



SPOTLIGHT ON THE SWAMP

Nursing student holds signing for first book

By **ELIZABETH BEHRMAN**
 Alligator writer

from her imagination.

"I put myself in a situation, and it's like a movie playing in my

head," she said.

When Francois was finished with the story about a year ago, she

submitted it to Legacy Publishing, an Orlando-based company.

She said when she heard the

news that the company agreed to publish the book, she was ecstatic because getting published was always one of her greatest dreams.

"Just to have that big one accomplished is an amazing feeling," Francois said.

She said her family and friends supported and prayed with her every step of the way.

"I couldn't do it without God and my parents," she said. "It definitely wasn't a solo project."

Sandra Garzon, fellow nursing student and a friend of Francois' since high school, said writing is something Francois is very passionate about.

"Every time she starts talking about the book, you can see how excited she is," Garzon said.

Francois said she will continue writing after she graduates.

She has already written the sequel to "Reckless Perfection" and started working on the third installment.

"I think writing is a part of me," Francois said. "I can't let that go."

The book is being sold at Books Inc. and at the UF Bookstore.

UF junior Laura Francois has a two-sided story.

She's a nursing major, and she wrote a book.

Francois released her first novel, "Reckless Perfection," in December and held her first book signing Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. at Books Inc. on Northwest 13th Street.

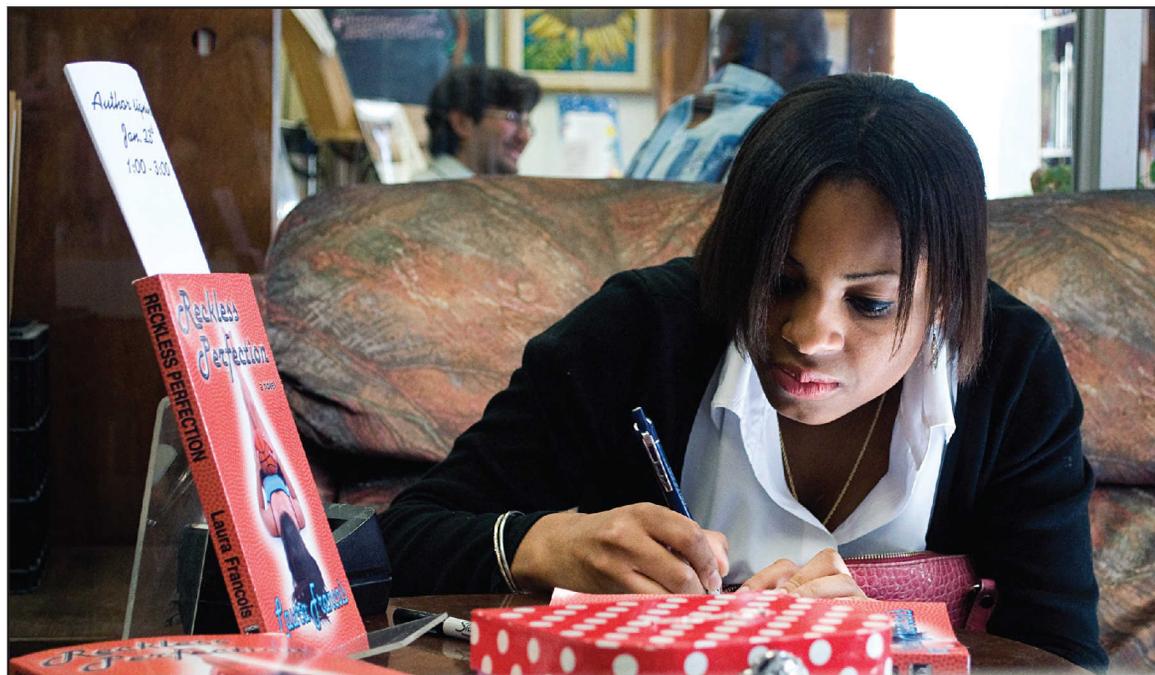
"Reckless Perfection" is a 235-page story of four high school girls and their relationships and experiences.

Francois said she started writing the story in a notebook when she was in eighth grade and let her friends read it and make comments in the margins.

She said she rewrote the book about five times since she started writing, especially after she encountered new high school experiences.

"That really motivated me to continue to write," Francois said.

She said some parts of the book are based on her experiences or those of friends and family, but most of the story comes straight



Thomas Plevik / Alligator Staff

Laura Francois, a UF nursing student and author, signs copies of her first book, "Reckless Perfection" at Books Inc. on Saturday afternoon.

Law school gets clinic grant

■ THE COLLEGE WILL PAIR WITH SHANDS TO OPEN A DOMESTIC ABUSE CLINIC.

By **JOEY FLECHAS**
 Alligator Writer

The UF Levin College of Law received about \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice to fund a new kind of clinic for victims of domestic violence.

The Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Clinic, opening in May, will be located in the obstetrics, gynecology and pediatrics clinic at Shands at UF.

Victims will receive medical treatment, meet with housing and mental health counselors and seek legal consultation.

Teresa Drake, the clinic's director and a former assistant state attorney, said the clinic involves a combined effort from the law school, the UF College of Medicine, Shands HealthCare and Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network.

No similar clinic exists on any other campus in the country, and the collaboration could provide a model for future clinics, Drake said.

"We've got people around the country watching us," she said.

In order to meet the grant's objectives, curricula for the college of medicine and the law school will include domestic violence education and defense training, Drake said.

"We've got people around the country watching us."

Teresa Drake

The Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Clinic director

She said clinic staff will also reach out to the community to inform people about the clinic.

Drake said the clinic's obstetrician-gynecologists will begin training to learn how to screen for domestic abuse in March.

She plans to bring medical and law students together on community service projects so they can start working and learning from one another.

"The idea is to train these two critical professions to recognize and be able to react when they come across victims of domestic violence," Drake said.

Mayor candidate opens headquarters

By **CJ PRUNER**
 Alligator Writer

With American flags and handmade campaign signs hanging in the background, Gainesville City Commissioner Craig Lowe welcomed the public to his newly opened campaign headquarters Friday.

According to Lowe, he believes he is the first mayoral candidate to open a campaign headquarters in Gainesville.

Lowe, who has served on

the Gainesville City Commission since 2003, is running for mayor. He is vying to take the place of Pegeen Hanrahan,

who has served the maximum of two three-year terms.

