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VOLUME 103 ISSUE 76

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2010

BREAKING NEWS

Crash downs power lines, blocks traffic

By **KATHERINE BEIN**
 Alligator Staff Writer

Pedestrians helped out after one driver hit two cars, knocked down a power line and flipped his SUV on its side at Northwest 15th Street and Northwest Fifth Avenue at about 4:40 p.m. Tuesday.

The driver, heading east on Northwest Fifth Avenue, sped through the intersection at Northwest 15th Street, clipping a smaller car as he drove past, said Gainesville Police Department officer Bryon Carroll.

The SUV swerved after the collision, hitting an unoccupied blue SUV parked along the south side of Northwest Fifth Avenue, Carroll said.

The driver lost control of the car and hit a nearby electric pole, breaking the pole and knocking it into the middle of the street and flipping the SUV onto its side, Carroll said.

Neighbors and passers-by rushed to help the driver, who escaped through his front window, Carroll said.

"The pedestrians did a great job providing help to a stranger," he said.

Traffic was blocked temporarily, but no one was seriously injured.



Matt Tripp / Alligator Staff

An SUV sits on its side after a crash involving another car, power line poles and a parked vehicle at about 4:40 p.m. Tuesday at Northwest 15th Street and Northwest Fifth Avenue. According to police, one vehicle (pictured) downed a power pole and wires. There were no major injuries reported.

Wellness program wins national award

By **MORGAN WATKINS**
 Alligator Contributing Writer

Christmas came a week early for the Alachua County Wellness Works program when it received a state award for its creativity in addressing health issues.

The Florida State Surgeon General Health Innovation, Prevention and Management Award was given to the program Dec. 18 by Florida State Surgeon General Dr. Ana M. Viamonte Ros.

"It was a great honor for us to receive recognition from the state, and I think it's great that the state is starting to put health awareness into the spotlight," said

Amy Eisenson, wellness coordinator for the program. "It's great to be a part of that from the beginning and to know that we're moving in the right direction."

The program, created about three years ago, promotes health awareness and provides services for Alachua County government employees, as well as their spouses and children.

It serves about 2,300 workers, Eisenson said.

"Wellness programs are a fast-growing trend. People are more focused on helping employees focus on their health

SEE WELLNESS, PAGE 8

Local News

Intruder kills woman

■ **POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING THE DELAY IN RESPONSE.**

By **KATHERINE BEIN**
 Alligator Staff Writer

A 20-year-old woman was shot and killed while visiting a friend's apartment when two armed intruders forced their way into the home Monday night.

At about 9:30 p.m., Stacey Brown was visiting Manuel Shaw, 21, in his apartment at 5811 NW 23rd Terrace in Pine Ridge when the attackers broke in, according to Gainesville Police Department Capt. Ed Books.

Shaw threatened the invaders with an unloaded gun.

One of the intruders fired two shots from a handgun before escaping, according to Books.

One of those shots was fatal, hitting

Brown.

Police are investigating a delay between their arrival and Brown's shooting, Books said.

Shaw, a convicted felon, was arrested for possession of a firearm. He admitted to having retrieved it from his father's car, Books said.

Although descriptions of the suspects varied too greatly for any good leads, GPD is investigating.

The Gainesville Police Department is asking Gainesville residents to be on the lookout for a 1990s-model white Honda connected with the suspects.

Anyone with information should contact detective Mike Schentrup at 352-334-2471.

To give an anonymous tip, call 352-372-7867.



Shaw

■ **UF guard Erving Walker and the Gators have struggled from three-point range, as their team average has dropped from 37 percent in 2008 to 29 percent this year. See Story, Page 14.**



Car belonging to missing Arizona baby's mom found in Texas

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The car belonging to an Arizona mother who allegedly sent her ex-boyfriend a message saying she'd killed their 8-month-old son was found Tuesday in Texas, but the baby remained missing, an FBI spokesman said.

Gabriel Johnson was last seen in San Antonio when authorities say his 23-year-old mother, Elizabeth Johnson of Tempe, Ariz., spent Dec. 22-27 staying at two motels there. Johnson was arrested last week in Miami

Beach, Fla., on suspicion of custodial interference after she failed to show up for a custodial hearing in Phoenix. Authorities say she has refused to say where her son is.

Johnson's white Oldsmobile was found parked at a San Antonio motel Tuesday evening. A baby seat and other items were inside, and there were no obvious signs of violence, said FBI spokesman Eric Vasys. The vehicle was being combed for evidence of the baby's whereabouts, he said.

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Sunny
 49/23

visit www.alligator.org

News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Pajama and Movie Night

Today, 8 p.m.
Hillel, 2020 W. University Ave.
Students can snuggle up in their pajamas and watch a movie on Hillel's 8-foot-by-10-foot projector screen while snacking on popcorn and drinking hot apple cider.

Back to School Show featuring Cowboy Angels

Friday, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
1982 Bar

Come out and have a good time before school really starts to kick in. Performances by Cowboy Angels (featuring members of The Ataris), Surfers on Acid, Three Legged Dawg, Unarmed Monster, and SoulClean.

Got an event?

And want to post it in this space? Send an e-mail to efuggetta@alligator.org with "What's Happening" in the subject line.

Please include a one- to two-sentence synopsis of the event. Make sure all submissions are formatted properly. Space in this section is limited, and inclusion of event postings is up to the discretion of the Editorial Department.

STATE

German woman charged for grandson's death

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A 71-year-old German woman drowned her 5-year-old grandson in a bathtub while they were vacationing in the Florida Panhandle because she didn't want to see the boy grow up in a divorced home, authorities said Tuesday.

The grandmother, Marianne Bordt, tried to commit suicide after the drowning Monday by wading into the Gulf of Mexico wearing heavy clothes, authorities said. Bordt, of Nufringen, Germany, was charged with first-degree murder in the death of Camden Hiers at a condominium on St. George Island, about 60 miles southwest of Tallahassee.

A public defender was ap-

FORECAST

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
SUNNY 49/23	SUNNY 57/39	RAIN 45/28	PARTLY CLOUDY 45/22	SUNNY 46/23

pointed for Bordt, but no one answered at the office after business hours.

The boy's parents had joint custody of Camden after they divorced in 2006, but he lived mostly with his mother in the Atlanta suburb of Roswell, Ga. His father, David Hiers, lives nearby and is on his way to Florida, according to his attorney.

"I don't think anybody ever knows that a grandparent could be capable of something like this," said Hiers' attorney J. Thomas Salata. "David Hiers is extremely distraught and overwhelmed with grief over this incident."

A phone message left at the mother's home, Karen Hiers, was not immediately returned. She is Bordt's daughter.

Bordt's husband, Heinz, told police he came back from shopping to find his wife returning from the beach sopping wet from the neck down, clad in a red jacket and long underwear.

"Mr. Bordt said that when he went into the house he saw his grandson partial(ly) submerged lying in the bathtub with his face in the water," according to a sworn statement by Franklin County Sheriff's Lt. Ronnie Segree wrote.

"Mr. Bordt pulled him out of the bathtub placing him on the living room floor."

His wife tried to run away from the two-story condominium building, but he forced her into the car and the couple drove to the local fire station, Segree wrote. The boy was dead when authorities arrived.

Marianne Bordt was being held without bond and has been placed under a suicide

watch.

Her case will be reviewed by a grand jury, which must issue an indictment before she can be prosecuted for first-degree murder. The panel also has the option of reducing or rejecting the charge.

First-degree murder convictions in Florida are punishable by either death or life in prison without parole.

Migrating cranes finally resume trip to Florida

RUSSELLVILLE, Ala. (AP) — A flock of whooping cranes whose assisted migration to Florida was halted in Alabama last month have finally taken flight again.

The 20 birds left Russellville Tuesday morning en route to Chilton County. Bad weather and a break for the holidays had kept them grounded since Dec. 17.

Pilots of the ultralight aircraft leading the flock fought frost buildup on the plane's wings and plan to make their next scheduled stop in Jasper.

The assisted migration began in Wisconsin on Oct. 17.

The endangered cranes were raised in captivity and in the absence of parents to teach them the migration route, aircraft are used to lead the birds to Florida.

After making the trip once, the cranes will be able to migrate between their winter and summer homes on their own.

