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Published by Campus Communications, Inc. of Gainesville, Florida
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VOLUME 103 ISSUE 78

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2010

NATIONAL

Senate candidate discusses campaign

By **CJ PRUNER**
 Alligator Writer

date," he said.

Meek, D-Fla., who represents Florida's 17th Congressional District, including parts of Miami-Dade and Broward counties, in the U.S. House of Representatives, stopped in Gainesville to encourage students to volunteer in his campaign for a U.S. Senate seat.

The Senate election will be held in November.

Meek also discussed his campaign goals and said he must petition in order to be placed on the ballot.

The campaign hopes to collect 112,000 signatures by February.

"I feel this campaign movement is going

to be about who has the team," Meek said. "The bottom line is that we need to get the vote out and get the people involved."

Meek spoke for about 45 minutes and covered topics including health care, the national debt, new energy initiatives and education.

SEE MEEK, PAGE 4

Students save by renting books

By **ELIZABETH BEHRMAN**
 Alligator Writer

Students may be able to save some cash in coming semesters with textbook rental programs offering an alternative to buying books.

The Florida Book Store revised its textbook rental program this semester after experimenting with similar programs in previous years.

"I like that it was a lot cheaper, but I'm kind of sad that I won't be able to sell it back and get money back at the end of the semester."

Hayley Snedeker
 UF junior

Florida Book Store textbook department manager Mike Bibbee said the store rents out about 10,000 books, or 25 percent of its titles.

The store sends an e-mail reminder when the books are due and charges the full price of the books if they are not returned, he said.

Bibbee said the Florida Book Store rents the books out to students until the last day of finals week.

He also said the program has some drawbacks.

Students cannot sell back the rented books and risk paying penalty fees, Bibbee said.

SEE TEXTBOOK, PAGE 4



Ana Goni-Lessan / Alligator Staff

Alex Solomon, 19, helps Kamay Lafalaise, 20, rent a book for a psychology class at the Florida Book Store on Thursday afternoon.

Alligator invites student job-seekers to open house

■ **STUDENTS SHOULD BRING RESUME AND WORK SAMPLES.**

The Independent Florida Alligator will be holding its first open house of the semester today from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 1105

W University Ave.

"We're looking for news, features and sports writers, graphics people, Web people, copy editors, columnists, cartoonists and an opinions editor," said Editor-in-Chief Chelsea Keenan.

Keenan added those applying for copy

editing positions should have a strong knowledge of AP style and grammar.

Local News

Students who stop by should bring a resume and writing samples. Likewise, those applying for the opinions editor position should

bring a sample editorial, she said.

Students from any and all majors are encouraged to apply.

"You don't have to be a journalism student to apply," Keenan said. "You just have to be dedicated and ready to learn."

— ALISON SCHWARTZ

■ **Center Azania Stewart led UF to its 71-68 win in double overtime over Auburn on Thursday. The Gators blew an 18-point halftime lead before preserving the win. See Story, Page 13.**



■ **Woman arrested after offering sex to undercover cop**

A Gainesville woman was arrested after she was caught prostituting an underage girl to an undercover cop Wednesday night.

According to the report, Gainesville police were informed by an anonymous source that Sarah Hicks, 22, was matching Kiandra Brown, 17, with potential clients.

In a recorded phone conversation, Hicks made an agreement with an undercover officer for Brown and herself to meet with him

and have oral and vaginal sex for \$75 each.

Hicks and Brown were arrested at 8:52 p.m. after the deal was finalized, according to the report.

Hicks was charged with one count of committing and engaging in prostitution and one felony charge for procuring a minor under 18 years of age for prostitution, according to the report.

— KATHERINE BEIN

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visit www.alligator.org

News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Museum Nights

Thursday, 6 to 9 p.m.
Harn Museum of Art

Participate in art-making activities and a scavenger hunt in the galleries. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.harn.ufl.edu.

Society of Professional Journalists Icebreaker Social

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

Weimer Hall, Room 3032

Join SPJ for its first social meeting of the semester. Free food, music and SPJ membership information will be provided.

Florida Education Association Meeting

Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Terrace Room

FEA will be hosting a science in the classroom workshop. You will learn fun educational experiments to incorporate into the science curriculum. There will be food, fun and free giveaways. Contact Laura Roberts at laura.roberts@ufl.edu with any questions.

Church and State since 1989

Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Dauer Hall, Room 219

A talk by Anna Grzymala-Busse, University of Michigan, for the Center for European Studies series From the Iron Curtain to the EU. The speaker will argue that churches rely on indirect political influence and the historical resonance they have cultivated from the communist era.

LionsClub is Seeking Assistance
The Newberry Lions Club is planning a trip for the visually impaired community of Gainesville to Daytona Beach on Jan. 15 to attend the Magic of Braille exhibit which is touring the U.S. A total of \$700 is needed to ensure transportation for the group. Donations can be made to the Newberry Lions Club: PO Box 1439, Newberry, FL, 32669.

For further information, please contact Bob Respass at 352-472-5434.

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

LOCAL

Young artists to display their work

Some of Alachua County's youngest artists will have a chance to showcase their work at the upcoming Alachua County Elementary Art Exhibition beginning Saturday. Erin Friedberg, Gainesville visual arts coordinator, said the exhibition is designed to highlight the creativity and talent of its elementary school contributors.

A total of 87 pieces of artwork were chosen by 26 participating schools.

"It is just an extreme thrill for [the students] to be featured at the

FORECAST

TODAY



RAIN
45/30

SATURDAY



PARTLY
CLOUDY
39/26

SUNDAY



PARTLY
CLOUDY
45/24

MONDAY



SUNNY
52/28

TUESDAY



PARTLY
CLOUDY
54/30

Thomas Center, like the highest art award that they could receive," said Kristy Foster, Idylwild Elementary School art teacher.

The return of the event marks a highlight for Idylwild Elementary School, where cutbacks did not allow the school to participate last year, according to principal Barbara Henry.

The annual exhibition will be on display in the Thomas Center Mezzanine Gallery from Saturday to Jan. 31.

- KATHLEEN BIRKHIMER

NATIONAL

New Jersey's state Senate drops gay marriage bill

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey's state Senate has defeated a bill to legalize gay marriage, leaving it unlikely the state will have a gay marriage law in the very near future.

The bill needed 21 votes to pass; only 14 senators approved the measure Thursday.

Gay rights advocates had pushed hard to get the bill passed before Jan. 19, when Republican Chris Christie becomes governor. Democratic Gov. Jon Corzine promised to sign the bill if approved by the Legislature but Christie has said he would veto it.

New Jersey offers civil unions that grant the legal rights of marriage to gay couples. Five states — Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont — allow gay marriage.

Democrats begin work to finalize health care bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats embarked Tuesday on the tough work of ironing out differences between House and Senate health care legislation with the aim of quickly approving a bill as midterm elections near.

"Now is not the time to get stuck on any one point," Rep. John Larson, D-Conn., said as he headed into a meeting with Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other House leaders to discuss their priorities for the final bill. "The important thing for us now is to close ranks behind the president and get a bill done."

Both houses have passed legislation to remake the health care system, extending coverage to millions who lack it while cracking down on industry practices such as denying insurance on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions.

There are numerous differences between the two bills, include provisions on illegal immigration and abortion, a dispute over a government-run insurance option — the House wants one, but the Senate bill

omitted it — as well as the size and extent of federal subsidies to help lower-income families afford coverage.

The House bill is more generous with subsidies than the Senate measure, and many House Democrats are concerned with ensuring that insurance will be affordable since the legislation will require most people to buy it. At the same time, some moderate Senate Democrats don't want the bill's price tag to grow. At nearly \$1 trillion over 10 years, the House bill is more expensive than its Senate counterpart.

"The affordability credits is going to be a critical part of this discussion," said Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md.

The president planned to begin work with congressional leaders Tuesday to resolve those and other thorny issues. Following the meeting of House leaders, Obama was to meet with Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer in the Oval Office, with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Assistant Majority Leader Dick Durbin joining the meeting by phone.

In a posting Tuesday on the White House blog, White House Communications Director Dan Pfeiffer wrote that there is "an unavoidable temptation among the media to focus on the five percent of differences between the two versions, instead of the remarkable 95 percent the bills have in common. But, even as difficult work does remain, it is important not to lose perspective of how far we have come and how close we are to enacting health reform."

The aim is to finish up by early next month, hopefully before Obama delivers his State of the Union address, though the date for that has not been set.

To that end congressional leaders plan to dispense with the formal process of appointing a conference committee to work out the differences in the bill.

