

the independent florida alligator

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VOLUME 105 ISSUE 9

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2011

LOCAL

Taxi fees not fair to students

By ALEXANDER KLAUSNER
Alligator Staff Writer

In the winter of 2009, Ben Meyers needed to get his drunk friend home.

As they came out of a midtown bar, they spotted a taxi parked on the street. This would be a great way, Meyers thought, to get a lift for the mile walk back to Fraternity Row.

But Meyers, the current UF Student Senate president, ran into a problem — the driver never ran his meter.

And the ferryman asked a high price. For the mile-long drive, the driver asked Meyers to shell out \$20.

"Bar fee," he said the driver called it.

Not knowing what to do or how to negotiate, Meyers relented. He paid the fare, and for an entire year, he didn't take the taxi again.

"Knowing students, if I was a taxi driver and I had nobody looking over my shoulder, it would be fairly easy to pull a stunt like that."

Ben Meyers
UF Student Senate president

There have been many similar complaints of taxi drivers in Gainesville over-charging students for cab fares. Sometimes, the fares drivers demand can be things like \$20 per passenger to travel only 10 blocks, Meyers said.

Situations like these are made possible by drivers who park outside bars and wait for drunk students to come out. Without a call being made to a dispatcher, drivers don't have to report their fares, and are free to charge whatever fees they want to students, Meyers said.

In addition, if drunk students refuse to pay, drivers may threaten to call police in an effort to coax payment out of passengers.

"Knowing students, if I was a taxi driver and I had nobody looking over my shoulder, it would be fairly easy to pull a stunt like that," Meyers said.

Nineteen-year-old Hannah Hong was another who got into similar situation.

In early fall semester, Hong was traveling downtown with three of her Alpha Delta Pi sorority sisters.

After getting a ride from another sister to the area, Hong found it difficult to find another ride back to her apartment on Sorority Row. The taxi seemed like a viable option. When the taxi arrived, the driver did not inform Hong of how much she would be asked to pay. Instead, he just drove. And when they arrived, Hong said, the bombshell came — \$20 per person.

Hong found a way to scrape together the \$80 sum that was being demanded, but she fumed.

"It was completely ridiculous," she said.

Though Hong's driver was deviating from a normal flat-rate, charging flat-rates to students is not illegal in Gainesville. Taxi drivers are permitted to charge whatever they like, so

SEE TAXIS, PAGE 9

■ Florida senior forward Chandler Parsons (right) is part of a frontcourt that has struggled all season from the free-throw line. UF is shooting 65.1 percent from the line this season. See Story, Page 14.



Cops in Massachusetts say fake ER valet nabs expecting mom's car

LOWELL, Mass. — Police say a fake valet at a Massachusetts emergency room offered to park a pregnant woman's car, then drove away with it.

Lowell police Capt. Kelly Richardson tells the Boston Herald that the woman drove herself to Lowell General Hospital at 3 a.m. Friday while suffering labor pains.

She parked outside the emergency room doors and was met by a man wearing a uniform-style shirt who introduced himself as



Jesse Lash / Alligator

Dancing for Dollars

Eleni Rodriguez, a member of Sabor Latino, performs at the Gators United for Haiti Auction and Talent Showcase on Friday night. Gators United for Haiti has set a goal of raising \$50,000 for relief efforts in Haiti.

Haridopoulos to run for Senate He teaches a class at UF

By MORGAN WATKINS
Alligator Writer

The race for one of Florida's U.S. Senate seats is officially under way, and UF has one of its own professors in the political battle.

Mike Haridopoulos, the State Senate president and a UF professor, launched a campaign website, mike2012.org, last week. Haridopoulos became the first Republican to jump into the race, putting pressure on other potential Republican runners to decide their own candidacy.

Ryan Garcia, the second vice chairman of UF College Republi-

cans, believes the timing for Haridopoulos to launch his campaign is perfect.

"People like new blood," Garcia said. "Haridopoulos is a charming, charismatic guy, and I think he would do a great job for the state of Florida and this country."

In addition to his duties in the state senate, which he has served in since 2003, Haridopoulos has also been a UF professor for three years, said Albert Matheny, associate dean of the



Haridopoulos

UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who oversees the senator's UF work.

In an e-mail interview, Matheny said he couldn't remember another instance of a politician serving a term in office and working as a professor at UF at the same time. Lawton Chiles became an endowed professor of political science at UF after he had stepped down from his U.S. Senate seat.

Haridopoulos usually teaches three classes during UF's fall semester. In the spring, his legislative duties shift his work base to Tallahassee. He currently oversees about a dozen UF students interning with the state government.

"This is a real plus for UF be-

SEE HARIDOPOLOS, PAGE 4

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visit www.alligator.org

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Dynamo Policy Group General

Body Meeting

Wednesday, 6 p.m.

Anderson Room 034

The Dynamo, UF's first and only student-run think tank, shall be hosting its first general body meeting Wednesday. Topics will include getting published, speaker ideas and our first social. New members are encouraged to attend and leadership opportunities are available.

Get Carded meeting

Wednesday, 7:15 p.m.

Little Hall 127

There are 110,179 Americans currently waiting for a life-saving transplant. Come learn how you can help raise awareness about organ and tissue donation with Get Carded at our first meeting of the semester. All majors are welcome. For more information go to <http://www.groupspaces.com/GetCardedUF>.

Psychology Club & Psi Chi Meeting

Wednesday, 7:20 p.m.

Little Hall 101

Eager to meet fellow psychology majors? Are you interested in learning about graduate school, volunteer and research opportunities? Then come to the first Psychology Club meeting Wednesday at 7:20 p.m. in LIT 101. Come early

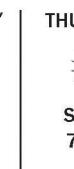
FORECAST



TODAY
PARTLY
CLOUDY
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THURSDAY
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FRIDAY
RAIN
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SATURDAY
PARTLY
CLOUDY
67/39

for pizza! The guest speaker will be Ira Fischler. For more information and updates, add our group on Facebook or go to www.psych.ufl.edu/~psichi

Campus Diplomats Forum

Thursday, 6 p.m.

Arredondo Cafe

Attend our forum to find out more and see if you have what it takes to become a Campus Diplomat. For more information, or to download an application, go to dso.ufl.edu/studentorgs/diplomats/. Applications are due Jan. 29.

2nd Tech Entrepreneur Intern Swap Meet

Thursday, 6 p.m.

Hough Hall lobby

Searching for a spring or summer internship with a local start-up company? Here's your chance to meet company representatives from over 15 local start-ups, including: Grooveshark, RegisterPatient, Trendy Entertainment, and Fracture. Internships are available in fields such as marketing,

Web development, public relations, computer engineering, 3-D modeling and more. RSVP on Facebook is requested but not required.

Gainesville Comedy Showcase

Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 p.m. Free stand-up comedy featuring both professional and local comics. The showcase is located at Mother's Pub on Wednesdays and Jeff's Deli on University Avenue on Fridays.

Got something going on?

Want to see it in this space? Send an e-mail with "What's Happening" in the subject line to ebehrman@alligator.org. Please model your submissions after above events. Improperly formatted "What's Happening" submissions may not appear in the paper. Press releases will not appear in the paper.

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ON CAMPUS

Students, faculty take advantage of surgery discount

By ALEX ORLANDO
Alligator Writer

Some students are using it for smooth skin.

Others want it for firmer lips. It's also being used for bigger breasts.

That's what some students and UF employees are using the UF Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery's discount for this year.

The discount gets students and faculty 20 percent off non-surgical procedures, such as laser hair removal, microdermabrasion and Botox treatments.

For surgical procedures such as breast augmentation, liposuction and tummy tucks, the department has a 20 percent discount on surgeon's fees, said Jennifer Brindise, marketing and public relations specialist for UF Department of Surgery.

Bruce Mast, UF's chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery, said the cost of plastic surgery can range from a couple thousand dollars for a non-surgical procedure to as much as \$15,000 for a face-lift-nose-job combo.

By that estimate, a 20 percent discount

could mean anywhere from \$400 to \$3,000 off the surgeon's bill.

"So, it's really nothing to laugh at," Mast said.

Lindsay Howell, UF plastic surgery clinic manager, said since the discount, she has noticed an increase in the number of student and employee patients for plas-

tic surgery.

Popular choices include non-surgical work such as laser hair removal at \$900 for the whole leg and surgical work such as breast augmentation for which the price can vary depending on the type of implants used and their size.

She could not give an exact number because she did not want to violate patient confidentiality rules.

She said she thinks the discount lowers the "taboo" of plastic surgery and brings in patients other than those who would typically get plastic surgery.

Mast said surgery discounts in private practices are common since cosmetic surgery is usually not covered under health insurance.

He said market trends and the economy usually figure into discounts as well.

But he also said UF's discount was more to honor the relationship between the plastic surgery department and university employees and students.

"It's not like we go out and put up fliers and stuff," he said. "We're not using it as a sleazy commercial marketing ploy."



Photo illustration by Max Reed and Matt Tripp / Alligator Staff
Students could save \$400 to \$3000 on a discounted surgery from the UF Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

• THIS WEEK in GAINESVILLE •

By KAT BEIN
Alligator Staff Writer

January 21, 1969: Protesters nationwide flush toilets during the last words of Nixon's inaugural address, but participants on campus are foiled by a strange "coincidence."

Reitz Union male bathrooms were suddenly out of order during the speech and conveniently repaired moments after the speech was over. UF employees denied the maintenance had anything to do with an attempt to stop the national "flush-in."

January 18, 1971: A marijuana study committee, sponsored by SGA and UF, is created and staffed in order to gather information on various aspects of weed smoking, especially issues of legality.

Members of the committee include UF law students, a former federal narcotics agent, a director of a local drugstore, a counselor and a UF graduate student in pathology.

