

Tim Walton and the UF softball team will enter the 2014 season with a deep roster that includes five pitchers. Read the story on page 16.



Altered evidence could affect county drug cases

It could mean prisoners' release

BEATRICE DUPUY

Alligator Staff Writer bdupuy@alligator.org

Alachua County is one of 35 counties facing a statewide review by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement after a Pensacola chemist was found tampering with evidence.

An investigation into the Escambia County Sheriff's Office evidence room revealed that prescription pain pills were being replaced with over-the-counter medication, according to the FDLE.

The investigation found that Joseph Graves, crime lab analyst supervisor at the FDLE Pen-

"There is nothing we can do at this moment."

Ben Tobias
 GPD spokesman

sacola Regional Office Center, worked on all the cases with the missing drugs. Since 2006, Graves reportedly was involved in 2,600 cases for 80 law enforcement agencies.

Tampered evidence could lead to the re-

lease of prisoners and dropped drug charges in some cases.

Alachua County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Sgt. Becky Butscher said investigators have identified cases in Alachua County "but until an audit is done, we are unable to determine the exact number," she said. "Ramifications will be significant."

The FDLE is sending teams to impacted

SEE DRUGS, PAGE 4

UF senior sells art to fundraise for research

► SHE DONATED ABOUT \$30,000.

SEAN STEWART-MUNIZ

Alligator Staff Writer ssstewart-muniz@alligator.org

When Alicia Lew's family friend lost the use of his legs in a car accident, she decided to raise money for spinal cord research by doing what she loves — hosting an art auction.

Lew, a 21-year-old UF biology senior, held her gallery on Jan. 25 in the ballroom of the Mission Inn Club and Resort, located in Howey-in-the-Hills, Fla.

"I loved the idea of having an event to incorporate art with my passion for medicine," she said.

A variety of pieces from local and professional artists, including some from Lew herself, were auctioned off throughout the night. Other, non-art items were also auctioned, such as tennis and ballroom dancing lessons and even a promissory note for a 25-person paella meal from Eduardo Sainz, the family friend who inspired the auction.

On Monday, she took her \$31,145 in proceeds and handed it to UF's Paul J. Reier and his colleagues in the form of a comically large, lavender-colored check.

Lew said she chose Reier due to his research in spinal cord injuries at UF's McKnight Brain Institute.

She invited Reier to the auction, where he got to meet Sainz.

"I know it's corny, but it's always nice to put a face to things we're working on," Reier said.

The money will be used on something

SEE ART, PAGE 4



Emily Cochrane / Alligator Staff

Plaza Politics

Kristy Pinedo-Pimental, a 19-year-old UF political science freshman, circles issues she wants the Swamp Party to consider addressing. The board was part of the Swamp Party's platform generation on Turlington Plaza on Monday.

CAMPUS

Longboarders ticketed for using bike lanes

LAUREN TRONCOSO

Alligator Contributing Writer

Jacob Embuscado thought he belonged on the road when he was riding through campus on wheels.

But at the start of the Spring semester, he was pulled over and issued a citation for riding his longboard in the bike lane on Newell Drive.

Embuscado, an 18-year-old UF telecommunication freshman, said he was

only vaguely aware of the Florida statute prohibiting all forms of skates and skateboards in the bike lane and roadway at the time. He said he still doesn't understand the reasoning behind the restriction and wants to petition it as soon as he gains enough support.

"It just seems like a preposterous rule to exclude longboarders," he said. "At certain points, I feel like even other modes of transportation should be included in the bike lane."

University Police Officer Gregory Castronover said riding anything that is not supposed to be in the bike lane is considered a moving violation — a ticket worth a minimum of \$154 in Alachua County.

Castronover said the department's goal is to educate.

"If they accept our educational information, they go on their way," he said. "If they talk themselves into something a little bit more intensive, then they might get a

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Ward's supermarket to launch brand of locally raised beef

They raise the cows in Brooker, pg 3.

Dispatch to hold free concert on Flavel Field

It's Friday at 7 p.m., pg 5.



Locals unite in protest of Keystone XL Pipeline

About 60 people gathered for the event, pg 8.



News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Nourish International

Join our discussion on the Giving Challenge at 6:15 to-night in Little Hall, Room 127. The event is aimed at fund-raising for our Summer project in Uganda. We will also be talking about our upcoming national chapter visit.

Resistance training for life talk

Joe Cirulli will share the dreams that have inspired him during his many years in the fitness industry. The talk is scheduled to take place from 4 to 5 p.m. in Smathers Library East, Room 1A, located next to Library West.

La Casita movie night

Join La Casita and MASA at 6 p.m. for a movie night. "Selena" will be shown at the Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures, located on University Avenue between Chipotle and the Institute for Black Culture. There will be free food.

Asian Pacific Islander American Affairs panel discussion

The group will hold a panel discussion in Peabody Hall, Room 411, from 2 to 3 p.m. to explore the importance of diversity in the workplace. Professionals from different fields will discuss inequalities in the workplace and how to respond to them. They will present case studies and let participants work in groups to decide how they would respond to instances of inequality.

First Friday

Join Pledge 5 Foundation on Friday from 5 to 10 p.m. on Bo Diddley Plaza for the premier First Friday Gainesville event of the year. Enjoy wine and food tastings, participate in raffle events each hour, listen to live music by Luminaries and explore downtown.

Sex, Lies and Chocolate

The Hispanic Scholarship

FORECAST

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
PARTLY CLOUDY 81/62	THUNDER-STORMS 79/56	RAIN 65/55	RAIN 72/58	CLOUDY 77/61

Fund Scholar Chapter invites students to GatorWell's presentation, called Sex, Lies and Chocolate, which will answer frequently asked sexual health questions. Participants will receive chocolate for asking or helping the "sexpert" answer questions. The presentation will be held Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in McCarty B, Room G108.

Servant Leader Institute

Your student organization is invited to attend the Servant Leader Institute. It will let students network and problem solve with UF and community leaders and develop ways to increase their impact. The event will be held Feb. 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Poe Springs Lodge in High Springs. There is no cost to attend. Please RSVP by Friday at leadershipand-service.ufl.edu.

Q-and-A with Common

Join us for an evening of celebration, hip-hop and Q-and-A with Grammy award-winning artist Common. The show will be held on Feb. 13 at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show begins at 8 p.m. Tickets will be available for students at the Phillips Center box office at noon on Feb. 12. Students presenting a valid Gator 1 Card may pick up two tickets. Admission is free and open to the public.

Student orgs needed for RecSports photo shoots

UF RecSports is looking for

UF student organizations to volunteer as models for photo shoots promoting the department's group services. To volunteer your organization, contact Hayden Manuel at haydenm@recsports.ufl.edu.

Got something going on?

Want to see it in this space? Send an email with "What's Happening" in the subject line to kgriffis@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 and keep them 150 words or fewer. Improperly formatted "What's Happening" submissions may not appear in the paper. Press releases will not appear in the paper.

Have an event planned? Add it to the Alligator's online calendar:

alligator.org/calendar



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

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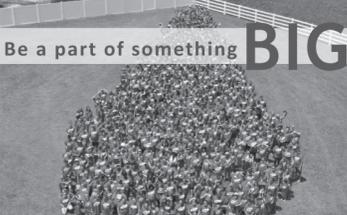
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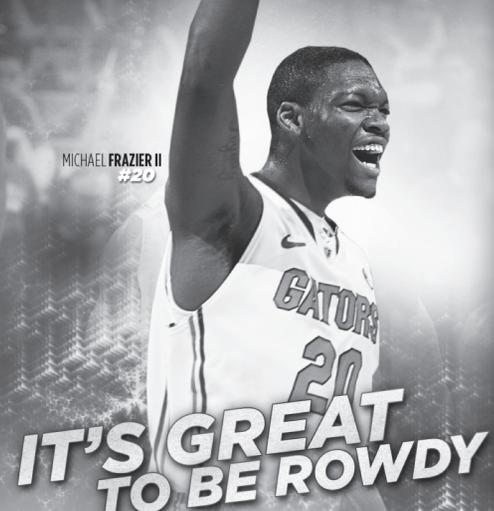
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Adriana Barbat / Alligator

Love Handouts

Natasha Stanic, an 18-year-old UF computer engineering freshman, receives free cookies from Brittany Jacquay, an 18-year-old UF freshman, and Caitlyn Turner, an 18-year-old UF psychology freshman, Monday on the Plaza of the Americas. The Theta Alpha sorority sisters wanted to “spread God’s love in a practical way.”

