



UF 79   UCSB 51

Gators breeze by Gauchos, to face UCLA



Matt Tripp / Alligator Staff

Florida senior forward Chandler Parsons sinks a three during the first half of the Gators' 79-51 NCAA Tournament win over UCSB on Thursday night in Tampa, UF's first victory in the Tournament since a national title in 2006-07.

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

TAMPA — After three seasons without an NCAA Tournament victory, the Gators worked their way back into the win column in dominating fashion.

Second-seeded Florida started hot and never yielded, routing No. 15-seed UC Santa Barbara 79-51 on Thursday in the St. Pete Times Forum.

"It was huge," senior center Vernon Macklin said. "Us being able to come out and get this victory and, most importantly, be able to keep playing."

The win is UF's first in the Tournament since 2007, when an 84-75 over Ohio State victory secured a second straight national title.

Coach Billy Donovan said the rebuilding process has been a journey, as the Gators lost all five starters following the 2006-07 season.

"It's been very difficult. It's been very challenging," Donovan said. "It's also been very, very rewarding being a part of a group of guys and trying to help them understand what it takes to win at this level and the strides that they've made from their freshman year until now."

Seniors Chandler Parsons, Alex Tyus and Macklin each recorded their first NCAA Tournament win in a Florida uniform, breaking a streak that threatened to span each player's entire career.

Although the Gators ended a significant drought, they were all more focused on taking the next step.

"No one on our team has ever gotten one, so it definitely feels good," said Parsons, who nearly recorded a triple-double with 10 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds in just 27 minutes. "But we're not satisfied. We don't just want to come in here and win one game."

"We want to make some noise. And it feels good right now, and we're going to celebrate, but we can't get too happy because



Basketball

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 13

OBITUARY

Friends remember student as adventurous, giving

By **MORGAN WATKINS**
 Alligator Writer

Senior Stacie Lavender touched more lives during her time at UF than she may ever have realized.

Family, students and Hare Krishna members flooded Shands at UF early this week to see Lavender, who was hospitalized after suffering head injuries Saturday while learning to drive a motorcycle.

Lavender, a 21-year-old UF senior, died Tuesday.

She was taken off life support after doctors said there

"The nurses at the hospital told us that they had never seen so many people come for a single patient at a single time ever."

Vanessa Guerrero
 childhood friend of Lavender's

was no chance of recovery, said Hanan Schwefel, the director of Krishna lunch in Gainesville and Lavender's friend and co-worker.

Lavender was learning to drive her boyfriend's motor-

cycle Saturday when she fell and hit her head on a stairwell at a Gainesville apartment complex, according to police. She was wearing a helmet.

"The nurses at the hospital told us that they had never seen so many people come for a single patient at a single time ever," said Vanessa Guerrero, a childhood friend of Lavender's. "It was like Woodstock on the fourth floor of Shands Hospital. People were...in circles with guitars and talking about how much she [affected] their lives."

SEE LAVENDER, PAGE 5

■ Florida senior quarterback John Brantley (right) is ready for a fresh start in the Gators' new offensive system under Charlie Weis after a disappointing junior season in 2010. See Story, Page 12.



March soreness: Iowa clinic says there's no better time for a vasectomy

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa — A West Des Moines clinic's ad campaign hits below the belt by urging sport fans to indulge in some alternative March madness: Have a vasectomy on Thursday or Friday then spend the weekend recovering while watching NCAA tournament basketball.

Iowa Clinic marketing executive Jessica Grant tells the Des Moines Register that the campaign is designed to appeal to men whose partners want them to get the snip

and who complain they spend too much time in front of the TV.

The ad reads, "After your vasectomy: Stay on couch. 32 games in two days. Return to work on Monday."

Urologist Dr. Mark Kellerman says he thinks the campaign is "a great idea."

The clinic performed 102 vasectomies in March 2010 when the ads debuted. This month, 129 are scheduled.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Brown Bag Lunch Series: Human Trafficking

Today, 11 a.m.
Plaza of the Americas
Studio 31:8 is a group of local artists who bring awareness to sex trafficking through art. Their artwork is showcased and sold in local coffee houses, galleries and arts festivals, and 50 percent or more of the proceeds are used to help organizations that fight sex trafficking.

Lunch Event: The First Gainesville Rugby St. Patrick's Golf Tournament

Saturday, 1 p.m.
West End Golf Course
Entry is \$35 for individuals or \$120 for a team of four. Registration includes the green fee, a cart and a reception. For more details, go to <http://gainesvillerrugbyclub.com/golf.htm>.

Hypnotize Your Friends!

Saturday, 6 p.m.
Jennings Hall
Watch or be a part of the show as hypnotist Rich Alexander presents a one-of-a-kind 90-minute comedy hypnosis performance. Come out and enjoy the show as well as an assortment of free refreshments, including cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn, cupcakes and cookies. This event is presented by the Inter-Residence Hall Association. Admission is free to all UF students.

Spring BBQ - Islam on Campus

Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.
Lake Wauburg South
Join IOC for its annual spring barbecue. Come have fun in the sun with free food, soccer, volleyball and more. Feel free to invite your friends and family. Admission to Lake Wauburg is free with a Gator 1 Card.

Tae Kwon Do Forms Seminar

Sunday, 5 p.m.
Southwest Recreation Center, Activity Room 2
All levels of experience are wel-

FORECAST

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
SUNNY 85/50	SUNNY 86/52	SUNNY 86/60	PARTLY CLOUDY 84/58	PARTLY CLOUDY 85/56

come. Master Dan Levenson is a seventh-level black belt. Dan, from Tampa, instructs at Martial Arts America. Because he has to drive all the way from Tampa and back on Sunday, a \$5 donation would be appreciated to help cut travel costs. It is requested but not mandatory to wear a uniform. For more information, contact Tommy Goode at goodet@ufl.edu or Sara Drumm at sdrumm@ufl.edu.

"The Changing Character of the Transatlantic Security Relationship" Panel Discussion

Monday, 6:30 p.m.
Pugh Hall Ocora
Peter Hobbing from the Centre for European Policy Studies will be joined by Zachary Selden from UF, and Oya Dursun-Ozkanca, from Elizabethtown College, Penn., to discuss the international political role of the EU. The EU's actions on both internal security initiatives and external security collaborations become increasingly important to the rest of the world. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean, Paul D'Anieri, will be moderating.

RISK Cinema Film Screening by Jeanne Liotta

Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Harn Museum of Art
"The Sublime is Now" screening of various works and lecture. Liotta makes films and other ephemera, including music photographs, works on paper and live projection performances. Her latest body of work takes place in a constellation of mediums at a curious intersection of art, sci-

ence and natural philosophy. Admission is \$5 for the public and free for members.

"A Village Called Versailles"

Tuesday, 8 p.m.
Reitz Union Auditorium
Co-Sponsored with AASU.
"A Village Called Versailles" is a documentary that tells the story of a tight-knit group of Vietnamese Americans in New Orleans who overcame the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina only to have their homes threatened by a government-imposed toxic landfill.

Hustle for Humanity 3K/6K

March 26, 8 a.m.
UF Commuter Lot
The top three runners in the men's and women's divisions will each win a prize. T-shirts will be provided to the first 25 people who register, and food will be provided for all participants after the race. Register online at <http://active.com/running/gainesville-fl/hustle-for-humanity-3k6k-2011>. It costs \$15 to pre-register and \$20 on the day of registration.

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.

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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Shakespeare group turns plaza into Globe Theatre

■ **THEY WILL PERFORM "MACBETH" TODAY THROUGH SUNDAY ON THE PLAZA OF THE AMERICAS.**

By **JEANNA ARROYO**
Alligator Contributing Writer

In most instances, shields, hubcaps and baseball bats are best reserved for scrapyards and street fights.

For some UF students, it's just another day of theater.

This weekend, a group of UF students will be bringing William Shakespeare's "Macbeth" to the Plaza of the Americas.

But it will be with a twist.

For this version, UF's Shakespeare in the Park has chosen to set the play in a war-torn, post-apocalyptic Scotland. It will be performed today and Saturday at 6:30 p.m. A matinee will take place Sunday at 2 p.m.

The play will still feature the same characters, prose and plot, but will have a newer, modern edge, according to JamieLynn Bucci, public relations chairwoman for the group.

"It's 'Macbeth'; someone still has to be king," Bucci said.

Joseph Sweeney, the group's president, said there was a lot of debate on which play to do this year because the group has only done romantic comedies like "Much Ado About Nothing."

"We're trying to offer the authentic Shakespeare."

Joseph Sweeney
Shakespeare in the Park President

Although those plays were crowd-pleasers because of their slapstick humor and relatable plots, the group decided to move away from them to try to "spook the audience" this year, Sweeney said.

"You can adapt it to so many variations, and it's fun to watch," he said. "It was originally designed to be played outside. We're trying to offer the authentic Shakespeare."

Shakespeare in the Park puts on one free annual production on the Plaza of the Americas. Audience members are encouraged to bring their own chairs, blankets and pillows.

GPD wants funding to focus on car accidents

By **MEREDITH RUTLAND**
Alligator Writer

A police traffic service that cut down car crashes may be coming back after a lack of funding took it off the books.

Gainesville Police Department's Speed and Aggressive Driving Project reduced accidents by 14 percent when it started in 2010, Sgt. Joe Raulerson said, but there wasn't any money for it this year.

Now Raulerson, part of the GPD traffic safety team, is asking the Florida Department of Transportation for \$54,010 so the program can gear up with new equipment and more manpower.

The program will finance officers to drive around or park near streets that are known to have more crashes

and fatalities, he said. Drivers, the idea goes, will pay more attention on the road once they know police are watching.

"A lot of it is visibility," he said. "Once you see red and blue lights, you know people are more cautious."

Raulerson said officers will watch for drivers who run red lights, speed and follow the cars in front of them too closely.

Officers will target Archer Road, University Avenue, 34th Street and Southwest Second Avenue.

He went before the Gainesville City Commission on Thursday to get permission to ask the state for the grant money. Now he has to wait to hear from the FDOT if his department received the funding.

