

UF quarterback Jeff Driskel will share time at quarterback with true freshman Treon Harris on Saturday. Read the story on Page 13



VOLUME 109 ISSUE 37

WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

Search for Machen's successor continues this week

ALYSSA FISHER

Alligator Staff Writer

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The Presidential Search Committee narrowed down a pool of 15 applicants to three Monday morning.

Kent Fuchs, Cornell University Provost; David McLaughlin, New York University Provost; and Sibrandes Poppema, President of University of Groningen in The Netherlands, were chosen to meet with the committee Tuesday.

"All of these people have academic distinctions that are exquisite, and I'm very pleased," said committee chairman Steven Scott.

UF Provost Joseph Glover withdrew his application Friday and was not among the 15 applicants, said UF spokes-



Poppema



McLaughlin



Fuchs

woman Janine Sikes.

Scott told the committee that choosing the next president would be a fast process, Sikes said.

Scott said his wife will be happy when the process is over. He said before the committee debated the 15 applicants Monday, he had read 180 resumes and biographies

and had flown to 10 states.

There were no new applicants this weekend, which was unusual, he said.

"I wish more could have come forward, as you can imagine," Scott said. "But the Sunshine Law is not something everyone is willing to deal with. But we do have a very good pool."

Search firm Greenwood / Asher & Associates, Inc. was paid \$95,000, which is low for comparable presidential search services, Sikes said.

UF paid a Los Angeles firm about \$90,000 to search for the new dean of the UF Levin College of Law last Spring.

Scott said he feels good about the remaining three appli-

SEE PREZ, PAGE 4

Reverend steps in for scheduled speaker

BRYAN FAUX

Alligator Contributing Writer

Through a little divine intervention, the Rev. Steven Baines arrived at Pugh Hall on Monday evening to present a discussion on religious liberty.

At the event titled "Religious Liberty: What it Really Means," Baines stood in for Barry Lynn, the executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, who could not attend due to a health crisis.

During his presentation, Baines spoke about the freedom to choose not to worship any deity.

"I can't think of anything that would destroy religious freedom in our country more than turning our houses of worship into super political action committees," said Baines, the Americans United for Separation of Church and State assistant field director and religious outreach director.

"I can't think of anything that would destroy religious freedom in our country more than turning our houses of worship into super political action committees."

Steven Baines

religious outreach director

Baines said Americans United was recently involved in the Supreme Court case where it was ruled that the owners of "Hobby Lobby" would not have to pay for their employees' contraceptives under religious freedom.

"This, to me, is probably the most egregious Supreme Court decision I have seen in my lifetime," Baines said.

Baines said it is unfair for employers to trample on the rights of women.

Baines' presentation continued with comments on marriage equality. Baines said marriage equality is the biggest debate in America on all sides of the spectrum.

"Marriage in America is a civil institution," Baines said, emphasizing that marriage is regulated

SEE CHURCH, PAGE 4



Andres Leiva / Alligator

The Rev. Steven Baines speaks about the separation of church and state at 6 p.m. Monday in Pugh Hall. Baines is the religious outreach director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Kangaroo gas stations offer smokers a deal

► SHOW A CVS CARD AND GET A FREE 16-OUNCE COFFEE WITH CIGARETTES PURCHASE.

PATRICK PINAK

Alligator Staff Writer

ppinak@alligator.org

When Anna Beth West heard about Kangaroo Express' promotion, she was disgusted.

The convenience store chain is offering a free 16-ounce coffee to any customer who presents a CVS ExtraCare Health card with a cigarette purchase.

"I'm very against smoking because it's so terrible for your health," said West, a 22-year-old first-year medical student at UF. "It's really unfortunate that they're capitalizing on that."

The store began offering the deal about a month ago, said Ashley Garrett, manager of the Kangaroo Express on North Main Street and Northeast 16th Avenue. This came after CVS Health announced in early September that it would stop selling tobacco products.

Along with the ban, CVS Caremark changed its name to CVS Health in September to better reflect its health care commitment. The company also rolled out a campaign against smoking, featuring anti-smoking signs and products to help people quit smoking.

Garrett said her district has about 10 stores

SEE CVS, PAGE 4



Today



88/70

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Police roundup:

A sex offender, battery and Midtown accident update, pg 5.

UF ranked in top 20 best urban planning programs:

It's compared to MIT and Harvard, pg 8.



UF soccer relying on depth, experience as season nears end

The Gators haven't lost since Sept. 12, Pg. 16

News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Small Group Training Open House

Small Group Training offers the opportunity to explore fitness in a different way by merging group fitness classes with personal training. Small Group Training classes focus on a specialized format, individual progression and skill development at an affordable price. Stop by the Small Group Training Open House at the Southwest Recreation Center for a free opportunity to check out the classes RecSports has to offer. Open House sessions are today from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and Wednesday and Thursday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information, visit recsports.ufl.edu/fitness/small-group-training.

"Community" Fans Rejoice: Hipp Cinema Presents HARMONTOWN

The Hippodrome Cinema presents HARMONTOWN tonight at 7 p.m. HARMONTOWN follows "Community" writer-producer Dan Harmon as he travels the country broadcasting his popular podcast and performs live for his cult-like fan base. Visit thehipp.org to reserve your ticket as seating is limited. Admission is \$10. No discounts. The Hippodrome Cinema is located inside the Hippodrome State Theatre at 25 SE Second Place. For a complete listing of films and additional showtimes, please visit thehipp.org

Humanists on Campus Meeting

Join UF's only humanist organization for a spirited discussion on such themes as religion, science, ethics and politics Wednesday at 7:20 p.m. in Little Hall, Room 237. For more information, join our Facebook group: UF HoC: Humanists on Campus.

Sandra Abdalian: SWE Fall speaker series

Sandra Abdalian, career coach and founder of Your Career Engineer, will be at UF on Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m. in Marston L136. She will be discussing how to create a career and life you love for all engineers. RSVP at facebook.com/events/1451437528414454/ and email Erin Winick with any questions at president.swe.ufl@gmail.com.

LGBT speaker coming to Gainesville

Join us Oct. 21 as Elizabeth Payne, the founder and director of The Queering Education Research Institute (QuERI), currently located at Hunter College in New York City, hosts a discussion about the importance of restructuring school culture in order to address the issue of LGBT bullying. The event will begin at 6 p.m. and will be hosted at Cymplify Central located at 5402 NW Eighth Ave. It is sponsored by UF LGBT Affairs

FORECAST

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
THUNDER STORMS 88/70	THUNDER STORMS 81/55	SUNNY 81/55	SUNNY 84/57	SUNNY 84/57

and Gainesville Equality Youth.

Big Pink Volleyball

Registration closes Oct. 23
Big Pink Volleyball is happening Oct. 28 at Southwest Recreation Center. Unlike regular volleyball, Big Pink Volleyball is played with a hot pink Kin-Ball, a 4-foot-tall, 2-pound sport ball. Registration closes Oct. 23 at 5 p.m. on rsconnect.recsports.ufl.edu. Your team must have a minimum of four players to participate. Additional players may be on your team, but no more than six can play at a time. Participants are asked to donate \$5, with all proceeds going to the Breast Cancer Research Fund at UF Health. For more information, visit recsports.ufl.edu/events/detail/6014.

Servant Leadership Institute

The Servant Leadership Institute is a day-long experience, sponsored by the UF Center for Leadership and Service, for student groups who are interested in increasing the breadth and depth of their impact on UF's campus and in the greater Gainesville community. As a participant in the Servant Leader Institute, you will have the opportunity to network, solve problems and develop skills and knowledge related to servant leadership, coalition building and service learning with other student leaders, Gainesville community members, and UF faculty and staff. The Institute will take place on Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Applications are due by Nov. 3. You and two other members of your organization are encouraged to apply. For more information and to apply to be a participant, please visit: <http://bit.ly/UFServantLeader>

'Elegance of Science' art competition

The Marston Science Library and Florida Museum of Natural History have resurrected the "Elegance of Science" art competition, which emphasizes and facilitates the link between artistic and scientific perceptions of reality. The contest is open to UF students, staff or faculty who have created two-dimensional images as part of their research or that incorporate scientific tools or concepts. Entries must be submitted by Dec. 20. For more information, visit www.flmnh.ufl.edu/elegance-science/ or email

eleganceofscience@uflib.ufl.edu.

'Megalodon: Largest Shark that Ever Lived' exhibit

The largest shark ever known has returned to Gainesville. Visit the Florida Museum of Natural History's featured exhibit about Megalodon, a dominant marine predator that once cruised the world's oceans. Walk through the full-scale jaw of a 60-foot-long shark sculpture to learn the story of this fantastic ancient creature, including its size, structure, diet, lifespan, relatives, neighbors, evolution, extinction and new science that continues to reveal Megalodon's tale. The object-rich exhibit features fossil specimens from several collections and life-sized scale models of other fossils and modern sharks. Tooth-shaped display units include actual Megalodon fossils, and the exhibit is rich in hands-on, family-friendly activities. It is on display through Jan. 4. UF students with a valid Gator 1 Card receive free admission.

