



ADMINISTRATION

Board of Trustees moves forward with Reitz expansion

JOEY FLECHAS
 Alligator Staff Writer

The expansion and renovation of the Reitz Union is on the horizon.

The UF Board of Trustees approved issuing \$50 million in bonds Wednesday for the expansion only.

The renovation of the current union will draw from \$20 million

set aside from student fees and \$5 million from internal university funds.

Before issuing the bonds, Gov. Rick Scott must sign a bill that would grant an exception for the limit on the amount of student fees that can be used for building construction projects.

Dave Kratzer, interim vice president for student affairs, said the project would get delayed if the bill

"The structure is really all about students."

Dave Kratzer
 interim vice president for student affairs

met Scott's veto pen.

As of late last week, the bill had not been presented to Scott.

If funding is approved, UF is expected to start construction on the 100,000-square-foot expansion next

spring.

Administrators plan to seek bids this summer and find an architect in the fall.

The project is currently planned to be a three-story expansion where the colonnade is now, which would take a year, and a 75,000-square-foot renovation of the current union, which would take another year.

Kratzer said he wants students to

be involved in designing the space, which will include dance studios, lounges and a new ballroom.

"The structure is really all about students," he said.

Kratzer said staggering the expansion and renovation would allow UF to keep part of the union open throughout the construction period.

Contact Joey Flechas at jflechas@alligator.org.

GPD, UPD catch escaped prisoner

TYLER JETT
 Alligator Staff Writer

Darius D. Phillips spent most of Wednesday in handcuffs, but for about 11 of those hours he was a free man.

After running away from Gainesville Police in the middle of his arrest around 8:30 a.m., Phillips was caught on Newell Drive on Wednesday night. Phillips, 20, was arrested on charges of domestic battery, grand theft auto and fleeing police.

UF students received text and email alerts Wednesday morning warning that Phillips was last seen at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center on Southwest 34th Street. At about 7 p.m., an unknown person called 911 and

said Phillips was near the New Physics Building, according to University Police Lt. Andy Wagner.

About eight members of UPD responded to the scene, and officer Jordan Craven saw Phillips standing near Museum Road. Phillips was still in handcuffs, though they were covered by a shirt and now in front of his body.

When Craven approached Phillips, the alleged criminal bolted east. Craven chased after Phillips, and other officers joined. Ultimately, inves-

SEE ESCAPE, PAGE 4



Phillips



Chris Baldwin / Alligator

Hot Penguin

Tyler Gibbens, a 20-year-old marketing student, puts on a penguin costume for Gainesville Place Apartments after taking a break from the heat during the Spring Housing Fair on the Reitz Union Colonnade Wednesday. "It's not as bad as I thought it was going to be," he said. "I thought it was going to be absolute hell."

PNC Bank on Northwest 13th Street robbed Wednesday

Police are still looking for the suspect

TYLER JETT
 Alligator Staff Writer

The PNC Bank on Northwest 13th Street was closed Wednesday after an armed robbery.

An unidentified man in a ski mask walked into the bank shortly before 11:30 a.m. He flashed a hand-

gun and demanded money, said Gainesville Police spokeswoman Cpl. Angelina Valuri.

Bank employees complied, but GPD would not reveal how much money was taken. The man then ran east on Northwest 18th Avenue as officers responded to a 911 call.

GPD set up a perimeter, and the Joint Aviation Unit looked for the man from a helicopter. However, as of 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, the suspect remained at large.

The man is about 5 foot 11 inches, and he was last seen in a black T-shirt and black pants, Valuri said.

About six employees were inside the bank when the robbery happened, but none were injured. There were no customers inside.

A woman in the office declined to comment Wednesday afternoon because PNC's corporate policy forbids employees from speaking to the media, she said.

The bank isn't big. It only has eight available parking spots. From 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., 10 people drove

by asking when they would be allowed inside. Some parked and used the ATM outside, others said they would use the other PNC Bank in town, located at 4340 W Newberry Road.

One man said he needed to get inside. The ATM swallowed his credit card Tuesday, and he needed to get it back.

Contact Tyler Jett at tjett@alligator.org.

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Harry Potter series available on Pottermore.com

UF students react to the release of the e-books, pg 5.

Fewer students taking LSATs

Number dropped more than 16 percent this year, pg 5.



Fire at abandoned house under investigation

The Northwest 13th Street building caught fire late Tuesday, pg. 4.



News Today

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Freeze Flash Mob for Syria

Today, 12:15 pm
Plaza of the Americas
Students concerned with the bloodshed that has been going on in Syria for more than a year will be holding a freeze flash mob to raise awareness on campus and to urge students to take action. For more information, contact Jana Al-Nahas at jnahas09@gmail.com or 850-319-7432 or visit the Facebook event page.

Brown Bag Lunch: Dr. Laurie Gries Conception, Contraception and Contemporary U.S. Politics

Today, 12:30 p.m.
Peabody Hall, Room 411
Join WSA and Laurie Gries in a discussion about "personhood" legislation and the rise of "contraception wars."

Speaker: Molly Barker from Girls on the Run — "Climbing Out of the Girl Box"

Today, 7:00 p.m.
Smathers Library, Room 1A
On behalf of Women's History Month, the Women's Student Association and Center for Leadership and Service is bringing in Molly Barker, creator of the inspirational nonprofit Girls on the Run. Barker works to help girls break free of the "Girl Box" — a phrase she coined to describe the way many girls begin to view themselves during middle school. Girls on the Run is a nonprofit prevention program that encourages preteen girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through running.

RUB Presents: Advanced Screening of "American Reunion"

Today, 8 p.m.
Reitz Union Auditorium
The great original cast is back as Jim, Michelle, Stifler and their friends reunite in East Great Falls, Mich., for their high school reunion. This advanced screening is free and open to the public. Wristbands will be handed out before doors open.

Black Thought Lecture Series

Friday, noon
1510 W University Ave.

FORECAST

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
PARTLY CLOUDY 87/59	THUNDER STORMS 87/62	THUNDER STORMS 81/63	THUNDER STORMS 84/60	PARTLY CLOUDY 88/62

How is social capital attainable in communities with low education and income levels? Miami is examined in "Informal Economic Participation as a Measure of Social Capital: Miami as a Case" in this week's Black Thought Lecture Series. Everyone is welcome.

Student Professional

Development Conference

Friday 6 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.
Ustler Hall

Saturday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
New Physics Building Lobby

Sunday 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
New Physics Building Lobby

Join the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for a weekend of Engineering Competitions, Speakers and networking opportunities. It will be hosting a Career Expo with representatives from several different companies. All engineering students are welcome. Email asmeuf@gmail.com for more information.

True Colors: Celebrating Unity Thru Art!

Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The University of Florida's Multicultural and Diversity Affairs department is hosting its third annual Multicultural Art Show. Join the department for an evening filled with art. There will be food and drinks, as well as music for a fun and elegant environment.

Gay Movie Night - "Lost Everything"

Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Pride Community Center, 3131 NW 13th St.

Brian Brecht is a closeted gay movie star who goes to Miami on a publicity tour. Though journalists watch his

every move with hopes to out him, Brian can't help but start a fling with the handsome bartender at the hotel. Meanwhile, Brian's manager arranges for an ambitious starlet to pose as Brian's girlfriend, a televangelist plots a murder with a hit man and hit woman and a local art dealer fends off an abusive ex. "Lost Everything" is a thriller about the power of love and deception. Gay Movie Night is a free service of the Pride Community Center of North Central Florida. A \$2 donation is requested to cover the cost of snacks.