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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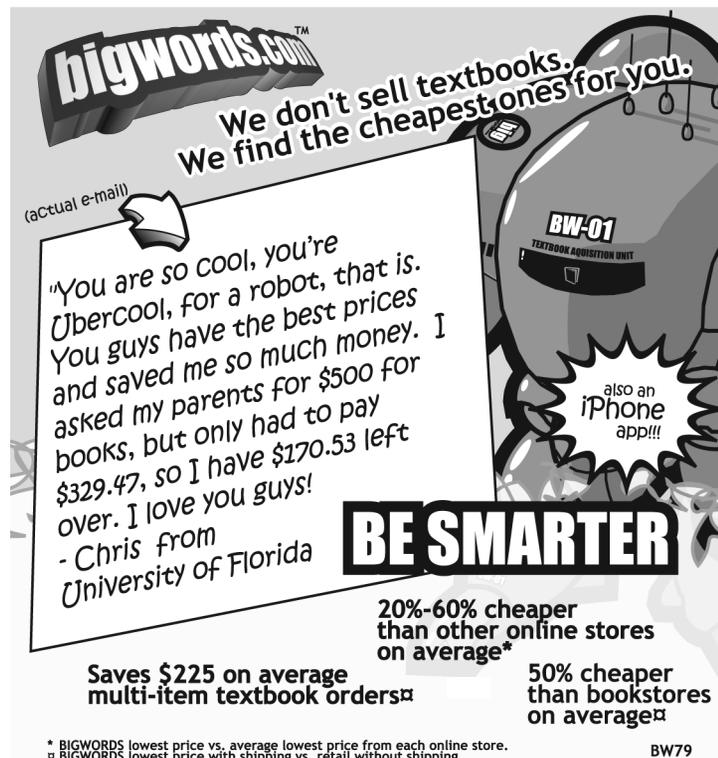
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CORRECTION:

Student Government will be hosting the Spring Housing Fair in the Reitz Union Colonnade on March 24th (not March 25th) from 10 am to 1 pm



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(actual e-mail)
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BW79

Mother faces woman who tried to steal baby

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. — A woman who survived an attempt to cut her unborn baby from her womb came face-to-face with her alleged attacker Tuesday in a courtroom. Teka Adams attended a preliminary hearing, where a judge found probable cause to proceed with attempted murder and other charges against Veronica Deramous.

Authorities say Deramous, 40, met the 29-year-old expecting mother at a homeless shelter and lured her to her Suitland apartment by promising to give her baby clothes.

Police say Deramous held Adams hostage for several days, finally using knives and box cutters to try to cut the baby out Dec. 5. Adams escaped the next day and delivered her baby, naming her Miracle Sky.

Adams brought her baby — dressed in a pink outfit with matching mittens, booties and a hat — to the courtroom. The mother did not testify but made eye contact when Deramous was brought in and looked

shaken.

Afterward, Adams' father, Gregory Burnette, told reporters that seeing Deramous in the courtroom was difficult for the whole family.

"Teka's my youngest daughter, so I felt she was trying to take MY baby," he said, holding back tears. "It's unbelievable. I can't make sense of it all."

National News Burnette said his daughter often can't sleep at night because she is still reliving the attack.

"She's doing much better physically than emotionally," Burnette said.

The baby is doing very well, he said. She and her mother are living with him in Washington, he said.

"She kept me up all night last night," he said. "Baby Miracle is truly a miracle."

Tuesday's hearing lasted less than half an hour. Detective Kevron Gotlieb testified that Deramous told police she had paid Adams \$5,000 for the baby, a claim that prosecutors declined to comment on.

NATIONAL NEWS

Locals react to president's appointment of transgender

By CJ PRUNER
Alligator Writer

Amanda Simpson is a former military test pilot, holds degrees in physics, engineering and business administration and is a newly appointed senior technical adviser for the U.S. Department of Commerce.

She is also the first transgender presidential appointment in American history.

"Being the first sucks," Simpson told ABC News in an interview. "I'd rather not be the first, but... I think that I'm experienced and very well qualified to deal with anything that might show up."

In her new role, she will help with licensing and exports of U.S. military technology.

Once known as Mitchell Simpson, she began her six-year transition from male to female in 2000. In 2004, she won the Democratic nomination to the Arizona House of Representatives before losing in the general election.

According to AC Stokes, director of LGBT Affairs at UF, Simpson's story serves as a momentous occasion for the visibility of transgender people in the U.S. and will hopefully give more transgender people the courage to be themselves.

"It's a big deal to have an out transgender person recognized for her merits and given

"It's a big deal to have an out transgender person recognized for her merits and given the opportunity to serve the U.S. government in any official capacity. Hopefully (her) visibility will add to discussions of the importance of non-discrimination policies as they relate to the outcomes of LGBT people in the U.S."

AC Stokes
director of LGBT Affairs at UF

the opportunity to serve the U.S. government in any official capacity," Stokes wrote in an e-mail. "Hopefully (her) visibility will add to discussions of the importance of non-discrimination policies as they relate to the outcomes of LGBT people in the U.S."

Although she said the appointment might not reflect the average American's attitude toward LGBT people, Stokes hopes the appointment shows there are more to transgender people than their identity.

"While her transgender identity is important...there's clearly more to Amanda Simpson than that," Stokes said.

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New Years' dieters urged to lose weight the right way

UF official advises mindful eating rather than dieting

By **JARED MISNER**
Alligator Staff Writer

Newfound New Year's dieters might find a little extra inspiration to put down the Ding Dongs and speed up the treadmill this week hidden within two lesser known weeklong holidays.

Diet Resolution Week, Jan. 1 to Jan. 7, and National Lose Weight/Feel Great Week, Jan. 1 to Jan. 8, both help to launch newly established diet and exercise plans for the seemingly most popular New Year's resolution, the same resolution which, for many, never survives to see

Groundhog Day: getting in shape.

A 2005 Weight Watcher's study conducted by Harris Interactive found 45 percent of women resolved to lose weight in 2006. Of that 45 percent, almost 100 percent said they thought they would need some assistance to keep that resolution.

But some health professionals warn against the mass fixation on crash dieting.

"Diets don't work," said Janis Mena, registered dietician with UF's GatorWell Health Promotion Services. "They create more problems than they help."

Mena elaborated, saying many fad diets,

such as the Atkins Diet, restrict certain food groups like carbohydrates that are essential to proper nutrition.

"Traditionally, when people go on a diet, they go off a diet," Mena said.

Instead, Mena advised, dieters should focus more on mindful eating and exercising rather than simply cutting calories or eliminating certain foods.

But according to a February 2009 Huffington Post article, cutting calories is "the only diet that works."

The article cited a study conducted in part by Harvard School of Public Health, which

encouraged 811 obese participants to cut their daily caloric intake by 750 calories.

The study found an average weight loss of nine pounds after only six months.

Mena offered slightly different advice for those who found themselves with a New Year's resolution to shed a few pounds.

"It sounds so simple, but eating until you're full and stopping when you are," she said. "Whether it's broccoli or M&M's, put it down and come back to it when you're hungry."

In the end, Mena said she doesn't like to use scales as a dieting tool; they encourage an abnormal fixation on weight instead of mindful eating, she said.

"Let your clothes be the judge," Mena said, "not the scale."

Student Senate honors students, outlines spring agenda

By **ELIZABETH BEHRMAN**
Alligator Writer

Student Senators created some New Year's resolutions of their own during Tuesday night's Senate meeting.

Student Body President Jordan Johnson stopped by and spoke with senators about upcoming issues for 2010.

Johnson discussed the recent changes to Bright Futures policy, the possible debut of textbook

rental programs and the question of mandatory student health insurance as major items on the Student Senate to-do list.

"This semester is ultimately going to be determined by the job we're going to do up in Tallahassee," Johnson said.

Johnson said the Student Senate will discuss a bill coming forth in the State Legislature that would decide whether Florida colleges should mandate health insurance for students.

Mandatory health insurance would result in a 5 percent to 7



Max Reed / Alligator

UF Student Body President Jordan Johnson addresses the Student Senate about an online textbook rental program and mandatory student health insurance coverage Tuesday night in the Reitz Union.

percent rise in the cost of college downside would be the additional expense for students, but ing extra protection in case of accident or illness.

Johnson said the obvious students would benefit from having "It's a tough conversation, and

there's definitely two sides to the story," he told the Senate. "There always is."

Earlier in the meeting, Orange and Blue Party Sen. Jonathan Ossip said he plans on discussing the Reitz Union fee in next week's meeting.

Ossip said the Orange and Blue Party plans on presenting a resolution at next week's meeting that advocates putting a question about the fee on the spring election ballot.

He said the question would have two parts: It would ask students if there should be a fee and if the fee should cover expansion as well as renovations.

"We really just want to give students as much of a choice in this matter as possible," Ossip said.

The discussion took a more somber turn as Senators remembered students who died during the fall 2009 semester, including Daniel J. Arena, Samantha Grosse and Erin Pelton.

Senators unanimously passed a resolution honoring the students and offering condolences to their families and friends.

School of Music receives tune-up with new pianos

■ THE SCHOOL PURCHASED 61 PIANOS FOR \$1.23M.

By **NICOLE LYNN GREINER**
Alligator Contributing Writer

The University of Florida School of Music is fine-tuning its program with the addition of 61 Steinway & Sons pianos, making it the largest owner of Steinway & Sons pianos in Florida.

Andy Howard, spokesman for the College of Fine Arts, said the pianos cost \$1.23 million and will replace the old pianos dating back to the 1950s and 1960s.

Most of the new pianos were delivered Dec. 21, to the UF School of Music, Howard said.

Howard said they were purchased

with the help of donations and through a loan from UF, which will be repaid by the music department over seven years.

In order to help pay for the loan, students will be charged equipment fees for classes that use the pianos, according to Howard.



Howard

Joanna Gardner, a music education sophomore, expressed her excitement about the recent purchases.

"To some it may seem like an insignificant detail to have newer instruments — especially pianos — but in my opinion, pianos are an essential tool for all of the music students and professors," Gardner said.



Thomas Plevik / Alligator Staff

Sophomore Danielle Johnson's reflection appears on the surface of one of the new Steinway & Sons pianos purchased for the School of Music.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SWAMP

UF ranked among best school values

By **JENNIFER BATE**
Alligator Writer

UF was ranked No. 2 by Kiplinger's Personal Finance as one of America's 100 Best Values in Public Colleges.

