

the independent florida alligator

Not officially associated with the University of Florida

Published by Campus Communications, Inc. of Gainesville, Florida
We Inform. You Decide.

Two more Gators
left the program
Tuesday, bringing
the total number
to 11 since Will
Muschamp was hired.
See story, page 13.



VOLUME 106 ISSUE 69

WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2011



Alex Catalano / Alligator

Riding Solo

Animal Sciences freshman Lainie Valasquez unicycles up Stadium Road for enjoyment and in preparation for the event "Juggle07," hosted by Objects In Motion.

Dining halls nix foam products

PACKAGING ITEMS
WILL BE REPLACED WITH
PAPER-BASED PRODUCTS.

JAVIER PEÑA

Alligator Contributing Writer

In an effort to eliminate waste, Gator Dining locations on campus will no longer be using foam products.

Foam food packaging products, which include cups and to-go containers, have been re-

placed with paper-based products that are compostable or recyclable, Dana Falstad, sustainability manager for Gator Dining Services, wrote in an email.

"By eliminating the number of foam containers on campus, we are helping to promote sustainability and working together to help our environment," she said.

Falstad declined to disclose the cost of removing foam

products from campus.

With more than 40 dining locations at the university no longer using foam, 24,000 pounds of foam products will be saved, according to a Monday Gator Dining news release.

Falstad said UF used about 1.2 million pieces of foam products in 2010, and these products don't break down in landfills and can hurt the environment.

"We are helping to support

SEE FOAM, PAGE 5

Architecture students mourn death of peer

MEREDITH RUTLAND

Alligator Staff Writer

Something is missing from Studio 216.

There's a silence that hovers over the nearly empty architecture studio. A certain unreserved laugh isn't there. Neon outfits no longer grace one of the desks closest to the studio's window.

Some students can't bear to work in the silence — it reminds them Jade Guzzo isn't there.

The 20-year-old architecture junior died Sunday night when her SUV flipped on Florida's Turnpike, according to a Florida Highway Patrol news release.

She was driving back to Gainesville on Sunday from the Thanksgiving break. The 1995 Isuzu Rodeo she was driving drifted off the road while she was traveling through Osceola County around 9 p.m. She turned the wheel but overcor-

rected. The SUV flipped several times. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

"She's always rambunctious."

Caleb Generoso

UF architecture junior

She and a passenger, who is recovering from her injuries, were both wearing their seatbelts. Alcohol was not involved.

Her architecture classmates were among the first to hear about her death. They went into the hallway, sat down and cried together, said Jessica Elliott, a 20-year-old architecture junior.

"There's a special bond that forms among architecture students," Elliott said. "Once you spend more time in a studio than you spend at home, your classmates become more than acquaintances."

"It becomes a second home to most people, if not a first home," she said.

SEE OBITUARY, PAGE 5

University police are still searching for rape suspect

MORGAN WATKINS

Alligator Staff Writer

University Police are investigating the rape of a UF student early Tuesday morning and searching for the man responsible.

UPD released a composite sketch of the man Tuesday evening. A woman who picked up the student as she was running from the man helped police develop the sketch, said Maj. Brad Barber, UPD public information officer.

The suspect is black, has a thin build and is between 5 feet 10 inches and 6 feet tall. He appears to be in his late 20s to early 30s and had a beard when the woman saw him Tuesday morning, according to a UPD news release. He was last seen wearing jean shorts, a red shirt and a baseball cap.

At about 2:13 a.m. Tuesday, the woman called UPD to report that a half-hour earlier she had picked up the female student who had been

attacked, according to a UPD news release. The man briefly chased the woman's car after they began to drive away from the area near Fraternity Row and West Fraternity Row. He then left the area on foot.

Afterward, the woman drove the student to the emergency room at Shands at UF.

The student told police she had accepted a ride from the man chasing her, whom she didn't know, after she left 101 Cantina in midtown, according to the news release.

She said he sexually battered her inside the car someplace between the bar and Fraternity Row.

She then fled from the car.

UPD increased patrols in the area and searched for the man, but police didn't find him, Barber said.

Anyone with information about the man's identity or the case can call UPD at 352-329-1111. To remain anonymous, those with information can call Crime Stoppers at 352-372-STOP.

Today

63/38

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Local charities collect donations for holidays

Some have leftovers from Thanksgiving, pg 3.

Five Florida cities ranked unluckiest and most unhappy

Tampa, Miami and St. Petersburg made the list, pg 8.



Hillel can send 40 more on Birthright

Some students who were previously put on a waiting list can go on the 10-day trip to Israel this winter, pg. 4.



News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Hearts for the Holidays Card Making
 Today to Friday
 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 Reitz Colonnade and Turlington Plaza
 Friends for Life presents the annual Hearts for the Holidays event and encourages UF students, faculty and staff to make holiday cards for pediatric cancer patients who will spend the holidays in the hospital.

IMPACT Autism General Meeting
 Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
 HPNP Building, Room G301
 Join the group for the final general meeting of the year. It is not too late to join. Come and see how to get involved next semester. Visit the Facebook group "IMPACT Autism @ UF" for more information.

FORECAST

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 SUNNY 63/38	 SUNNY 69/43	 SUNNY 72/44	 PARTLY CLOUDY 74/52	 PARTLY CLOUDY 78/55

Keep a Child Alive Meeting
 Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
 Weil Hall, Room 279
 Come learn about how KCA makes a difference for AIDS victims through fundraisers and spreading awareness. This is a great opportunity to get involved. New members are always welcome. Also "like" the "Keep a Child Alive at UF" group on Facebook.

Got something going on?
 Want to see it in this space? Send an email with "What's Happening" in the subject line to jflechas@alligator.org. To ensure publication in the next day's newspaper, please submit the event before 5 p.m. 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.

CLARIFICATION

An article in Tuesday's Alligator stated that Armando Grundy served in Operation Enduring Freedom. He served during the time of Operation Enduring Freedom on a U.S. base.

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 email editor@alligator.org.

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Local charities collect donations for holidays

EMILY MORROW
Alligator Writer

Gainesville's St. Francis House still has Thanksgiving leftovers.

Kent Vann, executive director of the soup kitchen and shelter, said last Thursday's dinner was a success.

About 200 volunteers served about 300 meals Thursday, he said, and the shelter had six turkeys leftover. They will be frozen for Christmas.

The St. Francis House was one of several charities and food banks in the city that collected money and food donations to give the hungry a Thanksgiving dinner.

The Gainesville Catholic Charities food pantry also collected food and money.

The food bank saw results similar to those of the St. Francis House, serving about 325 families throughout the week, said Cathynn Solomon, Catholic Charities' associate director.

Solomon said the food bank served just about all the food it had and didn't have to turn anyone away.

But the outlook was dim for Gainesville's Bread of the Mighty Food Bank.

Director Anne Voyles said

the food bank didn't get nearly as many food or monetary donations as in years past, something she said she attributes to the economy.

"People who were helping us last year are now the ones asking for food," she said.

Voyles said she usually sees more food donations around Thanksgiving than any other time of year, but she hopes things will pick up in time for Christmas.

"People who were helping us last year are now the ones asking for food."

Anne Voyles
director of Gainesville's Bread of the Mighty Food Bank

Anyone interested in making holiday donations to Bread of the Mighty can drop off food donations at 325 NW 10th Ave. from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Donations for the St. Francis House should go to 413 S Main St., and monetary donations should be mailed to P.O. Box 12491 Gainesville, FL 32604.

The Catholic Charities food bank is doing an adopt-a-family charity for Christmas. To participate, call 352-372-0294.



Alex Catalano / Alligator

Put your back into it

UF broke ground today to unveil the new Data Center at the Eastside Campus, located at 2124 NE Waldo Road. UF President Bernie Machen emphasized it was the university in cooperation with the mayor and the city that brought this project to life from where it started almost six years ago.

NATIONAL

US to pay \$2.5M in man's anthrax death

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — More than a decade after tabloid photo editor Robert Stevens became the first victim of the 2001 anthrax attacks, the U.S. government has agreed to pay his widow and family \$2.5 million to settle their lawsuit, according to documents released Tuesday.

Stevens, 63, died on Oct. 5, 2001, when a letter containing deadly anthrax spores was opened in Boca Raton at the then-headquarters of American Media Inc., publisher of the National Enquirer, Sun and

Globe tabloids. Eventually four other people would die and 17 others would be sickened in similar letter attacks, which the FBI blames on a lone government scientist who committed suicide.



Stevens

Stevens' widow, Maureen Stevens, sued the government in 2003, claiming its negligence caused her husband's death by failing to adequately safeguard anthrax at the U.S.

Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Md. The FBI probe concluded that Fort Detrick was the source of the spores used in the attacks in New York, Washington and Florida.

The government failed to carry out its "duty of care, the highest degree of care" in making sure the deadly microbes were kept tightly under lock and key, according to the suit.

Government attorneys said that the intent of the deal was "avoiding the expenses and risks of further litigation."

SIGN ON TO ANOTHER GREAT SEASON!



SPRING SPORTS SECTIONS

Issue Date	Sports Coverage
Mon. 1/9	Football Season & Bowl Game Recap (Deadline: 12/07/11)
Fri. 1/20	Women's Swimming and Diving vs. Auburn Men's Basketball vs. LSU Track & Field Gator Invitational
Fri. 2/3	Men's Basketball vs. Vanderbilt
Fri. 2/10	Softball Preview (Wrap) Men's Basketball vs. Tennessee Women's Basketball vs. Tennessee
Fri. 2/17	Baseball Preview (Wrap)
Fri. 3/2	Men's Basketball vs. Kentucky
Wed. 3/14*	Men's NCAA Basketball Tournament (Wrap) *if invited to NCAA tournament
Fri. 3/16	Softball, Baseball, Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Women's Golf
Fri. 4/6	Orange & Blue Game (Wrap) Pepsi Florida Relays (Track & Field)
Fri. 4/13	Softball, Lacrosse, Men's Tennis
Fri. 4/20	Softball, Baseball

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STUDENT LIFE

Birtheright trip to Israel offers more seats to students

MINA RADMAN
Alligator Writer

Michelle Amit wanted to meet new people while on a trip to Israel.

She applied for the Birtheright trip in October, certain she would be accepted, but she was wait-listed.

Disappointed, the 20-year-old microbiology sophomore began to make other plans for Winter Break. However, Amit now has another chance to go to Israel this winter.

UF Hillel has been offered an extra bus and can send 40 more students to Israel through the tour operator Israel Experts, said Joshua Kahn, the Jewish agency program director at Hillel.