January 20, 1978: A new student-safety measure is announced. By the end of the month, 14 "blue box" phones will be installed all over campus, allowing students to reach the Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol at any time. The estimated cost: \$3,076.

January 21, 1991: The Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on Northeast First Street is consumed by fire, causing more than \$500,000 in damage. Thankfully, the 12 children in the church's child care were evacuated before anybody was hurt.

UF students kick off MLK celebration week with 'Day of Service'

By SKYLAR RAMSEY
Alligator Contributing Writer

Despite some outdoor site cancellations due to rain, about 200 UF students participated in a Day of Service around Gainesville to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday morning.

"The rain has affected the turnout, but not nearly as much as we had expected," said Steven Vutsinas, UF's graduate assistant for the Center for Leadership and Service.

The MLK Day of Service is a national event meant to bring people together to serve their communities, according to its website.

About 85 students spent the day volunteering indoors at the Children's Home Society of Florida's Tot Spot Thrift Store located on Main Street.

"CHS is an organization that works with abused and neglected children, as well as children in the foster system," according to Beth Nahlik, UF's assistant director for the Center for Leadership and Service.

The thrift store allows its low-income clients to essentially shop for free.

Eddie Bell, an aerospace engineering senior at UF, said they are cleaning and reorganizing the ga-

rage to make it neater.

Bell volunteers at the thrift store every Saturday.

He said that it is always good to have help.

Chris Jones, a graphic design sophomore at UF, said that he likes knowing that he is spending his day off wisely by volunteering at the thrift shop instead of sleeping in.

The morning ended with the Day of Service Closing Ceremony at Touchdown Terrace at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium where lunch and door prizes were provided for the volunteers.

This is the first year students were given the opportunity to reflect on their community service experience.

Commemorate
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The Day of Service was the first scheduled event in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Week.

"In the spirit of the day we encourage students to be active in their community, trying to leave their mark as Dr. King left his," Vutsinas said.

Local man arrested for beating his elderly landlady

■ HE IS CHARGED WITH FELONY BATTERY.

By KAT BEIN
Alligator Staff Writer

A Gainesville man was arrested and charged with felony battery Sunday afternoon for beating an elderly woman in her home.

According to the Gainesville Police report, David Lapp, 42, had been renting a room from the victim for the past month

and a half.

That afternoon the victim, 65, was in the kitchen making coffee when Lapp came in from his bedroom to talk to her, the report stated.

He started arguing with her about a lock on the front door that gave him trouble the night before and soon got violent, push-

ing her against the wall.

"I can do anything I want here, and there is nothing anyone can do to stop me," Lapp said, according to the police report.

The victim called police, and when they arrived at about 4:45 p.m., they found her with no visible injuries, the report stated.

Lapp is charged with one count of felony battery against a person 65 years or older and has since been released from custody.



Lapp

LOCAL

Mentor program provides scholarships, guidance

By MEREDITH RUTLAND

Alligator Writer

Timothy Miles aspires to study electrical engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology, but right now he is just trying to turn in his homework on time.

To help him along, City Commissioner Sherwin Henry has met with Timothy every week since October to talk about school, sports and success.

Timothy, a seventh-grader at Abraham Lincoln Middle School, is one of seven students in a new mentoring program, Gainesville Enrichment Mentoring Program, which pairs up at-risk middle school students with city government employees.

He said Henry tells him to work hard and to never give up.

"It's pretty strong," Timothy said of Henry's encouragement.

Jared "Ashten" Crawford wants to be a CEO. His mentor, Rick Mulligan,

said the 13-year-old has the smile and confidence of a businessman.

He just needs the education.

Both Ashten and Timothy are part of the statewide organization Take Stock in Children, which also oversees the city mentoring program. The statewide program currently gives mentors and Florida Prepaid scholarships to 125 at-risk, low-income students in Alachua County.

While the graduation rate for at-risk students in Florida hovers at 57 percent, the program has a 92 percent success rate.

Every Friday, Mulligan visits Ashten at Howard Bishop Middle School. They talk about the pizza in New York, algebra and Gators football as Ashten slouches comfortably in his chair.

Mulligan, the executive director of Alachua County Public Schools Foundation Inc., brought Ashten information once about a high

school designed for aspiring businessmen.

"As we went over it, he was completely engaged in it," Mulligan said. "Totally absorbed."

"I couldn't imagine walking out on him. That's like walking out on your own kids."

Rick Mulligan
mentor

It's interactions like that, he said, that make all the difference. Mulligan said the mentor's purpose isn't to be an extra parent or a watchdog. Mentors are advocates, friends and confidantes. If nothing else, a mentor's purpose is just to be there.

Mentors are asked to dedicate at least a year to the relationship. Ideally, the pair will stick together for six years, until the mentee graduates. Mulligan, who keeps a framed picture of Ashten on his desk next

to one of his grandson, said he's in it for the long haul.

"I couldn't imagine walking out on him," he said. "That's like walking out on your own kids."

Mulligan admits it's not easy to be Ashten or his peers. They're growing up in a world foreign to him, a world where education is sometimes looked down upon, fighting is the best way to solve arguments and, "What? Are you dreaming? That's not for you," are common responses to goals.

Most students in the program come from single-parent households, he said. Some of them grow up in an environment where people move in and out of their lives faster than they go through a tube of toothpaste. Mulligan said mentors are a consistent, reliable presence.

There is, however, one problem: The program can't take every student.

When a student is accepted, a

scholarship is immediately purchased and set aside until he or she graduates. More money for scholarships means more children in the program. Last year, Take Stock in Children in Alachua County had 110 applications for 23 slots.

In order to choose whom to take, a system ranks students based on their risk factors. Similar to measuring the power of a hurricane, students are ranked from category one to four. From there, the staff chooses students who will be most successful in the program.

Mulligan repeats what seems to be the program's mantra: "The way out of poverty is education and relationships." He knows a scholarship alone won't keep these kids out of trouble. But, perhaps, someone who tells them week after week, "You can do this. You're very capable," will make a difference.

"I want my mentee to be an all-star," he said. "I want him to really shine."

Students respond to changed zodiac signs

■ ASTRONOMERS NOW BELIEVE THERE ARE 13 ZODIACS RATHER THAN 12.

By LEILA MILGRIM

Alligator Contributing Writer

After finding out about the zodiac change, Dana Orlando logged on to Facebook and posted, "What is an Ophiuchus, and why am I now one of these?"

Orlando is one of many UF students who was confused by the zodiac identity crisis that has altered horoscopes.

According to an article in Time NewsFeed, a discovery regarding the axis of the Earth and alignment of the stars has led astronomers from the Minnesota Planetarium Society to believe that there are 13 zodiacs on the astronomical calendar, as opposed to the 12 that the an-

cient Babylonians believed there to be. Because of this, the dates that fall under each sign have changed.

Sophomore Jennifer Wilson said her world turned upside-down when she discovered she was no longer a Libra and was supposedly a Virgo.

"I feel so confused as to which horoscope I am supposed to be relating to," Wilson said.

Sophomore Hayley Johnson said horoscopes are too vague to be accurate.

"I think it is silly that people care so much about the horoscope change," she said.

A rumor of the horoscope change only applying to people born after 2009 is also confusing students.

"I guess I will never truly know my horoscope," Wilson said. "I think people just need to continue to have faith in what they have always believed in."



UF lecturer Mike Haridopolos sits in UF's Bob Graham Center for Public Service on February 5, 2008.

He will run against Sen. Bill Nelson **HARIDOPOLOS**, from page 1

cause we have had difficulty placing interns there historically," Matheny said.

If Haridopolos wins the Republican primary, he will most likely face incumbent Democrat Bill Nelson in November 2012. Nelson has served in the U.S. Senate since 2000, making him a potentially tough competitor, said Beth Rosenson, UF associate professor of political science.

Rosenson said that while he may be able to capitalize off of anti-Obama sentiment, Haridopolos' lack of national political experience may be a hindrance to his campaign.

For Haridopolos, another problem that may become an attack point during the campaign is the ethics investigation into his financial disclosures last year.

Haridopolos admitted his failure to disclose information about a \$400,000 Mount Dora investment

home and other concerns and reached a settlement with the Florida Commission on Ethics in December.

"It's a sin of omission, not one of commission. ... I don't think it's going to hurt him," Rosenson said. "If he can get the party nomination, I think it's a

"It's a sin of omission, not one of commission. ... I don't think it's going to hurt him."

Beth Rosenson
UF associate professor of political science

pro-Republican climate and he has a good chance."

Even if Haridopolos doesn't win, such a high-profile race could help him in future campaigns, she said.

"It's a good risk for him to take," she said. "I don't see much that he could lose."

Man makes living selling kids

The baby goats cost \$100 to \$500

By MELANIE BRKICH
Alligator Contributing Writer

Felicity hasn't accepted her kids. Although they're just a few hours old, she won't nurse them.

But that's perfectly normal — Felicity is a goat.

"Goats don't always accept their babies," said Charlie Meister, 70, who owns Felicity and about 60 other goats at Greathouse Farm Equestrian Center.

Meister's farm, located about 10 miles from UF campus at 11004 SW 67th St., is booming with baby goats, or "kids," and more are on the way.

About a year ago, Meister put an ad for his goats in the Alligator classifieds.

Meister said he's gotten calls from both students and faculty as a result of his ad.

Cindy Toth, 57, is one of Meister's customers and a professor in UF's College of Public Health and Health Professions.

She already had two adult goats when she fell in love with another couple of Meister's kids.

She decided to keep the two brothers as pets. She named them

Leo and Vinny, after Leonardo da Vinci and Vincent Van Gogh, respectively.

Toth said she bought the goats primarily to keep as pets but has found that they have other uses, too.

She and her husband are currently trying to get agricultural exemption for their property, meaning that their property taxes will go down as a result of owning the goats.

