

# the independent florida alligator

Not officially associated with the University of Florida

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Casey Prather  
and No. 7 Florida  
defeated No. 25  
Kentucky 69-52 on  
Tuesday. Read the  
story on page 13.



VOLUME 107 ISSUE 98

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2013

## POLITICS

# State of the Union is strong, Obama says

**CHRIS ALCANTARA and  
KELCEE GRIFFIS**  
Alligator Staff Writers

President Barack Obama praised the United States' economic progress in the last year and called for congressional action to boost job growth, strengthen the middle class and reduce the national deficit during his annual State of the Union address Tuesday night in

Washington, D.C.

Among his proposals, Obama called upon Congress to raise the minimum wage to \$9 an hour and change the current Higher Education Act to make college tuition more affordable for citizens.

When the news hit Gainesville, responses were mixed.

Rachel McGovern, a 20-year-old political science junior and

UF College Democrats vice president, said she supports Obama's plan to cut the cost of tuition.

"I think making college more affordable is definitely possible," she said. "Higher education should not be a privilege only afforded to the rich."

Katy Melchiorre, a 21-year-old UF political science and telecommunication senior and UF College Republicans chair-

woman, agreed the growing costs of college is a problem but said other solutions should be pursued as well.

"I think rather than having so much federal involvement in education, that students and families should have a better understanding of options other than college," she said.

On raising the minimum

**SEE OBAMA, PAGE 4**

## Spring SG candidates debate today

**COLLEEN WRIGHT**  
Alligator Writer

Six Student Government candidates will have a war of words at the UF SG Debate today.

The debate, which is sponsored by the Freshman Leadership Council and co-sponsored by Hispanic Students Association and Black Students Union, will be at the University Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the debate starts at 7 p.m.

Alyssa Nieves, the council's vice chairwoman for public relations, said this is the eighth time that the council has sponsored the debate. In previous years, the multicultural organizations hosted their own debates.

The presidential, vice presidential and treasurer candidates from the Students Party and the Swamp Party will each address predetermined questions. Students in attendance can tweet questions to the candidates before the debate begins with #UFSGDebate.

Nieves, a 21-year-old public relations junior, suggested that UF journalism professor Mike Foley should be the moderator of the debate because of his personality.

"We don't want students to feel like the political process is boring," she said.

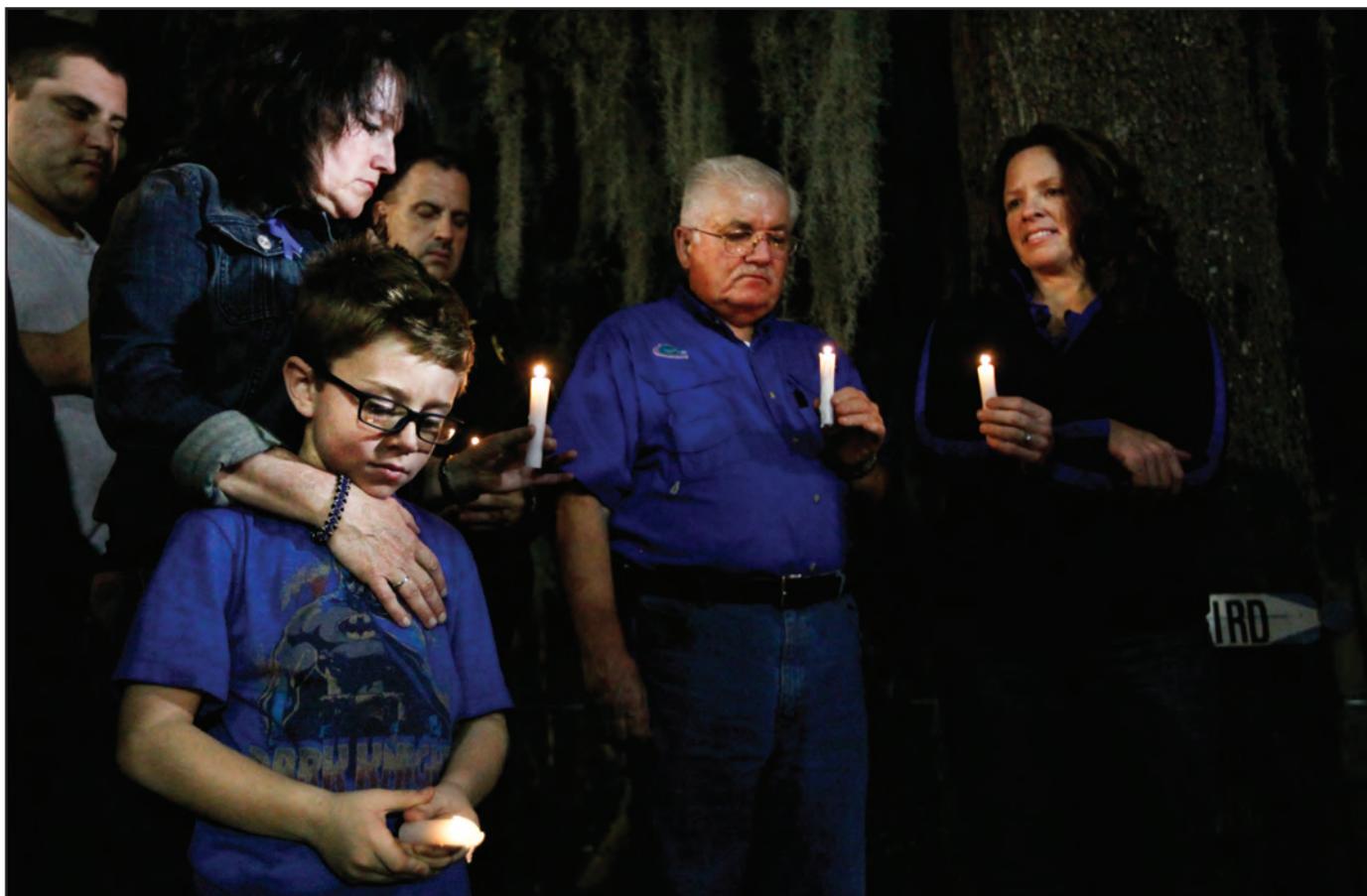
Foley agreed to moderate his first SG debate. He said it's important for students to know who is representing them.

"They ought to know what their representatives look like, sound like and think," Foley said.

The council's special events director, 21-year-old UF political science and economics junior Bryce Freeman, said it was a great opportunity for the student body to learn about the candidates without bias.

"Who we elect next week has a real impact on the University of Florida," he said.

Contact Colleen Wright at [cwright@alligator.org](mailto:cwright@alligator.org).



Elise Giordano / Alligator Staff

## Light Up My Heart

Kelly Gaudet, 51, comforts Maplewood Elementary School second-grader Logan Scott Baird, 7, during a candlelight vigil for Gainesville Police Department officer Scott Baird on Tuesday night on Northwest 16th Terrace.

# Florists, chocolatiers prepare for Valentine's

► THE HOLIDAY IS THE YEAR'S BUSIEST.

**ALEX HARRIS**  
Alligator Contributing Writer

Gainesville residents may be breaking a sweat as Valentine's Day approaches,

but local florists', bakers' and chocolatiers' hearts are skipping a beat in preparation for the big day.

At Gainesville Floral Exchange, Tiffany Stanley barely has time to catch her breath.

During the last week, she has helped the store, 635 NW 13th St., Suite C, process more than 500 flower orders.

Stanley, 26, said she expects at least 500 more today and Thursday, a 10 percent increase from last year.

Mother's Day gets busy, she said, but no day brings her store more business than Valentine's Day.

