



Help available for distressed students

► **UF COUNSELORS ARE ALWAYS ON CALL.**

TYLER JETT

Alligator Staff Writer

Jamie Marks stood in front of her Rhetoric and Academic Research class Monday morning as one of her students picked up a newspaper.

"What do you think about this guy?" the student asked, pointing to a front-page story.

A man died Sunday night, the article read. He fell from the stairs in the northwest corner of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

Who was he? Marks asked.

The student said a name that made Marks shudder: Michael R. Edmonds Jr.

"My legs went to jelly," Marks said. "I started to shake. My gut soured."

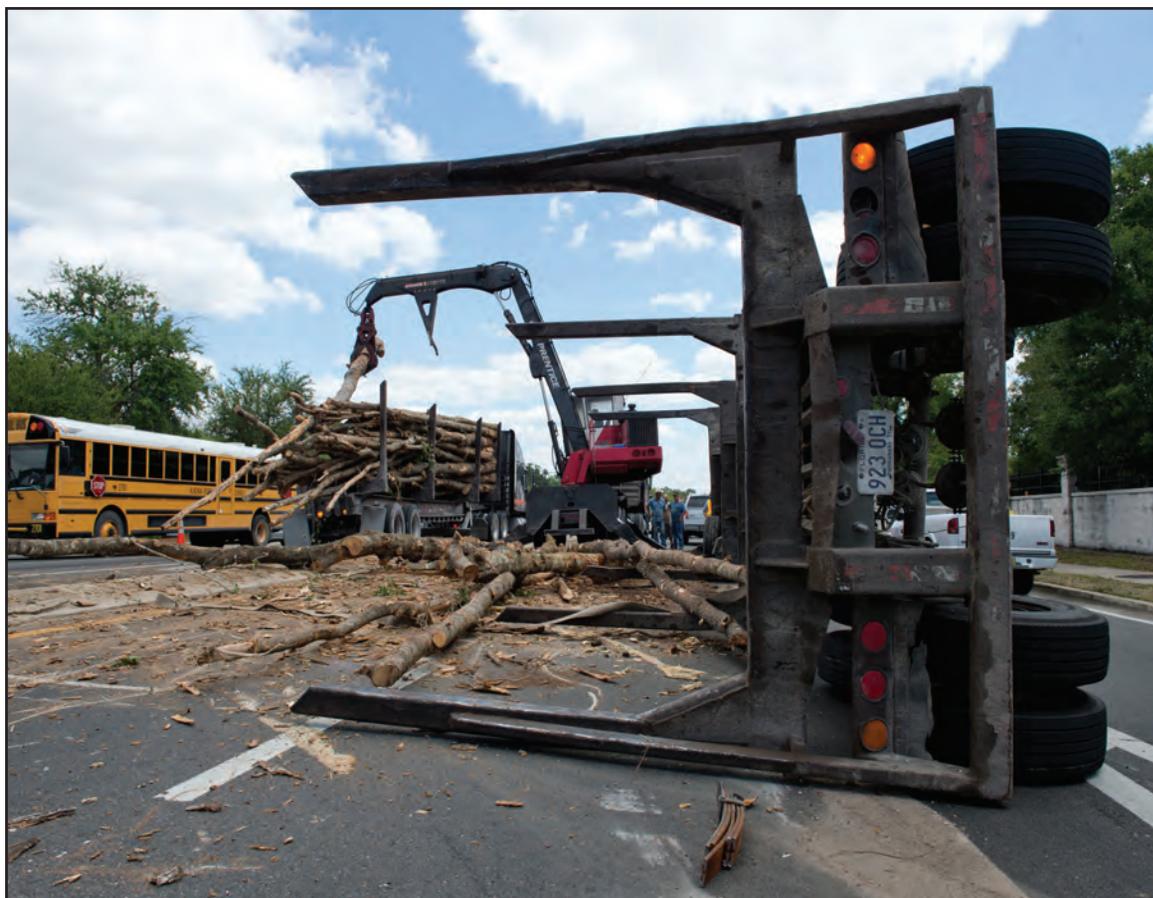
At about 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Edmonds sent Marks a text:

"I need your help sometime soon." The two met online a couple years ago and in person over beers at Hogan's last year. The bond was instant — Edmonds, the journalism major who could talk candidly about his life and struggles as hours drifted away, and Marks, the anthropology graduate student who loved listening and asking questions.

The two exchanged more texts Sunday. Marks was driving back from Cedar Key, and she asked if they could meet for a long discussion later this week. She said she would call when she got home, probably around 4 p.m., she guessed.

The trip back to Gainesville took longer than Marks expected, and she didn't arrive until around 9 p.m. — about two hours after Edmonds died. She didn't hear about it for 12

SEE HELP, PAGE 4



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator Staff

Morning Wood

A semitrailer sits overturned at the intersection of East University Avenue and Northeast Waldo Road Monday afternoon. At about 11:30 a.m., the truck flipped, spilling logs into both the east and westbound lanes of University Avenue. A crane loaded the logs into another semitrailer to clear the road.

ON CAMPUS

Students, faculty protest engineering department cuts

JOEY FLECHAS

Alligator Staff Writer

At around noon Monday, about 200 students circled the Computer Sciences and Engineering building. With stretched-out arms and hands held tight, they shouted, "Save CISE."

The protest attracted students and faculty from the computer and information science and engineering department (CISE) who are angry about the proposal College of Engineer-

ing administrators have made to address a looming 5.86 percent budget cut — roughly \$4 million.

"This is the end of CISE as we know it," said Nuri Yeralan, computer and information science and engineering Ph.D. student and leader of the movement against the proposal.

The CISE department is one of 10 departments in the College of Engineering.

College of Engineering Dean Cammy Abernathy has said that across-the-board cuts

would hurt some departments irreparably. Many faculty members feel the CISE department is being unfairly targeted.

The proposal, announced by Abernathy last week, calls for major changes in the CISE department, including the elimination of two faculty members, 10 staff positions and all teaching assistants and support staff. The plan also involves moving computer engineering programs over to the electrical and computer

engineering department.

Meera Sitharam, an associate professor in the CISE department, said the proposed changes will impact the department's research, hurting the careers of faculty members and causing many to leave.

With no teaching assistants and no support staff, she said, the teaching obligation for faculty would be impossible to handle.

SEE CISE, PAGE 4

UPD picked up about 240 unclaimed bicycles on campus Monday

A pickup near residence halls is planned for May 10

MICHAEL SCOTT DAVIDSON

Alligator Contributing Writer

About 240 UF students won't find their bicycles today where they last left them, but it's not because they were stolen. They were probably collected under the supervision of University Police by the university's Physical Plant Division.

The second abandoned bike pickup of the school year took

place Monday. Police tagged bicycles that had rusted chains, flat tires and missing wheels last week with notices giving students five days to remove the markers before their bikes were impounded.

UPD Capt. Jeff Holcomb said the bikes were removed by physical plant employees and taken in dump trucks to a plant compound on campus.

Owners can claim their bikes within 30 days after they are

removed before they are given to UF Surplus Warehouse to be auctioned. If a bike registered with UPD is collected, police will notify the owner.

He said there are usually three or four pickups a year. Pickups in Fall and Spring semesters are concentrated around classroom buildings.

Holcomb said students returning for summer shouldn't leave their bikes behind either. Another pickup is planned for May 10 at UF residence halls.

In 2010, UPD collected almost 600 bikes left for summer, Holcomb said.

Today

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Bike rental program lacks funding, falls flat with students

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Permit issues delay Flaco's Midtown opening

Location still needs to pass inspections, pg. 3.



352-376-4458 (Voice), 352-376-4467 (Fax)

Editor Joey Flechas, jflechas@alligator.orgManaging Editor / Print Emily Morrow, emorrow@alligator.orgManaging Editor / Online Marissa Prieto, mprieto@alligator.orgUniversity Editor Clare Lennon, clennon@alligator.org

Metro Editor Meredith Rutland,

mrutland@alligator.orgBreaking News Editor Jon Silman, jsilman@alligator.orgOpinions Editor Justin Hayes, jhayes@alligator.orgFreelance Editor Erin Jester, ejester@alligator.orgSports Editor Matt Watts, mwatts@alligator.orgAssistant Sports Editor John Boothe, jboothe@alligator.orgalligatorSports.org Editor Joe Morgan, joemorgan@alligator.org

Editorial Board Joey Flechas, Emily Morrow,

Justin Hayes, Marissa Prieto

Photo Editors Dana Burke, dburke@alligator.org,Brett Le Blanc, bleblanc@alligator.orgthe Avenue Editor Sami Main, smain@alligator.org

Copy Desk Chiefs Olivia Feldman, Tom Green,

Phil Kegler, Greg Luca, Corey McCall,

Marissa Prieto, Rachel Rowan

Copy Editors Karly Kehres, Sarah Kinonen,

Wade Millward, Elesa Paschke,

Heather Pollard, Raven Pritchett,

David Williams, Nika Zecevic

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

352-376-4482, 800-257-4341, 352-376-4556 (Fax)

Advertising Director Shaun O'Connor,

soconnor@alligator.orgRetail Advertising Manager Gary Miller, gmiller@alligator.org

Advertising Assistant Melissa Bell

Display Advertising Clerks Stephanie Parker, Barbara Valle

Intern Coordinator Ally Russo

Sales Representatives Serina Braddock, Brigid Hourihan,

Angela Hunter, Michael Jimenez,

Sarah Platt, Brandon Stern,

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Classified Advertising Manager Ellen Light, ellight@alligator.org

Classified Clerks William McCloud

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352-376-4446 (Voice), 352-376-4556 (Fax)

Comptroller Delia Kradolfer

Senior Bookkeeper Melissa Bell, mbell@alligator.org

Accounting Clerks Courtney Barber, Christine O'Leary

ADMINISTRATION

352-376-4446 (Voice), 352-376-4556 (Fax)

General Manager Patricia Carey, tcarey@alligator.org

Administrative Manager Rachel Stephens

Administrative Assistant Lenora McGowan,

lmcgowan@alligator.orgPresident Emeritus C.E. Barber, cebarber@alligator.org

SYSTEMS

Desktop Support Manager Kevin Hart

PRODUCTION

Production Manager Stephanie Gocklin,

sgocklin@alligator.orgAssistant Production Manager Erica Bales, ebales@alligator.org

Advertising Production Staff James Nolton, Vincent Pierino

Editorial Production Staff Maegan Dennis, Shawn Janetzke,

Natalie Teer

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Toastmasters plans drive

Today, 5:45 p.m.

