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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2011

Lowe praises city, says hard cuts loom

■ GAINESVILLE FACES AN \$8.3 MILLION DEFICIT IN THE UPCOMING BUDGET.

By **CJ PRUNER**
 Alligator Staff Writer

After a year marked by new innovations, budget cuts, hot-button issues and a national standoff between the city and a controversial local church, Gainesville has much to look forward to in the upcoming year, Mayor Craig Lowe said in his address Tuesday.

In his first State of the City address, held at the Hippodrome State Theatre, Lowe praised the community for its character and its resilience in the face of what he described as “tough choices.”

“The obstacles of the past year were not easy to overcome,” Lowe said. “But we addressed them head on and moved forward because we are committed to making this city great.”

Some of the toughest challenges facing Gainesville residents involve the tightening budget.

Despite slicing \$10 million in spending, the city is projected to run into an \$8.3 million deficit for the 2011-12 fiscal years.

“It’s safe to say that the low-hanging fruit has been harvested,” Lowe said. “We were left with few choices for balancing the budget and none of them were easy.”

Instead of dwelling on these figures, Lowe spent most of his time propping up his vision of a city saving taxpayers money, pointing to the city’s traf-



Jesse Lash / Alligator

Mayor Craig Lowe gives his State of the City address in the Hippodrome on Tuesday afternoon. Lowe addressed the city’s budget woes as well as future plans like Innovation Square and a bus rapid transit system.

SEE CITY, PAGE 9

AROUND GAINESVILLE

Bus pass program expands

HANNAH WINSTON
 Alligator Writer

Regional Transit System is trying to make a bigger impact on the Gainesville community by updating current programs for its passengers.

RTS is continuing its close work with UF by extending its Employee Bus Pass Program to more than 2,200 retired UF faculty and staff who live in the Gainesville area, according to RTS spokesman Chip Skinner.

The program, which began in 2000, allows businesses and companies with more than 100 staff members to purchase year-round, unlimited passes for employees. The cost per individual with the program is \$6.75. Individuals not on the program must pay \$35 a month.

RTS is also continuing its environmentally

conscious campaign by adding a decorative wrapping on its hybrid Ford Escape to make the public aware of its work. The car, with the image of vines sprawling from the gas cap, is used by RTS for employees to go to various meetings and public outreach events. Skinner said they are looking to buy more hybrids for the future.

“RTS and Gainesville are trying to help the environment not only locally but globally.”

Chip Skinner
 RTS spokesman

“It shows that RTS and Gainesville are trying to help the environment not only locally but globally,” he said.

SG presidential candidates named

By **ELIZABETH BEHRMAN**
 Alligator Staff Writer

The candidates for the next Student Body president have something to say about block tuition.

Student Senate President Ben Meyers, a member of the Unite Party, and Progress Party President Dave Schneider formally announced Tuesday that they

will be running for Student Body president.

Both candidates said their platforms will focus heavily on the opposition on the block tuition, which would charge students a flat-rate tuition no matter the number of credit hours they

Student Government

SEE SG, PAGE 9

■ Florida guard Erving Walker (right) missed two free throws late in regulation but sank a 30-footer, sending the game into double overtime, when UF pulled away for the win. See Story, Page 14.



Grand piano shows up mysteriously on sandbar in Biscayne Bay

MIAMI — A grand piano recently showed up on a sandbar in Miami’s Biscayne Bay, about 200 yards from condominiums on the shore.

The piano, which weighs at least 650 pounds, was placed at the highest spot along the sandbar so it doesn’t get underwater during high tide.

While officials aren’t sure how it got there, they know it won’t be going anywhere unless it becomes a hazard to wildlife

or boaters.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission spokesman Jorge Pino says the agency is not responsible for moving such items.

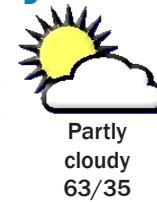
And, he adds, unless it becomes a navigational hazard, the U.S. Coast Guard won’t get involved.

For now, the piano has become a fancy roost for seagulls.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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visit www.alligator.org

News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Peace Corps Competitive

Applicant Globe Talk

Today, 6:30 p.m.

Hub International Center

Have you ever thought of applying to the Peace Corps? Ever wondered what it takes to be a competitive applicant? The answers are waiting for you at the first GlobeTalk of the spring semester. A panel of returned Peace Corps volunteers will be sharing their experiences and answering any questions you may have at the Competitive Applicant GlobeTalk.

Study in Europe this summer

Today, 4 p.m.

Turlington Hall 3312

Come enjoy pizza while learning about study abroad programs in Krakow, Brussels and Salzburg.

Meet faculty and students and get all the details about dates, cost and scholarships. Sponsored by the Center for European Studies. For more info, call 392-8902.

RUB presents Ghost Hunter Jeff Belanger

Today, 8 p.m.

Rion Ballroom

One of the most prolific paranormal researchers today, Jeff has published a dozen books in six languages, including the best-seller "The World's Most Haunted Places," and is a series writer for the Travel Channel's "Ghost Adventures." Come see him speak about paranormal investigations and the equipment they entail as well as how to start a group and present your findings.

Poker Tournament

Friday, 7 p.m.

The Vault

Join Pledge 5 Foundation for its second-annual "Taking

FORECAST

TODAY



PARTLY
CLOUDY
63/35

THURSDAY



SUNNY
61/35

FRIDAY



SUNNY
62/38

SATURDAY



SUNNY
66/40

SUNDAY



SUNNY
68/44

"It Off for Charity" Poker Tournament. Play for free or donate \$20 for a VIP wristband that gets you free wings and beer, a tournament T-shirt, participation in the raffle and access to the band. Get \$5 off if you donate your gently used clothing at the door. All clothes will benefit St. Francis House and Goodwill.

Qualifying for SG Spring 2011 Election

Friday, Monday and Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Reitz Union room 284

You need your Gator 1 Card, or have a picture ID and know your UFID number. If you have any questions, email Amanda Griffin, supervisor of elections at elections@sg.ufl.edu. Student Body Election will be held Feb. 22 and 23.

Dance Marathon Spring Registration

Through Feb. 3

Help make miracles happen and register to dance for Dance Marathon 2011. Dancers do not need to be registered through or be part of an organization to participate in this event. Visit Dance Marathon's website at www.floridadm.org to register or make a donation.

Got something going on?

Want to see it in this space? Send an e-mail with "What's Happening" in the subject line to ebhrman@alligator.org. Please model your sub-

missions after above events. Improperly formatted "What's Happening" submissions may not appear in the paper. Press releases will not appear in the paper.

STATE

Scott pulls back Fla. redistricting amendments

TALLAHASSEE — A spokesman for Gov. Rick Scott has confirmed he quietly pulled back a request for federal approval of two new redistricting amendments to the Florida Constitution.

Brian Huges on Tuesday said the new Republican governor acted just days after taking office Jan. 4 as part of his freeze on new state rules pending review by the new administration.

The Justice Department must approve election law changes to ensure they are not discriminatory.

Supporters of the Fair Districts amendments, which voters adopted in November, cried foul. Florida Democratic Party Chairman Rod Smith said the withdrawal was "shameful."

Huges, though, said there will be plenty of time to get the amendments approved before redistricting is completed next year.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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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Obama: US will 'move forward together or not at all'



AP Photo

President Obama is applauded by House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio and Vice President Joe Biden during the State of the Union address.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Pleading for unity in a newly divided government, President Barack Obama implored Democratic and Republican lawmakers to rally behind his vision of economic revival for an anxious nation, declaring in his State of the Union address Tuesday night: "We will move forward together or not at all."

The president unveiled an agenda of carefully balanced political goals: a burst of spending on education, research, technology and transportation to make the nation more competitive, alongside pledges, in the strongest terms of his presidency, to cut the deficit and smack down spending deemed wasteful to America. Yet he never explained how he'd pull that off or what specifically would be cut.

Obama spoke to a television audience in the millions and a Congress sobered by the assassination attempt against one of its own members, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. Her seat sat empty, and many lawmakers of competing parties sat together in a show of support and civility. Yet differences were still evident, as when Democrats stood to applaud his comments on health care and tax cuts while Republicans next to them sat mute.

In his best chance of the year to connect with the country, Obama devoted most of his hour-long prime-time address to the economy, the issue that dominates concern in a nation still reeling from a monster recession — and the one that will shape his own political fortunes in

the 2012 election.

Eager to show some budget toughness, Obama pledged to veto any bill with earmarks, the term used for lawmakers' pet projects. House Speaker John Boehner and other Republicans applauded. But Obama's promise drew a rebuke from his own party even before he spoke, as Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said the president had enough power and that plans to ban earmarks were "a lot of pretty talk."