CAMPUS

Prize draws student entrepreneurs

KYLE FOLLANSBEE

Alligator Contributing Writer

Undergraduate students with innovative ideas are set to converge, collaborate and create in a new competition offered by UF this semester.

Students can pitch any innovative idea in need of funding or a patent to a panel of judges to compete for cash prizes totaling up to \$10,000.

Though this is the first time the competition will take place at UF, the InVenture Prize originated at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, said Carlo Candela, director of InVenture Prize at UF.

“They have done such a great job,” Candela said. “Our goal is to lean on what they have done so

far.”

Mimicking the success of Georgia Tech’s competition is the main goal, but the addition of UF students’ Gator flair is what organizers hope will make this competition a popular annual event.

Sam Grace, assistant director of InVenture Prize at UF, said he wants to see UF grow in response to this competition.

“Georgia Tech is known for their engineering. They’re a technical school, and Florida isn’t,” Grace said. “We’re trying to show that we can compete with anyone.”

The deadline for online registration is Wednesday. The original deadline was Jan. 17, but Candela said the deadline was extended to allow for more teams to enter. The venue has yet to be chosen.

Twelve teams are registered to compete, but Candela said they are looking for about 20.

Ian Mitchell, the president of the UF Entrepreneurship Club, said these types of competitions prime the pump for innovation among UF students.

“It gets people out of their comfort zone,” Mitchell said.

Tim Garofalo, a 21-year-old UF finance senior, said he thinks the competition will bring students together in a way no class or lab could.

“The InVenture Prize sounds like a really neat competition that will foster great relationships between business majors and engineers,” Garofalo said. “I think a lot of my friends would like to see this become bigger.”

Ward’s supermarket to launch brand of locally raised beef

► THE WARDS RAISE COWS IN AN ECOLOGICALLY FRIENDLY MANNER.

ALEXIA FERNANDEZ

Alligator Contributing Writer

Ward’s Supermarket, a family-owned independent grocery store, is introducing its own brand of sustainably grown Angus beef later this month.

Bryan Ward, the meat manager for Ward’s, said he has been planning on introducing a new brand of beef to the family business for the last two years.

“We’ve always had just conventional beef, like from Colorado, Wyoming, Iowa, the Midwest,” said Ward, 30. “This isn’t really replacing what we carry, this is just adding to our market.”

The Ward family’s farm is at the center of this new enterprise.

Located 25 miles north of Gainesville in Brooker, Fla., Ward and his father have raised cows in an ecologically friendly manner.

“There are so many people nowadays that want more local instead of further away, so we’re going for that niche,” Ward said. “We’re also hoping that the prospect of our cows being humanely raised will appeal to customers.”

Ward has not yet developed a price margin for the beef, but he said he hopes it will compete well with the conventionally raised products already selling at Ward’s.

“What we’re hoping is that it’ll be more comparable to or slightly above conventional,” Ward said. “But not as high as organic or grass-fed beef.”

Seaton Tarrant, alumni fellow at the department of political science at UF, has grown his own food since 1996 and said he thinks Ward’s is the hub of the community.

Tarrant said Ward’s is better than ecologically friendly stores like Trader Joe’s because it focuses on local producers.

“The idea is to offer something that you can give to your community,” he said.

Ian Siljestrom, a 22-year-old UF sustainability and the built environment senior, said the local aspect of Ward’s Angus beef brand is a good thing for Gainesville sustainability.

“I think Gainesville is definitely proactive, especially due to small businesses like this one,” he said. “There are a lot of people in the community that are pushing for more sustainable methods of living.”

One such supporter is Daniel Tillman, a 21-year-old UF political science and psychology senior.

“It’s very important to know where your food comes from,” Tillman said.

Tillman said he believes local farming is beneficial and allows consumers to have a better idea of the details that go into raising their food.

“In industrialized farming, what they feed the animals is not natural,” he said. “Cows should not be eating corn or corn seeds. They should be eating grass.”

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Police tase, arrest in Super Bowl bet fight

► **REPORT: A MAN PUNCHED HIS ROOMMATE.**

JENNA LYONS
Alligator Staff Writer

Alachua Police used a Taser on a Fort Lauderdale man Sunday after police said he got in an argument with his roommate over a Super Bowl bet.

Officers arrested 49-year-old Thomas Steven Pindell on charges of battery and resisting without violence, according to an arrest report.

At about 10:30 p.m., Pindell got into an argument with his roommate at the Quality Inn, located at 15960 NW U.S. Highway 441. His roommate locked him out of their hotel room, according to the report.

Pindell got the manager, and on their way back to the room, his roommate walked around the corner and said "You didn't

have to hit me," according to the report. Pindell then attacked him and started punching him in the face.

Police arrived and saw Pindell hit his roommate in the mouth, according to the report. An officer told Pindell to put his hands behind his back. When he resisted, another officer put a Taser to his ribcage and warned him he would use it.

Pindell told the officers they wouldn't use the Taser and that he would not put his hands behind his back, at which point the officer used the Taser.

Pindell told officers he punched his roommate in self defense because his roommate threatened to use a pocket knife. The manager said no one mentioned a knife, and the officers did not find one, according to the report.

Officers booked Pindell into the Alachua County Jail at about 11:30 p.m., where he remains as of press time in lieu of a \$30,000 bond.

It was inspired by a friend with spinal cord injuries

ART, from page 1

that has a long lifetime, such as a new piece of equipment, he said. A plaque with Sainz' name will accompany whatever the money is used for.

Lew's Art for Hope gallery was the second fundraiser she's spearheaded. The first, Art for the Heart, raised roughly \$11,000 for cardiovascular research in 2012.

After receiving waves of positive feedback for her first gallery, Lew planned on hosting a second in two years. She was still considering research fields for her next fundraiser when she heard the

news of Sainz' accident.

Sainz, a 54-year-old Leesburg, Fla., resident, was on his way home from work when he stopped at a red light behind another car. The driver of a vehicle behind Sainz' car failed to break, hitting him at full speed and effectively sandwiching him between the two vehicles.

Sainz said he applauds Lew for her dedication to the cause and hopes more people will follow her. He's known Lew "since she was a little one."

"We need more people like her," he said. "Research is the only future for people like me."



Sean Stewart-Muniz / Alligator Staff

Alicia Lew presents a check on Monday afternoon at the McKnight Brain Institute to Paul J. Reier, who said he wants to buy new equipment.

RESEARCH

Formula from UF study to help citrus growers with efficiency, accuracy

TAYLOR WIDOM

Alligator Contributing Writer

An algorithm published in a new UF study could benefit Florida's \$9-billion citrus industry by allowing growers to predict crop yields both earlier and with improved accuracy.

The study, conducted by Wonsuk "Daniel" Lee, would allow growers to know exactly how much fruit is on their trees sooner than before, making it easier for them to figure out the ideal time to harvest.

Lee said the model could also give growers a way to identify troubled areas in their groves.

"If you know one place produces more fruit and one place produces less fruit ... you can focus on the low-producing area to correct those problems," said Lee, a UF agricultural and biological engineering professor. "And thereby you can increase your yield and profit."

Lee was able to compare the productivity of trees in different areas of a grove using image-processing software, which can detect the presence of individual fruits.

Because immature green fruits are so well camouflaged, the com-

puter has to use color along with textural and spatial information to isolate them from photographs and come up with a number, Lee said.

