



SG, Alligator to hold fee forum

■ IT WILL BE HELD IN REITZ RION BALLROOM AT 4 P.M.

By **CAROLYN TILLO**
 Alligator Staff Writer

Student Government and the Alligator will host a forum to address student questions and concerns about the renovation and expansion of the Reitz Union today at 4 p.m. in the Reitz Union Rion Ballroom.

Student Body President Jordan Johnson will moderate the discussion.

SG Press Secretary Eric Conrad said the event will give students the chance to offer advice on how to fund the repairs.

"Really it's just a chance to share ideas as well," Conrad

said.

Students will also have the chance to describe any grievances they have with the Reitz Union referendum question on the spring election ballot, Conrad said.

The question has two parts. It asks students whether the fee should be implemented, and if so, if the fee should cover both expansion and repairs.

Johnson said he hopes the forum will serve as an information session and a way to bring students together.

"This is gonna be my way of providing an outlet for students to directly reach me, and also it's going to work two ways," Johnson said. "It's going to be an opportunity for me to really gauge where students are at on this issue."

ON CAMPUS

McCain to speak on campus today

By **CJ PRUNER**
 Alligator Writer

Meghan McCain's speech has been moved from Pugh Hall to the University Auditorium.

McCain, the daughter of Republican Sen. John McCain, will speak about redefining Republican Party stereotypes and values tonight at 8.

Organizers moved the speech location from the Ocora Room at Pugh Hall to accommodate a larger crowd, said Accent Chairman Jason Attermann.

Attermann said the auditorium will be able to seat about 800 people, roughly 550 more than the Ocora Room.

McCain, 25, created McCain-Blogette.com to offer a personal

account of her father's presidential campaign and describe her own travels and career.

Her writing experience also includes work as a columnist for the Daily Beast, an online publication where she discusses topics varying from her political ideals to her views about breast implants.

She is the author of the children's book "My Dad, John McCain."

The speech will start at 8 p.m., and doors open at 7 p.m.

It is free and open to the public.

The event is being co-sponsored by Accent and the Bob Graham Center for Public Service.



McCain



Matt Tripp / Alligator Staff

Buddy Up

Lashay Johnson, a student from the Sidney Lanier School, lunges with UF students Hannah True and Jessica Palmer-Jeffery Tuesday afternoon inside the O'Connell Center. The Sidney Lanier School is a school for students with intellectual disabilities.

City sees rise in car burglary

GPD: 69 reports this month

By **CJ PRUNER**
 Alligator Writer

A recent rise in car-related crime may have Gators searching for safer places to park.

According to the Gainesville Police Department and the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, higher levels of vehicular burglary and tailgate theft from pickup trucks have been reported across the city.

Since Jan. 1, there have been 69 reports of vehicular burglar-

ies, which is higher than normal, according to GPD Cpl. Audrey Mazzuca.

"It's a crime of opportunity. We create that opportunity when we leave our vehicles unlocked."

Audrey Mazzuca
 GPD Cpl.

She said the main reason behind the burglaries is car owners

leaving their vehicles unlocked. According to Mazzuca, this was the cause of 66 percent of car burglaries in 2009.

"It's a crime of opportunity," Mazzuca said.

"We create that opportunity when we leave our vehicles unlocked," she said.

She also advised residents to take precautionary measures everywhere, even in familiar places.

"Lots of people think that just because they're parked in the driveway that [their cars are]

SEE CRIME, PAGE 8

■ Coach Billy Donovan and Gators will try to avoid a letdown against Georgia tonight in the O'Connell Center. UF is on a three-game SEC winning streak. See Story, Page 14.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

International Jam 2010

Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight
Weaver Basement

The United World Organization is hosting the event, which will feature free food, music and people from around the world. The event is a great opportunity to get to know other cultures as well. We hope to see you there.

The Hip-Hop Collective Presents: Turlington Takeover
Today, 12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m.
Turlington Plaza

Bboys, Bgirls, Emcees, DJs, singers and beat-boxers will gather from around town on Turlington Plaza for an all-out jam session. This will be a great way to gain a hands-on experience on what true hip-hop culture is about.

You do not have to be into hip-hop to participate or watch. All musicians and singers are welcome. Bring your friends and your cameras because there will be flips, beats, breaks and rhymes, which will make this free event one you do not want to miss.

Study Abroad Information Session - Europe programs

Thursday, 3 p.m.

Stuzin Hall, Room 200

An information session highlighting the four study abroad Europe programs offered by the College of Business — London, Madrid, Paris and Rome. Programs are open to all UF majors. RSVP on Facebook, WCBA Study Abroad Info Session - Jan. Contact Lucy DiLeo at 352-273-0165 for appointments.

Relay For Life Team Captain Toga Party

Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m.

CSE E119

Join the Relay For Life Committee at our next meeting to find out how you can form a team and join the fight against cancer. For more information, visit www.relayforlife.org/uffl.

Students for Justice in Palestine: General meeting

Today, 6 p.m.

Pugh Hall, Room 210

We will be discussing current events (including the Viva Palestina March in Gaza), upcoming events and guest speakers.

SJP welcomes students of all religious dominations. Our goal is to raise awareness about human rights violations concerning Palestinians living in Israel proper and the occupied territories.

GatorDGC Meeting

Thursday, 7 p.m.

Reitz Union, Rooms 272-273

GatorDGC (Disk Golf Club) will be discussing all spring

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activities including tournaments, practice and general information about the club. For more information please visit <http://grove.ufl.edu/~gatordgc>.

Study Abroad Info Session

Thursday, 3 p.m.

Turlington Hall, Room 3312

Hear what students and teachers have to say about the study abroad programs through the Center for European Studies: Istanbul, Turkey; Prague, Czech Republic; Salzburg, Austria; and Brussels, Belgium. Pizza and soda will be provided.

Meet and Greet with The Dynamo: UF's First Student Think Tank

Thursday, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Bryant Space Science Center, Room 7

The Dynamo is a UF chapter of the Roosevelt Institute. We confront social, economic and political issues through publications, public forums and service projects. Join us at The Dynamo's first meeting and find out more from current members. There will be food and beverages.

"Reading the Residues," a talk, and documentary film "Coffee Futures"

Thursday, 7 p.m.

Pugh Hall Ocora Room

Zeynep Korkman from the University of California-Santa Barbara talks and screens a film about coffee fortune-telling cafés in Turkey as windows used to understand Turkey's identity in relation to Europe.

Got something going on?

And want to see 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 events listed above. Improperly formatted "What's Happening" submissions may not appear in the paper.

ON-CAMPUS

Counseling offered for those affected by earthquake

The Dean of Students Office and the Counseling Center have joined forces to aid students affected by Haiti's earthquake.

"We want to make students feel safe and comfortable,"

said Wayne D. Griffin, associate director and clinical associate professor at the Counseling Center.

Individual counseling and a support groups for students have been set up since the earthquake.

Students can attend the individual counseling by making appointments or go to the support group on Thursdays at 5 p.m. at the Counseling Center in Peabody Hall.

"The longer people go without hearing from loved ones, the more serious it becomes," Griffin said.