Speaking to about 60 people, Lowe vowed to address issues relating to the city budget, environment and economic development.

"In this campaign, there

SEE OPENING, PAGE 8

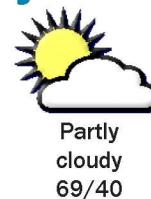
■ Forward Chandler Parsons notched a double-double and hit his second buzzer beat-er of the season to lift Florida past South Carolina 58-56 in the O'Connell Center on Saturday. See Story, Page 14.



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News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Peace Corps Environment Globe Talk

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

The Hub's International Center

Interested in doing environment-related work abroad? Come out to hear returned Peace Corps volunteers speak about their experiences living and working in environment-related jobs around the world. A recruiter will answer any and all questions pertaining to the Peace Corps application process. E-mail peacecorps@ufic.ufl.edu for questions.

RUB Entertainment presents: Spoken Word Artist Marc Marcel

Tuesday, 8 p.m.

Orange and Brew

Join us as we present a night of spoken word poetry by Marc Marcel in the Orange & Brew. Internationally renowned, Marcel has been featured on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and at the 2009 Presidential Inauguration Peace Ball. Covering issues such as politics, love, spirituality and the struggles of life, his performance is sure to include something for everyone. For more information, join us on Facebook or on Twitter @RUBentertain

Asian American Student Union Meeting

Today, 6:30 p.m.

Location TBA

Do you know what the Asian stereotype is these days? Join us for a short social before the meeting. Snacks will be provided. Check our Facebook group for more information, Asian American Student Union at UF.

Queers on the Small Screen: The Representation of Queer on Television

Wednesday, 11:45 a.m.

Weimer Hall 2066

A talk by Sofie Van Bauwel, University of Ghent. The event is sponsored by the Center for European Studies and the college of Journalism and Communications.

Got something going on?

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

LOCAL

Cyclists promote solar energy during world tour

The Solar Cyclists are coming to Gainesville.

The three cyclists, who are biking around the world to raise awareness about solar energy and solutions to climate change, will be making a pit stop at UF on Wednesday.

The George A. Smathers Libraries is partnering with the UF Office of Sustainability to host

SolarCycle Week, a week dedicated to promoting solar energy and cycling.

"Lots of organizations are joining Smathers Libraries to organize SolarCycle Week, like the American Solar Energy Society at UF, the Reitz Union and local cycling groups," said Bonnie Smith, employee relations and development coordinator of George A. Smathers Libraries. "We're trying to get the whole community involved."

The week's activities will start today with a U.S. Department of Energy Database Workshop in the Marston Science Library, which will teach participants to better navigate and use the Department of Energy databases.

The Reitz Union will show "The Great Squeeze: Surviving the Human Project" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, which investigates the consequences of human dependence on fossil fuels.

Smith said on there will be five events Thursday, including the SolarCycle Week Expo on the Plaza of the Americas.

The Solar Cyclists will also be at the SolarCycle Expo with their bicycles to answer questions, according to the event's Web site.

Smith said she hopes SolarCycle Week will raise awareness about sustainability and the need for change.

"This is an opportunity for students to see that things that are out of the box are attainable, that they can live dreams and help the world," Smith said. "The Solar Cyclists really speak to the heart."

Cycling and solar power exhibits will be displayed in Marston Science Library and Library West for the rest of the month.

For more information and a schedule of events, visit www.web.uflib.ufl.edu/solarcycle. To learn more about the SolarCycle Diaries, visit www.thesolarcyclediaries.com.

— JENNIFER COLEMAN

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New SG party named

By **ELIZABETH BEHRMAN**
Alligator Writer

After surviving a merger, the party has spoken.

The newly formed Student Alliance Party, a conglomerate of the former Orange and Blue and Progress parties, has announced its party leaders for February's Student Government elections.

Former Orange and Blue Party Sen. Ben Cavatario is the Student Alliance Party candidate for Student Body president, and former Progress Party Sen. Dave Schneider will be the party president.

Cavatario said the party hopes to bring together students from different organizations and activities across campus to make the SG budget more transparent and protect Bright Futures funds.

"All of these segments are going to come together, and our party is going to be very broad-based," Cavatario said.

"We're very optimistic," he said. "We think people are hungry for new leader-

ship."

Cavatario said he thinks students want to move in a new direction.

"We need a Student Government that's going to stand up, not stand around," he said.

He cited the Reitz Union fee as an example and said the party's campaign will focus on gathering student opinions about potential fee increases.



Cavatario

Unite Party spokesman Ben Meyers said the Unite Party's campaign strategies will not be influenced by the creation of the

new party.

Meyers said the Unite Party has been successful so far due to the experience of its members, its ideas and open lines of communication with the Student Body.

He said the Unite Party will be announcing its candidates Monday at 3 p.m. on Turlington Plaza.

ON CAMPUS

UF adds to poster collection

By **KELLY MORGAN**
Alligator Contributing Writer

UF now boasts the largest Mexican film poster collection of any public institution in the U.S.

The Efraín Barradas Mexican and Cuban Film Poster Collection opened to the public on Jan. 15, and the official dedication was Friday.

Ramón A. Figueroa, associate professor of Spanish at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., recently donated his collection of 378 film posters to the Latin American collection housed in Smathers Library. He asked that the collection be named after Efraín Barradas, professor of Spanish-American literature and Latin American studies at UF.

Figueroa and Barradas met at the University of Massachusetts, where Barradas was a teacher and Figueroa was studying for his bachelor's degree.

The posters are from the 1940s and 1950s and consist of primarily Mexican films, although there are some Cuban film posters, as well.

James Liversidge, curator of popular culture collections, described the collection as eclectic and said he believes it is a perfect fit for UF.

"This gives us major focus and puts us on the map," he said.

Upon learning of the donation, the library received a \$4,500 grant to preserve the posters.

John Freund, chairman of the UF Libraries Preservation Unit, found preserving this collection to be a daunting task.

"This gives us major focus and puts us on the map."

James Liversidge

curator of popular cultural collections

He and a student volunteer worked to unfold the posters, flatten the edges and smooth the creases, which took about 90 hours, he said.

"The biggest problem was the size," Freund said. Each poster is stored in its own protective casing, which will prevent damage. In addition to preserving the posters, the library has digitized versions of the collection.