It ranked behind the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

UF spokesman Steve Orlando was not surprised by the rankings, noting that UF has placed second to UNC Chapel Hill for several years.

"What is very interesting though is that our tuition, even with the increase, is still lower than UNC and the national average," said Orlando. "It really speaks volumes to the kind

of value that our students are getting for the tuition they are paying."

The Kiplinger rankings are based on a combination of academics and affordability, according to its Web site.

UF is required to use the money from the tuition increase to hire additional faculty, which allows the university to increase the quality of education, said Orlando.

Other Florida schools that made the cut were No. 12 New College of Florida, No. 17 Florida State University, and No. 36 University of Central Florida, according to the site.

For more information, visit www.kiplinger.com.

Study shows students' crimes

By **ANDREW WYZAN**
Alligator Contributing Writer

As students start a new semester, a recent study recommends they take note of their new classmates — one of them might have a criminal record.

A nationwide study by MyBackgroundCheck.com, a private supplier of background checks, found that about one out of every 29 college students has or once had an adult criminal record.

The study looked at 13,859 students in 125 universities across the country.

Driving violations represented the highest percentage of crimes, making up 60 percent of the total, according to a press release.

Other violations, such as theft, drug possession and sexual abuse, each made up less than 10 percent of the crimes, according to the release.

The release stated that the study only included criminal convictions and excluded dismissed charges and juvenile records. It did not distinguish between crimes committed before or after the student started college.

Robert Mather, CEO of MyBackgroundCheck.com, offered advice for students in light of the results of the study.

"This high number is an indicator that educators, roommates and students should be educated about who they are living with and who is in the classroom," Mather said.

Mather also criticized some universities for

not conducting background checks on incoming students.

Pat Herring, the UF director of admissions, said UF does not require a background check for prospective students.

On the UF application, students must answer a conduct question asking if they have been arrested or charged with a crime, Herring said.

If they answer yes, the Department of Admissions sends a referral to the Dean of Students office, which decides future actions on a case-by-case basis, Herring said.

"We don't have the authority to investigate a criminal background check, and we don't do many referrals," Herring said.

Herring was critical of the study and questioned the results.

"In my experience — that's 20 years working at UF — that number is circumspect," Herring said.

Jaelyn Irwin, a UF sophomore, was not surprised by the results of the study.

"You hear all the time about driving violations, even on campus," Irwin said.

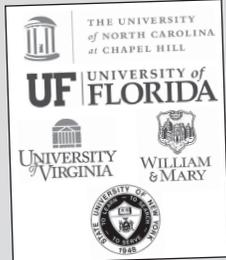
She said she agrees with UF's policy on background checks and that the decision to perform the check should be based on the type of crime.

But Mather said the levels of concern regarding each crime vary.

"A student could be arrested for jaywalking and most people wouldn't be concerned, but we encourage people to discuss it."

BEST VALUES IN PUBLIC COLLEGES 2009-10

- 1 The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2 The University of Florida
- 3 The University of Virginia
- 4 The College of William and Mary
- 5 State University of New York at Binghamton



Information courtesy of kiplinger.com

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What is the job? Our clients are UF grads who want to help new members of the Gator Nation. They are looking for sharp Gators who have the initiative and motivation to make it big in the business world. Our clients range from agronomic industry giants to small, privately held medical research facilities... the list is long. The November 9th Group, LLC is creating a pool of qualified, Gator Nation candidates to submit to clients in need of summer interns and new graduates to fill positions for their expanding business activities.

How does the application process work? Bring two paper copies of your resumé to our local agent on campus. One copy will be reviewed, critiqued, and returned to you with suggestions for improvement. The other copy will be kept on file for 6 months. Your resumé will be reviewed and ranked by successful business leaders within The November 9th Group's network of professional contacts. As positions are announced, your resumé is forwarded to the interested party as a candidate who has "passed muster" from the review committee. This doesn't guarantee you a job, it simply gets your paper in front of decision-makers. There is no fee for this service.

The November 9th Group is accepting resumé from 7 to 8 January 2010.

Bring your resumé to the local Nov 9th Group associate, David Ozawa, 21 West Fraternity Road, (Sigma Nu Fraternity House on campus), Gainesville, FL 32603 between the hours of 2-6 PM. Only personally delivered copies are accepted, and you must be a UF student or graduate. Good luck and GO GATORS!

Rip Kirby, UF '74
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Editorial

Gender Bender

Americans should not be shocked by appointment

To say that living as a transgender American is difficult is probably an understatement. But with the national spotlight beaming down on you (not to mention press camera lights), it just plain “sucks,” according to Amanda Simpson.

She would know.

Simpson is the first openly transgender presidential appointee, and yesterday she began her job working at the U.S. Commerce Department.

This appointment has brought the attention of national media as Simpson was inundated by cameras and reporters on her first day.

It's not the spotlight that bothers her most, though. The media has jumped on the notion that this is a political appointment designed to appease Obama's liberal base; his track record with the gay community has been lackluster thus far.

Simpson says that she was hired on her merits rather than for some kind of political positioning.

As expected, the source of the arguments that Simpson's appointment was purely political is Christian-right groups like Focus on the Family.

A spokeswoman for the group further argues that the appointment undermines “the most basic organization of social systems” — gender — and that it asks society to “radically reorder” the ways that we make “reasonable and rational accommodation for the two genders.”

Unwarranted attacks and prejudice aside, the fact that this appointment has attracted so much attention means that maybe Americans really do need to “radically reorder” the way they think about gender.

Because if a person can't go to work without cameras, questions and criticism simply because of an issue of gender, then we are sorely lacking any kind of “rational accommodation.”

Dr. Dummy

Remember the Octomom? Since there's probably not a soul out there fortunate enough to be puzzled by this question, we think it's better to celebrate her re-emergence in the news with something more fitting. How about...

Remember the Octomom.

Because just like the Alamo, this is a battle we lost, and one that we desperately need to remember. What was the battle you ask?

This time around, the tabloid-fueled media blitz revolves around her defense of the fertility doctor who helped her conceive 14 children. According to the Associated Press, Octomom (aka Nadya Suleman) gave an interview to an online tabloid stating that the doctor did “absolutely nothing wrong.”

We disagree. Herein lies the battle: balancing the right to personal privacy with medical safety (and sanity).

No one should dictate

what women (or anyone for that matter) can do with their bodies, especially when it comes to reproductive issues. But few would argue that this procedure or its result is safe or healthy... or sane. It endangered the mother and the children will surely find it difficult to lead a normal life.

Fortunately, The California Medical Board agrees with us. It has accused the doctor, Michael Kamrava, of gross negligence. Emphasis on gross.

He transferred too many embryos (as she already had six kids, one was probably too many), used fresh embryos when frozen ones were available, and most importantly he failed to refer her for a mental health evaluation.

Aggressively pursuing doctors who ignore medical guidelines may be the only way to prevent these absurd procedures while protecting the rights of mothers.

Either way, remember the Octomom.

the independent florida
alligator

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

Opinions

ALLIGATOR
www.alligator.org/opinions



Column

Last decade produced culture of fear

Last decade was not a fun decade in which to grow up. I'm certainly in that group. When the decade began, I was 11, so the entirety of my adolescence and the first few years of my numerical adulthood took place over the past ten years.

But that decade's most worrisome effects will be felt by those actually born during the 2000s. Simply put, they have had the misfortune of not only growing up during a decade that saw a culture of fear flourish, but having never known an alternative.

If you were born in the 2000s, the specter of 9/11 has never not been a part of your life. The images of a plane slamming into the World Trade Center — terrifying, horrible and mesmerizing in the worst possible way when I first watched it on CNN in middle school — have been replayed, reproduced and recreated so many times over the past decade that they now comprise a sort of emotional clip art for fear and confused apprehension.

If you were born in the 2000s, you've never not had the Department of Homeland Security inform you of how frightened you should be via a color-coded scale. The Homeland Security Advisory System has been argued over and mocked so much since its inception in 2002 that it almost seems gratuitous to point out how flawed it is.

But normalizing the idea that we should constantly be, at minimum, on a yellow “elevated” level of awareness has the effect of normalizing a constant elevated level of fear, something underscored by the fact that there is likely no circumstance under which anyone at Homeland Security would ever allow the scale to dip to blue (“general risk”) or green (“low risk”), and that the public has no real, substantive instructions on what to do when it goes from yellow to orange. Whether by design or by poor execution, the five-tiered system is in reality a three-tiered scale of “be scared,” “be scarer,” or “be scarest.”

If you were born in the 2000s, the United States has

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



Joe Dellosa
letters@alligator.org

never not been at war. That's absolutely true in a literal sense. The war in Afghanistan has been going on since 2001, the war in Iraq since 2003, and since then, we have never not had service members taking part in major combat operations. And there's not an end in sight. While President Obama has said that a drawing down of troops should take

place in July 2011, Richard Engel of NBC News obtained a Pentagon report describing the gross unreadiness of the Afghan National Army, saying that it “cannot take a year to fix this problem.”

But more strikingly, the United States has perpetually been in a “war on terror” — a phrase that essentially suggests a war on a tactic, akin to declaring a “war on naval combat” or a “war on guerilla fighting.” In that sense, it's a meaningless phrase that works well as a marketing slogan but either oversimplifies and obscures real issues or damns us into endless war.