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. 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.

CORRECTION

In Wednesday's edition of the Alligator, it was incorrectly reported that the Student Green Energy Fund will save UF about \$600,000 a year. The story should have read that the fund will generate about \$600,000 each year in funds that will be put toward student-proposed projects to lower UF's electricity costs and thereby save the university money.

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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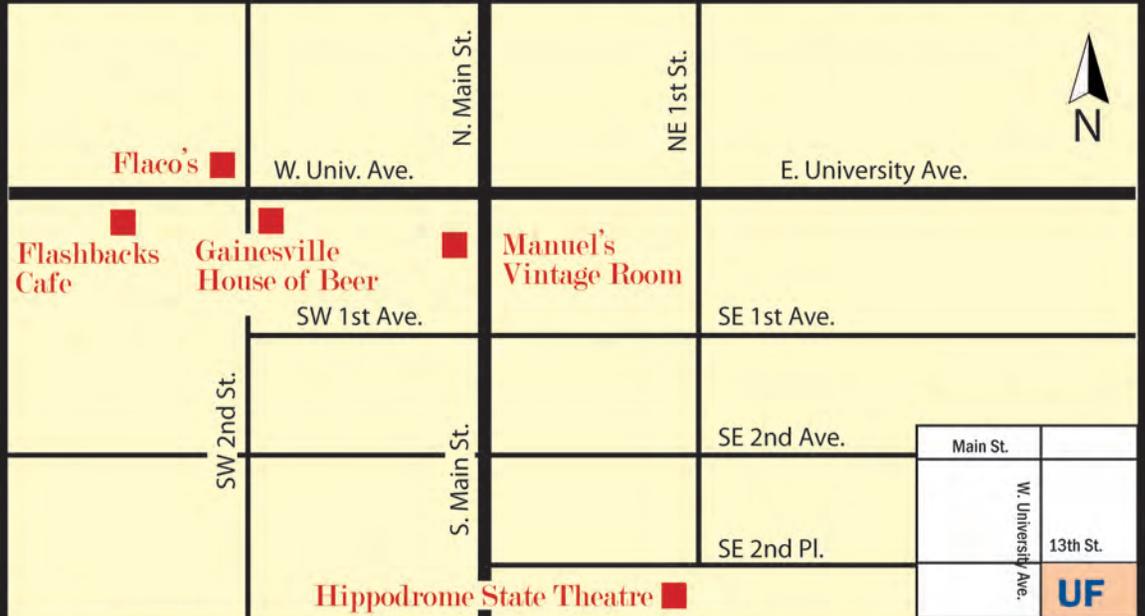
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Aundre Larrow / Alligator Staff

Massage Master

Graduate student Courtney Chambers, 27, gets a massage from Eric Anthony, 36, on the Reitz Union North Lawn on Wednesday afternoon. Anthony has been massaging since 2006 and is studying acupuncture at the Academy for Five Element Acupuncture.

He was on the run for about 11 hours

ESCAPE, from page 1

igator Burton Parker caught Phillips at the bottom of the hill on Newell Drive, just north of the McKnight Brain Institute.

Campus police gave Phillips back to GPD officers at about 7:30 p.m., and they drove Phillips to the Alachua County Jail later Wednesday night. UF sent another alert at about 7:50 p.m. to notify students of the arrest.

Phillips was originally arrested by GPD at about 8:30 a.m. in the 1400 block of Southwest 42nd Street, but he ran away while being moved from one police car to another. He was sitting in the car of an officer who was on the midnight shift, which was ending.

Police planned to move him to the car of an officer who was

working the day shift, but as they escorted him to the other car, Phillips broke free and ran south, GPD spokeswoman Cpl. Angelina Valuri said.

Officers and ASO's K-9 Unit were unable to track Phillips on Wednesday morning, though one witness told police she saw Phillips climbing a fence in handcuffs near the Kensington Apartments on Southwest 20th Avenue. Another witness said Phillips was near the Hilton, but he disappeared into the woods.

Phillips was previously arrested on charges of carjacking, robbery, resisting arrest and driving without a valid drivers license, according to county records.

Contact Tyler Jett at tjett@alligator.org.

ON CAMPUS

Panelists discuss role of race in Trayvon Martin shooting

KELLY PRICE

Alligator Contributing Writer

UF law professors weighed in on the roles of race and self-defense in the Trayvon Martin shooting at a Wednesday night discussion.

Six professors from UF's Levin College of Law discussed Florida's "stand your ground" self-defense law and racism. They also responded to audience members' comments.

The college's Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations hosted the panel. About 130 people attended the event.

The panelists said George Zimmerman,

who said he shot the teenage Trayvon in self-defense, should be arrested. They agreed, however, that he would probably be acquitted if brought to court.

Professor Monique Haughton-Worrell, who said she used to practice law in Sanford, was concerned that a jury might be racist.

"I don't support any argument that there was not sufficient evidence for an arrest," Haughton-Worrell said. "I would even make an argument that were Zimmerman a black man, Sanford Police would have made an arrest."

Professor Katheryn Russell-Brown also

believed race was at the core of the case.

"While this does not involve a shooting by police, it's been the Sanford Police Department's response that has been the rallying cry for many across the nation," she said.

UF law student Gentry Mander, 24, said she was curious about why Trayvon's death has gotten more attention within

the black community than the proportion of young black men in jail.



Martin

After the event, she said she had wanted to see more discussion about the facts of the case.

Brenda Brown, an administrative assistant in the College of Dentistry, said she sees the faces of her brothers, father and 15-month-old grandson in Trayvon.

One of the first audience members to comment, Brown was choked up as she spoke to the panelists.

"This touched me more so from a mother's perspective," Brown, 52, said after the event. "I think, 'What is so scary about our black men that means they must be shot?'"

Fire at abandoned house on Northwest 13th Street under investigation

► THE BUILDING WAS BUILT IN THE 1930S.

MEREDITH RUTLAND

Alligator Staff Writer

A fire at an abandoned house on Northwest 13th Street caused about \$10,000 worth of damage late Tuesday night.

There was no one in the two-story house, located at 410 NW 13th St., said Gainesville Police Department Lt. Mike Schibuola.

The cause was still being determined as of Wednesday night.

"This one's definitely weird because it's all boarded up."

Lt. Mike Schibuola
Gainesville Police Department

The old building is valued at about \$70,000, according to a Gainesville Fire Rescue release.

It was built around the 1930s and is owned by Paradigm 413 LLC, according to county prop-

erty records.

The company is registered to Nathan Collier, a Gainesville real estate owner and investor.

Krispy Kreme employees smelled the smoke from down the street and called 911 at 11:39 p.m. Tuesday. Officers were at the scene at 11:42 p.m.

Smoke was coming from the second-story windows of the residence, but officers couldn't see any flames, Schibuola said.

GFR firefighters walked around the second floor of the building, shining headlights across the room and out the open window.

"This one's definitely weird because it's all boarded up," he said.

He said sometimes these types of fires start when homeless people make small campfires on cold nights. There were no obvious signs of entry.

He said a GFR investigator will decide if the fire was arson.

Contact Meredith Rutland at mrutland@alligator.org.



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator Staff

Gainesville Police officers look on as Gainesville Fire Rescue workers enter a building on Northwest 13th Street late Tuesday night.

ON CAMPUS

UF law school applications down; fewer LSATs administered

EVAN GALIN
Alligator Contributing Writer

Becoming a lawyer might not be as popular as it used to be.