Hard copies of each poster are numbered, stored alphabetically and are available in the library for research purposes.

The collection will be on display in Smathers Library until Feb. 28.

Don't Miss **alligator** Heartlines
Put Your Heart on the Line This Valentine's

Place a Heartline message for your special someone in the Alligator's Valentine's Day Heartlines Section and be eligible to win prizes from:

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HIPPODROME
STATE THEATRE

Manuel's
Vintage Room

Best
Poem

Mushiest

Strangest

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Each Category winner will receive flowers and candy. In addition, the Judge's Choice, picked from those winners, will also win dinner for two and theater tickets.

Five (5) prizes will be awarded by five in-house judges. Deadline for submission is 4pm on Feb 5th. All Heartline messages placed will be automatically entered in the contest. Winners will be notified prior to Feb 12th. Winners will be announced in the Feb 12th edition. Positive ID required to collect winnings. Officers, directors, employees & their family members of the Alligator, or affiliates of the contest are not eligible to enter contest. You do not need to be present to win. Prized cannot be transferred. Gratuity and sales tax not included. Dinner certificate must be used by March 31, 2010. No purchase necessary to enter. Contact Classified Office for details.

alligator

Please welcome
our keynote speaker for
**Sexual Assault
Awareness Event**
Dr. Jackson Katz



Tuesday, January 26th, 2010
7:30 - 9:00 pm
in the Touchdown Terrace
(stadium between Gates 8 & 9)

Sponsored by CARE, UAA, AAREST &
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HAITI RELIEF

Weekend events raise \$6,300 for Haiti relief efforts

By **MINCH MINCHIN,**
TATIANA QUIROGA,
and **ANDREA RUMBAUGH**
Alligator Contributing Writers

Within three days, three local events raised about \$6,300 for Haiti.

A concert featuring local bands and free beer at Brophy's Irish Pub Friday night collected about \$1,500.

Most of the money was collected through the \$5 cover charge and donated to Partners In Health and Doctors Without Borders, which are organizations that provide medical care in countries affected by war, disasters or poverty.

About 250 people attended.

David Sutton, co-organizer of the event, spent last summer installing clean water filtration systems in Haiti and decided to organize the concert a week in advance.

Meredith McCall, a Gainesville musician, helped plan it.

She found four acoustic performers and two bands to perform.

Josh Roberts was the first performer and began by singing "Save Me" by Dave Matthews Band.

"I could never think about what it would be like to have no place to go, everything around me is destroyed and some of my family members were missing," Roberts said. "There's no health care; there is nothing for the broken legs, the broken backs, the cuts."

The five other performers were To All My Dear Friends, Fast Lane, Monster, Meredith (of Redboy) and Erica C (of The Wooden).

Gainesville resident Andrea Cellini, 31, came because she wanted to

support Haiti.

"I feel they've always had a rough time in Haiti, and this is the roughest they've faced in a long time," Cellini said. About 300 other locals hoping to help Haiti attended Club Creole's Spring Gala and Proj-

ect Haiti fundraiser Saturday night at the Turkey Creek Golf & Country Club in Alachua.

Club Creole is a UF Haitian cultural organization, and the event auctioned off Haitian paintings. It raised more than \$3,000 for Project

Haiti's medical mission trip to Haiti in March.

Jemima Douyon, a UF sophomore born in Haiti, said almost every Haitian person at the fundraiser knew someone affected by the earthquake.

"Five people died that I know," Douyon said.

The event included a showing of a video taken near Port-au-Prince moments after the earthquake. The audience issued a collective gasp as a scene depicted a motionless, dust-encrusted hand protruding from rubble.

Aaron Jackson, the keynote speaker of the gala and co-founder of Planting Peace, a nonprofit organization that promotes health and safety around the world, spoke at the event.

He has spent about a week in Haiti helping with relief efforts and also encouraged gala attendees to do their part.

About 400 students attended a \$5 pancake brunch Friday to benefit Gators United for Haiti.

The event raised about \$1,800 and was hosted by Kappa Alpha Theta and Sigma Phi Epsilon, said Rachel Bevans, Kappa Alpha Theta president.

Bevans said the event also received support from people who are not involved in Greek organizations.

"It's more about making a difference than having a social hour," Bevans said.

Sigma Phi Epsilon president and finance junior Mike Eisen said the event was a good way to raise money while opening it up to as many people as possible.

"So many people were killed, injured and left homeless," Eisen said. "With the resources we had here, we figured we could make something of a difference."



Max Reed / Alligator

Esther Dorvilus, Castille Etienne and Rilwan Ajayi celebrate as their friend places a winning bid of \$525 for a Haitian scenery painting at the Club Creole Gala on Saturday.

Invisible Children wins \$1 million in Facebook contest

■ IT WILL GIVE \$100,000 TO HAITI.

By **LEAH GOODWYNE**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Invisible Children has taken the top spot to win \$1 million in Chase Bank's Community Giving Facebook promotion.

Chase posted the final votes early Saturday morning. Invisible Children, a nonprofit working to aid children in war-torn Northern Uganda, topped the leaderboard with 123,990 votes.

Invisible Children announced Wednesday it would donate \$100,000 to support relief work in Haiti.

Stephanie Alman, president of the UF chapter of Invisible Children, said the chapter would not receive any of the contest money.

National News "We raise money from our own schools and we do fundraising on a smaller, grassroots level," Alman said.

They narrowly beat Isha Foundation Inc., which had 122,742 votes. Isha works to provide health care and community development in rural communities.

To Write Love on Her Arms placed third with 96,145 votes. The organization helps people struggling with depression, addiction, self-injury and suicide.

13th Annual



April 10, 2010 at 8 a.m.

Behind North Florida
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Benefiting the student-run Equal Access Clinic of Gainesville which provides free healthcare to underprivileged populations.

For more info:

Call Stephanie Mazariegos at
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ufpremed.org/easc



So far **35,309** people have been affected by swine flu. If you're concerned come join the SG Health Affairs Cabinet **January 25th** from **6:30pm to 8pm** in **FLG 260** to learn more about what UF has done for your safety and to demystify this pandemic.