Entomology Building, Room 1031

This week's meeting includes information about our upcoming membership drive.

Toastmasters provides a positive atmosphere to learn public speaking skills. For details, go to <http://talkinggators.toastmastersclubs.org>. Talking Gators also is on Facebook.

Museums and the Reenchantment of the Arts and Sciences

Today, 6 p.m.

Harn Museum Auditorium

In this public lecture, Anthony Shelton, the director of the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia, will discuss how university museums can bring the arts and sciences together. For more information, visit www.humanities.ufl.edu.

Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining Documentary "The Electric Fairy"

Today, 8 p.m.

Rinker Hall, Room 210

The film highlights the issue of mountaintop removal (MTR) coal mining, and the event will aim to draw the connection between environmental devastation in Appalachia and Gainesville's energy consumption. Guest speaker Kathy Selvage, a lifelong resident of southwest Virginia, will provide a firsthand account of what it's like to live in "Coal Country."

Save Our Bluths: An Arrested Development SHO-bang

Thursday, 8 p.m.

Hume Commons

Join the Student Honors Organization in celebrating the wonder of the hit TV show "Arrested Development" this Thursday by coming dressed up for the costume contest or competing in the "Trivial Bluths" and chicken dance competitions. Also, enjoy free food and unlimited juice while playing games like "Pin the Bow Tie on the Seal" and more. The event is free and open to all UF students. For more information, go to bit.ly/SHO_ArrestedDevelopment.

Pecha Kucha Vol 8, at Volta Coffee

Friday, 7 p.m.

48 SW Second St.

Experience presentations from local artists, activists and scientists. Stick around for refreshments and discussion. This event is appropriate for all ages and admission is free. Find more information at <http://www.pecha-kucha.org/night/gainesville-fl/>

Solar Energy & Efficiency Expo

Saturday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

FORECAST

TODAY

PARTLY
CLOUDY
86/61

WEDNESDAY

THUNDER
STORMS
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THURSDAY

THUNDER
STORMS
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FRIDAY

THUNDER
STORMS
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SATURDAY

THUNDER
STORMS
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Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House, 13 Fraternity Drive

This expo will feature the basics of solar electric, solar hot water, financing and solar readiness for home and business to be held in Gainesville. There will be a live, hands-on demonstration of a solar electric and hot water training system, presented by Santa Fe College, which simulates actual installed solar electric and hot water systems. This event is free and open to the public.

Big Read Booktalk with Stephanie Smith

Sunday, 2 p.m.

Headquarters Library, 401 E University Ave.

Dr. Smith will discuss both Ursula K. Le Guin's Earthsea Trilogy and Le Guin's legacy in terms of how her work influenced other well-loved and well-written adult and young adult fantasy and science fiction. For more information: www.aclib.us/bigread.

Floridance Spring Showcase "Dancers Are Forever"

Sunday, 2 p.m.

Phillips Center for the Performing Arts

Admission is free and flower sales will benefit Relay For Life.

Le Guin & Rome

Monday, 6 p.m.

Headquarters Library, 401 E University Ave.

Classics professor Jennifer Rea will be discussing Le Guin's novel "Lavinia" which was inspired by Virgil's "Aeneid" and tells the story of Rome's foundation. For more information, visit www.aclib.us/bigread.

Civic Media Center Big Read Booktalk

April 26, 7 p.m.

Civic Media Center, 433 S Main St.

Join a group discussion about Le Guin books and her politics. For more information, visit www.aclib.us/bigread.

Entering and Leaving Fantasy's Wild Lands at Wild Iris Books

April 27, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Wild Iris Books, 802 W University Ave.

Chat with fellow readers who love traveling into the fantastical worlds created by Le Guin. Readings by local authors and music by Dirty

Fist will help us celebrate the end of a month's worth of the Big Read in our community. Refreshments can be purchased at Café Colette. For more information, visit www.aclib.us/bigread.

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

A headline in Monday's edition of the Alligator incorrectly implied that UF researchers found evidence of the second planet outside the solar system. The headline should have indicated that researchers have found evidence indicating the presence of another planet orbiting a star that is also orbited by the first planet discovered by the Hubble Telescope outside of our solar system.

NATIONAL

Burglar arrested in shower after champagne, meal

JOSHUA TREE, Calif. — Police say a naked burglar has been arrested while taking a shower after he sipped champagne and ate a meal in a Southern California family's home.

San Bernardino County sheriff's Sgt. Steve Wilson says 25-year-old Michael Calvert was arrested at gunpoint by deputies while he lathered up in the shower Thursday night.

KCDZ radio says that after helping himself to a bottle of champagne and a meal, Calvert decided to take a shower.

The homeowners called 911 after returning home at 8:10 p.m. and hearing someone in the shower.

Calvert was booked for investigation of residential burglary. He's in jail with bail set at \$25,000 and was not available for comment.

— 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.

Permit problems delay Flaco's Midtown opening

► THE LOCATION MUST PASS INSPECTIONS.

MICHAEL SCOTT DAVIDSON
Alligator Contributing Writer

Permitting problems have delayed the opening of Flaco's second location for nearly a month.

Flaco's Cuban Bakery and Coffee Spot planned to open a second location in Midtown before the end of March, but a miscommunication about whether the restaurant needed a gas permit has set back the opening date, said Sara Puyana, co-owner of the restaurant.

The Cuban-style restaurant plans to serve fried foods and have an ordering window to serve customers at the new location.

A contracted commercial-appliance installer connected the new venue's stoves and fryers to an already existing gas line in the restaurant's suite under the impression that a gas permit wouldn't be required, Puyana

said.

But without the permit, the restaurant wasn't able to pass several inspections two weeks ago. Progress was stalled until the business received the permit last Friday.

"We had to reschedule all our inspections," Puyana said. "We're practically going to have to open in the summer."

Flaco's received its gas permit from Gainesville Regional Utilities on Friday of last week. The restaurant's final fire and mechanical inspections will be conducted this week, Puyana said. Flaco's will also have to test its fire-suppression system before opening.

Flaco's staff plans to have the opening inspection for the new location with the Florida Health Department on Friday, Puyana said. The restaurant could open immediately after passing the inspection, but Puyana wants to wait until next week to prepare the kitchen.

"It's definitely been heartbreaking," she said about the delays.



Elizabeth Hamilton / Alligator

The opening of Flaco's Cuban Bakery and Coffee Spot's second location in Midtown has been delayed due to permit issues.

FINALS WEEK

Short breaks are the best answers to finals week stress, experts say

ASHLEY SCHARBER
Alligator Contributing Writer

Breathe in, breathe out.

That's the strategy that Jane Emmeree, a health promotion specialist with Gator-Well, recommends as the best relief for added stress that comes with finals week.

"The goal with managing stress during finals is to understand that even a short break where you take slow, deep breaths or do something effective to decrease the stimulation in your body will help," she said.

According to Emmeree, stress is a bio-

logical and physiological response that alerts the body and puts it into its "fight-or-flight" mode. Actively telling your body to slow down is the best way to get it to relax.

She said stress negatively impacts academic performance because it can cause difficulty sleeping and edgy feelings, affect the ability to concentrate and result in less memory retention. Exercise, meditation, guided imagery, progressive relaxation and listening to music can help, too, she said.

Tina Tannen, a clinical assistant professor with the Counseling and Wellness Center, encouraged stressed students to hone

their time-management skills. She suggested looking at where the time is really going: Facebook and other networking sites can cut into study time.



Emmeree

the sleep cycle, she said.

Lauren Black, an 18-year-old pre-med

freshman, said she often pulls all-nighters.

She said she does her best studying during the night and at odd hours when there are fewer distractions.

For Black, the best way to cope with the stress of finals is to just push through.

Emmeree said long-term stress that's not managed well can lead to future health problems. It can cause the immune system to be more compromised and can ultimately contribute to diseases such as cancer and heart disease.

More stress-reducing tips can be found on the Counseling and Wellness Center's website.

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Student Senate to consider restructuring SG executive branch

Vice-presidential cabinets may be downsized

SAMANTHA SHAVELL

Alligator Writer

The Student Senate is scheduled to hear two bills today that propose to cut and restructure parts of Student Government's executive branch that deal with SG programs.

Student Body President-elect Tj Villamil said the bills will downsize the vice president's cabinet to 17 cabinets and consolidate agencies. According to the SG statutes, there are 23 programming cabinets.

The Cabinet Reorganization Act proposes to cut the six divisions of

the cabinet to three. If the bill passes, then leadership, campus and diversity divisions will remain, Villamil said.

Two of the cabinets being cut, advertising and public relations, would become part of the proposed Action SG agency to promote SG and its or-

ganizations. Some cabinet positions would be added.

"We're doing a lot more downsizing and consolidation," Villamil said.

The Agency Reorganization Act proposes consolidating the agencies. The only one to be cut is the Gator Health and Safety Agency, Villamil said. He said other services on campus provide the same thing.

Students can apply for 98 positions in the executive branch, according to the SG website. The current applications, due Monday at 5 p.m., are available online.

Villamil said he didn't have numbers of how many positions were being cut.

"There are the same amount of duties, just with less official directorship and heads," he said.

Two I-75 ramps to close

SHELBY WEBB

Alligator Writer

Two Interstate 75 exit ramps in Gainesville will be closed this week for construction, which may cause some traffic congestion on the interstate.

The northbound exit ramp onto Newberry Road will be closed from 9 p.m. today until 5 a.m. Wednesday. The southbound exit ramp onto Newberry Road will be closed Wednesday from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. Thursday.

Traffic will be detoured to either Archer Road or Northwest 39th Avenue during the ramp clo-

sure.

The Florida Department of Transportation paid D.A.B. Constructors Inc. \$2.2 million to complete the project.

The ramps will close to allow workers to continue to work on the exits. The project to improve the ramps began last March.

Laurie Windham, spokeswoman for the project, said two new lanes will be added to the northbound exit. The other three ramps have been resurfaced, but the southbound ramp needs extra paving.

Contact Shelby Webb at swebb@alligator.org.

CRIME

Man charged with locking kids in house

BENJAMIN S. BRASCH

Alligator Writer

A Gainesville man briefly locked his 1-year-old and 2-year-old children in his house on Sunday.