"We both kind of accepted the fact that chances were pretty slim to get on a trip that fit both our schedules while we were wait-listed."

Michelle Amit
microbiology sophomore

Birtheright is a 10-day trip that allows people of Jewish heritage to connect with their roots by visiting Israel. Israel funds 15 percent of the costs, and various organizations and private donors fund the rest.

Sending one person to Israel costs about \$3,000. The program is free except for a \$250 security deposit, which is returned at the end of the trip.

The trip includes a round-trip ticket, two meals a day and a bus seat while traveling in Israel.

About 50 percent of applicants are

usually wait-listed for winter trips, Kahn said.

With the new winter trip, UF students who previously registered, regardless of what trip operator used, can apply.

Twenty of the 40 new spots had already been filled as of Tuesday night. Students interested in attending the trip,

which is from Dec. 29 to Jan. 8, should email Kahn at Josh@ufhillel.org.

Kahn said he must have a final list by Wednesday.

UF Hillel has already accepted 40 students for the first trip, which is from Dec. 27 to Jan. 7.

While Amit has emailed Kahn, she's not

sure if she or her friend will be able to go on the new trip.

"We both kind of accepted the fact that chances were pretty slim to get on a trip that fit both our schedules while we were wait-listed," Amit said. "As cool as it would be to travel this winter, there's always next year, worst case scenario."



Courtesy to Alligator

UF students on a Hillel Birtheright trip meet the Israeli soldier who will accompany them during their trip.

FAMU hazing persisted despite student suspensions, arrests

Death of drum major still under investigation

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — Two decades ago, the now-ousted director of the Florida A&M band warned in a letter about the dangers of hazing among the famed "Marching 100" ensemble, saying "it would be very difficult for the university and the band should someone become killed or hurt."

In the following years, however, hazing seemed to become a bigger — if not more public — problem.

Police investigated several serious cases, and students were arrested.

Anti-hazing workshops were held.

Dozens of band members were suspended.

University officials and the marching band community were keenly aware of the persistent hazing, yet it continued and is believed to have played a role in the death this month of a 26-year-old drum major Robert Champion.

Champion's death started a blame game of sorts, with the historically black college in Tallahassee firing its band director, Julian White, accusing him of "misconduct and/or incompetence."

In turn, White released more than 150 pages of documents showing that he warned the university for years about what was going on.

The chair of the Board of Governors, which oversees Florida's public universities, wrote a letter to FAMU trustees Tuesday saying it would investigate whether the university administration took appropriate action to address White's concerns.

A former band member told The Associated Press on Tuesday that White looked for ways to eradicate a culture of hazing that existed in many instrument sections of the band.

White invited band members to anonymously report hazing and even had police come along on some away games, former drum major Timothy Barber said.

In 2001, when trumpeter Marcus Parker was paddled so severely that he ended up hospitalized with kidney damage, White

had police escort the trumpet section off the field to be interrogated to show he would not tolerate hazing, Barber said.

About a dozen people pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor and received probation in that case, though it's not clear what actions, if any, the university took to punish them.

After the arrests, White approached Barber for help in getting rid of hazing.

One area he focused on: a white wall in the band's practice field where nicknames for the instrument sections were prominently displayed.

Becoming a member of these groups — the clarinets were known as "The Clones" and the tubas were the "White Whales" — meant becoming part of a tradition and a band that has played Super Bowls, the Grammys and presidential inaugurations.

But some sections had their

own violent initiation rituals. White bought buckets of white paint and asked Barber to cover up the section nicknames on the wall.

"Tim, we have to find a way to eradicate these subsections of the band," Barber said White told him. "Cover the names so they see this is not something supported by the band staff."

While White documented his efforts to stop the hazing, it's possible he could've done more on the front lines, according to Richard Sigal, a retired sociology professor at County College of Morris in Randolph, N.J., who has studied hazing.

"Maybe he just had a problem that was beyond his ability to control it," Sigal said. But in general, "If the person at the top issued a zero tolerance policy for hazing and oversaw what the people under him were doing, then there was no hazing."

The details of Champion's death are unclear.

Authorities, the school and an attorney for his family said hazing played a role, but no one has

been willing to shed any more light on what actually happened Nov. 19 after the football team played its rival Bethune-Cookman.

Police have said only that Champion started vomiting and complained he couldn't breathe before he collapsed on a band bus outside their hotel in Orlando.

The university has announced an independent review, and Gov. Rick Scott has asked state investigators to join the sheriff's department in their investigation.

University officials declined interview requests for this story, but President James Ammons, who earned his bachelor's and master's degree from FAMU, issued a statement late Tuesday.

"The university has a zero tolerance policy toward hazing. Period. But it is becoming increasingly clear that hazing continues to exist — at FAMU and across the country at other universities, colleges and other elements — because hazing survives and thrives in a culture of secrecy and a conspiracy of silence. I am committed to illuminating this dark corner of Florida A&M University and the American culture ... illuminating it and eradicating it."



Champion

PHILANTHROPY

UF participates in Alachua County schools food drive for first year

MARY ANNE EADES

Alligator Contributing Writer

Volunteers for the Winter Break Food Drive in Alachua County are hoping to collect donations to fill 500 boxes of food for needy families.

During the school year, thousands of children are provided meals through the Free/Reduced-Price Lunch school meal program.

When those children are home for Christmas break, Dec. 17 through Jan. 2, their families

struggle to buy the extra food needed, said Kelley Kostamo, coordinator of the food drive.

"Many more kids need the food over the holidays than we can provide food for," she said. "We really can't help as many kids as we'd like to."

The Center for Leadership and Service is helping promote the food drive on campus. The center does not know the response the Student Body will have because this is the first year UF is participating, said Angela Garcia, the UF contact for the food drive.

"This drive is a great opportunity for students to get involved in the needs of their community and not just on campus," she said.

The food will be collected, assembled into balanced food boxes and distributed to most of the schools in the district.

"We need kid-friendly, non-perishable food," Kostamo said. "This year, we also want to provide food for holiday meals such as sweet potatoes and stuffing."

Macaroni and cheese, canned food, and peanut butter and jelly are commonly donated foods.

"This drive is a great opportunity for students to get involved in the needs of their community and not just on campus."

Angela Garcia

UF contact for food drive

"We always have lots of macaroni and cheese, so the money donated will be used to buy the items missing from the boxes, such as fruit," Kostamo said.

The boxes will be assembled by volunteer school

children, many of them Key Club members, and teachers. Dec. 9 is the last day for donations, and the boxes will be distributed on the last day of school, which is Dec. 16.

"I know sometimes, as college students, you're hungry too," Kostamo said, "but when you leave to go home for break, consider giving the extra food you have, and that you can live without, to the food drive." Students can bring donations to the Center for Leadership and Service in 301 Peabody Hall.

Temperatures will dip into 30s this week

► THEY ARE COOLER THAN NORMAL FOR THIS TIME.

MINA RADMAN

Alligator Writer

For some, Florida's cold temperatures are no reason to bundle up.

Saajan Panikar, a 21-year-old wildlife ecology and conservation senior, walked around campus Tuesday in jeans and a polo T-shirt.

The 64-degree temperature outside didn't bother him much.

"I'm from Chicago," Panikar said. "This isn't that cold."

Temperatures will dip into the 30s and not exceed the mid-60s this week, said Marie Trabert, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Jacksonville. Wednesday night will be the coldest with a low of 33 degrees, and there may be frost on cars and along the grass Thursday morning, she said.

The temperatures are about

10 degrees cooler than normal for this time of year.

Panikar said he thinks people who complain about the temperatures or bundle up in heavy winter clothing are "ridiculous."

"Until you've had to wear a parka and still feel cold, don't talk to me," he said.

Staci Didner, an 18-year-old public relations sophomore and New York native, wore a light jacket and jeans Tuesday. The weather in Florida gets "perfectly cold," she said.

"I'm so happy we get the cold without the snow," Didner said.

But for native Floridians, cold weather means scarves, bubble jackets and trench coats.

Stacey Coonts, a 21-year-old anthropology junior from Tampa, prefers layering shirts with sweaters and wearing her handmade crocheted gloves when it's cold outside.

"I absolutely hate the cold," Coonts said. "I've always hated the cold. It's a Floridian thing, I guess."

'It's like losing a member of the family'

OBITUARY, from page 1

"It's like losing a member of the family."

Her desk has been left the way it was when Guzzo left for the Thanksgiving break.

The only change is two roses, a yellow one and a white one with red edges, that now sit in her cup of pens.

Pull open a drawer, and you'll see a bag of paints and a disheveled ball of green and pink rubber bands. Pieces of cut cardboard and a sketch on tracing paper are scattered on the desktop. There was a method to the mess, said her friend Caleb Generoso.

He said she was the type of person to run with an idea as soon as she thought of it.

"She's always rambunctious," said Generoso, a 20-year-old architecture junior. "She just kind of goes with it. I think her work says that too. ... She draws them so quick because it's whatever she's thinking right then."

Her friends put up a memorial with 48 pieces of her work on the second floor of the Fine Arts building, down the hall from her studio.

The sketches, part of a final class project, are aerial shots of a research complex. While some students favor perfectly straight edges and meticulous detail, Guzzo preferred to draw flowing, interconnecting lines of yellow and purple.

"She's the only person brave enough to use pastels in an architecture drawing," Generoso said.

Elliott said Guzzo's personality was as vibrant as her work.

"She's always the brightest and the loudest, but she was always so big with everything," she said. "She was amazing."

Margarita Martins, a 22-year-old architecture senior, said Guzzo was always upbeat.

"She was one of those people that, no matter how hard of a day she had, she would always be smiling," Martins said.

After Generoso heard about her death, he said, he knew traditional mourning colors wouldn't be enough to honor a woman who embodied glitter and neon.

"I just looked for the most colorful stuff I could find," he said,

clad in a yellow undershirt and a yellow-and-white button-up shirt. "I felt it wouldn't be appropriate to wear black or gray today because that's what she left behind, but what she brought in was color."

In her spare time, which her friend Jesse Mantohac said is hard to come by as an architecture student, Guzzo ran half-marathons. She would sometimes rush to class in her running clothes.

She had dreams of designing an art gallery to house the art she painted in her free time, Mantohac said.

Generoso said the studio will be too quiet without her laugh — one that was always full of life.

He said it could be heard at least two doors down, and it became part of the daily studio sounds for every student.

"Everything can be said about her personality if you just hear her laugh," he said. "To continue on this final week knowing she won't be at her desk, it's really unreal."