AROUND GAINESVILLE

Import cars face off

By **GLENN COINE**

Alligator Contributing Writer

The smell of alcohol, burnt rubber and gasoline filled the air Sunday at Gainesville Raceway as about 200 competitors and 1,500 spectators showed up for the 101st Import Face-Off.

The event comes to Gainesville twice a year and hosts more than 20 events annually nationwide. And according to director Cliff Wallace, it is the only event of its kind to survive the recession.

"Every other event has gone bust," he said. "But if they keep coming, we'll keep doing it."

Dwight Baldwin, co-owner of Stage 6 Motorsports in Jacksonville, blames dependency on foreign oil for the drop in attendance and prize money.

Baldwin said E85, which is 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent race gas, is a viable option to cut the cost of expensive fuel.

"You can make really good power on it. The problem is it's hard to come by," he said.

However, he thinks it will become more readily available in the near future.

But for now, cars are an expensive hobby. People like Vic Miraflor, 42, of Orange Park, spend thousands of dollars rebuilding and modifying cars for speed.

"Every other event has gone bust," he said. "But if they keep coming, we'll keep doing it."

Cliff Wallace
event director

His '95 Honda Civic ran a 10.23 second 1/4 mile at 144 miles per hour on Sunday. To put that in perspective, Motortrend.com lists the 1/4 mile time for a Ferrari 599 as 11.3 seconds at 126.4 miles per hour.

Despite the cost, Miraflor said he loves what he does.

"When I'm stressed, I just go to the garage and start working on my car," he said. "I focus on one thing, and everything else just goes away."



Thomas Plevik / Alligator Staff

Beeing Cautious

Brothers Nataniel Kricker, 9, and Kennedy Kricker, 7, watch cautiously as honey bees fly in and out of a beehive built by the Urban Homesteading project on Saturday.

Philadelphia airport on high schooler
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HSRN#3 First time local guests. 18 years and older. Expires February 28, 2010

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Editorial

Sour SexToon

Haiti cartoon wasn't meant to offend

A picture is worth a thousand words. But 1,000 words is nothing compared to what the Editorial Board received when the Alligator ran Thursday's sexToon, which depicted two people having sex on a table texting the word "Haiti" to the Red Cross.

Before we talk about anything else in this editorial, we would like to say one thing: We still have a lot to figure out.

After all, we are students.

However, we have a much bigger responsibility than most of the Student Body.

Don't get us wrong — it's an awesome one. We get to bring UF students and Gainesville residents their daily dose of local news, politics, entertainment and Gators sports.

When deciding to run that cartoon, we in no way wanted to make light of the situation that happened in Haiti.

Furthermore, we appreciate all of the fundraising efforts that have come from the Red Cross, UF organizations, the Salvation Army and any other person or group who has stepped up in this time of need.

We were simply trying to show how people have come together to help the Haitians in their time of need, as we do when we publish stories about the relief efforts of students — only with the cartoon, we were giving it a humorous spin. We understand that Haitians are dealing with a horrible tragedy, and we would never want to treat the situation insensitively. But despite the heartbreak, we see beauty in the way the world is coming together to help Haitians. Our cartoon was simply an acknowledgment of the fact that people are joining together to get behind a cause.

Alligator employees are standing behind Haitians as much as anyone else. The Avenue Editor wrote a guest column last week encouraging students to donate, and most of us have made personal donations.

We apologize if the execution fell a little flat, but the cartoon was certainly not malicious, and offense was never our intention.

We are an independent newspaper, and we rely on each other and ourselves to make good decisions and good choices.

However, we do not operate under the illusion that we are perfect. We want feedback, and we want to learn. We don't look at the past with regret but as an opportunity to grow.

That's why we created a special e-mail address where you can send your questions, comments and concerns: alligator-feedback@gmail.com

This is not the place to harangue us. What you send here will not be published in the Letters to the Editor section. This is a place where you can send constructive criticism, suggestions, ideas, etc. and be assured that the editors will read it. We want to be as connected as possible to the Student Body, and the only way we can do that is to have an open pathway for you to access us.

Lay it on us.

That said, we would like to make it clear that we won't be bullied into removing the sexToons completely.

And talking to our advertisers about our "smut magazine," or e-mailing President Machen (yeah, someone really hates us that much) won't scare us.

We may be independent from UF and distribute our paper to more people than just college students, but when it comes down to it, we are a college newspaper.

And college students have sex — not all of them, but a lot of them. You may not agree with it, and you may not participate, but it happens.

So if we want to publish a sexToon in the entertainment section, we will.

the independent florida
alligator

Chelsea Keenan

EDITOR

Emily Fuggetta

J. Hunter Sizemore

MANAGING EDITORS

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

Opinions

ALLIGATOR
www.alligator.org/opinions



Column

Obama needs to fight back after loss

Well, it's official — the presidency of Barack Obama is over.

No, seriously, it's over. After all, the pundits have spoken. Scott Brown, a Republican state senator from Massachusetts, which is probably the most liberal, commie pinko place on earth, was elected to the U.S. Senate last week in a special election to fill the late Ted Kennedy's spot.

See, the people have spoken. Or, more precisely, 1,168,107 voters in Massachusetts have spoken. And what did they say? We want change!

Surprising, isn't it?

And because the Obama presidency is over, the pundits have taken to writing up its obituary. Here lies the Obama administration, killed by a disconnection with the American people over the role of government, says Wall Street Journal columnist Peggy Noonan. Here is the grave of the Democratic Party, killed off by its own hubris, New York Times columnist David Brooks contends.

Both Noonan and Brooks make the same flawed observation that's been circulating around the op-ed pages, radio talk shows and cable-television shouting matches all week: Obama believed his own hype and never adapted to the public's changing mood on issues like finance and health care reform.

The problem with this analysis is that it pretends the public was never invested in meaningful reform. Just one year ago, the vast majority of America was gung-ho on completely overhauling our broken health care system.

Even six months ago, a majority of Americans thought health care reform should include a public option.

In the past six months, Obama and the American people have suffered a leadership crisis.

People don't get ticked off when an elected official doesn't listen to their concerns. No, people get indig-

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



Matthew Christ
letters@alligator.org

nant when a leader doesn't try to convince the public why he's right. When the opposition came out and painted health care reform as a radical, un-American piece of legislation aimed at destroying the American family and who knows what else, D.C. Democrats never came out with equal fervor to recapture the public's attention.

They lost faith in their own convictions.