Obama's proposals Tuesday night ranged across the scope of government: cutting the corporate tax, providing wireless services for almost the whole nation, consolidating government agencies and freezing most discretionary federal spending for the next five years. In the overarching theme of his speech, the president told the lawmakers: "The future is ours to win."

In essence, Obama reset his agenda as he heads toward a re-election bid with less clout and limited time before the campaign consumes more attention.

The Senate's Republican leader, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, said the president had gotten the message from the November midterm elections and "changed the tone and the rhetoric from the first two years."

Obama entered the House chamber to prolonged applause, and to the unusual sight of Republicans and Democrats seated next to one another rather than on different sides of the center aisle. And he began with a political grace note, taking a moment to congratulate Boeh-

ner, the new Republican speaker of the House.

Calling for a new day of cooperation, Obama said: "What comes of this moment will be determined not by whether we can sit together tonight but whether we can work together tomorrow."

On a night typically known for its political theater, the lawmakers sometimes seemed subdued, as if still in the shadow of the Arizona shootings.

Many in both parties wore black-and-white lapel ribbons, signifying the deaths in Tucson and the hopes of the survivors. Giffords' husband was watching the speech from her bedside, as he held her hand.

Halfway through his term, Obama stepped into this moment on the upswing, with a series of recent legislative wins in his pocket and praise from all corners for the way he responded to the shooting rampage in Arizona. But he confronts the political reality is that he must to lead a divided government for the first time, with more than half of all Americans disapproving of the way he is handling the economy.

Over his shoulder a reminder of the shift in power on Capitol Hill: Boehner, in the seat that had been held by Democratic Speaker Nancy Pelosi. In a speech with little focus on national security, Obama appeared to close the door on keeping any significant U.S. military presence in Iraq beyond the end of the year. "This year, our civilians will forge a lasting partnership with the Iraqi people while we finish the job of bringing our troops out of Iraq," the president said.

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Senators talk labor policies

By **CHELSEA HULL**
Alligator Writer

Student Senators had a long discussion about labor rights during their meeting

this week.

Senators passed a resolution Tuesday night urging Publix to support a code of conduct outlined by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers.

"Justice is not 50 cents for a 32-pound bucket of tomatoes," said Senator Cassia Laham, who helped draft the resolution.

Oscar Otzoy, a member of the coalition, shared his personal experiences with the working conditions of the immigrant farm workers. His testimony was translated by Mark Rodriguez.

"Our basic rights are not respected," Otzoy said. "We receive wages which are below the poverty level. All we want is for Publix to do the same thing that other companies have done."

Nine other food retailers, including McDonald's, Subway and Whole Foods have signed similar agreements demanding better working conditions in their supply chains, according to the resolution.

Another resolution supporting graduate assistants' rights to have a labor union achieved almost unanimous consent.

The resolution was written in response to recently introduced Florida legislation amending union requirements which, if passed, would invalidate the current union, Graduate Assistants United.

"Graduate Assistants United represents the people who come out in the rain and teach our classes, grade our papers and ultimately help make our degrees as valuable as they are," said former Progress Party Sen. Dave Schneider.



Dana Burke / Alligator Staff

Progress Party President Dave Schneider speaks in favor of graduate assistants' right to have a union at the Student Senate meeting on Tuesday night.

Study: UF students not learning much

By **ALEX ORLANDO**
Alligator Writer

pared with 59 percent of students at other universities.

You're probably not learning as much in college as you should be.

That's what "Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses" suggests about students today. The book is a study of 2,300 students in four-year colleges, which found that 45 percent of students did not improve their learning skills by the end of sophomore year. Thirty-two percent of students are not taking classes that require more than 40 pages of reading or 20 pages of writing per semester.

Would that be the case at UF?

"It certainly would," said Jeanna Mastrodicasa, assistant vice president for student affairs.

The culprits, she said, are students who enroll in classes with smaller course loads, favoring a high GPA over a challenge.

"Our students definitely pursue the path of least resistance," she said.

But these trends aren't new, Mastrodicasa said.

In a survey conducted by Student Experience in the Research University, researchers found that 46 percent of UF students were spending more than 11 hours a week studying or working on homework, com-

The same study found that 75 percent of UF students spend more than 11 hours a week in classes or labs compared with 86 percent of students at other universities.

Those were compared with 30 percent of UF students who said they spent more than six hours a week partying, as opposed to 22 percent of students who do the same at other universities.

Kevin Knudson, UF honors program director, said he attributes the lack of learning to students who choose to use their first two years for review.

For example, a student who scored a five on his or her Advanced Placement calculus test in high school might elect to take the same class in college as a review for an "easy A" or to prolong his or her stay.

"College is fun, right? Students don't want to leave early," he said.

Andrew Daw, a freshman taking 13 credits this semester, said he can understand why other students might not be making educational gains. He pointed to easy general education electives and a sense of freedom for freshmen.

"You have the ability to be apathetic," he said.

UF Research

Business research bureau's population estimate was spot on

By **ALLISON BANKO**
Alligator Writer

An estimate of Florida's population conducted by a UF research center was accurate within two tenths of a percent in comparison with the actual U.S. Census Bureau's counts released for 2010.

The Bureau of Economic and Business Research, part of UF's Warrington College of Business Administration, found Florida's population to be 18,772,352, only a slight difference to the census's count of 18,801,310 people.

According to Stanley Smith, the bureau's program director

and UF economics professor, estimates in years past fell around percentage errors of 1.6 to 1.8 percent. This year's difference is the lowest the bureau has ever reached.



Smith

"It validates our methodology," Smith said. "It shows that what we've been doing has been very accurate, probably about as accurate as you can get."

According to Smith, the bureau has a contract with the Florida Legislature to produce population estimates throughout the state for distribution of state revenue sharing dollars and bud-

geting purposes.

Collecting the data is a yearlong process that the bureau has been doing for more than 40 years to produce annual figures.

"It takes a lot of effort," Smith said. "We have one person that works basically year-round on collecting data and corresponding with local areas. Then, I spend quite a bit of time as well on producing the estimates in certain times of the year. It takes a great deal of effort to come up with that."

The bureau also produces population counts for cities and counties throughout the state, but those figures from the U.S. Census will not be released until February. Thus, the bureau's accuracy in that area has not yet been calculated.

Walmart launches national program to sell healthier food

■ THE COMPANY WANTS TO MAKE BRANDS HEALTHIER.

By **LEILA MILGRIM**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Walmart is taking measures to make a healthier lifestyle more available to its customers.

CEO Bill Simon said that because Walmart has more than 140 million customers visit each week, it is "uniquely positioned to make a difference" by making food healthier and cheaper.

First lady Michelle Obama joined forces with the company to formu-

late a program Walmart will implement over the next 10 years to encourage shoppers to eat healthier.

Anne Mathews, research assistant scientist in the department of food science and human nutrition at UF, was invited by Walmart to attend a teleconference discussing its new initiative. Mathews said by 2015, Walmart plans to make significant changes in its branded foods specifically.

She said Walmart plans to eliminate trans fats and reduce sugar and sodium from its products.

Mathews, a registered dietician, said she feels Walmart's initiative is worthwhile. She said she hopes it

"Not only will this help out people who eat unhealthy foods, but it will also help people who eat healthy, like me, to save money on their grocery bills."

Johan Bueno
Local shopper

can make a difference.

Walmart is focusing on making sure staple food items like canned goods, mixes, yogurts, drinks and bread are nutritional and healthier.

"In society today, families strug-

gle to shop for easily prepared meals," Mathews said. "So anything we can do to make easily accessed options healthier is great."

The part of Walmart's initiative that Mathews is most excited about is the company's plan to lower the cost of fruits and vegetables.

"Small studies have shown that people don't buy fruits and vegetables because they are so expensive, and processed food items are cheaper," Mathews said. "If fruits and vegetables are more accessible to more people, to me that is the most important part of the initiative."

Nineteen-year-old Johan Bueno said that by lowering the prices of

healthy food items, Walmart will become a more appealing grocery store to people who feel they can't afford to make a lifestyle change in.

"I feel like many people are forced to eat unhealthy because health food stores are so expensive, and then they feel like they can't afford healthier options," Bueno said.

He said he thinks Walmart's image could improve substantially from this initiative if Walmart's advertising strategy promotes it well.

"Not only will this help out people who eat unhealthy foods, but it will also help people who eat healthy, like me, to save money on their grocery bills," Bueno said.

