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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009

INTERNATIONAL Mayor goes to Denmark

By **MARIA PIQUET**
 Alligator Contributing Writer

Pegeen has gone green. Gainesville Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan leaves Friday to attend the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, along with 25 other members of Green Jobs for Florida.

The conference, which started Dec. 7 and ends Dec. 18, brings together officials from more than 150 nations to discuss reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Hanrahan is representing Green Jobs for Florida and ICLEI — Local Governments for Sustainability, a nationwide association of local governments whose mission is to reduce emissions and improve local sustainability. ICLEI is funding Hanrahan's trip.

"It's a great honor," Hanrahan said. "I'm really looking forward to it."

"Florida is an ideally positioned partner in business and investment in the interconnected global economy," said Manny Mencia, senior vice president of Enterprise Florida's International Trade & Business Development division.

"The state is already recognized nationally as one

SEE MAYOR, PAGE 5



Ana Goni-Lessan / Alligator Staff

"Rock 'n' Roll Demo"

Ty Pennington, host of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" sings the song "Rock 'n' Roll Demo" in front of the Wagstaffs' home on Northeast Seventh Street. Spectators dressed in rock 'n' roll outfits, crowd surfed to the music and cheered while camera operators filmed the show.

Students thank Tebow

CREATORS OF WEB SITE HOPE TO GET 1,000 POSTS BY SUGAR BOWL.

By **CARLY BLUSTEIN**
 Alligator Contributing Writer

The UF Student Body has a graduation present for its beloved quarterback — a digital yearbook signed by 1,000 of his greatest admirers in the form of a new Web site.

The site, which was launched by two UF students, is called DearTimTebow.com, and is a compilation of thank-you posts expressing gratitude toward Tim Tebow and all he has done for the Gators over the past four years.

After Saturday night's loss to the University of Alabama, Facebook lit up with bitter-sweet statuses by UF students who wanted to share their grief over the game and convey their appreciation for the team's efforts.

Dozens of Facebook groups popped up

in the aftermath of the game, including one titled "We love you, Tebow, thanks for the memories," which has more than 17,000 members. The group's wall is flooded with warm wishes and romantic confessions for Tebow.



Tebow

Matt Hobbs, a senior marketing major, snapped out of the post-loss depression quickly enough to seize an opportunity to provide a cohesive medium for students to post thank yous to

Tebow and the rest of the team.

Less than an hour after the game ended, Hobbs bought the domain name and called his friend Joel Hackman, a senior economics major, to ask him if he would design the site. Hackman is the webmaster, founder and co-owner of Gator Tutoring.

Since Hobbs knew so many people idol-

SEE TEBOW, PAGE 5

Library staff plans oddly specific party

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

Maybe it's because they work at the No. 2 party school in the nation, but UF's library staff takes partying pretty seriously.

They almost treat it like a job.

In fact, they even form a committee each year whose sole purpose is to plan the end-of-the-year holiday party.

It's called, appropriately, the Holiday Party Planning Committee. It has 10 members, including a

chairwoman, who meet a handful of times from October to December.

And, just like any other committee, there's a designated note-taker in charge of recording the discussions and decisions of the committee so it can be posted online for all to see.

One of the first topics to be broached this year was food. The members agreed that last year's committee ordered too much. This year, they pledged, will be

SEE PARTY, PAGE 5

Sophomore point guard Erving Walker (right) and the No. 10 UF men's basketball team will face No. 7 Syracuse as part of the SEC-Big East Invitational on Thursday night. See Story, Page 21.



Resident assistant gets unwanted visitor

A 19-year-old Tampa man visiting his friend at UF was trespassed from campus Tuesday after he was found sleeping in a residence hall assistant's room after urinating in the dorm hallway.

The man told campus police when they met up with him at Murphree Hall that he thought he had been sleeping in his friend's room, which was one floor up, and said he relieved himself in the corner of the hallway after wandering around and trying to locate the bathroom unsuccessfully.

The police report noted that the man was intoxicated.

— THOMAS STEWART

A Gainesville business sells "green" caskets to help reduce the impact of burials on the environment and to save people money. See Story, Page 9.

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visit www.alligator.org

News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Gator Citrus Club Citrus Sale

Today through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fifield Hall

The Gator Citrus Club will be hosting its annual citrus sale. Grapefruit, oranges and gift baskets will be available for purchase. For more information, please visit the club's Web site at www.hos.ufl.edu/citrus-club/.

UF MEISA Benefit Concert

Today, 8 p.m.

1982 Bar

Come celebrate the last day of classes with music from UF student bands. The Music & Entertainment Industry Student Association will be holding a benefit concert on tonight at 1982 bar. Featured artists are Platine, The Impossible Shoelace, The Deviant Court and headliner The Early Twenties. Tickets are \$6 over 21 and \$8 under 21. For more info, contact UFMEISA@yahoo.com.

Museum Nights

Thursday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Harn Museum of Art

This 1940s-themed evening will feature the Florida Swing Dancers, who will be giving lessons and demonstrating classic moves. Remember times at the soda fountain with ice cream from the Sweet Dreams fire truck and see classic cars on display. Museum Nights is an ongoing program made possible by the generous support of the UF Honors Program and Student Government. Admission is free.

Girls Night Out presents: Bitch (of Bitch & Animal), The State Of, "Monster" of Dirty Fist

Friday, 9 p.m., 21 and up, \$8

Brophy's Irish Pub

60 SW 2nd St.

For more information, visit bitchmusic.com or thestateof-music.com.

Difference and Diversity in Europe: Sofia of the "Others" photo exhibit

Through Jan. 4

Marston Science Library entry display area

This exhibit features the work of a young Bulgarian photographer, Dimitar Variysky, who is showing perspectives on the life of new immigrant communities in Sofia, the capital of the ex-communist Bulgaria, a country that recently also became a member of the European Union.

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.

FORECAST

TODAY



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STATE

Transgender teen: McDonald's refused to hire me

TAMPA, Fla. — A transgender teenager said a McDonald's restaurant in Florida discriminated against her when managers refused to interview her for a job, according to a complaint filed Monday.

Zikerria Bellamy, 17, said two managers at an Orlando restaurant wouldn't give her an interview on two separate occasions in July. Later, she said a manager left her a voice mail, using a gay slur to let her know she wouldn't be hired.

A spokeswoman for the local restaurant, Allison Garrett, said in a statement the employee who left the voice mail "acted outside the scope of his authority and was not responsible for hiring." He no longer works at the restaurant. The statement did not mention did not mention the other manager.

McDonald's "has a zero tolerance policy prohibiting discrimination or harassment in the restaurant," the statement said.

Bellamy is a male who has been living as a female for about the past six years. She said she completed a job application online, then was called to the store for an interview. When one manager refused to see her, she called later and was granted an interview with another manager.

"He began to laugh at me once he saw me," said Bellamy, who wore a suit to the interview. "He said, 'Oh, I can't interview you today. I'm busy.'"

One of the managers also left her a voice mail saying: "We do not hire faggots."

The New York-based Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund, which filed the complaint on Bellamy's behalf, posted a recording of the message on YouTube.

Florida law does not specifically protect transgender people from discrimination, but administrative rulings have covered them under the Florida Civil Rights Act's prohibitions on sex and disability discrimination, said Michael Silverman, executive director of the advocacy group.

Silverman said only 12 states have anti-discrimination laws specifically covering gender identity. Federal legislation recently was proposed

and could be considered by Congress next year.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOP names Haridopolos next Fla. Senate president

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Republicans have formally designated Sen. Mike Haridopolos as Senate's next leader.

The GOP Caucus unanimously elected the Indialantic lawmaker Tuesday as Senate president-designate.

The vote was a mere formality as Haridopolos had locked up the position in June when his chief rival, Sen. Mike Bennett, R-Bradenton, bowed out of the race.

Haridopolos will succeed President Jeff Atwater, R-North Palm Beach, if Republicans maintain their Senate majority in next November's election. He then would serve a two-year term.

Haridopolos is a guest lecturer in political science at UF.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATIONAL

Gatorade drops Tiger drink; decided before wreck

PURCHASE, N.Y. — Gatorade confirmed Tuesday it is discontinuing its Tiger Woods drink but said it made the decision before the golfer's car accident led to a media firestorm surrounding his personal life.

The decision to drop the drink, called Tiger Focus, was first reported by trade publication Beverage Digest in an issue dated Nov. 25, two days before the incident at Woods' home. The publication's editor, John Sicher, said he learned of the decision the week of Nov. 9.

The brand — a unit of PepsiCo Inc. — says the decision does not have to do with recent events. A spokesman says the decision came several months ago.

The drink debuted in March 2008.

Beverage Digest estimates it represents less than 5 percent of Gatorade's volume. Sales volume of Tiger Focus was down 34 percent this year through October.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Senators pass resolution on Middle-East conflict

By **CAROLYN TILLO**
Alligator Writer

After several weeks of debate, the Student Senate finally passed a resolution related to the conflict in the Middle East on Tuesday.

Senators joined Gators for Israel's president Rafael Yaniz in presenting a revised version of a resolution affirming support for the state of Israel. It passed 56-9.

A resolution is a piece of legislation that states the Senate's opinion but takes no action.

"While we're doing this we could be discussing the Reitz Union fee. We could be discussing student safety."

Jon Ossip
Orange and Blue Party Sen.

The original resolution, presented at the Nov. 3 Senate meeting, asked the U.S. Congress to oppose the Goldstone Report, which accuses Israel and Hamas of war crimes during last winter's Gaza conflict.

Rafael Yaniz, president of Gators for Israel, said the revised resolution no longer contains the clause regarding the Goldstone Report.

Instead, it now advocates a two-state solution to the Middle East conflict to be negotiated between Israel and Palestine.

Yaniz said the ability of the

groups to work together shows the U.S. Congress and the community that students care about international issues.

Alex Kattan, vice president of

Students for Justice in Palestine, said the group did not have a problem with the content of the resolution but felt the Student Senate should not be voting on an

issue with such vast international implications.

He said the resolution could lead students to draft similar resolutions about other states.

He said these other resolutions seem unnecessary when it's understood that students support the values of democracy and freedom.

"We as a group are not supporting the resolution," Kattan said. "We are not opposing it either."

Senators had mixed opinions about voting on a resolution about an international issue.

Orange and Blue Party Sen. Jon Ossip, who represents the Murphree Common Area, said Senate should be voting on issues that it actually has control over.

"While we're doing this we could be discussing the Reitz Union fee," Ossip said. "We could be discussing student safety."

Unite Party Sen. Ben Meyers, who represents the sophomore class, urged senators to support the resolution.

"It's inclusive and recognizes the needs and desires of both Israel and Palestine," Meyers said.

Meyers said the resolution will be sent to Florida members of the U.S. Congress.



Matt Tripp / Alligator Staff

Student Senators Alan Yanuck and Jesse Sherman stand with other authors and sponsors as they present a resolution advocating a peaceful solution to the Middle-East conflict.

ITALIAN 101 HELPS STUDENTS ORDER PIZZA RESTAURANT



What dining turned yesterday Danny realized rant the lunch... Italian- Lo

more than local favorite Pizza Barn, the group had decided to venture out and try a new place.

"I swear it was the scariest moment of my life," Karl Winsey, a friend of Danny's, recalled. "It was like

we time-warped into Italy or something. The waiter came over and...

CHA CHING!

anything, so I just stuck with what I remembered... 'saluti,' that the ice, all the friends good the large. It's what they rec everyone's sur as a more e been proud should say di me." Vacanti

panic struck the heart of fraternities and sororities across the nation this week when word spread that the number of unique remaining Greek letter combinations was in critical condition.

"Unfortunately, with the induction of our newest

chapters, Mu Mu Mu and Psi Phi Pi, we've exhausted just about every option out there," said National Greek Board President, Henry Boggins. "There were only possible letter combinations to begin with, so you know it was coming."

The news of the Greek System turmoil, as rumors spread immediately. Some immediately moved to a 4th floor while others quietly always had to think Fr...

