

Alachua County rancher fights against deer disease. Read the story on page 8.



Erin Winick / Alligator

Set, Point, Splash

Criminology sophomore Megan Huynh, 18, dives for the ball for her team, Riker Ground, in a game of mud volleyball at the 43rd annual Mudfest on Monday.

UF class lets students connect

MICHAEL SCOTT DAVIDSON
 Alligator Writer

Angelos Barmpoutis doesn't want distance to keep students from sharing a classroom.

That's why the UF Digital Worlds Institute research and technology coordinator is developing the Virtual Distance Learning Classroom, a digital system that will allow students to congregate online in virtual reality classrooms from the comfort of their couches.

Unveiled in November at SC11, a super-computing conference in Seattle, the system creates 3-D avatars using the infrared depth

sensor in Microsoft's Kinect sensor.

"We call it computer vision," Barmpoutis said. "It's a system of algorithms that sees you in a 3-D space."

Barmpoutis likened the process to the fictitious body-scanning technology portrayed in the "Terminator" series. Currently, the Virtual Distance Learning Classroom can measure a user's body measurements in real-world units like inches and feet.

"It's like putting eyes in a computer," he said. "Back then it sounded like science fiction, but this is what the project does."

Once scanned into the system, students

SEE XBOX, PAGE 4

POLITICS

Voter registration deadline is today for Nov. 6 elections

KATINA PROKOS
 Alligator Contributing Writer

Florida residents who want to vote in the Nov. 6 general election have until 5 p.m. today to register.

Although most on-campus registration will be finished, voters can still drop off applications in person or mail them to the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections Office, 111 SE First Ave., as long as they are postmarked with today's date, said county Supervisor of Elections Pam Carpenter.

U.S. citizens who are legal residents of Alachua County and at least 18 years old are eligible to register and vote, according to the county Supervisor of Elections website.

Students can download a voter registration form from the county Supervisor of Elections website, www.votealachua.com.

Jamie Lowstetter, a 20-year-old UF nutritional sciences and biology junior, changed

her registration from Leon County to Alachua County while campaigning for Student Government elections.

"I'm not really in Tallahassee anymore, so other than the national elections, it was much more pertinent that I express my opinion and my voice where I consider home now, which is Alachua County."

Jamie Lowstetter
 UF junior

She said she was inspired to vote in Alachua County by a commissioner who spoke at a Senate meeting. During the speech, she realized that local elections can affect UF.

"I'm not really in Tallahassee anymore," she said, "so other than the national elections, it was much more pertinent that I express my opinion and my voice where I consider home now, which is Alachua County."

Venezuelan students disappointed with election

JOANNA BERKOWITZ
 Alligator Contributing Writer

When voting day came around for the Venezuelan elections, UF student Rafael Arroyo rode from Gainesville to New Orleans to cast his ballot.

Venezuelan citizens across Florida flocked to Louisiana to vote in the Sunday presidential elections. Citizens used to be able to vote in Miami, but that consulate office was closed earlier this year due to political disagreements.

"I voted because I want the best for my family and my country," the 23-year-old economics senior said. "I will take any action that will benefit them, whether it requires going all the way to China to vote."

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was re-elected for a third six-year term after a close race against candidate Henrique Capriles Radonski.

Chavez won with 55.14 percent of the vote, according to Consejo Nacio-

nal Electoral's website, the national electoral council. Capriles came in second with 44.24 percent.

Arroyo said that he went all the way to New Orleans because he felt it was his civic responsibility to vote for Capriles and the change he promised.

"The current administration planted hatred among people with different ideologies," said Arroyo, president of the UF Venezuelan Student Association. "Voting for the democratic option in the election represented a chance of reconciliation."

Nicole d'Empaire, a 20-year-old UF microbiology junior and secretary of the Venezuelan Student Association, said she feels cheated by Chavez's victory.

"I haven't stepped foot in Venezuela since I left six years ago, and now the chances are even less," she said.



Chavez

Today 84/63

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Harn exhibit captures modern age of photography

The exhibit is free and runs until Jan. 6, pg 5.

Study finds more LGBT characters on prime-time TV

Representation is at an all-time high, experts say, pg 8.



Florida aiming to dodge letdown:

Coach Will Muschamp is trying to keep Florida focused on Saturday's matchup against Vanderbilt, even after a top-five win against LSU, pg. 13.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

TEC Field Trip: Downtown Startup Scene

Have you ever wondered what it'd be like to work for a startup? Tour the offices of Grooveshark, Founders Pad and Gainesville Hackerspace for a firsthand glimpse of their company cultures. You'll have the opportunity to experience the start-up scene and connect with some of Gainesville's leading entrepreneurs. Join The Entrepreneurship Club at UF for a night of networking and the tools to "Think, Innovate, & Succeed." Meet at 6:30 p.m. tonight in Hough Hall, Room 240, to carpool to downtown Gainesville. Email ronnyfherrera@ufl.edu for more details.

Student Health Outreach Team

SHOT will meet today at 6:30 p.m. in Little Hall, Room 219. The topic of the meeting will be the Fall semester research project. Please bring any ideas you would like SHOT to research. SHOT welcomes students from every major who are interested in health, research, public relations and marketing.

Pledge 5 Gators Meeting

The Pledge 5 Gators, a student organization committed to giving back to the community, will meet today from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Reitz Union, Room 349. Come learn about upcoming service socials and gain leadership experience through available board positions. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/p5gators.

Student Animal Alliance hosts Paid-Per-View

Would you like to get paid one dollar to watch one four-minute video? The Student Animal Alliance will be hosting Paid-Per-View on the Reitz Union Colonnade be-

FORECAST

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
PARTLY CLOUDY 84/63	PARTLY CLOUDY 86/61	SUNNY 83/62	SUNNY 85/64	SUNNY 86/68

tween 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday. If you can watch the entire video about animal cruelty, we'll pay you \$1, no strings attached! For more information, visit www.facebook.com/groups/SAA.UF/.

IT Security Awareness Day 2012

Who's creeping around your computer files? Could strangers be reading your texts? Information Technology Security Awareness Day is designed to answer these questions and help make sure your information is as safe as possible. ITSA Day will take place Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Reitz Union Ballroom. Along with various presentations, one of the day's main events is a capture the flag competition. Computer experts and programmers will attempt to attack and defend computers using software and network structures. Everyone is welcome to enter. prizes include iPads, laptops and flip cams. For more information, visit www.itsa.ufl.edu/.

Creation Delusion? Faith, Reason, and Earth History

Was the world created? What about archaeology and geology? Join us at the Ocora at Pugh Hall on Wednesday through Friday at 7 p.m. for a discussion with Art Chadwick, Ph.D. A different seminar will be presented each night. This event is free and open

to the public. Chadwick obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Miami in 1969 and is currently a research professor of biology and geology at Southwestern Adventist University. He is presently engaged in directing the excavation of one of the largest dinosaur sites in the world. For more information, visit www.acmuf.org or www.facebook.com/acmuf.

Asthma study

If you are an African-American between ages 18 and 75 and have been diagnosed with asthma for more than a year, you may be eligible to be part of a research study at UF. Enroll at Eastside Community Practice through December 2012. If you're interested, please call Cheri Knecht at 352-219-7366.

Got something going on?

Want to see it in this space? Send an email with "What's Happening" in the subject line to skinonen@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.

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Benjamin S. Brasch / Alligator Staff

Piccadilly Cafeteria, 2620 NW 13th St., closed Sunday. The company filed for bankruptcy following an "aggressive legal maneuver" by the company's lender.

Piccadilly closes 13th Street location due to bankruptcy

► THE COMPANY FILED ON SEPT. 12.

