



ONE LAST SHOT

the independent florida
alligator

Road to the Final Four

Sports Editor Joe Morgan ▸ Cover illustration photos Aundre Larrow ▸ Cover design Aundre Larrow and Landon Watnick
Alligator, Friday, March 22, 2013

Building His Legacy



Senior guard Kenny Boynton (1) smiles after cutting the final strands of the net after Florida's 66-40 win against Vanderbilt on March 6 in the O'Connell Center. Boynton has won to SEC championships as a Gator.

Final Four chase, academics motivated Boynton to stay at Florida

LONDON WATNICK
Alligator Writer

Many people thought Kenny Boynton would leave Florida after his freshman season three years ago.

When he first committed to Florida on Oct. 30, 2008, the phrase "one and done" was often thrown around to describe the McDonald's All-American from Pompano Beach.

Boynton came to Gainesville as the No. 12 recruit in his class — the highest-ranked player coach Billy Donovan had successfully recruited and signed at the time since Rivals.com began ranking basketball prospects in 2003.

For a team coming off consecutive NIT appearances in 2007-2009, the 6-foot-2 Boynton was expected to be an immediate but temporary solution in the backcourt for the Gators, who had just lost starting point guard Nick Calathes to a professional team in Greece.

As an undersized but electric guard, Boynton was a scoring machine in high school.

After splitting four years at Pompano Beach Blanche Ely High and American Heritage High in Plantation, Boynton finished his high school career as the third-leading scorer in the history of Florida high school basketball and one of the best players from Broward County.

On the surface, everything about Boynton shouted "NBA" and "one and done."

"I know a lot of people expected it to go that way," Boynton said.

Although his NBA stock is no longer as high as it once was, Boynton has developed into one of the best players to don a Florida uniform.

Boynton has been a cog in UF's starting lineup at shooting guard the past four years, starting 138 games and logging 4,564 minutes — both school bests.

He has not missed a game in his collegiate career and has started in all but three contests.

Despite a few shooting slumps along the way, Boynton has averaged 14.1 points per game on 39.9 percent shooting in 141 games.

During his time in Gainesville, Boynton has helped the Gators earn two Elite Eight appearances and a pair of SEC regular-season titles.

He ranks second on UF's all-time scoring list with 1,995 points and owns the school record for three-point shots made.

"I didn't think about breaking records or anything like that when I first got here," Boynton said.

Heading into No. 3 seed Florida's second-round NCAA Tournament matchup against 14th-seeded Northwestern State tonight at 7:27 p.m., Boynton is 95 points shy of Ronnie Williams' scoring record.

If Florida were to advance to the national title game, Boynton would need to average 19 points per game to tie Williams.

While the all-time scoring feat seems out of reach for Boynton, he has never been enthralled with records or statistics.

"Kenny's about the team stats and getting victories for his team," said Danny Herz, Boynton's high school coach at American Heritage. "He's been around individual stats all his life because of his scoring prowess."

This season, Boynton has seen a drop-off as a scorer, averaging a career-worst 12.3 points per game on a career-low 10.3 attempts per game. He has dealt with two five-game shooting slumps this year — a pair of droughts where he shot 13 of 51 and 17 of 53.

"When he struggles, he always comes out with a little bang," senior forward Erik Murphy said.

"We always have confidence in him regardless. I always think he's going to score or make shots."

Boynton has also struggled late in games this season, shooting 0 of 2 from the field in the final 30 seconds when Florida trails a team by one or two points.

"When people watch him and the ball doesn't go in the basket, it's very, very easy to point fingers," Donovan said.

"Maybe of anybody on our team, Kenny

Boynton is truly loved inside of our team because he's a great teammate. When he's making some shots, it livens up our team, because our team looks to him in a lot of ways."

During his career, Boynton has developed multiple facets of his game outside of scoring.

Boynton has improved his rebounding (3.1 boards per game) this season. In his four years at UF, he has become one of Florida's top on-ball defenders.

As Florida's backup point guard this season, Boynton has improved his ability to distribute the ball, averaging a career-best three assists per game.

Donovan admires Boynton's emotional consistency as much as the senior's steady play on the floor.

"When you're dealing with young people, there's usually a wide range of emotions sometimes you have to deal with," Donovan said.

"Somebody's box that they play in is pretty wide. He's about as consistent of a guy as I've coached since his freshman year. His mood never changes. He's reliable. You know what you're getting."

In his four seasons as a Gator, Boynton has also blossomed off the court. Coming to Florida as a reserved, soft-spoken kid, Boynton only would let loose around his family and those in his close circle.

Through the years, he has gradually broken out of his shell.

Boynton can often be seen bantering with his teammates during warm-ups and after games. His favorite things to joke about are rap lyrics and the rivalry between Kobe Bryant and LeBron James.

"My freshman and sophomore year, he didn't really talk too much to everyone else," junior center Patric Young said.

"But this year I really got a chance to see who he is as a person. He's a really great guy, really funny, a really good guy to be around."

Added Boynton's roommate and senior forward Erik Murphy: "That's just come with age for him. He's grown up, getting older and getting more connected."

Boynton never imagined he would remain at Florida for four years, but his parents did.

His family never wanted him to be a one-and-done player.

"I don't believe in that, unless if you're LeBron James or what have you," said Dana Boynton, Kenny's mother.

"I wanted him to experience the college life."

Kenny comes from a tight-knit family that always emphasized the importance of academics and following a blueprint outside the world of basketball.

Dana, 46, has been a teacher for more than 25 years. She currently teaches English at Pompano Beach Middle School.

Kenny's father, Kenny Boynton Sr., 48, was a standout at Bethune-Cookman for four seasons.

"He's about as consistent of a guy as I've coached since his freshman year. His mood never changes. He's reliable. You know what you're getting."

Billy Donovan
UF coach

He is now a deputy with the Broward County Sheriff's department.

Kenny's older brother, Deandre Boynton, 26, was a point guard at Division II West Florida from 2005-2009 and still owns school records in steals and assists.

Deandre currently lives in Houston and has worked as a sports agent at Impact Sports Management for the past three years.

Kendia, 27, Kenny's older sister, graduated from Florida A&M in 2009 and is employed at a property insurance firm in Fort Lauderdale.

Kenny's parents know plenty about planning ahead.

"We've tried our best to keep him grounded and keep [Kenny] humble," Dana said. "We've just kept it real with him."

Said Herz: "His parents get it, in terms of what's right from wrong."

Dana and Kenny Sr. have monitored Boynton's academic progress all his life.

From elementary to high school, Dana would make sure Kenny completed his schoolwork before going outside to shoot hoops.

Every day, Kenny would spend an hour and a half at the dining table finishing assignments.

"She's always on top of us about our work," Deandre said.

"That's something I've always known growing up. If you don't do your work, I had to deal with my mom. That was something I was always afraid of."

"School is very important, and if he didn't take that seriously, there's no reward after school."

Kenny's parents consult with Tom Williams, assistant athletics director for the UAA, every two weeks to make sure Boynton has met academic expectations in college.

Williams said Kenny has done well academically this year.

"Each year it's, 'What's next in line? What do I need to do? What do I need to accomplish?'" Williams said. "His parents have instilled that in him."

Kenny also found a mentor figure in Melvin Randall, his high school basketball coach and math teacher at Ely.

Randall, who had known the Boynton family since Kenny was born, became his godfather when Kenny was in the ninth grade.

Randall was also successful mentoring

Kenny on the hardwood. Together, they helped Ely win the FHSAA Class 6A state championship in 2006.

But after his sophomore season, Kenny made a surprising decision, transferring from Ely to American Heritage.

Academics were as one of the main reasons Kenny transferred.

"I felt like Ely wasn't a challenge for him," Dana said.

"I wanted him to be challenged and college-ready. It was a very hard process, very hard. ... Deep down inside, I'm sure he understood."

Kenny was not struggling academically at Ely. He posted a 3.5 GPA during his sophomore year, according to Randall.

"[Kenny is] the type where he wanted to be pushed even more," Randall said. "I thought that was pretty cool. A lot of kids these days want to transfer for — I shouldn't say for the wrong reasons — but for the athletic reasons instead of the academic reasons."

Kenny, 21, is set to graduate from UF in May with a degree in sociology.

Once Kenny's playing career is done — whether it's at the NBA or overseas — his family members see him pursuing a profession involving sports.

Deandre thinks Kenny would eventually want to coach down the line.

"At the end of the day with today's generation, you don't see it a lot," Deandre said. "You can look at people like LeBron and look at other guys, but Kenny will have something those guys don't have — a degree."

Added Dana: "What I wanted to see is being done."

Boynton has achieved many things in his four-year career at Florida, but still missing is a key accomplishment: a Final Four appearance.

After two straight heartbreaking losses in the Elite Eight to Butler in 2011 and Louisville in 2012, Boynton is hungry to take the next step.

Over the phone Tuesday night, Randall spoke to Boynton, who sought advice before the No. 3 seed Gators face the No. 14 seed Demons tonight.

Randall's message to Boynton was direct.

"This is your last March Madness. This is it," Randall told Boynton.

"He's going into this March Madness with a little fire in his eyes."

Boynton told ESPN's Andy Katz on Jan. 8 that anything less than the Final Four this season would be a failure.

"I want them to say that I went out as a winner," Boynton said. "In my four years here, I've tried my best to win as much as I could. Definitely, I want to go out this year as a winner, winning the national championship."

Kenny Boynton's career at Florida

Games: 141
Starts: 138
Minutes: 4,564
Points: 1,995
Points per game: 14.1
Shooting percentage: 39.9%
Three-point percentage: 34.2%
Free-throw percentage: 78.8%
Assists: 387
2 SEC championships
2 Elite Eight appearances
4 NCAA Tournament appearances
2009-10 All-SEC Freshman Team
2010-11 All-SEC Second Team
2011-12 All-SEC First Team
2012-13 All-SEC Second Team



Senior guard Kenny Boynton (1) walks onto the court with his parents, Dana and Kenny Sr., prior to Florida's 66-40 win against Vanderbilt on March 6 in the O'Connell Center.

Junior Quinton Dunbar and the UF wide receivers hope to have a more productive season in 2013. Read the story on page 15.



Gainesville mayor arrested for DUI

KATHRYN VARN
 Alligator Staff Writer

Gainesville Mayor Craig Lowe was arrested on DUI charges about 12 miles outside the city early Thursday.

The Florida Highway Patrol arrested Lowe, 55, near Northeast 21st Street and Northeast 156th Avenue at 5:26 a.m., according to a FHP arrest report.

At about 2:20 a.m., Lowe lost control of his 2005 Honda Civic while driving south on Northeast 21st Street, according to an FHP news release. He hit a Florida Depart-



Lowe

ment of Transportation sign as well as a ditch and came to a stop on the side of the road.

Alachua County Sheriff's Office deputies responded first to the crash. When FHP trooper Javon Murphy arrived, he reported

Lowe's breath smelled like alcohol, his eyes were bloodshot and he had trouble keeping his balance.

Murphy also reported Lowe's car was

damaged in the front and had four flat tires.

Lowe told Murphy he crashed because he fell asleep while driving. Lowe also admitted to drinking three beers earlier in the night, according to the report. He added his last drink was at about 10 p.m. Wednesday.

Lowe "performed poorly" during a field sobriety test, according to the report, and he was arrested for DUI just before 5 a.m. Troopers later booked him into the

SEE LOWE, PAGE 3

UF will black out this weekend

IT WILL LAST AN HOUR ON SATURDAY.

JACLYN ROSEN

Alligator Contributing Writer

Gainesville and Sydney, Australia residents are separated by continents and oceans, but this weekend they'll be connected by a common universal goal.

On Saturday from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., millions of people from across the world will switch off lights for one hour to show concern for the environment.

Alachua County, the city of Gainesville and UF will commemorate Earth Hour for the fifth year in a row. The lights at Century Tower, the Albert and Alberta statues and Flavet Field tennis courts are some participating icons.

It's the first time the Reitz Union and the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art will be participating, said UF Office of Sustainability program assistant Michael Amish.

"[By participating in the event], you'd be supporting the Gator Nation in its pursuit in being the leading campus in the country for sustainability," Amish said.

Some buildings around campus will go dark for that one hour, while others will stay unlit the entire weekend, Amish said.

Chris Whitehurst, UF Physical Plant Division's business manager, said UF'll save about \$500 worth of electricity for the whole weekend. The physical plant plays an instrumental role in the actual process of shutting off lights.

Jeff Chorlog, the assistant vice president for the physical plant, said it takes two men and about eight hours to change the lights' timers for the weekend.



Audre Larrow / Alligator Staff

Balancing Act

Jaya Patel, 9, does chen-style Tai Chi Chuan balancing exercises as her father, Kalpesh Patel, 45, looks on at the Gainesville Dojo Martial Arts Studio, located at 536 SW Second Ave. The class is taught from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays.

GREEK LIFE

Theta Chi brothers initiate member — from his hospital bed

COLLEEN WRIGHT

Alligator Writer

Drew Smith didn't expect to become a fraternity brother in the hospital.