Paige Crandall, interim dean of students, said her advice to students is to try to eat well, get sleep and spend time with friends and family to get some closure and support.

She also emphasized not watching the news constantly and said the best thing students can do is get involved in relief efforts such as Gators United for Haiti.

Gators United for Haiti originally began in 2008 for the hurricanes that hit Haiti.

The initiative eventually died down after some time but now has been resurrected for the earthquake.

Gators United for Haiti has more than 60 on-campus organizations that are working toward the goal of raising \$50,000.

"The students right off the back wanted to go into action," Crandall said. Crandall and Griffin are aware that students may experience feelings of guilt and hopelessness.

"When you're so close to the incident," Crandall said, "it's normal to be upset."

Crandall believes that some students may not feel the effects now, but in the months to come they may start to notice a change in themselves. Crandall said it is important for friends to watch out for one another and be alert to any dramatic changes in routines or personality.

For information about counseling, students can call 352-392-1575 or visit counsel.ufl.edu/Haitian_earthquake.aspx.

— ANNE-MARIE KABIA

The Alligator strives to be accurate and clear in its news reports and editorials. If you find an error, please call our newsroom at 352-376-4458 or send an e-mail to editor@alligator.org.

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AROUND GAINESVILLE

Hippodrome seeks cells

By **KATHERINE BEIN**

Alligator Writer
Kbein@alligator.org

The Hippodrome is asking Gainesville residents to bring out their dead — cell phones, that is.

As a promotion for performances of "Dead Man's Cell Phone," the Hippodrome State Theatre, 25 SE 2nd Place, is offering a buy-one-get-one deal on adult tickets in exchange for used cell phones, according to a press release.

The phones will be donated to Peaceful Paths, a domestic abuse network, where they will be recycled for money or given to women in need, according to the release.

Patrons are asked to delete personal contacts and information from the phones before bringing the phones to the Hippodrome.

The buy-one-get-one-free offer is valid until the show's finale Sunday.

Tickets are \$12 for students, \$20 for seniors and \$25 to \$30 for adults.

Jessica Hurov, Hippodrome spokes-

woman, said the program is a win-win situation because it brings people to the show and allows both the theater and patrons a chance to donate to the community.

"Everyone's got one lying around, and they can be put to good use," she said.

"Everyone's got one lying around, and they can be put to good use."

Jessica Hurov

Hippodrome spokeswoman

Phones turned in with chargers and in working condition can be given to women for emergency calls to 911 even if they're not set up with conventional services, Hurov said.

Ticket reservations can be made by phone at 352-375-4477.

For information about Peaceful Paths and how you can help or make a donation, visit <http://www.peaceful-paths.org>.

Forum focuses on economy

By **HILARY SHEINBAUM**

Alligator Contributing Writer

Economics professors and UF students discussed the cause of the economic recession and job prospects for graduates at a forum Tuesday night in Pugh Hall.

The forum was sponsored by Chomp the Vote, a Student Government agency dedicated to raising voter awareness, and about 80 students attended.

Jenna Stern, Chomp the Vote director, started the forum by introducing UF economics professors David Denslow and Mark Rush.

Forum moderator and philosophy senior Derek Helmick asked Denslow and Rush a series of questions stemming from three topics: the history of the economic crisis, current strategies for economic recovery and America's economic future.

One of the topics related to the cause and scope of the economic crisis.

Rush and Denslow cited the housing bubble, mortgages that fueled the bubble

and thousands of loans bundled together. "I called the recession years before it happened," Denslow said. "And I kept calling it."

Chemical engineering senior Daniel Rood asked Rush's views on centralized banking.

"As an economist, it's something I'm just not sure about on a theoretical level," said Rush, who worked for The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City in the 1980s. "In the real world, you see every nation has a central bank."

The professors also spoke about the realities of graduating seniors planning to enter the work force.

"Unfortunately, a relatively high rate [of] unemployment will be with us for some time," Denslow said. "If you are graduating, many of you will continue on with further education."

Chomp the Vote is holding education and environment forums at 6 p.m. in Pugh Hall on February 25 and March 25, respectively.

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SG copy center to use recycled paper

It will be an additional \$500 a year

By **ELIZABETH BEHRMAN**
Alligator Writer

Student Government is going green.

The Student Senate passed a bill during Tuesday's meeting implementing the use of recycled paper in the SG copy center.

Student Alliance Party Senate leader Jon Ossip, who represents the Murphree Common Area, said using 30 percent post-consumer paper will cost SG an additional \$500 per year, which equates to one penny per student per year.

"This really is the future, where we take the environment into account and really make a difference."

Ben Cavataro
candidate for Student Body president

"Really the best part of this bill is how inexpensive it is for students," Ossip said.

According to the bill, using post-consumer content to make paper produces 50 percent less wastewater, uses 44 percent less energy and 41 percent less greenhouse gases.

The SG copy center on the third floor of the Reitz Union.

Ben Cavataro, the Student Alliance Party's candidate for Student Body president, said the center is used not

only by SG but also by SG-funded organizations for their publicity campaigns and fliers.

Cavataro said the copy center will start using the recycled paper when the current stock runs out.

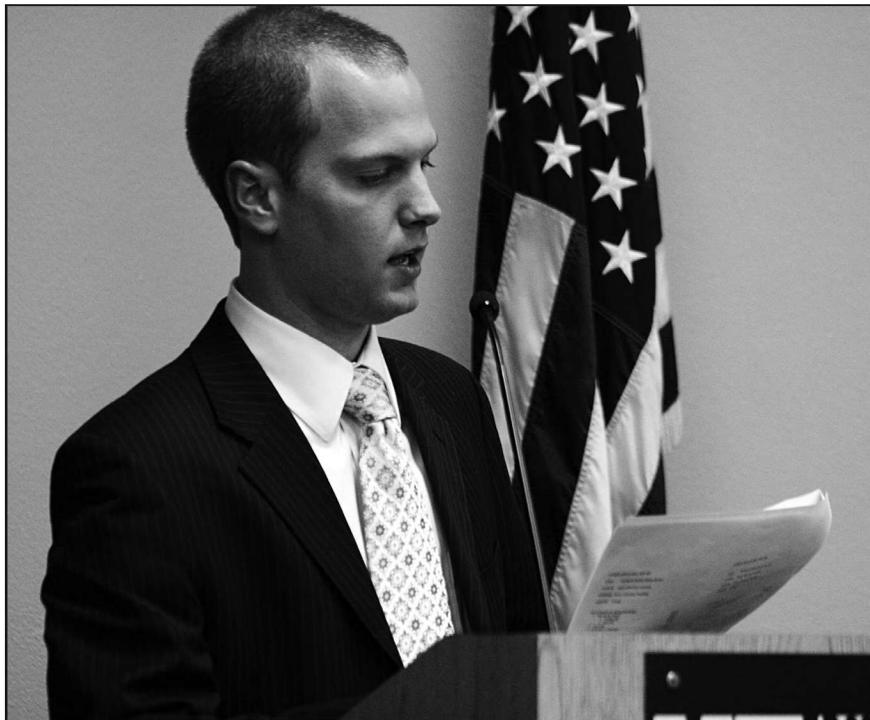
"This really is the future, where we take the environment into account and

really make a difference," Cavataro said.