KATHRYN VARN

Alligator Contributing Writer

For Leighann Bellew, Piccadilly cafeteria on Northwest 13th Street was the go-to place for good chocolate cake.

But on Sunday, the 13th Street location closed its doors for good, leaving the 21-year-old UF theater senior without her devil's food cake.

The Baton Rouge-based restaurant chain filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy Sept. 12 after an "aggressive legal maneuver" by the company's lender, Atalaya Capital Management, according to a press release.

Piccadilly, founded in 1944, has about 80 restaurants throughout the Southeast, the release stated.

"When it comes to our team members and

guests, closing a Piccadilly restaurant is the last option that we want to consider," said regional manager Frank Frantom in a statement. "However, it is necessary to ensure a continuation of the Piccadilly brand."

Frantom said the company will try to place employees from the 13th Street location at other Piccadilly restaurants.

Mark Rush, a UF economics professor, said Piccadilly is no exception to the tough restaurant economy.

"It's always a hard time being in the restaurant business," he said, "and it's been harder in the last few years."

From the time a student enters UF as a freshman to the time of graduation, Rush said that restaurant section of the phonebook will see significant change because "restaurants come and go."

For Bellew, Piccadilly's end is a sad one.

"It's not like I went there all the time," she said, "but it was a nice place to go."

Gainesville residents fight bullying

COLLEEN WRIGHT

Alligator Contributing Writer

Gainesville residents will raise awareness of bullying during the Unity Day Rally and March Against Bullying on Wednesday.

Marchers should gather at the northwest corner of Southwest 13th Street and West University Avenue at 4 p.m.

After the one-mile march east to the Bo Diddley Community Plaza, the rally will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The rally is sponsored by the local River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding in partnership with the national Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights.

"Bullying shapes young people

so easily," said Heart Phoenix, board president of River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding. "We hope to end bullying this year."



Lowe

The rally will feature several speakers such as Gainesville Mayor Craig Lowe, Gainesville Chief of Police Tony Jones and county school board members, as well as musical guest Dani Shay from the California anti-bullying campaign group Be More Heroic.

Phoenix hopes that about 150 people will attend. The organization

invited several schools in the county as well as other community organizations.

The organization offers mediation services, diversity training, anger management courses and more, according to its website.

Gators for Alternative Dispute Resolution, a Levin College of Law organization that focuses on mediation, will co-sponsor the rally.

Marchers will wear orange shirts, which is the color for bully prevention awareness.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month.

"We think that bullying is a cornerstone to kids who feel disempowered," Phoenix said.

CAMPUS

Students protest Afghanistan war

RACHEL KURLAND

Alligator Contributing Writer

Megaphone-amplified cheers reverberated against the brick walls near Turlington Plaza Monday afternoon at an anti-war rally by the UF chapter of Students for a Democratic Society.

The event marked the 11th anniversary of the U.S. invasion into Afghanistan, said 20-year-old history junior Skye Schmelzer. As one of the event's lead organizers, Schmelzer rallied with other student members of the organization to remove U.S. troops from Afghanistan and prevent other U.S. imperialism in Syria.

"The U.S. has been in the Middle East for too long," Schmelzer said.

She said she believes that countries in the Middle East have the right to self-determination, and the U.S. should not interfere.

Chrisley Carpio, another lead organizer, reiterated the national demand for self-determination. The 20-year-old history junior also emphasized the need to end drone strikes. Carpio said drone attacks are responsible for many deaths in the Middle East.

"People view what goes on in the Middle East as an isolated pattern," she said.

At the end of the rally, students proudly raised their anti-war signs and shouted.

"I know my voice matters," Schmelzer said. "The voice of the people matter, and we can make anything happen."

Alachua County still untouched by fungal meningitis outbreak

SHELBY WEBB

Alligator Staff Writer

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reached a tally Monday of more than 100 people infected with fungal meningitis, though Florida has remained relatively unaffected.

The disease, which has been linked to tainted steroids, has infected four Floridians and killed eight others across the country.

"You don't want to get any infection in the skull," said Wolfgang Streit, a UF neuroscience professor. "It could lead to compression of vital centers in the brain that could cause a person to die."

Methylprednisolone acetate, the type of steroid used in the infected samples, is used to treat back and neck pain.

The New England Compounding Center, which made the steroids in question, recently issued a voluntary recall of the drug.

Paul Myers, administrator of the Alachua County Health Department, said there have

been no cases of the disease in Alachua County and said he isn't aware of any tainted steroids in the county.

He said all the doctors who have used the steroid in the past few months have been told to get in contact with any patients who were injected with the drug.

"You don't want to get any infection in the skull. It could lead to compression of vital centers in the brain that could cause a person to die."

Wolfgang Streit

UF neuroscience professor

He said it's important to make sure these types of drugs are created in a sterile environment, especially because they're injected into the spine.

"This is clearly a case of carelessness," Streit said. "Somebody wasn't washing their hands."

Contact Shelby Webb at swebb@alligator.org.

About 50 to 100 participants can interact at the same time

XBOX, from page 1

will be able to join other avatars in an online classroom, which could look like anything from a traditional learning space to a life-size model of a Grecian theater. Distance units are the same in the virtual classroom and the real world, so taking a step forward on camera

translates to a step of the same size online. Avatars can also interact with virtual objects.

Barmpoutis said the Virtual Distance Learning Classroom had some physical barriers, such as network connections, with large classroom sizes. Currently, the system can stream about 50 to 100 participants interacting at once.

But just because a student



Barmpoutis

have thousands of students watching the instructor but not partici-

might not be shown during the entire class doesn't mean they can't intermittently participate, Barmpoutis said.

"You can

pating," he said. In this scenario, a student would appear upon raising his or her hand.

For Michelle Roca, a 19-year-old sophomore accounting major, waiting to be seen wouldn't be a problem. She said the virtual classroom would be more efficient than the current format of online video lectures.

"There would be more student-

teacher interaction," she said. "I know a lot of people don't want to go to office hours."

Barmpoutis said the Virtual Distance Learning Classroom is still in its development stage, but he hopes to release a functional prototype for some classrooms by the end of Spring semester.

Contact Michael Scott Davidson at mdavidson@alligator.org.

Asian Kaleidoscope Month to continue week with fashion show

There will be a panel

ROSA LLAMO

Alligator Contributing Writer

This year, the Asian American Student Union's month-long heritage celebration will brighten the lives of the underprivileged.

The organization kicked off its 19th annual Asian Kaleidoscope Month celebrations Oct. 2.

The celebrations, which will center around the theme of "Illuminate," will include community service opportunities, entertainers, fashion shows, lectures, panels and workshops.

The monthlong celebration, which will end Nov. 2, aims to raise \$2,000 for A Liter of Light, a project that brings portable lighting to low-in-

come homes across the globe.

"We are dedicated to shedding light on various Asian and Asian-American issues, and their project is dedicated to bringing light into the lives of millions," said Michael Satyapor, an economics senior and assistant director for Asian Kaleidoscope Month.

"All of the events show the different sides of Asian-Americans," said Sabrina Chan-Pong, a 21-year-old UF marketing senior and co-programming director for the event series, "so people that come out can see that we're more than just the stereotypes."

The month is set up with five main events — an opening ceremony, a scholarship pageant, a fashion show, a tal-

ent show, an Asian food festival and a closing ceremony.

The opening ceremony had about 300 attendees, Chan-Pong said.

There are nine smaller events throughout the month, including a day of community service with Habitat for Humanity and an LGBTQ panel.

For the kickoff, the Asian American Student Union brought several well-known Asian-American entertainers to UF, including Ryan Takemiya, founder of a Pan-Asian arts-and-entertainment organization called RAMA, Seattle-based band New Heights and Kelly Tsai, an Asian-American spoken-word artist from Brooklyn.