"I'm more interested in finding good homes for my goats and developing an industry."

Charlie Meister
goat owner

They also help trim down the grass and weeds on their 10 acres of land.

In the last year, Meister has sold about 20 goats intended for a variety of purposes from producing milk and cheese to being pack animals that assist hikers to being companions for other farm animals.

Meister's goats, some of which are named Melanie, Tarzan and Ruger, jump up around Meister's legs

like excited puppies, tails wagging as he sets down their lunch — a bucket of milk.

"They all have different personalities, and they all look a little different," Meister said.

A lot of dedication goes into caring for the goats, and it shows.

His Nubians, a specific breed, are registered show goats and have won numerous blue ribbons.

The price of one goat can fall between \$100 to \$500 depending on size and pedigree.

Because of Meister's awards, his goats are more valuable.

Meister started GreatHouse Farms as an equestrian center about 20 years ago with his late wife Jan. He worked for UF at the time, where he spent 30 years doing research in integrated pest management.

Meister now devotes all his time to raising his goats.

Meister said he hasn't done any advertising other than the classifieds of the Alligator, but he hopes to branch out someday.

For now, Meister is entertaining the idea of producing his own goat cheese.

"I'm more interested in finding good homes for my goats and developing an industry."



Melanie Brkich / Alligator

Charlie Meister, 70, feeds kids at the Greathouse Farm Equestrian Center in Gainesville.

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**Read all about it.
Online.**

www.alligator.org

Editorial

Media Blackout

In this case, no news is good news

Last week, the Alligator learned of an event being planned by the Dove World Outreach Center in Gainesville. We will not dignify the event by discussing it in this publication.

We only bring it up in this space to explain to our readers the reasoning behind our decision not to focus any attention on the event.

The most basic role of a newspaper is to inform its readers, so the decision to withhold information is not made lightly.

After careful consideration, we felt it was our responsibility as journalists and as members of society not to contribute to a culture of hatefulness, vitriol and a general lack of respect for others.

The Alligator can't allow itself to be the mouthpiece for any group, but especially not a fringe group that has a track record of exploiting the media to advance its message and notoriety.

We hope the rest of the media, both local and national, will resist the temptation to sensationalize this event.

Lastly, we hope this act of transparency on our part will promote trust with our readers. Now that you've been let in on our decision making process, we hope you understand our decision, even if you disagree. At least you know the decision was not made hastily or without due consideration.

And you can rest assured that all other dilemmas that face us will be treated with the same sense of responsibility and diligence.

Seize the Day

His dream still rings true, but, oddly enough, the day we take to celebrate it appears to undermine Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision.

We're all for having another day away from the paper, but getting a day off school and work in honor of a man who fought for equality in both the classroom and office seems a little strange.

There are some appropriate ways to celebrate, of course. For one, some people use the extra time to volunteer and better their communities, which perfectly ties in with the preacher's hopes. The local news sometimes uses the day to spotlight changes for the better in inner-city areas, showing that the dream still lives wherever there is hope and effort.

Some people would ask why we don't pay attention to these issues more often. We say it's the attention that warrants keeping the holiday around. We're for acknowledging King's legacy; we're just not so sure about ditching school for it. After all, sitting in an integrated classroom, learning material just as unsatisfactorily (c'mon, this is Florida, after all) as the students the next school over is one of the best manifestations of the changes the country's undergone since the civil rights movement.

Rather than wasting the day away, as many of us did, maybe it's time to go about our usual business imagining how extraordinary the 1960s activists would think our 21st-century routine is.

the independent florida **alligator**

Paul Runnestrand
EDITOR
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OPINIONS EDITOR

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

Opinions

ALLIGATOR

www.alligator.org/opinion

Column

Tutoring services an unwelcome crutch

TutoringZone is God, right?

It saves your grades and gets you through those grueling courses in a five-hour brain rape involving some coffee and the infamous packet. Spare yourself the hours of lecture-watching and instead spend the night before the exam in Club West with some Smokin'Notes and you're good to go.

This is how I spent my first finals week at UF, but I dare pose the question: Are we being extorted in order to succeed?

Before the pitchfork-armed mob comes chasing me down, yes, Smokin'Notes and TutoringZone are genius study materials and grade savers, but how close are we to supplementing whole courses with an 80-page packet of brightly colored paper?

I go to class, watch my lectures and do my assignments.

Simply put, I'm a loser.

Why then, even at my dorkiest, am I spending \$30 more to pass ECO2013?

Yes, the packets, Smokin'Notes, note cards and practice tests are comforting, but doesn't spending extra money border on ridiculous? We don't think about it because we are enamored with the idea of easy studying.

We pay thousands of dollars for classes, yet many of us ride through them reciting our mantra, "I'll just live at TZ the week before the exam." I'll confess, this was my philosophy for fall finals. In retrospect, I'm a little pissed. I spent five months attending class, studying and keeping up with assignments, but I still found myself shelling out \$50 to feel prepared.

We are most often exploited with online lecture classes. As a business major, I am familiar with online lectures, and TutoringZone and Smokin'Notes cater to these courses. I enrolled in one of these courses last semester, and despite



Laura Ellermeyer
letters@alligator.org

watching lectures and completing every online quiz, I circumvented a panic attack only by buying the Smokin'Notes. The carefully phrased definitions and formatted formulas were too tempting to pass up, especially when the online lectures left me clueless.

The materials let students feel comfortable with slacking in class because they can fall back on them if they miss a lecture or pass on a quiz or assignment.

There is no cheat sheet for life.

Should we rely on these materials when we have a semester of classes and course material under our belts? Does the option to purchase these packets encourage students to blow off classes and rely on a cram session?

For many students, the allure of more free time is a worth a session at TutoringZone.

I remember when it was embarrassing if you needed extra help for school. With the glamorization of services such as TutoringZone, it is encouraged when it shouldn't be necessary.

I'm all for working smarter, not harder, but have the days of old-fashioned dorkiness come to an end?

Should we stop attending classes, then put in Red Bull-fueled eight-hour sessions at TutoringZone a few days before exams? Students do this successfully, so what's the incentive to not conform?

Where's the reward for those who attend class and keep up with assignments?

For the time being, crammers keep cramming. At least you'll learn to pass tests.

Laura Ellermeyer is a first-year finance major. Her column appears on Tuesdays.

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

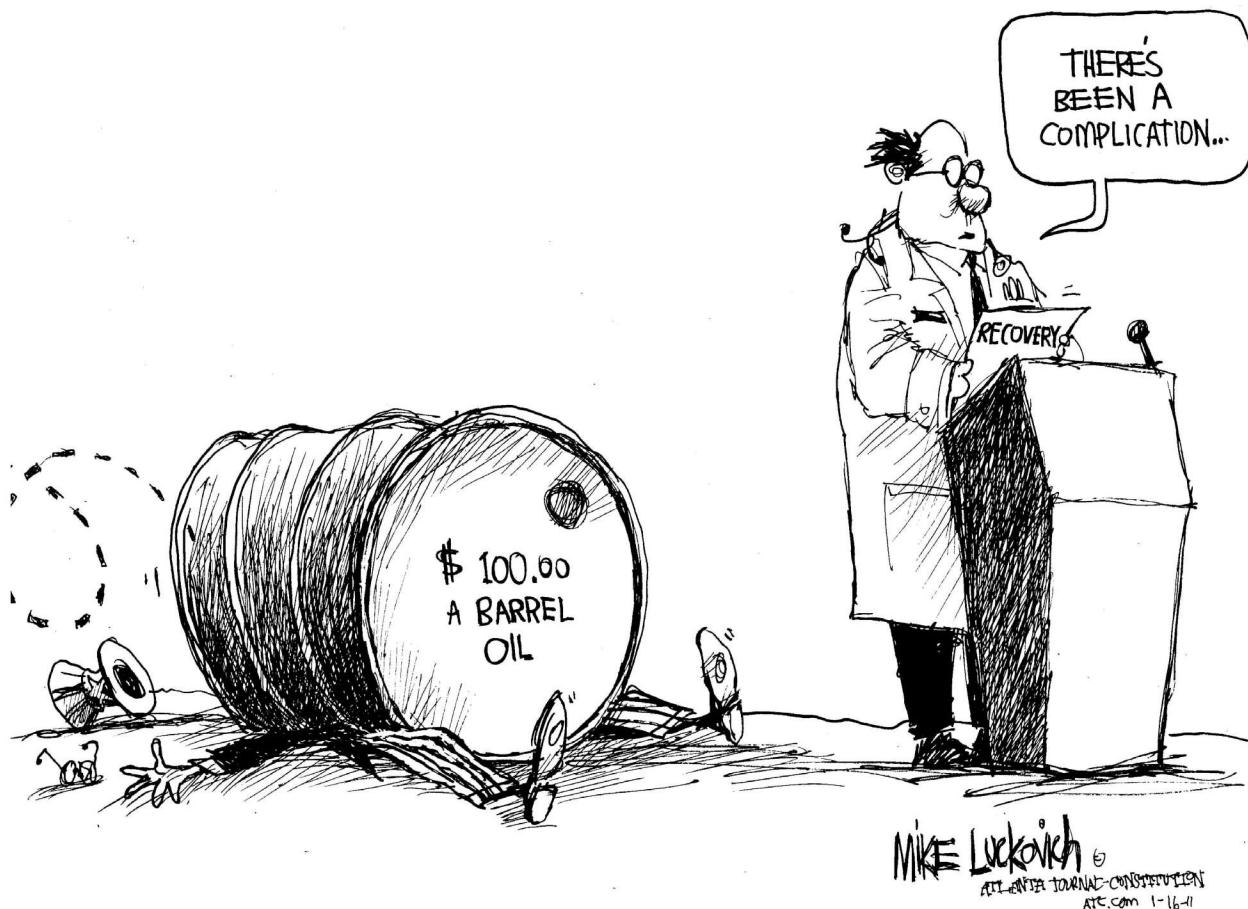
Reader response

Today's question: Have you skipped class in favor of tutoring sessions?

