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

"People don't realize how easy it is to be more sustainable in our daily lives," said Jen Crews, vice president of the Saints for Sustainability at Santa Fe College.

Club members gave out information about living sustainable lifestyles, painted a large plywood cutout and used 25 people to stand in the shape of the numbers 350 at Santa Fe's Oak Grove.

The event, which promoted environmental organization 350.org's Oct. 24 International Day of Climate Action, was one of 4,000 held around the world and one of two in Gainesville.

"We want to try to get people to write to the local representative to say that they want change

now," said Erin Rauch, president of the Saints for Sustainability.

These actions include a rally organized by Buchholz High School EnviroCats, an environmental club.

The rally will begin Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at Westside Park on 34th Street. Participants will march about half a mile to the graffiti wall on 34th Street to paint a mu-

ral about 350.org.

"Lots of people at school really care about the environment, so this just seemed like a perfect thing to do," said Taylor Novak, co-founder of EnviroCats at Buchholz High School.

For more details on the events and information on the Highway 441 Farmer's Market Sustainability Festival, visit Alligator.org.

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Ana Goni-Lessan / Alligator Staff

UF junior Ian Proctor shows freshman Melissa Burar a paper chain with names of students who showed their support for United Nations Day on the Plaza of the Americas Thursday afternoon.

ON CAMPUS Students show UN support on plaza

By JOEY FLECHAS

Alligator Contributing Writer

Members of UF's Model United Nations and students linked themselves through their support of global cooperation among nations Thursday.

In celebration of United Nations Day, students added links to a chain, which symbolized their support of global cooperation to help developing nations on the Plaza of the Americas.

Inspiration for the activity's theme came from one of the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals, which is to help nations that are still developing — like third world countries — succeed.

Model U.N. member and UF senior Stephanie Loy said the event was about raising awareness and solidarity.

"We are advocating coming together for one cause," she said.

Students could write their names, where they're from and even a quote on slips of colored paper. The slips were stapled together to form a chain of support that snaked along the front of the table.

"We are advocating coming together for one cause."

Stephanie Loy

Model U.N. member

Yellow, green, brown, orange and blue names formed a chain more than 120 links long.

UF junior Andrew Scheuermann said he liked the idea of Model U.N. bringing awareness to global issues.

"I think it's a cool organization promoting international thinking," he said.

Although the organization observed U.N. Day Thursday, the actual international holiday is Saturday.

Students commemorate fall of Berlin Wall with gala

■ MORE THAN 100 CAME TO THE EVENT IN PUGH HALL.

By ELIZABETH BEHRMAN

Alligator Contributing Writer

Two hundred people died trying to escape.

Seventy-two thousand people were incarcerated for trying to leave their country.

These facts and others were pasted upon the panels of a replica of the Berlin Wall created by a group of UF students.

More than 100 people gathered in Pugh Hall Thursday night for the Freedom Without Walls gala, which commemorated the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall on Nov. 9, 1989.

"A large group of UF students collaborated to bring the Berlin Wall to UF," said Will Hasty, a German studies professor.

For the past month, German students and faculty hosted a film festival, a speech contest and built and tore down a replica of the Berlin Wall.

The panels of the UF wall served as a backdrop behind the speakers and decorations around

Pugh Hall for the audience to see as it listened to the many speakers at the event.

The speakers touched on the importance of the wall's fall to Germany and how important it is

to commemorate the event.

German studies professor Franz Futterknecht introduced

the winners of the speech contest, and the first-, second- and third-place winners each gave his or her speech again.

The first-place winner, Heather Lear, started to tear up toward the end of her speech, in which she described her visit to Berlin and how her parents met there years ago.

"I was completely blown away by the emotion displayed here," psychology and German sophomore Johanna Meyer said. Meyer was one of the students who helped build and paint the replica.

After the student speeches, keynote speaker Holger Teschke, an author and former dramatist in the Berlin Ensemble Theater Group, said he still remembers what he was doing when the wall fell. He said there was a peaceful rebellion the night the wall came down and the world should use this as an example to help make it a better place.

"I wasn't expecting a tearjerker," Meyer said. "I was expecting more of a celebration, but I guess with this the two go hand in hand."



Matt Tripp / Alligator Staff

Holger Teschke speaks at the Freedom Without Walls event inside Pugh Hall Thursday night, celebrating the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Teschke is a former dramatist in the Berlin Ensemble Theater Group and is now a visiting professor at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts.

Cutting shower time from 10 minutes to 5 minutes could save 6,500 gallons

SHOWER, from page 1

you can do, and it's not something I even thought about before."

There are friendly reminders stuck to the residence hall walls. Signs were posted to remind students to conserve water while brushing their teeth and shaving. A student can save three gallons of water each day by

turning the water off while brushing his or her teeth, and an additional three gallons when shaving.

Runny toilets, leaky faucets and leaky showers can each waste more than 10 gallons per day if they are not reported.

There are about 520 residents living in the Yulee Area. If each resident cuts his or her shower time from 10 minutes to five

minutes, it could save about 6,500 gallons per day.

The Department of Housing and Residence Education did not have an estimate for the amount of water that is wasted or the cost of wasted water.

Blansett reported there has been a good response from students since the project be-

gan Oct. 12.

"The fact that they are there definitely helps," said Rainer De Sousa, an international student who lives in Yulee. "I did see that someone stuck one of the shower timers next to a toilet. That was kind of funny."

The Green Team hopes to spread the conservation program to other residence halls.

On Campus

LOCAL NEWS

Shands offers tour of center

By **MELINDA CARSTENSEN**
Alligator Contributing Writer

The wait to see the inside of Shands' newest building is over.

This weekend the UF Shands Cancer Center is opening its doors to the public before it begins admitting patients on Nov. 1.