"It gets really crazy. People call all day," she said. "We have lines out the

**SEE VALENTINE, PAGE 4**

## Today

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79/52

## UF organization to raffle off Ultra tickets

Raffle tickets cost \$5 each, pg 5.

## Study shows low-calorie menus good for business

There has been a 10 percent increase in sales since 2006, pg 9.



## Gators softball leaving the yard:

Ensley Gammel and Florida began the 2013 season by hitting eight home runs in five games at the Kajikawa Classic in Tempe, Ariz., pg 15.



# News Today

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

### Black Male Development Initiative

The Black Male Development Initiative presents Black Men In Society: Past to Present. Explore the contributions, achievements and social influence black men have made in America. It will begin at 6 p.m. at the Institute of Black Culture, 1510 W. University Ave. For more information, contact BMDI on Facebook at Black Male Development Initiative.

### Farm to Table, Bike to Breakfast

The Office of Sustainability invites everyone to the Farm to Table, Bike to Breakfast event Thursday. Enjoy a locally and sustainably sourced meal at Gator Corner Dining from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., free to the first 150 hungry Gators. Participants are encouraged to commute sustainably. Bike to Breakfast will kick off the Office of Sustainability's spring campaign, Under one Umbrella. For more information, visit [www.sustainable.ufl.edu/underoneumbrella](http://www.sustainable.ufl.edu/underoneumbrella).

### Acupuncture Chinese New Year

The Dragon Rises College of Oriental Medicine will celebrate Chinese New Year with an open house Friday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Learn about Chinese medicine with demonstrations including acupuncture, tui na, cupping, auricular therapy and qigong. Tour the college and acupuncture clinic; listen to music; and meet faculty, students and alumni. For more information, call 352-371-2833 or visit 1000 NE 16th Ave., Building F.

### "Night Across the Street" at the Hipp Cinema

"Night Across the Street," from Chilean director Raul Ruiz will begin showing at the Hipp Cinema, 25 SE Second Place, Friday at 7 p.m. The film follows an office worker who is

## FORECAST

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
<b>THUNDER STORMS</b> 779/52	<b>CLOUDY</b> 67/45	<b>PARTLY CLOUDY</b> 71/42	<b>PARTLY CLOUDY</b> 68/34	<b>SUNNY</b> 58/32

on the verge of retirement as he begins to relive both real and imagined memories from his life. Buy tickets at [www.thehipp.org](http://www.thehipp.org) or call 352-375-HIPP.

### Hackathon

Gainesville Hackerspace downtown will host a 24-hour Hackathon at noon Saturday. The event's purpose is to put a new interface atop the site [www.txttag.me](http://www.txttag.me) and to create mobile apps for it. Programmers and graphic designers are invited. There will be three \$500 cash prizes for the winning individuals or teams for creating an iOS, Android or Web interface for TXT TAG. More information and the sign-up sheet can be found at [www.txttag.me/hackathon](http://www.txttag.me/hackathon).

### Run for Your Heart 5K

Support heart health at 7:30 a.m. Saturday in Albert "Ray" Massey West Side Park. This race is in support of National Heart Awareness Month, and all proceeds benefit Operation Heart. Registration is online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). Registration is \$15 before race day and \$20 on race day.

### Phi Kappa Tau presents Safe Sets for the Kids

On Saturday, Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity will put on its third annual philanthropy Safe Sets for the Kids, a volleyball tournament to benefit SeriousFun Children's Network. The event will take place at the Florida Gym at noon. Teams will consist of members of the Panhellenic

Council who will compete in a single-elimination volleyball tournament. On Wednesday, Bella Donna's Italian Eatery on will donate 10 percent of its proceeds to the philanthropy if customers mention Phi Kappa Tau when they order. For information, email vicepresident@ufphitau.com.

### Ol' Barn Dance

Dust off the cowgirl boots, put on a Stetson and join the Gainesville Roller Rebels Saturday at Mars Pub for The Ol' Barn Dance. The event will benefit the Gainesville Roller Rebels and feature themed contests; a dance party with beats by DJ Ito; and live music from The Ones to Blame, Nook & Cranny and Crunky Tonk Nonstars. Doors open at 10 p.m. with a \$5 cover charge. Visit [www.bit.ly/grbarn-dance](http://www.bit.ly/grbarn-dance) for more information.

### Got something going on?

Want to see it in this space? Send an email with "What's Happening" in the subject line to [jglum@alligator.org](mailto:jglum@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.

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

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## CAMPUS

# UF uses drones for research

ALEXA VOLLAND

Alligator Writer

UF was on a list released by the Federal Aviation Administration of the 81 public entities that applied for a license to use drones through October 2012.

Drones, which are unmanned aircrafts, are capable of highly advanced surveillance that some people consider intrusive, according to the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

They carry surveillance equipment, video cameras, thermal imaging, GPS tracking and cellphone eavesdropping tools. They can also be equipped with license plate cameras and facial recognition, according to the foundation's website.

However, UF, like other universities that have applied, use drones for research, said UF spokeswoman Janine Sikes.

Franklin Percival, program leader for the Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research

Unit, said certificates of authorization last one year, and UF has several certificates in effect.

Rebecca Jeschke, digital rights analyst for Electronic Frontier Foundation, said the foundation is most concerned with how law enforcement agencies will use drones, but it does understand the benefits of drone use in university research.

*"We are trying to come up with tools that improve our ability to do certain things."*

Franklin Percival

program leader for the Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

UF uses the technology in support of ongoing aerospace, geomatics, ecological and aquatic research, according to records on the foundation's website.

The UF Department of

Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering's Micro Air Vehicles Laboratory, the UF School of Forest Resources and Conservation's Geomatics Program and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work with the development of drones for a way to monitor natural resources in an affordable and user-friendly way, according to the UF/IFAS UAS research webpage.

Unmanned aircrafts can observe remote areas that lack runways, making dangerous areas less of a threat.

Percival said that, with low-level manned aircrafts being the leading cause of work-related mortality for wildlife biologists, unmanned aircrafts could have a positive impact on safety.

"We are trying to come up with tools that improve our ability to do certain things," he said. "And in this case it's evaluating wildlife habitats."

Contact Alexa Volland at [avolland@alligator.org](mailto:avolland@alligator.org).

# Singles to be sold tonight

► THE AUCTION WILL BE AT THE BACKYARD BAR.

HANNA MARCUS

Alligator Contributing Writer

Gainesville residents will put their wallets on the line for a chance to score a date this Valentine's Day.

The fifth annual Valentine's Singles Auction will begin at 11:30 p.m. at The Backyard Bar, 232 SE First St., between Boca Fiesta and Palomino Pool Hall.

Event coordinator Stephen Tierney said that although the Facebook event has about 160 confirmed guests, he expects more to attend. Those who sign up to be auctioned off will be called on stage, have a brief description about themselves read and be sold to the highest bidder.

"It's hilarious to see people go up on stage," Tierney said. "Some are nervous, some are jumping around and some are even taking off their clothes."

The entrance fee will range from \$3 to \$5, and bidding will start at \$1.

Disc jockey Cameron Burris participated as a bachelor in the past. He said the bidding prices for dates usually aren't steep.

"Bidding for a date isn't that expensive," he said. "But it has gone as high as about \$140 for a bachelor."

After the auction, participants will have their names entered into a raffle for a chance to win date nights sponsored by local restaurants.

The money raised from the auction will be split between the Civic Media Center and the Lynnae Hottinger Foundation for Ovarian Cancer Research.

Jessie Erickson, a 22-year-old UF public relations senior, will be auctioned off at the event. She said she has high hopes for a light-hearted night full of fun.

