

# TIP OFF

## INSIDE

► alligatorSports editor Adam Lichtenstein argues why UF fans should cherish this year's team. Read the story on page 3.

## ONLINE

► Stay updated on the first rounds of the NCAA Tournament with up-to-date coverage on [alligatorSports.org](http://alligatorSports.org).



**FLORIDA GATORS**

# RETURN OF THE MADNESS

THE NCAA PRESENTS A UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA PRODUCTION RETURN OF THE MADNESS  
STARRING SCOTTIE WILBEKIN CASEY PRATHER PATRIC YOUNG MICHAEL FRAZIER II WILL YEGUETE  
CO-STARRING DORIAN FINNEY-SMITH KASEY HILL DEVON WALKER CHRIS WALKER JACOB KURTZ  
PRODUCED BY RASHON BURNO, MATT MCCALL AND JOHN PELPHREY  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JEREMY FOLEY DIRECTED BY BILLY DONOVAN  
MARCH 20, 2014 AMWAY CENTER ORLANDO, FLA.

Will Muschamp and the Gators opened their spring practice schedule Wednesday afternoon. Read the story on page 15.



# Machen accused of dean-search racism, homophobia

## He said no candidates were right

**BEATRICE DUPUY**  
 Alligator Staff writer

[bdupuy@alligator.org](mailto:bdupuy@alligator.org)

An anonymous letter names homophobia and racism as factors in UF President Bernie Machen's controversial decision to end the search for a new Levin College of Law dean.

The letter was addressed to Machen, Provost Joe Glover, Director of Employee

Relations Kim Czaplewski, Gainesville Sun reporter Jeff Schweers and the Alligator. It states "the students and faculty are very upset about the continued perception of racism and homophobia at the College of Law."

Although the letter was unsigned, some faculty, staff and students have expressed similar sentiments.

In a private meeting for faculty and staff



Machen

on Tuesday, Machen addressed concerns about diversity in the dean search.

The finalists from the search were black University of Kentucky College of Law dean David Brennen, openly gay former U.S. ambassador David Huebner and Georgia State University College of Law professor Samuel Donaldson.

UF spokeswoman Janine Sikes said Machen responded to outside views that his de-

cision not to select any of the deans "might be seen as a racist or homophobic."

"He made his decision based on that he did not believe that the transformative leader was in the pool of candidates," she said.

For Matthew Christ, a 24-year-old second-year UF law student, the three candidates met Machen's qualifications for a transformative dean. Christ said Machen should have a meeting with students and explain his definition of "transformative."

"What is transformative if both of these

**SEE LAW, PAGE 4**

### CAMPUS

## Will Yeguete me a haircut? Prof rocks mohawk for Gators

**ERIN MEISENZAH-PEACE**  
 Alligator Contributing Writer

Dan Dickrell's students have watched their professor's hair grow and twist into new forms almost every semester.

Last Fall, he sported a commanding handlebar mustache. This basketball season, he ditched the whiskers in favor of a sky-high hair homage.

The 36-year-old engineering professor now sports a mohawk in honor of both the Gators' winning streak and one of his favorite players, Will Yeguete.

"The engineering life is not always the most fun," Dickrell said. "I try to break up the monotony as much as I can."

He said he plans to keep the hairstyle until the Gators lose.

"If you look around basketball, it's an emerging hairstyle," Dickrell said. "I thought it would be really funny to see how many of my students I could recruit to do this with me."

So far, none have.

"I laughed out loud," said Michael Hallenstein, a 20-year-old UF civil engineering sophomore, when he saw the mountain mane.

He said his static profes-

sor is known for doing things like this, and that it makes the class more fun without distracting him from learning. Dickrell agreed and said he often changes up his 'do. He called the mohawk "one or two steps above" the norm.

"Regardless of what people think, the mohawk is not caused by static electricity," Hallenstein joked.

Dickrell's two children will be sporting the gelled look as well this year. The 5- and 7-year-olds display the 'dos every summer, and this year, their dad will match.

"I'm keeping myself entertained at the same time," Dickrell said.

No. 15 Will Yeguete doesn't know the professor personally, but he doesn't mind the tribute.

"I think it's kinda cool," said Yeguete, a 21-year-old UF international studies senior. "It's something different."

He said some of his friends on the team have had the hairstyle in the past, but he's the only one that's kept it.

"My mom really likes it," he said.

With a 32-2 record and the

**SEE MOHAWK, PAGE 4**



Rachel Crosby / Alligator Staff

### Posing Dead

Hannah Gamache, a 21-year-old UF English junior, right, poses for a picture with UF digital arts and sciences sophomore Alex Pinchin, 20, Wednesday on Turlington Plaza to promote Gators Humans vs. Zombies.

## Startup's moving plans ruffle feathers

**▶ IT WAS FOUNDED BY UF STUDENTS.**

**RYAN BAUM**

Alligator Contributing Writer

A local startup is relocating to Austin after a big win at music and media conference South by Southwest, leaving the Gainesville startup community with mixed feelings.

Feathr, founded by Aidan Au-

gustin and Neal Ormsbee, during their time as UF engineering undergraduate students, beat about 300 startup companies from around the world to win Capital Factory's second annual "Move Your Startup to Austin" competition.

The company, which uses a smartphone app to maximize networking opportunities for conference attendees, walked away with more than \$200,000 worth of cash investment and other prizes, in-

cluding funds to cover relocation costs, Augustin said.

Feathr will be surrounded by Austin's top startups as part of Capital Factory's incubator, which provides a cooperative office space and shared resources for up-and-coming businesses.

For the founders, both 23, the award is validation for their hard work, but they're already looking ahead to the next step.

"It's an exciting milestone," Au-

**SEE STARTUP, PAGE 4**

### Today

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### March Madness brackets create buzz

Students are betting on them, pg 3.

### Teen breakup spurs shots fired near Littlewood Elementary

Facebook comments started it, pg 5.



### Startup crowdfunds on Indiegogo to aid other Gainesville startups

It's a business incubator, pg 5.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### GatorWell focus group

GatorWell Health Promotion Services is looking for UF students to participate in a one-hour confidential focus group about interpersonal violence issues on campus. Focus groups will run until today at the GatorWell location on Radio Road. Participants will receive \$20 UF Bookstore gift cards and free pizza. To participate, email GatorWellProjects@mail.ufl.edu. Use subject line "My Campus." Participants must be 18 years or older and enrolled UF students.

### Theatre Strike Force

Theatre Strike Force will be performing "A Night at the Improv" from 8 to 10 p.m. Friday at the Gator Wesley Center, 1380 W. University Ave. Come for a night of fun and laughs at this "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" style improv event. There will be a short workshop after the show. Parking is provided.

### Pazeni Sauti Africa Choir concert

UF's Pazeni Sauti Africa Choir will present a free concert at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Ave. The choir specializes in choral music from eastern, western and southern Africa, both sacred and secular, performed in an authentic manner. The name Pazeni Sauti means "raise your voice" in Swahili, the language of Kenya. The purpose of the choir is to showcase what African music is all about and share the inherent sense of multiculturalism that only the direct experience of musical performance can deliver.

## FORECAST

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY
				
<b>PARTLY CLOUDY</b> 77/52	<b>SUNNY</b> 78/57	<b>PARTLY CLOUDY</b> 78/57	<b>PARTLY CLOUDY</b> 80/57	<b>RAIN</b> 67/57

### Wage theft forum

"Wage Theft in Alachua County, Fair Wages for Farm Workers" will be the subject of a community forum led by Jeremiah Tattersall, Diana Moreno and Paul Ortiz at 7 p.m. Monday at Emmanuel Mennonite Church, 1236 NW 18th Ave. Tattersall and Moreno were lead organizers of the successful campaign to enact a Wage Recovery Ordinance in Alachua County. Ortiz will discuss historical and contemporary practices of wage theft in agricultural labor and measures that farm workers have taken to challenge that exploitation.

### Paynes Prairie Fire Fest

Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park will host Fire Fest on March 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be held at the park's visitor center in Micanopy. The event is free with park admission, which is \$4 per individual and \$6 per vehicle. Activities will include hands-on demos, a scavenger hunt and fire equipment demonstrations. Visitors will also receive a Fire Fest passport to be stamped as they explore various fire stations throughout the park and learn about the importance of prescribed fire to Florida's ecosystems.

### 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](http://alligator.org/calendar)



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# IT'S GREAT TO BE A FLORIDA GATOR

SOFTBALL

**FRIDAY, MAR 21 @ 6 PM**  
**VS. ALABAMA**

IT'S GREAT TO GO GREEN GAME  
GREEN T-SHIRT GIVEAWAY  
THE FIRST 250 FANS RECEIVE A GREEN FLORIDA SOFTBALL SHIRT!

RR ROWDY REPTILE CHECK-IN 5:30 PM - 7 PM **3 POINTS**

**SATURDAY, MAR 22 @ 1 PM**  
**VS. ALABAMA**

PENNANT GIVEAWAY  
THE FIRST 250 FANS RECEIVE A MOMEMORATIVE PENNANT OF THE 2009 WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES TEAM  
POST GAME AUTOGRAPHS

KATIE SEAHOLE PRESSLY STADIUM  
**FREE ADMISSION**

**SUNDAY, MAR 23 @ 1 PM**  
**VS. ALABAMA**

WCA Academy fabric and craft stores

MEN'S TENNIS

**FRIDAY, MAR 21 @ 5 PM**  
**VS. AUBURN**

BACKPACK GIVEAWAY  
THE FIRST 150 FANS IN ATTENDANCE WILL RECEIVE A FREE FLORIDA TENNIS BACKPACK!

RING TENNIS COMPLEX  
**FREE ADMISSION**

**SUNDAY, MAR 23 @ 1 PM**  
**VS. ALABAMA**

SODA GIVEAWAY  
THE FIRST 100 FANS IN ATTENDANCE WILL RECEIVE A VOUCHER FOR A FREE SODA THAT MUST BE REDEEMED BETWEEN SINGLES AND DOUBLES

WRISTBAND AND SWEATBAND GIVEAWAY  
THE FIRST 150 FANS IN ATTENDANCE WILL RECEIVE FREE FLORIDA WRISTBANDS AND SWEATBANDS!

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# Before Miami DUI arrest, Bieber told police his foot was broken

## Report: He was condescending to officer

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — Justin Bieber claimed after a shaky sobriety test in Florida that he was suffering from a hairline fracture in his right foot and made condescending comments to officers, according to a Miami Beach police document released Tuesday.

The police summary of Bieber's performance on various sobriety tests following his Jan. 23 arrest shows that the pop singer told officers he had injured his foot skateboarding three months earlier.

The officer had noted that Bieber appeared to sway and

have leg tremors during one of the tests and also winced as if in pain.

"He appeared to have great difficulty," the report noted, adding that the injury never was mentioned or noticed after that test.

Bieber, who has pleaded not guilty to driving under the influence and other charges, also told officers he was not drag racing in a rented Lamborghini along with R&B singer Khalil Amir Shariieff, who was driving a Ferrari when both were stopped.

Bieber, who turned 20 March 1, questioned why he was arrested in the first place.