"This is an amazing opportunity for everyone at UF to meet these people, hear their stories and hear how diverse our community is," she said.



Kelly Logan / Alligator

Kyle Casey Chu, 24, performs at the 10th annual Mr. and Ms. AASU Pageant on Monday night. Chu is famous for being crowned Hyphen Magazine's Mr. Hyphen 2010.

Harn exhibit captures modern age of photos

► THE EXHIBIT RUNS UNTIL JAN. 6.

JENNIFER GARCIA

Alligator Contributing Writer

An exhibit featuring photographs taken of America and Europe between the world wars opens at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art today.

The Modern Impulse covers the years between 1918 and 1945 and emphasizes more than 40 artists who captured the age by using technology, according to the Harn's website.

"I think this is an opportunity to look at our own time through the lens of the past," curator of contemporary art Kerry Oliver-Smith said.

Oliver-Smith, who has worked at the museum for 21 years, spent

more than a year putting together this exhibit from the Harn's archives as a way to connect students and the community to history.

"This was when the camera was such a new innovation, it's almost what the Internet is to us now," she said.

About 135 photographs, books, illustrated magazines and films will be on display, according to the website.

Tami Wroath, director of marketing and public relations, said she hopes faculty members bring their students.

"The museum's goal is to share what we have in our collection and to let people know that art is for everyone," Wroath said. "We have over 8,300 works of art, and many of the pictures from this exhibit are coming from our collection."

The Modern Impulse will run until Jan. 6. Admission is free.

CAMPUS

UF American Marketing Association wins Zipcar contest

BEATRICE DUPLY

Alligator Contributing Writer

Zipcar and the Ford Motor Co. has awarded the UF American Marketing Association \$5,500 in Zipcar credits as part of the Zipcar Students with Drive program.

Each month, from September to April, Zipcar gives away \$5,500 in credits to university organizations that win the contest. Each runner-up organization will receive \$1,000 in Zipcar credits. For the month of September, the Students with Drive program had 10 runners-up in addition to five winners.

Zipcar representative Bill Connolly said the Zipcar credits can be used for group memberships to join Zipcar or pay for driving hours in a Zipcar.

UF AMA president and advertising senior Jennifer Cephus said the application process consisted of liking the Zipcar page on

Facebook, filling out information about AMA, uploading an AMA promotional video and receiving the most Facebook votes for the contest.

"Finalists will discover with (the) addition of Zipcar to their organization, they can broaden scope of what they do as an organization."

Bill Connolly

Zipcar representative

University organizations can apply within seven categories: academics, arts, athletics, community service and student life. UF AMA applied through the academic category.

"Zipcar is a huge deal for us," said Cephus, 21. "Now we can get out there and do anything and everything we set out to do."

Cephus said with the \$5,500 credits, AMA members plan to

use Zipcars to travel to the AMA 2013 International Collegiate Conference in New Orleans.

The Students with Drive program was first started in October 2011. Connolly said in the last year, Zipcar received about 300 applicants from nearly 140 colleges and universities.

Connolly said Zipcar is on more than 250 campuses nationwide.

UF has 13 Zipcars on five campus locations.

Along with winning the \$5,500, AMA will be entered to win a grand prize in April. The grand prize includes an additional \$5,000 Zipcar credits, \$10,000 for the student organization and \$10,000 for the winning university.

"Finalists will discover with (the) addition of Zipcar to their organization, they can broaden scope of what they do as an organization," Connolly said.

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Opinions

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2012
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Editorial

Emotion Evolution We finally forgave Tebow for leaving us

Do you remember Tim Tebow?

Of course you do. If you don't, let us put it to you another way: If the football program was like drama club, Tebow was the guy who was always cast in the lead role. Only he actually deserved it, unlike all those other jerks in your high school theater programs.

When Tebow graduated, he accidentally left a dearth of football-related talent in our program. We didn't think we could ever be happy again. It was as if he broke up with us.

Relationships end all the time. It just takes people different amounts of time to get over them and move on.

For UF football, it took us about four years.

There's a strange feeling coming back to our campus. Can you feel it?

Without getting cocky, there's a feeling of hope mixed with surprise.

Still, the campus has been healing itself for a while now, and we appear to be finally out of our breakup funk.

Here are seven tips for getting over a relationship. Let's list them and see if they apply to the Gators.

1. Make plans. It certainly seems like our football players do things other than focus on the past; at least they do things other than hang out at local bars like Ryan Lochte. He doesn't even go here.

2. Be aware of the rebound. Not only did they have to deal with losing Tebow, the Gators football team had to then get over the loss of Urban Meyer. It was so bad, even Hoodie Allen mentioned it in his "freestyle" rap about UF.

3. Participate in hobbies. Does going to class count? Maybe they can do those flashmob-esque group dances like other schools' marching bands or prisoners in other countries do. "Gangnam Style" is practically already "Gator Style."

4. Keep up daily self-care routines. We could probably all learn from these guys. They must be pretty regimented with their workout schedules. So, like, kudos to you, gentlemen.

5. Don't overwork. This is key to relationship recovery, but remember that idle hands are the Devil's plaything. Don't overwork, but don't underwork either. More cynical football fans might say that the Gators barely worked at all over the past few years, but we digress.

6. Set a daily time limit for grieving. This step is probably difficult, considering Tebow's name is mentioned pretty often; he's still so relevant to the Gainesville area somehow, plus the media loves to follow his post-college career. There's basically no escape. But it's also been four years since he left UF, so it seems like the time for grieving is over.

7. Seek professional help. Here's where Coach Muschamp enters the picture. He can be moody at times, yell at his players or at the referees, but he's the expert opinion that we turn to in times of trouble. And it's starting to pay off.

Now, the shift in attitudes could affect the football quality or vice versa.

But really, all it did was take some time. Time heals all wounds.

Reader response

Today's question: Are you registered to vote?

Monday's question: Did you run in the Great Underwear Dash?

10% YES
90% NO
70 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

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LAKE MALIGE By Brad Hersch, Dan LeVine & Paul Rosenberger



Column

Opinions: Or, why grammar isn't important

My opinion of thing is this because reasons.

Isn't that how an opinion works? You think about a specific topic and make a value judgment based on certain arbitrary criteria.

For example: My favorite football team is the Oakland Raiders. This is because my first-grade teacher hated the Oakland Raiders, and I like to be a contrarian.

Actually, before that time, I loved the Denver Broncos (if you're not up on your NFL rivalries, Denver-Oakland is one of the more inexplicably violent ones).

I even had a Denver Broncos sweatshirt (with the old logo, the one where the horse is reared up like in Gericault's "The Charging Chasseur" and shooting a laser beam out of its mouth) that I used to wear around.

But just because of one little, tiny reason, my whole opinion did a 360-and-a-half.

So, I guess what I'm trying to say is that opinions are very personal.

In many ways opinions are the most personal thing we have: They're deeply influenced by our upbringings, our environments and the people we associate with.

That's probably why so many people defend their opinions even when they're about ridiculous things (the episode in "Gulliver's Travels" about the war that started over which side to break an egg on or whatever comes to mind).

Opinions are our strongest ties to the things we care about the most.

Every time you tell someone that your favorite movie is "Aladdin," you're subconsciously remembering all the awesome times you've had watching "Aladdin," quoting "Aladdin," mocking the terribly bad "Aladdin 2" (the search for more money), talking about "Aladdin" to your family and friends, etc.

(What I'm trying to say is "Aladdin" is the best movie ever, and if anyone has a DVD copy I can borrow, I would love it because my VHS copy wore out a long time ago, and I don't have any money.)