Unite Party spokesman Ben Meyers expressed support for the bill and said it passed with a nearly unanimous vote.

Meyers commended the bill and said it shows good bi-partisan cooperation.

"I think it'll do good things," Meyers said.



Maria Farias / Alligator

Student Alliance party Sen. Jonathan Ossip, speaks to the Student Senate about the benefits of the recycled paper bill Tuesday. The bill was passed, making the Student Government copy center more sustainable through the use of recycled copy paper.

Director of public safety named Tues.

By **MELINDA CARSTENSEN**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Edwin C. Bailey was unanimously appointed as the county's public safety director Tuesday afternoon.

Bailey, whose appointment by the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners takes effect Monday, will replace former public safety director Will Gray May Jr., who is retiring after 19 years.

According to a press release, the salary for the position is \$119,000.

Alachua County spokesman Mark Sexton said Bailey worked closely with May, and Sexton is certain the transition will be smooth.

Public Safety Bailey began his professional career with the Orange Park Fire Department in 1974 and later became the first certified firefighter hired by Alachua County, the press release said.

He most recently served the Alachua County Fire Department as chief of fire rescue.

"Bailey has demonstrated he is not only extremely confident and knowledgeable but also an amazing leader," Sexton said.

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AROUND GAINESVILLE

Library to reopen in Feb.

By **EMILY MORROW**
Alligator Contributing Writer

After a little more than a year of renovations, the Millhopper Branch Library will turn over a new page when it reopens Feb. 27.

Volunteers and staff members began unpacking books, furniture and other materials earlier this week in the newly renovated building, located at 3145 NW 43rd St.

More than 8,000 square feet were added to the Millhopper location during its closure. For the past year, readers have visited the library's temporary facility on the second floor of the Bank of America building, 2627 NW 43rd St.

"The Millhopper Library had really outgrown the number of people who were going there," said Angela Harris, spokeswoman for the Alachua County Library District. "There wasn't enough space for patrons to get away, which is one of the main purposes of a library."

Harris said the renovations include a

new adult reading room, a young adult area, two meeting rooms, a larger circulation area, space for a future café, additional parking and an expanded children's area, which will include a playground.

Harris said only about 10 percent of the Millhopper Library's total collection is now in circulation at its temporary location. The rest was put in storage and is just now being pulled out at the renovated site.

Gail Dewsbury, a longtime library lover, said she is excited for the library to reopen.

"I love to read, the library is my lifeline," she said. "I can't wait for the reopening."

Dewsbury thinks the Millhopper branch's expansions to the circulation area and the parking lot will be more convenient.

The temporary site will close Feb. 15 to allow staff members to finish transferring the collection.

From Feb. 15 to Feb. 26, there will be no Millhopper branch open.

Until Feb. 15, Harris said, books should be returned to the temporary location.



J. Hunter Sizemore / Alligator Staff

Bill "JJ" Juniper (left) and Hank Bass (right), Alachua County Library System building technicians, install a security camera at the Millhopper Branch Library.

Journalism forum offers advice, comfort for students

About 50 students attended the panel discussion in Ustler Hall

By **MELISSA ANGEL**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Alumni, students and faculty discussed the dynamic role of technology and the future of journalism in times of economic peril during a forum Tuesday evening with an audience of about 50 in Ustler Hall.

UF College of Journalism and Communications Dean John Wright admitted he needed assistance with his adaption to modern

technology.

"We have a lot of new media," Wright said, "but I often need help."

Wright stressed the idea that students need to help faculty rise up to the journalism challenge.

Mindy McAdams, a panelist and an online journalism professor at UF, informed students in attendance they were going to have to make their own paths.

"Journalism is no longer just a job," McAdams said. "You have to

get yourself noticed by publishing and broadcasting yourself."

April Dudash, UF's Society of Professional Journalists president and panel member, spoke about the fears she faces upon graduating.

On Campus "I remember walking into Weimer [Hall] and having a very naïve take on things, that after school, I'd instantly get a job at a big Tampa paper," Dudash said. "That's definitely not the case any-

more. Things are so tumultuous right now. You have to work twice as hard to get where you want to be."

Mike Foley, a panelist and master lecturer in the department of journalism, gave hope to the graduating seniors at the forum.

"This might be the most exciting time for journalism," Foley said.

McAdams said students need to learn how to write the same 500-word story in 140 words.

Foley emphasized the impor-

tance of the quality of stories and said students should treat every article as if it's their best.

"The value is on storytelling, Foley said. "I urge you to tell stories."

After hearing the advice of journalism professors, students discussed their career plans.

Britt Perkins, a junior journalism major, talked about her goal-safer graduation.

"I just want to get an internship," Perkins said. "I'm prepared to do everything: photography, video, audio clips. I'm prepared to work."

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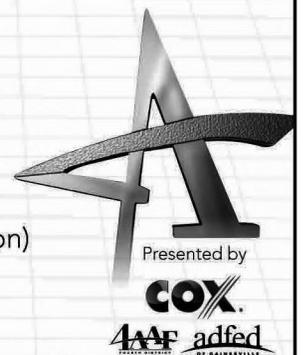
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Editorial

Reitz Now

Students should attend town hall forum, vote

Remember when Student Government first announced it wanted to charge students a fee to expand and improve the Reitz Union?

Well, the Editorial Board certainly remembers. Our inboxes were flooded with e-mails from students supporting it, hating it and having every possible opinion in between.

Well, today you get the chance to ask about everything you ever wanted to know involving the fee, the Reitz Union and the effect it will have on you.

That's right folks, SG and the Independent Florida Alligator are co-sponsoring a town hall forum just for you at 4 p.m. in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom.

So show up, learn a little more about what's going on and ask Student Body President Jordan Johnson any questions you may have that could solidify or change your stance on the issue.

But your part doesn't end there.

Last week, the Student Senate passed a bill that will put a referendum question on the spring election ballot asking if students support the fee.

During the fall election, only 8,483 students voted — out of 49,679.

That's a whopping 17 percent, people.

We understand most of you could care less about SG elections and the only reason you even realize they're going on is because you're bombarded by fliers on Turlington Plaza.

But this fee will affect undergraduate students and graduate students alike, so there is no excuse for not voting and ensuring your opinion is heard on Feb. 23 and Feb. 24.

Petty PETA

There's no shortage of vegetarians at the Alligator. Several of our staff members forgo turkey in favor of Tofurkey, and one of us hasn't had dairy in years. But a recent blog from PETA has the Editorial Board raising its eyebrows.

In an online post Sunday afternoon, a blogger from the organization tied terrorism to meat eating.

He wrote, "As if the world needed another example of the proven link between violence against animals and violence against humans, Ghulam Rasool Khan — a suspected al-Qaida member jailed in India — refuses to eat the vegetarian food served to him, instead demanding [meat]."

Now don't get us wrong. We agree with a lot of what PETA stands for — the erad-

ication of animal abuse, the end of fur clothing — but some of its practices, including the blog post, are doing more harm than good.

But if you try to convince us that our meat-eating friends are more likely to have murderous tendencies than our vegan ones, we're just going to roll our eyes.