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

Friday's question: Should Bright Futures scholarships be harder to obtain?

70% YES
30% NO
171 TOTAL VOTES



UWire

Teenage pregnancy not so glamorous

While watching the show "Teen Mom" on MTV, my friends and I cringe as we see young girls, even younger than we are, faced with the challenges of coping with unplanned and generally unwanted pregnancies. Watching them juggle school and deal with emotional detachment from their friends and family makes me wonder why anyone is against teaching teens about safe sex and how to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

According to the Center for Disease Control, one third of young women in the United States become pregnant before the age of 20, and eight in 10 of these pregnancies are unwanted.

Being a teen mom is stressful. The New York Times reports that 80 percent of the time pregnancy drives these young women to drop out of school. Without a high school diploma, it is much harder to get a job that pays decent wages. The dropout rate alone illustrates the profound effect that teenage pregnancy has and demonstrates why something needs to be done to lower the teen pregnancy rate.

We need to educate teenagers about ways to prevent unwanted pregnancies. They need to be told that while abstinence is the only sure way to not get pregnant, there are options to substantially reduce the risk if they choose to have sex, including condoms and birth control pills.

Unfortunately, many adults do not want to face the fact that young adults will have sex no matter what their parents may say. The idea of providing a broad range of information in addition to "abstinence only" has become a highly political issue.

Interestingly, the pregnancy rate is much higher in the "red states" — majority Republican — than in the "blue states" — majority Democrat. The CDC reports that the red states have higher teen pregnancy rates; the majority of them have rates between 39 and 65 percent, while the majority of blue states have a rate below 38 percent.

One reason why red states have a higher pregnancy rate is that an increasing number of red state school districts are adopting abstinence-only sex education and some local churches are encouraging young adults to take virginity pledges. This lack of education about safe sex seems to be contributing to high teen pregnancy rates.

In today's world, though, it is unrealistic to believe that teenagers will wait for marriage. Popular culture

Anita Babbitt — through books, TV, magazines
UWire — reinforces every day that it is accepted to have sex before marriage. Some of these sources even glorify pregnant teens.

Sarah Palin is a strong believer in teaching abstinence before marriage and advocates a "pro-life" position.

It was extremely surprising to find that her 17-year-old daughter, Bristol, was pregnant and not yet married. Instead of being hidden away, Bristol was applauded for keeping the baby, and the media and her mother's conservative supporters made her out to be a brave girl.

Similarly, Britney Spears' sister, Jamie Lynn, became pregnant at the age of 16 and was also not married.

She got a People magazine cover story and was also portrayed as a strong girl for taking on the challenge of having a child at that age. When young adults like these two are made out to be heroes for having their children in their teen years, young girls might think they could be seen as a hero too.

In reality, though, it is much harder to raise a child, especially as a teenager.

These two young girls are celebrities and have well-off families who can support them through school and help raise the child; most teenagers who become pregnant do not have this luxury.

The series "Teen Mom" shows its audience what it is really like to have a child at a young age and what it does to your life.

These girls suffer rejection by their peers and family. They also have to take on the stress of caring for their children while going to school. This is what media should be projecting to the public to show that it is extremely difficult to take care of a child when you are so young.

I am not advocating having sex before marriage or suggesting that all young adults who get pregnant lead horrible lives. What I am saying is that many young people are choosing to have sex in their teen years and I believe all teenagers should be aware of what they are getting themselves into. They should know that there are options out there if they do not want the responsibility of a child.

Popular culture needs to take responsibility and show the harsh truth about being a teen mom.

Anita Babbitt is a columnist for The Lawrentian at Lawrence University.

UWire

Southern pride not warranted

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the onset of the Civil War.

Ideally, this meaningful anniversary could serve as a time of reflection about the current state of the South. In many quarters, the South's role in this war is viewed as heroic. Large segments of the population view the South's secession from a federal government as completely justified because they believe that government violated their states' rights. As the Sons of Confederate Veterans put it this year, "All we wanted was to be left alone to govern ourselves."

It is wrong for Southerners to glorify our past, though, because there is absolutely nothing glorious about it. The reality is that the most significant state's right being usurped from the South was the right to own slaves.

The first line of the Declaration of Secession by Mississippi states, "Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery — the greatest material interest of the world. Its labor supplies the product which constitutes by far the largest and most important portions of commerce of the earth."

All other Southern states that wrote declarations of secession identified slavery as the principle inducement for secession as well. Admittedly, the South was not only concerned about maintaining slavery.

It also cared about the states' rights to suppress freedom of speech, such as that of abolitionists, the right to violate the sovereignty of non-slave states by kidnapping runaway slaves with the use of lethal force, and the right to secede after elections they found unfavorable. Many southerners to this day still believe in secession after elections they disagree with. Shortly after President Barack Obama took office, an anti-tax rally was held in Texas, during which protesters chanted, "Secede!" Afterward, Governor of Texas Rick Perry suggested that, while he does not endorse the idea of secession, Texas could secede if it wanted to.

Why, then, do millions of Americans still treat the Confederate flag with such reverence?

Whatever their reasons are, it is unlikely they are positive. The South has dragged its feet on every single civil rights issue this country has faced.

Its citizens were (and are) more opposed to women's right to vote, desegregation, and the decriminalization of sodomy than any other region of the country. The South currently has higher rates of violent crime (despite its use of the death penalty with its purported deterrence effect), higher rates of obesity, and lower educational attainment on average than other states. It also has the highest rates of teenage pregnancy, divorce (despite its religiosity), and wealth inequality. In fact, the term "culture of honor" is regularly used to describe how southerners respond to slights with more physical aggression than other Americans.

What is there to be proud of? What, in all of American history, has the South ever done that has separated it from the rest of the country in a positive light? Even if the South had positively distinguished itself from the rest of the U.S., which it hasn't, why would that reflect well on the people who just happen to be born there?

There is absolutely no reason to honor the South on the anniversary of a war it fought in order to maintain the right to own human beings.

Even the more thoughtful individuals I encounter still honor confederate soldiers' bravery as they do all soldiers who died in the Civil War, but what is bravery for the cause of injustice?

We Southerners should be embarrassed by, not proud of, our ancestors who volunteered to fight and die for the Confederacy. There is nothing intrinsically praiseworthy about sacrificing your life, and there is nothing laudable about taking a position that was indefensible 150 years ago and attempting to defend it now.

Hudson Todd is a columnist for the Vanderbilt Hustler at Vanderbilt University.

Health official says autism, vaccinations not linked

One in five people believe some vaccines cause autism

By KAITLYNN FLOYD
Alligator Contributing Writer

The cause of autism remains uncertain after research connecting it to the MMR (Mumps-Measles-Rubella) vaccination has been gradually questioned.

Andrew Wakefield, along with

other researchers, published an article in The Lancet in 1998 that attempted to link autism to the MMR vaccination, but this research is being discredited.

According to the American Medical Association, this research has several critical flaws, including fabricated results.

The research discouraged parents from having their children receive the MMR vaccination, which gives live doses of the measles, mumps and rubella.

Sherry Windham, immunizations program manager for the Alachua County Health

Department, questions the research.

"You would think if someone was doing a study, there would be several participants in the study, not just 12," Windham said.

She said she's noticed more people today believe vaccination is a "bad thing."

Darlene Edwards, a pharmaceutical representative, feels it's a disservice to a child not to be vaccinated.

However, Edwards has friends who believe there is a link between the MMR vaccinations and autism.

In March of 2010, American Medical News reported that one in five believe some vaccines cause autism.

INTERNATIONAL

Survey says most Chinese see ties with US worsening

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING — Just over half of the Chinese public believe relations with the U.S. worsened last year, and the overwhelming majority blame Washington for the decline, according to a survey published on Monday.

Roughly 53 percent of those responding saw relations with the U.S. getting worse last year, said the survey, carried out jointly by the official China Daily newspaper and the Horizon Research Consultancy Group.

Just over 80 percent blame the deterioration on Washington, according to the survey.

The results appear just one day ahead of a state visit to the U.S. by Chinese President Hu Jintao intended to restore balance to relations following a troubling year during which the sides sparred over controversial issues such as human rights, the Dalai Lama, and arms sales to Taiwan.

The survey questioned a sample of 1,443 Chinese citizens aged 18 and over living in Beijing and six other Chinese cities during Dec. 20-30 last year.

The newspaper did not detail how participants were selected, and gave no mar-

gin of error.

Despite the slip in perceptions, almost 49 percent of Chinese had favorable attitudes toward the U.S., compared to 63 percent who viewed Germany positively and just 29 percent who felt that way toward



AP Photo

In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, passengers crowd in a waiting room of the railway station in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

Japan.

Tensions on the Korean peninsula topped the list of concerns for Hu's visit, followed by Taiwan and trade issues.

Despite their political differences, economic relations between Beijing and Washington are becoming increasingly crucial.

The U.S. is one of China's biggest markets, with \$380 billion in annual trade largely in Beijing's favor.

China is currently the largest foreign holder of U.S. government debt.

Hu sounded a conciliatory tone in a rare interview with U.S. newspapers ahead of his visit, saying the two countries could mutually benefit by finding "common ground" on issues ranging from combatting terrorism and nuclear proliferation to clean energy and infrastructure initiatives.

"There is no denying that there are some differences and sensitive issues between us," Hu said in written answers to questions submitted by The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal that were published over the weekend.

"We both stand to gain from a sound China-U.S. relationship, and lose from confrontation."