My opinion of "Aladdin" is derived from all of my interactions with the idea of "Aladdin" throughout my life. My prolonged exposure to it has strengthened the mental con-



Dallin Kelson
opinions@alligator.org

nection between "Aladdin" and dopamine receptors or whatever it is in my brain that releases really good feelings whenever I think about "Aladdin."

You may be thinking, "God, will this guy ever stop talking about 'Aladdin' and get to his point?"

This is where that happens.

Because my point is that, in my opinion, almost everything is a matter of opinion. Obviously there are a few laws of physics we can't really just disbelieve away. But one of my favorites to argue about is grammar.

My old roommate and I used to argue for hours on end about whether misusing grammar is bad and wrong, or just a necessary and accounted-for by-product of the way actual language works. At least, I think that's what it was about. We talked about a lot of different stuff, but it was under the umbrella of this one weirdly theoretical linguistic discussion.

My wildly unpopular opinion is that the purpose of language is not to be correct, it is to be understood. Therefore, as long as your communicative act results in comprehension, it is successful, and you don't need someone making a transcendental judgment about it based on some absurdly complicated and illogical system made up by a bunch of stupid British guys a long time ago.

This is almost definitely derived from the fact that the only class I failed in high school was freshman English, and I failed it because I bombed a grammar test. Personally, I think that the only good that comes out of a strict system of grammatical rules is the ability to create an aesthetic effect by subverting it.

But that's just my opinion! The great thing about opinions is that no matter what mine is, or yours is, or Obama's is or some guy on the Internet's is, no one gets hurt by them (directly)!

Opinions are like blood cells: Everybody's got a bunch of them, and they're all awesome!

Dallin Kelson is an English senior at UF. His column usually appears on Mondays.

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

UWire

The mischaracterization of feminism

Since the advent of second-wave feminism in the 1960s, the mainstream feminist movement has suffered a disquieting decline in popularity.

According to a 2009 poll conducted by CBS News, only 24 percent of American women identify themselves as feminists.

Among men, numbers are even more disheartening: Only 14 percent of the American male population identifies as feminist, while 24 percent of American men regard the term as an insult.

It is difficult to see what could be so off-putting about a movement whose primary aims are so innocuous.

I doubt that feminism's detractors would oppose the elimination of institutionalized gender inequalities or endorse the objectifying practices that underlie a culture of rampant sexual assault. It is equally unlikely that these self-proclaimed antifeminists would champion the glass ceiling, defend employment discrimination or speak out on behalf of domestic abuse.

What, then, could possibly account for the recent wave of hostility toward the feminist position — a position whose goals are so uncontroversial by most modern standards?

"People see feminism as a knocking down of men rather than a convergence of the two genders," one '13 male, who asked to remain anonymous, said. Furthermore, J.P. Harrington '14 explained that he is not a feminist because he perceives the movement as having "largely strayed from self-determination and independence to arguing for special benefits."

These anecdotal reports lend credence to what I have long suspected — that most opposition to feminism derives from a complete misunderstanding of what the movement actually entails. Backlash against the feminist position is not a response to the arguments and ideas presented in feminist literature or women's and gender studies classrooms, but rather, a response to the caricatures of feminism that riddle popular culture.

According to common logic, the feminist is an unshaven, combative creature intent on the utter destruction of the male sex. She is willfully ignorant of the difficulties that males face in our society, and she is self-righteously indignant at every opportunity.

Although she is quick to blame individual men for the long history of chauvinism plaguing the Western world, she remains incredibly resistant to engaging in even a cursory examination of her own role in the process of female marginalization.

Becca Rothfeld
UWire

Even the most favorable popular portrayals of feminists still tend to represent them as aggressive, abrasive and unappealingly sanctimonious.

Such a characterization could not be more misleading. Although the term "feminism" refers to a diverse array of stances and intellectual advocacies, there is widespread consensus among feminists that the goal of the movement is to promote critical dialogue and self-reflection. Feminism is not so much a commitment to a certain set of beliefs as it is a commitment to general inquiry and dialectic.

Prominent feminist theorists like Luce Irigaray and Judith Butler are less wedded to any particular account of the world than they are to presenting challenges to unquestioned cultural conventions.

Much of the criticism levied against feminism relies on the unfounded assumption that feminists ignore men's issues or hope to fight misogynistic hierarchies by reversing them. In point of fact, most contemporary feminists are quite sympathetic to the male plight. From a feminist perspective, female oppression and male oppression arise from the same central source: the series of social expectations that conspire to create gender roles. The chauvinism responsible for the suppression of women is bound up with the very same cultural structures that demand certain behaviors from men.

The notion that women should be demure, sentimental and delicate is closely related to the corresponding notion that men should be strong, stalwart and reserved.

Consequently, any discussion of gender norms that fails to address men's issues is miserably incomplete.

Feminism is nothing if not cautious when it comes to assigning responsibility and blame — indeed, many tomes have been dedicated to an examination of women's hand in their own subjugation, a consequence of the internalization of sexist ideologies.

The position is not antimen — it is merely anti-patriarchy and reasonably so.

The myth of the dogmatic, hysterical feminist is one more attempt to silence the feminine voice and discredit the female point of view.

The assumption implicit in such accounts is that women could only oppose their own oppression by assuming an unreasonable posture, an assumption that smacks of familiar stereotypes and prejudices.

Becca Rothfeld is a columnist for The Dartmouth at Dartmouth College.

Guest column

US voters could learn from Venezuelan voters

Sunday night marked the hotly contested presidential elections for Venezuela, a country that has been under the rule of Hugo Chavez since 1999.

Critics thought the election was pointless, fraudulent and controlled by the current government. Some voters were skeptical about the validity of their votes and if the election would be legitimate.

Those who support the opposition and planned to vote for Henrique Capriles Radonski wondered whether Chavez could be taken down democratically.

Despite these sentiments, millions of people headed to the polls to have their voices heard.

They didn't let the incredulity of others stop them from practicing their civic duty — even if this meant having to drive for 18 hours, which is exactly what some people did.

In January, Chavez shut down the Venezuelan consulate in Miami, which is home to the largest concentration of expatriates in the U.S. Critics saw this as an attempt to keep nearly 20,000 registered voters from casting their votes.

Officials said they would have to vote in New Orleans, the next closest diplomatic outpost, more than 800 miles away.

Valeria Delgado
Speaking Out

Organizers of AeroVotar, a nonprofit initiative to counteract the voting blockade, raised enough money to rent six planes for the election. More than 1,200 Miami Venezuelans flew to the country's consulate in New Or-

leans.

Those who didn't make the project's waiting list were directed to VotoDondeSea, a similar project busing people to the polls.

People went above and beyond to cast their votes in a questionable election where some speculated foreign votes aren't even tallied.

Those who distrust the election's acknowledgment of expatriate votes went as far as flying back to the country for the weekend. The sacrificing of time, money and convenience seemed a small price to pay for a monumental vote.

Their determination inspires but also infuriates me because it increases my annoyance toward peers who are skipping out on our own presidential election.

How, pray you, are we the more developed country when educated people are too lazy to vote? When students prefer staying in and watching "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo" to practicing a legal right?

We should take notes from the Venezuelan constituents who didn't take their rights for granted. We should look up to those who voted in the South American election and follow suit.

I wish my uninterested friends realized how accessible voting is for them. I wish they realized not everyone could vote. (I'll be taking my U.S. citizenship exam Thursday afternoon, so I won't make the voter registration deadline.)

Most of all, I wish they realized "I'm not informed enough" is not an excuse. Every time I hear that phrase, I feel like punching a wall.

"Get informed!" I scream inside my head. "Don't waste your right."

