



Elise Giordano / Alligator Staff

Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel speaks to a crowd of about 1,700 at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts on Tuesday evening, filling the room to capacity. The Nobel Peace Prize winner was brought by Accent Speaker's Bureau and Jewish Awareness Month.

Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel talks learning, philosophy to 1,700 at UF

COLLEEN WRIGHT

Alligator Writer

In his fourth visit to UF, Holocaust survivor and acclaimed writer Elie Wiesel spread his love for learning at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts on Tuesday night. The event was sponsored by Accent Speaker's Bureau for Jewish Awareness Month.

"I'm coming here maybe subconsciously because I feel an eagerness to know and an eagerness to learn," he said.

Wiesel, a philosophy professor at Boston University, focused his speech on the importance of learning and the sin of not learning. He said it was easy to teach philosophy, but to talk about his experiences is difficult.

"I am not convinced that the book I wrote, the story I tried to tell, the witness I wanted to share was 'Night,'" Wiesel said about his memoir, "Night," which chronicled his time during the Holocaust.

He shared his experiences of speaking at the United Nations and giving advice to the Dalai Lama about living

in exile.

Accent's Associate Director Jack Causseaux said roughly 1,620 attendees were in-house and 500 watched Wiesel speak on a screen outside the Phillips Center.

"I'm coming here maybe subconsciously because I feel an eagerness to know and an eagerness to learn."

Elie Wiesel

Holocaust survivor

Wiesel answered audience members' questions afterward about the second amendment, Israeli-Palestinian relations and his favorite Jewish holiday.

Biology junior Gabriel Hernandez, 21, came to see Wiesel speak for the second time since middle school. He said he enjoyed hearing Wiesel speak about the importance of learning.

"He's passing on learning," Hernandez said. "He's making us all witnesses."

Contact Colleen Wright at cwright@alligator.org.

Plot twist: Teachers use Wikipedia

The site is often banned

COLLEEN WRIGHT

Alligator Writer

Although UF education professor Kara Dawson said she personally doesn't use Wikipedia to prepare for her classes, she said using the website isn't such a bad idea.

A Pew research study surveyed 2,462 Advanced Placement and National Writing Project middle and high school teachers on how they used technology at home and in the classrooms.

The study revealed that Wikipedia, a favorite one-stop shop for students, is being overwhelmingly used by teachers who often ban the website as a credible source.

About 87 percent of the teachers surveyed said they used Wikipedia to find information online, according to the study. That's higher than adult Internet users as a whole at 53 percent.

"They say we don't know how to use our resources correctly, but then they're doing what they ask us not to do."

Monica Mercado

UF pre-occupational therapy freshman

Dawson, whose specialty is in technology and education, said using Wikipedia is only a concern if it is the only source being used.

She said that Wikipedia pages aren't in depth enough and that more than one source should be considered.

"The idea of banning it from students is a bad idea," she said. "Students need to learn how to triangulate sources."

Pre-occupational therapy freshman Monica Mercado, 18, said she thought it was hypocritical for teachers to ban Wikipedia as a resource.

"They say we don't know how to use our resources correctly, but then they're doing what they ask us not to do," she said. "If they used the resources they'd like us to use and told us which ones to use, they'd be leading by example and I'd be more willing to not use Wiki."

Contact Colleen Wright at cwright@alligator.org.

Local Girl Scout Cookies pricier than other areas'

► THE GAINESVILLE PRICE IS \$4 A BOX.

ALEXA VOLLAND

Alligator Writer

Florida State University students will get their Girl Scout Cookies cheaper than the Gators.

Although cookies all share the same packaging, regions surrounding Gainesville vary in price. Cookies in Gainesville cost \$4 a box, and in some other areas of Florida it costs \$3.50.

Nancy White, director of communications for Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, said although it looks to the public that cookie season is one big sale, each council is its own independent nonprofit agency.

Alachua County is in the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, along with 15 other counties.

Damali Reales, a 20-year-old UF sociology sophomore, said she was surprised the prices were not universal.

"Girl Scouts are national," she said. "You would think there should be

SEE SCOUTS, PAGE 4

Today



FORECAST	2	CLASSIFIEDS	26
OPINIONS	6	CROSSWORD	27
LIVING GUIDE	9	SPORTS	29

Meet the Gainesville City Commission candidates

Find out more about W.E. McEachern and Randy Wells, pg 8.

Students can gain weight when they lose sleep, study shows

On average, the study participants gained two pounds, pg 25.



Defensive tackle's stock rising:

Former Gator Sharrif Floyd is a projected top-five pick in this year's NFL draft, pg. 29.



News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Book symposium

A Strange Stirring: The Feminine Mystique and American Women at the Dawn of the 1960s will be the topic of a symposium moderated by book author Stephanie Coontz at 2:30 p.m. in Ustler Hall. At 6 p.m., Coontz will speak on "Madmen, Working Girls, and Desperate Housewives: Women, Men and Marriage in 1963 and 2013" in Pugh Hall. A reception and book signing will follow. Parking is free. For more information, call 352-392-7168.

UF Amnesty International

Come to UF Amnesty International's General Body meeting at 7 p.m. in McCarty Hall A, Room 2196. They will talk about the upcoming JAmnesty and the State Conference held in Gainesville and writing letters to prisoners of conscience. Food and drinks will be served. To find out more information, check out www.facebook.com/ufamnesty.

Multicultural & Diversity Affairs

UF Multicultural & Diversity Affairs is hiring. Applications for student ambassadors are now available online at www.multicultural.ufl.edu/about/employment_opportunities/mcda_ambassadors/mcda_application_form/ and are due at noon Thursday. It seeks to fill openings for volunteers and Federal Work-Study positions for the Summer and Fall semesters.

Paint a Seder plate

Join UF Hillel for round two of Art for the Jewish Heart on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Reitz Union basement arts and crafts room. Paint a Seder plate and

FORECAST

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
PARTLY CLOUDY 78/67	SUNNY 78/67	SUNNY 78/67	SUNNY 78/67	PARTLY CLOUDY 78/67

then pick it up just in time for Passover.

FDR and the Holocaust

Richard Breitman, a professor at American University, is the author of "The Architect of Genocide: Himmler and the Final Solution, Official Secrets: What the Germans Planned, What the British and Americans Knew and American Refugee Policy and European Jewry, 1933-1945." His talk will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Smathers Library (East) Grand Reading Room on the second floor. The talk is a prelude to the exhibit "Testimony," which will showcase primary sources that bear undeniable witness to the fact of the Holocaust in the Smathers gallery April 2 to June 14. A gallery talk will be held by the curator on April 4 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Twelve hours of improv

Theatre Strike Force, UF's improv and sketch comedy club, will host a 12-hour improv extravaganza Friday in Orange & Brew from noon to midnight, made up of nonstop improvised comedy that has never been seen before and will never be seen again. This event is free and open to the public, and all donations collected will go toward cancer research.

St. Baldrick's

The Freshman Leadership Council invites you to come witness students and Gainesville residents shave their heads in front of an audience to stand with children battling cancer at its second annual St. Baldrick's event Friday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Flavet Field. The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a childhood cancer charity that funds research to help find cures for kids with cancer. There will be food, entertainment and lots of head shaving. Visit these links for more info: www.stbaldricks.org/teams/mypage/80779/2013 or www.facebook.com/events/333853453392998/.

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. To ensure publication in the next day's newspaper, please submit the event before 5 p.m. Please model your submissions after above events. Improperly formatted "What's Happening" submissions may not appear in the paper. Press releases will not appear in the paper.

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UF business professor wins \$2,000 in 'Jeopardy!' appearance

► SHE GOT SECOND PLACE.

COLLEEN WRIGHT

Alligator Writer

"Jeopardy!" just happened to be on TV while Yellowlees Douglas was getting her hair braided in 1996. She couldn't help but shout out the answers.

"It was fun that I might know the answers, and I might not," she said.

Seventeen years later, the UF business professor appeared on the show as a contestant in the episode that aired Friday.

Douglas fell to second place with \$3,200 and took home \$2,000. She lost by \$3,599.

"Did I think I was going to win?" Douglas recalled. "No. I just didn't want to embarrass myself."

Inspired by an Alligator article about a UF honors student who took the "Jeopardy!" qualifying test, Douglas began trying to get on the show two years ago.

Last March, she took the on-line qualifying test for the show. Out of 25 questions, she said she only missed one because she ran out of time.

A representative from the show gave her three weeks' notice for her June 6 audition in

New York City.

The day before the audition, she went kayaking on the Hudson River and got sick from getting some of water in her mouth. The friends she was staying with

tried to convince her to not go to the audition, but Douglas went anyway.

In October, she was called back and flown to Los Angeles for the taping of the show.

Douglas said she had trouble buzzing in her answers because she doesn't have an opposable thumb. She said she only had a chance when the other contestants didn't know the answer.

Douglas said she joked around on the set with host Alex Trebek and the show's producers.

"It was the biggest event in everyone's life except me," she said, "and I treated it like a big joke."

The Final Jeopardy! question was about a brother and sister team who lost in the 1969 Academy Awards. Even though she couldn't remember who the pair was, she wagered \$7,000, according to www.j-archive.com, because her aunt Maggie Smith won the Academy Award for best actress that year for "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie," Douglas said.

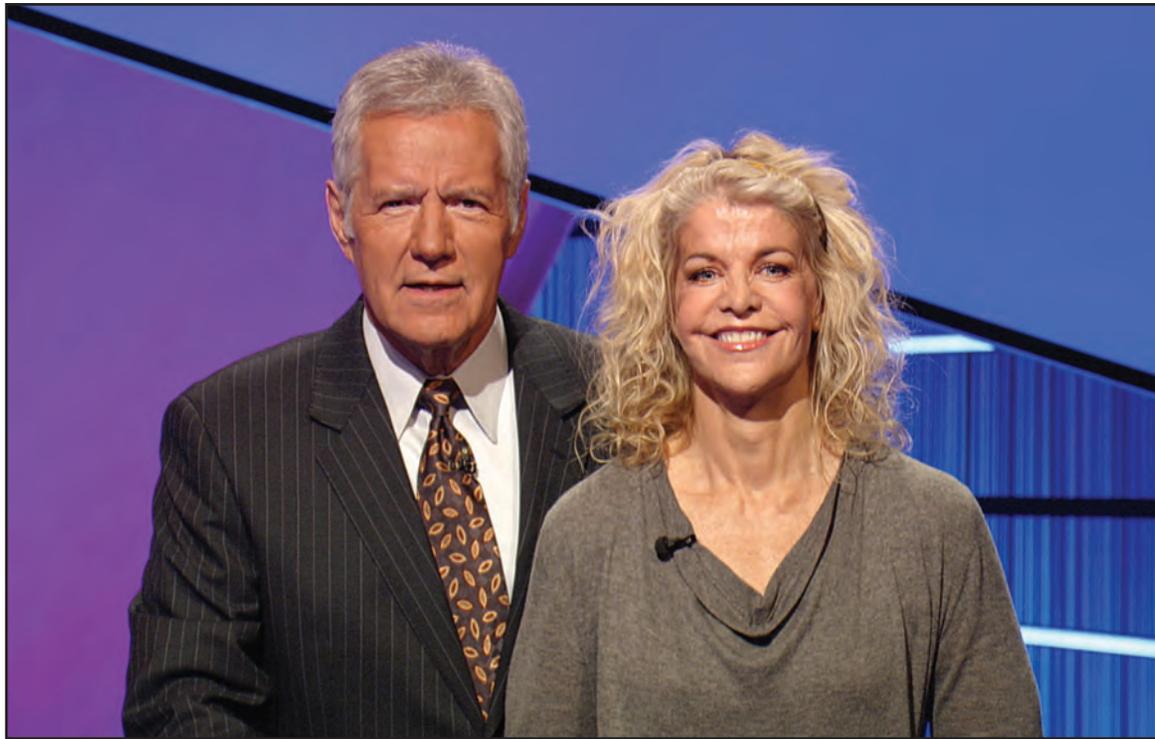
Douglas said she went on the show to get exposure for voiceover work.

Since the episode aired, Douglas has reconnected with high school friends who saw her on the show and a man even proposed marriage to her.

"Jeopardy!" fan Alex Rubenstein became curious when he heard Douglas say she was from Gainesville on the show. The 27-year-old management doctoral student looked her up on the UF College of Business website and found her.

"I immediately began rooting for her," he said.

Contact Colleen Wright at cwright@alligator.org.



Courtesy to the Alligator

Yellowlees Douglas, a UF business professor, competed on the game show "Jeopardy!" and took home \$2,000. Douglas finished in second place.

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Kenneth Wilbur Intern

UF law school rises in US News & World Report rankings

► A NEW LAW SCHOOL RANK METHODOLOGY WAS USED.

SAMANTHA SCHUYLER

Alligator Contributing Writer

UF's Levin College of Law continues to rank highly both as a public and overall institution among 201 public and private accredited law schools, according to a released Tuesday.

The new law school methodology puts more emphasis on the types of jobs landed after graduation.

Last year, the law school ranked 25th among public schools and 48th overall. This year's rankings show a jump to 23rd among public schools and 46th overall.

The college's tax program maintained its standing as first among public schools and has kept a top 10 position at third overall. The col-



Jerry

lege's Environmental & Land Use Program kept its position as fifth among public institutions but went down from ninth to 12th overall.

Robert Jerry, dean of the law school, warns that this data should be taken with a grain of salt.

