



FIU 3 FLORIDA 62

Gators romp, begin preparing for Senior Day

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

As the 62-3 score went final on Tim Tebow's second-to-last home game as a Gator, the quarterback could feel his time winding down.

Tebow knows it's becoming more and more important to make sure his successor, John Brantley, is ready to take over the reins once he's gone.

The sophomore showed how far he has come as a passer in the second half, going 9 for 13 for 146 yards and three touchdowns, but Tebow was more concerned with something else.

"I was actually trying to get Johnny to go around shaking hands with me, but he didn't want to," said Tebow, who takes a victory lap around The Swamp after every home victory. "But I'll get that tradition passed on."

Brantley gave Gators fans a short look at the future of the team's passing attack against FIU (3-8, 3-4 Sun Belt) with touchdown strikes to redshirt freshmen Omarius Hines and Frankie Hammond Jr. — the first of their careers — but his reluctance to join the former Heisman Trophy winner on his post-game jog around Florida Field shows the Tim Tebow era isn't over quite yet.

"I've been waiting for three years now, but you know what, I've just learned so much and I've taken it all in these three years," Brantley said. "To sit behind one of the greatest players in college football is a blessing to me."



UF senior quarterback Tim Tebow high-fives fans' outstretched hands as he makes his customary victory lap around Ben Hill Griffin Stadium on Saturday after Florida's 62-3 win over FIU.

Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 15

UF FACULTY

Employee arrested for DUI

By **MATT HARRINGER**
 Alligator Contributing Writer

A resident psychiatrist at UF's College of Medicine was arrested early Sunday morning for driving drunk and failing to stop after hitting a pedestrian near Ben and Jerry's on University Avenue.

Marcus Anderson, 28, drove onto the sidewalk and hit 27-year-old law student Clay Hodges as he was leaving 101 Cantina, according to a police report.

Hodges said the vehicle hit his elbow and the side mirror smashed into his ribs.

After hitting Hodges, Anderson hit a stop sign, put his car in reverse and tried to drive

away, according to the report.

Cameron Pettit, who watched the scene from his doorman post at 101 Cantina, said if the accident had happened five minutes earlier, 10 people waiting in a line to enter the bar would have been hit.

After being hit, Hodges said he was sore, but paramedics said nothing was broken.

"I was lucky," Hodges said.

Phone calls to Anderson were not returned Sunday. He was released without bail.



Anderson

'Twi-hards' flock to theaters for premiere

By **JARED MISNER** and
ALISON SCHWARTZ
 Alligator Writers

They came costumed and Cullen-crazed. They bypassed bedtimes for Bella. They were dragged, they were shameless, they came in secrecy.

They reread, they rewatched, they remembered. They were divided. They stuck with Team Edward. They rallied for the underdog.

They set records. They, the millions of page-turning,

SEE TWILIGHT, PAGE 5

Special Report

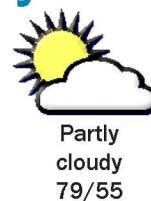
■ Setter Kelly Murphy and Florida (right) fell 3-1 at Tennessee on Friday, eliminating the Gators from the SEC race. UF came back to win at Kentucky on Sunday. See Story, Page 14.



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News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Engineers Without Borders

General Body meeting

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

RNK 110

All majors are welcome. The group will be having a short presentation by a guest speaker and updates on all the recent happenings of the club.

Project Yucatan fundraiser

Nov. 30, 6 to 8 p.m.

Gelato Company

Project Yucatan is an interdisciplinary health outreach program that sets up medical clinics in underserved communities in the Yucatan Peninsula during Spring Break. The group is student-run and self-funded and is trying to raise money to purchase the medications it will need for its clinics. The group needs to raise \$20,000 to sustain its trip.

UFSIFE Sustainable

Entrepreneurship Forum

Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m.

Bryan Hall 232

UF Students in Free Enterprise would like to invite students to its Sustainable Entrepreneurship Forum. In this forum, attendees will have the opportunity to hear from and network with entrepreneurs who have incorporated environmentally-friendly practices in their businesses. Students will also learn about how to turn any business into a sustainable one. Spots are limited, so please RSVP to sife.entrepreneurship@gmail.com as soon as possible.

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. Make sure all submissions are formatted properly. Space in this section is limited.

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79/55

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CLOUDY
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THURSDAY



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74/45

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ON CAMPUS

WUFT-FM to play live music for the holidays

By **MORGAN WATKINS**
Alligator Contributing Writer

This holiday season WUFT-FM will spread some cheer by broadcasting live and recorded local music on its Hybrid Digital 2 channel.

The UF radio channel will also stream the performances on its Web site, wuft-fm.org.

Performances include the Gainesville Chamber Orchestra and the UF Symphony Orchestra, HD2 program director Richard Drake wrote in an e-mail.

The Symphony Orchestra was already recorded during a performance on Nov. 12, orchestra music director and conductor Raymond Chobaz wrote in an e-mail.

The Gainesville Chamber Orchestra was recorded by WUFT-FM during its performance Friday at the University Auditorium. The orchestra performed its

"The public should be excited about this series because it's us — people who live here and perform in this area."

Richard Drake
HD2 program director

eight annual "Got Beethoven?" concert, a tribute to the famous composer.

Drake said the channel plans to turn the program into an ongoing series that runs throughout the year.

Drake, who has been working with the local music community for the past 25 years, said he wanted to showcase some of the area's talent through this holiday program.

"The public should be excited about this series because it's us — people who live here and perform in this area," Drake said.

200 toothbrushes wanted

By **MELISSA QUINN**
Alligator Contributing Writer

When 12-year-old Hussein Muhammad felt pain in his molar, his mother knew how to fix it. She tied a piece of string to his tooth and yanked, hard. She couldn't afford to take him to the dentist, so instead she performed the extraction herself.

His story prompted UF sophomore Rahma Mkuu, who was born in Kenya, to collect toothbrushes to send to the country's residents.

Muhammad is one of the millions of Kenyan residents who can't afford adequate dental care, Mkuu said. She said a majority of the population makes less than \$1 a day, making it near impossible to buy even a toothbrush.

Mkuu started the project last month and will continue to collect the toothbrushes until Dec. 7.

On Dec. 15, she will travel to Kenya and distribute the toothbrushes to children in Mombasa.

Her goal is to collect 200 toothbrushes, and so far she has 25.

She is receiving toothbrushes from Health Occupation Students of America, the Florida State Nursing School and friends.

On Campus Mkuu said she created a Facebook group that encourages students to donate as well.

When families can buy toothbrushes, they use them for multiple years, she said. While most Americans purchase more than two toothbrushes per year, most Kenyans can afford only one toothbrush every three years. Providing their families with food takes priority, she said.

Those interested in donating can contact Mkuu by e-mail at rmkuu@ufl.edu.

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ON CAMPUS

Students discourage smoking

By ERICA JOHNSON

Alligator Contributing Writer

UF students took a stand against smoking Friday when they celebrated the Great American Smokeout on Turlington Plaza to raise awareness of the dangers of smoking.

The Great American Smokeout is a national, annual event put on by the American Cancer Society the Thursday before Thanksgiving and challenges smokers to not smoke for 24 hours.

Colleges Against Cancer, the group that coordinates Relay for Life, held the event on Turlington Plaza from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., said Michaela Valenti, the group's mission education chairwoman.

"We know that it's hard to quit smoking, so we want people to know that it is getting easier," Valenti, a junior anthropology major, said. "There are more medications out now, more counseling and it is becoming more affordable."

Valenti said 13 percent of UF students smoke, so one goal of the event was to ensure students were reminded of the dangers of smoking.

In order to get the message out, students were

asked to spin a giant wheel to learn the disadvantages of smoking and ways to quit.

Club members also gave students fliers with information on how to quit smoking.

But knowing the dangers isn't always enough.

"We know that it's hard to quit smoking, so we want people to know that it is getting easier."

Michaela Valenti

UF junior anthropology major

Colleges Against Cancer member Alyssa Sandler, a junior education major, was dressed as a giant cigarette that read, "Put a Chomp on Tobacco."