Jorge Quinones, 29, was arrested on charges of child neglect Sunday around 9:15 p.m.

Quinones passed the mother of their children on his bike after he left the house and told her to get "her kids," according to an Alachua County Sheriff's Office arrest report.

When she got to the house, the doors were locked and she had no way of getting in. She called the police.

After Dep. Barrett Boyette, an Alachua County Sheriff's officer, got to the house, he and the children's mother heard the 1-year-old through the door, but not the 2-year-old.

Worried about the children, Officer Boyette broke the door down and found both children unharmed.

When inside, according to the report, the officer found an open can of beer and a cigarette lighter where the children could reach them.

Another officer found Quinones biking on Archer Road.

According to the police report, after Boyette read Quinones his Miranda rights, Quinones refused to speak to him and appeared "completely unconcerned with the situation," but he did keep repeating, "This is bullshit."

The mother said her husband left the children alone before, but she didn't report it.

Contact Ben Brasch at bbrasch@alligator.org



Quinones

Counseling & Wellness Center available for students who need help

HELP, from page 1

more hours. She said she should have called during the drive home.

"I wish we just could have had that connection, even just to bring a little peace to him, even if it wouldn't have changed his decision," she said. "I feel like I failed him as a friend."

In one of those texts to Marks on Sunday, Edmonds said he was struggling to justify living. But he had told her that before, she said. He seemed less panicked on Sunday than he did in the past.

Marks said she doesn't blame herself, that she understands she couldn't have stopped him. But the question of "what if" still haunts her, which is common for those close to someone who committed suicide, said Sherry Benton, director of the UF Counseling & Wellness Center.

"This is one of the hardest things you can possibly go

through," she said. "It's just awful. If you're someone who loved Michael, it's easy to think, 'I should have done more. I should have done more. I should have done more.' I want those people to know it's not their fault."



Edmonds

But even if someone takes his or her own life, friends and family should not blame themselves, Benton said.

Suicide is complicated. It can't be traced to one event, one

breakup or one moment of anger, according to the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention. About 90 percent of suicide victims have a significant psychiatric illness at the time of their death.

Dustin White, the secretary of Team Florida Cycling, said he met Edmonds when Edmonds joined the club in August. From the beginning of their relationship, Edmonds was unashamed and talked freely about his struggles. White knew Edmonds was frustrated — he suffered a back injury during a bike crash in February, and on Saturday he was arrested for driving under the influence.

Still, White never expected Edmonds would take his own life.

"It seems like it happened all so quick," he said. "He was open with everyone, so we didn't see the seriousness in recent conversations ... nothing went off like an alarm to anyone."

Contact Tyler Jett at tjett@alligator.org

Group to hold sit-in today

CISE, from page 1

"How are we supposed to run a computer science department without a systems support staff?" she said.

After walking around the CSE building several times, the crowd of students chanted and marched down Stadium Road to Weil Hall, where they demanded to speak to Abernathy.

Associate Dean Jennifer Curtis came out to address the group's demands, including the group's desire to take part in the final decision-making by way of a vote.

Curtis said that the protesters might have a misconception of what shared governance means.

"Shared governance does not mean collective decision-making," she told the crowd. "So a decision does have to be made, and a decision will be made by the dean."

Curtis also said the group's request to move the final day to accept input on Abernathy's proposal on Wednesday to June 15 cannot work because of the UF administration's requirements for reporting budgets.

In a statement released Monday afternoon, Abernathy said she plans to meet with college faculty leadership and student leadership organizations like the Benton Engineering Council to discuss the proposal.

"I cannot emphasize enough that I, as the dean of college of engineering, feel exactly the same way as everyone out there regarding the budget cut that has been placed upon us by the state," she said.

The group will hold a sit-in today outside Abernathy's office in Weil Hall from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Contact Joey Flechas at jflechas@alligator.org



Joey Flechas/ Alligator Staff

Students hold signs that read "Save CISE" on Stadium Road across from Weil Hall during a protest against budget cuts on Monday afternoon.

Top-brand shoe store to open today near Oaks Mall

ADARA NEY

Alligator Contributing Writer

Students now have more options for buying top-brand shoes on a mac-cheese budget.

Designer Shoe Warehouse, better known as DSW, will open its first Gainesville location today in the Oaks Square plaza on Newberry Road, near the Oaks Mall.

The building will house about 25,300 pairs of discount designer shoes, said Randy Guenot, superintendent of the renovation project by A. F. Alber Retail Contractors.

DSW's goal was to create a signature look and make every location similar. The Gainesville store has the striped awning and warehouse look like the other stores, Guenot said.

DSW will join six other stores in the shopping center, said Rebecca Yates, director of property management for the plaza. She said the grand opening will be on Thursday.

Discount shoe store Famous Footwear is located next door to the new DSW location. With the opening of the store, assistant manager Ryan Kirby said he anticipates Famous Footwear's sales to decrease temporarily but to eventually level off.

The store is looking to potentially relocate to Archer Road by November, said Kirby, a 22-year-old junior public relations major.

Famous Footwear's stock includes

athletic, dress, casual and children's shoes, he said. The store, which has about 20,000 shoes in its 10,439 square feet of retail space, has been in the same location for 13 years, Kirby said.

Other city shoe stores also have concerns about DSW opening in Gainesville.

Duke Pinner, owner of Pinner's Fine Shoes, said he carries higher quality shoes than the discount shoe giant. The store opened on the corner of West University Avenue and South-west 34th Street about 45 years ago.

Pinner said his store and DSW cater to different audiences. He said his smaller store is able to provide customer service and extra sizes that the big-box stores don't carry.

The building that will house DSW formerly held Borders, a national bookstore chain that filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2011. The store laid off about 20 employees when it was shut down.

Spirit Halloween temporarily used the space after Borders closed. Negotiations to put DSW in the building began in late 2011.

"We were sad when Borders closed, and we had a dark spot in the shopping center," Rebecca Yates said.

She said DSW's arrival will boost business in the plaza and around the mall area.

"DSW brought that life back," she said.



AP Photo

Twister

Gary Gladwin looks over his wrecked property where he stored a 1937 Chevy in Thurman, Iowa, on Sunday. A large part of the town in the western part of the state was destroyed Saturday night, possibly by a tornado, but no one was injured or killed.

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Sound Off

Alligator looking for summer columnists

As the end of the semester draws near and everyone is making summer plans, we wanted to throw something out there for those who will be sticking around in Gainesville for the next few months.

During the summer semester, although many will be leaving because of graduation, internships or the need to return to the nest for the comfort of family and friends back home, the Alligator will still be here.

For those who don't know, the Alligator publishes two days a week — Tuesdays and Thursdays — during the summer.

This means we need students to help us fill up our opinions pages with well-thought-out analyses and commentary about current events.

Or they can write about how their life is like a trip to Taco Bell.

We're looking for strong writers who want to share their views on issues, whether they be on a campus-wide, local, state or national level.

Because we only publish two days a week this summer, we only have four weekly columnist spots to fill.

If you're interested in becoming a weekly columnist, you will need to submit a resume, a brief cover letter explaining why you think you're a good fit for our opinions pages and a short explanation of your political persuasion, i.e. conservative, liberal, libertarian, socialist, etc.

If you have been published before or keep a blog, please send us three examples of your finest work.

If you have not been published before, you can send us two writing samples about different topics. These samples should be between 500 and 600 words.

Columns should take a stand, be clear and be about things that students at UF might care about.

If you apply and do not make the cut for the summer, we still strongly encourage you to submit material. We will be accepting guest columns and letters to the editor throughout the summer.

The more we are familiar with your work, the more likely we are to consider you for a weekly columnist position in the future.

Guest columns should be between 500 and 600 words and need to include your name, year, major and the school you attend.

Feel free to write response columns to our weekly columnists or come up with your own topic.

Letters should be between 150 and 200 words and need to include your name and any other relevant information, i.e. major, organizations you belong to, etc.

All materials for columnist applications should be sent as an attachment to opinions@alligator.org.

Please submit all applications by April 28.

Future guest columns and letters should also be sent to the same address.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Reader response

Today's question: Do you meditate to handle your stress?

Monday's question: Did you attend the Santa Fe College Spring Arts Festival this weekend?
20% YES
80% NO
122 TOTAL VOTES

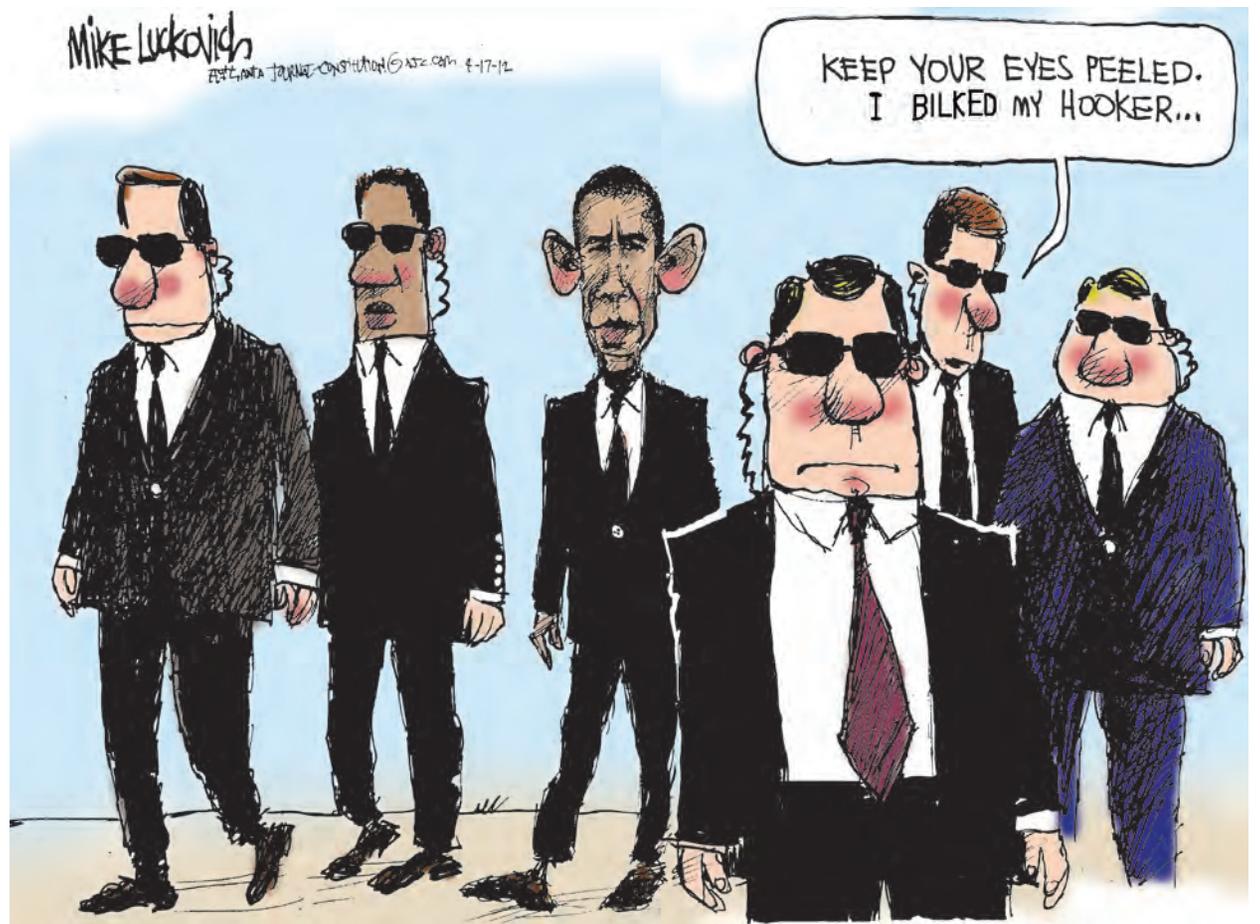
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Column

Is the "Buffett Rule" too much to ask?