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Frozen yogurt shops draw students with healthier snack

By **KATHRYN STOLARZ**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Thomas Knight has gone to YogaBerry nearly every day since it opened in mid-September.

"It's totally, awesomely delicious," the economics Ph.D. student said while eating his typical order — a small, fat-free strawberry frozen yogurt.

Knight used to indulge in dessert once or twice a month, but he doesn't feel guilty frequenting the newest frozen yogurt place in town. At YogaBerry, inside Target Copy on West University Avenue, a small frozen yogurt has no fat and 125 calories.

Knight is one of many Gainesville residents catching on to the national trend toward frozen yogurt.

According to a 2009 Ice Cream Business Trends report from Franchise Direct, the snack has been gaining popularity.

"Tart frozen yogurts have made a major come back... with a focus now on the healthier aspects of the dessert," according to the report. "These include lower levels of fat, pro-biotic properties and 'healthy toppings' like fresh fruits and cereals."

Gainesville has proven to be an ideal breeding ground for the craze.

Local News "College towns are much more aware of health and nutrition, and [students are] much more interested in learning and taking care of themselves," said Verna Groger, a dietitian for Haven Hospice.

Mochi opened in May, and three more frozen yogurt shops are coming soon. A second Mochi is scheduled to open in January in the new Hampton Inn and Suites downtown, and another YogaBerry opened in November in The Oaks Mall. Tutti Frutti is scheduled to open soon at 1232 W University Ave. Lollicup, which opened in 2006 on Southwest 34th Street, also sells all-natural, fat-free frozen yogurt.

All of these stores offer fruit toppings and flaunt the nutritional benefits of their yogurt on their Web sites.

YogaBerry claims to be "as tasty as it is healthy." Mochi calls its nonfat, low-calorie frozen yogurt a nutritional dessert alternative that promotes good health.

"I wouldn't say it's good for you, but it's better as a dessert than so many other things," Groger said.

While frozen yogurt contains live cultures — good bacteria that boost your im-

munity — Groger said sugar reduces immune response for up to six hours after it is consumed by promoting free radicals and inflammation, canceling out the benefits of the live cultures. Mochi has a lot of regular customers and makes about 700 sales on a typical Friday, which is higher than expected, manager Sarah Papa said.

"A lot of students have moved from regular ice cream to frozen yogurt," Papa

said. "I think more people are being health conscious because there is a rising rate of obesity in the U.S., plus in Gainesville, college students want to look good."

After looking at the nutrition information, Groger said Mochi and YogaBerry are good alternatives to high-fat ice creams, and they're a lot lower in calories.

"But you might caution that these aren't healthy on their own," Groger said. "These

also still have a lot of sugar and are still damaging to your body and promote heart disease, among other things, and are best for an occasional treat."

YogaBerry's small, 5-ounce serving has 125 calories and 25 grams of sugar, and Mochi's 4-ounce serving has 110 calories and 22 grams of sugar. Groger said the calorie counts are reasonably low for a dessert, but the amount of sugar is relatively high.

UF freshman Allison Archer goes to Mochi once or twice a week. Although she said she wouldn't eat two ice-creams in one day, she wound up eating at Mochi and Ben & Jerry's within a few hours of each other because she considers Mochi to be healthy.

"This is the bad thing about these places — they promote themselves as healthy, but they're just healthier than the worst thing," said Groger. "All these things are a lot healthier than other alternatives like ice cream, but they themselves are not health foods...they are healthier treats...If someone has a good diet and has one of these treats one or two times a week, they are a better option than ice cream."

But Gainesville residents haven't lost their taste for traditional ice cream.

Pete Zimek, co-owner of Ben & Jerry's, said sales for the University Avenue store have remained the same and sales for the Archer Road store have increased since last year, despite Mochi opening up nearby.

He doesn't think Ben & Jerry's will be driven out of business by the new frozen yogurt stores because it serves a different purpose.

"People come to Ben & Jerry's for that vacation," Zimek said.

UF political science freshman Breanne Palmer went to Ben & Jerry's with a friend as a reward for studying before taking a statistics exam. "We'll probably go into a sugar coma (during the test)," she joked while eating the Brownie Special.

But even Ben & Jerry's altered its menu in response to customers' increased health-consciousness. The store reformulated its smoothie line in 2008, reducing the calorie count to 250 calories or fewer per smoothie and making them low- or no-fat.

Zimek said he discussed customers' shifting demands toward wanting healthier options as a member of the Franchise Advisory Council representing Ben & Jerry's in the U.S. and Canada.

"It's definitely a global trend," he said.



Danica Spears / Alligator

Kyle Turner, manager of Yogaberry on University Avenue, finishes making a chocolate smoothie with peanut butter and a banana for a customer Sunday evening.

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QUIRKY COURSES

Students 'represent' social issues for class

By ALISON SCHWARTZ
Alligator Writer

Zachary Merson paid homage to his girlfriend and his chocolate Labrador retriever Tuesday night through a performance that would have raised the eyebrows of Tupac and Biggie Smalls alike.

"My bitch is brown," he rapped, "but my lady is white."

Merson was one of 10 performers at Hip Hop Live & In Full Effect, a showcase of the final projects of the political science students enrolled in Hip Hop and Western Political Thought.

The class aims to explore the political undertones of hip-hop, a concept professor Michelle Smith described as an incredible force.

"Hip-hop becomes this kind of creative force," said Smith, who teaches the course.

But when she's in the classroom, relaying the themes from this international music scene to her students, she also goes by MC Professor Smith.

A disc jockey stationed in the corner of the room laid down the beats to a crowd of about 60 as students spit out rhymes about soldiers overseas, the degradation of women in the hip-hop scene, love and, of course, Labrador retrievers.

Josh Albert, who performed a series of songs with an R&B flavor, said his decision to perform in the showcase was a reflection of his passion for music, the same passion that piqued his interest in the course.

"Sometimes when I'm down, singing helps me release emotion," the political science junior said.

Student art projects lined the wall, each inspired by a hip-hop theme. From a graffiti-splattered brick wall to a painting depicting the female stereotype of the culture, each visual was accompanied by a paper explaining the message of the piece.

And through whatever medium chosen, Smith encouraged students to represent.



Matt Tripp / Alligator Staff

Demetri Morgan reads his spoken word final project to a crowd during Hip Hop Live and In Full Effect, the Hip Hop and Western Political Thought classes' final project presentation.

"Many rap songs start with an artist saying 'Represent, represent,'" Smith said. "It occurred to me that they mean a lot of different things when they say it."

This observation ties back to the course, where students learn the implications of this concept.

"Representation is an incredibly important concept in Western political thought and the ways in which we think about government," Smith said.

In accordance with the class, the performances paralleled this theme.

"It's kind of like representing your community, your culture, yourself," Albert said.

Josh Kelly, a political science senior, supported his classmates from his seat in the audience.

While the long-time hip-hop fan wasn't ready for his freestyle debut, he said the class has helped him appreciate the culture behind this genre.

"When most people think about hip-hop they only think about rappers," Kelly said. "We spent a lot of time learning about different artists, from different regions, from different cultures."

Conference's goal is to create Kyoto successor

MAYOR, from page 1

of the emerging leaders on low-carbon economic development initiatives."

"We need to act not just because of the threat to our environment and our climate, but also because I believe there are many opportunities that will come of that action," Hanrahan said.

Hanrahan's goal at the meeting is to learn about opportunities and business interests that she can bring back to Gainesville. She will also communicate Gainesville's sustainability achievements to green industries that may not have heard about such a small city, she said.

"Gainesville has a wonderful story to tell," Hanrahan said.

The biggest project going on in Gainesville is the re-

synchronization of traffic signals in an attempt to reduce congestion and travel time through town, she said.

Once the project is complete, a typical trip in Gainesville is projected to take 15 percent less time, Hanrahan said. Traffic light efficiency will lead to less sitting at lights, which will cause fewer carbon emissions from cars.

"We're really committed to... reducing carbon emissions in our city," Hanrahan said.

According to the EPA Web site, the goal of the Copenhagen conference is to negotiate a successor to the Kyoto Protocol, the first international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"It's not a matter of whether carbon will be regulated," Hanrahan said. "It's a matter of when and how."

Web site created to show support after loss

TEBOW, from page 1

ize Tebow not only as a football player but also as a role model, he wanted to create a global forum where people could share their admiration.

"The world needs someone to stand out and embody good things," Hobbs said. "Tebow represents goodness for The

Gator Nation. He is a role model to anyone out there who wants to be a college football player."

The Web site is in early development stages

Student Life and currently has almost 100 posts after three days, but

the creators hope to reach 1,000 posts by the end of the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 1.

Their goal is to have Tebow read the kind words of his classmates and fans after he plays his last game as a Gator.

"I think he holds a special place for seniors who have spent all four years with him here," Hackman said. "Every fall was defined by his performance. He was a star freshman year, and he's still a star today."

Un sliced ham causes great deal of struggle

PARTY, from page 1

different.

In another departure from last year's festivities, there will be no more chocolate fondue, the committee decided on Nov. 5.

It was simply too messy. The ax fell on glitter snowflakes for the same reason.

The holiday ham also proved to be a bit of a problem, "because staff members spent a great deal of time struggling to slice it," the minutes from the Oct. 23 meeting read.

"As a result it was suggested that the extra money be spent to purchase presliced ham," the committee decided.

Another issue tackled by the committee was whether the Gingerbread Centerpiece Contest should require entries to have a certain percentage of gingerbread to be eligible.

The consensus was no. "[A]nything Gingerbread and edible," was the final edict.

Asked why a committee was necessary to de-

cide these things, library spokeswoman Barbara Hood said it's hard work planning a party for 200 to 300 people.

"It's just not the type of party one or two people would plan," Hood said. She asked that the location of the party — scheduled for Thursday — not be disclosed because it is for library staff only. She also said the \$2,500 party budget comes from private funds.

UF spokesman Steve Orlando praised the open nature of the planning process.

"There are no secrets, and everybody knows what's going on," he said jokingly.

He also said library staff were providing a good example for students. With all the planning that goes into the party, there's less of a chance it will get out of hand, he suggested.

"I know you're not gonna see Jell-O shots there, let's put it that way," he said.



Orlando

Editorial

It's not only the end of the week here at the Alligator, but the end of one great semester. We laughed, we cried... we got called names, and we cried some more (Well, a few made us laugh). But the saddest part of all is having to say goodbye.

There's no reason to worry though; we promise we'll be back in the spring to further enrage you with inflammatory editorials, columns and letters. To hold you over until then, we're happy to present you with a the-end-is-near-oh-no-wait-here-it-is edition of...

Darts & Laurels

Because the end really sneaks up on you.

But sometimes you can see it coming. And that's exactly what we did when we heard about the final projects of students at UF's Intelligent Machines Design Laboratory: self controlled robots. "Autonomous robots" plus "Missile and Fire Control" at Lockheed Martin equals a swift, painless death for us all.

For possibly securing UF a spot in the history books of our future robotic overlords, we'd like to give a maybe-they'll-spare-us-for-creating-them LAUREL to UF's mad scientists.

Thankfully, we were recently given a reason not to mind our coming extinction. CBS has announced that it will launch a syndicated court show in fall 2010, featuring Nancy Grace. That should be reason enough.

But what followed this week was yet another reminder of why we despise Grace to no end, and why the robo-apocalypse is looking more and more appealing.

A new report by a Harvard psychiatrist claims that Grace's relentless tirade against a Florida woman three years ago directly contributed to her suicide. The woman's son was missing, and she was named as a possible suspect in the disappearance before appearing for a telephone interview on Grace's show. The idea that her all-too-common horrendous, berating accusations would lead to a woman's suicide is no stretch.

For allowing this trash TV to be broadcast to an even larger audience, we have to throw an as-if-"CSI-Miami"-wasn't-bad-enough DART at CBS.

But for picking up the slack left behind by the departure of Lou Dobbs, we'd like to present a thanks-for-giving-us-another-outlet-for-our-rage LAUREL to Nancy Grace. Bitch.

Now, since it's the last issue and everyone's too busy with finals to read it anyway, here's something we've been dying to try all semester:

Lightning Dart Round!