Members of UF's chapter of Theta Chi surprised the 20-year-old history sophomore at Shands at UF Wednesday night with a personal initiation ceremony.

Smith was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia during his senior year of high school. But even after beating cancer in July 2011, his immune system is still weak. He checked into the hospital Tuesday night for stomach pain.

Smith transferred to UF in January and got a bid from Theta Chi. He worked his way up to the title of pledge class president.

"They have good things coming in the

next couple of years, and I want to be a part of that," Smith said.

Finance senior Travis Johnson, 21, said he chose Smith to be his little brother because he saw Smith's potential and strength. When he learned Smith might not be released in time for the initiation ceremony, Johnson coordinated the surprise with Smith's mother.

Nine brothers dressed in black blazers and

red ties to initiate Smith as the first brother of his pledge class — from his hospital bed.

"Everyone in the brotherhood felt he deserved it," Johnson said.

Smith plans to leave the hospital today. He's looking forward to attending the fraternity's formal this weekend.

"I worked way too hard this semester to not go," he said.

Today

FORECAST	2	CROSSWORD	11
OPINIONS	6	SPORTS	14
CLASSIFIEDS	10		



Plant lovers to celebrate beginning of spring at festival

There will be about 200 booths, pg 5.

News spreads most by word-of-mouth, report shows

About 72 percent get news from friends and family, pg 9.



Dogs undergo chemotherapy treatment at UF Small Animal Hospital

They don't encounter serious side effects, pg 8.



News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

AMOUR opens at the Hipp

Academy award-winning film "Amour" will open at the Hipp Theatre today. "Amour" has been called a "masterpiece" by The Philadelphia Inquirer and "transfixing and extraordinarily touching" by Entertainment Weekly. Visit www.thehipp.org or call 352-375-HIPP for tickets.

Dance company performs at Phillips Center

One of the world's leading dance companies, Mark Morris Dance Group, will perform today at 7:30 p.m. at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Student tickets are \$10 and available at the Phillips Center through Ticketmaster, at the University Box Office (in the Reitz Union), or by calling 352-392-2787. For more information, visit www.performingarts.ufl.edu.

God on Trial: In His Own Words

If God were on trial, how would He defend Himself? Come to today's 7 p.m. seminar "God on Trial" as former Harvard University chaplain Angelo Grasso presents the Bible's answers that vindicate God's character. This week-long series, ending Saturday, will be held at Pascal's Coffeehouse, 112 NW 16th St., one block north of Library West. Free food from Tijuana Flats and Gyros Plus will be provided. It is sponsored by Adventist Campus Ministry. For more info, visit www.acmuf.org.

Viva Europe

How do Romanians celebrate spring? What famous puzzle was invented in Hungary? What symbol is used in Turkish jewelry to protect the wearer from harm? The answers to these, and many other questions about European culture, will be revealed at the VIVA EUROPE festival Saturday on the Bo Diddley Community Plaza in downtown Gainesville. Festival admission is free from 11 p.m. to 4 p.m. See dance performances all day, and learn some steps. Sing along at the top of every hour. Buy food, buy jewelry and have an instant photo taken. Like us at www.facebook.com/vivaeurope, or call the Center for European Studies at 352-294-7142.

MindSight

MindSight will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art. The

FORECAST

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
PARTLY CLOUDY 74/57	THUNDER STORMS 80/65	THUNDER STORMS 79/51	PARTLY CLOUDY 70/44	PARTLY CLOUDY 69/44

annual arts event is organized by the UF Gator Lions Club. The event showcases tactile artistic exhibits that offer participants an unconventional perspective on art that does not require sight. It is hosted for the blind community, but everyone is encouraged to attend. MindSight is free and open to the public. Check www.facebook.com/events/477557148964395 for more information.

Humanities and STEM fields

A panel and audience discussion from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday in Smathers Library East, Room 1A, will explore the relationships between the humanities and sciences, focusing especially on how they mutually inform and benefit each other. This event is free and open to the public. More information is available at www.humanities.ufl.edu/calendar/20130325-Humanities-and-STEM.html.

Gator Allies 1.0 Training

Join LGBT Affairs for a Gator Allies Training on March 29 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Graham Gallery. Gator Allies trainings further participants' understanding of heteronormativity, homophobia and how it affects everyone. The trainers seek to increase awareness and understanding of current LGBTQ issues and offer skills and resources to be an ally. To RSVP, please email lgbt@multicultural.ufl.edu. For more information, visit www.ufsa.ufl.edu/events/details/1883.

UF Holi

The Indian Students Association, Student Government Multicultural Affairs Cabinet and UF Intercultural Engagement will commence the first university-wide Festival of Colors event March 30 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Hume Field. Holi is an Indian tradition meant to celebrate the beginning of spring by throwing colored powder and celebrating diversity in unity. All people, regardless of background or

identity, are invited and encouraged to attend. This year will feature an exhibition hour to learn more about the meaning behind this event, and the kickoff celebration will begin at 2 p.m. The Hare Krishnas will be serving free Krishna food from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. or until it is all gone. Make sure to wear white. For more information, please go to www.festivalofcolorusuf.com.

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.

Speeding Iowa dad ignores police with baby coming

IOWA CITY, Iowa — An Iowa man who was pulled over for speeding as he rushed his pregnant wife to the hospital said he was determined to keep going despite the police lights flashing behind him.

Tyler Rathjen planned to keep going as his wife, Ashley, began giving birth to their son in the passenger seat. But a red light with heavy traffic finally forced him to stop.

"I should not stop, I'm not going to, I'm going to get to the hospital," Tyler Rathjen said.

The baby's head and arms were already out by the time Iowa City Officer Kevin Wolfe reached the passenger door.

"We were all having a different experience," Wolfe said.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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LOCAL

UF professor serves up coffee with a side of chemistry

RACHEL KURLAND
Alligator Contributing Writer

Exchange that coffee cup for a beaker, because there's some science brewing northeast of campus.

The Brew Spot Café, located at 1000 NE 16th Ave., is a trendy bistro that serves up chemistry study sessions along with baked breads, pastries and coffees.

Jeff Keaffaber, co-owner of the cafe, currently offers free help for general and organic chemistry students several times at the bistro. However, Keaffaber, who is also

a professor in UF's Department of Chemistry, is retiring at the end of this semester and will continue teaching as well as operating the cafe full time.

"I've always wanted to celebrate the culinary arts," he said. "This is a transition to the next project in my life."

Keaffaber will begin charging for sessions this summer. Each session will cost about \$15, and students will receive a \$5 food coupon with every session. He said the sessions are also open to Santa Fe College and local high school students.

"There's going to be something for everyone."

Jeff Keaffaber
co-owner

"It doesn't really matter what level you're at in those courses," he said. "There's going to be something for everyone."

Keaffaber has a background in entertainment and engineering. He worked with Walt Disney Imagineering for six years. He said he used his experience with Disney to design his cafe, which includes an open-air kitchen, a 250-gallon fish tank and

a 1,200-square-foot classroom with chalkboard-painted walls.

Keaffaber said an average session will consist of five to 15 students.

"The idea is to create a community of learners in a small setting," he said.

Keaffaber said the sessions are not instructor specific but rather a general lesson on chemistry.

"It's all about the students," he said. "I'd like to use what I've used over the years in teaching to give students a different insight into the science."

Ryan Wood, a 26-year-old UF

chemistry graduate student, said he has gotten to know Keaffaber after working as his teaching assistant last year. Wood said he studies at the cafe twice week.

"I'm usually coming for the food," he said.

He likes the food so much that one of the cooks made him his own special, The Wood Dog: a hotdog topped with onions, peppers and cheese and a side of potatoes.

Keaffaber sees results in the students that receive his help.

"I benefit from seeing them be successful," he said.

Heading in soccer poses a blow to players, study says

► COACH BECKY BURLEIGH SAYS HEADING IS PART OF THE GAME.

BRITNY PEREZ

Alligator Contributing Writer

Researchers recently found through an iPad app-based experiment that repeated hits to the head, such as heading a soccer ball, could affect an athlete's performance on cognitive tasks.

Emily Flood, certified athletic trainer for UF's women's soccer, said this study provides a good basis for the concussion discussion.

"There are so many different ways you can head a ball."

Emily Flood
certified athletic trainer

"There are so many different ways you can head a ball," she said. "Some girls control it like a pass because it's a soft-header, or it's a hard-header that they're trying to compete with someone to win in the middle of the field."

The study included 24 teenage female participants, 12 soccer players and 12 non-soccer players. Researchers found the soccer players

were much slower than non-soccer players on a task that tested their reaction speed.

Becky Burleigh, head coach of UF's women's soccer team, said the concern of heading and concussions is an evolving issue.

"Until we have conclusive evidence that heading is an issue, that's just a part of our game," Burleigh said. "We wouldn't want to be at a competitive disadvantage for not heading when other teams are."

Injuries can occur when people hit each other as opposed to the ball, or if a player doesn't have his or her arms up for protection of the space around them, Burleigh said.

Both Flood and Burleigh said teaching proper technique is a precautionary measure that can prevent players from getting concussions after heading a soccer ball.

Austin Zide, a goalie for a UF men's club soccer team, has only had one concussion since starting competitive soccer at age 7.

However, the 18-year-old finance freshman won't allow a study based on concussions and heading in soccer to affect the way he plays the game.

"I love the game," he said. "I wouldn't let something like that worry me or change something that I like to do."

UF online courses popular

COLLEEN WRIGHT

Alligator Writer

For Kristina von Castel-Roberts and her 45,000 students, there's no seat capacity in her classroom.

The nutrition professor is the first in the university to teach a massive open online course through Coursera.

Coursera partners with 62 top-tier universities worldwide to offer free non-credit courses that anyone can take. UF is the first Florida university to participate.

More than 45,000 students in six continents have been enrolled in von Castel-Roberts' Fundamentals of Human Nutrition class, which began in January.

She began her online class in 2006. To make it relevant to her diverse students, von Castel-Roberts said she expanded her course material to include nutritional recommendations from other countries.

She said the class with Coursera gave her a better glimpse of global nutrition.

"It's been an educational experience," she said.

Associate provost for teaching and technology Andy McCollough praised

UF's partnership with Coursera. He said the university wanted to share its courses with the rest of the world, and professors would have the opportunity to work with online experts.

"The benefits will be enjoyed by faculty and students," McCollough said.

Even though the university doesn't make any money, he said, massive open online courses are a worthy investment.

Agricultural and biological engineering professor Wendell Porter's class starts

Monday. He said his enrollment has topped 18,500 students.

"I'm teaching two-cities worth of people," Porter said.

Porter, who started his online class in 2008, began recording new videos and making all minor changes in October.

"They don't use the word massive for nothing," he said.

Contact Colleen Wright at cwright@alligator.org.



Castel-Roberts

Lowe's runoff opponent, Braddy, was arrested for DUI in 2006



David Carr / Alligator Staff

A sign is knocked over near Northeast 21st Street and Northeast 156th Avenue after Gainesville Mayor Craig Lowe crashed his car into it early Thursday morning.

LOWE, from page 1

Alachua County Jail.

At the jail, Lowe took a breath test. His blood alcohol content levels were .061 and .069. Murphy concluded Lowe's BAC was above .08 at the time of the crash, according to the report.

Lowe was released from jail at about 4:15 p.m. Thursday on his own recognizance.

Later that evening, Lowe issued a statement: "I apologize for the harm that this situation has caused to my friends, supporters, and the citizens of Gainesville," he said. "I feel that it's important to set the record straight. In the coming days, additional facts will come to light and I believe that I will [be] found not guilty in this case."

Lowe also will work toward strengthening the community's trust in him, saying, "I look forward to getting back to work for the people of Gainesville."

Lowe served as a city commissioner from 2003 to 2010. In 2010, he won by a 42-vote margin in a runoff.

Lowe is running for re-election against Ed Braddy in the April 16 runoff election.

In response to the arrest, Braddy, 41, said Thursday afternoon that he encourages "people to give Mayor Lowe his space so that he can deal with this matter as he sees fit."

"We should be grateful that no one was injured," he said.

During his term as a city commissioner from 2002 to 2008, Braddy was arrested on a DUI-damage to person/property in January 2006. His BAC levels were reported to be .181 and .184, according to the arrest report.

At Thursday's City Commission meeting, commissioner Susan Bottcher expressed sensitivity toward the situation.

"Until we get a little more information, my thoughts and prayers are with the mayor," she said.

In the days leading up to April 16, Braddy said voters will make up their own minds about the incident.

"The test of leadership is how you respond to adversity and problems, even if it's self-inflicted," he said. "I think people will be looking to see how [Lowe] responds."

Alligator Staff Writers Chris Alcantara and Kelcee Griffis contributed to this report.

SANTA FE

Santa Fe ranked in top 10 community colleges nationwide

ALEXA VOLLAND
Alligator Writer

The Aspen Institute has ranked Santa Fe College as one of the top 10 community colleges in the country.

SFC is one of only two institutions in the state to receive Aspen's top 10 acknowledgement. The institute looked at about 1,200 other colleges nationwide.