Students discuss sustainability practices at summit

BY SKYLAR RAMSEY
Alligator Contributing Writer

Ideas to improve sustainability on college campuses were shared among students from seven different universities at the first Florida Student Sustainability Summit on Tuesday.

The two-day event hosted by Gators Going Green kicked off with 25 students in the Reitz Union.

Taylor Cremo, the co-director of programming for Gators Going Green, said the summit was a chance for student leaders around the state of Florida to come together and discuss sustainability.

Cremo said a greater push for change is created when students come together from many schools in Florida instead of just one campus.

"Sustainability as a whole can only be achieved if it is a concerted effort," she said.

In addition to the development of new ideas, the summit will address environmental policy proposals like the Student Green Energy Fund as it continues today, said Bailey Kilbourne, agency director of Gators Going Green.

The Student Green Energy Fund would impose a minimal fee to fund renewable energy projects on campus.

Some UF students are already coming up with new ideas for their action plan to help create a more sustainable campus.

Mark Grafton, a marketing senior with a minor in sustainability, helped start a new organization called Intellectual Decisions on Environmental Awareness Solutions.

The organization hopes to make a big impact with a new project called T-Totes.

"We are building a bike-powered sewing machine right now," Grafton said.

The bike-powered sewing machine will be used to sew together old T-shirts to make reusable tote bags.

Grafton would like to share his ideas with some of the other environmental organizations at UF.

"I think it'd be cool to have the leaders of all the sustainable organizations here on campus talking about what their doing and about their specific organization," Grafton said.



Max Reed / Alligator Staff

Lynn Scarlett discusses future opportunities of green careers during a speech about "Conservation in an Era of Scarcity" to a group of students and faculty at the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom on Tuesday night. Scarlett is the former deputy secretary and chief operating officer of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Commissioners may take cleanup case to Washington

■ THE ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION WILL ASK SENATORS BILL NELSON AND MARCO RUBIO TO GET INVOLVED.

By MEREDITH RUTLAND
Alligator Writer

The Alachua County Commission is frustrated about the Cabot-Koffers Superfund site clean up, so it may take its case to

the nation's capital.

"Help us," Lee Pinkoson, chairman of the commission, said to Marion Turner, a liaison between the Commission and Washington D.C.

Turner said that a decision about how the site will be cleaned up has been delayed by the Environmental Protection Agency for more than a decade.

He offered a solution.

Turner suggested organizing a meeting where Gainesville, Alachua County and

federal officials, namely Sens. Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio, can have the opportunity to sit down and discuss the Superfund cleanup with the EPA.



Wheat

done or the county's water supply may be in jeopardy.

"Your objective is to embarrass the hell out of the people in Washington who haven't been doing a damn thing for a very long time," Wheat said to the commissioners.

Commissioner Paula Delaney said that the Commission should have sat down with the EPA years ago.

"It does seem like we haven't gotten anywhere," she said.

"I do think it's time to start chewing on people,"



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Editorial

State of Unity

Speech shows parties can reach compromise

We anticipated most of the talking points and even the tone of the State of the Union address Tuesday night. Two things have caught us off guard, however.

The first was the manner in which we had to watch the speech — on our computers and some of us from our homes. Our office lost power, and we used our limited resources to bring the paper together.

As surprising as the outage was, we were more taken aback by an overarching spirit of compromise in both President Obama's speech and the Republican response as delivered by Rep. Paul Ryan.

Both sides seemed to agree to cut government spending in many of the same places.

They agreed that this is the time to act.

This isn't to say we didn't see some pursed lips, near-eyerolls or worried faces.

However, we did notice several appeals from either side overlapping, most of which concern the economy and would, if executed correctly, help the American people.

Yet, as the President said, "What comes of this moment will be determined not by whether we can sit together tonight, but whether we can work together tomorrow."

For all his semi-funny jokes and awkward pauses, this rang true for us.

Obama laid out guidelines for what he would and would not concede in each topic he discussed, including government spending, health care and Social Security.

He also guaranteed he would veto any bill on his desk marred by earmarks, a measure Majority Leader Harry Reid has already questioned.

We're ready to call the idea into question too, given the prominence of the practice, but we're glad to see the president looking to both sides of the aisle for ideas to improve the country.

Perhaps the speech was more toned down and agreeable because of the Tucson shootings, which the President addressed briefly in his introduction.

With the spotlight turned to political rhetoric, many of the speech attendees will be under pressure to play nice — at least in public.

There's also the possibility that Obama wants a way to say "it wasn't me" if warranted legislation stalls.

He's set the tone for compromise, making it difficult to get egg on his face later this year.

For all the talk, Americans want results and action.

What the president says is less important to us than what he and Congress accomplish.

Even more vital than that are the results from their achievements, which, we hope, are new jobs. No matter which side of the aisle we sit on, college students everywhere want to know we will be able to find a job and support ourselves after we take off that cap and gown and frame our diplomas.

We live in a results-based society where few benefit from merely trying. We must do, and so must our politicians.

Otherwise, like other people failing to do their job and to produce the expected results, our leaders may find themselves out of work.

the independent florida
alligator

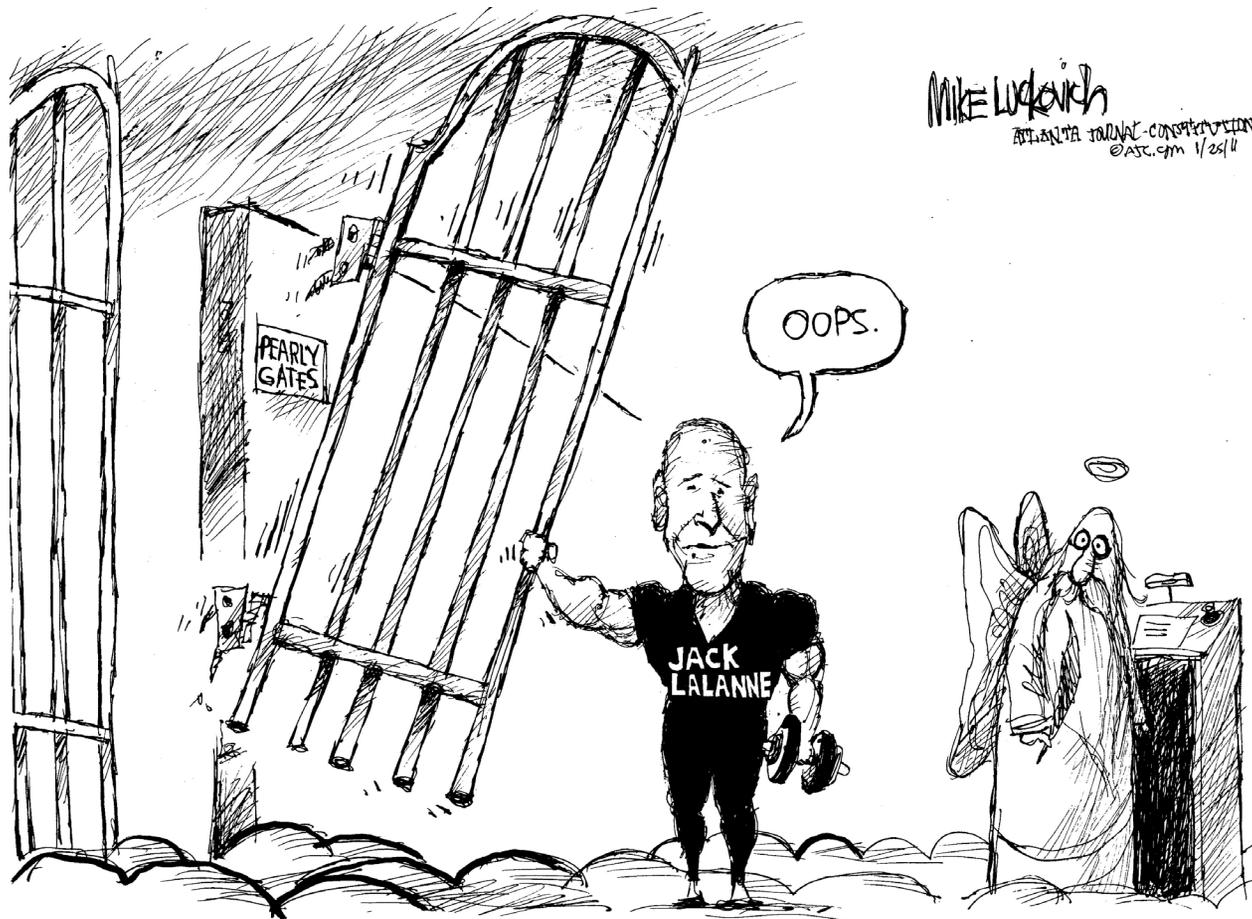
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Opinions

ALLIGATOR
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Column

Remakes pollute Hollywood magic

Within the next week, I will hear the phrase "the book was better." While I usually agree if it's a book I have read, I'll be honest and say that unless it's a hyped-up children's series not involving vampires, or a trilogy directed by Peter Jackson, there are few books I've ever read that have film adaptations. I suppose that's why some books get made into movies — so the stories they tell can be digested in less than two hours and I can get back to more important things, like choosing what combination of outerwear I want to lug around as the Florida weather covers every temperature and humidity level in the span of a day.