Instead top House and Senate Democrats and White House officials will aim to reach agreement among themselves, then have the two houses vote as quickly as possible.

A 60-vote Senate majority would be required in advance of final passage.

CORRECTION

A story in Monday's Alligator misspelled the name of Gainesville Police Department Capt. Ed Book.

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.

the independent florida alligator

VOLUME 103 ISSUE 78

ISSN 0889-2423

Not officially associated with the University of Florida

Published by Campus Communications Inc., of Gainesville, Florida

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The Independent Florida Alligator is a student newspaper serving the University of Florida, published by a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) educational organization, Campus Communications Inc., P.O. Box 14257, Gainesville, Florida, 32604-2257. The Alligator is published Monday through Friday mornings, except during holidays and exam periods. During UF summer academic terms The Alligator is published Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Alligator is a member of the Newspaper Association of America, National Newspaper Association, Florida Press Association and Southern University Newspapers.

Subscription Rates: **One Semester (Fall or Spring) \$18**
Summer Semester \$10
Two Semesters (Fall or Spring) \$35
Full Year (All Semesters) \$40

The Alligator offices are located at 1105 W. University Ave. Classified advertising can be placed at that location from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for holidays. Classifieds also can be placed at the UF Bookstore. © Copyright 2005. All rights reserved. No portion of The Alligator may be reproduced in any means without the written consent of an officer of Campus Communications Inc.

Free H1N1 shots to be given Sat.

By **MARISSA PRIETO**
Alligator Contributing Writer

The Alachua County Health Department is offering free H1N1 vaccinations Saturday at three locations.

"At this time, we are still assessing whether or not there will be more free clinics set up in the future."

Paul Myers

assistant director of the Alachua County health department

As the future of the free vaccinations at clinics remains uncertain, Paul Myers, the Alachua County assistant director of the health department, is encouraging locals to take advantage of the offer.

"At this time, we are still assessing whether or not there will be more free clinics set up in the future," Myers said.

Vaccinations are available in Gainesville at Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church at 120 SE Williston Road, a Butler Plaza tent at the 500 block of Archer Road, and in Alachua at the Turkey Creek Clubhouse at 11400 Turkey Creek Blvd. All three clinics will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The vaccine will still be available at the health department's main site in Gainesville and its satellite clinic in Alachua.

Crash in snowy Ohio kills 4 people

■ SIX PASSENGERS ON THE BUS WERE INJURED DURING THE CRASH.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Steadily falling snow blanketed the Midwest on Thursday, part of a vicious cold snap engulfing much of the nation, and a tractor-trailer spun out of control on snow-slick roads in Ohio, killing four people and injuring seven.

The tractor-trailer jackknifed on Interstate 70, crossed the highway median and swerved into oncoming traffic, colliding with a small bus transporting adult disabled passengers, the Ohio Highway Patrol said.

The victims, all of whom were on the bus, were: Traci Williams, 42; Lonnie Acton, 28; Alonso Ruffin, 37, and Kenny Fry, 61. All were from Springfield.

Williams was driving the 17-passenger Chevrolet bus.

The Mack commercial truck was driven by Zygmunt Wieckowski, 59, of Chicago, who was taken to a nearby hospital, the patrol said. His condition was unavailable late Thursday.

Six other passengers of the bus were also injured. The bus was carrying 11 people at the time of the crash, said Sgt. Raymond Durant.

The accident occurred near Springfield in southwest Ohio, where a storm that stretched as far west as the Dakotas had dumped nearly 5 inches of snow by early evening, according to the National Weather Service.

With the cold and icy, snow-covered roads responsible for at least 15 deaths this year, officials throughout the U.S. told people to stay home if they could.

Snowfall was heaviest in Minnesota and parts of South Dakota, where blowing winds piled up drifts too big for snowplow drivers to clear. Some parts of southwestern Minnesota received 8.5 inches of snow by Thursday morning.

In Illinois, six snowplows were involved in accidents, most when other vehicles rear-ended the trucks. By Friday morning, parts of Wisconsin could see up to 12 inches of snow.

Snowflakes fell as far south as Alabama and Georgia on Thursday. North of Atlanta, a woman was killed near an Interstate 75 overpass when her car slid off the slick roads. Downton had received about a half-inch of snow late

Thursday night, which was quickly turning to ice as temperatures dropped.

Frostbite-inducing temperatures gripped much of the nation, and schools in at least 10 states were closed, as were roads and government offices.

Nowhere was it colder than in Bismarck, N.D., where wind

chills hit a frighteningly frigid 52 below zero and the temperature reached 14 below.

"The air freezes your nostrils, your eyes water and your chest burns from breathing," said Jane Tetrault, of Burke County in northwestern North Dakota. "And that's just going from the house to your vehicle."

While North Dakotans get plenty of practice with bundling up, folks in other parts of the country were still learning the basics.

With temperatures on the Texas-Mexico border expected to near freezing Thursday night, officials in Laredo issued an advisory telling residents to "dress warmly and stay dry."

"Adults and children should wear: a hat, a scarf or knit mask to cover face and mouth, mittens, water-resistant coat and shoes, and several layers of loose-fitting clothing," the city advised residents, who usually see near 70-degree weather in January.

Snow started falling at about 9 a.m. in the county where the Ohio crash occurred and caused several accidents throughout

the day, said sheriff's dispatcher Vanessa Haley. The snow grew heavier at about 12:45 p.m., when dispatchers received reports of the accident, Haley said. The highway patrol said the crash is being investigated and would not say whether it was weather-related.

The bus was from the Creative Learning Workshop, which provides vocational services to adults with mental and developmental disabilities. The center is based in Warren, Ohio, and has locations across the state.

A dispatcher with the Harmony Township Fire Department, which responded to the crash scene first, said no one was available to comment because firefighters were meeting with a minister.

In North Dakota, troopers told travelers to carry at least half a tank of gas, warm clothes, boots, hats and blankets.

"If you are unconscious in a crash, whatever you had on at the time of the crash is what you'll be wearing while waiting for emergency workers," Lt. Jody Skogen said. "Waiting 20 minutes when it's 20 below — you're going to be suffering, dealing with frostbite issues and a lot of misery."

A few, however, welcomed the winter weather. In Iowa, where 10 inches of snow was expected on top of the more than 2 feet that has fallen since December, Gary McVicker said he caught a "little frost nip on the chin" while snowmobiling but was otherwise unscathed. He was pleased by the snow after several recent years of poor riding conditions.

"Oh heck, right now with the clothing we have, you can make it OK," said McVicker, president of the Iowa State Snowmobile Association.

"Where do you see yourself in five years?"

Prepare yourself for work after college by building your resume and gaining valuable work experience with the nation's largest student-run paper.

Open House

TODAY
2pm to 5pm

The Alligator is looking to fill the following positions: section editors, online staff, videographers, writers, graphic designers, columnists, photographers, bloggers, copy editors and sports writers.

Interviews will be held on-site, so please bring your resume, clips and portfolio if you have one.

The Alligator is located at 1105 W. University Ave, two blocks east of UF campus, across the street from the Bank of America.



the independent florida
alligator

This paper used to shelter song birds.
Please recycle it.

Applications Now Available

Assistant Supervisor of Elections
Election Commission



Deadline: January 13.

Go to www.sg.ufl.edu and click on Apply Here



"Named one of
Granta magazine's
Best Young
American Novelists"

Author
Kevin Brockmeier
Sunday, January 10th
Headquarters Library
Downtown Gainesville
1:00PM



Students face shortage of cold-weather gear

By **ERICA JOHNSON**
Alligator Writer

No hats, no heaters, no problem – until the weather dips below freezing.

During a week of record low temperatures, students seeking winter merchandise were greeted by empty shelves.

Michelle Hart, a UF chemical engineering sophomore, was one of the many glove-seekers who had no luck at Wal-Mart, Target or Ross Tuesday and Wednesday.

"I called Wal-Mart, and they said a new shipment had come in but that, like, 20 people had bought them in the last few minutes," Hart said. "By the time I got there, they were gone, so I had to keep looking."

After repeated failures, she had success at

Kohl's on Archer Road.

Jennifer Lee, a UF political science sophomore, also had a difficult time finding gloves, ending her search after repeated failure at Forever 21, Express and Macy's in The Oaks Mall.

Donna Spiers, a zone merchandise supervisor at the Wal-Mart in Butler Plaza, said gloves are not the only hot commodity. Hats and heaters have also been disappearing from store shelves.

Spiers said about 150 pairs of gloves have been put out and sold each day, and hats and heaters completely sold out Tuesday and Wednesday.