Quit-killing-the-mentally-retarded DART to Texas. Yes, they're still up to their old tricks in Texas.

Your-renovations-suck-and-we-hate-your-show DART to "Extreme Home Makeover."

David-vs.-Goliath-never-happened DART to Graduate Assistants United. Surprise: You lose (but we'll root for you anyway).

We see why this wasn't implemented earlier — too many darts on the dance floor.

To lighten things up, we would genuinely like to thank everyone who shared their opinions with us this semester. We appreciate the hate mail, and we live for those elusive love letters. Thankfully, neither were in short supply.

We miffed the mayor, slandered Student Government, raged against RTS and cursed the city council, but our favorite part was always printing their responses (or the letters responding for them).

We even enjoyed printing letters from those consistently unbearable College Republicans — at least they had the guts to stand up for the stupid, unpopular crap they believe.

The Alligator loves unpopular views — and we'll be back in force with plenty more come Spring semester. So with finals in mind, we're proud to give a keep-working-on-those-opinions LAUREL to...

E: All of the above.

Have a great winter break!

Opinions

ALLIGATOR
www.alligator.org/opinions



Column

UF experiences help to prepare for future

Sunday morning, I woke up and started crying. It wasn't all about the game-which-shall-not-be-named (Although, don't get me wrong, football had a lot to do with me being weepy all weekend.). It was about the sudden reality of it all being over.

As I've repeatedly stated in this column, I graduate next Saturday. As much as I would like to say that I'm completely excited, I'm not.

I probably shouldn't be complaining: I have a job, I'm staying in Florida and my entire insane family is coming to cheer me on at commencement.

It's just so hard to say goodbye.

Intellectually, I know that all this nostalgia is stupid. I remind myself of the many regrets I have about college. I haven't been the perfect student or been bubbly all the time. One semester my junior year was the worst four months of my life. For a while, as a sophomore, I thought I had given myself an ulcer from stress. I took math courses through calculus three, only to eventually drop the major I was taking those courses for.

It wasn't all football and parties.

So I'm not really sure why I've come down with this sudden case of arrested development.

I guess I don't want to have to figure everything out again, to start from scratch.

I've spent the past four years changing everything about myself, in my opinion for the better: I've become less type-A, more goal-driven, more outgoing and less awkward. It seems so unfair that just as college becomes routine, just as I've cleared my schedule for tailgating and mid-week TV watching, it has to end.

Everything is temporary. My uncle likes to say, "Wherever you go, put up pictures, because otherwise everywhere is just another stop on the road — nowhere ever becomes home."



Hilary Lehman
letters@alligator.org

I've been able to forget that at UF. I've probably been brainwashed by all of those "When did you first become a Gator?" campaigns.

In fact, I was on the phone with my mom a couple weeks ago, and she was talking about the newest commercial for her alma mater, the University of Missouri.

"It's a little like the Gator Nation one," she said, "Except I almost think it's better because it has all these on-campus landmarks, so it gives you a sense of place."

"But Mom," I said, exasperated, "That's the point. The University of Florida is in Gainesville, The Gator Nation is everywhere."

Maybe, in a desperate attempt to feel warm and fuzzy, I will wear my Gators sweatshirt through the airport on my next flight home and fish for "Go Gators" greetings from strangers. Maybe I will actually donate to the money-grubbing alumni association, despite the fact that I can barely pay for food.

I'll be OK. We will all be OK, seniors.

It's all over, and I'll probably burst into tears at random moments during the next few weeks.

But I do feel that my time at UF, the friends I've made here and even the really bad decisions behind me, have empowered me to live out the rest of my adult life. Sorry if that's too sappy.

And, since this is my last column and I feel the need to be controversial: Lady GaGa is the new Madonna, men and women cannot be friends and people need to stop complaining about stickers in Student Government elections.

Go Gators! I will miss so much about being here.

Hilary Lehman is a journalism senior. Her column appears on Wednesdays.

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

Reader response

Today's question: Will you miss us?

Monday's question: Have you ever been read your Miranda rights?

21% YES
79% NO
52 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

the independent florida
alligator

Kristin Bjornsen
EDITOR

Brian Kelley

Jennifer Jenkins

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

Point of Christianity is love, not judgment

I have been very upset lately by the people supposedly "evangelizing" on Turlington Plaza. As I listen to them screaming judgments and insults, it breaks my heart. I have been a Christian for a few years now and while I still have many questions, one thing I do know is that the basis of Christianity is love. "For God so loved the world..." (John 3:16). "And do everything in love..." (1 Corinthians 16:14). These people are in no way showing God's love but are giving Christians a reputation of being hateful and self-righteous. I am here to say that what they are portraying is not Christianity! Whoever they claim to be witnesses of is not Jesus because their teachings are not rooted in love.

On behalf of them I am apologizing. Please don't be deceived that Christians are malicious and hateful. Don't misunderstand me, God does hate sin because he knows the damage it can cause in our lives, but please don't think of this as another Christian cramming my beliefs down your throat. Salvation through faith in a God who loved us enough to send someone to die to take the punishment of the world so we don't have to, that is the point.

Hannah Banfield
UF student



Supporting Gators is job of fans

It is not the Alligator's job to support the Gators. That duty is supposed to fall upon the fans. It seems to me that Randall Lockhart, who wrote yesterday about the sports section not supporting the Gators, doesn't understand the Alligator's role in covering UF athletics. Many students are with him in expecting the

paper's staff to be a cheerleader for UF sports.

However, the sports guys are journalists, as they should be, and not fans. The Alligator is not a UF publication nor should it be. They have praised the Gators many times this season - when it's deserved. But honestly, as disappointing as that loss was for Gators fans, there was really nothing positive to say about the Southeastern Conference Championship Game from UF's perspective. The journalists who cover the team are no indication of how fans feel about the team because they are not fans. Fans can best show their support by showing up and cheering on Saturdays; that is not the role of the newspaper.

Ian Fisher

3LW and former Alligator Sports editor

Gators football season not over yet

Yes, Saturday's loss in the Southeastern Conference Championship game was heartbreaking. And yes, Florida's dreams of an undefeated season were once again quashed. But we must remember that the season is not over yet. The Gators still must represent the SEC in a New Year's Day primetime bowl game against the undefeated Big East champion Cincinnati Bearcats. After the University of Alabama suffered its first loss last year to the Gators in the conference title game, the Crimson Tide gave up on the season and got thrashed by a determined Utah team out of the Mountain West Conference. We must not allow ourselves to suffer the same fate.

We must show the best senior class in conference history that The Gator Nation is behind them. We must show that Gators pride is not dependent on success, but loyalty. Because if one loss deters you from representing your team when the eyes of the entire nation are

upon us, you are not a Gator in my book. New Year's Eve, you'll find me on Bourbon Street.

Patrick Annessy

First year journalism graduate student

Football loss can bring fans together

First and foremost, I am a huge supporter of all Gators athletics, and nothing disheartened me more than to see the team I root for every Saturday of the fall semester come up short in a high-stakes SEC Championship game. There were no promises to be delivered at the postgame press conference and there are zero weeks left for us to exonerate our loss. There will not be a new plaque to add to the South Endzone of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium reading "SEC Champs 2009," Tim Tebow will not be the quarterback that wins three national championships and no one here in Gainesville will be heading to Pasadena, Calif., in January, unless they are visiting family.

It's time for students, alumni and fans to rally together, like in the old days when victories were what meant everything, not losses. Can we be disappointed about a 12-1 season? Sure. Can we move on? We have to.

How many Facebook statuses after Saturday's game read something along the lines of "through all kinds of weather..." or "it's still great to be a Florida Gator..."? Even though Facebook statuses generally do not have much gravity, these rallying phrases epitomize attitudes all Gators need to embrace. Saturday's loss reminds us that we cannot take a single victory for granted, and most importantly, that we are proud students, faculty and alumni of something bigger than a football field, heavier than a Heisman Trophy and shinier than a crystal football.

We have been reminded that we are all

Florida Gators — through all kinds of weather — and that is worth more than any trophy. As the game clock expired Saturday, something was reborn in The Gator Nation.

Austin Shaw

Political science and English sophomore



Alligator distorts meaning of Rebel flag

The editorial "Road Rebel: Confederate plate no debate for state" struck me as a skewed and misinformed perception of what the Confederate flag or those who wish to fly it believe in. The fact that someone is willing to say "those who would buy it already have jacked-up pickups with mud tires..." shows that the only reason the confederate flag being flown is frowned upon is because of a large generalization to which the answer can be found in a middle school history class. The civil war was not fought on the grounds of "racism, bigotry and backward thought."

In fact, it was fought over a constitutional right, that of states rights. I am a ninth generation Floridian, and while my family has never encouraged any kind of racism or bigotry mentioned Monday it has encouraged me to remember my roots. This is why you can find my confederate flag flying just below the American flag that I pledge allegiance to today.

So when you see my non-lifted normal truck without mud tires sitting in a parking lot with a confederate flag license plate on it maybe you should think twice about what you stand for before you condemn those who have pride in something different than yourself.

Ian R. Moore

UF student

DANB is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency in partnership with the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.



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UF library embraces lesbian-themed children's book

■ 'HEATHER HAS TWO MOMMIES' DEBUTED IN 1989.

By JULIANA JIMENEZ
Alligator Contributing Writer

"Heather's favorite number is two. She has two eyes, two hands and two knees. She has two pets: her dog, Midnight, and her cat, Gingersnap. Heather also has two mommies: Mama Jane and Mama Kate."

So begins "Heather Has Two Mommies," a children's book about a girl named Heather; her mom, Jane, who gave birth to her after artificial insemination; and her mom's same-sex partner, Kate.

With increased mainstream acceptance of homosexuality, the publication of similar books aimed at an audience of children aged 3 to 6 years old, books such as "Tango Makes Three," "The Different Dragon" and "Daddy's Roommate," have also increased.

And with the increase in popularity of these books comes a deeper divide between tolerant people and those who aren't, said Linda Lamme, a professor in the School of Teaching and Learning at UF.

"Many churches preach against homosexuality, which causes their members to avoid gay people," Lamme said, "causing segregation where it makes it virtually impossible for them to become educated

on the subject."

Some academics, librarians and teachers consider these books to be highly beneficial despite other libraries' censoring of them.

"As parents, they have a right to choose what they read and what their children read," said Debbie

Lewis, librarian supervisor for the Youth Services Department at the Alachua County Headquarters Library in Gainesville. "But it's not our job to limit access to material to children."

Some libraries have the books on a shelf where only teachers have access to them.

"Reading is intended to expand children's knowledge and to get

them to think. Books about children with gay parents should be in every classroom because our classroom libraries should reflect all cultures."

Lewis said The Alachua County Headquarters Library in Gainesville offers several such books.

"We are a public library, and we ascribe to the Freedom to Read policy from the American Library Association," Lewis said. "We serve all members of our community, and we live in a diverse community."

When the book came out 20 years ago, "Heather Has Two Mommies" was placed in the nonfiction section of the library, where books dealing with social issues are placed, she said. This year, for the book's 20th anniversary, they moved it to the

picture book section where most of the staff thought it belonged, she said.

The library carries between 10 and 20 picture books dealing with homosexual characters or issues aimed at an audience aged 3 to 5 years old, including "And Tango Makes Three," which, according to The American Library Association, is the most banned book of 2009.

Lewis said in her five years at the library it has had one or two challenges to the books every year.

"We feel it is important to have these in the collection because there are all kinds of families, and children need to see their own life experiences reflected in the literature they read," Lewis said.

AMERICAN

Cafe Gardens

For over a third of a century, the Original World Famous Cafe Gardens has been serving Gators with delicious food and a large selection of beers and wines. Located just across from campus near the Florida Book Store, this quaint landmark establishment with award winning courtyard dining is perfect for any date or gathering. For live music schedule, call 376-2233. Hours: Mon-Wed 11am-10pm, Thurs-Sat 11am-11pm, Sun Noon-9pm 1643 NW 1st Ave

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Burials in biodegradable caskets help environment

'Green' materials make funerals more affordable

By **CARLY SANDERS**

Alligator Contributing Writer

Many people practice environmentalism in their daily lives. But now they can practice it after they die, too.