She said it is extremely frustrating for her when she sees people who know the harm they're doing to their bodies but still continue to smoke.

"I had a grandma die of cancer, and I had cancer myself twice when I was younger," she said. "I want people to quit so they don't have to go through what my grandma and I went through."

Gator creates networking site

■ USERS CAN POST AND BROWSE LISTINGS.

By GAIA BONINI

Alligator Contributing Writer

Shawn Joseph is looking for buddies.

Not just for himself but for every student at UF and colleges nationwide.

Joseph, 25, a recent UF graduate, is the founder of BuddySurfing.com, an interactive social networking Web site that allows users to post and browse events happening at their school and community.

Joseph said it's a sort of Facebook-meets-Craigslist idea that he thought of in January and debuted at UF two weeks ago.

While anyone can join BuddySurfing, Joseph divided the site into collegiate users and other users for safety and security purposes.

Social networking among college students is different than networking among other groups of people, he said, and their events should be kept separate, as well.

Joseph said bulletin boards plastered with fliers are an incomprehensible mess, and handouts from the Reitz Union Colonnade and Turlington Plaza most likely end up in the trash. But BuddySurfing allows organizations and individuals to promote events on a well-organized site.

Users simply choose their networks from a list of nearly every college and university in the country, much like choosing a city on Craigslist.

Then the users can browse through events that are separated into two categories — work and play — which Joseph said is how college students define their lives.

Work listings may be Student Government events, job opportunities or tutoring sessions, while play events could be anything from parties and nightlife to personal ads.

Users can link events to their Fa-

cebook statuses to get their friends involved, he said.

Joseph said his biggest regret as an undergraduate student was not taking advantage of all the events UF has to offer.

"This place is a gold mine for social activities, and you don't realize that until you're gone," he said.

Joseph is the site's only investor

and said he spent a few thousand dollars to get it running.

He graduated Spring 2008 with a degree in biochemistry, and he has a strong background in computer science.

He worked for a year and a half in stem-cell research at Shands at UF and will start a graduate program this Spring in pharmaceutical chemistry at UF.



Ana Goni-Lessan / Alligator Staff

BuddySurfing.com founder Shawn Joseph, 25, poses for a photo at his apartment on Sunday night.

Center makes up for missed Mitzvahs

By DAVID TINTNER

Alligator Contributing Writer

When Taylor Newman saw the red carpet, the DJ, the photo booth and all of her relatives, she finally felt complete.

Last February, Newman, a pre-dental senior at UF, took advantage of an opportunity she missed out on more than seven years before — her Bat Mitzvah.

Usually, the event is celebrated with a religious ceremony and party and marks when a child turns 13 and becomes a man or a woman under Judaism.

However, growing up, Newman was less connected to Judaism than she is now and didn't have a celebration.

But fortunately for her, Rabbi Berl Goldman and his wife, Chanie, directors of the Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student and Community Center, started the Bar and Bat Mitzvah program last year to give students who never had a Bar or Bat Mitzvah a second chance.

Newman was one of five students to participate in the first Bar/Bat Mitzvah Bash, which was funded by donations to the center.

"I never thought in a million years I would have a chance like this again after I missed it when I was 13," Newman said. "I'm so grateful that I have."

The Goldmans are looking for their next group of students, and will begin working with them in January. The program is free, so anyone who is interested can have the opportunity.

"The reality is there are hundreds among the Jewish student population here that have not celebrated their Bar or Bat Mitzvah yet, and it bothers them," Berl Goldman said.

To participate in the program, students have to attend a series of classes at the center, where they discuss Jewish history and traditions, Hebrew and modern Jewish issues.

Berl Goldman said one of the main reasons many children don't have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah when they grow up is because they didn't enjoy their Jewish

education.

He wants to change that with his students.

"Don't forget these are college students," he said. "They're being offered sex, rock 'n' roll and drugs. Every other element of society is vying for their attention."

Julie Kaufman, a UF student who also participated in the program, said her Bat Mitzvah was more meaningful to her because she had it when she was 21 — not 13.

"You don't understand the significance of a Bat Mitzvah when you're younger," she said. "Religion wasn't really my priority then."

Kaufman didn't have a Bat Mitzvah when she was 13 because she was too busy and was not really interested, she said.

But as she grew up, Judaism became more important to her, and she was embarrassed not to have had a Bat Mitzvah.

"I just felt like there was something missing," she said. "It was something I really wished I could go back and do."

After Newman had her Bat Mitzvah, she changed her entire lifestyle, she said.

She started following the strict kosher dietary laws.

"It's hard in Gainesville," Newman said. "I don't eat out or anything anymore. I don't know why I chose to do it. I just know it feels right."

Newman also said she noticed the Bar and Bat Mitzvahs have changed some of the students and help them grow.

Many of the students have also become more religious. Berl Goldman said if students are motivated to study and learn, they can have the opportunity to have their Bar or Bat Mitzvah at any age.

"By offering this program, we want to tell students it's never too late," he said. "You are Jewish, you are important and your Bar or Bat Mitzvah means something."

Local News

UF study shows religious left more active

■ UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLABORATED WITH UF.

By **JOEY FLECHAS**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Religion plus politics doesn't necessarily equal right-wing.

A new UF study conducted in collaboration with the University of Notre Dame and the University of Cincinnati reveals a diversity in political leanings among religious voters that might not have been as obvious before.

Kenneth Wald, UF political science professor and collaborator on the study, said a religious left has become more prominent over the recent years.

According to the study, voting trends among Christians have shifted more left than in the past.

"We're at a point in history where the opportunities for the religious left are better than before," he said.

However, he noted there has been political diversity among those who practice a religion for a long time.

"We're not claiming that we've found something new," he said.

UF Levin College of Law student and Christian Legal Society president Christine Pratt said she has noticed a movement of Christians trying to work against a stereotype that pegs them all down as hard-line conservatives.

"There are issues to the left of center that are valid," she said.

Even though her political views are mostly conservative, she identifies with issues commonly touted by liberals like social welfare and taking care of the environment.

Wald attributed some of the shifts in attitudes to the younger members of evangelical groups, as they have criticized their leadership more.

Ticket presales break Fandango's record

TWILIGHT, from page 1

faux-fang-flaunting, "Twilight"-obsessed fans, made "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" the No. 1 advance ticket-selling movie in Fandango.com history shortly after 8 p.m. Nov. 14 — more than five days before the movie was released.

They have since surpassed all presale ticket records, according to Harry Medved, Fandango.com spokesman.



Ana Goni-Lessan / Alligator Staff

Meagan Duff, 25, walks to her theater after buying snacks at the concession stand at the Regal Butler Plaza Cinemas 14 late Thursday night for the showing of "The Twilight Saga: New Moon."

"The fan base has exploded," Medved said.

Two hours before the 12:01 a.m. showing Friday, Regal Gainesville Cinema 14 sold out 15 showings of the latest cinema installment of the "Twilight" saga.

Medved attributed the increase in popularity to moviegoers who found love at first bite last November with the cinema debut of Edward Cullen, a golden-eyed, Volvo-driving, vegetarian vampire.

But in round two, Bella, the love-struck mortal, may find herself a new beau as she lands herself in a monster love triangle between Robert Pattinson, her brooding vampire boyfriend, and Taylor Lautner, the suddenly sultry werewolf next door.

"Instead of one guy Bella's crazy about, there's two hunky guys that are crazy about her," Medved said. "I guess you could say there's more eye candy for the women this time."

And for Megan Barthle, who attended one of the 15 sold-out showings early Friday morning, there was too much eye candy to choose from.

"You can't choose," the UF psychology senior said. "I want them both."

Barthle donned a handmade T-shirt professing her uncertainty with the word "3some" splattered across her chest in paint.

And vampires weren't the only ones with blood on the brain Friday morning.

Clay Gibbons, community development coordinator with LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, estimated the "New Moon"-themed blood drive attracted about 60 blood donations in the theater's parking lot with its "Team Edward" and "Team Jacob" Blood Mobiles.

Andrea Andrews, a 22-year-old UF student and "Team Edward" member, wore a black T-shirt with Pattinson's pale face emblazoned on the front. She said she felt more like a 13-year-old girl as she stood in a line 17 people long to donate blood just more than an hour before her 12:40 a.m. show.