This is the institute's second year awarding the College Excellence Program Prize, said David Houder, director of communications at SFC.

Santa Fe did not make the top 10 last year, Houder said, but it is overjoyed to have gotten the recognition a second time around.

"Everyone is thrilled," he said. "As a community college, you fly under the radar, and the good stuff

As a community college, you fly under the radar, and the good stuff sometimes doesn't get noticed."

David Houder
director of communications

sometimes doesn't get noticed." Houder said the colleges are evaluated on things like graduation percentages and job placement

rates. Katie Walker, a 19-year-old SFC exercise science sophomore, said she wasn't surprised by the ranking.

"I like the small classes, and I love everything about Santa Fe," she said.

Walker said she thinks it's the amount of available one-on-one time with professors that makes

SFC a top 10 college. Tim Warren, 18, will start his freshman year at SFC in the Fall. Having received his acceptance letter, the deciding factor for choosing SFC depended on its ranking, Warren said.

"This is one thing that's encouraging me to go there," he said.

Contact Alexa Volland at avolland@alligator.org.

Breathing easy: Workshop aims to help UF students de-stress

► THE WORKSHOP COSTS \$250 AND IS HELD IN THE REITZ UNION.

COLLEEN WRIGHT
Alligator Writer

Natasha Parekh took a deep breath and swan dived forward until her spine ran parallel to her legs.

The 25-year-old school psychology graduate student was one of seven students enrolled in the Art of Living Youth Empowerment and Skills Workshop that began Thursday evening.

The Art of Living is a national self-development program.

The class is sponsored by YES+ Gators, a UF organization that centers around stress management techniques for young adults.

"I see it as an overall wellness camp," Parekh said.

The workshop is from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday in the Reitz Union.

For \$250, students can put stress aside for the weekend in a room with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the amphitheater.

Nitin Garg, a volunteer weekly instructor, brought in two teachers from Miami for the session.

He said students will learn breathing techniques, yoga poses, games and meditation.

"It's a very beautiful combination," Garg said. "It makes students look inside themselves and gives them peace and meditation."

For Parekh, yoga runs in the family. She said her dad, sister and younger brother all completed the Art of Living workshop.

She said her father is a licensed yoga instructor.

"With all the violence going on," she said. "People our age need to start taking better care of their well-being and mental health."

Contact Colleen Wright at cwright@alligator.org.



Becca Negron / Alligator

Camille Mekwinski, a 20-year-old UF environmental engineering sophomore, attends a holistic breathing course at the Reitz Union on Thursday evening.

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Plant lovers to celebrate beginning of spring at annual festival

THERE WILL BE ABOUT 200 BOOTHS.

ALEX HARRIS

Alligator Contributing Writer

Local gardeners and green thumbs can find a place for their passions to bloom at the Kanapaha Botanical Gardens this weekend.

Plant fans are gathering to celebrate the 23rd annual Spring Garden Festival on Saturday and Sunday at the gardens, located at 4700 SW 58th Drive.

"The event is really the celebration of the start of spring," said Alexis Caffrey, director of Kanapaha Gardens. "It's one of the major horticultural events here in Alachua County."

The two-day event will feature about 200 booths selling plants, garden-related materials and food, Caffrey said.

For entertainment, the park will include a live auction, a butterfly conservatory and local music.

This year's theme is "Passalong Plants," which are plants that friends and family may grow and share with each other, Caffrey said.

"We thought it was a very fitting theme, considering the fact that most of the plants when we first started here at the gardens were passed along," she said. "Things that people either outgrew ... or just plants that people had extra of."

Caffrey said about 7,000 people attended last year's event and expects that same number this weekend.

Admission into the event will be \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Members of the gardens will receive a \$2 discount.

Alicia Bernard, a 20-year-old UF family, youth and community services sophomore, said she doesn't plan on going to the festival, but she believes children will get a lot from the event.

"They like to learn and are open to new experiences," she said. "I think that they would enjoy it."



Derek A. Smith / Alligator

J.R. Trimm, 16, of Bronson, loads plants to his box truck at the Kanapaha Botanical Gardens on Thursday afternoon. This weekend is the Spring Festival at the gardens, located at 4700 SW 58th Drive.



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR RESEARCH STUDY

Researchers at the University of Florida are recruiting volunteers to participate in a clinical study evaluating an investigational new drug that may reduce temporary changes in hearing following music or sound exposure. Eligible volunteers must be healthy, have normal hearing and be between the ages of 18 to 31 years old. You will need to consume 3 study capsules twice a day for four continuous days, and listen to a 4 hour sound track of moderately loud rock or pop music from an Ipod. Your hearing will be tested immediately before and after the sound exposure, as well as one day and one week later. On the day of the music exposure you will need to spend approximately 10 hours at the study site at Shands Hospital. You will be required to undergo physical examinations including chest x-rays, and provide blood samples. The total time commitment for this study is approximately 20 hours over two weeks. Compensation for your time and study participation is available. To learn more, call 352-294-5101 or search keyword SPI-1005 online at: www.ctsi.ufl.edu/studyconnect/

Eligibility criteria: healthy volunteer age 18-31 with normal hearing assessment at time of enrollment screening

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens Spring Garden Festival March 23rd and 24th, 2013

Open from 9 am - 5 pm on Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm on Sunday

200 Booths Offering Plants, Landscape Displays, Garden Accessories, Arts and Crafts, Educational Exhibits, Foods, Butterfly Conservatory, Children's Activities Area, Live Entertainment, Live Auctions.

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Members Receive \$2 Discount

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Food Drive for Weekend Hunger Backpack Program

Deadline is April 10

Drop-off locations:

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The Independent Florida Alligator
1105 W. University Ave

Chapel of the Incarnation
1522 W. University Ave.

www.unitedwayncfl.org/weekend-hunger-backpack-program



Editorial

Hi, sorry, we seem to have misplaced the brakes on Spring semester. Silly us! Guess there's no stopping it. To be fair, we've been listening to "The 20/20 Experience" on repeat for, like, three days.

That brings us to the help-how-do-we-become-real-adults-who-function-in-society-at-all edition of...

Darts & Laurels

Seven years ago, we were all just a bunch of young guns, unaware of how the world was changing around us. Then Twitter was invented. This week, Twitter turned 7 years old, and we basically couldn't imagine life without it. Remember when people thought it was just a cheap, worse version of Facebook? Realized by now it's mostly a place where you and all of your friends practice being funny and complain about your other friends? There are also subtweets, where you talk about someone behind their back, and "intimifavs" of subtweets, where you favorite a subtweet you know is about you. What a great thing that was invented! Cattiness aside, Twitter has done some amazing things and actually helps people track important political and social movements around the world. We give a it's-still-a-time-waster-of-a-website-but-dang-social-Web-sure-is-the-future **LAUREL** to **Twitter**. (And happy birthday to Taco Bell this week as well.)

Journalism doesn't stop to rest, uh, ever. It's a crazy machine of breaking news and poop ships, and all of it has to get checked by editors and copy editors. Imagine our surprise when we heard a freshman reporter for The Crimson White, the University of Alabama's student newspaper, made up about 30 people since January as sources for her stories. "I was overwhelmed and succumbed to a lot of pressure I'd been under," the reporter said in an email this week, according to an article on the newspaper's website. "I did it because The Crimson White had become so important to me that I didn't want to lose it." Her giant ruse came to light when one of her latest stories was being edited on March 13. "The paper's copy editors, while fact-checking the correct spelling of one of the fabricated students' names," the article continued, "discovered that no such student existed." Listen. It is so much more work to make stuff up than it is to do the actual research. We give a sorry-Alabama-hope-you-guys-all-chill-out-so-your-reporters-don't-flip-out-again **DART** to **The Crimson White**.

Do you need something to spike your blood pressure? Good! Rush Limbaugh criticized Beyoncé's new song, "Bow Down/I Been On," this week. "She's got a new song, 'Bow down, bitches,' a total 180," Limbaugh said on his radio show, according to a Billboard article. "Beyoncé's now saying, 'go ahead and put up with it.' And you know why? I'll tell you why. She married the rich guy. She's even calling herself Mrs. Carter on the tour. She has shelved Beyoncé." We guess he missed lyrics from the song like: "I took some time to live my life, but don't think I'm just his little wife" because they directly disagree with the extremism Limbaugh likes to spout. We give a please-retire-so-we-don't-have-a-collective-American-heart-attack-about-you **DART** to **Limbaugh**, but, also, a **LAUREL** to **Beyoncé** for being flawless American royalty.

That about takes care of things for this week, folks. Have a fun and safe weekend, and go Gators!

Reader response

Today's question: Do you drink soda on a regular basis?

Friday's question: Are you double majoring?

31% YES
69% NO
77 TOTAL VOTES

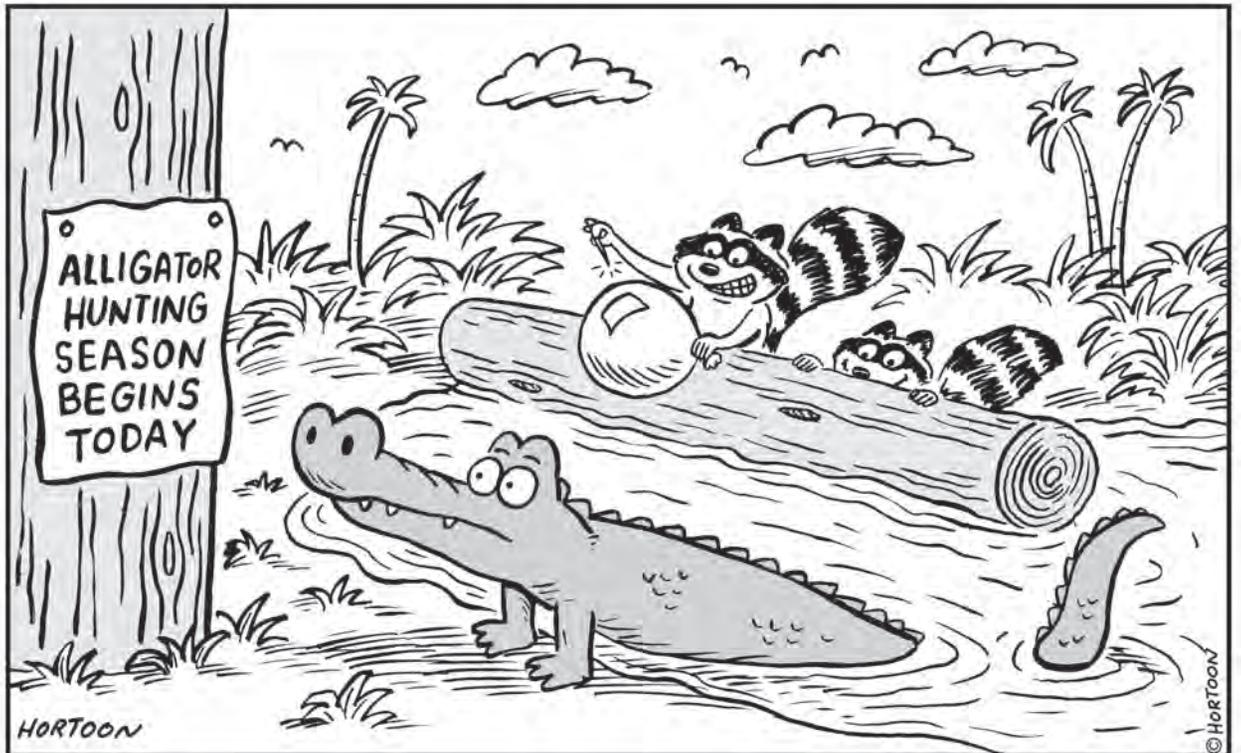
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Column

Spring semester 2013 will be a gay ol' time

This year, spring will be gayer than winter.

UF's Pride Student Union held the opening ceremony for its Pride Awareness Month on Monday. PAM is one of the largest student-run celebrations of queer culture and identity in the country.

PAM is always an entertaining and enlightening showcase, but there is another arena in which queer matters will be emphasized this season. Specifically, the issue of gay marriage will soon be taking the spotlight in the United States Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court will hear the controversial case regarding California's Proposition 8 on Tuesday. Then, the Court is set to hear the case regarding the Defense of Marriage Act on Wednesday.

Proposition 8 was the bill passed in California in 2008, which overturned the rights same-sex couples previously had to be married. The Defense of Marriage Act is a law which restricts the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages.

It is unclear when a decision for either of these cases will be reached, but some expect it will be by the end of June.

No matter what the decisions for those cases end up being, I think the time is soon approaching when same-sex couples will finally be treated equally under the law and be allowed to take part in the civil institution of marriage.

I can recall the day when Proposition 8 was passed. It was disappointing to hear about the decision that many Californians made, just as it was disappointing to hear about the heavy involvement of the Mormon Church in supporting the passage of Proposition 8.

Today, the Church stands in support of Proposition 8 as strongly as ever. In January, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — the Mormon Church — filed two briefs with the Supreme Court, one for each of the gay marriage cases.