A memorial in Delray Beach is planned for 9:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 840 George Bush Blvd.



Courtesy to Alligator

Jade Guzzo, a 20-year-old architecture junior, died Sunday night when her SUV flipped on Florida's Turnpike.

UF aims to be 'zero waste' within four years

FOAM, from page 1

UF's goal of being zero waste by 2015," she said.

Accounting junior Jason Beck, 20, said he eats on campus two times a day. Usually eating at Panda Express or Burger King, Beck said he noticed both companies using plastic and paper cups.

Beck said he still sees students using disposable containers at the residential dining halls.

"It does seem a little more convenient for the average student to use their container and throw it away right after they use it," he said.

Nursing sophomore Lila Dillon, 20, said she hasn't noticed anything different about the cups or containers used around campus but said removing foam products shows that UF is becoming more green.

"We are helping to support UF's goal of being zero waste by 2015."

Dana Falstad

sustainability manager for Gator Dining Services

"Why would you choose to use Styrofoam when you can use something else that will work just as well?" Dillon said.

Opinions

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2011
WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG/OPINIONS

Editorial

Wrestling with Rights Everyone deserves right to fair trial

On Tuesday, Republican Sens. John McCain, Ariz., and Rand Paul, Ky., went head to head about an amendment to a proposed defense authorization bill.

The amendment in question would potentially deny a civilian trial to American citizens who have been suspected of terrorism.

According to The Hill, McCain argued that any "individual, no matter who they are, if they pose a threat to the security of the United States of America, should not be allowed to continue that threat."

But how does denying a citizen of the U.S. the constitutional right to a civilian trial help to ensure that a threat does not continue?

In fact, the U.S. Constitution guarantees that anyone, citizen or not, has the right to a civilian trial. This was correctly interpreted by the Supreme Court in *Boumediene v. Bush* in 2008, ruling that the writ of habeas corpus applies to Guantanamo Bay detainees.

From a philosophical standpoint, it would be unjust to deny rights to non-U.S. citizens. The Bill of Rights is based on the idea of natural rights, which apply to every human based upon their nature.

To deny noncitizens the rights in the Bill of Rights would be to deny the existence of natural rights altogether. Instead, rights would not come from man's nature but from the government where that person lived. This would make rights arbitrary and subject to the whim of the politicians in power.

But this amendment would not only deny civilian trials to noncitizens suspected of terrorism but U.S. citizens as well. This is intolerable.

Sen. Paul countered McCain's argument, proclaiming, "Should we err today and remove some of the most important checks on state power in the name of fighting terrorism, well then, the terrorists have won."

Hyperbole aside, Paul is absolutely correct. If politicians like John McCain believe that terrorists are attacking us because they hate our freedom, then the best way to fight terrorism is not to destroy our freedom altogether.

Of course, that is not why the terrorists are attacking us, but McCain should remove his hawkish lens and think of the long-term consequences of this amendment.

One of the other foundational parts of our justice system is the idea that all suspects are innocent until proven guilty. For McCain, this does not apply to terrorist suspects.

If someone is suspected of plotting a terrorist act, he or she can still be detained just like anyone else. But under the Constitution, law enforcement should still have to show just cause to detain someone, and that person must be afforded all of the protections (such as Miranda rights and a right to a trial) that any suspect would receive.

McCain said repeatedly on the floor, "Facts are stubborn things." He's right, and the facts are against him.

Reader response

Today's question: Are you already listening to the Christmas music on the radio?

Tuesday's question: Do you feel the 15 percent tuition hikes are necessary?

23% YES
77% NO

104 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

Elizabeth Behrman
EDITOR

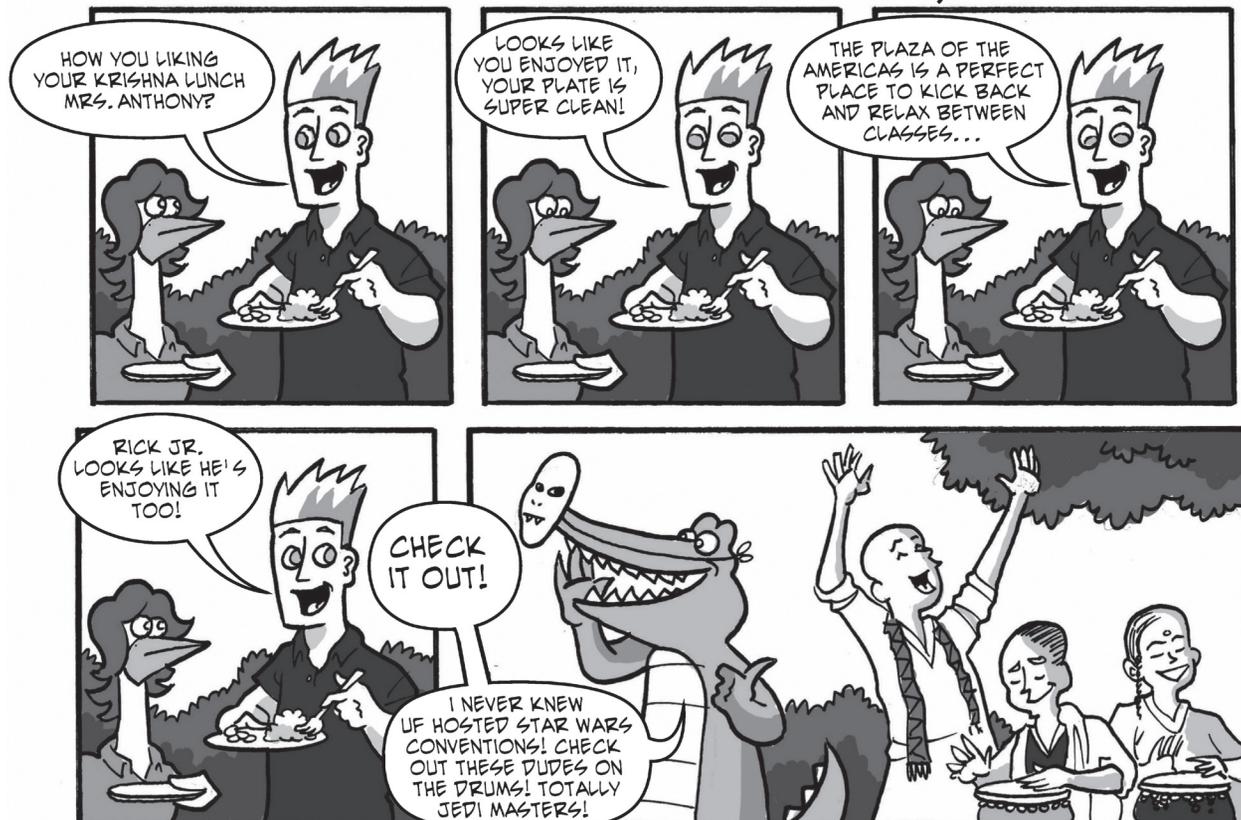
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SON of a GATOR

by Andre R. Frattino



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Column

For society's sake, embrace your inner skeptic

While I have tried religion in the past, something has always led me away from faith and toward reason. I found the burden of proof is not on the atheists to prove that God does not exist; it is on the theists to prove the existence of a deity. I just have not been presented with any convincing evidence.

I guess you could say I am skeptical about a lot of things, things we hear from politicians, religious figures or the media. This is not to say that everyone is involved in some big conspiracy with black helicopters. I just take things with a grain of salt.

If you have not guessed by the editorials this semester, I am a libertarian, and I believe this comes from my skepticism.

A while back, when the media reported that cellphones might cause cancer, I thought that this was probably overblown and needed more research before a conclusion could be made.

It was the government that moved quickly to "protect the people." In 2010, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors required cellphone makers to post notices warning about the levels of radiation in their phones. This year, the Journal of the National Cancer Institute found no link between cellphones and brain tumors, even in children who have been using cellphones for five years.

I have learned while studying history, politics, economics and religion that everything must be approached with a level of skepticism. One must question all claims made by the media, political figures and even your professors.

I am not saying that the truth can never be obtained or reached. Objective truth exists and can be acquired through the use of our ability to reason. This means that we cannot rely upon emotions or whim. We also should not rely upon public opinion.

When I hear, for instance, that a majority of Americans support waterboarding, I do not immediately accept that this policy is correct for the sake of democracy. Democ-



Justin Hayes
jhayes@alligator.org

racy constitutes the surrender of the rights of the minority to the whims of the majority; that should not be the standard by which we determine right and wrong.

When the government came to us in 2003 and said that we had to go to war in Iraq to spread democracy, the American people blindly followed without asking whether this was the right policy to pursue. In March 2003, 72 percent of people polled by the Pew Research Center said the use of military force in Iraq was the right decision. And now, after a decade of needless war and destruction, can we say that we are any more safe or that the Middle East has more freedom?

When we are told that capitalism is an evil system of exploitation, I just do not see the evidence. I believe that true capitalism (not the corporatism and government favoritism that we have seen over the past few decades) has brought more prosperity and has increased the standard of living more than any government program ever could.

The state is truly the destructive entity. How much destruction occurs when the government taxes (either through increased tax rates or inflation caused by printing more money) the private sector and then claims that it has created jobs when it starts a new "shovel-ready" program? The money taken out of the private sector could have gone to more productive pursuits, creating more wealth and more jobs.

Government has a monopoly on force, and we must demand that politicians prove their case to us before they start stripping away more liberty.

When it comes to these important issues, skepticism is critical for a free society.

Justin Hayes is a political communication graduate student at UF and the opinions editor for the Alligator.

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

CAREER TIPS

How to pitch a story idea and get published by a newspaper

DANIEL AXELROD

Alligator Contributing Writer

St. Petersburg Times editor Mike Brassfield has a mental manuscript about the do's and don'ts of freelancing from the writers who have approached him.

Brassfield, a regional editor in Clearwater, once sent a freelancer to a Unitarian church to cover a panel discussion about respecting people regardless of their sexual orientation.

Later, Brassfield asked how everything went.

"It went OK," she told him. "But they had to take the microphone out of my hand."

Brassfield was shocked.

The writer had inserted herself into the story.

"Later, I found out that when [the event organizers] were passing the microphone for questions, she practically took over the event, saying 'I'm from the St. Petersburg Times,'" he said. "She started monopolizing the discussion and interviewing the panel and the crowd."

In the soft economy, editors say they can be choosier about picking freelancers from a vast pool of unemployed reporters and aspiring writers, so knowing the rules of freelancing is more important than ever.