The idea of going green after death is a growing trend in the mortician industry in Gainesville.

"Society has created a weird separation between life and death, making it something that is handled by institutions instead of the family coming together and bringing the body back to the natural land," said Robert Hutchinson, a board member of Conservation Burial Inc., a group that provides a natural burial choice in Gainesville. A basic green burial includes plac-

ing the body in a biodegradable casket without embalming it.

"But to take it to the next step of conservation burial, you take the sacredness of the burial and use it as a way to permanently conserve land while also protecting the environment," Hutchinson said.

Biodegradable caskets can include a shroud, which wraps the body in fabric, paper or cardboard caskets and wood caskets, a renewable source, he said.

Conservation Burial Inc. is not only trying to protect the environment but is also trying to make funerals as affordable as other forms post-death treatments.

"Conventional burial costs between \$8,000 and \$10,000, and cremation costs between

\$2,000 and \$5,000," said Susan Marynowski, a board member of Conservation Burial Inc. "The conservation price would be comparative to the price of cremation, which is more affordable, and the money will go into conserving land."

Local News

The group is also using biodegradable materials to make caskets. Conventional burial includes materials that do not decompose, and regular caskets are made of imported woods, toxic finishes, plastic and metals.

Conventional burial also requires a piece of concrete called the vault, which encloses the casket in the ground. This has the most harmful impact on the environment. In fact, each

year 1.6 million tons of concrete is used, which could pave a highway from Tallahassee to Miami, Marynowski said.

Conservation Burial Inc. has not yet purchased a site, but the site the group is looking to buy is a semi-natural area that has been logged and grazed heavily, Marynowski said. Each time a plot is purchased, the group will restore a piece of the site. But it will probably take about 50 years to use all of the burial sites and restore the entire piece of land, she said.

"We plan on purchasing the site sometime in 2010 and turning it into a beautiful meadow with trees and walking trails," she said.

Part of the money will go into a perpetual land management fund to conserve the property in the future.

For more information of environmentally friendly funerals, visit conservationburialinc.org.

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The best kept secret in Gainesville, Let's Eat Diner is a small diner just off the beaten path on 39 Ave at NW 22 Dr. Open Mon-Sat 7am till 8pm serving breakfast, lunch, and supper and Sunday 11am till 2pm with a lunch buffet. We serve home style cookin'... "Just like Momma used to fix." 352-378-0738 www.letseatdiner.com Oh yeah, we also do catering!

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Group remembers those who died in Gaza conflict

By **JENNIFER BATE**
Alligator Contributing Writer

There were 13 balloons floating around the Plaza of the Americas Tuesday, but nobody was celebrating.

Each black balloon represented 100 deaths that resulted from last winter's Gaza conflict.

The fatalities included about 1,386 Palestinian civilians, seven Israeli soldiers and three Israeli civilians.

"The conflict obviously involved crimes against humanity, and we wanted to commemorate those that died in the tragedy," said Husam Wahdan, president of Students for Justice in Palestine.

"(The club) really strives to increase awareness of political and social justice awareness on campus since there is no other student group that does that," according to the senior political science major.

The student organization, which started this semester, aims to promote social justice and awareness of the Israeli-Palestine conflict, as well as human rights.

The event included speakers, symbolic balloons, fliers and brownies.

Addison Vawters, 21, said he stopped by Tuesday's event because it relates to his major in

Middle Eastern language and culture.

He said he's studied Middle

Eastern culture and Arabic for three years and has even gotten to know people close to the conflict.

"The conflict obviously involved crimes against humanity, and we wanted to commemorate those that died in the tragedy."

Husam Wahdan

Students for Justice in Palestine president



Danica Spears / Alligator

Jennifer Amores hands out free brownies to those who pass by the Students for Justice in Palestine's Gaza memorial ceremony Tuesday afternoon on the Plaza of the Americas.

"I think most people in the United States don't see the conflict because it's between two countries that we don't depend on economically," he said.

Vawters also pointed out that acknowledging the Israeli-Palestine conflict is very important because it affects countries that we have a vested interest in.

"I like that (the organization) is making people aware," he said. "It is one of the most complicated and controversial issues today."

On Tuesday, the Student Senate heard a revised resolution about the Gaza conflict and advocating for a two-state solution.

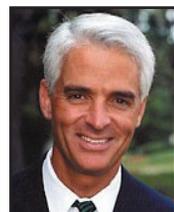
SunRail system to run through Central Florida

By **MATT HARRINGER**
Alligator Contributing Writer

The Florida Senate passed legislation Tuesday to create SunRail, a \$1.2 billion commuter-rail system in Central Florida.

Ending a special session that began Thursday, the Senate passed the bill 27-10 less than 24 hours after the House voted 84-25 in support of the legislation. The project failed twice before.

The commuter rail will run from Deland through Orlando and south to Poinciana. However, there will be no SunRail stations at Orlando International Airport, Disney or Universal.



Crist

The legislation included additional funding for the struggling South Florida commuter rail, TriRail, and makes the state eligible for more than \$2 billion in federal funding for a high-speed rail project to connect Orlando, Miami, Tampa and Jacksonville.

Legislators representing Gainesville were split on the rail project. Speaker Larry Cretul, whose district includes UF, voted for the bill, and in a press release said, the project will benefit residents and visitors throughout Florida.

However, Gainesville's other representatives, Rep. Charles "Chuck" Chestnut IV and Sen. Steve Oelrich, who represent all of Alachua County, voted against the legislation.

Oelrich said in a press release that he could not support the bill at a time when the legislature was forced to cut education and health care spending.

The SunRail project will become law with the signature of Gov. Charlie Crist, who has been a strong supporter of the legislation.

LOCAL

Mechanic fixes scooters on the go

Services are available 24/7

By **ERIN ROBERTS**
Alligator Contributing Writer

New local business owner Bobby Swan secures his toolbox in the bed of his Chevrolet Colorado and takes off to his ever-changing repair shop, which often resides in a customer's driveway.

Swamp Life Mobile Motorsports Repair opened Nov. 1 and is the first business to provide mobile repair and maintenance services for scooters and motorcycles in the Gainesville area.

"We don't have a shop; there-

fore, I'm able to give substantially lower prices, and our services are way more convenient," Swan said. "With other repair shops, you have to call and make an appointment then pay to have your scooter picked up."

An air compressor, impact drill, extra oil, cleaning supplies, work lights and other equipment necessary for repair are stored in the Swamp Life truck. Services are available 24 hours a day, and Swamp Life also provides roadside assistance in emergency situations.

Swan said he focuses his busi-

ness on building relationships with the customers and providing friendly services at a reasonable rate.

"With us coming to you, the customers are talking to us the whole time and learning about their vehicle," Swan said. "They can see exactly what I'm doing. Your vehicle never goes behind closed doors."

Although the business is only about a month old, Swan said he expects to be a leading repair company in Gainesville and hopes to eventually expand it to other universities in Florida.

"The first month of business has been surprisingly good," Swan said. "We're here to stay."

People dodge balls to save lives

■ **MONEY RAISED SUPPORTS CLINIC IN TANZANIA.**

By **MELISSA QUINN**
Alligator Contributing Writer

When Flavia, a young girl living in Tanzania, was bitten by a rattlesnake, she had to have her leg amputated above the knee.

Last year, five members of HOPE, a UF organization that raises money for a medical clinic in Tanzania, visited the clinic and met the young girl.

The members of HOPE spent eight weeks working at the clinic, during which Flavia received a prosthetic leg.

HOPE raised more than \$500 for her, and in the spring the organization helped to provide her with the new limb.

HOPE will be holding its third annual dodgeball

tournament at Flavet Field Thursday to raise money for the medical clinic in Tanzania.

The tournament will start at 11 a.m. and last until about 3 p.m., said Joshua Wu, president of the organization.

Teams may have up to seven players, and the cost to participate is \$5 per player.

Wu said the money raised will be sent to pay for medical supplies and other equipment.

The club is partnering with African Inland Mission to host the tournament and raise funds, he said.

About 12 teams played in the tournament in 2008, and the organization is looking to have about 16 teams register this year.

Over the past two years, HOPE has raised more than \$3,000 to send to Tanzania.

"By focusing on one clinic in one community, we hope to see with our own eyes and touch with our own hands those Tanzanians who our money and time are saving," Wu said.

On Campus

Help site answers UF students' questions via blog

Bloggers post responses within 48 hours

By **CAROLYN TILLO**
Alligator Writer

Students who like it fast and easy now have a Web site designed just for them.

UFHelp.com, a site launched in October, allows UF students to submit questions about anything from coursework to clubs with a few quick clicks.

The site is a project sponsored by Gators of Tomorrow, an or-

ganization that chooses 25 freshmen each year based on their academic excellence and leadership abilities.

David Yakobovitch, sophomore finance major and one of the site's founders, said students can submit questions by clicking the "Contact" link on the site or by e-mailing help@ufhelp.com.

He said the site has a team of about 30 bloggers who answer each question and posts a

response on the site within 48 hours.

Yakobovitch said the bloggers provide their own unique student perspectives on the issues addressed.

On Campus About 100 sets of questions and answers have been posted so far, including tips about registering for season football tickets, taking a class on a pass/fail basis and figuring out

the bus system.

Yakobovitch said he hopes the home page of the site will evolve to include a map displaying links to the different categories of questions students have asked.

He said students of any age can post questions.

Joyce Huang, a senior environmental engineering major, said the site will prove useful for students unfamiliar with how drop/add works.

She said it could also be helpful for students in the College of

Liberal Arts and Sciences, who may struggle to meet with advisers.

Husam Wahdan, a senior political science major and one of the site's bloggers, said he wishes the site was available when he was a freshman.

Navigating through the UF Web site to find resources for getting involved on campus proved difficult, he said.

"The way I look at it, it's like a freshman survival guide," Wahdan said.

McChrystal backs plan to Congress

■ HE SAID HE DID NOT GET AS MANY TROOPS AS HE WANTED FOR AFGHANISTAN.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Questioned by skeptical lawmakers, the U.S. general running the war in Afghanistan said Tuesday he did not get as many troops as he wanted and must work under a schedule he did not recommend, but he insisted the Obama administration's revamped strategy is the best way to win.

Comments by Afghanistan's president and the U.S. defense secretary suggested a long, slow effort.

As Gen. Stanley McChrystal defended President Barack Obama's new surge-and-exit strategy in Washington, the U.S. challenge was underscored in Kabul. Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai said — with Defense Secretary Robert Gates standing at his side — that it

probably will be five years before Afghan forces can take the lead in the fight against Taliban insurgents. And Karzai predicted it would be at least 15 years before his government could pay for its own forces.

On Capitol Hill, Gen. McChrystal declared under questioning by congressional committees, "I'm comfortable with the entire plan." But in lengthy sessions before Senate and House panels, the four-star general cautioned against expectations of immediate results and said the strategy must show progress within 18 months, Obama's deadline for beginning to bring U.S. troops home.

"The sober fact is that there are no silver bullets," McChrystal said. "Ultimate success will be the cumulative effect of sustained pressure."

In announcing last week his decision to order 30,000 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan, Obama said they would begin coming home in July 2011.



AP Photo

Gen. Stanley McChrystal, Commander of the International Security Assistance Force and Commander of U.S. Forces Afghanistan, arrives to testify before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington on Tuesday.

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Horticultural club offers holiday poinsettia variety

■ THE COST OF PLANTS RANGES FROM \$9 TO \$28.

By ALISON SCHWARTZ
Alligator Writer

'Tis the season to be jolly — and decorate accordingly.

UF's Environmental Horticulture Club is holding its annual Poinsettia Show and Sale Dec. 10 at the Fifield Hall greenhouses on Hull Road.

Kara Monroe, the club's president, said those looking to get their annual fix of holiday cheer

will find more than the traditional array of poinsettias.

"You can go to Wal-Mart and buy a kind of junky poinsettia for \$3, but you get the real deal when you come out here," the UF environmental horticulture senior said.