The adaptation of books to films makes sense from a business standpoint. Investment in the film industry is risky, but with potentially great rewards, including standing as a legacy engrained in the collective cultural mind. To this end, when going out on a limb and mashing together famous actors with a capable crew and director, it helps to have a story your audience already knows via a book. This makes sense.

The mentality also makes sense if you take it a step further and look at the concept of the remake. Remember that old movie from the '70s about a kid who goes to a candy factory and wins a grand prize because he has a pure heart? Let's remake it and have Johnny Depp bounce around the screen like the love-child of Oscar Wilde and a drag queen. The people love him, and they can't get enough feel-good kids' movies. The remake is a safe venture because, like the book adaptations, you already have a sampling of the film's potential success. Even if your movie is terrible, you can guarantee a core audience of original-version lovers who will put up with your butchery at least once. You will at least break even.

This results in rampant unoriginality in the entertainment business. We need to be more critical of how we spend our free time and what we decide to throw our money at.

Bad remakes are also happening with foreign films com-

Wesley Campbell
letters@alligator.org

ing to the U.S. Original, beautiful films get the "Hollywood treatment" and are made worse when re-written and shot for a U.S. audience. It's like scrubbing away any semblance of foreign culture to make the story more digestible. Among the myriad of vampire stories these past few years, there is an amazingly dark and mesmerizing foreign vampire film set in a suburb of Stockholm, Sweden, called "Let the Right One In." All the violence happens off-screen, and it gives you shivers you'd forgotten you missed. But it's not in English, and therefore not good enough for a U.S. audience, so millions were spent re-shooting and changing it. Now you are left with "Let Me In," an inferior movie.

Remakes in entertainment have their successes, some most notably in television — look at The Office. But re-branding should annoy you. With music, would you pay an equal amount to see an American Radiohead cover band as you would Radiohead themselves? The concept is absurd. Why the film industry decides the message of a movie is untranslatable is beyond me. The music industry has no problem here. But I say this ignoring some differences. Difficulty is one. I could easily freestyle a pop song but couldn't come up with an equivalent to "Gattaca" off the top of my head. The original movies coming out of Hollywood are the best they can come up with. No wonder there are so many re-makes.

In the end, I'd lay my chips with the quick re-makes over recent reality television. Some shows look like the casting directors closed their eyes, pointed to a few disorders in the DSM-IV, screened out everyone with a triple digit IQ and then made Teen Mom, Hoarders, Jersey Shore, et al. I just came up with a new show: a pregnant Jersey girl with a machismo boyfriend who hoards military memorabilia. It will be called Grenades.

Wesley Campbell is a fifth-year English student. His column appears on Wednesdays.

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

Reader response

Today's question: Did you watch the State of the Union address?

Tuesday's question: Should the state allow guns on college campuses?

31% YES
69% NO
144 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

Guest column

Gun control groups distort facts, ignore Constitution

I commend Sarah Poser for a balanced article on the allowing guns on campus in the Monday issue of the Alligator. However, Brian Malte's quote, "The more outrage there is, the more the gun lobby starts to retreat." The gun lobby is composed of the NRA and Second Amendment supporters. And, "Without a lot of protest, there is a chance the gun lobby could shove it through," Malte said.

Quite the contrary. Malte's statement is deceptive. Whenever the NRA or mere gun owners show outrage over more proposed limits to gun ownership, the gun control lobby retreats. They are continually losing out with their agendas to place more restrictions on gun ownership. The gun control lobby, including The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence — a deceptive name for a major gun control organization — is notorious for quoting deceptive figures and statistics about gun violence in their anti-gun propaganda. They exaggerate the figures about gun violence to make it look like the misuse of firearms is actually worse than it actually is. I noticed that Kyle R. Mitchell used some of these deceptive numbers in his letter to the editor. The fact that the gun control lobby and its allies, such as the CDC, exaggerate the figures and are losing the battle over gun control can be verified from several sources including the NRA and Gun Owners of America. Like the majority in the gun control lobby, Brian Malte is attempting to stir up trouble so more limits to private gun ownership will be made into laws under the current Obama regime. These people loathe and hate guns and the Second Amendment, often for no more of a reason than the fact guns simply exist. Don't believe Malte's false statements.

After thinking it over, do not lean toward the open carry of guns on Florida campuses. If guns were to be carried at all, besides those used by university police, concealed carry would be a better option. However, I know if Senate Bill 234 passes, the gun control supporters and those on the left would have a fit and start making up claims about open or concealed

August Lee Speaking Out

carry of guns. Some are already doing so. I am neither a member of the NRA nor Gun Owners of America. I don't belong to the Tea Party. I am simply an American who believes in and supports the Constitution as it is and as it was originally meant to be. People who apply for gun permits are required by state law to go through gun training safety courses and to become familiar with the various requirements surrounding carrying a handgun with a permit.

Permits are not issued willy-nilly to someone just because they own a handgun or want to carry it either openly or concealed. These people have various requirements that they must meet and abide by, including that said people must be 21 or older. That in itself would rule out a majority of Florida college students acquiring such permits. Permits are not issued to everyone. There are those who have been denied a permit due to a criminal past, drug use or mental instability. On that note, there are about 165 million gun owners in the U.S. About 40 million of the owners are military veterans and over six million are combat veterans. Florida has issued nearly two million permits since adopting its concealed carry laws in 1987, and it had more than 760,000 licensed permit holders as of Oct. 31, 2010. How many of these gun owners have actually committed gun crimes or turned Florida or the United States into the Wild West? I think a lot of the gun control supporters have watched too much TV and too many movies.

Besides that, the vast majority of the millions of guns in this nation have never been used in any sort of crime. The private ownership of guns by Americans has even struck fear into our enemies past and present. It is said that during World War II, the highest ranking admiral in the Imperial Japanese Navy, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, believed any attempt by Japanese forces to invade the U.S. would fail because, according to him, there would be a rifle behind every blade of

grass. This is one of the main reasons the U.S. has never been invaded by an enemy military force since the War of 1812. Contrary to what Nicole Iovine feels and stated in her letter to the editor, guns are not antiquated. They are still useful for self-defense, hunting, recreational target shooting or curio collecting. She appears to lack a basic understanding of guns and seems to fear them, which is not uncommon seeing how many who fear guns get their ideas from an anti-gun media, the gun control lobby and movies or TV. Many who once feared guns overcame their fear by actually taking the time to learn by taking gun training and safety courses. If properly used, stored, maintained and treated with the proper respect, they are not the evil tools they have been made out to be. Sadly, some are misused, like in the cases of the Tucson shooter or the Virginia Tech shooting.

These incidents should be examples as to why concealed carry should be allowed without restrictions. If there had been trained concealed carry gun owners in Tucson or at Virginia Tech, things would have turned out differently, and there would not have been as many people dead. Cops can't read minds and can't be everywhere at once, even though that seems to be a common belief. It's up to the individuals to defend themselves, their loved ones or those around them, no matter the form of self-defense. The Second Amendment to our great Constitution states that "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." The Second Amendment is not strictly referring to law enforcement, security guards, private security personnel or the military only. It states "the people." Period. And the Second Amendment it is not just referring to guns. I would like to know what part of "shall not be infringed" the gun control supporters and anti-gun politicians do not understand. I also wonder what would happen if politicians or political groups tried to put limits on the gun control lobby's First Amendment rights of free speech.

August Lee is a Gainesville resident.

Guest column

Concealed weapon carry not a threat to campus security

To quote James Madison: "Americans have the right and advantage of being armed - unlike citizens of other countries whose governments are afraid to trust the people with arms." On Tuesday, the Alligator published a letter regarding the Florida Senate bill that would legalize concealed carry on campus. Most of the arguments presented in this letter, and by gun control advocates nationwide, play upon common fears and misconceptions people hold about firearms and

their place on college campuses.