"I don't have time for coaching or surprises," Brassfield said. "And I don't have a lot of time to try to train somebody."

Across the globe, freelancers are in demand in a number of industries. Nearly half of the 12,000 companies polled in a recent, worldwide business confidence survey said they plan to hire freelance employees, according to Regus PLC, a Luxembourg-based company that outsources workplace office services.

Staff amputation

Few industries have come to rely on

freelancers more than newspapers, which cut nearly one in three newsroom employees between 2000 and 2010, according to industry analyst Rick Edmonds.

"I'm in dire need of copy from freelancers," said Sherri Day, the St. Petersburg Times' Brandon bureau chief. "My staff isn't just responsible for regional coverage. I also need regular copy."

Of course, freelancers have always worked at newspapers. Media scholars have documented how papers cut coverage to boost profits during four decades of corporate consolidation. Freelancers filled the gaps.

But after 15 years of failing to monetize online journalism, a societal shift in how companies advertise, a recession and declining readership, newspapers have gone from self-mutilation to staff amputation.

Even conservative, widely cited newspaper figures from the American Society of News Editors estimate a loss of 13,500 newsroom employees between 2007 and 2010.

Ironically, editors said, former full-time reporters are sometimes less equipped to freelance.

They're discouraged by paltry newspaper freelancer fees — from less than \$50 per article to a few hundred dollars — sensitive to rejection and unsure how to pitch.

Tampa Tribune features editor Kim Franke-Folstad receives amateur pitches from professionals who turn emails into virtual vitae.

"Pitch me a story, don't pitch me yourself," Franke-Folstad said. "I don't need to know how you wrote 300 stories for People magazine. I need to know what you want to write for me."

Former reporters aren't the only ones who need pitching lessons. Every individual fancies him or herself a writer, especially the well educated.

Franke-Folstad recently fielded a call

from a man who only identified himself as "an academic."

He wanted \$1,000 for his story. And, as is common with amateurs, he wouldn't reveal his story idea for fear the newspaper would steal it.

He also kept calling his story an "editorial."

The Equalizer

Regardless of a freelancer's credentials, strong story ideas are the great equalizer, said Dennis Moore, deputy managing editor of USA Today and head of the paper's Life section.

But they must be timely and targeted to the correct editor.

And freelancers must know the publication, its audience, coverage area, production schedule and which stories are only handled by staff, he added.



Brassfield

USA Today has published for almost 30 years and has never published on Sunday."

Moore still chuckles about the woman who wanted to profile a cruise ship singer. She called and "spoke eloquently for 15 minutes about the beauty and power of his voice."

"Clearly, this person was a good singer," Moore said. "But this was not the kind of story we would write."

Moore won't speak twice with the freelancers who argue about story ideas.

"I guess I admire their confidence in themselves and in the subject, but not enough for them to cover the story," he added.

To freelance for large newspapers and

magazines, writers must build a network of editor contacts and clips and gain experience at small operations, said Julia Dahl, an associate editor at cbsnews.com.

For cold pitches, Dahl's maxim is "three emails equals a relationship." Even unsuccessful pitches can help build fruitful relationships.

Whether using the phone or email, freelancers should be polite, patient and persistent without being overbearing. For example, writers should wait a few days, not a few minutes, before calling after an email pitch.

Editors need "some way to see that you're not a loon," Brassfield said.

When editors reject pitches, freelancers should ask questions such as: Can I call you with another story idea? What types of stories are you seeking? And: How about this other story idea?

For Moore, multimedia skills are a big plus, but not every editor wants them.

To keep jobs, freelancers must not be difficult. They must know AP style, meet length and story expectations and hit deadlines. They should "think like staffers" by suggesting photos and writing well-sourced stories.

And their copy can't be sacred or sloppy.

"A good storyteller is probably worth cleaning up," Franke-Folstad said. "But you're probably not a good storyteller. Even professionals aren't as good as they think they are."

Most of all, editors said, writers must improve pitches without taking rejection personally, realize freelancing is not lucrative and know it rarely leads to full-time jobs.

"You really have to love journalism to freelance," said Dahl, who spent a decade freelancing for major print publications. "The best thing a freelancer can do is marry a lawyer or someone who can provide you with a steady income."



ATTENTION ADVERTISERS

The Alligator will not publish from Thursday, December 8 to Tuesday, January 6 due to the holiday break.

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Reynolds backs Reitz renovation in address

CLARE LENNON

Alligator Writer

In the annual State of the Campus address held Tuesday night, Student Body President Anthony Reynolds focused on the proposed expansion and renovation of the J. Wayne Reitz Union.

The event was mandatory for dozens of student group leaders, and 182 people signed in at the assembly.

Reynolds said he threw his full support behind the "Make It Reitz" effort to renovate and add to the Reitz Union, which was built in 1967.

Members of the UF Board of Trustees will determine whether to approve the plan at the Board's Thursday meeting.

"I want you to remember one number: 87. Eighty-seven cents per credit hour," Reynolds said.

"I want you to remember one number: 87. Eighty-seven cents per credit hour."

Anthony Reynolds
Student Body president

He said that's how much money would be taken per credit hour for the Reitz Union construction from each student's Activity and Service fee.

Student Senator and chairman of the Reitz Union Board of Managers Sean Fahy said about 5,000 students had signed the initiative as of Tuesday.

Reynolds said during his address that the semester had taken some unexpected turns with the resignation of former Student Body President Ben Meyers and the impeachment trial of Supervisor of Elections Toni Megna. However, Reynolds said he wouldn't focus on those.

"All too often, we find ourselves caught up in the most recent scandal and the latest controversy," he said.

He applauded Megna and former Senate President Micah Lewis for initiating what Reynolds called the school's "revo-

lutionary new voting system."

The weekly Student Senate meeting followed after the address. Senators Katie Waldman and Matt Mountjoy, who are chairing the temporary committee to revise the elections codes, said they are dividing sections of the codes for

the committee members to review.

The committee will meet Sunday to compile and review the suggested changes.

Mountjoy said the meeting will begin at noon in room 355 of the Reitz Union and last "however long it takes."



Alex Catalano / Alligator

Student Body President Anthony Reynolds focused on the proposed Reitz Union expansion and renovation in the annual State of the Campus address.

Study: Fewer children in US uninsured Florida led nation in reduction

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — Even with more children living in poverty because of the rough economy, the number of children without health insurance in the U.S. has dropped by 1 million in the past three years, according to a report released Tuesday by Georgetown University.

Many states have expanded eligibility for, and simplified access to, the children's Medicaid program. This has helped shrink the number of uninsured children from 6.9 million in 2008 to 5.9 million in 2010. Experts say the Affordable Care Act, the federal health care overhaul that requires states to maintain income eligibility levels and discourages other barriers to coverage, has played a key role in the improvement.

Overall, 34 states had a significant decrease in the rate of uninsured children.

Florida made the most progress, dropping from 667,758 to 506,934 dur-

ing that time period, although the state still has one of the highest rates of uninsured children in the nation.

Minnesota, Kansas and Wisconsin saw an increase in the number of uninsured children.

Nevada has the highest rate of uninsured children while Massachusetts has the lowest, according to the report.

The findings, from the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute's Center for Children and Families, are based on an analysis of new health insurance data from the Census Bureau.

The news comes as the number of uninsured adults has risen in the past few years. High unemployment rates and the increasing cost of private insurance are driving more families to the federal-state Medicaid and Children's Health

Insurance Programs (CHIP). Both programs provide health insurance for children, but come from different funding streams and allow states more flexibility in how they run their programs.

President Barack Obama signed an extension of CHIP and provided \$87 billion to help states pay for Medicaid in the 2009 economic stimulus.

The Affordable Care Act should also help these gains, said Joan Alker, co-executive director of the Georgetown University research center.

"We will move to a culture of coverage," she said. "The presumption is everyone has insurance. Families will feel there's an option out there for them."

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear arguments challenging the constitutionality of the health care overhaul next year.

Florida led the nation in reducing the number of uninsured children in part because the state's Medicaid rolls swelled as the economy soured. But legislation passed in 2009 has also simplified the process and reduced penalties for those who don't pay premiums.

Florida cities make list of unlucky, sad US cities

ORIANA PAOLILLO

Alligator Contributing Writer

Some people say you make your own luck, but Florida isn't doing that, according to recent rankings in a national magazine.

Men's Health Magazine ranked five Florida cities among the most unhappy and unluckiest places in the U.S.

Tampa, Miami and St. Petersburg were among the top 10 saddest and unluckiest places to live in the country. Jacksonville and Orlando also made the lists, but neither were in the top 10.

The magazine based the happiness rankings on suicide and unemployment rates. It based luck on the number of lottery winners, the amount of money lost in gambling and bets, the number of lightning strikes and the number of deaths from falling objects.

Sarah Fowler, a 21-year-old political science senior, moved to Tampa during high school, the fourth saddest city and second unluckiest.

"There are lots of families and kids [in Tampa], and if that doesn't seem like a happy environment, I don't know what is," Fowler said.

Senior lecturer Steven Noll, a professor in the history department, disagreed with suicide rates being used as a measurement and didn't associate the number of suicides with a particular state.

"People come looking for opportunity, especially because of the nice weather," he said.

Noll was shocked St. Petersburg was listed as America's saddest city.

"My son lives there," he said. "It is a great place."

Fowler said she doesn't understand how people could call the "Sunshine State" an unhappy place.

"People come here for a good time," she said.

Luckiest U.S. Cities:

1. San Diego
2. Baltimore, Md.
3. Phoenix
4. Wilmington, Del.
5. Richmond, Va.
6. San Francisco
7. Las Vegas
8. Philadelphia
9. Louisville, Ky.
10. Reno, Nev.

Least Lucky U.S. Cities:

91. Fargo, N.D.
92. Miami
93. Bridgeport, Conn.
94. St. Petersburg
95. Billings, Mont.
96. Sioux Falls, S.D.
97. Memphis, Tenn.
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| 3 Sublease | 8 Electronics | 13 Wanted | 18 Personals | 23 Rides |
| 4 Roommates | 9 Bicycles | 14 Help Wanted | 19 Connections | 24 Pets |
| 5 Real Estate | 10 For Sale | 15 Services | 20 Event Notices | 25 Lost & Found |

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis. • All employment opportunities advertised herein are subject to the laws which prohibit discrimination in employment (barring legal exceptions) because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, familial status, age, or any other covered status. • This newspaper assumes no responsibility for injury or loss arising from contacts made through the type of advertising that is known as "personal" or "connections" whether or not they actually appear under those classifications. We suggest that any reader who responds to that type of advertising use caution and investigate the sincerity of the advertiser before giving out personal information. • Although this newspaper uses great care in accepting or rejecting advertising according to its suitability, we cannot verify that all advertising claims or offers are completely valid in every case and, therefore, cannot assume any responsibility for any injury or loss arising from offers and acceptance of offers of goods and/or services through any advertising contained herein.