The club will be selling more than 30 varieties of poinsettias from global plant breeders, ranging from \$9 to \$28.

Monroe said the plants are priced according to size and rarity of the poinsettia strain.

The club has raised about 2,500 poinsettias since August, cultivat-

"You can go to Wal-Mart and buy a kind of junky poinsettia for \$3, but you get the real deal when you come out here."

Kara Monroe
UF senior

ing the plants from seedlings.

From deep orange to white speckles, Monroe said there's more to poinsettias than the traditional crimson hue.

"Sometimes you just think of the boring red, but there are so

many different kinds to see," she said. "It gets you out of that box."

Her personal favorite is the Winter Rose, a variety of poinsettia where the leaves are red and tightly curved in a rose-like curvature.

The poinsettias will also be on display in a neighboring greenhouse at the event, and potential shoppers can participate in a consumer analysis study for a complimentary poinsettia.

The sale will happen rain or shine, and after the poor weather at last year's sale, Monroe is hoping for the latter.

Despite the rain, the club made

about \$15,000 at last year's sale.

"That's the nature of working outside all the time," she said. "We make do."

And it's this enthusiasm that carries the sale each year as the club's largest fundraiser.

"The best part of the experience is to see the interest in the sale," Monroe said. "It's exciting to see this work that you've done beginning in August start to come full circle."

The sale lasts from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is a clearance sale Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the same location.



AP Photo

Lakewood police chief Bret Farrar walks past the caskets of four slain Lakewood police officers after speaking at their memorial service Tuesday at the Tacoma Dome in Tacoma, Wash. The memorial was just a week after the officers were gunned down in a coffee shop before the start of their shift, Nov. 29.

NATIONAL

4 slain Wash. officers honored

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TACOMA, Wash. — A procession of 2,000 cars followed the flag-draped caskets of four slain police officers to a memorial service Tuesday as thousands of mourners, mostly members of law enforcement from across the country, lined the streets.

Lori Lightfoot, a police detective from Fresno, Calif., was among officers who traveled from as far away as New York, Chicago and Canada to remember Sgt. Mark Renninger and Officers Ronald Owens, Tina Griswold, and Greg Richards.

Lightfoot and Sheila Chandler, also a Fresno detective, said the deaths of the four Lakewood officers brought back memories of four Oakland police officers killed during a traffic stop and a shootout in March.

"It's just disbelief," Lightfoot said. "It's unbelievable that it could happen again."

The Lakewood officers were killed Nov. 29 before the start of their shift. Authorities say Maurice Clemmons singled them out and spared employees and other customers at the coffee shop in Parkland, a Tacoma suburb about 35 miles south of Seattle.

Clemmons was shot to death last week by a Seattle police officer after a two-day manhunt. Prosecutors said he received help from family and friends, and seven people have been arrested.

Several candlelight vigils have been held for the officers since the shooting, but Tuesday's memorial service and procession is believed to be the largest in state history.

Thousands of people lined the streets around the Tacoma Dome, and an estimated

20,000 people attended the service.

The ceremony was delayed more than an hour because of the large law enforcement procession.

The officers' family and friends served as pallbearers, carrying the coffins into the arena.

A ceremonial honor guard opened the ceremony, and every officer in the arena stood at attention and saluted as the families of the four officers and members of the Lakeland Police Department were led to their seats.

"They were good people, and they were great cops," Lakewood Police Chief Brett Farrar said at the service. "And they will be truly missed."

In addition to eulogies from family, friends and public officials, mourners will watch a video tribute to the officers.

Floral arrangements lined the stage, as well as two motorcycles, a drum set and a NASCAR race car.

Cpl. Jack Hundial, of Surrey, British Columbia, was one of 1,000 Royal Canadian Mounted Police in attendance. He said he and his colleagues wanted to show their support because "it could have been any of us."

"I think about their families," he said. "I don't think you ever find true closure for something this tragic."

Gov. Chris Gregoire, who will speak at the service, has directed that flags at all state facilities be lowered to half-staff Tuesday.

Additional space for the public to view telecasts of the service was made available at the University of Washington Tacoma, Pacific Lutheran University and the Christian Faith Center in Federal Way.

Obama envoy hopes N Korea will talk about nukes

U.S. officials don't plan to offer additional incentives

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea — An envoy dispatched by President Barack Obama launched a mission Tuesday to coax North Korea to rejoin international talks on ending its nuclear programs amid warnings of strong sanctions if Pyongyang refuses.

Veteran diplomat Stephen Bosworth's visit is being closely watched for signs whether the isolated communist country will return to the negotiating table after carrying out an atomic test blast in May and quitting the six-nation talks.

Bosworth arrived in the North Korean capital Tuesday along with Washington's lead

nuclear negotiator, Sung Kim. Footage from APTN showed the pair at an airport in Pyongyang, shaking hands with North Korean officials and posing for photos.

In Washington, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley told reporters that Bosworth and his team likely had meetings Tuesday and expected more high-level talks Wednesday as well. He said U.S. officials don't expect any communication with Bosworth's group until it leaves North Korea.

Just before Bosworth began his mission, a senior U.S. official had said bluntly that he was bringing no new incentives.

"We don't intend to reward North Korea simply for going back to doing something that

it had previously committed to do," the official told reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity during the background briefing.

He warned that the North faces strong U.N. sanctions if it does not agree to return to negotiations.

State News "At a minimum, I think it will reinforce the intention of the international community to continue a very strong enforcement" of U.N. sanctions resolutions adopted to punish the North for its nuclear test and other provocations, the official said.

This week's talks — the first direct U.S.-North Korean discussions since Obama took office in January — come after a year of threat-

ening rhetoric and rising tensions on the Korean peninsula. Earlier this year, Pyongyang expelled U.N. nuclear inspectors, restarted its atomic facilities, test-fired a long-range rocket and a series of ballistic missiles, quit six-party talks and conducted the nuclear test.

But now, North Korea has no choice but to rejoin the disarmament process since Washington has made it a condition of bilateral contact, said Koh Yu-hwan of Seoul's Dongguk University.

Pyongyang sees direct talks with the U.S. as a key way of ensuring the survival of the regime and winning aid necessary for rebuilding its moribund economy. This visit comes as North Korea is redenominating its national currency in an effort to curb runaway inflation and reassert its control on the economy.

NATIONAL

Professor sees Nancy Grace involvement in suicide

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OCALA — A Harvard professor says CNN Headline News host Nancy Grace's relentless questioning of a Florida mother three years ago contributed to her suicide, according to a filing in the family's wrongful death case.

Grace launched aggressive nightly coverage of 2-year-old Trenton Duckett's case shortly after he disappeared in 2006, usually with a

collection of analysts.

When the boy's mother, Melinda Duckett, appeared by telephone two weeks into the case, speculation was beginning to narrow on her possible involvement.

Dr. Harold J. Bursztajn, a clinical professor of psychiatry, wrote in a filing this week that Grace "struck a highly accusatory tone."

The professor saw "a distraught young woman who is subject to repeated and increasingly sharp questioning by a hostile interview-



Grace

er who displays increasing suspicion and anger towards Ms. Duckett."

The next day, the 21-year-old Duckett shot herself in the head.

"Her apparently unanticipated public humiliation on the nationally televised program in question was a substantial contributing cause of her suicide,"

Bursztajn wrote.

The family claims Grace's questioning, along with the network's decision to air the pre-taped interview the day Duckett committed suicide, inflicted severe emotional distress.

Grace and the network have denied any involvement in the suicide, and a CNN spokeswoman declined comment on the filing.

Trenton has still not been found, and Duckett is the only suspect.



AP Photo

Dr. Eric Barron, right, and his wife Molly are all smiles after Dr. Barron was named the new president of Florida State University on Tuesday in Tallahassee, Fla.

FSU trustees select alum as new president

■ HE WILL BECOME THE SCHOOL'S 14TH PRESIDENT.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE — Florida State University on Tuesday picked a former student as its new president.

After some debate about how the selection process was handled, the school's trustees voted unanimously to hire Eric J. Barron to succeed T.K. Wetherell as the university's 14th president.

"I like to get the job done," Barron told trustees before their vote. "That's what I'm all about."

The length of Barron's contract and how much he'll be paid must still be negotiated, Barron said afterward. A starting date has also not been determined.

"It'll be public as soon as all of that occurs," he said.

Barron was the only candidate advanced to the trustees by the university's 19-member presidential search advisory committee. The develop-

ment led to a sharp exchange between trustees chairman Jim Smith and vice chairman Harold Knowles.

Despite Knowles' displeasure with the selection process, he voted for Barron.

Barron, 58, is director of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo., and previously served as dean of the Jackson School of Geosciences at the University of Texas and dean of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences at Penn State University.

A native of Lafayette, Ind., he graduated from high school in Atlanta. Barron earned a geology degree from FSU in 1973 and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Miami.

"His national prominence in his field, his extensive fundraising experience and his superlative administrative skills are an excellent fit for Florida State," Smith said.

Wetherell, who turns 64 later in the month, will be appointed as a tenured professor in the College of Education and President Emeritus when Barron takes office.

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Bedroom for rent in a 3/2. \$400/mo. Own bath, carport. Females only need apply. 4 Blks from stadium. Call 692-1958 for appt. 1-5-09-5-4

Roommate wanted. 1/1 in 2/2
2 Blocks North of Library West
Unfurnished BR, shared spaces furnished
Washer/dryer, dishwasher, wireless internet
\$600/mo + half util. Call/txt 813-468-1071 1-5-5-4

3 blocks from UF Campus
1 bedroom in 3/1 house for rent
\$425/mth + 1/3 util/cable/int
Available ASAP please call now! 850 529 2717 or email kalon77@ufl.edu 1-5-09-5-4

2BR/2BA avail now in 4BR/4BA Country-side condo. \$435/mo/room - utils incl. Direct bus to UF 3 mis. Bball, pool, exercise room, nicely furn. 3rd Flr. W/D, wireless. Flo 352-357-9656, or 352-636-4814 1-5-09-3-4

Roommate needed for 2BR Apt. close to UF. Bus Stop Right Outside. \$350/Mo. Plus Utilities.Call Kyle at 954-907-8538 or email me at kylefranzzone06@yahoo.com . 1-5-09-3-4

2BRs in 4/2 house \$375 ea. (or \$700 both) + share util/cable/DSL + dep. Craigslist ad: <http://gainesville.craigslist.org/roo/1495891104.html>. 352 376-9200 1-8-10-5-4

4 Roommates

\$355/Mo Newly Remodeled. Pvt BR/BA. 10 min to UF. On Bus Rte. W/D, Furn Com Area, Secure WI-FI, Pool & MORE! OPEN-MINDED. 954-854-9445. UTGCondos.com 1-5-10-2-4

1-2 Roommates needed for 4br/4ba \$385 Fully Furn Condo. ALL UTIL Incl., Pvt. bath walk-in closet, w/d, pool. Short ride to UF on 2 bus routes. STUDENTS ONLY, non-smoking 954-593-3063 1-8-10-5-4

5 Real Estate

Sell your house, condo, acreage, mobile home and much more in the ALLIGATOR CLASSIFIEDS! Reach thousands of possible buyers! Mastercard and Visa accepted over the phone, by fax, email or **CHECK OUT PLACING YOUR AD THRU OUR ONLINE AT www.alligator.org**. or please call 373-Find (373-3463)

SEE ALL CONDOS

WWW.UFCONDOS.COM
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NEW CONDOS -WALK to UF
3 Blks to UF. For Info on ALL 1, 2, 3, 4 Bedrooms for Sale, Call Eric Leightman, Campus Realty at 352-219-2879. 4-21-71-5

AFFORDABLE LUXURY NEW CONSTRUCTION NEAR UF, SHANDS, LAW SCHOOL 2Bed/3 Full Baths + Office. Granite Counters, 2 Direct Bus Stops to UF. Matt Price, Campus Realty 352-281-3551 4-21-71-5