"If you know one place produces more fruit and one place produces less fruit... you can focus on the low-producing area to correct those problems. And thereby you can increase your yield and profit."

Wonsuk "Daniel" Lee

UF agricultural and biological engineering professor

Thomas Spreen, citrus marketing and trade expert, said growers currently use a limb-count method in which they randomly select a limb from a tree and count the number of fruits on it.

That number is then used to extrapolate a figure for the entire tree and eventually the orchard, the county and the state.

Essentially it's a guess, Spreen said, "but they've done it this way for 50 to 60 years, so it's fairly well-developed."

However, Spreen said he thinks there is still room for progress.

"Anything that improves the quality of the information in the system benefits both the buyers and the sellers," he said.

Katie Rogers, a 22-year-old UF horticultural science senior and treasurer of the Gator Citrus Club, said the algorithm holds promise for sellers in particular.

"It's beneficial to be able to predict your yield," she said, "because one of the most difficult things in farming is not knowing what you will end up making at the end of the season."

Lee said it could still take two to three more years until the algorithm is ready for commercial use. Even then, growers might be hesitant to switch from more conventional methods.

Cecil Nelson, a 69-year-old Florida citrus grower, and his wife hand-planted their San Mateo grove in 1986 and have been predicting their crop yield the traditional way ever since.

Nelson said if he's to be taken as an example, then Lee might be right.

"I won't be switching anything. I'm almost 70 — this is it for me," Nelson said. "But I do think it sounds like a good idea."

Some students aren't aware of the laws

LONGBOARD, from page 1

citation."

Jeffrey Dickens, a 20-year-old UF mechanical engineering junior and president of Gator Longboarding, said he's only been pulled over once because he wasn't aware of the statute at the time. Since then, he said, he tries to ride on the sidewalk as much as possible to avoid confrontation.

Even though he said he knows they're trying to keep campus safe, Dickens said it seems police are looking for reasons to pull people over.

"Everybody complains about it," he said. "Everybody seems to be getting pulled over."

He said riding longboards on the sidewalk can be inconvenient because the wheels can easily get caught on anything about an inch off the ground, which makes cracks or bumps in the sidewalk a problem. Dickens said

he has seen longboarders go flying into students on the sidewalk, though the accidents usually only cause minor scrapes.

Carrie Vath, an interdisciplinary ecology UF graduate student, said she rides her bike on campus and wouldn't mind sharing the bike lane with longboarders as long as they were under the same restrictions as cyclists.

"Everybody complains about it. Everybody seems to be getting pulled over."

Jeffrey Dickens

Gator Longboarding president

FreeRide Surf and Skate Shop manager Peter Harter, 34, agreed.

"Longboarding is not a sport where we're grinding on concrete," he said. "We are not doing anything that the average mountain bike or street bicycle wouldn't do."

The pills could've been trafficked

DRUGS, from page 1

agencies around Florida to examine the evidence handled by the chemist.

Butscher said she expects an FDLE team will be arriving soon to work with the sheriff's office.

"They will be coming in the next few days to work with evidence bureaus to determine how many cases have potentially been compromised because of this situation," Butscher said. "We will be working very closely with them to assist them in this investigation."

Gainesville Police Department spokesman Officer Ben Tobias said the department is still waiting to hear from the FDLE.

"There is nothing we can do at this moment," he said.

Graves, who was relieved of his FDLE duties last Friday, officially resigned Monday.

FDLE spokeswoman Gretl Plessinger said several dozen cases were revealed to have missing pills over the weekend.

"We don't know how many of the 2,600 cases have been tampered with," she said. "We have never had to do an undertaking like this."

Along with Alachua County, Marion, Columbia, Lafayette, Suwannee and Hamilton counties were also listed by the FDLE as potentially affected areas in North Central Florida.

While a motive has yet to be uncovered, Plessinger said Graves could've been using or trafficking drugs.

Special agents contacted the counties last Saturday, but Plessinger said she is unsure of how long an investigation of this magnitude could take.

CAMPUS

Law school events to discuss Trayvon Martin's shooting

BELLA ZABINOFSKY
Alligator Contributing Writer

The Levin College of Law will host two events to commemorate and discuss the issues surrounding the 2012 shooting of Trayvon Martin.

The events are co-sponsored by the college's Center on Children and Families and Center for the Study of Race & Race Relations.

The first event, "Looking Back,

Moving Forward," will be a town hall-style open forum, said Nancy Dowd, director of the CCF.

The event will take place Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. in the UF Law Chesterfield Smith Memorial Classroom, HOL 180.

The purpose of this event is "to give an opportunity for a free flow of discourse about Trayvon Martin," she said.

"We hope for high school and college students who are closest to

the circumstances of Trayvon Martin to discuss their feelings, fears and what changes they would like to happen," Dowd said.

The second event will be centered on an academic lecture from Duke University sociology professor Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, followed by discussion with a panel of experts.

The lecture will be Feb. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. in HOL 180.

Anju Kaduvetoor Davidson, as-

stant director of the CSRRR, said that Bonilla-Silva's lecture would focus on topics like implicit racism and colorblind racism and how these issues apply to the Trayvon Martin case.

Kristin Babik, a 20-year-old UF psychology and criminology junior, said she believes these events will shed light on how to decrease the spread of racism in the community.

"Racism still occurs, and it is our

duty as a society to try to make the world a better place and to understand why bad things like Trayvon Martin's death happen and then to prevent them from happening," Babik said.

Dowd said the CCF got involved this year specifically to give families in the community a chance to voice any concerns that spawned from the Trayvon Martin case.

"Our greatest goal is that people feel they've been heard," she said.

Dispatch to hold free concert on Flavet

► IT'S FRIDAY AT 7 P.M.
LAWRENCE LAGUNA
Alligator Contributing Writer

Student Government Productions will host Dispatch on Friday for the band's first live show in Florida.

Dispatch, a popular independent rock band, will perform at 7 p.m. on Flavet Field, said Nicole Berrio, SGP head director of public relations.

The event is free and open to the public, so no tickets are required.

"Everybody loves a great jam band," Berrio said. "A lot of fans, not only in UF but in the surrounding Gainesville area, are going to come out and sup-

port the band, mostly throughout Tampa, Orlando, Jacksonville and Tallahassee."

With influences from acoustic rock, folk-rock, reggae and funk, Dispatch defines the broad audience SGP seeks to entertain, she said.

Berrio said the specifics of the contract with Dispatch bar SGP from sharing the amount of money the band will receive for performing.

Steve Montalvo, a 20-year-old UF plant science junior and new listener of the band, said he would attend the concert.

"I can see myself listening to them non-stop," Montalvo said. "Their music really speaks to me. When they sing the lyrics and play the songs, it really resonates with me."


Emily Cochrane / Alligator Staff

Intense Monday

Denise Pulmano, an 18-year-old UF biomedical engineering freshman, dismantles tents outside the Reitz Union on Monday. The tents were checked for damage after being rented out for the weekend.

Gator alumnus invents less-mess oil strainer to make recycling safer

He's selling it online

ALEXIA MARCHETTI
Alligator Contributing Writer

A UF alumnus has created a slicker way to save cooking oil.

John Yelverton, a 2001 UF chemical engineering alumnus, created the Coastal Pro oil strainer to transport and strain oil directly to a storage container.

This product is the newest edition in his line of personal fryer products, which he sells through his outdoor cookware business based in Destin, Fla.

"It can be really messy to use coffee filters or other items to strain the oil," the 35-year-old said. "I want to make it easier for people to store and refrigerate their oil."

The funnel is about the size of a normal cooking funnel and is combined with a reusable, extra-fine stainless steel mesh that

separates small food solids from the oil.

He said he hopes to start selling the strainer on his website by the end of this year for \$9.99.

Yelverton said he came up with the idea when he learned storing oil at room temperature then reusing it can be dangerous to one's health.