2 For Rent unfurnished

Greenwich Green
2/2 for \$869
Patio and Storage Closet
Call 352-372-8100
12-7-11-74-2

Spacious 1, 2, & 3br starting at \$475. Many floor plans, some with enclosed patios or balconies. Italian tile, bedrooms carpeted. DW, W/D hook-ups, verticals, CH/AC. Near bus route, some walk to UF. Call 352-332-7700 12-7-11-74-2

SECTION 8 HOUSING ACCEPTED
Newly remodeled 2 & 3 BDs
Quiet neighborhood. Lots of upgrades.
Free 32" HD Plasma TV for new Sec 8 lease.
Must see! Call 332-7700 12-7-11-74-2

3bedroom \$509/person
All inclusive townhome with everything included! Utilities, cable, internet, furniture & washer/dryer. The Laurels apts. Call now: 4352-335-4455 12-7-11-74-2



**NEED A RENTAL?
CHECK OUT THESE DEALS**
Browse our website.
www.trend4rent.com
Call 352-375-7104 today!
12-7-74-2

Post Apartments- 1br apts in a quiet n'hood near campus/downtown; some utils incl.
●1825 NW 10th St. - Pvt. patio w/ lock gate, green space, big trees. \$499 ●1700 SW 16th Ct. - 1 block from Shands. \$549-\$599.
postj@bellsouth.net - 376-0080, 284-3873.
12-7-11-74-2

HOUSES FOR AUGUST ● BIKE TO UF
●3BR/2BA, fenced yard, \$1000
●4/2 in NW \$1300.
Gore Rabell Real Estate 378-1387
www.Gore-Rabell.com 12-7-11-74-2

Love the Nightlife?
Live where you play!
ArlingtonSquare.org
Apts in the heart of downtown
Call for Avail. 352.338.0002 12-7-11-74-2

2BR/1BA Cent heat mobile home. Shaded lot, laundry room. From \$380 to \$450/mo. Includes water. No pets. 1ST MONTH FREE! Vacant lots also available. 4546 NW 13th St. 376-5887 2-3-91-2

The Polos
1 Month FREE or FREE Cable
1, 2, & 3 Bedroom Apartments
Move in by September 15th
352-335-7656 www.thepolosuf.com
12-7-11-68-2

Near UF Campus The Baxter House Historic spacious 2 story brick, 4BR/2BA. Custom built with many beautiful, unique features; all the amenities NPets, NS, \$1480/month obo + util. Call 275 1259 12-7-11-34-2

● Centerpoint - 1220 NW 12 ST
\$450 - Bike to UF
● 4BR/2BA House directly across from Law School. W/D, DW, cent AC/heat
No application fee, most pets ok.
E.F.N. Properties, 352-371-3636 or
www.efnproperties.com
12-7-11-33-2

SERENOLA PINES
Off SW 34th St b/t Archer & Williston Rd.
Updated units, private courtyards, full W/D avail. 1BR \$515, 2BR \$595 352-335-0420 12-7-11-32-2

GREAT VALUE - WOODLAND TERRACE
Off SW 34th St b/t Archer & Williston Rd.
Water, sewer, garbage provided.
Updated units, private courtyards, RTS stop
1BR \$445, 2 BR \$545. 352-335-0420 12-7-11-32-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

Close to UF, \$555/month plus \$300 sec dep. 2BR with 2.5Bathroom townhouse. New floor/paint. Fenced backyard with W/D hook-up. 1310 SW 61st, GNV, 32607. Call 352/332-4088 or 352/514-7098 12-7-11-26-2

HISTORIC APTS Downtown Pleasant St Historic District. 1-3BRs avail now & fall. Ceiling fans, porches, wd firs, some w/ W/D. ALSO we have 2 & 3BR homes. Cats ok, no dogs. 1st, last, sec. aprleve@aol.com 538-1550 12-7-11-19-2

VETERANS and SECTION 8
Oakridge Apts 1120 NW 45th Ave. Openings for Vets who qualify under Section 8 Program. 2/1 \$550. Pool, RTS, on-site laundry 372-3783 12-7-11-18-2

●●●● MUST SEE! ●●●●
1BR, quiet, custom-built, in-law suite. Spacious, living room, full bath, dining, W/D. Cable, utils incl. Close to all -- has it all! \$700/mo. Call 278-8381 12-7-11-15-2

Newly renovated very clean, spacious property near everything in NW area available for lease. Laundry room, lots of storage space, central H/Ac, fireplace, much more. \$890/mo. Call 352-375-6754 or 352-495-6250 1-9-11-15-2

Get an entire 2/2 apt for only \$820/mo available NOW! Clean, spacious, comfortable inside. Gated community. Access to tanning beds, 24 hr gym, basketball & tennis courts & more. Furnishing available 954-625-5043 12-7-13-2

QUIET ncbd close to campus: 2br/2b, w/d, tile floors, built in storage, bookcases & desk, lge yard. \$800/m. Call 352-335-7139 for more details. 1-9-11-13-2

A charming, 3 BR/1.5 BA house. Great Neighborhood. Close to UF. W/D. Available January 1 (flexible). 2 people - \$800/mo. 3 people - \$900/mo. Call Meryl: 352-373-5933 12-2-11-5-2

Room available for \$540/month. Walking distance from CAMPUS and MIDTOWN. Separate bathroom, walk-in closet, washer/dryer, wifi. Available for Spring and Summer. Contact 954-562-3578 for questions. 1-9-11-7-2

SUN HARBOR APARTMENTS
2BR/1.5BA close to UF, Shands, Vet School \$625 w/ 1 month free; \$595 selected units.
Contact our office to inquire about student specials!!!
Sun Island Properties
352.376.7041/352.376.6720
4-25-11-80-2

TOWNHOUSE - 2BR/1.5BA, W/D hook-up, pvt backyard, carpet, tiles, just painted. Extra clean. \$650/mo + sec. 2627 SW 38th Place. Available now. 941-204-1304 or 352-215-3160 1-9-11-7-2

3 Subleases

Contact 305-502-6261
2 bedrooms, 2 baths. \$515/mo all inclusive and fully furnished. Pet friendly. Available from spring to summer. Apt in Windsor Park. 12-2-10-3

Bedroom w/ own bathroom avail \$365 (un-furn) or \$385 (furn) for 9 mo lease. Price all-inclusive (rent/util/cable/internet). Washer/dryer/dishwasher. Pets ok. On 9/35 bus routes. ~1.5 miles from UF. Student/young professional pref. Avail ASAP. 850-585-4405. 1-9-11-9-3

Beautiful 2bdm/2 bath with loft town home apartment for sublease at Cobblestone. Each apartment has washer and dryer in unit and built in microwave. Free extended cable with HBO included. \$999/mo. 386-972-2425 12-5-4-3

December FREE! Move in NOW for Spring Semester. Cabana Beach--2 bdrm/2 bath, furnished plus W/D. \$509/per person. (352) 552 1757. 1-13-11-10-3

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
12-7-74-4

STUDENTS NEEDED - TOWNHOUSE
W/D, clubhouse, pool, gated, parking, on bus route. \$350/mo + utils per room. Available December. Call 727-729-1561 11-30-26-4

Female roommate needed in furnished condo, 1.5 miles from UF \$379/MO cable, internet, utilities, pool+ more beautifully renovated, on bus route, Call 352 262-2871, Available 1/1/12 1-9-11-14-4

MOVE IN NOW- Need 1 male student to share 4/4 Countryside condo, near poolside. Easy commute UF/SFC, 2 bus rtes, fun common area, W/D. unfurn \$365/obo furn avail. Text 386-233-0011, ph 386-676-9703, nukken1@aol.com 1-9-11-11-4

Bedroom w/ own bathroom avail \$365 (un-furn) or \$385 (furn) for 9 mo lease. Price all-inclusive (rent/util/cable/internet). Washer/dryer/dishwasher. Pets ok. On 9/35 bus routes. ~1.5 miles from UF. Student/young professional pref. Avail ASAP. 850-585-4405. 1-9-11-9-4

5 Real Estate

Sell your house, condo, acreage, mobile home and much more in the ALLIGATOR CLASSIFIEDS! Reach thousands of possible buyers! Mastercard and Visa accepted over the phone, by fax, email or **CHECK OUT PLACING YOUR AD THRU OUR ONLINE AT www.alligator.org.** or please call 373-Find (373-3463)

NEW CONDOS-WALK TO UF
For Info on ALL Condos for Sale,
Visit www.UFCONDOS.COM or
Matt Price, University Realty, 352-281-3551
12-7-74-5

6 Furnishings

Got a new couch?. Sell your old one in the Alligator Classifieds. Call 373-FIND (3463) to place your ad today.

BED - QUEEN - \$120 ORTHOPEDIC
Pillow-top, mattress & box. Name brand, new, still in plastic. Call 352-372-7490 will deliver. 12-7-11-74-6

BED - FULL SIZE - \$100 ORTHOPEDIC
Pillow-top mattress & box. New, unused, still in plastic w/warranty. Can deliver. Call 352-377-9846 12-7-11-74-6

MICROFIBER SOFA & LOVESEAT - \$400
Brand new still packaged w/warranty. Must sell. Can deliver. Retail \$1600. 352-372-7490 12-7-11-74-6

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. 12-7-74-6

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 12-7-74-6

SOFA & LOVESEAT 100% Italian leather.
Brand new in plastic w/warranty. Retail \$1800. Sacrifice \$700. Call 352-377-9846 12-7-74-6

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 12-7-74-6

****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. 12-7-74-6

6 Furnishings

BED- QUEEN New orthopedic pillowtop mattress and boxspring set. Brand name, brand new, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver. \$130 352-377-9846. 12-7-74-6

BEDROOM SET- \$300 BRAND NEW
Still in boxes! 5 pieces include: Headboard, Nightstand, Dresser, Mirror, Chest. Must sell, can deliver. 352-377-9846. 12-7-11-74-6

7 Computers

Selling computers, parts, or repair services or just looking for that new rig. Look in the Alligator Classifieds. Call 373-FIND for more information.