WALK TO UF & DOWNTOWN!
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3/2 - Great Community
Owner Financing
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Low down
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Move In Ready
3/2 Adorable
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3 & 2 bedrooms avail
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Up to \$8K tax credit
For 1st time home buyers
3 & 2 bdrs avail
WE FINANCE
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6 Furnishings

BED - QUEEN - \$120 ORTHOPEDIC Pillow-top, mattress & box. Name brand, new, still in plastic. Call 352-372-7490 will deliver. 4-21-09-71-6

BED - FULL SIZE - \$100 ORTHOPEDIC Pillow-top mattress & box. New, unused, still in plastic w/warranty. Can deliver. Call 352-377-9846 4-21-09-71-6

MICROFIBER SOFA & LOVESEAT - \$400 Brand new still packaged w/warranty. Must sell. Can deliver. Retail \$1600. 352-372-7490 4-21-09-71-6

BED - KING - \$170 PILLOWTOP mattress & box springs. Orthopedic rated. Name brand, new, never been used, in plastic with warranty. Call 352-372-8588. Can deliver. 4-21-09-71-6

CHERRY SLEIGH BED solid with Pillowtop Mattress & Box. All new still boxed. Cost \$1500, sacrifice \$450 352-333-7516

Sofa \$175 Brand new in pkg 333-7516 4-21-71-6

BEDROOM SET. 7pc Cherry, Queen/ king bed, dresser w/mirror, 2 nightstands, chests avail. Dovetail const. New, in boxes. Can deliver. Retail \$6500, must sell, sacrifice \$1100 (352) 372-7490 4-21-09-71-6

SOFA & LOVESEAT 100% Italian leather. Brand new in plastic w/warranty. Retail \$2650. Sacrifice \$750. Call 352-377-9846 4-21-09-71-6

DINING ROOM Beautiful cherry set w/table, 6 Chippendale chairs, hutch & buffet. New, still in boxes. Retail \$5200, sacrifice \$1100. Must sell. Can deliver. 352-372-8588 4-21-71-6

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

DINETTE SET 5pc \$120 Brand new in box. Never used. 352-377-9846 4-21-09-71-6

****BEDS - ALL BRAND NEW****
****Full \$100 Queen \$125 King \$200****
Orthopedic pillow-top sets. Brand name matching sets not used or refurbished. Still in plastic, direct from factory! 352-333-7516. 4-21-71-6

BED - QUEEN New orthopedic pillowtop mattress and boxspring set. Brand name, brand new, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver. \$130 352-377-9846. 4-21-71-6

Bed- All New King! 3pc Orthopedic pillowtop mattress set. Brand NEW, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver. \$200 352-333-7516. 4-21-71-6

BEDROOM SET- \$300 BRAND NEW
Still in boxes! 6 pieces include: Headboard, 2 Nightstands, Dresser, Mirror, Chest. Must sell, can deliver. 352-377-9846. 4-21-09-71-6

FUTON - \$60 Solid Oak Mission Style. With plush mattress \$160. All brand NEW still in box. Can deliver. 352-333-7516 4-21-71-6

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

SOFA \$185 Brand new! Love seat \$150 still in pkg. Can del 352-333-7516 4-21-71-6

Your roommate hasn't done the dishes in How long?! Find a better dishwasher in the Alligator Classifieds.

7 Computers

CASH PAID: Laptops & Cameras
Parts & Repair Mac & PC laptops
Laptop Chargers. Joel 336-0075
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7 Computers

Computer Help Fast Gatorland Computers House/Dorm Fast response. No waiting-unplugging/hassels. \$30 Gator discount w/ID. Certified MCSE Technicians. 352-338-8041. www.GatorlandComputers.com 12-9-74-7

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Network specialists
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I come to your location
All PC and Networking Problems
● 352-262-6704 ● Only \$25 per hour ●
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● **CERTIFIED MCSE COMPUTER TECH** ●
Office or Home. Fast professional services at reasonable rates. Services include networking, security, data recovery, virus removal. 352-275-3036 www.indiecomputer.com 12-9-09-10-7

9 Bicycles

In the market for a new set of wheels or just looking to add a second to that collection? Want personalized handlebars or a fitted seat? Check in the Alligator Classifieds

NEW & USED BIKES FOR SALE
WE REPAIR ALL BRANDS
* Best Prices in Town *
SPIN CYCLE 373-3355
424 W UNIV AVE (DOWNTOWN)
12-9-74-9

10 For Sale

●●●● **PARKING** ●●●●
Private, Secure, Guaranteed. 60 sec to UF. Reserve now! Reasonable rates. 352-538-2181. Can leave mssg. 4-21-09-71-10

UF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AUCTIONS are underway...
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Top of the line gator pool table! Solid slate, 8ft., gator blue felt, gator billiard balls, gator cover \$1800 OBO. MUST SELL! call 352-372-6533 12-9-09-5-10

CHRISTMAS TREES!
Potted Leylands, Arizona Cypress, & Red Cedar; Table-Top to 10 ft. \$7-\$69. 209 NW 75th St. Alachua 386-462-2060 1-5-09-6-10

METAL ROOFING TAX CREDIT! 40 yr Warranty. Direct from manufacturer. 30 colors in stock Quick turnaround. Delivery available. Gulf Coast Supply & Manufacturing, (888)393-0335 www.gulfcoastsupply.com 12-9-1-10

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11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

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www.NS4L.com
4-21-09-71-11

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Many Brands Available 518 SE 2nd St.
www.RPmmotorcycles.com 377-6974
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Rent for a day, week, month or semester. Students can rent to own!
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Discount Motorcycle Gear
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Honda Shawdow Spirit 750, yellow Exell. 10K, shield, bags, custom canvas cover, \$3500, call Paul 352-514-6227 see it Newberry Rd. Imports, 7349 W Newberry ask Andy 12-9-09-5-11

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Is your roommate driving you crazy? Find a replacement in the Alligator Classifieds!

12 Autos

● **FAST CASH FOR ALMOST ANY CARS** ●
● Running or not! ●
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● Over 15 yr svc to UF students
● Call Don @ 215-7987 4-21-71-12

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Clean BMW, Volvo, Mercedes
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POWER WINDOWS DON'T WORK?
On site avail. Steve's Headliners 352-226-1973
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Titles Only. Call K.T. (352) 281-9980
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Call Anytime 352-339-5158
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12 Autos

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CALL US! TOP DOLLAR PAID!
Fast Cash - Free Towing Cars, Trucks, RVs, Motorcycles 386-365-1855 or 386-234-0075
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SUN CITY AUTO SALES
All vehicles \$0 down
No credit check
Cash vehicles \$1000 and up.
352-338-1999 4-21-71-12

SUN RISE AUTO SALES
No credit check
Cars, SUVs, Trucks & Vans
30 day warranty
352-375-9090 4-21-71-12

94 Chevy 1500 \$999 cash
92 Nissan Stanza \$1499 cash
98 Pontiac Grand Am \$1499 cash
96 Kia Sephia \$999 cash
352-338-1999 4-21-71-12

96 Lincoln Mark 8 \$999 cash
95 Pontiac Bonneville \$999 cash
98 Chrysler Cirrus \$999 cash
96 Chevy Cavalier \$1499 cash
352-338-1999 4-21-71-12

92 Honda Accord \$1499 cash
97 Mazda Millenia \$1999 cash
92 Chevy Camero \$1999 cash
96 Mits Galant \$1999 cash
352-338-1999 4-21-71-12

97 Jeep Cherokee \$1900
96 Chevy Astro Van \$1900
96 Chevy Blazer \$1499
98 Ford Expolorer \$2500
352-338-1999 4-21-71-12

95 Dodge Ram PK \$2900
98 Dodge Ram PK \$2900
98 Pontiac Transport \$2900
94 Toyota Camry \$2900 SOLD
352-338-1999 4-21-71-12

97 Mercury Grand Marquis \$2900
00 Hyundai Elantra \$2900
94 Toyota Station Wagon \$2900 SOLD
97 Mits Diamonte \$2900
352-338-1999 4-21-71-12

96 Honda Accord \$2500
94 Toyota Camry \$2900
96 Cadillac Deville \$2900
01 Hyundai Sonata \$2900
352-338-1999 4-21-71-12

Sun City Auto Sales
60 Day pay off
On cash vehicles
Pay off time negotiable
352-338-1999 4-21-71-12

2003 Honda Civic, 79k \$8999 CASH
2003 Honda Civic, 115k \$8499 CASH
2003 Honda Civic, 69k \$8999 CASH
2002 Honda Odyssey, 117k \$6999 CASH
352-375-9090 4-21-71-12

2003 Nissan Sentra, 80k \$6999 CASH
2005 Nissan Altima, 94k \$9999 CASH
2006 Suzuki Aerio, 54k \$8999 CASH
2001 Nissan Altima, 99k \$5999 CASH
352-375-9090 4-21-71-12

2002 Toyota Camry, 76k \$8999 CASH
2004 Toyota Corolla, 111k \$7999 CASH
1999 Toyota Sienna, 135k \$5999 CASH
2002 Toyota Corolla, 68k \$6999 CASH
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Cars from \$29/Mo!
Hondas Chevys Jeeps and
More! 0\$ Down 36 Months @
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2000 Honda Civic \$800! 2001 Nissan Altima \$350! 2000 Acura Integra \$500! POLICE IMPOUNDS! for listings call (800)366-9813 ext 9271 12-9-1-12

13 Wanted

LOCAL ARTIST NEEDS:
★ Gold ★ Diamonds ★ Gems ★ Class Rings
★ ETC ★ Top Cash \$\$\$ or Trade ★
OZZIE'S FINE JEWELRY 373-9243. 4-21-71-13

13 Wanted

UF GRAD PAYS MORE
for gold jewelry, scrap gold, Rolex, diamonds, guitars, etc. Top \$\$\$\$. Get my offer before you sell! Call Jim 376-8090 or 222-8090 4-21-71-13

The American Cancer Society
Road to Recovery Volunteers Needed!
VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED
to transport cancer patients to treatment.
Flexible schedule.
Training and liability insurance provided.
Please call
352-376-6866 ext. 5079 if interested.

BE AN INSPIRATION!
Take a blind lady to Mass on Sundays and for walks and shopping as needed. We'll have lots of fun! And you will make a new friend! Contact 219-6948 1-8-09-71-13

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO HELP ME LEARN TO RAKE KNIT A HAT, second and fourth wednesdays of each month. These hats are made for people in Haiti. Come and have fun with Lenora. Call 219-6948. 1-8-09-71-13

14 Help Wanted

This newspaper assumes no responsibility for injury or loss arising from contacts made through advertising. We suggest that any reader who responds to advertising use caution and investigate the sincerity of the advertiser before giving out personal information or arranging meetings

the independent florida
alligator

RETAIL ADVERTISING MANAGER
FULL TIME POSITION
Sales driven person to train student sales staff in outside newspaper advertising sales. Motivator needed who works well with a constantly changing staff.
Duties include training university students in outside newspaper sales, layout and copy writing. Must work well within and meet daily deadlines. Good organizational skills a must. Newspaper ad sales background an advantage. Modest salary, good benefits and excellent working environment. With resume, send cover letter that must include salary requirements, to: General Manager, The Independent Florida Alligator, PO 14257, Gainesville, FL 32604 or email to tcarey@alligator.org. No phone calls please. EOE

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Bright? Enthusiastic? Like people? Must be over 22, stable work history, clean driving record, drug-free, personal references.
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\$250 A DAY POTENTIAL
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FUTURE GMS
Now hiring assistant managers
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PHONE AGENTS NEEDED
Must have Excellent Vocabulary and Communication skills. PC skills needed. Apply Now! 6020 NW 4th Place, Suite G. 352-371-5888 x 111 4-21-71-14

JUMBLE CROSSWORDS™
by David L. Hoyt 12-9-09

1	○	2		3	○		
						4	
5	○						○
				○			
		6	○				○
				○			
							○
		7					

CLUE ACROSS ANSWER

1. Downward places HSTEPD
5. Slender NALYK
6. Living VALEI
7. Be present at TDETNA

CLUE DOWN ANSWER

1. Elegant XUDEEL
2. Necklace ornament PANNTED
3. Crazy AYHIWER
4. Consented REDAEG

CLUE: As of 2008, this drugstore chain had more than 7,000 locations.