I can think of two general reactions to a culture of fear. The first is a constant state of panic. That's certainly dangerous. Panicked people make bad decisions, often to assuage short-term agitation at the expense of long-term principles.

But the more dangerous reaction is a collective numbing, and it's all the more worrisome when the numbing happens among kids: the idea that fear is normal, that war is not a big deal, that service members dying overseas is nothing but a brief news update, that the displaced and killed civilians in foreign lands are not just collateral damage but completely acceptable damage.

I think this is more or less apolitical: The last decade was awful.

We owe those kids a better ten years.

Joe Dellosa is an advertising senior

Reader response

Today's question: Are you against Obama appointing a transgender official?

Tuesday's question: Are you cold?

86% YES

14% NO

71 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org



Letter to the Editor

Claim that doctors are problem is false

This is in response to Kenneth Maness' letter in Tuesday's Alligator asserting that "doctors are the real problem with health care in America." His broadside contributes nothing to the serious debate about American health care reform. Further, he demonstrates the epitome of ignorance about a health care system that involves countless parties: doctors, patients, insurance carriers, malpractice attorneys and dozens of state and federal government agencies, each of whom contribute to

how health care is provided and consumed in America and each of whom impact the cost of that care.

Maness and others might be interested to know that physicians' services account for only 21 percent of U.S. health costs, and a primary driver of reimbursement rates is determined by whatever Medicare agrees to pay for a certain level of care. Enough vitriol exists in debating American health care reform without the need for baseless attacks.

David E. Winchester, MD

UF CLAS Alumnus and Cardiology Fellow

Congress should reinstate estate tax

On New Year's Day, the estate tax, an essential part of the U.S. tax system for almost 100 years, disappeared because Congress failed to act in December.

Congressional leaders now are pledging to act in early 2010 to reinstate the federal estate tax retroactive to Jan. 1. In the meantime, rhetoric over the estate tax will heat up while Congress grapples with what to do now.

This crazy situation is the result of the Bush tax cuts for the super-rich, tax cuts that were supposed to lead to "trickle-down" prosperity for the rest of us. What we have seen instead is stagnation of wages for most Americans, while those at the very top have become extraordinarily rich. In fact, disparities of wealth and income are now at the highest level since the Gilded Age, just before the stock market crash of 1929.

With so much wealth in so few hands, our economy has begun to operate more like a casino, with high-risk speculation fueling boom-and-bust cycles that have

Brian Miller
American Forum

wrecked communities across our country. The gilded yachts of the super-rich have left in their wake capsized rafts of the unemployed

and whole communities drowning in foreclosures.

That's not what America should be about.

Instead of pandering to the whims of the super-rich and their heirs, we need Congress to strengthen the Main Street economy, beginning with a vibrant middle class and a respect for honest, hard work. Giving a huge tax giveaway to the heirs of America's wealthiest families is entirely the wrong approach.

It's time to stop showering wasteful tax breaks upon the super-rich. We instead must call upon Congress to strengthen the federal estate tax and support proposals that find a middle ground between the weakened 2009 estate tax and the pre-Bush level of 2001.

Brian Miller, Executive Director of United for a Fair Economy

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Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

Students eat lunch while seated in a stairway in the Hub on the UF campus Tuesday afternoon. The students cited cold outdoor temperatures and a crowded Hub as reasons for sitting on the stairs.

Bottles of honey cause shutdown

■ OFFICIALS THOUGHT THE BOTTLES CONTAINED TNT.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRESNO, Calif. — The suspicious material found inside luggage that prompted the shutdown of a California airport Tuesday morning turned out to be five soft drink bottles filled with honey, authorities said.

A passenger's suitcase tested positive for TNT at Bakersfield's Meadows Field during a routine swabbing of the bag's exterior, Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood said. When officials opened the bag, they found bottles filled with an amber liquid, he said.

"Why in this day and age would someone take a chance carrying honey in Gatorade bottles?" Youngblood asked. "That itself is an alarm. It's hard to understand."

Investigators said the bag's owner, Francisco Ramirez, 31, is a gardener from Milwaukee who has been cooperating with authorities. He flew to Bakersfield Dec. 23

to spend Christmas with his sister and was returning Tuesday when the alarm sounded.

When TSA agents opened one of the bottles and tested the contents, the resulting fumes nauseated them, Youngblood said. Both were treated and released at a local hospital.

"It's encouraging that the system did work, because something is not right there," Youngblood said.

National News "The system worked the way it was supposed to, but it just takes time when you close an airport — and it costs a lot of money."

All flights into and out of Meadows Field were canceled for much of Tuesday as authorities searched the terminal for other potential explosives.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office bomb squad was expected to perform further tests on the honey to determine why at least two false positives were recorded for both TNT and the organic explosive acetone peroxide, or TATP.

Investigators want to know whether any chemical Ramirez uses in his gardening work could have left traces of potential explosives. They will also run tests on the honey to see if the smoke beekeepers use to subdue the insects could have triggered the false positive test.

Ramirez was not arrested Tuesday. Authorities initially questioned his immigration status, but U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman Virginia Kice said Tuesday afternoon that Ramirez is a legal permanent resident of the U.S.

"I suspect after this he won't want to eat honey again, ever," Youngblood said.

The discovery came less than two weeks after a man was charged with trying to destroy a Northwest Airlines flight as it approached Detroit. He is alleged to have smuggled an explosive device on board the aircraft and set it off, but the device sparked only a fire and not the intended explosion.

Airline security has been tightened since the arrest.

Program encourages employees to exercise

WELLNESS, from page 1

because it helps both them and the company overall," she said. "It's become a cost-saving method."

On-site health screenings are provided for conditions including skin cancer and hearing tests, Eisenson said.

The program also offers a variety of classes for employees and their families, including yoga and strength-training classes.

Employees can choose to attend the classes during their breaks, allowing them to exercise during the workday.

"It's meant to fit into their workday, not add to

or take away from it," she said.

While classes are used more by employees and their spouses than their children, she said the organization is considering developing programs geared toward helping children prepare for their futures and develop good habits while they are young.

Eisenson, who is the only full-time staff member of the wellness program, said the organization is continually trying to develop and improve its services.

"We're a very young program, but we want to reach as many employees and families as possible," she said. "We're constantly planning for the future."

NATIONAL NEWS

Mormon relives first mission experiences

Editor's note: This is the second installment in a four-part series. For the first part of the series, please see Alligator.org.

By CJ PRUNER

Alligator Writer

As friends and relatives made their way to James Tate's house, he couldn't help but reminisce about the world he was to leave behind. Wherever he was going, his family and friends couldn't follow.

Tate was about to open a letter that would dictate where he would spend the next two years of his life as a Mormon missionary.

With 30 to 40 family members and friends looking on, he took hold of the envelope, his hands vibrantly shaking with anxiety. As he took out the contents, his curious eyes betrayed the formality of the event, reading the first few lines. With a deep breath, he announced the contents to those gathered:

"You have been called to serve in the Jacksonville, Fla., Mission—" he got out before a storm of applause and cheers broke the solemnity. As tears of joy sprinkled from his family, he read on.

"You are to report to the Missionary Training Center in three weeks—"

"What?" his mother, choking back gasps of exasperation, yelled.

"Oh, I meant months, three months," an embarrassed Tate clarified. All the wind in the room was pushed out by sighing releases of air.

"Oh, thank goodness," said his mom, clutching her chest in relief. "Don't scare me like that."

About a year before Tate opened his mailbox to find his "call," Marques Schroeder stood in virtually the same position, roughly 540 miles away in Ogden, Utah, when he was called to the same training center.

Schroeder didn't see what the big deal was. Why were there all the tears? He was just doing what any good Mormon would do. He'd only be gone for two years; it would be like an extended vacation — a really long, holy vacation.

"I don't really get too emotional. I guess there's something wrong with me," said Schroeder, who let a fleeting smile escape from his generally humble demeanor. "I knew it was coming, so there was no reason to get all worked up about it."

For the Schroeder family, this was something greater. Had it not been for the Mormon missionaries who had brought his parents to the church when they were teenagers, this day wouldn't have happened.

As the oldest of five brothers, it

would be up to him to provide the moral compass and set the example. He would be called to give the same kind of love and effort that the missionaries had shown his parents more than 25 years ago.

He was ready.

The Many Faces of Faith

While the rest sleep at the Missionary Training Center, Tate creeps through the hall, holding a can of shaving cream. With a trail of repressed laughter following from behind, he carefully tiptoes toward his next target's room, an impending casualty of teenage male humor.

"I was so nervous, I almost spewed my lunch all over the seat."

James Tate
Mormon missionary

Although this type of behavior won't be looked upon highly by church supervisors, it helps to alleviate the sting of homesickness. That final day at the airport had been incredibly difficult, as wails of sorrow from relatives young and old echoed down the terminal as he boarded his flight to Provo, Utah, bound for the Missionary Training Center.

"I was so nervous, I almost spewed my lunch all over the seat," he said.

Located on the foot of mountainous landscape, the MTC serves as a Mormon missionary boot camp. For anywhere from three to 12 weeks, young Mormon men and women from all across the world come to learn the ways of the missionary. There, church officials and ex-missionaries instruct the rookies on what to expect, as well as effective teaching techniques to incorporate when they go out into the world. If the trainees are to be sent to a foreign country, they must endure an intensive crash-course in the native language, which can be an exhausting process.