Got something going on?

Want to see it in this space? Send an email with "What's Happening" in the subject line to cwright@alligator.org. To ensure publication in the next day's newspaper, please submit the event before 4 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**



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WHERE'S ALBERT?

HOME COMING 2014



This week, Albert and Alberta are taking a tour of the University of Florida campus. See how well you know the UF campus by figuring out where each photo was taken.

Track Albert and Alberta's stops along their tour by entering each of the five locations into the photo log below. Completed and correct entries will be entered into a drawing for Gator Growl tickets and more!

Once completed, deliver or mail your form to The Alligator. All entries must be received by 4 pm Wednesday, October 15, 2014 to be considered for the prize drawing.



**Grand Prize: 4 Gator Growl tickets
First 4 Runners-Up: 2 Gator Growl Tickets**

the independent florida
alligator

Name: _____

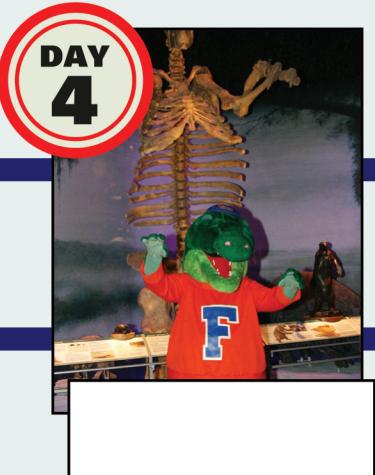
Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Deliver your entry: The Alligator, 1105 W. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601, Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Mail your entry: The Alligator, Where's Albert Contest, P.O. Box 14257, Gainesville, FL 32604



5 winners will be randomly drawn from correct entries on Thursday, October 16th, 2014. Entries must be received by 4 PM Wednesday, October 15, 2014. Of the 5 winners, one winner will be drawn for the Grand Prize. Winners will be announced in the Alligator's 2014 Homecoming Souvenir Edition, published Friday, Oct. 17th 2014. Please do not call to inquire concerning the contest or the results. Picture ID required to collect winnings. Winners will be selected by random drawing, with odds of winning dependent upon the number of correct entries. One entry per person. Officers, directors, employees, their family members of The Alligator, Homecoming and Gator Growl are not eligible to enter. No purchase necessary. You do not need to be present to win. Prizes will be awarded only to winners and cannot be sold. Certain restrictions apply. Subject to availability.

CAMPUS

UF prepared if Ebola does spread

ADRIANA DI GRAZIANO

Alligator Contributing Writer

After a nurse contracted Ebola in Dallas, the UF community is preparing for a potential outbreak.

The New York Times reported Sunday that a nurse at the Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital was the first person to contract Ebola within the U.S., the second diagnosed and the first confirmed case of infection by contagion.

"There is no reason to panic," said Paul Psychas, an assistant professor at the UF Eastside Community Practice.

"We are taking every step necessary to be sure we are ready. Drills and trainings are ongoing."

Paul Psychas

Eastside Community Practice asst. professor

He said the people most at risk are the health care workers.

"Ebola is highly infectious even if someone is quite careful," Psychas said. "Even a slight mistake can lead to infection."

According to The New York Times, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

suggested that health officials check the protective gear available to health workers for treating Ebola patients and place them into more specialized facilities with containment units.

Psychas said preparation and protocol are key in fighting the virus. He said that UF Health on-campus facilities as well as UF Health Shands Hospital are actively preparing for the possibility of an Ebola case.

"We are taking every step necessary to be sure we are ready," Psychas said. "Drills and trainings are ongoing."

Nurses, doctors and other health care staff are being trained to recognize possible cases of Ebola and to check people that have been traveling to Dallas and to countries where the virus has traveled.

UF Ebola study group member Cassidy Howell, a 21-year-old international studies senior, said the most important aspect in the fight against Ebola is fighting rumors and the lack of information.

"A lot of uninformed people have begged for a travel ban," she said. "As students we can educate the public about the truths of Ebola."

Some St. Louis arrests at Brown shooting protests

► 17 WERE ARRESTED.**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

ST. LOUIS — Officers arrested 17 protesters and used pepper spray to subdue some of them Sunday in a St. Louis neighborhood not far from the suburb where violence erupted this summer after the shooting of a black man by a white policeman.

The arrests were the only incident in an otherwise peaceful weekend of demonstrations in the city to protest the fatal shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson in August. The shooting sparked sometimes-violent demonstrations in the predominantly black suburb.

Early Sunday morning, about 200 protesters gathered in Shaw, a south St. Louis neighborhood where last

week another black 18-year-old was killed by a white police officer, St. Louis Police Chief Sam Dotson said. The protesters, some wearing masks, marched toward a QuikTrip convenience store and tried to force open its doors, Dotson said.

Riot police told the crowd to disperse, but about 50 protesters linked arms to create a human chain, he said. About half of them heeded the police warning.

"The people who were left there were people who made a conscious decision they wanted to be arrested," Dotson said.

At least one officer was hit by a rock but was not seriously injured, and officers used pepper spray to get those arrested to comply with police, Dotson said. Police were charging those arrested with unlawful assembly then releasing them Sunday.

The committee expects to select new president by Wednesday

PREZ, from page 1

cants. He and the committee came up with several questions for today's interviews.

"I think they'll bring different perspectives," he said.

As president, Bernie Machen makes about \$500,000 a year. Sikes said the salary of the new president will be negotiated once a candidate is selected.

Candidate interviews will begin today at 7:30 a.m. at the UF Hilton Hotel and Conference Center in the Century A room and are open to the public. Following the inter-

views, the search committee will choose at least two candidates to stand in front of the Board of Trustees as finalists.

Candidates will participate in faculty and campus/community assemblies today through Wednesday.

The Board of Trustees meeting will begin at 8 a.m. Wednesday and continue until a president is selected.

Scott said he is ready to wrap up the process.

"I've been working on it for about five months, and it's been exhaustive," he said. "This is the culmination."

Presidential Search Committee Candidate Assembly Times<http://presidentsearch.ufl.edu/president-selection/schedule/>**Campus/Community assemblies****Today**

- Candidate 1 will speak from 5 to 6 p.m., in the Emerson Alumni Hall – Classroom
- Candidate 2 will speak from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the Emerson Alumni Hall – President's Room B
- Candidate 3 will speak from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m., in the Emerson Alumni Hall – President's Room B

Faculty assemblies**Today**

- Candidate 1 will speak from 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Emerson Alumni Hall – Classroom
- Candidate 2 will speak from 5 to 6:30 p.m., in the Emerson Alumni Hall – President's Room B Wednesday, Oct. 15
- Candidate 3 will speak from 8:15 to 9:45 a.m., in the Ben Hill Griffin Stadium – F Club

Baines talked about separation of church, state, religious liberty

CHURCH, from page 1

by the state.

Baines shared stories of religious leaders who refused to marry interracial or interfaith couples.

"That is the freedom of religion that I do not agree with," Baines said.

Jenna Goldman, a 21-year-old political science and history senior, attended Baines' speech because she said she was interested in the topic.

"I'm Jewish and was always the only Jewish kid in school, so this has always affected me, especially prayer in school and feeling very alienated, so this is some-

thing I've always been interested in," Goldman said.

Attendees could ask questions toward the end of the presentation.

Kenneth D. Wald, a UF professor of political science, said Baines did a great job of explaining why separation of church and state is good for religious liberty.

"Very many people sort of assume if you want to keep religion, you know, out of state you're somehow hostile toward religion," Wald said. "And I think what he showed is if you respect religion, it's best if it is kept out of the state, preserving the freedom of individuals to believe and say what they want."

Ten local stores are participating

CVS, from page 1

in it, all of which are offering the deal.

The Kangaroo Express on West University Avenue and Southwest 13th Street is participating in the

promotion but hasn't put out posters or signs for it.

Garrett said she thinks the promotion might be an attempt to reach out to customers who previously bought tobacco products from CVS.

Garrett, who said she started her



Megan Reeves/Alligator Staff

Kangaroo Express convenience stores have started a promotion in which customers who present a CVS ExtraCare Health Card while buying cigarettes will receive a free 16-ounce coffee.

position last Thursday, has seen the promotion used twice, both by the same middle-aged woman.

"It won't be popular at this location because we don't get a lot of student customers," she said.

West said she knew CVS stopped selling tobacco products but hadn't heard about Kangaroo Express' promotion until Monday.

As a medical student, West spent all Monday morning talking to middle schoolers about the negative health effects of smoking, but said it wasn't her place to tell someone else not to take part in the store's promotion.

Katlyn Etheridge, 20, said she doesn't smoke but isn't that upset with the deal.

"People can do what they want," said Etheridge, a UF sophomore.

Santa Fe College graphic design junior Natalie Gerber, 21, said she smokes cigarettes every once in a while and said the promotion gives students an incentive to smoke.

"We're all kind of scraping by, so if there are smokers, they'd take advantage of it," she said.

