



LOCAL

Police investigate death of student

By ALEXANDER KLAUSNER
Alligator Staff Writer

An ongoing investigation of the death of a UF student is expected to be ruled a homicide, according to the Alachua County Sheriff's Office.

Firefighters discovered the body of Saleha Huuda, 21, after extinguishing a small brush fire off of County Road 225, a half-mile north of Gainesville Raceway, on Dec. 30.

The fire was reported by a passing motorist at about 2:40 a.m.

Following the discovery, Alachua County sheriff's deputies were called to the scene, and have since been investigating Huuda's death as a homicide.

"We are definitely viewing it as a suspicious death and we anticipate the medical examiner will make that determination," said Art Forgey, public informa-

tion officer for the Alachua County Sheriff's Office.

There is no estimate as to when the examiner will finish the analysis, but Forgey said the cause of death would "probably be ruled a murder."

Police have no suspects.

The investigation is ongoing, and authorities are trying to determine how the fire was started and how Huuda ended up at that location.

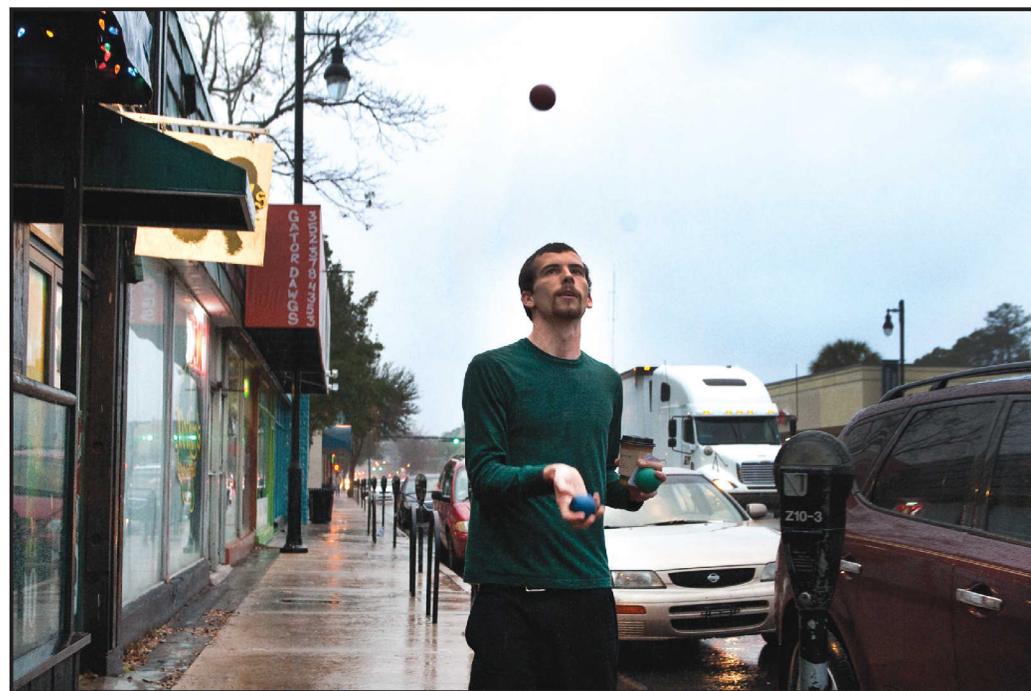
"It's safe to say the fire didn't start there on its own," Forgey said.

The question, he added, is whether Huuda started the fire herself or if the fire was started with different intent, like trying to cover up a crime.



Huuda

SEE HOMICIDE, PAGE 4



Matt Tripp / Alligator Staff

Juggling in the Rain

Santa Fe student Graham Smith, 24, juggles, walks and drinks coffee in the rain as he heads home along West University Avenue on Wednesday afternoon. Smith, who has been juggling for two-and-a-half months, practices whenever he has the opportunity. "If I'm walking, I might as well be juggling too."

Airport to get body scanner

By HANNAH WINSTON
Alligator Writer

If you plan on flying out of Gainesville in the future, expect to receive a full-body scan on your way out.

But don't worry, only the computer will see what is underneath your clothes.

Gainesville Regional Airport is in the process of getting a full-body scanner along with other airports across the nation. The model the airport plans to use would transform the controversial image process into that of a cartoon-like portrait.

Local News

The backscatter scanner takes a full-body image through low-wave radiation rays but only the computer sees the im-

SEE SCANNER, PAGE 3

Mayor meets President Obama

■ LOWE WAS INVITED TO THE WHITE HOUSE BY THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY.

By C.J. PRUNER
Alligator Staff Writer

As President Barack Obama made his way around the room of dignitaries, guests and other Washington movers and shakers at a White House reception in December, Gainesville Mayor Craig Lowe had no idea what the commander in chief would say.

Would he offer a piece of political advice, tell a joke or maybe even let the mayor in on some classified information locked away in a file cabinet in the bowels of the Pentagon?

When the time came to shake hands, the president instead offered Lowe an apology. It wasn't

the type of "apology" conservative cable news commentators pounce on nor the one GOP presidential hopefuls write books on.

This one was legitimately out of the president's control.

"I'm sorry you had to travel all the way up here for this weather," the president told Lowe in reference to the frosty D.C. atmosphere.

"It's always exciting to go to the nation's capital."

Craig Lowe
Gainesville mayor

"Actually, Mr. President," Lowe replied, "it's pretty cold in Florida, too."

The brief exchange was part of a one-day trip Lowe made to the nation's capital last month at the invitation of the president and

the First Lady. Lowe said he paid for the trip, not taxpayers.

"It's always exciting to go to the nation's capital," Lowe said.

The mayor's brief conversation with the president touched on other topics besides weather forecasts.

He congratulated Lowe on his handling of the planned Dove World Outreach Center Quran burning, which got national headlines last fall but was scrapped amid public pressure and criticism, including pressure from the president.

For Lowe, the encounter served as a refreshing reassurance of the work his administration has done in the past year.

"It was heartening to know that the president knew about Gainesville and to know that we're a place on the map for the administration," he said.

■ Four-star safety Jabari Gorman orally committed to Florida during Wednesday night's Under Armour All-America game, making up for UF's recent recruiting losses. See Story, Page 17.



Homeless Ohio man's radio voice makes him an Internet star

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Job prospects are rolling in for a homeless Ohio man with a golden radio voice who has quickly become an online sensation.

Video of Ted Williams posted this week on The Columbus Dispatch's website has commanded millions of views.

In the clip, Williams stands near a Columbus highway ramp demonstrating his smooth, deep speaking voice. He holds a sign that asks motorists for help and says,

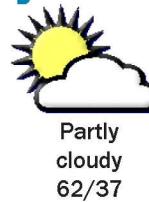
"I'm an ex-radio announcer who has fallen on hard times."

Williams, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native says he had trouble with drugs and alcohol and is now two years sober.

Columbus radio station WNCI invited him to its studios and says ESPN and MTV have expressed interest. Williams has received a \$10,000 offer for voice-over work, and a Pennsylvania radio station wants him, too.

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News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Dance Marathon registration

Wednesday to Jan. 27
Still in search for a New Year's Resolution? Why not register to dance for Dance Marathon 2011. Dance Marathon spring registration is now welcoming individual dancers. Dancers do not need to be registered through or part of an organization to participate in this wonderful event. Visit Dance Marathon's website at www.floridadm.org to register or for more information.

Free Improv Comedy

Friday 9 p.m.
Orange & Brew
Enjoy a free night of improv similar to "Whose Line is Anyway?". Your suggestions will create a customized brand-new show, never to be performed ever again! Bring some friends or a date and enjoy the show.

Got something going on?

Want to see it in this space? Send an e-mail with "What's Happening" in the subject line

FORECAST

| TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| PARTLY CLOUDY 62/37 | SUNNY 64/39 | SUNNY 65/38 | PARTLY CLOUDY 66/46 | RAIN 69/42 |

to ebhrman@alligator.org. Please model your submissions after above events.

STATE

Fla. suspect's wife sees photo on TV, calls police

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP) — Authorities south of Tampa say a man confessed to robbing a bank after his wife saw a surveillance photo on the evening news and alerted them.

A camera got a clear shot of the man with a pony tail and scruffy beard robbing the First Bank in Bradenton on Tuesday. But Manatee County Sheriff's officials got a break Tuesday evening when Afra Sandifar saw a news report about the

robbery. She called authorities and told them her husband was the robber. That's when 45-year-old Troy Sandifar fled the couple's apartment.

CORRECTION

A story in Wednesday's Alligator incorrectly reported the URL of the older version of UF Webmail. It should have read: legacy.webmail.ufl.edu.

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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With rain in the forecast, county lifts burn ban

By **MEREDITH RUTLAND**
Alligator Writer

The burn ban prohibiting open burning and the use of New Year's fireworks, sparklers and other pyrotechnics unless permitted by the Florida Department of Forestry was lifted Tuesday.

Harry Collins, assistant chief of the Alachua County Department of Public Safety, said that his department tries not to impose the ban often but recent cold weather killed plants and underbrush, making them fuel for fire.

Public Safety "We just try to keep our community safe by being proactive and trying to contain any possibility of a fire," he said.

Jeff Lane, Gainesville Fire Rescue district chief, said the dry conditions coupled with the fact that the city has expanded into surrounding forest areas mean fires can get out of hand.

"Particularly if we have multiple fires, it can drain our fire-fighter resources very quickly," he said.

Lane said he was able to have a New Year's celebration even with the ban.

"It didn't cause a significant problem for us," he said. "But we're certainly glad to see the rain."

The TSA will cover the cost of the scanner

SCANNER, from page 1

age. The computer then alters the image of the person who walks through the scanner and highlights anything out of place.

The millimeter wave scanner does not transform the original image produced by electromagnetic waves.