Letters like that one use scare tactics and ignore facts, envisioning a fictional campus where the threat of being shot is perpetual. And yet, there are 70 campuses in the U.S. which allow concealed carry, including all public universities in the state of Utah. To date, there are no recorded cases of any gun-related crime by a student with a lawfully attained concealed carry permit.

The simple fact is that many gun critics

Jacob Kupp Speaking Out

are unaware of the importance of allowing citizens their right to arms. Permitting citizens to legally arm themselves is essential to maintaining the peace: In Florida, murder rates have dropped 26 percent after concealed carry permits began being issued in 1987. Washington, D.C., however, remains the most poignant example, where, with prohibitively strict gun laws up to 2008, the murder rate was almost

five times the national average. The reason is that citizens with lawfully bought firearms are not the ones committing crimes; surveys of inmates reported that 80 percent of their weapons came from family, friends, street purchases and other illegal sources. Despite regulations, criminals will find guns. One of the letters asked, "How am I supposed to defend myself against gun-toting individuals?" The answer is simple: Fire back.

Jacob Kupp is a UF student.

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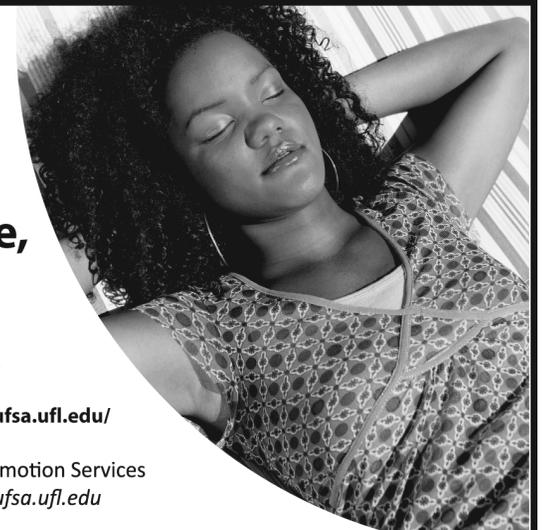
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Get More Zzzzzzzzzzzzz's

Chefs demonstrate European cooking

By **RACHEL STEPHENS**
Alligator Contributing Writer

You don't have to travel half-way around the world to experience authentic European culture. In fact, you don't even have to leave Gainesville.

A series of authentic European cooking classes, sponsored by the UF Center for European Studies, will start Thursday evening.

Turkish, Slovak, Bosnian/French and Hungarian classes form the new line-up for this semester. A native from each country will be co-teaching classes along with the head chef of Take Away Gourmet, a local catering business.

Classes are spread out over the next few months and will take place at Take Away Gourmet, 3345 SW 34th St.

The series offers a unique learning experience, according to the center's outreach coordinator,

Gail Keeler.

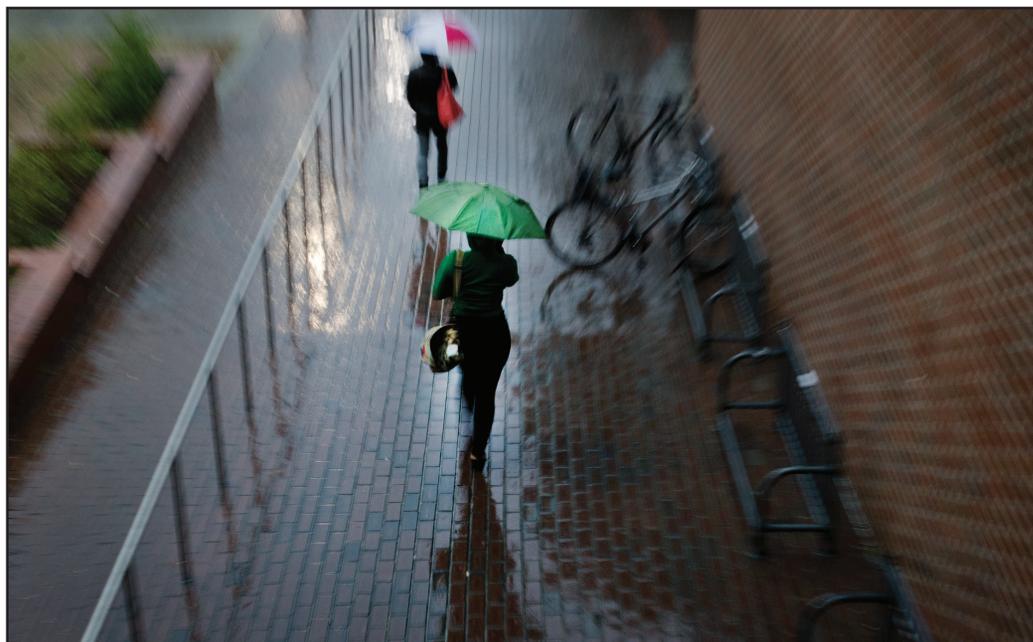
"There's ritual and a lot of rich tradition that are handed down through generations in terms of recipes," she said.

Because of demand, Take Away Gourmet has expanded and rearranged to accommodate more participants this semester. Ten students are now allowed in each class, compared to eight students per class last semester.

Registration is still open, but classes are filling up quickly. People who took the class last semester were the first to register this time, Keeler said.

Classes are open to vegetarians and vegans. Students can check the recipes for the class they are interested in online to see if it contains foods they can't eat.

Each class costs \$25. Anyone may register for a cooking class online at takeawaygourmet4u.com.



Max Reed / Alligator Staff

Rain, rain, go away

Students rush to class as torrential rainfall and thunderstorms cast gray clouds over Gainesville on Tuesday. The storm brought lightning and 1.62 inches of rain, yet the rest of the week should be mostly sunny skies, according to the National Weather Service forecast for Gainesville.

MUSIC

Gainesville musician speaks of blues resurrection

By **ELLIOT EVANS**
Alligator Contributing Writer

The blues are back.

From hearing the electric blues riffs of The Black Keys in commercials to the various projects of 21st century bluesman Jack White, blues music is making its way back into popular culture.

It's all part of a century-long trend of ebbs and flows in popularity for the genre, according to John Rogers, a Gainesville resident who's played guitar for more than 40 years.

Rogers, 67, presented part of "The Roots of American Music" program at a Writers' Alliance of Gainesville meeting to 38 people on Sunday at the Millhopper Branch Library. He developed the presentation as part of North

Central Florida Blues Society's "Blues in the Schools" program.

The presentation gives a brief history of the origins of blues music through storytelling and songs, including some of Rogers' originals, as well as other blues standards.

He started playing guitar when he was 19 while recovering from a foot injury. He bought a \$29 guitar and played the popular folk music of the day.

After graduating from Dartmouth College with an English degree, he moved to Greenwich Village — the famed musicians' haven — to attend New York University. He was exposed to the music that stirred something in him.

"The blues grabbed me by the lapels, spun me around, slammed me down on the ground and said, 'This is the music you're going to

play, boy,'" he said during his presentation.

While in New York, he saw famed blues musician Mississippi John Hurt perform at the Gaslight Cafe, which he said was the best way for him to learn the style.

"The blues grabbed me by the lapels, spun me around, slammed me down on the ground and said, 'This is the music you're going to play, boy.'"

John Rogers
Gainesville resident and guitarist

"I did what every love-struck guitarist does," he said. "I started copying others."

Last year, Rogers recorded his second album, "Old and New, Borrowed and Blue."

In addition to selling his albums at CD-Baby.com, he sells them for \$10 at Satchel's Pizza, 1800 NE 23rd Ave., where he performs monthly. Although he said he has no immediate plans to record any new material, he's trying to expand his "The Roots of American Music" presentation as he approaches retirement from his corporate job.

He said he'll perform a lot during April and May when the music festivals go into full swing. As he continues writing and performing his music, he has also started working on a novel, which he said is just another part of his creativity.

"Nobody really understands the creative process," he said. "As far as I can tell, everyone does it different."

City plans homeless center

By **KAITLYNN FLOYD**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Although Gainesville was ranked as the fifth-meanest city toward the homeless in the U.S. in 2008, developments on the City of Gainesville/Alachua County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness are taking steps in a positive direction.

The next big step is the construction of the One-Stop Homeless Assistance Center. The center will house 68 homeless people and offer several different services.

Alachua County's Poverty Reduction Program Director John Skelly helped start the initiative. Skelly said several of the plan's objectives have had a slow start, but the center is beginning to take action.

"It's not only adding more beds, which is important ... but the transitional house will allow them to stay for six months to a year, and the services will help end their homelessness," he said.

Construction on the center, which will be built on Northwest 53rd Avenue, is planned to

begin this summer and completion is expected summer or fall of 2012. The public will be able to help create this home after construction begins.