CRIME

Police roundup: sex offender; battery; Midtown accident update

MELISSA MIHM

Alligator Staff Writer

mmihm@alligator.org

A registered sex offender was arrested early Monday after police said he falsely identified himself while being escorted from 101 Cantina in Midtown.

At about 1:30 a.m., Dennis Richard Millner, 42, gave officers a false name after being banned from the restaurant and bar, located at 1632 W. University Ave. He told officers his name was Denny Richard Robinson, but that name came up as a young black man when police looked it up.

Police found Millner's driver's license after searching him, which confirmed his name and age. Police also discovered Millner had a Tallahassee warrant for leaving town despite being a registered sex offender.

He was arrested on his warrant and charges of providing a false name to a law enforcement officer. His bond is currently set at \$25,000.

A patient at a rehabilitation center was arrested Monday morning after he hit one of the employees in the face with a closed fist.

Anthony Dwayne Howard was said to be acting aggressively toward other patients and staff at Gainesville's Meridian location, 4300 SW 13th St. A report said the 42-year-old made remarks about wanting to fight someone at the center and was seen walking around the area with a closed fist.

The victim, a staff tech for the facility who was wearing scrubs, was clearing patients from the area. As the victim walked by at about 10 a.m., Howard punched her on the left side of her jaw. She said she had minor pain in her jaw, but did not request medical attention.

He was arrested on charges of battery and his bond had not been set as of press time.

A Gainesville man was arrested Sunday after police said he broke into an empty house

and stole almost \$700 worth of items.

A woman called police after she returned to her apartment and found her back door open after she had been gone for a few days. She said the attic's ceiling was also open and she noticed many items missing.

When police arrived at the victim's apartment at 6417 SW Ninth Ave., they saw Joseph Tyree Smith walking out of a connecting apartment two doors down wearing a necklace with a heart on it, which the victim reported as being stolen. Smith, 34, told police it was a gift from his girlfriend but later changed his story.

After he was read his rights, Smith told police his friend — whom he identified to police as 40-year-old Danny Jermyn McClendon — smashed through the next-door apartment's back window and crawled through the attic space to access the victim's residence last Wednesday at 6 p.m. Smith said McClendon then let him inside of the apartment to move the victim's belongings back to his place. Po-

lice recovered most of the missing items.

While police were searching Smith, they found a small plastic bag with about two grams of marijuana in his right pocket. They also found cigars, which Smith said he used to smoke the marijuana.

Smith was arrested on charges of burglary of an unoccupied dwelling, grand theft, possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond is currently set at \$20,000.

Police said the two pedestrians hit while attempting to cross the intersection of NW 17th Street and University Avenue in front of the Swamp Restaurant area late Friday will likely be cited for pedestrian violations.

UF students Christopher D. Olson, 21, and Audrey E. Clark, 20, suffered severe, non-life-threatening injuries. The driver, Sonya Williams, 40, had the green light.

Police are awaiting toxicology reports.



Adriana Barbat / Alligator

Safe Cycling

Boming Zhang, a 21-year-old UF accounting junior, registers his bicycle with a UPD investigator on Turlington Plaza on Monday. UPD offers the free service to counter bicycle theft.

Vatican accepts LGBT, divorce

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VATICAN CITY — Catholic bishops signaled a radical shift in tone Monday about accepting gays into the church, saying they had gifts to offer and that their partnerships, while morally problematic, provided homosexual couples with "precious" support.

In a preliminary report — released halfway through a Vatican meeting on family life called by Pope Francis — the bishops also said the Church must welcome divorcees and recognize the "positive" aspects of civil marriages and even Catholics who cohabit, as well as the children of less-traditional families.

While it does not change Church doctrine, the tone of the report on a host of hot-button family issues such as marriage, divorce, homosexuality and birth control was one of almost-revolutionary acceptance and understanding rather than con-

demnation. It will guide a closed-door debate until a final document is issued Saturday.

LGBT rights groups hailed what they called a "seismic shift" in the Church's attitude toward gays.

"For the LGBT Catholics in the United States and around the world, this new document is a light in the darkness — a dramatic new tone from a church hierarchy that has long denied the very existence of committed and loving gay and lesbian partnerships," said Chad Griffin, president of Human Rights Campaign, the biggest LGBT rights organization in the U.S.

Some conservative cardinals downplayed the report as insignificant or derided it as unacceptable, while conservative groups denounced it as heresy and a "betrayal" that will only serve to confuse Catholics.

"Confused, contradictory chaos in Rome," headlined the arch-con-

servative commentator Michael Voris.

Bishops clearly took into account the views of the pope, whose "who am I to judge?" comment about gays signaled a new tone of welcome for the Church.

Their report also reflected the views of ordinary Catholics who — in responses to Vatican questionnaires in the run-up to the synod — rejected Church teaching on birth control and homosexuality as outdated and irrelevant.

In a sign of the chasm that is apparently underway, Pope Francis decided late Friday to add six progressives from four continents to the synod leadership to help prepare the final document after several conservatives were elected to leadership positions.

None of the pope's appointees were Africans, who are traditionally among the most conservative on family issues.

Kansas City Royals player practices with locally made bat

► IT COSTS \$120.

ALEXIA FERNANDEZAlligator Staff Writer
afernandez@alligator.org

TekMatic Corp., a startup based out of Miami and Gainesville, is batting its way to a home run with the development of a new training baseball bat used by Major League Baseball players.

Greg Tekerman was inspired to create the bat after Raul Ibanez, a right fielder for the Kansas City Royals, said there was no tool for baseball players to improve their game.

Tekerman then decided to create the TekBat in 2012 with the help of his son, Hayden, and Ibanez.

"Raul tried several prototypes and helped us get it to what it is now," said Hayden Tekerman, a 21-year-old UF biological engineering senior. "He sent my dad to Pennsylvania to Chandler Bats where they developed the final model."

The design of the bat shows players their strengths and weaknesses whenever they hit the ball.

Without the correct stance or placement of hands on the bat, the flight of the ball will not be direct, sending it flying up or down instead of the straight shot baseball players should aim for.

The handle of the bat was developed to be heavier and larger than a regular bat, preventing a player from rolling their wrists which can affect the way a ball is hit.

Hayden Tekerman began to handle the business from

Gainesville as soon as the bat's design became patented and developed.

Twenty-three TekBats have been sold, according to the Tek-Matic Corp. website. One Tek-Bat costs \$120.

Megan Diaz, a 20-year-old UF education sophomore, played baseball at her mother's baseball academy in Miami. She said the bat is worth the money if it helps players improve their batting averages.

"MLB players have batting coaches who are usually responsible for correcting their form and style," she said. "It's not always helpful, though, because it implies that the hitter is adopting their coach's batting form instead of their own."

Diaz said a batting coach would still be helpful, but the bat would give players a more personal training experience.

"The bat would give the player time to still develop their technique," she said. "They'd only need a couple of adjustments for improvement."

Tekerman and his father are now developing an app that acts as a virtual baseball coach.

If that's successful, Tekerman said, the company will have a competitive edge against other companies that have been in the business for decades.

Ibanez has spread the message about TekMatic and the TekBat, causing interest from players such as Kyle Seager from the Seattle Mariners, who now uses it for practice.

"A lot of notable players have used the bat and liked it," Tekerman said. "I want our company to be a top competitor in the industry."

Opinions

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014

WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG/OPIINONS

Editorial

Memorial should inspire veteran commitment

This week in Washington, D.C., a new memorial honoring disabled veterans opened to the public. According to the Sun Sentinel, the memorial was funded by Florida heiress Lois Pope, who raised "\$80 million, including some of her National Enquirer fortune." The donations included \$3 million from former presidential candidate Ross Perot and \$270,000 from the Florida Disabled American Veterans.

Pope's visits to hospitals treating wounded soldiers inspired her efforts to create the new memorial.

"I'm not going to stop fighting for their rights," Pope said. "I believe this memorial is a call to action to give them the best medical care they need and deserve."

There are more than four million wounded veterans in the U.S., and more than 100,000 of them live in Florida.

During the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, car decals reading "Support Our Troops" were a popular sight. Unfortunately, those words of support ring hollow today, as our country has failed miserably to attend to the needs of veterans returning from those wars.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is riddled with inefficiencies and incompetence, both at the national level and in Florida.

Here in Gainesville, the disastrous scandals at the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center serve as a potent reminder of America's shortcomings in veteran health care.

In June, three mental health care administrators were suspended after the discovery of a secret list containing more than 200 patients waiting for treatment. The Gainesville Sun reported that wait times at Randall are among the worst in the nation at an average of 50.8 days for new patients.

The abysmal state of health care for Florida veterans was revealed in the wake of a national VA scandal that began after at least 35 veterans died while waiting for health care treatment in Phoenix, Arizona. The scandal, which ultimately led to resignation of Veterans Affairs secretary Gen. Eric Shinseki, led to an examination of VA systems around the country.

"The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" brought attention to the failings of the VA with a segment focusing on its outdated technology. Many of the VA's computer systems have not been updated since the 1980s, leading to miscommunications, lost records and lengthy waiting lists.