The report describes Bieber as initially "agitated and condescending" and using frequent profanity when brought to the police station.

"He then got upset and said, 'I'm 19 years old. I'm just out having a good time,'" the report quoted him as saying. "What were you doing when you were 19?"

The officer replied that he was not driving around in a Lamborghini at that age.

"Yeah, well, I bet you didn't have millions of dollars in your bank account either," Bieber was quoted in reply.

The singer told officers that

black Cadillac Escalade SUVs following the two sports cars were carrying security personnel and that the group was trying to avoid celebrity photographers who were tailing them.

*"What? I've been driving Lamborghinis since I was 15."*

Justin Bieber  
pop star

The officer mentioned to another officer that it appeared Bieber and Shariieff were having difficulty driving the high-end cars.

Bieber was quoted as saying, "What? I've been driving Lamborghinis since I was 15."

Other topics of discussion, the report noted, included Bieber's

numerous tattoos and fishing for pike in his native Canada with his grandfather.

He also mentioned taking an anti-anxiety medication whenever he feels "closed in," according to the report.

Police drug tests found the presence of the active ingredient in marijuana and Xanax, an anti-anxiety drug.

Traces of alcohol were also detected with a breath test, but the level was below the 0.02 threshold considered intoxicated for drivers under age 21.

Bieber faces a May 5 trial date.

A Canadian judge recently scheduled a preliminary hearing for the case in which Bieber is accused of assaulting a limousine driver for April 14.

## Music course hits high note internationally

KAITLYN WILSON  
Alligator Contributing Writer

A new UF course on music history is uniting nations — at least online.

More than 31,000 people around the globe have enrolled in Music's Big Bang: The Genesis of Rock 'n' Roll, a new massive open online course on Coursera. But the class developer and instructor is in Gainesville — it's UF Center for Media Innovation and Research executive director David Carlson.

"My guess is that within a week, I'll have more students than the entire Student Body of Florida State," Carlson said.

He said about 70 percent of the students live outside of the U.S., in countries like Moldova, China, South Africa, Jamaica, Mexico and Spain.

The first person to post in the class was on a boat in New Zealand.

The class, which started March 13 and runs through mid-May, covers 60 years of music, starting in the early 1900s.

"It's more about what led up to rock 'n' roll," Carlson said, "than it is about rock 'n' roll itself."

He also said the university is adjusting the class to offer it as a four-credit course to UF students this Summer.

The fully online class is free and allows students to sign up

until the end of the course.

Instead of having two 60-minute lectures, they're broken down into 12 separate 10-minute downloadable videos to make them manageable. Carlson said a lot of the students have jobs and a family, which makes watching a 10-minute video more convenient.

Hiring teaching assistants to grade the course work was unrealistic, Carlson said, so exams will be computer graded. Students will grade each others' optional projects.

Jason Cain, a UF mass communications Ph.D. candidate who taught Rock 'n' Roll and American Society with Carlson, said he is excited to see UF getting into the MOOC market.

"The benefit is that you can get a lot of information to people quickly and efficiently," Cain said. "It also alleviates the tyranny of geography a bit and allows a person from really anywhere to participate in classes offered by UF."

Victoria Cappelli, a 20-year-old UF public relations junior, said she'd be hesitant to sign up for the Coursera class.

"I would be somewhat interested, but probably not enough to actually enroll in the class," said Cappelli, who's taking Rock 'n' Roll and American Society. "A lot of the things that I have even learned in this class are really easy to read about online."

### Some of the other MOOCs available on Coursera offered through UF:

- The Global Student's Introduction to U.S. Law
- The Horse Course: Introduction to Basic Care and Management
- The Meat We Eat
- Structure Standing Still: The Statics of Everyday Objects
- Global Sustainable Energy: Past, Present and Future



Yolandy Michel / Alligator

### Butt Out

Syraj Syed, a coordinator for education and training programs, provides resources about the dangers of smoking in the UF Health Shands Hospital atrium Wednesday.

## LIFESTYLE

# March Madness brackets create buzz

ALYSSA AGUERO

Alligator Contributing Writer

Gator fans want to follow in the footsteps of their basketball team — No. 1 in the country.

This year, UF students are filling out their March Madness brackets with a dash of school pride.

Andrew Selepak, director of the UF online master's program with a specialization in social media, said his students are looking forward to the tournament.

"My students are heavily involved in sports, and they're going to be really excited about the March Madness brackets ... and talking about their brackets," he said.

Filling out a bracket requires participants to choose the winner of each matchup, predict the

ultimate victor and call the final score.

Warren Buffet is upping the ante this year by offering \$1 billion to anyone who guesses the entire tournament's outcome correctly.

Selepak said \$1 billion is going to motivate a lot of people to participate, but predicting a perfect bracket is impossible.

"You can't predict some of the upsets that are going to happen or know when an injury might occur," he said.

Kevin Hull, a 35-year-old UF mass communication and journalism Ph.D. student, said he thinks everyone has filled out a bracket at some point, but having someone to

root for makes it more exciting.

"Obviously, students on campus here are going to root for the Gators," he said.

Corey Tober, a 22-year-old UF accounting graduate student, has been participating in tournaments for about five years, but this is his first year betting money.

"It makes the tournament more enjoyable to watch because you're affected in some way by the outcome of the game," he said.

Selepak said the Gators going undefeated in the Southeastern Conference has generated a lot of school pride this season.

"Most of the students at UF were not here the last time UF won a national championship in basketball," he said. "So for them, this is really exciting because they're not used to this."



Selepak

## LOCAL

# ATO brothers warn high school students of drinking dangers

**EMILY COCHRANE**

Alligator Staff Writer

ecochrane@alligator.org

Gainesville High School students got a lunchtime lecture from UF fraternity brothers Wednesday afternoon.

Members of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity spent the high school's two 30-minute lunch periods hosting an informational table session in the cafeteria to educate the students about alcohol and drug safety.

"A lot of students here are going to be stu-

dents coming to UF, so we figured what better place to talk about underage drinking with underage students?" said Christopher Kessler, a 22-year-old UF psychology senior who joined ATO as a sophomore.

Lina Aubrey, the high school's activities director, said this was the perfect venue for the fraternity members to present their information sessions.

"We can't make the kids' decisions for them," Aubrey said, "but we can inform them and help them."

*"We can't make the kids' decisions for them."*

**Lina Aubrey**

Gainesville High School activities director

Though only members of ATO were present, Kessler said that the fraternity hoped to make this an annual tradition, one where multiple fraternities and sororities participate.

"We're here representing just Greek life as a whole, we just want to give back," Kessler said.

The fraternity displayed a PowerPoint, poster and various handouts about the consequences of underage drinking and Florida laws that deal with it.

Kessler said Greek life's history of drinking did not diminish the value of their presentation.

"Yes, there's people that drink, but a lot of guys are of-age and do make responsible decisions," Kessler said. "People tend to focus on that one side of Greek life ... but we do a lot of service, and a lot of great things happen, too."

## UF law students can help solve Gators' #TaxProblems for free

► THE SERVICE RUNS UNTIL APRIL 15.

**CRISTINA ROBINSON**

Alligator Contributing Writer

Students feeling taxed about filing their returns can turn to UF for help.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, known as VITA, is offering free tax preparation on campus until April 15. The program is

funded by an Internal Revenue Service grant awarded to the United Way of North Central Florida.

"So many places pop up around tax season that offer predatory services," said Jennifer Stojkovic, the program's community impact manager. "If you do your taxes with us, it is completely free and completely safe."

All help is provided by student volunteers.

Joshua Giancarlo, a 27-year-

old third-year UF law student and a VITA site coordinator, said more than 50 law students are volunteering this year. The training required by the program helps volunteers do their own taxes.

"That's something that they'll know forever," he said.

Marilyn George, a 21-year-old UF accounting senior, said she thinks the program is helpful for students.

"People pay a lot of money to

file their taxes, but as students, we don't have money to pay for these services," she said.

The program is also available to international students. Levin College of Law, which has partnered with VITA since 2010, completed 197 international tax returns last year.

"International students get their returns and don't know where to go," Stojkovic said. "That's why we're here to help."

### Where to find VITA

- McCarty Hall B Room 3082: Mondays and Wednesdays
- Levin College of Law's Law Center: Tuesday through Thursday
- Both locations are open from 5 to 9 p.m. Students can walk in or make an appointment by calling 211
- Interested students should bring their social security card, government photo identification, income statements and last year's tax return

## He says he'll shave when/if Gators lose

**MOHAWK,**

from page 1

2014 SEC championship under their belt, the high hair might just be a good luck charm. And with the way the Gators have been playing, students ask Dickrell: What if they never

lose?

"Yeah, I kind of opened myself up for that one," Dickrell said, who clarified that he originally intended to keep the mohawk just until the end of the season.

He faltered.

"Well, I mean, I could still trim it, right?"



Erin Meisenzahl-Peace / Alligator

UF engineering professor Dan Dickrell teaches class Wednesday. The professor shaved his hair into a mohawk for basketball season in the style of player Will Yeguete.

## It moved early into Innovation Hub

**STARTUP**, from page 1

gustin said, "but we still have a lot of work to do."

Trevor Abbott, co-founder of local startup Spin Chill, said some Gainesville entrepreneurs view the startup's departure as disloyal to the community, which has supported Feathr since the idea took shape more than two years ago.

But he said others view the company's recent success as an opportunity for Gainesville to shine on a national stage and showcase the town's potential.

"When they do wildly well in Texas, they won't be seen as an Austin startup," said Abbott, a 21-year-old UF mechanical engineering senior. "They'll be seen as one of us."

Feathr was one of the first startups to set up shop in the Innovation Hub downtown, and Augustin said he attributes his company's success to Gainesville's startup community.

"There is nowhere in the U.S. that could've been better for us the past two years," he said.

Ian Mitchell, president of the UF Entrepreneurship Club and 20-year-old international business masters student, said Florida missed an opportunity to create jobs and strengthen its conference industry by not pushing harder to draw the company to Orlando, which was on Feathr's short list for potential future homes.

"It is a failure on the part of the state of Florida," he said. "There is no follow through to keep mature startups here once they start to hire employees and build revenue."

But David Whitney, entrepreneur in residence for the UF College of Engineering, said as a private company, this move only concerns Feathr's investors, stakeholders and customers — not the state.

"We see bright people arrive and brighter people leave, but that doesn't mean it's our loss," said Whitney, also a venture capitalist. "It's just the nature of a college town."

## Professor: Machen ignored diversity

**LAW**, from page 1

candidates transformed the institutions they've been involved with?" he said.

By not selecting a dean, Machen will have to temporarily place an interim dean once current dean Bob Jerry leaves his post in June.

Machen has proposed UF law professor George Dawson as interim dean.

Jeffrey Harrison, a UF law professor, said faculty members feel Machen did not consider diversity the defining factor in his decision-making.

"I just think he honestly believed these three candidates were not what we needed regardless of diversity," Harrison said.

After paying a Los Angeles

firm \$90,000 to narrow down applications to a pool of 24 candidates, three were left for Machen and the Provost to choose from.