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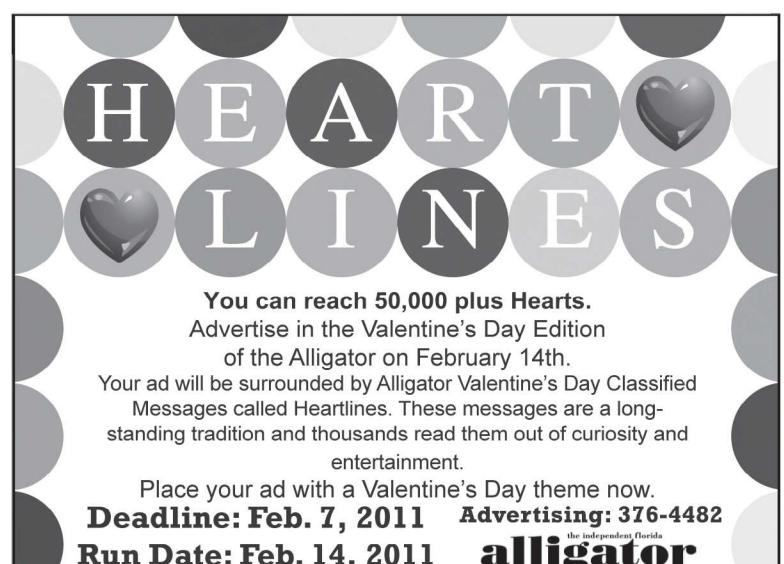
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Student Government, local police teamed up in the sting operation

TAXIS, from page 1

long as the charges are posted in the window and pre-approved by the city. Despite its legality, flat-rate charging has led to situations where students are gouged by drivers claiming to be charging flat "bar rates," Meyers said.

"The companies stand to lose from these policies," he said. "If taxi drivers aren't reporting that they're giving rides, then they're not giving their share of the fares to the company."

When he assumed the position of Student Senate president, one of the issues Meyers sought to address was students' rights and one of the problems on his mind was the taxis.

The issue came under the microscope of FICA, or the Fairness In Commerce Ad-Hoc Committee.

Meyers said he believes cooperating with the city would be the best way to get taxi drivers to run their meters.

On Tuesday at 7 p.m., a joint meeting between the City Commission and Student Government will take place in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom, and the taxi issue will be on the docket.

In addition, SG has the Alternative Transportation Ad-Hoc, which aims to further promote methods of alternative transportation in the city. By bulking up promotion of services like SNAP, GOTCHA and Zipcars, Meyers said he hopes to create more competition for taxis, which would in turn force taxis to offer more competitive prices.

Student Body President Ashton Charles is another SG official who once found herself at the mercy of over-charging taxi drivers. She began talking to others in her apartment complex and found they had the same problems she did. Some had reported being charged over \$40 to get to midtown or downtown.

Charles decided to see for herself.

She, along with Meyers, decided to take part in a one-night sting operation in which they would take the taxi along with undercover police officers from the Gainesville Police Department on Dec. 8. The purpose of the operation would not be to make arrests, but rather to just see which drivers wouldn't run the meter.

The majority of the time, the meter wasn't running.

The operation ran from 10 p.m.

that night to 3 a.m. the next morning. Out of 19 fares, University Police Department spokesman Jeff Holcomb said, 11 did not run the meter. According to a list compiled by the Gainesville Police Department, the following companies were found to have not run the meter: Bestway Cab, Unimet Taxicab Co., Safety Cabs and Gator Taxi Cab. Gainesville Cab Co. was the only company listed that was reported to have run the meter every time during the operation.

Michael Ross started Bestway Cabin in 1997. The now 44-year-old Ross said that his company has since been known for providing great service, in the process earning service contracts with the state attorney's office and the public defender's office.

City Ordinance 28-9 allows for flat-rate charging, and Ross said his charge sheet, which includes a variety of flat-rate charges, has been approved by city hall.

On top of that, Ross said that drivers will sometimes offer discounts on per-head flat rates when large parties come into a taxi.

"If we have to start running the meter, there will be no more discounts," Ross said. "It'll be what the meter says."

Ross admitted that the charge sheet, which lists the company's flat rate, is required by law to be posted in three places in all taxi cabs, could be confusing to students. On top of confusing rate sheets, Ross said that newer cab companies coming into town have created a negative perception of his company and Gainesville's entire taxi industry.

"We've got new cab companies and they are flat-rating out of this world," he said. That's why Ross puts the burden of responsibility on his drivers to make sure passengers agree to fares before rides.

However, not all drivers fulfill that obligation.

The only way Ross knows there's even a passenger in the vehicle is when people call in for dispatch. When drivers are flagged down by customers, he relies on the driver's word to know they had a fare.

He said a way to self-police his company would be to put cameras in cars, but that's not feasible. So Ross instead relies on the honor system, trusting his drivers to follow the rules out on the road.

One such driver is Joe, who drives a taxi in Gainesville.

Before he carried people around the city in his taxi, Joe, whose real name is being

withheld, was a drummer.

Twenty-three years ago, he set the beat for his band, and that was all he ever intended on doing.

But after the band split and his wife became pregnant, Joe had to find a new profession. Armed with only his skills as a musician and a driver's license, Joe decided to drive cabs for a living.

"[My favorite part is] meeting people from all walks of life and lots of different countries," he said. "People come to UF from all over the world. It can be fun. Back when I was a dispatcher, I missed that part of it."

But the biggest problem for Joe, and many other taxi drivers, is the pay.

"You never know how much you're gonna make from one day to the next," he said. "Trying to budget on a cab driver's wage is difficult. You don't even have minimum wage to rely on."

Joe said that he believes there is a negative perception of taxi drivers and companies in Gainesville as being "crooked." A lot of that has to do with the fares. Instead of clearly explaining fares, fare sheets leave a lot of gray area.

"Students definitely deserve a simpler system," he said.

The system of flat rates is designed, Joe said, to make things easier on the drivers and the passengers. And it can sometimes work in favor of students as opposed to against them.

Joe gave the example of taking four students from The Swamp restaurant to downtown.

By running the meter, he would be charging a student a \$10 minimum in addition to an additional \$1 for extra passengers. The total would come out to \$13. But if he instead offered a per-head flat rate of \$3, it would come out to \$12, saving the students a dollar.

But the lack of a steady income could lead drivers to take advantage of the flat-rate system, Joe said.

"The honor system of reporting fares is only reliable as the honesty of the driver," he said.

Ultimately, both Meyers and Student Body President Ashton Charles say that the issue of taxis overcharging students is one of student safety.

"The moment I hear that somebody's willing to drive home four beers in rather than take a taxi," Meyers said, "I know that there's a major issue."

What you need to know

■ Four Gainesville taxi services were found to have not run the meters in their taxis during a sting operation by the Gainesville Police Department and University Police Department. Bestway Cab, Unimet Taxicab Co., Safety Cabs and Gator Taxi Cab.

■ If you feel you have been overcharged by a taxi company, you are advised to call the police to mediate the situation, OR take note of the taxi number and report the driver to the company's owner the next day.

■ A normal fare for a taxi with the meter running might be \$3.00 as a base meter fare, \$5.50 for the first mile and then \$2.50 per mile after. However, if the metered rate does not exceed the taxi's minimum fare, the student will be charged whatever the taxi's minimum fare is. Usually between \$10-12.

■ Students cannot be retroactively charged for underage drinking. So don't be afraid to call the police if you feel you're being charged unfairly. However, if you're acting out, you can then be charged with public intoxication. Also, if the University Police Department is called, students may be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

■ A joint meeting between the Gainesville City Commission and the Student Senate is being held Tuesday in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom at 7 p.m.

■ FICA, or the Fairness In Commerce Ad-Hoc committee, was specifically created to battle the taxi issue, and other business practices that it deems to be preying on students.

Joint Student Senate and Gainesville Commission Meeting

Please join us on January 18 from 7 - 9PM
in the Reitz Union Auditorium
to discuss voter registration,
off-campus housing concerns,
taxi prices, and more.

www.sg.ufl.edu

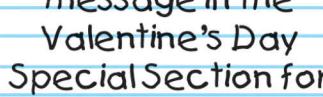


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500 sq ft \$479 Close to UF and Shands
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Studios starting at \$509
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Pools * Cardio * Tanning
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Renting Now!!
We have REAL 1/1s
4 blocks to UF - GATORSIDE-1 MO FREE
400 sq ft, only \$450!
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575 sq ft, \$550 PLUS 1 MONTH FREE!
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1-31-10-68-2

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1 BR Loft Style
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SUN BAY and Sun Key
2.1 bedroom Apartment
>From \$550/mo; 1 mo free for
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10-103-2

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Homes/Condos/Apartments
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10-70-2

2 Months Free!
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Studio \$430 and 1/1 *\$457
Located behind Butler Plaza
Pet friendly No weight limits!
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NO PET/ALARM FEES
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1/1 *\$447
2/1 *\$548
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4-20-10-70-2

2 Months Free
Sunrise Villas
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All Inclusive Individual Leases
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2 For Rent unfurnished

The Cottages on Market Street
2BR/1BA apt \$500 mo; No Dep, No Fee's
UF or SF Full-Time Students
Bike to Campus, Walk to Starbucks
Tommy 352-339-1965
4-20-10-70-2



●NW 1 br, new carpet/paint, close to banks/shopping, minutes from downtown & UF, some utilities included, \$450/mo
●NW 2br 2ba flat, large mst br, w/d, enclosed screened patio, 1 mo free w/year lease, \$700/mo
●SW 2br, 1.5ba townhouse near shopping, community pool, \$600/mo, 1 mo free w/lease
●Mill Pond- Lovely 2br, 2ba flat with Florida rm, courtyard, garage, community pool and tennis courts. \$1000
●Downtown 2 BR at the Lofts at W. University. This modern designed unit includes cable, internet, washer/dryer, and 2 onsite parking spaces. Minutes from UF and Shands, \$1050/mo
●Mallorca Square, Large 2br, 2.5 ba townhouse convenient to Oaks Mall and UF/hospitals, many extras, \$895/mo
●Treehouse Village- 2/2 New Carpet, D/W, W/D incl., on covered bus line close to downtown, UF/Shands. \$595
●BIG 3/3 in SW, Ceramic/Carpet, D/W, W/D includes clubhouse, pool, comp lab, volleyball, tennis, basketball, MUST SEE \$900
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4-20-10-70-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

