

Gators defensive tackle Leon Orr is facing charges of possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. See story, page 17.



# Elderly woman in critical condition after house fire



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator Staff

A firefighter walks out of a burned house at 3818 NE 12th St. Fire Rescue District Chief Richard Saulsberry said five adults and two children lived in the house, but only one elderly woman was home at the time of the incident.

**JON SILMAN**

Alligator Staff Writer

A residential fire Thursday night displaced seven people and left an elderly woman with second- and third-degree burns on 90 percent of her body.

According to Gainesville Fire Rescue District Chief Richard Saulsberry, emergency units responded to a call at about 6 p.m. on Thursday about a fire at 3818 NE 12th St., where smoke was billowing out of the residence.

When units arrived, an elderly woman, whose name was not released, sat in a white lawn chair at the edge of the driveway, badly burned.

"There is a possibility she may pass," Saulsberry said, adding that all residents were accounted for.

Saulsberry said fire units at the scene contained the blaze to the living room and kitchen area. The inside of the house was destroyed, with black smoke marks on the outside walls, broken windows, chunks of plaster, and a lone, charred, slatted door on the floor.

The woman was the only one home at the time, Saulsberry said, and she was transported to Shands at UF.

Damages from the fire were estimated at \$80,000.

The residents, five adults and two children, watched firefighters fight the blaze, and walked away in a huddle when they were told they would not be able to re-enter the house.

Later Thursday night, Saulsberry spoke with the elderly woman's daughter, who said the outlook for her mother wasn't good.

The incident is under investigation by the State Fire Marshal and Sandy Ellison of Gainesville Fire Rescue.

## Florida legislature bill may affect student voters' eligibility

► GOVERNOR SIGNED BILL LAST YEAR.

**BENJAMIN S. BRASCH**

Alligator Writer

A house bill passed last year may affect student voting eligibility in the Jan. 31 elections and the November presidential election.

The Florida House of Representatives bill put more restrictions on voting registration, location and duration.

The bill eliminates the possibility of changing one's address on Election Day and adds restrictions on organizations that register people to vote among other changes, said Pam Carpenter, Alachua County supervisor of elections.

The bill, Florida House Bill 1355, was approved by Gov. Rick Scott on May 19.

Before it was approved, people were al-

lowed to make an address change at the polling site. Now, to change a voting address within a county, voters need to fill out a change of address form. At that point, they will be assigned a new precinct.

Third parties can still register people to vote, but now all registration forms must be turned in to a county supervisor of elections office within 48 hours of completion.

There is a \$50 fine per application if the form is unintentionally late and a \$250 fine if the form is intentionally late, Carpenter said.

It is illegal to vote in a precinct to which you are not assigned, Carpenter said.

Some UF students are unhappy with the effect this bill may have on upcoming city and

**SEE VOTE, PAGE 11**



Scott

## UF student injured after friend hits her with car

**TYLER JETT**

Alligator Staff Writer

A grudge stretching back to high school put one UF student on the windshield of a car and another in jail Thursday morning. Cornelia Dean ended the night with a broken wrist after Shalonda Lewis hit Dean with her car. Lewis was arrested and charged with aggravated battery.

The feud, though, was not between Dean and Lewis.

Dean was protecting her friend De-Cara Jones, who had a long-standing feud with Lewis. A Gainesville Police report and witnesses gave this account:

After a night out at Status Nightclub, Jones ran into Lewis at 2 a.m. at the

entrance of 2nd Avenue Centre apartments, where Jones lives and Lewis was visiting a friend on the first floor. They are both from Lakeland and know each other through mutual friends.

Jones, a philosophy junior, said she and Lewis had issues three or four years ago that were never resolved. Lately, the two had been cordial. They go to the same parties, and earlier that night they had said hello to each other in the club's bathroom.

Jones said she couldn't even remember how the feud started.

But standing outside the apartment complex Thursday morning, Lewis flashed Jones a "dirty look." Later, in the hallway, she continued to stir the

**SEE CRIME, PAGE 11**

**Today**

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78/51

**UF research: Amino acid doubles as pesticide**

The pesticide will protect citrus plants, pg 5.

**Darts and Laurels**

The Editorial Board takes a look back at the week, pg 6.



**Parking could change near campus**

Commission to draft petition regarding multi-family home driveways, pg. 8.



## News Today

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

## La Casita Open House

Today, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Everyone is invited and welcome to participate in this home-away-from-home environment. There will be free pizza and Wii games (bring a controller).

## Third Annual Pride Struts Its Stuff

Today, 7 p.m.  
Rion Ballroom  
PSIS is a talent show hosted by Pride Student Union featuring performances by PSU members, as well as groups such as the Sedoctaves, Theatre Strike Force and KUSA. Food will be provided.

## Grand Opening at Sew Make Do

Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
Come check out Gainesville's new modern sewing and craft studio. There will be food, drinks and a drawing for a free sewing class. For more information visit [sewmakedo.com](http://sewmakedo.com).

## Fight Back Florida presents: Gainesville Rocks! (the vote!)

Saturday, noon to 5 p.m.  
Bo Diddley Community Plaza  
Come out for the first day of early voting and stand up against the attacks on working families and students. Bring your friends and family, enjoy food by Karma Cream and The Jones, listen to live music and cast your ballot for city commission across the street.

## Beginner Tango Class

Sunday, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Student Recreational & Fitness Center SR2  
Join the group for a beginners tango class. No partners, previous experience or special shoes are necessary.

## HEAL Kaplan Course Auction

Monday  
HEAL is auctioning off a full Kaplan course (valued up to \$1,999). All proceeds will go toward HEAL's many service events around the Gainesville

## FORECAST

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
PARTLY CLOUDY 78/51	PARTLY CLOUDY 79/53	PARTLY CLOUDY 80/52	THUNDER STORMS 80/54	PARTLY CLOUDY 77/51

community, such as Hope Lodge and Relay for Life. To place a bid, please look up HEAL Kaplan Auction Spring 2012 on Facebook. Bids can be placed until 6 p.m. Feb. 9. Support HEAL's service events and get a chance to save on a Kaplan course.

## Miss Representation screening

Tuesday, 8 p.m.  
Reitz Union Auditorium  
Miss Representation is a groundbreaking documentary that explores the underrepresentation of women in positions of power and influence in America, and challenges the media's limited portrayal of women. Join the Women's Student Association and other campus organizations.

## Free English Classes

Tuesdays, Jan. 31 to May 29, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Millhopper Branch Public Library  
Practice your conversational skills. For more information, contact [info@latinawomensleague.org](mailto:info@latinawomensleague.org).

## Got something going on?

Want to see it in this space? Send an email with "What's Happening" in the subject line to [emorrow@alligator.org](mailto:emorrow@alligator.org). To ensure publication in the next day's newspaper, please submit the event before 5 p.m. Please model your submissions after above events. Improperly formatted "What's Happening" submissions may not appear in the paper. Press releases will not appear in the paper.

## STATE

## After accident, Carnival Corp. wants safety review

MIAMI — Carnival Corp., the parent company of Costa Cruises, announced on Thursday a comprehensive audit and review of all safety and emergency response procedures across all 10 of the company's cruise lines.

Carnival Chairman and CEO Micky Arison said in a news release that last week's accident of the Costa Concordia in Italy has called into question the company's safety and emergency response procedures and practices.

The Costa Concordia capsized off the Tuscan island of Giglio last Friday after the ship detoured from its route and slammed into a reef. At least 11 people were killed and 21 are missing.

"While I have every confidence in the safety of our vessels and the professionalism of our crews, this review will evaluate all practices and procedures to make sure that this kind of accident doesn't happen again," Arison said.

The review is being led by retired U.S. Navy Capt. James Hunn, who is the company's senior vice president of Maritime Policy & Compliance.

Hunn and executives from each of the corporation's subsidiary cruise lines will review all safety policies, employee training, bridge management and response and support efforts.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Alligator strives to be accurate and clear in its news reports and editorials.

If you find an error, please call our newsroom at 352-376-4458 or email [editor@alligator.org](mailto:editor@alligator.org).

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## UF clubs continue to support Haiti

► THE EARTHQUAKE HAPPENED TWO YEARS AGO.

**ANAELLE CANEZ**

Alligator Contributing Writer

For two years, 19-year-old nursing and psychology major Lyana Issa has slept with a flashlight under her pillow and her bedroom door wide open.

"That day still gives me nightmares," Issa said. "Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night thinking that the ground is shaking."

The 7.0-magnitude earthquake that hit Haiti on Jan. 12, 2010, killed about 200,000 people and affected 3 million people, according to the Disaster Emergency Committee.

Two years later, members of UF's Haitian community hope that people will continue to remember Haiti by participating in relief efforts.