The number of Law School Admission Tests administered this year dropped more than 16 percent, and the UF Levin College of Law received 10.4 percent fewer applications than last year.

This year, 129,925 LSATs were administered, as compared to 155,050 last year. The number has declined almost 25 percent since a

record high of 171,514 tests were given two years ago.

UF Law's decrease in applicants is just shy of the national average decrease of 14.4 percent, said Michelle Adorno, assistant dean of admissions.

"UF is in line with what is happening nationally," she wrote in an email.

In a good legal market, she said, about two-thirds of UF Law students have job offers by the time they graduate. In the current mar-

ket, that number is closer to 50 percent.

Although the college has no data to precisely explain the reason for the decline, Adorno attributed the trend to "potential applicants becoming more educated consumers."



Adorno

Articles about increasing competition in the legal market, recently

featured in newspapers such as The New York Times, have concerned potential applicants in recent years, she said.

Second-year UF Law student Ian Parry, 23, said he agrees the insecurity of the job market contributes to the decline.

"Now, with the bleak outlook as a lawyer post-graduation," he said, "undergrad students do not have the same incentive to attend law school."

The expense of law school is an-

other deterrent, he said.

Parry, who plans to graduate in May 2013, said he doesn't have a post-graduation job offer yet.

He thinks he made the right choice going to law school directly after completing his bachelor's degree at Furman University, he said, and believes the UF college of law has given him the necessary tools to succeed.

"Nevertheless," Parry said, "the declining job market is not something I enjoy reading about."



Alex M. Sanchez / Alligator

Sustainable Sweets Soiree

Director of UF's Office of Sustainability, Anna Prizzia, makes hats with her daughter, Nora Taylor, out of food packaging at the Mad Hatter Sustainable Sweets Soiree on Wednesday. The event, held at Sarkara Sweets, promoted sustainable desserts as part of the Office of Sustainability's Food for Thought campaign.

City Commission may ban smoking in Bo Diddley plaza

► COUNTY OFFICIAL SAYS A BAN WOULD REDUCE AMOUNT OF HARMFUL SECONDHAND SMOKE.

BENJAMIN S. BRASCH
Alligator Writer

The Gainesville Public Safety Committee decided Wednesday night to recommend the City Commission ban smoking in Bo Diddley Community Plaza.

The commission will vote on the issue at a later meeting.

A ban would reduce the amount of secondhand smoke, which is harmful up to 20 feet away, said Steven Pokorny, di-

rector of health promotion for the Alachua County Health Department.

However, Commissioner Todd Chase said he thought the city should not put an ordinance into action if it is going to be too hard to enforce.

The committee also discussed candy-flavored tobacco and alcohol sales downtown.

Commissioner Jeanna Mastrodicasa, chair of the Public Safety Committee, said the committee is at a standstill in regards to whether the commission can ban the product in the city until the federal government decides its stance on the issue.

Contact Ben Brasch at bbrasch@alligator.org.

Harry Potter e-books now available on official website

BENJAMIN S. BRASCH
Alligator Writer

Fans of Harry Potter can now conjure the magic and whimsy of the wizarding world on e-readers.

For \$57.54, readers can buy all seven books of the award-winning Harry Potter series as e-books for their tablets, e-readers or computers.

Pottermore.com, J.K. Rowling's online expansion of the Harry Potter saga, is selling the e-book and audiobook versions.

The e-book versions of the first three books cost \$7.99 per e-book, and the last four cost \$9.99 per e-book.

The audiobook version of the first three books costs \$29.99 per audiobook, and the other four cost \$44.99 each.

Many people who are buying the e-books and audiobooks are fans who want to relive the magic, said Kenneth

Kidd, UF associate professor of the English department.

"The experience of listening can be really different," he said. "It's a different dimension to the book."

Some people, he said, find it easier to listen to audiobooks on-the-go instead of reading a book.

Kelsey Savery, a 19-year-old UF chemistry freshman, said she experienced the world of Harry Potter while walking around campus listening to audiobooks.



Rowling

She said it took her two weeks to finish one book, and each chapter took her 30 minutes.

"This is a way where I can have the whole book as a movie," she said.

Contact Ben Brasch at bbrasch@alligator.org.

LOCAL

Traveling monk teaches meditation, Buddhism throughout Florida

CHRIS ALCANTARA
Alligator Contributing Writer

Kelsang Chokyan, draped in yellow and red robes, closed his eyes and guided his four-person class through a journey of healing through meditation.

A wave of relaxation fell over Chokyan's students Wednesday night as he softly described peaceful sceneries and feeling weightless.

Chokyan, 32, is a Buddhist monk traveling around Florida teaching Buddhism and the art of meditation to his students. He arrived in Gainesville about two years ago to share his lifestyle.

Growing up in a poor family outside Dallas, Texas, Chokyan said he was motivated to become a Buddhist monk after watching a movie about them in his ninth-grade geography class.

"I was really impressed with the fact that they didn't kill anything," he said.

After graduating from college, Chokyan became a high school physics teacher and continued learning about Buddhism by taking classes at the Kadampa Meditation Center Texas in

Arlington, Texas.

For the next two years, Chokyan spent his time living at the center and working at Starbucks.

In 2004, Chokyan was formally inducted as a Buddhist monk. He then went to teach classes at the Parbawatiya Kadampa Buddhist Center in Tampa. For the last eight years, Chokyan has taught classes in several Florida cities.

"I was really impressed with the fact that they didn't kill anything."

Kelsang Chokyan
Buddhist monk

Chokyan's class in Tampa has about 30 students, while his Gainesville class, which has been running twice a month since September, has about six students.

Chokyan said the students who attend his class range from prison inmates to working mothers.

Anna Davila, a 60-year-old Gainesville resident, said the class is a way for her to relax and apply her Buddhist beliefs.

"You forget about you and try to help other people," she said.

Opinions

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2012
WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG/OPINIONS

Editorial

Justice For All Stephon Watts case deserves equal attention

In February, an African-American teenage boy was killed. While we have been hearing news about Trayvon Martin, another shooting that was arguably just as troublesome has been virtually ignored by the media.

On Feb. 1, in Calumet City, Ill., police shot and killed 15-year-old Stephon Watts in his home after the boy's family called them to help subdue their son, who occasionally had fits of aggression due to a mental disability.

Stephon suffered from Asperger's Syndrome, a high-functioning form of autism.

According to CBS Chicago, "Police said he had cut one officer with a knife and was acting in a threatening manner, so officers shot him in fear of their own safety."

Yet, according to Stephon's family, his "weapon" was merely a butter knife.

The family had called police to the home 10 times since 2010 to help when Stephon became aggressive. In those instances though, the family said they were able to subdue him with a stun gun.

For anyone concerned about justice, the facts of this case are cause for alarm.

While we might not know the full story, one has to wonder what factors in this case have not led to the same public outrage as the Trayvon Martin incident.

Perhaps it is because Stephon was wielding something more akin to a weapon than a bag of Skittles.

Still, if the blade in question is a mere butter knife, does this justify the shooting of an innocent, mentally disabled boy?

Perhaps it is because the incident in Calumet City involved police performing their regular duties.

But should police be given less scrutiny for wrongful killings than private citizens?

Police are given a lot of power; in some instances, they are given the authority to take a life. But shouldn't this power come with more oversight and responsibility?

Perhaps it has to do with the fact that the officers felt threatened after he allegedly cut one of the officers.

But surely the police had more options to subdue Stephon without resorting to lethal force, right?