"The heaters are selling as fast as we can get them into the store right now," she said.

Local News

NATIONAL

Beef: it's not for dinner

By **MORGAN WATKINS**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Hamburgers using beef courtesy of Beef Products Inc. may come with pickles, onions, ketchup and a side of ammonia.

The company, which supplies beef to the federal school lunch program and fast food chains like McDonald's, has been using an ammonia treatment to reduce levels of E. coli and salmonella in its processed beef.

Chad Carr, assistant professor in the UF department of animal sciences, said while the use of these trimmings has raised concern, the practice is safe.

He described ammonia as an antimicrobial that can help alleviate the problems of E. coli and salmonella contamination in beef.

"I have all the confidence in the world that the beef industry is trying its best to have as safe a product as possible," Carr said. "The number one pri-

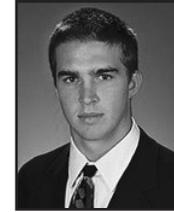
ority is safety."

Beef Products Inc. reduced the levels of ammonia to combat concern, but this can diminish the treatment's ability to fight pathogens.

John Gonzalez, a postdoctoral associate in the UF department of animal sciences who previously worked in the meat industry, said there is no definite way to eliminate E. coli and salmonella as a potential hazard.

Gonzalez said that while the meat industry's methods may not always work perfectly, he expects to see more changes in the future to develop safer methods of fighting pathogens in beef.

"One of the things I never realized until I got into the industry was that you get inspected left and right, not only by the government but by your customers," Gonzalez said.



Carr

Audiences to gather in the O'Connell Center for horseplay

The stallions will perform at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

By **ANDREW WYZAN**
Alligator Contributing Writer

A different breed of athletes will perform today at the O'Connell Center.

The World Famous Lipizzaner Stallions will showcase their array of ancient maneu-

vers at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets cost about \$20 and can be purchased at the University Box Office.

Michael Lashinsky, the marketing director for White Stallions Production Inc., said the Lipizzan was once the horse of nobility and aristocracy.

The Lipizzaner stallions perform stunts once used in warfare.

Their "airs above the ground" maneuvers involves a series of leaps and jumps originating on the battlefield, he said.

"Only stallions of the greatest strength, talent and athletic ability are chosen for training

in these ancient maneuvers," Lashinsky said.

He said this year marks the tour's 40th anniversary.

Katie Profeta, a UF animal science junior, is excited to see the stallions.

She said she has already seen the stallions perform.

"Even if you have no interest in horses, it's a very artistic show and interesting to watch," Profeta said.

Meek worked as a captain for the Florida Highway Patrol

MEEK, from page 1

"Now more than ever people understand how important the Senate is in this country in terms of moving forward," he said.

Pointing to his years of service in state and national politics, as well as his years as a captain for the Florida Highway Patrol, he portrayed himself as a candidate who would be forthcoming and willing to support measures based on their merit as opposed to political dividing lines.

"You want a senator who will speak the truth when it comes to these issues," Meek said.

Students also expressed their support of Meek's campaign.

Naadira Renfroe, a UF anthropology junior, was one of many who expressed interest in interning for the Meek campaign.

Clutching a blue campaign sign, she expressed her support for Meek and his honest demeanor.

"If you listen to him, the first thing he talks about is his personal life. I think he shares a common background with a lot of the students here. He shares my values."

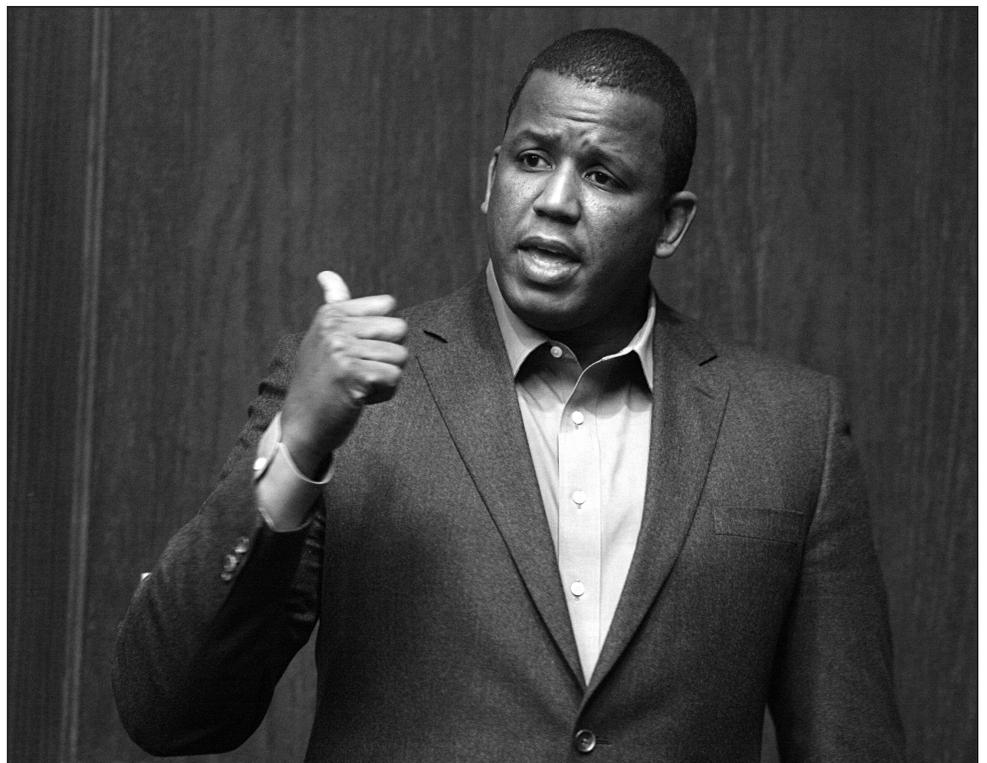
Naadira Renfroe
UF anthropology junior

"If you listen to him, the first thing he talks about is his personal life," she said. "I think he shares a common background with a lot of the students here. He shares my values."

Ben Cavataro, president of the Florida College Democrats, agrees that Meek would make a good candidate for the state of Florida.

"While [Charlie] Crist and [Marco] Rubio try to see which one is more extreme, he focuses on common sense solutions for America," he said.

"He's a very dynamic figure."



Danica Spears / Alligator

Rep. Kendrick Meek, D-Fla., a 2010 U.S. Senate candidate, speaks to students in Daurer Hall Thursday night.

DiStaola: UF Bookstores may have a rental program in the fall of 2010

TEXTBOOKS, from page 1

Junior Hayley Snedeker rented a textbook for the first time from the Florida Book Store this semester. She rented a \$96 textbook for \$48.

"I like that it was a lot cheaper, but I'm kind of sad that I won't be able to sell it back and get money back at the end of the semester," Snedeker said.

Other local bookstores are also considering the implementation of textbook rental programs.

Elio DiStaola, the director of campus relations for Follett Higher Education Group, said UF Bookstores may have a rental program in fall 2010.

Follett tested a textbook rental program in seven universities across the country last semester, including Florida State University

and the University of North Florida, DiStaola said.

During that semester, the program allowed students in those seven schools to save close to \$2 million, he said.

"It works great for students who want up-front savings," DiStaola said.

Lynne Vaughan, director of UF Bookstores, said she thinks a rental program

could be successful because it gives students another option besides buying new or used books.

Vaughan said students will save money as long as they remember to return the books.

Doby Gray, owner of Gator Textbooks located on 3501 SW 2nd Ave., said he hopes his store will have a rental program by this summer.

Local News



AP Photo

TOASTY TURTLE

Aquarist Jenny Albert covers an endangered green turtle at SeaWorld's Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in Orlando.

Missionary completes journey

■ JAMES TATE HAS BAPTIZED 23 PEOPLE INTO THE MORMON CHURCH.

Editors' note: This is the final installment in a four-part series. For the first three parts of the series and additional details, see alligator.org.

By **CJ PRUNER**
Alligator Writer

A Soul Renewed

A faint rumble of excitement begins to build as a herd of worshippers head toward the room at the end of the hallway. James Tate and Marques Schroeder, two Mormon missionaries stationed at the UF campus, walk among them.

At first glance, the room offers nothing but blue carpet and wooden doors. But behind the two wooden doors, a large pool of water lies.

In a few minutes, Brandon Feldman, a UF aerospace and mechanical engineering junior, will wade into the water. After a few words of devotion are spoken, he will be completely submerged.