*"We sent him a list of three candidates, and he chose to completely ignore us."*

**Pedro Malavet**  
UF law professor

Darren Hutchinson, a UF law professor, wrote in an email that Machen's decision to not select one of the more diverse candidates in the search will stunt the growth of the law school.

"President Machen gave up a perfect opportunity to move the University of Florida beyond its history of racism and homophobia," Hutchinson said. "Most of the highly regarded public law

schools have hired women or minority deans. Doing so signals openness and growth. Rejecting talented and overwhelmingly favorable candidates who could expand diversity signals stagnation and exclusion."

In the near future, another search will be held to find the new dean.

But with Machen soon to leave his position as president, law professor Pedro Malavet said he is hoping Machen does not stick around for the second search.

"We sent him a list of three candidates, and he chose to completely ignore us," he said. "He decided to not consider them at all, and in process of that rejection, he sent a message that we as an institution are not prepared for diversity."

## STATE

# Gators lobby Tallahassee to support tuition equality bill

**MATTHEW HOECK**

Alligator Contributing Writer

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida House continues to advance a bill offering in-state tuition to certain undocumented students, and some Gators are in Tallahassee hoping to watch it go all the way.

The bill, HB851, would allow students, including undocumented immigrants, to qualify for in-state tuition if they attend a Florida high school and enroll in college within

24 months of graduation.

On Wednesday, Republicans offered an amendment to create new restrictions on the bill, mandating that students seeking in-state tuition attend Florida high schools for four consecutive years instead of the originally suggested three years.

Rep. Jeanette Nuñez, who sponsored the amendment, said on the floor the change was necessary.

"This bill will ensure not one legal student of Florida is displaced by an undocumented student," Nuñez

*"This is just another restriction that waters down the bill."*

**Joselin Padron-Rasines**

UF student senator

said.

Many pro-immigrant organizations feel this new amendment places unfair requirements, including Gators for Tuition Equity.

"I agree with the representatives that spoke against the amendment

and stated, 'What difference is 12 months going to make?'" said Joselin Padron-Rasines, a UF student senator and a member of Gators for Tuition Equity. "This is just another restriction that waters down the bill."

The group will continue to put pressure on the Florida House and especially the Senate, where the bill is in committee, said the 19-year-old UF political science and international studies sophomore.

A rally is planned today on the

steps of the Old Florida Capitol, where elected officials, UF administration and students from across the state will urge all members of the Legislature to support a fair bill.

"Our message at the rally is to remind legislators why we are pushing this bill, which is to eliminate barriers to higher education and even the playing field for all Florida graduates," said Liana Guerra, a 21-year-old UF economics junior.

Final vote on the bill is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. today.

## Teen breakup spurs shots fired near elementary school

► **FACEBOOK COMMENTS STARTED IT.**

**JENNA LYONS and KATHRYN VARN**

Alligator Staff Writers

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Gainesville Police is investigating the reports of shots fired Tuesday night at a house across from Littlewood Elementary School.

No one was hurt, but GPD spokesman Officer Ben Tobias said officers in the zone are keeping an extra eye on the area.

"The school resource officer is very much aware of the incident," Tobias said.

Late Tuesday, two cars showed up across the street from a house located in the 3400 block of Northwest Eighth Avenue, Tobias wrote in an email.

Eight people got out of the cars and started yelling at each other. The argument stemmed from Facebook comments, Tobias said.

The mother who lives in the house sent her children inside. While on the phone with 911, the mother said she heard gunshots as the cars drove across her yard.

An officer later stopped one of the cars in the 3400 block of Northwest Sixth Street.

All the occupants in the car said they were

the ones shot at, Tobias said. Damage to a taillight looked like it could've been a bullet hole, but it is not certain if it was caused by a bullet.

*"The school resource officer is very much aware of the incident."*

**Ben Tobias**

GPD spokesman

Officers didn't find any shell casings, bullet holes or weapons at the scene or in the car.

At the house Tuesday evening, trash was scattered on the curb from overturned trash cans as a result of the shots. Latosha Fayson,

mother of the seven children who live with her in the house, stood outside wearing gray sweatpants, a hoodie and a beanie.

Fayson, 36, explained that her son, 17-year-old Iman Johnson, had recently ended a relationship with a girl who went to school with him at Gainesville High School.

Johnson said Wednesday he didn't believe the group was trying to kill anyone, but the shooting served as another threat on top of the ones he received at school and on social media. He's staying home from school for a few days, he said, but he plans to return soon.

"It's too much," Johnson said.

## Plans to restore section of Seven Mile Bridge in Keys

► **IT WAS BUILT MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO.**

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

MARATHON, Fla. — A portion of the historic Seven Mile Bridge, a Florida Keys icon, is to be saved for future generations after officials Wednesday approved a \$77 million restoration and maintenance program that is to continue for the next 30 years.

The Monroe County Commission approved the project to restore and maintain a 2.2-mile segment of the bridge between Marathon and tiny Pigeon Key. The agreement calls for the Florida Department of Transportation to pick up 75 percent of the bill, with 18 percent coming from the county and 7 percent from the City of Marathon.

Gus Pego, FDOT's District 6 secretary, said some \$30 million are to be spent during initial stages to shore up the existing structure. He said he hopes construction can begin in about two years.

The span was built more than a century ago when Henry Flagler constructed the Florida Keys OverSea Railroad.

In 1938 the bridge was converted for automobiles, and in 1982, the federal government built a new span. "Old 7" was retired and became a fishing pier and walking area, but the harsh marine environment has taken its toll.

"Almost every major component of the bridge needs to be repaired — the substructure, the superstructure and the hand railings — in order to make it safe for pedestrians," Pego said.

Today, Pigeon Key, the minuscule island beneath the old bridge that once housed about 400 workers who built Flagler's railroad, is a historical and education center. Visitors are transported there via a ferry because the old bridge has been deemed unsafe for motorized vehicles.

"Folks come from all over the world to see this iconic structure," said Monroe County Administrator Roman Gastesi. "It's utilized by more than 100,000 people every year for walking and biking.

"We think it's a good investment," he said.

## Startup crowdfunds to aid other startups

### It's a business incubator

**ERIN MEISENZAHL-PEACE**

Alligator Contributing Writer

It's a tragedy among startup companies: Some spend about three months delving full force into their products, emptying their pockets and exhausting their resources. Then, they collapse.

But Florida Tech Toybox Inc., an "incubator for startups," is trying to reverse that process by helping entrepreneurs create viable business plans and product prototypes for their ideas.

"We don't think any idea is

crazy," said business manager Jose Hernandez.

The nonprofit launched a crowdfunding campaign Wednesday to subsidize its setup at the Gainesville Technological Entrepreneurship Center's business incubator at 2153 SE Hawthorne Road. The \$15,000 goal will cover electrical fees and transport of 3-D printers, electron microscopes and other equipment.

"We want to make creativity the norm," said president and founder Mark Davidson, who came up with the idea while working as the asso-

ciate director of the Microfabritech research facility at UF. "If we can't do it, we'll find the person that can."

Clients can either pay a membership fee and use the facilities or contract the help of the staff and interns to prototype the idea.

Diane Daniels chose the second option. She contracted Toybox to develop a prototype based on her idea — one that she won't share for copyright reasons.

With Davidson's help, she said she envisions the product launching successfully within three years.

"Davidson has a mind that's very creative," she said.



Matthew Martyr / Alligator Staff

Mark Davidson, president of Florida Tech Toybox Inc., speaks with open-house attendees Wednesday. The event celebrated the company's launch and asked for financial backers in its Indiegogo campaign.

# Opinions

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2014  
WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG/OPINIONS

## Editorial

### Young love? Florida should ban under-16 marriages

Florida lawmaker made headlines Wednesday when she announced her plans to stop marriages in the state from going forward if both partners are younger than 16.

"Marriage is an adult responsibility," Stafford told the Florida House Civil Justice Subcommittee, according to the Sun-Sentinel. "We don't want [children] to vote, we don't want them to drink alcohol, they can't drive a car — and we allow them to marry under 16?"

The current laws regarding marriage of under-18 persons stipulate that minors can be married with parental permission if the couple is expecting or already has a child, both parents are dead or the minors have previously been married.

Stafford's proposal to ban marriages for children younger than 16, regardless of circumstances, passed unanimously in the House Civil Justice Committee on Tuesday without debate.

This piece of legislation is borne of necessity: In her testimony before the committee, Stafford said that in 2012, there was a 13-year-old groom in Florida. Last year, according to the Orlando Sentinel, "Florida recorded 110 marriages of children 16 and younger."

Child marriage is an international human-rights issue. In regions of Africa, South Asia and Latin America, the practice is driven by poverty: Parents see it as a way to secure the financial future of their daughters.

A different kind of pressure drives child marriage in the U.S.: societal pressure. That's why special circumstances are awarded to preadolescents who have mothered and fathered infants.

For these teens, however, matrimony isn't the answer.

In a time of serious hormonal and physical changes, marriage shouldn't be on the table. And even for teen parents, marriage isn't a solution to the problem of raising a baby while struggling with one's own identity, education and growth.

Preadolescence is a crucial period in the development of a child's brain. It's during this time, according to the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, that people begin developing their sense of executive function. "Executive function" describes our capacity to control and coordinate our thoughts and behavior, including selective attention and decision making.

Stafford's proposal, then, makes sense.

It's not a violation of the civil rights of minors, as some will surely argue. The issue of child marriage also goes beyond psychology: Consent comes into question.

The motive of Stafford's proposal was Sherry Johnson, whose 1972 case in Pinellas County gained national attention when she was raped and impregnated at 10 years old. When Sherry was 11, her mother granted permission for the girl to marry her 20-year-old rapist.

Examination of the context and motives of most child-marriage cases makes one thing clear: Legislation is needed to prevent minors from getting married, even under special circumstances. Stafford's proposal would be a huge, welcome step in preventing marriage for kids who aren't old enough to drive, vote or drink.

## Reader response

**Today's question:** Are you betting on a March Madness bracket?

**Wednesday's question:** Are you worried about Gainesville's Mystery Peeing Man? **33% YES**  
**67% NO**  
90 TOTAL VOTES

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

Julia Glum  
EDITOR

Kelcee Griffis  
Katherine Kallergis  
MANAGING EDITORS

Chloe Finch  
OPINIONS EDITOR

the independent florida  
**alligator**



Forget your makeup this morning? Fear not! Simply select a tone above, rub off the ink around the cheeks and eyes, and start raking in the hotties!

And remember that beauty isn't black or white, it's a weird greyish newsprint color.

Cooper

## Column

### Executions leave blood on Scott's hands

Executions are slowing around the country, but leave it to Florida to stand out in the worst way.

Our lovely governor, Rick Scott, has executed more people in a single term than any other modern governor of Florida, according to the Orlando Sentinel.

Since 1976, Florida has ranked fourth in the country for the number of executions. According to the Death Penalty Information Center, Florida is leading the way in 2014 with three government-sanctioned murders under its belt — more than any other state.

"It's a solemn duty to sign a death warrant," Scott told the Sentinel. "People go through the process, and I do my job. That's how it works."

