

the independent florida alligator

Not officially associated with the University of Florida

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We Inform. You Decide.

Florida received a bid to play against Louisville in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 2 in New Orleans. Read the story on page 13.



VOLUME 107 ISSUE 69

WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2012

SCIENCE

NASA discovers ice on the planet closest to the sun

ANDREW KAYS

Alligator Contributing Writer

Space's mysteries continue to baffle scientists across the nation as NASA finds ice on Mercury.

Tests run by NASA's MESSENGER spacecraft, which arrived on Mercury last year, show there may be several inches of ice insulated by carbon-based organic material deep in northern craters, according to a NASA news release.

While the presence of water on the planet

was predicted for decades, said Haywood Smith, UF associate professor of astronomy, the confirmation — as well as the discovery of the organic material that could be the building blocks of life — is a major find.

NASA estimates about 1 trillion tons of ice are among the craters that dot Mercury's Northern pole.

Although Mercury's surface reaches a molten 800 degrees Fahrenheit thanks to its solar neighbor, the planet hardly tilts, and its atmosphere is extremely thin, the release



Smith

stated.

These factors mean the inside of the polar craters do not see sunlight.

The temperatures in the constantly shady spaces get as chilly as -350 degrees Fahrenheit.

"It's similar to how they found unexpectedly large amounts of water on the moon a while ago," Smith said.

"It has been theorized to be a possibility but definitely not something expected."

The organic molecules that cushion some of the ice contains carbon — a necessary element for life, according to the release.

Haywood said that while the discovery is significant, he doesn't expect life to be discovered there.

"Organic molecules are thought to be pretty common in meteorites," Smith said. "Maybe less so on the comets that would be carrying the water."

O'Connell Center could get renovation

CHRIS KIRSCHNER

Alligator Contributing Writer

The Stephen C. O'Connell Center may soon get a \$50 million renovation, pending approval from UF's Board of Trustees at its meeting Thursday.

The board will vote on whether the university should pay \$10 million for the face-lift. The University Athletic Association would solicit the rest of the money, UF spokesman Steve Orlando said.

The proposed renovations would include a new entrance, a club space and more concession stands and gift stores, he said. The arena's infrastructure would also be redone, more video boards installed and the bleachers replaced with permanent seating.

Orlando said the university would support the makeover, because the O'Connell Center is also used for educational purposes. He said the proposed \$10 million would not come from state funds or tuition.

Orlando said there is no timetable set for the completion of the project if it is passed, because it relies heav-

ily on fundraising.

The O'Connell Center was completed in 1980 and renovated in 1998 with a new roof and updated sound and lighting systems, according to the UF Foundation website. Other improvements came in 1999 and included upgrades to the restrooms.

Stephen C. O'Connell was UF's president from 1967 to 1973, according to the website, and the arena was dedicated in his honor in 1981.

"The O'Connell Center name is going to remain," Orlando said.

"There are no plans to change it."

Computer and electrical engineering

senior and Rowdy Reptiles president Jake Sillick, 24, said he is concerned the permanent seating would restrict the amount of people who fit in the lower-level student section.

"We have a unique seating arrangement by being on the sidelines," Sillick said. "We are so close to the action — I
SEE CENTER, PAGE 4



Orlando



Marjorie Nunez / Alligator

Bird Flu

Ashley Soon, a 20-year-old psychology junior, center, dances in a self-choreographed performance of "Bird Flu" during a Floridance performance Saturday at the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

Dallas Mavericks owner to speak tonight

The event starts at 8 p.m.

KENDRICK D. BROWN

Alligator Contributing Writer

Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban will speak at 8 p.m. at the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

Cuban accumulated a \$2.5 billion net worth through his Mavericks ownership and work with businesses including a television channel and a pizza franchise.

"Entrepreneurs like Mark Cuban inspire me, because he really came from nothing," said 21-year-old economics junior Davis Harper. "He breaks the stereotype that the

ultra-rich all inherit their wealth."

Josh Holtzman, Accent Speaker's Bureau chairman, said Cuban's story is relatable to many students at UF.

"We do our best to select speakers that appeal to a variety of students," Holtzman said. "Mr. Cuban's achievements are relevant to business students but also sports fans interested in technology or communications."

Telecommunication junior Nick Swain said he will attend the event to hear Cuban's honesty.

"He doesn't really carry himself how a typical NBA owner would,

and I like that. I respect that," said Swain, 20. "I hope he says something in relation to how he maintained his own personality through everything he's accomplished."

"Mr. Cuban's achievements are relevant to business students but also sports fans interested in technology or communications."

Josh Holtzman

ACCENT Speaker's Bureau chairman

Doors will open at 7 p.m.

Admission is free, but tickets are required and will be available to the public when the doors open.

Today

80/53

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Silenced Voices

In a system demanding more than testimony, rapes go unpunished, pg. 7.



News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

UF Shakespeare in the Park
Abridged Kids presents "As You Like It"

The Abridged Kids performers of Shakespeare in the Park will perform a scene from William Shakespeare's comedy "As You Like It" at 11:30 a.m. today and Wednesday on the Plaza of the Americas. For more information, check out the Facebook group "UF Shakespeare in the Park."

Faith and LGBT Issues

Join UF LGBT Affairs from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. today at Peabody Hall, Room 408, to talk about the LGBT community, faith and how the two topics affect and influence each other. The Rev. Jim Merritt, senior pastor at the Trinity Metropolitan Community Church of Gainesville, will speak about his experiences. There will be free pizza and a discussion.

Gainesville Citizens For Alternatives to the Death Penalty hosts holiday card-signing

On Tuesday, Gainesville Citizens For Alternatives to the Death Penalty will host its holiday card-signing event for prisoners on death row. The group will meet at 6 p.m. at Hurley House, behind St. Augustine's Catholic Student Center, 1738 W. University Ave., in the large downstairs room. Parking is free when you tell the attendant you are there for a meeting. People can go late and leave early as their schedules demand. The evening includes a potluck, so please bring a dish to share. For many on death row, this is the only holiday greeting they receive. For more information, call 352-378-1690 or email mark1343@juno.com.

Robotics Demos at UF

Robot Demo Day at UF will include demonstrations of 13 robots built by students in this semester's Intelligent Machines Design Laboratory course from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday at UF's NEB Harris Rotunda. Several other

FORECAST

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
PARTLY CLOUDY 80/53	PARTLY CLOUDY 79/50	PARTLY CLOUDY 78/49	PARTLY CLOUDY 77/52	PARTLY CLOUDY 77/53

robots from the Machine Intelligence Lab will be displayed, including previous national and international award-winning robots such as a submarine and a lawnmower. Visit www.mil.ufl.edu/imdl/robot_info_f12.htm for more information.

Sing For Life to perform at the Hippodrome

To accompany a showing of "A Late Quartet," the Hippodrome Cinema enlisted the vocal talents of Sing For Life, an initiative from UF's Center for Arts in Medicine that strives to improve the quality of life for Parkinson's patients through voice lessons. The group will perform after the film's 5:30 p.m. screening Wednesday at the Hippodrome State Theatre, 25 SE Second Place. For more details, visit www.thehipp.org/cinema, or call 352-375-HIPP for movie tickets.

"A Taste of Europe"

Get copies of the award-winning "A Taste of Europe" cookbook through Dec. 12. The book includes 56 recipes from 32 countries along with cultural information about culinary customs. Each recipe is in English and the language of its country of origin. You'll see recipes for halushky, pilau, mazurek, shopska, karjalanpaisti and more. Go to the Center for European Studies office in Turlington Hall, Room 3324, to buy copies for \$5 each.

"Food For Thought" at Library West

Freshman Leadership Council invites all students to "Food for Thought" from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday in front of Library West. There will be free food and drinks. There will be repre-

sentatives from GatorWell, Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, Student Government and other organizations to help you prepare for finals. TutoringZone and Study Edge will give out prizes and discount vouchers. Bring your friends to de-stress with photo booth fun! For more information, "like" FLC's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FreshmanLeadershipCouncil

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.

CLARIFICATION

An article in Wednesday's edition of the Alligator incorrectly implied that the Drug Enforcement Administration contacted Frank Lineberger at his home, which was later found to be the site of a marijuana growing operation, according to a DEA report. In fact, the house belongs to his sister, who was arrested in connection with the growing operation. Lineberger was not found to be connected with the operation.

The Alligator strives to be accurate and clear in its news reports and editorials. If you find an error, please call our newsroom at 352-376-4458 or email editor@alligator.org.

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Vonecia Carswell / Alligator

In Memory

Summer Jupin, 25, lights candles Saturday at the Institute of Black Culture during the candlelight vigil for Jordan Davis, a Jacksonville teen who was shot and killed Nov. 23.

.. THIS WEEK in GAINESVILLE ..

Dec. 5, 1988 — Two members of the Ku Klux Klan, a Grand Dragon and Great Titan, visited UF on a recruitment tour of Florida. When they stopped in front of the Institute of Black Culture, a crowd of about 30 hecklers gathered. One woman grabbed the Great Titan's hat, threw it on the ground and yelled "Bigot." The Klansmen were unfazed and continued down West University Avenue. The Grand Wizard claimed the Klan promoted the freedom of America and that they came to the school to teach people that races were not meant to be mixed.