The \$388 million cancer center, at 1515 SW Archer Road, will host an open house from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Guests will be able to take tours of the facility and preview some of its 192 patient rooms. They will also get to see some of the center's departments, such as the stem cell lab and the emergency department, spokesman Jeff Kelly said.

The center was designed with emphasis on bringing the outside in, Kelly said, and the many windows give the building a unique appearance — the hospital is surrounded by

97,000 square feet of glass.

"It's absolutely a sight to see," he said. "It's not the way your mind's eye would picture a hospital."

"It's absolutely a sight to see. It's not the way your mind's eye would picture a hospital."

Jeff Kelly

UF Shands Cancer Center spokesman

Visitors can take guided tours of the eight-story, 500,000-square-foot building and take photos with UF mascots Albert and Alberta. Free food and drinks will also be provided.

Construction on the center began in January 2007. Since then, Kelly said, it has been hard work getting the hospital to this point.

"We're most excited about being able to showcase the hospital to the people it'll be serving," he said.

Guests have been scared, wet pants

HAUNTED, from page 1

be donated to The American Kidney Foundation.

Event organizers expect 2,500 to 3,000 attendees to visit the haunted house over the course of five days.

UF organizations contributing to the event include Sigma Phi Lambda Sorority, UF American Society of Civil Engineers and UF Fire Emergency Services, Rabell said.

People of all ages can attend the event, though the attraction may be too scary for children younger than 8, Rabell said.

During a previous haunted house walk, a guest hyperventilated and had to be car-

ried out by paramedics.

"I have seen a grown woman wet her pants, and someone actually ran out of their shoes," Rabell said. "It's pretty funny to see senior football players from Eastside [High School] run out screaming like 4-year-old girls."

Around Gainesville

The haunted house will be open from 7:30 p.m. to 12 a.m. tonight, Saturday and Oct. 30. On Thursday, it will be open from 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., and on Halloween, it will be open from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

For advance tickets or additional information, e-mail info@gainesvillejaycees.com or call 352-213-6760.

Barcia: Luck was on my side

PRICE from page 1

And that's just what he did, sporting a bright orange Gators shirt topped with an equally spirited hat.

"I have to represent where I'm from," Barcia said. "I think I even did a little Gator chomp."

Each morning, competitors are selected from that day's audience. Barcia was weeded out from hundreds of other potential contestants, acing the final on-the-spot interview.

"I said, 'I almost feel like a kid in a candy shop because I can't contain myself,'" Barcia said. "The average person's interview lasted two minutes. I took five."

Barcia also developed somewhat of a support group while waiting in line that morning.

"People were shaking my hand and saying, 'I know you're going to get picked,'" he said.

Soon, the overhead lights danced around the studio and music blasted into the already-applauding audience. The announcer, Rich Fields, a UF graduate, introduced Drew Carey, the show's host.

Barcia was the third name Carey called, and then it was game time.

"I was ready to go," Barcia said. "I had no doubt in myself."

Barcia bid and bargained his way through the show, his eye on the prizes to come if he made it to the

Showcase Showdown.

"I really wanted to win a trip," Barcia said.

When it came time to spin the wheel for the Showcase Showdown, although he was not allowed to be specific, Barcia said luck was on his side.

"I was just ecstatic," Barcia said. "I was going crazy. I jumped up into the air, and I pumped my fist in the air about five times. I think I broke my watch."

He was heading to the final round: The Showcase.

While CBS protocol prohibits Barcia from disclosing the final outcome of the show, he was allowed to comment on his emotional reaction to the 60-minute game that would, in many ways, change his life.

"I was sweating," Barcia said. "There's all this pressure on you. I can't stress that enough. Everything happened so fast; you have no time to really take it in."

As Barcia prepares to graduate in the spring, currently working part-time at the UF Athletic Association as a customer service representative, his experience on the show has impacted the way he views himself.

"It's made me believe in myself a lot more," Barcia said. "I believed in myself. It made me remember to not doubt the power of going after what you really want."

THIS WEEK THEY LEARNED THE IMPERFECT VERBS IN ITALIAN.
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INTERNATIONAL MARKETING PROJECT AND MADE GNOCCHI IN A
FOUR-CHEESE SAUCE.



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UF Student Ticket Registration

Online registration opens
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Monday, Nov. 2 vs. Saint Leo @ 7 PM
Monday, Nov. 9 vs. Webber Intl. @ 7 PM

All UF Students are eligible to register!

For more information and to register, log on to...
GatorZone.com/tickets

Head Coach Billy Donovan

Admission is free for UF students to all home games.

Editorial

It's been a busy week at the Alligator (go figure). Just when we thought exams were over and all was quiet on the West University Avenue front, another parade took us by surprise. This time, it was a festival of suck that hit us like a dump truck loaded with your neighbor's rotten Wu-Tang pumpkin that he carved way too early and allowed to marinate in the sun...

We now present you with the how-long-until-we-get-to-melt-into-our-parents'-couches-for-Thanksgiving edition of...

Darts & Laurels

For some reason, the university thinks it's okay to penalize all residents on the third floor of Riker Hall for the mistakes of some jerks whose actions resulted in \$150,000 worth of flood damage. If administrators get their way, each student will pay \$3,000 for the Oct. 10 flood. Residents only pay about \$2,200 per semester to live there. We shoot a way-to-take-the-easy-way-out-again DART at UF, and we stab a way-to-not-man-up-to-your-actions DART at the Kevin Costner-wannabes for their awful recreation of "Waterworld."

Just when you thought a gunshot to the face would, you know, kill you, 27-year-old Glenn Altman not only survived but managed to drive himself to the hospital. In addition to a blood-soaked apartment, police also found a "small marijuana growing operation." For having crap luck after having lead embedded in his skull, we give a it's-a-good-thing-chicks-dig-scars LAUREL to Glenn Altman.