We do not bring this up to say that the Trayvon Martin case should be dismissed, but shouldn't both of these cases be given equal attention?

Of course, there has been outrage over this case. Members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, local politicians and the Rev. Jesse Jackson have commented and led protests over this issue.

But the buzz from social media and national news outlets has not come close to the coverage and commentary surrounding the Trayvon Martin case.

Two African-American teenage boys are dead due to troubling circumstances.

Both of these kids deserve equal attention.

Reader response

Today's question: Will you buy the Harry Potter e-books?

Wednesday's question: Would you give a potential employer your Facebook password?

6% YES
94% NO
179 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

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Like us on Facebook!

Column

Social media creates shallow self-image

Facebook is essentially about two fundamental things: jealousy and exhibition.

Think about it, the only reason any of us posts anything on Facebook is because we want everyone else to see it. We upload a status about our recent internship because we want the recognition and "likes."

We post Spring Break photos with the caption "be jealous" because we want our friends to, well, be jealous.

We tag our friends at Midtown with us because we want to prove we're not alone on a Friday night.

We exhibit our lifestyles and expect envious commentary.

While Facebook is, indeed, a great way to connect with friends and loved ones, there is a problem when you develop your sense of self-worth from the number of likes a status receives.

There's a problem when you start taking pride in the fact that you got 40-plus likes on a mobile upload. There's a problem when the ease with which you support a campaign is second only to the ignorance with which you click "like."

According to an NPR article, researchers at the University of Waterloo recently published a study in psychological science, which determined that "people with low self-esteem posted far more negative updates than those with high self-esteem."

Certainly, we all have those friends who broadcast their problems to the world or even those who post the cheerful highlights of their day. We all have Facebook friends who fit into crisp categories such as the following: the Bible-quoter, the dejected pessimists, the politically active, the song quoters, the arrogant, the self-picture-takers, the ambitious ones, the inspirational quoters, the social movement supporters.

It's this last category that particularly troubles me. Especially recently, the rise of social media as a medium of political activism is founded upon — like most everything



Garrett Bruno
opinions@alligator.org

else on Facebook — a basis of envy and exhibition.

The exhibitionist environment of social media provides a forum by which people can express concern about a foreign genocide or even a local shooting with the mere click of the mouse.

Does merely clicking "share" on the Kony 2012 video change

anything? Does expressing outrage at Susan G. Komen for the Cure's decision to defund Planned Parenthood change anything? Does uproar over the shooting of Trayvon Martin change anything?

Or are these actions merely a way to polish our online alter egos?

Indeed, the newest symbols of social currency are becoming hashtags, "at" signs, followers and a mini thumbs up. Users get recognized for their activist posts, and this instant gratification is the shot of dopamine to the reward center of the brain that tells them they've "done their part."

They got all the accolades of acknowledgment and commentary without any of the work that went into actually doing anything. No longer is life about doing something, it's about being someone.

But here I am being all cynical again. I mean, Susan G. Komen for the Cure did change its policy. The Trayvon Martin shooting is now being investigated.

Maybe Joseph Kony will be brought to justice because of this awareness campaign. Who knows?

However, we must walk the fine line between accelerating awareness and perfecting persona.

I do know one thing, though. When I post this column to Facebook, all of my friends better like it.

Garrett Bruno is a political science sophomore at UF. His column appears on Thursdays.

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

Gainesville Fashion Week: Focus on Francine Elizabeth

DANA BURKE
Avenue Writer

From the looks of Francine Elizabeth's bedroom, she seems like a typical teenager. A bulletin board covered with photos of her friends hangs above her bed; signed concert T-shirts line the red wall; and her rabbit, Pickles, hops around in her cage.

At 18, Elizabeth, a freshman at Santa Fe College, has accomplished more than most of her peers as a talented fashion and jewelry designer.

Her designs will be on display in a runway show on April 12 at Villa East, 301 N. Main St., as part of Gainesville Fashion Week.

This is Elizabeth's second time showing off her creations on the runway. Last year, she celebrated her 18th birthday on the first day of fashion week, making her just old enough to participate. This year, she turns 19 a week before her show.

Although Gainesville Fashion Week was Elizabeth's first major exposure as a designer, she has been sewing since she was 7 and designing and selling jewelry since she was 5.

When she was 10, she won a competition with Sew Young Sew Fun. In return, A-1 Sewing gave her an embroidery machine that now sits in the workspace in her room next to her sewing machine

and royal blue mannequin.

The first garment she ever made was a T-shirt with a bunny on a quilted square on it, which she says was "horrible."

Elizabeth has come a long way from that bunny shirt, now designing dresses, skirts and tops for females ages 14 to 30. She describes her design style as "kind of sexy but still sophisticated."

Her 26-piece collection for this year's show is full of teals, golds, bronzes, blacks, khakis and silvers in a mix of sheer and solid fabrics with lots of beadwork, all made by hand.

"It has an Egyptian feel to it," she said.

"There is a lot of different shapes, but the collection's fairly cohesive with the colors and the textures."

Elizabeth says she has to overcome a lot of challenges regarding her age and level of experience as a young designer.

"People don't take you seriously unless you're, like, over 30," she said. "You just have to show that you can do it and prove yourself because the product is what people look at."

Despite being young, Elizabeth works hard at her hobbies. Just last week, she was accepted to the Savannah College of Art and De-

sign for jewelry making, which she considers the defining moment of her career thus far, and she plans to attend starting next year.

"I just do it for fun," she said. "It's kind of a hobby that turned into selling stuff to people, and then it kind of just built up."

Elizabeth's fashion and jewelry designs are available for purchase on her website, thumperdesigns.com.

In her collections, she incorporates her jewelry with her fashion, matching the tones in the fabrics with beautiful, handcrafted earrings and necklaces.

"I do a lot of stuff with gemstones and different metals," she said. "Most of it is all beaded and woven together."

Elizabeth says her talent stems from her artistic family, which includes musicians, goldsmiths, architects and art professors. She plans to keep participating in Gainesville Fashion Week as long as she is able to, and she hopes to end up in a creative profession.

"I want to have a big name for something, either jewelry or design," she said. "I mean, I've already come this far."

Until then, she plans to be a regular college student in Gainesville, attending Taco Tuesday at Tijuana Flats, \$2 burger Wednesday at Mother's Pub & Grill, playing poker, attending rock concerts and hanging out with friends.



Dana Burke / Alligator

2012 marks Francine Elizabeth's second showing at Gainesville Fashion Week.

festival

Hop on over to the Hogtown Craft Beer Festival this April

DANIELLE MICHELS
Avenue Writer

Beer lovers, leave your standard six pack in the fridge, step outside your comfort zone and try some new brews that are made right in your own neighborhood.

On April 14, the first Hogtown Craft Beer Festival at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens will showcase craft beer made by Florida breweries and brewpubs as well as other local and regional varieties.

According to Alex Pries, a committee member for the Hogtown Craft Beer Festival, craft beer is produced on a smaller scale than largely recognized mega-brands like Budweiser and Coors.

"Craft breweries tend to have a very diverse portfolio and assembly of different types of beers," Pries said. "For example, you'll have a brewery that will produce a pale ale but they'll also do a dark beer, like a stout."

Pries said that with the increasing popularity of microbreweries in Florida, craft

breweries and brewpubs are really starting to take off in Gainesville.

"They often have a lot more freedom to experiment and play with different styles and ingredients, but craft breweries are also very dependent on their local communities to thrive," Pries said.