Immaculate small efficiency, quiet. Wash dry on premises. Wat/Sew incl NS No pets. 1/2m South of UF/Shands. 2 bus routes. Avail Dec 27. \$399/mo 352-262-2871 Owner agent. 1-24-11-14-2

Greenwich Green
2/2 for \$799
Patio and Storage Closet
Call 352-372-8100
4-20-10-70-1

2BR/1BA APARTMENT
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No pets. Call Geri 352-538-1114 1-20-11-10-2

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Small 2BR \$375/mo.
Call 352-372-6881 or 352-213-3901 1-20-11-10-2

Spacious 1, 2, & 3br starting at \$495. Many floor plans, some with enclosed patios or balconies. Italian tile, bedrooms carpeted. DW, W/D hook-ups, verticals, CH/AC. Near bus route, some walk to UF. Call 352-332-7700 2-24-11-35-2

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Newly remodeled 2 & 3 BDs
Quiet neighborhood. Lots of upgrades.
Free 32" HD Plasma TV for new Sec 8 lease.
Must see! Call 332-7700 2-24-11-35-2

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Sunroom, garage, updated. 3103 NW 4th Terrace. \$825/mo. Call Andrea Martin, Keller-Williams Realty 352-281-3131 1-21-11-10-2

★ CAMPUS EDGE CONDO ★
2/2 Walk to UF, Shands, VA & Pharm School. Tile floor, W/D in unit. Avail fall. Reasonable rates. 239-250-6149 1-21-11-10-2

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4 Apts 2/1 in College Park area
(5/3 House) (4/3 House) (3/2 House)
available for August Manny 352-317-4408
info & pic gainesvillestudentrentals.com
1-31-11-16-2

Studio for rent. Bedroom, kitchen, full bathroom, total privacy. 3 miles from Butler plaza near Tower Square. \$475.00 per month includes Utilities, Cable TV, & Internet Call 352-378-4626 or 352-262-4290 1-28-11-15-2

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www.madisonpointe.org 4-20-66-2

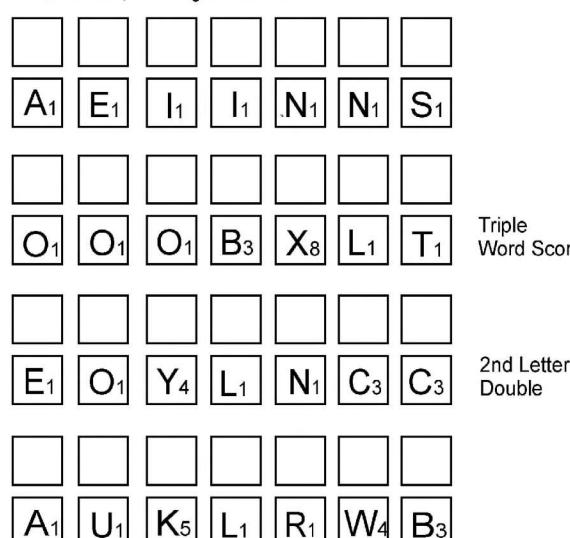
Available Aug 1st. 3BR/1BA very nice house, short bike, cent H/AC, dishwasher, disposal, W/D provided. Very private backyard with small garage. 924 NW 9th Ave. \$1100/mo. Call 352-339-2342 Other houses available 1-25-11-9-2

WALK TO UF Available Feb.
1BR/1BA \$550
1 year lease, SD, NS, NP
Call/Text 352-870-7256
gvl32601@gmail.com 2-28-11-33-2

Available Aug 1st. 4BR/2BA very nice house. Quiet area between UF and Santa Fe. Game room, W/D provided. Fenced backyard, pets ok. 1330 NW 39th St. \$1200/mo. Call 352-339-2342 Other houses available 1-25-11-9-2

Would someone PLEASE sublease this apt? Male to take over sublease in 2br/1b. Walking distance to campus. Directly off University Ave. \$325 from 2/11-7/11. Email gatorgal24@gmail.com for specifics 1-19-11-3-3

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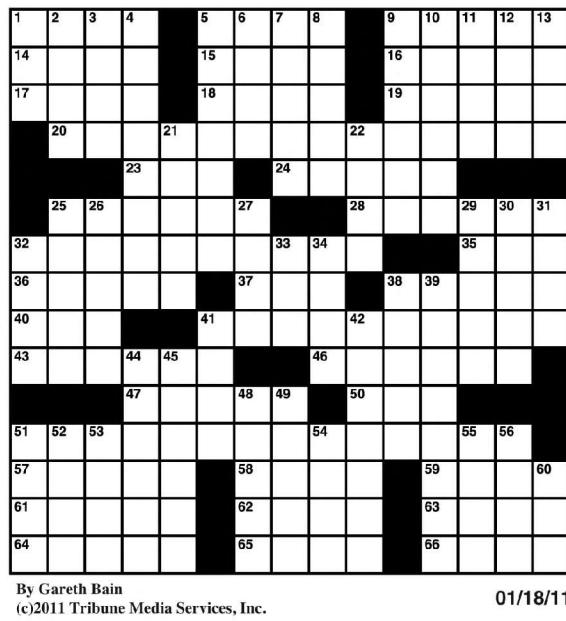
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01-18

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS
1 Lin or Angelou
5 Terrier type
9 Performed on stage
14 Contest with seconds
15 Gillette's __ II
16 Do-re-mi
17 Catch, as one's sleeve
18 "Mazes and Monsters" author Jaffe
19 Ventilated, with "out"
20 Group with the #1 hit "ABC"
23 Emeritus, e.g.: Abbr.
24 Some garden plants need it
25 Official count
28 Control tower devices
32 Group with the #1 hit "One Bad Apple"
35 Western-style "Scram!"
36 Lena who played Glinda in the movie version of "The Wiz"
37 Epi center?
38 Nez ___, Native Americans who breed their own horses
40 Faulkner's "Lay Dying"
41 Group with the #1 hit "Jive Talkin'"
43 Garden tool
46 Snorkel et al., familiarly
47 Put in a seat
50 MIT or UCLA
51 2001 Spielberg WWII miniseries, and what 20-, 32- or 41-Across is
57 Believed without question
58 Cosecant's reciprocal
59 Really long time
61 Present moment
62 Ski resort lift
63 Arp's movement
64 Exceed the limit
65 Eponymous logical diagram creator

66 Online annoyance
DOWN
1 Docs
2 Godmother, often
3 Slangy okay
4 "Flowers for ___": story from which the film "Charly" was adapted
5 Layer
6 Big cheese associated with Big Macs?
7 Americans, to Brits
8 PayPal funds
9 Actress Peet or Plummer
10 Styled in the salon
11 Doughnut shapes
12 Mtn. road sign stat
13 Miami-__ County
21 Wrestler Ventura
22 Rowing crew
25 Selected
26 Spine-tingling
27 Next year's junior
29 What double-checked totals should do
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
SUCHASRUPTURED
TSHIRTONEONONE
EMILIO MACTRUCK
PACLEADEREAGLE
ARFSROMSTESS
SILMCA SASE
INI AUNT REDDOT
DEC CROCPOT OPE
ESKERSULNACPL
LOONAGE WOE
MONA ROAN MORT
ACING BLOC PARTY
MOCTRIAL RACKUP
AMARILLO ETHENE
SEDATELY WHEREIS
xwordeditor@aol.com 01/18/11



By Gareth Bain
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01/18/11

2 For Rent unfurnished

2BR/1BA cabin, 20 acres. Fixer-upper. Horses/dogs welcome. 27802 SW 120th Lane, Newberry. \$555/mo. Comes with horse. Long driveway. In Gothe State Forest. Call 330-329-8834 1-26-10-2

5 BEDROOM HOUSE
Walk to class. Right Across from The Swamp stadium. Available Aug 1st. Wood Floors. Lots of parking. Please call John @ (561) 866-8234 for further info 1-21-6-2

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www.merrillmanagement.com

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•EFFICIENCY -2 Rooms(not bedrooms)**
Shared Bathroom, Window A/C, Carpet, Across from UF Stadium, 1830 NW 1st Ave \$295/Mo, \$300 Deposit

• ROCKWOOD VILLAS:**
5542 SW 8th Place \$750/Mo, \$800 Deposit. Pets Ok, 2BR 2BA, Newly painted, New Carpet, Tile Floors in LR, Incld Washer/Dryer, Pool, Tennis Courts, Bus Line to Shands & UF. 1-18-11-1-2

3 bd 1 ba in NE Gville . Beautiful, restored hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances, W/D, front porch, back deck, fresh paint. Lg fenced property. Pets OK. Great location. Available now. 516-459-7654. 1-24-11-5-2

3 Subleases

Looking for female sublease for 1/1 in a 4/4 at the Woodlands of Gainesville. \$565/mo includes utilities, fully furnished, pet friendly! Please call 727-804-6893 for more details. 1-19-5-3

Would someone PLEASE sublease this apt? Male to take over sublease in 2br/1b. Walking distance to campus. Directly off University Ave. \$325 from 2/11-7/11. Email gatorgal24@gmail.com for specifics 1-19-11-3-3

Roommate Matching HERE
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The Landings 336-3838
The Laurels 335-4455
Greenwich Green 372-8100
Hidden Lake 374-3866
4-20-70-4