BONUS ○○○○○○○○○○

How to play Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

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Send comments to TMS - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1400, Chicago, Ill. 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com.

14 Help Wanted

DOMINO'S
Now hiring Delivery Drivers - \$12-\$16/hr. You need a great attitude & dependable car. Hiring lunch, dinner & late night shifts. Our closing drivers earn \$100 per night. Apply @ any of our 8 location or @ gatordominos.com/jobs. 4-21-09-71-14

Students in Accounting, Aviation, Business/Sales and computer science needed for various positions. Flexible schedules and competitive pay. Join our team! Learn more at www.gleim.com/employment 4-21-09-71-14

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Paid survey takers needed. Gainesville. 100% FREE to join. Click on Surveys 12-9-09-73-14

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PT Sales /Leasing Agents Needed
Help students find their new apartment! Great pay plus bonuses. Sales experience & outgoing personality required. No real estate exp req (training provided). Send resume, cover letter & avail schedule to hr@trimarkproperties.com 4-21-71-14

Hair models wanted for long hair in motion studies. Hip-length or longer only. No experience necessary. \$70 to \$120 and hour. Call 352 792-1824 modelslh@yahoo.com 1-14-09-32-14

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Survey Research Center
408 W University Ave. suite 106
Mon-Fri 9am-9pm
392 2908 ext. 105
\$8/hr + BONUS + Paid Training
Telephone Interviewing NO SALES 4-21-09-71-14

PRC NOW HIRING
Find a job you'll love. Immediate Openings for Customer Care Representatives. \$10.00 to \$10.50 per hour. Paid Training and multiple schedules available. For more information contact us at 386-326-5030 or 386-326-5008 or apply online at www.prcnet.com 1-5-09-20-14

Full time NANNY needed for Jan: M-F toddler \$10/hr; must have newborn exp grad students welcome; exp req; Noah's Ark Nanny; send resume, photo, short bio to gnv@nanoneone.com 1-5-09-10-14

NANNY ASAP for adorable 1yr old: 3 full days/ wk; 25-30hrs; \$9/hr; starts asap or Jan. Noah's Ark Nanny e-mail resume, pix, schedule to gnv@nanoneone.com 1-5-09-10-14

MWFSat NANNY NEEDED Jan 6:30am; 15hrs/wk average (days vary) 3 yr old twins + 1yr old; must be avail thru August 2010 Noah's Ark Nanny e-mail resume, pix, schedule to gnv@nanoneone.com 1-5-09-10-14

University Athletic Association Accounting

We are currently seeking a flexible individual to fill the position of part-time (OPS) filing clerk. The duties include but are not limited to data entry and filing. Experienced in Microsoft Excel and good organizational skills are required. This is a minimum wage position averaging 20 hour per week. If interested please fax resume to (352) 375-5182.

If you have questions regarding this ad, please contact me in the Human Resources Department at 375-4683 x6301.

Thank You,
Brenda Lembo
Coordinator Recruitment 12-9-09-8-14

14 Help Wanted

"Have Bad Credit?
Want to make \$1,000s for doing nothing?"
Call (877) 465-8463 for more information. 1-5-09-6-14

PROJECT COORDINATOR: All aspects of psychologist's private practice, training institute with online studies. Need very strong organizational skills, extensive computer skills, able to master complex software. Fun job/will train. Honors BA or MA. 28 Hr/Wk. M-Th. \$11.00 hr. Alachua location. Email resume/reference list to RobertGlazerPhD@gmail.com 1-5-09-5-14

RGIS INVENTORY SPECIALISTS
Part-time hourly work
Flexible schedules
\$8 an hour to start
Apply online at RGIS.COM 1-8-09-8-14

SAT Coordinator
Immediate full time/part time opening for a person with SAT tutoring background to help develop a new program at Gleim Publications. Great opportunity and experience for a "go getter". Please send your resume to hr@gleim.com or apply on line at <http://www.gleim.com>. 12-9-09-4-14

Need mature, reliable, dedicated, full-time live-in caretaker for elderly mom to help with daily personal care, companionship, cooking, and house cleaning. \$41,000/yr, full benefits package, appreciative family. 3+ yrs experience, excellent references, background check required. Contact lewjufa@gmail.com 1-5-09-5-14

Live in companion needed for disabled woman. Light housekeeping asst, vehicle needed. Experience req. background check. send resume to vendorslynz@gmail.com 1-11-10-8-14

HIGH-END NIGHTCLUB OPENING
Now hiring: Bartenders, Barbacks, Security, VIP, Go-Go Dancers, Door People, Bathroom Staff. Some exp req'd. Call 239-910-1235 or email rupkey@gmail.com 1-5-09-3-14



Have a 3.6 GPA & want to earn some extra cash? We are hiring notetakers & office staff for spring '10. Go to www.HowIGotAnA.com 1-8-10-6-14

Experienced Horseperson: Still looking! Need someone to live rent free in mobile home on small horse farm 12 miles from the University in exchange for 40 hours work/month. 386-462-3725 1-5-10-2-14

Archer Road Pet Resort
Hiring all positions
Exp. Preferred
16011 SW Archer Rd
arpetresort@aol.com 1-5-10-20-14

Need 50 typists/transcriptionists to start January 2010. Must type minimum 65 wpm. Create your own work schedule, but you must maintain 16 hours a week between 7am-midnight, M-F. Need impeccable English skills. Ideal for PT and Students. Productivity based compensation, profit sharing, close to campus. Contact now to reserve a spot for January training sessions. gnvjobs@uigfla.com 1-8-10-5-14

RV delivery drivers needed. Deliver RVs, boats and trucks for PAY! Deliver to all 48 states and Canada. For details log on to www.RVdeliveryjobs.com 12-9-1-14

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UF faces Syracuse in top-10 matchup

■ THE TEAMS WILL SQUARE OFF IN TAMPA ON THURSDAY.

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

It's the top-10 showdown nobody saw coming.

Florida and Syracuse began their seasons unranked and with unclear expectations, both seemingly somewhere in the rebuilding process. But each has reeled off huge non-conference wins and worked its way into the top 10 just four weeks into the season.

The two surprise successes will meet Thursday in Tampa, as the No. 10 Gators (8-0) will take on the No. 7 Orange (8-0) as part of the Southeastern Conference-Big East Invitational in the St. Pete Times Forum.

"We definitely know we're not the greatest team in the world, and we even feel like we haven't even come close to playing our best ball," sophomore point guard Erving Walker said. "It would be foolish to think like that, especially playing a team like Syracuse who has done just as much as us right now, if not more."

Syracuse edged out Florida 89-83 last season in Kansas City, Mo., but both squads are vastly different than the ones that met over a year ago. UF is without guards Nick Calathes, who scored 19 points and added seven assists against the Orange in 2008, and Walter Hodge, while Syracuse lost starters Jonny Flynn, Paul Harris and Eric Devendorf.

The Gators have since added guard Kenny Boynton and transfer center Vernon Macklin to help ease their losses, and the Orange brought in a transfer of their own to fill the void in junior forward Wesley Johnson, who is averaging 17 points, 7.3 rebounds and 2.6 assists per game for Syracuse after spending two years at Iowa State.

UF coach Billy Donovan said Johnson's talent and versatility will present a unique challenge to forwards Dan Werner and Chandler Parsons, who will likely match up with Johnson on defense.

"He's a terrific player, but the one thing that's been good

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 22



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

UF point guard Erving Walker had 13 points and five rebounds off the bench during Florida's 89-83 loss to Syracuse last year.

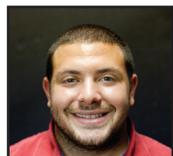
Meyer faces challenge in making bowl seem sweet

My biggest knock on Pete Carroll over the years has been his inability to get his team mentally prepared for playing lower-quality teams throughout an entire season.

It seems every year USC is a favorite to win the national title and every year it loses to a team it shouldn't, and I blame the coach for not having his players ready to go in a game it should win easily.

It's easy to get your team ready for rivalry games and other big-time matchups, but making sure your team doesn't get caught looking ahead in a trap game takes great leadership from the coaches.

Urban Meyer has been able to keep his team from suffering too many letdowns



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over the years. Only the loss to Mississippi last season was a game that Florida shouldn't have lost.

He could face his biggest challenge as a motivator in the weeks leading up to the Sugar Bowl,

which is basically a consolation game for the Gators.

They wanted to win the Southeastern Conference Championship Game, not just get there, despite what they said before the season.

They wanted to win that game because

it meant a return trip to the BCS National Championship Game.

Now, despite only losing one game all year, UF has to settle for a trip to New Orleans.

Just look at last season for how difficult it is to get a team that was thinking national title to be up for playing in another bowl game. Alabama suffered its first loss to UF and went to New Orleans to take on a Utah team that wasn't as good as UA but had a lot more to prove.

The Utes dominated the Crimson Tide 31-17 in the Sugar Bowl to finish the season undefeated.

And Cincinnati is a team that has a lot

SEE BOBBY, PAGE 23

Florida will try to snap PSU streak

By **ANTHONY CHIANG**
Alligator Writer
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This season, Florida's unprecedented 18-year streak of conference dominance was snapped. On Friday, it will try to return the favor and end another team's historic run.

Penn State has won 98 consecutive matches and is in position to become the first women's volleyball team to win three straight national championships.

But the No. 14 Gators (25-5) can end all of that Friday as they take on the No. 1 Nittany Lions (34-0) in the third round of the NCAA tournament at 6 p.m. in the O'Connell Center. No. 10 California (20-10)

will square off with Baylor (24-9) at 3:30 p.m. to kick off the Gainesville Regional.

"There are many who think that this [Penn State] is the best women's volleyball team of all time, and that's who we get to play Friday night," coach Mary Wise said.

Penn State has not lost a match since September 2007 and has only dropped five sets all season.

It features senior opposite hitter Megan Hodge, who averages 4.7 kills per set, and six players who own a hitting efficiency higher than .350. The only UF players who boasts such a percentage are sophomores Cassandra Anderson (.360) and Kelly Murphy (.351).

"The core of Penn State is the future of our Olympic team," Wise said.

While watching tape of the Nittany Lions, Wise has had a hard time finding holes.

"There are no weaknesses," she

SEE VOLLEY, PAGE 23

TEERING OFF WITH BOBBY CALLOVI

■ When I'm playing a game, I like to know the rules, especially if it could cost me a win. Colt McCoy, however, did not know the rule when he threw the ball out of bounds at the end of the Big 12 Championship Game, almost costing him a trip to the BCS title game. ... I don't care what other programs the government fails on — if it can force college football to have a playoff, I won't complain.

STRONG TO LOUISVILLE?

■ ESPN.com is reporting UF defensive coordinator Charlie Strong will likely be named Louisville's next head coach, and the announcement could come today.

alligatorSports Picks Column Results

■ Fourteen weeks of picks weren't enough to decide a winner, so writers Kyle Maistri and Bobby Callovi will pick the five BCS games as a tiebreaker. You can follow our bowl picks on alligatorSports.org.

Florida hopes to snap out of slump against ODU



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

UF guard Steffi Sorensen is the team's third-leading scorer at 7.8 points per game but has struggled to find her shot behind the 3-point arc, connecting on only 27.4 percent of her attempts.

By **EUGENIO TORRENS**

Alligator Staff Writer
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Eight games into the season, Florida isn't where it would like to be.

The Gators (3-5) have dropped consecutive games for the second time this season and have yet to win back-to-back games.

"Has it been a rough start? Yes," senior guard Steffi Sorensen said.

She attributed part of the bumpy start to a tough schedule that included then-No. 13 FSU and a Pittsburgh team that is now ranked No. 15, as well as playing a Rutgers team in Piscataway, N.J., on ESPN2.

Sorensen is hoping the experience from those games — all losses — pays dividends in future games and makes the team more composed in tightly contested ball games.

For a team that was expected to shoot the lights out this season, so far the squad has been shooting blanks.

"We haven't shot the ball well all year," coach Amanda Butler said.