Dec. 8, 1999 — A student's art project promoted the Turlington Rock's "potato" nickname. Justin Valiquette was inspired by artist Christo, who is known for his wrapping of buildings and statues. Valiquette and a group of fellow art students "transformed" the rock by covering it in tinfoil and surrounding it with heat lamps.

Dec. 5, 2005 — UF's Board of Trustees voted to extend the employee health care benefits to all independent couples. This meant that gay and lesbian partners of employees would be covered by the university's health insurance. UF was the first Florida public school to offer the benefits, joining about 295 universities nationwide.

— KRISTAN WIGGINS

CRIME

Man arrested after being accused of punching police officer at :08

CHRIS ALCANTARA

Alligator Writer

A Gainesville man accused of punching a police officer at a downtown nightclub was arrested early Friday morning.

Police arrested Drew Carlton, 21, of 5616 NW 42nd Road, on a charge of battery on a law enforcement officer, a third-degree felony, according to a Gainesville Police arrest report.

At about 1 a.m. Friday, GPD received a call from :08 nightclub staff members about a man telling patrons he was armed with a .45-caliber handgun.

When police arrived at the club, at 201 W. University Ave., officers met with Carlton, who is a paramedic, and patted him down for the weapon, according to the report.

Police did not find the gun and told Carlton the staff wanted him to leave. Carlton became



Carlton

agitated and refused to leave the property.

After police told him five times to leave, Carlton left while cursing at the officers. Police confronted Carlton again and told him to calm down, warning him that he would be arrested.

Carlton approached the officer, clenching

his fists, and raised his arms as if he was going to strike the officer, according to the report.

The officer pushed away Carlton, who responded by punching the officer in the throat.

Police arrested Carlton and booked him into the Alachua County Jail at 1:43 a.m. Friday. He was released later that afternoon on his own recognizance.

Contact Chris Alcantara at calcantara@alligator.org.

InsideUF Your campus news source

UFPA offers \$10 student tickets

Student tickets for University of Florida Performing Arts' January and February performances go on sale at noon today. Tickets are only \$10 for each of the 22 performances and can be purchased with a Gator1 Card by calling 352-392-2787 or visiting the Phillips Center or University Box Office, located in the Reitz Student Union.

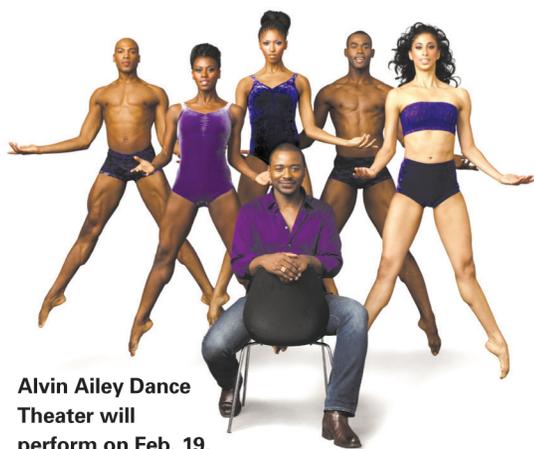
UFPA will present some of the world's best dance companies during this on-sale period, including U.K.'s Motionhouse, who will perform the U.S. premiere of "Scattered" on Jan. 19; MOMIX, who will perform "Botanica" on Jan. 24; and the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater on Feb. 19, whom The New York Times called, "possibly the

most successful modern dance company on the planet."

On Feb. 15, Hooray for Hollywood takes a journey through the most popular musicals and films of the past 50 years, while the Dark Star Orchestra recreates Grateful Dead classics on Feb. 22.

The slate of UFPA's January and February performances spans across virtually every genre including jazz with Live at Birdland on Feb. 16, classical with Fazil Say on Jan. 6, world with Creole Choir of Cuba on Feb. 26 and Kodo on Feb. 28, theater with

"You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up!" Jan 8-12 and Guru of Chai Feb. 14-16, and vocal with Vienna Boys Choir on Feb. 13. Folk music will



Alvin Ailey Dance Theater will perform on Feb. 19.

View these stories and more at www.insideuf.ufl.edu

be provided by the Good Lovelies Feb. 2-3, and there will be two pre-recorded operas — "The Merry Widow" on Jan. 20 and "Attila" on Feb. 17.

"UFPA's January and February lineup truly offers something for everyone," UFPA director Michael Blachly said. "For \$10, UF students have access to performances that can cost more than five times that amount elsewhere. We appreciate the University of Florida Student Government subsidy, which makes this opportunity possible for students."

For a full lineup and locations for particular performances, visit www.performingarts.ufl.edu/events. For more information about student tickets, visit <http://bit.ly/yU29qE>.

The Phillips Center Box Office will be closed from Dec. 23 to Jan. 3.

Museum Nights

Thursday, December 13
6-9 p.m.
Harn Museum

To mark the holiday season, the Harn will highlight multiple cultural traditions including Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. Enjoy musical performances and tours of African-American and African works in the Harn's collection. Enjoy food, art activities and jazz music on this evening.

Lose stress at Reitz

Students who go to the Reitz Student Union between now and Dec. 13 will have a little less to worry about.

UF's Division of Student Affairs is hosting the semi-annual De-Stress Study Fest. The Union will be open 24 hours a day for studying and activities. Zumba classes, free bowling and billiards, and snacks will be available.

For more information about the De-Stress Study Fest, visit www.union.ufl.edu/DeStressStudyFest.

Digital opera performed

A show of spirituality and collaboration will span three screens and 50 feet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Digital World Institute's Research, Education and Visualization Environment, known as the REVE, Room 205, Norman Hall Gym.

"EvANGELical," a digital mini-opera, will have a digital media projection with motion-controlled video loops and particle systems. The show will be presented by composer James Paul Sain, of UF's School of Music, and Patrick Pagano, projection designer. Soloist is Karen Adair. Admission is free. For more information, call 352-294-2020.

Last edition for fall

This is the last print edition of InsideUF for the fall. It resumes Jan. 14.

InsideUF is produced by the University Relations Office for faculty, staff and students.
Editor - Ron Wayne



UF Calendar of Events

For a listing of events, or to submit an event to the calendar, click "UF Calendar" at www.insideuf.ufl.edu.

City decks the halls at annual tree-lighting ceremony downtown



Andrew Riffard / Alligator

Gainesville residents gather as Mayor Craig Lowe lights the city Christmas tree Saturday night at the Thomas Center. The Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration was free and open to the public.

▶ ABOUT 800 PEOPLE ATTENDED.

RACHEL CROSBY

Alligator Contributing Writer

Mayor Craig Lowe counted down from three. Christmas carolers held their hymnals. Children waited, their eyes wide with wonder.

And in an instant, hundreds of little lights flooded the Thomas Center atrium with an icy-blue glow.

About 800 people attended the city's annual Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration Saturday at the center, 302 NE Sixth Ave. Gainesville Regional Utilities and the Thomas Center sponsored the free festival.

After the mayor lit the tree, families huddled around it to pose for pictures. Children reached to touch the shiny orbs that hung from its branches.

Little kids lined up, eager to speak with Santa Claus. Red-faced and cheery, he hugged them and laughed, listening to their wishes.

Madison Sprague, 1, waited her turn. Donning a red velvet dress trimmed with white fluff, her mom said she was excited

to see the man she dressed to match.

"It was her first time seeing Santa," said her mom, Julie Sprague, 34. "It was great."

Luminaries lit the way for horse-drawn carriage rides through the nearby Duckpond neighborhood. Horses trotted by families waiting in line, the kids shrieking in excitement.

Families filed into galleries, taking in the festivities and the art the facility offered.

Music from three entertainment groups danced about the building, softly filling the rooms with songs of the season.

Sam Kragiel, 37, said he was happy his family could make it to the festival. His 6-month-old son, Julian, gazed starry-eyed at the sparkling tree that towered above him.

"We live nearby, and we've been meaning to come," Kragiel said. "It's a nice start to the holiday season."

Event coordinator David Ballard said the location of the ceremony was perfect.

"The Thomas Center has such historic charm," he said. "It's the cultural center of our city."

The UAA recently funded a \$4.3 million gymnastics project

CENTER, from page 1

don't want that to change because of this."

Sillick is excited about redoing the concourse, he said, because it

could use some orange and blue to liven it up.

Doug DeMichele, a professor in UF's College of Health and Human Performance, wrote in an email that he thinks renovation opportunities are great for

the university's athletes because they get to play in the best facilities possible.

"UF should explore facility expansion that will support the Gator athletes as well as enhance the game experience for the spec-

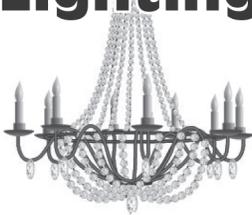
tators and loyal boosters," he wrote.

The UAA recently funded a \$4.3 million expansion project that renovated the gymnastics practice facility at the O'Connell Center, according to Alligator archives.

Sillick said the overall make-over is necessary, and he is happy about the proposed renovation.

"This is going to give everyone the nicest place to watch basketball," he said.

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**Salesperson
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Students design reading corner

►THE PROJECT WAS FOR THE DESIGN INNOVATION CLASS.

KATIE CAMPBELL

Alligator Contributing Writer

Two UF students reached out to the Boys & Girls Club of Alachua County to make a big difference in a small way.