Since last summer, calls to mobilize the 99 percent have been heard from Wall Street to the Vatican, amassing one of the greatest peaceful global demonstrations in history.

In logical (though not necessarily principled) opposition to the demonstrators is the 1 percent, built up to appear as a club of multimillionaire moguls nestled comfortably in Porsches, penthouses and Parisian escorts.

But the truth about the wealth of the 1 percent is often misconceived and overblown, and it causes a subsequent misunderstanding of the scope and intent of the Buffett rule and other similarly proposed tax legislation.

The Buffett rule (named after Warren Buffett's frustration at paying a lower tax rate than his secretary) proposes that those who make \$1 million a year should pay at least 30 percent of their income in taxes. Many object to this rule, claiming that it will stifle job growth and cause millionaire business owners to tighten up their spending. But if this legislation were enacted, just more than 0.1 percent of taxpayers would actually have increased taxes.

Contrary to what many believe, the 1 percent is not part of the multimillionaire's club reserved for Mitt Romney and the rest of the 0.1 percent. The threshold for being a member of the 1 percent in 2009 was \$343,927 (a fair wealth, no doubt, but nowhere near the affluence I had expected). Taking this into consideration, the Buffett rule would have no impact on the majority of the 1 percent or the vast majority of job creators.

That's because — again, contrary to what many believe — most American jobs are not created by large companies and corporations (many of which continue to out-source jobs yearly) but are actually created by start-ups. While these start-ups already receive some tax benefits, if we truly want to cultivate a job-creating culture we need to look more and more toward new and small businesses and less toward the large companies that consistently lure away their customers.

This support needs to come not only from the government but also from consumers. Rather than shopping at Publix or Chipotle, spend a few more dollars for your



Dyllan Furness
opinions@alligator.org

groceries at Wards and get your burrito from Burrito Bros. We're lucky to have such a wealth of small businesses in Gainesville, and we'd be wise not to neglect it.

The 210,000 taxpayers who would experience a higher tax rate following the Buffett rule are hardly the job creators the

Republicans herald them as. Though many are currently at a 35-percent tax rate, much (if not all) of their income comes through dividends and capital gains, leaving their taxes somewhere between 15 and 20 percent.

Are we naive enough to believe that the difference between that 15-percent rate and Buffett's proposed 30-percent rate is finding its way back into the job market, creating work and stimulating the economy for the less well-off?

An astounding degree of homelessness and hunger still plagues our nation. Charities and donations have been responsive to these issues, but they have not prevented them. The very top income earners should be eager to give back to society and an economy that undoubtedly aided them in gaining the wealth they have.

No one is truly self-made. No one succeeds "against all odds" (the fact that you succeed shows some odds in your favor). Those who claim that the unsuccessful have only themselves to blame fail to recognize that the "American dream" is not what it used to be. No matter how determined, millions of Americans cannot and will not achieve a sustainable lifestyle without some external intervention.

Charitable donations are helpful, but they are voluntary and too often myopic. While taxes aren't always allocated perfectly, with 46.2 million Americans in poverty and a government more than \$15 trillion in debt, a 30-percent income tax is the least the wealthy can cough up.

Dyllan Furness is a philosophy and English junior at UF. His column appears on Tuesdays.

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

Column

Pickings are slim for presidential election

The anticipation builds as everyone's favorite time of year inches closer.

No, I'm not talking about summer break; I'm talking, of course, about the fantastic upcoming presidential election!

If you can't note the sarcasm in my previous sentence and are actually excited about voting for one of the two presidential nominees, you need to wake up.

There's no trying to make sense out of our candidates and their platforms or mask it with false optimism; we're screwed, plain and simple.

The fairy tale of a prosperous America ended once the Baby Boomers began talking about Social Security as if it were an endangered species.

That's why in a hyper, fashionably radical and polarized nation, there's never been a better time to be an independent. Loyalty to a political party is dead.

The mutiny on both ends of the political spectrum is barbaric.

Politicians are more preoccupied with their re-election than the welfare of their constituents.

Being uncommitted has never looked so appealing, and sanity has never been so scarce.

Never before have we faced an election that, from the get-go, looked so bleak.

Four years ago, our country found itself on the brink of disaster with everything swirling down the economic toilet. We put our trust in the hands of a young, multiracial senator to bring some of that promised hope and change to Washington.

It's not like things would have been better with McCain in office, anyway.

Fast forward a few years later, and we remain in a sour economy, a dismal job market, in debt up to our eyeballs with the Chinese and a health care reform bill that after two years still teeters on the seesaw of the Supreme Court.

On the list of the things President Obama did get around to accomplishing: withdrawing from Iraq and

making the world safer from one less terrorist.

While both feats are significant, they aren't enough to appease constituents who depended on "hope" and "change."

Obama's re-election is far from a given.

Let's face it: Mitt Romney will be the Republican nominee.

With Santorum out of the rat race that originally started off with what felt like 200 pathetic contenders who thought it'd be cool to drop their name into the hat (anyone else miss Herman Cain, Michele Bachmann and Donald Trump?), the only ones left standing to challenge Romney are Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul.

Gingrich's been out of the political game for a while, and Paul makes too much sense for America.

Romney, who fell to John McCain in the 2008 Republican nomination, was once heralded as a centrist. But as Romney was forced to drink the right-wing Kool-Aid to win over Republican voters, he sacrificed his reputation and switched his stance on many issues dear to true conservatives.

To quote my favorite movie, "Juno," which conveniently includes the simile used by Romney's campaign manager: "That ain't no Etch-A-Sketch. That's one doodle that can't be undid."

Voting is a hard-fought right that should be exercised by every American, but don't be shocked if you find yourself in the voting booth muttering "eenie, meenie, miney, moe..." — that might just be the best way to do it.

Hold your breath and wisely pick the candidate you think you can stomach for the next four years, assuming our country won't be usurped by China by then.

Colleen Wright is a journalism freshman at UF. Her column appears on Tuesdays.



Colleen Wright
opinions@alligator.org

Guest column

Budget cuts for engineering department illogical, likely to turn away students

As a computer science major in the College of Engineering, I find Dean Cammy Abernathy's plan to restructure the computer and information service engineering department both disturbing and illogical.

In her proposal, she claims that applying any portion of the budget cuts to the other departments in the college would drive them toward mediocrity, but what she fails to realize is that the drastic cuts she is proposing for CISE would leave it in shambles.

In her budget plan, she proposes the following: moving all computer engineering (CEN) majors (and most of the advising staff) to the electrical and computer engineering (ECE) department; moving approximately half of the CISE faculty to unrelated departments (including ECE, Biomedical Engineering [BME], and Industrial Systems Engineering [ISE]); eliminating staff positions that support research and graduate programs; and eliminating teaching assistant positions.

This proposal, if approved, would effectively end all research in CISE, phase out the Ph.D. program and leave the department struggling to support its undergraduate students.

I do not believe Dean Abernathy is guided by malicious intent, but I do believe her rationale is flawed and she is either ignorant of or unable to recognize the importance of the work conducted in the CISE department.

Her main arguments for this proposal seem to be that CISE has a higher number of TAs compared to the rest of the engineering departments and there is a substantial amount of overlap between CISE and ECE in regard to the administration of computer engineering majors. Quite frankly, these are weak arguments that do not justify the dissolution of the CISE department.

Part of the reason CISE has so many TAs is that the department conducts a substantial amount of research responsible not only for bringing in grant money, but also for attracting graduate students and professors from around the world to our university. The money brought in by this research is used to hire TAs and support them in their pursuit of Ph.Ds. This research is responsible both for producing the advanced technologies of tomorrow and for driving Ph.D students to become experts in their field.

Dean Abernathy's plan to pull the plug on CISE research would severely compromise the department. The potential to bring in grant money will be gone, graduate students would not have the opportunity to pursue Ph.Ds within the department and there wouldn't be any TAs remaining to assist professors in administering

David Moore
Speaking Out

undergraduate-level classes, which would reduce the quality of said classes.

The overlap between CISE and ECE is not so significant

that it would be wise to lump the two departments together.

Although computer engineering majors take a handful of the same courses as electrical engineering (EE) majors, these should not be considered so alike that they should be administered by the same department. There are many courses very specific to each major, and these courses cannot be taught by any professor who is picked arbitrarily from either department.

However, it seems that Dean Abernathy thinks the programs and the faculties of CISE and ECE are interchangeable.

In regard to the programs, it is more accurate to say the CEN majors with hardware specializations are similar to the EE majors while the CEN majors with software specializations are similar to the computer science majors offered by both CISE and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. If Dean Abernathy is so intent on merging CISE and ECE to eliminate overlap, perhaps she should just divide the CEN major into two distinct majors: computer hardware engineering (offered by ECE) and computer software engineering (offered by CISE).