Club Creole will host a benefit banquet at 8 p.m. on Jan. 27 at the Paramount Plaza Hotel and Suites, 2900 SW 13th St.

Profits from a silent art auction will benefit Project Haiti.

During the fall semester, the non-profit organization Hope for Haiti sent educational supplies to its sister school in Jacmel, Haiti, said the group's public relations co-chairman, Anissa Nadal.

"This semester we hope to send more supplies around the island, predominantly in Port-au-Prince," Nadal said.

## ON CAMPUS

# Civil rights activist talks about religion, equality

**ANNIE UZAR**

Alligator Contributing Writer

Margaret Block's voice filled Ustler Hall as audience members joined her in song.

Block, a civil rights activist, visited UF on Thursday night as part of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, an organization which strives to preserve oral history.

After she greeted the crowd twice, demanding a better "good evening" response, Block spoke to the crowd of about 170 people regarding former President George W. Bush, religion and equality.

She sang songs and presented poems about the Patriot Act, justice and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

"One day I was sitting at home, and the FBI called me," Block said, "I almost had a stroke."

Turns out, it didn't have to do with one of her poems she sent the president, but with a cold case from the civil rights movement.

*"Today I realized on the Sorority Row bus that it doesn't really matter who you sit next to. It doesn't even cross your mind these days."*

**Kim Devitt**

public relations senior

Some students went to the event for class assignments or extra credit.

Daylin Farinas, a 20-year-old political science sophomore, said she attended because she had to write a paper for her race, law and constitution class.

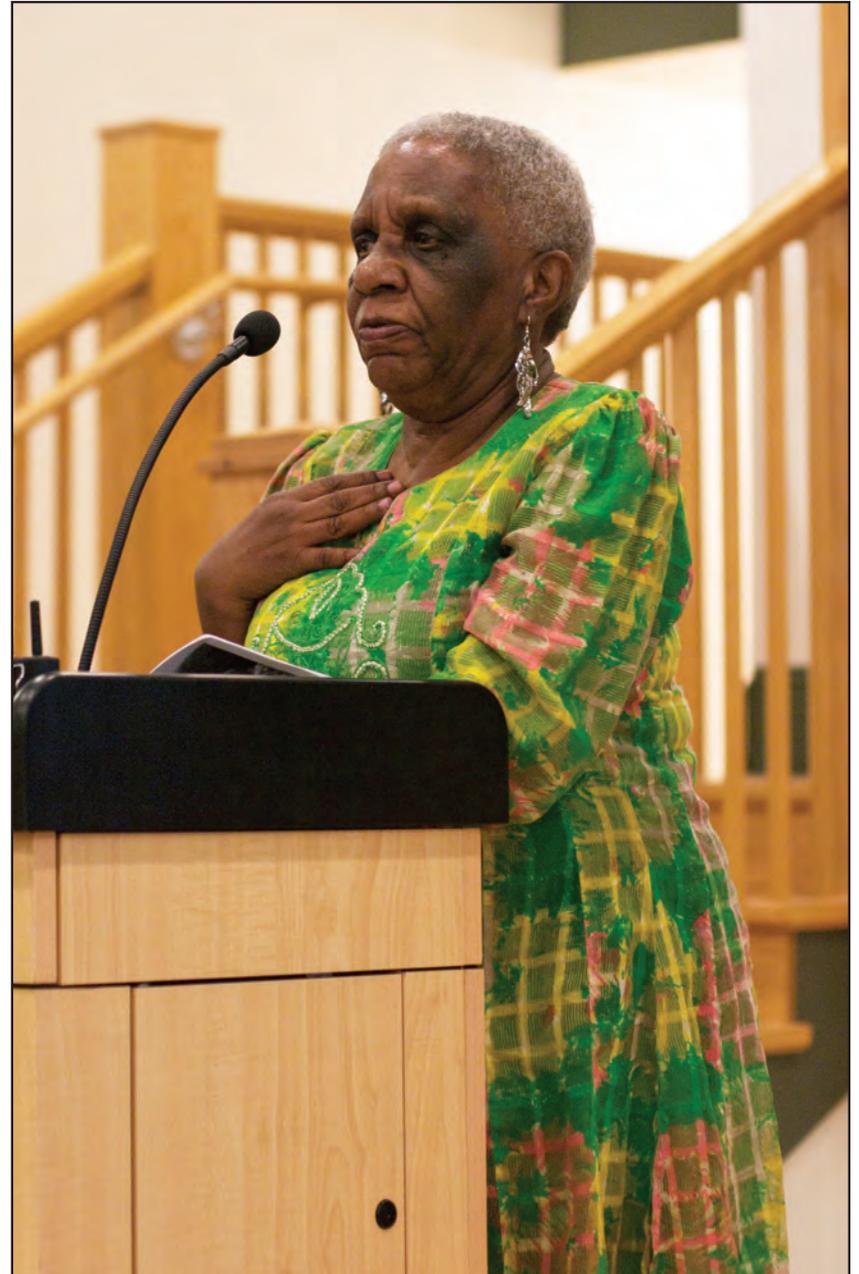
However, she was also interested to hear Block's story because she thinks it's better to hear about the past directly from older generations.

Farinas said she would like to read Block's works in addition to hearing the speech to help her understand Block's journey with the civil rights movement for her paper.

Kim Devitt, a 21-year-old public relations senior, said she heard about Block's speech on civil rights in her sociological and historical foundations of education class. She decided to come to the event because she was excited to hear Block's personal story.

Devitt pointed out that learning about civil rights from a textbook is a totally different experience than hearing it firsthand.

"It's amazing how today we don't struggle with the same types of issues that, say, a 21-year-old did in the '60s," Devitt said. "Today I realized on the Sorority Row bus that it doesn't really matter who you sit next to. It doesn't even cross your mind these days."



Alex Catalano / Alligator Staff

Margaret Block, a civil rights activist, speaks in Ustler Hall on Thursday night as part of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program.



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# Noted author, talk show host to discuss Occupy movement Cornel West and Tavis Smiley to speak tonight

**JULIA GLUM**  
Alligator Writer

Students will have a chance to talk poverty and civil rights with best-selling author Cornel West and talk-show host Tavis Smiley tonight at the Bob Graham Center for Public Service in Pugh Hall.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for the 6 p.m. event, which will be held in the Pugh Hall Ocora, said Shelby Taylor, the center's digital and communications director.

Admission is free and open to the public.

The first 300 attendees will sit in the Ocora. The speeches will be streamed live

to spillover attendees in the MacKay Auditorium.

This event will formally unveil the Center's interactive Civil Debate Wall, which consists of five 46-by-26-inch touchscreen panels.

Each week, the Wall will display a discussion question about public policy. Stu-

dents can share their opinions, debate and follow conversations.

Smiley and West posed this week's question: "Is Occupy Wall Street the Civil Rights Movement of our time?"

About 80 students have responded, according to [civildisputewall.com](http://civildisputewall.com).

Today at 1 p.m., West and Smiley will speak at the Bo Diddley Community Plaza in support of Move to Amend's Occupy the Courts event.

## Students learn how to get involved at organization fair

▶ ABOUT 100 ORGANIZATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND TODAY.

**CHRIS ALCANTARA**  
Alligator Contributing Writer

As the sound of students' voices echoed in the Reitz Union Colonnade, a Palestinian flag flapped in the wind next to Sara Mohamed as she spoke with another student.

Mohamed, an 18-year-old biochemistry freshman, and other members of Students for Justice in Palestine were among about 100 student organizations participating in the Student Organization Fair on Wednesday.

The fair, organized by IDEAL, allows students to get information from student organizations, said Nadirah Jones, executive director of IDEAL.

Marielena Dias, an 18-year-old international food resource economics

*"It's different from reading [about] a club online to when you actually come out and see all the tables and meet the people."*

**Marielena Dias**

*international food resource economics and political science junior*

and political science junior, liked being able to speak with organization members in person.

"It's different from reading [about] a club online to when you actually come out and see all the tables and meet the people," she said. "I'm one of those people that have to feel something in order to want to do it."

The Student Organization Fair will continue from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. today at the Reitz Union Colonnade and the Reitz Union North Lawn.

About 100 organizations are expected to attend today, Jones said.



Haley Stracher / Alligator Staff

Nourish International representative, marketing freshman Nicol Perez, 18, looks on as fifth-year industrial and systems engineering major Daniel Argov, 22, signs up for Nourish International's listserv at the Student Organization Fair on Thursday afternoon.

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the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, AZ

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Issue Date	Sports Coverage
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

## Binge drinking still prevalent in US

KELSEY GRENTZER

Alligator Contributing Writer

A recently released report shows binge drinking is still prevalent throughout the country, and experts say UF is no exception.

The report, published this month by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, states that more than 90 percent of the alcohol youth drink is consumed while binge drinking.