"Read the books, and then you'll understand [the obsession]," Andrews said, as she bent her knees, folded her hands and squealed in anticipation for the movie she had been waiting to see since she bought her ticket more than three weeks ago. "Personally, as college students, you don't read for pleasure, and this is the first time I've read for pleasure since middle school."

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Editorial

Poison the Well

Lobbyists do more harm than good by opposing regulations

Last week, a federal judge in Tallahassee approved a settlement in an environmental suit that requires the EPA to set nutrient limits for lakes, streams and creeks in Florida.

For the first time, there would be strict limits on the output of these chemicals, common byproducts of lawn fertilization, sewage treatment, farming and cattle production.

We were surprised to find that Florida, unlike most other states, does not already have limits on these chemicals. Rather, the state has adopted "narrative" standards, allowing for flexibility — or total neglect — when the situation calls for it. Opponents of the new regulations, a coalition of lobbying groups representing business and farming interests, argue that the weak economy means now is not the time to increase costs for business and government.

But for more than a decade, as Florida's economy and housing market boomed, these same lobbying groups argued against regulations, claiming they would hamper growth.

It is precisely this growth, bringing with it the endless suburbs now synonymous with Florida, that has created an environmental mess in Lake Okeechobee, major rivers and the beaches of Southwest Florida. Lawn fertilizer runoff causes algae blooms that kill fish, leave waters too unhealthy to swim in and cause respiratory problems for residents and tourists.

We believe that the real threat to Florida's economic future (not to mention the well-being of its residents) is not new regulations, but these lobbying groups themselves, who have been all-too effective up to this point.

Because a wheezing stroll down an algae covered beach won't appeal to most tourists.

Party Poopers

On Saturday night, the Senate voted to move health care legislation to the floor for debate in a close party-line vote of 60 to 39.

But two key centrist senators who voted to move the bill to debate, Ben Nelson, D - Neb., and Joseph Lieberman, who-knows-what-party - Conn., have vowed to vote against it if the "public option" remains, according to The New York Times.

Lieberman, who admits "we have a health care system that's in trouble" (understatement of the week), follows by saying that "we have an economic crisis," which he does not want to aggravate by passing a public option. He argues this plan could cost billions.

But the Congressional Budget Office, the non-partisan research agency within Congress, estimated that the

bill would save \$130 billion in the first 10 years, and \$650 billion in the next 10 years — public option and all.

While Lieberman has a history of divisive splits from the Democratic majority, Nelson and other reluctant Democrats are alienating themselves by vocally criticizing the Democratic majority.

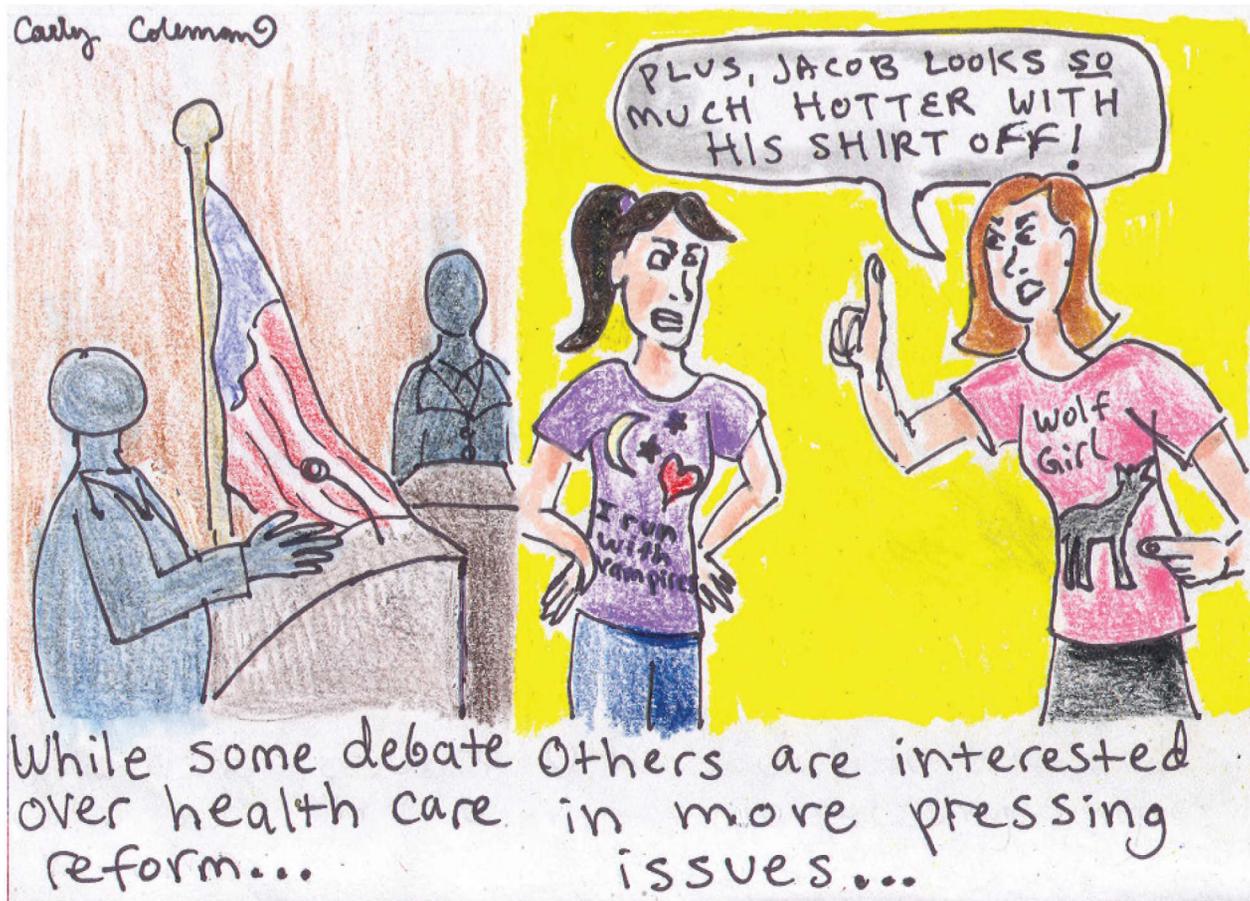
We say let them.

If senators like Nelson want to latch on to arguments straight out of Republican talking-point memos, like the notion that a public option would mean bureaucrats will invade doctor-patient relationships (citing recent mammogram guidelines), maybe the Democratic majority isn't the best place for them.

The Democrats need to consolidate support for upcoming legislation, but some dissenters might need to be abandoned — in health care efforts and in their next re-election campaigns.

Opinions

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Column

US keeps moral high ground with trials

Last week, the Alligator published contradictory views on whether trying Khalid Sheikh Muhammad in New York is the right move. Unfortunately, both pieces missed some of the most pertinent questions. Before addressing these, it must be said that I feel trying Muhammad in New York is the right decision. Don't get me wrong, he in no way deserves the protections we are providing him.

He deserves little more than to be released in the middle of Times Square, after making sure everyone knows when and where. But trying him in open court is the right decision not only because it allows us to keep the moral high ground but because it sets a precedent for how to treat the remaining prisoners in American custody.

There is little doubt that Muhammad is guilty and deserves life in prison, at a minimum. But what about the remaining prisoners at Guantanamo Bay and other military prisons like Bagram? It is true that some of these prisoners are terrorists who are committed to destroying the United States, but not all of them. There is a difference between Taliban and al-Qaida. Even Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, admits that there are no major al-Qaida factions remaining in Afghanistan. Should the United States be allowed to detain and imprison enemy combatants indefinitely without ever bringing charges against them?

No. But one major problem is that the CIA was allowed to take the lead in interrogations. Being much more restrictive in its definition of torture, the CIA uses techniques that are illegal in the U.S. This means it is very difficult to bring prisoners to trial because any evidence given under duress is inadmissible.