In addition to beer tasting, Pries said festival-goers will also have the opportunity to speak with a few of the professional head brewers from different Florida breweries after a presentation on brewing in Florida and a homebrewing demonstration.

Some of the breweries featured at the festival will include Cigar City Brewing, Alligator Brewing Company, Blue Moon Brewing Company and Swamp Head Brewery, which is located in Gainesville, Pries said.

Craig Birkmaier, the head brewer at Swamp Head Brewery, said this festival is going to be different than any other beer festival Gainesville has seen before because the focus of the Hogtown Craft Beer Festival is all about the craftsmanship and supporting

local breweries and other businesses.

"I want people to be entertained and have an enjoyable time in a nice venue where they're not going to be too crowded and they're going to have an opportunity to listen to music and drink a lot of different beers with great food pairings," Birkmaier said.

"They often have a lot more freedom to experiment and play with different styles and ingredients."

Alex Pries

committee member for the Hogtown Craft Beer Festival

Some of the local restaurants that serve food samples to correspond with the variety of craft beers include Stubbies & Steins, Dragonfly Sushi and Blue Gill Quality Foods, Birkmaier said.

Beer is becoming just as popular as wine, and people should learn all of the different possibilities of craft beer, whether it be with

food pairings or seasonal occasions, Birkmaier said, so they can walk away with a new appreciation.

"There's hundreds of styles of beers: There's dark beers, light beers, fruit beers, and they're all different and appropriate for different kinds of occasions, like pale ales for the summertime and heavier sit-down-and-sip-type beers for the winter," Birkmaier said.

Keeping with the local focus, all the proceeds from the festival, which is being organized by Gainesville homebrew club The Hogtown Brewers, will benefit the Alachua Conservation Trust and St. Johns Riverkeeper, Birkmaier said.

To buy tickets, which are \$35 for general admission and \$75 for VIP, and to find a full list of participating breweries, brewpubs and restaurants at the festival, visit www.hogtownbeerfest.com.

"As people learn all the things that are possible with beer, they truly begin to enjoy it," Birkmaier said.



The Black Lips took center stage at The Back Yard. Read about the rock show on page 8.

Mia Kelly is a kickboxer/student extraordinaire:

Read how she unbelievably balances school with all of her other extracurricular activities on page 9.

Strong female leads are all the rage:

"The Hunger Games" and "The Girl With A Dragon Tattoo" franchises helped bring independent women back into popularity on page 8.

Black Lips took over The Back Yard space on Saturday

MICHELLE KLUG

Avenue Writer

The mosh pit started just before midnight. A girl, no taller than 5-foot-2, lit a dirty, broken cigarette, gripped her beer bottle tight and disappeared into a sea of beards, tattoos and empty cans of Pabst Blue Ribbon. The air smelled of sweat and cheap beer. So did The Black Lips.

On Saturday, the Atlanta punk band, best known for its druggy, unfiltered lyrics and wild stage antics, lived up to its reputation during a sold-out set at The Back Yard in downtown Gainesville. The group tore through the catchy, two-minute nuggets on its latest album, "Arabia Mountain," and pillaged its back-catalogue for noisy garage cuts. They swigged whiskey. They made out a little.

The small outdoor venue, nestled between Boca Fiesta and Palomino Pool Hall, is owned by punk veteran Warren Oakes and was packed with spectators waiting to see what the unpredictable foursome would do.

"You never know what to expect," guitarist Cole Alexander said before the show. "You might get pregnant, you might become a born-again Christian — anything can happen."

Described by Black Lips drummer Joe Bradley as "flower-punk," the band incorporates a punk-rock style with blues, doo-wop and '60s psychedelic rock — sort of like if The Ramones and Buddy Holly had a lovechild, and that lovechild got kicked out of school and started smoking and drinking at a young age.

Bass guitarist Ian St. Pé said the group's shows are largely dependent on the crowd's energy.

"If they give off a party vibe, we're going to party," he explained.

The large group of moshers gathered,

pushed, swayed, threw beer, stage-dove and crowd-surfed into the stiff arms of other moshers. At one point, a nimble crowd-surfer headed straight for a crash with a pillar, grabbed onto the pole and shimmied down it like a spider monkey. There were no injuries during the show — none, at least, that couldn't be dulled by adrenaline and booze. There were, however, many lost shoes and a few lost purses that scattered the floor in front of the stage.

"This is not a show — it's a rumble," said Pitchfork writer William Bowers, who attended the show.

The Lips are used to this. They have played past shows drunk and nude. They once got kicked out of India for "homosexual behavior."

Gainesville got a liplock between Anderson and St. Pé during "Oh Katrina," a raucous shout-off their album "Good Bad Not Evil." Other band members Bradley and Jared Swilley possessed a similar energy but refrained from any man-on-man action.

On "Arabia Mountain," the band worked with big-time producer Mark Ronson on all except two tracks, which were produced by fellow Atlanta resident, Deerhunter's Lockett Pundt. The result is a cleaner sound and 60s flavor that distinguish the album from its rawer previous entries.

"It took the longest it's ever taken," Alexander said of the album, which he said took a year to make. The band recorded previous albums in Atlanta, sometimes in a bedroom, over the course of a few weeks.

Alexander said this time was different. They traveled to a Brooklyn studio to work with Ronson, who has produced albums for artists such as Amy Winehouse.

Gainesville punk promotion company Garage Mahal Presents brought in The Black



Photo courtesy of Michelle Klug

The Black Lips haven't changed too much since 1999; they're still the same "rebellious, liquor-swilling, dude-kissing-dude" band.

Lips. Owner Vishal Agarwala said he had met them while working for Groovespark and attending music festivals.

"They are incredible songwriters and phenomenal showmen," he added.

The Black Lips hit many other towns in Florida, including Miami, Orlando, Tampa, Tallahassee and Jacksonville. The band's van was vandalized in Jacksonville when some members of the audience took offense to an off-hand comment.

According to St. Pé, members of the band referred to Jacksonville as "below them." St. Pé said they meant that Jacksonville was

geographically south of Atlanta, but a few audience members thought the band implied that they were lower-class and took revenge via spray paint.

Despite having worked with an A-list producer, an appearance on Conan O' Brien and having songs on soundtracks such as "500 Days of Summer" and "Dirty Sexy Money," The Black Lips still seem to be the rebellious, liquor-swilling, dude-kissing-dude garage band that they have been since they formed in 1999.

"Yeah, we are still just as wild," St. Pé said.

women

Girls on fire: A look at the 'Hunger Games' and 'Dragon Tattoo' trend

NATALIA SIEUKARAN

Avenue Writer

Hollywood's renditions of bestselling books "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" and "The Hunger Games" set a trend of strong female characters

With their recent roles in David Fincher's "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" and Gary Ross's "The Hunger Games," Rooney Mara and Jennifer Lawrence, respectively, became the new Hollywood "It" girls with their strong and unforgiving yet honest portrayals of two young women who are trying to survive in a world that tries to control them — gripping the audiences' hearts in the process.

The tattooed punk Lisbeth "The Girl who Played with Fire" Salander and working-class girl Katniss "The Girl on Fire" Everdeen are without a doubt fiery characters who both garnered large fan bases since the trilogies were released. However, moviegoers' new favorite female hero-

ines in Hollywood's renditions of the beloved books do a lot more than kick butt.

Fincher's and Ross' takes on the characters are a feminist's dream: They have love interests and tender sides that never compromised their strength. Both directors drove the stories forward and revealed the dark aspects of society that are sometimes overlooked, a trait that is surely rare in the male-dominated world of cinema.