The Board of Directors of Campus Communications, Inc., publisher of

alligator the independent florida and **@lligator.org**

announces the openings for the positions

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and as an unpaid member of the Board of Directors

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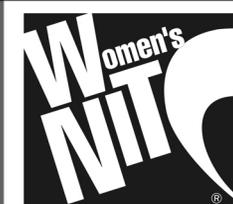
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The applications for these positions are available at the reception desk at the entrance of the first floor of *The Alligator* Building at 1105 W. University Ave., **each weekday between 1:00 and 4:00pm from now until March 25.** Please do not call. Further written information is available at the time an application is picked up. Please allow up to 15 minutes at that time to read information you will need for the application process. The application must be returned to the same desk by **2:00 pm, April 1. THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE DEADLINE.** Interviews and selections by the Board of Directors will be held at *The Alligator* offices in a meeting open to the public beginning at **2:00 pm, Friday, April 15**. Applicants must be present at that meeting to be considered. Applicants must be degree-seeking college or university students. Preference will be given to those who have experience at *The Alligator*.

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Game played at Stephen C. O'Connell Center

BBQ joint opens near UF

By **MELANIE BRKICH**
Alligator Contributing Writer

The brothers and owners of Designer Greens restaurants in Gainesville and Orlando opened a third restaurant, Kay Bros. BBQ, during Spring Break.

The restaurant, located at 1620 W. University Ave., is just down the street from the sandwich and salad joint they opened two years ago.

Doors opened March 9, and within the first hour, Steven Kay, 27, said the new barbecue restaurant was nearly at maximum capacity, seating about 50 people inside and 16 on the patio. He said he was pleasantly surprised, especially because the brothers had done no formal advertising other than a banner outside.

"It was actually a bit much for the first day," Kay said.

According to employees, the extensive preparation paid off. Cashier Kacey Over-

street, a UF sophomore, said the restaurant operates similarly to Tijuana Flats, emphasizing quick service. Customers order at the counter and their food brought out to them by cashiers clad in denim cut-offs and cowboy boots. Darren Kay, 25, said he thinks his brother "wanted the Jessica Simpson look."

Instead of a hot sauce bar, the restaurant features a bar of eight different barbecue sauces that the brothers tested and perfected themselves, including a Kentucky Bourbon, Kansas City and traditional Memphis sauce.

Eddie Gilley, 49, a minister at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry, had lunch there for the first time on Tuesday. He said the rib combo was "very tasty" as he licked some of the sauce from his finger.

"I eat barbecue everywhere I go," Gilley said. "If they can keep this up, I think they'll do real good."

Local News

ON CAMPUS

250 honor quake victims

By **SKYLAR RAMSEY**
Alligator Contributing Writer

With candles in hand, 250 people gathered at the Reitz Union Amphitheater Thursday night to remember the lives affected by the 8.9-magnitude earthquake and tsunami in Japan last week.

Megan Vu, president of the Asian American Student Union, said it's important to not just feel connected to the victims but also to each other in a spirit of unity in caring for Japan.

"I think everybody in The Gator Nation can see the potential that we have to make a huge impact," she said.

Hope for Japan, a new UF organization, hosted the vigil and is meant to help provide disaster relief to Japan.

Anthony Ray-Reynolds, Student Body vice president-elect and an executive board member for Hope for Japan, said that after Spring Break there were many student organizations that wanted

to make a difference.

"The biggest thing that stands out to me is how quickly we got the ball rolling," he said. "A lot of times in the wake of a disaster there is a long process before things start up."

"A lot of times in the wake of a disaster there is a long process before things start up."

Anthony Ray-Reynolds
Student Body Vice President-Elect

Taketo Nakao, a graduate assistant for UF Multicultural Diversity and Affairs, said UF students need to work together to support Japan.

He said the group is making paper cranes and collecting donations to send to Japan.

The group hopes to raise \$5,000 within the next two weeks.

"You can care in so many different ways," Nakao said.

Vocalist doesn't need words to elicit emotions

■ SHE WILL PERFORM AT THE THOMAS CENTER ON APRIL 11.

By **KAT BEIN**
Alligator Staff Writer

Jill Burton pushes her voice through her throat in different tones. It's soft, then louder, then softer again. It sounds like a didgeridoo.

It can't be compared to Beyonce, but that's not the point.

Burton is a vocal performance artist, and for the past 40 years, she's explored the ways in which the power of voice can affect an audience emotionally, mentally and spiritually.

She doesn't sing prepared pieces, but improvises a tonal "oh" sound, like a shaman leading a religious ritual. She uses her voice to tap into her listeners and alter their state of mind.

She'll be joined by three others at the Thomas Center on April 11 for a performance she hopes will be a profound and transformational experience.

"We're going to invite the audience to go on a journey with us to areas of their own consciousness that they may not be aware of," she said.

Burton first discovered herself as a vocalist when she was an 18-year-old student at Santa Fe College. She said her professor, Betty Keig, helped put her in touch with her inner artist.

She's lived in cities such as New York, San Francisco, Miami and, most recently, Sitka, Alaska, honing her talents and perfecting her craft.

Last year, she was featured as an artist-in-residence for a month-long tour sponsored by the Improvisor Journal, which focuses on musical improv performance. She was also hailed as "one of the great foundation improvisors of America."

Burton knows her style of singing is anything but mainstream. Nevertheless, she believes the advent of the Internet and modern advancements in communication have helped bring a worldwide community of vocal performers together.

Beyond her performances, Burton runs transformational



Max Reed / Alligator Staff

Jill Burton, a vocal performance artist, poses inside the Thomas Center where she will be performing with three other artists on April 11.

voice workshops and teaches private sessions for people interested in learning to sing more than just pop songs. She said most prospective students contact her through Facebook.

She said she's ecstatic to watch a new generation of vocalists take a strong interest in the art form she's spent her life

exploring and expanding.

"It's really exciting to me to see so many young people being engaged," she said. "It's very gratifying, actually ... being involved in this movement for 40 years ... It's kind of wonderful."

'Real World' to recruit Gainesville to find next housemate

The casting call will be at Mother's Pub

By **SARAH POSER**
Alligator Contributing Writer

MTV will hold an open casting call Saturday to find seven or eight strangers to stop being polite and start getting real for season 26 of "The Real World."

The open casting call will be Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Mother's Pub and Grill.

"We always have good luck in Gainesville," said Damon Furberg, supervising casting director for "The Real World." "We have gone there for as long as I can remember."

It takes about 3 months, Furberg said, to do 35 or 40 casting calls for one season. Candidates are narrowed down in rounds of interviews and one small group is flown to Los Angeles for a final interview.

"We want to see everyone who shows up, so we pace ourselves accordingly," Furberg said.

All casting directors have different ways of interviewing applicants. Some play party games while others throw out a debate topic.

TJ Goodman, co-owner of the pub, said MTV called him about three weeks ago to propose the offer.

"My business partner and I still have no

idea why we were chosen," he said. "It was an honor."

Furberg said producers often choose locations by interviewing students about their favorite places to go.

Applicants are required to bring a photo ID and a recent picture of themselves. Applicants must be over 18 and "appear to be between the ages of 18 and 24."

Anyone unable to attend the open call can still apply online. For more information visit bunim-murray.com/rwcasting.

Around Gainesville

Hooters restaurant in Gainesville closes abruptly



Maria Linares / Alligator

Hooters, located at 3265 SW 34th St., usually decorated by the restaurant's colorful chairs and tables, is now empty. The restaurant and sports bar is closed until further notice.

■ THE FRANCHISE OWNER DID NOT MEET REQUIREMENTS OF A LICENSE AGREEMENT.

By HANNAH WINSTON
Alligator Writer

If you planned on eating Hooters' famous wings anytime soon in Gainesville, think again.

Earlier this week both the Gainesville and Ocala locations of the sports bar closed, leaving only signs in the windows to let customers know.

The local franchises were two of nine total restaurants to close because of expired license agreements, according to Alexis Aleshire, Hooters of America spokeswoman.

Aleshire wrote in an e-mail that both Owl's Eyes Inc., owner of seven Hooters in the Southeast, including the ones in Ocala and Gainesville, and WOSG LLC, had not met requirements to uphold their temporary license issued by Hooters.

Local News She said that neither company kept up with compliance with the agreements or payments that were due to Hooters of America. She did not detail what those agreements were. She also did not reply when asked how much money was owed or how many jobs were lost with the closing of the nine locations.

"We regret that Owl's Eyes' and WOSG's noncompliance with their obligations has led to the closing of these restaurants and we intend to consider the markets affected for new Hooters development in the future," she wrote.

Aleshire also said that the change had nothing to do with the new owners of Hooters of America, Chanticleer Holdings, an investment company. Instead, she pointed to a long-term issue with both franchises. Representatives from Owl's Eyes could not be reached for comment.

Lavender volunteered at the Krishna lunches on the Plaza of the Americas

LAVENDER, from page 1

Lavender, a sociology major and women's studies minor who grew up in West Palm Beach, would have graduated in May. She planned to become a paramedic.

Her family will be attending the graduation ceremony on April 30 and will receive her diploma.

Lavender and Guerrero had been friends since they were 2 years old.

They were surrogate sisters, Lavender's sister Emily Keene, 29, said.

Lavender's mother died when she was 13, and Guerrero's mother helped take care of her while Keene completed her degree at the University of Central Florida.

"We were like the three amigos, and then my mom left and then Stacie left," Keene said. "I know they'd want me to be strong...and I'm going to try to do that."

Guerrero remembers how giving Lavender was. When Guerrero was about to give birth to her son, Lavender finished her finals early to make sure she could be there.

"She was the first one to hold him. My son is not even 2 and he still knows who she is," Guerrero said. "It was sad, but when we came up to her apartment, he saw her door and started saying, 'Stacie, Stacie.' I was like, 'Honey, she's not here.' He had me look through the whole house for her."

Lavender served Krishna lunch on campus as a volunteer and later an employee for Gainesville Krishna House, offering vegetarian food and a smile to everyone who walked through the line, Schwefel, the Krishna lunch director, said.

Many people knew Lavender as "the blonde from Krishna lunch," he said.

He remembered Lavender telling him about a time when a group recognized her one night and did a Hare Krishna chant for her.

"We as Hare Krishnas believe in reincarnation. At some point the body stops ... and we move to a new body. Her soul is in a better place. At the same time, I feel sad because I lost a good friend."

Hanan Schwefel

director of Krishna lunch in Gainesville

"We as Hare Krishnas believe in reincarnation. At some point the body stops...and we move to a new body. Her soul is in a better place," he said. "At the same time, I feel sad because I lost a good friend."