We don't know how — or why — a wanted Georgia man stole \$6,000 worth of Steel Reserve and cigarettes from a local Chevron early Wednesday. But we do know this: Georgia sells 40-ounce beers, and the only way to drink Steel Reserve is with the bottle duct-taped to your hands while playing Edward-40-hands. For this, we give a could-you-at-least-have-gone-for-the-champagne-of-beers? DART at Oscar Tellez.

Way to "steal" the "reserve"! Oooooohhhh.

A local CVS manager was arrested Friday and charged with video voyeurism after a woman found his cell phone secretly filming in the bathroom. For violating the privacy rights of dozens of women by filming them while they peed, we give a hope-you-like-being-watched-when-you-pee-too DART at possible future inmate Johnathan Matheny. As if public restrooms weren't gross enough already.

A local man was arrested Thursday after an apparent scuffle with his girlfriend, who is six months pregnant. The 6-foot-3-inch, 225-pound man reportedly elbowed her twice and pushed her into a wall. In an argument over... sports cards.

For what looks to be an extreme overreaction, we throw a you'll-have-no-trouble-getting-on-"Maury" DART at Jabaric Bell, who admitted that he believes he IS the father of the baby.

When police called in the bomb squad to investigate a suspicious backpack outside the Reitz Union on Monday, the robot they sent in did a less than stellar job. For the biggest technology fail of the week, we throw a gritty, way-to-drop-the-"bomb" DART at the bomb squad robot for not only mishandling the potentially explosive backpack but also for mistaking sand for fabric softener. Looks like robots aren't good at everything.

That's all, folks. Hope you've got your costume ready for next weekend, because nobody likes a slutty ghost.

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

UF should have sent text about threat

This past week revealed a disturbing trend at UF, something that the entire Student Body should be concerned about. Apparently it is becoming common practice around campus for students and bystanders to leave suspicious-looking backpacks lying around public areas and for the Gainesville Police Department bomb squad to respond accordingly.

Or at least that's the message UF administration is sending when it shut down part of the Reitz Union for almost an entire day to a bomb threat but failed to utilize the emergency notification system it touts each year as crucial to our safety.

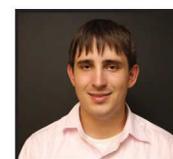
It seems that the administration either doesn't consider bomb threats serious enough threats to notify us or it simply is so inefficient at running things that it failed at sending out a simple text message and/or e-mail on its emergency notification system.

But seeing as these are many of the same administrators who argued the addition of minus grades to our grading scale would magically "raise" the overall GPAs of UF students, I am leaning toward the second option.

Regardless, there are two reasons this failure should go corrected in the event of a similar incidence.

Most importantly, it is flat-out dangerous. Thousands of students use the Reitz Union each and every day for various reasons like studying, eating and visiting the Career Resource Center. By not notifying students that a large portion of the union is shut down, there are two negative impacts.

First, students take a significant amount of time out of their days to travel over to the union only to get kicked out or re-routed. Second, and even worse, the situation becomes potentially even more dangerous when a glut



Kyle Robisch
letters@alligator.org

of students is left hanging around a potential bomb.

The second major reason why UF needs to actually utilize its emergency notification system in instances like this is because it is simply annoying when the university doesn't.

With spring registration just around the corner, ISIS will surely be asking all of us to verify our emergency contact information.

If UF thinks being able to actually e-mail and/or text us in potentially dangerous situations is important enough to prevent us from registering for classes, then use it.

But when I drove past the union twice earlier this week and had no idea either time why it was blockaded completely, despite having my phone and e-mail open all day, there arises a major issue.

And if you are lucky enough to have actually received one of the many text messages or e-mails sent out by the administrators of the system, you know it works, just like I do.

So a question arises: How much does student safety have to be endangered before we are notified? If a bomb threat at the heart of campus doesn't pass that test, then does an armed gunman roaming around campus qualify?

These are all questions students are left wondering about after Monday's debacle. Hopefully we all find out before it is too late.

Kyle Robisch is a political science and economics junior. His column appears on Friday.

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

Reader response

Today's question: Are we witty?

Monday's question: Who would win in a cage match: The Gosselins or the Heenes?

65% Gosselins
35% Heenes
38 TOTAL VOTES

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Guest column

Govt. needed for health reform

While I believe that Neal Wheeler has the kernel of a good idea in his letter to the editor, he becomes increasingly more ignorant as the piece goes on. His idea that the government can't be counted on to fix everyone's problems is very true. The government can't, in fact, fix everything. Perhaps the government has tried too hard in the past to fix all the problems in American society, but this doesn't extend to health care.

First of all, you can't compare health care to having a bad mortgage, to amassing credit card debt that can't be paid off, to not saving up enough money for retirement, or to not being able to buy a new car. All those things are due, in the most part, to irresponsibility on the part of the consumer.

Health care, however, is not due to irresponsibility, at least for the most part.

Wheeler chooses to focus on the obese and the smokers of the world, as if they are the only ones crying out for health care reform. Many of the people that simply want to be covered want it because they will/do suffer from genetic diseases, or other ailments through no fault of their own.

Take Christina Tucker from the Alligator's editorial as an example. She was raped, and she can't get coverage. Is that her fault? No.

Wheeler says, "You can get in shape or stop

Paul Murty
Speaking Out

more than simply changing to a healthy lifestyle. Sometimes you need legitimate help because of things you have no control over.

I'd love to see Wheeler tell people like my brother, a recent college grad who can't afford health care, to shape up and buy his own health care. Wheeler's solution for the poor is that they qualify for Medicaid, anyway.

The minimum qualifications for Medicaid, according to govbenefits.org, are that you must class as low or very low in the income scale. You must also be either pregnant, a parent of, or a caretaker of dependent children younger than 19; be blind; take care of someone with a disability; or be older than 65 years of age.