Perhaps someday, our country will eventually stop sending our young men and women off to be injured, disabled and killed in foreign wars. Until that day comes, we have an obligation to ensure that our veterans are treated properly and with respect.

Rather than continuing to pour billions of dollars into the coffers of private defense contractors, Congress should redirect that money toward ensuring that our disabled veterans receive the best health care we can provide.

Rather than simply repeating the worn out trope of "Support Our Troops," it is time for America to back up those words with action by providing our veterans with a high-quality, fully-functional health care system.

Reader response

Today's question: Are you following the search for the next UF president?

Monday's question: Are you worried about the Snapchat leak?

**19% YES
81% NO**

63 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

Kristan Wiggins
EDITOR

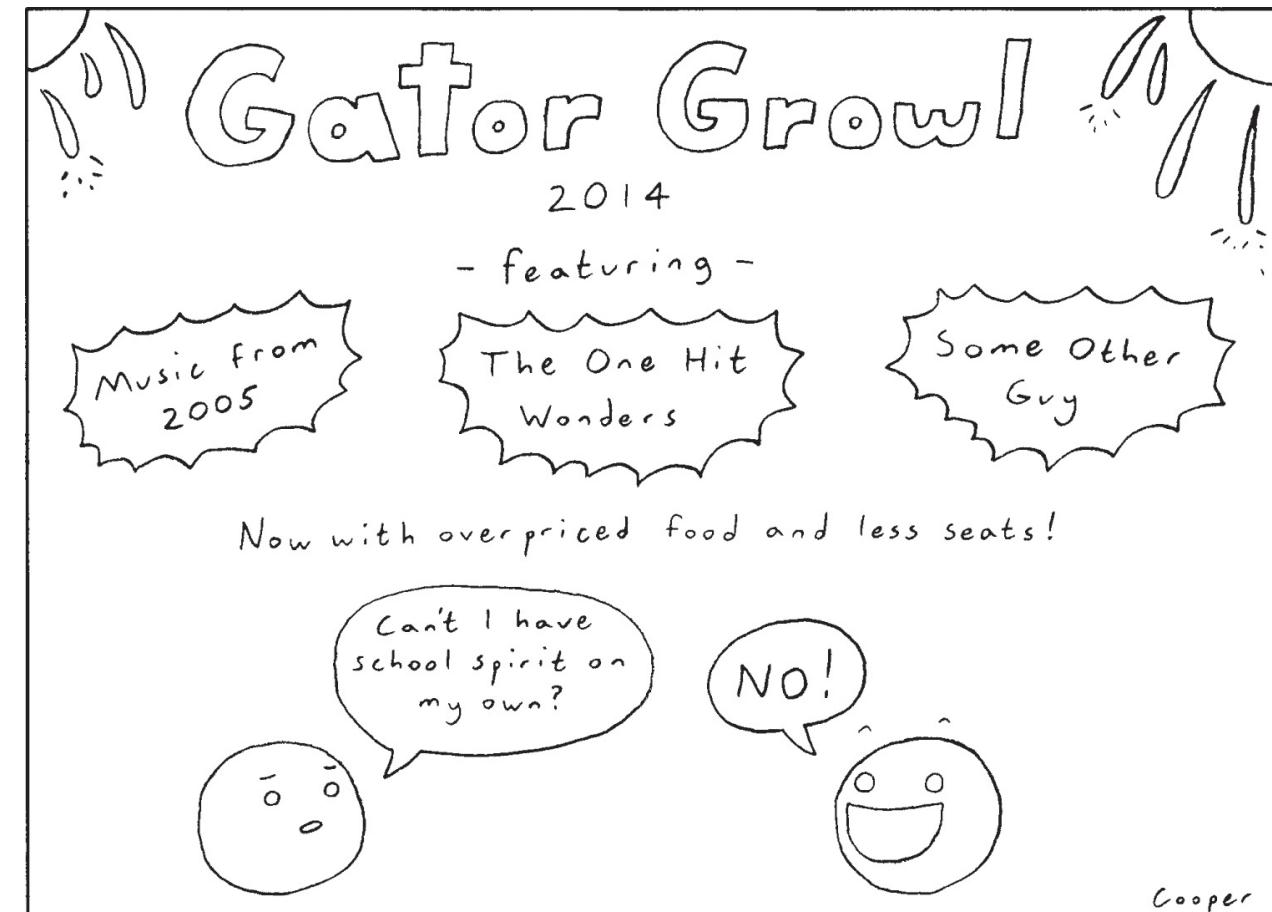
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The Alligator encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 150 words (about one letter-sized page). They must be typed, double-spaced and must include the author's name, classification and phone number. Names will be withheld if the writer shows just cause. We reserve the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel. Send letters to opinions@alligator.org, bring them to 1105 W. University Ave., or send them to P.O. Box 14257, Gainesville, FL 32604-2257.

Columns of about 450 words about original topics and editorial cartoons are also welcome. Questions? Call 352-376-4458.



Column

Connections matter: Keep home roots

When freshmen embark on the first semester of their college careers, one of three things undoubtedly occurs: They forget their families at home exist, they become incredibly homesick and call them every night or they cheerfully manage to keep up relationships with their families while also balancing and enjoying school like an ultimate pro. Kudos to those who can swing that. We've all been through that tough first break from the comfort of home, whether it's hardest breaking away from your family, your friends or just your pet. College is always an adjustment period.

Personally, when I first arrived at UF, I became a sobbing homesick mess and called my mom every other night. I holed up in my bed like a gnome afraid of sunlight and new college experiences. This feeling of intense homesickness was really new for me because I'd been away from home before — often for long periods. The year before, I'd traveled halfway across the world for two months without batting an eyelash or crying a single homesick tear. But when I was living only four hours away from home at UF ... bring on the waterworks.

Of course, this changed as I got used to college, got involved and made new friends. I'd like to let anybody who is suffering from homesickness now know this — it does get easier, and it does change. For me, it changed so much that by the middle of this semester, with a full course load and a mountain of extra things to do which hungrily eat up my time and energy, I am only calling my family and friends at home perhaps once every three weeks.

Unfortunately, this isn't actually healthier than becoming a homesick gnome. My family is tightly knit. I have two wonderful sisters that I'd like to remain close with for rest of my life. It's important to me to keep up that connection, and in college it's easy to forget how much time has passed. It's easy to miss how much might have changed in the lives of those you love when suddenly you don't speak to them every day.



Sally Greider
opinions@alligator.org

utes from Gainesville.

Sometimes, when the haze of homesickness has lifted and we feel comfortable in our place and with our goals, we can lose sight of the relationships and the bonds we forged for the first 18 years of our lives.

Recently, I came across an article in the New York Times titled "Forty Portraits in Forty Years" written by Susan Minott. The article is about a photography project by Nicholas Nixon made up of 40 different photographs of four sisters taken every year spanning from 1975 to present day. The article was well written, but the portraits were especially enthralling. The photographs illustrate the closeness the sisters have maintained their whole lives, but they also tell the reader a story about the human condition — connections to other people are important and worth safeguarding. In every picture, the sisters age, but their relationships with each other never seem to fade.

In college, selfishly wrapped up in our own problems and activities, we can forget to nurture the relationships we've formed with loved ones in the past, often because we are so busy building networks with new people. Sometimes, we — myself included — need a reminder to treasure and maintain these bonds. We should make an effort not to forget about the connections we've made with important people in our lives and remember that every relationship we create can be meaningful.

Sally Greider is a UF English and public relations sophomore. Her columns appear on Tuesdays.

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

Column

The DEA has gone too far; it's time to end the 'War on Drugs'

The Drug Enforcement Administration has frequently displayed reckless disregard for the lives of any person associated with drugs. The agency's thoughtless behavior recently reached a new low.

According to reports released last week, a DEA agent created a fake Facebook profile and impersonated a young single mother who was awaiting sentencing for drug charges. In addition to posting personal photos of the woman, which he obtained from her cell phone, he also communicated with her friends and acquaintances, sent a friend request to a fugitive and created false status updates — all without her knowledge.

A U.S. attorney defended the agent's actions as serving a "legitimate law enforcement purpose."

These actions point to a disturbing cycle of dehumanization in the war on drugs, especially in our country. For decades, the U.S. government has treated nonviolent drug offenders as though they are less than human beings.

Instead of treatment and education, they receive aggressive and terrifying SWAT raids,

indefinite seizures of property, and extremely harsh prison sentences. Their privacy is disrespected, their safety is compromised and the value of their lives is treated with indifference. What good has come out of it?

Treating drug abuse as a criminal justice issue instead of a public health issue has resulted in increased drug-related violence, the establishment of billion-dollar drug cartels and a staggering incarceration rate that continues to rise.

Even though American taxpayers have spent an overwhelming \$1 trillion over the past four decades on the war on drugs, our prisons are bursting with nonviolent drug offenders. This isn't surprising, considering that the DEA's very existence relies upon the constant process of arrests and convictions.

Irrationally labeling drug abuse as a criminal problem is the reason why the U.S. makes up only 5 percent of the world's population but holds almost 25 percent of the world's



Moriah Camenker
opinions@alligator.org

prisoners. According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, about half of federal prisoners are serving drug-related sentences. U.S. policy makers desperately need to admit that the current drug policies are doing much more harm than good.