"Rankings are very sensitive to employment data, and the employment data they use is not audited," he said. "There is a lot of confusion in law schools about whether someone is employed in a part-time or full-time job. It creates a considerable inaccuracy that has an impact on the rank itself."

Although wary, Jerry was pleased by the potential effects of rankings on reputation.

"We have a ranking of 3.9 [out

of 5] on how judges and lawyers think about our law school, 11th highest among our state, 26th highest among all law schools," Jerry said. "If [judges and lawyers] like what you're doing, they like your graduates."

Will Matthews, 23, a second-year law student, views the improved ranking as a benefit.

"Any help that students can get in this legal market ... is always a plus," he said.

LIFESTYLE

Teachers wouldn't take guns to school

MICHELLE JACKSON

Alligator Contributing Writer

Bringing a gun to school is not something teachers nationwide would want in their job descriptions, and Gainesville teachers are no exception.

Local teachers would most likely choose not to bring a gun to school, said Karen McCann, president of the Alachua County Education Association.

"Because we're in a university town that has a tendency to be more liberal than other cities in Florida, they would sway toward not wanting to have to bring a gun to school," she said.

A national survey of about 11,000 teachers conducted by the School Improvement Network found that about 75 percent of teachers in the United States wouldn't want to carry a firearm to school.

The survey reflects a growing concern with school safety following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings in December.

McCann added that teachers

are aware of the changes in their job and environment in the last 30 years.

"Society is different. Kids are different. [Teachers] were obviously heartbroken like everybody else was," she said of the Sandy Hook shooting. "The Newtown incident was horrific, but the reality is that people and kids are being shot every day."

"My main concern as an administrator is to make sure that these kids end up at home in the same condition that their parents sent them in."

David Hamblen
behavior resource teacher

David Hamblen, a behavior resource teacher at Idylwild Elementary School, said school safety is the No. 1 priority.

"My main concern as an administrator is to make sure that these kids end up at home in the same condition that their parents sent them in," he said.

However, he said security

measures should be left to proper authorities that are already armed.

"They're trained in how to deal with situations and how to use those guns properly and de-escalate situations so that those guns do not have to be used," he said.

Hamblen said that putting a resource officer into every local elementary school and securing campuses with fencing and gates are the best solutions to increase safety.

As the topic of gun control and school safety continues to be debated among current teachers and government officials, it's also shaping the way future teachers plan their careers.

Jordan Hawkins, a 21-year-old UF education junior, said that in the classroom, her students' safety is one of her main responsibilities but disagreed with needing to arm herself.

"I see there's a reason for it and why teachers do it, but I wouldn't do it," she said. "It's sad that this is an issue that has to be brought up."

Chipotle, McDonald's, Taco Bell delivery starts

► THEY'RE AVAILABLE VIA GAINESVILLE2GO.

ALEX HARRIS

Alligator Contributing Writer

Lazy foodies — rejoice!

Gainesville2go, a local delivery service, recently began delivering orders from fast food restaurants such as Chipotle, Taco Bell and McDonald's to customers around the city.

"These restaurants are just places a lot of our customers have requested that we deliver for, so we threw them up on our website," said Jackson Bodiford, a manager at Gainesville2go.

Unlike most of their popular restaurants, these new offerings are unaffiliated with Gainesville2go, meaning the delivery service doesn't have contracts with them, Bodiford said.

"With fast food restaurants, since they make the food so fast, we just email things to our drivers, and they just go through a drive-thru," he said.

UF students seemed pleased at the idea of being able to order fast food in a simple and convenient way.

"It's not too far from my apartment, but the delivery service would be pretty nice," said Roshni Marballi, a 21-year-old UF psychology senior.

Gainesville2go has seen about 10 orders a day for McDonald's, Taco Bell and Chipotle, making them about equally as popular as the other choices, Bodiford said.

Bodiford said the company is expecting a boom of customers.

Meanwhile, students like Marballi look forward to using this new service, if only sparingly.

"It just depends on how lazy I'm feeling," she said.



Vonecia Carswell / Alligator

Michelle Manzione, a 23-year-old UF telecommunication senior, pays Sara Barner-Rasmussen, 32, while Nissa Barner-Rasmussen, 9, gathers cookies Monday at the Publix on 34th Street and Williston Road.

Students buying anyway

SCOUTS, from page 1

a standardized price."

White said there are two bakers nationally who are licensed to create Girl Scout Cookies, and each council can decide which baker they want to use to negotiate deals.

"Just like any other product, they would set their own negotiations to determine what price they are going to pay for their cookies," she said. "And they would negotiate that deal independently."

The price reflects the economic region and the needs of the council, she said.

White said she doesn't think UF students will turn away because the additional 50 cents.

"Girl Scout Cookies are a delicious snack meant to be eaten in modera-

tion," she said. "But we know you are going to stock up."

Sarah Williams, a 20-year-old UF speech pathology sophomore, said the 50 cents wouldn't keep her from buying her favorite cookie, Thin Mints.

"I think people will still buy them," she said. "They're so good."

White said because the cookies are for a good cause, students shouldn't feel guilty about the extra pounds they will gain during cookie season.

"It's a fundraising program, but it's also a leadership program for girls. For us it's not really about cookies," she said. "Though we love the cookies."

Girl Scout Cookie season will last until March 25.

Contact Alexa Volland at avolland@alligator.org.

Price of Girl Scout Cookies by Council

Florida Girl Scouts Council (Headquarters)	Price
Girl Scouts of Citrus Council Inc. (Orlando)	\$3.50
Girl Scout Council of the Florida Panhandle (Tallahassee)	\$3.50
Girl Scouts of Gateway Council Inc. (Jacksonville)	\$4
Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida Inc. (Sarasota)	\$3.50
Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida Inc. (Jupiter)	\$4
Girl Scout Council of Tropical Florida Inc. (Miami)	\$4
Girl Scouts of West Central Florida (Tampa)	\$3.50

LOCAL

Wage theft ordinance discussion continues

KELCEE GRIFFIS
Alligator Writer

When Carole Dunne worked long hours at a rehabilitation facility, she said, her boss expected her to go in early and stay late. She was never paid for her overtime work.

"I was afraid to ask for anything extra because there were 20 people in line waiting for my job," she said.

Dunne told her story during an Alachua County commission meeting at

the County Administration Building on Tuesday, where county officials and residents discussed options for a proposed wage theft ordinance.

The proposed ordinance would provide county mediation for employees who haven't received wages in a timely manner.

Jacqueline Chung, manager of the Alachua County Equal Opportunity Office, said the plan would help employees and employers decide whether they should take a labor discrepancy to

court.

"This proposal is just mediation," she said.

County Commission Chairman Mike Byerly questioned the effectiveness of an ordinance that doesn't provide a verdict through adjudication.

"I don't want to set up a process that doesn't do anything," he said.

Byerly added that he was hesitant about a clause in the ordinance threatening penalties for frivolous claims. He said requiring evidence such as pay stubs should be enough to ensure the county isn't overrun with unfounded complaints.

"I don't want to establish anything that will have a chilling effect," he said.

Dunne said a clause requiring an employee to notify the employer of his or her intent to file a complaint before he or she does so could lead to the employee being fired on the spot.

"There's a real fear factor in going to your boss saying 'I think I've been shortchanged,'" she said.

Commissioner Susan Baird expressed concern for the capability of staff to take on the workload mediating wage cases would add.

"This could potentially be quite a bit of an addition of responsibility," she said.

For now, county staff will continue researching the issue and will modify the proposal.

Contact Kelcee Griffis at kgriffis@alligator.org.


Becca Negron / Alligator

Jacqueline Chung, manager of the Alachua County Equal Opportunity Office, updates the County Commission on the proposed wage theft ordinance.

Floridians value H2O quality over quantity

▶ ABOUT 470 FLORIDIANS WERE SURVEYED.

JACQUELINE BOND
Alligator Contributing Writer

With more than 7,700 lakes, 700 springs and 825 miles of sandy beaches, people might not believe water is depleted in Florida.

A new water survey from UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and the Center for Public Issues Education showed that Floridians are more concerned with water quality than with water quantity.

Alexa Lamm, director for the National Public Policy Evaluation Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources, led the survey of 469 Floridians in December. In a monthly webinar series, she said most Floridians are confident their community will have enough water, but not as confident about the safety of water in their homes.

Cynthia Barnett, water activist, author and journalist, spoke at the Lou Frey Institute's Water and Florida's Future Spring 2013 Symposium on Monday morning. She said she is concerned about the perception held by the public because

Floridians have an illusion of water abundance.

"Water flows from our taps like magic," Barnett said. "We enjoy an endless and cheap supply of clean water, and we are more than happy to be absolved for the realities of our wastewater."

"A water ethic means making sure that the way we live with water today doesn't jeopardize fresh, clean water for our children and ecosystems of tomorrow."

Cynthia Barnett
water activist, author and journalist

At the symposium, Blake Guillory, the executive director of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, said his district uses about a billion gallons of water each day.

"We make sure there is enough supply available for the public, for industry and for agriculture," he said.

Barnett said one solution that ensures Florida's water future is as rich as its past is a new ethic for water.

"A water ethic means making sure that the way we live with water today doesn't jeopardize fresh, clean water for our children and ecosystems of tomorrow," she said.

Police arrest woman after she attacked another, pulled her weave

KATHRYN VARN
Staff Writer

An argument about a boyfriend led to the arrest of a Gainesville woman Monday after she allegedly attacked another woman and threatened her with various sharp objects.

Gainesville Police charged Lynette Christina Jakovlev, 35, of 2232 SW 35th Place, with aggravated assault and simple battery, according to a GPD police report.


Jakovlev

At about 3 p.m. Monday, Jakovlev and the victim, Ida Felicia Mosley, were at a house party in the 2200 block of Southeast Eighth Place, GPD spokesman Officer Ben Tobias wrote an email. The two began arguing after Jakovlev asked about Mosley's boyfriend.

When Mosley tried to walk away, Jakovlev grabbed Mosley's hair and yanked Mosley to the ground, pulling some of her weaves from her head, according to the report.

While Mosley was on the ground, Jakovlev pulled a nail file from her purse and held it like she was going to stab Mosley, according to the report. Mosley picked up a chair to defend herself while Herman Miller, the owner of the house, disarmed Jakovlev.

Jakovlev then grabbed a pair of scissors from her purse and pointed it at Mosley. Miller also snatched the scissors from her, according to the report.

Jakovlev threatened Mosley again with a hand rake, which Miller took from her as well.

Jakovlev's final threat was with a piece of glass she found in the yard. After Miller disarmed her for a fourth time, he pushed Jakovlev off his property and called police, according to the report.

Officers later arrested Jakovlev at Miller's house. Jakovlev was booked into the jail at about 5:40 p.m. Monday. She was released Tuesday afternoon after she met bond.

Contact Kathryn Varn at kvarn@alligator.org.

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Editorial

Smoke Monster: Papal conclave party has just begun

THIS WEEK ON VATICAN'S NEXT TOP POPE:
That's right, folks. The papal conclave, the selection process of the world's new pope, started this week. As of Tuesday evening, the college of cardinals had not selected a new pope.

Pardon our glib tone comparing this medieval ceremony with Tyra Banks' franchise, but the pageantry of the event always seems odd in these modern times.

Here in America, we're used to things being out in the open.

We just love our social media. Heck, it was Mitt Romney's birthday this week, and his son posted an Instagram photo of him eating a cupcake with a birthday hat on. We share everything.

It's a little weird and mysterious that these 115 cardinals are behind closed doors until they reach a decision.

Is it a popularity contest? (Pope-ularity! Sorry.) Do the cardinals run smear campaign ads of their opponents on closed-circuit Vatican TV? How are we supposed to know who to vote for from home with a toll-free number, like when we used to pay attention to "American Idol"?

"Italy's Angelo Scola and Brazil's Odilo Scherer are spoken of as strong contenders," according to an article in Reuters. "The former would return the papacy to Italy after 35 years in the hands of Poland's John Paul II and the German Benedict XVI. Scherer would be the first non-European pope since Syrian-born Gregory III in the 8th century."

"However, a host of other candidates have also been mentioned as 'papabili' — potential popes — including U.S. cardinals Timothy Dolan and Sean O'Malley, Canada's Marc Ouellet and Argentina's Leonardo Sandri," the article goes on to mention.

This is like God's rose ceremony on "The Bachelor" to the new pope. Instead of a fake TV wedding at the end, this new pope will inherit a laundry list of problems to deal with.

The current state of the Catholic Church is "threatened by secularism, the scandal of clerical sex abuse and a Vatican bureaucracy stippled with corruption," according to a New York Times article.

"And in a bizarre twist, basketball star Dennis Rodman promised to be in St. Peter's Square on Wednesday in a makeshift popemobile as he campaigns for Cardinal Peter Turkson of Ghana to become the church's first black pope," according to an Associated Press article.

Oh, well. This whole competition will be over soon, right?

"There is no time limit to reach a decision, the last conclave in 2005 lasted two days but in 1268, it took 33 months to elect Pope Gregory X," said an article in the Huffington Post.

Oh.

Reader response

Today's question: Have you bought Girl Scout cookies in the Gainesville area?

Tuesday's question: Should medical marijuana be legalized in Florida?