That doesn't sound like my brother, who is 26 and neither blind, nor a guardian, nor disabled.

The health problems people incur during their lives aren't always the result of irresponsibility, like the credit card or mortgage problems. Health care needs legitimate reform, and the government is legitimately being relied upon to take care of a huge problem.

Paul Murty is an english sophomore at UF.

smoking," in response to the cries for a public option. What Wheeler doesn't realize, though, is that it is

Letters to the Editor

Medicaid could fix health care issue

Mr. Wheeler makes an excellent point. If you can't afford health care, don't go running to the government to solve your problems. Just get on Medicaid!

Medicaid is a wonderful little charity that everyone in America contributes a little money to for the benefit of those poorest around us. Isn't it wonderful the things we can do without the government in our lives?

Chad Kimes
Gainesville Resident

■ ■ ■

Asbestos nothing new on campus

As great as it is to read about our student senators feeling "uncomfortable" regarding the health of hotel guests, I would like to take this opportunity to remind our representatives that as residents of Rawlings Hall we live under these circumstances every day.

Asbestos has been found in both our ceilings and piping providing difficulties for both maintenance and a desperately needed renovation.

So while you allocate money to the removal of asbestos in the Reitz hotel we will just sit tight over here, patiently waiting our turn. Try not to "fear" for our health too much.

Billy Owen
UF student

■ ■ ■

UF has money to repair Riker Hall

When I saw on Monday that the third floor of Rinker hall would be required to pay \$3,000 each for damages, I was flabbergasted.

Imagine, you're sitting in your dorm studying, when the sprinklers shoot on. Your night is now ruined, and the comfort the school gives you is a \$3,000 bill for something you didn't even take part in. While the school should not be responsible for the entire bill, the students who were not absent-mindedly kicking a ball inside a dorm that caused the incident should not be punished with a bill.

And then I turn the page to see someone has proposed implementing a student fee to fix the Reitz Union hotel to make it asbestos free. That's dandy, we should all get a bill from UF to pay for a service we take no part in so that the school doesn't have to pay for it.

I remember seeing somewhere last

year that Bernie Machen has the second-highest public school salary in the nation, meanwhile UF is cutting undergraduate departments.

As much as I love sports and all, this school is becoming too sports-oriented. We just spent who knows how many millions of dollars building a lacrosse field and soccer field and fixing up Southwest Rec Center, meanwhile we can't get away with building a study center. While I love sports just as much as the next student, what makes a country strong and independent is not sports - it's the education that the population has.

Chris Moody
Gainesville resident

■ ■ ■

Prof. shouldn't have been reinstated

Good for the anthropology department for defending diversity and minorities. What could be more diverse and be a smaller minority than a reckless-driving professor who attempts to exchange drugs for gay sex near a church? Shame on UF for reinstating such a creeper.

Chris Marth
4AG

■ ■ ■

Comedian with Tourette syndrome mischaracterized

I was severely disappointed in the representation of Louis Centanni concerning the front-page article. Certain inaccuracies were stated that all together misrepresented not only Louis himself, but all those suffering with Tourette Syndrome.

First, subjugating the disease to saying that the ticks can be controlled is a gross exaggeration. Louis was saying that through acting, miraculously he can control his ticks, however he is aware and mentioned that the ticks are uncontrollable and mostly unnoticeable to him. Moreover, I feel that the article completely misunderstood Louis's objective in giving the talk. He was not saying that living with Tourette's is "not so bad." He completely acknowledged the struggle it was and is for him concerning his battle with the public school system and also everyday tasks. Louis's point was that life goes on and that he does not let his disease define him.

Maria Gonzalez
UF Student

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No Move-In Cost at any of the following GREMCO Properties!! Available today!

Homestead Apts 3611 SW 34th St.
376-0828 *Archer Rd. Area*
2BR/1Bth only \$499 & 2BR/2Bth only \$624

Reduced rates include 2 months free
****applications and additional information available at www.gremco.com****
10-30-09-67-2

No Move-In Cost at any of the following GREMCO Properties!! Available today!

Gator Village Villas 321 NW 21st Lane
372-3826 1br/1bth \$472

NW Gainesville large floor plan * patio*
Limited Availability *
Near Downtown off 6th Street

Reduced rates includes 1 month free!
****applications and additional information available at www.gremco.com****
10-30-09-67-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

No Move-In Cost at any of the following GREMCO Properties!! Available today!

Sunrise Villas 3010 SW 23rd Terr.
372-4835 1br/1bth from \$408
Close to Campus/Shands and VA

*2 Month's Free included in special.
\$100 AMEX Card
****applications and additional information available at www.gremco.com****
10-30-09-67-2

No Move-In Cost at any of the following GREMCO Properties!! Available today!

Summer Place Villas 3316 SW 41st Pl.
373-2818 1br/1bth \$425 (*off SW 34th St.*)
Reduced rates include 2 months free

Near Main Postal Facility and Shopping!
****applications and additional information available at www.gremco.com****
10-30-09-67-2

1 MONTH FREE RENT

●1BR/1BA walk to UF \$460-\$475 ● 2BR \$525 ● 3BR/2BA, fenced yard \$1100.
Gore Rabell Real Estate 378-1387
www.Gore-Rabell.com 12-9-09-75-2

ONE MONTH FREE RENT!

1 & 2 bedrooms located near Hilton
Off of SW 34th Str. Close to UF
\$350 SD some w/ W/D or hkups.
Water & trash incl. Call Now!