Skelly said plans exist to start a website for the center that resembles a registry. People will be able to buy from a list of specific items the center needs.



Finnegan

"Some people used to volunteer at these organizations, and now they are clients," Finnegan said.

In 2010, Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry counted 1,292 people in Gainesville without adequate housing.

Christy Finnegan, executive director of Arbor House, said the center is needed very much and will offer several services including food stamps and support. With the downturn of the economy, Finnegan has noticed homelessness is a growing problem.

Study tests video games' effects on older adults

■ THEY PLAYED "CRAZY TAXI."

By **DIANA JACOBSON**
Alligator Contributing Writer

UF researchers hope to find ways to improve and maintain the mental functions of older adults using something many college students are familiar with — video games.

The Research to Examine Videogame Interventions for Visual Attention study aims to assess whether an action video game can improve visual attention in adults.

Visual attention affects a person's ability to perform tasks such as driving, reading medication labels or finding items in a pantry. Later in life, visual attention declines, but there may be a way to get some of that back.

In the study currently going on at UF, Patricia Belchior and Michael Marsiske are aiming to find a way to

link the use of action video games, in this case "Crazy Taxi," to the visual attentiveness of older adults.

Marsiske said "Crazy Taxi" is a simple game without complicated controls.

"That means that our older adults, all of whom are novice game players, can focus on actually 'driving,' and thereby getting visual attention practice," he said.

The subjects of the study will be

randomly assigned to three different groups. One group of people will play

"Crazy Taxi" to practice their visual attention. The second group will play the PositScience game called InSight. The third group will not receive any visual attention training at all.

Subjects chosen to play "Crazy Taxi" will log about 64 hours of practice time during the approximated seven months they participate in the study.

Protesters rally against meal limit outside speech



Meredith Rutland / Alligator

Protesters chant in front of the Hippodrome State Theater in opposition of the meal limit for serving the homeless on Tuesday while Mayor Craig Lowe gave his State of the City speech.

■ POLICE OFFICERS SAID THE PROTEST WAS CALM.

By MEREDITH RUTLAND
Alligator Writer

About 30 protesters stood outside the Hippodrome Theatre on Tuesday to voice their displeasure for the city's treatment of homeless people as Mayor Craig Lowe gave his State of the City address.

The protest was organized by the Coalition to End the Meal Limit NOW!, a group focused on repealing the 130-meal limit placed on St. Francis House, a Gainesville soup kitchen.

Protesters chanted slogans such as "When did compassion go out of fashion?" and "There is no excuse for homeless abuse."

Some walked silently.

One clanged cowbells.

Volunteers gave away homemade cornbread and vegan chili to the homeless.

"While [the mayor] is giving his State of the City, we want to make sure this aspect of the state of the city

is projected," said Joe Cenker, a member of the coalition.

Gainesville Police Department sent officers to the Hippodrome, but Lt. Tim Hayes said the protest was calm.

"As long as everyone's peacefully protesting, we're not getting involved," he said.

Two citizens who supported the decision to enforce the meal limit were outnumbered as they stood among the opposition.

"I'm all for feeding people," said Jai Levengood, a Gainesville resident who lives near downtown. "I just think one neighborhood is being overly burdened."

Steve Lyons, a resident of St. Francis House, said he's seen children, pregnant women and elderly people turned away for food.

He himself has been turned away twice.

Lyons said he was glad to see that the protesters cared but wasn't sure if the protest itself would change anything.

"I hope it does," he said.

Local News

The mayor said proposed police department merger is non-negotiable

CITY, from page 1

fic management system and the upgraded traffic light system as examples, while still funding services and programs, such as afterschool and mentoring programs.

He also hinted that the city may re-examine some of the cuts made in the past year.

One of the issues that is non-negotiable, Lowe said, is the preservation of the Gainesville Police Department.

As talks of consolidation between Gainesville Police Department and the Alachua County Sheriff's Office heat up, the mayor told the audience where he stood.

"Any attempt to abolish this integral part of our city is an attack on our home rule. In short, we must save GPD," Lowe said as he was met with cheers and applause.

In regard to what was arguably Gainesville's most contentious event of the year, the proposed

"When the eyes of the world were upon us, you, the citizens, expressed our city's true character."

Craig Lowe
Gainesville mayor

"International Burn a Koran Day" on Sept. 11 by the Dove World Outreach Center, Lowe praised residents for coming together to combat what he described as "inflammatory rhetoric."

"When the eyes of the world

were upon us," Lowe said, "You, the citizens, expressed our city's true character."

Lowe also spent a good chunk of his 22-minute address discussing future plans like the development of Innovation Square, a project involving UF, the implementation of a bus rapid transit system in Gainesville and the continued battle to clean up the Superfund site.

While he acknowledged a sense of uncertainty for the upcoming year given the calls from

the governor's office and the state legislature for an adherence to stricter fiscal policy, Lowe remains optimistic for Gainesville's future.

"We have faced the challenges of the past year head on and moved Gainesville forward through innovative thinking and proven strategies gathered from across the nation," Lowe said. "But the successes we have engineered, even in light of these difficult times, are not the pinnacle of our city's potential."

Student Government elections will be held Feb. 22-23 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

SG, from page 1

were taking.

The Progress Party officially merged with the Student Alliance party Tuesday.

"We're looking forward to having [the Student Alliance party members] as a part of this new, unified Progress Party," Schneider said.

Meyers, who has been seriously considering running for the office for a while, said he wants to gain more exposure to campus-wide issues.

He was previously chairman of the Senate Allocations Committee and a senator for the sophomore class and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

"This campus has serious problems, and it needs serious people to fix it," he said.

Schneider, a student activist and an organizer for Students for a Democratic Society, said he decided to run for election because of the is-

sues facing UF concerning relations with the University Police Department and the Florida legislature.

"[UF] needs students to become more active in Student Government and take control of this thing, and it needs strong activist leadership," Schneider said.

Both candidates said their parties will release the complete executive tickets early next week.

The deadline to register a political party for the spring election is Thursday at noon.

If candidates wish to run independently, they should register during the qualifying period.

Qualifying for positions with the parties will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Monday and Tuesday in Room 284 of the Reitz Union.

Students should remember to bring a photo ID.



Meyers



Max Reed / Alligator Staff

Student Senate President Ben Meyers formally announces his candidacy for Student Body president to a crowd of Unite Party members Tuesday afternoon at the Reitz Union Colonnade.

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2 For Rent unfurnished

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5 Real Estate

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- 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/yr lease
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4 Roommates

Roommate Matching HERE
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6 Furnishings

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BED - KING - \$200 PILLOWTOP
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E ₁	O ₁	U ₁	U ₁	R ₁	F ₄	T ₁	RACK 2	
A ₁	E ₁	V ₄	S ₁	R ₁	W ₄	D ₂	Double Word Score RACK 3	
E ₁	O ₁	O ₁	N ₁	F ₄	T ₁	S ₁	1st Letter Triple RACK 4	

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12 Autos

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12 Autos

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1. POP CULTURE: Who coined the phrase "flower power"?
2. SCIENCE: What is another name for beta carotene?
3. LANGUAGE: What does the title "mahatma" literally mean?
4. LITERATURE: Who wrote "The Color Purple"?
5. HISTORY: Who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo?
6. GEOGRAPHY: The Hawaiian islands are a part of what larger group of Pacific islands?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who was the private citizen who was filming President Kennedy's motorcade with a home-movie camera when Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas?
8. TELEVISION: What was the name of the German commandant in "Hogan's Heroes"?
9. COMICS: In the comic strip "Hi and Lois," what is the name of the couple's youngest daughter?
10. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was sometimes called "the rail splitter"?