"I hope I get a sexy, tall, dark and handsome man as my highest bidder," she said. "Who knows, I may meet the man of my dreams."



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# UF students account for most business

**VALENTINE,**  
from page 1

door. People are always trying to come in and pick up flowers."

Stanley said the store's best-selling products are roses. The store ordered about 5,000 roses to meet this year's demands.

During the season of love, Stanley said, UF students account for a large portion of the store's business.

"We get quite a few students over here," she said. "We get people calling in and ordering over the phone. We deliver a lot to campus and the [apartment] complexes around here."

Meanwhile downtown, Natalie Suwanprakorn is preparing chocolate treats at her one-person operation, Armadillo Chocolates.

Although she works alone, Suwanprakorn, 36, had to squeeze

some seasonal help into her 100-square-foot kitchen in time for Thursday. The extra hands, she said, will package and deliver.

She hopes her products, a nine-piece vegan chocolate box and chocolate-dipped strawberries, will be a hit at local stores this Thursday.

"I've made a really sincere effort to make these chocolates for Valentine's Day really special with the flavors and the ingredients from local farmers," she said.

Another source for Valentine's Day goodies is KB Kakes in Alachua.

Erika Ashley, the general manager of KB Kakes, has worked with her mother, the owner and operator of the business, for several years.

She said the demand for their

best-selling product only increases near Valentine's Day.

"We've had the gourmet cake truffles at Dorn's [Liquors and Wine Warehouse] for four years now, and they're incredibly popular," Ashley said.

Ashley said her store doesn't put out special products near Valentine's Day. But she said they've made more of their signature cake truffle flavors: dark chocolate, birthday cake and strawberry cheesecake.

Along with the traditional Valentine's Day gift sources, a mother-daughter duo offers a local option.

On the corner of Northwest Third Avenue and Northwest 13th Street stand Michelle John and her 20-year-old daughter, Sarah. John, 40, and her daughter run a roadside stand of Valentine's Day-themed products from their truck.

On Tuesday, bags of roses, candy, stuffed animals and candles lined the truck bed. There were two customers Tuesday, John said.

Tuesday was John's first day at the location, and she hopes that sales will improve in the days leading up to Valentine's Day.

"It's just convenient," she said. "Instead of running around like a chicken with your head cut off, you can just get it all here."

With the clock ticking down to Valentine's Day, local store owners are bracing for the rush of last-minute orders today.

Stanley said her store is going to be ready.

"The phone's going to be ringing off the hook," she said.



Elise Giordano / Alligator Staff

Jennifer Russo, 46, left, and Ridgely Fanara, 38, gather flowers for floral arrangements inside Gainesville Floral Exchange, 635 NW 13th Street, Suite C, Tuesday afternoon.

# Scorecards would rank colleges by best value

**OBAMA,** from page 1

wage, McGovern said she was confident in Obama's plan to make living costs more affordable for citizens.

"The president is committed to making sure that working families can put food on the table," she said.

Melchiorre, however, disapproved of Obama's proposal and said raising the minimum wage would have a negative effect on the economy, which could cause increased business costs and fewer job opportunities.

"This would especially be true for small businesses," she said.

Michael Martinez, chairman of UF's political science department, called the president's list of proposals ambitious.

He said political pressure could have factored into the number of proposals Obama presented, which touched on subjects that ranged from tax reform to gun control.

"He's got to lay out what he thinks he will get accomplished in his next term because the midterm elections will loom starting this time in 2014," he said.

Martinez said some measures, such as raising minimum wage, catered to a Democratic Party base, but others were more feasible for bipartisan cooperation.

"Some of the gun control measures, such as full back-

ground checks, were doable," he said.

With his minimum wage raise proposal, Obama said full-time workers who earn minimum wage earn about \$14,500 a year. Raising it, he said, would better tie wages to the rising cost of living.

"This single step would raise the incomes of millions of working families," Obama said. "For businesses across the country, it would mean customers with more money in their pockets."

Obama said the amendment to the Higher Education Act would mean more access to the necessary education and training for future employment.

Obama also announced what he called a "college scorecard." The tool, released today, will rank colleges by best value to help families make informed financial decisions for higher education.

In the last year, more than 6 million new jobs were created, he said, and people are buying more American-made cars and less foreign oil.

Obama also announced his plan to end the war in Afghanistan and bring home 34,000 soldiers by the end of 2014. He said domestic programs such as Medicare should not be scrapped.

"We can't just cut our way to prosperity," he said.

Contact Chris Alcantara at [calcantara@alligator.org](mailto:calcantara@alligator.org). Contact Kelcee Griffis at [kgriffis@alligator.org](mailto:kgriffis@alligator.org).

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

# Senate passes SNAP coverage resolution

**COLLEEN WRIGHT**  
Alligator Writer

Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol vans are now one step closer to serving one more block.

The Student Senate unanimously passed a resolution in support of Nightlife Navigators' "One More Block" campaign initiative Tuesday night.

With sufficient student support and the green light from UF's administration, SNAP vans will drive one block north of University Avenue from Northwest 13th Street to Northwest 20th Terrace. The area includes UF Hillel, Emerson Hall, Classroom Building 105, St. Augustine Catholic Church and three fraternity houses.

Sen. Kelly Vidal, who authored the resolution, is the vice chair of outreach for Nightlife Navigators.

"The whole point is to in-

crease SNAP's outreach to students," she said.

Vidal said Nightlife Navigators will try to rouse student support for the initiative. She said the agency plans to collect student signatures for petitions on the Reitz Union Colonnade and Turlington Plaza. The group will also meet with other student organizations like sororities and the Cicerones for support.

Vidal said she has a personal goal to have the initiative pass by the end of the semester.

Liability, she said, is the administration's main concern for expanding SNAP service off campus.

Nightlife Navigators chief of staff Chris Ceresa thanked the Senate for passing the resolution.

"We feel like a lot of students use that block at night," he said.

Contact Colleen Wright at [cwright@alligator.org](mailto:cwright@alligator.org).

# US sees increase in shark attacks

**MARJORIE NUNEZ**  
Alligator Contributing Writer

Sharks have never had the best reputation. "Jaws," "Open Water" and "Shark Attack" are a few of the most popularized interactions of sharks and humans.

UF released Monday its International Shark Attack File annual report, which showed an increase in attacks from 2011 to 2012, with 53 attacks in the United States. About half of the attacks in the U.S. took place in Florida.

George Burgess, director of the Florida program for shark research, said 26 shark attacks was a normal amount for Florida, but the number of attacks in the country was higher than it has been in about 10 years.

He cited the numbers in the U.S. as an oddity. He attributed the Florida numbers to very active ocean involvement,

especially because of tourists and an expansive coastline.

"If you stretched out Florida's coastline, it'd reach to New England," Burgess said.

The abundance of tourism in Florida means more people in the water flooding sharks out of their environment, he said.

UF mechanical engineering senior and surfer Max Famiglietti, 22, said he will think more about sharks when he's in the water. Although he's seen sharks, he's never been too scared of them, he said.



Burgess

# UF organization to raffle off Ultra tickets

► RAFFLE TICKETS COST \$5.

**ELISE RODRIGUEZ**  
Alligator Contributing Writer

UF students with a taste for electronic music may be able to attend one of the largest electronic music festivals in the world in March for \$5 — and help a greater cause.

The UF chapter of Nourish International, a student-run, nonprofit organization, is hosting a raffle with a prize of two tickets to the first weekend of Ultra Music Festival in Miami.

The winner of the raffle, which began in December, will be announced Friday, said Katie Faughnan, head director of UF's Nourish chapter.