Union Properties 352-373-7578
www.rentgainesville.com
12-9-09-72-2

2BR/1BA The Oaks Condo by Oaks Mall.
\$650, screened-in porch, W/D, community pool & gym, water & trash included. 321-948-6327 or americana@cfl.rr.com 10-26-09-40-2

The Grove Villas

Rental Community
Ask about our Move-in Specials
Gated Community
6400 SW 20th Ave
877-704-2172

12-9-09-50-2

3/2 home in northwest gainesville with fire-place, large yard, garage. 850 a month. first and security required. 6431 nw 26th terrace. Call 352-871-2379. 10-27-30-2

●●●●\$550 2BR Washer/Dryer provided; upstairs; ceiling fans, CHA, quiet, prefer grad student or professional; greenspace, parking, close to UF/downtown NW 10th St 352 376 0080 10-29-09-30-2

ONE BLOCK TO UF (WALK TO CLASS)

3 bed 1 1/2 bath House- \$1725
3 bed 1 bath Apt (incl. utilities)- \$1575
1 bed 1 bath Apt (incl. utilities)- \$645

Near SW 1st & 2nd Ave and SW 12th St.
No dogs (available now or spring semester)
Negotiable lease terms
call 352.337.9600 for more info 10-30-37-2

LARGE 2BR/1BA

Tile floors, except BRs. Covered patio. Close to Shands. Only \$550/mo. 1 yr lease. Call 352-372-3131 12-9-09-41-2

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

SERENOLA PINES APTS

Off SW 34th St. near post office. 1BR \$560;
2BR \$635 Call for daily specials 352-335-0420 11-30-09-37-2

WOODLAND TERRACE APTS

Off SW 34th St near post office. 2BR \$560;
1BR \$520. Call for daily specials. 352-335-0420 11-30-09-37-2

3/1 HOUSE FOR RENT GARAGE MADE TO LARGE ROOM.FENCED YARD.PET FRIENDLY.WAHSIER/DRYER HOOK UP.OFF ARCHER ROAD \$900.00 MONTH

2555 SW 31ST ST CALL 352-377-8777 10-27-15-2

The Retreat at Madison Pointe

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

2 For Rent unfurnished

HOUSE avail now. 3BR/2BA, 1.5 miles to UF, near the Landings Apts. On UF bus rte. Bike to UF. Fenced backyard, fireplace, cent H/AC. 3627 SW 15th St. \$900/mo. Call 327-2931 or 376-6183 10-30-09-18-2

Studio Condo Utilities INCLUDED!
\$575 month \$600 security
Prairiewood Condominiums 2490 Sw 14th Drive #20 386-527-6923 10-26-09-12-2

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

Homes available for immediate occupancy!!
Lowpayments!
\$49 Deposit!

Call today! 352-378-4411 10-30-09-17-2

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

PET'S PARADISE

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

●●●●WALK TO CLASS●●●●

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

HISTORIC DUCKPOND

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

www.AndreeRealty.com

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1/1, Ridgeview, free water, next to park, on the bus line, cent H/A, courtyard, 2 miles to UF, convenient to shopping, no smoking, no pets. \$470 SD, \$470/mo 562-2824 10-29-09-10-2

HISTORIC DUCKPOND

1BR/1BA apt in vintage house. Hardwood floors, tile, renovated kitchen, quiet, blocks to downtown \$575 per mo. STUDIO \$475/mo. 306 NE 6th St. 379-4952 11-6-09-14-2

4BR/2BA HOUSE. Great open living area, fenced backyard, W/D, close to UF & downtown. Pets ok. \$1050/mo. 1/2 off 1st month rent. Contact 352-672-1767 10-26-09-5-2

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NO MOVE-IN COSTS

Free Rent (Don't Pay Anything until 2010)
Please Hurry...Only Few More Units

Rocky Point Apartments 3100 SW 35th Place 352-376-1619	Country Gardens 2001 SW 16th Ave 352-373-4500
--	---

Regency Oaks 3230 SW Archer Rd. 352-378-5766	South West Villas 3643 SW 20th Ave 352-336-9000
--	---

We Speak Spanish
11-20-09-20-2

3BR 2BA 1019 NW 36th Dr. Quiet neighborhood. Beautiful, sanded hardwood floors, fenced yard, LR, DR, study, \$900/mo. \$30/ mo ontime discount. 773-407-1774. 11-19-09-20-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

First Month Free! Beautiful, spacious 3/2 condo, centrally located 1.5 miles from UF. VERY LOW UTILITIES!Pool, W/D. Quiet; no pets, please. Reduced to \$975. Exit Realty Producers 352-316-6842. 10-20-09-7-2

Move in Special: No Security Deposit
2/2 Condo with washer/dryer, screened-in porch, newer condo, near UF. Shands, located off 34th & Archer Rd. 2 units available \$750 per month. Call 317-5060 11-5-09-10-2

2 br,2.5 bathroom townhouse. within miles of shands, uf, and shopping. \$699 + utilities & condo fees. call (321) 591-0273. 10-29-09-5-2

3 Subleases

495/month + util. Looking Glass Apts sublease.Private Bedroom + Private Bath in 2/2. Washer/dryer included. NO move in fees, NO deposits. No Pets. 2 mins to campus. Perfect location! Share apt with great female roommate. Avail DEC, JAN or possibly sooner if needed. Call 352-871-0162 10-30-09-6-3

4 Roommates

Roommate Matching HERE
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The Landings 336-3838
The Laurels 335-4455

Greenwich Green 372-8100
Hidden Lake 374-3866
12-9-75-4

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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

\$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

Enjoy A Romatic Old House

Near library downtown. \$295-375/rm + utils. Short term. No pets. No smoking. 378-1304 10-23-09-10-4

\$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

Share 2B/2B MH in Cornerstone. Furn rm avail now. \$200 N/R dep. \$400/mo or \$100/wk util incl. Laundry/cook/clean svc avail. Near bus/shops. 30 day notice to vacate. Some pets ok. Call 331-0762 10-26-5-4

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 10-28-09-5-4

\$540/m - Br in a 4Br/2Ba - Next to Emerson Alumni Hall (203 NW 20th Ter)- Currently 3 males, all students, 2 in Graduate School. Pets are welcome. Large house with fenced yard. Call or text (941)374-1515 for more information. 10-28-09-5-4