According to the CDC's January 2012 Vital Signs report, most binge drinkers in the U.S. are 18 to 34 years old.

"Individuals in that age range, for the most part, tend to be more accepting of binge drinking among their peers," said Lisa Merlo, a clinical psychologist at UF. "It plays a larger role in social interactions compared to some other age groups."

UF's Core Alcohol and Drug Survey confirms that UF is no stranger to the issue of binge drinking. According to the 2010 survey, 41.6 percent of participating students reported having five or more drinks in one sitting within two weeks of taking the survey.

The CDC defines binge drinking as consuming four or more alcoholic beverages within a short period of time for women and five or more for men.

Additionally, more than half of UF students surveyed reported having a hangover in the past year, and about one third admitted to having memory loss due to drinking.

However, the survey stated that 5.8 percent or less of people who took the survey considered their drinking a problem.

"With that age group, regardless of whether you're in college or not, there's that feeling of invincibility that a lot of young people have," said Maureen Miller, coordinator for alcohol and drug prevention at UF.

*"It's not fun for you because you'll probably throw up and not remember anything."*

Cara Bearison

management sophomore

College students are not immune to the consequences of binge drinking, said Cara Bearison, 20-year-old management sophomore.

"It's not fun for you because you'll probably throw up and not remember anything," Bearison said. "You're putting yourself at risk for basically anything bad that could happen to you, so I think it's dangerous."

Despite high levels of alcohol abuse among students, percentages of alcohol use have decreased gradually since 2004, according to the UF survey.

"I like to think that's a positive sign — kind of contributing to the work that we have been doing," Miller said. "I feel really good about the direction that we're heading."

## UF research: amino acid can double as pesticide

► PESTICIDE PROTECTS CITRUS PLANTS.

ALLI LANGLEY

Alligator Writer

UF researchers have discovered an insecticide that comes from something humans eat every day.

Methionine is an essential amino acid that humans get from food, and it can double as a pesticide against the invasive lime swallowtail caterpillar that could threaten Florida's citrus industry.

"This shows that we can find an alternative to the bad chemical pesticides," said Delano Lewis, co-author of the study, which was published in the Journal of Economic Entomology.

Because the lime swallowtail can't be legally brought into the U.S., researchers experimented using a similar species.

The pesticide was 100 percent effective in killing the caterpillars on wild lime trees within three to four days.

It is harmless to citrus plants, mammals and birds, Lewis said. In the soil, the amino acid would become fertilizer for the plants.

"It's better than most of the other chemicals out there because it's more targeted to the specific type of insect you want," he said.

The research was funded by UF's Division of Sponsored Research and the Florida Museum of Natural History's Museum Associates Board.

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# Opinions

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2012  
WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG/OPINIONS

## Editorial

If you haven't noticed, it's Hollywood awards show season, and the stars are coming out.

If you think about it, though, all the awards shows, from the Golden Globes to the Academy Awards, are basically the movie and music industries patting themselves on the back.

For instance, the Screen Actors Guild is basically actors giving awards to actors.

That's why here at the Alligator, we believe our weekly awards are truly prestigious and meaningful.

That brings us to our who-are-we-kidding-we-just-like-to-make-fun-of-people edition of...

## Darts & Laurels

First, we travel to the Midwest to throw a how's-that-tax-hike-working-out-for-you **DART** to the state of **Illinois**, which increased state income taxes by 67 percent and also increased corporate taxes. Despite its effort to raise revenue through these tax hikes, the state is still facing an \$8.5-billion shortfall, according to Illinois State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka.

Well, that worked.

Next, we give an it-may-have-taken-him-a-while-to-sound-out-the-writing-on-the-wall **LAUREL** to **Rick Perry** for dropping out of the GOP race. He did the best in the polls before the nation had a chance to hear him speak.

After that, it was all downhill.

Of course, we can't end the week without giving a standing-up-to-censorship **LAUREL** to **Wikipedia** and the nearly 7,000 other websites that blacked out their pages in protest of SOPA and PIPA, the anti-Internet piracy bills currently under consideration in Congress.

We hope it pays off.

On a related note, we're throwing a dude-like-WTF-is-up-with-like-Wikipedia **DART** to the **high-school students** who freaked out all over Twitter and other social networking sites on Wednesday when they couldn't use Wikipedia to do their science homework.

Reading is hard, isn't it?

Also from the Midwest, we're going to toss an I've-got-a-fever-and-the-only-prescription-is-more-cowbell **LAUREL** to the **26-year-old Wisconsin man** who refused to stop playing his cowbell in protest of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

He was, of course, arrested for resisting arrest and disorderly conduct, but it sounded awesome.

Finally, we throw a chill-the-eff-out **DART** to **Gainesville criminals**. It seems like we can't go a day without another report of armed robbery, attempted rape or murder.

Law-abiding citizens of Gainesville: Make sure you never go out alone, and stay away from sketchy areas. Don't open your door to strangers, and be sure to keep all of the valuables in your car hidden.

Have a fun and safe weekend, and be sure to check back next week.

## Reader response

**Today's question:** Would you use Google Hangout to meet with a TA for office hours?

**Friday's question:** Do you plan on voting in the city elections in a few weeks?

**45% YES**

**55% NO**

56 TOTAL VOTES

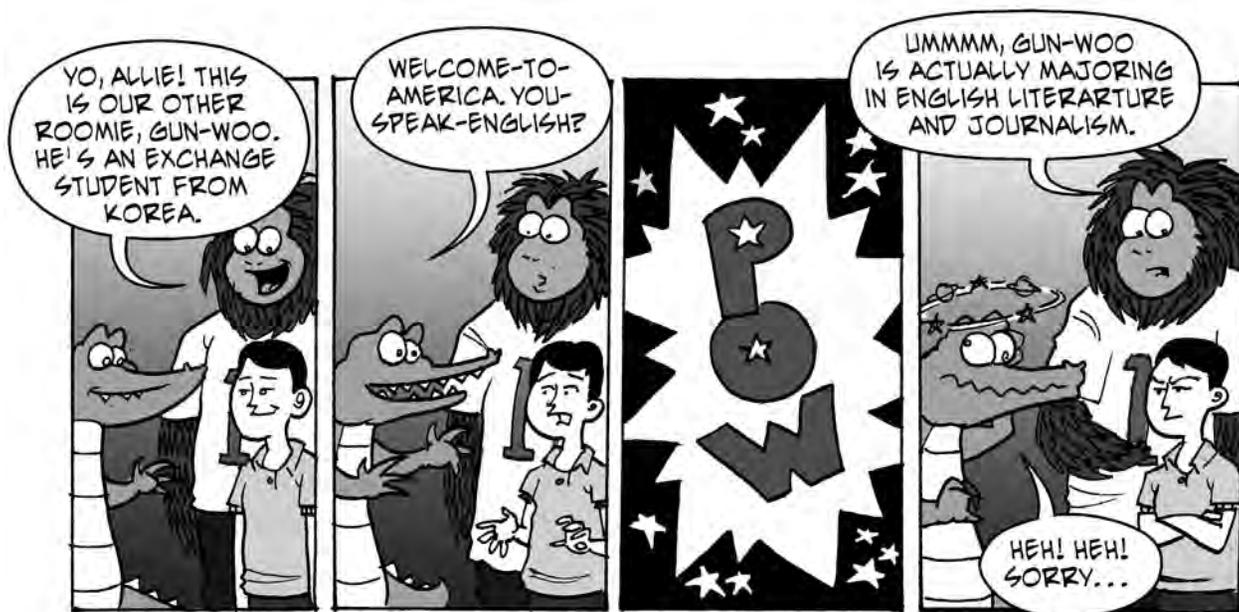
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Son of a Gator

by Andre R. Frattino

## Column

### Parties champion, sacrifice different liberties

At a dinner reception in 1830, President Andrew Jackson proposed a toast, saying, "Our Union: It must be preserved." Jackson's vice president, John Calhoun, gave a toast of his own, saying, "The Union, next to our liberty most dear."

The division demonstrated in these competing toasts a microcosm of the American political landscape today. The idea of liberty — freedom from control, interference and obligation — has virtually gone in, as Paul Craig Roberts of Press TV so aptly put it, "a forgotten grave in a forgotten graveyard."

Naturally, when governments are installed, they infringe on their people's liberty through obligations such as taxes and restrictions like a minimum drinking age. The trade-off between liberty and some government interference is worth it when government interference is limited.

Today, however, liberty is under assault from both parties in the government. While each party appears to promote one aspect of liberty, each, often in the same breath, condemns liberty in other parts of life.

Republicans advocate economic liberty, yet wish to control social liberty under the guise of morality. For instance, they are proponents of tax cuts, increasing the amount of your money that isn't forcibly taken by the government. Meanwhile, Republicans are also in favor of restricting your social liberty: Think of President Richard Nixon declaring a "war on drugs" and citing drugs as "public enemy No. 1." Whether or not you are for drug use, criminalizing and arresting drug users inherently limits one's social liberty.