By making hasty speculations, PETA alienates people who may have considered vegetarianism or veganism but shy away from being associated with the group's in-your-face approach.

While we respect PETA's ideals and ultimately wish it well in making the world an animal-friendly place, we think it should take a moment to step back and consider the ramifications of making cavalier assumptions.

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
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Column

Religion must evolve with audience

The whirlwind that is "Avatar" made it over to the Vatican earlier this month in a private screening before its release in Italy. They were not enthused with the movie, and I am not surprised with their reaction.

Their criticism ran along the lines of picking out pagan themes in the movie, specifically citing "a spiritualism linked to the worship of nature."

They further chided the movie by saying it overstepped its bounds by implying nature is "no longer a creation to defend, but a divinity to worship." They also dubbed ecology as the "religion of the new millennium."

Well, thank God I came across their review in time, because I was just about to go out and sacrifice three goats in my vine-laden arbor shrine to honor Gaia (being motivated by those giant blue aliens, of course). But I had almost forgotten how silly it would have been to worship something as green and impersonal as nature, as opposed to the warmth and comfort of an incomprehensible, personified totality of existence. Close one — I mean, after all, what's the fun in having faith in something that's tangible and clearly exists?

Of course, this whole situation is entirely ironic coming from the Vatican, as their chief astronomer, Jose Funes, in 2008 suggested life on other planets is indeed possible, and that, in the event of meeting some aliens, the proper way to treat them would be to regard them as our brothers and sisters. (I wonder if "Jose Funes" is Italian for "Joe Biden"?)

I can imagine the multitude of eyes rolling in the Vatican after hearing word of this, but perhaps not out of contempt. Sure, we can go along with that notion, they'd say, but how do we get them to believe this stuff? And I'm sure you can imagine the awkwardness when the aliens try to break the ice by offering the church the wondrous teachings of their savior, Gldflbjk-X1.

It sounds like the church is going above and beyond the call of duty with this reaction — sour grapes, perhaps? Or maybe it's their Glenn Beck level of rationalization of this purported new ecological religion they seem so worried

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



Ryan Spencer
letters@alligator.org

about. How many people do they think could be potentially converted by the movie? And how many people do they think would clamor as to why they didn't seize the responsibility to denounce the film if they'd chosen to keep mum?

It seems this is another familiar example of religion trying to adapt to modernity. The alien gaffe and the

ecological religion claim suggest the church is trying to cope with an ever-evolving audience.

They're not alone in this endeavor. The new, hip Christian youth movements, popularized and satirized in the movie "Saved!", are further examples, with the most recent case in point being the "Christian Side Hug" video. (If you haven't seen it, treat yourself.) And it's not just Christians who are trailblazing the new millennium's open-ended paths to righteousness. Muslims are getting treated to the Islamic comic book series "The 99," related to the ninety-nine names of Allah, and to 4shbab, the self-described "MTV Islam."

I could go off here about indoctrination this-and-that, but I won't — I don't have enough room. However, I will draw attention to two prevailing themes that will be exceedingly crucial to religion in this century: audience and message.

It seems there is an increasingly inverse relationship between the two in which controlling the message sacrifices its potential audience, and, likewise, garnering a substantial audience sacrifices the message. This is the best I can conclude from the marketing ploys described above.

Am I suggesting religion is on the out? Of course not. (I don't have that much faith in people's decisions.) What I am suggesting is that the longer an increasingly well-connected and well-communicated populous goes without the definitive recognition of the fantastic and the implausible, the further into the attics of their minds do such myths retreat.

Ryan Spencer is a psychology senior.

Reader response

Today's question:

Have you had your car broken into?

Monday's question:

Are you going to watch the State of the Union address?

36% YES

64% NO

1,453 TOTAL VOTES

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Letters to the Editor

Unite Party already has executive ticket chosen

Alligator, I've got a wager for you. I find it hilarious the Unite Party says it will be "conducting interviews" to determine its executive candidates. It's common knowledge they have already chosen Marcus Dixon to run for vice president and Virlany Taboada to run for treasurer. Because I feel bad for the students who will come out to interview when Unite has made up its mind, I'm willing to put my reputation on the line. If I'm wrong then feel free to Dart me, Joshua Niederriter, when they announce their candidates. But if I'm right send a Dart at the party for misleading the Student Body. I hope you take me up on this offer because either way you win.

Joshua Niederriter
 4LS

■ ■ ■
Sarcasm lost on readers

This is regarding Kyle Maistri's article in Tuesday's paper about playing pick-up basketball at Southwest Rec. No one should go play pick-up if they are looking to impress the guys around them. Everyone goes to play for the exercise and for the love of the game. This article epitomizes the type of player everyone at Southwest Rec hates to play with. Don't ever switch on defense, harass anyone who calls a foul on you and then call everything. You play to win, not to look good.

James Britton and Landyn Christopher
 4EG and 5EG

Guest column

Students invited to forum

As we begin discussions on how to effectively address the issues that face the Reitz Union, Student Government and the Alligator have teamed up to host a town hall forum. The purpose of this town hall forum will be to provide students an opportunity to learn about the significant issues facing our Union and engage each other in a constructive conversation.



Jordan Johnson
 Speaking Out

Throughout this process my administration has sought the opinions and concerns of the entire student body. But in order to best gauge student opinion on this issue, I have supported a ballot initiative to appear on the Spring 2010 election ballot asking whether students support renovating the Reitz Union and more specifically, funding a project through a student fee. We want to make sure any questions that students may have about this important issue are answered so voters can move forward to the Spring elections with all information available to them.

The forum will be held today at 4 p.m. in the Reitz Union Rion Ballroom.

At the forum we will be discussing the "State of the Union" and how it will affect the student experience on campus today and for years to come.

As you probably know by now, when the Reitz Union was opened in 1967, it served the 19,000 students of the university as a place to gather, eat and study. At the time, it was a state of the art facility which nearly \$6 million to build. The creation of the Union was funded through a student fee. Since then there

have been many renovations but the Union still retains most of its original infrastructure like the air conditioning system and power converters. A recent survey detailed the need for \$42.5 million in repairs to the building over the next 15 years just to remain operational and as-is. Coupled with the lack of space for student organizations, study areas, dance groups and retail options the Reitz Union has fallen behind the student unions of universities like USF, UNF and FSU.

These universities have already successfully rebuilt their student unions using a student fee like the one we are discussing today.

I believe that history doesn't choose the right time for us to leave our legacy. We do. And a new student union, a new Heart of the Gator Nation, can be a hallmark of our university's unending commitment to coming together for a greater cause. I invite all of you to continue the conversation with your friends and classmates as we navigate our options to improve our university with a student union that we can all be proud of. I hope you will participate in today's dialogue as we try to make the best decisions to preserve the integrity of our student experience at Florida's flagship university. Go Gators!

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Experts consider hypothetical Gainesville earthquake

Most campus buildings would be damaged

By **KATHLEEN BIRKHIMER**
Alligator Contributing Writer

The Swamp Restaurant would be shaken and stirred six feet to the west. Century Tower would crumble to a pile of bricks like a stack of Legos.