This year's Academy Awards' Best Actress in a Leading Role category celebrated strong female types, as the nominations, one of which was Mara's role, were from films that featured extraordinary women who defied the odds. Even Oscar snubs like "Hanna" featured female characters worth mentioning. In 2011, female characters dominated, and in 2012, Jennifer Lawrence continues the trend.

And as the "Twilight" series wraps up at the end of the year, these two characters are a fresh

step forward from Bella Swan's step back. Bella, dubbed a "feminist's nightmare" in 2009, annoyed the non-Twihards with her hyperdependency and total immersion into the mysterious Edward Cullen.

The ultimate disappointment is that her character did not endure any character change, aside from turning into a vampire, courtesy of her crutch, Edward. In other words, she pales in comparison to the strong and independent Lisbeth and Katniss.

It's great that the movies don't stop there — both actresses, who are slated to reprise their roles, have two movies left in the respective series, so the fun isn't over.

But behind the glitz and glam, Hollywood has brought these two series, there are several dark subjects from the books that the

movies capture. "The Hunger Games," while aimed toward a younger audience, does a great job introducing topics such as poverty, starvation, the effects of war and the killing of peers.

"The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," on the other hand, is aimed toward an older audience. It has intense rape scenes and abuse that reveals to audiences the corruption in the government and authorities.

While the themes appear different, both trilogies capture the essence of oppression and the effects it has on the innocent. Katniss and her family are let down by their world, as she's thrust into a sick game to entertain a well-advantaged society. Lisbeth is physically and mentally tortured by authority figures for sexual pleasure.

Despite their hopeless, dark situations, both heroines refuse to feel sorry for themselves, eventually rising against the odds and making fools out of the systems that mistakenly mess with them.

Both characters develop in vastly different ways. To author Stieg Larsson, Lisbeth was an adult version of the unconventional Pippi Longstocking. Her damaged soul was inspired by a young woman, of the same name, whose rape he witnessed when he was 15 years old.

Katniss is a mashup of Suzanne Collins' childhood feeling of loss while her father was in the Vietnam War and the Greek myth Theseus. The two young women, so similar despite their nine years apart in age, have appealed and inspired women and men around the world.

It's easy for one to wonder why their appeal has been so strong, and the answer is simple: Both women take control.

This control grips the audience, both on print and in film, as they root for these two young women to make it out alive. And long after the credits roll, both heroines leave you sighing in relief.

For now.



Lawrence

Kickboxing through college, Mia Kelly breaks the mold

MARIA GALINDO

Avenue Writer

Mia Kelly is not one to keep with stereotypes.

Yeah, she's a girl, but she'd rather get dirty than go to a spa. Kelly could live in cutoffs and a tank top her whole life. Ever the fashion rule-breaker, she wore her prom dress to

a sorority formal less than a year later. She doesn't care. Dressing up has never been her favorite thing.

She was voted "Most Likely to do the Opposite of Every Sorority Stereotype" by her Phi Mu sorority sisters. They were right. After all, not every sorority girl wins a world championship before she's old enough to start college.

Kelly, a UF freshman, won the gold medal in the 16- to 18- year-old category at the 2010 World Association of Kickboxing Organization's Junior Championship in Serbia when she was 17.

She'll hold the title of world champion until September, when another girl will take that title in the junior division, which, at 18, Kelly is too old to compete in.

Now that she's in college, though, Kelly wants to be known as "Mia who kickboxes," as opposed to Kickboxer Mia, she said.

One would never think that the redhead with a beaming smile and toenails polished a light pink could throw punches like she can.

Kelly is a more-than-meets-the-eye type of girl, anyway.

SEE MIA, PAGE 10

The Guide to Dining Out

Asian

Bento Cafe

Offering a wide variety of Bento boxes, bowls, sushi, and boba teas. Bento Cafe has two locations to serve you high quality Pan-Asian cuisine at an unbeatable price. Check out the daily specials at 3832 W. Newberry Rd (377-8686), or bring larger parties to 3841 SW Archer Rd (224-5123). Dine-in, take-out, or delivery available for your convenience. To keep up with the latest specials, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BentoCafeSushi.Gville.

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Breakfast

Bagels & Noodles

Serving breakfast and fresh bagels 6:30 am - 3:00pm. Serving Vietnamese cuisine - PHO soup and more 11am-9pm. 1222 W. University Ave. 352-872-5789

Cafe

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Covered outside patio. Open late Wed-Sat. Open 7am weekdays. Like us on FB! 211 W Univ Ave. 352-336-3733

Chinese

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Coffee

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Dessert

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1877-yumcake

Frozen Treats

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Italian

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This family owned restaurant is perfect for dinner any day of the week. Come in and check out one of the best wine lists in town. Ask questions and learn while you wait for the chef to put out nothing but goodness from the kitchen using fresh, simple, and local ingredients. Ask about our Monday Wine Dinners and private parties for lunch or dinner. Open Tues-Sat 5pm-10pm, Sun 5pm-9pm. 6 South Main St. (352) 375-7372

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A cool breeze, the sounds of tropical music, authentic island food on every corner, wish you were in Jamaica right now? Come discover the next best thing at Reggae Shack Cafe with the best Jamaican and vegetarian food in the world! Dishes including Oxtail, curry palm hearts, jerk chicken, and vegan steak will leave you satisfied. The bold rich flavors will make dining with us an experience. Open everyday from 11am-10pm, so forget the hassle of travel and let us bring Jamaica to you! 619 W University Avenue. 352-377-5464

Mediterranean

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Farah's on the Avenue has been a Gainesville tradition for over 20 years, and with our new menu there has never been a better time to find out why! Everything from giant burgers and the best wings in town to our amazing selection of Mediterranean and vegetarian delights can be enjoyed in our open-air patio or spacious, fire-lit dining room for under \$10. Situated two blocks from campus between Modern Age and Bank of America, our relaxed atmosphere and full bar is a welcome change of pace from the usual Gainesville night life. Farah's is now open for lunch at 11am. Monday thru Saturday lunch and dinner.

Pizza

Leonardo's Pizza of Millhopper

Great Chicago Style pizza. Quick Slices also Available all afternoon. On the way To and From Santa Fe College. On the corner of NW 16th Blvd. and 43rd Street. Tear this out for 20% OFF meal. 4131 NW 16th BLVD. IN MILLHOPPER SQUARE. 376-2001

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Breathe Carolina makes its way onto Gainesville playlists

PLAYS IN WARPED TOUR

JOE UONG

Avenue Writer

Breathe Carolina will co-headline a show with The Ready Set in downtown Gainesville tonight. Hailing all the way from Denver, the band already has three full-length albums under its belt, but its meteoric rise came just this past year. The single "Blackout," released on June 14, was certified gold early last month and has spent 20 weeks on The Billboard Hot 100 chart peaking at No. 32.

Breathe Carolina started in 2007 when good friends Kyle Even and David Schmitt formed the band after performing in other musical groups and began recording some

songs for fun. Many fans know the story about how the band recorded a few songs on GarageBand, posted them on MySpace and got millions of hits, but few know just how distinct the band is.

Breathe Carolina is not trying to fit into just one genre; rather, they are just writing songs to have fun, experimenting with their music and coming up with new sounds to keep things fresh. The band tries to make music that people can relate to as a part of their lives. In an interview, Even said the music his band makes is like an entire movie collection because its music covers all sorts of genres from horror, to comedy, to drama and even chick flicks. He says the wide variety of art is not just in the lyrics but the music as well.