When he rises out of the water, he will be the newest member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

For Tate, this will be his first baptism in Gainesville, his 23rd overall.

Although this won't be first go-around, he can't help but let the happiness of the occasion overcome him.

"This feels like when you have something really amazing, and you get to share it with a friend," he said.

For Feldman, the road to the baptism has been a long one. Raised in a Jewish household, Feldman wasn't the most religious teenager growing up. However, he couldn't shake the growing void

he felt inside.

Driven by a desire for something more, he became a religious free agent, trying out different denominations of Christianity, such as Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Catholic.

Despite his list of options, Feldman felt empty. That was when his friend, Alan, told him to try out this new church that he had been visiting.

Skeptical at first, Feldman couldn't help but feel a welcome when he visited the Mormon service.

"Everyone was so nice, it felt like home," he said.

Eventually, he came in contact with Schroeder and Tate.

"Whenever I would have doubts or questions, I could call them up, and they were more than will-

"This feels like when you have something really amazing, and you get to share it with a friend."

James Tate
Mormon missionary

ing to sit down and talk to me," he said. "They took care of me."

For Feldman, the greatest lesson the missionaries taught was compassion.

"In today's world, so many things are going down the toilet. It sucks," he said. "They are an example of what one should be like."

For the few seconds that Feldman is under water, only the clicks of the clock can be heard. Before the swoosh of the waves can fully develop, a flash of excitement overtakes the room as cheers and applause erupt among the congregation. Schroeder and Tate, each standing by one of the wooden doors, break into beaming smiles.

From the waters, a saint has risen.

UF officials resolve to better themselves, university

Student Body president vows to play more basketball

By **JOEY FLECHAS**
Alligator Writer

UF leaders are kicking off their new year with new resolutions.

Vice President for Student Affairs Patricia Telles-Irvin said she plans to spend more time with her family.

"I tend to stay here till around 6:30 p.m.,

sometimes 7 p.m.," Telles-Irvin said. "I've decided that it's time to have more dinners with my son and my husband."

One of UF spokesman Steve Orlando's resolutions includes doing more mountain biking.

Orlando said he also hopes to boost the national media coverage of UF.

"Ultimately, I'd love to see a 1-A feature

story in The New York Times about the University of Florida," Orlando said.

UF Administration

physical fitness.

"Over the course of my tenure as Student Body president, I think that is one of the bal-

Student Body President Jordan Johnson plans to focus more on his

ances in my life that I've neglected to keep up with as much as I would like," he said.

He plans to play more basketball, which is his favorite sport.

However, Johnson has more than just personal goals.

He also cited changes to Bright Futures and a potential renewable energy fee that he plans to deal with in 2010.

For more audio interviews with UF officials, visit alligator.org.

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Editorial

Welcome back to a new semester, a new decade and a new onslaught of laughs, tears and things that'll just plain piss you off brought to you by yours truly.

We do hope you rested plenty over the break and the first week of classes wasn't too hard on you because the lack of letters to the editor are really killing us. However, we're going to let it slip just for today in order to bring you the your-first-week-of-school-didn't-suck-as-much-as-our-7:30-editing-labs edition of...

Darts & Laurels

And we're not the only ones willing to forgive and forget.

The Progress Party and the Orange and Blue Party announced Wednesday they have officially made amends and decided to get back together. Party officials said reasons behind the merger include wanting to give students more of a voice and increasing transparency in Student Government.

That's why we're giving a you-all-may-have-more-drama-than-a-middle-school-relationship-but-we're-happy-to-see-you-worked-things-out **LAUREL** to UF's indie parties.

But love isn't the only thing in the air this week.

Along with the brisk winter cold comes the fear of being shocked, and we at the Alligator can't touch our cars, desks or even one of our copy editors' girlfriend's forehead without fearing the wrath of static electricity. That's why we have to throw a if-you-would-have-just-given-us-snow-the-zaps-would-be-totally-worth-it **DART** at mother nature.

And while we're complaining about nature, here, the Editorial Board is flinging a couldn't-you-have-thrown-us-a-bone-here **DART** at **The Sunshine State** (to be read as whiningly as possible, please).

Shame on you, Florida, for getting our hopes up just to snatch them cruelly away. For those of us who have to brave the tundra to get to our first-period classes as our frigid fingers threaten to break off of our mittenless hands (thanks, glove shortage), the least you could do is toss down a few flurries so we could take "OMG look at the snow!" photos for our Facebook profiles.

But we're not the only ones complaining. According to the latest Gallup poll, Obama's approval rating is at a meager 47 percent. Now, we understand that you expected missiles and poverty to turn into rainbows and butterflies the moment he was sworn in, but we're putting you all in time out and pinning a now-think-about-what-you've-done **DART** at **53 percent of the American public** for giving up on our president so soon.

Whether or not he turns out to be more of a pain in our asses than cheap tissues when you have a runny nose, it's too soon to lose hope.

And because we're such left-leaning liberal lovers, we're delivering — on a silver platter, of course — a we-don't-care-what's-going-on-down-there **LAUREL** to **President Barack Obama** for making the first U.S. presidential appointment of a transgender.

The White House displayed tactful reticence in declining to comment on her gender, and the Editorial Board thinks everyone should do the same and ignore those who seem to think it's important.

That's all for this week, folks, and if you don't like what we said, stop by our open house today and prove you'd be an asset to the Editorial Board (or just a write a letter... please).

the independent florida
alligator

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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.

Opinions

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Column

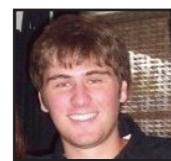
Obama faces tougher crowd than Bush

I can't help but wonder why President Obama has received so much more heat from certain members of the media and from certain factions of the country than any public figure I can remember. The recent attempted bombing by a Nigerian terrorist has prompted those members of the media to come out from the woodwork to — yet again — criticize Obama. This time it is because he took 72 hours to publicly respond to the situation, after consulting with security teams from Christmas until Dec. 28.

Jon Stewart made a good point on the Jan. 6 episode of his show — that those certain members of the media didn't say anything when a similar situation happened in 2001. Former President George W. Bush took not 72 hours but six days to publicly respond to the infamous shoe bombing attempt by Richard Reid. Even then, he didn't call a press conference to talk about the issue as Obama did. So why is Obama being criticized and almost blamed for the security issues on the flight that led to the attempted attack?

Let's review some of the conspiracies about President Obama and try to find a trend. First, there was the "birther" conspiracy, perpetrated by the thankfully-retired-from-CNN-and-definitely-not-a-racist Lou Dobbs, who stated that the multiple birth announcements and birth certificates provided to the public were, indeed, fake. I would love to meet the man who, in 1961, came up with the wonderful plot to destroy America from the inside 47 years later using a black child, conceived out of wedlock by an interracial couple (one member of which was from Kenya). And this is 1961, when "separate but equal" was considered OK in some places.

Moving on through the history of Barack Obama, you find such scandals as Joe Wilson shouting "you lie" at a part of a speech on health care that Obama most certainly wasn't lying about. I can understand a Republican congressman disagreeing with what the president was saying, but never before had I ever seen or heard someone shout out during a presidential address to Congress. You find the Rush Limbaugh story



Paul Murty
letters@alligator.org

about how Obama's college thesis was that the Constitution was "inherently flawed," which Limbaugh found on a Web site that labeled the story as a satire. You find comparisons to Hitler in that the two were great speakers, only to later find criticisms of his speeches as president — all from the same channel. You find references to Bill Ayers, to communism and socialism, to Hugo

Chavez, to Obama's role as either a Muslim or the apparent Antichrist.

What you don't find, at least on Fox News' Web site, is a detailed story about the effigy of President Obama that was hanged in Plains, Ga. The only story I could find is a blurb saying that the Secret Service is investigating the incident. "Bush effigy burned," returned numerous results, the first of which at least three times longer than the Obama story.

Plains, Ga., prides itself on being the hometown of former President Carter. This, at least somewhat, shows that the town doesn't hate Democrats in general. They simply hate Barack Obama, and that leads to racism. Racism could explain a number of the conspiracies listed above. Birthers don't want to believe that a black man could be legitimately elected their president, so he must not have been born here. Limbaugh and his right-wing friends, including my old buddy from Connecticut, shock-jock radio Glenn Beck (whogot in trouble in his Connecticut days for making fun of an Asian caller on his morning show), have said racist things about Obama on multiple occasions. I have seen criticism of a president and have taken part in criticism of President Bush. I've also lived with my mom, who can't admit that Bill Clinton did anything good for the country because she dislikes Democrats so much (yet still loves me). But I have never seen outright hatred for a president like I have seen with Obama.