Some are also making the argument that we should not bring detainees to the U.S. because of the difficulty in obtaining guilty verdicts. This is a ridiculous argument. If we can't prove these people are guilty, especially when con-

Nick Miner
Speaking Out

sidering the death sentence, we have no right to imprison them. There have already been several documented cases of imprisoning foreign

nationals because of mistaken identity. These people were arrested, flown halfway around the world and imprisoned for months.

It's been shown that there were innocent people held at Guantanamo, a place that President George W. Bush described as holding only the "worst of the worst." One of these men, Akhtiar Mohammad, was arrested on information given to authorities by insurgents because he worked for the government. Given this history of imprisoning the innocent, we must ensure those in our custody are actually guilty.

Not everyone who opposes the United States is evil. In fact, very few are. We mock Muslims for calling us "The Great Satan," but aren't we guilty of similar demonization? We cannot treat all prisoners of the "War on Terror" as imminent threats to our security. We cannot imprison people indefinitely without ever bringing charges. We cannot steal people's lives. If we do, we are no better than the petty dictators who we condemn for political prosecutions. If we cannot prove someone has committed the crimes he or she is accused of, we have no right to imprison him or her.

And for those who claim we can't bring these people to trial because most of the evidence is inadmissible, here's an idea: Don't use illegal interrogation methods. This is the United States of America; we are better than that. Yes, it might mean letting an enemy soldier return to the fray, but abandoning our values and tarnishing our prestige will lead to the deaths of far more Americans in the long run. Plus if they do acquit Khalid Sheikh Muhammad then maybe we can get our wish, and they will release him onto the streets of New York.

Nick Miner is a UF political science graduate student.

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

Reader response

Today's question: Do you think UF should cancel classes on Wednesday in order to prevent traffic accidents and allow students to spend more time with their families?

Monday's question: Would you play on UF's Quidditch club team?

45% YES
55% NO
67 TOTAL VOTES

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Kristin Bjornsen
EDITOR

Brian Kelley

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MANAGING EDITORS

Will Olsen
OPINIONS EDITOR

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

Letters to the Editor

RTS is concerned with rider safety

The RTS family joins the Alligator in offering the sincerest condolences to the family of Erin Pelton. No words can express the loss of such a bright young person on the cusp of a promising future.

It is with this in mind that we, the board of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1579, must strenuously object to both the tone and contents of the Nov. 4 editorial "RTS must act to make crossing streets safer."

The saddest thing about this tragedy, which shattered two lives, is that it could have been prevented. We feel it is irresponsible and inflammatory for the Alligator Editorial Board to place the onus on RTS.

RTS operators consider their passengers' safety to be of the utmost importance. When an operator asks you to exit via the rear door or the talking bus reminds you to cross behind the bus, where you will be most visible to traffic, this is done with your safety in mind. Operator concern about passenger safety has also led to RTS management adopting a policy that discourages passengers from running across the street to catch the bus.

The Alligator has suggested that RTS is not alert to locations where passengers make high-risk crossings. On the contrary, this fall, with the support of the Student Senate, RTS launched a new Route 22 that uses Old Archer Road — a routing suggested by an operator — to give residents of Oxford Manor and Brandywine Apartments an alternative to crossing Archer Road midblock.

Furthermore, we would like to address the Alligator's recommendation that RTS remove all midblock stops to discourage high-risk crossings. On Archer Road from 23rd Drive to 34th Street there are bus stops at crosswalks, apartment complexes and places of business. The stop where Erin Pelton most likely got off is located adjacent to a driveway that leads to the UF entomology and nematology departments. There are legitimate reasons for a person to wish to use these stops that do not involve a high-risk crossing. If the Alligator Editorial Board were to carry its arguments to their logical conclusions, it might not find the results to its liking.

RTS Executive Board

Pride in UF doesn't come from buildings

This is in response to Zach Faza's letter to the editor about his support for the renovation of the Reitz Union. It is ignorant to argue that the pride Florida students have is

derived from the quality and beauty of their campus. This is not a resort, but a university that students attend for a reputable education. What separates UF students from everyone else? Certainly not an addition onto an already over-glorified building. Suggesting that our "premier" university status is dependent on such materialism is insulting.

In a true Randian sense, "A building has integrity just like a man. And just as seldom." Putting such emphasis on such an arbitrary structure leads me to question whether you're here for the right reasons. I know I'll define my college experiences by more than just where I pick up lunch or grab money from the ATM. Let me bring you back to the real world where the down economy has smacked our university with immense budget and faculty cuts. How about this time we refrain from expanding our expensive indulgences and remind ourselves of what we're really here for.

Lauren Parater

UF political science sophomore

Embargo gives Castro regime leverage over citizens

I used to feel the exact same way as Dayme Sanchez does about the Cuban embargo, but last time I went to Cuba I changed my mind.

As I flew into the Havana airport I saw a billboard with a picture of President George W. Bush on it that read, "America is full of assholes."

When I got into a cab, the driver saw my newspaper and told me there's no way America would ever elect Barack Obama because it's a racist country.

When I got to my friend Ernesto's house, he told me that he trusts the results of Cuban elections more than American ones because our politicians can pay for a win.

When I was traveling to Holguin, an 18-year-old in military uniform told me he felt secure knowing Castro wouldn't send him off to die a needless death like America does to its troops.

When I was telling my friend Ariel goodbye, an elderly woman asked me to bring her some glasses next time since America won't sell Cuba enough lens grinders because it wants the people to suffer.

And when my plane took off from Holguin I saw Bush again, this time alongside Hitler as the ace of spades in the Cuban version of the terrorist card deck.

So let's get one thing straight, the Cuban embargo was about Castro seizing and selling American property in 1959, but now it's

the best tool the regime has to control people's perception of America and keep them complacent.

Andrew Wilson

UF student

Undergrads have right to protest fee

I would like to give a response to Matthew Powers and all those others who have stated, "Undergraduates haven't the right to complain about the fee." To all of those, I return your "Shut up, undergrads," with a "Shut up, graduates, and think about it."

Maybe Bright Futures worked differently back in your day, but things have changed recently. Now, they don't pay full tuition but a set-by-the-credit-hour rate. And I am pretty sure that set rate will not be adjusted to accommodate this Reitz Union fee. Rather, undergrads will have to pay out of pocket, just like you. No, we don't have massive amounts of spending money, as you seem to think. I have both Bright Futures and Prepaid; but if not for the federal loan I took out this semester, I would not be able to pay my rent right now, and my rent is not very expensive. We are all broke, not just you.

And then there is the ignorance of placing us all into one category. Many of us are like you once were, undergrad juniors and seniors, enjoying only one year or less of Bright Futures funding. Soon, we will join you in these woes. And then there are the fifth-year seniors, whom Bright Futures does not even support. Not all undergrads are financially equal. So we have just as much a right as graduates to protest this ridiculous fee.

Frank Coxon IV

UF student

Anyone can be a drunken driver

Friday night I received text messages from several friends and students at UF regarding a DUI featured on the front page of the Alligator. Kristen Gillis, an avid supporter of my personal campaign against drunken driving and a friend of mine, made a mistake, a big one. I was worried, personally hurt, and pretty heartbroken.

Two things to take from this: Anyone can be a drunken driver, and anyone can be his or her victim; don't drink and drive, ever. Second, if posting names in the Alligator is intended to be a deterrent for others against drunken driving then every single student who drives drunk should have his or her name listed on the front page. That's not an

attack against the Alligator. Rather, that's a personal shove at you, my fellow students.

Hundreds of students at UF have made and will make the same mistake Gillis made on Thursday; trust me, I learned that the hard way when my car was hit head-on by another student driving drunk in 2006. One thing UF does not have enough of, however, is amazing people like Gillis. She makes mistakes, but I know she is much better at making people smile.

Don't want to have your name listed on front page? Then how about everyone sticks to making people smile.

Nicole Martingano

UF alum 2009

SG, administration have bad timing with renovation and expansion plans

The issue about the Reitz Union expansion raises fundamental and core problems surrounding the attitudes of this university, its administration, its Student Government and the complete lack of distinction between any and all of these categories.