Though the airport asked for the backscatter model, it is still not guaranteed, said Laura Aguiar, manager of public relations and governmental affairs for Gainesville Regional Airport. She said the scanner was chosen to insure privacy while upholding federal standards.

"It's just something we wanted to make sure we had the best available technology that offers the most privacy to our passengers," she said.

While there is no cost to the airport for the machine, the Transportation Security Administration pays anywhere from \$130,000 to \$170,000 per scanner.

The body scanners, similar to the one Gainesville hopes for, have already been put to use in Boston's Logan Airport.

Phil Orlandella, director of media relations for Logan Airport, said there hasn't been any problems or complaints with the body scanners.

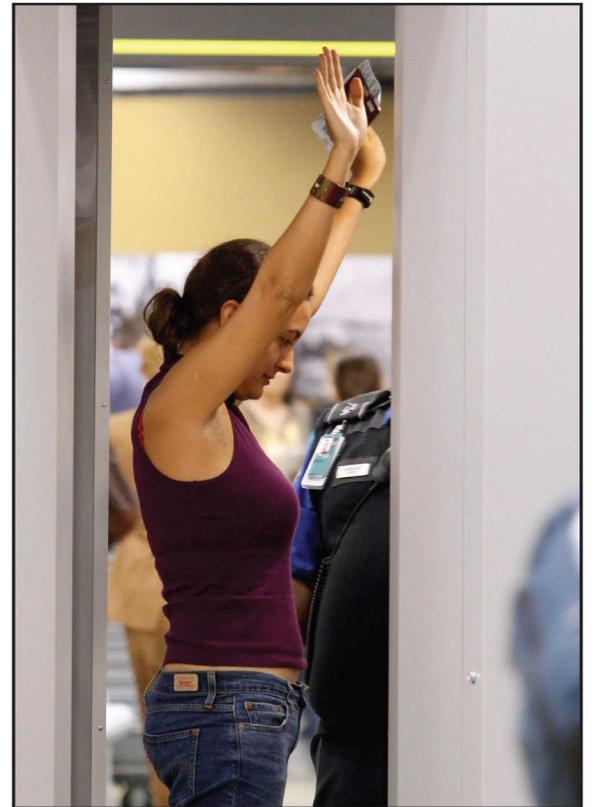
There are 486 machines in 78 airports, according to the TSA.

Aguiar said since Gainesville has such a small airport, there would be room for only one scanner to replace the single metal detector there now.

She said there has been no update for when the scanner would be installed and that the earliest date would be sometime this spring.

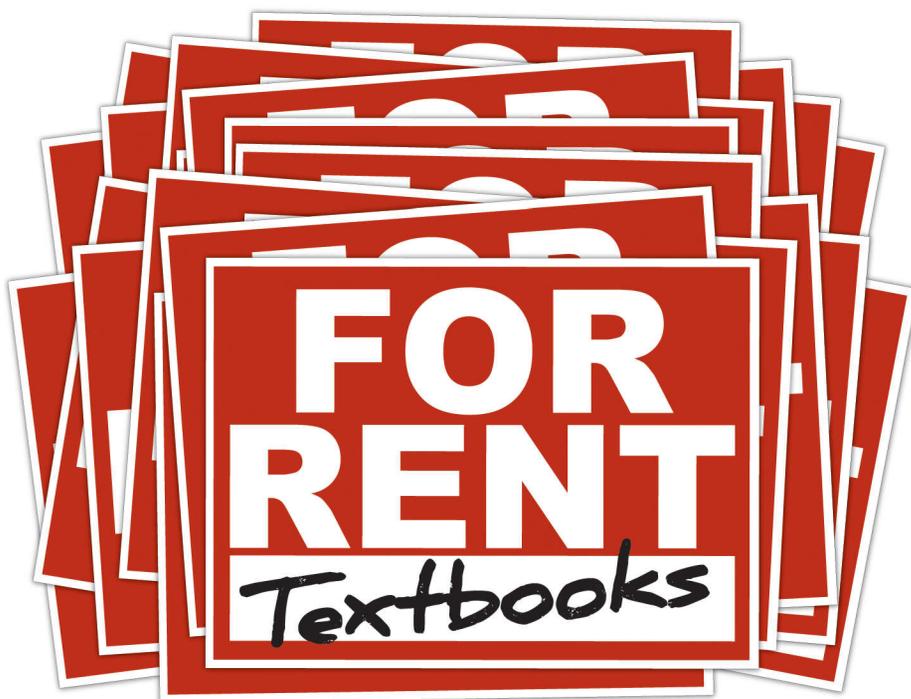
Sari Koshtetz, a TSA spokesperson, said it is not TSA policy to discuss which airports would receive

the scanners until they are on deployment schedule and that Gainesville Regional is not yet officially on that schedule.



AP Photo

A passenger is scanned as she prepares to travel at Miami International Airport on Dec. 23.



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LOCAL BUSINESS

Gator Dawgs is latest casualty of poor economy

By ALEX ORLANDO
Alligator Writer

When Otis Britt announced via Facebook that his restaurant would close at the end of the month, he expected the lamenting wall posts.

He expected the 46 comments that piled onto his page, such as "This sucks!! Seriously, the worst thing ever."

But he didn't expect the solitary "like" that popped up shortly after his announcement.

That "like" came from his 18-year-old son, Keary Britt.

After four-and-a-half years of 70-hour weeks, working 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. shifts every day, Britt said his son and 9-year-old daughter would be glad to have some free time with their parents.

And since seeing business drop from 200 customers a week to 110, losing \$30,000 this year and having to sell his brand-new Nissan Altima for money to put into the restaurant, Britt said he's glad to be home, too.

But in 2007, he remembers, he couldn't be more excited to open his own business.

After managing a Perkins for 16 years, Britt and his wife, then a real estate agent, bought the plate-glass-windowed shop at 1023 W University Ave.

A wheelchair ramp and three stairs lead the way up the split-level floor to the counter, making it look like an altar to fast-food innovation.

Their first menu consisted of 14 hot dogs.

After enough requests for French fries, they got those, too.

Now, the menu boasts about 75 different burgers, hot dogs, fries and sandwiches.

The menu includes such items as the Heart Attack Dawg, a hot dog wrapped in bacon, deep fried

and topped with cheese sauce and fried onions; the Colombia Dawg, which sports mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, onion, bacon, cheese, pineapple and potato chips; and the self-explanatory Peanut Butter Burger.

He said the hardest-to-make item is the Bull Dawg, a 3-pound pile of chili cheese fries, fried bell peppers and bacon; some-

where under which is a hamburger wrapped in a hot dog; all of which would be hard to fit on a shovel.

Britt's logic: "Yeah, let's take a burger and put it in a hot dog and just put god-awful stuff on it."

Colin and Dana McLeod have been eating Gator Dawgs once a month since they decided to stop in after driving by two years ago.

Colin, a 24-year-old grad student, usually gets the Bacon, Egg and Cheese Dawg. Dana gets the Chicago Dawg, topped with yellow mustard, onion, relish, tomato, dill pickle, hot pepper and celery salt.

They sat with their friends Wednesday night laughing and watching football.

Between them sat two tables,

six hot dogs, three bottles of hot sauce, three bottles of water and a bottle of ketchup.

Asked what they would do when Gator Dawgs closes in a month, the group paused for a moment before the silence was broken by Dana McLeod.

"You know, there is no place in Gainesville like this if you think about it," she said.



Alex Orlando / Alligator

Otis Britt, owner of Gator Dawgs on West University Avenue, waits behind the counter for the next order. Britt said he will have to close permanently in about two weeks due to financial struggles.

System overload causes headaches on first day of class

ISIS, Webmail were down for 45 minutes

By MINA RADMAN
Alligator Staff Writer

At a time when students and faculty make the most use of ISIS, a technological setback crashed the system Wednesday morning.

At approximately 9:30 a.m., the Shibboleth Authentication System, which runs Webmail, ISIS and Sakai, crashed, leaving users stranded on the first day of classes.

"I freaked out a little this morning because I needed

to know where my classes were," said freshman Rachel Edwards. "But then I found that the schedule of classes lists the teachers, so it worked out for me."

According to UF spokesman Steve Orlando, the crash occurred because of multiple incidents.

As the registrar's office tried to upload 15,000 student records to ISIS and restart the online payment system, students logged on to drop and add classes, leading to a heavy load of users that the system could not

handle. Students were warned of possible problems Tuesday through the computer help desk alerts system. The beginning of the term, from Jan. 3 to Jan. 11, is considered the busiest time of year for the servers, as usage hits near capacity.

"They started working back in the fall on beefing up the system, making it more robust so things like this don't happen," Orlando said. "[Information Technology] folks are continuously looking for ways to improve the system and make it function better."

The system came back after 45 minutes. A subsequent outage occurred at 2 p.m. and was resolved 10 minutes later.

Huuda was a member of the UF Competitive Cheerleading squad

HOMICIDE, from page 1

Huuda's car was found elsewhere, in the 1500 block of SW 42nd Street, he said.

Huuda lived at The District on 62nd apartment complex, located at 1000 SW 62nd Blvd.

Authorities are forensically analyzing

her vehicle, a 2001 silver Nissan Sentra, hoping to find evidence that could lead to a break in the case.

"The car was obviously a key piece of evidence," Forgey said. "It was not where she lived; it was not where she was found. The car got there some way, and she got to where she was some way."

Huuda was a flier, or the girl who gets

tossed in the air, on the UF Competitive Cheerleading squad.

Amanda Barton, president of the squad, said she remembered Huuda as being someone who was always upbeat and sociable.

"She just always had a big smile on her face," she said.

Authorities are still trying to assemble a

timeline of events that led up to the crime, and those with information are urged to call Crime Stoppers at 352-372-STOP or the Alachua County Sheriff's Office at 352-955-1818.

A candlelight vigil for Huuda will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Reitz Union Amphitheater.

Local
News

Local sales tax decreases half a penny in 2011

■ THE NEW RATE IS 6.25 PERCENT.