After having two albums under his belt and the strong hope to keep on growing, the band wanted to take a shot at radio. Their newest album, "Hell Is What You Make It," was recorded last year starting with their hit single, "Blackout." Much to Even and Schmitt's satisfaction, the single was their ticket into the mainstream. Even said he was glad "Blackout" ended up being a song that the label wanted to push, especially because the band had a blast writing it and only a few days with producer Ian



Kirkpatrick to do so.

With their wild success becoming reality, Breathe Carolina signed

with Columbia Records in December 2011. Signing with Columbia Records was a big deal for Breathe Carolina because the record label has signed famed artists such as Adele, J. Cole and MGMT.

The band said being among the likes of these artists is a humbling experience. It thinks of itself as the "baby band" of the group and is stoked that people like what they do.

Still, after making it big and becoming a household name, the band stays modest. Even stated he and Schmitt have known each other for nine years, and he will try to stay 21 at heart forever and just have fun.

Tonight's show will be the biggest show that Breathe Carolina has played in Gainesville; they have only

performed at smaller venues before. The band said touring the nation is such a fun and exciting experience for them, and this tour, the Blackout Forever Tour, will continue until the end of April.

It was also recently announced that Breathe Carolina will be playing in the 2012 Vans Warped Tour starting on June 16. One of the local promoters of this event, Glory Days, also expects this to be a huge event, especially with Gainesville's Warped Tour crowd.

Another big promoter, local radio station KISS 105.3, plays songs by Breathe Carolina and The Ready Set frequently. Local sensation Of Valleys recently had a five-day streak on "Power Plays," the radio station's nightly call-in poll.

Kelly is also a member of the Freshman Leadership Council

MIA, from page 9

Her Team Full Circle kickboxing teammates, who have been first-hand witnesses to her skill in the ring, could never see her as Sorority Mia, the one who, despite her tomboy-like tendencies, enjoys painting her nails, or Student Government Mia, the one who's passionate about event planning.

"You'll never meet anyone else like her," said Dawn Roffey, who coached Kelly in the 2008 Junior World Championships in Italy. "Mia is enthusiastic. She's self-disciplined, sure of herself, but never cocky."

Kelly is not, indeed, the usual competitor. In high school, she managed to be, as Roffey describes, a "super-A student," while being very involved in theatre and, of course, kickboxing.

Despite her passion for kickboxing, Kelly has scaled back on training in order to get adjusted to college life.

By day she takes classes in her major, psychology, as well as in other areas she's think-

ing of pursuing, such as English and journalism.

By night, she works on internal event programming for the Freshman Leadership Council, a Student Government programming cabinet.

In the beginning of spring semester, Kelly also devoted some of her time to attaining a certification as a Group Fitness Instructor, with which she hopes to develop and teach a kickboxing group fitness class for the UF Department of Recreational Sports.

On top of it all, Kelly trained to compete in the Irish Open. This past Spring Break, she traveled to Dublin, Ireland, to participate in the 18- to 29-year-old category for women weighing less than about 140 pounds, where she advanced to the third round. This tournament was one of the few she chose to take part in while she focused on college.

"I wish I could compete at the same level I was before, but I'm competing against women who own karate schools and devote their life to training," she said. "Kickboxing is their life, but I want more."

And while Kelly hasn't decided exactly what she wants to do with her life, she knows that, even if she's not competing professionally, kickboxing will always be a part of it.

For now, though, Kelly is just a college student trying to balance school, club involvement, kickboxing and a social life.

How does she do it?

"She doesn't sleep a lot," her mentor and FLC Cabinet Director Chris Raleigh jokes. "But she's handled everything perfectly. She's very focused."

Raleigh thinks it's her kickboxing training that has helped Kelly manage it all.

"When you fight, you can't be worrying about what you did; you have to focus on the next thing and think two or three steps ahead," he said.

Now that the Irish Open is over, however, Kelly's workload has lightened.

"I woke up late today," she said. She woke

at 9:30 a.m. for the first time since she began training for the Irish Open. "It was wonderful."

Kelly has now been able to focus on her other passion: music.

This summer, Kelly is planning to attend the four-day Bonnaroo music festival in Tennessee with acts ranging from electronica, bluegrass, hip-hop and indie rock.

Kelly's musical taste is just as broad as the Bonnaroo lineup. She's been known to rap Drake's "The Motto" to her teammates before a kickboxing match, and, if her iPhone were put on shuffle, it could easily go from Britney Spears' "Toxic" to "Trapeze Swinger," a song by indie rock artist Iron & Wine.

When asked to pick a favorite song, Kelly said it had to be a song by The Beatles or Jimi Hendrix, but then she switched her pick to "Three Little Birds" by Bob Marley.

After a few more favorite options, including songs by Fleetwood Mac and John Lennon, the kickboxing world champion threw her hands in the air and said, "This is just too hard. I can't do this."



Kelly

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E ₁	I ₁	O ₁	D ₂	G ₂	S ₁	H ₄	[]		[]	RACK 2
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]		[]	RACK 3
A ₁	E ₁	E ₁	R ₁	Z ₁₀	P ₃	T ₁	[]		[]	RACK 4
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]		[]	
E ₁	O ₁	U ₁	N ₁	R ₁	G ₂	S ₁	[]		[]	
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]		[]	
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 E C R A B O H E L Z X S A E W
 U S E O T R R D V I N T R F P
 O B (S O M B R E R O) R E O M L
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 X W U T S Q A C P O H S E N L
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TYPES OF HATS

Second-ranked Florida drops home game to South Florida

JONATHAN CZUPRYN
Alligator Writer

Lauren Haeger proved she was a fighter Wednesday night. Still, she came out beaten and bruised.

Florida (29-3) dropped its third game of the year, this time at the hands of a vengeful South Florida (30-5) team. The Gators marched into Tampa in early February to take every game of the USF-Fairfield Inn & Suites Tampa North Tournament, including a 3-2 victory in extra-innings against the Bulls.

Haeger started against USF on Feb. 12, but relied on sophomore Hannah Rogers to bail her out of a close game. This time around, coach Tim Walton left Haeger in the circle the entire game to take all the blows the Bulls dealt her in a 4-1 defeat.

"It's important to me for (Haeger) to understand, 'You started it so finish it,'" Walton said. "If she would have backed out of that, then I might have lost a little bit for her but she was honest. She said she had enough to get out of it and prove it to me. Obviously I'm not happy with the outcome, but we showed some character

and some guts."

The Gators looked on as the Bulls loaded the bases on two walks and a single, quickly scoring two runs in the first inning.

After Haeger allowed two hits to start the third, USF put two more across the plate thanks to an error at second by Jessica Damico and a sacrifice fly.

"The first inning made me a little tight," Haeger said. "Giving up two runs in the first inning is not what anyone wants to do.

"We just came out a little flat. (Walton) asked me if I could finish out the game and I knew I could, and I needed that."

"It's important to me for (Haeger) to understand, 'You started it so finish it.'"

Tim Walton
UF coach

When Florida's offense did get the chance to reduce the deficit, it crumbled under the pressure.

The Gators had trailed after one inning just twice before, including a comeback victory against No. 4 Tennessee on March 10. But there was no comeback Wednesday night as the UF bats remained silent nearly the entire

SEE SOFTBALL, PAGE 16



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator Staff

Florida coach Tim Walton walks back to the dugout after a team meeting during the Gators' 4-1 loss to USF on Wednesday night. Freshman Lauren Haeger picked up the loss, allowing two earned runs.