Softly shaking the can of shaving cream so as to not let the rattle thwart his plan, he unleashes squirts of white foam, turning the sleeping missionary into a clownish caricature. This prank is so much better than the time he used a bullhorn at six in the morning to wake up fellow missionaries.

The victim, feeling the foamy mass on his face, jolts out of his slumber, knowing that he has fallen prey to comedic levity. He knows the perpetrator before the lights come on.

"Tate!"

Looking back, Tate cannot help but burst into laughter.

"I'm such a jerk," he said, shaking his head.

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offers of goods and/or services through any advertising contained herein.

2 For Rent unfurnished

Move in Today!

All Inclusive roommate matching - \$606 Spacious 2/2 Townhomes - & LOCATION! Park-n-Ride Bus Route-So you can sleep in! 3500 SW 19th Ave*www.MuseumWalk.com *379-9255*

4-21-09-71-2

HUGE 5 BED HOUSE!

3 baths, enclosed front patio W/D, Wood Floors, Fireplace 3 blocks to UF! Pets welcome! 372-7111 * 106 NW 10 Street

4-21-09-71-2

LAKWOOD VILLAS

Large 1, 2 & 3 bdrm Floor Plans; Starting at \$830. Corporate units available. Furniture Packages Include: Washer/Dryer; Workout Rm, Tennis Court; Swimming Pool; Sauna etc. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 10-3 700 SW 62nd Blvd 877-781-8314 www.lakewoodvillas.com text (lakewood)@65586

4-21-09-71-2

● SPYGLASS ●

Individual Leases: Furniture Packages Incl Washer/Dryer, FREE Hispeed Internet; Rates start at \$399 Every Unit is an End Unit Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 10-3 701 SW 62nd Blvd 888-267-5078 www.spyglassapts.com text (spyglass)@65586

4-21-09-71-2

ACROSS FROM UF!

Studios - \$465, includes electric! Wood floors available. FREE parking. 1225 SW 1 Avenue * Pets welcome 372-7111 No move-in fees!

4-21-09-71-2

BRAND NEW REDUCED RATES!

1's, 2's, 3's * Inclusive Pkgs Available * Pet Friendly! * Immediate or Fall Move In 352-374-3866

4-21-09-71-2

Walk to Class!

1brs from \$499 - 150 ft from UF! Move-in today. FREE parking! Pets Welcome! No Move-in Fees. 372-7111 * 1216 SW 2nd Ave

4-21-09-71-2

\$399 FOR EVERYTHING All Inclusive Student Suites Roommate Match*Feline Friendly! AstroTurf Soccer Field 352-271-3131*GainesvillePlace.com 4-21-71-2

Action Real Estate Services Houses to Condos 1-4 BR, Starting at \$450 www.action-realtors.com 352-331-1133

4-21-09-71-2

NOW LEASING FOR FALL 2010 Utility Packages Available

Upscale 1br-4br 3000 SW 35th Place EnclaveUF.com*352.376.0696

4-21-09-71-2

WALK TO CAMPUS

1BRs from \$550 2BRs from \$600 Sun Bay ● Sun Key ● Sun Harbor 352-376-6720 www.sunisland.info

Ask about our new pet policy & other specials 4-21-09-71-2

Wake Up 10 Min Before Class ...AND be on time!

Studios from \$499, 1s from \$575 \$0 M/I Fees, Pet Friendly 371.7777 CollegeParkUF.com

4-21-09-71-2

● Check out our apartments. Priced from \$400-\$525. Close to shopping & university. ● Also 3BR/2BA house available. \$900/mo. No section 8. Call 335-7066 for info. 4-21-09-71-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

FOX HOLLOW

Gated Entry ASK ABOUT OUR MOVE-IN SPECIAL RATES STARTING AT \$449 7301 W Univ Ave Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 10-2 352-332-3199 www.cmcp.com/foxxhollow

4-21-09-71-2

WALK & BIKE TO UF

●1BR/1BA \$425 ●2BR \$450-\$620 - W/D incl Gore Rabell Real Estate 378-1387 www.Gore-Rabell.com 4-21-09-71-2

The Grove Villas

Rental Community Ask about our Move-in Specials Gated Community 6400 SW 20th Ave 888-373-0849

4-21-09-71-2

1BR/1BA apt, \$499/mo. 3320 SW 23rd St. Each unit has a private gated court yard. On bus route close to Shands, VA & College of Vet Med. Pets <50lbs arranged. 352-377-2150 or paloverde3320@yahoo.com 1-29-10-60-2

PET'S PARADISE

\$390 - \$650. No app or pet fee. 1 & 2BR, privacy fenced. SW. 352-331-2099 1-8-09-43-2

Working at Shands or VA- nice 2/1 @ Summit House across the street. \$700/mo + \$200 dep. Call 352-8430-0220 to see. 1-29-47-2

WWW.BIKETOUF.COM

* 1 BR from \$575 * 2 BR from \$625 * 3 BR from \$745

Tanning*Fitness*Tennis*Pool Washer/Dryer*Pets Welcome! Call us for a tour! 377-7401

4-21-09-71-2

● 2BR/1.5BA TOWNHOUSE

7209 SW 45th Pl. \$600/mo No pets. Call Geri 352-538-1114 1-20-10-28-2

FIRST MONTH FREE MILLRUN CONDO

Close to UF, cute & clean 2BD/2BA 1000sq ft, storage/laundry room with W/D hks-ups, pool. Pets considered. Rent \$695/mo Phone (352) 359-8311 1-29-09-35-2

Custom 2BR/1BA in pvt 4 Unit complx. Tiled flr in Liv rm, Carpet in BRs w/ceiling fans. All new BA. New Kit w/stainless appl, W/D, Cent H/A, i-net/cable avail. Mgr pays water, pest contrl, lawn main, security lites. Near bus rte. Sorry no pets \$635/mo Call 727-423-9463 ●Also avail: Fully furn 2BR/1BA \$735/mo. 1-19-09-23-2

\$100 OFF 1st MONTH RENT. 2 BR/1.5 Bath Phoenix apt. 1 mile to campus and Shands on bus route. W/D conn. Fenced yard. \$500 security, \$550/month. 2640 SW 31st Place Unit B. 562-2782 or 514-6869 if interested. 1-6-14-2

WALK/BIKE TO UF/SHANDS! Campus Edge 1BR/1bath, washer/dryer, stove,dishwasher, pool,gym,no pets,\$550/m,2360 SW Archer Rd.561-313-1549 Owner agent 1-11-09-15-2

STEPS TO LAW SCHOOL

● Large 1BR/1BA \$475/mo ● 1BR in 4BR/2BA house \$350/mo Clean, quiet, split utils. W/D. Call Tom 954-529-4031, www.pleasantstreet.net (for pics) 1-6-09-10-2

\$99 Moves-U-IN! \$299 + 75 utility package. Downtown Vintage room, or 34th st condo room w/private bath & walk-in closet. 352-226-3535, 713-705-6279 1-7-09-10-2

3/1 Vintage House! \$900/month Walk to UF! Porch, w/d hook-ups, central AC 352-226-3535, 713-705-6279 517 NW 8th St 1-7-09-10-2

4 Bed/2 bath Vintage House \$990/month. Walk to UF! Univ/by Leo706. 818 SW 3rd Ave. Central A/C, porch, w/d, and close to downtown too. 352-226-3535, 713-705-6279 1-7-09-10-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

BLOCKS TO UF

Available August 2010. Now showing multiple houses. 2BR/2BA, 3BR/2BA, 4BR/3BA, 5BR/3BA. www.dalyproperties.com or call Carol 359-3341 2-26-10-43-2

Move-In Now & Walk to UF

2BR \$300/br * 1BR \$599 * Studio \$720 Dorm style \$509 Roommate Matching Avail www.ForRentNearUF.com * 352-376-6223 4-21-71-2

100+ apts: Live by UF

* Affordable & Luxury * 4BR \$479/br 3BR \$550/br * 2BR \$420/br * 1BR \$689 Studios \$605 * Virtual Tours * Avail Fall 352-376-6223 * www.LiveNearCampus.com 4-21-71-2

2BR/2BA, kitchen, living room, loft, laundry, patio, large 6 ft fenced backyard, small pet allowed; excellent, clean; minutes to all shops & UF. \$800/mo. Call Hal at 653-281-7414 or 800-248-7788 1-13-10-10-2

HOUSE avail Dec 15th. 3BR/2BA, 1.5 miles to UF, near the Landings Apts. On UF bus rte. Bike to UF. Fenced backyard, fireplace, cent H/A.C. 3627 SW 15th St. \$850/mo. Call 327-2931 or 376-6183 1-8-10-7-2

WOODLAND TERRACE APTS

Off SW 34th St near post office. 2BR \$560; 1BR \$520. Call for daily specials. 352-335-0420 1-29-10-20-2

SERENOLA PINES APTS

Off SW 34th St. near post office. 1BR \$560; 2BR \$635 Call for daily specials 352-335-0420 1-29-10-20-2

Luxury Student Condos Close To Campus Includes internet and utilities From \$385 per month each. Please call us for the details. Bristol Park Realty (352) 367-2669 1-29-09-20-2

Luxury student condos close to calmus. Includes internet & tuilities From \$385 per month each. Please call us for the details. Bristol park Realty 352-367-2669 1-29-10-20-2