By **MORGAN WATKINS**
Alligator Writer

As Christmas lights fade and New Year's resolutions are broken within days of their inception, Alachua County welcomes another herald of 2011: a cheaper sales tax.

Local shoppers will pay a 6.25 percent tax on any products or services they purchase within the county this year, compared to the 6.75 percent rate they paid for the past two years.

The tax was reduced because the voter-

approved Wild Spaces and Public Places tax ended on Dec. 31, 2010. The tax was created to fund various projects, including land conservation and park maintenance efforts.

The economic recession, however, provided lower sales tax revenues than originally expected. The program has reduced the scope of its plans to match the received funds, Alachua County commissioner Mike Byerly said.

The 2011 tax includes the statewide 6 percent rate and a 0.25 percent surtax used to fund CHOICES, a county health program that provides services for local workers who lack health insurance. The 7-year surtax, approved by voters in 2004, began in 2005 and

will end on Dec. 31 of this year.

Revenue from the tax is used to provide various health services to the program's uninsured members, CHOICES Director Bob Bailey said.

The program's fund balance is about \$40 million, and projected revenue for 2011 is expected to reach \$7.5 million

— the same amount received in 2010, he said. The services CHOICES provides, however, are growing more costly as its membership increases.

"This year the membership is growing so rapidly that, for the first time, CHOICES will spend more than it receives," Bailey said.

CHOICES now receives between 300 and 350 applications per month, compared to a monthly average of about 250 in 2009, Bailey said. The economic recession also hurt its funding as many people began to spend less and save more.

When the surtax expires at the end of this year, CHOICES will continue to operate until either the money runs out or the county, with voter approval, alters the program plan, Byerly said.

"I think many of the issues that CHOICES was intended to address may ultimately be addressed by the health care program [introduced] this past year," Byerly said. "We're waiting to see how that shakes out."

Curses! Romania's witches forced to pay income tax

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOGOSOAIA, Romania — Everyone curses the tax man, but Romanian witches angry about having to pay up for the first time are planning to use cat excrement and dead dogs to cast spells on the president and government.

Also among Romania's newest taxpayers are fortune tellers — but they probably should have seen it coming.

Superstitions are no laughing matter in Romania — the land of the medieval ruler who inspired the "Dracula" tale — and have been part of its culture for centuries. President Traian Basescu and his aides have been known to wear purple on certain days, supposedly to ward off evil.

Romanian witches from the east and west will head to the southern plains and the Danube River on Thursday to threaten the government with spells and spirits because of the tax law, which came into effect Jan. 1.

A dozen witches will hurl the poisonous mandrake plant into the Danube to put a hex on government officials "so evil will befall them," said a witch named Alisia. She identified herself with one name — customary among Romania's witches.

"This law is foolish. What is

there to tax, when we hardly earn anything?" she said by telephone Wednesday. "The lawmakers don't look at themselves, at how much they make, their tricks; they steal and they come to us asking us to put spells on their enemies."

The new law is part of the government's drive to collect more revenue and crack down on tax evasion in a country that is in recession.

In the past, the less mainstream professions of witch, astrologer and fortune teller were not listed in the Romanian labor code, as were those of embalmer, valet and driving instructor. Those who worked those jobs used their lack of registration to evade paying income tax.

"This law is foolish. What is there to tax, when we hardly earn anything?"

Alisia
Romanian witch

Under the new law, like any self-employed person, they will pay 16 percent income tax and make contributions to health and pension programs.

Some argue the law will be hard to enforce, as the payments to witches and astrologers usually are made in cash and relatively small at 20 to 30 lei (\$7-\$10) per consultation.



AP Photo

Trouble is brewing for Romania's witches, whose toil is being taxed for the first time despite threats of putting curses on the government. Also being taxed are fortune tellers, who probably saw this coming.

Queen witch Brataru Buzea, 63, is furious about the new law.

Sitting cross-legged in her villa in the lake resort of Mogosoaia, just north of Bucharest, she said Wednesday

she planned to cast a spell using a particularly effective concoction of cat excrement and a dead dog, along with a chorus of witches.

Not every witch is threatening

fire and brimstone.

"This law is very good," said Mihaela Minca. "It means that our magic gifts are recognized and I can open my own practice."

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Editorial

Power Shift

Republicans should tread carefully in new role

After years of performance that could be best described as wildly inconsistent and at worst can be compared to a Big Ten team in a bowl game, the Democrats relinquished control of the House Wednesday in an episode that spliced together the ceremonious with the awkward.

While the move comes at no shock given the considerable conservative backlash that has swept across the country since the last general election, it should cause Americans from both sides of the political landscape to pause and reflect. For Democrats, the scene of numerous freshmen GOP congressmen walking up the steps of Capitol Hill waving the banner of deregulation and "freedom of choice" should serve as a warning shot across the bow for what will prove to be a bitter battle in November 2012.

Republicans, on the other hand, should not see their victory last November as the ultimate sign of confidence from the American people. While many Republican lawmakers described their electoral victories as "the American people finally letting their voices being heard," it was this same "American voice" that called for their heads only two years prior, a fervor fueled by a heavy intoxication of anti-Bush sentiment.

We ask Republicans in Washington not to use this newly packed-on muscle to constantly swing the hammer at Democrats in an effort to live through the ghosts of Taft, Goldwater and Reagan. While the right-wing may try to relive the glory days of 1776, 1946 and 1981, we caution them to remember 1995, when a former history professor from the state of Georgia tried to rally his forces for a final stand against an "overbearing" Democratic executive, only to have his Aces cracked in the federal government shutdown.

Sometimes, the House doesn't always win.

Censory overload

So much for great American novels being sacred.

Auburn University professor Alan Gribben decided to remove the "N-word" from Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn and replace it with "slaves." That's 219 times he's vandalizing a time capsule.

We're not excusing the use of the word in our society; it's a relic of the past. But while we'd like to forget the word and the racism it's associated with, we can't.

Students should know about the blemishes even a country as great as ours has. The 125-year-old novel shows how far America has come, borne on the backs of generations of people.

And that's probably what Twain hoped.

He wrote the novel as a satire of antebellum Southern attitudes, using his character Jim to humanize the victims of slavery.

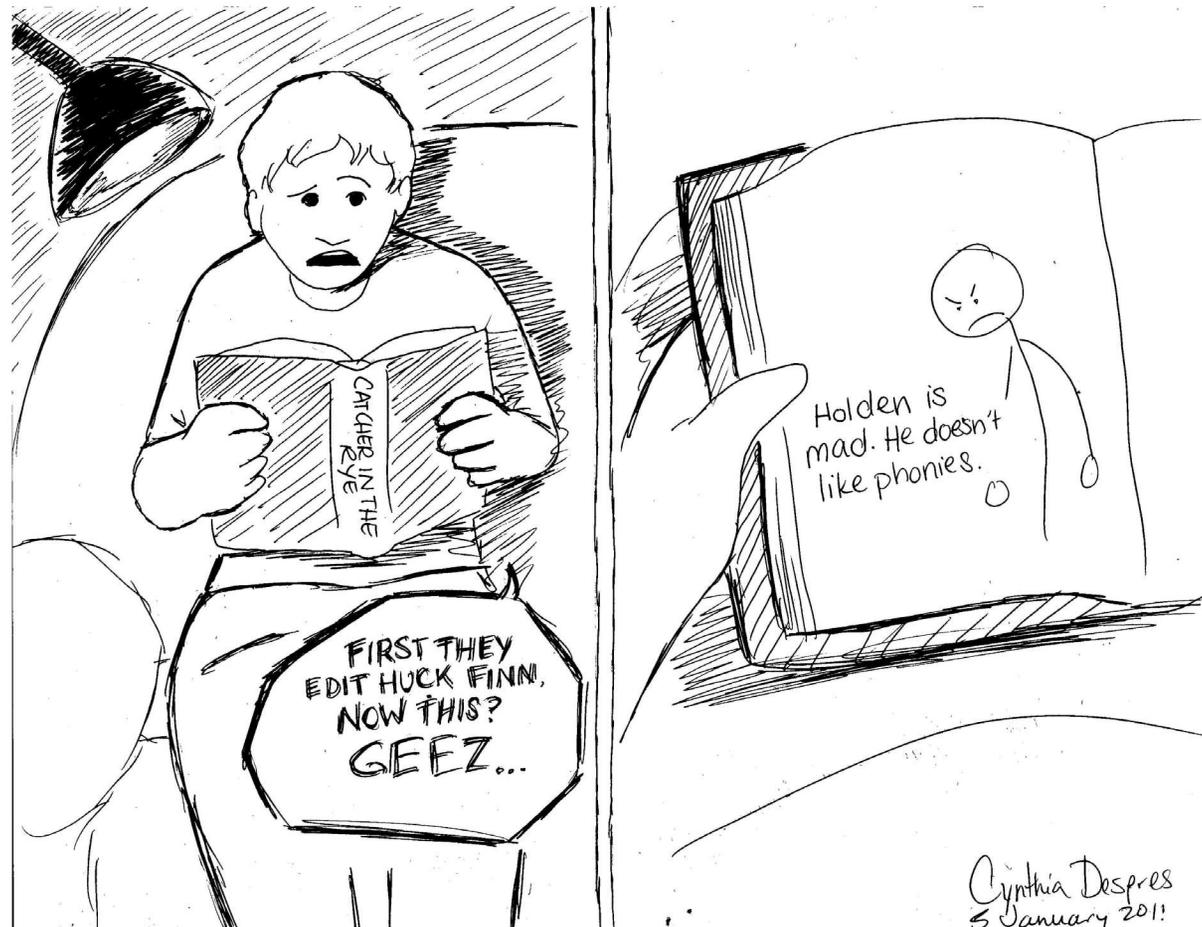
Twain wanted the reader to feel discomfort because, as human beings, we squirm when we perceive injustice.