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2005 Nissan Altima, 94k \$9999 CASH
2006 Suzuki Aerio, 54k \$8999 CASH
2001 Nissan Altima, 99k \$5999 CASH
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2002 Toyota Camry, 76k \$8999 CASH
2004 Toyota Corolla, 111k \$7999 CASH
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Students Welcome * Weekly Specials
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1999 Toyota Corolla 4dr, cold AC, gold ext
light tan int, PW, PL, factory AM/FM sound
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13 Wanted

LOCAL ARTIST NEEDS:
★ Gold ★ Diamonds ★ Gems ★ Class Rings
★ ETC ★ Top Cash \$\$\$ or Trade ★
OZZIE'S FINE JEWELRY 373-9243. 2-10-
74-13

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to transport cancer patients to treatment.
Flexible schedule.
Training and liability insurance provided.
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LEARN TO RAKE KNIT A HAT,** second and
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hats are made for people in Haiti. Come and
have fun with Lenora. Call 219-6948. 11-
6-09-74-13

14 Help Wanted

This newspaper assumes no responsibility
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through advertising. We suggest that any
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tion and investigate the sincerity of the ad-
vertiser before giving out personal informa-
tion or arranging meetings

14 Help Wanted

alligator
the independent florida

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FULL TIME POSITION**
Sales driven person to train student sales
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Motivator needed who works well with a
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Duties include training university students
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copy writing. Must work well within and
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With resume, send cover letter that must
include salary requirements, to: General
Manager, The Independent Florida Alligator,
PO 14257, Gainesville, FL 32604 or
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No phone calls please. EOE

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Apply Now! 6020 NW 4th Place, Suite G.
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Worship Guide

BAPTIST

North Gainesville Baptist Church

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352-388-9050

The Christian Missionary Alliance

New Life Community Chapel

International Day: Celebrating
Our Uniqueness
Sunday Oct. 18 : 10:30 AM to
NOON
International Dinner, guest speak-
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All are welcome, but space is
limited.
RSVP by Oct 15
New Life Community Chapel
Westside Park Rec. Center
Sundays at 10:30 AM
www.newlifecommunitychapel.org
phone: (352) 214-4462

Episcopal/Anglican

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Chapel of Incarnation
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2 weekly communion services,
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College Bible Study, Sun 7pm
Prayer and Praise, Wed 7:30pm
Worship Service, Sun 10:30am
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madmadamoo@gmail.com

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-Your home away from home.
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Christ Student Center 1402 W.
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Classes and activities will be
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Sunday Worship, 10:15a.m.
11604 SW Archer Road

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

For info: mccgainesville.org
Or call: (352) 495-3378
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Up Hope"

University City Church of Christ

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college group meets at Univer-
sity City church on Sundays at
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www.fpc-gnv.org

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www.1stpc.org
Sunday Worship:
Early service-8:30am Chapel,
Worship-10:55am Sanctuary
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worship service. Free home-
cooked meal.
Trajectory-Wednesday night
7:30-9:30pm. Discipleship stud-
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11-12-09-20-14

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Typist for professional office. Hours flexible but dependability a must. References required. Email resume to psychologyservices01@gmail.com. 10-23-09-4-14

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Help wanted for one serious hardworking and trustworthy UF student. Gen or const labor, exp with electrical & plumbing, carpentry, chainsaw & heavy lifting. Part time flexible hrs. \$7-7.50/hr. 376-6183 or 327-2931 10-23-09-2-14

Sun Country Sports is accepting applications for Aquatics positions - swim coaches, lifeguards, & more. Applications available online at suncountrysports.com. Fill one out today and bring to either location. 10-28-09-5-14

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15 Services

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12-9-74-15

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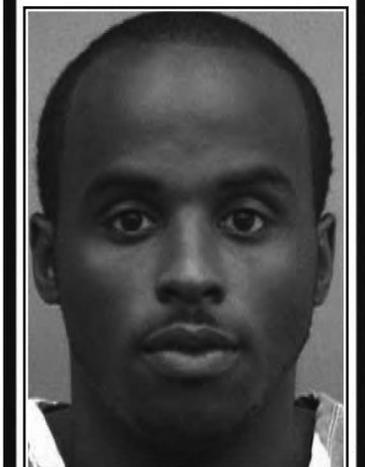
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Picks Column



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Kyle Maistri is still fuming about the money he (would have) lost (if we condoned gambling here in the alligatorSports Brand Picks Column but we don't, so he isn't) because of Washington last week. And there are few things that Mike DiFerdinando loves more than Jake Locker and UW football.

So we thought it would only be appropriate for the two of them to break down this week's clash between the Huskies and the Ducks.

WASHINGTON WILL WIN BECAUSE... This is the week Jake Locker proves to Kyle Maistri and the rest of the world he's one of the nation's elite quarterbacks. The "West Coast Tebow" has already led the Huskies to three more wins than last year (they were 0-12) and has blossomed as a passer under new head coach Steve Sarkisian. The 6-foot-3, 226-pound junior has completed 57.2 percent of his passes this season and has thrown for 1,702 yards and 11 touchdowns. That's more yards (1,032) and touchdowns (8) than Gainesville Tebow.

— MIKE DIFERDINANDO

OREGON WILL COVER THE -10 POINT SPREAD BECAUSE... Washington is simply a mediocre team, at best. It stands to reason then that DiFer would like the Huskies, as he is generally mediocre, at best. Washington is the most celebrated 3-4 team in the history of college football, and putting Jake Locker in the same sentence as Tim Tebow is criminal.

Unless of course that sentence reads, "Tim Tebow could have all of his discernible talents and skills sucked from his body in a Space Jam-esque manner, and still the Florida quarterback would be better than Jake Locker." Locker would undoubtedly play the goofy Bill Murray character in such a remake.