Even worse, all of this played out over the background of a less-than-stellar economy. A new Brookings Institute report finds that in 2008, more than 30 percent of the population fell below the poverty line. With figures like that, you simply can't afford to appear preoccupied with what now appears to be a political fight.

Not all's bad. President Obama is still the most trusted person in government, Democrats are consistently ranked higher than Republicans in opinion polls, and the GOP, despite its recent win in Massachusetts, is still the party of no ideas.

The president has another chance to convince the American public why his ideas are right for the country this Wednesday at his State of the Union address.

Otherwise, he'll continue to come off like Count Rostov in Leo Tolstoy's "War and Peace." After giving a rousing speech, Rostov marches into battle only to see the enemy actually advancing toward him. Rostov, aloof and perplexed, wonders why the enemy keeps marching. "To kill me?" he asks, "Me, whom everyone loves so?"

There is something to say about the audacity of fighting back.

Matthew Christ is a political science and journalism sophomore.

Reader response

Today's question:

Did last week's sexToon offend you?

Friday's question:

Did you go to the career showcase?

12% YES

88% NO

161 TOTAL VOTES

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Letters to the Editor

Columnist needed more facts

On Friday, Alligator columnist Paul Murty addressed the sad fact that gun and knife crimes in the U.S. are exorbitantly high when compared to rates in the U.K. The emotional response to these tragic crimes is often to immediately bash guns and gun owners and attempt to curtail their rights, but the argument Murty raised for gun control needs more facts.

Guns may not be the real problem or the only problem. How does the size and training of the police force compare in the U.S. and the U.K.? Are criminals punished differently in the U.K.? Who can be licensed to own a gun in the U.K.? There are more factors contributing to the issue of gun crimes, and to look narrowly at guns as the only problem would be irresponsible.

If you're interested enough in a topic to be swayed by someone's opinion, then it doesn't hurt to look up the facts for yourself so you can make a more informed decision.

Logan Pyle
4LS

Gun control article unoriginal

Paul Murty's Friday column "America should rid itself of gun use" is wholly unoriginal and poorly crafted. Murty floats a few arguments for the elimination of private arms in this country, and, as usual, they don't make it off the ground.

The first half of his valuable column space is wasted because gun rights in this country have nothing to do with England, knives or even gun deaths. The right to bear arms is the second amendment for a reason: In order to make certain the government doesn't become oppressive of its people, the citizenry need to have the means to overthrow it. Murty posits, incorrectly,

that what weapons exist in the hands of private citizens "are nothing compared to the might of the armed forces." There are nearly as many guns in the U.S. as there are citizens, and the military is only so big. Remember, the colonists were no match for the British, and last time I checked, I don't have a hankering for tea or speak like Sir Alec Guinness.

Murty's subsequent conclusion that we don't need guns for the reason the founders envisioned goes something like this: In the event the government did become totally renegade, the military would so squarely kick the collective asses of 300 million people if they decided to get out of line, and we should just give up any pretense of defending ourselves or exercising our rights to revolt. I'd be laughing if it wasn't such a stupid and equally cowardly statement.

Apparently, in an attempt to say as many dumb things as one can in a given column, Murty compares the Bible to the Constitution in what can only be described as an example of Bush-league sophistry. If you need help seeing how this comparison is just idiotic beyond words, ask a friend who knows how to dress themselves explain it to you.

Finally, forgetting all of the previous points, Murty believes that ridding the country of nearly 300 million guns could even be pulled off. Or perhaps, when he read back over the rest of his flawed column, he shrugged his shoulders and figured, "What the hell?"

Rob Myers
Gainesville Resident

Alligator staff lacks class

I ran right past disgusted into just plain

appalled.

Self-expression? Yes, I understand that. But just like I don't express my naked physique in public, I don't care to know about others' penises or any other sex failures. If I were looking for that kind of advice, I would know right where to find it. But when I pick up the Alligator, I don't expect that. In particular, I am referring to the article on Thursday called "Hard OFF: When Penises Flop" and the sextoon.

How far have you come to get a reaction that you have to resort to these types of articles? Could you really not come up with anything more creative to share? Maybe something that didn't involve being an indirect advocate for promiscuous, drunk sex? It makes me think that your staff is just a group of ravaged, hormonal, sex-starved teenagers, and that the only way to feel good about yourself is to post cartoons defiling the tragedy in Haiti and an exemplary organization that is part of numerous countries around the world.

I've been at UF for four years, and I've always loved getting the Alligator, but now you just make me want to throw up, and that's not an understatement — it's just the plain truth. And I'm neither a saint nor a celibate Christian. I curse when I shouldn't and have a safe sex life. Yet all of this I cannot stand because it degrades your work, that of the Alligator's predecessors, the university, the city and UF students in general. Have some class.

Carolina Diaz

Corporations entitled to free speech

Last Thursday, the Supreme Court got it right. When the Supreme Court was created by the Founding Fathers, it was not intended to promote social justice or uphold

laws that are popular with much of the public. The Supreme Court instead serves to ensure that laws follow the Constitution strictly as it is written.

When the federal government oversteps its constitutionally prescribed powers, it is up to the judiciary to keep those federal power grabs in check. Free speech, a cornerstone of the Bill of Rights, should be protected. The 5-4 majority struck down needless campaign finance laws because, as argued by Justice Anthony Kennedy in the majority opinion, corporations and other for-profit and nonprofit organizations have every right to free speech and expression. In sum, he says "no sufficient governmental interest justifies limits on the political speech."

Using money to fund issue ads telling voters to support or vote against a candidate is free speech and is now protected as such.

Interest groups are vital to politics because they give people a collective voice in Washington, D.C., to represent their interests. Blue-collar workers, white-collar workers and opposing interests, business and labor and other interests will now have more robust representation in Washington, D.C. Interest groups are necessary for the vitality of democratic governments, and limiting their free expression is limiting the ability for many Americans to have ample representation in government affairs.

The decisions handed down by the Supreme Court are not always popular with some, but when they restore free speech rights and allow freedom of expression for groups that give representation to many Americans, then you know they are doing their jobs.

Jeff Ivey

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Lowe: The campaign will be organized, active and respectful of Gainesville

OPENING, from page 1

will be voices who want to return to the policies of old," he told the crowd. "That will not be a part of the Gainesville we want."