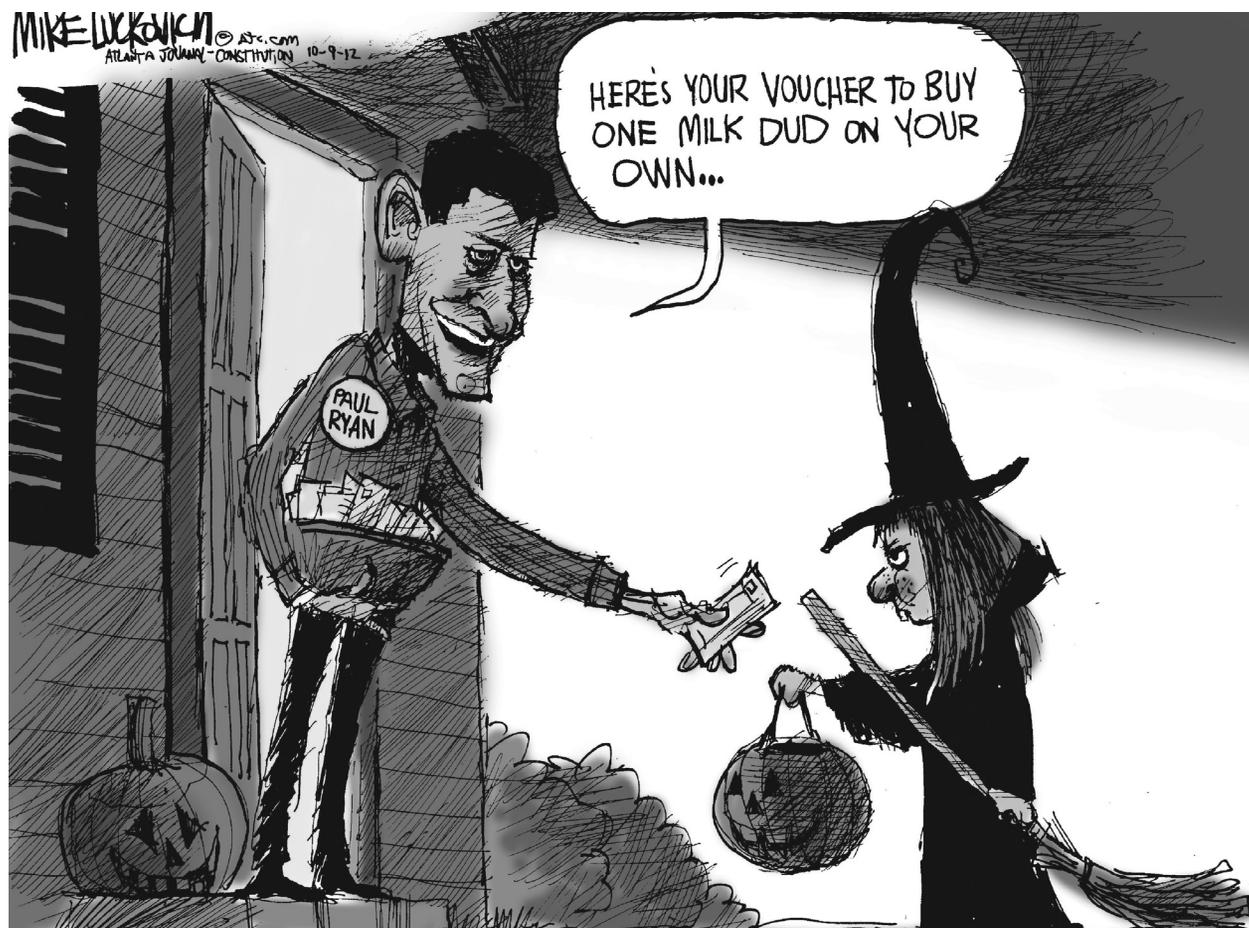
I understand the influx of electoral information getting spewed at us is intense, and the media make it hard to differentiate between fact and fiction. But that's why it's important to research each candidate, watch the debates and get a feel for the presidential options.

With 63 voting stations in Alachua County and early voting possibilities, Gainesville peeps should have no voting limitations.

If eligible U.S. voters give half the effort Venezuelan expatriates gave Sunday, then Nov. 6 might be just as monumental. Regardless of the outcome, the Venezuelan constituents knew they gave it a shot.

Come on, Gator Nation. Let's give it a shot, too.

Valeria Delgado is a journalism senior at UF. Contact her at opinions@alligator.org



LOCAL

Rancher fights against deer disease

ALEX CATALANO

Alligator Staff Writer

Donnie Young starts his mornings watching deer from his front-porch rocking chair.

The 38-year-old former All-SEC offensive guard sits as the sun rises and listens to the rustling of deer. He waits and worries.

Nowadays, between fretting

their dad to his ranch when the weather is cool.

Sometimes he lets Kaley take the wheel of the Polaris Ranger off-roader. Standing up at the wheel, she nearly disappears behind her daddy's trunk-sized legs, but her pink, kid's size 11 Fatbaby Cowgirl boots still stand out.

When they come across a deer that looks sick, he mixes a medi-

infected. Sometimes death can take weeks, but it's usually within a couple of days.

"We're looking for help to keep monitoring this," Kevin Baxter, the spokesman for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, said.

When a deer gets the disease, areas in its neck and head swell, and it will seek a quiet place to be alone. In the thicket of oaks, pines and palms, there are plenty of places to hide, even from an experienced hunter like Young.

Sometimes it's easy to find deer that have been affected. They'll try to cool themselves off. He'll find them floating in one of the lime-green lakes.

He said losing deer to disease isn't just sad — it's costly. Some of the deer used for breeding can fetch up to \$500,000.

He said the disease is brought up frequently at the Florida Deer Association's meetings, where they discuss things like the cost of feed and herd health.

"When EHD hits, it's often seen where deer populations are high," Kaufman said. "An individual farmer may lose large numbers of their deer."

"We lose millions of dollars of captive herd animals, and in the wild, there's no telling," Young said.

Kaufman said the noseums can't reproduce in moving water. But when heavy rains come in the summer, they create large puddles, perfect for breeding.

"We see it go away when we get to freezing temperatures," Young said.

To fight the disease, Young and Dwight Knight, the former president of the Florida Deer Association, developed a vaccine by using organs of dead animals to isolate the virus.

"It's probably one of the worst diseases affecting herds," he said. "Hopefully we'll have a good winter. We're going to need it."

Contact Alex Catalano at acatalano@alligator.org.



Alex Catalano / Alligator Staff

A buck lingers by a pile of discarded trees near a manmade lake on the 1,000-acre DY Trophy Ranch in Cross City, Fla., on Saturday.

about tangled pigtailed and preschool classes, Young's biggest fear is a small fly carrying a deadly disease.

The noseum, named for being so small that you can't "see 'um," is Young's 3-millimeter menace.

The fly carries epizootic hemorrhagic disease, or EHD, which is fatal to the white-tailed deer that roam his ranch, DY Trophy Ranch. Aside from his wife and children, he said his life revolves around deer, and EHD is an epidemic that threatens that life.

"When it occurs, it's devastating to the white-tailed deer population," Phillip Kaufman, a UF associate professor of veterinary entomology, said. "This year in Florida, we're having a bigger outbreak."

Young, president of the Florida Deer Association, said EHD has affected herds of white-tailed deer for "eons," but the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission released a notice in September asking hunters to report incidences of the disease.

"It looks like the flu," Young said. "Their chance of survival is 50-50 at best, but it's really about 70-30."

Another problem is that when the meat starts to decompose, the virus dies. All evidence is gone within 24 hours.

It's tough to find deer that quickly.

Young patrols his ranch every day to check on the hundreds of deer that roam the property.

His daughter Kaley, 6, and her 5-year-old sister, Kinsey, ride with

cine cocktail and loads it into his air gun.