SEE PICKS, PAGE 14

UF looks to clean up offense against MSU

■ FLORIDA HAS LOST ITS LAST FOUR IN STARKVILLE.

By **MIKE McCALL**
Alligator Staff Writer
mmccall@alligator.org

Forget Dan Mullen.
When Mullen left Florida for the head coaching gig at Missis-

sippi State after last season, this weekend's matchup between the Gators and Bulldogs gained instant relevance as the battle between Urban Meyer and his former sidekick.

But recent events have changed the game's meaning.

After a lackluster showing last week against Arkansas, No. 2 Flor-

ida (6-0, 4-0 Southeastern Conference) has something to prove during its trip to Starkville.

The Gators were surprised by Alabama for the top spot in the AP poll, and getting back on track for a run to a national title takes precedent over the family reunion.

"We won't be thinking about it while we're playing, but after

the game we'll probably go up to them," tight end Aaron Hernandez said. "It won't be weird because they're an opponent, and they're in our way."

The Bulldogs (3-4, 1-2 SEC) don't appear as dangerous as the Razorbacks, but Florida has lost its last four trips to Starkville, and repeating last week's mistakes (four fumbles, 3 for 6 in the red zone) could certainly yield an upset.

Cleaning up that sloppy offensive performance will be a priority. Although Florida's offense ranks in the nation's top 11 for rushing, total yardage, scoring and pass efficiency, the unit has come under fire for uncreative play-calling and poor execution.

Getting receiver Deonte Thompson more involved in the passing game is also key, as Hernandez and receiver Riley Cooper have accounted for the majority of the team's receptions.

There's still room for improvement, but Hernandez doesn't think the offense should be held to the same standard as years past.

"I think we're not the offense that's going to be putting up points on one-play drives like [Thompson's 77-yard touchdown against Arkansas]," he said. "It's not going to happen that often. We're a team that's going to punish the ball, drive it down the field, run it and use play-actions. I don't think people should expect us to just come on the field and score on

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 14



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

Tight end Aaron Hernandez is 22 receiving yards away from topping his output from all of last season, but he said UF's offense isn't as explosive as it's been in the past.

Florida had its Ole Miss game; now it needs an Arkansas

It's time to turn back the clocks again. Last week against Arkansas, Florida did its best impression of the 2008 Ole Miss letdown.

UF managed to come through the challenge unscathed, obviously an improvement from a year ago.

Now the Gators need to repeat another '08 turning point — the week after the letdown game.

In 2008, this came at Arkansas as Florida used 21 unanswered points in the fourth quarter to break open a 38-7 victory.

The scenario sets up well for UF to repeat such a dominant performance as it prepares to face a less-than-stellar Southeastern Conference foe with a pretty weak defense in its way.

Last year, Arkansas finished 72nd in the nation in total defense and No. 93 in scoring



Phil Kegler

Phil on the Hill
pkessler@alligator.org

defense.

The Mississippi State defense that will take the field Saturday night currently sits at 59th in total defense and No. 64 in scoring defense.

Those stats are buoyed by the fact the season is only halfway through, and MSU has had a few cupcake games — Jackson State and Middle Tennessee — to help the numbers.

It still has to face Florida, Alabama and Arkansas, three of the SEC's top four scoring offenses.

The Dan Mullen factor is worth a little something, although Mississippi State's talent level won't allow Mullen to put his in-depth knowledge of the Florida offense to

good enough use.

MSU's defense surrendered 30 points to LSU earlier this season.

The recipe for a breakout game? Fixing the little things.

After all, as it's been pointed out plenty of times this week, Florida is just off its stats from this point a year ago.

But for UF to come anywhere close to making the offensive leap it made a year ago, a few specific deficiencies must be cleaned up.

The Gators are only scoring on 80 percent of red zone trips, compared to 95.8 percent in the first six games of 2008.

A big reason is UF's surprisingly high number of turnovers. Florida finished +22 in turnover margin last season, good for No. 2 in the nation.

SEE PHIL, PAGE 15

TEERING OFF WITH MIKE McCALL

■ Deadspin lashed out at ESPN this week for alleged sexual improprieties within the company, especially when it comes to interns and young employees. Want to get to the bottom of it? The Worldwide Leader is interviewing UF students on campus today. ... Game-used underwear from three Red Sox players will be for sale on eBay. Hopefully they don't bear any resemblance to Curt Schilling's sock.

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■ For complete preview coverage of UF teams competing this weekend — volleyball, men's golf, both swim teams and both tennis teams — check out our Web site.

alligatorSports Podcast

■ Mike DiFerdinando and Mike McCall join host Adam Berry to preview the Mississippi State game, assess the state of the offense and discuss whether Starkville deserves its terrible reputation. Check it out on iTunes.

UF SOCCER

Gators dominate SEC-leading Tigers

By TYLER JETT
Alligator Writer
tjett@alligator.org

The top of the Southeastern Conference is now muddled.

No. 17 LSU (10-3-3, 6-1-1 SEC) came into Gainesville on Thursday tied for first in the SEC, but the Tigers were dominated by the No. 12 Gators 4-0, and, with just two games left on the year, the conference championship will most likely be decided in the season finale.

UF will host South Carolina, the other conference leader, Oct. 30.

Coming into Thursday's game, the Gators found themselves in a must-win situation.

"How wouldn't it make you focus?" freshman McKenzie Barney said. "It is the ultimate competitive situation."

Barney, who was making just her second start on the season, kept LSU on its toes.