Campus parking lots would amount to nothing more than heaps of smoking concrete.

This is the gruesome aftermath Ray Russo, an assistant professor in UF's geology department, imagined if a 7.0-magnitude earthquake like the one that shook Haiti two weeks ago ravaged Gainesville.

However, there is no

Gainesville equivalent to the Enriquillo-Plantain Garden Fault, which is responsible for Haiti's devastating quake that reportedly caused at least 150,000 deaths.

"Imagine sitting in the Swamp restaurant and, suddenly, it shifts six feet to the west," Russo said. "This shift would be accompanied by severe shaking and rolling of the ground surface, causing everything on your table to fly off, you to be bounced out of your chair, all those big glass windows to shatter, spraying glass shards everywhere; and, if you were unlucky, perhaps the building would fail such that the top floor telescoped down onto the indoor

dining area."

A similar ruthless pattern would strike University Avenue for about 11 miles in both directions, Russo estimated.

He added that most campus buildings would be severely damaged or destroyed, though he doubts casualties would reach a few thousand.

"My guess is the Ben Hill Griffin stadium would experience extensive damage, the Century Tower would come down... [and] the various multistory parking lots would probably be death traps," Russo said.

The UF emergency-response system has no specific guidelines

to deal with an earthquake, said Bill Properzio, UF director of environmental health and safety.

"Imagine sitting in the Swamp restaurant and, suddenly, it shifts six feet to the west."

Ray Russo
assistant professor of geology

The general resources available in an emergency include administrative bodies such as the operational management team, a phone system, and the text messaging system, which can alert 64,000 cell phones, according to Properzio.

Ironically, some of the buildings designated as emergency-re-

sponse shelters during hurricanes might be among the most dangerous during an earthquake.

The Reitz Union is among those potential shelters, but Russo suspected the Reitz Union Colonnade would be reduced to rubble.

However, the O'Connell Center, which does not qualify as a safe zone during high winds, could be among the safest places during an earthquake because of the dome's minimal roof weight, according to Russo.

"If we were [hit] like Haiti, we would be getting people out of here," Properzio said. "Luckily, we're not an island that is very difficult to get emergency response to... we're in a much better situation here than the unfortunate people in Haiti."

New UF building opens doors

By **ANNA DAGGS**
Alligator Contributing Writer

A new building is bringing more than 150 UF professors from eight different colleges under one roof.

The Emerging Pathogens Institute focuses on controlling new and re-emerging diseases.

About 200 people attended a dedication ceremony for the institute Tuesday afternoon.

The building features an 80,000-square-foot facility built using a \$55 million fund from the Florida Legislature. Medi-

cal, engineering and liberal arts and sciences researchers will be among those who work there.

The dedication included speeches from President Machen, Florida Surgeon General Dr. Ana M. Viamonte Ros and Jerold Mande, U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Undersecretary for Food Safety.

Glenn Morris, the director of the Emerging Pathogens Institute, said the institute will help develop a creative approach to stopping diseases from entering the U.S.

"One of the things that is really exciting about this building is that we can bring together investigators from different disciplines," Morris said.

The event also featured posters describing the research completed by 84 UF students and faculty.

Daniel Swale, a Ph.D student in entomology, displayed his research findings on a poster.

He said he is new to Gainesville and looking forward to conducting research alongside specialists from different areas of campus.

Filmmaker discusses violence

■ ABOUT 350 STUDENTS ATTENDED THE SPEECH.

By **MINCH MINCHIN**
Alligator Contributing Writer

She's drunk. He's trying to have sex with her. It's just another college party.

Jackson Katz, an educator, author, filmmaker and lecturer on sexist and domestic violence issues, spoke to about 350 students, mostly student athletes, at the Touchdown Terrace in Ben Hill Griffin Stadium Tuesday evening.

Katz said friends should start acting like friends and intervene before something goes wrong.

Speaking to the male athletes in the room, Katz said team image problems can be avoided if teammates stop one another from committing sexually violent acts.

"When people hear that a football player beat up his girlfriend, they say, 'What a bunch

of thugs that football team is,'" he said. "It's not just the one person who is hurt."

Throughout his speech and a series of video clips, Katz encouraged the athletes to set good examples for kids because children look up to athletes more than almost any other group.

His presentation focused on the idea that everyone, both men and women, should be actively engaged in stopping violence against women.

"Historically, sexual assault and violence were seen as women's issues that some good men helped out with," he said. "I see them as men's issues. We as men are in a position to do something about it."

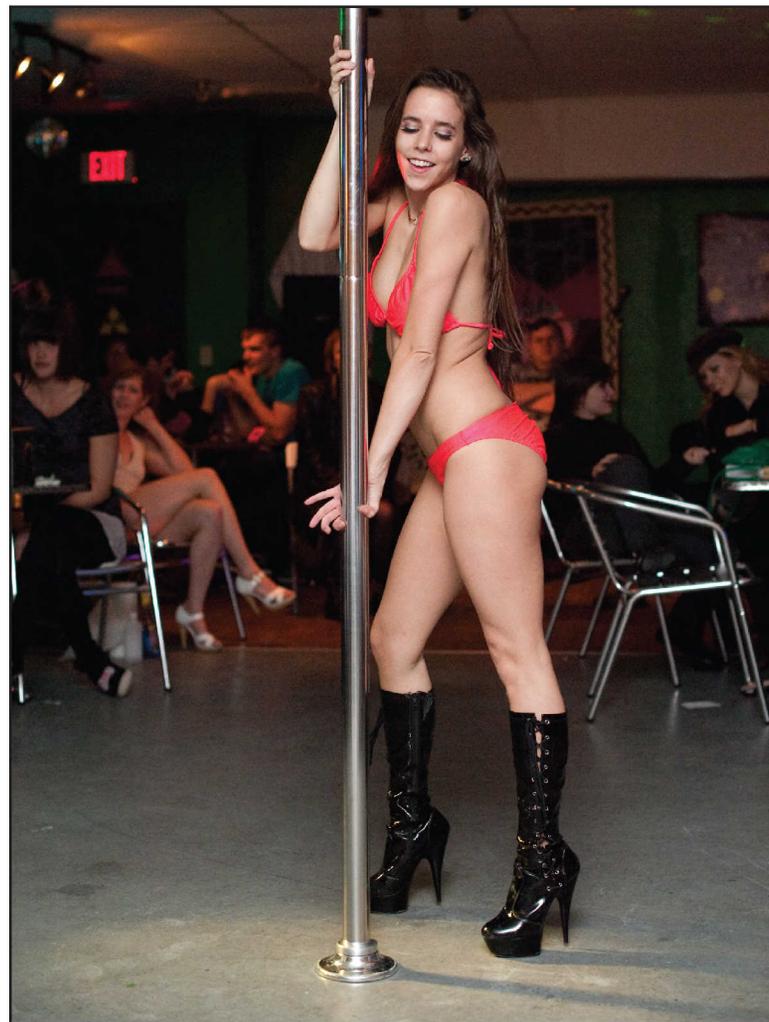
Katz's speech also featured a discussion about sexism in hip-hop culture.

Calvin Smith, a sociology senior, said Katz's speech was enlightening.