Sarah Manesh, Lavender's roommate, said when Lavender wanted to do something, she just went out and did it, even if no one came with her. Manesh plans to try to live her life that way, too.

Saba Rahman, a UF senior who lived with Lavender during their sophomore year in Murphree Hall, said she would miss her friend's adventurous spirit.

When Rahman called her at 2 a.m. one day last year and asked Lavender to go skydiving with her, she didn't ask any questions. She just said yes, and she wanted to be the first one jumping out of that plane.

"I'm not just sorry for the friendship that I've lost, but I feel a lot of pity for the people that aren't going to meet her," Rahman said. "She crammed a lot of living into 21 years. She really, really did."



Special to the Alligator

Stacie Lavender, a UF senior who sustained head injuries while learning how to ride a motorcycle Saturday, died after being taken off life support Tuesday. Her family will attend her graduation ceremony on April 30 and will be presented with her diploma.

Editorial

We expect half of our readers will have a massive hang-over when they see this, so we'll make it short.

And by short, we mean the same length as every other week.

That's right: Although the streets ran green with beer last night, your friends at the Editorial Board were hard at work on this week's we-didn't-realize-everybody-in-a-10-mile-vicinity-of-a-bar-has-Irish-blood edition of...

Darts & Laurels

We aren't the only ones who took notice of all the green.

Governments the nation over have been trying to scale back spending. While the politicians' hearts may be in the right place — and that's giving them the benefit of the doubt — we've been questioning many of their choices for programs to cut.

We're giving you fair warning: Republicans may want to stop reading now.

To begin, the U.S. House of Representatives has voted to cut all federal funding to NPR. Although the measure is unlikely to pass in the more temperate Senate, we're worried by the party-line voting to strip money from a valuable public resource. That's why we're aiming a **DART** at **House Republicans**.

Apparently, \$1 million is too much to pay for one of the few reliable news sources our most isolated citizens can access.

In the same economic vein, Wisconsin's governor got his way last Friday with a union-busting bill that ends collective bargaining for public employees. What good is a union without such an ability? That's why we're lobbing a **DART** at **Scott Walker and his pals**.

Not only have they hurt the people of their state, they're also setting a precedent for others around the nation.

The harm they've done to teachers and students may surpass the damage of a merit-based pay law in our state. That's difficult to fathom, given that "merit" is determined largely by students' FCAT scores, which we recognize as meaningless garbage.

If you think students' critical thinking is at a low point now, wait until teachers' bottom lines are dictated by the test results. Because we became stupider by merely thinking about that prospect, we're pinning a **DART** on **state lawmakers**.

We haven't doused Americans' need to learn yet, however.

In fact, our curiosity is alive and well. We aren't just paranoid in the wake of Japan's post-earthquake nuclear issues. Sure, some on the west coast are making a run for iodine pills. But for the most part, lawmakers from both sides of the aisle and their constituents are asking about our nuclear power plants.

Even if it is born of fear, we think a genuine interest in how we receive our power is always welcome. Knowledge is a powerful weapon, after all. That's why we're giving a **LAUREL** to **nuclear power experts**.

Thanks for walking us through the issue in words we can understand every day for the past week, even if you had to deal with cable news anchors. You've started an important discussion we needed to have.

As you can tell— other than St. Patty's Day— this week's been sobering for us. But in the spirit of hope, we're offering a final **LAUREL** and our condolences to the **people of Japan**.

Here's hoping for a brighter week, Gators.

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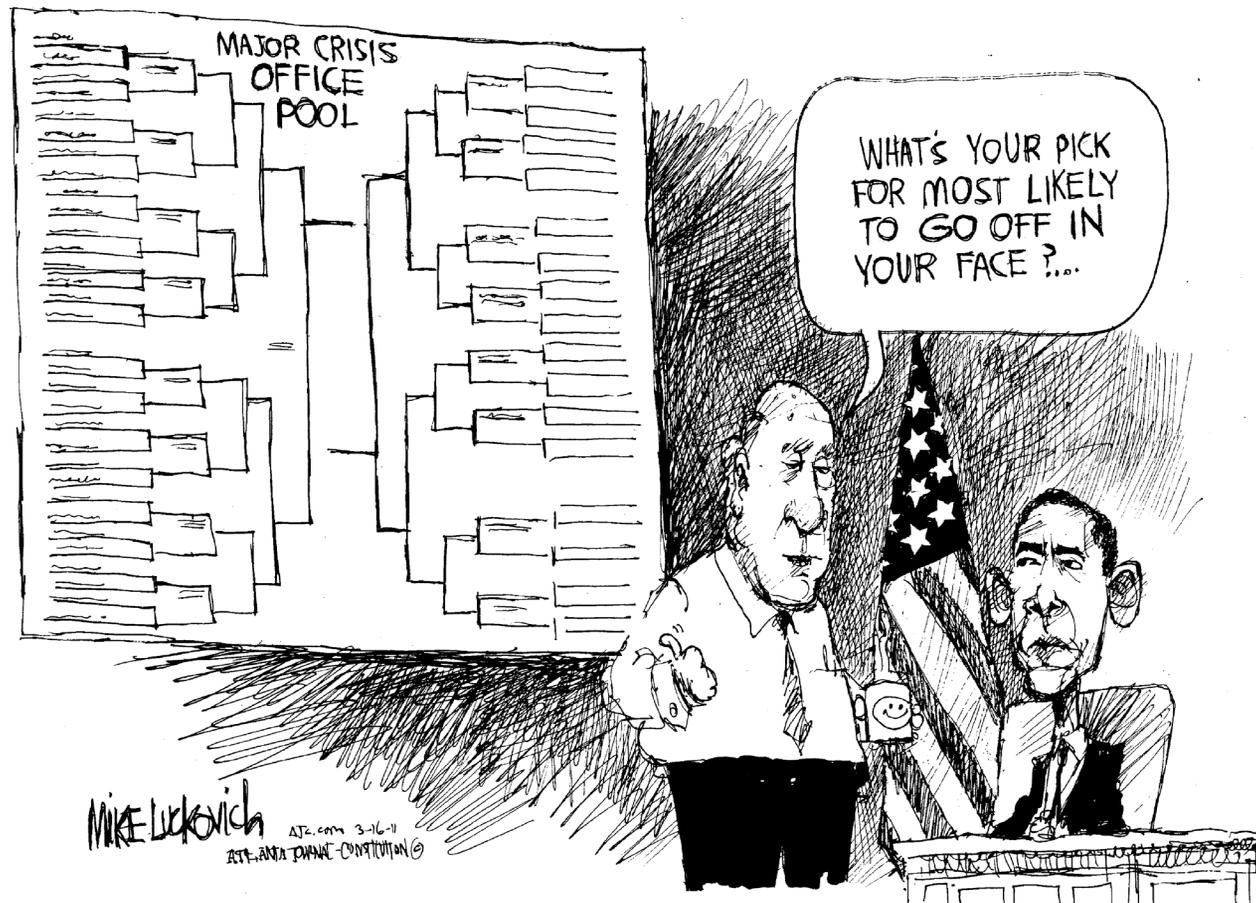
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The Alligator encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 150 words (about one letter-sized page). They must be typed, double-spaced and must include the author's name, classification and phone number. Names will be withheld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

Opinions

ALLIGATOR
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Column

Smaller issues not federal concerns

The economy is in the tank. Unemployment is stagnant. The budget crisis has brought us to the brink of a government shutdown. Libya is burning, and Egypt is still in turmoil.

Last week, President Obama responded to this swirling mayhem by pouncing with laser-like precision and finely honed intensity on the one issue that he has decided needs addressing above all the rest.

Of course, I am talking about the issue of bullying in schools.

Alongside his wife, first lady Michelle Obama, the president hosted a summit at the White House to focus on this problem. The course of the discussion featured many of the predictable and stale platitudes about how bullying over race, physical features or sexual orientation lead to bad grades and suicide.

Bullying is bad. I get it. However, that is not the issue here. This episode sheds light on two primary problems with big government.

First of all, this is not a federal issue. The president, Congress, the Supreme Court and all other officials and agencies in Washington have important and specific duties. The men and women who have been elected and appointed to perform those duties were selected because of their perceived ability to competently and faithfully execute them.

As the federal government has expanded, the duties have become muddled, and the focus has been lost. Washington bureaucracy has exploded to the point where the bounds set around the jurisdiction of the federal government have been obliterated, and the duties of office are no longer defined. This is why we have reached the point where Washington talks about obesity, bullying and health care as much as securing our borders, stabilizing the economy and stopping terrorism. The peripheral functions the government has assumed have distracted our officials from the issues and



Bob Minchin
letters@alligator.org

problems that really matter.

Secondly, this illustrates the problems that occur when the federal government assumes responsibility for issues that are best left to the smallest government possible.

As a conservative, I am a major proponent of small government. The concept of small government comprises two major principles.

The first, and most commonly regarded, is that the federal government should be as small and unobtrusive as possible. The second is that smaller governments should have more direct influence in the lives of their citizens than larger governments. That is, state and municipal governments are more intimately linked with the everyday lives of those within their jurisdictions and thus should have greater control than the federal government over the laws and codes that maintain order within a community.

According to this principle, a teacher is the head of classroom government, and a principal is the head of school government. In the past, such individuals were given the freedom to establish and maintain order and discipline within their jurisdictions. Thanks to frivolous lawsuits and warped conceptions of child psychology, however, higher governments have stepped in and stripped away these rights. This has severely limited the control that teachers and principals have over their jurisdictions and the freedom they have to deal directly with problems such as bullying.

If the federal government were to mind the business for which it was designed, it would do less to create problems that it then deems necessary to step in and fix.

Bob Minchin is a fourth-year electrical engineering major. His column appears on Fridays.

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

Reader response

Today's question: Are students' FCAT scores a reasonable indicator of a teacher's ability?

Thursday's results are unavailable due to technical problems.

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4-20-10-26-2



----- Near UF -----
gainesvillestudentrentals.com

●5/3 house 630 nw 36 street \$1800
●4/3 house 3514 nw 7 place \$1500
●4/2 house 1534 nw 54 drive \$1500
●4/2 house 610 nw 34 terrace \$1300
3-30-11-10-2

3bedroom \$509

Amazing townhome with everything included!
Utilities, cable, internet, furniture & washer/
dryer. Cobblestone Apts. Call now: 352-377-
2801 4-20-25-2

3bedroom \$509

All inclusive townhome with everything in-
cluded! Utilities, cable, internet, furniture &
washer/dryer. The Laurels Apts. Call now:
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Trying to find a place to live
stressing you out?