COMPUTER & LAPTOP REPAIRS
Network specialists
We buy computers and laptops
Working and Non-working
378-4009, 607 NW 13th Street
12-7-70-7

8 Electronics

Sell your old stereo, cell phone, and more in the Electronics Section of the Alligator Classifieds. 373-FIND

9 Bicycles

In the market for a new set of wheels or just looking to add a second to that collection? Want personalized handlebars or a fitted seat? Check in the Alligator Classifieds

SCRABBLE® BRAND [G2] [R1] [A1] [M3] [S1]

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									Double Word Score	_____
U ₁	U ₁	P ₃	H ₄	R ₁	S ₁	B ₃			RACK 1	_____

E ₁	O ₁	Y ₄	N ₁	K ₅	C ₃	C ₃			RACK 2	_____

A ₁	A ₁	O ₁	V ₄	R ₁	C ₃	T ₁			4th Letter Triple	_____

E ₁	I ₁	U ₁	T ₁	T ₁	R ₁	B ₃			RACK 4	_____

PAR SCORE 155-165
BEST SCORE 224

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 4th Edition. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

For more information on books, clubs, tournaments and the school program go to www.scrabble-assoc.com or call the National SCRABBLE® Association (631) 477-0033.

11-30

MOST WANTED

Roderick McKnight
Black Male
(DOB 04/10/90); 5'10",
140 lbs, Black Hair,
Brown Eyes

Wanted for:
Possession of Cocaine and Sale
of Cocaine Within 1000 Feet of
Place of Worship

ALACHUA COUNTY
CRIME STOPPERS
Call (352) 372-STOP

10 For Sale

●●●PARKING●●●

Private, Secure, Guaranteed. 60 sec to UF. Reserve now! Reasonable rates. 352-538-2181. Can leave mssg. 12-7-11-74-10

UF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AUCTIONS are underway... bikes, computers, printers, vehicles & more. All individuals interested in bidding go to: surplus.ufl.edu 392-0370 12-7-10-74-10

GOATS FOR SALE

Charlie - 352-278-1925 12-7-74-10

●●● BK CHRISTMAS TREES ●●●

Potted Red Cedar & Arizona Cypress; 3 ft to 13 ft; \$5 to \$65. Free pecans & sugar cane. 20926 NW 75th St., Alachua, 10am-6pm, 7 days. 386-462-2060 1-9-11-10-10

Guitars and Musical Instruments New, Used and Factory Refurbished Check Us Out Before You Buy!! Leonardo's Music, Micanopy, FL 352-450-0928 Leonardos302.com 4-25-11-99-10

SAWMILLS from only \$3997- MAKE MONEY & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill- Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship. FREE Info & DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com (800)578-1363 Ext.300N

11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

Alligator Classifieds is the way to get your 2 wheels on the road. Show off your bikes, scooters, and repair services. Call 373-FIND to get your classified in.

★★★WWW.RPMMOTORCYCLES.COM★★★ FULLSERVICE MOTORCYCLE-SCOOTER REPAIR. 12TH YEAR IN GVILLE. OEM & AFTERMARKET PARTS. BEST TIRE PRICES IN TOWN. 352-377-6974 12-7-74-11



12-7-11-74-11

★★★★NEW SCOOTERS 4 LESS★★★★ Now carrying Vespa Scooters! Great Scooters, Service & Prices! 118 NW 14th Ave, Ste D, 336-1271 www.NS4L.com

12-7-11-74-11

★★SCOOTER REPAIR★★ New Scooters 4 Less has LOW repair rates! Will repair any make/model. Close to UF! Pick-ups avail. Cheap oil changes!! 336-1271 12-7-11-74-11

★★★Road Rat Motors★★★

Largest Scooter Store in Town! Run by Gator Grads! New scooters starting at \$899. 1yr Parts AND labor warranties included. 376-6275 RoadRatMotors.com 12-7-11-74-11

11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

Road Rat Motors is Gville's #1 service facility. We repair ALL brands of scooters. Pickups available. Lowest labor rates around. Quickest turnaround time. Run by Gator Grads so we know how to treat our customers! 376-6275 12-7-11-74-11

★★SCOOTER RENTALS★★

Rent for a day, week, month or semester. Students can rent to own! 352-336-1271 www.gainesvillescooterrentals.com 12-7-11-74-11

12 Autos

Unload your lot. Sell your cars through Alligator Advertising for cheap. 373-FIND or place your ad online at www.alligator.org/classifieds

CARS - CARS Buy●Sell●Trade Clean BMW, Volvo, Mercedes Toyota, Honda, Nissan cars 3432 N Main St. www.carrsmith.com CARRSMITH AUTO SALES 373-1150 12-7-74-12

WE BUY JUNK CARS

Titles Only. Call KT 352-281-9980 or 352-215-3151 12-7-11-74-12

SUN CITY AUTO SALES BACK TO SCHOOL SALE! PRICES SLASHED!!!! NO CREDIT CHECKS!!!! 352-338-1999 12-7-74-12

SUN CITY AUTO SALES ALL VEHICLES \$0 DOWN! NO CREDIT CHECKS CASH VEHICLES \$999 & UP! 352-338-1999 12-7-74-12

12 Autos

92 EAGLE TALON \$999
89 FORD BRONCO \$999
94 FORD TAURUS \$999
96 HONDA ACCORD \$1499
352-338-1999 12-7-74-12

96 CADILLAC DEVILLE \$1999
95 NISSAN 200SX \$1999
98 FORD F250 \$2500
02 CHEVY BLAZER \$4999
352-338-1999 12-7-74-12

96 TOYOTA CAMRY \$1999
98 PONTIAC GRAND AM \$1999
01 DODGE NEON \$1999
00 OLDS ALERO \$2500
352-338-1999 12-7-74-12

SUNRISE AUTO SALES CERTIFIED USED VEHICLES NO CREDIT CHECK MOVE VEHICLES \$500 & UP! 352-375-9090 12-7-74-12

SUNRISE AUTO SALES BACK TO SCHOOL SALE! PRICES SLASHED!!!! NO CREDIT CHECK! 352-375-9090 12-7-74-12

03 HONDA CIVIC \$8900
04 HONDA ACCORD \$8999
03 MITS ECLIPSE \$7999
05 TOYOTA CAMRY \$10999
352-375-9090 12-7-74-12

02 NISSAN XTERRA \$8999
07 SUZUKI VITARA \$12999
04 HONDA ODYSSEY \$9999
05 SUZUKI XLT \$9999
352-375-9090 12-7-74-12

I Buy Junk Cars & Scrap
Call Anytime 352-443-1100 Titles only 1-9-11-50-12

13 Wanted

This newspaper assumes no responsibility for injury or loss arising from contacts made through advertising. We suggest that any reader who responds to advertising use caution and investigate the sincerity of the advertiser before giving out personal information or arranging meetings or investing money.

LOCAL ARTIST NEEDS:
★ Gold ★ Diamonds ★ Gems ★ Class Rings ★ ETC ★ Top Cash \$\$\$ or Trade ★ OZZIE'S FINE JEWELRY 352-318-4009. 12-7-74-13

UF GRAD PAYS MORE
for gold jewelry, scrap gold, Rolex, diamonds, guitars, etc. Top \$\$\$\$. Get my offer before you sell! Call Jim 376-8090 or 222-8090 12-7-74-13

The American Cancer Society Road to Recovery Volunteers Needed!
VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED to transport cancer patients to treatment. Flexible schedule. Training and liability insurance provided. Please call 352-240-5053 if interested.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
I AM BLIND & WOULD LIKE HELP WITH:
●Rides to church: Mass at Queen of Peace.
●Learning to rake knit hats to send to Haiti & other places. Call 352-219-6948 12-5-11-77-13

13 Wanted



St. Francis House, Inc.
HOMELESS SHELTER AND SOUP KITCHEN

St. Francis House is a homeless shelter and soup kitchen located in downtown Gainesville and we are looking for help from volunteers like you. St. Francis House is in need of donations such as personal hygiene items and household cleaners such as bleach and liquid Lysol. If you are interested in helping, please contact Stephanie Breval at (352) 378-9079 or by e-mail at sfhcoor@stfrancis.cfoxmail.com

14 Help Wanted

This newspaper assumes no responsibility for injury or loss arising from contacts made through advertising. We suggest that any reader who responds to advertising use caution and investigate the sincerity of the advertiser before giving out personal information or arranging meetings or investing money.

alligator

What's black and white and read all over?? The Independent Florida Alligator Be part of the sales team of the largest college newspaper in the country by applying to be a

INTERN

If you are a UF or SFC student available to work 10-12 hours a week this spring, and are eager to gain valuable sales experience, stop by The Alligator, 1105 W. University Avenue, to fill out an application and class schedule or email resume to advertising@alligator.org. We will contact you for an interview opportunity to get your career jump started! EEO/AA. 1-9-11-15-14

alligator

What's black and white and read all over?? The Independent Florida Alligator Be part of the sales team of the largest college newspaper in the country by applying to be a

PAID SALES REP

If you are a UF or SFC student available to work 15-20 hours a week this spring, and are eager to gain valuable sales experience, stop by the Alligator, 1105 W. University Avenue, to fill out an application and class schedule or email resume to advertising@alligator.org. We will contact you for an interview opportunity to get your career jump started! EEO/AA. 1-9-11-15-14

Now you can easily submit classified ad for print and/or web editions right thru our website!

Just go to www.alligator.org/classifieds Visa and Mastercard accepted.