80% YES
20% NO
40 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

Sarah Kinonen
EDITOR

Julia Glum
MANAGING EDITOR

Sami Main
OPINIONS EDITOR

the independent florida
alligator

SON of a GATOR

by Andre R. Frattino



Column

President Obama is missing the Mark

A parable, according to many scholars, is an earthly message with a heavenly meaning. Similar to an analogy, they are typically short, anecdotal stories filled with characters and events that are deeply symbolic. In addition, parables were a common form of teaching in Judaism.

Used to simplify tough theological concepts, the parable was an effective tool for many rabbis. Jesus Christ utilized them pretty frequently during his ministry while on Earth.

My favorite parable is in Matthew 25, known as the "Parable of the Talents" (it has different names, depending on the version).

It tells of a wealthy man who is going on a journey and entrusts a share of his "talents" to each of his three servants. To one he gives five talents, to another two and to another one. The master leaves, but we don't know where he goes and for how long. He is testing them.

The servant who received five talents goes to work and doubles the amount that was given to him. The servant who received two talents also goes to work and also doubles the amount. But the third servant, who received only one talent, didn't double that which was given to him. Scared, he buried his talent in the ground and hid it.

When the master returned, he demanded an account of their work. The first two servants explained that they had gained 100 percent of what they were entrusted. The master lauded both of them, putting them in charge of "many things."

Then, as the story goes, the third servant approached his master and told him he was afraid of disappointing him, scared that he would lose his talent (this is why he buried it).

His master was furious. He criticized the third servant for his indolence.

Although Jesus used this parable to metaphorically illustrate our biblical responsibilities, there is a universal — and political — application, as well.

Let me explain.

Every week, the Chider-in-Chief blasts Republicans because they support lowering taxes and letting people keep more of their hard-earned money.



Erik Skipper
opinions@alligator.org

While refusing to embrace the only sensible solution that will solve America's feckless and reckless spending problem (i.e., cutting spending), the president and his minions in Washington continue to spout the same old rhetoric: raising taxes on the wealthy, or as he calls them, the "well-off" and "well-connected."

Since when is getting a second and third job (i.e., generating more revenue) the only answer to pay off your credit card debt?

Since when is it OK not to pay your bills by putting them on the backs of your children?

Since when should you be rewarded like the two men who doubled their talents when you — like the man who chose not to work hard, who chose not to take risks — decided to do nothing?

According to a FoxNews.com article — nothing but the best, people — data showed about 37 percent of the federal income tax burden fell on the top 1 percent, while 41 percent had a zero or negative tax liability.

Our president must read a Bible that is fundamentally different than our own.

He believes Jesus was a socialist. He believes that if you don't work, you will eat. He believes that beggars can be choosers. He believes that all men were not created equal. He believes that what you sow the government reaps.

His favorite verse is Mark 12:17, when Jesus said, "Render unto [Obama] that which is [Obama's]."

His favorite passage is Romans 13.

After Jesus shared one of his parables, his disciples asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?"

He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to THEM."

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

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

Letters to the Editor

I speak for the trees

Construction of the new Heavener School of Business is set to begin soon. In preparation for the new building, UF is about to start cutting down a huge number of trees (about 100) on the northeast corner of campus — the corner of University Avenue and 13th Street.

The tree clearing will begin any day now. This corner is at one of the main gateways to campus and is currently beauti-

fully landscaped with a variety of trees and shrubs, including some very old, tall pines, oaks and magnolias.

If you haven't visited this pretty corner of the university in a while, you'd better do it now because it will soon be gone forever.

Lisa Jelks

Editorial assistant

Warrington College of Business Administration

Guest column

Gender inequality is rampant in the boy and girl Scouts of America organizations

Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the United States of America have become iconic images of our nation's patriotism.

In both organizations, meetings begin by pledging allegiance to the American flag.

There is no doubt that these two organizations work toward instilling the most honorable and moral values in our American youth.

Both scouts have similar missions and standards for their members.

This raises the question of why they are separated.

Applying a different organization to each gender further adds to the sexual discrimination and stereotyping that run rampant throughout the U.S.

Reinforcing the concept of gender separation through popular youth-oriented clubs places restrictions on their members' potential to flourish beyond society's gender norms.

Furthermore, there is an obvious genderization of skills that are learned with the scouts.

Girl Scouts earn badges based off of creativity and domestic skills.

Boy Scouts earn merits that involve more rugged and outdoor activities.

The Girl Scouts is a great organization that helps build strong, talented women.

According to the statement posted on its website, "Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place."

This statement creates an image of the ideal woman in our equal-gendered

society.

But the requirements for the majority of their badges tend to teach a feminized skill set.

A few examples of the badges that can be earned as a Cadette are Practical Life Skills, Science and Technology, and Healthy Living.

Cadette Girl Scouts are ages 12 to 14.

Similar to the Girl Scout mission, these three badges sound very useful and gender-neutral, until the deeper details are revealed.

Practical Life Skills badges teach 12-year-old girls how to babysit, which, according to the badge's name, is an essential skill they will need throughout their lives.

Science and Technology badges teach girls "how scientists measure happiness," while Healthy Living badges emphasize the beauty benefits that result from eating well-balanced and nutritious meals.

Although not all the badges offered are as feminized and borderline sexist, I think these three are disturbingly so.

They are teaching girls how to ascribe themselves to the stereotypical female role many men and women are trying so hard to break.

Contrary to the feminized Girl Scout badges are the Boy Scout merit badges.

When looking at the Girl and Boy Scout badges, the most obvious difference lies in the labeling.

Girl Scout badges tend to have more ambiguous names.

But the Boy Scout badges are more straightforward.

Kaitlyn McGowan
Speaking Out

A significant portion of the merit badges involve outdoor sports

and activities.

Archery, bird study, camping and climbing are a few examples.

The badges require scouts to perform the activity stated in the name.

Then they have to complete reports based on already-provided questions.

The process to earn a badge for Boy Scouts is a little more meticulous than it is for Girl Scouts.

The gender differences between both organizations are apparent by performing the necessary activities that each badge calls for.

The gender segregation of each scout group does not simply end at just separating each gender.

It is present throughout.

This shows how profoundly inherent gender roles are in our culture.

We should be teaching girls and boys the same skills and values.

Their sex should not influence the way they are taught to be good people.

Integrating the Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the United States of America into one organization is a way to show that a person's sex does not confine them to any specific role or expectations.

Gender is a mere construct of society.

Kaitlyn McGowan is an English major at UF.

Guest column

Intimate partner violence is scarily prevalent

I can still recall most of my Preview weekend at UF.

I remember sharing a room with my only friend from home. I remember how much we talked about the beautiful campus — smiling as we thought about all of the exciting opportunities ahead of us. But, what I didn't remember about that weekend until recently was the presentation given by the University Police's Office of Victim Services. As I try to remember sitting in the back of the large room, I can faintly recall the victim advocate introducing what the office does and where it is located — but beyond that, nothing.

Maybe because it was so short? Or was it that my mind was preoccupied with the more "interesting" or "relatable" presentations? Either way, I was about to move hours away from home and hadn't thought once about what I would do or who I would talk to if I was a victim of a crime.

Laura Kalt, from the Gainesville Police's Victim Advocate Unit, explained that "we don't think about it, because we don't think it can happen to us."

Statistically, though, it can happen to any of us. In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published that more than 1 in 3 women and more than 1 in 4 men in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

Angelina LaPiana
Speaking Out

What is intimate partner violence?

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey defines it as the "physical violence, sexual violence, threats of physical or sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression (including coercive tactics) by a current or former intimate partner."

There are many misconceptions about intimate partner violence, including that it is extremely rare, only happens to women and that it only occurs in minority communities.

But this type of violence happens to people from all walks of life, regardless of sexual orientation, religion, race or social status.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, females ages 20 to 24 are at the greatest risk of experiencing nonfatal intimate partner violence.

One UF student, who wished to remain anonymous, was the victim of a violent crime her first year at UF. "We constantly think it's the stranger in a dark alley that is going to harm us, but more often than not it is the person right next to us," she said.

Awareness is the key to preventing this type of violence.

While UF has a plethora of services available after a situation occurs — from the UFPD Victim Advocates to the Dean of Students Office and the Counseling and Wellness Center — awareness of these programs is not as prevalent.

"The university is very helpful when it comes to protecting the well-being of students," UPD Victim Advocate Laura Templeton said.

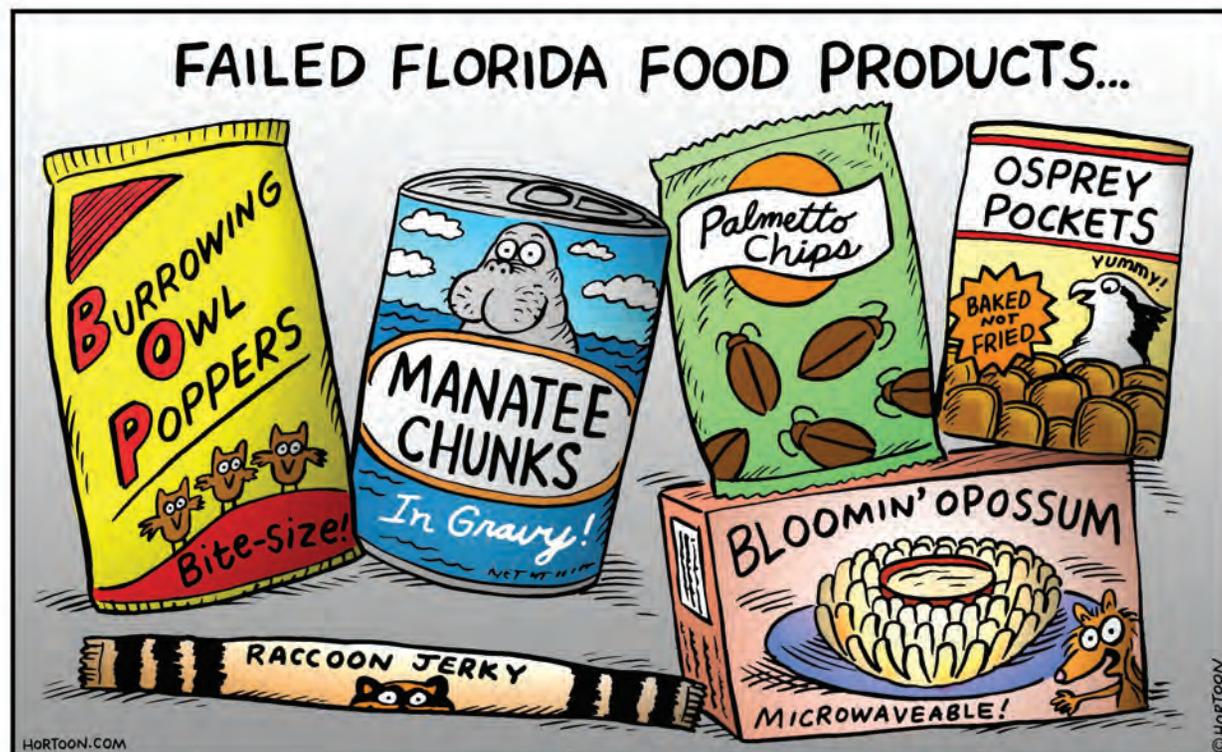
She added that in past circumstances, housing has moved students from residence halls they did not feel safe in, and the dean of students can even help students change classes if necessary.

But the student who was once a victim of crime said she didn't know those resources existed.

When it comes to protecting yourself, knowing what constitutes a healthy relationship is key. Healthy relationships are built on respect, trust, honesty and communication. Controlling and violent tendencies from your partner should never be considered the norm.

In order to stop the cycle of violence, seeking help is the first step. If you believe that you or someone you know may be in an abusive relationship, please contact University Police to confide in a victim advocate.

Angelina LaPiana is a political science senior at UF.



Meet the Gainesville City Commission candidates

Gainesville City Commission candidate: W.E. McEachern

Editor's note: This is second part of a series that profiles candidates running in the 2013 District 4 City Commission race.

KATHRYN VARN
Alligator Staff Writer

Every Friday for the past 25 years, W. E. "Mac" McEachern has been meeting with friends at breakfast restaurants around Gainesville.

"We call ourselves the old curmudgeons," he said as his friends finished up their meals Feb. 22 at the 43rd Street Deli & Breakfast House deli, many of them wearing "McEachern for District Four" campaign T-shirts.

McEachern, 81, is running for District 4 city commissioner for Tuesday's city elections on a platform of honesty and conservatism, he said.

In his time as a Gainesville resident, McEachern served nine years on the Gainesville-Alachua Regional Airport Authority, six years as a city commissioner and one term as mayor.

Now, he's back in politics — almost 25 years later — because he feels the current City Commission has brought the city "to the point of fiscal collapse."

One of McEachern's main concerns centers on a biomass plant under construction off U.S. Highway 441.

Because of the plant, a fuel adjustment fee of 5.1 cents per kilowatt-hour has been added to Gainesville Regional Utility electric bills, he said.

The city is saying that residents will see the benefit of the plant down the road, but "students won't be here down the road," McEachern said.

"We have to have somebody look at it from a practical point of view," he said. "My administration is going to get the money back to the people now."

McEachern also said there are bus transportation and housing issues in the city.

To McEachern, the Regional Transit System works well for UF and Santa Fe College students, but he wants to improve the bus system in low-income areas around the city.

While McEachern was a commissioner from 1981 to 1987, the Commission passed an ordinance that prohibited more than three unrelated people from living in the same house in certain areas and turned vacant lots around the city into single-family homes.