The briefs were written on behalf of several Christian groups, including the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Our theological perspectives, though often differing, converge to support the proposition that the traditional, opposite-sex definition of marriage in the civil law is not only constitutional but essential to the welfare of families, children, and society," reads the brief for the Defense of Marriage Act case.

Being raised Mormon, I can vouch for the integrity of that



Brandon Lee Gagne
opinions@alligator.org

statement: Such a perspective is theologically supported and can be supported only on those grounds.

I haven't heard a single argument against gay marriage — and only against gay marriage — that didn't depend on a religious claim of some kind.

A lot has changed in the five years since the passage of Proposition 8. I think many people who have historically been opposed to gay marriage are coming to the conclusion that they are standing on the wrong side of history when they oppose it.

I have often found myself imagining a future in which our posterity will gawk at how slow we have been as a society to allow equality.

Earlier this month, a heartwarming appeal to Chief Justice Roberts was uploaded to YouTube. Twelve-year-old Daniel Martinez-Leffew, who was adopted along with his sister at the age of 5 by two gay men, got the idea to address Roberts when he heard the chief justice had two adopted children of his own. In the video, Daniel talks to Justice Roberts about the rights of "people like us." If you have time to watch the clip, please do.

It's easy to ignore how much courage that really takes. Imagine what it must feel like to have the people you love regularly labeled as filthy or wicked.

I am inspired by the courage of that 12-year-old. I am inspired by all who show courage in the face of a world that might not understand them.

To all those who are different, who have been called wicked or ugly or somehow wrong without due cause, your courage inspires me.

To them, I offer my most loving thanks. And thanks to all who would stand for morality and goodness.

If you find that you have any free nights in the coming month, check out the Pride Awareness Month calendar. The events are sure to be edifying.

Happy spring, everyone.

Brandon Lee Gagne is an anthropology senior. His column runs on Fridays.

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

Column

Fighting hate in a much more positive way: Raising people up, not tearing them down

There is a picture of rainbow house floating around the Internet right now that puts all other rainbow pictures to shame.

Granted, the picture itself is not the whole story.

For that, a simple Google search will fill in the rest.

The rainbow house is across the street from Westboro Baptist Church, which is the group that claims American military deaths are punishment for accepting homosexuals.

Not only does it feature a spiffy new paint job, but it will have a 30-foot flagpole with a pride flag adorning it.

To top it all off, the man who started this project, Aaron Jackson, is planning to make the house a gay-rights center.

Personally, I find this to be a brilliant way of fighting WBC.

Although the intent is confrontational, the painting and re-purposing of the house itself is not.

There might be some zoning laws or aesthetic requirements that are not met.

But those are the only things I can think of that would un-hinge this plan.

The good the center can do will slightly offset the harm WBC inflicts upon everyone who must endure its hate instead of merely adding his voice to the cacophony of this debate — which we're late to the party to, anyway.

Most "civilized" countries have already settled this issue — Jackson was proactive and emphasized his words through action.

Although there is some truth to fighting fire — or in this case, hate — with fire, the fairy-tale virtue of love conquering all proves itself true in circumstances like these.

I went to a counterprotest of WBC when it appeared in Gainesville a few years ago.

Although never seeing any members of WBC or even seeing a controversy, the counterprotest became a celebration.

Anyone on the fence about the debate would have been inspired.

They would have seen how ineffective WBC's way of spreading its message truly is.

Raising up everyone is much more productive than tearing down those who already deal with enough



Logan Ladnyk
opinions@alligator.org

negativity.

What astounds me, though, is some of the comments this story is getting.

One user complained the seller of the house did not get his asking price for the house.

He then proceeded to insult Jackson for using the reduced price he eventually paid as self-

glorification.

If this was Jackson's first altruistic project, it might have some truth.

It doesn't, though.

Jackson has a litany of other works that show this is not a single event.

Other comments claim this only helps WBC by giving it publicity, which is true on a small, mostly irrelevant level.

Even so, I see that argument and raise that it works in reverse just as easily.

Now when news stations get a shot of WBC's headquarters, they can occasionally get the center in the frame as well.

Normally, Internet comments lack merit and should be disregarded.

But not the comments on our opinion columns.

I enjoy reading those because they are usually thought out and present interesting and unique viewpoints that augment the article.

But there was something that struck me when it came to this.

Here we have someone, the commenter, going out of his or her way to combat hate without adding more hate to the discussion.

Yet, there are still those who try to find something wrong with it.

I know Darts & Laurels is for the editorial, but I'd definitely like to add a LAUREL of my own to Jackson and what he does — be it promoting gay rights or any of his other projects.

We need more doing instead of just talking.

Logan Ladnyk is a journalism junior at UF. His column runs on Fridays.

Letters to the Editor

As a loyal reader of the Alligator, I applaud their efforts to feature a columnist with a different viewpoint. However, was Erik Skipper the best they could find?

He could not be more out of touch with today's society. How do I know that he's out of touch? Because in all of his other columns he quotes Fox News as the source for his arguments.

I don't know Skipper personally, but I'm assuming he still thinks Earth is 8,000 years old.

Skipper cries about "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance becoming under assault. He is probably unaware that the term wasn't put in the pledge until 1954, just as "in God we trust" wasn't put on dollar bills until 1957.

How the country went on for more than 175 years before that is a mystery.

Perhaps it was the slaves that helped build this country, not God. Just as praying was a part of history, so was slavery. While I'm all in favor of forcing Patric Young to stay here another year, I think it's a good thing we no longer have slavery, and he's allowed to enter the NBA draft if he so chooses. Skipper and the rest of the Tea Party needs to wake up and realize that times are changing for the better.

I hate the argument that God leads to more morality.

Just because a person doesn't believe in God or doesn't pray in public doesn't mean they don't believe in doing the right thing. And if someone wants to worship environmentalism, then let him or her. At least they can say without a doubt that the Earth actually exists.

Skipper says there should be God in schools, but he would probably feel differently if someone did a prayer in Hebrew or Arabic. I wouldn't be surprised to see him standing alongside the people in my hometown of Tampa who protested when the Council on American-Islamic Relations wanted to speak at a local school. As for classrooms, they won't discuss scripture because they're too busy discussing something that matters: science.

Little Erik has the right to believe the second human on planet Earth was created from the first's rib bone, but in a secular environment where real learning and reasoning is encouraged, we teach something that has substance: evolution.

No one is stopping anyone from worshipping God, just like no one is going to stop Skipper from becoming a crazy Turlington preacher in 20 years.

The great thing about this country is you're allowed to believe in what you want. People don't think those people with signs by Turlington are crazy for what they believe in (well, maybe a little bit), but mainly because of the way they try to force it down other people's throats.

Matt Rubin
UF telecommunication senior



Given the vast amount of damning information that has recently come out about the Cole Bros. Circus, it's puzzling your piece mentioned not a word about it.

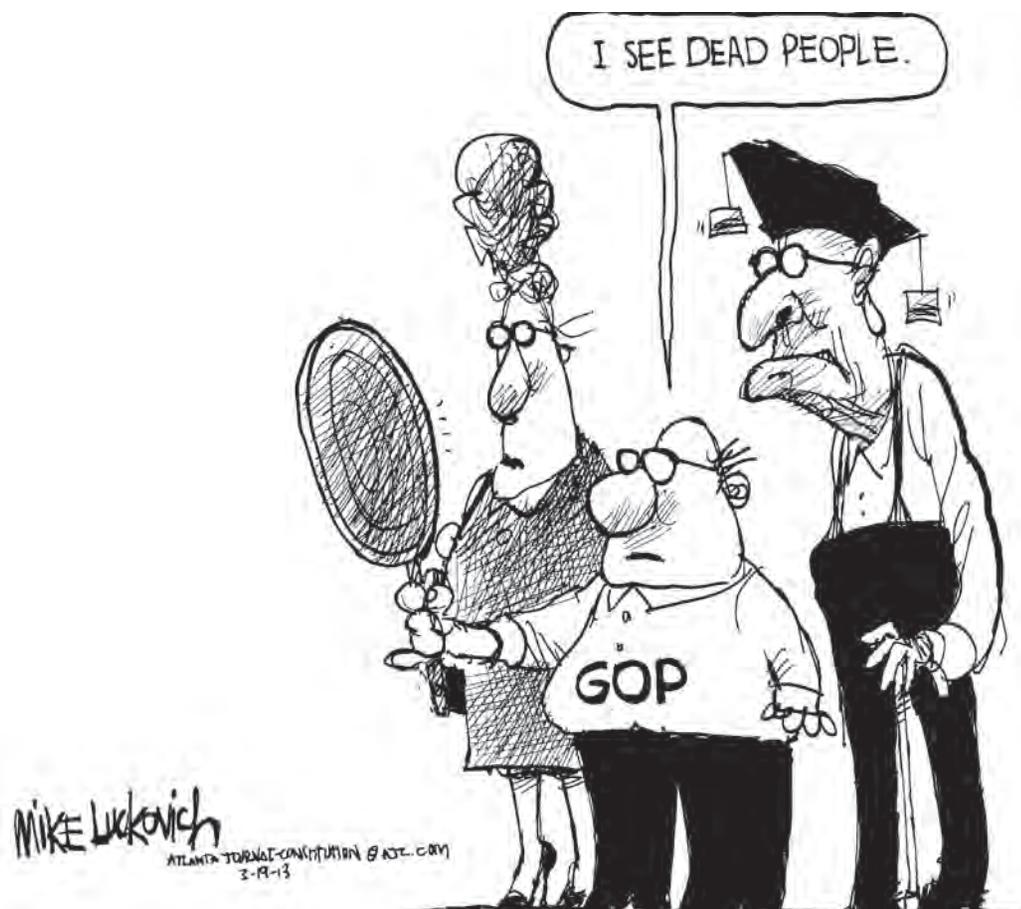
Recently, the circus agreed to pay a penalty of \$15,000 to settle charges with federal authorities for more than 10 violations including failing to provide adequate veterinary care to elephants traveling with the circus and failure to hire personnel capable of caring for them.

The circus' elephant handler is none other than Tim Frisco, who was caught on tape viciously attacking terrified elephants with sharp metal bullhooks and electric prods. The footage shows Frisco instructing other trainers to hurt the elephants until they scream and to sink a bullhook into their flesh and twist it. Frisco also cautioned that the beatings must be concealed from the public.

In 2011, the owner of the circus, John Pugh, pleaded guilty to violating the Endangered Species Act, the circus was fined \$150,000, and Pugh was placed on four years probation for illegally selling two endangered Asian elephants. The court ordered Pugh individually to serve three years probation, hundred of hours of community service, an additional \$4,000 fine and a mandatory \$1,200 payment to an organization working toward conservation and rehabilitation of Asian elephants.

Students have the right to know all sides of an issue so they can decide if they want to support an outfit with this sordid history.

Jennifer O'Connor
PETA Foundation staff writer



Festival to bring taste of Europe to downtown Gainesville

It runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ALYSSA NIEVES

Alligator Contributing Writer

The second annual Viva Europe! festival will highlight about 15 European countries Saturday on Bo Diddley Community Plaza.

The event, which runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., is free and open to the public.

Gail Keeler, UF's Center for European Studies outreach coordinator, said people

can watch and join in on Irish, Greek and Turkish dancing.

Every hour, there will also be sing-alongs in various European languages.

Local vendors will be selling traditional European food.

"Last year, there wasn't as much emphasis on having something to do," Keeler said. "This year, we charged the student groups with thinking of activities that are more interactive, so somebody could take

away a little piece of Europe."

Olesya Dudenkova, a 23-year-old UF history graduate student assistant, said she will be writing people's names in the Russian alphabet onto nametags for keepsakes.



Keeler

activities.

He also wants to gain a better under-

standing of Eastern Europe.

"When we think about Europe, we don't really think about Poland and other European countries that have less power," said the 21-year-old UF French foreign exchange student studying international business.

Keeler said the show will still go on Saturday despite the 50 percent chance of showers forecasted.

Moschini, determined to experience a taste of his homeland, said he won't let the gloomy weather rain on his parade — or festival.

LOCAL

Dogs undergo chemo at UF animal hospital

SHANNON KAESTLE

Alligator Contributing Writer

Chemotherapy has left Anora virtually unaffected, but it isn't a surprise.

Jan and Andy Hamilton's greyhound Anora was diagnosed with lymphoma, a blood cancer, on Dec. 29. She started chemotherapy shortly thereafter.

Anora is one of many mammals that are treated in the CHOP program at UF's Small Animal Hospital. CHOP is an acronym for the drugs prescribed in this regimen. The dogs receive the same drugs as humans but don't suffer the often intense side effects that people do.

"Most dogs with lymphoma, you can't tell the difference with a dog who has no cancer," said 38-year-old Dr. Kelvin Kow, a UF assistant professor of oncology and associate service chief of the UF Small Animal Hospital. "Dogs don't lose their hair generally. They don't have the degree of nausea, vomiting and diarrhea that people get with chemotherapy."

Eighty percent of dogs that go through chemotherapy have few to no side effects at all, whereas 80 to 90 percent of people get sick, Kow said. About 3,000 animals a year are treated in the CHOP program.