2BR/1BA w/ small study near Shands. Large screened room w/ W/D hook-ups. Available now. \$650/mo. Sec dep \$650. Pets ok 3300 SW 23rd St. Apt #1. Call 352-371-3473 leave message. 1-15-10-10-2-

2 For Rent unfurnished

Townhouse 2BR/1.5BA, WD hook-up. New kitchen w/ private courtyard. \$700/mo, Sec dep \$700. Pets ok. 4007 B SW 26th Terr. Call 352-371-3473 leave message 1-15-10-10-2

2/2.5 Beacon Hill Condo. 1400sgft built in 2006. 1.5mi to Shands/UF. Jet tub in Master bath with dual sinks. Balcony in 2nd bedroom. pets ok. \$800/mo. 352-256-0639 or gqgator07@yahoo.com 1-11-10-6-2

Historic Pettit House in dntwn Waldo. 1 bdrm apt \$575.00 (1st, last & security). front & back porches, fenced yard. convenient to G'ville & Starke. Coffee cafe next door. Great for grad student. 378-2141 lv. msg. 1-11-10-5-2

SWEET 2/1 POOL HOUSE

Prime location, 708 NW 10th Ave. incl all Utills, W/D, beamed ceiling, swimming pool. Avail 1st Jan. \$440 + sec. Call Karl 332-5030 1-8-10-4-2

\$400/mo Room to rent Rockwood Villa Condo, pvt bath, on bus route, wd, cent h/a, cble/intrnt some utilities, non-smoking, female only - 904.874.6877 1-20-10-10-2

\$99 Move-IN Special

\$500-\$700 2 bed/1 bath Walking distance to UF and downtown (352)226-3535 or (352)505-9264 2-17-10-30-2

Holiday Special/ Valentine's Day

NO MOVE-IN COSTS - Free Rent (Don't Pay Anything til 12/14/10) Please Hurry.... Only A Few Units Avail! (Se Habla Español)/ 352 240-9009 2-12-09-27-2

Rocky Point Apts 3100 sw 35th pl- 376-1619 Country Garden 2001 sw 16th st- 373-4500 Regency Oaks 3230 sw Archer rd 378-5766 Southwest Villas 3643 sw 20 ave 336-9000 Archer Woods 3020 sw Archer rd- 373-8727 2-12-09-27-2

UPPER WESTSIDE & NANTUCKET WALK

1 & 2 bdrm. Luxury Apartments Granite counters. Parking avail. Walk to campus & the stadium For info. call 352-872-4644 4-21-10-73-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

1/1, Ridgeview, free water, next to park, on the bus line, cent H/A, courtyard, 2 miles to UF, convenient to shopping, no smoking, no pets. \$470 SD, \$470/mo 562-2824 1-12-10-5-2

Cute & Clean! Vintage 1-BR with wood floors & great front porch in quiet NW area. Walk to Ward's, Publix & buslines, bike to downtown & UF. Avail. NOW! \$575/mo. 352-338-7670 or email shepley@cozygator.com 1-12-10-5-2

3 Subleases

3 rooms Spring 2010 sublease, in 6 spacious bdrm house. Awesome Location! 2 min. to walk to campus, 5 min. walk to Sor. Row. FREE Designated Parking Spot, wood flrs. 2 kitchens, front porch & fire place Call Ansley (772)216-5773 aplatts2@ufl.edu 1-6-5-3

FIRST MONTH FREE 1/1 in a 4/4 in Gainesville Place \$399/mo all inclusive - best deal in town! AVAILABLE ASAP (727)804-4765 or smithse@ufl.edu 1-8-5-3

Male sublease in Biven's Cove available anytime January thru July. Only \$323 a month plus utilities, W/D, direct bus route to campus contact Trevor at 239.682.6351 1-11-5-3

<<<SUB-LEASE SIGNING BONUS>>> 3br/3ba @ The Enclave apt. Two great male roommates, full kitchen, w/d, patio, fully furnished! \$375/mo lease ends @ end of July. Contact BL @ 954-701-0487 1-13-6-3

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A ₁	E ₁	U ₁	F ₄	R ₁	M ₃	F ₄	
A ₁	E ₁	E ₁	L ₁	D ₂	L ₁	G ₂	
O ₁	O ₁	Y ₄	W ₄	R ₁	C ₃	B ₃	
A ₁	E ₁	U ₁	F ₄	L ₁	S ₁	T ₁	

Triple Word Score

3rd Letter Double

PAR SCORE 145-155
BEST SCORE 231

FOUR RACK TOTAL _____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 4th Edition. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

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01-06

MOST WANTED



Ivey Hawkins
Black Male
(DOB 06/27/77); 5'10",
210 lbs, Black Hair,
Brown Eyes

Wanted for:
3 Counts of Dealing In
Stolen Property,
Burglary of a
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ALACHUA COUNTY
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4 Roommates

Roommate Matching HERE
Oxford Manor 377-2777
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4-21-71-4

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1BR/1BA or 2BR/2BA avail Jan 1st. for responsible mature individual. \$400-\$800/mo OBO + utils. Brandywine on Archer Rd. yttek@hotmail.com or 305-332-6566 1-11-10-37-4

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

Luxury House - room, \$500 incl. utilities. W/D, ceramic tile, micro, etc. Looking for graduate/professional for nice place & likes small pups. Williston/SW 23rd St. 352-226-3535/713-705-6279 1-7-09-10-4

4 Roommates

Grad student seeking two female roommates (NS/ND) to share a new 4/2 house in a quiet neighborhood 3 mi. W of I-75. With cable, internet & security alarm. 475/mo., util. incl. Please call 352-331-8794. Rooms are available immediately. 1-12-12-4

Beautifully renovated, furnished condo, 1 mile from UF, \$399/MO includes cable, internet, utilities, pool + fitness room and on bus route, Female roommate needed, 352 262-2871 1-20-10-17-4

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

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

HISTORIC HIBISCUS PARK!! 2 rooms avail/ share common area/beautiful kitchen/all appls/\$500 mo. all inclusive. WALK TO LAW SCHOOL AND SWAMP!! Grad student owner occupied...Call 561-222-9383 for more info. 1-12-10-5-4

Looking for roommate to share 3BR/2BA house with large yard. 2 rooms available, common area and kitchen furnished. Located off NW 14th Place. \$400 plus electric. 561-222-4111. Must like dogs. 1-12-10-5-4

4 Roommates

1 ROOMMATE NEEDED ASAP For 4bd/3ba House. Shared With 3 UF Dance Students. \$440 + 1/4 Utils. House Fully Furnished. Private Bath! Car Garage. W&D Incl. Call Jessi 813 244 1919 Ready To Move In! 1-29-10-17-4

2 rooms for rent in house by Duck Pond. Common areas furnished. W/D, Dishwasher. Available immediately. \$425/mo incl utils & basic phone. \$100 deposit. Phone 904-797-5487 night. 904-547-3482 day Mon - Thurs 1-12-5-2

5 Real Estate

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SEE ALL CONDOS
WWW.UFCONDOS.COM
Matt Price Campus Realty, 352-281-3551 4-21-71-5

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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130 FEET RIVER FRONTAGE! 1.5 ACRES, BUILDABLE LOT WITH LARGE SELECTION OF HUGE TREES ON PEACEFUL SECTION OF RIVER. GREAT INVESTMENT! ONLY 25K. (352)665-8067 1-13-09-20-5

Great for Students 1BR/1BA. Walk to Campus. Only \$49,900
Gore-Rabell Realty 378-1387 4-21-75-5

5 Real Estate

Won't Last
3/2 - Great Community
Owner Financing
\$650.00/mo
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3 and 2 beds avail/low down/low monthly
Call today! 352.378.4411 1-15-10-8-5

2 & 3 bdr's
>From \$599.00/month
Owner Financing
Low down
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Move In Ready
3/2 Adorable
>From \$99.00/mo
Westside/owner finance
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OWNER FINANCING
3 & 2 bedrooms avail
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Up to \$8K tax credit
For 1st time home buyers
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FOR SALE 2006 Fleetwood 16 x 80 Mobilehome
Available immediately - located in Arrendondo Farms, 7117 SW Archer Road Lot #2611. Call 386-208-3949 for information. 1-12-10-5-5