Call 352-375-7104 today!
trend4rent.com

4-20-24-25

UF 7 blks, 4BR/3BA, 2 masters, POOL, HOT
TUB, 2500sf, 2 prchs, 5 car park, responsible
students or professionals only. Plasma TV
incl. May-Aug \$1775/mo; \$2375/mo Aug on.
Summer only option or yr lease. 352-222-0211
3-23-11-5-2

2BR/1BA, 1/2 month free. \$380-\$425/mo.
Mobile home w/ central AC/heat, shaded lot.
Incl water, - mobile home lot \$260/mo 352-
376-5887 4-20-11-24-2

4BR/2BA HOUSE. Extremely Nice, bike
to UF, central AC/heat, W/D, dishwasher,
garage, fenced yard, landscaped. No pets.
Avail Aug 16th - 1 year. 2806 NW 16th Ave.
\$1690/mo. 352-665-8166 lv mssg. 5-12-11-
26-2

★Walk to UF★

2,3,4,5 bedrooms Avail Aug
walk2uf.com
4-20-24-2

*****4 BLKS to UF/Historic House*****
Cute, charming 3 bd/2 bth house, hrdwood,
tile, central AC, off street parking, W/D, patio,
small pets OK, \$1350/mth, avail Aug 1102
NW 4th Ave, call 828.216.2565 3-24-5-2

I'VE HAD IT WITH YOUR LOUD MUSIC!
Is your roommate driving you crazy? Find a
replacement in the Alligator Classifieds!

3 Subleases

Don't wait!

Place Your Sublease Ad TODAY!
After Spring Break,
there are less than 6 weeks
left in the semester!

It's FAST & EASY!

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\$325 Summer Sublease May-July for
Gainesville Place Apartments.1/1 in a 4/4,
Comes fully furnished with washer and dryer,
utilities included \$325! Many bus routes.
allison.lynych@yahoo.com 3-21-11-7-3

\$729/mo new arlington square summer-sub-
lease may1-aug15 spacious studio, cable/
internet, washer/dryer, furnished, contact
Steve 754.264.9500
melvin_flynt_01@yahoo.com 3-22-5-3

4 Roommates

Roommate Matching HERE

Oxford Manor 377-2777
The Landings 336-3838
The Laurels 335-4455
Greenwich Green 372-8100
Hidden Lake 374-3866
4-20-70-4

4 Roommates

Roommate wanted
New 2/2.5 Fully Furnished except for bed-
room in Grantwood Condominiums 2.5 miles
from UF
\$550/month includes utilities & WiFi
Contact Kourtney 352-422-1448 3-25-10-4

COLLEGE ROOMS STARTING AT \$385.00
MONTH, UTILITIES INCLUDED, NO MOVE
IN COST. WE DO SEMISTER LEASING,
Frances 352-375-8787 Rent Florida Realty
9-26-11-78-4

Gated 4BR/4BA Countryside condo, pool-
side, own BD & BA, W/D, cable, hi-speed
internet, early stop on UF bus rte. Utils in-
cluded. \$400/mo. No deposit required. 863-
634-1893. Available immediately.
3-29-10-4

Master Bd/priv. bath in 2/2 apt. \$475 all
inclusive. Furnished, easy commute to UF,
W/D. Get \$25 off rent. w/ 12mo lease.
Call/Txt Angie (786)239-2740
angie.colombia_86@yahoo.com
3-22-5-4

Walk to UF from a 4bd/2ba NW house.Male
or female.No pets/smoking.Free off-street
parking\$450.00/mo.Includes all utilities,
wifi,security system, Available 8/1 yearly
lease. 727-726-2915 3-22-11-5-4

HANDYMAN SPECIAL Share 2BR/2BA MH
in Hidden Oaks. Furn rm incl elec, ph, cable,
internet. Close to UF, bus, shopping. \$200
NR dep. \$400/mo. NS, NA, ND. Handyman
can work off most. Caged pets ok. 331-0762
3-22-5-4

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

2			7				4
		9		6		8	
	4				9		3
7			5				9
		8			1	2	
	5			2			1
	6		1				7
5					6	4	
		3		4			8

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way
that each row across, each column down and
each small 9-box square contains all of the
numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

4 Roommates

MOVE IN NOW- Need 1 male student to share 4/4 poolside condo at Countryside. Easy commute UF/SFC, 2 bus rtes, furn common area, W/D. unfurn \$365/obo furn avail. Text 850 585 4405, 386 676 9703, nukken1@aol.com 3-31-11-10-4

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5 Real Estate

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5 Real Estate

NEW CONDOS-WALK TO UF
For Info on ALL Condo for Sale, Visit www.UFCONDOS.COM or Matt Price, University Realty, 352-281-3551 4-20-70-5

AFFORDABLE LUXURY NEW CONSTRUCTION NEAR UF, SHANDS, LAW SCHOOL
2Bed/3 Full Baths + Office. Granite Counters, 2 Direct Bus Stops to UF. Matt Price, University Realty, 352-281-3551 4-20-70-5

WALK TO UF & DOWNTOWN!
THE PALMS - New Ultra-Luxury Condos. Granite, Huge Closets, Pool, Call Eric Leightman, University Realty 352-219-2879 4-20-70-5

1997 3br/2ba Fleetwood mobile home. Located in Whitney Park on hwy 411 in Gainesville. Carpet and appliances less than 2yrs old. \$18,500. call 352-327-5986 leave message. 3-18-11-5-5

OPEN SUN., 1-3 PM. Exquisite 3BR/3BA, 2277 sq. ft. Craftsman home at 2351 NW 31st Place for sale in Townsend. Crown molding, coffered ceilings, leaded glass doors, gourmet kitchen (granite counters & stainless appliances), custom cabinets, spa baths & more. \$299K. MLS 31880. Call Jackie Erney at Prudential, (352) 328-1266. 3-18-1-5

5 Real Estate

ALABAMA WATERFRONT GRAND OPENING-4/2 only-2 for 1 SALE! Buy \$39,900 Waterfront lot, get RV lot ABSOLUTELY FREE! Direct Gulf access; Limited supply. (888)392-9944 3-18-1-5

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. 4-20-70-6

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 4-20-70-6

6 Furnishings

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

FUTON Solid oak mission-style frame w/ mattress. New, in box. \$160 332-9899

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

****BEDS - ALL BRAND NEW****
****Full \$100 Queen \$125 King \$200****
Orthopedic pillow-top sets. Brand name matching sets not used or refurbished. Still in plastic, direct from factory! 352-333-7516. 4-20-70-6

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

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

Furniture for sale-Like New. Reasonable!
UF Student Graduating. Queen Bed, Triple Dresser & Chest, 2 Night Stands, Liv. Room-Sofa, Love Seat, Desk Workstation & Leather Chair, TV Stand, Cocktail Table. \$1,500 call 954-275-4008 3-31-11-10-6

7 Computers

CASH PAID for Laptops
Parts & Repair Mac & PC laptops
Joel 336-0075 www.pcrecycle.biz 4-20-10-70-7

COMPUTER & LAPTOP REPAIRS
Network specialists
We buy computers and laptops
Working and Non-working
378-4009, 607 NW 13th Street
4-20-10-70-7

10 For Sale

●●●●PARKING●●●●
Private, Secure, Guaranteed. 60 sec to UF. Reserve now! Reasonable rates. 352-538-2181. Can leave mssg. 4-20-10-70-2

UF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AUCTIONS are underway... bikes, computers, printers, vehicles & more. All individuals interested in bidding go to: surplus.ufl.edu 392-0370 4-20-10-70-10

GOATS FOR SALE
Charlie - 352-278-1925 4-20-70-10

RUG LIQUIDATION SALE! 75% Off Every Rug. FREE SHIPPING/BUY NOW. 200,000 Rugs Must Go www.eSaleRugs.com (866)647-3965 3-18-1-10

DO YOU EARN \$800.00 IN A DAY? Your Own Local Candy Route 25 Machines and Candy All for \$9995.00 All Major Credit Cards Accepted (877)915-8222 AINB02653 3-18-1-10

11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

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FULL SERVICE MOTORCYCLE-SCOOTER REPAIR. 12TH YEAR IN GVILLE. OEM & AFTERMARKET PARTS. BEST TIRE PRICES IN TOWN. 352-377-6974 4-20-70-11

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HUGE Selection. Scooter Sales & Service!
Great Scooters, Service & Prices!
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www.NS4L.com
4-20-10-70-11

SCOOTER SERVICE
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GatorMoto HUGE new scooter sale!
All models between \$200 - \$400 off! All come with one year parts and labor warranties! Hurry, the most popular colors are going fast! 352-376-6275 www.GatorMoto.com 4-20-11-35-11

12 Autos

●FAST CASH FOR ALMOST ANY CARS ●
●Running or not!●
●NEED HONDA, TOYOTA, PICKUPS
●Over 17 yr svc to UF students
●Call Don @ 215-7987 4-20-70-12

CARS - CARS Buy●Sell●Trade
Clean BMW, Volvo, Mercedes
Toyota, Honda, Nissan cars
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4-20-70-12