Paul Murty is an English sophomore.

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

Reader response

Today's question:

Did you rent a textbook for the spring semester?

Monday's question:

Do you think the SG merger will get the new party more votes?

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Guest column

Capital punishment inhumane, unethical

John Walsh Needs to Keep His Mouth Shut. It's not that his crime-fighting endeavor America's Most Wanted hasn't proven to be successful — it has, most recently with the capture of Jupiter massacre suspect Paul Mehinge — but rather that he, in his position of influence as a popular television host, should stop trying to be judge, jury and executioner, as he did recently when he called for capital punishment for the above suspect.

Ryan Spencer proponent of abolishing the death penalty.
Speaking Out

During Walsh's tenure as host, AMW has directly led to the capture of about 1,100 suspects. This is no small feat, and Walsh, along with all of those involved with the show's production, should be lauded for their efforts. However, Walsh needs to realize his influence must be curtailed at capture.

It is inherently contradictory to condemn someone for killing and then subsequently kill them. However, because the responsibility for such acts is diffused through both the entirety of society and the executioner-less means of capital punishment, such policies are considered morally tenable or at least deluded enough to be permissible.

In consideration of some of his past opinions concerning the punishment of sex offenders (which have touched on rectal explosive devices, for example), it seems he deems himself the ambassador of justice for heinous crimes.

That notion is an illusion: If the laws upheld by a society are a reflection of it as a whole, then we all share responsibility for such acts.

For those who brush off claims of responsibility because such people deserve to die, let me say this: No one — not even those responsible for the most horrific things you can imagine — deserves to die.

Moreover, he is regarded publicly as an expert when it comes to such matters, stemming from both his position as host of AMW and his son's highly publicized kidnapping and murder in 1981.

From a different angle: There is no act a person can commit that is terrible enough to merit their life being ended by an ethical society.

Essentially, this has less to do with the nature of their actions and more so with the blood left on all our hands from allowing such a response to them.

However, neither he nor any other indirect victims of such atrocities are in any position to decide the fate of the offender, as such acts leave victims' families emotionally compromised when it comes to resolving such an issue, hence the existence of a fair and just (in theory) legal system as a more civil proxy for self-administered justice.

Anyone who cites the "humane" way in which these people are "put down" is naïve to the fact that softening and ritualizing killing with euphemisms and the legal system is entirely sadistic.

My line of reasoning is explicitly not an appeal to any metaphysical moral code, but rather an assessment of consequences, which suggest we shouldn't hold our heads so high when we speak of capital punishment. But if we can live with that, as we have, we do so at the expense of our ethical integrity.

If I've come off as callous, I won't apologize, but it was not my intention. Rather, I'll take this opportunity to throw in my two cents as a

Ryan Spencer is a psychology senior.

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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**

For more information on books, clubs, tournaments and the school program go to
www.scrabble-assoc.com or call the National SCRABBLE® Association (631) 477-0033.

2 For Rent unfurnished

BRAND NEW REDUCED RATES!
1's, 2's, 3's
* Inclusive Pkgs Available
* Pet Friendly!
* Immediate or Fall Move In
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4-21-09-71-2

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1brs from \$499 - 150 ft from UF!
Move-in today. FREE parking!
Pets Welcome! No Move-in Fees.
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...AND be on time!
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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

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● 1BR/1BA \$425
● 2BR \$450-\$600 - W/D incl
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Rental Community
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Gated Community
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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

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* 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 hk-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

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

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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

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Dorm style \$509 Roommate Matching Avail
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4-21-71-2

100+ apts: Live by UF

* Affordable & Luxury * 4BR \$479/br
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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/AC. 3627 SW 15th St. \$850/mo. Call 327-2931 or 376-6183 1-13-10-12-2

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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
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2 For Rent unfurnished

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Includes internet and utilities
From \$385 per month each.
Please call us for the details.
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1-29-09-20-2

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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-

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
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**Holiday Special/ Valentine's Day
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(Don't Pay Anything til 12/14/10)
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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

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

Rmmate wanted NOW to share very nice 3BR/3BA condo. Very close to UF & Santa Fe. Fully furnished. Prvt BR/BA. Pool & porch. No pets please. \$550/month ALL UTILITIES INC!! Call Talia (305)304-1703. 1-13-10-5-2

SMALL CABIN 2/1, 20 ACRES
Watermelon Pond views. 27802 SW 120th Lane, Newberry. Horse pens, dog door. Needs work. \$575/mo. \$750 move-in 330-329-8834 1-13-5-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

Baxter Cottage
2 blks to UF campus, 1013 SW 4 Ave
2BR/1BA, Bright, clean, completely remodeled, Cent AC/Ht,wood flrs, DW, W/D, NS, NPets. \$650+util. ATucker458@aol.com
1-29-10-16-2

LARGE 1BR HOUSE

Urban loft design - fully remodeled. Very nice. Backyard, trees, downtown, big city cracker. 316-6667. \$670/mo. Available now 1-21-10-10-2

Spacious 1, 2, & 3br starting at \$495. Many floor plans, some with enclosed patios or balconies. Italian tile, bedrooms carpeted. DW, W/D hook-ups, verticals, CH/AC. Near bus route, some walk to UF. Call 352-332-7700 3-31-54-2

1BR home on a hill, 14' x 24' living room with view, dining area seats 6, huge patio, private entrance, carport, near UF, NW 8th Ave. All utilities paid. \$850. 352-395-6250 or 332-1429 1-29-10-16-2

Luxury 2BR/2BA condo in prestigious Charleston Pl.
Quiet NW nghbrhd, uf bus rte.
\$800 p.m. D/W W/D Pool
avail mid jan Call 443-949-9815
1-13-10-5-2

★CAMPUS EDGE CONDO★

2/2 Walk to UF, Shands & VA. Tile floor, W/D in unit, avail fall. Reasonable rate. 239-250-6149, dyeung888@embarqmail.com
1-29-10-15-2

1/1. Completely Renovated. 680 sq ft. Tile & Laminate floors. Unfurnished (or Furnished) 5 minute walk to Shands & UF. \$550/month. !!Great Deal!! Call 786-390-2939 1-15-6-2

●●●THE OASIS APTS ●●●

Large 1 & 2BD apts, w/ huge private patio. Park at your door in small quiet complex in SW Gainesville on bus rt. Call 377-3149 1-29-15-2

3 Subleases

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

1 Private Bdrm, Private Bath at Countryside Apts. \$330 a month through Summer C! Great Deal! Great BusRoute! TV included! 2 male roommates. Willing to negotiate/accept offers. Call 352-328-4954 if interested. 1-14-10-5-3

4 Roommates

Roommate Matching HERE
Oxford Manor 377-2777
The Landings 336-3838
The Laurels 335-4455
Greenwich Green 372-8100
Hidden Lake 374-3866
4-21-71-4

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	3			5		7		
4			3					2
		5	8		2			6
8			7			3		
	5			9				4
		2			8	9	7	
6				8				9
3	2				4			1
		7	1			8		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

4 Roommates

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 baezwa@bellsouth.net 954-557-4769 1-19-09-30-4

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

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

2 spots available 4/2 house. 1.5 mi from UF. .5 from bus depot. Weight set, cable, net \$285 month + utilities. for more info, contact Quin at 352-514-2105 Hurry! 1-13-5-4

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
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!
THE PALMS - New Ultra-Luxury Condos. Granite, Huge Closets, Pool, Call Eric Leightman, Campus Realty, 352-219-2879 4-21-71-5

5 Real Estate

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

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3/2 - Great Community
Owner Financing
\$650.oo/mo
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3 and 2 beds avail/low down/low monthly
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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
Great Locations
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today! 1-15-10-8-5

Up to \$8K tax credit
For 1st time home buyers
3 & 2 bdrs avail
WE FINANCE
Call today! 352.378.4411 1-15-10-8-5

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

NEW HOMES - 3.2 MILES NORTH OF UF
US Dept of Energy, professionally energy tested, est elec bill \$80. 3 different plans, starting at \$208,900. Schackow Realty, developer 352-514-5060 or rlschack@aol.com 1-13-10-5-5

FORECLOSED HOME AUCTION 200+ FLORIDA HOMES! Auction: Jan 23 REDC | View Full Listings www.Auction.com RE No. CQ1031187 1-8-1-5

20 ACRE LAND FORECLOSURES Near Growing El Paso, Texas. No Credit Checks/ Owner Financing. \$0 Down, Take over \$159/ mo. payment. Was \$16,900, NOW \$12,856. (800)755-8953 www.texaslandforeclosures.net 1-8-1-5