To truly curb drug abuse and help addicts, the U.S. government should follow a model that is proven to have positive

effects.

Thirteen years ago, Portugal suffered from troubling drug abuse and addiction problems in its communities. Instead of pumping money into criminal investigations and prisons, Portugal's government made the controversial decision to decriminalize all drugs and establish policies and programs for prevention, treatment and harm reduction.

Drug possession is still prohibited but treated as a civil offense, much like a parking violation. People found with small amounts of drugs are sent to appear in front of a spe-

cial commission, which analyzes each case and makes recommendations for treatment or non-criminal penalties. Health practitioners are heavily involved in the decision.

The results are incredible. Youth drug use has decreased, overdose rates have fallen, and more addicts are seeking treatment than ever before. Without the fear of being thrown in prison, people struggling with drug abuse are coming forward to receive help.

The war on drugs has failed, but it does not have to stay a failure. As demonstrated by Portugal's success, education and health programs will go a long way in effectively lowering rates of drug abuse and the crimes that come with it.

In order to see the improvements these new policies will bring to our society, the U.S. government must confront its own addiction to incarceration. Otherwise, the cycle of drug abuse, violence and imprisonment will continue indefinitely.

Moriah Camenker is a UF public relations senior. Her columns appear on Tuesdays.

Guest Column

Grad assistants left out of prez search

As representatives for UF's 4,000 graduate assistants, we received last Monday's presidential search update with great concern.

Not only have UF administrators failed to adequately include graduate assistant representation at any step of this week's three-day selection process, they actually seem to have no interest in including graduate assistants in the vetting of UF's next president at all.

We find it highly suspect, quoting from the committee's latest report, that "after five months of search committee and subcommittee meetings and outreach to the greater UF community," Graduate Assistants United has not been contacted once throughout the process.

Given our recent efforts at increasing transparency at UF, such disregard for the largest percentage of the university's workforce — particularly at the levels of research and teaching — reflects not on the candidates but on the leadership at the helm of the Presidential Search Committee.

However, as United Faculty of Florida representative Paul Ortiz aptly pointed out: "Students, faculty and the broader community should be involved in every step of this process because all of these constituencies will be affected by this decision. The days when university administrations were ivory towers, isolated from their surrounding communities, are long gone."

Yet current developments beg the question — does an ivory tower still stand in Gainesville?

Mauro J. Caraccioli
Speaking Out

GAU has demanded greater transparency within the selection process, receiving so far a tepid response from Search Committee officials. Not only does this week's schedule essentially cram the exposure time that candidates will have with the UF community at the end of a terse and obscure review process, it also confirms what we fear is an encroaching reality — the next UF president is not expected to know about or hear from the university's graduate assistants.

We ask all candidates on the search committee's shortlist to right the wrongs created by this whirlwind search and seriously consider the following questions: Will you make the time to meet with members of the graduate assistant community and their legal labor representatives, GAU?

Moreover, as the next president of UF, will you continue to make us pay to work by charging us up to \$2,000 annually in fees? Do you find it acceptable that many graduate assistants are forced below the poverty line by having to pay fees back to our employer?

We eagerly look forward to each of the candidates' answers to these questions. And we sincerely hope GAU and the incoming president are able to work together to help remove the many obstacles graduate assistants have faced over the last few years.

Mauro J. Caraccioli is the chief steward for Graduate Assistants United.

Guest column

Recent vandalism at Emory AEPi matters

Arielle Davis
Speaking Out

one would criticize other nations for their faults. It is when one deliberately singles out and criticizes the Jewish nation or the Jewish people that they embody anti-Semitism.

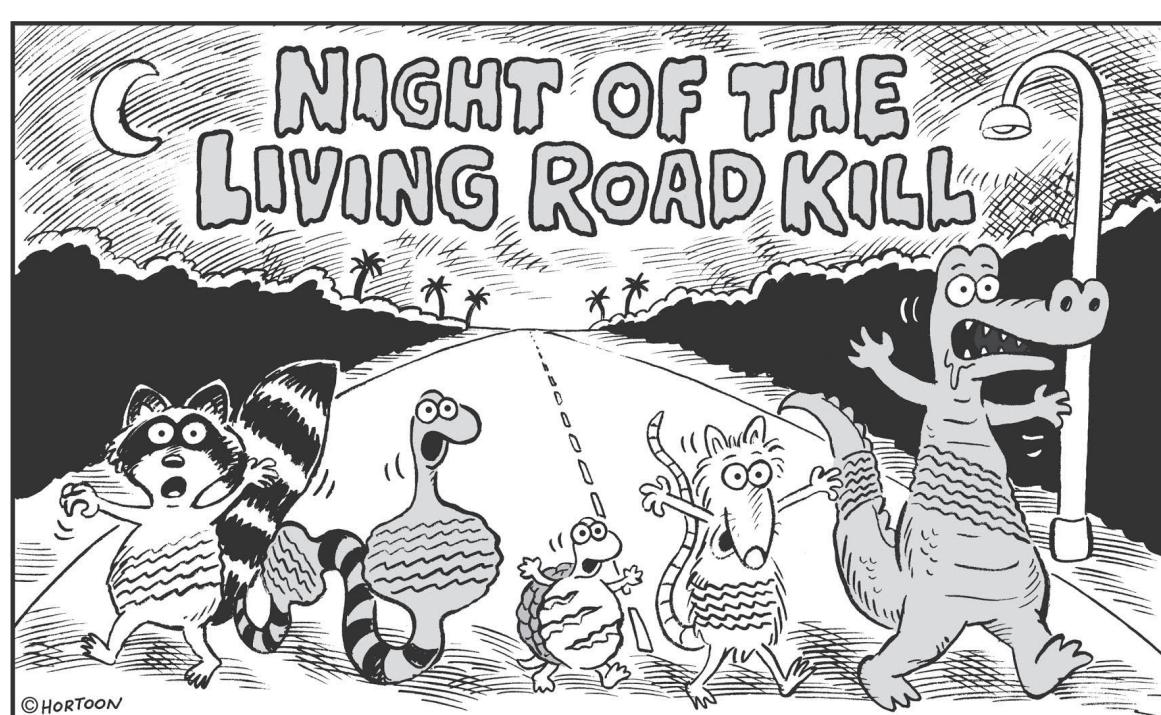
Why does the United Nations constantly condemn Israel for perceived human rights abuses when flagrant abuses on significantly larger scales go without mention in countries like Cuba, Sudan, China and Iran? This is anti-Semitism.

Why is it that it's now the 21st century and yet, an Emory Jewish fraternity house is vandalized with a swastika, the preeminent symbol of hatred and bigotry? This is anti-Semitism.

Why is it that if you walk through the 13th Street tunnel on the UF campus, you see graffiti of anti-Israel slogans paired with swastikas? This is anti-Semitism.

Anti-Semitism takes many forms, and it is shameful that many facets of the prejudice — whose long history dates back to significant events like the first Crusade in 1096, the Jewish expulsion from England in 1290, the Spanish Inquisition in 1492, the Holocaust in Europe and the riots in Paris — continue to this day. This should no longer be a part of our daily lives; we must maintain the promise to "never forget" and relegate hatred to history books and black and white photos.

Arielle Davis is a UF business senior.



UF ranked in top 20 best graduate urban planning programs

► IT'S COMPARED TO MIT AND HARVARD.

CHLOE STRADINGER

Alligator Contributing Writer

UF's Department of Urban and Regional Planning graduate program was ranked the 14th best out of all graduate urban planning programs.

This new ranking puts the department in the College of Design, Construction and Planning three spots above its 2012 ranking and next to schools like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. The graduate program also placed first in the Southeastern Conference.

"We're up there in the big leagues, and we want to stay in the big leagues," said Christopher Silver, dean of the college.

The list was published by Planetizen, a source for urban planning news, editorials and jobs. The publication's Guide to Graduate Urban Planning Programs surveyed 97 schools with urban planning master's degrees and considered factors such as grade point averages, faculty publications and opinion surveys.

Kristin Larsen, director of the School of Landscape Architecture and Planning, said the publication is the only

one that ranks solely graduate planning programs and is the go-to publication for students.

"It's important because faculty at other universities look at these rankings, and they pay attention to these rankings," Larsen said. "It's a way for us to compare our program and strengthen it further."

According to Larsen, the department has 13 faculty members and about 122 students. It's the first graduate planning program in U.S. to have a fully online master's degree, which was established in 2012. Larsen said the online component might be a reason the school has gained recognition.

"This definitely helps draw students in," she said.

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning celebrated its 40th anniversary last Thursday.

Silver said the rankings help recruit new students and keep alumni proud. The school is gaining recognition because of the quality of research, publications and students that come out of the school, he said.

"Part of it is being productive but also highly visible among those who answer the questionnaire and identify which programs are the best in the country," he said.