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, students interested in purchasing raffle tickets can go to Turlington Plaza.

They can also enter online by visiting the raffle's Facebook page.

So far, the organization sold about 115 raffle tickets and raised about \$575, said the 19-year-old economics and political science sophomore.

*"Those tickets are valued at \$600."*

**Neir Benyamin**

*UF industrial and systems engineering sophomore*

All of the raffle's proceeds will go toward a sustainable development project to teach computer software to high school students in the Dominican Republic, said Amanda Arevalo, the organization's ventures director.

Ultra's coordinators donated the two tickets.

"I think the amount I paid was fair, especially if I win the raffle. Those tickets are valued at \$600," said Neir Benyamin, a 20-year-old UF industrial and systems engineering sophomore.

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# Opinions

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2013  
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## Editorial

### Domestic Violence: Stop tolerating it from celebrities

We don't want to be as angry at Rihanna as we are, but we can't help it. Like, what right do we have to pry into or care about the personal lives of celebrities?

Does it affect us in any way? Does it change anything in our lives? No. We just can't help but feel weirdly disappointed about the entire situation. Ladies can do anything they want to with their lives. Absolutely. But the reconnection between Rihanna and Chris Brown is unsettling.

"People — singers and otherwise — can date whomever they like," Susan Milligan wrote in U.S. News. "They can forgive, despite all evidence of an ongoing threat of violence. And if a woman indeed becomes a victim of domestic violence, it is the fault of the attacker, not the woman."

"I hate the idea of celebrities — particularly those in the arts or sports — being expected to serve as an example or role model for others," Milligan continued. "And yet it makes me cringe to think of young women looking at Rihanna and Brown and deciding there's something very hip about sticking by the man who beats the hell out of you."

She put it very well. People don't want to be labeled role models if they don't consider themselves to be them, but sometimes millions of people look up to you and scrutinize your every move. At that point, maybe take into consideration what sort of image you're portraying.

"The larger risk now is that because millions of young girls and boys love the music of Chris Brown and think Charlie Sheen is hilarious, our media is giving celebrity men a free pass to abuse women," Jennifer Siebel Newsom, CEO of MissRepresentation.org, said, according to the Washington Post.

"While we can't change court decisions and whether or not these women take these men back into their lives, we do have a responsibility to use our voice to counter the media narratives which say abusing women is an acceptable norm," Newsom said.

So, that's what we're doing now. We'd like to formally voice our concern. What we don't know is where our concern should be placed. Is it with a society that teaches young boys to grow into abusers? Is it with a Hollywood elite who is thrust into the spotlight unwillingly, and then makes poor decisions? No.

It is with both of those areas. It is with the media in general for wanting to focus on the bright side of domestic abuse. The night of the Grammys, the "camera zeroed in on megastar Rihanna, smiling, intertwined with and resting her head on Chris Brown's shoulder," according to the Washington Post. "The snuggle fest began trending on Twitter with comments about how 'in love' and 'phenomenal' the couple looked together."

"Demand that celebs play by the rules. Revoke the get out of jail free card. Don't forget," psychologist Tashion Macon wrote in an article for the Huffington Post that listed, in more detail, the ways society can better itself.

If we can get this new way of thinking off the ground — the idea that it's not OK to humor celebrities who do bad things — then, maybe the next generations won't be so confused.

## Reader response

**Today's question:** Do you have a Valentine?

**Tuesday's question:** Do you feel overly stressed? **73% YES**  
**27% NO**

56 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at [www.alligator.org](http://www.alligator.org)

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## SON of a GATOR

by Andre Frattino



## Column

### Student Government: It's time for change

UF's Student Government needs an overhaul.

The Swamp Party holds about three-quarters of the seats in the Student Senate, controls the executive branch, controls a multimillion-dollar budget and the funding for registered student organizations.

Whose crazy idea was this? Did no one see the potential for one party to gain absolute control of SG and its resources? Did no one expect that once in power, students who belonged to this party would try to do everything possible to maintain that power?

Last Spring, the Swamp — then Unite — Party showed its true colors.

On the first day of elections, when the Alligator ran an endorsement for the Students Party from head football coach Will Muschamp, the Unite Party Senate President Pro Tempore Jason Tiemeier threw away copies of the Alligator.

OK, so, the Unite Party admitted that one of its members went rogue, misbehaved and should be castigated, but that he doesn't represent the other members of the party, right?

Wrong.

Not only did they deny Tiemeier's involvement, but Unite Party officials, including the Swamp Party's current candidate for Student Body President, Christina Bonarrigo, argued that the Alligator fabricated the story.

To make matters worse, the Unite Party candidate for Student Body President at the time, Tj Villamil, posted a video on YouTube calling the Alligator racists and liars for reporting the incident, accusations for which he's never publicly apologized.

Tiemeier eventually apologized in a letter to the Alligator and confirmed that Unite Party Senator Katie Waldman was with him during the incident.

Waldman remained silent during the ordeal. Unite Party leaders saw it fit to award Waldman's loyalty by appointing her to chairwoman of the allocations committee. Bonarrigo defended the appointment, arguing Waldman had no ethical obligation to come forward, even though Waldman sat on the ethics committee.

During the same election, a student told the Alligator that



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leaders in her sorority castigated her for posting a Facebook message that endorsed the Students Party.

The student also told the Alligator that her sorority kept a board used to pressure members into voting for the Unite Party.

This semester, an email sent by Leah Miller asked fraternity house "representatives to collect 'I Voted' stickers from everyone in their rosters and supply the party with a \$250 check," according to Alligator archives.

All of this nonsense doesn't even include election code revisions SG passed during the Summer that were so vague and restrictive that the UF Supreme Court struck them down.

The list of unethical practices, coercions and corruptions goes on.

The Swamp Party has grown accustomed to a way of doing things and will stop at nothing to ensure it wins each election. It claims the Students Party has done nothing for the students, glossing over the fact that a minority party has little to no chance to accomplish much of anything when the party in power blocks it at every turn.

If you've ever felt like it was time for change, now's your chance to make it happen.

If you've ever felt that one group of students has too much power at UF, now's your chance to change it. If you are a member of the Greek community and feel pressured to vote or support candidates with whom you disagree, now's your chance to change it.

Most important, don't feel pressured to vote against your conscience because no one, not even SG leaders, will know how you voted. It's all anonymous.

Go ahead, bring back a sticker to put on a board — just don't tell them you voted for the Students Party.

Justin Hayes is pursuing a master's degree in political communication. His column appears on Wednesdays.

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

## Column

# Pro-gun people: guns will not prevent rape

In a guest column in Tuesday's Alligator, Santa Fe College student Thomas Ryan argued that more women should be pro-guns.

Based on his logic, because one out of every six American women is a victim of rape (attempted or otherwise), more women should buy guns to protect themselves.

I can't understand how he arrived at this conclusion.

I guess it's easier to pressure women into arming themselves than it is to teach men to recognize consent and not, you know, rape people?

Obviously, his argument is hopelessly illogical.

But, out of curiosity, I did some research and looked into the steps and costs for young women to obtain handguns.

Luckily, gun laws in the "Gunshine State" are notoriously lenient. According to the civil liberties section of [www.About.com](http://www.About.com), Florida, unlike other states, does not require people who apply for a concealed-carry license to complete a state-certified firearms training course.

Applicants may take courses from private instructors or the National Rifle Association.

However, I'd rather be on the safe side.

A state-certified concealed weapons course costs \$65.

But wait. I'm a beginner who has never shot anything other than a paintball gun. According to the Florida Firearms Training website, I should take a \$150 prerequisite course.