Democrats are the reverse. On the one hand, they want to increase social liberty. For instance, they generally believe that people can marry whomever, regardless of gender. Yet Democrats limit economic liberty, favoring higher taxes to pay for expanded social services. Forcibly taking more of the money that people worked hard for



Chris Ceresa  
opinions@alligator.org

restrains economic liberty.

The irony is that both parties promote their own chunk of liberty and spurn the other for the same reason: morality. Republicans must restrict institutions like marriage because it is, according to them, only morally acceptable to allow a man and a woman to wed. Democrats are compelled to steal more of your money to take care of (usually) indigent people because they feel the moral obligation to help the poor. According to the logic of both parties, the people in Washington think certain aspects of liberty should be limited, because, of course, they know what is best for you. Both parties champion partial liberty, yet condemn total liberty.

Contrary to what the politicians may imply, liberty is not something you can chop up. You either have it or you don't, almost like the item that precedes it in the Declaration of Independence: life. Liberty is not piecemeal; it's either whole or not really liberty.

The assault on liberty can be seen as a function of government expansion. As the government grows, it takes more of the pie, and politicians believe in an incremental expansion, meaning the government should grow slightly each year, shaving off a little bit more liberty yearly.

We ought to realize virtually all mainstream politicians halfheartedly believe in liberty, but there is hope. The light at the end of the tunnel is a frail man named Ron Paul. He believes in preserving the entirety of liberty, not one chunk or the other. In a debate last year, Paul introduced himself as "the champion of liberty." Disregard what the political merry-go-round media espouse, and really listen to what these politicians are saying — it may scare you.

Chris Ceresa is a math and classics major at UF. His column appears on Fridays.

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Students Party wrong to criticize Senate process

As Senate president, I want to address the deliberate lies of Students Party Sen. Carly Wilson that appeared in yesterday's letter to the editor. The actions displayed in Tuesday night's meeting were a disgrace to the Senate process and, more important, to the students of UF.

Following the Fall 2011 elections, I charged the election code revision committee to address any problems that may have occurred. The Students Party was given representation on the committee and, in fact, Sen. Wilson selected who would represent that party.

Not once during the month and a half that the committee was reviewing the codes did any member of the Students Party submit suggestions. During the first reading of the changes at the Jan. 10 Senate meeting, Students Party members did raise some concerns about the election codes, but they offered no amendments. It was announced that the election code committee would

meet again for more revisions before the second, and final, reading of the election code reform bill. All senators and nonsenators were encouraged to submit amendments and suggestions for the committee to review. Again, nothing was received from anyone in the Students Party.

Several Unite senators, however, took the initiative to make additional amendments to address the concerns that were raised by Students Party members at the previous meeting. These amendments were passed unanimously by members of both parties at the Jan. 17 Senate meeting.

Sen. Wilson's desperate attempt to blatantly lie about the election code revision process is nothing more than a publicity stunt and a prime example of partisan politics at its finest. If Sen. Wilson spent half as much time drafting meaningful legislation as she does making up lies about the Unite Party, UF and its students would be far better off.

Andy Mason  
UF Senate president

## UWire

# Anti-piracy bills go too far to fix problems

The Internet is often compared to the Wild West due to its anything-goes, uncharted nature. As users, the occasionally unruly but excitingly unbound environment has pros and cons; we worry about its risks but embrace its benefits.

Last fall, Congress introduced the Stop Online Piracy Act, or SOPA, to serve as the new sheriff in town, aiming to bring some order to these here parts. SOPA's trusty deputy, the PROTECT IP Act (short for the Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act) also gained traction in the Senate, including co-sponsorships from both Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken.

Aside from forcing late nights at the Capitol Hill Acronym Creation Office (CHACO), SOPA and PIPA — the short form of an already-shortened mouthful — have stirred up controversy. The biggest concern is the potential of a less free and open Internet, as websites suspected of copyright infringement and piracy could face steep consequences, including blocked access from service providers and search engines. This indirect form of "censorship" threatens the Internet as we've known it.

As an act of protest against SOPA, Wikipedia blacked out its website Wednesday, which you may have noticed when you tried to look up Rachel McAdams' age or the overall population of the Greater Stockholm metropolitan area. Reddit, among other sites, joined the blackout, too. Google, eBay, Twitter and Facebook also voiced opposition to the bills. These aren't random niche websites contesting the legislation; if there were a Mount Rushmore for the Internet, those four faces would be on it.

The objection to the bills rests in that we've grown accustomed to the services that the Internet provides, even if there is some infringement. It's similar to being in a third world country and seeing a bootlegged T-shirt with Bart Simpson or Tweety Bird on it. Vendors probably didn't check with Matt Groening or either Warner

Andrew Johnson  
UWire

brother to legally display these cartoons wearing the country's colors while playing soccer, but, "who cares; let it slide," tends

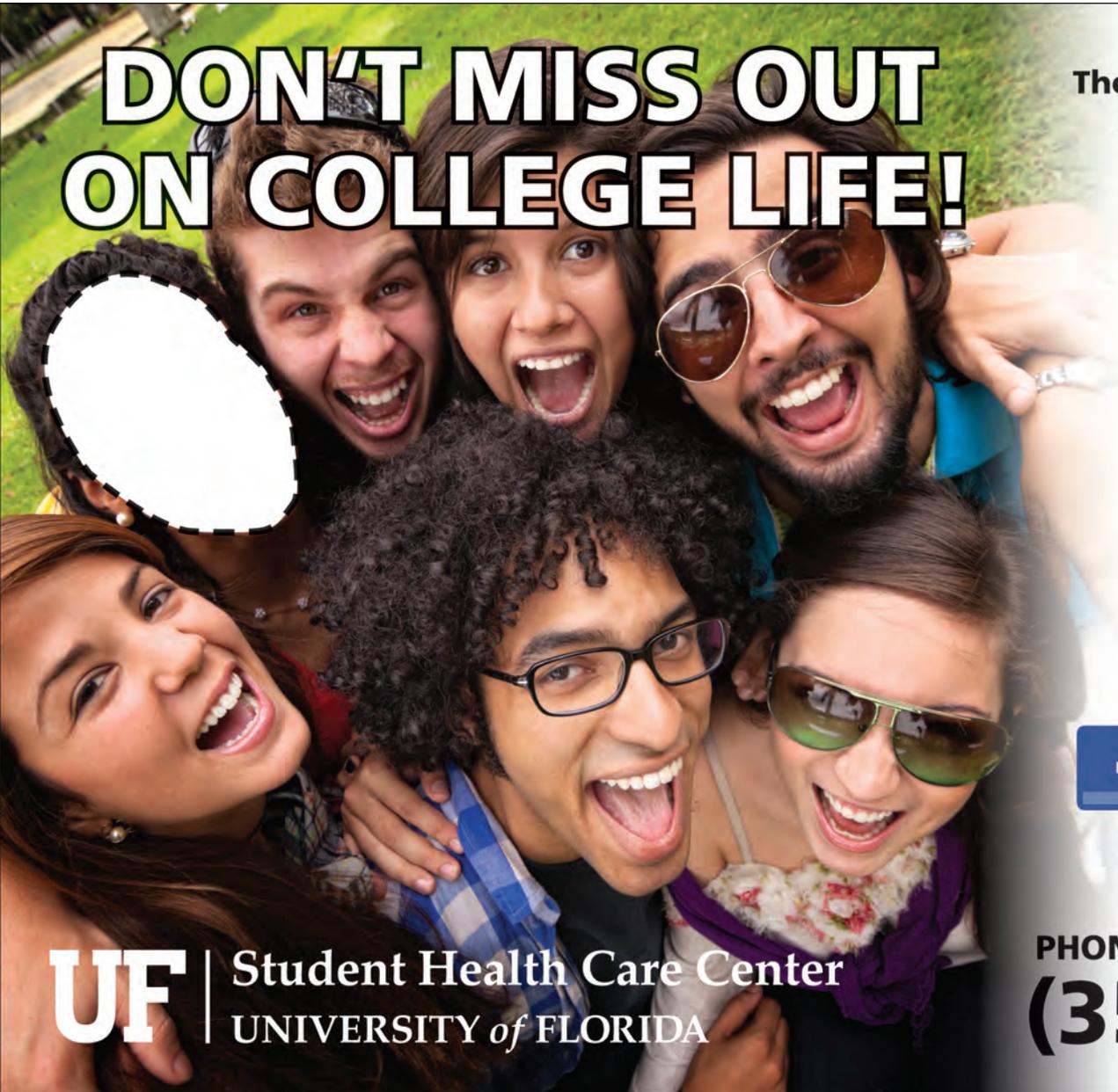
to be the response. The practice is seemingly harmless and doesn't merit strict enforcement, even if use of the image is technically prohibited.