Since Lowe announced his candidacy in August, the campaign has mobilized about 100 volunteers, said Garrett Garner, Lowe's campaign manager.

Garner expects more to join as the March 16 election draws

closer.

Julia Boyd, a UF political science and economics junior who serves as an intern on the campaign, said one of Lowe's best characteristics is his ability to connect with people, especially students.

"He's not locked behind a closed door," she said. "He's out there with the people. He cares about the community."

In an interview before the

grand opening, Lowe emphasized the importance of the upcoming election.



Lowe

"The future of Gainesville is in the balance in this election," he said. "We need to continue the progress we have made in order to make Gainesville a better place."

Lowe is running against four opponents: Monica Cooper, Don Marsh and Richard Selwach.

While Lowe maintains that he is confident in his campaign, he said he will not be complacent.

"We'll run a very organized and active campaign that's respectful of Gainesville," he said.

Jeff Lane, who attended the opening, offered Lowe the endorsement of the Gainesville Professional Firefighters, praising his

commitment to law enforcement.

Lane, who said Gainesville is facing its most difficult times since the 1970s, believes Lowe has all the right attributes to lead the city.

"Challenging times require experience in city government," Lane said.

"[Lowe] has the ability to bring many divergent points of view to a consensus. I think he's the best candidate," he said.

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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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1/1 from \$589 * 2/2 from \$649
3/2 from \$769 * Washer/Dryers
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Tennis*1 mile to UF*Huge Laundry Facilities
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No pets. Call Geri 352-538-1114 2-3-10-38-2

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Close to UF, cute & clean 2BD/2BA
1000sq ft, storage/laundry room with W/D
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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

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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

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 1-27-10-17-2

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

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

★**CAMPUS EDGE CONDO**★
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●●●**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

\$100 OFF 1st MONTH RENT. 2 BR/1.5 Bath
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Sweet studio w/large porch, deck, on creek. Safe area. On busline. Tiled, laundry priv. \$395/mo, 1/3 utils, 1st/last/\$400 sec. 352-384-0111. 24/7 apt326@yahoo.com 1-25-10-10-2

One Block to UF:2/2.5 bath townhouse. W/D, Dishwasher, Garbage Disposal, wood floors, ceiling fans, GUARANTEED Parking call Todd at 514-4915, VERY Nice townhouse 1-29-10-13-2

AVAILABLE AUGUST 1st Nice large 4BR/2BA house. Big bedrooms, big living rm. W/D provided, game rm \$1425/mo. 2100 NW 8th Court. Call for diretions. Pets ok, fenced yard. Other houses available 352-339-2342 1-26-10-10-2

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Sunrise Villas Pet Friendly No Wgt Limits
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NO APP FEE. Near UF, Schands and VA
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Huge floorplans.
W/D hookup Near Oaks Mall
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Just off SW 34th St.
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Ph. 377-2596 www.gremco.com
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2 For Rent unfurnished

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4 BR/4 BR apt in Oxford Terrace II. \$545 a month. Fall'10-Summer'11. Utilities, cable, internet, Washer/dryer, all included. Very close walk to campus! Call 954-608-9531 or email geoff265@ufl.edu. 1-29-10-10-2



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 3/2 House W/D \$725 pets ok
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 Call Merrill Management Inc.
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2 For Rent unfurnished

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 Merrill Management Inc 352-372-1494
 X10 1-29-10-9-2

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 Nat gas ht. Incls Wtr, Swg,
 pst contrl and garbage. \$425/Mo
 Rental Refs a must! Call
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 Newer 3BR/2BA 2 car gar, split plan home.
 Eat-in kitchen, living & dining rms, fireplace,
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 17. 407-922-0029 1-28-5-2

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 pets. \$470 SD, \$470/mo 562-2824 1-28-10-5-2

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 available \$750/mo. Call 317-5060 215-5996
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 *Near Sorority Row, HW Floors
 Pet Friendly \$900/mo
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 4-21-55-2

***2/1 Apt, 8 Blocks to UF**
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3 Subleases

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4 Roommates

Roommate Matching HERE
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 yttek@hotmail.com or 305-332-6566 1-26-10-46-4

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 House. Shared With 3 UF Dance Students.
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 Private Bath! Car Garage. W&D Incl. Call
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4 Roommates

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 Scubagirl404@gmail.com 1-27-10-5-4

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 Need roommate to share 2BR/2BA condo
 on the water. Completely furnished except
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6 Furnishings

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Parsons beats buzzer to sink Gamecocks



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

UF forward Chandler Parsons shoots the game-winning three-pointer as time expires in the Gators' 58-56 win against South Carolina in the O'Connell Center on Saturday night.

By ADAM BERRY
Alligator Staff Writer
aberry@alligator.org

Chandler Parsons can't help but feel a little lucky.

Less than three weeks after hitting a 75-foot game-winner at N.C. State, the junior forward nailed a three-pointer from the left wing as time expired to give Florida a 58-56 win against South Carolina on Saturday night in the O'Connell Center.

"I'm the most blessed player in this country, I swear to God," Parsons said. "I just keep asking myself, 'How does that happen to me?' Honestly, I was just in the right place at the right time."

After the 21-footer found nothing but net, Parsons ran down the court before being mobbed by his teammates, eventually finding himself buried at the bottom of a dogpile for the second time this month.



Men's Basketball

The Gators (14-5, 3-2 Southeastern Conference) needed Parsons' buzzer-beater to hold off the Gamecocks (11-8, 2-3 SEC), who took a 56-55 lead with five seconds left on a layup by guard Devan Downey.

Downey, who led all scorers with 36 despite facing double teams throughout the night, raced the length of the court, blew by UF's entire team and dropped in a tough layup off the glass.

UF coach Billy Donovan said he worked in practice on late-game situations, like the one the Gators faced after Downey's layup, setting up his team to run the length of the floor and get a shot up with 10 seconds remaining.

It didn't work as well in practice as it did against the Gamecocks.

"Erving Walker three times in a row was pulling up and trying to take jump shots at the end

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 16

UF rugby is worth watching

His left eye was well on its way to being swollen shut, but Cody Davidson was grinning from ear to ear.

He had just been subbed out of the UF rugby B-team's match against FSU after scoring three tries (the sport's equivalent of touchdowns), but that wasn't the topic of conversation.