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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

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION

B ₃	E ₁	G ₂	O ₁	N ₁	I ₁	A ₁	RACK 1 =	70
L ₁	E ₁	G ₂	I ₁	B ₃	L ₁	E ₁	RACK 2 =	60
M ₃	E ₁	R ₁	C ₃	E ₁	R ₁		RACK 3 =	10
R ₁	E ₁	B ₃	U ₁	I ₁	L ₁	D ₂	RACK 4 =	66
PAR SCORE 145-155							TOTAL	206

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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

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

7 Computers

CASH PAID: Laptops & Cameras
Parts & Repair Mac & PC laptops
Laptop Chargers. Joel 336-0075
www.pcrecycle.biz 4-21-09-71-7

COMPUTER & LAPTOP REPAIRS
Network specialists
We buy computers and laptops
Working and Non-working
378-4009, 607 NW 13th Street
4-21-10-69-7

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

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...
bikes, computers, printers, vehicles & more. All individuals interested in bidding go to: surplus.uf.edu 392-0370 4-21-09-71-10

PARKING 60 SECONDS TO UF
Next to McDonalds NW 13th St. Call for semester rates: 352-538-2454. 1-15-10-8-10

ALL CASH VENDING! Do you earn \$800 in a day? 25 Local Machines and Candy \$9,995. (888)629-9968 BO2000033 CALL US: We will not be undersold! 1-8-1-10

Get Dish -FREE Installation-\$19.99/mo HBO & Showtime FREE-Over 50 HD Channels FREE Lowest Prices-No Equipment to Buy! Call Now for full Details- (877)416-0191 1-8-1-10

10 For Sale

Get Dish -FREE Installation-\$19.99/mo HBO & Showtime FREE-Over 50 HD Channels FREE Lowest Prices-No Equipment to Buy! Call Now for full Details- (877)227-2998 1-8-1-10

11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

★★★WWW.RPMMOTORCYCLES.COM★★★
FULL SERVICE REPAIR SHOP 11TH YEAR OEM + AFTERMARKET PARTS + ACCY'S HUGE TIRE SELECTION IN STOCK. CALL FOR PRICES + DISCOUNTS 352-377-6974 4-21-09-71-11

★★★★★New Scooters 4 Less★★★★★
Motor Scooter Sales and Service!
Great Scooters, Service & Prices!
118 NW 14th Ave, Ste D, 336-1271
www.NS4L.com
4-21-09-71-11

★★★GatorMoto★★★
Largest Scooter Store in Town! Run by Gator Grads! New scooters starting at \$999. No legit shop can beat these prices! 1yr Warranties included. 376-6275 GatorMoto.com 4-21-09-71-11

SCOOTER SERVICE
New Scooters 4 Less has LOW service rates! Will service any make/model. Close to UF! Pick-ups avail cheap oil changes!! 336-1271 4-21-09-71-11

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Mil. awards	3 Twin-hulled boat	38 "Climb ___ Mountain": "The Sound of Music" song	48 Not yet fulfilled
5 Pro's employee	4 Curly's predecessor and successor	39 Invoice column hdg.	49 Sugar source
10 Keyboardist Hess	5 Turns to swing	43 Stew holders	50 Torment
14 Colorful deepwater fish	6 Measuring instruments	44 They may be raised during a game	51 Bell ringer's reply
15 Sylvester's "Rocky" co-star	7 Cartoon hunter	45 Pound sound	52 Artisan's work area
16 Like The Citadel, today	8 Snort	47 Grammy winner	55 Food no. usually shown in milligrams
17 High-tech unit	9 ___ Bo	11 Dealer's query	56 Chemist's work area
18 Cool body shop specialist?	10 Early 15th century year	12 ___ a beet	58 "Amen!"
20 Destructive spree	13 City SSE of Sana'a	19 Text file with program instructions	
22 Perrier rival	23 Apple shipping vehicles?	21 ___ tent	
26 Ottoman officer	27 E-mail endings, at times	23 Call during a toss	
28 Staff	29 Inexperienced one	24 The Supremes, e.g.	
31 Coffee-flavored liqueur	30 Texter's "Yikes!"	25 Engine sound	
36 Like overcrowded medical clinics?	31 Mil. request	32 Rose of rock	
40 Toot	32 Result of an ump's decision, maybe	33 Together	
41 Car with a bar	34 Come to a new land	35 Together	
42 ___-80: old RadioShack computer	35 Together	37 Crusty entrée	
43 Lee side: Abbr.	37 Crusty entrée		
46 Palindromic diarist			
47 Short, fat pen filler?			
52 Important peninsula in the Six-Day War, 1967			
53 Pursue			
54 Laundry security device?			
57 Much more than tickle			
59 "The ___ lama, he's a priest ...": Nash			
60 Arigato : Japan :: ___ : Germany			
61 Pal			
62 Evening spread?			
63 Hardly a miniature gulf			
64 Regards			

DOWN

1 Baseball card stat	60	61
2 Pop-jazz band named for an algae genus	63	64

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

C	A	T	S	T	A	L	E	P	E	S	I			
A	L	A	T	A	C	I	T	A	L	L	I	N		
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H	E	L	I	O	S	T	R	A	W	A	D	D		
S	N	E	I	E	R	K	R	E	S	S	M	O	E	

xworeditor@aol.com 01/08/10

By Dan Naddor (c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc. 01/08/10

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0940
OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TOO!
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13 Wanted

LIONS CLUB IS SEEKING ASSISTANCE

The Newberry Lions Club is planning a
trip for the visually impaired community of
Gainesville to Daytona Beach on January
15th to attend the "Magic of Braille" exhibit
which is touring the US. A total of \$700 is
needed to ensure transportation for the group.
Any amount donated is truly appreciated.
Donations can be made to the Newberry
Lions Club, PO Box 1439, Newberry, FL
32669. For further information, please con-
tact Bob Respass, Secretary/Treasurer at
352-472-5434. Newberry Lions Club is a
501(c)(4) organization registered with the
State of Florida. 1-11-3-13

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2	3	1	4	5	6	7	9	8
4	8	6	3	7	9	1	5	2
9	7	5	8	1	2	4	6	3
8	6	9	7	4	5	3	2	1
7	5	3	2	9	1	6	8	4
1	4	2	6	3	8	9	7	5
6	1	4	5	8	7	2	3	9
3	2	8	9	6	4	5	1	7
5	9	7	1	2	3	8	4	6

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Students in Accounting, Aviation, Business/
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7pm - practical application from
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Phone: 352-377-5482
www.fpc-gnv.org

Presbyterian
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www.1stpc.org
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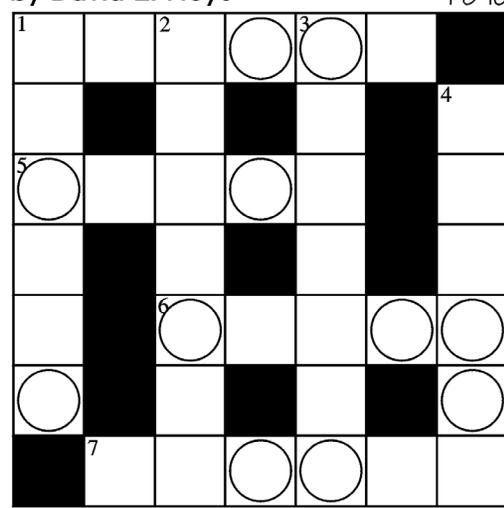
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JUMBLE CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt 1-8-10



ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. American Indian	KMWOAH
5. Mountainous country	ALEPN
6. Fake	RUADF
7. Baseball _____	PREALY

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. This second of its kind	MAYDON
2. Promising	PUFHOLE
3. Type of animal	LYLAABW
4. Horizontal beam	DRIGRE

CLUE: This actress won a "Best Actress" Academy Award for her role in "Network."



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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UF WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Gators down Tigers in double OT

By **EUGENIO TORRENS**

Alligator Writer
etorrens@alligator.org

With the game forced into a second overtime, Steffi Sorensen was the least expected player on the Gators to take a shot. Through the game's first 45 minutes, Sorensen had failed to score a single point.

Then she hit a three-pointer.

Then hit another. And another.

The senior rattled off three-straight shots from beyond the arc, despite missing her first six attempts of the game, to start the second overtime in a 71-68 victory over Auburn on Thursday.

"I was getting some open looks and I wasn't hitting them and it's something I've been used to all season," Sorensen said. "There's two ways you can go about it:

stop shooting and play scared or you can keep shooting, and that's what I did."