The book faced critique about its treatment of race through the years — enough criticism to keep many English teachers from touching on the book in class. It's a shame they're afraid students will only see 219 of Twain's thousands of words.

Rewording a classic because we feel uncomfortable with it is like draping Michelangelo's David with bed sheets — it's exchanging artistic vision for political correctness.

Opinions

ALLIGATOR
www.alligator.org/opinion



Guest column

Some college mascots fail to intimidate

A h...the college mascot.

For years they have colored sidelines across America, exciting crowds with their amusing antics and T-shirt guns.

What would a college sports game be without a colorful, overly energetic creature flailing along the sidelines?

They inspire apparel, cheers, and team spirit for college football fans nationwide while instilling awe and fear in the opposing team.

Well, at least some of them do. For schools such as Oregon and Oklahoma, I have to say I admire the effort it must take to maintain school spirit.

Now, I understand you may think your Ducks and Sooners are extremely threatening, so it is with much remorse that I relay this disappointing news: Those mascots suck.

Seriously, out of all of the fang-baring, biting and poisonous creatures out there, could you not pick something better?

For universities large and small, the mascot operates as the PR unit of the school, and for some the job is easier than others. Smack talk from the University of Texas's Bevo the Longhorn is certainly more intimidating than that from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Herbie Husker.

Schools with nonthreatening mascots are at a much lower level of ferocity when it comes to intimidating foes, and the burden of defending their school's name falls upon the students.

When your mascot is only entertaining ironically, I cannot help but assume it's a bit of a damper on school pride, as much as the Minnesota Golden Gophers try to convince us otherwise.

Now, in the spirit of thwarting mascots, it is necessary

Laura Ellermeyer
Speaking Out

to introduce perhaps college's worst mascot of all time.

Everybody please rise to your feet for OTTO THE...Orange?

Yep, that's right.

Syracuse proudly (ehh) boasts Otto the Orange as their symbol of power and, well, it's a fruit. A fruit has no threatening, admirable or even amusing qualities. An honorable mention to you, Syracuse, for bearing the burden of such a less-than-menacing mascot.

One has to wonder, were some schools' founders drunk when they were establishing their institution? Oranges, wagons and ducks certainly sound like funny jokes, but perhaps the school's foundation is left scratching its head as years elapse and the hilarity wears off.

Of course, not even the most awkward of mascots can devalue an academically or athletically sound school (Yes, I'm looking at you Alabama. Notice that your battle cry has nothing to do with your elephant mascot). Only so much pride is knocked with a less-than-intimidating mascot.

All that really matters is that a university bands together behind a symbol, and through it they unite and assemble school pride.

However, one does have to wonder how Ohio State University really feels about their prized nut, Brutus Buckeye, or how proud the University of California, Santa Cruz really is of Sammy the Banana Slug.

Perhaps it doesn't matter and perhaps it does, and for now the lucky schools with daunting mascots (ahem, Gators) can enjoy a chuckle on behalf of the mascots who try so hard, yet fall so short.

Laura Ellermeyer is a finance major.

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

Reader response

Today's question: Should the "N-word" be removed from "Huckleberry Finn"?

Wednesday's question: Have you already broken your New Year's resolution?

42% YES
58% NO
26 TOTAL VOTES

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UWire

'Huckleberry Finn' should lead to discourse, not censorship

NewSouth Books, a publishing company in Montgomery, Ala., has announced its plan to release a new edition of Mark Twain's universally recognized and brilliant novel "Huckleberry Finn" sans the words "nigger" and "injun." This censored edition by NewSouth will replace the word "nigger" with "slave."

The word "nigger" appears in the "Huckleberry Finn" 219 times. The first printing of this censored version of Twain's tour de force will be a modest 7,500 copies, according to NewSouth. And although this is a small amount of printings, the message being sent to 21st century American youth is large and cannot be further from wrong or better devalue the significance of Twain's novel.

The novel, as it was written, reflects the time period it was published and the American sentiment about the relationship between black and white people in pre-Civil War America — when African-Americans were still not considered citizens at all, but property and chattel. Twain knew who he was writing for and what he was writing about having spent his formative years in former slave state of Missouri and worked as a newspaperman in his adult life. He was well acquainted with plantation life, slave life and the English vernacular of African-Americans in Missouri. He demonstrates this with an explanatory paragraph that is present at the beginning of "Huckleberry Finn."

The explanatory paragraph by Twain states, "In this book a number of dialects are used, to wit: the Missouri negro dialect; the extremist form of the backwoods South-Western dialect; the ordinary "Pike County" dialect and the modified varieties of this last." Twain goes on to write, "The shadings have not been done in a hap-hazard fashion, or by guess-work; but pains-takingly, and with the trustworthy guidance and support of personal familiarity with these several forms of speech. I make this explanation for the reason that without it many readers would suppose that all these characters were trying to talk alike and not succeeding."

Knowing his genius would be seen as lowbrow bigotry in printed form Twain had the foresight to make his inten-

R.J. Young
UWire

word "nigger."

"Huckleberry Finn" was written to combat the racist and bigoted attitudes of Americans — both black and white — during Reconstruction. This is a seminal moment in our nation's history.

In his novel Twain wrote about the growing friendship, loyalty and brotherhood between a black man and white child; a concept nearly 100 years ahead of its time. Until 1954 the United States made laws that prohibited even black and white children in the same classroom together, let alone an adult and child. The relationship formed between the novel's protagonist and namesake, Huck Finn and the slave he rescues and befriends, Jim, has shades of a father-son and brother-brother connection that is indicative of the strong bonds between family and the strength of human affection regardless of the melanin — or lack thereof — in a person's skin. These are the ideas Twain struggles to convey to a public that largely believes otherwise in a time period when it is en vogue to belittle and degrade black people.

Many scholars of American literature, history and culture have called this book what it is: a master piece of the highest order and one worthy of the privilege of being taught in our high schools and universities. Ernest Hemingway called "Huckleberry Finn" the "source of all American literature." T.S. Eliot called it "a masterpiece." George C. Carrington Jr. wrote that it "is generally acknowledged as one of the three authentic masterpieces of American fiction" alongside Herman Melville's "Moby Dick" and Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter." Twain gave himself a back-handed compliment when he said of his novel it is "a book people praise and don't read." Perhaps Twain knew the fate of his novel nearly a century in advance.

Surely, some prefer not to be reminded of what the social climate of the United States was like in 1884 when

this novel was first published; that our country had just fought a war with itself over — among other things — the freedom and independence of black Americans in our country. But that does not change the past we come from, the future we seek or the present we make.

"Huckleberry Finn" has consistently appeared on the United States most challenged and challenging book lists, has been relegated to optional reading lists in high schools and universities or egregiously banned from institutions of learning altogether, over the novel's use of the word "nigger."

The term "nigger" ranks as one of the most wretched and vile words in the thralls of language. It is beyond the simply profane; it is hurtful and scourging to the psyche in a way that borders on criminal. But it also is found in the work of other literary geniuses such as Joseph Conrad and Charles Dickens. Are we to stricken the word from their literary efforts as well?

The word was given its venom from the tongues of our grandfather's grandfathers and remains among us today as a reminder. It reminds of us of how far we have come in race relations, the unity we have formed in the years since The Civil War and where we might fall to if we do not remain vigilant, careful and caring. Vigilant to educate our children about the use, misuse and history of the word "nigger," careful to develop a scholarly tongue and sensitive nature about the word and caring enough not to shy away from the conversation and bold enough to resolve our nation's confrontation with it.

Have I made you uncomfortable with my persistent use of the word "nigger" throughout this essay? If so, ask yourself why and let's start there. Regardless, the continued use of one foul word amongst the million in the English language should not prevent students — our children — from appreciating the unabridged version of what is considered by the rationally natured human being, an American classic. Our nation is too strong and has come too far socially to be held back by a single word, a single harsh sentiment, a single fear.

By R.J. Young, *Oklahoma Daily, U. Oklahoma via UWIRE*

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Yoga students stretch and bend at Ashtanga Yoga of Gainesville during a Tuesday evening class. The exercise, led by yogi Kevin Bogle, includes 90 minutes of constant movements and postures that define the Ashtanga style.

Matt Tripp / Alligator Staff

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new year

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WelcOHMing in the New Year

A resolution that benefits mind and body

By **ALLISON BANKO**
avenue writer

Just as the first second of 2011 kicked off with a certain "Jersey Shore" nugget dropping down in a giant MTV ball, it hit you, right after that desperate, sloppy smooth. It's New Year's resolution time, baby. It's the year for closet-cleaning and working more on saving the cash flow than slurping it down at Salty Dog. And most importantly, getting those

post-holiday bods into shape. Of course, getting fit is no uncommon resolution. And, not surprisingly, within the first couple of days on campus, the gym crowd has exploded, and the number of runners necessary to dodge on the walk to class could be compared to a game of "Frogger."

While hundreds of newborn fitness junkies will compete for treadmills at chaotic Southwest, in Gainesville there lie quiet, tranquil workout venues just waiting for you to visit. In particular, for an exer-

cise as physically challenging as it is calming, look no further than a quaint yoga classroom nestled right off campus. But don't get it twisted: This isn't your grandma's yoga class.

Ashtanga Yoga of Gainesville offers a practice that serves more than the average ohm (that low humming sound yoga participants make as they meditate and stretch).

Kevin Bogle, owner and instructor for 14 years, teaches the Ashtanga style of yoga, which emphasizes a continual movement that flows from pos-

see **YOGA**, page 10



Fifth Ave.: Fashion Dos and Don'ts in 2011

By **DANA BURKE**
avenue writer

Lady Gaga, chew on this: Meat dresses are so last year. All of those opposed to wearing carnage as clothing, say goodbye to the antics of 2010 and hello to a sharper, more stylish 2011. Make better style a top New Year's resolution with the Avenue's list of fashion dos and don'ts. With it, you'll be sure to avoid a fashion faux pas and maybe even end up on 2011's best dressed list.