McEachern said he wants to preserve neighborhoods by enforcing noise pollution violations at bars and eliminating pressure on single-family homes to be demolished and apartments built in their places.

Annie Orlando, who's known McEachern for almost 25 years, said

she believes he's the best candidate for the job.

"He's got a lot of integrity," she said. "He's a very honest man."

Orlando said she supports McEachern's plan to improve the relationship between the City Commission and residents.

"Mac is going to change all of that," she said.

Contact Kathryn Varn at kvarn@alligator.org.



Elise Giordano / Alligator Staff

W.E. "Mac" McEachern, 81, stands on the corner of Southeast Second Place and Southeast First Street on Feb. 12. McEachern is running for District 4 city commissioner.

Gainesville City Commission candidate: Randy Wells



Kelly Logan / Alligator Staff

Current District 4 Gainesville City Commissioner Randy Wells sits on a ledge at City Hall on Feb. 12. Wells is the current chairman of the Equal Opportunity Committee and Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization.

Editor's note: This is the final part of a series that profiles candidates running in the 2013 District 4 City Commission race.

COLLEEN WRIGHT

Alligator Writer

Randy Wells says he needs three more years to get the job done.

The incumbent District 4 Gainesville city commissioner is running for re-election in Tuesday's city elections.

In his past term, Wells was challenged with balancing Gainesville's budget in the face of the economic downturn.

He said the City Commission softened the blow of the recession by trimming positions to avoid layoffs and raising extra revenue from a fire assessment fee to avoid raising property taxes.

Wells said the key to keeping the city in good shape is to invest in basic services such as law enforcement and public parks.

He said these services make the city more attractive to businesses looking to relocate or expand.

"Hopefully, many students will have the opportunity to stay here and start businesses of their own and raise families here in Gainesville," Wells said.

A Colorado native, Wells moved to Gainesville a decade ago so his wife could attend graduate school at UF.

Since he moved to Gainesville, the now 45-year-old property manager has jumped into community involvement.

When the U.S. Army Reserve Center closed on Northeast Eighth Street several years ago, Wells and a few neighbors petitioned to city officials to turn the property into a neighborhood park and community space.

Wells is currently the chairman of the Equal Opportunity Committee and the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization in the City Commission.

During his past term, Wells said he was proud of his involvement in working to restructure the former Gainesville Correctional Institution into a center for homeless services.

Wells said he wants to continue the project if re-elected. He added that he also wants to continue advancing bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and safety as well as an improved bus transit system that connects the city to the rest of the county.

Derek Helmick, Wells' campaign manager, first met Wells during an Alachua County Young Democrats meeting in 2009.

"He styled himself as the young voice of politics in Alachua County," the 25-year-old said.

Helmick began campaigning for Wells' first election in 2010 and said he was moved by Wells' passion for local issues. Helmick even put law school on pause to campaign for Wells.

"You tend to put things on hold when you see people like Commissioner Wells out there," he said.

Contact Colleen Wright at cwright@alligator.org.

A photograph of a red door with a white frame and columns. The door has a brass doorknob and a black handle. The ground in front of the door is covered with fallen autumn leaves. The text 'WEL COM EHO ME' is overlaid on the door in a large, light-colored, sans-serif font.

WEL
COM
EHO
ME

Student
Living
Guide
2013

What is Off Campus Life?

UF's Off Campus Life provides resources, support services, and education for the 39,000 UF students living off campus. OCL aims to provide programs and services that will prepare you to be a great Gator neighbor here in Gainesville or wherever the road may take you.

Off Campus Life, which is part of UF's Division of Student Affairs, has been providing support services and resources to UF students living off campus since 2004. OCL's support services and resources include:

► **Free Online Housing Locator Service:** Students can find off-campus housing, subleases, roommates, and information about rent, room size, location, etc. at this free online site. Go to <http://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu> to use this resource.

► **Gator Guide to Off Campus Life:** A free publication that provides tips and resources for finding the right apartment, budgeting money, being safe, keeping electric costs low, getting around the city and much more. To get a copy of the Gator Guide, visit OCL's office at 311 Peabody Hall or visit our website at www.offcampus.ufl.edu.

► **Monthly Newsletter:** OCL sends a monthly electronic newsletter to all off-campus students. Topics include safety information, specific monthly resources and opportunities, fun stuff and much more. If you would like to receive the OCL newsletter, visit the OCL website www.offcampus.ufl.edu and click on the newsletter link or sign up on OCL's Facebook page www.facebook.com/UFOffCampusLife.

► **Individual Meetings:** Off Campus Life provides individual meetings with students who are looking for off campus housing. These meetings include information about the Gainesville rental market, average

costs, safety information, transportation information and the opportunity to have your questions answered by OCL staff. To set up an appointment complete the appointment request form on the OCL website <http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/appointments/> or simply call 352-392-1207. Off Campus Life is located in 311 Peabody Hall.

► **Discover Gainesville:** Off Campus Life's newest event series, Discover Gainesville allows you to visit local hotspots. Spring events include a visit to the Santa Fe Zoo & Planetarium in March and UF Women's Lacrosse game in April. To learn more about Discover Gainesville or to RSVP for our remaining events visit the OCL web-

site www.offcampus.ufl.edu/events.

► **Learn More:** Visit our website www.offcampus.ufl.edu for information about Off Campus Life resources and services. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter at UF Off Campus Life for daily updates and reminders of OCL events, tips and fun things going on in the community.



Getting Started

- Use the Off Campus Housing Locator Service at <http://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu>.
- Know your budget and choose a property that allows you to live within your means.
- Create a priority list. What do you care about most in a living space? Room size, rent, type of lease, type of community (large undergrad population, graduate students, local residents, etc.), location, proximity to campus or bus route... all these things are factors to consider in choosing a place to live. Write out a list of ideal

- characteristics you want in your future living space and keep these criteria in mind when selecting a location.
- Choose a well-suited roommate or choose to live alone. Know what kind of person would best compliment your personality and choose accordingly.
 - Drive around and visit the place and neighborhood you are looking to live in.
 - Take a tour of the complexes or houses that interest you, ask questions, and get to know the complex manage-

Gainesville has an abundance of off campus housing options including apartments, condos, houses and rooms for rent, so take your time and be sure to visit several properties in person and shop around before signing a lease.

We recommend the following tips for finding the right place off campus:

- ment or rental house landlord.
- Ask your friends for advice on where to live. Which properties worked well for them? Which did not?
- Visit the Gainesville Police Department website www.gainesvillepd.org and click on the Crime Reports link to view crime statistics before signing a lease. Enter the address you're interested in and all reported crime incidents

- will appear on an interactive map.
- Go back to the property at night and make some observations. Is it well lit? Do you see the security guard that management promised? Is the security gate working? Is it quiet enough to study and sleep? How close is the bus stop or parking spot to the complex or house, etc.?
- Once you've narrowed down your search, make an

- appointment with UF's Student Legal Services by going to their website www.studentlegalservices.ufl.edu and completing the Client Intake Form. SLS can help you in reviewing the lease BEFORE you sign it. This is a great way to know what your legal responsibilities will be under that lease.
- Gainesville is a GREAT place to rent and live so have fun with your search!

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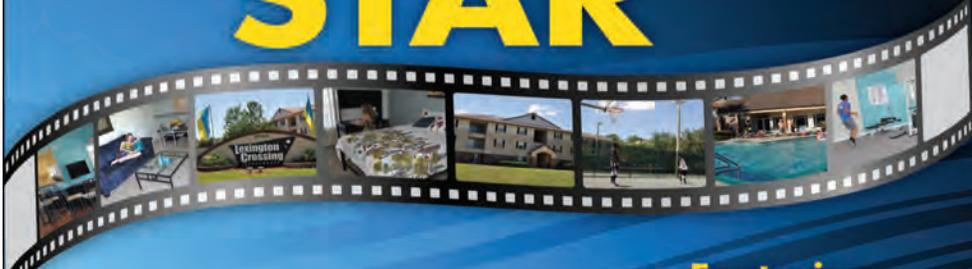
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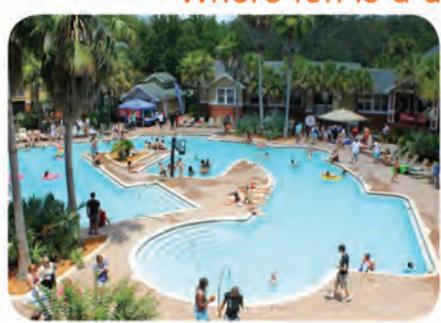
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Leases

Make sure you read and fully understand all aspects of the lease before signing. A lease is a contract between you and your landlord that spells out specific details of your living arrangement. Leases often involve policies about pets, security and pet deposits, legal entry and other important information. Typically, leases in Gainesville are 12 months. If you will need housing for 10 months or less, talk with the management about whether they can provide a short-term lease.

There are two types of leases that are usually available, Joint Leases and Individual Leases.

Joint Lease:

All roommates are held responsible for the lease. If one person breaks the lease, the other roommates are held responsible for paying the total rent. This tends to be the lease more prominent when renting a house or single-family dwelling.

Individual Lease:

Each person is held responsible for his or her own actions. For instance, if one roommate breaks the lease, that person is still responsible for paying his or her own rent. For most college students, individual leases are the best choice. Each person in the lease is responsible for his or her own actions and not the actions of a roommate.

Clauses to LOOK FOR in a lease:

- ▶ Dates of occupancy: Compare these dates to the beginning and end of the school year
- ▶ Amount of monthly rent and the date it is due each month
- ▶ Amount of Application Fees, Security Deposit, Redecoration Fees and any other fees charged
- ▶ Responsibility for payment of utilities
- ▶ Responsibility for general maintenance and repairs
- ▶ Sublease: If you sign a 12-month lease but think you may need the dwelling for a shorter period of time, make sure the lease allows you to sublease (rent your dwelling to another person who will assume the remainder of your lease)
- ▶ Pet policy
- ▶ Automatic renewal clause
- ▶ Type of lease: Joint vs. Individual

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Clauses to AVOID in a lease:

- ▶ At management's discretion, the tenant may be asked to leave within three days
 - ▶ Tenant waives all defects in the building
 - ▶ Landlord shall not be responsible for injury to person, including tenant and guests, as a result of any cause
 - ▶ Tenant is responsible for all repairs to premises
 - ▶ Landlord may enter dwelling without notice
 - ▶ Landlord has a lien (a legal claim on the property of another as security for the payment of a debt) on all personal property of tenant
- A great University of Florida resource available to full-time students at no charge is Student Legal Services. For any questions on your lease, visit the Student Legal Services website www.studentlegalservices.ufl.edu and set up an appointment with a lawyer to help review it BEFORE you sign it.



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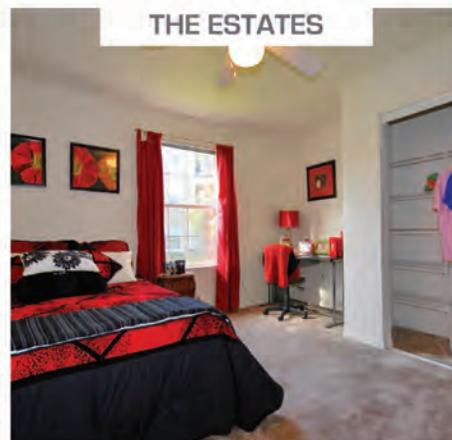
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Roommates

Having a roommate is a great way to divide the costs of living off campus. However if you don't find the right person to live with, living off campus could be challenging. Below are some tips that will help those who are thinking about living with a roommate.

▶ Communication is key. Talk about your budget for housing, expectations for safety, expectations for guests and what your housing needs are before you even begin your search. Being on the same page as your roommates will make your co-habitation experience much better and reduce the possibility of conflict.

▶ Start with a friend or sibling. These are often good options for roommates since you already know them.

▶ Before moving in, come to an agreement about who will get which bedroom and bathroom along with which cabinets/storage space each person can use.

▶ Discuss how payment of rent and bills will take place. Is each person responsible for his or her own bills or will someone be in charge of collecting payment from each roommate?

▶ Don't have someone you want to live with? Some apartment complexes offer "Roommate Matching" or "Roommate Placement."

▶ Roommate Matching: You fill out a survey and management attempts to match you with like-minded roommates based on the form

▶ Roommate Placement: Apartment management places you in any open space they have available

▶ Make sure you can change apartments if management places you with roommates you are not compatible with.

▶ Off Campus Life's Housing Locator <http://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu> has a NEW roommate finder feature where you can search for roommates.

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Safety Tips

Both personal and property safety is important as you search for off-campus housing. Before signing a lease, Off Campus Life recommends you check the crime stats of an area. A free service called Crime Reports is available on the Gainesville Police Department's website. Crime Reports allows you to see all reported crime in a certain area. Go to www.gainesvillepd.org, click "Crime Reports" on the right-hand side, and enter the address of interest to see local incident data.

Below are five tips to use when looking at safety during your apartment search:

1. Go back to the complex at night. How do you feel? Is the place well lit and populated, or dark and isolated?
2. Does the property have working security gates and/or guards?
3. Check for deadbolts on the front door, locks for individual doors, alarm systems, etc. and ask lots of questions about the security. Is there an extra charge for a security system?
4. Has there been crime in the area recently? What actions have been taken to prevent crime from happening?
5. Don't forget about purchasing Renter's Insurance to protect you and your stuff from the unexpected.