Andy Hamilton, 68, said Anora has had minimal side effects from chemotherapy.

The difference in treatment is in the dosage of the chemotherapy drugs. Dogs receive about half of the dosage that humans would, Kow said.

"If a patient has no quality of life, why

do it?" Kow said. "Our mantra — one, two and three — is quality of life, quality of life, quality of life."

The CHOP program includes 16 chemotherapy drug treatments over the span of 25 weeks, he said. Each treatment cost averages out to be about \$300, which totals to about \$4,500.

Anora's life doesn't have a price to them, Andy Hamilton said.

"She would have been dead by now had we not," he said. "Her lymph nodes inside her shoulders would have been the

size of golf balls."

The CHOP program extends a dog's life between a year and a year and a half. The dogs' response rate, when the cancer goes into remission, is about 85 to 90 percent, Kow said. This is about the same response rate for humans.

Anora is currently in complete remission after having gone through half of her CHOP treatment.

"As long as she has the zest for life she has, she deserves it," Andy Hamilton said.



Shannon Kaestle / Alligator

Dr. Heather Gardner, a 29-year-old oncology intern at the University of Florida Small Animal Hospital, performs an exam on Anora, a greyhound with cancer.

UF opens historic museum in St. Augustine

► IT OPENED MARCH 15.

JEFFREY REALE

Alligator Contributing Writer

UF, in partnership with the city of St. Augustine, officially opened a new historic attraction.

The attraction, Colonial Quarter, is a living history museum that spans across two acres. It gives attendees a chance to experience what life was like in St. Augustine in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

The museum, which has been open since Feb. 15, held its grand opening March 15 to March 17. More than 550 people attended the private grand announcement. The announcement was intended to draw media and attention to Colonial Quarter.

Cindy Stavely, executive director for Colonial Quarter, said the museum will act as an academic activity for elementary school students and above. Since the opening, Stavely said visitors have been receptive to the new museum.

"Everyone is very pleased at the amazing transformation

from what the area used to be," she said.

The attraction was previously known as Spanish Colonial Quarter, which was a state-run program. It shut down in 1997 when St. Augustine's preservation board closed, according to a press release from Colonial Quarter.



Dixon

Linda Dixon, associate director of planning at UF Facilities, Planning and Construction Department, said UF became the managing agency for the property in 2010.

Dixon said UF essentially outsourced the project, which is on state-owned land, to a private company, Pat Croce & Company. The company currently owns the St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum.

UF is responsible for fact checking all of the information at the attraction, as well as basic building upkeep, among other responsibilities, Dixon said.

"This is a great example of a public-private partnership," she said. "We're excited that it has been pulled off in such a short amount of time with good partnering and contributions by many, many people."

Study links soda consumption to deaths in obese

WHITNEY CONGRESS

Alligator Contributing Writer

A 12-ounce can of soda may seem harmless, but it could actually lead to death.

One in 100 deaths of obese people internationally is linked to the consumption of sugary drinks, according to a recent presentation at an American Heart Association scientific conference.

This information did not surprise 19-year-old UF health science sophomore Courtney Brady.

"I always assumed that fat people drink soda every day which contributes to why they are fat and die," she said.

But she, too, sometimes indulges on blue slushies from gas stations. However, she does not think people in general realize how extreme the consequences of drinking soda daily can be.

"People think, 'oh, it's just a drink,'" Brady said.

"I know it's unhealthy, but it can't be worse than drinking alcohol."

Jacob Weiss

building construction senior at UF

Margarita Torres, a registered dietician and professor at Santa Fe College, agrees. It is easy to forget that liquids contain calories, too, she said.

The repercussion of drinking a 64-ounce fountain soda can add up to 700 calories, according to Harvard's School of Public Health.

It is imperative to remember that one pound is equal to 3,500 calories, Torres said. If someone drinks one 700-calorie drink each day, it can add up to more than one pound a week.

"It's literally liquid sugar," Torres said.

Anne Mathews, a registered dietician and an assistant professor for UF's Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, does not think sugary drinks are the only problem.

"The main problem is the lack of focus on overall diet quality," she said.

Jacob Weiss, a 21-year-old UF building construction senior, does not think this news will change his soda-drinking habits significantly.

"I am not obese, so one soda daily isn't a big deal," he said. "I know it's unhealthy, but it can't be worse than drinking alcohol."

Mathews said it is vital to promote the health benefits of drinking water instead of sugary drinks. There are natural ways to sweeten beverages, including lemon juice in water and honey in tea.

"Consume everything in moderation," she said. "That is the most important thing."

ADMINISTRATION

UF Board of Trustees discusses new degree, UCF suicide

JULIA GLUM

Alligator Staff Writer

Students dominated the conversation Thursday afternoon as the UF Board of Trustees' first day of meetings came to a close.

Several UF students spoke in favor of the committee on educational policy and strategy's recommendation that the trustees authorize the addition of an African-American

Studies degree. Then they sat together in the audience and grinned at each other when the committee passed the item.

The board will vote to finalize the decision today.

Student Body President Tj Villamil took the floor. In his Student Government update, Villamil said he's proud of how far the 800-member body has come in the past year.

In the external relations commit-

"It still comes down to humans make the decisions."

Linda Stump

University Police Chief

tee meeting, University Police Chief Linda Stump addressed the recent incidents at the University of Central Florida, where a man died by a self-inflicted gunshot. He was found with a bag of explosives and plans to

attack the campus.

Stump said the situation turned out like it did largely due to emergency responders' quick thinking.

"It still comes down to humans make the decisions," she said. "As much as you can support keeping the University of Florida Police Department as a progressive, responsive, manpower-intensive unit, the better off I think you're going to be."

UF spokeswoman Janine Sikes said that in an emergency, UF would integrate communicators across campus to get the correct information out as fast as possible.

"We have developed a mass emergency ... plan in the past few years, knowing that anything like what happened at UCF could happen here at any time," she said.

Contact Julia Glum at jglum@alligator.org.



Elise Giordano / Alligator Staff

Serve and Protect

Alachua County Sheriff Sadie Darnell salutes during the Pledge of Allegiance at the Alachua County Sheriff's Office Annual Awards Ceremony on Thursday, held at the ASCO Main Administration Building.

News spread most by word-of-mouth

► SEVENTY-TWO PERCENT GET NEWS FROM FRIENDS/FAMILY.

BETHANY SCHUSTER

Alligator Contributing Writer

A special report from the Pew Research Center's 2013 State of the News Media found 72 percent of Americans commonly receive their news from their friends and family.

"Word-of-mouth has been popular ever since man exited the cave," said UF journalism assistant professor Norman Lewis.

Surprised the number wasn't higher, Lewis said news is who people are;

it's something they constantly share in conversation.

And Americans are doing so, but revamped throughout the digital platform. Fifteen percent of Americans said they receive their news from family and friends on social media, and 7 percent said they do so by email.

UF public relations sophomore Lauren Yockey said she is learning a lot about the value of social media to the news industry.

"Because [social media] is in our lives so much, it's really easy to 'click,'" the 19-year-old said. "It's like instant gratification, but the information has the potential to be false or misleading."

Although the majority of news people receive may come from a short conversation or tweet, more often than not, they eventually seek out the full story.

The study found about 70 percent of Americans follow up their news very or somewhat often, especially if it was sent via email or social media.

For the news industry, this is an exciting but difficult step.

"It's all an undiscovered country," said Ronald Rodgers, a UF journalism associate professor. "This is their opportunity to start discovering how these things can be used, to create a symbiotic relationship between the publication and the conversation."

Study shows Mediterranean diet can help heart

JUSTINE GIANCOLOA

Alligator Contributing Writer

UF students looking for a healthier heart can add extra-virgin olive oil to their next meal.

Dr. Ramon Estruch, a professor of medicine in Barcelona, found that a diet characterized by Mediterranean foods is more effective in warding off heart disease than a simple low-fat diet.

According to the study, Estruch and his colleagues found lower risk of heart disease among their test subjects when they ate more olive oil, fish and poultry with meals.

"You're not going to be able to go through a drive-thru and get a meal with extra-virgin olive oil."

Wendy Dahl

registered dietician

Seeing these results have some local experts suggesting the diet as well. Anne Mathews, a registered dietician with UF's department of food science and human nutrition, said most of the foods in the diet lead to decreased risk of diabetes, cancer and heart disease.

Although some foods in the diet contain fats, Mathews said they can be beneficial to cardiovascular health in controlled portions.

"They're not foods like a triple scoop of ice cream with a brownie on the side," she said.

Wendy Dahl, another registered dietician with UF's department of food science and human nutrition, said when it comes to cardiovascular risks, the Mediterranean diet will be more beneficial than just a low-fat diet. However, Dahl said she believes Americans will have a hard time following the diet because they are constantly on the go.

"You're not going to be able to go through a drive-thru and get a meal with extra-virgin olive oil," she said.

Brittany Wallrath, a 19-year-old UF civil engineering sophomore, recently started following the diet by eating chicken and fish instead of red meat as well as substituting breads and chips with fruits and vegetables.

"I kind of took the saying 'you get out what you put in' to heart," she said, "and started to really pay attention to what I was putting in my body."

UF doctoral student makes fossil discovery in Panama Canal

► THE FOSSILS ARE AT THE FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

BEATRICE DUPUY

Alligator Contributing Writer

Aldo Rincon was alone during Panama Canal excavations in 2008 when he found a 20-million-year-old tooth.

The 33-year-old UF geology doctoral stu-

dent would later find part of the extinct hippo-like species' lower jaw in the canal area. The expansion of the Panama Canal has led UF researchers to discover fossils revealing new information about Rincon's hippo-like species and a crocodilian species of caiman.

With these, researchers were able to publish studies in March's Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, clarifying the origins and distribution of caimans and the hippo-like species.

Rincon, lead author of the hippo-like spe-

cies article and co-author of the crocodilian species article, said the mammal was about the size of a cow with the proportions of a hippo.

Jonathan Bloch, Florida Museum of Natural History associate curator of vertebrate paleontology, said the fossil discoveries provide evidence on how the diversity of animals came about when North America and South America were not connected.

Alex Hastings, the lead author on the crocodilian article, said the discovery provided

information on a time period that researchers did not have before.

"[The fossil] kind of confirms ideas that we had about evolution in the new world in North and South America that we just didn't have before," said the former UF vertebrate paleontology graduate student.

The fossils are being held at the Florida Museum of Natural History for analysis. Rincon said this is just the beginning of fossil discovery in the canal.

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Campus Scooters Mobile Sales and Scooter Service. We offer free estimates on all repairs and we come to you. We also have new scooters starting at \$799.00 Call us today at 352-263-0425 4-24-72-11

11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

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

\$5500/OBO
 2003, 100th YEAR ANNIVERSARY HARLEY DAVIDSON. Orange with Gator emblem. Perfect condition. Wanda 386-659-1612 3-22-13-5-11

MOTORCYCLES WANTED, Wanted All Types Pre-1980. Any Type Condition-Running or Not! CASH PAID! Call Brian (845)389-3239 3-22-1-11

12 Autos

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

CARS - CARS Buy●Sell●Trade
 Clean BMW, Volvo, Mercedes
 Toyota, Honda, Nissan cars
 3432 N Main St. www.carrsmith.com
 CARRSMITH AUTO SALES 373-1150
 4-24-72-12

●●● We Buy Junk Cars ●●●
 ●Trucks, Vans - Titled only●
 Call KT 352-281-9980 or 352-215-3191
 4-24-72-12

SUN CITY AUTO SALES
 ALL VEHICLES \$0 DOWN!
 NO CREDIT CHECK!!!!
 VEHICLES \$1000 AND UP!
 352-338-1999 4-24-72-12

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

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

12 Autos

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

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

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

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

04 Nissan Sentra \$6999
 02 Toyota Corolla \$6999
 06 Mits Galant \$7999
 04 Toyota Corolla \$8999
 352-375-9090 4-24-72-12

04 Volvo S40 \$8999
 04 Ford F150 \$8999
 03 Nissan Frontier \$9999
 06 Chevy Silverado \$9999
 352-375-9090 4-24-72-12

CASH PAID \$300 AND UP!!!
 ANY CONDITION-RUNNING OR NOT!!!
 FREE TOWING & SAME DAY PICK-UP
 NO TITLE NEEDED. Call Brandy 352-771-6191
 4-24-13-72-12

12 Autos

HONDAFIT Sport 2007 RED 4 DR Hatchback 25K mi black interior New Condition with personality One Owner Great Mileage a REAL value @ almost half price! \$11,675 Call JoAnn @ 352-213-9086 3-27-5-12

13 Wanted

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

LOCAL ARTIST NEEDS:
 ★ Gold ★ Diamonds ★ Gems ★ Class Rings
 ★ ETC ★ Top Cash \$\$\$ or Trade ★
 OZZIE'S FINE JEWELRY 352-318-4009.
 4-24-72-13

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

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

JUMBLE CROSSWORDS™
 by David L. Hoyt 3-22-13

ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. _____ Crue	YTELOM
5. Hit	PTMUH
6. Combined	FESUD
7. Mailer	SNREDE

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Uprising	TUMYIN
2. _____ oil	TFURFL
3. Shown	EODPXES
4. Barterer	ADETRR

CLUE: This was reportedly created by accident during research into potential rubber substitutes.