Advertising sophomore Stephanie Ou and architecture sophomore Sara Schwartz, both 19, teamed up in their Design Innovation class for the Make a Difference project. The project pushes students to use their interior design skills to provide helpful innovations to non-profit organizations. The project is sponsored by the Interior Design Educators Council.

After abandoning their original idea because of budget restrictions — each pair of students could spend up to \$40 on its innovation — Ou said she and Schwartz decided to create a reading corner.

"It was a good thing, because if we had a higher budget, we would go crazy," Ou said. "I feel like the budget gave us restrictions that we needed, and I think that helps us with discipline. Just because you have the money, you shouldn't go over budget."

They chose to work with the Boys & Girls Club after Ou visited the organization and learned how open to the project the staff was. Ou and Schwartz were allowed to do whatever they wanted to make the difference they envisioned for the customer.

Ou said the Boys & Girls Club invites speakers and volunteers to read to the children who spend time there after school, but it did not have a suitable space for those occasions.

Ou and Schwartz used a partition to section off the reading area in one of the classrooms, put up inspirational posters and set up two beanbag chairs and a large rug. They spent \$34 on their innovation.

UF professor and Department of Interior Design chairwoman Margaret Portillo said students were instructed to go out into the community to find organizations in need to increase the scope of their innovations' impacts.

The original innovations aren't always used in the way they were intended, she said, but by reaching out to those in need, UF students had the opportunity to make a difference in ways that may otherwise have been overlooked.

For Ou, the project became more than something she was doing for a grade. It was a chance to communicate with a real customer and give back to the community while learning something new about interior design and her own skills.

Schwartz and Ou went back after they finished the corner to see the impact it made.

"We were nervous to see how they were using it, but at the same time, the whole idea of the project was to see how they were using our innovation," Schwartz said.

The Boys & Girls Club staff members and children gave the UF students positive feedback, she said.

One boy admired the pictures of UF that lined the walls, and a girl complimented the beanbag chairs.

"It was great, even though it wasn't like 'Extreme Home Makeover,'" Ou said. "Just making that small space, me and Sara were really proud, and we were really happy at the end."



Kristi Camara / Alligator

Beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Gabriel Ilundain, 7, plays with fake snow Friday at the SNOW at the Tioga Town Center kickoff event. The event featured a parade and photos with Santa Claus.

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The Alligator has sales intern positions available for the Fall semester. You will receive classroom training, firsthand sales experience, and an opportunity to improve your communication skills. This resume builder offers a flexible schedule, no weekends, with a minimum of a 10-hour work week.

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Opinions

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2012
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Editorial

Much Better Too much instant competition

If you haven't heard of John Mulaney, then I'm sorry, because you won't care about the beginning of this column.

In his recent Comedy Central special, "New In Town," he talks about how people mistook him for a woman thanks to his voice when he was a kid. He had a voice "like a little flute," he said.

"I was once on the telephone with Blockbuster Video," Mulaney said, "which is a very old-fashioned sentence."

When was the last time you went into a physical building that housed a Blockbuster?

It seems like, thanks to the Internet, there is a much smaller need for physical copies of movies.

If a movie isn't on Netflix Instant or Hulu, then we are much less likely to hunt down a physical copy — unless it's for a class and you have to search through the library. But even that feels like a scary hassle.

It feels weird to let an entire industry become obsolete because of convenience.

What'll happen to libraries and bookstores once e-readers and tablets become overwhelmingly popular? To be fair, libraries will most likely be around for quite a while because they cost no money to use or join, which a lot of people really appreciate.

It seems like Netflix is about to get more competition, and Blockbuster is about to get more dirt thrown on its grave.

Redbox Instant. The company has devised a way to stream video to mobile devices as well as offer low-cost DVD rentals for what appears to be less than Netflix's price. It could launch at some point later this month.

Is this a good thing? Does Netflix deserve competition in the streaming and video rental world? Probably. There should be as few monopolies as possible. The more monopolies we have, the less fair society becomes. However, there should be competition only when we need it.

How many video streaming or renting companies do we require?

Let's take Blockbuster, for example. It is a relic of a more simple time, but it also became sad and absolutely useless. There was no way to modernize the company to keep up with the changing times. Children will grow up without knowing that entire stores were dedicated to renting videos.

Instead, now they'll only know about tiny booths that dispense movies or websites that stream classics onto their mobile devices and computers.

Are we losing the physical world bit by bit? Are we heading too fast into a less nostalgic world? Does it matter?

We like a lot of things because they are convenient. Take a look down the main street or highway in a town, and you'll see the neon signs of America's fast-food worship. Observe a line in Starbucks, and try to guess how irritated people are if they have to wait just a couple minutes to move through it.

We should slow down and appreciate the smaller things in life, even if it takes a moment.

But Lord knows, if our video takes too long to buffer and load, we will get upset real quick.

Reader response

Today's question: Will you go see Mark Cuban speak today?

Friday's question: Will you rent an iPad next semester? **32% YES**
68% NO

97 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

Erin Jester
EDITOR

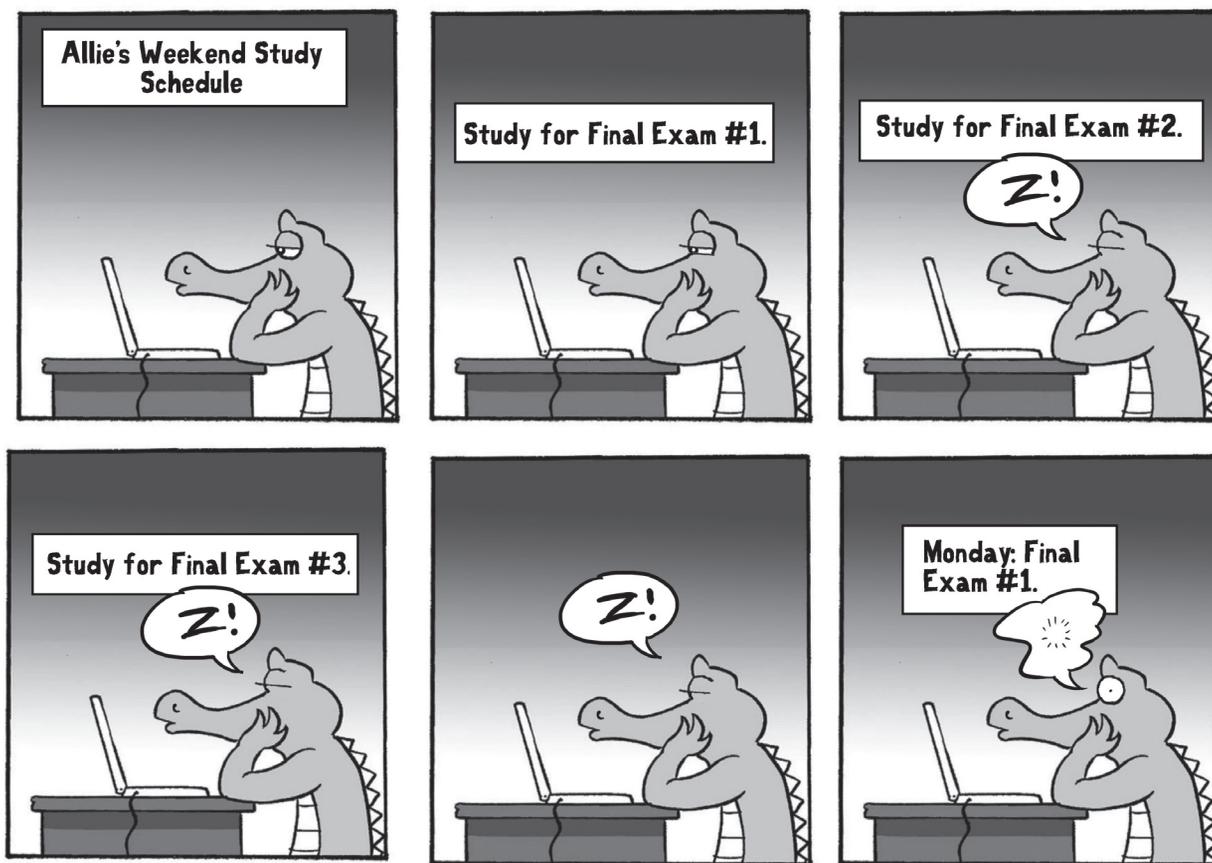
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SON of a GATOR

by Andre R. Frattino



Column

Christmas debates are null if we're terrible

It's that time of year again!

Time for sugar cookies, gingerbread men, "Jingle Bell Rock," Christmas trees — the whole shebang!

But most important, it's time for people whining about our culture "taking the Christ out of Christmas" to irritate me out of my socks.

Before you say anything rash, let's rewind a minute. There is, in fact, a long tradition of a festival in late December during which people get together to give gifts and make merry — it's called Saturnalia, and it's just what it sounds like: a Roman festival to worship the god Saturn.

That's just one of many winter celebrations that predates Christmas. Pope Benedict XVI (who I'd argue is a pretty authoritative source for Christian scholarship) cites as the direct ancestor to Christmas an event called Dies Natalis Sol Invictus, a Dec. 25 feast that celebrated the birth of the official Roman sun god (Sol Invictus).

The birth of Jesus wasn't celebrated as a holiday/feast day until about the fourth century CE. In fact, early Christian theologians like Origen and Arnobius disparaged birth festivals of figures like Herod and the pagan gods.