DON'TS

Uggs

Perhaps the name of these boots came straight from the fact that they are in fact ugg – as in ugly, even more so when they're worn with a pair of sweats or cutoff jeans. Sure, they're warm, but unless it's snowing (fat chance in Florida), opt for a pair of regular boots.

Parachute pants

Let's face it: The best clothes are those that flatter the figure. Whoever thought it was a good idea to load fabric at the thigh and tailor it at the ankle was obviously misguided. Plus, it's 2011, not 1970. MC Hammer, you can have your pants back.

Skin-tight clothes

Muffin tops just look bad. Wear-

ing the right size of clothing is key. Not only will well-fitted clothing make the body look better, but it'll be comfier as well.

Tights and leggings as pants

Sheer clothing was never meant to be worn alone. Yes, early classgoers, we're talking to you. Whether pressed for time or not, set that alarm early enough to slip on a pair of jeans or at least sweat pants.

Ed Hardy gear

Sometimes high price doesn't translate to high fashion. This stuff may have the price tag of a classy ensemble, but it looks no better than something bought at a trashy 10-cent store. With the ability to make guys and girls look like total tools, wearing this tacky-festooned wear is a definite fashion don't.

DOS

Play with prints

There's no better way to spice up an outfit than with a bold print. Make a dud of an ensemble shout with leopard print flats or a floral print top. Just don't go overboard. Unmixed prints in small quantities are a girl's best friend, but those in excess make for a fashion end.

Sheer layering

Take layering to the next level by pairing lace or chiffon with solid colored tops. When done the right

way, this trick can make for a playful, feminine look. Just be sure to avoid the trashy, you-can-totally-see-my-bra-through-this look.

Accessorize

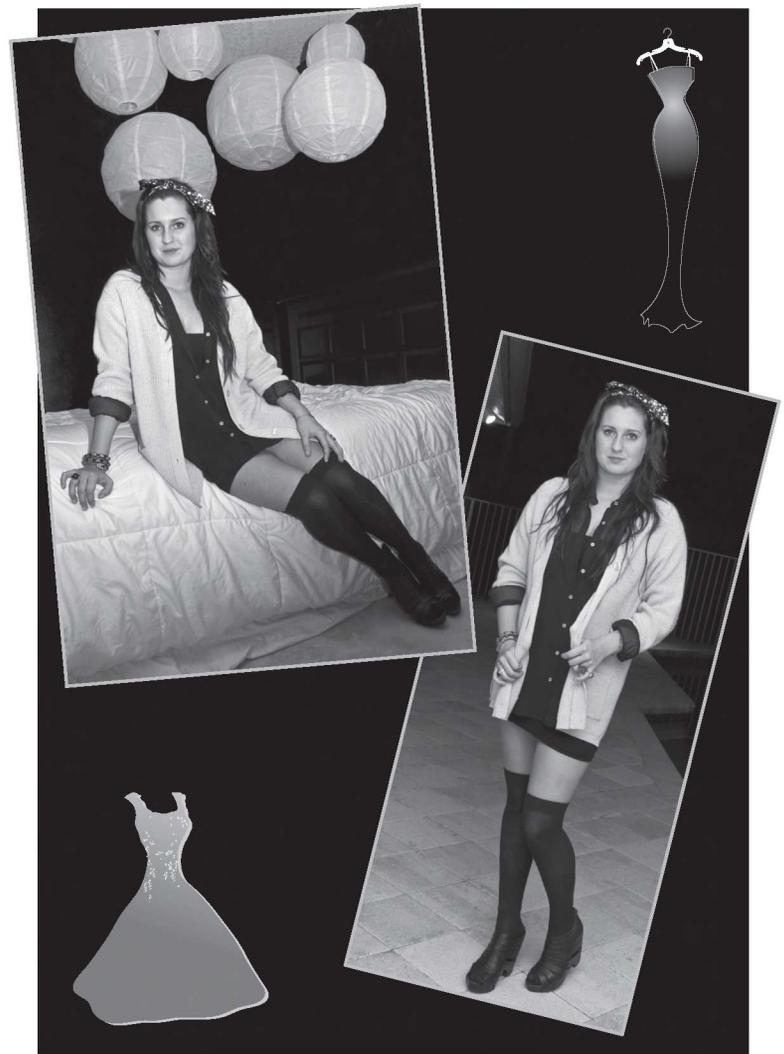
Express fashion individuality by throwing on a few rings, a nice scarf or an edgy purse. Accessories can completely change the tone of an outfit, so don't be afraid to take chances.

Mix fabrics

Attention, Gators: Despite what the commercials say, cotton may be "the fabric of our lives," but it's not the only one. Mix up your fashion palette by trying fabrics with texture. For example, slip on a knit cardigan instead of hoodie or a pair of polished corduroy pants instead of boring old denim.

Socks with heels

It may sound silly, but this trend is one of the latest to hit the runway, and it's no surprise why. It's nothing like the obvious fashion no-no of wearing socks with sandals. Ew. Trust us: Soft, comfy socks paired with a pair of edgy, fun heels is one of the most stylish ways to keep your toes warm this winter. Stick with solid colors that match your shoes, and don't be afraid to perk up a neutral, understated outfit with a pair of brightly colored socks. But be warned: Avoid white crew socks at all costs!



Dana Burke / Alligator Staff

Carley Cavanaugh, 19, brings together all of the 2011 "do" looks.

Gamer Bait: Donkey Kong is back, better than when you were 10

Go bananas for revamped classic

By **ANDREW WYZAN**
avenue writer

Between the days of soul-crushing finals and the start of a new semester, in that two-week slice of heaven called "the holidays," I learned to appreciate the finer things in life: sleeping until noon, watching movies on the couch and good, old-fashioned monster stomping.

Games in the hardcore "platforming" genre have fallen out of favor in recent years, as every gamer and his mother is either blowing up heads in "Call of Duty" or doing yoga on the Nintendo Wii Fit.

Seeing this trend, Nintendo has descended from the gaming heavens to bring forth "Donkey Kong Country Returns," a true sequel to the classic Super

Nintendo series.

The game comes courtesy of Retro Studios, the Texas-based developer that similarly modernized Samus Aran in the near-perfect "Metroid Prime."

Beautifully rendered in two-and-a-half dimensions reminiscent of the series' groundbreaking visuals at the time, "Donkey Kong Country Returns" will wash every gamer, young and old alike, in nostalgia and fun.

The story is, of course, Nintendo's usual flair of simplicity and silliness. Donkey Kong's

banana hoard has been stolen once again, and it's up to him and his sidekick Diddy Kong to get the precious plantains back.

Sadly, DK's mortal nemesis King K. Rool, everyone's favorite lizard king not named Jim

Morrison, is sitting this game out. Instead, a band of anthropomorphic tiki instruments have stolen the hoard and hypnotized the local island population into serving them.

While the story is pretty much ignorable, the game play is where "Donkey Kong Country Returns" shines like a 24-karat diamond. You'll be running, jumping, rolling, punching

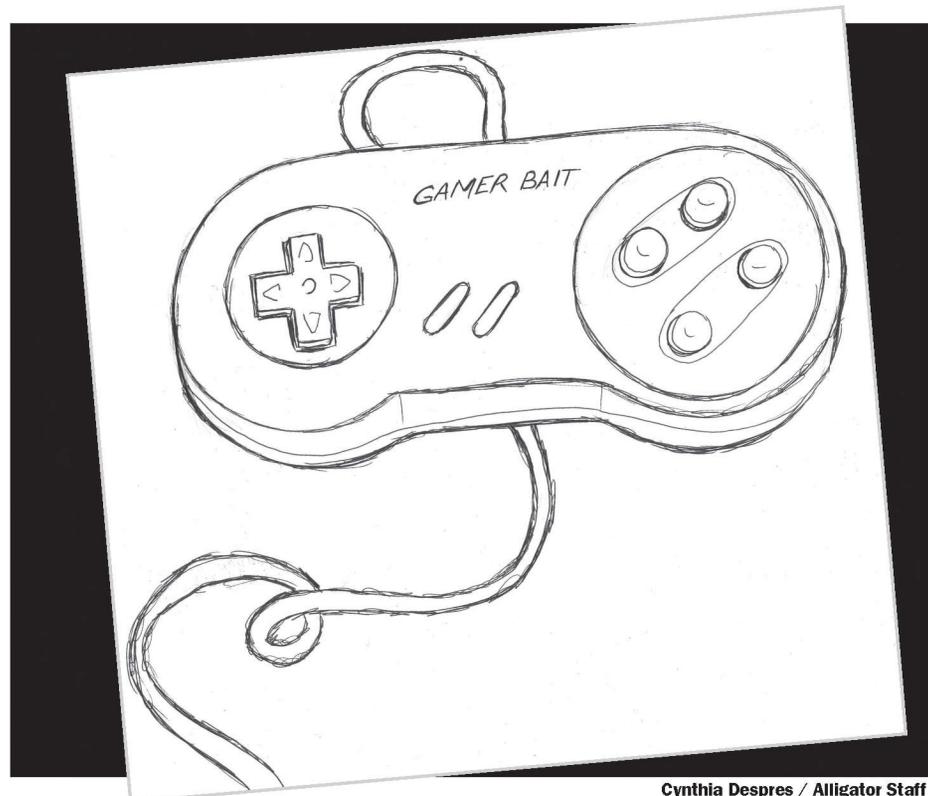
and blasting through eight worlds filled with baddies and barrels.

A mechanical addition to the series involves switching between the foreground and the background, which opens the many levels to ever further exploration and breathtaking scenery. In one level, the background is illuminated by a sunset, casting a shadow over everything in the foreground, while DK's signature red tie contrasts with the aesthetic. It's gorgeous to behold.