BONUS ○○○○○○ ○○○○○○

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

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 Send comments to TMS - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1400, Chicago, Ill. 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com.

SCRABBLE BRAND [G₂] [R₁] [A₁] [M₃] [S₁]

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□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	RACK 1
E ₁	I ₁	K ₅	H ₄	N ₁	G ₂	R ₁		
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	RACK 2
U ₁	U ₁	P ₃	M ₃	W ₄	G ₂	M ₃		
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	RACK 3
A ₁	A ₁	I ₁	O ₁	S ₁	R ₁	V ₄		
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	RACK 4
I ₁	O ₁	Y ₄	L ₁	R ₁	G ₂	T ₁		

Triple Word Score

3rd Letter Double

PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 240

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

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

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

03-22

13 **Wanted**



St. Francis House is a homeless shelter and soup kitchen located in downtown Gainesville, and we are looking for help from volunteers like you.

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

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

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

I AM BLIND & WOULD LIKE HELP WITH:
 ● Rides to church: Mass at Queen of Peace.
 ● Learning to rake knit hats to send to Haiti & other places. Call 352-219-6948 3-11-13-72-13

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

14 **Help Wanted**

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

the independent florida
alligator
WEB PRODUCTION

Seeking staff members for the web production team at alligator.org. Interested candidates should possess the following:

- Familiarity with media production tools such as Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, Premiere, etc. Familiarity with a web-based CMS and/or web coding basics will receive extra consideration.
- An ability to learn and work with new programs quickly and efficiently
- Deep interest in the growth and development of new media
- Skill in producing not only the written, but audio and visual components of media segments and graphics.
- The desire to make a lasting impact on a UF tradition in a shifting media landscape.

Send all inquiries with resume direct to Evan Walker, Managing Editor/Online at ewalker@alligator.org

14 **Help Wanted**

the independent florida
alligator

Daytime Advertising Production

The Independent Florida Alligator Advertising Production Department is accepting **student applications**. Duties include graphic design and organizational layout.

Will train, but experience with Adobe InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator is preferred. Friendly work environment, flexible schedule, with hours between 9 am - 5 pm M-F.

Must be available to work Summer C and be currently enrolled in classes. A one-year commitment is expected.

Fill out an application at the front desk of The Alligator, 1105 W University Ave, M-F 9 am - 5 pm. No phone calls, please.

Include available work schedule and references. Previous applicants are welcome to reapply with current schedule. EOE

Now you can easily submit your classified ad for print and/or web editions right thru our website!

Just go to **www.alligator.org/classifieds**
 Visa and Mastercard accepted.

14 **Help Wanted**

the independent florida
alligator

What's black and white and read all over??

The Independent Florida Alligator Be part of the sales team of the largest college newspaper in the country by applying to be a

PAID SALES REP

If you are enrolled as a UF or SFC student available to work 15-20 hours a week this summer, and are eager to gain valuable sales experience,

Don't have that much time? Apply to be a INTERN

If you are enrolled as a UF or SFC student available to work 10-12 hours a week this summer, and are eager to gain valuable sales experience,

Stop by the Alligator, 1105 W. University Avenue, to fill out an application and class schedule or email resume to advertising@alligator.org. We will contact you for an interview opportunity to get your career jump started! EEO/AA

BARTENDING \$300 A DAY POTENTIAL
 No experience necessary, training provided. 800-965-6520 ext 138 4-24-13-72-14

14 **Help Wanted**

Students in Accounting, Aviation, Business/Sales and computer science needed for various positions. Flexible schedules and competitive pay. Join our team! Learn more at www.gleim.com/employment 4-24-13-72-14

Summer Jobs
 ● \$2400
 ● Room and Board included

Get Paid to Play!
 The Florida Elks Youth Camp (FEYC) needs college students for summer camp counselors ages 18 and up. FEYC is an over-night camp located in Umatilla, FL. The camp runs June 10 - August 3. Please contact Krys Ragland at 1-800-523-1673 Ext. 251 or 352-455-4267 www.feyc.org 4-24-13-70-14

DOMINOS HIRING
 delivery drivers & assistant managers. Drivers earn between \$14-\$17 per hour. Apply at gatordominos.com 3-29-13-49-14

Food Science and Human Nutrition at the University of Florida is conducting a research study for women 20-40 yo on birth control pills. Compensation given. For details call Bonnie Coats at 273-9014 4-24-35-14

Certified Lifeguard for residential therapeutic pool activities. OPS Lifeguard/UTRS, \$12.00/hr, requires certification as a Lifeguard, 20hrs/wknd, Adult-Male patients in a Maximum Security Mental Health Facility. For more information call Grady at 352-375-8484 x-248. Apply on-line @ <http://peoplefirst.myflorida.com>. 4-1-13-15-14

Computer Repair Tech Hardware & Software, knowledge of all windows OS, networking, laptops & desktops. hr@blue4.com 4-9-13-20-14

CUTTING-EDGE UF RESEARCH STUDY
 Smokers wanted (1 pack a day for 5 years) Periodontal (gum line) sampling only 5 visits over 2 years; up to 1.5 hr each visit FREE oral exam, up to \$160 compensation Call: 352-392-2945 4-23-13-30-14

Savvy student needed to help me set up Skype, to trouble shoot problems; to help integrate my home computer with my desktop; and to help me organize my home-based business. Internet Marketing a PLUS! \$25/hr. Hank 352-283-3880 3-26-13-8-14

F/T Paralegal w/ experience for busy Elder Law Firm, Miller & Brasington, in Gainesville. Must be computer saavy, detail oriented, team player. Email resume to hmb1204@yahoo.com 3-22-13-5-14

The Jonesville Tennis Center is looking for a Facility Maintenance Attendant/Supervisor to overlook 14 clay courts and its surroundings. 20 hours a week, flexible hours, \$10 an hour. Please email jonesvilletennis@gmail.com for more info. 3-22-13-5-14

Earn up to \$50 per hour!! Choose your own hours! Brand ambassadors & sale reps needed for a new energy drink that prevents & cures hangovers. Text if interested to 813-714-3674 or email info@campusfundraiser.net 3-22-13-5-14

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
 PT for a doctor's office. Experience preferred. Email resume to: snpohani@gmail.com 3-22-13-5-14

Mortgage company needs part-time marketing assistant. \$10-\$12/hr. Weekdays 6-9pm. Students preferred. Apply in person between 4-6 pm. 3501 SW 2nd Ave Suite 2100 (above Gator Textbooks) 3-29-13-10-14

Tennis Instructors- Timber Ridge Children's Summer Camp in High View, West VA is seeking tennis instructors for the summer. Competitive Pay, Room and Board included. Strong Tennis background required. Great Atmosphere and facilities. Apply online at www.trcamps.com or call 800-258-2267 4-1-13-10-14

Worship Guide

CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

New Life Community Chapel
 New Life Community Chapel
 Westside Park Rec. Center
 Sundays at 10:30 AM www.newlifecommunitychapel.org
 phone:(352)214-4462

JEWISH

UF Hillel
 Friday Night 7:30 pm
 Services & Dinner
 Reform Conservative Orthodox
 Across from The Stadium
www.ufhillel.org

METHODIST

Trinity United Methodist Church
 COFFEE TALK for young adults,
 Sundays at 11 am. Worship:
 Sundays at 8:15, 9:40 & 11am.
 Contemporary Service: Fridays
 at 6:35pm.
 376-6615 | TrinityGNV.org

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Harvest Bible Chapel Gainesville
 Sunday Worship: 11am
 Committed to proclaiming
 God's Word without apology,
 lifting high the name of Jesus in
 worship, believing firmly in the
 power of prayer, and sharing
 the Gospel with boldness. Small
 groups throughout the week.
www.harvestgainesville.org

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

on Sundays at 9am and
 Wednesdays at 7pm - practical
 application from God's word,
 plus service projects, large
 group events, free meals, and
 much more...
 (directions and events calendar
 at www.gatorsforchrist.org)
 For rides please call:
 352-514-8261

PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville
 300 SW 2nd Avenue-
 Downtown Gainesville
 Sunday Worship - 8:30 and
 10:55am.
 Join us for a free lunch after
 Sunday 10:55 worship
 College Fellowship - Wednesday
 7:30pm
 Fellowship, Worship, Bible Study
 Contact Scott Stuart at
college@lstpc.org or 352 378-1527

JEWISH

Chabad Lubavitch Jewish Student Center
 Your home away from home
 Friday Night Live!
 Services & Shabbat Dinner.
 7:30pm Spring/Fall,
 8:30pm Summer
 352-336-5877
 2021 NW 5th Ave
 (5 blocks north of the stadium)
www.JewishGator.com

METHODIST

Gator Wesley Center
 United Methodist Campus Min.
www.gatorwesley.com
 Worship - Sundays @ 11 a.m.
 Bible Study Wednesdays @ 7pm
 1380 W. University Ave.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
 IMAGINE a religion that
 embraces many different
 beliefs... including yours.
 Join us on Sunday at 11AM
 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
 4225 NW 34th Street
 Information: 377-1669
 or uufg.org

METHODIST

The Chapel
 Sundays: 10:00am Coffee/
 donuts, 10:30am Worship.
 Pastor Teacher: Dr. Richard
 Parker
 A church committed to enabling
 believers to mature in Christ
 and to make Him known to
 all peoples...with a focus on
 expository Bible teaching.
 Small group studies for college
 students. Check out our website
 for directions and events:
www.thechapelgainesville.com

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

University City Church of Christ
 Gators for Christ campus
 ministry college group meets
 at University City church

METHODIST

Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church
 "Commit thy way unto the Lord"
 Worship Services Sundays-9am
 Sunday School-11:00am
 Bible Study Tues. - Noon & 6pm
 630 NW 2nd St
 Gainesville, Fla 32601
 352-372-4872
 Rev. Geraldine McClellan, Pastor
 Transportation Available

For information on advertising in the Worship Guide, contact **Maria Eisenhart, Alligator Advertising, 352.376.4482**

14 Help Wanted

Up to \$14.50-\$29/hr calling small business owners and setting appointments for our sales representatives! NO Selling Required. Call Recorded Hotline (507) 726-4051 or visit www.CityAdvertisingSolutions.com/helpwanted 3-26-13-5-14

WANTED! Closeout-Finders. Work In Your Spare Time From Anywhere! Earn \$1,000+ Weekly. No Selling. Free Report: 1-800-943-7203; www.easyprompts123.com (Reference Code : 56534) 3-26-5-14

SANDY'S SAVVY CHIC RESALE BOUTIQUE Now hiring! Great working environment. PT/ FT positions. Starting @ \$8./hr. Opportunity to move up to buyer/asst mgr. Apply in person 4148 NW 13th St, 352-372-1226 4-2-13-10-14



WORLD of BEER GAINESVILLE is HIRING! Bartenders, Barbacks & Cocktail Waitress! Please bring your completed application to the open interviews on March 25 - 29 from 2 pm - 6 pm at World of Beer, 140 SW 128th St., Suite B Tioga, Newberry, FL 32669. Visit www.wobusa.com/gainesville for complete job description and application. Contact gainesville@wobusa.com for more info. 3-29-13-6-14

Growing e-commerce company F/T Warehouse/Customer service who will be responsible for outbound freight shipments, inventory management, and all aspects of customer service. Must have good phone skills. We are willing to train. Please email your resume to shannon@strictlytoolboxes.com. For a full job description go to www.strictlytoolboxes.com/help-wanted 3-28-13-5-14

Driver - Daily or Weekly Pay. \$0.01 increase per mile after 6 and 12 months. \$.03/mile Enhanced Quarterly Bonus. Requires 3 months OTR experience. 800-414-9569 www.driveknight.com 3-22-1-14

Experienced OTR Flatbed Drivers earn 50 up to 55 cpm loaded. \$1000 sign on to Qualified drivers. Home most weekends. Call: (843)266-3731 / www.bulldoghiway.com. EOE 3-22-1-14

Heavy Equipment Operator Career! 3 Week Hands On Training School. Bulldozers, Backhoes, Excavators. National Certifications. Lifetime Job Placement Assistance. VA Benefits Eligible! 1-866-362-6497 3-22-1-14

DRIVER TRAINEES NEEDED NOW! Learn to drive for US Xpress! Earn \$700 per week! No experience needed! Local CDL Training. Job ready in 15 days! (888)368-1964 3-22-1-14

IN A RUT? WANT A CAREER, NOT JUST A JOB? Train to be a professional truck driver in ONLY 16 DAYS! The avg. truck driver earns \$700+/wk*! Get CDL Training @ NFCC/Roadmaster! Approved for Veterans Training. Don't Delay, Call Today! 866-467-0060 *DOL/BLS 2012 3-22-1-14

15 Services

Do you have a business that provides a service? Place your ad in the Services Section of the Alligator Classifieds for as little as \$2.50 per day. Call us at 373-FIND.