Scott is so distraught about his "solemn duty" that he signed a bill into law last year making executions easier and faster. The Timely Justice Act is a unique bill that sets a 30-day deadline for the governor to sign a death warrant when an inmate's appeal is final. Once the warrant is signed, the execution happens within 180 days.

He's just doing his job. That's how it works.

Florida is no stranger to absurdity, and this is no different. While the Sunshine State puts more people to death than almost every other state, more people are exonerated from death row than in any other state.

That means there have been more innocent people found on death row than in any other state.

So, for a quick recap: Execution rates are falling around the country, but in Florida, they're increasing. Even though more people are exonerated from death row, we're speeding up how fast people can be executed.

Translation: There's less time for inmates to prove their innocence, making it easier for the state to kill them.

It's already easier to put someone to death in Florida. It's the only state that requires a simple jury majority to sentence someone to death. Every other state besides



**Justin Jones**  
opinions@alligator.org

Alabama requires a unanimous vote.

And it keeps getting worse. According to Slate, State Supreme Court Justice Raoul Cantero has seen "some of the worst lawyering" in death penalty cases.

One example is of Clemente Aguirre, an undocumented immigrant from Honduras who worked as a prep cook. He was accused of a brutal double murder after he discovered the bodies and didn't call police. Of course, he didn't call police because he feared deportation, but that was enough for a 7-5 vote from the jury sentencing him to death. His original lawyer didn't investigate much or ask for DNA testing. With a new confession being presented as evidence and a DNA test proving he wasn't the killer, he's waiting on a new ruling to absolve him.

The death penalty is wrong, plus it's applied inconsistently. There are wrongful convictions, and there are botched executions. It doesn't act as a deterrent to violent crime, either. The 2011 FBI Uniform Crime Report found the highest murder rate to be in the South, with more than 80 percent of executions taking place in the region.

There are still 32 states where capital punishment is legal, but some exercise the death penalty more than others. California and Florida combined accounted for half of all executions in 2013, according to the Sentinel.

Remember that come election time, the blood is on Scott's hands. He has done nothing to stop the Timely Justice Act. What he has done is execute more Floridians than any governor in recent history. But we can't blame him.

He's just doing his job. That's how it works.

Justin Jones is a UF journalism senior. His column appears on Thursdays.

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

## Guest column

# Citing their love of Putin, Crimeans vote for assimilation

**S**IMFEROPOL — The Autonomous Republic of Crimea might not remain so autonomous.

Sunday's preliminary votes showed that the people of Crimea want to assimilate and eventually become a part of the Russian Federation.

"I voted for joining Russia because of the economic, social and holistically political benefits," Dmitry Polachev said. "It has nothing to do with the night terrors I get of Russian soldiers invading my hometown, burning my house down, kidnapping my wife and wearing the corpses of my children as hats."

De facto prime minister of Crimea Sergey Aksyonov claims he counted all the votes by hand himself — twice — and is confident that no errors were made in the voting process.

Behind him, President Vladimir Putin sat smiling silently during the interview, and he cleared his throat on occasion.

At the sound of Putin's trachea self-ventilating, Aksyonov would whimper, tear up, perspire and then continue speaking with stuttered diction.

"The United Nations is taking serious measures against Russia's illegal and morally reprehensible military advances on neighboring countries," said United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. "We've already drafted multiple different resolutions all with threats emptier than the UN bank account and promises so false it'll make North Korea's propaganda look like the unalterable word of God."

After the interview, the Secretary-General went back to his office, where he kicked his feet onto his desk, watched Netflix, let his nails dry and gossiped with President Barack Obama about how they "can't believe Kim Jong Un claimed he created that haircut, because

**Zachary Lee**  
Speaking Out

the dude from A Flock of Seagulls totally invented it first."

Not everybody is critical of Putin, however.

Some constituents are actually very happy with his policies and practices.

"Czar Putin and I hang out on the weekends, play golf and stuff," a wild brown bear said, between wiping his blood-smeared mouth after eating a deer strangled by Putin himself. "He's a really cool guy. I'm ashamed to hear that people claim that he uses intimidation tactics and brute force as a way to occupy territory that's indisputably not his."

Meanwhile, in Sochi, the Fifth Olympic Ring finally opened up from the 2014 Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony.

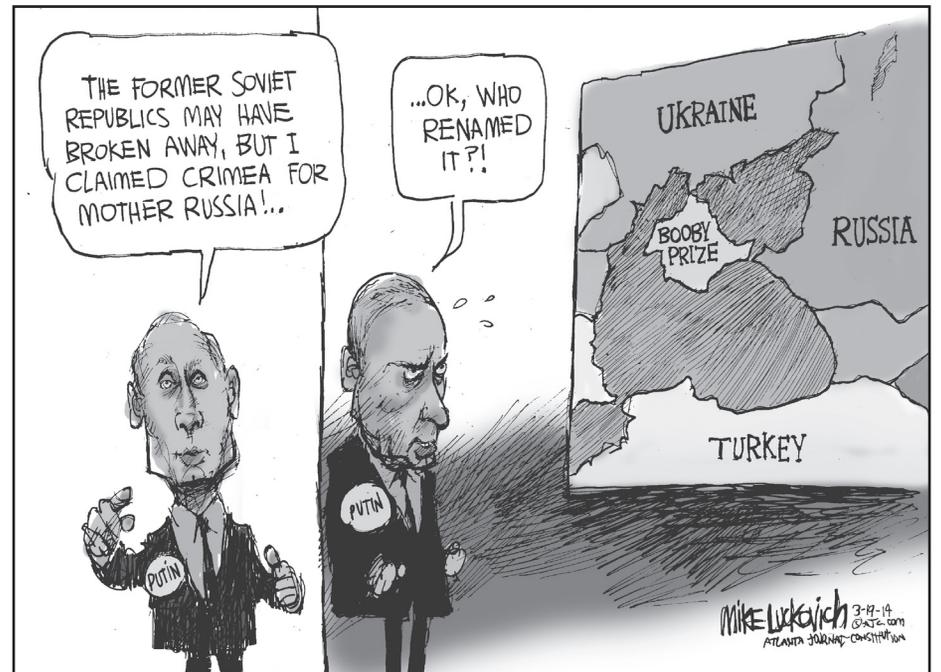
"I don't understand what's going on at all," Andrei, the Fifth Olympic Ring said. "I know I'm a bit late, but my boyfriend and I were out doing normal things that couples do when together in a perfectly consenting relationship and having no impact on literally anybody's way of life whatsoever."

Before the interview concluded, the Fifth Olympic Ring was suddenly arrested for "crimes against the state," and he was shipped off to the Gulag to be, according to Russian authorities, "cured by a complex medicine of demanding physical work and biweekly floggings."

Meanwhile, Tchaikovsky, a Russian nationalist, homosexual composer of famous works like "The Nutcracker," rolled in his grave.

Additionally, not too far from Tchaikovsky's grave, a homosexual Crimean deer wrote his Last Will and Testament.

*Zachary Lee is a satirist and UF philosophy freshman.*



## Column

## Media consumers need to listen, ask the right questions

**I**grew up in the shadows of a hundred churches.

OK, maybe not literally, but they say my hometown of Keystone Heights, Fla., used to hold the world record for most churches in a square mile.

At a young age, I was familiar with the term "the liberal media:" a radical group of people who couldn't get anything right. It sounded like all the newspapers were out to get the conservatives, and there was no way of redeeming the situation. The media was a lost cause.

But in college, I made an important distinction that began to define not only the way I see the media but also the way I deal with conflict and listen to others.

Opinions belong on the opinions page.

I realized the things that typically brand newspapers as "liberal" are columns or editorials in the opinions section. These one-sided pieces are sacred places where people can say whatever the heck they want. People are entitled to their opinions. You don't have to agree, but that's kind of the beauty of it. They still get to talk.

The opinions section is not to be confused with the news section, and that's where a lot of media consumers go amiss.

The news section is the sacred place where opinions are dropped at the threshold and we can discuss things from a nonjudgmental perspective as adults. We can let both sides talk and hear them out.

I'm not saying every news writer can check his or her biases at the door when writing a news story. Objectivity is the point — and the beauty — of journalism, even though a lot of reporters miss the mark.

With that said, be careful who and what you listen to. The voices you listen to will grow to define

you. They can make you bitter, paranoid and resentful, or they can make you better informed, wiser and well-rounded. It all depends on how you process what you hear.

My plea to you is to ask questions. Please, before you judge a mes-

sage, an article, a speech, a group, a person, ask these questions: Who is saying this? What is the source? Is he or she talking about a matter of fact or of opinion?

Before you close yourself off from someone whom you disagree with, please ask, "What insight can I take away from this?" Because even when you disagree with people, you can still learn something valuable from a discussion.

The liberals aren't bad, and the conservatives aren't evil.

They just have opinions and share them forcefully.

It's our job as media consumers to listen to what they say and to respond logically before we respond emotionally.

Every now and then when I visit my hometown, I'll run into an old family friend, and they'll ask how life in the newspaper business is going.

"Are you keeping the liberal media in check?" they'll more than likely ask.

When that happens, I just smile and I say, "I'm doing my job."

Because keeping the liberal media, or the conservative media or anything else in check isn't my job.

My job as a reporter is to ask the right questions about the people and information I'm presented with.

It's not much different than your job as a media consumer.

Be mindful of the voices you're listening to, and ask the right questions.

*Kelcee Griffis is a UF journalism senior and print managing editor of the Alligator.*

**Kelcee Griffis**  
opinions@alligator.org



## create

# Fine arts graduate students showcase thesis work in exhibit

**ANDREA SARCOS**

Avenue Writer

A tiny paintbrush. White gesso. Radiohead's live concert on tape.

These are the tools Rob Kolhouse used as he meticulously painted a 2-foot-tall ceramic cyborg in his studio.

Kolhouse is a 37-year-old third-year UF ceramics graduate student whose work is on display at the University Gallery off of Northwest 13th Street and Stadium Road.

The exhibit features works from Kolhouse and five other fine arts graduate students.

Evan Bryan, a 21-year-old chemical engineering senior, works as a clerical assistant at the University Gallery.

He said the MFA shows are always interesting to see.

"It's always a bit hectic because it's a high-stress situation for the artist usually," Bryan said. "It's always a lot of work, but it's always a great show."

For every thesis exhibit, the

graduate student is required to write an extensive thesis and present their work for review.

"My work is all about gender, cyborgs, anime, video games, cartoons and all of that pop culture stuff people seem to really dig right now," Kolhouse said.

Kolhouse said the hardest part about preparing for the show is building work that matches the thesis.

He said a lot of editing is important in the decision-making process.

Another third-year graduate student whose work is featured in the show is 27-year-old Orlando Estrada.

Estrada said he worked every day in his studio in preparation for the installation of the show.

"My work is about a broadening upon the field of queer theory, and it's realized through a study of metaphysics," said the photography student.

The gallery will showcase "MFA Thesis Exhibit I" through March 28.



Amber Riccinto / Avenue

Art created by UF graduate student Rob Kolhouse, 37, is on display in the University Gallery. His work, as well as other students', will be featured there through March 28.