WE BUY JUNK CARS
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4-20-70-12



Worship Guide

<p>Christian & Missionary Alliance</p> <p>New Life Community Chapel New Life Community Chapel Westside Park Rec. Center Sundays at 10:30 AM www.newlifecommunitychapel.org phone:(352)214-4462</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e6e6fa;">Jewish</p> <p>Chabad Lubavitch Jewish Student Center Your home away from home Friday Night Live! Services & Shabbat Dinner. 7:30pm Fall/Spring 352-336-5877 2021 NW 5th Ave (5 blocks north of the stadium) www.JewishGator.com</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e6e6fa;">Lutheran</p> <p>Zion Ev. Lutheran Church 1700 NW 34th St. Gainesville, FL 32653 Phone: 352-376-9940 Worship: Sunday, 10:30 a.m. You are always welcome!</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e6e6fa;">Methodist</p> <p>Gator Wesley Center United Method Campus Min. www.gatorwesley.com Worship - Sundays @ 11a.m. Bible Study Wednesdays @ 7pm 1380 W. University Ave</p>	<p>Methodist</p> <p>Grace United Methodist Sunday Worship 8, 9 & 10:45 9325 W. Newberry RD. 352-332-8770 gracefl.org cnaylor@gracefl.org www.gracepassport.org</p> <p>Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church "Commit thy way unto the Lord" Worship Services Sundays-9am. Sunday School-11:00 am Bible Study Tues. - Noon & 6pm 630 NW 2nd St Gainesville, Fla 32601 352-372-4872 Rev. Geraldine McClellan, Pastor Transportation Available</p> <p>Trinity United Methodist Contemporary "Trinity United Methodist Contemporary: Fridays at 6:35pm, Sundays at 8:15, 9:40, and 11am. 4000 NW 53rd Ave. 376.6615 www.TrinityGNV.org</p> <p>Wesley United Methodist Church Sunday School 9:30am Worship (blended) 10:45am Potato bake 1st Sunday of each month. 826 NW 23rd Ave</p>	<p>Non-Denominational</p> <p>Glen Springs Glen Springs Church of Christ Experience a loving spiritual family filled with grace and God's word. Please join us on Sundays, College Bible Class: 9:00am Worship Assembly: 10:00am and Wednesday Evenings College Bible Class:7:30pm For more Info, Call 352.378.8031 or www.knowmyJesus.com</p> <p>University City Church of Christ Gators for Christ campus ministry college group meets at University City church on Sundays at 9am and Wednesdays at 7pm - practical application from God's word, plus service projects, large group events, free meals, and much more... (directions and events calendar at www.gatorsforchrist.org)</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e6e6fa;">Presbyterian</p> <p>Covenant Presbyterian Church 1001 NW 98th Street "Loving God by Serving Others" www.covenantpresbyterianchurch.org - covenant-presb580@bellsouth.net Sunday Worship 10:00am Small Group Bible Studies on Monday, Tuesday & Thursdays</p>	<p>Presbyterian</p> <p>First Presbyterian Church Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 10:55am College Ministry Trajectory Wednesday Nights: 7:30pm - Discipleship Studies, recreational activities, Missions and Evangelism! "Set the Trajectory of Your Life on Christ." College Cafe: Free Home cooked meal after 10:55am Service.</p> <p>Kanapaha Presbyterian Church Kanapaha Presbyterian Church Sunday Worship: 8:30am Free breakfast/Contemporary Worship 9:50am Sunday School for all ages 11:00am Traditional Worship in historic Kanapaha Sanctuary Archer Road at 75th Terrace for more info, call 352-378-9080 or go to www.kanapaha.net</p>
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For more information contact:
Brandon Davis,
Alligator Advertising
376.4482

alligator

the independent florida

14 Help Wanted

Account Director/Project Manager wanted for Gainesville web design company. Web design/marketing experience required. Email resume to hr@352media.com 5-24-11-30-14

Web Designer wanted for Gainesville web design company. Outstanding graphic design, Dreamweaver, Fireworks, Flash, XHTML & CSS experience required. Email resume to hr@352media.com 5-24-11-30-14

Web Programmer wanted for Gainesville web design company. ASP.NET, C#, SQL Server, HTML, XML experience required. Email resume to hr@352media.com 5-24-11-30-14

The Village, an upscale retirement community, is looking for CNAs and LPNs to join our team. Experience in Assisted Living is preferred. Part time and PRN available. Competitive salary and a great working environment. For more information or to apply, please visit www.thevillageonline.com/jobs The Village is an Equal Opportunities Employer and a Drug Free Workplace. 5-17-11-27-14

First Care of Gainesville
Injuries • Illnesses • Physicals
No Appointment Needed!
(352) 373-2340 #5 & #43
4343 Newberry Road, Suite 10
www.firstcareofgainesville.com

14 Help Wanted

The Village, an upscale retirement community, is hiring! Multiple part time and full time Life Coach positions available in both Independent and Assisted Living. Come and be a part of our growing team! These positions play a support role in planning, organizing, and implementing our life enrichment program that promotes total health and wellness of each resident living here at The Village. The ideal candidate will have experience conducting group programs with strong interpersonal skills. Understanding and passion for working with older adults is a must. In addition to experience with social programs, individuals with a theology background and/or fitness experience are encouraged to apply. please visit www.thevillageonline.com/jobs 5-17-11-27-14

PROPERTY MANAGER

PT - Friendly, energetic person. Requires good communication skills, sales &/or mgmt. exp. & computer knowledge. Great benefits. Must be avail. wknds. Apply in person CMC 2770 NW 43rd St., Ste. B DFWP 4-20-11-24-14

LEASING AGENT PT

Friendly, energetic person. 20-30 hrs./wk. Exp. preferred. Hourly & bonus. Must be avail. wknds. Apply in person CMC 2770 NW 43rd St., Ste. B DFWP 4-20-11-24-14

14 Help Wanted

Child Care Director - Part time 1+ year experience with school age children Strong leadership & communication skills Sundays 9am-noon. \$13-\$15/hr, DOE Must be CPR & first aid certified Apply in person: M-F 8am-4pm United Church of Gainesville 1624 NW 5th Avenue www.ucgainesville.org 4-1-11-11-14

Good family looking for FT nanny. Must be responsible, enthusiastic, and nurturing. Great compensation. Job may be split between 2 people if needed. Serious replies to gvnanny@gmail.com 3-18-11-1-14

MOTHER'S HELPER FOR 5 AND 7 YR OLD. M-F 2:30-5:30. Student of sp. needs with exp pref. Loving, good driver, reliable car must. Good pay + std mileage. Send resume and references to alligatornanny@gmail.com 3-24-11-5-14

Sun Country Sports is hiring for summer! Summer Camp, Aquatics, Gymnastics, Office, Rockwall, Cheer, Dance, Cleaning/Maint., Drivers. Applications at www.suncountysports.com. Email HR@suncountysports.com for info. Camp interviews begin 3/22! 3-24-11-5-14

SMOKERS NEEDED
...to participate in a study assessing the effects of various activities on smoking. Compensation will be provided! If interested, call 336-406-3706 or email us at ufsmokelab@gmail.com 3-28-7-14

WAITPERSON
Experienced, full service. Evenings & weekends. Apply in person 3-5pm, NAPOLATANO'S, 606 NW 75th St. 3-23-11-4-14

17 DRIVERS NEEDED! Top 5% Pay! Excellent Benefits New Trucks Ordered! Need CDL-A & 3 mos recent OTR. (877)258-8782 www.meltontruck.com 3-18-1-14

Between High School and College? Over 18? Drop that entry level position. Earn what you're worth!!! Travel w/Successful Young Business Group. Paid Training. Transportation, Lodging Provided. (877)646-5050. 3-18-1-14

Drivers Earn Up to 39¢/mi HOME SEVERAL NIGHTS & WEEKENDS 1 yr OTR Flatbed exp. Call: (800)572- 5489 Susan ext. 227 Pam ext. 238 SUNBELT TRANSPORT, LLC 3-18-1-14

DRIVERS-OTR Experienced? \$1000 Sign On-O/O's & CO. Need New Career / Guaranteed Job? Offering Sponsored Training at FFE Driver Academy, Fort Worth, TX. (800)569-9232 recruit@ffex.net 3-18-1-14

15 Services

IMPORT AUTO REPAIR. BMW, Mercedes, Porsche, Volvo, VW, Honda, Toyota, Nissan, Mazda. Quality craftsmanship, reasonable prices, near UF, AAA approved 378-7830 www.carrsmith.com 4-20-70-15

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PERSONAL TRAINING 300
Personal and Group Training Flexible Scheduling Exclusive Facility Call for a free workout 339-2199 4-20-70-15

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The time is now to have your lawn & shrubs look their best. Call PROGREEN at 378-0069 to schedule an appointment today progreenflorida.com 3-31-36-15

15 Services

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Microwave Oven Repair Specialist
Since 1997. (352) 804-1113 4-20-11-26-15

\$\$\$ ACCESS LAWSUIT CASH NOW!!! \$\$\$ As seen on TV. \$\$\$ Injury Lawsuit Dragging? Need \$500- \$500,000++ within 48hrs? Low rates APPLY NOW BY PHONE! Call Today! Toll-Free: (800)568-8321 www.lawcapital.com 3-18-1-15

ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE from Home. *Medical, *Business, *Paralegal, *Accounting, *Criminal Justice. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. Call (888)203-3179, www.CenturaOnline.com 3-18-1-15

AIRLINES ARE HIRING - Train for high paying Aviation Maintenance Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified - Housing available. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance (866)314-3769. 3-18-1-15

16 Health Services

HIV ANTIBODY TESTING
Alachua County Health Dept. Call 334-7960 for app't (optional \$20 fee)

All Women's Health Center
ABORTION
Free Pregnancy Test
RU-486 Available
378-9191
www.abortiongainesville.com 4-20-70-16

THE TRUE YOU!
Lose 8-15 pounds in 4 weeks
Only \$119!
Gain muscle while you lose fat
Groups forming now. 339-2199 4-20-70-16

A Woman's Answer Medical Center
Think you might be pregnant?
Testing, confidential advising
Referrals
352-376-2716 4-20-70-16

Unplanned Pregnancy? Consider Adoption. Living, Medical & Counseling Expenses Paid. Private & Confidential. Call Atty. Ellen Kaplan 1-877-341-1309 (FL Bar #0875228) 7-22-11-100-16

CPR training is back!
Need CPR/AED or 1st Aid?
Meets internship requirements
FloridaHeartsaver.org
(352)575-0119 4-8-20-16

● **FREE HIV TESTING** ●
(mouth swab) for UF students
GatorWell Health Promotion Svcs.
Call 273-4450 for appointment. 3-18-11-5-16

Internal Medicine doctors at the University of Florida are currently looking for people with poorly controlled Type 2 (adult onset) diabetes who may also have low Vitamin D level for a clinical study. The study will look at the effect of Vitamin D replacement on improving your diabetes control. Study-related medical care and monetary compensation may be provided for your time. Please contact Karen Brezner at 352-273-8661. 3-30-11-11-16

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION?
A childless energetic, spiritual, committed couple seeks to adopt. Financially secure. Healthcare professionals. Expenses paid. Gil & Dave (888)580-ADOPT (2367). FL Bar#0150789 3-18-1-16

18 Personals

HIV ANTIBODY TESTING
Alachua County Health Dept. Call 334-7960 for app't (optional \$20 fee)

★**Family Chiropractic**★
Since 1977. Two blocks from U.F. 373-7070 4-20-70-18

Flashbacks buys, trades, and consigns clothing, jewelry, shoes and purses. We pay \$. We buy name brands, mall brands, indie, punk, goth, urban, prep, hippie, retro, and costume. 509 NW 10th Ave. 352-375-3752 4-20-70-18

What's your "Plan B"?
Go to www.sambellgreen.com then call Sam at (352) 316-2955 4-20-37-18

IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY
Marriage Green Cards, Natz, H1B Visas
www.RuthImmigrationLaw.com (904) 425-8078 4-4-14-18

19 Connections

Want to make a connection?
Place your ad here to look for someone to share a common interest with or for your true love

20 Event Notices

IS YOUR BUSINESS, CLUB OR ORGANIZATION HAVING AN EVENT? DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT? PLACE YOUR AD HERE AND GET IT NOTICED!