Young said it's tough to tell the difference between an unhealthy deer and one with EHD. Their show through their skin from malnourishment, their heads droop and saliva drips from their mouths.

He shoots the sick deer with the antibiotic dart and waits a few days. When they have EHD, they rarely get better.

"Instead of a dart, you'd almost rather give them a bullet," he said. "It's better than having them suffer."

One of the biggest problems about monitoring the disease is the deer can die within hours of being



Alex Catalano / Alligator Staff

A young buck, Bugsey, jumps after receiving an antibiotic dart. Donnie Young nursed and found a surrogate mother for Bugsey after he was abandoned.

Study finds more LGBT characters on prime-time TV

MICHELLE PROVENZANO

Alligator Contributing Writer

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender characters are on TV screens this season more than ever, and it's causing mixed reactions in Gainesville.

About 4 percent of actors on prime-time network series portray LGBT characters this season, according to the "Where We Are on TV" study that was released Friday by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

The 4.4 percent of LGBT TV character exposure is the highest level GLAAD has ever seen, said Matt Kane, associate director of entertainment media for GLAAD. That number shows a 1.5 percent increase from the 2.9 percent represented in 2011.

"This increase shows that the LGBT community is finding greater acceptance on television and with the audiences," Kane said.

GLAAD studied 97 shows on the five broadcast networks and graphed out regular characters with an LGBT affiliation. About 700 characters on TV were found to portray the affiliation in some aspect, with all orientations and character statuses confirmed by the networks, he said.

Although LGBT characters are becoming more popular, what's shown on TV isn't always like reality, said Matthew Wintle, sponsorship director of UF's Pride Student Union.

"People take shows like 'The New Normal' and base their perspectives off that," Wintle said. "That show has a lot of stereotypes, and a wide range of the gay and transgendered community don't fit those stereotypes."

Chris Boyett, an 18-year-old English freshman, said he felt similarly.

"The increase of gay characters on television is important, but the characterization in these shows is really forced," Boyett said. "A lot of the producers and directors in Hollywood are part of the LGBT community, so they need to work on creating more well-rounded characters that represent themselves better."

Shows like Glee don't show the LGBT community in a good light, he said. The show emphasizes on the flamboyancy, which isn't accurate to what the community is really like.

"We see shows like 'Modern Family' and 'Will & Grace,' and a lot of those are just two white gay men," UF LGBT affairs director Lauren Hannahs said. "We still don't have a lot of variety in terms of getting transgendered and bisexuals noticed."

Even though Americans are becoming increasingly accepting of the LGBT community, media outlets and networks often take more conservative approaches, she said.

"It's hard to pinpoint a perfect example because the LGBT community is so diverse," Wintle said. "Callie and Arizona from 'Grey's Anatomy' are probably the best representation I can see on TV because it gets to the heart that we're all just people."

But the increase in character development shows that audiences resonate with these characters, Kane said.

"With Unique's storyline on 'Glee' still to come and Chaz Bono on 'Dancing with the Stars,' we'll get to see the different personalities within the community," he said.

Wintle said he believes the representation will get better over time.

"As time progresses, the statistic is going to increase," Wintle said. "We're making progress, but there's still a lot of work that needs to be done."

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| 2 For Rent: Unfurnished | 7 Computers | 12 Autos | 17 Typing Services | 22 Tickets |
| 3 Sublease | 8 Electronics | 13 Wanted | 18 Personals | 23 Rides |
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01 TOYOTA CAMRY \$6999
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 02 VOLVO STYPE \$8999
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A ₁	E ₁	E ₁	U ₁	R ₁	G ₂	N ₁			2nd Letter Triple RACK 1
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A ₁	E ₁	U ₁	L ₁	F ₄	F ₄	R ₁			Double Word Score RACK 2
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E ₁	I ₁	L ₁	D ₂	C ₃	P ₃	T ₁			RACK 3
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A ₁	E ₁	E ₁	N ₁	R ₁	T ₁	R ₁			RACK 4

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10-09

14 Help Wanted

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24 Pets

Furry, feathery, scaly...no, not your roommate...pets. Find or advertise your pets or pet products here in the Pets section of the Alligator.

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U ₁	N ₁	E ₁	A ₁	G ₂	E ₁	R ₁	RACK 1 =	<u>60</u>
F ₄	E ₁	A ₁	R ₁	F ₄	U ₁	L ₁	RACK 2 =	<u>76</u>
D ₂	E ₁	P ₃	I ₁	C ₃	T ₁		RACK 3 =	<u>11</u>
T ₁	E ₁	R ₁	R ₁	A ₁	N ₁	E ₁	RACK 4 =	<u>57</u>
							PAR SCORE 140-150	TOTAL <u>204</u>

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JUMBLE CROSSWORDS™
by David L. Hoyt 10-9-12

ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Rock _____	RAQUYR
5. Fair	LQUEA
6. Type of mineral	PAZTO
7. Agree	CAEECD

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Canada region	BUECOE
2. Occurring in water	ACQUITA
3. Regress	ESELARP
4. Drink down fast	ZULEZG

BONUS **CLUE:** This city is located on the Rio Grande.

○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

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

ANSWERS: 1A-Quarry 5A-Equal 6A-Topaz 7A-Accede 1D-Quebec 2D-Aquatic 3D-Relapse 4D-Guzzle B-Albuquerque

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MOST WANTED

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FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Differences: 1. The is different. 2. Lamp shade is smaller. 3. Teapot is reversed. 4. Hair is different. 5. Earring is different. 6. Ribbon is missing.

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David Carr / Alligator Staff

Coach Will Muschamp reacts to a replay on the Jumbotron during Florida's 14-6 victory against LSU on Saturday at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

Florida looking to avoid letdown Vandy matchup looms

ADAM PINCUS
Alligator Staff Writer

Florida is in uncharted territory.

After UF's worst two-year stretch since 1988-1989, the Gators have enjoyed a streak of success the likes of which most current players haven't experienced in their college careers.

After scoring 14 unanswered points to defeat then-No. 4 LSU on Saturday and snap the Tigers' 18-game regular-season winning streak, UF leapfrogged six spots to No. 4 in the newest AP poll.

Whether the Gators can handle the national spotlight remains to be seen.

Florida, winners of five straight, travels to Nashville, Tenn., to take on Vanderbilt on Saturday in Vanderbilt Stadium.

"We'll see Saturday night," coach Will Muschamp said. "To this point, (we've done) very well as far as understanding and approaching each game the same. We're not going to put in any more hours as coaches this week than we did a week ago. We're not going to put any less, either. We'll pre-

pare very similar to what we've done this far in the season."

Although his exuberant after-game antics in the locker room may suggest otherwise, Muschamp made sure to point out that Florida's victory against LSU counted for only one.

While UF's first win against a top-five opponent in Muschamp's tenure created an unusual buzz, Florida has started preparations for win No. 6.

In 105 years of playing football, UF has reached 6-0 just seven times.

For the third time this season, Florida is facing a Southeastern Conference foe on the road.

The Commodores aren't the same team that has dropped the last 21 meetings against the Gators and has been outscored 199-74 in their last five matchups.

Vanderbilt, led by second-year coach James Franklin and redshirt senior quarterback Jordan Rodgers, couldn't recover an onside kick down five points with less than two minutes to go in the fourth quarter against Florida last season.

The Commodores out-

scored the Gators 21-9 in the second half but couldn't erase a 17-point halftime deficit, ultimately losing 26-21.

Last season's five-point deficit was the closest game between the two teams since a 21-17 UF win in 2002.

"We have our work cut out for us at 6 o'clock there in Nashville," Muschamp said. "Look forward to another opportunity to go out there and get better."

Florida's defense believes it isn't the same football team that lost six of its last nine to close out 2011.