"It can be really messy to use coffee filters or other items to strain the oil. I want to make it easier for people to store and refrigerate their oil."

John Yelverton
Coastal Pro oil strainer creator

George Baker, an assistant scientist in the UF department of food science and human nutrition, said refrigerating cooking oil helps slow down different

chemical reactions.

It can also prevent bacterial growth, he said.

Baker said once oil has been used and heated enough, it increases reaction rates, which can change the taste and color of the oil.

"Old oil isn't necessarily bad for human health," Baker said. "It's going to taste bad before it becomes toxic."

Once left out, Baker said there is no set time when any food safety issues occur with oil.

Melanie Abou-Jaoude, a 21-year-old UF chemical engineering senior, said she believes used cooking oil should be kept clean if reused.

But she doesn't think she'll be purchasing Yelverton's strainer any time soon.

"I wouldn't buy it," she said. "You can use other disposable strainers that will be guaranteed to be clean after every use."

David Beckham to discuss soccer team potential in Miami

► HE'S LOOKING FOR INVESTORS.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — David Beckham will take part in a news conference Wednesday to discuss his progress in trying to bring a Major League Soccer expansion team to Miami.

MLS Commissioner Don Garber and Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez will also attend the session, which was announced Monday. The league has discussed placing its next two expansion teams in Miami and Atlanta.

Expansion in Miami is contingent on securing a financing

plan and location for a new stadium. Beckham has scouted possible sites and is seeking investors to assist with startup costs such as stadium construction and player acquisitions.

Among those who might become involved is Beckham's friend LeBron James, who has had recent conversations with the retired soccer star about bringing a team to Miami.

"It's looking very promising," James said Monday. "Hopefully they can go in the right direction as we all planned."

MLS's Miami Fusion played in Fort Lauderdale from 1998 to 2001 before folding because of poor attendance.

Opinions

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014
WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG/OPINIONS

Editorial

Nation mourns Hoffman death, examines heroin use

Philip Seymour Hoffman's death at age 46 shocked the U.S. on Sunday, and as the investigation reveals more details about his death — strong evidence points to a heroin overdose, as he was found in his Manhattan apartment with a needle stuck in his arm — many voices have contributed to the discussion of his legacy as a fine actor and his struggle with drug abuse.

Artistic brilliance is too often coupled with addiction. Famed Beat writer Jack Kerouac used amphetamines to stay up for days at a time and write. It's common knowledge that Ernest Hemingway was an alcoholic. The Beatles — before experimenting with LSD in the later years — abused speed in the form of phenmetrazine diet pills in their early years in Hamburg. The great Billie Holiday's heroin addiction led to legal trouble and imprisonment.

"Mr. Hoffman's gifts were widely celebrated while he was alive," A.O. Scott wrote for The New York Times. "But the shock of his death on Sunday revealed, too soon and too late, the astonishing scale of his greatness and the solidity of his achievement. We did not lose just a very good actor. We may have lost the best one we had. He was only 46, and his death, apparently from a drug overdose, foreshortened a career that was already monumental."

According to the Washington Post, Hoffman struggled with drugs from a young age.

"I got sober when I was 22 years old" and went into a drug rehabilitation program at the time, Hoffman told CBS's '60 Minutes' in 2006. Asked whether he abused drugs or alcohol, Hoffman said: "It was all that stuff. Yeah. It was anything I could get my hands on. Yeah. I liked it all."

He relapsed in 2012 after being clean for 20 years.

Heroin use is growing, the Washington Post reported. In 2012, a federal survey found the number of people in its sample who said they'd used heroin in the last month had nearly doubled since 2007, proving that heroin isn't the fringe drug it used to be. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration attributed the increase to more pure and less expensive heroin now available on the market and to the crackdown on prescription painkillers, making drugs like OxyContin harder to acquire.

In 2010, the DEA reported 3,038 people overdosed on heroin that year, a sharp increase from 1,879 in 2007. Heroin kills many first-time users, the Washington Post reported, because it shuts down bodies' natural breathing reflexes.

This week, Hollywood lost a tremendously talented actor. We only hope that through this tragedy, substance abusers can find the strength to seek help.

"He had a rare ability to illuminate the varieties of human ugliness," Scott wrote in closing his Times article. "No one ever did it so beautifully."

If you or someone you know is using heroin, please use the National Institute of Drug Abuse's online resources to seek help, or call 1-800-662-HELP (4357).

Reader response

Today's question: Do you skateboard on campus?

Monday's question: Do you like Justin Timberlake?

88% YES
12% NO
97 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

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Column

The drifter who changed our history

With the national spotlight often on Floridians like Casey Anthony and Terry Jones, there's not much we can be proud of. The Sunshine State isn't exactly known for its positive contributions. However, there is one exception, and we recently marked its 50th anniversary.

A while back in Panama City, there was a man named Clarence Gideon. One June morning in 1961, patrons found that the city's Bay Harbor Pool Room had been burglarized. A witness said he'd seen Gideon walking away from the scene with a bottle of wine and coins around 5:30 a.m.

Upon investigation, police found Gideon at a motel with alcohol and change in his pockets. Gideon was arrested and was stuck in the cooler until trial, unable to afford bail.

One thing to note is that Gideon was dirt poor, and if there's one thing the indigent can't afford, it's a lawyer.

At his first trial, Gideon asked the judge to appoint a defense attorney. The response couldn't have been more blunt: "Mr. Gideon, I am sorry, but I cannot appoint counsel to represent you in this case. Under the laws of the State of Florida, the only time the court can appoint counsel to represent a defendant is when that person is charged with a capital offense..."

Gideon stubbornly persisted, "The United States Supreme Court says I am entitled to be represented by counsel."

Let's pause here for a moment to see how deluded Gideon was. The law of the land since 1942 only required states to appoint lawyers for defendants with special circumstances, such as the possibility of a death penalty sentence (see *Betts v. Brady*). Gideon's optimism could be forgiven — after all, he was a drifter who had run away from home when he was in middle school.

With no lawyer, Gideon was forced to represent himself. The entire trial took a day, and the jury found him



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guilty. Gideon was sentenced to five years in Florida State Prison.

Convinced of his innocence, Gideon petitioned the Florida Supreme Court. The response from Tallahassee wasn't favorable: The appeal was denied.

A normal person would give up and just serve his time in prison at this point. But thankfully, Gideon wasn't normal.

This might sound like a guy pursuing a fairy tale: He decided to send a letter — officially known as a "writ of habeas corpus" — to the U.S. Supreme Court. Using prison stationary and a pencil, he hand-wrote a short, awkward plea from his cell to the highest court in the country.

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to consider his case and appointed Abe Fortas, one of the most brilliant lawyers and a future Supreme Court justice, to represent Gideon. The entire country knew the significance of this case as thousands of inmates just like Gideon were convicted in courts without proper legal aid.

On the morning of March 18, 1963, the justices were ready. Justice Hugo Black declared, on behalf of a unanimous Supreme Court, Gideon's conviction unconstitutional. The ruling changed the course of our country by creating a public defender system that would guarantee all defendants a lawyer, regardless of their financial situations.

The case of Gideon is relevant to various contemporary issues, from the need of prison reform to the debate of whether ordinary people have a "right to health care." Gideon's struggles have a nice ending — he was acquitted and resumed his quiet life until passing away in Fort Lauderdale in 1972 — but more than anything, we should extract lessons from his story.

Zulkar Khan is a UF microbiology senior. His columns appear on Tuesdays.

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

Guest column

Labels can liberate rather than limit

It's OK to like labels on things other than clothes — or really, on anything but your clothes — because those things can be itchy and uncooperative. Some people say labels are limiting, but I argue they are liberating. As humans, it is easier for us to categorize things. Labeling helps us process the world around us, as well as ourselves.