Casting call for feature film: The Best Western Gateway Grand at the Northwest quadrant of the intersection of I-75 and exit 390. April 2nd, 9am - 4pm. Please visit www.SwampTales.us for more information. 4-1-11-13-20

Get Your Ad Noticed Here and in Over 100 Papers throughout Florida for One Low Rate. Advertising Networks of Florida, Put us to work for You! (866)742-1373 www.florida-classifieds.com 3-18-1-20

Campbellton v. Unknown Respondents. 14th Judicial Circuit Ct/Marianna. Condemning Agent authority over Florida contractually-provided voting rights in Publix; foreign mutual insurance companies; mutual funds. Respondents contesting by 3-31-11 will be removed from action. Full info: www.EconomicStrategies.ORG 3-18-1-20

21 Entertainment

WALDO FARMERS & FLEA MARKET
Every Sat & Sun - Hwy 301
15 min from Gainesville 468-2255 12-7-141-21

SHOTGUN SHOOTING SPORTS
Open To Public We-Fr-Sa-Su, Noon-Dusk
Skeet - Trap - Olympic Trap -5 Stand
gatorskeetandtrap.com 352-372-1044 8-15-10-95-21

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In Gainesville ● Better Prices
Better Fields ● Better Call 371-2092 4-20-10-70-21

25 Lost & Found

LOST DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA
Panasonic SDRH40 42x
Any info call or text (850) 543-3762
REWARD \$400 4-20-26-25

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
1 Hardly a walk in the park
5 "American ___"
9 Provoke
13 Russo of "Tin Cup"
14 Heavyweight fight?
15 Snoring cause, perhaps
17 Lodging surplus?
19 Settles in
20 Versace creation?
22 Blotter letters
25 However, contracted
26 Bygone Chrysler
27 Target of a military press
29 Animal rights org.
31 Penn et al.: Abbr.
32 Backed up, in a way
35 Quad building
37 Misplaced Yogi and Smokey?
42 Limo occasion
43 Maker of pianos and bikes
45 Pacific salmon
49 Scholarship drive donor
51 Carnival starting point?
52 Blood specification
54 "Gotcha!"
57 Hydroelectric structure
58 Plant at Sotheby's?
61 Busted
62 Investment in fine fabric?
66 ___ acid
67 "Night" author Wiesel
68 Way-back-when time
69 Coatrack items
70 Just slightly
71 Classic theater name

- 4 "Felicity" star Russell
5 Thomas of the NBA
6 Maker of tires and tennis balls
7 Present opening?
8 Silicon Valley city
9 Grammy category
10 Met expectations?
11 Supplement
12 Reveals
16 Clubs: Abbr.
18 One of two authorized U.S. iPhone carriers
21 Close at hand
22 Flap
23 ___ Ration
24 Designer Gucci
28 "My country ___ ..."
30 Swelling
33 Additive sold at Pep Boys
34 Pembroke or Cardigan dogs
36 Start of an apology
38 View from Edinburgh
39 Band aid?
40 Bust used for food by the Aztecs
41 2000 World Series stadium
44 Ready for battle
45 Army attack helicopter
46 Cloverleaf component
47 Duff
48 Pleasure trip, and a hint to this puzzle's theme
50 Flowering plant
51 Yucatán youngsters
55 Hoofed it
56 Roker and Rosen
59 Bank deposit?
60 About 10 trillion kil.
63 Valentine symbols
64 '80s-'90s Honda model
65 Critical

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com 03/18/11

By Dan Naddor
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Brantley ready for clean slate in 2011

■ THE QUARTERBACK IS A MORE NATURAL FIT IN UF'S PRO-STYLE OFFENSE.

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

Perhaps more so than any other player on Florida's roster, John Brantley entered the spring practice season in need of a fresh start.

The quarterback struggled throughout a disappointing junior season, throwing more interceptions (10) than touchdowns (nine) and seemingly never finding his comfort zone in Urban Meyer's spread-option offense.

The Gators have only had one spring practice under offensive coordinator Charlie Weis and the new coaching staff, but there already appears to be a new sense of optimism surrounding Brantley as Florida's signal-caller.

"I'm not saying that I know everything right now, but I'm getting more comfortable with it," Brantley said. "We're a long way from where we want to be, but it was a good start yesterday."

Heading into the offseason, Brantley's future at Florida appeared to be up in the air, as he said he would reevaluate his future with the Gators and rumors circulated about him transferring. But he never left, he said Thursday, and he is hoping to leave his poor performance and lack of confidence behind him.

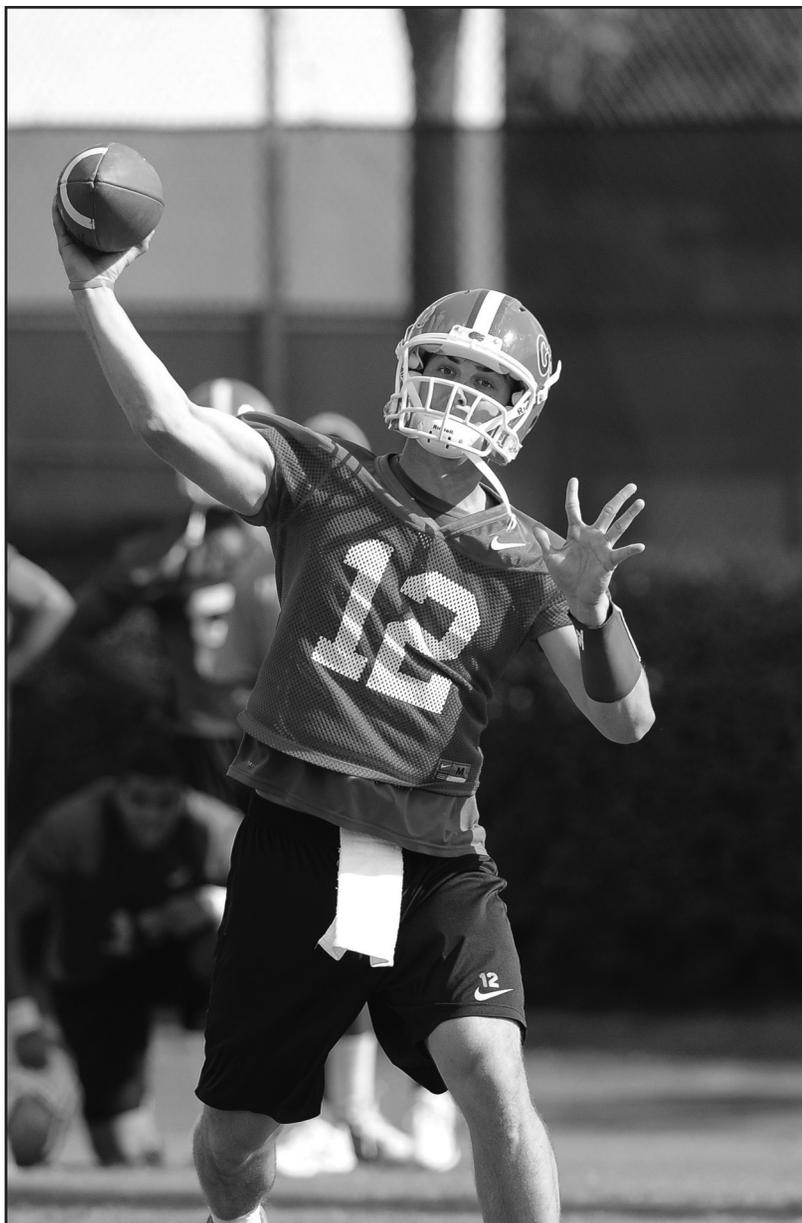
"That's the past. I've moved on," Brantley said. "That's what's good about this new coaching staff. You start anew, start from scratch and build from there."

Weis and head coach Will Muschamp said they expect Brantley to simply manage the game as a traditional drop-back passer throwing out of a pro-style offense, something that is better suited to his abilities.

Brantley's experience won't guarantee him a starting spot, and the three quarterbacks on the Gators' spring depth chart — Brantley, Tyler Murphy and Jeff Driskel — are learning the new system at an even pace.

"We're all at the same level, so we're all helping each other," Brantley said. "There's a lot

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 16



Special to the Alligator / UF Communications

Florida quarterback John Brantley, looking for a fresh start after a disappointing 2010 season, throws UF's first spring practice Wednesday.

New staff's enthusiasm excites UF

By **TYLER JETT**
Alligator Staff Writer
tjett@alligator.org

Solomon Patton sees one major difference with Florida this year: "The swag is back."

Patton, a sophomore wide receiver, said he is more excited about the team now than he was at this point last year, when he enrolled a semester early to participate in spring practices. The most important reason for this enthusiasm, he said, is the attitude of the team's new coaching staff.

"Our generation, we call it 'swag,' and I feel like the whole coaching staff has got swag," he said. "They bring swag to us. That just makes us play with a good, swagged-out attitude."



Football

In particular, Patton is eager to work with Aubrey Hill, his new position coach. Hill, who played at Florida from 1991-94, comes to Gainesville after three seasons with Miami.

Last year, the Hurricanes' two leading receivers, Leonard Hankerson and Travis Benjamin, caught 115 passes for 1,899 yards. The Gators' most prolific pass-catchers, Deonte Thompson and Trey Burton, combined for 70 catches for 780 yards.

Patton noticed Miami's receivers looked relaxed on the field, something

SEE RECEIVERS, PAGE 16

If you want to dance, heed warnings or prepare to pay the piper

"Hey man, I hate to ruin your vacation, but we got a problem." On the phone is my partner in Italy. An FDNY captain, he's on his first vacation in six years. But a bookmaker is never on holiday.