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Renter's Insurance

If you are thinking about renting a house or apartment, Renter's Insurance provides important coverage for both you and your possessions. A standard Renter's Policy protects your personal property in case of theft or damage and may pay for temporary living expenses if your rental is damaged (including loss of use). It can also shield you from personal liability. Anyone who leases a house or apartment should consider this type of coverage.

Talk with your parents before getting your own renter's policy. If you are still financially dependent on your parents or a family member and they own a home, they might be able to cover you under their homeowner's policy. Some homeowner policies will cover a dependent's rental property while in college.

There are several types of Residential Insurance

policies. Read your policy information carefully and ensure you have full coverage. Policies should include coverage for the following items:

- Fire or lightning
- Windstorm or hail
- Explosion
- Aircraft
- Vehicles
- Smoke
- Vandalism or malicious mischief
- Theft
- Damage by glass or safety-glazing material that is part of a building
- Falling objects
- Water-related damage from home utilities
- Electrical surge damage

Floods, earthquakes, sinkholes and hurricanes aren't on the list. If you live in an area prone to one or more of the four, you'll need to buy a separate

policy or a rider. In areas where hurricanes can pose a threat, you might also need to buy a separate rider to cover wind damage. Ask your insurance agent about this extra coverage. Gainesville is prone to hurricanes and some areas flood.



Budgets

You can't find the right place to live until you know how much you are able to spend. Here are some budget considerations you should think about while touring a property:

1. What is the cost of monthly rent?
2. What's included in that rent? Utilities, gas, water, cable, Internet?
3. What's not included in rent? What is the average monthly cost for gas, electric, water and gar-

bage disposal? If management doesn't know, contact GRU at www.gru.com and they can provide average costs of utilities from the previous year.

4. Want to have a pet? Factor in the deposit and monthly cost for food, medical and grooming care.

5. Don't forget the insurance. Before you sign your lease, call your insurance company and see how much it will cost monthly to insure your apartment or house.

6. Are you going to need fuel for your vehicle or are you going to use the bus? Factor in transporta-

tion/car maintenance costs to your budget.

7. How much will you spend monthly on groceries or on a meal plan?

8. Have some fun! Don't spend so much on rent that you don't have money for leisure time.

9. What do you spend on clothing, shoes and accessories?

10. How much money can you save every month? It's really good to save some money every month to cover unexpected emergency expenses. Even \$20 a month saved is good. Every little bit counts.

To help you with your budget, OCL has a budget spreadsheet in the Gator Guide to Off Campus Life (page 5) and online at www.offcampus.ufl.edu/gator_guide.

Your living environment plays a major role in your overall happiness and wellbeing. Know what you want to get out of your living space and choose your location and roommate(s) accordingly. Now that you call Gainesville home, let Off Campus Life help you get the most out of your off-campus experience.

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Student Legal Services

INTRODUCTION

Florida's Residential Landlord and Tenant Act, Sections 83.40 to 83.682, Florida Statutes, is referred to as "the Act" in this publication. Most libraries have copies of Florida Statutes if more specific information is needed.

Florida Statutes are also available online through the Florida Legislature's website, (www.leg.state.fl.us). Explanations of the Act have statewide applicability, but any specific references to Gainesville or Alachua County applies only to those areas.

CAVEAT

This is an educational tool and not a guide for the practice of law. Once a problem has been identified, an attorney must be contacted to obtain specific advice.

Full time University of Florida students can receive free legal advice from Student Legal Services. The office is located at 368 J Wayne Reitz Union. Call 392-5297 or visit our website, www.studentlegalservices.ufl.edu, for further information.

If you are not a full time student, contact the Florida Bar Lawyer Referral Service at 800-342-8011. They can give you a list of attorneys who can represent you for a lowered fee.

Law is subject to change. All material is correct as of November 2012.

DISCLAIMER

This original publication was written by Student Legal Services attorneys. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the University of Florida, Student Government, the Board of Trustees, or the State of Florida.

How Do I Find An Apartment?

Check with the office of Off-Campus Life at (352) 392-1207 or their website at <http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu> for assistance.

Rental opportunities may also be found in the classified sections of The Gainesville Sun, The Independent Florida Alligator, and bulletin boards around campus.

Legal Assistance

UF Students (full-time)
Student Legal Services
368 J Wayne Reitz Union
Gainesville, FL 32611-8505
352 392 5297

All others:
Florida Bar
Referral Service
Tallahassee, FL

State Assistance

Complaints: Security
Deposits, Sanitation
Department of Business
Regulation
Division of Hotel
and Restaurants
7960 Arlington
Expressway
Jacksonville, FL 32211
904 727 5540

Complaints, all others:
Department of Agricul
ture and Consumer
Services

407 S Calhoun St
Tallahassee, FL 32299
850 488 3022

Local Assistance

Complaints: Repairs

- City of Gainesville
Codes Enforcement
200 E University Ave
PO Box 490
Gainesville, FL 32609
352 334 5030

- Alachua County
Codes Enforcement
352 374 5244

Off-Campus Housing Information

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Off-Campus Life
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19. The Laurels
20. Lexington Crossing
21. Madison Pointe
22. Museum Walk
23. Oxford Manor
24. Pinetree Gardens
25. The Polos
26. Spanish Trace

www.apartmentsingainesville.com

Can I Be Evicted If I Pay "My" Rent and My Roommates Don't?

Usually. Most leases provide that the tenants are jointly and severally liable for the entire rent. This means the landlord can evict you unless the full rent is paid.

It is possible for you to sue your roommates in small claims court to collect their share of the rent and utilities. A written roommate agreement will be helpful in proving your case in court.

Given the difficulty of collecting money on a judgment quickly, the best thing you can do is obtain new roommates.



So What If I Get Sued? I Have No Money!

Any judgment for money damages is enforceable for at least 20 years and earns interest. A judgment may be enforced by seizing your wages, bank accounts, or your personal property. A judgment will also adversely affect your credit rating.

What Should I Look For In An Apartment?

Application Deposits: Never put down a deposit to hold an apartment unless you have a written agreement indicating whether it is refundable.

Model Apartments: Never sign a lease based upon a model. Insist on seeing your actual apartment.

Cost: Can you afford it? Even if your roommates leave?

Safety: Inspect the locks on the doors and windows – is there a deadbolt on the front door? Do sliding glass doors have adequate locks to deter forced entry? Are the hallways and parking lots well lit? Make sure tree limbs and shrubs in front of the apartment are well trimmed.

You can contact the Alachua County Sheriff's Office or the Gainesville Police Department for information on crime in the area.

Function: At move-in, check all plumbing and appliances. Run water in sinks, showers and tubs, flush toilets, and check air conditioning and heating.

Inventory: Note all defects on the inventory sheet or check-in list signed by the landlord or an impartial witness. Photograph or videotape the apartment at move-in.

Appearance: Is it clean? Do the carpets look worn or smell bad? Has the apartment been painted recently? Do the walls have nail holes?

In some Gainesville neighborhoods, only three unrelated persons may live together. Check with the city if you plan on having more than two roommates.

Retain a copy of the lease and all attachments or addendums to the lease for your records. Have all promised repairs and improvements written into the lease and signed by the landlord.

Get clear written permission for any pets.

What Can Happen If I Don't Pay Rent?

Failure to pay rent is the quickest way to be evicted! The landlord will serve a notice demanding payment of rent or possession of the apartment. If you fail to comply with the demand within three days, excluding weekends and holidays, eviction proceedings may be started. Neither surrender of the apartment or eviction ends your liability for rent! You should contact an attorney immediately upon receipt of a three-day notice.



Can I use My Security Deposit for the Last Month's Rent?

No. Landlords can legally evict you for non-payment of rent even when your "security deposit" is equal to your last month's rent. The purpose of the security deposit is to protect the landlord against damages to the apartment.

What Should I Do Before I Sign a Lease?

DO

- ▶ Read the lease and make sure you understand it.
- ▶ Review a copy of the lease with an attorney prior to signing it.
- ▶ Expect to pay full rent, not just your share. This is what "joint and several" liability means, a term included or implied in nearly all leases.
- ▶ Obtain a copy of the lease and all attachments or addendums to the lease, and put everything with your personal records.
- ▶ Have all promised repairs and improvements written into the lease and signed by the landlord.
- ▶ Insist on seeing your actual unit.
- ▶ Get clear written permission for any pets.
- ▶ Check for maintenance responsibilities when renting a house or duplex.

DON'T

- ▶ Do not sign a 12-month lease unless you are willing to pay rent for 12 months.
- ▶ Do not sign a 12-month lease with roommates unless all roommates are willing to rent for 12 months.
- ▶ Do not have your parents sign the lease or a parental guarantee agreeing to be responsible for rent, if possible. See if the landlord will accept an additional security deposit instead.
- ▶ Do not sign a lease with automatic renewal clause.
- ▶ Do not sign a lease that gives the landlord unlimited access to the apartment without notice or consent.
- ▶ Do not sign a lease based upon a model apartment.
- ▶ Do not sign a lease before visiting the neighborhood at various times during the day, at night and on weekends.
- ▶ Do not sign a lease until all agreements negotiated with the landlord are in writing.

Do I Really Need Insurance For MY Personal Property?

Yes. Unless you are financially able to replace all your belongings, you should have insurance. Proper insurance coverage will protect you against the loss of your valuables in most circumstances. Landlords are legally responsible for such losses only under very specific, limited circumstances that may be very difficult to prove in court.

If you are a resident-relative of your parents, your personal property may be insured through their homeowner's policy. Have your parents confirm the coverage in writing with their insurance agent.

If coverage is not available through your parents' homeowner's policy, you may be able to purchase renter's insurance. Even with insurance, there are certain precautions you should always take. Always lock your apartment securely even if you are only going next door. Never leave jewelry, cameras, cash, checkbooks, credit cards, electronics, or other valuables in plain view.

Getting Along

My Landlord Refuses to Make Repairs, What Can I Do?

You MAY be able either to withhold your rent or terminate your lease if the problem constitutes a material breach of the lease or the Act. You must follow the exact requirements of the Act.

You must give the landlord a written notice demanding the repairs be made in seven days. The notice must indicate an intent to terminate the lease or withhold rent if the repairs are not made.

This is a complicated process and the legal consequences are very serious. Do not attempt to terminate your lease or withhold rent without first obtaining legal advice.

Can I Deduct Repair Costs From My Rent?

No. The Act does not authorize you to make repairs or to recover the cost of such repairs. In fact, most apartment leases prohibit repairs by tenants. When the landlord refuses to make repairs, the Act gives you a qualified right to terminate the lease or withhold rent. As previously indicated, you should consult an attorney before attempting to terminate the lease or withhold rent.

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Getting Evicted

Can I Be Evicted For Any Other Reason?

Yes! Your lease can be terminated if you violate any lease terms, rules and regulations, or the Act. If your lease is terminated and you do not vacate the apartment, the landlord may file for your eviction immediately.

Termination begins with a 7-day notice. Your options depend on whether the violations are classified as "curable" or "noncurable".

If you receive either type of notice, you should contact an attorney. Neither termination of your lease, nor your eviction from the apartment ends your liability for rent!

Curable Violations:

You will be given seven days to correct a curable violation. Curable violations include unauthorized pets, guests, parking, or the failure to keep the apartment clean and sanitary. If you repeat the violation within 12 months, you will not be given another chance.

Noncurable Violations:

The landlord may terminate your lease with a 7-day notice without giving you a chance to correct a noncurable violation. Noncurable violations include deliberate destruction or misuse of the landlord's property or a continued, unreasonable disturbance.

What Exactly Is An Eviction?

An eviction is the formal end to your right to occupy the apartment. It does not end your duty to pay rent.

An eviction starts with a Summons. You must file an Answer within 5 days. Contact an attorney immediately.

If the court rules against you, a judgment for possession of the apartment, unpaid rent, late fees, interest, court costs and attorney's fees will be entered for the landlord. The sheriff will post a notice at the apartment that requires you to vacate within 24 hours. If you do not vacate within 24 hours, the sheriff will remove you and your personal property from the apartment.

How Do I Find A Good Roommate?

Check the Off-Campus Life website at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/offcampus>. Check bulletin boards around campus and classified ads as additional sources.

Discuss with potential roommates preferences in food, music, personal habits, sleeping and study hours, friends and finances. An open and frank appraisal of each other's likes, dislikes, and expectations will increase the chances of an enjoyable shared living experience. A written roommate agreement is advisable.

What Are My Duties As A Tenant?

- ▶ First, last and always, PAY RENT!
- ▶ Comply with all other lease terms.
- ▶ Comply with all rules and regulations.
- ▶ Comply with housing and health codes.
- ▶ Comply with all zoning restrictions.
- ▶ Keep the apartment clean and sanitary.
- ▶ Keep plumbing fixtures sanitary.
- ▶ Do not damage the apartment.
- ▶ Do not disturb your neighbors.