## plastic

# Taters over haters: Potato Head helps girls transcend Barbie World

**SAMANTHA BLEND**

Avenue Writer

A feminized spud may empower more young girls than Barbie.

A study done by a pair of researchers at Oregon State University found that playing with Barbie dolls can affect how girls view their career possibilities. And even though Barbie's resume includes president, flight attendant and astronaut, Mrs. Potato Head might put her out of the job.

"I wasn't surprised, unfortunately," said Jasmine Esmailbegui, a 21-year-old UF criminology and psychology senior.

The study's researchers explained their findings in an article titled "Boys Can Be Anything: Effect of Barbie Play on Girls' Career Cognitions," in which 37 girls from 4 to 7 were randomly assigned a Doctor Barbie, Fashion Barbie or Mrs. Potato Head to

play with.

Each girl played with her assigned toy and was shown pictures of 10 workplaces after. They were asked if they could perform the job that was represented by the setting when they got older and if a boy could perform it when he got older.

Girls who played with Mrs. Potato Head thought they could have more of the jobs than the girls who played with either kind of Barbie.

However, the majority of the participants thought more of the jobs could be done by boys than girls, even if the job was female-dominated.

Esmailbegui, who is the director of Women's History Month for the Women's Student Association, said because the study's sample size was so small, she questions how reliable its findings were.

"But, to me, the results line up with common sense," she said.

Julie Coutu, a 20-year-old UF women's studies sophomore, said she agrees the sample sizes were small but said it makes sense the girls felt the way they did.

Coutu said although Doctor Barbie suggests girls can be doctors, she is "still a plastic doll that's upholding these unrealistic standards of beauty."

Mrs. Potato Head may be a feminized version of an inanimate object, but she said it doesn't put the same expectations on girls like Barbie does.

Laura Guyer, a senior lecturer in UF's women's studies department, said Barbie represents one way society communicates to young girls, and boys have equivalents — like G.I. Joe — that establish certain expectations for them as children.

Guyer said she isn't convinced dolls like Barbie or G.I. Joe are the only answer to the societal pressure put on children, but she said

she does think the study brings up questions worth looking into.

But Esmailbegui said while going through motions like applying makeup, she wonders where she got the idea she has to look a certain way. Plastic toys like Barbie dolls can have an impact, she said, and it can be negative.

Daniella Gennaro, a UF 19-year-old finance sophomore, said before college she never thought about how she had the possibility to hold positions like an electrical engineer or CEO.

"Women can break what we were taught as young girls," said Gennaro, who is a women's studies minor.

The study showed that even though there are several reasons for the low number of women in certain occupations, one may be the impact of gender roles placed on children.

"You're never going to be a grown-up potato, but you are go-

ing to be a grown-up woman," Coutu said. "And you have no pressure to be a potato, but you do have pressure to be a grown-up woman, and (Barbie) is telling you this is what a grown-up woman looks like."

### Barbie's standout career choices

- Pancake chef
- McDonald's cashier
- Swim instructor
- Baywatch lifeguard
- Dallas Cowboys cheerleader
- Police officer
- Journalist
- Cat burglar
- Miss America



Follow us on Twitter at @AlligatorAvenue.

**Murder mystery movie gives "Non-Stop" thrills**

Read our review on page 11.

**GatorAid: Love him or leave him**

Read our advice column on page 10.

## American

### **Mildreds and New Deal Cafe**

Mildreds: cooking demos at 6:30 on Wed nights. Chef bar dinners at 7pm on Sat nights, call us to reserve for these events or for graduation.  
New Deal: Kids night every Mon with \$1 kid meals. Enjoy 10% off our mildreds dinner menu every night when dining at New Deal and join us for happy hour 4 - 7pm.  
352-371-1711 or mildredsbigcity@aol.com

## Breakfast

### **The Bagel Bakery**

Come check out our independently owned restaurant located at 4113 NW 16 Blvd. next to Publix. Open for breakfast and lunch. NY bagels, fresh coffee, sandwiches, wraps, salads and more.  
Mon-Fri 6:30 am- 5pm  
Sat 7am-4pm  
Sun 8am-4pm.  
Buy one item get one free of equal or lesser value (maximum value \$5 with coupon)

### **Bagels & Noodles**

Serving breakfast and fresh bagels 6:30 am-3:00pm. Serving Vietnamese cuisine Pho noodle soup and more 11 am- 9pm.  
1222 W. University Ave.  
352-872-5789

## BBQ

### **Adam's Rib Co.**

Join us daily for breakfast, lunch or dinner! Open 7a-9p 7 days a week. Check out our menu @ adamsribco.com, or stop in to either location.  
1515 SW 13th ST. (south) or 2111 NW 13th ST. (north).  
Call ahead carry out 727-4005 south or 373-8882 north.

## Coffee

### **Maude's Classic Cafe**

A Gourmet coffee shoppe with a wide array of desserts and treats made daily. We also serve beer & wine. Bring your own CLEAN 12 oz. cup and get a daily brew for a buck. Indoor and outdoor seating available, free wireless and parking behind building. Now serving Gluten Free! Downtown Gainesville.  
336-9646

## Cuban

### **Mi Apa Latin Cafe**

Your destination for deliciously Cuban food in town. Open 7am-10pm seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Check out our website @ miapalatincafe.com for online ordering. 114 SW 34th St. across from Publix on University & 34th. Bring this promo for \$3 off any meal or sandwich (dine in only)

## Deli

### **Dave's New York Deli**

Open for breakfast, lunch & dinner. Serving real NY Carnegie Deli pastrami & corned beef, knishes, NY Bagels, authentic Philly Cheesesteaks, Angus Burgers, Cubans and more! Take a road trip to NY today at Dave's. Located at 12921 SW 1st road. Tioga town center, Jonesville, Fl. 352-333-0291 davesnydeli.com

## Frozen Treats

### **Karma Cream**

We serve the only 100% organic ice cream in town! We also have an impressive selection of organic vegan ice cream, baked goods, sandwiches, fair trade coffee, tea, organic beer and free WiFi.  
Mon-Fri 9am-1:30am  
Sat & Sun 12pm-1:30am

## Italian

### **Manuel's Vintage Room**

This family owned restaurant is perfect for dinner any day of the week. Come in and check out one of the best wine lists in town. Ask questions and learn while you wait for the chef to put out nothing but goodness from the kitchen using fresh, simple, and local ingredients. Ask about our Monday Wine Dinners and private parties for lunch or dinner. Open Tues-Sat 5pm-10pm, Sun 5pm-9pm.  
6 South Main St.  
(352) 375-7372

# THE GUIDE TO DINING OUT

## Jamaican

### **Caribbean Queen**

**The real taste of Jamaica**  
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## Organic

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# + GatorAid +

Leslie Cole is a 21-year-old UF telecommunication senior.  
Her column runs every Thursday. Need some advice?  
Send a question to letmegatoraidyou.tumblr.com.



**I've been hooking up with a guy for three months, and I can't tell if he wants to be something more. Should I bring it up? Is a conversation about us not even worth it?**

— Anonymous

Um, yes. You should absolutely ask him what y'all are. If you actually want to be with him outside of the sheets, you need to make sure he'd be into it as well. My guess though, honey, is if he wanted you the way you want him, he would've wifed you up a long time ago. There's no guy in the world with legitimate feelings for a girl who would ever be OK with another guy's hands on her. I'd say if you're starting to catch those god-awful things called feelings, get out now. Just like the oral sex between you two, these feelings will not be reciprocated. When he looks at you, he doesn't see someone he loves waking up next to. He sees someone he enjoys keeping up all night and kicking out in the morning. Face the facts. Either grow a bigger pair of gonads and continue to screw him for the easy release or move on to someone better, because talking to this guy is pretty pointless.



## tunes

# Foster the People's second album falls short of super

**CODY SMITH**  
Avenue Writer

"Supermodel," Foster the People's sophomore album, dabbles in experimental instrumentality and philosophical lyricism.

Departing from the mainstream appeal of the previous record, the latest album succeeds in diversifying the band's sound but fails in creating a memorable work.

The casual listener may find less to enjoy in Foster the People's second outing. Although some tracks come close to matching the catchiness of songs like "Pumped Up Kicks," Mark Foster's writing takes a more experimental turn on this record.

Hooks and verses disappear in favor of often meandering musings. "Ask Yourself" urges the listener to consider their happiness without offering a deeper meaning.

The band's sound also pursues experimental instrumentals, composed of ambient electronic beats and shoegazing

guitar work. The new direction complements the overarching themes found in Foster's often cynical lyrics.

However, like the songwriting, the instruments tend to digress. Drums and some guitar work sound muted when juxtaposed with Foster's dominating voice.

The songs "Coming of Age" and "Best Friend" stand above the rest for balancing the band's new direction with its proclivity for composing catchy tracks.

"Coming of Age" ponders the implications of emotional maturation with an invigorating chorus. "Best Friend" takes a page from disco classics as it contrasts a funky beat with a darker subtext about helping friends with drug abuse.

"Supermodel" ends up falling under the weight of its own philosophizing. The experimentation fails to register and the band's strengths get lost in the process. At most, the album epitomizes a sophomore slump with a few stand-out tracks.



# Pharrell debuts 'Girl,' brings innovation to the pop genre

**CODY SMITH**  
Avenue Writer

Following a colossal 2013, Pharrell Williams continues his pop music dominance with his new album, "Girl."

The album finds the singer/producer toning down his often explicit lyricism and refining his signature style.

"Girl" marks a decidedly lighter direction for Pharrell. Although many of the songs include innuendos (Pharrell and Miley Cyrus sing, "You wanna ride it, my motorcycle" in "Come Get It Bae"), the majority of the lyric content suits the radio and makes for great easy listening.

Lead single "Happy" dominated the Billboard charts, and for good reason, with Pharrell urging everyone to clap their hands in a saccharine yet catchy anthem.

The album stands apart from other pop contemporaries for its rich production. Many songs include slick guitar licks, crisp synths and popping drum

beats. The numerous features also complement Pharrell perfectly, with Justin Timberlake-assisted "Brand New" and Daft Punk-backed "Gust of Wind" representing noteworthy stand-outs.

Although the album never reaches the often groundbreaking vision of The Neptunes or N.E.R.D, it stands above almost every pop record of the last

few years. Pharrell demonstrates a penchant for not only composing delightful sing-alongs, but also innovating in an often dull genre. "Girl" could have easily devolved into vapid songwriting, but Pharrell writes cheery, creative lyrics to perfectly complement the album's pop sensibilities.

"Girl" shows how pop records can still appeal to everyone without senseless pandering. The songwriting and production elevate the album to an admittedly rare level, one which appeals both to the radio and the music junkie.



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Each Thursday, the Avenue will dish out the best in entertainment. From the silver screen to hidden Internet gems, check out this week's top picks.

## Fresh Picked

### See It: "Mr. Peabody & Sherman"

We're not sure if anything can beat the adorable talking snowman from "Frozen," but a genius talking dog might come close. Mr. Peabody, an accomplished pooch, uses his time machine to travel with his pal, Sherman. But when Sherman takes the time machine out for a joyride to impress a girl (chicks dig hot rides) he accidentally rips a hole in the universe. If you don't dig the movie, at least "Frozen" came out on DVD on Tuesday.