UF alumnus develops smartphone personalization app

It changes the keyboard

LEXIE BYERS

Alligator Contributing Writer

Before Bryan Dubno graduated from UF, he created an application for The Gator Nation.

The computer science alumnus developed the original UFmobile app, which he said could reach about 36,000 users daily.

"But I ran into legal trouble with the university and had to take it down," he said.

Now, a UF-sponsored app stands in its place.

Dubno's original UFmobile app sparked his interest in app creation and has led to his latest endeavor — Kiwi.

Just two weeks after Kiwi was

released, the phone personalization app had been downloaded more than 1.1 million times.

The app allows users to create a custom keyboard with color backgrounds and images from photo libraries, which users can then apply gradient and blur effects to.

"It gives people a way to make their phone their own," Dubno said. "It's sort of like opening your computer and seeing a picture that makes you happy."

"It's sort of like opening your computer and seeing a picture that makes you happy."

Bryan Dubno
UF alumnus

About 200 fonts are available for keyboard use on the app, Dubno said. Kiwi also allows iOS 8 users to share the keyboards they create with a link for other people

to download and use, he said.

Dubno started working on the app in July, and it was released Sept. 17.

Travis Noddings, a 20-year-old UF English junior, said he downloaded the app as soon as it was released.

"I think the app is awesome — instead of just having a custom picture on your lock screen or home screen, you can have something personal on your keyboard."

NEWS BRIEFS

In other Florida news

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shark bites woman off Melbourne Beach

A shark bit a woman on the hand as she swam in the Atlantic Ocean off Melbourne Beach.

The woman told paramedics on Sunday afternoon the shark was 2 to 3 feet long. Brevard County Fire Rescue District Chief Josh Shepherd said the shark bit her right hand.

The woman, who is in her early 20s, was taken to Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne for treatment.

Shepherd described the woman's wound as "a pretty significant bite." Her condition was not life-threatening.

Boy drowns while attending birthday party

Authorities say a 9-year-old boy drowned while at a birthday party in the Fort Lauderdale suburb Southwest Ranches.

Police said the boy was spotted at the bottom of the pool Sunday evening. He was pronounced dead at Memorial Hospital West.

The child did not live at the home. It was unclear how long he was at the bottom of the pool.

Truck containing 36,000 pounds of Crisco stolen

A truck containing 18 tons of Crisco sticks headed to a grocery store distribution center was stolen in St. Petersburg.



Kan Li / Alligator Staff

All the King's Men and Queen's Women

The six finalists of the 2014 Florida Blue Key Homecoming Pageant are selected in the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts on Monday night.

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MICROFIBER SOFA & LOVESEAT - \$400
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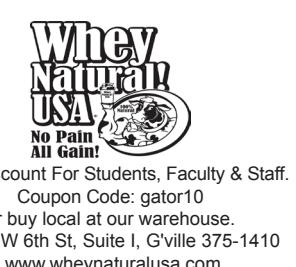
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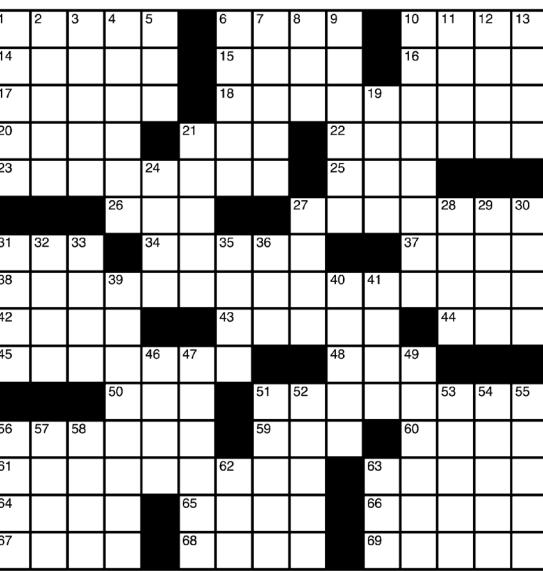
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10 Natural bandage
14 Witch
15 Decide, as a judge
16 Freight train hopper
17 Stolen pastries in "Alice in Wonderland"
18 Access using force
20 Say with certainty
21 "Get off the stage!"
22 Without any slack
23 Old-time fountain employee
25 Right-angle bend
26 Amigo
27 They're earned by completing college courses
31 Shade
34 __ bear
37 Buffalo's lake
38 1954 Oscar-winning Brando film, or where either half of 18, 23-, 51- and 61- Across can literally be found

42 Gyro bread
43 Staircase pillar
44 Ultimate degree
45 Many a rush-hour rider
48 Drink often iced
50 Justice Dept. division
51 Like unabridged print dictionaries
56 Less biased
59 Wall-climbing plant
60 Bump off
61 Being attacked
63 Sudden power increase
64 Observes
65 Tablet operator
66 In base eight
67 Police crisis unit acronym

By Jacob Stulberg
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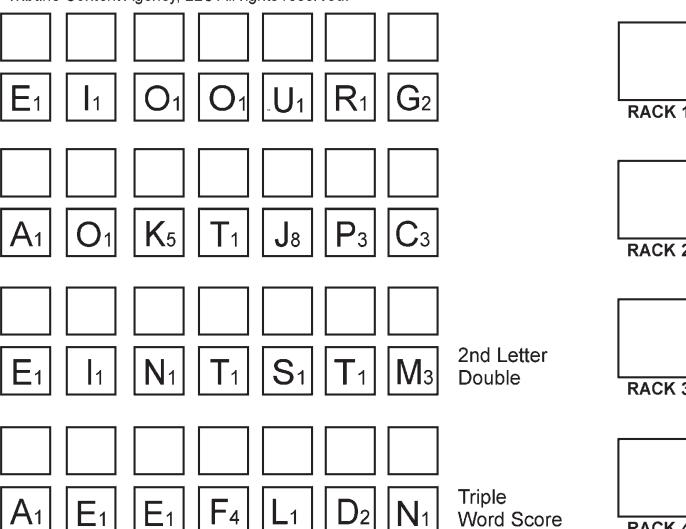
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Sports

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Driskel, Harris to play against Mizzou

MORGAN MORIARTY

Alligator Staff Writer @Morgan_Moriarty

Jeff Driskel is the Gators' starting quarterback as of right now, but fans will get another glimpse of what true freshman Treon Harris

has to offer when Florida takes on Missouri on Saturday night.

Coach Will Muschamp announced Monday afternoon that both quarterbacks will take snaps against the Tigers.

"Right now Jeff will probably

start," the fourth-year head coach said, "but they're both going to play."

Harris' last time out was on the road against Tennessee, where he came in late in the third quarter for Driskel and completed two of four passes good for 17 yards and added 25 rushing yards on seven carries.

"He's got a certain persona about himself. That's why in his last two years at Booker T. he was 30-0. That tells you something about him. He's a winner."

Will Muschamp
UF coach

The Miami native is back on the team after missing a week of practice while being investigated for alleged sexual battery. Muschamp said that missing a week as a true freshman may affect him more than it would an upperclassman, but he has an impressive playmaking ability that didn't go unnoticed in practice.

"You take the ball in the right spots, accurate with his passes, has a certain confidence about him. I think that's been something I've seen and noticed throughout his opportunities, though limited in game," Muschamp said.

Harris, the No. 3 ranked dual-threat prospect in the 2014 recruiting class rankings, stepped on campus in August after a recruiting process in which he was highly recruited by Florida, Auburn and Miami — the school closest to his high school Booker T. Washington.

Harris passed for more than 2,000 yards and 24 touchdowns as a senior at Booker T. while throwing only four interceptions.

"He's got a certain persona about himself," Muschamp said. "That's why in his last two years at Booker T. he was 30-0. That tells

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 15



Kan Li / Alligator Staff

Jeff Driskel attempts a pass during UF's 30-27 loss to LSU. Driskel and true freshman Treon Harris will both play against Missouri on Saturday.

VOLLEYBALL

Freshman defensive specialist showcases float serve

EDEN OTERO

Alligator Staff Writer

@edenotero_

In a perfect world, freshmen would be good enough to start as soon as they enter college.

But this is not a perfect world.

On Friday, No. 8 Florida (12-3, 6-0 Southeastern Conference) debuted an unfamiliar face from its roster against unranked Georgia (9-7, 1-3 SEC).

Freshman defensive specialist Sam Dubiel

received her opportunity to see some time on the court over the weekend — the first of the freshman defensive specialists to experience game time.

Dubiel started her career after subbing in during the second set against Georgia. She played the back row with seniors Maddy Monserez and Holly Pole, but did not record any digs, blocks or serves.

But on Sunday, she had the opportunity to make a difference in the game, playing in

her second set of her second match of the season against then-No. 19 Texas A&M (11-5, 3-2 SEC).

"She's just getting better and better at practice."

Mary Wise
UF coach

"Sam, a freshman who had not gotten playing time," coach Mary Wise said. "... She had strained an abdominal muscle which didn't al-

low her to serve at all and so she's fine-tuning her serve in terms of maybe less speed on it but real high accuracy."

The defensive specialist subbed in for the final three plays in the first set and showed off her biggest asset: her float serve.