Self-discovery involves pushing your boundaries as much as it does realizing when you can no longer push. For instance, you may force yourself to go to parties and group dinners even though you would rather stay at home, watch Netflix with your cat and draw. Realizing you're an introvert may allow you to not feel so guilty about saying no to invites you don't feel up to accepting. Self-ascribing that label is not putting a limit on yourself but rather letting you be who you are.

Accurate labeling is also important when dealing with mental or neurological disorders. If you are depressed, before you are diagnosed you may just think you are lazy, incompetent and worthless. Receiving a label from a doctor can be such a relief in this situation — to discover the way you feel is not your fault. And once you know there is a reason behind your illness, you can go about managing it instead of feeling helpless. Instead of your symptoms being enigmatic details that make you feel incapable for not dealing with them, you now have a tangible name to associate your feelings with.

When "Britain's Got Talent" singer Susan Boyle was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, she said it gave her a sense of comfort. She told the U.K. Observer, "Now I have a clearer understanding of what's wrong, and I feel relieved and a bit more relaxed about myself."



Lauren Adamson
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Having a word or words to describe yourself to others can help you acquire resources that you need as well as make relationships with people who have common experiences.

However, there are ways to abuse labeling.

A person is more than just one part of him or herself. You may have depression, but you are not depression; it is not your defining characteristic. You may also be an avid video gamer, a graphic novelist and a Trekkie. Sometimes people can let one aspect of their identity consume them, or they use it as an excuse for other actions.

For instance, if you have Asperger's, that diagnosis should be a means to understanding oneself and learning how to interact with the world considering your limitations. It should not be a scapegoat for thoughtless behavior.

Similarly, some people misuse labels. They go through them like toilet paper: Someone who checks on all the locks before she goes to bed calls herself OCD, a person who washes his hands before every meal is a germaphobe, someone who had a bad day is depressed or someone who has a nervous stomach before a speech has social anxiety. The overuse of words that describe serious, life-debilitating illnesses weakens their meanings and hurts people who are really suffering.

But with an estimated one million words in the English language, you can mindfully choose words with definitions that fit you.

You probably don't want to wear your identities on your clothes like you do labels — that may be a bit too forward — but just knowing them for yourself can be really comforting.

Lauren Adamson is a UF journalism junior. Her columns appear on Tuesdays.

Column

What's worse: weed or alcohol?

The U.S. federal government is not known for always making the best choices. In some states, it's legal to marry your first cousin but not a member of the same sex. However, one of America's biggest flubs is the propagation of alcohol and the criminalization of marijuana.

Ever since the end of Prohibition, alcohol has been legal in the U.S. First made available to anyone over the age of 18, Congress changed the national minimum drinking age to 21 in 1984. Marijuana, however, was deemed illegal in 1937 and has remained so ever since. From then on, more than 20 million Americans have been arrested and convicted of marijuana-related crimes. This is where the issues begin because the results of these laws changed the course of our history.

Under the influence of alcohol, users become agitated, belligerent, ill, deluded and make incredibly poor decisions. This is because alcohol somewhat numbs the brain's abilities by altering the chemical messages that control the body's thought processes, behaviors and emotions. Because of this, users are more likely to get into a car while drunk, start a fight and vomit all over the sidewalks of Midtown right outside Pizza by the Slice. Aside from the damage it does to your brain, alcohol is incredibly corrosive to other parts of the body as well. Drinking large quantities of alcohol can permanently damage the liver, heart, pancreas and immune system and lead to cancers of the mouth, throat, esophagus and breasts. And this stuff is legal.

Marijuana is a different animal. While smoking or eating pot still puts the user in a state of insobriety, the long-term effects are much less damaging to the body. The use of marijuana puts the user in an elevated state of relaxation and — let's be honest — hunger. A person high on weed will never challenge a random person to a fight, won't vomit from nausea all over Midtown in front of Pizza by the Slice and most certainly won't have a hangover the next day. Smoking a large amount of weed may lead to a temporary loss of coordination,



Rachel Kalisher
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memory retention and, depending on the person, minor anxiety. Unless the marijuana is laced with other chemicals, the average pot user does not experience any negative side effects while getting high.

Marijuana is not only used for getting high. Recent studies have shown that the use of marijuana helps with those suffering from epilepsy. It not only weakens the severity of seizures, but it also reduces the occurrence of them. Although the studies

are limited, as marijuana becomes legalized in more areas of the U.S., more trials will be held.

Marijuana has also been known to give cancer patients relief from nausea due to treatment and increase their appetites. Researchers have isolated strains from the marijuana plant, allowing specific dosages to be given to patients with predictable outcomes. A few of these strains have even been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Some supporters even claim consuming marijuana inhibits the growth of tumors.

Overall, it seems there is no clear precedent regarding what makes substances legal and what does not. Both alcohol and marijuana have their pros and cons yet are enjoyed by millions every day. Promoting alcohol and shunning marijuana is a ridiculous notion and a decision our government should re-evaluate.

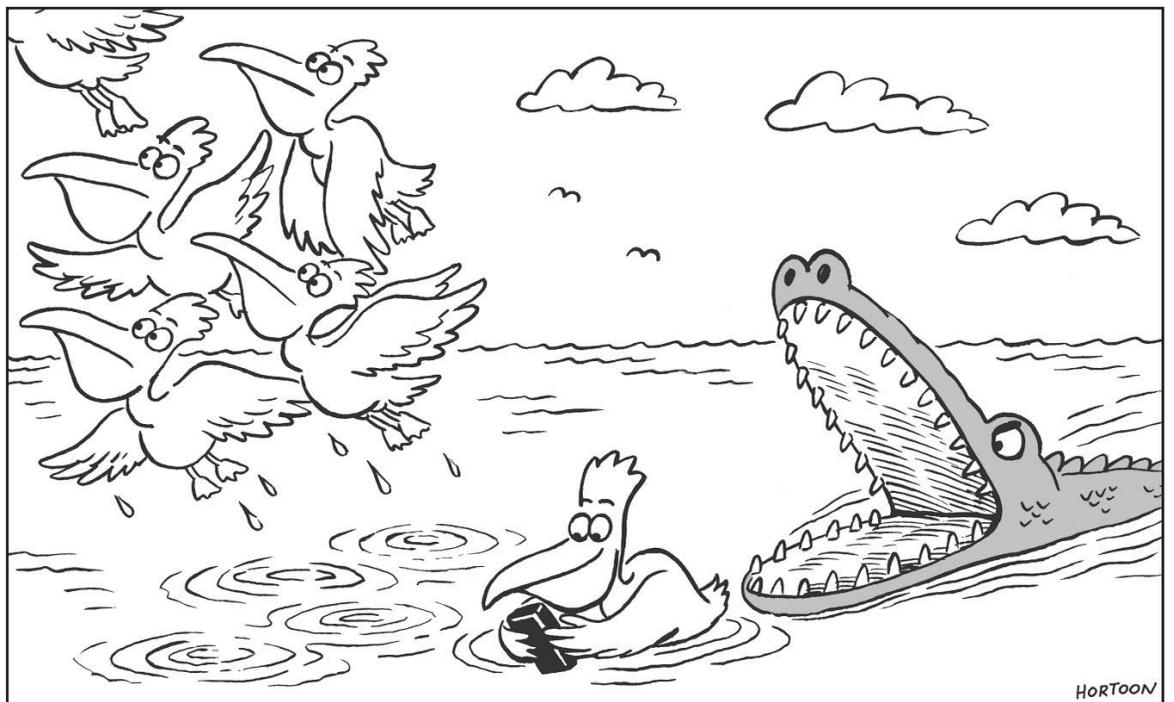
Preventing the population from accessing a substance that can change people's lives for the better and allow users to have a positive non-sober, non-violent experience, is the real crime here.

Legalizing and taxing marijuana will not only make the selling and growing of weed much less dangerous, but it will also add major tax revenue.

In a controlled environment, we can work toward controlling substance abuse.

I urge you to keep an open mind and remain informed about the uses and abuses of both alcohol and marijuana. Enjoy responsibly.