Christmas gained prominence during the Middle Ages because of political coincidences: Charlemagne and William the Conqueror were crowned on Christmas Day.

My point is that the only reason we can "take the Christ out of Christmas" is that we put him in there in the first place. People stuck Jesus in festivals and customs that were already around so they could celebrate about that time of year without being called pagan and burned at the stake or something.

I'm sure Jesus doesn't care that "Christmas" is abbreviated "Xmas" any more than he cares that sometimes I wear torn-up sandals and a T-shirt with a picture of a cookie on it to church.

Celebrating the spirit of holiday generosity is important whether you call the holidays "the holidays," "X-Mas," "Kwanzaa," "Christmas," "Hanukkah" or whatever amalgamation of the above sarcastic a-holes are parading around these days. (For ease, I'm just going to call the whole holidays/Christmahanakwanzwatevs season thing "Christmas"



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for the rest of this column.)

I suspect that's what the mourning of a Christ-less Christmas is more about anyway, although the only people I've encountered who complained about it were more focused on the literal morphemic substitution mentioned above.

Our problem is not that there's not enough generosity on Christmas. America is great at holiday cheer, helping the needy and all that jazz during the Christmas season, when Santa/our neighbors are watching.

It's the other 11 months of the year when we suck. Maybe we should take Christ out of Christmas — and put him into the rest of the year, when there are still needy people, hungry people and people who need love and warmth.

Look, I'm not trying to be a Scrooge and "bah humbug" away your Christmas cheer with irrelevant historical facts and guilt tripping.

And I'm not trying to be one more of the millions of people saying "All you Christians are too sensitive! Jesus was born in, like, May anyway. Plus, there are Saturnalia and Sol Invictus, so let's rename Christmas 'Santamas' or whatever. Yay atheism."

I like Christmas. I like Santa, and I like nativity scenes. Rather than spending our time engaging in meaningless linguistic and historical debates that get nobody anywhere, can't we imitate Jesus and Santa, and give some gifts of love this holiday season? Can't we do the same thing in January, February, March and the rest of the eight crazy months?

Because if not, we're no better than the Romans who gave their slaves a week of freedom during the "December liberty" of Saturnalia, then spent the rest of the year beating them and generally treating them mercilessly.

If we're no better than the Romans, then we better learn Latin. And I know how much everybody hates learning Latin.

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

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

Silenced Voices

In a system demanding more than testimony, rapes go unpunished

By TYLER JETT
Alligator Staff Writer

Sitting on a bed, Danielle Ruiz watched Luis Pereira and his roommate in the kitchen. They stood with their backs to Ruiz and filled a milk jug with alcohol and another mysterious substance.

"Crystal Light," Pereira said.

Ruiz met with Pereira earlier that night in October 2010 outside Spank, a Southwest Second Street club, after she left a costume party. Pereira invited Ruiz — and others, he said — to his place. Ruiz always enjoyed his parties, so she went, still wearing a black sequin jacket and a pink tutu. When she arrived, though, the apartment was empty.

Ruiz felt uncomfortable, so they went to another party. When they returned to his place, she planned to call a friend to pick her up and gently told Pereira she didn't want to stay.

"How about a game of cards?" Ruiz remembers him asking.

"Sure," she said.

They'd played cards before. One game wouldn't hurt. She had no idea that the next morning she would wake up in Pereira's bed, and for the next two years, she would recount her last memories of the card game to law enforcement and lawyers in a sexual battery case.

That night, Ruiz would testify, Pereira handed her the light pink drink in a clear cup. Ruiz studied it, then sipped.

The liquid ran down her throat. No, she said. It's too strong.

Pereira retreated to the kitchen.

As a recent transplant from Baton Rouge, La., looking for a fresh start, Ruiz met Pereira in the summer of 2009. She planned to see a couple of her new friends downtown. There, Pereira introduced himself. He played the part of the affable club promoter, as he always did.

He asked for her phone number, and for the next year he texted Ruiz to promote different events. Sometimes she went.

Back in his bedroom, Pereira handed Ruiz the drink again. This time it tasted better. Pereira and his roommate sat on the bed with her and played cards. Ruiz can't remember what game they played. She just remembers winning and the guys teasing her, feigning anger. She thought they were drinking the pink liquid, too.

As she played, Ruiz felt the same way she did 12 years earlier at band camp the summer before her sophomore year at Central High School,



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator

Danielle Ruiz, left, stands with Laura Kalt, a Gainesville Police victim advocate. Victims can receive free, confidential counseling by contacting the Alachua County Rape Crisis center at 352-264-6760.

where she marched with her piccolo in the heat of a Louisiana summer. Her team practiced the "Batman" theme song, and when she emerged out of a sunburst formation, she felt light-headed, and her vision faltered.

As she sat on Pereira's bed, the feeling returned.

"You can see," says Ruiz, now 29, "and it slowly goes black."

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Experts say rapists are elusive, slipping through a porous system that can't account for crimes that often leave behind little physical evidence. Each case, of course, has two sides. On one end are the words of the victims and the law enforcement officials who chase any lead they can find. On the other end are the words of the perpetrators and the lawyers who defend them.

In Gainesville, 82 women reported rape in 2011, according to the FBI Uniform Crime Report. That represents a rate more than twice as high as the national average.

But the statistics tell only a fraction of the story. Instead of reporting the crime, many victims keep the act where it started: in the bedroom.

Some women think male police officers won't believe them, will call them worse things than promiscuous and send them on their way. Other victims blame themselves and think they deserved to get raped. Still more women just don't want to talk about what happened, espe-

cially with detectives, lawyers and judges.

Nicole Drummond, a family, youth and community sciences graduate student, didn't tell police that a man raped her as a 20-year-old sophomore in December 2007. The offender was her friend, and she didn't want to see him in trouble. Another UF student, then 21 years old, told Gainesville Police in August 2011 that she didn't want to press charges because she would rather pretend it didn't happen.

Getting victims in Gainesville, or anywhere else, to report is particularly difficult when those victims realize how few offenders actually get prosecuted. The Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network estimates that 20 percent of rapists reported to cops get prosecuted and 7 percent spend a day in prison.

Since 2009, 24 of the 107 sexual battery cases that police sent to the Alachua County State Attorney's Office are still open. Of the remaining 83, the court convicted 13 defendants and dropped 46 cases — some because the victim didn't participate, some because the prosecutor determined that the police failed to collect significant evidence.

In another 19 cases, the defendants were found guilty on different charges, some of them taking plea deals to avoid sexual battery trials.

State Attorney's Office spokesman Spencer Mann says the prosecution rate is low because rape cases are difficult to prove. Victims contradict themselves in testimonies,

and sometimes they consume illegal drugs before the rape, damaging their credibility to a jury. And even if those issues don't arise, how do you show, beyond a doubt, that sex was not consensual?

In September 2008 — more than two years before Ruiz would stay the night at Pereira's apartment — two UF students accused Pereira of rape. The case ended without a trial. Instead, Pereira pled no contest to three counts of aggravated assault. He received one year of probation and a 60-day jail sentence, to be served Sundays through Tuesdays.

As part of the deal, Pereira was free for the rest of the week so he could keep his job as a club promoter. That's how he met Ruiz.

"How can you look at this and let him walk?" Ruiz said when she learned of the case. "How do you believe in the system if it doesn't work?"

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When she awoke, Ruiz didn't know where she was, or how she fell asleep on that particular bed in Pereira's apartment at Jefferson 2nd Avenue, now 2nd Avenue Centre. It was sometime between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m., but it felt like evening. Someone closed the blinds tightly. She couldn't remember the night before — why her body ached and why she lay next to Pereira.

Ruiz staggered into the bathroom, where she felt a sticky substance against her hand, like glue.

She washed it off and noticed her underwear was twisted. Someone yanked the front part to the side. A Calvin Klein emblem was supposed to be on one hip, but it was upside down on the other hip. That couldn't happen, she thought, unless someone first pulled them off.

She nudged Pereira until he woke up.

"What happened?" Ruiz asked.

"What do you mean?" Pereira responded, according to Ruiz.

"What happened?"

"Nothing," he said. "I don't know. I have a headache."

Ruiz asked again, panicked now.

Pereira said she tugged the shower curtain off and threw up in the bathroom. Ruiz didn't believe him. She cried.

In the ensuing weeks, Ruiz said she almost never left her apartment. She hurried each day to the mailbox. What if he was in the complex? Her toy-sized poodle, Star, yapped every time someone strolled by the window, and Ruiz peeked outside looking for him. Even when she groomed dogs at PetSmart, she couldn't focus. She feared Pereira would come in and accost her, and her co-workers would ask questions.

So she moved back to Baton Rouge, where Sunday afternoons with gumbo, jambalaya and biscuits seemed so inviting. She told her family she returned to care for her grandfather, Henry, whose wife had just died.

But her family members knew something troubled Ruiz. She was too quiet and private, and she didn't seem interested in dating. Finally, she told her mother. She asked her stepmother to break the news to her dad.

"It's hard for me to tell him, to talk to him about anything like that because —" Ruiz exhaled, crying as her voice cracked. "I see how much it hurts him to know that something like that happened, and he couldn't do anything."