After that, I'd take the \$200 Ladies Only Advanced Concealed Carry course, because I'd prefer to have the best possible understanding of the deadly weapon I'm planning to carry.

Now that I have all of my prerequisites out of the way, I can apply for a license.

Florida gun laws require applicants to be at least 21 years old and pay a \$300 application fee. After my application is cleared, I'm free to buy my handgun and accessories. According to [www.besthandgunsforwomen.com](http://www.besthandgunsforwomen.com), a prime handgun choice for women is the lightweight, compact Glock 19.

I'd probably go to my hometown's Gander Mountain sporting goods store to purchase mine. Luckily, according to its website, there's a sale on Glock 19s: For a cool \$500, I could buy my Glock.

I'd also need something to carry my gun in.

On [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com), I found the most adorable brown leather concealed-carry purse with a locking CCW gun compartment — only \$90 and almost as good as Gucci.

So my total, including courses, registration and my



**Chloe Finch**  
opinions@alligator.org

weapons purchase, comes to \$1,305, or half the cost of tuition for a Summer A/B semester at UF.

However, I'm only 20, so I can't do any of this.

This is unfortunate, considering the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN)

states that 44 percent of victims are younger than 18.

So, about half the women raped annually couldn't carry guns anyway.

Besides, even if I did pay all that money to ensure I'd never fear a stranger in a dark parking lot, the chances of being assaulted or raped by someone I know are much, much higher.

According to RAINN, 73 percent of rapes are committed by someone the victim knows. Of that, 38 percent of rapists were a friend or acquaintance, and 28 percent were an intimate acquaintance.

The predominant cultural belief that most rapists are masked strangers is a myth. Furthermore, a gun will not protect you if you are intoxicated or have been drugged.

The situation in which a gun would be useful in defending against assault or rape is, unfortunately, rare.

Do you really think you could shoot someone you know — a guy a friend set you up with on a date, or a man who lives in your residence hall or apartment complex — if he tried to rape you?

Besides that, rapists are impossibly hard to prosecute.

According to RAINN, out of every 100 rape cases, only three of the men accused will spend a single day in prison.

Ryan's arguments, and others like his, are old and exhausting.

Why should women be held responsible for not being raped? The pattern of victim-blaming associated with rape is unbelievable, and now a sensitive issue is being manipulated and politicized by pro-gun lunatics.

Handguns, lipstick knives, cat-shaped brass knuckles and pink cans of mace won't protect women against rape in the long run.

Of course, we can speculate endlessly on how to reduce rape, but there's no cut-and-dry solution.

We can talk about educating men on consent and generally being decent human beings, but one thing is certain: Adding guns to the equation will accomplish nothing.

*Chloe Finch is a journalism junior at UF. Her column usually runs on Thursdays.*

## Guest column

# Rap just sucks, plain and simple

I watched the Grammys Sunday — not that anyone cares.

But if you ask me, it was gauche. LL Cool J reminded us why he should stick to body-building, or whatever makes him so muscular.

Taylor Swift reminded us why her exes probably would never ever want to get back together with her, either.

Chris Brown reminded us that you can beat the hell out of a woman and still get nominated for a Grammy four years later.

I don't understand our culture's morbid obsession with awful music. I don't understand why we worship these stodgy, talentless clowns. I don't understand how we listen to their disgusting lyrics and then rationally admire them, whether it's by following them on Twitter or purchasing their songs on iTunes (or converting them from YouTube).

Sure, it isn't all of them, but it's most of them. Music is something that is subjective, and I understand that. In terms of taste, it differs from generation to generation, from society to society and even from race to race.

Like Obama's view on gay marriage, it's constantly evolving — which we can all be thankful for.

Soon, Fun. will disappear like the Jonas Brothers, Rihanna will be the next Whitney Houston and Drake will return to acting or high school, whichever comes first.

Without war, anti-war activists would have absolutely nothing to whine about, and I feel the same way about music: Without it, I would have nothing or nobody to make fun of.

Like I said earlier, music is relative, and therefore it's impossible to define what objectively sounds the best.

For example, I could argue that Jimmy Page played the best guitar solo of all time in "Stairway to Heaven," but somebody else may say that it was Jimi Hendrix's solo in "All Along the Watchtower," Eddie Van Halen's in "Eruption" or neither of the three.

But if there is something that we can all agree is the best, it's this: the content of the lyrics. No one can deny that Bob Dylan, according to Rolling Stone readers, was the best songwriter of all time. Meanwhile, everyone can admit that the rap industry is characterized by some of the most inarticulate and unintelligible lyricists who confuse clever wordplay and humorous puns for childish metaphors and lay-z innuendos.

I'll be honest with you. I can't stand rap. I believe that it is the most profligate and ignoble profession of all.

Rappers spew filth and objectify women. They glorify violence and promote drug use. Paradoxically, they are the most outspoken about the War in Iraq and women's rights — and so are their listeners.

There's nothing that I enjoy more than the feminist who bops her head to sexist lyrics or the lefty who listens to filthy, untalented thugs. These are the same people who criticized Todd Akin because he said "legitimate rape" and chided Mitt Romney because he mentioned "binders full of women."

If only Romney had sang it, featuring rapper Akin, then he would have been a potential nominee Sunday night at the Grammys. And maybe he would be our president.

Their freedom to express themselves trumps the negative influence their songs have on teenagers and the college-aged.

If we have the power to tax carbon monoxide emissions or to socialize health care, then wouldn't it make sense to regulate their morally repugnant verbiage by tacking on a surcharge every time they sing something obscene, or make some idiotic reference to the Illuminati — whatever that is.

I'm certainly joking, but imagine how many Planned Parenthood clinics would lose business if teenagers weren't manipulated by disparaging, undereducated pigs who encouraged fans to sleep around, mistreat women and, uh, vote for the current president.

Does that make me out of touch?

*Erik Skipper is an economics sophomore at UF. His column runs Wednesdays.*



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## LIFESTYLE Study shows low-calorie menus good for business

MEGHAN PRYCE

Alligator Contributing Writer

A new study released this month showed that serving lower-calorie options is not only good for customers' health, but it's also good for business.

With calorie counts now appearing in more restaurants, some Gainesville residents have noticed chains offering healthier options.

Electra Posada, 45, left a local Cracker Barrel Tuesday afternoon with a grilled chicken sandwich for her son.

For Posada, restaurants with healthier options help her and other families make sure they can watch what they eat.

"I think it's great that they have a low-cal menu," she said.

Fast-food and sit-down restaurant chains that serve more low-calorie foods had sales growth, increases in restaurant traffic and gains in overall restaurant servings, according to the study, which was released

by the Hudson Institute.



Lutz

The study analyzed 21 restaurant chains, including McDonald's, Applebee's, Cracker Barrel and Taco Bell.

Restaurants that increased lower-calorie servings showed a 10 percent increase in total sales and a 10.9 percent increase in traffic since 2006.

Richard J. Lutz, J.C. Penney marketing professor at UF, said he's not surprised at the popularity of healthier options at restaurants.

"People are generally more aware that calories make a difference," he said.

Lutz said companies that put calorie information on their menus are pioneering a trend, will soon be required by all restaurants because of the Affordable Care Act.

"This puts the information in front of the consumer that they wouldn't know off the top of their head," he said.

Jeanne Ludington, corporate communications manager for Cracker Barrel, said the restaurant wanted to make more healthy meals available to customers.

Along with cornbread muffins, chicken dumplings and biscuits, Ludington said, the restaurant has more fresh fruit and vegetable selections such as fresh lettuce and baby greens.

Cracker Barrel refreshed its salad selections during the summer because customers generally eat lighter and healthier during the summertime, Ludington said.