He took a ball to the face following a drop kick, and he recounted it with a smile on the sideline while his face slowly puffed up.

"I could feel it swelling right away," said Davidson, who took man of the match honors



Mike McCall
McCallin' It
Like I See It
mmccall@alligator.org

in the B-squad's 43-0 flogging of FSU's second team.

A moment later, B-team member Fernando Guarderas jogged

up the field laughing while a stream of blood trickled down his nose.

I've known both of these guys for a while, and I've always considered them to be reasonably sensible. But watching them and the other members of the Gators' three rugby teams take on the 'Noles on Friday, there was a hint of insanity in the air.

That was my first live experience with rugby, as I watched the UF A-team's hard-fought 18-16 win, the "Killer B's" cruise to a victory and the C-squad win 21-10.

I'm still hazy on the rules and tactics of the game, but one look at the dedication from the players involved is enough to make me give rugby a chance.

And the Gators provide a great place to start. Their A-squad is undefeated, and with wins against Tennessee and the Seminoles in the last two weeks, their chances of reaching the sport's 16-team nation-

SEE MIKE, PAGE 16

UF WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

George's block helps hold off South Carolina

By EUGENIO TORRENS
Alligator Writer
etorrens@alligator.org

It wasn't the 40-point win Jordan Jones might have liked against her former team, but she'll live with the outcome.

UF guard Trumae Lucas drained the go-ahead pull-up jumper with 17.7 seconds left to give the Gators (11-9, 4-3 Southeastern Conference) a 59-56 win over South Carolina on Sunday.

It was Florida's ninth game this season decided by single digits (4-5).

"It was tough seeing familiar faces," said Jones, who transferred to UF after her freshman year at USC. "It's just a good feeling, kind of justifying why I came here."

Forward Jennifer George finished with a career-high six blocks, including one on USC guard La'Keisha Sutton with nine seconds left. Gamecocks center Kelsey Bone grabbed the ball in time for one last shot, but it clanged off the rim and UF forward Sharielle Smith corralled the rebound.

UF outblocked USC 9-0.

"I just try to use my strength," George said. "Just trying to push by the paint and use every bit of myself to get up on them."



George

The Gamecocks (10-9, 3-4 SEC) fell behind by 13 after Lucas sank two free throws with 9:28 left in the first half. Jones added a three-pointer 69 seconds later before USC went on a 15-4 run to close out the

half.

Bone, the SEC's top rebounder, had a game-high 11 boards and almost matched her season average (14.5) with 14 points in the first half on 5-of-9 shooting, including a 4-of-5 effort at the free-throw line.

Foul trouble in the second half kept her scoreless for 18-plus minutes, but she made an immediate impact once Florida's Azania Stewart fouled out. Bone finished with 19 points, and Sutton (15) and Valerie Nainima (12)

SEE W-HOOPS, PAGE 16

TEERING OFF WITH PHIL KEGLER

■ I doubt he wins SEC Player of the Year, but SC's Devan Downey is my favorite player to watch in the SEC. He leads the SEC with 31.6 ppg in conference play, 12.3 more than second place. ... Lakers center Andrew Bynum missed the team plane to Toronto and had to pay for a commercial flight. I'm sure coach was comfortable.

MEYER TO RETURN FOR SPRING PRACTICE

■ UF football coach Urban Meyer's break didn't last long. He told reporters during Saturday's men's basketball game he plans to coach during spring practice. "People I'm closest to are going to demand I take some time off, but I tried that already. I tried a day and a half, and it didn't work."

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■ UF's men's tennis team split its weekend matches with UCF and Baylor while the women swept North Texas. Check out our coverage of the matches online.

Gators send off seniors with wins against Tigers

Men top Auburn for first time since 1999

By **MATT RUBIN**
Alligator Writer

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams celebrated the careers of 15 athletes Friday against Auburn on Senior Day.

And they did it with wins.

In the final meet of the season at the O'Connell Center Natatorium, the men's and women's squads beat the Tigers by scores of 162-138 and 185-115, respectively. The Gators' men's squad (8-0, 3-0 Southeastern Conference) stayed undefeated with the victory while the women improved their record to 9-2, and 3-1 in the SEC.

"It was a real exciting meet for the seniors and the whole team," UF coach Gregg Troy said. "We've got a close group, so when the seniors get excited with their parents here it rubs off on the rest of the team."

Using that excitement, the Gators swam a total of 40 NCAA provisional-qualifying times. The men's team ended the day winning nine of 16 events, while the women won 10 of 16.

With the help of the seniors, the men's team topped defend-

ing national champion Auburn for the first time since the 1998-99 season. Senior Shaune Fraser led the way, winning the 100-yard (47.00) and 200-yard butterfly

(1:44.37) and placing second in the 100-yard freestyle (43.82), all NCAA provisional-qualifying times.

"It's always a bittersweet mo-

ment," Fraser said. "The past four years have been the best of my life."

Also swimming strong for the men's team was senior Omar Pinzon. Pinzon won three individual events in NCAA provisional-qualifying times in the 100-yard

backstroke (47.46), the 200-yard backstroke (1:42.80) and the 200-yard individual medley (1:47.91).

"Pinzon swam real strong today and Fraser's just been good all season long," Troy said.

On the women's side, senior Gemma Spofforth placed first in the 100-yard backstroke (53.03) and second in the 200-yard backstroke (1:56.61), both NCAA provisional-qualifying times.

In fact, Spofforth's 100-yard time was only .02 seconds away from the NCAA automatic standard. On the diving board, senior Kara Salamone took the one-meter diving title (303.97) and placed second in the three-meter diving event (292.81).

"The women's side was real good through the whole meet," Troy said.

One thing Fraser and Troy both mentioned is the importance of staying focused on the little things and technical issues as there is only one meet remaining for the men's squad — Saturday at Tennessee — before the post-season starts.

"We want to carry the momentum into SECs and then the final step of our season, the NAAs," Fraser said.



Matt Tripp / Alligator Staff

Florida's Shaune Fraser made his final meet in the O'Connell Center count, winning the 100- and 200-yard butterfly events and placing second in the 100-yard freestyle.

Dickerson picks up another all-around title in UF win

■ THE FRESHMAN HAS WON THE ALL-AROUND TITLE IN EVERY MEET.