Weighing the societal benefit versus the specific ownership rights for intellectual property can be tricky. Trekkies don't upload episodes of their favorite show to hurt the franchise; their goal is to further the show's success, not lessen it. Yet the process does affect profits and production, because even if consumers aren't paying a price to download a movie or song, someone paid a price to provide it. It's easy to point to rich executives, actors and musicians, but technicians and stagehands support SOPA too — their incomes are affected by a film's revenue.

The reality of the Internet is that we've progressed by using it without the looming regulations. Were we spoiled with too much of a good thing? Probably. But it wasn't monitored closely enough early on, so we dove in. Is it now worth limiting access to information and material that has been both useful and enjoyable? Probably not. So, companies should look to modify their business models to correspond with the reality of our Internet habits. The recreational and productive value of the Internet in its current form is evident; encouraging the free flow of information is always worth the benefit of the doubt.

A tweet opposing SOPA said the act is "trying to put out a match with a fire extinguisher." There's no denying that piracy and infringement are problems, but the solution should be adjusting to demand, not overreacting to the problem.

Andrew Johnson is a columnist for the *Minnesota Daily* at the University of Minnesota.



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## Class to hold Google+ Hangout office hours

► THE ENGINEERING CLASS WILL BE THE FIRST TO TEST THE PROGRAM AT UF.

**SAMANTHA SHAVELL**

Alligator Writer

Students in an engineering class are getting the chance to hang out with their professor online for the first time at UF.

Dan Dickrell III is using Google+ Hangouts for additional office hours in his Engineering Mechanics-Statics class this semester. Students can either go to the lecture or view it online.

Using Google+ Hangouts, Dickrell or a teaching assistant can video chat with up to nine students at once and share documents.

Statics is a math-based class, and he said he plans to use the screen-sharing function to show problems.

However, because it is his first semester using Hangouts at UF, Dickrell will be using it to a limited degree.

He will announce chats on e-Learning throughout the semester, he said, but he will still offer in-person office hours and reviews.

"It will be pretty useful come exam time when TA and instructor help is in high demand," he said.

Statics student Will Smith, a 20-year-old aerospace engineering sophomore, already has a Google+ account and said he will probably use the Hangout feature.

"It's certainly a lot more convenient," he said. "I don't have to worry about running out of time between classes to get to office hours."

However, Japa Kulwatno, a 19-year-old materials engineering sophomore, said he doesn't think Hangouts will be as beneficial as the in-person office hours.

"When someone is watching how you answer, it's easier to correct them than going between a medium that is the computer," he said.

Dickrell heard about Google+ Hangouts through Keivan Zolfaghari, UF's Google Student Ambassador.

The 20-year-old food and research economics and psychology junior said he has talked to several UF professors about using Hangouts, but Dickrell is the only one using it so far. If professors held public Hangouts, they would only be able to see students' public information, Zolfaghari said.

Other universities are already using Google+ Hangouts. At Rice University, Teach for America used it to speak with a recruiter and corps members around the country, he said. The university president also took live questions via Hangouts. Zolfaghari also said students at Boise State University are using Hangouts for makeshift study sessions.

"Google Hangouts is just a tool in the toolbox to teach the class efficiently," Dickrell said.

## Parking near campus could change Commission to draft petition

**ADRIANNA PAIDAS**

Alligator Writer

Homes that have cars parked all over the yard may soon need a driveway.

The Gainesville City Commission decided Thursday to draft a petition that would establish parking regulations for multi-family homes around UF's campus.

This would include the area bordered by Southwest 13th Street, University Avenue and Southwest Sixth Street.

Many of these are single-family homes zoned as multi-family homes, meaning one house includes more than one residence.

As a result, five or six cars are parked in the yard, said Commissioner Thomas Hawkins.

Parking spaces would have to be accessed by an approved driveway, and cars would not be allowed to drive over a curb to park, according to the draft plan.

Landlords acquired these homes before current zoning codes were established, he said.

Prior to current codes, landlords didn't have to submit a parking plan, and cars could be parked anywhere on the property.

Hawkins said parking on these properties destroys curbs and sidewalks.

After cars continually park on grass, dirt begins to surface and dumps into the city's storm water system.

Hawkins said this counter-

acts money from the city aimed to treat storm water.

Mulch or gravel could be used to prevent erosion, accord-

ing to the draft plan.

If passed, the amended ordinance would allow the city to approach these homeowners and create a parking plan.

"This is long overdue," Hawkins said.



Alex Catalano / Alligator Staff

District 2 Commissioner Todd Chase speaks at a Gainesville City Commission meeting Thursday afternoon at City Hall.



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# City Commission candidates debate job creation, city spending

## District 1, at-large 1 candidates attended

**ADRIANNA PAIDAS**

Alligator Writer

At a Gainesville City Commission candidate debate Thursday night, District 1 candidates battled with ideas about job creation

while at-large 1 candidates discussed spending in the city.

Seven of the eight at-large 1 candidates attended the forum hosted by the Alachua County Democratic Black Caucus. Richard Selwach was absent. All three

of the District 1 candidates attended.

At-large 1 candidates shared their opinions about what is wrong with the current commission and how they would improve it. They touched on the

city's biomass contract, wasteful spending and public transportation.

Nathan Skop, Lauren Poe and Darlene Pifalo, candidates for the at-large 1 seat, directed comments toward one other regarding the biomass contract. Dejeon Cain, an at-large 1 candidate, interjected frequently about im-

proving east Gainesville.

District 1 commissioners were left with about 30 minutes to speak at the end of the forum. Armando Grundy, Ray Washington and Yvonne Hinson-Rawls were more confrontational toward each other about their ideas, and Grundy and Washington raised their voices.

## Gas price increases won't affect RTS riders

► PRICES ARE UP 30 CENTS FROM LAST YEAR.

**DAVID WILLIAMS**

Alligator Contributing Writer

Students might be paying more money at the gas pump this year, which could push more students onto buses.

The average price for a gallon of gas is about 30 cents more than it was this time last year, according to a statement made by AAA.

David Denslow, a UF economics professor, said gas prices are relatively stable now and probably won't see major changes anytime soon. If prices increase, he said, they won't have a large impact on uni-

versity transportation because there are plans in place for gas price fluctuation.

Regional Transit System is a viable alternative for those affected by gas prices, said Chip Skinner, spokesman for RTS.

He said unless gas prices reach \$5 a gallon, RTS compensates for any fluctuation by adjusting its budget before charging riders more.

"A lot of people don't realize that over 50 percent of our operating budget does come from the University of Florida," he said.

This portion is comprised of fees tied into students' credit hours and campus redevelopment funds.

RTS transports about 50,000 people a day, Skinner said.



Emily Doyle / Alligator

### Dream State

Visitors look at the exhibit "Dream State" at the grand opening show on Thursday evening in the Reitz Union Art Gallery. Read the story at [alligator.org](http://alligator.org).

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# Utah man gets lost ring back 45 years later

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — A Utah man who lost his class ring six months after he bought it is getting the keepsake back 45 years later, thanks to some Facebook detective work.

Brent Aguirre said his mother was disappointed when the 1966 Bonneville High School graduate lost the ring, which is gold-toned with a deep blue stone.

"It's a beautiful ring," he told KSL-TV. "I remember mom and dad forked out pretty good money for it."

He assumed the ring was at the bottom of Pineview Reservoir, not far from the Great Salt Lake, and wrote it off when he left to fight in Vietnam.

*"It's a beautiful ring. I remember mom and dad forked out pretty good money for it."*

Brent Aguirre  
ring owner

The military service turned into an Air Force career that led him through nine different moves across the world and finally back to his hometown of Ogden. It wasn't until the fall that Aguirre received a Facebook message from a couple in nearby Sandy, saying they wanted to get in touch with him.

He brushed it off, but they contacted him again, telling him they'd found a ring with his name inscribed in cursive script.

The couple still isn't sure where the ring came from. The husband said he can't remember where he originally found it, and the wife said the keepsake turned up when she was cleaning out a desk drawer.

"It was unbelievable," Aguirre said. "I had written it off, and it was hard to believe they actually had my ring."

Aguirre met up with the couple just after Christmas. More than four decades later, the ring no longer fits on his ring finger, but Aguirre said he's happy to have it on his pinky.

He said he only has one regret: That his mother, once upset that her teenage son lost the valuable so quickly, was not around to see that he'd found it at last.

# UF diabetes program supports celebrity chef

SHELBY WEBB  
Alligator Contributing Writer

Celebrity chef and butter duchess Paula Deen announced Tuesday on NBC's "Today Show" that she has Type 2 diabetes.