UF showed against LSU on Saturday that it could contend with the physical heavyweights of the SEC who dominated the Gators last season.

Fullback Hunter Joyer said people still doubted Florida before its victory against LSU. He treated the matchup as a statement game.

Message received, but the Gators have turned their sights to a bigger prize than just beating the Tigers in the season's fifth game.

"Like we've been saying all along, we have a more mature team this year," quarterback Jeff Driskel said.

"We're not going to be

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 14

FIRE JOE MORGAN

Strong UF team one step away

Florida's 14-6 upset victory against LSU on Saturday was a microcosm of UF's season.

The Gators held tough defensively while the offense turned the ball over twice and recorded just 47 yards on 32 plays during the first half.

Then, a slew of halftime adjustments helped Florida dominate.

"It's not like we're waiting [for] the second half to turn it on," quarterback Jeff Driskel said on Saturday. "We're trying to make plays in the first half."

The Gators are a second-half team, and that's one hell of a trait. Florida has rallied back from halftime deficits against Texas A&M, Tennessee and LSU.

UF has scored 57 percent of its points in the second half and has outscored its opponents 41-0 in the fourth quarter. No other team in college football has shut out all of its opponents in the final quarter in 2012.

The Gators have averaged 221.6 yards of total offense after halftime this season. If Florida



Joe Morgan
twitter: @joe_morgan

duplicated its second-half offensive output during the first half, it would jump from 10th in the Southeastern Conference in total offense to fourth.

Meanwhile, UF has left something to be desired before halftime. Florida has been outgained in all five first quarters this season by an average of 36.2 yards.

UF scored 24 points in the first half against Kentucky on Sept. 22, but has averaged just 8.5 points before halftime in its other four games.

Despite their first-half struggles, the Gators are the No. 4 team in the country and are firmly in control of their destiny in both the SEC and national championship races.

If folks think Florida is scary now, imagine what this team could do if it actually played a complete game. If the Gators want to keep

SEE JOE, PAGE 14

Line credited for run success

JOSH JURNOVOY
Alligator Staff Writer

Mike Gillislee was named Southeastern Conference Offensive Player of the Week on Monday for his efforts in Saturday's win against LSU, but both he and coach Will Muschamp gave credit to the blockers.

"Being patient as a running back (is important)," Gillislee said on Saturday. "That's all being a running back is (about) — being patient and having faith in your offensive line. Knowing that the holes will be there sooner or later."

The holes opened up in the second half, as Gillislee averaged just 2.8 yards per carry in the first half and 5.1 yards per carry in the second.

His longest runs of the day were two 12-yard touchdowns, the first of which came when left guard James Wilson and left tackle Xavier Nixon pulled to the right and opened up a gaping hole that Gillislee ran through untouched.

"Being patient as a running back (is important)."

Mike Gillislee
UF running back

Muschamp said he was impressed with the offensive line's ability to handle the Tigers' defensive front.

"You've got to finish blocks," Muschamp said. "Because most of the teams we're going to play from here on out, they don't stay blocked long."

SEE NOTES, PAGE 14



Setter Taylor Brauneis has shied away from the spotlight, instead setting up Florida's hitters for success. See story, page 15.

Gators Rack Up Southeastern Conference Weekly Awards

Running back Mike Gillislee was named SEC Offensive Player of the Week and safety Matt Elam was named SEC co-Defensive Player of the Week. Ziva Recek (volleyball) and Erika Tymrak (soccer) were also honored.

UF's Kickoff Time Vs. South Carolina Undecided

CBS Sports will wait until this weekend before deciding which Oct. 20 matchup will air at 3:30 p.m. Alabama at Tennessee and LSU at Texas A&M are also options.

UF looking for answer at punt returner

NOTES, from page 13

So you've got to finish people, and that's something that jumped out at me on the tape."

Punt Returns: One of the few units Muschamp was not pleased with following Saturday's win was the punt return team. Andre Debose and De'Ante Saunders did not return any of Tigers punter Brad Wing's seven punts.

Wing booted a 57-yard punt from the LSU 14 on the Tigers' second possession of the second quarter. Saunders called a fair catch at the Florida 29-yard line, although no LSU player was within 10 yards of him.

"We have not done a good job," Muschamp said. "We'll find somebody different and figure out what we can do there."

Muschamp said Florida's punt returners must do a better job of deciding whether or not the ball is returnable.

"He's got to make a judgment as he sees the flight of the ball and then see where the coverage (is)," Muschamp said.

Omarius Hines: While Gillislee carried the ball a career-high 34 times on Saturday, Omarius Hines only touched the ball twice. But he made the most of his chances.

On Florida's first touchdown drive, Hines gained 14 yards on a carry around the left side of the line before picking up another 14 yards on a screen pass.

JOE, from page 13

winning, they better find out soon.

Florida got away with a sluggish first half against then-No. 4 LSU, but that will not work three more times against No. 3 South Carolina, No. 14 Georgia and No. 12 Florida State.

Nobody is that lucky.

Bad starts have nearly proven costly on numerous occasions this season.



David Carr / Alligator Staff

Senior running back Mike Gillislee sprints into the end zone untouched during UF's 14-6 victory against LSU on Saturday at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium. Gillislee totaled 146 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 34 carries against the Tigers.

Muschamp said simply having Hines on the field forces the opposing defense to be ready for a number of possibilities.

"I've always said it's difficult to count him from a defensive perspective," Muschamp said. "What is he? Is he a running back? Is he a slot receiver? We've used him in tight-end situations. We've used him as a full-back. So, week to week, we change out."

Hines has averaged 10.5 yards per touch this season on just seven catches and six rushes. Quarterback Jeff Driskel said he'd like to find more ways to get Hines involved in the offense.

"We try to get him touches during the game," Driskel said, "but there are some games you're going to have to give the ball to Gillislee 35 times or however many times he got the ball. [Hines] is definitely a mismatch problem, and we got to get him some touches."

Injuries: Starting weakside linebacker Jelani Jenkins is probable for Saturday's game at Vanderbilt after leaving Florida's win against LSU in the second quarter due to a left hamstring injury, Muschamp said. Jenkins wore a cast in his return to action on Saturday after missing the previous two games with a broken right thumb.

Muschamp added that tackle Matt Patchan is still out with a pectoral strain, while defensive back Cody Riggs remains sidelined by a broken right foot he suffered in the SEC opener at Texas A&M.

Contact Josh Jurnovoy at jjurnovoy@alligator.org.



David Carr / Alligator Staff

Redshirt senior Omarius Hines runs toward the sideline during UF's 14-6 victory against LSU on Saturday at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

down.

Let's say Sumlin holds his tongue and Sturgis misses the kick. Considering Florida had yet to stop Texas A&M's offense, dual-threat quarterback Johnny Manziel may have turned good field position into another score.

On Saturday against LSU, Tigers linebacker Kevin Minter knocked the ball from the hands of wideout Frankie Hammond Jr. midway through the second quarter. LSU's Kwon Alexander scooped up the ball and appeared to have only daylight in front of him, but luckily for UF, Hunter Joyer was there to make a touchdown-saving tackle.

Later in the quarter, Driskel fumbled to set the Tigers up at the Gators' 7-yard line. If not for one of the gutsiest defensive stands in college football this season, LSU heads into the halftime with momentum and a 10-point lead.

Granted, there was a lot of "iffing" and "butting" there, but eventually, the pendulum is going to swing the other way.

If the breaks stop going in Florida's favor, what happens next? A team with a run-first mentality and a first-year starter at quarterback could struggle to erase deficits.

Driskel is a talented guy, but if the Gators are in dire straights with the clock ticking down, they would much rather have the ball in Mike Gillislee's hands.