By **TOM GREEN**
Alligator Writer

The Gators went into Memorial Coliseum wanting to prove they could excel away from the friendly confines of the O'Connell Center.

Friday night against No. 12 Kentucky, Florida did just that, as it won their dual meet, 196.050-195.350. The win gave No. 4 Florida (2-1, 2-0 Southeastern Conference) its first road victory.

Freshman Ashanee Dickerson continued her early-season surge and walked away with another all-around title Friday. Her total score of 39.25 made Dickerson three-for-three in all-around performances this season.

"She's a robot," UF coach Rhonda Faehn said. "I think her beam was better than her score reflected and her floor routine was the best one she's done so far this year. She just keeps showing improvement and she's only going to get better."

After an uncharacteristic 8.75 on the bars by senior Amanda Castillo, the team was able to rebound nicely, and it finished the event with a 49.05 and a .400-point advantage after

one rotation.

It was a lead the Gators would not relinquish.



Dickerson

Following the first rotation, the Gators scored well on the vault (49.175) and on their floor exercises (49.075) before closing the meet out on the balance beam.

Last week, Florida had issues in the middle of its lineups.

Going into the final rotation of Friday's meet, the Gators made sure there were no

costly errors this time around.

On the beam, senior Courtney Gladys bounced back from a shaky routine against Arkansas and scored a 9.825, which tied with freshman Liz Green and Kentucky's Storey Morris for first place in the event.

The team's 48.750 on the beam, despite being its lowest team score of the meet, was still good enough for the Gators to hold off the Wildcats and come away with the team's second-straight victory.

"It was a complete 180 from the first road meet," Gladys said. "We're definitely heading in the right direction for the rest of the season."

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Boynton struggles but hits clutch free throws late

HOOPS, from page 14

of the clock," Donovan said. "That's the worst thing you can do in that situation. You have to drive the ball to the basket."

Walker put Donovan's advice into effect Saturday night. Despite being the team's hottest shooter in conference play, Walker took the quick inbounds pass from Dan Werner, sped down to the free-throw line, drew the defense and dished it off to a wide-open Parsons.

"That was an unbelievable shot but an even better pass," Parsons said.

Parsons missed his first three shots from beyond the arc on the night, but he said the last one felt good as soon as he let it go — unlike his other last-second

shot this season.

"I'm not gonna say the N.C. State one felt good off my hands, but this one did," Parsons said. "This one definitely felt good. No matter how many I miss, I'm gonna keep shooting."

"That was an unbelievable shot but an even better pass."

Chandler Parsons
UF junior forward

Starting for the third-consecutive game in place of Werner, Parsons finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds for the fourth double-double of his career while playing a team-high 36 minutes.

Three other Gators finished in dou-

ble figures, led by Kenny Boynton's 14 points.

Boynton shot just 5 of 13 from the field and 0 of 5 from beyond the arc, but he went 4 for 4 from the free-throw line, including three clutch shots late.

Down 54-52 with 11 seconds to go, Boynton drew a shooting foul on Gamecocks guard Ramon Galloway. The freshman went to the line and drained all three free throws, giving the Gators a one-point lead.

"One thing that's going to be lost in this game is the fact that a freshman walked up to the free-throw line and made three free throws with 11 seconds to go down by two," Donovan said. "That says a lot about him as a player, his focus and what kind of player he is."

MIKE, from page 14

wide postseason tournament look good.

"The college level is really the base level for growth in rugby (in the US) at the moment because that's where it's developed," UF A-side captain Neal Dupree said. "I think you're really seeing the beginning of something new that's going to be sticking with the American sports culture."

The camaraderie element is also interesting. After Friday night's matches, the two teams hit the pub together.

"In the game, you were hitting someone in the face and now you're sitting down having a drink with them," Dupree said. "It's a powerful chemistry that the sport maintains. The level of respect for going out on the field is something I think you don't see in most American sports."

The game is entertaining, even for those who don't grasp its intricacies.

At its worst, rugby is unsuccessful runs up the middle and punts. At its best, it's like watching a never-ending option offense, and there are parallels to some of the most exciting plays in football.

Field position is crucial, so punts are pretty frequent. But there's no fair catch in this sport, so every kick that stays in bounds leads to contact.

Also, forget roughing the kicker. During the B-match, a 'Nole trying to get off a punt was clotheslined by a charging Gator, leading to a loose ball and UF try.

On offense, the goal is to pound the ball up the middle, draw defenders in and start an option offense toward the outside. With a long line of players ready for the next pitch, it looks like the Stanford-Cal desperation kickoff return.

Plus, there's still the whole violence angle if that's what you're looking for.

With men's and women's clubs at UF, there's ample opportunity to learn a sport that has worldwide appeal.

And while I'm not crazy enough to play, when the Gators line up against Florida Atlantic on Saturday, I plan on being glued to the sidelines.

Lucas scores nine second-half points to lead Gators

W-HOOPS, from page 14

also scored in double-figures for the Gamecocks, who were second in the SEC in three-point shooting at 47 percent, but went 5 of 16 from beyond the arc (31 percent).

"Kelsey is so talented," UF coach Amanda Butler said. "She's the total package because she's big, she's strong, and she is so skilled. The more we could get her off the floor, certainly that improved our chances."

With Stewart limited on the offensive end by fouls, other Gators stepped up in the second half. Lucas scored nine second-half points, and Lonika Thompson hit back-to-back three-pointers to sustain a four-minute 9-4 UF run while Bone was benched due to foul trouble. Smith and Lucas led the Gators with 11 points each.

Florida cleaned up its play with four turnovers in the second half compared to 12 in the first half.

At the men's basketball team's matchup with South Carolina on Saturday, Butler encouraged fans to come out for her team's game as well, and she thanked the O'Connell Center crowd of 2,053 after the game.

"[The fans] were as much a part of the win as George's block at the end," she said.



Ana Goni-Lessan / Alligator Staff

Jordan Jones dribbles the ball down the court during the Gators' 59-56 win against USC on Sunday.



Get Involved

Informational Meeting: Come learn about running in the Student Body Elections on January 26 in room 361 of the Reitz Union.

Qualifying for a Student Senate Seat or an Executive position: Jan. 29, Feb. 1, and Feb. 2 in room 284 of the Reitz Union from 9 AM to 5 PM each day.

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