"We have a great interest in serving better-for-you offerings," she said.

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Sorry, no cash by mail.  
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For Info on ALL Condos for Sale,  
Visit [www.UFCONDOS.COM](http://www.UFCONDOS.COM) or  
**Matt Price, University Realty, 352-281-3551**  
4-24-72-5

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**BED - QUEEN - \$120 ORTHOPEDIC**  
Pillow-top, mattress & box. Name brand, new, still in plastic. Call 352-372-7490 will deliver. 4-24-13-72-6

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**6 Furnishings**

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

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**6 Furnishings**

**\*\*BEDS - ALL BRAND NEW\*\***  
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**BEDROOM SET- \$300 BRAND NEW**  
Still in boxes! 5 pieces include: Headboard, Nightstand, Dresser, Mirror, Chest. Must sell, can deliver. 352-377-9846. 4-24-13-72-6

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

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Check Us Out Before You Buy!!  
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352-450-0928 Leonardos302.com  
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SPORT, STREET, CRUISER, OFF-ROAD.  
OVER 400 TIRES IN STOCK.  
MENTION THIS AD FOR \$10.00 OFF.  
RPM MOTORCYCLES 352-377-697 4-24-72-11



4-24-13-72-11

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Great Scooters, Service & Prices!  
118 NW 14th Ave. Ste D, 336-1271  
Vespa, Genuine, GMW, & More! NS4L.com  
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**11 Motorcycles, Mopeds**

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Will repair any make/model. Close to UF!  
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Now renting Buddy scooters too! 352-336-1271  
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Campus Scooters Mobile Sales and Scooter Service. We offer free estimates on all repairs and we come to you. We also have new scooters starting at \$799.00 Call us today at 352-263-0425 4-24-72-11

SWAMP CYCLES ● Closest to campus. MMI Certified Mechanics for Motorcycles and experienced scooter mechanics. Lowest prices. Friendly service. 633 NW 13th Street, 373-8823, [www.swampcycles.com](http://www.swampcycles.com) 4-24-58-11

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3432 N Main St. [www.carrsmith.com](http://www.carrsmith.com)  
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4-24-72-12

**●●● We Buy Junk Cars ●●●**  
**●Trucks, Vans - Titled only●**  
Call KT 352-281-9980 or 352-215-3191  
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**SUN CITY AUTO SALES**  
ALL VEHICLES \$0 DOWN!  
NO CREDIT CHECK!!!!  
VEHICLES \$1000 AND UP!  
352-338-1999 4-24-72-12

**BRING YOUR W2 AND DRIVE TODAY!!!! NO MONEY DOWN!!!!**  
VEHICLES \$1000 & UP!!  
352-338-1999 4-24-72-12

94 Ford Explorer \$1000  
94 Mazda Protege \$1500  
96 Cadillac Deville \$1500  
98 Cadillac Catera \$1999  
352-338-1999 4-24-72-12

95 Honda Civic \$3999  
96 Honda Accord \$3999  
00 Hyundai Elantra \$4999  
95 Lexus GS300 \$4999  
352-338-1999 4-24-72-12

03 Chevy Impala \$5999  
99 Honda Accord \$4999  
04 Saturn Ion \$6999  
02 Buick Lesabre \$6999  
352-338-1999 4-24-72-12

**12 Autos**

**SUNRISE AUTO SALES**  
NO CREDIT CHECKS!!!  
CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS!  
30 DAY WARRANTY!!!  
352-375-9090 4-24-72-12

**BRING YOUR W2 AND DRIVE TODAY!!!! NO MONEY DOWN!!!!**  
WILL FINANCE ANYONE!!  
352-375-9090 4-24-72-12

04 Nissan Sentra \$6999  
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04 Toyota Corolla \$8999  
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04 Ford F150 \$8999  
03 Nissan Frontier \$9999  
06 Chevy Silverado \$9999  
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ANY CONDITION-RUNNING OR NOT!!!  
FREE TOWING & SAME DAY PICK-UP  
NO TITLE NEEDED. Call Brandy 352-771-6191  
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★ ETC ★ Top Cash \$\$\$ or Trade ★  
OZZIE'S FINE JEWELRY 352-318-4009.  
4-24-72-13

**UF GRAD PAYS MORE**  
for gold jewelry, scrap gold, Rolex, diamonds, guitars, etc. Top \$\$\$\$. Get my offer before you sell! Call Jim 376-8090 or 222-8090  
4-24-72-13

The American Cancer Society  
Road to Recovery Volunteers Needed!  
**VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED**  
to transport cancer patients to treatment.  
Flexible schedule.  
Training and liability insurance provided.  
Please call  
352-240-5062 if interested.



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 depends on monetary support from individual donors and community businesses in order to help feed the homeless and the hungry.

**If you are interested in volunteering,** please contact Stephanie Breal at (352) 378-9079 or [sfhcoor@stfrancis.cfcoxmail.com](mailto:sfhcoor@stfrancis.cfcoxmail.com)

**To make a donation by mail,** please send checks payable to St. Francis House P.O. Box 12491 Gainesville, FL 32604

**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  
2-28-13-72-13

**CASH PAID \$300 AND UP!!!**  
ANY CONDITION-RUNNING OR NOT!!!  
FREE TOWING & SAME DAY PICK-UP  
NO TITLE NEEDED CALL 352-771-6191  
4-24-13-72-13

**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**  
1 Medical armts.  
4 Be accountable (for)  
10 Remove, as coupons  
14 Emst collaborator  
15 Electronic music genre  
16 Spherical opening?  
17 Titanic compartment on the lowest level  
19 "All \_\_\_": 1931 tune  
20 Height: Pref.  
21 Lord's Prayer opener  
22 Arterial trunk  
24 \_\_\_ Leon: Monterrey's state  
26 Setup of a sort  
29 Okay  
31 Okay  
32 Project, with "out"  
33 Mediterranean capital  
36 Farm female  
37 Drive-in offering, and what 17-, 26-, 50- or 60-Across has, in more ways than one  
41 1% of a cool mil  
42 Lethargic  
43 Stein filler  
44 Poet's contraction  
46 Discography entries  
50 Country kitchen design option  
54 Wash softly against  
55 Words after "What a coincidence!"  
56 Muppet friend of Elmo  
58 Poet's preposition  
59 Italian carmaker  
60 Verify  
63 "Poppycock!"  
64 Find, as a frequency  
65 Whopper, e.g.  
66 Very dark

**DOWN**  
1 Poolside structure  
2 Springtime bloomer  
3 Tapering tops  
4 Wore (away)  
5 Fiery emperor?  
6 Clean with effort  
7 Fingerprint ridge  
8 Ambient music pioneer Brian  
9 Parmesan alternative  
10 A minor, for one  
11 Didn't quite close  
12 Childish  
13 Stapstick prop  
18 Film Volkswagen with "53" painted on it  
23 Singular  
25 Mark on an otherwise perfect record?  
27 Place in the earth  
28 Hot time in France  
30 Dawn-dusk link  
34 Like the '80s look, now

67 It has its ups and downs  
68 Family guy

35 Tabloid subj.  
36 Spa treatment  
37 Aspect of paranoia  
38 Person in the know  
39 Therapists' org.  
40 Cultivate  
41 Smidge  
44 Unit of resistance  
45 Official orders  
47 Defended, as family honor

48 Brady Bunch girl  
49 Fed the fire  
51 Cartoonist  
Guiseite or her title character  
52 Depleted layer  
53 Blooms for lovers  
57 "¿Cómo \_\_\_?"  
59 Justice Dept. division  
61 Wish one hadn't  
62 Udder woman?