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Most rapes don't occur as they often do on TV and in the movies. The rapist isn't some mysterious man who pulls a woman into the woods and holds her down while she screams. In two out of three rapes, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, the victim and offender knew each other. And 60 percent of rapes happen in a home, whether it's the victim's, the rapist's or a mutual friend's. So, unlike in other crimes, police officers don't have a common problem area they can patrol or a list of informants who can tip them off ahead of time.

"I don't know if there's a lot we

SEE RAPE, PAGE 8

Law enforcement unsure how to curb rape rates

RAPE, from page 7

can do," GPD Sgt. John Nabet says.

Captain Lynne Benck, the head of GPD investigations, has worked at Gainesville Police for 24 years. She wants the rape rate to decrease, but she doesn't know how. Maybe if famous men spoke out against the crime, she has thought.

"If there was anything we could do, believe me, I would have the chief and the major riled up," she says. "We'd have 40 to 50 people going after this problem right now. But it's not that kind of crime. It's not going to happen. I don't know what we'd do with 40 or 50 people."

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Joseph Mayo sat at his desk at the police department two years ago when another detective asked for his help. See, there's this case, Chuck Dale said. You know the defendant and seem to have a rapport with him. His name is Luis Pereira and —

"Son of a bitch," Mayo said. "He did it again."

Mayo met Pereira on a Saturday morning in September 2008, about two hours before sunrise. Another officer called Mayo out to the parking lot of Arlington Square Apartments, downtown on Southeast Second Place. Mayo just happened to be the detective on call that night.

About half an hour earlier, a UF student woke up in bed with two people — a woman to

her left, Pereira to her right.

Susan *, at first, did not know where she was. The room was dark, she said, but a little light shined inside. Perhaps it glowed off a computer monitor or seeped from the hallway through a crack in the door. Either way, she said, she saw what happened.

Sitting up, Pereira dipped his hand under the tan and maroon bedspread and reached between her legs. Still drowsy, Susan didn't understand for a couple of seconds. Then, Pereira slid his hand down again, forcing his fingers inside her once more.

She jumped out of bed.

The bottom of her yellow dress was flipped above her waist, and someone had tugged the front of her underwear to the side.

Calm down, Pereira urged her.

But she wouldn't. She shook the other woman in bed, her friend and classmate. No response. Susan shook her again, more violently this time. Again, no response. She grabbed a phone and ran outside, still barefoot.

She scampered around in the dark, crying and calling every number she could think of. She didn't know where she was. She didn't remember going to Arlington Square that night. She kept dialing numbers, kept hearing the polite voicemail messages of sleeping friends. Finally, she connected with an ex-boyfriend. He called his father, who called the police.

As officers arrived at the parking lot, the other woman ran outside. She finally stirred awake, she told police, as Pereira had sex with her.

Both women left the parking lot before

Mayo arrived. They waited at the Alachua General Hospital for nurses to collect evidence from them. But first, from a police car, Susan pointed to Pereira.

It was him, she told officers.

Positive. Mayo brought Pereira and six other men to GPD headquarters for questioning. Pereira denied having sex with either woman. He said he returned home from a club about 3 a.m. and saw Susan sleeping in his bed — drunk, he said. Next thing he knew, he woke up as Susan jumped out of bed and ran away.

During the interview, another officer called Mayo. The women weren't pressing charges. Case closed.

Fine, Mayo said. But first, he drove to the hospital. He wanted to meet the victims.

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Born and raised in North Florida, Susan said she came to UF ignorant of drinking, drugs and sex. When she went out, she volunteered as the group's designated driver and victim of friendly ridicule. "Goodie goodie," her friends called her.

Susan is only 4 feet, 11 inches tall. She is tan with long, silky black hair that runs down her upper back, passing a thin nose and chocolate brown eyes along the way.

That fall, Susan started hanging out with a woman from her psychology classes, and she invited Susan to a Main Street bar called Gothic Grill (now Rockeys Dueling Piano Bar). They could get in for free, the woman said. Her friend was a promoter there.

Susan felt uncomfortable. Pereira stood a foot taller and nine years her senior. But he offered a drink, and she took it. She didn't want to seem boring.

"And that," she said four years later, "is all I remember." Susan doesn't know if someone drugged her or if she couldn't handle alcohol. She weighed less than 100 pounds and rarely drank. And even if she was drugged, finding out is difficult. Some popular date-rape drugs, experts say, leave your system within about four hours — quick enough to go undetected in drug tests.

Regardless, court testimony and public records give the following account of the rest of that night:

Susan drank more at the bar before walking with the rest of the group to Arlington Square. There, the group drank and ordered pizza, but Susan got sick.

The other woman asked Pereira if she and Susan could stay the night before she carried Susan to Pereira's bed. Later, the woman joined Susan. She had slept over before without a problem. She thought just the two of them would share the bed. She thought Pereira would sleep on the floor.

"When I woke up," the woman testified in a court hearing this February, "he was having sex with me."

Later that morning, Susan and her friend waited in a hospital room, each alone. They couldn't visit each other because it would hurt the police's case. They got together at the hospital, a defense attorney might argue, because they were cooking up a lie to nab Pereira. So Susan waited hours, she said she thinks, for a nurse to come in and collect evidence, to snap pictures and take swabs and check for DNA on Susan. It was as if she were a human crime scene.

Susan grew impatient, scared and tired. And she felt dirty. She wanted to take a shower. She sneaked out of her hospital room and crept to her friend's. From the moment she met police that morning, the other woman didn't want to press charges, and she didn't want a nurse to see her. She told Susan she knew a rape victim who reported the crime and watched humiliated as the man walked away free, as if nothing happened.

*** The name Susan is a pseudonym to protect victim's identity.**

This is a waste of time, the woman said. Let's get out of here.

Later that day, Susan regretted her decision. Her brother found out what happened through a mutual friend, one of the people Susan called in her 5 a.m. panic. Her brother couldn't believe Susan wasn't pressing charges. How can you let someone get away with that?

Susan said she went back to the hospital. She said she met her victim advocate and a police officer there. She told them she wanted nurses to collect evidence, but she said the nurses informed her it was too late, that you can't collect evidence once a victim leaves the hospital. Leaving the hospital meant contaminating the crime scene: her body.

She still wanted to press charges. She said the other officer at the hospital vowed to relay the message to Detective Mayo.

Mayo disputes this time frame. He says Susan called him two weeks later, unable to sleep and looking for justice. Gainesville Police holds a two-day policy: If a rape victim visits a hospital within 48 hours of the incident, nurses can collect evidence. So, he says, Susan didn't call him the day of the rape. She couldn't have.

"You really only have one opportunity to get evidence," Mayo says. "And that was it: that one night."

The detective picked up the case. But he didn't like his odds. At that time, the other woman didn't want to press charges. Mayo had no evidence and no witnesses. For the most part, the case was dead unless Pereira confessed.

And rapists don't confess.

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Mayo spread pictures of Susan and the other woman across a table. He looked at them. Then, he looked up, his eyes meeting Pereira's in a GPD interrogation room.

It was January 2009, about four months after the incident. Mayo still had no evidence besides Susan's word, and he didn't think the case was going anywhere. Without a confession from Pereira, Mayo would probably write a sworn complaint, and it would go to the State Attorney's Office, and it would end there, probably. And Mayo didn't expect a confession. Why would he? He had no leverage. He looked at the pictures again.

"These girls are beautiful," he said. "Aren't they?"

Pereira didn't respond. Mayo says he didn't try to intimidate Pereira. That isn't his style. He prides himself on building a rapport with everyone — co-workers, victims, defendants, whoever. One time, Mayo says, a man confessed to sexually abusing his own teenage daughters. Then, he thanked the detective for helping lift the burden off his chest.

Mayo has worked at Gainesville Police for

27 years, and he wears a quick smile below his short, silver hair. Curse words are some of his favorite adjectives, nouns and verbs, and he punctuates his sentences with laughter or the word "man."

For Gainesville's darkest sinners, he is their foul-mouthed priest, assigning handcuffs instead of Hail Marys for forgiveness.

"I have an innate ability to talk and listen to people, all sorts of people, regardless of their social or economic standing," Mayo wrote in a 1992 letter requesting a transfer from the patrol unit to the GPD investigations division.

Mayo didn't always want to be a police officer. Growing up as a Cuban immigrant in southwest Miami, he hated cops. When he was a kid, officers stopped by while he played football on the street. They yelled at Mayo and his friends and threatened to beat them up if the boys talked back. Then the Miami-Dade officers drove away, Mayo's football in their hands.

He enrolled at UF, but soon needed a job. He signed up to take aptitude tests for the police force and the fire department. The GPD test came first. Mayo scored in the top 3 percent, and he was offered a job. He took it, figuring he would stay a year, save his money and get back to school.

"I ended up liking it," he says. "The danger, the adrenaline — it was fun. It reminded me of when I was a kid."

Twenty-four years later, Mayo tapped into his roots. He tried to be Pereira's friend, tried to pull him in like a fisherman. He spoke with Pereira, a Puerto Rican native, in English and Spanish.

And he lied. He said the State Attorney's Office was looking at the case. In truth, prosecutors didn't know about it yet. There had been no arrest. Mayo also told Pereira seven times that nurses found his hand DNA on the women. Hand DNA does not exist.

"These girls are beautiful, aren't they?" Mayo said again.

Finally, Pereira responded, "Yeah." "You know, they're not just beautiful. They're gorgeous."

"Yeah," Pereira said again. "You're right."

"There's no guy in the world that would resist putting his hands on these girls," Mayo said.