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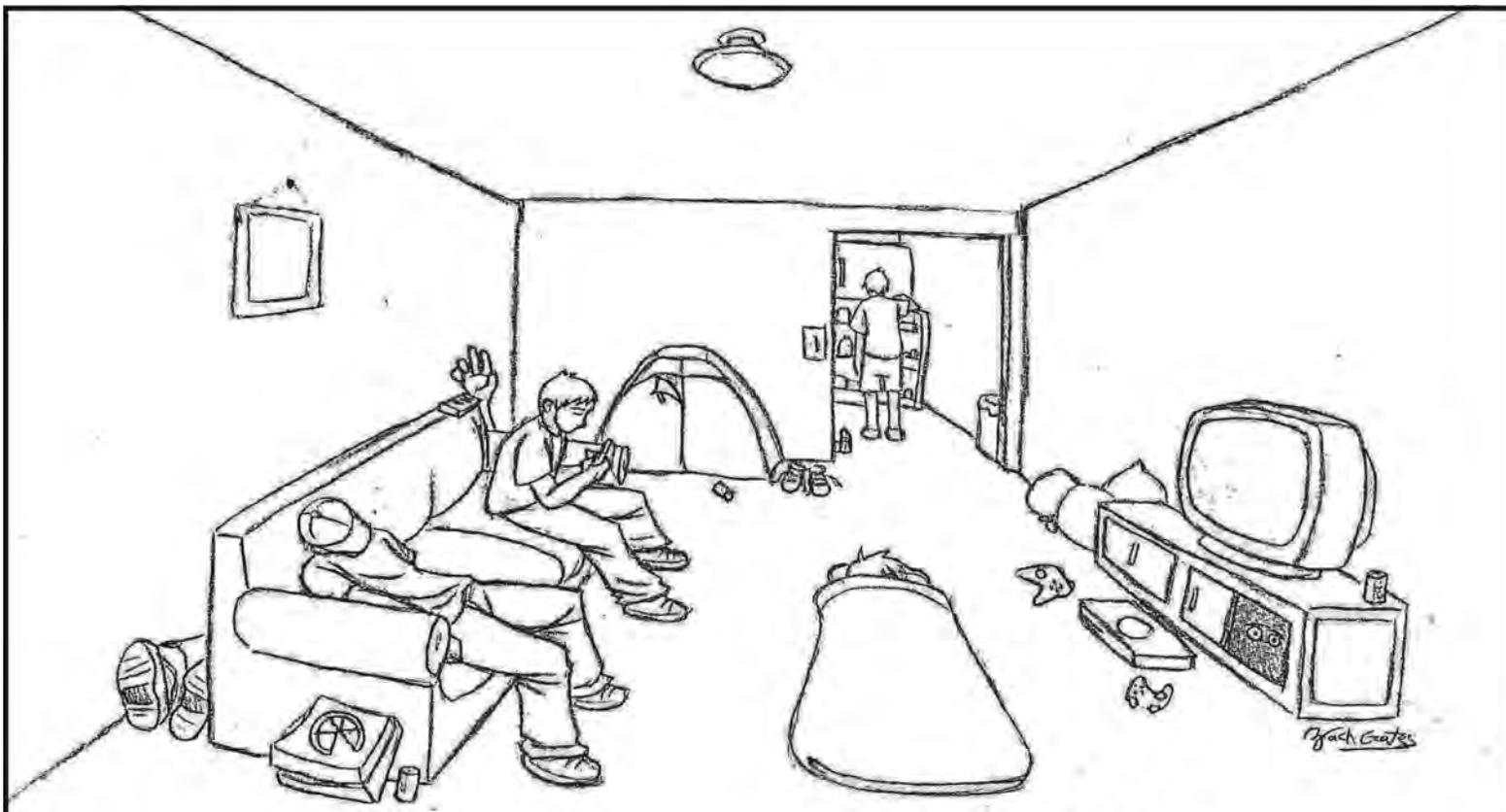
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Roommates:

Under Gainesville's occupancy limit, no more than 3 unrelated people can live in a single-family house.

Violations may lead to citations, evictions, and trouble for your landlord.

More info - go to www.cityofgainesville.org



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Does the Law Require Interest Payments on Security Deposits?

Landlords must hold security deposits in one of three methods. Two methods of holding the deposits require interest to be paid. The method which does not require interest payment is the one most landlords use. The landlord is required to inform you in writing how your deposit is being held, where it is held, and whether you will receive interest.

What Steps Can I Take To Protect My Security Deposit?

When you take occupancy of the apartment, complete a thorough written inventory of the apartment's condition and have the landlord or an impartial witness sign the inventory. Make sure you keep a copy of the inventory. This helps protect you from the landlord claiming you caused pre-existing damage.

When you move out, clean the apartment completely and thoroughly. Some landlords provide a checklist outlining the cleaning they expect you to do. Keep all your receipts for cleaning supplies and professional carpet cleaning as evidence.

Before you leave, ask the landlord to inspect the apartment with you. Complete a move-out checklist and make sure the landlord signs and dates it. Use an impartial witness if the landlord is not available or refuses your request. Move-in and move-out photographs or videotape are strongly recommended in case there is a dispute.

Getting Out

Can I Sublet My Apartment?

Usually, the landlord cannot unreasonably withhold consent to an assignment or sublease. The landlord may require potential replacement tenants to submit an application including a credit check. The landlord may also charge a reasonable sublet fee even when you provide the replacement tenants. Normally you remain liable under your lease if the replacement tenants do not pay rent or damage the apartment. Some landlords will release you from the obligations of your lease. If you are being released, get it in writing.

How Soon Must I Renew My Lease?

There is no time period established by the Act. You should not sign a lease that provides for automatic renewals of requires you to give the landlord a notice of nonrenewal. If you do

sign such a lease, you must strictly comply with the notice requirements imposed by the lease. There are some limits to the enforceability of these clauses. Contact an attorney if you have any questions.

If the lease does not specify otherwise, renewals are a matter of general contract law. The landlord cannot force you to renew prior to the end of your lease. However, if you do not renew by the landlord's "deadline," the landlord may rent your apartment to someone else.

Can I Break My Lease Because...

I am graduating?	No!
My roommate left?	No!
I cannot afford the rent?	No!
I need to work this summer?	No!
The neighborhood is unsafe?	No!

Under the Act, you can only terminate the lease if the landlord is materially violating your lease or the Act. You should obtain legal advice before attempting to terminate your lease. In many cases, the best thing you can do is find replacement tenants.

What Can I Do About Noisy Neighbors?

Try to reason with the neighbor to reach an acceptable compromise. Thin walls and conflicting schedules make some amount of noise disturbance an unavoidable reality of apartment living.

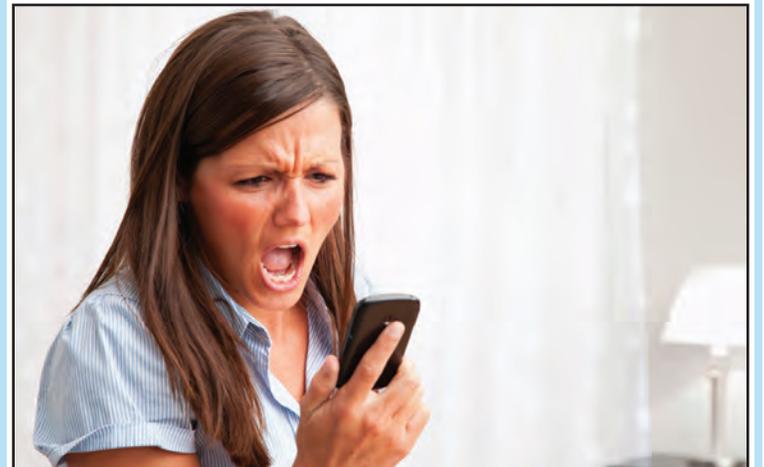
Ask the landlord for assistance. If the landlord refuses to correct the problem, you may be able to break your lease. Because the law in this area is so poorly developed, legal representation is a necessity.

In extreme cases, call the police and report the matter. Unfortunately, this can lead to revenge and reprisals.

I Can't Stand My Roommate. What Can I Do?

Discuss the matter with your roommate immediately. Don't ignore the problem with the hope that it will go away. A little give and take may result in a livable compromise.

Under the Act, your landlord is not responsible for most roommate disputes. If your roommate is violating the lease, you should consult an attorney.



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Gainesville Apartment and Condominium Guide



Renting a house in Gainesville is a little different than renting an apartment. Check out the tips below to help you if you are thinking about renting a house.

Renting a house in Gainesville? Here are some things you should know:

• **Joint Leases:** One major difference between renting an apartment and renting a house is the type of lease. Most apartment complexes offer individual leases. In an individual lease you as the leaser are only responsible for the rent money designated to your room, not the entire unit. When renting a house, you will have to sign a joint lease. In a joint lease every signer is responsible for the entirety of the rent so if someone on the lease does not pay their share of the rent the other signers are legally responsible for coming up with the rest of the money for the rent. Make sure to have Student Legal Services, at the Reitz Union, review the lease with you before you sign it so you fully understand your rights and responsibilities. www.studentlegalservices.ufl.edu

• **12 month leases:** While a 12 month lease is the norm throughout Gainesville, it is particularly rare to find a landlord who offers a lease shorter than 12 months for a rental house. If you are not planning on staying in Gainesville for the entirety of your lease commitment (a whole year) you must plan to find a sublease for the semester or months you will be away.

• **Utilities:** Most apartment complexes include utilities in their rent or have packages available to leasers simplifying the usage of utilities. When renting a house, the leasers are responsible for setting up and paying for their own utilities, cable and internet. Keep in mind that you might need to pay a deposit for any of these services based on your credit history. To get average utilities costs for the house you are thinking about renting contact GRU (Gainesville Regional Utilities) www.gru.com (352) 334-3434.

• **Parking:** Most houses have their own garage and driveway so you and your roommates can park in designated parking areas set up by your landlord. However some houses only have street parking. Each car that parks in street parking needs a decal for that particular area. Visit the City of Gainesville website to obtain your parking decal www.cityofgainesville.org. While street parking is generally lifted at night and during weekends you want to make sure you get a decal if you will be parking your car on the street for long periods of time to make sure you do not get ticketed or towed.

• **Crime Statistics:** It is always a good idea to check crime statistics for the area in which you are planning on renting a house or apartment. The Gainesville police department's website www.gainesvillepd.org has a crime reports map on their front page listing different crimes along with when and where they happened. When you tour houses check for good lighting, well-manicured yards that don't obscure doors and windows and peepholes in the door. Also, make sure to always lock your doors and windows when you are leaving your house.

• **Occupancy Ordinance:** Gainesville has a particular city ordinance that limits the

number of occupants to a rental house to no more than three unrelated people. Essentially what that means is you cannot have more than three people living in the same rental house unless two or more of them are family. If you don't follow this rule you can face eviction so plan wisely when choosing the number of roommates.

• **Neighbors:** Gainesville apartment complexes are leased out to students for the most part so it is a valid assumption to expect your neighbors to be students in an apartment. However, when you live in a house off campus you may very well live next to a family with children. Because of this you should always get acquainted with your neighbors and their habits to minimize the likelihood of issues arising between you and to lessen the chance of somebody calling the police. Get to know your neighbors you never know you might make a new friend.

• **Noise Ordinance:** Noise is something that must be considered no matter where you live, however there are more aspects to it when living in a rental house. There is a lot more space between you and your neighbors when you live in a house so it may be tempting to assume you can be as loud as you want. However, Gainesville noise ordinance states any noise that can be heard at a minimum of 200 is considered a disturbance. When presented with a noise violation you can receive a citation and fine of over \$200 per roommate.

• **Landlord Permit:** Landlords are required to purchase a permit through the City of Gainesville that allows them to rent a house. It is a good idea to make sure that your landlord has a permit before you sign a lease. Visit the City of Gainesville website www.cityofgainesville.org to check by address or name whether your landlord has a permit.

• **Garbage & Recycling:** Houses have both garbage receptacles and recycling bins for paper, cans and bottles. Neighborhoods have a specific garbage and recycling pick up day. Make sure that your cans and recycling bins are placed at the curb by 7am on your pick up day. Make sure that you remove garbage cans and recycling bins that same day from the curb. Also, any overflow garbage must be placed in special yellow bags that you can purchase from Publix and yard debris must be placed in paper bags that can be purchased at Home Depot and Lowe's. To learn more about City of Gainesville garbage disposal and recycling visit the city website at www.cityofgainesville.org. Help keep Gainesville clean!

• **Contact OCL:** Off Campus Life can help answer your questions about the rental house search process. To set up an appointment complete the appointment request form on the OCL website <http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/appointments> or simply call 352-392-1207. Off Campus Life is located in 311 Peabody Hall.

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City of Gainesville Election - March 19, 2013
 Polls Open 7 AM to 7 PM

- If you have moved, you need to update your address. Florida law requires you to vote in the precinct of your legal residence. It is illegal to vote in a precinct where you no longer live.
- County to county address changes should be made prior to Election Day or you will need to vote a provisional ballot. Voters with in-county address changes will be able to vote a regular ballot. To update your address, locate your precinct, and view your sample ballot, go to www.VoteAlachua.com and click on "My Voter Information Page".
- You must present photo and signature ID at the polls or vote a provisional ballot.
- To Vote by Mail, make your request at www.VoteAlachua.com or call (352) 374-5252.
- **Early Voting** - Mon., March 11th thru Sun., March 17th
 Weekdays, Monday-Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM
 Saturday, 9 AM to 2 PM & Sunday, 11 AM to 2 PM
 The City has designated 1 site County Admin. Building, 1st Floor, Supervisor of Elections Office location

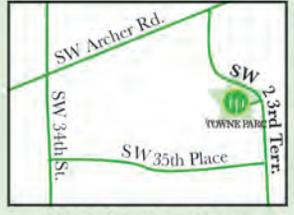
 
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Students can gain pounds when they lose sleep, study shows



Kelly Logan / Alligator Staff

A student sleeps in the Hub on Tuesday morning. A new study by the University of Colorado-Boulder found that a lack of sleep can lead to weight gain.