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

6 Furnishings

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

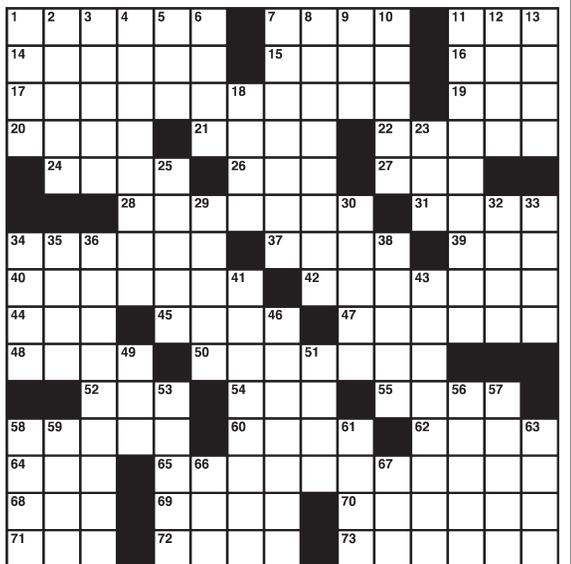
Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | 36 1962 hit attributed to The Crystals but sung by The Blossoms | 53 Clashing big-time |
| 1 Distinguishing feature | 1 Abel's slayer | 38 Day of films | 56 ___ tube |
| 7 "Is this ___ time ... to talk of Pensions and Grenadiers?" | 2 Knight suit | 41 Like 1-800 numbers | 57 Part of an act |
| 11 Wailing instrument | 3 Have a jones for Japanese grills | 43 "I guess" | 58 Campus area |
| 14 Hit the big time | 4 Japanese grills | 46 Last bit | 59 Yearning |
| 15 Quote, as a source | 5 Noted victim of temptation | 49 Grafton's "___ for Ricochet" | 61 Rams' dams |
| 16 Dress bottom | 6 Prefix with vision | 51 One often bordered an agora | 63 Scott in an 1857 case |
| 17 1966 Monkees hit | 7 Biting | | 66 Campus URL ending |
| 19 Bard's "prior to" | 8 Fin | | 67 Performer's suffix |
| 20 Bright star | 9 Meteor ending | | |
| 21 Basic French verb | 10 Contract details | | |
| 22 "Beware the Jabberwock, ___!" | 11 1971 Tom Jones hit | | |
| 24 Warehouse stamp letters | 12 Related to flying | | |
| 26 "Washboard" muscles | 13 Marvel Comics superheroes | | |
| 27 Briny expanse | 18 Emphatic type: Abbr. | | |
| 28 "M*A*S*H" nickname | 23 "Sho 'nuff" | | |
| 31 Put on the hi-fi | 25 Earthmoving machine, and hopefully not the one driving it | | |
| 34 Wildly eccentric, briefly | 29 G-and-T part | | |
| 37 Sniffing and sneezing cause | 30 Spills, as from a bucket | | |
| 39 ___ carte | 32 Sheltered, in a way | | |
| 40 Roll call response | 33 Place for a sale | | |
| 42 How some suits are made | 34 Nimble | | |
| 44 Toys ___ | 35 Rockers | | |
| 45 Wild outbreak | Mötley ___ | | |
| 47 Victimized, with "on" | | | |
| 48 Wine bottle datum | | | |
| 50 Original iPod, as it's now known | | | |
| 52 Narrow inlet | | | |
| 54 Chick ___: light women's fiction | | | |
| 55 Nordic runners | | | |
| 58 Knight's job | | | |
| 60 Ice sheet | | | |
| 62 Burned, in a way | | | |
| 64 City area, briefly | | | |
| 65 1968 Impressions hit | | | |
| 68 Get older | | | |
| 69 Yemen city on its own gulf | | | |
| 70 Early ascetic | | | |
| 71 State that's only nine mi. wide at its narrowest point | | | |
| 72 Had second thoughts about | | | |
| 73 Put away for later | | | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

D O R A G S E A B A B K A
A B U S E A L P O D E O N
L I G H T B U L B M O M E N T
E S S A L D A A K I T A S
W W I I F L I T
A N D E A N L O I S T E A
B O O B Y T O R C H S O N G
A F I T C A S T E W I R E
S U N V A L L E Y M E L O N
E N G T I C S R O D E N T
S A C S M I T E
S M O O C H K O C H W I I
C A N D L E I N T H E W I N D
O T T O I R O E R E F R Y
W H O M P A W L S T E E L
xwordeditor@aol.com 01/06/10



By Gareth Bain
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JUMBLE CROSSWORDS™
 by David L. Hoyt 1-6-10

1		2		3		
						4
5						
		6				
	7					

CLUE ACROSS ANSWER

1. Irish city BULDIN
 5. Accumulate SSM AA
 6. Decrease TA ABE
 7. Part of a garment LACROL

CLUE DOWN ANSWER

1. Sliding box RWERDA
 2. Swaggering conduct VDORBAA
 3. Set in position LASTINL
 4. Thin sheet EEENRV

CLUE: These mammals have a flattened tails.

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.

ANSWERS: 1A-Dublin 5A-Armadillo 6A-Abate 7A-Collar 1D-Driver 2D-Bravado 3D-Instal 4D-Vener B-Beavers

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UF struggles to find three-point stroke

■ FLORIDA WAS 2 OF 23 FROM THREE-POINT RANGE AGAINST N.C. STATE.

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

Chandler Parsons' miracle 75-foot game-winner at N.C. State on Sunday may have salvaged Florida's Christmas break, but it didn't hide the ugly truth from Billy Donovan.

The Gators' outside shooting was miserable against the Wolfpack.

Before Kenny Boynton nailed a leaning three-pointer with a hand in his face from the top of the key with 14 seconds left in overtime, UF was 1 of 22 from beyond the arc.

Florida is shooting 29 percent from three-point range this season, hitting just 84 of its 287 attempts. Donovan attributed some of his team's struggles to the shot selection of his four primary outside shooters — Boynton, Parsons, Erving Walker and Dan Werner.

"When those four guys take the kind of shots that they're accustomed to making, they shoot a very high percentage," Donovan said. "When they get some of their shots that are a little more difficult for them, that has really bled into some of their shooting woes."

Boynton, heralded as a great scorer before the season, leads the team in scoring (13.6 points per game) but has been an inconsistent shooter so far. The freshman guard is shooting 36 percent from the field and 26 percent from three-point range.

Despite the low percentages, Boynton has established himself as a potential threat in crunch time.

The only three-pointer he hit against N.C. State was the difficult, contested shot in the final seconds that kept UF in the game.

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 15



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator

UF guard Erving Walker has struggled beyond the three-point arc this season. The Gators are shooting 29 percent this season from long range.

Hoops team better than expected but needs work

Thank God for Chandler Parsons. His 75-foot heave changed the tone of a pretty poor Christmas break for the Florida men's basketball team.

UF was on a pretty good high at the end of fall classes, ranked No. 10 in the country and ready for a top-10 showdown with Syracuse in a matchup of the early season's top two surprises.

The Gators fell short against the Orange, but even Florida's first loss was encouraging. The Gators looked like they belonged, and if they shored up just a few key areas — shooting and boxing out especially — they could be a major force in March.



Phil Kegler
Phil on the Hill
pkegler@alligator.org

After seeing UF play Syracuse in Tampa, I immediately admitted I had pegged the team wrong. There was no way in my mind the Gators weren't worthy of playing in the

And this is coming from a guy who wasn't really sold on Florida before the season. I predicted the team to go 6-10 in Southeastern Conference play and miss the NCAA Tournament for the third-straight year.

Big Dance.

Florida proceeded to drop its next two against Richmond and South Alabama (making me wonder if I really know anything). Losing to the Spiders down in Sunrise was a little understandable. While RPI isn't the end-all, be-all barometer of a team's talent — it often matters who you play more than your wins and losses — Richmond currently checks in at No. 26 and also has a win over Mississippi State.

But South Alabama? At home? The Jaguars have an RPI of 154. They're not good, and they're not a team Florida should be

SEE PHIL, PAGE 15

Gators hire two to fill RB, LB jobs

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

The revolving door of coaches at Florida continues to spin.

The Gators hired two assistants Tuesday, Stan Drayton and D.J. Durkin, to fill vacancies as running backs and linebackers coaches, respectively.

Drayton will replace Kenny Carter, while Durkin comes in for former defensive coordinator and linebackers coach Charlie Strong, now Louisville's head coach. Carter is expected to join Strong's staff, though no announcement has been made.

"[UF interim coach Steve Addazio] and I worked together on this and are excited to have D.J. and Stan join our coaching staff," Urban Meyer said in a press release.



Drayton

"Both guys are familiar with the plan we have for our program, our coaches and our student-athletes. It will be a smooth transition and they both bring a high level of

expertise to the table and have proven to be good recruiters."

Drayton is especially familiar with the program, as he coached at Florida from 2005-07. He spent this season at Syracuse after coaching at Tennessee in 2008, and when he left UF for the Volunteers, he voiced his frustrations with the way running backs are used in the offense.

Now, he'll have a stable of talented backs. Jeff Demps, Chris Rainey and Emmanuel Moody are proven threats from the backfield, while freshman Mike Gillislee showed potential this season.

Carter's departure could affect recruiting, as it may cause Lithonia (Ga.) King High running back Mack Brown to reconsider his verbal commitment to UF. Brown's coach told the Orlando Sentinel on Tuesday that Brown was "confused" by the move and is re-evaluating his options.

Durkin comes to Gainesville after three years at Stanford working with defensive ends and special teams. Durkin played at Bowling Green, where he was a graduate assistant under Meyer.

TEERING OFF WITH BOBBY CALLOVI

■ Stan Drayton might not have left Florida on good terms with Urban Meyer, but apparently a year with Phil Fulmer and another in the Big East was enough for him to suck up any animosity and coach under Meyer again. ... Bears coach Lovie Smith managed to keep his job despite being on the hot seat, and all it took was sacrificing six of his assistants. You got to love the loyalty in the NFL.

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■ Kyle Maistri and Phil Kegler join host Adam Berry to discuss the Sugar Bowl, whether the football season was a disappointment and UF hoops. Check it out on iTunes.

POLL RESULTS

Previous question:		Percent (Votes)
Which outgoing player will be the hardest for the Gators to replace?	Tebow	69% (79)
	Haden	17% (19)
	Spikes	11% (13)
	Cooper	3% (4)

NCAA FOOTBALL

FSU, Bowden lose appeal

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE — The NCAA has upheld its decision to vacate up to 14 victories from former football coach Bobby Bowden as part of its penalty in an academic cheating scandal.