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

J	O	B	S		O	K	R	A	Y	A	L	T	A		
A	I	R	E		B	E	A	U	O	R	I	O	N		
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xwordeditor@aol.com 02/13/13

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By Janice Luttrell and Patti Varol  
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David Carr / Alligator Staff

UF center Patric Young attempts a layup against UK center Nerlens Noel during the Gators' 69-52 win against the Wildcats on Tuesday in the O'Connell Center.

## No. 7 Florida defeats No. 25 Kentucky in blowout victory Gators sit atop SEC

**KATIE AGOSTIN**  
Alligator Staff Writer

During the past four years, Florida was 1-7 against Kentucky. But Tuesday night in the O'Connell Center was a different story for the Gators.

No. 7 Florida (20-3, 10-1 Southeastern Conference) defeated No. 25 Kentucky (17-7, 8-3 SEC) in a 69-52 blowout.

"It feels good to get a win against Kentucky because my whole experience playing against them I got a losing record," center Patric Young said. "It's nice to put a notch in the win column against them."

Guard Mike Rosario got things started for Florida offensively.

The redshirt senior made a layup to give the Gators a 5-4 lead with 15:40 left in the first half. Seventeen seconds later, Rosario added a three-pointer after a steal by senior guard Kenny Boynton.

Florida opened up the perimeter late in the first half.

After Nerlens Noel was subbed out following his second foul with 6:26 remaining in the first half, Florida made three straight from behind the arc. With the Wildcats' leading shot-

blocker benched, the Gators finished the half with a 71.4 three-point percentage and a 38-25 lead.

"We just did a great job of moving the ball," forward Casey Prather said. "We weren't selfish at all. We were just trying to make our teammates better, and the guys that were open knocked down their shots."

*"We couldn't get near the basket on Young. He just physically took away the rim."*

**John Calipari**  
UK coach

Young's performance was the most impressive of the night.

With forward Will Yeguete, Florida's leading rebounder, recovering from arthroscopic surgery on his right knee, Young came up big for the Gators.

He recorded five rebounds and three blocks in the first half and opened up offensively in the second half after a slow start.

Young recorded 12 points, 11 boards, four blocks and a steal to earn his sixth double-double of the season and the 10th of his career.

"We couldn't get near the basket on Young," Kentucky coach John Calipari said.

"He just physically took away the rim."

Kentucky also had to play much of the second half without Noel. However, his absence resulted from something more serious than foul trouble.

With 8:03 remaining in the game, Noel fell awkwardly after blocking Rosario on a fast break. Noel was carried off the court by his teammates after suffering a left knee injury. He was taken to the hospital for further testing.

"It would hurt for those guys to lose a player like that because he takes up so much room in the paint," Rosario said.

"He switches teams' philosophy of how they're going to attack their defense. I just hope he's all right."

While Florida's 17-point win against Kentucky is the largest any team has posted against UK this season, Donovan said UF needs to maintain its focus in the midst of a long conference schedule.

"If you don't come out and play well, there's a good chance that you're going to get beat," Donovan said. "To stay at that mental and emotional high game in and game out is very, very difficult. ... We need to do that to become a good team."

Contact Katie Agostin at [kagostin@alligator.org](mailto:kagostin@alligator.org).

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Forward regains form in home win against Wildcats

**LANDON WATNICK**  
Alligator Writer

With 1:54 remaining in the first half, forward Casey Prather rose above the rest.

Prather drove to the right lane and dunked over UK 7-footer Willie Cauley-Stein, capping a 16-4 run that put the Gators ahead by 15.

The one-handed slam was the highlight of Prather's night — a 12-point performance that helped No. 7 Florida (19-3, 9-1 Southeastern Conference) cruise by No. 25 Kentucky (17-7, 8-3 SEC) in a 69-52 victory Tuesday night in the O'Connell Center.

"I was just trying to give the team a big energy boost," Prather said. "I just like to help out the team any way I could."

Said center Patric Young: "There's just a lot of confidence with that guy. I know he can do that day in and day out. He's just really athletic and has great, active hands."

Missing junior Will Yeguete for the second straight game after he underwent surgery Friday to remove bone chips in his right knee, the Gators needed all the help they could get in the frontcourt against the Wildcats' lanky big men.

In 23 minutes, Prather went 6 of 8 from the



Prather

field. He scored eight points in the first half. The junior finished with three rebounds, two blocks and two assists, playing on the low block for much of the night with forward Erik Murphy battling foul trouble.

"I kind of like the challenge, because I'm not as strong as [Kentucky's big men], tall as them," Prather said. "I just took the challenge and tried to use my quickness."

Prather checked into the contest with 17:19

remaining in the first half and set the tone immediately. He drew two charges against guard Archie Goodwin and center Nerlens Noel.

"They were momentum-swinging charges," guard Scottie Wilbekin said. "When you can have a guy who's willing to do that, it's great. Obviously, with Will out, we're missing some of that stuff."

Prather added: "They were a big energy boost. I can tell my teammates were into it from there."

Tuesday's games was Prather's second straight with 12 points. He finished with

**SEE PRATHER, PAGE 14**



The Florida lacrosse team will face former teammate Taylor McCord in tonight's game against Jacksonville. See story, page 15.

### Poll Question

Was Tuesday's win against Kentucky Florida's most important victory this season? [Vote online at alligatorSports.org](http://www.alligatorSports.org).

### Lacrosse players earn honors

The American Lacrosse Conference named UF goalie Mikey Meagher Defender of the Week, and midfielder Sydney DuPre was named Rookie of the Week.

# BATTLE IN THE PAINT



Florida

### Patric Young



Young

12 points,  
5-of-7 shooting,  
11 rebounds,  
4 blocks,  
2 turnovers

### Erik Murphy

10 points,  
3-of-10 shooting,  
5 rebounds,  
3 blocks,  
1 turnover



Murphy

### Casey Prather



Prather

12 points,  
6-of-8 shooting,  
3 rebounds,  
2 blocks,  
0 turnovers



Kentucky

### Nerlens Noel



Noel

8 points,  
3-of-5 shooting,  
6 rebounds,  
3 blocks,  
3 turnovers

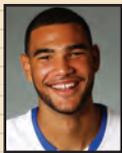
### Alex Poythress

5 points,  
1-of-9 shooting, 4 rebounds,  
0 blocks, 3 turnovers

### Kyle Wiltjer

7 points, 3-of-5 shooting,  
2 rebounds, 0 blocks,  
1 turnover

### Willie Cauley-Stein



Cauley-Stein

10 points,  
5-of-9 shooting,  
6 rebounds,  
0 blocks,  
2 turnovers

Aubrey Stolzenberg / Alligator Staff

# Junior sprained left ankle on Jan. 12

## PRATHER, from page 13

5-of-9 shooting in 22 minutes during UF's 83-58 win against Mississippi State on Saturday. This is the first time in Prather's collegiate career he has scored in double figures in back-to-back games.

Prather has played five games since suffering a high left ankle sprain. He suffered the injury in a 74-52 victory against LSU on Jan. 12 and missed the next four games. The junior also suffered two concussions earlier this year.

In his first three contests since rejoining the rotation, Prather scored three points in 27 minutes.

On Thursday, coach Billy Donovan said the team was not getting anything out of Prather.

He added that Prather's cutting and jumping were not up to the junior's usual standards, attributing his down play to confidence issues and diminished ankle strength.

But after two strong games, Donovan has seen a change in Prather.

"This guy, he's got two concussions, high ankle sprains. He's just probably saying to himself, 'What's next?'" Donovan said.