The last thing I would like to point out in regard to these proposed cuts is that they have a serious potential for encouraging some of the best CISE professors to leave and for deterring prospective students from pursuing degrees in CISE. Some of the best CISE professors are highly involved in research, and by eliminating support for the research programs, there would be little incentive for those professors to stay with UF much longer.

Dean Abernathy has stated she would do everything possible to keep these professors at UF, but realistically speaking, the professors who conduct research will likely seek employment elsewhere if another university offers them research opportunities that are not available at UF.

Without these professors, the department will likely see decreased enrollment and fewer students will graduate with the highly sought skills possessed by CISE majors.

Personally, I'm strongly reconsidering my desire to pursue a master's degree in computer engineering here. I love UF, but there is no reason for me to stay here for a CISE graduate program when it looks as though the department may be torn apart by someone who does not recognize its potential.

David Moore is a computer science junior at UF.



Bike rental program proposal lacks funding, falls flat with students

► THE PROGRAM WAS PROPOSED IN 2008.

KAYLANIE ALVAREZ

Alligator Contributing Writer

In 2008, a campus sustainability group considered a proposal for a student bicycle rental program in hopes of alleviating traffic on campus and offering an alternative to cars.

Four years later, what exists is a small departmental program open only to faculty and staff.

The initial proposal, made in November 2008, called for multiple bike stations to be built around campus. Students would be able to rent a bicycle using a credit card or student ID, ride it and return it to any bike station on campus.

Despite similar successful programs on other college campuses, such as the University of South Florida's "Borrow Our Bikes" program, UF has not made any plans for expansion.

Scott Fox, director of transportation and parking services at UF, said several factors contributed to the decision to not implement the bike rental program.

"There would have to be a significant amount of labor on the part of the university to move these bikes around and re-queue them at the start of every day," Fox said.

UF's Sustainable Transportation Working Group thought the project would be too labor-intensive and that bikes might end up in the middle of campus and not around the perimeter where people would want to see them.

Creating a department in charge of maintaining, retrieving and finding space for the bikes required more effort than any department could give at the time.

Transportation at UF is a separate auxiliary service, which doesn't receive a budget or operating money from the university, the state or Student Government.

UF transportation pays for new programs by trying to get more money from existing sources, Fox said.

Currently, parking decals are the primary revenue source for UF transportation.

In 2008, UF transportation looked into generating revenue for a bike program by raising the price of decals, but transportation and sustainability officials questioned if that was the best use of the extra money.

An increase in student interest could go a long way in making the bike rental program more of a priority, Fox said.

"Students are the ones who said, 'We want more bus service, we want this SNAP service and we are willing to pay for it.' That's where the money came from to enhance those programs and make them a reality," he said. "What we haven't

seen with the bicycle rental program is someone saying, 'This is important and we are going to find a way to pay for it.'"

Alex Arias, a 22-year-old materials science and engineering senior, rides his bike to campus. He said the rental program would be helpful to students who live off campus but don't want to take their bikes on the bus.

"If they could find a way of making it cheap, then it would be a great idea," Arias said. "I see students using it, but I don't expect a decrease in fossil fuels."

The Office of Sustainability set up the Departmental Bike Program in Fall 2011 to prove the concept's viability at UF, said Stephanie Sims, implementation coordinator of the UF Office of Sustainability.

The program reuses some of the hundreds of bicycles abandoned on campus by students. About 35 of these bicycles are refurbished and used by the Office of Sustainability's green teams as departmental vehicles. They are available to faculty and staff who need to make deliveries or get to meetings as an alternative to using a state vehicle or their personal vehicles.

"It's very expensive to start one of the bike-sharing programs as you picture in D.C. or down in Miami," Sims said. "Unfortunately, there is no easy home for that at UF. With the budget cuts, there is no one that has a whole lot of money to get it started."

LOCAL Alachua County Jail inmate dies after having seizures Sunday

ADRIANNA PAIDAS

Alligator Writer

A 51-year-old man died after having two seizures in jail Sunday morning.

Officers woke Willie Joel Sanders in his Alachua County Jail cell at 5 a.m. Sunday so a nurse could check his blood-sugar levels, said Alachua County Sheriff's Office spokesman Sgt. Todd Kelly.

An officer escorted Sanders to a common area to meet the nurse.

She then left the room and while he was waiting for her to return, Sanders suffered a seizure, Kelly said.



Sanders

Sanders remained conscious, but immediately seized again.

After the second seizure, he didn't wake up. Nurses and other jail staff performed CPR but couldn't revive him.

Alachua County Fire Rescue took Sanders to Shands at UF.

He was pronounced dead at 6:46 a.m. Sunday, Kelly

said, adding that inmates are asked about their medical history when they are booked into the jail.

"Something in his initial medical screening prompted the nurses to check his blood," Kelly said.

Alachua County Sheriff's Office detectives are investigating the cause of death.

Sanders was arrested Saturday morning on charges of possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

There was also a warrant out for his arrest due to unpaid child support.

Contact Adrianna Paidas at apaidas@alligator.org



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2 For Rent unfurnished

*****WALK OR BIKE TO UF *****
3/2 vintage home or 2/2 apt includes parking, available August 2012. Call Carolyn 352-538-3556 or email alligatoralley@cox.net 5-15-12-32-2

2BR/2BA w Study, Screened porch, end unit (Rockwood Villas) \$750/m, close to UF, I-75, shopping and bus; partially furnished, W/D, 904.874.5774 5-24-12-30-2

2BR/1BA, Central A/C, Mobile home on shady lot. On busline. Laundry room, No pets. From \$345 - \$420/mo. Incl water. 1st MONTH FREE RENT. Vacant lots available 4546 NW 13th St. Call 376-5887 4-25-24-2

3/2 1,500 sq. ft., 1.1 acre lot, 2 car gar. Built in '05; Meadows on the Prairie. Off Archer Rd, 6 mi. W of I75. 10-15 min. to UF; 15-20 min. to SFC. \$600/mo. Master BR, \$550/mo. other rooms. All utils incl 727-224-5847 4-25-12-23-2

Campus Edge 2360 SW Archer #618 2BR/2BA SS appliances + W/D, \$1200/mo incl Internet & Cable! Pool & Fitness ctr. Call 901-581-0135 Walk to class, Shands on busline 5-31-12-28-2

Avail Aug 1. Need 4 students Poolside 4BR/4BA Countryside Condo. Commute UF/SFC, 2 bus rts, furn common area, W/D, Unfurn BRs, \$365ea w/util cap, BR furn avail. \$200 dep. Text/ph 386-233-0011 ph 386-676-9703, Nukken1@aol.com 4-20-12-19-2

*******STUDENTS*******
1,2,3 & 4 Bedroom Houses and Apartments available for Fall. All close to UF and Downtown. Call 870-2760 4-25-12-19-2

7 blks to UF, 4BR/3BA, 2 masters, POOL, HOT TUB, 2500sf, 2 prchs, 5 car park, responsible students or professionals only. \$2275/mo Aug, yr. lease. 352-222-0211 4-19-12-10-2

SPACIOUS 2BR/2BA APT.
Convenient location to Shands, UF & Butler Plaza. Asking \$700/OBO. Please call Kelly 305-332-6566. yttek@hotmail.com 4-24-12-15-2

HISTORIC APTS Downtown Pleasant St Historic District. 1-3BRs avail now & fall. Ceiling fans, porches, wd flrs, some w/ W/D. ALSO we have 2 & 3BR homes. Cats ok, no dogs. 1st, last, sec. aprieve@aol.com Call/text 352-538-1550 5-31-12-21-2

1BR COTTAGE - BR, living room, den, kitchen & dining area. Approximately 750 sq ft. Free water, sewer, cable & internet. 1 mi west of I-75 off Williston Rd on gated farm. Very quiet. 1 yr lease. \$500/mo 372-0507 4-19-12-10-2

TOP QUALITY - GREAT LOCATIONS
Upscale, 1 & 2 BR apts. 1 block to UF campus - on N & E sides. Year lease, beginning summer or fall. Sorry, no pets. K & M Properties. 372-1509 5-15-12-13-2

Beautiful 2-story house. 2.5 mi to UF. 5BR/2.5BA 2400sq.ft. large treed lot. Very quiet neighborhd. H/W & tile flrs, ceiling fans, walk-in closets, W/D, ref, stove, DW. \$1600/mo & sec dep. Avail 8/1/12. 727-686-1404 5-15-12-13-2

Very nice 3BR/2.5BA house. 2.5 mi from UF. Beautiful large, treed lot, H/W flrs, tile, vaulted ceiling in kitchen, walk-in closets. W/D, ref, stove, DW, ceiling fans. Avail 8/1/12. \$925/mo sec dep req'd 727-686-1404 4-17-12-6-2

Remodeled 3/1.5 near UF. Wood floor, central AC, new windows, granite, large fridge w/ water, marble, screened porch, fenced yard, wash/dryer, lawn care, whirlpool. \$1,375/Aug. 1st. Greg 514-2039 Pets Ok 4-23-12-10-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

Several cute & clean houses & apartments available for August, located in quiet NW areas near UF/Downtown. Rates from \$435 per month. Call/Text Anita: 352-575-4395; Anita@cozygator.com; www.cozygator.com 5-17-12-14-2

2/1 duplex in Tower Oaks Glen
Cent A/C, laundry room w/ W/D, on bus route. No pets. \$525/mo, 1st month + last month. 6900 SW 21st Lane (352) 514-9698 4-17-12-5-2

*******Walk to UF-Historic House*******
3bed/2bth 4 blks to UF. Cute, charming, lots of character. Hrd wood floors, tile, central AC, W/D, off street parking, private back yard. cats ok. Avail. Aug \$1380/mo. 828.216.2565 4-25-11-2

\$500 1BR Apt. Spacious, spotless, fenced patio, greenspace/trees, near campus & downtown, carpeted, ceiling fans, CHA. Prefer quiet, stable, mature tenants. 1807 NW 10th St (352) 284 3873. postj@bell-south.net 7-26-12-30-2

\$700 Duckpond Duplex. 2BR, dishwasher, CHA,WD/H,carport,large yard,huge oak tree, pines, quiet nhood, busline. prefer quiet mature tenant;no dogs, cats ok;920 NE 6th Ave.(352) 284 3873 postj@bellsouth.net 4-25-12-10-2

PET'S PARADISE
\$390 - \$650. No app or pet fee. 1 & 2BR, privacy fenced. sev. 352-331-2099 5-15-12-11-2