We know that SG will operate under any and all modes of self-interest. SG is, like the administration, interested in ideas fit for a brochure with attractive buildings and boundless ideas of "excellence." But what we need, as concerned graduate employees, undergraduate employees, and students all, is to use this moment of absolute disrespect to put this attitude in check.

Unfortunately it is poor timing for UF and SG to attempt to pull this one off: we simply cannot afford to accept the decision of a multi-million dollar expansion at a time when faculty are leaving this university, when graduate students are leaving this university, and when a host of undergraduates would rather see their money well spent in holding onto the value of their already diminishing degrees.

The Board of Regents for the University of California system recently approved a statewide fee increase of 32 percent, leaving students upset, active and organizing against this decision. This is our educational context. Expanding a student union for more elbow room for eating pizza and "activities" is insulting. Renovations are the administration's fiscal responsibility. We are not going to be passed the buck.

Figure out something else... This is why you are paid three-fourths of a million dollars, Bernie.

Patrick McHenry

UF graduate employee, English department

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Transgender victims honored in Day of Remembrance

143 transgenders were killed this year

By **BEATRICE DEAHL**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Wearing black arm bands emblazoned with the transgender symbol and holding flickering candles in the cool November air, more than 40 people gathered Friday on the Plaza of Americas to remember.

Young and old stood together in to remember people they've known and hundreds they've never met.

They bowed their heads as they remembered the lives of transgender people and mourned the

deaths of hundreds of others killed in hate crimes. The gathering was part of the Transgender Day of Remembrance memorial at UF.

This year marks the 11th year that UF has observed the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

The number of transgender deaths this year is also the highest since the Day of Remembrance began.

The event also celebrated a victory for the transgender community. The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act was passed in the House of Representa-

tives on Oct. 29, providing money to law enforcement to prosecute hate crimes wherein the victim was selected because of race, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

Local News Speeches focused not only on violent crimes of the past but also looked forward to the hope this act will bring.

UF's memorial service included several speeches, a reading of the names of those who were killed this year in transgender-related hate crimes, a candlelight vigil and

a meditation circle.

Donna Lee, a transgender activist and ordained minister, led everyone in a time of meditation.

"Let us believe that justice and love will prevail, hopefully sooner than later," Lee said.

According to the Transgender Day of Remembrance Web site, there have been 143 transgender homicides in 2009, and it is estimated that an anti-transgender murder occurs every three days.

Alexia Vandeventer spoke of the crimes against transgender people and why these crimes have been seen as almost acceptable in today's society.

Vandeventer said that for crimes to stop, transgender people need to be seen as humans rather than objects of curiosity.

Both non-transgender and transgender people attended.

Patricia Sullivan, a 65-year-old transgender, read about the event online and said it meant a lot.

"I lived all my life as someone I wasn't, and as of last May, I was finally able to be myself. It's been wonderful," Sullivan said.

The vigil was sponsored by the UF LGBT Affairs Office, the Office of Multicultural and Diversity Affairs, Student Government and Pride Student Union.

LOCAL

Online churches offer support to members from afar

By **JU'LIA SAMUELS**
Alligator Contributing Writer

It has been said that the Internet can take a person anywhere. However, for someone like Anesia Burns, an engineering major, the Internet offers a direct link to heaven.

Burns is a member of an online church, Christ Fellowship, which began offering its sermons online in 2008.

Burns attended the church when she lived at home in Palm Beach, and its online sermons allow her to still be a member.

"When I left for college, the church had like 100 members, but now there are like 5,000 members," Burns said.

The online service allows members who are out of town to stay connected with their church, and for Burns, it also offers a more personal relationship.

"When I was there, I never had a personal conversation with the pastor, but now I do. It's much easier to be open and tell them your problems over a Web interface than telling them your problems face to face," Burns said.

Viewers of the church's online sermons log onto a group that allows them to chat with the pastor and ask questions.

Online ministry has become so popular that other churches are beginning to follow the trend by posting their sermons online as well.

"When new technology appears and, especially, becomes accessible to multitudes of people, it seems irresponsible to not take advantage of such technology for the Gospel," said Michael Robertson, the technical director of Gainesville's First Assembly of God.

Taking advantage of the changing times

has benefited students like English major Anita John, who had little time to attend church over the summer.

According to Robertson, the response to online sermons has been met with very few complaints.

"It's much easier to be open and tell them your problems over a Web interface than telling them your problems face to face."

Anesia Burns
member of online church

"I hear stories and [am] told specifically about people literally around the world that have and are keeping up with our online media. I have not heard any bad feedback, unless [the post] gets up late or it's a Sun-

day where we don't put it up, which is very rare," Robertson said.

While online sermons offer a sense of convenience and intimacy, online church media have yet to offer a feature that allows the online members to connect with all the members in the church, an advantage that can still be found exclusively within the walls of a church.

"We want everyone to come to a service. It is a chance to rub shoulders with the Body of Christ and to be encouraged and spurred to live for Jesus," Robertson said. "This is hard to do just through a screen."

It still boils down to fellowship for proud online members like Burns.

"There is nothing like being able to go to church and fellowship with the members and have someone hold your hand when they pray with you," she said.



ATTENTION ADVERTISERS

DEADLINES

The Alligator will not publish on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

The deadline for Monday, November 30 is Tuesday, November 24 at 4 p.m.

The deadline for Tuesday December 1 is Wednesday, November 25 at 4 p.m.

These deadlines apply to both Display and Classified advertising.

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UF RESEARCH

Study: Bullies act on assumptions

By JIMMIE PAUL
Alligator Writer

Bully see, bully do.

A UF study shows that the more bullies think their peers are harassing others, the more likely they are to tease others.

The experiment, which surveyed nearly 10,700 anonymous middle school students from 2006 to 2008, was designed to monitor bullying behaviors. About 20 middle schools from New Jersey and New York participated in the study.

The research found that 66 percent of students said they've been the victim of bullying more than once in the last month.

Twenty-five percent of those surveyed avoided recess, class and lunch to keep clear of trouble. Eight percent of the teenagers also reported that they skipped school for the same reason.

Jason Grindstaff, who works at UF's counseling center and deals with student depression and anxiety, said menacing students were often ridiculed and ostracized, so they tend to join "jock" groups to appear popular and exert power, he said.

David W. Craig, one of the researchers, said easily influenced students usually become quarrelsome and troubled, which is why they tend to pick on others. He said people think bullying happens much more than it actually does.

"We've been looking at the frequency between behavior and the perceived behavior for two years," he said. "The higher the grade level, the less influenced students are to becoming bullies."

The study also found that the classroom, lunchroom and hallways at schools were the places where victimization was most prevalent. Craig also said bullying is down about 15 percent since the study at the schools where students were surveyed.

Researchers from Hobart and William Smith colleges and Harvard University also participated in the study.



Staff & Student

Students and staff members gathered during an event organized by UF's Center for the Study of the History of the State at the West Bank city of Jerusalem, Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009. The event was held to mark the 10th anniversary of the U.S. adoption of a treaty guaranteeing children's rights. From left, staff and students hold up a banner and balloons during the event. (Alligator Staff/Staff)

Atheist student groups flower on college campuses

■ AT LEAST ONE OF THESE STUDENTS HAS BEEN ASKED 'WHAT ARE YOU BELIEVING?'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Two students hold signs during a protest at the University of Florida. The student on the left is holding a sign that says "NO GOD" and the student on the right is holding a sign that says "I'm an atheist".

As campuses across the country embrace the secular, a new wave of atheist students is rising. These students, often called "New Atheists," are not just rejecting religion; they are actively promoting atheism. In a survey of 100 college students, 30 percent identified as atheists, up from 15 percent just five years ago. The rise of atheism is being fueled by a combination of factors, including the influence of prominent atheist authors like Richard Dawkins and Sam Harris, and the growing acceptance of secularism in academic and public life. Many of these students are part of campus atheist groups that hold regular meetings and events. They often face questions from their peers about their beliefs, but they remain steadfast in their convictions. The growth of these groups is seen as a sign of a more open and diverse campus environment.