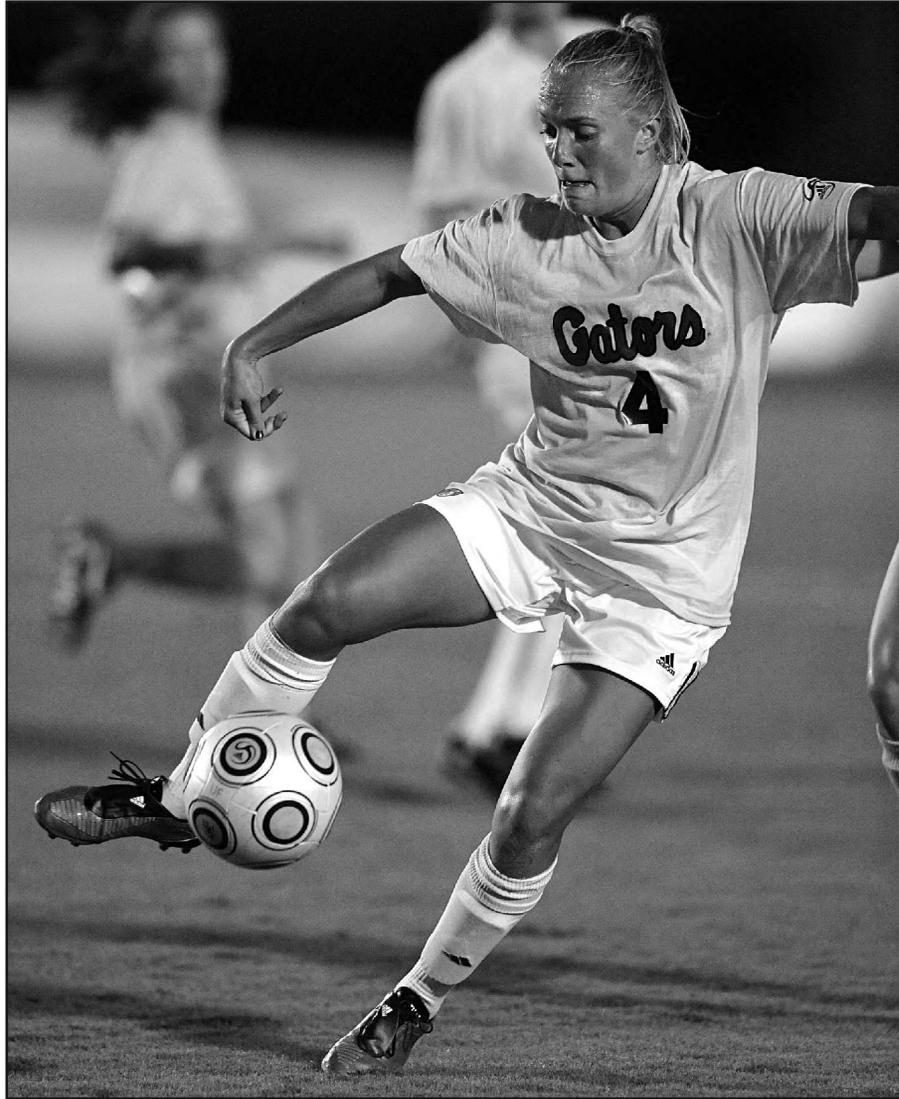
After midfielder Angela Napolitano's low corner kick was deflected into the air by sophomore Sarah Chapman, an LSU player botched a clear attempt. The ball found Barney two yards away from the goal, and the forward headed it in uncontested in the fifth minute.

"Somebody kept the keeper away, which was definitely a bonus for me," Barney said.

Florida added another goal in the 32nd minute when senior Lauren Hyde served a free kick into the penalty box that Chapman was able to head into the lower left corner from 15 yards out. The Gators put the Tigers away early in the second half when freshman Brooke Thigpen wrestled the ball from an LSU defender inside the penalty box and scored from 12 yards out.

"Once we got that third goal, we knew it was all she wrote," UF coach Becky Burleigh said.

In both of the team's practices this week, UF focused on shutting down the LSU attack. The Gators' work was evident as the Tigers only had one good opportunity, a free kick in the eighth minute that



Steven H. Keys / Alligator

UF midfielder McKenzie Barney kicks the ball during Florida's 4-0 win over LSU at James G. Pressly Stadium on Thursday night. Barney scored two goals.

UF goalkeeper Katie Fraine stopped with her outstretched arms.

Thursday was Breast Cancer Awareness Night, which hit home for Hyde, who lost her mother to breast cancer, and Burleigh, whose mother is a three-time survivor.

"One of my really good friends came up to me before the game and said, 'Do this for your mom,'" Hyde said.

But even with the win, the Gators still need to win out, and their next match is Sunday at Arkansas (8-5-4, 2-5-2 SEC).

PHIL, from page 13

This fall, the Gators sit at minus 2, tied for 76th in the nation.

Do I expect UF's fumbling ways to persist through the whole season?

No, but playing the what-if game for too long is like continually betting hard sixes at the craps table.

Eventually, seven hits and all is lost.

If Tebow didn't fumble near the goal line against Tennessee, Florida might finish with a 30-6 win.

If UF didn't decide to just play conservatively against LSU, the offense could've done more.

If the Gators didn't fumble twice within the Razorbacks' 10, they could've won by several touchdowns and not been forced to kick a game-winning field goal.

There is something to be said for a team being forced to fight through adversity, especially if it comes out the other side undefeated.

But there is still plenty of risk.

What if those things never get fixed? What if UF can't stop turning the ball over? What if teams stack the box and the passing game lets Florida down?

The Gators' national championship hopes could use a boost from a great game by the offense.

Can it reproduce the eye-popping stats of last season?

Probably not, and UF players and coaches seem like they're beginning to realize this.

But with just a little more offense and a fixing of the fundamentals, the Gators are a game away from fans wondering why they were so worried.

Otherwise, Florida will be playing in a bowl far from Pasadena this winter, asking what if it could turn back the clocks one more time.

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