- Answers**
1. Beat poet Allen Ginsberg
 2. Vitamin A
 3. Great soul
 4. Alice Walker
 5. Duke of Wellington
 6. Polynesia
 7. Abraham Zapruder
 8. Col. Wilhelm Klink
 9. Trixie
 10. Abraham Lincoln

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alligator
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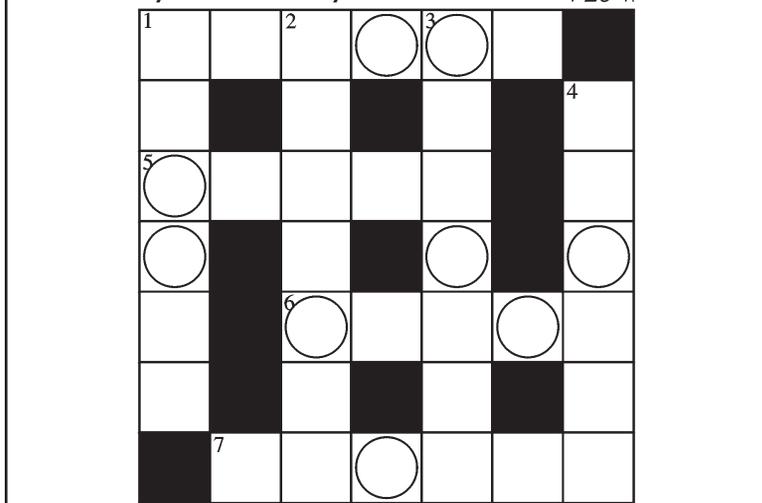
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ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Low-lying, soggy area	SAMSOR
5. Three-toed mammal	NORIH
6. Flat strip	PATSR
7. Type of TV show	TREAEP

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Mortuary	UROMEG
2. Make available again	RSIEUES
3. Plague	ERCSGUO
4. Container with a spout	PEATTO

CLUE: A lily family member.



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

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
 1 Place to chill out
 4 "In all likelihood ..."
 11 Hollywood hrs.
 14 Many, many moons
 15 Land purveyor
 16 Mr. ___: old whodunit game
 17 Diana Prince's alter ego
 19 Have some grub
 20 Wore
 21 Thus
 23 Cutting the mustard
 24 Peter Parker's alter ego
 27 Arctic explorer John
 28 Quetzalcóatl worshiper
 30 Aromatherapist's supply
 31 Britt Reid's alter ego
 35 Bite for Mister Ed
 36 Bray beginning
 37 Steve Rogers's alter ego
 45 "Kubla Khan" river
 46 Meted (out)
 47 XV years before the Battle of Hastings
 48 Linda Lee Danvers's alter ego
 51 Trade punches
 52 Sound acquisition?
 53 More artful
 55 Flight board abbr.
 56 Reed Richards's alter ego
 61 Bis plus one, to a pharmacist
 62 Lizards with dewlaps
 63 "___ Hunters": History Channel show with the tagline "Hoax or History?"
 64 Many SAT takers
 65 Abundant flow
 66 Pink Floyd guitarist Barrett
- DOWN**
 1 Use a Singer
 2 High-muck-a-muck

- 3 "General Hospital" actress
 4 Cookie that might flavor a McFlurry
 5 "Jurassic Park" actress
 6 Margery of kids' rhyme
 7 Road warning
 8 Source of 20s, for short
 9 Author Dahl
 10 "Sesame Street" regular
 11 Early arrival
 12 Natural seasoning
 13 Jackson Hole backdrop
 18 HST's successor
 22 Danish coins
 23 Museum fare
 24 Canonized mlle.
 25 Write
 26 Cologne pronoun
 28 "How now? ___?": Hamlet, before mistakenly slaying Polonius
 29 Letter after epsilon
 32 Burrowing rodent
 33 "Alas"
 34 Swamp growth
- 37 Disorder
 38 Shows up
 39 Infamous Amin
 40 Postal motto word
 41 Every last one
 42 Driving force
 43 Elucidate
 44 Make public
 45 Balance sheet heading
 49 Send in the check
- 50 1961 British movie monster
 51 Sasha, to Malia
 53 Lee who co-created 24-Across
 54 In the cellar, so to speak
 57 Jet set garb
 58 Rhine feeder
 59 Tuscaloosa-to-Huntsville dir.
 60 New England catch

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com 01/26/11

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By Robert A. Doll 01/26/11
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O ₁	U ₁	T ₁	D ₂	A ₁	T ₁	E ₁	RACK 1 =	58
F ₄	U ₁	T ₁	U ₁	R ₁	E ₁		RACK 2 =	9
D ₂	W ₄	A ₁	R ₁	V ₄	E ₁	S ₁	RACK 3 =	78
F ₄	E ₁	S ₁	T ₁	O ₁	O ₁	N ₁	RACK 4 =	68
							TOTAL	213

PAR SCORE 145-155
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UF edges UGA in double overtime

By **GREG LUCA**
Alligator Staff Writer
gluca@alligator.org

ATHENS, Ga. — After missing two critical free throws in the closing moments of regulation, Erving Walker found redemption by draining a game-tying three with one second left in overtime, igniting the Gators.

Walker's shot forced an extra period Florida (16-4, 5-1 Southeastern Conference) would dominate en route to a 104-91 double-overtime victory over Georgia (14-5, 3-3 SEC) on Tuesday in Athens.

"In a situation like that, there's no time to think," Walker said. "You just have to be ballsy and step up and knock it down."

Following a free throw from Jere-

my Price that extended Georgia's lead to three with six seconds remaining in overtime, Walker took the inbounds pass and drove past half court.

About 30 feet from the basket, Walker pulled up and drilled the high-arcing, game-tying three with just one second remaining.

"With him, it's always got a chance," coach Billy Donovan said.

Walker's last-second heroics came just minutes after he cost his team an opportunity to seal the win in regulation.

With the Gators leading by four and 35 seconds remaining, Walker missed the front end of a one-and-one.

Georgia junior guard Gerald Robinson followed with a three to cut Florida's lead to one, and Walker

again found himself at the line with 21 seconds left.

This time, the junior connected on the front end but missed the second, leaving the door open for Georgia junior forward Trey Thompkins to score a tip-in at the buzzer and send the game to overtime.

"I was definitely kicking myself," Walker said. "I put my team at risk with that. I should've been able to put the game away, but we battled and we're just happy to come out with the win."

The junior point guard followed his game-changing three with the first basket of double overtime, giving the Gators a lead they would never relinquish.

Florida dominated the second overtime period 19-6 thanks to the efforts of junior Chandler Parsons, who scored nine points and grabbed four rebounds in the final five minutes.

"I just tried to take over and be aggressive," Parsons said. "I'm just going to play the same way I keep playing all year long, and I was fortunate to hit some shots and make some plays in double overtime."

Although they were playing their third game in six days, the Gators looked to be the much fresher team down the stretch. Florida tied its highest scoring output in SEC games under Donovan just two games removed from putting up the fewest points (45) in the Donovan era Thursday at Auburn.

The Gators made 5 of 7 field goals in the final period while holding Georgia's big three of Thompkins, Robinson and junior guard Travis Leslie to just three points.

"Putting us through that conditioning and all that stuff, it all paid off," Walker said. "Sometimes coach gets mad at us in practice telling us to run suicides. Those extra suicides probably helped us out here, that we had legs to finish it off."

Although Thompkins, the pre-season SEC Player of the Year, finished the game with 20 points and 13 rebounds, Florida defended him well after halftime.

The junior had just nine points and four rebounds in the game's final 30 minutes.

"He's a great player, so we had to know where he was at all times," Parsons said. "Our whole game plan going in was the weakside guard sitting in his lap."



AP Photo

Florida junior guard Erving Walker drives on Georgia guard Gerald Robinson in the second half of UF's 104-91 win Tuesday night in Athens.

UF GYMNASTICS

Dickerson builds off sensational freshman season

By **ALLISON BANKO**
Alligator Writer

It began as a routine recruiting trip to a Jacksonville gymnastics studio.

The Florida gymnastics coaching staff arrived at Gymnastics Unlimited to check out another recruit, but it was a young Ashanée Dickerson, donned in orange and blue, practicing her vault, who would morph into the Gators' future star.

"We were actually there to see another gymnast that was about two or three years older than Ashanée," coach Rhonda Faehn said. "Ashanée was vaulting, and she stood out, obviously. Her coaches pointed to her and said, 'She's going to be your next Gator.' From that point on, we've always had our eyes on Ashanée."

Flash forward to Dickerson's sophomore year at UF,



Faehn

SEE GYM, PAGE 15

Gators say youth not a good excuse

■ FLORIDA'S MISTAKES HAVE BEEN CRITICAL IN CREATING ITS FOUR-GAME LOSING SKID.

By **MATT WATTS**
Alligator Writer

All season, the Gators have had a crutch to lean on after making mistakes: six new players trying to adapt at the next level.

But after a devastating 10-point collapse to Kentucky at home, coach Amanda Butler said inexperience would no longer be considered an excuse for the sloppy ball handling and poor defense Florida displayed while handing away yet another game.



Women's Basketball

No more crutch.

Freshman guard Jaterra Bonds, who leads the team with 65 turnovers, agreed and said the team definitely has to correct those breakdowns.

"We've played so many minutes," Bonds said. "We're all like sophomores because we play a lot, so it shouldn't be an excuse. I don't make that excuse."