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Call now. Share 4BR/4BA 1st floor, furnished condo at Countryside. 1 mi to UF. Incl utils, W/D, internet, cable TV, great parking & pool. 2 rooms avail immmed. \$425/mo/rm 1-386-672-6969 or 1-386-295-7929 1-31-10-42-4

1st month free. Grad student looking for female roommate in fully furnished 4/4 condo at Countryside. \$425/month. Short term lease available. Cable/internet, utils, W/D, 2 bus routes. Contact Megan 727-542-8155. 1-21-11-11-4

Large Room in NW Home.
\$450/mo incl utils & DSL, large closets. No pets. Mature, non-smoker, grad student/professional. Scott 352-335-8209 1-20-11-10-4

Roommate wanted- Share nice clean NW area 3 Br, 2 bath single family home with two senior UF students- fenced back yard- washer/ dryer-fireplace- \$320 mo. & 1/3 utilities. Call Jon-321-537-5640 or 352-665-9547 1-21-11-10-4

Female looking for same to share a furnished 3BR/2BA condo. 10 mins by bus to UF campus. \$400/mo including utils. Great Location! Call 850-974-0686 1-21-11-10-4

Gated 4BR/4BA Countryside condo, pool-side, own BD & BA, W/D, cable, hi-speed internet, early stop on UF bus rte. Utils included. \$350/mo. No deposit required. 863-634-1893. Available immediately. 1-19-11-3-4

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Rent to Buy. 2BR/2BA Capstone Quarters Condo Near Shands. Private porch, backyard, new carpet, paint and appliances. Community Pool, \$650/mo. \$54,900 Call 352-378-4626 1-28-11-15-5

6 Furnishings

BED - QUEEN - \$120 ORTHOPEDIC
Pillow-top, mattress & box. Name brand, new, still in plastic. Call 352-372-7490 will deliver. 4-20-10-70-6

BED - FULL SIZE - \$100 ORTHOPEDIC
Pillow-top mattress & box. New, unused, still in plastic w/warranty. Can deliver. Call 352-377-9846 4-20-10-70-6

MICROFIBER SOFA & LOVESEAT - \$400
Brand new still packaged w/warranty. Must sell. Can deliver. Retail \$1600. 352-372-7490 4-20-10-70-6

BED - KING - \$200 PILLOWTOP
mattress & box springs. Orthopedic rated. Name brand, new, never been used, in plastic with warranty. Call 352-372-8588. Can deliver. 4-20-10-70-6

BEDROOM SET. 7pc Cherry, Queen/ king bed, dresser w/mirror, 2 nightstands, chests avail. Dovetail const. New, in boxes. Can deliver. Retail \$4500, must sell, sacrifice \$850 (352) 372-7490 4-20-10-70-6

SOFA & LOVESEAT 100% Italian leather. Brand new in plastic w/warranty. Retail \$1800. Sacrifice \$700. Call 352-377-9846 4-20-10-70-6

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DINETTE SET 5pc \$120 Brand new in box. Never used. 352-377-9846 4-20-10-70-6

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****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. 4-20-10-70-6

BED- QUEEN New orthopedic pillowtop mattress and boxspring set. Brand name, brand new, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver. \$130 352-377-9846. 4-20-10-70-6

BEDROOM SET- \$300 BRAND NEW
Still in boxes! 5 pieces include: Headboard, Nightstand, Dresser, Mirror, Chest. Must sell, can deliver. 352-377-9846. 4-20-10-70-6

7 Computers

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10 For Sale

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BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



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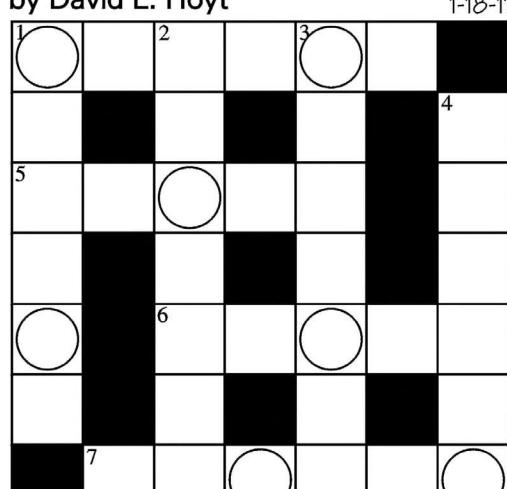
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JUMBLE CROSSWORD

by David L. Hoyt

1-18-11



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- 1. Total
- 5. Tree
- 6. Escape
- 7. Brook

DOWN

- 1. Steve
- 2. Luxurious
- 3. Roman god
- 4. Gallery

ANSWER

- TAMNUO
MSPUT
EDEUL
TASMER

- SAIUTN
TONPEUL
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SUMEMU

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Sports

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2011

ALLIGATOR
www.alligatorSports.org

Gators seeking improvement from free-throw line



Matt Tripp / Alligator Staff

Florida senior forward Chandler Parsons, a 52.9 percent free-throw shooter this season, is part of a Gators frontcourt that has shot 54.9 percent as a group from the charity stripe. UF is shooting 65.1 percent, making it 267th out of 346 Division-I teams.

As Erving Walker stood at the free-throw line for a one-and-one with his team down by a point and 1:09 left, Gators fans looked on with bated breath.

There was a palpable sense of anxiety in the O'Connell Center, as one of UF's biggest flaws was about to decide the outcome of the game.

Although Walker is one of the team's most clutch free-throw shooters, the junior guard missed the front end, keeping South Carolina ahead and negating UF's first shot at a lead in nearly 30 minutes.

"It's real frustrating. We don't want to leave those free points out there."

Erving Walker
UF guard

"I can't ask for a better situation to be in at the foul line, but I just missed it," Walker said. "It's real frustrating. We don't want to leave those free points out there, especially down the stretch."

Sixteen seconds later, Gamecocks center Sam Muldrow drilled a three-pointer to give South Carolina a two-possession lead that UF would never overcome.

Thanks partially to its 12-of-22 performance from the free-throw line, including five straight misses to close out the contest, Florida (13-4, 2-1 Southeastern Conference) fell 72-69 Saturday against South Carolina (11-5, 2-1 SEC), thus bringing an end to its five-game winning

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 16

UF struggling late in games

■ SECOND-HALF COLLAPSES HAVE BECOME COMMON FOR THE GATORS.

By MATT WATTS
Alligator Writer

ATHENS, Ga. — A constant point of emphasis for the Florida women's basketball team is setting the tone early in games. Coach Amanda Butler believes execution in the first four minutes is integral to success.

But it has been the opposite — the crunch-time minutes with the game on the line — that has led to multiple late-game collapses for the Gators.

Most recently, UF (12-7, 2-3 Southeastern Conference) allowed a 16-point lead to evaporate in the final nine minutes against Georgia, dropping their second straight SEC game, and third in the last four, 70-64 in Athens, Ga., on Sunday.

A feisty crowd got into the game as Georgia

made its surge, but Butler said she couldn't attribute the loss to the anxiety Florida's young roster might have felt in a hostile environment.

"Composure and decision-making under pressure — I don't know that that's nerves, or if that's a lack of experience, or if that Georgia is really good and they didn't play really good until the end. I think it's probably a combination of all those things," Butler said. "It's something that we've got to be better at."

Butler is right, because Florida's struggles at the end of games are becoming a trend.

UF held a 66-59 lead late against DePaul on Nov. 18 but was able to score just eight points over the final 8:27 and eventually lost 74-73 after a last-second tip-in from Kayla Lewis was waved off.

Three weeks later, Florida squandered a five-point halftime lead and was outscored by 20 in the second half in a 69-54 loss to Hamp-

SEE W-HOOPS, PAGE 16

Lineup shuffling allows rest, new opportunities

By ALLISON BANKO
Alligator Writer

Following the Florida gymnastics squad's first meet Jan. 7, coach Rhonda Faehn said the team would be playing around with its lineups this season, allowing some athletes to rest while others gain exposure in new events.

Faehn's plans played out again Friday night, as the No. 1 Gators used a new lineup combination to topple No. 16 Kentucky in the O'Connell Center with a final point tally of 196.775 to 192.900.

Normal contributor Maranda Smith didn't compete in the floor exercise, while Alaina Johnson, the SEC Freshman Gymnast of the Week, rested from the balance beam routine.

In her place, freshman Mackenzie Caquatto made her debut.

"Being up in the beam lineup this week was a little bit nerve-wracking," she said. "But I just went up there and tried to stay calm and do everything

SEE GYM, PAGE 16

TEeing off with Adam Berry

Jets LB Bart Scott had a legendary postgame interview/standoff with ESPN after his team's victory Sunday. ESPN.com's headline describes Scott as "emotional," which is like calling Bill Belichick "somewhat reserved." ... I'm also excited for another week of awesome Rex Ryan interviews. He seems to have drawn the line at putting his own foot in his mouth.

ONLINE

We have a ton of content at alligatorSports.org, including the first episode of our brand new video show. Also, check out our recruiting blog for an update on Chase Hounshell, an offensive line recruit who decommitted from Florida on Monday night.

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Tyler Jett, Greg Luca and podcast first-timer Jesse Simonton join host Adam Berry to discuss the latest Florida football news, analyze the week in Gators basketball and freestyle about a number of other topics. Subscribe on iTunes.

UF overcomes illness, depth issues

Without coach, Florida tops FAU

By JOHN BOOTHE
Alligator Writer

All week long, the Gators dealt with multiple obstacles. The No. 6 women's team struggled with sickness, while the No. 5 men's team lacked depth as coach Gregg Troy and nine of team's best left for the SMU Classic.

Troy's squad finished short of expectations this weekend in Dallas, taking fourth place as Florida scored 272 points—46 behind first-place Michigan, ranked No. 13.