The Gators (9-6, 2-0 Southeastern Conference) seemingly had the game won at halftime.

Using strong defense to hold the Tigers to 18.5 percent field-goal shooting (5 of 27) and forcing 15 turnovers in the first half, Florida stormed out to a 33-15 lead at halftime, allowing the fewest points in a half since a Dec. 28, 2006 game against Alabama St.

"I was getting some open looks and I wasn't hitting them and it's something I've been used to all season. There's two ways you can go about it: stop shooting and play scared or you can keep shooting, and that's what I did."

Steffi Sorensen
UF senior guard

Auburn center KeKe Carrier was held to two points in the first half, while the Gators' offense was led by Azania Stewart, who finished with 11 points in the opening period and finished with a career-high 21 points to go with 11 rebounds.

But the Tigers hardly let the 18-point first-half deficit faze them, rallying behind Carrier after intermission. The Tigers went on an 11-2 run to start the half, where Carrier scored every point for them. She finished with a game-high 24 points on 9-of-13 shooting.

The run brought the game within single digits with 10:13 remaining in regulation for the first time since UF led 18-9 early on.

It was a vastly different second half for UF, which reverted back to turning the ball over and being dictated by its opponent. It committed 11 turnovers in the second period compared to just 6 in the first.

SEE W-HOOPS, PAGE 14



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

Center Azania Stewart lines up her free throw shot during the Gators' 71-68 win over Auburn in double overtime Thursday night. The sophomore led UF with 21 points and 11 rebounds.

UF hits the road for season opener

■ MEET GIVES TEAM FIRST LOOK AT TALENTED FRESHMEN.

By **EUGENIO TORRENS**

Alligator Writer
etorrens@alligator.org

The UF gymnastics team opens its season on the road at Norman, Okla., for its first meet of the season against No. 9 Oklahoma tonight at 8. With weather forecasted to be in the teens at the time of the meet, the team can be thankful it gets to perform indoors.

That doesn't mean the Gators' reception will be any warmer.

And with five freshmen who figure to make an immediate impacts on event lineups, it may not take the Sooners faithful long to single them out



Gymnastics

Still, UF gymnastics coach Rhonda Faehn is ready to start the season and see if her freshmen will sink or swim, stick the landing or stumble in their first college meet.

"Most important thing, we have to get our feet wet, get that first competition underway," she said.

Because the Gators are the away team, they won't have the advantage of beginning on vault and ending with floor routines.

Instead, the order of events for UF will be uneven bars, vault, floor exercise and balance beam, one more challenge for the team's freshmen to adjust to.

SEE GYM, PAGE 14

Team looks to Parsons to solve shooting woes

By **ADAM BERRY**

Alligator Staff Writer
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The Gators have spent plenty of time working to get their three-point shots falling again – extra shots in practice, individual shooting sessions, breaking down film.

But if recent history is any indicator, Florida's schedule might be handing it the best chance to break out of its shooting slump.

UF (11-3) will open its Southeastern Conference schedule Saturday at noon against Vanderbilt (11-3) in Memorial Gymnasium in Nashville, Tenn., where the Gators

enjoyed a hot shooting day last season.

The Gators blew out the Commodores 94-69 and shot 15 of 25

from three-point range on Jan. 25, 2009. One game removed from missing a late free throw

against South Carolina that turned a win into a disappointing last-second loss, Chandler Parsons made 7 of



Donovan

into a disappointing last-second loss, Chandler Parsons made 7 of

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 14

TEERING OFF WITH MIKE McCALL

■ Tennessee basketball coach Bruce Pearl this week on his team's chances to win after suspending four players for gun and drug charges: "We've got weapons, we still have got weapons. That's terrible. I apologize." ... Mike Leach is asking for a trial against Texas Tech in the next six weeks. This guy either did nothing wrong or he's totally insane. Either way, I love him.

UF FOOTBALL NEWS

■ The Gators have hired Miami Dolphins inside linebackers coach George Edwards as defensive coordinator, according to the Palm Beach Post and Miami Herald.

I DID NOT KNOW

■ The alligatorSports department is hiring writers. We have five available beats and also need copy editors. Anyone interested should come by the Alligator's open house today between 2-5 p.m.

BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Alabama holds off Texas' McCoy-less comeback bid

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PASADENA, Calif. — The sure thing was looking shaky for Alabama.

Hanging onto a precarious three-point lead and with momentum on the other side, linebacker Eryk Anders made sure the championship wouldn't slip away.

Anders forced a fumble on his blindside sack of Texas backup quarterback Garrett Gilbert with 3:02 left Thursday night to help the top-ranked Crimson Tide hold on for a 37-21 victory in the BCS title game — a win that figured to be much easier when Alabama knocked out Colt McCoy early in the first quarter.

With McCoy on the sideline nursing a shoulder injury, the Tide rolled to a 24-6 lead at halftime, the final touchdown coming when lineman Marcell Dareus picked off a shovel pass and returned it 28 yards for the score late in the second quarter.

The second half figured to be a laugh with Gilbert in the game — a freshman who was Texas' "quarterback of the future" but had thrown only 26 college passes.

The kid almost did it, though.

He threw two touchdown passes to All-American Jordan Shipley to trim the deficit to 24-21 with 6:15 left, and after an Alabama punt, he had the ball at the 7-yard line, 93 yards away from one of the most

improbable comeback stories in the history of the game.

But after an Alabama holding penalty moved the ball to the 17, Gilbert dropped back to pass and got rocked by Anders, a senior who plays in the shadow of All-Americans Terrence Cody and Rolando McClain. The ball went flying and Courtney Upshaw recovered.

Three plays later, Heisman Trophy winner Mark Ingram surged into the end zone from the 1 for the 10-point lead. A few minutes lat-

er, after Gilbert's third interception of the night, Trent Richardson scored his second touchdown to make it 37-21.

Then the party began. Glory came back to one of the country's most storied programs, the football factory that Bear Bryant built, courtesy of Nick Saban, who resurrected this program in the short span of three seasons.

Crimson Tide quarterback Greg McElroy didn't have to do much, going 6 of 11 for 58 yards. Ingram and Richardson did most of the damage, combining for 225 yards and four touchdowns.

Gilbert finished 15 of 40 for 186 yards, two touchdowns and four interceptions.



Ingram

Despite low percentage, Donovan encourages players to keep shooting

HOOPS, from page 13

8 threes, shot 10 of 11 on the game and finished with 27 points.

This year, Parsons will head to Vanderbilt coming off his miracle 75-foot game-winner against N.C. State. But he said neither his previous performances nor the team's recent cold snap from beyond the arc will affect how he shoots Saturday.

"I'm going to shoot the ball. Even if I went 0 for 7 the game before or 7 for 7, I'm going to shoot with confidence," Parsons said. "I've had some success in Vanderbilt's gym before, but they're the same team basically they were last year, just a year older and a year better."

A repeat of last year's performance would certainly boost the Gators' confidence from beyond the arc, where they are shooting just 29 percent on the year.

UF coach Billy Donovan has repeatedly stressed the importance of having his players keep shooting, and the mood around the team's practice facility is that the outside shots will have to start falling eventually.

"I'm a little surprised," Parsons said. "If you come in here and watch practice, these guys are making shots all day. But it's not like it's not going to come around. They're gonna continue to shoot the ball and take good shots and not force anything. I have confidence that our guys can start making them."

The poor shooting has been a different

experience for Donovan, whose teams have enjoyed tremendous success from the outside in the past. And while he isn't saying his team will shoot as well as it has in previous years, he also doesn't believe the team's 3-for-24 performance against N.C. State is an indication of its true potential.

"Time will tell," Donovan said. "We've had some very, very, what I would call horrific shooting games, where it's been 1 for 13 or 2 for 24, and we've had some games where we shot the ball very well."

"Do I think that we'll shoot 3 for 23 the rest of the year? No. Do I think we'll shoot 12 for 24 for the rest of the year? No. It'll probably fall somewhere in between."

Whether or not Florida finds its stroke from long range anytime soon, the Gators will enter their SEC schedule this year looking to avoid a third-straight disappointing end to the season.

UF finished 8-8 in conference play in 2007-08 and 9-7 last year, and both seasons ended with NIT appearances.

"We feel like we deserve it," point guard Erving Walker said. "I know we lost to some subpar teams, but we also beat some good teams. We know the SEC is a tough round, and we just want to take it one game at a time, but I feel like we can do it this year."

"Just seeing the other teams out there, I feel like we can compete with anybody."