"Dominick got arrested last night."

He says, "How bad is it?"

"I can't talk over the phone. Come back to the states. It's pretty bad."

Dominick's our muscle. When gamblers "lay down," he changes their minds.

Our office has a 50-50 deal with Dom. We sell him bad debt. How he collects is his business. He makes a buck, and people learn they

can't rob our office.

We're firemen, not tough guys. We can't threaten anybody. Dom's had a casual approach to violence since first grade. He always had a screw loose.

Our first "lay downs" are small. We eat the losses or settle things ourselves. But as the office grows, so do the problems.

Red, my other partner, comes up with a new player: "Karl bets everything — hockey, basketball, football, you name it. Karl sends it in."

We're established. We have 300 players. We've been in action five years. We welcome high rollers. Our line is sharp and updated fre-



Bill O'Connor
Confessions of a
New York Bookie
sports@alligator.org

yourself."

Big problem.

Someone loses and cries poverty, it's under-

quently. It's not easy to catch us napping.

The first week, Red's new player beats us for \$32,000. We pay him, no problem.

The second week, he beats us for \$18,000. We pay him, no problem.

The third week, we beat him for \$40,000.

He says, "Go f***

standable. Someone's in over his head, no one wants to get tough. We want our money, and we don't want to lose a customer. We work out installments. No juice, just a payment plan.

Gambling's an addiction. Things happen. It's part of the business. But Karl's a thief. He beat us for \$50,000 in two weeks. Now, Karl loses \$40,000, and he's not even making an excuse.

By telling us to shag off, Karl's saying you're not connected. You're nobody. I ain't paying.

We have to find out is whether or not Karl's a gangster. If he's a made guy, we're screwed.

SEE BILL, PAGE 16

ONLINE

■ Check out our website all weekend for updates from the Gators' second NCAA Tournament game, including beat writer Greg Luca on our Twitter (@alligatorSports) and columnist Adam Berry (@adamdberry), who will be courtside in Tampa.

BRACKET CHALLENGE

■ Keep an eye on www.alligator.org/bracket_2011 for live scoring updates in our online NCAA Tournament bracket challenge. Sports editor Adam Berry lost one Sweet Sixteen team (13-seed Belmont) but accurately picked underdogs Morehead State and Richmond.

TRACK AND FIELD NEWS

■ Florida jumps coach Dick Booth was named the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association National Men's Indoor Assistant Coach of the Year on Thursday. Booth's jumpers scored 30 of the Gators' 52 points in the indoor national championship.

UF looks to end year with NIT title

By **MATT WATTS**
Alligator Writer

The Gators have something in common with their opening-round opponent in the Women's National Invitation Tournament on Friday.

Both teams, Florida and UMBC, foresaw themselves playing for a championship at season's end.

But that usually means NCAA, not NIT.

"UMBC is a very talented and well-coached team," Florida coach Amanda Butler said. "They have first-team all-conference members in their starting five. They have some players who can really score.

"They've also played great competition. Like several teams, they are probably surprised they aren't in the NCAA Tournament."

Butler was likely referring to her own squad, at least a little bit.

Women's Basketball

However, Butler and the Gators (18-14, 7-9 Southeastern Conference) aren't letting a somewhat disappointing season dampen their spirits heading into Friday's matchup with the Retrievers (20-11, 13-3 America East) at 7 p.m. in the O'Connell Center.

"We knew that we were a post-season team when the year began, and twists and turns throughout the season have brought us here," Butler said. "We're excited about having an opponent to prepare for and to have a team to focus on in practice this week."

Florida won two games over Tournament teams down the stretch,



Harrison Diamond / Alligator

Florida women's basketball coach Amanda Butler isn't letting an often disappointing regular season affect the Gators' NIT preparation.

and after a loss to Tennessee in the second round of the Southeastern Conference Tournament, Butler said she thought Florida deserved to be in the field of 64.

The Gators made it to a field of 64, and while it's not the one they originally envisioned, their sights remain set on capturing a championship this season.

Florida dominates UCSB in every facet of game

HOOPS, from page 1

we're on a mission."

The next hurdle UF faces in trying to reach its goal is a contest Saturday against seventh-seeded UCLA, which beat No. 10-seed Michigan State 78-76 immediately after Florida's win.

To prepare despite the quick turnaround, the Gators returned to their hotel rather than sticking around to scout their next opponent in person.

Macklin said the team would hold a meeting late Thursday or early today to hear the scouting report on their next adversary. That leaves the Gators with one practice session, which Donovan hopes will be enough following three days of strong focus and preparation prior to UCSB.

"These guys understand what's at stake," Donovan said.



Parsons

"They realized what happened today, the margin of victory — that's not going to be the case next game.

"They got their legs under them, and they've seen the atmosphere and got a win. Now, can we come back and ... have the same kind of focus we've had the last three days?"

That strong week of practice led to UF dominating UCSB in almost every statistical category.

The Gators scored at will, amassing a 58.1 shooting percentage. The team was equally stout on the defensive end, holding the Gauchos to just 27.3 percent from the field en route to a 43-19 halftime lead.

Amid rampant criticism that the team didn't deserve a No. 2 seed, Florida did everything it could to prove itself against inferior competition.

"We wanted to focus on winning and block out what people were saying," sophomore guard Kenny Boynton said. "We just wanted to come out and play our best game both offensively and defensively."

UF SWIMMING

Gators women recover from slow start, in 10th after Day 1

By **MELISSA PENDER**
Alligator Writer

After a rough morning at the 2011 NCAA Women's Swimming and Diving Championships, Florida bounced back to finish the first day in 10th place with 53 points.

Junior Sarah Bateman had the Gators' highest finish of the day, taking sixth place (22.15) in the 50-yard freestyle finals, improving on her eighth-place standing in the preliminary round. Bateman received All-American honors but said she wishes her time had been bet-

ter.

"I was happy with the 50 free, but I knew I could have gone faster like I did at SECs," she said.

Junior Shara Stafford received honorable mention All-American honors for her fourth-place (22.45) finish in the "B" finals of the 50 free. The award was her seventh career All-American award, tying a team best.

Freshman Elizabeth Beisel also placed in the finals and received All-American honors, taking eighth place (4:42.18) in the 500 free.

The Gators missed the "A" finals in both

relays, which UF coach Gregg Troy said would be instrumental to the team's success.

The team of Bateman, Stafford, freshman Ellese Zalewski and sophomore Jamie Bohunicky finished first in the 200 free relay "B" finals. Meanwhile, Beisel, Bateman, Stafford and freshman Hilda Luthersdottir took sixth in the "B" finals of the 400 medley relay.

"The team competed hard today, but it just wasn't enough," Bateman said. "We have to swim much better tomorrow."

Troy agreed his team needs to step up if it wants to win another NCAA title, but he said

he was happy with the results at the end of the day.

"We swam a lot better tonight than we did this morning," Troy said. "We have to regroup, come back tomorrow and race tough. We have a long ways to go."

After Day 1 last season, when UF went on to win their first national championship in 28 years, Florida was in fourth with 107 points.

Day 2 of competition begins today at noon. There will be five individual swimming events, two swimming relays and one diving competition



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Applications are now out to serve on the following student committees: the O'Connell Center Advisory Board, the Recreational Sports Board, and the Reitz Union Board of Managers. Serve UF, gain valuable leadership experience, and help make decisions that benefit all students at UF. 2011 Student Advisory Board Applications can be downloaded from <http://www.ufsa.ufl.edu> under the "Recent Updates" section.

Terms for year student advisory board are an entire school year (Fall 2011 to Spring 2012). Qualifications include being a full-time UF student (12 hours undergraduate, 9 hours graduate), a minimum 2.75 cumulative GPA, and not on Conduct Probation.

Turn in hard copy applications (and a typed resume) to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs in 155 Tigert Hall by Monday, March 21 at 4 pm. If you have questions, please see the application for more details or email Dr. Jeanna Mastrodicasa at jmastro@ufl.edu.



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What's on the Web

There is far more action happening in the Florida sports world this weekend than spring football practice and the NCAA Tournament. Check out our website at alligatorSports.org for more on the following stories.

Track and Field

Indoor season ends, outdoor campaign set to begin
After junior jumper Will Claye dominated during Florida's 2011 NCAA Indoor Championship, the Gators are preparing for the outdoor season, which starts this weekend in Orlando. Florida will send eight athletes from the women's team to compete in the Black and Gold Challenge.

Men's Golf

Gators looking to regain old form
A sixth-place finish in February's John Hayt Invitational and a third-place showing at the Bandon Dunes Championship have left the Florida men's golf team searching for answers. The Gators are looking to rediscover the form that helped them start their spring campaign with three consecutive tournament titles. No. 5 Florida is looking to get back on track this weekend at the Schenkel Invitational.

Softball

Walton sees Coyle as Gators' next star
Tim Walton has coached some great players in his career – Stacey Nelson, Kim Waleszonia, Francesca Enea, Stephanie Brombacher and so on. But UF softball's all-time winningest coach feels he has a future star in freshman shortstop Cheyenne Coyle. The California native has started all 28 games, displaying her powerful bat and smooth glove early in her Florida career. Coyle and the rest of the No. 2 Gators will travel to take on Ole Miss this weekend.

Tennis

No. 13 men's team falls to No. 3 USC at home
For the fourth time this season, Florida showed its weakness against a top-ranked opponent, dropping a tight 4-3 match to Southern California. The No. 13 Gators (11-4, 4-0) came out strong Thursday evening, winning two of the three doubles matches to claim the first point over the No. 3 Trojans (14-2). Hopes were high at Linder Stadium at that point, with one of the largest home crowds of the season on hand to watch Florida battle the two-time defending national champions.

Lacrosse

Gators to test undefeated home start Saturday
Behind a frenzied attack that has simply outrun its opponents and a stingy defense that has allowed only 7.2 goals per game at home, No. 10 Florida (7-1) has jumped out to a perfect 6-0 start at Dizney Stadium. Despite piling up several wins against lower competition, Gators will face a true test at home on Saturday at 1 p.m. against No. 11 Syracuse.

Rosa Taveras / Alligator Staff

UF seeks to improve timely hitting

By **TOM GREEN**

Alligator Writer
tgreen@alligator.org

Despite being the top-ranked team in the nation and getting off to the program's best start since 1992, coach Kevin O'Sullivan has one concern about his squad heading into Southeastern Conference play.