While UF posted a pair of 60-point victories over visiting Florida Atlantic, the Gators also failed to match their previous output in NCAA qualifying times and speed in the pool Saturday in the O'Connell Center Natatorium.

"We were hit the hardest with the flu, so we really just had to go wherever

they needed us to go," said junior Shara Stafford, who managed one of her best performances at home with a win in the 200-yard freestyle—an NCAA "B" qualifying time of 1:48.76.

"Over the next two weeks, they're going to really be under the gun."

Martyn Wilby
UF associate head swimming coach

Along with Stafford, Florida (4-3, 0-1 SEC) received a strong effort from junior Sarah Bateman, who won two events individually and contributed to both of the Gators' relay wins. Bateman's participation in four events was a rarity in the meet, as many of the women's swimmers were pulled after one event to help them further

recover from the team's flu spell.

Another issue surrounding the meet was the team's response to missing Troy.

"Everybody is a little bit at ease when coach Troy is not here, just because he's the head coach and you never know what he's going to do," Stafford said.

In Troy's place was associate head coach Martyn Wilby, who said something was missing from both teams, though UF only lost one event the entire meet.

"The focus was OK. It wasn't great," Wilby said. "Over the next two weeks, they're going to really be under the gun."

For the men (4-2, 2-0 SEC), freshman Michael Lewark posted career-highs in the 1- and 3-meter dives. Coming into the meet, Lewark said his focus was on replacing the output of his brother, Andrew.

"[Andrew] just came out and told me to let my body do the work, and everything else would fall in place," Lewark said. "I just went out and tried to win both boards like he would."

UF TENNIS

Blue-chip prospect reaching potential

By STEPHEN SHEEHAN
Alligator Writer

After coming to UF a year ago as the No. 6 overall recruit, Sekou Bangoura Jr. has had to live up to high expectations. Now, in his second season as a Gator, he is showing why he was so highly regarded.

After a strong fall season in which he won the Lakewood Ranch Intercollegiate Clay Court Classic in his hometown of Bradenton, Bangoura is currently ranked No. 28 in the country.

The talented sophomore is improving at a rapid pace and has become considerably stronger since he has been at Florida, coach Andy Jackson said.

Bangoura reached the quarterfinals at the Southeastern Conference Indoors for the second time in his career over the weekend.

Although he lost badly to Tennessee's John-Patrick Smith, Jackson said Smith successfully executed a tactic that Bangoura had not expected.

"(Smith) is a lefty with a very big serve and plays power tennis," Jackson said. "(Smith) took a lot of pace off the ball and sort

of baited Sekou into being the attacker. Unfortunately, Sekou took the bait and played tactically the wrong way."

Despite the tough loss, Jackson remains encouraged that Bangoura can be one of the nation's top 10 players, even saying it could happen sooner rather than later.

Bangoura's development will be important to a Gators team that will lose its top player and only senior in Alexandre Lacroix after this season.

Lacroix, the No. 4 player in the country, was also eliminated in quarterfinals play at the SEC Indoors after enduring a physically demanding three-set match in the previous round.

"Sometimes excuses are true. This early in the season, Alex wasn't physically ready to play his fourth match in two days," Jackson said.

However, Jackson believes there is a good core group of players in Bangoura, sophomore Bob van Overbeek and junior Nassim Silam, who can step into Lacroix's shoes once he departs.

"We want all three to learn as much as possible from Alex and be able to replicate his success on and off the court," he said.



Bangoura

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Gators enter rankings due to hot start

■ SIX ATHLETES AND ONE RELAY COMBINE FOR NINE TOP-15 MARKS.

STAFF REPORT

Florida's track and field teams won 10 events and posted three meet records in their season-opening performances at the Nittany Lion Challenge, and the national rankings reflected the Gators' strong showing.

The Track and Field Results Reporting System released its rankings Monday, and six UF athletes and one relay team hold nine spots in the nation's top 15 in their respective events.

Omar Craddock, who automatically qualified for the NCAA Championships in the triple jump in Saturday's meet, is the squad's highest-ranked competitor. The sophomore jumper, who tied a personal-best mark of 16.19m/53-1.50, is currently second in the country and one of two athletes to have already automatically qualified for the national triple-jump title.

Junior Genevieve LaCaze and freshman Cory McGee are also among the nation's top 15 in two different distance-running events. LaCaze checks in at third in the women's 3,000-meter (9:34.42) and 13th in the mile (4:49.48), while McGee is seventh in the 3,000-meter (9:43.72) and fourth in the mile (4:46.70).

Kemal Mesic (fourth, men's shot put), the women's 4x400m relay (fifth), Jeremy Postin (tied-13th, men's weight throw) and Fidela James (14th, women's weight throw) round out the ranked Gators.

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Coaches attempting to create pressure situations in practice

HOOPS, from page 14

streak.

The Gators have been leaving points at the line all season, connecting on just 65.1 percent of their free-throw tries — a figure that ranks 11th in the SEC and 267th out of 346 teams in Division I.

"That's huge," senior center Vernon Macklin said. "The bad part about it is we actually work on free throws a lot."

Coach Billy Donovan and his staff have been stressing the importance of free throws throughout the season and have been trying to work on correcting the problem in practice.

In many instances, the coaches have attempted to generate pressure situations for their players, usually by requiring them to make a certain number of free throws to move on to the next

segment of practice.

But as much as the coaches try to fix the problem, there is only so much that can be done as a group.

"It's the only thing not team. We just got to go out there and individually, just make free throws," senior forward Chandler Parsons said.

While guards Walker and Kenny Boynton have combined to shoot 75.8 percent from the line, frontcourt starters Macklin, Parsons and Alex Tyus hit just 54.9 percent as a unit.

This deficiency can be a major detriment to UF, as frontcourt players are more likely to be fouled as defenses look to prevent easy looks close to the basket.

"A lot of times, being a great free-throw shooting team has

to do with how well your frontcourt players shoot it," Donovan said. "Tyus, Macklin and Parsons, they're on the floor, and they're going to continue to get fouled a lot."

Macklin in particular has been a questionable free-throw shooter his entire career.

The senior center is shooting 41 percent from the line this season after connecting on 58.8 percent of last year's attempts and 31 percent of his shots in two years at Georgetown.

These struggles have prevented Donovan from using Macklin in late-game situations, as teams are likely to foul him intentionally in order to extend games.

"Vernon Macklin, his whole career, has not been a great free-throw shooter," Donovan said. "And I wish I had a magic potion to make him a 90 or 85 percent free-throw shooter, but it's not going to happen."



Men's Basketball

UF looks to future after losses

W-HOOPS, from page 14

ton University. Then, searching for their first true road win of the season against Auburn on Jan. 6, the Gators allowed a 22-9 Tigers run in the final 6:43 that again erased a five-point halftime lead.

While the losses are troubling, captain Jordan Jones isn't focused on the past. Instead, Jones is choosing to turn her attention to the team's next challenge.

"We have a tough team coming into the O'Dome on Thursday," Jones said of No. 19 Kentucky. "It's going to be a test for us to

bounce back, to come to work on Tuesday and get this right."

Jones


The Wildcats (13-4, 2-2 SEC) have won two straight conference games after a three-game skid, and they possess the talent to extend Florida's losing streak to three games.

"[The loss against Georgia] is a heartbreaker," Jones said. "But you find out how good you are and how mature you are ... in how you bounce back."

QB John Brantley — 200 of 329 (60.8 percent), 2061 yards, 9 TDs, 10 INTs, 116.36 rating
CB Janoris Jenkins — 3 INTs, 68 return yards, 1 TD; 8 pass breakups, 44 tackles, 6 tackles for loss; 1 sack; 18 punt returns, 150 yards
Defensive Line Coach Bryant Young — San Jose State defensive line coach, 2010; Notre Dame defensive graduate assistant, 2009; San Francisco 49ers defensive lineman, 1994-2007

FLORIDA FOOTBALL

Who's Out

FS Will Hill — 2 INTs, 102 yards; 1 pass breakup; 1 forced fumble; 54 tackles, 2 tackles for loss

Alexander Silva / Alligator Staff

Gators more focused on routines than scores early in season

GYM, from page 14

that I did in practice because it's been pretty solid there."

Caquatto scored a 9.725 for her routine. Even with her performance, the scores on beam for the squad were lower than usual, as sophomore Ashanée Dickerson earned an uncharacteristic 9.550.

Dickerson said her performance resulted from her getting ahead of herself and rushing through her routine.

"I thought they did well," Faehn said of her beam lineup. "I thought some of the rou-

tines were better than what the score showed. However, we're not really concerned with the scores. We look at how the athletes are doing."

Johnson also said she doesn't look at her scores during meets, but she continued to make Gators history against Kentucky by scoring a 9.950 in vault, making her one of four freshmen for Florida to do so.

"Mackenzie and Alaina are top, elite athletes," Faehn said. "With that comes a lot of experience under high-pressure situations. It's nice to see they don't get rattled in the warm-ups and that carried over into the competition. It brings a calming effect to the other athletes

"We're not really concerned with the scores. We look at how the athletes are doing."

Rhonda Faehn
UF gymnastics coach

as well."

Friday's meet also allowed for some gymnasts to gain experience in areas outside of their comfort zones. Junior Nicole Ellis completed her floor routine, which she hasn't done since her senior year of high school, Faehn said. Ellis finished with a 9.750 for her

performance.

The Gators' newest roster addition, freshman Jade Wiggins, made her collegiate gymnastics debut, performing in beam and uneven parallel bars. Though Wiggins fell in her bars routine, Faehn said she has only been training with the team for less than a week.

"We really wanted to get her out there to give her a chance to see not only how she'd perform, but she has to get out there," Faehn said. "It's better to do it at home than at a road meet. She needs more numbers under her belt, more training in our environment and our pressure situations in the gym. I really think she'll start to come around."

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FREE Wells and Drafts DJ SHEA in XS