### Hear It: Overholt

If you're a fan of Wilco, give Overholt's "Goner" a listen. Iron and Wine meets My Morning Jacket on his debut LP, which showcases a soothing, contemporary vibe. Download the four available pre-release tracks from "Goner" on noisetrade.com. Oh, and it's free. He's asking for a \$1 tip, but I think we can manage that.

### Watch It: 100th episode of "Glee"

Sure, the TV musical comedy might have lost some momentum over the past few seasons (OK, does anyone even watch this anymore?), but for the original fans out there, the 100th episode should bring back some familiar faces. We can't keep up with the cast of new characters and high school drama, but it will be nice to see Queen Bee Quinn Fabray back in McKinley High halls.

### Click It: First Kiss

This short video of strangers kissing has taken over the Internet. It's cute and awkward and somehow really interesting to watch. It's almost like watching a trainwreck of a blind date go down from across the room. If you've already seen the original clip, we recommend viewing some parodies, especially Jimmy Fallon's "First Lick."

Alexa Volland / Avenue

## Fashion show raises funds for freedom

EDWIN EXAUS

Avenue Writer

The second annual Fashion for Freedom show, hosted at Ingenu Avenue, brought out Gainesville's most fashionable to raise money for Project Rescue.

More than 40 fashion lovers and supporters participated in Saturday night's charity fashion show to raise \$400 for Project Rescue, which aids and restores victims of sexual slavery through Christ-centered ministry.

With more than 37 years of service, Project Rescue has helped more than 24,000 women and children.

Carla Coultas, the event coordinator, worked to bring awareness to Project Rescue while debuting a new collection.

"I have been working on the show in general for three months, and there were eight new pieces that went down

the runway," Coultas said.

She presented a women's line of vibrant dresses that were well-received by the audience.

A stunning blue ombré ankle-length sundress took center stage of the runway and flowed effortlessly. A handcrafted periwinkle gem necklace set off the dress. The neckpiece, which was purposely placed on the model backwards, lengthen the model's neck while showing the detail on the back of the dress.

"Carla is an extraordinary talent, and I don't see problems for her becoming huge in the industry," says Raven Rose, an attendee at the fashion show.

The event also featured a children's clothing designer, Lily Tallerico, and jewelry designer, Bobby Fox.

Coultas' collection can be seen on facebook.com/CarlaVioletCoultas. Her pieces will be auctioned off starting at \$200, and all of the proceeds will go to Project Rescue.

## Plane murder mystery thrills, entertains

JACKSON HART

Avenue Writer

"Non-Stop," a plane murder mystery starring stalwart action hero Liam Neeson, delivers all that is expected from a modern-day thriller. Is it tense? Unbelievably so. Is it entertaining? Yes. Is it smart? Not so much.

The premise is promising enough — an anonymous assassin will kill someone on this trans-Atlantic flight every 20 minutes unless they are given \$150 million. Where the movie falls apart is its flat script, uneven pacing and several huge plot holes that kept this viewer dissatisfied as the credits rolled.

The film starts out with us being introduced to Neeson's character, Flight Marshal Bill Marks, as he guzzles alcohol before a flight. It is apparent that Marks is haunted by demons of his past, and we expect to see those manifest later in the movie.

Marks isn't a fleshed-out character, and some sloppy late-movie attempts at making him one fall flat. Perhaps Marks' only sympathetically human moment comes early on when speaking of his daughter to a fellow passenger. The rest of his time seems to be spent roughing up random passengers and waving a gun around while stalking down the aisles.

If Marks was a better character — and Neeson less plastic in the role — the audience might be persuaded to overlook some of the film's more glaring flaws and plot holes. This, sadly, isn't the case and is the real reason why the movie

doesn't work.

As long as you can suspend your expectations of quality characters and a plausible plot, however, "Non-Stop" is actually quite a good escapist film. The supporting cast members — most of whom seem overqualified for a movie like this — deliver excellent performances, including a very strong turn from Michelle Dockery (who plays Lady Mary Crawley on "Downton Abbey").

It was fun to see familiar faces in the crowded plane. Look — there's

Corey Stoll (Peter Russo from "House of Cards"), four-time Oscar nominee Julianne Moore and Scoot McNairy from "Argo." You'll even catch a glimpse of recent Oscar winner Lupita Nyong'o, though blink and you'll miss her.

Walking out of the theater, I thought "Non-Stop" had completely met my expectations — no more and no less. The film was thrilling and entertaining with several strong performances, and for the average moviegoer that will be enough. I give it 2 out of 5 stars.



AP Photo

This image, released by Universal Pictures, shows Julianne Moore in a scene from the mystery thriller "Non-Stop."

## Waiting for it: 'How I Met Your Mother' full of unanswered questions

Ed. note: Spoilers ahead.

SARAH LOFTUS

Avenue Writer

With only three new episodes of "How I Met Your Mother" left, you've probably seen Barney drunkenly hit on someone for the last time. The odds of you seeing Ted go on a bad date again are slim. You're probably not going to see one of Barney's hookups curse him out again.

We'll get to see Barney and Robin's wedding, Ted and The Mother's first conversation and a final scene creators Carter Bays and Craig Thomas wrote and filmed in 2006.

And aside from finding out if the

rumors surrounding the possible death of Ted's wife are true, there are so many oh-so-glorious, downright adorable things to look forward to in the final three episodes.

### Ring bear vs. ring bearer:

We can look forward to the "ring bear," as Barney calls him. No, not the ring bearer. The ring bear, which is very possibly a giant, growling, brown bear.

Barney tells Robin he's not, and yet, we've already seen a bear being pulled on chain by a big, hulking dude.

### What's the fake-out?

It might be Barney telling Robin the "ring bear" is an adorable little boy.

Here's why: Right before Ted meets The Mother at the train station, a woman tells him he looks like he's coming from a wedding.

Ted says he doesn't want to talk about it and then launches into a story. The story immediately gets cut off, but we know something happened, and it could be a literal giant bear showing up.

### Puking and proposals:

Another thing to look forward to? A possibly hilarious/kind of gross scene in which Ted throws up, and then The Mother does.

### Stay with me.

Right before Ted proposes in the episode "The Lighthouse," he asks, "Why couldn't it have been you

here with me two years ago?"

The Mother responds, "That's probably for the best. When you vomit, I vomit. You know that."

I'm weirdly hoping we get a scene explaining this. And although it was just a brief conversation, nothing in "How I Met Your Mother" is ever unintentional. So maybe we will.

### Baby Barney:

Next thing to look forward to: Barney and Robin having a child? We already know Robin can't conceive, but they could adopt.

In fact, a recent episode made fans think they did have a baby for a quick second.

Robin and Barney were in Buenos Aires in 2016, passed out drunk on the floor when they hear a baby cry. Robin picks up the baby and soothes her until she asks, "Whose baby is this?" A woman walks in and tells them their room is across the hall. What does it mean? I say they don't have their own child at this time, but this is the moment that makes them want to.

For all the super fans, the last three episodes of the series should hopefully tie up the rest of the loose ends and leave us satisfied.

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E <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	K <sub>5</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	W <sub>4</sub>	Triple Word Score RACK 3
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## Florida opens spring practice after disappointing '13 season

**MORGAN MORIARTY**

Alligator Writer @Morgan\_Moriarty

It may be a little more than five months until college football season begins, but with March comes a chance for fans to get a glimpse of what their team will look like in the fall.

Spring football for the Gators kicked off Wednesday afternoon in front of a large crowd at the Sanders Practice Fields.

*"The execution on both sides really fell off. The communication really fell off."*

**Will Muschamp**  
UF coach

The 2014 Gators are putting last year's 4-8 season behind them. That starts with switching things up offensively under new offensive coordinator Kurt Roper.

"Very fundamental in his approach," coach Will Muschamp said.

"Certainly philosophically being on the same page with me and what we want to do, and that's balanced. We're not going to get away from running the football. Different ways to run the foot-

ball, but I think just a really good teacher and more than anything just a positive guy."

The tempo of the new offensive scheme is significantly

quicker than systems Florida has had under Muschamp, and the players noticed the difference in speed immediately.

Muschamp said the fast pace

had some players burnt out by the end of practice Wednesday afternoon.

"You can see some fatigue at the end of practice when we had

that move-the-ball period when we moved the ball down the field," Muschamp said. "The execution on both sides really fell off. The communication really fell off. The focus. There were more busted assignments. That's what happens when you get tired. Fatigue makes cowards of us all."

This is the third new offense installed during Muschamp's four years in Gainesville. He said getting the system implemented is the highest priority this spring.

"We'll sit down and make sure we're giving our players enough to be successful," Muschamp said. "But we aren't putting too much on their plate where we're creating struggles within what we're trying to do."

Running backs Mack Brown and Kelvin Taylor will carry the load for the running game this spring. Junior Matt Jones, who suffered a torn meniscus last season, will be cleared after spring ball on May 1, and early enrollee Brandon Powell will be out for most of spring with a foot injury he had been dealing with in high school. Muschamp is confident with the backs fitting into the

**SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 16**



William A. England / Alligator Staff

Will Muschamp instructs Jabari Gorman during Florida's first open practice on Wednesday afternoon at Sanders Practice Fields. Florida will have eight more open practices this spring.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## UF looks for NCAA redemption

**GORDON STREISAND**

Alligator Writer @GordonStreisand

A momentary sense of relief washed over the Gators on Monday night.

With the tournament brackets released on ESPN, 11-seed Florida is set to take on No. 6 seed Dayton in University Park on Sunday afternoon.

"As soon as we heard it, the whole room erupted," senior Jaterra Bonds said. "We were all yelling. It was a sense of joy and happiness for all the hard work we put in."

"It's been a battle, especially with all we've been through, and our limited numbers. To be in the top five in the best conference in the league and to make it back to the Big Dance for my second time is just a joyful feeling."

Now with a set opponent, the Gators are getting back to business.

The NCAA Tournament offers a fresh start for every team, deeming the past season's wins and losses meaningless.

"This time, the upperclassmen and the seniors step up and show and teach the younger kids what it takes and what it means, and how other teams are going to be pumped," Bonds said.

"It's basically a brand new season. Whatever you did in your conference tournament and non-conference really doesn't matter right now. It's a

whole new mindset that teams bring in because it's do or die, literally."

Bonds and fellow senior Lily Svete are the only two members of the team who played during Florida's tournament run in 2012.

Both will be leaned heavily upon by the rest of the team simply because of their prior experience.



Bonds

"It gives you another level of experience because you know how it's going to feel, the expectations," Bonds said. "There's going to be millions of people watching on TV, so it's just another chance to show the world how great our conference is and how good our team is."

Having been exposed to that type of environment is important. Luckily for Florida, it plays in the Southeastern Conference, the toughest conference in the country.

Two No. 1 seeds in the tournament are from the SEC — Tennessee and South Carolina.

"I think the SEC teams have the biggest advantage from top to bottom," redshirt junior Kayla Lewis said.