Apart from the obvious issue of turning the ball over, Florida is relinquishing the rock in pivotal moments, leading directly to scores for the opposition.

The Gators gave it away four times in the first two minutes against Kentucky, allowing an early 6-0 Wildcats lead,

SEE W-HOOPS, PAGE 15

TEERING OFF WITH ADAM BERRY

■ We had a little trouble in the office Tuesday, as a leaky roof in our server room led to power and server outages. I remained calm, immediately making apocalypse comparisons while playing "It's the End of the World As We Know It" by R.E.M. ... Thankfully, our staff quickly picked up the pieces while I chipped in by contracting the roofing company, helping a much smarter person fix the server and editing the sports section. And they say Chandler Parsons is versatile?

alligatorSports Podcast

■ Adam Berry and Jesse Simonton welcomed back former Alligator co-worker and current GatorBait.net writer Kyle Maistri to talk Florida basketball. Check it out on iTunes.

I DID NOT KNOW THAT

■ The Florida softball team was ranked No. 5 in two national preseason polls. For the third straight year, the Gators were in the top five in the Preseason USA Today/National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll and ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25.

Sophomore shows no signs of slump, personality revealing itself

GYM, from page 14

and she's done more than just become another Gator. With her performance in Friday's meet against LSU, Dickerson reeled in her 10th all-around title. She won all four of the meet's events, the first UF gymnast to do so since 2000.

"It was great," Dickerson said. "I don't pay attention to my scores so I didn't know what my all-around score would be. I just went out there and had fun with my teammates be-

cause we knew the crowd was against us."

Due to her stellar performance against the Tigers, Dickerson was named Southeastern Conference Gymnast of the Week for the second time in her collegiate career.

"She'll come back in immediately after winning every event and the all-around and get right back to work," Faehn said. "She doesn't expect to get a little bit of a break or say, 'Hey I've won so many meets, I don't have to work as hard, I'm good.' She works even harder to fix the smallest little

mistakes. She's awesome."

Dickerson's drive to compete for Florida wasn't something that spontaneously came about. She said it's been a dream she's had since she was a mere 8 years old.

"I've wanted to be a Gator ever since I was a little girl," she said. "Now, it's comfortable. It's my home now."

In the summer of 2009, now-senior Maranda Smith was training in the practice facilities at Florida when Dickerson first stepped in the studio as the Gators' newest gymnast.

"From the first day, she was all ready to do full routines, and she was sticking landings," Smith said. "I always knew she was going to be a rock star out on the floor."

Despite Dickerson's spunky attitude on the mats and powerful performances that earned her SEC Freshman of the Year last season, she became known as the shy one. Now, midway through her sophomore year, her shell has finally started to break.

"She's definitely provided more of her personality," Smith said. "She cheers. She leads. She's still the great, same gymnast she was last year but just a little more spice behind her."

On top of Dickerson's more outgoing personality being unleashed this season, Faehn said, another noticeable difference from last season is seen in her efforts to improve her gymnastics on a more specific scale.



Gymnastics

"She's really working hard on her polish since last year," Faehn said. "She has the power, she has the tricks, but she's worked really hard on her form, her flexibility, her overall presentation, and that's making a big difference. She's really maturing as a gymnast."

Currently, Dickerson is ranked No. 3 nationally for all-around gymnasts, proving that she's the farthest thing away from a sophomore slump.

In the corner of the gymnastics studio Dickerson's always dreamed to be in, there is a marker-stained whiteboard scribbled with the words "Ask yourself, what am I doing to bring this team to victory?"

The Gators have already proved themselves victorious this season, sitting pretty at a No. 1 national ranking, a spot that Dickerson has no doubt contributed to immensely.



Max Reed / Alligator Staff

UF sophomore gymnast Ashanee Dickerson has not regressed at all after being named SEC Freshman of the Year in 2010. She won the all-around title vs. LSU on Friday, posting the highest score in each of her four events.

Pressure situations affecting young squad's ability to hold onto leads

W-HOOPS, from page 14

and five times in the final five and a half minutes during a 15-4 run that ultimately sealed a one-point loss.

Making matters worse, an unhealthy amount of the Gators' woes seem unforced. Junior guard Jordan Jones agreed with that assessment.

"Definitely," she said. "And I think coach Butler would agree as well."

"It really sets the tone for how we're going to play when we have turnovers on the first four possessions. We're on a losing streak, and I think that's one of the main contributions to that."

Jones also echoed the sentiment that UF is allowing teams to take advantage of their mistakes — not that it could be denied.

Florida had a 16-point lead with 14:21 left at Georgia on Jan. 16. Its next three possessions? Turnover, turnover, foul. The Bulldogs scored on each opportunity and cut into the Gators' lead.

UF's advantage dwindled to five points with less than six minutes left, but it appeared Florida still had the game in its grasp. Then, the Gators committed five turnovers that led to 10 Georgia points, and all of a sudden, Butler was answering questions about another devastating defeat instead of a thrilling road victory.

Jones said the atmosphere of road games in the Southeastern Conference can be tough on the first-year players, yet agreed with Butler's opinion that the time for excuses has passed.

"We have to grow up," she said. "The youth and inexperience can be part of our immaturity. We let teams go on runs, and it kind of gets us down. Part of that can be attributed to youth, but it can't be used an excuse."

The catalyst to UF's problems, Butler said, has been pressure. She recognized the nerves involved in protecting a lead and the ability to handle defensive pressure as areas causing headaches.

While Butler acknowledged the intensity UF faced in recent games is tough to emulate, she said she has dedicated time in practice to recreating similar situations in an effort to ready her team.

"But the hardest part ... is getting a lead against such a great team," Butler said. "The finishing out part shouldn't be the part that we're struggling with."



Saj Guevara / Alligator Staff

Freshman guard Jaterra Bonds, who has recorded a team-high 65 turnovers this season, said the Gators must limit their mistakes, and the fact that the team has six freshmen is no longer an excuse for poor play.



Steven H. Keys / Alligator

Sophomore Lauren Embree, last season's SEC Player of the Year, will lead Florida as it tries to live up to its No. 2 ranking.

UF WOMEN'S TENNIS

No. 2 Gators ignoring early hype

By **STEPHEN SHEEHAN**
Alligator Writer

High rankings come with high expectations, and this season Florida has a lot to live up to.

On Monday, coaches from the Southeastern Conference voted the Gators as the unanimous favorite to win their second consecutive SEC title.

The preseason predictions and No. 2 ranking are nothing new for coach Roland Thornqvist and his team.

"That's sort of an unspoken thing every year here," he said. "We always have high expectations. That's frankly why our players come to Florida. That's the best way to do it: get players on board that are already used to high expectations both from themselves and externally."

After nearly winning the NCAA finals last season, this year's squad features six returning players including SEC Player of the Year Lauren Embree and SEC Freshman of the Year Allie Will.

Embree's second season in Gainesville has been met with adversity, as a wrist injury prevented her from participating in the fall.

The talented sophomore will play singles for the first time, as the Gators open the season today at 5 p.m. against UCF at home.

Embree's return provides UF with another talented player on a roster that already features five players ranked in the ITA's top 100.

"Our players were sort of used to maybe the idea of not having Lauren day in and day out, and now that may be changing for the better for us," Thornqvist said.

"We always have high expectations. That's frankly why our players come to Florida. That's the best way to do it: get players on board that are already used to high expectations both from themselves and externally."

Roland Thornqvist
UF women's tennis coach

The Gators have a blend of experience and youth that should bode well this season.

Freshmen Olivia Janowicz, Alexandra Cercone and Sofie Oyen have contributed this season, with Janowicz winning the ITA Southeast Regional in October.

Although all three players have experience playing in high-profile matches at the junior national and international levels, today will be their first taste of dual-match play.

"It's very different than playing as a junior on the junior circuit, where you only play for yourself," Thornqvist said. "Here, you have the added pressure of playing for Florida with the big name in front."

"You play on a team where more often than not, you have the bull's-eye on you."

With a strong freshman class and several key veterans, handling the depth of such a talented squad is no easy task.

"One of our challenges, I think, this year is, with having so many talented players, to have each one of them find a role on the team," Thornqvist said. "Even though the younger ones are very talented, they can't really lead us no matter where they play in the lineup."

The team has underperformed in doubles so far, so the Gators spent the past week building chemistry and making improvements, looking to put those on display against UCF.

"We are going to continue to try and press to the importance of playing good doubles to start off dual matches well," Thornqvist said, "and I think we have the players to be a very good doubles team."

"So, hopefully some of the work we've done in the past few days will show itself when we play Central Florida."

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