The rise of the atheist movement on college campuses is a reflection of broader cultural shifts. As society becomes more secular, students are more likely to question religious dogma and embrace rationalist and scientific worldviews. This movement is not just about personal belief; it's also about challenging religious influence in public life. Many atheist students are active in campus organizations that advocate for the separation of church and state. They often engage in public debates and protests, such as the one shown in the photo. While some religious groups view this as a threat, many see it as a necessary part of a free and open society. The growth of these groups is also being supported by the internet, which provides a platform for atheist voices to be heard. Overall, the rise of atheism on college campuses is a significant development in the ongoing conversation about religion and public life.

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 ●Furnished room in house for grad student.
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 Now \$400/mth call 239-634-3130 11-25-
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4 Roommates

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 mo OBO + utils. Brandywine on Archer Rd.
 yttek@hotmail.com or 305-332-6566 12-4-
 09-28-4

Walk or bike to UF, Shands or VA. Roommate
 needed for nice 2/1, \$350/mo + half utilities
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 renovated. \$200 dep. Call 352-843-0220 to
 see. 11-25-21-4

Female roommates needed. Live in a big new
 house w/ bus stop to UF, quiet/relax area,
 fenced yard,private pool. 520/month all inclu-
 sive. Joyce 941-724-0961. Must see House
 Pics: tinyurl.com/mbs77r 11-25-15-4

A clean, preprofessional, non-smoking femal
 roommate for a 2/2.5 townhome close to
 UF and Santa Fe. \$350 + 1/2 of the utilities
 and internet included, W/D, Bdr unfurnished.
 Contact Madgene at 561-827-4970. 12-1-
 09-15-4

Female roommate needed, 4/2.5 townhouse,
 I-75 and Newberry, all included, gated, \$400
 baezwp@aol.com 954-557-4769
 1-19-09-30-4

\$385-Female roommate needed for 1/1 in
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 cluded, fully furnished, on routes 12 and 35,
 very clean, for Spring or longer. Call Anu @
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Female UF roommate needed for 3 bed-
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by Chris Richcreek

- How many consecutive seasons has first baseman Mark Teixeira had at least 30 homers and 105 RBIs?
- Who was the Baltimore Orioles' last 20-game winner?
- When was the last time a current football member of the Big East Conference won a national championship?
- The first two teams to sweep the NBA Finals were Boston (1959) and Milwaukee (1971). Who was the third?
- Glenn Anderson tallied the most career NHL postseason Game Seven goals, with seven. Four other players had six. Name two of them.
- Which two countries have won the most gold medals in men's Olympic soccer?
- After Muhammad Ali (as Cassius Clay) defeated Sonny Liston in 1964 to become the heavyweight boxing champion, the WBA had its own heavyweight champ until Ali defeated him in 1967. Name him.

Answers

1. Six
 2. Mike Boddicker went 20-11 in 1984.
 3. Pittsburgh in 1976.
 4. Golden State swept Washington in 1975.
 5. Wendell Clark, Wayne Gretzky, Trevor Linden and Jeremy Roenick.
 6. England (1900, '08, '12) and Hungary ('52, '64, '68).
 7. Ernie Terrell.
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5 Real Estate

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BED - FULL SIZE - \$100 ORTHOPEDIC
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Florida eliminated from SEC race

■ THE GATORS BREAK AN 18-YEAR STREAK OF CONFERENCE TITLES.

By **ANTHONY CHIANG**

Alligator Writer
a Chiang@alligator.org

The Gators will not win the Southeastern Conference for the first time in 19 years, but on Sunday, Florida prevented Kentucky from claiming a share of the title.

After being eliminated from the conference race Friday with a loss against Tennessee (22-7, 15-4 SEC) in four sets 3-1 (22-25, 25-23, 25-15, 25-22), No. 13 Florida (21-5, 15-4 SEC) didn't have much time to regroup.

On Sunday, UF traveled to face Kentucky (27-3, 17-2 SEC), which could clinch at least a share of the SEC with a victory over the Gators. But UF implemented some new wrinkles and delayed the celebration with an impressive 3-1 victory (31-29, 25-23, 24-26, 25-21) over the Wildcats.

"This group is a special group and I know that some of our alumni are disappointed that our streak ended, but there are very few teams that I have ever been as proud of as I am of this team at this moment," coach Mary Wise said.

Despite playing in a two-setter offense for most of the season, the Gators switched to using only one setter for most of the match against Kentucky and benched struggling senior middle blocker Kristina Johnson for junior Lauren Bledsoe.

The results of the changes were encouraging to say the least.

Sophomore setter Kelly Murphy thrived in the new offense as she finished with 43 assists and helped four players reach double-digit kills.

"The first person I told we were going to do this was Kelly, and she looked me right in the eye and it was like a sense of excitement - she was all over it," Wise said.

SEE VOLLEY, PAGE 16



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

UF sophomore Kelly Murphy took over as the Gators' lone setter for the majority of Florida's 3-1 win over Kentucky on Sunday.

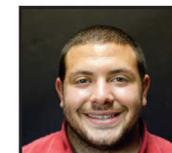
FIU game gives glimpse of future

Tim Tebow only has three games left as a Gator, raising plenty of questions about what the offense will look like when he's gone.

Saturday gave Gators fans a glimpse into the post-Tebow era, and it did not look so bad.

When Tebow did not return to field for the Gators' second drive in the third quarter, most of the starters joined him on the sidelines, but a few key starters were left on.

Running backs Jeff Demps and Chris Rainey along with wide receiver Deonte Thompson all went back out for one drive with Tebow's successor, John Brantley, before being taken out.



Bobby Callovi

Bobby's World
bcallovi@alligator.org

They are the only three starting skill players that are definitely returning. Wide-outs Riley Cooper, David Nelson and Brandon James will all be out of eligibility after the year, and tight end Aaron Hernandez will draw plenty of attention from the NFL and could decide to

leave early.

But Demps, Rainey and Thompson will be back next season as Brantley's biggest weapons.

Although it was against FIU and it was just nine plays, the drive they all played together still showed what next year is likely to resemble.

The Gators still ran their read-option play with their speedy backs. The main difference was Brantley seemed more willing to hand the ball off instead of tucking it and running with it on his own like Tebow does.

That is no surprise considering Brantley is nowhere near the runner Tebow is.

But Brantley proved he can run when needed. Although the play was called back because of a holding penalty, the redshirt sophomore showed

SEE BOBBY, PAGE 16

Gators snap out of shooting slump to rout Trojans

Walker went 76 mins without field goal

By **ADAM BERRY**

Alligator Staff Writer
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When Erving Walker's 3-pointer found the bottom of the net a little more than three minutes into the second half Friday night, he said two words immediately came to his mind.

"Thank God."

Walker hit his first three of the season after going 0 for his last 17 shots from the field, and the rest of the Gators' outside shooters finally found their touch as well, leading Florida (3-

0) to an 80-58 victory against Troy (2-1) in the O'Connell Center.

After shooting 3 for 29 through its first two games, UF hit 12 shots from beyond the arc Friday, including seven that came in a dominant second-half performance in which the Gators outscored the Trojans 49-26.

Walker, a 41.9 percent 3-point shooter last year, was 0 for 6 from long range and just 4 for 19 from the field entering Friday's game.

"I'm not going to lie, I was very frustrated, but you can't dwell on that," Walker said. "That's so frustrating when you just keep

missing and missing.

"That was just a slump, but hopefully I'm out of it."

Kenny Boynton, Walker's partner in the starting backcourt, led UF in scoring for the second straight game. The freshman guard poured in 23 points on 8-of-16 shooting, including three 3-pointers.

To ease some of the tension on Walker, who has run the point and led the team in minutes played through the first three games, Boynton occasionally took the ball at the top of the

key during the second half to set up Walker.

Boynton said the backcourt role reversal is something the two will look to do more often as the season progresses to make it easier for Walker to find his shot from the wing.

"Both those guys look for each other when they're playing," UF coach Billy Donovan said. "They need to continue to have that kind of relationship because when both those guys are playing like that, it really creates a lot for our team."