Rachel Kalisher is a UF anthropology and classics junior. Her columns appear on Tuesdays.



HORTON

Letter to the Editor

Monday column about climate change

Thanks for your interesting note on climate change.

We conservative Republicans too understand that science is vital to helping us in certain areas of life.

Not one of us would care to have our cities swamped with rising oceans or lands turned into deserts.

However, we take a much more cautious approach than you do.

We also know the left has predicted very poorly other drastic things they

claimed were on their way in the past: heterosexual AIDS, silicone breast implants, overpopulation of the earth, DDT, Alar on apples, 35 million starving Americans and secondhand smoke, etc.

We understand climate is an extraordinarily complex topic with dozens of parameters potentially affecting it. We understand there are thousands of scientists around the world who study these various parameters and are highly skeptical about making any strong predictions of climate 100 years from now. We understand by

studying history that science is often pure science and is often affected by psychology and politics. We also understand that even if Mr. Gore did incredibly radical things like completely altering our use of energy and thereby dramatically crushing economies all over the world, it is highly unlikely that this would have much effect on the issue, particularly if America were the only one to sign up for such a radical action.

Before you vote for more leftists to order us with 5,000 pages of new laws to

radically change our economy and stop using fossil fuels and thereby stop enjoying our laptops and cars and air conditioners and medicines and homes and clothing and airplane travel, maybe read some scientists not aligned with and perhaps not greatly biased by the Democratic left.

Your concerns may be right, but be very careful before you root for a heart transplant on a guy with chest pain when all he needs is some aspirin — or maybe just some reassurance that all will be well.

Howard Sachs

LOCAL Party 99.5 changes frequency, moves EDM beats to 100.9

ALINA AVALOS
Alligator Contributing Writer

A Gainesville radio station has recently made a switch to a different frequency to offer a better signal that reaches a larger audience.

Party 99.5, a local electronic dance music radio station, is now Party 100.9.

The parent company, New York-based JVC Broadcasting Inc., made the switch because the original frequency didn't reach many dorms and office buildings, said Chad Hallmark, director of client services.

The programming will be playing on both channels until 99.5 is sold, he said.

Ana Pinto, a 21-year-old UF economics junior and a promoter for the Dynasty

"Party 100.9 is the only station that plays in my car in Gainesville."

Ana Pinto
Dynasty Group promoter

Group, said she is a frequent listener of the station.

"Party 100.9 is the only station that plays in my car in Gainesville," Pinto said,

adding that she heard about the switch while listening to the radio.

Hallmark said the station has gained more listeners than expected since its radio debut in June.

He said he expects to see the new frequency's audience grow even more.

"We expect to dominate Gainesville," Hallmark said.

Locals unite in protest of Keystone XL Pipeline

▶ ABOUT 60 ATTENDED.

JENNA LYONS
Alligator Staff Writer jlyons@alligator.org

A tall, slim man with a gray ponytail pedaled his bicycle toward the protesters. He had an idea.

"Let's start chanting 'plug not pipe!'" he told the crowd. "Just say no to big oil, right on!"

About 60 protesters from various Gainesville organizations united in protest on Bo Diddley Community Plaza Monday, calling for President Barack Obama to stop the expansion of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

If granted Presidential Permit, energy company TransCanada will install 875 miles of a pipeline that would transport about 830,000 barrels of oil per day spanning from the U.S./Canada border in Montana to Steele City, Neb., according to a State Department statement.

The statement concluded the proposed pipeline will not significantly add to greenhouse emissions.

But activism organization CREDO organized several groups to participate in a national day of action.

Karen Epple, a local council organizer for MoveOn.org, gathered the Gainesville protest. She said downplaying climate change and the environmental damage the pipeline could cause is similar to publicity tactics used by tobacco companies.

"Basically this is like the cancer of the world," Epple said.

UF anthropology graduate student Christina Callicott brought vigil candles for the event. She said the pipeline will permanently harm the environment instead of creating permanent jobs.

"It's an issue of human rights because climate change is affecting people all over the world," she said.



Megan Reeves / Alligator Staff

Members of the Gainesville community join together to call for President Barack Obama to stop the production of the Keystone XL Pipeline. The protest was held on Bo Diddley Community Plaza on Monday evening.

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Downtown bar ranked among top 100 by Southern Living Magazine

BRYON PAULY

Alligator Contributing Writer

A downtown bar has poured, shaken and strained its way to a list of the top 100 bars in the South.

Southern Living Magazine ranked 2nd Street Speakeasy, located at 21 SW Second St., in its list released earlier this year.

T.J. Palmieri, general manager of the bar, said the bar was contacted via Facebook earlier this January by the list's author, who asked for a cocktail recipe.

He said the business was honored to be contacted in a small city like Gainesville by such a large magazine.

"It's obviously great to be recognized," Palmieri, 33, said. "A lot of people have told us what we can and can't do in a small town."

The bar is kept dark to give off a chill, laid-back atmosphere, he said. On nights that are less busy, bartenders make drinks in front of the customers. The bar also features a "revolving menu," Palmieri said.

"If you come in and the menu really isn't your thing, we then go into a dialogue," he said. "We try to make something up for you on the spot."

Michelle Pando, a UF health science junior, celebrated her 21st birthday by visiting the bar last week. She said she enjoyed the intimacy of the set-

ting.

"It was very calm but enjoyable," Pando said. "Small, but very nice."

She said she also enjoyed her drink — the 2nd Street 75, made up of Amsterdam gin, lemon, strawberries, rhubarb bitters and sparkling white wine.

The bar will also be participating in the magazine's region-wide Happy Hour on Friday, offering a discount on the drink featured in the top 100 list — the Spaghetti Western, made of High West Double Rye, Fernet Branca, sherry, local honey and bitters.

Palmieri said he's excited the bar has gained traction.

"It was really nice to be validated for myself and for the staff," Palmieri said.

Other Florida bars mentioned on the list:

- Flora-Bama, Pensacola
- Dos Gatos, Jacksonville
- No Name Pub, Big Pine Key
- The Regent Cocktail Club, Miami
- The Broken Shaker, Miami
- Restaurant Michael Schwartz, Miami
- Ice Plant, St. Augustine



AP Photo

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito gestures as he speaks Monday to a joint meeting of the Forum Club of the Palm Beaches and the Palm Beach County Bar Association in West Palm Beach.

CAMPUS

Reitz construction pushes organizations out of offices

SAMANTHA BLEND

Alligator Contributing Writer

While UF is trying to Make It Reitz, student organizations are feeling the squeeze.

Part of the third floor of the Reitz Union that houses club offices closed at the end of January because of the Reitz renovation project, leaving students to adjust to smaller spaces.

Organizations located next

to Student Government Finance moved to tables in the gallery on the second floor of Reitz.

Reitz Union executive director Eddie Daniels said a transition period is necessary to bring the building to a higher functioning standard and to create more space.

Christina Pham, a member of the fundraising board of directors for the Pre-Dental American Student Dental Association, said she thinks many people don't know

the location of the club's office because of the move.

However, students have been understanding about the transition, she said.

"It has its ups and downs," the 21-year-old UF food science and human nutrition senior said. "(Staff have) been very accommodating, which is really cool."

Daniel Ramon, a 20-year-old UF biochemistry and molecular biology sophomore and Alpha Ep-

"It has its ups and downs. (Staff have) been very accommodating, which is really cool."

Christina Pham

fundraising board of directors for the Pre-Dental American Student Dental Association member

silon Delta fiscals director, said the move makes it hard to have guests. For the most part, he said only or-

ganization members can fit in the office space, so meeting with potential new members is difficult.

American Medical Student Association director Noah Ellis said he hasn't seen any positive effects of the move. The 20-year-old UF biomedical engineering sophomore said students don't have as much freedom to visit officers for information.

"Hurry up and finish the Reitz Union," he said.