Bowden retired as major college football's second most winning coach with 389 wins after Florida State's 33-21 Gator Bowl victory over West Virginia, Jan. 1. Penn State's Joe Paterno, who is still coaching, has 394 wins.

The 80-year-old Bowden was in California on Tuesday to present a Fellowship of Christian Athletes award named after him and not immediately available to comment on the decision.

University officials, however, said they were surprised and disappointed by the NCAA's decision.

"We believed that our administration did everything it possibly could to ferret out any and all improprieties in this matter," FSU athletic director Randy Spetman said.

The NCAA could take wins away in as many as 10 Florida State athletic programs, including possibly stripping Florida State of one of three straight NCAA track championships won between 2006-2008.

The NCAA Infractions Appeals Committee said Tuesday the cooperative efforts of the university in the academic cheating scandal involving 61 Florida State athletes failed to outweigh the aggravating factors in the case.

"The case also included impermissible benefits, unethical conduct by three former

academic support services staff members and a failure to monitor by the university," the NCAA statement said.

Twenty five football players were among the athletes who cheated on an online test in a music history course from the fall of 2006 through summer 2007 or received improper help from staffers who provided them with answers to the exam and typed papers for them.

"We believed that our administration did everything it possibly could to ferret out any and all improprieties in this matter."

Randy Spetman
FSU athletic director

In its appeal, Florida State called the sanctions that included vacating wins "excessive" and claimed the NCAA did not appropriately weigh its cooperation during the investigation. The school agreed to four years of probation and scholarship reductions.

The university still must certify which games ineligible players competed to determine the number of wins and individual records that will be nullified.

"This will take some time," Spetman said. "We didn't believe it was a process we should go through."

The NCAA also rejected an appeal by former Florida State learning specialist Brenda Monk, who has asked that she be absolved of any wrongdoing in the case.



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

An NCAA ruling could result in FSU vacating 14 victories, a punishment that would leave former Seminoles coach Bobby Bowden 19 wins behind Penn State's Joe Paterno.

'Skins ink Shanahan

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ASHBURN, Va. — Mike Shanahan agreed Tuesday night to become the Washington Redskins' next coach, according to multiple reports.

The Denver Post reported on its Web site that Shanahan received a five-year deal from the Redskins, who fired Jim Zorn following a 4-12 season. Shanahan won two Super Bowls in 14 seasons with Denver but was fired a year ago after the Broncos missed the playoffs for the third straight season.

Shanahan will be Washington's seventh coach since Dan Snyder bought the team in 1999. He is expected to be introduced at a news conference Wednesday afternoon.

Redskins general manager Bruce Allen was hired last month, but Shanahan will have the final authority on football decisions, according to ESPN.com.

Zorn went 12-20 over two seasons, but he lost 18 of his last 24 games after a 6-2 start in 2008. The Redskins struggled early despite a weak schedule this season and finished with their worst record since 1994.

While the Redskins awaited official word about their future coach, Clinton Portis went about rehashing

the past — including his thoughts on quarterback Jason Campbell's leadership skills.

During his weekly appearance on a local radio station, Portis talked about what it's like to play for Shanahan — something the running back did for two seasons with the Broncos — and what it's like to play with Campbell.

Asked on ESPN980 why Campbell was a team captain and he wasn't, Portis replied: "I wonder the same thing. It's no disrespect to Jason, but everybody in that locker room will tell you — you will never see Jason mad, you will never see Jason's tempo change."



Shanahan

Portis continued: "(He's) going to give you everything (he's) got. But as a leader ... it was always, 'Jason couldn't take control of the huddle,' or 'He didn't do this' or 'He didn't do that.' That wasn't Jason's character. ... I think Jason, you can't place so much on somebody who's not ready for that situation. I think Jason has enough trouble in getting the plays in and worrying about this, compared to controlling the huddle."

Donovan tells team to keep shooting

HOOPS, from page 14

"He maybe has a better ability than some of the guys on our team to make tough, challenged shots, but over the stretch of a season or the stretch of a game, his shooting percentage is not going to be very high," Donovan said. "At the end of a game with a challenged shot, he's got the ability to do that. Erving Walker's also got the ability to make challenged shots."

"But if a high percentage of those shots are going to be challenged, they're probably going to shoot a low percentage. That's just the way it equals out."

Walker has also struggled at times to find his shot from long range, shooting just 29 percent on the year after finishing his freshman season at a team-high 42 percent.

Part of the problem for Boynton and Walker has been the amount of responsibility put on them to score from the outside, run the break and

lead UF's press while having to lead the team in minutes due to the team's shortage of guards.

Donovan has tried to relieve Walker recently by subbing him out for Parsons before the 16-minute media timeout, giving the starting point guard more time on the bench, but the two guards are still averaging a team-high 32.1 minutes per game so far this season.



Men's Basketball

"We got two backcourt guys basically that we're utilizing. We have a lack of depth there," Donovan said. "I'd like to try to keep Boynton and Walker below 35 minutes a game. I think that's too much for them."

Although the shots haven't been falling for Florida, Donovan said he's not going to tell his players to back off from the outside.

"The last thing they need to hear is me telling them to stop shooting," Donovan said.

PHIL, from page 14

losing to in a year it hopes to return to the NCAA Tournament.

"Do we have weaknesses, like any other team? Sure," Florida coach Billy Donovan said. "We have weaknesses all over the place. You try to camouflage them. You have a better effort of camouflaging them when you have guys that are willing to physically make the effort."

"[The players] are focused on the things that really go in and impact winning. They're trying to do those things."

I do think Florida will hear its name on Selection Sunday,

but Donovan points out the reason why a snub this year might be the most painful of all — he finally has his guys doing what he wants. He has a group of guys in great shape willing to play defense, but backcourt depth and poor shooting still loom as potential roadblocks on UF's journey.

With Ray Shipman battling injury, starting guards Kenny Boynton and Erving Walker are averaging more than 32 minutes per game, and neither are connecting on even 30 percent of their shots from beyond the arc. Boynton leads the team in scoring at 13.6 points per game, but the freshman is shooting just 36.3 percent from the field

and 25.5 percent from three-point range.

No matter how great UF plays defense, it will need to find some offense if it wants to return to its early season form. Florida scored just 53 points in the loss to Richmond and only 48 during regulation against N.C. State.

"Every SEC team is excited to start this time of year," Donovan said. "[The players] understand — especially the old guys — what this league is like and how challenging it is."

Hopefully they also understand they better start hitting some shots, or the blues are going to continue all the way until March.

UF WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Mossor hopes to regain form

By **EUGENIO TORRENS**
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Jennifer Mossor's New Year's resolution may as well have been to have a healthy rest of the season.

The senior was hampered by injuries in 2009, from beginning to end.

After starting the first 16 games of her junior campaign, Mossor tore her right ACL against Mississippi State on Jan. 8, 2009 — the team's first conference game of the season.

She missed the rest of that season as the Gators finished 24-8 and lost in the second round of the NCAA Tournament to Connecticut, the eventual national champions.

The year hurled its second challenge at Mossor when she tore her left lateral meniscus in practice on Nov. 12, two days before the start of her senior season.

"Frustration — it goes beyond that," Mossor said. "I've just been injured, injured, injured, and to finally not be injured — I'm still dealing with the injury and everything that goes along with it — but actually being a part of what I've been trying to be a part of this whole time and what I've been

waiting for, feels great."

After rehabbing and getting back into playing form, Mossor saw her first action of the 2009-10 season against Southern on Dec. 20.

It had been 346 days since her last meaningful appearance.

"SEC is the biggest time of the year and the most important, so it's better to be back for that than anything else."

Jennifer Mossor
UF senior guard

She saw eight minutes of court time against Southern, and in the team's next game, a loss to High Point, she scored seven points on 3-of-4 shooting.

Her most playing time was logged against Ohio, when she was on the floor for 13 minutes.

"I'm still not fully back," Mossor said. "It just feels good to be more of a part of the team, because when you're injured you're just kind of off to the side."

Coach Amanda Butler said Mossor's value lies in her physicality on the perimeter, a guard who is as likely to attack the rim as shoot from the wing.

"Jenn is really a great mix of a kid who's a good player because of her physical gifts but mixes in a very, very high basketball IQ," Butler said.

Added time on the bench healing her wounds has forced Mossor to sit, observe, mentor, and develop a perspective of the game available to those who watch rather than play.

The most frustrating part of the ordeal was the fact that Mossor, who was a starter in her junior year and the team's fourth-leading scorer (9.1 points per game) before her injury, has been relegated to a supporting role so far this season.

Rejoining a squad that has been playing for nearly two months without her and had hit a few bumps earlier in the season has forced Mossor to try and find a new place on the team.

If the team's identity is to mold to Mossor, her return has come at a pivotal time: the beginning of Southeastern Conference play.

"SEC is the biggest time of the year and the most important, so it's better to be back for that than anything else," she said.

Florida won its SEC opener against Arkansas, and they will host Auburn on Thursday before heading to No. 8 Georgia on Sunday.



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

UF senior guard Jennifer Mossor is looking to bounce back from an injury-plagued 2009 and regain a starting spot.

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