BARTENDING \$300 A DAY POTENTIAL
No experience necessary, training provided. 800-965-6520 ext 138 12-7-11-74-14

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

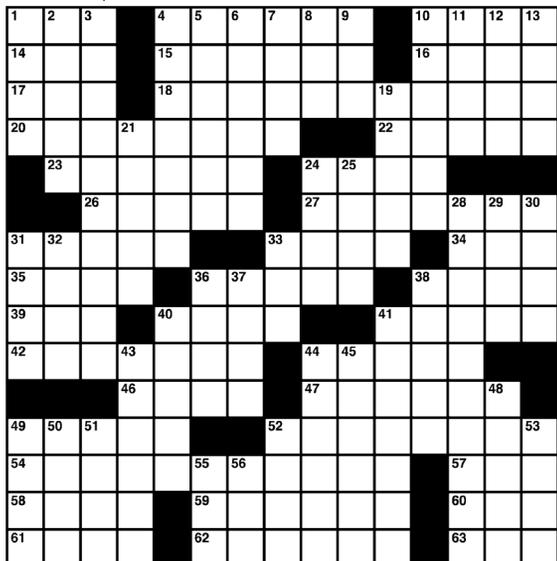
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | 32 Abrasion, to a tot | 45 Lash out at |
| 1 Trespass | 1 Recipe direction | 33 Inc. abroad | 48 World-weariness |
| 4 With 36- and 62-Across, kids' ball game, and something this puzzle's four longest answers have in common | 2 Discount rack abbr. | 36 Golfer's selection | 49 PC monitors |
| 10 Collar or jacket | 3 She played Nicole Chapman on "Fame" | 37 Thing to avoid | 50 River formed at Pittsburgh |
| 14 TNT element? | 4 Trivia game that involves bluffing | 38 2011 TV show with multiple pilots | 51 Lively dance |
| 15 Ring of color | 5 Autumn color | 40 Calendar girl | 52 L.A.'s Sunset, e.g. |
| 16 Powerful TV princess | 6 Neither masculine nor feminine | 41 Traffic cop's request | 53 Bakery offering |
| 17 One of the Gershwins | 7 Fashion designer Michael | 43 Jungle journey | 55 Stately tree |
| 18 Early Mary Tyler Moore role | 8 She, in São Paulo | 44 Working (with) example | 56 Louis XIV, par |
| 20 Puts in a fresh pot | 9 Jabber | | |
| 22 Habes corpus et al. | 10 Cast-of-thousands actors | | |
| 23 Name of three presidents | 11 Actress Hatcher | | |
| 24 Noodle product? | 12 "Don't count ___!" | | |
| 26 Glacial ridge | 13 Rob Roy refusals | | |
| 27 Horticulturist's hangout | 19 Washstand vessels | | |
| 31 Happy co-worker? | 21 Gets the consolation prize | | |
| 33 Some TV screens | 24 Creep | | |
| 34 Go for, as a prize | 25 Snappy dresser | | |
| 35 Hogwarts messengers | 28 1996 Madonna role | | |
| 36 See 4-Across | 29 Increase | | |
| 38 Tower city | 30 Wine bottle datum | | |
| 39 Bolo, for one | 31 Colon's pair | | |
| 40 Nudge | | | |
| 41 "I'm outta here!" | | | |
| 42 Meeting of Congress | | | |
| 44 "Les Girls" actress Elg | | | |
| 46 Latin word on a cornerstone | | | |
| 47 Getaway | | | |
| 49 Ionian Sea island | | | |
| 52 Place for a bargain? | | | |
| 54 She played Carla Tortelli on "Cheers" | | | |
| 57 Genetic carrier | | | |
| 58 Arena level | | | |
| 59 2009 Ruben Studdard album | | | |
| 60 Held by us | | | |
| 61 Numbers for one | | | |
| 62 See 4-Across | | | |
| 63 Little thing to pick | | | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com 11/30/11



By David Poole
(c)2011 Tribune Media Services, Inc. 11/30/11



1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the third longest river system in the world?
2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is another name for totipalmate feet?
3. MUSIC: Who is the vocalist for the pop band "Blondie"?
4. U.S. STATES: What state's motto is, "If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you"?
5. BUSINESS: What is the currency of South Africa?
6. LITERATURE: What was the first land Gulliver encountered in the satirical novel "Gulliver's Travels"?
7. TELEVISION: How many years was the Western drama "Gunsmoke" on the air?
8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was Dwight Eisenhower's vice president?
9. SCIENCE: What does beta carotene add to food?
10. MOVIES: What animated film featured the theme song "Circle of Life"?

Answers

1. Missouri-Mississippi
2. Webbed
3. Deborah Harry
4. Michigan
5. The rand
6. Lilliput
7. 20 years
8. Richard Nixon
9. Color
10. "The Lion King"

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FOOTBALL

Shaw, Trail become 10th, 11th to leave UF under Muschamp

TOM GREEN

Alligator Staff Writer

Florida's 27-member 2010 recruiting class dwindled to 18 on Tuesday when two more players announced their intentions to transfer.

Safety Josh Shaw and defensive end Lynden Trail plan to leave the Gators, coach Will Muschamp said in a statement Tuesday.

Both four-star recruits according to Rivals.com, Shaw, a defensive back from Palmdale, Calif., and Trail, a defensive end from Miami, were part of the Gators' No. 2-ranked recruiting class in 2010. But both struggled to crack the depth chart once on campus.

Shaw appeared in 11 games at Florida, including 10 this season. He started one game during his career and recorded 22 tackles. He missed the Furman game on Nov. 19 to return home and be with his ailing grandfather.

"I have enjoyed my time at Florida but I feel like I need to be closer to my family right now," Shaw said in the statement.

"This is not a football decision, this is a family decision. I need to be with my family."



Trail

Meanwhile, Trail did not play in two years at Florida. Early this season, Muschamp said Trail needed "to play better" if he wanted to see game action.

"I have decided that I would like to pursue opportunities elsewhere," Trail said in the statement.

"I want to thank the fans and Gator Nation for their support. I'll always be a Gator at heart."

Before the team announced the transfers Tuesday afternoon, a post on Trail's Twitter account suggested he was leaving the program.

"GATORNATION I LOVE YALL AND LOVED ALL YALL SUPPORT I LOVED THE COACHES MY TEAMMATES AND THE STUDENTS HERE ONCE A GATOR ALWAYS A GATOR <3," Trail posted.

The pair joins tight ends Gerald Christian and Michael McFarland, wide receivers Robert Clark, Chris Dunkley and Adrian Coxson, as well as safeties Jonathan Dowling and Jordan Haden as 2010 signees who have transferred from Florida since Feb. 2010.

Shaw and Trail are also the 10th and 11th players to leave the Gators since Muschamp was named coach last December, joining Christian, Clark, Dunkley, McFarland, running back Mike Blakely, cornerback Janoris Jenkins, wide receiver Javaris McRoy and linebackers Chris Martin and Dee Finley.

"We wish Lynden and Josh the best of luck in the future and we certainly appreciate their contributions to the football program," Muschamp said in the statement.

Contact Tom Green at tgreen@alligator.org.

Florida forces 29 turnovers in blowout win against Belmont

JOE MORGAN

Alligator Writer

In the spirit of the holiday season, Belmont was in a giving mood against Florida.

The Gators used a full-court press to force 29 Bruins turnovers in a 72-45 win Tuesday night in the O'Connell Center.

UF's press led to 16 fastbreak points and 44 points off turnovers — more than half of its total points.

Coach Amanda Butler was pleased with her guards' efforts taking Belmont's guards "out their comfort zone."

"One thing we ask them to do in every ball game and on every possession is to set the tone with their defense and their ball pressure," Butler said.

Senior guard Lanita Bartley was perhaps the greatest beneficiary of Belmont's mistakes, recording 12 points, four steals and three assists.

Bartley's performance comes on the heels of a 44-point offensive outburst in last weekend's wins against La Salle and Charlotte.

"Nita takes great pride in turning over ball handlers and getting the ball back," Butler said.

Junior forward Jennifer George led UF with 15 points and six rebounds and recorded three steals. Since attempting just one shot in the season opener against Michigan, George has scored in double figures in every game except her nine-point effort against Charlotte on Saturday.

"It's just the mentality of my junior year," George said. "I have to step it up every game."

Belmont took more shots and recorded more turnovers than it scored points in a nightmarish first half.

The Bruins were 7 of 21 from the field and

had 22 giveaways as they went into locker room trailing the Gators 46-19.

Meanwhile, Florida had its best first-half offensive performance of the season, hitting 19 of 35 attempts.

Eight different UF players scored in the first half and nine players ended the night with points on the board.

"Let's show (Belmont) how much we respect them by how hard we're going to play."

Amanda Butler

UF womens basketball coach

"Freshness is something we're always trying to achieve," Butler said, "so we can maintain that defensive pressure."

Belmont kept it tight through the first five minutes, scoring the game's first points.

With 14:21 remaining in the first half, the Bruins pulled within four points of the lead at 14-10 before the Gators called a timeout.

Then, Florida buried Belmont, going on an 18-2 run during the next 6:32 to take a 32-12 lead.

"The last thing I said to the team collectively before they hit the floor was, 'Let's show this team how much we respect them by how hard we're going to play,'" Butler said.

"We talk every day about defense and that being our starting point and that run was really triggered by playing great defense and then getting easy shots going the other way."

Every player on UF's active roster had at least 13 minutes of playing time except sophomore forward Kayla Lewis, who missed the game with a stress fracture in her hip.

Butler said that the team is taking a "wait-and-see" approach to Lewis' injury.



Audre Larrow / Alligator Staff

Forward Jennifer George (right) led the Gators with 15 points in Tuesday's win.



Freshman Brad Beal has helped UF's press defense, which forced 18 turnovers in Monday's win against Stetson. See story, page 14.

Bowl Game Opponent

Do you want Florida to play Ohio State in a bowl game this season? *Vote online at alligatorSports.org.*

Poll Results

Do you agree with coach Will Muschamp's remarks about the Gators being a soft football team?

91% YES
9% NO

87 total votes

Press defense paying dividends for 10th-ranked Florida

UF RECORDED 14 STEALS IN MONDAY'S 96-70 WIN.

JOHN BOOTHE
Alligator Staff Writer

In Billy Donovan's milestone game Monday, the Gators made sure they weren't the team feeling pressure.

Instead, they were the ones dishing it out.

Florida's guard-heavy press helped forced 18 turnovers and a season-high 14 steals during a 26-point win against Stetson at the Amway Center in Orlando.

All but one starter, freshman Brad Beal, recorded a forced take-away, leading to 19 points off turnovers. Though Beal didn't have a steal in his 22-point, 10-rebound night, he stayed active defensively with a game-high three blocked shots.

"Our press is designed just not to get steals, but to just try to make the offense force turnovers," Beal said. "So we just pressed early and coach Donovan said, 'Attack the first pass on the inbound (pass).'"

The Hatters had 12 turnovers in the first 20 minutes, thanks in large part to the work 6-foot-7 forward Will Yeguete did at the front of the Gators' full-court pressure.

In his second start for the injured Erik Murphy, Yeguete led both teams with four steals. He also

recorded his first double-double after scoring 10 points and notching a game-high 11 rebounds.

Florida can't press as aggressively with the 6-foot-10 Murphy in the lineup, but Yeguete's athleti-

cism and ability to defend guards created a nightmare situation for Stetson in-borders.