Deen, 64, said she was diagnosed three years ago. She has now become a spokeswoman for pharmaceutical group Novo Nordisk to endorse its diabetes drug, Victoza. Victoza is injected once a day by Type 2 diabetes patients to control their blood sugar levels.

Critics pointed out that Deen continued to promote her Southern food after her diagnosis and came forward with the news the same day she announced her partnership with Novo Nordisk.

Kathryn Parker, director of the

Shands at UF Diabetes Self-Management Program, thinks the criticism is ridiculous.

"I'm not sure what everyone's so mad about," Parker said. "She's working

with a phenomenal pharmaceutical company, and if she can enlighten the 60 million Americans who don't know they have diabetes, then more power to her."

More than 28 million people know they have diabetes, Parker said, but the danger lies with those who are unaware that they are diabetic or pre-diabetic.

Unlike diseases with obvious physical symptoms, diabetes is silent and only

surfaces during a complication, she said.

Though genetics plays a role in whether someone is at risk for diabetes, Parker said eating too much is the primary cause.

She said if a woman's waist is more than 35 inches or if a man's is more than 40 inches, he or she is at a higher risk for getting Type 2 diabetes.

Blake Livingston, 24, was born with Type 1 diabetes, which Parker said affects about 10 percent of diabetics. He said if Deen wants to keep her reputation and take the drug company's money, she needs to show healthy food options.

Livingston, a UF graduate student studying to become an acute care practitioner, said people need to get advice from their doctors instead of advertisements and broadcast personalities.



Deen



Aundre Larrow / Alligator Staff

## Jesus Said

Street preacher Gary Birdsong speaks to students on Turlington Plaza about his beliefs and interpretation of the Bible on Thursday afternoon. Birdsong, who lives in North Carolina, has migrated south every year to preach to students since the 1980s.

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# Student arrested, charged with aggravated battery after incident

**CRIME**, from page 1

pot.

"She was yelling," Jones said. "She was like, 'Yes, DeCara, I don't like you. That's why I looked at you like that.'"

Lewis then walked into her friend's apartment. Jones went to her own and hung out on the back porch, where she and friends ate Taco Bell and smoked cigarettes.

About 15 minutes later, Lewis walked by Jones' porch looks out onto Southwest Third Avenue, where Lewis' car was parked.

"What's up," Jones said.

Lewis screamed, threatening to run Jones and her friends over. She started her car, pulled a U-turn and stopped in front of the porch, Jones said. Lewis repeatedly drove forward and reversed, yelling at Jones and her friends.

"She just kept telling me to get in the middle of the road," Jones said.

Instead, Jones' friend Cornelia Dean walked to the brick sidewalk. Dean, a psychology and classics junior, also happened to be friends with Lewis.

"Get out of the car or go home," Dean said.

Lewis didn't. She gunned it. The right side of the car hopped over the curb and Lewis steered toward Dean.

Dean jumped, landing face-first on the

windshield. She lay across the hood, legs dangling off the front. Lewis drove for about 50 feet, according to police.

"You know how people say their life flashes before their eyes?" Dean asked. "Literally, my life flashed before me. I was on top, thinking, 'OK, I'm on this vehicle. How am I going to get off?' Luckily, I have quick reflexes, or this could have been like 100 times worse."

She fell off of the hood, breaking her right wrist. But Lewis kept coming, she said. Dean had to roll out of the way before getting hit again.

Jones, meanwhile, watched the whole event from the porch.

"I was the one she was having problems with," Jones said. "I was the farthest person from her. I was just hanging back on the patio."

Lewis was charged with aggravated battery. She declined to comment Thursday evening.

Lewis was featured in a January 2010 edition of the Alligator. She participated in the Writing on the Wall Project, during which she was asked to write a hurtful statement on a brick on the Reitz Union North Lawn.

She wrote "WhoRE" on her brick.

"I think we tend to prejudge others and go off what they have on rather than who they are," she said at the time.

# Changes made to stop fraud

**VOTE**, from page 1

national elections.

David Bergstein, spokesman for the Florida Democratic Party, said this bill targets Democratic voters, including students and low-income residents.

"The only reason the Republicans are trying to keep people from voting is because they know people won't be voting for them," said Bergstein, 23. "They know they can't win in a fair fight, so they are trying to stack the deck."

Erin Murphy, president of UF College Democrats, said the restrictions make registering people to vote unnecessarily complicated.

"When you are trying to register hundreds or thousands of voters, it can be very complex to turn in those forms downtown within 48 hours," Murphy said.

The Florida Democratic Party plans on registering the voters they need under the new laws, Bergstein said.

UF College Democrats registered more than 1,000 people on the last day of voter registration in 2008, she said, and 250 students registered last semester.

Some students say the bill will

eliminate voter fraud and will lead to a more efficient voting process.

"I really don't think it is going to affect college students greatly," said Matt Pesek, 19-year-old UF religion and political science sophomore and public relations officer for College Republicans. "At least for the meantime, these laws will make Florida elections more credible."

"They know they can't win in a fair fight, so they are trying to stack the deck."

**David Bergstein**

spokesman for  
Florida Democratic Party

The law ensures the supervisor of elections knows who is being registered and that the process is completed in a timely manner, he said.

"Just because a bank has never been robbed doesn't mean it doesn't upgrade its security," said Brian Hughes, spokesman for the Republican Party of Florida.

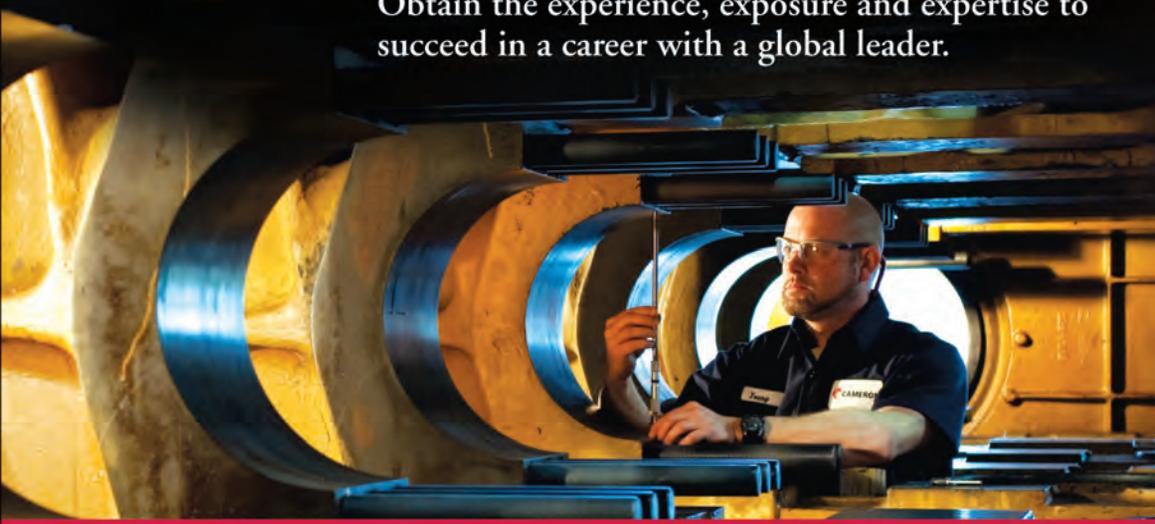
He said voter fraud does still happen, and in November, the FBI arrested eight people, including the supervisor of elections, for illegally casting absentee ballots in Madison County.

"We will get used to these laws and hopefully not find ways around them," Pesek said.



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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          |
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Orthopedic pillow-top sets. Brand name matching sets not used or refurbished. Still in plastic, direct from factory! 352-333-7516. 4-25-72-6

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

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Titles Only. Call KT  
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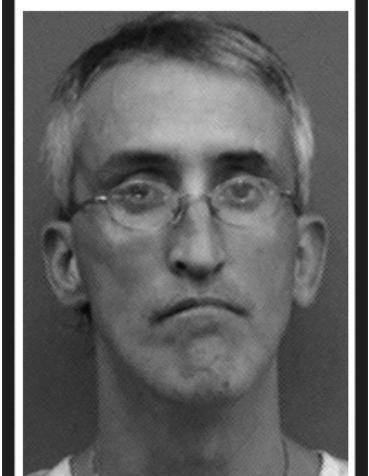
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Over 150 vehicles in stock!  
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**MOST WANTED**



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White Male  
(DOB 05/15/70); 6'00",  
160 lbs, Brown Hair,  
Brown Eyes

**Wanted for:**  
Aggravated Assault  
with a Deadly Weapon

ALACHUA COUNTY  
**CRIME STOPPERS**  
Call (352) 372-STOP

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94 Toyota Camry \$1500  
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Bring W@ and drive home today!  
30 Day Warranty!  
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04 Honda Accord \$7999  
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**12 Autos**

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**13 Wanted**

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**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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

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!