However, it's a bad idea to get too caught up in the beauty of the game, as beating this one is difficult. Very difficult. Back in DK's heyday it was common for games to be in the highest reaches of the difficulty curve, and it looks like "Donkey Kong Country Returns" is bringing that back. Make no mistake, you will die. A lot.

Each level requires perfect timing and precision controls, and the player is given ample lives to continue through the meat grinder. This type of game play is rewarding, as there's no greater feeling in the world than reaching the goal in one of the game's many dreaded mine cart levels. Nintendo should have put a warning label on the box: "May cause broken controllers and gratuitous use of F bombs."

In spite of the difficulty, or maybe because of it, "Donkey Kong Country Returns" is one of the best games currently on the Wii, and it's guaranteed to make you feel 10 years old again. It's fun, beautiful and you get fly rocket barrels. What more could a gamer want?



Cynthia Despres / Alligator Staff

How to remedy the dreaded post-holiday slump

By **SHELBY WEBB**
avenue contributing writer

After the stockings have been stowed and the fire-works extinguished, it may be tough to get out of bed in the morning. Sadly, the days of overeating, not working out and sleeping in are gone, only to be replaced by the chaos that is the first week of classes: alarms that seem to go off too early, book-buying and hunting for new classrooms. Here comes the post-holiday funk. Try just one of these remedies, and we're sure your former holiday cheer will be restored.

Throw a tacky sweater party. When else will you wear that embarrassing winter wear your aunt gave you? Serve peppermint party shots: mix 1/2 oz. crème de cacao, 1/2 oz. peppermint schnapps and 1 oz. cream. It's like Christmas in your mouth - but with a kick.

Use your Christmas cash to take a trip. Visit a friend at a neighboring school, take a cross-country road trip on a weekend or go to a theme park. Don't think it's not deserved. You dragged your sorry behind back to Gainesville - that's reason enough to reward yourself.

Get out of your dorm. Even though New Year's Eve has passed, there's nothing wrong with going out and pretending like it's still here. Anyway, the new year is still fresh. Party hard and ring in 2011 right.

Watch Gator basketball. The sport may not get as much hype as football and may not seem as exciting (last season excluded), but a little school spirit can only do the soul good.

Bake a pie or sugar cutout cookies with friends. Who says baking and pigging out on sweet treats is only allowed during the holidays? Not only will you get scrumptious goodies in the end, you'll also be kicking off the semester in your home away from home-with your extended family.



Exercise provides good stretch after workout

YOGA, from page 8

ture to posture. In other words, there are no breaks—shattering the stigma that yoga is just “too easy,” Bogle said.

“For some people, a regular yoga class might be too slow for them or they may feel like they aren't getting anything besides a good stretch,” Bogle said. “[Ashtanga Yoga] is definitely for people who might not want to sit around and hold postures forever.”

Bogle's classes feature an hour and a half of postures, focusing on traditional yoga that helps create muscle tone, core strength and flexibility.

We decided to get a taste of what Ashtanga was all about, so we went to one of Bogle's 90-minute sessions just for you (happy new year, kids).

The studio, which Bogle rents from Unified Training Center off University Avenue, is a cozy room with turquoise walls lined with mirrors and welcoming, white Christmas lights. As students enter they're greeted by the friendly face of Bogle, a cheerful man who sports a short ponytail.

“Although it's very physical, it's still a yoga style that emphasizes the breath and the concentration and relaxation,” Bogle said of the Ashtanga style.

Sure enough, as Bogle said, the exercise included zero breaks. It required constant movement with connecting, fluid postures combined with vinyasas, a series including a push-up like movement, followed by upward and downward dog.

The postures were so fluid, one could feel them in all parts of the body. Thighs burned. Arms stretched. Abs tightened.

Kay Tappan, a UF graduate in mass communications, has done yoga for about five years and has attended Bogle's classes for about one year.

“I like the intensity,” she said. “It's relaxing but also a good workout. Since I've started, I feel more relaxed and healthy as a whole.”

For some, like 32-year-old Josh Abramowitz, the class was a first.

“Yoga is a way to force me to stretch after I workout,” Abramowitz said. “I've done other yoga classes that are not very chal-

lenging, but I enjoyed that I broke a sweat during this class.”

After the students rounded out their postures, both standing and sitting, heart rates just minutes before rapidly beating, finally slowed. When the light switch was flipped, darkness flooded the room and the students, eyelids closed and limbs finally stationary, laid on rubber mats and let rest their stretched muscles. Minds cleared and bodies at peace, the students relaxed on the floor as Bogle played soothing music on an instrument akin to a wooden flute. With everyone lying still and the notes flooding out of the soothing woodwind, it seemed just like a scene from “Eat, Pray, Love.” When the class was dismissed, all participants felt relaxed, revived and rejuvenated. After all was said and done, it was certain the exercise marked the end to gingerbread bellies and stressful burdens.

“You're working out pretty hard,” Bogle said of the exercise.

“Whatever it is that's bothering you at the time it's like it squeezes it out of you.”

The Skinny

What is Ashtanga?

A traditional yoga practice consisting of constant movement and flowing postures.

How will it help with your get-fit resolution?

Ashtanga yoga practice results in physical and mental benefits including muscle tone, flexibility, relaxation and core strength.

When and Where?

Unified Training Center on 809 West University Ave.

Monday: 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday: 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Thursday: 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Hipmoves Fitness Studio on 708 NW 23rd Ave.

Sunday: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

How much?

\$10 per class

* Check out <http://yoga-gainesville.com> for more info



Matt Tripp / Alligator Staff

Yoga student Kay Tappan practices Ashtanga sequences during a class with Ashtanga Yoga of Gainesville on Tuesday evening.

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THE A LIST

By MELINDA CARSTENSEN

Each Thursday, the Avenue is serving up the best in entertainment, pop culture and everything in between. From the big screen to the radio waves, check out this week's picks.

listen **Showroom of Compassion**
Check out the latest tunes from peppy pop-rockers Cake, who haven't released new work since 2004's "Pressure Chief." But even though almost seven years have passed, one can expect Cake's sixth studio album to include the band's classic fare of quirky lyrics, driving beats and well-placed horn riffs. The album comes out Jan. 11. However, those who pre-order the album get an instant download of "Sick of You." Sounds like icing on top of a delicious cake.

read **The Lover's Dictionary**
David Levithan's latest novel doesn't play any games: It's bare and honest in title and in substance. Particularly, the book's name is fitting because its content is not a complicated, metaphorical narrative filled with hidden meanings and a twisted storyline. Rather, it's literally an extensive dictionary of words uttered by lovers of all kinds, defined in a romantic, relationship-centered context that at times can be silly and heart-wrenching at others. Hopeless romantics, this one's for you.

watch **Jersey Shore**
What better way to kick off the new semester than with the laughable antics of Snookie & co.? This season finds the bronzed, boisterous guidos and guidettes back in New Jersey and away from South Beach, ready for a third helping of hot tubs, drunken revelry and reckless, unproductive arguments. The crew's all the same except for newbie Deena, who's replacing Angelina and, unlike most of the cast, is a New Jersey native. Get ready for GTL: Season three starts today at 10 p.m.

see **Country Strong**
Not everybody likes country music. But everybody loves a comeback kid. In this case, that "kid" is Kelly Canter (Gwyneth Paltrow), a middle-aged, washed-up country music star. But Chiles Stanton (Leighton Meester, "Gossip Girl!"), a prim and proper beauty queen-gone-country artist, threatens to steal Canter's regained thunder. Throw in a tangled love web, a drug addiction and some stage lights, and you've got a country drama wild enough to pop the strings off that banjo. Yee-haw!

the guide to DINING OUT

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For more information on the Guide to Dining Out, please contact **Brandon Davis, Alligator Advertising, 376.4482**

New year, new beer: branch out from your usual brew

By RICHARD O. STEHLI
avenue contributing writer

Welcome home, Gators. How's your champagne hangover treating you? Mine might be gone by the time this prints, but I'm not counting on it.

2011: Just another year, or an opportunity to drink deep of new experiences? Undoubtedly, every day brings a chance to try a new drink, and the possibilities are overwhelming. Even the most avid beer connoisseurs have room to expand their palette. Break out of the light beer rat race. Use alcohol as a means to live and experience, not a medication to help you forget. Here are some tips to get you started on a year of drinking you'll want to remember.

Try a New Scene, and a New Beer While You're at It

Bored with the club scene? Mix it up! Gainesville now boasts three dedicated beer bars, all within walking distance of each other.

If you can afford it, Stubbies Shirt Pub has the most beer in Gainesville, and with a constantly rotating stock, you're always sure to find something new and incredible. The Alcove is always stuffed to the rafters with beer nerds, drawn to a great selection of craft beer and friendly, knowledgeable bartenders. Not a fan of the loud and the crowd? Check out Midnight, with eight tap handles and a quieter, café-like atmosphere.

Drink Local

If you haven't tried Gainesville's first and

only craft brewery, now is the perfect time. It's been more than a year since Swamp Head Brewery put out its first pint, and the uninitiated are all out of excuses. Head over to Salty Dog on University Avenue, the first bar with all five Swamp Head standards on tap.



Warm yourself this winter with Midnight Oil, a coffee-infused oatmeal stout sure to keep you buzzing.

Watch the Show, Drink the Beer

This year on Sunday nights, Discovery will take you around the world in search of the greatest and strangest ingredients to make some of America's most innovative beers. Dogfish Head Brewery founder Sam Calagione sets

out on an epic quest to recreate the ancient beers of the world.

The best part? Interactivity. Head out to the store and buy the very brew you just saw broken down to the atomic level by one of the most respected names in craft brewing.

Get Talking

Alcohol is likely to be one of your largest investments in college, both in time and money. Learn about it, and you'll enjoy it a lot more.

Head to your local bottle shop and ask questions. Talk to the people buying it next to you. Invite five friends over and tell everybody to bring a six-pack of something new.