ON AVERAGE, THE STUDY PARTICIPANTS GAINED TWO POUNDS.

ERIKA OAKVIK
Alligator Contributing Writer

UF student Colby Royce knew pulling an all-nighter for her financial accounting exam wasn't the best idea for her health.

But she didn't know her lack of sleep could potentially cause her to gain weight.

Although people burn more calories when sleep deprived, they also tend to overeat, causing weight gain, according to a new study from the University of Colorado Sleep and Chronobiology Laboratory.

The research showed that sleep deprivation can cause physiological and behavioral changes to occur, which leads people to eat more.

"When I study late at night, all I drink is Starbucks lattes," said Royce, a 20-year-old finance sophomore. "You're trying to keep yourself going,

so you're drinking fattening coffees or Red Bulls or eating just to keep yourself awake and doing something."

In the study, adults were limited to five hours of sleep per day for five days.

On average, participants gained two pounds, turning to carbohydrates and fats for the energy boost they needed to stay awake.

Royce said packing healthy snacks or avoiding places that sell high-calorie drinks are some ways to combat the potential weight gain if someone plans to get little sleep.

The study showed that with nine hours of sleep a night, participants lost the weight they initially gained.

Sarah Martin, a sleep management wellness coach at GatorWell Health Promotion Services, said she recommends college students get an average of seven to nine hours of sleep per night.

"Every aspect of your wellness is intertwined," she said. "If something is going poorly in one area, it could hurt the other areas."

GPD outlines crime rates, future plans in town hall meeting

Violent, property crimes have dropped

KATHRYN VARN
Alligator Staff Writer

Gainesville Police shared crime statistics, reflections of 2012 and plans for the future with residents at a town hall meeting last week.

The department showed a presentation to the public at the Gainesville High School Ninth Grade Center.

The first part of the slideshow presented crime rate changes from 2010 to 2012.

Property crime, which includes burglary, larceny and auto theft, decreased by 2.77 percent since 2010.

Homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault cases — all under the violent crime umbrella — saw a slight increase from 2010 to 2011, but a 6.06 percent decrease from

2011 to 2012.

In the first two months of 2013, violent and property crimes dropped 7.1 percent compared to the same time last year.

The presentation highlighted high-profile crimes from 2012, which included the Christian Aguilar investigation.

The department also unveiled a new citizen surveillance initia-

tive called "Step Up, Stop Crime!," which encourages citizens to dial 911 if they see suspicious activity.

"When you see something that you think is out of place or that may be suspicious, it probably is."

Officer Ben Tobias
GPD spokesman

"When you see something that you think is out of place or that may be suspicious, it probably is," said GPD spokesman Officer Ben Tob-

ias. "We would rather you give us a call than to have suspicious activity turn into crime."

GPD Chief Tony Jones said his department will spend the rest of the year focused on community outreach.

"I want to see our officers out of their cars and meeting people face to face," he said. "Making these contacts with the citizens is very important in reducing crime."

Contact Kathryn Varn at koarn@alligator.org.

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5 Real Estate

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- | | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 5 Pre-Renaissance period | 38 Reversals | 54 Put in the overhead bin |
| 1 Sound finely tuned | 6 Football commentator | 40 ___ food | 55 Very |
| 5 Parsley family herb | 7 Drip, say | 41 Genetic research insect | 56 Cold feet |
| 9 Straight from the garden | 8 Emilio Estefan, notably | 44 U.S. 1, for one | 58 Seagoing help |
| 14 Role for Ronny | 9 Producer | 46 Lobster | 60 Military classification |
| 15 Neighborhood | 10 Cellphone customer's creation, perhaps | 49 Emphatic type: Abbr. | 61 Go all weak in the knees |
| 16 Ceiling | 11 Mideast ruler | 50 Big wheels | 62 Seagoing assents |
| 17 GREEN | 12 "Right away, señor!" | 51 Author | 64 Bit of muesli |
| 20 Next in line | 13 Internet address letters | 52 Fitzgerald | 65 Schnozz extender |
| 21 Hobbyist's buy | 18 Brilliance | | |
| 22 Tennis racket part | 19 Gossip tidbit | | |
| 23 First word of "Greensleeves" | 24 Install in Congress | | |
| 25 In a glass by itself | 26 Dr.'s group | | |
| 27 GREEN | 27 Sanskrit scripture | | |
| 33 Green prefix | 28 Frost over | | |
| 34 Green shade | 29 Mute sound? | | |
| 35 Aimée of "La Dolce Vita" | 30 Stuck (to) | | |
| 37 Cozy reading rooms | 31 Marilyn, before she was Marilyn | | |
| 39 Personal property | 32 Poison | | |
| 42 "At Wit's End" humorist | 36 Latest addition to the British Royal Family | | |
| 43 Drilling tool | | | |
| 45 Buster? | | | |
| 47 It might say "Wipe your paws" | | | |
| 48 GREEN | | | |
| 52 ___ carotene | | | |
| 53 Draws | | | |
| 54 Parlor piece | | | |
| 57 "The Green Hornet" airer, 1966-'67 | | | |
| 59 Puget Sound port | | | |
| 63 GREEN | | | |
| 66 Japan's commercial center, historically | | | |
| 67 Accessory on the handlebars | | | |
| 68 TV part? | | | |
| 69 ___-case scenario | | | |
| 70 Oscillation | | | |
| 71 Body art, briefly | | | |

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xwordeditor@aol.com 03/13/13

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By Gerry Wiltenberg (c)2013 Tribune Media Services, Inc. 03/13/13

Defensive tackle's stock rising as NFL draft approaches

► FLOYD IS PROJECTED AS A TOP-FIVE SELECTION IN THE 2013 NFL DRAFT.

PHILLIP HEILMAN
Alligator Staff Writer

Nobody is second-guessing Sharrif Floyd's decision to leave UF early these days.

Floyd, who announced his intention to forgo his senior season following Florida's 33-23 loss to Louisville in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 2, has seen his draft stock rise meteorically during the past few weeks.

The 6-foot-3, 297-pound defensive lineman is now considered a potential top-five pick in the NFL Draft, which begins on April 25.

Despite not attending Florida's Pro Day on Tuesday — Floyd tweaked his ankle at the NFL Scouting Combine and will hold a private workout later this month — scouts and coaches raved about his ability to command double teams and cause chaos for opposing offenses.

"He's a game-changer at the college level," said David Caldwell, general manager of the Jacksonville Jaguars. "He may not have the so-called sack production, but he disrupts a lot of plays."

Floyd's raw statistics from last season do not fully reflect the attention he has received since announcing his decision.

He finished fifth on the team with 46 tackles, 13 of which went for a loss, and also notched three sacks in 13 games during his junior season.

But in Florida's loss to Louisville, Floyd recorded five tackles,

two sacks and a blocked field goal. Coach Will Muschamp said that type of production was there throughout the season, even if the box score showed differently.

"Turn on the tape," Muschamp said. "The guy can anchor, he can play the run, he's got great initial quickness, he can rush the passer. He's everything you want for an inside player."

Floyd is one of seven starters the Gators must replace from a defense that finished fifth in the nation with 14.5 points per game allowed.

Despite the departures, first-year defensive coordinator D.J. Durkin is confident in what the team is bringing back next season.

"We're not just playing 11 guys," Durkin said. "We play 20-something guys in a game on defense, and we want to continue that. We've got some up-and-coming guys we feel really good about."

Purifoy working with offense: Muschamp said on Tuesday that cornerback Loucheiz Purifoy, who will be a junior next season, will play the first seven days of spring practice as a full-time wide receiver.

Purifoy finished fourth on the team last season with 38 tackles while also forcing three fumbles and breaking up five passes. But given his athleticism and Florida's lack of depth at receiver, the coaching staff has opted to incorporate him into the offense.

"A guy that hasn't been full time at that position, so it would be good for him to go through the first seven days [at receiver]," Muschamp said.



David Carr / Alligator Staff

Defensive tackle Sharrif Floyd (73) celebrates after making a tackle during Florida's 33-23 loss to Louisville during the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 2 at the Superdome in New Orleans.

Added offensive coordinator Brent Pease: "We know he's a defensive guy, but when you have a talent like him... he can step on the field and give us something offensively."

Injuries: Ronald Powell will not participate in spring practice as he continues his recovery after

suffering a torn ACL in Florida's spring game and undergoing a second surgery to repair his knee in October.

Offensive linemen Chaz Green (ankle) and Ian Silberman (shoulder) will also miss spring practice, as will freshman linebacker Matt Rolin (knee). Kyle Christy, Neiron Ball, Solomon Patton and Jon

Halapio will be limited participants as they return to full speed.

"We're going to be a little thin up front with some injuries, so we've got to be more efficient throwing it, and that's going to be a big part of it in spring," Muschamp said.

Contact Phillip Heilman at pheilman@alligator.org.

Florida bats go quiet in 4-1 loss to No. 5 Florida State Seminoles win first game in Gainesville since '07

ADAM PINCUS
Alligator Staff Writer

The Gators and the Seminoles have reversed roles.

No. 5 Florida State (16-0) defeated Florida (8-10) 4-1 Tuesday night at McKethan Stadium. The Seminoles won their first game in Gainesville since 2007. Coach Kevin O'Sullivan hadn't lost at home to Florida

State in five previous matchups.

Right-hander Luke Weaver earned the win with 6.1 innings of one-run ball. Seminoles coach Mike Martin, known for his numerous mound visits, didn't make one until the seventh inning.

"When you look at the game, you start with pitching," Martin said. "There's no question that was the difference in the ballgame."

Indiana left-hander Joey DeNato allowed one run in 7.1 innings against Florida on Friday. Florida Gulf Coast right-hander Ricky Knapp tossed a complete game on Feb. 22. Weaver matched their performances at the Mac. Weaver threw all three of his pitches — fastball, changeup and curveball — for strikes.

"It's tough. You just got to try and pick one out," Justin Shafer said. "You can't try

to hit all three. We didn't adjust well tonight."

Three relievers followed Weaver to shut out the Gators for the last three innings. Florida didn't get a runner to second base until the fourth and went 1 for 7 with runners in scoring position.

Taylor Gushue brought in the only run for Florida on an error by Weaver, who couldn't haul in an underhand flip while covering first base on a ground ball. With the bases loaded and two outs, Florida State

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 30



Softball outfielder Briana Little was named the Southeastern Conference Player of the Week. See story, page 31.

Football player cited

Redshirt freshman Jessamen Dunker was cited last week for unknowingly driving with a suspended license. Dunker is currently facing charges of grand theft of an auto vehicle and driving on a suspended license.

Spring football depth chart released

Read the extended version of our Pro Day story online at alligatorSports.org for a look at Florida's spring practice depth chart.

Baseball Notebook: Freshman makes first career start

No. 2 starter makes relief appearance vs. FSU

JOSH JURNOVOY

Alligator Staff Writer

Through the first 16 games of the season, Danny Young had thrown fewer innings than any Florida pitcher aside from Bobby Poyner, who didn't make his first appearance of the season until Sunday.

Even though Young had just 2.2 innings under his belt heading into the Tuesday night's game with undefeated FSU, coach Kevin O'Sullivan felt comfortable giving him the start.

The freshman left-hander pitched a scoreless ninth inning in Sunday's 7-4 loss to Indiana, and O'Sullivan thought he threw the ball with conviction, so he wanted to give him a shot.

"He threw the ball really good," O'Sullivan said of Young's game against FSU. "Probably ran his pitch count up a little too high, but he threw strikes. I was really pleased with how he performed."

In 3.1 innings of work, Young gave up three hits and struck out a career-high three batters. He allowed three runs, but left the game with two of those runners still on base. After giving up a run in the first inning, Young retired the Seminoles in order in the second by striking out both John Nogowski and Jose Brizuela looking and forcing Giovanni Alfonzo to ground out to the pitcher's mound.

"I thought he threw the ball really good, probably ran his pitch count up a little too high, but he threw strikes. I was really pleased with how he performed."

Kevin O'Sullivan
UF coach

"Did a great job for his first time," freshman outfielder Harrison Bader said. "To sort of be thrown out there, he did a really really good job."

Simpson used in relief: Freshman Tucker Simpson, who has started every Saturday game for the Gators in 2013, made his first relief appearance of the season on Tuesday.

"He only threw 45 pitches on Saturday, so I wanted to get him some work,"

O'Sullivan said.

Simpson relieved junior left-hander Daniel Gibson to begin the seventh inning and retired the Seminoles in order on eight pitches.

O'Sullivan said prior to the season that he would use non-conference play to set his weekend rotation before the Gators begin Southeastern Conference play. With Kentucky coming to Gainesville this weekend, O'Sullivan said the rotation would be determined on Wednesday.

"Obviously, (freshman Jay) Carmichael has been throwing the ball good," O'Sullivan said. "Crawford is one of those guys, and I like the way (Eric) Hanhold

threw the ball, too."

Simpson threw just 17 total pitches against FSU, so he could still be available to start against Kentucky as well.

In four starts prior to Tuesday, Simpson pitched 15 innings, allowed 16 hits and struck out 13 batters while posting an ERA of 5.40. Carmichael leads the team with an ERA of 2.00 and has allowed just four runs in 18 innings of work.