Pereira sat silent. Mayo said it again, twice more. Pereira obliged.

"Yeah, you're right," Pereira said. "Nobody could resist it."

"Come on, man," Mayo said. "I know you put your hands on her."

Pereira, once more, fell silent. And once more, Mayo tried to catch him. You know, he said, investigators can find hand DNA on a victim weeks later. There's no way Pereira's DNA would show up, was there?

That's when Pereira confessed, Mayo recalls. Pereira said he grabbed Susan's breasts, slid his

hands down her passed-out body and reached inside her underwear. Mayo asked about the other woman. Pereira didn't hesitate.

"I had sex with her," he said.

Mayo stopped, speechless. He didn't expect a confession to come so easily. But it wasn't a confession, at least not the type Mayo wanted. He asked Pereira if the woman was passed out like Susan. No, Pereira said, the sex was consensual.

Still, Mayo was satisfied with the interrogation. The other woman agreed to press charges with Susan, and Mayo arrested Pereira on four counts of sexual battery.

The case went to the State Attorney's Office, and it fell apart, as sexual battery cases often do. Prosecutor Bill Ezzell faced the burden of proving a he-said, she-said case, as prosecutors often do in rape trials. It didn't matter that it was two women's words against one man's. They still lacked evidence. And Pereira's defense attorney, Nick Zissimopoulos, poked holes in the GPD investigation.

Susan said she felt groggy when she woke up, Zissimopoulos argued in a deposition with Mayo. How dependable was her memory of those early morning moments? And even if someone did grope Susan, as she said, who's to say Pereira was the offender? He and his friends said the other woman in bed that night was bisexual. What if she abused Susan? And sure, Pereira told Mayo he touched Susan. But did he really have any other choice? Mayo lied to Pereira, told him investigators found his hand DNA on Susan. What if Pereira confessed because he knew that was what Mayo wanted? What if Pereira was just scared of Mayo, a police officer? Pereira is a minority living in the United States, after all.

Susan moved out of town in the summer of 2009 to get away from Pereira and the trial. She couldn't leave her home in Gainesville. She felt nervous that she would run into Pereira. Scared. Sick to her stomach. She saw him once at a bar downtown, she says. He walked up to her, smiling. Her whole body shook.

As she received updates about the case, her hopes of going to trial faded. A victim advocate told her about a plea deal: 60 days in jail, one year of probation. Susan asked if he could be labeled a sex offender as part of the deal. He wasn't.

"If that doesn't say, I'm a joke, I don't know what does," she says. "It was a total slap in the face."

Months earlier, when Susan first pressed charges, Mayo told her the case wouldn't have legs without a Pereira confession. But, if he could somehow get Pereira to admit to having sex...

"Well, the case goes through the system," Mayo says, "and they cut him a sweet deal. ... I felt bad. Really bad."

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Pereira makes his money promoting bars and clubs in town. Venues like The Swamp Restaurant, Fat Daddy's and Envy serve as the background to pictures of him online. Beautiful college women in dresses serve as the foreground.

"Look at his job setup," Mayo says. "He's a club promoter, man. He's in the bars. He's giving these girls free drinks. He lets them in the bars free and everything. That's his environment, his honey."

While Susan's trial played out, Mayo says he met two other women who accused Pereira of rape. They were at Fat Tuesday after hours, the women told Mayo. But they didn't want to press charges. They deserved it, they said.

Around town, Pereira, 34, goes by "Luijo." On his Facebook page, he advertises ticket sales to local events like "Dance of the Dead II" at the Vault NightClub.

After talking with his second defense attorney, Huntley Johnson, Pereira declined to comment for this story. But in a Facebook message, he sent the Alligator a New York Times article about the unofficial practice of prosecutors threatening defendants with harsh sentences if they do not agree to a plea deal. The article fo-

RAPE PREVENTION Tips

Police, prosecutors and victim advocates maintain that rape victims are not to blame for the crime. You can never completely protect yourself from sexual assault. But the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network suggests you take some precautions while in social settings:

1. Go with a group of friends. Arrive together, check in with each other throughout the evening and leave together.
2. Trust your instincts. If you feel unsafe in a situation, go with your gut. If you see something suspicious, contact law enforcement immediately.
3. Don't leave your drink unattended. If you've left your drink alone, just get a new one.
4. Watch out for your friends, and vice versa. If a friend seems out of it, is too intoxicated for the amount of alcohol they've had, or is acting out of character, get him or her to a safe place immediately.
5. If you suspect you or a friend has been drugged, contact law enforcement immediately. Be explicit with doctors so they can give you the correct tests (you will need a urine test and possibly others).

Shawn Janetzke and Tyler Jett / Alligator Staff

cuses on Alachua County.

Even if a defendant thinks he is innocent, the article argues, he or she will likely take a plea deal out of fear. But because these conversations supposedly unfold behind closed doors, there are no official records to prove how often they happen.

Pereira asked a reporter if he had read the Times' article before. The reporter told him he had not.

"That's funny," Pereira wrote, "considering the article is using Gainesville as an example."

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As she walked out of the courthouse this October, two years after she said Pereira raped her, Ruiz's brown hair cascaded down her pale face to her shoulders.

She doesn't wear a set hairstyle, never has. The oldest of seven sisters, Ruiz grew up plucking, pulling and pinning back her naturally curly strands in whichever form or fashion appealed to her that day. But two years ago, that changed.

For months after she woke up next to Pereira, she says she would only twist her hair into a ponytail. She chose outfits that hid her legs. She stopped wearing makeup.

"I was afraid that if I looked nice it would happen to me," she says. "Somebody would be attracted to me, and it would happen again."

Ruiz wants to put the case behind her. She has made her peace with it, time healing her wounds as much as they can be healed. She doesn't blame herself like she used to, like Susan did, too. She doesn't feel tainted anymore either, as so many victims in Gainesville and elsewhere feel after their identities have become just a number on the ever stretching list of victims.

Ruiz wears her hair down again, and she finally feels comfortable dating. She started a long-distance relationship with the brother of one of her best friends, communicating almost entirely on the phone for about a year.

In April, she moved to Wesley Chapel to live with him. In September they got married on the beach.

All the while, the case sat in the back of her mind. She prepared to go to trial, to take the stand and swear on the Bible and tell a jury what Pereira did to her and then sit back and listen to Susan and Susan's friend give their testimonies. Like the first case, this one didn't involve much physical evidence because Ruiz didn't tell police until more than a week after the incident — too late for nurses to examine her. But a crime lab analyst from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement found Pereira's DNA on Ruiz's shorts. And three women were accusing Pereira this time. Maybe this case would be different.

But maybe not.

Zissimopoulos questioned Ruiz's story, just like he did with Susan and her friend in the first case. The day after Pereira allegedly raped Ruiz, he ordered food for her, and she ate it. And they still texted each other afterward. In one message, Zissimopoulos pointed out at a pretrial hearing in February, Ruiz ended with a smiley face. Why would a rape victim do that? And Pereira's friends claimed Ruiz sometimes did drugs around them. Who's to say she didn't drug herself that night?

Determining Pereira's potential punishment is complicated. Because Ruiz said he raped her while still on probation for the previous case, however, Pereira could have faced a minimum prison sentence of 25 years if he were convicted of sexual battery this time.

But Ezzell, who also prosecuted Pereira after his first arrest, again offered a deal, and Pereira pled no contest to aggravated battery.

"It was a weak case," says Mann, the State Attorney's Office spokesman. "However, we felt that due to his previous criminal history, it was important to go forward and get sanctions."

This time, the plea deal was a bit harsher. Pereira received 15 years of probation, which he can serve in Puerto Rico with his probation officer's permission. He can't break any laws, drink alcohol or use drugs. He must complete 100 hours of community service within two years and meet 20 times with a therapist who specializes in sexual treatment. He can't work as a promoter. He can't stay out past 11 p.m.

But he did not receive any jail time.

Ruiz wanted to see a harsher punishment, as most victims do. She wanted to tell a jury how painful her life was for the last two years. She wanted to point out that the man she said raped her didn't even put her name in his cellphone. At one hearing, Ruiz says, she saw a screenshot of a message she sent Pereira. At the top of the image, it said the message came from "Blue Eyes." Her eyes are green.

Looking back, she wishes she were more educated about rape two years ago. She wishes she went to the hospital so that nurses could have taken evidence. And she wishes she knew that the county offers victim advocates who will listen to your struggles and tell you that fear and pain are understandable, that you aren't going crazy.

Susan and Ruiz have looked at each other's cases and felt spooked. The crimes seem too similar, both agree. What if they were planned?

"Three girls have reported, and he's still getting away with it," Susan says. "What does he have to do? Kill one of us?"

At least the cases are over, Ruiz figures. Maybe she can move on now. Maybe she won't think about it as much. She isn't holding her breath.

When she thinks about Pereira, nerves dance in her stomach and twist her insides into knots. She can't eat. Can't sleep. The day before the hearing in October, she could only groom three dogs — half her normal pace. She couldn't steady her hands.

"I don't know if it will ever go away," she says of the pain.

Ruiz has looked for outlets. Maybe poetry will help, she thought. So she tried it:

*Why does a wretch of a man run free to lurk the shadows?
I feel he should be punished,
But who will do so?
If the law is also wretched, then who to turn to for justice?*



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator

Luis Pereira walks out of the Alachua County Criminal Justice Center with his attorney, Huntley Johnson, Oct. 25. GPD arrested Pereira on charges of sexual battery twice in three years.