Do what you have to do, and make your 2011 drinking experiences so fresh they're unforgettable.

Try this on for size: a clothing diet

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — Courtney Carver was trying to find ways to simplify her life when she decided to pare down her wardrobe to 33 items to be worn over three months.

Once she launched the concept on her blog and Facebook page in October, she realized she wasn't the only one who wanted to dress with less. She says the challenge has done more than just save her money.

"What we are finding now is that we had to reduce our expenses and our expectations of what made us happy," she said from her home in Cottonwood Heights, Utah.

Carver, 41, isn't alone.

Virginia Smith, Vogue's fashion market director, said more people are making do with less in their closets. "I do think it is a new thought in fashion that is getting out to the more mainstream," she said.

But, she said, challenges like Carver's are too severe for most people.

"I think when things turned bad a couple of years ago, I think people had to pare down and really consider their purchases," Smith said. "Thinking about what you are purchasing is a good thing."

Carver, who is in sales but is also a writer and photographer, said even a few years ago she would walk into a store to buy a couple things and leave having spent hundreds of dollars.

"I did it out of habit. I did it because I thought I worked hard and deserved it," she said.

The first phase of her Project 333 ends this month. In January, she'll do it for another three months, replacing whatever is inappropriate for the season. She included accessories like sunglasses and purses on her list of 33.

"It's about using the clothes I have," Carver said.

She has also pared down other areas of her life and is now debt-free. Her family has canceled cable, swapped phone service and cut down on possessions.

About 440 people on Facebook are participating in her challenge and more than 40 are blogging about the experience, Carver said. She's launching a website early next month and later on will offer seasonal paring-down guides, for a fee, to people who want to follow her clothing diet but need help.

Melissa Leventon, a fashion historian at California College of the Arts, said the idea of having a minimal wardrobe isn't new. About 100 years ago, it wasn't unheard of for a working-class woman to have only three dresses and two pairs of shoes that were worn until they couldn't be mended. But she questions whether people can stick with it now.

"I think it's very, very hard to sustain it over a long period of time because we have such pressure to consume," she said.

Blogger Tammy Strobel, 32, has been doing a "100 Thing Challenge" for two years. That number includes books, shoes, clothes and even a helmet. She lives in a 400 square foot apartment with her husband and their two cats in Portland, Ore. The couple started giving away their possessions about three years ago.

"We realized, 'Wow, what are we doing chasing after this dream that might not really suit us?'" she said.

"I think it's a way to keep your life under control. If you're going to go minimalist, Bloch warns, do it with style. I don't think you have to go from eating at the buffet to eating only ramen noodles."

PHILLIP BLOCH
new york-based stylist

Blogger and author Leo Babuata said he started doing the challenge, too, and got down to 50 things at one point. Babuata and his wife have six children ranging from 4 to 17. They moved to San Francisco in June from Guam and he says he has been paring down his life for years. As far as clothing for his kids, it's only essentials.

"It used to be cutting back was a sign of poverty. It was a sacrifice and now we are turning it around to something positive," he said.

New York-based stylist Phillip Bloch said others may be looking to unclutter their wardrobes and cut back on expenses after overspending before the recession. His book, "The Shopping Diet," offers tips to control spending when shopping.

"I think it's a way to keep your life under control," he said.

If you're going to go minimalist, Bloch warns, do it with style.

"I don't think you have to go from eating at the buffet to eating only ramen noodles," he said.

Instead of buying a little black dress, make it chocolate or forest green. Don't just buy a plain T-shirt. Get one with a scoop or boat neck and get it in red or navy.

Designers like Narciso Rodriguez, Jill Sander, Prada and Calvin Klein have minimalist designs, so sparseness doesn't always come cheap. Even celebrities like Gwyneth Paltrow, Jennifer Connelly and Tilda Swinton seem to love the look of less. But for those who don't have their wallets, Vogue's Smith said alternatives like J. Crew and Ann Taylor are good.

But, she says, putting them together is personal.

"That's such an individual thing. The idea of dictating an idea isn't right," she said. "I don't think there one standard formula."

The scoop on your New Year's resolutions

By LAUREN GOLD
avenue writer

The only thing more important than what you did on New Year's Eve is what you're going to do in the new year. Sure, it's just a date. But a new year means a fresh start: new friends, new experiences, and, most importantly, new resolutions. Though they may be clichéd and are more often broken than kept, there are a few worth trying. Lucky for you, we've sifted through the duds and picked out the best. Check out our picks for top new year's resolutions.

The Best

1. *Sitting closer to the front in lecture.*

Let's be honest. Playing with that new smart phone won't help you pass.

2. *Being nicer.*

Take pity on those poor souls passing out fliers on Turlington Plaza and take that stupid piece of paper — even if you plan to trash it afterward.

3. *Getting in shape.*

Believe it or not, your tuition covers the cost of the Southwest Rec. Center — including those pesky hand scanners. Get fit, and get your money's worth.

4. *Eating healthier.*

Maximize what you do in the gym by eating better. There's nothing wrong with having a french fry or two here or there. But eating leaner, unprocessed foods will give you both a clearer head and a slimmer waistline.

5. *Choosing public transportation.* It's no mystery that parking on campus is a nightmare. If avoiding more parking tickets isn't reason enough, at least do it for the environment.

The Worst

1. *Drinking less.*

Following this one is always tough to do at one of the nation's top party schools, which is why this resolution is better saved for after graduation.

2. *Watching less TV*

It's on when you study and before you go to bed. Turning your back on that glowing, faithful companion? Unthinkable.

3. *Not hooking up with that cute new T.A.*

Be honest with yourself: You're not going to stop.

4. *Watching more online lectures.*

And not take advantage of the tutoring service offered by the god of all UF grads? Oh, Tutoring Zone, where would our GPAs be without you?

5. *Getting off Facebook.*

It's too time-consuming, my grades are falling... we've heard all the excuses. But there's just no beating that addiction. Follow us at @GatorAve on Twitter if you're really craving a social network change.

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 S Q R L H I E C P N C R L I K
 I T H I L F R F O S W A L E M
 H E C O B Z Y C I D W R L D V
 U S P S R Q P N M L L Y J I H

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|--------|
| Applied | Hard | Medical | Rocket |
| Computer | Laws of | Military | Social |
| Criminal | Library | Political | Soil |
| Doctor of | Life | Popular | |

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 by David L. Hoyt 1-6-11

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | | |
| | | | | | | 4 | |
| 5 | | | | | | | |
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| | 7 | | | | | | |

ACROSS

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| CLUE | ANSWER |
| 1. Soak up | BOBSAR |
| 5. Very skilled | PDAET |
| 6. Important organs | LGNUS |
| 7. _____ rating | NOTACE |

DOWN

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| CLUE | ANSWER |
| 1. Shocked | ADMEZA |
| 2. Defeat decisively | LHELSEA |
| 3. Round room | NRUAOTD |
| 4. Hollywood canine | ASLIES |

CLUE: These come in thousands of titles and variations.

BONUS ○○○○○○○○○○

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

ANSWERS: 1A-Aborts 5A-Adapt 6A-Lungs 7A-Octane 1D-Armazod 2D-Shilla 3D-Round 4D-Lasie B-Magazines

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| D ₂ | E ₁ | D ₂ | U ₁ | C ₃ | E ₁ | | RACK 2 = | <u>10</u> |
| P ₃ | R ₁ | O ₁ | M ₃ | P ₃ | T ₁ | | RACK 3 = | <u>12</u> |
| B ₃ | I ₁ | V ₄ | O ₁ | U ₁ | A ₁ | C ₃ | RACK 4 = | <u>78</u> |
| | | | | | | | TOTAL | <u>165</u> |

PAR SCORE 100-110

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18 Personals

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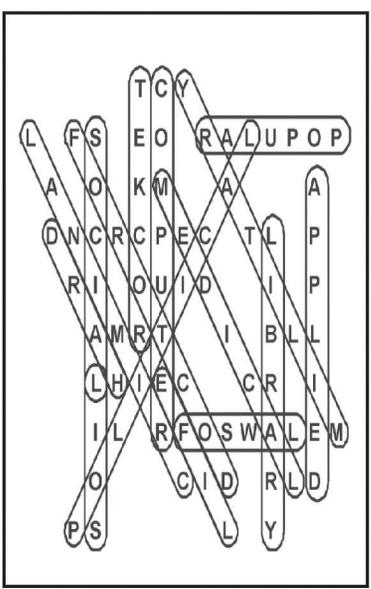
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Four-star prospect Gorman joins Gators' recruiting class

Safety picks UF over OSU, UM

By **TOM GREEN**
Alligator Writer
tgreen@alligator.org

ST. PETERSBURG — The Gators finally got some good news on the recruiting trail.

After losing two commitments in the wake of Urban Meyer's resignation, Will Muschamp publicly earned his first oral commitment as Florida's head coach Wednesday night, even though he has privately known for a while.

Miami Monsignor Pace four-star safety Jabari Gorman, rated as the No. 10 safety in the class of 2011 by Rivals.com, announced on national television his commitment to Florida when he donned a Gators cap during the first quarter of the Under Armour All-America game.

"I just want to be part of a new program," Gorman said. "I want to be something special to a new team."

When Meyer stepped down as UF's coach last month, the future of the Gators' 2011 recruiting

class was uncertain.

It lost commitments from its top two defensive recruits in Plantation High four-star outside linebacker Ryan Shazier (who will enroll at Ohio State this week) and Groveland South Lake High four-star cornerback Nick Waisome (who will enroll at FSU).

But less than a week after officially taking the reins at Florida, Muschamp appears to have the class back on track with the commitment of Gorman, who becomes the 16th member and eighth four-star prospect in the Gators' class.

UF's 2011 crop of recruits is ranked 15th in the country, according to Rivals.com

Gorman picked UF over Ohio State and Miami but said he's known for a while that he would end up at Florida, as has Muschamp.