In Monday night's game against Rutgers, Florida was the victim of poor shooting due to an ineffective post game early on as well as

the 1-3-1 zone defense the Scarlet Knights applied against the Gators that forced pressure, pushing UF farther away from the 3-point line and forcing the team to float around the perimeter.

The second half of that game saw UF play more to its up-tempo style.

The Gators did shoot marginally better in the second half and outscored Rutgers 24-23 after intermission.

"There's definitely a sense of urgency," senior guard Susan Yenser said. "I don't see our team spiraling or even showing signs of spiraling, but this is the time where we have to keep it from spiraling out of control because our schedule doesn't get any easier."

With UF set to start Southeastern Conference play Jan. 3, the team has winter break to find its shooting stroke beginning with a trip to Old Dominion on Friday.

"It's not like we're a bad team," Yenser said. "We're a good team playing bad."

"At some point in time during the season, we're going to be the team that we're supposed to be, because right now we're not."

Loss makes Tebow human

One of my TV-watching habits is rather quirky.

See, I'm a huge fan of ESPN's "Pardon the Interruption."

But with the schedule I've kept this semester, PTI hasn't always fit into my daily schedule.

So I catch up on my DVR whenever possible. It's weird to hear previews of events that already happened, but it's also quite fascinating to see how some things were predicted. On Tuesday, I got a chance to watch Friday's episode, including a segment previewing the SEC Championship Game.

Unsurprisingly, much of Tony Kornheiser's reasoning for picking Florida to win had to do with Tim Tebow at the helm. One particular quote stuck out to me.

"I love the fact that every time they have to win, they win," Kornheiser said. "And they have to win this one."

I had a similar sentiment before the game. Whenever I sat down to decide who had the matchup advantage, Tebow kept coming to mind.

The guy just didn't lose.

I feel like I've written that sentence a hundred times — and felt corny doing it every time — but it's remarkable how much that legacy seems a little lessened today.

Florida won 22 straight games before being taken out behind the woodshed by Alabama. Before then, it seemed like no matter what happened, Tebow would will the Gators to victory.

The very idea of that sounds absurd, of course, since Tebow plays one of 11 offensive positions, never lines up on defense, and I haven't seen him run back kicks or take field goals yet.

But in a way, Saturday's loss made Tebow seem even more impressive to me.

Sure, he'd walked off the field in defeat before — but never on a stage



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like the SEC Championship Game on Saturday.

Tears flowed, and anyone who has ever wanted something so bad knew exactly how Tebow felt at that moment. Everything he worked toward for a year was lost in a single night.

But I came away with an even greater respect for him, because he didn't make history.

Think about it — if Florida had won another national title, Tebow would've left Gainesville a winner in 24 straight games. He would've uttered The Promise after the Ole Miss loss, ran off a perfect record and then waved goodbye at his third national title celebration ceremony in four years.

That isn't real — it's fantasy. It's Hollywood. It's perfect.

He would've been remembered as a mythical figure — and rightfully so — but who can really associate themselves with someone who doesn't fail?

Saturday's loss made Tebow 100 percent human. It made him real.

The best player in Florida football history failed in a way, and it made me appreciate him more.

His defense gave him no support. His coaching staff didn't give him much help. His running backs never got the chance to lend him a hand. But Tebow, in his typical fierce competitor style, will likely only remember that he didn't get it done on a national stage.

And that failure should make everyone realize just how great his other successes were.

Even if it took a four-day-old PTI broadcast to make that obvious to me.

Syracuse mixes man, zone defenses

HOOPS, from page 21

with Dan and Chandler is both guys do have range and size," Donovan said. "Dan has played post defense throughout his career here. Now, being more of a small forward, he's had the opportunity to play a lot of guys on the perimeter.

"Dan's gonna need help from the rest of the guys on our team, but he's a guy that can do it in a lot of different ways."

Werner and the rest of the Gators, who have built their identity around their defense so far, will face their biggest test yet against an Orange team averaging 90.4 points per game.

Syracuse has been nearly as impressive on defense, however, only allowing its opponents to score 61.6 points per game compared to Florida's 57.9. The Orange's combination of man and zone defensive schemes has given Donovan plenty to prepare for during his team's longest layoff so far.

"We're gonna have to do a good job playing against man and zone on the offensive end of the floor, make sure we've got good ball movement, good spacing," Donovan said. "Against a lot of zones, you can get caught just shooting 3s. I think we're gonna have to shoot 3s, but we're gonna have to find ways to get the ball into the teeth of their defense as well."



AP Photo

Syracuse forward Wesley Johnson (4) leads the team in scoring, averaging 17 points per game.

UF-Penn St. matchup boasts NCAA Tournament's top two hitting teams

VOLLEY, from page 21

said. "We are looking for cracks, but there are none to be had."

Senior libero Elyse Cusack believes too many errors could spell the end for the Gators.

So far, that has not been a problem for them.

UF has a tournament-best hitting efficiency of .424 in the first two rounds, while Penn State sits with the second-highest percentage.

"We know that we aren't going to be able to make the little errors we got away with earlier in the season," Cusack said. "Playing a great team like Penn State, you can't make unforced errors like that."

The surface the teams play on will be different than the hardwood the O'Connell Center usually features. NCAA rules force all of the sites to put down a sport court sur-

face for any match beyond the second round.

"You can slide better on it," Cusack said. "I like it for defense because you can dive, and you don't stick and you don't get the court burns that I usually get on the hardwood."

The thin layer of extra cushion it provides should work in Cusack's benefit as she looks to become the Southeastern Conference's all-time digs



Volleyball

leader.

She is just four away from breaking the record.

With the record in reach, the tougher task will be to get past Penn State.

"This women's volleyball team of Penn State is UCLA when they had Lew Alcindor, and you know what? No one got UCLA during that stretch — so it's quite the challenge," Wise said.



Ana Goni-Lessan / Alligator Staff

UF libero Elyse Cusack knows her team must limit its unforced errors if the Gators want to knock off the top-ranked Nittany Lions on Friday. Penn State has lost just five sets all year.

BOBBY, from page 21

to prove. It is in a BCS conference and still did not get any consideration for the BCS title game despite finishing undefeated like Texas and Alabama.

A win over the Gators would strengthen the Bearcats' argument that they should have played for the national title.

Florida will likely have to do most of its gameplanning for Brian Kelly's high-scoring offense without defensive coordinator Charlie Strong, who will likely be preparing to take over as Louisville's head coach, which will require him to be on the road recruiting.

Strong has been the leading force in motivating one of the nation's best defenses all season, with his unit's one hiccup coming in

the biggest game of the year.

His replacement is likely to be a combination of Dan McCarney and Chuck Heater. Both are excellent coaches, but it is hard to tell how either will do in getting the defenses to rebound after the embarrassing performance against the Crimson Tide.

Let's face it — none of the players want to be playing in the Sugar Bowl when they could have been attempting to establish

themselves as the greatest team in college football history.

Obviously they are going to want to win the game, but how badly is the question.

Meyer's job is not just going to be fixing the flaws that cost his team the SEC Championship but also getting his team hyped up for a game no one really wants to play, and that might be one of the toughest challenges of his career.

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Home of the 2009 NCAA Volleyball Regionals

End of NCAA football season not end of the world with basketball underway

Florida still has a Sugar Bowl to play, but the mood around Gainesville is college football season is pretty much over.

It was fun while it lasted, but now we can immerse ourselves in my favorite sport: college basketball.

With UF off to a surprisingly good start and a top-10 ranking, it's time we turned our attention to roundball, especially with a matchup with Syracuse just around the corner.

I know football is the king of college athletics, but here's the top-10 reasons why I love college basketball:

10. EARLY SEASON TOURNAMENTS: Most of them are over by now, but the only reason we get to watch Florida and Syracuse go head-to-head is because of the SEC-Big East Invitational. The tournaments give us tons of great nonconference matchups, and a win in the Maui Invitational (Gonzaga), Coaches vs. Cancer Classic (Syracuse) or NIT Season Tip-Off (Duke) can propel your team into conference play with confidence and provide the marquee victories needed to get into the NCAA Tournament in March.

9. THE BIG EAST: Conferences get the word "Big" in their name for no good reason these days, but the Big East is exactly that. It's the SEC of college basketball — if the SEC had 16 teams instead of 12. Sure, there are a few bottom feeders (Rutgers, USF, DePaul, Seton Hall), but what conference doesn't have a few

bad teams? ESPN shows plenty of the action each year on Big Monday, and the Big East Tournament always provides classics like last season's Syracuse-UConn six-OT title game.

8. "ONE SHINING MOMENT": Don't worry, March Madness gets its own paragraph, but "One Shining Moment" is cool enough to be a separate thought of its own. Watching the montage at the end of every NCAA Tournament while the new champion celebrates on the court in its corny locker room victory gear is a must for anyone who loves college sports. It shows the ups and downs of the six-round tournament and puts all the memorable moments to an even more memorable tune. One of my guy friends cries every time he watches that year's edition for the first time, and none of us make fun of him. That's how cool "One Shining Moment" is.

7. COACHING ACTUALLY MATTERS: For the most part, coaching matters more in college sports than pro sports, but that dichotomy is most obvious when comparing the NBA to college basketball. NBA coaches do pretty much nothing. They stand on the sideline, yell at the refs, draw up plays during timeouts and try not to mess things up. With the NCAA's 35-second clock, compared to the NBA's 24-second clock, it allows for more strategy on both ends of the floor and therefore more coaching. Zone defenses are more prevalent, and college kids are still exactly that — kids.



Kyle Maistri
Kyle Points
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Most of them want to be coached.

6. MID-MAJORS: Small conference football schools exist only to get pounded on by big college football schools. In basketball, the small schools occasionally do the pounding, and it's fun to watch. The Cinderella potential for a team like George Mason is something you can't get anywhere else.

5. MID-MAJORS THAT AREN'T MID-MAJORS: Gonzaga, Butler and Xavier all play in mid-major conferences, but none of them are really mid-major schools. Somehow, they have been able to establish themselves as annual powers in a system where big schools have every advantage when it comes to recruiting. It could be compared to Boise State and TCU in football if Boise State and TCU were actually allowed to, you know, COMPETE AGAINST THE BIG SCHOOLS at the end of the year.

4. DICKIE V: Dick Vitale is a legend, and anyone who says otherwise is a Satan-worshipping bastard. His voice is as identifiable as his many catchphrases, and his enthusiasm for the game is a breath of fresh air considering the increasingly corporate nature of college sports. Quite simply put, Dickie V is awesome, baby! (All right, maybe he's a little corny, too.)

3. WHITE GUYS: Basketball has become "the black man's game," and that's perfectly fine with me. The best athletes in the world play in the NBA, which is more than 80 percent black, and that's my favorite league of all, college or professional. But as a white kid whose game is reliant on deft passing and outside shooting, I like to watch some guys who look and play like me every once in a while, and college basketball provides that. I like watching guys like J.J. Redick, Lee Humphrey and Stephen Curry — wait, he was black?! — even if those same guys go on to sit at the end of an NBA bench and get dunked on by LeBron, Kobe and D-Wade at the next level.

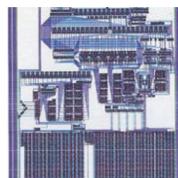
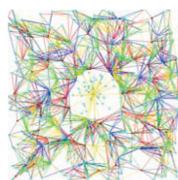
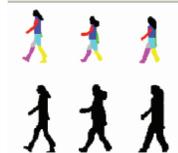
2. DUKE VS. UNC: I hate North Carolina. I hate Duke more. But man, I really love the Duke-UNC basketball rivalry. For my money, it's the best rivalry in all of sports, and it's No. 1 on the list of nonchampionship sporting events I want to attend in my lifetime.

1. MARCH MADNESS: The NCAA Tournament is the exact opposite of the BCS system. It is quite possibly the most perfect and entertaining postseason of any sport out there. Nothing is better than skipping class for a couple days while you glue yourself to the couch and watch the first weekend, which somehow always lives up to the hype. And most importantly, the last team standing earned its championship — something we're not always able to say about college football.

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