BellaProperties.net 335-5424
Escape to a Luxury small complex 2/2 available for May,June. Have RTS stop on site. 1 mile from Butler plaze. 4-25-10-2

Beautiful 4 bedroom house at 313 NW 11th St. Hardwood floors, fireplace, screened porch, fenced yard, washer/dryer, plenty of parking. \$1600/mo. Available 8/2012. Call Eric at 352-870-9453. 5-22-12-2

3-4, Bedroom Homes for Rent
Great for UF or Santa Fe
Ask about Family Discounts
Call Eric at (352) 682-7424 4-25-12-9-2



----- Near UF -----
gainesvillestudentrentals.com 352-317-4408
●2/1 apt 204 nw 18 st \$1100
●4/2 house 929 nw 22 st \$1500
●5/3 house 630 nw 36 st \$1500
5-15-12-10-2

4BR/3BA, 18 NW 36th St. Close to campus. All appliances including W/D. Ceiling fans, cent H/AC. Lawn care & pest cont. incl. New wood privacy fence in backyard. Avail Aug 1st. \$1350/mo 333-9874 or 317-7346 5-15-12-9-2

2brm/2bth available Rent \$650 Deposit \$500 call 352-367-1956 or cell 352-262-8050 or email stevemalu@yahoo.com 5-15-12-9-2

LAKWOOD VILLAS
Large 1, 2, & 3 bdrm. floor plans starting @ \$635. FREE Hi-Speed Internet, Washer/Dryer, Fitness Center, Tennis Court, Swimming Pool etc. M-F 9-6 Sat 10-5
700 SW 62nd Blvd. 352-371-8009 www.lakewoodvillas.com text (Lakewood) 65586
4-25-12-7-2

SPYGLASS
Individual Leases. Furniture pkgs. incl Washer/Dryer & FREE Hi-Speed internet. Rates start at \$399. Every unit an end unit. Mon-Fri 9-6 Stat. 10-5
701 SW 62nd Blvd. 352-373-6330 www.spyglassapts.com text (spyglass) 65586
4-25-12-7-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

UPPER WESTSIDE/NANTUCKET WALK
1 & 2 bdrm Luxury Apts. Granite counters. Parking avail. Walk to campus & stadium, For info. call 352-872-4664 www.upperwestsideuf.com text: upperwestside@65374 4-25-12-7-2

3 Subleases

Don't get stuck with an extra rent payment. Advertise your subleases in the Alligator Classifieds and save yourself some cash. Call 373-FIND.

DON'T WAIT TO PLACE YOUR SUBLEASE AD
Last spring semester paper published on April 25th.
CALL TODAY!!!
or
PLACE YOUR AD AT WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG

Staying for Summer? Sleep in late for class while staying at The Courtyards! Subleasing for Summer A and willing to negotiate on price! Please contact 407-310-0622 4-18-10-3

1 bed/bath in house near publix on 34th. \$310 may-july. females only. quiet housemates. close to bus routes. call 843 408 3687 4-20-6-3

1BR/1BA located 1/2 mile from UF. Two bus stops.Private balcony,two pools, gym, and barbecue area. central A/C. \$500/month. some furniture included. For more information please call 305-332-9516. 4-17-2-3

Summer term- 2/2 apt.Room at Jefferson 2nd Ave.Walking distance to campus/downtown. Includes: utilities, internet, and furniture. For info call or text me at 954 709 8338 or giracam@gmail.com Price \$499 4-25-7-3

4 Roommates

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

Roommate Matching HERE
Oxford Manor 377-2777
The Landings 336-3838
The Laurels 335-4455
Greenwich Green 372-8100
Hidden Lake 374-3866
4-25-72-4

COLLEGE ROOMS STARTING AT \$400.00 MONTH, UTILITIES INCLUDED NO MOVE IN COST.
WE DO SEMESTER LEASING
Frances 352-375-8787 Rent Florida Realty 9-28-12-85-4

Female roommate needed in furnished condo, 1.5 miles from UF \$379/MO cable, internet, utilities, pool+ more-beautifully renovated, on bus route, Call 352 262-2871, Available 6/1/12 7-31-11-28-4

Another Saturday night without a date? Read The Alligator.

5 Real Estate

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

NEW CONDOS-WALK TO UF
For Info on ALL Condos for Sale, Visit www.UFCONDOS.COM or **Matt Price, University Realty, 352-281-3551 4-25-72-5**

Mobile Home with acreage ready to move in, great for pets. Lots of space for the price, 3Br 2Ba, serious offers only, no renters. (850)308-6473 3-20-1-5

6 Furnishings

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

BED - QUEEN - \$120 ORTHOPEDIC Pillow-top, mattress & box. Name brand, new, still in plastic. Call 352-372-7490 will deliver. 4-25-12-72-6

BED - FULL SIZE - \$100 ORTHOPEDIC Pillow-top mattress & box. New, unused, still in plastic w/warranty. Can deliver. Call 352-377-9846 4-25-12-72-6

MICROFIBER SOFA & LOVESEAT - \$400 Brand new still packaged w/warranty. Must sell. Can deliver. Retail \$1600. 352-372-7490 4-25-12-72-6

BED - KING - \$200 PILLOWTOP mattress & box springs. Orthopedic rated. Name brand, new, never been used, in plastic with warranty. Call 352-372-8588. Can deliver. 4-25-72-6

BEDROOM SET. 7pc Cherry, Queen/ king bed, dresser w/mirror, 2 nightstands, chests avail. Dovetail const. New, in boxes. Can deliver. Retail \$4500, must sell, sacrifice \$850 (352) 372-7490 4-25-72-6

6 Furnishings

SOFA & LOVESEAT 100% Italian leather. Brand new in plastic w/warranty. Retail \$1800. Sacrifice \$700. Call 352-377-9846 4-25-72-6

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

DINETTE SET 5pc \$120 Brand new in box. Never used. 352-377-9846 4-25-72-6

****BEDS - ALL BRAND NEW****
****Full \$100 Queen \$125 King \$200****
Orthopedic pillow-top sets. Brand name matching sets not used or refurbished. Still in plastic, direct from factory! 352-333-7516. 4-25-72-6

BED- QUEEN New orthopedic pillowtop mattress and boxspring set. Brand name, brand new, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver. \$130 352-377-9846. 4-25-72-6

BEDROOM SET- \$300 BRAND NEW
Still in boxes! 5 pieces include: Headboard, Nightstand, Dresser, Mirror, Chest. Must sell, can deliver. 352-377-9846. 4-25-12-72-6

7 Computers

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

COMPUTER & LAPTOP REPAIRS
Network specialists
We buy computers and laptops
Working and Non-working
378-4009, 607 NW 13th Street
4-25-12-23-7

8 Electronics

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

SCRABBLE BRAND G₂ R₁ A₁ M₃ S₁

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E ₁	O ₁	O ₁	T ₁	V ₄	D ₂	R ₁		RACK 1
E ₁	E ₁	I ₁	M ₃	L ₁	N ₁	N ₁		RACK 2
E ₁	E ₁	U ₁	N ₁	G ₂	P ₃	X ₈	Double Word Score	RACK 3
O ₁	U ₁	Y ₄	R ₁	T ₁	N ₁	C ₃	2nd Letter Triple	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155
BEST SCORE 217

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

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

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

04-17

9 Bicycles

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

10 For Sale

●●●PARKING●●●
Private, Secure, Guaranteed. 60 sec to UF. Reserve now! Reasonable rates. 352-538-2181. Can leave mssg. 4-25-12-72-10

●Uf Surplus Equipment Auctions●
are underway...bikes, computers, printers, vehicles & more. All individuals interested in bidding go to: surplus.ufl.edu 392-0370 4-25-12-72-10

GOATS FOR SALE

Charlie - 352-278-1925 4-25-73-10

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

Your roommate hasn't done the dishes in How long?! Find a better dishwasher in the Alligator Classifieds.

11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

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

★★★WWW.RPMMOTORCYCLES.COM★★★
FULL SERVICE MOTORCYCLE - SCOOTER REPAIR. 12TH YEAR IN GVILLE. OEM & AFTERMARKET PARTS. BEST TIRE PRICES IN TOWN. 352-377-6974 4-25-73-11



4-25-12-72-11

★★★NEW SCOOTERS 4 LESS★★★
Now carrying Vespa Scooters!
Great Scooters, Service & Prices!
118 NW 14th Ave, Ste D, 336-1271
www.NS4L.com
4-25-12-72-11

★★SCOOTER REPAIR★★
New Scooters 4 Less has LOW repair rates!
Will repair any make/model. Close to UF!
Pick-ups avail. Cheap oil changes!! 336-1271
4-25-12-72-11

★★★Road Rat Motors★★★
Largest Scooter Store in Town! Run by Gator Grads!
New scooters starting at \$899. 1yr Parts AND labor warranties included. 376-6275 RoadRatMotors.com 4-25-12-72-11

11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

Road Rat Motors is Gville's #1 service facility. We repair ALL brands of scooters. Pickups available. Lowest labor rates around. Quickest turnaround time. Run by Gator Grads so we know how to treat our customers! 376-6275 4-25-12-72-11

★★SCOOTER RENTALS★★
Rent for a day, week, month or semester. Students can rent to own! 352-336-1271 www.gainesvillescooterrentals.com 4-25-12-72-11

Campus Scooters Mobile Sales and Scooter Service. We offer free estimates on all repairs and we come to you. We also have new scooters starting at \$799.00 Call us today at 352-263-0425 8-15-58-11

12 Autos

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

CARS - CARS Buy●Sell●Trade
Clean BMW, Volvo, Mercedes
Toyota, Honda, Nissan cars
3432 N Main St. www.carrsmith.com
CARRSMITH AUTO SALES 373-1150
4-25-72-12

WE BUY JUNK CARS

Titles Only. Call KT
352-281-9980 or 352-215-3151 4-25-12-72-12

SUN CITY AUTO SALES
ALL VEHICLES \$0 DOWN!
NO CREDIT CHECK!!!!
VEHICLES \$500 AND UP!
352-338-1999 4-25-72-12

SUN CITY AUTO SALES
BRING W2 AND DRIVE HOME TODAY!
OVER 150 VEHICLES IN STOCK!
CARS, TRUCKS, SUVs, & VANS!
352-338-1999 4-25-72-12