The safety said he knew he wanted to commit to Florida three months ago and spoke to Muschamp shortly after the former Texas defensive coordinator



Courtesy of Tim Casey / Gatorcountry.com

Four-star safety Jabari Gorman works out Monday during the third day of practice for the Under Armour All-America game at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Lake Buena Vista.

was named the Gators' new coach when he went down to Miami to visit Gorman.

"I informed him after he got

announced the coach," Gorman said. "He knew I had something within me that wanted to be a Gator."

Muschamp told the four-star safety that he has abilities that other players might not have, in-

SEE RECRUITING, PAGE 19

Florida seeks first victory on the road

■ **UF ENTERS A GAME AT AUBURN WITH A SHOT AT CRACKING THE TOP 25.**

By **MATT WATTS**
Alligator Writer

Finals are over and a new semester is under way in Gainesville, but the real test is just beginning for the Gators.

Southeastern Conference play opened on Sunday, and Florida — picked to finish last in the conference — began it with an impressive upset over No. 22 Arkansas. But now, the Gators embark on a two-game road trip looking for their first true road win of the

season and a possible entrance into the national rankings.

The search begins tonight at 7 in the new Auburn Arena, where Florida (11-4, 1-0 SEC) will take on the Tigers (8-6, 1-0 SEC), who have recovered from a slow start and are fresh off a road victory of their own against rival Alabama.



Women's Basketball

The Gators are 8-0 in the O'Connell Center this season and 3-0 in games at neutral sites but have dropped all four of their opportunities on an opponent's floor.

SEE WHOOPS, PAGE 19

Don't overvalue recruits' ratings

ST. PETERSBURG

If you're thinking about buying tickets to the Florida-Florida State game in two years, don't.

On Thanksgiving weekend 2012, refrain from throwing the Gators and Seminoles on your TV. There will be better ways to spend that break. And you already know the sad truth anyway: The team out West is better.

Florida State has the No. 3 recruiting class in the nation, according to Rivals.com. Florida has the No. 15 class.

If there was any doubt that the future would be painted Garnet and Gold, FSU oral commit Karlos Williams picked off a pass from Florida quarterback/savior of the future Jeff Driskel and returned the ball 47 yards for a touchdown in the third quarter of the Under Armour All-America game Wednesday.

Actually, I don't know what will happen in two seasons, don't know if Florida State's dream class will pan out, don't even know if the Seminoles of the future will step foot on campus.



Tyler Jett

The Jett Stream
tjett@alligator.org
Twitter: @iam_tyler

They could fail to qualify academically or get in legal trouble — let's just say stuff like that has happened before.

And don't worry, Driskel bounced back fine from that pick-six, breaking a 63-

yard touchdown run the next time he stepped on the field. He also had a potential 50-yard touchdown pass dropped at the 5-yard line.

Driskel finished the game with six carries, 80 yards and a touchdown, plus two completions on eight attempts for 18 yards and an INT, while Team Click-Clack (yup, that's a thing) beat Team Micro G 24-22.

But, ladies, just like you should not worry about FSU's recruiting rankings just yet, you should also keep your Driskel love in your pants until he steps on Florida Field

SEE TYLER, PAGE 19

TEeing OFF WITH ADAM BERRY

■ I won't say the coaches were too into the Under Armour game, but Mike Ditka called a timeout to ice the kicker in a game that was at its most interesting when cameras cut to the gigantic couch behind the sideline. ... UF QB commit Jeff Driskel had a TD pass dropped by wide-open Oregon commit Devon Blackmon. Just a glimpse into his future of throwing to Deonte Thompson.

ONLINE

■ Alligator recruiting writer Tom Green will have additional coverage of the Under Armour All-America game, including a blog on four-star quarterback commit Jeff Driskel. Check out alligatorSports.org for more.

POLL QUESTION

Today's question: How would you compare Florida's new football coaching staff to last year's?

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | | 2007 Recruiting Ranking: | Name, Team: | | |
| 2007 Recruiting Ranking: | No. 3 pro-style quarterback | No. 31 pro-style quarterback | No. 1 offensive guard | James Wilson, Florida | No. 9 running back | No. 10 running back |
| 2010 Passer Efficiency: | 116.36 | 182.6 | No. 16 offensive guard | Mike Pouncey, Florida | 643 | 1,726 |
| 2010 Passing Yards: | 2,061 yards | 3,845 yards | No. 18 cornerback in 2007 class | 108 tackles, 5 INTs (2010) | Ahmad Black, Florida | 2006 Recruiting Ranking: |
| Passing TDs/INTs: | 9 TDs/10 INTs | 35 TDs/6 INTs | No. 1 safety, 2007 | 13 tackles, 1 INT (career) | Jeremy Finch, Indiana | 2009-10 Rushing Yards: |
| Name, Team: | John Brantley, Florida | Kellen Moore, Boise State | | | | 2009-10 Receiving Yards: |
| | | | | | | 2009-10 Total TDs: |
| | | | | | | Emmanuel Moody, Florida |
| | | | | | | Knowshon Moreno, Denver Broncos |
| | | | | | | Name, Team: |

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AU's defense poses problems for UF

WHOOOPS, from page 17

Florida lost 74-73 in the Women's National Invitation Tournament semifinals against DePaul and 56-50 at Brown in the Brown Bear Classic. It was also outplayed in a 69-54 loss at Hampton and dropped another close one 74-72 in Tallahassee against the No. 25 Seminoles.

"Those games have made us grow," junior center Azania Stewart said. "The young (players) have games under them. It's really progressed us now into SEC play, where every game is important."

Stewart, who leads the team in rebounds and is second in blocks, is in her third season and knows all about the tumultuous atmosphere of away games in the SEC.

"Playing on the road is really tough," Stewart said. "They're going to go on runs; the crowd is going to get behind them. But to be able to answer and come back is really important and a big step for us."

After a slow start, the Tigers have amassed a four-game winning streak, including a 66-55 defeat of rival Alabama. But AU will face a tough matchup against Florida's speed and depth.

Coach Amanda Butler drew comparisons to her own squad when analyzing the Tigers, complimenting Auburn's ability to protect the ball and drive opponents to mistakes.

Auburn forces an average of 19.7 turnovers and nearly 10 steals per game and is led by the senior combo of guard Alli Smalley (12.6 ppg) and forward Jordan Greenleaf (9.6 ppg).

The Gators have allowed games to slip away in the closing minutes and will be tested by a scrappy Auburn team trying to secure a victory in the inaugural SEC game played in its new arena. Therefore, making the most of every opportunity has been a sticking point for Butler in preparation for the road trip.

"We're going to talk about how important it is that we can't accept missing one free throw, one layup or one easy play," Butler said. "We can't leave easy points on the floor."

Additionally, Stewart said her experience in conference away games has taught her that you must be able to rely on your teammates if things aren't going well.

"Our togetherness is probably the most important and the strongest thing we need going into a road game," Stewart said. "You have to generate your own energy. It's you against them."



Saj Guevara / Alligator

UF junior center Azania Stewart, who leads the team in rebounds and is second in blocks, said conference road games will be a new challenge for this year's squad.

TYLER, from page 17

for the first time.

I'm not the only person who is unsure about Driskel's future. You also don't know what will happen.

For that matter, neither do those recruiting analysts for ESPN and Rivals.com and whatever other website you subscribe to.

And, gulp, even coaches slip

every now and then.

"I was incorrect for a while. I used to look at measurables before anything else," Urban Meyer said after the Outback Bowl, when 5-foot-9 Ahmad Black took home MVP honors and clinched his place atop the alligatorsSports Swamp Studs standings.

"I used to look at the 40-yard dash," Meyer continued. "I still do, but there are other areas I look at just as strong, if not stron-

ger."

Of course, you can't blame Meyer for zeroing in on the "measurables" — vertical leap, bench press reps, cone drill stats. Assessing a player's transition from high school to college is tough.

Look at Driskel's highlight tape on YouTube and you will see him outrun a lot of Oompa Loompas. That's the case for most players from Wednesday's game.

From the 2007-09 recruiting

classes, the Gators snagged 11 five-star prospects, all of whom looked fantastic against typical high school competition.

But of those players, two have been plagued by injuries, three were kicked off or transferred and four have simply failed to live up to their potential.

The two exceptions are Carlos Dunlap and Jelani Jenkins, who finished second on the team in tackles this season as a redshirt

freshman.

But remember when Will Hill was the next Sean Taylor? Cam Newton the next Tim Tebow? (Oh, wait.)

It's not exactly original to say recruits are ranked inaccurately. And, to be fair, looking at the top recruiting classes is a good indicator of future success.

But just be patient. That Thanksgiving road trip to Tally is still in play.

Muschamp's enthusiasm helps sway 2011 recruit into commitment

RECRUITING, from page 17

cluding great instincts — something that can't be taught.

Because of those intangibles, Gorman hopes to compete for a starting position at Florida when he enrolls in the summer.

"I'm a player. I'm going to make plays," Gorman said. "That's the good thing about being a good athlete — there's always a good opportunity to come in early and play."

Beyond the opportunity to come in and compete for playing time as a freshman, Gorman said he liked Muschamp's enthusiasm as well as Florida's reputation for having a speedy defense.



Recruiting

When the teams were practicing at ESPN's Wide World of Sports earlier this week, UF early enrollees Jeff Driskel, a four-star quarterback from Oviedo

Hagerty High and the nation's top-rated passer, and A.C. Leonard, a four-star tight end from Jacksonville Universi-

ty Christian High, said they were both recruiting Gorman to join them in Gainesville.

Leonard even tried to get Gorman to do a Gator chomp after practice on Monday.

But Gorman didn't tip his hand to his future teammates.

"A lot of these guys, they kind of had a feeling," he said. "But they didn't know until [Wednesday]."

Oral commitments are non-binding until a national letter of intent is signed on or after National Signing Day on Feb. 2.

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