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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



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Walker to make highly anticipated debut tonight against Mizzou



Ryan Jones / Alligator Staff

Chris Walker (middle) watches from the bench during Florida's 74-58 win against South Carolina on Jan. 8 in the O'Connell Center. Walker is expected to make his college debut against Missouri tonight at 9 p.m.

JONATHAN CZUPRYN

Alligator Staff Writer

@jczupryn

In the 52 days since Chris Walker was admitted to Florida, he has been his own entity — isolated from the team and helpless to do anything about it.

For 52 days, Walker was stuck in limbo waiting for the NCAA to pass down its judgment while his legend continued to build in the media and the Gators' fanbase.

But with Walker finally debuting tonight when No. 3 Florida (19-2, 8-0 Southeastern Conference) takes on Missouri (16-5, 4-4 SEC) at 9 in the O'Connell Center, coach Billy Donovan hopes to close the curtains on the freshman drama and instead put the focus back on the team.

"I'm not trying to downplay Chris Walker. I'm excited for him, but this is not about him now. This is about our team."

Billy Donovan
UF coach

"I think there was a lot of attention on Chris because he was not part of our team, he was separated from our team," Donovan said.

"He's now part of our team. There's not our team and Chris Walker's suspension. He's now part of our team."

Donovan continued by saying that although he does not want to take away anything from Walker and his first collegiate game, the focus of the matchup should be the visiting Tigers and not a freshman who will come off the bench in a limited role on the squad.

"Right now, there should be no attention on Chris," Donovan said.

"I'm not trying to downplay Chris Walker. I'm excited for him, but this is not about him now. This is about our team."

With Missouri having unusual height in its backcourt (all three starting guards are 6-foot-5 or higher), Walker may mean more to the team than expected.

The 6-foot-10, 220 pound forward not only has the

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 15

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Florida exceeding expectations during tough conference slate

GORDON STREISAND

Alligator Writer

@GordonStreisand

In the early stages of the season, the new, fluid offense was supposed to be Florida's strong point.

Just past the halfway point of Southeastern Conference play, those sentiments have rung true.

Compared to last season, the Gators are an offensive juggernaut.

In 2012-13, Florida averaged 70.6 points per game. Then-junior Jaterra Bonds led the team in scoring, averaging 13.1 points a game.

This year's Gators are scoring a torrid 78.1 points per contest. Bonds is averaging 15.7 points per outing.

However, both teams' shooting percentages are virtually identical so how is there so much discrepancy among points?



Bonds

The answer lies on the charity stripe.

Florida has shown marked improvement on the foul line from last season. In 2012-13, the Gators were 11th in the SEC in free-throw percentage, shooting 66.2 percent. This season, their 71.5 percent is good for third in the conference.

However important free throws are, a

SEE W-HOOPS, PAGE 15

UF eclipsing last year's pace

► GATORS HAVE THREE TIMES AS MANY 10S.

ERICA A. HERNANDEZ

Alligator Writer

@EricaAlyssa

Coach Rhonda Faehn has fewer and fewer changes to make to her squad as the season progresses.

The Gators are just one meet away from the halfway mark of the regular season, and her 2014 team has already outperformed her 2013 NCAA National Champion squad.

Florida's latest victory against then-No.1 Oklahoma only confirmed what Faehn and other members of the squad have been saying all season: This team is even better than last year's title winner.

"We knew going in it was going to be our toughest challenge so far this season,"

Faehn said. "Normally, I don't look at rankings, but I think it was a great testing point at that time, No. 1 against No. 2."

Florida's takedown of Oklahoma was UF's third win against a top-ranked team since 2010.

UF Gymnastics

"Our team really rose to the occasion," Faehn said. "I think it was

certainly our best overall competition as far as consistency."

With three times the amount of perfect 10s and consistently higher scores compared to this time last season, there is no denying UF has momentum. Now it is a matter of maintaining that momentum and the health of UF's gymnasts.

SEE GYM, PAGE 15



The Florida softball team is carrying five pitchers — two more than 2013. [Read the story on page 16.](#)

Gators make All-SEC team

UF softball players Hannah Rogers and Kelsey Stewart were named to the Preseason All-Southeastern Conference team on Monday. Rogers was an All-American last year, and Stewart was second-team All-SEC.

Williams honored

The Southeastern Conference named UF forward Ronni Williams Co-Freshman of the Week on Monday. Williams averaged 11 points and five boards in two games.

LACROSSE

Gators look to start season strong despite lack of experience

EDEN OTERO

Alligator Writer @edenotero_1

The last time No. 4 Florida lacrosse went head-to-head with an opponent, it had 13 seniors and shared an American Lacrosse Conference title.

Saturday's matchup against No. 1 North Carolina will be a much different picture than the team's final game of the 2013 season. With only two seniors and 11 freshmen, Florida is starting the season with a young team, leaving it to find a new identity that doesn't include Florida's first-generation lacrosse class.

Coach Amanda O'Leary does not think the team will struggle from the inexperience because of the leadership of older players, specifically seniors Cara Canington and Krista Grabher.

"[They] have done an amazing job with our team cohesion and team bonding," O'Leary said. "We have really come together."

In Florida's game against North Carolina on Feb. 9, 2013, the Gators came back from a 3-1 deficit at halftime to defeat UNC 5-3. It marked the first time during the season that UF completed a come-from-behind win and the first time in four meetings that Florida beat North Carolina.

With the first game of the season at UNC combined with a young team, UF has a steep hill to climb in their first matchup of the season.

The Tar Heels, who are the reigning national champions after finishing last season with an 18-3 season and a 4-1 record in Atlantic Coast Conference play, will be a tough test for Florida's opener, but O'Leary believes the inexperienced team will impress early on the road.

"I think the challenges are we're going to hit the road with a young team again and so it's always a challenge, being on the road," O'Leary said. "I think they've worked hard and we're going to go into that game with a lot of confidence."

Having junior All-American Shannon Gilroy, junior midfielder Nora Berry and seniors Canington and Grabher to help lead the starting freshmen through their first college matchup will be advantageous to the team.

"I think our freshmen are a talented group of young women," O'Leary said. "They came in here highly-touted. We knew we needed them to step in immediately. They didn't have time to adjust to college lacrosse. We threw them right in there, and they've responded."

However young the team is, O'Leary noted that inexperience would not be the team's biggest challenge but rather working as one cohesive group.

"I think team chemistry is a big part of our success," O'Leary said. "So we preach a lot about that."



Alligator File Photo

Amanda O'Leary walks off the field with then-junior Haydon Judge — who has since graduated — during halftime of Florida's 20-4 win against Dartmouth on March 20, 2012. Florida has 11 freshman entering the 2014 season.

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Freshman will move from exhibitions

GYM, from page 13

Faehn mentioned she plans on resting some of her athletes at the midway mark of the regular season, Friday's away match against Kentucky.

"We're really looking forward to heading out to Kentucky and giving a little bit of an opportunity for some of our athletes to rest up a little bit," Faehn said.

"(We will) possibly change up some of our lineups and give other

people some opportunity."

She said Mackenzie Caquatto likely will not compete on floor in an effort to rest her ankles and legs. In the 2013 season, as Caquatto battled injuries and soreness, she only exhibited her floor routine once and did not compete it a single time in the regular or post season.

Resting some upperclassmen will make an opening for freshman Silvia Colussi-Pelaez to finally do more than just exhibition routines.

"If she trains well this week, I don't see why she wouldn't be in the

floor lineup," Faehn said.

Colussi-Pelaez has exhibited in all four events at least once, and she competed in floor for the first and only time so far this season on Jan. 17 against Auburn.

Jamie Shisler may also be stepping up to the vault in the coming weeks.

Shisler exhibited her floor routine against Oklahoma for the first time this season after undergoing foot surgery in the fall to correct a navicular fracture she sustained during the summer.



Emily Cochrane / Alligator Staff

Kytra Hunter performs a balance beam routine during Florida's 197.875-197.225 win against Oklahoma on Friday in the O'Connell Center. Hunter notched the first consecutive 10s on the floor in UF history.