**SEE W-HOOPS, PAGE 16**

## Gators aim to repeat as SEC Champions

**UF WON TITLE LAST TWO SEASONS.**

**ERICA A. HERNANDEZ**

Alligator Writer @EricaAlyssa

The Gators are poised and ready for three in a row.

Florida travels to Alabama today with the hope of returning as 2014 Southeastern Conference champions.

"That would be incredible; that'd be amazing," coach Rhonda Faehn said. "But definitely our focus is not on the end result. It's going to be on going out there, having another positive podium training, getting used to the equipment and carrying that into the competition day."

The Gators will face three of the

nation's top-10 teams (No. 2 LSU, No. 4 Alabama and No. 6 Georgia) in the eight-team tournament on Saturday, including the only team that defeated them in the regular season: the Crimson Tide.

No. 1 seed Florida has the advantage of competing in the second of two rounds. The top seed also earns them the advantage of competing the four events in the order it compete them at a home meet: vault, uneven bars, balance beam and finally floor.

Though the time and order will be the same, the equipment will see a change. For the first podium meet of the year, Florida will travel to the meet site a day earlier to get acclimated to the change of equipment.

**SEE GYM, PAGE 16**



Gregg Troy and the UF swimming team compete at nationals today. Read the story online at [alligatorSports.org](http://alligatorSports.org).



### Quotable

*"He needs to eat more."*

**Will Muschamp**

UF coach on DL Alex McCalister's cramps during practice

### NCAA Tournament live coverage

Follow basketball writers Jonathan Czupryn and Landon Watnick on Twitter for live updates from Orlando at @jczupryn and @landonwatnick, respectively.



Emily Cochrane / Alligator Staff

Jaterra Bonds looks to pass the ball during Florida's 81-76 loss against Missouri on Feb. 20 in the O'Connell Center. UF will start the NCAA Tournament against Dayton on Sunday.

## Butler knows Dayton coach from when she coached at Charlotte

### W-HOOPS, from page 15

"It was almost even, anybody could have beat anybody. All eight of the teams going in are battle tested, have losses and have wins against each other.

"I think we'll all be confident going in, especially if we don't have to play each other again."

In general, tournament games tend to be closer matchups than regular-season games simply because the stakes are so high.

Bonds and her fellow teammates are expecting an intense atmosphere come Sunday.

"You're not going to see games where people get blown out," she said. "You may not even see games with people winning by 10. There's going to be games people will win by three, or even one point.

"It's so much emotion. You don't know what each team is carrying on their shoulders, the motivation that they have. You can't take anything for granted, not one possession, not anything."

Although film study has just begun, coach

Amanda Butler has some experience against Dayton from her coaching days at Charlotte.

"I had a chance to coach against Jim Jabir's teams then, and he does an amazing job — really, really good coach," Butler said. "He's a guy who recruits players away from people and is always in the top of the league and a postseason contender."

With the season on the line, Butler will be doing everything in her power to ensure her Gators beat the Flyers on Sunday.

*"I had a chance to coach against Jim Jabir's teams then, and he does an amazing job — really, really good coach."*

**Amanda Butler**  
UF coach

"It's going to be a tough matchup," she said. "You have to hit the fast-forward button in terms of your preparation from a coach's standpoint. Even though you have some time to prepare, this time of year more than any time, what you do well has got to be more important than what your opponent does."

## Roper looking to involve tight ends in new offense

### FOOTBALL, from page 15

scheme.

"They are power guys, and they may elude the tackler a different way than making a move, but I feel like all the situations created in one-on-one matchups, you got to win those one-on-ones." Muschamp said.

Roper utilized his tight ends — a much-maligned group last year — in his first practice. He lined them up outside several times.

But at this point in spring, Muschamp made it clear to not get too caught up on where personnel are placed.

"You're really just kind of trying to teach the offense," Muschamp said.

*"[Jones and Powell] are power guys, and they may elude the tackler a different way than making a move, but I feel like all the situations created in one-on-one matchups, you got to win those one-on-ones."*

**Will Muschamp**  
UF coach

"Then as we move through it, then we will start narrowing down positionally of what we're trying to do with certain guys at certain positions and what fits them best."

**Notes:** Defensive back Nick Washington had solid corner coverage while taking reps with the second team, including a pick off of No. 2 quarterback Skyler Mornhinweg. ... Kelvin Taylor and Mack Brown both made talented cuts behind the line of scrimmage and hit holes well Wednesday. ... Wide receiver Quinton Dunbar made catches while matching up against sophomore corner Vernon Hargreaves III and early enrollee Jalen Tabor. Tabor played mostly second-team corner but took some first-team reps with Hargreaves. ... Jay-nard Bostwick took the majority of first-team reps at defensive tackle. Bryan Cox Jr. and Joey Ivie took reps for first-team defensive end.

## Spicer wearing boot as injury precaution

### GYM, from page 15

Faehn said the equipment is slightly different in every event. Because of the elevation, the beam has more of a

bounce than normal — as does the floor and vault.

"That's why we practice really holding our finishes and not jumping right to the next movement," Faehn said. "So there's all these little adjustments

that thankfully our athletes have had experience on it, so they know how to make the quick adjustments once we get there."

Sophomore Bridget Sloan said she prefers competing on podium because most pre-collegiate gymnastics used the elevated equipment.

"Podium just gives you that little extra bounce," Sloan said. "The floor is bouncier, the bars are bouncier, the beam is a little bit shaky sometimes, but the vault is bigger.

"Everything is just bigger and you kind of have to really think about controlling yourself."

Junior Rachel Spicer, who, like Sloan, has the experience of competing at an SEC Tournament, said the boot she was seen wearing after UF's final meet of the regular season is a precautionary measure for an injury she sustained at the start of the season.

"It happened at the first meet; I did something to my Achilles on vault just maybe landing short," Spicer said. "It just keeps the stress off my Achilles all day, and then I come in the gym do my thing and just put it back on.

"It's kind of like whatever it takes because, you know, I've worked so hard and as long as I know I'm not going to be damaged anymore or anything I'm totally willing to tape it up and do anything for the team."

Florida's trip to Alabama is not the first and won't be the last of the season. The Gators will return to the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex for the NCAA Championship meet April 18-20.

"They're already going to step into the arena in the NCAA Championship with knowing exactly the visuals, where they're going to start, which why they're going to do their series, which way they're going to tumble," Faehn said.

"All of those things that the other teams will be figuring out that first day, it'll be just like a warm-up for us."



Rachel Crosby / Alligator Staff

Rachel Spicer performs a floor routine during Florida's 197.525-196.025 win against Arkansas on Feb. 14 in the O'Connell Center.

# Road to the Final Four

Cover illustration Landon Watnick and Jordan McPherson  
Alligator, Thursday, March 20, 2014

## A New Hope

**JONATHAN CZUPRYN**  
Alligator Staff Writer

@jczupryn

Today, No. 1 seed Florida will begin what Joakim Noah once called the "purest form of sports:" the NCAA Tournament.

But this year's Gators squad (32-2) — which will face No. 16 seed Albany Great Danes (19-14) at 4:10 p.m. in Orlando — has heard enough of Noah. They've heard enough of Al Horford, Corey Brewer and Lee Humphrey, too.

After every win, after every record broken and after every rise in the rankings, the Gators have been bombarded with comparisons to the 2007 national championship squad.

News flash: This is a different team.

For the first time in the program's 95 years, Florida has a 26-game win streak and counting. For the first time in the Southeastern Conference's 82-year history, a school emerged unscathed from an 18-game league schedule — or 21, if you count the conference tournament.

And no matter what this year's group does over the next three weeks, the banners hanging from the O'Connell Center rafters will still be there. No matter how many comparisons you make, the facts are that those are artifacts from the past, and it's impossible to determine the Gators' future from their history.

Not only is coach Billy Donovan not worried about his past team's accomplishments, but he also isn't even concerned with what Florida has done during the regular season.

"Now that the seeding is set, the only thing that matters is playing well and putting yourself in a position to win and advance," Donovan said. "We're excited for another opportunity to play but the No.

1 seed, the overall seed, whatever it is, is great. But that's probably a reflection of what's happened from November all the way to here in March."

Although a No. 16 seed has not upset a No. 1 seed since the NCAA Tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985, the Gators aren't taking anything for granted when they face off against the Great Danes.

*"As far as what happened those last three years, I don't know and to be honest I don't really care because we're not thinking about that."*

**Scottie Wilbekin**  
UF point guard

In its 71-64 win over Mount St. Mary's in the play-in game Tuesday night, Albany knocked down 27 of its 47 shots, with only two of those made field goals coming from beyond the three-point arc.

The Great Danes jumped out to a 21-2 lead over the Mountaineers on 9-of-14 shooting. However, Albany then made just 1 of 6 field goals immediately following its run to allow Mount St. Mary's to go on a 24-4 stretch of its own.

Scottie Wilbekin said once teams enter a one-and-done scenario like the NCAA Tournament, all it takes is 40 minutes of good basketball to force an upset.

"Coach D really does a good job of reminding us that no matter what the rankings are, every year there's upsets and so it really doesn't matter once the ball goes up," the senior point guard said. "Anything can happen. Anybody can beat anybody, so we've got to be on our toes no matter what."

Casey Prather took his teammate's answer one step further when talking about

Albany's chances at taking down No. 1 seed Florida.

"They definitely can beat us," Prather said.

"They're a good team."

Despite what the players say, the Gators are 21.5-point favorites to advance to the Round of 32 where they would face the winner of Colorado-Pittsburgh on Saturday.

If Florida were to continue its run in the South Region, it would have an opportunity for a rematch against Kansas in the Elite Eight. When the Jayhawks visited the O'Connell Center on Dec. 10, the Gators were coming off a buzzer-beater loss to UConn but rebounded strong with a 67-61 victory, which kicked off their 26-game win streak.

The Elite Eight has meant the end of the road for Florida the past three years. Overcoming the obstacle would result in Donovan's first Final Four appearance since 2007.

However, just as Donovan isn't looking backward or forward for answers, neither are his seniors.

"As far as what happened those last three years, I don't know and to be honest I don't really care because we're not thinking about that," Wilbekin said.

"Nobody on our team or on the coaching staff is thinking about the last couple of years. It might be cliché, but all we think about is the next game."

But, as Donovan said, all good teams have attributes in common with one another no matter how many years separate their success. So, naturally, comparisons will be made with the 2007 team that captivated the country.

And even that squad wasn't able to avoid the discussions of living up to the previous year's standard and the pressure of repeating as national champions.

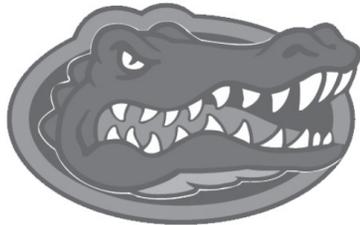
"Those conversations, they either take you into the past and get you hung up on statistics, or they take you into the future," Donovan said on March 12, 2007 — just four days prior to beginning Florida's last title run. "Right now, the most important thing is that our guys are focused on the present."

Seven years later, and some things never change.



Jordan McPherson / Alligator Staff

Scottie Wilbekin attempts a three-point shot during Florida's 56-49 win against Tennessee on Saturday in the Georgia Dome. Florida tips off against Albany today at 4:10 p.m.