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**13 Wanted**

**LOCAL ARTIST NEEDS:**

★ Gold ★ Diamonds ★ Gems ★ Class Rings  
★ ETC ★ Top Cash \$\$\$ or Trade ★  
OZZIE'S FINE JEWELRY 352-318-4009.  
4-25-72-13

**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  
4-25-72-13

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.



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 Breal at (352) 378-9079 or by e-mail at sfhcoor@stfrancis.cfcocmail.com

**14 Help Wanted**

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3	9	5	1	8	4	2	7	6
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A <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	RACK 1 =	<u>57</u>
T <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	RACK 2 =	<u>59</u>
P <sub>3</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>		RACK 3 =	<u>15</u>
S <sub>1</sub>	P <sub>3</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	H <sub>4</sub>	RACK 4 =	<u>78</u>
<b>PAR SCORE 140-150</b>							<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>209</b>

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**JUMBLE CROSSWORDS™**  
by David L. Hoyt 1-20-12

1		2		3			
						4	
5							
		6					
		7					

<b>CLUE</b>	<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>
1. Frank		DCIDNA
5. Alcove		HCEIN
6. Additional		EARXT
7. Anoint		NAIROD
<b>CLUE</b>	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>
1. Awning		NCOYPA
2. _____ power		REALUNC
3. Inactivity		EATIINR
4. Keep		AIRETN

**BONUS CLUE:** The third-largest of its kind.

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

ANSWERS: 1A-Candid 5A-Niche 6A-Extra 7A-Ordain  
1D-Campy 2D-Nuclear 3D-Inertia 4D-Retrain B-Indian Ocean

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## Gators defensive tackle Orr facing marijuana-related charges

**MATT WATTS**

Alligator Staff Writer

Florida sophomore defensive tackle Leon Orr was served with a notice to appear on two marijuana-related charges during the first week of Spring semester, according to a University Police Department report.

The arrest report describes a scene on the night of Jan. 10 in which UPD officer Bradley Roberts searched Orr's dorm room in building eight of Keys Complex about a half hour before midnight. During the search, which Orr consented to, Roberts found a "baggy of a green leafy substance, a glass pipe and rolling papers" on Orr's desk and bedside table.

The substance was tested and confirmed to be marijuana. After being read his rights, Orr admitted to ownership of the marijuana, pipe and papers, according to the report.

There was no information in the report indicating why police were alerted to Orr's dorm room.

He is being charged with possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, both misdemeanors. Orr's court date is set for Feb. 8 at 9 a.m.

Orr is the ninth arrest, and eighth player arrested, since Will Muschamp took over for Urban Meyer as Gators head coach. Six of those arrests have been for marijuana.

"Coach (Muschamp) is aware of the incident and has handled the matter," team

spokesman Dan Apple said.

A redshirt freshman last season, Orr registered 10 tackles and a sack.

Originally from the Clearwater area, Orr was rated the No. 11 defensive tackle in the nation by Rivals.com.

Thursday night, Orr posted a message on his Twitter account (@MrLrgJack\_44) that read: "At the end of the day a mistake was made, and I've learned from it."

The background photo for Orr's Twitter page showed him wearing a backward hat, sunglasses and a T-shirt with a design that includes a marijuana leaf.

Contact Matt Watts at [mwatts@alligator.org](mailto:mwatts@alligator.org).

### UF Player Arrests

#### Under Will Muschamp

- Jan. 9, 2011: Kedric Johnson (possession of marijuana)
- Jan. 22, 2011: Janoris Jenkins (possession of marijuana)
- Jan. 29, 2011: Chris Martin (possession of marijuana)
- April 23, 2011: Janoris Jenkins (possession of marijuana)
- May 25, 2011: De'Ante Saunders (possession of marijuana)
- July 24, 2011: Matt Elam (Underage possession of alcohol)
- Sept. 12, 2011: Dee Finley (Resisting arrest)
- Sept. 14, 2011: Marcus Roberson (Underage possession of alcohol)



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator Staff

Florida sophomore defensive tackle Leon Orr (right), shown here during UF's Gator Bowl win against Ohio State on Jan 2., was charged last week with possession of marijuana.

## Rosario improving defense ahead of LSU matchup

► GAME AT 6 P.M. SATURDAY IN THE O'CONNELL CENTER.

**JOHN BOOTHE**

Alligator Staff Writer

When Mike Rosario was at Rutgers, playing weak defense was the only way he could play more minutes.

On a Big East team just trying to stay afloat most nights, Rosario would save his energy for the offensive end, where he carried the Scarlet Knights' shooting and scoring loads for two years.

"I had to basically be an offensive threat the whole game in order for us

to stay in the game and in order for us to try and win," Rosario said. "Plus, playing 37 to 40 minutes a game and plus trying to do both ends of the court, it was a little bit too much for me."

After transferring to Florida, Rosario soon realized his days of lackadaisical defense had to be over if he wanted to avoid moving further down UF's bench, and worse, into coach Billy Donovan's dog house.

In his first five games, Rosario played 20 or more minutes three times against mostly over-matched competition. But as the Gators hit the meat of their non-conference schedule,

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 18

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Florida blows past Alabama

**JOE MORGAN**

Alligator Staff Writer

Jordan Jones released a shot from the mid-court Gators logo as the shot-clock buzzer sounded.

The redshirt senior guard's desperation heave found nothing but net, kicking off a 23-2 first-half Florida run that buried Alabama.

"Kind of lucky, I guess," Jones said of the shot.

Good fortune and solid transition play helped Florida (13-6, 3-3 Southeastern Conference) defeat Alabama (10-10, 0-6 SEC) 61-37 on Thursday night in the O'Connell Center.

Florida went into halftime with a 33-17 lead, marking the second consecutive game the Gators have scored 30-plus points in the first half.

The quick starts against LSU and Alabama came on the heels of back-to-back losses to South Carolina and Georgia in which Florida failed to reach 20 points before the half.

"First and foremost, (the problem) was turnovers," coach Amanda Butler said. "We've just been valuing each possession more. We've been paying more attention to our offense in practice and taking a little bit away from our defense."

Butler may have had offense at the forefront of her gameplan this week, but UF's defense delivered arguably its best performance of the 2011-12 campaign against the Crimson Tide.

Alabama's 17 first-half points were the fewest scored by a Florida opponent this season, and the Tide's final tally of 37 was the lowest number allowed by the Gators since 2009.

The key stretch was a 5:14 scoreless drought by the Crimson Tide in the first half that saw the Gators rack up 13 unanswered points.

SEE W-HOOPS, PAGE 20



Jones



Florida track and field athlete Kemal Mesic broke his own shot put school record last week. On Sunday, UF is back in action at the Gator Invite. See story, page 19.

### Weed and the Gators

Does the Florida football team have a problem with marijuana? Vote online at [alligatorSports.org](http://alligatorSports.org).

### Poll Results

What is the biggest hole the Gators need to fill with this year's incoming recruiting class?

**51% OFFENSIVE LINE**  
**29% RUNNING BACK**  
**17% WIDE RECEIVER**  
**3% DEFENSIVE LINE**

121 total votes

# Donovan praises Rosario's progress

## HOOPS, from page 17

Rosario's minutes declined due to his poor effort on the defensive end of the floor.

Heading into No. 17 Florida's (14-4, 2-1 Southeastern Conference) home clash with LSU (12-6, 2-2 SEC) on Saturday at 6 p.m., Donovan said he has seen a change in the junior guard's approach to playing tough defense.

"It's all stemmed from practice — he's really been pretty consistent, pretty responsible, pretty reliable," Donovan said. "He's built up a lot of trust in myself and his teammates. I think earlier in the year, probably, some of his limited minutes had to do with a lot of his defensive focus."

While ankle and back injuries slowed his progress during the last month, a finally healthy Rosario recorded three steals in UF's wins against Georgia and at South Carolina last week.

As a result, Donovan was able to play Rosario for 19 minutes against the Gamecocks, enough time for him to reach double figures for the first time since Dec. 7. Rosario said his coach recognized how hard he was work-

ing and how far he would go to change his game.

"It bothered me a little bit because it hurts me — the fact that I can't go out there and compete to my best of abilities for my teammates and the program," Rosario said. "I'm embracing the fact that I can do that, and now I know when I come off the bench, I can spark the game and take the game to another level."

With Rosario finally buying in to Donovan's philosophy, the Gators have held their last two opponents — Georgia and South Carolina — to a combined 39.1 percent shooting.

Florida will have the chance to extend its strong defensive run against LSU this weekend, which comes into Gainesville with the third-worst field goal percentage in the SEC.