"I'd never thought of rap and hip-hop music videos being a problem before," he said.



Katz



Steven H. Keys / Alligator Staff

Dance Fever

Burlesque instructor Rebecca Butler, 22, performs at French Addiction's lingerie fashion show at The Laboratory on West University Avenue Tuesday night.

Theft may be due to a demand for tailgates on the black market

CRIME, from page 1

immune, but they're not," she said.

In order to deter potential thieves, Mazzuca says not to keep valuable items, such as GPS devices, cell phones, iPods, wal-

lets and purses, within sight.

In addition, residents should not leave loose change within view because it serves as a main attraction to potential burglars.

According to ASO spokesman Art Forgey, tailgate theft is a new problem.

Since Jan. 19, three tailgates

have been stolen.

According to Forgey, the tailgate thefts might just be a matter of coincidence as all three thefts occurred at different locations.

However, the fact that such activity has never been reported

prior to the recent thefts, along with the fact that all the tailgates taken were taken from vehicles made by General Motors, has raised suspicion.

Fogery offered two potential motives behind the tailgate swipes.

One possibility is the demand

for tailgates on the black market. Another is an attempt to replace their own tailgates to circumvent the costs of getting it replaced.

If you have any information regarding any burglaries or tailgate thefts, please call the sheriff's office at 352-955-1818.

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 www.spyglassapts.com
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 Studios - \$465, includes electric!
 Wood floors available. FREE parking.
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 1brs from \$499 - 150 ft from UF!
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2 For Rent unfurnished

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 ●1BR/1BA \$425
 ● 2BR \$450-\$600 - W/D incl
 Gore Rabell Real Estate 378-1387
 www.Gore-Rabell.com 4-21-09-71-2

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

PET'S PARADISE
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 3/2 from \$769 * Washer/Dryers
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 Tennis*1 mile to UF*Huge Laundry Facilities
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● 2BR/1.5BA TOWNHOUSE
 7209 SW 45th Pl. \$600/mo
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 Close to UF, cute & clean 2BD/2BA
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 hk-ups, pool. Pets considered. Rent \$695/
 mo Phone (352) 359-8311 1-29-09-35-2

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2 For Rent unfurnished

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

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★
 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

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 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

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 directions. Pets ok, fenced yard. Other houses available 352-339-2342 2-2-10-15-2

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*** 1st Month Free and \$40 Moves You In!!**
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 2/1 from \$619 2/2 from \$729
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*** 1st Month Free and \$40 Moves You In!!**
 Sunrise Villas Pet Friendly No Wgt Limits
 1bdr from \$469
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*** 1st Month Free and \$40 Moves You In!!**
 Courtney Greens Pet Friendly No Wgt Limits
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2 For Rent unfurnished

*** 1st Month Free and \$40 Moves You In!!**
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 Huge floorplans.
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 1bdr from \$469 No rent until Jan,
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 575 sq ft, \$550 PLUS ONE MONTH FREE!
 300 NW 18th Street

4 blocks to UF - GATORSIDE
 400 sq ft, only \$450!
 1600 NW 4th Avenue
BIKE to UF - CENTERPOINT
 530 sq ft, only \$450!
 1220 NW 12th Street

No application fee, most pets ok.
 For info call E.F.N. Properites, 352-371-3636 or visit our website at www.efnproperties.com 2-11-10-20-2

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

2 For Rent unfurnished

2/1 Brandywine \$495 sm. pet ok
 3/2 House W/D \$725 pets ok
 Near UF, Shands, VA. On bus route.
 Short term ok.
 AVAIL NOW 352.284.2654
 1-29-10-10-2

DUCKPOND
 Stone cottage studio. Small but cute. Good sized kitchen. Blocks to downtown, restaurants. Available now. \$475/mo. 306 NE 6th St. 379-4952 1-29-10-10-2

DUCKPOND
 2BR/1.5BA 1200 sq ft townhouse. Amazing location. Tile floor, new countertops. Blocks to downtown. Available now. \$850/mo. 508 NE 4th Ave. 379-4952 1-29-10-10-2

2 BLKS TO NORMAN HALL!
 2BR 1BA Apts \$600/Mo
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 829 Sw 5th Avenue.
 Call Merrill Management Inc.
 352-372-1494 1-29-10-9-2

2BR 1BA, Carpet, Window A/C,
 Nat gas ht. 1 BLK to UF \$600/Mo
 216 SW 12th St.. Call
 Merrill Management Inc 352-372-1494
 X10 1-29-10-9-2

2901 NW 14th Street
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2 For Rent unfurnished

2BR/2.5BA 1308 SW 61st St. \$595/mo. \$300 sec dep. Call 352-332-4088 2-2-10-10-2

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Quiet SW large 3/2, dining & fireplace, screened back patio, attached garage, fenced backyard. Pets w/ deposit. \$1000/mth. 1st and \$1000 security req. Call 352-375-7030 1-29-6-2

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2 For Rent unfurnished

VIEW OF STADIUM Spacious 1BR/1BA apt. Large yard. Freshly painted, new flooring. 6 mo or 1 yr lease. \$599/mo 352-335-4790 1-28-10-5-2

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 1-28-10-5-2

Move in Special: No Security Deposit 2/2 Condo with washer/dryer, screened-in porch, newer condo, near UF. Shands, located off 34th & Archer Rd. 2 units available \$750/mo. Call 317-5060 215-5996 3-1-10-27-2

***2/1, 3 Blocks to UF**

*Near Sorority Row, HW Floors Pet Friendly \$900/mo 352-375-8256 4-21-55-2

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

*1000 SF, WD hookups Centr. AC, Pet Friendly \$750/mo 352-375-8256 4-21-55-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

2BR/1BA Duplex, WALK to SF College. Tile Floors, Newly remodeled kitchen, private parking, fenced in yard. Rent \$600/mo. Deposit \$300. Pet Deposit \$200. Please call 352-278-2897. 2-8-10-10-2

HOUSE 3BR/2BA, 1.5 miles to UF, near the Landings Apts. On UF bus rte. Bike to UF. Fenced backyard, fireplace, cent H/A. 3627 SW 15th St. \$900/mo. All 4BR/2BA \$1100/mo. Call 327-2931 or 376-6183 2-8-10-10-2

2BR/1BA Mobile Home. Very clean, tile in kitchen. Oak Park Village. \$650/mo, sec \$500. Landlady pays garbage pickup, water, sewer & yard maintenance. Call 372-2107 2-1-10-5-2

450/mo - Roommate Wanted in new 2/2 - On Newberry & nw55th st -cable/net/utilities NOT included-NO PETS-Grad student preferred-close to campus-bus route#5 -Email ajkgator@ufl.edu 2-4-10-7-2

5/3, 1900sf, nice, w/d, no pet fee, no lease, 1st month free, 1500 month, 15 min to UF. 352-301-2403 2-2-5-2

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 2-2-5-2

★★★HOUSE 4BR/2BA★★★

Available 8/1. Lovely, remodeled. W/D. Bike to UF. No pets. Details: 3532 NW 7th Ave. \$1400/mo. 373-1558 or 246-8645 2-2-10-5-2