All season, Wise has said Dubiel's float serve is one of the best on the team — if not the best she has ever seen.

"She's just getting better and better at prac-

SEE VOLLEY, PAGE 15



UF soccer coach Becky Burleigh said the sky is the limit for the Gators. Read the story on Page 16.

Holston, Alhassan honored by SEC

UF volleyball sophomore right-side hitter Alex Holston and freshman middle blocker Rhamat Alhassan were respectively named the SEC Offensive Player of the Week and SEC Freshman of the Week on Monday.

Did you know?

UF sixth-year senior wide receiver Andre Debose leads the country in punt return average (30.3 yards/return). Debose returned a punt for a touchdown against LSU.

AIR JORDAN

Four talking points for the Florida-Missouri game

Florida (3-2, 2-2 Southeastern Conference) can still very well win the SEC East and make it to the conference championship in Atlanta for the first time since 2009. They have four SEC matchups remaining on the schedule — all of which are against Eastern Division rivals. The first of those games is against Missouri (4-2, 1-1 SEC) on Saturday night in the Swamp at 7. Here are four points to watch out for when the Gators face their second set of Tigers in as many weeks.

1. Florida's two-quarterback system: Coach Will Muschamp announced in his weekly Monday press conference that both Jeff Driskel and Treon Harris will receive playing time against Missouri on Saturday, with Driskel likely to get the start.

There is an old adage in the football world that goes "If you have two starting quarterbacks, you don't have one."

In many cases, that tends to be true.

But offensive coordinator Kurt Roper has experience with a two-quarterback system.

In his last year as the offensive coordinator at Duke, Roper's starting quarterback situation consisted of a combination



Jordan McPherson
twitter: @J_McPherson1126

of Anthony Boone and Brandon Connette. The duo totaled 3,472 passing yards and 26 touchdowns.

Connette worked as the main running quarterback, scoring 14 touchdowns on the ground in 2013.

Roper and Muschamp both said earlier in the season they would only resort to a dual-quarterback system this season if there was a purpose for it.

They didn't feel that it was necessary through the first five games of the season.

Apparently it is now.

2. Mauk's second game against the Gators: Florida learned Maty Mauk's name early in its matchup against Missouri in 2013.

The then-redshirt freshman quarterback started his first career game against the Gators last season.

His first pass attempt — and the first play of the game — was a 41-yard pass to L'Damian Washington. One play later, Mauk found receiver Bud Sasser in the end-zone for a touchdown just 27 seconds into the contest.

Mauk finished the game with 295 passing yards, a touchdown and an interception on a 50-percent completion rate. Four different receivers had at least three receptions and 52 yards.

In his first full year as a starter, Mauk has stayed relatively consistent, averaging 201.2 passing yards a game and totaling 14 touchdowns on the season, which is tied for third in the SEC.

Mauk experienced some growing pains as last weekend against Georgia — throwing four interceptions and tallying just 97 yards through the air.

But that just gives him more fuel to tear apart Florida's secondary that's given up eight passes of at least 30 yards this season.

3. Battle in the trenches: Both Florida and Missouri have defensive lines capable of forcing pressure on the opposing quarterback.

The Gators have tallied 10 sacks in the last two games after totaling just six through their first three games. Redshirt sophomore Alex McCalister leads Florida and is fifth in the SEC with four sacks — including three in the last three games — and Buck linebacker Dante Fowler Jr. has a team-high nine quarterback hurries.

On the opposite side of the line, Florida's offensive line has limited its opponents to an average of one sack per game, which is tied for second in the conference and tied for 16th in the country.

But that number could change if Missouri's pass rush continues the strong pace it's created through the first half of the season.

The Tigers have 20 sacks through six games and are led in the pass rush by junior defensive end Shane Ray and senior Markus Golden, who have 11 of those sacks.

4. Moving the chains: After converting seven third downs in its win against Tennessee, Florida struggled to move the chains on Saturday against LSU.

The Gators converted just two of its 12 third-down attempts against the Tigers.

While Muschamp and Roper want to utilize the up-tempo offense that Roper was brought in to coach, that type of system is impossible to do when the offense can't even stay on the field.

Luckily for Florida, Missouri is allowing opponents to convert on 37.5 percent of its third down attempts, so this could (read: should) be the time for Florida to find its rhythm on offense.



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Driskel completed more than half of his passes against LSU

FOOTBALL,

from page 13

you something about him. He's a winner."

Sophomore Keanu Neal, who started at safety for Florida against LSU, had high praise for the true freshman too, especially regarding Harris' play against Tennessee ten days ago.

"He's just comfortable in the pocket," Neal said. "He didn't really panic when things went wrong. He almost threw an interception and he didn't panic and he stayed in and did a great job in the Tennessee game."

Driskel, the presumed starter, is coming off of an average performance against LSU.

He completed more than 50 percent of his passes, but threw two interceptions and fumbled the ball in the first quarter.

Driskel spoke to reporters on Monday and was a class act behind the podium, even when he was asked repeatedly about whether or not Harris sharing snaps with him would rattle his confidence.

"Believe it or not, I'm not worried about me, I'm wor-

ried about the team," the red-shirt junior signal caller said. "I want the team to play well. If it's going to help the team, I'm all for it. We're confident in Treon. I think the guys are confident in me as well. It's not going to be something that's going to divide the team or anything like that."

Offensive coordinator Kurt Roper implemented more quarterback designed runs than fans have seen this season.

Driskel ran the ball effectively against LSU, picking up 71 yards on 21 carries, including a touchdown. Driskel said running the football well doesn't change his confidence level much during games, and added that despite his regression throughout the season he remains just as confident in his abilities as before the season began.

"Just because I haven't made all the plays I would've liked to doesn't mean I'm not confident," Driskel said. "I'm still confident in my ability, what I can do and what I can do for this team. I don't think my confidence has ever been shaken."

As a senior she recorded 607 digs and received 563 serves playing as the libero for the 3A state champion team.

Dubiel played two sets this weekend

VOLLEY, from page 13

tice," Wise said. "We think as the season goes on, there's going to be a role for her. In January she's going to be one of three (defensive specialists). Those three that return, they gotta be ready come January to take over, and they will be. But we really like the future of Sam."

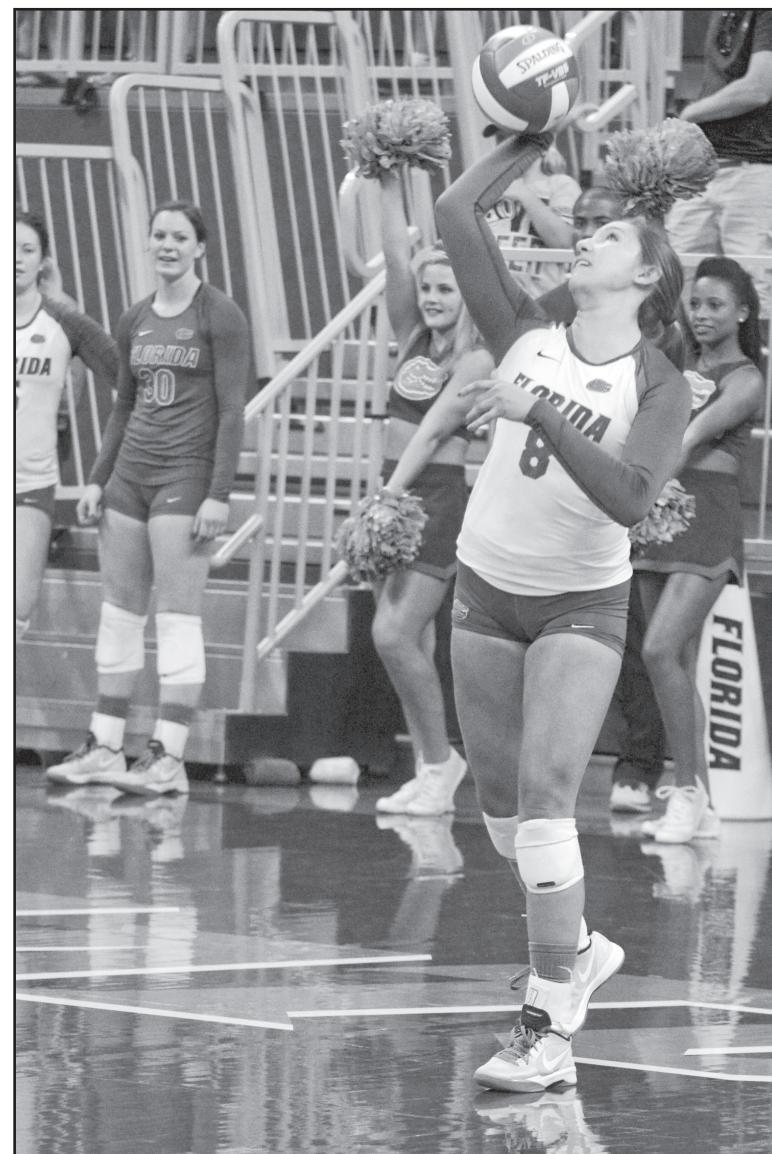
The freshman's lack of playing time worked in favor for Florida on Sunday. Had Dubiel played or served in matches prior to Friday's matchup against Georgia, A&M would have been able to scout her serve and find a way to defend against it.