"One of the most important things is guarding the ball and guarding off the ball, so that's what I've been trying to conquer the last couple weeks," Rosario said. "When I get in the game, I bring a lot of energy to that aspect of the game, especially to the defensive end. I feel it could bring positive energy to my teammates."

Contact John Boothe at [jboothe@alligator.org](mailto:jboothe@alligator.org).



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator Staff

Now healthy, Florida guard Mike Rosario has improved his effort on defense, helping UF hold Georgia and South Carolina to less than 40 percent combined shooting.

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## GYMNASTICS

## Gators staying focused for UK meet

**LONDON WATNICK**  
Alligator Writer

Heading into Southeastern Conference play, the Gators prefer to focus on themselves rather than their opponents.

Coach Rhonda Faehn said No. 8 Florida (2-0) isn't concerned with how well Kentucky (2-2, 0-1 SEC) performs when the Gators visit the Wildcats at the Memorial Coliseum in Lexington, Ky., tonight at 7 p.m.

"We don't ever necessarily look at whom we're going against because

we can't control who that is," Faehn said. "We have our job to do. Each athlete knows where they want to make improvements, or what their goal is."

The Gators are coming off two impressive victories — a 196.025-194.675 road win against North Carolina State on Jan. 6 and a 196.175-191.875 throttling of Illinois-Chicago in their home opener last Friday.

Kentucky's season, on the other hand, hasn't begun as smoothly. The Wildcats, who entered the season ranked 23rd in the nation, placed second in their opening quad meet

at home against Bowling Green and Wisconsin-Oshkosh, but finished behind No. 10 Oklahoma.

Last Friday, UK was stomped by No. 3 Arkansas in its SEC opener, 196.650 to 191.975.

The Wildcats are also getting accustomed to rookie head coach Tim Garrison, who previously served as an assistant coach at Nebraska for five years.

Despite a rough start, Kentucky might end up being UF's toughest challenge so far this season.

But Florida isn't focused on how Big Blue Nation's team performs.

"The mindset is just to compete just like we've trained," sophomore Alaina Johnson said. "(We're going to) just go out there and stay in our own little bubble."

For UF's top-ranked freshman class, tonight's meet will serve as an introduction to the SEC, which currently features six of the nation's top 25 teams. Kentucky is ranked seventh in the league with a team average of 193.150.

"I'm not really thinking about competing against an SEC school," freshman Kytra Hunter said. "I'm just thinking about doing my routines to the best of my ability."

Faehn said tonight's event line-ups will look different from last Friday's rotations against UIC.

Hunter will not be an all-around competitor for the first time this year, Johnson will make her 2012 vault debut and juniors Ashanee Dickerson and Marissa King will compete as all-rounders.

Also, sophomore Mackenzie Caquatto is set to make her return to beam after she suffered an ankle injury at the final selection camp for the U.S. world championships team in September.

Although Faehn said she wants the Gators to stick more landings and get better handstands on uneven bars, she doesn't want them to use up all of their strength against the Wildcats.

"We don't want anybody out there at their full-blown best right now," Faehn said. "There's three months of season left."

## Mesic breaking own Florida field records

► MEET ON SUNDAY AT 1 P.M. IN GAINESVILLE.

**KYLE EVERS**  
Alligator Writer

When his throw landed, and the distance was measured, another entry was added under Kemal Mesic's name in the Florida track and field record books.

Mesic, a senior thrower and current indoor Southeastern Conference champion, set a new Birmingham Crossplex and school record for distance in shot put at last week's Alabama Invitational, the team's first meet of the season.

The five-time All-American broke his old university record of 19.53m/64-1 with an NCAA qualifying mark of 19.95m/65-05.50. Mesic's throw was almost three meters longer than his closest competitor and helped him earn SEC Men's Field Athlete of the Week honors.

"It feels great. It shows that you trained hard successfully over the past fall," Mesic said. "So everything comes together and you are happy, of course."

The 6-foot-6, 275-pound Mesic is a native of Sarajevo, Bosnia, where he was active in track and field for six years before college. He has been competing for UF since 2008.

An unlikely Florida transplant, Mesic, 26, said that the number of participants in track and field in his home country is growing, despite still recovering from the destruction caused by the Bosnian War.

"Here in the United States,

you have a lot more opportunities to be good, to be better, and to be the best," he said. "Most people over there don't have the opportunities that kids have here in the United States, I'm really blessed to be here."

Mesic said he was grateful for the opportunities that the Florida track and field program has provided him.

He attributes part of his success to his pregame ritual of heavy concentration and listening to music from his home country. Before he steps into the circle to throw the 16-pound shot, Mesic concentrates solely on the task at hand and visualizes his goal.

After competing in track and field on the collegiate level, Mesic has plans to be an Olympian, continuing to train hard so he can represent Bosnia in the future.

Mesic, despite his personal accomplishments, said he enjoys being part of a team and competing for his university.

While Mesic won't be in action this Sunday when Florida hits James G. Pressly Stadium for the Gator Invite, he had a message for his competitors.

"It was good to put the (record-setting) mark out there, so the other guys, who are training hard too, can see that I am ready and that they have to be a little bit scared of the Gators," he said. "We're going to come for them."



Alligator File Photo

Florida sophomore Alaina Johnson will make her season debut on vault tonight against Kentucky, but she will not compete on floor.



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# UF, Baylor matchup of nation's top teams

## STAFF REPORT

Sunday will mark almost one year since the last time Florida's men's tennis team faced Baylor, but when the teams square off, the circumstances will be nearly identical.

The No. 8 Gators will take the long trip to Waco, Texas, this weekend where they will face the No. 5 Bears in their first dual match of the season.

Following a solid showing at the Southeastern Conference Indoor Championships in Lexington, Ky., last week, the Gators will begin their dual-match schedule with a challenging out-of-conference opponent. Last year, Florida defeated Baylor 5-2, when the doubles team of Sekou Bangoura Jr. and Andrew Butz won a thrilling match to clinch the win.

This year's Bears boast three of the top 125 singles players in the country, including the trio of No. 20 Mate Zsiga, No. 52 Lars Behlen and No. 54 Roberto Maytin.

Zsiga and Behlen are freshmen from Europe, the former coming from Hungary and the latter coming from Germany.

Last year, Maytin was defeated in singles by Florida's Nassim Slilam.

The Gators will also be

rolling out three players of their own in the national top 125 for singles. Junior Bob van Overbeek, sophomore Spencer Newman and sophomore Andrew Butz will lead the charge of Gators looking to repeat last year's success.

Florida's No. 4 doubles team of Nassim Slilam and Billy Federhofer will also be in action following an exit in the Round of 16 at the SEC Indoor Championships.



van Overbeek

Baylor's No. 17 team of Maytin and Marko Krickovic likely will be their opponents.

Trying to ride a hot start to the spring season will be sophomore Michael Alford, who won the consolation singles title at the SEC Indoors last weekend. The Tampa native won five straight matches after dropping his opener in Lexington.

Meanwhile, the women's team is preparing to open with its first dual match on Wednesday when it hosts Troy University at Linder Stadium.

The team was last in action last weekend at the Freeman Memorial Championships in Las Vegas, where junior Caroline Hitimana took the consolation singles title.

# Stewart, George control post in victory

## W-HOOPS, from page 17

In last Sunday's 62-58 win against the Tigers, the Gators saw a late 14-point lead whittled down to two in just four minutes.

However, Florida actually added to its advantage in the second half Thursday due largely to improved post play.

The Gators bested the Crimson Tide by only two points, 14-12, in the paint before halftime, surrendering eight points to 'Bama forward Kyra Crosby.

Conversely, Florida dominated down low in the second half, outscoring Alabama 18-8 in the paint.

Junior forward Jennifer George and senior center Azania Stewart led the Gators' effort in the post. George recorded her 11th double-double of the season, registering team-high marks with 15 points, 12 rebounds and five blocked shots.

While the Gators warmly welcomed George's return to double-double form a game after she struggled with six points and two rebounds against LSU, Stewart's performance drew the most enthusiastic praise.

Stewart scored eight points, pulled down 10 boards and recorded four blocks in her best all-around statistical performance in SEC play this season.

"It's about time, I should say," Stewart said. "It's great confidence, just for our team in general. We're building and we're on a run right now."

George has shouldered Florida's offensive burden in the paint, providing the only consistent scoring threat for the Gators down low.

However, Stewart's perfor-



David Carr / Alligator

Gators center Azania Stewart (13) scored eight points and grabbed 10 rebounds in Florida's 61-37 win against Alabama on Thursday.

mance, coupled with eight points from redshirt senior Ndidi Madu, has George brimming with confidence in her fellow post players.

"[Stewart]'s hitting her stride right now. It's pretty hard to guard

both of us if we're both on our strides," George said. "Her blocking and her height challenge a lot of teams."

Contact Joe Morgan at joemorgan@alligator.org.

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