"We were tall, so it was hard for the offensive player to be able to make passes, and I think we slowed them down a little bit," Beal said.

The 14 steals were the most the Gators have had in 39 games dating back to Nov. 18 of last year against North Carolina A&T, when Florida had 16 swipes and Yeguete, again, dominated the control of loose balls with a career-high 15 rebounds and three steals.

"We were prepared for it; I don't know if we were ready for it," Stetson coach Casey Alexander said. "To their credit, they speed you up and create turnovers no matter who they're playing."

While Florida tempered the use of its press late in the second half after center Patric Young and forward Casey Prather got into foul trouble, Stetson's half court offense was still not able to take advantage of the slower pace.

The Hatters made just one three on 17 attempts, with the lone make coming on a deep bank shot by guard Dennis Diaz.

"I wouldn't say that we eased off," senior guard Erving Walker said. "Stetson is a physical team, and they got some good shooters, and their center was really good. They made plays at certain points of the game, so it wasn't us just taking our foot off the brake there."

Contact John Boothe at jboothe@alligator.org.



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator Staff

Florida guard Brad Beal (23) was active on defense despite being the only UF starter to not record a steal against Stetson on Monday. The Gators recorded a season-best 14 steals in the 96-70 win.

Recruits say Pantoni's departure not likely to have big impact

KELLY PRICE
Alligator Writer

Mark Pantoni has been behind the curtains of the big show that is Florida football since Urban Meyer's tenure.

Now, Pantoni, UF's Director of Football Administration, will be back behind the scenes of a Meyer-headed staff — this time at Ohio State.

Amid the mixed feelings fans and players expressed about Meyer accepting the Ohio State job less than a year after he resigned from Florida, Pantoni's departure has impacted recruits who know him best.

UF oral commit Latroy Pittman said he and Pantoni were very close, and he was "really

just shocked" at his departure from Florida. The four-star wide receiver from Citra North Marion High read the news online at almost the same time that Pantoni told him personally.

"Actually, he talked to me... and told me that he left or whatever and told me the situation and what went down," Pittman said. "So we're really close. I would say [he's] like a big brother to me. Hopefully he can do at OSU everything he did for Florida."

Tyriq McCord, a four-star defensive end from Tampa, posted Monday on Twitter: "Hell no!!! Please tell me it's not true!!!"

Despite the lack of public recognition, Pantoni has been a colossal power in recruiting in recent years. He organized many day-to-day

aspects of recruiting, including visits, and has been a force behind UF's Friday Night Lights camp.

Meyer said in a press conference following the 2008 National Signing Day: "Mark Pantoni is now in charge of our recruiting efforts, and he did a great job."

UF Recruiting Gators four-star tight end oral commit Colin Thompson said he was close with Pantoni and that he appreciated Pantoni's efforts to make sure the recruiting process went smoothly.

"He's a great guy who I enjoyed being around," Thompson said. "He will be missed."

Because Pantoni was a beloved figure and close friend to many prospects during their recruiting process, his departure could impact UF.

Five-star offensive tackle John Theus from Jacksonville, currently a Georgia oral commit, wished Pantoni the "best of luck" via Twitter.

"He was definitely one of the best I dealt with. Big loss for UF," he tweeted.

But others, like Pittman and Thompson, believe the fallout will be minimal.

"I don't think (it will impact recruiting)," Pittman said. "I mean, if it (does), it would probably be a surprise to me. I doubt it."

Thompson agreed. "He wasn't a position coach, so I think it will be OK."

THE JETT STREAM

Chemistry isn't the problem for Gators this season, talent is

With four seconds left in Florida's loss to FSU on Saturday, Lerentee McCray jogged toward the locker room. The Gators' offense was coming on the field, and assuming Charlie Weis couldn't draw up a 14-point play, the game was over. McCray's night was done.

But it wasn't. Even with four seconds left in the last game of a lost regular season, Will Muschamp wasn't letting his junior linebacker slip away prematurely.

"Lerentee!" he yelled in that pissed-off, Southern voice that has surely crawled into the heads of Florida players as they try to sleep at night.

At least one reporter could hear Muschamp from 30 feet away, but apparently McCray could not. Muschamp yelled even louder, cranking his vocal-chord dial up to 11: "Lerentee! Get your ass back here!"

McCray obliged. The Gators ran one more play and the post-game festivities ensued. Some players and coaches greeted friends from the other sideline. Others just exited quickly, like McCray was trying to do.

This past week has been treated like the football apocalypse in Gainesville: Matt Elam ripped the seniors on Twitter, Mus-



Tyler Jett
twitter: @tyler_jett

champ ripped everyone in front of a lectern, two players transferred. And through all of this, chemistry has been pegged as the team's central issue.

That's backward logic. Florida isn't 6-6 because it has chemistry issues. Florida has chemistry issues because it's 6-6.

We often oversimplify the teams we follow, probably because we watch too many sports movies. When a squad succeeds, the players and coaches overcame a devastating obstacle in the second act to forge an unshakable bond. And if they lose, it's because everyone on the team hates each other.

But real life doesn't work like that. In high school, I came off the bench for terrible teams that I loved being a part of. I also started on playoff teams that I hated.

In almost every game, the winning team is simply better, the loser simply worse. That's an elementary concept, but people often lose sight of it. The Gators' roster is full of five- and four-star recruits who didn't pan out. That doesn't mean they were

selfish or spoiled. It just means they weren't good.

After members of the senior class spoke in front of the team Friday night, Elam (@Dopest_Hitter22) tweeted that every player gave a "fake" speech except Jeff Demps and Deonte Thompson. On Tuesday, one underclassman said Elam's opinion does not represent how most of the younger players feel.

"Every team is going to have their individual trials; we're going through that," that player said. "But people made more of an effort this year. This year was more of a group than last year. People were all about themselves last year. Now, we pulled together a little bit more. We still have a ways to go, as far as closeness, obviously."

Fans want to blame chemistry because it's a quick fix: Get rid of the punks, and everything will be smooth. But the real issue is more basic, and to improve it will take time. Time on the recruiting trails, time in the weight room.

Sure, you can look at McCray leaving a game early or Muschamp scolding him as a sign that the team just needs a better attitude.

But you would be wrong.
Contact Tyler Jett at tjett@alligator.org.

HEISMAN WATCH



1. Trent Richardson, Alabama running back (18 points): 1,583 rushing yards, 6.0 yards per carry, 20 touchdowns; 27 receptions, 327 yards, 3 touchdowns.



Richardson maintains his hold atop our poll after yet another career-best performance, this time in the Iron Bowl. He rushed for 203 yards — including a jaw-dropping 57-yard run during which he broke five tackles — and added a receiving touchdown as the Tide closed out the regular season. Alabama made its case for a shot at the BCS title, and Richardson definitely made his case for the Heisman.

3. Case Keenum, Houston quarterback (12 points): 187.3 passer rating, 4,726 passing yards, 73.2 completion percentage, 43 passing touchdowns, 3 interceptions; 3 rushing touchdowns.



What more can we say about Keenum's passing prowess? The NCAA's all-time leader in pretty much every passing category threw for 457 yards and five scores in Houston's 48-16 win against Tulsa to improve to a school-record 12-0. While the Cougars, No. 6 in the BCS, have slim hopes of reaching New Orleans for the title game, Keenum will likely find himself in New York for the Heisman presentation.

2. Montee Ball, Wisconsin running back (15 points): 1,622 rushing yards, 6.5 yards per carry, 29 touchdowns; 17 receptions, 248 yards, 5 touchdowns.



Against Penn State, Montee balled. He rushed for 156 yards on 25 carries and found the end zone four times, upping his season touchdown total to 34 — the second-most in a single season behind former Oklahoma State great Barry Sanders (39 in 1982). Ball's performance helped the Badgers top the Nittany Lions, 45-7, and set up a rematch with Michigan State this weekend in the Big Ten title game.

4. Robert Griffin III, Baylor quarterback (9 points): 191.1 passer rating, 3,678 passing yards, 72.6 completion percentage, 34 passing touchdowns, 5 interceptions; 612 rushing yards, 7 rushing touchdowns.



When Griffin took a hit in the first half of Saturday's game against Texas Tech, so did his Heisman chances. RG3 exited Baylor's 66-42 win with a concussion, passing for just 106 yards and a touchdown on 11 pass attempts while rushing for 62 yards and two scores.

While the injury hurt Griffin's candidacy, his season to date has been Heisman-worthy.

5. Matt Barkley, USC quarterback (6 points): 161.2 passer rating, 3,528 passing yards, 69.1 completion percentage, 39 passing touchdowns, 7 interceptions; 2 rushing touchdowns.



Barkley makes his debut in this week's poll after a late-season push. In USC's 50-0 win against UCLA, Barkley was 35 of 42 for 423 yards and six touchdowns for a season-best 215.1 passer rating. His performance against UCLA set a Pac-12 single-season record for most passing touchdowns, breaking former Heisman winner Matt Leinart's record of 38. The Trojans aren't eligible for the postseason, but that shouldn't tarnish Barkley's stellar year.

Greg Luca

1. Trent Richardson
2. Case Keenum
3. Montee Ball
4. Robert Griffin III
5. Matt Barkley

Tyler Jett

1. Robert Griffin III
2. Montee Ball
3. Trent Richardson
4. Case Keenum
5. Matt Barkley

Tom Green

1. Trent Richardson
2. Montee Ball
3. Case Keenum
4. Matt Barkley
5. Robert Griffin III

Matt Watts

1. Trent Richardson
2. Montee Ball
3. Case Keenum
4. Matt Barkley
5. Robert Griffin III

OUR RANKINGS

*The number in parentheses next to each name indicates how many points the candidate received from the alligatorSports columnists.

Maegan Dennis / Alligator Staff

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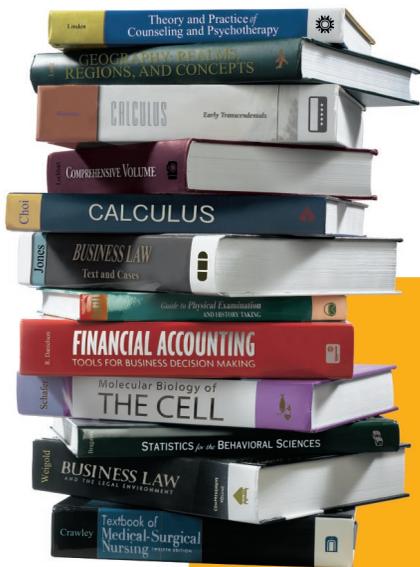
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