UF almost scores 30 in rout

JOSH JURNOVOY
Alligator Writer

Amanda O'Leary wanted some unfamiliar faces to make big contributions Wednesday night.

The Gators provided that and much more.

No. 4 Florida (11-2) routed Fresno State (2-5) 29-0 in the most lopsided game in the program's three-year history.

It was first time the Gators had ever shut out an opponent, and the 29 goals broke a UF single-game record of 23 set earlier this season against Siena.

"It was really about our people who haven't really been needed to step up, really had to step up," O'Leary said. "And I thought they did that."

Junior attacker Kitty Cullen, Florida's leading scorer heading into the game, did not play due to a concussion suffered in a 10-8 win at Ohio State on

Saturday.

The Gators were also without two other key contributors as junior midfielder Brittany Dashiell, their fourth-leading scorer, and freshmen Shannon Gilroy, the team's leader in draw controls, both missed the game with injuries that O'Leary chose not to disclose.

"I'm not allowed to talk about them, I don't think," O'Leary said of the injuries. "Sorry."

UF Lacrosse

Those who did play were more than effective, scoring 17 goals on 23 first-half shots.

"We definitely filled their shoes pretty well," freshman midfielder Nicole Graziano said.

Graziano, who had just 10 goals and five assists prior to the win, shouldered her fair share of the scoring load with

SEE LACROSSE, PAGE 16

SPRING FOOTBALL

Florida wants improved pass rush

MATT WATTS
Alligator Staff Writer

Although much of the attention on the defensive side of the ball this spring has been focused on creating more turnovers, Florida and defensive coordinator Dan Quinn are also looking for an improved pass rush.

Last season, the Gators ranked 37th in the nation and sixth in the Southeastern Conference in sacks with just 28. Florida recorded only one sack against the conference elite of Alabama and LSU and just five during a four-game losing streak in October. Ronald Powell led the team with six, and no other returning player had more than three.

Therefore, Quinn said he's looking to Sharif Floyd, who has been tasked with playing both inside and outside the last two seasons, and incoming junior college tackle Damien Jacobs to pick up the load. Quinn said Floyd, Jacobs and Powell have "provided probably the most rush for us so far in this spring."

"The turnovers are a team thing," Quinn

said. "Rush and affecting the quarterback — at times we'll do it with pressure and at times we'll do it with a four-man rush. We've been working hard at it, and I think we'll see the benefit of that."

Although Floyd has been playing outside at the end spot because of a lack of depth along the defensive line, Quinn said a move back inside to the tackle spot opposite Dominique Easley is possible once several incoming freshman arrive for fall camp.



Floyd

In this class, Florida has five defensive ends — Jonathan Bullard, Alex McCalister, Dante Fowler Jr., Bryan Cox Jr. and Quinteze Williams — that will arrive in August, and Quinn said they could contribute early depending on how quickly they progress. Earl Okine, Kedric Johnson and Leren-tee McCray are also options, but they will also miss spring practice due to injury.

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 16



Billy Federhofer and Nassim Silam have made a formidable doubles team for UF this season. See story at alligatorSports.org.

A.C. Leonard returns from suspension, practices Wednesday

Tight end A.C. Leonard practiced with the team Wednesday for the first time since being suspended following a February arrest on a charge of domestic battery for fighting with his girlfriend. See story at alligatorSports.org.

Poll Results

What grade would you assign the Gators for the 2011-2012 basketball season?

51% B
48% A
1% C
0% D

184 total votes

Floyd to continue playing both spots

FOOTBALL, from page 15

"We're counting on some players who are not participating this spring to provide some rush for us," he said. "That would certainly be one of the ways we could possibly go."

Floyd will likely play both spots this season, regardless, because he has the ability to play multiple techniques effectively, Quinn said. Floyd will be used as an end in 4-3 sets on first and second down and switch inside to tackle for nickel situations on third downs.

According to Quinn, Floyd can play both spots without it effecting his development at tackle, his natural position and a spot Quinn said he would ultimately like to be able to move Floyd back to.

"I'd like to put him there. I think he's a good spot there," Quinn said. "He adds value for me for our defense because I know he can do it at end. My goal, when we get everybody here with a mix of guys, let's put guys in the best spot to help us win."

Jacobs seems to factor heavily into the Gators' plans for 2012, but he has also been the target of criticism for his inconsistency thus far in spring. There is an adjustment period that comes with the switch from junior college to the SEC, and Quinn said it was paramount Jacobs enroll early and be here for spring.

"It's a whole new system — that's hard to learn in just a training camp, not just for a lineman and it's not just necessarily the plays," he said. "A lot of the big guys can learn the plays. It's not rocket science exactly what we're doing on the defensive line. But there is a lot of technical play."

Contact Matt Watts at mwatts@alligator.org.

Non-starters log quality minutes in win

LACROSSE, from page 15

six goals on seven shots.

With Gilroy out, Graziano also contributed on the draw with a game-high four draw controls.

"I kind of knew how to do it a little, I guess," Graziano said. "I didn't really know how to line up. ... I definitely just tried to muscle it out to someone on my team so they could get the ball and, if it went up in the air, I tried to just box out the girl. Just mimic what Gilroy or Brittany would do."

The injuries allowed players with limited playing time this season to see significant minutes against the Bulldogs. Non-starters Colby Rhea, Erin Graziano, Krista Grabher and Taylor

McCord combined for eight goals and three assists.

Florida was dominant from the outset, going up 10 goals less than 10 minutes into the game while not allowing Fresno State to get a shot off until more than 21 minutes into the first half.

"We definitely filled their shoes pretty well."

Nicole Graziano
freshman midfielder

Junior defender Sam Farrell gave the offensive players much of the credit for the shutout.

"When they were trying to clear the ball out, we got a lot of turnovers

that way," Farrell said. "That was the attack working hard after they lost the ball."

Farrell said she and the rest of the defenders kept up their intensity for all 60 minutes, which helped limit the Bulldogs to just five shots on the night.

Freshman defender Mick Offit also saw her first action since March 17 against William & Mary, and O'Leary said all of the minutes non-starters received will be beneficial with the remainder of the ALC schedule ahead.

"The fact that we could put some new faces out there and they responded very well gives me a good feeling that we can utilize them at any moment in time."

Haeger strikes out with chance to tie game

SOFTBALL, from page 15

contest.

Ironically, it was Haeger who prevented her team from being shutout for the second time this season. In the fourth, she launched a solo shot to put the Gators on the board.

The Gators could not handle the Bulls' sophomore pitcher Sara Nevins, who ranks among the top-10 in the country in victories (17) and strikeouts (166) while leading all players in ERA (0.57).

Junior Kelsey Horton won the first game against USF this year with an eighth-inning home run off Nevins.

"She did a really good job keeping us off balance," Horton said.

"She was lefty, so it's a little bit different of a look. She throws hard. ... We were playing a little tight

[Wednesday], which is uncharacteristic of us. We came out flat and that's the biggest reason we lost."

The Gators threatened to make a comeback in the bottom of the seventh with two on and two out. Representing the tying run at the plate was Haeger, who could have tied the game with her second home run of the day.



Haeger

Instead, she struck out swinging.

"I got a little anxious at the end," Haeger said.

"I was swinging for the fences and I shouldn't have. That's the game. The game is made for you to fail. They came to win so they did. It's hard to swallow, but I think it just gave us that fire that we needed to get our bats going and to prove to people that will never happen again."

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