When No. 1 Florida (15-2) travels to Baton Rouge, La., to open a three-game series against No. 8 LSU (16-1) tonight at 7, O'Sullivan hopes his team can overcome a problem that has plagued it the last two games: leaving runners on base.

"If you ask any coach at any level, it's one of those things: Good teams hit with runners in scoring position.

They have a better approach, they don't pull off; they're aggressive early in the count."

Kevin O'Sullivan
UF baseball coach

Over the last two games — an 8-6 win against Rhode Island and a 5-4 extra-inning victory against FSU — Florida has stranded a combined 25 men, including a season-high 13 against the Seminoles.

"I don't know how you work on it, to be honest with you," O'Sullivan said. "It's a frustrating thing. ... I think if you did that 10 times in a row, you'll probably lose nine out of the 10."

While he might not know how to fix the problem, Florida's skipper understands why his team is struggling to plate those runners.

He believes the Gators need to do a better job not falling behind in the count and getting quality at-bats in those situations.

Two times each against URI and FSU, UF ended an inning with the bases loaded.

Florida also stranded runners in scoring position in eight other innings.

In the bottom of the ninth against FSU, Brian Johnson singled to lead off the inning, and pinch runner Paul Wilson stole



Max Reed / Alligator Staff

UF second baseman Josh Adams said the Gators have been working on situational hitting in practice, hoping to strand fewer baserunners.

second and moved to third on a wild pitch.

However, Florida squandered the opportunity, as the next three batters went down in order.

Those missed chances nearly cost the Gators against the Rams and the Seminoles.

Florida could have easily secured both games or put them out of reach with a couple of quality at-bats in those situations.

"If you ask any coach at any level, it's one of those things," O'Sullivan said. "Good teams hit with runners in scoring position."

"They have a better approach. They don't pull off. They're aggressive early in the count."

Second baseman Josh Adams said the only way to get over the hump is through repetition.

The Gators have recently been working on situational hitting in practice against their own pitchers, he added.

But the senior knows his team can't continue to blow those scoring opportunities if it hopes to open SEC play with a big series win in Baton Rouge.

"We got lucky," Adams said of the last two games. "Against really, really good teams, they're going to take advantage of that."

"And we'd be lucky to come out with a win if we leave that many runners stranded again."

Florida ready to defend SEC title

By **ALLISON BANKO**

Alligator Writer

By making a conscious effort to push tomorrow out of their minds, the Gators have strived tirelessly to avoid jumping ahead of themselves throughout the season.

But the time to focus on the Southeastern Conference Championships is finally here, and it's become their top priority.

No. 1 Florida, the defending SEC champion, will compete in what its gymnasts call the "funnest meet ever" on Saturday in Birmingham, Ala.

On top of facing six conference squads, the stage set for the competition will present a different surface beneath the gymnasts' bare feet.

The SECs are performed on a podium, which is a raised, championship-style floor that has bouncier equipment, requiring the gymnasts to work arduously to control their bodies on the springy surfaces.

Sophomore Ashanée Dickerson remembers being introduced to the format for the first time in last year's SECs.

"It was hard trying to get used to it," Dickerson said. "Once the first event was over, you knew what you had to do, and it was fine after that."

UF coach Rhonda Faehn said the athletes will have to make adjustments, including backing up their runs on vault so they don't overshoot. They will also have to be extra careful not to gain too much momentum, causing them to go out of bounds on their floor routines.

Although the Gators don't have a podium to practice on in their home practice facilities, the team held a mock meet this weekend to mimic the upcoming competition as well as possible.

Compared to the intrasquad meets the gymnasts have performed in all season, Faehn said Saturday's was phenomenal.

"Normally when we have an intrasquad, there's a little bit less energy because it's not the actual competition," Faehn said. "It didn't happen this time. They were really up."

And being "up" is something UF will have to squeeze every last drop out of come 5 p.m. Saturday.

With the podium, the teams have to stay in a designated corral, separating the performing athlete from her cheering teammates. This stains the usual screaming huddles in which the Gators engulf the performing gymnast after the close of her routine.

"You're on a stage and it's your show time," sophomore Liz Green said. "Even though our team has to stay in a corral down on the podium, it's kind of like you try to be as loud as you can."

But fellow sophomore Marissa King said Saturday's competition will ultimately come down to the fine details and polish of the routines, a focus of the entire season.

"We have the gymnastics in the bag," King said. "We know the gymnastics skills, we know our routines."

"Really, it's just about focusing on those small details because our bodies can do it, it's just the concentration and the focus that we need to be able to do those skills perfectly."



Gymnastics

Senior QB trusts Weis' experience, knowledge

FOOT, from page 12

of confusing things going on right now with this offense just because it's all new to us, but we're just going to try to help each other and become the leaders."

But Brantley has quickly

taken to his new position coach, speaking highly of his knowledge, reputation and résumé — particularly in developing quarterbacks like Brady Quinn and Tom Brady.

"Coach Weis is a genius with the offense, and he's going to do great things here,"

Brantley said. "You can put a lot of trust in his hands because he knows what he's doing. He's got the track record to show it."

And Brantley's teammates are picking up

on his excitement for a fresh start in 2011.

"You really can't tell right now from this first practice, but I feel like Brantley, he's loving this offense," sophomore receiver Andre Debose said. "He's loving every second of it."



Football

BILL, from page 12

Then, we need to know if he's crazy. If he's crazy, how crazy? My partners and I don't do crazy. Dominick takes care of the hard cases. If he's a tough guy, we have to hope he's not as crazy as Dominick. This puts the odds back in our favor.

I introduced Dom to my partners two years ago. He was making small talk as we drove across the Bronx in my partner's Honda Prelude.

"Yeah, you see that tree over there in that park? Whatta beating me, Gobbo and Dodo put on some mook by that tree. We beat this guy for 30 minutes. What a tough prick. He smiled while we beat him. I kicked that prick until my foot hurt. He just kept smiling. When we got done beating him, I couldn't sleep. His smile haunted me. It's all I could think about. I knew I had to kill him.

"So, Dodo drove me down here five or six times. Finally, one night we see him alone by that same tree. So, we drive by. I use my uncle's hunting rifle, and I shoot him in the head. Boom, right over there by that tree."

My partner shoots me a nervous look. I avoid his staring eyes by looking out the passenger window at the buildings lining the six-lane road we're cruising. My mind drifts.

Instead of thinking about the sociopath in the back seat, I focus on the architecture.

The Grand Concourse was the Champs-Élysées of the Bronx. The boulevard runs through the center of the West Bronx from 138th Street and Mott Avenue, past Yankee Stadium, all the way up to Moshulu Parkway.

The H-Type apartment buildings enclosing the roadway were designed to resemble the Moorish architecture of Spain. These

apartments once housed luminaries such as Babe Ruth and Milton Berle.

The only semblance of celebrity left in these once-fashionable apartment buildings are the neighborhood's famed drug dealers.

Ethnic minorities, on rent control, now inhabit these fine examples of Art Deco architecture. The Grand Concourse no longer resembles the Champs-Élysées.

The center island of maple trees with grand apartment buildings lining both sides of the boulevard has disappeared. Also gone are the middle class, the neighborhood stores and the architects' dream.

At the moment, I want to be in Paris — anywhere but inside this car. I'm forced back to the problem at hand.

My intuition warns me that a halo's only a short distance from a noose. Things have been good. We're due for a fall.

Dominick is borderline psychotic. I intend to exploit his disorder for my own benefit. No good can come of this.

A Bronx maxim: You've got to be a stand-up guy. You can't screw your friends. Afraid of blowback, I've used Dom sparingly.

His sheer workmanlike approach to violence boggles my mind. Dominick emanates perpetual foreshock. His dispassionate, distant, dead eyes never blink.

Although not intimidating in size, you know any confrontation with him will have to be to the finish. He's telling a story about how he secured work for his cousin.

"I tell my foreman, 'Put my cousin to work.' My foreman says, 'I don't need anybody right now.'

"I said, 'My cousin needs a job.' He said, 'You deaf? I don't need anybody.'

"I went up on the roof, maybe 12 floors, see him down below, pick up a cinder block and drop it. I missed his head by two feet.

When he looked up at the roof, I saw him shaking. I smiled and wagged my finger at him.

"He put my cousin to work."

I say, "Holy shit, man, how did you get so close to him without hitting him?"

He shoots me a look like I asked him to split the atom: "What do you mean so close? I tried to kill him."

His indifference to consequence, moral or otherwise, would stun Attila the Hun.

He shocks me. And I'm not the everyday citizen.

Blinky, my partner, warns me, "I don't care how long you've known him. We can't use this guy. He's crazy."

He's right, yet our problem cries for Dominick's expertise.

First, a preliminary question: Who does Karl know? We find out he's not connected. One last chance to get our money the easy way, I call him at home.

"This problem won't go away."

"You're dealing with serious people."

"What do you think we're playing games?"

All fruitless. I send Dominick.

In the nightclub business, when you hire a doorman, you hire a gentle giant. You don't want problems. In the bookmaking business, illusion is not enough. Threats must be backed up by cold efficiency.

I should have heeded Blinky's warning.

The last dance approaches. The fiddler will have to be paid.

Bill O'Connor is a Vietnam veteran, former Bronx firefighter and pub and restaurant owner. He is currently a journalism major at UF and a standup comic. The irreverent and acerbic O'Connor performs free standup around Gainesville.

Thompson not limited to slot position

RECEIVERS, from page 12

his team struggled with, he said, because former receivers coach Zach Azzani micromanaged his players. Last August, several receivers praised Azzani for being so detail-oriented, but their feelings soured as the season progressed.

"Coach [Azzani] was on top of you the whole time," Patton said. "Everything you did, he was on top of you the whole time. Coach Hill, he backs off a little bit. He's more laid-back. He lets you be who you are."



Patton

THOMPSON NOT IN THE SLOT:

On the preliminary depth charts handed out to the media Monday, Thompson was listed as the team's slot receiver. With new offensive coordinator Charlie Weis relying more on two-receiver packages, putting Thompson in the slot would imply his playing time could decrease significantly next season.

"I think that was a misprint," he said Thursday. "I haven't been in the slot yet."

Instead, Thompson said he has been working at the two standard receiving spots while Frankie Hammond Jr. lined up in the slot during the team's first practice Wednesday.

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