BUY FOR BLOWOUT
PRICES & SAVE BIG!!!!
VEHICLES STARTING \$500!!
PRICES NEGOTIABLE!!!
352-338-1999 4-25-72-12

95 F350 \$999
97 FORD EXPLORER \$1700
98 GRAND AM \$1999
98 CHEVY VENTURE \$2999
352-338-1999 4-25-72-12

98 CADILLAC CATERA \$3999
00 BUICK CENTURY \$3900
98 CHRYSLER SBRING \$3900
01 MITS MIRAGE \$3900
352-338-1999 4-25-72-12

02 SATURN \$3900
98 TOYOTA COROLLA \$3900
98 TOYOTA 4RUNNER \$4900
02 TOYOTA COROLLA \$5900
352-338-1999 4-25-72-12

99 ACURA INTEGRA \$2999
95 CHEVY CAMERO \$2500
98 HONDA ACCORD \$3900
98 DODGE DURANGO \$4999
352-338-1999 4-25-72-12

SUN RISE AUTO SALES
NO CREDIT CHECK!
CARS, TRUCKS, SUVs, & VANS
30 DAY WARRANTY
352-375-9090 4-25-72-12

SUN RISE AUTO SALES
BRING W2 AND DRIVE HOME!
30 DAY WARRANTY!
NO CREDIT CHECK!
352-375-9090 4-25-72-12

02 CHEVY CAMERO \$6999
04 CHEVY ASTRO \$6999
05 CHEVY IMPALA \$7999
07 CHEVY COBALT \$8999
352-375-9090 4-25-65-12

12 Autos

06 PT CRUISER \$7999
02 DODGE RAM \$8999
05 DODGE DURANGO \$9999
04 KIA SORENTO \$9999
352-375-9090 4-25-65-12

06 SATURN ION \$7999
03 HONDA CRV \$8999
05 GMC SIERRA \$9999
05 FORD F150 \$10,999
352-375-9090 4-25-65-12

★★HEADLINERS SAGGING?★★
POWER WINDOWS DON'T WORK?
On site avail. Steve's Headliners 352-226-1973
Google: Steve's Headliners, Gainesville
4-20-15-12

13 Wanted

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

LOCAL ARTIST NEEDS:
★ Gold ★ Diamonds ★ Gems ★ Class Rings
★ ETC ★ Top Cash \$\$\$ or Trade ★
OZZIE'S FINE JEWELRY 352-318-4009.
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
352-240-5062 if interested.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
I AM BLIND & WOULD LIKE HELP WITH:
●Rides to church: Mass at Queen of Peace.
●Learning to rake knit hats to send to Haiti & other places. Call 352-219-6948
4-20-12-74-13



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.cfoxmail.com

14 Help Wanted

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

14 Help Wanted



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

INTERN

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



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

PAID SALES REP

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

BARTENDING
\$300 A DAY POTENTIAL
No experience necessary, training provided.
800-965-6520 ext 138 4-25-12-72-14

Students in Accounting, Aviation, Business/Sales and computer science needed for various positions. Flexible schedules and competitive pay. Join our team! Learn more at www.gleim.com/employment 4-25-12-72-14

STUDENTPAYOUTS.COM
Paid survey takers needed. Gainesville. 100% FREE to join. Click on Surveys 4-25-12-72-14

Summer Jobs
● \$2400
● Co-ed camp
● Room and Board included

Get Paid to Play!
The Florida Elks Youth Camp (FEYC) needs college students for summer camp counselors ages 18 and up. FEYC is an over-night camp located in Umatilla, FL. The camp runs June 11 - Aug 4. Please contact Krysl Ragland at 1-800-523-1673 Ext. 251 or 352 455-4267. www.floridaelks.org/feyc/index.aspx 4-25-12-72-14

STUDENTS GET CASH ON THE SPOT\$
For gently used clothing/accessories & furniture. No appt.necessary! - Sandy's Savvy Chic Resale Boutique 2906 NW 13th St. 372-1226 sandysresale.com 4-25-12-57-14

Do you want to quit smoking?
We are currently recruiting smokers between the ages of 18 and 60 for a smoking cessation study. Please contact the UF Smoking Lab and Clinic at 352-273-2151 or smokeclinic@gmail.com for further details. 4-24-30-14

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Doctrine suffix
- 4 Predatory cat
- 8 Swiss bread?
- 13 ABBA's home country: Abbr.
- 14 Sewing cases
- 16 Defamatory text
- 17 Live ___ : 1985 charity concert
- 18 *Hangman drawing
- 20 Pisces follower
- 22 Centuries on end
- 23 Excessively
- 24 *Layered lunch
- 28 Cabbage
- 29 Resident of a city at nearly 12,000 feet
- 33 Chance in a game
- 35 "___dokey!"
- 38 Overplay a part
- 39 Words with price or premium
- 40 *Actor's prompt
- 42 Endearing tattoo word
- 43 Slowly, in scores
- 45 *Dumb" girl of old comics
- 46 Message from the boss
- 47 Inferior and inexpensive
- 49 Deduce
- 51 *Colleague of Wyatt Earp
- 56 Karate belt
- 59 Inside info
- 60 Rental agreement
- 61 *Feature of Fulton's Clermont
- 65 Strings in Hawaii
- 66 Ecole enrollee
- 67 Baker's device
- 68 Address at a Scottish pub
- 69 First American Red Cross president Barton
- 70 Venison source
- 71 Effort

DOWN

- 1 "I, Robot" author Asimov
- 2 Artistic ice cream blend
- 3 Filet mignon order
- 4 Not as much
- 5 Derby-sporting Addams
- 6 "Yes, mon ami"
- 7 Rechargeable battery
- 8 Shrank in fear
- 9 Oil-drilling equipment
- 10 Be up against
- 11 "Quo Vadis" emperor
- 12 Mark's love, casually
- 15 Distort, as facts
- 19 Microwave no-no
- 21 Black, to Blake
- 25 Six-time baseball All-Star Moises
- 26 Like a newborn
- 27 Holiday entrée
- 30 Trampoline maneuver
- 31 Physics particle
- 32 Jules Verne captain
- 33 Powder on a puff
- 34 Sundance Film Festival state
- 36 Green prefix
- 37 Toyota subcompact
- 40 Compromise with the district attorney
- 41 Tirade
- 44 Chew the fat
- 46 For a ___ pittance
- 48 Plains native
- 50 Gal's guy
- 52 Trims the lawn
- 53 Green-bellied sap sucker
- 54 Schindler of "Schindler's List"
- 55 Clingy, in a way
- 56 Oil acronym
- 57 Object that may be struck by the stars of the answers to starred clues
- 58 Thought
- 62 TiVo, for one
- 63 Wide shoe letters
- 64 Mom's opposite

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

J A I L S D I V A S C O W
O L L I E E V O K E A D O
T O S S E D S A L A D S E W
S T A T A I N T A L P S
S A N G B N A I
N O S C E N T E R S T A G E
O C E A N O S E I N L A
S U R G E S U P P R E S S O R
E L M O G N U C H E S T
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xwordeditor@aol.com 04/17/12

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By Gareth Bain
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JUMBLE CROSSWORDS™
by David L. Hoyt 4-17-12

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CLUE	ANSWER
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Gators facing MLB distractions ahead of midweek game



David Carr / Alligator Staff

Florida junior catcher Mike Zunino throws to first during a game against LSU on April 7. Zunino was ranked by ESPN's Keith Law as the nation's No. 2 overall prospect for this year's MLB Draft.

BRYAN HOLT
Alligator Writer

Kevin O'Sullivan knows it is coming. All he can do is handle what he has until that time comes.

"There's a thing called the draft June 4, 5, 6, and it's not an easy thing to manage," Florida's coach said.

No college team will be affected by the 2012 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft more than the No. 5 Gators (28-8). ESPN baseball analyst Keith Law released his latest "Future 50" rankings last week, and the list is littered with familiar faces.

Three players who made the cut will take the field for Florida at McKethan Stadium when UF faces Georgia Southern (22-16) at 7 p.m.

Catcher Mike Zunino leads the way as the No. 2 overall draft prospect in the nation behind only Baxley, Ga., high school senior Byron Buxton. According to Law, most major-league scouts don't see Zunino lasting past the No. 3 pick in the draft, which belongs to the Seattle Mariners.

Following Zunino is left-handed starting pitcher Brian Johnson, who is coming off a big Sunday against Tennessee that helped him earn Southeastern Conference Player of the Week honors. Johnson comes in at No. 24 on the list, described by Law as a "very safe college arm," who "could reach the majors quickly because of the quality of his off-speed stuff."

That's two spots ahead of shortstop Nolan Fontana, who is another player Law believes is on the fast track to the major leagues because of his reliable defensive play and approach at the plate. Fontana showed his worth this past weekend with six hits and five walks in a three-game set against Tennessee.

All three players are juniors, meaning this is the first time they have had

to deal with serious draft talk during their UF careers.

"It's something we talk about, absolutely," O'Sullivan said. "It's every kid's dream to play in the big leagues, and that's a big day for them. The timing of it is a little tough because it's right in the middle of our season."

"There's a lot of good players on this team, but we're going to try to stay together as a group the best we can."

Kevin O'Sullivan
UF baseball coach

Aside from losing players it already has, Florida also has to focus on keeping the players it is trying to bring to campus. Two more players in Law's top 50 are signed to play baseball at Florida.

Tampa Jesuit right-handed pitcher Lance McCullers is projected as a future reliever by Law but comes in at No. 41 because of the possibility some team could view him as a starter and make him a late first-round pick. O'Sullivan has taken a number of trips to Tampa to watch McCullers pitch.

Lewis Brinson, a 6-foot-4, 180-pound Coral Springs High outfielder with tons of raw athleticism, rounds out the list at No. 50. He turned heads when he won the home run derby at the Under Armour Classic but has plenty of development in store, according to Law.

O'Sullivan said he understands that the draft brings added pressure to players but also expects them to handle it with maturity. He's willing to talk it over with players to make sure it doesn't affect the clubhouse.

"For some of these guys it is a big year," he said. "There's a lot of good players on this team, but we're going to try to stay together as a group the best we can."

Defense, pitching playing large role for third-ranked Florida Gators rank fourth nationally in team ERA

JOE MORGAN
Alligator Staff Writer

The Gators have one of the best pitching rotations in the nation, and they have the numbers to prove it.

Florida ranks fourth nationally with a 1.08 ERA and leads the Southeastern Conference in numerous pitching categories, including batting average against (.185) and fewest hits allowed (181).