Powers returns: Gators third baseman Zack Powers returned to the starting lineup against FSU after missing last weekend's series against Indiana due to a bruised hand suffered in Florida's 7-6 win

over Jacksonville last Wednesday.

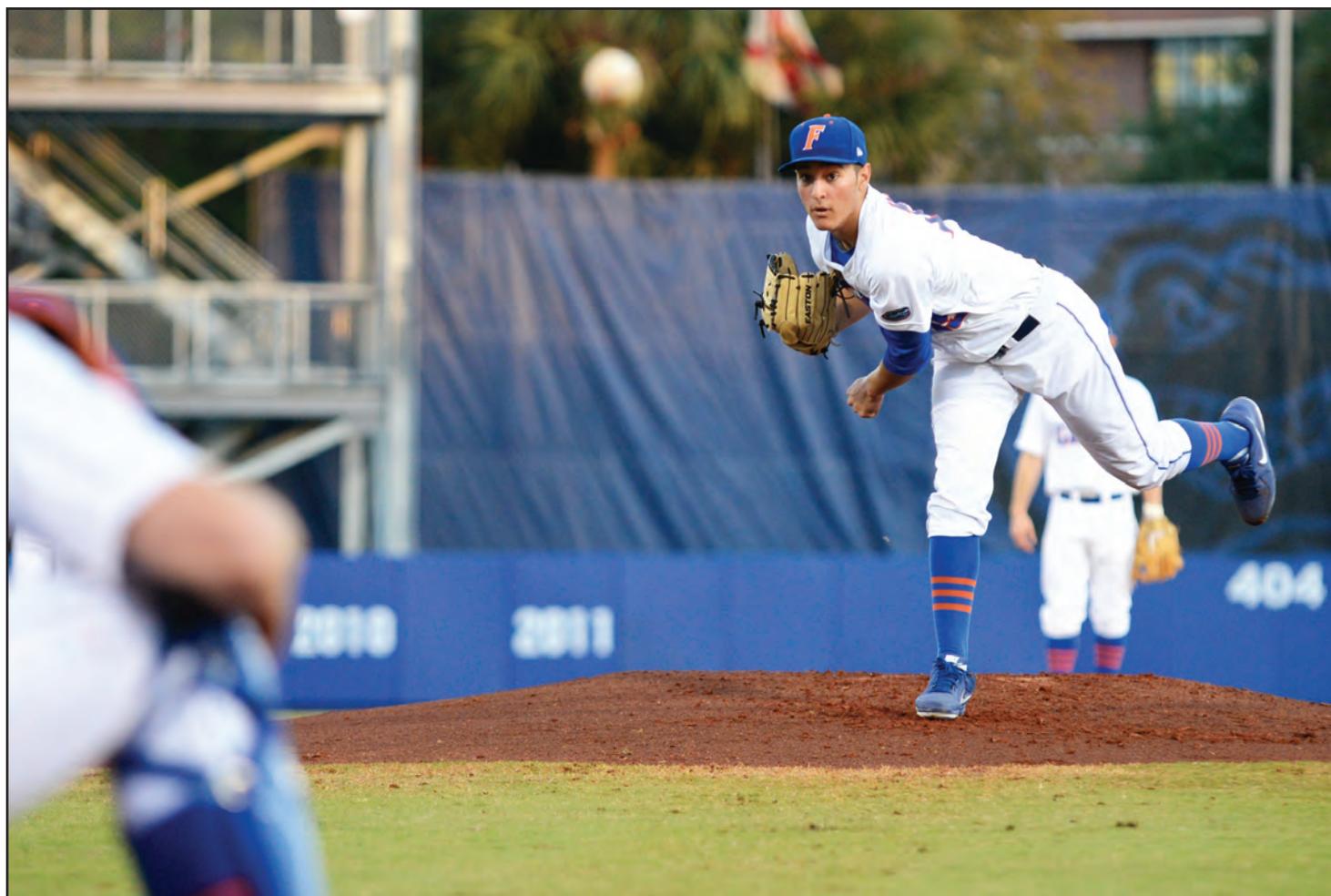
Powers, who led the team before Tuesday with a .418 on-base percentage, is tied for first in home runs and second in RBI, went 0 for 4 at the plate against FSU with three strikeouts.

O'Sullivan said the sophomore was still battling discomfort in the hand.

"He grinded through it," O'Sullivan said.

"Obviously, I don't think it's 100 percent. It's not broken. He battled tonight. He did what he could. He hung in there. I know he really wanted to play tonight, so we'll give him off the next couple days, and I'm sure he'll feel much better by Friday."

Contact Josh Jurnovoy at jjurnovoy@alligator.org.



Ryan Jones / Alligator Staff

Left-handed pitcher Danny Young (15) warms up between innings during Florida's 4-1 loss to Florida State on Tuesday night at McKethan Stadium. The freshman made his first college start against the fifth-ranked Seminoles.

Gators scored only run against Seminoles on fielding error



Ryan Jones / Alligator Staff

Right-hander Luke Weaver pitches during Florida's 4-1 loss to Florida State on Tuesday night at McKethan Stadium.

BASEBALL,

from page 29

right-hander Robby Coles induced a weak groundball to shortstop from Vickash Ramjit to end the eighth and Florida's last gasp.

Florida hosts No. 10 Kentucky on Friday to open Southeastern Conference play.

"It doesn't matter SEC or whomever we are playing on Friday," O'Sullivan said. "We got to do a better job offensively. I think we hit three balls hard all night. Let's face it. We got some work to do offensively."

While Florida's bats stayed quiet, Florida State did just enough. Shortstop Giovanni Alfonzo hit an 0-2 fastball from right-hander

Ryan Harris in the fourth for a two-run single. Alfonzo gave Florida State a three-run lead. The Seminoles added another run in the sixth when Harris hit Josh Delph with the bases loaded. Harris started the inning by hitting John Nogowski, who eventually scored.

Florida State reached base in seven at-bats with two-strike counts. Tuesday's loss marks the earliest Florida has reached double-digit defeats in seven seasons. The last time the Gators reached 10 losses that quickly was the 2007 campaign — the final year before O'Sullivan's arrival at UF.

Freshman centerfielder Harrison Bader faced the media after the game in front of Florida's dugout. The questions sounded famil-

iar. It's been tough for Florida. The work hasn't translated into wins.

"We're fighting out there," Bader said. "We're never going to quit... As long as I'm on the field, as long as anybody is on the field we are going to put everything into it."

Gators lose pitcher: Junior right-hander Keenan Kish will miss the season due to a hip injury. He underwent hip surgery during the summer and didn't participate in fall practice due to hip issues as well. Kish finishes 2013 with a 3.38 ERA in three appearances. He started against UCF and North Florida. His last appearance came on Feb. 26 against the Ospreys.

Contact Adam Pincus at apincus@alligator.org.

SOFTBALL

Sophomore collects weekly honor

ADAM LICHTENSTEIN
Alligator Staff Writer

Briana Little struggled in limited playing time in 2012, hitting just .188 in 35 games. She hit only one home run in 32 at-bats.

Through 27 games in 2013, Little has quickly surpassed those marks. In victories against No. 4 Alabama and Auburn during the weekend, Little hit .667 with a home run and four RBI.

The Southeastern Conference named her the league's player of the week for her efforts.

"She had one of the best weeks she's had in her whole entire career," coach Tim Walton said.

Little got on base the hard way against the Tigers. She was hit by three pitches during the three-game series, including two in Florida's 2-0 victory on Sunday. Little did not record an official at-bat, as she drew a walk in her only other plate appearance.

"I just felt they tried to work around me the best way they could," Little said.

The Gators record for hit-by-pitches in a season is 15, set by Francesca Enea in 2010.

When Little wasn't being hit or pitched around, she was punishing the pitchers who threw in the strike zone.

In addition to her home run, she hit a dou-

ble and five singles, including a run-scoring base hit in Florida's 13-0 blowout against Auburn on Friday.

She recorded a slugging percentage of 1.111 and a .786 on-base percentage in the four games.

"She just found a way to get on base a lot," Walton said. "A lot of two-out hits. She had a really, really, really good week. We were proud of her."

The sophomore outfielder currently leads No. 3 Florida (25-2, 2-1 SEC) in OPS and ranks second on the team with five home runs this season.

"When I get my at-bats, I just went up there and looked for good pitches to hit," Little said. "I just try to get on for my team."

Gators move up in polls: Florida moved up one spot in both the ESPN/USA Softball and National Fastpitch Coaches Association polls this week.

The Gators defeated the previously top-ranked Crimson Tide in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and took two of three from the Tigers on the road.

Florida's next opponent is No. 6 Tennessee (21-4, 2-1 SEC), which moved up two spots after winning two of three against Alabama.

"It was a tough week," Walton said. "It was a long week for us, but I felt very pleased with the way our team played."

Contact Adam Lichtenstein at alichtenstein@alligator.org.



Little

No. 2 Florida tops Lehigh

THE GATORS BEGAN THE GAME ON A 15-0 RUN.

MAX MATTERN
Alligator Writer

Coach Amanda O'Leary could not have asked her team for more during Tuesday night's performance against Lehigh.

The second-ranked Gators (10-0) put up their best offensive and defensive performances of the season in an 18-2 blowout of the Mountain Hawks (2-4).

Florida captured momentum early by scoring seven goals in less than 9 minutes to open the contest.

UF continued its hot streak, jogging off the field at halftime with a 14-0 lead. The 14 goals were the most the Gators have scored in a half this season. Florida shut out an opponent in the first half for the second time.

"It's a great feeling to have a shutout in that first half, but we knew we had to keep the intensity up," senior defender Sam Farrell said.

The Gators maintained their intensity despite resting Farrell and the rest of the starting lineup during the second half.

The final 30 minutes featured an entirely new lineup while all the regular starters and substitutes stood on the sideline.

"The first team came off, and the second team came in and there was no drop off, which was really great to see," O'Leary said.

Redshirt junior Erin Graziano added a goal in the second half to extend the Gators' run to 15 straight goals before the Mountain Hawks finally answered with a goal of their own to avoid a shut-out. The 15-0 run was the largest for Florida this season.

"It feels good to know that our offense can generate so many goals and so many unassisted goals," sophomore Nora Barry said.

UF achieved season-high marks with 26 points, 10 assists, 38 shots and 29 shots on goal.

"Overall, we just played our game," Barry said.

Twelve different Gators found the back of the net. Seven were freshmen.

Of the 12 freshmen on the team, 11 logged minutes on Tuesday.

O'Leary was glad the freshmen earned some game experience in the victory against Lehigh.

"They are the future," she said.

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WEEKLY SPECIALS SPECIALS VALID 03/13-03/20

FRESH JUICES Sierra Nevada 6-pack bottles \$6.99 Reg. \$8.99	ORGANIC Garden of Eaten Tortilla Chips \$2.49 Reg. \$3.99	LOCAL FARM FRESH Green Gable 99¢ 3 Lb.
BULK HERBS, GRAINS, BEANS + NUTS Red Stripe 12 pack bottles \$10.99 Reg. 14.99	NO GMOS Vitasoy Tofu Firm & Extra Firm Cases Available 99¢ 14oz tub	FRESH FLOWERS Boneless New York Strip Steaks \$6.99 Lb.
FRESH JUICES Lindeman's "Bin" Series from Australia \$3.99 750 mL Cases available	FRESH MEATS Fresh Pork Spare Ribs \$1.99 Lb.	WINE + MICROBREWS Jumbo Yellow Onions 59¢ Lb.

ALWAYS FRESH PRODUCE, MEATS + SEAFOOD

Top 5 Reasons to Donate Plasma

1. Plasma Saves Lives
2. Be a Hero by Doing a Good Deed
3. Buy School Books
4. Save Money for Gifts, Holidays & Vacations
5. Gas Money & Groceries

DCI Biologicals
150 NW 6th St
378-9204
Bring 2 forms of Id, SS Card & Proof of residence

WHAT'S YOURS?

Earn up to \$210/mo

Special \$30 monthly bonus:
6th-\$10 7th-\$5 8th-\$15

All donor fees paid by Citi bank debit card www.dciplasma.com

DONATE TODAY. GET PAID TODAY. SAVE A LIFE TODAY.

BE A HERO!

Earn \$70 in the first week
*not donated in 6 mo.

THE CIRCUS IS COMING!

WIN 4 TICKETS TO THE COLE BROTHERS CIRCUS TODAY THROUGH FRIDAY (MARCH 11-MARCH 15)

Post a picture of yourself at any business advertised* in today's paper to our Facebook page, and you could win 4 tickets to the Cole Brothers Circus coming March 18 and 19 to the Oaks Mall!

FACEBOOK.COM/ALLIGATORADVERTISING

alligator the independent florida

*Does not apply to Classified Ads

One winner will be randomly drawn from correct entries each day March 11th - March 15th. Entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. Winners will be announced on the Alligator Advertising's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/AlligatorAdvertising. Please do not call to inquire concerning the contest or the results. Picture ID required to collect winnings. Prize packages are valued at \$100. Winners will be selected by random drawing, with odds of winning dependent upon the number of entries. One entry per person per day. Employees and their family members of the Alligator are not eligible to enter. No purchase necessary. You do not need to be present to win. Prizes will be awarded only to winners and cannot be sold. Certain restrictions apply. Subject to availability.