[REPORTED RAPE RATE]	
CITIES IN THE SOUTH EAST	
1. GAINESVILLE	1 PER 789 WOMEN
2. FAYETTEVILLE, ARK.	1 PER 794 WOMEN
3. NASHVILLE, TENN.	1 PER 842 WOMEN
4. KNOXVILLE, TENN.	1 PER 1000 WOMEN
5. TUSCALOOSA, ALA.	1 PER 1219 WOMEN
6. LEXINGTON, KY.	1 PER 1459 WOMEN
7. COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS	1 PER 1510 WOMEN
8. COLUMBIA, MO.	1 PER 1543 WOMEN
9. ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GA.	1 PER 2035 WOMEN
10. AUBURN, ALA.	1 PER 2269 WOMEN
11. BATON ROUGE, LA.	1 PER 2342 WOMEN
12. STARKSVILLE, MISS.	1 PER 4028 WOMEN

* Source: FBI Uniform Crime Report, 2011 *** Columbia, S.C., and Oxford, Miss., not reporting
** National Average: 1 per 1,897 women

Shawn Janetzke and Tyler Jett / Alligator Staff

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Marcott 1029 SW 3rd Avenue

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Wood Floors, Central H & Air
Lease thru May, June or July 2013
1236 SW 1st Avenue \$650/Mo

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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. 4-24-72-6

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 4-24-72-6

6 Furnishings

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

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4-24-13-72-11

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11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

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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.

13 Wanted



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 need of donations for their holiday meals, such as turkeys, boxed stuffing and canned vegetables.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Stephanie Breal at (352) 378-9079 or by e-mail at sfhcoor@stfrancis.cfooxmail.com

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 1-11-13-72-13

CUTTING-EDGE UF RESEARCH STUDY ●BOTH smokers AND never-smokers ●Periodontal (gum line) sampling only ●5 visits over 2 years; up to 1.5 hr each visit ●FREE oral exam, up to \$160 compensation Call: 352-392-2945 or 352-641-0319 12-4-12-61-13

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS
1 Mascara recipient
5 Lie in store for
10 Naval jail
14 ___ rug
15 Swiss capital, to the Swiss
16 One and only
17 Hollywood
19 "My great hope ___ laugh as much as I cry": Angelou
20 Impressive property
21 Dugout leader
23 Mattress make
24 Outdoor seating option
26 Airport screening org.
27 WC
29 Italian three
30 "Stop-___": UGK hit
31 Classic theater name
33 Ignore socially
34 Festive centerpiece adorned with the starts 17-, 24-, 49- and 57-
39 Big cat's cry
40 Ballet bends
41 Flightless Aussie bird
42 Pickle's place
45 Computer application file extension
46 CBS-owned cable movie sta.
49 All the details, casually
52 Group of eight
54 Not taking sides
55 Pointed abode
56 Gets hitched
57 Venezuelan natural wonder
59 ___ above the rest
60 Just right
61 Flower-loving buzzers
62 Peeps from pups
63 Pub game
64 Miss in Mex.

DOWN
1 Most current news, with "the"
2 Crops up
3 Nissan compact
4 Assails
5 Blessed with skills
6 ___ behind the ears
7 Yummy smell
8 Needing, with "of"
9 Sawbuck, to a Brit
10 HMS Bounty's ill-fated captain
11 '80s-'90s wisecracking TV mom
12 Cloak-and-dagger doings
13 Former Prizm maker
18 And others, in bibliographies
22 Unhittable serve
24 Crotchety oldest
25 Stick up
28 Drinks in the a.m.
31 "I need a sweater!"
32 Baseball arbiter
33 Yearbook gp.
34 Five-time Olympic gold winner Nadia
35 Called to account

36 "Jeopardy!" host
46 Less fresh
47 "To be, or not to be" speaker
48 Ukrainian port
50 Thirsts (for)
51 Alleged Soviet spy
53 "Deadliest Catch" boatful
55 "___ fair in love ..."
56 Technique
58 "Dig in!"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com 12/03/12

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1. Name the only stadium that is currently home to an NFL team and a major-league baseball team.
2. Who played more games with one team: Brooks Robinson or Robin Yount?
3. Name the first team in college football history to be voted a unanimous No. 1 in both the media and coaches polls.
4. When was the last time the Hawks were in the NBA Finals?
5. Name the last time an NHL team won the Stanley Cup while having no player reach the 60-point mark during the regular season.
6. What was the last vehicle other than a Toyota to win a NASCAR Truck series race at Daytona International Speedway?
7. Name the last married woman to win a singles title at Wimbledon.

Answers

1. The Oakland Coliseum (A's and Raiders).
2. Robinson played 2,896 games with the Orioles; Yount played 2,856 games with the Brewers.
3. Southern Cal, in 1972.
4. In 1961, the Hawks (then in St. Louis) lost to Boston in five games.
5. The New Jersey Devils in 2003.
6. Mark Martin drove a Ford to victory at Daytona in 2006.
7. Chris Evert Lloyd, in 1981.

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W ₄	A ₁	S ₁	T ₁	A ₁	G ₂	E ₁	RACK 3 =	<u>83</u>
U ₁	N ₁	H ₄	O ₁	O ₁	K ₅	.	RACK 4 =	<u>13</u>
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PAR SCORE 150-160

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Florida earns bid to play Louisville in Sugar Bowl

► THE CONTEST WILL BE PLAYED IN NEW ORLEANS ON JAN. 2 AT 8:30 P.M.

GREG LUCA
Alligator Staff Writer

Florida's berth in the Sugar Bowl was a foregone conclusion, but its opponent was a mystery.

On Sunday night, UF was officially selected to square off against Louisville on Jan. 2 at 8:30 p.m. in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans.

"We're honored to play in New Orleans," coach Will Muschamp said. "Our guys are really jacked up. ... Our guys were thrilled to have this opportunity, so they'll be excited about this game."

Oklahoma was projected to face Florida, but Northern Illinois stole Oklahoma's BCS bid by defeating Kent State 44-37 in the Mid-American Conference Championship Game. The win vaulted the Huskies to No. 15 in the BCS standings. By rule, any team from a non-BCS conference that finishes in the top 16 of the BCS standings and ranks ahead of a champion from one of the big six conferences earns an automatic BCS bowl berth.

Oklahoma finished the season 10-2, but 11-1 Kansas State was selected to represent the Big 12 in the Fiesta Bowl.

Louisville — the Big East champion — is ranked No. 21 in the latest BCS standings.

Florida checked in at No. 3, moving up one spot after No. 2 Alabama defeated previous No. 3 Georgia 32-28 in the Southeastern Conference Championship Game.

After tabbing Florida, the Sugar Bowl was the second-to-last BCS bowl to select its second participant. The Sugar Bowl chose Louisville over Northern Illinois, which will face Florida State in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 1.

Charlie Strong, who served as the Gators' defensive coordinator from 2002-09, coaches the Cardinals. Muschamp met Strong during his time as the defensive coordinator at LSU.

"I've got a lot of respect for him and a guy that, in this profession, is one of the good guys," Muschamp said. "He was an outstanding defensive coordinator and a good friend."

Louisville clinched the Big East championship and secured an automatic BCS bowl berth by erasing a 14-3 halftime deficit to notch a 20-17 win against Rutgers on Thursday. The Cardinals are 10-2. Louisville won its first nine games before losing back-to-back games to Syracuse and Connecticut, which are a combined 12-12. UF opens as a 16.5-point favorite.

"This is a team that was one game away from playing for a national title," Strong said of Florida. "We're nowhere near that right now."

Contact Greg Luca at gluca@alligator.org.



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator Staff

Coach Will Muschamp reacts to a call during Florida's 37-26 win against Florida State on Nov. 24 at Doak Campbell Stadium. Muschamp led the Gators to an 11-1 record and a Sugar Bowl berth during his second season at the helm in Gainesville. Florida will play Louisville in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 2 in New Orleans.

Freshman shining offensively

LONDON WATNICK
Alligator Writer

When Florida lined up against Marquette on Thursday night, the Gators needed someone to step up and provide a quick boost.

Michael Frazier II did just that — and more.

The freshman guard notched a team-high 17 points and buried 5 of 8 three-point attempts, helping the No. 7 Gators pull away in the first half during an 82-49 victory against the Golden Eagles.

Four of Frazier's threes came in the first half. In 22 minutes off the bench, he was 6-of-9 shooting. He also tallied two rebounds and an assist.

"What can I say? It was unbelievable out

there," Frazier said. "My teammates did a great job of getting me the ball, and shots went down. ... The bucket did seem bigger than usual."

Most of Frazier's points came in bunches. His first two three-pointers came on back-to-back possessions and increased the Gators' lead to 16-9 with 11:39 remaining in the first half.

With Florida up by 10 late in the first period, Frazier again hit three-pointers on consecutive possessions to stretch UF's edge to 38-22.

Frazier sunk his first four threes from the wing, and he scored his fifth from the left corner. All five of the 6-foot-4 guard's three-point

UF Basketball

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 15

VOLLEYBALL

Gators advance to Sweet 16

JONATHAN CZUPRYN
Alligator Writer

For the eighth year in a row, the Gators are among the final 16 teams alive in the NCAA Tournament.