**No. 1 seed Florida (32-2, 18-0 SEC)**

**Head coach:** Billy Donovan (18th year)

**Starters:** PG Scottie Wilbekin, SG Michael Frazier II, SF Casey Prather, PF Will Yeguete, C Patric Young

**Key reserves:** F Dorian Finney-Smith, PG Kasey Hill, G/F DeVon Walker, F/C Chris Walker

**Record past 10 games:** 10-0  
**KenPom.com ranking:** No. 3

All the Gators have done lately is win. In fact, they haven't lost a game in 2014.

As No. 1 seed Florida heads into its second-round NCAA Tournament matchup against No. 16 seed Albany at 4:10 p.m. today in the Amway Center, it brings along a program record 26-game winning streak. The Gators are fresh off an SEC Tournament title and a perfect record in conference play.

As one of the deepest, most defensively stout groups in college basketball, Florida does not have the talent of a Kentucky or a Kansas but has the experience and chemistry to win the South Region and earn a Final Four berth for the first time since 2007.

This group hasn't lost since December, and that loss came on a Shabazz Napier buzzer-beater — what UF coach Billy Donovan called a "freak play."

Florida's senior group has lost three straight times in the Elite Eight, so Casey Prather, Scottie Wilbekin, Will Yeguete and Patric Young enter the Big Dance with something to prove.

During the SEC Tournament, Florida's bench was inconsistent at times. According to the school, freshman point guard Kasey Hill has been practicing through turf toe and is a game-time decision for Albany, so Wilbekin might need to shoulder a greater load if it becomes a problem for Hill this weekend.



**No. 8 seed Colorado (23-11, 10-8 Pac-12)**

**Head coach:** Tad Boyle (fourth year)

**Starters:** G Askia Booker, G Xavier Talton, F Xavier Johnson, F Wesley Gordon, F/C Josh Scott

**Key reserves:** F Dustin Thomas, G Jaron Hopkins, G Eli Stalzer

**Record past 10 games:** 5-5  
**KenPom.com ranking:** No. 63

Since star guard Spencer Dinwiddie suffered a torn ACL in mid-January, Colorado has not been the same team.

The Buffaloes began the year 14-2 — and were even ranked No. 15 in the AP poll at one point — but are 9-9 in the absence of Dinwiddie, who was Colorado's floor general and leading scorer. Without Dinwiddie, Colorado has struggled offensively and has been prone to scoring droughts.

The Buffaloes are generally a poor three-point shooting team with a 32-percent clip, ranking 281st in the country, and the loss of Dinwiddie compounded that.

Although the Buffaloes are on a slide, losing four of their past seven games as they head into a matchup with No. 9 seed Pittsburgh today at 1:40 p.m., they have seen Askia Booker emerge in Dinwiddie's absence.

The 6-foot-6 junior guard has averaged 14.9 points per game since Dinwiddie went down. Booker struggles from three-point range, shooting just 27.6 percent, but he has been Colorado's most reliable player in crunch time during Pac-12 play.

When he's on the floor, Booker takes 30 percent of his team's field-goal attempts. Basically, Colorado's offense goes as Booker goes.



**No. 16 seed Albany (19-14, 9-7 America East)**

**Head coach:** Will Brown (13th year)

**Starters:** PG DJ Evans, SG Peter Hooley, F Gary Johnson, F Sam Rowley, C John Puk

**Key reserves:** F Dallas Ennema, F Luke Devlin

**Record past 10 games:** 7-3  
**KenPom.com ranking:** No. 176

Albany is coming fresh off a 71-64 win against Mount St. Mary's on Tuesday night in the NCAA Tournament's first play-in game.

The Great Danes got off to a quick 21-2 run against the Mountaineers in the contest's first 8 1/2 minutes but eventually let them back into the game by the end of the first half.

The Great Danes normally play at a slow, methodical pace, as KenPom.com ranks them 320th in the country in tempo.

But Florida plays at a similar speed and is only three spots ahead of Albany in that category.

The Great Danes struggle with three-point defense, allowing opponents to shoot 35.1 percent from downtown — good for 219th in the country.

Most of Albany's points are scored in the backcourt. Shooting guard Peter Hooley leads the team with 15.8 points per game, while 5-foot-9 point guard DJ Evans averages 11.5 per contest.

The Great Danes' best big man is forward Sam Rowley, who averages a team-best 6.9 boards per game.

No. 1 seeds are 116-0 all-time against No. 16 seeds, so Albany would have to beat all of the odds to win even one game — especially one against the top-ranked team.



**No. 9 seed Pittsburgh (25-9, 11-7 ACC)**

**Head coach:** Jamie Dixon (10th year)

**Starters:** PG James Robinson, G Cameron Wright, G/F Lamar Patterson, F Michael Young, F/C Talib Zanna

**Key Reserves:** G Josh Newkirk, F James Artis, F Derrick Randall

**Record past 10 games:** 5-5  
**KenPom.com ranking:** No. 16

The Panthers have had their ups and down this year. During Atlantic Coast Conference play, Pittsburgh handled the bottom half of league and even notched a win against then-No. 15 UNC, but it struggled against the ACC's elite.

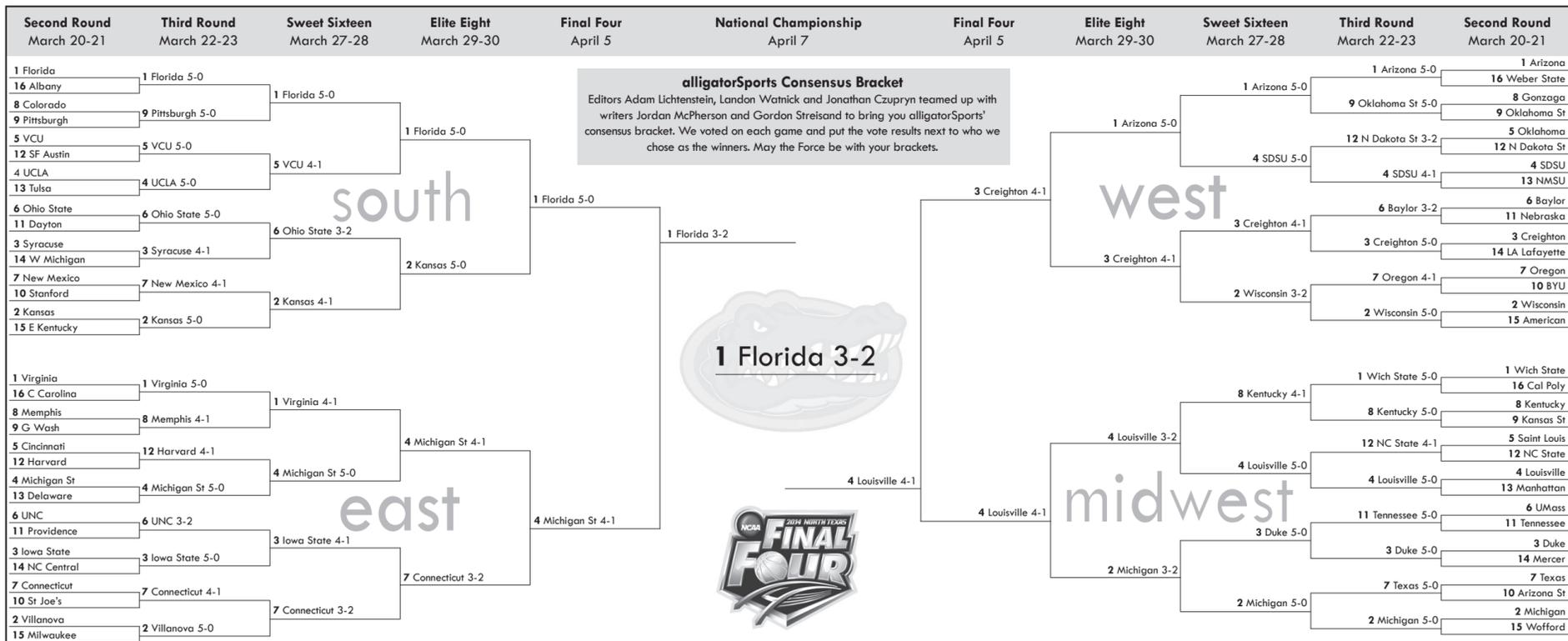
Pittsburgh came close against Syracuse at home on Feb. 12, but 'Cuse guard Tyler Ennis' 35-foot buzzer beater sunk the Panthers' hopes. In the ACC Tournament semifinals against Virginia, Pitt fell 51-48 but hung with the Cavaliers until the final seconds.

Despite falling short of breakthrough wins multiple times, Pittsburgh has proven this year that it is an efficient unit on both sides of the floor. The Panthers are 18th in the nation in adjusted offensive efficiency and 34th in defensive efficiency, per KenPom.com.

They are strong on the offensive glass, ranking 19th in the country in offensive rebounding percentage.

Senior forward Lamar Patterson has had a breakout year for the Panthers, averaging 17.6 points, 4.8 rebounds and 4.3 assists in a team-high 32.6 minutes per game.

Patterson isn't incredibly flashy, but the seasoned 6-foot-5 wing can play multiple positions and exploits defensive mismatches well.



**AS STEIN ON TV**

# UF fans should savor basketball team while they have the chance

Enjoy this, Gators fans. It's not often a team comes around that is as good as this Florida team.

At most, you've got six games left to enjoy this group before a major chunk of them departs for the NBA, the D-League or some other professional league — this team doesn't have a Corey Brewer, Al Horford or Joakim Noah who is going to be selected early in the draft lottery.

After that, this group of seniors — the "Oh-10s," if you will — leaves and will fade into relative obscurity.

I say relative because they're not going to be forgotten. No one is going to be asking, "Who is that Patric Young guy?" on the UF campus next January. But their legacy isn't coming as individuals, barring any unforeseen NCAA Tournament domination or NBA superstardom.

The 2013-14 squad isn't Patric Young and Company, or the Scottie Wilbekin Project or the Casey Prather Show.

In a way, they remind me of the New York Yankees of the late 1990s.

That team had stars, but there was so

much talent around the big names.

Yes, Derek Jeter was the darling of New York, but while Jeter was great, there were a dozen other players playing great who didn't get the same attention — guys like Bernie Williams, Paul O'Neill and Tino Martinez.

There was a quote about the record-setting 1998 Yankees — I don't remember who said it, and a Google search failed me — which said there was a new star every night. The Gators are the same way.

In any one game, Young may dominate, Michael Frazier II may go off from three or Wilbekin might shut down an offense.

Cherish that because a team with that ability doesn't come around a lot.

Florida has a stellar base to move forward with after these seniors leave — Frazier and Dorian Finney-Smith will be back, and freshmen Kasey Hill and Chris Walker are supremely talented and should return — but that doesn't guarantee anything.

This could be as good as it gets. Make sure you soak it all in because it doesn't happen every day.



**Adam Lichtenstein**  
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Jordan McPherson / Alligator Staff

The Gators huddle prior to the start of Florida's 61-60 win against Kentucky in the Southeastern Conference Tournament Championship on Sunday in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

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