Hannah Rogers, who has a 0.96 ERA and .176 batting



Rogers

average against, chucks up the Gators pitchers' success to the defense.

"They always do an awesome job," Rogers said. "I always thank them after every inning and every game just to help keep them up and their confidence."

Statistically, Florida has the No. 2 defense in the SEC behind Tennessee. The Gators rank second to the Volunteers

with just 27 errors committed and a 97.7 fielding percent-

age.

Rogers, who notched her 22nd win of the season in a 5-2 victory against Auburn on Sunday, benefited from solid defensive play. Shortstop Cheyenne Coyle was the first UF player to flash the leather Sunday when she made a diving catch on a pop-up in shallow left field, preventing a bloop single from Auburn's Amber Harrison in the top of the first.

"Cheyenne was making great plays out there at shortstop, diving for things," first baseman Lauren Haeger said. "We have great defense. Everyone in the field does their job and we don't have a lot of errors against us."

SEE SOFTBALL, PAGE 14



Florida gymnastics coach Rhonda Faehn said her team is more prepared for the postseason this year after a change in training. See story, page 16.

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Brett Le Blanc / Alligator Staff

Auburn's Caitlin Schultze is thrown out on a fielder's choice as Florida shortstop Cheyenne Coyle (27) attempts to turn a double play during the top of the fourth inning of Sunday's 5-1 Florida win.

Gators are 23-1 when committing zero errors in a game this season

SOFTBALL, from page 13 fired the ball to second where Katie Medina tagged out Guzman to end the game.

Right fielder Kasey Fagan showed off her arm strength in the final two innings Sunday, gunning down two runners from the outfield grass. In the top of the sixth, the Tigers' Caitlin Jordan hit a line drive that Fagan played off a short hop. Fagan came up throwing and fired a strike to Haeger at first base, beating Jordan by a step.

"That play, it's funny," Fagan said. "I was just going to tell Lauren the play before that, 'If this girl hits it to me, I'm throwing it to you, try to get the out at first.' Then that play happened, and it just happened so fast. I almost caught it so I just threw it to first as best as I could and I got her out. Coach (Tim Walton) looked pretty excited, so I was pretty excited."

In the next inning, Fagan couldn't handle a two-out line drive off the bat of Auburn's Lauren Guzman. However, Fagan recovered quickly and

"Our defense is so poised in any situation, and we're able to come up with the big plays because we're relaxed and we're able to play loose," Fagan said.

"Cheyenne was making great plays out there at shortstop, diving for things. We have great defense."

Lauren Haeger
UF first baseman

Florida played mistake-free ball in its three-game sweep against Auburn, running its streak of games without an error to five.

The Gators are 23-1 this season when they record a zero in the "E" column.

"We made some great plays on defense," Walton said. "Pitching and defense is the name of the game."

Contact Joe Morgan at joemorgan@alligator.org

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Gators men's tennis searching for solidity before SEC tourney

ELI MARGER
Alligator Writer

One week, they masquerade as national title contenders. The next, they play like pretenders.

Finding an identity has been a season-long task for the No. 10 Gators, one that will likely continue into this weekend's Southeastern Conference Tournament.

Florida (14-8, 7-4 SEC) has had impressive wins and challenging losses, right up to the last week of the season. When they travel to Starkville, Miss., this weekend, not only will they be searching for a championship, they will be looking to jell as a team.

"We are not a mature team with a lot of definition and security, knowing where points are going to come from. The consistency of the day is going to be the most important thing," coach Andy Jackson said.

"That's always the case, but it's even more the case when you have a little bit of non-identity with your team. You're still searching for your identity even though you have talent, but you don't know where the points are going to come from.

"Until we solidify that, then everybody hitting on the same cylinders is going to be the key factor."

UF has had flashes of brilliance this year. Even in losses, Jackson has seen bright spots. For instance, of the eight losses the team has suffered this year, six have been against teams currently ranked in the top 10. Of those losses, three were 4-3 decisions.

A priority for Jackson and the Gators is getting each player to perform at his top level. Doing so at the same time is a challenge, but Jackson believes it is possible. Namely, he said, it involves being detail-

oriented in practice.

"It's something that coaches work on and talk about with our teams," he said. "I think there is such a thing as luck in sports, but the teams that take care of a lot of details and all try to play together on the same day are the ones that are getting luckiest. Sometimes we've been getting unlucky this year when it really isn't un-luck — it's a thing where we can do something."

Senior Nassim Slilam echoed Jackson's feelings, saying that for this year's team to be successful, all players must find a way to play high-quality tennis simultaneously. To this point, there have been very few matches in which that has happened.

"I think there is such a thing as luck in sports, but the teams that take care of a lot of details and all try to play together on the same day are the ones that are getting luckiest."

Andy Jackson
UF tennis coach

"My only concern is for us to be able to play well at the same time," Slilam said. "We all played well this year at one point. We're trying to play better at the same time. We have to do it like we did last year, bringing seven guys playing great."

Embree wins SEC honor: For the second time this year, junior Lauren Embree was named the SEC Player of the Week. Her 6-1, 6-1 victory over South Carolina's Jaklin Alawi was Florida's first point of the match. The Gators went on to defeat the Gamecocks 4-1. Undeclared in singles conference play, Embree also won the honor the week of March 5.



Elizabeth Hamilton / Alligator

Florida senior Nassim Slilam hits a return against Andrew Adams of South Carolina on April 14. Slilam said it's important for all of the Gators to play well at the same time.



Alligator File Photo

Florida track and field athlete Keely Medeiros tosses the shot put during the 2009 SEC Championships. She set a new personal best on Saturday.

Medeiros posts personal best in shot put at Seminole Invitational

► SHE WON HER EVENT AT THE MEET WITH A THROW OF 56-4.25.

KATIE AGOSTIN
Alligator Writer

Florida's track and field team is coming off a rare break. However, senior thrower Keely Medeiros was the one exception.

After a strong finish in shot put at the Florida Relays, Medeiros carried that momentum to the Seminole Invitational in Tallahassee where she had the best performance of her career, according to head coach Mike Holloway.

The last-minute decision made by associate head coach Steve Lemke proved to be a good one.

"Coach Lemke wanted to take her to this competition because of the great practices she's been having," Holloway said. "Actually, she had the best series of her life. All her throws were fair throws, so it was a great weekend for Keely."

Medeiros' winning throw on Saturday was her second win since coming off an injury she suffered during summer international competition. It was also her first win of the outdoor season.

Although she has had eight top-five finishes in shot put this year, it's not hard to see that Medeiros is continually improving as she works back from her injury.

Her throw of 51 feet, 5 inches at the first meet during the indoor season paled in com-

parison to her throw of 54 feet, 2.5 inches throw two months later at the beginning of the outdoor season. Still, both were overshadowed by Saturday's monster throw of 56 feet, 4.25 inches.

"We've been very pleased with her progress," Holloway said.

"She had an injury during the fall that didn't allow her to throw and lift as she needed too. [But] her strength levels are getting back."

Not only was Saturday's performance a season best, but also a new outdoor personal record. Medeiros passed her previous mark by almost two feet, indicating that Medeiros might be returning to where she was prior to her injury.

Medeiros wasn't the only one to impress Holloway last week. He praised the team as a whole for maintaining their focus despite having the weekend off after their big home meet.

"Anytime we have a week off it's a challenge for the athletes, especially coming off the Florida Relays," Holloway said. "I was very proud of everyone in the program as a whole because they came out, they accepted the challenge of the workouts last week, they showed up on time, they were diligent in their work habits and work ethic, and it made our jobs a lot easier last week."

"We're always worried a little bit with coming off Florida Relays with the emotion that we put in that meet that they'll be a little bit flat, but we had none of that last week."

UF Track



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator Staff

Florida coach Rhonda Faehn said she has taken a different approach this year with certain gymnasts to ensure that her team is ready for the postseason.

GYMNASTICS

Gators physically ready for NCAAs

LANDON WATNICK

Alligator Writer

Staying durable for the long haul has been the theme all season for the Gators.

Last year at the NCAA Championships, UF struggled to make it through the grueling stretch at season's end, falling short of advancing to the Super Six by only .075. In the semifinals, numerous minor injuries added up as the team tallied four scores of 9.6 or less.

But this postseason, the Gators are feeling fresher than ever.

"They're in a better situation physically than in years past," coach Rhonda Faehn said. "That doesn't mean that they're all pain-free. They're managing it really well."

From the start of 2012, Faehn and the coaching staff have kept a keen eye on their gymnasts' injuries. UF's management of its athletes has led to more continuity in the lineups than in previous seasons, especially in its last few meets.

Sophomores Alaina Johnson (elbow, ribs and shins) and Mackenzie Caquatto (ankles) have dealt with nagging injuries. UF rested Johnson from all-around action on four of her first six meets. Caquatto didn't see uneven bars until Jan. 20 against Kentucky.

But now, the two are peaking.

At the Southeastern Conference Championships and NCAA Regionals, Johnson averaged an all-around score of 39.48, while Caquatto held a 9.875 average on bars.

"They're extremely tough competitors," Faehn said. "They've dealt with this for many years, and they've been a part of champion-

ships where you have to compete day after day. At that point when they're up (at nationals), the adrenaline will take over and will probably minimize any sort of pain they're feeling."

When No. 1 seed Florida competes at the evening session of the NCAA Championships semifinal Friday at 6 p.m., it will feature similar event lineups to the rest of the season.

Faehn said senior Nicole Ellis (hip), who vaulted well in practice earlier this week, could see action this weekend on vault.

"Really, at that point, it's more mental."

Rhonda Faehn

UF gymnastics coach

"You never know," Faehn said. "In a couple of days, we'll make the evaluation."

The Gators will leave for The Arena at Gwinnett Center in Duluth, Ga., on Wednesday and have their practice session Thursday afternoon. Florida's semifinal opponents include Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Ohio State and Oregon State.

If UF makes it to the Super Six, its endurance would be put to the test Saturday at 4 p.m. Faehn said the team would be prepared for the short gap between competitions if it advanced.

"Really, at that point, it's more mental," she said. "If an athlete is strong mentally, a difference between three hours, four hours or five hours recovery should be extremely minimal."

"But of course, our goal is to go out and have a great competition Friday night, to advance, get them out of the arena as quickly as possible, get them rehabbing and get them to bed, so they can prepare for the next meet."

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