Men's Basketball



Matt Tripp / Alligator Staff

Last season at Vanderbilt, forward Chandler Parsons hit 7 of 8 three-point attempts en route to a career-high 27 points. UF has struggled from beyond the arc this year.

Stewart leads UF with 21 points

W-HOOPS, from page 13

The Gators shot nearly a similar percentage in both halves (35.3 percent from the field in the first half and 36.4 in the second) but couldn't get to the free-throw line in the second period and scored 14 less points than before halftime.

By comparison, the Tigers made 15 trips to the charity stripe in the second frame and Auburn outscored Florida 37-19 in the second half.

With 11 seconds left in regulation, Sorensen missed the first shot of her one-and-one, and after a timeout was called by each team, Tigers guard Nicolle Thomas sped down the court and drained a desperation three-pointer with 3 seconds left to send the game

into overtime.

"I knew I had to step up because I wasn't going to lose that game," said Sorensen, who said she never hesitated on her first three-point shot in second overtime.

Stewart, on the verge of fouling out, continued to battle it out with Carrier in overtime and after Carrier missed two free throws that would have made it a two-possession game, Stewart answered with two free throws that sent it into the second overtime, where Sorensen broke the game open on UF's first three possessions.

"I can't say how big of a win it is," coach Amanda Butler said. "It was huge. There were so many highs and lows, but the main thing is we're 2-0 (in the SEC)."

Replacing Sinclair on bars a concern

GYM, from page 13

Florida's performance on bars will give the team a quick look at how much Melanie Sinclair will be missed. Last year, Sinclair posted a perfect 10 on bars against Kentucky, and her removal from the team due to legal issues could impact the team's scoring potential for the event.

"Bars, I'm not gonna lie — she would get a 10 a couple of times and it was almost a guaranteed 9.9," Faehn said about Sinclair. "Our athletes know they just have to work a little harder to gain maybe a quarter-extra tenth for each athlete."

Freshmen, like Ashanee Dickerson, will be looked upon early to fill the gaps left by last year's losses on every event — not just bars — and could be all-around competitors.

Vault, the team's weakest event last year due to lack of depth, should be better this year.

If there's one event where the Gators expect to pull away from Oklahoma, it's the floor.

"I think this floor team rivals the floor team we had in 2007, which we felt we could

almost field two floor teams," Faehn said.

Amy Ferguson, who last year was a staple of the floor lineup, has changed her routine to include more complex skills at a faster pace to complement returning gymnasts Maranda Smith and Courtney Gladys.

"We have solid lineups and a few more on each event," Ferguson said. "Floor, I definitely think, is going to be a strong event. We'll definitely go out with a bang on floor this year."

The last event, the balance beam, gave the team trouble early last season.

This year provides a different challenge: 10 to 11 gymnasts who could earn a spot are battling for six openings. That would mean taking off gymnasts who were doing double- and triple-time last season, filling in on events for other injured gymnasts.

"We do have more depth this year, and that makes everyone feel a little bit more comfortable," senior Amanda Castillo said. "Ultimately, that will help us perform better — we'll have a bit more confidence."



Faehn

JUMPBALL

Spring at UF offers plenty of sports viewing options besides hoops

Editor's Note: This is part of a series of Friday debate columns between two of the Alligator's sports columnists. Let us know your pick for best spring sport by logging onto alligator-sports.org and casting your vote.

Now that you're free from football season's choke hold, it's time to take some advice from Wu Tang Financial and diversify your bonds.

Your sports bonds that is.

There's plenty of great smaller sports to choose from during the spring semester, but if you can check out just one, make it softball.

The games are quick — usually no more than two hours, Florida is one of the best teams in the country coming off of back-to-back Women's College World Series, and Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium is a nice facility and a great place to hang out with a few friends and maybe even catch a few free T-shirts.

Slap hitting is the one part of the game I will probably never fully come around on, but luckily UF coach Tim Walton's lineup is full of girls who dig their back foot into the dirt and blast home runs.

Francesca Enea, who is already Florida's career home runs leader, Kelsey Bruder and Megan Bush combined for 50 homers last season.

Preston Tucker led the baseball team with 15 bombs a year ago, so not even three Preston Tuckers would outdo that trio.

Second baseman Aja Paculba has one



Kyle Maistri
Kyle Points
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of the best swings I've ever seen and brings a lot of excitement to the leadoff spot as she can steal a base, hit an opposite-field double or yank a homer at any time.

And if you appreciate good pitching, Stephanie Brombacher is taking over for Stacey Nelson this season in the circle. The junior is a perfect 42-0 with a no-hitter to her credit through her first two seasons.

No matter what you would like to see in a game, watching softball is often like taking all the best parts of a 210-minute baseball game and squeezing it into a 90-minute timeframe.

All the spring sports are a great change of pace, but softball is without a doubt my favorite.

Truth be told, you should probably take not only my advice and go to a softball game, but take Bob's advice, too, and go to a gymnastics meet, especially if Georgia is in town.

After all, we're trying to diversify. Remember?

Just because football season is over, doesn't mean your Gators clothes have to stay in your closet until next August.

There are still plenty of options for you to cheer on your beloved Florida, and it doesn't stop at men's basketball.

Most of the sports teams at UF are among the nation's best.

For me there is a clear-cut choice for which is the best to attend, and that's gymnastics.

Sure the softball team is great and will likely be playing for a national championship again at the end of the season. The baseball team keeps getting better and has a top-10 team this year, and for the ladies, there is not much better than a baseball player. Lacrosse is interesting because it's new and exciting. The other sports are just niche sports, and not many can stay interested in them.

The big problem with baseball and softball is they take way more dedication and time than anyone should be willing to spend on a small sport.

Baseball and softball have three games almost every weekend and more during the week. Also, it's outside so you're going to have to deal with the



Bobby Callovi
Bobby's World
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weather, and night games early in the season at McKethan Stadium are no fun. Trust me, I made the mistake of not wearing a sweatshirt to one and was out for the next

few games sick.

Lacrosse might be new, but the team probably won't be very good in its first season. And who wants to watch a losing team?

Gymnastics is in the O'Connell Center, so you never have to worry about the weather, and the meets are almost always Friday nights. Don't worry, they are over by 9 p.m., so you can still go out.

The team is always one of the best in the nation, and this year is no different.

For the guys who say gymnastics is just for girls, they clearly have never been to a meet.

So instead of letting your Gators outfits collect dust, brush them off on Friday nights and head to the gymnastics meet.

Just in Case

Case for Softball during the last three years:

Record: 50-22 (2007), 70-5 (2008), 63-5 (2009)

Conference performance: Two SEC titles (2008 & 2009)

NCAA performance: Three NCAA Tourney appearances

Best finish: NCAA runner-up (2009)

Best athlete over the last three years: LHP Stacey Nelson

Best athlete in 2010: OF Francesca Enea

Case for Gymnastics during the last three years:

Record: 15-0-1 (2007), 8-2 (2008), 6-4 (2009)

Conference performance: One SEC title (2007)

NCAA performance: Three Super Six appearances

Best finish: 3rd place (2007)

Best athlete over the last three years: Melanie Sinclair

Best athlete in 2010: Amanda Castillo

Other sports with a case:

Baseball: Two NCAA Tournament appearances

Swimming & Diving: Top-10 finishes at NCAA Championships all three years

Track & Field: Top-10 finish for both teams in 2009

Lacrosse: 2009 No. 1 recruiting class; inaugural season

Jocelyne Sanchez / Alligator Staff

GATOR SWIMMING + DIVING
THIS WEEKEND

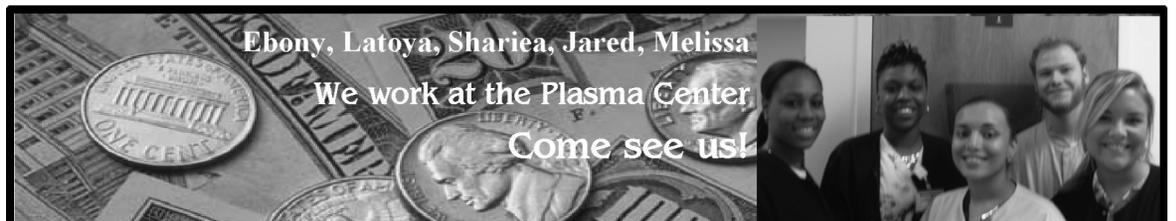
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SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 10 THROUGH JANUARY 15

Lunch:	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner:	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Evening Event:	8 p.m. - 11 p.m.



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