Gilly can't run out of bounds to stop the clock after every play.

UF needs to start games better offensively. Expecting Driskel to be Tim Tebow against the Gamecocks and the Bulldogs is a bad strategy.

Simply put, Gillislee and the Gators' offensive line need to impose their will on opponents quicker and earlier.

Florida is one of the best teams in college football. Earning some championship hardware in 2012 is a real possibility.

It would be a shame if the Gators were on the outside looking in come championship season just because they have some trouble getting things going on Saturdays.

Contact Joe Morgan at joemorgan@alligator.org.

Gators have new optimism after success

FOOTBALL, from page 13

satisfied. We know there are definitely corrections to be made and improvements to be made. We're going to handle this week like any other week."

The tables have turned in Gainesville.

Gone is the frustration of two sub-par seasons.

Now the Gators deal with the optimism and confidence that comes with being a top-five team.

"You can't take anybody lightly because anybody can beat you. This league is full of players and full of athletes."

Jeff Driskel
UF quarterback

Florida's first test as a member of the nation's elite comes from a familiar opponent — one the Gators aren't taking for granted. Driskel isn't treating this week differently than any other.

"Every SEC game is big," Driskel said. "You can't take anybody lightly because anybody can beat you. This league is full of players and full of athletes. [Vanderbilt is] going to be well-coached, and they're going to be ready to go. We can't take this week off or take it lightly. We're going to prepare like we have been the whole year, and we'll be ready to go come Saturday."

Contact Adam Pincus at apincus@alligator.org.

Junior setter propelling Florida's high-scoring offense

JONATHAN CZUPRYN

Alligator Writer

Taylor Brauneis doesn't mind dishing away the ball or the spotlight.

Instead, she prefers it, coach Mary Wise said.

The junior setter's performance last weekend was key to the No. 11 Gators remaining undefeated in the Southeastern Conference. While Ziva Recek racked up her second conference award and her first SEC Offensive Player of the Week honor, Brauneis will continue to feed her teammates attention, as long as the wins keep coming.

"She's not the high flashy setter," Wise said. "She's very much the steady, hard-working player that has no problem staying under the radar. She would be just fine out of the spotlight. Let it go to Chloe (Mann) or to Tangerine (Wiggs)."

"She's very much the steady, hard-working player that has no problem staying under the radar."

Mary Wise

UF coach

In Sunday's match against Kentucky, Florida fell two sets behind because of poor passing, Wise said. But she added that Brauneis was persistent in getting clean looks to Recek, Wiggs and Mann despite the "ugly volleyball" the other Gators were playing.

"Even when we weren't passing well, Taylor Brauneis had a very, very good match," Wise said. "She did an excellent job bettering the ball. When it wasn't a three-option pass, she was still able to deliver a quality set."

Coming into last weekend's homestand against Arkansas and Kentucky, the transfer from Louisville led the SEC and ranked 20th nationally with 11.62 assists per set. She has led the team in assists every time she has taken the court for Florida.

Even after her near double-double on Sunday (47 assists and nine digs) helped

propel Florida to its 10th straight win, Brauneis immediately passed the credit to her teammates and even the fans.

"We come in here and we're smiling because the fans were in it and we were in it," she said on Sunday. "It was a total team effort, and it just feels amazing."

Wise said Brauneis helps her team with her knowledge of the sport — a major reason why she was named the squad's floor

captain. The floor captain communicates in-game strategies and acts as the go-between for players and officials.

"We did that because one, she is the one player who is on the court the whole time and two, because of her high IQ," Wise said. "Look at the numbers. The hitting efficiency numbers have a lot to do with those hitters, but also a lot to do with Taylor Brauneis."

Even as the conference's top setter and the team leader on the court, Wise said Brauneis slips back into her quiet role off the court.

She prefers to let her play do the talking, leaving the other chatter to her louder teammates.

"She's OK with taking a backseat to the more vocal, outgoing players in this program," Wise said.



David Carr / Alligator Staff

Junior setter Taylor Brauneis (8) celebrates after a point during Florida's 3-0 win against Arkansas on Friday at the O'Connell Center. Brauneis finished with 33 assists and averages a Southeastern Conference-best 11.62 assists per set.

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Gators junior erasing scoring opportunities on back line

TRAVIS' DEFENSE KEYED UPSET VICTORY ON SUNDAY.

ADAM LICHTENSTEIN

Alligator Writer

Taylor Travis and Shea Groom were almost teammates.

Coach Becky Burleigh recruited Groom heavily in high school, but the now-sophomore turned down a chance to play forward alongside Travis in Gainesville and instead went to College Station, Texas.

On Sunday, Groom and Travis squared off against each other when No. 18 Florida (10-3-1, 7-1 Southeastern Conference) visited No. 5 Texas A&M (12-2-1, 6-1-1 SEC).

Travis, who moved from forward to outside back before the season, had the tough task of defending Groom. One of Texas A&M's most potent threats, Groom scored six goals in 10 matches in 2011 before suffering a season-ending ligament tear in her foot.

Groom scored the Aggies' lone goal, but it was Travis and the Gators who prevailed, defeating Texas A&M 2-1.

"I thought Taylor was really up for that game, and did a really good job of shutting her down, which is not easy to do," Burleigh said.

From the beginning of the game, Travis made it known that Groom would not have an easy time getting through Florida's backline.

Five minutes into the first half, Groom received a pass from forward Annie Kunz and dribbled into the box. Travis sprinted from behind Groom, slid and knocked

the ball away. The tackle sent Groom to the ground.

Groom got up smiling after Travis' aggressive slide tackle, but Travis would frustrate her enough to remove the smile from her face.

"[Travis] had a lot of blocked shots and just denied [Groom] her 1 v. 1 specialty," Burleigh said.

Travis made another defensive stand in the 22nd minute. Goalkeeper Taylor Burke was pressured by two Aggies forwards and sent an errant pass to the feet of Texas A&M midfielder Beth West. West fed Kunz directly in front of the net, and she dribbled forward.

Travis darted in and knocked the ball away from Kunz and out of bounds, breaking up what would have likely been the first goal of the game.

"I was very impressed with [Travis] today," senior Jo Dragotta said after the game. "She showed what she can do."

However, the corner that resulted from Travis pushing the ball out of bounds led to the only time Travis could not stop Groom.

On the resulting corner kick, Groom got in front of Travis near the far post and was able to head the ball in to give the Aggies a 1-0 lead.

Travis would not let it happen again.

In the final minutes of the game, Texas A&M pressured the Florida defense in a last-ditch effort to send the game to overtime. Travis broke up two passes inside of the penalty box, preventing the Aggies from getting a chance to equalize.

In the final seconds, Travis battled with Groom two more

times. With about 25 seconds left, she fought Groom for possession off of a header, ultimately popping the ball up in the air to junior Adriana Leon.

Groom stole the ball from Leon and dribbled towards the edge of the box, but Travis again got in her way. Groom tried to break away and dribbled towards the

goal line, but Travis used her foot to knock the ball out with only 10 seconds remaining.

"[Getting the ball out] was the only thing I think, not only on my mind, but on everyone else's mind," Travis said. "We were trying to keep our composure, and at times we did very well, but then the last minute or two ... you just

need to get the ball out."

Burleigh said she thought Travis did a great job of shutting Groom down throughout the game, despite Groom's goal.

"Taylor gets really motivated when she plays against somebody who is just as fast as she is," Burleigh said. "That doesn't happen too often."



Aundre Larrow / Alligator Staff

Junior outside back Taylor Travis (41) fights for the ball against Arkansas defenders Yvonne Desjarlais (15) and Evan Palmer (31) in Florida's 4-0 win on Sept. 30 at James G. Pressly Stadium.

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