While she only made three plays on three serves, she became the Gators' biggest weapon at the end of the first set against the Aggies, taking the serve for set-point in a 25-12 set win.

"From a player standpoint, to be an aggressive server you're going to make some service errors, so there's a risk-reward," Wise said. "... The beauty of the player like Sam's serve or Maddy's, the players that can serve the float serve it's a different look. You know we have the spin servers -- they can bring some heat -- and to be able to combine that with the float serves then teams have to prepare for both."

While Wise said Dubiel and fellow freshman defensive specialist Lindsey Rogers will be taking on a larger role in the spring, it's hard to deny the athleticism in Dubiel.

As a senior she recorded 607 digs and received 563 serves playing as the libero for the 3A state champion team.



Jordan McPherson / Alligator Staff

Sam Dubiel serves the ball during Florida's 3-0 win against Texas A&M on Sunday in the O'Connell Center.

Muschamp: 'The information is relayed to me immediately'

NOTEBOOK, from page 13

him to sit the entire second half, but the plan is to have him back Wednesday.

Offensive lineman D.J. Humphries is expected back Wednesday after a knee injury and cornerback Vernon Hargreaves is expected back today after a head injury suffered in the LSU game.

"You drop passes, that's normal. You're not going to catch every pass that comes to you."

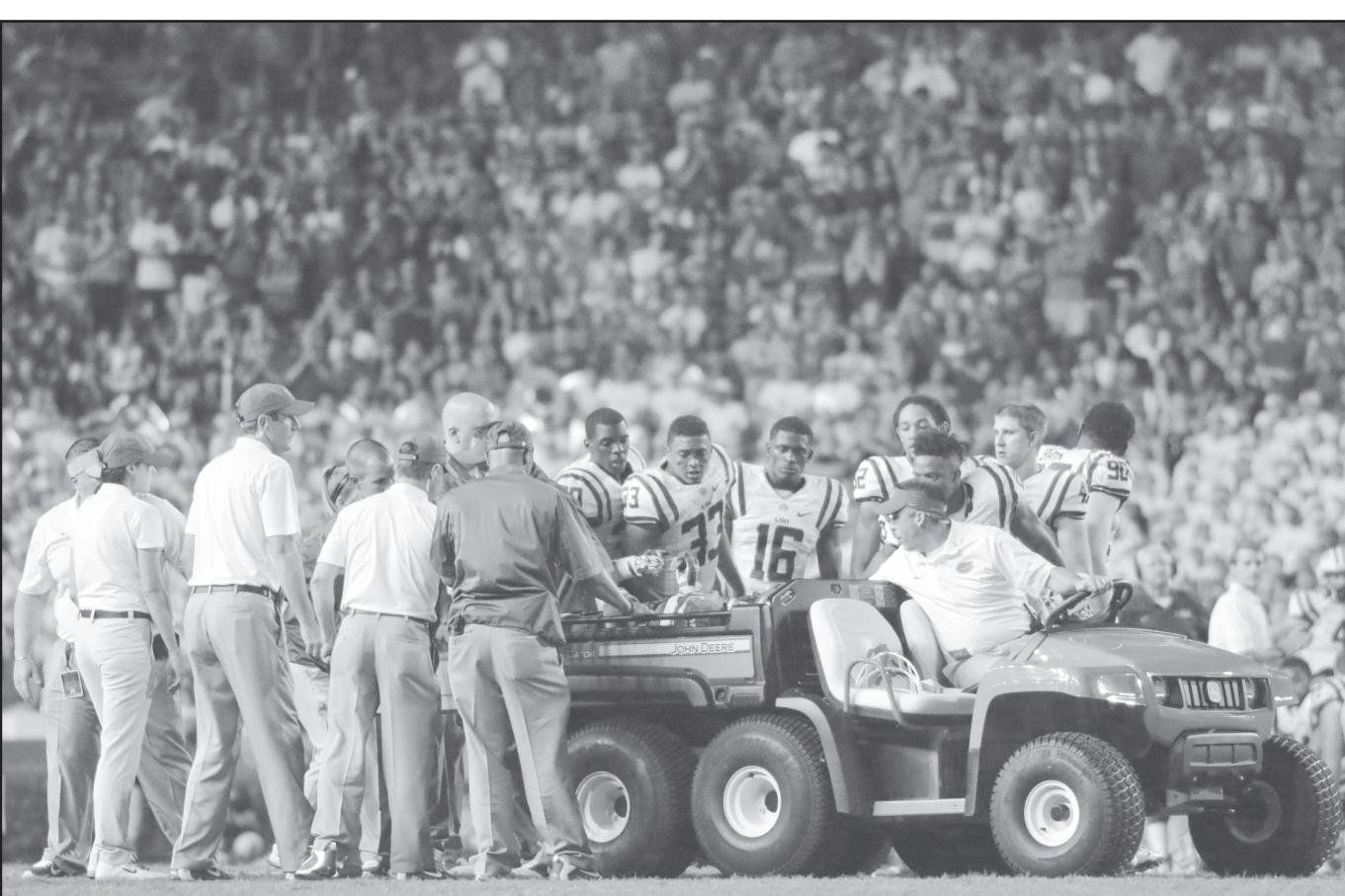
Keanu Neal
UF safety

Wide receivers: With a quarterback position in turmoil, Florida needs all the help it can get in the passing game, but it isn't getting it from wide receivers that continue to drop passes.

"Nobody can catch it for them," Muschamp said. "They've got to catch the ball. We work on JUGS (machines), we work on any hand-eye, lot of that. (Wide receivers coach Chris Leak) can't catch it for them."

Muschamp explained that offensive coordinator Kurt Roper holds complete control over the passing game at Florida, something he insisted on in the interview process and something consistent with most college football programs.

"You drop passes, that's normal," safety Keanu Neal said. "You're not going to catch every pass that comes to you. So yeah they drop passes in practices. Yeah, they've missed a few in the game, but they'll get it fixed."



Kan Li / Alligator Staff

Florida wide receiver Latroy Pittman is carted off the field during UF's 30-27 loss to LSU on Saturday at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium. Pittman was released from the hospital Saturday night and is listed as day-to-day, coach Will Muschamp said Monday.

Florida soccer relying on depth, experience as season nears end

The Gators haven't lost since Sept. 12

ALEX MAMINAKIS

Alligator Writer

@alexmaminakis

Some say that winning is all that matters. Others say it's all about having fun. Luckily, for Florida, it doesn't have to choose. It has both.

The No. 5 Gators are rolling through their conference schedule as their season begins to wrap up, with five games remaining.

Florida is 6-0 in Southeastern Conference play — the only SEC team without a conference loss — and 11-2 on the season.

And the Gators are loving every minute of it.

"It's really hard to believe that there's only five games left," coach Becky Burleigh said. "I think that's a credit to the fact that every day it's been really enjoyable."

Burleigh said on Monday how tightly knit Florida team has become and how well they have been able to practice and play together week in and week out.

A big key to Florida's success this year has also been the large amount of players who returned from last year's squad.

For every player that played together last year, they know each other very well -- both on and off the field -- which makes playing together this year that much easier.

Florida has eight seniors this season and 19 total players who returned from last year's team.

The Gators have only grown stronger in 2014, with eight se-

nior players who are familiar with each other's strengths and weaknesses.

"We knew all along this was gonna be kind of a special group because of the large senior class and because of it being a pretty intact team from last year's group," Burleigh said.

The Gators are firing on all cylinders. They haven't lost a match since Sept. 12 and they continue to beat their opponents with strong goal scorers and tough de-

fense.

But Burleigh said she still believes Florida can improve and continue to develop as a team. She thinks individual players, younger ones who have not been exposed as much, will become important playmakers as they continue to get better.

"I think this team still has room to grow," Burleigh said. "We're seeing different players emerge...and I think we're gonna continue to see more players

emerge."

Betsy Middleton was one player Burleigh used as an example.

The sophomore transfer from the University of Miami has seen improvement as the season has gone on. Middleton is third on the team with three goals this season and has yet to start a game.

If Florida continues to get stronger as the postseason quickly approaches, it wouldn't be a surprise to see it in the NCAA Championships in late November.

"For us, I think the sky's still the limit," Burleigh said.

Florida's remaining regular season matches

10/16

@South Carolina
Columbia, S.C.

7 p.m.

10/19

@Kentucky
Lexington, Ky.
4 p.m.

10/24

vs. Tennessee
James G. Pressly
Stadium
7 p.m.

10/26

@LSU
Baton Rouge, La.
2 p.m.

10/30

vs. Vanderbilt
James G. Pressly
Stadium
7 p.m.



Kan Li / Alligator Staff

UF soccer players celebrate Savannah Jordan's goal during Florida's 5-1 win against Mississippi State on Friday at James G. Pressly Stadium. The Gators are undefeated in SEC play with five matches remaining.



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