Walker and Boynton weren't the only shooters who found their rhythm Friday night, though. Forwards Chandler Parsons

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 16

TEERING OFF WITH PHIL KEGLER

■ Cal fans rushing the end zone after a 34-28 win at Stanford was absolutely absurd. You're a ranked team, on the road and playing against the Cardinal. You've gotta be kidding me. ... Can't help but revisit a Charlie Weis quote from his first press conference at ND: "If you think they hired me to go .500, you've got the wrong guy." The Irish are 6-5 and likely will be 6-6 after going to Stanford.

COLLEGE GAMEDAY COMING

■ ESPN's College GameDay will be in Gainesville on Saturday as part of the Florida State-Florida festivities. The show will broadcast from the grass outside the north end zone.

alligatorSports.org

■ The No. 5 UF women's swim team finished second to Florida State in the seven-team Georgia Tech Invitational. The No. 4 men's squad also finished second to the Seminoles. Check out our Web site.

Meyer, seniors undefeated against FSU

FOOTBALL, from page 1

With the win against the Golden Panthers, the Gators (11-0, 8-0 Southeastern Conference) extended their nation-best win streak to 21 games — the fourth-longest in SEC history.

Perhaps more impressively, the win made Tebow and the rest of the seniors the winningest class in conference history, running their record to 46-6.

The senior class has accomplished a lot together, but there's still plenty of unfinished business for this group.

Brantley and the next generation's time is edging closer by the week, but it will be on Tebow, senior linebacker Brandon Spikes and the rest of the current starters to close out the regular season with a victory on Senior Day against Florida State on Saturday.

A win against the Seminoles gives the Gators their first undefeated regular season since 1995 and the third in school history — UF went 5-0-1 in 1911.

Coach Urban Meyer and his senior quarterback have never lost to FSU in their time as Gators, and Tebow has dominated the Seminoles in his two seasons as a starter.

In the last two years, Tebow passed for 447 yards and six touchdowns and added 169 yards and three scores on the ground.

The Gators have won by a combined margin of 90-27.

The lefty grew up cheering for Florida in Jacksonville, and no one knows the significance of the

rivalry better than him.

"Since I can remember watching football, I can remember watching that game," Tebow said.

After the game against FIU, he told an anecdote about watching the game in 1996 — a 24-21 loss — as a 9-year-old.

"I've been waiting for three years now, but you know what, I've just learned so much and I've taken it all in these three years.

To sit behind one of the greatest players in college football is a blessing to me."

John Brantley

UF sophomore quarterback

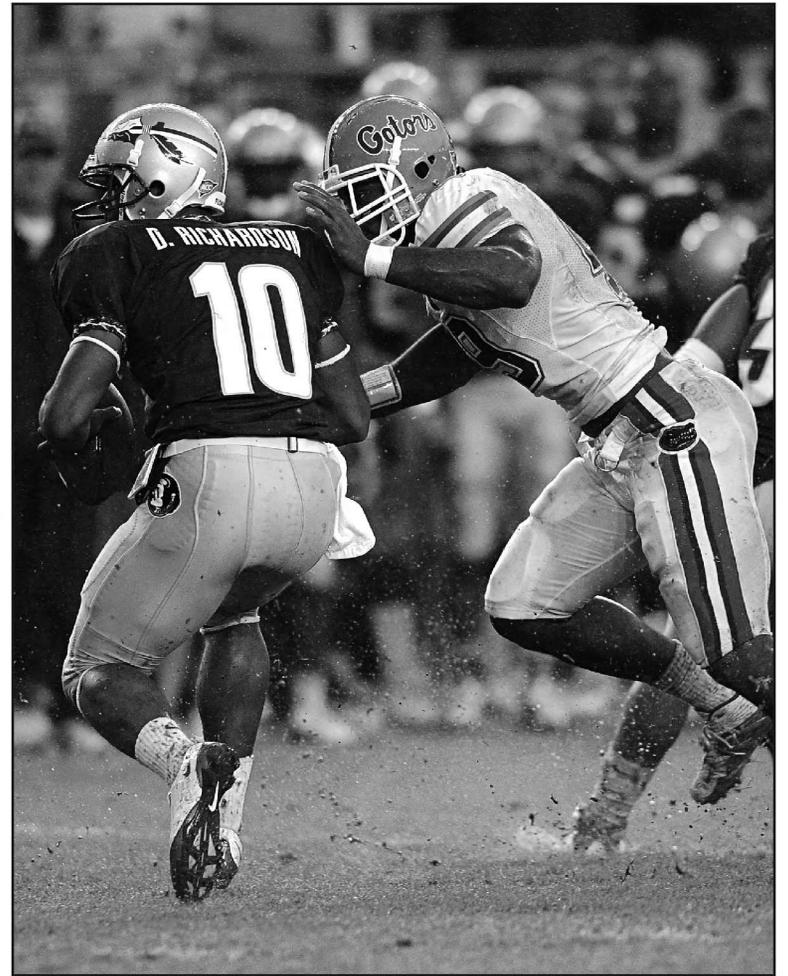
His father had him go out into the yard and rake the leaves when the contest ended, and Tebow said he cried the entire time because he knew the Gators had lost and wouldn't be able to win a national championship.

The young Tebow was wrong, of course.

Quarterback Danny Wuerffel and Florida went on to defeat FSU 52-20 in a rematch at the Sugar Bowl, giving the Gators their first-ever national championship.

The members of the senior class will take their third national championship in four years any way they can get it, but stomaching a loss in their final game in Ben Hill Griffin Stadium would be less than a storybook ending.

In that scenario, Tebow would be deprived of his final victory lap, with or without Brantley.



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

UF defensive end Jermaine Cunningham is part of the winningest senior class in SEC history, going 46-6 over a four-year span.

FIU 3, Florida 62

SWAMP STUDS

Chris Rainey
RB, R-So.

Urban Meyer said after the game that he let Rainey know he wouldn't mind if his shifty back turned in similar performances against top-tier SEC foes. We can't help but agree. No. 3 had an elusiveness Saturday that was impressive even against an overmatched FIU defense. Maybe his 13 yards per touch will entice Steve Addazio to get his playmakers the ball in space a little more often.

4 rush, 30 yds, TD; 3 rec, 61 yds, TD

John Brantley
QB, R-So.

Brantley gave Florida fans a glimpse of the future after taking over for Tebow midway through the third quarter. He threw a touchdown pass on all three of the drives he led, and each one went to a different receiver of the future — Omarius Hines, Frankie Hammond Jr. and Justin Williams. He may not run over people like Tebow, but Brantley's got a much sweeter arm.

9-of-13 passing, 146 yds, 3 TDs; 3 rush, 23 yds

Tim Tebow
QB, Sr.

Leave it to the annual nonconference blowout before FSU to return Tebow to form. His 55-yd touchdown scamper was the longest run of his career, and UF's offensive line gave him plenty of time to throw the ball. It was the first time he hasn't been sacked since the LSU game, a span of six games. The Gators will need Tebow at his best if they want to repeat as national champs.

17-of-25 passing, 215 yds, 2 TDs; 7 rush, 102 yds, TD

STANDINGS

T. Tebow - 13	J. Brantley - 2
C. Rainey - 7	D. Doe - 2
J. Cunningham - 6	C. Dunlap - 2
R. Cooper - 5	A. Hernandez - 2
J. Demps - 5	A. Jones - 2
R. Stamper - 5	C. Sturgis - 2
J. Haden - 4	D. Thompson - 2
A. Black - 3	Ja. Jenkins - 1
B. Spikes - 3	

TOP THREE PLAYS

Omarius Hines' 20-yard touchdown reception in the third quarter, in which he dragged FIU safety Jeremiah Weatherspoon five yards into the end zone.

Brandon Spikes' interception and 41-yard return for a touchdown on FIU's first drive.

TURNING POINT

On FIU's opening drive, Brandon Spikes picked off Golden Panthers quarterback Paul McCall one play after a UF roughing-the-kicker penalty negated an FIU punt. Spikes returned it 41 yards untouched for a touchdown, giving him four pick-sixes in the last two years, which leads the nation.

KEY STAT

0

Punts by Florida

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	Final
FIU	0	3	0	0	3
UF	14	21	14	13	62

Jessica Warshaver / Alligator Staff

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UF WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Lowe leads Gators in attempt for first NCAA title

By JESSICA ETTER
Alligator Writer

The Florida women's cross country team has a chance to do something today its never done before in its 30-year history — win a national title.