3 Subleases

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room in 3/3 at the woodlands. male or female welcome. \$580, all inclusive. First month free, no move in fees. Move in Immediately. 3059236495 1-29-10-7-3

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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4 Roommates

1BR/1BA or 2BR/2BA avail now for responsible mature individual. \$400-\$800/mo OBO + utils. Brandywine on Archer Rd. yttek@hotmail.com or 305-332-6566 2-2-10-516-4

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

\$300 ALL Inclusive, Utils, CableTV, SecureWiFi, BR/Pvt. BA, W/D, Newly Remodeled & Furnished Common Area. On UF Bus Rte. January FREE. OPEN MINDED. 954-854-9445 1-28-10-10-4

Enjoy A Romantic Old House Near library downtown. \$295-\$375/m + utils. Short term. No pets. No smoking. 378-1304 2-2-10-10-4

15 Minutes to UF/SFCC 1900sf, 5/3 MH. Will rent by room 350 up, or whole house 1400. Mth to Mth lease. 352-301-2403 1-29-8-4

GREAT DEAL. I am NEVER there. 2BR/2BA townhouse. Downtown. W/D hookup. Jan rent paid. Arlington Square Apts. Pet friendly. No deposits. \$500.00/month. 863-258-6350. Scubagirl404@gmail.com 1-27-10-5-4

Mill Pond/Gainesville Health & Fitness!! Need roommate to share 2BR/2BA condo on the water. Completely furnished except your BR! Move in immediately and receive free month rent!!!! 352-538-5170 ask for Kyle 2-3-10-10-4

WALK TO CAMPUS! Room available in 3/2 house, 1.5 blocks from UF, cent H/A, W/D parking. \$350/mo. Grad students preferred. 352-367-9128, 375-1474 1-27-10-5-4

Female seeks roommate for 4/2.5 townhouse, cricket club, all included, no pets, \$400 954-557-4769 3-4-10-30-4

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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

6 Furnishings

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

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

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

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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

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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

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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

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Florida focused on avoiding letdown



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

Coach Billy Donovan will be looking for his team to continue its recent success as UF takes on Georgia tonight in the O'Connell Center.

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

All season, Billy Donovan has preached the virtues of keeping things in perspective.

After starting off the Southeastern Conference season on a two-game losing streak, Donovan is looking to keep his team grounded during its three-game winning streak, capped off by Chandler Parsons' buzzer-beater Saturday.

The last few years, the Gators have struggled after finding success. Even this season, they dropped three consecutive games — two of which came to unranked Richmond and South Alabama — after climbing into the top 10 after an 8-0 start.

Florida (14-5, 3-2 SEC) will look to avoid a similar letdown against Georgia (9-8, 1-3 SEC) tonight at 7 in the O'Connell Center.

"The one thing I love about competition is that there are absolutely no prejudices involved," Donovan said. "The minute the ball goes up, we don't start the game against Georgia with a couple extra points because Chandler made that three. We don't start the game against LSU (on Jan. 16) down by five because we lost two games before that."

Although Georgia has struggled throughout the year, dropping games to the likes of Wofford early in the season, the Bulldogs caught the Gators' attention last weekend by upsetting No. 14 Tennessee 78-63 on Saturday.

"It's huge, especially when you see what they just did to Tennessee," Parsons said. "They're capable of beating anybody. In this league, anything can happen any night. Definitely here, Wednesday night, at our place, we've got to protect our home court."

From the way the Gators spoke about Wednesday's game, they are following Donovan's advice about keeping things in perspective.

But they've been down this road before. While Donovan cautioned his team earlier this season about staying humble and his players said all the



Men's Basketball

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 15

Tebow should get chance to play QB in NFL

Two days into Senior Bowl practices, and the result is in on Tim Tebow's NFL career: He's not going to succeed at quarterback.

OK, so no one has said it yet, but there has not been much good news about his performance there except that he is a great leader.

Although I don't think he will be a great quarterback, or even a good one for that matter, he does deserve the chance to prove everyone — including me — wrong.

People are already criticizing his ability to take snaps under center, but they should remember that he has not been asked to do that very much since before high school. That's almost eight years of working out of the shotgun, and I doubt he learned too much footwork before that time.

He needs time to learn, and you know he will give it his all.

But it's not just his footwork that's the problem.

He has a well-documented slow release, runs too often for almost any NFL owner who is putting millions of his dollars into a quarterback and isn't the best at reading defenses.

All of those issues are making NFL scouts weary of his prospects at quarterback.

But no matter how many problems he may have, Tebow is still worth drafting.

I would never use a first-round pick on him, but if he's there in the late-second or third rounds, I'd scoop him up.

He will be a money machine for any franchise.

Some fans want to see him succeed, some want to see him fail and others just want to see what he will be like at the pro level, but everyone wants to watch him.

No. 15 Gators jerseys are all over the place, so you know a jersey with Tebow on the back will sell.

UF coach Urban Meyer had said in the past that he thinks Tebow can be successful at the next level in the right system.

SEE BOBBY, PAGE 15



Bobby Callovi
Bobby's World
bcallovi@alligator.org

UF RECRUITING

Murphy joins Gators' list of commits

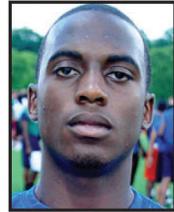
By **JAIME MANHEIMER**
Alligator Writer

As National Signing Day creeps closer, Florida is expected to pick up a few more commitments to round-out its 2010 recruiting class.

But it got one few could have seen coming when Wethersfield (Conn.) High's two-star quarterback Tyler Murphy verbally committed Sunday to play for Florida.

According to Rivals.com, Murphy is the lowest rated prospect in the Gators' 2010 recruiting class. Before switching his

commitment to Florida, Murphy originally committed to Temple.



Murphy

"These coaches aren't really going to care where these players are ranked as long as they feel they can help their program." Rivals.com recruiting analyst Jamie Newberg said. "The bottom line is the coaches feel he can make a difference during the time he spends in Gainesville."

Newberg said the Gators 26th commit is

a playmaker. At 6-foot-2, 190 pounds, Murphy has the athleticism to be a dual-threat for the Gators.

"It's not determined yet what he'll play," Newberg said. "I'd imagine he'd get his first shot at quarterback, especially because there is no one really proven behind (John) Brantley. Also he's athletic, big and fast enough to play another position such as halfback or wide receiver."

Murphy is the third Gators recruit to come from Connecticut in the last four years, joining tight end Aaron Hernandez

SEE RECRUIT, PAGE 15

TEeing OFF WITH BOBBY CALLOVI

■ I understand Hue Jackson wants to be an offensive coordinator again, but he's dooming himself by taking over in Oakland where he will be expected to do the impossible and win with QB JaMarcus Russell. ... Barack Obama thanked John Calipari for the money his team raised for Haiti relief, but the president might want to look into where the money came from, knowing Calipari's past.

SOFTBALL RANKINGS

■ The Gators are No. 3 in the first 2010 preseason USA Today/NFCA poll behind Alabama and the unanimous No. 1 and defending national champion Washington.