IMPORT AUTO REPAIR. BMW, Mercedes, Porsche, Volvo, VW, Honda, Toyota, Nissan, Mazda. Quality craftsmanship, reasonable prices, near UF, AAA approved 378-7830 www.carrsmith.com 4-24-72-15

Want to be a CNA, phlebotomist or pharm tech? Express Training offers courses, days, eve, weekend. All classes live, no videos. Call 352-338-1193 or expresstraining.com 4-24-13-72-15

PERSONAL TRAINING 300 Personal and Group Training Flexible Scheduling Exclusive Facility Call for a free workout 339-2199 4-24-72-15

NEED A LAWYER?

SiddiquiOnline.com Private Experienced Affordable 4-24-72 15

FOREIGN STUDENTS

Editor will edit your thesis or long paper to correct English grammar and spelling. \$25 per hour. 561-299-0232 (after 2 pm) 4-24-54-15

We can't take finals for you but we can keep your personal items safe and secure until you return to Gator Country! Call Now! ACCESS SELF STORAGE 352-337-0602 4-24-13-47-15

www.UFMoverGuys.com Licensed & Insured Last Minute Specials Loading & Unloading Full-Service Mover. 352-222-0211. FL Movers Reg No IM1847 Promo Code: GATORS 5-14-13-27-15

MEDICAL BILLING TRAINEES NEEDED! Train to become a Medical Office Assistant. NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! Online training gets you Job ready ASAP. HS Diploma/ GED & PC/Internet needed! (888)374-7294 3-22-1-15

AIRLINES ARE HIRING - Train for hands on Aviation Maintenance Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified - Housing available CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance 866-314-3769 3-22-1-15

AIRLINE CAREERS - Become an Aviation Maintenance Tech. FAA approved training. Financial aid if qualified - Housing available. Job placement assistance. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance 866-314-3769 3-22-1-15

MEDICAL CAREERS begin here - Train ONLINE for Allied Health and Medical Management. Job placement assistance. Financial Aid if qualified. SCHEV authorized. Call 888-203-3179 www.CenturaOnline.com 3-22-1-15

15 Services

ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE from Home. *Medical, *Business, *Criminal Justice, *Hospitality. Job placement assistance. Financial Aid if qualified. SCHEV authorized. Call 800-443-5186 www.CenturaOnline.com 3-22-1-15

COMPUTER TECHNICIANS TRAINING! Train for PC Technical Careers at sctrain.edu No computer Experience Needed! Job placement Assistance HS Diploma/GED a Must Start Immediately! 1-888-872-4677 3-22-1-15

16 Health Services

HIV ANTIBODY TESTING Alachua County Health Dept. Call 334-7960 for app't (optional \$20 fee)

THE TRUE YOU! Lose 8-15 pounds in 4 weeks Only \$119! Gain muscle while you lose fat Groups forming now. 339-2199 4-24-72-16

CPR ACLS BLS PALS--We provide AHA classes with flexible scheduling!! February/ March Special-ACLS \$99 and BLS \$35. Teaching GATORS for over 15yrs!! Call today (352)494-4217 or (800)319-5708. 3-29-13-23-16

PREGNANT? Consider Adoption. Loving couples waiting to adopt. Assistance possible. L. Lynn Lawrence, Esq. FBN: 978353 352-558-4036 Adopt4u@aol.com 4-24-13-37-16

A childless married couple seeks to adopt. Financial security. Homestudy approved! Let's help each other. Expenses paid. Carolyn & Ken. Call Sklar Law Firm 1-800-218-6311. Bar#0150789 3-22-1-16



Markita Bowers
Black Female
(DOB 08/06/87); 5'04",
120 lbs, Black Hair,
Brown Eyes

Wanted for:
Possession of Cocaine
and False ID Given to
Law Enforcement

ALACHUA COUNTY
CRIME STOPPERS
Call (352) 372-STOP

18 Personals

HIV ANTIBODY TESTING Alachua County Health Dept. Call 334-7960 for app't (optional \$20 fee)

★Family Chiropractic★ Since 1977. Two blocks from U.F. 373-7070 4-24-71-18

19 Connections

Want to make a connection? Place your ad here to look for someone to share a common interest with or for your true love

20 Event Notices

IS YOUR BUSINESS, CLUB OR ORGANIZATION HAVING AN EVENT? DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT? PLACE YOUR AD HERE AND GET IT NOTICED!

NEW to Gainesville**Self Defense for College Students, Non-Lethal Self Defense Courses, Self Defense for Healthcare provider, Concealed Weapons Courses-- Call Today(352)494-4217 or (800)319-5708 3-29-13-23-20

21 Entertainment

Get the party started! Place your Entertainment classified today to get people up and about. Call 373-FIND.

Rocky Creek Paintball In Gainesville • Better Prices Better Fields • Better Call 371-2092 4-24-13-72-21

23 Rides

Trying to get to and from somewhere? Want to cut back on that gas bill? Place an ad in the classifieds to find trip arrangements or show off your bus and shuttle service. 373-FIND

24 Pets

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

25 Lost & Found

Finders Keepers? If you find something, you can place a FREE FOUND AD in our lost & found section. Be kind to someone who's lost what you've found. Call 373-FIND.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 7 Pull with effort | 43 Bush hooks, e.g. | 56 Minuscule |
| 1 Circa | 8 Behind | 46 Banff National Park locale | 59 Actress Verna |
| 7 Snack brand with a monocled mascot | 9 Seed cover | 47 Defeat in the regatta | 60 José's this |
| 15 Retire | 10 Chemist's salt | 48 Hardly hordes | 61 Acronymous submachine gun |
| 16 One of a kind | 11 Teahouse floor covering | 50 "Team of Rivals" author Doris ___ | 63 Procrastinator's word |
| 17 Army mints? | 12 Not forthcoming | Goodwin | 64 Trans ___ |
| 19 Bug | 13 Rocker Ocasek | 51 One-third of a WWII film | 65 Stick around a pool hall? |
| 20 Plural Spanish pronoun | 14 Old draft org. | 52 Backspace key, at times | 66 Union title, often |
| 21 Emu's extinct kin | 18 Pierce's co-star in "The Thomas Crown Affair" | | 67 Calculator display, for short |
| 22 Fleming and crime writer Rankin | 21 Museum curator's deg. | | |
| 24 Smidgen | 23 Cheese with which port is traditionally served | | |
| 27 Endow | 25 Salon offering | | |
| 29 Temperamental Midler | 26 Setting for Columbus: Abbr. | | |
| impersonators? | 28 OED entry | | |
| 33 Estate item | 30 Grizabella creator's monogram | | |
| 35 "Got it!" | 31 Bard's adverb | | |
| 36 Student of Elves, in Tolkien | 32 Agnus ___: Mass prayers | | |
| 37 Penalize a Russian leader? | 34 Flag | | |
| 41 Blast | 38 Aficionado | | |
| 44 Shrimp | 39 P.O. purchase | | |
| 45 ___ Galilee | 40 Neighbor of Colo. | | |
| 49 Poll on where to sink the eight ball? | 41 SUV option | | |
| 53 Down | 42 Hunky-dory | | |
| 54 Inner Hebrides isle | 55 "Cheers" accountant | | |
| | 57 Texter's afterthought lead-in | | |
| | 58 Accounts | | |
| | 62 More than just calls | | |
| | 64 Seasonal shade of pink? | | |
| | 68 Semisoft cheese with an orange rind | | |
| | 69 Titillating | | |
| | 70 Recordings are made in them | | |
| | 71 Jimmy follower | | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

C	V	I	C	P	A	I	R	H	O	T	S
F	R	E	S	H	A	T	M	E	A	N	O
C	A	R	L	A	S	I	P	S	R	E	N
T	A	B	A	S	C	O	P	E	P	P	E
C	H	E	L	S	T	S	O	L	O	I	S
P	U	B	L	I	C	O	P	I	N	I	O
O	G	R	I	S	H	A	N	D	O	N	
S	H	A	Q		P	U	G		G	L	I
	U	N	T	I	L	C	L	U	E	D	O
	R	O	C	O	C	O	P	A	I	N	T
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xwordeditor@aol.com 03/22/13

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M ₃	U ₁	G ₂	W ₄	U ₁	M ₃	P ₃	RACK 2 =	101
S ₁	A ₁	V ₄	I ₁	O ₁	R ₁		RACK 3 =	13
T ₁	R ₁	I ₁	L ₁	O ₁	G ₂	Y ₄	RACK 4 =	61
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Florida opens series with No. 2 Vanderbilt tonight

ADAM PINCUS
Alligator Staff Writer

The Gators took off for Nashville, Tenn., on Thursday morning for their first Southeastern Conference road matchup this season.

When Florida (10-12, 1-2 SEC) opens its series against Vanderbilt (19-3, 3-0 SEC) Friday night

at 7:30, it will find a Commodores squad that owns the No. 2 spot in the Baseball America Top 25.

Awaiting UF is an offense that ranks first in the SEC with 49 stolen bases.

Florida is tasked with keeping Vanderbilt runners from taking advantage of a young battery. Sophomore catcher Taylor Gush-

ue has thrown out 25 percent of attempted base stealers this year, and Florida ranks fourth in the SEC in stolen bases allowed.

Three Commodores have 10 stolen bases this season.

"I'm totally excited. I can't wait," Gushue said.

"The pitching staff and me have to work on that one. It's not

just me. It's also the pitchers as well. We have to be on the same page all the time."

A .304 team average and a .413 on-base percentage offer Vanderbilt ample opportunity for action on the bases.

But that's not the case for Florida. Given their lack of consistent hitting, the Gators cannot afford to give away outs on the base paths.

UF recorded back-to-back hits in only three of 26 innings against UK.

Florida's 9-4 victory against North Florida on Tuesday marked the first game the Gators led from start to finish.

Justin Shafer and Zack Powers executed a double steal of second and third in the seventh.

It's been a struggle making moves on the bases. With Kentucky up four runs, left-hander Cory Littrell picked off Connor Mitchell in the third inning of the series finale. Florida didn't plate a run despite having three hits in the inning.

"The problem with our offense, quite frankly, the last couple weeks has been we've fallen behind," O'Sullivan said.

"When you fall behind three or four runs, it's hard to open up your offense, because you can't make any mistakes on the base paths."

UF facing top rotation: Freshman right-hander Jay Carmichael (2-1,

1.90) makes the second Friday start of his college career. He will face junior left-hander Kevin Ziomek (5-0, 0.92), who has 51 strikeouts in 39.1 innings.

O'Sullivan promoted Carmichael to pitch series openers prior to facing Kentucky. Carmichael responded by matching a career-high 5.2 innings on Friday.

Junior right-hander Jonathon Crawford (0-3, 4.94) takes on former Toronto Blue Jays draft pick Tyler Beede (5-0, 0.84) Saturday night at 7.

O'Sullivan has not announced a starter for Game 3 on Sunday.

Freshman right-handers Eric Hanhold (0-2, 7.71) and Tucker Simpson (1-1, 4.91) are two likely candidates to face sophomore left-hander Philip Pfeifer (2-0, 2.01) on Sunday at 1 p.m.

Simpson earned the first victory for a Florida starting pitcher with his career-high 5.2 innings on Tuesday.

The freshman approached Whitson and junior right-hander Keenan Kish, who is out for the year with a hip injury, about how to prepare for his first conference road series.

"Just expect for the unexpected," Simpson said of the advice he received from Whitson and Kish.

"You never know what is going to happen from minute to minute."

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Kelly Logan / Alligator Staff

Catcher Taylor Gushue (17) swings during Florida's 11-5 loss to Kentucky on March 16 at McKethan Stadium. Gushue finished the game 1 for 4 at the plate.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UF survives outburst from nation's leading scorer in win

ADAM LICHTENSTEIN
Alligator Staff Writer

After falling behind Florida International 11-1 to open its first-round WNIT matchup, Florida needed someone to kindle the offense.

Sydney Moss provided the spark.

The freshman guard, who came into the game averaging 10.6 points per contest, scored 12 points in the first half as the Gators clawed back to within two after 20 minutes.

Florida (19-14) rode Moss' career-high 28 points to a come-from-behind 75-68 victory against Florida International (19-13) Thursday night at U.S. Century Bank Arena in Miami.

"We had a few folks that definitely came to play," coach Amanda Butler said. "Syd-

ney having a career game tonight - we needed it."

Florida came out flat for much of the first half. Florida International held the lead for the entire first half. The Gators got within one with 11:40 left in the half, but the Panthers went on a 13-3 run for the next five and a half minutes.

"There's a lot of things that if we had time, we'd work on them and go and correct," Butler said. "But we don't have time. It's survive-and-advance time of year. We've got to play a much, much better ball game in this next round."

In the second half, the Florida offense came alive.

Down 40-38 with 17:58 left in the second half, Moss led the Gators on an 18-9 run that gave Florida the lead. Moss scored 10 during

the run, despite missing two free throws.

But the Panthers would not go down without a fight.



Butler

Led by junior guard Jerica Coley, Florida International charged back, tying the game with 2:43 on the clock.