"The thing that was encouraging was that he started to do things a little bit more recklessly and fearlessly. In the beginning, I think he was worried, 'Is my ankle going to hold up? Is this going to hurt? Is this going to be a problem?' I think he's moving past that."



David Carr / Alligator Staff

Junior forward Casey Prather celebrates during Florida's 69-52 win against Kentucky on Tuesday night in the O'Connell Center.

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# Florida lacrosse facing former teammate

**MAX MATTERN**  
Alligator Staff

A year ago, Taylor McCord trotted onto the field at Disney Stadium in Florida's home opener against Jacksonville. After transferring to JU following her freshman season at UF, McCord will face the school that first gave her an opportunity.

The No. 3 Gators (1-0) will travel to Jacksonville to take on the Dolphins (1-1) tonight at 7. in the fourth meeting in as many years between the two teams.

Jacksonville is known for its high-powered offense, which finished first in the nation last year with 18.2 goals per game. However, those numbers have not translated into wins against Florida.

In three matches against the Gators, the Dolphins managed only 20 goals. UF has scored 48 in that span.

Jacksonville is coming off an impressive 15-7 win against Vanderbilt during which the Dolphins scored 11 straight goals.

"This is a very, very good team, and one that's not to be taken lightly," Florida coach Amanda O'Leary said. "For us, I think it's being able to stay composed, stick to the game plan. They have some great offensive players that are quick and fast."



McCord

McCord shined against the Commodores, scoring two goals and tallying two assists. O'Leary said UF needs to keep tabs on McCord because her lefty presence will prove challenging for the Gators' defense.

"Taylor was a great player, and she is going to continue to develop and become an even better player," O'Leary said. "We are going to have to focus on her for sure."

Nora Barry and Shannon Gilroy were McCord's roommates. All three enrolled at Florida as part of the 2011 recruiting class.

Barry and Gilroy said seeing Taylor in an opposing jersey this year will be a difficult adjustment.

"It will be a little strange playing against her, a little sad," Barry said. "But I'm really glad that she is happy with her decision to go play at Jacksonville."

Gilroy added: "Personally, I'm very excited because Taylor was one of my best friends. I'm so happy she was able to transfer there because she is so much happier and she has a really big impact on that team."

Two other familiar faces Barry and Gilroy will recognize are Jacksonville coach Mindy McCord and assistant coach Paul McCord, better known by the UF sophomores as Taylor's parents.

"I'm really excited to see her and her parents, because we were really close," Barry said.

The thought of competing against her former teammate on a draw or a groundball made Gilroy laugh.

"It would be comical to face off against her, because we are so close," Gilroy said.

## SOFTBALL

# UF hopes to build on early power hitting

**ADAM LICHTENSTEIN**  
Alligator Writer

Kirsti Merritt stepped to the plate against Creighton's Brittany Telecky with the Gators on the verge of run-ruling the Bluejays in Friday's season opener.

Senior Ensley Gammel had already driven in one run on a double and freshman Kelsey Stewart had drawn a walk. Merritt came up next with the bases loaded, and she drove the ball over the left-field fence for her first career homer.

"It was dreamlike," Merritt said. "It just happened, and as I was running around the bases at full speed, I was like, 'Oh, I can trot.'"

Merritt was the third Gator to hit a home run against the Bluejays. UF's power surge against Creighton set the tone for the rest of the weekend. In their next four games, the Gators hit five more homers.

"Success isn't surprising to me," coach Tim Walton said. "It was fun watching."

Stewart showed the most power over the weekend. She hit a three-run bomb

against Creighton on Friday and a solo shot against No. 16 Arizona on Sunday.

"I didn't even think it was going over," Stewart said of her first home run. "I was just trying to get a triple."

In addition to her home runs, Stewart also hit two doubles and a triple — the latter coming in her first college at-bat.

"I was super nervous," Stewart said. "I looked at coach, and he was like, 'Calm down.' Then, I hit the triple, and I just relaxed and started playing my game."

On Monday, the freshman second baseman was named the Southeastern Conference Player of the Week.

Gammel and senior Kelsey Horton also picked up the first home runs of their final season at Florida during the weekend.

Horton's home run came on a 3-2 count in the opening game against Creighton, and it gave No. 5 Florida (5-0) a lead it would never relinquish.

Gammel's bomb came during UF's 14-3 win against Arizona on Sunday.

"It was good (to get my first homer out of the way)," Gammel said. "Especially because it was the first weekend of

my senior year."

Freshman first baseman Taylor Schwarz added two blasts during the weekend. The first was a two-run home run against then-No. 3 California.

"The home run against Cal was a clutch home run," Walton said. "We needed that."

Although Schwarz's batting average is .182 after the first weekend of play, Walton said she would continue to start. He expects her bat to come around.

Schwarz's second blast started Florida's six-run seventh inning against Arizona on Sunday. Gammel's home run followed, but both would be topped by an even bigger blast.

Later in the inning, sophomore Bailey Castro came to the plate with the bases loaded and slammed her first home run of the season — a grand slam.

Florida plays Jacksonville (3-1) on the road tonight at 6. Walton is skeptical of the Gators' ability to keep scoring via the long ball.

"Jacksonville is a tough place to play," he said. "You're down in a valley, so the ball doesn't carry there very well."



Alligator File Photo / David Carr

Senior Ensley Gammel (11) watches a fly ball off her bat during Florida's 3-2 win against Auburn on April 13, 2012 at Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium. Gammel homered in a 14-3 win against Arizona on Sunday at the Kajikawa Classic.

# Gators drop from second to fifth at tourney

► UF SHOT A COMBINED 18 OVER PAR ON TUESDAY.

## STAFF REPORT

After a successful first round in the Northrop Grumman Championship left Florida tied for second place, the Gators struggled in the second round, falling to fifth place after shooting a combined 302 (+18) on Tuesday.

Every Florida starter shot worse in the second round than in the first. Senior Mia Piccio posted the Gators' worst mark, jumping from even par in Round 1 (71) to a 7 over par (78) in Round 2.

Camilla Hedberg, the fifth-ranked player in the nation, remained tied for second after the second round despite shooting 1 over par (72).

After falling to 24 over par, UF's chances of winning its fourth tournament this season have slimmed. Hedberg has

the best chance to bring a title back to Gainesville.

Florida's depth has been a strength this season, but the Gators relied on their top two starters, Hedberg and senior Isabelle Lendl, to keep them in contention for the title during the second round.

Lendl's score changed the least from the first round to the second. She dropped from a 74 (+3) on Monday to a 75 (+4) on Tuesday.

Piccio's drastic fall contributed to Florida's 14-stroke deficit to current leader No. 3 USC. Piccio was tied with Hedberg for second after the first round, but after shooting a 78 in the second round dropped into a tie at 23rd.

Anna Young, one of the final starters for Florida, shot a 74 (+3) in Round 1 and a 77 (+6) in Round 2. Both scores are lower than her average of 78.1.

Elcin Ulu has not fared well in the Grumman Challenge. She shot an 83 (+12) in the second round.

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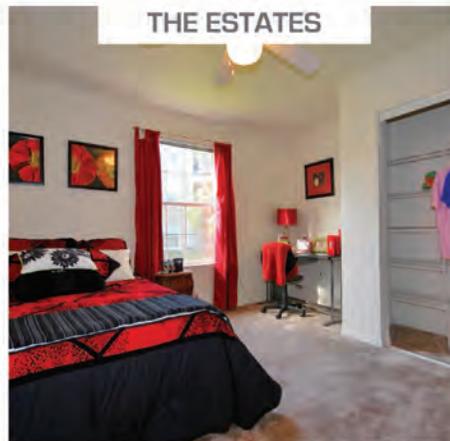
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