Walker was an All-American while playing at Bonifay High in '13

HOOPS, from page 13

size and strength to help the Gators in the paint, but he also has the speed and athleticism to guard the Tigers' backcourt players.

"It's probably a 15 on a scale of one to 10 of how excited he is right now."

Patric Young
UF center

While playing at Holmes County High in Bonifay, Walker recorded 30 points, 15 rebounds and seven blocks in Florida's 1A state championship.

Donovan knows the former McDonald's All-American has talent beyond the typical freshman.

Donovan knows the forward has the ball skills of a guard.

But what he does not know yet is how comfortable Walker will be with the team's plays and strategies, which Walker has had to learn in practice only. Donovan said Walker's playing time depends on how he adjusts.

"All those things that he

does in getting into the game is going to be predicated on him knowing what he is doing and what he can do in terms of coverage on the defensive end of the floor, what we're running on offense, post defense and those types of things," Donovan said. "He can be the best runner in the world, the best jumper in the world or the best rebounder in the world, but if he can't do the things inside a game plan of what we need to get done, then it becomes very difficult to play him."

Senior Patric Young said he knows how Walker feels finally being able to play for the Gators after much anticipation by fans. Like Walker, Young was also a highly touted big man with through-the-roof potential when he was a freshman in 2010.

And like Young, Walker is expected to bring energy to a packed O'Connell Center tonight.

"Just think about everything he's going through to get to this now, and it's finally here," Young said.

"It's probably a 15 on a scale of one to 10 of how excited he is right now."

Florida playing well despite poor offensive, defensive rebounding

W-HOOPS, from page 13

team has to be in possession of the ball in order to shoot them.

A more unforeseen improvement from last year has been the turnover margin.

Last season, Florida was hovering around an even ratio. This year, it's at +4.9 — good for fourth in the SEC.

"We like to play fast, so there's going to be turnovers," coach Amanda Butler said. "That's part of what we give up, wanting to play that style of basketball. I think some of it is our opponents and maybe facing some folks that it wasn't their objective to try and turn you over and create offense that way.

"A lot of that is attributed to the fact that whoever we have on the floor, we've got two point guards at all times, and that helps us take care of the basketball."

For a small team that is dead last in the SEC in both offensive and defensive rebounding percentage, as well as overall rebounding margin, the Gators find themselves in a spot where they have to get the most out of their diminutive stature.

If you cannot get the ball off the glass, take it before they shoot.

Florida is third in the SEC in both forced

turnovers and steals, which arguably compensates for the dearth of rebounding.

On Sunday, however, the Gators were even with the Rebels in the battle of the boards at 42 apiece.

"That's an area that's no surprise that we struggle with occasionally," Butler said. "Our goal is always just to neutralize that battle. We didn't do that very well in the first half. I was able to go into the locker room and challenge our team's toughness, and specifically some individuals that we needed more from, and they really responded."

The turnover margin again favored Florida on Sunday, opening the door for it to take more shots. Fortunately for Butler and her Gators, the shots were falling, as they have been during this current winning streak.

Before the streak, that was not the case.

Florida averaged 37.7 percent shooting from the field in its recent three-game skid, compared to 44.6 percent during its current three-game run.

The shots are falling again, but the game plan has remained the same.

"We have great shooters on this team that have just continued to work hard," Butler said. "We encourage all our kids to

take good shots. Sometimes, they're going to go in. Sometimes they're not, and when they don't, that doesn't mean you stop

shooting or start doubting whether you should shoot or not. You just keep shooting good shots."



Emily Cochrane / Alligator Staff

Carlie Needles defends against Alabama on Thursday during Florida's 75-67 win in the O'Connell Center. UF is fourth in the Southeastern Conference in turnover margin.

MEN'S GOLF

Gators struggle in first round of familiar in-state tournament

LAYNE WEITZEL

Alligator Writer @laynejweitzel

Describing head coach Buddy Alexander as unhappy with Florida's performance in the first day of its season-opening tournament would be an understatement.

"Really a disappointing day today," Alexander said in a release. "We have guys that are playing extremely well and just didn't do anything positive today."

The Gators shot a combined 304 (+16) Monday in the Sea Best Invitational in Ponte Vedra and are currently tied with Tennessee and Winthrop for fifth out of 16 teams.

In his first tournament as a Gator, sophomore transfer Richard Donegan led the way for Florida on Day 1, shooting 73 (+1). He is tied for ninth place after the first round.

"Richard played OK his first time out as a Gator," Alexander said. "He was decent, but the other four played



Alexander

pretty poorly." Santiago Gavino, Ryan Orr, J.D. Tomlinson and Victor Tarnstrom all shot over par, ranging from two to 10 strokes.

Alexander had been expecting

better results.

The Gators are accustomed to playing in Florida weather while

other participating teams, such as Liberty and USC Upstate, have been practicing in colder, less humid temperatures.

But both teams are currently ranked ahead of the Gators, leading them by 13 and two strokes, respectively.

Florida also has the advantage of playing — and winning — at Sea Best before. It won back-to-back invitational titles in 2011 and 2012.

The Gators have a lot of ground

to make up today to match those finishes. They are nowhere near the championship numbers they put up in years past and sit at 13 strokes behind leader Liberty.

The teams could not complete the scheduled 36 holes due to darkness, so UF will conclude the tournament with the remaining holes on today starting at 8 a.m.

"We have to find a way to improve and get this thing figured out," Alexander said.

Florida entering 2014 season with depth in pitching circle

► UF CARRYING FIVE PITCHERS.

JORDAN MCPHERSON

Alligator Writer @J_McPherson1126

Tim Walton's team has plenty of depth to start the 2014 season.

After losing only two players to graduation — outfielder Kelsey Horton and utility player Ensley Gammel — the No. 4 Gators will follow up their nation-leading 58-win season by returning 11 of 12 players who started at least 25 games in 2013 in addition to adding five players to the roster.

"We've got a great group of returning players with a lot of experience," Walton said. "Still a young team, but a lot of experience."

In addition to returning all three pitchers from last season — senior Hannah Rogers and juniors Lauren Haeger and Alyssa Bache — Florida has two new arms in the pitching circle.

Freshman Delanie Gourley, the first left-handed pitcher that Walton has coached in his nine-year tenure as Florida's head coach, is expected to make an immediate impact.

"Typically, the left-handed pitcher neutralizes the other team's best hitters," Walton said. "Most teams' best hitters, by batting averages and statistical standpoints, will be a left-handed batter. So that's really a nice neutralizer. She's somebody who features

multiple pitches ... so Delanie definitely adds a totally different perspective on the game of softball.

"Left-handed pitchers are really hard to come by, especially good ones, and she's one of the best we've ever had to recruit let alone coach."

Lindsey Spatola, a walk-on freshman, has looked good during practice but will probably not play much in the season, Walton said.

"As of right now, we don't anticipate her to get much game experience, but she's really been a nice part of our team," Walton said of the Jacksonville native. "She's here. She's working hard with us."

The rest of the newcomers, which include junior transfer Francesca Martinez and freshmen Justine McLean and Chelsea Herndon, have also impressed Walton in their short amount of time with the team.

McLean will start the season in center field and will probably bat towards the end of the order, Walton said.

Herndon, who started the fall playing in the infield, moved to the outfield once spring started.

"Chelsea Herndon has really made a lot of strides, probably one of the most improved players on the team," Walton said.

Despite the abilities they have shown in practice, Walton knows the freshmen still have room for improvement.

"The one thing they have to improve on is just being able to sustain, go a 7-inning game," Walton said. "They're going to have to sustain

a long day, sustain getting out, being humble, success. ... The season is long, and that's one of the things they won't be used to."



Ryan Jones / Alligator Staff

Tim Walton studies the field during Florida's 11-1 win against USF on May 18, 2013, at Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium. Walton's Gators have five pitchers on the roster.

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