The No. 5 Gators will compete in the NCAA Championships with 30 other teams today at 12:58 p.m. in Terre Haute, Ind. The 6K race will be televised live on Versus as well as being streamed on NCAA.com

UF has finished no lower than

fourth in any of its six races in 2009 and is coming off back-to-back wins in the Southeastern Conference Championship and the NCAA South Regional.

Florida, the SEC's lone qualifier, finished second among 37 teams in the Pre-NCAA Invitational on Oct. 17, which is run on the same course as today's race.

"This is a program that has never finished in the top 10 before and that was one of our goals at the beginning of the season," said coach Todd Morgan, recently named South Region Women's Coach of the Year.

"Things have gone so well and we want to set our sights a little higher. We want to see how high we can finish and that's kind of the new goal."



Lowe

finished in the top 10. Their previous best finish was 11th in 2007.

UF is coming on strong of late,

however.

Three of Florida's five scoring runners at the NCAA South Regional placed in the top five, led by the race's individual winner, red-shirt sophomore Rebecca Lowe. The South Regional Female Athlete of the Year has paced the Gators' last two victories, winning both individual titles after not even leading the team in her first two competitions of the year (Notre Dame Invitational and Pre-NCAA Invitational).

The Gators' biggest competition will likely come from the only team to beat them on this course earlier

in the year — defending national champion and top-ranked Washington. The Huskies returned their entire squad from the 2008 title-winning team.

Florida hopes to get some revenge today.

"We've been waiting for this for so long," junior Charlotte Browning said. "This is the weekend that counts. I think we are in the best shape we have been in all season."

Lowe and Browning will be competing along with Stacey Johnson, Laura Garrow, Genevieve LaCaze, Julie Northrup and Kaitlin Shiver.

Cold shooting lets Pitt pull away early

■ THE PANTHERS USED A 12-0 RUN.

By EUGENIO TORRENS
Alligator Staff Writer
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The shots didn't fall for the Florida women's basketball team against FSU and it lost by four.

Poor shooting doomed UF(1-2) once again Friday as it fell 81-58 at Pittsburgh (2-0) in the Petersen Events Center.

"Clearly, there were a lot of problems. ... Disappointing from the beginning, disappointed with the way we started the game, shots didn't fall. We didn't prepare well enough and let down on all fronts," coach Amanda Butler said. "Pitt kicked our butt."

The teams were tied at 14 with 10:34 left in the first half, but the Panthers ran away with the game after that, going on a 12-0 run.

Pittsburgh's Taneisha Harrison was a one-woman wrecking crew. The junior guard carved up the Gators for 20 points in the first half and scored a career-high 25 points to go along with five rebounds and four assists.

While UF shot and missed, the Panthers

were making buckets thanks to open looks with a larger, and more experienced, lineup. Pittsburgh outscored UF 38-14 in the paint, and no combination of speed and size Florida threw out seemed to work.

Ndidi Madu was the only semi-bright spot on an otherwise dull post night. The 6-foot-1 forward only tallied 7 points, but she led the team with five rebounds.

The game got out of hand by the end of the first half, as the Panthers pounced on the Gators' ineffective shooting and post game to establish a 43-20 halftime lead.

Pittsburgh outscored the Gators in every way possible, shooting 50 percent from the field, including 7 of 13 from beyond the arc, and dominating the paint with 20 points in the first half.

"They hit shots," said starting guard Steffi Sorensen, who finished scoreless on 0-for-7 shooting. "They came out firing. The score doesn't even indicate how opposite the game felt as far as how they dominated us."

Florida's weaker post game forced the ball to the perimeter and missed shot after

missed shot built frustration — and the Panthers' lead.

"The missed shots were certainly a problem," Butler said. "But when you allow a team to score 43 points on you in 20 minutes of play, I think that's a bigger problem."

The Gators didn't make their first three-pointer until the 18:49 mark in the second half when Susan Yenser finally dialed one in from downtown after the team was unsuccessful in its first 12 attempts.

"I don't think we were mentally ready to come in here and battle and compete on someone else's home floor," Butler said.

Offensive ineptitude wasn't helped by lapses in defense. The Gators forced four turnovers in the first half but couldn't score off any of them. By comparison, Pittsburgh scored 11 points off Florida's turnovers in the decisive first half.

"The only thing you can really control is your defensive effort and your rebounding effort," Butler said. "We weren't good in any aspect. You have to give Pitt a lot of credit, they were ready to whip our butts and that's exactly what they did. They embarrassed us tonight."

A radio broadcast contributed to this report.



Women's Basketball

Tyus, Parsons banged up

HOOPS, from page 14

and Dan Werner combined for 27 points and six threes.

Werner, who led the team with four 3-pointers, said during warmups the coaches insisted on getting the ball back to players who were missing their shots before the game — and odd twist on the usual shootaround practice of getting the ball back to players hitting their shots.

"They told us just to keep shooting, keep our confidence up," Boynton said. "(Parsons) came in hot, so we knew somebody else had to get hot. Erv got it going, then I got it going."

TYUS SPRAINS ANKLE: Junior

power forward Alex Tyus went down with a sprained right ankle with a little more than two minutes remaining in the second half against the Trojans.

Tyus was tangled up with Troy's Bernard Toombs and hit the floor in obvious pain, wincing as he walked off the court on his own. Donovan said Tyus' ankle was tender and sore after the game, but he won't know anything more until he meets with team doctors.

"I am concerned about Tyus' ankle," Donovan said. "I don't know where that's at."

Parsons was also a little banged up after the game, nursing a hip flexor he said was "a little tender."



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

UF power forward Alex Tyus is picked up after spraining his ankle during a 80-58 win over Troy in the O'Connell Center on Friday.

BOBBY, from page 14

some running ability, getting around the edge for a 13-yard scramble.

Even though Brantley can run, it will be on Demps, Rainey and Emmanuel Moody, who was not involved in the 2010 preview because of an ankle sprain, to drive Florida's rushing attack without much help from the quarterback.

Brantley did show a skill that Tebow has struggled with for most of this season — the ability to spread the ball out.

Tebow has often looked locked in on Cooper and Hernandez, but on Brantley's first drive with some of the starters, he threw six passes, spreading them out to five different targets. Of the four he completed, he hit three different receivers.

Other than Thompson, the receiving unit next year is unknown. Urban Meyer has said

all season he was looking for Omarius Hines, Frankie Hammond Jr. and T.J. Lawrence, who has been out recently with a knee injury, to step up and provide depth at the position, but none of them have been able to give the Gators much meaningful time in games.

On Saturday, Hines and Hammond Jr. showed they have the ability to make plays in the passing game, especially Hines.

Four of Brantley's nine completions were caught by Hines including a 20-yard score

where he caught a short pass and made a defender miss before dragging another into the end zone.

Hammond's lone reception from Brantley was a 31-yard touchdown on a throw that hit him right in stride, displaying the connection the pair has been building in practice.

It will certainly be weird seeing the Gators play without Tebow, but Brantley and company showed Saturday that change doesn't always have to be a bad thing.

Cusack second in SEC in digs VOLLEY, from page 14

The other change to Bledsoe not only led to increased offensive production from the middle blocker position, it also led to improved defense.

Before the switch was made, Johnson was averaging four kills a match, but Bledsoe more than tripled that amount with 13 kills against Kentucky. She even recorded three blocks as her and middle blocker Cassandra Anderson made it tough for the Kentucky hitters.

The Gators got off to a quick start early in the match thanks to the play of junior opposite hitter Callie Rivers, who finished with 11 kills and eight digs. She tallied up five of those kills in the first set, but the emotion displayed after each point helped jump start the team was equally as important.

"It all starts with Callie Rivers," Wise said. "She is the most competitive player that I have ever had the pleasure of coaching, and the team just fed off her emotion."

The match marked another milestone for senior libero Elyse Cusack as she finished with a season-high 33 digs to give her sole-possession of second-place on the all-time SEC digs list.