Coley dominated the Gators' defense, scoring 37 points on 9-of-24 shooting and an 18-of-18 effort from the free-throw lineup.

But with the game on the line, guard Jattera Bonds took over.

The junior scored five points in the final 2:21 of the game, sealing the Gators' victory.

"One of [Bonds'] nicknames is 'J.T. Mon-

ey', and that's why," Butler said. "She lives for those moments. She's that type of competitor. There is no one on our team that our team wants more on the line in that situation."

Bonds finished the game with 19 points, one of two Gators to finish with double-digit points.

Florida will play Winthrop in the second round of the WNIT on Monday.

"We know we're playing Winthrop, and that's all we need to know," Butler said. "It doesn't matter when, it doesn't matter where, it doesn't matter what time. We know who our opponent is, and that gives us something to focus on."

A radio broadcast contributed to this report.

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Gators wide receiver Quinton Dunbar has been a standout performer in spring practice. See story, page 15.

More March Madness

Go online to alligatorSports.org and follow our coverage of Florida's run in the NCAA Tournament this weekend as the Gators try to notch their third straight Sweet 16 appearance.

Gators in the NBA

Denver Nuggets forward Corey Brewer scored 29 points and recorded five steals in a 101-100 win against the Philadelphia 76ers on Thursday night.

FOOTBALL

*Wide receivers look to improve in second year under Pease***JOE MORGAN and PHIL HEILMAN**

Alligator Staff Writers

Quinton Dunbar does not feel threatened by Loucheiz Purifoy practicing at wide receiver during spring practice.

The junior, who led Florida with four touchdown catches last season, views the arrangement as an opportunity.

"I don't take it personally," Dunbar said. "I feel like it's an

opportunity to get better and an opportunity to push myself. I feel like I can beat out anyone. I take it as a challenge, I can't speak for anyone else."

With Purifoy returning to cornerback after Saturday, Dunbar will be the lone standout among Florida's top five returning wideouts.

Dunbar enjoyed a banner year in 2012. He set career-best numbers with 36 catches, 383 yards

and four touchdowns. Still, Dunbar tied for 25th in the Southeastern Conference in catches and ranked 35th in receiving yards.

UF's returning wideouts combined for 44 catches, 426 yards and four touchdowns in 2012. Take away Dunbar's statistics, and the numbers drop to eight catches for 43 yards and zero scores.

Dunbar believes that the development of junior quarterback

Jeff Driskel as well as a second year in offensive coordinator Brent Pease's scheme will be beneficial to the receiving corps.

"A year into the system helps all of us knowing that we've already been through the system one year and all we're doing is continuing to grow," Dunbar said.

Dunbar has proven especially productive after a year under the former Boise State offensive coordinator.

Pease said Dunbar has stood out among other wideouts in spring practice.

"I am really proud of that kid," Pease said. "He has come along so far attitude-wise, accountability, his work ethic on the field. It's really starting to show up. He makes a big play yesterday. He just does things right. He can play a bunch of positions now. So proud of him and I think it's going to carry over to reach the goals that he's setting for himself."

Driskel said Dunbar and Florida's other receivers have all been motivated to overcome a disappointing effort in 2012.

"It was obvious that we needed better receiver play this year and they've done a great job so far," Driskel said.

"I'm really proud of those guys. Obviously we have a long way to go but they've really stepped up in the first couple practices we've had."

UF hopes to minimize penalties: Florida's offense struggled to avoid penalties during Brent Pease's first year as offensive coordinator.

Given the amount of formations and shifts players were asked to learn in the system Pease implemented, the coaching staff tolerated some miscues that plagued a unit that struggled to move the ball with consistency.

There will be less tolerance for mistakes next season.

"We've got to find consistency," Pease said.

"We did that at times last year, but probably not as much as we could have after self-scouting ourselves."

Pease counted 45 penalties called on Florida's offense last season, 19 of which were false starts.

Cutting down penalties — Pease said he hopes to see the Gators reduce their total by half — should help improve an offense that ranked 78th in scoring offense and 104th in total offense last season.

"You're still going to have some (penalties) because that's just how kids are," Pease said.

"But you've got to do a good job of navigating around it, dealing with some things, (and) understanding how to get yourself out of it and keep kids in rhythm."

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David Carr / Alligator Staff

Wide receiver Quinton Dunbar (1) catches the game-tying touchdown during Florida's 27-20 win against Louisiana on Nov. 10 at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

*Florida's uneven bars effort to play key role in SEC title meet***CHUCK KINGSBURY**

Alligator Staff Writer

No. 1 Florida was nearly flawless on the uneven bars in a high-scoring 198.125-197.875 loss to No. 7 Utah on Saturday, a trend that has been consistent this season.

With Southeastern Conference Championships on Saturday, the Gators will look for similar production to spark a successful postseason run.

UF Gymnastics

Florida heads to Little Rock, Ark., with the highest score on

bars in the NCAA. Boasting a season average score of 49.465, Florida's strongest rotation will bolster its chance against the conference's top competition.

Four SEC teams are currently among the nation's top 10 — No. 1 Florida, No. 3 Alabama, No. 5 Georgia and No. 6 LSU.

Each is also currently among the eight highest performers on bars in the NCAA. Georgia's Chelsea Davis and Brittany Rogers rank in the top 10. LSU's Sarie Morrison ranks sixth.

And with the current SEC seeding, Florida will be competing in the second session that includes all three programs. As the top seed in its session, UF will compete in the Olympic rotation — vault, bars, bal-

ance beam and floor — giving it an advantage with its quality events coming first.

"Bars is a very good event for us," coach Rhonda Faehn said. "We do have quality swingers."

Three of Florida's gymnasts rank atop

the NCAA in the event — Mackenzie Caquatto and Bridget Sloan rank first with a 9.945 average, while Kytra Hunter is seventh with a 9.91.

Caquatto, who suffered double-ankle injuries prior to the SEC tournament in

2012, will be at full-strength. As a sophomore, she competed exclusively on bars but will now compete on three events.

Her presence will help as Florida competes without All-American Alaina Johnson, who Faehn said should add more depth to an already strong rotation if she returns.

Against No. 14 Minnesota on March 1, Florida put together the nation's highest score on bars with a 49.675.

"I think bars is one of those events that you have to get comfortable with," Bridget Sloan said. "My bars routine, for me, I am very comfortable with it."

Competing for Florida, Sloan said her routine has seen a decrease in skills. During her Elite career, Sloan performed 23 skills on her bars routine. Now, that has been reduced to just 13.

But the freshman standout is not disappointed in the transition.

"I've cut it in half, and it's nice to take a step back because when you're Elite you get drained."

Florida's bars rotation will remain critical on Saturday.

Added Mackenzie Caquatto: "Knowing that we have that one event that we're very strong at is definitely a confidence booster."



Sarah Davis / Alligator

Gymnast Mackenzie Caquatto performs her beam routine during Florida's 196.975-196.075 win against Kentucky on Feb. 22 in the O'Connell Center.

SOFTBALL

Sophomore hoping glove catches up with strong throwing arm

ADAM LICHTENSTEIN

Alligator Staff Writer

Katie Medina needed to make a tough play.

In the first inning of Florida's game against Tennessee on March 16, Volunteers shortstop Madison Shipman lofted a fly ball into foul territory behind third base.

Medina ranged over to field the pop up, but overran the ball. The seemingly sure out instead tipped off the end of Medina's glove and landed in foul territory.

Shipman struck out later in the at-bat, but Tennessee struck for a run in the inning, which provided key insurance in its 3-1 win.

Medina's defense was lacking in the series. Although the foul pop up was not recorded as an official error, Medina was charged with three against the Volunteers during the weekend, and her fielding percentage dropped to .916 — the lowest on the team.

Her infield defense will need to improve for No. 3 Florida's (28-3, 4-2 Southeastern Conference) weekend series against Arkansas (21-10, 0-3 SEC).

But Medina's weekend in the field was not a total loss. On Friday, Shipman doubled to right-center field. Medina cut off the throw from center fielder Kirsti Merritt and fired a laser to the plate, catching the runner out by a solid margin.

"That was a perfect, bullet strike from Katie Medina," coach Tim Walton said. "It did change the outcome of the game. It was a great relay from Kirsti to Katie."

The effect on the game was evident throughout the series as Tennessee runners stopped taking the extra base on balls hit to the outfield.

The team saw what poor defense can do in its 11-0 win against USC Upstate on Wednesday. The Spartans committed two errors, including a miscue by second base-

man Dana Landers that allowed the Gators to get on the board first. Florida did not commit an error on Wednesday.

"I thought they played great," pitcher Hannah Rogers said. "You can't have no hits without your defense working for you."

Pitchers dominate: Rogers and sophomore Alyssa Bache nearly combined for a no-hitter against the Spartans on Wednesday.

Rogers pitched four hitless innings, striking out seven batters. The junior right-hander made quick work of USC Upstate, facing only two more than the minimum batters possible.

Bache came in and surrendered a leadoff double, but put the next two batters down with strikeouts and induced a ground ball to end the game.

"Nine strikeouts out of the 15 (batters), we only had to make six outs," Walton said.

Rogers will see more time in the circle this weekend against the Razorbacks. The series starts tonight at 6 at Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium.

"They're a great team," Rogers said. "They have great hitters up and down the lineup."

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Audre Larrow / Alligator Staff

Katie Medina jogs out of the batter's box during Florida's 9-1 win over UNC Wilmington on Feb. 17 at Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium.

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NCAA TOURNAMENT

Florida aiming to notch first Final Four appearance since 2007

JOE MORGAN
Alligator Staff Writer

The Gators have waited 363 days to return to the Big Dance.

On March 24, 2012, Florida blew an 11-point lead during the second half of a 72-68 loss to Louisville in the NCAA West Regional Final. The defeat marked the Gators' second straight Elite Eight exit.

Third-seeded Florida will try to get over the hump and advance to its first Final Four in six years beginning tonight at 7:27 against No. 14 seed Northwestern State in Austin, Texas, on truTV.

"Well, you know, sometimes when I just reflect on my career here, I had two chances where I should have possibly, could have possibly been to the Final Four. We just came up short," junior center Patric Young said. "Can't still linger on it. Can't let it affect me in the future."

On the heels of back-to-back trips to the Elite Eight, the Gators began the season ranked 10th nationally.

Naturally, Florida dealt with the burden of expectations throughout the 2012-13 campaign. A 7-0 start and early-season routs of Wisconsin and Marquette thrust UF into the national spotlight.

"I think they're good enough to win the whole thing," Golden Eagles coach Buzz Williams said following his team's 82-49 loss to UF on Nov. 29 in the O'Connell Center.

After their profile cooled with losses to Arizona and Kansas

State, the Gators returned to the limelight, ascending to the No. 2 spot in the AP Poll after winning eight straight Southeastern Conference games by an average margin of 26.5 points.

"I think they will contend for the national championship," guard Marshall Henderson said after Florida defeated Ole Miss 78-64 on Feb. 2. "I see them being No. 1 in the country by the end of the season."

The Gators then fell on tough times.

Junior forward Will Yeguete

missed six games after undergoing arthroscopic surgery to remove bone chips from his right knee on Feb. 8.

Freshman guard Michael Frazier II and junior forward Casey Prather were also limited by injury.

In a 64-58 road loss to Tennessee — Florida's third defeat in its last four games away from home — the Gators used an eight-man rotation. Five guys played 29 minutes or more. The other three totaled 27.

"We don't have any excuses.

When we line up to play, we play," coach Billy Donovan said after the loss in Knoxville, Tenn. "Was there fatigue? Sure. Were we small sometimes and got hurt with that lineup? Yes. But I always believe if there's a will, there's a way, and there are things you ought to be able to overcome. We went to battle with what we had."

Shorthanded Florida's 5-3 record in February trimmed its lead in the SEC standings to one game. But the Gators rebounded, clinching the SEC regular season

title in a 66-40 win against Vanderbilt on March 6 and coming three points short of winning the SEC Tournament in Nashville, Tenn. Sunday's 66-63 loss to Ole Miss in the SEC tourney final was Florida's first dose of single elimination this year.

"You're getting into finality. What you've got to be able to do in these situations and games is go out there and play with great freedom, great confidence. Just go out there and play," coach Billy Donovan said. "There's always a level of nervousness, jitters, apprehension. It's totally normal. You've got to play through some of that stuff."

Florida has struggled in close games. The Gators are 0-6 in games decided by single digits this season. After losing in the Elite Eight the last two seasons by a combined seven points, Florida knows it has little margin for error moving forward.

"We just can't have any slippage," senior forward Erik Murphy said.

"We can't have any mistakes, any dumb mistakes, or things that can give teams opportunities to beat us."

Young added: "If we get into similar situations as we were in the Butler and Louisville games, just give it more fight. Don't let up until the final buzzer rings. When that's over, then you can finally rest, but stay on edge the whole time. ... We have to close out games. We've got to stay focused on doing our jobs."

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Javier Edwards / Alligator

Florida celebrates a 66-40 win against Vanderbilt on March 6 in the O'Connell Center. The Gators clinched the Southeastern Conference regular season title with the victory.

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