SEC AWARDS

■ UF gymnast Ashanée Dickerson was named SEC Freshman Gymnast of the Week on Tuesday for the second time this season. Dickerson has won the all-around title in all three competitions this season.

Gators have outrebounded opponents in all three conference wins

HOOPS, from page 14

right things, it didn't show on the court.

So, what makes this time around any different? It depends on who's answering that question, but Parsons and guards Kenny Boynton and Erving Walker all mentioned one word: focus.

Boynton noted the team's focus in the late-game situations it faced at Arkansas and against South Carolina last week. That made the Gators more prepared to handle their recent success.

Walker pointed to UF's focus on the rest of the season, instead of its past accomplishments, as reason to believe the team can build on what it has done the last few weeks.

"We just beat three good teams, but there's a long way to go — 11 more conference games and Xavier," Walker said. "We're just getting into the thick of it."

Parsons said the team's focus in practice has been better than it was

in the past. Donovan's decision to implement a break in practices has paid dividends for Florida coming out after halftime lately.

The Gators' rebounding has also improved. Parsons and junior power forward Alex Tyus have combined for 55 total rebounds over the last three games, a span where the Gators have outrebounded their opponents en route to three-straight

SEC wins.

"After the 0-2 start, coach wrote on the board that we weren't doing the physical plays like getting loose balls, stepping up and taking charges, getting rebounds," Parsons said. "Me and Alex are just two guys who have been through it before, have been outrebounded our whole career. We just wanted to step it up in that category to help our team."

BOBBY, from page 14

To me, that means not a typical NFL-style offense. Even then, I'm not sure he can be good, but his best shot is in a wildcat-like scheme.

The big thing is no one is going to want to see him stand on the sidelines, so the team that drafts him is going to need to find a way to get him on the field. The problem is he most likely won't be anywhere near ready to play quarterback in the NFL early on and he doesn't seem willing to play any other position until he has a chance to prove he can or can't play quarterback, which means the team may have to add a Tebow-

specific scheme to its playbook.

I know Tebow wants to prove people wrong about his ability to play quarterback in the NFL, but with all the flaws in his game, he should start practicing other positions.

That doesn't mean giving up his dream, but it means preparing himself for a possible change so he doesn't put his NFL career behind a couple years to learn a new position.

Until he fails at quarterback and switches to tight end, he is going to continue to hear about his poor footwork and slow release, but Tebow has earned the chance to prove his ability to NFL coaches before making a change.

Only three scholarships remain for 2010

RECRUIT, from page 14

and quarterback Jordan Reed.

If Murphy stays at quarterback, he will have adjustments and improvements to make before finding success in the SEC, Newberg said.

"He's head and shoulders above the competition (in Connecticut), and playing in a spread offense," Newberg said. "He's got a good arm, but it's very raw so he needs to work on mechanics. Florida's going to have their work cut

out for them if that's the decision they go with, but the kid is a very good athlete."

If he stays at his high school position, he will be working closely with quarterbacks coach Scot Loeffler, who was brought in from the Detroit Lions in 2009. Loeffler was also the point-man in Murphy's recruitment.

Murphy's commitment leaves only three scholarships remaining for UF's 2010 class..

Verbal commitments are non-binding until a letter of intent is signed on or after Feb. 3.

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Steven H. Keys / Alligator Staff

UF freshman Allie Will is one of two top-15-ranked freshmen the Gators will be relying on when they take on UCF today at 5 p.m.

UF WOMEN'S TENNIS Freshmen excel right away

By **ANDREW OLSON**
Alligator Writer

When Florida takes on UCF today at 5 p.m., two freshmen will be leading the charge for the Gators.

Lauren Embree and Allie Will are both already ranked in the top 15 in singles play only one match into the Gators' dual-match schedule and showed UF coach Roland Thornqvist that they are further along than most freshmen.

Thornqvist said the two are better prepared than "traditional freshmen" this early in the season.

Despite playing in just their first year at the college level, they have experience that prepared them for competing at UF (1-0), especially Embree.

Thornqvist specifically cited No. 15 Embree's experience of playing in the main draw of the 2009 French Open as more advanced than a normal freshman.

Embree easily won her first match in the dual-match schedule 6-2, 6-2 against Irina Parasciv of North Texas on Sunday.

"She's played the main draw of the French Open. Playing against North Texas for the Gators probably isn't a big deal," Thornqvist said.

Thornqvist also spoke highly of his other top-15 freshman, Allie Will, who won her match 6-2, 6-1 against Madura Ranganathan of North Texas.

He was impressed that Will, ranked No. 13 in singles play, "consistently put the ball away" against North Texas despite windy conditions that made the match a harder challenge for the Gators than the 7-0 victory shows.

"When she has power on both sides combined with the athleticism, she's going to be very, very tough to beat," Thornqvist said of Will.

Will also participates in doubles competition.

She and senior Marrit Boonstra make up the No. 26 doubles team in the nation. The duo beat its North Texas competition 8-3.

Thornqvist believes that Boonstra is another potential top-10 talent and under ranked at No. 81 in singles play.

At Monday's press conference, he said figuring out which starting positions to place all the talent on the team "is a pleasant problem to have."

One area Thornqvist will be looking for the two freshmen and the rest of his team to improve on is controlling the pace and flow of the match.

Thornqvist said his team had to come from behind in many of its wins Sunday against North Texas.

Florida is 7-0 all-time against UCF, and the Gators' men's team topped the Knights 7-0 on Friday.



Embree

Gators using bye week to rest, prepare for Rebels

UF won four straight after last break

By **EUGENIO TORRENS**
Alligator Writer
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The Gators are on their bye week, but that hardly means rest and relaxation.

This will be Florida's only week off during Southeastern Conference play, and it won't have a game until Sunday on the road at Ole Miss.

While the weeklong hiatus allows UF (11-9, 4-3 SEC) to hone in on its next opponent, the bye week doesn't really deviate from the norm.

A sign that conference play is intensifying as March sits on the horizon.

"I think this is the week where you can separate yourselves as one of the top four teams in the SEC in terms of getting in extra work," senior guard Steffi Sorensen said. "We'll do whatever it takes as far as this week, even though we don't have a game, we'll still be focused and trying to get better."

While players get a chance to rest their legs and regroup without having to worry about a mid-week game, their brains may get the heavier workout processing information about the Rebels.

"The main focus is Ole Miss," sophomore forward Ndidi Madu said, "but we're going to use some time for us and then make Ole Miss our primary focus."



Women's Basketball

The last weeklong break UF had was during Christmas, after which the Gators won four-straight games, including their first two SEC games.

That means the Gators will look internally to clean up their game — limiting turnovers, practicing jump shots and free throws — before turning their attention to breaking down the Rebels.

UF has cooled down since then (2-3), and it will look to rediscover that focus during its bye week.

Game planning for Ole Miss will be made easier because there's no game this week.

No quick turnaround between opponents gives the Gators ample time to digest all the information they can gather on their conference foe.

Players said a week off is nice to heal up, but players love to play, not practice, and a weeklong absence will make the Gators hearts that much fonder of Oxford, Miss.

"Everyone's going to be so amped to play after a week of practice," Sorensen said. "Everyone wants to play a game."

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