No. 14 Florida (27-4) knocked off College of Charleston (27-8) in three sets (25-20, 25-16, 25-14) on Saturday night in the O'Connell Center.

UF travels to Austin, Texas, for a rematch against Texas on Dec. 7 at 8 p.m.

The Longhorns, the NCAA Tournament's No. 3 overall seed, defeated the Gators in three sets (29-27, 25-22, 26-24) on Aug. 31 as part of the Nike Big Four Classic at Penn State.

On Saturday, Florida survived a close first set before separating itself from the start of the second set. UF never surrendered the lead.

As Florida's offensive numbers increased, College of Charleston's hitting percentage declined. Gators coach Mary Wise credited the defensive effort mostly to middle blockers Betsy Smith and Chloe Mann.

"We rely so much on those middles on the court," Wise said. "They're like coaches on the floor. There are a lot of adjustments that are made and not made between serves, but while the ball is in play. And those two have developed such a high volleyball IQ."

While Smith and Mann combined for eight blocks, they also contributed offensively with 18 kills and a .500 hitting

SEE VOLLEYBALL, PAGE 15



Mann



Elizabeth Beisel and the Florida women's swimming team won the Ohio State Invitational on Sunday. See story, page 14.

Poll Question

Are you disappointed that Louisville was selected as Florida's opponent in the Sugar Bowl? *Vote online at alligatorSports.org.*

Poll Results

Does Florida deserve to play in the BCS National Championship Game ahead of the SEC champion?

53% YES
47% NO

259 total votes

UF men's team suffers first setback at Ohio State Invitational

► THE UF WOMEN'S SQUAD NOTCHED ITS SECOND MEET VICTORY THIS SEASON.

STAFF REPORT

On Sunday, the Florida men's swimming and diving team finished without a victory for the first time this season.

The Gators finished second in a field of seven at the Ohio State Invitational in Columbus.

Ohio State held onto first place

throughout the three-day meet, beating Florida by 309 points.

Junior Bradley deBorde took second place in the 100-yard freestyle on Sunday, one of his few bright spots at the invitational.

Sophomores Eduardo Solaeche-Gomez and Matt Elliott shined in the 200 breaststroke, finishing first and second, respectively, on Sunday.

Junior Marcin Cieslak and senior Sebastien Rousseau grabbed the top two spots in the 200 butterfly on Sunday.

Those performances were the extent of the Gators men's success, as the Buckeyes' effort proved too much for Florida to overcome during the weekend.

Ohio State won 10 of 18 races during the three-day stretch en route to its fourth consecutive invitational title.

The Gators women's team notched its second meet victory this season, holding off second-

place Stanford and third-place Ohio State.

Junior Elizabeth Beisel secured first place in both the 200 backstroke and the 400 IM on Saturday.

Junior Ellese Zalewski helped the Gators secure a first-place finish in the 200 medley relay on Saturday.

Zalewski also posted a time of 52.26 to notch a victory in the 100 butterfly finals on Saturday.

Her win was the third individual victory for the Gators

women.

Zalewski also earned a second-place finish in the 800 free relay on Saturday.

Florida will train until the final week of December before taking a short break.

The UF men's team will be off until Jan. 18, when it travels to Dallas for the SMU Classic, which will last two days.

Following the SMU Classic, the men will join the women back in the O'Connell Center for a dual-meet against FAU on Jan. 19.

UF Swimming

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Florida's late-game struggles continue in loss to Michigan

PHILLIP HEILMAN

Alligator Writer

Before the Gators begin winning games consistently, they must learn to finish.

Florida (5-3) was just 7-10 in games decided by 10 points or fewer in 2011-12. On Saturday, the Gators dropped another close contest.

Despite taking a 32-27 lead into halftime, Florida lost 59-53 to Michigan. The Gators struggled to close out possessions and, ultimately, the

game.

"(Michigan likes) a low-possession ball game, and we didn't do a good job defensively of maintaining our focus," coach Amanda Butler said. "We would put a lot of pressure on them, and then we would have a breakdown with 10 seconds left (on the shot clock)."

Michigan's methodical offense was troublesome. Florida botched assignments deep into possessions. Trailing in the second half, UF could not overcome the continual lapses.



George

"Those last 10 seconds (of possessions), your defense needs to get tighter and sharper," Butler said.

Assistant coach David

Lowery added: "You've got to have great defensive rotation, communication, the whole nine because the way [Michigan] plays — constant movement, looking to spot up, look-

ing to create opportunities for each other — I thought that was the difference in the game."

Lowery said the coaching staff stressed the importance of staying focused against the Wolverines' deliberate offense. Evidently, that did not take hold. Michigan made 10 of 21 shots in the second half to reverse the halftime deficit.

Florida faded down the stretch. The Gators hit 8 of 37 shots in the final 20 minutes and scored a season-low 53 points.

Jennifer George scored a team-best 15 points and grabbed nine rebounds but was frustrated with Florida's miscues. George said the Gators will continue to struggle if they don't develop a focus that they lacked on Saturday.

"In the second half, there was not enough awareness and not enough intensity to contain [Michigan]," George said. "We just have to have more pride in our defense. Nothing is going to change unless our defense changes."

Frazier playing new position

HOOPS, from page 13

field goals were catch-and-shoot attempts.

"He was shooting a lot but hadn't made a lot of shots lately, so I think [Thursday night] was good for him, for his confidence," junior forward Will Yeguete said.

Frazier showcased his knack for scoring in Florida's exhibition against Nebraska-Kearney on Nov. 1. He recorded 21 points on 8-of-10 shooting and made 5 of 6 three-pointers.

But prior to Thursday night's contest, Frazier averaged 3.4 points per game on 25 percent shooting in five regular-season contests.

"Michael's shooting percentages [didn't] indicate or reflect the kind of shooter he is for our team," coach Billy Donovan said. "He's proven in practice, he's proven his whole

career that he's a really good shooter."

This season, Frazier has averaged 16.8 minutes per game — the most of any Florida freshman.

"It's the next level, playing with other guys that are better than you" Frazier said. "My teammates trust me, so that feels good."

Frazier's ability to rebound well at small forward has earned him extended minutes. In six games, the natural shooting guard has averaged 2.8 boards per contest.

Donovan said Frazier needs to better understand defensive schemes and rotations, but the freshman's basketball IQ and work ethic in practice are unquestioned.

"He's one of those guys I really enjoy being around," Donovan said. "He's passionate about the game, passionate about getting better and puts the time in."

Seniors win final home match

VOLLEYBALL, from page 13

percentage.

Mann, the Southeastern Conference Player of the Year, said the middles owed their success to their teammates.

"The way we excelled tonight was definitely due to our amazing passing," Mann said. "Even on defense, our back-row players were able to get the ball in good positions for Taylor [Unroe] to distribute really evenly. And I think the fact that Taylor spread the ball so well gave us a lot of open looks throughout the stretch."

Tangerine Wiggs was one of three seniors to play her last match in the O'Connell Center, but she gave it little thought.

"It was exciting to play our last game in the O'Dome, but by no means do we want this to be our last game we play," Wiggs said. "We don't want our last game to be until very far in December. Our main goal is much further down the road."

Wise said her team was still learning about itself three months ago. Now, the players are much more comfortable with their roles and what they need to do to advance past the Sweet 16 for the second consecutive year.

"The way we excelled tonight was definitely due to our amazing passing."

Chloe Mann
UF middle blocker

When the Gators first faced the Longhorns, they were still adjusting after losing Naomi Santos-Lamb to an ACL tear. Now, they have grown accustomed to the lineup.

"We were making it up on the fly a lot," Wise said. "Right now, we have a much better idea of who we are. We take that experience but know the score is 0-0 when we walk on that floor — their floor."

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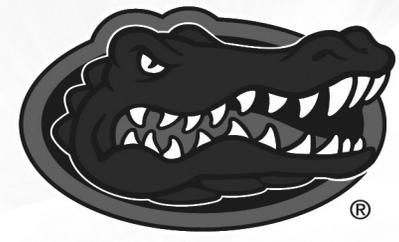
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SPRING SPORTS SECTIONS

Issue Date	Sports Coverage
Mon. 1/7	Football Season & Bowl Game Recap (Deadline: 12/07/12)
Fri. 1/18	Gymnastics, Tennis, Swimming, Women's Basketball Men's Basketball vs. Missouri, Track & Field Gator Invitational
Fri. 1/25	Gymnastics Gators Link to Pink vs. Auburn
Fri. 2/1	Men's Basketball vs. Ole Miss, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Women's Basketball
Fri. 2/8	Men's Basketball vs. Mississippi State Men's Golf Gator Invitational, Softball Preview
Fri. 2/15	Baseball Preview, Softball, Women's Basketball
Fri. 2/22	Tennis, Lacrosse, Baseball, Gymnastics Men's Basketball vs. Arkansas
Fri. 3/1	Men's Basketball vs. Alabama Softball, Baseball, Gymnastics, Men's Tennis
Mon. 3/18	Men's NCAA Basketball Tournament (Bracket)
Fri. 3/29	Men's Tennis, Baseball
Fri. 4/5	Track & Field Pepsi Florida Relays Orange & Blue Game (Approximate Date) Gymnastics NCAA Regionals
Fri. 4/12	Baseball, Men's Tennis

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